



WALBERSWICK



NEWSLETTER NO: 51

FEBRUARY 2017

GENERAL

Website: I am very pleased to say that the History Group's pages on the One Suffolk website are continuing to prove very worthwhile and numerous people have contacted both myself and the site itself to remark how "user friendly it was". There have been numerous compliments about our pages and I hope to be in a position to add to them when I can. Please let me know if there is anything in particular you would like to see on the website and I shall do my best.

Talks: We had two very interesting talks during the year – Jenny Hand gave an interesting insight to the Munnings Museum in October and our own Libby Purvis enthralled a packed house with her recollections of her childhood in Walberswick in the 1950s.

Pat Lancaster

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

I must confess to an error in the 50th edition of the newsletter. The picture on the back page of those who embroidered the Kneelers, gave the name "Mary Mayfield", sorry but I am advised that this was in fact Hugoline Wilson. Apologies.

Pat Lancaster

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Subscriptions are now due. If you have not already paid, please contact Maureen Thompson as soon as possible on 01502 723755, with your subscription which is £7.50.

Maureen Thompson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM

- Tuesday 25th April 2017

***John Doman Turner and the Walberswick Village Scroll –
Stephen & James Robertson present their newly discovered findings
& Esther Freud will talk on her research for "The Sea House"***

- Saturday 13th May 2017

Hero of the Walberswick Local History Group

Hanns Lange (H. W. and E.M Lange)

In 2016 Walberswick Local History Group (WLHG) celebrated the 25th Anniversary of its formation. From a small band of enthusiasts it has grown to be Walberswick's largest club. If I had to select my hero from amongst those early pioneers it would be Hanns Lange. Not many people will now remember this man who made Walberswick his summer home for more than 30 years. I certainly do not claim to have known him at all well. However, a chance meeting in 1998 has left me with a growing admiration for the work he produced.

Our meeting was precipitated by the death of my Uncle, Owen English in December 1997 aged 73. Amongst the various items I inherited from Owen was an A4 hand-written sheet of paper showing how he was descended from an Edmund English, born 1754. The page had an address label on it showing that it had been created by H W and E M Lange of Anchorlea, Walberswick. Prior to this I had never thought much about family history, though I knew there had been lots of Walberswick people with the name English. However, inspired by this small piece of my history I updated and expanded the chart with post-1900 information and sent this to the Langes. In April 1998 I received a letter from Hanns attached to which were copies of pages from his now famous "Register of Walberswick families". I met the Langes later that summer at Anchorlea for the one and only time.

At the time I met Hanns, and for some time to come, his register of Walberswick families (compiled in 1993) was only accessible to a small band of fellow WLHG members and by chance (as in my case). Even when it became part of the WLHG archive access was by letter and photocopying. The recent initiative that lead to the digitising of the archives has changed all that. As a fitting memorial to Hanns, and all his painstaking work, his register is now free to be searched online. So, if you have not already done so, take a look at this magnificent piece of work by going to <http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/walberswick-local-history-group/families-hanns-lange/>.

Before I explain why I admire his work so much I should give you some history of the man himself. Indirectly, Hanns has taken care of this already and the document that explains much of the relevant history is also available online. This is not really a history of Hanns but a history of the house he stayed in at Walberswick called Anchorlea. The document is titled "*The History of The Blue Anchor*". As many will know, the original Anchor / Blue Anchor pub was moved up the street in 1927 to become a private residence called Anchorlea. The current Anchor (built behind the old pub) was opened the same year. You can read all about it in Hanns' own words at <http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/assets/WLHG/Blue-AnchorHWL.pdf>.

The photograph here shows John (Jack) Winyard, the publican at the time the old Anchor was dismantled. This must have been taken after the move as the two men are standing where the old pub would have been. The man with Jack Winyard is Robert (Bob) English, my grandfather.

