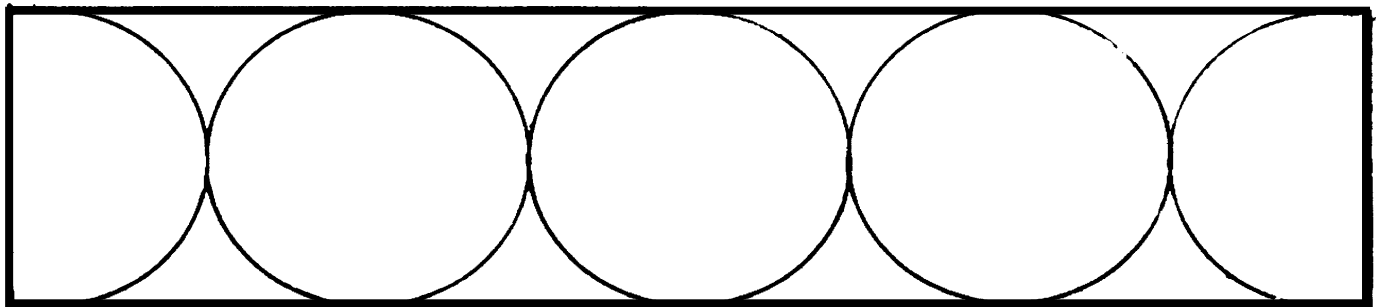


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APRIL 2024



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THE WALSHAM OBSERVER

APRIL 2024

No 661

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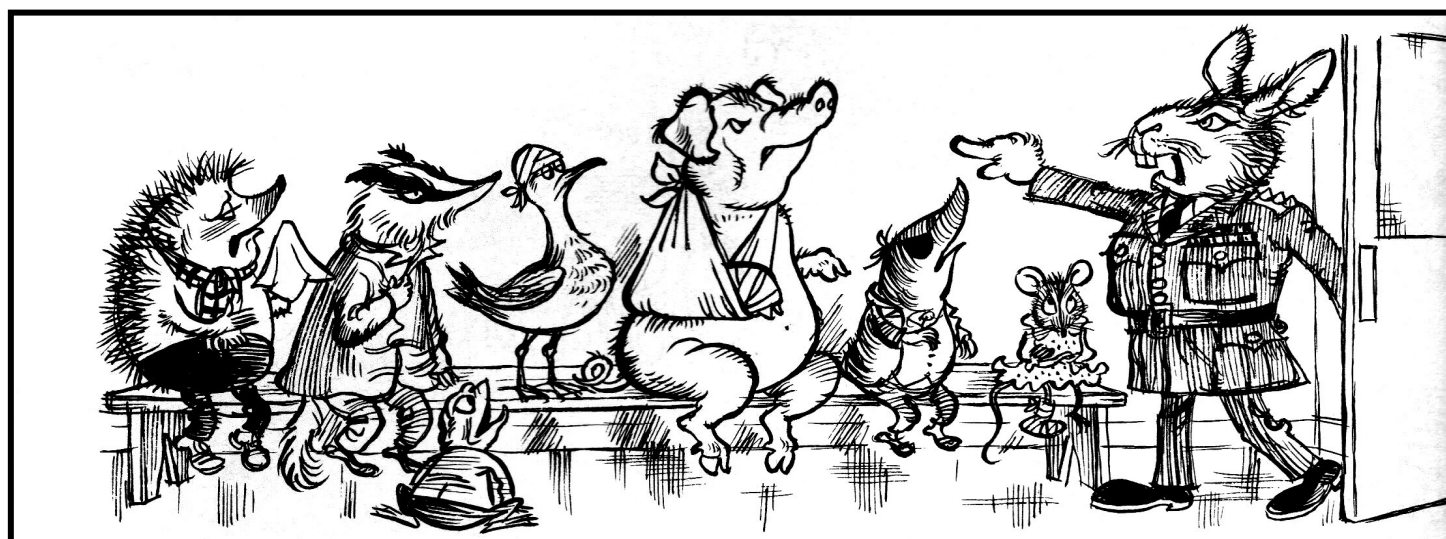
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EDITORIAL

Having sat twiddling my fingers, whilst waiting for my computer to respond to even the smallest operation, I took the plunge and bought a new computer with Windows 11 installed. All my files transferred across and the Free software reinstalled, and I was ready to put the April edition of the Observer together.

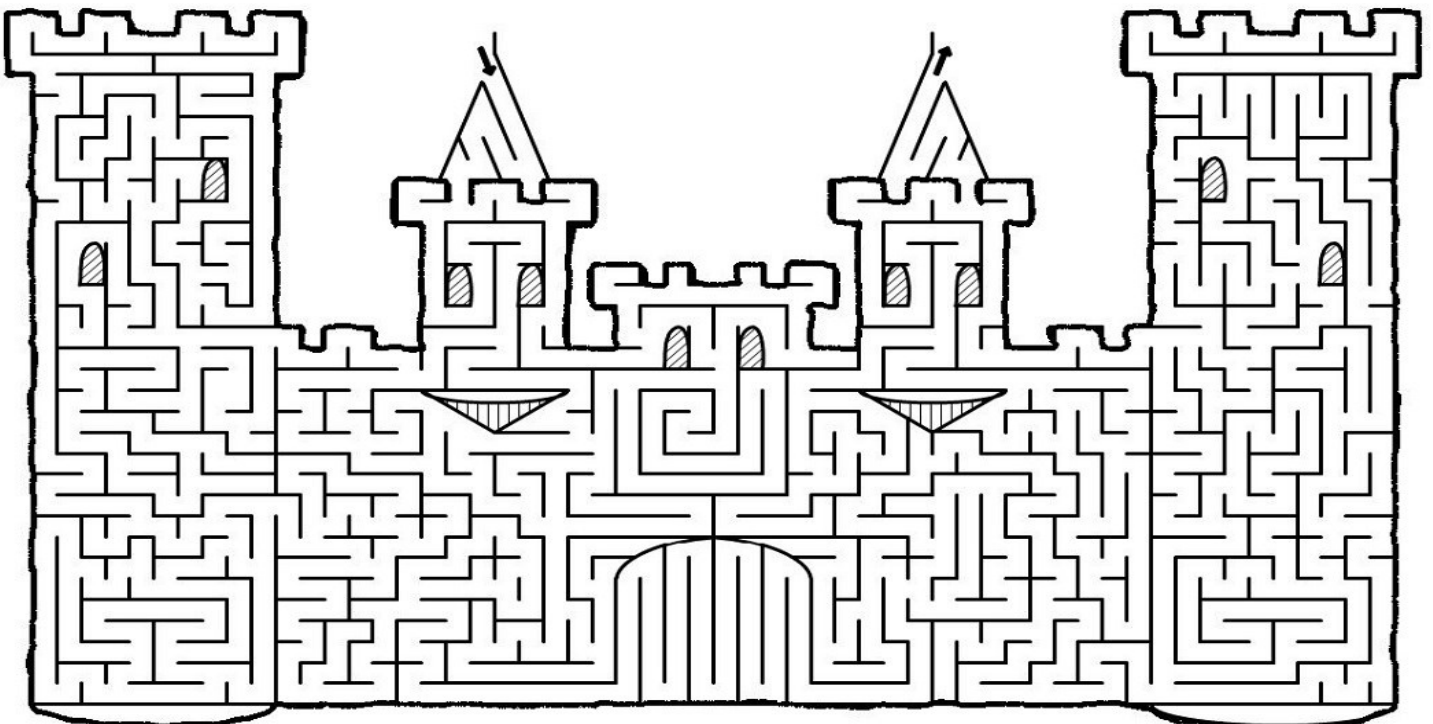
What a delight. Rapid responses, and everything going ahead wonderfully until I tried to scan the cartoon for the Spot the Difference. No joy! But thankfully I found someone who could perform the task for me, but I shall have to sit down and ponder why the printer will print but not scan!!

So here is the result of a weekend putting the finishing touches to this edition, which I hope that you will enjoy. Needless to say, just as I thought I had got the whole thing sorted one or two extra items arrived, which had to be fitted in, and the Citizen Advice article was too long, but by the time I had discovered this it was too late to get it altered. Hopefully the correspondent will take note of my comments and produce something a little shorter next time.

Last month ended with a flurry of events; History Group talk, on the Wednesday, another excellent Film and Supper event on the Friday, and then the East Anglian Music Trust event on the Sunday. All of these were enjoyed by a number of villagers, but they only happen thanks to small groups of people. There is an article concerning this matter. I have received one or two comments about this. If you do enjoy the community spirit of the village then do think about helping to keep it going. You don't necessarily need to be an organiser. Helpers are very much valued.

It is good to see that musical events are coming back to St Mary's, details of which are included in this edition. And whilst mentioning St Mary's, it is welcome news that the benefice will soon have a new vicar, in far less time than one had feared.

As there are articles about the Open Gardens Weekend, at the end of August, some people might be interested in the Plant and Craft Fair at Wyken on Sunday 28th April from 10am till 4pm. Always a great event.



VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Special mention goes to the two new dance classes for Mondays which are proving to be very well attended. All other activities continue in April as usual.

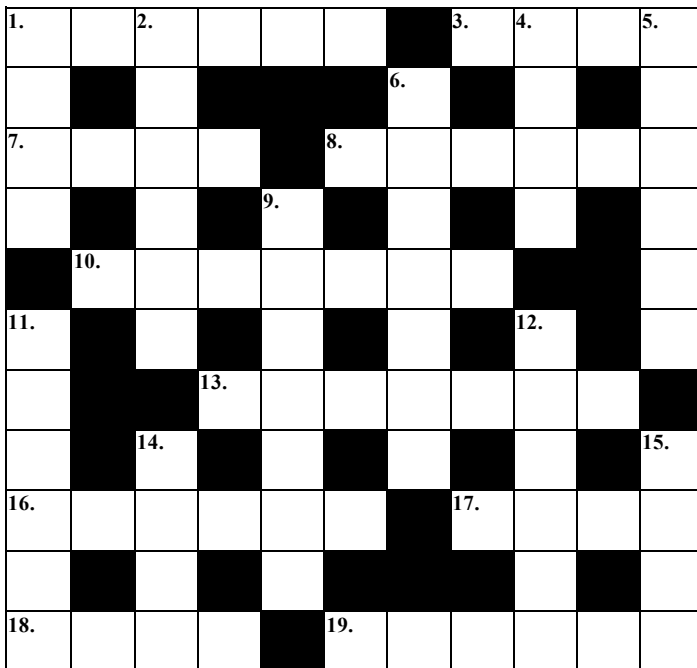
The Community Lunch held on Monday 11th March continues to be well attended and the next one will be held on Monday 8th April.. The Thursday coffee morning get-togethers remain well attended but we should give advance notice that the one on Thursday 2nd May has to be cancelled as the Hall is booked by MSDC for the Police Commissioners election. .

We hope visitors to the MVH will in the next few months note some major changes to the garden as we have been lucky enough to get a volunteer, Gordon Riddick, over the last few months to tidy up the garden ready for Spring and he will also plant various new scrubs which will enhance the garden further for all to enjoy.

We have mentioned in previous missives that we have been investigating putting solar panels on the roof of the Hall which ultimately will help with our electricity costs. This project was always dependent on getting substantial grants from various sources in addition to the MVH's own contributions so we are very happy to advise we have now secured funding so in the months to come we expect work will commence which will benefit our community in the future.

