

Number 158

February/March 2026

VILLAGE VOICE

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE





**WILD
BIRD CARE**
Don't forget to keep
Feeding the birds!

**It's Time To Plant Primroses &
Potted Spring Bulbs For Early Spring Colour**

**Seeds · Summer Bulbs
Seed Potatoes · Onion Sets ·
Primroses · Pansies · Potted Bulbs**



Arriving throughout
February
Garden Furniture, Giftware
& much more.



Coffee Shop

Open 9 - 4 7 days

Serving freshly baked scones, cakes & light lunches.

Afternoon tea available to book

Tel: 01485 545105

Garden Centre, Coffee Shop & Spar Store

49 Hunstanton Road, Dersingham

Tel: 01485 541514

www.thaxters.co.uk

Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones

As I write this we have had a little snow, but nothing like in January 2010 when I took the photograph below. But then there is a storm on the way.....

Our cover is celebrating the coming of spring and snowdrops are certainly poking their heads through in my garden, no doubt now holding back with this cold weather. I've been sprinkling salt on the doorstep in anticipation of slippery times ahead.

We welcome a new cafe to the village in the shape of Biagio's, taking over from Petals. So village groups will again have another place to congregate, or to recover after bracing walks. We are now well-endowed with eateries, with Thaxters Coffee Shop, The Feathers and the Coach and Horses.

Dersingham has celebrated the Christmas season in style. Special mention must be made about the magnificent light show of decorations down Viceroy Close, known at this time of year as "Christmas Close". Inside is a taste of this wonderful display, together with some images of the Christmas Trees by Candlelight at St Nicholas' Church, which was truly magical.

Coral Shepherd, our Parish Council Chairman, has written the final part of her trilogy on the men of Dersingham who died as a result of the Second World War. The stories are often harrowing and one can only feel that all this violence is such a waste of young lives, and in many parts of the world is still continuing.

But on to more cheerful matters. As we turn the corner into a new year let us hope that you all have a healthy and peaceful new year and that village groups continue to thrive.



New Village Voice Editor Wanted

Jo Halpin Jones

I announced in the last edition of the magazine that I would be stepping down as editor. I am happy to continue until the next edition but after that we will need a new editor. This may be just the job for you.

It is not in any way a full-time job, it is a voluntary role. However, there is a generous honorarium to acknowledge the time and effort involved and to help defray any expenses.

The main skills and roles that are required for the job are:

Make editorial decisions about the suitability of material coming in.

- Ability to ensure grammar and spelling are correct and make any necessary amendments.
- Ability to cut or add text to get it to fit the layout.
- Turn the text into a Microsoft Word document, where necessary, using our standard font and type size.
- Edit photographs to enhance quality and crop to an appropriate size. This requires some basic knowledge of image software - I use Photoshop. Training can be given for this.
- Where necessary, work on new advertisements and posters to fit the designated size in our layout.
- Create new ads when requested by advertisers.
- Create the front covers.
- Write Editor's Notes
- Attend the bi-monthly Parish Council Communications Committee meetings.

The editor's main role is to process articles and photographs that are sent in. These then go to Geri Scanlon, who is the Assistant Business Manager in the Parish Council office, and she creates the layout of the magazine, so the editor does not have to worry about that.

As we only publish every two months, after the final layout goes off to the printer, there is about four to six weeks when very little needs to be done for the next edition. Occasional articles come to me during this time, which I process and send to Geri. I send off a reminder letter to all our regular contributors two weeks before the deadline for articles to be received. The two weeks before publication can be busy as we head to the deadline. Geri and I liaise to finalise the content and layout of the magazine. Proof copies go off to our local proofreaders. Any corrections are incorporated into the final layout and then it's off to our printer, Clanpress, in King's Lynn. Geri then sorts out the distribution which is done by our volunteers.

I am very happy to work alongside anyone taking on this role, if they should so wish, until processes become clearer. And training can be given on the technical side of things if necessary.

If you are interested, please contact me at villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk and we can have a detailed discussion.□

Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a happy New Year to you all. I would like to thank all residents who decorated the outside of houses and gardens for Christmas, there are more every year and they cheer the soul. A very special thanks to the residents of Viceroy Close, or Christmas Close as it has become known, for their magnificent display of lights, each garden being different but giving a special display, well worth seeing. I know many people visited, including myself, and all enjoyed and appreciated the efforts that went into putting it all together. Also, a huge well done for the fund raising from this display for the East Anglian Air Ambulance who benefitted by over £1100.

As usual at this time of year the Parish Council has been busy looking at its budgets for the next financial year, so that during January we can finally set the budget and the precept for 2026-27. This is the share of your council tax payments that are allocated to the Parish Council so that we can continue to provide services to yourselves e.g. streetlights, grass cutting, maintaining the children's playground, the Recreation Ground, the War Memorial, the Warren, and maintaining seats, benches, litter bins and dog bins. The Borough Council have assured us that they will only increase the costs of emptying the dog bins by the rate of inflation. We are hopeful that we will not need to make a significant increase in the precept as we are aware that many residents are struggling with the cost of living. A final decision will be made before the end of January.

Looking forward to the financial year 2026-27, we will be considering further replacement of streetlamp columns as many are reaching the end of their safe lives. We will continue to consider the best ways of addressing speeding and parking in the village, which will include working with Norfolk County Council to provide a village gateway in Shernborne Road. We will look at the War Memorial itself as the gold lettering on the names recorded is wearing away and it is important that we remember those who gave their lives in the previous two world wars, especially as we will soon see the end of the generation who have living memories of the 1939-45 conflict.

More mundanely, we will be looking to replace some of our dog waste bins where they are rusting or otherwise in a poor condition. Work will continue on the Neighbourhood Plan and you find a flyer delivered with this magazine about a survey. Please do take the time to complete it, as it will help us to prepare and deliver the plan.

Turning to next summer, we have two events at Sandringham that will impact the village. There is the Royal Horticultural Society flower show from Wednesday 22nd July to Sunday 26th July, and the concerts in August from Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd. Whilst only one concert has been announced - Eric Clapton on the Sunday, others are planned and we will learn more in the next two or three months. I will be attending a consultation meeting with representatives of Sandringham Estate, Heritage Live, the RHS, the Borough Council, County Highways Officers, Police and other nearby Parish Councils. This will be to advise us all about the current state of preparations for the flower show and concerts. As many will be aware, improvements were made for last year's concerts as there was less traffic congestion and pedestrian access was safer, but further amendments will be likely. I should have further information that I can share with you in our next edition. □



News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Association Matters

We have a couple of vacancies on the Centre Management Committee. If you are interested in how the Centre is run, and planning for the future, please get in touch. We will soon begin budget setting for the next financial year.

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.

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.

Thank you

We appreciate the support from those who attend Coffee Shops and the Friendship Lunch; it makes it so worthwhile for the volunteers who give up their time to shop, cook, serve, and do the washing up.

Events

We have nothing planned for the short term, but there will be a Spring Craft Fair, organised by Fiona Hillier.

Whirligig have been booked for a Barn Dance in November. This time it will **not** include a hot supper, which will reduce ticket prices.

Village Cinema

February's film is *Four Letters of Love*, in March we are showing *The Salt Path*.

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. Best wishes for 2026 from all at the Centre.□

Mann Made Developments Ltd

Free No Obligation Valuation and Estimation for

**Extensions, Garages, New Build, Conversions
plus All Other Tasks including groundwork, brickweave, etc.**

Family run business with over 30 years experience.

Call anytime for your **Free Quote** 07798723287 or 01485540008
or email: info@mannmadedevelopments.co.uk
www.mannmadedevelopments.co.uk

Dersingham War Memorial – Leonard Reynolds to Arthur Wade Coral Shepherd

This is my final article of the brief stories about those from the village 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 have been researching the histories of the nineteen men who lost their lives during WW2.

I recommence with **Leonard Robert Reynolds**. Leonard was born on December 12th, 1920 to Edward and Thirza Reynolds; he was their youngest son, known as Podge. He had two older brothers, Edward William and Peter and they lived in Post Office Road. There were also two older sisters, Peggy Kathleen and Hildegarde, both of whom died in 1919 of influenza. Leonard was single and worked as a clerk for a grain and provender supplier. (I hope this is correct as the writing in the 1939 register was very difficult to read.) When called up he served in the RAF as a leading aircraftman. He was sent to Singapore and was based at Seletar in north-east Singapore. He was captured by the Japanese on March 8th 1942 when Java fell. He was held prisoner on Java and in 1944 when the Allies began raids in the area the Japanese retreated taking the PoWs with them. Leonard was put on board the Maros Maru and this, together with other ships carrying PoWs, were to become known as the Hell Ships. The Maros Maru was a small Dutch ship that had been sunk in 1942 but was refloated by the Japanese in 1943. The ship was barely seaworthy; it had no facilities or space for the many prisoners that were on board and the men were packed into every conceivable corner. During the journey the ship suffered engine failure and docked for repairs. It was in dock for 40 days during which time the PoWs were not allowed to leave the ship. The men had very little water and even less food and had to endure searing heat. Over half of the men on board died in the horrific conditions. Sadly, Leonard was one of those who perished and like the others who died he was buried at sea. He died on October 13th 1944 aged 24. He is commemorated on the memorial at Kranji cemetery in Singapore.



There is a sad inevitability about the next young man that is commemorated – **Peter Reynolds**. He was the middle child of Edward and Thirza Reynolds of Post Office Road and older brother to Leonard, whose story is above. He was born in 1918 and was single when he joined the army. He served as a private in the 7th Battalion Royal Norfolk regiment. He served in this unit at the same time as James Ernest Nurse, who was two years his junior. However, coming from a small village with a population of some 1500 they would have known each other. They also both worked on the Sandringham Estate. The 7th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment was a territorial army unit that was deployed to 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 June 12th 1940. However, Peter was killed aged 22

together with James Nurse in fighting the day before the surrender on June 11th (I did find some details but I thought that the circumstances were too grim to publish.) He is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Franco-British Cemetery at St Valery-en-Caux, next door but one to James Nurse. He is also commemorated on the Sandringham War Memorial.

The next recorded person is **Claude Derrick Riches**. He was born in 1925 to James and Alice Maud Riches. He had four older sisters, three older brothers and one younger brother. His father was a bootmaker and repairer and they lived in Sunnyside Villas in Lynn Road. He was single and possibly trained as a wireless operator with the UK postal service. He joined the Merchant Navy and served as a first radio officer on board the *SS Empire Impala*. It was an American ship that was given to Britain in 1941 and used by the Merchant Navy. In 1943 it was part of convoy SC121, the 121st of the numbered series of slow convoys of merchant ships from America to Liverpool. The convoy consisted of 69 freighters, 2 destroyers, 3 cutters, 4 corvettes and 27 submarines. On 7th March 1943 the *Empire Impala* was ordered to pick up survivors from the *Egyptian* which had been sunk by a U boat at 2.10am. At 9.06 U Boat 591 torpedoed and sank a straggler, probably the *Empire Impala*. All 48 on board were lost, and this included Claude. In total 12 freighters of the convoy were sunk and 270 men died. Claude is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Tower Hill Memorial in London.



Next we have **Eric Walter Senter** who was born in 1913 and was the youngest son of Walter and Leah Senter. He had two older brothers, Martin Marcus and Neville John. The family had moved to Leamington by 1921 but were back in Dersingham in 1926. Eric moved to Littlehampton in the 1930s and there he met his wife, Betty Joan Mobbs; they married in 1940. He worked in an ironmongery shop, sang in the choir and was choirmaster of the local United Church. He was a tenor and his wife was a soprano in the choir. They had a daughter, Jennifer, in 1941. He was called up in 1940 and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, Field Ambulance 215. Field ambulances were frontline units responsible for clearing the battlefield of wounded, providing immediate triage and operating medical stations such as Advanced and Main Dressing Stations. He served in two Libyan campaigns and was posted in Syria, Lebanon, Ceylon and India. His final posting was to north-east India in the province of Bengal. This was an important military location as it was close to the border with Burma which was occupied by the Japanese and in 1943 there was intense training for the Burma campaign. Also, at the time from late 1942 into 1943 there was a famine which claimed the lives of over 3 million Indians. Eric died on November 3rd 1943, the records showing that he drowned aged 30. There is no other information about the cause of drowning but in 1943 there was a devastating cyclone and massive tidal waves when some were swept away in strong currents. Or the cause of death may have been military shorthand for a water-based training accident. He is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Kirkee in India. As well as being commemorated on the war memorial in Dersingham there is also a plaque in the Littlehampton United Church.



