

Number 156

October/November 2025

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



Memorial Service for the 80th anniversary of
VJ Day on 15th August 2025



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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



On August 15th there was a service of Remembrance at the War Memorial to acknowledge the end of the Second World War on the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, when Japan finally surrendered after the United States dropped two atomic bombs on their country. It was a moment to remember all the people from Dersingham inscribed on the memorial who died in the Second World War. The ceremony was followed by the lighting of a beacon on the Recreation Ground.

The spectre of war still looms so large all over the world, particularly with the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and in parts of Africa. I never cease to be grateful that the UK has been spared direct attack in my lifetime and that I still have access to food, water and housing.

On a more cheerful note, we hope you enjoy this edition of *Village Voice*. This extraordinarily hot and sunny summer may have wreaked havoc in the gardens, but there were no hastily cancelled events due to cloudbursts. Finally, the rain came just in time to dampen down the village Yard Sale, with a very rainy afternoon. But a useful sum of money was raised for the two charities (see page 4).

The village is thriving with so many different clubs and groups, from singing and dancing, to bell ringing and French conversation, plus all the old favourites such as bowls, gardening clubs, and a walking group.

There really is something to suit most interests. And many such activities are restarting in earnest now the autumn is here.

The next edition covers December and January, with the deadline for copy being Monday 3rd November. So if you have any events planned you would like promoted in *Village Voice*, do let us know. Last year there were very impressive displays of Christmas lights within certain streets and if you are planning to do it again, we can publicise it in *VV* to share it with more people.

We are always looking for new items to include in the magazine. If you have been on an unusual holiday, do write and tell us about it. □

The poster features a collage of images including a close-up of a bell, a bell ring, and a large, ornate, yellow and silver bell. The text on the poster is as follows:

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Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



Here we are, it's autumn already, although some of the trees in my garden have been shedding leaves for some time. A long, hot dry summer to remember, a good year not only for us but for visitors to our lovely area.

The disruption to the village from the concerts at Sandringham last month were not as severe as with the concerts in 2023. I would like to thank the organisers and Sandringham Estate for all of their hard work to minimise the impact on their neighbours; it is reassuring that our concerns were listened to and addressed. Traffic was heavy but at least we could mostly get into and out of the village without the lengthy delays previously experienced. The main impact on the village was that of inconsiderate parking, I have already raised this and have been assured that it will be addressed for future concerts. Before then we have the RHS flower show at Sandringham next July; hopefully we will not have significant disruption as it will be a daytime event over several days. I am certainly looking forward to it.

We commemorated the 80th anniversary of VJ Day on 15th August. A sunset service was held at the war memorial and sincere thanks to Neil Adams for leading a simple but moving service. This was followed by the lighting of the village beacon in the Recreation Ground. This was the last significant commemoration of Second World War anniversaries whilst we have veterans with us. I am of the generation that has seen the last of the First World War veterans and will see the last of the Second World War veterans. Let us hope that their sacrifices were not in vain. There is an article elsewhere in this magazine, the start of a series giving some background to those commemorated on the village war memorial that lost their lives between 1939 and 1945. We have all enjoyed the peace that they brought to this country and it is our responsibility to ensure that this long continues.

The Parish Council had a recess from meetings in August, but that does not mean that nothing has happened. You may have noticed that we have a new bus shelter in Mountbatten Road, outside St Cecilia's Catholic Church. We had a request for a shelter here and after discussions with the church and a significant grant from Norfolk County Council the shelter was installed on August bank holiday Monday. It should provide some shelter from the elements in the upcoming months. We are now looking at providing some seating in the two bus shelters in Manor Road (opposite the Feathers) and Chapel Road.

The paving at the War Memorial Gardens had become uneven because of the growth of the roots of the lime tree. After careful consideration of various options, last month work was carried out to make the paving safe. A small area around the base of the tree was taken up and has been replaced with gravel and several areas relaid. The drainage channel was cleared and renewed. There will still be plenty of space for Armistice Day services and most importantly it will be safe for those attending.

We are all looking forward to the opening of the replacement post office this month 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 to 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.□



News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Association Matters

Trustees have reviewed hire fees and charges, and all will increase slightly with effect from 1st October. We have been open for seven years and have needed to replace items of equipment. Also, our costs, particularly electricity, have risen.

During the week when we closed, we (trustees and volunteers) did some routine maintenance tasks, such as defrosting the freezer, cleaning the fridges and cupboards in the kitchen, spot cleaning chairs, minor repairs to furniture and equipment, and have started painting the interior. We do most of the minor jobs ourselves to save having to employ contractors.

Coffee Shop

Every Thursday, between 10am and 12:30, 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 and hot and cold drinks. 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. (The price will have increased to £8.00 in October.) 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

In October we are showing *Penguin Lessons*. November's film is *Last Christmas*. See the posters on the back cover for details. The price will be held at £6 for the time being, but is under review.

Events

The Barn Dance will take place on Saturday October 25th, with the usual format – hot supper served at 7pm followed by dancing with Whirligig. See the poster for more information.

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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Dersingham Primary and Nursery School

As the summer holidays draw to a close, everyone at Dersingham Primary and Nursery School is looking forward to the start of a brand new academic year. The classrooms are ready, the teachers are excited, and we can't wait to welcome our pupils back through the doors – especially our new Nursery and Reception children who are beginning their school journey with us. The year ahead is full of opportunities for learning, creativity, and community, and we're looking forward to working together with families and friends of the school to make it a memorable one. Here's to a happy, hardworking, and inspiring year ahead!

This year's Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, energy, and sunshine! Our Year 6 pupils kicked off the morning by leading a round robin of exciting events for the younger children. These events included foot golf, a penalty shoot-out, rugby, hockey, cricket, target throwing and even a fancy dress relay. They did an exceptional job supporting their peers and showing real leadership. The warm weather added to the cheerful atmosphere, and in the afternoon we welcomed parents for a relaxing picnic lunch followed by some lively races. It was a wonderful day of community spirit and fun for all involved!

The annual Smithdon High School Area Sports was another success. Congratulations to those children who won a medal, 22 gold medals in total, which is a record. Plus 6 sprint shields. By far the most rewarding part of the evening was seeing the sheer determination on the face of each competitor and the resilience of those who picked themselves up ready to face the next race. This is true sportsmanship! Well done Team Dersingham!

We are delighted to announce that Dersingham C of E Primary and Nursery School have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2024/25 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We have had many sporting achievements over the course of the year, including involving more children in Festivals to develop skills, and competitions for our elite athletes, winning the Croydon Cup and 22 gold medals and 5 sprint shields at Area Sports. Our multi-skills sports day with competitive track events for parents, has given all children the opportunity to be part of our sporting community. There have been medals won in hockey and netball, and our Year 5/6 football team achieved bronze in the KLTFC tournament. Our Year 4 girls' football team won bronze at the town's School Games event.

With a record number of children taking part in local inter-school competitions this year, such as the cross-country, off-road cycling, rugby, cricket, football and tri-golf, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. We look forward to applying once again in 2026!

The Eco-Council's superb effort over the course of the year was rewarded with the

prestigious Green Flag once again. Congratulations to our Eco-Council and all the children in the school for working so hard to achieving it again this year.

The last few weeks of term were a very musical affair! After weeks of dedicated tuition, Year 5 had the fantastic opportunity to showcase their violin skills in a special concert at Sedgeford Village Hall, co-ordinated and financially supported by the Arts Society North West Norfolk. The performance was incredible, and the children thoroughly enjoyed their moment on stage. Adding to the excitement, we were also visited by students from the Purcell School for Young Musicians. They delivered an inspiring whole-school assembly, treating us to a range of performances and introducing the children to a wide variety of musical instruments. It was a brilliant way to celebrate music and left everyone feeling inspired!

After much practice and no small measure of line learning, singing, and dancing, Year 6 treated both the whole school and then their families to their spectacular production of *Star Wars*. Their performance was incredible, filled with energy, humour, and confidence, and every single child shone in their own way. From the impressive acting to the catchy musical numbers and well-rehearsed choreography, it was clear just how much effort had gone into bringing the show to life. Many children discovered a real joy in performing, surprising even themselves with what they could achieve on stage. It was a wonderful way to end the year and a proud moment for all, showcasing just how far the Year 6 pupils had come on their journey.

For the annual Sandringham Flower show this year the school's artwork was all themed around David Attenborough's film *Ocean*. David explored the planet's undersea habitats, revealing the greatest age of ocean discovery and emphasising the ocean's vital importance, while exposing its problems and highlighting opportunities for marine life recovery. Just like the feature-length documentary, the school's artwork took viewers on a journey to coral reefs, kelp forests and towering seamounts, showcasing the wonders of the underwater world and the vital role the ocean plays in defending Earth against climate catastrophe. □



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Reception open days
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22nd October - 1.30pm
28th November - 10am

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"Pupils like their school because it is a caring community that 'nourishes them to thrive and flourish'."

Ofsted, 2023



Dersingham Craft and Gift Fairs 2025

Introducing our very talented and creative Crafters and Stall Holders who'll be with us on Sunday 12th October and/or Sunday 16th November:

Aija Rolava - **Bee Lux**; Aime Rottger - **Aime's Crystal Crafts and Gifts**; Alan Row - **Diamond Art**; Alex Dixon - **Fade to Grey**; Amanda Rees - **Nana's Kitchen**; Angie Garton - **Intuitive Therapies**; Becky Manley - **Bec's Sweets**; Celina Taylor - **Celina Bakes**; Charlie Wagg - **Tropic Skincare**; Claire Bunton - **Em's Bakery**; Claire Ling - **Breast of Friends**; Darin Vardigans - **Yooiam Crochet Cuties**; Denise Carter - **Experience the Existential**; Denise Cowell - **Demz Gemz**; Ellen Clayton - **By The Beach**; Emily Bunton - **Tied with a Ribbon**; Fiona Hillier - **Hillier Flowers**; Fran Blaydes - **Hazel's Gift Shack**; Jackie Sindle - **Misty Moments**; Jane Noble - **Jane Noble Jewellery**; Jennifer Turner - **Ridgeway Designs**; Joy Palmer - **Ryston's Rachels Hedgehog Hotel**; Kim Kasprzak - **IAMKDK**; Lynn Hailfax - **Lavender Lace - for Kings**; Lynn's Bridge For Heroes; Laura Knowles - **Laura Loves 2 Felt**; Lesley Harvey - **Handmade by Nana Nelly**; Lorraine Cannell - **Bead Queen**; Marty Griffin - **Marty Griffin Fine Art**; Mike Simons - **Maldon Chocolates**; Niamh Stafford - **Curious Crystals Company**; Rachel Bush - **RB Model Kits**; Rachel Utteridge - **Just Bath & Body**; Sheila Whittle Bruce - **Stamped by Esme**; Sue Dumphreys - **EnaMays**; **Tarot with Linda**; Tanya Clews - **Black Rose Emporium**; Trudi Griffin - **Cards by Trudi**; Wendy Evans - **Dolly Dreams & Haptitudes**.