Rob Matthews

WALSHAM OBSERVER CROSSWORD



10. One way or another arrange to take the sow home. (7)
 13. Strived to make changes to the course. (7)
 16. Put away in the restored cupboard. (6)
 17. Step around the nuisance. (4)
 18. National had an Englishman imprisoned. (4)
 19. Undergarment for the worried escort. (6)

DOWN

1. Find it also houses part of London. (4)
 2. Train such a group of fish. (6)
 4. Stumble on a journey. (4)
 5. One ply is easily made clearly. (6)
 6. Do poets become so bent. (7)
 9. The German has a live present. (7)
 11. Gone by but not some time ago. (6)
 12. Find that the rest are in grandmother's footsteps. (6) (6)
 14. An instrument for the Blue Boy? (4)
 15. A test arranged from the same place. (4)

ACROSS

1. Sounds like there's none like my relation. (6)
 3. Either we've got to have him. (4)
 7. Such a laughable boundary. (4)
 8. Does the priest arrange to draw this line. (6)



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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

The annual meeting of the parish was held on Monday the 11th March 6:30 until 8:30 and was attended by Jessica Fleming, County Councillor, Richard Winch, District Councillor, parish councillors and thirteen members of the public. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to enjoy nibbles and open discussion about the village in 2024. It is really helpful to share ideas and suggestions and to look for ways to maintain or improve life in our community.

Flooding: Issues were raised with drainage and ditches and water flowing along roads (The Causeway). It was noted that a considerable amount of ditch digging and clearing is being undertaken and that this could increase flow onto roads or into the stream potentially causing further flooding for residents.

Suffolk County Council's Highway reporting tool was explained. This can be found on the village website.

Jessica Fleming informed the meeting that SCC are meeting with NFU, Environment Agency and Anglian Water to discuss ways water can be held back or slowed as part of their response to the flooding

Community Emergency Plan: The purpose of the plan was explained by Ann Brookes who is coordinating the plan. A draft plan was discussed and adopted on Wednesday at the monthly Parish Council Meeting with further modifications to follow once SCC have produced their template. The next step is to have a public meeting to gather volunteers to assist with implementing the emergency plan under the direction of the Response Team.

The Memorial Hall has been identified by SCC as a potential rest space if required- the power wall and solar panels should provide some short term emergency electricity once installed.

Traffic: Ways to alleviate and calm traffic was identified as an objective for the PC at the previous Annual Meeting of the Parish in May 2023

Since then the Walsham Community Traffic Group has been formed to operate as a working group to support the Parish Council. A survey was carried out to collate the views of any members of the parish who wished to respond. The results have been analysed and a detailed draft proposal is being created for consultation. It was explained that this proposal contains 20mph limit suggestions but has broader traffic calming measures too. Jessica Fleming agreed to ask representatives from SCC Highways to be involved in the consultation process.

Footpaths: RW spoke about MSDC plans for footpaths in the village to promote cycling and walking.

Bus Service: The need for a small addition to the bus timetable, maybe even 1 bus a day on certain days of the week to allow for trips into Bury of a sensible duration was discussed at the request of a resident.

Also the need for youngsters to get into the cinema or music venues by bus was also noted SCC are currently consulting on transport - Suffolk's Local Transport Plan

Richard Winch suggested how Walsham could work with Badwell Ash to pursue bus routes and he will see if their Parish Council is interested in this joint project.

- Objectives for 2024/25**
1. To take part in Section 19 review of Flooding
 2. To pursue actions from Walsham's Traffic proposal
 3. To establish Community Emergency Plan
 4. To follow up on proposed footpaths with MSDC and SCC
 5. To continue to monitor plans at Shepherd's Grove

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WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term we have celebrated Red Nose Day by wearing red and created a joke book from our World Book Day. In total we raised £166 which is incredible. For science week we have explored time and have had an engineer come in to talk to us about how telling the time has evolved over the years. We are waiting excitedly for our duckling eggs to hatch and will be keeping diaries of their growth over time.

The children in Caterpillar class have been looking at 'What Happens When I Fall Asleep?' and exploring nocturnal animals and writing information text about their discoveries. They are also researching the moon and planets as well as writing bedtime stories. They are exploring growth in science for different animals including humans.

Those in Ladybirds are focusing on 'Moon Zoom' and have been reading the story 'Beegu'; they have then looked at character descriptions of aliens and writing about Helen Sharman who was the first UK astronaut. In maths they are learning to divide and multiply.

The children in Dragonflies have created their own Stop Motion videos using Morph as their inspiration and then adding creating some written speech. In maths, they have been having fun with fractions and learning about predators in science and are going to dissect some owl pellets.

The children in Grasshopper class are exploring the solar system, discovering how other planets are different to Earth and investigating if life could be sustained on Mars. In English they are writing myths based on the Moon. In maths they are learning to use decimals, fractions and percentages.

In Cricket Class this half term, we have had visitors from the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds to help the children create play scripts as part of their Tiny Plays, Big Ideas programme. The children are getting ready for their SATs in May by having booster sessions and in PE learning to play hockey.

Our theme for Collective Worship this half term is Hope and we have been looking at how Jesus had Hope as part of our learning about Lent.

If you wish to make an appointment to visit or would like more information about our school, please contact Mrs McGarr, on 01359 259319 or by e-mail admin@walsham-le-willows.suffolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

Maxine McGarr



ANAGRAMS I

Spin pins into nips
Snap pans into naps.
Mix spit into tips.
Turn parts into traps.

Switch post into stop.
Whisk dear into dare.
Carve hops into shop.
Rip rate into tear.

Twist tame into mate.
Make mean into name.
Juggle taste into state.
In the wordspinning game.



7 r? By which nickname was convicted criminal Robert Stroud known?

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In which city was Martin Luther King assassinated in 1968?

8

My council tax bill is coming out in March, and I am dreading opening it as it always goes up. My income has stayed the same but everything else seems more expensive and I have hardly anything left over - how will I cope if my payments for this year go up?

Many of us are feeling overwhelmed as we see our basic bills and essential costs go up. You're not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there's support available.

First off, there are discounts available to some people depending on their circumstances. You can check your bill or contact your council to find out if you might be eligible for an automatic reduction to your council tax.

If you're not getting a discount, you might still be entitled to one. It depends on who lives in the property. So, if you're the only adult in your home, you'll get a 25% discount on your council tax bill.

When working out how many people live in a property, some people aren't counted - they're called 'disregarded people' and include under 18s, a student nurse or someone on an apprenticeship scheme and many more. Checking the government website (<https://www.gov.uk/council-tax/who-has-to-pay>) for more details. If everyone who lives in the property is disregarded, you will still receive a council tax bill, but it will have a 50% discount. However, if everyone in your home is a student or severely mentally impaired, you won't pay any council tax.

Additionally, if someone has moved out, tell the council as this might change your eligibility. If you are entitled to a discount as a result, it will be valid from the date when the person moved out, even if you told the council after the event, and the reduction may be backdated.

If you think you might be eligible you should apply to your local council for a discount as soon as possible. You can find your council's contact details via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-council-tax-discount>

You mention that your income hasn't increased. If you are on a low income, you might be able to get your council tax reduced. If you get benefits or have other people living with you, this might affect how much your council tax is reduced by.

Your local council will ask you details about your income and your circumstances, so they can work out if you're entitled to a council tax reduction. They will then calculate your new bill and tell you how much council tax you need to pay.

If you have other people living with you who are aged 18 or over, you might all be responsible for paying council tax. Only one of you needs to apply for a council tax reduction. The council will make a decision and reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay accordingly.

You may also be eligible for additional support if you've reached State Pension age which you can check on the government website via <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age>. If you're under State Pension age, the 'working age rules' apply and if you've reached State Pension age, it depends if you or your partner get certain benefits.

The working age rules still apply if you've reached State Pension age and you or your

partner get:

Universal Credit

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Income Support

If you've reached State Pension age and don't get any of these benefits, the 'pension age rules' apply.

Even if none of the reduction criteria applies to you, your local council can still reduce your council tax bill or cancel it altogether, this is called 'discretionary reduction'. They'll normally only do this if you can show that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay council tax.

If you're in this situation you should ask your local council for help. You'll need to show them evidence of your circumstances. If your immigration status doesn't let you claim public funds, you can still apply for a discretionary reduction. A discretionary reduction doesn't count as public funds.

We know that times are incredibly tough and council tax is a priority bill so it's important to keep in contact with your council if you can't keep up payments. Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward, without judgement, working with you side by side.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm. Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

MORE OR LESS

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The numbers 1 to 5 should appear in each row and column.

The greater and less signs indicate the relative size of adjacent numbers.

STANTON AND DISTRICH BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION.

During the period July to September 2023 the County Benevolent fund received 108 requests for help amounting to £53,475-04p being paid out as follows

8 requests for brown goods £4,469-74p, 5 for white goods £2,345, 33 crisis payments £6,071-74p, 15 energy payments £6,095-26p, 1 funeral £1,200, 8 housing payments £12,251-30p, 10 mobility payments £5,297-11p, 6 debit payments £7,641, 2 medical payments £2,242 and 20 miscellaneous payments £5,861-89p.

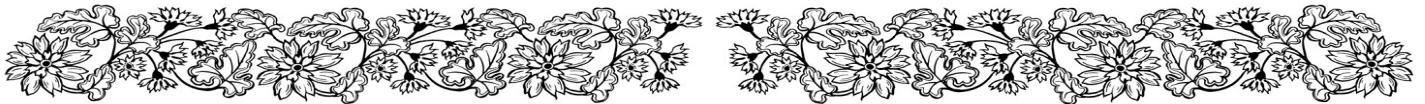
Brown goods cover cookers and other household goods, white goods cover freezers, fridges and washing machines.

It is important that branches continue to fund raise to support the benevolent fund to be ready to help others in the future with requests.

The "C" group meeting on Thursday April 11th at 8pm will be hosted by the Bury branch at Risbygate Bowls Club, Branch funds at time of going to press were £2129-56p.

The next branch meeting will be held Tuesday 9th April in the Cock Inn Stanton 8pm.

Hubby Frost



COMMUNITY LUNCH



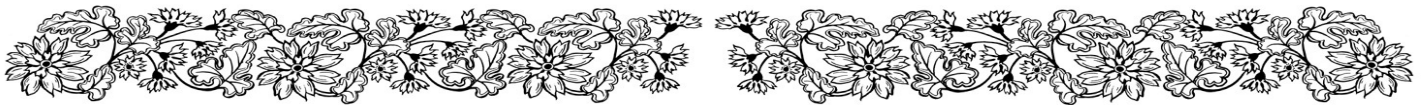
The Memorial Village Hall will be open from 12.30pm on Monday 18th April.

Lunch will be Pork in Cider, mini potatoes, cauliflower cheese and green beans served at 12.45pm -1pm, followed by Rhubarb crumble & custard. Tea and coffee to follow.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Please book a place, at £8.00, with Shirley on 01359 258532 by 5pm on Thursday 11th April.

Shirley White



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WALSHAM LE WILLOWS AND DISTRICT WI REPORT



Three lovely ladies were already installed when members arrived but we didn't know if they were Bronte sisters or Jane Austen's neighbours? Turns out both as the specific years that Sarah and James have made their special study reached both. We marvelled Sarah's patience needed to create the gowns including some strange under garments when bottoms were big! but we were glad we don't have to cope with a trip to the loo in these. Truth is, they didn't, for this was the era of the chamber pot well hidden beneath the extravagant skirts. It was a fascinating picture of life in those times and it was not surprising that James and Sarah were back in Walsham by popular demand. Padding was eventually replaced by the skimpy muslins of the empire line. Paris was as ever leading fashion. Warning ladies the padding may be coming back with the popularity of the Brazilian Bum!