Now to the last two named people, who are slightly mysterious. Starting with **Jack Twaite** who was born in 1909 in Roydon to John and Annie Twaite. He was their only child and by 1921 they were living at Sunnyside Villas, Lynn Road in Dersingham. His father ran Twaite's garage, opposite the house at the junction of Lynn Road and Post Office Road. The garage remained as a garage until it was developed as



flats. In May 1913 there is a record of the family sailing from Southampton on the *Ausonia* to Quebec, Canada and returning in March 1914 from St Johns, New Brunswick, Canada to Bristol on the *Royal George*. Were they looking for a permanent move to Canada? Did the reality not live up to the dream? Or were they simply visiting family? Who ran the garage in their absence? Jack's father continued to run the business on their return. Jack started school a few weeks after returning to Dersingham and left aged 14 to become a motor and cycle mechanic. He married Doris May Arter from East Winch in 1932 but there is no record of any children. He was called up at the beginning of the Second World War and served in the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) as a colonel. He served in France coming through the evacuation of Dunkirk and after a few months in England was sent to North Africa. He died on 7th November 1941, aged 32 and is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Tobruk War Cemetery, in Libya. The RASC played a vital logistical role during the Siege of Tobruk (April – November 1941), ensuring the flow of supplies, water and ammunition to the besieged "Rats of Tobruk" primarily via the perilous "Spud Run" by sea, supporting the defending Commonwealth forces and the relief effort, crucial for maintaining morale and fighting capacity against Rommel's Afrika Korps.

Our final man brings us back to Dersingham, **Arthur William Wade** and he is the oldest of those commemorated. He was born in 1901 in North Elmham to Arthur James and Florence Mary Wade. He was their eldest child and he had one brother, George Albert and three sisters – Florence Louise, Helen Dorothea and Dorothy Helen Mildred. In 1921 they were living in Sandford Cottages in Dersingham and his father is recorded as a rat catcher. Arthur seems to have remained single but I have been unable to find out anything about his employment. He joined the army at the beginning of the war and served as a private in the 8th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment. During 1940 this was a home defence unit based in Norfolk, primarily guarding vulnerable points along the coast and inland which were considered to be potential locations for a German invasion. The battalion was largely comprised of older men and those otherwise unsuited for immediate overseas deployment. The period of October 1940 fell within the "Blitz", and whilst we normally think of this affecting London (see Wilfred Jakeman) it lasted from September 1940 to May 1941 and affected large parts of England including Norwich and the Norfolk coast. There is no record of any specific incident, but Arthur died of wounds on 27th October 1940 aged 40. He is recorded as dying at the RAF hospital at Ely. This hospital opened in 1940 as a key war time facility. He was buried in St Nicholas churchyard and his grave is marked by a Commonwealth War Graves Commission gravestone.



The men described in the three articles ranged from the ages of 18 to 40 when they died and they served all round the world, going where they were sent from the home front to France, Holland, Italy, North Africa, India, Burma, Java and Singapore. Each death was a tragedy for their families and three families lost two sons each. I hope I have brought each one to life and with the world becoming a more dangerous place we should remember their sacrifices to ensure the world remained free and safe.

As with the previous two articles, the information has been gathered from Ancestry, Find My Past, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and various other reports and articles published on the internet. Other information may be available from regimental museums and that and other information may be published in future years. I will place my file of information in the secure safe in the Parish Council office and perhaps someone may wish to republish and update the information in 2045 when the 100th anniversary of the end of World War Two is commemorated. □

Reserve Volunteer Village Voice distributors

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

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

Vital Foot Care

Keeping you comfortable on your feet. Whether you need regular maintenance or help with problem feet, Vital Foot Care brings professional foot health services directly to your door.

Specialising in:

- Toenail trimming & filing
- Thickened nails • Verrucas
- Ingrown toenail management
- Corns & hard skin removal
- Fungal infections • Cracked heels
- Diabetic and high-risk foot care
- Advice on footwear, skin, and nail health

Tina Smith, Dip. TCFCP Fully Qualified &
Registered Foot Care Practitioner

■ 07771 883436

■ vitalfootcare43@gmail.com

PG Plumbing & Building contractors

All types of bathroom and
kitchens installed

Plumbing and heating

Tiling

General Building



54 Marram Way, Heacham PE31 7AH

Tel: 0800 2343044 Mobile: 07836 506379

(Established 1985)

Card payment available

Disabled bathroom adaptations is our speciality. Just give us a call and we will be happy to help.



Baby Basics Maggie Anderson

West Norfolk

A small but passionate volunteer-led team meets once a week, every Tuesday morning at St Nicholas Church, to prepare starter packs and other essentials needed to help mums and families struggling to meet the financial and practical needs of looking after a new baby. There is a lot of unseen work that goes on throughout the year, every day, but we meet physically each Tuesday.

These new Moses Baskets provide a safe bed for babies to sleep in and are packed full of essentials such as nappies, wipes, toiletries, blankets, baby towels, and baby clothes from new-born to three months. For some mothers, these are the only items they may have for their baby. As well as these items for babies, essentials such as maternity pads, breast pads, and essential toiletries are provided for the mum.

Every referral to Baby Basics is received from professionals such as midwives, health visitors, social workers, Children's Services, family support workers, Leeway, Early Years, Ask Lily, The Borough Council, the Purfleet, and many others. We support vulnerable groups including, but not limited to, those facing poverty, homelessness, families in crisis, teenage mums, and women fleeing domestic violence. Demand for our service continues to grow. Referrals increased from 57 in 2019 to 216 in 2021, and in 2025 we completed 330 referrals, with December being our busiest month (41 referrals, including 24 emergencies, supporting 62 mums, babies, and young children).

One mum's feedback via the Midwives shared, *"Receiving a Moses Basket made me feel cared for during a difficult time. Without that support things could have been so very different."* We regularly receive positive feedback from a range of professionals, including midwives, health visitors, social workers, and staff at local refuge centres. For example, a staff member at a refuge centre told us: *"The knowledge that we can turn to Baby Basics and ask for help means that the responses to our referral requests have provided essential comfort to families who arrive with nothing."* Another health visitor recently commented, *"Knowing that we can turn to Baby Basics for support makes a real difference to the families in our care."*

Stories like these remind us why our work matters. There is no judgement – we believe that those with the least deserve the best, and we are careful to provide as-new or new items where practical, ensuring that each person feels valued. It takes courage for these mums to accept or agree to help, so when they are referred to us by professionals, we know they will get ongoing signposting for further support.

Whilst it is a privilege to provide these Moses Basket bundles to those who need them most, it's a sad reflection on the need locally. Our ethos is to try to give these mums dignity, to feel worthy, because they are. Having to ask for help is hard.

To support our work, you can donate funds, bring donations (not large items unless pre-arranged with us due to limited storage) to St Nicholas Church on Tuesday mornings, or volunteer your time washing and ironing pre-loved donated items. Every contribution makes a difference—just £2 buys a packet of maternity pads. All the Moses Baskets are new. Fundraising and donations enable us to ensure each baby has a new bed to sleep in, and clothes and blankets to keep it warm.

In December we held a successful fundraiser in the church, raising over £300. Our next big fundraiser will take place on the platform at The Royal Wolferton Station, featuring a

cake stall, book stall, tombola and more, with refreshments to be enjoyed in the lovely station garden. The exact date will be announced soon—please check our Facebook or the church noticeboard for updates.

In addition to our fundraising events, we also give talks to groups such as the WI, Mothers Union, and Rotary clubs, to name a few, when requested. These activities all help to promote our volunteer work and engage the wider community in supporting our mission.

Thank you all for the local support we receive – the church on a Tuesday morning is always full of folk dropping off lovingly prepared gifts of donations, where a warm welcome awaits them, despite the busy hustle and bustle.



Baby Basics West Norfolk is associated with St. Nicholas Church, Dersingham. Registered charity no. 250450

For more information on our vision, please visit the Baby Basics website: <https://baby-basics.org.uk/centre/west-norfolk> or find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BabyBasicsWestNorfolk>. □

Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club

Chairman: Geoff Carter, Treasurer: Alan Baker, Secretary: Dai Stacey

The enjoyment of a game of carpet bowls is at the heart of this friendly club. Various optional social events are also organised during the year, such as trips and meals out. The Christmas party was held in December.

The club held its AGM in October 2025. Owing to various circumstances it was necessary to elect some new committee members to a few roles within the club. The resigning committee members were due great gratitude for their service to the running of the club over a long period.

As has been the custom, the club made an annual donation to a local charity proposed and voted on by members. This year Age UK Norfolk was the chosen recipient.

Membership has remained steady with some new members joining this year. The club meets on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30pm to 5:00 pm at the Village Centre. The first session for 2026 was on Tuesday 6th January. □

Dersingham at Christmas

As usual, Dersingham was humming with activity during the Christmas period - Village groups held Christmas parties; carols were sung by Dersingham Choir, the Singalong group and in the Village Hall; the Social Clubs made merry; the churches celebrated in their various ways; and the shops catered for the surge in last minute present and food shopping.

Many houses in Dersingham were decked out in all their colourful Christmas finery, but special mention has to go to Viceroy Close, off Mountainbatten Road (known as Christmas Close at this time of year). They pulled out all the stops this year and made £1100 to donate to the East Anglia Air Ambulance. Below are a few photos to acknowledge their amazing efforts.

Opposite are some images of St Nicholas Church during the Christmas Tree Festival which took place throughout December. These were taken during an evening of "Trees by Candlelight". It was magical. This traditional village event brings together the contribution of many village groups and organisations to create a wonderful backdrop to a month of celebration.







LET US HELP YOU

Investment management and planning | Retirement planning | Estate planning | Financial protection | Corporate financial planning | Mortgage advice

FINANCIAL ADVICE IN

6 St Nicholas Court, Church Lane, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6GZ.

Get in touch today to arrange a no obligation consultation with your Fairstone adviser.

t: 01485 541 998

e: ben.allen@fairstone.co.uk

w: fairstone.co.uk

★ **Trustpilot** ★★★★★ **4.9** out of 5

Fairstone Financial Management Ltd. (FRN: 475973) and Fairstone Wealth Management Ltd. (FRN:188596) are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The regulated firms are all part of the Fairstone Group Limited. Company No: 06599555. Registered address: 8 Camberwell Way, Doxford International Business Park, Sunderland, SR3 3XN.

*All Trustpilot references are correct as of time of print.

Fairstone 



@FairstoneGroup

Gift ideas for Older Family and Friends
Angela Gifford, Able Community Care



Too late now as ideas for gifts at Christmas, but there are always birthdays and other special occasions!

For Comfort & Warmth:

- A soft fleece blanket,
- A heated throw
- Cozy slippers with non-slip soles are perfect for cold winter days.

Helpful Everyday Items:

- Magnifying glass with built-in light for easier reading
- Easy-grip jar opener
- Long-handled shoehorn
- Large-button telephone or amplified phone
- Book holder or reading stand
- Easy-open pill organiser

Personal & Meaningful Gifts:

- Recent family photograph in a frame
- Bird feeder positioned for easy viewing, with birdseed included
- Selection of greetings cards with a book of stamps
- Historic newspaper from their birth date
- Personalized photo calendar or memory book
- Audiobook subscription
- Gift Subscriptions (3-12 months)
- Monthly deliveries keep giving long after Christmas: cakes or bakes, craft beer, cheese boxes, magazine subscriptions, flower deliveries, or tea and coffee selections.

Able Community Care is a Norfolk based, nationwide live-in care provider. For an information pack please call 01603 764567 □

<p>RED PUMPS GARAGE Vehicle Repair & Maintenance Specialists</p> <p>86 Chapel Road, Dersingham</p> <p>01485 540458</p> <p>Email: redpumpsgarage@btinternet.com</p> <p>www.redpumpsgarage.co.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Service & Repair to ALL Makes & Models● Class 4 MOT's● Ferodo Brake Specialist● Engine Diagnostics & Management● Tyres, Exhausts, Clutches, Batteries etc● Air Conditioning● All Work Guaranteed & Competitively Priced	 
--	---	--



T. 01553 772737
 E. info@clanpress.co.uk
 W. www.clanpress.co.uk

1 Dundee Court • Hamburg Way
 King's Lynn • Norfolk • PE30 2ND

The complete printing solution
clanpress
 www.clanpress.co.uk

Litho Printing • Digital Printing • Design
 Brochures • Leaflets • Folders • Flyers
 NCR Sets • Business Stationery • Newsletters
 Roller Banners • Outdoor & Indoor Signage

GARY KITE

Computer services



Sales, Upgrades, Repairs
 Home calls for tuition,
 Broadband installations &
 general maintenance

Over 25 years experience

Tel 01485 544606 Mob 07444 759653

Personal service Professional technician

Anna
 at
Malthouse Barn
 Hair & Beauty

14 Lynn Road, Snettisham
 PE31 7PT



Anna trained and worked
 in Cambridge and has over 20 years Hairdressing experience
 Her specialities are colour work and precision cutting

Give her a call, her hours are flexible.
**She is looking forward to filling her diary with
 new and existing clients**

01485 545739
 07880617356



*Are you experiencing pain from an injury
 or chronic condition?*

*Sports Therapy and massage treatments
 available in Wolferton (PE31 6HA)*

Contact Jane on: 07714 091097

Or via my Facebook page: The Wright Hand



Winter Witterings

The clocks had gone back, alas and alack...
Winter was fast approaching down the track,
Beginning to make lists of all the things to do,
Adverts a-plenty reminding us about jabs for the flu.

