



Walberswick Village News

1 June 2020 | Issue 283

Vera Smith 1917-2020

Vera Smith came to Walberswick from Cumbria in 1999 with her husband Dick (who sadly died shortly afterwards) and left the village in 2019, spending the last year of her life in a care home in Aldeburgh before she passed away at the end of April aged 102.

During the war, she served in the WAAF in Codes & Ciphers in Haifa, where she gained a lifelong dislike of tea, and in London where a bomb narrowly missed her. Before marrying an RAF officer and creating a home for him in various European bases, she worked as secretary in a racing stables, where she also mucked out and rode out with the lads and, being Vera, mothered them.

Vera said that she had never met anyone she didn't like, and she left no passing dog unloved. Her own devoted dog once pursued her into church wearing the cat flap round his neck. However, she had a strong character and throughout her life wanted only to be of service. She was just a thoroughly good person. As a child, her daughter Gill never knew, when coming downstairs in the morning, who she would find at the breakfast table since postman, dustmen, and milkman could all be tucking into tea and toast.

In her late 90s, Vera could often be seen sitting outside the Black Dog, always wearing pastels, indulging in her very real interest in people.

Gill wishes to thank "all who made my Mum's life in Walberswick." **Joanna Saunders**



Walberswick Fête cancelled

It is with considerable regret that the Fête Committee has decided to cancel this year's event. We don't believe it will be possible to protect our volunteers and visitors, and we feel that inviting people into Walberswick without the means to ensure safe social distancing on The Green, and in The Village Hall, would be unacceptable. Our village has worked hard to follow the rules in order to protect our families, and our older and shielding residents. Consequently, we don't feel comfortable with any increased risk such a large gathering would bring.

But there's still an opportunity for you to make a small contribution to Church and Village Hall funds by buying our ethically produced, 100% cotton, 'Dreaming of Walberswick' bags, which are on sale at The Anchor.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and helpers for past endeavours; we hope you'll all enjoy a rest and we look forward to getting back to normal for next year's Fête.

Alex Godfrey, Fête Chairman

Local Heroes

An enormous Walberswick thank you to Mick and the other Posties from the Royal Mail, who have cheerfully delivered, collected and processed the post from the village during the crisis. Always friendly, helpful and efficient, you have helped us stay in touch and delivered our many parcels. A huge 'thumbs up' from everyone in the village for your dedication and hard work. #ThumbsUpForYourPostie

A Special Walberswick

ThankYOU



We can be heroes everyday

The Royal Mail

You have joined the Tuck Shop, the Black Dog Deli, Little Gems and The Anchor as one of our local heroes

THE ANCHOR

Beers available for collection every day 5.00pm — 6.30pm

Draught beers (4 pint jugs): Cask Ghost Ship @ £11;

Keg Mosaic @ £13; Dry Hopped Lager @ £13

Canned beers (33cl) - 6 pack @ £12: Adnams Wild Hop abv 4.8%

(brewed with hops grown at The Anchor); Camden on Sea abv 4.6%

(a collaboration lager brewed by Adnams & Camden)

Anchor Beers of the World: 6 pack @ £15

Low Alcohol Ghost Ship abv 0.5% 50cl @£2

info@anchoratwalberswick.com | 01502 722112

www.anchoratwalberswick.com

Walberswick's Birds

Update: Nightjars are now calling most evenings, Cuckoos seem to be plentiful and I have seen at least two Red Kites over the village. Also dragonflies and damselflies are around in good numbers and small bats can be seen in the early evening - probably Pipistrelle. Most species have young, including Lapwings on the edge of the Marsh towards the Mill, and they are very protective of their offspring.

Since my article in the last Village News, I have been asked all sorts of questions about "birds". It is very difficult to impart knowledge gathered over a lifetime but the first thing I learnt was that I should try and identify the call, then one can look in a Bird Guide for the bird, provided you know what family it belongs to. It is useful to know the size compared to a bird you do know, then whether it is a duck, goose, falcon, gull, wader, corvid, bunting, passerine, hirundine or warbler etc, and the habitat you saw it in. If you are close enough and can get a picture that would be good. I am always willing to help if someone has seen something 'different'. If I can, I shall try to come to the site right away.

Of course, nowadays it is much easier as you can go to Google and type in 'small bird on the ground with red breast in UK' and look at the selection of images. You should easily be able to find it then. One tutorial I have seen on the internet is [youtube.com/watch?v=RHnzqKfxSQw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHnzqKfxSQw) or tinyurl.com/y7cac5ku – it seems quite good.

From now on, birds will be very busy with their offspring and then they will be fattening up (a bit like me really) for their migration back, mainly, to North Africa. **Pat Lancaster**



Common Cuckoo by Mke McKenzie
reproduced under the Creative Commons License

Walberswick Community Support Group remains active

Despite the easing of some lockdown restrictions, the Walberswick Community Support Group continues to function and volunteers are on hand to run errands, do shopping, collect prescriptions, walk the dog, and so on. While we appreciate that some of our volunteers might soon be returning to work or full-time education, there remain plenty of residents on hand to help.

