

Number 161

August/September 2026

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



St Nicholas
Church

FLOWER
FESTIVAL



17 - 20 September





Spring Flowering
Bulbs **Arriving
August**

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Wash Art Group Summer Exhibition 2026
Thornham Village Hall
Helena Anderson

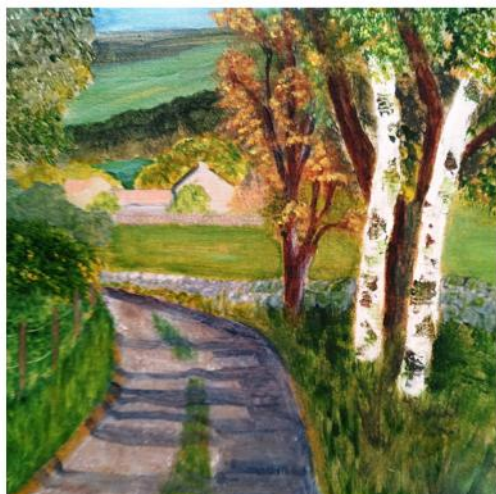
It's that time of year again when the Wash Art Group invite you to their Summer Exhibition at Thornham Village Hall (on the coast road A149 next to the Deli.) Open Friday August 28th to Monday August 31st. The first hour's parking is free, and admission is also free.

The artists will be on hand every day from 10:00 until 5:00 to welcome visitors and answer any questions they may have.

As in previous years, there will be a very wide variety of artwork on show, including oils, water-colours, pastels, acrylics, photography and sculpture. Also textile work and prints. The talents of these enthusiastic artists know no bounds! What is more, they really enjoy sharing their work each year.

There will also be greetings cards and prints available to purchase, and who knows whether you can find the perfect gift for that special occasion!

For further details please contact Julian Bull at **washartgroup@yahoo.com**.





Astro Brain Tumour Fund
TWENTIETH ANNUAL
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Astro Brain Tumour Fund Charity No. 1133561



Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



In the last edition I was pleased to announce that the Parish Council had partnered with the Dersingham Sports Ground Association to upgrade and refurbish the existing pavilion at the sports ground on Manor Road. The pavilion was built in 1967 and is now very dated and not suitable for use by female sports people. The proposals will see the interior completely gutted and reworked to give each of the four changing rooms three individual showers, new referees' facilities, a club room and a new kitchen with a bar area. It will be completely replumbed and rewired with efficient new heating and cooling systems installed. To enable us to achieve all of this we have been applying for grants and I am thrilled to be able to tell you that the Borough Council have awarded the Parish Council £99,881.87 from the Community Infrastructure Levy fund, and together with other funding already pledged this means that we have three quarters of the money we need to enable us to start work. We now have a nervy wait until August when we will learn if we have been successful in obtaining another grant. Watch this space!

Don't forget the work to restore the names at the village war memorial in Station Road that will be taking place this summer. The contractor has advised that the work may appear to be alarming - he will be painting the plaques with black undercoat and then a coat of silver paint. Once the paint has thoroughly dried, he will remove the black paint leaving shiny names. So please don't panic when you see the memorial plaques turning black and silver—it hasn't been vandalised and will ensure the names remain visible.

Finally, your Parish Council needs you. We have two vacancies for Parish Councillors, and we are looking to co-opt people who are interested in local current affairs, want to serve the local community and to be a voice for residents. If you would like to get involved in making decisions about your local community and to make a positive contribution to Dersingham, then please consider becoming a Parish Councillor. The role is to represent the views of all residents in the village, to listen to and understand their views and needs, and to identify issues. It is part of our role to make policies to govern the way we work, to bring about improvements through local projects, such as building the Village Centre and skatepark and providing new defibrillators and bus shelters, lobbying other service providers and voting to make decisions. We are responsible for managing the money raised through the precept (part of the Council tax bill). The services we provide include streetlights away from bus routes, grass cutting (some is carried out by the Borough Council), dog waste bins, looking after the Recreation Ground and The Warren and providing a website. Our work is mainly carried out in committees – Environment, Finance and Administration, Communications, Planning and Staffing.

There are no particular qualifications, but you must be registered to vote, live in or within 3 miles of the parish boundary and be prepared to attend monthly council meetings (usually the last Monday in the month, starting at 7p.m) and to also serve on at least one of our committees. If you are interested have a look at our website, attend any of our meetings, or email or speak to me or Karen Orgill, our Business Manager. Our contact details are on the Parish Council website.□





News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Association Matters

At the AGM, Tom Wheeler stood down after being our secretary since the inception of the Association in 2014. We are indebted to him for all his work and wish him well for the future.

Summer Closure

The Centre will be closed for a week from Sunday August 30th to enable maintenance work to be carried out, particularly painting the Main Hall.

Coffee Shop

Every Thursday, between 10am and 12:30pm, 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. *Please note, due to the closure week, September's lunch will take place on Tuesday September 8th.* Numbers are limited and booking is required. Call 01485 540644 by noon on the *Thursday* beforehand and advise us of any allergy or dietary needs.

Village Cinema

In August, we are going back in time to show *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, featuring the wonderful Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly. September's film is *The Roses*.

Events

The Yard sale takes place on July 27th. The Centre will have a pop-up café, and you can have a tabletop for £5. At the time of writing, we still have space for a few more tables.

Our annual Barn Dance, led by Whirligig, will be on Saturday, November 7th. Tickets, priced at £12.50, will be available soon. There will not be a meal this year, but nibbles will be provided. For more information about the Centre, What's On, Contact Details, visit our website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk. We also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.

Best Wishes from all at the Centre ☐



Telephone: 01485 600777

Email: jackie@ewingaccountsservices.co.uk

Address: Unit 4, St Nicholas Court,
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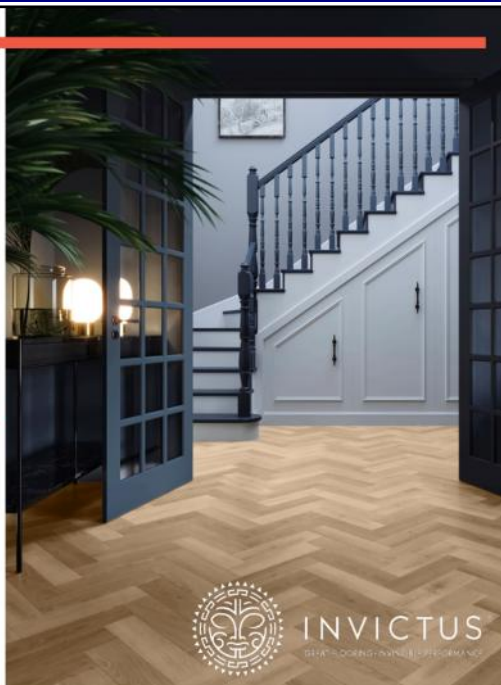
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Dersingham Social Club

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Monday CLOSED

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 7pm – 11.00pm

Thursday 7pm – 11.00pm

Friday 4.30pm – 11.30pm

Saturday 2pm – 11.30pm

Sunday 1pm – 9pm

Sat 25th July

NO NONSENSE - Local Band 8pm

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

Friday 31st July

QUIZ NIGHT 8pm

Teams of 6, £3 pp entry. 1st Prize £60, 2nd Prize £24. Bar tab, table service for drinks during the quiz.

Tuesday 4th August

Norfolk Paint Parties

Paint your very own Perfect Paradise. No experience necessary, Nikki will be painting along with you, showing you every step, which brush to use, how much paint to apply, so you paint your very own work of art.

Places can be booked via their website norfolkpaintparties.co.uk

Sunday 30th August

LIVE MUSIC with Lee O'Brien 3pm. Followed by **Play Your Cards Right**.

Friday 4th September

QUIZ NIGHT 8pm. Theme: Back to School

Teams of 6, £3 pp entry. 1st Prize £60, 2nd Prize £24. Bar tab, table service for drinks during the quiz will be available.

Friday 11th September

CASH BINGO with Mark 7:30pm

Saturday 12th September

MIDNIGHT JACK 90s/00s, 4-piece Rock covers band. Always popular at the club, we look forward to welcoming them back.

Friday 18th September

ABBA Night

Get ready for a glitter-filled evening, bringing the joy, the glamour, and the incredible music of ABBA to the club.

It's not compulsory but we are encouraging Tinsel Wigs, Fancy Dress and the more glitter the better!

All the greatest hits, a few lesser-known songs and a few of the very best 70s disco classics.

Saturday 26th September

COUNTRY NIGHT 8pm

Grab your cowboy hats and boots and join us for a night of country music with line dancing tuition at various intervals throughout the night. Luke Coombs, Luke Bryan, Ella Langley

WEEKLY EVENTS

Table Tennis

MONDAYS 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Dersingham table tennis club meets every Monday, 2 - 4 pm in the club. We have roughly equal numbers of female and male players of varying skills, and we always play for fun. Just turn up and join in or contact Mark 07763 643498 for more information.

Line Dancing

2nd and 4th MONDAYS 6:45- 8:30pm

Places can be booked through the Buckin' Boots website and are suitable for beginners. www.buckinbootslinedancing.com

Sit, Step and Smile

WEDNESDAYS 4-5pm

Join Kyra for a friendly, fun, relaxed line dancing class. Seated options available. No experience needed, move at your own pace, enjoy gentle exercise and great music.

Book your place on www.trybooking.com/uk/GHHV or by phoning 07968 354431.

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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Dersingham Day Club

It was a fantastic turnout to our coffee morning! Thanks to everyone who supported us, both on the day and beforehand. Between the coffee morning itself and the subsequent sales of odds and ends, we have raised over £500!

Every fundraiser and contribution, no matter how small, helps cover the running costs of the club. As a self-funded community group run entirely by dedicated volunteers, we rely on a modest weekly membership subscription and the generosity of our supporters to keep the club thriving and be able to provide the transport, rent, lunches, tea, coffee, biscuits, activities, visiting entertainers and companionship that our members value so highly.

Recent entertainment has included Purple Angels, the King's Lynn U3A Ukulele Group, an interactive music afternoon and a relaxing hand massage session.

There's been plenty to keep everyone entertained, with games of cribbage, Rummikub, and dominoes proving popular. Our craft group have also been busy creating summery floral wreaths and teapots. One of our members, Celia, organised an enjoyable afternoon of Beetle Drive, which was great fun for all who took part.