There were parties to attend, and concerts to perform,
Round this time of year, these are quite the norm.
The food lists must be readied to order or buy at will,
Time's getting precious, there's no standing still.



From end of October, the stores have been dressed,
The Christmas offers and discounts leaving us stressed.
Early December, mince pies and cakes to buy or make,
Presents to wrap and hide away is at stake.

The half way point for our families to meet and jell
Was in Nottingham, for Christmas lunch at 'The Old Bell'.
The teenagers got busy talking in their tech-y way
The little ones eyes lit up seeing Santa and his sleigh.



The dining room was full of families like ours,
The kiddies so enthralled to Santa's powers.
Couldn't keep them on their chairs, they wanted to play,
At leaving time, it was a battle prising them out of the sleigh.

We exchanged presents and went off on our way
After thoroughly enjoying our Christmas family day.
Glad it happened then, as a few days later, hubby went down with a viral "lurgy",
Days in bed laid low, weeks after completely bereft of energy.

We missed the birthday party of our smallest pair,
We missed the carol concert that we wanted to hear.
We missed Christmas Day lunch, the appetite wasn't swell,
We missed Boxing Day, daughter-in-law went down as well.



Winter had arrived with its attendant frost,
The last bit of warmth in the sunshine now lost.
The wintry party began, and it put on quite a show
By giving us cold snaps, wind, rain, hail and snow...!!!

There's a primeval joy waiting for the vernal replenishing,
Roll on snowdrops, aconites and daffodils, roll on welcome spring.

Lorna MMXXVI

Sandringham parkrun January 1st 2026 Malcolm Senior

A great start to 2026 with the inaugural Sandringham parkrun where tourists visited from Peterborough, Downham Market, Essex, Huntingdon, Cork in Ireland, Shropshire, Bury St Edmunds, London, Cannon Chase and the Fletcher family from Woodhall Spa.

With 355 finishers the first finisher was Ben KEELEY in a time of 19:07 and our first lady, in 4th position, was Marie DUHIG in a time of 19:56, both regulars to Sandringham. We had an excellent 77 First Timers to Sandringham and equally excellent 11 First Timers to parkrun (Thomas SHEILS, Eve CROWNSHAW, Joshua BOWDEN, Jamie-Lee BOWDEN, Stephen COOPER, Anji SIVAKUMAR, George GALE, Stephanie MORRIS, Nikki SIMPER, Matilda WOODFORD, Richard MALIN). Milestones were achieved by: Oliver KING – 25, Simon LEE/Alan David WEELS/Patricia Ann WELLS – 50, Matt COOK – 150, David INCE/Carolyn MORLEY – 200, Claire EMERY – 250, Tom RICHARDS – 300, Martin SHELDRICK – 350 parkruns. Six of today's participants were in the 500 Club: Richard BAGGOTT – 511, Sarah BYATT – 522, Judith WEBSTER-SANDERS – 543 Kevin SANDERS – 611, Linda WEST – 640, Ramona THEVENET – 898. In the age grading rankings Stephanie MOCATTA came out top with a 72.81% and Bethany WILCOX came in 2nd spot with 70.93%.

Well done to all finishers. A contingent of 12 participants were Dersingham Runners: Bethany WILCOX, Stephanie MOCATTA and Paris LARHAM all achieved personal best (PB) times. An enormous Thank You to the 33 volunteers on this bright chilly morning. Volunteering milestones: Katy GROSS 50 and Ben TALBOT-WILLIAMS 25 times. □



Last Friday of the Month Singalongs Steve Davis

We've now been meeting together for a full year (with our January one having been brought forward to Friday 9th), after which we resume as usual at the end of the month, the next two being Fridays 27th February and March respectively, 2-4pm in the Dersingham Village Centre Garden Room.



It's been great fun singing together and making new friends. Those that wish can bring along an acoustic musical instrument to play. So far we've had players of guitar, ukulele, melodeon, concertina, tin whistle, cajon (box drum) and tambourine, and are always open to offers. We do have 18 printed out copies of our 'Songbook' and everyone present gets the chance to choose a song, either from the book or one you simply know and can give a lead to. Purely instrumental pieces are welcome too. However, if you visit our website at dersingers.uk you'll find further details as well as a link to be able to download a latest PDF copy of our songbook to your phone or tablet to bring along with you, as well as get a preview of the sort of things we sing. We're always open to suggestions for further songs to include in the songbook too.

If you have any questions or just wanted to express an interest, feel free to contact me on steve.dersingham@gmail.com or phone/text/WhatsApp me on 07885 721158. Hope to see you there; just come along and do bring a friend.□



EAR CARE BY LIZ

Initial consultation, ear examination, treatment and after care service

From the comfort of your own home with a fully insured Registered General Nurse with 35 years' experience.

Get in touch
Mobile: 07891 284458
Landline: 01485 592531
Email: Lizpearce68@gmail.com





LOCAL EXPERT

Guttering cleared, repaired and replaced

From £35

*Free quotes, fully insured
Professional quality work*

Contact Neill:
01485 572002 07856 568433
neilmurray@ymail.com

Foot Health Care in Your Own Home

Jennie Smith MCFHP, MAFHP
Foot Health Practitioner

Registered Member of The British Association of Foot Health Professionals

07765 662113
Email: jennie@gonglane.uk



SN HANDYMAN

General home and garden maintenance

- *Painting & Decorating (interior/exterior)
- *Gutters Cleared & Repaired
- *Pressure Washing Patios etc.
- *DIY and Improvements

No job too small

References available upon request.
Please call Steven Newton 07713 859712
or email: newton73@hotmail.co.uk
Sedgeford, Norfolk



Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstolne, Church Secretary

The **Coffee morning** in October raised £300.79 for the RNLI. We were very pleased to be able to support this much needed service. November's **Christmas Fayre** raised £571.55 funds for the King's Lynn Night Shelter, a wonderful result.

In early December we took bags and boxes filled with food items, Christmas goodies and toiletries to the Hunstanton Food Bank; the total amount was 66.3kg (10st 4lbs).

As part of our Christmas preparations we sent sixty Christmas cards to the Methodist Homes Edina Court, Wisbech, and know these gave much pleasure to the residents.

Collections at our Christmas services raised £285 for All We Can to help find solutions to poverty in many parts of the world.

Coffee mornings are on Saturday 24th January and 27th February, 10.00 am, for our flower festival fund. In May the Church will be 136 and we are planning our flower festival to celebrate this.

Services – Sunday 10.30 am.

Our usual activities continue :

Bowls Club - Wednesday 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. weekly. *Joan Golding, phone 07522429809.*

Jigsaw Club - Third Thursday each month 9.30 - 10.30 a.m., fee 60p per year. 10p per jigsaw borrowed. *Rene Hayward phone 541035.*□



HILLIER FLOWERS
Dersingham

Gentle reminder to pre-order your loved one's beautiful flowers for delivery on

**Valentine's Day, 14th February
and
Mothering Sunday, 15th March**

Flower Club starting soon
More details on our website

Contact: Fiona
Telephone: 07952 229796
Website: www.hillierflowers.co.uk

Carpentry Direct **(Norfolk)**

Bespoke Carpentry & Building Services



- Kitchen & Bedroom Renovations
- Replacement Doors, Skirting and Staircase Refurbishments
- Bespoke Bookcases and Units
- Wood Flooring Fitted & Refurbishments
- Kitchen Worktop Jointing Service
- Property Maintenance
- Sliding Wardrobes and Interiors
- Building Renovation Projects Welcome

01553 670180 • 07931 558659

info@carpentrydirectnorfolk.co.uk



OPENING HOURS
Monday CLOSED
Tuesday CLOSED
Wednesday 7pm - 11:00pm
Thursday 7pm - 11:00pm
Friday 4:30pm - 11:30pm
Saturday 2pm - 11:30pm
Sunday 1pm - 9pm

Friday 6th February
CASH BINGO with Mark
Eyes down at 7:30pm

Saturday 14th February
ANTI-VALENTINES DAY celebrations
with Lee OBrien
No flowers, no hearts, no love songs!

Friday 6th March
SANDRINGHAM & WEST NEWTON SCHOOL PRIZE BINGO

Friday 20th March
CECIL FARAYI
Singing all your favourite Soul and Motown classics

Saturday 28th March
LAST TRAIN TO LONDON
We are welcoming back top Rockin' Duet Last Train to London with Big Al on vocals and Georgie on guitar/Vox and backings. A real mix of tunes from soft rock classics to pop, swing, soul and party anthems. If you've seen Big Al perform at the club before as vocalist for Dead Horse you will know what a great entertainer he is!

LINE DANCING SESSIONS ON A MONDAY NIGHT
In February we will be starting Line Dancing lessons suitable for beginners and intermediates. Please check our Facebook page or email us for further details.

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

Dersingham Choir's New Rehearsal Season

Dersingham Choir started its new term on Thursday, January 8th, following a short break after a very successful Christmas season of concerts.

The choir performed two Christmas concerts, on the 6th and 11th December at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road, and over 100 people attended both productions and two new members joined the choir following the concerts. The audience response at both performances was brilliant with many joining in the singing and one Hunstanton resident posted on a neighbourhood network that the concert was "absolutely brilliant, best I've ever been to, so welcoming".

The choir was invited to the Coach and Horses, Dersingham, to join regular customers in singing carols on the Sunday evening before Christmas, which was really jolly. We would like to thank the staff and customers for their generous collection afterwards, donated to the choir, which is a registered charity.

Jan Wilson, chair of the choir committee said, "Dersingham Choir had a wonderful and successful end to the year, and we were all looking forward to starting back on January 8th with new members".

So, if you enjoy singing in a friendly atmosphere, then why not join Dersingham Choir. We meet every Thursday at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road, from 7pm to 9pm, and we are as much about making new friends as making music. There is no need to audition or read music. The choir will be working towards our summer concerts and other smaller performances throughout 2026. We also meet for coffee and a chat at local cafes about once a month.

If you would like to listen to the choir rehearsing and find out more, you are most welcome to come and sit in on one of our two forthcoming open rehearsal evenings on Thursday 5th February or Thursday 5th March, commencing at 7.00 pm. For further information contact Kate, the choir secretary, phone 07513 986858 or email secretaryDC2025@outlook.com.

Finally, a date for your diary, Saturday 14th February, 10am to midday there will be a Choir fund-raising coffee morning at Orchard Close, Dersingham, PE31 6LU which will include a cake stall and tombola. It will be lovely to see you, so do come and join us. □



Jenny Williams leads the Choir and audience during the Christmas Concert and singalong.

WIGRAM & WARE

- Established 1920 -

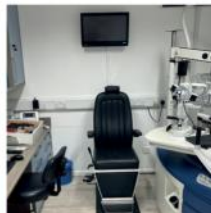
YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT OPTICIAN

*Come see our
new look!*



Scan here to book
an appointment!

4 Jubilee Court, Hunstanton Road,
Dersingham, Norfolk, PE31 6HH
01485 544850 | reception@wigware.co.uk
www.wigware.co.uk



CALEY

HOTEL • RESTAURANT • BAR

Just a stone's throw from the stunning coastline

STAY • DINE • RELAX

Afternoon Teas
Daily Lunches & Sunday Roasts
Outdoor Patios
Family & Dog Friendly

Old Hunstanton Road, Old Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 6HH

Tel: 01485 533486 www.caleyhallhotel.co.uk



Domestic Appliance Repairs



Contact us, a **reliable** family business for
over 30 years, for **fast and dependable**
repairs to your domestic appliances.
Same or next day visit within 30 miles from
King's Lynn

01553 768557 Mobile 07775 858255

* * *

**Need a replacement cooker, fridge
or other kitchen appliance?**
NEW AND RECONDITIONED MODELS
are available from our shop, together with
spares and **expert, friendly** advice.

DK APPLIANCES

01553 768557
Mobile 07775 858255





Dersingham Walking Group

Ray Johnson

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.

Wednesday February 11th 1.30

Start point: Bircham Stores TF768322. What3words: zest.sprayed.deranged.

A mainly rural walk along drove and very minor roads taking in Bircham Windmill (which will be closed until March 29th). Boots are advisable.

Leader: Brett Thomas 07801 095510.

Wednesday February 25th 1.30

Start point: The Lynnsport south car park TF 632209. What3words: shine.bucks.punt.

An urban ramble along an old railway line, round some graves and a visit to nowhere. About 4 miles.

Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday March 11th 1.30

Start point: Heath Road car park TF 686298. what3words: nurtures.person.couch.

Another epic expedition into the wilderness of Sandringham with our intrepid explorer/leader.

Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday March 25th 1.30

Start point: Great Massingham green TF 791231. What3words: stays.badminton.squish.

A walk around Great Massingham and environs. About 4 miles.

Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

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 walk leader.

For general information concerning the walks contact the coordinator.

