



# Walberswick Village News

February 2022 | Issue 303

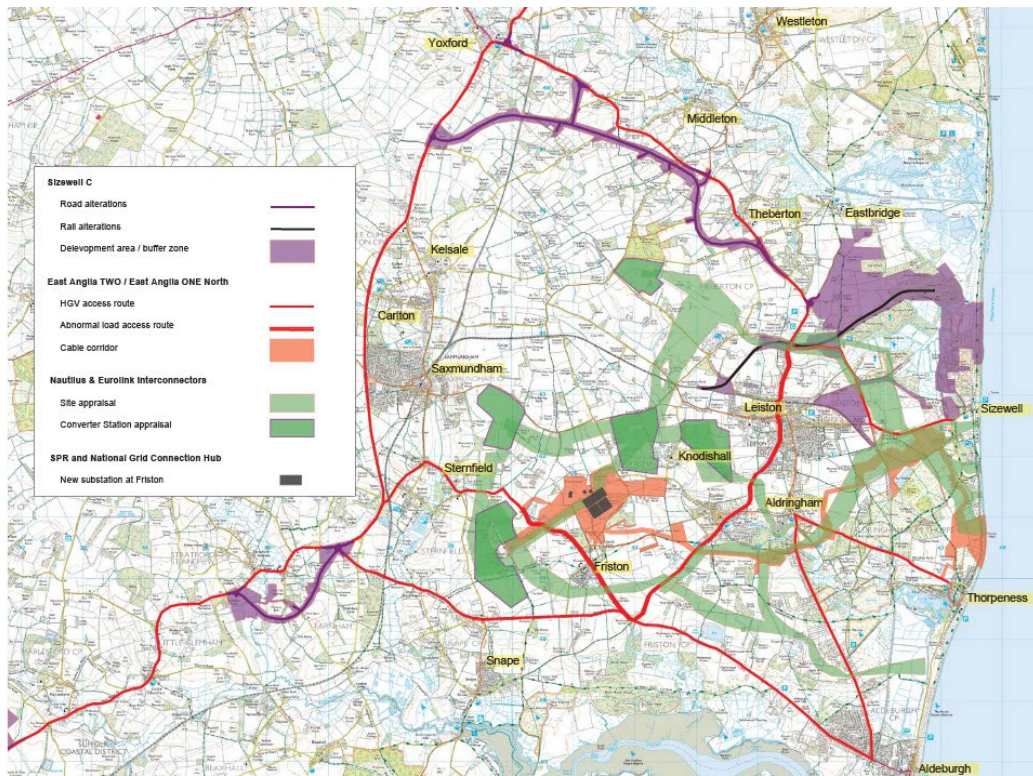
## Robin Buncombe 1948-2021

The family of Robin Buncombe would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards, generosity and support following his passing on 20 December 2021. **Penny, James and Megan**

## Parish Council News

### Update on Sizewell C

The Suffolk Coast is being deluged with proposed energy projects. None of the developers or decision-makers at the national level seem particularly interested in the overwhelming cumulative impact the projects would have on the local population, transport networks, economy, health and safety services, and the character of rural Suffolk. The projects include not only Sizewell C, Europe's largest infrastructure project, but windfarms' on-land supporting stations, at least half a dozen sub-stations for the national grid, the landing site of power cables from mainland Europe and interconnector cables with Kent. The biggest of these proposed projects are shown on the map below. This is a horrifying situation for coastal Suffolk, not to mention the country as a whole, which would be putting so much energy



## The Anchor

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after a short break for staff holidays

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security on the back of this tiny fragile coast. Environmentally, the construction and operation of these projects pose extraordinarily high risks for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Minsmere and all the marine, bird and animal life that depend on our pristine coast and marshes, including here in Walberswick.

In terms of Sizewell C, the Planning Inspectorate has been given an additional six weeks to make their recommendation to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Secretary of State, Kwasi Kwarteng, acknowledgement of the massive work in shifting through weeks of hearings, some 5,000 documents

and the 22 change applications made by EDF during the course of the six-month Development Consent Order review. Even MP Therese Coffey, who remains a supporter of Sizewell C, expressed concern that the Environment Agency and Natural England, which are responsible for assessing EDF's plans on behalf of the nation, were unable to review and provide input on many of EDF's proposals, including the desalination plant, because of lack of details and time. As a result of the short postponement, the Planning Inspectorate now has until 22 February to make its recommendation to the Government.

