

Number 157

December 2025/January 2026

Village Voice

THE DORSINGHAM MAGAZINE



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Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones



We have given the front cover to one of the greetings cards of Roman Kutsaienko, a Ukrainian teenager whose family lives in Dersingham. He sells these to help support Ukrainian orphans. More on this story inside.

As you can see below, we are now looking for someone to take over as editor of *Village Voice*. Full training can be given to anyone interested in this role. It's quite busy every two months coming up to the deadline, but you can really take a break in between! Geri in the office does the layout (very brilliantly), so you don't have to worry about that.

We have a bumper Christmas edition for you - apologies to our wonderful distributors for the extra weight. It's taken a while to get it all sorted out as I have been laid low with Covid and Geri has also been under the weather. But hopefully we've got our coughs and snuffles out of the way before Christmas.

Yes, it's that time again. The Christmas ads are in full swing, lights will soon be strewn across houses and gardens, plans are being made for decorations, meals and presents, wrapping paper is retrieved from the bottom drawer (is there any that can be reused from last year? Hmm, perhaps a bit too creased, but will Aunty Mary really mind?) But right now I am still enjoying unusually balmy November days, with colourful leaves gently falling like snow from my birch trees. Amazingly there are some figs ripening outside the kitchen window, albeit being pecked by blackbirds. This is the first time ever that we've had a second crop in a year. Very mediterranean.....

Village sporting activities are mainly closing down for the winter, with equipment packed away, but with social gatherings continuing, except for those hardy tennis players who keep going despite the winter chill, as does the Dersingham Walking Group. We read of how various village groups will celebrate the festive season, of concerts and parties, and the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas Church. Coral Shepherd continues with her articles about those servicemen who are commemorated on the village War Memorial. Brian Anderson explores the subject of evolution. We also give space to photographs of the highly entertaining Flower Festival that took place in October. It was based around the theme of Books, and so many familiar and favourite works were depicted in imaginative displays. Quite stunning.

Finally, from the *Village Voice* team here at the Parish Council, we would like to wish our readers health and happiness for Christmas, New Year and the year ahead. And we should like to thank our contributors, our distributors and our advertisers for their much-valued support. □

New Editor Needed Jo Halpin Jones

I have thoroughly enjoyed my years as the editor of *Village Voice*, but the time has come for me to hand over the reins to someone else. We are looking for someone with knowledge and experience of Photoshop or some other image software, or at least be prepared to learn. Ideally they would also be familiar with Microsoft Word and have a good grasp of grammar and spelling in order to edit the magazine. Anyone taking over could work alongside myself until they felt comfortable with the role. There is an honorarium to support this position.

To discuss this opportunity further, please contact Coral Shepherd, Parish Council Chairman, on 01485 542247 or email

Dersingham Neighbourhood Plan Nigel Barker, Working Group Chairman



The Parish Council have embarked on the exciting journey of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The services of a consultant have been secured and a Working Group has been formed, with the process expected to last about 18 months. But what is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led vision for the future of our village. It will set out how we would like our parish to develop over the coming years, guiding decisions on new homes, local facilities, green spaces and infrastructure.

Created by local residents, the Plan will reflect what matters most to our community, shaped through consultation and other evidence.

Once approved, the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory planning framework. This means it carries real weight in shaping future planning applications, helping us protect what we value, while supporting appropriate, sustainable growth.

If you would like to know more, please pop along to our drop-in consultation event at the Village Centre on **Saturday 29th November between 10am and 3pm**. There will be free tea, coffee and biscuits plus, more importantly, the opportunity for you to give us your thoughts at this very early stage. You can also keep in touch with progress by registering your interest as a resident or local business, by simply using the QR code.□



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Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



We have been busy at the Parish Council over the last couple of months, and for those of you who are regular bus users there is some good news. We will be providing seats in the two bus shelters in Chapel Road and Manor Road together with a bench at the bus stop in Hunstanton Road just north of the junction with Woodside Avenue. We are being given a grant by Norfolk County Council that will cover most of the cost. We have also put two new seats at The Warren. Finally, we have agreed to replace several streetlights in Woodside Avenue and Woodside Close as they have reached the end of their safe life. This work should take place before next spring.

We are now starting on the annual process of considering our budgets for the next financial year, April 2026 to March 2027. We finalise our budget in January and this then enables us to set the precept, the amount that we need for the upcoming financial year. Like everyone else we are affected by increasing prices so yet again will be faced by having to decide if we need to increase the precept.

While talking about increasing costs we were shocked last year to learn that the Borough Council were making a large increase in the charges to empty the dog waste bins. The cost to us increased from just over £3000 to over £8000 for the year. The Borough have a monopoly on this service as there are no other companies within 100 miles that we could approach. The Borough Council have at the same time introduced new rules about the amount of weight that their staff can lift and how high above ground that the bins should be. So, we have been in discussion with them because as and when we need to replace bins they will need to be smaller and closer to the ground. As part of these discussions the Borough Council have given us some figures on the amount of dog waste in each bin. I was amazed to learn that on average the weight emptied each week from all of our bins across the village is slightly over one metric tonne. I have checked the figures and yes, this amazing amount is right, no wonder the Borough are concerned about the weight of all of this waste. Our discussions with the Borough Council continue. □

Dersingham Postage Stamp Tony Bubb

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the investiture of HRH The Prince of Wales in 1994 was marked by Royal Mail by issuing five stamps depicting watercolours by him. They were also sold as postcards and this is the Dersingham one. Can you work out what is depicted and where it was painted from? □





News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Association Matters

We are updating our website; by the time you are reading this it should look quite different. We are truly grateful to Stephen Martyn who set up and managed our old site for several years.

Coffee Shop

Every Thursday, between 10am and 12:30, we catch up with our regular customers and extend a very warm welcome to visitors. On offer are very reasonably priced home-baked savouries and cakes and hot and cold drinks. Tapping House take over on the first Thursday each month, with a slightly different menu, and the proceeds support the excellent work carried out at the Hospice.

Friendship Lunches

On the first Tuesday each month, we serve a freshly cooked two-course meal, with tea or coffee, for just £8.

The December lunch will have a festive menu and we will have wine and beer available to purchase. Numbers are limited and booking is required. Call 01485 540644 by noon on the *Thursday* beforehand and also advise us of any allergy or dietary needs.

Events

Our annual Barn Dance took place on October 25th, and was enjoyed by all who attended. I would like to thank all those who helped preparing for and clearing up after the event.

Village Cinema

I am pleased to confirm that the ticket price has been held at £6. There is no film in December. January's showing will be *Downton Abbey, The Grand Finale*.

Christmas and New Year

The Centre will be closed from Monday December 22nd and will re-open on Saturday January 3rd. For more information about the Centre, what's on, contact details, visit our website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk. We also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.



Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year from all at the Centre.□



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Dersingham War Memorial – John Howard to Donald Prior Coral Shepherd

This article picks up from where I left off with brief stories about those who died in the Second World War and are commemorated on our war memorial at the junction of Station Road and Hunstanton Road. To recap, following the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day I researched the nineteen men who lost their lives during the Second World War and I recommence with **John Howard**, better known as **Jack**.



Jack was born on Valentine's Day in 1918 to Frederick and Daisy Howard. He had a twin brother, Walter, an older brother, Frederick, a younger sister, Georgina, and brother, Leonard. They lived at Pleasant Place. John worked with his brother at D and P Terrington Butchers in Manor Road. He was a bike delivery boy and general assistant and was single.

He was called up and joined the Army serving as a private in the 5th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment. The battalion sailed from Liverpool in 1941 to Halifax in Canada, then onwards to Trinidad, Cape Town and Mombasa, eventually reaching Singapore on 13th January 1942. The battalion was involved in fighting in and around Singapore where Jack was wounded and admitted to the Civil General Hospital on 1st February 1942. He died of his wounds on 6th February aged 24, less than a month after his arrival in Singapore.

He is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Cemetery at Kranji in Singapore. His brother Walter survived the war and died in 1984 aged 76.

The next recorded person is **Wilfred Fitzroy Stanley Jakeman**. Wilfred was born in 1904 to William and Alice Jakeman who at that time were living in Castle Rising but had moved to Centre Vale by 1921. Wilfred was the oldest of eight children, four boys, Wilfred, Edwin, Leonard and Grenville and four girls, Ivy, Audrey, Ada and Norah. Their father was a gardener at Sandringham and Wilfred followed his father's footsteps by training as a gardener at Sandringham. He married Harriet Drew (Hattie) in 1930 and they had one daughter, Barbara in 1933. They moved to London where Wilfred continued his career as a gardener. In 1939 Wilfred was living in Wandsworth, London but Harriet had returned to the safety of Dersingham. She lived with her parents in Glebe Road, but their six-year-old daughter was living with neighbours, Mr and Mrs Twiddy.



Wilfred, as well as his work as a gardener, was also a Special Constable based at Kensington Police Station. At that time many men who did not serve in the armed forces, either because of age, health or being in a reserved profession, worked in the emergency services. A hard life, working at their profession all day and working as a volunteer in the evenings or at night. Sleep must have been a precious commodity. Wilfred was killed during a German attack in the last main raid of the Blitz on 11th May 1941, aged 36. He died at Elvaston Place, London SW7. The events of that night are well documented and several incendiary devices had fallen. As the police were dealing with them one high explosive bomb was dropped, killing, amongst others, three police officers, PC Charles Swift age 30, Police War Reserve Constable Alfred Edward Knapp age 52, as well as Wilfred Jakeman. On that night over 500 bombers flew to London with the bombing lasting seven hours from 11pm on 10th May to 5am on 11th. Thirty-three

planes were shot down, 1436 people died and over 200 injured.

Wilfred was buried in the churchyard at St Nicholas Church in Dersingham. Sadly, his grave is unmarked although I have established that he is buried beside his parents. His mother died in 1944 and his father in 1946. His daughter Barbara married in 1957 in Fakenham but died aged only 44 in 1978 in Isleworth.

Next, two members of the Nurse family are commemorated. **Edwin Henry Nurse** was born in 1919 to Robert and Roseanne Nurse. He was their youngest child, and had four older brothers, George, Alexander, John Leslie and Basil. He was a gardener at Sandringham, leaving there in 1938 when he joined the army. He served as a footguard in the Coldstream Guards. He was first sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force and was evacuated from Dunkirk. His next foreign service was in North Africa where he fought in the Tunisia campaign. There was heavy shelling on 20th February 1943, and Edwin was killed, aged 23. He is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Enfidaville in Tunisia.



The second member of the Nurse family was **James Ernest Nurse** and here I encountered a few problems. I can find no record of his birth or life, although from his age when he died it is likely that he was born in 1920. I have established that he worked on the Sandringham Estate and served in the 7th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment. This was a Territorial Army unit that was deployed in France with the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division. They were initially stationed on the Maginot Line and later moved to St Valery-en-Caux. The battalion was part of the 51st Division's final stand at St Valery-en-Caux where they were trapped and surrendered to the Germans on 12th June 1940. They became prisoners of war, although thirty-one managed to escape and return to England. James was killed in fighting on 11th June (I did find some details but the circumstances were too grim to publish). He was buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Franco-British Cemetery at St Valery-en-Caux. He is also commemorated on the Sandringham War Memorial. Unfortunately, there is no photograph. If anyone has any further knowledge or photograph of James and his family, please let me know.