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

GIBBS
WOOD FLOORS
EST. 2001
HARDWOOD FLOORING SPECIALISTS
Installation of Solid & Engineered
Floor Sanding & Re-Finishing
Call Chris – 07894791723
gibbswoodfloors.co.uk



Our very popular Pancake supper will, as usual take place at St Cecilia's, Dersingham on Shrove Tuesday 17th February 4.00pm to 6.00pm. Please check the weekly church bulletins for more details.

Our Advent Fair at OLSE, Hunstanton on Saturday 6th December, raised £537 for King's Lynn Night Shelter. A letter from them is on display in both churches and gives an update on the work of the night shelter and more information on the charity.

Money raised from our coffee morning and cake sale at St Cecilia's, Dersingham on Saturday 4th October, plus other items sold and donations from Knights of Columbus and parishioners raised a grand total of £1,584 for approximately 45 Ukrainian children.

The Pope's prayer intention for February 2026 is for **Children with incurable diseases**; we pray that Children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope. The Pope's prayer intention for March 2026 is **Disarmament and peace**; we pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Rosary prayer meetings are 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. 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 □

Dersingham Day Club

Since our last update, we've had a busy few months at Dersingham Day Club.

Our friend Suzanne kindly organised a coffee morning at Orchard Close to help raise funds for our running costs, and she presented our treasurer, Richard, with a much-appreciated donation. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event. Every donation, large or small, truly helps keep us thriving as a local community group.



In November, we celebrated our **45th Anniversary**, wearing blue for the occasion (blue representing sapphire, the traditional 45th anniversary colour). There were a Victoria sponge and a chocolate cake for everyone to enjoy, and a little bubbly so our members and volunteers could raise a toast. Members were treated to a roast beef and Yorkshire pudding dinner, followed by a delicious lemon meringue dessert.

3 Steps 2 Heaven kicked off December by singing us into the Christmas spirit. There was plenty of dancing and lots of fun.

A few of our crafty members worked together to create decorations and photographs for our tree at the Church Christmas Tree Festival and

it looked bright and festive among all the others in the lead-up to Christmas.

Good friendships blossom at the day club, and it's always hard to say goodbye. Margaret had been a member of the club for several years, and we'll miss her dearly as she's moved on to pastures new. We waved her off with all our love and very best wishes for her future.



Our final gathering of the year was a Christmas lunch at the Coach and Horses for members and volunteers, a lovely way to round off a busy and rewarding year for the Dersingham Day Club.

We meet every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm in the Village Centre. If you're over 70 and would like to know more about becoming a member then please call Wendy on 01485 544975 or Maggie on 01485 543264. □



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



A Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

It has been a period of holiday and comparative calm prior to the New Year and whatever Local Government Reform and the new mayoral system might bring. Whenever we have positive news we will let you know. Already the inaugural mayoral elections have been delayed.

As we write, snow and ice are gripping the country; but haven't there been some terrifically beautiful sunsets? And it is wonderful to see the clear blue skies and tracteries of the leafless trees. We are fortunate to have a good range of shops supplying us, when it might be tricky for some to get further afield in this adverse weather. Of course, there are always deliveries by the major supermarkets but never forget local is best and to be supported when you can.

The project to upgrade the St James' pool and re-site it to Lynn Sport has had a set back in that the cost of redesigning Lynn Sport to accommodate the pool has been deemed too costly. So, the idea now is to site the pool where the model railway at Lynn Sport is currently located. It is vital that King's Lynn has a new community pool and although it would have been great to have had it incorporated into the Lynn Sport building, the most important thing is to find a home for the new pool. Watch this space!

Meanwhile, we are always happy to hear from Ward members on any topic. Hopefully this New Year will not bring too many difficult challenges. □

**Underfoot,
Above Expectation.**

- Natural Flooring including Seagrass, Sisal & Jute
- Traditional carpets, vinyl & luxury vinyl tiles
- Residential and Commercial
- Karndean and Invictus flooring specialists

Committed to Quality, Value and Service since 1969.

**Lynn Carpet
Centre** Est. - 1969

Domestic and Commercial Flooring

Bergen Way
King's Lynn
PE30 2JG

01553 773938
lynncarpetcentre.co.uk

Google Excellent 4.9







INVICTUS
GLAZING, OPENING & PERFORMANCE

Happy New Year From Phobbies Disabilities Activity Club Mark Shelton

Phobbies, the Dersingham club that provides activities for adults with a range of disabilities, finished off 2025 with a fabulous Christmas party at Dersingham sports and social club on 18th December.

Members of the club were joined by family members and other carers, and everyone got together to make festive paper chains, play pass the parcel and took part in an active rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas. There was then plenty of festive party food and fruit juice to eat and drink before we joined in with singing and dancing to live music by Jamming Joe. A star of the party was re-homed greyhound Peggy-Sue who came dressed as a reindeer and was stroked by one and all! It was also a great time for family members to catch up with all the Phobbies volunteers and other helpers.



The club then had a break over Christmas and New Year and resumed its activities on Thursday 8th January with everyone swapping stories of what they did over Christmas, what presents they received and what celebrations they held to see in the New Year, for those able to stay up that late!

Maggie Ponder, chair of the club's organising committee said, "Most people came to the Christmas celebration in colourful festive jumpers and everyone seemed to have an amazing time at the party. At the end we were nearly all worn out after lots of singing and dancing. It is so good to see everyone involved with Phobbies and their family members and carers having such a wonderful time. It was a great way to finish another year that has been full of activities".

The club is run entirely by volunteers and anyone who enjoys assisting the less able, or who can help with fund raising is welcome to come along. No regular commitment is needed. Activities vary from painting, drawing, model making, knitting, rug making or just talking to each other and giving encouragement and support.

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

The pictures show members of Phobbies at the Christmas party in Dersingham Social Club taking part in an active rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas, and the greyhound Peggy-Sue dressed as a reindeer with helper Mark Gregory. □

active health pilates
and more



Tuesdays-Dersingham Methodist Church Hall

Gentle Pilates and Exercise Class

10 am and 11 am

(supported seating/standing)

Mat Pilates Classes 5pm & 6.15pm

Call Anne for more information on

07717 333234 or email

activehealthpam@gmail.com

SMART BRICKWORK SERVICES

For all your brickwork requirements



Andy Larham

Advanced City & Guilds Bricklayer

For a no obligation quote

Phone 07810 191051

Email - smartbrickworkservices@outlook.com

Hoochy Pooch Parlour



**City and Guilds qualified
dog groomer**

We offer: Hand Stripping, Full Dog
Groom, Wash and Blow Dry, Nail
Clipping, Puppy Sessions

Call Sarah, based in Snettisham

Mobile: 07950 888449



Home Selection Specialist

For all your flooring needs

Your local family owned & run flooring specialist



Guy Playford established Supreme Carpets
over 35 years ago and is now joined by
his son, Tom and daughter, Molly.



**Supreme
Carpets Ltd**

SUPREME QUALITY & SERVICE

Carpets - 1000's of samples to choose from

Rugs - Traditional Persian & Chinese/Indian rugs

Vinyl, Natural Flooring & Luxury Vinyl Tiles



01485 542384



www.supreme-carpets.com



Visit our showroom: Foresters Hall, 49 Manor Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn PE31 6LH **Open:** Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm Sat: 10am-2pm



Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

The autumn term is always an incredibly busy one as we build up to Christmas. There is a great deal of learning to take place in every class, while also making time for Christmas productions, festive activities and special events. As always, the children have risen to the challenge and have worked extremely hard throughout the term.

In Reception, we have been palaeontologists for the last half term, digging for fossils and discovering bones in our outdoor area. We examined the bones carefully and tried to identify which parts of a dinosaur they might have come from. We



also visited the Dinosaur Park to see just how tall dinosaurs really were. This term also marked a very special milestone, as it was the first time Reception class performed on stage in the Nativity production alongside Year 1 – and they were fantastic. Reverend Mark kindly visited from the church and gave us knitted characters



from the Nativity story, which helped bring our RE lessons and the Christmas story to life.

Over the last seven weeks, Year 1 have been studying the topic *Blast Off!* The children were equally shocked and amazed to discover that a UFO had crashed at our school and that a beloved alien, Beegu, had been stranded on Earth. Through following Beegu's adventures, the children explored our world through an alien's eyes. Year 1 also finished the term by performing alongside Reception in their wonderful Nativity production. Every child did superbly, confidently remembering their lines and performing not once, but twice, in front of large audiences.

Year 2 began their *Remember, Remember* topic by learning why we celebrate Bonfire Night, reciting the famous rhyme, taking part in drama linked to the Gunpowder Plot, and writing their own firework-shaped poems. The children then explored poppies, Remembrance and aspects of World War II, examining interesting artefacts and writing short reports about the war and its impact. Alongside history, RE lessons focused on the symbolism of light in Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity. The children made Hindu diya lamps for Diwali and played the Hanukkah game of dreidel, before ending the term with a beautiful Christingle service shared with families.



Year 3 concluded the term with a fabulous Christmas church service at St Nicholas' Church. All the children remembered their lines brilliantly and sang beautifully, even surprising us with a biblical version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Earlier in the term, the children completed their *Frozen Kingdoms* topic, taught through English and Geography. This unit began with a literacy

focus on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, following Lucy, Peter, Edmund and Susan into the frozen world of Narnia. Later, the children travelled south to Antarctica, developing key geographical skills using maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping to identify climate zones, countries and physical features.

In Year 4, the children completed the topic *Inventions and Innovations*, stepping back in time to explore the reign of Queen Victoria and how life changed during her 64-year rule, including the introduction of electric lighting. This learning linked perfectly with their science topic on electricity, where they explored and built electric circuits.

Year 5 began the half term with a visit from the planetarium, launching an exciting new topic on space. The children learned about star constellations and the solar system before designing and creating their own space rockets. The following week, they visited Gressenhall to revisit their previous topic on World War II, with children dressing as 1940s evacuees to fully immerse themselves in life during the mid-twentieth century. The class have also been very fortunate to welcome Mr Hobday into school to teach them the violin, working towards an orchestral recital later in the year.



Year 6 have had a busy term studying *Norfolk Floodland*. This topic allows the children to explore local history, including the devastating floods of 1953, while also studying dystopian literature through the novel *Floodland*, set in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. As part of this work, the children also read *The Giver*, a powerful dystopian novel in which the main character grows up in a seemingly perfect community. The children thoroughly enjoyed uncovering the mystery and discussing the themes within the book.

As a school, we have been working hard to develop our new school garden. Barry, our caretaker, constructed raised beds—one for each year group—so that classes can grow plants linked to their topics or plants that encourage insects, especially bees. We were very fortunate to secure funding to begin this project and purchase plants; sadly, many of these were stolen. However, Thaxters kindly stepped in after hearing about our situation and generously donated replacement plants. Without their support, this project would not have been able to move forward, and the entire school community is extremely grateful for their kindness and generosity.

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, we would like to wish all of our families and the wider community a very happy and healthy New Year. □



DERSINGHAM'S ONLY ESTATE AGENT

- CALL IN OR HOME VISITS
- CHOICE OF FEE PACKAGES
- FREE PROBATE VALUATIONS
- LOCAL TEAM



“Shaye and James were very attentive and professional negotiating the sale of our property. We are delighted with the service provided and the individual attention given to us as sellers. Thank you so much and we would highly recommend The Norfolk Agents.”

T: 01485 500222

E: [DERSINGHAM@THENORFOLKAGENTS.CO.UK](mailto:dersingham@thenorfolkagents.co.uk)

MEET THE TEAM

7B HUNSTANTON RD, DERSINGHAM, KING'S LYNN PE31 6HH



ROSS NICHOLAS
DIRECTOR & PROPERTY VALUER



SHAYE SEDDON
DERSINGHAM HUB MANAGER



JAMES MARSHALL
SALES NEGOTIATOR



ZARA BAKER
SALES NEGOTIATOR

T: 01485 500222

E: DERSINGHAM@THENORFOLKAGENTS.CO.UK

The Norfolk Agents

@norfolkagents

thenorfolkagents

rightmove

Zoopla

PrimeLocation.com

*If you have instructed another estate agent you should consider the terms of any agreement to ensure that you avoid liability for more than one estate agency commission



The Veterans Voice

The Veterans Voice project aims to help veterans and family members find how to access veteran organisations and support groups, such as breakfast clubs and social hubs, identify opportunities for social interaction with other veterans, and provide information about support resources.

Veterans Central, as part of the Veterans Voice project, will be running a monthly drop-in hub in Swaffham. Come along for a

FREE hot drink, cake, and a spot of chat and banter, or to ask question about veterans support.

Venue: The Regency Room, Swaffham Assembly Rooms, Swaffham

Tuesday 27th January 2026

Tuesday 24th February 2026

Tuesday 24th March 2026

Tuesday 28th April 2026

Tuesday 26th May 2026

Time: 10.30am – 1:00pm

Location: The Assembly Rooms are located in the centre of Swaffham and there is adjacent two-hours free parking (but use machine to get a ticket). You are welcome to bring partners or carers.

