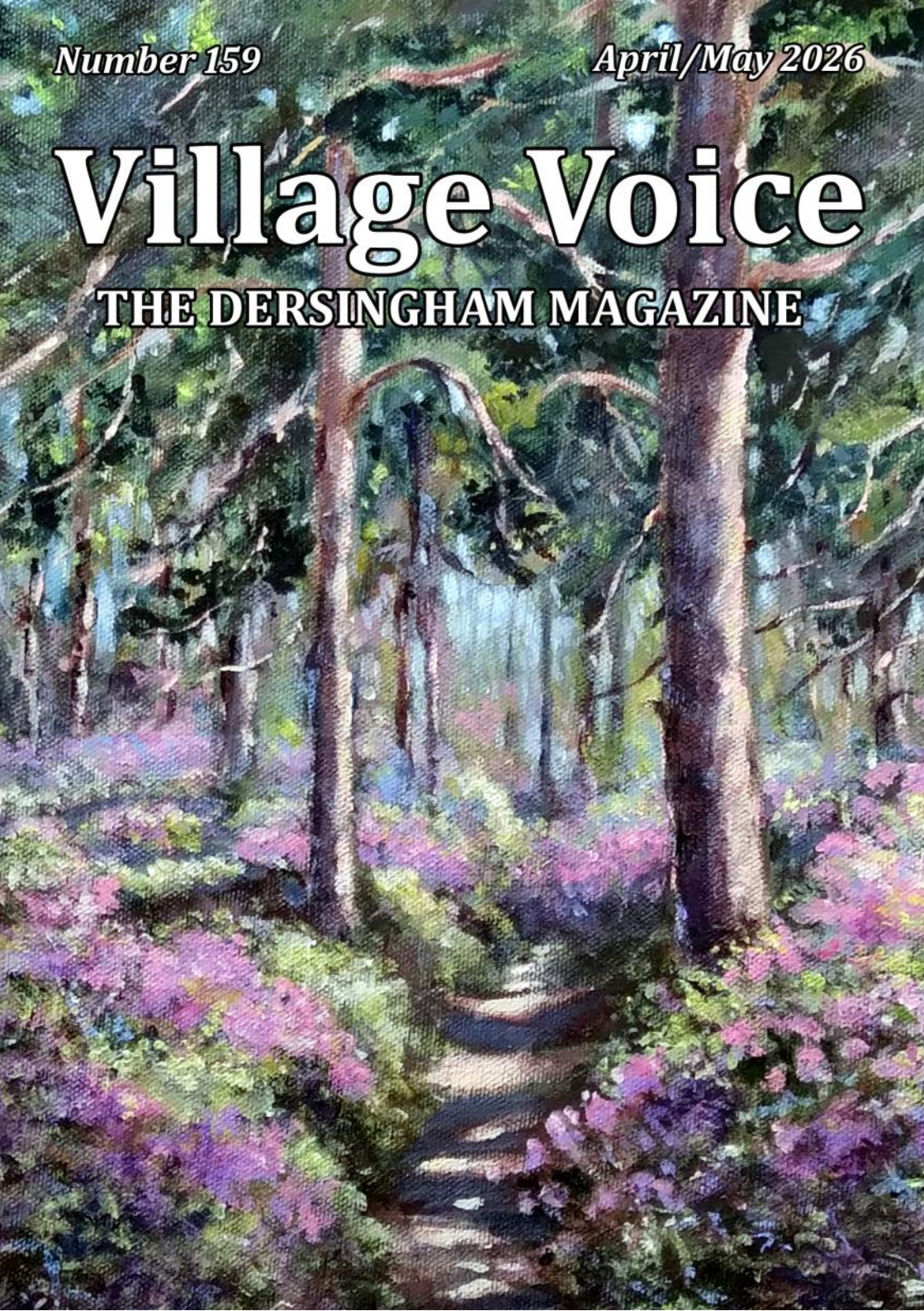


Number 159

April/May 2026

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE





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Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones



Well, this is my last edition as the Editor of *Village Voice*. I'd forgotten how long I'd been doing it for and hunted back over past issues stacked up on my bookcase. It's been over six years. I've now reached the grand old age of eighty and have decided that it's high time for someone else to take over. Geri, who does such a wonderful job with the layout, is going to have a go at putting it all together, perhaps with a bit of support from me in the background.

Many thanks to well-known local artist Jill Illett for our cover painting of the local rhododendrons. Sandringham does look splendid at this time of year. Jill will be reaching the magnificent age of ninety this summer, and we wish her all the best and thank her for her many contributions to the front cover of *Village Voice*.

I must give you a final update on the battle we have with our very persistent muntjacs. They must make constant sorties around our property, searching out any tiny gap through which to squeeze. If we see where they make their frantic escape, we can then re-enforce the defences. All had been quiet for a few days and the crocuses lay unmunched in a wonderful display – I never realised we had so many as they all usually disappear overnight. Then my husband was awake in the night, saw the security light come on and spied a large muntjac patrolling up and down by our car and our blocking fence. The beastie then took a flying leap onto the bonnet of the car and over into the garden. So now I have to pile tubs onto the bonnet..... *For now* that seems to be working.

I have re-joined the Dersingham Choir and I can report that it is going from strength to strength. I absolutely love it. We are making truly amazing sounds!! Do come and join us on Thursday evenings from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at St Cecilia's Church on Mountbatten Road.

This is our last edition in the current financial, editorial and advertising year. Do get in touch if you would like to place an advert. If you book for the whole year, you get one insert free. It is the advertising that pays for this Parish Council publication, which hopefully provides an informative and interesting read for the residents of Dersingham and surrounding villages.

Finally, I'd like to express a big thank you to all our contributors and advertisers, and to the support I have received from the Parish Council, particularly the Chairman, Coral Shepherd, and to Geri Scanlon who practises magic in making everything fit.□



Dear Village Voice



Letter to the Editor – Evolution

We read with great interest the two articles on “Evolution” by Brian Anderson in the last two editions of Village Voice. However, we noted that there was no indication as to who the author is, as to his background, or why he feels the need to set out the case for evolution in such strong terms. Also, we wondered what the purpose was for submitting and printing the articles. They are very lengthy, dealing with complex and as yet not fully substantiated views; yet Brian writes with great authority and certainty, and does not give much room to alternative viewpoints, other than acknowledging them, and then “dealing” with them in a rather dismissive way.

The theory of evolution is not necessarily the final answer to life on earth, and indeed Darwin himself had doubts about some of his theory towards the end of his life. He could see there were unresolvable problems with it, as indeed there are today. Nor are the “theories” of Evolution and Creationism necessarily totally opposing views, although some aspects almost certainly would be. There are many Christian scientists holding a strong belief in God and the Bible who nevertheless balance this with an acknowledgment of some aspects of an evolutionary process. Moreover, many Christians would hold the view that the biblical accounts of creation are not a scientific analysis on how things came about but are more concerned as to what is the purpose for all living creatures and their habitats, and supremely for mankind whose chief purpose is a relationship with the Creator.

It is interesting to read such articles, but may we suggest that it could be more helpful to readers of Village Voice if a note is given as to who the author is, some background and any credentials they may have, and the purpose for its inclusion; and also if it were written with a more objective and balanced approach and in a more conciliatory style.

Roger and Janet Fickling

Dersingham in days of old

Tony Bubb has resurrected this old view of Dersingham. What a wonderful image, with the church and other landmarks very recognisable and the train chugging across the landscape. □



Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



I am pleased to be able to let you know that after a round of meetings and looking at our budgets for the forthcoming financial year we have been able to retain the precept at the same level as last year. This means that when you receive your council tax bill the amount to the Parish Council has not increased. There will be no impact on the services that we provide e.g., streetlights, grass cutting, maintaining the children's playground, the Recreation Ground, the War Memorial, The Warren, maintaining seats, benches, litter bins and dog bins. We are in the process of renewing the contract for the supply of electricity for our streetlights. We will be staying with our current provider for the next two years as the price will remain the same.

Last month I advised that we will be looking to carry out some restoration of the names commemorated on the village War Memorial at the junction of Station Road and Hunstanton Road. The memorial commemorates those who served in the First World War and those who gave their lives in both World War 1 and 2. This set me thinking that there have been conflicts since 1945 and I wondered if anyone from the village died in subsequent conflicts. I have looked online and finding such localised information is difficult. If anyone is aware of any Dersingham resident who gave their life in any war since 1945 please let me know. We can then consider how they can be commemorated at the War Memorial. It is important that we remember their sacrifice.

The village is generally clean and tidy and our thanks to all those residents who help to keep it clean by picking up litter as and when they see it. However, inevitably there is some litter that often blows from the dust cart on bin day! So, we are arranging a litter pick day for Saturday 11th April. If you would like to help just turn up at Station Road at 10.30am. It will only take an hour of your time, hi-vis jackets and litter pickers will be provided; all we ask is that you bring your own sturdy gloves. Strange finds in the past include a half empty glass of beer, a flat screen tv and a printer amongst the usual bottles, cans and sweet wrappers.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to Jo Halpin Jones who has been the editor of this magazine since edition no.118 (June/July 2019). She has taken it through Covid, when for the first time we had to delay production, and kept the magazine interesting and fresh, reflecting life in the village and beyond over the last almost seven years. She has remained calm and working with her has been a pleasure. All of us who have worked with her during this time will sincerely miss her quiet presence and ability to produce a magazine regularly every two months, whatever the circumstances. We wish her well in her "retirement". I suspect that she will remain busy.

In the meantime, Geri, the Parish Council Assistant Business Manager, who has been helping Jo with the production of the magazine, will be covering the role. Please continue with producing articles for the magazine and if you have any queries Geri will be pleased to help you. □



News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Association Matters

We have welcomed two new trustees to serve on the Management Committee. We also need, from time to time, volunteers to help with larger events and some maintenance tasks. If you would like to be involved with the Centre, whether with events or managing and planning for the future, please do get in touch.

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

There will be a Spring Craft Fair, in April, organised by Fiona Hillier.

The Yard sale takes place in July. As usual there will be table tops in the Centre and a pop-up café. Tables are already being reserved. For more information, call 07943 499786, or email

contact@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk

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

April's film will be *The Choral*, set during WW1. In May we are showing *Black Bag* based around the intelligence community (spies to you and me.)

For more information about the Centre, What's On, contact details, visit our website -

www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk. We also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. □

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Royal Air Force Bircham Newton Heritage Centre

OPEN DAYS 2026 - open 10am to 4pm

The Heritage Centre at Bircham Newton has a unique collection of memorabilia from the former Royal Air Force station's past service, which spanned more than 44 years, including two World Wars and the Cold War. On display are photographs and personal memories of service personnel who served there and other related items from its fascinating history. The Centre is staffed and run entirely by volunteers, many of whom are ex-service or children of service personnel. Close by there are two stone memorials to remember those who served at Bircham Newton and its main satellite airfield near Docking.

Disabled access and toilets available, car parking and entrance are free.

For more information contact the Chairman of Trustees, Jamie Heffer: 07807 098348.