Dersingham Craft & Gift Fair

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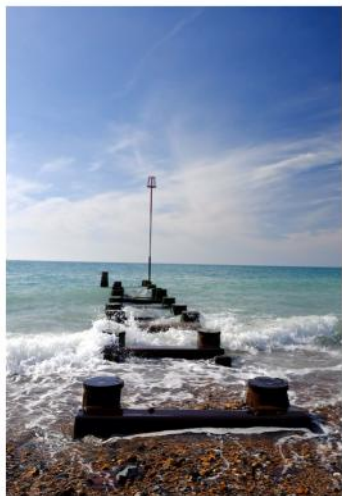
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The Hunstanton & District Camera Club

Malcolm Hayward

Members are continuing to make visits to various places of photographic interest around the county, resulting in the wide variety that can be seen in the pictures below. We would encourage anyone interested in photography and exploring Norfolk to come and join us. Members will also assist you in developing your skills to take better pictures. Enjoying the photographic opportunities, and at the same time developing friendships and knowledge can be extremely rewarding.



Clockwise from top left:

Groynes - Daniel Harvey

All Alone - Chris Holt

Crane Reflection - Chris Holt

Red Arrows, Cromer - Malcolm Hayward

Shovelling Ice - Dave Rye



Bell Ringing

Alan Polaine, Tower Captain
St Nicholas Guild of Bellringers Ringers, Dersingham

Having just celebrated VJ Day in recognition of our Veterans, Dersingham Ringers had the opportunity to ring out in their honour. Bells are part of our village life and to call people to prayer. Sadly only a few young people are committed to learning the craft and now it is left to an older generation. A new band was in the making after COVID-19 broke up the old one, but we are now in the process of starting afresh.

Bell ringing is an art that is different from, say, learning a language or science. The learner is shown but has to feel what the bell is doing by touch. That is the start. Ringers need to keep a bell rope taught. This gives communication with the bell above in the belfry. It is all about rhythm, timing and working as a team. The woolen grip or 'Sally' is both a grip and a sight marker.

Bells can be called in a different order. This is known as 'Call Changes'. More advanced work can be achieved with a Quarter Peal of 1260 or 1320 changes taking approximately 45 minutes to ring. Or a Peal of 5040 changes in 2 hours 50 minutes to 3 hours 10 minutes. Without any major errors. You are allowed a couple of changes to sort it.

Our ringing chamber is 43 steps up a turret staircase. If you do learn and become a ringer you have the freedom of ringing in any Church that has bells in the country. Of course you have to be 'honest' with your new skill. They will find you out within a few minutes of ringing if you bluff!



It takes about 12 weeks or 3 months for a promising beginner to ring on their own in rounds. If you are interested, a personal demonstration will be provided. Please contact me on: Mobile: 07715 565765 or email: alanfpolaine@gmail.com

□



**Have you always wanted to learn more about the arts?
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at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm:**

Monday 13th October 2025

George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham

Lecturer: Lucy Hughes-Hallett

Known as the "handsomest man in 17th-century Europe" he was a passionate patron of the arts and fashion, was an avid art collector and a favourite of King James I.



Monday 10th November 2025

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Lecturer: Chris Bradley

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Dersingham War Memorial – Fred Alderton to David Coe Coral Shepherd

We recently commemorated the 80th anniversary of VJ Day (Victory in Japan), the last significant anniversary of the end of Second World War whilst there are still surviving servicemen and women. Like all towns and villages, Dersingham was affected by both world wars, and I have sat and listened on Remembrance Sunday to the reading of the names of those who died and are commemorated on our war memorial.

Having recently marked 80th anniversaries of VE and VJ Days it set me thinking about those who died in the Second World War and were connected to Dersingham. There are 19 names commemorated, and these were real people, someone's son, brother, husband, sweetheart, friend. There are many stories to tell of the 19, and I have followed others before me and researched their backgrounds as so much is now available on the internet. This article will cover the first 7, with the others to follow in subsequent editions.

I have started with **Frederick Henry** and **Philip John Alderton**, and, as the names suggest, they were brothers. Here was my first mystery as they served in the 26th and 20th Battalions of the New Zealand Infantry respectively. Why New Zealand and what had that to do with Dersingham? Their father, Herbert Edward Alderton, was a Dersingham lad, marrying Ellen Maud Gent from Wolferton in 1907 in Dersingham.

Their first son, **Philip John** was born in 1908, followed by Amelia Maud, Arthur Edward, **Frederick Henry** (born in 1912), Douglas David, Marie Joy, Jeffrey George and Olive, the latter 2 born in Dunedin, New Zealand. Mum and the 4 oldest children were living in Station Road in 1921 and I found dad working as a gardener in Essex. We need to remember that there was a world recession in the 1920s and work was hard to come by, especially if you had a wife and 6 children to support. This must have led to the decision to take advantage of a government assisted passage scheme (the Empire Settlement Act 1922) which encouraged British citizens to emigrate to other countries in the Empire. So, in 1923 the whole family set sail from Southampton to Wellington in New Zealand, eventually settling in Dunedin on the South Island, 11,570 miles away from Dersingham.



Philip John was single and working as a poultry farmer in 1940 when he enlisted in the New Zealand army together with his younger

brother Douglas. They were aged 32 and 23 respectively. Philip, a private, was sent to fight in North Africa as part of the British Eighth Army in the Libyan desert. A key action was Operation Crusader, where the army pushed towards and linked up with the Tobruk garrison to relieve the siege. Philip died on 27th November 1941 aged 33. He is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Knightsbridge War Cemetery at Acroma near Tobruk in Libya.

His younger brother, **Frederick Henry**, in 1932, at the age of 20, married Edna Dorothy. I have been



unable to find out if they had any children or what happened to Edna. Frederick was working as a window dresser in 1943 when he joined the army. He was aged 31 and was sent to fight in Italy. The Italian campaign was New Zealand's primary combat contribution to the war following the hard-won victory over Axis forces in North Africa. Almost all the New Zealanders who served in Italy did so as members of the 2nd New Zealand Division – a highly competent fighting force affectionately known as the 'Div'. Frederick was involved in the battle for Cassino, dying on 17th March 1944 shortly before the New Zealand Division withdrew from the area. He was aged 32 and is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cassino War Cemetery in Italy.

The family was well remembered in the village and the two brothers were added to the names to be commemorated in Dersingham. Sadly, I can find no record of them being commemorated on any war memorial in New Zealand.

I now turn to a Dersingham resident, **Kenneth Edward Bessey**. He was the middle of 3 children born to Henry James and Rhoda Ann Bessey and was born in 1916. His older brother was Percy and younger sister was Vera. The family lived in Centre Vale and Kenneth worked as a gardener at Sandringham. He was single. He joined the Army and served as a corporal in the 5th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk regiment. The battalion sailed from Liverpool to Halifax in Canada, then onwards to Trinidad, Cape Town and Mombasa, eventually reaching Singapore on 13th January 1942. The battalion was involved in fighting in and around Singapore but were captured by the Japanese on 15th February 1942. There are no further published records of Kenneth until his death on 8th September 1943 at the age of 26. The brutal treatment of prisoners of war by the Japanese is well recorded. The Japanese records show that Kenneth died of beriberi, a vitamin B1 deficiency; in reality he probably died as a result of starvation.



He is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand. Many of those who worked and died on the infamous Thai Burma railway are buried here, so it is possible that Kenneth was one of these men. He is also commemorated on the Sandringham War Memorial.

Returning now to Dersingham, the next recorded person is **Frederick William Buckland**. He was born in 1922 and was the youngest of 3 sons born to John William and Violet Buckland. The other brothers were Arthur and John. Violet was born in King's Lynn. Frederick's father ran a laundry and they lived in various places in London, moving to the safety of Dersingham in the early 1940s. Frederick joined the RAF and served as a flying officer (pilot instructor). He was based at Hullavington in Wiltshire where he was part of 9 (Pilot) Service Flying Training School. He died in a flying accident at 16.17pm on 11th February 1942. He was pilot of a Miles Master 1 plane and was on a training exercise with a Tiger Moth II. The planes collided over land near Cheltenham and all 4 aircrew died (2 on each plane - on board the Miles Master





were Frederick Buckland and Sergeant Anthony Maher, a Canadian, and on the Tiger Moth pilot officer Stanley Jones from New Zealand and Flying Officer Godfrey Pledger from Hertfordshire). A witness to the collision watched as the Master dived towards the Tiger Moth, in what he thinks was a mock attack which went horribly wrong. Frederick was only 19 and was buried in St Nicholas churchyard in Dersingham. His parents both died in 1965, his mother being buried in the grave with Frederick and his father in an adjoining grave.

The fifth man commemorated is **Kenneth James Bugg**. He was born in 1919 and was the third of 4 sons (older brothers Walter and Albert and younger brother Frederick) born to Henry Frederick and Rose Bugg. They lived in Centre Vale and his father was a gas stoker for the King as well as being a special constable. Kenneth was single when he joined the army. He served as a dispatch rider in the 4th Corp of the Royal Corp of Signals. He was based in Assam on the northeast frontier of India; the area played a crucial role as a staging ground for the long-running Burma campaign, 1941-45. Sadly, he died on 9th October 1942 aged 23 of disease. Kenneth was posthumously awarded the Burma Star medal. He was originally buried at Jorhat cemetery but was reinterred in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Gauhati war cemetery in Assam, India.

Finally for this edition, two more brothers, **David Richard Coe and John Franklin Coe**. They were the two youngest children of Arthur Richard and Elizabeth Coe. The three eldest were girls, Louise, Majorie and Kate. David was born in 1924 and John in 1921. They lived Pansy Drive and then Glebe Road. **John Franklin Coe** was single and joined the army. He served as a private in the 6th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk regiment. He was sent to the Far East and arrived in Singapore in January 1942. The troops had only received basic training before being sent to the Far East as it was thought they would receive more training when they reached their destination. However, they were put straight into the



battle for Malaya. Fighting was fierce and on 26th January 1942 the men were ordered to retreat though the jungle. John was reported missing in action on that day after only two weeks in Malaya and was presumed dead. He was 20 years old. 60 other men from his battalion also lost their lives that day. He has no known grave and is commemorated on column 49 of the Singapore memorial in Singapore. He is named on the family grave in St Nicholas churchyard in Dersingham.

His younger brother **David Richard Coe** was also single and worked as an apprentice motor engineer. He joined the RAF and served as a flight engineer in the RAF in Squadron 427 Bomber Command based

at Leeming in Yorkshire. He died on 16th September 1943 aged 19 in an air accident. He was engineer on board a Halifax V bomber, DK253. The plane was a veteran having been involved in missions bombing Hamburg, Nuremburg, Dusseldorf, Mannheim and Berlin. On 15th September the plane left Leeming heading to France on a mission with a number of other aircraft to bomb the Dunlop factory in Montlucan, France. The mission was successful but on their return in the early hours of the morning it was flying low over Harmondsworth in Middlesex. They were jettisoning bombs but a problem arose, the pilot lost control and the plane crashed into the ground with the loss of life of all 7 people on board. 3 were Canadians – Alexander Chibanoff, Frederick Webb and William Frost, and the other 4 British - David Coe, Kendall Begbie, Alfred Gaiger and Eric Potts. All 7 are also commemorated on a memorial at the crash site. David is buried in the family grave in St Nicholas churchyard in Dersingham.

