



Walberswick Village News

June 2025
Issue 343

Dick hangs up his tools

After more than 25 years of volunteering at the Alfred Corry Lifeboat Museum in Southwold, lifelong resident of Walberswick, 91-year-old Dick Leon has finally decided to hang up his tools. A highly skilled and respected carpenter, Dick helped restore the lifeboat that served the town for 25 years from 1893 to 1918. The old Cromer lifeboat shed that now houses the Alfred Corry has also hugely benefited from Dick's skills.

John Craigie, the great grandson of the lifeboat's first coxswain, purchased the derelict Alfred Corry in 1974 and restored it, subsequently enjoying several cruises with his friend, Dick, whom he first met in the Sea Scouts. When maintenance became too difficult, the lifeboat was donated by the Craigie family to Southwold in 1994.

Dick's achievements were celebrated with a special ceremony at the museum when he was presented with a picture of the lifeboat. The occasion was covered by the *East Anglian Daily Times* tinyurl.com/y4v84f3w (behind a paywall). The story of the Alfred Corry can be found at alfredcorry.co.uk.

Editor



Dick Leon on the left with John Craigie.

Birdsong Walk report

Thank you to everyone who came on the birdsong walk on what proved to be a cloudy and cool morning. There was an amazing turnout, with 35 attendees. The cool weather reduced bird activity, but two garden warblers were in good voice. The standout species was a great white egret, spotted flying over the reed bed from the bank by David Riches. Perhaps the finest birds were close views of two male bearded tits from the bank. Marsh harriers showed frequently and well. A respectable 54 bird species were recorded during the walk. The walk was rounded off in fine style with breakfast at the Anchor - thank you Sophie, Mark, Luke and the team.

We look forward to seeing you all next year. In the meantime, please record all bird sightings (particularly marsh harriers close to Manor and Track Fields) in iRecord at irecord.org.uk or by messaging me (07973 462948) to help build the evidence to fight LionLink.

Matthew Denny

Calling for fete volunteers

We need volunteers and are looking for people who would be willing to:

- manage the **Silent Auction** stall on the day
- organise the **Treasure Hunt** and manage the stall
- help set up and take down tables and chairs before and after the event.

If anyone is interested, the previous stallholders and the fete committee are here to help. Please contact Mitchell on 07745 391711 or at walberswick.fete@gmail.com. All questions welcome.

Thank you to everyone in the village for all your help and support. We couldn't do this without you.

Mitchell Pocock, Fete Chair.

Plant sale raises £845 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance

A big thank you to everyone who donated and purchased plants at our Plant Bring and Buy in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Due to your generosity, the Horticultural Committee raised £845.06. What a great result for a worthy cause. **Betsy Lemmon**

Boules at the Bell

A few years ago, we had a small friendly group playing boules (pétanque) at the Bell; sadly this came to an end after the organiser left the village. We would like to resurrect this group, on a very friendly and informal basis, playing regularly. If there is sufficient interest, we would need to improve the condition of the piste, which is situated in the fenced off area in the Bell garden. Permission for this has been granted by the pub. No experience is necessary, it is quick to pick up, and there are sets of boules available for you to come and try.

If you are interested, please contact either **John Warbey** at jwarbey@mail.com or on 07775 535718, or **Ray Wortley** on 01502 724443.

Beer + Chocolate Pairing

Tuesday 17 June 6pm – 7.30pm
£20 pp. Call or email us to book

Curry Night & Boogie in the Barn

Friday 27 June. Dancing 6pm – 8.30pm
Curry served from 5.30pm

Annual Anchor Beer + Oyster Festival

Friday to Sunday, 1 to 3 August

info@anchoratwalberswick.com | 01502 722112
www.anchoratwalberswick.com

THE
ANCHOR

Walberswick Common Lands Charity

Annual Report & Accounts

The Walberswick Common Lands Charity has now published its Annual Report & Accounts for 2024. If you're interested, it can be found on the charity's section of the village website at tinyurl.com/344fy2ft
Matthew Wetmore, Clerk

Environmental update

Walking to the coast on the footpath from Spong Bridge the state of the salt marsh becomes clear; it is bone dry. Unusual weather saw East Anglia having the highest amount of March sunshine on record, particularly in Norfolk and Suffolk. For example, Wattisham in Suffolk

recorded over 220 hours of sunshine, exceeding the previous record by over 22 hours. With an average of 228.9 hours of sunshine across the month, the UK has also recorded its sunniest April since records began in 1910. The combined East Anglia rainfall for March and April 2025 was 28mm, which is the fifth driest March to April rainfall total for East Anglia based on records going back to 1871.