The National Construction College, Bircham Newton NW Norfolk PE31 6RH. NCC is signposted off the A148 and B1454. www.rafbnmp.org.uk

Easter Sunday 5th April
Sunday 19th April
Sunday 3rd May
Sunday 17th May
Sunday 31st May
Sunday 14th June
Sunday 21st June
Sunday 12th July
Sunday 26th July
Sunday 9th August
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Sunday 30th August
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Sunday 20th September
Sunday 27th September
Sunday 11th October
Sunday 25th October
Sunday 8th November
(Remembrance Sunday)

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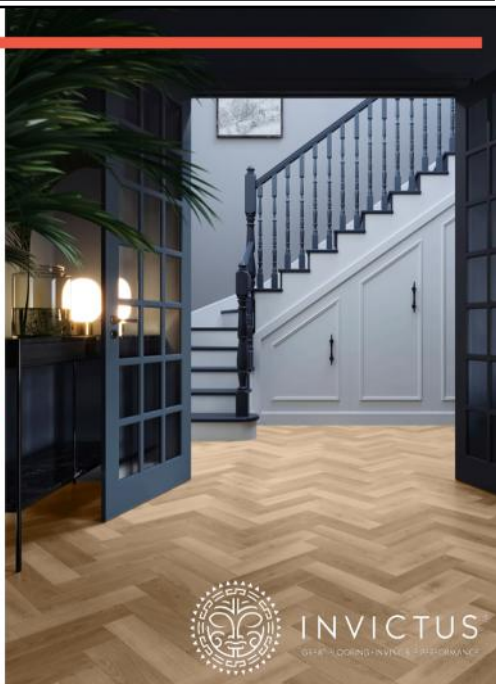
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Dersingham Walking Group Ray Johnson

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. **Please note clocks will have gone forward on Sunday 29th March so these walks will start at 2.00.**

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.

Wednesday April 8th 2.00

Start point: Brancaster Church TF771438. w3w: scarecrow.workers.adapt

Barrow Common and the coast path. Starting from Brancaster we will walk through the village and then up and over Barrow Common. From there we descend to join the Norfolk Coast Path, which now has a newly rebuilt boardwalk to complete the circuit. About 4.5 miles.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516

Wednesday April 22nd 2.00

Start point: Bunkers Hill Houghton TF777 289 .w3w: monitors.pest.mistaking

We have done this walk before but it is great in spring: a walk around part of Houghton Woods with a length of Peddars Way as a bonus.

Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638

Wednesday May 13th 2.00

Start point: Bircham Stores TF768322. w3w: zest.sprayed.deranged

This is a new walk for the group. A mainly rural and pleasant walk along drove tracks and very minor roads skirting around the Birchams, taking in the Windmill. Boots are advisable if recent rain.

Leader: Brett Thomas 07801 095510

Wednesday May 27th 2.00

Start Point: Car park Snettisham Common TF672335. w3w: swooned.baker.tried

A walk to the coast and return. One walk, two very different views.

Leader: Ray Johnson 07999 841749

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: 07999841749

Email: rayjohnson315@gmail.com



Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

It has been a very busy half term at Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School, with pupils across all year groups enjoying a wide range of exciting learning opportunities. As a whole school, we celebrated the NSPCC's Number Day, where children took part in a variety of engaging maths challenges. Many pupils dressed up in creative maths-themed costumes to help raise money for this very worthwhile cause. We also marked Children's Mental Health Week, dedicating time within our PSHE lessons to explore wellbeing and strategies for looking after our mental health. In addition, we celebrated Science Day, with children from across the school taking part in a carousel of exciting scientific activities. Pupils conducted experiments, built electrical circuits, explored the properties of different materials and even investigated reaction times. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to develop their curiosity and enthusiasm for science.

Reception class thoroughly enjoyed their engaging *Heroes* topic, which focused on the important people who help us within our local community. The children were fortunate to welcome several special visitors during the half term. Rev. Mark spoke to the class about his role in supporting the community, while the local fire service visited — even allowing the children to have a supervised turn with the hose, which proved very exciting! A nurse from Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn came in to explain her work and involved the children in practising bandaging techniques. Our local police officers also visited to talk about their role in keeping the community safe. The topic was both inspiring and memorable, helping the children to understand the value of those who help and protect us.

Year 1 explored their topic *Poles Apart*, inspired by the book by Jeanne Willis. The children followed the journey of penguins and polar bears from the South Pole to the North Pole, learning about the differences between the Arctic and Antarctic, including the animals that live there. They also discovered how Inuit communities adapt to life in the Arctic, exploring traditional homes, clothing and food. Role play was a particular highlight, with pupils becoming Arctic explorers and even building "igloos" in the classroom. It has been a fun and engaging topic, and we are very proud of their enthusiasm.

Year 2 travelled (virtually!) to Australia, learning about its unique animals, climate and geography, and comparing it with the UK. The children produced detailed map work and informative fact files to showcase their learning. In RE, they explored the meaning of christenings and baptisms and enjoyed a visit to St Nicholas Church, where Rev. Mark kindly demonstrated a mock christening. Next half term, Year 2 will begin learning about the history of aviation, investigate different paper plane designs, explore the Jewish festival of Passover, and continue building their confidence with times tables.

Year 3 became River Explorers as part of their Geography and Science curriculum. They located major UK rivers, including the River Thames, and carried out an in-depth study of the River Great Ouse. Pupils learned about the parts of a river and how rivers shape landscapes over time. In Science, they investigated forces and magnets, exploring how objects move on different surfaces and identifying magnetic and non-magnetic materials. They made predictions and carried out experiments to test their ideas, discovering how magnets attract and repel.

It has been another busy half term in **Rowan Class**. As a class, we are working towards the Multiplication Tables Check, which will happen in June. The school launched Times Tables Rock Stars to help promote regular times table practice at home. As part of this, there is a class trophy for engagement and participation. Year 4 were delighted to win the trophy for their combined efforts. In History, they learned about the Anglo-Saxons, with a particular focus on the Battle of Hastings. The topic concluded with a study of the Bayeux Tapestry, which tells the story of the Norman Conquest. Science Day was great fun, with pupils investigating how changing variables affected their bottle-flipping experiments. Forest School sessions were also a highlight: despite the cold weather, children-built dens, lit fires safely, and even fed a robin by hand. Next half term promises volcanoes and other geographical wonders.

Year 5 visited Norwich Castle as part of their Ancient Greeks topic. They explored the impact of Greek achievements in writing, architecture, philosophy and farming. The children also deepened their understanding of Greek thinkers such as Aristotle and Plato and were introduced to philosophical ideas including those linked to René Descartes.

Year 6 studied their topic *Evolving Islands*, inspired by the novel *The Island at the End of Everything*. The unit focused on the historical creation of a leprosarium on Culion Island in the Philippines and provided rich opportunities for extended writing, including a balanced argument and a character-focused narrative. In Science, pupils learned about Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution by natural selection. Their learning culminated in a visit to Norwich Bug Parc, where they observed animal adaptations first-hand and handled a variety of fascinating creatures. In RE, they discussed Christian beliefs about creation and explored whether there is conflict or harmony between scientific and religious explanations of life's origins.



It has been a wonderfully productive half term, and we look forward to sharing more of our learning and achievements with the community next time. □




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2026 Event Highlights

Easter Egg Trail - 5 April

Sandringham Wood, Craft & Food Festival - 2-4 May

The Sandringham Pageant of Motoring - 24 May

RHS Sandringham - 22-26 July

Heritage Live Music Concerts - 20-23 August



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Join our Local Residents Keep in Touch scheme to receive road closure updates, useful information and ticket announcements.

Sign up via the following link
<http://mailchi.mp/sandringhamestate/villages>
or by scanning the QR code.



For our full events programme, please see our website
www.sandringhamestate.co.uk

Thank you for bringing light to Ukrainian families Nataliya Churikova

In a powerful show of compassion and solidarity, our charity initiative continues to bring hope, warmth and direct practical help to families and children suffering the effects of the ongoing russian (it does not deserve a capital r) war in Ukraine. Thank you so much to everyone who purchased our Christmas cards designed by my son, Roman — your support means the world to us. Thanks to extraordinary local support, the project has so far helped 45 children of fallen Ukrainian Warriors, ensuring they feel cared for and not forgotten in these incredibly hard times.

Alongside collections of warm fleece clothing, stationery, sweets, books and toys for Ukrainian children who have been evacuated from occupied regions, the team has also launched a GoFundMe fundraiser to support families enduring frequent power cuts and freezing conditions due to russian attacks and damage to Ukraine's energy infrastructure. For many, electricity is not just a basic utility — it's a lifeline to online schooling, work, connection, and hope. <https://gofund.me/a2dc9d5d3>.



In one especially moving example of the initiative's impact, the charity was able to purchase a portable power station for a single parent family where the father was killed in the war and the mother lost her leg. Not only does the power station provide light and warmth to their home, but it also allows her to bake and sell cakes, giving her an opportunity to earn an income and support her children in the face of unimaginable hardship. Giving this family the ability to have light and electricity isn't just about comfort — it's about dignity, strength, and a chance to rebuild. This is what your generosity truly does — it gives a future.

Some donated items were given to local charity shops, not because of transport costs but because of their condition. When families lose everything — their homes, possessions and sense of security — receiving one new item can be a powerful reminder that people care. It's more than charity — it's a human embrace.

The charity continues to collect essential new items including:

- New fleece blankets and fleece jackets for an adult (sizes S, M, L) and for children ages 1–15
- Thermal clothing/thermal socks
- Stationery, puzzles, dominoes, and educational materials
- Books and craft supplies
- LEGO sets
- Chocolate and cookies, tea, coffee
- New warm fleece pyjamas for children ages 1–15

Art and drawing materials are particularly welcomed, as they offer stress relief and joy for children in difficult circumstances.

To help raise funds, Roman Kutsaienko, a student at 6th form in Springwood High School, has created a series of charity cards including Easter cards, Mother's Day cards,

thank you cards and birthday cards. These are being sold in partnership with local businesses:

- The Farm Shop in Drove Orchard, Thornham
- Tuscan Farm Shop in Burnham Market
- Norbury's Café, High Street, King's Lynn

We are deeply grateful for their outstanding support and wish them continued success and prosperity!

We are also deeply grateful for the tremendous support from the Catholic churches — OLSE Catholic Church in Hunstanton and St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Dersingham. Many thanks also to all Dersingham villagers for their support. Residents interested in purchasing cards, donating items, or supporting the fundraiser are encouraged to get in touch with us: churikova777@gmail.com, 07467 562 520 – Nataliya.



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Monday	CLOSED	Friday	4.30pm – 11.30pm
Tuesday	CLOSED	Saturday	2.00pm – 11.30pm
Wednesday	7.00pm - 11:00pm	Sunday	1.00pm – 9.00pm
Thursday	7.00pm - 11:00pm		

Friday 2nd April

BACK TO THE EIGHTIES/KARAOKE

Dig out those neon colours, leg warmers and chunky jewellery (prize for the best costume).

Sunday 5th April 7.30pm

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT

No Rollovers, someone will win on the night.

Friday 10th April 7.30pm

QUIZ NIGHT

Teams of 6, entry £3pp £60 cash prize for the winning team.

Saturday 11th April

NO NONSENSE

Performing hits from the 60s through to the 80s. Come along and sing along to all those songs you forgot you knew!

Tuesday 14th April AGM 7.30pm

Friday 17th April 7.30pm

CASH BINGO with Mark.

Saturday 18th April 8.30pm

MISTER PINK

Simon Pink from the band Mister Pink is a pop/rock solo act playing well-known covers from bands/singers such as Green Day, Bowie, Status Quo, Bryan Adams, Stereophonics and Kings of Leon.

Sunday 3rd May 7.30pm

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT

No Rollovers, someone will win on the night.

Friday 8th May

CECIL FARAYI

Singing all your favourite Soul and Motown classics. Well-known in the local area, Cecil will be performing live Motown and Soul hits that will have you up and dancing.

Friday 15th May 7.30pm

QUIZ NIGHT

Teams of 6, entry £3pp, £60 cash prize for the winning team.

Saturday 16th May 8.30pm

THE STEREOTYPES

Recreating the sound and style of the 90s and 00s with non-stop Britpop and Indie Anthems. Expect to hear the likes of Oasis, Blur, Pulp, Suede, Arctic Monkeys, Kasabian, Stereophonics and other legendary acts.

