



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 26

August 2004

Historical research can often lead to controversies: you only have to read historians' comments on their colleagues' books to be aware of that. Now we have a controversial situation on our own doorstep: should the developers of the Bulcamp Workhouse be allowed to pave over the old burial ground? Many people in the district are aware that their ancestors are buried there, and are protesting vigorously against such an action. English Heritage has taken an interest in the situation as well. Philip Kett is among the protesters, and has done some valuable research on the old Workhouse. I have written a piece on the background to the controversy, based on his findings, so that members of the History Group can be aware of what is going on. There is no doubt that the Blything Union Workhouse at Bulcamp had a very interesting history, albeit a sad one. At time of going to press, no final decision has been made.

We also have an article by David M. Lee, who wrote about Walberswick Ferry in Newsletter No. 9 (1996). In this he throws light on an effort to build a bridge across the Blyth, before the idea of a ferry was adopted. A bridge was at one time thought to be a more practical solution to the problem of crossing the river. Further research has enabled him to give us more information about the early days of the steam ferry itself.

Finally, there is a piece about a much-loved character who worked in Walberswick in the 1920s and 1930s.

Julia Reisz, Editor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MONDAY 18TH OCTOBER "East Anglian Windmills – Beauty in Utility". A talk by David Alderton at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER Our Christmas Celebration, starting with a talk by Sidi Scott – "Life upon the Wicked Stage" – at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

BULCAMP WORKHOUSE BURIAL GROUNDS

Bulcamp Workhouse was built in 1766 to house the poor who could no longer be supported by their parish. It was illegal at that time for people who were being supported by the parish to leave the parish to seek work elsewhere. First inmates were received in the Workhouse that very year, and by August 1835 nearly 21,000 men, women and children had passed through its doors.

These people came from the 49 parishes that made up the Blything Hundred: they were Aldringham with Thorpe, Benacre, Blyford, Blythburgh, Bramfield, Brampton, Carlton, Chediston, Cookley, Covehithe, Cratfield, Darsham, Dunwich, Easton Bavents, Frostenden, Halesworth, Henham, Henstead including Hulver, Heveningham, Holton, Huntingfield, Kelsale, Knodishall, Leiston, South Cove, Southwold, Spexhall, Stoven, Theberton, Thorington, Ubbeston, Uggeshall, Walberswick, Walpole, Wangford, Wenhaston, Westhall, Westleton, Wissett, Wrentham and Yoxford. Saxmundham was also included. In the 1831 Census the population for these parishes was given as 25,303.

At that time whole families were admitted: husbands and wives lived with their children. At 13 the children were apprenticed by the Incorporation; when they had finished their apprenticeships they came back to the Workhouse and founded families of their own. A large farm provided work and food for the inmates: they cultivated sheep, barley and vegetables – and any surplus was sold. Other work performed there included spinning hemp, cording and spinning wool, knitting stockings and mending shoes. The community was self-supporting.

In 1834 the Poor Law Act was passed, and the Bulcamp Workhouse was taken over by the new Blything Poor Law Union. The arrangement by which families could live together was abandoned, and a much stricter regime was enforced. In 1836 £1000 was spent on altering the building: husbands and wives were separated and segregated from their children, high walls were built round the exercise yards, and many windows blocked up. Official statements at the time make it quite clear that the purpose was to create such a harsh environment that people would do anything to avoid going there. And they succeeded: as late as the 1930s people would talk with dread at the thought of ending up in the Workhouse.

Even so, the agricultural depression of the 1830s left many people destitute, so the Workhouse guardians began shipping families out to Canada on returning timber ships: in 1836 some 379 men, women and children were sent to Canada to leave room in Bulcamp Workhouse, which had at that time a population of around 550.

A glance at the 1881 Census gives one a good profile of the population involved. Naturally, there were great many old folk, but there were also young people in their teens and 59 children, including several babies. One man, Robert Briton (occupation listed as ostler) was living there with his wife and five children. School age children were listed as “scholar”; they were evidently taught on the premises, as a William Hilton is designated as Schoolmaster to the Workhouse.

Many of the men were agricultural labourers – not surprising, as many would have lost their tied cottages when they were too old to work. Among the more unusual occupations were hawker, whitesmith (tinsmith), rat catcher, maltster, iron moulder, cotton weaver, groom, glover and tallow chandler. Perhaps surprisingly, there is only one fisherman: James Crisp of Walberswick, an unmarried man of 62. The women were almost all listed as domestic servants, with the odd laundress and seamstress.

Members of Philip Kett's family were inmates of the Workhouse, in very sad circumstances. A Hannah Kett was born in Wissett in 1792. She had an illegitimate son in 1818, and the father was named as William Scarffe, farmer. This child was brought up by his maternal grandparents. Two years later she had another child, with the father named as Henry Brunning; and two years after that she gave birth to a daughter, father not named. At this point Hannah Kett was committed to Beccles Gaol for 12 months: "she having 3 bastards by 3 and several fathers, two of the bastards are now chargeable to the Parish of Chediston". Needless to say, the named fathers of two of these children were *not* sent to gaol and seem not to have been sanctioned in any way or charged for their support. Finally, Hannah had a fourth child in 1832, this time by Samuel Wright, thatcher. She died later that year, and her 8-year-old daughter and the new baby were sent to Bulcamp. There the baby died at the age of 13 months, and in 1834 the daughter Mary was discharged. What happened to her?

Many people – the old, the sick and many infants – must have died at Bulcamp. It is estimated that there are several thousand buried there in unmarked graves in a piece of consecrated ground. No tombstones were erected, and in most cases no coffins were used: the dead were simply wrapped in sacking and placed in the ground. This is a sad resting place for thousands of poor, humble villagers.

Now the developer, who is converting the buildings into apartments, wants to pave over this piece of land and use it for parking space. Application has been made to the diocese for the land to be deconsecrated. Many local people whose forbears lie at Bulcamp are indignant that the burial ground should just be paved over and forgotten. An offer has been made to erect a memorial on the site, but many people will feel turning the whole area into a memorial garden would be a much more appropriate tribute to those who lie there.

(I am greatly indebted to Philip Kett, on whose research this article is based).

Julia Reisz

ADDITION TO THE ARCHIVES.

Bill Ungless has added to his splendid series of plans of Walberswick Sunken Gardens, and has now included a plan of the important garden at Te Awahou (formerly Mill House) in Millfield Road.

JACK FARRINGTON



Jack Farrington's shop at Walberswick

OUR LOCAL MUSICIAN

Jack Farrington was born in Southwold in 1905. He came from a musical family: his father played trombone, violin and brass bass and was also a bell-ringer at St. Edmund's Church. Jack first showed an interest in the violin at an early age, and his first teacher was Freddie Neal, the organist at St. Edmund's. From the age of fourteen he was playing in public with Neal's Church Orchestra; a short time later he learned to play the cornet, and was soon playing lead cornet in the Southwold Town Brass Band.

Jack's father was in the boot and shoe repair and retail business, and in the late 1920s Jack decided to open his own business in Walberswick. He travelled over each morning on the ferry, and worked in his little shop, which is shown in the photograph opposite. It was situated between Lima Cottage and Todd's Cottage, the rear of which can be seen in the background. (There is also a picture of the little shop on the Walberswick Scroll).

At the end of the day Jack would return home on the ferry, and devote his evenings to music. He played with various dance bands, and also provided music for the Southwold Pantomime for many years. He also organized various Trios and Quartets, and I very well remember the Jack Farrington Trio playing for dances in the village hall (then the Gannon Room).

By 1939 Jack was married with a family, and his musical commitments were increasing, so he decided to move his business to Southwold in Pinkney's Lane. This tiny shop became a gathering place for musicians in the town – and Jack would keep his violin under his workbench so that he could demonstrate any points under discussion.

His connection with Walberswick ended at this point, but Jack's musical life continued. Indeed, as the war years continued, the shoe repair business dried up and Jack began to rely on his violin playing for a living. He played to entertain the forces at the various military bases and airfields in the area.

In the post-war years he played for dances at the Pier Pavilion, and each summer he played at the Thorpeness Country Club. In 1947 the Southwold String Players were formed, and Jack was leader. The orchestra performed classical music regularly in St. Edmund's. Jack could play anything: dance music, classical, and also jazz: one of his heroes was Stephane Grappelli, the great French jazz violinist.

Jack continued to play an important part in the musical life of Southwold until his later years, but after his wife died in 1984 he was desperately lonely. He continued to live in his tiny cottage in Trinity Street, and I was introduced to him there and was able to tell him how well I remembered both his playing and his shoe-mending.

Julia Reisz

BRIDGE AND FERRY

I don't mean the Bailey bridge over the Blyth at the site of the old railway bridge, but a proposed bridge in the vicinity of the former steam ferry, as suggested in 1881. This account is mainly drawn from extracts from the Halesworth Times and the Southwold General Advertiser between 1881 and 1884. At that time Southwold Harbour was administered by the Harbour Commissioners: shortage of revenue made it impossible for them to keep it clear – a situation which deteriorated even more in the early C20th.

At a meeting on 27 September 1881 of the Harbour Commissioners, in Southwold Town Hall, with the Earl of Stradbroke in the chair, we learn:

Stradbroke suggested a vehicular bridge across the river at Walberswick; commissioners unanimously agree but feel that it is not the cost of the bridge (£1,200-£1,500) but the expense of the Act of Parliament (£600-£700) which would be the greatest difficulty. Lordship suggests “starting such a project, and seeing what amount of subscriptions could be locally obtained”.

In the same edition a correspondent suggests that the Corporation take out an Act to acquire the Commissioners and include building the bridge at no extra cost. The whole idea must have been under discussion for some time previously, but there was no further reference to the project until 1884, when a meeting of the Southwold Corporation was reported on May 6:

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL. Quarterly meeting on Friday evening. Town clerk had written to Sir John Blois to see if he was willing to sell his rights in the Walberswick Ferry, he replied that he would not sell his rights but that he had no objection to a bridge.

By the autumn public interest was rising; a report on November 4 states:

SOUTHWOLD AND WALBERSWICK BRIDGE. At a public meeting. Resolution adopted. “That the Chairman be authorized by the meeting to write to Sir John Blois, asking if he will put a horse ferry between Walberswick and Southwold within six months from the date of the letter, and if the answer be not satisfactory a committee be at once formed to consider the whole question and report at an early stage”.

Sir John Blois was quick to reply:

SOUTHWOLD – THE BRIDGE. Reprint of a letter from Sir John Blois in the Ipswich Journal. Unreasonable to expect him to incur £400 to put a large ferry-boat in, when this may be replaced by a bridge or swept away due to the imminent collapse of the harbour piers.

However, after a year the idea of building a bridge was finally abandoned, as reported on 15 September 1885:

SOUTHWOLD – THE FERRY. Failure of attempts to obtain a bridge at Walberswick, instead a pontoon ferry worked by chains to be installed by a company established by Sir John Blois.

An application for permission to erect a post on the Walberswick side, to which chains could be attached, was granted. The story from now on was covered by my article in Newsletter No. 9, but since then research has revealed further information. A report on 22 June 1886 states:

PONTOON FERRY. Communication between Walberswick and Southwold is now regularly established...No difficulty whatever is experienced in conveying carriages or wagons, and it is worked with the greatest ease and with much expedition. The traffic increases weekly, and when generally known will be much appreciated by the general public. The prices charged are very reasonable.

However by the following year, there were problems. It was reported on 25 January 1887 that Mr. Charles Balls drove a horse and cart across the river. The ferryman was worried that it was becoming a ford. A week later, though, it was stated that the ferry was only unable to operate at exceptionally low tides.

The harbour continued to deteriorate without disturbance to the ferry until on 13 January 1891 there was an unexpected problem:

SOUTHWOLD. On 10th and 11th Jan. Blyth frozen over almost to harbour mouth – many skaters – build-up of shingle on bar enables persons to cross on foot – ferry suspended for two days.

Again, in January 1895 a very high tide caused much damage and suspension of the ferry.

Financial returns from the operation in 1896 paid a dividend of 10%, while in 1898 this increased to 15% and carried forward a substantial balance. By 1905 the dividend was 20%. Further information on the steam mechanisation of the pontoon was revealed in a report of 18 July 1899:

BLYTH FERRY. The Ferry Co. have found it necessary, owing to the constant increase of traffic, to fit up the pontoon with steam power. Messrs. Elliott and Garrod, engineers of Beccles, were entrusted with the job, and traffic was resumed under the new conditions on Monday morning. The engine takes up very little room, and the noise is no more than from the old arrangement of cog-wheels and crank. In default of a bridge, no better means of transit can exist than that provided.

On 27 April 1927 the original pontoon was replaced by a slightly larger one which was towed from Lowestoft by the Port Tug "Dispatch"; the old one was towed away on the same tide. It was built by John Chambers & Son Ltd. of Laundry Lane, Lowestoft and Oulton Broad. The cost is not known.

David M. Lee



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 25

February 2004

In this issue there is an account of the important discovery of medieval pottery at Lilliput in Lodge Road. We are always aware in Walberswick that we are dwelling above the remains of the past, but it is not often that we get such a dramatic example of it.

We also have a newspaper report of an attempt in 1960 to sell off three marshes of the Walberswick Common Lands Charity to a farmer. The Parish Council called a special meeting to consider the sale: there was an attendance of over 100. Feeling ran high in the village at the possible loss of these marshes, and the objection of the Parish Council caused the Charity Commissioners to abandon the sale. We are indebted to Philip Kett for this report: his mother, Vera Kett, was Chairman of the Parish Council at the time.

The Blyth Valley Computer Society have arranged for Jayne Austin, the Suffolk Heritage Information Manager, to talk to them about the introduction of computers to our local Record Offices. They have kindly invited us to this meeting, which will be in the Village Hall on Friday 12th March at 7pm. Admission is free, and includes a glass of wine.

A visit to South Elmham Hall and South Elmham Minster is planned for the summer. The Hall is moated and was one of the country seats of the medieval bishops of Norwich. The Minster, of mysterious origins, is a short walk from the Hall. We hope for more details by the AGM.

Julia Reisz, Editor

SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. If you have not already got your Membership Card for 2004 please pay your four pounds to our Membership Secretary, Maureen Thompson. She will be at the AGM on March 22nd or you can drop it in at Greenways, Walberswick, IP18 6TU.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 12th March Blyth Valley Computer Society, 7pm in the Village Hall.

Monday 22nd March Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Annexe.

Thursday 6th May "The Lost City of Dunwich" – a talk by Mark Mitchels at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND

A remarkable collection of pottery has been found at Lilliput, Lodge Road, while contractors were digging the footings for an extension. Once the Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service were contacted, they excavated the site and reported on the findings. There is evidence that this site was used for rubbish disposal from the C12th onwards.

Forty-five sherds of pottery were found, including four near-complete vessels. Some of the sherds may be of C12th date, but most seem to date from the C13th-C14th. The four near-complete vessels can be dated to the C15th (the present church was completed in 1492).

Three of these vessels were imported and one of them, a whiteware jug from South Western France, has a very unusual method of decoration, which has not been duplicated in collections in this country. The suggestion is that the site may have been that of an inn, or a wealthy merchant with overseas trade connections – not at all unlikely in a town with a busy port. This idea is reinforced by the quantity of animal bones that were also found, some quite large: these bones had cutmarks and other signs of butchery, suggesting a large establishment. The thick “black earth” deposit on the site indicates a midden spread and the digging of pits for the disposal of rubbish – another indication of a major dwelling.

The very earliest fragments would of course date from the time when the old church at the bottom of Stocks Lane was in use. It is interesting to note that if you draw a straight line from the site of the old church to St. Andrew it passes very near Lilliput. There must very likely have been a track connecting the two churches, at the time that the bells and some of the windows from the old church were being conveyed to the new one.

A copy of the archaeological report of this important discovery is in the Archives.

Opposite page: above, the four near-complete vessels; below, two views of the South-West French jug

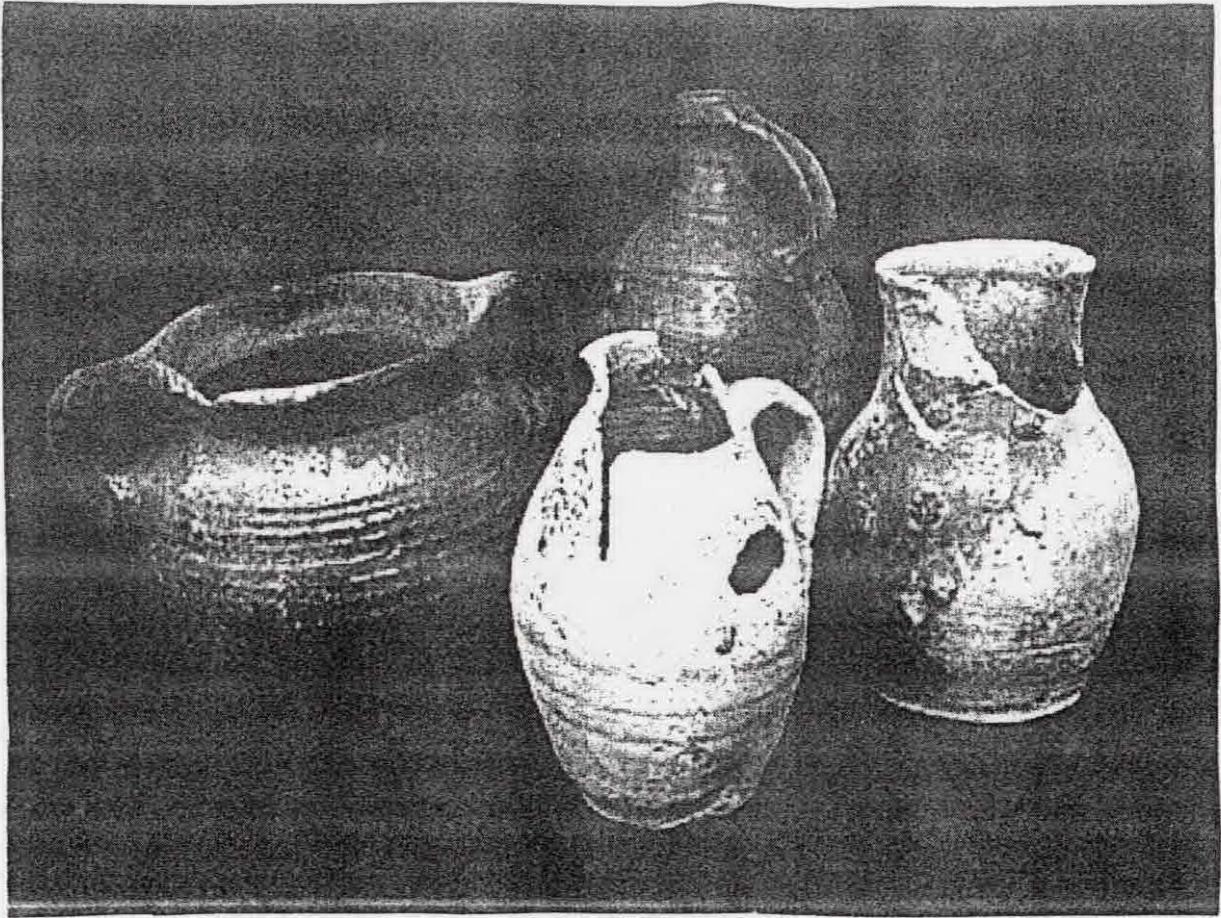
Additions to the Archives

Many thanks to:

Mrs. Gladys Guy (Etheridge) for an Etheridge family tree and an account of the death of Mr. Noah Robert Etheridge on 8th March 1924.

Bill Buncombe for donating an off-shore chart and some local maps.

Julia Sowerbutts for a copy of the Archaeological Report on the excavation at Lilliput, Lodge Road.



Walberswick Sunken Gardens

The origins of the English sunken garden are attributed to Tudor times, when raised walkways afforded elevated views of C16th knot gardens. However, early sunken gardens, as we know them today, were generally created using existing natural features: at Kensington Palace, for example, where Henry Wise created a sunken garden from an existing gravel pit. (1702). More recently the feature was popularised at the turn of the C20th by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. Lutyens' achievement was to reduce extreme formality to a domestic scale and integrate it with Jekyll's naturalistic planting: the sunken garden provided the perfect vehicle.

Its design was almost always formal with a central focal point – usually a pool but occasionally a sundial or structural planting. Materials were generally local in origin; retaining walls were dry or designed to accommodate plants. The trend at the time was to incorporate alpine plants, whose use was often extended by the creation of a rock garden with the excavated soil. As a formal feature, the sunken garden was commonly sited within view of the house. Its aspect was usually in full sun, particularly if alpine species were used.

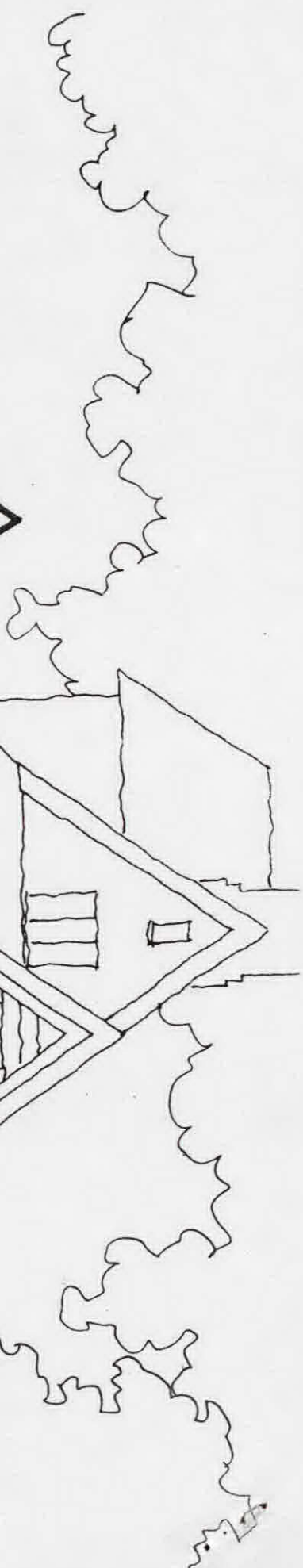
Although inland Suffolk has relatively few sunken gardens, its coastline (including Walberswick) boasts many examples. This is due in part to the Arts and Crafts houses that were erected as holiday or retirement homes, but also to its topography: within a seaside or windswept site the sunken garden provides welcome shelter, creating a microclimate for the introduction of tender species and a protected seating shelter. It also creates variety in a predominantly flat landscape.

Sadly, although the popularity of the sunken garden continued post war (and there are some examples in Walberswick), the recent trend towards wild and informal gardens and the demand for low maintenance has diminished its use and threatened its existence. We are very grateful to Bill Ungless for mapping those that remain in the village.

Jacqui Morcombe

We continue our survey of Walberswick Sunken Gardens with another of Bill Ungless' diagrams – this time of Marshway, Leveretts Lane, the house that Frank Jennings designed for himself. It is a small formal area with a pool, to the left of the steps approaching the front door, and is built in materials that harmonise with the house. This is certainly a pre-war design, and may well date from the time the house was built.

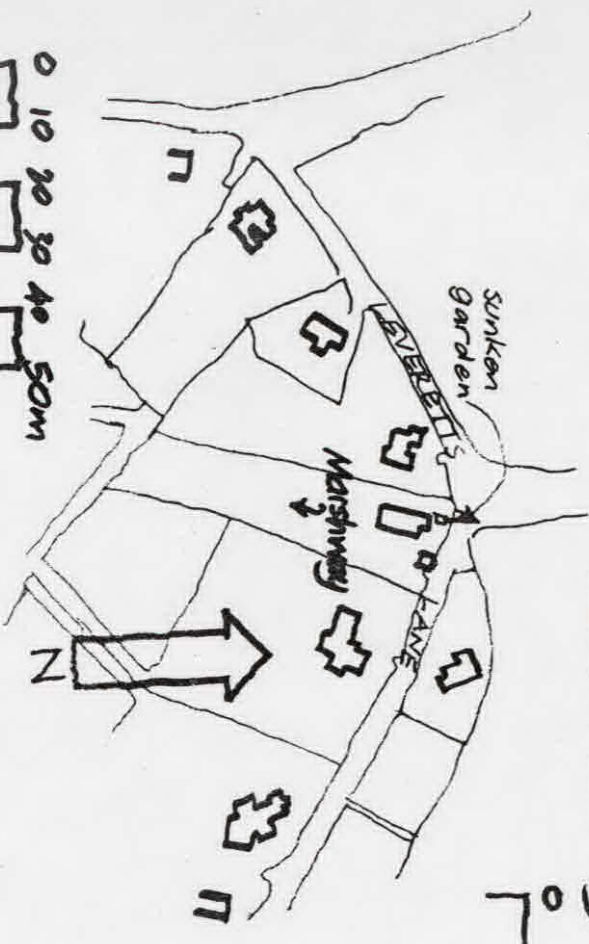
(Many thanks to Jacqui Morcombe for her introduction to the history of this popular garden feature).



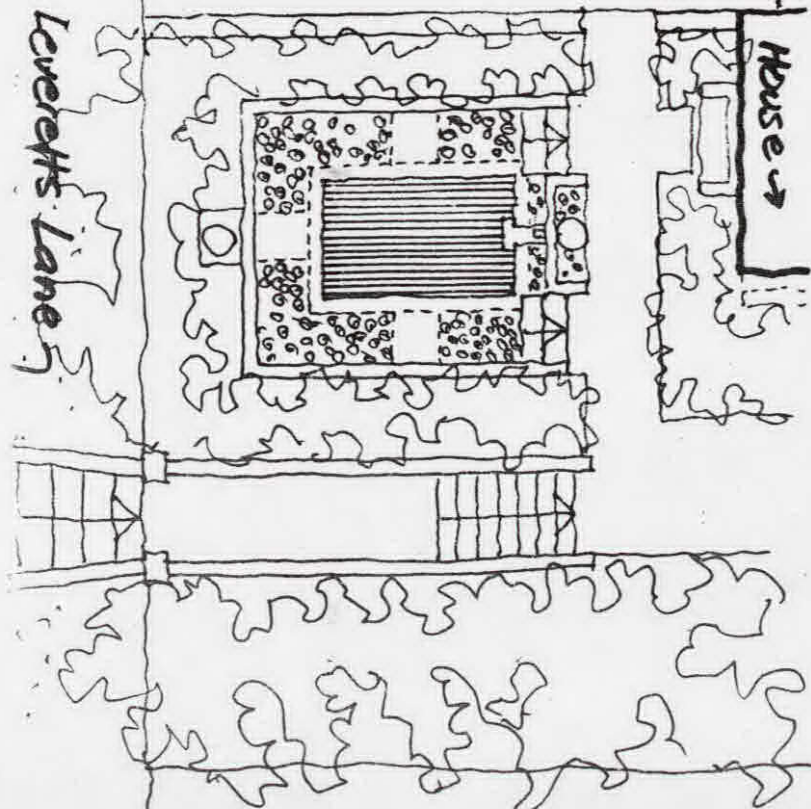
Section looking north →



Plan →



MARSHWAY LEVERETTS LANE



Walberswick is Against Sale of Marshes

Unanimous Objection from big Parish Meeting

A parish meeting at Walberswick on Tuesday of last week unanimously decided to inform the Charity Commissioners that it was strongly opposed to a proposal to sell three marshes of the Walberswick Common Lands Charity to Mr. W. G. Evans, a Westhall farmer for £2,200.

The marshes, already hired by Mr. Evans for grazing, extend to nearly 37 acres and lie beside the River Blyth.

The meeting had been called by eight local born people following the notice of the proposed sale. There was an attendance in the Gannon Room of over 100.

FLOODING RISK

Mrs. V. Kett (chairman of Walberswick Parish Council), who presided, said she had written to the Charity Commissioners concerning the proposed sale. They had pointed out that the Trust was for the benefit of the poor of the parish and by selling the marshes it was considered that the income to the Trust would be increased. As the marshes were liable to flooding the present income from grazing could not be guaranteed.