Fascinating data, and nature is incredibly resilient but please think twice about any form of burning - and keep your fingers crossed for more rain.

Vanessa Tucker, Environmental Stewardship Trustee

Walberswick Parish Council

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

The meeting was held on Monday, 12 May and Andrew Lewis was elected unopposed to be Chair of the Parish Council for the next year and Rebecca Whiting was elected unopposed to be Vice-Chair of the Council for the next year.

Local Government reorganisation and creation of a mayoral authority in Norfolk and Suffolk

A lot of work is currently underway to finalise the creation of a mayoral authority that almost certainly will cover the whole of Norfolk & Suffolk, along with the creation of one or more Unitary Authorities that will ultimately take over much of the work currently being done in Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk District Council; these bodies are very likely to disappear as part of this process. Currently the County Council and the District Councils have differing views on the most desirable number of Unitary Authorities and representations from both are being submitted to the National Government, which will have the final say. The

Parish Council will keep you informed on the impact the final proposals are likely to have on the provision of services in Walberswick over the months to come. The most likely date for mayoral elections is considered to be May 2026.

Public Meeting on Energy Projects along the Heritage Coast

A date for your diary – the Parish Council is planning to hold a public meeting on energy projects along the 'Energy Coast' at 6pm on Friday, 27 June in the Village Hall (doors will open at 5.30pm). We are currently finalising both speakers and the agenda. Make a note of the date and time in your diary and there will be further information over the next few weeks.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11 June at 7pm in the Heritage Hut and is open to members of the public. Full details will be published on the village website, or for further information contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@walberswick-pc.gov.uk.

WALL invertebrate surveys

WALL (Walberswick Against LionLink) has commissioned a series of invertebrate surveys to be undertaken monthly between May and September by specialist entomologists, Chris Bentley and Andy Musgrove. Surveys will focus on the marshes below Manor Field, and the grassland around East Sheep Walk. They have set pitfall traps, between visits, to sample ground-dwelling beetles, which have surface

paraphernalia resembling mini oil rigs to stop incidental capture of small mammals. These should be left undisturbed please. We won't have detailed results until later in the year, but on his first visit Chris recorded a rare soldier fly (*Stratiomys longicornis*), which is a saline pool specialist restricted to the Suffolk/Norfolk coast. Any rare invertebrates may be impacted by the proposed drilling under these areas, so it is important we know what is there to counter the LionLink Environmental Impact Assessment. We will post further updates on the WALL website as the season progresses. **Matthew Denny**



Walberswick River Trips

One hour scenic boat trips along the River Blyth.
Enjoy the wildlife and scenery while being entertained
with tales of smuggling and ghosts.
Scheduled trips for up to ten people.
Also available for private hire.

Full details and online booking via our website
walberswickrivertrips.com

Diary Dates

WI Monthly Meeting

Thursday, 5 June, 2.30pm in the Village Hall

Seva Newark will be discussing the support, information, counselling, and benefits advice offered by the Pear Tree Centre in Halesworth to anyone diagnosed with a life-changing illness. Visitors and new members welcome. **Muriel Wortley**

Suffolk's Lost Cheeses

Saturday, 14 June, 7pm in the Village Hall

***Note the change of date*.** With names such as Bang, Thump and Trip, the story of cheese making in Suffolk encompasses social history, chemistry, ethics and fashion. Vivia Bamford will tell us her story of recreating the lost cheeses of Suffolk. Finish the evening with refreshments alongside some better known current cheeses from local producers. Those wishing to attend should email Edward Wright at ewright123@btinternet.com to reserve a place. Members free, places available for guests accompanying members at £5 each.

Walberswick Local History Group

Public Meeting on Energy Projects along the Heritage Coast

Friday, 27 June, 6pm in the Village Hall

Doors open at 5.30pm. The Parish Council is holding a public meeting on energy projects along the 'Energy Coast'. Further details will be available on the village website closer to the time or contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@walberswick-pc.gov.uk.

National Theatre Live: A Streetcar Named Desire

Thursday, 10 July, 7pm in the Village Hall

Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* starring Gillian Anderson. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets are £15 (£10 for under 21s) on the door (cards only) or in advance from www.ticketsource.co.uk/walberswick-village-hall.

Village Hall Committee

Horticultural & Culinary Show

Saturday, 19 July, 3pm-4.30pm in the Village Hall

Please see the insert in April's *Village News* for full details.

