



Walberswick Village News

February 2021 | Issue 291

The village has lost one of its great characters, Nigel Hunt 1947-2021

Jimmy Wigdahl (1926 – 2021)

Sadly, Dad passed away on 16 January aged 94, and with him went an encyclopaedic knowledge of Walberswick. An only son, he moved here, aged seven, in 1933 with his parents Hal & Amy. They bought the then Old Vicarage and ran it as a 12-bedroom hotel, with three grass tennis courts and mini putting course. He spent his time with friends on the old railway, pushing abandoned trucks and playing in the ticket office.

His wartime recollections were amazing – including the Old Vicarage being bombed in 1941 effectively condemning the hotel. Out of the ashes came Marsh End, built by my grandfather after the war, when Dad returned from active service in the Med. The family then decamped to Old Vicarage Cottage until Hal died in 1962.

Dad read medicine at Oxford/Middlesex Hospital and in 1956 met Mum, daughter of Frank & Molly Holl at Jove cottage. They married in St Andrew's in 1959, and from that came yours truly, the third (& fourth) generations in the village. He will be greatly missed. **Ollie Wigdahl**

Red Nose Day to be produced from Walberswick

Because of lockdown, my partner Richard's work for Comic Relief has had to be produced from our house. He oversaw 'The Big Night In' fundraising event on BBC1 in April from our sitting room in Walberswick on an open phone line to the studio gallery - surrounded by all the family's phones on video calls to various parts of the studio floor.

Red Nose Day in March has been organized entirely via Zoom over the past few months - and will probably once again be broadcast from a locked studio. So Richard will run it via a Zoom line from the Walberswick HQ, fuelled by Sophie and Andy's cooking, and the family phones will be back as his studio monitors.



The money is needed this year more than ever before as Covid has hit people in the UK living in poverty harder than ever. We are supporting 229 organisations in the UK, including Suffolk food banks, and support for the elderly and most isolated. If you'd like to help us raise funds, the website is full of ideas. RedNoseDay.com

Emma Freud

Congratulations Frank & Rita

Warmest congratulations from the village to Frank and Rita Woodcraft on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were married on a bitterly cold day on the first of February 1971 at St Andrew's Church by Canon Thompson, who also christened Rita, and Frank and Rita's son. Following in their footsteps, both Frank and Rita's children were married in St Andrew's and their grandsons were christened there too. **Editor**



Walberswick Community Support Group

The Walberswick Community Support Group has volunteers happy to run errands, provide a friendly voice for a regular chat, etc.

Don't hesitate to contact **Liz Wagstaff Green** on 01502 724889 | 07710 031503 | liz.green@mac.com

The Anchor

Current Covid restrictions mean we have had to reduce our opening hours, but we are still here to serve you and support the village as best we can.

Our takeaway menu, which includes fresh bread, soup, fish & chips and curries, is on our website, as are our specials.

Orders by phone please

info@anchoratwalberswick.com | 01502 722112
www.anchoratwalberswick.com
Anchor Chow on WhatsApp



Scarlett's Amazing Community Library

An exciting new addition to the village is Scarlett Curtis' Community Library. Scarlett came up with the idea as a way to share the many books she receives as part of her job, and to help us keep reading while the independent book shops are shut. You'll find the Community Library outside Scarlett's house, next to the Tuck Shop. It is beautifully decorated and even has twinkly lights to brighten up those dark evenings (and help you to examine the books). It is full of interesting titles, including books for kids, and some of Scarlett's favourites. Returns and donations in the bottom draw please. Scarlett will be updating the shelves regularly with new stuff, so do help yourselves.

Thank you Scarlett from all Walberswick's book lovers,
And thank you too for reminding us that 'Books Help'.
Editor

On Netflix

If you have Netflix, you may be interested in watching **The Dig**. It reimagines the events of the 1939 excavation at Sutton Hoo of the 7th century burial ship, thought to be the grave of King Raedwald of East Anglia. The stars include Carey Mulligan, Ralph Fiennes and Lily James.

Coming to Netflix in February is **News of the World** starring Tom Hanks, directed by resident, Paul Greengrass, who also co-wrote the screenplay. You can also read an interview with Paul on the [Family Theatre website](#).

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The **Post Office** will continue to be open between 10am and 12 noon on Thursdays in the Village Hall Annex.

The **Mobile Library** is suspended until further notice.

Environmental Stewardship

You may have seen the new planting in Sandy Lane, Bennett's Copse and Bennett's Drift. Walberswick Common Lands Charity has recently planted some 800 mixed variety hedge whips as well as oak, wild plum, crab apple, rowan, field maple, Scots pine and beech trees.

