

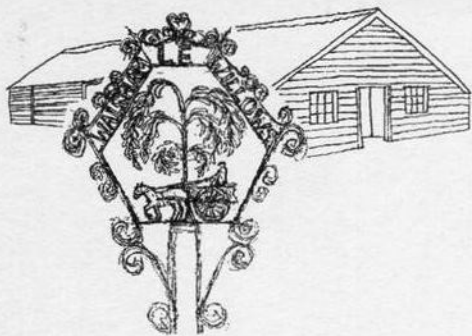
WALSHAM OBSERVER

**70 & 73
Bus Routes
Timetables
Pull-out**

**Parish
Council
Question Time
March 10th**



MACH 2025



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Located in the refurbished red telephone kiosk outside the Memorial Hall this AED has been registered with the East of England Ambulance Service and can be accessed via a digital keypad. The access code can be obtained by simply dialling 999 and asking the Ambulance Service. For reference purposes the location postcode is IP31 3AA.



THE WALSHAM OBSERVER

MARCH 2025

No 672

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EDITORIAL

At a time when democracies around the world are threatened it is pleasing to be able to report that, here in Walsham, the lowest level of democratic government is alive and well and on **Wednesday 10th March from 6pm till 8pm** the Parish Council are holding their annual **Question Time Meeting in the Memorial Hall** at which everyone is welcome to ask questions, voice opinions or share ideas with the Parish Council, Mid Suffolk District Councillor and members of the community. There will be light refreshments to encourage you to come and share your ideas, or just listen..

For rather more standard 'entertainment' there is a reasonable choice. **The Picturehouse** presentations are showing **Finding Your Feet** on **Friday 21st March**, as well as serving supper before the showing.. Full details can be found on pages 17 and 28.

Music at St Mary's are starting their programme of concerts with a performance by **The Abbott Consort of Voices** on **Saturday 22nd March at 7.30pm**. Hopefully, by then, there may be details about further evening and lunchtime concerts in the near future.

As well as the regular bingo and quiz sessions, the **Sports Club** are holding an **Irish Night** on **Saturday 8th March** and a **Poker Night** on **Saturday 22nd**. Both of these events begin at **7.00pm**. Further details on both events can be found on pages 28 and 30.

The **History Group** are coming out of their short Winter Hibernation with a talk on **Suffolk's Lost Heritage** on **Wednesday 19th March** in **The Priory Room**, starting at **7.30pm**.

The **Women's Institute** are having a talk on **Forensic Pathology** on **Wednesday 12th March**, again at **7.30pm** and in **The Priory Room**.

I hope very much that you will find this edition informative and enjoyable. I have endeavoured to give it some reasonable order, but at times items have to be put in 'where possible' in order that page turning does not have to take place mid-article. If you could try, as many do, to get items in well before the due and not hope to get it in at the eleventh hour, it would be a great help.

Many thanks to the regular contributors who help to make this magazine what it is!!

Whilst dishing out congratulations; great work is being done in the Memorial Hall kitchens, not only during Coffee Shop each Thursday, but also at other events, such as the Community Lunches and Picturehouse evenings. Excellent work!

LAST MONTH'S ERROR

In last month's edition the History Group dates for June and July should have been:-

Wed 18th June **Fiona Rose** Lecturer for The Arts Society **Through the keyhole: The homes of Willam Morris**. This talk explores how his design philosophy influenced, and was influenced by his homes including Woodford Hall, The Red House, Kelmscott Manor and Kelmscott House.

Wed 16th July **Paul Hunt** Military historian **D-day and beyond**: Explores 'Operation Overlord' the joint allied invasion of mainland Europe, which took place on 6th June 1944, the largest combined operation in military history. Includes genuine WW2 artifacts

RICHARD MARTINEAU

He always said that his real career began when he left Whitbreads, and founded the London Compact, which helped young people with poor academic results. He soon joined other organisations seeking to deliver 'equal opportunities' - ILEA, the National Curriculum Council, and various Examination Boards.

He joined the council of the Royal Society of Arts, becoming its Chairman in 1993. His natural charm and good humour, his ability to put people at their ease and to ensure all voices were heard, made him an ideal chair.

The start of his second career overlapped with the start of his second marriage, to Diana Calvert in 1981. Theirs would be long and very happy union, built in large part on their shared love of Suffolk.

The two of them enjoyed a rich social life. But they also had all they needed in each other, and chatted and laughed every day, taking shared delight in the sight of a kingfisher on the Brook, or the completion of one of Diney's paintings, or a visit from a friend or family member.

Always thinking of others, he established miles of footpaths so everyone in Walsham could enjoy the land around the village as much as he and Diney did. He donated twelve of the Martineau Cottages to the Suffolk Community Foundation, and for ten years chaired the East Region of the National Lottery Charities Board. For his service to the county, in 2019, he became the proud recipient of the Suffolk Medal, in its inaugural year, along with Terry Hunt and Sally Fogden.

His favourite local project was the Walsham Sports Club, and he gave land for tennis courts and an all-weather pitch, and with his friend Andrew Phillips, helped the club own its ground and win charitable status. Last year he threw the first ball on the newly installed Pétanque court. It would have given him huge pleasure that his only obituary appears on the website of the Walsham-le-Willows Sports Club, courtesy of Ian Campbell.

He greatly admired gardeners, Diney in particular, and took enormous pleasure in awarding prizes at the horticultural show, quite a few of which went to Diney. Richard Makepeace Martineau was born in London on the 12th April 1938, to Jack and Cash Martineau, who were living near Regent's Park. As London was bombed after Dunkirk, in 1940, the family moved to the countryside, first to Hambledon, then to Taplow in 1943, with Jack commuting to work at Whitbreads.

After the war the family decamped every summer to the farm in Walsham, staying at Brook Farm, often joined by their cousin Juliet, whose father James, Cash's brother, had been killed at Dunkirk. It was still the old world. Water came from the pump outside, light from Aladdin lamps and candles, baths were taken in coppers before roaring fires, and business was done in earth closets. There was the stamping and snorting of six huge Suffolk Punches in the stable outside, each with a name starting with M, the family initial. Richard's love of farming began here. Dilgy Pollard preparing the horses at 5 each morning, Oscar Clark on the tiny Fordson tractor, which pulled the binder round and round with Berty Pallent on the back. Mother bringing picnics up to the harvest while Father shot rabbits, and the children helping the men make stooks of the sheaves, then load them on to the wagons, to be pulled by the horses to the rick yard at Church Farm, where the stacks were slowly built.

He went to Eton, which he didn't like much, but learned to play the drums, and became interested in science and electricity. At home he equipped his Pollock's toy theatre with a complete lighting system, footlights, side lights with coloured cellophane, and down lights. Games were played every evening in the holidays Charades were a mainstay, often with the extended cousinhood. Uncle Chris Huntley specialised in acting out medical

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operations, using bits and pieces of the hoover. On the farm, tractors replaced horses, and at the age of 16 you could drive them on the road. Richard had a new red Massey Ferguson which he called his sports car. He was never happier than driving a tractor or combine harvester, and he was still driving the combine in his 70s.

He went to Cambridge, studied Agriculture, and he joined a band, perfecting the art of brushing the snare with a slightly faraway bored look. His theatre lighting took off as he lit plays for the Cambridge Footlights. This all contributed to his wicked and infectious sense of humour, which stayed with him all his life.

He played the piano, sonatas and pieces from musicals like *Easter Parade*, *Salad Days*, *Flanders and Swan*, and snippets of Fats Waller.

On leaving Cambridge he took a holiday with James Butler and Julian Courtauld, driving from Johannesburg through Swaziland, Malawi and Uganda in a Landrover. This instilled in him a love of Africa which was never extinguished.

He had always wanted to join the family business and become a brewer, and he learnt the trade at Greene King in Bury. He was occasionally sent off to other small breweries to help out, and he was much amused by one in the Pelhams in Essex, which was run by an ex captain of a submarine who had somehow inveigled his entire crew to join him there, with all of them maintaining their original rank.

The farm was handed to him by his father when he was just 21 years old. With his degree in agriculture, attention to detail, knowledge of every corner of the farm, and love of machinery, he was friends with herdsman, farm-workers, and contractors alike, throughout his life, always ready with encouraging quips, witty anecdotes and wise insights. He was still holding farm meetings last December, 65 years later.

In 1964 he married Theresa Ashton, and they had three children, John, Antonia and Imogen. He read stories aloud every night, doing all the voices. He dressed up as Father Christmas, with lantern, nearly causing car crashes as he crossed the road between Brook Farm and the Lawn.

He was a huge admirer of his great grandfather, Charles Booth, who had made a fortune but then turned his attention to documenting and understanding social inequality in London.

He worked at Whitbreads for 30 years where he was the director responsible for community affairs. He piloted initiatives like the Youth Training Scheme.

He was a great researcher of family history. He was terrified that some ancestor might be connected with slavery, and was relieved when he found that the only one who was, was a prominent abolitionist. This put his mind at rest, and he put down his pen.

His collected writings will be published later this year, and run to over 500 pages. See me later if you want a copy.

His middle name was Makepeace, named after his great-great-grandfather William Makepeace Thackeray, and make peace he did. In the boardroom, in the village, and in the family. He hated a row.

He was always interested in everyone. People have said that he could make you feel like the most interesting person in the room, often opening with "I'm so pleased to see you. You must tell me all about ..."

He was a religious man. He prayed for us all. And he was a kind man. In all the lovely letters the family have received over the past month, this is the most common theme. "He wrote to me almost every day", "He was the kindest man I ever met", "We will never forget the generosity he showed".

Richard Martineau was a very good egg. He will be sorely missed.

John Martineau

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WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We've had a busy half term with children visiting Thurston and Stowmarket to take part in sporting tournaments including dodgeball, basketball and athletics. The whole school have also experienced UV dodgeball in the dark which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

We have created a whole school story, Taking Flight, with each class writing a section and this can be found on the website under the curriculum enrichment tab.

The children in Caterpillars have shown the whole school the story of the first Chinese New Year and how each animal was chosen. They have also written labels for some traditional tales and been learning different balances in gymnastics.

Ladybird Class have been mixing different textures in their artwork and looking at what materials are waterproof in science. They have been finding out about the artist Mark Rothko and looking at his work of colour fields, using this as an inspiration to create their own work.

