

# VILLAGE NEWS



JANUARY 2012 ISSUE 179

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS**

## OPEN GARDENS

The success of this summer's garden venture, and all the very positive feedback we have received, has prompted the Village Hall Committee to plan a similar event in two years' time. We know that gardening is a long-term process so we are giving advance notice that it will be on **22/23 June 2013**. It will be lovely to see the progress made by the gardens we saw this year, and we would welcome new ones too. Meanwhile, enjoy the gardening catalogues as you relax by the fire during the long dark winter evenings.  
**Village Hall Management Committee**

## WALBERSWICK FILM CLUB

Our film for 15 January is *Invictus* (Latin: unconquerable, undefeated) about Nelson Mandela's bid, during the 1995 Rugby World Cup, to promote racial harmony in South Africa through the Springboks rugby team with its one black player. Nominated for 2 Oscars, the film is directed by Clint Eastwood, starring Morgan Freeman as Mandela with Matt Damon as Francois Pienaar, the team captain. The season's film shows continue on 19 February, 18 March and 15 April, so it's not too late to pay your subscription for this season. Members pay £2.00 admission and non-members £4.00.  
Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm. Guests welcome.  
**The Film Club Committee**

## THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

The 6th Village Christmas production, a family musical, takes place at the Village Hall on 1-5 February. Information and tickets from **The Tuck Shop** or **Jean Waller (07889452822)**.

## PROBLEMS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

Initially there was a planning application objected to by a number of people, some particularly strongly. The Parish Council also objected to the initial application, but not in the terms a small group of objectors wished. As a result, that group bombarded the Council with numerous letters, some of which were personal in nature. They then started to try to undermine the Council, making mountains out of small errors and demanding records of discussions that were not recorded. The volume of correspondence was taking up so much of the Clerk's time that normal Council work was placed in jeopardy. The Council took legal advice and then informed those concerned that the Council would no longer correspond with them on the basis that their requests were vexatious and/or repetitive. Unfortunately that advice was procedurally incorrect and led to the objectors making complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as they were entitled to do, saying their requests under the Freedom of Information Act and similar legislation were not being dealt with.

Dealing with the objectors and ICO has resulted in the new Clerk having to work well in excess of her normal hours, for which she has to be paid. This, together with a drop in income compared with last year and the need to put aside £800 for an election in February, has seriously affected the Council financially. Routine meetings have been cut: the Clerk's time saved can be used to deal with this correspondence and hopefully satisfy the objectors. The Law requires the Clerk to respond; it is in the hands of the four main objectors to stop the correspondence.

It is vital, for the good of the village, that time on these issues is reduced. The Parish Plan is expected to be finalised around Easter and will recommend the Council undertake or lead many beneficial projects for the village. It would be a great pity if that has to be set aside in favour of continuing this correspondence which effectively deals only with the past.

**David Webb, Chairman; Jane Gomm, Clerk  
Walberswick Parish Council**

All copy by 8pm on the 15th of each month to Julia Reisz at the Old Tea Room The Green Walberswick IP18 6TU. E-mail: [julinka@werthimer.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:julinka@werthimer.fsnet.co.uk) Telephone: 01502 723275

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5 DECEMBER 2011

**Planning matters:** Suffolk Coastal District Council has given permission for the following: the retention of a boiler flue on a barn at the **Stables**; the erection of extensions and alterations at **Little Meadow, The Street**; a dormer window in **2 The Terrace**; and the reduction in height and spread of a sycamore tree at **Saltlick, Leveretts Lane**.

The Council raised no objection to the erection of a two storey extension at **Holly Cottage, The Street**; and the erection of extensions to the house and garage at **South Close, Leveretts Lane**.

The Council objected to the grant of planning permission for extensions at **3 Millstones, Millfield Road**. The Council also decided to write in support of Suffolk Coastal District Council to the Planning Inspectorate concerning an appeal relating to **Plot 1, Land North of Alexandra Cottage**.

**Financial Matters:** The Council made some very uncomfortable financial decisions. The precept (which is the amount the District Council obtains on behalf of the Parish as part of the council tax) for the financial year 2012-2013 was agreed at £16,000. It is a very large increase on this year's precept. It has been caused by a number of matters including the anticipated use of all the Council's reserves this year. Most of the additional costs incurred this year relate to the need to deal with very high volumes of requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act and similar legislation. In order to try to reduce costs it has been agreed not to hold any routine meetings until April 2012. Delegated powers have been given to me to carry on with Parish Council work and I will call meetings if necessary.

**Jane Gomm, Clerk to Council (01502 723294) [wpcclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcclerk@btinternet.com)**

### COMMON LANDS CHARITY REPORT

Negotiations continue for the transfer of the Heritage Hut from Suffolk County Council to the Charity. The Bennett's Drift storage building is now fully let. A feasibility study is underway to take over the East Point (crabbing) bridge from the Environment Agency. Some of the large gorse on the Common will be removed by heavy machinery in the coming weeks. Donations are being made to local hospitals, schools and other bodies that serve the Village community. The Charity has supported the establishment of a children's play group. Barbara Priestman is retiring after 20 years as a Co-optative Trustee: we will all miss her. Keith Webb will be replacing her as Trustee and James Darkins will take over as Chairman. Relief in need is one of the Charity's main objectives and requests for assistance by individuals and local groups are carefully considered by the Trustees  
**Jayne Tibbles, Clerk (724448)**

### ART SHOW

An exhibition of works showing the landscape and fauna around Walberswick by Bill Ungless, will be at the Cut, Halesworth, from 6 January to 4 February 2012. A preview with drinks will be held on Saturday 7 January from 12-2pm.