The Charity would like to carry out some wildlife surveys on the Common, grazing marshes and elsewhere, especially of dragonflies and water voles as well as of heathland birds, reptiles and butterflies. The aim is to record and monitor wildlife in a repeatable way to assist the Charity with its ongoing environmental stewardship work. The surveys will be carried out by volunteers, with training provided by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. If you are interested in helping, email clerkwcl@gmail.com

Mandy Erlenbach & Adam Cooke, Trustees

Operation Christmas Child

A very big thank you to everyone who responded so generously to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. I was delighted to be able to send off 40 Shoeboxes from St Andrew's. We were generously supported by contributions from other churches across the team too. We packed our shoeboxes at such a difficult time and the delivery and collection was delayed by the November lockdown. The boxes bring great joy to children in need around the world. Thank you for your loving support for this initiative. **Christine Fisher**

Charity Christmas Card 2020

Thank you so much to all those who subscribed to the Village Christmas card. We were able to send £425.00 to the Sole Bay Care Fund. **Viv Hunt & Irene Prince**

Planning applications

At the time of going to print, the following properties were still awaiting a decision on their planning applications:

- Bittern House, Millfield Road
- 3 Moorside, Palmers Lane
- Samphire Cottage, Hidden Lane, The Green
- Heathwold, Palmers Lane
- Holly House, Stocks Lane
- Windmill Cottage, Millfield Road
- May House, Lodge Road
- 14 Adams Lane

For the latest applications and full details, go to the Planning page on the [Village Website](#). For the Planning Advisory Group reports, go to tinyurl.com/tdbvulf

VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

WALBERSWICK.SUFFOLK.GOV.UK

Major Reduction in Precept for 2021/22

At its meetings in November and December 2020, the Parish Council considered necessary expenditures, approved an annual budget, and set a precept for 2021/22. We are very happy to announce that the precept for the coming year has been set at £20,000 which is a decrease of 20% from the precept in 2020/21.

If we look back to 2019/20, this year's precept represents a drop of 26% over two fiscal years. The Council is proud of this accomplishment as it represents a return, after a decade of turmoil, to a 'steady state' precept where the annual amount raised is basically equal to the amount of annual expenditures, while rebuilding and holding a responsible reserve equal to some six to nine months of expenditures. Our Council finances are now wholly aligned with financial best practice guidelines of the National Association of Local Government (NALC).

This year's budget also represents the clearance of the external audit bill of £14,000 from 2017/18 that was caused by the actions of a few individuals, who lodged over one hundred groundless objections to the annual audit, none of which were upheld, but allowed the external auditor to charge the Council for the time it spent reviewing these objections. We have had no such objections since then meaning that, for the past two years, our annual external audit expenses have been at the nationally mandated amount of £240.

The massive reduction in audit costs, careful management of expenses, and the development and roll out of the up-to-date financial and governance policies that have helped guide the Council's actions, have all contributed to the ability to bring the precept down. We are also extremely grateful for the receipt, through our East Suffolk District Councillor, David Beavan, of several generous grants that have supported the replacement and improvement of the play equipment on the Green and playing fields. The Council is particularly glad to have reached this stage now as other Council taxes are set to rise as the County reacts to the extraordinary costs of social care and other expenses associated with Covid-19.

The precept tax per household will be reflected in the 2021/22 Council tax bill normally received in March.

Josie Bassinette, Chairman

Next Parish Council meeting

The next remote meeting of the Walberswick Parish Council will be held on Monday, 8 February at 7.15pm. Details of the agenda and remote participation can be found on the Walberswick Village website. For any other information please contact the Parish Clerk at walberswickclerk@gmail.com

Walberswick's birds

There have been precious few sightings recently, but those who were in the Post Office queue at the Village Hall on Thursday, 7 January 2021, were treated to a juvenile Crane dropping in to the allotments then flying towards the sluice and on to Reydon, where it was reported on BINS (Birding with Bins - the Suffolk Bird report). I personally didn't see it but I have this marvellous picture courtesy of Peter Wagstaff.

Too late for this edition, but I hope everyone responded to the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' run by the RSPB, 29-31 January 2021. It will be revealing the survey results on its website in April.

Pat Lancaster



Meet Helen & David Riches

The pandemic has been a catalyst for change for so much, and so it was for Helen and David Riches during lockdown. Artists, they have decided to settle permanently in Walberswick, having been part-time visitors over the last eight years. Their holiday home at No.1 Ivy Cottage is being swapped for a permanent residence at Bittern House in Millfield Road, appropriately perceived as a popular haunt of artists, a tradition they are happy to maintain.

