

Walberswick Heritage Hut – Update September 2020



You may have noticed work has started on the renovation of the Walberswick Heritage Hut (HH). We are very pleased that this has, at last, been able to get underway. Inevitably there will be vehicles parked near the HH from time-to-time but every precaution has been taken to minimise disturbance to residents. However, should there be a problem please contact the Clerk to Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC). It is hoped that Phase 1 of this amazing project will be completed by the end of 2020.

The HH, which is owned by the Walberswick Parish Council (WPC) and stands on the Village Green, was originally built as a Congregational Chapel in the 1879. It has since been used at various times for the benefit of the residents of the village as a School, a Working Man's Club, a Youth Club, for St John Ambulance, a Visitors' Centre, the SC&H's Heritage Centre and as the HQ of the Village Fete.

The ownership of the HH was passed from the Suffolk County Council to WPC in 2012. In 2016 a HH Committee was formed composed of the four major contributors - WPC, WCLC, Walberswick Local History Group (WLHG) and the Walberswick Scroll Committee (WSC). The team took the view that the best way to conserve the building was to give it a new life. Over 3 years of planning, the project evolved from the original concept of providing a safe home for the Scroll, WLHG archives, a base for the WPC and WCLC to the vision of also creating a vibrant, exciting and accessible community hub.

In April 2019 the WPC leased the HH to WCLC who took responsibility for the refurbishment. Under the terms of the lease a Management Committee (HHMC) was formed (details here: <https://tinyurl.com/HHlease>). The HHMC will be responsible for the day to day management of the HH and turning the vision into reality. The HH will be the permanent home of the Scroll, WLHG Archives, the headquarters of WPC, WCLC and the Village Fete. It will also be available for Walberswick artists to exhibit their work and for any other type of village-orientated exhibition of historic or educational interest using the building as a place celebrating Walberswick life and preserving it's "Heritage" in our historic "Hut!".

We would like to extend our thanks to those organisations and individuals who have kindly donated towards these refurbishments. Early in the new year we plan to hold open days for residents. The refurbished HH will be suitable for use 12 months a year and a booking system will be announced in good time.

Heritage Hut Management Committee
(Comprised of WPC, WCLC, WLHG & WSC)