Regarding financing, Parliament is proposing a tax on every energy bill in the country for years to come, which could be used to pay EDF to build Sizewell C. The controversial Regulated Asset Base (RAB) financing of nuclear energy construction basically puts an unlimited cost liability on to the public. This is even before we have to pay for any energy produced. When tried in the US, the RAB left consumers to pay for over \$23 billion in cost overruns and cancelled construction.

Many new safety questions have arisen. The only place that has an operating third-generation European Pressurised water Reactor or EPR is Taishan, China, which has been shut down since August after only three years of operation because of fuel failure. France's Nuclear Regulator has halted work on EDF's reactors at Flamanville, which is already 10 years behind schedule and massively overbudget, because of similar safety concerns. The same design, with potential flaws, is being built at Hinkley Point in Somerset and would be replicated at Sizewell C.

On environmental issues, EDF are back-peddalling on key environmental protections agreed as part of planning consent at Hinkley, including the use of acoustic fish deterrents that are essential to limit the impact on marine life and fish kill caused by the operation of the reactors. This bodes ill for similar promises at Sizewell where the coastal and marine impact could be even more dire and where environmental threats from construction and operation abound.

### What's Next?

Kwasi Kwarteng was in Ipswich in December and reportedly received an earful from Suffolk businesses who are opposed to Sizewell C. He told those assembled that no decision had been made. A meeting with the top civil servant from BEIS with some 60 local Council representatives, including Walberswick, is planned for 4 February.

East Suffolk Council (ESC) is supportive of Sizewell C and stands to benefit from many pots of mitigation funds that EDF is potentially offering as compensation for the environmental destruction and transport, housing and economic hardships caused in coastal Suffolk. Neither EDF nor ESC has convincingly explained how this money, even if provided, would actually mitigate these impacts.

In contrast, Rolls-Royce's Small Modular Reactors are promising new technology that could potentially replace large scale nuclear at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact. They could be online sooner than Sizewell C. The danger for us is that Sizewell C is given permission to begin construction, with all of its negative impacts and huge financial costs, and then becomes obsolete before it even begins operation.

For those who would like to know how to express their views on Sizewell C, the Stop Sizewell C website, [stopsizewellc.org](http://stopsizewellc.org), provides useful information on whom to contact and how, and has links to reputable media articles and research that provide many more details. The website also offers a five-mile walk through the AONB and SSSI on which Sizewell C will be built. The walk brings to life the absolutely mammoth scale of the proposed development and what will be forever lost if it goes forward. A longer version of this update can be seen on the village website at [tinyurl.com/2p8h6vmx](http://tinyurl.com/2p8h6vmx).

### Parish Council Precept 2022/23

Many in the village will remember that last year the Parish Council was able to significantly reduce the Precept, the small part of Council Tax that goes to the Parish Council for the village. The Parish Council are now very pleased to announce that we have finalised our budget for the financial year 2022/23. Thanks to working cooperatively with the WCLC and grants from East Suffolk Cllr Beavan and Suffolk County Cllr Smith for help with playground equipment and the upcoming Jubilee, we have been able to hold the Precept at £20,000 for another year. This is also against a backdrop of increases of around three percent that are expected in both the East Suffolk and County Council elements of the Council Tax.

### Planning applications

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

**The Anchor**, The Street | **2 Manor Close** | **Bell Cottage**, Ferry Road | **Parish Lantern**, The Green | **Blinkers**, Seven Acres Lane | **Mill Cottage**, The Street | **Seacroft**, Millfield (trees) | **Orchard Piece**, Lodge Road (planning appeal) | **Paules Fenn**, The Street

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

### Vacancy for a Trustee for Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC)

There remains a vacancy for one of the Trustee posts with the WCLC that is nominated by Walberswick Parish Council (WPC). If anyone is interested in applying, or would like more details, please email the Parish Clerk at [walberswickclerk@gmail.com](mailto:walberswickclerk@gmail.com). The closing date for applications to be considered at the next meeting of the WPC is Monday, 7 February 2022.

### Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 14 February, at 7pm in the Heritage Hut. It is open to members of the public, who may either choose to attend in person or join remotely (via Zoom). The agenda and how to join remotely will be published on the Walberswick Village website. For further information please contact the Parish Clerk at [walberswickclerk@gmail.com](mailto:walberswickclerk@gmail.com).

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## Walberswick Common Lands Charity News Update on Conservation Management

Villagers will recall that in the course of 2020 around 800 hedge whips were planted around the village. 2021 saw long dry spells, but we are pleased to report that about 80% of the hedge whips have survived. Those that haven't are being replaced. This is in parallel with the regular management of trees on the common lands, with pruning, removal of dead branches, and felling where necessary either for safety or to remove the invasive, self-sown sycamores and to allow the growth of other species, such as oak, wild plum, crab apple, rowan, field maple beech and Scot's pine. The battle to cut back nettles, brambles and ivy continues, so that the planting can take hold and thrive.