The Vicar, Canon A. D. Thompson, who is chairman of Walberswick Common Lands Trustees, said: "The point I want you to bear in mind is that any decision which we take or any resolution which we make about the future of these Common Lands must be based on the fact that they are run for the benefit of the poor of the parish and not for the well-to-do as was the case before 1900."

INCOME ABOUT £100

In reply to questions Canon Thompson said the income was just over £100 a year after expenses had been paid. The offer to purchase for £2,200 had been made by Mr. Evans, of Westhall.

Canon Thompson said the Trustees had approved the proposal ~~in view of the future risk of~~ flooding. There had already been one flood which had put the marshes out of action for grazing for four or five years.

When this occurred the whole income from the marshes disappeared. If they were sold the price offered would provide an equal income to the net one received during recent years. By investing the capital they would have a guaranteed income.

SHOULD BE RETAINED

Mr. H. M. Cleminson declared that the land should remain the permanent property of the parish. He suggested that the marshes were not being used to the best advantage for the Trust. The risk of flooding had never been less than it was to-day. It was a lot of land for the proposed price and he considered that the rights of the parish should be recognised and that the Trustees should retain the marshes.

The risk of diminishing capital was as great as the risk of losing the land by flooding, declared Mr. C. Freud. "You propose selling us land to benefit the poor. If you better their lot by this sale and bring in more money I am sure we are all behind you. But you have not given us any proof that what you are going to do is going to bring in any more money."

VALUE INCREASING

Mr. A. H. Harwood thought the whole tendency was for land values to increase. As to the flooding factor the entire national tendency was to preserve land.

"If these marshes are sold is it starting the ball rolling for more to go?" asked Mr. W. Cross.

"A good many of us feel that way," observed Mrs. Kett. "Walberswick has owned the marshes since time immemorial and it would be absolutely disastrous if the parish lost all its land."

Mr. E. R. Winyard said the marshes were let for about £100 a year, yet marshes the other side of the river, let by auction, made £9 an acre. The Walberswick marshes had not been put up for public auction for the past few years.

Mr. R. H. Williams Vaughan reminded the meeting that the Trust was not liable to income tax from investments. If the proceeds of the sale were invested they would bring in at least £110 a year net. There would not be any worry of maintenance nor of trouble with unsatisfactory tenants.

SAFE FROM FLOODING

Mr. C. Adams, who was a trustee for 25 years, said he had gone into figures of income over the past 11 years and they averaged £130. The marshes were never safer from flooding than they were to-day and they should not be sold for such a "paltry sum."

Another speaker said that if the marshes were sold there was no guarantee to what use they might be put in the future, and they did not want a Butlin's in Walberswick.

Others stressed the need of preserving the village's rights, pointing out that they had enjoyed freedom of access for years.

A resolution moved by Mr. Cleminson and seconded by Mr. W. Burgess informed the Charity Commissioners that the meeting was strongly opposed to the proposed sale, and among grounds put forward was that the marshes were an amenity of the parish and could not be valued in mere cash terms.



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 24

August 2003

The Exhibition about the Flood of 1953 was a great success, and very well attended by visitors and Walberswick residents alike. We owe tremendous thanks to Philip Kett, who organised the whole event: he researched and tracked down the photographs and newspaper cuttings, as well as the reminiscences of people who had witnessed the flood. Our thanks are also due to Richard Steward, who gave Philip very able assistance, and to all the History Group members who supervised the exhibition. We received many enthusiastic comments from those who attended.

Sadly, the History Group is not planning a visit or expedition this year. However, we hope to visit South Elmham in 2004: the date will be announced in the next edition of the Newsletter.

There is still an ongoing research project into air raid shelters in the village. We would like to compile as comprehensive a list as possible - so if you have one on your property, or know of one elsewhere, please contact Pat Wythe (01502 724142).

Esther Freud's latest novel - "The Sea House" - is set in Walberswick. Residents of the village will have no difficulty in recognising a great many familiar scenes - and maybe even one or two characters!

Julia Reisz, Editor

THANK YOU, JULIA from PAT

You will have noticed that at last we have an editor! I am so grateful to Julia Reisz for heeding my pleas, and we can now look forward to fresh ideas. Don't forget, she will be depending on input from you - and I know she will get all the support you have given me during my temporary editorships. Very many thanks, everyone.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER "Mail Coaches in East Anglia - a talk by Mike McKeon

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2003 Christmas Celebration

A CHILDHOOD MEMORY

by

MARGUERITE JILL DAY (née CADY)

One of my earliest memories is of my Aunt Maud Cady taking me to visit Mr Robert Hood Spall who lived with his cousin at "Crestholme" in The Lee. They owned a Tea-room near the river known as "Wave Crest". It was a wooden building with several steps leading up to the door, with pretty Geraniums in window boxes around the side. They served teas and sold sweets and ice cream, sadly this was washed away during the floods of 1953.

Mr Spall had a beautiful garden and would always welcome children to play there. One day when visiting he showed me a punt floating on the ditch which ran along the bottom of his garden, he had named the punt Jill 7. I was delighted. Over the next few years I spent many happy hours punting along the edge of the marshes with friends, there were several mishaps! One when my friend Beryl Sharman failed to let go of the pole and fell overboard, we managed to haul her out with the help of a boat hook and then tried our best to dry her out before she returned home.

The garden was a children's paradise in the days of war torn Britain, we had the use of a swing and see-saw and were encouraged to help with the ducks, chickens, and rabbits. Mr Spall would take us to the beach in the days before it was mined, and there we collected shells which we took back and broke up to feed to the chickens. The ducks that waddled across a small rustic bridge that led to the marsh always fascinated me. It was on this marsh that we collected mushrooms and picked buttercups and made daisy chains, we also picked primroses and violets on the Osier ground adjoining the garden. Mr Spall also taught me a lot about wild flowers and pointed out the things we could eat such as Sweetbriar and Samphire from the salt marsh, he took us out to find sheep's parsley and hogweed for the rabbits.

In the garden there was several Apple trees, Gooseberry, Raspberries, and Currant bushes and Pears which were trained against a wall, there was a greenhouse with a grape vine which produced some beautiful black grapes, we often got to taste them!

There was another plot of land which adjoined our school playground, I remember pulling weeds and being rewarded with Raspberries, Strawberries, and Currants, which ever happened to be in season. At playtime Mr Spall would often be there to pass his fruit over the fence to us.

One day my friend Sylvia Muttitt and I went to visit and we were asked to climb an apple tree to shake the 'ripe' apples down, we must have been carried away with our task as soon the ground was littered with most of the fruit from the tree, this was one time we were not very popular in the garden, we really did feel very bad about it.

I can remember we were told never to shelter under a tree during a thunder storm. Mr Spall actually took us on a cycle ride to show us the grave of a young man who had died when standing under a tree during a storm. I think the grave was in Blyford churchyard I remember the stone showed a man with a plough.

It is now over 60 years since I played in that garden but I shall always remember this lovely old man who must have really loved children, and in today's world it would be really frowned upon.

I must add that many years later I was asked to visit the garden of 'memories' and for a moment I was a child again as I opened the gate, only to find that the trees were gone, there was no swing, rabbits or chickens, it was all so unrecognizable, but I could still see the garden in my minds eye, and I am so happy to remember 'Hoody' Spall.

CENSUS RETURNS

The following details of the "NEPTUNE" appear in the 1871 Census - Ref: RG10-1764 (after Wantisden) Reel 15

Benjamin Kerridge,	Master married	38	Fisherman	Born	Walberswick
James O?ence	Mate	" 32	"	"	Southwold
Thomas Kerridge	"	33	"	"	Walberswick
Robert Kerridge	"	28	"	"	"
John Bather	"	54	"	"	"
William Crofford	wid	46	"	"	Blythborough
George Stannard	Married	24	"	"	Walberswick
Henry Hurr	Boy	13	"	"	Southwold

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Many thanks to:

Elizabeth Rooke who has donated a Petrol Ration Book of 1966.

Marguerite Day (née Jill Cady) for her childhood memories of Mr. Hoody Spall which are printed in this newsletter.

Stephen Jeffs of Lowestoft who has donated a copy of a photograph of his step father, Billy Goodwin, also a citation signed by General Wavell, details also in this newsletter.



GILBERT WILLIAM GOODWIN

Known as Billy, G.W. Goodwin was born on 28th May 1919. His father was Samuel Goodwin, a fishmonger, and his mother was – before marriage – Rosa Anna Gilbert. She was Charlie Gilbert's sister. Billy Goodwin was Leslie Goodwin's first cousin: their fathers were brothers.

During World War II Billy joined the Coldstream Guards, and served with distinction – as the accompanying citation from Lord Wavell makes very clear. After leaving the Guards he lived in Reydon and worked at the Fordux mattress factory. Later he moved to Lowestoft, where he died on 12th March 2002.



Guardsman Gilbert William GOODWIN,

Coldstream Guards.

Your name has been brought to my notice for

good services in action in the WESTERN DESERT.

*I congratulate you on your Devotion to duty and
thank you for the example you gave. I have directed
that a note of your conduct should be made on your Record
of Service.*

General Headquarters

Middle East.

14 JULY 1941

A.P. Wavell *General.*

Commander-in-Chief.

Middle East.

WILLIAM DOWSING IN WALBERSWICK

William Dowsing, the iconoclast, is a well-known figure to all who love Suffolk's historic churches. He has become a by-word for the vandalism he wreaked on our churches: breaking down pictures and statues, smashing stained glass, destroying altar rails and chancel steps. Naturally, to him this was not vandalism, but God's work; according to his view he was battling Popery and superstition.

A few words about Dowsing: he was born in Laxfield in 1596, and was a yeoman farmer. On his marriage he moved to Coddham; but some time after the death of his wife we find him living in Stratford St. Mary. In Dedham nearby he had many friends of a Puritan persuasion, and is known to have signed petitions to Parliament demanding reformation of religious practices and castigating papism. The Stour valley at that time had long been known for its intense, even extreme, Protestantism.

Dowsing seems not to have attended university, but he was very well-read, knew Latin and Greek, and had an extensive library of books with a strong evangelical bias.

Somehow this rather obscure man came to the attention of the Earl of Manchester, who had just been appointed commander of the Eastern Association, the combined Parliamentary armies of the East Anglian counties. (The Civil War was now at its height). Dowsing became Provost Marshall of the Eastern Association armies, which meant he organised supplies and also dealt with any captured prisoners. His efficiency must have impressed Manchester, because he commissioned Dowsing to implement the Parliamentary Ordinance of 1643, which commanded all churches to remove "all monuments of superstition and idolatry". The Ordinance commanded churchwardens to undertake this; so it is somewhat strange that the Earl should charge Dowsing with this responsibility, and in no other region of England was any one individual given these particular powers. There was only one Dowsing, and he set to work with a will.

So we come to Suffolk, and Walberswick in particular. From 3-10 of April 1644, Dowsing was engaged on a tour of churches in East Suffolk. He was a very quick worker: in that week he visited no fewer than 29 churches! This is an amazing feat, when we consider that all travel was on horseback along dirt

roads. He visited Beccles, Halesworth, Benacre, Covehithe and Southwold, among others, before he rode into Walberswick on April 8.

His diary reads:

“Walberwick. (sic). Brake down 40 superstitious pictures; and to take off 5 crosses on the steeple, and porch; and we had 8 superstitious inscriptions on the grave stones.”

We are extremely fortunate in that Walberswick is one of the very few parishes where the churchwardens' accounts tally with Dowsing's visit; moreover they are the *only* accounts that mention Dowsing by name and state that he was accompanied by soldiers.

Here they are:

Pd that 8 of Aprill 1644 to **Mr Dowson** that cam w'th the troopers to o'or church a bout takinge downe of Images and Brasses of grave stones.

Pd that day to others for taking up the Brasses of the Stones before the **officer Dowson** came.

And the next day to Edwards and Pretty [carpenter] taking down 26 cherubs.

Received the 26 of April 1644 of John Trappit, with the Consent of the paryshners, for 2 Bellowes, and wooden Stofe [stuff] from the Organs

Received this 6 of January 1644/5 [nine months later] from out of the church 40 li weght of brasse which Nurse the glasyer of Sou[thwo]ld offered 3d 20b per li [31/2d. per pound weight] per me John Barwicke.
(I have omitted the actual sums).

We can see from this that the church had warning of Dowsing's arrival ahead of time, and continued the work after he left. Moreover, Dowsing had to be paid for his efforts. The font was hacked and mutilated. The steeple crosses mentioned by Dowsing were on the mid points of the tower parapet: small fleurs-de-lys still mark their positions. The organ (particularly detested by the Puritans) was disposed of after Dowsing's visit, and nine months later the brass was sold off to the glazier. Money to pay for repairs was badly needed, especially for the windows.

The name of John Barwicke seemed familiar, and I suddenly realised he was the selfsame John Barwicke who wrote the riveting account of the battle of Bloody Marsh – the violent dispute between the Lord of the Manor and the parishioners over enclosures. In fact the battle of Bloody Marsh took place in April 1644 – the very month that Dowsing visited our village! Truly, the churchwardens of Walberswick had a great deal to contend with at that time, especially as we know from many sources that the village was sliding deeper and deeper into poverty.

Keeping the vast church in repair was becoming more and more difficult, and the additional depredations resulting from Dowsing's visit must have been the last straw. The cost of replacing the windows alone must have been a great burden, and was possibly not completed; for we find that during the Interregnum (several years later) the villagers were driven to hire a meeting house for their services. After the Restoration the ecclesiastic authorities ordered the churchwardens to repair the church, which they attempted to do in 1662 and 1663. Finally permission was given to reduce the building to the dimensions we see today.

Dowsing had visited Covehithe two days earlier, and broken down over 200 pictures, together with inscriptions and cherubim - a vast amount of damage. The tiny parish would have been quite unable to raise the cost of repair, and so in time the small church within the walls that we see today was all that the parish could support. Something similar evidently happened at Walberswick, so Dowsing left his mark very strongly on both parishes.

After this intensive week in our neighbourhood, Dowsing slowed down. He continued his visits in Suffolk, but in a more leisurely manner. Still, he has left a permanent mark on Suffolk and Cambridgeshire: those two counties have less surviving medieval glass than any other area of England.

Julia Reisz

(This account has been drawn from "The Journal of William Dowsing": the text, with many supporting essays, edited by Trevor Roper).



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 21

February 2003

February is nearly over so it is high time to get the Spring Newsletter to you. I have had to pull myself together after the Bad Cold which has been sweeping Walberswick. I do hope most of you have avoided it.

First of all I mustn't forget to ask if you have an Air Raid Shelter in your garden. It would be good to get a complete record of all the shelters to keep in the Wartime File.

The Committee would much appreciate some help on the day of the Exhibition - 26th May. It is a Bank Holiday so many of you will have family or friends visiting, but if you have an hour to spare any time during the day it would be much appreciated. This will only involve stewarding and it won't be as onerous as the time we were guarding original paintings as most of the exhibits will be copies.

The Annual General Meeting on the 20th March will soon be with us and your Committee would welcome your ideas. We are wondering if you would be interested in an outing in the Summer? Would you enjoy doing a bit of research? This need not involve a great deal of work but it is fun if you have any detective skills. What about joining a small research group? Please bring forward your ideas at the meeting or talk to a member of the Committee.

Pat Wythe, Hon. Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. If you have not already got your Membership Card for 2003 please pay your £4 to our Membership Secretary, Maureen Thompson. She will be at the A.G.M. on the 20th March or you can drop it in at "Greenways", The Green, Walberswick. The postcode is IP18 6TU.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

THURSDAY 20th MARCH 2003. Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall Annexe starting at 7.30 p.m.

MONDAY 26TH MAY 2003 The Flood Exhibition from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Village Hall.

MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER "Mail Coaches in East Anglia" - a talk by Mike McKeon.

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2003 Christmas Celebration.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Alvin Hunt rang in response to the last two Newsletters with items about the boy who was drowned at Walberswick in 1959. He was very pleased to report that Kenneth Capps is alive and well and living in Norwich. It was his brother, David Capps, who was drowned. Kenneth was there when it happened. Alvin remembers both brothers well, also another brother John who is now an officer at Suffolk Coastal District Council. Kenneth Capps was Alvin's best friend at Halesworth High School. David was a couple of years older and went to Bungay School. His nickname was Eccles as it was the time of the Goons and he was a very good mimic.

Barbara Priestman has pointed out that the Potters Wheel is owned by the Trust and not by the incumbents who own a lease on the premises.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE DONATED ITEMS TO THE ARCHIVES

Clive Smith for a copy of "At Walberswick" by Oliver Rooke. and copies of the East Anglian Magazine published between April 1957 and May 1962

David Lee for three pictures of the Old Vicarage Tea Rooms and one of the then proprietors, the Wigdahls.

Dione Shirreff for a photocopy of two pages of an autograph album belonging to Sheila Davies who lived in the village as a child, showing her father's architects drawings of Leveretts, The Street, in the 1930s.

Elizabeth Crosse for a quart milk bottle which was found in the garden of Gorse Cottage. The writing on the bottle is "Manor Farm Dairy, Walberswick."

Terry Ball for a copy of "The Journal of William Dowsing" edited by Trevor Cooper and also a copy of the Walberswick Ordnance Survey map of 1904.

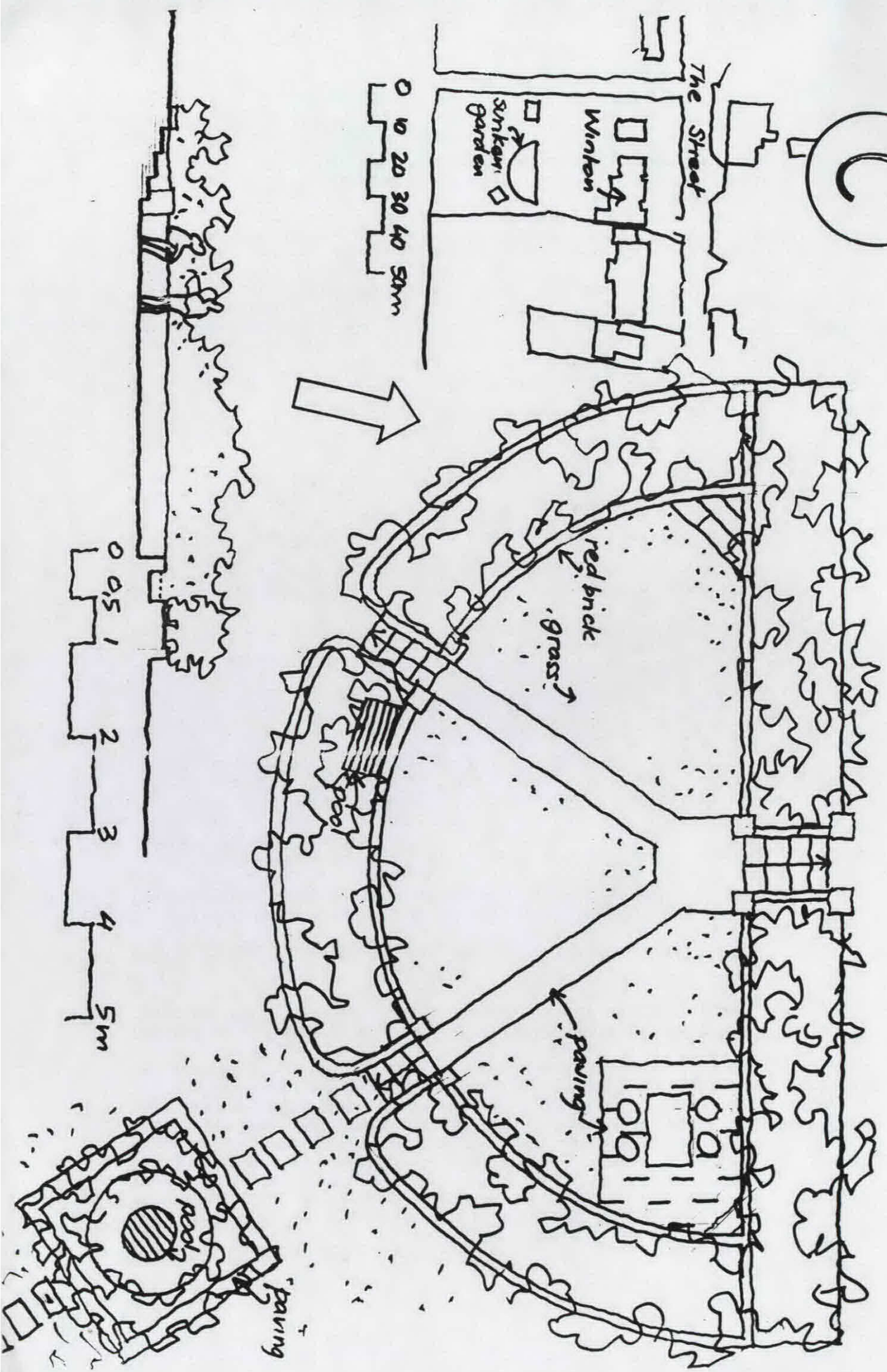
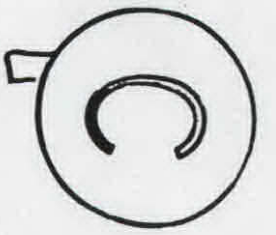
Alan Walpole has finished updating the Walberswick Churchyard Survey and there is now a copy in the Archives.

A list of present holdings will be available at the AGM or can be borrowed from any member of the Committee. Don't forget that members are welcome to borrow items on signature. They are held by Tony Rees at Bramble Cottage, Palmers Lane, and his telephone number is 725061.

SUNKEN GARDENS

These were a very fashionable feature of gardens at one time and particularly so in Walberswick. Apart from the fact that they add an interesting feature to the appearance of the garden, they are much appreciated on sunny but windy days. Several still remain. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Bill Ungless has very kindly undertaken to map them for our archives and last year managed to draw some half dozen. He is looking forward to completing the task in 2003. He still has a list of unsurveyed gardens but it is probably not complete. If you have a sunken garden and he hasn't already spoken to you he would be very grateful if you would phone him on 722655. If you know that there has been at one time a sunken area in your garden, even though it has now vanished, he would be interested in that as well. To show you what the task involves, on the next page is a copy of the drawing of the one at Bill's house, Winton.

WINTON, THE STREET



APARTMENTS & LODGING HOUSES

A copy of the Work in Progress file that relates to people who have let apartments or rooms, follows. The list was started when information was being gathered from directories of Suffolk, both Kelly's and Whites'. These directories were published approximately every four years. The early ones referred to "Lodging Houses" and then later the lodging houses all seemed to go up-market and become "Apartments". You will see that some people only have one directory entry and others are listed for a long period of time. After a splendid start with the directories, more information has come in by word of mouth.

Can you help tidy up the list? We would like to know the house name if it is not shown or have you any clues as to which house it could have been? Have you any evidence that the family name is connected with your house? Also, can you add anything to the information on dates?

Have you any other information about these people or about their lodgers. For instance we know that Charles Rennie Macintosh stayed at Millside with Miss Elizabeth King because Mrs. Denny was Miss King's niece and she used to help when there were visitors and remembered him. We also know that Anna Freud's patients tended to stay at Mrs. Salter's hotel in Leveretts Lane.

You will notice that all this information refers to the time up to World War 2. We really ought to get it up to date. Do you know of any Bed & Breakfast establishments post WW2?

If you can add anything please phone Pat Wythe on 724142.

Miss ATKINS	Kelly's 1890-1900
Mrs. BLOOMFIELD	Joyce Bloomfield's grandmother & great grandmother.
Charles BUCKENHAM	Kelly's 1904-1916
Mrs. Herbert COBB	Kelly's 1904
Mrs. Annie Elizabeth CROSS	Fairview Cottage. Kelly's 1925
Charles CROSS	Fairview Cottage. Kelly's 1916.
Ernest James CROSS	The House on the Green. He was the Ferryman. Kelly's 1912-1925
Robert William CROSS	Kelly's 1908-1925
George ENGLISH	Kelly's 1888-1925
Thomas ENGLISH	3 Lorne Cottages. Kelly's 1908-1925
William ENGLISH	Kelly's 1888-1896
William D. ENGLISH	Kelly's 1900-1908

William James ENGLISH	Rose Cottage. Kelly's 1908-1925
George FINCHAM	Westwood Cottagee. Kelly's 1888-1916
Herbert GILBERT	Blyth House. Kelly's 1912-1925
Mrs. GODDARD	White House (now Tamarisk).
Robert KERRIDGE	Kelly's 18888-1908
Miss Elizabeth KING	Millside. Kelly's 1908-1916
Miss Emily LIST	Dunwich View. Kelly's 1912-1925
Mrs. LOWE	Kelly's 1890-1900
Mrs. Mary LOWE	Kelly's 1904
Mrs. Jane LOWE	The house next to Fairview. Nan Osborne's aunt. Kelly's 1908-1925
Robert MARSHLAIN	Kelly's 1883-1888 Whites 1885
Mrs. PALMER	Brisbane (now Crows Nest). She was taking guests during WW2.
Lewis William PALMER	Fairview Cottage (married to Annie Lowe who was the mother of Jane Lowe. Kelly's 1904-1912
Miss REYNOLDS	Dudley Cottage. The Coppards stayed there one night in 1932.
Mrs. SALTER	South Close, Leveretts Lane. This was an hotel after WW2.
Miss Margaret SAVILLE	Next door to Annie Palmer. Kelly's 1912-1925
Mrs. Alfred THOMPSON	The Green. Kelly's 1904-1908
Mrs. Sarah THOMPSON	Kelly's 1890-1904
Frederick TIDY	Kelly's 1912
Harry Douglas WIGDAHL	The Old Vicarage. Kelly's 1937

There are no apartment houses listed in Kelly's 1929 or 1933. Can you think of any reason for this? It certainly was the time of the Depression. Do you think people would not spend money on advertising, or perhaps less people were taking holidays. Any thoughts?

HOLIDAYS IN SUFFOLK

Now that Angela MacKay has moved to Southwold she is much missed by her many friends in Walberswick and also by the History Group of which she was a keen member and which she served as Membership Secretary for a time. She made the following contribution to the Archives about ten years ago and it somehow seems to have missed publication. These memories will become increasingly valuable as time goes on. Among our holiday makers now, do you know anyone who could be persuaded to jot down their impressions?

Angela writes:

As a child I lived in Aylesbury, Bucks; and Southwold holidays were a must, especially so because by father was a Norfolk man. We had a car by the time we visited Southwold, and it was a very long journey in 1927. We left early in the morning and travelled via Newmarket, to a first stop in an Aunt's house in Worlington. Then on to our favourite picnic spot, over many years, the very tall Monument to the South African War, just on the edge of Thetford Forest. Here we boiled the kettle on a picnic stove heated by a "solid fuel white block". On to Blythburgh where we turned off to Walberswick and as we turned we cried "Here we are". (This cry, I may say, was repeated many times by my own children and then by my eleven grandchildren as they all arrived at the Walberswick ferry, to cross over to Southwold - cars one shilling, passengers one penny if I remember correctly.) Once over the river, Southwoldside we had arrived. We camped in my Aunt's holiday home on the sand-dunes next to the sea, opposite what is now the vast caravan park.

Many mornings we children went back over on the ferry - then a halfpenny each child - to go crabbing on the old bridge over the river, the humpbacked one, not the flat one as it is now.

Another excitement was to go to Southwold Cinema. It had a corrugated tin roof and when there was a downpour or rain the noise on the roof drowned the sound-track.

For several years there were masses of tents on the Common when the "Duke of York" came down with his Boys Camp. These were boys from London who would otherwise never have a holiday. We used to delight in swimming in the sea at the same time as the Duke of York, (later George VI).

My parents retired to Southwold in 1957, and now my husband and I retired to Walberswick six years ago. And still the third generation of our families keep on coming to Walberswick for their holidays.

About the same time we were given the following memories of Mrs. Leslie Holman:

About 1920 I stayed with friends called Marcus Smith - a large family who spent holidays in Walberswick. Philip Smith was lodging in one of the terraced houses and had his cello with him - and there was music in the evening (but in such a small house!). I remember higher up (on the same side) - harvesting and stooks and one of the party doing a painting.