We do not see the role of the Community Support Group as providing assistance only during the worst of the pandemic. Our aim is to keep the group running to provide help to residents for the foreseeable future. So please rest assured that we are here for as long as you need us.

As always, our volunteers are discreet and our service is confidential. Please get in touch with Liz Wagstaff Green on 01502 724889 or email liz.green@mac.com.

Paper copies of the Village News to be reinstated & publication date moved

As from the July issue of the Village News, our volunteers will once again be distributing paper copies to all homes in the village provided we have not returned to a state of strict lockdown.

We are also taking this opportunity to move the publication date of the newsletter to the beginning of each month rather than two-thirds of the way through the previous month, which has caused confusion in the past. You can therefore expect to receive your copy of the newsletter in the first few days of the month. If you have registered to receive a copy of the newsletter by email, you will continue to do so.

The deadline for submissions will move to the 25th of the month and should be sent to the editor as usual.

The next newsletter will be the July edition. **Editor**

Parish Council News

The next remote meeting of the WPC will be held on Monday, 8 June at 7.15pm. Details of the agenda and remote participation can be found on the Walberswick Village website.

WPC has added its voice to some 50 other local councils along the Suffolk Coast in expressing our alarm at the number and scale of energy projects proposed for our area. For example, the town and parish councillors' joint letter of 3 March to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy requested an urgent review of the cumulative impact of all the major energy projects planned for this area (there are currently ten including Sizewell C). The Suffolk Association of Local Councils and more recently the National Association of Local Councils have supported this urgent review. As these projects would affect all of us in East Suffolk, it is vital we continue to engage with the process robustly. The view of the Councils remains that the development of all these energy projects, particularly in such large number and scale, in an area of outstanding national beauty and with very little appropriate infrastructure in place, will cause irreparable environmental damage to this area and have a very negative economic impact on our valuable tourism industry just as businesses in the area are trying to recover from lockdown. EDF has now week its Development Consent Order (DCO) to go forward with Sizewell C despite the fact that the Covid-19 lockdown severely impacts the ability of the public to engage in this critical process.

A list and timetable for all the energy projects proposed over the next 15 years can be found on the Walberswick Village website.

Walberswick Parish Clerk

VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

WALBERSWICK.SUFFOLK.GOV.UK

Walking in the woods with the Nightingales

In the early hours I awoke to a subtle glow through the bedroom window. My attention was drawn to the clear night where the sky was lightening to an inky blue, the moon almost full, and hanging there, calling "Come".

This is lockdown land where almost nothing is possible and yet anything is imaginable. I might be tired if I pull myself completely away from sleep right now, but the new day beckons without agenda, without commitments, strangely free. It is early May, the night is cold and there are nightingales just out of earshot in the woods at the end of the field.

I wake Jeremy and we bundle ourselves up in our warmest clothes leaving a bemused and only slightly curious lurcher to dream on till morning. We do not need torches because the light of the moon is enough..

Before we reach the end of the track, as the path turns towards the marshes, but still out of the woods, the first melodies strike us. We stand quietly listening, enraptured, to our first nightingale soloist who is somewhere so close by in the bush beside us.

We creep on into the woods where more nightingales sing. Certainly there are two, maybe three. We disturb a largish mammal, maybe muntjac, maybe fox. We hear the alarmed creature jump away and then call loudly..... it is a fox. The nightingales continue unalarmed, intent on their song. We think we know that they – the males - sing to attract a mate but we humans do not really know; we do not sing nightingale, we are only seduced by their song.

We walk on through the woods to the bench by the concrete bunker on the path under a chestnut tree from where we watch the moon on her slow descent as the sky lightens seamlessly. The birds are a distant backdrop here, not the all-enveloping atmosphere of song from before.

Walking back, the first nightingale has moved across the path to a small oak tree where he sings invisibly within its close canopy. Dawn is not far away. We retreat home for toast and tea before setting out again, this time with the dog, down to the beach.

In the winter we often see the sun rise seemingly up out of the sea. Now, nearer the summer solstice, it rises further east, and appears over the harbour wall. Still beautiful, but there is a special magic to watching the fiery ball float on the water.

For a short interval between surreally continuous days and in the absence of any other humans, we have been immersed in an atmosphere of illumination and song, with the touch of the sea and the wind wrapping us up in ethereal arms.

