Walberswick Village News

July 2026
Issue 356

Jo Lowrie 1933 - 2026



My mother, Jo Lowrie, who has died aged 92, was an artist known for her expressionist landscapes of Suffolk. Born in North London, she was a child of the Blitz. One night a bomb fell on the Anderson shelter in the garden. The family survived only because they had taken refuge beneath the kitchen table as the house collapsed around them. As rescuers dug them from the rubble, her abiding memory was of seeing her twisted bicycle lying atop the ruins of what had been their home.

Jo's mother, Dora, whose father was a blacksmith, came from Ladbroke in Warwickshire. Jo's father, Harry, was born in Hackney and later drove the 41 bus from Tottenham garage. Jo was the youngest of three children.

In 1955 she married Tony Lowndes. They emigrated to New Zealand, seeking adventure beyond the drab austerity of post-war London. Full of optimism, they instead found a society still anchored in the 1920s. Undeterred, they built a new life. In 1960, they returned to London with their two children, Susan and me, and embraced the thrilling opportunities of the Sixties.

The family later settled in Bury St Edmunds, where their third child, Tom, was born. Dissatisfied with the role of executive wife, Jo sought new purpose. She took a foundation course at Byam Shaw, then a Fine Art degree, and reinvented herself as the artist D.J. Lowrie.

Moving to the coast, Jo found a profound connection with the landscape and skies that became the inspiration for her work. She was particularly proud to be interviewed for the BBC series *Villages by the Sea*. Stylish, witty and a great friend, Jo found profound happiness in Walberswick. She is survived by her three children, eight grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. **Michael Lowndes**



Happy 100th birthday to our own queen of the village

Julia Josephs, born in the same year as the late Queen Elizabeth II, celebrates her 100th Birthday on 5 July.

As she strides briskly across The Street to the Black Dog deli, it's hard to believe she's a centenarian. Her formidable drive and energy are legendary. 'I keep fit playing the organ' she says and, until recently, she also played tennis. Music is her lifelong love and, as Director of Music at St Andrew's Church for 30 years, most of us are familiar with her straight back as she coaxes the church organ into life each week.

As she opens her card from the King, her three children – Jeremy, Jonathan and her namesake, Julia, together with her seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren, wish her a happy, glorious – and musical - milestone birthday and have absolutely no doubt that there will be many more. **The Josephs Family**

Don't miss the Horticultural & Culinary Show

Remember it is the Horticultural and Culinary show on Saturday, 18 July. Entries are accepted between 9.30am and 10.45am. Viewing, cakes, teas and raffle from 3pm - 4.30pm. There is still time to plan your entries. Look at the village website for tips and ideas. Extra schedules are available if required, plus committee members are always happy to answer your questions. We had a great turnout last year and hope to encourage more people to give it a try. **Betsy Lemmon**

THE ANCHOR

Beer and Oyster Festival
Saturday & Sunday 1- 2 August
4,000 Oysters,
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Compiled and edited by Sheila Parry - news@walberswicknews.co.uk
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Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC)

Report & Accounts: Updated report & accounts for the Walberswick Common Lands Charity are now available on the WCLC section of the Walberswick website at **walberswick-pc.gov.uk/assets/WCLC/WCLC-Report-Accounts-2025.pdf**. They cover the year to 31 December 2025. Happy reading. **Matthew Wetmore, Clerk**

Environment: June is such a vibrant month of activity across all WCLC habitats. Suffolk Wildlife Trust have had a project for June 2026 called 30 Days Wild; an opportunity to focus on nature in small ways when there is so much going on. One project they advocated is litter picking, and WCLC would like to give a big shout out for all those who pick up litter on their walks - just giving nature a better chance. Thank you.

