

Number 95

August/September 2015

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



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Editor's Notes



Ordinarily, at this time of year, I have been known to be a little begrudging of the hours spent in front of my computer editing Village Voice whilst the sun beats down outside. But just recently, it has been something of a relief from the intense heat to sit in my office in the cool of what used to be a pantry on the north side of our house. Even so, when the task seems endless and I'm losing the will, there is nothing I like better than to escape for a couple of hours to our beach hut at Hunstanton—a self proclaimed, worry-free zone! It was on one such occasion, standing in the doorway of our beach hut with cup-of-tea in hand, that I was

intrigued by a group of people slowly ambling along examining every nook, cranny and crevice of the sea-wall. So I investigated and, to cut a long story short, ended up inviting the seven members of the Norfolk Flora Group over to join me for a cup of tea and very interesting conversation! Now I never like to miss the opportunity to pass on a copy of Village Voice and I am very pleased that one of the members, Frances Schumann, subsequently sent through a piece about the group, which you'll find within.

My wife and I too take great delight in encountering wild flowers, most especially orchids. This year, camping in the Isle of Wight, we were treated to a whole feast of them, though on our return home were equally delighted to find some beautiful common spotted orchid specimens growing in the usual unmown grassy patch of ground in Sandringham Gardens, just down on the right hand side as you walk out of the Museum grounds. Sadly, of course, they will have finished by the time you read this.

Our annual Open Gardens and Art Trail was a great success again this year and huge thanks to Judy Collingham for taking the helm in organising it, as well as to all the many others involved. I made my rounds armed with camera and you'll find our centre page spread has a representative selection of photos. This year visitors were treated to viewing the garden of a newer participant, though I think the resident, pictured on our front cover, may have had other ideas as to why we were visiting!



School summer holidays will soon be here and again Louise Rice has organised a programme of sport activities for 5-14 year olds as well as the Dersingham entry to the Inter Village Games for all ages. Perhaps some cooler weather would encourage us to get out there and keep fit.

Cycling has increasingly become a way for many to keep fit and we were struck by the number of cyclists taking to the roads of the Isle of Wight to pursue the pastime. Here too we seem to have those taking up cycling challenges as Darryl Playford recounts his trip with friend Jonathan Cousins along the long-distance National Cycle Route 1 that skirts around to the east of Dersingham. Sponsorship in aid of good causes is invariably connected, and you will find out how you may contribute to the charities that Darryl supports at the end of his article. I too, in my more modest fashion, will be hitting the cycle trail again this year when I take part in the Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride on Saturday 12th September. Last year I cycled from Dersingham to Cromer, visiting some 30 churches en route. This year I would like to try and make the 'return trip' if I can arrange transport there for me as well as my bike. If you'd like to support the work of the Churches Trust, you can sponsor me by visiting justgiving.com/Steve-Davis51 or by sending a text of the form **DERS51 £3 to 70070** (or any other whole number of £s).

Finally, Tony Bubb is working on the new 2015 edition of *Dersingham Data*, so if any organisations would like to update their entry, now's the chance. And with that I'll wish you a very pleasant rest of summer. Keep fit and cool! **Steve Davis - editor@dersingham.org.uk** □



Dear Village Voice

Please email (editor@dersingham.org.uk) or write to us at Village Voice, Dersingham Parish Council, 4A Post Office Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6HP with your thoughts or memories of village life, comments concerning items read or ideas for the future. Ed.



I would like to thank everyone who visited us at the Open Gardens and contributed to the Tombola for Tapping House Hospice when £201.50 was collected. The Magnum of Champagne was won by Yvonne from Fritcham. Our vintage gramophone and records brought back memories to lots of us. Watch this space for next year.

We have donated the remainder of our Bric-a-Brac items to Maggie for her table top sale in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Research. Again, thank you for your support. **Doreen Carrington**

With reference to the *Recording a Barn* article in the previous issue of Village Voice by Brian & Yvonne Anderson regarding the 'gable end bottles'—Many years ago I worked for a builder from Blackborough End, who would incorporate a wine bottle, with the property owner's permission, into the gable end of any new building he built or repaired.

The bottle contained the names of the tradesmen, the architect, owners and date etc. So this in a way was his trade mark and also his own time-capsule. Could the 'gable end bottles' mentioned contain similar information? **Alan Broocks**

I am sure many people enjoyed the Open Gardens and Art Trail over the Bank Holiday Weekend. I know I did.

There was so much variety—gardens which were in perfect order, with others rambling and very natural. I did enjoy tea and a homemade scone; (there was also a table with lots of tempting cakes) as well as meeting the owners' grandchildren in one garden. In another music was playing on a very old gramophone, which was a talking point with most of the visitors.

Thank you to the team who worked so hard in putting it all together, and the garden owners who showed Dersingham as a friendly, lovely village to live in. **Sheila Broughton**

As a former Winchester Councillor I thought this idea might help keep the area even tidier. When out and about I pick up the drinks cans scattered near where I park for recycling in the knowledge that every extra can recycled will save enough electricity to watch 1 hour of television. I am also fastidious in turning off the TV at night so that it is not on standby. If we ALL did this we would need one less power station to be running – as well as reducing a slight fire risk. **Harry Verney**

Regarding Dick Melton's piece, in the previous issue, about the origin of our village name—When I first moved to Dersingham from Lynn in the early 1980s, I learned from an old reference book in our local library that the village was first called *DEORSIGE-INGAS-HAM* (home of the Deorsige's people). When this developed into its present spelling, local pronunciation took a hand and called it *Darsingham* for several years. **Bryan Tann**

Entering this into Google I was taken to an online copy of the book "A Popular Guide Norfolk Place-Names" by James Rye, which has the following entry on page 62:

Sandringham	Sandy homestead of Deorsige's people.
<i>Santdersincham</i>	1286 <i>Santdersicham</i> . OE <i>sand</i> + <i>Deorsige</i> + <i>ingas</i> (the people of) + <i>ham</i> (homestead).
	Cf. Dersingham.

Ed.

Following on his article in the last issue, Dick Melton and others may be interested to know that the actual population figure for Dersingham from the 2011 census that I had researched for a recent project was 4,640, (but 5000 is probably near enough!)

Cliff Jordan

Last December's Village Voice contained a letter about Riches & Gilbert Milk Bottles, which Dick Melton picked up on in the following February/March issue. Here is a photo taken when I helped out with Jim Riches and Harry Gilbert's place opposite the Coach & Horses. I used to wash the bottles, fill them with fresh milk, then cap them. The photo was taken around July 1950 before I went to work in the stables at Newmarket and it shows, from left to right, Jim Riches, Phillip Dungar, Eric Riches, myself (Nigel Southwell) and Harry Gilbert. Sadly Phillip Dungar died early in life and I'm afraid I'm the only one left now.



Nigel Southwell

This week, Summer appears to have arrived and although warm weather is welcome we must remember that when we open all our windows it may be necessary to turn-down the radio/TV/CD player. Noise travels a long way and your neighbours may not be fans of Chris Evans or his choice of music/Emmerdale/Lady Gaga!

Another cause of complaints can be the inconsiderate burning of garden waste. When residents are taking advantage of the warm weather to wash the curtains it can be very irritating if someone nearby lights a smelly bonfire. Also, when it is warm enough for windows to be wide open it is not a good day to light a bonfire.

Peter G. Baker

On the 21st June the Dersingham Allotment Association held its first of hopefully many Open Days. We had tombola, bric-a-brac, used garden implements, produce, children's games, cake stalls and a tea, coffee and burger refreshment tent. It was a wonderful turnout on the day and we would like to thank all allotment tenants and friends who helped before, and on the day and most of all the public for supporting us. We raised £800 for East Anglia Children's Hospice and donations are still being received. Once again thanks to everyone who enabled us to raise this fabulous amount.

Shirley Eldridge (Secretary) □

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Parish Council Report by Cllr Sue Payne (Chair)



Following the May elections we had fifteen Councillors, then Barry Hopkins was co-opted at the May meeting and Tom Suiter in June. This means we nearly have our full complement of eighteen. A full list of Councillors and contact details will be published in the next edition of Dersingham Data, which is due out soon, as well as on the website.

We said goodbye to Suzy Daniels, Bob Tipling, and Rex Makemson, who decided not to stand for re-election. I am grateful to all of them for their contribution to the work of the Council, and to Suzy in particular for her efforts in getting the Children's Play Area refurbished.

We have recently appointed a temporary Administrative Assistant, Geraldine, who will be in the office with Sarah from Monday to Wednesday.

The Parish Council is no different from other Local Authorities, in trying to make the most of its income (the Precept mainly) and using it to maintain, or make improvements in, the village. Along with our general responsibilities: Street lights, grasscutting, litter, general maintenance and being consulted on planning applications. The Parish Council has two major projects at the moment:

1. Overseeing plans for a new Village Centre on the site of St Nicholas Church Hall.
2. Works to improve The Warren (the open space on Sandringham View Estate).

Full reports on these will be provided in due course by the lead Councillors involved.

The Clerk can also help with passing on any queries to Norfolk County Council (inc Highways), Police and other agencies.

Members of the Public are very welcome at our meetings. You have an opportunity to ask questions before and after the meeting. Details of Full Council, Committee, and Working Group meetings can be found in the Parish Office window and our notice boards at the Library, opposite Budgens, and Thaxters as well as, of course, the Parish website.

Sadly, we were forced to cancel the Party on the Recreation Ground on June 13th due to bad weather. The event will be rearranged; look out for posters, flyers etc. Further planting work is planned for the Play Area which will give village children and their families somewhere lovely to play and socialise.

We are supporting summer activities for children with Louise Rice, our Village Sports Co-ordinator. The summer programme is published opposite with contact and application details. Louise also leads on the Inter Village Games, which Dersingham enters in the large village section.

Lastly, and most importantly, Steve, the editor of Village Voice, will be retiring next year and we are seeking someone to take on the role. If you are interested, and have some skills in publishing, or previous newsletter experience, we can't wait to hear from you! Steve is more than happy to help guide you through the process, and you would be working with a small team looking at content, advertising etc. If you are interested, please contact Steve Davis, or the Clerk, for more information.

You can also contact Sarah, the Clerk, about Village Voice and any of the items above.

Tel: 01485 541465; email: clerk@dersingham.org.uk . □



Alive Village Sports—Dersingham

Programme of Activities—Summer 2015

Date	Activity	Venue	Time	Ages	Cost
Tue 4th Aug	Multiskills	Sports Field ¹	10am-12noon	5-14	£3.00
	Athletics	Sports Field ¹	12noon-2pm	5-14	£3.00
Wed 5th Aug	Football	Sports Field ¹	10am-12noon	5-14	£3.00
	Cricket	Sports Field ¹	12noon-2pm	5-14	£3.00
Thu 6th Aug	Tennis	Sports Field ¹	10am-12noon	5-14	£3.00
	Rounders	Sports Field ¹	12noon-2pm	5-14	£3.00
Mon 10th Aug	Archery	Sports Field ¹	3:30pm-5:30pm	5-14	£3.00
Tue 11th Aug	Multiskills	Sports Field ¹	10am-12noon	5-14	£3.00
	Athletics	Sports Field ¹	12noon-2pm	5-14	£3.00
Wed 12th Aug	Football	Sports Field ¹	10am-12noon	5-14	£3.00
	Cricket	Sports Field ¹	12noon-2pm	5-14	£3.00
Thu 13th Aug	Tennis	Sports Field ¹	10am-12noon	5-14	£3.00
	Rounders	Sports Field ¹	12noon-2pm	5-14	£3.00
Fri 14th Aug	Climbing Wall	Lynnsport ²	4pm-6pm	5-14	£5.00
<p><i>Notes:</i></p> <p>¹ <i>The Sports Field is located by the Feathers Public House.</i></p> <p>² <i>Transport is included for the Climbing Wall—Pick up from the Social Club opposite Budgens at a time to be arranged—please enquire.</i></p>					

For further details of any of these activities or to book a place, please contact:

Louise Rice

23 Saxon Way, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6LY,

Telephone: **01485 544897**.

Details can also be obtained from the Parish Office ☐





1st Dersingham Rainbows Go Wild (and get wet) at Banham Zoo

On Saturday 13th June, 18 members of the Rainbows and their leaders headed for Banham Zoo for their Summer outing.



Despite the rain, everyone had a lovely time. They were able to get up close and personal during a Discovery session, where they met



cockroaches from Madagascar, a snail from Africa, "Monty" Python and gave a rat a cuddle. Walking around the zoo they saw giraffes, penguins, lemurs, birds of prey, brightly coloured birds known as "Rainbow Parrots", tigers and cheetahs. As well as exploring the Farm barn and the hot and steamy rainforest, we had a ride on the land train, before enjoying an ice cream and a visit to the gift shop.

Lynne Wheeler ☐



1st Dersingham Guides 85th Birthday Celebrations

The 1st Dersingham Guides opened on 25th June 1930 and have celebrated their 85th Birthday with a Sleepover at their closest meeting to this date. They spent the evening at Sandringham enjoying the outdoors with games and den building in the woods. On returning to the HQ, marshmallows were toasted and ice cream sundaes consumed. The three newest Guides took the opportunity to make their Promise at this special event for the unit, receiving their badges and the unit's scarlet necker to wear. Everyone received a Commemorative badge, designed by one of the Guides, and birthday cake. Despite the lack of sleep a Guide Sleepover involves, it is always a fun event and eagerly looked forward to and many of the Guides are now making preparations for their Summer Camp to Eaton Vale this August.