More information? Contact: ops@veteranscentral.co.uk Mobile: 0771 3860040.

Charity #: 1208763

Veterans Central West Raynham SHQ, 5 Blenheim Way, West Raynham Business Park, Fakenham, NR21 7PL□

Snettisham Gardening Club

Our meeting for February will be The Three S's - Seeds, Seedlings and the usual Swap table - to give members the opportunity of swapping, or purchasing for a very small sum, Seeds, Seedlings or any Surplus plants. There will be a light-hearted quiz and members are invited to contribute to Bring and Share a plate, with drinks provided. That will be on February 25th.

Pauline Harper will speak to us about Re-use and Recycling in our gardens for the March meeting on Wednesday 25th. This should give us ideas for the proposed entry in the RHS competition Upcycled Containers at Sandringham in July so we can map out our exhibit, perhaps using some of the swaps we make at our February meeting.

As always. visitors and guests are welcome to join us at our meetings which begin at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road. For further information please call Gail on 07899933840 or Addie on 01485 544754.□

Dersingham Library Knit & Natter Kathy Carter

Dersingham Library's Knit and Natter group have been very busy this year making toppers for the post box outside the paper shop/ Post Office. The latest one is now in situ and features a winter scene - including fairy lights. The group meet every Thursday from 10am to noon and are already deciding what's needed for the next topper.



M.R G S
SERVICES

Gas Safe
registered
506717

Mike Read
Gas Engineer
07960 037067

Install Service Repair
For all your gas and LPG appliances
Dersingham based

CHRISTINA THAIN
(Non-practising Solicitor)

**WILLS AND POWERS
OF ATTORNEY**

Home appointments at
no additional charge

Telephone:
07776 102498

E-mail;
christina2018thain@gmail.
com

Address:
56 Peddars Way North,
Ringstead, Norfolk PE 36 5JP

The Hunstanton & District Camera Club

Malcolm Hayward

The downturn in the weather does not reduce the appetite for taking photos. Indeed, in many situations it increases the enthusiasm. It's not limited to taking pictures of the children opening their presents or celebrating a family get together. With the changing weather there are many opportunities for taking photos: Mists, clouds, snow and winter landscapes can result in amazing photos, even winter sunshine and seaside views can produce stunning results.

We still conduct outings at this time of year to places such as Cromer and Horsey Seals. We expect to return home after one of these outings with a lot of photos which will then need to be sorted and the best presented at the Camera Club for discussion.

The Camera Club (officially called The Hunstanton & District Camera Club) went through difficult times a couple of years ago but is now expanding. All new members bring in new ideas and suggestions and contribute to the capability of the Club. If you enjoy taking photos and would like to enhance your skills or would enjoy trips around a wide variety of places (mainly around Norfolk) we welcome all new members to the club, all you need is a camera. Give me a call and I can provide more information about where we meet at the moment - Malcolm Hayward, mobile: 07979 503049.

Here is a selection of our recent photographs.



*This page: Stonechat, Dersingham Bog - D Seaman
Dandelion Clock - Chris Holt
Deer, Holkham Hall, - Malcolm Hayward*

*Opposite, clockwise:
Gooderstone Water Gardens - Chris Holt
Misty Dersingham Bog - Anne Hillion
Grand Piano in Washington Square - David Rye
Heacham Beach Steps - Daniel Harvey
Pinang Chingay Parade, Malaysia, Debra Burgess-Lim*







24/7
CALL OUT

Contact Richard Brown
M: 07795 524301 (24Hr)
info@rkb247.co.uk | www.rkb247.co.uk

- ✔ Locksmith Services
- ✔ UPVC window & door repairs
- ✔ Garage door repairs
- ✔ Misted unit & glazing repairs
- ✔ Carpentry Services
- ✔ Kitchen, bedrooms & bathrooms
- ✔ Extensions, conversions & renovations



Looking to sell your car?
WeBuyLocalCars.co.uk

We can visit you and pay the same day. Safe, simple & hassle-free



01485 542246 or 07785 544376
Lynn Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LA

Your legal matters
in safe hands
for generations

Hayes + Storr Solicitors handle a whole range of family, property and business legal matters with care and professionalism.



Call us today **01553 778900**
www.hayesandstorr.co.uk

- Property Sales and Purchases
- Children and Family Law
- LPAs, Wills and Probate
- Business and Employment Law

King's Lynn | Swaffham | Fakenham | Holt | Sheringham



Embracing Every Season

Rev Karen Gower



It's a joy to introduce myself as your new curate, and I've loved becoming part of this wonderful village during my months here so far. Though born in Norwich, I grew up in New Zealand, and after many years of church work in various countries and continents, found myself back home here in beautiful Norfolk. Whereas it is true, the culture and landscapes of Aotearoa are definitely different to East Anglia, I have loved getting back in touch with my English roots and relearning the beauty of living in a country that has very defined seasons, with each one bringing its own unique qualities.

As we head towards the shift from cold weather to something warmer once again, I've found myself reflecting on the significance of the changing seasons. In the north of New Zealand where I grew up, autumn and spring felt sudden and much shorter. As the southern hemisphere tilted away from the sun, within two weeks the leaves on the trees were gone, and as the climate began to warm again, it seems we went from cosy jumpers to T-shirts in much the same time frame. But here, I love having all four seasons, appreciating their gentle rhythms as I currently savour the remnants of winter and begin to look for the signs of the coming spring: the subtle lengthening of daylight, the emergence of daffodils after the snowdrops, and the warming of the air (albeit slowly). There's something quietly hopeful about this time of year, as nature reminds us that change, though sometimes slow, is always possible.

For me, the turning of the season is a wonderful picture of faith in Jesus. Just as winter gives way to spring, there's a promise of new life, renewal, and growth. In the Gospels, Jesus often used the natural world to illustrate deeper truths - seeds planted, vines growing, fields ready to be harvested and birds cared for by their Creator. These images remind us that God is always at work, sometimes in ways we might not see at first. Whether you're experiencing a time of joy or facing challenges, the message of Jesus is one of hope: that transformation is possible, and that God's love is ever-present, gently calling us forward.

I invite you, as we journey towards spring, to take a moment to reflect on these changes - not just in the world around us, but within our own lives. Perhaps now is the time to reconnect with faith, ask questions, or be reminded of God's love as we enjoy the beauty of creation reflecting the season we are in. No matter where you find yourself, Jesus's invitation is always open: to discover peace, purpose, and belonging.

Thank you for such a warm welcome to Dersingham. If you see me around - whether in the church, at the shop, or on the street - please do say hello. I'm here not just as your curate, but as a fellow traveller, eager to share in the journey ahead, and I look forward to many more conversations in the months ahead.

God's blessing as we look forward to what is yet to come
Rev Karen Gower

Curate of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne.

Also serving at 'The Well' Church, Ingoldisthorpe

www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk YouTube: Dersingham Online Worship



BALLROOM & LATIN CLASSES New Beginner Class

DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

Starting Thursday 8th January

Come along to learn something new
MONTHLY SATURDAY DANCES TOO!

Contact Val on 07789 957071 or
email info@takeetheleaddance.co.uk

CHRIS'

Tidy Site Gardening Services

*Grass & Hedge Cutting
Patios & Decking Cleaning
Rubbish Removal
Fence Painting
General Garden Maintenance*

Tel: 07757 530465

Email: tobygrimes85@gmail.com



Extra Hands

Established
1993

Providers of Home Care in Norfolk

Multi-award winning providers of Home Care in your community



We are a local multi award winning independent Home Care Specialist, providing carers trained to the highest standards including Dementia Care. We offer a wide range of services within the home setting which are tailored to suit individual needs from personal care to shopping and companionship.

Our services can be arranged on either a short term or long term basis, we offer flexibility when organising care packages and can assure our customers that we will meet their requirements every step of the way.

If you or anyone you know may be interested in our services please do not hesitate to contact us on the number below or call in to our office at Heacham for further advice and information.

Thinking of a career in Social Care? Why not join our award winning team

We offer:

- Good rates of pay
- Various hours available
- Enhanced holiday entitlement
- Paid mileage
- Free DBS check & uniforms
- Mobile Phone



Tel: 01485 570611

Extra Hands, Unit 13,
Heacham Hall Ind Est, Hunstanton Road,
Heacham, Norfolk. PE31 7DP



www.extrahandshomecarenorfolk.co.uk

Extra Hands is regulated by the CQC to provide care and meet all of the CQC National Standards

SEMBA TRADING CO LTD

Timber, Building & Landscaping Merchants Public and Trade welcome

SANDSTONE, LIMESTONE & PORCELAIN PAVING
STANDARD DECORATIVE SLABS * CONCRETE POSTS

Decorative Walling * Fencing * Sleepers * Decking * Bricks * Blocks
Sand * Shingle * Premix * Topsoil * Cement * Roofing Felt * PVC Sheets
Insulation * Guttering * Underground Pipe * Ply * Timber

STATION YARD, STATION ROAD, DERSINGHAM

TEL: 01485 541394



Windows, Doors & Conservatories Domestic & Commercial Glazing Contractors Fascias & Guttering

KARL PALMER

- Car ports
- Fascias & guttering
- Central Lap Weatherboards
- GRP Roofing
- Composite doors
- Bi-folding external doors
- All glass repairs including double glazed units

Trust the company with 49 years of experience



Telephone: 01553 840217 Mobile: 07881 788 069

Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy



We started December with our annual mince pies and mulled wine coffee morning which was enjoyed by twenty-four members. Our December afternoon meeting was our Christmas party, a chance to wear our Christmas jumpers and sparkler tops. Great fun was had as members opened their Secret Santa socks; would it be chocolate, smellies or perhaps wine? There was certainly a great array of patterned socks, which one to choose was the problem. The committee provided crackers and cheese/pate for us to eat and also a glass or two of wine.

The craft group made cards with a silhouette sky scene with you know who flying across. The crochet group continued with some of us busy making Christmas presents for relatives and friends. Members also made bells and trees for our Christmas tree in St Nicholas's Christmas Tree Festival.

We started January with our New Year lunch which we all enjoyed at the Feathers where we caught up with all we had done over the festive period, and to find out if any of us had made New Year resolutions (and if we have already broken them!)

We do not have a meeting in January but have a coffee morning at Orchard Close instead. We still do W.I. business, such as correspondence, and also have a vote on our Resolutions. They are this year:

1. Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion
2. Action on women's homelessness
3. Every child needs a friend - child carers, children in foster homes.
4. Nearer to Nature – nature is good for wellbeing.
5. Love your vulva – Self-checking is your best defence against vulval cancer

We will vote to see which one we wish National to choose as a campaign for 2026.

In January our craft group recycled Christmas cards ready for this coming year. I always find it hard picking out a few from the many lovely cards received.

In January the book club are reading *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. This is about a woman named Nora Seed, who after reaching a breaking point in her life, finds herself in a mystical library that allows her to explore the infinite versions of her life and discover what truly makes it worth living. Their book for February is either *The Ice Princess* by Camilla Lackberg (a crime novel which follows a husband-and-wife detective duo who investigate an apparent suspicious suicide) or *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware (a novel about a travelling journalist who witnesses a crime on her luxury cruise but no-one on the cruise believes her.) This has been turned into a major Netflix film starring Kiera Knightley. (At the time of writing the book club didn't know which one they would be reading in February.)

Our February meeting will be as normal back to the evening and our speaker for this will be Ian Hall from the Friends of Hardwick Cemetery. He will be giving a talk about the Ladies of Hardwick Cemetery which have many stories to tell. Hopefully this may lead to a walk round the Hardwick Cemetery in the future. I have driven past this and thought how interesting it looks with its different array of headstones, etc.

Our programme for 2026 is completed and our talks are :
February – Women of Hardwick cemetery
March – Tapping House

May – Houghton St Mary

June - Periods in Time through Jewellery

July – How a girl from the Pennines ended up having tea with The Queen Mother and Queen Elizabeth II

September - Commonwealth War Garves

We received in December a press release from National which said:

In April, the Supreme Court in the UK ruled that the legal definition of a woman under the Equality Act (2010) refers only to biological sex. Since the ruling, we have reviewed our long-held practice and membership policy to ensure we are compliant with the law. Today (Wednesday, 3 December), we have announced we can no longer legally offer formal membership to transgender women in light of this judgment. However, we will bring forward programmes to continue to extend fellowship, sisterhood, and support to transgender women. As an organisation that has proudly welcomed transgender women into our membership for more than 40 years, this is not something we would do unless we felt that we had no other choice. CEO Melissa Green.

This has no impact on our W.I. but we understand we will be given more guidelines as to the consequences of this.

Posters advertising all our evening meetings are displayed around the village with timings and venues. 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 Sharon on 01485 543096. □



PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS | CHAPELS OF REST | MEMORIALS

Thornalley

FUNERAL SERVICES

Behind every independent business
is a family that cares

www.tfs.co.uk

King's Lynn 01553 771399 | Dersingham 01485 598598 | Swaffham 01760 721305



Making Gardening Easier May Davey

Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you and your friends at our meetings and on our outings during 2026. We wish you good health and happy reunions during the year.