If you want to do a wildlife themed activity with some younger people these holidays, this could be the link for you - **www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/actions**. Meanwhile look out for birds fledging, including Lapwing and Red Shank on the wet grasslands, Swallowtail butterflies and dragonflies darting around the reed beds and wetlands, and Nightjars and glow worms - best spotted in the evening on the heath. **Vanessa Tucker, ES Director**

Birdsong Walk report

We had 20+ participans and sunshine for the 2026 birdsong walk. Thank you to all who attended. Highlights were a brief view of a Bittern, beautiful Marsh Harriers, Bearded Tits, a distant Woodlark singing, a Hobby, and of course the UK's only singing Zitting Cisticolas. The latter is a first in the esteemed history of the birdsong walk and will hopefully be a permanent fixture in years to come. The walk was rounded off with the usual breakfast at the Anchor – thank you Luke, Sophie and team. And thank you for your donations, which raised £170 for the WALL (Walberswick Against LionLink) campaign.

Remember to record all your wildlife sightings in iRecord at **irecord.org.uk** or by messaging me (07973 462948) to help build the evidence to fight LionLink. **Matthew Denny**

The Village News is still looking for a new editor

The *Village News* plays an important part in keeping villagers informed about local news, events and village life, and we are looking for a volunteer to take over as editor as soon as possible. Without an editor, the future of this newsletter is in jeopardy. If you live in the village and can help or would like to find out more, please contact **Sheila Parry** at **news@walberswicknews.co.uk** or **Edward Wright** at **ewright123@btinternet.com.**

The Little Wooden Hut

Come crabbing, it's the Walberswick way...
We sell everything you'll need for the day...
Crab gear, buckets, kites to sway,
Towels and boogie boards for surf & spray,
Sea shoes to keep stings at bay—
For under the sand, Weever fish can lay!!!

The legendary "I Caught Crabs at Walberswick" t-shirts - only available here. £1 from each sale goes to RNLI & East Anglian Air Ambulance

Open daily from 1 July 9.30am-5pm

The Quay, Ferry Rd, Walberswick (near Wally's Bridge)

07387 980 649
hutlittlewooden@gmail.com

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Walberswick Parish Council

LionLink: There will be an extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on 15 July, 6pm to 7.30pm (doors open at 5.30pm) in the Village Hall. Representatives from the LionLink project will be in attendance to answer questions put to them about LionLink by the Parish Council. As this will be conducted as a Parish Council meeting, there will be the usual 15 minute opportunity (during the Open Forum) for members of the public to make their points before the formal agenda begins. However, it is anticipated that LionLink will only respond to questions put to them by the Parish Council. It is another opportunity for our community to make clear their depth of feeling on this topic by attending the question and answer session. Please be aware that for safety reasons attendance will be strictly capped at the number of chairs available in the Village Hall, with no standing room and seats on a first come first served basis.

Internal Audit: The Parish Council are delighted to have received yet another clear audit from our Internal auditors. There are a few suggestions as is always expected and welcomed within the audit on how best practice can be further enhanced. At its recent meeting, the Parish Council approved an action plan to embrace and implement these improvements.

Notice of Public Rights: We are currently (15 June - 24 July 2026) in the period where the Parish Council accounting records for the previous financial year are made available to any member of the public wishing to inspect them. Should you be interested in doing this, please contact the clerk via email at: **clerk@walberswick-pc.gov.uk** to make a mutually agreeable appointment to do so.

Next Parish Council Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 13 July 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.**

Plant sale raises £1,378.80 for CRY

A big thank you to everyone who donated and purchased plants at our Plant Bring and Buy in aid of CRY (Cardio Risk in the Young). Due to your generosity, the Horticultural Committee raised £,1378.80. What a great result. Toby's family wished to express their appreciation of our support to raise awareness of this worthy cause. **Betsy Lemmon**



Planning Applications

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

Tygwyn, The Lea (trees) | **Herons,** Church Field | **Millfield House,** Millfield (trees) | **The Stables**, The Street | **Lorne Cottage**, The Green | **Tinkers House**, Walberswick Rd | **Green Gates,** The Street | **Dunwich Bay House,** Stocks Lane

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

Baptism in the Church Ruins

Everyone is warmly invited to the first-ever outdoor baptism service in the beautiful ruins of St Andrew's Church on Sunday 5 July. Tea and cakes will be served from 3pm, followed by a baptism service led by Rev'd Alix Taylor at 3.30pm, featuring the story of baby Moses. The families and PCC look forward to welcoming you. Please bring a chair, your friends, and your best singing voice for this special occasion. **Stephanie Renouf**