Next month April 30th we will create a little piece of spring together come and join us!

Jill Newell



WALSHAM OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND 25th and 26th of August

Since the pandemic we have had two really brilliant weekends and, as a group, we are revitalised and we are really looking forward to this year's August Bank Holiday event. As readers will have seen, we were delighted to distribute about £18,000 this year, half for the upkeep of our remarkable Grade I listed St Mary's and the rest to a variety of clubs and organisations within Walsham and we still have a reserve fund which we feel we need, to guard against a "disaster year" which of course, we hope, will never happen. We held our AGM on the 21st of March and if any readers would like to see the 2023 accounts, then please let me know and I will drop round a copy. What we did again at our meeting, was to remind ourselves that the success of the event relies entirely on a huge number of the Walsham's residents who are involved with the weekend, and we thank you all. If you haven't been part of the weekend thus far then you really are missing a brilliant time so please make contact and we will find you a job. For newcomers to the village, it is a great way to get involved and to get to know your neighbours so please get in touch if you want to be a part of the fun.

John Stebbing john@architectatwork.co.uk 07831 325610
Secretary to the Walsham le Willows Open Gardens Trust



ANAGRAMS II

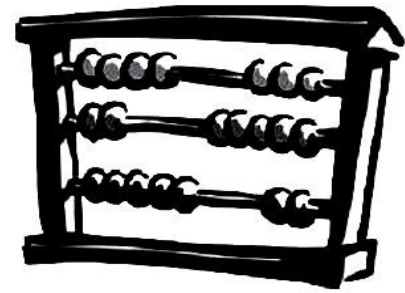
Play with names
And Pat becomes tap.
Karl is a lark
And Pam is a map.

Miles is slime.
Liam is mail.
Bart is a brat
And Lina's a nail.

Trish is a shirt.
Kay is a yak.
But whatever you do
Jack remains jack.

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SPRING PROMISES

At The Wild Woods



Our planting season closed with a real community effort on Sunday March 17th. In spite of threatened rain, the weather held out just long enough for a band of determined volunteers to complete this season's bare root planting in the Walsham Wild Woods. After leaving the planting until the last possible weekend and bailing out the pre dug holes for the new orchard trees, our wonderful band of "tree buddies" took charge of planting and staking their young fruit trees. In addition, the sponsored silver birches from the Curry Night were planted in the Wild Wood itself by a full quota of supporters.

All 12 of the heritage fruit trees supplied by MSDC for our edible fruit section in the new Jubilee Wood were planted by families, groups and individuals. A mixture of gages, bullaces and apple varieties were all planted including St Edmunds Russet, Adam's Permaine and Old Gage. Lord Lambourne himself was planted on behalf of the Walsham Bellringers!

After a demonstration of correct fruit tree planting, the buddies completed the first step of their ongoing task. We hope they will help to nurture their tree over subsequent seasons, particularly giving water during prolonged hot, dry periods. Each "tree buddy" will soon receive a simple guide to the continued care of their tree so that each tree reaches its fruiting potential in time.

Refreshments were enjoyed, certificates for "tree buddies" distributed and good intentions made. Thank you very much to all the newly enrolled "tree buddies" and to the birch tree sponsors. There will be another small planting of fruit trees next season and the search will be on for additional "buddies" so give the idea some thought over the coming months.

Walsham Wild Woods Steering Group

STANLEY WEST

County Archaeologist and Late Resident of Walsham

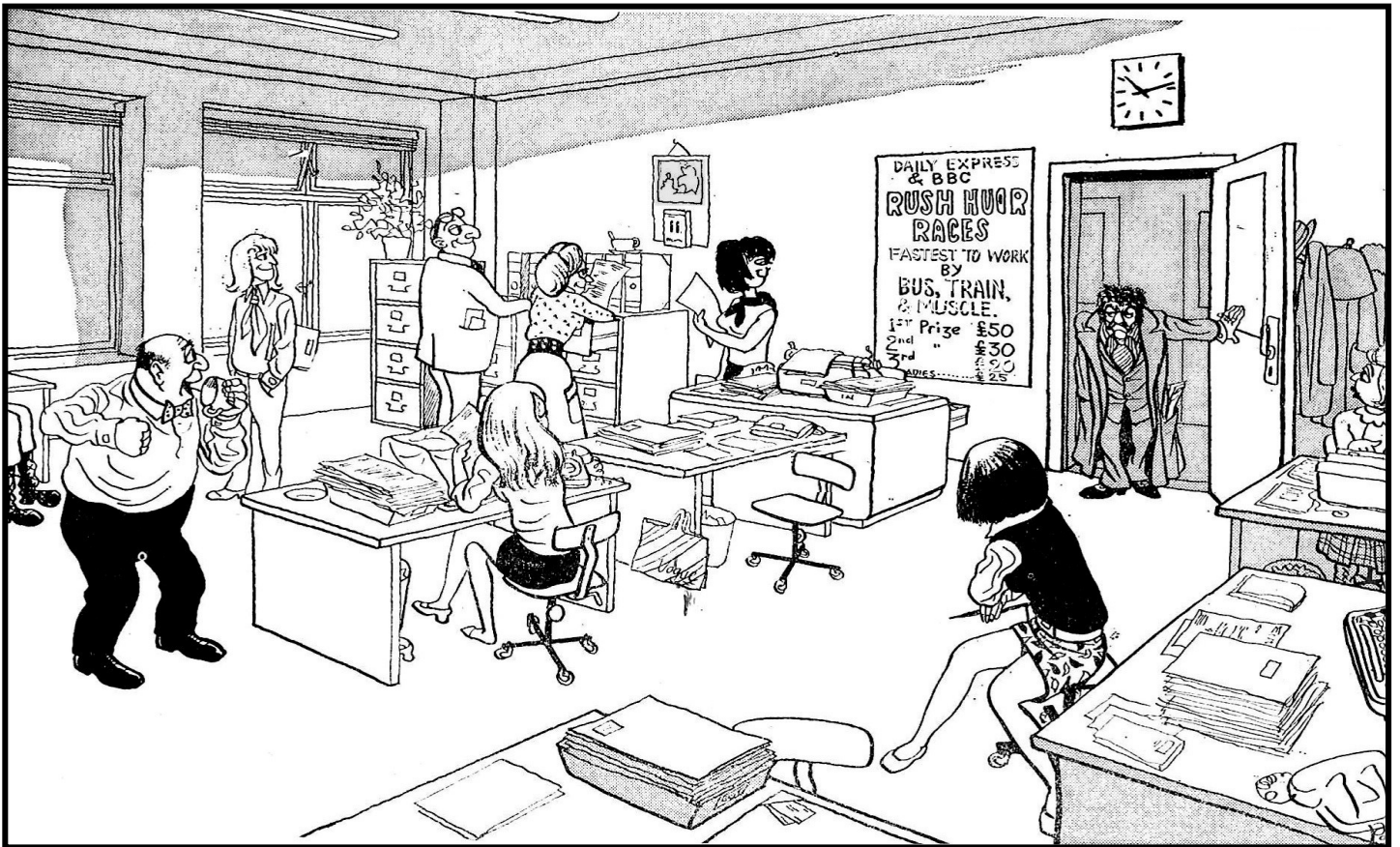
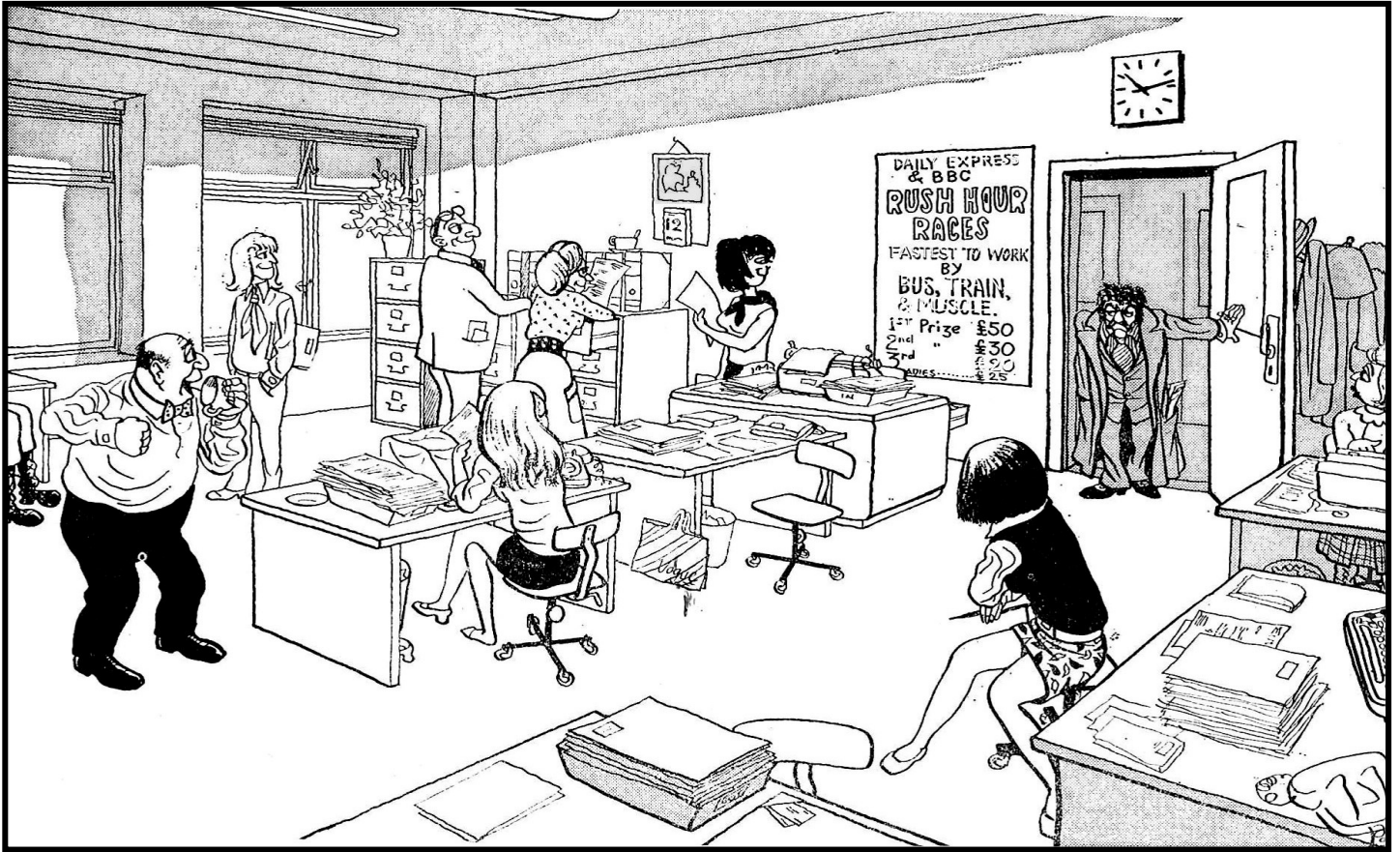
Stanley West, who died recently, was best known for being the County Archaeologist, who originally excavated the West Stow Anglo Saxon Village, in the mid-1960s and found evidence of about seventy buildings, eight of them being timber halls. He initiated the idea of trying to reconstruct some of them as archaeological experimentation and education.

Stanley lived, with his wife and son, at Four Ashes Farm House in Walsham.

Locally he was very generous with his wide knowledge of archaeology. He sparked my interest in the subject, by taking a group of us Field Walking, looking for flints and pottery sherds – he always found the best pieces and delighted in throwing our 'rubbish' over his shoulder! Eventually we walked the whole parish and the results contributed to the well respected East Anglian Archaeology book 'Towards a Landscape History of Walsham le Willows' by Stanley West and Audrey McLaughlin.

