



# Walberswick Village News

July 2023 | Issue 320

## New payment system to be introduced at the car parks

Walberswick Car Parks Limited (WCPL) is introducing an improvement to its payment systems. As some of you know, we have been struggling with the reliability of the card function on the pay and display machines, despite valiant efforts by our Operations Manager, her team, and the manufacturer. These problems are driven primarily by increasing signal problems with the machines and some technological obsolescence as parking payment systems increasingly move online. After careful research, and to address these problems, we have decided to introduce the online payment app RingGo.

RingGo is a well-known app that many of our customers will already have on their phones; it is used at Southwold Harbour, Halesworth and widely across East Suffolk. If visitors don't have the app, they will be able to download it quite easily the first time they park with us. It is easy, secure and good value for WCPL. We would like to offer our visitors more than one payment option, so for those who prefer to pay with cash, we will continue to operate one pay and display machine in each carpark.

It is our hope that RingGo will be up and running during the first week of July. There will be RingGo signs in both car parks near the pay and display machines, alerting customers to the new payment option. We hope these changes will help improve the visitor experience at our car parks and allow us to continue to generate reliably income for Walberswick Common Lands Charity.

**Josie Bassinette, Chair, Walberswick Car Parks Ltd on behalf of the Directors**

## Volunteers urgently needed for the fete

Calling all volunteers. Preparations are well under way for this year's village fete on Saturday, 26 August, but help is needed for setting up the fete and running stalls on fete day. If you are able to help, please contact David Neeves (01502 722556). A loan of a gazebo or two would also be very welcome.

Please contact Lorry Haslegrave (01502 724992) if you are able to help in the cafe on fete day, even if only for an hour or two. All cakes gratefully received at the cafe for sale on the day.

We couldn't do it without you. Looking forward to a wonderful day. **Esther Smith, Fete Committee**

## Your Bingo dates for August

Bingo will be back once again in the Village Hall for three sessions in August. Put the dates in your diary now and join in the best fun evenings in Walberswick this summer: **Wednesdays 9, 16 & 23 August.** Doors open at 5.30pm and play starts at 6pm sharp. All our usual snacks and drinks will be available. Cash only event. All proceeds to the Village Hall maintenance. **Jill Willison**

## Praise for the Black Dog Deli and The Anchor

Congratulations to Andy and team at the Black Dog Deli for being selected by *The Guardian* ([tinyurl.com/mvz4f67h](https://www.tinyurl.com/mvz4f67h)) as one of the best places in the UK to have breakfast. Congratulations also to Mark, Sophie and team at The Anchor for being listed as one of the five top coastal restaurants in Suffolk by *The East Anglian Daily Times* ([tinyurl.com/mh5cw7wr](https://www.tinyurl.com/mh5cw7wr)). **Editor**

## Don't miss the Horticultural Show

It's that time of year again - the annual Horticultural Show. Join us in the Village Hall on Saturday, 22 July.

A reminder to all competitors that exhibits must be personally handed in at the Village Hall between 9.30am and 10.45am. A copy of this year's schedule will be available on the village website (also available at [tinyurl.com/hortishow23](https://www.tinyurl.com/hortishow23)).

Between 3pm and 4.30pm, everyone is welcome to view the exhibits, support the raffle, enjoy tea and cake, and attend the prize giving.

Good luck everyone. **Suzzie Godfrey**

## Congratulations Huw

Congratulations to Huw Brentnall who, together with his friend, Lawrence Camm, completed their epic walk from John O'Groats to Land's End in aid of St Mungo's, the charity that helps homeless people rebuild their lives. The journey of approximately 1,100 miles took over three months, and they have raised £5,500 so far. If you have not yet supported Huw but would like to, you can still donate at [tinyurl.com/huwwalks](https://www.tinyurl.com/huwwalks). **Editor**

## The Anchor

### Beer & Oyster Festival - 5 & 6 August 2023

Our ever-popular Beer & Oyster Festival returns. Come and sample some fantastic beers and enjoy an oyster or 12 in the sunshine.

#### Musicians Wanted

If you are a local musician who is interested in performing at our Beer & Oyster festival, please contact us.