Harry celebrated his special 90th birthday in June with cup cakes for everyone. He tells us that he looks forward to his Wednesdays at the club, it gets him out and he enjoys being with friends and the laughs.

After some time preparing tasty two course lunches for our members, Bridget has stepped back from her weekly cooking duties. We're very grateful for all of Bridget's tasty lunches over the years and are pleased that she will remain very much part of the Day Club in other ways.



We've welcomed Marie in our kitchen and alongside Lesley they'll continue to prepare lunches for our members to enjoy each week.

We'll be taking a few weeks break at the end of July – returning on Wednesday 9th September at Dersingham Village Centre from 10am–2pm. If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a member, then do call Wendy on 01485 544975 or Maggie on 01485 543264 for more information.□

Youth Football Comes to Dersingham 2nd and 3rd May 2026

Once again over the Early May Bank Holiday, the SCI Events Youth Football Tournament took place at the Dersingham Sports Field to mark the end of the football season. Some 32 youth teams from near and far competed over two days with a fine spirit of healthy competition. A quote from one of the organisers: "It is so good to see so many youngsters out enjoying their football games and the wonderful spring weather, rather than being on their devices". A sentiment which the Dersingham Sports Ground Association (DSGA) can heartily endorse.

The DSGA provided refreshments from 8.30am to 4.30pm over the weekend, serving bacon breakfasts, hot dogs and burgers. Tea and coffee were available throughout the day, as were a range of soft drinks and confectioneries. Profit on the day was for the renovation of the Sports Pavilion, which the DSGA are fund raising for. Parking was free but visitors were invited to contribute towards our pavilion. Some generous donations were received.



It was wonderful to see the Sports Ground so alive with the children and their supporters; it is surely what the sports ground is meant to be used for – a place of outdoor activity, comradeship and competition. We urgently need a pavilion that is fit for use by all genders and ages.



The DSGA website can be found at www.dersinghamsportsground.co.uk You can read updates on the progress of the pavilion and make a donation if you wish.



Dersingham Neighbourhood Plan

Nigel Barker, Working Group Chairman

The last couple of months have been a really busy and productive period for the Working Group. Following on from our work on local green spaces, we have completed a review of the public views that were identified and whittled the initial list of fifteen candidates down to nine. These include, a view of the village sign with Open

Common in the background, from the benches on the Heath over the Open Common and Fen out to the Wash, Tithe Barn with the pasture to the side of Sugar Lane in the background (including the woolly mammoth tree!) and the view from the Village Centre of the pasture to the side of St Nicholas Court. All nine have now been mapped and photographed.

On 28th April we held a Design Code workshop with our principal consultant. This looked at what makes Dersingham special and distinct, a review of some of the recent developments and what does “in-keeping” actually mean for Dersingham. This was followed by a tour of the village, noting positives and negatives against the seven National Guidance categories for well-designed places:

- Liveability – healthy, mixed and integrated communities.
- Climate – mitigating and adapting to change.
- Nature – enhanced and optimised.
- Movement – accessible and easy to move around.
- Built form – a compact and connected pattern of development.
- Public space – safe, social and inclusive.
- Identity – attractive and distinctive.

The findings from this task will form the basis of our Design Code and be supplemented with a Character Appraisal of the village. For this, we have subsequently split the village into thirteen distinct areas, which have been mapped, photographed and assessed against the following characteristics:

- Land use – residential, community, businesses, agricultural.
- Layout – estate, linear, density, relationship with the countryside, edge conditions.
- Identity – common age of buildings, design, detailing, materials, height, scale.
- Movement – streets, junctions, pedestrian routes, parking, traffic.
- Nature – open spaces, drainage, trees, hedges, verges, water features, flooding.
- Streetscape – lighting, pavements, street furniture.

Alongside this, we have had three sessions on policy development. This details the objectives we've set in order to meet the Vision and how they should be achieved. Policy topics for the built environment include potential locations, housing need and design, whilst those for the natural environment cover the public views and local green spaces we've been working on along with climate change considerations. Further topics under community include existing facilities, new facilities, infrastructure and services. Most of this work is driven by information collected during the two public consultation events and all of your views will be referenced in some way in the final document. So, thank you again for your invaluable contribution.

Please keep an eye on the Parish Council website for further news and if you haven't done so already, register for regular email updates. □

A fond farewell to Dick Melton of “Sunny Hunny”

We have just heard that our long term contributor, Dick Melton, died aged 86 back in April this year. He wrote regular articles for *Village Voice* for more than twenty years, giving us fascinating insights into the changes that have taken place in Dersingham and the surrounding area throughout his life, and entertaining us with many a tall tale.

We shall write a fuller tribute to this remarkable man in the next edition of the magazine.□

Norfolk Primary School Orchestra Performance **Jillian Davis, Arts Society North West Norfolk**

What an amazing day at Dersingham Village Centre on Friday 19th June! Four primary schools joined together to form Norfolk Primary School Orchestra with 6th formers from The Purcell School for Young Musicians.

It was an impressive symphony orchestra with Dersingham playing violins, violas and cellos, Wells with recorders and flutes, Docking with brass instruments and Burnham Market with percussion.

The children played pieces rehearsed over the last year with expert tutors, and the grande finale called *Dancing Around the World* was composed by Lilly, a talented student at Purcell. The children enjoyed the day and performed brilliantly to a proud audience of parents and carers and Arts Society members. A great day, but most of all, for many young people a day they will remember as a special highlight of their school years.



The project is supported by The Arts Society North West Norfolk and the generous Margaret Engering Music Trust.□



Good Godly Distractions

Summer has arrived as I write this in the scorching heat. As summer arrives it can bring with it a welcome change of pace. Longer days, warmer evenings, family holidays, community events, and gardens bursting into life, all of which invite us to step away from our usual routines.

It is a season many of us eagerly anticipate, offering opportunities to relax and recharge. Yet, alongside its many blessings, summer also brings a unique challenge: distractions. Our diaries quickly fill with social gatherings, barbecues, and day trips. Children are home from school, visitors may come and go, and even the pleasant weather tempts us outdoors. None of these things is wrong—in fact, they are gifts to be enjoyed. However, when life becomes busier than expected, it is easy to lose sight of what truly refreshes us. Many people find that their regular habits begin to slip during the summer months. Exercise routines are interrupted, healthy eating becomes less consistent, and moments of quiet reflection are often replaced with a never-ending list of activities. Before long, we may find ourselves feeling surprisingly tired, despite the season that promised rest. Perhaps the greatest distraction is not simply being busy but allowing constant activity to crowd out the things that nourish our hearts. The gentle beauty of a sunrise, the laughter of loved ones, or the peaceful sound of birdsong can easily pass unnoticed.

For Christians, summer offers a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with God's creation. The natural world speaks of His creativity and care, reminding us that He is present in every season. Even a few quiet moments spent in prayer while walking along the Norfolk coast, through the Sandringham woods, or sitting in a garden can restore perspective. Jesus Himself often withdrew from the crowds to spend time in quiet places, showing us that rest is not a luxury but a necessity. Psalm 46:10 encourages us, "Be still, and know that I am God." These simple yet deep words are especially meaningful during busy seasons. Stillness allows us to remember that our value is not measured by how much we accomplish or how many events we attend, but by God's unchanging love for us.

As you enjoy all that summer has to offer, don't be afraid to leave space in your schedule. Put down the phone for a while away from 'doom scrolling'; perhaps linger over a conversation with family or a friend, watch the sunset, or simply sit quietly with a thankful heart. These small pauses often become the moments that stay with us the longest. May this summer be filled not only with happy distractions, but also with moments of peace, gratitude and a renewed awareness of God's faithful presence in every sunny day and every quiet evening.

Flower Festival and Comedy Night

St Nicholas Church, Dersingham will be hosting the annual flower festival from Thursday 17th September. On the opening day there will be a great night of comedy; we are delighted to be hosting the much acclaimed and very funny Paul Kerensa. Paul is a mastermind of writing comedy and jokes for TV programmes 'Miranda', 'Top Gear' and 'Not Going Out'. Limited tickets available in advance for this great night. The flower festival culminates on Sunday 20th September at 6:30pm with the popular 'Hymns and Pimms'.

Sunny Summer Blessings

Rev Mark Capron

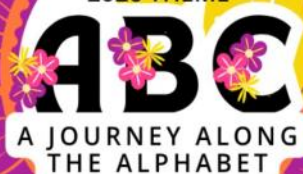
Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne
and Minister of 'The Well' Church, Ingoldisthorpe.

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

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
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FLOWER FESTIVAL

2026 THEME



17 - 20 SEPTEMBER
THURS - SAT | 10AM - 4PM
SUN | 12 NOON - 4PM

FLOWER DISPLAYS | LOCAL MUSICIANS | REFRESHMENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAY 7PM - COMEDY NIGHT WITH PAUL KERENSA

FRIDAY AM - KIDS "CARPET PICNIC" WITH SONGS & STORYTIME

SATURDAY PM - CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY 10AM - HARVEST FESTIVAL

6PM - HYMNS & PIMMS

MIRANDA
NOT GOING OUT
TOP GEAR
TFI FRIDAY



COMEDY
NIGHT
TICKETS



stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

This year we're kicking off our Flower Festival with -

“Comedy Night”
Thursday 17th September
7pm

We will be welcoming Paul Kerensa - a writer, comedian and broadcaster, working in TV, radio, print and the stage for an evening of fun and laughter for all the family!

There will be a bar, plus non-alcoholic and soft drinks available along with snacks and sweet treats.

Tickets - £10.00 adults, £5.00 under 18s, available from our website:

stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

You may not recognise his name but you will recognise his work. Paul has been on the writing team for over 100 episodes of BBC1 sitcom **Not Going Out**, the British Comedy Award-winning **Miranda**, as well as **Top Gear**, **Buble at the BBC**, **TFI Friday**, CBBCs **Andy and the Band** and **The Royal Variety Performance**.

Check out Paul's website for more: **paulkerensa.com**

The title of this year's festival is

A B C - a journey along the Alphabet!

Our dedicated team of flower arrangers will once again be bringing their flair and imagination into church to create floral displays that explore the world of letters - how many alphabets can you name?

The church will be open 10am - 4pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 12 noon - 4pm Sunday.

