

Dear Friends,

How quickly a year goes!

It is now a year since I became the Chair of the History Group, a task I took on with considerable trepidation in the light of Philip Kett's long and distinguished tenure of that office. But we have survived!

A reminder of the Walberswick Local History Group's principle objects, as per the Constitution:

'The object of the History Group shall be to research the history of Walberswick, to keep historical records, to hold meetings and other appropriate events during the year, and to make the contents of the WLGH archive available to non-members with an interest in the village.

I think we can safely say that all of these objects have been met in the past year. The archive continues to expand, and with the meticulous care and expertise of the archivist, Pat Lancaster, the archive is in extremely safe and knowledgeable hands. I have a duplicate hard drive of the archives under lock and key in my study, so that should some disaster occur, they are doubly protected.

We have had a year in which the members of the Committee have worked together well, and I am grateful to all of them, and the way they have with both diligence and humour, carried out their allotted roles within the committee.

It is invidious to mention individual names, but I already have in Pat Lancaster, who incidentally is on holiday in Bhutan, as I speak. But here is another: Rebecca Whiting, our secretary. She has against the odds of mothering small children and having a full time day job, given of her time and enthusiasm in keeping the secretary ship afloat. But it is with her expressed relief that she will be relinquishing the role in August, though very much staying on the Committee. Her grandfather, Charlie Gilbert, who featured so prominently in my illustrated talk earlier in the year, is part of Walberswick history, and it is an honour for me that she remains committed to the History Group.

What of the events of the past year?

In May we were given a fascinating and erudite history of West Wood Garden by Nat le Roux.

The follow up article featured in length in the newsletter of March this year. I do commend it to you.

Then in June a visit to Bentwaters and the Cold War museum, organised by Nigel Walpole. A chilling reminder to me of the fragility of peace amidst the realities of the possibilities of a nuclear war.

Then in October Pip Wright gave a talk on 'Witches of Suffolk' and the role of the Witchfinder General. A lesson to me if needed, how a predecessor of mine, an unpopular Vicar of Brandeston, was convicted of witchcraft and executed.

And in December a talk by myself 'Arabella gets a kick out of the seaside' recounting eccentricities and ruminations of both my parents and Walberswick in the 1960's.

And then in March of this year a fascinating talk by Dr.Ronald Binns, 'Orwell in Southwold and Walberswick'

Future events?

An illustrated talk by Paul Heiney on November 30th, and on March 14th a talk by Dr.Peter Warner on his book 'Bloody Marsh'.

So we plan interesting and informative talks, all relating if possible, to Walberswick.

Ours is such a rich and fascinating village. Its history and its story is what we are about.

Thank you all.

Harry Edwards.