Dragonfly Class have been showing us all their fantastic potions and explaining what they do. They have looked at different bottles and drawn them using their observation skills. In computing, they have designed their own characters and given them instructions to follow a sequence using Scratch.

Grasshopper Class have created some fantastic pharaohs using tissue paper and some very careful cutting skills to create a nemes headdress. They have been learning to play different notes on a glockenspiel with the music service and are becoming more confident developing their skills in this area.

The children in Cricket Class have learnt how people lived in the Victorian era and the differences between those who were more affluent than others. They have developed their gymnastics skills in PE performing different jumps and balances and have explored the benefits of yoga.

Our theme for Collective Worship for after half term is Perseverance and Vicar Cat continues to visit us weekly which the children look forward to.

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

Maxine McGarr



WALSHAM SPEED REDUCTION PLAN

The Walsham Traffic Group working with the Parish Council are working to make rural roads and our village streets safer. We are collecting signatures to show support for our recently publicised proposal for extending 30mph limits approaching the village and 20mph within the core of the village. We also have "20's plenty where people are" bin stickers for residents who live within the proposed 20mph area.

Please visit the website for further details and contact the clerk if you wish to display a bin sticker to show your support.

Janette Winch

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COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

In several of our previous articles we have mentioned the idea of having an emergency “Grab Bag” ready in your home, on the move and in your car, so here are some useful checklists as recommended by the British Red Cross.

Emergency home kit

- A list of emergency contact numbers. This should be a paper copy, in case your mobile phone loses power.
- A battery-operated torch and spare batteries, or a wind-up torch.
- Battery-operated radio and spare batteries, or a wind-up radio.
- Any essential medication and a first aid kit.
- Three days’ supply of bottled water and ready-to-eat food that won’t go off.
- Copies of important documents, such as insurance policies and birth certificates. Keep these in a waterproof bag.
- Pencil, paper, penknife and whistle.
- Spare keys to your home and car.
- Spare glasses or contact lenses.
- Baby and pet supplies if needed.

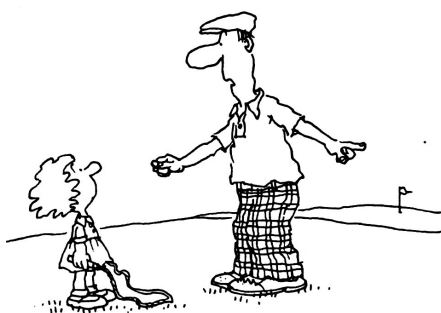
Emergency kit on the move

- Check the weather forecast and pack suitable clothes.
- Ready-to-eat food, a warm drink in a flask and bottled water.
- Mobile phone and charger.
- Any essential medication.
- Spare glasses or contact lenses.
- Cash and credit cards.
- A list of emergency contact numbers. This should be a paper copy, in case your mobile phone loses power.
- Baby and pet supplies if needed.

Emergency car kit

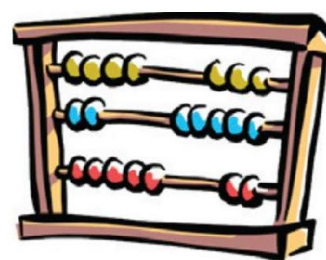
- Ice scraper and de-icer.
- Snow shovel.
- A map in case you need to find your way around diversions.
- Blanket and warm clothes.
- First Aid Kit
- Battery-operated torch and spare batteries, or a wind-up torch.
- Battery-operated radio and spare batteries, or a wind-up radio.
- Jump leads.

Walsham le Willows Parish Council



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- use existing skills and knowledge to benefit the local community
- meet new people from a range of backgrounds
- feel valued and part of a team
- change the way things work for the better

If you can spare a bit of time, please get in touch for an informal, no obligation chat on 01449 676060 or visit midsuffolkcab.org.uk/volunteer

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.



VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

Volunteering is MASSIVE in the UK. Think of the local Hospice with no Government funding it has to rely on the countless volunteers running coffee mornings and doing Marathons etc. This is a vital service to the Community and although it has paid staff, take away the Volunteers and you will end up with very little.

Locally we have such groups as the Village Hall, Wild Wood, Gardens Weekend and the Sports Club. (Apologies to the ones I have missed). I can only comment on the Sports Club but rest assured the previous organisations mentioned will have many volunteers.

When applying for funding many organisations ask for your "Value to the Community" which is quite a new thing. It's a straight forward question but throws up some interesting answers. A simple calculation of number of volunteers, multiplied by the number of hours they do and then multiply that by a monetary value per hour. This gives a figure which the Community would have to find to pay all the Volunteers.

A quick calculation on the back of my fag packet came up with 127 volunteers doing their bit at the club. Multiply those hours spent volunteering by the minimum National wage figure and if you are still with me it's just short of £ 200,000.00. A not insignificant amount. That's 'Value to the Community'.

*Mike Powles Chairman
Walsham le Willows Sports Club*



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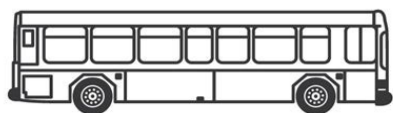
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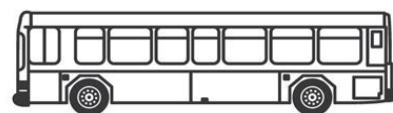
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SIMONDS BUS SERVICE



New timetable for Simonds 73 Service

The new timetable for Simonds 73 Service came into force on Monday Feb 24th.

For details of the timetable please see the pullout timetable in the centre of this Observer.

Please be aware that the bus no longer travels around the entire village but only goes down the Causeway stopping at the Church and Four Ashes.

Bus stop by the Church / Causeway

The bus has traditionally stopped near the Church as it travels along the Street. Now it stops by the Church but on the Causeway. There will be a temporary bus stop sign while the longer-term option is agreed.

Monday to Fridays only?

The bus service is currently only running on weekdays.

We are currently trying to lobby the County Council to provide a Saturday service. We won't know about this for a couple of months, but early signs are hopeful.

Summary of where we are with our bus service

The bad news is that:

- this is a reduced service versus what we had a year ago
- the bus no longer comes through the village
- there is no publicly funded option for students travelling to Thurston

The good news is that the expectation is that this new timetable will be viable, and we shouldn't be in crisis mode again in 12 months' time. We were very close to losing our bus service completely.

Simonds 70 Service

The 70 Service does not route via Walsham.

However, 70 Service timetable has been included as it is a very regular service, and it will get you to and from Stanton.

Richard Winch



WALKING ON WALSHAM FARMLAND

The farmland to the east of the village up to Clay St. is regularly walked by individuals and dogs; it is Old Town Trust land that is tenanted by a local farmer who apart from a desire for all dog faeces be removed, has no objections to walkers using the farm tracks. Recent signs have been put up, just to remind people that the land is walked by permission of the owner and is not a public footpath.

*Ian Campbell
Trustee*





COMMUNITY LUNCH



Hello to you all. I was surprised to see snow falling last night but was really pleased to see it had gone by the morning! Silly really when it's that time of year!!

The Memorial Village Hall will be open from 12.30pm on Monday 10th March 2025. Lunch will be Admirals pie with prawns and mixed vegetables served at 1pm, followed by Lemon meringue pie. 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 6th March 2025.

Shirley White

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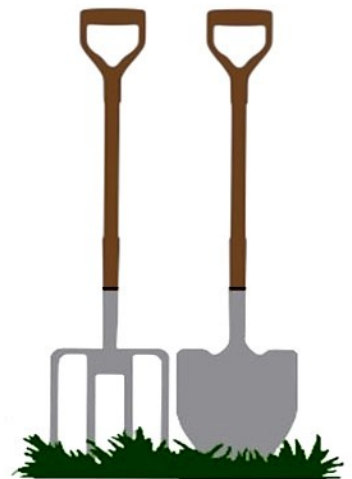
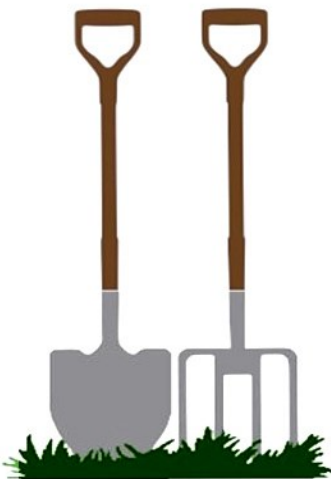
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STANTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



A recent Coffee morning held in Stanton raised £185.00 for Royal British Legion funds. Thank you to those who supported the event either in person or by donating Raffle prizes or cakes.

We were grateful to Walsham Sports Club for allowing us to organise a raffle during one of their Bingo evenings on 16 February. This raised £220.00. Thank you to those who donated Raffle prizes.

We will be holding a Fish and Chip supper at the Cock Inn Stanton on Tuesday 25 March 2025.

In the village of Stanton, some of our Legion members along with members of the village WI and the Parish Council have been meeting to plan events to mark the 80th Anniversary of V E Day.

The Honington Voluntary Band and British Army Band are appearing in a joint concert in St Marys Church, Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 26 April. Entry is free but a retiring collection is appreciated. All proceeds are to the Royal British Legion.

At the time of going to press our branch account was £630.04. This does not include funds raised on the weekend of 15/16 February.

The next branch meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 March in the Cock Inn Stanton at 8pm.

Hubby Frost



WALSHAM LE WILLOWS AND DISTRICT W.I.



February: An introduction to Home Composting.

David Wright is a Master Composter and he gave the members a very interesting talk on home composting. Suffolk County Council sponsor him to encourage us all to reduce what goes to landfill by home-composting; and with the aid of a Compost Bin, a Hot Bin, a Wormery, and a Bokashi Bin he showed us all how to compost much more, including perennial weeds (drown them), and some food waste (use the Bokashi Bin) to deter rats. Use of compost improves our gardens, helps the environment and saves money. Even the long-time gardeners agreed that they had learnt something new this evening.

The talk was followed by the usual coffee and chat, with a quiz on gardening and a sales table of produce.

Next meeting is on 12th March at 7.30pm – Talk by a Forensic Pathologist.

New members are always very welcome to come along and visit.