There are plenty of things happening in the church during the festival:

- Local musicians will be playing in church each day
- Refreshments available all day
- There will be a “Pause for Prayer” at 12 noon
- Friday morning our younger children will be enjoying a “Carpet Picnic” with songs and story time
- Saturday afternoon there will be children's activities
- Sunday 10am we celebrate Harvest Festival
- Sunday evening we'll celebrate with “Hymns and Pimms”

We would love you to join in! - by trying your hand at making an arrangement to include a “Letter”

The “Letter” can be -

Either - a letter from the alphabet - A, B, C etc.

or - a letter received, or sent, by you

Forms can be found at the back of church; complete a form and post it in the Flower Festival Post Box at the back of church. Everyone is welcome to join in - the more the merrier!

If you would like more information please contact: Yvonne Fuller 07971 896653 or Anne Hynde 07885 956321.□

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
DERSINGHAM

FLOWER
FESTIVAL

"Top comic, top writer, top bloke" Lee Mack

"Ingenious." Evening Standard

Comedy Night

THIS
STAND-UP
SHOW IS
JUST GOOD
CLEAN FUN



WITH
PAUL KERENSA

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH DERSINGHAM

THURS 17 SEPT
7PM - 9PM



12A
INTERVAL WITH BAR

◀ TICKETS

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stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
charity no: 250450





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 - Help you get internet services like free mobile data, cheap broadband tariffs and much more.
 - Suggest other things, like social groups or learning, to help you along the way.
- Whether you are completely new to digital technology or want to build on existing skills, we will support you at your pace.

It's easy to get in touch. You, or someone you trust, can call us on 01485 536420. The line is open Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm, and a community tech coach will answer your call, or you'll be able to leave a message and they'll call you back as soon as possible. We also have a quick online form on our website that you or someone you trust can fill in: **Tech Skills for Life - Norfolk County Council**.

After you contact us, we will arrange to meet you in a trusted space where you feel safe, like the library or a local coffee shop where we will provide you with help and information.

Why not get in touch today with Tech Skills for Life? □

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3rd September
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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club by Jan Rawstron

Greetings from a sweltering Dersingham! I must admit, it's a bit too hot for me, but at least we can't complain that we haven't had a decent summer.

Our Annual Open Day went well, with luscious cakes on offer, kindly provided by Dawn and Joy. Since then, we have welcomed eight new members, all of whom are already involved in club activities.



Jean Thompson and Iain Brown winner
and Runner up Edies' Cup

We then competed for the Edies' Cup on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4th. This competition climaxed in a closely fought final between Jean Thompson and Iain Brown, with Iain victorious. Well done to both finalists. Normally, we play for the Institute Cup on the Bank Holiday Monday at the end of May, but we had to postpone this year's event due to extremely hot conditions. Hopefully we can find a space in the calendar later in the season.

The friendly match away at Cliff Parade on May 17th was played in lovely weather with a breeze coming off the sea and was won by Dersingham 98 points to 88 points. As always, played in a friendly spirit, and rounded off with tea and biscuits. The home leg has been arranged for Sunday August 16th.

Countryside League: Our team Captain, Terry Thompson, reports that having almost reached the halfway point of the

season, we have had two matches rained off and one cancelled, but hopefully that is all behind us now. We did struggle in our first two matches, but have started to get some good results, although we were knocked out of the Eddie Hipkin Cup match against Snettisham, which was a disappointment. We did however have a good result against Houghton 'B' in the Knockout Shield which is held over two legs. We now have to play them again, this time at Houghton, but we do have an advantage of 27 points to take with us. Thanks to all the team for their support.

Albert Victor League: Our team Captain, Iain Brown, reports that we are now halfway through the season. We have some new players in the team, which is great for the club's future. Everyone is enjoying the season so far although some of the results haven't gone our way, but we now have a run of home games where we can hopefully pick up some valuable points. We are all looking forward to the next half of the season where we can hopefully climb higher up the league. Thanks to everyone taking part for their effort and commitment so far.

Finally, on the competition front, we held the 1st leg of the Men v Ladies Challenge on June 20th. Four brave gentlemen made the numbers up for the Ladies, all to no avail as the men had a resounding win. All to play for Ladies in the second leg on July 25th. This match will be followed by a fish and chip supper, which we are all looking forward to.

Also coming up is the Eddie Roye Pairs match on Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August.

Our green keeping team must be tearing their hair out. First, lots of rain and cold winds, now we have scorching sunshine. However, even though there are some very dry patches on the green, it still bowls well, even though it's like bowling indoors at the moment, very fast! Carry on the good work guys!

Ending on a very sad note was the passing of our dear friend and club member Tim Ingrey who will be sorely missed. Our thoughts go out to his family at this sad time. Right, that just about covers everything, so until the next issue, stay cool everyone. □

Have You lost a Small Bag

Have you lost a small handbag on the Recreation Ground in Dersingham?

The small handbag contained a tiny pot hedgehog. If you think this is yours, please contact the Business Manager on 01485 541465 between 9am and 5pm on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday or email: bm@dersingham-pc.gov.uk with details of what else is in the small handbag and arrangements will be made to return your handbag □



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Music in Country Churches Concerts in Dersingham Church in July

Information about Music in Country Churches

For 37 years, Music in Country Churches, which is honoured to have His Majesty The King as its Patron, has been organising concerts of exceptional music in rural churches in England and Wales. The Charity aims to support the arts,

culture, and historical heritage of countryside communities. It works with a range of ensembles and musicians and is particularly keen to give concert opportunities to young and emerging performers.

Following each concert, a donation is made to the church to help with maintaining the building and carrying out essential repairs. Since it began, Music in Country Churches has made donations to more than 60 country churches, distributing £620,000 to support the maintenance work needed on church buildings. This year, Music in Country Churches is supporting two concerts at Dersingham Church (July 22 and 23), both in aid of St. Mary's Church, Hillington.

Information about St. Mary the Virgin Church, Hillington

Sadly, Hillington Church is currently closed on safety grounds following two falls of plaster in 2025. However, Hillington Parochial Church Council, with the support of Hillington village, feels that now is the time to develop St. Mary's for the future. We are considering how we might retain our sacred space for worship as well as create a meeting space for the community, there being no village hall in Hillington. We will need amenities such as toilets and a servery, accessibility for all and a new heating system, in addition to undertaking significant structural repairs.

St. Mary's Church is a grade II* listed building serving the village of Hillington (population about 400). It lies just south of the Sandringham estate and eight miles from King's Lynn. The oldest part of the church is its lower tower (1434). The walls are mainly flint and stone and the roof is tiled. In 1824, the south aisle was incorporated into the main body of the church and covered by a single roof span. The building is noted for its interior light, as nearly all its windows are clear glass. The nave's windows are unusual in that they are framed in cast iron.

The church's acoustics are noted for their excellence. There is a fine Snetzler organ dating from 1756. Some are surprised to find that the natural keys are black, and the accidental keys are white. This inverted colour scheme was standard in the Baroque and Renaissance periods.

The church houses many monuments to members of the local Ffolkes family (of Hillington Hall). One commemorates Sir William Browne who was President of the Royal College of Physicians from 1765-66.

Details for the Dersingham Concerts

22 July (Wednesday) at 6.30pm at St Nicholas' Church, Dersingham, Norfolk, PE31 6GZ

Virtuosic

Music for Violin, Voice, and Piano

Musicians

José Matias *violin*

Owain Rowlands *baritone*

Rebecca Selley *piano*

The three talented musicians all hail from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, which, like Music in Country Churches, is a patronage of His Majesty The King.

José Matias, a talented violinist from Portugal, is carving his path in the vibrant world of classical music. In 2024, José gave his debut with the English Chamber Orchestra in the Music in Country Churches Festival, performing Strauss' Violin Concerto. José's orchestral experience spans across renowned orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Carmarthenshire-born baritone **Owain Rowlands** is an Associate Artist with the Welsh National Opera for the 2025/2026 season, where he has performed and covered roles in productions including *Tosca*, *Candide*, *Blaze of Glory*, *The Flying Dutchman*, and others.

Rebecca Selley studied piano and piano accompaniment at the Royal College of Music in London, where she won the John Ireland Prize for Accompanists. Rebecca works as the String Department accompanist and coach at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and also as an accompanist for BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Welsh National Opera.

23 July (Thursday) at 6.30pm at St Nicholas' Church, Dersingham, Norfolk, PE31 6GZ

What A Wonderful World

Musicians

Sounds Historical

Heidi Fardell *recorder/flute*

Mary Tyers *recorder/flute*

Alison Kinder *viol*

Lynda Sayce *lute/theorbo*

Sounds Historical are a specialist early music ensemble. Their repertoire spans the medieval to the 18th century - performing on an exciting array of period instruments including viols, recorders, theorbo, flutes, lutes and more! Each member of the group performs and records with a wide variety of early music groups such as La Serenissima, Chelys, Fiori Musicali, and the Linarol consort, and all are passionate about their work in music education.

For more details and tickets, see musicincountrychurches.org.uk □

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Hunstanton Croquet Club Zena Penty

Following the four sessions 'Introduction to Croquet' course at the beginning of the season and returning players the croquet club now has over a hundred members registered for the 2026 season. The club afternoons are regularly attracting a capacity forty members of mixed abilities, which lends itself to a relaxed and fun afternoon.

The five lawns are once again in fantastic condition for tournament season. The Golf Croquet 'Open Singles' competition in May attracted talented players from around the country and was won by Debbie Lines. May also saw the internal Grass Roots tournament. Huge congratulations to Bev Runchman with five out of six wins to take the trophy.

Early June saw fourteen entrants competing in wind, rain and sun over seven games each in the Golf Croquet Singles Competition. Even after all those games two players could not be separated and a final was necessary and competitively fought by Roddy Willett and Peter Rule who'd both won all of their seven games. Congratulations to Roddy the overall winner with a score of 7-4.

The committee decided they would like to choose a charity to support this season and after asking members to nominate candidates they have chosen local charity 'Breast of Friends' and will hold a couple of raffles and small events where appropriate to raise some funds.

It takes a lot of hard work to run a club that hosts a number of national and internal tournaments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the tournament managers Terrey Sparks, Gary Lewis and David Boxell, Ellie Lewis who takes on responsibility for hospitality, Chairperson Janet Kendall and the Committee and all the members who regularly offer their expertise and help however big or small – it really is appreciated.

