

Walberswick Village News

February 2024 | Issue 327

Join the Big Walberswick Wildlife Watch

The LionLink plans for a landfall site in Walberswick provide few details on the impact of crossing or tunnelling under fragile coastal and marshland habitat, or over protected heathland and woodland habitats. WALL (Walberswick Against LionLink) needs as much appropriate ecological information as possible to robustly challenge National Grid Ventures in its assessment of the effects under both the Habitats and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. You can help by recording your wildlife observations, particularly around our protected sites, by downloading the iRecord app (irecord.org.uk/app), which is available for both Apple and Android, works fully offline and contains all UK species. WALL will be working closely with the Walberswick Common Lands Charity and other key stakeholders on the project. Consultant ecologists will also be commissioned to undertake key surveys as required. More information on the project is available from Matthew Denny at mjhdenny@yahoo.co.uk or on 07973 462948, as well as on the WALL website wall-update.org. **WALL Committee**

Scan to go to the
iRecord website



Village artists raise funds for WALL

Many thanks to all who bid in the Art for WALL (Walberswick Against LionLink) silent auction fundraiser. There was a lot of interest and participation. The total raised was £7,793. We are incredibly grateful to the artists for their huge generosity in creating and donating the beautiful pieces of art: Alan Almond, Jackie Almond, Kate Felton Hall, Martha Freud, Karen le Roux, Charlie Mackesy, Sarah Muir Poland, David Riches, Helen Riches, Sara Solnick and Peter Wagstaff. And also Jeremy Solnick for his poem, Gorse on East Hill. Thanks too to all those who contributed to the success of the auction by helping to set it up and get it running.

We still have a few sets of postcards of the eleven works of art, and once they have all been sold, we will let you know how much they raised. **Liz Green**




Most of the Walberswick Choir after the Gin & Sing service in memory of Marian Beard. Singing, readings and the odd tippie. Some still with glass in hand. **Julia Sowerbutts**

Volunteers needed for the Village Fete

Following 2023's enjoyable and successful Village Fete we now need volunteers for this year's event on Saturday, 24 August. Fete preparations normally begin in March.

There are vacancies on the Fete Committee and for a number of stall holders. Various helpers are also needed during the year as well as before and after the Fete to help set it up and take it down. If you can help with any of these, please respond as soon as you can. It is most important to ensure that the Fete continues.

To volunteer, please contact **Esther Smith** at estherphiluk@yahoo.co.uk by Friday, 16 February.



The Anchor

Come and celebrate **Not Valentine**: A Valentine's Day dinner with friends at the Anchor on 14 February.
Booking strongly advised.
We will have delicious specials, beers and wine.
Also: Wednesday - Sunday 8.30am to 10.30am.
Morning coffee or tea with toast and homemade jam, £5.

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New Councillor

Walberswick Parish Council is delighted to announce the co-option of a Councillor to fill the one vacancy that was created during the election process last year. Emilie Dadswell was formally co-opted at the Council meeting on 15 January and joined with immediate effect. The Council would like to thank all those who put themselves forward over the last few months to fill this position.

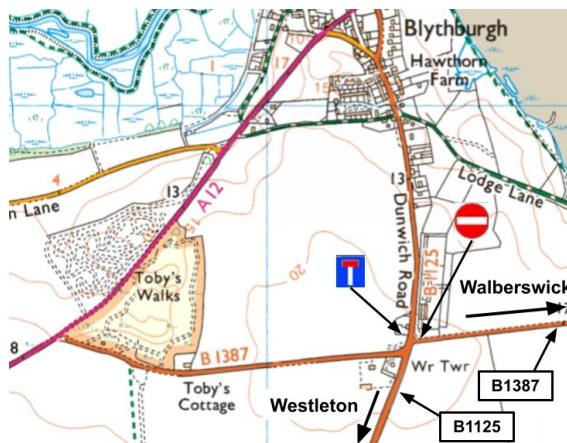
Nominative trustee for Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC)

Due to the end of a Trustee's term of office, a vacancy has arisen for a WCLC trustee nominated by the Parish Council. If anyone is interested in applying, please email the Parish Clerk at clerk@walberswick-pc.gov.uk.