Friday 22nd May 8.00pm

COUNTRY NIGHT

Non-stop mix of modern & traditional country Hits plus basic line dancing; tuition throughout the night (no experience needed).

Monday 25th May 9.00am

CAR BOOT SALE

More details on our Facebook page.

LINE DANCING SESSIONS ON A MONDAY NIGHT 7:30 - 8:30pm.

Line dancing classes began on the 9th March and run on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Places can be booked through the Buckin' Boots website and are suitable for beginners. www.buckinbootslinedancing.com.

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) □

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Hunstanton Croquet Club Zena Penty, Publicity Officer

We are excited that the start of the 2026 season at Hunstanton Croquet Club is getting near and is scheduled to begin after the Easter break in April. Once again there will be a great opportunity to take part in a four-session 'Introduction to Croquet' course at the club in Hunstanton. It's been run over the last three years and proved very successful in preparing players to take part in club afternoons and many have enjoyed the game and subsequently joined the Club.

We are planning to run the course again this year and would love to hear from anyone interested in taking part (places will be limited). Here is a little information about the club and training.

1. Hunstanton Croquet Club is a very active club with good facilities (including five full size lawns and a clubhouse) in Hunstanton.
2. Croquet is an enjoyable, skilful and sociable outdoor activity. Most players at HCC play Golf Croquet, which is generally simpler to grasp than Association Croquet. It can also be a highly competitive sport, should you be looking for a new sporting interest.
3. We plan four sessions covering basic rules, mallet technique, tactics, etc. with the course conducted by a couple of experienced members and starting in mid-April. All you need are flat shoes as all equipment will be provided, as are refreshments at the end of each session. The cost to cover the whole course is £20 (refundable if you subsequently join the club). The first course is scheduled to start Monday Morning 13th April but there may be others depending on interest.
4. Anyone who wishes to, will then be welcome to join the Club for the season at a cost of £95 (Current annual membership fee £115).

If you like the idea of learning a new sport and meeting some lovely new people in a relaxed environment, please contact Andrew Vickery by email abvickery@hotmail.co.uk and provide your email address and contact number. □



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.

FAKENHAM

Come along for a FREE hot drink, cake, chat and a spot of banter, or to ask questions about veterans' support. First Thursday each month.

At: Fakenham Library, Oak St, NR21 9DY. 10:30am to 12:30pm.

On: Thursday 2nd April

More information? Contact loraine@veteranscentral.co.uk. Mobile: 07713 860040

SWAFFHAM

Veterans Central also has a Veterans' Drop-in at the Swaffham Assembly Rooms. Fourth Tuesday of the month (27th April, 26th May now booked).

VETERANS CENTRAL, WEST RAYNHAM

The Veterans Central charity (#1208763) is based at **West Raynham SHQ** (NR21 7PL) and is a facility for military veterans, serving personnel and families, to support activities, wellbeing and social engagement. Veterans Central is open every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00am to 3:00pm.□

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Some dates for the season of Easter services: Maundy Thursday 2nd April, Mass at OLSE 4pm. Good Friday 3rd April Mass at OLSE 3pm. Holy Saturday 4th April, Easter Vigil OLSE 8pm. Easter Sunday 5th April Masses at St Cecilia's 9am and OLSE 11am.

'Growing In Faith Together', a parish wide programme on the Eucharist, for Lent and Eastertide, based on "This is my body" by Benedictine Priest Ian Petit. Consisting of seven sessions on Fridays at 2.30-4pm starting 20th February and ending 22nd May. For those with internet access, links can be emailed for each session. See noticeboards in both churches for dates. You can join all or some of the sessions. For more information or for the emailed links, contact Paul Mulligan on paul.mulligan4@hotmail.com.

The Pope's prayer intention for **April 26; For Priests in crisis**; we pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

The Pope's prayer intention for **May 26; That everyone might have food**; we pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Following last year's very enjoyable International Lunch, there are plans to repeat this in April. Please see the noticeboards, website or weekly bulletins for more details.

Our annual pancake supper at Dersingham on 17th February was very well attended and enjoyed by all. On Sunday 7th June there will be the usual Corpus Christi Procession at Oxburgh Hall, starting at 3pm.

Our annual Strawberry Fayre this year will be on Saturday 13th June at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. Put it in your diary so that you won't miss out on the delicious strawberries and scones, and other refreshments.

Rosary prayer meetings are at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm and a Mothers' Prayers group meet at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE. Please note that you do not have to be a mother to attend the meetings. See the weekly bulletins for dates.

If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk. Also, if you are a new parishioner, there is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the **Parish News** page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters see the **Links** page of our website at, www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.uk

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11am at OLSE Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

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

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

News from Dersingham Bog Matthew Lonsdale, Natural England

NATURAL
ENGLAND

As we come out of the cold, dark and very wet winter days on Dersingham Bog we can look forward to the spring and longer and brighter days.

Dersingham Bog can be beautiful in the winter, and these months allow us to carry out much of the practical work required to set up the reserve for another important breeding season. Our main focus, as with many previous winters before, is removing scrub from the heaths and mire. Although the levels of scrub are reduced year on year as our hard work pays off, this is still a task that takes up many of our volunteer days. This year we started on the mire from the Dersingham village end as far as the boardwalk, as well as additional work on the plateaux of the heaths. This work is mainly carried out by our dedicated volunteer groups on a Monday and Wednesday, as well as some help from the wider Natural England team and the Gaywood Valley volunteer group. The Gaywood group also helped us with a day of rhododendron removal in which an amazing amount of work was able to be carried out due to the brilliant 26 volunteers attending.

We have also carried out work on the long pond, trying to restrict its expansion on the lowland acid mire. This was mainly carried out at the start of the winter and brash bundles were used to support the perimeter areas from further erosion as well as compartmentalising additional areas to prevent wave action from being able to build up.

As part of our scrub removal on the Bog, we acquired three new members of the team: Stripy, Shaggy and Humbug, the Riggitt Galloway cows, have joined our seven Black Galloway cattle this winter. The Riggitt Galloway is an archaic strain of the Galloway cow that is identifiable by the white stripe running down its back. The term Riggitt is a Scottish vernacular reference to this white stripe, potentially Scandinavian in origin. You can learn more about them on Riggittgallowaycattlesociety.com. Stripy, Shaggy and Humbug are all aged between two and three and came from Dartmoor National Park, living in a similar environment to Dersingham Bog. As part of bio-security protocols the Riggitts were isolated from the rest of the herd for 60+ days, but after negative TB tests they have since settled in really well with the rest of the herd. They have done a great job already, grazing scrub in areas that some of our original Black Galloway cows may not be able to reach. If you encounter them on the Bog, please be sure to keep a respectful distance and keep dogs on a lead when on the Reserve.



Left: Shaggy. Middle: Stripy. Right: Humbug

We have also been working on our other sites across the North and West Norfolk NNRs, particularly at Swanton Novers NNR where we have mainly been carrying out coppicing work. We have managed to coppice about one hectare. This is in addition to an adjacent area that has been coppiced by our team of contractors. This will help to increase the flora and understorey making these areas better for invertebrates and birds.

We would like to thank our volunteers for their hard work and dedication on Dersingham Bog and across our other NNRs in North and West Norfolk during the winter. A special thanks also goes to our two residential volunteers who over after the past year have contributed a huge amount to our work across the reserves. They are both moving to exciting job opportunities in conservation, with Freya working for the National Trust and Isobel for the RSPB.

Wildlife sightings from Dersingham Bog have included several groups of crossbills, mainly around the boardwalk and Wolferton splash pond. Several large groups of fallow deer have been on the slopes and plateaux of the heaths throughout. An amazing fungus was also found on Dersingham Bog by Keith Fox - the pink pancake fungus near the scissors car park. It was the fourth record for Norfolk and a great find. □



Pink Pancake fungus

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Dersingham Sports Ground Update

Chairman David Collingham,



As previously reported, our Sports Ground is badly in need of an improved pavilion to accommodate the current and future needs of the three Sports Clubs which use the Pastures for football, cricket and tennis.

The Dersingham Sports Ground Association (DSGA) has been working on a plan to raise funds for an extended and refurbished facility which relied heavily on a promised grant from the Football Foundation (the Premier League, Football Association and Governments charity) However, much to our dismay, the Football Foundation suddenly did a U-turn on funding in September 2025, which has affected clubs throughout Norfolk and the rest of the UK.

The DSGA in partnership with the Dersingham Parish Council is now embarking on an alternative proposal which we believe will be fundable by community and other grants without reliance on the Football Foundation. We have already raised just under £100,000 with more hopefully to come with support from all in our community and sports lovers around West Norfolk.

So, a short summary of achievements and goals:

- Pavilion redesign in progress using existing footprint and external structure, involving consultation with all sports users, including women and girls' football and disabled users.
- Application for grants as a priority for this spring
- Selection of building partner, with a view to work starting in autumn
- Provision of disabled parking near the Pavilion
- Continued proactive pitch maintenance and drainage management

Our clubs have all had very successful seasons, with Dersingham Rovers fielding up to 14 teams on some winter weekends.

Dersingham Tennis Club has had success in the West Norfolk men's, ladies' and mixed leagues, with players also enjoying social tennis and tennis coaching.

Newly merged Sandringham and Dersingham Cricket Club run three senior teams, plus over 40s and women's teams.

The Pastures will be hosting a major junior football tournament organized by SCI involving over 30 teams from Norfolk and other counties, on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May, with barbecue catering and fun for all. Do come and support our local teams.

We would welcome your support in every possible way as we embark on this new project to improve the sporting facilities for all in our community and beyond.

Have a look at www.dersinghamssportsground.org.uk to see how you could help. Thank you.□



Dersingham Evening W.I Katrina Mundy

In February our speakers were Ian and Steph Hall from the Friends of Hardwick Cemetery. Ian was unfortunately having problems with his laptop, so we were unable to have pictures to accompany the talk. His wife Steph started the talk with the history of the cemetery which had been built as an extension to All Saints Church's cemetery which was full. In 1855 it became a municipal cemetery and was consecrated in 1856.

Steph started by telling us the stories of the Golden Wedding couples buried there: Sir Alfred Jermyns and his wife Emma and Frederick Savage (Lord Mayor) and his wife. Steph then moved on to some of the women who are buried there: Catherine Cozens, who with her husband ran a Temperance hotel in Band of Hope and continued to run it after her husband died; and Mrs Alyward who was Head of an all-girls school for over 38 years. There is a lovely pink marble memorial to Mary Kelly who had travelled 1200 miles to India to her brother, and married Sgt Kelly, a horseman to the Raj, while out there but unfortunately died some years later on her return to King's Lynn. A big part of King's Lynn was the Yards which was an area of high poverty and a truly awful place to live. A quarter of the children who lived there died before the age of five years and these and many adults are buried in unmarked graves in the cemetery. One murder in the Yards was a husband and wife who had a very turbulent marriage which resulted in him murdering her and committing suicide and they are buried side by side. A lot of people are in the cemetery with no headstone markers; suicides are also buried there as are some of the people who died in a train crash in 1903 along the King's Lynn to Hunstanton line. During World War 1 John Pells, a leading stoker on the Dreadnought, was killed and buried there. Thomas Richardson, awarded the DCM and served with the Colours for eighteen years, died one year after leaving the service and is also buried with a marker. The two people killed by a Zeppelin in King's Lynn are also in the cemetery along with the many killed in the Eagle Pub bombing in 1942. This certainly made an interesting talk, and we are hoping to have a walk round the cemetery later in the year.

Sharon opened her house on 24th February for our monthly coffee morning, which was enjoyed by all who attended. Pat will be welcoming us to her house in March for a coffee morning. These are often a couple of hours of chat, plus a raffle and of course coffee and biscuits and cakes.