Judith Harlow



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WALSHAM PICTUREHOUSE

Presents A Cinema Evening with Supper
Friday 21st March at 6.30 pm
Finding Your Feet (12A)



Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie, Timothy Spall & Joanna Lumley

When 'Lady' Sandra Abbott discovers that her husband of forty years is having an affair with her best friend, she seeks refuge with her estranged, older sister Bif. The two could not be more different - Sandra is a fish out of water next to her outspoken, serial dating, free spirited sibling. But different is just what Sandra needs and she reluctantly lets Bif drag her along to her community dance class, where gradually she starts finding her feet... and romance.

In this heart-warming modern comedy, a colourful group of defiant and energetic 'baby boomers' show Sandra that retirement is only the beginning, and that divorce might just give her a whole new lease of life - and love.

Mike Cousins



MUSIC AT ST MARY'S



Music at St Mary's is quiet for most of January and February - the wintry weather makes even the most beautiful music a less attractive prospect.

We are still putting final dates together for this year's programme, but those of you who were blown away by the concert pianist Jill Crossland will be delighted to hear she will be returning for a second visit.

Our first outing, on Saturday 22nd March at 7.30pm is from the highly esteemed local group The Abbott Consort of Voices, who last appeared with us before the pandemic. For those who enjoyed the Epiphany Singers carol-based concert, this is another opportunity to hear the church filled with wonderful singing.

Lent and Easter have always been inspirational for composers, and the programme, titled Crucifixus, is a combination of readings and music, covering composers from Baroque to the present day.

As always, admission is free, with a retiring collection. There are also free refreshments, and the chance to meet and chat with the performers after the concert, which is timetabled to finish between 9.30 and 10.00pm.

We hope you will join us as we fill St Mary's with music for the first time this year.

Matthew Lockyer





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WALSHAM HISTORY GROUP RETURNS!

Walsham History Group talks return on Wednesday 19th March at 7.30pm in the Priory Room. We welcome back the entertaining and knowledgeable Stephen Poulter as our guest speaker for the evening, who will be investigated 'Suffolk's Lost Heritage' and exploring some architectural gems of historic buildings, grand mansions and medieval churches which have disappeared from our landscape over the past centuries.

This year, we are pleased to present a diverse programme of nine talks on a range of subjects, both local and from a wider historical context. This year our talks take us on a journey from the early invasion of East Anglian by the Vikings to the most recent archaeological dig to take place in this country, excavating a Romani people site from the sixties. This is history in our lifetime, well mine anyway, as I'm sure some of you aren't quite so ancient!!! Along the way we will be including a talk on the homes of William Morris, which I'm sure will be a big favourite with many of you. We will also be holding our usual Spring Walk on Sunday 27th April.

As this year is also the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII we have invited Military Historian Paul Hunt to talk to us, in July, about 'D-Day and beyond'. 'Operation Overlord', the joint allied invasion of mainland Europe, which took place on the 6th June 1944 remains the largest combined operation in military history. This talk will also include genuine WWII artefacts and is a talk not to be missed.

If you have never been to a History Group talk then why not come along and see for yourself? We have around 80 members and are a thriving village group with attendees from Walsham and surrounding villages. You don't have to be member as visitors are always welcome. We always serve refreshments and as someone said to me recently, 'It's a good evening out'.

We hope there will be something to suit all interests in our forthcoming programme, which this year includes some highly respected speakers. If you would like further information on our forthcoming talks then see the programme in this edition of the Walsham Observer or look on the Walsham Village website www.walsham-le-willows.org under the 'History' section, or look out for our bright yellow posters around the village.

Our March meeting is also our AGM but we always keep it short!

We look forward to seeing you.

For further details please contact

*Frances Jenner: 01359 259242
or frances.jenner@hotmail.com*





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WALSHAM WILD WOODS



In the cold and dismal weather, we have recently been having, you would be excused for thinking that the Wild Woods Steering Group would take the opportunity to sit back and rest whilst we await the warmth of Spring... But no, we have been busy fundraising and making plans for the coming year!

Curry Night

This year's curry night, held on the 1st February was once again a roaring success. Our guests were served with a variety of Indian inspired dishes, all made by our very skilled volunteers. During the evening there was a very informative and entertaining presentation by Dr Ross Piper, author of 'How to Read an Insect', who spoke to us about some of the smaller inhabitants in the Woods. Our special thanks go out to everyone who supported us at the event, from our guests, to our volunteers who helped on the night as well as those who provided cakes, desserts and even a very delicious chicken curry! The curry night is held with a main purpose of raising both awareness about the Wild Woods and funds to help us develop new initiatives and put on events.

This year, we raised a very impressive £1111, which will be going towards launching our new Wild Woods 'Forest School' activity group.

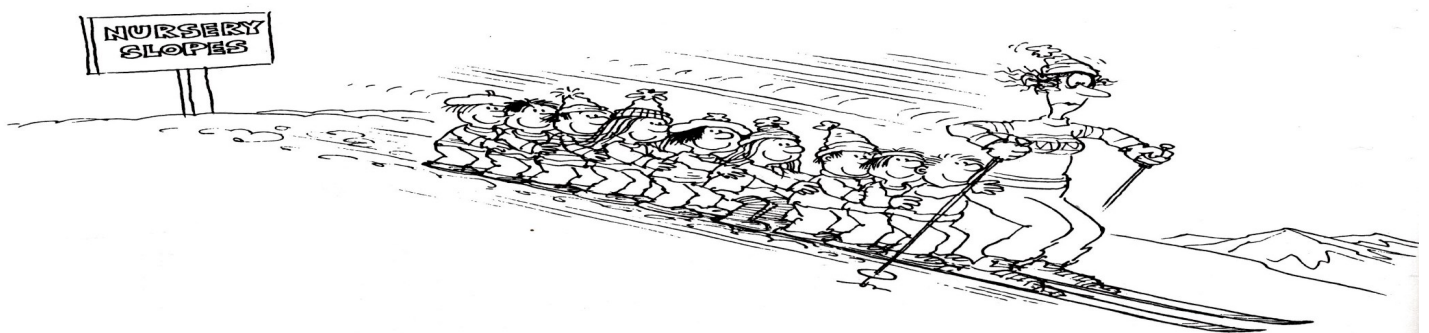
Wild Woods 'Forest School'

Throughout last year our team have been busy developing proposals and fundraising bids for a dedicated 'forest school' style, children's activity group in the Woods. We have been very fortunate to receive some grant funding from the National Lottery, which along with the proceeds from the Curry night and some additional funding applications, will be used to launch and run this exciting new group! We want to make sure that our group meets the needs of children and families across the village, so please keep a lookout on our Facebook page and through the school and preschool newsletters for a short survey which will help us to finalise the plans!

Upcoming Events

- On the 15th March we will be holding a Woodland Working party. You are welcome to come and help out with some of the jobs around the woods and find out about volunteering with us. We also invite all our Tree Buddies to come along to carry out some maintenance and care of their trees.
- We will once again be holding our annual egg hunt in Wild Woods on Saturday 19th April 10-12.30.

Rachel Robinson
Co-Chair, Walsham Wild Woods
walshamwildwoods@gmail.com



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POST PANDEMIC HAMMOCK

Sunshade, Deckchairs and Covid Cushions

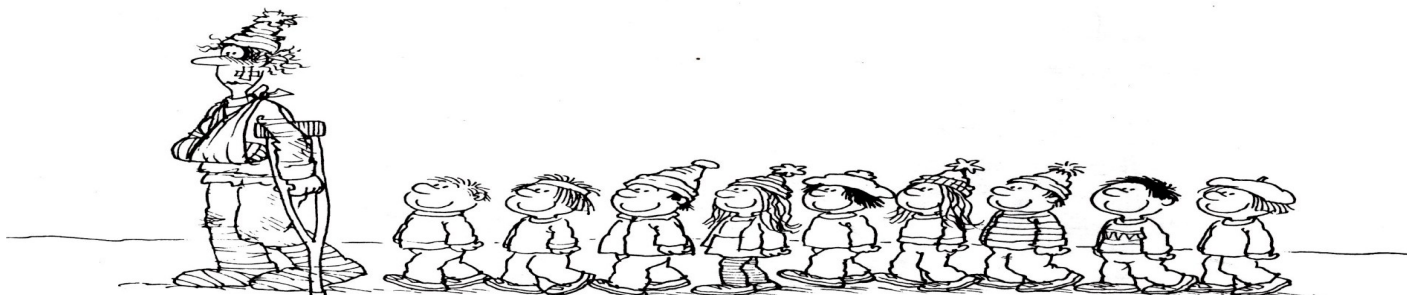
In the December of 2023 I wrote an article for the Walsham Observer about a sculpture I was making to mark my response to not only the pandemic but the lockdowns and how the passing of it had changed our lives. I asked that some of you send me photos of events or projects which had come about directly from this time and your response was most heartening.

The sculpture is now finished and includes not just a hammock but accessories such as a sunshade, deckchairs and cushions. It is a comment on the enforced indolence of this time.

As some of you have been most generous in sharing images, I think you deserve a mention. You wonderful people include Rob (Wheeler) with his beautiful dolls' house, Rob (Barber) and one of his thoughtful poems, Reg with the beautiful portrait of his wife Mary, Ron with three portraits of his lovely wife Ella, Frances with quite a few enchanting photos of Jerry, Judy with her wonderful letter carving and Mandy with the simply stunning photo of the faulty tap cylinder she changed at the beginning of the first lockdown. To all of these kind people I am indebted and, in fact, to many more from all over the world. These include friends, family and complete strangers.

I have persuaded **Rev. Catriona** to have the hammock and a few cushions on display during the **11 a.m. service on the 23rd March at St. Mary's**. If any of you would like to see it and hear me give a little chat about the journey I have been on to put this altogether please come along to this service.

