



Walberswick Village News

December 2025
Issue 349

Festive Greetings to all our readers



Gavin Petrie 6 April 1942 – 5 November 2025

Many of you will know that I lost my dear husband, Gavin, last month. He had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2019, along with a number of other serious conditions but died peacefully, in hospital, with me and daughter Lucy at his side.

Gavin was born in Edinburgh. An only child, he showed a talent for art and English, leaving school at 15 and joining the *Daily Mail* in Edinburgh, where he developed his skills as both a journalist and a talented cartoonist. He was a part of the Scotia Nostra – the name adopted by a number of young Scots journalists who stormed down to London, at the end of the 60s and took all the best jobs. Gavin joined *Disc & Music Echo* – first as Chief Sub, then Features and finally Editor. He knew all the music stars of the day and spent time with David Bowie, the Rolling Stones, John Lennon and employed legendary DJ John Peel to review singles for the magazine.

I first met Gavin when he became Features Editor of *SHE* magazine. He then moved to *TV Times*, where I was a feature writer. In 1984, we got married and Gavin was an unconventional but kind, patient and entertaining stepfather to Lucy and Tom.

Our first radio and TV comedy series, *Second Thoughts*, was based on our relationship. Many other comedies followed including *Faith in the Future* and *Next of Kin*. We were an award-winning writing partnership for 35 years.

Moving to Walberswick in 2013 was a big step because we knew no-one, but as Gavin said, "We have enough friends. We don't need anymore." How wrong we were! The friends we have made in this village have been some of the strongest, funniest... and wettest (the swimmers!) in our lives. Thank you so much, dear Walberswickians, for sending wonderful messages, cards and love and bringing casseroles, flowers and hugs, when he died. I miss Gavin so much but I know I'll never be lonely because the warm comfort blanket of the Walberswick Massive is wrapped around me. Much love, **Jan Etherington x**

Gavin edited the *Village News* for just over five years from late 2014 to the end of 2019. He was a thoughtful writer whose charm and love of the village was reflected in his work. He will be greatly missed. **Village News Committee**

Muriel Wortley

It is with much sadness we announce the loss in November of our WI Secretary, Muriel Wortley. Muriel was a very committed and long standing member of Walberswick WI. She will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved her. Our thoughts are with her husband Ray and family. **Walberswick WI**

James Cochrane

James Cochrane died unexpectedly in London on 30 October. James and Maggie and their family have had connections to the village for many years. The family would like to welcome any of their Walberswick friends to raise a glass to James at the Anchor on Saturday 6 December, 5pm to 6pm. **Maggie Cochrane**

Carols on the Green

Always a joyful occasion, join fellow villagers on Monday 15 December at 7pm for the village's traditional Carols on the Green led by Harry Edwards and John Flack and his band. Refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall. This is a community event that relies on donations of mince pies and mulled wine. Please email or WhatsApp **Hannah Sutton** to arrange a drop off or collection hannahsutton2013@hotmail.com or 07902 505954.



Send Christmas greetings

As in previous years, a number of people in the village, sign a list held in the Tuck Shop making a donation to a nominated charity instead of actually delivering individual Christmas cards. This year the charity is Sole Bay Care Fund. If you would like to do this, please sign the list held in the Tuck Shop. The list will then be displayed in the window or notice board two weeks before Christmas so that all your friends know you have not forgotten them and that you wish them a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Thank you. **Pat Lancaster.**



THE ANCHOR

Booking essential for all events

info@anchoratwalberswick.com
01502 722112
www.anchoratwalberswick.com

Wednesday 24 December - Denis King's Christmas Eve in the heated marquee. Come and sing along from 9.30pm, or book dinner before.

Saturday 27 December - Open Mic Night from 6.30pm. Let us know in advance if you would like to perform or just come and join the fun.

Sunday 28 December - Walberswick's own DARK SKY BLUES playing, plus other guests. Wood-fired pizzas - eat in or takeaway from 6pm.

Monday 29 December: Curry and quiz. Fully booked.

Thursday 31 December: New Year's Eve
5.30pm - Family-style roast chicken with all the trimmings.
Fireworks at 7.30pm.

7.30pm - Two or three course A La Carte menu.
Dancing and fireworks.