Elizabeth Wheeler ☐





Dersingham Scout & Guide Fete 2015



This Annual event has been a Village fixture for many decades and,

continuing the recent tradition of holding the Fete at the Scout & Guide HQ in Manor Road, it took place on Saturday 20th June.

Preparations began early on the day setting out the favourite games and stalls inside and outside the HQ building. Inside delicious refreshments and ice creams were joined by an impressive Tombola and cake stall. Outside the ever popular “greasy pole” and family favourites including roll-a-ball, fishing for ducks, Lucky dip, and many more were available. We also provided face painting, crafts and badge making with hot snacks provided by a Brownie Mum. The family friendly event had a great atmosphere, with many of the 130+ Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs, Guides & Scouts and their families attending alongside the wider village community to enjoy the *mostly* sunny day.

The Grand Raffle was drawn at 3pm with a £50.00 first prize and 38 other prizes generously donated by local businesses, individuals and friends. The rain, which had held off until just after 3pm, did not dampen spirits and an impressive **£1,015** was raised towards the upkeep and continued enhancement of the HQ.

In the last issue of Village Voice, which included a number of pictures of floats from various years in the 1990’s, it was regretted that these are no longer a feature of the event. The format of holding the event at the Scout & Guide HQ began in 1999 and was as a result of a number of factors. Most significant amongst these was the difficulty in transferring large quantities of equipment from the HQ to the Recreation ground and back on the same day! This heavy work required a great deal of adult help and support, which became increasingly difficult to find as the years went by and the leaders got older! Additionally, but less importantly, the problems in finding vehicles and lorries, with drivers, that were suitable to use as floats were exacerbated by the rising price of insurance during the 1990s. As our facilities at the Manor Road HQ meant a broader type of event could be provided, particularly in bad weather (which has unfortunately been a fairly regular feature of the day), the decision was made in 1999 to move from the Recreation ground to our own HQ.

Since then we have raised large amounts of money to maintain the building, but our primary aim has always been, and continues to be, to provide a fun occasion for the Scout & Guide members, their families and members of the Village. As a committee we are proud and pleased to report this continues to be achieved.

Dersingham Scout & Guide HQ Joint Management Committee □

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Rotary Matters

Since our last contribution we have continued our work to help others less fortunate than ourselves, which is an important aim of Rotary. Consequently we have sent out three shelter boxes, each costing £590, to places where there have been disasters. Two of these have gone to Nepal after the dreadful earthquakes, and one to Vanuata in the South Pacific where there has been awful damage because of 'Cyclone Pam'. Each shelter box has a tent for ten persons, ten sleeping bags and sundry other materials such as items for water purification, cooking, tools etc.



On the home front, our **19th Kite Festival** will be taking place on **Sunday, August 16th**, 10:30am to 6pm, as usual on the Smithdon School Playing fields, Downs Road, Hunstanton. This is a major fund-raising day for the Rotary Club and sunny, breezy weather is just what we need to show off the varied kites that you can see! Some kites date back to Chinese dynasties! There will be lots to see at the Fair, with interesting stalls, a large craft fair, a superb display of classic and vintage cars, lots to do for the children including Pony Rides, Downham Market Marquettes, the Tsang Soo Do Martial Arts team, the Cambridge Youth Street Dance group Sin Cru and the Fun Dog Show. The Flypast this year (weather permitting) will be the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster. A new Food Court will be offering a good range of dishes, with Inner Wheel again providing their excellent fare.



On Wednesday June 24th Rotarian Adrian Evans became our Club President for the year, 2015-16, replacing President Peter Atterbury. The annual change-over took place at the King's Head Hotel, Great Bircham. In his speech to over fifty guests, President Peter gave tribute to the work of Club members and, in particular to his Vice-President, Adrian, during the year.

At the event Peter was pleased to induct Janet Eastwood as a full member.



Hazel Evans spoke of Inner Wheel's commitment to providing support for Rotary. The outgoing and ingoing Rotary Club Presidents, and Hazel for Inner Wheel all wished Val Atterbury a successful year as Inner Wheel President. Val had given excellent support to Peter and was presented with a bouquet. President Adrian thanked Peter for his first-rate work for the Club and commented that it was an honour to be elected Club President. He outlined his aims for the year, saying that he hoped he could continue the momentum that had been built up.

Guests applauded Rotarian Maureen Hoverd who presented Peter with the Roger Hoverd Crystal Award for Services to Rotary as President. This award is in memory of Maureen's husband, Roger, who gave such excellent service to Rotary over the years.

Phil Newell □



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Just a Thought... from Rev Steve Oliver



I am a great fan of Radio 4 extra especially the comedies both old and new. I must admit when things get me down I love to not only hear the laughter from these shows but also to be able to join in, enabling me to forget my troubles for a while.

The other night, when I was listening to one of these comedies, it made me think about laughter in the bible; and having looked at this more closely realised there is little said about it, in fact the word or the emotion is used very little. I began to wonder whether laughing was something that Christians should be doing.

But when you look closer at what the bible is really saying, it doesn't have to use the word laugh at all because the joy that comes through when the world is made, the joy when Elizabeth and Mary become pregnant, when Jesus speaks of the joy of eternal life, laughter becomes implicit with that emotion.

Laughter becomes even more apparent in Acts when the disciples become full of the Holy Spirit. You can hear their happiness, you can feel their elation and you could quite easily laugh with joy with them as they speak in the different languages. The Spirit brings with it many emotions, and we should never be afraid to express our feeling of joy through the use of laughter.

As I said earlier I could find little in the bible with the word laugh, but I did find the following modern psalm which I hope you will find as uplifting as I do:

A Psalm of laughter

Thank you, O Lord, for the gifts of laughter and joy. Thank you for your Spirit which rains down upon us and anoints us with the oil of your holiness. Sorrows come and sorrows go but your joy endures forever. Mere happiness gained from earthly things is fleeting and disappears like the morning dew in the hot sun of the desert. It is not dependable and it is not to be trusted. But surely God will give us joy in this life according to his promises, and that joy will last throughout eternity.

Lord, when your Spirit brings us laughter, it is true laughter indeed. It is a side-splitting laughter that knows no bounds. It is a laughter that renews a sorrowful heart and strengthens a tired body. It is a laughter that comes from you living inside of us and from our rejoicing that we are your child, created anew through Christ Jesus.

Blessed are those to whom the Holy Spirit gives joy and laughter.

(Stingray: a blog for salty Christians—2006—Michael McCullough)

I pray that you are blessed with that joy each day. □

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Village Voice Live

A Pilot's Life—Tuesday 5th May



There is always something very appealing about hearing someone speak with passion and enthusiasm about their work and Captain Rod Payn, retired Lynn Pilot did just that for us. For the first half of the evening Rod spoke to us of his life at sea, just as soon as he could leave school, travelling the world and working aboard all manner of cargo and freight carrying vessels. After marrying and starting a family, a life changing decision had to be made if he was to be able to spend more than a few weeks a year with them. So it was that he came to be a Lynn pilot, enabling him to follow his passion aboard ships, guiding them safely into port,

before clocking off to go home for the night. After the break we watched a DVD documentary about the life and work of a Lynn Pilot starring none other than himself, albeit as a somewhat younger version, though still recognisable! A very enjoyable evening indeed, adding again to the variety that we experience at Village Voice Live.

Brucie



Historic Fenland Landscapes—Tuesday 2nd June

Dr Robin Hanley, of the Norfolk Museums Service, began by explaining that he was not going to talk about the recent history of the Fens, the seventeenth century drainage engineered by Vermuyden or the post nineteenth century industrialised agriculture that has led to the Fenland scenery that we know today, but a much earlier history, starting at the end of the last Ice Age and ending with the Roman occupation of the area.

He explained that, geologically, the area was a drainage basin, draining large areas of the East Midlands, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, which had been gradually silting up due to periodic flooding over a period of 8,000 years. During these periods of flooding only the “islands”, the areas of relatively higher ground, remained above water level and it is these “islands” which became the significant sites for human settlement which continued to the present day - Ely, March, Chatteris and Whittlesea were mentioned as examples. Sediments which built up during this period alternated between peat, caused by freshwater flooding, and clay, caused by seawater flooding. During this period it was a landscape of continual change, with rivers and streams changing their courses and varying vegetation, including, at certain times, extensive woodland. Wicken Fen (National Trust) was suggested as a good example to visit today to see what the landscape may have looked like at that time.

The course of these lost rivers can still be seen today from aerial photography by the differing colour of the soil and, as the silting up of these rivers was with harder material washed from the surrounding chalk or limestone areas, it has remained slightly prominent of adjoining peat which has shrunk since The Fens were drained. Evidence of settlements during the Bronze Age and Roman period have been found close to these lost rivers. The area was extensively settled during the Roman period but while simple domestic habitation, salt workings and forts can be identified there were no Roman Villas, leading to speculation that this area was under direct Imperial ownership following the defeat of the Iceni.

An interesting and informative talk by Dr Hanley although some may at times have found the content a little academic and technical.

Whiffler □

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club by Helen Young

Despite the very unseasonal weather our bowling programme is well underway with members competing in both internal and external league and cup games. The first two internal cup competitions took place on Bank Holidays in May and it was good to see some new faces in the final stages of the competition. In the end, however, it was seasoned



Helen Chamberlain and Ruth Ince with the winners of the Bowlathon



bowlers Graham Keeley and Albert Chamberlain who won the Edie's Cup and Institute Cup respectively!

Nineteen bowlers took part in the Bowlathon organized by Ruth Ince and Helen Chamberlain to raise money for the Macmillan Centre and the Breast Care Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Six teams competed over 48 ends of bowls with Richard Bridges, Joy

Kelly and Les Mundy emerging victorious; more importantly a magnificent total of £1500 was raised for two worthy causes.

Sadly the Club has to say goodbye to two long serving members who are returning to Essex to be near their family. Pam and Roy Harrington will be greatly missed not only by DIBC but also the Oasis Indoor Bowls Club where they have been active members. We all wish Pam and Roy much happiness in their new home and hope that they will still find time to bowl! ☐



Pam and Roy Harrington with the Club Chairman and the 2014 winners of the Pam and Roy Triples Trophy



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Jack Neale Celebrates his 100th Birthday



Family and friends of the COGS (Conservative Old Gentlemen's Society) gathered at the Coach and Horses to celebrate with Jack Neale who reached his 100th birthday on 20th June. Jack, who



has been a contributor to Village Voice over the past year, is now a happy resident of the Gables Residential Home where, of course, further celebrations were held. (Daughter Barbara on far right) □



Many congratulations and best wishes from us all Jack. Ed.

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Visit www.astrofund.org.uk to download a sponsorship form or phone 01485 572767 or 525279 Charity no: 1133561

The Companions of Park House will be holding a barbecue



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**Wednesday 5th August 2015
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Old Picture Corner from Tony Bubb

It's just twenty years that separate these two pictures of Waldens Barn. Now very agreeable accommodation in several units, it would have been a bit less comfortable when the first photo was taken but that was before a lot of work was done.



Dersingham Evening WI

by Maggie Guest

The recent monthly meetings have been a great success. We all enjoyed Rachel Duffield showing us the clothing that Elizabeth 1 would have worn.

She started in Elizabethan underwear, adding layers and layers, finally enlisting the help of Gilly to help with some tricky fastening. We loved to watch this elaborate dressing but I imagine we were all feeling thankful for the ease and freedom of modern clothing. Amazing to follow this with Kathy Denton speaking of her time at a London fashion house. We added on to this theme by having an 'accessory swap'.

It is the WI centenary this year and there have been events nationally including the Queen attending the National AGM at the Royal Albert Hall. The Queen has been a member since 1943. This event was LIVE screened across the country. Peg went to Mattishall to watch the proceedings. Three of our members went to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and a separate report written by Diane Hall has been added.

For Dersingham WI, our way of celebrating is to have an afternoon of nostalgia at St Nicholas Church Hall. All past, present and possible members are welcome. We are taking in memorabilia of items from the last 100 years. A table for each decade will be provided and members place their items on the relevant table. It will be so interesting to look back on life and it will give us all a sense of how life has changed. Our Centenary Party will take place on Wednesday 16th September.

All the separate groups have continued to give members friendship and interest. Among other places, the Dining Group went to the White Horse at Brancaster Staithe and the Rathskeller. The walking group went to Brancaster and walked along the Coastal Path to Burnham Deepdale for a light lunch before walking back again. Brenda Bloy and Diane Hall have hosted coffee mornings. They are so good for getting to know other members and it is lovely to visit member's homes as

they are so cosy and intimate. Wendy took her group to the College for assorted beauty treatments by students followed by lunch prepared by the catering students and the next month they went for a Deer Safari and lunch at Snettisham Park. We are delighted that Jane has been leading the purchase [at reasonable prices] of assorted toiletries to donate to the local Women's Refuge using money from coffee mornings. Wonderful that we can enjoy the coffee mornings and be helping less fortunate women.

Future meetings:

- 21st August (Friday) Nostalgia Afternoon
- 16th September Centenary party with live music
- 21st October Natural Remedies with herbs

The Buckingham Palace WI Garden Party—2nd June 2015 by Diane Hall

It seems just a short time ago that Steph, our secretary, announced that there would be a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate 100 years of the WI and would anyone like to go? Like to go??? I could not believe that every hand hadn't shot up! I have found it hard to believe I would have the chance. I was so delighted when 2 friends, Maggie Guest and Antje Franke, also wanted to go and we were allowed 3 tickets.

After excited preparations - New shoes? – no, it was going to be a long day. Hat? Fascinator?





