

EXTRACTS FROM:

HAUNTED EAST ANGLIA by Joan Forman Jarrold Publ. 1974 Norwich.

... Mr. Ernest (Ginger) Winyard of Walberswick was, however, informative on the subject of a ghost at the old Anchor Inn in this village.

The new Anchor Inn was built in the 1920s and moved some fifty yards back from the original pub, which was pulled down at that time.

The new Anchor is ghost-free, I understand, but the old pub was part of the smuggling scene, and when the building was pulled down a bricked-up doorway was found in the cellar. Later, when the watersupply to the new building was being laid on, workmen discovered an underground passageway. These are certainly smugglers' trap-pings, but the origin of the ghost story is less obvious.

Mr. Winyard and his brother shared a bedroom [they were the sons of the then land-lord John Winyard] when they were boys and although "Ginger" Winyard himself never heard anything untoward in the old Anchor, his brother several times heard the sound of an old mangle being turned. This invariably occurred at midnight and was frequently accompanied by all the bedclothes falling off his bed. A strange sequence, indeed. Unlikely that any woman would have been in the habit of washing and mang-ling at midnight - unless she had muddy or bloody clothes to clean before they were seen by inquisitive neighbours.

Guesswork of this kind does not explain the odd behaviour of the bedclothes, of course. ...

-.....-

EXTRACTS FROM MISS BROWTON'S DIARY

Jessie Mabel Browton

b.29.9.1882 at Watford

d.20.5.1971 at Blythwe Cottage Ww.

## About People.

Mrs William English reached the age of 101 in May 1954.

She died in January 1955. She was William's second wife.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> 1953 <sup>Harriet</sup> Mrs Bloomfield died. She was then living at No. 1 Mill Cottages, but formerly at Anchor Cottages. Her son now lives there. Her grandson Douglas "told" his bees of her death & tied crepe on the hive. She was one of the last of the cottagers to keep her own cow but had given it up some years ago.

She was aged 78 & up to the last had been domestic help to Mr N. M. Clemens. Miss Emily List, the sister of a former Keeper on the Blois estate had lived with him, & after his death with his son at the Keeper's cottage, near Westwood Lodge, & before that had lived on the Green. She came back to live there with a nephew in 1955 & died aged 96 in December 1958.

Sir Charles Jernynson lived at Greenways from to . He is the grandson of Alfred, Lord Jernynson, the poet, & a distinguished author in his own right. Mr Horace George Fairs of Eastwood Lodge Farm, died in March 1957. Formerly he farmed Manor Farm as well. He belonged to an old East Suffolk farming family. He came to this parish in 1921 & farmed the whole of Walberswick until he gave up Manor Farm in

Mr C. Adams elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the ninth year in succession at the annual meeting in 1957

Miss Augusta Mary Parker of "Dickon" County Superintendent of the Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance awarded the M.B.E. & in 1957 was made a Dame of Grace of the Order of St. John 1957 she was made a Dame of the Order.

Miss Inea Allan of Westwood Studio, a journalist wrote the words & music for a revue "As Others See Us" based on the various activities of people in the village which was most amusing & a great success. This was followed in the following year by a pantomime "Babes in Wonderland" this was followed by a comedy "The Changing Wind" which toured the provinces presented by Forbes Russen in association with Melody Theatre Ltd in 1955. Miss Allan had been Clerk to the Parish Council for several years & was much missed when she resigned in 1953 to devote herself to play writing.

## People continued

For some years Mrs Ronald Jeans, the playwright lived at the Valley Farm. There he adapted an old barn, which had once been attached to the house & which he had removed & re-erected in the former farm-yard. This he made into a small theatre & during the 1939-45 war exhibited films there for the benefit of troops stationed in the village. This became quite a village institution & was continued 2 or 3 times a week for several years. The films being shown by volunteers whom he had trained. When finally he gave it up it was a great loss to the village. The nearest cinema being at Southwood & the choice of films there usually very poor.