PEOPLE

THE ETHERIDGE FAMILY Noah was born in Blythburgh in 1837 and is described as a mariner. His wife was called Emily (surname not known but she was born in Westhall). They did not come to the village until after 1861 as they are not shown on the 1861 Census. They had two sons, Noah Robert who was born in 1859 in Blythburgh (He died on the 8th March 1924 and is buried in Walberswick) and George who was born in 1861, and two daughters, Annie Elizabeth born in 1869 and Laura who was born on the 14th May 1874 but died the next day. They had left the village before the Census of 1881. In the 1871 Census they are shown as living at Westwood Lodge.

When we published the item on Chapels in Newsletter No.21, there was little mention of the present chapel apart from the fact that it was built in 1910 and is now a house. The Etheridge family were obviously the driving force behind its building and particularly Noah Robert going by the stones built into the front of the house.

NOEL OLIVIER was a pupil of Bedales School. She stayed at Rooftree in 1910 as a guest of the Francis Newberys. She was sixteen at the time. She corresponded with Rupert Brooke for four years and wrote to him from Rooftree, Walberswick, on Tuesday September 6th 1910:

"There is a strange new atmosphere here. Walberswick has been famous for many years as a resort for landscape & other painters: they come down in quantities every summer & stay in lodgings and villas till September. The Newberies, who are the parents of the woman with the Florentine hair and with whom I am, are also of that kind and know them all. So I get taken round to teas & tennis and into lovely drawing rooms after supper to see exquisite furniture and hear music, also I am introduced into picture shows & elegant studios, coming out saturated with bewildering ideas & sensations about minor artists & their work. How I shall go back to Bedales as a sane & vulgar child after all this & France on top of it I can't tell, it may be a failure."

She was a friend of Mary Newbery (the girl with the Florentine hair) at Bedales and spent several holidays in Walberswick. She said how they bathed every day. She became a fully qualified doctor in 1917, and two years later fell in love with a Welsh colleague, Arthur Richards, whom she married. They had five children. They both followed busy and successful medical careers, with Noel becoming a Member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1922. She specialized in paediatrics and was appointed Consultant Physician at Westminster Children's Hospital. The correspondence has been published under the title "Song of Love - The letters of Rupert Brooke and Noel Olivier" edited by Pippa Harris.



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 22

August 2002

Very many thanks to Arthur Sharman for his article on the history of the Post office in Walberswick and to Julia Reisz for her memories of Walberswick in the 1930s. These are published here, as are more information on the 1953 floods from Richard Scott and on the drowning of Kenneth Capps from Ruth Goodwin. We are very much indebted to all our contributors.

I am publishing our Work in Progress file on Restaurants and Cafés in the hope that you will be able to provide more information or amendments. Dates would be very useful too.

Don't forget we need more volunteers to tape-record memories of former times in Walberswick. Jean Pappworth is at present talking to Mrs. Knights. Oral History is definitely the in thing at present. Why not have a go? Tapes can be provided and I will be happy to lend my tape recorder.

Bill Ungless has very kindly taken over the Sunken Gardens project and is making splendid progress. Perhaps we will be able to persuade him to display his findings at the Exhibition next May.

I have arranged a lecture and tour of the mounds at Sutton Hoo on the afternoon of the 4th September. The cost will be £6.50 for non-members of the National Trust, which includes a reduced group admission charge. National Trust members only pay £3 for the lecture and tour as their membership cards will give them free admission to the site and Exhibition Hall. Those who have already booked will be hearing from me again very soon. Please let me know if you are interested but have not yet told me.

Pat Wythe, Hon. Secretary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER Outing to Sutton Hoo.

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER Lecture by Mark Mitchels entitled "SUFFOLK CHARACTERS" at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER Archive Film Show and Christmas Celebration at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

MONDAY 26TH MAY 2003 We are mounting an Exhibition of the Floods of 1953 in the Village Hall all day to mark the fiftieth anniversary.

WALBERSWICK POST OFFICE

by

ARTHUR SHARMAN

Whites Directory, in 1891/2, refers to a Mr. Charles Stone delivering and despatching letters, via Southwold. Letters would arrive at 7.30 a.m. and were despatched at 9 a.m. and 6.20 p.m. Whether Charles Stone had been appointed sub postmaster and if where he lived was regarded as the first post office in Walberswick I have no means of knowing. However I have been talking to Mr. Bertie Stannard (in his 99th year!) and he remembered Charles Stone who lived at Marsh Way but did not know whether the post office was located there.

I am on firmer ground regarding Mrs. Jessie Ferguson - she was appointed sub-postmistress in 1900 and had the post office in Norland Cottage until 1923. Letters were delivered and despatched through Southwold Rural Sub Office not only on weekdays but also on Sundays. Stamps and postal orders were issued but not cashed; you had to go to Southwold for that. It was not until 1904 that Walberswick became a Money Order and Telegraph Office. It also became a Telegraph Money Order, ED*, PP*, Savings Bank and A & I* office. Mrs. Ferguson held the PO for 23 years.

* Does anyone know what these acronyms mean?

Mr. Jack Reynolds had the main grocery shop on the village green and his wife Ethel ran a drapery, stationery and beach requisites shop at what is now Hedgley and in 1923 Mrs. Reynolds was appointed sub postmistress and took over the post office which she held for ten years.

In 1932 the Sharman family moved to Concord Cottage, Walberswick. In 1933 my father, Edward Arthur Sharman, was appointed sub postmaster with my mother as his authorised assistant. A wooden clapboard annexe was built on the gable end of the house, the work being done by a local builder: Blocks.

My mother's primary responsibility was to receive and send telegrams; during the month of August it was quite usual to receive over 100, the same number being sent. Delivery was made by casual messenger, which meant that we children would often make the delivery. We did not mind this because we were paid a delivery fee: 2d to 6d ($\frac{1}{2}$ p to $2\frac{1}{2}$ p) depending upon the distance.

The telephone was connected to the manual exchange at Southwold. The post office number was 179 and this I have

retained through the years (it is now, with all the changes: 01502 722 179). The telephone, with an extension switch was in the front room of Concord Cottage. An extension telephone with a moneybox was fixed to the wall of the annexe on the public side of the counter. When a member of the public wished to make a call the telephone was switched through. This apparatus was quite old, indicating it was probably there during Mrs. Reynolds tenure. A few months later this was replaced with a new one and transferred to the call box on the green and eventually the number changed from 179 to 244. I cannot remember exactly when the call box was erected but it was there before I joined the Army in 1937. (The second call box (723393), by the Church was not put there until after the War.)

During the War an unsuccessful attempt to burgle the post office was made by two soldiers of the Cameronians. My father was always security conscious: he had a portable Siroma safe and every night would put all the cash and stock into this and place it under his bed. The safe had a trembler alarm and the slightest movement would set it off. However the burglars never attempted to go upstairs which was just as well!

In 1943 the post office moved to The Parish Lantern, known in those days as The Pottery Shop, and a Miss Palmer appointed sub postmistress. At some time or another Miss Palmer decided to move to the Old Corner House taking the post office with her. Imagine the consternation of the Head Post Office officials when they went to the Pottery Shop to perform the regular annual audit of the accounts and could find no trace of the post office; Miss Palmer had failed to obtain permission or inform the Head Office of the move!

1944 saw another change; the post office moved to "Grasmere", now "Pennys", with Mrs. Sutton as sub postmistress. Mrs. Sutton relinquished her position the following year and a long period of stability followed.

On the 14th November 1945, I was appointed sub postmaster. Some difficulty in finding suitable accommodation was encountered so, as a temporary measure, I rented, from a Mrs. Meekins, the lock-up shop next to Rose Cottage, and had the post office there; the pillar box fixed to it. For security reasons all the stock and cash had to be taken home each night. Eventually I was able to purchase Fair View (£725!) and on August Bank Holiday 1947 the post office was moved there. My late wife, Mollie, and I ran the post office for 43 years until May 1988 when we both retired.

The post office then moved to its present position when Boris Faulconbridge who owned The Tuck Shop was appointed sub postmaster. He sold the business to Nick and Gillian Jones in 1998. Gillian then became the sub postmistress.

A THIRTIES CHILDHOOD IN WALBERSWICK

by

JULIA REISZ

I first came to Walberswick in 1932 as a child of five. Because our house was not yet ready, we spent the first night at Dudley Cottage, which at that time was a guest house kept by Miss Reynolds, the sister of the owner of the village shop. I remember well walking out into the village street (no traffic then!) and seeing Charlie Fisher at the garage next door, changing a car tire.

After that first night we moved into our house in Leverett's Lane, which was called Due South. This is the house which is now known as Toby Cottage. At that time the house had no weatherboarding on it, and was painted white with blue trim. Immediately next door was a large black barn; this was shortly pulled down, and the space it had occupied became part of our yard. At that time the house was quite small, with only three quite cramped bedrooms, but later my mother received an unexpected legacy which enabled her to build on an extra big bedroom and a wonderful large playroom on the ground floor for my brother and me.

There was also a small bedroom behind the kitchen, where our housekeeper slept. At that time every (for want of a better word) middle class family had live-in help. We considered ourselves poor, because my father earned a precarious living as a writer, and we had no car and no telephone - still we had a maid. Her name was Eva Baker (she was a Halesworth girl). and she was being courted by one of the Cross twins, Wessy. His identical twin was Jimmy, and they both had motor bikes, on which they would give my brother and me rides on the pillion. My mother never objected: parents seemed much less nervous and protective in those days. Wessy would visit Eva in our kitchen in the evenings and, when my mother suggested that he should not come around so often, she found that he was darning my father's socks! After that he was always welcome.

Later on Eva was married from our house and I was a bridesmaid, which I found very exciting. The reception was held at the Women's Institute hut (now part of the Parish Lantern).

Village Life.

At that time Walberswick was first and foremost a fishing village, and everything revolved around the harbour. The longshore boats would go out regularly, catching both herring and sprats. Most of the young men were involved in the fishing, and the older men who no longer took part spent most of their time down by the river, advising and exchanging

comments. Fishing nets were always hanging out to dry on the flats, and when the boats were not out the fishermen would spend their time mending nets and doing other repairs. Somehow we always knew when the boats were coming in, and we spent hours watching the fishermen shaking the sprats out of the nets.

The other great attraction at the harbour was the chain ferry, which ran on steam, and went to and fro across the river all day. The two ferrymen were called Palmer and Brown: Palmer was quite a joker, while Brown never smiled. The ferry closed at 9 p.m. every evening, and a hooter sounded several minutes before that to alert people that it was their last chance to cross. The ferry could hold four cars at a pinch, but there was far less car traffic in those days. Most of the passengers were on foot or bicycle, or tradesmen with deliveries in handcarts. There were wooden struts set at intervals on the floor of the ferry to stop horses' hooves from slipping, as horses and carts were common. Besides the fishing boats, Moy's coal barge would tie up on the Southwold side and unload coal. There was also the lifeboat, which was kept permanently moored in the middle of the river opposite Blackshore. The crew was mostly from Southwold, but I seem to remember that there was always one member from Walberswick: I believe Dinks Cooper was at one time a member of the lifeboat crew.

Sometime in the mid-thirties, the new harbour works began. Dutch engineers were brought in to redesign the harbour, which was then lined with concrete piling (before that the Walberswick side only had wooden palings, familiar from the Wilson Steer paintings). The pile-driver worked all day, while the Walberswick fishermen shook their heads gloomily and said that the new work was doomed to failure because it did not take the tides into account: of course they were proved right.

There was a working farm in the village at that time, the Manor Farm, which had a large farmyard behind it, on the site now occupied by Manor Close. There was a herd of cows there, and milk, butter and eggs were sold at the Manor Farm Dairy, which was a small shop on the Green (the house now belonging to Harry Edwards). Cows were also kept at the Anchor, and pastured on the meadows that at that time existed between the marshes and the sea. A man called Wilfrid Stannard would go on horseback every afternoon to fetch them for milking.

A great excitement in the Manor Farm yard was the threshing; the threshing machine was driven by a belt attached to a traction engine which was brought in for the purpose. The village boys and the dogs would wait for the rats to run out, to be clobbered with sticks. At other times we would gather in the barleyfield to watch the harvester, which started at the edge of the field and gradually worked its way towards the middle: the rabbits would dart out and be dispatched for a free dinner.

I remember both the Silver Jubilee of George V and the Coronation of George VI. The fishing boats all sailed up the river decorated in red, white and blue; and there was a prize given for the best decorated house. Another prize was given for the best decorated children's bicycle, and we all cycled down the village to show them off. There were sports for both children and adults on Fairs' field - the large field behind the Manor Farm which is now occupied by Manor Close. There was a special tea for all the children in the village, at which each child received a commemoration mug filled with sweets. And in the evening there was a dance in the Gannon Room (the village hall) at which there was a fancy dress contest for the children.

Sometime in the late thirties there was a tremendous neap tide flood: I can remember seeing waves washing near the Anchor Hotel. Later I stood with my father and watched all the beach huts (ours among them) floating away in the direction of Dunwich. There was a small white cottage on the edge of the flats where the sea wall now stands, which was occupied by one old lady - I think she was Charlie Gilbert's mother. As the water rose in her cottage, she utterly refused to leave it, even when the water reached her waist. Eventually I watched two of the men remove her bodily, in spite of her protests.

School.

At first my mother did not know what to do about our schooling; but the problem was soon solved when Mrs. Mostyn (Sibby), who lived next door at The Old Corner House, agreed to teach her son Richard, Susan Davis and myself. She was an excellent teacher, and we soon learned to read and write, being taught each morning at their dining table.

Later my mother taught my brother and myself at home for a while, but she eventually decided to send us to the village school. This was the best thing she could possibly have done, because we children really became part of village life, and got to know pretty well everybody in the village.

The headmistress was Mrs. Piper, a very formidable lady and an iron disciplinarian. she tended to have favourites and also scapegoats, but she was a good teacher and I learned a lot. In those days a good deal of learning was by rote, and one of my clearest memories is hearing the whole school reciting their times tables in unison. My friends were Betty Strange (whose father was chauffeur to Sir Ralph Blois), Heather Block, Joyce Bloomfield and Ann Denny. My brother's particular friend was Victor Fairs, and after my brother moved back to Suffolk some years ago he and Victor met regularly for golf until Victor died.

Other children I remember from the village school were Tony English (Owen's brother, nicknamed "Sergeant"), Ivan and Jill

Cady, Avril Eade, Lionel and Beryl Sharman, Peggy and John Bloomfield and Victor's young brother Dennis - in fact I remember the day Dennis started school. Victor just brought him along the day he turned five, and that was that. I also recall Cissy and Molly English - Scarborough's daughters.

We learned country dancing at the school - the usual ones like "Gathering Peascods" - but I particularly recall one that I have never seen performed since: it was called "Little Old Man in a Fix" and was huge fun to dance.

WARTIME

In April Mrs. Margaret Campbell of Camberley was visiting the village for a few days. It was fascinating to discover that she had been stationed in this area during the war. She kindly wrote the following for us:

"My memories of Walberswick date from 1942 when I was stationed at Carlton Hall, Saxmundham, until early 1945. Carlton Hall was the headquarters of a Searchlight Battery of 329 Searchlight Regiment. The Headquarters of the Regiment was at either Woodbridge or Manningtree. Every Sunday was our day off and I so well remember packing up a picnic and driving to Walberswick with my fellow officers - about 4 or 5 of us - and picnicking in some of the gardens of the big houses near the sea - that would be down Ferry Road, I imagine, but my recollection of the exact houses is dim after 60 years! I remember seeing hardly any people in the village - it seemed so deserted - and I also remember the frustration of not being able to bathe in the sea, because of the mined and wired off beaches."

She visited Carlton Hall during her time here this year and commented:

"so sad, It was a complete wreck and I imagine it is about to be pulled down. It was a lovely house when I was there."

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Daily Telegraph Article "Great British Beaches" dated Saturday July 13, 2002.

Dance Ticket for the Jubilee Dance on Monday 3rd June, 2002..

Phyllis Winyard - Funeral Service on 19th July 2002.

ADDITIONS TO INFORMATION IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Reference the 1953 floods, Richard Scott wrote:

"The last WLHG newsletter was interesting and I was particularly intrigued with Ruth Goodwin's recollections of the 1953 flood. These were in close accord with things I remember my parents mentioning - they lived at Samphire Cottage then, and I was at school in Kent.

"In 1953 this house was exactly as built in 1935, and had yet to sprout the beach-hut-technology carbuncles which disfigure it today! Thus it was a bungalow with balcony, and one small room with sloping walls within its hipped roof - which is where my parents retreated when the tide came up. They were suffering from particularly virulent 'flu' at the time, and declined Arthur Sharman's offer of rowing-boat rescue! Afterwards they felt they had been most churlish, as Arthur had gone to a lot of trouble to reach them. Their greatest alarm was the bangings and crashings downstairs, which was the furniture floating about - much as Ruth had experienced. Their first realisation that there was a problem building up was a swishing sound, which was water pouring over the garden wall - then the only flood defence around here (our lane had very pronounced sleeping policemen between each property for this reason - totally inadequate in 1953).

"Misleading ground levels around here meant that Hidden House had water in the garden, but not in the house, while in Hidden Hut old Mrs. Cowley escaped immersion by climbing on the furniture. She was, she thought, saved by an Act of God. Among the debris which floated in through the door the Almighty had sent her a full bottle of Scotch!

Ruth Goodwin reminded me that Leslie and she held the keys to the flood gates till 1990 not 1970 as published. My apologies for that. She also said: "Re the report in the February Newsletter on the drowning in 1959:

"Three youths cycled from Halesworth to go for a swim and my daughter and a friend used to meet these boys on the beach and used to have fun in the sea. That evening 6ish there was a very low tide and then the tide turned and started to run in very strong. The two girls and two boys decided to vacate the sandbank and they thought the other boy was behind them. They got out of the water turned to the boy as they thought and he had disappeared as quickly as that. His body was found later that evening - a very sad time. His name was Kenneth Capps."

RESTAURANTS & TEA ROOMS

The following is all we know at present on this subject. Are you able to add any more information? Precise dates would be useful. As usual, corrections would also be most welcome:

EASTWOOD John Charles started a restaurant in Eastwood after WW2 but it didn't last long.

MARY'S was started in Manor Farm House by Mary and Derrick Allen in the 1960s. They sold to the Jelliffe's in 1986 who sold to Dirk Bogard in 2000.

The **PARISH LANTERN** was taken over by Mary Allen in 1986 when she left the restaurant in Manor Farm House (see the paragraph above). Although the main business is the gift shop, tea, coffee and light meals are served here.

The **OLD VICARAGE GUEST HOUSE** was run by Mrs. Wigdahl before WW2. She served teas. It is pictured on the scroll.

The **POTTERS WHEEL** was started as a Coffee Shop in 1976 by Mary King when she and her husband owned the Pottery Shop. It was taken over by Lesley Scott who ran it as a restaurant through the 1980s. Joan Smith then took it over until her death in June 2002. It is still owned by her family.

TEA ROOMS There is an entry in the Kellys Directory of 1925 which shows John Hool Spall as the Proprietor of Tea Rooms (presumably this was the Wave Crest Café).

THE TEA ROOMS were started by Miss Mildred Reynolds in the mid-1930s. She was the sister of Mr. Reynolds who built the grocery shop. She converted the old cottage and built rooms on the back. She ran this as a very successful tea room for a number of years. It was bought by Mr. & Mrs. Pell but they were not successful and sold to Mrs. Parker in 1954 who was there until 1974 when she retired to Pier Avenue, Southwold. She sold the cottage to Julia Reisz.

The **WAVE CREST CAFÉ** was owned by Mr. & Mrs. Stevenson then by Mr. R.H. Spall (Vida Connick's uncle) who was helped by Auntie Belle (Miss Norman). Margaret Orbell worked here at one time. It was known as "Uncle Bob's" in 1921. It was swept away in the 1953 flood. There is a picture of the Wave Crest Café in Miss Browton's diary vol 3 & 4. Julia Reisz remembers it was painted blue and white in the 1930s and that they served teas and lunches and sold ice cream. The Wave Crest Café is on the Walberswick Scroll.

WESTONS Mrs. Schwind ran a restaurant at Westons. She moved there from Palmers Lane and bought it after Mrs. Midwood died early in the 1950s. It didn't last long.



W ALBERSWICK L OCAL H I STORY G R O U P

NEWSLETTER NO. 21

February 2002

Information about house histories is slowly coming in but there is a great deal still to do. I am greatly indebted to Ruth Goodwin who I called on recently. Although she now lives in Halesworth, she is a mine of information about the village and I look forward to our next meeting. I had heard so much about her rescue during the 1953 Floods from other people but now we have her personal recollections which you will find on page three.

As I told you in the last newsletter, we are in need of 1953 Flood memorabilia for a proposed exhibition next year. Do let a member of the Committee know if you have anything.

I still have a set of the Millenium Photographs if you come across anyone who hasn't already seen them. I think most people have, but there may be some holiday house residents who missed out.

Richard Scott's lecture in October was very much appreciated, as was Bill Buncombe's talk on the boats which sailed the Blyth. Now we look forward to hearing Peter Warner in May and Mark Mitchels in October (please note the dates below). Peter Warner has been doing further research since he wrote "Bloody Marsh" and promises to talk on this. The subject of Mark Mitchels' lecture has not yet been decided. As he can talk on a great variety of subjects and often does to various organisations in the district, if you have heard of any one which you would like to hear, please let me know. Some of you will remember his very interesting lecture on Sutton Hoo in 1999.

Pat Wythe, Hon. Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. If you have not already got your Membership Card for 2002 please pay your £4 to our Membership Secretary, Maureen Thompson. For "out of town" members, the postal address is Greenways, The Green, Walberswick, IP17 6TU

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 2002 Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall Annexe starting at 7.30 p.m.

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH Suffolk Local History Council Societies' Day at Mendlesham starting at 9.55 a.m.

FRIDAY 17TH MAY Peter Warner the author of "Bloody Marsh" 7.30 in the Village Hall.

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER Mark Mitchels on a topic to be decided. 7.30 in the Village Hall.

CHAPELS

The following extract from Miss Browton's diary (Vol 2-1) is an interesting addition to the item on THE HERITAGE HUT which was published in Newsletter No.17. Miss Browton was writing in the 1950s:

"A CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL was built on the green. A wooden building, now the Headquarters of the St. John Cadets. It was probably closed down during the 1914-18 war and the contents dispersed. Some of the pews are now in the Gannon Room where they serve either as additional seats or turned face downwards form useful staging for vegetables at the annual Flower Show. There was a carved pulpit and a Silver Communion Service. William English (Blucher) was christened at this Chapel and attended Sunday School there.

"The building has since seen many uses as school, furniture store of the Blyth Furniture Removers of Southwold, a shop for souvenirs and antiques and now probably to be the Headquarters of St. John Cadets for at least 99 years. The ground having been leased to them for that period by the Parish Council in 1957.

"Harold Cross (b.1902) was christened here because at the time there was no Vicar at the Church. Mr. Woodruffe had gone and there was a period of time before Mr. Wynne arrived.

"Have since heard from Mrs. Cowley that there was a chapel on Ferry Knoll when she was a child and one long house where now are about five small houses. She thinks the Chapel was Congregational and before the one was built on the Green - probably in the 1880s."

From the same source is the following:

"The PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL was a grey pebble building built in 1843 "by a man named Ebenezer" vide a local pillar of the congregation. The stone bearing that name and date is preserved in the present Chapel which was built in 1910, largely owing to the efforts of a Mr. Etheridge. It is served from Southwold but is sometimes dependent on some local person to conduct the service."

You will most probably know that the Primitive Methodist Chapel was where Fisher's Garage now stands and the chapel built in 1910 is now a house.

Ginger Winyard remembered Mr. & Mrs. Catchpole in connection with the Methodist Chapel and Mrs. Meekins was organist.

Mrs. Winifred Webb remembered that once a year the Methodist Chapel Sunday School used to go to Dunwich ruins by tumbril. They used to set out after midday and would get back after a picnic tea. They played games and were presented with prayer books for good attendance.

The above information is all we have on the chapels in our Work in Progress file. Do you know anything we could add?

MY MEMORIES OF THE 1953 FLOODS

by

RUTH GOODWIN

The date was the 31st January, 1953, and our son was just six weeks old. There had been a lot of wind during the day and my husband had been on the beach to check the tides, etc., because a group of them were going to Old Time Dancing at Westleton and he wondered about leaving me alone as I was just recovering from flu. We decided he should go as it seemed reasonably calm and there was moonlight.

Our son woke and needed feeding so I took him from the pram (newly acquired that week) and, after ten minutes of feeding, I heard water gurgling. When I looked out of the window I was amazed to see nothing but water. (At the time there was no sea wall - the road being level with the bank of the creek.)

I took the baby upstairs and came and got the pram, which was quite an effort to get up the stairs but I succeeded with that. When I came down again water was coming in both the back door and the front door. I tried to get one or two more things but by that time one wonders what the priorities are. Meanwhile the water was up to my knees and it was no good. I had to retreat upstairs to the children. I brought my daughter into our bed. By then the lights had gone out but luckily I had a candle upstairs. Then the furniture and other things started to move about downstairs. It was very weird to hear things going 'bump' and to know it was things floating about downstairs.

Looking out of the windows I saw appearing a rowing boat (almost unbelievable). It was Arthur Sharman going to the window at the back of the house. He took the children from me and I climbed into the boat. He took us to Greenways - Ora and Claude Hoatebleng were renting it from Mrs. Bellairs. He was an airman at Bentwaters American Base. They didn't have water in the house but their cellar was flooded. Ora had phoned Claude and he came home. To our amazement his car was parked above the swings on the Green.

Meanwhile the Group were back from their dance at Westleton and of course didn't know anything about it. Leslie waded to our house and then came to Greenways. Next morning he went back and we had 36" of water in the house and everything was everywhere. We had no shoes and I felt so sorry that my daughter's lovely Christmas presents, along with so many other things, had been downstairs.

Leslie and I scrubbed, scoured, tried to salvage and in the end moved as much as we could reasonably save upstairs and lived there until we could get the lower floor habitable again which took quite some while.

They put in the flood concrete wall and gates and several years later heightened them again. My husband and I held the keys to the flood gates for years till 1970 and took all flood warnings.

Diana Kennedy of Surbiton wrote the following article for the November 2001 issue of "Suffolk Roots", the journal of the Suffolk Family History Society. She has very kindly given permission for it to be reproduced in this newsletter:

LAD DROWNED WHILE BATHING

by

DIANA KENNEDY

An inquest was held on Thursday at the White Hart Inn before B. Ross Esq., Coroner, on the body of a lad named Enos Sewell, aged 17 years. The evidence adduced showed that the deceased, who was a farm labourer, employed by Mr. Cooper, went on Tuesday afternoon with three men named Bird, Haycock and Woolnough to a pond in the Cooper's occupation for the purpose of bathing, but only Bird entered the water with the deceased. The latter who could swim only a little, crossed the pond only once but was unable to swim back and sank when about half way. The other men were unable to render assistance as they were unable to swim. He was taken out by Mr. Cooper's groom, a man named Rose, with a muck crome. He was taken to Mr. Cooper's house, where policeman Joseph Jessup endeavoured to restore the deceased in accordance with the instructions of the Life Boat Association, a copy of which he had on him. Dr. Blackett was sent for and on arriving expressed himself satisfied with what had been done, but found that life had nearly fled. The jury returned a verdict of 'accidental death'. Much sympathy is felt for the parents who reside at Walberswick, as their son was always much esteemed as a well-conducted youth. From the Ipswich Journal, June 22nd 1872.

