

Annual Parish Meeting. Walberswick Village website. Kay Ungless

The most startling event for the Walberswick Website occurred in October last year when Suffolk County Council announced they could no longer supply the town and parish websites. We were given just a couple of weeks to make the choice of paying an annual fee to Community Action Suffolk or be deleted! We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for agreeing to fund the Village website.

Walberswick's website has now entered its ninth year and it seems to be growing exponentially. It started in 2009 as just the Parish Council website and now covers every aspect of our village life. The website has almost infinite capacity, and by its very nature is storing Walberswick's archives. Once posted onto the website, a document need never be removed.

This year our big addition has been "Planning" which you will have noticed is now one of our titles on the top page. Walberswick property owners have sought 56 notifications or planning applications during the past year. If you feel surprised when you see trees felled and extensions built and wish you had known they were going to happen, just watch the website. We keep a track on every application in Walberswick. The link takes you to all the drawings and maps, so you can keep yourselves updated with the latest applications before any decision is made. You can submit a comment via the website, "for" the scheme, "against" the scheme, or even "neutral". No need to look for a piece of paper, an address, envelope or a stamp. Just type.

A smaller addition has been the entry of all forthcoming Weddings and Funerals. You can find these under Services on the St Andrew's pages. I can tell you that we have six weddings to look forward to this summer! Julia Josephs deserves a special thank you for keeping us regularly informed of all the church services, and Penny Buncombe is also kindly keeping us up to date with these special events.

Claire Whittenbury's frequent Walberswick up-to-the-minute news articles keep us well informed and are well worth reading, often illustrated with photographs and links to other websites. Taken at random, a few titles have been "A First Class Mystery", "Moths Count" and even "Bloomin' Marvellous" as well as articles of more serious concern and several interesting obituaries. I'll leave you to guess what the recent "Bag and Bin or Stick and Flick" article referred to. We are a strictly non-commercial website and it is our policy to keep our news relevant to Walberswick residents and visitors.

We are delighted to tell you that Michelle Webb has now joined Claire and me on the administration side. Her particular corner is the Diary, so if you have any event which you would like to reach a wider audience, do please get in touch with her. There are 21 various "Contact Us" forms. Just find an appropriate one and the system will make sure it reaches the right person. You don't have to worry about their email address!

Our continued thanks go to Pat Lancaster, Matthew Wetmore and Bill Willison for keeping the History Group, Common Lands Charity and Village Hall sites interesting and up to date. Also to Mary Mitson-Woods who is publishing minutes, agendas and all things necessary for the Parish Council.

But, we need your input. It is the village website. Is there anything missing or something you'd particularly like to see on the website? How can we make it better? We've plenty of room. We try to make the website as inclusive as possible and we should welcome anyone else who would like to join our small team.