To summarise the Lange's involvement, we can pick up the story in 1949 when Anchorlea was bought by Mr Willi Hoffer, physician and surgeon, originally from Vienna. Hoffer was an



associate of Anna Freud, daughter of Sigmund Freud. Anna Freud presumably introduced Hoffer to Walberswick as she owned Thorpe View at the time. In 1967, when Hoffer died, Anchorlea passed to Anna Freud's nephew Ernest Freud. During his ownership, from 1969 Hanns and Edna Lange spent many holidays at Anchorlea. In 1986 Hanns bought the cottage and he and Edna lived there and in Purley until around 2000 when he and Edna decided the journey back and forth was too much and they made the decision to leave Anchorlea and Walberswick.

In a 2012 WLHG newsletter the editor, Julia Reisz, welcomed Pat Lancaster as the new archivist, and selecting "*one of the gems*" of the archive, paying tribute to Hanns Lange stating "*It is truly wonderful that a refugee to this country should have settled in our little patch of England and undertaken this tremendous piece of research*". Those few words from Julia summarise the enigma underlying my admiration for Hanns' work. Most of us get involved in family history research to look at our own family. Hanns was from a different country and had no family connection to Walberswick. In 1993 without the use of the internet or a word-processor he completed an assiduous and painstaking piece of research that was of no direct value to himself. In those days he would have needed to travel to consult the various source records making notes and copies to be used when he got home. The register was compiled and typed using something never seen now – a typewriter - by Edna. It can only have been a labour of love. I wish I had asked him. Now, due to a technology that he could not have imagined in 1993 his work is available for all to see from anywhere in the world with an internet connection.

WLHG was set up to research local history and Hanns Lange certainly did that with no apparent motive other than that of a historian. I cannot imagine how many hours he devoted to this task and how methodical he must have been cross-checking one source against another. Even with a village as small as Walberswick the volume of data is enormous and made harder to check by the shared names. I could not have done it and to me he is a hero of the WLHG.

John English

PARISH MAGAZINE (November 1947)

Published almost 70 years ago this document was donated to WLHG by Valmai Sharman. Valmai had kept this safely for all those years as it records her baptism and that of her brother Paul on September 21st. It will now go into the archive and be safe, we hope, for many years to come. The magazine was produced for St. Andrew's, Walberswick and Holy Trinity, Blythburgh and was No. 11 of Vol. XIX (work that one out yourself).

There are 20 pages, 12 produced locally and 8 syndicated. Like the current Village News the locally-produced pages include a letter-style message from the vicar, lists of dates and times for church events and many advertisements. The syndicated pages contain a mixture of articles of general interest.

Locally-produced pages

The cover page is shown to the right. The vicar was the Rev. A D Thompson. The Church wardens included a Mr. C. Gilbert who many will still remember as a local fisherman. The house he lived in was just across the road from St. Andrew's church.

With a price of threepence (1.25 new pence) this was more than the current Village News which is free! However it included eight syndicated pages of articles in addition.

The letter from the vicar corrected a misprint in the October issue and congratulated three young people for examination success. The last paragraph concerned the Bulcamp Institution (strictly Red House by that time) and a request for donations to “enable the inmates to enter more fully into the happiness which is always associated with the festivities of the season”. The use of the word “inmates” gives an indication of the type of institution this was, or had been (a work house). In 1947 it did not have a reputation for happiness whatever the season. The following year (1948) Bulcamp was referred to in Parliament as “Dickensian”. That year it also became a hospital. The area has since been redeveloped to provide homes for people at the other end of the social spectrum. This caused local disquiet due to the number of inmates who never left and were buried at the site. The advertisements will bring back memories for those who remember Walberswick in the fifties and include:



- W G Winyard – House, Land and Estate Agent (a family still represented in the village today and which had involvement then and later in The Anchor, The Tuck Shop and the Legal services)
- Manor Farm Dairy (on the site of Manor Road)
- Messrs. Block – Builders, Contractors & Undertakers (providing homes for the living and the dead it appears)
- The Tuck Shop – both at Walberswick and Westleton. The proprietors C & A Allard.
- South Close – a guest house in Leverett’s Lane. The proprietress Mrs Salter.
- The Anchor Hotel. The proprietor E Winyard
- J C Reynolds – “Supply Stores” and “The Stores”. Many will remember Mr and Mrs Reynolds who had shops facing the Green.

