



Walberswick Village News

January 2026
Issue 350

Happy
New Year

Jill Freud 1927 - 2025



My mother, Jill, truly adored Walberswick and owed many of the great joys of her life to it. She first came here in 1950 visiting her future in-laws with my father. He'd lived here just behind the Village Green since he was nine, when his family fled Nazi Germany in the 30s. Jill immediately loved it and a few years later, the young couple bought their own home - at the other end of the village from Clement's parents!



As a child, Jill's greatest dream had been to ride - but as a London girl, and then an evacuee, she'd never had the opportunity. In Walberswick she now had her own home with an old stables attached - so she bought some old ponies, and opened it up so that anyone she met could ride and play. Everyone was welcome, nobody got special treatment, everyone seemed to be ticked off and loved up in equal measure. The atmosphere was unique - it had the wholesome fun of a 1940s children's book, the postwar frugality of the 1950s, the hedonistic free-spirit of the 60s, and Jill was at the centre of it, with chattiness, cheerfulness and her beautiful, bright blue eyes.



Jill spent every school holiday here for 50 years, and it became the centre of her life. She'd always worked as an actress, and in her late 50s she started her own theatre company, modestly titled The Jill Freud Theatre Company, and set out to bring this area the best version of summer rep theatre that she could create. She did it in her own idiosyncratic way... during the 30 summers she ran Southwold and then Aldeburgh summer seasons, the company lived in our house or camped at the stables where they built the sets, made the costumes, created the props - and, as you may have heard from the street, rehearsed the shows. Sorry about that.

Jill ran the theatre company till her mid-80s, and never lost her passion for the village. She delighted in knowing whole generations of families in the village - and hoped her children, 17 grandchildren and eight great grand-children would love it as she did. They really do.

She put her long life down to her regular lunch order - a glass of red wine, a packet of crisps and the Guardian cryptic crossword: all purchased daily at the Tuck Shop to which she was devoted. She died peacefully in her sleep at the end of November - thankfully she wasn't ill or in pain, she was simply 98 and it was time to take her final curtain call. Her timing, as ever, was immaculate. **Emma Freud**

Happy retirement Stuart

A familiar character in the village, easily recognisable in his shorts no matter the weather, our postie Stuart Cooper, has hung up his mail bag for the last time. Always helpful with a cheerful smile, Stuart has been delivering Walberswick's post for the last four years, and has worked for Royal Mail for nine years.

We thank Stuart for looking after our post and parcels for so many years; remembering the location of all our house names is certainly no mean feat. He will be relaxing just across the border in Norfolk and we wish him a long and happy retirement. **Editor**



Village: walberswick-pc.gov.uk
WALL: www.wall-update.org

From John & Carol Wardell and family

We are extremely grateful for all the help and support we have received since John was taken ill with pneumonia a couple of months ago. There is so much to thank everyone for: the lifts and visits to James Paget Hospital for John, the stream of visitors to Highfield House and excursions to cheer up Carol, as well as help with meals, groceries, chores and more. Thank you so much, one and all, you are an amazing community. **John, Carol, Amy and Joe**

THE ANCHOR

A Happy New Year
and many thanks to our loyal customers

We will be closed from Monday 5 January
until Wednesday 21 January
for renovations.

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

What an amazing village

Thank you to everyone who once again supported the annual village fundraiser, the **Cancer Research Christmas Fayre**. We are extremely grateful to our enthusiastic volunteers who ran stalls, collected donations, made cakes, crafts and wreaths, provided refreshments, staffed the door and helped tidy up. The event would not be possible without you. Despite competition from the many new commercial Christmas events, we were delighted that so many villagers turned up to enjoy the atmosphere and refreshments with friends, as well as generously buying items, supporting the raffle and bottle tombola, and bidding in the auction. With your help, we raised £6,178 for **Cancer Research UK**.

Guy & Sheila Parry

Thank you to all who helped put up the **Christmas tree** on the Village Green. Tragedy almost struck on the night before the carol singing when the twenty-foot tree blew down in a gale. A special thank you to Darren from Rusty Nuts for getting the metal stand repaired so quickly, and above all to Richard and Emma for supplying the tree once again. **Brian Tibbles**

A huge thank you to everyone involved in **Carols on the Green**. As always, a wonderful community event with John Flack and his amazing band accompanying the carol singing and Harry Edwards conducting the service. Our thanks to them and everyone who donated mulled wine and mince pies, the enthusiastic bucket shakers, the helpers in the kitchen, and everyone who helped make the event so much fun. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to donate £205.78 to the **Sole Bay Care Fund**.

Hannah Sutton

Thank you to everyone who donated to **Sole Bay Care Fund** this year by signing the **Christmas Card List** in the Tuck Shop. The amount raised was an amazing £315. **Pat Lancaster**

A massive thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed mulled wine on The Green on Christmas Day. And thank you to our generous wine donors. We raised an amazing £524.77 for the **RNLI**.

Jon Winyard

LionLink Statutory Consultation starts 13 January WALL Public Meeting is on 24 January

In their latest Community Newsletter, National Grid Ventures (NGV) gave notice that on 13 January 2026 it will start the next major stage of the LionLink project. This involves them publishing much more detailed proposals about the project, including the construction of the landfall site in Walberswick, the drilling methodology, timescales, access routes, the cable route across the countryside and the new converter station it will construct at Friston. The key document to be published will be the Preliminary Environment Information Report (PEIR), which will include pages of facts and figures, maps, plans, charts, and statistics about the project.