The Craft Group made a couple of lovely flower-stamped cards and in March tried our hand at tri-folded and pop up cards. Many thanks to Babs for her patience with us. The Crochet Group met on the last Monday of the month at Christine's with an assortment of blankets and granny squares being made; hopefully these will be turned into two lovely tops by Katrina and Ann (so long as we can continue to follow the patterns!)

The Book Club met at Pat's and read *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware. A gripping psychological thriller about a travel journalist who witnesses a woman being thrown overboard during a luxury cruise, but no one believes her. This was made into a film starring Kiera Knightley and was released in October 2025. In March they read *Death of a Bookseller* by Alice Slater. This is a thriller about a crime-obsessed bookseller who becomes obsessed with a new colleague and uncovers her dark past which blurs the lines of friendship and morality.

By the time this is printed we will have had our March meeting with a speaker from Tapping House in Hillington attending. This is a registered charity which provides free

care, comfort and compassion to those in North Norfolk and North Cambridgeshire with life limiting illnesses. They also give support to their carers, relatives and friends. We had visited Tapping House some years ago just before they were fully opened at their new Centre at Hillington and thought it might be of interest to our new members to hear about this wonderful charity. They have both an Outpatient Unit "The Tulip Centre" and an Inpatient Unit the "Dr Hugh Ford". They also have a Hospice at Home Service. They are the only independent Hospice in this part of the UK and have over 40 years as a centre of clinical excellence and are recognised at the forefront of education in palliative care. I am sure it will be a most thoughtful and informative talk. In 2021 they launched their first Tulips for Tapping, which has been a huge success every year. The sight of the field full of different coloured tulips is truly beautiful and is a lovely way of donating to the charity. The charity also holds a coffee morning in Dersingham Village Centre on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Also, in March our Group meeting is a Murder Mystery Evening to be held at South Wootton Village Hall. This is being run by Anna and Adrian from By the Book in Hunstanton. I have never been to one of these but have been told they are great fun.

April is our Birthday month when we have our Party, and in May, we will have a talk by Sue Gattuso about Houghton St Mary.

Posters advertising all our Evening meetings are displayed around the village with timings and venue. You are invited to come to 3 of our meetings which could also be a coffee morning or one of the groups but on the 3rd 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 07597310905

Last Friday of the Month Singalongs Steve Davis

These are held on the last Friday of each month 2-4pm, the next three being:

Fridays: 27th March 24th April & 29th May

Nothing serious, we just have a lot of fun together. All welcome and if you play an acoustic instrument of one sort or another, feel free to bring it along to busk or lead as you feel able.



Everyone gets the chance to choose a song, whether from our ever-growing songbook, or whatever! Full details can be found by visiting our webpage at dersingers.uk from where you can also download a PDF copy of the songbook for your phone or tablet. (Printed copies are also available to use on the day.)

If you have any questions or want to express an interest, contact me Steve Davis on steve.dersingers@gmail.com or 07885 721158



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The Macmillan Norfolk Coastal Mighty Hike: Saturday 9th May 2026 Steve Davis

Some of you may know that in May of last year, with some trepidation, along with over 1700 others, I took part in this spectacular event walking the 26.1 miles of coastline from Cromer to Holkham Park. A sponsored event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care, a charity for whom no doubt so many of you have had cause to appreciate the services of, including my wife during her period of chemotherapy three years ago, and the reassurance they gave me. Macmillan actually run 12 similar Mighty Hike events covering a range of spectacular places over various weekends throughout the year; always a full marathon hike of just over 26 miles on the Saturday followed by a half-marathon on the Sunday.



They really do know how to organise an event. For a registration fee of £25, you get car parking in Holkham park, a coach ride to Cromer for the start where you'll pick up your iconic green t-shirt and registration label with its embedded personal tracking chip, marshals and professional photographers along the way to guide and help, marquee pit -stops mid-morning, lunch-time, and mid-afternoon, each with marquees offering an amazing array of snacks, lunch or first aid if needed, finishing with a medal, a glass of bubbly and fish and chips (or suitable alternative). In return you pledge to raise at least £250 through sponsorship, though amazingly, with the generous donations from my sponsors last year, I managed a total of £1074. Again with very many thanks if you were one of the contributors.

If you'd like to find out more about this year's events, especially if you've any leaning towards having a go yourself, then full details of all 12 can be found here:
www.macmillan.org.uk/mighty-hikes

Now, though last year I figured, well I've been there, done that and got the t-shirt, as the emails from Macmillan started to roll in toward the end of last year encouraging me onto this year's event, I finally caved in and registered. So with no less trepidation, I ask again, would you care to sponsor me? If so, please visit my JustGiving page at: justgiving.com/fundraising/steve-davis-2026 or, if you prefer. I'm happy to take cash donations and enter them on your behalf. I'll even come around and collect from you if you drop me an email. Many thanks.□

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Rising star has the 'perfect job'

Swapping seasonal work for a career in care has seen a Dersingham teenager find a role she loves - and now she's receiving an award for her dedication.

Kiera Hedley-Walker joined Norfolk home care company Extra Hands a year ago, following in the footsteps of her mum Rachel who worked for the company a decade earlier. And Kiera, aged 19, says she is enjoying her role so much that she sees a future within the care industry and looks forward to going to work every day.



"I was working in Hunstanton in a seasonal job at an ice cream shop and there wasn't work in the winter so I ended-up going backwards and forwards. I need a steady income and applied to Extra Hands," said the 19-year-old. "I absolutely love my job. I had never done care before but I am so glad I have made the move. It's the best job I've had and I look forward to going in every day, they're always different. It's the perfect job for me.

"I think you have to be a certain type of person to do a job like this. It's very rewarding and you feel like you have made a difference. I would say to anyone considering it as a job - don't think twice - it really can change your life."

A former pupil at Hunstanton's Smithdon High School, Keira said she was delighted when told that she had been chosen for the Extra Hands Rising Star Award for the Heacham office of the family-run home care company.□

Snettisham Gardening Club RHS Affiliated Club

On 29th April we will be welcoming Michael Croot with his display of container plants for sale and advice on preparing our plants. For this event, please note we will be charging non-members £5.00 entry.

Our May meeting on Wednesday 27th will see Fay Jones telling us about conifers in the garden.

As always visitors and guests are welcome to join us at our meetings at a cost of £2.00 for the first visit. Our membership for 2026 is £10.00 with £1.00 payable at each meeting attended.

Schedules are now available at our monthly meetings or Stockley's Chemist in the village for our Annual Open Show on Saturday 11th July which is open to all.

For further information please call Gail on 07899933840 or Addie on 01485 544754.□



Making Gardening Easier May Davey

Spring is here at last! The daffodils are in bloom. Fruit trees are in blossom. And longer, warmer days are beginning.

Our members visited Bagthorpe Hall on Friday 20 February to see the snowdrops. It was a windy, rainy afternoon and muddy underfoot, but the white carpets of millions of snowdrops under the trees were lovely. However, not so welcoming was the flimsy awning over a trestle table on the windswept patio where tea was served. There was a generous tea for our 26 members, but we longed to be under shelter somewhere instead of huddling together to keep warm. It was good to get into a cosy Eagles coach and drive back in sudden sunshine. Well done, everyone, for staying cheerful!



In January we had an excellent illustrated talk by Brian Scott from the Commonwealth War Graves Association. After a general description of the work of the CWGA, he gave a fascinating insight into the care of the gardens around the world where the war dead are buried. They choose plants that will thrive in that climate and don't require too much attention and have grassy paths where possible or sandy ones in the desert. A fascinating talk.



On 20 March at Dersingham Village Centre we have Carol Page of Bramble & Yarn from Dunston, Lincs showing us how she uses dyes from plants. She produces blankets and scarves, which she will bring to sell at the meeting. Before that there will be a brief AGM and election of the 2026 Committee. We are always looking for people to come on the committee and help with the running of the club. We have more than 40 members, but only 5 committee members. Let's hope we will have some volunteers this year.

In April Christopher and May Davey will share their experiences of a river cruise on the Danube last August.

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 around 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 our Secretary, Gloria Pantling, for details at 01553 671912.□



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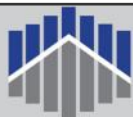
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Family memories Valerie Anckorn

Miss Amy Jubilee Farrell, a young lady with musical talent and of Irish descent, moved from Pimlico, London, to a house in the village of Green Street Green, Kent, to be the lady's maid to the mother of Walter Penfold. Amy was born in 1887 in the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee year – hence her middle name. Amy, later on in her life, was my grandmother.

Amy was a tiny young thing with a waist that could easily be spanned by the hands of a handsome man. She had twinkling olive eyes and bonny brown hair puffed into the current fashion with horsehair padding. She had ambition, and her current one was to eventually own her mistress's jewellery and her son in marriage to boot. However, I don't think that was a priority to Walter, the son and heir, for he wished to make his own fortune and once he had achieved his engineer's papers, off he journeyed to Canada to achieve that aim, working on the new Canadian Pacific railways and after a while, working on a ranch in Saskatchewan, near Regina, looking after horses.

He would send Amy postcards written on the back of a piece of leather that portrayed Native Indians - etched and coloured in the leather.

Walter didn't make his fortune, but had a thoroughly enjoyable time, though nearly dying of dysentery at one time. He was thrown out of the bunkhouse into the snow to either die or recover, as nobody else wanted to catch the germs....Kill or cure in those days! His chores were many. One of them was to take the horses to graze up in the hills. He had a mouth organ to play during the night, because if it were too silent and (say) a twig snapped somewhere, the horses would spook and run off and it would be the devil's work in the morning to find them again. The music was a constant sound that kept their fears at bay. When it snowed, it was more difficult. The horses needed water to drink and when the streams and rivers iced over, Walter would have to collect buckets of snow, as well as copious bundles of twigs and fallen branches to keep the fire going in order to melt the snow to water the horses. This was a non-stop job! He made himself a little 'dug out' in the side of a hill, covering it in turf and recorded both his temporary home and himself by tying a piece of string to the shutter of a Box-Brownie camera, and taking a photo as he sat in the door of his primitive home.



During this time his mother became ill and subsequently died, so he journeyed home to the delight of young Amy, who batted her eyelashes furiously at her young swain, and her duties now changed to looking after the two men. However, Walter's father, Egbert, was disturbed by the arrangement, feeling it was not right that Amy had no female to act as her chaperone within the home. "You'll have to marry her, Walter," he declared - to Amy's delight and Walter's dismay. Not a romantic start to a marriage, but looking through the many photos of their young married life together, it was clear they had fun. Lots of dressing up parties and treks out on new fangled motor bikes...Father and son decided to sell up the house and buy the dwelling next door that had quite a bit of land. They were going to start a garage business – mending the few cars of the richer folk,

and starting up a charabanc and taxi service and building a large garage in which to do all the work. Walter, by the way, had handsome dark looks – he came from Romany stock with dark skin and flashing green eyes. He also had a cunning streak and saw dubious ways to earn extra pennies throughout his life. He just couldn't help it. One of his ways of bringing in business was to scatter tinctacks either side of the garage so that punctures were assured to any passing cars with the new pneumatic tyres and, of course, there was always a smiling service to mend them with alacrity and aplomb...

Amy in time gave birth to two little girls – Margery (my mum) and Peggy. After that separate bedrooms were arranged; my grandfather acquired a willing mistress in the village and my grandmother enjoyed her role as the mistress of the house, happily wearing her deceased mother-in-law's jewellery and ordering the kitchen maid around. The mistress, by the way, worked in the swim-wear department of Liberty's in London and the two girls subsequently were attired in the best swimsuits in the area. It seems the 'arrangement' was not acrimonious! The headmistress of the girls' private school, on finding out Walter's riches were 'new money' and not old, asked for the removal of the two girls from her school.