Mary Anstee-Parry





YOGA

FOR EVERYONE

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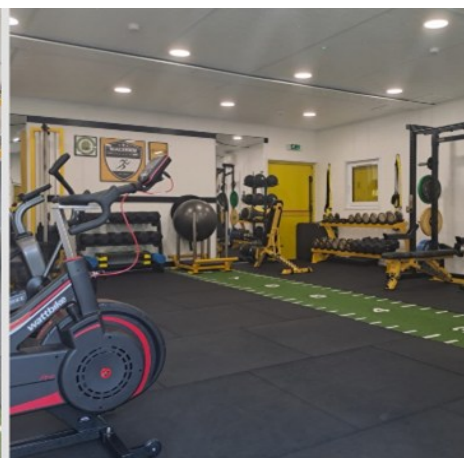
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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

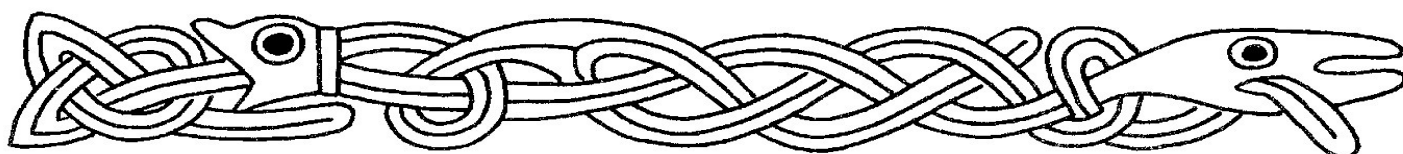
All the usual Hall dance activities are now in full swing with the next sessions booked in though there are still vacancies for new members if of interest. Wednesday Pilates classes continue to be well attended as is the self defence class.

Our Thursday coffee mornings continue to prove popular with increasing numbers and it's noticeable that it's not just locals who are attending.

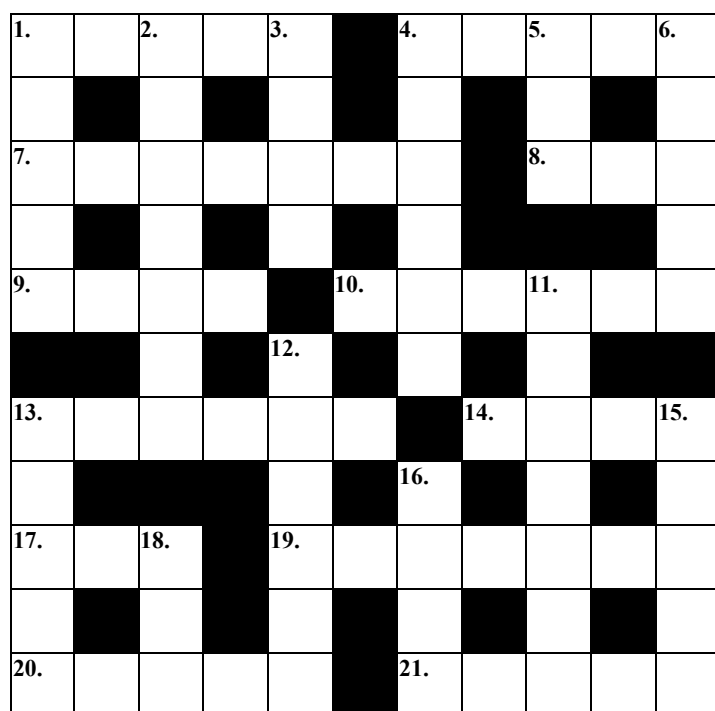
The February Community lunch was again enjoyable and the next one will be on Monday 10th March.

Our next Picturehouse film in the Village Hall will be on Friday 21st March and will be 'Finding Your Feet' with several well known British stars. After this there will be a summer break for film nights which will start again in September.

Rob Matthews



WALSHAM OBSERVER CROSSWORD



17. Go back round for a friend. (3)
 19. Lack of respect for the little devil's debts. (7)
 20. The opposite of the bookies figures. (5)
 21. Could the young boy really be bright? (5)

DOWN

1. Might this sportsman be argumentative? (5)
 2. Just one trip for the confused dog. (7)
 3. Some feminists might say this for a signal. (4)
 4. Have pigs so changed their idle chat? (6)
 5. Belongs to us for some time possibly. (3)
 6. It's great to find change in one's purse. (5)
 11. Be failing about the young lady. (6)
 12. The wind brings the tea North. (7)
 13. Beating the rhythm for the doc. (5)
 15. Was Illy so bad? (5)
 16. Stir the soup for work. (4)
 18. Is the Greek letter found in the sky 'when you die'? (3)

ACROSS

1. Maybe it's just a little copy. (5)
 4. So awful for such a measure. (5)
 7. There's raw lies around the group. (7)
 8. Tear for the last initials. (3)
 9. She is in for it as well. (4)
 10. Vivaldi's one in for four for sports. (6)
 13. An old drink for the carrier. (6)
 14. Have a stretch in a Spanish jail. (4)

SIMMONDS BUS TIMETABLES

For Routes

70

**Diss to Bury St Edmunds
via Stanton**

73

**Garboldisham to Bury St Edmunds
via Walsham-le-Willows**



BUS ROUTE 70

Daily Monday to Friday

Diss to Bury St Edmunds

Diss, Bus Station (adj)	0640	0730	0930	every	1330	1445	1630	1740
Diss, Rail Station (adj)	0643	0733	0933	60	1333	1448	1633	1743
Palgrave, Church (opp)	0647	0737	0937	mins.	1337	1452	1637	1747
Wortham, School (o/s)	0651	0741	0941		1341	1456	1641	1751
Botesdale, Simonds Court (adj)	0656	0746	0946		1346	1501	1646	1756
Rickingham Inferior, Church (opp)	0659	0749	0949		1349	1504	1649	1759
Wattisfield, The Street (adj)	0703	0753	0953		1353	1508	1653	1803
Stanton, Memorial (adj)	0708	0758	0958		1358	1513	1658	1808
Ixworth, Village Hall (adj)	0716	0806	1006		1406	1521	1706	1816
Thurston, College Main Entrance (o/s)		0816				1531		
Great Barton, A143 Bus Shelter (SW-bound)	0726	0826	1016		1416	1541	1716	1826
Bury St Edmunds, Railway Station (opp)	0735	0835	1025		1425	1550	1725	1835
Bury St Edmunds, Bus Station (Stand 7)	0740	0840	1030		1430	1555	1730	1840
Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk College (opp)	-	0845	-		-	-	-	-

Bury St Edmunds to Diss

Bury St Edmunds, St Benedicts Catholic School (o/s)	-	-	-		-	-	-	1615	-	-
Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk College (adj)	-	-	-		-	-	-	1620	-	-
Bury St Edmunds, Bus Station (Stand 7)	-	0810	0930	every	1330	1415	1530	1630	1745	1845
Bury St Edmunds, Railway Station (adj)	-	0813	0933	60	1333	1418	1533	1633	1748	1848
Great Barton, A143 Bus Shelter (NE-bound)	-	0821	0941	mins.	1341	1426	1541	1641	1756	1856
Thurston, College Main Entrance (o/s)	-	0831					1551	1651		
Ixworth, Village Hall (opp)	-	0841	0951		1351	1436	1601	1701	1806	1906
Stanton, Memorial (opp)	-	0848	0958		1358	1443	1608	1708	1813	1913
Wattisfield, The Street (opp)	-	0853	1003		1403	1448	1613	1713	1818	1918
Rickingham Inferior, Church (adj)	0705	0857	1007		1407	1452	1617	1717	1822	1922
Botesdale, Simonds Court (opp)	0707	0900	1010		1410	1455	1620	1720	1825	1925
Wortham, School (opp)	0711	0908	1018		1418	1503	1628	1728	1833	1933
Palgrave, Church (o/s)	0717	0913	1023		1423	1508	1633	1733	1838	1938
Diss, Station Road (opp)	0722	0918	1028		1428	1513	1638	1738	1843	1943
Diss, Bus Station (adj)	0725	0920	1030		1430	1515	1640	1740	1845	1945

BUS ROUTE 70

Saturday Service

Diss to Bury St Edmunds

Diss, Bus Station (adj)	0730 every	1730
Diss, Rail Station (adj)	0733 60	1733
Palgrave, Church (opp)	0737 mins.	1737
Worham, School (o/s)	0741	1741
Botesdale, Simonds Court (adj)	0746	1746
Rickingham Inferior, Church (opp)	0749	1749
Wattisfield, The Street (adj)	0753	1753
Stanton, Memorial (adj)	0758	1758
Ixworth, Village Hall (adj)	0806	1806
Great Barton, A143 Bus Shelter (SW-bound)	0816	1816
Bury St Edmunds, Railway Station (opp)	0825	1825
Bury St Edmunds, Bus Station (Stand 7)	0830	1830

Bury St Edmunds to Diss

Bury St Edmunds, Bus Station (Stand 7)	0830 every	1630 1745 1845
Bury St Edmunds, Railway Station (adj)	0833 60	1633 1748 1848
Great Barton, A143 Bus Shelter (NE-bound)	0841 mins.	1641 1756 1856
Ixworth, Village Hall (opp)	0851	1651 1806 1906
Stanton, Memorial (opp)	0858	1658 1813 1913
Wattisfield, The Street (opp)	0903	1703 1818 1918
Rickingham Inferior, Church (adj)	0907	1707 1822 1922
Botesdale, Simonds Court (opp)	0910	1710 1825 1925
Worham, School (opp)	0918	1718 1833 1933
Palgrave, Church (o/s)	0923	1723 1838 1938
Diss, Station Road (opp)	0928	1728 1843 1943
Diss, Bus Station (adj)	0930	1730 1845 1945

There is NO Sunday service

Garboldisham to Bury St Edmunds

Bury St Edmunds to Garboldisham

BUS ROUTE 73

Daily Monday to Friday ONLY

Diss, Bus Station	06:50	-
Garboldisham, Fox Inn	07:00	09:30
Hopton, Church Bus Shelter	07:05	09:35
Market Weston, Village Hall	07:08	09:38
Coney Weston, The Swan	07:15	09:45
Barningham, Royal George	07:19	09:49
Bardwell, Post Office (Tithe Barn)	07:26	09:56
Stanton, Hilltop Way	07:29	09:59
Stanton, Memorial	07:33	10:03
Shepherd's Grove, Cafe	07:34	10:04
Walsham Le Willows Church / Four Ashes	07:40	10:10
Badwell Ash, Village Hall	07:45	10:15
Hunston, Dalry Farm	07:48	10:18
Stowlangtoft, Church	07:50	10:20
Pakenham, Fox PH	07:55	10:25
Great Barton, A143 Bus Shelter	08:01	10:31
Great Barton, Bunbury Avenue	08:03	10:33
Bury St Edmunds Bus Station (Stand 5)	08:25	10:47
Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk College	08:33	10:50
Bury St Edmunds, St Benedicts Catholic School	08:40	11:05