Mary Jane Toulson

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



There are ten differences between these two pictures, see if you can find them all before the man In the door does something stupid, if he hasn't already

Where in Belgium is the country's main Formula One racing circuit?

GARDEN LIAISON PEOPLE FOR GARDENS WEEKEND

Sunday, 25th and Monday, 26th August

We would like to introduce ourselves, Cath and Graham Knowles, as we are taking over from Alison Findlay as "Garden Liaison people". We have very big shoes to fill but hope that we can be a point of contact for all existing and new garden owners who open this year.

We opened our garden for the first time in 2022. It's enormous fun and a wonderful community event that raises funds for village groups and St. Mary's Church.

For all garden owners who opened last year, we hope that you will join us again this year. For any garden owners thinking about reopening after a break or people considering opening for the first time, please get in touch with us.

We are here to help, explain exactly what's involved or just visit you for a friendly chat.

Cath and Graham: Email: opengardens@walsham-le-willows.org

Telephone/Text: 07548961793



WALSHAM PÉTANQUE New Season!



After what's been a generally miserable wet and windy winter, Spring's here and we're now really pleased to be starting up again for the new season.

So, as from 4th April we'll be back for our weekly Thursday afternoon sessions from 2pm onwards. We've also decided to have an additional session on Sunday afternoons starting at 2.30pm. This will provide an option for anyone for whom weekdays are less convenient. On summer Sundays at the Sports Club there will also be cricket going on and the likelihood of the Bar being open, so it will be a convivial atmosphere for all.

We currently have a small core of regular players, but we would very much welcome a few more.

I still intend to arrange some friendly games with other local village teams, but we need first to get swiftly back into our seasonal regime and get a bit of practice in!

Meanwhile, we would be very pleased to hear from anyone new who would be interested in coming along. Our weekly sessions are very informal, and no previous experience in pétanque is necessary - we'll all be there just to have a relaxed time. We have our own Club supply of boules and you'd be made very welcome. Why not drop me an email, and I'll get back to you with all the info.

Graham Portlock



WALSHAM HISTORY GROUP

Appeal

Walsham History Group is currently thriving, with a growing membership and our talks being well supported. This is good news indeed when I hear about other History Groups locally having to close through lack of support and people to run them.

When I took on the role of Chair quite a few years ago it was exactly for the reason I have just mentioned. A small group of us, only half the size of the previous committee, volunteered as we didn't want to lose the History Group, with each of us taking on several roles each.

Walsham has an amazingly rich, well documented history of which we are very proud. Next year the History Group celebrates its 50th anniversary. That it has survived so long is mainly due to the work of past members, such as Audrey McLaughlin, who did so much in researching and putting into print our rich past.

If we are to continue to survive and put on a programme of talks, undertake research, write and publish books and answer queries from all over the world then we need more help and we need your help. Our village population is now probably at its largest ever and yet we are struggling to find people to help run our community groups. Lose these groups and you start to lose your community spirit, this is often the very essence of what people move to a village for and Walsham at present is a very good example of a community minded village.

To be part of the History Group Committee you don't have to have a great knowledge of history, we don't, we learn as we go. To be able to have access to so much history that is right on our doorstep is fascinating, absorbing and a privilege. We only have about three or four meetings a year, however, if being part of a committee doesn't appeal to you then maybe you could help in other ways by putting up posters, serving refreshments, putting together displays and many other ways.

We do need extra help if we are to carry on the work we do. You would be most welcome if you would like to join us. If you would like to know more then please contact me.

frances.jenner@hotmail.com
01359 259242



Augusta: Hector, have you thought of giving a helping hand to the History Group you so much enjoy.

Hector: Yes, I think that I just might! Putting out chairs isn't too onerous. I can make a damned good cup of tea, and I might even be able to persuade one or two of my associates to give a talk. Hmm! Yes!! I'll do it!



MUSIC IN ST MARY'S



With their tall, airy open spaces, and sound-reflecting stone walls, churches are wonderful places to play music. We are especially lucky in Walsham that St Mary's has particularly fine acoustics, as well as a full-voiced organ and a graceful grand piano, so musicians love to come back and perform here for us time and again.

The Music at St Mary's team are assembling an exciting 2024 programme as I write, and I can already give you some dates for your diary, with more soon to follow.

We kick off on the **15th of May with a lunchtime piano recital** from visiting virtuoso pianist Jill Crossland.

On the **25th June local music teacher Carol Kellmann** holds her pupils' recital - a great event for any parents who may want their children to start music lessons, or adults with a long-held dream of learning an instrument.

We are delighted to welcome back the **Baroque ensemble Rococo and also Neil Carlson and James Thomas on oboe and keyboard**. Both of them have given very popular lunchtime recitals for us before, and they will be playing on **1st August and 24th September respectively**.

Our last definite fixture is a **musical pot pourri** of talent assembled by **Alistair Blay for the evening of the 12th October**. You will also be able to hear Alistair playing Schubert on the piano in the Church at Gardens Weekend.

We hope to round off the year with a brass quintet accompanying the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols.

We still have some dates to fill, and some very exciting performers interested in playing, and we plan to publicise the whole year's programme once complete. Meanwhile, follow the Hexagon and the Walsham Observer for more details.

The format of the musical events remains unchanged. Admission is free, and we even provide some post-performance refreshment. Contributions to the retiring collection are used to support the music in the church for future years. The atmosphere of the concerts is relaxed and informal. Our musicians are not asked to provide a programme beforehand. They choose the music they want to play and tell us about it. This means we often hear some quite unusual and interesting pieces. Our players always enjoy a chat over a cup of tea and a slice of cake afterwards. Questions from younger listeners interested in playing any of the instruments have been welcome.

If you would like to be on our mailing list for the concert series, please contact garthharlow@outlook.com . We very much hope you will enjoy supporting Music at St Mary's 2024.

Matthew Lockyer

ANAGRAMS III

Why is a foal like a loaf?	Why is a plum like a lump?	Why are gates like a stage?
Why is an atom like a moat?	Why is a pager like a grape?	Why is leap like a plea?
Why is a grin like a ring?	Why is a shrub like a brush?	Why is a café like a face?
Why is toast like a stoat?	Why is peat like a tape?	Why is a leaf like a flea?

Stuart Walker

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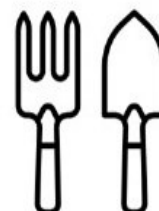


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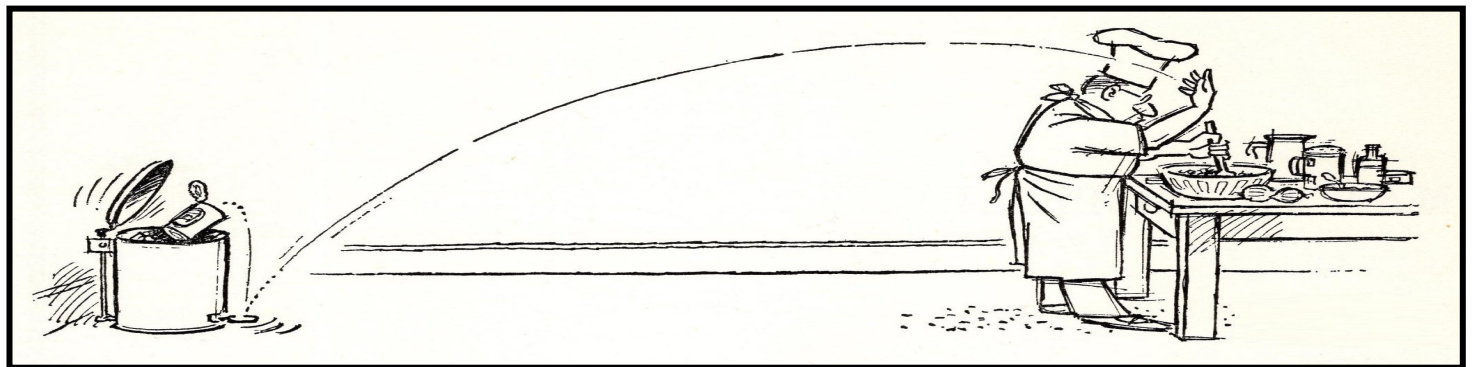
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John Boulter 07908 010555 johnboulter@yahoo.com

DIARY OF EVENTS

APRIL			
Tue 9th	Flower Project Sports Club	10.30am	
Wed 10th	W.I. Floral Arrangement Priory Room	7.45pm	
Wed 17th	History Group Priory Room	7.30pm	
MAY			
Wed 8th	W.I. Annual Meeting Priory Room	7.45pm	
Sun 12th	History Gp Spring Walk Six Bells	1030am	
Wed 15th	Lunchtime Music St Mary's	12.00pm	
	History Group Village Hall	7.30pm	
JUNE			
Wed 12th	W.I. Wild Wood Visit Wild Wood	7.45pm	
Wed 19th	History Group St Mary's	7.30pm	
Sun 26th	Music		
	St Mary's	2.00pm	
		AUGUST	
Thur 1st	Lunchtime Music St Mary's		12.00pm
Sun 25th	Open Gardens		All
Mon 26th	Gardens Weekend Day		
		SEPTEMBER	
Wed 11th	History Group Village Hall		7.30pm
Tue 24th	Music St Mary's		12.00pm
		OCTOBER	
Sat 12th	Music St Mary's		7.30pm
Wed 16th	History Group Priory Room		7.30pm
		NOVEMBER	
Wed 20th	History Group Priory Room		7.30pm
		DECEMBER	
Tues 10th	History Group Priory Room		7.30pm



THE MOBILE POST OFFICE
 The Mobile Post Office will still be coming to the
 Village Hall Car Park on Thursday mornings
 from 11:00am till Noon till further notice.



WALSHAM SPORTSCLUB EVENTS FOR MARCH & APRIL

Sunday Night Bingo

14th & 28th April
12th & 19th May
7pm Start in the clubhouse.

Music Evenings

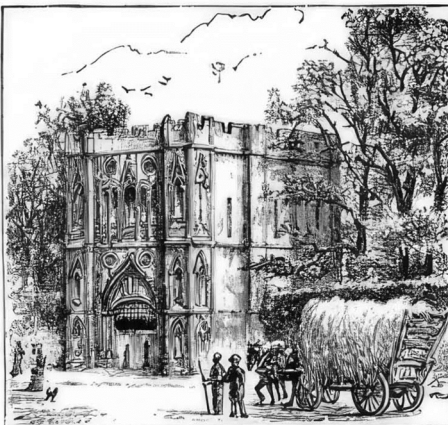
Friday 10th May . Gemma B.
Friday 24th May Jo Manning .
Both are 7.30pm starts.

Quiz Events

Friday 5th April Sharon's Quiz Night
Teams of up to four people - £2.50 per person
The Quiz has an oriental theme and dressing up is optional.

**For further information phone
Julian 07597340273**

WALSHAM *History Group* *presents*



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Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm

Priory Room, Walsham-le-Willows.

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WALSHAM LE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 commencing at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

[Informally approved. Formal approval, at the next meeting with any corrections]

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bartholomew, Belson, Brookes, Mecrow, Roberts, Tuck, Winch.

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor R winch

1 OPENING - including Statement, if any

2 APOLOGIES

- a) County Councillor Jessica Fleming.
- b) No consents required.