Mrs Angela Ainley, Ronald Jeans' daughter, also has literary & dramatic gifts & in 1954 ~~produced~~<sup>helped</sup> a play for children "Listen to the Wind" was produced in Oxford & in 1955 at the Arts Theatre in London. It was also published as a book with some clever illustrations by a contemporary artist.

Mr Spall formerly a farm labourer, was a member of the Parish Council, & their representative on the Parish Councils' Association for several years. It was due to his representations that the Mile Field & Whinny piece were ploughed & brought into cultivation. In 1954 he flew, at the age of 80+ to Canada to visit relatives. It was his first experience of flying & although he returned safely it was too great a strain & he has been an invalid ever since.

The Rev. R. M. W. Lewis was a resident at Gosse Cottage on the Common for a number of years after his retirement. He was a keen archaeologist. He transcribed the Churchwardens' Accounts covering the years 1450 - 1499 & collected a great deal of information about the history of Walkerswick. His notes are now in the care of the Vicar of the Parish.

He was particularly interested in a tumulus at Loby's Walk near the Heronry. He secured the interest of authorities at the British Museum who were willing to excavate if £100 could be raised locally for the necessary equipment but this was not forthcoming. He was an authority on Church Brasses.

He died in 1954 at the age of 86.  
Canon C. J. G. Powell was also a resident on the Common from the time he retired in 1946 until his death in 1952. He had been

Vicar of St. Bartholomew's Church, Ipswich from 1916 - 1946  
& was made a Canon in 1933. His work in the Church was outstanding  
Mr. Fred Bennet. A well known character in the motoring world.  
Lived at 'Gazbo' Mill Field Lane intermittently until his death  
at the age of 84 in 1958. A Lancashire engineer he imported in  
1903 the first Cadillac car seen in Britain, a 6 h.p. single-cylinder  
model.

During that year he drove it in a 1,000-mile eight-day reliability trial  
& in 1953 he drove the same car in a similar test. By 1955 it had  
covered 200,000 miles. He was a familiar figure at all veteran car  
rallies & was a former president of the Veteran Car Club & a vice-chairman  
of the Royal Automobile Club. He was responsible for the introduction  
of the electric starter into England.

Mr & Mrs Charles Adams celebrated their Diamond Wedding in Nov. 1958.  
Mrs. Adams is one of the original members of Walkerswick Women's Institute  
which began 35 years ago. Mr Adams was chairman of the Parish Council of  
John List, one of the sailors taking part in the "Hiton-Hike" to Gibraltar  
represents the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the List family living on or connected  
with the Blois estate, his grandfather Andrew List, Keeper to  
Sir Ralph Blois was a familiar figure on the Walkerswick  
estate accompanied by his Golden Retriever in the 1930's.

Chester Catchpole who had been assistant to Mr Reynolds at  
The Stores, Walkerswick until Mr Reynolds sold the business & for  
a short time afterwards except for a period in the Army during  
the first world war part of which he served in Buewats with the  
'Chindits'. Died during the very severe cold of January 1963  
while cycling home to Wentnaston from Halesworth.

1963 Mrs Mez a great worker for Overseas Missions, especially  
the Medical Mission Hospital at Vellore, S. India the United  
Church Sale for which was, I think, inaugurated by her  
& is still held annually in November. She died in 1963  
The service prior to cremation was held in St Andrew's Church,  
Walkerswick on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1963

1970 Mrs Smith wife of the Keeper living at the cottage in the Heronry,  
died & was buried on April 4<sup>th</sup> as was also Mrs Page wife of the local  
carpenter. Mrs Smith was a member of the Women's Institute & a very  
regular attendant at meetings.

1959 Mrs Sarah Beatrice St. John came to live in the house she had had built, Skinfold, next to her sister & brother-in-law Mrs Mrs Blinkhorn at Brandon Lodge. During the time she lived in the village she was a great benefactor to many people & to village institutions. She gave £1,000 towards the new organ for the Church & in many ways contributed to the happiness of many people by individual help & by large parties to which most of the inhabitants were invited. Unfortunately her sister died when she had only been here about two years & herself died in February 1964 her final gift to the village being a request to the Parish Council of £1,000 to be used either for the repairs of the Gannon Room or towards the cost of a new hall. In her will she also left £500 to the Vicar & Churchwardens "for the use of the Church".