Dress? Coat? Handbag?? Eventually I managed to decide! The weather forecasters had warned for days of high winds and rain. We crossed our fingers and hoped! When the day arrived we walked on to King's Lynn station to see several other ladies dressed to kill with hats too – we were not alone! And it was not raining.

The taxi driver from King's Cross was a lady and she quizzed us about the WI and the party. She dropped us near the Royal Mews as the queue to get in the front gate already stretched right round there. The fun began! Chat with WI members around us from other WI's, people watching, the dresses, the hats and more chat. Antje commented about one lady's headwear saying that she liked the lady's '*pacifier*'. I asked her to repeat herself to the amusement of women around! '*Pacifier*' became the buzz-word of the day! And many and varied were the Pacifiers!

We crossed the Palace forecourt, walked through to the courtyard, through the posh entrance portico, and out into the garden down the beautiful marble steps and joined the Party.

The crowds were enormous but there was still plenty of room on that lovely lawn. There were Beefeaters shepherding the crowd where necessary. We made our way to the tea tent and queued for tea or coffee (coffee was iced), lovely finger sandwiches and gorgeous little cakes and tarts.

At 4pm our 4 Royal hosts arrived to meet everyone. They were Camilla Duchess of Cornwall, Sophie Wessex, Princess Alexandra and the Duchess of Gloucester. The Beefeaters cleared the paths for them to move through the crowd. We moved from one crowd around a Royal to another and found ourselves across from 7 of the original Calendar Girls who were being interviewed by press and TV. Then Camilla arrived and was photographed with them.

We went back for another sample of tea in the tent and the party was drawing to a close. The rain had held off but the wind had been gusty. Hats needed hanging on to, but the sun was bright. We considered we were so lucky!

We headed back up the steps, through the Palace, across the courtyard and out onto the forecourt of the Palace. It was a very strange feeling to see the view of the Victoria Monument and the inside of the Palace railings that normally we see from outside. And tourists were watching us! We rounded off our day with a curry and by going to see the play *The Audience* at the Apollo Theatre. An appropriate play after our so very memorable day. □



Burnham Market's 40th Acclaimed Craft Fair **Saturday 15th August 2015**

Traditional, local and regional crafts will be displayed alongside items by local artists, designers and artisans on over 100 stalls in the centre of the village, on the greens, from **10.00am to 5.00pm**.

Stalls include jewellery, plants, textiles, ceramics, cards, woodwork, pottery, basketwork, sculpture, furniture, glassware, photography, aromatherapy, metalwork and more.

Stallholders contribute 10% of their takings which are distributed to local good causes.

There will be a traditional **Hog Roast**, **Face Painting** and a **Punch and Judy Show** will entertain children throughout the day.


Ample parking is available on the Creake Road Playing Field, for a small fee.

Enquiries to **Geof Hanley** on **01328 738503** or email geof.hanley@virgin.net



Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

The Great Muck Heap



Hi there! I am going to start this issue with a story about a very special anniversary: the 50th anniversary of a muck heap. When Mr Graham Lee farmed Lodge Farm at Hunstanton he kept a herd of dairy cows and many pigs. When these were mucked out all the muck was put in a big heap up the corner of a field ready to spread on the fields. In or around about 1960 he stopped using muck and used artificial manure instead, but his men still put the muck on the heap, so it got bigger and bigger.

Then, in 1964, Mr Lee moved his dairy herd to Abbey Farm, Pentney; and he also got rid of his pigs up Redgate Hill, so as the new water tower housing estate on Redgate Hill could be built. So he was left with a 40-ton heap of muck up the corner of one of his fields. When Mr Pull took over the land he had no use for the muck either, so there it still stands—40 tons of muck up the corner of a field. I was out with a mate of mine last year walking by the muck heap when my mate said to me, “Do you know what this is, 2014, so it is fifty years since that muck heap has been there.” So I said, “OK, lets go home and have a cup of tea to celebrate.”

If anyone knows of an older muck heap, please let me know.

25 years in the Army

As this is the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, I was telling one of my grandchildren a bit about it when he asked me what I done in the war.

I said to him, “Well, I can remember it, just, I was not old enough to take part in it, but my father, your great grandfather, was so I will tell you what he done in it.”

My father, Alexander Cecil (Jim) Melton, he was born on the 26th of November, 1907 at Tresco Cottages in Manor Road, Dersingham and he passed away at No 30 Gelham Court, Dersingham on the 23rd of May, 1997 at the age of 89.

When my father was 15 he went to Norwich to join the TA (Territorial Army), telling the recruiting sergeant he was older than he was. Then, on the 16th November 1926 he was transferred to the colours and he joined the Royal Artillery. On the 28th December 1928 he was posted to Aden for two years and 334 days. He left Aden on the 26th November 1931 to spend one year and 159 days in Malta. He came back to England on the 5th May 1933, then on the 30th October 1934 he was again posted overseas to Malaya (Singapore). Then on 7th May 1938 he came back to England after three years 217 days in Malaya.

In September, 1939 the Second World War started between England and Germany. At the time my father was a Warrant Officer Second Class, stationed at Hillsea army barracks in Portsmouth. On the 1st April, 1940 he was posted with the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) to France to fight against the Germans. On the 25th April, 1940, while retreating back to Dunkirk, he was captured by the Germans and was marched to Poland to a prisoner of war camp, Stalag XXA (3A), where he spent four years and 353 days until he was released by the Americans on the 12th May, 1945.

My father then done another two years and 306 days with the Third Royal Horse Artillery until he was demobbed on the 14th March, 1948 with the rank of Warrant Officer First Class, after serving for 25 years and 129 days in the British Army for King and Country. Out of those 25 years my father spent over 14 years abroad; he was only at home with my mother for four Christmases out of those 25 years. When you went abroad those days you went for the duration, with no leave or phone calls like they do today.

Sandringham estate

A newcomer to the village of Dersingham asked me about Sandringham estate, as he did not realize how big it was and the area that it covered, also the villages that it took in. The then Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward the VII, bought the Sandringham estate on the 4th of February, 1862. He bought it from the Hon. Charles Spencer Cowper, a stepson of the then prime minister, Lord Palmerston. It was purchased for £220,200; the whole estate at that time comprised 7,200 acres

and took in the villages of Sandringham, Wolferton, Babingley and one good farm at Dersingham (Stanton's Manor Farm).

The house was made much larger with a billiard room and American bowling alley; and in 1909 Sandringham House possessed 365 rooms, one for every day of the year, more rooms than any other private house in England. Over the years the number of rooms has been greatly reduced; in 1901 the American bowling alley was turned into a library. In 1906 there was ninety-one gardeners at work in the grounds and kitchen gardens, now there are only ten. The present Norwich Gates were made by Barnards of Norwich in 1863 and they were a present from the County of Norfolk and the City of Norwich to the then Prince and Princess of Wales.

Over the years the estate has purchased a lot more land and it now covers 20,456 acres. HM The Queen farms 3,310 acres, there is 1,954 acres devoted to forestry and the Sandringham Country Park extends to 702 acres. All the rest of the estate is let out to tenant farmers. Villages that are wholly on the estate are Anmer, Appleton, Babingley, Flitcham, Sandringham, Shernborne, West Newton and Wolferton, as are parts of Dersingham, Bircham, Fring and Harpley.

Sandringham estate has always been renowned for its shooting and between 1870 and 1910 the number of pheasants shot each season was around 30,000. Well there's a few bits about Sandringham estate and no doubt the readers of Village Voice will be able to add a bit more.

Petrol stations

I was having a chat the other day with another old Dersingham boy when somehow we got on the subject of petrol filling stations, as at one time there were four petrol stations in Dersingham, but when the by-pass opened one by one these garages stopped selling petrol or they closed down all together.

As you came into Dersingham the first petrol station and garage on your left was Heath Garage. This was run by Eric Hyner, who also ran a coach hire and taxi business. This garage was then taken on by Mr Charles Whisker, who was a main agent for the Messerschmitt, a German-made bubble car. When he gave up Mr Vic Greason took over and I think he might have been the last one to sell petrol there, but I could be wrong. The garage (now Waltersons) is still there but it only does repairs.

Another garage to stop selling petrol was the Gainsborough garage at the junction of Hunstanton Road and Post Office Road. Several people ran this garage over the years: the ones I remember best were Vic Smith, who owned a lovely big Buick Straight Eight, then the Hopkins family. When this garage closed the land was sold and a block of flats were built on this middle of the village site.

Further up the Hunstanton Road on the right just past Thaxters was the auto service station. Just after the Second World War the Ward family ran it and then Ted Cox, who had been a scientist and in his younger days he had been on an expedition to the Antarctic. While he was at the garage he installed an automatic petrol pump that took £1 notes, so you could get petrol twenty four hours a day, but he had to take it out as it was always going wrong and people would knock on his door in the middle of the night as their notes had got stuck in the machine. This old garage is now used for second hand car sales.

Next we have the Red Pumps garage in Chapel Road just past the Fern Hill turning. This garage was run for many years by the Isherwood family and it is still used as a garage but just for repairs only. There is still three garages in the village that do repairs but none that sell petrol. When the people of Dersingham want petrol nowadays they have to travel to Hillington, Kings Lynn or Hunstanton. At one time there was six petrol stations in Hunstanton, now we only have one. Also there were petrol stations at Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham.

There was also three private coach operators at Dersingham. One was Houchens, up Bank Road, where there is still a garage that does repairs. Then, at number 40 Lynn Road, Fred Wagg had two buses that he used mostly on work for the Americans at Sculthorpe, transporting their school children about. The third coach operator in the village was Hyners at Heath Garage, at 68 Lynn Road; then Charles Whisker still operated buses when he took over the garage.

Well that's about all for this month, have a good summer. All the best.

Dick □



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St Nicholas Church News from Pauline Martin



Thank you to all involved in making the “Open Gardens” such a wonderful success. A special thanks to Judy Collingham and her team for organising this event which involved so many in the village. It was so nice to see so many gardens open to the public, some of these for the very first time. As always, there was a great atmosphere in the Church Hall as people came together enjoying the range of teas and lunches that our catering team provided. So many thanks to them as well.

On the 23rd June a coach load of Church folk made the journey to Sutton Bonington in Nottinghamshire to see the licensing of the Reverend Michael Brock in his new Church. Afterwards he said he had been delighted to see so many people from Dersingham there and that it meant a lot to him and Carolyn as they start their new venture.

By the time you read this our Summer Festival – 16th to 18th July will have been and gone. This year was a new event of Flowers, Art & Crafts both in the Church, Church Hall and Marquees in the Church Hall grounds.



On the 26th July at 3pm we look forward to hosting the re-dedication service for the Norfolk Royal British Legion. Before the service, there will be a flypast of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight over Dersingham at 2.35pm followed by a Parade and March Past headed by piper David Harper. All are welcome to the service, which will also include music by trumpeter John Barker.



(For further information regarding this

service, please ring the organiser Valerie Brundle on 01485 541895).

Then on the 28th and 29th July we will be hosting the Music in Country Churches Concerts. Full details of these concerts can be collected from St Nicholas Church.

On Saturday 15th August we will be holding a Memorial Service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign of 1915. We remember the men of the 5th Battalion Norfolk Regiment who gave their lives during the Gallipoli Campaign. We are pleased to welcome the Bishop of Lynn to this memorial service and we look forward to his address.

As a Benefice of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne we now begin the task of appointing a new parish priest; a process that may take a number of months. In the meantime, our curate, the Revd. Julie Boyd is still in post here and is very pleased to be contacted with regards to our worship and ministry in the Benefice. □

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The 9th Lace Day at Dersingham

The Dersingham Lacemakers had another successful day on the 9th May at St. Cecilia's Church. Lace makers from Grantham to the other side of Norwich started to arrive at 9:30 am. By 10 o'clock, the hall was buzzing with greetings to friends old and new.

There was a table with knitting patterns, lace books and a box of odd balls of wool. These were soon snapped up, by ladies who knit hats, scarves etc. for the underprivileged organisations.

Guess the name of the goose was very popular.

The goose was beautifully made by one of our members and the name was LUCY. We had a good selection of prizes on the raffle table, which took over £100.

Two good friends, who are nothing to do with our lace group, manned the kitchen and provided tea, coffee and soft drinks all day. We had a lovely selection of cakes which were made and donated from friends and members.

At the end of the day we had raised £330 for the Big C Support Group.

A big thank you to all who helped to make this such an enjoyable and possible day.

Barbara Lake—Dersingham Lace Group □



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News from St Cecilia's RC Church

by Patricia Nevin




The parish summer program is now getting under way, starting with the very popular Strawberry fair, one of our main fundraisers. We've had the patronal feast of 'Our Lady of Perpetual Succour' with a special Mass at the parish church, followed by a shared lunch in the parish centre. The plans for the re-configuration of the interior of the parish Church were available to be viewed, it is anticipated that the work will be done by the end of this year.

Our parish barbecue will be held at lunchtime on Saturday 15th August at the parish centre in Hunstanton. Tickets will be available to purchase very soon. Then we will have the usual sponsored walk in September. A revised, extended parish history booklet has been produced and is available at both churches for the price of £2.50 per copy. All proceeds to go to the Development fund. We are still collecting for the Food Banks in Hunstanton and King's Lynn, which provide help to those in very real need in the local area. There is a box for donations in the porch of both Churches. There is a Fair Trade Stall at St Cecilia's after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. For more information contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069. Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15am Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Please come along, you will be most welcome. **Our daily Masses will be at 10am held in the Church, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, for the summer**, rather than the Convent, except on Wednesday when it is usually at 10:15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. **Please check for dates and times on Church notice boards, website or phone.** Sunday Masses are 9am at Dersingham and 11am at Hunstanton.

