

Albion House	
Location:	Birds End
Post Code:	IP29 5HE
Year Built:	Unknown
Status:	Building of Interest
Notes:	Albion Cottage, a prominent building in Birds End, now known as Albion House. Including reports of damage caused by traffic accidents..

Through the 1980's Albion Cottage, Birds End, Hargrave (Albion being a literary term for Britain or England) was known locally as 'The Dutch House'; much to the amusement of the owner Hans Mijnders – a homeopathic doctor from the Netherlands and a brilliant amateur cellist.

Hans purchased the house as a holiday cottage for his family. It was renowned for having very few soft furnishings including curtains, to deter the attention of potential burglars, but more importantly to provide far improved sound resonance when music was played.

Although slightly abrupt in manner, Hans was generous in sharing and encouraging music with his neighbours. There was also an open invitation for his Hargrave friends to visit his home in The Hague. Some including Graeme and Jean Bushell are known to have taken up the offer.

Carla Han's wife was a gifted viola player, his daughter Marijn – a brilliant violinist, and his two sons Wouter and Floris both played cello.

When in Suffolk, the family played music at various venues around the local area and the audiences had a real treat. All the children went on to become famous instrumentalists.

Among her other accomplishments Marijn was a Principal Violinist with The Royal Concertgeboun Orchestra and still plays with them till today. She plays a beautiful Stradivarius from 1727 since 2015, owned by a private patron, provided to her on loan via Foundation Concertgebouworkest.

Woulter has given masterclasses in many countries as well as performing all over the world. Founder and owner of Vivaldi Music Lessons, he currently offers cello lessons for adults and adolescents.

Floris is also a solo cellist and since 2015 has been the Principal Cellist of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra.

The cottage was sadly sold after Hans became ill and died in The Netherlands.

Through subsequent owners it has been extended to the size we see today.

Valda Hasted

July 2022

Traffic Incidents at Albion Cottage

A campaign has been ongoing for many years trying to get the speed limit through Birds End reduced to 30 mph as the road is very narrow in places, is often wet or frozen and the road is not wide enough for vehicles to pass. Various properties in Birds End have been affected in some way or another by the many incidents which have taken place in recent times. Here are a couple that directly affected Albion Cottage, or Albion House as it is now known.

March, 2016

Albion House IP29 5HE

Police Incident Number 28/07 MARCH

Speeding car hit black ice, rode up an 18" bank, through garden fence, coming to rest against wall of house 15' away, breaking downpipe and damaging front porch. Damaged car had to be craned off the property.



November 2021

Albion House IP29 5HE

Speeding van lost control and went through the garden hedge before flipping over onto its side in the road. The driver was later arrested for 'unrelated offences' and not for dangerous driving. A next door neighbour was at the end of their drive about to take their dog for a walk. He witnessed the accident and thinks himself lucky to be alive. If he had left the drive seconds earlier he would almost certainly have been killed.



Paul Rogers

July 2022