The next person commemorated is **Arthur William Pease**. He was born in 1924 in Beetley near Dereham to Charles and Emma Pease. He had one older brother, Frederick, one older sister, Winifred and five younger sisters, Barbara, Daphne, Phyllis, Florence and Pamela. His father was a farm labourer and the family moved several times; they were in Dersingham in 1939. He and his brother were also both farm labourers and were Air Raid Precautions wardens. When Arthur was called up he joined the army serving as a gunner in the 59th (Medium Regiment of the Royal Artillery. In 1944, the 59th (4th West Lancashire) Medium Regiment Royal Artillery was operating in

Holland during the latter stages of World War II. The regiment was involved in major operations, including the advance into the Netherlands following Operation Market Garden. They engaged in actions related to the push along the road to Arnhem and supporting attacks on the Siegfried Line. Arthur died on 4th December 1944 aged 20. He is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Venray, Limberg, Holland.



Finally for this article **Donald Frederick Prior**. He was born in 1923 in Brixton to Albert Charles and Daisy Prior. His father served in the

First World War in the Royal Fusiliers, and he died in 1926 when Donald was only three. The family were living in Pansey Drive at that time.

When he was called up he joined the RAF and served in 307 (Lwowski Polish) Squadron as a Flight Sergeant and was based at Church Fenton in Yorkshire. He was killed in a flying accident on 5th January 1945 aged 22. He was the navigator in a de Havilland Mosquito and was on a night training flight when the plane crashed into the sea several miles south of Valley in Anglesey (they had taken off from Church Fenton). It is thought that the crash may have been due to loss of control caused by icing in cloud. The pilot, Wing Commander Albert Martin from Trinidad, was also killed. Their bodies were never found and they are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey. Wing Commander Albert Martin flew in the Dambusters raid where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). He was a key member of 617 Squadron responsible for training new crews in specialized low-level flying techniques.

I will write about the final six men named on the war memorial in the next edition.

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



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Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides make Poppies for Church

Elizabeth Wheeler

The Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have all spent time in their weekly meetings to make poppies for the Poppy Arch that was created in St Nicholas Church ready for Remembrance Sunday.



Each group made poppies in different ways; the Guides were all given a circle of red fabric which they sewed around the edge to gather together before attaching a button to hold it all in place and complete the poppy. The 1st and 2nd Brownies used the base of plastic drinks bottles which they covered in felt or tissue paper to create the poppy petals.

The Rainbows were lucky enough to have Jackie and Val (from St Nicholas Church) join them at their meeting to help them sew a button onto their two felt poppy petals to create their unique poppies.



The girls were all looking forward to seeing all the poppies in November.□

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Support for Ukraine Nataliya Churikova



In a world created for peace and love, the intrusion of evil brings forth destruction and war, casting shadows over the tranquility. The current global landscape is marred by numerous challenges, making it a difficult time for many.

As a Ukrainian family who sought refuge over three years ago amidst the Russian invasion, our lives took a drastic turn. Once content and joyful in Ukraine, a significant portion of our homeland fell under Russian occupation, altering our reality. The tales shared by my grandmother of past wars seemed like distant memories, yet history repeated itself. The loss of home and loved ones posed daunting trials for us all. You are a great nation who also came through hard times during WW2. We all know that the evil must be stopped, otherwise it will spread all around the world. United we are stronger.

In our Christian faith, we felt compelled to extend aid to those in dire need, particularly children and widows. Witnessing the resilience of children, our son Roman embarked on a heartfelt initiative. He began crafting Christmas cards to support Ukrainian children orphaned by the war, spreading hope and joy. Over the years, we have assisted more than 300 children, believing in the power of miracles during the festive season.

Through the sale of handmade cards, bags, T-shirts, and other items, we fund essential supplies for Ukrainian families affected by the war. Our support extends beyond material goods; it conveys gratitude, understanding, and solidarity. The act of giving transcends borders, bridging hearts and offering solace in times of turmoil.

We are very grateful to Great Britain for supporting us in such a hard time; many of you have opened your houses to host Ukrainian families. We are very grateful to you all.

We are also very appreciative of all who support us in buying our craft things for use in our mission to give direct help to needy Ukrainians. Huge thanks to Hunstanton Town Council for their generous donation of clothes and toys last year which helped us assist thirty-four orphans. Also we are very thankful to the Catholic Church OLSE and St Cecilia's for organising a coffee morning to support Ukrainian children who have lost their parents. Thank you all - any belief, gender or nationality.

If you would like to support our charity project, donate or buy cards, please contact us on churikova777@gmail.com, or text on 07467 562520.

We will also take part in some Christmas events locally. Please, come around to talk, to hug. As a Christian family we hope that Christmas will bring peace and love to each house in the world but we also know that we have to pray and work hard for it. Please, stay with Ukraine and pray for Ukraine. May God bless you all.



(Ed: Nataliya and her family live in Dersingham and her son Roman Kutsaienko goes to Springwood High School in Lynn where he has gained quite a reputation for his artwork. He has created a range of cards for all occasions, from traditional Ukrainian designs to modern cartoon figures. If you get a chance to support the family, please do. They are doing great work.)



Roman's cards will be on sale in Hunstanton Town Hall on 30th November, at the Catholic Church in Hunstanton on 6th December's Christmas Fair, and are in Drove Orchard Farm Shop at Thornham for whose support we are extremely grateful.

I have just received a text from a Ukrainian volunteer, who says things are hard these days, especially with many blackouts and Russian attacks mostly every night. We would be very grateful for donations of clean warm fleece blankets, tourniquets, paracetamol, cold and flu medication, hot chocolate, tea bags, coffee, crayons, pencils, stationery, board games, things for craft, books for children, biscuits, chocolate, Haribo etc.

Many children are spending time in basements, bomb shelters and even spend nights in tube stations, and these items would bring them warmth, comfort, and hope. We are also sending supplies to orphanages, where they will be very much appreciated. You can leave your donations at:

The Catholic Church in Hunstanton (OLSE) and St. Cecilia's in Dersingham every Sunday morning, and at Hunstanton Town Hall on 30th November at our stall.



Making Gardening Easier May Davey

The clocks have gone back. There is a distinct chill in the air. The shops are bright with Christmas decorations. Gardens are full of beautiful autumn colours and piles of fallen leaves. Our club has had a lovely year and is looking forward to our Christmas dinner at Knight's Hill on Friday 19th December. So, everyone, check the moths haven't got at your Christmas jumpers and come and join us.

There were thirty on our coach outing to Gooderstone Water Gardens on Friday 19th September, which was a great success. The weather was perfect, dry and not windy. There were lots of seats around the pools, so one could stop and enjoy the serenity of diving ducks and mirror-like reflections on the water. We were given the choice of several delicious cakes at teatime.



On 17th October, we were to have had a talk by Peter Fisher about the work of the Norfolk Rivers Trust at Dersingham Village Centre. However, Peter had to cancel at the last minute. Sue found Clive Casburn, a nice Norfolk chap, one of generations of farmers, who told us about his life in agriculture, then a long time in the sugar industry and now selling fireworks.

Our November speaker cancelled too as he had changed his job. Sue Neil stepped up and spoke to us instead of her visit to Canberra in Australia where she took splendid pictures of flowers and plants. Thank you, Sue. Well done managing it all so soon after hip surgery.

Our 2026 programme is almost all confirmed. In January we have Brian Scott. "Gardening the World – Commonwealth War Graves" is his theme. In February we have an outing to Bagthorpe Hall at Bircham to see their glorious spread of snowdrops. And in March Carol Page of Bramble and Yarn in Dunston, Lincolnshire will demonstrate how she gathers plants and dyes yarns to make into blankets and shawls.

Our meetings take place on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. They begin at 2.00pm, stop for tea about 3.00pm and end at 4.00pm. Visitors are always very welcome. There is an entrance fee of £3.00 which covers tea and the raffle. Contact Gloria Pantling for details at 01553-671912. *Do come and see how you like us..* □

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Contact us by filling in the form to get the ball rolling today. [Contact Us - New Anglia Growth Hub](#)

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Events for December/January

Saturday 6th December: Northern Club Night Christmas Special

You've got to be in it to win it! The big prize for Play Your Cards Right is guaranteed to be won on the night but **ONLY MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN** (no joining on the night!) The night includes three games of bingo, two sets of live music with Lee O'Brien and Play Your Cards Right, which will continue until we have a winner. Non-members are still very welcome and can join in the rest of the evening and the bingo.

Saturday 20th December: The Stereotypes

Recreating the sound and style of the 90s and 00s with non-stop Britpop and Indie anthems. We are welcoming the Stereotypes back to the club taking you on a nostalgic journey through the songs that defined a generation. Expect to hear the likes of Oasis, Blur, Pulp, Suede, Arctic Monkeys, Kasabian, Stereophonics and other legendary acts.

New Year's Eve

Live music with Lee O'Brien. It will be first come first served for tables this year but there will be plenty of seating. Tickets can be pre-booked at the bar.

Friday 23rd January

Our Quiz Night returns at 8pm with a new host. Teams can be a maximum of six, entry £3 per person.

Please check our Facebook page [@dersinghamsocialclub](#) for more details and any minor changes to our events. If you are not on Facebook and would like to be added to our monthly newsletter, please let us have your email address and your name. We would also welcome any suggestions for future events you'd like to see at the club.

You can also email us at dersinghamsenquiries@gmail.com with any enquiries regarding membership, hall hire (either daytime or for parties, wakes etc.)□





- There will be an Advent Fair preparing for Christmas at OLSE, Hunstanton on Saturday 6th December, from 10.30am to 12.30. There will be crafts, books, puzzles, tombola, raffle and refreshments.
- Our coffee morning and cake sale at St Cecilia's, Dersingham on Saturday 4th October was very successful and just over £600 was raised for Ukrainian orphans.

The Pope's prayer intention for December 2025 is ***For Christians in areas of conflict***; we pray that Christians living in areas of war and conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope. The Pope's prayer intention for January 2026 is ***For prayer with the Word of God***; we pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary church.

Our Christmas Mass times are as follows: Wednesday 24th December will be at OLSE Hunstanton at 7pm. Christmas Day will be at 9am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham and 11am at OLSE, Hunstanton.

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

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

Website:www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.uk **Email:**
hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk

The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675. If you require a Priest urgently, telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email parishpriest763@gmail.com



Come and Play Table Tennis

Dersingham table tennis club meets every Monday from 2 pm to 4 pm at Dersingham Social Club on Lynn Road and we are happy to welcome new members who want to come and play.

We are a mixed group of roughly equal numbers of men and women and varying talents at the sport and we just play for fun. We have two tables and usually play doubles, so there are eight people playing at any one time. In between games the rest of us have a good old chat; we are a friendly bunch.