Our 2026 programme is almost all confirmed. In January at Dersingham Village Centre, we have Brian Scott - "Gardening the World – Commonwealth War Graves" is his theme. In February we have an outing to Bagthorpe Hall near Bircham to see their glorious spread of snowdrops. And in March, after a brief AGM, 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.

Our Christmas dinner at The Barn at Knight's Hill was a happy gathering of forty old friends. We were delighted that Marianne and Rob Charles were able to join us. Marianne has given decades of help to our club and is far from well. Joan and Roger Hill also came, together with Jennifer Purple and Marian Smith. The ladies ran the club many years and we are always delighted to see them. Our members are a very loyal bunch and turn up in all weathers..



Why don't you come and see how you like us?□



Sandringham Parish Council Ben Colson

The last meeting of Sandringham Parish Council was held on 4th November and notes from that meeting were included in the last edition of *Village Voice*. The next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd February at 7pm at Wolferton Social Club and all are welcome to attend. We were delighted at the much higher than usual level of attendance at the November meeting and would be delighted if that sets a new standard.

We continue to deal with matters between meetings and this has included:

- Whether or not we should set a Precept. A Precept is the way Parish Councils raise funds from their residents for the provision of facilities and services in the parish area. The Parish Council votes each year on if there should be a Precept or not, and if so, then at what level it should be set. It is then billed to individual households as an addition to their Council Tax and the money raised put into the parish's bank account. Most parishes in Norfolk raise funds this way, we are one of a handful that do not. There are good reasons to raise a Precept and good reasons not to do so in our circumstances where the parish area is all part of the Sandringham Estate which provides many of the services for us free of charge. By the time you receive this, we will have voted on whether or not to raise a Precept for the year from April 2026.
- The failure of consistent internet provision by Openreach in Wolferton has highlighted a number of issues, not just of the internet itself but also the regulatory controls and consumer protection when things go wrong. These have been taken up with our MP and we hope that it will ensure that if – or when – the internet is deliberately switched off here in the future, proper and adequate replacement facilities will be put in place and suppliers will not duck their legal responsibilities to provide compensation.
- We have secured funding from Norfolk County Council, our local County Councillor Stuart Dark, Sandringham Estate and Lynx Bus Company for a new bus shelter to be installed by the entrance to the Sandringham Caravan and Camping site on Lynn Road between Babingley and West Newton. This should be in place by early February.
- We have set up a Sandringham Parish Council Facebook page. This is an ideal way to contact us if you wish to raise any issues or ideas with us. Check it out.
- Norfolk Police have advised us that you can now report crime in the area online via their website and that online reports will be treated the same way as telephoned reports. This makes it quicker and easier for you to report crime, so please do use this new system. In addition, we have signed up to their new facility for alerting people when fraud or conmen are working in an area, and if we receive reports from them, they will be added to our Facebook page without delay.

The next meeting is at Wolferton Social Club at 7pm on 3rd February. After that the next one is at 7pm on Tuesday 5th May at West Newton Village Hall which is our AGM. We welcome as many residents as want to attend either or both to come along. □

What's on in Wolferton

Wolferton Social Club

Cash Bingo

Sunday 1st February
Sunday 1st March

Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm
Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30 pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 17th February
Tuesday. 17th March

Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm
Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm

Hours of opening Friday and Saturday 8.00pm-11pm and Sunday lunchtime 12.30pm-3.30 pm.

For further details of what may be happening at Wolferton Social Club please phone 01485 541919 during opening hours.

St Peter's Church, Wolferton

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church; St Peter's looked beautiful over the festive season.

It was a cold, clear evening when a hardy group made their way round the village for our annual carol singing. A much-welcomed roaring fire and mulled wine were waiting for us as we finished. Thank you to all who joined and all who generously supported. Over £230.00 was raised for the Children's Society. A good evening - thank you!

Church Services

Please refer to the Sandringham Group of Parishes website where you can find up-to-date information.

For your diary

Saturday 21st March, coffee morning 10am to 12 midday, with funds raised to be divided between Happy Memories and St Peter's Church, Wolferton. To be held at Wolferton Social Club. □



GELDER
ELECTRICAL

- Installations
- Fault Finding
- Repairs
- Certification
- Maintenance

☎ 07727 233799

✉ sgelder85@hotmail.com





Evolution - Part 2

Brian Anderson

There are basically two areas in which the concept of evolution is challenged: One is Creationism and the other is Intelligent Design.

I will deal with Creationism first. Creationists believe in the literal truth of the Bible. Most of those I have spoken to seem unaware that there are two versions of the Creation in Genesis and they don't match. Things are created in a different order in the two versions. There are other peculiar things - day and night are created before the sun and the moon - I don't quite see how that could work. Creationists also believe that the Earth (and by implication the Universe) is only about 6000 years old. That would mean that creation was arranged so that all those radioactive elements were created at *exactly* the right point in the decay chain *and* that light from distant stars was created at *exactly* the same point in its immense journey. Strata are explained by developing a scenario where The Great Flood inundated or buried slow-moving invertebrates first, then fish and amphibians, then slightly faster reptiles and lastly mammals. They leave birds out for some reason.

Another favourite argument advanced by Creationists is "there are no intermediates". This ignores our knowledge of taxonomy. The names attached to organisms demonstrate relationships and family trees. They are human artefacts. Darwin himself regarded the species concept as a convenience but no more. Here taxonomists inadvertently provide Creationists with ammunition by putting full species labels on organisms which are clearly intermediate forms.

The evolution of the horse provides a very clear demonstration of intermediate forms. *Eohippus* lived in the Eocene (50mya). It was small and had several toes. From this there are more than ten species, gradually getting larger, acquiring fewer toes, elongating the head and growing longer legs. Then about 5 mya, the genus *Equus* emerged, the ancestral form of modern horses, zebras and donkeys. We would today recognise this as a horse - long-legged, single-hoofed and with a long, elegant head.



Somewhat surprisingly, Creationists accept the existence of tectonic plates. At the boundary between plates there is continuous upwelling of molten rock. Molten rock has no magnetic properties. When the rock has cooled, the tiny grains (domains) orient themselves with the Earth's magnetic field. Every so often the field reverses so north and south interchange. This leads to "stripes" of differing magnetism. Over the last 83 million years there have been 183 reversals. If the Earth was only 6000 years old there would be reversals on average every 38 years. No instruments have ever detected it and there are no accounts of lodestone compasses flipping! There should have been about thirty reversals since the time of the Vikings. The last reversal was 780,000 years ago.

One given that Creationists have is the concept of a benevolent Creator. It is difficult to reconcile this with things such as the parasitic wasps that paralyse caterpillars before laying their eggs so that their offspring have living meat to eat. One prominent Victorian naturalist (it might have been Huxley) remarked: "Cheetahs are superbly equipped to catch antelope and antelope are superbly equipped to escape cheetahs. It would seem that the Almighty has an unhealthy interest in blood sports".

The benevolent Creator is nicely summarised in the hymn *All things bright and beautiful*. The Monty Python team rewrote it to reflect the other side of the coin. I quote the second verse:

*Each little snake that poisons
Each little wasp that stings
He made their brutish venom
He made the horrid things.*

A more sophisticated approach is adopted by Intelligent Designers. They claim that the features shown by organisms are so sophisticated that they could not be produced randomly but would require a guiding hand. So, let's look at a few examples. The first I came across was the Panda's thumb. Giant Pandas exist almost entirely on a diet of bamboo. In order to grasp the bamboo, a bony protrusion has grown from an arm bone so the Panda can grasp the bamboo between the bone and its paw. Giant Pandas are descended from carnivores (the bear family *Ursidae*) and diverged from the other bears about 19mya. The provision of a thumb was more challenging to the evolutionary process than the bony outgrowth. Another example is the vertebrate eye. The nerves carrying the output from the retina are *in front* of the retina and bunch at the blind spot. No Intelligent Designer would do this. Let's take Plaice or Sole. If you look at them on the fishmonger's slab it's obvious that these were originally "upright" fish which have been twisted to assume the flat shape in order, I conclude, to make it easier to hide on a sandy sea floor. Skates and Rays (cartilaginous fish on a different evolutionary branch) evolved straight into the flat geometry. Finally, it's worth looking at the laryngeal and vagus nerves, which in sharks are short and neat but in vertebrates wander about the body to end up near where it started. In Giraffes this detour is nearly five metres long. It has been suggested that bananas were intelligently designed, as they were easily peeled, could be held easily and were sweet. However, wild bananas are usually bitter, hard to peel and very starchy and fibrous. Our modern bananas are the result of centuries of plant breeding.

Evolution is not a thing of the past - it is happening now. You will remember the arrival of the first Covid vaccine and how, after a few months, it became less effective. New vaccines were produced and they too had to be modified or replaced. The virus was mutating. I could cite other examples of speciation in bacteria, moths, lizards and birds. All around us life is adapting and changing. It is cruel but wonderful and magnificent.

Acknowledgements: I have used publications by Richard Dawkins, Stephen Jay Gould and David Beerling extensively in the writing of these articles.

(Ed: the opinions in this article are not necessarily those of the Editor and of the Parish Council.)□

 <p>S Beech MAFHP Associate J Beech MAFHP</p>	<p>Surefoot Clinic</p> <p>Diabetic Foot Care Ingrown Nail / Corn Removal Plantar Fasciitis & Other Strains General Maintenance Fungal or Thick Nails</p> <p>Over 20 Years' Experience</p>	<p>Surefoot Clinic 4 High Street Heacham Norfolk PE31 7ER</p> <p>Home Visits Available www.surefoot-clinic.co.uk</p> <p>01485 579411</p>
---	---	---

Keep Your New Year's Resolution and Play Table Tennis

Mark Shelton

If you made a New Year's resolution to exercise more and improve your fitness and you are now wavering, don't give up! Join Dersingham Table Tennis Club, and you will find it's an enjoyable and inexpensive way to exercise.

The British Heart Foundation states that table tennis offers moderate-intensity activity, which is good for your heart and has other benefits too, such as improved hand-eye coordination and sharpened reaction times. The organisation Sport for Confidence references research that shows table tennis has many therapeutic as well as health benefits. The club also provides a warm and sociable setting to make new friends.

Dersingham table tennis club meets every Monday from 2 pm to 4 pm at Dersingham Social Club on Lynn Road and we are always 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 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 friendly chat.

So start your new year in a very positive way. All new members, no matter what their skills, will receive a warm welcome. Sessions cost £2 to cover the hire of the Social Club, you can attend regularly or occasionally. If you would like come and play then just turn up during our Monday afternoon sessions or contact Sean on 07815 295726; email seanfox40@hotmail.com or Mark on 07763 643498; email mm.shelton@btinternet.com □

Remembrance Day Bell Ringing at St Nicholas

Rachael Melton

This photo was taken at the ringing of the bells for Remembrance Day in November, which was done prior to the service on Remembrance Day Sunday.

This was the first time in five years the bells have been rang on this special occasion. One bell rang eleven times at 11:00am, to mark the time.

We are hoping to get bell ringing more communicated locally, and hoping to bring the tower/bells rung more within the community. We are also keen for previous ringers to come back to build up our numbers and be able to ring regularly for services.

If you would like any further details, please feel free to message me at rachaelmelton2021@gmail.com.□





M&L BUILDING SERVICES

Over 35 years' building experience
within Norfolk

All types of building work, from barn conversions, extensions, renovations and repairs to patios, fencing and garden landscaping

All associated liaison with local authority and building control taken care of

For a complete, reliable, professional service and a free no obligation quote, call Mark on

01553 390391 or 07984 429219

NO JOB TOO SMALL FOR M&L

—TBH—

Arboricultural Contractors

**Expert arborists
providing professional,
affordable and reliable
tree services.
Contact Thomas for free,
no obligation quotations.**

**Located in Dersingham
01485 524252**

**info@tbhtreecare.co.uk
www.tbhtreecare.co.uk**



37 Greevegate Hunstanton, PE36 6AB

Telephone: 01485 532662

SJP Solicitors LLP are a friendly local firm who have assisted the families and businesses of Hunstanton, West Norfolk, and further afield, since 1890. We cover every area of English law except Criminal, and pride ourselves on our personal service to all our clients.