The information in this article has been gathered from Ancestry, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and various other reports and articles published on the internet. Please let me know if there are any errors or if you have any further information about them. □





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Bereavement café at Dersingham Library

Having someone who will listen can make such a difference — someone you can talk to, share memories with, cry with, or simply sit alongside. Grief affects us all differently, and sometimes just being with others who understand helps more than we realise.

We don't talk enough about bereavement or the kind of support we might need. That's why we've set up our weekly Bereavement Café at Dersingham Library on Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. It's a gentle, friendly space, run by our amazing volunteers who are always there to listen.

You're welcome to come along — whether you'd like to chat, share your story, or simply sit quietly with a cup of tea or coffee.

We're here for you.□



Albert Victor Bowls Club

In an earlier publication of this year's *Village Voice*, I posed the question of, "How many outdoor bowls club did the village have?" It was obviously an interesting question judging by the comments we hear when villagers and opposing teams finally find us and say, "We never knew this was here."

Well, "it" is here and it's called The Albert Victor Bowls Club. We have two teams in the Albert Victor League and one team in a Three Wood Triples League. Both Leagues require blocks of three teams of three players, and whilst our players are eligible for one of the AVL and the TWT, there is not the same allowance between the two AV teams. So, you can work out that the Club requires a good base of players.

If you've ever thought of playing outdoor bowls, why not give us a "look-see", come along and have a roll-up, there's plenty of spare woods for you to use. We've had a couple of open days this year, and it's pleasing to note that the membership has benefited greatly, but there's always room for more.

With regards to the two Albert Victor teams, we have cleverly named them A and B to distinguish them for our members and fellow teams in the four divisions of the Albert Victor League.

It's been an interesting season for both teams, and we have struggled, at times, to raise six blocks each week, but we have been able to complete all the games for this season... with mixed results!!

Sadly, our A team has suffered demotion to Division Two, but our B team have successfully retained their position in Division Two, despite the hardships, and members are already looking forward to two very interesting games next season.

Why not be there yourself? Come along and join us.□



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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone

Thank you to those who attended our July coffee morning; it was the usual busy morning - cakes and sausage rolls sold very well as usual and the other refreshments with tea and coffee were very popular. We raised £346.28 and this has been divided equally between Methodist Mission in Britain and World Mission.



The next Church coffee morning is on **Saturday 27th September, 10.00 – 11.30 am** with the funds raised for TWAM (Tools with a Mission). The stalls will be books, jigsaws, cakes, cards, bric-a-brac, with the favourite tempting cakes, sausage rolls, tea and coffee. Please do come and join us.

TWAM is a Christian charity that collects unwanted, usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation. Any unwanted tools you may have can be collected and made use of.

The Harvest Festival service is on **Sunday 21st September, 10.30 am** with our Superintendent Minister Revd Paul Critchley. We will be collecting items for the Hunstanton Food Bank – tinned goods, pasta, rice, tea, coffee, squash, long life milk, cereals, biscuits, jam, chocolate, toiletries, toilet rolls, washing powder, washing up liquid.

Quiz afternoon: Friday 17th October, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm. £5 each, light refreshments. Quiz master Roger Jackson. Make a note in your diary, plenty of time to dust off the brains!

Coffee morning: Saturday 25th October, 10.00 am – 11.30 am. We shall be raising funds for the RNLI.

Christmas Fayre: Saturday 22nd November, 10.00 am – 11.30 am. This will be raising funds for the King's Lynn Night Shelter.

We look forward seeing you at any of our events and our morning services at 10.30 am, followed by tea and coffee.□

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Marenne Dance Peg Hunter

Recently, dancers from Marenne Dance were brave enough to take some exams with UKA Dance Ltd. Subjects ranged from ballroom and Latin, sequence, ballet, tap, jazz, musical theatre and burlesque!

Considering most of the dancers are retired (at least three are in their 80s) doing these exams is an amazing achievement. Not just because of the amount of work they have to do - which tasks the brain as well as the body - but to undertake an exam when they thought they had left these behind years ago. They had to challenge themselves because, as one dancer said, you don't have any opportunity to be challenged when you get to our age! And by the way, exams are not compulsory! You can just come and enjoy things at your own pace - many of my dancers do.

As their teacher, I was beyond proud of their results - when a ballroom dancer gets complimented for good "heel turns"; when a musical theatre dancer gets praise for the good use of props and emotion; and the ballet ladies are praised for poise and balance, it makes all my hard work teaching them worthwhile.

This was all celebrated at a recent Presentation Event where two of the group classes performed live - the fit 'n' dancin' group danced to *Dance the Night* from the Barbie music, the ballet group performed a dance using music from *Coppelia* and I myself danced, with my partner, an Argentine Tango (*Strictly* came to Dersingham!). Other dances were shown on film. We then enjoyed social time together. Unknown to me, the dancers had had a collection and presented me with a "thank you" card and gift card - which is being spent on a new pair of dance shoes I had seen and fallen for!

I now specialise in teaching "older" people, not children. If you are interested in any classes, please contact me on 07930 556675.



Stepping Out Tea Dance

The last Friday of each month sees dancers tripping the light fantastic at the Village Centre. The Stepping Out Tea Dance runs from 2pm - 4pm with ballroom, Latin and sequence dancing. There is a mid-session break for well-deserved tea and cake (or coffee!).

Using recorded music, Peg plays each dance twice on the bounce so you can either do both, watch one and join in the second, dance



the first and rest - well really, it's up to you. Peg welcomes dancers of all abilities, from the very early beginners to professionals. It's a very friendly and inclusive event.

The cost is currently £7.50 - payable in cash as you arrive - or if you join the Stepping Out club in January for the price of just £10.00, you then only pay £5.00 per month. We don't dance in August or December.

Further details from Peg on 07930 556675□.

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Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

The Parish Council met at West Newton on 5th August. The most important news was the recruitment of three new Councillors, all from West Newton, which provides a much better balance between that village and Wolferton to ensure better representation of the whole community served by the Parish Council.

Most of the matters outstanding from the June meeting remain so, but agreement has been reached for the design of the cycle rack at the new bus shelter in Wolferton and it should be in place before long.

The Borough Councillor updated the meeting on the Government's plans for devolving power from London to a yet-to-be-elected Mayor for the combined counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and at the same time to reorganise local government within each county. In Norfolk there are seven public authorities delivering services to residents – the County Council and six district level councils, of which the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk is one. The government has decreed that these two tiers must be amalgamated and is open to persuasion as to how many councils Norfolk should be split into. The idea is that all services will be delivered by one authority within their area. The case has been put forward for a three-way split, a two-way split and for there to be just one mega-authority for the whole County. There are pros and cons of all and the government will make its decision by the end of the year, with the new arrangements due to start with elections in May 2027.

The Council considered and agreed a planning application for work to improve biodiversity in Steer Road, Wolferton.

The need for the parish notice boards in both West Newton and Babingley was highlighted and the Estate representative agreed to add them to the repairs list. Subsequently, the West Newton board has as good as collapsed, so the Council has requested it be replaced as a matter of priority which means that the Babingley one, in a poor state though it is, may have to remain in service a bit longer.

Much of the meeting was devoted to outlining the arrangements for the then upcoming Sandringham concerts. A subsequent meeting of Councillors was held on 28th August to review social media comment from both main communities in the parish and add their own observations to provide feedback to the Estate and others on the conduct of the concerts and especially the impact they had on the lives of local residents, especially in West Newton. We are well aware that the number of larger events – such as the RHS next year – will have a growing impact on people locally, so we have spent a considerable amount of time to put together fair and balanced input to the Estate to help shape planning for the future. This majors on traffic and transport issues across the area more widely, and locally environmental issues, noise issues, safety concerns, road closures and how the Sandringham Keep In Touch scheme (KIT) could be used more widely.

Your new list of Councillors:

Mr Graham Browne – resident of West Newton

Mr Tony Bubb – resident of Dersingham and our Borough Councillor

Mr Ben Colson – resident of Wolferton and chairman of the Council

Mr Robert Frost – resident of Dersingham

Ms Abbie Panks – resident of West Newton

Mr Ian Skinner – resident of West Newton

Mr Stephen Thompson – resident of Wolferton

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 4th November at 7pm at Wolferton Social Club and all residents of the parish, which includes Babingley, West Newton and Wolferton, are very welcome to attend.□

What's on in Wolferton

Wolferton Social Club

Opening times - the Club is open Friday and Saturday evenings 8.00pm to 11.00pm and Sunday lunchtime from noon. It is now also open on certain Thursdays 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

Cash Bingo

Sunday October 5th: Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Sunday November 2nd: Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday November 18th: Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

For your diary

Saturday 18th October: Coffee morning - 10.00am -12noon in aid of the Jerry Green dog rescue centre. Refreshments, cakes and lots more.

Saturday 1st November: Wolferton PCC annual Harvest Supper and Quiz – see after St Peter's Church below for details and tickets

Saturday 29th November: Christmas Craft Fair - 10.00am - 2.00pm at the Social Club, plenty of craft stalls, raffle and refreshments.

St Peter's Church, Wolferton

Church services

Sunday 12th October: 9.15am – Harvest Festival family service – followed by refreshments

Sunday 26th October: 3.00pm – Holy Communion

Sunday 9th November: 9.15am – Remembrance Day morning worship – followed by refreshments

Sunday 23rd November: 3.00pm – Holy Communion

All are very welcome to join us in these services and refreshments following the morning services

For your diary and buy your tickets now!

WOLFERTON PCC HARVEST SUPPER and QUIZ at the Social Club

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NORFOLK and WAVENEY MIND GROUP MEETINGS: EVERY TUESDAY 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For further information please visit the website www.norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk Or telephone 0300 33 5488 or email: nikki.nourse@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk

MONDAY 6th OCTOBER: 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 10th OCTOBER: FILM NIGHT. *The Salt Path* (12A). The true story based on the controversial memoir by Raynor Winn. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465.

FRIDAY 24th OCTOBER: QUIZ NIGHT. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER: HALLOWEEN PARTY NIGHT. 7:00 p.m. till late. Admission £3, children free. Music, fun and games, mini quiz, raffle. Prizes for the best fancy dress. Fully licensed bar. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

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

FRIDAY 11th NOVEMBER: FILM NIGHT. *Black Bag* (15). Thrilling spy story starring Michael Fassbender and Cate Blanchett. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465.

FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER: RACE NIGHT WITH FISH & CHIPS SUPPER. Club opens 7:00 p.m. Races start at 7:30 p.m. Win only bets £2. Fish & Chips supper served at 8:00 p.m. £10 per person to be booked in advance by Tuesday 18th November. To book your Fish & Chips email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER: QUIZ NIGHT. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

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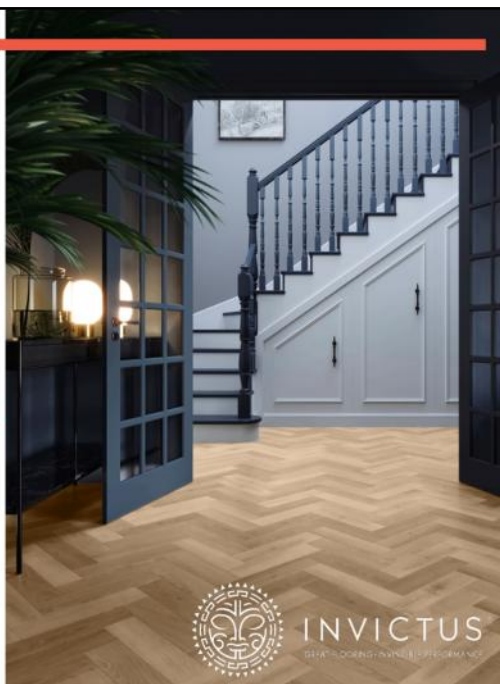
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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron

Where has the summer gone? By the time you read this, we will be into autumn and the bowls green will have closed until next season. Is it just me or do the months go by faster than they used to? I've been told it's my age, but young people seem to agree as well.

We have packed a lot into the last two months. The weather gods eventually smiled on us for the Ladies v Men challenge at the third time of asking, and 30 bowlers took to the green for this popular event, reduced to just one leg this year. This resulted in a resounding win for the men this time, but the Ladies are already looking forward to next year's fixtures. Well done to the men's team, and thanks to those guys who were honorary ladies for the day. The match was followed by a delicious fish and chip supper, provided by Simon the Village Fryer.

The friendly matches against Cliff Parade resulted in a home win for Dersingham, but a loss away on their green. Both played in a spirit of friendly rivalry. The August bank holiday Monday saw members competing for the Eddie Roye Pairs trophy. This year the winners were Mo Covell and Graham Wiley with Nicky O'Dea and Richard Waterhouse the worthy runners-up. Well done to both pairs.

Our Albert Victor captain, Iain Brown, reports that we have had a mixed season, despite the best efforts of his team which included some players new to League bowls. Hopefully this year's experience will stand us in good stead for next year. There was a point when we thought we would be relegated but managed to avoid this and live to fight another day in Division 3. Iain would like to thank everyone who played and supported him in his first season as captain.



Countryside captain, Terry Thompson, reports, "This has been a challenging season due to the hot weather affecting all the greens in the local area, which is making them fast and unpredictable, but we have got through it. We have now played all our games and have accumulated 75 points and now wait to see the final results of the last few games to come. We are hoping for second but only Searles have the opportunity to surpass us.

This season we have introduced some new players to match bowling and I have to say they have performed very well, and are an asset to our club. I very much hope they will continue for many seasons to come. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our players who have supported the Countryside League and hope they will continue to do so in future seasons.

Our internal Wednesday League, fondly known as the Bird's League, was finalised on Wednesday August 27th after an enjoyable, closely fought season. The final league table is as follows:

1 st The Sparrows (Terry Thompson, Frank Gibson, Allen Toppin, Graham Wiley and Mo Covell)	78 points
2 nd The Swans (Albert Chamberlain, Jean Thompson, Les Allen, Jan Rawstron and Ray Hollywood)	75 points

- 3rd The Starlings (Brenda Hollywood, Peter Cheeseman, Dave Liddle, Sue Booth and Richard Waterfield) 57 points
- 4th The Eagles (Ruth Ince, Nicky O'Dea, Mary Hearn, Laura Wiley and Mike Balderstone) 55 points
- 5th The Owls (Joy Kelly, Dave Graves, Alan Coleman, Terry Nice and Tim Ingrey) 49 points
- 6th The Kestrels (Laurance O'Dea, Paul Grimston, Steve Booth, Sandra Waterfield and Keith Richardson) 46 points

We are coming to the end of our internal knockout competitions and although some have been completed, I will publish the full results in the next issue.

Sadly, our green will close for this year on September 20th, but we do have our annual Presentation Lunch to look forward to at The Mariner in Old Hunstanton on October 24th. Following that, we hope to see many of our members at the AGM in November. □

Jessie the Lepidopterist Brian Anderson



We've always had cats. Our previous cat Smiffy died a while before we moved to our present house. What with the move and the work needed on the house, we didn't look for a cat until earlier this year. Jessie's picture was on the Cat's Protection website (she was then called Jet). After a visit we decided to adopt her. She arrived with us on 20th January this year. You never know how long it will take a cat to settle in. Jessie was very quick - within two days she was knee-sitting and within two weeks was using the cat flap.

It was in June that we found a Large Yellow Underwing moth in the kitchen, on the floor and dead. Over the following month and a half four more appeared, one dead and three alive, which were released. Also two Old Lady moths (alive) and an Eyed Hawkmoth (also alive). The last to appear was a Comma butterfly, which I found perched on the worktop. Last year we didn't get any moths but we didn't have Jessie. OK, there's no smoking gun, but the circumstantial evidence is compelling. She must be catching them in the garden and nearby and bringing them in. It's curious that she has been rehomed in a household which takes a great interest in Lepidoptera!

We don't *think* she goes all that far at night. But if we ever find a Malayan Giant Orange-tip on the kitchen floor she obviously goes a lot further than we ever imagined. □



Dersingham Choir Starts New Season and Looks for New Faces

Dersingham Choir is starting its new season of activities, practices and concerts with a call for new members to come along and join in the fun. After a summer break the Choir had its first rehearsal on Thursday 4th September at St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham.

The choir is primarily about people enjoying themselves. Jan Wilson, chair of the choir committee, said, "We would love to welcome some new faces this season, and the choir is a great way to make new friends. There is no requirement to read music as we 'learn as we go', and there are no auditions. You don't need a perfect voice, you just need to enjoy singing with others. Plus, we have a great social life, with choir members meeting for coffee and cake at different cafes in and around Dersingham and we often host events in the village such as coffee mornings and open gardens.

The choir meets every Thursday from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, and includes a tea and coffee break. Membership is £6 per week, with the first week being free to let new members settle in. This season the choir is practising for its main Christmas concerts and 'singalongs' on Saturday December 6th and Thursday December 11th.

So, if you enjoy singing and getting to know new people, come along to one of our practices at St Cecilia's - you are most welcome to pop in. Alternatively, visit our website at www.dersinghamchoir.com or contact Kate, the choir secretary: email secretaryDC2025@outlook.com or phone 07513 986858. □



The choir practising for last summer's concerts



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The Joys of Getting Old

Sheila Davies

Multi-tasking? No problem! We ladies are known for it. Fry an egg/juggle six oranges whilst having an intelligent conversation with the cat? Bring it on! Add to this the talent of coughing/sneezing/peeing/breaking wind at the same time that comes with age, and you have a measure of how versatile we have become. Or so I thought, until recent events made me question this, although I can still stand on one leg for the count of ten, which, strangely, the internet assures me gives me another couple of years. Are my days of multi-tasking over? I fear this may be so.

On Sunday I decided to have my gourmet meal of fresh salmon and asparagus which I cook myself and thoroughly enjoy. Mr Tesco had duly delivered said salmon and asparagus a few days earlier, but on looking at the salmon on taking it from the fridge, I discovered it was slightly out of date. I will often take the chance with meat, but decided it was too risky with fish, so that had to be binned. I studied the asparagus and had the brainwave I would make myself an asparagus quiche. OK, fine. I duly made the pastry, filling it with baking beans, which I had recently acquired in a table-top sale, to bake it blind. I set the timer to remove the beans and put back in for five minutes to finish it off. Now I have since learned you should line the pastry case with baking parchment before adding the beans, but common sense was never my strong point; so in they went directly onto the pastry. Meanwhile I steamed asparagus, grated cheese, chopped onion and beat the eggs. So far, so good. I put the pan on the hob with oil to heat to fry the onions. The oven then started bleeping, telling me the pastry was ready to remove the baking beans. I took it out and put it on the worktop and proceeded to remove the beans. I congratulated myself for having the foresight to empty them onto a tea towel to stop them rolling around the worktop. However, a few had stuck stubbornly to the pastry (surprise). I loosened them and turned it slightly on its side whilst giving it a little shake to remove them. This caused the pastry case to slide gracefully out of the dish on to the worktop and break into pieces! I stood there looking at it in utter dismay whilst shouting out the rudest words I know of (plus a few made up ones which didn't make sense but made me feel better.) In the midst of this tirade the smoke alarm decided to let me know in no uncertain terms it wasn't happy. I had forgotten about the oil heating on the stove! I turned to remove said pan, immediately grabbing the tea towel in case it was hot, forgetting this held the hot baking beans. This caused a shower of hot baking beans to go cascading in all directions on the kitchen floor. I frantically hopped over to the stove trying unsuccessfully to avoid beans (I now firmly believe hot hard baking beans are second only to Lego bricks in the pain stakes.) Removing the pan I then hopped into the hallway to do the demented tea towel flapping dance to try and shut up the dratted smoke alarm. This accomplished, the intercom (linked to a call centre in some remote corner of the UK) kicked in. A very bored young male voice enquired, "Mrs Davies, do you need the fire brigade?". I allowed myself a fleeting fantasy of having a couple of hunky firemen come to my aid, then realised the only use I would have for them was to get down and pick up the baking beans. I dismissed it. I managed to sweetly reply, "Sorry – just cooking lunch", which seemed to satisfy said bored young man and he disappeared back into cyberspace.

I stood at the kitchen door surveying the mess, fighting the desire to shut the door, go into the bedroom and bury myself under the duvet to make it all go away. Then I saw all the ingredients ready and waiting, looking reproachfully at me. I decided I was made of sterner stuff, so set to clearing up the mess. Some beans had made their way under the fridge. No problem, these would be removed on my twice-yearly cleaning behind it. However, some had decided to make their forever home under the cooker. This would prove too difficult to get at, as even if I had the inclination, the cooker was wedged in so

tightly it could not be moved. So there they will stay for the foreseeable future. I managed to make a new pastry case – this time using the old method of pricking the bottom (sorry baking beans, you had your chance). I am pleased to report that the finished quiche was actually very enjoyable. Whether it was worth all the effort is another story. In conclusion I will say to whoever removes my cooker when I pop me clogs and finds the beans, I forgive them for saying, “Oh look! These must be her marbles that they all said she had lost!”□

Making Gardening Easier May Davey



The rain came at last! Now we can enjoy warm autumn days and look forward to some interesting meetings.

To catch you up a bit on earlier meetings, in July we visited Sarah Warne's home in Bawsey where we enjoyed a splendid tea under the shade of massive trees. The whole family turned out to serve us and make us welcome. Thank you, Sarah. In August, on End of the War in Japan Day, Robert Ashwell and his wife Julie brought their holiday pictures of a trip to Japan last year. They travelled on many trains and



Tea at Sarah's



Sarah's veg patch

stayed at a wide variety of hotels. They did visit Hiroshima. It was a very busy programme and we envied their stamina.

We had a coach outing to Gooderstone Water Gardens on 19th September, which has six acres of waterways with flat grassy paths leading to 13 bridges. There are colourful borders and lots of seating surrounded by mature shrubs and trees.