### WALBERSWICK WEBSITE

The new village website is up and running!

<http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net> Please send us dates for the diary and pictures for the galleries.

**Kay Ungless:** [admin@walberswick.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:admin@walberswick.suffolk.gov.uk)

**Helen Baxter:** [diary@walberswick.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:diary@walberswick.suffolk.gov.uk),

**Claire Whittenbury:** [galleries@walberswick.gov.uk](mailto:galleries@walberswick.gov.uk)

### WALBERSWICK SEED SWAP

The annual Walberswick Seed Swap will be held from 10am - 1pm on Saturday 18 February 2012 in the Village Hall. Discover new plant varieties, consider planting a wildflower patch, and pick up a few unusual seed potatoes. Don't worry if you haven't any seeds to swap: you can still take away a selection for a small donation. Refreshments will be available, and all are welcome to this free event.

**Caroline Gilby (725416)**

**Betsy Lemmon (722384)**

### CYSTIC FIBROSIS

I have today banked £1993.04 which represents this summer's takings on my bookstall. Many thanks to all who contributed. I understand genetic trials are taking place to address this disease and an effort is being made to complete these trials. Please, no more books until the summer, and thank you again.

**Toby Robinson**

### WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

**LUNCHEON CLUB** Friday 13th 12.30pm Village Hall

**MOBILE LIBRARY** Fridays 13th & 27th 1.55-3.15pm The Green

**NORWICH BUS** Thursday 19th 9.15 *Note earlier time (Ring 724763 to book)*

**KEEP FIT** Tuesdays Stretch 9.15-10.15, Tone 10.30-11.30 Village Hall

VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE: [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/walberswickpc](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/walberswickpc)

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Thursday 5 January 2012 sees the start of our New Year's programme with a visit from Russell Stone; he will talk to us about making violins and the history of Woodbridge Violins.

We will also be taking bookings for our New Year's lunch at the Wentworth on Friday 20 January. Bookings for 10-Pin Bowling on Tuesday 31 January will also be taken. Come and join us in the Village hall at 2.30pm. for an exciting start to 2012 !!

Irene Prince

## CHURCH MATTERS

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WALBERSWICK

Team Rector

Revd Simon Pitcher (725424)

[revsimon@talktalk.net](mailto:revsimon@talktalk.net)

Ordained Local Minister

Revd Brian Fisher (723023)

Churchwardens: Christine Fisher (723023)

Christine Reeves (723351)

### JANUARY SERVICES

- |    |             |                                     |
|----|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | Christmas 2 | 1000 Family Team HC<br>at Southwold |
|    |             | Richard Henderson & Simon Pitcher   |
| 8  | Epiphany    | 0930 Parish Eucharist               |
|    | Celebrant   | The Revd Brian Fisher               |
|    | ALSO        | 1800 Choral Evensong                |
|    | Preacher    | The Revd Simon Pitcher              |
| 15 | Epiphany 2  | 1100 Parish Eucharist               |
|    | Celebrant   | The Revd Simon Pitcher              |
| 22 | Epiphany 3  | 0930 Parish Eucharist               |
|    | Celebrant   | The Revd Brian Fisher               |
| 29 | Epiphany 4  | 0930 Sung Eucharist                 |
|    | Celebrant   | The Revd Simon Pitcher              |

Tuesdays at 1700 Evening Prayer (said)

Wednesdays at 1000 Holy Communion 1662 (said)

Wednesday (4<sup>th</sup>) Healing Service with CW (said)

### THE 2011 CAROL SERVICE

There are always so many people to praise and thank after the service of Lessons and Carols, but this year a special mention of the excellent readers. Theirs is a lonely task as they rehearse in a freezing cold church, subject to much criticism. However, enormous thanks to everyone and that must include the tremendous congregation!

Julia Josephs

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Once again there was enormous generosity in support of our troops and their families. Combined with Blythburgh the Poppy Appeal raised £2205 which included £777 raised at the coffee morning. Thank you to all who contributed time, effort and money.

Judith Hetherington

Hon. Poppy Appeal Organiser

### CANCER RESEARCH

Many thanks to all who supported the Mini Market this year. We raised an amazing £2200 on the morning! With pre-sales and donations we hope to send a £2400 cheque to Cancer Research. We are grateful to the generosity of the community and volunteers who contributed their time and goods for the stalls.

Betsy Lemmon

### MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

A big thank-you to all who donated to my stall at Dutch House and who purchased the garden products. The grand sum of £647. 35. has been sent to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Mary King

### FROM THE TEAM RECTOR

Mindful of the fact that the recently published Parish Plan for Walberswick expresses a desire that the Church building be used to the best possible extent for the whole community, the Parochial Church Council is to begin 2012 with an "away day". What we hope to achieve on our day (we are only going as far as Southwold!) is to think carefully about what we do and how we might do it better.

We will give some thought to the building. Heating, lighting and comfort are important if the building is to be used to a greater extent. Inevitably with old buildings, any improvements are always expensive, so fund-raising and finance might be on our agenda.

We might also spend some time thinking about worship, what we do, and when. Our thoughts will hopefully enable us to come up with some practical steps that will help the church family to continue to play a vital role in community life – not just in 2012 but for many years to come. If anyone has any suggestions for things that they might like to see at St Andrews, please let us know.

Revd Simon Pitcher

The Luncheon Club will take place on 13 January at 12.30 pm in the Village Hall.

### PARISH REGISTER

17th November 2011 Interment of Ashes

Sylvia Florence Fairs aged 78