Phillipa Edmunds
Conveyancing

Pip heads up our Residential and Commercial conveyancing team, assisted by Ann, Emma and Mandy
pip@sipsolicitors.co.uk



Rosemary Meyer
Litigation/General Enquiries

Rosie heads up our Litigation team covering all disputes and deals in Private Client matters, assisted by Sam and Susan
rosie@sipsolicitors.co.uk

Suzanne Curl
Private Client



Suzanne heads up our Wills and Probate team including LPAs, assisted by Mairi and Rosie
suzanne@sipsolicitors.co.uk

GARY RUSHMORE FLOORING

- free measuring and estimates with no obligation
- superb range of carpet, vinyl and laminate samples
- exceptional service, including uplifting and disposing of old flooring and moving furniture
- a family-run business, with over 30 years of experience
- home selection service available



Unit 6, Heacham Hall Industrial Units,
Hall Close, Hunstanton Road, Heacham, King's Lynn,
Norfolk PE31 7JT

OPEN: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-3pm
(CLOSED *all day*: Thursday and Saturday)

tel: 01485 572202

email: rushmoreflooring@btconnect.com

www.garyrushmoreflooring.co.uk



Events in February and March

COFFEE MORNINGS: MONDAYS 10:00 a.m. to noon, 2nd and 16th February, and 2nd & 16th March. 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 and to book please visit the website westnorfolkcommunitygroups@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk or telephone 0300 330 5488.

MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY: BINGO NIGHT. Club opens at 7.00 p.m. "Eyes Down" at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY: FILM NIGHT - *The Roses* (15). Starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman. 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 21st FEBRUARY: MUSIC AND MOVIE ICONS KARAOKE NIGHT with Dessert Supper. Club open 7:00p.m. till late. Tickets £10, under 16s £5, available in advance. Booking essential. For further information and to book please email farmboy24@sky.com or call, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351. Fancy dress optional - prize for the best fancy dress.

FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY: QUIZ NIGHT. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email: enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

MONDAY 2nd MARCH: 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: enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

FRIDAY 13th MARCH: FILM NIGHT. *Spinal Tap 2: The End Continues* (15). (To be confirmed). Starring Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer, plus guest appearances by Elton John and Paul McCartney. Forty-one years after the release of the groundbreaking mockumentary *This Is Spinal Tap*, the now estranged bandmates David St. Hubbins, Nigel Tufnel, and Derek are forced to reunite for one final concert. *Spinal Tap II: The End Continues* also marks the resurrection of documentarian Marty Di Bergi (Rob Reiner), who once again tries to capture his favourite metal gods as they contemplate mortality and the hope that their 12th drummer doesn't join them in The Great Beyond. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465.

FRIDAY 27th MARCH: QUIZ NIGHT. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.□

Rotary Club – New Beginnings

On 29th November 2025, a community event was held at the Co-Op supermarket in Dersingham to introduce **Rotary International** to local shoppers. This initiative aimed to dispel misconceptions, raise awareness of Rotary's mission and activities, and highlight the organisation's longstanding commitment to community service.

Our goal was to present a refreshed narrative about Rotary - one that emphasises humanitarian aid, community development, and meaningful engagement in Dersingham and the surrounding villages. The event also marked the announcement of the upcoming **Sandringham & District Rotary Club**, scheduled to begin operations in January 2026.

This new club aims to adopt an inclusive, family-friendly approach. Membership will be open to all ages, welcoming families with children, single parents, working adults, retirees, and individuals aged 18 to 80. Our message is simple: *everyone* can contribute to positive change, regardless of age or background. Joining the club offers the opportunity to become part of a global network of more than 1.2 million members across over 200 countries. Rotary's collective efforts improve lives through humanitarian aid, support underserved communities, and strengthen local initiatives. Members will be involved in projects that make a genuine difference - both locally and internationally.

We held a presentation meeting on 9th January 2026 in Dersingham Village Centre to explain more about the Sandringham Rotary Club, and visitors were able to meet the founding members and discover how to get involved. If you are interested in taking part, we encourage you to contact John Greyson (07739 370513) or Jean-Marie Vernon (07369 207266) for more information. Your involvement can help us advance our shared goals of community service and global humanitarian support. □

Sandringham Estate Sawmill

Admiral's Drive, Sandringham, PE35 6EG

Phone & collect
or can deliver

Quality Timber:

♣ Fencing ♣ Decking ♣ Trellis

♣ Gates of all sizes

ALL TIMBERS ARE PRESSURE TREATED

FIREWOOD - AVAILABLE IN BAGS, BOXES
OR BY THE TRUCKLOAD

♣ Oak posts ♣ Fencing Panels ♣ Arches ♣ Garden Tools
♣ Rustic and machined poles ♣ Ironmongery ♣ Garden Furniture

Large stock of pressure treated creosote poles

sawmill@sandringhamestate.co.uk

Tel: 01485 524440



DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIR & SERVICING



**APPROXIMATELY 90% OF APPLIANCES
ARE FIXED ON THE FIRST VISIT**

We fix all major brands of:
Washing machines - Tumble dryers
Dishwashers - Electric cookers

SAME DAY SERVICE (when possible)

12 MONTHS PARTS & LABOUR GUARANTEE
ON ALL WORK CARRIED OUT

01553 813050 - 07760 782202
www.fixupmyappliance.co.uk
info@fixupmyappliance.co.uk

FABRICS CURTAINS BLINDS

Christyana

OPEN
Tuesday to Friday 10am - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm

BESPOKE CURTAINS, BLINDS AND ACCESSORIES



Local, family
run, friendly
service

Showroom at
Poppyfields Retail
Park, Snettisham

T: 01485 541111
E: info@chrtistryana.co.uk
www.chrityana.co.uk



Contact:
Paula
or
Marcus

FREE
NO OBLIGATION
QUOTATIONS




Telephone: 01485 600777
Email: jackie@ewingaccountsservices.co.uk
Address: Unit 4, St Nicholas Court,
Dersingham PE31 6GZ

**Whilst you do what you do best, let us
do what we do best.**

With over 25 years' experience. Call, email
or pop into our offices in Dersingham for a
friendly chat to discuss your
requirements.

For all your accounting requirements:
Our services include:

- Year-end accounts for all small and medium sized companies, sole traders, partnerships, etc.
- Company Tax Returns
- Personal Tax Returns
- Along with all bookkeeping services including VAT Returns, Payroll, CIS, etc.




Dersingham Veterinary Clinic

2 Jubilee Court
Hunstanton Road
Dersingham PE31 6HH

To register or make an appointment, call
01485 540585 or email:
contact@dersinghamvets.co.uk

Sandringham IRONCRAFT

HIGH QUALITY ORNAMENTAL IRONWORK
AND STEEL FABRICATION

Unit 4, Cheney Crescent, Heacham
Tel: 01485 571129



Guides
1st Dersingham Guide



1st Dersingham Guides - Indoor Winter Camp

Elizabeth Wheeler



In November, a group of the 1st Dersingham Guides stayed at Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre for a weekend "Indoor" Winter Camp.

There may have been roadworks and heavy rain as they all arrived, but very quickly everyone was tucking into tea, getting settled into their bedrooms and starting their activities. During the weekend, the Guides were completing one of

the new Interest Badges which had been launched in the summer - Pioneering. Therefore on the Friday evening the Guides learnt a variety of different knots which they would be using the next day. So, on Saturday morning they were given a pile of short bamboo canes and a ball of string. From these, they had to build a mini structure. We then went outside (fortunately the rain had stopped) where the Eaton Vale instructors ran a Pioneering session with us and this time the Guides were building giant structures - catapults. The Guides worked together to build these before launching cuddly toys in a variety of directions - especially at their leaders!



During the weekend, the Guides also enjoyed the obstacle course, indoor climbing and the cave bus - a cave tunnel built inside an old bus! The Guides also enjoyed crafts, marshmallow toasting, games and an indoor campfire.

It was a great weekend and everyone had a lovely time. □





1st Dersingham Rainbows

Join Rainbows to start your Girlguiding adventure. For girls aged 4-7. Have fun, play games, go exploring, enjoy crafts and cooking, and lots more.



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



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.



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.

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 Thursdays

"OUR NEW HEACHAM OFFICE IS GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH"



Since opening in October 2024 we are pleased to report that the response to our new Coastal Office has exceeded our expectations and we would like to thank all our customers and the local community for their support. Our Office is situated in the ideal location to serve Customers in the surrounding towns, villages and countryside, using modern marketing methods coupled with a more traditional hands-on and personal approach to selling property in the area.

Heacham - Dersingham - Snettisham - Ingoldisthorpe - Hunstanton - and Surrounds

INVITATION - THINKING OF SELLING ?

Call us NOW for a FREE, no obligation Market Appraisal

COASTAL OFFICE: 01485 524544

KING'S LYNN & COUNTRY: 01553 772816

Email: info@landles.co.uk

COASTAL OFFICE
32 High Street, Heacham, Norfolk
Tel: 01485 524544 E: info@landles.co.uk



Kate and Nic are delighted to announce that they have joined forces with Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP, a prestigious and long-established leading King’s Lynn firm of Chartered Accountants.

The **newly combined firms will continue to operate from the office in Hunstanton**, so, in practical terms it will definitely be “**Business as usual**” for clients.



As part of this transition, Nic has become a Partner with Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP, continuing to work closely with clients as before, whilst Kate will now work as a Consultant, eventually heading towards a well-earned retirement after very many years of dedicated service to her clients.

**Making tax digital – am I included?
Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP incorporating
Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton**

It now seems an age ago that the concept Making Tax Digital was first floated. After an initial “roadmap” in 2015, the system has been debated, refined and changed but it will be **going live from April 2026**. From that date those with **income from self-employment and rent**, in excess of £50,000 annually (the limit reduces in future years), will be required to maintain digital records and submit quarterly summaries, followed by an annual declaration.

Back in November HMRC issued a useful guide, defining who will be caught by the new rules - in summary:

Your qualifying income is the gross income that you receive (i.e. before deducting any expenses) in a tax year from your self-employment/s and property. For example, someone with £25,000 from rental income and £27,000 from self-employment income would have qualifying income of £52,000; and a key point to remain aware of is that those with multiple sources of self-employed income will need to submit a quarterly return for each income source.

It does NOT include:

- employment (PAYE)
- dividends (including those from your own company)
- a State Pension
- private pensions
- Income from a partnership does not count towards your qualifying income.

The system is, unfortunately, far from perfect. Despite HMRC assurances that free software will be available there is very little choice, and some free packages will only deal with the simplest cases. HMRC have already started contacting taxpayers who they think will be affected (based on 2024/25 data), but this process may not be complete before the April implementation, and **the onus is therefore on the taxpayer to register**. Although the process is designed to be simple, it is clear from the information released that even the registration criteria are not straightforward. **Those who are not confident that they will be able to deal with MTD from April should definitely contact their accountant for advice as soon as possible.**

If you require any advice regarding MTD, please contact either Kate or Nic on 01485 534800 or kgigg@mapus.co.uk

© **Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP 2026**
N.B. Article written November 2025

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



Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP
Chartered Accountants

Your trusted accountants in East Anglia

Incorporating
Kathryn Gigg
Chartered Accountants

Offering a comprehensive range of services for both business and personal clients

- Annual accounts, business and company taxation
- Business start up advice and incorporation
- SAGE, Quickbooks & Xero installation and training
- Payroll & auto enrolment administration
- VAT and bookkeeping services
- Small business specialists
- Personal tax returns and self assessment advice
- Capital gains tax advice and inheritance tax planning
- Tax planning and accounting services for private property investors
- Advice on Making Tax Digital for Income Tax

THE OFFICE, 20 KING'S LYNN ROAD, HUNSTANTON, NORFOLK PE36 5HP

T: 01485 534800 • E: kgigg@mapus.co.uk or ntarry@mapus.co.uk

Registered to carry on audit work in the UK and regulated for a range of investment business activities by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Dersingham Task Force Clare Bee

As I sit and write this on a cold, crisp New Year's Day, spring feels a long way away. But every day, the length of daylight increases by one or two minutes and early bulbs are starting to push through the cold earth. It always amazes me that one of the first flowers to appear in midwinter is the snowdrop. It seems too delicate to be able to force its way through, but nature has a routine and a cycle, and I have already spotted one or two peeping up from the ground. I have even seen a few daffodils – very early, but is this a sign of things to come?



At the two flower beds that Task Force looks after, bulbs are already starting to come through. It's always a lovely surprise to see what they are! Apart from that, everything else is quiet and resting. We also take a break over the winter, but a few of us did go and help put up the trees in the church for the Dersingham Christmas Tree Festival (see photo).

We also enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal all together at The Black Horse at Castle Rising. It was good to dress up a bit, as we are normally in our gardening clothes!

If you feel you would like to join our small friendly group, please ring Dennis Weatherill on 07482 913399 or email him at denzilweatherill@gmail.com. You don't have to be a gardening expert, just keen to help make our lovely village attractive to residents and visitors.□

Home Help

Weekend P.A/Carer

needed to provide & support
with daily tasks

Dersingham area

01485 543865



**Have you always wanted to learn more about the arts?
Then start now with our next illustrated talks
at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm:**

Monday 9th February 2026

Exploring Notre Dame - the Soul of Paris

Lecturer: Carole Petipher

The role of Notre Dame in the French psyche, exploring the characters and events that have shaped it.



Monday 9th March 2026

Tales from Vienna

Lecturer: Emma Johnson MBE

Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Strauss, Mahler, Bruckner, Schoenberg, all lived and worked in Vienna. Emma considers what made Vienna so perfect for musicians.