On 17th October, we have a talk by Peter Fisher about the work of the Norfolk Rivers Trust. Our November 21st speaker is Jonathan Bundock, an arboriculturist answering our questions about trees and pruning.



And on 19th December we will gather once again at Knight's Hill Barn for our Christmas celebrations.

Our meetings take place on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. They begin at 2.00pm, stop for tea about 3.00pm and end at 4.00pm. Visitors are always very welcome. There is an entrance fee of £3.00 which covers tea and the raffle. *Do come and see how you like us.*□

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Finding Our Place: What3Words

Rev Mark Capron

If you've ever used the app *What3Words*, you'll know it divides the entire world into three-metre squares, each given a unique set of three words. Instead of a long, complicated address, three simple words can pinpoint your exact location, whether on a city street, a remote mountainside or in a church. In recent weeks this was helpful when someone became unwell and the emergency services asked for the *What3Words*. Having had a look at some of the different *What3Words* for St Nicholas Church, Dersingham, there is a three-meter square: 'health.mindset.uplifting'; this seems rather appropriate thinking of spiritual health, prayer and uplifting worship to God.

It's clever technology. But it also prompts a question: if three words could pinpoint not where we are, but *who* we are and *what* we live for, what would they be?

The Bible overflows with words that matter, but there are three words that stand out together in the Bible as a guide for life: 'Faith.Hope.Love.' These three words are sometimes read as part of a Wedding Bible reading.

Faith anchors us in God's promises when life feels uncertain. It's the trust that God's plan is greater than our fears. Hope lifts our eyes beyond present struggles to the certainty of God's future, a hope that doesn't fade. Love is the greatest of all, shaping our actions, words, and attitudes, just as Jesus' love was poured out for us. In *1 Corinthians 13:13*, Paul writes, "*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*" These are more than just coordinates; they are the heart-map of the Christian life. Perhaps if God had a spiritual *What3Words* for us, it wouldn't mark our spot on the earth, but our place in His kingdom: 'Faith. Hope. Love.' They are words to live by, wherever we are, and whatever we face.

Notices

Thank you: Thank you to all who were involved in the wonderful Flower Festival at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham, including the co-ordinators, arrangers, helpers and visitors.

Armistice Day: (11th day of the 11th month): A short act of remembrance will start at 10:55am at the Dersingham crossroads war memorial (Hunstanton and Station Roads); anyone is welcome to attend.

Remembrance Sunday: (9th November): The annual parade service will begin at 10:30am in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham, with the names of the fallen from Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne read out by representatives from the respective villages.

Little Nippers Baby and Toddler Group: Little Nippers meets on Monday mornings in term time 9:30am -11am in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham for playtime, crafts, songs, action Bible stories and snacks (adult drinks provided). The group is for babies and children up to three years old, along with parents, grandparents, carers/ nannies. Please contact Maggie for more information or to book a place: 07876 034281.

God's Blessing

Rev Mark Capron

Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne
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Dersingham Phobbies Club Back After Summer Break

Dersingham Phobbies, which meets on Thursdays in Dersingham Social Club and provides activities for people with a range of disabilities and none, restarted its activities on 4th September after a short summer break.

The club is run entirely by volunteers and the activities we do include painting, drawing, model making, knitting, rug making or just talking with each other. However, the club is in need of new volunteers, and anyone who enjoys assisting the less able, or who can help with fund raising or administration, or who would just like a friendly chat is welcome to come along.

Maggie Ponder, chair of the club's organising committee said, "The club has a fantastic group of members who help with the different activities, but it would be wonderful to have more help. No regular commitment is needed; we have volunteers who come most weeks and some who come a few times a year for specific activities."

For example, we love listening to music and singing along, so if you play an instrument and could come and play for an hour or so once or twice a year, that would be really appreciated. Or if you have some administrative skills and can help the club for two or three hours a month, this would help enormously. You may have some crafting skills and could lead an activity for a couple of sessions, or just share your enjoyment of crafting with the club. Most weeks a group of members play cards and other games and they are keen to have more players to join them.

Phobbies meets every Thursday from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm at Dersingham Social Club, Lynn Road. Weekly subscription is £2; tea, coffee and biscuits are provided free, but we bring a packed lunch.

Anyone interested in joining can drop in on a Thursday or contact Maggie Ponder on 07967 799816 or email m.ponder@btopenworld.com □

Little Egret

Local resident, Jill Galloso, took this photograph of a Little Egret having a paddle early one morning on Old Hunstanton/Holme beach.

This bird used to be extremely rare in the UK, but times have changed and now we are lucky enough frequently able to see it on the Norfolk coast. □



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Dersingham Evening Wl

Katrina Mundy, Secretary

The speaker for our July evening meeting was Paul Alford, a King's Lynn Town Guide who spoke on "The Darker Side of King's Lynn". We heard about "Crimes of Passion" (Eugene Aram) who was accused of murdering his friend Daniel Clarke in Knaresborough. Eugene then arrived in King's Lynn as a teacher at the Boys' Grammar School from where he was arrested and placed in jail. We did see details about him in our visit to Stories of Lynn, plus his skull.

We heard about the Peasants' Revolt of 1338, Tales of Conflict in 1377/78, and William Wildblood who hung himself in the Bell Tower of St Margaret's in the 1800s. Quartering and gibbets were also used in King's Lynn, and during the Witch Trials the Witch Finder General himself was summoned to King's Lynn and found six witches, of which three were burned at the stake as witches. I think next time I am in Tuesday Market I will be looking at it slightly differently. We all learnt something new about the town we live near and visit. It has made some of us think about doing one of the Town Guides' walks in future to perhaps learn even more about King's Lynn. In October our group meeting at South Wootton will be a virtual tour of King's Lynn, again by the Town Guides.

I mentioned last time that a few of our members would be visiting the "Stories of Lynn" to visit their "Surviving the Railway War" exhibition during July. The 80th Anniversary of VJ Day fell 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. It was a very thought-provoking exhibition.

July was a busy month as some of us also attended the Home and Garden Exhibition in Ely Cathedral. Truly some lovely crafts on display inside the Cathedral and some of us even had time to have a leisurely look round Ely itself.

Our first August meeting was a fun afternoon for six of our members playing mini golf at Sandringham. If you remember, four of our members did this last year in atrocious weather, so we thought this time let's do it in the sunshine. Unfortunately, at the time of booking, I did not know it was going to be the hottest day of the week but we braved the sun (suitably attired, hatted and sun creamed) and had a laughter-filled time trying to hit a little ball down a hole where it really didn't want to go (golf really is a silly game or perhaps it's just the way we played it!) One hole proved especially difficult and yet some of us actually achieved a couple of holes in one around the course! This of course was followed by a lovely cup of tea/coffee and some cake in the Sandringham restaurant which was beautifully cool. A good couple of hours' fun.

Our August meeting was our annual tea meeting and 25 of our members attended. The lovely food was supplied by Sally G again this year with some members even taking home doggy bags. Our speaker was Angela Canning who gave us readings from her book *Wise Owl and Barn Owl*. This is a book about Louis and Yvonne Veness who were variety club artists, but on finding an injured pigeon one night in The Strand began caring for wild animals in the 1960s. On moving to Berkshire, they then started up their own Newbury Wildlife Hospital - one of the first in the country. They were on call 24 hours a day and the animals ranged from foxes, badgers, deer, squirrels, polecats, bats and deer to a great variety of birds. On one occasion an oiled heron from the Clyde was brought to them. Angela told us about separating male swans involved in combat, a

swan injured on top of a roof, fox cubs born in a tombstone and a call from an irate ranger asking them to remove a pelican from their fishing lake. Louis asked Angela to write a biography of their lives and Angela wrote the stories just as Louis told them to her. Louis died in 1991 and Yvonne in 1997. Angela now donates the proceeds from her book to the Hart Wildlife Refuge in Alton and also any fees from her readings.



Sharon presented Irene Speed with a slate coaster commemorating being a member of Dersingham Evening W.I. for over 25 years. Four of our lucky members won the raffle and went home with flowers, wine or chocolates.

We are participating in The Flower Festival at St Nicholas Church, so hopefully some of you will have been and had a look at our window display. The theme for the Festival is books so we titled ours "Books for Everything" to cover most of our groups.



In September our speaker was Carol Marsh talking about her "Capers – Adventuring for Charities." Carol gives her presentations to raise funds for **PROSTAD**, a charity supporting men and their partners at all stages of prostate cancer. Carol has been raising funds for charity over a number of years, and to achieve this she has sledded huskies across Lapland, trekked in the Sahara, skydived, and appeared on Bargain Hunt and The Chase, to name but a few of her adventures. A lovely lady doing remarkable things for charity.

Our book club had a break in August but in September they read *Elizabeth is Missing* by Emma Healey. Maud is forgetful. She makes a cup of tea and doesn't remember to drink it. She goes to the shops and forgets why she went. Sometimes her home is unrecognizable - or her daughter Helen seems a total stranger. But there's one thing Maud is sure of - her friend Elizabeth is missing. Everyone tells Maud to forget about it, but Maud is determined to get to the bottom of the mystery because somewhere in Maud's damaged mind lies the answer to an unsolved seventy-year-old mystery. One everyone has forgotten about. Everyone, except Maud.... In 2019 this book was made into a British Television drama film starring Glenda Jackson as Maud and can still be found on Amazon Prime.

September will see the dining group enjoy lunch at the Sandringham restaurant

and Diann will also be hosting our coffee morning in September. We hope to hold one in Thaxters in October. Our craft groups continued in September and soon we will be starting cards for Christmas. In October our speaker is Penny Simmonds who will be giving us an Introduction to Reflexology.

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.□



**From your Ward Councillors
Tony Bubb and Judy Collingham**

Autumn is nearly upon us and the memory of a wonderful/too hot (according to your perspective) summer is fading fast.



By the time Village Voice is published schools will be back and, as far as the Borough is concerned, work will begin in earnest to bring the LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) into being. Decision deadline is at the end of September to decide on unitary makeup. If you get a chance to attend briefing sessions and/or have your say please do so. Local Boroughs are in favour of 3 unitary authorities, whereas County favours just the one. Local representation will change and of necessity will be less local.

The Heritage Live concerts came and went mostly without incident and in general enjoyed by all who attended. There seemed little noise pollution so those hoping for a “free” listen would have been disappointed. The only criticism relating to Dersingham received so far is inappropriate and inconsiderate parking along Chapel and Manor Roads, to such an extent that the No 36 bus could not get through and that service had to be cancelled. Your Councillors will report back to Sandringham and propose more police cones along those roads.

Now the summer recess (if indeed we had any recess) is past, meetings on key issues, apart from and as well as LGR and Mayoral arrangements, will proceed. Of note, of course, are further steps and decisions on the Guildhall which Council voted to progress even though costs have escalated.