Bury St Edmunds, St Benedicts Catholic School	13:30	16:00	18:15
Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk College	13:35	16:15	18:20
Bury St Edmunds Bus Station (Stand 5)	13:39	16:25	18:24
Great Barton, Bunbury Avenue	13:43	16:28	18:28
Great Barton, A143 Bus Shelter	13:45	16:30	18:30
Pakenham, Fox PH	13:51	16:36	18:36
Stowlangtoft, Church	13:55	16:40	18:40
Hunston, Dalry Farm	13:57	16:42	18:42
Badwell Ash, Village Hall	14:00	16:45	18:45
Walsham Le Willows Church / Four Ashes	14:06	16:51	18:51
Shepherd's Grove, Cafe	14:14	16:59	18:59
Stanton, Memorial	14:15	17:00	19:00
Stanton, Hilltop Way	14:19	17:04	19:04
Bardwell, Post Office (Tithe Barn)	14:23	17:08	19:08
Barningham, Royal George	14:30	17:15	19:15
Coney Weston, The Swan	14:33	17:18	19:18
Market Weston, Village Hall	14:39	17:24	19:24
Hopton, Church Bus Shelter	14:42	17:27	19:27
Garboldisham, Fox Inn	14:47	17:32	19:32
Diss, Bus Station	-	-	19:42

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DIARY OF EVENTS

MARCH			JULY		
Wed 12th	W.I. Forensic Pathologist		Wed 16th	History Group	
	Priory Room	7.30pm		Priory Room	7.30pm
Wed 19th	History Group		AUGUST		
	Priory Room	7.30pm	Sat 9th	Horticultural Show	
Fri 21st	Picturehouse			Village Hall	2.00pm
	Village Hall	6.30pm	Sun 24th	Open Gardens	All
APRIL			Mon 25th	Weekend	Day
Wed 9th	W.I. Floristry Demo'n		SEPTEMBER		
	Priory Room	7.30pm	Wed 17th	History Group	
Wed 16th	History Group			Village Hall	7.30pm
	Priory Room	7.30pm	OCTOBER		
Sun 27th	History Group		Wed 15th	History Group	
	Village Walk	10.30am		Priory Room	7.30pm
MAY			NOVEMBER		
Wed 14th	W.I. Annual Meeting		Wed 19th	History Group	
	Priory Room	7.30pm		Priory Room	7.30pm
Wed 21st	History Group		Fri 28th	Walsham Art Group	
	Priory Room	7.30pm		Priory Room	5.00pm
JUNE				Till Mon 1st December	
Tues 10th	W.I. Bowls Taster		DECEMBER		
	Bowls Green	7.00pm	Tue 9th	History Group	
Wed 18th	History Group			Priory Room	7.30pm
	Priory Room	7.30pm			

WALSHAM & DISTRICT W.I. FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST

A Talk by Mary Newon
in the Priory Room

Wednesday 12th March at 7.30pm

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Ladies are able to attend 2 meetings free of charge before joining.



WALSHAM PICTURE HOUSE

Presents

FINDING YOUR FEET

Friday 21st March

Doors open at 6.30pm

A cinema evening with supper

Supper at 7.00pm

Paying bar available throughout the evening

Supper*: Steak and Ale pie,
Creamy mashed potato,
Buttered peas and carrots.

Vegetarian option: Packed vegetable strudel

Ice cream tubs are available at £1.00

(all proceeds to charity)

Tickets in advance from the Memorial Hall
Coffee Shop

£12.50 per head to include meal and film
(card payments accepted)

A Walsham-le-Willows

Memorial Village Hall Event

** please advise any food allergies
at point of booking*



WALSHAM SPORTSCLUB EVENTS FOR March & April



Sunday Night Bingo

2nd, 16th & 30th March 7pm
13th and 27th April 7pm

Speed Quizzing

Sunday 23rd March 7pm.
PYCR + Smart phone Bingo

Friday Evening Quiz- zes 7th March 7.30pm

Poker Night

For details see page ??



Irish Night

Saturday 8th March. From 7pm.
Live Irish band The Great Craig,
Bar and hot food plus annual raffle .
Tickets £8 (before) or £12 (door).
From Gordon on 07742 111892,

For further information phone Julian 07597340273



WALSHAM *History Group*

presents



SUFFOLK'S LOST HERITAGE

*Historic architectural gems which
have vanished from our landscape.
Talk by Stephen Poulter. + AGM.*

WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH AT 7.30PM

Priory Room, Walsham-le-Willows

Members Free Visitors £5.00 Refreshments



Badwell & Walsham Benefice Lent Group

Wednesdays at 2pm

12th March - Priory Room - Walsham

19th March - Lent Lunch - Margaret Miller's House, Finningham

26th March - St Mary's - Badwell Ash

2nd April - St Margaret's - Westhorpe

9th April - St Margaret's - URC Chapel, Wattisfield

Everyone is welcome to join us as we journey through Lent together. Join us for informal discussions based around the bible, no need to book just come along.



Mother's Day Children's Craft Club

Saturday 29th March

10-12 in the Priory Room, Walsham

2-4pm in St Bartholomew's Church, Finningham

Join us to make gifts for the special people in our lives for Mothering Sunday. We will be making cards, flower posies, decorating cakes and lots more. Refreshments will be available. Please bring an adult to stay and help you craft.



*For more information on both these events, please contact
Revd Catriona: revcatrionabrinkley@outlook.com*



MUSIC AT ST MARY'S

Saturday 22nd March – 7:30pm

The Abbot Consort of Voices

Sharing music with the community

Free entry, refreshments

A retiring collection for church funds



Next concert : 'A Clarinet Group' on Thursday 10th April at 12:30pm



SAT 22 MARCH

7PM START

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1/03/25 – £20 after.
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WALSHAM LE WILLOWS

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2025 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, Brooks, Mecrow, Roberts, Tuck, Winch.

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor Richard Winch & County Councillor Jessica Fleming

1. OPENING STATEMENT (if any required)
None
2. APOLOGIES
None received
No consents required.
3. DECLARATIONS of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests
To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) including personal interests in items on the agenda and to include declarations of any gifts of hospitality – none received
To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – none received
To receive requests for dispensation – none required
4. MINUTES - To receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings (as previously circulated)
Minutes of 8th January 2025 were approved as true and accurate record of the meeting and for signature.
No actions outstanding from last meeting.
5. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM (POF) - To receive questions and matters of concern from members of the public in attendance with regard to items on the agenda and any other matters. Three members of public were present.
James Platt (Locus Planning), acting on behalf of the landowners of land north of Well Cottages, Palmer Street, Walsham le Willows, was invited to present details of a potential future planning application. There is no developer for this site as yet and James showed an indicative map which suggested 15 dwellings, including 5 affordable, with all but access arrangements subject to reserved matters. Parish Councillors and members of the public made many points; the main concerns were around a shared access road (vehicles/pedestrians) and the lack of provision for any pedestrian throughflow which would facilitate integration with the rest of the village. Parking, ditch drainage & water attenuation capacity were raised as other points of concern. Much of the indicative design aligns well with policies in the Neighbourhood plan but the point was made that other areas of the design could align more closely.
6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION & QUESTIONS - to receive written reports &

put questions:

Questions were invited to County Councillor Fleming on her report and any other matters.

- Cllr Janette Winch thanked Cllr Fleming for her support with the completion of traffic surveys and asked if the next step would be meeting with Josh White from SCC with as many councillors as possible to determine next steps. Clerk to co-ordinate availabilities between Josh and parish councillors.
- Cllr Winch also asked about the mechanism for engagement with landowners and who should initiate this, the Parish Council or SCC. Cllr Mecrow asked if Cllr Fleming knew who now has ownership of the actions set out in the S19 report. Cllr Fleming to follow up with Matt Hullis and let us know.
- Cllr Fleming gave some feedback on the bus service situation. A recent meeting with Simon Barnet and representatives of all impacted villages resulted in a proposed timetable from Simmonds which it was felt met most of the concerns raised and was the best possible compromise and that by its very nature, such a process will not be able to completely satisfy all stakeholders.
- Cllr Mecrow asked about the devolution situation and the way it might financially disadvantage Mid-Suffolk.
- Cllr Belson noted that highways had recently sent out a vehicle to clean out the Four Ashes drains.

District Councillor Winch

- Cllr Mecrow asked about review of housing allocations in the neighbourhood plan light of changes to central government policy. District Cllr. Winch advised that this was being worked on but nothing to report as yet.

7. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS (Flood, CEP, Traffic) & ACTION LOG REVIEWS

Traffic Group

The circulated report (05/02/2025) was noted.

As per agenda item 6 a I, Council approved the idea of a daytime meeting with Josh White from SCC and as many councillors as possible to agree next steps. Cllr Fleming/Clerk to try to get some date and will communicate these to pin one down. Council considered the following proposals for approval:

- P1 Council approved the commencement of door knocking, to start immediately along with the final letter and publicity for this exercise. Volunteers from councillors and traffic group to be agreed for this exercise.
- P2 To invite Josh White to March meeting of the Parish Council to discuss next steps. See 7 a ii. Approved.
- P3 The proposal that traffic proposals should be discussed as part of the next Annual Question Time meeting on 10th March was approved.

Flood Group

Report as circulated (06/02/2025) was noted.

To note the Lead Local Flood Authority recommended actions shown on pages 20-21 of the S19 Flood Investigation report by SCC and agree actions to be taken by Parish Council to facilitate.

- P1 Council approved the proposal to retire the Parish Council action log and use the SCC provided log.

P2 Council approved the proposal that Flood Response Group plus Chair (Cllr Belson) should meet after reading the report and associated material, to work up proposals for next steps for the Parish Council but not until a response is received from County Cllr Fleming who will check the protocols with Matt Hullis at the SCC floods team in the first instance.

CEP Group

The circulated report (06/02/2025) was noted.

Proposal from Cllr Brookes for donation to Community First Responders for the free Basic Life Support training sessions that they provided for volunteers was considered. £100 was proposed and approved.

8. PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES 2024/25 (not covered under working groups - Footpaths, Shepherd's Grove, Bus Routes, Local Plan)

Nothing to note

9. PLANNING, LICENCING & RELATED MATTERS

Council considered the submission for pre-application advice for bus shelter in conservation area within sight lines of grade I listed building. It was decided to wait and see if the bus company and SCC step up to progress this as it was felt this responsibility should sit with them.

APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/25/00383

Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell x1 Willow, Fell x2 Leylandii, Fell x1 Sycamore, Fell x1 Cypress, Reduce to 4m x2 Leylandii, Reduce crown by 4m x1 Cherry, Reduce crown by 7m x1 Beech, Reduce to below phone lines x3 Cherry. Location: Cherry Tree House, Finningham Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BQ
THE PARISH COUNCIL MADE NO COMMENT

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/00267

Proposal: Householder Application - Construction of raised decking (retention of) Location: 2 The Maltings, Wattisfield Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BD
THE PARISH COUNCIL MADE NO COMMENT

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

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/24/03477 & related Listed Building Consent DC/24/03478

Proposal: Householder Planning Application - Reinstate dormer, increase/form window/door openings, remedial works and alterations as detailed in the Schedule of Works. Location: Old Hall, Finningham Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BN
MSDC GRANTED PERMISSION

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/24/03403 & associated Listed Building Consent DC/24/03404

Proposal: Householder application - Re-render all elevations, re-roof main house and lean-to, lay new limecrete floors, demolish front porch, repair/rebuild 3 no. chimney stacks, reinstate former door in rear elevation, widen 3 no. windows, replace gable door with window, replace front door, re-open 2 no. fireplace recesses, unblock internal doorway, remove internal partition, demolish partially

collapsed outbuilding, demolish brick outbuilding. Location: The Woodlands, Finningham Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BQ
MSDC GRANTED PERMISSION

APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/24/05584

Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 2 No. Pine (T1 and T2) Location: High Hedges, Palmer Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BZ MSDC RAISED NO OBJECTIONS

11. FINANCE & AUDIT

Bank reconciliation for period ending 31st January 2025 was approved for signature.

- Accounts awaiting payment summary and invoices for payment were approved for processing, the Clerk highlighted one that had to be rejected as it was created incorrectly. (Appendix 1).
- The Clerks proposal to adopt the changes to calculation of holiday pay were approved. Clerk to instruct SALC payroll accordingly.
- The Clerk's provisional annual review of Contracts (details circulated 18/01/2025) were considered and approved. No changes were made.
- Council considered in detail the tailored changes made to new Financial Regulations, Model Standing Orders (circulated 07/02/2025) by the Clerk. These were approved for adoption.
- Council considered if any changes were required to the risk register (circulated 07/02/2025). It was decided that no changes were required.
- The Clerk's annual review of all policies and procedures (detailed in Appendix 2) were noted and approved.
- The publication of transparency notices, variances and payments over £500 reports to end December 2024 (links circulated 08/02/2025) was noted.

12. CLERK ACTION LOG, COUNCILLOR REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE (if not dealt with elsewhere)

Changes to Clerk's action log were approved.

- To consider any other matters of concern or note. The agenda for Annual Question Time to be held on 10th March was agreed as Flood and Traffic management, Community Emergency Plan and any other issues that may be raised in the meeting. Clerk to organise.
- Council considered advice from Neighbourhood Plan consultants on the timing of the review process for Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk had proposed contacting consultants in August/September 2027 with draft workplan to be agreed with consultants before application for funding is made (if still available). Council also decided on a watching brief to ensure that changes to building allocations do not catch us out. Clerk to add to agenda.
- Updated village ranger job specification was considered for approval. Clerk to publicise in all usual channels in the first instance.
- Council considered proposal from Clerk for additional subscription to Parish Online (£42pa incl vat) for their 'WorkDrive' offering which enables all PC documentation to be stored online for access by Clerk and members in a way that complies with Standing Orders. This will also facilitate any Clerk transition

when this happens. Clerk to transfer any data currently shared with Onedrive and GoogleDrive to the new WorkDrive.

- Council considered the offer by a representative of Community Led Homes to attend a meeting to answer questions on this initiative. It was decided to defer on this. Clerk to email a holding response.
- Spring litter pick dates decided as 10-16th March. Clerk to publicise and seek volunteers in the usual way.

13. OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN/NOTE FOR NEXT AGENDA

Other matters

- Cllr Bartholomew noted that there had been no commencement of works to the closed churchyard path lighting for which there is an outstanding CIL award due if this is claimed with paid invoices before 31st March 2025.
- Cllr Winch raised the forthcoming initiative to create a new 'Book of Walks' (around Walsham le Willows) and the issue of using OS maps extracted from the ParishOnline platform paid for by the Council. It was felt that as long as the Parish Council is credited alongside any map used that this should comply with licencing/publication restrictions. The Clerk will check this out with ParishOnline before the go-ahead is given.
- Cllr Mecrow wished to put the Summer Road/Sports Club traffic calming issue on the next agenda.

Next Meetings:

Annual Question Time hosted by the Parish Council – 10th March 2025 7pm - Memorial Hall.

Parish Council Meeting – 12th March 2024 7pm – Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 22:20

APPENDIX 1

Payments for Authorisation FEBRUARY 2024

#	Payments OUT	Amount	Description
1	Local Authority Technology CIC	312.00	For subscription to website management package.
2	Clarkes of Walsham	11.10	Materials for play area bench repair
3	Kevin Boardley	108.00	20's Plenty Bin Stickers - reimbursement
4	Memorial Village Hall	27.00	Hall Hire
5	Memorial Village Hall	35.00	Colour cover and map Observer
6	Parish Council Employee	555.44	Wages
#	Payments IN & Other Payments/Transfers	Amount	Description

APPENDIX 2

Policy & Procedure Annual Review – Summary (See Village Website)



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FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH

As we move into March, the days are growing longer, and signs of spring are appearing all around us. Snowdrops and daffodils remind us of new beginnings, and the promise of warmer days lifts our spirits. With this change in the season, we also enter the reflective time of Lent, a period for prayer, renewal, and preparation as we journey towards Easter.

Lent begins on Tuesday, 5th March, and we invite everyone to come together for our special Ash Wednesday services, marking the start of this sacred season: 11:00 AM at St Mary's, Walsham and at 7:00 PM at St Mary's, Badwell Ash. These quiet and thoughtful services offer a time to pause, reflect, and step forward into Lent with purpose and hope. Everyone is welcome.

Throughout Lent, we are also offering an opportunity to deepen our reflections with our Lent Course, where we will focus on the theme of Living Hope. Hope is something we all long for and need in our lives, and Lent provides a time to reflect on where we find it. Our sessions will take place each Wednesday around the benefice, and we encourage you to join us as we explore this uplifting theme together. There is no requirement to come to all of the Wednesdays as each week we will be discussing a different topic.

We know that many people work during the day so this year we are holding Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM in St Mary's. It will be a short and peaceful service where we can come together to close the working week in prayer and look ahead to the weekend with a renewed heart and mind.

As nature reawakens, it reminds us that Easter is not far away. Spring is a season of renewal, growth, and transformation—mirroring the journey of Lent, which leads us from reflection to the joy of resurrection. The lighter evenings and the first warmth of the sun encourage us to look forward with expectation and gratitude. We have had a lot of grey skies lately, but it will make the relief of brighter Spring days even brighter when they come.

Before Easter, we will also be celebrating Mothering Sunday, a day to give thanks for the nurturing and love we receive from the special women in our lives. To help our younger members prepare for this, we will be holding Children's Craft Sessions on Saturday, 29th March, in Walsham and Finningham. This will be a wonderful opportunity for children to create thoughtful gifts to take home for their mums, grandmas, aunties, or another cherished person in their life.

As we step into this new season, may we embrace the journey of Lent with open hearts and find encouragement in the hope that surrounds us. If you would like to know more about any of our upcoming services, events, or gatherings, please do get in touch.

We look forward to sharing this special time with you.

Rev'd Catriona



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.

MARCH CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Service	Church
2nd March	Sunday before Lent	
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Walsham
11:00am	Holy Communion	Walsham
5th March		
11:00am	Ash Wednesday	Walsham
7:00pm	Ash Wednesday	Badwell Ash
7th March		
6:00pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Walsham
9th March	1st Sunday of Lent	
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Walsham
9:30am	Holy Communion	Westhorpe
11:00am	Holy Communion	Finningham
11:00am	Songs of Praise	Walsham
14th March		
6:00pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Walsham
16th March	2nd Sunday of Lent	
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Walsham
9:30am	Holy Communion	Badwell Ash
21st March		
6:00pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Walsham
23rd March	3rd Sunday of Lent	
11:00am	Holy Communion	Wattisfield
3:00pm	Evensong	Westhorpe
28th March		
6:00pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Walsham
30th March	4th Sunday of Lent	
11:00am	Benefice Mothering Sunday Service	Walsham
6th April	5th Sunday of Lent	
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Walsham
11:00am	Holy Communion	Walsham

SEARCHING FOR WORDS

B	A	C
R	E	K
T	A	W

Starting with any letter and moving horizontally, vertically or diagonally, see how many words of three letters or more you can find, using each letter only once in each word.

There should be one nine letter word for a quiet place, maybe near to a river. ..

Get 50 words and you are doing well.

WILDLIFE IN MARCH

This is the month we have been looking forward to, it is the month of the Spring Equinox which is on March the 20th. What is the difference between an Equinox and Solstice? The difference is that a Solstice is the longest day and shortest day of the year and an Equinox is when the day and night are equally the same.

Warmer weather is on the way which will mean an increase in wildlife to be seen. Although our winters are milder now to what they used to be, March is the month where Hedgehog activity is on the rise. They used to hibernate through the Winter, waking up periodically in milder spells to feed, although food will have been scarce. March is the month the milder temperatures are here with maybe the odd frost, and Hedgehogs will be eagerly in search for tasty insects to build up their fat reserves once more. The next month of April will typically be the start of their breeding season, but with milder weather we can see Hoglets as early as March. These Mammals really need all the help they can get with the loss of habitat, struggles through the winter due to milder weather and parasites from Slugs and Snails which give them deadly Lungworm and Roundworm. We can help by introducing Hedgehog highways, which are little openings between neighbour's fences, particularly useful on estates. Leaving a shallow bowl of water out and also dog/cat dry/wet meaty food out. This can be a lifesaver to hogs, if you see one struggling please put in a high sided box with a towel and water, and call a hedgehog rescue, do not delay as hours can be vital. As I foster for the Suffolk Hedgehog Hospital you can call me on 07794709616. Signs of struggling can be circling (usually dehydration or head injury), looking/moving frantic (parasitic burden) or very flat and out during the day (a mother can be seen sometimes out in the day, so if moving with purpose just monitor or ring for advice).