I came into the picture during the Second World War and have happy memories of being looked after by my lovely Gran, Amy Jubilee, whose inherited rings were always a-flashing. She assured me that when I was grown up, I would have them, but ultimately I didn't, because, unfortunately, burglars got to them first. I would sit with her in the cramped kitchen over the office and waiting room of the coach service which took up the ground floor of the house. We would sit and clean the silver. First, newspaper would be spread across the table and secondly, the can of Silvo produced, firmly shaken and a little tipped out onto a rag and rubbed into the knives, forks and spoons. It was messy work, but by the time we had buffed them up, the cutlery looked wonderful. Then we would start on the jugs and other silver items.

My mother would be working two doors along the village street, at the local hairdressers. When we had finished cleaning the silver, I would skip along the road to say hallo to my Mum. I'd push open the door to the salon and the reek of chemicals would hit my nostrils. There were curtain-clad cubicles for each client. Inside a cramped cubicle would be a basin, a little shelf, a lady sitting in a swivel chair, my mum wielding scissors in an expert manner, hair clippings all over the floor, curlers in a basket or on the client's head, hair nets and a huge floor-standing hair dryer with vast hood which mother had nervous breakdowns over. She told me that if she left the drier on too long, it would get over-heated and the hair in curlers would just drop off.

Unfortunately, mother's zeal for hairdressing and beauty treatment involved me too. To begin with, it wasn't too bad, as home perms were not yet invented, so my hair styling was more down to constant brushing (at least one hundred strokes to make the hair shine) and the front hair being dragged up to the top of my head and secured with a huge glossy bow. All little girls were subjected to these awful ribbons. When home perms came into fashion the torture began. It took *all day* to turn straight locks into Shirley Temple curls. How I hated it – and the smell of the chemicals involved, and how the roots of my hair hurt when Mother's rubber gloves caught and pulled the strands accidentally.

My nails got done too. Out would come the little package of implements used for this torture. First the moons on the fingers would be pushed back. Ouch. That always hurt. The emery board would soon be expertly flashing at the speed of light, honing down my already short nails. Ouch again. Then, a little pot of pink stuff would appear and be applied to my nails and lastly came the buffer with a chamois leather 'buff'. That part of the operation was okay and felt rather nice, especially after all the previous pain and anguish on my part. Buff, buff, buff, with mother's elbows whizzing back and forth in

professional manner. Then it was all over and I could thankfully run out and play, huge ribbon a-bobbin' on top of those ridiculous curls and breath in the lovely fresh air.

Back to Amy and Walter and Peggy – the daughter that remained at home. It came to Peggy's ears that there was a farm for sale in the next village and so she mentioned it to Walter. This was at the end of the war, and apparently if farms didn't produce a certain amount, the Government would take the farms away from the owners. They did not put a high price on the land so as to induce buyers. My grandfather, who kept his business takings under his mattress, retrieved a few bundles from their hiding place, stuffed them into his pockets and drove to see the farmer, pulled out the money and told the man he would buy the farm, lock stock and barrel. He was surprised that there seemed to be more formality involved to the purchase than that, but eventually the deal was struck.

Amy, once she had seen the farmhouse, so much bigger than her home over the business, was delighted. "I'm the lady of the house" she declared to all and sundry. Walter bought a job lot of antique furniture to fill the large house, and Amy was beside herself with happiness. Her mandolin, guitar, maracas and other musical items she once used to play in a London band (can you imagine, in Victorian times?!) were displayed upon flocked and florid wallpaper as well as on the top of the piano, and Walter's drum kit was stored up in the cobwebby attics to be brought out each Christmas until a television was introduced to the home.

I was aged seven at this time and was also involved in all the excitement. Indeed, my happiest memories are stored in my head of those wonderful days of many large rooms in a fascinating house, with nature and acres of land to explore and animals in the barns and stables for me to pet. I don't know whose cup floweth-ed over the most – my Granny's or my own!

There were few downsides to Amy's happiness, but one that stuck in her craw was when she was paying for some purchases and the notes she had handed over were rejected. "These are many years out of date, M'am", said the assistant somewhat superciliously. Walter's mattress-bank had proved a trifle ineffective. Amy was furious and wouldn't speak to him for a few weeks, after which she only referred to him as 'the old man'. Walter just grunted, got on with feeding the pigs, but thereafter only called her 'the old woman'. □

Docking Heritage Group

Docking Heritage Group (DHG) was formed in 2007 as a research and archive group recording and sharing the history of the village of Docking. By 2010 they had a room in Docking Village Hall where they are able to store their displays, books, photograph collection, village records such as maps and school log books and to register transcripts.

DHG members are available from 10am - noon every Wednesday morning to help people with their family and local history research. There is also a local market.

From February 2026 they will be offering their services to anyone who wishes to begin to discover their family history, or need help with a brick wall, even if it is not local. They will be offering a Family History helpdesk. There is no need to book, just pop in. www.dockingheritagegroup.org.uk □

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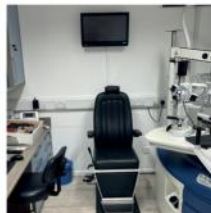
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Girlguiding Dersingham celebrate 100 years of World Thinking Day Lynne Wheeler

Every year on the 22nd February, Guides across the world celebrate Thinking Day. A day to celebrate that they are part of a world-wide family of Guides on a day chosen as it was the birthday of their founders - Lord and Lady Baden Powell.



This year, members of the Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides joined others from Snettisham, Sandringham and Gayton to celebrate 100 years of Thinking Day. The girls enjoyed an action retelling of the history of Thinking Day, created friendship, crafts and played silly games. There was also the Renewal of Promises and donations given for the Thinking Day fund - money used to help Guides in need across the world - and an indoor campfire.

Then, in their weekly meeting, the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides enjoyed meetings with an international theme to find out more about the world family of Guides. All the girls received the National and Anglia Thinking Day badges.

This week was also very special for the 1st Dersingham Guides as their leader, Elizabeth, was presented with her award for Twenty years of volunteering with Girlguiding which started as a young volunteer before becoming an adult leader.

There is always space for more girls to join Girlguiding and begin their own adventure. To find out more and to register your daughter's interest, please visit <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk> □



The Planned Works on Dersingham Commons and Fen – Sixth Update

Alex Coombs, Clerk to Dersingham United Charities

What's been happening ...

We've had another year of steady progress. In the summer months we again sprayed the gorse and rhododendron regrowth and weed-wiped another section of the reed bed. You may also have noticed that the low posts around the car parking area on Heath Road have been replaced with taller ones which should be easier to see and so prevent them from being driven into so frequently.

This winter season we have spent more time on the Fen than in previous years. Large gorse bushes were cut down, piled and then burnt along with the tree brash from the woodland thinning work completed in September. This was the last of the planned forestry work, although a small number of selected trees will be removed on a more ad hoc basis that weren't commercially viable to the forester.

The large mire plot has been cut and cleared for the second time in two years and has improved significantly with large amounts of cotton grass and some patches of sphagnum moss colonising it. There is talk of reintroducing the rare, large marsh grasshopper onto the mire plot. This handsome grasshopper had become extinct locally but has been reintroduced at Ken Hill, Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog with some success in recent years. I will let you know what occurs in due course.



The mire plot during clearing, showing some sphagnum mosses



The cleared boundary ditch

On the Common the holly has been reduced some more. As you are probably aware, holly is a native plant and has a useful role to play in our woodlands, however it can be invasive, so we are reducing its presence by about a third, just to keep it under control. With the eradication of the rhododendron over the past five years we have now been able to have the boundary ditch with Sandringham reedug. Now that the ditch isn't clogged with roots and decades of accumulated leaf mulch, the water can flow freely from the top of the Common down to the Fen and

should help prevent the footpaths being so muddy and dangerous in winter.

And finally, a dozen hazel saplings have been planted in two areas of the Common to help the bio-diversity and we plan to plant some more trees in due course.

If you are interested in helping by volunteering, come along or contact me, Alex

Coombs, at ducclerk@gmail.com. Our sessions are typically held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays during the winter months. It can be hard work but you only have to do what you feel comfortable with, so why not give it a go.

Major news ...

Back in 2021 we were made aware that Norfolk County Council were due to sell the narrow strip of land sandwiched between the A149 bypass and the Fen as they needed to raise much needed funds. We made a cheeky little offer which was declined, and Sandringham Estate were not interested, so Natural England were approached and prolonged negotiations were entered into, but eventually fell through. So, the Council approached us again in November 2024 and we quickly settled on a suitable price. Legal processes were completed on 8th October 2025 and this parcel of land was formally added to our portfolio.

If no local buyer had been found the Council were due to put the area up for public auction and, as the well-used footpath that runs its entire length is not a formal path, it was possible that it could have been closed to the public. The charity's trustees felt strongly that this would have been a major loss to the village and were keen to ensure its ongoing accessibility for everyone. Sandwiched between the Bog and the Fen the land also has SSSI status, so we will include it in our existing program of works, and indeed before Christmas we started by clearing the birch scrub encroaching on to the path, with further scrub clearance planned next year. □



The newly purchased path being cleared of scrub



Easter Joy, Easter People



Easter is fast approaching and for Christians it is at the heart of our faith. It is the story of Jesus, His death, His resurrection, and the promise of new life for all who believe. To be 'Easter people' is to live every day in the joy and power of that resurrection.

Easter people believe that new beginnings are possible. Just as the stone was rolled away from the tomb, barriers in hearts can be moved. This hope is deeply personal and living, but it is never meant to be private. The early church grew because believers shared what they had experienced and the joy that Jesus is alive. They invited others into the story. Speaking of inviting others into their stories.

It has been very encouraging to see so many new people coming to our local group of churches of St Nicholas Dersingham, St Michaels Ingoldisthorpe, Anmer and Shernborne in the last few months, especially 'The Gathering' contemporary worship, 9:30am, at St Nicholas. Many of the new people have come because they started to read the Bible and have wanted to join the church. In February we had an extra special day when three young adults were Baptised by full immersion, and one affirming their Baptismal faith (pictured). The testimonies (God story) they all shared were remarkable, of how their lives had been transformed by Jesus, a real encouragement.



Easter Celebrations

The Easter Trail returns again this year, which is ideal for families during the Easter holidays. Maps will be available from St Nicholas Church, Dersingham from 27th March until 12th April and the clues will be up around the village in windows of different businesses. This is free to take part in and offers families a chance to get out and explore, whilst also learn more about Easter, and there is a chocolate prize for all children taking part. There will also be a Children's activity morning on Thursday 2nd April from 10am-12pm for primary aged children (accompanied by an adult), again in St Nicholas Church. On Easter Sunday there will be the chocolate Easter egg hunt after The Gathering service at 9:30am. Regularly at each 9:30am 'The Gathering' service, there is a younger children's group called 'Bubbles', and on Sunday evenings in term time the Elevation youth group meets.

Pebbles the Donkey is again visiting St Nicholas Church Dersingham on Palm Sunday. On March 29th from 9:30am Pebbles will be in St Nicholas Court, opposite the Church, to be greeted by children and adults alike and fed a feast of carrots. Pebbles will then lead us into St Nicholas Church for our special combined service with the Blaze band, choir and organ, which begins at 10am and all are very welcome. Please check www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk for all Holy Week and Easter services □

Easter Joy!

Rev Mark Capron

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

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



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Hunstanton & District Camera Club Malcolm Hayward

The Hunstanton & District Camera Club has had a wonderful few months. Although there has been a lot of rain, we have been blessed on a few occasions by the rain stopping in time for us to walk around and take some excellent pictures. We have visited Happisburg where we worked on getting a 'soft water' effect on the incoming tide. We also visited Walsingham to get delightful pictures of the masses of snowdrops.