The above newspaper report of the inquest into the death of Enos Sewell was held at the medieval White Hart Inn, Blythburgh, Suffolk, a few miles from the coastal town of Walberswick. The 1871 Census for Walberswick shows Enos to be 16 years old, the son of William and Mary Ann Sewell. There was also a younger brother Edward, aged 14 years. William and both sons were agricultural labourers. Enos died 18th June 1872 and was buried at Walberswick 21st June 1872. The Blythburgh 1871 Census shows a James B. Cooper who farmed 1450 acres at Blythburgh, employing as well as the groom, forty labourers, two shepherds and eight boys. The census also shows a John Bird, aged eighteen and a Henry Woolnough aged twenty living on the estate with their families.

The gravestones of the parents of Enos Sewell can be found in the churchyard at Walberswick. His mother Mary Ann died 1890 and his father in 1906. But I was unable to find the grave of Enos.

This account has added a few details to our files and has also posed some questions.

The farm was Westwood Lodge and the following is a quote from David Davison's article in Newsletter No.12 of August 1997:

"For some years after 1823 the tenancy of Westwood Lodge Farm was held by the Cooper family. James Grinling Cooper was a figure of great authority in the farming world: he steered the farm through the agricultural depression which followed the Napoleonic Wars into more prosperous times in the 1840's: he was a Churchwarden at St. Andrews, and played a major part in drawing up the Parish Voluntary Agreement under the 1836 Tithe Act. It was his grandson - Ernest Read Cooper who published several books about Suffolk history,, including 'A Suffolk Garland'."

Joseph Jessop was the policeman called. Did he live in Walberswick? He may have come from Blythburgh as Westwood Lodge is strictly speaking in that parish. We know that William Lawrence was a constable for Walberswick in the Blything Hundred in 1809 and John Wright and Samuel Thrower in 1829/30 but have no later information. It would be interesting to know how the law was administered and when changes were made, leading to the system we now have with all its advanced technology. Any volunteers?

Where did Dr. Blackett live? Was there a doctor living in the village or did Walberswick residents have to call someone from further afield?

This is the only case we have of a drowning of a young person in a pond though sadly, on the 9 Aug 1957, a girl of 12 was swept out to sea while bathing in the surf. A gale was blowing and it was not fit for bathing. Two boys who were with her were exhausted in trying to save her and a man also tried to save her without avail. Also, in the summer of 1959, a boy of 15 was drowned, being marooned on a sandbank at low time and unable to swim. In his endeavour to reach the shore he was drowned before aid could be obtained. Our beach seems such a safe one for children but these cases remind us that there are dangers.

As we are on the subject of drowning, the following record of two suicides by drowning occurs in Maggs Diary, on 26 Mar 1837:

"Ann, daughter of Mr. Willm. Easey, Anchor Inn, Walberswick, drowned herself in a rain water tub - upon the premises and very singular, her grandmother did the same on 20.9.1842. Relict of Francis Robinson."

SUFFOLK LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

The Suffolk Local History Council will be holding a Societies' Day at the Mendlesham Community Centre on Saturday 23rd March. There will be talks in the morning for member societies and contributors and the afternoon will be open to the general public so everyone can visit the stands and exhibitions. We are asked to publicise this event and as a member society we are invited to attend for the whole day. Our group are not contributing this year but our members have much enjoyed these events in the past and anyone interested in local history research should find it well worth while. Further details from Pat Wythe.

TAPE RECORDINGS

Some years ago Don Thompson was given tape recordings of conversations with:

Blucher English
Dinks Cooper
Teddy Thompson

This prompted him to make further recordings and he interviewed the following:

Sonny and Ivy Cross
Florence Denny
Elsa Hopewell
Claudine Powell
Bertie & Ellen Stannard

He also made a copy of a Radio Norfolk programme (which includes Ruth Goodwin and several local people) and one of the talk Rachel Lawrence gave us on the Southwold River - one of our first lectures.

This would seem to be a very valuable project to continue. Have you been talking to anyone who has interesting tales to tell about the village? Can you suggest any more names? Would you be interested in trying your hand at interviewing? Please contact Don Thompson (723755) or Pat Wythe (724142) if you can help in any way.

WALBERSWICK PARISH SITES & MONUMENTS RECORDS

Pat Wythe has a list of the above dated September 2001. Members may be surprised to learn that there are forty-two sites listed. However, apart from the Church of St. Andrew and the "small tower mill, possibly dated 1789" on the marsh, these are mainly sites where small artefacts have been discovered. The accompanying map is interesting. This is a restricted document and we are asked to use it for academic purposes only.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

MANY THANKS TO:

TERRY BALL for a copy of "Recording and Analysing Graveyards" by Harold Mytum.

PRU FORD-CRUSH for a copy of a conveyance relating to 2 Norland Cottage.

HANNS LANGE for Nathaniel Muttitt's will, a transcription of which follows. This was donated along with a family tree and correspondence with an American descendant.

WILL OF NATHANIEL MUTTETT OF WALBERSWICK DATED 17TH FEBRUARY 1769

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN This is the Last Will and Testament of me Nathaniel Muttett of Walberswick in the County of Suffolk Farmer First I do hereby Will and Direct that all my just Debts Funerall Expences and the Charges of the Probate of this my Will and all other Charges and Expences Incident to the Execution thereof shall be Paid and Discharged by my Executors hereinafter named by and out of my Personal Estate and effects as soon after my Decease as Conveniently may be And I do hereby Nominate and Appoint Nathaniel Muttett my Son and Walter Snell of Darsham in the said County ?? Executors of this my Will and do Give and Bequeath to the said Walter Snell the Sum of Two Guineas for his Care and Trouble in the Execution thereof over and Besides his Necessary Charges and Expences Attending the same Item I Give and Devise to Mary my Wife and her Assigns for and during the Term of her Natural Life my Part of a Messuage or Tenement and Yard now in the Occupation of Charles Hunt and also a Hempland at the End of the Barn ?? in my own Occupation Situate and being in Walberswick aforesaid Also I do Give and Bequeath to her my said Wife the Bed in the Backhouse Chamber with the Furniture as it stand Also I Give and Devise to the said Nathaniel Muttett my Son and his Heirs and Assigns for Ever All and every my Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever (be the same Freehold or Copyhold) Situate lying and being in Aldeburgh in the said County Also All That my Messuage or Tenement with the Lands and ?? thereto belonging Situate with? and being in Walberswick aforesaid now in his Occupation To hold the said last mentioned Premises to him my said Son and his Assigns for and during the Term of his Natural Life he keeping the same in good and Tenantable Repair And from and after the Deceases of them my said Wife and Son I do Give and Devise the several Messuages or Parts of Messuages or Tenements Lands and Hereditaments hereinbefore Given and Devised to them for Life unto my Grandson Nathaniel Muttett his Heirs and Assigns for Ever And all other my Messuages or Tenements Lands and Hereditaments whatsoever Situate lying and being in Walberswick aforesaid Be the same Freehold or Copyhold) I do Give and Devise to the said Nathaniel my Grandson) his heirs and Assigns for Ever But if it shall happen that he my said Grandson shall Depart this Life before he Attain the Age of Twenty One Years without Leaving Issue of his Body lawfully to be Begotten living at the time of his Decease Then I do Give and Devise All and every the Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments hereinbefore Given and Devised to him and his Heirs ?? Cornelius Muttett my Grandson his heirs and Assigns for Ever He and they Paying thereout unto the said Mary my Wife and her Assigns for and during the Term of her Natural Life One Annuity or Yearly Rent Charge of Fifty Shillings of lawfull Money of Great Britain without any Deductions or Abatement whatsoever for Taxes or otherwise at or in the Porch of the Parish Church of Walberswick aforesaid by equal Quarterly Payments upon the fifth day of April, the fifth day of July, the tenth day of October and the fifth day of January in every Year the first Payment thereof to become due and be made upon such of the said days as shall happen most after my Decease Provided always that if it shall happen that the said Yearly Rent Charge of Fifty shillings or any Part thereof shall be in Arrear and Unpaid by the Space of Twenty Days next after any or either of the said Days of Payment on which the same shall become due Then and in such Case it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Mary my wife and her Assigns to enter into and upon all and every or any Part of the Messuages Lands and

Tenements herein before Devised to the said Nathaniel my Grandson and his Heirs and the same to hold Possess and Enjoy and the Rents Issues and Profitts thereof to have take and Receive to her and their own Use Untill she or they shall be fully Satisfyed and Paid the said Annuity or Rent Charge or such Part thereof as shall be then Unpaid Together with all such Costs Charges and Expences as she or they shall be at or Putt unto in Entering upon and Recovering the Possession of all and every Part of the Premisses aforesaid or the said Annuity or any Part thereof Item my Messuage or Tenements Lands and Hereditaments Situate lying and being in Kelsale in the said County. I do Give and Devise to the said Cornelius and William Muttett my Grandsons and their Heirs and Assigns for Ever to take as Tenants in Common and not as joint Tenants Item my Messuages or Tenements Lands and Hereditaments Situate lying and being in Westleton in the said County (be the same Freehold or Copyhold) I do Give and Devise to John Muttett my Grandson his heirs and Assigns for Ever. Item I Give and Bequeath to John Ruffel my Grandson the Sum of Ten Pounds of lawfull Money And my Will and Mind is that my said Executors out of my Personal Estate and Effects shall Pay and Discharge all such Fines Stewards Fees and other Charges whatsoever as shall become due and Payable upon the Admission and Admissions of the said Nathaniel my Son, Nathaniel and John my Grandchildren To all or any the Copyhold Messuages Lands and Tenements hereinbefore Given and Devised to them And all the rest and residue of my Personal Estate and Effects after Payment of all my just Debts Funeral and other Charges incident to the Executorship And also the several Legacies or Sums of Money aforesaid I do Give and Bequeath the same to be equally Divided between the said Nathaniel my Son And all and every my Grandchildren as shall be then Living share and share alike And I do hereby Impower my said Executors to Pay and Apply all or such Part of the Moneys herein before Given and Bequeathed to my said Grandchildren as aforesaid in their Maintenance Education and for Necessary Wearing Apparell for the my said Grandchildren as they shall think Proper And Lastly my Will and Mind is? And I do hereby Declare that the Devise and Annuity or Annual Payment herein before made and Given to my said Wife is and shall be in full Discharge of all such Dower and Thirds as she my said Wife is or shall be Intitled unto out of all or any my Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments which I am now or shall be Possessed of at the Time of my Death And upon Condition that she shall thereunto Required Release here Claim and Title to the same. In Witness thereof I the said Nathaniel Muttett the Testator have to this my Last Will and Testament Sett my Hand and Seal this Seventh Day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Nine

Published and Declared by the said Nathaniel)
Muttett the Testator as and ?? Testament in) Signed
the Presence of us who in his Presence and at) NATHANIELL MUTTETT
his? inscribed our Names as Witnesses hereto)
(the Words, and Assigns, being first Interlined))

Effects above) Nathaniel Muttett and Walter Snell Executors of this
£20) Will were sworn to the due & faithfull Performance
thereof this twenty seventh Day of February 1769 - by me
Daniel Copland Clk
Surr to the Comm?py



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 20

August 2001

People are still talking about our Millennium Exhibition and I must once again thank Richard Steward on behalf of us all for the splendid photographs. He was indeed the driving force behind the whole project and the rest of the Committee were amazed at his organisation in setting up and dismantling which made it the easiest operation for us all yet. How much easier Richard's task would have been this year. The summer of 2000 was not good which meant he had to photograph on all the fine days he could and often abandon other plans. Thank you very much Richard.

If you know anyone who would like to see the pictures I have a set at 10 Manor Close and would be very happy to let anyone see them - by appointment please though (724142) as it takes a bit of time to go through them properly.

My appeals for information on the houses has had a good response and I have had some very interesting feedback - one from as far afield as California (USA not Norfolk!). This I am sharing with you in this issue of the newsletter, together with some others. A project for this winter is getting together information on all the houses to complement the pictures so, if you haven't already contributed, any information on your house and previous occupants would be very much appreciated.

Future events are detailed below. We have tried to choose dates that are unlikely to clash with other events. Do please put them in your diary now. They have been in the Village Diary in the Tuck Shop for some time so hopefully you won't have to miss them because of other events planned for our hectic Walberswick social life!

As you see, Richard Scott has promised to come and talk to us in October and Bill Buncombe is going to give us a light-hearted talk on the river at the Christmas Celebration.

Thinking ahead to 2002, many of you will have read Peter Warner's book "Bloody Marsh" and he has promised to come and talk to us in the Spring. The date is yet to be arranged.

Pat Wythe, Hon. Secretary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER "Why Walberswick? - Artists' Visits from 1800" a lecture by Richard Scott. 7.30 in the Village Hall.

TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER Christmas Celebration at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

HELP! - HOUSE NAMES

The following houses have appeared in directories over the years or I have been given information on them. Their names have changed and I cannot identify them. Was your house renamed at any time? Do the details shown mean anything to you? Have you noticed the names of any of these people in your deeds?

THE BARN: This may have been part of what is now WESTONS. William Kay Blacklock 1916, Hugh Payne Williams 1922-1925, Mrs. Cleminson 1929-1937.

THE COT: Alfred Byerley Smith 1908-1916, Miss Watson 1922-1925.

DIGLIS: William Hainworth 1904, James Cornish 1912-1922, Mrs. Flemming 1925.

THE DRIFT: A Mr. Cross lived in a shed in the Drift at one time. He had a beautiful garden. Was this the name of a lane?

EASTHOLME: William C. Pearce 1904-1908, Miss Ida Kirkpatrick 1909-1913, Edward Guard Rock 1916.

GREYCROFT: Charles Bannerman Phillips 1912-1916.

KERFIELD: Miss Wilson 1912, Charles William Cockburn 1922-1925.

KINGFISHERS WAY: Fincham in the 1930s.

OUTLOOK: Miss A.W. Champion 1933-1937, Miss Sly, Fair.

REGENT: English, Herbert Willim Cullingford and Kathleen Lillin in the 1930s.

THE RETREAT: English, Ellis, Chapman in the 1930s.

ROCKCLIFFE

SHIRLEY: Edwin Roscoe Mullins, 1904-08, Mrs. Mullins 1912-16, Robert C. Notcutt 1922-37.

SILVER PINE: Mrs. P.E. Raynor 1933.

SIRRELL: Thomas Charles Benham 1908-29.

SLOANE COTTAGE: Charles Francis Mallet 1888, Edward Hamilton Wigg 1904, Mrs. Gabe 1925.

SPRINGFIELD: Booth in the 1930s.

THALASSA: Mrs. Selkirk 1929-37

CREEK COTTAGE

by

BARBARA PRIESTMAN

CREEK COTTAGE was built by Robert English - Owen's father - in the early 1930s. Originally, it was a simple rectangular house comprising 2 bedrooms, a living room and a kitchen/dining room. It had a pantile roof, as at present, and several outhouses/sheds were clustered on its west side. Later - but before 1951 - a small brick extension was added for a bathroom and separate WC.

The English family lived in it - with 5 children - until it was sold to Mr and Mrs Shaw. Mr Shaw was a well-known writer of hymn tunes.

It was sold to Francesca Wilson in 1951 "for (her) nieces and their families to have holidays by the sea". She also lent it, for no charge, to friends and to "Cruse widows" and their children. She had a very interesting life. She was one of the early women students at Newnham College, Cambridge, graduating in 1909. She was a teacher until the First World War, when she became involved in the work for refugees that became the main focus of her life. She was involved in relief work in the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War, and wrote two of her books about those experiences, 'In the Margins of Chaos' and 'Aftermath'. By 1951 she was living and writing in Hampstead, in a large house which she shared with budding writers and actors and visitors and friends from all over the world.

In the Great Flood of 1953, the sea filled the house with four feet of water. A small electric cooker was recovered afterwards from the Sluice Bridge. Permanent salt damage was done to the lath and plaster walls. Insurance money paid for an open veranda and a small kitchen to be added to the south side of the building. The tamarisk hedge which had run the length of the garden had to be replaced with an ornamental plum hedge.

In about 1960 Francesca, always willing to offer shelter and accommodation when it was needed, offered Peter Buxton one of the outhouses to live in. Peter was a very cultured, gentle man who had been a London architect of some ability until he had a breakdown. Somehow he had eventually arrived, homeless, in Walberswick. He was so grateful to Francesca that he dedicated the rest of his life to transforming the cottage. He installed a ladder/staircase up to the roof space, boarded that out and created two new bedrooms. He greatly admired the Japanese style and cut out tall windows and made sliding doors where none had been before. His skills as a builder were not quite equal to his architectural vision so that, over the years, the weather was able to penetrate gaps between windows and walls. This furthered the deterioration of the external fabric of the building but left us with a delightfully conceived "new" house. Peter died in 1979.

Francesca died in April 1981, having passed the cottage on some years earlier to her niece, Rosalind Priestman. She had been too frail to visit for several years.

I moved to Walberswick in September 1980, initially living in a hut beside the cottage, on the site of Peter's outhouse. Rosalind gradually repaired the building, more or less rebuilding it, so that it became habitable and likely to last for more than a few years whilst retaining much of Peter's inspiration. In 1992, we extended the cottage to the west adding a small annexe/granny flat to which family and friends are warmly invited.

THE OLD TEA ROOM, THE GREEN.

by

JULIA REISZ

When I was a child in the village in the 1930s, the house consisted only of the front part, with perhaps a lean-to kitchen at the rear. It was known then as The Old Cottage, and my recollection is that it was thatched. An old couple lived there at that time. I have always been given to understand that this part of the building is C.17th.

In the mid-30s, the house was bought by Miss Reynolds, sister of the Mr. Reynolds who owned the village grocery (the building that is now Sea Green Cottage). She added the upstairs rooms and the additional rooms on the ground floor, and knocked down the internal walls in the front part, thus making it into one large room. She opened this as The Old Cottage Tea Rooms. She may have lived there herself for a while, but very soon built the house known as Greenways for her own use.

I remember very well the additions being made to the Tea Rooms, because we children used to climb the ladders and scaffolding in the evenings when the builders had gone home. I think the builder was Henry Block.

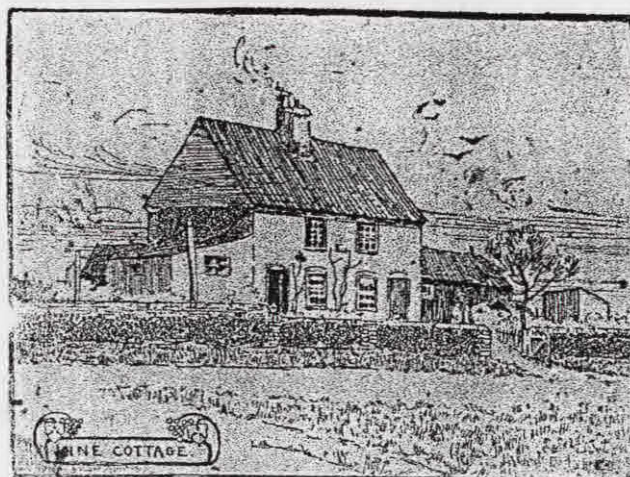
I don't know who bought the place after Miss Reynolds had it; my next memory is of Mrs. Parker running it as The Cottage Tea Rooms: this was in the 60s, when I used to bring my children down from London in the summers. We used often to buy cakes from her.

I myself bought the house from Mrs. Parker in 1974, when I had already moved to the USA. My family and I have used it as a holiday home ever since; however, I am planning to come back and live in it full time in the not too distant future. When I first bought the house some work was done on it by Blucher English and Leslie Goodwin - mainly putting in a downstairs bathroom.

Leslie Goodwin himself told me that early in the last century the house was occupied by a Mrs. Mulligan, who is supposed to haunt the village green: you can hear the creak of her bustle at night. I've never heard her myself!

When I return to England permanently, I will have a close look at the deeds to the house, which are at my bank in London. I may be able to unearth some more information then.

MARY CLAYTON has searched papers she has in her possession relating to VINE COTTAGE and has discovered the following.



Vine Cottage, The Green,
Walberswick, In the
County of Suffolk.
A Brief History of the
House.

First mentioned in papers as a plot of land in The Will of Henry Prew, Innkeeper dated 15.5.1820 consisting of Cowshed and Cowyard. Lime Kiln Coal Bin and Garden.

The grandson of Henry Prew, Lewis Cardy (Fisherman), sold the Lime Kiln to Mr John Leverett (Farmer) and Joseph Shrimpton of Southwold (Gentleman) on 17 Feb 1845. Two cottages must have been constructed some time between 1845 and 6 Jan 1866 when John Leverett made a will leaving the property to his wife Elleanor for her lifetime. They were then in the occupation of James Cooper and John Nelson. The will was proved on 10 Sept 1868. Elleanor Leverett died in 1883 and the property passed to the Leveretts' daughter E. Milligan. She died in 1900 and her son, John Leverett Milligan, inherited. He sold to Charles Francis Mallett of 188 Sloane Street, [London?] Middlesex in 1906. [Mr. Mallett owned Tower House and had many business interests in the village. For instance he ran the windmill and built the Terrace as a speculative venture. It is believed that his chauffeur lived in Vine Cottage at some time during his ownership.] In 1920 Mr. Mallett sold to Minnie Victoria Eugene Block, wife of Henry Block [Henry Block was the builder who built many houses in the village]. In 1947 it was sold to a Mrs. Fenning of Ipswich and in July 1948 it passed to John Cowles Reynolds [Mr. Reynolds owned the shop next door - now Sea Green Cottage]. In 1958 it passed to Mr. J.R. Cook of Diss and next his wife Mrs. O.A. Cook. Then in 1986 it was passed on to her daughter Mrs. B.M. Clayton of Commerce House, Scole. She and her husband Benny made the two cottages into one dwelling and added an extension.

Other bits of information which were already noted in the History Group House File are as follows. The following people rented the cottages: Ida Marion Kirkpatrick Sep 1907 to Nov 1909, Henry Block during WW1, Wing & Murton in the 1930s as did the Rev Richard Plowman in 1933 (according to the Kelly's Directory of that year). John Goddard lived in one of the cottages around 1955/57 with Sonny Cross's sister Mrs. Baker living in the other half.

The following details were contributed by ELIZABETH WALTERS who wrote from Little Cornard:

"I enclose details of the "CRAFT ROOM" the Ferry Walberswick. It must be distinguished by a history of having floated up the village street during the 53 Flood!! After that we lived on a grassy meadow where the fishermen dried their nets. Now sadly, we find ourselves more or less living in the middle of a car park!

"Congratulations on your project of finding the history of the Walberswick houses. I have been a part time resident for 75 years; and Walberswick has developed slowly; and in a very restrained sort of way."

The CRAFT ROOM was built c.1920 by Henry Block as his builder's shed. Mr. Snow used it to exhibit his paintings, pottery and hand loom weaving. Mrs. Walters used it as a holiday home. This shed originally stood just south of the yacht yard between it and the studio. It floated up as far as the Old Vicarage in the 1953 flood. The Charity Lands Trust allowed Mr. Snow to put it in its present position.

FIRES & FLOODS have both had an effect on village houses.

FIRE has always been a hazard to housing and is the reason that there are not many more ancient dwellings surviving in the village. Most would be accidental and in medieval times, when houses were thatched, built of lath and plaster, and often close together, fire was very difficult to control.

We are indebted again to Miss Browton for the following extract from a letter dated 1947 from Ernest R. Cooper to the Revd. R.W. Lewis:

"Fires were recorded at Walberswick in 1631 - 40 houses burnt. 1633 great part of the town burnt. 1683-1744 one third of the remainder burnt. These were probably never rebuilt on the old sites. The pair of old cottages near Manor Farm buildings and house known as Westons are the only survivors."

There is evidence of fire occurring in 1216, 1583, 1631 (10 June - 40 houses burnt, 3 July - 8 houses burnt), 1633, 1683, 1703, and 1749 (14 Apr). Undoubtedly this is not a complete list. By 1752 there were only 20 dwelling houses and 106 souls with only 4 boats.

Not all the fires were accidental. Some were started deliberately as the following two examples show:

Rowland Parker in his "Men of Dunwich" has given us a graphic account of the setting on fire of about a dozen Walberswick

houses in 1216 by a group of Dunwich men, who then went on to Westwood Lodge, then the manor-house of Lady Margery de Cressy, lady of the manor of Blythburgh and Walberswick and "burnt the old lady's chapel and all the ornaments in it".

In 1633 a great part of the town was burnt; the act of incendiaries as these entries in the Churchwardens' accounts prove:

1633 Payd for keeping the prisoners that burnt the Town - 5s.0d.

Payed to two men and two horses that went with the said prisoners to Ipswich - 12s.0d.

Payd more in sending Vatsyne Toby & Richard Somers by the appointment of the Justices to bury prisoners - 10s.0d.

It seems that they were hanged.

In 1749 about one third of the remains of the village was destroyed and we are told that a few tiled houses prevented the whole town from being burnt. Houses that escaped were part of what is now EASTWOOD (opposite the end of Palmer's Lane), THORPE VIEW (the Street), WESTONS (next to the Tuck Shop), THE OLD CORNER HOUSE (at the corner of Leverett's Lane), a cottage incorporated into WAYLAND COTTAGE, and the OLD THATCHED COTTAGE (both in the Street).

In more modern times fire caused considerable damage to THE BELL on the Saturday of August Bank Holiday week-end in 1949. Miss Browton wrote: "April 17th, Easter Eve, the thatched roof of the Bell Hotel was burnt. The fire originated in an old beam in the kitchen chimney." In 1955 The thatched roof of the Old Thatched Cottage got on fire and was completely burnt. It is not known exactly how the fire originated as the house was unoccupied at the time but had recently been re-constructed and modernised with electricity installed. In 1956 a very bad gorse fire devastated all the Common from the old railway to the houses of Palmers Lane, Heath House and the cottages nearby. These had windows cracked by the heat. Most of the furniture had been got out but the fire was checked before the houses caught fire. In 1957 the Common on the other side of Palmer's Lane was burnt but the wind from the north carried the flames away from the row of houses on the slope of the hill.

FLOODS have generally not had such a devastating structural effect on brick dwellings but, as we have seen from Elizabeth Walters account, were dangerous for flimsier structures and were extremely unpleasant for all the occupants.

Nan Osborne remembers her father (Mr. Rogers) telling her that if you look at the seat near the Village Hall, facing the sea, there is a groove on the left hand post. When the 1953 floods subsided, but when everything was still damp, Leighton Block was coming down the street and Mr. Rogers borrowed his saw to

make the notch to show where the water had come to. This can still be plainly seen and from this we can tell which buildings were flooded.

1953 FLOODS

While we are on the subject of floods, next year will be the fiftieth anniversary of the devastating East Coast Floods and it has been suggested that we organise an exhibition of photographs, information and artefacts. Have you any photographs you could lend, either for display or copying?

HOUSES IN WARTIME

We know that soldiers were billeted in the Old Vicarage and Tower House and in many of the empty holiday houses during WW2, but we do not yet have a full list. The PARISH LANTERN was a NAAFI canteen. BRIAR COTTAGE was a Sergeants' Mess. We have been told that DUE SOUTH (now TOBY COTTAGE), Leveretts Lane, and SALTINGS, Seven Acre Lane, were two of these houses but a full list would be a very interesting addition to the Wartime File. Was your house commandeered and, if so, did it have any special use or did it just provide sleeping accommodation?

Troops damaged some of the requisitioned houses but the owners were recompensed at the end of the war.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

MANY THANKS TO:

Chris and Wendy Sinclair for a First World War Map & map of 17th Century England.

Elizabeth Rooke for two pottery dishes made by the Walberswick Peasant Pottery Company.

David Lee for a painted napkin ring, also the work of the Walberswick Peasant Pottery Company.

Arthur Sharman for a copy of a school picture taken in 1933 and a paper giving details of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) (one of the regiments stationed here during WW2).

Margaret Mitchell has asked that it be pointed out that the photographs she lent for copying, mentioned in the last newsletter, belong to Miss Broughton's god-child, Miss Catherine Walker, who owns Blythwic Cottage.



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 19

February 2001

The Millennium Project is nearing completion. Richard Steward is now putting the finishing touches to the record and your Committee is planning an Exhibition on Easter Monday in the Village Hall at which this will be the main exhibit. Old photographs of Walberswick will also be on display.