The Parish telephone number is **01485 534675**. If you require a Priest urgently please telephone Fr Peter Rollings on **01553 772220** or email: parishpriest763@gmail.com

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org **Email:** parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

invite you to The Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.
(Access and parking from Sporle Road) on
Tuesday 28th July, 7.30pm for an illustrated talk:
Tracking Ospreys to Africa

NarVOS is delighted to welcome Lucy McRobert - a researcher, campaigner, educator, environmental historian, wildlife journalist and Creative Director of 'A Focus on Nature'. She has written for BBC Wildlife and Birdwatch magazines, as well as appearing on BBC's Springwatch Extra. Lucy has worked with the Rutland Osprey Project and she is well qualified to talk to us about the Osprey tracking scheme .

Tuesday 25th August, 7.30pm
Personal Highlights of World Birding

Jon Hornbuckle has, it seems, visited nearly every country on the planet and has seen a staggering 9,414 species of birds. Originally from Nottingham Jon moved to Sheffield and was highly active in local birding, co-editing the Sheffield Bird Study Group's first breeding atlas. Jon started travelling following early retirement and says he doesn't list competitively, and that numbers don't really mean that much. We have a fabulous evening in prospect .

Visitors most welcome. Admission £2 on the night if you are not a NarVOS member.
For more information about this meeting or NarVOS call Ian Black on 01760 724092.



Papillons by David Bingham

We have just returned from a trip to France and I was disappointed in not seeing many butterflies, despite visiting promising looking flower rich meadows and some fine parks and gardens. France has far more butterfly species than Britain -around 250 to our 60 or so. There are several reasons for this. For a start, most of France is positioned to the south of Britain and butterflies tend to like the warmth.

There is also a greater range of suitable habitats with alpine slopes in the east, Mediterranean scrub in the south, lush meadows in the west and large forests in the north. It is probably also fair to say that France has retained more of its traditional farmed landscape than we have – I was particularly struck by this when visiting the Pays d'Auge region of Normandy with its old orchards and flower rich pastures. The formation of the English Channel will also have prevented Britain's colonization by small weak flying continental butterfly species after the last ice age.

I did see some of the commoner butterflies during our visit and I know the French names for a handful. Some of the names translate very closely into English. For example, the painted lady is *la belle dame* and they call the small tortoiseshell *la petite tortue* (the little tortoise). They have named the peacock butterfly *le paon du jour* (the day peacock) – *le paon de nuit* is their name for the emperor moth, which also have large 'eye' markings on their forewings. The French have a word for moth but it is rarely used and they generally see moths and butterflies as being the same class of creature that come out to play at different times – *papillons de jour* and *papillons de nuit*.

There are a number of significantly different English and French butterfly names and these may give an insight into cultural diversity. I don't know why we have chosen to name a butterfly the 'red admiral' - the French call them *le Vulcain* (the Vulcan) after the god of fire and heaven's armourer. The flaming red patches on their wings, set against a black background, seem to match this name better than our obscure nautical reference. Another curious difference is the comma butterfly, which the French call *Robert-le-diable*, Robert-the-devil, after a figure from medieval mythology. Perhaps this name comes from the comma's rather ragged looking wings. Quite a number of French butterfly names have their roots in mythology, often named after rustic characters such as shepherds and shepherdesses – the wall brown is known as *la Mégère*, one of the Furies and a name given to bad tempered women, which seems a bit over the top for such an unassuming little insect.

Very few French butterflies have been given simple descriptive names. Our orange tips are poetically translated into *l'aurore*, the dawn. While the French fondness for fine dining has turned the brimstone into *le citron*. Fritillaries are known as *nacre* in France. Crossword addicts will know that *nacre* is another name for mother-of-pearl and this is an apt name because of the pearly markings on fritillary underwings. The silver-washed fritillary is intriguingly known as *le tabac d'Espagne*, the Spanish tobacco. It is a little hard to understand why they call the clouded yellow, *le souci*, the care or worry. They are lovely butterflies but I will admit that there is something about their colouring that gives them a slightly sombre appearance, like an infected wound. And I have no idea why they have chosen to name the purple emperor, *le grand Mars changeant*, the great changing Mars. I don't claim to be an expert on French butterflies and I can only identify the commoner colourful species, leaving their drab cousins for another day. One of my favourites is an easily recognisable species, the scarce swallowtail. This is not a good name because they are only scarce where there aren't many of them and they are actually plentiful enough in 'Dordogneshire'. The French call them *le flambé*, the flaming one, and this name suits their elongated flame shaped yellow wings far better.

We seem to be having a slow start to the butterfly season, just as they are in France. I can only hope that by the time you read this, things will have improved and your gardens are now full of butterflies for you to enjoy and name in whatever language you prefer. □

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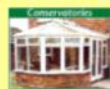
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Random Jottings

by Tony Bubb



Firstly I will start by thanking all those who voted for me at the recent elections. I look forward to continuing to look after all Dersingham residents interests for the next 4 years. Having a face recognised by many, I often get waved at by people driving past, usually with all five fingers, but do forgive me if I don't recognise you. Modern cars have deeply sloping windscreens and all I often get is a good view of the sky and a bit of movement from within.

I have had a few days in the west country on the Dorset/Devon border at Lyme Regis. What a complete opposite to here. Steep hills, landslips, blue sea and thatched cottages, all very different. They still have their ration of odd and appropriate signs. Would you eat at the Ocean View, we didn't. We were impressed by the name of the harbourmaster, most apt.

One thing I did notice, the further south we went, was how much bigger, greener and clothed in bigger leaves the trees were. I mentioned this to a friend who moved south from Essex a few years ago and he had noticed it too. He put it down to the much greater rainfall they get. After dry East Anglia the number of wet days they get now came as something of a surprise to him.



I don't often flag up forthcoming Village Voice Live events but on August 4th we have Paul Howe coming who is an auctioneer and valuer. For the second half of the evening he will be talking about and valuing items brought by the audience. He specialises in metal



ware but you can bring any smallish items along. No jewellery please, he says that it's not his field. I have got an item that I found in a flat I moved into 40 years ago, that so far has defied identification, so I will be bringing that along.

The June Parish council meeting started with the local bus companies trying to justify the recent alterations to the service we get. One of the largest crowds I can remember took Stagecoach and to a lesser extent Lynx to task. There was a promise from the Stagecoach man to go away and rethink the changes and the Norfolk County Council chap agreed to hold co-ordinating meetings with all the interested parties. Hopefully this will result in the reinstatement of the No 11 route and more busses visiting the hospital. As was to be expected, most people were blaming the Lynx bus for causing the problems. Obvious really, if you cream off some of the passengers then both companies will suffer in the long term, there are only so many passengers out there.

We had our first Muntjac in the garden the other day. It took off at speed when I approached it and used a direct route through my wild flower patch as its exit route. I now have a trampled furrow through the middle which looks unlikely to recover. Our cat tackles pigeons on an almost daily basis so I wonder what he will do if he spots one of these - a bit big to get through his flap I think. □



The Ghost Stories of M R James The East Anglian Connection by Brian Anderson

Montague Rhodes James ("Monty" to his friends and colleagues) was born in Kent in 1862. The family moved to Suffolk when he was three when his father obtained a living as Rector at Great Livermere. He was a precocious child - he had mastered Latin and Greek by the time he was eleven and was sent to prep school at East Sheen, not far from Kew Gardens in south west London. From there he went to Eton where he began his lifelong interest in old manuscripts (especially of the early Western Christian Church), in church architecture and furnishings (notably of painted and stained glass). From Eton he went to King's College in Cambridge and subsequently had a respected and illustrious academic career during which he catalogued many of the old manuscripts of the Cambridge colleges and Norwich Cathedral, somewhat to the disappointment of his father who wished him to be ordained. He became Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum and Provost of Kings. He was, in a term not much used today, an antiquary. In 1918 he returned to Eton as Provost, but kept his close association with East Anglia. In 1930 he published *Suffolk and Norfolk*, a review of the ancient buildings of the two counties. Dersingham and Snettisham churches are described as "very fine" with the Snettisham church west window being "magnificent". He died in 1936.

But it is for his ghost stories that he is chiefly remembered, although he was dabbling in the genre prior to his writing the stories we know. This is an extract from a poem sent to his sister when he was still quite young and set at Livermere:

*Then the horses stir and the sleepy cats purr
And something moves in the fern.*

*And did not see in the hollow oak tree
Two eyes begin to burn?*

*You heard a foot pass, it trailed over the grass,
You shivered it came so near.*

*And was it the head of a man long dead
That raised itself out of the mere?*



His stories are widely regarded as among the best ever written.

About a third of his stories are set in East Anglia and the connection can be extended further if you include those stories where the protagonists are academics, librarians or clergy from Cambridge.

In some stories the connection seems very close indeed. Take *Oh Whistle and Ill Come to You My Lad*. Professor Parkins, on holiday at the coast in late autumn, obliges a colleague by inspecting the ruins of a church just above the beach. It is evening and he stumbles and uncovers a whistle in a small stone chamber beneath the shingle. He is unwise enough to blow it. That night he is assailed by dreams of a man, terribly frightened, running along perhaps the same beach and staggering over one breakwater after another. Soon the object of his terror comes into view. A stooping, fluttering figure is running on the beach and getting ever closer. Parkins wakes up in fright. But worse is to follow. The following night he is disturbed in his room (which has a spare bed). In the moonlight he sees - no, here I must quote:

...the reader will hardly, perhaps, imagine how dreadful it was to him to see a figure sit up suddenly in what he had known was an empty bed.

The apparition had made itself a body from the bedclothes. It closed with him and he saw thrust into his own face—a horrible, intensely horrible face of crumpled linen.

Parkins is rescued but remains a nervous man, likely ever to be disturbed by a scarecrow blowing on a windy winter field. The story is clearly a development of the



familiar "sheeted ghost". The landscape described could be anywhere on the more deserted coasts of our region. Oddly enough, some years ago I discovered a similar chamber in the area between Snettisham Coastal Park and Heacham - I am glad to say it did not contain a whistle. Similarly, in *A Warning to the Curious*, an inquisitive treasure seeker who recovers a Saxon crown from a burial mound is subject to swift, terrible and fatal retribution from the guardian of the crown: ...and we had no doubt whatever that what we saw was the track of a bare foot, and one that showed more bones than flesh.

The landscape here described could easily be the pined dunes at Holme or Holkham.

Monty also liked old houses and many were in East Anglia. Castringham Hall (East Barsham Manor could serve as the model) in *The Ash Tree*, where succeeding generations are afflicted and killed by the denizens of the said tree, in *The Mezzotint* set at Anningley Hall, where the victim of a lynching returns to wreak vengeance on the owner of the hall - this is a story where the action is portrayed by the eponymous engraving of the title and changes each night. Or *Mr Humphreys and his Inheritance* where Mr Humphreys' ancestor objects to a locked maze being opened and visits his displeasure in a terrifying and odious manner. Part of *The Tractate Middoth* is set in "a certain famous library" (undoubtedly the University Library at Cambridge) and near the coast - probably Suffolk in this case. Reading this will probably leave you with an unreasoning dislike of cobwebs.



So what gives Monty's stories their undoubted effectiveness? There are several elements.

He always said that setting was important - this has been partly covered above but it's clear that if the reader can imagine being in the setting the effect is so much the greater.

He used verisimilitude (*'the appearance of being true or real' according to the OED. Ed.*) to add credibility to his stories by embedding details of documents or locations based on real or imagined scholarship. He always claimed that most of these references were fictitious but his biographer (Michael Cox) concludes that many were real, if perhaps lightly amended or disguised. In *Canon Alberic's Scrap-Book* real documents are referred to extensively and in *The Treasure of Abbot Thomas* the stained glass that prompts the story is based on real glass at Ashridge Chapel. This use of verisimilitude has been used widely in supernatural and science fiction since - H P Lovecraft's *The Colour Out of Space* and Nigel Kneale's *Quatermass and the Pit* spring to mind.

Monty had a great skill in constructing the right phrase, especially at the most dramatic points of the stories. Another couple of quotes, firstly from *Abbot Thomas*:

I was conscious of a most horrible smell of mould, and of a cold face pressed against my own and moving slowly over it, and of several - I don't know how many - arms or legs or tentacles or something clinging to my body.

The second from *Casting the Runes*:

So he put his hand into the well-known nook under the pillow; only it did not get so far. What he touched was a mouth with teeth and hair about it and, he declares, not the mouth of a human being.

He had many imitators. The closest in style and plot are by A N L Munby in a collection called *The Alabaster Hand* and by E G Swain. Sometimes even his phrases are plagiarised. The oddest I've found is in the National Trust guide to Gunby Hall in Lincolnshire where the house is described in almost exactly the same way as Wilsthorpe Manor in Mr Humphreys.



If you haven't read the stories they're worth a look. One word of warning - if you're on a deserted bit of our coast of a winter's evening and find a whistle - don't blow it. Happy dreams! □

Dersingham Open Gardens and Art

Two days of variable weather did nothing to dampen the spirit or success of this annual event showing off



Trail—Spring Bank Holiday 2015

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PUZZLE CORNER

Sudoku No. 43 by Rob

Answers on page 74

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

Where is it? What is it? by Tony Bubb

Perhaps fairly obvious *what*, but *where*?



Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words:

BALL	BOARD	LENS	BACK
OUNCE	CORNEA	CIVET	FLY
CROWN	PERSIAN	BANTAM	NELSON
FEATHER	IRIS	MIDDLE	JAGUAR



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Dersingham Day Centre by Alice Worth



Since my last report we have had quite a busy time at the Day Centre. On the 29th April, too late for the last edition of Village Voice, we celebrated the 90th Birthday of Mr Fred Cooper. Fred has been associated with the Day Centre for many years now, as was his wife Joyce before him, and he is always cheerful despite health problems. His family arranged to celebrate this special occasion with him at the Day Centre but we were to keep it as a surprise until the



actual day. We invited four members of his family to join him for lunch and when his family arrived Fred was quite taken aback, and we were relieved to know that the secret had held. Lunch was followed by another surprise for him. The family had arranged for one of our regular entertainers, Brian Roy, to come and play/sing to us. We had a lovely musical afternoon with everyone joining in and singing along to well known songs of the 50s and 60s. Tea was served and Fred was presented with a special birthday cake from the Day Centre, made by Alison Girling, depicting a parachute – a reminder to Fred of his

days in the Parachute Regiment during the war.

On the 3rd June the Rev. Michael Brock and his wife Carolyn came to say goodbye to us before they left for their new appointment at a church in Sutton Bonington. The Day Centre would not have been able to continue 5 years ago if we hadn't been offered the Church Hall as a meeting place. When we were at our lowest ebb Michael literally saved us and he has visited us on a Wednesday morning ever since and has continued to give us his support. Carolyn has been a helper since then, playing scrabble and cards with members and chatting to them. She won her last game of scrabble on her last morning. It was my pleasure to thank them both and to present them with a gift token and card signed by all our Members and Volunteers. We wish them much happiness in their new home and still hope to see them when they visit Dersingham in the future.



Wednesday, 10th June saw us all heading to Leiziate Park for a special lunch. The sun decided not to shine and the wind not to abate, but we all enjoyed our trip out. We had lunch in the room overlooking the lake (albeit in the distance) and also celebrated Frank Shelton's birthday with a lovely cake depicting his caravan. Thank you Alison for another winner. All too soon it was time to climb aboard the two buses to take everyone home and the drivers agreed to go the 'long way' home via Pott Row and on to Sandringham. The countryside was looking so green and lovely and everyone enjoyed the chance to see it at its best and, in particular, the



beautiful display of rhododendrons on Sandringham's special scenic drive. A special thanks to David Lang (our regular driver) for being our official photographer for the day and recording special memories for us all. The Day Centre closes on the 22nd July for the summer holidays so we all wish everyone a lovely sunny summer until we meet again on the 2nd September. □



The Norfolk Flora Group

The Norfolk Flora Group is an informal interest group composed of both amateur and professional botanists. The group holds about 30 all-day field meetings a year, out in all weathers, starting in April and going on until early October. The purpose is to

record and list the presence of all flowering species – and that includes grasses and sedges – in any particular area. The survey is usually done on a tetrad (2km x 2km square) basis. The records are then entered into a database and thus there are records for all the plants we find in Norfolk, ranging from the smallest 'weed' to the largest tree. The records are then sent to a national database and they help to build up a picture of what is growing where, all over the country, and it can also show what plants are increasing or declining or even becoming threatened with extinction.

The members of the group come from all over Norfolk and the meetings also cover the whole of the county. Sometimes recording is simply done where there is public access – along paths and tracks, road verges, open access woodland etc. Sometimes permission is sought (and nearly always granted) from a private landowner, the warden of a reserve, or from public bodies, such as the Broads Authority or Forestry Commission. For instance this year we have already done some urban recording in Fakenham and Norwich, and along the coast at Heacham and Hunstanton (where we encountered your friendly editor who generously supplied us all with a cuppa!). Private sites visited have included woodlands in south Norfolk and private farming land in east Norfolk.

For me, it is a fascinating and productive hobby which leads to much detailed studying of the parts of the plant, which will then hopefully lead to the correct identification of the particular plant I have before me. It may be something very familiar – an old friend – or it may be a plant I have never seen before. That's the challenge.

Frances Schumann □



Narthecium ossifragum
(Dersingham Bog)



Memorial Service for Ion Trewin

A memorial service to celebrate the life and career of Ion Trewin will be held at **St Martin-in-the-Fields**, Trafalgar Square, London on **Wednesday September 30th at 11am**, followed by a reception. All are very welcome to both events. Please RSVP to Sue's email - stroyston@aol.com - or by telephoning **01485 544089**.



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Dersingham Library News



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Wednesday: 10-1pm 2-5pm

Thursday: 10-1pm 2-7.30pm

Saturday: 10-1pm

For further information about events and to book please call 01485 540181

Dersingham Summer Village Read—Throughout the summer

We have chosen two very different books... *The song for Issy Bradley* by Carys Bray and *The Circle* by Dave Eggers. The read runs until the end of August. Simply pick up the books from the library and tell us what you think!

Knit and natter group—Every Thursday 10.30-12

Whether you knit, crochet or would like to learn - all are welcome.

Knit and natter at night—First and third Thursday of the month from 6-7pm

Whether you knit, quilt, stitch or rag-rug – all are welcome.

Peer Support Group for Carers—Tuesday 4th August 1-3pm

If you care for someone with dementia, or would like to talk about your experiences with others in a similar situation to you, then come along to our peer support group.



Baby Bounce and Rhyme (under 5s) - Every Thursday from 2-2.30pm

Join us for stories and activities for pre-school children and their parents or carers. Babies are very welcome too!

A date with the Demon Dentist! (over 8s) - Wednesday 12th August 10.30am – 11.30am

If you are a David Walliams fan then come along to this fun morning of activities. Booking essential for this free event. (Health Trainers will also be around to offer free mini MOTs for adults)

Family Fun with the RSPB (all ages) - Thursday 13th August 10.00-11.30am

(Health Trainers will also be around to offer free mini MOTs for adults)

Record Breakers Challenge Event (over 8s) - Wednesday 19th August 10.30am – 12noon

Come and take part in fun record breaking activities for children 8 years and over! Booking essential for this free event.

Celebrate finishing the Record Breakers Summer Reading Challenge (all ages)

Thursday 10th September from 5.30pm

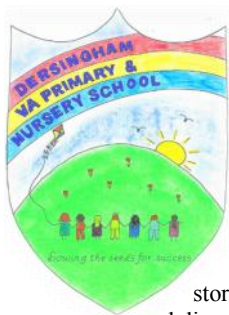
The medal and certificate ceremony for those who have successfully completed the Summer Reading Challenge. Booking is essential.

Step into storybags

A free 10 week course run by Norfolk Family Learning - starting Friday 25th September and ending December 11th (with a half term break 23rd/30th October)

A storybag is a cloth bag containing a children's book and items like toys, puppets and games that relate to the book. Storybags help capture a child's interest in reading and help parents or grandparents bring a book to life. On this course you will make and fill a storybag of your choice! Creche provided. Places are limited so booking in advance is essential - please ask staff or call the library on 01485 540181.

Alison Thorne
Community Librarian for Dersingham,
Kings Lynn & Wells □



Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School by Sue Picton

Well the first day of summer has arrived, along with showers and high winds! Hopefully by the time this is published we will be basking in beautiful sunshine again!

The children are embarking on their final topics of the year. Treetopolis, Woodland Warriors and Adventurers are donning their pirate hats and sharpening their cutlasses ready for a swashbuckling adventure of exciting story writing, history investigation about explorers like Christopher Columbus and discovering a whole new world where Pirates dominate the high seas. A fun pirate beach day and ride on the Wash Monster will wrap up the summer term magnificently!

Voyagers are focussing on 'Growing Up and Moving On' as they transfer to the dizzy heights of high school! They will be looking to the future and imagining their dream jobs and future careers, competing in a Dragon's Den challenge, as well as rehearsing for the end of year performance for parents, children and staff. They were rewarded for a busy week of SATs tests with an action packed activity week where they made the best of a rainy day on the beach, built dens in Sandringham woods, a day of team games and BBQ on the field and of course an amazing, fun filled day at Legoland! The



week was rounded off with a camp-out on the school field with toasted marshmallows, hot chocolate and a cooked breakfast!



Reception and nursery's new topic is based around traditional tales, linking to health and fitness. The Gingerbread man needs a new fitness regime, Goldilocks and the Three Bears will be inviting parents to share a healthy breakfast and a Teddy Bear's picnic. Meanwhile the wolf needs help from an

optician and dentist to keep his eyes and teeth in good shape! A musical extravaganza of Little Red Riding Hood will be performed for parents to finish the year with a flourish!

Peapods preschool are continuing their outdoor learning theme moving on from growing fruit and vegetables to finding out about the mini beasts that inhabit our gardens. They have been busy digging, watering and planting and are now beginning to see the fruits of their labours!

The Little Berries baby room has had a new delivery of a wooden play area, which includes steps, slide and tunnel, nicknamed the Mole Hole!

Children and staff are really enjoying it! If you are interested in a place at the Early Years Site please contact Jane Kendal on 01485 540022.

The Eco-Council have been learning about where their food comes from and how fair trade works following a visit to Tesco, where they got to taste a whole array of different food and sugared their own donuts! The Student Council has elected to have a Sports Council, who have been busy setting up lunchtime and Golden Time sports clubs. They have had meetings with



Mrs Bower from Smithdon, who has helped them draw up plans. Look out in the next edition to see our progress with the football, off road cycling, trigolf and cricket! There are still lots of events to look forward to before the end of term, like area sports at Smithdon, our own Sainsbury School Games day and water polo!

The term is swiftly coming to a close, but before we shut up for the summer holidays we have our pirate themed summer fair at the Early Years Site , enterprise week, where the children will have the opportunity to discover the range of careers out there and our farewell prom for Year 6! □



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Citius, Altius, Fortius: Ponies, Donkeys and Dastardly Tricks at The Dersingham Olympics

by Elizabeth Fiddick

Faster, Higher, Stronger - These three words were used by Henri Didon, a Dominican Priest, when he presided over the opening ceremony of a school sports event in 1881. In 1894 when Pierre de Coubertin succeeded in reviving the ancient Greek tradition of a great athletics event that we now know as the Olympic Games, he adopted those words as the motto for the occasion. I was reminded of this recently when I watched on TV the huge Olympic rings that adorned a bridge in Newcastle during the London Olympics being erected in Rio for the 2016 extravaganza. At the time of writing Dersingham had just hosted a most successful Open Gardens and Art Trail. The village was full of visitors from far and wide and I met and spoke with many as I visited the marvellous gardens and interesting art studios in the village.

As a historian I cannot help but wonder about life here in the past. If we look back to May some 125 years ago the village would also have been full of visitors but they were not here to see gardens or art; they were here to watch and take part in the great Dersingham Athletic Sports Day. This event, held every year, was a well known fixture on the calendar and May 1890 was no exception. The weather that Tuesday was excellent and the villagers gathered along with a huge crowd from Lynn, Hunstanton and the surrounding villages on a field loaned for the event by a Mr E. Linsley. (I have not yet been able to identify with certainty the location of this field.) The musicians of the village band were in excellent form and the local press reported that they enlivened the proceedings by playing choice strains of music and it is not hard to imagine the scene as competitors and spectators gathered and waited for the fun to begin.

Mr William Mann, a member of the well known Dersingham family, was appointed Judge and his decisions were to be considered final. Mr Wales was the starter and Mr. Linnell a local farmer and cattle dealer was the Clerk of the Course. Other officials on hand to ensure the smooth running of the event were Mr. Bird the proprietor of the village butchers and Mr W. F. Parker who ran the large drapers and grocers at the bottom of Sandringham Hill, now an antique shop.

During the day there were the sort of events that are still found at any athletics meeting such as the flat races. At this time it was the 100yards flat race that was staged. In the race for boys under 15 Dersingham residents only, the winner H. Jarvis took home a first prize of 3 shillings whilst the second pocketed 1s. 6d. The fifteen year old girl who won her 100 yard race was awarded 2s.6d. The prizes in the 100yards open race were 1st, a silver breakfast cruet and 2nd, a biscuit box. The race for women, Dersingham ladies only, in spite of a first prize of a dress piece, and a whole 1lb of tea for second place did not attract a single entry. I wonder why not? There was also a 100yards race for boys under ten but not one for the girls. How times have changed. In the boys' race, thinking of the ten year old boys I have taught in my time, I suspect that the third prize of a whip was more highly regarded than the inkstand and writing case presented to the winner and runner up. Other running races included a 120 yards labourers' race, first prize five shillings and a 100 yards race for Labourers over 50 years old, first prize five shillings

However controversy was about to erupt during the one mile handicap race when Mr. Mann the judge would be called on to officiate. This was a handicap race and we know that at least one of the five competitors, Dewson, was given a 100yards start while a certain J. Black, clearly a strong competitor, set off from the starting line. Mr J. Black ran in excellent form and to the great excitement of the crowd soon succeeded in gaining second place behind M. Dewson. In the last lap with everyone cheering loudly Black caught up with Dewson but then, unfortunately tried to pass him ON THE WRONG SIDE. Dewson however was made of strong stuff, and would not allow Black to pass. Whereupon to everyone's horror the dastardly Black deliberately attempted to throw Dewson out of his way. But Dewson would not be denied and to the cheers of the crowd survived this foul attack and crossed the line in first place. Accompanied by the boos of the crowd

Black crossed the line in second place but in light of his unsportsmanlike behaviour Mr Mann duly disqualified him and T. Davey was promoted to second place.

Order and honour were restored during the exciting high jump contest. W. Black and J Batterbee matched each other jump for jump as the bar was gradually raised. Eventually a tie was declared when they had both cleared 4 feet 9 ¼ inches. The first prize, an electro plated teapot was sold and the pair shared the money. The long jump followed and the first prize, a coffee pot, was won by E. Pitt.