Escalating costs have impacted also on the Sports Pavilion project and the trustees are looking to raise yet more money. However difficult and challenging, this is a project which must get across the line. Watch out for further updates.□

My Favourite Novels of John Wyndham

Brian Anderson



I can't remember if the first science fiction book I read was *The Day of the Triffids* or *The War of the Worlds* (not including Dan Dare in the *Eagle*). Either way, it was early - I suppose I must have been about twelve.

Before we go on, here is a **Spoiler Alert!** I will be describing the books in some detail.

John Wyndham was born in 1903. His full name was John Wyndham Parkes Lucas Beynon Harris. He was educated at Edgbaston High School in Birmingham and later at the progressive school Bedales at Petersfield in Hampshire. After his education was complete, he went to work in advertising, a career in which he was not very successful. In his spare time he wrote science fiction stories. He wrote under a number of pen names - John Beynon and John Beynon Harris. I have a few of these in collected editions. Some are really not very good, but many are excellent. Both before and after the war he lived at the Penn Club, a venue opened by the Quakers. It was here that his enlightened views on society and feminism developed. It is worth noting that many of his novels feature strong, determined women characters.

When the Second World War came he worked as a censor in the Ministry of Information and then later joined the Army as a corporal cipher clerk in the Royal Corps of Signals. He was present at the Normandy landings in 1944. After the war he returned to writing full time and in 1951 *The Day of the Triffids* was published. It was an immediate success.

The story opens with the narrator Bill Masen in hospital with his eyes bandaged. The opening lines are worth quoting: "When a day you happen to know is a Wednesday starts off by sounding like Sunday there is something seriously wrong somewhere." We learn that the previous night the world had experienced an extraordinary astronomical spectacle - an (ostensible) cloud of comet debris had hit the earth's atmosphere, producing bright green shooting stars worldwide that blinded most of the world's population. Masen cautiously unbandages his eyes and discovers why everywhere is so quiet.



In some ways the novel is fairly conventional but is rather more nuanced than it appears on first sight. Masen and his companion Josella Playton navigate a strange world where most people are blind and threatened by triffids. (Triffids are plants secretly developed for their nutritious oils and are mobile and deadly.) They meet various people and groups who have very different ideas about how the world should recover - those who advocate breeding quickly, who want a society governed by religious principles, who wish to care for everyone until help arrives (unaware that this is a global catastrophe) and those who would establish a feudal society. In the end Josella and Masen escape to a farm and eventually to the Isle of Wight where a new beginning is possible. Masen realises that the triffids and blindness (probably caused by a malfunctioning satellite weapon and not by cosmic debris) are the result of human arrogance. The novel has been televised twice and filmed once. The film (1963) was awful, having dumped most of the plot. The triffids, though, were quite well realised. The first

televised version (1981) was very good and stayed with the plot. The second (2009) also dumped most of the plot and was in many ways barely adequate to the task. *The Day of the Triffids* has been criticized as "cosy catastrophe" but many find it a work of insight.

The Chrysalids was published in 1955. It is what we would call today a dystopian novel. It is set in Labrador in a Puritan community where deviations from the biological norm are rooted out. Plants and animals are destroyed and humans expelled to an area called The Fringes. The story is told by David Storm, first as young boy, then as a young man. His gradual realisation of the world he lives in begins when he helps conceal the fact that a little girl he knows has six toes on each foot. When this is discovered and the family is expelled, he fully understands the edict: *Accursed is the mutant!*

David finds he can discuss things with his friends in the district - discuss without speaking. They all begin to appreciate that their ability to talk by thought was also a deviation - which had to be kept secret. This worked until David had a little sister, Petra. Petra had the same ability but much more strongly. There were increased risks because she was so young. She begins to ask questions about the other lady who lives far away and who she can talk to. When they ask her where she says Zealand is, they say there is no such place and no such thing as the letter Z.

Eventually the secret is out and all have to flee - all except some who, still undetected, couldn't leave. Petra says the lady is coming to rescue them but it's a very long way. Eventually the lady has come close enough to communicate with the whole group. And now we learn what we suspected all along. A long time in the past there had been a devastating nuclear war. The Zealanders arrive and lift the group away - happy and relieved but sad for those left behind.

Margaret Atwood, author of *The Handmaid's Tale*, has remarked that she got inspiration for the novel from the society described in *The Chrysalids*.

In *The Midwich Cuckoos* (1957) Wyndham makes a 180 degree turn in his moral compass. Whereas the telepaths in *The Chrysalids*, due to their obvious human characteristics, have all our sympathy directed towards them, in *The Midwich Cuckoos* the Children are very different. But to begin: Midwich is a sleepy little village somewhere in Middle England. For one day, all the inhabitants are rendered unconscious. All seems to be well when they wake up, but it transpires that every woman of child-bearing age is pregnant. When the children are born they appear normal apart from having golden irises. But it soon becomes clear that the Children (as they come to be known) have the power to compel. Gradually the tension rises and there are outbreaks of violence. If attacked, the Children force the attackers to turn on themselves. One resident, Gordon Zellaby, seeks to understand the Children. He concludes that effectively this is an invasion where the parenting instincts the villagers have are being harnessed. There are long passages of thoughtful debate about the moral dilemma. When Zellaby learns that other "Midwichs" have occurred, but all the Children have been killed, he decides that the Midwich Children also need to be eliminated and kills them and himself in a massive explosion.



The Midwich Cuckoos has been filmed as *The Village of the Damned* in 1960 and again in 1995. The first film follows the plot reasonably well but the second is basically a horror story where the Children morph into aliens. It was televised in 2022. I haven't seen it, but

the synopsis doesn't look very impressive. Margaret Atwood had an opinion about this too and said it gave her nightmares.

John Wyndham's other novels are:

The Outward Urge (1959). In collaboration with Lucas Parkes (You may have noticed from the third paragraph that "Lucas" and "Parkes" are some of Wyndham's names, so he is probably the only author who has collaborated with himself!); *Trouble With Lichen* (1960); *Chocky* (1968); *Web* (1979 - published posthumously); and *The Kraken Wakes* (1953). I can recommend *Odd*, *Random Quest*, *More Spinned Against* and *Dumb Martian* if you like short stories.

He died in 1969.□

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Dersingham Walking Group

Ray Johnson

On behalf of the walking group I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony, and Stephen prior to him, for co-ordinating the walks in recent years and I know that they will continue to lead some of the walks.

All walks will commence at 2.00 pm on the 2nd and 4th weeks of each month unless otherwise indicated. **Walks commence at 2.00 pm until the clocks go back on 26th October, after which date walks will start at 1.30 pm.**

Wednesday September 24th

Start point: The car park on Snettisham Common, Beach Road, 100 yards off the A149 TF 672335.

Starting near the car park, we will follow the Snettisham Circular, approximately 4.5 miles. **Leader: Ray Johnson 07999 841749.**

Wednesday October 8th

Start point: Recreation Ground car park, Chapel Road, Pott Row TF 701228.

A tour of Pott Row taking in Hudson's Fen, an old railway line and lanes and footpaths. About 4 miles. **Leader: Tony Bubbs 01485 543638.**

Wednesday October 22nd

Start point: Start from the car park on the left off the minor Ringstead to Burnham road, about 0.7 miles east of Ringstead TF 722405.

An autumn afternoon in the Norfolk countryside with this circular walk around the footpaths of Courtyard Farm. About 4 miles of delightful countryside. Some walkers have previously found this start point confusing to locate. It is not on the road to Docking - it is on the minor road, called Burnham Road, from Ringstead which eventually leads to Burnham Market. What Three Words reference is boots.trump.bikes., if that helps.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.

Thursday November 13th (Note this is Thursday, not Wednesday and starts at 1.30 pm).

Start point: the car park at St Mary's Church, Old Hunstanton TF 688420.

This is a pleasant, easy walk through meadows and country lanes. A short section of quietish road only. Through Le Strange Estate and Ringstead Common, returning to the church. **Leader: Brett Thomas 07801 095510.**

Wednesday November 26th

Start point: The Crown pub on East Rudham village green TF827281.

Footpaths, lanes and farm tracks make up a new circuit starting from East Rudham village green and heading south from the village. About 4.5 miles. **Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.**

All our planned walks will appear here in *Village Voice* and can also be found on our website **Dersinghamwalking.co.uk**. Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers plus some folk from further afield and to explore the local area. There is no cost involved, just turn up. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do their best to look after you.

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

Group coordinator: Ray Johnson Tel: 07999 841749 Email: rayjohnson315@gmail.com

Village Singalongs

Steve and Lindsey Davis



With the summer closure of the Village Centre during the last week of August, we were hoping to hold our last-Friday-of-the-month Singalong in our garden. However, the weather dictated otherwise, so instead the 15 of us present for this one squeezed in around our conservatory and dining room. Our singing was nonetheless hearty, and we were treated to some homemade cake rather than the usual biscuits with our tea and coffee.

Our remaining Singalongs for this year will of course be back in the Village Centre Garden Room 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, on Fridays 26th September, 31st October, 28th November, with a Christmas Singalong on 19th December. All are welcome to come and join in this convivial time and if you pluck, strum, blow, shake or beat some sort of acoustic musical instrument, then by all means bring it along. All who come get to choose a song, mostly from our now quite extensive, ever-growing songbook which you can download your own copy to your phone or tablet from our website at dersingers.uk, but you're welcome to choose a song from anywhere you like, if you're prepared to lead it! I also maintain and bring along 16 printed copies of our songbook, 6 of which are in large print.

Do contact steve.dersingham@gmail.com if you'd like to be included in our emailing list or phone/text/WhatsApp me on 07885 721158. □

Reserve Volunteer Village Voice distributors

We usually have a bank of a few kind people who will step in to help deliver *Village Voice* if a regular distributor is away or off sick. Our reserve list has become very thin, and we would welcome some more willing folk to step into the breach.

If you could offer this occasional service, please contact Geri on 01485 541465 on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday mornings, or email her on abm@dersingham-pc.gov.uk



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Camellia Sinensis - Tea

The doorbell's ring heralds a friend or two
And joyful greetings of How-do-you-do?
The kettle goes on for the drink to be,
Laughter and chat, with a nice cup of tea.

Homeward bound after a hard day's slog,
Picked up the children and walked the dog.
At last shoes kicked off, toes wiggling free,
The kettle goes on for a nice cup of tea.

It's Great Aunt's birthday number eighty-three
With a cake and presents, we are off to see.
'Twill be a visit as friendly as can be,
Far away memories and a nice cup of tea.

Georgia is bereft with grief and woe,
Her boss told her he had to let her go.
With a sinking heart, and fretting what the future would be
She hurried home and sat down, with a nice cup of tea.

First millennium BC tea was cultivated in China.
Proving globally popular, soon it also traded from India.
The taxes and duties became over-vigorous and hearty,
Causing the American War of Independence and the Boston Tea Party.

Several hundred years later, it's the British national drink;
At first only few could afford it, the rich, as you would think.
Eventually the Government reduced taxes on this popular beverage;
The working classes could now enjoy it, as the cost became average.

The variety of teas and aromas sometimes leaves us reeling,
Black, green, white, Assam, Oolong and Darjeeling;
Teas drunk with or without milk, sugar or lemon;
Now-a-days, a lot more infusions have become more common.