Following this, NGV LionLink is running a statutory public consultation and has organised a consultation event in Walberswick Village Hall on Saturday 31 January from 11am to 4pm. In advance of this, Walberswick Against LionLink (WALL) is organising its own public meeting in the Village Hall on Saturday 24 January at 10am. At the WALL Public Meeting, we will go through the latest proposals in as much detail as we can and highlight a range of issues on which National Grid can be challenged at their consultation event the following Saturday. There will also be an opportunity for questions and discussion. Please come along to the WALL Public Meeting on 24 January and the LionLink Consultation on 31 January,

If you want to find out more, or help our campaign please contact WALL at info@wall-update.org.

Walberswick Against LionLink

Rowers of Walberswick compete in the Carrow Cup

On Saturday 6 December, two teams from Rowers of Walberswick (RoW) took part in the Carrow Cup Rowing Festival on the River Yare in Norwich. This regatta offers events for sliding seat pairs and fours, and a 'traditional' section for coastal fixed seat boats. The Carrow Cup is believed to be the oldest rowing trophy in the country having first been raced in 1813. Festive fancy dress is also encouraged.

RoW's first race was a short 2.5km course from Carrow Road to Broadland. Competing in an Explorer, a fibre glass sliding seat boat, kindly loaned from Norwich Rowing Club, the team were Sam Webb, Dani Church, Monica Winzor-Saile and Sue Lock. They completed the race in a very respectable 11 minutes 36 seconds.

The next team competed in Puffin, RoW's Clayton Skiff, against other traditional boats, over a 3.7 km course through the city. The crew, Marcia Walker, Fi Hosea, Ally Boucher and Matt Parkes, completed the race in 26 mins, only three minutes behind the winners.

Both crews were expertly coxed by Tom Smith from Blythburgh. The teams had a fantastic time and huge thanks to everyone who helped the crews to train and provided on the day support. **Sam Webb**



Walberswick Parish Council

Sizewell C: At its December meeting, Walberswick Parish Council agreed to the proposal to close the B1125 northbound at the Water Tower junction to help mitigate some of the extreme increase in road traffic in our area as a result of the construction of Sizewell C. Part of this agreement is a commitment by Sizewell C and Suffolk Highways to improve the B1387 between the Water Tower and the A12. A better right and left turning on to the A12 is also included. Suffolk Highways has promised that it will not close the B1125 until the work on the B1387 is complete. The preliminary inspection work on the B1387 started in December and is expected to get properly underway in February. This, inevitably, will cause some temporary closures but the B1125 will remain open until the work on the B1387 is complete sometime in spring 2026.

LionLink: National Grid Ventures (NGV) has announced the launch of the statutory consultation on the building of LionLink. An enormous report will drop on us on 13 January and the initial meeting of NGV in Walberswick is planned for 31 January. The Parish Council and Walberswick Against LionLink (WALL) will be working together, along with other Parishes, East Suffolk and Suffolk County Councils, to fight this ill-conceived and inappropriate development. We will need everyone to become involved to try to make NGV and the Government acknowledge that the cumulative impact of all these energy projects on our small Suffolk coastal area is unsupportable and extraordinarily damaging to our precious environment, and to the health and well-being of our communities. Documents, updates and other details on these projects can be found on the village website.

Next Parish Council Meeting: It will be held on Monday, 12 January 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.

Diary Dates

National Theatre Live: The Fifth Step

Thursday, 8 January 7pm in the Village Hall

Jack Lowden is joined by 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 from tinyurl.com/wwwvhtfs. Bar, snacks and soft drinks available. **Teresa Lynch**

WI Annual Lunch

Thursday, 22 January at The Angel, Wangford

A members only event. For further information, contact **Sheilagh Murray**.

Walberswick Against LionLink (WALL) Public Meeting

Saturday, 24 January 10am in the Village Hall

An opportunity to hear and discuss WALL's position on the latest LionLink proposals ahead of the National Grid Ventures' consultation meeting. **Editor**

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**

LionLink Statutory Consultation

Saturday, 31 January 11am to 4pm in the Village Hall

A public information exhibition by National Grid Ventures. **Editor**

Treasure Island, a pantomime

Thursday, 12 February to Saturday, 14 February at 7.30pm

& Sunday, 15 February at 2.30pm in the Village Hall

A tale of pirates, betrayal and romance with topical jokes, suitable for adults and children of all ages. Tickets will be available from the Tuck Shop and on Ticket Source at tinyurl.com/wwwvhti. **Rod Lynch**



St Andrew's Church Walberswick

admin@solebayteamministry.co.uk
solebayteamministry.co.uk

January 2026 Services

Sunday, 4 January 11.15am

All Age Informal Service
Refreshments at 10.45am

Sunday, 11 January 6pm

Epiphany Choral Evensong

Wednesday, 14 January 10am

Holy Communion
Coffee served after the service

Sunday, 18 January 11.15am

Holy Communion

Wednesday, 28 January 10am

Holy Communion

Parish Register

13 December - Memorial Service

Muriel Wortley Age 81

Memorial Flowers

1 January - Denise & John Brentnall

for Ralph & Margaret Erskine

11 January - Pat Atherton

for her sister Betty Abbnnet

18 January - Judy Morton

for her parents Mr & Mrs Quenzer

Community Services

Community Cafe: Wednesday

21 January 2pm - 4.30pm
in the Village Hall

Mobile Library: Fridays

2 & 30 January 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, 15 January.

To book a place, please contact
Mandy Erlenbach on
07590 697575

Planning Applications

At the time of publication, the following properties were awaiting a decision:

Long Meadow, Seven Acres
Windmill Cottage, Millfield (trees)

The latest applications and Advisory Group Reports, can be found on the [village website](#).

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