The Common itself is a rare environment, comprising 0.05% of the world's lowland heath, and merits careful management and restoration. This is being done in conjunction with Natural England. Over 40 people attended a talk in the Village Hall on 6 October by Adam Burrows, Senior Reserve Manager for Natural England's Suffolk Coast National Nature Reserves. He explained that the silver birch, gorse and bracken on the Common need to be managed: if left unchecked they would swamp the heathland. The land recovers quickly from the removal of these species and the clearance allows the lowland heathland to restore with characteristic plants such as natural heathers. This exercise has already been successfully undertaken on East Hill. Much of the cut silver birch and willow (goat willow) from the Common is now being bound into 'fascines', used to create low barriers along the Blyth to prevent the erosion of the riverbank.

Work continues to help to recreate a mosaic of habitats across the village, so that both the natural flora and fauna can flourish for the benefit of us all. **Richard Leiper, WCLC Trustee**

### Looking Ahead to the Summer

The Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC) is hoping to open the communal Beach Hut once again for the whole of the April – September season (restrictions permitting). The facility is only available to village residents and the rental rate will remain at £10 per day. Bookings will again only be taken online with the system live from early March. Visit the WCLC section of the village website for full details or [tinyurl.com/wclchuts](http://tinyurl.com/wclchuts) **Matthew Wetmore, WCLC Clerk**



### WI Monthly Meeting: Two Magpies Bakery Thursday, 3 February, 2.30pm in the Village Hall

I am pleased to advise that the above Meeting will be going ahead as planned. Please take the usual precautions to keep us all safe - wear a face covering, sanitise hands and observe social distancing. The speaker is Steve Magnall from the Two Magpies Bakery. We look forward to seeing you all. New members and visitors welcome.  
**Muriel Wortley, WI Committee**



### In the News

- *Meet the East Anglian author who made medical history.* **EADT**, 9 January 2022. An interview with Polly Crosby, who grew up in Walberswick and whose parents still live in the village, on her latest novel, *The Unravelling*. [tinyurl.com/2p968ewb](http://tinyurl.com/2p968ewb).
- *Suffolk seaside resort named among the poshest villages in the UK.* **EADT**, 17 January 2022. Originally published in *The Telegraph* (behind a paywall), research by Savills lists Walberswick as one of the 54 poshest villages in the UK. [tinyurl.com/3n8h5v4b](http://tinyurl.com/3n8h5v4b).
- *Seaweed farm proposed off the coast of Walberswick.* **EADT**, 26 January 2022. A seaweed farm could be built approximately one kilometre off the coast of Walberswick. [tinyurl.com/y6cfd4h7](http://tinyurl.com/y6cfd4h7)

## Church Matters St Andrew's Church Walberswick

### Team Rector

Revd Canon Simon Pitcher

01502 725424 [revsimon63@gmail.com](mailto:revsimon63@gmail.com)

### February 2022 Services

**Sunday, 6 February, 11.15am**

Sung Eucharist  
Celebrant Revd Margaret King

**Sunday, 13 February, 6pm**

Choral Evensong  
Revd Canon Harry Edwards

**Sunday, 20 February, 11.15am**

Sung Eucharist  
Revd Canon Simon Pitcher

**Sunday, 27 February, 11.15am**

Family Service  
Revd Canon Simon Pitcher

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**Every Wednesday, 10.00am**

Holy Communion  
Coffee on first Wednesdays

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### Parish Register

**10 January** Robin Graham Buncombe  
Aged 73. Funeral service followed by  
cremation

### Commemorative Flowers

**9 February** Pat Lancaster  
in memory of Tony

### Community Services

**Mobile Library:** Friday, 4 February,  
2.15-2.45pm,  
Village Hall car park

**Post Office:** Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm,  
Thursdays, 10am-12 noon,  
Village Hall Annex

**Norwich Bus:** Thursday, 17 February.  
Departs at 9am & returns at 1.30pm.  
Booking essential.  
Phone or text Mandy Erlenbach on  
07590 697575.

**VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE**

[WALBERSWICK.SUFFOLK.GOV.UK](http://WALBERSWICK.SUFFOLK.GOV.UK)

The next edition of the Village News will be published on 1 March 2022. The copy deadline is 25 February 2022 and submissions should be sent to the editor at [walberswicknews@gmail.com](mailto:walberswicknews@gmail.com)

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