Traffic Mitigation Measures in the Event of Sizewell C Construction

Walberswick Parish Council is a member of the B1125 Working Group established under the Deed of Obligation between Sizewell C and Suffolk County Council (SCC) and East Suffolk District Council. The purpose of the working group, comprised of Blythburgh, Walberswick and Westleton Parish Council representatives, is to mitigate some of the traffic and road safety issues of the B1125 (the Dunwich road from Blythburgh) associated with the Sizewell C construction.

Faced with a minimum construction period of 10-12 years and some 7,500 workers travelling to the area daily in addition to thousands of coaches, HGVs and vans, the B1125 will experience hugely increased volumes of Sizewell traffic heading to the B1122 (the Yoxford to Leiston road) and 'rat running' from the A12. Eventually, the pressure on the B1122, which will be the main route to Sizewell in the initial years, is expected to subside somewhat once the Sizewell C link road is built further south. But all routes, especially those like the B1125 that allow motorists to avoid an overwhelmed A12, will see unprecedented volumes of traffic throughout the long construction.



To help mitigate some of the impact, the B1125 Working Group has been working with highway engineers to design schemes to help slow traffic, improve safety, manage heavier flows and discourage 'rat running' as far as possible. A major traffic calming and road safety build is planned for the B1125 at Westleton. At the northern end, it has been proposed to close off the B1125 to the north where it meets the Walberswick Road (B1387) at the Water Tower junction so that traffic cannot 'rat run' through Blythburgh. Without the closure, it is believed that coming out of Walberswick across the B1125 will be extraordinarily dangerous and difficult, with long tailbacks and compromised safety a daily event. It would also be impossible to protect Blythburgh from massive volumes of traffic that would create very dangerous conditions.

In conjunction with closing the B1125 at the north, the B1387 junction at the A12 will be widened with separate left and right turn lanes. Turning from the A12 into the B1387 will have new lane markings, signage and 'anti-skid' surfacing to handle the much higher number of vehicles. This should also help control the tailbacks that occur, particularly in the summer, behind vehicles trying to turn out of the B1387 onto the A12.

Also needed for this scheme to work are improvements to the quality of the B1387 from the Water Tower to the A12. While Sizewell C is not including this within its responsibility, SCC Highways department, as participants in the B1125 Working Group, has confirmed that it is aware of the poor condition of this road and that drainage and curb improvements will be necessary.

Admittedly, many people who live in or visit Walberswick will find this closure unwelcome. Unfortunately, the reality is that the building of Sizewell C will be overwhelmingly negative and of long duration and therefore schemes like this will be essential to provide at least some mitigation to the most egregious traffic and safety impacts. WPC is therefore supportive of these proposals. Further details of the proposal, including diagrams, can be seen on the village website at tinyurl.com/2x7j78na.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 12 February 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 contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@walberswick-pc.gov.uk.

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Planning applications

At the time of publication, the following properties were awaiting a decision:

Shorelands, Palmers Lane | Grey Roof, Millfield Road | West Wood, Lodge Road (trees) | Blythwyc Cottage, The Street | Ferry Hut, Ferry Road | Rosemary Cottage, The Street | Briar Cottage, The Green | Mulberry House, Millfield Road | Wayland Cottage, The Street

The latest applications & Advisory Group Reports, can be found on the Walberswick [website](http://www.walberswick-pc.gov.uk).

Walberswick Common Lands Charity

We are delighted that the Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC) has been awarded a Countryside Stewardship Agreement with Natural England for another five years. Across all the ecosystems - reedbed, fen, coastal marsh, wet grassland and lowland heath - there is guidance and some resource to support biodiversity and nature recovery in these areas. To view the extent of WCLC's land and landscapes, have a look at the fantastic map in the Heritage Hut and on the village website at tinyurl.com/mpezx9rf.

