

WALBERSWICK

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO: 49

February 2016

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

2016 is an important milestone for the Walberswick Local History Group (WLHG) as it marks the 25th anniversary of its formation. For some years there had been meetings of interested parties who thought the village ought to have such a group. Although keen supporters, not all the enthusiasts wanted to get involved with a "committee" and its attendant commitments. However, the combined forces of Don Thompson and Pat Wythe meant that the WLHG was born. The first Newsletter is attached, makes very interesting reading and demonstrates a passion for the village.

To mark this occasion, the History Group is organising an Exhibition of its Archives, including, Videos, Photographs and Pictures on Saturday, Sunday and Monday 28th, 29th and 30th May 2016 in the Village Hall from 10 – 4 pm daily. Privately owned paintings may be on show for a limited period during this time.

Please come along and see what your History Group has to offer. Entrance will be free.

Philip Kett

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Subscriptions are now due. If you have not already paid, please contact Maureen Thompson as soon as possible on 01502 723755, with your subscription which is £7.50.

Maureen Thompson

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S NOTE

I am currently happy to continue with this task and would ask if anyone has any interesting, stimulating, quirky or unusual items which we could share with the members of the group. I would also welcome any comments on the Newsletters – it is after all your newsletter.....

Pat Lancaster (email: pat@globalchair.co.uk)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 25th April 2016

Wed & Thurs 27th & 28th April

Sat, Sun & Mon 28, 29 & 30 May 2016

AGM

Test Pit Digging

25th Anniversary Exhibition

CONSTITUTION

The Committee have reviewed the Constitution and recommend the following changes subject to ratification at the AGM. A full copy is attached to this Newsletter. Amendments are:

- 2 Objects: The following is added: *and to make the contents of the WLHG's archive available to anyone with an interest in the village.*
- 4 Management: the following is removed: *In addition the village recorder and the group archivist shall be ex-officio members of the committee*
- 5 Officers: the following is added: shall appoint a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist and Membership etc
- 7 General Meetings – the following is changed: during the month of March – now during the month of April
- 8 Special General Meetings – this is now in the plural.

Editor

WALBERSWICK COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES

During the course of the year, Jayne Tibbles kindly updated the listing of Commemorative Benches in and around the village. These are also all photographed and shall be included on the Website.

No	WHERE	INSCRIPTION
1	The Bell Green	In memory of Dinks Cooper - 1914 – 1988
2	Ferry	Fiona Adams-Eaton
3	Harbour facing River Blyth	Derrick Allen 1920 - 1996. All is well
4	Ferry facing River Blyth	David Church (1942-2001) Ferryman
5	Ferry Stage	Silver Jubilee QE 11 - 1977
6	The Harbour - The slipway	Happy memories Stan Thompson 1945 – 1991
7	Village Green	Walberswick Parish Council - 100 Years. 4 Dec 1894 - 5 Dec 1994
8	Village Green	Sir Clement Freud 84 years
9	Parish Lantern- left	In memory of Mary & Peter Olive
10	Parish Lantern- middle	Many happy memories James Thain
11	Parish Lantern - right	Happy memories of our son Christopher Long
12	Jubilee Green	Walberswick Silver Jubilee King George V - 1936
13	Stocks Green - Junction of The Street and Lodge Road	To the memory of Dorothy M Crichton in appreciation of her work for this village
14	Playing Field. Near Sports Hut	Precious Moments, Precious Memories Precious Lady - Christine Verneti
15	Playing Field. Near Sports Hut	William Bowyer RA 1926-2015
16	Children's play area - Sports Field	Ollie Tibbles - Forever 7.
17	Cattle Arch junction BR 5 & 6	In Memory of Miss Bally
18	SW corner of Common, behind Adams Lane	Mr & Mrs J Church
19	Churchyard	In loving memory of Reg Henderson 1984
20	Tuck Shop-Right	Presented by the Royal British Legion in memory of Christopher Paton 1915-1989 Branch President 1988/89
21	Tuck Shop- Left	Presented by the Royal British Legion in memory of Joan Paton 1923-1985
22	Iron framed double seat erected 1997 footpath 15 facing paddock	In memory of Audrey Chambers 1913-1994
23	Near Blockhouse (Junction F.P. 11 & 24)	David Shirreff 1915-1999
24	Pauls Fenn- old army camp F.P 11	Bun & Mac (McClelland)
25	Near blockhouse footpath to beach opposite Leverett's Lane	In memory of Hansi Bohm who placed a seat here 1907-1996
26	Ferry facing River Blyth	Roger Stroyan 1937-2001
27	Old Railway Station	Southwold Railway Society
28	In hollow opposite old Railway Station	Waveney Ramblers
29	In hollow near Squires Hill at junction of of Palmers Lane & Brick Path	In memory of Mrs Neame
30	East side of Hoist Covert close to blockhouse. F.P. 24	Gift of Metropolitan Public Gardens, 83 Lancaster Gate, W.