The club will be holding an exhibition at the Hunstanton Library in Valentine Road in April, with in excess of 80 pictures on display. There will be club members at hand to discuss the pictures and to provide information about the Club. If you would like to join the club the exhibition is an excellent opportunity to discuss with the club members present.

More information is available from Malcolm Hayward mdhultrasonics@gmail.com or call 07979 503049.



We meet at the Freebridge Hall in Orchard Close in Dersingham on the first and third Thursday each month, but it is best to call beforehand as we may be out taking pictures.



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Snow Leopard - Malcolm Hayward



Peter Sorrall

Dersingham Library

Looking for new activities, thinking about joining a group, or maybe even becoming a volunteer? Your local library is more than books — it's a place where people of all ages come together.

This month, we are proud to introduce our new **Step Forward** sessions, for anyone looking for guidance or connection — whether you're unemployed, returning to work, exploring a new career, or simply wanting to meet others in a friendly environment. We are here to listen, offer advice, and connect you with extra support, including careers guidance and digital skills help and all over a warm cuppa.

Come to the library today to speak to a member of staff about our sessions or visit our website www.norfolk.gov.uk/stepforward for more information.

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- Practical tips and advice to help you manage your finances.
- Tea and coffee (because everything's better with a cuppa!)

For more information, see www.norfolk.gov.uk/stepforward



Hunstanton u3a

'My Life in Brass'. This month we welcome Kevin Mackie, who will be taking us on a journey from his first forays into music to becoming one of the most accomplished euphonium players in the Midlands.

Kevin was a nursing officer in the Royal Air Force and somehow managed to do that and still play with the RAF bands, including the Central Band of the Royal Air Force.

Kevin will be bringing some instruments in to help illustrate his presentation and share his musical talents with you.

Monday 20th April, 2pm at Hunstanton Community Centre, Avenue Road Members and guests welcome. 50p charge towards refreshments. □

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Ward Councillors Tony Bubb and Judy Collingham



Let's start with something slightly contentious: dog signage on the sports field. Cllr Collingham, who is also a Trustee of the Sports Ground, so writes with some authority on the subject. The position is that, should anyone, child or adult, come up from a tackle, fall or other incident on the sports ground with dog faeces on

their person, unless the dog owner can be identified and found, the trustees are responsible for any adverse health outcomes. There have been cases of children's eyesight being affected by dog poo; even if you do pick up after your dog, if that poo is on the field, then any residue can cause a problem. In addition, the Sports Ground terms of lease from the Parish Council, and ultimately Sandringham, clearly state that the ground is for the use of sport and related activities. That is why the signage specifically asks dog walkers to use the exterior of the ground. One further point is that the clubs - football, tennis and cricket - pay substantial sums for use and care of the ground, it is demonstrably unfair that those who have paid nothing should spoil it for those who have. Please observe the requests on the signage.

Did you know that the Borough empties nearly 1000 dog bins every week, in other words over 50,000 sacks a year. Currently this goes to landfill but the Climate Change working group is investigating alternative options.

You may, or may not, have been following the controversy over the delayed County Council elections. The argument for delay was to save money, but that is a dangerous argument to advance as the democratic right of people to vote for local representation should not be about money.

Provision will have been made in the budget for elections, so it is not as if "new" money would have had to be found. Additionally, there was talk of delaying elections until 2028 due to Local Government Reform (LGR), so current County Councillors would be serving an extra 2 years. Quite what the outcome of the leader of Norfolk County Council (NCC) declaring that NCC would withdraw from LGR proposal altogether is currently unclear.

Good news in that a further £1.5 million has been raised for the St Georges Guildhall project. It is difficult to overstate the importance to our town and Borough to see this project to completion and the more donors come forward, the more others will hopefully be encouraged to do the same.□

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Royal Visitor to Sandringham parkrun and 5K Your Way – Move Against Cancer



A huge surprise awaited the 258 finishers and the 35 volunteers today at Sandringham parkrun. His Majesty the King attended the event on Saturday morning as a spectator, surprising everyone at the Sandringham parkrun for the second year in a row and ahead of World Cancer Day on February 4th. On marshal point one the King was helping out Sarah Byatt, supporting “5k Your Way Move Against Cancer”, cheering and waving at the runners, joggers and walkers, with several participants stopping and chatting to him. A very amazing,

unbelievable morning. Apart from the King we had visitors from Cheshire, London, Hertfordshire, Melton Mowbray and a lady all the way from New Zealand who would have been very astounded.

First finisher was Daniel Guppy in a time of 19.02 and our first lady was Marie Duhig in a time that gave her the highest age grading of 80.76%. Warren Armstrong achieved the highest male age grading with 78.32% with his 2nd place in a time of 19.18. With 31 First Timers to Sandringham, we had 5 First Timers to 5KYW: welcome to Ari Thorarinsson, Millie Rogers, Claire Legg, Elsie de Bootman and Anne Armstrong – we hope to see you next week. Milestones were achieved by Beau Stanton (JM11-14) – 10 and Liam Phair – 300 parkruns. Beau volunteers at parkrun as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award and also a fundraiser for cancer research, so it was very fitting that he got to meet the King.



Parkrun cannot go ahead without our wonderful volunteers. Unfortunately, this morning not all the volunteers got to meet the King, however, **we appreciate each and every volunteer**. Please consider volunteering – it’s a great part of the parkrun experience and there are roles to suit everyone. You can see what roles are available on the Sandringham parkrun future roster page and you can email Sandringham@parkrun.com to volunteer or find out more. Milestone volunteering were Peter Brown and Stella Gray on their 25th volunteering.



Today was also “5k Your Way Move Against Cancer”. Move Charity is a supportive community that inspires and empowers people impacted by cancer, including their family, friends and healthcare professionals, to live an active and fulfilling lifestyle. Move Charity now has good evidence that physical exercise doesn’t just make people living with and after cancer feel better, it also improves outcomes. The real impact comes from community, inspiration and empowerment. Please come and join us, we meet at Sandringham parkrun the last Saturday of every month to run, walk or just for coffee and great home-made delights!! Admire the beautiful surroundings; but wrap up warm and cosy. A wonderful team enables this to be held, many thanks to everyone involved. □



Dersingham Task Force Clare Bee

It’s official – spring is here. Even if it’s still cold and wet when your Village Voice is delivered, spring has sprung. The first day of spring, also known as the spring or vernal equinox, falls on March 20th and just over a week later, on March 29th, we put the clocks forward to welcome British Summer Time.

So we can safely say that winter is over. Apart from the odd snowy day, the weather hasn’t been so very cold this year, but it’s certainly been wet. It felt like sometimes we went days looking out at yet another downpour and the sight of the sun made us feel ridiculously optimistic.

For gardeners and growers, this is now the busy time. After weeks of planning and thinking about what to grow or plant in the garden, we can at last get going. It feels good to have that spring sun on our faces and see the garden come back to life. Of course, we already have many spring bulbs flowering cheerfully, but trees and shrubs are just starting to show us their spring growth.

At Task Force, we are happy to get back to our ‘task’ of keeping the flower beds in the village looking their best. It is something we all enjoy doing and are happy to make our contribution to our lovely village. We do like to reward ourselves with coffee and cake afterwards though and have a good catch up!

If you’d like to join us, please contact Dennis on 07482 913399 or at denzilweatherill@gmail.com. You’d be very welcome.□



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Dersingham Methodist Church
Elizabeth Batstone



Thank you for your continued support for our Church activities. The January and February coffee mornings were well attended and helped raise funds for our forthcoming Flower Festival.

Our next coffee morning is on **Saturday 28th March, 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.** Funds raised will be divided equally between Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged. Look forward to seeing you there.

Easter services

Good Friday 3rd April, 10.30 a.m.

Easter Sunday 5th April, 10.30 a.m.

We will be very busy in May getting ready for the **Flower Festival and 136th Church Anniversary**, Thursday 21st to Saturday 24th May, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Stalls and refreshments. The theme is 'Songs to stir the memory'. The arrangements will depict choruses and hymns we sang in our Sunday School days.

Sunday 24th May 3.00 p.m. Service of Praise and Thanksgiving with Revd Helen Hollands, Chair- East Anglia Methodist District.

We hope you will be able to join us for our annual flower festival to celebrate 136 years of Church witness.

As the hymn writer said, 'We will praise him for all that is past and trust him for all that's to come.' □



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A Season of Creation

Happily our winter world slowly turns into spring....
Life asserting bulbs and blooms, doing their colouring in.
In the beginning the Creator worked six days and then rested;
The scientists claim The Big Bang Theory, in which they are invested.

The Creator made the lights, the greater one to govern the day,
The lesser light and stars made to govern the night.
Scientists think the Big Bang cooled and cosmic dust came into play,
Our new star, the Sun was born and in our night skies, the Moon shines bright.

The Creator fixed a dome in the middle separating low and high,
Below it the waters became the sea and the dome became the sky.
Science says hot escaping gasses gradually built up the dome,
Its protective pressure made water, needed for making this space our home.

The Creator gathered the water in a single basin, calling it the sea,
Areas of dry land now appeared and it's how Earth came to be.
Science concurs water vapour from volcanoes caused a lot of rain,
Earth gradually cooled and the molten rock, forming crusts were laid.

With this dome the Creator brought forth vegetation of many kinds,
Trees that bore fruit, plants that bore seeds, our very early life signs.
Scientists explain bacteria provided oxygen thus beginning complex life,
Algae and mosses gave off spores and microbes and plants became rife.

The Creator said there shall be sea monsters and all kinds of fish....
Let there be winged birds, some with bright colours, others with tails that swish.
Scientific stories tell us fish emerged about 100 million years ago,
And birds, with a few million years, mastered flight as their way to go.

The Creator turned attention to amphibians, invertebrates and insects,
Making wild and tame animals, some huge, others with various different aspects.
Science now says the water loving creatures and others developed carnivorous intensity
While the warm-blooded mammals deviated with incredible diversity.

The Creator's Magnum Opus now brought forth the Humankind,
Male and female, got dominion over all with a heart, a soul and a mind.
Scientists firmly believe, over two million years ago the Homo lineage began,
Homo Habilis, Homo Erectus, Homo Sapiens evolved, each with a cultural plan.

With all work done the Creator blessed the seventh day and finally rested,
The Creation was finished, it was ready and set out to be tested.
Biblical history records, around 2000 years ago the Creator became a creature,
A young Jewish woman was absolutely central to this feature.

'In the Beginning, the Creator made the Heaven and the Earth'..... Genesis

*"If we find the answer to why we and the universe exist it would be the ultimate triumph
of human reason....for then we would know the mind of GodProfessor Stephen
Hawking*

Lorna MMXXVI



Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

In the words of the old song 'Spring is just around the corner', and when the clocks spring forward on the 29th, it really will feel like winter is behind us. We at the bowls club can't wait for the 2026 season to begin on April 11th, when our Club President, Keith Richardson will open the green by bowling the first woods of the season. This will be followed by a roll-up and finger buffet. Hopefully the weather will have improved by then, although we usually come prepared for anything, armed with fleeces, woolly hats and hand warmers just in case.

We held our AGM on November 10th, where the committee were re-elected for another year. The members also voted to support NARS as our charity this season. The members thanked the Committee for all their hard work during the past year.

Looking ahead, we are holding our Open Day on Sunday April 26th, from 10am till 4pm, when you can try lawn bowls, free of charge. All equipment is provided, just come along wearing flat-soled shoes, and our experienced bowlers will be only too pleased to introduce you to the sport. There will be complementary light refreshments available. No previous experience is needed, but if you have bowled before, you are also most welcome to come along.

We will be holding roll-ups each Saturday and Wednesday afternoons at 2pm and on May 2nd will be making the draw for the Dickie Murrell Memorial League teams. This internal League will start on Wednesday May 13th, replacing the midweek roll-up. Hopefully it will be a close fought competition as last season was. Good luck to all taking part.