□



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Still Singing Along at the Village Centre by Steve Davis



Our next three last Friday of the month Singalongs at the Village Centre are scheduled for:

Fridays 31st July (if this reaches you in time!), 28th August and 25th September.

We meet in the Garden Room with its welcome air-conditioning from 2pm till 4pm, where all who come get the opportunity to choose a song for us to sing whether from our homegrown songbook or any other they'd like to play or lead. Those who play an acoustic instrument of some sort are welcome to bring them along. All are welcome and we meet with no ulterior motive other than to simply enjoy the moment and each other's company with a break for refreshments halfway through.

Full details can be found on our website at dersingers.uk where you can also checkout our frequently updated songbook or you can contact me by emailing steve.dersingham@gmail.com or phone/text/WhatsApp 07885 721158. □

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Dersingham Walking Group



Joining the walking group is a great way to meet fellow villagers and to explore the local area. All welcome! There is no cost involved, just turn up with appropriate footwear and refreshment. The walks are usually 4 miles and 2 hours duration. All our planned walks will appear in Village Voice and can also be found on our website

Dersinghamwalking.co.uk. The walks usually take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

August-September walks

Wednesday 22nd July 2.00pm Great Massingham and Peddars Way .

Start Point: Village Green (Dabbling Duck) TF 791231 w3w:

Stays.badminton.squish

A very pleasant, mainly rural walk, taking in a section of the Peddars Way.

Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638

Wednesday 12th August 2.00pm Congham and Roydon.

Start Point: TF 710253 wsw: jacuzzi.estuaries.safari

A circular walk on footpaths and country lanes, exploring Congham and Roydon.

Distance approx. 4.5 miles

Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516

Wednesday 26th August 2.00pm Walk from Thornham Old Harbour to RSPB on Holme dunes.

Start Point: TF 728440, w3w: verve.leader.giant

Starting from Old Harbour along the path on the bank to RSPB. Good views of the inlet and sea views, with a variety of sea birds. Returning same route. Sturdy shoes advised.

Leader: Brett Thomas 07801 095510

Wednesday 8th September 2.00pm from All Saints Church, Fring.

Start point: TF 734348 w3w: incur.hazel.flinch

The Peddars Way national trail runs through Fring and we will use part of this and other footpaths and farm tracks to make a circuit of pleasant country walking. Around four miles.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516

Wednesday 23rd September 2.00pm from Chapel Road Recreation Ground car park In Pott Row.

Start point: TF 701228 w3w reliving.called.breached

A pleasant ramble around Roydon and Pott Row with lanes, paths, tracks and fen. About 4 miles.

Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organise and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you want more information about any particular walk, then please contact the walk leader. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs.

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



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

Question – I have heard of Benevolent Funds, but what are they and can they help with care costs?

Answer - Benevolent funds in the UK are charitable organisations that provide financial support, grants, and practical assistance to individuals facing hardship, often linked to specific trades, professions, or industries that a person has worked in.

They can offer advice and practical help, including grants for items such as furniture, computers, and white goods, as well as assistance with everyday living costs. In addition, they may provide funding towards care home fees, top-up costs, or home care services; such as daily care visits during times of need.

If you are unsure whether your former employer or the industry you worked in has a benevolent fund, you can find out by contacting Turn2us. Turn2us is a UK-based national charity that helps people experiencing financial hardship access welfare benefits, charitable grants, and support services.

Their helpline number is 0808 802 2000 and their website: www.turn2us.org.uk

Question – How do you qualify for a Council Tax reduction?

Answer - Council Tax Reductions are underclaimed, with an estimated 2.4–2.7 million eligible people missing out—around 1 in 4 households.

People may qualify in several ways, including:

- A 25% single-person discount
- Full exemptions for full-time students
- Reductions for those with severe mental impairment, people diagnosed with conditions such as severe dementia may qualify for a reduction of between 25% and 100%, depending on circumstances and council rules.

In England, schemes are set by local councils, while Scotland and Wales have national systems.

Council Tax Reduction is not automatic—you must apply through your local council.

Organisations like Citizens Advice and Age UK can help check eligibility and support applications.

Question – In simple terms could you explain exactly what the DPA (Data Protection Act) is?

Answer - The **Data Protection Act** is a UK law that controls how organisations and businesses collect, store, and use your **personal information**.

Think of it as a set of rules that anyone handling your data must follow to protect your privacy. When a company holds information about you — your name, address, email, medical records, etc. — the DPA gives you rights and puts obligations on them.

Your rights include:

- Seeing what data they hold on you
- Having wrong information corrected
- In some cases, having your data deleted
- Knowing *why* they're using your data

Their obligations include:

- Only collecting data they actually need
- Keeping it secure
- Not holding it longer than necessary
- Not sharing it without good reason

In a nutshell

It's essentially the law that stops companies doing whatever they like with your personal information, and gives you control over how it's used.

Question – What is Home from Hospital Support? I have an older relative who is due for discharge but will need some short-term care for a few weeks at home?

Answer – if a person is ready to leave hospital but will need some support when returning to their home there are systems in place to make sure that appropriate care support is there.

The NHS now uses a process called **“discharge to assess”**. This just means:

- A patient will go home as soon as medically well enough and any ongoing care or support needed will be arranged **at home**, not in the hospital

For a short period after discharge, help such as:

- Someone coming in to help with washing, dressing, or meals
- Help picking up shopping or medication
- Equipment in the home (like rails or a commode if needed)
- Someone checking a person is safe and coping

This short-term support is often called **re-ablement** and is usually **free for a few weeks**. The hospital team, as part of the discharge, should:

- Talk to the patient and family before discharge
- Arrange any immediate support needed at home
- Contact the local council if longer-term care might be needed

Sometimes charities like Age UK or British Red Cross also provide extra “home from hospital” help and private care agencies often provide this support on a fee-paying basis.

What families should expect:

Before their relative leaves hospital, they should:

- Be told what support is being put in place
- Know who to contact if there are problems
- Feel confident your family member will be safe at home

In summary:

A patient shouldn't be discharged without a plan — short-term help should be arranged to support them safely at home.□



Events for August and September

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NORFOLK and WAVENEY MIND GROUP - MEETINGS EVERY TUESDAY 11:00a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For further information and to book please visit the

website www.norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk or

email: ruralmentalhealth@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk or telephone: 0300 330 5488

FRIDAY 28th AUGUST and FRIDAY 26th SEPTEMBER - QUIZ NIGHTS – Club opens 7.00p.m. Quiz starts 7.30p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar, raffle.

For information email: enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone; text or WhatsApp 07899872351

MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER: BINGO NIGHT Club opens at 7.00p.m. "Eyes Down" at 7.30p.m. £6.50 for a book of ten cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email: enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899872351

FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER: FILM NIGHT
Title to be confirmed.

Club opens 7.00p.m, film starts

7.30p.m. Admission £5 at the door.

For further information

email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465

FRIDAY 19th SEPTEMBER: FAMILY LATE SUMMER BAR-B-QUE

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Advance booking required for catering purposes. To book please

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are: Fridays - 7.00p.m. to 10.00p.m. – last orders 9.30p.m. The club is available for

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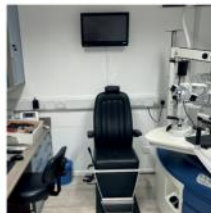
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We are holding a 'Parish Summer Picnic Lunch', previously called International Lunch, on the 1st August at OLSE, Hunstanton, 12noon to 3pm. You are invited to provide a plate of food to share with others to form a picnic buffet. Drinks will be provided by the parish and attendance is free. We are also planning to have a parish pilgrimage to St. John's Cathedral in Norwich on Saturday 19th September. More information will be in the weekly bulletins and on our website.

Our Strawberry Fayre was celebrated at St Cecilia's church, on Saturday 13th June and was very well attended. Proceeds raised on the day were £950 which will go towards a community defibrillator at OLSE, Hunstanton.

The 'Whybelonely' social club is going from strength to strength. It is held on the first Friday of every month at St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, 2pm till 4pm, Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this very joyous group, even if you're not lonely!



The Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) programme was very well received and is continuing with a Catholic Faith Exploration (Café) programme 'A life in the Spirit' course. Look out for more information in the weekly bulletins or visit <https://www.charisuk.com/cafe-ondemand/faith-formation/the-gift> where you can watch the whole course.

Pope Leo's new Encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, is now available. We have a copy in each church for parishioners to read. Please sign the sheet if you are interested. You can also buy it or download it to your kindle from Amazon.

Our parish is considering working towards achieving the 'CAFOD Live Simply' award, which many other parishes have done or are working towards. This award is a scheme for communities to show how they have been living simply, sustainably with creation in solidarity with people living in poverty. It was inspired by Pope Francis' call for us to care for our common home and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. More information about this will be available in the forthcoming weeks.

The Pope's prayer intention for August 26; For evangelisation in the city; we pray that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

The Pope's prayer intention for September 26; For the care of water; we pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Rosary prayer meetings are at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm, all welcome. 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 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 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 □



From your Ward Councillors Tony Bubb and Judy Collingham



This is being composed during the heat wave which doubtless has affected everyone and is testament to the need to take global warming seriously. The Borough, in declaring a climate emergency, has been able to access funding for refit schemes (installing green solutions) and we continue to do what we can to reduce our carbon footprint.

The Sports field has been treated by a process called vertidrainage and has been overseeded. The ground looks good, and our thanks go to those whose efforts and funds keep it that way. Once again, we would remind dog owners to exercise their animals on the periphery of the ground rather than walk across what is currently the cricket ground.

On Saturday 1st August there is to be a charity event on behalf of the "Breast of Friends". Stalls, food, refreshment and music will take place on the Sports Ground from 2pm until 11.30pm. Local householders will be leafleted. Hopefully there will be minimum disruption and the event will raise considerable funds for the breast cancer charity.

County elections have brought a change of administration with a Reform-based coalition. Lee James represents Dersingham Ward as a Reform member; he appears to be a committed elected representative and we will work with him as we would any other County Councillor. You will recall that this election is "valid" for only two years before Local Government Reform kicks in with unitary elections to be held next year. Confused? We don't blame you.

Annual Council in May saw the election of a new mayor, Stephen Beardshaw. Meanwhile, two Conservative Borough Councillors have resigned for personal, not political reasons, which will trigger by-elections.