3 DECLARATIONS of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests

- a) Declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) incl. personal interests in items on the agenda including any gifts of hospitality – Cllr Tuck re agenda item 14b)
- b) Dispensation not requested.
- c) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – None received.

4 MINUTES - To Receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings (as previously circulated)

- a) Minutes of the meeting of 14th February 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) All actions agreed at last meeting were checked and had been completed.

5 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION & QUESTIONS - to receive written reports

Cllr Belson noted with regard to the Joint Local Plan (part ii) that the old plan has inaccurate statement of facilities in the village thereby placing Walsham le Willows in the wrong level with regard to new housing requirements. It was noted that the questionnaire on this subject must be completed when received. District Cllr Winch is following up and to be added to April agenda.

Cllr Mecrow made comment re the Local Walking & Cycling Infrastructure Plan, that maybe the footpath between the Sports Club and Fishponds needs to be explicitly added otherwise there is no link to the northern parish boundary.

Cllr Mecrow asked about the potential development of the Broad Meadow site and if this would comprise all social housing. District Cllr Winch indicated that this may have been put to one side for now as consideration is being given to the density granted in the original planning permission and the further consideration is also being given as to the suitability of this site for affordable housing.

6 PUBLIC FORUM - To receive questions and matters of concern from members of the public in attendance about items on the agenda and Walsham le Willows in general. **Two members of public were present.**

- a) A resident raised concerns about the hedge that had been cut down hard by a

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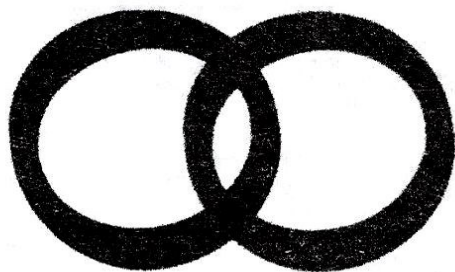
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neighbour of the closed churchyard which. Asking if there is any likelihood of replanting and that they were willing to fund this. Cllr Belson noted that we are coming to the end of the planting season for this year but that would be considered in the autumn. Clerk to add to agenda.

- b) Resident of Elm Drive asking if the Parish Council had become aware of developments with regard to the drone flying over the site between Elm Drive and Grove Road including the measurement of the streets behind the site. Cllr Belson advised again that position same as had been advised at the February meeting. If and when a planning application is submitted this would be advised to the clerk in first instance for the agenda of the following Parish Council meeting. Residents are advised to check agendas for this application and to watch out for the yellow notice that will be posted by MSDC. The Clerk took the residents email address and will also alert him.

7 FLOOD RESPONSE

- a) The three flood response documents prepared by the flood response group were approved for submission to the Environment Agency contact (Cllr Mecrow to pass email address to Clerk) and to Suffolk County Council Floods Team.
- b) The Clerk was asked to enquire with County Cllr Fleming as to whether any investigations have been started yet and of SCC if a hydrology report is part of the investigations.

Cllr Winch proposed that the flood response group try to set up an informal meeting with the affected residents to share information on progress with surveyors and grant payments as well as insurance issues.

8 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN (CEP)

The interim CEP was received for approval and was adopted as policy statement pending finalisation of the plan once full revised guidance has been received from MSDC. Clerk to add to policy documents.

Cllr Mecrow asked about how the plan would work if one house in the village suffered fire and if the plan would be triggered and Memorial Hall be available for accommodation in that eventuality. It was explained that the plan would only be triggered by the local authority in the event of a 'major incident' being declared by them. The plan can be triggered locally by 2 designated persons but it was felt that this might be unlikely for one affected property although the designated people would obviously assess any incident before coming to a decision.

The Parish Council suggested the following:

- That the risk register is updated again in the light of the October flooding.
- That the plan might refer to postholders with an appendix at the back noting current postholders which would make updating easier although Cllr Brookes advised that it was thought that guidance suggests on named individuals throughout the document and this might be required for it to be registered with and adopted by the local authority.
- That the order should be changed so that plan does not start with flooding specifically.

Cllrs Brookes and Bartholomew advised next steps as contacting local businesses and organisations (including the school) to ensure that emergency plans dovetail

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with each other. 1:1 conversations will be sought and arranged starting with existing networks seeking volunteers for CEP roles.

Clerk to write to Clarkes of Walsham to seek a suitable date for Cllrs Brookes and Bartholomew to meet with them.

9 PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

a) Review of Parish Council Objectives for 2023/24

i. Traffic calming & reduction

- Report from A1088 Stowlangtoft bridge liaison meeting (circulated 29/02/2024) was noted and Cllr Belson summarised that the old bridge was built in two parts, the original and then a later addition beside it. These bridges will be demolished and replaced by one new bridge. Pre-construction work will be done on BT lines, power lines and an otter survey carried out. Work is due to start in July but it is noted that the work on the A14 is not due to be finished until August so that may have an impact in timing. It was noted that there will be no weight restriction on the new bridge but it is possible that there will be restrictions on HGVs going through Norton based on environmental grounds. It is hoped that most of the traffic that may be forced through Walsham will be local and so would have permits for Stowlangtoft.
- The report from the Community Traffic Group and consultation proposals (Cllr Winch) were welcomed and it was noted how much work had been done. This was discussed at length. It was agreed that the report would be reformulated to focus on individual road management based on achievable priorities and a revised map. The Clerk confirmed that nothing else.
- SID data to be extracted to date, and circulated to group.
- Pro-forma that Highways asked us to complete when physical village gates were last considered to be located and circulated to group.

ii. Access to footpaths and permissive paths

- The email received from Ian Campbell re Summer Road site visit (circulated 01/03/2024) to look at improvements to access to footpaths and permissive paths was noted which is enormously helpful. It was noted that there are lot of different stakeholders involved in this project and Cllr Mecrow thought that the Parish Council should 'take ownership' of this project and be the co-ordinating body. This was agreed and District Cllr Winch will follow up with his contacts to establish that principle.
- The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Martineau to thank her and Mr Martineau attending the site meeting re proposals on Summer Road footpaths and also to thank them both for generously agreeing to allow the construction of a Public Footpath along the edges of two of their fields.

iii. Shepherd's Grove site – West Suffolk consideration of DC/22/2190/HYB 06/03/2024. Cllr Mecrow will write to West Suffolk Planning department to express dismay that the Parish Council were not notified of



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the most recent developments for this application. District Cllr R Winch advised that he had already written on same matter.

- b) The outcomes of the Annual Question Time public meeting were considered and the following objectives were set for 2024/25:
 - i. Section 19 review of Flooding in partnership with SCC
 - ii. Actions from Walsham Community Traffic group proposal
 - iii. Establish Community Emergency plan
 - iv. Follow up on proposed footpath developments with MSDC and SCC
 - v. Monitor development plans at Shepherd's Grove
 - vi. Possible consulting more widely on bus routes
 - vii. Completion & engagement with joint local plan part ii
- c) Email response from SCC Highways re request for signage and refreshing of road markings on Summer Road was noted. The Clerk advised that there had been no further communications since this last circulated.
- d) Consideration of quotes for a new Speed Indicator Device was deferred until the next meeting.

10 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Matters relating to development of the Shepherds Grove site.
- b) APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT - DC/24/00767
Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Repairs to gable wall as per schedule of works. Location: Old Hall, Finningham Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BN **The Parish Council Made No Comment.**
- c) APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION – DC/24/00034 Proposal: Householder Application – Erection of detached single storey building to provide ancillary accommodation. Location: 2 Avenue Cottages, The Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AZ **The Parish Council Objected To This Application With The Following Main Points Of Objection.**
 - i. The proposal will have a detrimental impact on the Walsham le Willows Conservation Area. Although the proposal will not be visible from The Street it will be highly visible from The Avenue, which is an important and much used pedestrian thoroughfare linking the built section of the CA with the rural section centred upon The Grove. In the village Neighbourhood Plan the views along The Avenue are designated as Important Public Local Views, (views 20 of WLW9), and as such proposals having an adverse impact should not be supported.
 - ii. The proposal is within the curtilage of, and will have a negative impact on, a Non-designated Heritage Asset. Avenue Cottages are very unusual; they date from the 17th century but were much altered during the 19th century when The Grove was constructed, and The Avenue was created. In Sylvia Colman's assessment of village buildings in the 1960s they were identified as worthy of official listing.
 - iii. One of the fundamental objectives, (Objective 1) of the Neighbourhood Plan is that we should be encouraging high quality design. Although the



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proposal uses an appropriate palette of colours and materials the design is unimaginative and unworthy of this setting.

- iv. The proposal is within a designated flood zone. The village was badly affected by flooding in the autumn of 2023 and in this part of the village experience showed that the authority flood maps were not necessarily indicative of the likelihood of inundation. Here flooding was not from the river but from run-off coming from the field to the south, from Grove Road, and actually down The Avenue; the cottages came very close to being flooded. The designation of Zone 1 and Zone 2 was of little relevance.
- v. The proposal does not comply with relevant planning Policy for Residential Annexes. It does not “include the option of absorbing the annex back into the main building”, or, as stated elsewhere, “allow for the annex to be integrated later into the main building”. According to policy statements “it is essential that the main and annex accommodation are directly connected...or have shared facilities”. This is not true in this situation - indeed the area shown on the plans as a dining area seems to lend itself to being used as a bedroom and would thus create a totally independent unit of accommodation.

We feel that for these reasons the application should be rejected.

11 PLANNING OUTCOMES (decided by Mid Suffolk District Council, Planning Authority) for noting only

- a) Appeal Ref: APP/W3520/W/23/3320890 The Blue Boar, The Street, Walsham Le Willows, Suffolk IP31 3AA application Ref DC/22/06056, for erection of timber fence. **MSDC REFUSED PERMISSION**
- b) APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/23/05478 Proposal: Full Planning Application - Conversion of existing agricultural building into 4no. dwellinghouses. Location: Home Farm, West Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AP **MSDC Granted Permission.**

Clerk to add to the tally units for local plan allocations

12 PLAY AREA – consider any matters arising.

Quote from Premier Play Solutions for the replacement of two posts on the rope swing was considered and unanimously approved. Clerk to instruct contractor.

13 FINANCE AND AUDIT

- a) The bank reconciliation for period ending 29th February 2024 was approved and signed.
- b) Accounts awaiting payment were approved and signed off. (Appendix 1).
- c) Internal control check documents from Cllrs. Bartholomew, Roberts and Tuck had been received by the Clerk and circulated before the meeting. These were approved. The fourth check remained outstanding meaning the 75% of the checks indicated by policy WlewPC/003-003 had been completed for 2022/23.
- d) CIL bid from Bowls Club was considered and unanimously approved in the sum of £2,267. The Clerk was asked to request from the Parochial Church Council 3 quotes for the work they propose and to advise that any grant, if approved will be capped due to the remaining funds available.
- e) Parish Council policies have been reviewed and amended as detailed in



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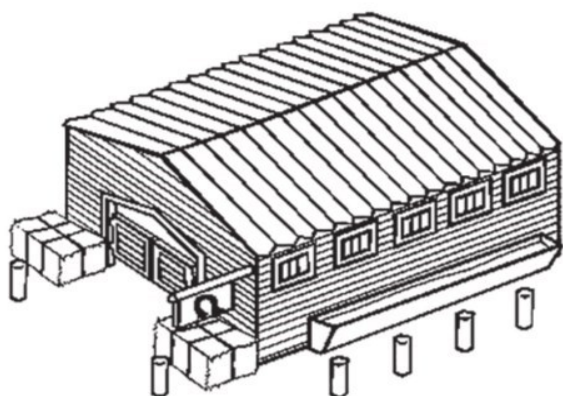
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Appendix 2 for approval pending re-adoption at May meeting. These were all unanimously approved and re-adopted. Cllr Belson asked about adding the risk assessment for the use of PC equipment by contractors. Clerk to follow up.