Compiled and edited by Sheila Parry - walberswicknews@gmail.com

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It's a Village Affair - the Cancer Research Christmas Fayre

The traditional village get together in aid of Cancer Research UK takes place in the Village Hall on Saturday 6 December, 10am to 12 noon, and we hope to see you there. If you have anything to donate, please refer to last month's *Village News* insert to contact the appropriate person, or get in touch with me. In particular, we would be delighted to receive homemade biscuits to serve with the teas and coffees, as well as cakes, gifts, bottles, and handmade Christmas craft items for the stalls.



We are able to accept card and contactless payments, but we only have a few devices so cash is definitely preferred please. If you wish, please make a donation at our Cancer Research Giving page: tinyurl.com/wwcf25. Thank you for your support and we very much look forward to seeing you.

Guy Parry 07775 512 995 parry.guy@gmail.com



Walberswick Parish Council

Precept

The Parish Council is delighted to say that for the sixth year in a row, it is able to hold the Precept (the part of the council tax bill that funds the work of the Parish Council) with zero increase at £20,000. While this means a slight reduction in the reserves the Parish Council holds, it remains within best practice guidelines and it was felt by all Councillors that this was the right thing to do during this period of economic uncertainty for everybody.

Sea Link

Inspection Panel hearings on the proposed National Grid Sea Link project started in November. Sea Link and LionLink are heavily inter-dependent to the extent that if Sea Link were not to go ahead, it is possible that LionLink would also not be progressed. As the Sea Link proposal includes approval for acquiring land for the LionLink substation in Saxmundham, Councillor Bassinette attended the recent hearings to make representations on our behalf. She focused on three key areas: Firstly, a strong objection to the inclusion of LionLink in the Sea Link Development Consent Order as it would make a presumption that LionLink would go ahead; secondly, the negative cumulative impact that these energy projects have on our communities; and thirdly the impact on the natural environment. The full text of the submission is available on the village website at tinyurl.com/3y296xst.

Sizewell C Roadworks at the Water Tower Junction

The agreement to permanently close the B1125 going north at the Water Tower junction has moved along with many hours of meetings, walkabouts and negotiations between Sizewell C and Suffolk Highways, and Walberswick, Blythburgh and Westleton Parish Councils. The final design has now been finalised and the Parish Council will be voting on its acceptance at its December meeting. In short, the B1125 will be closed to vehicle traffic just above the water tower junction. This will put an end to it being used as a shortcut to the Sizewell site which would have become an extraordinarily crowded and dangerous through route when the many thousands of workers, light vans and HGVs begin going to the main site every day. However, we have insisted that the B1387 between the Water Tower and the A12 has to be improved before the closure since this would now be the only direct route in and out of Walberswick. Sizewell C and Suffolk Highways have now agreed to this and therefore the Council is prepared to consider the proposal. Details will be included in the papers for the 8 December Parish Council meeting and an update will be included in the next edition of the *Village News*.

Next Parish Council Meeting

It will be held on Monday, 8 December at 7pm in the Heritage Hut and is open to members of the public. Full details will be published on the village website, or contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@walberswick-pc.gov.uk.



Walberswick Common Lands Charity

On Tuesday 4 November, we welcomed 18 volunteers from Suffolk and Essex National Landscapes and four young people from the Green Light Trust to help in Bennetts Copse, Bennetts Drift and Sandy Lane for a day of environmental tasks. Over lunch in the bird hide, a lively discussion on parakeets was followed by an interesting discussion on the volunteers' inspiration for turning out on a chilly and potentially wet day. As a result of all this energy and skill, Bennetts Drift has been opened up to let the light flood into the understorey so that succession elm can get a foothold. Bennetts Copse has started to take on some form and structure, and Sandy Lane is free from plastic tubing and showing off some maturing plants from a project that saw serious investment pre-Covid. A big shout out to all these volunteers to say thank you very much for your help. **Vanessa Tucker, Environment Stewardship Trustee**



The Black Dog Deli

Your friendly local award-winning deli is now taking Christmas orders for gravadlax, cheese, beef wellington, and more. Pop in and place yours. Open every day throughout the holidays except 25 and 26 December.

01502 723925

@blackdogdelifoods on Instagram

Due to the festive break, the January edition of the *Village News* will be delivered to homes later than usual and during the week commencing 5 January.