Jayne Tibbles

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Scanning – Although our successful application to Viridor Credits was not endorsed by their regulator, our anonymous benefactor has meant that all the documents/photographs/paintings etc held in the archives have now been scanned and are held on 2 x Hard-drives. One of these shall be held by myself and the other off-site with The Chairman. The prime purpose of having all archives scanned was to protect and preserve them for future generations and I fully intend to continue adding to these valuable Hard-drives as new items come to hand. We would like to make everyone aware that in your interests and order to comply with Data Protection/Copyright Laws, we have taken advice and shall be reviewing all and any files before uploading them on to the Onesuffolk website. Once any files are available, we intend to include a notice in the Village News to that effect, hopefully starting with Graves and Benches as below. Here is the link to the Website - <http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/home/walberswick-local-history-group>.

General – during the course of recent months, two very fascinating archive items have been updated, they are: **Church of St Andrew Churchyard Survey - Update of Graves** - our grateful thanks goes to Lesley Scott for undertaking this task and updating it from that completed very extensively by Alan Walpole up to 2002, and **Walberswick Commemorative Benches** – our grateful thanks also goes to Jayne Tibbles for updating this document complete with photographs – see separate item.

Pat Lancaster

MORE CONVERSATIONAL FRAGMENTS FROM EARLIER TIMES

By Richard Scott

With “Dinks” Cooper and Jimmy Meekins, the venue for our conversations was almost always the bar at The Bell, where in order to achieve a coherent result, the interviewer had to be careful to consume less beer than the interviewees!

Dinks Cooper and Jimmy Meekins

I link these larger-than-life characters together as most of my conversations with them took place at the bar in the Bell, though never at the same time, as Dinks always occupied a space at one end (his adopted spot now adorned with a small brass plate with 'Dinks' Leaning Post' engraved on it) and Jimmy would lean on the other end, near the original back door. The two would ignore each other, apart from an occasional exchange of insults, and each had a different take on the reason for the hostility. Dinks attributed it to an incident when both were at the village school. He had snatched Jimmy's school cap from his head, thrown it in a puddle and jumped on it. Jimmy's reason was something very much more recent, and involved a dispute over the ownership of a tarpaulin. Whatever the truth, the two were much closer than either would admit, and when Dinks died in 1988 Jimmy was mortified.

Dinks, in early life, worked for Billy Dunnett, the local builder, who lived at Thorpe View, then divided into two sections. The small team of three would start their day with the loading of a hand-cart with tools and materials for the day's work. Getting to work on foot could take some time (Dinks remembered a spell working at Tinker's Barn, and described the custom of the work-force to walk back to the village for a proper two-course lunch in the middle of the day).

While employed by Dunnett, Dinks helped to dismantle a barn which belonged to Manor Farm but stood next to **Toby Cottage** (then called 'Due South') in Leverett's Lane. This barn was transported in kit form to the Green and formed the basis of what is now **Hidden House**. Initially it was **Peggan Cottage** and was the home of the artist Ann St John Partridge and her friend Peggy. Ann died in 1935 and the property was taken over by Ernst Freud. It is unclear at what stage Freud became involved; did he supervise the conversion for

Ann Partridge, or did he buy it from the Partridge estate after her death? Nobody seems to be sure about this. Suffice it to say that by the 1950s it had all the hallmarks of a Freud creation.

Another interesting revelation by Dinks was that it was his much older sister who set the ball rolling to get Charles Rennie Mackintosh put under house arrest for allegedly signalling to foes on the high seas with his lantern. The slender shred of evidence lay in the proximity of her place of work - she was in service at **The Towers** – now **Green Gates** – to **Westwood Cottage**, where by the spring of 1915 Mackintosh was renting rooms. For a lantern to be seen at Westwood Cottage from the sea seems ludicrous now, but the numerous houses and mature trees obstructing the view were not there in 1915. That this idea was thought at all credible is a good indication of the general 'jumpiness' about invasion prevailing at the time.