However there were other events and one that we will all have witnessed at school sports days was the Sack Race. These were held only for boys under 16 and another for Dersingham Men. However everyone would have gathered to watch and cheer the contest to climb the greasy pole. There was a large entry for this with all the young men of the villages vying each other to get to the top. Many climbed well but ended up slowly sliding back down to the cheers and laughter of the onlookers. It was Tom Houchen of Dersingham who climbed the highest and took home the leg of pork. Tom was a well known village sportsman playing in the village football team very successfully. He competed in the sports day every year and in 1902 the local paper reported that “our old friend and veteran runner Tommy Houchen was well up at the tape in more than one event.”

Another event that apparently caused huge merriment was Tilting the Bucket. I have no idea what this entailed but it was very successful and ended in a tie between J. Daniels and J. Drew who shared the prize of 5 shillings. Another mystery event was Jingling Match in Masks. Does anyone have any idea what John Daniel had to do to win the 5 shilling first prize?

The one mile bicycle race was open to competitors from a ten mile radius of the village. The competitors had to ride round the course 5 times but only one of the 5 entries managed to ride two laps. The course was in such a bad condition that good riding was impossible. I wonder if the one mile Donkey race had used the course first. There were strict rules for this race as no whips, sticks or spurs were allowed to be used. The donkeys caused great hilarity but it was Mr. Daw’s Dodger who triumphed with Mr Nurse’s Jennie second and Mr. Callaby’s Spider third. It was during this race that the news went round that the Royal Party had arrived and indeed her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales with Princess Maude, Princess Victoria and the Duke of Clarence took up their places to enjoy the antics of the donkeys, some of whom were not particularly keen on galloping the course.

The pony race followed over the same course. The Ponies could not exceed 13 hands and it was William Potter’s Spot who was first, with the grandly named Copenhagen of Mr Callaby second. William Potter was the village blacksmith whose premises still stand at the corner of Centre Vale and Post Office Road.

Perhaps the loudest cheers of the afternoon were reserved for the Tug-of-War between Dersingham and Snettisham. The teams were chosen that afternoon and each team had its army of supporters as the order was given “PULL”. I regret to report that Snettisham had the best of it from the first and easily managed to pull the Dersingham men past the winning post. No doubt they went away vowing to get their revenge next Whitsun or see off those Snettisham Lads at the next Cricket match.

The afternoon then drew to a close with a 120 yard consolation race for men who had not yet won a prize and two fun events again just for the boys, fishing money out of a tub of flour and then ducking for oranges in a tub of water.

Everyone then repaired to the large tent Mr Tingey had loaned for the presentation of the prizes. I believe they were often presented by the Royal visitors. It was announced that over 2000 people had visited the field that afternoon. Finally everyone made their way home agreeing that it had been the most successful sports ever held in Dersingham. So what if the Snettisham lads had won the tug-of-war? There was always next year. □



VE Day Celebrations

This year's May Day Bank Holiday saw a splendid turn out to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of WW2 Victory in Europe with a Fun Day at the Recreation Ground organised by members of the Dersingham and Sandringham Branch of the Royal British Legion. *Photos by Rex Makemson* □





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Riding Cycle Route 1 A Classic Tale of So Near and Yet So Far! by Darryl Playford

On 30th May I set out with my good friend Jonathan Cousins to ride the entire mainland length of the National Cycle Network Route 1. Many of you may recognise signs like the one above from your local travels as Route 1 passes through the area along Admiral's Drive in the village to Sandringham, crossing the A149 at Babingley and on to King's Lynn. What you may not know is that this route starts in Dover and meanders its way up the eastern side of the UK all the way to John O'Groats. The declared length of this route on the Sustrans.org.uk website is 1338 miles. Our plan was to ride 1400 miles in 14 days with the extra mileage anticipated to come from looking for food and suitable accommodation off route each day.

The madness started not long after I began cycling to work at Docking back in 2008. That summer Jonathan stated that he had never ridden 100 miles in one day before and it was something he wanted to do so I decided I would join him in achieving this. We researched possible routes and came to the conclusion that using Route 1 from Dersingham round to Wells and then picking up Route 30 to Cromer would give us the required return journey distance of 100 miles.

Bitten by the bug of cycle touring I wanted to do more but apart from the very occasional long ride since then have largely been restricted to the daily commute. Jonathan and I discussed many a time the idea of doing a major tour at some point but the commitment was never quite there. It was only after the death of my father in 2013 that Jonathan said to me that we should do something the next year. We discussed the possibilities and after rejecting the obvious Land's End to John O'Groats I suggested the Route 1 option. It met all our expectations for a proper challenge – something different to the norm and the requirement to meet the demands of that original challenge, 100 miles per day. Only this time it would be for 14 consecutive days. The plan to do the ride in 2014 quickly fell flat when it became apparent that we wouldn't both be able to get the required time off work at the same time and so we postponed until 2015.

Having driven down to Dover the evening before and breakfasted on the harbour we set about assembling the bikes and loading the panniers. It was at this point that the early omens did not look good. One of the cables on Jonathan's bike had been crushed in transit and his rear mudguard was preventing proper gear changes. We sought out a bike shop and were directed to Halfords where the necessary repairs were carried out. By this time however it was nearly lunchtime, well beyond our planned 8.00am start and we had around 85 miles to complete to reach our first stop in Northfleet, the only day that we had prearranged accommodation. On our way at last, the second omen was also against us when the signs directed us (or so we thought) into the docks area. Having passed through passport control and then having to receive a pass to get back out again we eventually realised the signs were taking us up 3 flights of steps, a good start to a cycle route...! Having carried the bikes up we made it on to the path taking us along the white cliffs and eventually out onto open road where we were able, at long last, to cruise along with the wind behind us to Deal. It seemed obligatory to stop for a sandwich in Sandwich before heading inland



a little to Canterbury. All went well for a while before poor signage again meant we lost the route in Sittingbourne. With the day wearing on we cut our losses and followed the A2 for a while before spotting Route 1 signs again and getting back on route. A spell off road in the dying light proved interesting before reaching Gravesend and finally our destination of Northfleet where lady luck shone on us and our hotel appeared in front of us just at the point that we stopped to ask for directions. The stats from the cycle computer told me that day 1 had been 94.5 miles with 7843 calories burnt. It was now 10.15pm and getting a proper meal would be impossible. The hotel manager did however give us crisps, fruit and a drink from the bar free of charge, the first of many acts of kindness we would encounter along the way.

Day 2 started well, having made the decision to have breakfast at the hotel to make up for not having a meal the night before, we then made our way back to the route and headed towards London and the South Bank of the Thames. Riding through London will probably be a once in a lifetime experience and it provided a few surprises, not least the fact that the initial approaches were through an area of marsh along a rough track which caused the first puncture in Jonathan's rear tyre. Repair made we got to the South Bank proper only to find numerous gates and barriers to slow our progress as many of them required us to get off the bikes and lift the rear wheel and panniers through. Once at Greenwich we crossed the river via the pedestrian tunnel and made our way up through the city of London before picking up the Lea Valley and following the path along the river. We were out for 11 hours that day only to achieve 68 miles and reach Harlow.

Day 3 would prove better. We left the Travelodge at 6.40am and made Chelmsford by 9.00am. Despite some issues with losing the route, most notably in Colchester where we did two laps of the town centre, we made good progress and got through Ipswich, eventually stopping in Woodbridge after 107.5 miles.

The early part of Day 4 was spent repacking Jonathan's equipment so that it would all fit onto his rear pannier rack, the rough terrain already encountered had caused one of the brackets on his front pannier rack to break. So with a delayed start and strong winds forecast we continued our journey through East Anglia. Lunch was purchased from a delightful village store and post office in Peasenhall and with the wind staying mostly behind us we passed through Beccles to cross the border into Norfolk and finished the day in Norwich after 79 miles. We contemplated continuing further but this would have meant turning into the wind and decided to leave that for tomorrow.

After another night in a Travelodge we started heading for home, once out of Norwich city centre the route uses the Marriott's Way disused railway line as far as Reepham which was a delight to ride although I can imagine it could be tricky when wet or after autumn leaf fall. Once out of the relative shelter of the rail line we faced a headwind to Fakenham, an extremely rough track uphill from Wighton to Holkham and the undulations from Burnham to Ringstead and home to Dersingham. Norfolk is definitely not flat! My daughters rustled us up some lunch and Jonathan carried out some further repairs with the help of AJD's tools and vice. Suitably fed and watered we carried on to King's Lynn stopping briefly at Lynnsport to say hello to my wife Lynne. Once beyond King's Lynn the lie of the land does indeed become flatter and also having turned the corner of the Wash we also got the wind behind us once again and progressed to Wisbech and beyond. Here again luck was with us when I realised that I had friends living only a mile or two off route and a quick phone call confirmed that they were home and would gladly put us up for the night. Andrew, Tracy and Barney their dog made us most welcome, giving us full use of their facilities and packing us off next morning with breakfast inside us and some sandwiches for later. Good friends indeed. We made 113 miles that day.

Day 6 was a nice warm day with a light wind behind us. We made good progress through the fens pausing at Fosdyke Bridge to talk to a lady on a similarly laden bike to ours who was setting out alone at 60 years of age to cycle the North Sea Route over a 3 month period. This is part of the route she would do: from Aberdeen to Harwich then across to Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway before crossing back on a freight liner, 3730 miles in total. Inspiration just when we needed it and I would love to know whereabouts she is now after the first month. We

carried on towards Boston and then up to Lincoln where the route took us to the cathedral quarter via one of the steepest hills we climbed. From there it was into the Lincolnshire Wolds so hill climbing became the norm again as we reached Market Rasen and stopped for supplies. We had arranged to stay that night at the head office of our employer, Limagrain UK Ltd, and camped out in one of the small office blocks with access to showers and a kitchen. 96.5 miles completed and another 7500 calories burnt.

Day 7 was 5th June and a tough one for me personally as it was our wedding anniversary. The weather started off as gloomy as my mood but both brightened as the day went on. By the time we reached the Humber Bridge it was a lovely day and the crossing a joy. After losing the route for a while getting out of Hull we headed for the coast and eventually completed the day (110 miles) just north of Scarborough in the village of Cloughton. Two guys in the pub we stayed in dipped into their pockets to hand us £9.70 towards our charities.

Day 8 was the beginning of week two and proved to be our toughest. We set off from Cloughton towards Whitby along the old railway line we had finished on the day before and stopped for supplies when we got there. There was a slight gap in the route between Whitby and Staithes so we were forced to take the A road which on this particular day was being blasted by a 40mph cross wind with stronger gusts. On several occasions we found ourselves suddenly in the middle of the road. This wind coupled with some of the hills along this stretch of the Yorkshire coast saw us reduced to pushing on a couple of occasions and when Jonathan felt the need to get off and push I knew conditions were bad. We battled on as far as Redcar before deciding enough was enough and found a guest house for the night. We had completed 55 miles.

The wind had died a little over night and we left the guest house just after 7.00am with a packed lunch in lieu of breakfast. Like the last Sunday through London, this day was set to be a largely urban day as we went through first Middlesbrough and Stockton on Tees. Here though we once again found ourselves on an old railway line which would take us all the way up and into Sunderland, a place I was pleasantly surprised by. We picked up the coast again here to South

Shields before taking the ferry across the Tyne and then up to Whitley Bay and Blyth. We came off route slightly here to stop for the day after 83 miles.

On day 10 the route continued along the coast with some tricky off road sections and a north, north east breeze in our faces but by mid-afternoon we arrived in Berwick-upon-Tweed where the route headed inland along the Tweed valley. We crossed back and forth over the Scottish border and arrived in the town of Kelso just after 7:00pm and 101 miles for the day. We stayed in a delightful B&B, the Old Priory, where the landlord returned £15 of the fee for our charities.

After a breakfast of Scottish porridge, a beautiful morning saw us carry on along the Tweed valley to the small town of Innerliethen where we made use of the bakery. From here we turned north again and



headed for the Moorfoot Hills. The climb was gradual but long and afforded some great views. It was on the descent that concerns with my left knee became a real worry as it became intense even on the downhill cruise. I struggled on as far as Dalkeith before admitting defeat after 62 miles and finding somewhere to stay to rest for the night and assess whether continuing with the ride was a sensible option or not.

After a total of 965 miles in 11 days it was all over for now at least. My knee could not even cope with a short ride to the car hire depot and I had to take a taxi and go back for Jonathan and the bikes. Luckily I suppose the knee injury allowed me to walk and drive with little pain. I could only imagine Jonathan's frustration at having to stop, particularly as he had battled on himself for over a week while suffering with saddle sores. He is a pillar of support however and insisted that we started the ride together and would ultimately finish it together.

So we didn't quite make the 1400 miles in 14 days but we feel that what we did achieve was still an admirable effort and all being well we will return to Edinburgh next year and complete the remaining 500 or so miles.

Obviously it would be a waste to embark on such a madcap adventure without doing what we could to raise some money for charity and so far we have raised in excess of £2000 for our chosen charities, Cancer Research UK, Crohn's & Colitis UK and PDSA. To find out more about what we have been doing and why, you can visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/getonyourbikeandride or www.virginmoneygiving.com/getonyourbikeandride where you can also make a donation if you think our efforts have been worthwhile. There is the option on the donation site to choose to give to any of the charities individually should you prefer to do so. For anyone who doesn't have access to online facilities or prefers not to donate in this way Fraser and Maria Lindsay have kindly agreed to hold a sponsor form at the Post Office for physical donations. If you are interested in the route we took or would like to find out about other cycle routes to use then visit www.sustrans.org.uk . □



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John Lambert's National Service Experiences (No 5)

As I had signed on for the extra year when I joined the "Paras", I served the last 15 months in the "Middle East", at the Suez Canal to be exact.