Progress on major projects, especially the Guildhall, continues. Plans are underway for a new pool at Lynnsport in a separate building rather than in the main building – a more economical solution.

We wish you a pleasant (cooler!) summer. □

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Dersingham Rainbows Take Action

For the last few weeks the Rainbow Guides have been busy working on their Take Action Theme Award. (One of six Theme Awards in the Rainbow Guide programme.) The Award comprises three parts, an Interest Badge, four Skills Builders and 120 minutes of Unit Activities

To gain their Helper Interest badge the Rainbows had to help at home, in the community and for the environment. They had a meeting "Helping at Home" by doing some washing up and drying up, cleaning shoes, ironing some hankies, hoovering and dusting. To help the environment they planted some sunflower seeds and for the community they produced a wall display for the recent Dersingham Methodist Church Flower Festival and collected items for a charity shop. They also painted money boxes to learn about saving money, made a poster for their Annual Dersingham Guide and Scout Summer Fayre and made Rocky Road cakes to give to a friend.



The Rainbows enjoyed a summer coach outing to the Rare Breeds Centre at Stowe Bardolph in July.

Anyone interest in joining Rainbows, Brownies, or Guides should contact Lynne or Elizabeth on 01485 544753, or anyone wishing to join Beavers, Cubs or Scouts should contact Tom, the Group Scout Leader, on tgowheeler@yahoo.co.uk □

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1st Dersingham Guides Take Action with Biodiversity

During the summer term, the 1st Dersingham Guides have been busy completing different activities towards the biodiversity interest badge. This forms part of the Take Action theme award - one of the six themes within the Girlguiding programme.



To complete this badge, the Guides had to do small actions, a big action and explore and discover the biodiversity in our local area. The Guides started by making bird feeders (using pinecones, lard and bird seeds) and wildflower seed balls. These could be put into their own gardens and would encourage wildlife to visit.

Before the May half-term, the Guides had a visit to Sandringham. During the evening, as well as enjoying the playground, the Guides collected twigs, pinecones, leaves, moss and other natural materials. These would be used to fill bug hotels. At their next meeting, the Guides had to assemble and fill their bug hotels. This was their big action, especially as they were also building and filling a very special bug hotel.

This summer, Girlguiding Anglia has a very special garden at RHS Sandringham Flower Show. The garden has been designed with Norfolk garden designer Dominique Rudd and is called the Guiding Journey and highlights how the girls within Girlguiding build confidence, environmental awareness and wellbeing through time spent in nature. The bug hotel built and filled by the 1st Dersingham Guides will be installed within the garden which afterwards will be going to the Girlguiding Anglia Hautbois Activity Centre.



The final part of the badge enabled the Guides to explore their local area in more detail as they were taken on a biodiversity walk on the Sandringham Estate by one of the gamekeepers. The Guides found out how the estate supports biodiversity as well as identifying different flora and fauna.□

Dersingham Primary and Nursery School

Busy Half Term Full of Learning

It has been an exceptionally busy and exciting half term at Dersingham Primary and Nursery School, with pupils across all year groups enjoying a wide range of educational visits, creative opportunities and memorable experiences.

One of the highlights for the whole school was welcoming a talented group of young musicians from the Purcell School. The musicians performed for all pupils before leading inspiring workshops for Key Stage 2 children. Since our last update, we have also introduced Rock Steady Music School to Dersingham. This innovative



programme offers children the opportunity to learn to sing or play the bass guitar, electric guitar, keyboard or drums within a band setting. The children are already working towards a school concert and are thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Our reception pupils have been immersed in their topic, *Living and Growing*. A recent visit to Park Farm provided an excellent opportunity to learn about animals and their young, as well as how to care for them responsibly. Back at school, the children have been growing flowers and vegetables in the school garden and exploring the life cycles of a variety of animals.

Year 1 have been enjoying their topic, *Savannah Sunrise*, learning all about the African savannah. The children have embarked on an in-class safari, written postcards and are eagerly anticipating a visit from some real-life animals. The class will also be saying a fond farewell to Miss Liscsey at the end of the academic year. We wish her every success as she embarks on new challenges.

Meanwhile, Year 2 pupils have been exploring the seaside, comparing modern-day holidays with those enjoyed during Victorian times. They have learned about the physical features of Britain's coastline and discovered the remarkable story of Grace Darling and her heroic shipwreck rescue. A forthcoming visit to Hunstanton will help bring their learning to life.



Year 3 children have been captivated by their topic, *The Rampaging Romans*.

They have been learning about the legendary tale of Romulus and Remus, while in science they have investigated animal and human skeletons. The class also enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Sandringham Countryside Classroom, where they learned about farming and rural life, including animal care, dog handling, gamekeeping, homing pigeons, farm machinery and locally grown crops.

In Year 4, pupils have been studying *Unruly Rainforest*, exploring different biomes, the structure of tropical rainforests and the many species that inhabit them. They have compared rainforest ecosystems with habitats closer to home, supported by a visit to Church Farm to observe native wildlife and environments. The school will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Rimmer at the end of term, and we would like to thank her for her dedication and wish her every success for the future.

Year 5 have been delving into the fascinating world of the Vikings. Having completed a unit on the Viking invasion of Britain, the children are now writing diary entries from the perspective of a Viking. The class recently visited the Sandringham Estate, where they completed several activities from the school's popular "50 Things to Do Whilst at Dersingham Primary and Nursery School" challenge. They are also looking forward to a trip to Wells to study local habitats. In music, Year 5 concluded their violin programme with a wonderful concert at the Dersingham Village Centre. This year also marks the retirement of Mrs Hopkins after an incredible 28 years at the school. While we are sad to see her leave her teaching role, we are delighted that she will remain involved with the school as a volunteer, reflecting her unwavering commitment to our children and community.



Finally, Year 6 pupils have embarked upon their last topic of primary school, *Islamic Enlightenment*, exploring the Golden Age of Islam and its many achievements. Alongside their studies, they have been busy rehearsing their end-of-year production, *Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits*. It has been wonderful to see the children singing, dancing and performing with such confidence and enthusiasm. As part of their end-of-year celebrations, the class also enjoyed a memorable trip to London, where they watched the

hit musical *Wicked* and even found time for a visit to Buckingham Palace.

As the academic year draws to a close, we would like to wish all our Year 6 pupils every success as they move on to high school. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments.□



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Half the year has already gone. We are experiencing very hot weather, as is the rest of Europe, and look forward to some rain and cooler days.

Richard Brooks



On May 15th the Owl Man, Richard Brooks from Croxton Hamlet, brought his photographs of local wildlife taken from his house. His bird studies were wonderful, and he also has wild animals visiting his yard. He has cameras stationed at each window and leaves plenty of food and accommodation for the creatures who visit.

On June 19th we met at St Cecilia's Church in Mountbatten Road because the Centre was busy. Gerry Tamm described how the Poppy Collections were organised and how the money was used. Gerry gave a fascinating talk on the origins of the Poppy Appeal, and he explained its dependency on charitable donations for all of its works. The British Legion provides support for all legion members and their families in difficult times. Gerry had some antique poppy wreaths to demonstrate their exquisite handicraft on handmade wreaths. Many thanks to those who helped prepare the hall and tea area and stayed afterwards to tidy up.

Gerry Tamm



On July 17th members will be entertained by Sue Neil in her home at Pentney Lakes. Thank you for inviting us all Sue.

The meeting on August 21st is back at the Dersingham Village Centre and is our own flower show. We are looking forward to lots of creative arrangements from our members.

On September 18th we are taking a coach trip for a day at Pensthorpe. We are always happy to take guests with us. Please do contact our Secretary Gloria if you would like to join us.

Meetings usually take place on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. They begin at 2.00pm, stop for tea about 3.00pm and the afternoon ends at 4.00pm. Visitors are always very welcome. There is an entrance fee of £3.00 which covers refreshments and a raffle. Contact Gloria Pantling for details at 01553 671912.

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Dad's Army Museum – Thetford Su Foxley

As my husband and I continue exploring, we stumbled upon the Dad's Army Museum on a recent outing to Thetford, a town again easily accessible by bus from King's Lynn. One fact we never knew was that Dad's Army was actually filmed in and around Thetford! Thetford became "Walmington on Sea."

The museum opened in December 2007 and houses many items of memorabilia, which I must say brought back many fond memories of the television comedy show. I must admit we even enjoy the odd episode now laughing at some of the antics of the Platoon.

In addition to the numerous items on display, you can also see Corporal Jones' uniform, plus a reconstruction of Captain Mainwaring's office, with a volunteer resembling him sat behind the desk.

Before you leave the museum may I suggest a visit to the "Marigold Tea Room" an establishment styled in the 1940 era; here you can enjoy cakes of yester year along with a beverage of your choice.

A visit is not complete without wandering down to the river to sit alongside the statue of Captain Mainwaring sat on a bench – possibly a photo opportunity.

Corporal Jones' van is currently on display at the "Charles Burrell Museum" also in Thetford. Viewing is subject to opening times and availability of the vehicle. Currently a "GoFundMe Appeal" is underway to raise funds to continue restoring the van to its former glory. (Who recalls the episode where the guns shot out of the van's sides?)

The museum is staffed by a very knowledgeable platoon of volunteers, entry is FREE, dogs are allowed but not in the tearoom.

Opening times are Saturday 10.00 to 15.00hrs between March 14th and December 5th, plus Sundays 10.00 to 13.00hrs between July and August. Plus, Tuesdays during Norfolk school holidays.

The museum is located at The Old Fire Station, Cage Lane, Thetford, IP24 2DS. Email - www.dadsarmythetford.org.uk

In summary, what's available: Museum itself, tea room, audio tour plus a pre- bookable walking tour of the local area where filming took place.

A WORD OF WARNING – if you are travelling by bus, please remember the last one back from Thetford to Kings Lynn is 16:10.□



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Dersingham Task Force

Clare Bee

As I write this on Midsummer Day (June 24th), the sun is beating down in the second heatwave of the year. We are lucky in Norfolk that we are near the coast, so benefit from slightly cooler temperatures and any breezes that there are, but it is still a struggle on these warmer days. For those living further south and across the water in Europe, life is much more unbearable. It's hard to see how we are going to cope with these changes in the future, but cope we must, and politicians and climate scientists must seriously address this issue if life is to be tolerable for us and future generations.