During February, there will be a focus on the heathland, often known as the Common, with work planned to improve the presence of both Bell and Ling heather of all ages, as well as scrub and bracken clearance and footpath maintenance. Litter has been a bit of a problem, mostly poo bags and tissues which have dropped out of pockets. Your help across all the WCLC lands in keeping this clear is much appreciated.

During December, a group of National Landscapes Volunteers joined by several Village members worked on the WCLC land known as Bennetts Copse. It has a wonderful display of snowdrops each year and there is now access via a windy path to move gently amongst the snowdrops in dappled woodland. The group will be back in February to tackle the brambles on Cliff Field. **Vanessa Tucker, Environmental Stewardship Trustee**

February Kitchen and Garden

February is another slightly dormant month in the garden, ideal for continuing to plan everything you intend to do in the spring. Having said that, as soon as the soil starts to warm up and become less waterlogged, February and March are the last of the recommended months for planting bare root soft fruit bushes like black, red, and white currants, gooseberries, raspberries and blueberries. If you haven't the room in the garden or the inclination to grow soft fruit, an alternative could be a chilli plant for indoors or in the greenhouse. With all the different varieties, shapes and sizes of bush to choose from, it provides much more flexibility and makes a very attractive house plant. All these are categories in the Horticultural Show, which this year will be held on Saturday, 20 July in the Village Hall.

On the culinary side of things, why not consider making chilli jam? The chillies don't have to be home grown nor do any of the fruit or vegetables used in the other nine categories of jams, jellies and chutneys that will be part of the show.

Starting later in the month the Committee will be putting a monthly planting and care calendar on the village website for all the fruit and vegetable categories in the show. It will also be providing advice and guidance for entering exhibits, both horticultural and culinary.

The Horticultural Committee

Diary Dates

WI Monthly Meeting

Thursday, 1 February, 2.30pm in the Village Hall

Our speaker is Andrew Brogan, creator and owner of Henstead Exotic Gardens near Beccles. Visitors and new members welcome.

Muriel Wortley

The Happiest Days of Your Life

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 8, 9 & 10 February at 7.30pm, and Sunday, 11 February at 2.30pm in the Village Hall

The panto group will be performing this 1950s farce. Tickets are available from the Tuck Shop or from Mark & Jean Waller on 01502 722120. £10 for adults and £5 for children under 12 years. **Rob Lynch**

History Group meeting

Saturday, 2 March at 7pm in the Village Hall

Family, Friends and Art in Edwardian Walberswick. An illustrated talk about the network of artists that worked in Walberswick before the First World War. To reserve places, email **Edward Wright** at ewright123@btinternet.com.

Church Matters

St Andrew's Church Walberswick

Team Rector

Revd Russ Gant

russ.gant@solebayteamministry.co.uk
solebayteamministry.co.uk

February 2024 Services

Sunday, 4 February 11.15am

Sung Eucharist

Joined by Blythburgh

Revd Stephen Abbott

Sunday, 11 February 5pm

Choral Evensong

Revd Russ Gant

Sunday, 18 February 11.15am

Sung Eucharist

Revd Margaret King

Sunday, 25 February 11.15am

Family Service

Revd Judy Miller

Every Wednesday 10am

Ash Wednesday, 14 February

Holy Communion

Coffee on first Wednesday

Parish Registers

28 December - Funeral Service

Maureen Thompson aged 93

Commemorative Flowers

11 February - Pat Lancaster
for Tony

Community Services

Mobile Library: Friday,
2 February 2.15pm-2.45pm,
Village Hall car park.

Norwich Bus: Thursday morning,
15 February. Please contact
Mandy Erlenbach on 07590
697575 to book a place.

Post Office: Tuesdays 1pm-3pm;
Thursdays 10am-12 noon,
Village Hall Annex.

VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

[WALBERSWICK.SUFFOLK.GOV.UK](https://walberswick.suffolk.gov.uk)

The next edition of the Village News will be published on 1 March 2023. The copy deadline is noon on 25 February 2024 and submissions should be sent to the editor at news@walberswicknews.co.uk.

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