Diary Dates

WI Annual Garden Meeting

Thursday, 2 July at 2.30pm at Blythburgh

Our annual garden meeting with afternoon tea will be held in the garden of one of our members at Blythburgh and is a members only event. There is no meeting in August**. Sheilagh Murray**

National Theatre Live: All My Sons

Wednesday 8th July, 7pm in the Village Hall

In this acclaimed new production, Bryan Cranston and Marianne Jean-Baptiste star in Arthur Miller's drama about a businessman whose wartime success hides a devastating secret. Note the production contains strobe lighting. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets £15 (under 21s £10), also available in advance from **www.ticketsource.co.uk/walberswick-village-hall**. Bar, snacks and soft drinks available. **Village Hall Committee**

Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on LionLink

Wednesday 15 July, 6pm-7.30pm in the Village Hall

See the Parish Council's news for full details. **Editor**

Horticultural & Culinary Show

Saturday 18 July, 3pm - 4.30pm in the Village Hall

See notice on page one for information on submitting entries. Teas and viewing of exhibits start at 3pm. **Betsy Lemmon**

Walberswick Local History Group Talk

Sunday 19 July, 5pm in the Village Hall

Felicity Goodall, writer and broadcaster, will be discussing her latest book: *Seeking Mea Allan – Fleet Street's Forgotten Pioneer.* Mea Allan was a journalist and war correspondent during WWII who later came to live at Westwood in Walberswick. Seats are on a first come first served basis. Members will attend free and a guest accompanied by a member will pay £5 on the door. Doors open at 4.30pm. **Walberswick Local History Group**

Village News AGM

Thursday 23 July, 5.30pm in the Village Hall Annex

The AGM of the Village News is open to members of the public. For further information or should you wish to attend, please email **Edward Wright** at **ewright123@btinternet.com**.

Summer Kids Club

Mondays 3, 10, 17 & 24 August, 9am to 3pm in the Village Hall

Days packed full of sports and games to get the kids off screens and tire them out. Suitable for 5-16 year olds. Each session is £5 per child. Please provide water bottles and packed lunch. Bookings and enquires at **walberswickkidsclub@gmail.com**. Thanks to Walberswick Common Lands Charity for supporting this event. **Summer Kids Club Group**

Family Bingo

Wednesdays 5, 12 & 19 August, 5.30pm in the Village Hall

Doors open at 5.30pm, bingo begins at 6pm. Entrance: Adults £1, Children 50p, bingo cards to be purchased separately. Drinks (alcoholic and non alcoholic) and snacks will be available. **Village Hall Committee**

Village Fete

Saturday 29 August, 11am-4pm on the Village Green & the Village Hall

Usual stalls and activities. **Editor**



St Andrew's Church Walberswick

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

July 2026 Services

Sunday 5 July 11.15am
A special Choral Matins
to celebrate organist
Julia Josephs' 100th birthday
with Brass Quintet, Choir and Fizz.
All most welcome.

Wednesday 8 July 10am
Holy Communion
Coffee served after the service.

Sunday 12 July 6pm
Choral Evensong.
A service for the commissioning
of Sally East and Grant Masom
as Lay Elders.

Sunday 19 July 11.15am
Holy Communion.

Wednesday 22 July 10am
Holy Communion.

Memorial Flowers

5 July To Julia Josephs for the many years as our organist and choir leader with grateful thanks from the Church Flower Committee.

13 July In memory of her sister Dorothy Dekany from Julia Josephs.

19 July In memory of her husband Tony from Pat Lancaster.

Parish Register

23 May: Burial of Ashes
Brita Elisabeth Haycraft Age 93.

Community Services

Community Cafe: Wednesday
15 July 2pm - 4.30pm
in the Village Hall

Mobile Library: Friday
17 July 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 16 July.
To book a place,
please contact Mandy Erlenbach
on 07590 697575

Village: walberswick-pc.gov.uk
WALL: www.wall-update.org

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

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