Richard Scott

PAM HASLEGRAVE AT 87

During the summer of 2015 I was delighted to be able to interview Pam Haslegrave. This was part of the Walberswick Local History Group (WLHG) project to record long-time residents' memories of Walberswick. Pam had some reservations but as I already knew her, she agreed to me taping our chat and this recording will go into the archive for future generations.

Some readers may not know Pam as she does not get out much now. However, most villagers will know her son Wayne (and of course, his wife Lorry). In fact, it is here that I have to admit a personal interest in wanting to interview Pam. Chatting with Wayne in The Anchor one evening in 2014 we came to realise that we were related. This is not that unusual for Walberswick families and is something that newcomers should be aware of. After further beer and more discussions Wayne then unlocked some childhood memories of mine. Our distant family connection could have been much closer. Had things worked out differently, Pam could have become my Aunty Pam!

The following is a summary of some of the things we talked about.

Early Life

Pam Haslegrave was born in Blythburgh in 1928. Her father was Walter Goodwin and her mother was born Grace Smith, also from Blythburgh. Pam moved to Walberswick at about the age of 10. She says she hated it and went back to live with her aunt in Blythburgh for about 2 years. Pam's parents worked at South Close in Leverett's Lane which was a guest House (she has a lovely picture of South Close at that time). The history of this building is interesting moving from guest house to night club and then splitting into two private residences. Pam attended Reydon School and was part of that generation who was given a bike to get there. After schooling Pam helped in the guest house until she got married.

Three of Pam's closest friends were Tommy Cross, Beryl Sharman and Jill Cady (see their stories in Arthur Sharman's "Further Walberswick memories" book).

Dulcie Rogers was Pam's sister (of Rogers Garage fame) and her other sister, Mollie, also lives in Adams Lane. Ruth Goodwin's brother married Mollie.

Pam extolled the virtues of The Gannon Room where young people could meet and play billiards, snooker and badminton, all for free. She was not a fan of the new hall. After her "golden age" the Youth club failed as the children were not sufficiently interested, went to different schools and did not know each other in the same way as Pam's generation. Pam also described dances in Lowestoft which were very popular with young people.

Marriage and Family

Pam married Andy Haslegrave in around 1953 and they settled into a house in Adams Lane where Pam lives to this day. Andy was from London – his parents were frequent visitors (had been in India). Pam was about 25 when she married.

After losing a child still born, two boys came along, Murray in 1959 and Wayne in 1964. However, the marriage was not to last. Soon after Wayne was born Andy left the family. Pam described the leaving and a subsequent very brief return, which did not work out. Pam was left with two boys to raise which she successfully achieved. She never re-married.

Connection to the English Family

Pam's father, Walter, was briefly married to Esther English before he married Pam's mother. Esther was one of at least six children of Tom and Martha English. One of her brothers was William "Blucher" English (Jayne Tibbles' father). Walter and Esther had a son, Leslie "Heron" Goodwin but sadly Esther died soon after Leslie was born and Leslie then went to live in Walberswick with his grandparents Tom and Martha English. Les was brought up alongside Blucher much like brothers but were in fact uncle and nephew. In later life they worked together, along with Owen English doing what many Walberswick men do, gardening, painting and decorating. Pam kept in close contact with Les and spoke warmly of their relationship. Though half brother and sister and brought up separately they remained close. Les' wife was Ruth Goodwin who chaired the Walberswick Parish council for a number of years and by all accounts was a formidable chair.

After "the war" and before she met Mr Haslegrave, one of Pam's serious boyfriends was Owen English (my uncle and a distant cousin of Les). I know that he was a serious boyfriend because Pam told me! Wayne was able to find photographs of them together walking the dog and on the beach. They became "an item" when Pam was about 16 following Valentine cards sent to Owen and his brother Tony by Pam's friend Tommy. According to Pam she could have become my aunty. However, for reasons unstated, Pam broke off the relationship (in fact she did this three times). Again, in Pam's words, she "broke his heart". Whatever happened, Owen never married and lived the rest of his days in Beach View, Walberswick. He never spoke to me about Pam but I recall my parents talking about her. It took the conversation with Wayne to make the connection.