Syndicated Pages

While the local pages provided mainly information the syndicated pages were presumably meant to provide interesting reading. The following articles appear:

- **That Sticky Wicket:** This article by the Rev. Ashby was intended to provide advice to youth by comparing life to a game of cricket. Nowadays this would be seen as highly comical but, presumably, in 1947 not so. It is full of observations such as “Alas, life is not a game which is always played on a good wicket”. “Indeed the wicket may be “pretty bumpy and the bowling difficult to play”. The answers included “the rules of good sportsmanship” and “our inherited national character”.
- **Church news:** Ten paragraphs concerning churches around the country including St James’ Church, Cooling, Kent and its association with Charles Dickens, and *Great Expectations*.
- **The World’s Biggest Organ:** These were indeed more innocent days when such a title could be used without a picture-postcard thought. This giant organ was to be found in Atlantic City, USA.

- **Elizabeth – and other names:** This used the recent marriage of Elizabeth, Alexandra, Mary to Philip as a pretext to discussing the meaning of names.
- **Weekday Hints for Women with Homes:** This was post-war England and well before men were expected to share the house-hold chores. It was also a time of austerity. Several hints include good uses for army blankets such making a curtain for the kitchen door or a “coupon-less” dressing gown for a man.

As well as being a historical record the magazine now provides interesting reflections of life in post-war Walberswick and post-war England. When we discuss austerity in 2017 it is of a different kind to that in 1947. The whole of society has changed but life can still produce a “sticky wicket”.

John English

ODE TO MY VILLAGE

Valmai M. Sharman

In wintertime in Walberswick
The folks you see about
Wear woolie hats and wellie boots
Whenever they go out

There's a cool east wind a 'blowin'
About the place today
And it doesn't matter where you walk
It'll get you anyway

Now the east wind is a chill wind
It comes right off the sea
It stings your face; your nose goes red
But it doesn't bother me

I love to walk upon the beach
Yes, each and every day
No matter if the sea is blue
Or if it's dull and grey
The waves they laugh and tumble

As they roll into the shore
Oh, I couldn't ask for a better place
No, I couldn't ask for more

'Cos Walberswick is dear to me
Yes, I've lived here all my days
And the folk are pretty special too
Though they have their funny ways

There's always a friend to help you
Whenever you're feeling down
And that don't come so easy
When you're living in a town

I said I'd lived here all my life
And here is where I'll stay
This village is where I belong
Until my dying day.....

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TREASURER

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs Pat Kett for her sterling work as Treasurer and Committee Member since the formation of the Group in 1991. Her contribution to the Group over the years was considerable. We are very fortunate that Mr Alan Porter has offered to take over this role. He will of course need to be elected on to the Committee at the AGM, together with the other members of the Committee, and then proposed and seconded to the Treasury position.

DIONE HILARY SHIRREFF
24TH DECEMBER 1927 – 8TH OCTOBER 2016

Dione was very much part of the village. She loved Walberswick and its people. She and David first came here in the 1950s when our grandparents lived at Leveretts. She and David moved here from West Suffolk to live at Leveretts in 1981. Both Dione and David were founder members of The History Group. She loved her garden and her vegetables and even up to this year she still managed to come home from the Horticultural Show with prizes for her eggs, vegetables, jams and lemon curds. Dione loved walks on the marshes, common and beach with her little dog Hattie. She even managed a couple of swims in the sea this year, not bad for an 88 year old! On the day she died, she was so looking forward to attending the village Harvest Supper. Sadly, she never made it, but we are sure she was there in spirit.

James Shirreff

THE LORDS OF THE MANOR OF BLYTHBURGH AND WALBERSWICK

As your Chairman I have been asked to write a topical piece for the newsletter, and I thought a piece about The Lords of The Manor of Blythburgh with Walberswick and Hinton (all that remains of the estate) would be interesting, as we are about to get a change in ownership.

