



Walberswick Village News

April 2021 | Issue 293

Can you spot the difference?

The Heritage Hut Management Committee is looking forward to bringing you this fantastic community asset soon.

Before 2020



After 2021



See more great images on the Walberswick Village website walberswick.onesuffolk.net/home/heritage-hut

(The Heritage Hut Management Committee is comprised of representatives from the Walberswick Common Lands Charity, the Walberswick Parish Council, the Walberswick Local History Group and the Scroll Advisory Group)

Will we have a Horticultural Show this year?

If all the government easing of lockdown stages go to plan, we hope to hold the Horticultural Show this year on Saturday, 24 July. Of course, there will be new rules and regulations, if we are able to proceed. We will use the schedule from last year's event, which was cancelled due to Covid. A copy of the schedule is on the Walberswick [website](http://www.walberswicknews.com) at tinyurl.com/hortwalbers so you can start planning and practicing.

We will keep you posted as developments unfold. Fingers crossed that we are able to meet once again in July. **Betsy Lemmon, Horticultural Committee**

Thank you from Janet

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent flowers and cards, with thoughtful and humorous words after the death of my husband, Nigel Hunt, in January.

Thank you also to the many people who have kept us going over the last difficult year. We could not have done it without you all. **Janet, Emma and Sally**

Volunteers needed to collect village prescriptions

The team that collects your prescriptions from Sole Bay Health Centre each week is in need of new volunteers. Collections are made on Wednesday and Friday mornings and delivered to the Village Shop. Each volunteer collects on one week in each month of the year.

If you are able to help please contact **Lou Kadan**, 01502 722000 or louise.kadan@gmail.com

The Anchor

Lunch time BBQs over the Easter weekend
(weather permitting)

Roast duck special on Easter Sunday
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Anchor Chow on WhatsApp

Parish Council News

Latest on the Bailey Bridge

The initial meeting on the Bailey Bridge (BB) took place on 22 March. It was chaired by Suffolk County Council (SCC) Councillor and Cabinet member, Andrew Reid (Transport and Highways), and attended by Richard Smith and Michael Ladd (SCC Councillors), David Beavan (East Suffolk Councillor), representatives from Reydon, Southwold and Walberswick, business interests, the ferry operator, and SCC and Suffolk Highways experts. Everyone expressed support for the renovation and were pleased that SCC had allocated the funds to do so.

What was made clear through the report by engineers at the start of the meeting is that they find the bridge in fairly urgent need of extensive refurbishment, and that this work will be expensive and time consuming. It has taken SCC around a year to complete the studies, make financing decisions and confirm funding. Over the next approximately two months, it will be working on obtaining the approvals of various agencies, including the Environment Agency, to undertake the work. It is therefore highly unlikely that work on the BB can begin before June. Commencing the work immediately, as some of us had proposed, is not possible.

Following a discussion on the extent of the bridge's deterioration and the remedial work that necessitates its closure, the meeting focused on the timing of the closure. There is clearly a very strong preference by the engineers and Suffolk Highways to undertake the work during the summer months so as to take advantage of the best weather conditions, to minimise the possibility of weather-induced delays, and to arrest further deterioration of the bridge. However, there is clearly a preference from all the community representatives and councillors to delay the work until September, if this is at all possible. It was agreed at the meeting that SCC would bring in another engineer to see if a delay to September is feasible, taking into account the bridge's condition and the necessary works.

Many questions were asked about reducing the time the bridge would be shut (regardless of start date) and if the cost was justified. Suffolk Highways explained that they had already taken steps to shorten the bridge closure by contracting a seven-day work week. Undertaking the work in the summer was proposed as it would limit weather-induced delays, especially for painting. But further tightening of what is now expected to be a 12-13 week timeline is not possible because of the technical requirements relating to the sequencing of the work, given that segments of the bridge need to be cut out, fabricated and replaced, and three coats of specialised paint added, among other steps. The work requires considerable labour, and environmental and other considerations require that the work be done in an exacting way that increases costs. Overall, it is an expensive bit of renovation. There was no way the participants at the meeting were able to judge the cost aspect beyond this explanation.

SCC is firmly committed to helping mitigate the impact of the closure on local businesses and the community. They are aware of the very negative impact the closure will have on businesses already suffering from the long lockdowns in 2020 and 2021. They have also been made aware of the extremely large number of people that use the bridge daily and that these numbers are expected to be higher than ever because of the possibility of limited summer travel. The meeting participants' preference was for a temporary bridge, but the SCC engineers confirmed that this was not possible, both from a timing and a financing perspective. They committed to work with the community representatives, the business representatives and the ferry operator to significantly increase ferry services. They were also open to the idea of adding a late evening shuttle bus service to transfer people who had crossed late in the day/had dinner at the pubs. They expressed a willingness to work with the local representatives and East Suffolk Council to address the concerns about the impact of increased traffic, given the heavy congestion experienced during the summer of 2020 and the potential dangers on the road.