One touching memory Pam had concerned my Father, Ron English. Ron had been a Prisoner-of-War, first in Italy and then Germany. On his return in 1945 he was physically and mentally in a bad way. According to Pam, a bunch of Walberswick people went to Southwold Pier one night and my father was taken ill in some way. Pam 'phoned her father and he drove over and collected my father and took him home. This was remarkable for her father's kindness and compassion as well as for the fact that he was both on the phone and had a car. We take both for granted now but in 1945 this was quite rare.

Thoughts on Walberswick today

Pam mentioned, more than once, that Walberswick is not the place it was and that all the old people have gone. I remember hearing my father say something similar many years ago now and not quite understanding what he was talking about. Now I find myself slipping into this kind of mind set. All the "good old boys" of my childhood have long gone as have some much more recent ones. However, anyone who has read Ferry Knoll by Carol Christie, published in 1911, can see that this was ever so:

"....so many of the old folk have gone". ".....and have seen many changes, and we miss many familiar faces of the old folk we knew."

This is just the cycle of life. The young accept the way it is and the old talk about how it was.

John English (with kind permission by the Haslegrave family)

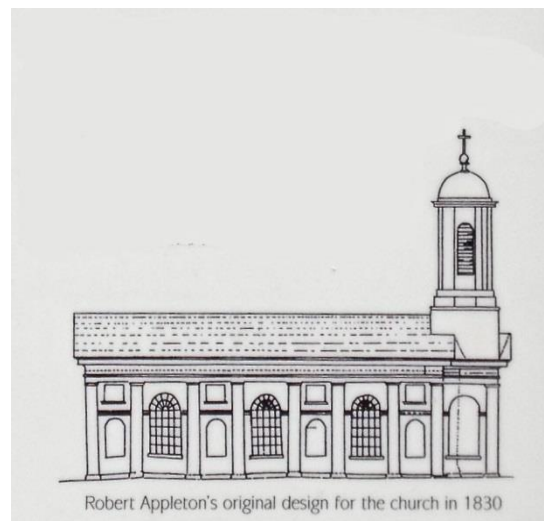
THE WINDOWS OF SAINT JAMES'S CHURCH, DUNWICH, AND THE STOCKS LANE SHED

In the last History Group Newsletter, Richard Scott queried the background of the windows which form the walls of the shed at the bottom of Stocks Lane.

As can be seen from the two photographs, there is a close similarity between these frames and the east window of St James's Church in Dunwich; both are wooden and both have dimensions of 1.7w x 3.2h metres.



The notice board in the churchyard at Dunwich outlines a brief history of the church. St James's was built in 1830. It was in the classical style as is shown by this drawing. A change of taste led local Victorians to alter the church in 1845 - the walls were clad in flint and a square tower replaced the dome. A chancel was added in 1881. When the 'gothicising' took place in 1845 it seems likely that the original round-headed and square paned classical windows were removed, the openings left intact, and filled in with those windows which are now in the shed. During subsequent alterations the pointed-arch stone windows of the present church were, in turn, substituted for the original round headed ones. This left the 'shed' windows de trop. This may have happened in 1881 when the chancel was built, which could account for the re-use of one of the 'shed' frames for the east window. This is the only one of the wooden windows still surviving in the fabric of St James.



This is possibly one of several scenarios, but the similarity of size, material, and design makes it very likely that the 'shed' windows stem from Dunwich Church.

Bill Ungless

WALBERSWICK FOOTBALL TEAM - 1947

Winners of Trophies, including:

HALESWORTH LEAGUE

LEISTON LEAGUE DIVISION 3 + 2

SOUTHWOLD AND HALESWORTH CUPS (BOTH 3 YEARS CONSECUTIVE)



BACK ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT

HAROLD PIPER, TED BEARD, GINGER WINYARD, TED BUGGS, WALLY GOODWIN, RAY FISK

CENTRE ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT

GEORGE PARNELL, VIC FAIRS, CHARLIE HARWOOD, OWEN ENGLISH, DUBBA ENGLISH, LES GOODWIN,
MARGO HARWOOD (HON SEC)

FRONT ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT

MAURICE MUTTIT, RICHARD CONNICK, CLIFF LAND, HARRY MORETON, ROY PEARCE, JOE HOPEWELL,
GERALD MUTTIT

John English