The earliest reference to the manor is an implied one in the Domesday Book: *“The church at Blythburgh possessed two carucates of land with nine villeins and four bordarii. In the (Edward) Confessor's time there was one carucate of this held in desmesne, but at the Norman Survey only half a carucate.”* Four ploughs were originally kept by the tenants, but in the later period they had only one.

Osborn Mascls held this property as a charitable gift of the King. Two other churches belonged to the mother church at Blythburgh: the small church at the bottom of Stocks Lane and part of the present day St Andrews as seen from the roadside.

After the Norman Conquest of 1066, The Manor of Blythburgh, Walberswick and Hinton were gifted in order to the following: Robert Bigod, John Fitz-Robert, Empress Maud, William de Norwich (or de Cheney). Subsequently his daughter Margaret inherited, and she was married twice - to Hugh de Cressi, and Robert Fitz-Roger. The tenants of this Margaret were enjoined to keep Walberswick bridge in good repair. (This bridge crossed the river Blyth near the point where it joins the Hen River, and the way to it led across the Common, up the hill to Tinkers Barn and across the marshes. It joined the present road on the corner by Wolsey Bridge at Bulcamp).

Margaret was a woman of principles, and seems to have antagonised the men of Dunwich , so a group of Dunwickers raided Walberswick and Margaret's private chapel, on the site of the present Manor House, stole her effigy of the Virgin Mary, and dragged it home to Dunwich on the end of a piece of rope as a trophy. They returned it seven years later.

Next in succession was a son of Margaret, Roger de Cressi, from whom it passed successively to his two sons Hugh and Stephen de Cressi. Subsequently it reverted to Margaret's second husband, Robert Fitz-Roger. His son was John Fitz-Robert who assumed the name of de Claving and married Hawise, daughter of Robert de Tibetot, whom he endowed with lands in his Manor of Aynho, Northants. As he left no heirs the manor became the property of Edward III, who gave part to Edmund de Claving, brother of Sir John, and the remainder to Ralph de Nevil, who married Sir John's heiress. Their second son, Ralph, succeeded in turn, and was succeeded by his son John de Nevil, who conveyed the manor to Sir Robert Swillington. Next came Sir Roger de Swillington, his son. Sir Roger left one son, John, who died aged 25 in the sixth year of Henry V, and two daughters - Margaret and Anne. Margaret married Sir John Gray (who may have built "Gray's Wall" in the Westwood Marshes) who on her death released these estates to Sir John Hopton, who married Anne the surviving daughter and sole heiress of Sir John Swillington (in Hinton there is a lane known as "Lady Anne": it's where the best primroses grow). A second Sir John, who left 13/4d to Walberswick Church in 1489, was the cause of many disputes with Dunwich.

From the Hoptons the manor passed in the time of Charles I to Sir Robert Brooke, Kt., an alderman of London. This gentleman was renowned for stealing the Common Lands from the village in 1612. This led to a pitched battle between his men and the dispossessed, in which four men lost their lives, the memory of which was enshrined in the name of "Bloody Marsh". His eldest son Master John Brooke succeeded him for a few years and records refer to him as "a great troubler, and an oppressor of his poor tenants in Walberswick". When Brooke heirs failed, the lordship passed, circa 1660, to the Blois family through marriage.

More research is needed to complete the list of the Blois family, but here are the last three members: -- Sir Ralph Barrett McNaughton Blois Bt., Sir Gervase Blois Bt., and Sir Charles Blois Bt.

Philip Kett

WALBERSWICK SCHOOL 1953/4



STARTING AT THE BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT

Penny Mould, Pat Knights, Rosemary English, Ann Connick, Harry Moreton, David Webb
Graham English, Brendan Sutton, Richard Sharman, Anthony Cochrane Judith Quenzer, Shelia Church
Paul Sharman, Glenda Meekins, Christine Denny, Hazel Church, Trevor Connick, John Winyard
Peter Church, Valentine Mostyn, Andrew Block, Tony Sutton

By kind permission of Philip Kett

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