Playing table tennis is ideal for staying fit, sharpens reaction times, helps improve hand-eye coordination and is a great way to make new friends. It is a sport recommended by The British Heart Foundation.

All new members, no matter what their skills, will be greatly appreciated and made to feel most welcome. Sessions cost £2 to cover the hire of the Social Club, you can attend regularly or occasionally and we recommend bringing a drink with you. If you would like to come and play then just turn up during our Monday afternoon sessions or contact Sean on 07815 295726; email seanfox40@hotmail.com; Mark on 07763 643498; or email mm.shelton@btinternet.com. □



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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

We had a good turnout for the last roll-up of the 2025 season on September 20th and all enjoyed four games of bowls in pleasant weather. Next April seems a long way away, when we play again, but no doubt it will be here before we know it. Funny how the winter months seem to go more slowly than the summer ones though!

Anyway, our Winter Warmers games of bingo and darts began on October 1st so we do see some of our bowling friends throughout the winter. It's so nice to stay in touch and have something to look forward to each week.

I reported last time that we were still awaiting the final league results for the Countryside League. Due to Searles sharing the points with their opponents in their last match, we tied with them for 2nd place. All in all a good result.

We had planned to hold our presentation lunch at the Mariners, Old Hunstanton, but due to unforeseen circumstances, plans had to be changed without much notice. The Committee suggested that we hold the presentation in the Village Hall, with a buffet supper, supplied by our members. This was approved, and the event took place on the evening of Sunday, September 28th, when all the trophies were presented, and a wonderful buffet enjoyed. We also held a raffle, which raised £105.00. Thanks to all who helped organise the evening, and congratulations to all who won trophies. A special mention must be made of Debbie and Paul Grimston, who shared the Most Improved Player award.



The winning team of the Dicky Murrell Memorial League

Speaking of trophies, I promised a list of those who won our Knockout competitions this season, so here goes:

The Alan Walker Cup (Open Singles): Winner: Nicky O'Dea, runner-up: Terry Thompson.

The Tansley Cup (Men's Singles): Winner: Iain Brown, runner-up: Terry Nice.

The Ladies Cup (Ladies' Singles): Winner: Nicky O'Dea, runner-up: Jean Thompson.

Brian Morters Cup (Mixed Doubles): Winners: Dawn and Iain Brown, runners-up: Brenda Hollywood and Michael Anderson.

Powle Pairs (Open Doubles): Winners: Laurance O'Dea and Les Allen, runners-up: Nicky O'Dea and Iain Brown.

By the time you read this, we will also have held our AGM on Monday November 10th, so more news about that next time. So, all that really remains is to wish all our members and Village Voice readers all the best for the Festive Season. See you in 2026.□



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Dersingham Choir's Christmas Concerts Mark Shelton

Dersingham Choir will be performing two Christmas Concerts this year, on Saturday 6th December at 2.00 pm (doors open 1.30 pm) and Thursday 11th December at 7.00 pm (doors open 6.30 pm). Both concerts will be at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham. Tickets are £5.00 per person on the door and light refreshments will be available.

The choir will be singing traditional carols, and some more modern seasonal songs, including *Winter Solstice* and *Carry the Light*. There will be plenty of opportunity for audience participation while the choir sings.

Jan Wilson, chair of the choir committee said, "This is the 4th year Dersingham Choir has performed two Christmas Concerts in December. They are always well attended and received, and it's extra special when the audience joins in with our singing; it really shows they are enjoying themselves and lifts all our choir members."

So, start your Christmas festivities with some joyous seasonal music and song; tickets are on sale at the door only and will be on a first come first served basis. There is car parking at St. Cecilia's Church, which is fully wheelchair accessible. For more information please contact Kate, the choir secretary, phone 07513 986858 or email secretaryDC2025@outlook.com.

Dersingham Choir meets every Thursday for practices at St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, PE31 6YE from 7pm to 9pm.□

Snettisham Gardening Club

We finished our year with a Hog Roast on 26th November. We do not hold an event in December as it is usually a very busy month for members. Thank you all for your support during 2025.

We will start our new programme with our AGM on Wednesday, January 28th 2026 at the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road at 7.30 pm when we will be taking subscriptions and our programme will be available, along with new membership cards and the entry schedule for our annual Open Show in July. Cake and Fizz will be on offer to celebrate what we hope will be another successful year for our club. After very careful consideration we are sadly having to increase our subscription for 2026, not having done so since 2009. As we are all too aware, costs have increased dramatically recently, including our own operating costs.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2026.

For further information about club activities please call Gail on 07899 933840 or Addie on 01485 544754.□



Dersingham Walking Group Ray Johnson

Henceforth it is intended that wherever possible the start point addresses will include what3words in addition to the National Grid References. Many of our walks commence in rural areas for which what3words provide the most accurate reference points. Also, following a request, all walks will have the starting time indicated.

Wednesday December 10th 1.30pm

Start point: Dersingham Heath car park, what3words: nurtures.person.couch.

Brian's annual Xmas safari into the wilds of Sandringham. Unerringly, our leader will lead us to the heart of Sandringham where refreshments may be purchased (especially ice cream tubs).

Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday January 14th 1.30pm

Start point: the bottom of Station Road, Dersingham by the old railway station buildings, TF 680308, what3words: stove.collides.vine.

Woods, Warren, Fen and Common. A tour of the varying landscapes surrounding our village. About 4 miles.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.

Wednesday January 28th 1.30pm

Start point: Bottom of Station Road, Dersingham TF 680308, what3words: stove.collides.vine.

Our second Station Road start in January. For this walk we cross the A149 and walk along the concrete path to the Wash and the knot landing. There should be good views of the knot as mid-winter is when they migrate from the Arctic. Don't forget your binoculars!

Leader: Brett Thomas 07801 095510.

All our planned walks will appear here in *Village Voice* and can also be found on our website **Dersinghamwalking.co.uk** and usually take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers, plus some folk from further afield, and to explore the local area. There is no cost involved, just turn up. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do their best to look after you.

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

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

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From your Ward Councillors Tony Bubb and Judy Collingham



We remain in thrall (!) to Local Government Reform and many of you will have had a pamphlet through your door from Norfolk County Council advocating the one unitary solution. The main thrust of their argument is cost saving (don't be fooled by the idea that it is about delivering more localism); it is concerning that local democracy should have reduced itself to saving money. Their argument is that some services, ie children's services, will best be served on a Norfolk-wide basis, but there is no reason why this should not be a shared service across three unitaries, as is currently the case, with services we share with other Boroughs (eg parking, refuse collection).

The plan for refurbishing Lynn Sport including locating a pool there is advancing. Both St James' pool and Lynn Sport are in dire need of modernizing. Currently the Borough is pouring good money after bad, as the saying goes, to keep the pool going. Modern eco-friendly methods of energy generation and increased revenue from a better, more attractive activity offered at Lynn Sport, will deliver for the Borough in a number of ways, not least improved health outcomes.

We share the Parish Council's concern over not only the increased cost of servicing dog bins, but also that their capacity will be reduced in line with health and safety for the refuse operatives. There will necessarily be fewer bins. It is concerning that some country walks around the village have become minefields in terms of dodging dog poo. Please continue to pick up wherever you are.

We would hope that our next piece for the Village Voice might give an update on progress with the Guildhall and clarity on the QEH. Meanwhile, we wish all in the Ward and beyond a very happy Festive Season. □

Stroke Exhibition Jo Halpin Jones

On 4th and 5th October an art exhibition was held at Thornham Village Hall on behalf of the Hunstanton Stroke Group. Eight local artists, including two from Dersingham, displayed their work alongside that of various stroke survivors. There was a good attendance, despite fierce winds, and much interest shown in all the artwork. With donations from the public and contributions from the artists, £440 pounds was raised □



St Nicholas Flower Festival

What a creative event this was, all in praise of books. We marvelled at the representation of literary works from Shakespeare to *The Gruffalo*, from Dickens to *The 39 Steps*. A truly amazing display.



Clockwise from top left:
The 39 Steps
The works of Shakespeare
The Gruffalo
Steve Davis and Mike Smith





Clockwise from top left:
Room on the Broom
The Hungry Caterpillar
The Princess and the Pea
Great Expectations
Reading with your children



Rolling into Autumn: A Season of Lawn Bowls at Sandringham Bowls Club

David Lang

As the summer sun begins to fade and the greens fall quiet, we can at Sandringham Bowls Club take a moment to reflect on a season that's been as steady and satisfying as a well-placed wood.

This year brought a wonderful mix of competitive spirit and friendly rivalry. We've played seven teams in four leagues as well as knock out cups within those leagues. Finishing midway in most of the league tables we maintained our positions, except for our second team in the Brewery League who unfortunately were relegated to Division 2. That team, however, did recover a little kudos by achieving the runners-up position in the subsidiary knock out cup. The A Team in the Albert Victor league also had some success, achieving runner-up status in their subsidiary cup.

We also played eight in-house club tournaments on Sunday afternoons, as well as two friendly matches against other clubs throughout the season. All these competitions were well attended. Unfortunately, one of the Sunday matches had to be cancelled due to bad weather, which was rather surprising given the summer we have experienced this year.

This year, after two of the Sunday tournaments, we put on a BBQ, which was very well attended and well received. We will definitely look to put on some more of these for the 2026 season.

Congratulations to Richard Ward for winning the Fermoy Singles Cup - an in-house event that runs continually throughout the season, and also to all of our winners and runners-up in the club tournaments and the league games.

We're especially grateful to our volunteers - those who mow the greens, manage the fixtures, and keep the clubhouse running smoothly. Your efforts are the backbone of everything we do.

Looking Ahead

As we pack away the mats and polish the woods, we are already looking forward to next season.

If you've ever thought about playing bowls, now's the perfect time to get in touch. Whether you're a seasoned player or simply curious, there's a place for you on our green.

Sandringham Bowls Club is situated in the village of West Newton next to Howards Butchers; just follow the Sandringham Bowls Club signs next to the butcher. For further information please contact David Lang (Secretary, Sandringham Bowls Club). Email: djlang838@gmail.com. □



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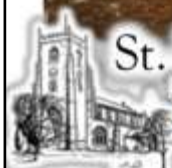
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Dersingham Phobbies

Dersingham Phobbies is a club run entirely by volunteers for people with a range of disabilities and none and meets every Thursday in Dersingham Social Club. The club recently put out a call for more volunteers and we were lucky enough to be part of a BBC Radio Norfolk day of volunteering. A reporter came to the club and our members had fun talking to the reporter who was wonderfully patient and understanding. The following Thursday we enjoyed listening to a recording of us on the radio!

Following this, and articles in Village Voice, three new members have joined Phobbies, which is great news for the club. Maggie Ponder, chair of the organising committee, said, "It is really pleasing and helpful to us all when new people attend, either to volunteer and help or to take part in the activities we run, or just to come and have a chat. However, we still need more people to join us, either to help with club administration or fund raising, as well as provide activities for those who are less able. Anyone who would like to come is welcome." Volunteering is very rewarding and a great way to make new friends, and there is no need to give a regular commitment to Phobbies. Any help that you can give, whether it's a one off, once or twice a year, once a month or more regularly, will be greatly appreciated. We are also really grateful for the generosity of residents who donate art and craft materials.