Also, in the diary for May: The Edies Cup will be played for on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4th, swiftly followed by a friendly match away to Cliff Parade bowls club on Sunday May 17th. Finally for this issue, The Centenary Cup competition is on the late Spring Bank Holiday Monday May 25th.

Whilst all this is going on, our green keeping team are beavering away making sure we have a great surface to bowl on, not an easy job at the best of times, but very challenging in the winter months, especially when we have had so much rain. Needless to say, our volunteers have done a sterling job, and will continue to do so throughout the season. Thanks to all of you.

Well, I can't think of anything else at the moment, so until the next issue, stay well and we will hopefully see some of you on the 26th. □

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The group sing shanties and songs of the sea and are available to hire for events. Contact them at sirensatthehelm.co.uk for further details. □

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Rock and Roll Phobbies

Dersingham Phobbies is a club run by volunteers for people with a range of disabilities or who feel isolated and meets every Thursday in Dersingham social club; and it has had a great few months of activities.

Those attending the club have worked together on making papier-mache storage boxes, dragon monsters straight from a Tony Hart art book, a meadow collage using flower heads made of cotton, and a seascape mural using cut-out fish, sea animal stencils and stickers, plus everyone joined in with a music and movement session. Some members have worked individually on projects, including pieces of artwork, making a rattan chair seat (using only one hand due to the effects of a stroke), making latch hook rugs, crocheting blankets and knitting garments. A highlight for everyone was having Jammin' Joe playing live on 26th February where we all joined in singing, and those able to, got up and danced to some real rock and roll classics.



Maggie Ponder, chair of the organising committee said, "We have a great range of volunteers who bring different skills and knowledge to Phobbies that allows us to provide a wide range of activities, plus also a friendly listening ear to those attending who just want to talk over cups of tea and biscuits. We are pleased to have welcomed three new club members already this year".

Phobbies always welcomes new volunteers and anyone else who wants to attend, no matter the reason why. Any help that you can give, whether it's a one off, once or twice a year, once a month or more regularly, will be greatly appreciated and you will be made most welcome.



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

Dersingham Choir's Coming Events

After the success of last October's music gala, Dersingham Choir is hosting a second Charity Music Gala at St Mary's Church, Snettisham, on Saturday 11th July, starting at 7 pm. The choir is pleased to invite back the four excellent performers from last year: Jenny Williams (soprano), Daniel Meades (tenor), and pianists Matthew Preston and Benjamin Howell who perform together as The Missing Coda. This is a must for lovers of classical music and opera. Tickets will be bookable in advance from the choir's website, www.dersinghamchoir.com nearer the concert's date, or purchased on the door. For more information contact Kate, the choir secretary: email secretaryDC2025@outlook.com or phone 07513 986858.

The choir is undertaking a number of events over the summer period. Please look out for posters on the community notice board at the Co-op in Dersingham or on the choir's website for these events.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who attended our fund-raising coffee morning at Orchard Close on 14th February which raised over £400 for our charity.

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



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Dersingham Day Club

January and February have got 2026 off to a lively start at the Day Club!

We welcomed the King's Lynn U3A Ukulele Group. Peg also joined us for a fun chair-exercise session set to music, and one of our Friends of the Day Club tried something a bit different. With maracas, tambourines and light poles in hand, everyone enjoyed lively music, and even a little dancing. We also had Jammin' Joe who entertained us with his keyboard and familiar singalong songs. We are grateful to everyone who comes in to entertain us.

There were the regular table games, an afternoon of Bingo and a member organised a Beetle Drive too, which was great fun.

A few of our members have enjoyed crafting. If you're having a spring clean and come across any extra craft materials, we could put them to good use, perhaps if you could drop anything you may have at the Village Centre on a Wednesday or call us to arrange collection?

We are a self-funded group run entirely by dedicated volunteers and rely on weekly contributions from members, along with any kind donations, large or small, to help cover our running costs.

We were extremely grateful to have received a generous cheque from Hunstanton Freemasons, Martin Folks Lodge. Their support will make a real difference and help towards our weekly expenses, ensuring we can continue providing our service to the community.

If you, or someone you know, is over 70 and might like to join us to socialise, play games and enjoy a two-course midday lunch, please get in touch with Wendy 01485 544975 or Maggie 01485 543264 for more information.

If you have a bit of spare time on a Wednesday and fancy joining our friendly volunteer team, we'd love to hear from you too. Just drop by one Wednesday for a chat, cup of tea or coffee and see what we're all about.□





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Butterfly Report for 2025

Brian Anderson



Every year I have started by referring to the weather during the season. This year is no different. There were several heatwaves during the season, which boosted butterfly numbers to the extent that many people mentioned the increase in those that they saw. The conscious realisation of the greater numbers was no doubt boosted by comparison with the very poor year of 2024. Exactly how good it was is open to question. There are several survey methods and there is some difference in the conclusions it might lead you to.

Great Butterfly Count

This survey requires participants to select an area and count and identify all the butterflies they see in a 15-minute period between 18th July and 10th August (the exact dates vary a little from year to year). There are methodological problems. The number of people taking part varies a lot. It is clear from the data that there is a lack of expertise in identification in some of the cohort. The time period of the count precludes some species - Orange Tips and Green Hairstreaks, for example, have a flight season that ends in June. Some multi-brooded species have broods that are larger outside the recording period. The results suggest that 2025 was an average year.

Garden Butterfly Watch

This is similar to the British Trust for Ornithology's Garden Birdwatch. Participants register their gardens and count the number and species of the butterflies seen, according to some recording rules. It can be used at any time of the year. The "Top 10 butterflies seen" in any one year shows that 2025 gave the highest count for the last nine years, with the exception of 2023. But here too we have to be cautious. The number and location of participating gardens varies. The number of gardens is not that large (about 600). There are recording rules but they are not particularly stringent. However, the data is useful as it can reveal big changes that happen quickly. The rapid decline of the Small Tortoiseshell was highlighted when it dropped out of the Top 10 between 2022 and 2023.

Transect Recording

This is, if you like, the gold standard of recording. The rules are explicit and comprehensive. I do not have access to the national data for 2025 but the transect coordinator Alan Dawson has produced a report for Norfolk. He comments "butterflies had a very good time". The total count for all Norfolk transects was 84,037, compared with 40,698 in 2024. Five species suffered declines (Orange Tip, Brimstone, Small Skipper, Holly Blue, Green Hairstreak) but 24 showed increases. The Small Tortoiseshell had a welcome boost of 280 per cent.

Seasonal Change

The Nature's Calendar phenological programme, administered by the Woodland Trust, revealed that all the butterflies on its list (ten species) emerged earlier than the emergence dates set in the benchmark year of 2001. The Orange Tip was 27 days earlier. Given that the average monthly temperature was significantly higher than the benchmark year (by 3°C) this is unsurprising.

I am not sure we can reach any conclusion about how good 2025 was for butterflies nationally, except that it was a good deal better than 2024. Norfolk, however, seems to have done quite well.

The local scene

The transect route that we have reported on since 2012 did well in 2025. We recorded

679 butterflies over the season with Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary, Speckled Wood and Gatekeeper recording all-time highs (the Orange Tip missed this accolade by one individual). We saw no Brimstones at all; the first time this has happened. The Norfolk transect total recorded a 4 per cent drop in Brimstones observed.



Gatekeeper



Silver-washed Fritillary



Brimstone



Speckled Wood

There were no Wall Browns seen on transect but we did get two in our garden and we received reports of others being seen in the village.

In May we received a request from Butterfly Conservation to take part in a Stinging Nettle survey. Many potential participants were contacted across Britain and other European countries. We were sent a sampling kit and were asked to identify a 3 x 3 metre patch of nettles on the transect route and collect samples of leaves and soil and take photographs of the square. The samples and data were sent to the researcher in the Netherlands. It's just as well we did sampling when we did as a week or two later the nettle patch had been cut down, presumably by an adjacent householder. May we gently point out that the transect route is *not* an extension of back gardens (the Elizabeth Way is owned and managed by Norfolk County Council) and interference in the ecology can quite severely hamper scientific study.

In August we received a text from a parishioner saying he had a large number of butterflies on the inner walls of a brick outbuilding. A visit revealed 21 Peacocks and two Small Tortoiseshells hibernating on the walls. By the end of the year two Peacocks had died (found lying on the floor). On 18th January the number of butterflies had dropped to 17, whether by predation or movement is unknown. By February 7th the number had *increased* to 19. Watch this space!

Acknowledgements Our thanks to Martin Sanctuary, Chris Selby and Jenny Murray, Coral Shepherd, Alan Dawson, David and Ruth Pinion. □



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Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

The Parish Council met on 3rd February at Wolferton Social Club with a full attendance of Councillors and six members of the public present including a representative of Sandringham Estate.

Principal matters discussed included whether or not to set a Parish Precept for the financial year starting in April, an update report on the major events this Summer at Sandringham being the RHS five day show in July and the four days of concerts in August and a suggestion for a lorry ban in West Newton and speed limit on the B1440 through the parish.

General business

A number of matters brought forward from the previous meeting were discussed including various highways issues. These are meant to be progressed through the County Councillor but on this occasion the Chairman reported he would go direct to the Highways Manager to seek a meeting to discuss our concerns and requests. This produced a rebuff for not following the correct channels and, in effect, a summary dismissal of the various matters without even the courtesy of listening to our case. We were told, for example, that if we wanted a speed limit introduced, either in Wolferton or on the B1440 then we would have to find the £15,000 for the legal orders required to implement each of them.

Parish Precept

We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a Parish Precept. This is an amount in the pound added to the Council Tax paid by householders, with the monies raised being used to pay for various projects and services which are today largely provided by the Estate at its expense. There are advantages – including it bringing a degree of independence – and disadvantages, not least that it costs money to hold the funds as they have to be administered by an independent person – a Responsible Finance Officer as the role is called – plus a bank account which levies charges and an annual audit which costs money. Councillors voted against raising a Parish Precept for 2026 but agreed that a detailed examination should be started in good time for a vote for the year starting April 2027.

Major events at Sandringham

A verbal report was given following the meeting for local Parish Council Chairmen and Borough Ward Councillors, called and hosted by Sandringham Estate, concerning major events. The meeting was in two parts, firstly concerning the Concerts and then, separately, the RHS show. The 2026 Concerts will be held on 20th to 23rd August and the Estate's Event Manager presented a report on the 2025 event and local residents' feedback, from which a number of proposed changes were presented for 2026. The feedback from locals via the survey was on the whole positive, with some of the changes from 2023 regarded a success, with the free or discounted tickets being appreciated. The representative of Heritage Live recognised and understood the importance of minimising the impact on the lives of West Newton residents, and a number of further improvements are being considered. That said, even the most well planned and considerate concerts on this scale inevitably bring disruption to daily lives. There will be a further report and opportunity to engage as Heritage Live furthers its planning work.

Being the first time for RHS it was more difficult for them to present a thorough plan for their five day event which will run from Wednesday 22nd to Sunday 26th July. Their representatives did, however, confirm that in line with requirements, they had forwarded an outline Traffic Management Plan to the Borough Council's Safety

Advisory Group. Without the SAG having already reviewed the Traffic Management plans, there was uncertainty at that stage as to whether or not traffic flows would be similar to the one day long-established Sandringham Flower Show. It was agreed that once the SAG have reviewed the traffic plans and a revised draft created, the Parish Councils will be invited to review and share their comments. This is expected to late March.

A separate meeting was facilitated by the Parish Council between the Estate and Lynx Bus company to see whether the 35 bus service through West Newton can be maintained during the days when major events are held. The Parish Council made the point that nine days of no buses in West Newton was unacceptable and a solution had to be found. The matter is ongoing but some progress was made and has been confirmed subsequently in writing.