- f) The reply from SCC Highways re replacement of concrete streetlamp that is currently held closed by tape was considered. Cllr Roberts proposed he get some metal ties that could be used and would make it just as secure as the service cabinet lock.

14 CLERK & COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- a) To consider and receive the updated action log for any matters of concern/note. Nothing of note.
- b) Correspondence since last meeting on the issues concerning the hedgerow on the south-eastern boundary of the Closed Churchyard was considered along with the response proposed by Cllr Belson which was unanimously approved and the Clerk was asked to send.
- c) Cllr Winch reported on the recent stream verge clearance by volunteers which was very successful. This was welcomed by the Parish Council who were advised that one of the volunteers has kindly agreed to cut the grass just outside their own property in between cuts by the contractor until the bramble has been controlled and it has greened up.
- d) Advise from Community Speedwatch Team that existing gun is no longer fit for purpose and that any new speedwatch group will be issued with a new gun was considered and the Clerk proposed the disposal of the existing gun. Unanimously approved.
- e) The Clerk proposed the disposal of the old strimmer which is a model intended for domestic use, it has not been used for years and a professional model has since been obtained for use by new contractor. Unanimously agreed.
- f) To consider and receive any other matters of concern/note for next agenda – none received.
- g) Meeting closed at 21:30. Next Meeting – 10th April 2024 7pm - Memorial Hall.

APPENDIX 1

Payments for Authorisation March 2024

#	Payments OUT	Amount	Description
1	2Borders Pest Control	65.00	Closed Churchyard
2	Kevin Boardley	77.52	Reimbursement of SLL certificate for website paid to Namesco
3	Memorial Village Hall	27.00	February PC meeting
4	CGM	2,259.44	November 23 annual stream banks clearance
5	Parish Council Employee	499.00	Wages
#	Payments IN & Other Payments/ Transfers	Amount	Description
1	Deposit > Current	5,000.00	Transfer from deposit reserves to cover expenditure until first tranche of 2024/25 precept received



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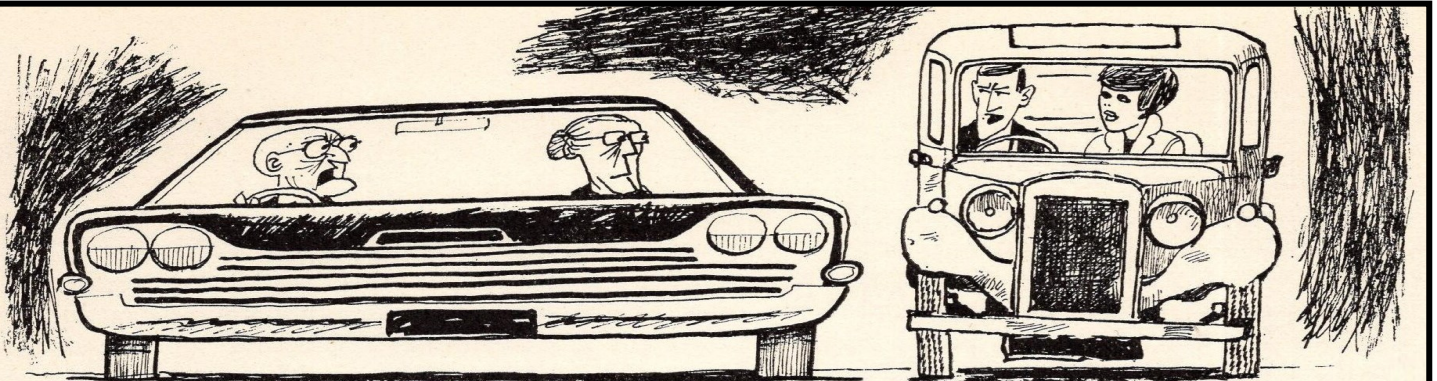
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APPENDIX 2

Policy & Procedure Annual Review – Summary

- 1 **Model Standing Orders** Audit report (2022/23) suggested procurement thresholds to be changed. Advice has since been received that these changed on 01/01/2024 and that documents will be available in March 2024. Will update when new versions are received.
- 2 **Financial Regulations** Ditto
- 3 **Internal Control Statement** Have amended section 3 to reflect procedure as agreed after checks completed last year. The Clerk has reminded Council on a number of occasions that the deadline for these checks to be completed for approval at the February meeting (i.e. before financial year end). To date nothing has been received back by the Clerk to indicate these checks have been completed for approval at the March meeting.
- 4 **Data Protection and Document Retention Policy** No changes
- 5 **Risk Assessment - Financial** Changes to amounts insured (sections 1, 2 & 3) have been updated to reflect changes to policy in October 2023. Section 3 [3.6] has been changed to better reflect the position with risk assessments.
- 6 **General Health & Safety Policy** Clause 10, minor change to wording to make more concise and require less updating.
- 7 **Litter Pick Guidance** Amended to reflect new arrangement over 5-7 days rather than a weekend
- 8 **Risk Assessment - Pavement Sweeping** No changes – no pavement sweeper in post since 2020
- 9 **Disciplinary Procedure** No changes
- 10 **Grievance Procedure** No changes
- 11 **Covid Guidance - Litter Pick Volunteers** No changes
- 12 **Risk Assessment- Litter Pick** No changes
- 13 **Child & Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy** No changes
- 14 **Marquee Usage Policy** Retired policy – Marquees gifted to Gardens Weekend Committee.
- 15 **Suffolk Code of Conduct** No changes. Updated code re-adopted 14/09/2022 min ref 12a)
- 16 **Reserves Policy** Non-Material clarification to types of reserves [2.1]
- 17 **Equality & Diversity Policy** No changes
- 18 **Asset Register** Recently reviewed along with identification of maintenance tasks as minuted 14/02/2024 agenda item 11
- 19 **Risk Register** Audited (internal control IB) – no changes needed
- 20 **CIL Funding Policy** No changes
- 21 **CIL Funding Application Form** No changes
- 27 **FOI Publication Scheme** No changes
- 28 **Play Area Volunteer Guidance** No changes
- 29 **Stream Verges Maintenance Guidance** New February 2024
- 30 **Stream Verges Volunteer Risk Assessment** New February 2024





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GREEN DILEMMAS

Zero Energy Bills?

Our energy demand varies at different times of the year (higher in the winter) and throughout the day (higher from 16:00 to 19:00). Some energy suppliers charge lower rates for non-peak usage. If you can switch the times at which electricity is consumed you can reduce the price of electricity and incidentally reduce the percentage of energy production that requires gas supply.

We are starting to see more electricity tariffs that reflect this. These tariffs are a more sophisticated version of the old Economy 7 tariff. They offer cheaper power during the day and weekday nights but you pay a higher rate for any consumption at peak times. In order to get on one of these tariffs you would usually need a smart meter and typically you would be billed on a half hourly billing system. The problem with these tariffs is that most people are not organised enough to constantly monitor their usage.

The use of solar panels combined with batteries is starting to supplement this model. When it is sunny, the solar panels provide power for your home. If excess energy is created the battery can store the energy for use at a later time. In this model the individual house is now a generator of electricity with the ability to flex when the power is consumed. This gives a lot more opportunity to manage your energy costs especially combined with some kind of flexible tariff.

If you live in a well-insulated house, have a lot of solar panels, a battery and an air source heat pump (as opposed to an oil boiler) you can significantly reduce the overall energy costs. In fact, you can reach a situation where the amount of electricity you produce overall easily exceeds the amount that you are consuming. Unfortunately, at the moment you still pay a bill because you need power at times when the sun isn't shining. However, if an energy supplier took all the excess power you created throughout the year and sold it at a profit this might be large enough to cover your energy costs as well as providing a profit for the company. An example of this is the new Octopus Zero Bills tariff. This scheme gives you 5 years of zero bills providing you have the right specification of insulation, solar, battery and a heat pump. At the moment this is only offered on new homes and the first zero energy cost houses are about to be built in Mid Suffolk. This of course could just be a short-term gimmick but it shows how the energy market is likely to be changing over the next few years.

Richard Winch



ANAGRAMS IV

Go man make a mango
And a peach that's cheap.
Pack a tangerine from the Argentine
And a pear is what you reap.

For an orange get your gear on.
For a cherry hear her cry.
Swap a lemon for a melon
And you've got a mixed fruit pie.

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JOE WHISTLECRAFT

The Poacher

The Priory Room was packed for our first meeting of the year. The AGM business was speedily despatched to make way for the main event of the evening. Pip Wright did not disappoint in regaling us with tales from the life of the poacher Joe Whistlecraft from Rickinghall. Dressed in the cords and old tweed jacket attire of the countryman we glimpsed the world of moonlight escapades in the Suffolk countryside through the eyes of Joe, all told in a very good Suffolk accent.

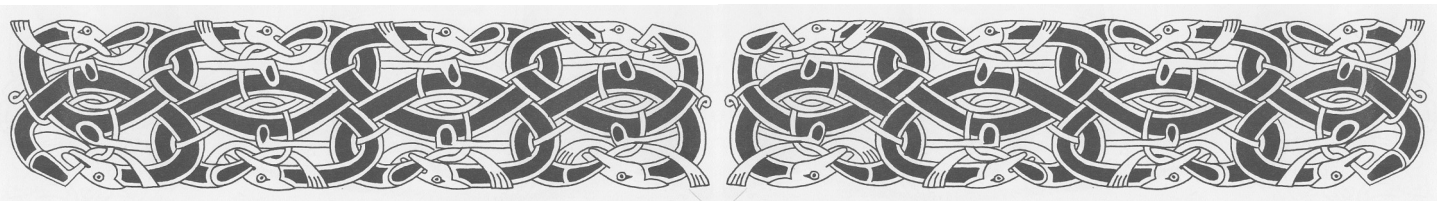
Born into a large family, Joe was taught the skills of poaching at an early age by his father, who was frequently in and out of prison himself. Therefore, it is not surprising that coming from such a notorious family, Joe was often in trouble from an early age. His first experience of prison was when he was arrested for being drunk and disorderly, and threatening a police officer, but being unable to pay the fine he was sentenced to 8 days in prison. His father told him about his own first time in prison when, determined to cope with the experience, he resolutely told himself, 'I can knock it out.' Over his lifetime Joe was to learn how 'to knock it out' countless times when serving sentences in prisons all over the country, including the infamous Dartmoor.

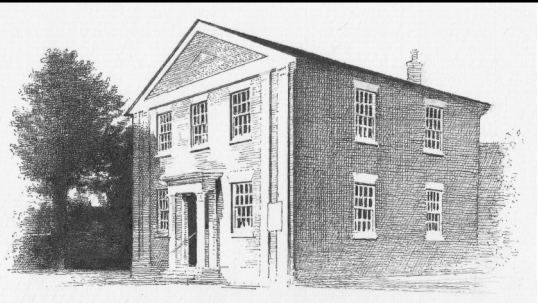
Many prosecutions followed for various misdemeanours, including the more serious offence of assault, robbery and arson, the latter resulting in 3 years in Chelmsford prison. One of his brothers died in prison whilst another turned his back on crime and 'went straight', earning himself the nickname 'Duke'. Two brothers emigrated to Canada in early 1914, but on the outbreak of World War I, they came back to fight. Joe remained at home, unable to enlist because he was missing two fingers after a shotgun accident.