However, Task Force is about gardening, plants and wellbeing, all of which are impacted by climate change. We notice which plants do well, and which struggle in the changing weather conditions. This year, lavender is looking particularly magnificent everywhere. It is a Mediterranean plant which seems to love the sun and dry conditions, so in the future we must think about plants which have similar needs.

We also need to plan for plants which muntjacs do not like, as we are having to live with their increasing numbers. Thinking ahead to bulbs for next spring, sadly we cannot plant tulips in the two Task Force gardens, as muntjacs are very partial to these. They do not, however, seem to like daffodils, so you may see many more of these in the future as we try to make the gardens interesting and colourful.

The photos show some of us working hard in the Post Office Road garden and the lavender in full bloom in the recreation ground garden.□



Phobbies Celebrate Birthdays

Dersingham Phobbies is a club organised and run by volunteers for people with a wide range of disabilities or who feel isolated and lonely. We meet every Thursday at Dersingham Social Club.

Two of our members celebrated 80th birthdays; one, Maggie, at the beginning and the other, Ruth, at the end of June. Everyone attending joined in the celebrations, with singing and dancing to the music duo Mandy and Charlie who played at Maggie's party and the same fun was had with Jammin' Joe at Ruth's festivity where there was also a locally supplied buffet. Birthday cakes were made for both by another Phobbies member, and 'Happy Birthday to You' was sung with great gusto.

Maggie said, 'I was amazed at what everyone had put together for me, I hadn't expected it all'. Ruth was even more enthusiastic, saying, 'This was fantastic, it's the first birthday party I have had in very many years, it was great fun and I got lots of handmade birthday cards. All the members were so kind to me'.

Craft activities at Phobbies haven't ceased despite the revelry; 3D artwork and modelling being a theme for this period. These have included making people from papier-mache covered drinks bottles, pop-up cards with whales and jelly fish and dinosaurs made from paper plates and loo roll holders.

We always welcome new members no matter why you want to come. Any help that you can give, whether it's a one off or more regularly it will be greatly appreciated. You can pop in and have a chat with us during any of our Thursday sessions. Craft activities that our less able club members can carry out would be most useful if you have any to donate. Please note that we will have a short summer break over the last two Thursdays in August.

Phobbies meets on Thursdays at Dersingham Social Club, Lynn Road from 10.00am to 2.00pm. The weekly subscription is £2 with tea, coffee and biscuits being provided for free, however, we do bring a packed lunch with us. Anyone interested in joining can drop in on a Thursday or contact Mark Shelton tel. 07763 643498 or email mm.shelton@btinternet.com □



Hunstanton 2027 Charity Calendars to Support Local Lifesavers

Following the success of its inaugural charity calendar last year, the much-anticipated new editions will feature two calendars showcasing the very best of the seaside town: a General Hunstanton Calendar and a dedicated Hunstanton Sunset Calendar. Some of the proceeds will support local volunteer First Responders who help save lives.

The calendars will feature winning images from a public photography competition that attracted hundreds of entries from amateur photographers, all capturing the beauty, character and unique atmosphere of the popular coastal resort.

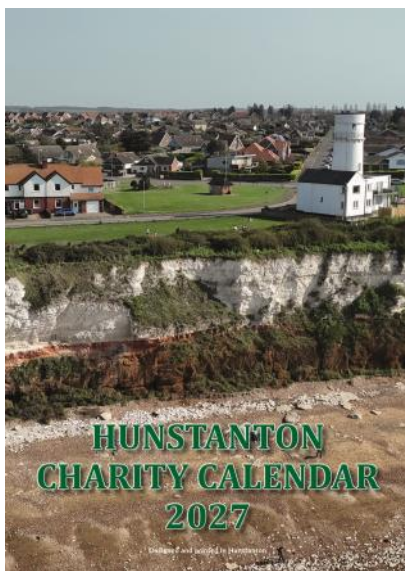
To ensure fairness, all photographs were judged anonymously, with the final selection based solely on photographic quality, creativity and visual impact. A panel of judges has selected the winning images, which will appear in the two 2027 calendars.

Glen Piggott, owner of Hunstanton Webcams, said, "After the incredible response to last year's calendar, we weren't sure how we could top it. The number and quality of entries this year have been fantastic and show just how much people love Hunstanton. We're delighted to showcase these wonderful images while also raising money for a truly worthwhile local cause."

£2 from every calendar sold will be donated to Hunstanton and Heacham Community First Responders, a volunteer group trained by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust. The team attends potentially life-threatening 999 emergencies, providing vital care in the crucial minutes before an ambulance crew arrives.

Ben Plunkett, Group Coordinator for Hunstanton and Heacham Community First Responders, said, "We're delighted to have been chosen as this year's calendar charity. Every pound raised helps us invest in essential equipment and training, enabling us to continue supporting people across our community when they need us most."

The calendars were officially unveiled and were available to purchase during the Hunstanton Town Carnival weekend in both portrait and larger landscape formats. They will be on sale online via the Hunstanton Webcams website at <https://hunstanton.webcam/calendars> and from Witley Press, 26 Greevegate, Hunstanton.□



Dersingham Evening W.I.

We began our June meeting with sad news, the loss of one of our longest serving members, Rispah Reynolds. She would have been 98 years old in August. Rispah was a member for 52 years and served on committee during that time. She lived in her house in Dersingham all her married life; her knowledge of the village and its history kept us entertained often. A very popular lady who will be missed by us all.

We continued with a talk from Maria Pennington called 'Periods in time through jewellery'. Maria trained with Francis Wain and Windsor Bishop before setting up her own business. She began the talk with the Art Nouveau period which was inspired by nature and the sensual female form. We saw photos of jewellery from famous designers such as William Morris, Archibald Knox, Robert Charles Ashbee, Siegfried Bing and Rene Lalique. She then showed us a range of Cartier jewels and told us that he bought his shop on 5th Avenue in New York for 2 rows of pearls! In the 1930s jewellery was long and flowing so that it would move freely when dancing. In the 1940s jewellery became bigger and bolder. It was also when cultured pearls became available because of overfishing of natural pearls. By the 1960s practically anything goes! By comparison, modern jewellery is more modest, as wearing expensive jewellery in public is not always a sensible thing to do nowadays.

On July 15th Yvonne Brown told us how a girl from the Pennines ended up having tea with the Queen Mother and Queen Elizabeth II. In September Kevin Clarke from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will be coming to speak to us. These meetings, and all our meetings, are held at Orchard Close Community Hall, every third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm.

Although we are an evening W.I. we do sometimes meet in the morning or afternoon. August's Afternoon Tea and December's Christmas Party are in the afternoon at 2.30pm. We have coffee mornings every month hosted by our members in their homes. Craft Club meets on the second Monday of the month at 2pm.

The Lunch Club visits a local restaurant every other month.

We have a lively Book Club which meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7pm.

You are invited to come to three of our meetings as a visitor (£4.00 donation) before joining the W.I. If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Sharon on 07597310905.□

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Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone

Both the 136th Church Anniversary and Flower Festival held in May were uplifting and successful and we felt blessed by the occasion. The theme 'Songs to stir the memories' gave people lots to talk about as they looked at the flower displays and read the words of the songs. You could hear people humming the tunes when they came into the hall for refreshments and to look at the stalls.

Year 1 children from Dersingham school opened the flower festival with their cheerful singing and actions and the reception class children did very well when they sang on the Friday morning. We also enjoyed seeing their colourful displays on the hymn *All things bright and beautiful*.

Dersingham Rainbows did an eye-catching wall display with drawings of themselves and the words of the songs they like to sing.

The Sunday afternoon service was very well attended, despite the warm weather. Revd Helen Hollands, Chair of East Anglia Methodist District, took the service based on the anniversary, Pentecost and the conversion of John Wesley.

The flower festival raised £2,574.05 and half of this has been sent to the Matjinge project, Zimbabwe. This will go towards a battery and solar panels for Matjinge school. The collection at the service on Sunday afternoon was £190.50 and this is to help fund a barrel to send items to the school. We are currently collecting items such as pens, pencils, small gifts, exercise books to send to the school. Rev Rich will be visiting Matjinge during the autumn.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported us.

Future events:

Saturday 26th September 10.00am to 11.30am coffee morning, raising funds for the Leprosy Mission, with the usual stalls – cards, cakes, books, jigsaws, bric-a-brac and refreshments.

Sunday 27th September 10.30am Harvest Festival service, where we will be collecting items for the Hunstanton Food Bank.

Saturday 24th October 10.00am to 11.30am coffee morning. Where we will be raising funds for the East Anglia Air Ambulance.

We look forward to welcoming you to all our events.□

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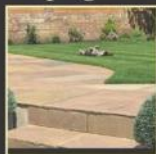
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Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

Largescale events at Sandringham

By the time you receive Village Voice, the new RHS Sandringham event will have taken place. The organisation estimates that there will have been about 15,000 visitors each day over the five days it is taking place. This brings significant welcome additional income to the area but also significant extra problems with it, not least traffic congestion and disruption for local residents.

The Parish Council has engaged at all meetings called to try to minimise the impact on local residents but, being a completely new event, it is difficult to prejudge what issues may arise. We will be monitoring and can then use the evidence as input for future similar events.

We have also engaged with Heritage Live regarding their concerts which will be held nightly from 19th to 23rd August. We do have experience from 2023 and last year and we have brought that to bear in our discussions at meetings with the promoter, the Estate and the Borough Council, in an attempt to make the experience less onerous for local residents. We won't have got it entirely right, but it is to be hoped that each year we see a slight improvement over the previous one. Again, we will be monitoring and can then use the evidence as input for future similar events. Reasons to be hopeful include:

- Likely lower attendance each day compared with previously (an unconfirmed view but based on lower available household income.)
- Events starting late morning instead of the afternoon, to help spread arriving traffic across a longer period.
- Request for late evening re-phasing of Hardwick Roundabout lights to lessen backing up traffic right back to the site car park exit points (we don't yet know if this is agreed.)
- Better glamping facilities to encourage more people to stay overnight.
- Event organiser to arrange litter picking from around West Newton.
- It may sound "techy" but is important, there will be a single traffic and site parking management control team on site.

