

VILLAGE NEWS

JANUARY 2014 ISSUE 203



A Very Happy New Year to All Our Readers!
(With Grateful Thanks to our Stalwart Distributors)

COMMON LANDS CHARITY

Working with Natural England, the Charity proposes to trial a new method of managing our beautiful Common. For two months (January & February) sheep will be allowed into a fenced enclosure around the Fen to see if they can help control the growth of silver birch, thereby substantially reducing the need for herbicides. Sheep have been used in this way since the Middle Ages, creating diverse landscapes and rich wildlife habitats. No official footpaths will be affected, the flock will be checked regularly and a contact number will be displayed.

The Trustees have again made Christmas donations to local schools, hospitals, health care organisations and other bodies that serve the Village.

After analysing responses to the questionnaire on the future of the Pavilion, the Trustees concluded that there is insufficient demand to re-build it. However, there may be the case for a permanent shelter for the benefit of parents supervising children.

The Charity owns Robinson's Marshes, which were flooded on 5 December after being breached by the tidal surge in three places. The Environment Agency has said it will repair these breaches but it is not clear whether they will continue to do this in the future. The Trustees are investigating a 'self-help' solution to preserve the Marshes and footpath from the Ferry Hut to Bailey Bridge for the long term, as they are such an important amenity to the economy of the Village and its residents.

Jayne Tibbles (Clerk) James Darkins (Chairman)

RECENT FLOOD DAMAGE

The storm surge in the first week of December caused considerable damage to the Village's surrounding environment, but property damage was far less than that experienced by some other communities along the East Coast. The peak water level was higher than that in 2007 but was still 4 feet below the flood defence walls. It was not just the height of water that caused the damage, but rather the speed at which the surge engulfed the area.

Water entered the ground floors of properties at the end of Ferry Road and also the huts by the ferry, leaving behind thick silt that will have to be cleared. Beach huts around the camp site were moved and damaged. The camp site, Cliff Field and the caravan site were covered in reed litter to a depth of 2 feet. The dunes and shingle ridge have been badly eroded and towards Dunwich the ridge has been breached, causing more water to enter the marsh each high tide. The Blyth river wall on the Walberswick side has been breached near the Ferry Road car park, opposite the Harbour Inn and to the west of the Bailey Bridge: as a result the marshes between here and Blythburgh have been flooded, and flood water came within 3 feet of properties at the bottom of the Lea. The marshes of the Nature Reserve between here and Dunwich are badly damaged with bridges and board walks being torn up and reed beds flattened.

Fortunately the Environment Agency moved fast to fill the breaches in the river bank, and had machinery in place to start work less than one week later.

David Webb

AFTER DARK

Most residents in the village support the absence of street lighting. Nobody has yet had a serious accident, but it is important that pedestrians and cyclists wear clothing that shows in the dark. Make sure you are clearly visible!

Working party of the Parish Plan

All copy by 8pm on the 15th of each month to Julia Reisz at the Old Tea Room The Green
Walberswick IP18 6TU. Email: julinka@hotmail.co.uk Telephone: 01502 723275

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2 DECEMBER 2013

Open Forum Session. The Parish Council received questions relating to bank accounts held; the size of precept set for 2014-15; the future of the Heritage Hut; and putting the EELGA report on the Parish Council website.

Temporary Clerk's Report. Actions undertaken on behalf of the Parish Council included: adding updates to the Allotments, ICO decisions and Planning Applications sections of the website; generating and displaying Parish Councillor and Parish Council Clerk vacancy advertisements; contacting Walberswick Groups re the future of the Heritage Hut; the Christmas event on 23 December; trial ban of dogs on the beach; and ongoing monitoring of the financial position. At 2 December the Parish Council had available finances of £14830.12.

Councillors then discussed the budget for 2014-15, with the agreement to accept and approve the updated budget proposal of £14185, a reduction of £4856 over the 2013-14 budget; changes to the Bank Mandate; Annual Return Audit invoice; Broadband (the cabinets were due for upgrade in June 2014); training for new Councillors; interview procedure for the Clerk and Parish Councillor; Christmas event, Carols on the Green; trial ban of dogs on the beach; and the future of the Heritage Hut.

Planning applications received. **Sunningdale, The Street:** fell Cupressus Macrocarpa with heavy lean for safety reasons. **Lu Shan, Millfield Road:** reduce crown of Eucalytus by 3-4m to avoid building contact. The Parish Council discussed these and raised no objections to either of the applications. **Cllr Haslegrave** was appointed the Tree Warden for Walberswick.

Finally, **Cllr Gower** asked that speeding in the Village be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

J Boggis, Temporary Clerk

KEEP FIT GROUPS NEED YOU...

...and you need to keep fit!

On Tuesday mornings in the Village Hall you have a choice of 2 fitness classes:

9.15 – 10.15 Aerobic Class

10.30 - 11.30 Gentler Exercise and Stretching

Mark Nussey is an excellent instructor & we need you to make it worth his while to continue with us.