Sara Solnick



Message from Wendy

Thank you to all the lovely people who have been so kind, sending cards and phone messages, plants and food, while I have been ill. I am overwhelmed by the love and care going on in Walberswick and hope soon to be able to get out a bit. **Wendy Sinclair**

The Village in 1901

Three hundred and six people spent census night in Walberswick in the Spring of 1901, roughly the same number as in the 1841 census sixty years earlier. Despite the village's reputation as an artists' colony there was only one artist, Parker Heggarty the watercolourist. The census shows a village moving towards a future of tourism and second home ownership and away from agricultural work. Sixty years earlier there had been 46 people involved in farming but in 1901 there were only 15 men on the land. Twenty-one people were now working in the building trade and there were seven lodging-house keepers. The villagers' needs in 1901 were served by two bakers, six fishermen, a fish merchant, six shopkeepers, a dressmaker and a shoemaker. There was also a self-proclaimed vermin destroyer. **Edward Wright**



Tom selected for Special Olympics

As most people in the village know, our Tom, now 16, has learning disabilities and autism. He has some very good news to share with you all. He's been chosen to play football in the Special Olympics in Liverpool next year. He plays for a disabled football club in Ipswich and ten lads from the team were chosen to represent Suffolk, which is fantastic news for Tom. There will be a GoFundMe page in time for them to raise £500 each to get them the equipment they need and accommodation. **Marie Ruth**

Planning applications

At the time of going to print, the following properties were still awaiting a decision on their planning applications:

- Saltlick, Leveretts Lane
- Parish Lantern, The Green

For the latest applications and full details on the above, go to the Planning page on the [Village Website](#). For the Planning Advisory Group reports, go to tinyurl.com/tdbvulf

Church Matters

St Andrew's Church Walberswick

Team Rector

Rev Canon Simon Pitcher
01502 725424 revsimon63@gmail.com

Ordained Local Minister

Rev Brian Fisher 01502 723023

Church Warden

John Simpson 01502 723384
johnsimpson1109@gmail.com

The Church is closed until further notice and there will be no weddings, baptisms or funerals inside the Church until further notice.

If there is an emergency, or if you need to speak to someone, please contact one of the above.

Zoom church services are held every Sunday at 8.00am and 9.30am. Access codes change each week, so if you wish to join in, please contact either Simon Pitcher at revsimon63@gmail.com or Alan Perry at adperry64@gmail.com for details.

Reopening of the Walberswick caravan site

As you will know the caravan site has not yet opened this season as we took the decision not to start moving vans out of their winter storage in the week of 23 March. We also placed a barrier at the site entrance to deter any casual visitors that may appear. However, taking full note of current guidelines and regulations and some guesswork on how the government may open up the leisure and accommodation sectors of the economy, we are planning for a safe opening as soon as regulations allow.

This has included discussions with staff on extra cleaning and enhanced procedures to keep them and our tenants safe and protected, and taking care to ensure the virus is not carried into the village. Important here is making every caravan unit self sufficient in toilet facilities and reserving our services block for washing and showering, and even then limiting access to one or two people at a time. We are also fortunate that each of the pitches on the site is at least nine metres apart from the next.

A packing list has been drawn up, including a thermometer, extra towels for hand drying after washing as well as the charge to test everyone in the family for fever before driving to the site.

Not all villagers will know that our tenant families largely consider themselves part of the community with most having maintained a tenancy over 10 years and some with over 50 years seasonal occupation. You may also not know that tenancies are for a whole season and sub-letting is not allowed at all so our caravan community is like an extension of Walberswick, with a close identity to, and respectful of, the way the village works. It really goes without saying all of our families are in love with Walberswick and would be devastated should they cause any harm to the village in any way. **John Winyard**

Unexpected Beauty in the Time of Corona

The announcements of the last couple of days makes me feel like the very worst is now behind us – if maybe only because of the realisation that we will have to come to terms with co-existing with Covid for the foreseeable future. It seems to be time then to wrap up this little column that the editor so kindly gave me when the lockdown began.

I believe that for many of us, while experiencing a sense of some relief, we will also be thinking of how to hold on to the things that made this all less sad. My son has returned to his own flat, but I hope that these months in very close proximity may become part of 'family folklore' and will be seen mostly in a warm light rather than something imposed. I will try to remember whenever I am again on a crowded East Anglia train that I missed it when having to Stay Home. The cycling on quiet roads has been magnificent. My book club, which often struggled to find one free morning a month when all six women could get together, have 'zoomed' for a couple of hours every two weeks for the past 3 months. And finally, I will remind myself how amazingly lucky all of us are in Walberswick to have this beautiful environment and close community. **Josie Bassinette**

1953 Flood Picture

Isn't it interesting what one finds out..... When the photo of The Green in 1953 was included in Issue No 282 (May 2020) of the Village News, it was taken from archived photographs and memories of residents at the time, recorded for the Group's exhibition in 2003. This 2003 photo-montage represented how Ferry Road and The Green would have looked in the 1953 Floods. It was not taken at the time of the flood. I hope this clarifies the anomaly. **Pat Lancaster**



The next edition of the Village News will be published on Wednesday, 1 July 2020. The copy deadline is Thursday, 25 June 2020 and submissions should be sent to the editor at walberswicknews@gmail.com