It was while we were there that our Commanding Officer arranged with the Jordanian Army to stage a mock battle. Another name for the Jordanian Army is the "Arab Legion" not to be confused with the "Foreign Legion".

We took off from "Fayid" airfield halfway through the night on the 1st February 1954. It's amazing just how slow the old propeller planes were in comparison to the modern jet.

We had an advanced party who set up the rendezvous place and marked it with a smoke signal. There is a range of hills around Jerusalem and Bethlehem. We encountered the Arab Legion in these hills, but every time we got close to them they all vanished and this went on from 7.00am 1st February until 2.00am 2nd February, when they surrendered. Getting back to when we started, we took lorries, jeeps and motorcycles (incidentally you need 21 parachutes to bring a lorry down and 7 for a jeep).

When we had finished, they took us all back to their camp which was just outside "Amman" the capital of Jordan. I can see it now, there were 600 of us and we had one cold water tap between us, this was for drinking, washing, shaving etc., 'great fun!' We obviously couldn't speak their language and they couldn't speak ours, but like the old saying goes "where there's a will, there's a way". We got by with hand signals.

I managed to swap my Red Beret for an Arab Headdress, which I still have today. □



Gallipoli Centenary Memorial Service Saturday 15th August 2015 at 2.30pm for 3pm

My grateful thanks to the Rev Julie Boyd for agreeing for the fourth year running to hold a Gallipoli Memorial service in St Nicholas Church in Dersingham.

This will now be the 11th year running that a service has been held to remember the contribution made by local Norfolk men of the 4th & 5th Battalions of the Norfolk Regiment. **It is now 100 years** since these men went to serve their country against the Ottoman Empire (what is now Turkey) in August 1915. Many of them sadly didn't return.

The Bishop of Lynn will be giving the sermon. His Grandfather was killed at Gallipoli whilst serving as a member of The Royal Naval Division.

Once again many organizations will continue to be represented this year. These include the British Legion, Royal Norfolk & Royal Anglian Association, Norfolk army cadets, Norfolk Air Force Cadets, Britain Australia Society, members of Gallipoli & Dardanelles International, London Legacy and military representatives from Australia, New Zealand and Turkey.

On this special day, a very warm welcome is extended to all to participate in the service. After the service there will be tea and ANZAC biscuits served in the Church Hall.

If you would like to know more about the service, please contact, the organiser – John Crowe on: E mail – johncrowe@uwclub.net, Tel: 020 8697 2787 or Mobile: 07956 188826
Also visit www.gdinternational.org.uk □



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Dersingham Bog News from Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

NATURAL
ENGLAND

As I'm writing this article it seems like summer has arrived in full force with temperatures of 30°C predicted for the next few days.

Nightjars are back in number and we have around 18-20 churring males on the reserve this year. Last year however was a bit of a strange year. There was a distinct lack of females on the site, the birds seemed unsettled and there appeared to be a lot of unpaired males charging around. This year however seems different, the birds are much more

settled, and there are significantly more females than last year and plenty of successful nests already. Nightjar have also been giving many of the visitors and staff excellent views and a walk along the main footpath just before dusk on a warm night can provide excellent views of this nocturnal bird.



Over the last few years we have been monitoring Stonechat in detail and have been attaching coloured rings to birds as part of a bird ringing project working with the British Trust for Ornithology volunteers. These coloured rings are individual to a bird and allow us to monitor these individual birds over the course of their life. We had an interesting sighting of one of these colour ringed Stonechats recently with a female seen around the old landfill. On viewing the rings I suddenly realised that there was something amiss and the colours I had seen on this female didn't match any of the birds I'd rung on the reserve. On looking at the coloured rings in more detail it became apparent that this bird had been ringed elsewhere. This is what bird ringers would call a 'control'.

A control is a bird ringed by another bird ringer or ringing group seen at least two kilometres from where it was originally ringed. This is quite an exciting time for a bird ringer, wondering where this bird has originally come from and what part of the country or world was it originally ringed. The bird seen at the land fill was originally ringed in the Thetford area in 2014 and was first seen at Dersingham Bog on the 23rd March 2015. A movement of some 51km!

If anyone sees any colour ringed birds and sees the combination of colour rings on it please let me know. This information is really valuable in our monitoring of Stonechat and other species such as the Woodlark and Tree Pipit. You may be lucky and see a colour ringed bird of a totally different species on the reserve and we would be especially excited to hear about this.

The volunteer team has been carrying on with maintaining the infrastructure on the reserve and has had to make repairs to steps and fences on different parts of the site. They have also been involved in cutting and raking two mire (bog) restoration plots. Some of our other volunteers have been helping with species monitoring and have been completing dragonfly and moth surveys on different parts of the reserve. Other members of the volunteer team have been taking water samples from the newly installed bio beds to see how well the bed has been filtering the nutrients out of the water. We have also been monitoring the water levels on site and members of the team have been out doing a monthly check of the levels across the bog measuring the water in specialist tubes called Dipwells. This allows us to monitor the height of the water across the wetter parts of the site and enables us to see how the levels are affected by the weather and our water control structures in the boundary ditch.

As ever if you are out on site and have any questions or need something identifying please stop and see us and I look forward to seeing some of you out on the reserve.

thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

□





Dersingham Walking Group

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. In coming weeks we will amble round the footpaths of Brancaster and Burnham Overy, both up on the coast, and Syderstone inland. Then, in a fitting finale to our summer programme there's the opportunity for a dawn walk down to the RSPB reserve to see the highest predicted tide of the year. Led by Steve Davis, our RSPB volunteer, there should be plenty of interesting bird activity at the high tide. Hopefully wellies will not be needed!

The walks are free, just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Dogs are welcome (except for the walk to the RSPB reserve), provided they're well behaved. The length is shown for each walk but they usually take a couple of hours or so, with a stop halfway. Why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company! Details of our next walks follow:

Wednesday 22nd July 6:30pm

Starting point: St Mary's church, Brancaster.
Grid ref: TF 772 439

An evening walk around the village of Brancaster. Length of walk: 4 miles

Leader: Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940

Wednesday 12th August 2:00pm

Starting point: By the staithe at Burnham Overy Staithe
Grid ref: TF 844 443

A coastal exploration, with plenty of views of boats and birds. Length of walk: 4.5 miles

Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Wednesday 26th August 2:00pm

Starting point: The car park approximately ¾ mile from Knights Hill on the right of the Lynn to Grimston road. Grid ref: TF 680 230

A tour of Roydon Common when the heather should be in full bloom. Length of walk: 4.5 miles

Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757

Wednesday 9th September 2:00pm

Starting point: St Mary's Church, Syderstone.
Grid ref: TF 832 326

A circular walk around Syderstone village and countryside. Length of walk: 5 miles

Leader: Cliff Jordan 01485 541115

Wednesday 30th September 6:30am! *(The early worm catches the bird!! Ed.)*

Starting point: The Old Station (SEMBAs), Station Rd Dersingham.

Grid ref: TF 680 307 Length of walk: 6 miles, about 3 hours. *(Not suitable for dogs).*

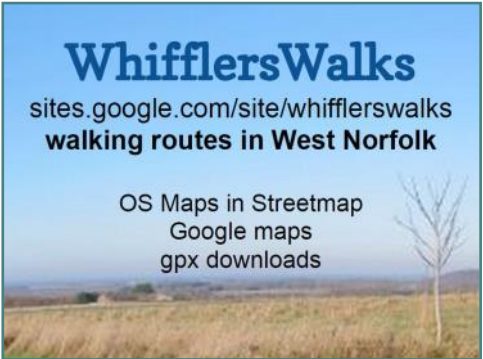
A dawn walk to the RSPB Reserve to catch the highest predicted tide of the year and bird activity.

Leader: Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

Full walks programme on the parish council website. www.dersingham.org.uk/announcements

Quoted grid references are for the relevant Ordnance Survey map, usually Landranger sheet 132 or Explorer sheet 250. 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. As Alfred Wainwright said "watch where you put your feet"!

If you would like more information about an individual walk, such as the going underfoot, stiles etc, please contact the walk leader.



Stephen Martyn—Group Co-ordinator
01485 541333 stephenmartyn@gmail.com □



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The Sandringham Newsletter

*by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
compiled by Helen Walch*



Although the weather was cool and breezy, there was plenty of sunshine in April and May and trees and plants responded, putting out leaves and flowers very quickly. Swallows returned in numbers, too, and have been seeking out nesting sites on walls and under eaves, and moorhen chicks started to appear on the lakes in the Gardens alongside the ducklings and goslings.

The Visitor Centre Restaurant's vegetable patch in the Walled Garden is leafing up well, and the first lettuces are now appearing on plates. Later in the season, cherry tomatoes, radicchio and chillis will be cropping alongside the courgettes and french and runner beans. Also in the Walled Garden is Gardens House, which originally was the Head Gardener's house and is now a very popular holiday cottage sleeping up to eight people. It was redecorated in April to freshen it up ahead of the busy summer holiday period.

One fairly large project over the last few weeks has been replacing unsightly overhead power lines crossing Sandringham Park with underground cables. The work is now nearly complete with the trenches greening over again, and they should be all but invisible in another few weeks. Putting the cables underground improves the views across the Park, and makes things easier for the organisers of the various events that take place.



On Whit Sunday, a service of commemoration was held in West Newton Church marking the hundredth anniversary this year of the battle of Suvla Bay at Gallipoli in which so many Sandringham Estate staff were killed. The names of all 34 Estate staff who were killed during World War I were read out, and wreaths were laid in their memory at the War Memorial.

May was a busy month in the Gardens, preparing and planting out the annual bedding plants and changing over the planters. For the most part the weather was helpful with rain coming at the right time to settle in the planting. Time was also spent staking the perennial borders and tying in sweet peas. Weed and grass growth have been quite rapid all Spring, so keeping up with mowing and weeding has been a priority for the Gardens staff.

Farm staff are looking ahead and getting prepared for harvest next month; the grain driers have been cleaned, combine harvesters have been overhauled, and all the farm tracks are being checked for potholes needing filling.

Once the driving trials were over, preparations in the Park for the Flower Show began, and the next few weeks will be busy ones at the Visitor Centre, too. Full details are on the Events Calendar of this website, but there will be two car rallies, one brass band concert and a traditional dance display. □





Record Air Miles

If you've ever been on a long haul flight then you'll know how wearying it can be. The hours seem to drag by, the unending tedium and boredom broken only by rare offerings of food and beverages and trips to the Lilliputian sized toilet. As a frequent long hauler I always envy passengers who are able to blissfully sleep through the whole experience and make flying look so effortless. But what if I were a migrating bird? Many avian species travel amazing distances over the course of their lifetimes. The arctic terns, for instance, make the longest migration of any animal, travelling on average 44,000 miles each year! That's equivalent to three trips to the moon and back during their lifespan.



The current longest non-stop commercial flight from Dallas to Sydney, a distance of 8,500 miles, lasts a staggering 15 hours. It sounds like a long time to be up in the air and would require a great many G&Ts to pass away the time! However, it's a mere drop in the ocean when compared to the record for the longest nonstop flight for a bird. This belongs to the bar-tailed godwit which will fly over 7,000 miles from Alaska to New Zealand without ever stopping for food or rest. An amazing and perilous 9 day journey! These avian long distance flights are all the more incredible when we take into account the thousands of birds which never reach their final destinations.

So, why do birds migrate? In areas where there are large numbers of birds breeding at any given time, food supplies and nesting sites are soon in short supply. Predation is high with a great many chicks providing ready meals en masse. In short, in order to survive, the birds need to find a safe place to breed and raise their young.

We know that birds are aero-dynamic by nature with hollow bones that enable flight. Nature has also equipped them with super efficient respiratory and heat exchange systems, especially useful when flying at altitude. Good navigational skills allow many migrants to return not only to the same area, but the same bush in the same field year after year! But despite that, birds do get lost, especially in bad weather. Flying over oceans means that many birds are driven into the waves by strong winds and storms, flying overland can be hazardous if birds face sandstorms, forest fires or other acute weather problems. But it's not just weather that can be precarious. In urban areas, skyscrapers, radio masts and powerlines also kill many migrating birds each year whilst others fall foul of predators who take advantage of hapless birds making a pitstop.

It is definitely a feat of endurance and sadly many birds arrive too weak to survive or complete the return journey home. In Britain, we are well placed for summer migrants, winter migrants and those that are just passing through. During summer months, migrating birds such as swallows, martins and cuckoos arrive here. Many of these species are insect eaters and migrate north when Britain's insect population is regenerating. As food supplies begin to dwindle they will return to their tropical habitats.

In the autumn, migrant waders begin to arrive and populate estuarine regions such as The Wash. These areas, with shellfish and invertebrates in good supply, provide rich feeding grounds for birds choosing to overwinter away from colder climes. It is not unusual to witness tens of thousands of Arctic knot wheeling over the mudflats of RSPB Snettisham at this time of year. Many RSPB reserves also play host to passage migrants which are taking a short sojourn en route further south. Protecting their resting habitats is a vital part of what we do to ensure that migrating birds are able to recover and refuel. Without these safety zones and stopping points many of these 'long haulers' never gain the energy they need to finish their journeys.



Carrie Carey, RSPB Visitor Experience Manager □

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The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle (a.k.a. Valerie Anckorn)



My, I am tired. I recently hired a pop-up-shop at Dalegate Market, Burnham Deepdale, and installed my artwork, candles and pottery. The problem with being creative and making lots of stuff is the question of finding a home for it all. This was my plan therefore – sell the lot, make some money for supplies, then start the process all over again.