Phobbies meets on Thursdays at Dersingham Social Club, Lynn Road from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Weekly subscription is £2; tea, coffee and biscuits are provided free, but we bring a packed lunch. Anyone interested in joining can drop in on a Thursday or contact Maggie Ponder on 07967 799816 or email m.ponder@btopenworld.com.

4,000 Brownies and Guides at Banham Zoo!

On 12th October, the Dersingham 1st and 2nd Brownies and Guides joined 4,000 others from across Norfolk and Suffolk for a Takeover Day at Banham Zoo. The day started early in the Doctor's surgery car park where we boarded our coach in the early morning mist at 8am. Once we arrived, we were surrounded by lots of very excited girls.

The Guides started their day in the gift shop, whilst the Brownies headed towards the farm barn. Throughout the day, we all saw an amazing variety of incredible animals. There were the meerkats, howler monkeys - making some incredible noises - the flamingos and their young, the red panda, wallabies, owls and vultures. However, the stars were the giraffes, the tiger, the cheetah and the prowling snow leopard. There was also time to watch a magic show, enjoy lunch, have an ice cream and a very quick play in the adventure playground.

All the girls and leaders had an amazing day and it was great to be surrounded by just Girl Guides all day. Everyone, of course, got a unique badge to remember their day.



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Hot Water Bottles

Angela Gifford, Able Community Care

As the weather gets colder lots of advice and tips about. This one from the NHS. For a cozy and safe autumn, the NHS and safety experts recommend checking your hot water bottle for age and damage.



Before first use in autumn and to avoid burns and leaks from degraded rubber, follow these steps before you start using your hot water bottle for the season.

- **Check the expiration date.** Hot water bottles should be replaced every two years, even if they look fine.
- **Find the "daisy wheel".** A date stamp, often shaped like a flower, is usually found on the neck or body of the bottle.
- **The central number** is the manufacturing year (e.g., '22' for 2022).
- **The twelve segments** represent the months. Filled segments indicate the month it was made.
- **Inspect for wear and tear.** Look for cracks, splits, discolouration, or brittle areas. Do not use the bottle if you notice any damage.
- **Check for leaks.** Fill the bottle with cool water, insert the stopper tightly, and turn it upside down to see if any water leaks out.
- **In addition,** never using boiling water, and always use a protective cover. □

Tapping House Coffee Morning and Craft Fair

Dee Morris

Once again, at the end of October, the Dersingham group of fundraisers for Norfolk Hospice Tapping House held our annual Craft Fair and Coffee Morning. By 08:30 the tables were being erected, the boiler switched on for teas and coffees and the stall holders arriving to set out their wares. Soon a glorious display of sea glass, cards, jewellery, wood turning, clothing, macrame, skin care and beautifully crafted gifts for the home adorned the Village Centre.

The teas, coffees and homemade cakes were in great demand and together with the tombola and raffle the morning flew by. Many thanks to all involved – helpers, stall holders and most importantly, our visitors who enabled us to raise the excellent sum of £1081.22 for a good cause. □

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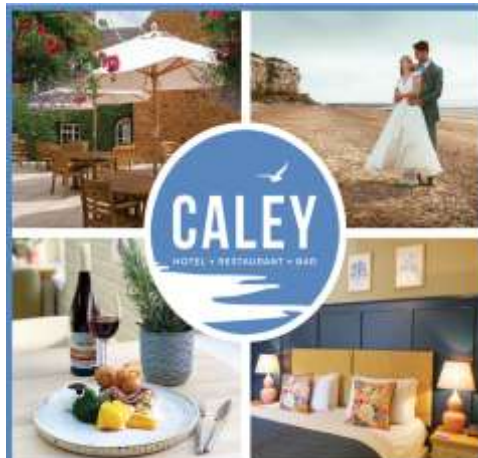
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Dersingham Day Club

We've recently welcomed three new members to the Day Club. If you'd like to be added to our waiting list, please give Maggie (01485 543264) or Wendy (01485 544975) a call for more details.

A big thank you to Merv and Steve, who treated us to an afternoon of entertainment - perfect for singing and dancing along.

We also celebrated a very special milestone: one of our members turned 90! His daughter kindly provided cake and fizz for everyone to enjoy.



As luck would have it, the King's Lynn u3a Ukulele Group were booked to perform that same afternoon, making it a truly joyful celebration. Everyone joined in, singing along to well-loved songs with big smiles all around.

One week, we enjoyed a touch of culture with a ballet performance, and on another day, the Heacham Songsters returned to sing for us and as always, their performance was a real treat!

We had an outing to the Hunstanton United Services Club for a carvery lunch too.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to Sue, the daughter of one of our members, Judy, for securing a charitable donation on our behalf, and to Mark and Marie for their generous contribution as well. As a self-funded group, the Dersingham Day Club is run entirely by dedicated volunteers who generously give up their time each week to provide an enjoyable day for our members, so every little contribution makes a real difference and helps towards the running costs of our weekly sessions.

Love to Cook? We'd Love Your Help!

If you enjoy cooking and have a bit of time to spare on Wednesdays between 9.30 and 12, then we'd love to hear from you. Our members really look forward to their weekly two-course hot lunch, and we're currently looking for extra volunteer help to cover when our regular kitchen volunteers are away due to illness, holidays, or family commitments. If you're interested, just pop in and have a chat with us. We keep things simple in the kitchen, you don't need to be a professional chef, the members just like a basic two-course hot lunch.

By the time you're reading this article it will be almost Christmas, and all at Dersingham Day Club wish you all the very best of the festive season and year ahead. □

Dersingham Tennis Club (DTC) Rosie Russell

As the clocks have gone back, and the spectacular summer is fading behind us, I am delighted to report on the incredibly successful season that DTC have enjoyed in 2025.

Few matches had to be rearranged due to the persistent dry weather that we experienced. As a consequence, the teams remained stable and the results are below.

- Ladies Team won Division 1 of the West Norfolk League, so are West Norfolk Champions, a fantastic achievement.
- Mixed A Team also won Division 1 of the West Norfolk League, so are also West Norfolk Champions.
- These are spectacular results from a fairly small squad.
- Mens' teams - both the A team in Division 1 and the B team in Division 2 finished 3rd out of 6, but only a few points separated them from 2nd and 1st place.
- There was also a Mixed B team.

These are superb results that the Club is very proud of – a challenge hopefully to be matched in 2026!

The courts have been repaired and are now in a good state, thanks to professional repairs and upkeep by David Collingham and his merry helpers.

We continue to play throughout the autumn and winter, just with a few more layers on, so if you think you'd like to come and play, just visit the website or contact a member and you'll find you are very welcome.

There's more competitive play if you'd like to play in the league, but plenty of members just like to play for fun and exercise.

We also held our annual tennis tournament to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now, in memory of a dear friend who died 20 years ago, but who remains in our thoughts. Over the 20 years that we have been holding this, the event has got bigger and better and has raised over £10,000 and supported many of our friends who have also experienced breast cancer.



Visit <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/dersinghamtc> □



French Conversation Group Vicky Fairweather



In the last issue of *Village Voice* we invited you to join a French conversation group meeting in Petals Tearoom. With the closure of that restaurant we have moved to Castle Rising Tearoom. We meet monthly on the first Friday of the month, from 1-3pm. The group is free to be part of and anyone who enjoys and wants to practise speaking French is welcome, regardless of level. For further information ring 07462 070761.□



Dersingham Primary and Nursery School

At the end of the last academic year, we said a fond farewell to three valued members of staff - Mrs Mann, Mrs Picton and Mrs Parton - whose hard work, care and commitment have made a lasting difference to the lives of countless children over the years. Their dedication has helped shape the strong sense of community that our school is known for, and they will be greatly missed. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome two new teachers to our team: Miss Liscsey, who has joined us as our new Year 1 teacher, and Miss Scott, who is teaching in Year 5. We're thrilled to have them on board and look forward to the fresh ideas and enthusiasm they bring.

Reception class have done amazingly well in settling into school life. We have been getting to know all about each other and what we like doing. We have then been on a walk around the village recognising this is where we live. We created a map of the village after our walk.

Year 1 had an amazing time exploring our Bog Baby topic! We used our five senses to dive into the magical story and discover what life is like for a Bog Baby. Outside, we built cosy homes to keep our Bog Babies safe and happy in their natural habitats. Our adventure continued with a fantastic Forest School trip to Wildlings at Ken Hill, where we searched for some of the bugs that Bog Baby loves to eat!



Year 2 have been using the Claude stories to help explore the geography of the UK, as well as draw treasure island maps. We learned some London history, including how the Great Fire of London destroyed St Paul's Cathedral, so it had to be re-built. We had a go at making our own cathedrals using different 3D model materials, and tried writing with a feather and ink, as the famous Samuel Pepys used to write his diary when he wrote about the fire. We are now learning about the Gunpowder Plot and discussing which side we would be on!

Over the first half term, Maple Class (Year 3) enjoyed learning all about how people lived during the Stone Age. They discovered how homes were built, how weapons were made and the kinds of food that villagers ate. They even went on a 'rock hunt' around the school grounds, using the internet to identify their finds.

During the same period, Year 4 had a lovely time investigating food chains and the digestive system. We looked at teeth and who eats who, where our food comes from and found out all about spiders. We finished the half term with a brilliant trip to The Hunstanton Sealife Centre.

Last half-term, Year 5 studied World War Two, and to wrap things up they will be taking part in a World War Two experience day, which promises to be a highly engaging, immersive day of learning at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse at the beginning of this half-term. Year 5 have also started this second autumn term off



with a bang (a Big Bang); they have already had a visit from the Planetarium. Children have been exploring our solar system, learning about each planet and have considered what essentials we would need to take into space.

At the top of the school, Year 6 started the academic year studying the Tudors. Children loved exploring the various monarchs and comparing and contrasting Henry VIII and Elizabeth I using primary and secondary sources. In order to bring the topic to life, the whole class dressed in their finest Tudor outfits and went to Kentwell Hall for a fully immersive Tudor experience day where they saw how various sections of Tudor society lived, how a Tudor house ran and even had the opportunity to do a bit of Tudor dancing. As we approach the festive season, the school is already buzzing with preparations. Christmas is always a busy but magical time, and we're especially looking forward to this



year's Reception and Year 1 nativity performance - a highlight of the school calendar that never fails to bring plenty of smiles and festive cheer. We will also be welcoming the travelling pantomime into school, who never fail to delight the whole school! □

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News from Hunstanton Croquet Club Zena Penty

The end of October saw the closure of the 2025 croquet season which has been especially busy, regularly attracting 30+ of the 80+ members to club afternoons, hosting many internal and external tournaments, and fun days like 'Bright Shirts Day'!

Many of the new members this season have improved tremendously with the help of coaching and support from other players throughout this beautiful summer, and some members have taken part in the in-house competitions, which is a great way to learn, improve your game and make new friends.



The end of the season has seen some changes on the committee and huge thanks must go to all the committee members for their hard work (much of it unseen) and especially to Roddy Willett, Chairman, Mary Williams, Treasurer and Gwenda McKenzie, Past Treasurer, who are stepping down this year after their outstanding contribution to the club. We are grateful to the members who were voted on to the committee at the AGM and look forward to hearing their new ideas for the 2026 season.

We must not forget the tournament managers, those who set up the lawns and organise refreshments, etc. Thank you so much - the club could not run without you all.

Despite the continuous dry weather, the lawns were kept in fantastic condition thanks to Jonny Ives, Groundkeeper, for his expertise and mammoth efforts, as always, to keep the lawns in pristine condition – comparing with the best lawns in the country.

Whether you are looking for a competitive or social sport, the new season will start at the beginning of April 2026 - why not consider giving the game a try - see www.hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk for more information. □

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Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary

Firstly, lots of thank yous! Harvest Festival gifts for the Hunstanton Foodbank were very gratefully received and totalled 88.65kg, about 165lbs!

The September **Coffee morning for TWAM** (Tools with a Mission) raised £324.40. We also gave some tools and other items. The October **Quiz** raised £140 for Baby Basics, and the October **Coffee morning** raised £299.39 for the RNLI.

We are always delighted to be able to support other charities, thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Our foodbank box will be out again to receive items such as chocolates, sweets, biscuits; tinned goods – meats, vegetables, fruit, rice puddings; coffee, tea bags, deodorant, hand soap, shampoo. These will be taken to Hunstanton Foodbank at the beginning of December, and we know how much these gifts will be appreciated.

Christmas preparations have already started.

The **Christmas Fayre** is on Saturday 22nd November, 10.00 – 11.30 am, fundraising for the King's Lynn Night Shelter. There will be a Christmas stall, gifts, cakes, jigsaws and books, and the usual very welcome sausage rolls, cakes, coffee and tea.

Advent Sunday is on 30th November and the Advent wreath and candles will be in place as we start our journey to Christmas. In the following weeks we will be decorating the Church and putting up the Christmas tree.

Carols by candlelight service is on Sunday 21st December, 3.00 pm and **Christmas Day service** at 10.30 am.

Sunday 28th December, the 10.30 am service is a Christmas Songs of Praise.

The charity we are supporting at the Christmas services is 'All We Can', a charity working to give relief in many ways – such as chicks, piglets, bees, to help provide food and an income and also school equipment and basic hygiene equipment, for several countries.

Christmas is a time of celebration, love, and compassion. It reminds us of the significance of giving and the impact that **small acts of kindness** can have on the lives of others.

The first coffee morning of 2026 is on Saturday 24th January for our Flower Festival fund.

We send you all every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.□



Hunstanton & District Camera Club

Malcolm Hayward

Welcome to another batch of photographs by members of the Hunstanton & District Camera Club, demonstrating the wide variety of places and subjects visited. We go out, mostly around Norfolk, once or twice a month. Members are always suggesting new places to visit and revel in the more difficult photographic challenges. These trips enable us to improve our abilities and mean we can feed off each other's skills. We also have sessions on still life, lighting technique, portraits and the mounting and framing of our results. We welcome new members and do our best to assist individuals to improve their ability. If you would like to travel around one of the most beautiful counties in Britain, why not come along on one of our evenings or days out or just come to an indoor session. You are under no obligation and costs are extremely low (or often free, depending on where we go.) If you would like to join us and make new friends, as well as having fun learning more about this great hobby, then give me a call on 07979 503049.



Clockwise from top: David Rye, Malcolm Hayward, Anne Hillion, Chris Holt, Daniel Harvey



Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

The Parish Council met on 4th November at Wolferton Social Club with twelve members of the public attending, including a representative from the Sandringham Estate.

One of the two main items discussed was the recent month-long Internet MSO (which is Openreach speak for Major Service Outage) which affected Wolferton in September and early October. In a village with no mobile signal, most analogue landline phones switched to digital by service suppliers a couple of years ago, and no everyday services, it caused considerable hardship. At the meeting concern was raised for emergency contact in matters of life and death.

What made the failure more frustrating was that the supply didn't fail, the power supply to the green box was switched off to comply with safety regulations. Openreach celebrates the fact that end-users of their systems cannot make contact with them, and this information was only given when MP James Wild became involved on behalf of the Parish Council.

Now that it is up and running again, the issue turns to compensation, but the feeling of the meeting was that this is less of an issue than to ensure it will not happen again (the engineers repairing it said it almost certainly would fail again in 2030), and the Parish Council was asked to take the lead on trying to secure full fibre for the village.

The other main item was the impact on residents of the Sandringham concerts and now, next year, RHS Sandringham. The effect is particularly severe in West Newton but the wider area is also inconvenienced and travel is disrupted. We face nine days in two months of severe congestion as some 300,000 people attend the two events in consecutive months, with other disruption for smaller events such as Run Sandringham at the same time. Issues raised include traffic disruption, poor road closure planning and signage, environmental considerations such as noise and light pollution, rubbish, insufficient toilet provision, and above all a sense that the community impact has not been adequately recognised and addressed.

There was discussion on the maximum 30,000 people permitted on site under the Event Licence and whether or not this was exceeded for at least one of the concerts. It was considered that the Borough Council (which issues the Licence) could and should do much more to satisfy itself that the licence is being complied with, especially as the RHS has repeatedly publically claimed it will bring 180,000 people to its five-day event, which equals an average of 36,000 per day.

The Parish Council had already submitted a report to the Estate following the concerts earlier this year, and the meeting urged the Estate and organisers to take full account of its content. The Estate's Event Manager had earlier undertaken to meet a representative of the Parish Council in late November or early December and this is awaited.

Other matters were discussed including the bid for County Council funds for a bus shelter to be sited on the B1439 adjacent to the Sandringham Caravan and Camping Site, and a new Police initiative, Operation Radium, being set up to alert local communities to when courier fraudsters are working in an area. The Parish Council agreed to sign up to this when it goes live, and the Estate asked to be linked to the Parish Council in this respect. It was noted with thanks that the Estate has made and supplied new, very good quality parish notice boards for Babingley and West Newton.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 7pm at Wolferton Social Club and all are welcome to attend.□

What's on in Wolferton - Christmas is coming!

Wolferton Social Club

Opening times - The Club is open Friday and Saturday evenings 8pm to 11pm and Sunday lunchtime 12.30pm to 3.30pm. For further information about our opening hours, etc please contact the Social Club on 01485 541919 during our opening hours.

Christmas opening times:

Christmas draw Sunday 21st December 3pm

Christmas Day 12noon - 2.30pm

Boxing Day closed

New Year's Eve 8pm till late. Disco admission by ticket only.

Cash Bingo

Sunday 7th December. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

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

Sunday 1st February. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 16th December Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

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

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported the coffee morning on 18th October. A grand total of £823 was raised for the Jerry Green dog rescue.

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

New Year's Eve – Disco, admission by ticket only.

Wolferton, St Peter's Church

On Saturday 1st November a packed Social Club in Wolferton saw 20 teams battling for position at the annual Harvest Quiz in aid of St Peter's Church. Thank you to all who attended in support and everyone who kindly helped to make it such an enjoyable evening.

Church services

Sunday 21st December – 4pm – our Carols by Candlelight followed by refreshments and mulled wine

Christmas Day 25th December – 9.15am – a short family-friendly service followed by refreshments

Sunday 11th January – 9.15am – Mattins followed by refreshments

Sunday 25th January – 11am – Mattins followed by refreshments

All are very welcome!

For your diary: Monday 22nd December – Carols around the village. Meet 6pm at Wolferton Social Club. Torch-lit carolling to raise money for the Children's Society. □

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Joyful Sounds

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A good idea was born and the outcome was on its way.
An Open Day brought in many that expressed an interest,
The first rehearsal spurred us on to strive to do our best.



Our Choir was now beginning to spring into being,
A Musical Director and an Accompanist began to set the scene.
A church with handy facilities for our warbles had been found
And each week we breathe and practise and hone our sound.



No requirements needed to be able to read our music sheet
This comes with time, support, melody and beat.
There are no auditions for us, just bring your love of song,
We are a friendly group who sing and get along.



Practising notes in highs, middles, harmonies and lows,
We've gone on to perform some melodious shows.
Over each page, soprano, alto, tenor, bass,
With growing confidence of tone and pace.



Sing together new and varied seasonal songs
In English and also too, in several other tongues.
Our MD encourages practice so we can hit the right note,
This international operatic singer's ability, happily gets our vote.

Our musician on the keyboard, fingers fly with precision
And has mastered this art with diplomas of distinction.
We supported a Heacham School to produce their anthem tune,
Singing with them in their hall, was a pleasant afternoon.

Each week, a lively couple of hours with song, laughter and chatter,
A refreshment break brings drink, biscuits and a quick natter.
We have made wonderful musical progress since 2022
With seven previous concerts, our eighth one is now due.

Our recent Charity Gala evening was resplendent in dress and voice,
St Mary's Church in Snettisham, an atmospheric choice.
Our choir sang two favourites, then supported the operatic tenor
Who paired with our MD soprano to sing classical and popular.

A grand piano enhanced the duets in rich musical style,
The magic was so powerful, a lady danced in the aisle.
Such was the masterful performance of the duo 'The Missing Coda'
These maestros made exciting and joyful music 'a la moda'.



O come all ye happily to listen and sing along,
Greet the festive season with voices raised in song.
Favourite carols and melodies, some set in later trends,
The Dersingham Choir welcomes you by Making Music...Making Friends!!!

'If Music be the food of love.....play on'!!! Wm Shakespeare

Lorna MMXXV

HUG (Hunstanton u3a Ukelele Group) Lyndsey Leeden

The first u3a ukelele group met in September last year under the guidance of Ian Bell. The ability of individual members varied greatly, with some of us not having any musical background, nor the ability to read music. However, we shortly realised that all we really needed was plenty of enthusiasm!! So, it's a great testament to Ian's expertise, and the many hours of dedicated practice, (and sore fingertips!!), in between the fortnightly meetings, that we have been able to showcase an entertaining hour of singalong favourites.

The residents, staff and friends of Nightingale Lodge welcomed ten of us one Friday afternoon and enthusiastically joined in as we strummed and sang. Old traditionals, 1960s pop, and songs from the musicals were featured, with buoyed encouragement from our audience. We were amply rewarded with the grateful thanks from many residents that we had rekindled some forgotten memories in the melodies.

We look forward to many more local outings, bringing joy, smiles, and song.

We meet on Friday afternoons and are currently at the maximum number of members, but prospective players are welcome to join the waiting list.□





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Carpet bowls is a fantastic indoor activity, perfect for all ages and abilities. It's a game where every roll counts, and a good time is guaranteed. Come and join us for a session and see for yourself! The first game is free. Thereafter it's £10 to join and £3.50 per session.

What you can expect:

- A friendly and inclusive environment
- Free coaching for new players
- All equipment provided
- A fun way to stay active and socialize

Sessions include three games and a tea and biscuit break.

We meet every Tuesday at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start at West Newton Village Hall. There's no need to book, just turn up and introduce yourself. We look forward to welcoming you to the club!

Trevor Riches email: coblerriches37@gmail.com. Phone: 07453 303379.□



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A Stable Influence this Christmas

Rev Mark Capron



We all need a stable influence in our lives, whether that is family, friends, neighbours or others. At Christmas, our thoughts turn to another meaning of stable, to the stable in Bethlehem, a humble place that became the setting for the greatest true story. In that quiet, simple space, surrounded by straw and stillness, Jesus was born, the one who would become the most stable influence the world has ever known.



In our busy, uncertain world, we're surrounded by countless influences - voices from social media, culture, and even those around us that shape how we think and live. Some lift us up, while others can easily pull us away from what truly matters. That's why it's so important to anchor our lives to something, or rather someone, who is stable and unchanging.

The true Christmas story reminds us that real stability doesn't come from wealth, success, or control. It comes from Jesus, who entered our unstable world in the simplest of places, to a

couple who had so little that, "while they were there (Bethlehem), the time came for the baby to be born, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them" (Luke 2). God's gift is for us in the form of His only Son, to bring us life and direction to all who welcome Him. This Christmas, may we look again to the Stable, not just as a symbol of where Jesus was born, but as a reminder that He longs to be the stable influence in our lives. When we welcome Jesus into our lives, our choices, purposes and relationships can be transformed as He brings light and hope for a better future.

As we celebrate Jesus' birth, may we invite Jesus to remain at the centre, not just for Christmas, but for every season ahead, because Jesus who was born in a stable can be a stable influence in our lives too.

Christmas Celebrations

This Christmas please join us at the parish churches of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne as we celebrate Christ's birth. In the approach to Christmas there is the annual Christmas Tree Festival which begins on Friday 5th December, and the Bilton Band Concert on Saturday 6th December at 6:30pm at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham. Nearer to Christmas, on Christmas Eve Night the Holy Communion Service begins slightly earlier this year at 11pm, but earlier the Nativity Story is at 4pm, ideal for children. Finally, the Christmas Day Celebration is at 10am. For all the other carol services do check at www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk □

Christmas Blessings

Rev Mark Capron

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

[YouTube Channel: 'Dersingham Online Worship'](#)



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Dersingham Extension Wins Award

Tony Bubb

At the recent Mayor's Design Awards event, held every couple of years to recognise good building and development design in the Borough, Dersingham was the home of the Residential Extensions category winner.

Mecklenburg House, in Chapel Road, is a character property in the Dersingham Conservation Area, constructed from vernacular materials, which makes a positive contribution to the area despite being set back from public view by mature vegetation. Set in delightful grounds, the existing dwelling was unable to make the most of its setting, and the designed and built extension enabled the family to retain the character of the existing dwelling while creating a contemporary and striking extension for modern family life.



The judging panel praised the extension for its attention to detail and striking use of materials. While the use of the dark brick split the panel, all members felt that it complimented the existing dwelling rather than copied it and was able to

create texture in the elevation through the use of projecting bricks that compliment the textured render on the main house. The overall effect being of a bold remaining of vernacular materials and styles.

The panel also wished to commend the workmanship shown in the brickwork of the extension. The projecting bricks have been executed beautifully and add texture and interest to the elevation. The mortar joints are beautifully slim, and the panel commended the way that the reimagining added to the quality of the overall proposal.

With architecture by Liv Architects based in Flitcham and builders S Clark Builders Ltd, this is a great addition to Dersingham's housing.□

u3a

Meeting with a talk from Wally Webb

Hunstanton
u3a

A BBC Radio Norfolk presenter for over 40 years, Wally Webb has launched a biography where he shares stories about his time in the RAF, getting into radio and more. Monday 12th January, 2026 at 2.00pm at Hunstanton Community Centre. Guests welcome.□





Evolution

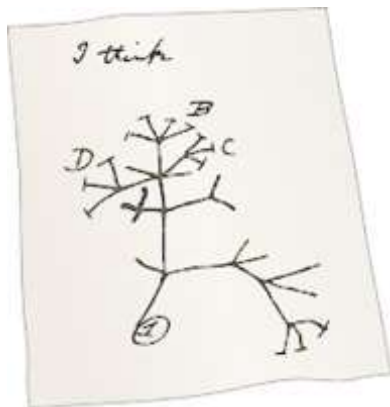
Brian Anderson

Evidence

Richard Dawkins has described evolution as "the greatest show on earth". This study of biological change has a long history going back even before Darwin. Before we get into the meat of the subject, I'd like to deal with one point. Evolution sceptics sometimes say, "it's only a theory". Science (in all fields) takes widely used words and repurposes them. An example is *power*. A scientific theory is "a scheme or system of ideas or statements held as an explanation of a group of facts that has been confirmed by observation or experiment and is accepted as accounting for the known facts" (*Oxford English Dictionary*).

I intend to set out the proof of the truth of evolution, and I may step on a few toes on the way as it will be necessary to debunk Creationism and Intelligent Design.

Ideas about evolution began before Darwin. During the eighteenth century natural philosophers like Lamarck, Maupertuis and Leclerc proposed various mechanisms whereby organisms could vary over time to produce new forms. Even earlier, in the fourteenth century, the Arab scholar Ibn Khaldun proposed similar ideas. But in 1859 Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* exploded like an intellectual bomb. The book, despite having Darwin as the sole author, was a sort of collaboration with Alfred Russell Wallace, who was doing similar research. The thesis was simple to deliver, but immense in its implications. Darwin proposed that organisms slightly better equipped to survive would be more likely to breed and pass on the advantage, eventually leading to the creation of a new form or species. He identified geographical isolation as a mechanism for change, as well as changes in the Earth's climate. He acknowledged that there were problems - it was not clear to him how a beneficial change could be retained and strengthened and not diluted. If he had heard of the work on genetics being done by Gregor Mendel this doubt would have been resolved. He also admitted that the evolution of complex organs like eyes was not clear, since each change on the route to the new organ had to be beneficial or at least neutral. In fact, the evolution of the eye has been quite well mapped. I will come back to this later.



Darwin was convinced (unlike most naturalists of his time) that species were not immutable and would change as their environments changed. It led him to propose a "Tree of Life", which showed the branches and linkages connecting current and extinct species. In this he was aided by the classification by Linnaeus of all living things (as far as he knew them). Linnaeus invented the binomial system of naming and used Latin to provide a *lingua franca* to ensure that all naturalists were sure about which organism was being discussed. Linnaeus, however, believed that species were immutable. This led eventually to the science of taxonomy and (I have to admit) was a great help to Darwin's thought. I will look at the downside of taxonomy later. Darwin proposed Natural Selection as the mechanism for

change. Any organism with an advantage would have a greater chance of surviving and breeding and passing the advantage on. This advantage could be amplified in succeeding generations. To Natural Selection added Sexual Selection where females (it is usually females) choose a mate they deem to be able to produce fitter offspring. The

prime example is in birds, where flamboyant males are common (think of the Peacock!).

While Darwin was pondering these difficulties, geologists were grappling with a different set of problems - that of time. The Bible said that the world was created about 6000 years ago. The geologists were studying sedimentary rocks and could not reconcile what they saw with so recent a date - the laying down of sedimentary rocks and the and erosion and wear of mountains must have taken far longer - many tens or hundreds of millennia. It was obvious that the lower layers (or strata) were older than those above. And within these strata there were the remains of plants and animals - fossils. The geologists and palaeontologists were aware that the fossils were usually confined to a stratum or group of strata. Some of the oldest layers for example had arthropod fossils vaguely like woodlice named Trilobites. They were amazingly diverse and persisted for over 200 million years. But at the end of an era named the Permian (250 million years ago [mya]) they disappear from the record, leaving distant relatives which are probably related to modern Horseshoe Crabs. Likewise, there are no mammalian fossils to be found earlier than the Jurassic (200 mya). The giant dragonflies found in coal measures from the Carboniferous period (300 mya) are found nowhere else. Plants have been rather sidelined in discussions of evolution, but we *must* recognise that plants created the Earth's atmosphere - without those earliest plants releasing oxygen as a waste product the story of our biosphere would very different - and we wouldn't be here. And without plants, you can't have animals.



It was the late nineteenth century when most of the uncertainties about dates started to be resolved as radioactive decay was discovered. Radioactive forms of elements are unstable. All such elements (isotopes) decay at a constant and measureable rate, usually referred as the *half life*. The radioactive form of carbon (carbon-14 or C14) decays by half in 5730 years. It halves again in another 5730 years. It doesn't take many more half lives before there is no detectable 14 left.

Radiocarbon (as it is known) can be used to date samples. It is unusual in that the amount in the atmosphere is constantly being replenished due to nitrogen in the upper atmosphere being converted to C14 by cosmic rays. The amount isn't constant, so radiocarbon dates have to be calibrated by other methods such as dendrochronology - the counting of tree rings. The use of radiocarbon hinges on one key fact - as soon as an organism dies it ceases to inhale or ingest C14. By measuring the amount left you can measure the elapsed time since it died. Radiocarbon is useful up to some tens of thousands of years but beyond that different radioactive clocks need to be used.



One example is potassium-40. This has a half life of 1.26 billion years. Potassium is common in minerals. Potassium 40 (K40) is radioactive and decays to argon. If the rock becomes liquid (eg in a volcano) the argon is lost, so by measuring the amount of argon in such an (igneous) rock, the date when the rock was last molten can be calculated. It is obvious that any rocks below this layer are *older* and any above are *younger*. The strata

from any geological period have "fingerprints" composed of mineralogical data and the fossils contained within, so the date of a layer derived from layers above or below

igneous rocks can be applied to similar strata anywhere. Other radioactive clocks have been used such as iodine-129 and aluminium-26. The half lives of these and other radioactive elements overlap so there is cross-checking of dates.

Other dating methods exist: fission track dating and molecular clocks (based on neutral gene mutation).

So, what are the drivers of change? There are many. Change in the sun's output, super volcanoes, the movement of large land masses due to tectonic plate activity, large asteroid strikes and a host of smaller effects which, over time, destroy niches and create others. Pre-eminent perhaps is tectonic plate movement, where separation of land masses can isolate populations, which can evolve differently.

The Remembrance Sunday Poppy Cascade

The Poppy Cascade in St Nicholas Church is made up of poppies kindly donated by people from all over the Benefice: Dersingham, Anmer, Shernborne and Ingoldisthorpe. Whether knitted, crocheted, stitched, stuck or embroidered, in a multitude of different shades of red, they make a magnificent display on the Rood Screen. There are also purple poppies to remember the animals and white poppies to remember the civilians.



