

REPORT TO THE APM 2022 BY THE SCROLL ADVISORY GROUP

The Walberswick Scroll is now over ninety years old. It has been stored and used by the Parish for over seventy of those years, often in a far from ideal state. It is only now that it has found a place in the restored Heritage Hut where it can be shown and housed in reasonable conditions.

However we have noticed recently that the handle is occasionally becoming stiffer to turn. We have inspected the mechanism which appears to be working as before, and are worried that the paper itself might be hardening.

Rather than take any risks with the Artwork, at our last presentations on 1st May 2022, we only showed part of it behind the glass cover without revolving the mechanism. Luckily, we were able to display, in conjunction with this, the whole scroll in full natural colour on the video screen by means of the high definition digital version which we have. This arrangement had the advantage of allowing zooming-in to show details not hitherto clearly visible. The three showings we held were a great success and we raised about £200 in sales and donations.

We consider it prudent to take expert advice on the long term conservation of the artefact itself and are taking steps to do so.

In the meantime we propose, with the approval of WPC, to continue to use this method of showing the Scroll (perhaps with a minimum amount of turning) alongside the video. We do not believe that this will be less enjoyable or less instructive to the public.

We shall report our findings to the WPC in due course and are currently seeking ways of independently funding the cost of the expert advice and for any possible remedial work.