Their relationship with the village stretches back many years. Helen confused the locals with her Belfast accent when she visited as an art student in 1980 and David, born in Harleston, has been visiting all his life. Before being seduced by the lure of painting by the coast, Helen and David were both designers. David had a graphic design company in London and Helen worked as a garden designer, occasionally running garden design courses and writing for *Gardeners' World* magazine.

When not involved in their favourite activity, Helen is planning to work on introducing a coastal feel to the garden at Bittern House. She also has a secret ambition to sketch a 21st century version of The Walberswick Scroll, perhaps finishing in time for its centenary in the 2030s. David, on the other hand, is into bikes and is busy trying to restore an ancient Moto Guzzi for the Motogiro d'Italia in the hope that one day this annual rally will take place again.

Helen and David can be easily spotted around the village as they are usually accompanied by their scruffy black rescue mutt, Scout. You can find them on Instagram at [helen_riches_painting](https://www.instagram.com/helen_riches_painting) and [davidrichespaintings](https://www.instagram.com/davidrichespaintings) Editor



Sunday Services

While Sunday services are not taking place in church at present, please join us for our services via Zoom. The codes are updated each Thursday on the news page of the Sole Bay Team Ministry website www.solebayteamministry.co.uk or email revsimon63@gmail.com or adperry64@gmail.com **Stephanie Renouf**

Repairs to St Andrew's

St Andrews remains closed at present until the repair works are complete, hopefully by the end of February. The PCC apologises for the overrun of the works, but the scaffolding should be removed in the next fortnight, weather permitting. The delay is caused by the arrival of the new oak doors to the turret and, once they are fitted and surrounding flint works completed, it will be removed.

Drainage and puddling works on the path by the entrance will begin shortly, and once the weather warms up, the contractors can apply limewash in the restored porch. You will all be welcome to admire the restored benches and floor very soon.

If anyone would like to know more about the works, or is new to the village and could volunteer a few hours a month to help us look after our incredible church building and graveyard, or interested in our services, please contact me at renoufststephanie@gmail.com **Stephanie Renouf**

Valley Farm Vineyard update



At the beginning of January - and almost 7 years to the day since commencement - we sold the vineyard in Wissett. It has been our passion and joy and we will surely miss all the adventures and challenges it threw up and all the people we were fortunate to meet. We wanted to thank the many villagers who have supported us in so many different ways over the years. It's been great.

Now we hope to have time to empty a few boxes that have spent all that time in the loft and give our home some TLC, before embarking on a new adventure...to be determined!
Elaine and Vanessa

A Who's Who of Walberswick

Have you ever wondered who lives in the red house on The Street, or wanted to put a name to a familiar face in the Tuck Shop? Send me a family photo, including any dogs that might help us recognise one another, and I will display the photos on the notice board in the front porch at The Anchor. This will help us all to get to know one another. Email your photos together with your names, where you live, and the year you came to Walberswick. **Sophie** sophiedorber63@gmail.com

Appeal for information

I am working on a new biography of George Orwell (1903-1950). While staying at his parents' house in Southwold at various periods between 1927 and 1939, Orwell paid many visits to Walberswick. If anyone has any information about the friends he made there, and in particular his dealings with the Rogers, Georges and Peters families, I should be very interested to hear it. Please write to D.J. Taylor, Caragh House, 1 Poplar Avenue, Norwich NR4 7LB. Alternatively, I can be contacted via my website djtaylorwriter.com or email me at d.j.taylor22@btconnect.com **David Taylor**

Church Matters

St Andrew's Church Walberswick

Team Rector
Rev Canon Simon Pitcher
01502 725424
revsimon63@gmail.com

February 2021 Services

Sunday services by Zoom
8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Eucharist
9.30am Family Service

Zoom access codes change each week.
Email revsimon63@gmail.com or adperry64@gmail.com if you wish to join in, or check the Sole Bay Team Ministry [website](#)

Every Wednesday in the church - 10.00am

Holy Communion (said)

Parish Eucharist services are
Common Worship

Parish Register

11 January 2021 - Burial
Sarah Leslie Potterton aged 69

Commemorative Flowers

On hold until after Lent



© Tanya Ward

Sunrise, 13 January 2021

The next edition of the Village News will be published on 1 March 2021. The copy deadline is 25 February 2021 and submissions should be sent to the editor at walberswicknews@gmail.com

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