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MIDDLE WEEKEND

Sat 13 th	6-9pm	Trees by Candlelight
Sun 14 th	2-3pm	View the Trees
	3pm	Tea & Carols

FINAL WEEKEND

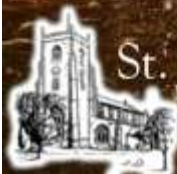
Sat 20 th	10am-4pm	'Santa Stop Here' Trees, Stalls, Refreshments & Free Activities for Children
Sun 22 nd	2-4pm	View the Trees
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News from Dersingham Runners Paris Larham

We were extremely pleased to have so many of our group members attend Sandringham parkrun on Saturday 20th September for their 200th event! There was a strong “ray of purple” with around 20 Dersingham Runners that took part. I also celebrated my 100th parkrun milestone on the same day! There was a great turnout for the event, with a grand total of 321 parkrunners.



Photo: Tim Chapman

Group member, Bethany Willox, was 1st female out of 153 women with an impressive finishing time of 21:08, setting a new course personal best. Other group members achieving personal bests for the Sandringham parkrun course included Samantha Larham, Ashley Pearce, Jack Coe and myself. Well done to everyone.

In the meantime, three of our members took part in Good Running Events - Sandringham Half-Marathon on Sunday 28th September with 924 runners taking part. Bethany Willox (also a Good Running Events Ambassador) was once again first female out of 443 females, finishing with a chip time of 01:35:31. Group members, Mat Tuckwood and Colin Farrow also took on the challenge, and both finished with sub-2-hour times. A huge congratulation to them.



From L to R Colin Farrow, Bethany Willox and Mat Tuckwood.

We are a non-affiliated social running group. Our weekly events take place on Wednesday evenings at 18:15pm for a 5 kilometer (3.1 mile) run and on Sunday mornings at 08:30am (this is subject to change during different seasons so please always check our social media or website prior to attending) for a longer run - around 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) or sometimes a bit further. Our meeting point is always by our sign at The Co-operative Food Store, Lynn Road, Dersingham, PE31 6JX. Additionally, we offer regular parkrun social events which is a great way to get involved in some parkrun tourism! You can find us on Facebook, Strava and Instagram or visit our website for more details at <https://dersinghamrunners.wixsite.com/runsocial> □

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1st Dersingham Rainbows

Brownies
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Rainbows
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Brownies
1st Dersingham Brownies

Brownies
2nd Dersingham Brownies

Brownies, for girls aged 7-10, meet on Thursdays and Tuesdays and enjoy games, crafts, trips, sleepovers, holidays and making new friends.

Guides
1st Dersingham Guides

Join Guides (aged 10 and over) for fun, laughter, adventure, exploration and to try something new.

To register your daughter's interest in one of these groups go to www.girlguiding.org.uk or contact the local leader on 01485 544753.

Scouts

Girlguiding
Dersingham

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

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meet at the Dersingham Scout and Guide HQ in Manor Road. For more information contact tom.wheeler@nwscouts.org or come to a weekly meeting.

Scouts
1st Dersingham

BEAVERS

For those aged 6 - 8 wanting fun and adventure. Make friends, earn badges and play games. Meetings on Mondays.

cubs

Join 1st Dersingham Cubs if you are 8-10.5 years. Develop new skills and explore different challenges. Monday meetings.

Scouts

Scouts is for those 10.5-14 years. Learn skills for life, challenge yourself and have fun and adventure. Meetings on Mondays.



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



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

Question – I feel I have a hearing problem but cannot afford to purchase hearing aids. Can I get them for free from the NHS? I am a pensioner.

Answer – The first step to take is to visit your GP who can refer you to a hospital or a local audiology service for a hearing test and assessment. In some NHS areas, if you are over 55 you can directly refer to the audiology service. If you are assessed as needing hearing aids, then the NHS will provide. If you have NHS hearing aids, you can get free replacement batteries from any hospital audiology or ENT department. There are often waiting lists for the audiology service. There is also the opportunity to purchase hearing aids privately if you are able to.

Question - I have a life insurance policy, when I die, will the proceeds of the policy be tax free?

Answer - The payout from a life insurance policy is typically tax-free and not subject to income or capital gains tax. However, if the payout is part of your estate, it might be subject to inheritance tax unless it's set up in a trust. (Money Saving Expert.Com)

Question - What is the two-year rule for NHS dentistry?

Answer - The NHS Dentist two-year rule means you should not wait more than two years between check-ups. If you don't see your NHS dentist within this time, you might lose your registration as an NHS patient.

Question – What does a Community Matron do?

Answer - An NHS community matron is a highly experienced, senior nurse who provides intensive, personalized care to patients with complex long-term conditions, helping them to manage their health at home and avoid hospital admissions. They act as case managers, coordinating with GPs, other health professionals, and social care to create care plans, monitor conditions, and provide advanced nursing interventions. There are approximately 2,000 Community Matrons in the UK. Refer to your local surgery for further information on local availability. □

NORFOLK CREATIVE ARTS

Norfolk Creative Arts are hosting a Christmas pop up shop at Church Hill School, 71 Gayton Road, Grimston, next to St Botolph's Church. Open 10am till 4pm daily from 25th November to 1st December with a special late night opening on Thursday 27th November from 6pm to 8pm.

Includes arts and crafts, all by local artists and makers (paintings, prints, jewellery, homeware, wood, food and beverage, ceramics and much more.)

Great opportunity to find that individual pressie. Free parking and a cafe on site. □

Dersingham Task Force Clare Bee

Christmas and the cold winter weather are on their way. Now is the time to hunker down, keep warm inside and prepare for the festive season.

It is also the time to let the garden rest (and ourselves!), apart from on those lovely crisp winter days when it's good to get out for a brisk walk or maybe plant those last few bulbs lurking in the shed.

Task Force members also take a bit of a rest over the winter. However, we still like to meet up every fortnight for a coffee and a chat (see the photo!!)

Over the last couple of years we have planted a variety of bulbs in the two gardens we look after and put in new plants to fill in any empty spaces. We also recently received a generous donation of bulbs from a Dersingham resident, Steve, and these have been planted in the two gardens. Thank you, Steve; they will all help to bring cheer to our village when the spring and the warmer weather return. □



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Village Singalongs for Christmas and the New Year

Steve and Lindsey Davis

Although these normally take place on the last Friday afternoon of each month, our special Christmas Singalong will be on Friday 19th December, as usual in the Village Centre Garden Room from 2-4pm, when we'll each be able to choose from Christmas carols and songs, past and present.

By the time you read this, the dersingers.uk website will have been updated with details of how to download a copy of the additional Dersingers Christmas Songbook which we'll be using, as well as our usual standard Dersingers Songbook to your phone, tablet or laptop, not that we're limited by the choice of songs in either! Of course, at our Singalongs we always have at least sixteen ready printed copies available in plastic folders too.

Then in January, we'll be bringing the Singalong forward to Friday 9th. Once into February, we'll revert back to meeting on the last Friday of the month (27th February). And, if you should happen to be reading this in time, there's still a Singalong to go on Friday 28th November.

Do come along; we always have a great sing, laugh and time together, plus a cup of tea/ coffee and biscuit, perhaps even stretching to a mince pie for the Christmas one! And, if you have an instrument to pluck, strum, blow, shake or squeeze perhaps, preferably something that doesn't require plugging in, you'd be most welcome to bring it along, beginner or expert alike!

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

(Ed: Steve has been experimenting with AI in Microsoft Copilot and it has artificially generated the following picture. Some similarities seem to be there.....I have absolutely no idea how it all works.)□





Events for December and January

COFFEE MORNINGS – MONDAYS 10:00 a.m. to noon on 8th and 15th December 5th and 19th January. Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits available to purchase. For information please email: lee.suckling78@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

NORFOLK and WAVENEY MIND GROUP MEETINGS - EVERY TUESDAY 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
For further information please visit the website www.norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk or telephone 0300 330 5488, or email nikki.nourse@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk

MONDAY 1st DECEMBER: BINGO NIGHT Club opens at 7.00p.m. “Eyes Down” at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a “Flyer Card” and £2 for a “Cash Accumulator” card. Fully licensed bar and Raffle For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899872351.

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER: SIMPLY ACOUSTIC NIGHT An evening of classic and original tunes from talented local performers. Club opens 7:00 p.m. For further information email events@appleyard.info. Note performers are pre-booked for this event.

FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER: FILM NIGHT - THE PENGUIN LESSONS (12A) Starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce in the true story in which disillusioned teacher Tom Michell (Steve Coogan) gets a job teaching English and rugby in a school for rich kids in Buenos Aires. Club opens 7:00 p.m. Film starts 7:30 p.m. Admission £5 payable at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465.

FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER: QUIZ NIGHT Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar, raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899872351.

FRIDAY 16th JANUARY: FILM NIGHT - Title to be announced. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465.

SATURDAY 24th JANUARY: BURNS NIGHT SUPPER – Club opens 7:00 p.m. Meal served 7:30 p.m. £12 per person payable on the night. All meals to be booked in advance by **Monday 19th January**. To book please email farmboy24@sky.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899872351.

FRIDAY 30th JANUARY: QUIZ NIGHT Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar, raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899872351.

Club opening times, unless otherwise stated: Fridays - 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. Last orders 9.30 p.m. Saturdays – 12.30 to 2.30 p.m.□



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We are a small and friendly long-established community choir that gets together at 7.00pm every Monday at The Way in Downs Close, Hunstanton (behind the Police Station). There we rehearse popular and lesser-known songs in preparation for our summer and Christmas concerts which we present locally.

If you feel tempted, but perhaps hesitant, why not at least come along and give singing a try? Previous experience is not required, neither is the ability to read music. And there are no auditions! All we ask is that you come along and hopefully enjoy the benefits of singing with like-minded people.

Just turn up any Monday evening or get more details from John on 07742 366385.

We look forward to seeing you.



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Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy

Our October meeting was a very interesting one - Penny Simmonds talked to us about reflexology. Penny is an experienced reflexologist and healer and is a member of both the Association of Reflexologists and the Confederation of Healing Organisations. She began her talk with a little history of reflexology and showing us the various reflexology charts of both hands and feet. Reflexology has ancient roots, with practices dating back over 5,000 years, evolving through significant contributions from key figures like Dr. William Fitzgerald and Eunice Ingham. Dr. Fitzgerald evolved a theory that divided the human body longitudinally into five zones on the left and five zones on the right. He had realized that any problem of an organ lying in one zone could be treated by applying pressure somewhere else within the same zone. This was called Zone Therapy which later became reflexology.

Penny then demonstrated a few techniques that we could do ourselves for perhaps a problem in the shoulders and neck, back aches, one that was good for the lymph glands and then for relaxing. Penny went round each table showing the finger technique used, and I must say she had very supple finger movement compared to some of us. There was much discussion among the members while trying to do these, trying to relate why just gently "thumb walking" up the outside edge of your thumb was beneficial to your spine. Penny stressed that she doesn't claim to heal any medical problems, but reflexology has proved in some people to ease or help healing and that it doesn't suit all people. I must admit that by the end of the few techniques I did on my hands I felt relaxed and a few of my aching hand joints seemed relieved. A most interesting and thought-provoking evening.

The book club in October read *The Year of Sitting Dangerously* by Simon Barnes. Simon in 2020 should have been in Zambia, but as we all know Covid curtailed a lot of plans. So instead of a safari in Africa Simon decided on a stationary safari at the bottom of his garden. sitting in his garden the same time every day for a year to see and hear what lived in or visited it. It sounds a very interesting book which I think I will have to get. Perhaps we could all try this in our gardens (we don't need an epidemic for it).

