



Walberswick Village News

September 2020 | Issue 286

Working together to address anti-social behaviour

Last month we included a long report on the spate of anti-social behaviour and some of the approaches being taken to address it. Since then, the situation has generally improved despite the huge number of visitors and residents. Still, it has been one of the most difficult summers in recent memory. The litter situation at the car parks and the beach has improved, but has required an exceptional effort by the Car Parks Team, many additional collections and increased patrols by our volunteer litter pickers. The fenced area of the dunes has remained protected by the new fencing and by the informative signs telling people why it is necessary to protect the delicate Marram grass. New banners have gone up in the car parks to encourage visitors to be kind to the beaches.

At the same time, there has been an increase in petty crime and vandalism including at some of the beach huts. While social distancing has been respected by the vast majority of visitors, there have been cases of people crabbing on the bridges, some aggressive behaviour, and late night gatherings on the beach.

A number of villagers have expressed concern about speeding and confrontations amongst drivers and between drivers and pedestrians. Parking enforcement has improved the situation where there are yellow lines, but the situation in front of the Church, where parking is allowed, has been fraught. Turning out of Church Lane and out of driveways along that stretch of The Street has been perilous for many, although the placement of traffic cones at the corner has helped somewhat.

It is hoped that as schools reopen and more people return to work (and the weather changes), the worst of these issues will subside. At the same time, ways to mitigate these problems are being explored. At the September meeting of the Parish Council, a proposal for the Village to initiate a volunteer SpeedWatch program will be considered. The Safe Space Team is reconvening to take forward ongoing ideas, including the possibility for a second Speed Indicator Device (see article below). Signs will be remade and maintained to remind people not to crab on the bridges so that they can be kept clear to safely access the beach.

Across the globe, everyone's lives and communities have been impacted by the pandemic. Although there have been some unprecedented challenges, our village has managed to remain a welcoming place where our local businesses have rebounded and where so many people have been able to enjoy Walberswick's natural beauty.

Josie Bassinette, Parish Council Chairman



Safe Space

The Safe Space Team was planning a Parish Meeting in the spring to obtain community feedback on their draft proposals. Covid-19 means that meeting is on hold. However, the team is convening to examine lessons learned from the unprecedented summer traffic. Simultaneously the question has been raised about a second Speed Indicating Device (SID), the sign that measures the speed of approaching vehicles and displays the measured speed and a smiley or frowning face. The suggestion is that the existing SID stays permanently at Adams Lane, with the second SID 'roaming' the other sites. There have previously been mixed views, some in favour, some against, for example on grounds of sign pollution. We would welcome your views via email to: walberswicksid@btinternet.com

The Safe Space Team

Who is the Safe Space Team?

It is an independent team drawn from the five major stakeholders in the village - the Walberswick Common Lands Charity, the Walberswick Parish Council, Walberswick Car Parks Limited, the Parish Plan and the Village Hall. Professional advice is funded by the Walberswick Common Lands Charity.

Cliff Field Car Park closure

The Environment Agency will be carrying out repair works to the Cliff Field sluice bridge commencing the week of 14 September. The works will take a maximum of three weeks to complete. The bridge will be closed to vehicles during the works but will remain open for pedestrians as much as is possible. Please make alternative arrangements during this period.

There is never a good time to have a car park closed, but we are very grateful that the Environment Agency is continuing to maintain this important asset for the village. **James Darkins, Walberswick Common Lands Charity**

THE ANCHOR

You can now book a table (weather permitting) on the back terrace online via our website

Lunch 12 noon - 3.15pm
Slightly restricted menu 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Dinner 5.45pm - 9pm
Wood-fired pizza every day 12 noon to 7.30pm
Takeaway fish & chips and pizza 12 noon - 7pm

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The Debt We Owe - memories of the Battle of Britain

