

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2026

WALBERSWICK LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

2025 has been another very successful year, with a healthy membership of 131. We held three talks during the year, all of which were very well attended by WLHG members and their guests. In March, following the AGM, Libby Purves gave a wonderful talk about growing up in Walberswick. In June, Vivia Bamford from Sciapod Dairy gave a fascinating presentation on '*The Lost Cheeses of Suffolk*', after which we all had the chance to have some very tasty tastings of current Suffolk favourites. Our Christmas talk was given by Dani Church; her detailed illustrated history of the ferry was a perfect way to end the year.

In April 2025, we mounted an exhibition in the Heritage Hut: '*A Moment in Time*', celebrated the village Millennium celebrations of 2000 and attracted a great deal of interest. The displays of photographs and memorabilia selected by Pat Lancaster from the Archives, including the Millennium Breakfast and Panels painted by local artists, prompted much discussion among the many visitors.

John English produced five Newsletters during the year, and we thank him for continuing to do such a great job. One of these was a special edition of previously unpublished articles about his life in the village by Phillip Kett, who we very sadly lost this year. We would encourage members and non-members alike to continue to send John items that you think might be of interest or would benefit from further research. Archives of previous WLHG newsletters can be found and accessed via the village website.

Sadly, Mitch Pocock has had to withdraw his offer to help Pat with the archives so we are looking for someone who might have time and be interested in getting involved. What Pat has collected and continues to maintain is a marvellous asset for the village and we would very much like it to continue.

This year we have continued to attract a range of interesting speakers and mounted an exhibition in the Heritage Hut of two much-loved artists from the village: '*The Lives and Work of Chris and Wendy Sinclair*'. We continue to follow the work of the Halesworth to Southwold Narrow Gauge Railway Group at the site of what was Walberswick Station and have offered a donation towards the cost of an information board. Our finances from membership and guest fees stand at just over £4000.

Harry Edwards
Chairman
Walberswick Local History Group