This refreshing drink has a name or two...
Up North and in the Midlands it is known as a brew;
Towards the Southern areas, between breakfast and supper
This thirst-quenching drink, now becomes a cuppa.

Besides being hot, tea can also be served iced,
With or without sugar, but with added lemon sliced.
In warm and sunny weather, this drink can be ace,
In all kinds of occasions, tea certainly has a place.

We can now enjoy tea, at any time in the day,
With its life-enhancing properties, it is here to stay.
As a special occasion, with sandwiches, scones and sweetmeats to see
They are really satisfying to pair with a nice cup of tea!!!

Dr Samuel Johnson, (17th-century) best-known for his dictionary of the English language, said, 'Tea amuses the evenings, solaces the midnights and welcomes the mornings.'



Lorna MMXXV

Riding United - Inclusive bike riding club for all ages and abilities

Katie Fisher

Sport brings people together, helps fitness, is fun and brings out the best in our community. Based at Lynnsport, Greenpark Avenue (PE30 2NB), on the athletics track, we have started weekly sessions from 2-6pm on Fridays. Participants can bring their own bike or try one of the club's specially adapted bikes or trikes. It is a safe traffic-free experience.

The initiative is being driven by the charity Adapted Sports Hub Trust. ASH was set up to build a multi-use sport and community building with specifically adapted facilities, enabling people of all abilities to take part in sport and was born from a partnership involving Pelicans Hockey Club, Little Discoverers and Little Miracles. It will take a few years to complete fundraising and build the hub, so they got the wheels turning by setting up Ride United, a way to create even more sporting opportunities for people with disabilities.

The project has already received support from a wonderful range of people, including Norfolk Community Foundation Love Norfolk Fund, Sport England's Movement Fund Programme, Breckland Crematorium and Surf 55, to name just a few. More supporters are always needed and welcome and you can contact the club on rideunited@ash-west-norfolk.co.uk □



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For more information,
email rideunited@ash-west-norfolk.co.uk,
or visit ash-west-norfolk.co.uk

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French Conversation Group Vicky Fairweather



Would you like to practise your French? We have a French conversation group which meet in Petals Tearoom monthly on the first Friday of the month, from 1-3pm. The group is free to be part of and anyone who enjoys and wants to practise speaking French is welcome, regardless of level. For further information ring 07462 070761.□

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Monday 20th October at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton PE36 5BW at 2.00 pm when our committee for the next year will be voted in, followed by the usual refreshments. We look forward to seeing you then.



On 12th November at the same venue we will welcome Joanna Crosby who will talk about Apple Histories, and if you have a tree you would like identified, if you bring along three apples from it Joanna will attempt to identify it for you. Visitors will be welcome as always.

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

Snettisham Gardening Club **Addie Thompson**

At our next meeting in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham on 29th October we will welcome Martin Shone who will speak about the life cycle of Willow and give a weaving demonstration.

On 25th November we will be holding our annual Hog Roast (vegetarian option available) in the hall at the usual time of 7.30 pm. There is a charge for this and reservations will be required. This will be our last meeting for 2025 so we take the opportunity of thanking all our loyal members and look forward to seeing you all again in 2026.

As always visitors and guests are welcome to join us.□

Long lost relatives

We have received a message from a Mr Roy Hall who is trying to trace a cousin and his wife who moved to Dersingham within the last few years. So, long lost cousin, if you know Mr Hall and would like to get in touch, here are his contact details:

Roy Hall
07368 943474
willowthedog.rh@gmail.com



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Dersingham Scouts and Guides attend Norjam 2025!

This August, a lucky group of the Dersingham Scouts and Guides had the chance to join thousands of Scouts and Guides from across the UK and from overseas at Norjam 2025 - the Norfolk Jamboree - at the Norfolk Showground.

The last Norjam was in 2018 and is usually held every four years, however the COVID pandemic delayed things, so attending an international jamboree was a new and exciting experience for the Dersingham Scouts and Guides. The theme for Norjam 2025 was "A carnival of fun" and all the groups were split into different sub-camps (named after different carnival locations) with Dersingham part of "Trinidad and Tobago."

The weather may have been incredibly hot, but it didn't stop everyone enjoying a wide range of activities across five different zones. For example: there was an amazing variety of crafts to enjoy in the "Creative Corner"; games, circus skills and stilt walking in "Carnival Central; crate stacking, mini tanks and water zorbs in "Festival of Endeavour"; the sweet shop academy, inflatables and bushcraft in "Bounce and Rebound"; and high ropes, segways, roller-rink and an inflatable cave in "Festival of Velocity." The fun didn't stop in the evening as there was the cinema or the main arena where they could enjoy different live music each night. There was also the Marketplace to explore where, as well as souvenir outlets, you could find the Heritage Hub (activities linked to the history of scouting and guiding), the International Hub, Badgers Club (badge swapping) and the Eaton Vale activity centre showcasing their activities. These areas all provided challenges to achieve badges.

The Dersingham Brownies had the opportunity to spend the day at the Jamboree and take part in special activities to allow younger members to have the Jamboree experience. They had a very busy day with many falling asleep as they took the coach back home.

Back in our camping area, the Dersingham Scouts and Guides enjoyed playing games together, which often included very competitive games of Uno and Monopoly! As the week drew to a close, the tents were dismantled and following the closing ceremony, the Scouts and Guides slept out in the open on the final night.

For the Dersingham Scouts and Guides, this was the longest camp they had been on and although there was **lots of walking**, the Leaders and young people all had an amazing time. Thank you Norjam 2025 for a fantastic jamboree.

Opposite you can see some of the things they all got up to!! □





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Friday 5pm - 11:30pm

Saturday 2pm - 11:30pm

Sunday 1pm - 9pm

Events for October/November

Saturday 27th September: 8:30pm Double R UK - Ska and Reggae Duo. We are really looking forward to welcoming Roy and Ricky back to 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!

Saturday 4th October: 8:30pm Style (band) -We welcome Style back to the club playing a mix of predominantly upbeat 60s and 70s classics to get you all up and dancing.

Friday 10th October: 8:30pm DJ Zola - First time performing in the club for DJ Zola, with his fabulous mix of Soul music. Many of you will have heard him before, he has a huge following locally.

Saturday 11th October: 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. Play Your Cards Right will have a guaranteed prize winner on the night plus the possibility of the main prize rolling over to the next one.

Saturday 18th October: Dead Horse - Masters of hard Rock 'n Metal with their usual brand of chaos and madness, Dead Horse always go down well in the club. Expect to hear covers of Motorhead, Beastie Boys, Iron Maiden, the Sex Pistols and the like.

Friday 24th October: 8:30pm Live Music with Two of a Kind, 60s/70s easy rock party band. Playing all the favourites to fill the dance floor.

Saturday 1st November: 9pm IV Geezers - We look forward to welcoming back rock covers band IV Geezers featuring hits from Deep Purple, AC/DC, Metallica, ZZ Top, Thin Lizzy and many more.

Saturday 8th November: 7pm The Big Hig Cowboy DJ together with Buckin' Boots Line Dancing.

You may have seen them at the Wild West Festival in Hunstanton earlier this year playing music from all your favourite country artists and including some line dancing tutorials for you to put into practice.

Friday 21st November: 8pm Cecil Farayi. Always very popular, we welcome back Cecil Farayi singing all your favourite Soul and Motown classics.

Please check our **Facebook page @dersinghamsocialclub** for more details and any minor changes to our events. If you are not on Facebook and would like to be added to our monthly newsletter, please let us have your email address and your name. We would also welcome any suggestions for future events you'd like to see at the club. You can also **email us at dersinghamscenquiries@gmail.com** with any enquiries regarding membership, hall hire (either daytime or for parties, wakes etc.)□



Able Community Care is a Norfolk, family owned, Home Care provider which was established in 1980. We are often asked by our clients, carers and members of the public, questions across a wide range of



care issues. Care information is often time-consuming and difficult to access, so we are happy to share some of our questions and answers with you.

Question – I hear and read almost daily about a new scam, and I do not know if the information itself is a scam or they are a genuine notification. Is there somewhere I can visit online for authentic notifications?

Answer – Which, the consumer organization, has a **Scam Alerts free service** which you can trust. It is designed to help people stay informed about the latest scams and avoid falling victim to fraud. Visit www.which.co.uk and sign up for the scam alert emails. The website also has other information such as how to spot potential scams, different types, etc.

Question – Are continence products for personal use free of VAT in the UK?

Answer - Yes, continence products for personal use can be VAT-exempt in the UK for individuals who are disabled or have a long-term illness. This means that eligible individuals can purchase these products without paying the standard 20% VAT. However, it is not easy to see where this is mentioned on some online websites where many people now purchase them. It is also worth asking other retailers, such as chemists and supermarkets, if they are marked as VAT-free and if not, can you have the reduction as they are for personal use.

Question – I have an elderly relative who lives several hundred miles away from me and we rely mainly on phone calls to keep in touch, but apart from me she has little contact with anyone else. Someone mentioned that the Silver Line is a support service for older people in her situation; what do they do?

Answer – The Silver Line Helpline run by Age UK is a free, confidential telephone service for older people. The following comes from their website:

We offer friendship, conversation, and support to older people aged 55 and over. Whatever the day or time, you can pick up the phone and speak to one of our friendly Silver Line team members. Whether you'd like to exchange a quick "Good Morning" with someone, fancy a chat about how your day has gone, or need a trusted listening ear to share your thoughts and feelings with, we're here to talk.

Calls are free on **0800 470 80 90**.

Question – Will Age UK help an older person with debts?

Answer - Yes, Age UK can help older individuals struggling with debts. They offer a free Advice Line and have specialist advisors at local Age UK branches who can provide support and guidance. The free Advice Line telephone number is **0800 6781602, Open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year**, and you can get help with debt and other financial issues.

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The "Whybelonely Social Group" has continued to meet over the past couple of months and has proved very popular. The 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, reminiscence and prizes. Refreshments will be available. The next one will be 5th October. Don't miss out, come along and enjoy some good company, everyone is welcome.