Mrs Shepherd a well-known figure in Walberswick drove her pony in a Governess Car & rode the pony up to the time of her death in 1966

Mrs Kett had a keen sense of the duties of a member of the community in a small village.

Mrs. Mary Harwood. Another person who "pulled her weight" as a member of the community, but without antagonising other members of the village.



# Walberswick - the

Hidden behind this sleepy facade of Walberswick lies a hive of artistic creation, of a quality and quantity to rival the Newlyn School, writes **Richard Scott**

Although the names of Philip Wilson Steer and Charles Rennie Mackintosh are apt to crop up whenever Walberswick and artists are mentioned in the same breath, a great many other notables have worked in and around the village over the last two centuries.

Ipswich Borough Council's permanent collection houses two very early studies of Walberswick church. A drawing from the south east by Cornelius Varley is dated 1801, while a splendidly fluent water-colour, with grazing cows in front of the ruined chancel, was painted a few years later by Peter de Wint. Both artists were prominent in their day, and considerably influenced by their contemporaries J M W Turner and Thomas Girtin.

Henry Davy published numerous editions of etchings in the 1820s and 1830s depicting in detail the churches and country houses of Suffolk – an invaluable reference for historians. A former pupil of J S Cotman, Davy was living in Southwold when he drew Walberswick church in 1826.

The prevailing interest in romantic ruins no doubt fuelled enthusiasm for the church as a subject; later artists were more inclined to work near the river and the beach. While on his 'Voyage Around Britain' William Daniell made an engraving showing a boat battling through turbulent waters in the river mouth. The drawing was done in 1822, the