You may remember a letter I published two years ago in Newsletter No.15 written by Nigel Carey concerning difficulties when the Railway closed. Philip Kett has been corresponding with John Carey, Nigel Carey's son, and has obtained an account of their holidays in Walberswick written by his sister, Rosemary Hull. We are very grateful for this addition to our holiday archive and it is published herewith. As you will see, sadly Nigel Carey died in their house in Moorside and is buried in the Churchyard.

Several members were unable to attend our Christmas Celebration in December as so many events are arranged for December. The same problem arose in 1999. It would seem to be a good idea to hold a New Year Celebration in January instead as that tends to be a quieter month and very few people are away. Your Committee would appreciate your comments either at the Annual General Meeting next month or any other time.

It is sad to think that Hanns and Edna Lange have sold Anchorlea and are now entirely "out of town" members. Our grateful thanks to them for all their contributions since the Group was formed. They will be very much missed.

Pat Wythe, Hon. Secretary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

13TH MARCH
 TUESDAY ~~27TH FEBRUARY 2001~~ Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall
 Annexe starting at 7.30 p.m.

EASTER MONDAY - 16TH APRIL 2001 - 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M. Exhibition of the
 Millennium Project in the Village Hall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2001

Your Committee are always careful of costs but felt that, as the subscription had remained the same since the formation of the Group in 1992, it was time to raise it to £4. This will cover running costs and hopefully will help us to run projects which will be of real value for the future.

Most members have already paid their subscriptions, either at the Christmas Celebration or subsequently, but if you have not already got your membership card please give or send your £4 to our new Membership Secretary: Maureen Thompson, Greenways, The Green, Walberswick, Southwold.
 IP18 6TU

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Before leaving the village, Hanns and Edna Lange donated their magnum opus, "Walberswick Families 1600-1900", and also papers relating to the Muttitt family which they had received from Paul Cooper of Sonora California. The Muttitt papers include a family tree and a very interesting photocopy of the will of a Nathaniel Muttitt, farmer, dated 1769.

Very many thanks to Grahame Godsmark for a copy of his book of poems "The Cedar Tree", to Richard Scott for an article on Walberswick in 1982 and also to David Lee for a hand woven tie bought from the Walberswick Peasant Pottery Compny.

We are also indebted to John Took of Southwold who has presented a copy of the Walberswick Churchwardens' Accounts on condition that a donation be made to charity. This has been done and the book will be a valuable addition to our collection. John Took has also made available several cuttings from local journals which have now been copied.

Thanks too to Margaret Mitchell, one of our "out of town" members, who has lent original photographs for copying, including one of Miss Jessie Broughton which will be framed and displayed at meetings. Your committee felt this would be particularly appropriate as her diaries have been such a vital source of information to our archives.

A copy of "Bloody Marsh - A Seventeenth-Century Village in Crisis. " by Peter Warner has been purchased and, as with other archives, is available to members on signature.

HELP FOR GENEALOGISTS

Have you come across any visitors seeking their roots?

Do you help in the Heritage Hut? Sometimes people say they had relations living in the village at one time. If they are working on their family history our archives can save them a great deal of time and trouble. In particular the book the Langes have contributed to the archives would save hours of searching in the Record Office. Also, we now have copies of the following family trees: Baker, Crisp, English, Gayfer, Lewis, Muttitt (This extends to 38 pages of A4!) and Wales. If it is possible to make a connection to one of these a considerable amount of work can be saved. Pat Wythe has been able to help several people met by chance in the Heritage Hut and is always very happy to do so.

Quite often one sees people in the churchyard reading the gravestones. If they are looking for a particular name, Alan Walpole is working on the grave records and has an alphabetical list of surnames which are cross referenced to maps. A sight of these records may save a great deal of time and trouble, particularly as some of the stones have become very weathered since the first survey and may now be impossible to decipher though they will be on the record and so easily found.

WALBERSWICK

by

ROSEMARY HULL (née CAREY)

My earliest memory is sitting in my parents large double bed one morning while my father told us he had bought a cottage - in the country - not an old one but red brick, for our holidays. Days before departure huge trunks would be packed with all the things needed for several week's holiday for a large family, and these would be sent off "Luggage in Advance".

For the journey we all packed our own small cases, and there was a picnic basket made up with all sorts of sandwiches and flasks for the journey. The taxi took us to Liverpool Street station where there was a horrible smell from the nearby brewery. We were all allowed to choose our favourite comic at the bookstall and then we settled in to the compartment which had been reserved. Father seemed to know the Guard who always had a carnation in his buttonhole! The journey was very exciting what with the the comics, the picnic, the soot from the window if you looked out, the competition for who would see the first windmill, and listening for the Suffolk accent calling "Saxmundum"! The first year we were met at the Walberswick halt by the farmer and his wagon who took the luggage and some people, others walked across the common to Moorside.

For several years we went for both Easter and Summer holidays and for me it was idyllic. Our father had a one-man solicitor's practice and so could not come down for long periods, but he did when he could. He would paint, and organise various expeditions and games. He had had holidays at Southwold in the past and knew the area. A visit to Southwold meant walking to the ferry and that crossing was exciting. There were different coloured tickets for pedestrians, cyclists, horses, carts, etc., and we would collect these. On the other side we walked on top of the dyke with the sharp grass cutting our bare legs. The big attraction for me was the boating lake where I learned to row and imagined all sorts of adventures round the islands.

Down at the beach we had a beach hut - not like the posh ones at Southwold but a simple wooden changing place on top of the shingle bank. At the beginning of the holiday we got our toes painfully stubbed on the stones, but our feet soon got hardened up. At low tide there was sand and long lagoons which were ideal for the non-swimmers or for sailing boats. There were games on the sand and wonderful sand castles and dug-out boats, cars, aeroplanes or whatever was the current interest - probably of older brother and friends. Cricket matches were arranged either on the beach or on a patch of common between Moorside and the farm where there were plenty of nettles for the ball to land in! Father liked making kites and one got caught in a telegraph wire and another was harnessed to a boat and got carried out to sea!

The common had been used to train soldiers for the first war and there were trenches and earthworks left amongst the bracken. Father and a family

friend, Professor Allmand¹, organised two armies to have a great war game - one lot had to defend this hillock, the other to get through the defences. The ammunition was burrs which we spent days collecting into huge balls. If you were hit by these (Three times?) you were dead. An amazing game for two men who hated the war, but they remained boys at heart!

There was occasionally a silent film or musical show in a tin hut in the village. I thought the closing chorus "Good-night Ladies, See you in the morning" was wonderful. As a special treat there would be a bag of crisps (with salt in separate blue paper) from the pub to eat on the way home. Another treat would be shrimps and of course ginger beer in stone bottles with glass ball in the neck.

Friends or relations stayed in various cottages round about.

One year there had been a fire on the common and much of the gorse burnt away. This revealed some more trenches and, with my friend, Joy Clarke, grand-daughter of the then vicar² who lived next door, we made ourselves a "secret" den by covering the trench with burnt gorse and bracken. We were sure no-one would find it! We spent days furnishing it and playing endless games of draughts and eating the rations we had bought. Much as I liked the sand I was no great swimmer and I really preferred the common with the secret places to be found amongst the bracken and gorse, and the wonderful smell of the gorse in flower. One year we discovered wild raspberries. After the railway closed we found we could get into the station. No-one had cleared it out and we played with the stationery left in the cubby-holes and took hikes along the railway line between the cuttings etc.

We had a large tent in the garden and sometimes slept in it with brown rough army blankets.

After the last ferry the only way back from Southwold was to venture across the old railway bridge and this was what the local youth did - and brother John.

There would be an annual walk or cycle ride to Dunwich to wonder at the stories of churches under the sea. Sometimes boats would be hired for rowing up the river to picnic towards Blythburgh. Another walk was to the Heronry and Tinkers Barn. The lucky boys had a chance to go out early with the local fisherman and came back with fish (mackerel or herring?).

In 1933 my father was taken ill, first on the train going down, and later collapsed. There was only an aged retired doctor in the village and by the time a perforated ulcer was diagnosed he was too ill to take to hospital and died. After that we had no more family holidays and Walberswick remained a nostalgic dream. No other place could compare with it for me.

¹ Professor Allmand was Professor of Chemistry at Kings College, London.

² Mr. Thompson.

HOUSE HISTORIES

At the Exhibition on Easter Monday we will be glad to take in any notes you may have on the history of your house. If you know the names of previous occupants that would be useful too as these could be used to help family historians. We already have some useful notes, as you may have seen from previous newsletters, but here follow a few more. Even with new houses it would be good to record the date of building and perhaps the Architect and Builder.

ANCHORLEA - This is the old Anchor Public House (also known as the Blue Anchor). It was dismantled in 1927 when the new Anchor was built and moved to this site on a wheelbarrow for the cost of £40. Teddy Thompson did this and his account of it is on tape in our archives. He then sold the house for £700. Ginger Winyard lived in the old Anchor as a small boy and remembered Charles Rennie Macintosh who used to stay there before he took a house in the village in 1914.

THORPE VIEW is a listed building and is one of the two oldest surviving houses in the village. It has a fine front with the mixture of pebble flints and brick as seen all over Walberswick. It was a farm house in the 17th century. At each corner of the chimneys is a small horses head. These, according to tradition, would have protected the house from evil spirits. In 1841, according to the tithe map and census it was occupied by John Wright, Farmer, but was subsequently divided into two cottages. Within living memory one cottage was occupied by the Wheelwright and the other the Horseman for the Blois Estate. Those of you who remember Percy Thrower, the television gardener, may be interested to know that his grandmother, Mrs. Dunnett lived at Thorpe View in the 1930s. Mrs. Dunnett was also Mrs. Denny's aunt.

The **BARN** next to Thorpe View is also a listed building. It was restored early in the 1950s by the Cranfields who then owned it. The thatcher was a Mr. Davis of Ellough.

TOWER HOUSE was built some time about 1895 by Charles Francis Mallet who owned a Department Store in London. He built the cottages down Palmers Lane for his workmen but it is said they wouldn't live there because it was too far from the village. He also built the Terrace on land purchased from Mrs. Stannard's mother. He owned the windmill in 1897. The land on which the house was built was owned by the Palmers in 1841 according to the Tithe Map which shows a house on the site. In 1853 the effects of Mrs. Elizabeth Palmer were sold for Mr. S. Gafer by James Maggs. The house was advertised for sale in 1938. We have a copy of the sale advertisement which appeared in a copy of "Country Life" dated 9th April of that year. When Tower House was built there was only one bathroom.

There were troops stationed in the house during the second World War after which the house was split up into three - Green Gates and Blyth Reach with access from the Street and Heathwold with access from Palmers Lane. One of the visitors to our photographic exhibition last year was an ex-member of the ATS who had been the Colonel's driver and she was billeted here. Mrs. Lorrimer, a previous owner of Heathwold, thought that the cellar could have been used as a detention cell as there was graffiti on the walls!

LANE CORNER was formerly called LANE END. A Mrs. Schilling lived here in the 1930s. She was the widow of Dr. Schilling who practised in Wrentham and Kessingland in the 1920s/30s. I understand the Schillings used to live at Oaklands in Reydon (now the Retirement Hotel). Peggie Rogers well remembered Mrs. Schilling who always had beautiful hats. She lived at Lane Corner through the War and used to hold work parties at the house to mend soldiers' garments (Tower House opposite being the Headquarters of the soldiers stationed in Walberswick). The clean laundry would be delivered to Lane Corner and the ladies used to mend, sew on buttons etc, and drink tea. Peggie was taken along once when she was on leave by her mother.

Arthur Sharman has nearly completed the follow up book to "Suffolk Memories" which he hopes will be published in May. All proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion Walberswick & Blythburgh branch for welfare work in the two villages.

Can anyone date the following? We think probably 1950s. Was the "Over 60's Club" a forerunner of the "Golden Age"?

OVER 60'S CLUB ANTHEM

(Sung to the tune of the Vicar of Bray)

For sixty years or more we've had
Such joys as life has brought us.
Such sorrows, too, and trials hard,
That lessons great have taught us;
But through it all we've not lost heart,
In the Sixty Club you'll find us
Still gladly facing life's sunshine,
So that shadows fall behind us!

For some, the years have brought reverse,
For some, much loss and sorrow,
And yet in faith and trust we go
Without fear of the morrow.
We hope still better things to see,
With Right and Truth victorious,
And in the evening of our life
The sunset shall be glorious!

So here's a health to the Sixty Club!
Long life to the veterans in it!
If there is joy in the pilgrimage,
We surely mean to win it!
In spite of all the stormy past
We believe the old, old story;
We know and feel that One Who cares
Will steer us Home to Glory!

— THE —
BLYTHBURGH & WALBERSWICK




PARISH MAGAZINE.

JULY, 1896.

Church Services.

WALBERSWICK: *Sundays*—Holy Communion on the 12th and 26th, at 8 a.m.; on the 5th and 19th after Morning Prayer. Morning Prayer on June 5th and 19th at 10.30 a.m. Litany and Sermon on 12th and 26th, at 3 p.m. Evening Prayer regular at 6.30 p.m. *Wednesdays*—Evening Prayer and Sermon at 7 p.m., followed by Choir Practice.

BLYTHBURGH: *Sundays*—Holy Communion on the 5th and 19th after Morning Prayer. Morning Prayer, on the 5th and 19th, at 10.30 a.m. Evening Prayer and Sermon on the 12th and 26th, at 2.30 p.m.

 *All communications or contributions should be addressed to the*
REV. T. H. R. OAKES, WALBERSWICK, SOUTHWOLD.

The Blythburgh and Walberswick Parish Magazine.

—*****—

WALBERSWICK: INTERPRETATION OF ITS NAME.

This is a Saxon name. It is spelt and pronounced Wal-bers-wick, Wald-ers-wick, Wals-ber-wick, and Wal-ser-wick. The first and last syllables are the words *wald* and *wic*; the middle syllable is either *bur* or *scir*.

Referring to THE EAST ANGLIAN NOTES AND QUERIES &C., and to the Rev. Dr. Joseph Bosworth's ANGLIO-SAXON DICTIONARY, the meaning of these words are found as follows:—

Weald, or *wald*, a forest, wood, grove, weald, wild, wold.

Bur, a bower, cottage, dwelling, an inner room, bed-chamber, storehouse.

Scir, a share, shire, county, province, district; or superintendence of a share, stewardship, care, charge, business. A derivative is *sceran*, *sciran*, to shear, cut off, divide, part, allot, appoint: also *scirian* to grant.

Wic, or *Wyc*, (1) a dwelling-place, habitation, mansion, village, street: (2) a particular dwelling, as for holy men, hence a monastery, convent; (3) for soldiers, hence a camp, station: (4) for security, hence a castle, fortress; (5) a place of security for boats, hence a bay, creek, formed by the winding bank of a river or shore of the sea. As a termination it signifies a dwelling, station, village, castle, or bay, according to the different situation of the places; hence *wich*, *wick*, as *Dunwich*, *Walberswick*, *Alnwick*, *Greenwich*, *Norwich*.

When the name is pronounced Wal-bers-wick, the middle syllable seems to be the genitive of *bur*, i.e. *buras*. It is the same in Wald-ers-wick and Wal-bers-wick. The vowels of the word *buras* would seem, first, to have become transposed, and next the *u* dropped; or else, the *u* was first dropped and next the consonants *r* and *e* were transposed. In Wald-ers-wick the consonant *b* was also dropped. The omission and retention of *d* in the first syllable, and *b* in the middle syllable would seem to point to the genitive, again, of *wald*, i.e., *waldes*, as though the repetition of the genitive endings, i.e., *Waldes-buras-wick*, had almost inevitably induced the dropping of either the first or second, as *Wal-buras-wick* or *Waldes-bur-wick*. It is clear that the first three forms of the name, at any rate, bear the same meaning.

"In attempting to interpret these names it is not safe to trust," says Dr. H. Barber ("*East Anglain*," &c., May, 1895), to their modern spelling: like the water-worn pebbles of a gravel bed, they have undergone the friction of centuries, when men spelled as they listed and corrupted their speech by the same rule. Nevertheless, mindful still of this counsel, the interpretation of Walberswick on the basis of both spelling and pronunciation may be ventured upon. May it not be THE REFUGE (*wic*, place of security) OF THE WOOD (*waldes*) AND THE KEEP (*buras*, inner-place, storehouse)? Both the winding river and the ancient dimensions of Sole Bay (when the headland at Dunwich extended four miles into the North Sea and the shore of Southwold was, again, further to the eastward a mile or two) emphasize the security of the spot for shipping; and the situation of the ancient town, stockaded for defence, on the southern slope of the hill, then, no doubt, a wild covered with both wood and heath, characterized it as a place of security, no less, for the merchandize of the shipping; and both characteristics of the place are implied in *wic*.

But when the name is pronounced (it is rarely so spelt) Wal-ser-wick, one suspects a somewhat different derivation. It may not be, indeed, inconsistent with what is more apparent in the first three forms. Yet the survival of so small a fragment of the word *buras* is doubtful; for *Wals*, the first syllable, would seem, then, the rightful owner of *s*, being *waldes*, with *d* and *e* dropped. The ownership of *s* by the middle syllable seems etymologically more reasonable. When the middle syllable is taken to be *ser*, its relationship to *scir* certainly appears, as Captain Woolner has frequently insisted, less far-fetched; and accepting this, we arrive at a still more interesting conclusion. The interpretation first given affords little beyond merely topographical information; but another which might now be ventured upon is distinctly historical. Taking *ser* (*scir*) to mean cut-off or granted, the following account of the creation of new manors in THE ENGLISH VILLAGE COMMUNITY (p.p. 166-173) by Mr. F. Seebhom, perhaps, affords an exact interpretation.

Mr. Seebhom answers the question whether any parts of the land were extra-manorial by saying all that has not become private property (*bot-land*) was in the demesne of the Crown. As yet (in the time of many petty kings in England) the kingship had not absorbed to itself the sole representation of the nation, and the term *folkland* was applied to such land; and the consent of the great men of the witan, besides the king's, was required for its alienation. It need not have been extra-manorial. It was in the manor of the king; its occupiers were tenants under the king. The royal manors were let out for life as *lenland* to neighbouring great men or thanes in the royal service. There was a tendency for new manors to be created and granted out of the royal forests and wastes, as well as the bestowal of the royal manors, and the land rapidly passed into private hands.

An interesting sketch of king Alfred's throws light on this process. He describes how a forest or great wood provided every requisite for building a house, wherein men may dwell permanently in peace and quiet, summer and winter, which, writes the king with a sigh, "is more than I have yet done." So we wonder not, he continued, that men should work in timber-felling and in carrying and in building (the logs were placed upright), for a man hopes that if he has built a cottage (*bur?*) on *lænland* of his lord, with his lord's help, he may be allowed to be there awhile, and hunt, and fowl, and fish, and occupy the *læn* as he likes on sea and land until through his lord's grace, he may, perhaps, some day obtain *boc-land* and permanent inheritance. This sketch affords a vivid glimpse of the possible growth of a Saxon manorial estate out of *folkland* granted first as *lænland*, and then as *boc-land*, or out of the woods or waste of an ealdorman's domain.

Again, the rod (*gyrd*, or *virga*) had something to do with it. The typical site for a new settlement was a clearing in a wood or forest, both because of the "fair rods" for building which there abounded and the custom of measuring land by rods. A holding in the open fields was called a *yard-land*: *yard*, *gyrd* (saxon). *virga* (latin) all meaning rod; also in a secondary sense, a yard-measure. It was land measured out with a rod into acres four rods wide, each rod in width being therefore a rood. The whole homestead was called a *tun* or a *worth*, because it was *tyn-ed* or *gyrd-ed* with a wattled fence of *gyrds* (rods or stakes).

The young thane, with his lord's permission, makes a clearing in a forest, building his log hut, and then other log huts for his servants. At first it is forest game on which he lives, by-and-by the cluster of huts becomes a little hamlet of homesteads. He provides his servants with their outfits of oxen and they become his *geburs* (holding a yardland, *i.e.* about thirty acres with outfit of two oxen and seed, in return for which *services*, principally, were rendered yearly). The cleared land is measured out by rods into acres. The acres, ploughed by the common plough, are allotted in rotation to the yard-lands. A new hamlet has grown up in the royal forest, or in the outlying woods of an old *ham* or manor. In the meantime the king, perhaps, rewards his industrious thane, who has made the clearing in his forest, with a grant of the estate with the village upon it as his *boc-land* for ever, and it becomes a manor, or the lord of the old manor of which it is a hamlet, grants to him the inheritance, and the hamlet becomes a subject manor held of the higher lord. So new manors were always growing up on the royal demesne, and on private estates or manors.

Walserwick seems to correspond with this. May it not be simply THE VILLIAGE (*wic*), CUT OUT (*scir*, or granted) OF THE WOOD (*walders*) compounded into one word?

EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

The reports of Her Majesty's Inspector have come to hand and are gratifying, on the whole, to all concerned. The following particulars are presented.

WALBERSWICK: Average attendance, 8; Total number of hours of instruction of all Registered Scholars (divided by 12), 88; Variable Grant earned, 1s. 6d. (for each 12 hours' instruction), in Geography, History, Science of common things, Book-keeping; Report of H.M. Inspector—"This night school is well and kindly taught by the Vicar, who deserves the cordial gratitude of all concerned."

N.B. In consequence of the irregularity of the attendance of certain scholars the above grant was paid on only 59 instead of 88 periods (12 hours) of instruction.

BLYTHBURGH: Average attendance, 9.7; Total number of hours of instruction of all Registered Scholars (divided by 12), 60; Variable Grant earned, 1s. 6d. (for each 12 hours' instruction), in Science of common things and Book-keeping; Report of H.M. Inspector—"This useful school supplies a want felt in all villages, and if the lads were wiser, would be more appreciated."

N.B. The grant was paid on only 58 instead of 60 periods (12 hours') of instruction.

In fact, it is only the irregularity of the attendance of some of the scholars which is not gratifying. It will be seen by the facts presented that the teachers are made to suffer by this. The teacher at Walberswick is punished (as though fined) to the tune of £2 3s. 6d. The teacher of Blythburgh, more fortunately, escapes with a loss of only 3s. Surely when these facts are known, both parents and scholars will in the future consider regular attendance to be all-important, or, at least, do so out of regard for the person who deserves more than punishment like this for his pains.

JOTTINGS.

Collections in Church, May 31st to June 28th. *Walberswick*: Church Restoration Fund, £1 4s. 5½d.; Church Expenses, 8s. 1½d.; Alms Fund, 1s. 7d. *Blythburgh*: Church Expenses, 5s. 1d.; S.S. and Choir Fund, 18s. 0½d.; Alms Fund, 1s.

Walberswick Church Restoration Fund has been augmented by £1 4s. 5½d. (Ch. Col.), a note of progress which is recorded with gratitude. But it is sincerely to be desired that its advance might be more rapid. The Vicar and Churchwardens appeal earnestly for generous subscriptions. Will every reader of the article on the name of this ancient parish, in return for information, which, it is believed, was never before printed, make a special contribution. To identify them, such contributions shall be called "Name-contributions."

It is with much regret that the decease of Mr. Henry Green, on the 16th June, is recorded. After a long and painful illness, borne with exemplary fortitude, a life of Christian faith, and hope, and charity, and of ever-ready self-sacrifice and usefulness, in a peaceful moment, reached its close. His funeral, largely attended by sorrowing neighbours and friends, and touchingly characterized by the sweet singing of the Sunday School scholars, among whom he had been so long a teacher, followed on the 19th; and a memorial sermon was preached on Sunday, the 21st, by the Vicar, from the text, II. Cor. xii, 3, "I knew a man in Christ."

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, that moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

—Bryant, *Thaumatopsis*.

H. E. HARMER,
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"**OLDE BANKE HOUSE,**"
SOUTHWOLD.



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 18

August 2000

The year is speeding by and it's time for the Summer Newsletter. I hope you managed to get to the Exhibition of Old Photographs at the end of April/beginning of May. It was gratifyingly well attended and those people who came were very interested. The Thompsons and the Ketts worked till all hours getting it set up and as usual a thoroughly professional job was made of it.

Those of us who walked round Framlingham on a very hot day contending with the noisy road works felt we had achieved a bit of a marathon, but our very knowledgeable guide convinced us that a morning in Framlingham was not nearly long enough.

Unfortunately Mark Mitchells has had to cancel our Autumn Lecture but Professor John Allen has nobly stepped into the breach and will be giving us a glimpse of the future for a change. His ideas are always thought provoking and this will be something to look forward to when our summer holidays are over. Do please put the dates at the bottom of this page in your diary. I have also noted them in the Village Diary in the shop so hope that will avoid the clashing of events.

A big thank you to Maurice Godbold for the update on Walberswick wills printed in this edition. This has been such a valuable addition to our archives I am trying hard to think of other subjects he may find tempting.

My personal new enthusiasm is the Underground Units. You probably already know something about this but they would have been our Resistance if the Germans had invaded in 1940/41. The museum at Parham Airfield has a room dedicated to the organisation which I found most interesting on a recent visit. Their OBs (Operational Bases) were all down the east and along the south coast but inland, not situated in parishes on the sea. However, there is one at Wangford, still existing on private land, and one at Sibton is being renovated and will be available for inspection. I have been told there was one in Thorington Wood. If you know of any OBs near here I would very much like to know of them.

Pat Wythe, Hon. Secretary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER "Road and Air Transport out to 2050 A.D." by John Allen at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER "The Rise and Fall of Southwold Harbour 1900-1920" by David Moyse at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall followed by our Christmas Celebration.

MILLENIUM PROJECT UPDATE

Richard Steward reports that 324 houses have been photographed and that he has 30 more shots to take. This includes odd buildings of interest which are not houses. The next stage is to get all the film developed and then a winter task will be to do the sorting out. He will be probably be needing some help at this stage so if anyone would like to volunteer please get in touch with him.

Histories of houses published in the last newsletter seemed to be of particular interest so here are a few details:

MERCERS HALL (formerly FISHERWAY) Frank Jennings, the architect, bought this timber framed house in Lavenham for £80 in 1908 and moved it to its present position in Walberswick for the cost of £400 as a dwelling for his sister Rose Gabe. The structure was transported by haywains pulled by traction engine. It is believed to have originally been built for the Guild of Mercers which has a well documented history which can be seen in the Lavenham Museum. There are also said to be pictures there of the house before it was moved. This information was taken from house agents details prepared when the house was sold so may well be exaggerated - note "it is believed".

Frank Jennings moved several cottages in which he used items collected from other demolished buildings. Mercers Hall was probably made up in much the same way. It certainly contains items which did not belong to the original structure. The 14th century tiles are said to be from Kings Lynn. It also has mediaeval door and window catches of different design which were part of the Jennings collection of medieval Suffolk ironwork. The collection is in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

The House was not called Mercers Hall when it was first moved but Fisherway. The house was also three cottages in Lavenham and its original site was on a hill so it had to be built on a slope here. It was the subject of a painting by Sir William Coldstream c.1981, shown in the Coldstream Retrospective Exhibition at the Tate Gallery in 1991.

MAFEKING is joined onto LAUREL COTTAGE and it is probable that the two houses were four cottages originally. The seige of Mafeking started in 1899 and the town was relieved in 1900, so it is likely that the cottage was given that name at the time of the relief and it is possible that the two cottages may have been made into one house then. In the Tithe Map Apportionment dated 1841 William Cleveland is shown as owning a "House Garden etc." next to what is now the Parish Lantern and where Mafeking Cottage is today. In the Census of 1841 his household is shown as consisting of himself, his wife, six children, aged between 25 and 15 (to the nearest 5 years), and Charles Peck, Agricultural Labourer. The next household consisted of John Coleman (Preventive Service) & Mary Coleman, next Henry Wright (Seaman) & Eliza Wright with one son, and living in the last cottage were John Threadkell (Wheelwright) & Rachel with one infant daughter (Rachel was the Walberswick Schoolmistress in 1855).