In 1929, however, Joe faced a more serious charge. Together with his younger brother Ernie, he went poaching in Stubbing's Wood, on the estate of the Wilson family. On a dark, moonless evening, Joe fired his shotgun randomly into the trees in the hope of hitting some birds, but this brought their presence to the attention of an old adversary, the gamekeeper. Ernie picked up a bird and ran off. Joe slowed down by the muddy conditions was dazzled by torchlight shining into his face, he fired at the light to put it out and without knowing the consequences fled. Later, he was arrested and charged with murder, but his barrister was able to undermine the prosecution's evidence, which led to his acquittal.

Having 'got away with murder', Joe then kept a low profile and went to live with his sister. During World War II, Major Wilson approached him with the offer of becoming the gamekeeper for his estate. In accepting the offer Joe had gone over to the enemy, turning from poacher to gamekeeper. Although described as a 'wrong un', Joe almost became crime free, only bagging the odd rabbit for the pot during his official duties. He died aged 84 in 1960.

Frances Jenner





Walsham Congregational Church

The Street, Walsham-le-Willows, Suffolk. IP31 3AZ

Church Secretary (John Landymore)

01359 - 258986

We are open for worship each Sunday at 11.00 & 6.30 so why not come along? Please be assured of a warm welcome; it would be lovely to see you.

Jesus Dies & Jesus Lives.

At the time of writing, Easter week is still a few days away and by the time this new edition of Walsham Observer lands upon the doormat it will all be behind us for another year. Standing upon the threshold of April, the happily spent bank holidays will soon be forgotten, the chocolate will be eaten, the flowers given to loved ones beginning to fade; but what of the timeless, eternal truth of Easter? Will it too be forgotten? Or, more to the point, has it really been considered in the first place?

This is the season of the year that Christians tend to particularly remember the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, as these events are truly central to the Christian Faith, world history, and the eternal future of every human soul.

That the Lord Jesus Christ died upon a Roman cross at Calvary is a well-established historical fact, but his death was not unique in this, as countless thousands have died over the years by crucifixion. Death, in some form, is of course the expected end of all that are ever born, ***“For as in Adam all die”*** (1 Corinthians 15:22). The death of Jesus Christ was however no ordinary death. It was not the death of one who died as a martyr for a worthy cause; it was not of one who died to give us a supreme example of self-sacrifice and self-denial. He did not die to publicise some great injustice or promote a political ideology; he certainly did not die, as some have done, to gain notoriety and a place in the history books or on social media.

Jesus’ death was unique in that he was the only person that has ever lived that did not actually deserve to die. The Bible clearly teaches that, ***“All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”*** (Romans 3:23) and, ***“The wages of sin is death”*** (Romans 6:23). As we have recently considered at Christmas, ***“God was manifest in the flesh”*** (1 Timothy 3:16), meaning that Jesus is God and therefore, ***“Is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners”*** (Hebrews 7:26). Jesus therefore being perfect was unworthy of death, so it was not for the punishment of his own sin that he died, but he died in the place of all of his people, who through all ages would love, trust, and follow him as their Lord and Saviour.

Jesus said, ***“I lay down my life, that I might take it again”*** (John 10:17) so he is also unique in that death and the grave could not hold him. ***“He rose again the third day according to the scriptures”*** (Acts 27:14) ***“After that, he was seen of over 500 brethren at once”*** (1 Corinthians 15:6). This then is another historic fact, even testified of by the elite Roman soldiers who were set to guard the tomb, so indisputable was the testimony that the chief priests, ***“When they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money to the soldiers”*** (Matthew 28:12) in order that they should lie and deny the wonders they had seen.

At that first Easter, Pontius Pilate asked a pertinent question, ***“What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?”*** (Matthew 27:22). We must love and trust him with our whole heart as he alone, ***“Hast the words of eternal life”*** (John 6:68) ***“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”*** (John 11:25-26)

WILDLIFE IN APRIL

As the weather warms up our spiky mammal friends are too, they are the Hedgehog. After long months' of hibernation they will be in full swagger trying to build up the fat reserves they lost during the colder months, they will have lost half their body weight during this time. Rescues will be eagerly waiting for the weather to be warm and settled enough to be able to release the ones that they have had to over-winter who were the sick ones that came to them during the last few months of last year. I myself do volunteer and I have four which are now doing well and are waiting to go. Sadly, though as soon as the rescues release more and more will come in, either sick from parasites, fungal problems, not doing as well over winter or unfortunately injuries caused by us. These injuries at this time of the year are normally caused by lawnmowers or strimmer's, and we see horrific and potentially life-threatening injuries to these sweet mammals. If you are going to be working in the garden check in that long grass for any hedgehogs, check in piles of leaves if you are planning on burning them or moving with a folk, it will only take a matter of minutes and can save a hoggie a lot of pain. If you do already have some spiky friends in your garden then you can help these hungry creatures out by placing down a bowl of either cat/dog food wet or dry, meaty flavours are best for them, and also a shallow dish of water only.

Last time I wrote about the early Queen Bumblebees starting to emerge to find a nesting site, but have you heard of the Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee? As its name suggests it takes over the nests of other Bumblebees. The intruder will force the colony to raise her young by using a mix of pheromones and violence. The Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee has a larger and more powerful stinger and can, but not always kill the Queen Bee. Apart from looking like their hosts there are some differences, they do not have Queens only males and females, they lack pollen baskets on their hind legs as they have no need to forage and they are also unable to produce wax. They will rely on the wax larval cells that are already within the host's hive. For all this deceit to work the Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee must find a hive that is already established in Spring with just the right amount of workers, if there are too many workers she will be over-powered.

As the Spring days warm up as the month goes on you may notice swarms of black flies with long dangly legs. These are called St Marks Flies. You can find them in wetlands, woodlands, country lanes and along the hedgerows. They are named for their emergence around the 25th of April which is St Mark's Day. Another name they have is the 'Hawthorn fly' as they are very fond of the nectar produced by the Hawthorn blossom. Before they become flies they will have been in their larval form of a maggot, where they will have been in the undergrowth eating decaying vegetation. Once they become a fly their lives are very short lived only lasting around a week, most of the swarm you see will be the males awaiting the emergence of the females to start the cycle once again. As well as being a great clean-up crew for the rotting vegetation, they are also a great food source for migratory birds which have just arrived and need a good refuel!

Angie Bennington



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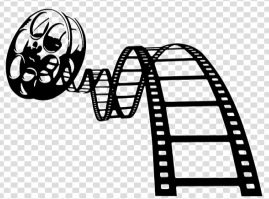
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Grumpy pensioner Arthur honours his recently deceased wife's passion for performing by joining the unconventional local choir to which she used to belong, a process that helps him build bridges with his estranged son, James.

Tickets on the door, adults £5.00—under 17's: £3.00

Tea/coffee and refreshments

Future films will be shown on the second Friday of each month.

Next film is

THE FLOWER POWER PROJECT

Walsham Open Gardens Weekend

The countdown is on. In five months the crocheted and knitted flowers installation known as “The Flower Power Project” will decorate St Mary’s church wall. Our volunteers continue to work quietly (Well not that quietly actually! In fact, we were probably a bit raucous at our last meet up!) behind the scenes.

We have been kindly allocated a grant by Walsham Open Gardens Weekend to cover the cost of accoutrements to complete the project. A big thank you to them for that.

Our group is now meeting at the Walsham Sports Centre on the first Tuesday of every month. (**April being the exception; due to Easter, we are meeting on 9th April. 10.30 – 12.30pm.**) Thank you also to the Sports Club for letting us use the space and for being so encouraging of our project.

It isn’t too late to join us, even if you are a beginner, you will be made very welcome and given an introduction into either knitting or crocheting flower, depending on the skill set of the members present. It’s a happy and friendly group and the venue is great for our needs, with large tables that we can all sit around and drink lovely coffee.

We are online at FB group page *The Flower Power Project. Some folks are receiving regular updates by email and others we are keeping in touch with by phone.

I’ve been honing my flowers skills this month inspired by the spring bulbs that have popped up in the gardens. I’ve crocheted a few daffodils over the last couple of weeks, trying to get the colours as authentic as acrylic yarns will permit.

We are now running low of “Brights.” We’re not using any monochrome colours for the church wall decoration but if you have any suitable coloured yarns going spare, regardless of amount, we would love to receive them.

The yarn and flower drop-off is at the black coffer outside my front door at 1, Avenue Cottages, or, you could give them to somebody in the village who knows me and I’ll come and collect your donation myself.

Cate Hadley
catemhadley@gmail.com

WALSHAM OBSERVER SU-DOKU

	6		3		5			
	4					6	1	
5				9		4		8
4	8		2		3			
		5				7		
			5		4		8	2
6		4		3				1
	2	8					6	
			9		7		2	

For the uninitiated, the rules of Sudoku are very simple.

Each row, column and large square must contain the numbers 1 to 9 inclusive.

It’s as simple as that, but you must apply logic to find which number goes where.

So, beginner or expert, happy hunting!

CAN YOU MAKE BUS TRAVEL A HABIT?

Being a reasonably frequent traveller on the bus service between Walsham and Bury, I am somewhat saddened to find that I am frequently one of just a few on the bus, sometimes just the solitary passenger.

At present the flat-rate fare to Bury is just £2, and of course £2 for the return. Put that against the cost of parking - having to find a space - the trial of driving there and back - missing all the potholes on the way and the fact that a bus can carry as many as ten cars - assuming each car carries four people - even more if there are only two people in each car; meaning that much less road-space is taken up. It is frequently the case that 'improvement' to existing roads - all too frequently swallowing up more land - only improving matters for a short while.

Quite a number of people of pensionable age have not availed themselves of that piece of 'magic plastic' which allows them to travel for free at most times of the day; and that's not just locally, but nationally. I was able to travel free from Walsham to Chipping Norton, to visit my mother. Admittedly it took around four hours, but during that time I was able to work on my laptop, read a book, just look at the scenery, or maybe just have a quiet kip; trying to do any of those, whilst behind the wheel of your car, might be somewhat risky, to say the least.

So, if you are not, at present, a local bus user, here are two useful pieces of information.

The present timetables between Walsham and Bury St Edmunds

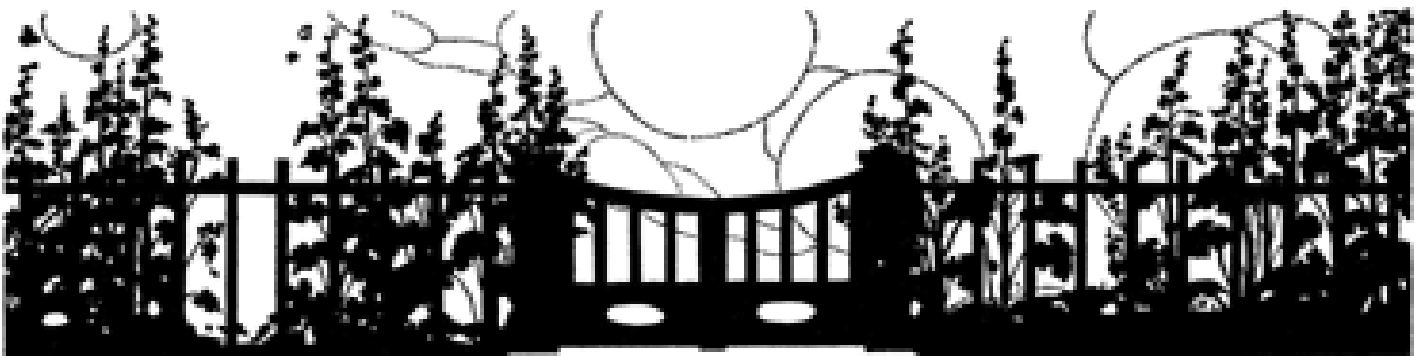
	Monday to Friday			Saturday Only			
Walsham Blue Boar	7.33	10.15	13.31	7.56	13.21		
Walsham Townhouse	7.36	10.18	13.34	7.59	13.24		
Walsham Four Ashes	7.37	10.19	13.35	8.00	13.25		
Bury St Edmunds	8.13	10.55	14.11	8.36	13.59		
Bury St Edmunds	11.30	16.00	17.30	8.40	11.15	15.00	17.30
Walsham Four Ashes	12.03	16.45	18.11	9.20	11.51	15.35	18.03
Walsham Townhouse	12.05	16.47	18.12	9.22	11.53	15.37	18.05
Walsham Blue Boar	12.08	16.50	18.15	9.26	11.57	15.41	18.08

If you qualify for a free pass, but have not yet applied for one, visit the website

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-transport>

Try to make car travel your last option for travelling!!