Betsy Lemmon

Walberswick Village Fete

Saturday, 23 August, 11am-4pm on the Village Green and in the Village Hall

Join in the fun. Usual stalls and activities. More information to come. **Mitchell Pocock**

Planning applications

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

Lionlink | Manor House, The Street | Lane Corner, Palmers Lane (tree) | New camping site adjacent to the caravan site | Herons, Church Field (new) | The Pink House, Seven Acres Lane (new) | Lorne Cottages, The Green | The Pink House, Seven Acres Lane | The Beeches, Millfield Road | Herons, Church Field.

The latest applications & Advisory Group Reports, can be found on the village website.



St Andrew's Church Walberswick

Team Rector

Revd Russ Gant

russ.gant@solebayteamministry.co.uk
solebayteamministry.co.uk

June 2025 Services

Sunday, 1 June 11.15am
Sung Eucharist

Sunday, 8 June 6pm
Choral Evensong
Book of Common Prayer

Sunday, 15 June 11.15am
Sung Eucharist

Sunday, 22 June 11.15am
Family Service
10.45am coffee and pastries

Sunday, 29 June 11.15am
Team Service, Wangford

Every Wednesday 10am
Holy Communion
Coffee on first Wednesday

Parish Register

9 May Moira Clarissa Steward
Austin, Age 84

Commemorative Flowers

7 June Gordon Beard for Marian
15 June Brian Tibbles for Jayne and Ollie

Community Services

Community Cafe: Wednesday
18 June 2pm - 4.30pm
in the Village Hall

Mobile Library: Friday,
18 July 2.15pm - 2.45pm
in the Village Hall car park
(Suffolk Libraries has confirmed that there will be no June visit)

Norwich Bus: Thursday,
19 June. Please contact Mandy Erlenbach on 07590 697575 to book a place

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

Village: walberswick-pc.gov.uk
WALL: www.wall-update.org
Friends of St Andrew's:
friendsofstandrews.org.uk



Insert

Produced by the Village Hall

June 2025

Walberswick Village Hall

Nation Theatre Live!

The village hall have begun a programme of screenings of NT Live productions approximately every two months.

Already seen have been the Importance of Being Ernest and Dr Strangelove. Both were well attended and well received with between about 40 and 50 villagers present.

Next up is a **Streetcar Named Desire** on **Thursday, 10th July**. Following that, we will be showing **Inter Alia** on **Thursday, 18th September**.

Tickets are £15 each or £10 for under 21s. These can be bought in advance on <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/walberswick-village-hall> or may be purchased on the door (cards only please).

Doors open at 6:30 for a prompt 7pm start. Refreshments will be served before the show and during the 20 minute interval.

We hope to see you there soon!

Want to hire the Hall?

With the large kitchen and serving hatch, the staging area, the annexe which can fit 30 people, the main hall with seating for 100 and parking, whether you are wanting a meeting, craft fair, party or performance, the Village Hall is here for you.

Per 5 hour session.

Non profit:	Hall £20	Annexe £16
Commercial:	Hall £90	Annexe £45
Social Events:	Entire Hall Only	
Residents:	£75+	
Non-Residents:	£200+	

For more details: martin.lovick@gmail.com

Plays Galore!

The Village Hall has always been a home for theatre lovers. Over the winter the Walberswick Amateur Theatrical Society hosted a play reading once a month in the Hall, the Walberswick Players held their annual play in February, this year performing *The Real Inspector Hound*. More recently Circle 67 have begun performing at the Hall, with *Flint Street Nativity* in December and *The Dresser* in May. With two more productions planned to be at the hall over the next year and the National Theatre Live, theatre lovers are eating very well at the moment. Long may it continue!

Table Tennis Club Small Village Big Fun

Every week, the Walberswick Table Tennis Club proves that table tennis isn't just a sport, it's a cracking good night out. Held once a week, our sessions are as much about laughter and camaraderie as they are about spin shots and smashes.

The club has gone from strength to strength, with new members joining regularly, drawn in by the friendly vibe. Whether you're a seasoned player or just in it for the social, there's a place at the table for you.

We also compete in friendly matches with neighbouring village teams, always played in good spirit and usually ending in a pint and a post-match debrief.

If you fancy sharpening your skills, meeting great people, and possibly discovering an unexpected forehead, come along. First serve's on us!

Every Tuesday, 6pm-8pm.

<p>RICHARD KETT HORTICULTURE Nursery trained, third generation Award-winning gardener 07503 048554</p>	<p>MARK BOTWRIGHT'S TREE SERVICES All aspects of tree surgery at competitive rates Fully qualified & insured 01502 476334 or 07749 524778</p>
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