Among others the following names of owners/occupiers occur in the deeds of Laurel Cottage:

Widow Galer (nee Rebecca Crisp). James Galer is shown as occupying Valley Farm in 1841 and as a farmer in directories Whites 1855 and Kellys 1858 so if she was his widow she is likely to have moved there some time after that, but there was also a Thomas Galer shown at the Bell in 1908 so she may have been his widow. Other names which still have some relevance in the village follow - Robert Kerridge, Martha Marshlaine, Jane Marshlaine, also Elizabeth Lusher "widow of John Lusher". There is some evidence that Laurel Cottage was a lodging house for some time as a Robert Kerridge is shown as "lodging house & apartments" in some directories as is a Robert Marshlaine and there is evidence from a Victorian diary owned by Mr. & Mrs. Huggins of Southwold that a Mrs. Lusher cooked for summer visitors so it is likely she continued the business.

MOORSIDE The four cottages known as 1 to 4 Moorside were built about 1925 by Mr. Thompson on what was formerly part of the garden of Seaview Cottage (now Westons). The owners of Nos. 2 to 4 have right of way over the private footpath leading from the main road alongside the Tuck Shop to the front doors of the cottages and No.1 has title to the soil of the path. The back doors face onto the Common. When they were built not many households owned a car and access would be mainly on foot.

ELFINSTON CORNER (formerly OAK BARN) was designed and erected in 1936 to a typical Tudor pattern. It is believed that some timbers used were from Lavenham. At a public auction on Friday 17th July 1970 the house and garden sold for £10,500. Mr & Mrs Rowland have donated the Sale Details to our archives and have also given us a sight of the deeds from which we have been able to make an extract of the owners. This house was owned by the widow of Neville Shute at one time and also by Tisa von der Schulenburg (the second Mrs. Hess). Her very interesting life is told in her autobiography which can be borrowed from the archives. It is in German.

WALBERSWICK PEASANT POTTERY COMPANY

The last newsletter has evoked the following recollections from one of our members, David Lee of Southwold. He writes:

Reference to this former trading establishment in Newsletter No.17 was of much interest to me and brought back childhood memories of visits with my mother, most likely between 1927 and 1934 when, as a family, we ceased to spend holidays in Southwold.

On the history of the Company, I see from Kelly's Directory for 1922 that it is listed along with Mrs. Hall, Sunset Cottage, Frank Jennings, no address (who is included under commercial also as architect), but there is no mention of W.F. Crittall. From that evidence it appears that the Company must have been formed between 1917, when the school vacated, and early in 1922 as the directory was dated May that year. Kelly's for Suffolk was published in 1916 but not again until 1922 which makes precise dating of the Company uncertain.

As I remember the goods offered were pottery in a variety of designs and plain colours mostly, trays in wood (tea tray size) and round or rectangular papier maché (wine tray size), table mat sets and coasters,

coarse weave ties, table cloth and napkin sets, and painted serviette rings. There must have been other merchandise but I cannot be sure what. However, I do remember that the background of all trays, mats and coasters was black, dark blue or green with attractive floral decoration while the serviette ring I once had was light blue and orange.

When the shop was reopened in 1946 I heard that pre-war pottery was found in a shed still in packing cases. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this story!

THANK YOU TO ANGELA

It is with considerable regret that Angela Mackay has been obliged on health grounds to resign as our Membership Secretary, a mantle which she willingly took upon herself. She carried out her role with alacrity and great efficiency, a fact for which the Committee are extremely grateful. We are very sorry that she is unable to continue. Many thanks Angela for your invaluable contribution which will be missed in no small measure.

Chairman.

ALMSHOUSES and GUILDS

According to the Survey of Suffolk Parish History E.Suffolk Vol.2, there were Almshouses founded in Walberswick by T.W. Odiom (1522) and by T.A. Richardson (1572) and two Guilds - the Guild of St.Barbara (1459) and the Guild of St.Andrew (1490). Has anyone any theories about where these could have been? The Guild Houses would probably have been near the Church somewhere.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Many thanks to:

Hiltraud Hofmann for a copy of "Ich hab's gewagt" by Tisa von der Schulenburg.

Paul Janssen for a history of the property now known as Pennys and also photographs of Dinks Cooper and Jimmie Meakin as children and adults.

Clive Gardener of Limehouse, London, for a short biography of the Revd. R.W.M. Lewis of Gorse Cottage, Palmers Lane, and also an updated version of the Weidenbach/Clark/Lewis Family Tree.

Brita Haycraft for extracts from "Words & Places" by Isaac Taylor Canon of York.

David Lee for notes on the Walberswick Peasant Pottery Company together with a small painted mat and table mat which were purchased there.

More on Walberswick Wills and Administrations Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) to 1700 and the Suffolk Record Office (SRO) to 1701

Since the previous publication on this subject more Walberswick wills have been identified in the Suffolk Record Office so, without allowing for a small amount of duplication and taking into account those in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, a total of 386 documents have been identified. The spread of wills over the period is now: -

Table 1

	-> 1450	1451-1500	1501-1550	1551-1600	1601-1650	1651-1700
No of wills	5	47	90	62	114	67
%	1	12	23	16	30	17

There is one fifteenth century will, which does not have a precise date. The addition of the Suffolk Record Office data has increased the proportion of wills belonging to the period before 1600 compared with the previous analysis and includes five previously unidentified pre-1450 documents. The increase is most marked for the period 1500-1550. Most wills are still found for the period 1551 and 1650 but the proportion of the total has fallen from 72% to 46%. Since the early analysis dealt very largely with documents of the PCC it was relatively more popular/justified at the later time for wills to be dealt with in the Canterbury Court.

It is possible in 119 cases to identify the occupations of the testators and in 48 the marital status: -

Table 2

Occupations and Status of Testators					
Mariners	Associated Occupations	Husbandmen Yeomen	Other Occupations	Widows Wives	Single Men/Women
56	10	21	33	41	6

"Mariners" includes ship owners whilst "Associated Occupations" comprises shipwrights, ships carpenters and an anchor smith. The largest group in "Other Occupation" were the merchants, one of which was designated as a "Chapman" plus, interestingly, two clerics and two gents. Whilst a detailed analysis was not carried out, the impression was gained that Walberswick had a below average number of gents among its testators compared with other parts of Suffolk. Perhaps this underlines that, in its early days, Walberswick was very much a working town, heavily dependent on the sea. For the rest "Other Occupations" included one or two representatives of the following occupations:- Berebrewer, Blacksmith, Butcher, Carpenter, Grocer, Mason, Mercer, Oil Refyner, Pothecharie, Salt Refyner, Servant, Shepherd, Tailor and Weaver. There was also a Freemason. There were 38 widows, one of whom was described as a widow and spinster, but only one single woman in the singles category.

Appendix 1 has the transcript of the will of Walberswick's one salt refiner, John Barwick. It was proved in 1657. It contains no direct reference to his occupation. This is noted in the will index in the Suffolk Record Office.

John Barwick was married to Elizabeth and had five children; Thomas, John and Elizabeth married to an Anthony Wayneffotte? plus two under 21, namely Alice and Hannah. The existence of two under age children suggests John Barwick was relatively young when he died. The burthen of his will was to leave his property to his children. Those over 21 were required to pay their mother an annuity while she lived. Failure to honour the annuity gave his wife the right to occupy the property left to the child.

His wife was to receive the income from the property left to the under age children until they were 21 for their education and maintenance and for the payment of fines and other charges to give them the rights to their copyhold lands held from the manor of Blythburgh. Any excess was to be kept for the children concerned. In addition he left his share in two ships (the Batchelors and the Gille?) to his two sons.

The land he left can be summarised as follows: -

Thomas	A tenement plus 6 acres 1 rood	Annuity to wife £3.0.0/annum
John	His residence plus 3.5 acres	Annuity to wife £6.0.0/annum
Elizabeth	A messuage plus 6 acres	Annuity to wife £4.0.0/annum
Alice	A messuage plus 3 acres	
Hannah	3.5 acres	

In summary his property amounted to his residence, a tenement, two messuages and 22 acres 1 rood of land, including 4.5 acres of marsh, a quarter share of one ship and a sixth of another.

His lands appear to have been all copyhold from the Manor of Blythburgh and were divided into small parcels. Ownership of land in this way contrasts markedly with the situation today. Nevertheless, by the standards of the time, John Barwick was probably quite a prosperous man.

The will mentions 18 other people, mainly by referring to their land holdings as a means of identifying John Barwick's own holdings. In some cases the references are to people who had already died. Of the people mentioned, the existence of a 1448 Howlett will just might indicate the family was in the village for a prolonged period. Also the John Feames will of 1580 and Robert Feames in John Barwick's 1647 will suggests this family was here for more than 76 years. Otherwise this will and the will index, taken together, do not give further clues to any long duration families that may have lived in Walberswick.

Glossary

Chapman A man who buys and sells, a pedlar, a customer, a broker

Copyhold Tenure of land according to the custom of the manor to which it belonged, as recorded in transcripts of the manorial court rolls.

Fine Sum of money paid to Manor to grant new owner rights of possession

Messuage Orig., the portion of land intended to be or actually occupied as a site for a dwelling-house and its appurtenances. Now (*Law*), a dwelling-house with its outbuildings and the adjacent land assigned to its use.

Out-rent Rent paid out

Tenement Originally a holding of land and buildings in manorial terms or a fee farm held from a superior lord. Later any holding of land and buildings

References

SRO: Grimwade and Serjeant 1979 Archdeaconry of Suffolk. Probate Records 1444-1701 British Record Society Vol 1

SRO: Grimwade and Serjeant 1980 Archdeaconry of Suffolk. Probate Records 1444-1701 British Record Society Vol2

PRO: Index of Wills and Administrations in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury to 1700

Southwold Museum: Miss Browton's Diary

PRO: Will of John Barwick Salt Refyner 1657 Prob 11/266

Appendix 1

Will of John Barwick of Walberswick 1657 Salt Refiner

On the twentieth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and fifty two I John Barwick of Walberswick in the County of Suffolk being of good and perfect memory do make this my last will and testament in form following. First I commit my soul into the merciful hands of almighty God hoping to be saved by the mercy of Jesus Christ Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Barwick my son and to his heirs for ever one piece of copyhold containing by estimation one rood lying in Walberswick holden of the manor of Blythburgh with Walberswick late John Marshall and afterwards Thomas Marshall abutting upon fishery way towards the north And one copyhold tenement late Briant containing by estimation four acres holden of the said manor and lying in Walberswick aforesaid abutting upon fishery way towards the north late the said John Marshalls And one piece of land containing by estimation one acre between the lands late John Cheshire on the part of the west And the lands now or late Edward Howlett on the part of the East And one other piece of land containing by estimation one acre called The Cross piece lying in Walberswick aforesaid between the lands late John Cheshire on the part of the south and the lands on the part of me the said John Barwick on the part of the north upon a condition following that the said Thomas Barwick and his heirs or assigns shall yearly and every year during the natural life of Elizabeth my wife pay or cause to be paid to the said Elizabeth or her assigns one annuity or yearly portion of three pounds of lawful money of England upon the feast days of St Michael the archangel and the annunciation of our lady Mary the virgin or within twenty days next after each feast by even portions at the church porch of Walberswick aforesaid the first payment thereof to begin at that of the said feasts shall first happen after my decease And for a default of payment thereof accordingly I will that the said Elizabeth my wife shall enter upon the said premises and any part thereof and shall hold and enjoy the same for and during the term of her natural life. Item I give and bequeath unto my son John Barwick my son and his heirs for ever All that my messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell with the lands thereto belonging and now therewith used situate and lying in Walberswick aforesaid containing by estimation one acre And also one piece of land called Broom Hill containing by estimation two acres late Thomas Barfoote And also one marsh or fen called Hoggs? fen containing by estimation one acre and one half late John Finyercliffe? lying in Walberswick aforesaid upon condition that the said John Barwick my son his heirs or assigns shall pay to the said Elizabeth my wife or to her assigns during her natural life an annuity or yearly portion of six pounds of lawful money of England upon the feast days of St Michael the archangel and the annunciation of our lady Mary the virgin or within twenty days next after each feast at the church aforesaid the first payment thereof to begin at that of the said feasts that shall next after my decease And for default thereof accordingly I will that the said Elizabeth my wife shall enter into the said premises and every part thereof and shall hold and enjoy the same for and during the term of her natural life Item I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my daughter now the wife of Anthony Waynflott and to her heirs for ever All that my messuage or cottage wherein Tooke late dwelt and all the lands thereto belonging containing by estimation four acres now divided into five several pieces or parcels late Francis Grey lying in Walberswick aforesaid And also one piece of land called the plumtree piece containing by estimation late Goodwins And also one other piece of land lying in Southfield containing by estimation one acre abutting upon the lands of Joe Chapman towards the south late Robert Francis now in the occupation of Francis Cole or his assigns And also one other piece of land containing by estimation one acre late Edward Howlett abutting upon the common of Walberswick towards the north now in the occupation ofWoldridge or his assigns being and lying in Walberswick aforesaid upon condition that the said Elizabeth my daughter her heirs or assigns shall pay or cause to be paid unto the said Elizabeth my wife or to her assigns at the porch aforesaid during her natural life one annuity or portion of four pounds of lawful money of England upon the feast days of St Michael the archangel and the annunciation of our Lady Mary the Virgin or within twenty days next after each feast by even portions the first payment thereof to begin at that of the said feasts which shall first happen next after my decease And for default of payment there of accordingly I will that the said Elizabeth my wife shall enter into the said premises and every part thereof and shall hold and enjoy the same during the term of her life Item I give and bequeath unto Alice Barwick my daughter and to her heirs for ever all that messuage or cottage

wherein Thomas Burford now dwell in late Robert Boutons situate and being in Walberswick aforesaid And also one marsh called the south marsh containing by estimation three acres late Robert Feames lying in Walberswick aforesaid abutting upon the common marsh towards the south when she shall accomplish her age of 21 by years And in the meantime my will and mind is that the said Elizabeth my wife shall have and take the rents issues and profits of my said lands and tenements before herein bequeathed to the said Alice my daughter for and towards the payment of the fine of the said Alice for her admittance to the said lands tenements out rents and other charges And the overplus thereof if any shall be I give and bequeath unto the said Alice at her age of 21 by years And further my will and mind is that if the said Alice my daughter shall depart this life without issue of her body lawfully begotten that then Thomas and John Barwick my sons and Hannah and Elizabeth my daughters or the survivor or survivors of them shall hold and enjoy the said lands and tenements before herein devised to the said Alice my daughter to them and their heirs forever Item I give and bequeath unto Hannah Barwick my daughter and her heirs forever one messuage or tenement wherein John Hare? now dwelleth late Thomas Barwick situate and being in Walberswick aforesaid And also three several pieces or parcels of land lying in Southfields in Walberswick aforesaid containing by estimation one acre and one half late Robert Feames when she shall accomplish her age of 21 years And I give and bequeath unto the said Hannah my daughter and to her heirs after the decease of the said Elizabeth my wife one close called Mill? containing by estimation two acres lying in Walberswick aforesaid between the lands late John Finyercliffe? on the part of the west and the lands of John Trappetts on the part of the east And in the meantime my will and mind is that the said Elizabeth my wife shall have and take the rents issues and profits of my said lands before herein bequeathed unto the said Hannah my daughter for and towards her education and maintenance and for and towards the payment of the fine of the said Hannah for her admittance to the said lands and tenements out rents and other charges and the overplus thereof if any shall be I give and bequeath unto the said Hannah at her age of 21 by years And further my will and mind is that if the said Hannah my daughter shall depart this life without issue of her body lawfully begotten that then Thomas and John Barrack my sons and Alice and Elizabeth my daughters or the survivor or survivors of them shall hold and enjoy the said lands and tenements before herein devised to the said Hannah my daughter to them and their heirs forever Item I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas Barwick and to his assigns for ever all that my quarter part of the good ship called the Bachelors now in adventure Item I give and bequeath unto John Barwick my son and to his assigns for ever all that my sixth part of the good ship called the Gille ? of which Thomas Barford is now master Item All the rest of my goods and chattels and personal estate whatsoever unbequeathed my debts and legacies funeral charges and the fines of my children admittances to the several lands herein mentioned being first thereout paid and deducted I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my wife and to Elizabeth my daughter the wife of Anthony Waynflott Alice and Hannah Barwick my daughters equally to be divided amongst them Item I do nominate and appoint Elizabeth my wife and Anthony Waynflotte my son in law executors of this my last will and testament In witness that this is my last will and testament I put my hand and seal this day and year first above written John Barwick published sealed and subscribed as the last will and testament of the said John Barwick in the presence of Will Burlingham Edward Howlett and C ill Winter

This will was proved in London 8 July 1657 by the oath of Anthony Waynflotte who was given rights of administration. Similar rights were granted to Elizabeth Barwick when she could legally claim them.



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 17

February 2000.

The Exhibition of Paintings was such a success last year that we are planning an Exhibition of Old Photographs for the Bank Holiday Weekend at the end of April. The photographs will mostly be from our archives but if you have any old photographs you would be prepared to lend to be copied for the occasion perhaps you would contact Don Thompson (Tel 723755). Copying can be done very quickly so the loan would be very brief.

Andrew Lovejoy, the Hon. Secretary of Framlingham Historical Society, has promised to lead a walk round the historical buildings of Framlingham on the morning of Tuesday 16th May. The walk will take about an hour and a half and will be no more than two miles. Numbers will have to be limited so, as not all members will be able to take part, it is proposed to make it self-supporting. The tickets will be £1 each, available nearer the time.

We have persuaded Mark Mitchels to come and talk to us again in October as all those present so enjoyed hearing him last year. We are trying to arrange events well ahead. Do please note them in your diary when you read this.

We are indebted to Tony Rees for his most interesting article "The Trading Town of Walberswick", published here. Maurice Godbold is still working on Walberswick Wills and is discovering more fascinating information. He promises an update for our summer edition. If anyone is interested in doing research please let me know and I will give you what information we already have on specific subjects.

Pat Wythe, Hon. Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2000 were due for renewal on the first of January. A number of people paid at the Christmas Celebration in December but if you were not there it would be very helpful if you could let Angela MacKay have your £3 when you see her, or when you are passing her house. For "out of town members" Angela's address is Pembroke Cottage, The Street, Walberswick, IP18 6UX. If you joined after 1st September, 1999, the £3 you paid then covers you for the year 2000 and you will already have the current membership card.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MONDAY 20TH MARCH 2000 Annual General Meeting.

SUNDAY 30TH APRIL/MONDAY 1ST MAY Exhibition of Picturess.

TUESDAY 16TH MAY Town Trail of Framlingham.

FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER Autumn Lecture by Mark Mitchels.

THE TRADING TOWN OF WALBERSWICK

by

TONY REES

We are accustomed to refer to Walberswick as a 'village' and this is unquestionably the right word to use today. We have a village sign on the Green and a publication 'Village News' and so on. However historians identify Walberswick as having been a 'town' during the Anglo-Saxon period and in the Middle Ages.

We consider our village today as having importance as a good place to come to for a summer holiday - plenty of sea, sand and (hopefully) sun. Throughout the year the village also has the character of an agreeable place to live for permanent residents whether retired or not. It is also a mecca for artists and a bird-watcher's paradise. Here again there is a contrast to be pointed up, namely that Walberswick used to be 'a trading place'; a settlement that depended on ships, seafaring and fisheries in the Middle Ages.

What I have included in this paper is a collection of information from a number of books and pamphlets on this theme, 'The Trading Town of Walberswick'. Some of these sources are the work of local historians, others are books or articles by professional historians. I am much indebted to all of them for helping me to develop the theme. At the end I have listed the authors and their works. Where there is an asterisk it means that there is a copy in the Walberswick Local History Group Archives which are in my care and which are available for borrowing.

What was a town in Medieval England? Professor Christopher Dyer tells us that they were settlements where most occupations did not involve direct agricultural production. They might contain fewer than three hundred people; others had several thousand and these larger towns were centres of administration, religion and culture as well as trade. Some had borough (or burgh) status which allowed them distinct and important privileges but these formed a minority of the total. By 1300 there were seven hundred English towns, most of them small.

What was a WIC, WICK or WICH? Many places had this suffix and many of them were situated along the coast and navigable rivers. London was 'Lundenwic' in the seventh century and of course we still retain the forms of 'Ipswich' and 'Norwich'. However Dr. Susan Reynolds tells us that Wicks were nearly always small and before 900 AD it is difficult to imagine a frequently used harbour without a few suppliers of food, lodgings and ships stores.

Walberswick then was probably one of these smaller towns or Wicks which means 'trading places'. The Rev. T.R.H. Oakes' pamphlet describes a considerable trade 'in butter, cheese,

corn, timber, coals, salt and fish, principally the last'. Allan Jobson adds 'lime' to the list and he is one of several commentators who record that in 1451 there were thirteen 'barques' trading with Iceland and the Faroes besides twenty-two longshore boats. Eighty-six years later according to Professor Joyce Youngs 'there lived in Walberswick five masters capable of taking ships to Iceland, the Low Countries and France and eighty ordinary seamen of whom fourteen were able to be masters in local waters'. In his paper on Walberswick Wills, Maurice Godbold identifies three from men who had 'ships in adventure' in Iceland. Most wills researched by him and earlier by Miss Browton were those left by mariners. As Rachel Lawrence writes in her 'Southwold River', 'the wandering mouth of the Blyth brought great prosperity to Walberswick and Southwold in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries as it moved northward towards them leaving the once great port of Dunwich ever more stranded'.

However serious problems hit Walberswick in the sixteenth century and as a trading place the town was never to recover from the impact of these. Jean Carter and Stuart Bacon in 'Walberswick, Suffolk', identify the Suppression of the Monasteries in 1538 as a 'serious setback' for the prosperity of Walberswick. The town had been controlled by the Priory of Blythburgh. It appointed Churchwardens who had 'full authority for the exaction of town dues and business'. Income was derived from the rents of the town lands, the houses of the Guilds, wharfage and other dues. They were responsible for the repair and maintenance of public buildings and for paying the salaries and expenses of the officers. All this was disrupted as power and wealth after 1538 passed first to Henry VIII and then into the hands of Sir Arthur Hopton. Other problems soon followed. There were a number of serious fires and in 1560 the town suffered great loss of 'board, plank timber and salt' by inundation of the sea'. An already poverty stricken town received another body blow when the Lord of the Manor (Sir R. Brooke) seized all the Common Land thus preventing the inhabitants from grazing their livestock. By 1627 eighty persons were paupers 'very like to perish for want of necessary food and sustenance'.

Obviously a boost to the local economy was badly needed. David Shirreff has shown how during the Commonwealth period, 1653-4, some relief came in the form of jobs and ship building supplies needed for the construction of H.M.S. Guernsey (originally 'Basing'). This was a one off order dictated by a national emergency and could not by itself revive the former days of economic prosperity. A century or so later a 'Survey of Suffolk' written by John Kirby refers to Walberswick as 'formerly a large place which traded considerably to sea but now is very mean and only a hamlet'. There was still a thriving trade along the East Anglian coast in coal and agricultural produce. And Walberswick continued to be useful in a limited way for nearby farms especially for Westwood Lodge, 'the finest farm in the county'. However despite this decline continued. Thomas Gardner writing in 1754 was impressed by the decay of the area and this he attributed chiefly to the decline in fisheries. By this time Walberswick

had but twenty dwelling houses and could no longer with any justice be termed a town or trading place.

SOURCES

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| * Miss Browton | Extracts from her Diaries. |
| * Jean Carter | Walberswick, Suffolk. |
| & Stuart Bacon | |
| Christopher Dyer | How Urban was Medieval England?
('History Today' - Jan 97) |
| Thomas Gardner | History of Dunwich. |
| * Maurice Godbold | Walberswick Wills. |
| * Allan Jobson | Walberswick Story. |
| Maurice Keen | English Society in the Later Middle
Ages. (Penguin Social History) |
| John Kirby | Suffolk from Actual Survey. |
| Rachel Lawrenvce | Southwold River. |
| * R.M.W Lewis | History of the Church. |
| * T.H.R. Oakes | Walberswick. |
| Rowland Parker | Men of Dunwich. |
| * Merle Tidey | In and around the Village of
(Rafferty) Walberswick. |
| Susan Reynolds | English Medieval Towns. |
| * David Shirreff | Ship Building at Walberswick in the
Seventeen Century (Lecture Notes). |
| Joyce Youngs | Sixteenth Century England. (Pelican
Social History) |
| * Also. | Walberswick Churchwarden Accounts 1450-1499. |

I would also thank Mark Bailey for his short course in Cambridge on East Anglian Towns (May, 1998). He stimulated me to undertake this project.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

The following items have been given since the last newsletter. Very many thanks to all the contributors:

"The Only True Poet of English Cinema" - Article concerning Humphrey Jennings - contributed by James Clark of Wenhaston.

Two Charles Rennie Mackintosh prints contributed by Helen Baxter.

The Trading Town of Walberswick by Tony Rees.

Walberswick Wills & Administrations to 1700/1701 by Maurice Godbold.

Papers relating to Sir George Pickering, FRS, contributed by Ray Easterbrook.

"Minsmere/Walberswick Heath & Marshes" Maps 1 & 2 with areas entered in Register of European Sites for Great Britain (1992) - contributed by Philip Kett.

THE MILLENNIUM PROJECT

Richard Steward is ready to start photographing the houses in May as soon as the flowers are out. Letters have been delivered to each household and we have had a very favourable response. There will be three sets of prints for the archives, one master, one copy and a box of spares. Richard is experimenting with a computer programme which will enable him to put the archive onto a CD Rom later in the year. If you have any ideas for future development of this project, do please bring them to the AGM on the 20th March.

Over the years some work has been done on the history of the houses and, in the Work in Progress File, we have information on every house, if only to say it exists. It is hoped that more detail can be added to these notes to complement the millennium pictures. Some people have already helped but much more needs to be done. In particular we would like to know exactly when each house was built. It would be useful to know if it has been altered in any way and when. Has the name been changed at any time? We are also collecting the names of previous owners or occupiers as this can be very helpful when family history enthusiasts come seeking their roots. It is possible to find names on old Electoral Rolls in the Record Office but this is very time consuming. The following notes on three buildings on the Green and also the Bell may be of interest and are published in the hope that readers may add information and correct misinformation. Please let Pat Wythe know if you can help in this way (Tel: 724142).

THE PARISH LANTERN

This building was described as follows in the Town & Country Planning Act 1947, Section 30, 17/1006: 17c. Two storey. Red brick, plinth, pantiles, 3 w/c casements 1st floor sashes, ground floor in cased frames, flat arches, 6-panel fielded oak door.

It is a substantial house with cellars. In 1841 it was occupied by Samuel Gayfer (Corn Miller & Merchant). He must have been one of the wealthiest inhabitants of Walberswick at the time as he had three living-in servants, two women and one man, at the time of the census. There were four children, the oldest seven. He is also listed as "lime and coke burner". Miss Browton wrote in November 1956: "The earliest recollections appear to be that this was a merchant's house and store, possibly 80 years ago or even earlier. This idea is borne out for when the flood came in 1953, boards had to be taken up from the floor and a large cellar was seen which gave credence to the theory, also the door at the end of the building probably led to steps going down where goods from the harbour and elsewhere could be rolled into the cellar." and "From Mrs. Haward (of the Pottery Shop): Mr. F. Thompson says that at one time the Salt Officer lived at what is now the Pottery Shop before it was used as the school. What is now

the garage was his office and later the children's cloakroom. Salt was made on the flats just below the Old Vicarage."

"A Church of England School was established in this building in 1876 and continued there until 1917 when it moved to the Primitive Methodist Room [where Fisher's Garage now stands]. Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Albert English and his wife Mrs. Polly English attended there over 60 years ago." Mr. Sonny Cross has told us that, when it was a school, there was no second floor though Mr. Stannard said it used to have a second floor before that.