As a result, Lynx Buses has agreed to put their 35 buses through West Newton each day from the first bus of the day until the 1pm departures from both King's Lynn and Hunstanton. That means that the village is not isolated for four consecutive days and should be welcomed. But then we heard, quite late on, that there is to be a fifth day of concerts, so even if the disruption to residents is less this year than in the past, it will now be across five days rather than four. We are still making representations about this at the time of writing.

Council meetings

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at West Newton village hall on 5th May, immediately followed by the Council's Annual General Meeting. Four members of the public were present including a representative of the Sandringham Estate. The principal matters discussed at the ordinary meeting were:

- Discussions have started with interested parties on whether or not to raise a Parish Precept for the year starting April 2027. There are good reasons to remain without a Precept but there is a growing number of reasons why one may

become necessary. The Council is required to formally vote in or before January 2027 on this issue.

- The Parish Council does not have a veto or right to interfere with the holding of major events at Sandringham, but it does have a responsibility to represent the interests of its residents and the Chairman has attended a number of meetings in this respect. Principal amongst the matters that have been raised are the impacts of traffic congestion, noise and light pollution and litter blowing from the site to adjacent residential areas. These are not easy issues to resolve but there is reason for hope that some progress has been made and will be evident when the events take place.
- A number of County Council matters were outstanding at the time of the local government elections and a meeting is to be held with our new County Councillor on 3rd July to ask his assistance in getting some of them resolved. These mostly concern highway matters such as speed limits or large vehicle restrictions on certain roads.
- The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11th August at West Newton Village Hall starting at 7pm. All are very welcome to attend.

The Annual General Meeting follows a more restricted agenda and is to do with the business arrangements of the Council. Principal matters agreed were:

- Three new Parish Councillors were co-opted giving us a full complement of seven Councillors, with a wider geographic, gender and age representation.
- The Chairman's annual report listed new and improved facilities in the community including improved channels to communicate with residents such as a Facebook page, new village signs, notice boards, and bus shelters and representations made by the Council in respect of RHS Sandringham, Heritage Live concerts, and the Major Service Outage which disrupted internet access in Wolferton for about a month.
- The Chairman was re-elected for a further year.
- The next Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 4th May 2027 at West Newton Village Hall starting immediately following the ordinary meeting which itself starts at 7pm. All are very welcome to attend. □



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Sunday September 6th

Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes Down 7.30pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 18th August

Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm

Tuesday 15th September

Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm

Prize bingo in aid of Happy Memories

Tuesday 22nd September

Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm

Social Club Opening Hours

Friday and Saturday 8.00pm-11.00pm

Sunday Lunchtime 12.30pm-3.30pm

St Peter's Church, Wolferton

We were blessed with a beautiful spring morning at the end of May for our Grand Plant Sale held at St Peter's, and St Paul's Church, West Newton. Thank you to all who supported this very successful event, raising vital funds to be shared between this church and St Peter's Church, Wolferton.

Forthcoming services:

Sunday 9th August 9.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th September 9.15am Harvest Festival

Sunday 27th September 5.00pm Holy Communion

There will be no evening service in August.

All welcome and please join us for refreshments after (morning services only.)□



A colorful poster for the Snettisham Fayre. The top section has a teal background with the words 'SNETTISHAM' and 'FAYRE' in large, white, stylized letters. Below this is an orange band with the text 'SAT 8TH AUGUST 11- 4 PM' in white. The bottom section has a teal background with the text 'FREE ENTRY & PARKING' in orange, followed by a list of activities in teal: 'Food, Drinks, Stalls, KL1 radio, Your Choir, Inflatables, Fun Dog Show, Bar, Classic Cars, Kids Crafts & more..'. At the very bottom, in a teal band, is the location 'Playing Field, Old Church rd, Snettisham PE317LX' in white.

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Rebuilding Life After Stroke

Emma Shears

After a stroke, everything can seem hard, you are discharged from hospital into the care of family and once home you realise that there is still a long way to go.

John was 68 when he had his stroke. He was discharged home as he was doing well, the doctors were pleased with his progress. But John didn't feel like he was doing well. He felt like he couldn't do a lot of the things he wanted to do.

The hardest thing to deal with was mealtimes. John had always been independent and now he was sitting at the table with his family, unable to pick up his fork, waiting for someone to cut his food. He was fed up that something so easy was now so difficult.

Occupational Therapy can help with these things.

The first step is to talk about what matters most to you. Not just what you can't do, but what you want to be able to do. For John this was two things: getting dressed independently and being able to hold his fork in his dominant hand.

To help with dressing, we worked on practical strategies, and with a lot of practice John could manage his morning routine with less help.

The hand work was slower. Upper limb recovery after stroke takes patience, repetition and determination. We worked on rebuilding the connection between brain and hand, progressing gradually through exercises and real tasks.

After many weeks John was able to hold his fork, this meant so much to him. We are now working on lifting it to his mouth. Small steps, and a lot of encouragement.

I'm Emma Shears, an Occupational Therapist with 26 years of experience, now seeing clients at The Drift in Heacham and in people's homes across West Norfolk. Stroke is just one of the many conditions occupational therapy can help with. If daily activities have become more difficult for you or someone you care about, I'd be happy to have a conversation about how occupational therapy might help.

For more information please contact me: Emma Shears on tel 07872878098 · enquires@otisfab.co.uk · www.otisfab.co.uk □

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Focus on the Small Copper *Lycaena phleas*.

Brian Anderson

On many occasions, when discussing butterflies, I am commonly asked four questions (not all at once). One of those is "what is your favourite butterfly?". It's not that simple. In the spring it's probably the Brimstone, later on, it may be the Orange Tip, showing that emergence is taking place, or the Wall Brown. But one that always features high up on my list is the Small Copper. Its exquisite brilliantly coloured upperside, reminiscent of freshly polished copper, always catches the eye. I will return to the topic of its colour later.



The Small Copper was first described by Petiver (1699) as the small Golden Black-spotted Meadow Butterfly and in (1717) he called it The Small Tortoiseshell (*sic*). Harris (1766) used The Copper; Haworth (1803), The Common Copper and in 1853 Morris used The Common Small Copper.

It is widely distributed throughout the British Isles although rarely abundant. It forms close-knit colonies, usually fairly small (the maximum ever recorded contained four hundred individuals). Some individuals are inclined to wander and can be found in gardens. The normal habitat is a sunny patch of well-drained soil, waste land, road verges, banks, dunes and the like. It is likely that many colonies have been lost because of pernicious and widespread "tidying-up" of the countryside and agricultural intensification.

The butterflies are pugnacious, flying up to challenge any passing insect. The males will battle with other males for dominance of a favoured spot, such conflicts being resolved, I imagine, by balance of stamina.

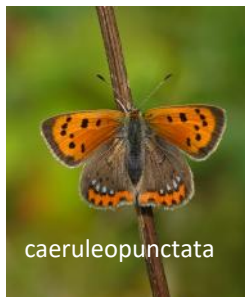
In one of my earlier articles (*The Colours of Butterfly Wings*) I wrote:

I haven't been able to discover any references to interference mechanisms used by the Small Copper because, despite the brightness of the colour, it seems to be a pigment (a 3-hydroxyanthranilic acid derivative if you really want to know!) I can find no reference to it being a wavelength shifter i.e., it doesn't seem to be fluorescent. I suspect there may be some structural enhancement.

I wasn't happy to leave it like that for this article, so I made another search. Google's "helpful" AI summary told me that the colour was all interference. Another attempt told me that it was almost entirely pigment. Grrr - useless! I then tried the Curator of Insects at the Natural History Museum who referred my query to their Identification and Advisory Office Centre for UK Nature who replied that the colours were structurally enhanced but this played a relatively minor role.

The butterfly's patterns and colours are quite variable. The black dots and lines vary in size and length, producing named varieties. I made the mistake of checking how many there were - I gave up after a hundred named varieties! The ground colour may be white - two varieties are listed var *alba* and var *schimdtii* although they may be synonyms. The most beautiful variant is var *caeruleopunctata* where there is a row of iridescent blue spots on each hindwing. It creates an image of a bright copper brooch studded with

sapphires. I saw my first on Hampstead Heath in London very many years ago and Yvonne and I saw more than one at Snettisham RSPB reserve in the 1980s. The wing pattern variation of the Small Copper is almost entirely genetic, rather than being caused by environmental conditions during development.



The female lays eggs on either Common or Sheep's Sorrel or, if these are unavailable on some species of Dock.

There are several generations a year. The first is usually in late April or May, the second in June to August and the third in September and October. In a warm autumn there may be a fourth generation. We used to have another Copper species - The Large Copper - but the drainage of the Fens led to its eventual extinction. Attempts to reintroduce it at Wood Walton Fen, using Dutch stock has so far proved unsuccessful.



The copper form is widespread in the northern hemisphere - there are ten other Copper species in Europe. of which I have seen one (the Sooty Copper) and seventeen in North America, of which I have seen none!

A Retraction

It is the uncomfortable duty of a researcher who discovers that a previous publication is in error to issue a correction. In a previous edition of Village Voice, I set out an explanation of how the Wall (or Wall Brown) butterfly has declined to its current national distribution. I have now learnt that this is wrong. The premise was that the warming climate produces a third emergence, which fails to produce a viable emergence the following year, except in coastal and south-western areas where higher winter temperatures allow full development. Recent research has shown that a higher temperature does not lead to higher emergence rates. So, we still await an explanation. I think that the original hypothesis was based on temperature and population correlation. I must always remember that correlation is not proof.



The Hibernating Peacocks (Brian Anderson and Martin Sanctuary).

In the 2025 Butterfly Report a hibernating group of Peacocks was described. It is now time to draw this subject to a close, as far as it is possible to do so. The Peacocks were first observed in late July 2025 - nineteen Peacocks and two Small Tortoiseshells. By

18th August there were eighteen Peacocks. The numbers fluctuated somewhat during the autumn and early winter (both up and down) and two Peacocks were found dead on 29th December. Whether this was caused by pathogens or lack of fat reserves it is not possible to say. There was a slow fall in numbers to thirteen by March 6th, then to just one Peacock and one Small Tortoiseshell by 19th March 2026. By 19th April all had left. To the best of our knowledge, no detailed studies of hibernating Peacocks have been undertaken.