Benefits of membership:

- * A varied programme of art talks
- * Trips and tours in the UK and abroad
- * In depth Special Interest Days
- * Regular newsletters and magazines
- * A social event with a warm welcome

For more information and how to join, visit our website:
www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk
or email: info@theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1105490



Before



After

**Restoration of damaged
or faded photographs**

JO HALPIN JONES
14 Post Office Road
Dersingham

Ring for an appointment
01485 541790
Mob: 07765 903344
or email

johalpinjones@hotmail.com

Word Wall

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

BRIDGEWATER	SYMI	CARRACK	POTHOS
HYDRA	CACTUS	SANTORINI	KIEL
CLIPPER	CORINTH	BRIG	YUCCA
ORCHID	NAXOS	GRAND	SCHOONER



ClockClean Dry Cleaners

Quality Dry Cleaning and Laundry Service
01553 777145

- Dry Cleaning
- Laundry
- Soft furnishings
- Wedding Dresses
- Collection and Delivery
- Weekly collection and delivery

Agency at Dersingham Spar Shop (by Thaxters)
See instore for details

Station Road Garage (Heacham) Ltd

33 Station Road, Heacham, Norfolk PE31 7EX

☎ 01485 570259

www.stationroadgarageheacham.co.uk

**Mechanical Repairs - Servicing - Welding - Exhausts - Tyres -
Clutches - Diagnostics - Car Sales - Air Con Repair & Service -
Collection & Delivery - Accessory Shop
State of the Art **MOT** Bay - **MOT** Repairs**

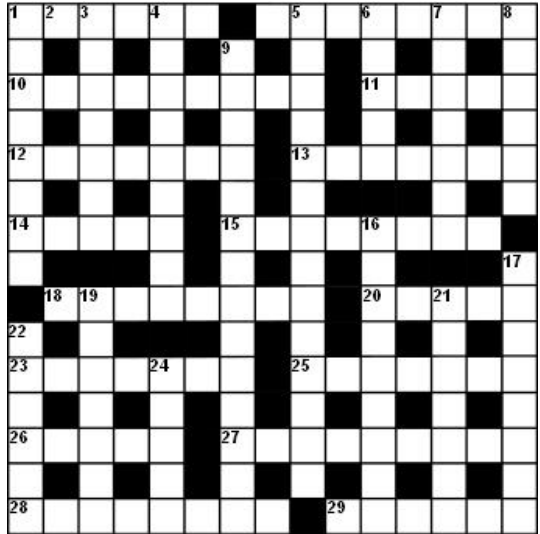
DID YOU KNOW WE PURCHASE CARS?

Do you have an unused car in your household that you no longer require? Are you looking to get a new model? We purchase good quality second hand cars. We can assist you with your paperwork and instant payment is available.

For a hassle free sale phone Graham.

Across

- 1 Knight moves into space nuts (6)
- 4 Sound of a vehicle reversing disturbs house spider (8)
- 10 Pomposity' played on organ in somewhat racy surroundings (9)
- 11 Caught by clumsy Feds behaving prickly (5)
- 12 Supporter enjoys a beer outside his job working in pelotas (7)
- 13 Heard on Strictly Dancing in the pale dregs (7)
- 14 U.S. prosecutor promotes hit stage play (5)
- 15 Repeat broadcast about partridge territory (8)
- 18 Support worker from Murray maybe (8)
- 20 City lair encumbered (5)
- 23 Grim details unfolded in camera on the 3rd Feb (7)
- 25 Catlike French article working in Egypt (7)
- 26 Guide finds woman in ancient city (5)
- 27 Change to last word of team in Dept. of Trade (9)
- 28 Hola Sid unknown abroad enjoying Spanish activities (8)
- 29 Useful for mistake around stormy seas – and there's the rub (6)

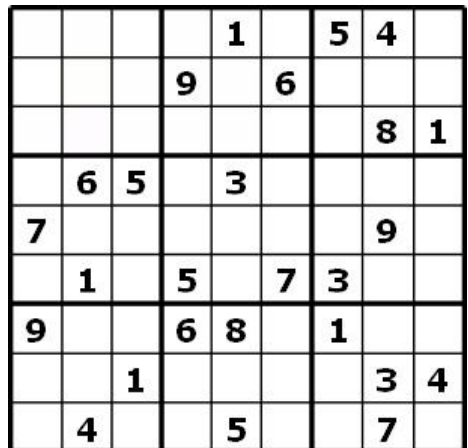


**Answers on
Page 64**

Sudoku

Down

- 1 Notices Jack for example getting nasty slap (8)
- 2 Footballer caught by accountants in Brazilian dance (7)
- 3 What eccentric King took height of owl? (9)
- 5 Music Haydns butler arranged with his headmaster (6,3,5)
- 6 Ride into icy clearance (5)
- 7 Relative somehow wore knot around collar (7)
- 8 Like a weaking under a leaky roof (6)
- 9 Try plane and train travel on Earth or space voyage (14)
- 16 Lord later trained and reserved giraffe (4,5)
- 17 Colonist at restaurant finds echidna for example (8)
- 19 Local head office manufactured spirits for instance (7)
- 21 Clubs chauffeurs (7)
- 22 Take by surprise when morning coach arrives on the hour (6)
- 24 Uncovered recipe to make bread (5)





- ✓ 24 Hour Care
- ✓ Bespoke Care Plans
- ✓ Part of VIDA Healthcare
- ✓ Ensuite Rooms Available
- ✓ In-house Activity Co-ordinator
- ✓ Fully Trained & Experienced Staff



Promoting Quality Care & Compassion

BEDS AVAILABLE

01485 540528

gablesresidentialhome.co.uk

The Gables Residential Home, Post Office Rd, Dersingham, King's Lynn PE31 6HS

MASTER CHIMNEY SWEEP

**NVQ QUALIFIED
CHIMNEY ENGINEER**

- All Chimneys, flues and appliances swept
- Certificates issued
- CCTV chimney surveys
- Bird/rain guards / Anti down-draft cowl supplied and fitted
- Stove servicing and maintenance



ESTABLISHED 1995

CALL D THOMPSON CHIMNEYS LTD

01328

851081

www.the-sweep.co.uk



Crossword Answers

Across

- 1 Pecans. 4 Arachnid. 10 Arrogancy. 11 Cacti. 12 Apostle. 13 Heeltap. 14 Drama.
15 Pear tree. 18 Backhand. 20 Laden.
23 Macabre. 25 Leonine. 26 Usher.
27 Amendment. 28 Holidays. 29 Eraser.

Down

- 1 Placards. 2 Carioca. 3 Nighthawk.
5 Rhythm and blues. 6 Cycle. 7 Necktie.
8 Drippy. 9 Interplanetary. 16 Tall order.
17 Anteater. 19 Alcohol. 21 Drivers. 22 Ambush.
24 Bared.

Word Wall Answers

- Canals:** Bridgewater, Corinth, Grand, Kiel
Greek islands: Hydra, Naxos, Santorini, Symi
House plants: Cactus, Orchid, Pothos, Yucca
Sailing ships: Brig, Carrack, Clipper, Schooner

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 159 (April/May 26)	Monday 2nd March 2026	Monday 23rd March 2026

Advertising rates and sizes – VAT included

Eighth page	6.4cm wide x 4.7cm high	£25.00
Quarter page (Landscape)	12.8cm wide x 4.7cm high	£38.00
Quarter page (Portrait)	6.4cm wide x 9.5 cm high	£38.00
Half page	9.5cm wide x 12.8cm high	£75.00
Full page	12.8cm wide x 19.2cm high	£140.00
Back Cover	15.2cm wide x 21.6cm high	£160.00
Inside Covers	15.2cm wide x 21.6cm high	£150.00

Village Voice is published every two months. Discounts are available for block bookings: if you book in advance for all six issues in the year, you get one free entry. There is a 10% discount for a block of four or five bookings in the year.

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

Distribution

Village Voice goes to all 2,500+ residential and business properties in Dersingham, West Newton, Wolferton and Sandringham, with another 600 available to subscribers, shop counters, the Village Centre and other public places. Please support our advertisers and also let them know you heard about them in Village Voice!!

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

**Dersingham Parish Council Office, Dersingham Village Centre
83 Manor Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6LN
Tel 01485 541465**

Parish Council Website: dersingham-pc.gov.uk

The Production Team for this edition of Village Voice consists of

Editor: Jo Halpin Jones Assistant Editor: Rob Smyth

Layout & Administration: Geraldine Scanlon

Printed by Clanpress Ltd, Dundee Ct, Hamburg Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk

Directory of Advertisers

Accommodation

Caley Hall Hotel *p.25*

Accountants

Ewing Accounts Services *p.55*

Mapus-Smith & Lemmon *p.59*

Builders and Materials

M&L Building Services *p.51*

Mann Made Developments *p.6*

Semba Trading *p.42*

Smart Brickwork Services *p.31*

Carpenter

Carpentry Direct *p.22*

RKB Carpentry &

Locksmith *p.40*

Carpets & Flooring

Gary Rushmore *p.52*

Gibbs Wood Floors *p.26*

Lynn Carpet Centre *p.29*

Supreme Carpets *p.31*

Chimney Sweep

D Thompson Chimneys *p.64*

Chiropody

Jennie Smith *p.21*

Surefoot Clinic *p.49*

Vital Foot Care *p.11*

Computers

Gary Kite *p.18*

Dancing

Take the Lead *p.42*

Dogs

Hoochy Pooch Parlour *p.31*

Domestic Appliances

Fix up my Appliance *p.55*

DK Appliances *p.25*

Dry Cleaners

Clock Clean *p.62*

Ear Care

Ear Care by Liz *p.21*

Electrical

Gelder Electrical *p.47*

Estate Agents

Landles *p.57*

The Norfolk Agents *pp 34*
& *35*

Fabrics, curtains, blinds

Christyana *p.55*

Flowers

Hilliers Flowers *p.22*

Financial Services

Fairstone *p.16*

Funeral Services

Thornalley *p.44*

Garden Centre

Thaxters *p.2*

Gardening

Chris Gardening Services

p.42

Gas Engineer

Mike Read - Mr Gas *p.37*

Hair

Anna *p.18*

Home Care

Extra Hands *p.42*

Home Help *p.60*

Home Improvements and

Maintenance (decorating,

cleaning, handyman)

Neill's Guttering *p.21*

SN Handyman *p.21*

Ironcraft

Sandringham Ironcraft *p.55*

Legal Services

Hayes & Storr *p.40*

Christina Thain *p.37*

SJP *p.51*

Locksmith

RKB Carpentry &

Locksmith *p.40*

Optician

Wigram & Ware *p.25*

Photography & Restoration

Jo Halpin Jones *p.61*

Pilates

Active Health Pilates and
more *p.31*

Plumber

PG Plumbing *p.11*

Printing

Clanpress *p.18*

Residential Home

The Gables *p.64*

Therapies

The Wright Hands *p.18*

Timber Products

Sandringham Sawmill *p.54*

Tree Services

TBH Arboriculture *p.51*

Vets

Dersingham Veterinary Clinic

p.55

Vehicle servicing and sales

AJD *p.67*

Red Pumps Garage *p.17*

Station Rd, Heacham *p.62*

Waltersons *p.40*

Windows

Admiral Windows *p.42*

www.ajdautorepairs.com

AJD *auto repairs*

Motor Vehicle Engineers



- CARS ● LIGHT COMMERCIALS ●
- MOTOR CYCLES ●
- AIR CON SERVICE & REPAIR ●



**5 BANK ROAD
DERSINGHAM
KING'S LYNN
PE31 6HW**



TEL (01485) 540039
email: info@ajdautorepairs.com



VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

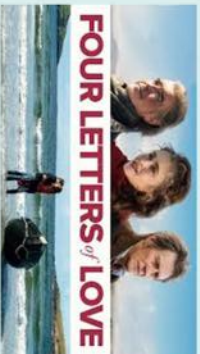
Presents on

Tuesday February 24th at 7:30pm

FOUR LETTERS OF LOVE (12)

Starring: Pierce Brosnan, Helena Bonham-Carter, Gabriel Byrne,
Anne Skelly

Nicholas and Isabel are made for each other but, as destiny pulls them together, family, passion and faith drive them apart. As they embark on journeys of heartache and misplaced love, fate soon contrives to pull the threads of their lives together.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash
Wine, Beer, Cider, Soft Drinks
available from the Bar



Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by
Dersingham Village Centre Association
Charity No 117846Z
supported by Creative Arts East



VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

Tuesday March 31st at 7:30pm

THE SALT PATH (12A)

Starring: Gillian Anderson & Jason Isaacs

A couple lose their home and later discover that the husband has been diagnosed with a terminal illness as they embark on a year-long coastal trek.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash
Wine, Beer, Cider, Soft Drinks
available from the Bar



Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by
Dersingham Village Centre Association
Charity No 117846Z
supported by Creative Arts East