The next thing we know is that it opened as a pottery shop. It was started by Walter F. Crittall (usually known as Pink) in the 1930s, it is thought it was also used partly as some form of artists' club or meeting-place. Walter Crittall was the inventor of Crittall windows. He lived in Old Farm and was a talented artist and connoisseur. Nan Osborne remembers Fred Denny worked at the Pottery Shop painting trays etc. There have been several pottery enterprises based in Walberswick over the years and the location of the Walberswick Peasant Pottery Company is still a mystery. We have been told that it was in this building but this seems unlikely as Walter Crittall's occupancy of the Old Farm (Walter Francis Crittall Kelly's 1925 1929 1933 1937) roughly coincides with the entries in Kelly's Directories of Suffolk for the Walberswick Peasant Pottery Company (1925, 1929, 1933 and 1937 described as "China & Earthenware Dealers"). This company was started by the architect Frank Jennings and his wife Mildred Hall, an artist. Some people may remember Ruth Pitter, the poet and panellist on the Brains Trust. Her obituary (in our archives) reads: "After a spell as a clerk at the War Office between 1916 and 1918 she became a painter - and an expert one - for the Walberswick Peasant Pottery Company, in Suffolk. In 1930 she and a friend and fellow-worker, the painter Kathleen M. O'Hara - with whom she shared a house - were, in her own words, "offered a ghost of a similar business in Chelsea".

During World War II the Parish Lantern became a NAAFI canteen, but it opened again as a pottery shop in 1946. In the meantime a Miss Palmer ran the Post Office here at some time between 1943 and 1945. The flat above the shop was occupied by Arthur Sharman and his family in 1945 and 1946 and this was used as a residence until after Mary Allen started the Parish Lantern and needed the extra space for the shop.

THE HERITAGE HUT

This was built about 1879 as a Congregational Chapel and is shown as such on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1904. The school moved here after a brief time at the Primitive Methodist Chapel and before moving to the custom built school in Leveretts Lane. It then became the Working Men's Club. After that it was bought by George Summers for £25. He had an antique shop in Southwold and used the hut as a store. He moved to Berkshire in the 1930s (probably about 1936). After that the occupants frequently changed and so did the colour of

the building. It was also at one time called the Yew Tree Studio but this may have been in George Summers' time. We have an advertisement for the the Yew Tree Studio "Antiques and Souvenirs" in the archives. It is in a programme of one of Mea Allen's productions and Arthur Sharman was one of the cast. Another use of the hut was as a temporary shop while the Reynolds had their new shop built (now Sea Green Cottage). Mrs. Reynolds senior then wanted to convert it into a residence but this plan was not allowed. It was used as a St. John Ambulance Centre until 1979 when it was taken over by Suffolk County Council who created the Heritage Centre.

THE HOUSE ON THE GREEN

This building is shown on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1904 and is described as follows in the Town & Country Planning Act 1947, Section 30, 17/1007: "Premises immediately North of the Pottery Shop (Former Inn) L.18C. Two storey and attic. Timber frames, plastered, brick ends pantiles, originally thatched, 4 Ws., mullion and transom casements, some leaded, 6-panel door, architrave surround convexe frieze, cornice. In poor condition." Some of these details were Victorian additions and, being in very poor condition, have been replaced. Of course it is no longer "in poor condition" but there is one mystery. The house has a large cellar consistent with it having been an inn at one time but no knowledge of this survives in the memory of the village so it may well have been built as a merchant's house in the 1700s.

THE BELL

It is possible that the Bell Inn existed as long ago as 1451 but The Town & Country Planning Act 1947, Section 30, 17/1008 described the present building as late 17th century Two storey & attic, dormers. timber framed, plastered, thatch. Modern brick front, windows & chimneys.

Miss Browton's diary gives the following information:

"The Bell originally had a thatched roof and there are still old oak beams and fireplaces in it.

"A fire occurred in the roof on Easter Eve 1949 which started in an old beam in or near the kitchen chimney and had evidently been smouldering for some time before it reached the thatch. Fortunately the fire was confined to the roof though much damage was caused by water.

"During the resulting repairs two Tudor fireplaces were discovered, one in the bar and one in a bedroom, also an oak-framed window was uncovered. Other finds were two lace dresses, a parasol and a document. The present tiled roof has completely altered the character of the house."



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 16

August, 1999.

The Exhibition of Paintings held at the beginning of May was a very great success and we must thank Richard Scott, Chris and Wendy Sinclair and Mike Kelly for all their hard work in getting the paintings together and for the expert presentation. Thanks are due too to all who made their paintings available, to those members who worked hard in the background and those who acted as stewards. All enjoyed taking part and the outcome was a welcome boost for our funds. Someone said that we should do this again next year but Don and Philip, who had to guard the Village Hall through the night, are not a bit keen!

Our next project - photographing all the houses in the village for the Millennium - is taking shape. A meeting of the sub-committee has been held with Richard Steward and Philip Kett leading the project. As soon as the funding has been sorted out, a letter will be going to each house in the village explaining what is happening. Richard has nobly volunteered to take all the photographs and will start as soon as the letter has gone out. The project will take time and will undoubtedly go over into the year 2000.

Our thanks must go to Maurice Godbold for his paper on Walberswick Wills, published here, and thanks once again to Jayne Tibbles for giving us the essay by Caroline English. Caroline was born in 1882 and her married name was Galer. Her father, George English, was born in 1858 and died in 1945.

Are you sure you don't want to be Editor? I am still looking for a volunteer!

Pat Wythe,
Hon. Sec. & Temporary Editor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER 1999 AT 7.30 P.M.

"The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial" by Mark Mitchels M.A.

FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER 1999 AT 7.30 P.M.

"A Century of Life at Somerleyton Hall" by Ann Gander followed by our usual Christmas Celebration.

WALBERSWICK WILLS and ADMINISTRATIONS

Listed in
The Prebendary Court of Canterbury (PCC)
1538-1700
with some additions

by Maurice Godbold

Authors Note Since this document was written (September 1998), more than 300 Walberswick wills covering the period up to 1700 have been found in the records of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk, so, allowing for some duplication of documents and, occasionally, more than one reference to a few individuals, about 380 Walberswick wills have been identified. They include those of two clerics of the church here and three shipwrights who may have worked on the Guernsey. Possibly another story!

Most of the wills of people of Walberswick, listed in Appendix 1, and administrations, listed in Appendix 2, were extracted from records in the Public Record Office at Kew on July 18 1998. There is no index of places for wills made after that date so all names would have to be searched to find out where later testators lived. Rather a lengthy task!

Many of the wills have already been noted and summarised by Miss Browton in volumes 3 and 4 of her diary and a copy is available in the Walberswick History Group records. These are marked with an asterisk. In addition, Miss Browton refers to five wills not in the PCC. These are included with the names of the testators underlined. Another Walberswick will was found in "Wills of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk 1625-1626" by M E Allen and published by the Suffolk Record Society, 1995. This will is recorded in italics and a copy of the summary is attached as Appendix 3. Appendix 4 records a will noted in the same publication, which may have been that of a resident of Walberswick as his widow was given a tenement in the village for life. This will is recorded in italics with a query after it.

The wills and admns represent a very small sample of the people who lived in Walberswick over the period covered so an analysis of the information in the documents cannot comprehensively depict Walberswick of the times. Nevertheless, it tells some interesting facts about those who were probably among the richer inhabitants of, as it was then described, the town.

The following comments take account of Miss Browton's work and the will of John Fearnmes (1580) previously summarised by the author.

1) The number of wills

References to 61 wills and 16 admns were found. These are distributed over the period covered as follows: -

	1451-1500	1501-1550	1551-1600	1601-1650	1651-1700
Wills	3	8	13	26	11
Admons	0	0	6	10	0
Total	3	8	19	36	11

Clearly, most wills and admns fall in the period 1551-1650, especially in the second half. This may be a reflection of the prosperity of some of the inhabitants compared with earlier times although the possibility that many earlier documents have not survived may mask the earlier story. This period covers the time when the large, now ruined, church was built when considerable money would have had to be found to support the project.

2) Who were the Executors?

Widows were executors for 18 wills, on four occasions family members had the responsibility with creditors being placed in charge for three wills. This suggests the children were often too young to be appointed. This, plus the fact that 4 wives were pregnant when their husbands died, special provision was made for the education of children in another will and that one father in law was an executor indicates that it was not uncommon for husbands to die young. The appointment of creditors shows that some people were unable to manage their affairs totally successfully.

3) Occupations

Occupations are sometimes stated or can be derived from the contents of the will. They are assessed as :-

Directly or indirectly connected with the sea

Ship owners 10; Mariners/sailors 10; Left nets, hence, at least, fishermen, 3; Anchor smith 1;
Shipwrights 2; Saltrefyner 1; Total 27

Other occupations.

Merchants 2; Yeomen or possibly yeomen 4; Potecarie 1; Widows 3; Servant 1; Total 11.

Unsurprisingly, those with interests in the sea dominate the figures. In some cases the testators had a substantial number of ships.

4) What they left

Marine equipment

Six ship owners possessed more than one vessel. Those with the largest holdings were Richard Poty (1513), William Royden (1632) and Henry Richardson (1645). In the 1500s three men, Richard Poty, Walter Burghwarde (1551) and Robert Burward (1542) had "ships in adventure" to Iceland. Several ship owners possessed more than one property on land so they evidently did not entirely depend on their shipping interests for their income. Although Henry Browne (1626) was described as a mariner, his will was more concerned with the disposal of his property holdings than his shipping interests. Five of the wills

of the 13 people described as mariners, sailors or who can be described as "at least fishermen", have been reviewed by Miss Browton. Four of these left nets whilst one refers only to a silver whistle. Two (John Earne 1639 and John Faircliffe 1644) of the four people described as yeomen or are assumed to have been yeoman, had interests in sea going ventures. One merchant (Robert Pegott 1538) owned two vessels, one for carrying salt, the other being a fishing boat. The potecarie (William Marten 1571) had an "adventure in the North Sea". One of the shipwrights (John Chettleburgh 1625) was a part time farmer. The bere brewer's (John Chapman 1652) other interest was in various lands in Norfolk.

Other property

Seven testators owned and lived in tenements, sometimes owning more than one. Houses are mentioned in five wills, again with some testators owning more than one. Popular specific bequests include items of furniture, often bedsteads with associated fittings which were signs of wealth at the time. It suggests a comfortable night's sleep was an important consideration and testators wanted their favoured heirs to enjoy the same privilege. Cupboards are also mentioned. Silver and other ornaments are another popular goodwill gestures to people who were not the main beneficiaries. Clothing, especially cloaks, was popular for distribution to secondary heirs. Robert Pegott (1538) and William Rooke (1539) may have been the dandies of their time. The former left four gowns, one furred with "foxe", one with black lamb, a third furred with feathers and the fourth lined with chamblett. The latter's will included two gowns, two doublets, a chamblett cloke, a chamblett jaket and another cloke.

Money bequests were frequently made to daughters, friends and acquaintances. The tools of the trade, agricultural tools, cattle and agricultural produce are specifically gifted in a few cases. And there is the silver whistle of Richard Adams (1578) and the "synnes", inter alia, of William Paye 1609, which he left to the "devil". Interestingly, seven of the ten pre-1550 wills made gifts to the church including two (Richard Poty 1512 and Arnold Manfelde 1512) who made bequests totalling £16 13s 4d., Walter Burgwarde left the church £27 in 1525. No bequests to the church were recorded after 1542. Between 1525 and 1632 six bequests were made to the poor of the village. Although his estate was probably one of the largest of those reviewed, Richard Pegott's (1538) bequests to his family seem relatively modest. Thus the gift of the residue of his estate to the poor may have been substantial. Walter Burgwarde's intriguing bequest to the poor of 13d per week for the 13 poorest people was dependent on the safe return of his ship. The choice of 13 runs counter to an old superstition that this is an unlucky number so one is left to guess the significance of this bequest.

5) Recurring names and relationships

Robert Pegott (1542) was the brother in law of Robert Burward (Burghwarde) (1542). The Richardson name occurs twice. Henry Richardson (1645) was the brother in law of John Chettleburgh (1625) and the supervisor of his will. Henry was also the father in law and executr of the will of William Raydon (1632) who was a "kinsman" of the "Chettelburrows". "Kinsman" was often used to describe quite distant relationships so the closeness or otherwise of this one is uncertain. Possibly the other Richardson (Alexander 1572) was the father or grandfather of Henry.

There are two William Raydons on the list of wills (1615 & 1633) and a John Raydon (1625) in the admons. Brownes appear three times (1502, 1572 & 1627); the long gaps may or may not indicate the same family. The 1572 Browne left money to Richard Fearnmes the son of John Fearnmes (1580). This Richard was probably the person who was the creditor of Richard Baker whose estate he administered in 1629/30. The Burwards (Burghwarde) who appear twice (in 1525 & 1542), were possibly brothers.

There was some sort of connection between the shipwrights since Thomas Kennett (1630) left a daughter of John Chettleburgh, (1625), the other shipwright, £5 when she was 21

Most of the persons mentioned in this section were mariners making this a family occupation.

As far as the writer is aware, only two names in the list remain in the village today, namely Block (1547) and Rooke (1539)

6) The "substantialest men of the town"

This sub title borrows a phrase from the will of John Fearnmes (1580). These were, possibly but not certainly, Richard Poty (1512), Robert Pegott (1538), William Rooke (1539) William Raydon (1633), Henry Richardson (1645) and John Chapman (1652). The list includes four mariners, a merchant and a bere brewer. The Richardson name appears often enough to suggest the family was important.

7) General

The layout, format and contents of these Walberswick wills do not have any significant differences from other wills written at this period. There is, to modern eyes, the occasional quirk, but it was ever so. They are interesting in suggesting that, although Walberswick was falling into decline between 1551 and 1650, there were still some prosperous men in the town especially during the second half of the period. The proposition is reinforced by the fact that some left silver at a time when ornaments and everyday tableware were made of pewter. Success, assuming the suggestion to be true, depended on the sea. The four testators who had enterprises requiring long and difficult sea voyages, especially those to Iceland (presumably round the north of the British Isles) were all sixteenth century men. It seems that they were financiers of the enterprises rather than taking part themselves. Of course, they may have done these journeys themselves as young men, only providing the finance later when able to do so. Perhaps, the men of seventeenth century Walberswick, whose wills feature here, were more prosperous but less enterprising than their sixteenth century forebears! One must be wary of drawing conclusions from a sample of four.

Four people had aliases, Miller als Adam (1578) Thorneton als Arnold (!612) but most interestingly the pothecarie was Cawston als Marten in a 1571 document but Marten als Cawston in 1575. Lastly Simon Forman als Austen was a will witness.

The other, possibly significant, observations concern the church. Up to 1572, six people asked to be buried in the church (the

large, ruined building in which the current church stands) and two in the churchyard. The "History of Church of Saint Andrew, Walberswick" shows that nine other people were buried in the large building by 1535 of which three inscriptions survive.. None of the summaries of the wills subsequent to 1572 shows requests for burial in the church but this may be because such requests were left out of the summaries. In this early period, it was popular to leave money to the church. Two gifts (Robert Poty, 1512 for the building of the church "rofe and making of the chauncell" and Arnold Manfelde 1517 for the chancel) show that construction work was still proceeding even though, as shown in the history of the church, the building had been dedicated in 1493. After 1572 leaving money to the poor apparently superceded giving to the church but this observation is subject to verification by reading the original wills.

Appendix 1

List of Wills The following lists the wills according to reference volume with testators names in alphabetical order with additions referred to in the introduction. The notes at the end of many entries are references to the locations of the wills. References are not available for the wills added from Miss Browton's document.

NB Dates written as, for example 1629/30, take into account both the old English calendar when New Years day occurred on March 25 and the change in 1752 when the Gregorian calendar was adopted and new year started on 1 January. Thus, in the old calendar, for example, Feb 11 1639/40 became February 11 1640 in the new one.

WILLS

1383-1555

1485	Blitheburgh Richard	Fisherman	
1486	Wulward John	Yeoman	
1498	Hoo Margaret	Fishing boat owner?	
*1547	Blocke Gregory		5 Populwell
1502	Browne (Brown) Thomas		15 Blamyr
*1542	Burward Robert	Mariner	F 13 Spert
*1525	Burward (Burghwarde)	Water Mariner	36 Bodfelde
*1517	Manfelde Arnold of Sallenswyk (Walberswick?)		4 Aylofffe
*1538	Pigott (Pigot) Robert	Merchant	f 22 Dyngelay
*1513	Poty Robert	Mariner	17 Fetiplace
*1539	Rooke William	Mariner	16 Crumwell

1558-1583

1578	Adam als Myller Richard		45 Langley
*1572	Browne Richard	Yeoman	28 Daper
1571	Cawston Joan		44 Holney
	(Ad. De bo. 31 July 1572)		
1571	Cawston John ?Joan		Holney
1571	Cawston William		31 Holney
1571	Cawston als Marten William	Potecarie	43 Holney
1566	Cox (Coxe) John		9 Crymes
1580	Fermes (Fearmes) John	Mariner	22 Arundell
*1571	Marten als Cawston William		43 Holney
	Sentence 1575		18 Pyckering
*1578	Miller (Myller) als Adam Richard	Mariner	45 Langley
*1572	Richardson Alexander	Mariner	22 Daper
1580	Rivett (Ryvett) William		32 Arundell

1584-1604

*1601	Coxe (Cox) Mariner		69 Wodhall
*1603	Nicholson Michaell	Mariner	42 Bolein
1596	Pierson (Pereson) William		
	Barking Essex	Waldersweeke	48 Drake

1605-1619

1617	Allen Nicholas	Merchant	2 Meade
1617	Allen Ozee	Widow	2 Meade
1607	Bonneck Thomas the Elder	Mariner	16 Huddlestone
*1609	Paye William	Sewrvant to Mr Cripps, Merchant	108 Dorset
*1615	Roydon (Royden) William	Mariner	84 Rudd
*1606	Smith Robert	Merchant	28 Stafford
1612	Thorneton als Arnold John	Mariner	35 Fenner

1620-1629

1625	Archer Robert Sen	Mariner	50 Clarke
*1627	Browne Henry	Mariner	57 Skynner
1626	Goodwyn (Goodwyne) George	Anchor Smith	120 Hele
1624	Watson John	Mariner	107 Byrne
1625	Chettleburgh John	Shipwright	

1625 *Mowling Sebastian?*

1630-1634

- 1631 Gilding William Mariner 99 St John
Pr. Sep 12 By widow Mary
*1632 Kennett Thomas Shipwright 38 Chudley
Pr. Ap 4 by relict Mary
1632 Munnes William 84 Audley
Pr. July 12 by relict Marjery
1632 Gold Abraham Mariner
*1633 Rayden William Mariner 11 Russell
Pr. Feb 19 1632/33 by Henry Richardson

1635-1639

- 1636 Cripps Nicholas 11 Pile
Pr. Feb 5 1635/36 by Ric. Foote and Richard
Barrat
Admon t.a.i. Oct 11 1632 revoked
*1638 Arnold John 173 Lee
Pr. Dec 13 by relict Anne

1640-1644

- *1640 Earne John 14 Coventry
Pr. Feb 28 1639/40 by relict Susan wife of
William James, Robert Newman renouncing
1643 Browne Henry Mariner 12 Crane
Admon w. will Feb 9 1642/43 to John Cheshyre
Relict Ansilla renouncing
1645/45 Faircliffe John Yeoman

1645-47

No index locorum, hence Walberswick wills cannot easily be found
1645 Richardson Henry Mariner

1648-49

Records of wills on pages 27 and 56 but volume missing

1650--51

No Walberswick wills

1652-53

- *1553 Chapman John Bere brewer 384 Brent
Lands in Norfolk Pr June 25 relict Elizabeth
*1653 Gold Abraham 387 Brent
but residing in St Katherines near the Tower
of London. Admon w. will June 15 to relict Thomasine

1653-1656

- 1654 Barfoote Mariner Folio 499
*1653 Chapman John Bere brewer Folio 384
1653 Gould (Gold) Abraham Folio 387
but now in St Catherines near the Tower of London

1657-1660

- 1657 Barwick John Saltrefyner Folio 276
1659 Pitcher Margaret Folio 452

1661-1670

- 1666 Chapman Elizabeth widow Folio 20
1666 Williams Robert Folio 152

1671-1675

- 1673 Bursote William Mariner Folio 170

1676-1685

- 1685 Carver William Mariner Folio 132

1681-1693 and 1694-1700

None

Appendix 2

Administrations

NB Some references are incomplete for the following admins.

1573/4	Killinghall William to Brother Henry 9 Feb	Norwich
1574	Northern John to relict Margery 7 July	Norwich
1575/76	Bradshaw Arthur to relict Joanna 17 March	
1562	Miller Robert Mariner to relict Margaret 3 September	
1563/64	Brunston Robert to brother Thomas 15 January	
1570	Gymymgham Robert to avunculo William Barnes durg. Min of bro John 15 November	
1608	Beare Robt to relict Elizabeth	Prob 6 Vol 5 p 113
1617	Borrick Robert to relict Anne and John Borrick	Prob 6 Vol 6 p 101
1614	Flicke Jn to relict Christine	Prob 6 Vol 6 p 152
1614	Goulde Wm to relict Osea	Prob 6 Vol 6 p 152
1615	Royse Jn to Jn Wentworth cred	Prob 6 Vol 6 p 4
1619	Winter Thomas to relict Frances	Prob 6 Vol 6 p 44
1629/30	Baker Richard deed abr. To cred Richard Fearnas granted 30 January	Prob 6 Vol 7 p 144
1628	Cureton Thomas bach to cred John Stoner granted 10 July	Prob 6 Vol 7 P 37
1625	Raydon John to relict Marian granted 26 November bef Brian Ward clk	Prob 6 Vol 7 F 32
1652	Payne Catherine widow	? Prob 6 Vol 11 F 113

There is no index locorum for 1655-1660

Appendix 3

The will of John Chettleburgh Shipwright 16 May 1625

John Chettleburgh married the sister of Henry Richardson whose will is noted in the main document and has been summarised by Miss Browton. The following is a copy of the summary of the will given in Allen's book.

"Sick and weak. Soul to the hands of Almighty God, creator; to be buried in the sure & certain hope of joyful resurrection. Messuage or tenement which testator took up with wife Mary at the court baron held for the manor of Blythburgh with Walberswick on 6 October 1624 to two children Henry and Abraham Chettleburgh & their heirs, on death of wife Mary, if either of them live so long: if they both die before the said Mary, then lands go to two other children Robert & Rose Chettleburgh & their heirs. To daughter Rose Chettleburgh, the old cupboard which was her mother's. To wife all household stuff & movable goods in the messuage or tenement where testator dwells, & in the yards in the same messuage, except boards in the yards and treenails. Also to wife Mary, all working tools and the crop of barley now growing on the ground belonging to the said tenement. All timber, boards planks and treenails to be sold by extrix, to pay debts and the overplus to go to extrix. Wife Mary to be extrix; brother in law Henry Richardson to be supervisor.

Wit Simon Forman, otherwise Austen, George Godweine, Augustus Warde.

Prob granted to extrix at Yoxford 20 July 1626"

Appendix 4

Will of Sebastian Mowling. Possibly a resident of Walberswick

"Weak. Soul to God through Christ by whom will obtain remission of sins, & look for everlasting life: to be buried in the churchyard. Wife Rose to be extrix; she to have tenement in Walberswick, called the town tenement for life. On her death same to be sold & the money thus arising to be equally divided between the children Owen, John, Sebastian, Robert & Mary: Wife now great with child, & that child living till 21 is to have an equal part with the other children above mentioned. If any child die before 21, then that portion to be equally divided between surviving children when they be 21. Also to wife Rose, tenement in Thorpe called Dobbes, to be at her disposing to sell to maintain herself & children. Also to her, all goods and chattels & movables; she to extrix.

Wit John Young. John Barber.

Debts owed to – Sir Thomas Players, £2.15s; to Robert Greenwood £3.5s; to William Tayne 11s; to John Barbers, 18s 6d; to Robert Smith 12s. Total owed £8 1s 6d
Pr. Granted to extrix at Blythburgh 15 May 1626.

THE GANNON ROOM

From Miss Browton's diary Vol 2-1:

The Gannon Room was built as a reading and recreation room for the fishermen with money from a fund bequeathed by a Miss Gannon for the building of village halls. Nothing was provided for the upkeep of such halls as it was expected that villagers would foot that cost themselves.

The Gannon Room was built on land near the old Vicarage, between what are now Marsh End flats and in the grounds of Ferry House among the elm trees.

Newspapers were provided and there were two billiard tables. There was a built in stage and ample dressing rooms behind.

When new houses were built and newcomers arrived, some of them started a Badminton Club, using the hall one evening a week. In the course of time, however, the usage for this purpose was increased to two evenings, then three, thus making it impossible for the fishermen to use it on those evenings.

Apparently it was not large enough for a full sized Badminton court so it was decided to move it and enlarge it and from then on it was only used for badminton, dancing and concerts, etc. There were 90 members of the Badminton Club at one time paying a very small subscription. It never really paid its way and the numbers gradually dwindled. After WW2 the club ceased to exist. A club for Old Time Dancing existed for some time in the 1940-50 period but that also came to an end and finally the Committee resigned, insisting that it should come under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council. By this time the hall was in an advanced state of decay and was very little used as it was impossible to warm it adequately or to keep it clean as there was no money to pay a caretaker when no rent was coming in for its use. In 1967 it was finally decided to build a new village hall.

The Gannon Reading Room was built in 1889 according to the Survey of Suffolk Parish History E.Suffolk. Vol 2 I-Y.

A STRANGE ENCOUNTER

by

CAROLINE ENGLISH

When my father, George English, was home from sea, my greatest pleasure was to listen to the interesting stories he would tell. Sometimes it would be of a storm, when the the thunder rolled along the sky, the lightning lit everywhere like day, making the darkness more intense, and the sea was in a turmoil, with white capped waves, running mountain high. And sometimes it would be of the beauty of a sunrise at sea, when, he said, the sun seemed reluctant to leave the water. But the following story fascinated me as it had an element of the unreal, and certainly could never be explained. I will tell it as my father told it to me.

In the year 1874, I went to sea in the big sailing ships, carrying cargoes to many parts of the world, but even then my dream was to be, one day, master of my own ship. With that end in view, I studied hard and learned navigation.

I stayed with the sailing ships for a few years, but it was very hard, especially when we went to the Baltic with a cargo of rye. Sometimes I had to go up, and out, on spars hanging over the sea. One false step and there would be somebody missing, but, frozen as the sails were, we used to cling like monkeys and somehow reached the deck safely.

When the time seemed suitable, I left and came home to Walberswick. I had saved some money, so my father and I talked things over and decided that the fishing industry offered as good a chance as any, but, as we knew nothing about it, I decided to spend one year as a deck-hand on a Lowestoft drifter. It was a hard, cold, job, and rough living, but I managed to get a good idea of how things worked. At the end of the year we were able to buy the "Prima Donna", a fishing drifter which we worked on all winter to get her ready for the season, and I was very proud when I sailed out of Walberswick harbour, with my crew of seven men and a boy, on my first venture. We sailed to Lowestoft, as that was the port we would work from. From there we sailed for the fishing ground off the Dogger Bank.

It was not until we were well away from the coast that I noticed we were being followed by a much larger craft. Her behaviour puzzled me as she seemed determined not to lose sight of us, and yet, for the time being, did not wish to draw nearer. But as we got farther away from land the distance between us grew less; I thought with the intention of speaking. Seen through my glass, she appeared to be a large vessel, with about twenty men aboard. As they drew nearer, I was amazed to see that the crew were all naked to the waist and appeared to be labouring under great excitement, all all were armed and had been drinking, evidently, by the look of them.