Ian Toulson



SPORTS CLUB REPORT

Football

The First Team drew 0-0 at Kirkley which in my opinion was two points lost. They then lost 5-2 away to Fakenham Town. Scott Chaplin scored both of our goals. They bounced back to winning ways beating second placed Newmarket Town 1-0 at home, courtesy of a goal from Sam Nunn. Their most recent away matches saw them draw 1-1 at Sheringham Town, with Sam Nunn scoring again, and 0-0 at Newmarket Town.

The Under 23s drew 2-2 at home to League Leaders Thetford Town. Then, unfortunately, they lost their Suffolk Senior Reserves Cup Semi-final 3-0 to Beccles Town Reserves at Framlingham Town. They just 'didn't play' on the night. They bounced back to winning ways beating Halstead Town 2-0, courtesy of a brace of goals from Ewan Hailstone, but then lost 3-0 at home to Harwich and Parkstone.

The Under 18s had a great 2-1 win over second placed Newmarket Town and, after drawing 1-1 at home to Lowestoft Town, in the Suffolk Under 18s Midweek Cup Quarterfinal, they won 5-4 on penalties and will now face either Stowmarket Town or Haverhill Rovers in the Semi Final. Semifinal.

The Veterans lost their home game 6-3 to Ipswich Vale Exiles Reserves.

Home fixtures for April and May.

First Team

Sat 6th v Dereham Town 3pm

Saturday 13th v Ely City 3pm

Tuesday 16th v Heacham 7.45pm

Under 18s

Thur 11th v Haverhill Rovers 7.45 pm

Thur 18th v Bury Town 7.45pm

Thur 2nd May v Thetford Town 7.45pm

Under 23s

Tues 2nd v Long Melford 7.45pm

Tues 16th v Woodbridge Town 7.45pm

Sat 20th v Framlingham Town. 3pm

Tues 23rd v Brantham Athletic 7.45pm

Sat 27th v Holland 3pm

Veterans

Sun 14th April. v Bury Town 2pm

Sun 28th April v Coplestonians 2.30pm

Gordon Ross



WALSHAM BOWLS

Walsham Bowls Club green re opens April 2024 and new players are always welcome to join. All ages are welcome either beginners or experienced bowlers.

The bowling green is open on a Tuesday evening from 6.30pm for an informal evening of bowls to learn the game or practice your bowling skills.

During the bowling season teams are entered in Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds leagues and there is also the opportunity to enter club competitions.

The club house has a bar which is open on bowling evenings.

The club looks forward to welcoming anyone with an interest in playing bowls in a local friendly club.

Robert Matthews



REGULAR

MONDAY

Community Lunch Village Hall
2nd Monday 12:45pm
Walking Football Sports Club
8:00pm till 9:00pm

TUESDAY

Walking Netball Sports Club
10:00am till 11:00am
Pilates Class Village Hall
1:30pm till 2:30pm
Walking Football Sports Club
2:00pm till 3:00pm

WEDNESDAY

Pilates Classes Village Hall
9:00am till 10:00am
10.15am till 11.15am
Yoga Sports Club
10:00am till 11:30am
Positive Steps Sports Club
11:30am till 12:30pm
Wednesday Wanders Sports Club
11:30am till 12:30pm
Carpet Bowls Sports Club
2:30pm till 4:00pm

EVENTS

WI Meeting Priory Room
7:45pm Second Wed of the Month
Parish Council Village Hall
(Public Meeting)
7.00pm Second Wed of the Month

THURSDAY

Coffee Shop Village Hall
10:30am till 12.30pm
Post Office Van Village Hall
11:00am till Noon
Yoga Sports Club
1:15 pm till 2:15pm
Walking Football Sports Club
2:00pm till 3:00pm
Pétanque Sports Club
2.00pm till Bouled Out
Walking Netball Sports Club
6:00pm till 7:00pm

FRIDAY

Cardio Tennis Sports Club
12noon till 1:00pm

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

31-Mar	Easter		21-Apr		
8.00am	Communion	Walsham	9.30am	Communion	Badwell Ash
9.30 am	Communion	Westhorpe	11.00am	Communion	
7-Apr			28-Apr		
8.00am	Communion	Walsham	8.00am	Communion	Walsham
11.00am	Songs of Praise		9.30am	Communion	Westhorpe
11.00am	Communion	Langham	11.00am	Morning Service	Finingham
14-Apr			5-May		
8.00am	Communion	Walsham	8.00am	Communion	Walsham
11.00am	Communion	Finningham	11.00am	Communion	Wattisfield
2.00pm	Evensong	Westhorpe	11.00am	Songs of Praise	Walsham

Who was the first British footballer to be knighted?

ALL THE ANSWERS

Page Bottom Quiz

1. Finnish, 2. Borzoi, 3. Cape Town, 4. Tennis, 5. Salome, 6. Troy,
7. The Birdman of Alcatraz, 8. Memphis, 9. Charles Lindbergh, 10. The hand,
11. Max Sennett, 12. Samuel Beckett, 13. Hungary, 14. Athens, 15. Erwin Rommel,
16. Spa, 17. Jane Fonda, 18. Vinegar, 19. Hawaii, 20. Miles Davis, 21. Denmark,
22. Mars & Jupiter, 23. Hinduism, 24. Louis XV, 25. Robert Frost,
26. Errol Flynn, 27. Eucalyptus, 28. Thor, 29. Martin Scorsese, 30. Salzburg,
31. 8yds, 32. Gustave Flaubert, 33. Alexander Graham Bell, 34. Toronto, 35. Malawi,
36. Abraham Lincoln, 37. Three Mile Island, 38. Slavery, 39. The Cartwrights,
40. Nijinsky, 41. 3 (California, Colorado & Connecticut), 42. Kaiser, 43. 1889,
44. Nickelodeon, 45. The Satanic Verses, 46. Stanley Matthews, 47. Monkey,
48. Bragging, 49. Greece

Sudoku

8	6	1	3	4	5	2	9	7
3	4	9	7	2	8	6	1	5
5	7	2	1	9	6	4	3	8
4	8	7	2	1	3	9	5	6
2	1	5	6	8	9	7	4	3
9	3	6	5	7	4	1	8	2
6	9	4	8	3	2	5	7	1
7	2	8	4	5	1	3	6	9
1	5	3	9	6	7	8	2	4

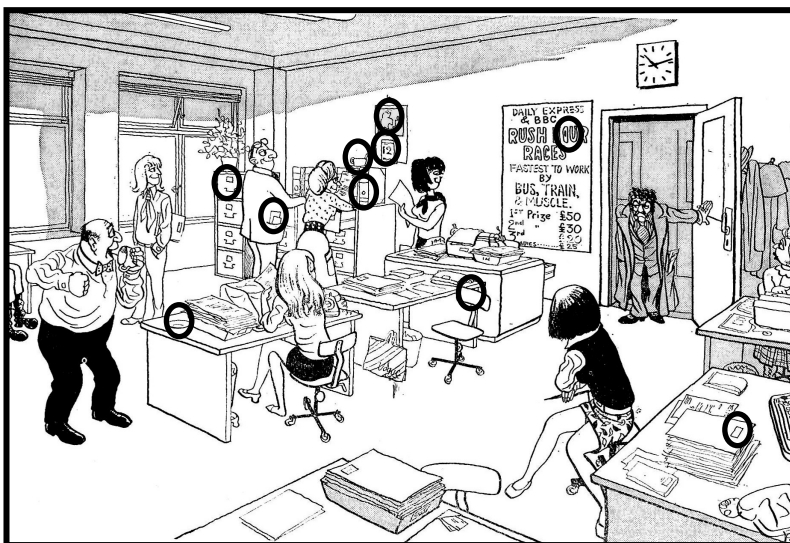
Crossword

S	I	S	T	E	R		O	T	T	O
O		C				S		R		P
H	A	H	A			S	T	R	I	P
O		O		D		O		P		N
		S	O	M	E	H	O	W		L
P		L		L		P		O		Y
A				D	I	V	E	R	T	S
S		H		V		D		H		S
S	T	O	R	E	D			P	E	S
E		R		R				R		E
D	A	N	E			C	O	R	S	E

More or Less

5	2	1	3	4
2	5	3	4	1
3	4	2	1	5
4	1	5	2	3
1	3	4	5	2

Spot the Difference



Searching for Words

Ache	Act	Are	Area
Art	Ate	Cat	Cater
Cha	Char	Chart	Chat
Cheat	Cheater	Each	Ear
Earth	Eat	Eater	Era
Eta	Etch	Ether	Hare
Hart	Hat	Hatch	Hate
Hater	Hath	Hear	Heart
Hearth	Heat	Heater	Heath
Heather	Her	Het	Rat
Rate	Reach	Ret	Retch
Tar	Tare	Tea	Teach
Tear	The	Heartache (51)	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Community Council Secretary David Murray	01359-258646	Surgeries Ixworth	01359-230252
		Stanton	01359-251192
Police Suffolk Police	01473-613500	Botesdale	01379-898295
Stowmarket	01473-383400	Woolpit	01359-240298
Neighbourhood Watch		Parish Council Chair Richard Belson	01359-258868 richardbelson@ btinternet.com
		Parish Council Clerk Kevin Boardley	parishclerk@ walsham-le- willows.org
Anglian Water Emergencies (24hr)	08457-145145	District Councillor Richard Winch	07931709486
Accounts	0800-919155	County Councillor Mrs Jessica Flemming	01449-711065
Eastern Electricity	0800-7838838	Suffolk County Council	03456-066067
British Telecom Customer Service	150	Member of Parliament Jo Churchill	0207-2198487
Line Faults	151		

VILLAGE ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Allotments Group
Mel Wasley / Debbie Licata
walshamallotments@gmail.com

History Group
Frances Jenner 01359-259242
frances.jenner@hotmail.com

Horticultural Show
Debbie Licata 01359 259686
debbiewatson2916@gmail.com

Sports Club
Mike Powles 07379089890
mike.powles@btconnect.com

Walsham Wild Wood
Lorna MacKinnon 01359 259140
mackinnonlorna@gmail.com

Women's Institute
Pippa Baxter 01449781757
pippabaxter2@gmail.com

Community Yoga
Julia Dunncliffe 07980 476 140
dunncliffej@hotmail.com.



WALSHAM LE WILLOWS VILLAGE HALL

The Community Council committee
welcome you to the

MVH Coffee Shop In the Garden and the Hall

Open every Thursday

From a time of 10.30am to 12.30pm

The Post Office van is there

From 11:00am till 12:00pm

**Come and enjoy a chat and
A cuppa and a bite
Just for 'a couple of quid.'**