The tranquillity of that balmy summer morning was suddenly shattered by the wailing of air raid sirens, the sound of aircraft engines and, shortly thereafter, that of gunfire. Some 100 German bombers, with a strong fighter escort, were crossing the east coast and heading for the fighter station of RAF North Weald in Essex. It was Saturday, 31 August 1940; this was the Battle of Britain and once again I was about to see a virtual death dance above me. Having only just scrambled, North Weald's resident Hurricanes were 'easy meat' for the German Messerschmitts, which quickly downed four of them while their Dornier bombers went to work. Soon it was over, leaving the station severely damaged and with many casualties, and we knew that the bombers would be back with more of the same before the battle petered out in October. However, North Weald remained open for business throughout the battle, and Fighter Command would soon get the better of their unwelcome visitors.



Hawker Hurricane. Photo: Cpl P Major ABIPP/MOD, OGL

On 15 September 2020 we will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Battle of Britain Day, our tribute to all the men and women, in the air and on the ground, who took part in this crucial battle and gave it their unswerving support. We should remember them all. It was Herr Hitler's failure to conquer the skies over England that led him to postpone and then cancel Operation Sealion, the invasion of Great Britain. **Nigel Walpole**

Royal British Legion bazaar & house collections cancelled

Due to the pandemic, the Royal British Legion headquarters has ruled that there will be no face-to-face fundraising for the 2020 appeal. In light of this, there will be no Coffee Morning/Bazaar, no house-to-house collection and no poppies available for sale in the village shops or pubs in Walberswick and Blythburgh. I will, however, replace the remembrance crosses on the war graves in the church yard. In September, the Royal British Legion will make a general announcement to the public, giving information on how to support the 2020 appeal.



Thank you for your support and I hope we can re-instate the Coffee Morning/Bazaar in 2021.

Erica Donnellan, Hon Poppy Appeal organiser for Walberswick and Blythburgh

Art at The Anchor event raises £500 for charity

We had a lovely week at The Anchor and thank you to everyone for their support. Also to Sophie and Mark for being the perfect hosts. We raised £500 for East Anglia's Children's Hospices. **Jackie Almond**

Sole Bay Care Fund benefits from sales of 'The People of Millfield Road'

Thank you to everyone who bought a copy of the book. £340 has been raised for The Sole Bay Care Fund. **Edward Wright**

Pre-order local free-range Christmas poultry

Tasty turkey, gorgeous goose, delicious duck and scrumptious chicken

Free-range and reared locally by Ollie Parker
Delivery can be arranged. Order early to avoid disappointment. Contact Ollie on 07464 945909 or at oliver.parker429@gmail.com

Parish Council meeting

The next remote meeting of the WPC will be held on Monday, 14 September at 7.15pm. Details of the agenda and remote participation can be found on the Walberswick Village website. For any other information, please contact the Walberswick Parish Clerk at walberswickclerk@gmail.com

Walberswick Community Support Group

I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who kindly volunteered over the last five months. Whether or not you were called upon, the fact that you were willing to support the community has been very much appreciated and hopefully given people peace of mind during these difficult times. From those who have given resources, run errands, provided a friendly voice on the end of the phone, litter-picked on the beach and dunes, etc, etc, a big thank you from me personally. The support group will continue indefinitely. **Liz Wagstaff Green** 01502 724889 or liz.green@mac.com

Planning applications

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

- Windmill Cottage, Millfield Road (trees)
- 1 Anchor Cottages, The Street
- Half Pennys, Ferry Road (trees)
- Westwood Lodge, Lodge Road
- Fen Cottage, The Lea
- Orchard House, The Street (trees)
- Seaspray, Millfield Road
- Commonsides, Palmers Lane

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

VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

WALBERSWICK.SUFFOLK.GOV.UK

Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride

This year the churches cycle ride will take place on Saturday, 12 September. We are looking for cyclists to join in, whether you can manage a quick tour round the local churches or want to venture further afield, everyone is welcome. Take a picnic and make a day of it. It is a wonderful way of seeing our beautiful countryside and villages, for venturing down quiet lanes and pathways, Please contact **Suzzie Godfrey** 07539 513753 for sponsorship forms and any enquiries.