Christmas tree on the Green

The Christmas tree on the Village Green should be in place early in December. Please do add your personalised decorations in memory of loved ones but make sure they are winter weather-proof and attached firmly to the tree. **Editor**

The shoeboxes are on their way

A very big thank you for your generous contributions to the Link to Hope shoebox appeal. I was able to send 25 shoeboxes, packed with love, destined for the poorest Eastern European countries. **Christine Fisher**

Walberswick Players present Treasure Island, a pantomime

It's that time of year when the village gets together to provide some relief at the end of winter and this year we present a pantomime version of *Treasure Island*, a tale of pirates, betrayal and romance acted out by familiar faces from around the village. This will be a farcical evening with topical jokes, suitable for adults and children of all ages. Performances run from Thursday 12 February to Saturday 14 February at 7.30pm, with a matinee on Sunday 15 February at 2.30pm offering a treat for children and grandchildren. Tickets will be available from the Tuck shop and on Ticket Source at tinyurl.com/wwwvhtj from 8 December. **Rod Lynch**

Diary Dates



WI Christmas Meeting

Thursday, 4 December 2.30pm in the Village Hall

We will be celebrating the festive season with a social afternoon. Members only. **Sheilagh Murray**

Cancer Research Christmas Fayre

Saturday, 6 December 10am - 12 noon in the Village Hall

Join us for refreshments (included in the entry fee of £2.50 for adults and £1 for kids), catch up with friends, and browse our festive stalls. **Guy Parry**

Walberswick Local History Group

Sunday, 14 December 3pm The Village Hall

We are delighted that Dani Church, the latest member of her family to run the Walberswick Ferry, will be the speaker at our Christmas meeting. After the talk we will be serving wine and snacks. Members attend free, members' guests pay £5 on the door. If you would like to attend please email **Edward Wright** at ewright123@btinternet.com.



Carols on The Green
Monday 15 December 7pm



National Theatre Live: The Fifth Step

Thursday, 8 January 7pm in the Village Hall

Olivier Award-winner Jack Lowden is joined by Emmy and BAFTA-winner Martin Freeman in the critically acclaimed and subversively funny new play by David Ireland. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets £15 (under 21s £10), also available in advance from www.ticketsource.co.uk/walberswick-village-hall. Bar, snacks and soft drinks available. **Teresa Lynch**

Walberswick Village Hall presents a Quiz Night

Saturday, 24 January 7pm in the Village Hall

Doors open at 6.30pm for a prompt 7pm start. £5 per head, maximum six people in a team. Banish those post Christmas blues in a fiendish test of knowledge and fun. Bar, snacks, and soft drinks available. **Teresa Lynch**

Planning applications

At the time of publication, the following were awaiting a decision. The latest applications and Advisory Group Reports, can be found on the village website.

- Millstones, Millfield (trees)
- The Coach House, Palmers Lane
- Herons, Churchfield.



St Andrew's Church Walberswick

Team Rector
Revd Russ Gant

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

December 2025 Services

Sunday 7 December 11.15am

All Age Informal Service
Refreshments at 10.45am

Wednesday 10 December 10am

Holy Communion
Coffee served after the service

Sunday 14 December 6pm

Advent Choral Evensong

Monday, 15 December 7pm

Carols on The Green

Sunday 21 December 11.15am

Holy Communion

Tuesday 23 December 5pm

Carols by Candlelight with
St Andrews' choir and
guest organist Fraser Wilson

Wednesday 24 December 4pm

Crib Service

Thursday 25 December 9.30am

Family Communion

**Christmas Flowers by
St Andrew's flower arrangers**

Parish Register

21 November - Funeral
Gavin Petrie aged 83



Community Services

Community Cafe: Wednesday,
17 December 2pm - 4.30pm
in the Village Hall

Mobile Library: Friday,
5 December 2.15pm - 2.45pm
in the Village Hall car park

Mobile Post Office:
Wednesdays 12 noon - 1pm
in the Village Hall car park

Norwich Bus: Thursday,
18 December. To book a place,
please contact Mandy Erlenbach on
07590 697575

Village: walberswick-pc.gov.uk

WALL: www.wall-update.org



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<p>EAST COAST LINEN HIRE <i>Offering high quality linen & soft towels</i> Laundering service for commercial & domestic clients Nicky 07809 771121 hello@eastcoastlinenhire.co.uk</p>	 <p>Alex Godfrey BICYCLE MECHANIC Qualified, insured and mobile Walberswick, @alexbikemech 07963 390057</p>
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