

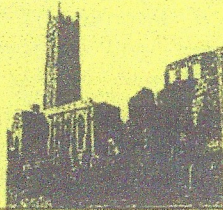


From Early Days And Onward



VILLAGE NEWS

PRE-ISSUE 2 NOVEMBER 1996
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As you can see, 'Pre Issue 2' appeared before 'Pre Issue 1' (?)

Maybe 'The Doctor' and the T.A.R.D.I.S.* were involved and the issues were caught up in a loop in the space-time continuum...Or maybe it was part of a countdown to the launch issue?

Whatever, under the editorship of Ray Easterbrook, the first issue of the Walberswick Village News successfully rolled off the presses for January 1997.

*TARDIS, of course, stands for Time And Relative Dimensions In Space. Or Time and Relative Dimension in Space, if you're a purist.



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An extract from the last (December 1996)

PARISH NEWS

VALETE

Readers will recall that the new PCC undertook to continue publishing the Parish News until the end of this year, in order to fulfil our contracts, both with our subscribers and the advertisers. We have now reached this time and this issue is the last, which will be published. When I first became associated with the magazine 20 years ago, it covered the two parishes of Blythburgh and Walberswick. Then, under John Murrell, the cover was expanded to include Wenhaston, Bramfield and Thorington, when the new Benefice was formed, and we said goodbye to our friends in Blythburgh. Now, with the new team being formed under a Rector not yet appointed, it is time to say farewell to our friends in Wenhaston, Thorington and Bramfield.

We have enjoyed your friendship and support.

The PCC has asked me to thank our Editors, Collie Dalley, Ray Easterbrook and Clare Fisher for their expert work, our willing Team of Distributors, Southwold Press, our advertisers (all of whom have been written to individually), and our many correspondents and contributors. We are grateful to Christopher Sinclair for his beautifully designed cover to so many past issues of the News.

It is pleasant to report that Ray Easterbrook will be editing the Village News Sheet which will start to appear at the turn of the year: we wish him and his team every success and acknowledge with thanks his willingness to publish Church News as part of the new venture.

Bob Trevelyan, Church Warden

(Still going strong, though not now Church Warden. Ed.)

And one from the first (January 1997)

Village News

ON ARRIVAL

Welcome to the first issue of the Walberswick Village News. I would like to say Newspaper but at four pages this seems a little pretentious. But it will be four free pages delivered to all homes in the village each month. The process of refining the format continues, but will always include local news items, Church news and some local advertisements. Responsibility for the News rests with a Board of Management consisting of a Chairman, Editor, Treasurer, Advertising Manager and a member nominated by the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, and the Common Land Trust. All are volunteers and give their time and efforts free.

There are costs associated with this type of venture. Contributors are noted above, and advertisements should also enlarge our coffers - we place no great hopes in the Lottery or Millennium Fund. Donations are always welcome (Eric Bassett is Treasurer); these may allow us to be more adventurous in future issues.

We hope you will be and remain an interested reader, but equally important will be your contributions, reflecting varied experience now, and in pre-Walberswick times. May I urge all village organisations to send in details of their activities to Richard Scott (Deputy Editor 722577), and for a ready flow of items to drop through the Editor's door as normal, plus any adverse criticism.

Complimentary comments only may be sent to me.

Brian Payne, Chairman of The Board.

(Brian is still Chairman of The Board. Ed.)

Early Days

In the early days of the Village News, a number of articles were published under the banner of 'Walberswick Remembered'. They were by turn amusing, interesting and, I feel, generally expressed the humour and eccentricity of the village over quite a period of time. We are indebted to the D/Ed of the day (aka Richard Scott) for providing most of them.

It is to be regretted that, since then, these sorts of stories seem to have faded away and the Village News to have become more of a bulletin board rather than a magazine with wider interests.

Space available is always a constraint, so I make no excuse for taking advantage of this special edition to reproduce some of those articles (Walberswick Remembered plus others). They are in no particular order, although vaguely chronological.

You may well notice that I have added a couple of new pieces and if anybody has others to add, I will make every effort for their inclusion in future editions.

Ed.

WALBERSWICK REMEMBERED

"As Others See Us"

In the early post-war years, Walberswick seemed to be quite a divided society. Two main factions - the indigenous population and the immigrants - were heavily inter-dependent but had little contact with each other socially. In 1952 an event occurred which went a long way towards dismantling this apartheid. Mea Allan, better known later as author and botanist, wrote and directed a remarkable piece of amateur theatre. This was a review called "As Others See Us" which drew its extensive cast and support team from every corner of the village, and aimed, in its sketches, to poke fun at various aspects of Walberswick life. The Plantagenets were a highlight, based loosely - or not so loosely, actually - on the number of people in the village who, though not directly related, shared the surname English. "Wee Are Thee Plantagenet Familiee Proud To Bee" ran the lyric, and each verse ended with "Same Name - But No Relay—Shun!" In real life most of the Englishes had nicknames; Blucher, Boko, Dubber, Scarborough etc. However, in the interests of scansion, the Plantagenets were given simpler names - Billo, Willo and Ned; Jimmo, Timmo and Ted. Another wickedly funny sketch was called "We Are The Great - (Brackets)- Retired". The village was well sprinkled in the 1950s with "retired military", so it seemed quite topical. But mutterings were heard and it said much for the climate of the times that the sketch was quickly deleted. Full of youthful idealism, I found this unfair: if the rest of the village was going to have its leg pulled, why not the colonels and wingco's?

More about "As Others See Us" another time, perhaps.

D/Ed

Fewer "retired military" in the village these days... little else would seem to have changed very much.

Not so many of us, living here now, who can remember going to the village school and riding the unfenced countryside on Jimmy Bugg's ponies.

Maybe it's time for one of the present day theatrical groups to take up the "As Others See Us" gauntlet?

Ed.

WALBERSWICK REMEMBERED

'Visitor Management In The Fifties'

We spend a lot of time nowadays devising schemes for managing our summer visitors. It is interesting to reflect upon how this problem admittedly less serious then - was dealt with in the 1950s.

Then, as now, many visitors to Walberswick arrived by ferry. They were almost immediately subjected to a management process, as their first task on alighting was to find a way past the riverside geese, whose principal aim in life was to repel boarders at all costs. These fine birds belonged to Ernie Cross (Bob's uncle) and were the last survivors of a generations-old Walberswick tradition of free-roaming geese.

Further up the village visitor control was handled efficiently by Rastas the Alsatian. This formidable animal belonged to Joan Midwood, who lived at Westons. A master of body language, Rastas would spend hours crouched in the middle of the street with his nose between his paws, as if preparing to pounce. Generally, he didn't care much for anything with wheels, and I remember vividly how much the sight of my bicycle could enrage him on a bad day.

David Webb claims fond memories of Rastas, but all I can recall is abject terror.

Isn't it a shame that in these litigious times we can't just leave visitor management to nature?

D/Ed.

With the present day level of popularity of the village, maybe it's time to re-establish the 'generations-old Walberswick tradition of free-roaming geese'!

Ed.

Suffolk Stories

'Hospital Cheer'



In a local hospital the day nurse was walking down the men's ward with the usual "Good morning! How are we today?" to each of the patients.

As she passed one bed, she received the gloomy reply, "Browned off, nurse."

"For goodness sake, cheer up", she said. "I've got four cases of pneumonia coming in today."

One old country boy raised his head and said:

"Ah, well. That'll be a change from Lucozade then!"