Plea for foliage for Church arrangements

The Church has re-opened for services and private prayer so we are doing memorial flowers again. Are you willing to let Erica Donnellan or Cathryn Simpson pick some foliage from your garden to help with floral arrangements? If so, please contact either of us on 01502 724845 or 01502 723384. Thank you. **Erica Donnellan**

Harvest Service in the ruins

Sunday, 4 October at 11am

A short service of hymns and readings accompanied by the choir & John Flack band. Come rain or shine. Details in the October Village News.

St Andrew's Annual Parochial Church Council meeting will take place in the church after the service at 12.15pm. **Julia Josephs**



Walberswick's birds

Hello again. I missed out last month as the amount of information I could bring to you was diminishing by the day, as it so often does around this time of year. My highlights were seeing over 500 x Black Headed Gulls with two x Mediterranean Gulls on the marshes by the Bird Hide and a mixed flock of over 300 Swallows, House Martins and Sand Martins – both adults and birds of the year. This last month has seen the gradual departure of the Swifts – the last I saw was on 20 August 2020.

I saw a Jersey Tiger Moth in my garden on 3 August and interestingly another was seen and photographed by neighbours in their garden on 9 August. I have only seen one other in the village. In addition, a Hummingbird Hawkmoth was present in my garden on 19 August.

Mid-August saw an influx of Pied Flycatchers throughout the county. Beautiful birds seen in unusually high numbers. For example, seven individuals were seen at the sewage works, Reydon, on Monday 17 August 2020.

Some other very interesting birds have been seen in the county including, Sooty, Roseate and Caspian Terns at Minsmere, Spoonbills in various places and a Night Heron seen in flight over Carlton Marshes. Shame the Great Spotted Cuckoo was seen in Norfolk and not here. A Red Backed Shrike visited Southwold Golf Course for several days mid August.

Although the RSPB at Minsmere were going to open a couple of their larger hides, their "aspirations to get hides open have been thwarted to date". I shall try to keep you updated on this. **Pat Lancaster**, 26 August 2020



News reports on lack of social distancing on the crabbing bridges

Both the BBC and the East Anglian Daily Times (EADT) have reported on the anti-social behaviour on the crabbing bridges in the village, with Luke Jeans and Josie Bassinette providing comment. You can find the BBC report at [tinyurl.com/y5e7vls6](https://www.tinyurl.com/y5e7vls6) and the EADT one at [tinyurl.com/yx8hgcxr](https://www.tinyurl.com/yx8hgcxr)

The police have mentioned that they have not always been made aware of such incidents, so please remember to report them and other anti-social behaviour online to Suffolk Police at [tinyurl.com/y2d9jduq](https://www.tinyurl.com/y2d9jduq), phone 101 or 999 if urgent. **Editor**



The Village News has a new advertising manager

We are delighted to welcome Karen Fordham to the Walberswick Village News Committee. Karen has kindly volunteered to take over as Advertising Manager, a critical role, as without our advertisers we would not have the funds to print the newsletter. If you are interested in advertising in the Village News, please contact Karen on karenfordham@gmail.com or 07778 545861.

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

September 2020 Services

Sunday, 6 September - 11.15am

13th Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion

Sunday, 20 September - 11.15am

15th Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion

Every Wednesday - 10.00am

Eucharist

Zoom Services

Every Sunday - 11.15am

Holy Communion

Zoom access codes change each week, so if you wish to join in, please contact either Simon Pitcher at revsimon63@gmail.com or Alan Pery at adperry64@gmail.com for details, or check the Sole Bay Churches website solebayteamministry.co.uk

Community Services

Mobile Library: Friday, 18 September 2.15pm - 2.45pm, Outside the Village Hall

Post Office: Open on Thursdays, 10am-12 noon. There will be no opening on Tuesdays. Village Hall Annex

Norwich, Halesworth and Lowestoft buses: As there is currently no demand for these services, they will remain suspended until further notice.

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

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