Jenny Cardwell

BUS INFORMATION

Walberswick residents and guests only (no charge):

Norwich bus - every third Thursday. Leaves 9.15am from Tuck Shop. Departs Norwich 2pm.

Halesworth bus - every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday. Leaves 10am picking up from Anchor, Tuck Shop and Church. Departs Halesworth 11.45am.

Lowestoft bus - every first Wednesday in the month. Leaves 10am, picking up from usual places. Returns to Walberswick by 1pm.

Coastlink: To book the service, which is priced at a level similar to bus services, just call **01728 833526** before 12 noon the day before you wish to travel.

TEN TIMES TABLE

A comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

Walberswick Village Hall

13-15 Feb 7.30 & 16 February 2.30

Tickets £8 on sale in the Tuck Shop now

01502 722255

WALBERSWICK HISTORY GROUP

Both Tony and I took some photos on 6 December of the flooding after the storm surge and I plan to put them on a memory stick to keep in the History Group Archives. If anyone has any photos they would like to add to this, just let me know or send them to me by email. Thank you.

Pat Lancaster, History Group Archivist
pat@globalchair.co.uk

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

POST OFFICE Tuesdays 1-3pm, Thursdays 10am-12 noon Village Hall

NORWICH BUS Thursday 16th 9.15am Ring 724763 to book

MOBILE LIBRARY Friday 17th 2.20-2.50pm Village Hall

VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE: www.walberswick.suffolk.gov.uk

CANCER RESEARCH

Thanks to all who donated time and goods to our Mini Market, and to all who attended and spent their money so generously. We still have some outstanding expenses and a bit more money to come in. On the day we raised £1682.20. With presales and donations the total came to £2009.70. After expenses so far we are left with an amazing £1944.70! Well done Walberswick!!

Betsy Lemmon

CHURCH MATTERS

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WALBERSWICK

Team Rector

Revd Simon Pitcher (725424)

revsimon@talktalk.net

Ordained Local Minister

Revd Brian Fisher (723023)

Churchwarden: Chrissie Reeves (723351)

JANUARY SERVICES

5 Epiphany 1100 Parish Eucharist
Celebrant Revd Simon Pitcher

12 Baptism of Christ 0930 Parish Eucharist
Celebrant Revd Lizzie Gregory

Also Choral Evensong at 1800

Preacher Revd Joan Lyon

19 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 1100 Parish Eucharist
Celebrant Revd Brian Fisher

26 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 0930 Eucharist
Celebrant Revd Simon Pitcher

Tuesdays at 1700 Evening Prayer (said)

No Evening Prayer on December 24th & 31st

Wednesdays at 1000 Holy Communion 1662 (said)

100 YEARS, 100 TREASURES

This excellent book (£5) has been produced by the Diocese to mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich.

An interesting article has been written specially by our friend Roy Tricker, who wrote our Church Guide. If you would like a copy please sign the form in Church, where you can also view the book.

£2 from the sale of each book will go to charity.

Julia Josephs

SOLE BAY TEAM WEBSITE

The Team Secretary urgently needs some photos of Walberswick Church for our website. A wedding or a baptism or maybe one taken at the launch of the new Guide. Please send any to Tania on email at assistvicar@aol.com. She will be most grateful.

Julia Josephs

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our first meeting of the New Year is on **Thursday 2 January**. Our guest speaker, Mr Gus Jones, will tell us about the life of "*Scott's Forgotten Surgeon*". While we all know of Captain Robert Scott, many of us have no idea of the important part played by Dr Reginald Koettlitz in Scott's expeditions. It promises to be a fascinating talk, which any guests are also welcome to attend at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Would members please arrive early on 2 January at 2.00 pm to pay their annual subscriptions!

Jill Willison

LETTER FROM THE OLM (Retired)

On 1 December last year, in the Church's calendar, we began the four weeks of Advent when we looked forward to celebrating the first coming of Christ as a little baby & also his second coming as Lord over all. And now, here we are looking forward to a New Year wondering just what it has in store for us. Do you look ahead to happy & joyful events already arranged, or do you look in some trepidation at what might happen? After all, we are aware that for many people in the world as well as some locally, 2013 was not a good year. The very clear message in the Bible, given to us by Christ, is that we should take one day at a time & not be anxious or worry about the future but simply leave it in God's very capable hands. St Paul, in his letter to the young church at Philippi assured his readers (and that includes us) of this when he wrote: *'The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'*.

2014 will see our diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich celebrating its foundation 100 years ago as a separate diocese. A souvenir book has been published entitled '**100 Years, 100 Treasures**' A Celebration of Suffolk Churches. (See left)..

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who attended & helped at what all concerned seemed to think was a memorable Christmas Luncheon Club. The next lunch will take place on **Friday, 10 January at 12.30pm** in the Village Hall.

Wishing you a happy & peaceful New Year,

Brian Fisher

A MOMENT OF MAGIC

This is the title of a painting an artist in the village has made of St Andrew's Evensong Choir at practice in the Church this Christmas. The painting has been reduced and printed as a card which may be seen (and purchased) in the Village Shop.

Julia Josephs