Open 7 days a week. Booking highly recommended  
[info@anchoratwalberswick.com](mailto:info@anchoratwalberswick.com) | 01502 722112  
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## Walberswick Common Lands Charity



### Sluices

Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC) is working with partners on two sluices that control water drainage from very different areas. Firstly, the sluice near the Bailey Bridge, which controls the level of water in the dykes and which can be seen from the Bird Hide, became stuck and allowed high tide sea water to flow into the dykes. You may have noticed that Farmer Mark Mayhew had to remove the cattle as their drinking water became saline. The Environment Agency used specialised equipment to explore the problem and retrieved a sailing dingy trolley. It was lodged in the mouth of the sluice, covered in silt and the most enormous rock oysters. All well now.



**Sailing dingy trolley found in the sluice**

The second sluice controls the water level in the reedbeds, on the footbridge near the disused windmill. WCLC is replacing it in July, working with the Inland Drainage Board. A GPS survey has been completed to check out the lie of the land. More on this next month.

### Bracken spraying on the Common

Please look out for signage on the Common during the last two weeks of July and into the beginning of August. The signage is to alert everyone that bracken spraying is being undertaken. It is difficult to give precise dates, as it is very weather dependent. **Vanessa Tucker, Environmental Stewardship Trustee**



## Walberswick Parish Council



### Spong Bridge repairs

Suffolk Highways will be undertaking much needed and long delayed repairs to the Spong Bridge, sometimes referred to as the Otter Bridge or the Dunwich River Bridge, the southernmost bridge that connects the marsh footpath to the beach south of the caravan park. Unfortunately, this will require the closure of the bridge from 14 August as the rotted and corroded timbers under the bridge deck need replacing. The work should be completed within three to six weeks. Suffolk Highways contractors will be cutting the footpaths around the fields and marshes in the first half of July to ensure alternative routes are clear. They will also be inspecting and replacing broken planks in our boardwalks before the bridge closure.

### Parish Council Internal Audit

Walberswick Parish Council (WPC) is delighted to have received another excellent annual report from our internal auditors (the Suffolk Association of Local Councils) and there were no required changes to the way we operate, just two small comments about how good practice could be further enhanced following new legislation introduced in the last year, which WPC has already resolved to adopt immediately. There were also a number of comments praising the existing good practices of WPC on areas such as budget setting.

### Public Inspection of Accounts

The next step in the annual financial cycle of the WPC is the Public Inspection of Accounts, which this year will take place from Monday, 26 June until Friday, 4 August and is an opportunity for any member of the public to inspect any aspect of the council's accounts, including all receipts and expenditure. These documents will be made available on reasonable notice by application to the Parish Clerk via email at [walberswickclerk@gmail.com](mailto:walberswickclerk@gmail.com). The Notice of Public Rights along with the Summary of Public Rights, the Accounting Statements, the AGAR Annual Internal Audit Report and the Annual Governance Statement can be all be viewed on the WPC noticeboards and online at [tinyurl.com/mtjpsy7k](http://tinyurl.com/mtjpsy7k).

### Vacancy for Parish Councillor

Following the recent local government elections, there still remains one vacancy for a parish councillor. If anyone is interested in applying to be a councillor or would simply like a conversation to know more about the work of WPC before deciding whether to apply, please contact the Parish Clerk at [walberswickclerk@gmail.com](mailto:walberswickclerk@gmail.com).

### Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 10 July at 7pm in the Heritage Hut and is open to members of the public. Full details will be published on the village website, or for further information, please contact the Parish Clerk at [walberswickclerk@gmail.com](mailto:walberswickclerk@gmail.com).

### I caught crabs at Walberswick...with a little help from The Little Wooden Hut

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**£1 donation to the RNLI/East Anglian Air Ambulance for each t-shirt sold**

### The Little Wooden Hut

The Quay,  
Ferry Rd,  
Walberswick

Open Daily  
from 1 July,  
9.30am-5pm

### Planning applications

At the time of publication, the following properties were awaiting a decision on their planning applications:

**Toby Cottage**, Leveretts Lane | **Box Bush**, Seven Acres Lane | **Long Roof**, Leveretts Lane | **Thrums**, Seven Acres Lane | **The Village Hall**, The Street | **Shorelands**, Palmers Lane

For the latest applications and Advisory Group Reports, go to the Planning page on the Walberswick [website](http://www.walberswick.org.uk).