Their November book was *Tigers in Red Weather* by Liza Klausmann. This is a debut novel that explores family dynamics, secrets, and the impact of war through the lives of two cousins, Nick and Helena, in post-World War II America. It is set in Martha's Vineyard. The story starts on their family estate called Tiger House and follows the two women as Helena prepares for her upcoming wedding and Nick awaits her husband's return from the war.

The Craft group made some lovely cards using the Iris folding technique which turned into a bottle of wine of whichever colour you prefer, and in November they made Christmas cards. The crochet group is busy making Christmas presents.

Diann very kindly opened her home for our monthly coffee morning in October which was enjoyed by those that attended. It is always amazing the different topics of conversations that take place at these.

We also attended the Group Meeting in October. We were responsible for the raffle and we had a most informative interactive talk from The King's Lynn Town Guides. The

walk covered was the Historic Lynn walking tour which starts at Saturday Market Place and visits Trinity Guildhall, The Minster, the Valiant Sailor (Nelson Street), Hanse House, Thoresby College, Clifton House, the Custom House, St. George's Guildhall and then ends at the Dukes Head Hotel in Tuesday Market Place. It was a very informative talk, especially for any members new to the area.

By the time you read this we will have had our November meeting which is our Annual meeting when our committee stepped down and a new Committee was voted on. Five of our committee members decided not to re-stand for re-election. We thank Diann, Pat, Cyn and Ruth for all the hard work they have done for the W.I. during their time on the committee and I also stepped down as Secretary.

We will also be having a talk on Little Lifts, a charity that provides gift boxes to women suffering from breast cancer. These gift boxes include a variety of carefully chosen items selected by people who have personal experience of chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment for breast cancer.

We now look forward to our December events which are our Christmas coffee morning and then our Christmas party afternoon meeting (but more on those in the next issue.)

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

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

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Arts Society North West Norfolk
Let's have a Laugh
Lesley Nadel

There still exists an 'elitism' in art, the belief that only the wealthy, the educated, the privileged understand art; the superior attitude that art is supposed to be a serious matter so that only the experts know what's going on. These myths need busting because art has always been part of our existence, regardless of race, culture, politics or religion, and humour in art can be traced back to the ancient Greeks. Humour can get your attention, but its definition can vary greatly person to person. An everyday object, boring and mundane, can become new and enjoyable, the weird behaviour of an individual can make us laugh out loud. The transgressions of social codes and preconceived ideas are often the basis of humour in art, particularly contemporary art.

The twentieth-century art movements, such as Dadaism, were some of the early turning points for the foundation of humour in contemporary art that emerged after WW1. "Dada" is a simple joke itself, as it has no meaning, but is believed to be a reaction to the absurdity and gravity of the war. Dadaism is all about being artistically free and spontaneously creative and exploring the roles of chance and randomness. One of the very early examples of Dada anti-art was Marcel Duchamp and his readymade artwork 'Fountain' (a porcelain urinal signed "R. Mutt" 1917) challenging what is art, criticising the art establishment and confounding preconceived notions about the relationship between the object, the artist's idea and the viewer's perception. The title 'Fountain' is a pun on the object's function and appearance. 'R. Mutt' is a further humorous provocation. Firstly, the art establishment said it is immoral and vulgar, and plagiarism of a commercial piece of plumbing. Duchamp defended his readymade sculpture as "everyday objects raised to the dignity of work of art by the artist's act of choice". It was certainly a major landmark in twentieth-century modern and contemporary art and in the 1950s and 1960s sixteen replicas were commissioned from Duchamp and made to his approval.

Not all humour in contemporary art is playful like the Dadaists. More artists have resorted to much darker black humour and irony to highlight social and political protests. Consumerism, waste, inequality, the military, authoritarianism and environmental issues are common themes in contemporary works of art. Some artists have become internationally famous by deliberately producing work that is both provocative and dark but also funny. Maurizio Cattelan is an Italian visual artist known for his uncannily realistic sculptures and installations and famous for his 'banana on the wall'. It is his commentary on how art has become a luxury commodity, only accessible to the wealthy. His 'banana on the wall' challenges this notion by making art accessible to all. The famous Banksy is an artist who uses dark subversive humour as a weapon for political protest (Napalm, Banksy 1994). In others he plays with the codes of the establishment in a more light-hearted way (Devolved Parliament 1999).

Martin Parr, the documentary photographer, is the master of intimate, satirical and anthropological portraits of modern life in Britain and around the world in the 1980s and 1990s. His bold, flashy style captures so brilliantly the English social classes, their times at play and how they lived and laughed. Parr admits to the use of irony in his work to make serious subjects more accessible and to illustrate vulnerability and ambiguities. His often affectionate gaze on modern life, portraying the everyday in a critical and humorous light, and his commitment to preserving a growing collection of significant work, much of which is a humorous reflection on British and Irish culture, is an important part of contemporary art.

Humour can work as a defence mechanism in serious situations and in art it enables us to take a break from the usual reality of our daily life. Humour in art can give us distance from our fears, allowing reality and pleasure to coexist. Next time you laugh while looking at a picture or even in an art gallery, it's because you get it, or perhaps you don't. Either way, enjoy art.

The next lecture of The Arts Society North West Norfolk celebrates that quintessentially British humorous tradition – the Pantomime. Tyler Butterworth takes a revealing look at professional panto as someone born into it. This takes place at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm on Monday 8th December. You will find details about us and membership on our website www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk.□



**Have you always wanted to learn more about the arts?
Then start now with our next illustrated talk at
Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00pm on
Monday 8th December, 2025**

Pantomime - When the Fairy's Over 50

Lecturer: Tyler Butterworth

A revealing look at professional panto by someone born into it. We hear about the highs and lows, the famous names, of this precious British tradition.



For more information and how to join, visit our website:
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- * Special Interest Days
- * Regular newsletters and magazines
- * A social event with a warm welcome

Word Wall

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

FLAGON	LEE	CENTURION	BARREL
CHALLENGER	WEREWOLF	SPORRAN	JACKSON
DRAGON	TRUNK	SHERMAN	UNICORN
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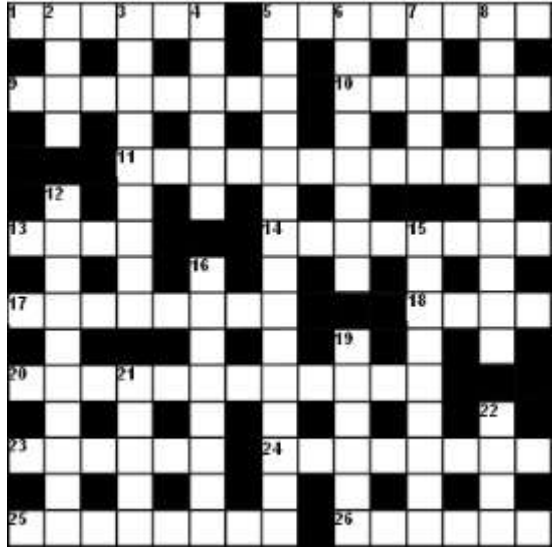
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Across

- 1 Iron clad meat ablaze (6)
- 5 Son sat precariously on wall to see female Oaks winner – if you get my drift (8)
- 9 Hope to stop Mimi misbehaving (8)
- 10 Show unveiled in Venice (6)
- 11 Napoleon for instance got his goat on the Christmas dinner table (6,6)
- 13 Song coming from a Rialto gondola (4)
- 14 Minor outbursts with gifts for all (8)
- 17 Rub crème vigorously into part associated with intellectual function (8)
- 18 Particle seen floundering in moat (4)
- 20 Earls scoring harmoniously in Christmas choir (5,7)
- 23 Spread around street with rare three pointer (6)
- 24 C.I.D. dated criminal dependent (8)
- 25 Honestly working to become rather secretive (2,3,3)
- 26 Holiday centre where you can relax or rest possibly (6)



**Answers on
Page 72**

Down

- 2 Slap around – top to bottom (4)
- 3 Busy cinema bar for sailors (9)
- 4 Primarily evergreens, ragwort, ivy, cactus and shrubs (6)
- 5 Serious film shown at half-time? (4,11)
- 6 Tailored robe Vera wore in order to dominate (8)
- 7 Collapse in fat solution (5)
- 8 Secure home for Mr Jones? (6,4)
- 12 Harry met trainer flying through forest down under (4,6)
- 15 Knack of keeping writhing reptile in school bags (9)
- 16 Serpents tangled under the tree (8)
- 19 Information about red female for example (6)
- 21 AH, O.B.E. surprisingly awarded for witchcraft (5)
- 22 Game played in this Christmas tree (4)

Sudoku

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

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Flambe. 5 Snowfall. 9 Optimism. 10 Evince. 11 Brandy butter. 13 Aria. 14 Crackers. 17 Cerebrum. 18 Atom. 20 Carol singers. 23 Strewn. 24 Addicted. 25 On the sly. 26 Resort.

Down

2 Laps. 3 Mainbrace. 4 Ericas. 5 Semi documentary. 6 Overbear. 7 Faint. 8 Locker room. 12 Tree martin. 15 Knapsacks. 16 Presents. 19 Gender. 21 Obeah. 22 Pear.

Word Wall Answers

Confederate Civil War generals: Beauregard, Jackson, Lee, Watie

Containers: Barrel, Flagon, Sporrán, Trunk

Mythical creatures: Dragon, Griffin, Unicorn, Werewolf

Tanks: Centurion, Challenger, Leopard, Sherman

Sudoku Answers

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

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings and details of upcoming attractions:

Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
No 158 (Feb/Mar 26)	Monday 5th Jan 2026	Monday 26th Jan 2026
No 159 (April/May 26)	Monday 2nd March 2026	Monday 23rd March 2026

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Obtain booking form and full technical details for advertisements by emailing villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or from the Parish Council office (address below). An invoice will be sent on receipt of the booking form.

Articles

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

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Carpets & Flooring

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Lynn Carpet Centre *p.37*

Supreme Carpets *p.41*

Chimney Sweep

D Thompson Chimneys *p.72*

Chiropody

Jennie Smith *p.24*

Surefoot Clinic *p.59*

Vital Foot Care *p.10*

Computers

Gary Kite *p.22*

Dancing

Take the Lead *p.50*

Dogs

Hoochy Pooch Parlour *p.41*

Domestic Appliances

Fix up my Appliance *p.63*

DK Appliances *p.33*

Dry Cleaners

Clock Clean *p.70*

Ear Care

Ear Care by Liz *p.19*

Electrical

Gelder Electrical *p.65*

Estate Agents

Landles *p.31*

The Norfolk Agents *pp 38 & 39*

Fabrics, curtains, blinds

Christyana *p.63*

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Hilliers Flowers *p.4*

Financial Services

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Garden Centre

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p.50

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Home Improvements and Maintenance (decorating, cleaning, handyman)

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The Gables *p.72*

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p.7

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p.63

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