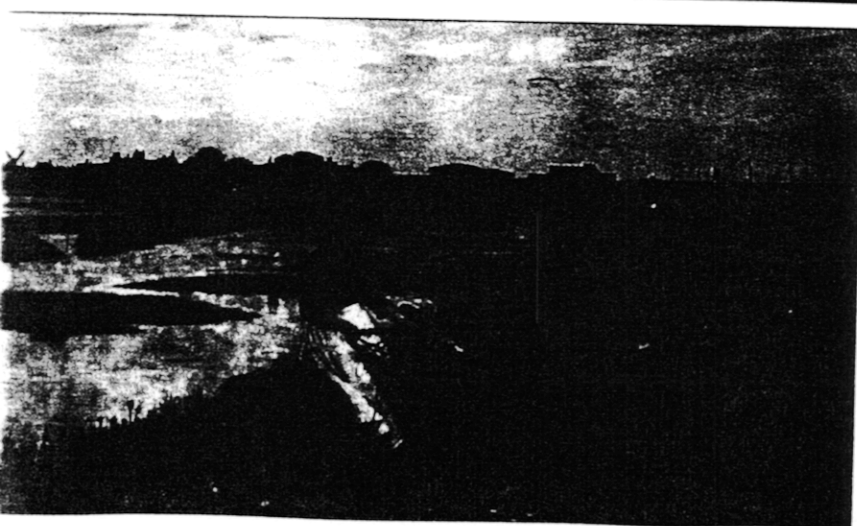
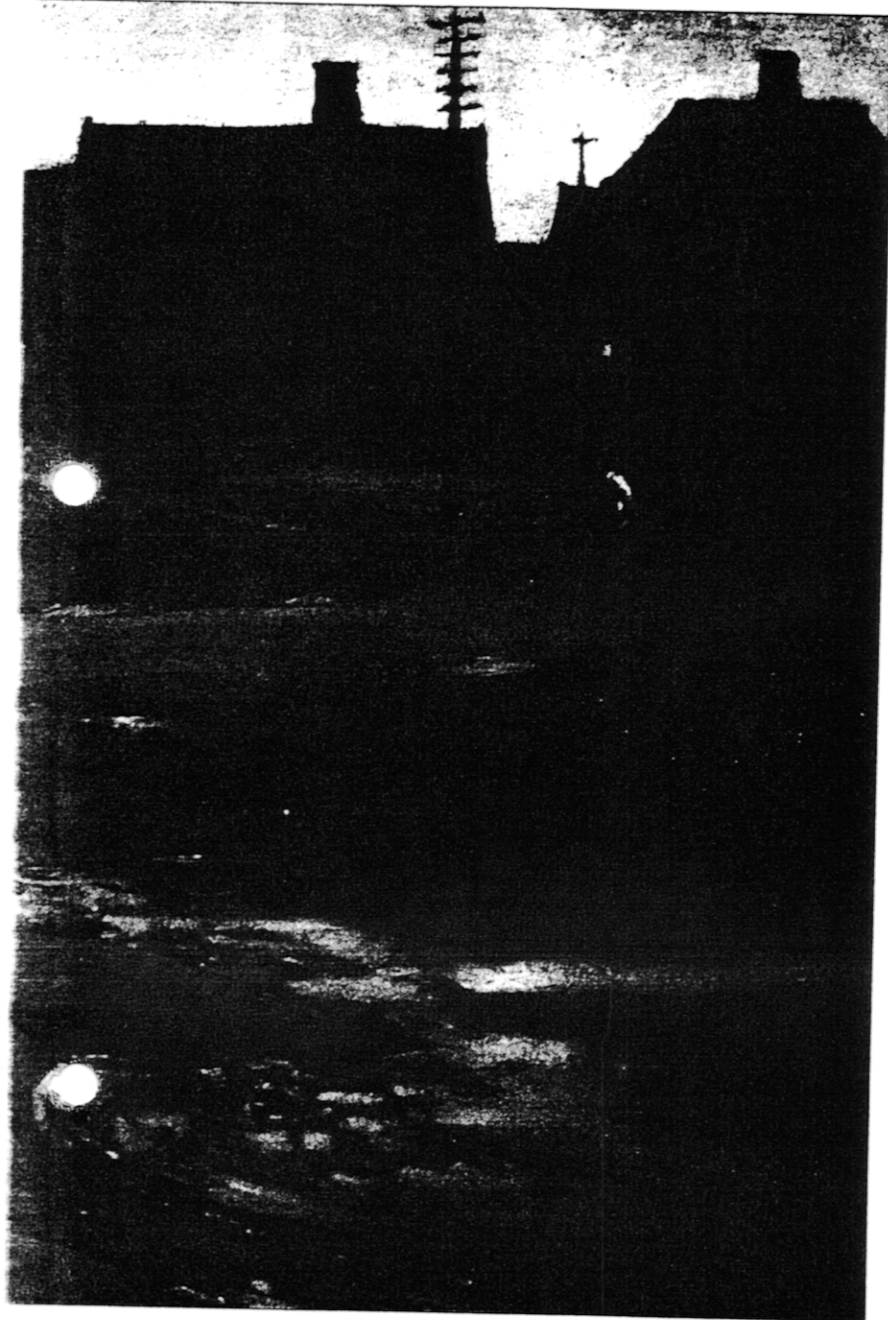
year of Daniell's election to Royal Academician status. Other marine artists working in the area in the second quarter of the nineteenth century included C H Martin and Francis Moltino.

A particularly significant visitor between 1860 and 1880 was Ipswich-born Charles Samuel Keene. Although mainly remembered as a humorous illustrator for Punch, he was very highly regarded as an artist in a broader sense by such notables as Pissarro, Tonks and Whistler. He visited Walberswick, Southwold and Dunwich in the 1860s and 1870s with the etcher Edwin Edwards. In 1876 Henry Stacy Marks RA, whose work was often imbued with quirky humour, accompanied them. Portraits of three generations of the family of William English of Walberswick were painted by Marks, but they remain untraced.

