WALBERSWICK LOCAL HISTORY GROUP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 2022

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. AS WITH MOST ORGANISATIONS AND GENERALLY, THE LAST 2 YEARS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY CHALLENGING IN DEALING WITH THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC.

AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE OVER 120 PAID UP MEMBERS AND NOW HAVE THE ABILITY IN THE HERITAGE HUT TO STREAM FUTURE TALKS FOR THOSE WHO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS IN PERSON.

FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO HOLD ANY TALKS AND THOSE WE HAD PLANNED HAD TO BE CANCELLED. OUR ONLY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WITH OUR MEMBERS WAS BY PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTING 9 X "LOCKDOWN" ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER – OUR THANKS GO ESPECIALLY TO JOHN ENGLISH AND TO HIS CONTRIBUTORS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT.

THE LOCKDOWN ALSO SAW THE REVOVATION OF THE HERITAGE HUT ON THE GREEN. THIS WAS DUE TO THE DEDICATION OF THE COMMON LANDS TRUST, PARISH COUNCIL, SCROLL GROUP AND OURSELVES. AS A RESULT, ALL THE ARCHIVES HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM PAT LANCASTER'S HOME TO THE HERITAGE HUT. THIS IS A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT AND BODES WELL FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THAT ALL THE ARCHIVES REMAIN IN THE VILLAGE.

ON SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2022, WE SHALL BE SETTING UP A SMALL EXHIBITION IN THE HERITAGE HUT SHOWING MEMORIBIIA FROM THE ARCHIVES FOR PAST JUBILEES – SILVER (1977), GOLDEN (2002) AND DIAMOND (2012). ANY CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE WELCOME.

WE HAVE MANAGED TO RESCHEDULE THE TALK BY CHARLIE HAYLOCK, AUTHOR AND EXPERT ON SUFFOLK DIALECT WHO RECENTLY WORKED WITH RALPH FIENNES ON "THE DIG". THIS WILL NOW TAKE PLACE ON 24TH JUNE 2022.

WE HAVE ALSO SECURED A TALK BY MARK BAILEY — PROFESSOR OF LATE MEDIEVAL HISTORY AT THE UEA — ON SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2022. THIS WILL BE ON THE SUBJECT OF RECONSTRUCTING THE EVOLUTION OF THE SUFFOLK COASTLINE C1100 TO C1700 WITH SOME INSIGHTS FROM THE WALBERSWICK AREA - A TALK HE GAVE IN DUNWICH IN APRIL.

IT IS STILL OUR INTENTION TO HOLD VARIOUS EXHIBITIONS IN THE HERITAGE HUT DISPLAYING ART WORKS OF THE VILLAGE BY JESSIE MABEL BROWTON — AROUND 1930S/40S & 50S - AND GEORGE CHARLES HAITE'S CHARCOAL SKETCHES FROM 1895. WE SHALL ALSO BE HOLDING OPEN MORNINGS FOR ANYONE TO COME AND LOOK AT THE ARCHIVES — ALL DATES AS YET TO BE DECIDED.

OUR ARCHIVIST HAS ALSO PREPARED AN UPDATE OF THE 1981 "WALBERSWICK BUILDINGS" AND PRODUCED IT AS AN A5 BOOKLET, NOW ENTITLED "A TASTE OF WALBERSWICK". I HOPE YOU WILL ALL BUY ONE - £5 EACH WITH FUNDS RAISED GOING TOWARDS THE UPKEEP OF THE HERITAGE HUT.

PAT LANCASTER/REV CANON HARRY EDWARDS 2 MAY 2022