Peacock

Some interesting questions remain. Are these the same butterflies, given the variation of numbers up and down? Are the Peacocks entering hibernation earlier and, if so, why? Some of the methods of assessing population size are unavailable as the survey methods would inevitably lead to disturbing the butterflies and therefore destroying the validity of any conclusions.

Our thanks to the staff of the Natural History Museum for their help on the colour of the Small Copper wings!□

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WW2 sprang unhindered when Germany invaded Poland,
WW3 is perilously close to becoming the next plan,
With the warmongers of America, Israel, Russia and Iran.

In 1969 the excitement and exploration of space was a boon
The frightening accomplishment of the 'Apollo' rocket took Man to the Moon.
Now 57 years later, NASA sent yet another rocket for a ride
'Artemis 11' mission took a crew to look at the moon's far side.

Our news highlighted more misdemeanours for everyone to see
This, once more, came from another employee of the BBC.
Briefly topping the unpleasant and ongoing saga of the Epstein Files
Which has stretched its murky fingers, like mycelium, to our Isles.

The Industrial Revolution had caused work losses to machinery.
Today, we have another job stealer commandeering the scenery.
The Internet has made great changes for us, I hear you cry
But it has spawned something more complex...a thing called.... A I

Cyber-attacks, threats, scams, deep fakes that are shaped by the progress in... A I
Common Internet router weaknesses being exploited, using..... A I
Universities launching teaching programmes, using robotic tutors..... A I
Airline baggage handlers in Japan, superseded by robots of.....A I

The cost of living squeeze, the climbing of high inflation,
Surging prices caused by the conflict of 'trumpflation',
The energy crises hiking up food, household and petrol bills,
The slowdown of economic growth, and ringing at the tills.

A I is like feudalism with much better advertising
But we must keep a balance between old and new prioritising
Our humanness we must maintain and deploy
Do not allow Tech, to be a stealer of our joy.

The World is ravaged by a handful of tyrants!! - Pope Leo (The Vatican, 2026)

Lorna MMXXVI



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- Its taxable turnover for the next thirty days is expected to exceed £90,000.00

If a business needs to register late it will need to account for and pay VAT on any sales made since the date that it should have registered (net of any purchase VAT deductible), plus interest (and penalties, if assessed).

The Revenue will monitor the business's response to its letter and if it does not register for VAT where it has a duty to do so, it may face a penalty of up to 100% of potential lost revenue.

However, any business receiving such a letter should not automatically assume that it is liable to register for VAT. It must **check the position in detail before registering** as there are circumstances in which a business with turnover in excess of £90,000.00 may not be required to register (e.g., where the turnover figure quoted includes supplies or supplies outside the scope of VAT; where an exemption from registration applies; or where the business has gone over the registration temporarily).

Of course, where the business finds that it is required to register for VAT, it should do so without delay.

VAT Returns and weekends/Bank Holidays

HMRC are finding that VAT Returns are being incorrectly submitted after the statutory due date when the filing deadline of the seventh of the month falls on a weekend or a Bank Holiday.

VAT Return submission deadlines are fixed in law and do not move when they fall on a weekend or Bank Holiday.

It is perfectly possible for a VAT Return to be submitted on such days but if a business cannot file on the due date for any reason, they should submit by the last working day before the due date.

It may be that some third-party websites and AI summaries currently mention that VAT payments can be made after the due date if it falls on a Bank Holiday or weekend, but this is incorrect. Payments must always be made by the due date or the last working day beforehand.

If you require any advice on VAT matters, registration, de-registration or accounting, please do contact Nicola Tarry FCA at Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP, Hunstanton office on 01485 534800 or ntarry@mapus.co.uk

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

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SNETTISHAM GARDENING CLUB



We will have a stall at our upcoming Village Fayre on Saturday 8th August and hopefully our members will have contributed some excellent plants for sale, as they usually do. The Fayre will open at 11.30am.

Our August meeting with *The Tales of the Imp of Clenchwarton Allotments* with contributions from local actors is on Wednesday 26th August. The visitor charge for this event will be £5.00 and members may be asked to show their membership cards.

Our September meeting will be on Wednesday 30th when Barbara Williams will be talking about the Norfolk Plant Heritage Group.

Monthly meetings in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road begin at 7.30 pm. As always visitors and guests are welcome to join us at our meetings at a cost of £2.00 for the first visit and £10.00 for full membership which also gives discount at Ward's Nurseries and Moulam and Horn.

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

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If you are interested, please contact Karen Orgill, Business Manager on 01485 541465 or bm@dersingham-pc.gov.uk □



West Newton Carpet Bowls

West Newton Carpet Bowls Club will resume weekly on Tuesday evenings, Games will be early in September, dates to be announced. New members and beginners made very welcome. Arrive early enough for a 7pm start. Three games per evening with a tea and biscuits break after two games.

For further information please contact Trevor Riches 07453303379, or Trevor Grey 07963561815. □

Word Wall

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

PEACH	KAUNDA	HATCHET	MARIMBA
TRUMPET	NECTARINE	BANANA	VIOLIN
NKRUMAH	TOMAHAWK	FLUTE	HALBERD
OLIVE	CLEAVER	PLUM	AMIN



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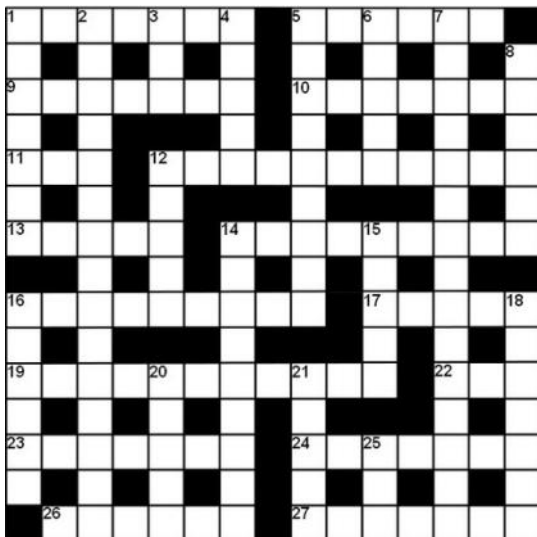
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Across

- 1 Amend list for person making arrangements (7)
- 5 Poet turned me into architectural feature (6)
- 9 Clumsy legs ran into piscators (7)
- 10 Harry has food – now how to find some water (7)
- 11 You might get one in Hunstanton (3)
- 12 Doctor Owen sharpen got the message (11)
- 13 Accountant meets good person in eastern class system (5)
- 14 The elegance of inebriated swine? (4,3)
- 16 Cunningly dine in park with pint to uncover abductor (9)
- 17 Pop group bowled out feet behind (5)
- 19 Engineer departs with mastermind (5,6)
- 22 Grass growing in every environment (3)
- 23 Harry's first hit in English is peculiarly sensitive (7)
- 24 Cleo killer at railway station on the road (7)
- 26 Struts about making legal arrangements (6)
- 27 Strangely met Rex on English boundary (7)

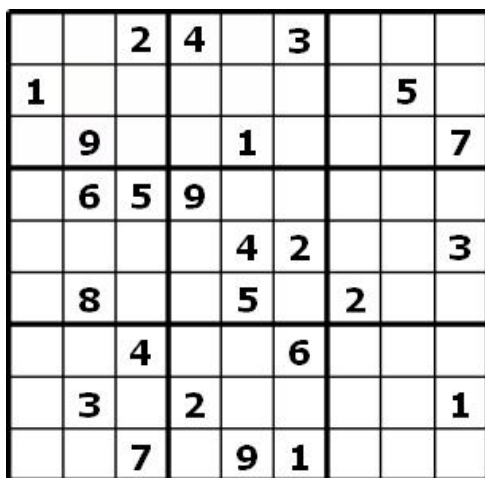


**Answers on
Page 68**

Sudoku

Down

- 1 French soldier in charge going berserk (7)
- 2 Newspaper for example sadly dies as party disciplined workers (9,6)
- 3 Public enemy displays frosty centre (3)
- 4 Transitive questions at work (5)
- 5 Difficulty driving fancy green Herald (9)
- 6 Mart roundabout appears on quiet ramble (5)
- 7 Take the knee? (7,8)
- 8 Cook faster dessert (6)
- 12 Are North Americans building a stadium? (5)
- 14 Delight from spinning Spanish e.p. (9)
- 15 Treasure store (5)
- 16 Destiny in the hands of kite flying Sergeant Major (6)
- 18 Where you can dine royally in the Playhouse (7)
- 20 Tune in afterthought for duets (5)
- 21 Tread surreptitiously in business (5)
- 25 Lobster for example spinning around (3)





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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Florist. 5 Metope. 9 Anglers. 10 Shadoof.
11 Tan. 12 Answerphone. 13 Caste. 14 High
heels. 16 Kidnapper. 17 Ahaft. 19 Sharp
witted. 22 Rye. 23 Emotive. 24 Asphalt.
26 Trusts. 27 Extreme.

Down

1 Frantic. 2 Organised labour. 3 Ice.
4 Tasks. 5 Messenger. 6 Tramp.
7 Propose marriage. 8 Afters. 12 Arena.
14 Happiness. 15 Hoard. 16 Kismet.
18 Theatre. 20 Pairs. 21 Trade. 25 Pot.

Word Wall Answers

African Presidents: Amin, Banana,
Kaunda, Nkrumah

Axes: Cleaver, Halberd, Hatchet,
Tomahawk

Drupe: Nectarine, Peach, Plum, olive

Musical instruments: Flute, Marimba,
Trumpet, Violin

Sudoku Answers

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

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

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

Articles

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

Distribution

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

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

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VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

Tuesday August 25th at 7:30pm

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S (PG)

Starring: Audrey Hepburn; George Peppard



Paul is a struggling writer who recently moves into a new apartment in New York. When he meets Holly, an eccentric but beautiful socialite, he hopelessly falls in love with her.

Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash

Wine, Beer, Cider, Soft Drinks

available from the Bar



Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by
Dersingham Village Centre Association
Charity No 1178462
Supported by Creative Arts East



VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

Tuesday September 29th at 7:30pm

THE ROSES (15)

Starring: Olivia Colman; Benedict Cumberbatch



Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Theo and Ivy:

successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids.

However, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentments soon emerge when Theo's career nosedives and Ivy's own ambitions take off.

Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash

Wine, Beer, Cider, Soft Drinks

available from the Bar



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