Next steps: Preparation work by Suffolk Highways will continue apace, particularly in terms of obtaining the relevant planning permissions. SCC will contract with an independent engineer to inspect the bridge and provide a second opinion on the timing of the closure. A subgroup will be established immediately to come up with potential mitigation measures to lessen the negative impact of the closure. Better communications will be prepared to keep the communities and businesses informed. A second meeting of the working group will be arranged to progress discussions and for SCC to make a firm decision on the timing for closure and repairs.

Josie Bassinette, Chair, Walberswick Parish Council

Next Parish Council meeting

The next remote meeting of the Walberswick Parish Council will be held on Monday, 12 April starting at a new time of 6pm. Future meetings will also start at this time. Details of the agenda and remote participation can be found on the Walberswick Village website. For any other information, please contact the Parish Clerk at walberswickclerk@gmail.com



Planning applications

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

- Jove Cottage, Lodge Road
- Commonsides, Palmers Lane
- West Wood, Lodge Road
- 2 Anchor Cottages, The Street

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

Thank you to our litter pickers

A big round of applause for all the litter pickers in the village - the regulars who clear the beach and dunes, those who joined the recent beach clean, the locals who always seem to have a litter picker to hand when walking in the village, on the Common and along the footpaths, and for the two brave souls who clear the B1387 from the water tower into the village. **Editor**

Walberswick raises thousands of pounds for Comic Relief

Thank you, thank you to everyone who supported the village fundraising for Comic Relief. You have all been so incredibly generous and made it enormous fun, while helping people living difficult lives in the UK and across the world.

Our very own Comic Relief Hero, Tom, raised over £1,570 by running 271 laps around his college with class mates, the equivalent of 20 miles. Tom hugely exceeded his running target, spurred on by a personal message of support from retired Liverpool Football Club defender, Jamie Carragher.

The Red Nose Village team raised £10,364 (plus £2,156 gift aid) with a couple of payments still expected. Around £1,000 was also spent on official merchandise. To say the least, we were absolutely overwhelmed by your support. You decorated your homes with red nose coconuts and red nose crabs. You laughed at silly jokes on doors and pictures of wobbly jellies, and mostly failed to identify famous faces hidden behind red noses on quiz nights. Together we enjoyed a brilliant GastroComic Relief 'Don't Come Dine with Me' dinner prepared by Andy at the Black Dog Deli and Sophie at The Anchor, followed by a zoom drinks party. The local artists raised a small fortune by auctioning their postcard art. The kids painted brightly coloured crabs that were used for a crab hunt around the village. Unwanted items were put on eBay. And of course, to keep everyone's energy up, Guy baked brownies, which won him the 'Mrs Miggins Award for Best Purveyor of Chocolate Brownies'.

Be sure to watch the Red Nose Village video to see what we did tinyurl.com/rednosevillage

Huge thanks from Tom and the Red Nose Village Team



Church Matters

St Andrew's Church Walberswick

Team Rector
Rev Canon Simon Pitcher
01502 725424 revsimon63@gmail.com

April 2021 Services

Easter Sunday, 4 April - 09.30am
Holy Communion

Sunday, 18 April 11.15am
3rd of Easter
Holy Communion

Sunday, 25 April 11.15am
4th of Easter
Holy Communion

Sunday services by Zoom
8am & 9.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Service

Zoom access codes change each week.
Email revsimon63@gmail.com or
adperry64@gmail.com if you wish to
join in, or check the Sole Bay Team
Ministry [website](http://www.solebay.org.uk)

Every Wednesday - 10.00am
Holy Communion (said)

Commemorative Flowers

16 April - Joanna Saunders for
her parents
23 April - Sandra Gordon for Adam
28 April - Julia Sowerbutts for her father

Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church meeting
has been postponed until Sunday,
30 May at 09.00am

Community Services

Mobile Library: Resuming on
Friday, 30 April., 2.14-2.45pm in
the Village Hall carpark

Post Office: Following a couple
of unscheduled closures due to
illness, the Post Office is open as
usual on Thursdays, 10am-12
noon Village Hall Annex

The next edition of the Village News will be published on 1 May 2021. The copy deadline is 25 April 2021 and submissions should be sent to the editor at walberswicknews@gmail.com

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