It is recommended that all local residents sign up to the Sandringham Keep in Touch scheme. A flyer was included in the last edition of Village Voice. This will be the mechanism for us to apply for free or discounted tickets.

Next meeting of the Parish Council – all welcome

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at West Newton Village Hall on Tuesday 5th May 2026, starting at 7pm. This will be a general meeting of the Council followed by the AGM at which a report on the year is given and Councillors choose their new Chairman for the forthcoming year. All are very welcome to attend. □

What's on in Wolferton

Wolferton Social Club

Cash Bingo

Sunday April 12th. Doors open 6.30pm Eyes down 7.30pm

Sunday May 3rd. Doors open 6.30pm Eyes down 7.30 pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday April 21st. Doors open 6.30pm Eyes down 7.30pm

Tuesday May 19th. Doors open 6.30pm Eyes down 7.30pm

Our opening hours

Friday and Saturday 8 pm - 11pm

Sunday lunchtime 12.30pm- 3.30pm

For further details of what might be happening at the social club please phone the Social Club during opening hours 01485541919 □

St Peter's Church, Wolferton

As a part of the Royal Family's traditional winter stay in Norfolk, King Charles 111 and Queen Camilla attended mattins at St Peter's, Wolferton on January 25th. They were accompanied by Anne, the Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence.

The service was led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, who was legally confirmed in the post at a service in St Paul's Cathedral the following week.

The church flowers, a purple & white theme, looked beautiful; thank you to all those who helped to ready the church for this special occasion.

As you will be aware, there has been considerable press presence just by St Peter's Church recently. The church remains open and welcomes visitors.

Please refer to the Sandringham Group of Parishes website where you can find up to date information regarding church services. □

- 5 April 2026 Last day of the 2025/26 tax year: deadline for various tax claims and elections, as mentioned in our previous article.
- 6 April 2026 First day of the 2026/27 tax year:
Income Tax: dividend ordinary and upper rates increased by 2 percentage points. Making Tax Digital (MTD): Sole traders and landlords with turnover/rent of £50,000 or more required to keep digital records and submit quarterly updates from today. CGT: rates of CGT increased for gains attracting Business Asset Disposal Relief or investors' relief (from 14% to 18%). IHT: reform of Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief.
- 19 April 2026 Employers: deadline to make a final payroll report for 2025/26.
- 30 April 2026 Annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings (ATED): For companies owning UK Residential Properties valued at more than £500k: deadline to submit Returns and pay the tax for the year 31 March 2027. Also the deadline to submit a relief declaration Return. These returns are based on 1 April 2022 revaluation if property held on 1 April 2022 and a revaluation trigger has not occurred since that date; or, on the cost of the property if acquired since 1 April 2022.
- 1 May 2026 ITSA: further late filing penalties apply to outstanding 2025 Tax Returns. Automatic £10 daily penalties apply for Returns filed online on or after today. For Returns filed on paper, the penalty is the greater of £300 or 5% of tax showing on Return.
- 31 May 2026 PAYE: last date for giving a Form P60 for 2025/26 to each employee, together with details of payrolled benefits in kind.
- 5 July 2026 Non-Resident Landlords: deadline for 2025/26 returns of rent paid by Agents to non-resident landlords and of tax deducted by tenants from rents paid direct to non-resident landlords.
- 6 July 2026 PAYE: deadline for filing Forms P11D & P11D(b) for 2025/26 and give forms to employees.
- 19 July 2026 PAYE: deadline to pay outstanding Class 1A NIC for tax year ended 5 April 2026.
- 31 July 2026 ITSA: deadline for second self assessment payment on account for tax year ended 5 April 2026.
- 1 Aug 2026 ITSA: further late filing penalties apply to outstanding 2025 Tax Returns. For Returns filed online, the penalty is the greater of £300 or 5% of the tax showing on the Return. ITSA: a second late payment penalty due of 5% of any 2024/25 Income Tax, CGT and Class 2 and 4 NIC due on 31 January 2026 that is not paid by today.
- 7 Aug 2026 MTD for Income Tax: deadline for submission of the first MTD quarterly update for the quarter ended 5 July (or 30 June) under MTD for Income Tax.

- 5 Oct 2026 ITSA: deadline to notify chargeability for Income Tax/Capital Gains Tax for 2025/26 if not registered for ITSA.
- 6 Oct 2026 Pensions: deadline for pension administrators to give a pension savings statement to scheme members if their pension inputs in the scheme in 2025/26 exceed the Annual Allowance.
- 31 Oct 2026 ITSA: deadline for paper submission of Tax Returns for the tax year ended 5 April 2026. Returns filed after this date should be filed online to avoid a late filing penalty.
- 1 Nov 2026 ITSA: further late filing penalties apply to outstanding 2025 paper Tax Returns. The penalty is the greater of £300 or a percentage of the tax showing on the return.
- 7 Nov 2026 MTD for Income Tax: deadline for submission of the second MTD quarterly update for the quarter ended 5 October (or 30 September) under MTD for Income Tax.
- 30 Dec 2026 ITSA: deadline for online submission of Self Assessment Tax Returns for tax year ended 5 April 2026 for HMRC to collect tax through PAYE codes where the taxpayer owes less than £3,000.

If you require any tax advice relating to matters mentioned above including if you are a self-employed sole trader or landlord requiring prompt advice regarding the new Making Tax Digital regime, please contact either Kate or Nic at Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP, Hunstanton office on 01485 534800 or kgigg@mapus.co.uk; ntarry@mapus.co.uk

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Dersingham Tennis Club



The Dersingham Tennis Club competed in the West Norfolk tennis league in 2025, with five teams across Men's, Women's, and Mixed, with four of the five teams finishing in the top two in their division.

We are in the midst of organizing our teams for the 2026 season and hoping for another great year of tennis competition.



We are always looking for more players and would be happy to welcome any interested tennis players to join in.

Additionally, there is plenty of social tennis played, with members forming their own groups or with other club members.

The sun is starting to shine, the days are getting longer, and we all benefit from exercise, time with friends and a bit of very slightly competitive sport.

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

□



Before



After

Restoration of damaged or faded photographs

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Word Wall

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

MODERATOR	PIPE	SWAZILAND	JAMMER
FALL	CEYLON	EDITOR	ITAIPU
REFEREE	AFSLUIDIJK	SOCK	BURMA
HOOVER	DAHOMY	ASWAN	THERMOSTAT



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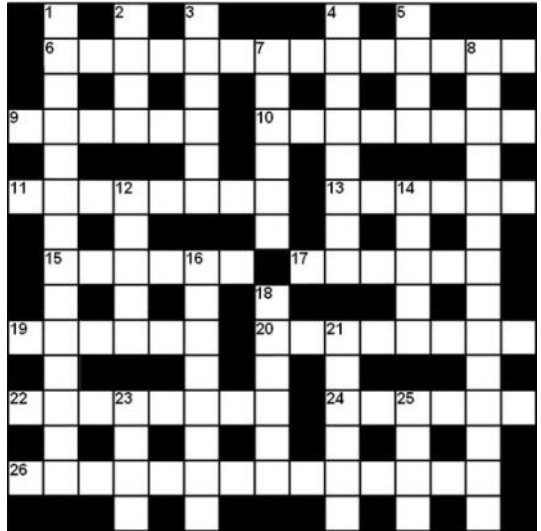
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Across

- 6 Co-star Leo cried insincerely (9,5)
- 9 Barracking crooner wearing spectacles (6)
- 10 Confused long suffering anteater (8)
- 11 Skied, winding down all demos abroad (8)
- 13 Top journalist passes whirlpools (6)
- 15 Stir resident and somehow mean it (6)
- 17 Enclosures are with no added sugar primarily (6)
- 19 Engineer enacts something taken by root for example (6)
- 20 Libra fall (8)
- 22 Counts redesigned scenes we appeared in (8)
- 24 Greek letter from essayist to U.S. lawyer (6)
- 26 Rector in leisure complex collected chum who was easier to get on with (4,10)



**Answers on
Page 72**

Down

- 1 She's trim cool and educated in the middle of lesson, so give her a miss (14)
- 2 Trained pachyderm to disregard quiet Indian (4)
- 3 Dog swimming in sea bumps into car (6)
- 4 Dancer née rider and caribou comet (8)
- 5 Bishop leaves break-up to form protest (4)
- 7 Restrain one minister beside turbulent river (6)
- 8 A trainer's dad's a suspect so hoist a flag (5,1,8)
- 12 Mole came out at noon to find fruit (5)
- 14 Material mined abroad and used in garden implement (5)
- 16 Money found here at Surrey ground (8)
- 18 Tell story about a fool and a little girl (6)
- 21 Sword criminally looted while lit inside as well (6)
- 23 Cupid returned looking annoyed (4)
- 25 Parcels misdirected in Lima (4)

Sudoku

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



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Crossword Answers

Across

- 6 Crocodile tears. 9 Booring. 10 Pangolin.
11 Slalomed. 13 Eddies. 15 Inmate.
17 Arenas. 19 Stance. 20 Autumnal.
22 Censuses. 24 Lambda. 26 User friendlier.

Down

- 1 Schoolmistress. 2 Hopi. 3 Dodgem.
4 Reindeer. 5 Demo. 7 Impede.
8 Raise a standard. 12 Lemon. 14 Denim.
16 Treasury. 18 Lassie. 21 Toledo. 23 Sore.
25 Mail.

Word Wall Answers

Controllers: Editor, Moderator, Referee, Thermostat

Dams: Afsluitdijk, Aswan, Hoover, Itaipu

Former country names: Burma, Ceylon, Dahomey, Swaziland

Wind.....:fall,jammer,pipe,sock

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 160 (June/July 26)	Monday 27th April 2026	Monday 18th May 2026
No 161 (Aug/Sept 26)	Monday 29th June 2026	Monday 20th July 2026
No 162 (Oct/Nov 26)	Monday 31st August 2026	Monday 21st September 2026
No 163 (Dec26/Jan27)	Monday 2nd November 2026	Monday 23rd November 2026
No 164 (Feb/March 27)	Monday 4th January 2027	Monday 25th January 2027
No 165 (April/May 27)	Monday 1st March 2027	Monday 23rd March 2027

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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

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Articles

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

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Semba Trading *p.50*

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Supreme Carpets *p.43*

Chimney Sweep

D Thompson Chimneys *p.72*

Chiropody

Jennie Smith *p.29*

Surefoot Clinic *p.25*

Vital Foot Care *p.68*

Computers

Gary Kite *p.26*

Dogs

Hoochy Pooch Parlour *p.43*

Domestic Appliances

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DK Appliances *p.63*

Dry Cleaners

Clock Clean *p.70*

Ear Care

Ear Care by Liz *p.29*

Earwax Removal *p.68*

Electrical

Gelder Electrical *p.67*

Estate Agents

Landles *p.45*

The Norfolk Agents *pp 38*
& *39*

Fabrics, curtains, blinds

Christyana *p.63*

Flowers

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Thaxters *p.2*

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Photography & Restoration

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Pilates

Active Health Pilates and
more *p.43*

Plumber

PG Plumbing *p.15*

Printing

Clanpress *p.26*

Residential Home

The Gables *p.72*

Sandringham House &

Gardens *p.11*

School

Glebe House *p.17*

Therapies

The Wright Hands *p.26*

Timber Products

Sandringham Sawmill *p.55*

Tree Services

TBH Arboriculture *p.59*

Vets

Dersingham Veterinary Clinic

p.63

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THE CHORAL (12A)

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As World War I rages on,
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Starring: Kate Blanchett, Michael Fassbender, Marisa Abela,
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Kathryn Woodhouse,
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is suspected of betraying
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Her husband, also an agent,
faces the real test of being
loyal to his marriage or country.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3

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