As they came within hailing distance, they shouted for us to "lay to", so that they could board us, which meant mischief I could tell, so naturally I refused by turning away. I could

see she was of foreign nationality, so I shouted to my crew to arm themselves, and allow no-one to board us. the stranger crew were furious. They shouted and gesticulated for all they were worth, and that was quite a lot. After that they "went about" and decided to run us down. But the "Prima Donna", only half the size, was quicker in turning. So it went on all day. The stranger trying to ram us, we just escaping. Once it was a very near one, as next time she bore down on the "Prima Donna" she struck with a sickening crash. My smaller craft shivered from stem to stern, and for one moment seemed to stand still; then she answered to the helm, and we were saved by a miracle. But the other vessel, thinking she had gained an advantage, came round and straight at us again, with the evident intention of finishing us off. Somehow I managed to avert a calamity and, instead of striking us amidships as they hoped, we only received a glancing blow. Next time we were not so lucky. They were near enough to get their hands on our bulwarks, but my crew used their weapons with such good effect, that the strangers dropped back on their own deck, screaming curses and threats as the blood ran down from their wounds. Our decks were bespattered as well, as some my men had wounds on hands and arms. I called to my mate, "Any damage, Todd?" "Water in the hold," was the brief answer.

I was now feeling much anxiety about the safety of my little ship. She was leaking and a few more shocks would make things difficult. We could not sail away as our attackers were determined we should not. We were all weary with the hours of strain, also none of us had any food or drink all day and no-one could be spared to go below to get it.

All at once the stranger went "about again", bore down upon us with the evident intention of finishing us off if he could. By great good fortune it was only a scrape, but it was enough. The sun was now setting and our position at night would be very bad indeed; so I called to Todd to run up a flag for assistance. Almost at once he saw through his glass a steamer coming our way, and our attacker must have seen it too for he drew off and was sober enough to show a clean pair of heels and was out of sight before help arrived. The damage to the "Prima Donna" was considerable, but she was able to make port under her own sail.

Who the stranger was has always been a mystery, and now will remain so. His number and name were covered up with canvas. As far as I knew I had no enemies, and it could have been a case of "mistaken identity". But it was one of my unpleasant experiences of a lifetime spent at sea.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

English Family Tree by John English.

"The Only True Poet of English Cinema" - Article concerning Humphrey Jennings. Contributed by James Clark of Wenhaston.

The Phantom Waterway (a chapter of "Unknown Suffolk" by Donald Maxwell.

A Strange Encounter by Caroline English.

The Trading Town of Walberswick - Paper by Tony Rees.



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 15

February, 1999.

There seems to be much racking of brains regarding Millenium Projects. One suggestion (already being done in Wenhaston and, I believe, other villages) is to make a photographic record of all the houses - a Village Scroll 2000. This would be an even more valuable record if the people belonging to the houses could be persuaded to be included in the photograph. Do you think this would be a suitable project for our Group to undertake - an addition to our archives which would increase in historical value as time passes? Your views on this idea and how it could most easily be accomplished would be much appreciated by your Committee or have you any better ideas for a Millenium Project? Perhaps we could discuss this at our Annual General Meeting on Monday 22nd March.

We are indebted to James Clark of Westleton for his article on the Arts & Crafts Movement houses in Walberswick. Any further information on these houses would be much appreciated by me as I am still working away at house histories (albeit rather slowly!)

Jayne Tibbles, has kindly allowed me to copy some of her father's writings for the archives. He was Blucher English and you will find his account of the 1953 floods included in this newsletter.

Richard Scott is assembling a very interesting list of paintings, etchings and drawings for the Exhibition, but would still like more. He doesn't need photographs this time, but if you have any interesting ones they could be copied for the archives.

Pat Wythe,
Hon. Sec.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1999 ARE DUE If you have not already paid, Angela MacKay at Pembroke Cottage, The Street, Walberswick, will be glad to take in money and issue you with a new membership card. The subscription remains at £3 per head.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MONDAY 22ND MARCH, 1999. Annual General Meeting.

SUNDAY 2ND MAY, 1999. Exhibition of Paintings.

HOUSES OF THE ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT

by

JAMES CLARK

It is clear from the Ordnance Survey maps of 1904 and 1926/28 that a major part of the Walberswick we know today was being built (See Figures 1 & 2). Much of this development was of fairly large individually designed houses for a new class of people, clearly not dependant on the local community or its environs for their livelihood. The period 1904 to 1928 includes most of what we know as the Edwardian Era (strictly 1901 to 1910) which has become a byword for a time of elegance, prosperity, and the pursuit of leisure. A spacious and romantic time associated in the arts with such as Lutyens and Elgar and having a uniquely English quality.

The Period followed an unprecedented time of growth of industry, the Empire, and financial institutions in the City; and there was a corresponding growth in the rentier classes and of gentlemen educated at Public Schools in the professions, arts, literature, business and politics with a taste for the lifestyle of the upper classes. Something that was peculiar in England, and especially to the South East with its proximity to London and the City.

Within this same period there also flourished what became known as the Arts and Crafts Movement.

For the architects of the 1880's and 1890's, the vernacular had become their chief preoccupation, as they tried to free themselves from historical styles of the Gothic revival and the Classicists. Most of them joined new progressive societies and guilds and their architecture came to be called Arts and Crafts after the name given to the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society in 1888. (See diagram Figure 3.) The work of these architects had common features. Plans and elevations became the expression of utility; a building's materials were taken from the locality, being cheaper and in harmony with their surroundings. Details were based on vernacular originals and not taken from classical pattern-books. All the architects were interested in crafts and in employing plasterers, painters, carvers and sculptors to enrich their buildings. Ornament was nearly always based on nature.

With the Arts and Crafts Movement went a strong love of England, and of garden design before the mid 18th Century. Gertrude Jekyll's definition of vernacular was "The local tradition in building as the crystallization of local need, material, and ingenuity. When the result is so perfect, that is to say, when the adaptation of means to ends so satisfactory that it has held good for a long time, and that no local need or influence can change it for the better; it becomes a style, and remains fixed until other conditions arise to disturb it." In a word, Arts and Crafts Architecture is about building traditionally.

The Arts and Crafts Movement has had a tremendous influence on house building up to the present day. Though the underlying principles of honesty to materials and the crafts associated with them, and the primary importance of utility underpinned the Modern Movement, this all-pervading influence has been and is for the most part superficial and eclectic in the general run of house building. It therefore becomes very much a matter of

WALBERSWICK 1904

Fig 1



□ EXISTING 1904
 ■ ADDED 1904-1928



WALBERSWICK 1928

Fig 2

aesthetic judgement as to whether a particular house or building is the genuine article or not. The houses picked out as being worthy of note in Walberswick and of the Arts and Crafts Movement are therefore a subjective selection. It was however the instant recognition of certain houses as belonging to the movement that made me want to investigate further for the record. The design principles necessarily produce buildings that are modest and comfortable in their surroundings, but this does not make them any less worthy of note, and Walberswick should cherish them. Good examples of work of the Movement are few and far between.

I leave it to others, should they wish to research further into the architects involved. The only architects that have been identified to me as responsible for the designs are as follows:

1. Frank J. Jennings. Listed among Architects at Lowestoft Records Office as being a member of the firm of Coleridge & Jennings of London. He was not a member of the RIBA, which was not popular with Arts and Crafts architects. He is also listed as being a member of the firm of Coleridge Jennings and Soimenow. Michael Soimenow lived in Old Headington, Oxford, and was born in 1892 and died in 1976.

It is known that Frank Jennings designed Toby Cottage on the corner of Leverett's Lane and Main Street for his sister Mrs. Gabe and that he also designed Knoll Cottage and White Barn House in Leverett's Lane. It is believed that he designed Cooper's Thatch (formerly Windyhaugh) for his niece. He first lived in Millfield Road and then moved to Marshway in Leverett's Lane which he designed for himself. He is shown as being a Private Resident of Walberswick in the Kelly's Directories from 1904 through to 1925 but only his name appears and not the name of the house. He may have lived in more than one house in Millfield Road but Mill House (then called Gazebo) was the family home at one time and his son Humphrey Jennings, the well known documentary film maker, was born there in 1907.

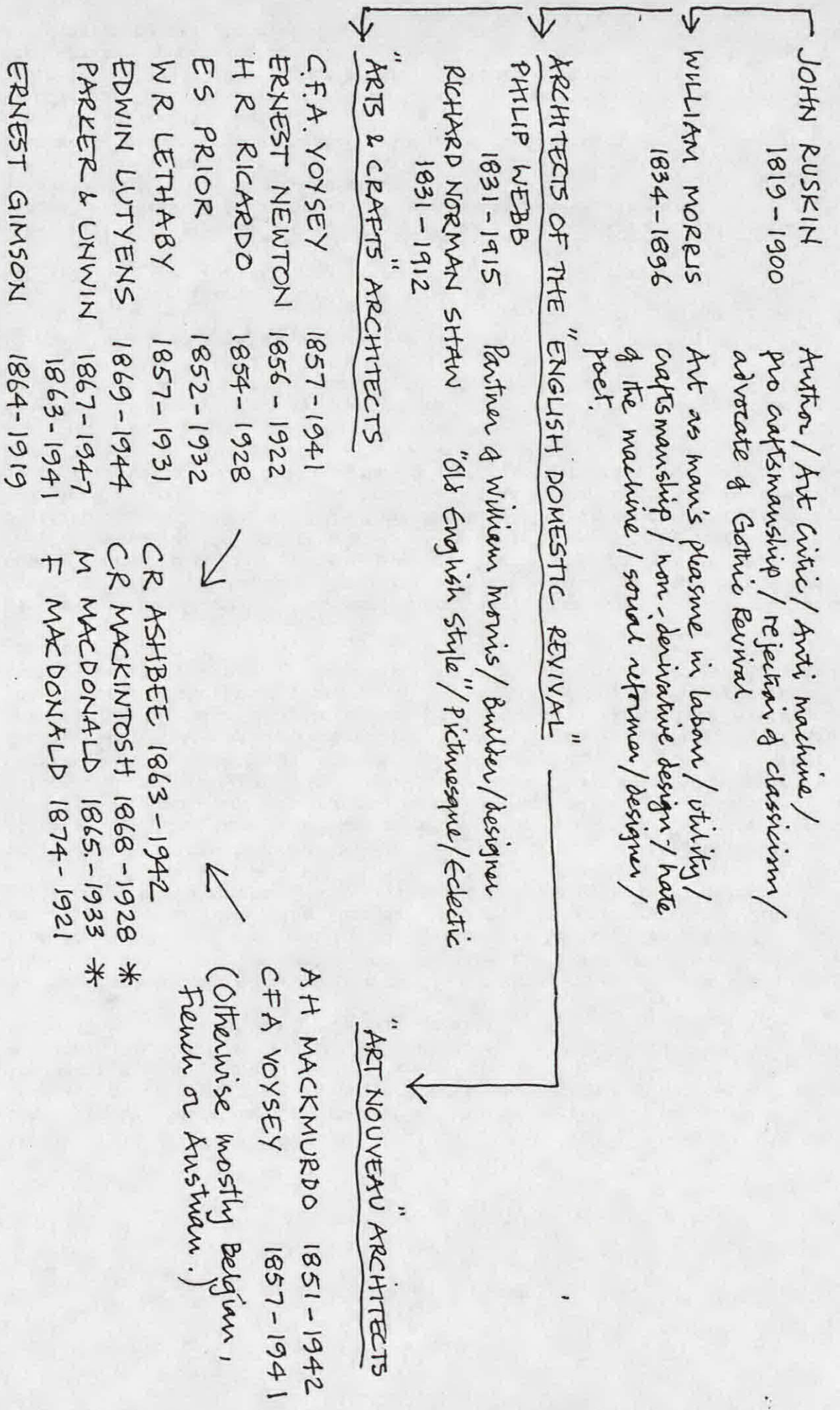
Frank Jennings and his wife Mildred Hall, an artist, were "Guild Socialists". That is to say they subscribed to the ideas and ideals concerning art and community of William Morris, and they founded the Walberswick Peasant Pottery Company which made, bought, and sold, furniture and pottery.

2. G. Val Myer designed Walber House for his brother. He was a London architect and the designer of Broadcasting House.

LIST OF HOUSES (see Figure 2)

<u>Leverett's Lane</u>	<u>Millfield Road</u>	<u>The Green</u>
1 Toby Cottage	13 Three Ways	10 Ferry House
2 Long Roof	14 Mill House	11 Hidden House
3 Knoll Cottage	15 Millstones	12 Greenways
4 Coopers Thatch	16 Far End	
5 Sunset Cottage	(much modified later)	<u>Stocks Lane</u>
6 White Barn		17 Elfinston Corner
7 Marshway	<u>Lodge Road</u>	18 Stocks House
8 Saltlick	20 Spinners	(modernised)
9 Walber House		
		<u>Seven Acre Lane</u>
		19 Box Bush

ORIGINS AND MAIN PERSONALITIES OF THE "ARTS & CRAFTS" MOVEMENT



* Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his wife Margaret Mackintosh have well known associations with Walter Sickert.

Fig 3

SOMETHING ABOVE THE MAXIM

by

BLUCHER ENGLISH

It was the last few days of January 1953. For about three days the wind blew from the South but on the thirty-first it veered to the Nor-West and a terrific gale did blow. All the locals said there would be a big tide. The moon was at the full that day so things did work just right. At midnight the tide was lapping at our doors. From Todds Corner to the Anchor Hotel the road was just like a canal.

They rescued folks by boat in the night - a thing never done in Walberswick Street before. They got them out all safe and sound and other folks took them in to care for them and see that they were well. There was Mrs. Pell who kept the tea rooms, the Sharmans, and the Harveys next door with three small children which they lowered from the bedroom windows. When they got to old Mrs. Cowley they fell down with her. Mrs. Goodwin with her two small children got out before it got too bad. The Scots got upstairs and stuck it out the night with the water rushing in and out. The drapers store, and house where the Reynolds live. There was old Mrs. Jackson, Mrs Sutton and her family. Tows Cabin was washed away and John Brunt lost nearly all his belongings but he himself was out. Michael Jeans and family had a bad time at Valley Farm. Down Thompson Terrace, the Misses Hay and Marsh, two old ladies, were rescued and taken to the Bell Hotel. Then there was the Brega family, old Mr. Spaal and Mrs Norman, and lots of houses that were empty. There is one I have forgotten - Mrs. Haward of the Pottery Shop.

Next day being Sunday, folks were about early surveying the damage, with the tide still very high. There was soon a few willing helpers to get the houses washed out, and gathering up the furniture and household things. They soon had the WVS on the scene, and with the few willing helpers things began to happen. The men folk took on the job of washing out and removing the driff that the tide had brought up, and the women folk, did the collecting up and washing all the things, as everything was covered with mud. The work was very hard, but everyone did it with a good heart, and they got some laughs out of it. The two old ladies Miss Hay and Miss Marsh, would not have one of the women helpers, as they said she came from smuggling stock, but there, most of the old locals are.

It was just on a fortnight before the village was ship shape again.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

The English Illustrated Magazine, March 1893, (containing an article "Round about Walberswick & Southwold") - donated by Rachel Lawrence.

Houses of the Arts & Crafts Movement

- Paper by James Clark

Southwold Railway Correspondence relating to Walberswick

- donated by David Lee

Walberswick Wills & Administrations listed in the Prebendary Court of Canterbury 1538-1700 - Paper by Maurice Godbold.

Writings by Blucher English

- donated by Jane Tibbles.

SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY It seems that there were problems when the Southwold Railway closed in 1929. Two letters are reproduced here and there are others equally interesting on the file given us by David Lee.

NIGEL E. CAREY.
SOLICITOR.

TELEPHONE N° 4911 HOLBORN

1 box
1 1/2 volume
1 hold all

2 Verulam Buildings,
Gray's Inn, London, W.C.1.
Ms. 8th April 1929

The Passenger Manager
Liverpool Street Station

Dear Sir,

My wife and ³ members of my family are at present staying at Walberswick and have return tickets available for a month I think issued at Liverpool Street on the Wednesday before Easter.

My wife in a letter received this morning informs me that the Southwold Railway closes on Thursday & the situation created is an awkward one as the only way of getting back to town is to hire a private car to convey the party from Walberswick to Saxmundham unless the Railway is making some other arrangement.

Would you kindly telephone to me tomorrow morning & let me know what I might do under the circumstances.

Your faithfully
Nigel Carey

2351.

B.


9th April, 1929.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 8th instant and telephone conversation today; I have to inform you that following the closing of the Southwold Railway the L.& N.E. Company has made an arrangement with the Eastern Counties Road Car Company for a service of Motor Omnibuses to run between Halesworth and Southwold in connection with the Company's trains. Through bookings will be arranged between Liverpool Street and Southwold, but not to Alberswick. Passengers for the latter place should book to Halesworth and re-book on the bus, which, I understand, will run to Southwold Ferry.

For the return journey of your party who already hold return tickets, I have made arrangements with the Bus Company mentioned above to honour your return tickets from Southwold Ferry to Halesworth, and if you will kindly communicate with the Bus Company at 6, Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, advising them the date and time of return of your party, they will be pleased to make arrangements for conveyance of the passengers and their luggage.

Yours faithfully,



Nigel B. Carey Esq.,

2, Verulam Buildings,

Gray's Inn, W.C.1.



Walberswick Local History Group

NEWSLETTER NO. 14

August, 1998.

First of all, an earnest plea for anyone with literary leanings to step forward. We are without an Editor! David Davison's defection to Southwold was a sad loss to the Newsletter. However, our thanks go to David for so many interesting bulletins and we hope he will be tempted to undertake further research on behalf of the Group when time allows. There were no replacement volunteers at the Annual General Meeting, but do think about it. It isn't an onerous task there being only two issues a year and much interesting material in the archives awaiting publication.

One of the most recent additions is a list of Commemorative Benches in and around the village which has been compiled by Hanns and Edna Lange and this is reproduced here. Very many thanks to them for this work.

In this issue you will also find an article which was written by Caroline English and we are grateful to Jayne Tibbles and her mother, sadly no longer with us, for contributing this paper to our archives. We have not been able to discover where Caroline fits into the English family tree though we understand that a Caroline English was a contemporary of Ellen Stannard's older sister. The other mystery is which garden was the home of the figurehead 'Rebecca'.

Work on the history of all the houses in Walberswick continues. Another project is updating the mapping of the memorial stones in the churchyard. Help with either of these projects would be much appreciated.

Tony Rees was grateful for further information on wells and has been able to update his list as a result - see his postscript.

Pat Wythe,
Hon. Sec.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 1998. "Underwater Sites off the Suffolk Coast" by Stuart Bacon. 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 1998. Christmas Celebration and Archive Film Show by the University of East Anglia.

An extract from Miss Browton's Diary:

NOTES ON THE WOOL TRADE

On the Ordnance map of Suffolk there are many Walks marked between Walberswick and Orford, but none further inland. Round Walberswick and Dunwich there are a dozen and also the Lambpits, reminding us that East Anglia was one of the chief centres of the Woollen Industry. First wool and the cloth was exported from here. There was a Cistercian monastery at Sibton and the Abbot's sheep would roam the heathland 'walks' on this side of the Blyth; there are only two walks north of Southwold. Sheep were kept by others beside the Abbot.

1428 R. Fynch, chaplain, was fined 3/- for keeping a hunting dog to kill the sheep of the Lord's tenants. (6 Hen VI)

1430 Roger Borhed placed 400 sheep on common and field of Blyboro to the injury of the Lord's tenants. "The said Roger had no terram ortu nor pasture ex clausum." (8 Hen.VI)

The woolstaplers became very rich and many fine churches, like Lavenham, owe much to their benevolence. The peasants were kept well occupied spinning and weaving in their homes and also as carders and fellers. This industry contributed largely to the prosperity of the Suffolk coast.

1364 Walberswick, Covehithe and Kessingland were forbidden to export gold, silver or jewels.
Was this an effort to conserve some of the wealth of the country after the heavy losses caused by the Black Death which ravaged our island in 1349 and 1362?

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - "A True Story of Walberswick, Suffolk."

The night was dark and cold. Michael Curdy stood for a moment to get his bearings. He always walked as far as the ferry each night to see what the weather was like, so he told his mother. Sometimes Michael saw and heard other things that puzzled him, such as mysterious lights, suddenly hidden, a whiff of a good cigar, and more than once he thought he heard the sound of muffled oars, and the murmur of voices which were suddenly hushed. He never mentioned these things to his mother now, as she would say he had been dreaming. All the same she warned him 'strange things have happened on this coast, and may still be happening, for all you or I know, so never speak of what you see or hear'.

Standing by the old ferry-house, he shivered, for the night was cold, and a tooth that had been bothering him, off and on, all winter, began to ache again. He found his pipe, filled it with the small amount of tobacco in his pocket, and struck a match. As it flared he turned to shield it from the wind and came face to face with a tall, masked stranger wrapped in a long cloak, who touched him lightly on the shoulder. A low voice said 'put out your pipe, do not move'. Michael obeyed. He was not a coward, but the whole thing seemed uncanny. Was he dreaming? But the stranger's next move was alarming. He held out a pistol to Michael, bidding him take it, which he did, glancing nervously at the stranger, who now Michael saw was smiling. 'Do not be afraid' he said, 'and no harm will come to you. Guard this road and allow no one to pass, if you value your life, until I return'. He took Michael by the shoulders and turned him to face the village. Some time passed before Michael dared look behind him, and he saw he was alone, and the night was very dark, a gale was blowing and rain fell in sheets. He was as miserable as any man could be. Was the pistol in his hand loaded? Suppose someone came down that road from the village and he had to shoot them; never before had poor Michael been in such a plight. The night seemed to get darker, the rain wetter, and the wind stronger, a very bad night, and to add to his discomfort he thought he heard sounds; he was not sure, and he dared not look.

After what seemed a lifetime, he felt again that light touch on his shoulder; this time he was in such a state of alarm, he turned quickly and was quickly relieved of the pistol - to Michael's great relief, for he had no wish to shoot anyone. The masked stranger, for it was he, seemed greatly amused by Michael's fright, then he spoke. 'This is to repay you for your trouble' at the same time putting a gold coin in his hand, and a parcel in his arms. 'Do not speak of what you have seen or heard tonight, go home, do not look back'. Michael needed no second bidding; as soon as he was clear of the ferry-house he ran as fast as his wet clothes, and the parcel in his arms would allow him. He wanted to put as much distance between him and the masked stranger as possible; the coin was real, and so was the parcel, but the stranger - Michael shivered when he thought of him.

He found that his mother had gone to her room, to his great relief, there would be no awkward explanations now. A bright fire was burning and his supper was on the table. So, removing his boots and his coat, he sat down and examined his parcel - a bottle of brandy and tobacco and a gold coin, luxuries to a poor man. Michael opened the brandy bottle and poured himself a glass. He was cold and it warmed him, relieved his aching tooth. He ate his supper and fell sound asleep. He woke hours later with the cold. The fire, which he had not made up before he fell asleep, was now very low; the room was cold and so was Michael.

himself a glass. He was cold and it warmed him, relieved his aching tooth. He ate his supper and fell sound asleep. He woke hours later with the cold. The fire, which he had not made up before he fell asleep, was now very low; the room was cold and so was Michael.

Reaching for the bottle to have another drink before retiring, he glanced at the uncurtained window and saw a bright light shoot into the sky. Could it be a rocket - could it be a rocket? Drawing on his boots and watching the window at the same time, to make sure he had not made a mistake, he saw another. There may have been more, he did not know, but now he was sure. Snatching his oilskin, and pulling it on as he opened the door, he ran through the village shouting 'ship ashore, ship ashore'. In a very short time the village was astir, lights appeared in every window, fires were made up, doors opened and shut, men's voices were heard calling to each other 'there's another rocket, hurry up there'; some were running, the men in oilskins, souwesters, and seaboots; the women in thick coats, scarves on their heads. The night was what men of the sea call 'a dirty night'. A gale was blowing, rain fell in torrents, visibility was nil.

The people of the village standing in groups on the beach looked anxiously seawards, in the hope of catching a glimpse of the flares and rockets to give them some idea where the doomed ship lay, but the darkness was terrible, and after what seemed a long time, and was really only a few minutes, they did get an idea of her position, enough to help to send the breeches buoy. All flares and lights available were put up on shore, and to the relief of the anxious watchers on the shore they were able to get a return signal from the ship; so over went the line. Now came the anxious moment: would the line fall short? The crowd watched silently, no one moved, the unspoken prayer in many hearts was that the line would reach the ship, but with dismay they found it had fallen short. Another try; this time all right. Now a faint light in the eastern sky appears; it is the dawn, to everyone's great relief, it would certainly make things a bit easier. The breeches buoy went over, the return seemed so long to those who waited, the men shifted uneasily and strained their eyes seaward; the women drew close together and whispered. Then to everyone's great relief the first passenger was on his way. Imagine their surprise when they lifted out, not a man, but an unconscious woman wrapped in oilskins; she was carried up the beach and given to the waiting women who took her home to warmth and comfort. After that the breeches buoy travelled backwards and forwards many times with various members of the crew, including the ship's cat, which had been put in a bag for safety, and didn't like it one bit, judging from the sounds that came from the bag.

It was now daylight and the ship could just be seen in a very bad plight with huge waves breaking over her. So the breeches buoy was sent over for the last time for the captain, but returned empty to the great dismay of those on the shore. For a few seconds those on the beach stood silent; they did not know what to do; the ship would not last long; she was being battered from stem to stern by huge waves. Time was not on their side. The crew also hung about; the skipper had been a good man at sea: fair dealing and a good man to sail under; the disaster was bad luck and bad weather: so they talked, then grandfather Robert English asked to be allowed to go over and try to persuade the captain. He was successful,

Michael Curdy never saw the masked stranger again; but he used to say that it was a night of strange things, as he was usually in bed and asleep at the hour when on that night he was running up from the ferry-house, thinking he was pursued by something, he knew not what. But his mother said when at last he told her of that night 'a still tongue makes a wise head, so you had best forget it'.

Caroline English (Galer)

COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES IN AND AROUND WALBERSWICK.

- Seat at Churchyard: In loving memory of Reg. Henderson 1984
- " " 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 seat. Undated.)
- Seat outside Parish Lantern: Happy memories of our son Christopher Long.

H.W. & E.M. Lange.

WALBERSWICK WELLS - a postscript.

The following list includes a number of amendments to the original list:

Anchor Cottages	Ivy Cottages	Seahome
Anchor Hotel		Seascape
Ardmay	Knoll Cottage	Saltlick
Bell Cottage	Leveretts	Tamarisk
Bell Hotel		The Lodge.
Blythbarton	Mafeking Cottage	Three Ways
Church Cottages	Manor Farm	Thorpe View
Coopers Thatch	Manor Farm Barns	Tinkers Barn
	Mariners Cottage	Todds Cottage
Dutch House	Marsh End	Torridon
	Mill Cottage	Tower Cottage
Eastwood Lodge	Millfield House	
	Millside	Valley Farm
Gorse View	Mulberry House	<i>Walber House 2.</i>
		Wayland Cottage
Heath House	Old Corner House	Westons
High Field	Old Farm	Westwood
House on the Green	Old Farm Cottage	White Barn
	Ryecroft	Windynook

Millside, Mulberry House and Wayland Cottage have been added and Vine Cottage deleted.

A copy of my survey of Walberswick Wells was sent (at his request) to Dr. Wood who is 'Team Leader Scientific Support' in the Eastern area of the Environment Agency. Dr. Wood expressed his pleasure at receiving the report which he had had copied and circulated to his colleagues in Water Resources. Hitherto his records had only shown two wells identified in a well survey in 1977.

In his letter (6-4-98) Dr. Wood included the following piece of interesting information:

'I should say that anyone with a well is entitled to take 20 cubic meters per day for private use. So even if you only reinstate a well for watering the garden it can be financially very well worth while!'

However Dr. Wood also noted, as a warning. that:

'the fate suffered by Walberswick residents in the 1920's continues today in that houses still supplied by private wells are often subject to microbiological contamination by their own septic tanks ... Simple good housekeeping can prevent such problems.'

I know that John Turner of 'Old Farm' is busy renovating his own domestic well with a view to watering his garden and others in the village may be tempted to follow his example especially those who are on metered water.

Tony Rees.
July, 1998.