Most of our UK insects will spend the Winter in egg or Larval form as many adults will not survive the colder conditions. Some however can survive the Winter such as the Lacewing. They tend to hibernate in piles of leaves and will emerge in March, take care not to tidy these leaves away too quickly as some Lacewings will take until early Spring to wake up. They will be hungry and will look for other small insects and Aphids.

During this month, if the weather is milder, you may see some species of Butterflies start to emerge from over-wintering. The ones that are capable of over-wintering are Brimstones, Commas, Painted Ladies, Peacocks and Red Admirals. They will look slightly paler in colour to the ones you will see later on in the year. To help these Butterflies grow early Spring nectar flowers such as, Aubrieta, Heathers, Wallflowers and Hyacinths. Also try to leave Dandelion plants as the flowers are also a great source of nectar.

Walking either around your gardens or on walks across the countryside, there in ponds or pools will be clumps of Frogspawn. Earlier clumps may have been killed off by the frosts, but usually it is the top layer that is killed, the Spawn below the waterline can be more insulated and therefore survive. Continued lower temperatures however can delay the development of the Spawn. It is always fascinating to watch the development of Frogspawn, first they are black dots in the center of each egg, they then begin to grow little tails. The next thing you see is them wiggling round hatching and going into their watery nursery.

Angie Bennington.



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WHAT'S ON AT THE BLUE BOAR

Free room hire is available

March Live music

Frank Is Back Saturday 8th

Andy Otley (Elvis Tribute) Saturday 22nd

Karaoke on Friday 14th and 28th March

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WALSHAM PÉTANQUE

New 2025 Season!



After what's been another generally miserable winter, in a few week's time Spring should be finally in sight, and so we'll be very pleased to be starting up again for the new season.

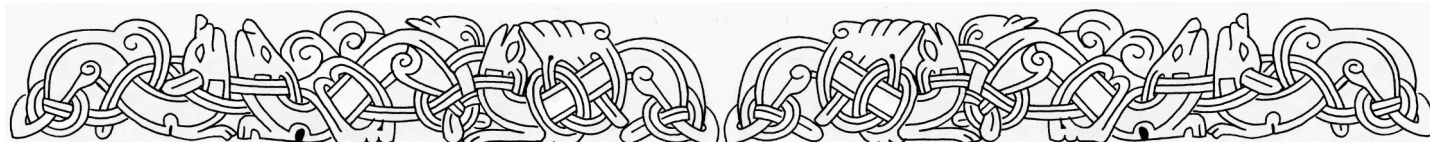
So, as from 20th March - the official first day of Spring - we'll be back to our weekly Thursday afternoon sessions from 2pm onwards at our special pétanque terrain by the grand oak trees at the Walsham Sports Club, Summer Rd.

We currently have a small core of regular players, but we would very much welcome a few more and will consider having a further weekly session for those who are not available on Thursdays. For example, if it were on summer Sundays at the Sports Club, there would also be cricket going on and the likelihood of the Bar being open, and so it would make a general convivial atmosphere for all. However, we first need to hear from you as to what your preferences would be.

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

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're all 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
graham.portlock@pm.me



WALSHAM OBSERVER SU-DOKU

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



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SPORTS CLUB REPORT

Football

Sadly, the First Team's involvement in the FA Vase has ended for another season. Following a 1-1 draw, we lost to Whitstable Town on penalties despite being the better side in normal time.

A week later we put seven goals past second bottom Sheringham Town in the league without playing well. All the goals were scored by different players. We then hosted Kirkley and won 2-0.

Our next game ended with a 1-0 defeat at Cornard United, despite dominating the game. An own goal decided matters, and to make things worse Kieran Twinn was sent off, although I felt it was harsh.

We then travelled to Woodbridge Town and won 2-0 before losing 2-0 at Dereham Town. So, all in all a very mixed month.

The Under 23s lost 1-0 away to Thetford Town. They then beat Lakenheath 3-1.

The Under 18s beat Sporting 87 2-0 at home before beating Newmarket Town 4-3 away in a terrific game of football. This result sent them to the top of the League.

The Veterans drew 1-1 with Ransomes Sports and lie 2nd in their division.

Home fixtures for March

First Team

Sat 15th v Ely City 3pm

Sat 29th v Brantham Athletic 3pm

Under 23s

Sat 1st v Woodbridge Town 3pm

Sat 8th v Ipswich Wanderers 3pm

Sat 22nd v Framlingham Town 3pm

Veterans

Sun 16th v Woolverstone 2pm

Sun 23rd v Coplestonians 2pm

Under 18s

Thur 27th v Lakenheath 7.45pm

Gordon Ross



MORE OR LESS

^	^				
	<			<	
v				^	
				>	
^		v		v	
	<		<	3	
	>				

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

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



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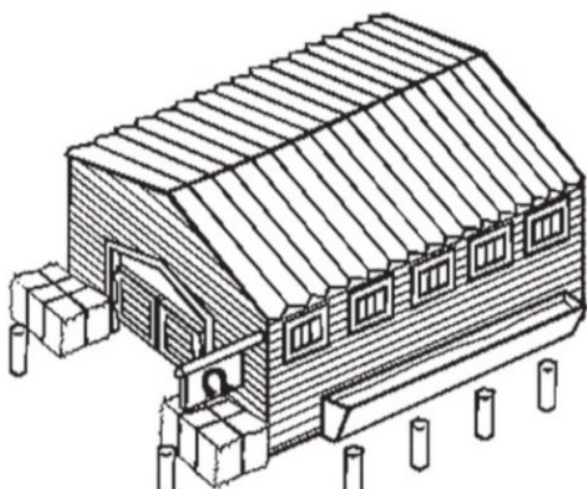
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BOWLS SECTION

of the Sports Club



The 2025 season is fast approaching, but before that we are having our presentation Evening to honour the club competition winners and runners up on March 6th at Thornham Four Horseshoes.

Ladies 2 Wood	Winner: Angela Whiting	Runner Up: Margaret Hawes
Men's 2 Wood	Winner: Nick Foulger	Runner Up: Mark Edwards
Ladies 4 Wood	Winner: Angela Whiting	Runner Up: Chris Smethurst
Men's 4 Wood	Winner: Adie Cole	Runner Up: Nick Foulger
Pairs	Winners: Brian Randall & Iain Simpson	
	Runners Up: Rob Matthews & Mark Edwards	
Triples	No Final Played	
Mace	Not played for this season	

The Captains and Vice Captains for the 2025 season are as follows:

Monday League	Captain: Brian Randall - 07885 253510 Vice Captain: Anthea Largent 01359 259522
Tuesday Afternoon	Captain: Angela Whiting 07498 283503 Vice Captain: Iain Simpson 01359 259624
Wednesday Evening	Captain: Jan Murton 07874 898825 & Gordon Ross 07742 111892 Vice Captain: Iain Simpson 01359 259624
Thursday Evening	Captain: Gordon Ross 07742 111892 Vice Captain: Brian Randall 07885 253510

Don't forget the Tuesday evening casual bowls for all to come along and test your skills to see if you would like to progress and play league competitions, we welcome newcomers even if you are not a club member or do not want to play in a league.

We should be receiving the league fixtures sometime in March and we will report in the April edition when the first games are and also when the green will be opened up.

If you are interested in playing, please contact either Shirley or myself, any of the committee or captains/vice captains, or would be great to see you on a match night or Tuesday evening.

Trevor Pollard



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IRREGULAR SHEARING

Hair Today Gone Tomorrow!

Ian is a fine fellow, better known as Red Socks
And he's rather proud of his flowing locks.
A trip to the barber's undone his demeanour
He came out of there looking quite a lot leaner
His locks had indeed been cut to the quick
He reacted as though he'd been hit by a brick.

His body began to shake, quake and ache
For the barber had made a ghastly mistake!
From oodles of hair to the barest of quiffs;
From Ian could be heard the muted of sniffs.
But the sniffs turned into the loudest of wails
A passerby 'quested' "What ever thee ails?"

"I've had a run in with a person I hate!
And its put me into a quite frightful state!
I had quite long hair when I entered the shop
And the person inside just gave me the chop!"
"You mean the barber?" the questioner asked.
The answer from Ian was suitably masked

The passerby said "You're a lucky old chap!
I really don't know why you're in such a flap
The barber in there is a nasty old sod
And people here call him Old Sweeney Todd!"

Pickrat Forest



Thanks For The Observation!

Well thank you my friend;
For your charming ode,
To tell all the people
How my locks once flowed.

But the barber's a woman,
And such a surprise,
To find I'd escaped
Being made into pies.

It's nice to find others
Saying "You're looking young!"
Not risking a 'funny' –
In some caustic tongue.

So now I'll rest easy
And let my hair grow,
And go through the process
In six months - or so.

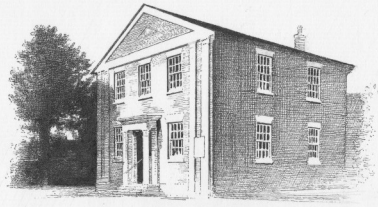
And then with sheep shearers
It could be quite fun,
Being put through a dip,
And dried in the sun.

But maybe by then
My hair will be thinner,
And I'll laugh as I eat
My meat pie for dinner.

And think of bad Sweeney
And Lovett his aide,
And the wonderful pies
Their customers made!!

Torban Ruben-Ash





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.

It is Well with My Soul

Horatio Gates Spafford was born in New York, on 20th October 1828, and later settled in Chicago where he was a successful lawyer. Spafford became a very wealthy man and owned a great deal of property in the city. He and his wife were Christians; they were well known, active in their church, their home was always open to visitors, and they were blessed with five children.

However, not unlike Job in the Old Testament, a great deal of tragedy came to that happy Christian home. First their only son, Horatio Jnr. died suddenly of scarlet fever then, only months later in October 1871, much of the Spafford's considerable real-estate investment was lost as a massive fire swept through downtown Chicago, devastating the city. That day, almost 300 people lost their lives, and around 100,000 made homeless. Their already stricken finances were further hit during the panic of the 1873 financial crash.