The Pope's prayer intention for October 2025 is "For collaboration between different religious traditions"; we pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity. The Pope's prayer intention for November 2025 is "For the prevention of suicide"; we pray that those who are tempted to commit suicide might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

The 1st September (designated by Pope Francis as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4th October will be a period of prayer and actions for all parishioners to engage with the 'Season of Creation'. Over the four weeks there will be information sheets within the weekly bulletins focusing on the four themes for the Season of Creation: Earth, Air, Water and Common Good. Please do take these away and get involved on a personal level.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm and there is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meets at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE. Please note that you do not have to be a mother to attend the meetings. There is also a group who meet on the last Friday of the month for Spiritual Formation. This could be about a specific Saint or Synodal discussions, prayers or anything that people want to suggest. All are welcome, refreshments are available; just look in the weekly bulletins for dates and times. If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk. Also, if you are a new parishioner, there is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the **Parish News** page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters see the **Links** page of our website at www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.uk. The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11am at OLSE Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.uk **Email:** hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk
The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675. If you require a Priest urgently, telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email parishpriest763@gmail.com □

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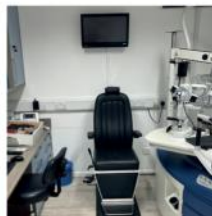
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IHT Changes – the Gift to Journalists that keeps on giving

Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Even now, nearly a year after Rachel Reeves' Autumn Budget, Inheritance Tax remains in the news, with new angles emerging on a regular basis. In late July a report from the Office for National Statistics hit the headlines, telling us that farms were closing at record rates with a net reduction of over 3,000 such businesses in the year to March 2025. The report attributed the reduction in numbers to the impact of the Autumn Budget and has led to renewed calls for a rethink. Without wishing to reduce the gravity of the situation, it seems unlikely that a sector with fewer than 100,000 businesses can actually have shrunk by 3% in a single quarter without the impact being felt in the market for agricultural land (which is little changed) or a visible increase in farm "dispersal" sales. It is also unclear why the IHT changes, which affect all family businesses, should only have led to a reduction in the number of farms. It is, however, possible that the ONS statistics, which are largely derived from VAT and PAYE registrations and deregistrations may have picked up a period of rapid reorganisation ahead of and after the Budget as family businesses consolidate multiple registrations under common ownership or pass on businesses to the next generation in response to the Budget announcements. The next quarterly figures may tell a different story, but of course the damage to the Government's reputation lies on the headlines which are, indeed, derived from government produced statistics.

A few days previously HMRC released a series of papers summarising the points raised in the post Budget consultation and outlining the draft legislative changes. Again, these will affect ALL businesses, not just farms, a point which has largely escaped public awareness so far. These show virtually no movement in the position outlined in the Budget, other than that the £1m allowance will be index linked, but only after 2030 (at which point index linking theoretically should resume for other IHT bands). It is also confirmed that effectively the £1m nil rate band will "refresh" after seven years.

The paper reiterates the logic behind the changes: *"To raise revenue to ensure the sustainability of the public finances and to fund public services, whilst continuing to support farms and businesses by targeting the reliefs to make them fairer."*

It also goes on to justify the changes by stating, *"In 2021 to 2022 (the most recent data available), 40% of the total Exchequer cost of agricultural property relief went to the top 7% of claims. This means just 117 estates benefited from £219 million in tax foregone"*. However, it misses the point that there is very little difference in size between a farm in the top 7% and one in the next 20% - smallholdings and "hobby farms" under 100 acres will generally escape the tax but family farms (and by extension family businesses in other sectors), will bear the brunt of the liability.

Putting all this together, the widely publicised criticisms of these changes remain entirely valid. This legislation will catch the family farm and the larger privately owned business but not the "lifestyle" farmer; although 73% of claims by number will escape tax that only represents about 20% of the acreage passing. It is also worth mentioning that the figures given and used above relate only to business reliefs. For many, pension pots will also need to be included in the IHT calculations and the effect of this, whilst not quantified, will be significant.

It is disappointing that the Treasury continue to produce figures which are selectively quoted to give a deeply misleading impression. These IHT changes will have a huge impact on those wishing to pass on family farms and businesses and anyone with a

substantial pension pot. It therefore has to be wise to take advice from a qualified professional as soon as possible.

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

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

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Cascade of Poppies at St Nicholas Church

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

The Flower Team at St Nicholas are planning to make a "Cascade of Poppies" to decorate the church for Remembrance Sunday 2025. To achieve this we need as many poppies as possible. The poppies can be any textile creation - knitted, crocheted, felted - that can be attached to make the cascade, which will be displayed on the Rood Screen at the front of the church.

We have been thrilled that so many people have been making poppies already. It's not too late to make your poppies! Patterns can be downloaded from the internet, and the St Nicholas "Knit and Natter" group can help with expertise.

We will start collecting poppies from **Sunday 21st September** up until the end of October.

If you would like to help, or would like more information, please contact Val Coleby - 01485 543481 or Anne Hynde - 07885 956321.□

Dersingham Task Force Clare Bee

As the season turns to autumn, it seems that our long, hot and very dry summer has come to an end. Some like it hot, but for the majority of gardeners and growers, it has been a challenging few months. It seems that this year will turn out to be the hottest on record and not only in this country. We are all now looking forward to some welcome autumn rain, although at the end of August, here in Norfolk we haven't seen very much at all. Perhaps by the time this goes to print, we'll have had some lovely downpours!

In Dersingham, we at Task Force have continued our work on our two village gardens throughout the summer. Most plants have done well, especially the lavenders and roses, but some have flagged and struggled in the heat. We continue our work through to the end of October and then let the beds rest over the winter. We, however, still like to meet up on alternate Wednesdays for a coffee and a catch up.



We have a core of twelve members now, and even with holidays and friends and family visiting, we always seem to have sufficient numbers to fulfil the work. We all enjoy our fortnightly sessions together, and from the comments we receive from people walking past while we are working, our efforts are appreciated.□

Dersingham Day Club

On the lead up to our summer break Dersingham Day Club members and volunteer helpers enjoyed entertainment, singalong and dancing with “3 Steps to Heaven”. One of our members celebrated a special 80th birthday surprise party arranged by her family.

There were the usual dominoes, board games, tea, coffee and biscuits at our weekly sessions; not forgetting the two-course lunches that Bridget and Lesley, our kitchen volunteers, prepare for the members to enjoy at midday.

We have some spaces, so if you'd like to know more about becoming a member or have some spare time to help out as a volunteer on Wednesdays then call Maggie Langridge 01485 543264 or Wendy Raby 01485 544975 for more details.□



Word Wall

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

ANGELICA	GLOW	HYSSOP	MARTINIQUE
THOUGHT	GRENADA	GAGGLE	NOON
CARAWAY	COVEY	OREGANO	ARUBA
TOBAGO	FLAMBOYANCE	CARE	BEVY

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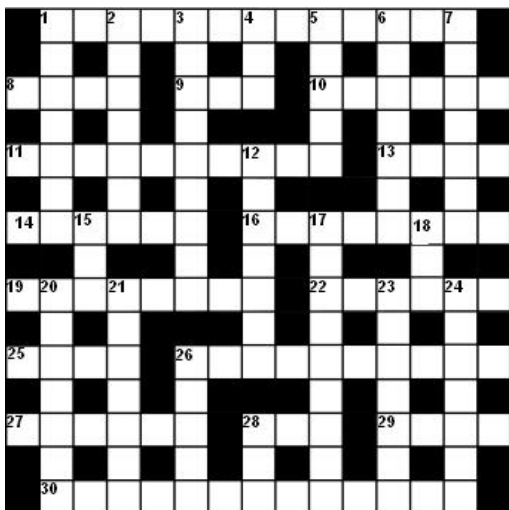
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Across

- 1 Craftily simmer in tripe for the cabinet maker (5,8)
- 8 Looks into grey estate car (4)
- 9 Oak maybe without right to drive off (3)
- 10 Drink while im dressed in apron (6)
- 11 He arranged pig cargo in the formation of earth's natural features (10)
- 13 Peep inside old English instrument (4)
- 14 Pantomimist concealed in scientific still (6)
- 16 Wrapped in shroud – like Humpty-Dumpty for example (8)
- 19 Broken leg tied around German securities (4, 4)
- 22 Framed for getting in with rum baba customer(6)
- 25 Eager to recall Callas for example (4)
- 26 Infidel set to become an old footballer (6,4)
- 27 Suppress itself one way or another (6)
- 28 Favourite domestic (3)p
- 29 It's unusual for Antiques Roadshow to entertain engineers (4)
- 30 Crower's extremity needs bandage for special occasion (8,5)



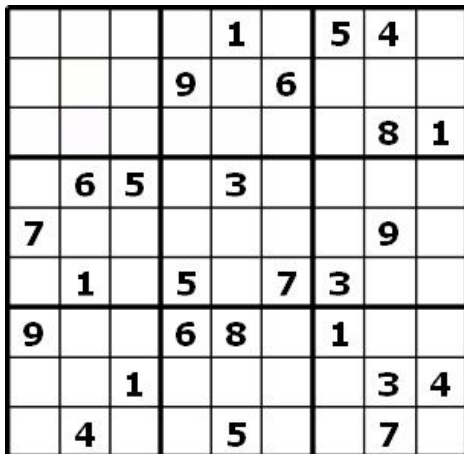
Answers Page

68

Down

- 1 Remittance for an empty to be refilled (7)
- 2 Understanding this gin when stirred (7)
- 3 Mesmerized by ground rent and break dance (9)
- 4 Cold warning not withdrawn (3)
- 5 I have a pound with the agency about the artery (5)
- 6 Drunken idol went into bat according to popular rag (7)
- 7 I take care of books while Harry irons out rosettes (7)
- 12 She's ran around straps attached to cart (7)
- 15 Everyone stayed after bishop left dance (3)
- 17 Car engineer tuned needs inspection (9)
- 18 Sounds like writing liquid for the corporation (3)
- 20 Twitch following papers at ten – it's crazy (7)
- 21 Tail back develops if craft collapses on motorway (7)
- 23 Free to be great abroad in L.A. (2,5)
- 24 Blossom opens (7)
- 26 Unsuitable for trendy English gymnastics (5)
- 28 I take no lip in letter from Athens (3)

Sudoku



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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Prime Minister. 8 Eyes. 9 Tee. 10 Imbibe. 11 Geographic. 13 Oboe. 14 Static.
16 Roundish. 19 Gilt edge. 22 Abacus.
25 Diva. 26 Inside left. 27 Stifle. 28 Pet.
29 Rare. 30 Cocktail dress.

Down

1 Payment. 2 Insight. 3 Entranced. 4 Ice.
5 Iliac. 6 Tabloid. 7 Ribbons. 12 Harness. 15 All.
17 Unaudited. 18 Inc. 20 Idiotic. 21 Traffic.
23 At large. 24 Unfurls. 26 Inept. 28 Phi.

Word Wall Answers

After ...: ...care, ...glow, ...noon, ...thought

Groups of birds: Bevy, Covey, Flamboyance, Gaggle

Herbs: Angelica, Caraway, Hyssop, Oregano

Caribbean islands: Aruba, Grenada, Martinique, Tobago

Sudoku Answers

3	9	7	2	1	8	5	4	6
1	5	8	9	4	6	7	2	3
6	2	4	3	7	5	9	8	1
8	6	5	4	3	9	2	1	7
7	3	2	8	6	1	4	9	5
4	1	9	5	2	7	3	6	8
9	7	3	6	8	4	1	5	2
5	8	1	7	9	2	6	3	4
2	4	6	1	5	3	8	7	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 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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Obtain booking form and full technical details for advertisements by emailing villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or from the Parish Council office (address below). An invoice will be sent on receipt of the booking form.

Articles

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

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

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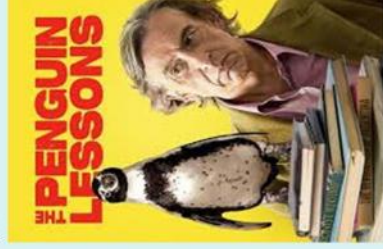
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