## The Westwood Marsh Mill

Reproduced from the Walberswick Local History Group Newsletter, Number 47, February 2015, p2

A striking landmark on Westwood Marshes, this mill was built in 1798 and worked as a combined drainage and corn grinding mill. The drainage was achieved through a simple wheel, which scooped the water over a raised weir of about 12 inches; the water was then channelled through the marsh wall (Mill Wall) and a sluice out into what became the 'New Dunwich River'.

At the outbreak of WWII the marshes were flooded by blowing up the junction of the Mill Wall and the section that joins Little Dingle Hill, which enabled the flooding of the Westwood, Dingle and Dunwich Marshes. The sluice at Walberswick was then reversed to contain the water and so flood an immense area of low-lying grazing marsh.

The mill was then redundant and was used for rifle practice until the west side was completely blown out, exposing the internal woodwork. After the war there was a move to restore the mill and money was raised to repair the tower, reinstate the sails framework and repair the boat-shaped cap.

Unfortunately, during the 1960s the mill was set on fire, leaving it in its present ruinous state. There was a move by Natural England to repair the mill brickwork, and a committee was formed to look at the possibility of repairing the brickwork and adding a lookout or observation point at the top; information boards showing the mill and its environs as well as the wild life were also proposed. This plan was well under way, but unfortunately Natural England had to reduce staff, so the scheme was shelved. **Philip Kett**



The mill in 1934

Photo from the History Group's archives

## Diary Dates

### WI: Annual outing - Gainsborough House Museum

Thursday, 6 July

This month's meeting is a visit to Gainsborough House Museum in Sudbury. For more information, contact **Muriel Wortley**.

### Sea Sunday Evensong

Sunday, 9 July, 6pm in St Andrew's Church

Our monthly evensong will be all about the sea and 'Those in peril on the sea'. The choir will be singing Shenandoa with the shimmering sound of the waves. **Julia Josephs**

### Walberswick Horticultural Show

Saturday, 22 July, 3pm - 4.30pm in the Village Hall

Viewing of exhibits, raffle and refreshments. Free admission. **Suzzie Godfrey**



VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

WALBERSWICK.SUFFOLK.GOV.UK



Celebrating summer in the village  
courtesy of Sue English

## Church Matters St Andrew's Church Walberswick

### Team Vicar

Revd Alan Perry  
01502 453624

[adperry64@gmail.com](mailto:adperry64@gmail.com)  
[solebayteamministry.co.uk](http://solebayteamministry.co.uk)

### July 2023 Services

**Sunday, 2 July, 11.15am**

Sung Eucharist  
Joined with Blythburgh  
Revd Philip Tarris

**Sunday, 9 July 6pm**

Sea Sunday Evensong  
Revd Judy Miller

**Sunday, 16 July, 11.15am**

Sung Eucharist  
Revd Margaret King

**Sunday, 23 July, 11.15am**

Family Service  
Revd Margaret King

**Sunday, 30 July, 11am**

Team Service  
Blythburgh

**Every Wednesday, 10am**

Holy Communion  
Coffee on first Wednesday.

### Commemorative Flowers

9 July - Julia Josephs for  
Sister Dorothy

16 July - Pat Lancaster for Tony

23 July - For Pamela Webb

## Community Services

**Community Café:** Wednesday

5 July 2.30pm  
St Andrew's Church.

**Mobile Library:** Friday 21 July

2.15pm - 2.45pm,  
Village Hall car park.

**Norwich Bus:** Thursday morning,

20 July. Please contact  
Mandy Erlenbach on  
07590 697575 to book a place.

**Post Office:** Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm

Thursdays 10am - 12 noon,  
Village Hall Annex.

The next edition of the Village News will be published on 1 August 2023. The copy deadline is noon on 25 July 2023 and submissions should be sent to the editor at [walberswicknews@gmail.com](mailto:walberswicknews@gmail.com).

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