It had been a terrible two years and Spafford decided to give his family a change of scene, and that they should all take a holiday in England. In a late change of plan, Horatio was delayed because of business problems following the Great Chicago Fire, so Anna and her four young daughters travelled ahead on the steamship 'Ville du Havre'. The captain assured the passengers of a safe and happy voyage but, one week in, at 2 o'clock on the morning of 22nd November 1873, pitch-black and in the height of a storm, the liner collided with the British clipper, 'Loch Earn'. According to passengers, the impact sounded like an explosion and, as the ship began to take on water, the crew insisted that the vessel was too safe to sink – they were wrong; the 'Ville du Havre' sank in just 12 minutes, killing 226 people. All four of Horatio Spafford's daughters perished, but remarkably Anna Spafford survived the tragedy and was found unconscious, floating on a plank of wood.

Upon arriving in Cardiff on 1st December, Anna immediately sent a telegram to her husband, which included the words, "*Saved, but saved alone...*" Spafford immediately sailed to England to be with his wife. At a particular point, the captain summoned Spafford to the bridge, pointing out from the charts, that they were over the very spot of the disaster. He returned to his cabin and, reflecting upon his lost fortune, his wife's bitter distress, and the tragic death of their children, composed a hymn – not of despair but, from his heart, a hymn of Godly peace and trust.

*Verse 1 When peace like a river, attendeth my way, / When sorrows like sea billows roll; /
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, / It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

What the Spafford family knew, and we must realise, is that real peace is not dependent upon health, wealth, or status – it relies upon all being well with the soul. All can only be well when fully trusting in God's wonderful Salvation, and truly believing that Christ died to pay the price of our sin. Because of this, the souls of Horatio, Anna, and their children are in the glorious presence of Christ now, and for all eternity. What of us? Can we honestly say, "***It is well with my soul***"?

My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth (John 14:27)


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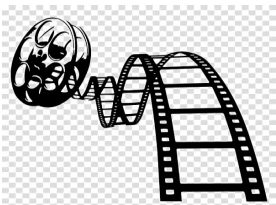
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ISS10272-0421



STANTON VILLAGE CINEMA

Friday 14th March at 7:30pm
PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)

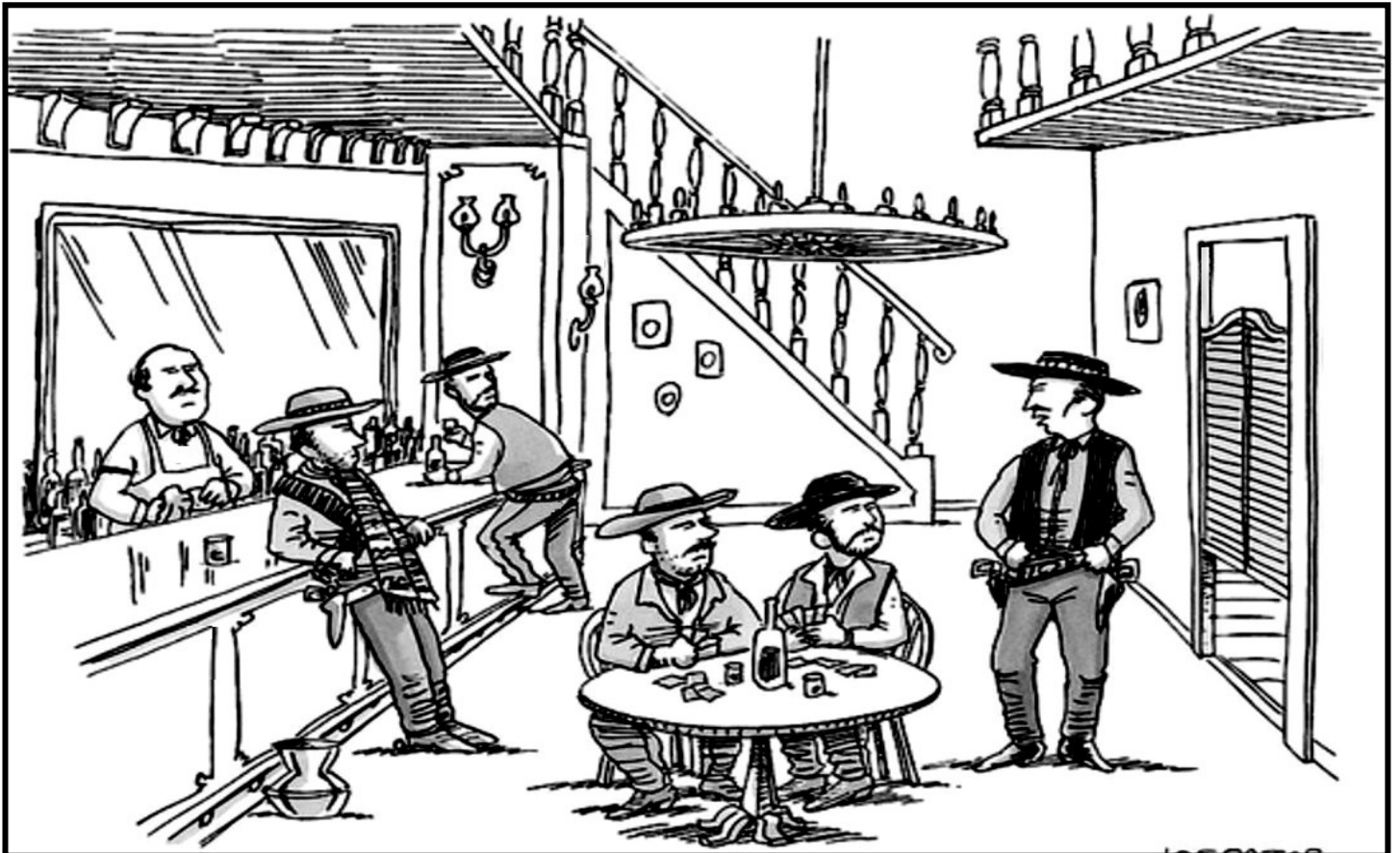


Hugh Bonneville, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent & Olivia Colman
Paddington returns to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown Family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey through the Amazon rainforest and up to the mountain peaks of Peru.

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 CRITIC (15) Friday 11th April

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



There are ten differences between these two pictures, see if you can find them all before one of the cowboys goes for his gun.

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
WI Meeting Priory Room
7:30pm Second Wed of the Month

EVENTS

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



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ALL THE ANSWERS

Page Bottom Quiz

1. The octopus, 2. Thunderstorms, 3. Joan of Arc, 4. Barnes Wallace,
5. Alexander the Great, 6. Espionage, 7. Elizabeth Browning, 8. Leonardo Da Vinci,
9. A wolf, 10. Australia, 11. One of her legs, 12. Cashmere, 13. Diamonds,
14. 1963, 15. On the back of a chair, 16. The Princes in the Tower, 17. The kidneys,
18. The fox, 19. Offa's Dyke, 20. Westminster Abbey, 21. Electrocardiogram,
22. National Trust, 23. Abraham Lincoln, 24. The Danube, 25. Isaac Asimov,
26. Adolph Hitler, 27. Captain Oates, 28. Charles Dickens, 29. River Tay,
30. Oscar Wilde, 31. Gunpowder, 32. The Cheshire Cat, 33. George III,
34. Volgograd, 35. Oedipus, 36. Stuka dive-bomber, 37. Fahrenheit,
38. Norwegian flag, 39. Napoleon, 40. Edgar Allen Poe, 41. Hippocrates,
42. The Russians, 43. The Flintstones, 44. Oriental, 45. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a gallon,
46. Through the tongue, 47. Marseilles, 48. 'Et tu Brute', 49. , 50. Diamond

Sudoku

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

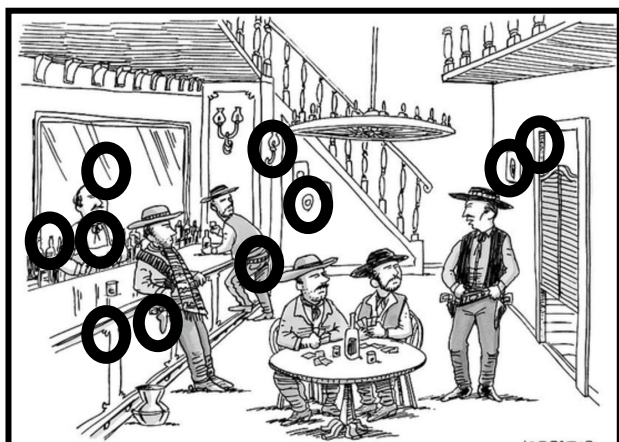
Crossword

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

More or Less

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

Spot the Difference



Searching for Words

Abet	Ace	Acer	Are	Area
Art	Ate	Awe	Back	Backer
Bake	Baker	Bar	Bare	Beak
Bear	Beat	Bet	Beta	Bra
Brace	Brack	Bracket	Brat	Braw
Cab	Caber	Cake	Car	Care
Caret	Cart	Eat	Era	Eta
Race	Rack	Racket	Rat	Rate
Raw	Ret	Tar	Tare	Tea
Teak	Tear	Trace	Track	Trek
Wake	War	Wart	Water	Weak
Wear	Web	Wet	Backwater (59)	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Community Council Secretary
Rob Matthews 07564 906848

Police
Suffolk Police 01473-613500
Stowmarket 01473-383400

Neighbourhood Watch

Anglian Water
Emergencies (24hr) 08457-145145
Accounts 0800-919155

UK Power Networks 0800-0294285

British Telecom
Customer Service 150
Line Faults 151
Surgeries

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Stanton 01359-251192
Botesdale 01379-898295
Woolpit 01359-240298

Parish Council Chair
Richard Belson 01359-258868
richardbelson@btinternet.com
Parish Council Clerk
Kevin Boardley parishclerk@walsham-le-willows.org

District Councillor
Richard Winch 07931709486

County Councillor
Mrs Jessica Flemming 01449-711065

Suffolk County Council 03456-066067

Member of Parliament
Adrian Ramsey 017534 933356
adrian@waveneyvalley.greenparty.org.uk

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
Fern Wakeham 01359 252153
f.wakeham@eyeprimary.org.uk

Pétanque
Graham Portlock
graham.portlock@pm.me



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
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From 11:00am till 12:00pm

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