It was in 1876 that Marks met Hamilton Macallum in Walberswick. The following year Macallum showed 'Walbeswick Ferry' (sic) at the Royal Academy: a painting of the river mouth by the Irish painter Edwin Hayes RHA appeared at the same show.

Henry Moore RA – an extremely successful and prolific coastal and marine painter – made working visits in the early 1880s, while in the same years the Rev. Dr Henry Lionel James was compiling a remarkable topographical record of the village in watercolour paintings,

Above: Allan Davidson's Valley Farm, Walberswick (c 1928). Private collection. Left: Thomas Benham's Stranded (1888). Private collection.



# unfolding enigma

many of which survive in the permanent collection at Ipswich.

A new wave of young artists began to arrive in the mid-1880s whose shared passion was for painting everyday working situations on the spot, thus getting away from the more formal style of painting favoured by the Royal Academy. Among the first to make Walberswick a regular summer destination was Philip Wilson Steer, who came to the village every summer from 1884 until 1889, returning for further visits in the early 1890s. In Walberswick he painted with a brilliance and luminosity not always present in his later work. On the earlier visits Edward Stott and Frederick Brown, who was later to be Slade Professor, accompanied him. Others included William Llewellyn, a future President of the Royal Academy, and Frank Short, destined for a very distinguished career as an etcher and engraver.

Two Irish artists - Walter Osborne and Nathaniel Hill - came to Walberswick in the mid-1880s, accompanied by the Newlyn artist William Blandford Fletcher. Osborne was particularly highly regarded; his work revealed elements of impressionism, but remained underpinned by the rigorous training he had received at Antwerp Academy.

At least two made their way to Walberswick - Arthur Hoerber and Willard Leroy Metcalf. Hoerber, on return to Buffalo, became better known later as an art critic, while Metcalf was one of the circle of American impressionists which included Twachtman and Hassam. A fine Walberswick painting by Metcalf, showing the old windmill (demolished in 1928) survives in private hands in New York.

Other visitors at this time included Frank Brangwyn, Arthur Melville, Alexander Mann and - briefly - Walter Sickert. Myles Birket Forster, possibly the best of Victorian rural genre painters exhibited Walberswick work in London in the 1890s, while some deeply evocative work was shown around this time by Thomas Benham who lived in the village for some years.

Access to Walberswick was eased in 1879 with the opening of the narrow gauge railway from Halesworth to Southwold. Many artists found accommodation with local families, who were pleased to enhance their slender income in this way. 'Who stayed where?' is an absorbing topic for the researcher, but many questions remain tantalisingly unanswered.

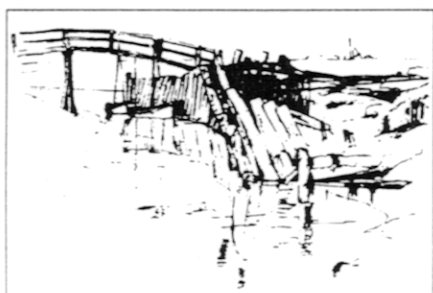
During the Edwardian years, the exhibition records of the Royal Society of



Charles Keene's Southwold Harbour (c 1868). Ipswich Borough Council Museum & Councils.

British Artists were peppered with Walberswick and Southwold titles. Two of the distinguished visitors were to reach a wide public through the medium of picture postcards - Ida Kirkpatrick and Henry Sylvester Stannard RBA.

There was also an influx of artists from north of the border during the Edwardian years. Francis Newbery - the subject of a major retrospective exhibition in Glasgow in 1996 - had a holiday house in Walberswick for 20 years while he was Director of Glasgow School of Art. He introduced several major artists to the village during this period. Charles Rennie Mackintosh, lost for years in the mists of obscurity but now the subject of numerous publications, first came to Suffolk in 1897 but spent more than a year in Walberswick from early in 1914 until the summer of 1915. Much of this time was spent producing the well-known and much reproduced flower studies, but it was an unhappy period in his life.