Well, I did sell some things, but not enough. Customers seemed apathetic, many of them walking by all the pop ups and not even glancing at them, let alone stop and look. It was all a bit dispiriting, and I wished I were back home, painting. My back, hips and knees were hurting from all the packing and carting around and all that waiting, waiting, waiting (for custom) is also exhausting.

However, I always feel that any effort that one makes in life is not wasted, even if it doesn't have the end result that was anticipated or hoped for. So what happened to me that was different? Yes, I covered the cost of my rent with a little left over as profit, but what was amazing was that a lady asked for my card, telling me that she worked at an art gallery, and she would tell her manager about me! I soon spoke to the manager, who liked my artwork, and has asked me to contribute to their summer show, and said she would like to give me my own exhibition. Well!!!! I can't tell you how excited I am. I realise I still might never sell any of my work, but just being WANTED is the buzz! And, doesn't it show that an initial effort is required and that you never know what is ahead of you, but that nothing will EVER happen in your life unless you give it a go! I might yet get that Chicken Portraiture Of The Year Award (Guess what paintings got the most 'likes'? Yes, the chicken ones!)

The garden is in glorious bloom. I planted a small laburnum tree a couple of years ago and it has excelled itself, throwing from its branches plump chandeliers of brilliant yellow. The only time I see the front garden is through the window when I write in my office, and it has always frustrated me that I have to walk half way to Hunstanton (I exaggerate a tad) going via the road to get into that particular garden. Tomorrow the builder arrives to take out my office window and install a garden door so that I can waft out directly into the garden. I am excited at the anticipated result.



And, I have signed on for a creative writing course. Many might say I need it, and I look forward to the challenge. For me, writing is a way of life. I don't actually talk a lot, but when I put pen to paper or fingers to keyboards, away I fly... 'Winging it' is okay as far as it goes, but I never having been properly educated, I feel it is about time I learned to do the job properly! So much to cram into my life now I know that the grim reaper waiteth. Why didn't I do all these things years ago? Still, it's said that 'it's never too late'!



My dog gets corns. Apparently only long dogs get these so he has to have them out every now and again. He also gets ticks. Nasty things ticks – nasty to look at and nasty to dogs' bodies. I found out that you can get a little hook thing to hoik the horrid insects out. It's called, appropriately enough, a 'tick hook', and your vet probably supplies them, but you can also get them online. It is apparently dangerous to try to get ticks out with

tweezers in case the head and legs are left in – the hook is pushed under the bloated, revolting body, and then you twist the hook around until the whole creature just comes out. Brilliant. My dog was once very ill with an undetected tick and sometimes death can occur. Ticks lurk in long grasses waiting to sense the vibrations of an approaching animal, and then they pounce.



You might have seen a recent television program entitled Britain's Greatest Generation, featuring some veterans from the Second World War, my Uncle Fergus being one of them. He wasn't fighting in the war for long. After embarking onto the shores of Singapore, driving a gun lorry down the ramps he was soon in the midst of gunfire. He felt a bullet go through his leg and another through his wrist. There was a huge explosion and he knew no more. For some reason he had been transporting a Dixie (a kind of bowl) full of beetroot, which had splattered around the cab, so that when his friends opened the door, they assumed it was his blood and guts that so liberally covered windows and walls, so left him for dead for some time.

He woke up in the Alexander Hospital, with a badly tied tourniquet around his wrist that was leaking blood all over his chest. He was puzzled to see rampaging Japanese through the window who were either drunk, on drugs or raving mad. They were running with fixed bayonets and had killed everyone in their path, including doctors, nurses and patients. The door of his ward was slammed open and in rushed the raiders, screaming with hatred, thrusting their bayonets into every patient in every bed. My uncle, preferring not to see his murderer at close quarters, quickly covered his face with a sheet, noting at the same time how bloody it was. He heard a screaming attacker approach his bed and flinching inwardly, wondered what he might have been in life had he lived. There were the frantic thuds of a bayonet being slammed against his locker by the bed, but by some miracle, he was left alone. He can only surmise that because of the sheet over his face and the amount of blood on it, his particular nemesis presumed he was already dead, so took out his fury on the locker instead.

His hand eventually healed itself, though he didn't have the use of all his fingers, but he realized how lucky he was to still retain it. When in the operating theatre, the surgeon had recognized him as one of the concert team – his forte was being a magician – so instead of chopping off the hand which only hung by a thread, he cobbled together all the veins, tendons, ligaments and so on as he realized that without a hand, this man could not be a 'sleight of hand' magician...years later, on Civvie Street, he was stopped by a man who turned out to be the same surgeon. "How's your hand?" he enquired. Fergus replied, "not too bad, but I can't move all my fingers". "Come along and see me in Harley Street" said the surgeon. "I can sort it out now with more time and proper equipment", and so he did.

Fergus still performs his magic, and is the oldest member of The Magic Circle in London. He is a great entertainer, eloquent, loquacious and amusing, and he spends much of his time now, going around the country giving talks on the rigors and deprivation that he and his fellow soldiers suffered as Japanese POWs.

His magic came in handy when the camp commandant made him perform in front of some of his guests. Fergus decided to do tricks that involved food, so asked for some eggs to practice with. All his messmates had omelet



that day, and Fergus kept one egg for the trick. Asked later by the Commandant why he had needed so many eggs when he had used only one, Ferg's reply was that he needed to practice, as he didn't want the Commandant to lose face in front of his guests if the trick had gone wrong!

Fergus found another way in which to earn the favour of food (they had so little and were resigned to eating the maggots from their wounds). He was a dab hand at shorthand, which is a method of taking down the *sounds* of words. He was therefore able to take down the Japanese language, even though he didn't understand it, and then take the message to the other side of the camp. This gained him a few more grains of rice...

In the Imperial War Museum there is, amongst other of Fergus's war memorabilia, a post card addressed to his mother (who, as her son went off to war, reminded him to 'keep smiling'.) They were allowed to send a pre-printed postcard, where they struck out words that were not applicable, so a very brief but impersonal message could be sent to loved ones, such as "I am in good health". Instead of signing his usual signature, he made one up with shorthand symbols that read, "Still smiling". At first, not recognizing her son's signature and believing it to be a cruel hoax, his mother took to her bed, believing that he was dead, but after a couple of days, resurfaced to take another look at the postcard. She had once been a secretary with excellent shorthand, and she suddenly realized that there was a message within his name. Leaping from her bed, she rushed downstairs shouting, "He's alive, he's alive" to the bemusement of the family.

If you are interested, there is a biography written about my uncle called *Captivity, Slavery and Survival as a Far East POW – The Conjurer on the Kwai*, written by Peter Fyans. Also, if you type in my uncle's name (Fergus Anckorn) in Google or Youtube there are many clips of him. He is the most fascinating of men. I have been blessed with him and my dear old Dad – also a very interesting person, though luckily he was saved from such dreadful consequences of war.

Fergus Anckorn is available for talks should anyone be interested, on the condition that his travel is arranged. He is not so mobile as he used to be. □

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Dersingham Methodist Church News from Elizabeth Batstone

*'Beautiful flower arrangements, lovely church, wonderful lunch,
interesting church history.'*



These are some of the many comments heard at our recent flower festival and 125th church anniversary. The time seemed to fly by and we were pleased that so many people, from near and far, came to see the displays, read the time line of the church history and enjoy food and fellowship. After expenses the total raised was £2,462, of which £500 has been donated to the QEH Wheel Appeal and the rest for church funds.

The church services were very well attended, the Rev Julian Pursehouse, Chair of the East Anglia Methodist District took the morning service and cut the anniversary cake and joined us for lunch. The United Songs of Praise was an excellent time of praise and thanksgiving, and the collection for the Nepal Earthquake Disaster fund raised £260.

Thank you all for your support and helping us achieve so much and in so doing help others.

Coffee mornings – the next one will be on Saturday 26th September and will be part of our harvest celebrations. Funds raised will be for the King's Lynn FoodBank and donations for the FoodBank will be received as part of the Harvest services on Sunday 27th September.

We look forward to seeing you at any of our usual activities and also our services. □



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No 97 (Dec 2015/Jan 2016)	Wednesday 4th November 2015	Monday 23rd November 2015
No 98 (Feb/Mar 2016)	Wednesday 13th January 2016	Monday 1st February 2016

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Around 2,500 residential and business properties in Dersingham receive a copy of Village Voice with another 600 available to subscribers, businesses and shop counters around and about. It is also available online from our website at dersingham.org.uk. Do please support the services advertisers provide and mention where you saw their advert. Our advert prices are £17.50 for an eighth page, £27.50 for a quarter, £50 for a half and £95 for a full page. Discounts available for block bookings paid up-front. VAT is no longer payable. Full details and booking forms can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the Parish Office or email: villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk and returned together with payment by mid-day of the copy deadlines given above at the latest.

Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be preferably emailed directly to the Editor: editor@dersingham.org.uk or posted to **The Editor, % Dersingham Parish Council Office** (address below), ideally well ahead of the above copy deadlines to stand a better chance of inclusion. Available space for articles is governed by the both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue received from advertising. We like Village Voice to be special for our primarily Dersingham readers, so articles should try to be customised accordingly and not just part of a round-robin Press Release to all local publications. Dates of forthcoming events mentioned must take place after the publication dates listed at the top of this page. Items/flyers purely to advertise non-profit making events should aim to fit (and be readable) within a quarter page slot. We hope you will provide photos/graphics/logos etc to accompany promotions or articles. Digital pictures need to be 300 dots/pixels per inch (about 118 per cm.). Most Office document and picture file formats are accepted.

The Editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions will be accepted on the understanding that, unless requested otherwise, names, addresses, etc, may be included and maintained on the Parish Council's database. Published material will also appear on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed, or accuracy of statements made, by contributors. □

Dersingham Parish Council Office

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The Production Team for this edition consists of
 Editor/Distribution Co-ordinator: Steve Davis. Editorial assistant: Rob Smyth
 Administration: Sarah Bristow (*Parish Clerk*) Advertising: Tony Bubb
 Printed by Clanpress Ltd, Dundee Ct., Hamburg Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk

Answers to Puzzles

Word Wall:

1. Parts of Eye: BALL, CORNEA, IRIS, LENS
2. Half: BACK, BOARD, CROWN, NELSON
3. Cats: OUNCE, CIVET, PERSIAN, JAGUAR
4. Boxing Weights: FLY, BANTAM, FEATHER, MIDDLE

Where is it? What is it?

You may have guessed fairly easily that this is the spin-in-the-wind bit of a weather vane. It lives on the end of an old barn in Shernborne, something to look out for when next you pass.



Solution to Sudoku No. 43

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

James Graven's **Budgens** of Dersingham



Your local family owned retailers

Enjoy the holiday season with:

*Fresh Local Meats
Fresh Fruit & Veg
Local Baked Bread*

*Everyday low prices +
regular special offers!*



Budgens
of Dersingham

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Kings Lynn,
PE31 6JX

Tel: 01485 544055

Fax: 01485 543508

Email: budgensdersingham@jamesgraven.com

Open
Mon-Fri:
07:00-21:00
Sat:
07:00-20:00
Sun:
10:00-16:00

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday August 4th

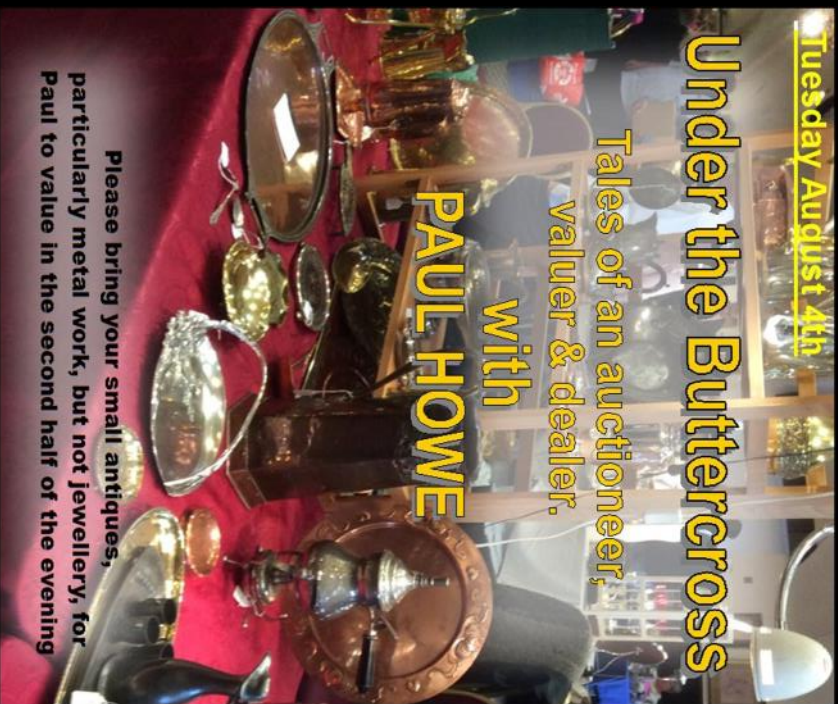
Under the Buttercross

Tales of an auctioneer,
valuer & dealer.

with

PAUL HOWE

Please bring your small antiques,
particularly metal work, but not jewellery, for
Paul to value in the second half of the evening



St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday September 1st

Richard Rigby & Jan
present for your delectation

A Magic Lantern Spectacular!

“Four Centuries of projected entertainment”



St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle