Walberswick Village News

September 2026
Issue 358

Longevity in Walberswick

Congratulations to another Walberswick resident, Craster Patterson, who celebrates his 100th birthday on 24 September. Craster was born in Northumberland in 1926. During the war, he joined the Royal Navy and later pursued a career in Fisheries Research and later Agricultural Technical Economics in London. He married Kathleen, and they had two daughters. He now has three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Craster moved to Walberswick in 1975. With four professional musicians in his family, it is perhaps no surprise that he learnt to play the organ at the age of 10. He went on to play regularly at services in Walberswick, built up the church choir, and led the team that completely renovated the organ for St Andrew's 500th anniversary. At 70, Craster decided it was time to retire from playing the organ and recommended that Julia Josephs take over — despite Julia being eleven weeks and six days his senior!

Craster still walks three miles every day and is a true inspiration. We wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

Julia Sowerbutts

Great results

Well done to Nancy Sutton who did well in her GCSEs. We are all very proud of her as she moves on to do A-levels at Sir John Leman. Congratulations to Ella Parker for passing all her A-levels getting A B B. A great result. She is now taking a gap year to do some travelling and to decide the direction of her future. Jazz Benham got a 2:1 from UEA in Biological Science and a 1st in her dissertation. Ellie Benham got a distinction in a Foundational Diploma in Art from Suffolk One and is off to Norwich University of Arts to do Fine Art.

Hannah Sutton

Results of the Horticultural & Culinary Show

Many thanks to everyone who entered the Horticultural and Culinary Show. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves whether you were winners or not. Thanks also to those who bought teas, cakes and raffle tickets. We are pleased that the number of entrants continues to rise, so the future of the show is looking good. We hope some of you were persuaded to enter next year.

Trophies this year went to:

☘ Winyard Cup for the man - Paul Bradley ☘ Iris Blois Cup for the woman - Suzzie Godfrey ☘ Marian Beard Flower Cup - Diana Wright ☘ Flower Bowl - Annabel Bell, Marie Sigsworth, Ben Sutton, Helen Riches ☘ CC Gold Cup - Esme Richardson ☘ Whittenbury Victor Ludorum - Betsy Lemmon ☘ Harvey Memorial - Suzzie Godfrey ☘ David Webb Memorial - Marie Sigsworth ☘ Best in Show - Betsy Lemmon (orchid) ☘ Animal Made out of a Vegetable (8-16) - Crumpet Freud, Willow Freud, Georgia Freud ☘ 2027 Horticultural and Culinary Poster Design - Grace Webb. **Betsy Lemmon**

The future of the Village News

We are still looking for a new editor. Please contact Edward Wright at **ewright123@btinternet.com** or Sheila Parry at **news@walberswicknews.co.uk** if you live in the village and would like to find out more.

We are still canvassing for opinions on whether or not to stop delivering paper copies of the newsletter. Instead, we would rely on our existing email service with paper copies available for collection at village shops. No decision has been made, and we'd very much like to understand your views before considering any changes. Please contact **Edward Wright** on 07867 548893 or at **ewright123@btinternet.com**.

LionLink consultation reponse

When LionLink told us that they had changed their landfall plans to a third site further up the village, we were given only a month to respond. But respond we did. We have counted - from the WALL WhatsApp group and website - over 360 responses; a likely under-estimate particularly as it doesn't include objections from other villages and communities. It is a tremendous result and more than the previous consultation. Opposition is growing the more we learn, and LionLink can be in no doubt about the strength of feeling against their plans. Thank you. **Clare Thomas**

Planning Applications

At the time of publication, the following properties were awaiting a decision:

Harbour House, Manor Close | **Grey Roof**, Millfield Rd | **Orchard Piece**, Lodge Road | **House on the Green** | **Greenways**, The Green | **The Tuck Shop** | **Herons**, Church Field | **The Stables** | **Tinkers House**, Walberswick Rd | **Green Gates**, The Street.

The latest applications can be found on the village **website**.

THE ANCHOR

Enjoy the final days of 'al fresco' Summer 26 with some outstanding German, Belgian and East Anglian cask and craft beers. Also exciting new wines from New Zealand, South Africa and Italy.

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Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC)

Fire Response Plan

If any individual sees a fire or wildfire on the Common or any other part of the land surrounding Walberswick they should:

- Call the Fire Services on 999 and request any other Emergency Services if required, informing them of the location and size of the fire and casualties (if any)
- Give the Emergency Services details of the nearest locations for access to the fire as follows:
  - **Church Lane (Common) car park** – What3Words///drizzly.submerge.unhelpful/GR489749 (AP1*)
  - **Palmers Lane (Gorse View)** – What3Words///lend.radiates.swoop/GR492750 (AP2*)
  - **Walberswick Station** – What3Words///shield.formation.clogging/GR490757 (AP3*)
  - **Main (East Point) Car Park** - What3Words///vegans.hasten.squabbles/GR500749
  - **Cliff Field Car Park** - What3Words///snowmen.headsets.fuels/GR499747
- Refer the Fire Service to the Walberswick Fire Response Plan
- Attack the fire with fire extinguishers, hoses and buckets but only if the fire is confined to small area and it is safe to do so
- Raise the alarm and alert the residents of any buildings close to the fire. Evacuate the properties if there is any possible threat to life
- Use the Village WhatsApp group to alert residents but please be very specific about the location and scale of the fire and state that the Emergency Services have already been contacted. We do not want to cause panic.

*AP stands for Access Points for Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) appliances. SFRS should have a map with these marked but giving them What3Words locations is still helpful. **David Pelly**

Environmental Stewardship Update

There is a great deal of concern in the village as we reflect on the loss of Dunwich Heath in the recent wildfire. This is compounded by a sense of helplessness as to how to make a difference locally or further afield. An idea that Jane Sutherland-Rogers brought to my attention was to work out how to use What3Words to store the Fire Access points listed in the WCLC Fire Response Plan so that they are accessible should they be needed.

There will no doubt be repercussions and changes in land management strategy as a result of this summer and we are fortunate in having a good working relationship with Natural England as WCLC Environmental Stewardship Advisers. WCLC is as keen as anyone to preserve and enhance the habitat mosaic and biodiversity of its lands.

The absence of BBQs on the beach during the recent solar eclipse was testimony to the desire of most people to do the right thing, and the big banner on the Cliff Field car park bridge very clearly supports this. There is still a while to go before any vigilance can be relaxed, so do please take care. **Vanessa Tucker**

Walberswick Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

The Parish Council held a successful 'informal' consultation with the village on the 22 and 23 August in the Heritage Hut with overwhelming support being expressed for the work being done and for the draft policies that are emerging. All the materials used for the consultation can be viewed using the following link, along with a full copy of the draft NDP: **walberswick-pc.gov.uk/home/neighbourhood-plan** and any questions or views can still be sent by email to: **clerk@walberswick-pc.gov.uk**

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 14 September at 7pm in the Heritage Hut and is open to members of the public. Full details will be published on the village website or contact **clerk@walberswick-pc-gov.uk.**



Preparations in the Heritage Hut for the NDP consultation
Photo: Andrew Lewis



Diary Dates

WI Monthly Meeting

Thursday 3 September, 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

Our guest speaker is David Cooke of the Wolverstone Project (Sailing for people with disabilities). Guests welcome. Contact **Sheilagh Murray**, Secretary, on 07903 353753 for more information.

National Theatre Live: Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Wednesday 9 September, 7pm in the Village Hall

Lesley Manville joins Aidan Turner in a new staging of Christopher Hampton's celebrated adaptation of the classic novel, where among the glittering salons of the super-rich, one misstep can mean ruin. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets £15 (under 21s £10), also available in advance from **www.ticketsource.co.uk/walberswick-village-hall**. Bar, snacks & soft drinks available. **Village Hall Committee**

Washed up in Walberswick

Saturday 12 September to Thursday 17 September at Southwold Arts Centre & Friday 18 September to Saturday 19 September at Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall

Behind the mellow brick walls and tall yew hedges, what goes on amongst the media folk of Walberswick? A comedy about people behaving badly in big houses. Tickets for Southwold available at **tinyurl.com/39uz36wp** and for Aldeburgh at **tinyurl.com/3nmzu2vd**. **Editor**

Walberswick Open Studios

Saturday & Sunday 19-20 September, 11am to 5pm



18 artists, both professional and amateur, will be showing and selling their work. All are welcome to come and just have a look. For further information please follow us on Instagram **@walberswick_open_studios**.
Jackie Almond

WATS evening

Monday 28 September, 7pm in the Village Hall

Please join us for a glass of wine and find out what WATS (Walberswick Amateur Theatrical Society), this wonderful Walberswick group, is all about.
Karen Maxwell

Walberswick Local History Group
The Lighthouses of East Anglia

Saturday 24 October, 7pm in the Village Hall

Paul Heiney will be telling us about the rich and compelling history of the lighthouses, from the days when they were no more than bonfires, to the sophistication of the modern lighthouse. No need to RSVP, members attend free and a member's guest pays £5 on the door. Seats are on a first come first served basis and doors open at 6.30pm. We can reserve seats near the front for those who need them; please email **Edward Wright** at **ewright123@btinternet.com**.

The Walberswick Scroll

Sunday 25 October from 10am in the Heritage Hut

A Diaramic Pictorial Record of a Suffolk Village aka The Walberswick Scroll. See it, discuss it, bring your own memories. Or have you thought about booking a 'family and friends' showing? **John English**



RNLI Spooktacular Halloween Family Bingo

Friday 30 October, 6pm in the Village Hall

Doors open at 5.30pm. Eyes down at 6pm. Bar available.
Karen Lewis



St Andrew's Church Walberswick

admin@solebayteamministry.co.uk
solebayteamministry.co.uk

September 2026 Services

Tuesday 1 September 7.30pm
St Edmund's Southwold
The induction of Rev'd Alix as Team Rector of Sole Bay Team Churches (Walberswick choir will join the Southwold choir for this special service)

Sunday 6 September 11.15am
All Age Informal Service
Refreshments at 10.45am

Wednesday 9 September 10am
Holy Communion
Coffee served after the service

Sunday 13 September 6pm
Choral Evensong

Saturday 19 September 9.30am
A pilgrimage of song leaving from Holy Trinity Church Blythburgh, walking to St Andrew's Church, Walberswick, and finally to St Edmund's Church, Southwold

Sunday 20 September 11.15am
Holy Communion

Wednesday 23 September 10am
Holy Communion

Memorial Flowers

6 September for Anna Edwards from her family

20 September for Chris and Wendy Sinclair from their family

Community Services

Community Cafe: Wednesday 16 September 2pm - 4.30pm in the Village Hall

Mobile Library: Friday 11 September 2.15pm - 2.45pm in the Village Hall car park

Mobile Post Office: Wednesdays 12 noon - 1pm in the Village Hall car park

Norwich Bus: Thursday 17 September. To book a place, please contact Mandy Erlenbach on 07590 697575

Village: walberswick-pc.gov.uk
WALL: www.wall-update.org
news@walberswicknews.co.uk

The next edition of the Village News will be published on 1 October 2026. The copy deadline is noon on 25 September 2026 and submissions should be sent to the editor at news@walberswicknews.co.uk

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