Sir Frank Short's Raiver Wall at Walberswick (c 1890). Ipswich Borough Council Museum & Councils.

a huge body of work the daily toil of farmers in the Blyth Valley. His work blends sharp observation with fluid treatment - the product of his early training at Antwerp Academy followed by a spell in Paris with Carolus Duran, to whom directness and spontaneity were paramount.

A much under-rated Walberswick artist of the 1920s was Allan Davidson. After a distinguished early career as an award-winning student at the Royal Academy Schools, followed by study in Paris at

Clausen RA worked in Walberswick in the early 1930s during visits to W F 'Pink' Crittall - himself an artist. Sir John Seymour Lucas RA - mainly a portrait painter - lived in Blythburgh, while Bertram Priestman RA - a landscape and coastal artist - had a house in Walberswick and taught visiting pupils, including Edward Seago. Sir Stanley Spencer RA painted what he regarded as 'pot-boilers' in the neighbourhood in the 1930s, during a lean period.

No survey of Walberswick artists should omit John Doman Turner. Turner completed his 'diaramic record of a Suffolk village' in 1931 - a detailed on-the-spot study of Walberswick painted in watercolour and inks on a 123-foot roll of paper. A pupil of Spencer Gore, Doman Turner was a member of the Camden Town Group with Sickert, Gore, Gilman and others in 1911. He was the subject of an exhibition 'The Forgotten Camden Towners' at the Michael Parkin Gallery, London, in 1997.

The 1939-1945 war brought visual change. Shoreline defences, concrete gun emplacements and tank traps scarred the landscape, whilst the picturesque steam ferry was scuttled in 1942. Henry Holzer, later to be Head of Printmaking at Hornsey School of Art, produced wartime work with the blessing of superior officers, and in 1946 Sydney Lee RA showed a painting of Walberswick church at the

Royal Academy. An energetic study of the church tower, done in 1958 by John Piper, now resides at the Tate Gallery.

In the 1950s several artists had houses in the village, including Sidney Seymour Lucas, Clifford Russell, still painting, but in Frostenden, Eric Scott, a watercolourist whose work was much reproduced on calendars and cards, and Jessie Browton whose 1930s and 1950s watercolours can be found in Southwold Museum.

Amy Katherine Browning, a suffragette in her youth, enjoyed the distinction of an almost unbroken record of Royal Academy acceptances over a 72-year span. A retrospective exhibition was mounted at Christchurch Mansion in 1995; she worked in Walberswick around 1950.

East Point, formerly Michael Jeans' pottery, was home for periods of time in the 1960s and 1970s to Frank Beanland and Donnagh McKenna, and for shorter periods Bernard Dunstan RA and Diana Armfield RA.

By 1960 Peggy Somerville was painting colourfully on the beach, and at this time Chris and Wendy Sinclair settled in the village, soon after completing their studies at the Slade. William Bowyer RA has a base in Walberswick, as have his sons Jason and Francis.

Sir William Coldstream spent working holidays in Southwold and Walberswick in later life. A Walberswick painting was shown at his retrospective exhibition at the Tate Gallery in 1990. Also represented in the Tate is Margaret Mellis, whose driftwood constructions used locally found and carefully selected material.

Artists currently Walberswick-based but not already mentioned include Maurice Kelly, formerly Principal of a midlands art school whose precise painting is frequently spiced with humour, Eveline Hastings, Jean Pappworth, Anne Paton and Richard Scott.

Walberswick's magnetism continues unabated. A sobering conclusion is that for each artist named, several with every reason for inclusion have had to be omitted.

Richard Scott is a painter, art and design lecturer and author of *THE WALBERSWICK ENIGMA*, whose work on *The Walberswick Artists* will be published in book form in the near future. He is currently assisting in the mounting of an exhibition 'Walberswick Post-war to the Present' to be shown at the Chappel Gallery from June 6 to July 4.

See our Events Guide - June (p8-9) for details on Richard Scott's Walberswick art walks

A new wave of young artists began to arrive in the mid-1880s whose shared passion was for painting everyday working situations on the spot.

His connections with the Viennese Secessionists were well known; this knowledge, and his solitary habits, soon made him an object of suspicion. There were allegations (unfounded) of spying, and he was banished from the area by the authorities. He died, sick and impoverished, in a London nursing home in December 1928.

Other friends of Newbery's to come to the neighbourhood included William Kay Blacklock who taught at Edinburgh College of Art, and E A Walton, one of the 'Glasgow Boys'. Another was Maurice Greiffenhagen RA, Head of Life Studies at Glasgow School of Art.

Harry Becker recorded in

L'Académie Julian, he settled in the village and shared with Bertram Priestman the riverside studio previously occupied by Francis Newbery. The same studio was later used by Tom Van Oss - also a Walberswick resident. Van Oss had a short but successful career: tragically, he was killed at sea while working on coastal camouflage.

Between the wars, the riverbank was lined with artists' studios converted from fishermen's sheds. A number of 'establishment' artists worked in the area during these years, including several Royal Academicians. Chelsea-based Sir Arnesby Brown RA had a house in Haddiscoe, while Sir George



COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES IN AND AROUND WALBERSWICK.

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- " " Paul's Fenn: In loving memory "Mac" (McClelland) 1920 - 1981
- " " in Palmers Lane: In memory of Winifred 1937
- " " The Ferry: Walberswick Silver Jubilee 1977
- " " The Harbour: Happy memory Stan Thompson 1945 - 1991
- " " The Bell: In memory of Dinks Cooper 1914 - 1988
- " " The Lantern left: In memory of Mary and Peter Olive
- " " " " middle: Many happy memories James Thain (flanked by tortoise and butterfly)
- " " " " right: Happy memories of our son Christopher Long
- 2 seats at Lychgate  
outside village hall: 1910 GR 1935
- Seat outside Tuck Shop: Presented by the Royal British Legion in memory of  
right: Christopher Paton 1915 - 1989 Branch President 1988-1989
- " " left: Presented by the Royal British Legion in memory  
of Joan Paton 1923 - 1985
- Iron-framed double seat erected Spring 1997 on field south of Millfield Road  
facing the paddock: In Memory of Audrey Chambers 1913-1994.
- Seat at the South side of Hoist Covert close to a concrete bunker:  
The Gift of the Metropolitan Public Gardens. 83, Lancaster Gate W.  
Supported entirely by voluntary contributions.  
Rebuilt 1990 by Arthur Molyneaux and Ray Easterbrook
- Seat at Harbour, facing the River Blyth: Derrick Allen 1920-1996. All is well.  
Erected 1997.
- Seat at junction of The Street and Lodge Road:  
To the memory of Dorothy M. Crichton in appreciation of her  
work for this village. (Oldstanding iron-framed seat. Undated.)
- Seat at Harbour facing the river Blyth: Fiona Adams - Eaton 1953 - 1997.
- Seat at Harbour facing the slipway: Happy memories Stan Thompson 1945 - 1991.
- Seat on Village Green near the swings: Walberswick Parish Council 100 years  
4. Dec. 1894 - 5. Dec. 1994

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I N D E X

	Pages
Register of Persons and Families in Walberswick from 1600 - 1900	1 - 91
Addenda	
List of Graves in Walberswick Churchyard	1 - 7
Wills	
An Historic Account of Dunwich, Blithburgh, Southwold by Thomas Gardener	
"The Beauties of Suffolk"	
Extracts from "Ferry Knoll" by Carol Christie	
Trade Directory 1908	
Shipwrecks off Walberswick 1782 - 1845	1 - 13
List of Southwold and Walberswick Ships	
Inhabitants of Walberswick according to James Maggs' Diary	
Extracts from James Maggs' Diary relating to Walberswick 1726 - 1876	1 - 6
Severe Weather in Walberswick during 1795 - 1868 according to J. Maggs' Diary	
Crimes, Accidents etc. in Walberswick from James Magg's Diary	
The History of the "Blue Anchor"	1 - 14
Extract from: Haunted East Anglia	
Extracts from Miss Jessie Mabel Browton's Diary	
Commemorative Benches in and around Walberswick 1993.	