

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

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Issue No.25

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

January/February 2016

Fighting to improve village traffic

Half a million pounds has been found by Suffolk County and Coastal councils to develop a case for a four- village bypass south of Benhall on the A12, with the prospect of many more millions being spent in the future.

Blythburgh has been told that not a penny is available for mitigation of its traffic problems.

That was the stark comparison facing the Parish Council when it reviewed village traffic and the prospects for Sizewell C.

The difference in funding is because the proposed A12 bypass forms part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project whereas Blythburgh must fight for a share of limited local funds.

In a letter to the council leaders, backed with data on traffic flows and speeds generated by the village Vehicle Activated Sign, the Parish Council expressed concern that in the Sizewell C (SZC) project development, attention has been focused only on designated routes.

There has been no explicit recognition that there will be problems on minor roads feeding the A12, and non-designated routes from the A12 to Sizewell. Money from the SZC budget must be spent on these roads as well.

The need to eliminate through traffic in the Dunwich Road and Angel Lane bottleneck was highlighted. SZC will only make the present situation worse. The Parish Council is very sceptical that all SZC traffic will follow designated routes.

Achieving the council's aim by improving the B1387 from the water tower to Toby's Walks has already been accepted as reasonable by the Highways Authority.

The Parish Council has now proposed that the B1387 should be connected to the A12 north of Toby's Walks at a roundabout with Wenhaston Lane.

This would provide safer access to the A12 from the side roads and have the desirable effect of reducing the speed of traffic entering the village from the south. This scheme should be part of and funded by the SZC project.

The forthcoming Stage 2 of the SZC consultation process will provide an opportunity for the Parish Council to restate its objectives and parishioners are urged to respond individually to strengthen the Blythburgh case. Please pass on your views to the clerk, Jim Boggis on blythburghpc@btinternet.com

***Village traffic count: Page 10**

A warm welcome to a new parish councillor

Jo Waller has been co-opted by the Parish Council. Jo teaches in a sixth form college in Ipswich and lists her other interests as swimming and reading. David Tytler, chair of the council, said: "The council gives a very warm welcome to Jo and believes she will bring a breath of fresh air to our meetings."

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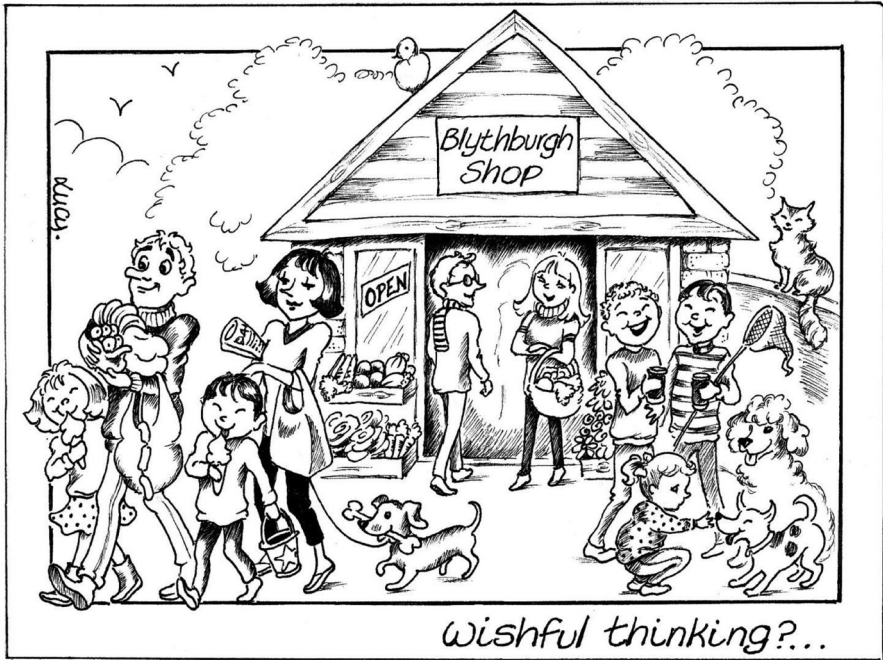


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Home thoughts from a broad...



Where are the young fans?

The well-attended film night in the village hall on the first Friday of the month is a popular regular fixture of village life. But the film club remains somewhat disappointed at the often low attendances at the Saturday matinees for younger film goers. Indeed **nobody** came to the January matinee. The club is now reviewing whether to continue the matinees after February.

If you have a young family or grandchildren, see what is on and bring them along to save the matinee. Children's parties can also be held in the hall centred round a film of your choice. The normal arrangements apply a donation of £1 per child plus the hire of the hall. To book, ring Olive Forsythe on 01502 478521.

The next films are on February 5 at 7pm for 7.30pm and on Saturday February 6 at 3pm for 3.15pm. Parishioners, who are members of Blythburgh M@tters or are on the film club's

mailing list, will be notified of the films to be shown. If you are not on the list please email oliveforsythe@btinternet.com. Details will also appear on parish council and hall notice boards.

There is no charge for the films but voluntary donations of £3 for adults and £1 for children are appreciated. Wine will be available or you may bring your own. Pop corn, soft drink, ice-cream and sweets are provided at matinees. The White Hart provides fish and chips from 6pm to 7pm on Friday **for cinema goers only** at £6.99 a head. Booking is essential.

A Greek Night has been arranged by Pat and Terry Goss on Monday January 18. Doors open 6.30 for 7.00 and freshly cooked authentic hot and cold Greek food will be served. Wine will be available but you may bring your own. Supper will be followed by a Greek-themed comedy film. Booking at £10 a head is essential. Please contact Pat on 01502 478356.



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Friday 12- 2pm/6-9.30pm

Saturday and Sunday 12-3pm/5-9pm

**Now taking bookings for
Valentine's Day, February 14
Mother's Day, March 6**

Winter Events at the White Hart

Quiz every second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, teams of four, £2.50 a head with nibbles. The prize money is divided between the winner and Holy Trinity.

Fish & Chips takeaway every Friday, £7.50 from 6–9.30

Winter Wednesday nights

*Ribeye Steak Night every first Wednesday of the month.

14oz ribeye, peppercorn sauce and blue cheese sauce. Chips, tomatoes, mushroom & onion rings for two plus a bottle of house wine. £20 per person.

*Fizz and Chips Nights Every second Wednesday of the month.

Chef's market fish board for two with a glass of Prosecco, £15 each.

*Curry Night every third Wednesday of the month. Choose from two curries, rice, home-made onion bhajis, poppadoms and dips with a glass of house wine or a Tiger beer, £12 a person.

*"Iffit" and Pud Night every fourth Wednesday of the month. Chef's selection of four "iffits" (English style tapas) and a pudding per person based on two sharing at £10 a head.

2016 – a year we want to remember?

You probably agree that we live in a rather special village – the chances are that you wouldn't be reading the *Blythburgh Focus* if you didn't think that. Mary (my other/better half) had the idea of capturing life in the village throughout the year through a series of photographs. As a keen photographer, the more I thought about it, the more I realised that there would be lots of good subject matter.

I find it fascinating to look through the photos you can find in various books, and on the internet, of the village in years gone by. How quaint it looks to see grass growing up the centre of the A12 and people in dress that would do justice to a BBC period drama. Even photos that are as recent as the 1960s and 70s look as if they are from a different world. So who knows what the people living in the village in 2066 and beyond will understand about how we live today.

There are a good number of events that take place in and around the church, the village hall and the pub which it would be good to capture, but there are also the everyday activities that we probably take for granted, like the postman and the dustmen – will they exist in the same way 50 years from now?

There are some individuals who contribute a lot to the village and it would be good to capture them doing whatever it is they do – and to

record some of us simply going about our everyday lives. The intent is to include all parts of the village.

I don't know for sure what the end product will be but, as a minimum I would like to produce a display and perhaps slide show for all to see in the village hall and/or the church. Who knows, we might end up with a book or something similar to keep for the future. This is not intended to be a profit-making project, and in the unlikely event that there was a surplus then we could find a worthy cause to donate the money to – hopefully one that would benefit people in the village.

So the purpose of this article is to get some feedback from all of you. Does it sound like a good idea? Would you be happy to support it – not with money, but maybe by coming up with some ideas and keeping me informed of any events that might make good subjects?

If I get some favourable responses then I will start taking photos in January, run through to the end of 2016, and hopefully have something to show everyone early in the New Year – that's 2017! Please let me know what you think. You can stop me in the street, email me on colinhuggins8@hotmail.com or call me on 01502 478573.

Colin Huggins

**The Parish Council gave overwhelming support to the project at its January meeting*

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: David Tytler
01502 478521

**Vice Chair/Chair planning
advisory group: Alan Mackley**

Chair finance advisory group
Roderick Orr-Ewing

Councillors
Alan De Thabrew, Jeff Sutton,
Cliff Waller and Jo Waller

Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687

BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

Horticultural Society
Jenny Allen 01502 478314

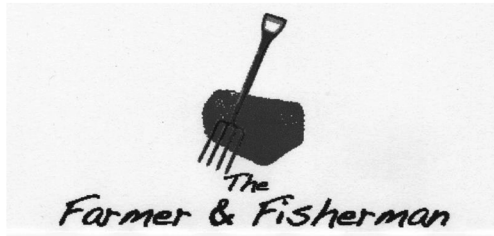
Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham 070810632987
Film Club

Olive Forsythe 01502 478521
Blythburgh Trust administrator

Jim Boggis 01502 478687
Village Hall

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the shop window shortly**

The prodigal returns to the pulpit



Malcolm Doney writes: I'm back. Sort of. At the beginning of April last year I took a nine-month sabbatical from my position as Associate Priest at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh. This was an unpaid, part-time role (I am a full-time writer and editor), and the start of the sabbatical coincided with me retiring from my job as Features Editor of the Church Times.

The sabbatical ended on 31 December, and several (well, two or three) people have asked what happens next. This is particularly germane since, during this period, three clerical departures in the Sole Bay Team Ministry have been announced: Team Vicar Joan Lyon moved to Aberdeen; Curate Lizzie Gregory has become a Rector in Filton, Avon; and in February Rich Henderson (Team

Vicar for Reydon, South Cove, Wangford and Sotherton) will become the Vicar of Beccles.

My sabbatical musings have persuaded me that I need to concentrate on what I'm best at, and what I most enjoy doing, which means an emphasis on communication: writing, preaching and broadcasting. So I will no longer have an official church title – or even an unofficial one (I am sometimes known as the little vicar!) I will, though, continue to help out with services at Blythburgh Church (as a rule on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month), and also do talks in other churches around the team.

However, *I Am Not The Vicar*. Meryl and I are, of course delighted still to be thoroughly involved in village life, and I'm always prepared to discuss theology, morality, hilarity and the prospects of Tottenham Hotspur at the drop of a hat.

The Sole Bay Team Rector Simon Pitcher is in discussion with the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The hope is that a new full-time priest (probably based at Reydon) will be appointed this year.

Church pattern of services for 2016

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1st Sunday: I am joint service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at St Andrew's, Walberswick.

1st Sunday: 6pm Choral Evensong with the Blythburgh Singers at Blythburgh.

2nd Sunday: I am service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) at Blythburgh (jointly with Walberswick).

3rd Sunday: 9.30am Morning Prayer at Blythburgh.

4th Sunday: 9.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Blythburgh.

5th Sunday: Team service, see church notice-board or www.solebayteamministry.co.uk for venue.

Every Wednesday: 5pm service of Evening Prayer or Compline (Night Prayer) at Blythburgh.



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TRAFFIC WATCH

A busy Christmas Day through Blythburgh

The village speed warning sign showed that nearly 1,930 vehicles travelled south through Blythburgh on Christmas Day. The complete statistics for November 30 to December 31 are:

A12 Southbound: Of the total 155,684 vehicles, 57,509 were travelling between 25 and 30 mph and a further 46,667 were travelling between 30 and 35 mph. This is a higher percentage (45% against 30%) travelling between 30 and 35 mph than is measured from the other A12 location and is entirely to be expected given the proximity of the warning sign to the start of the 30mph restriction. If you include the 10,700 vehicles travelling at less than 25mph then 115,000 were at or only slightly above the legal speed, representing 74% of the total.

Of the other 26% (40,800) of vehicles, 23,300 vehicles were travelling 35 to 40 mph (15%); 10,425 (7%) at 40 to 45mph; 4,164 (3%) at

45 to 50mph; 1,840 (1.2%) at 50 to 55mph; 734 at 55 to 60mph; 238 at 60 to 65mph; 66 at 65 to 70mph; 17 at 70 to 75mph; 3 at 75 to 80 mph; and 1 at 80 to 85mph.

This much larger percentage of vehicles speeding is no doubt accounted for by the number of vehicles that have been travelling fast on the A12 and normally leave their braking until nearer the White Hart in order to take the corner. One would hope that the warning sign might make them start to brake earlier so that they are at a safe speed by the time they pass the pub.

Daily volumes are roughly: Mondays to Thursdays, 5,000 to 5,500; Fridays, 5,300 to 5,500; Saturdays and Sundays, 4,000 to 4,500. These daily volumes are higher than for northbound traffic because it includes traffic turning onto the Dunwich Road.



Forty-five parishioners enjoyed a visit to Snow White in the Theatre Royal, Norwich, at the beginning of the year thanks to the Blythburgh Latitude Trust. The trust has now made grants totaling well over £20,000 to meet specific needs of individuals and families in the parish, providing, for example, IT, sports equipment, school uniforms and visits and supporting overseas travel.

The Trust will also give grants to groups to support projects to improve the quality of life in the parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton. In addition to the annual pantomime visit, the Trust has also supported the play site, village hall, the Christmas Tea, Blyth Belles and the film club.

If you or your group have a need, contact the honorary administrator, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road (01502 478 687). All applications will be treated in complete confidence. Normally grants will not exceed £200 and only one application can be made in any 12 months. Parents or carers must endorse applications for children under 16.

The Trust income comes from the sale of cut-price tickets to the Latitude Festival and the trustees are very grateful to the organisers, Festival Republic, for their continued support. The trustees are Jenny Allen, chair, Mick Nichols, Harry Waller and Alan de Thabrew and David Tytler representing Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council.



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News in Brief

Sporting achievements

Beryl Stringer well known as a "demon bowler" and 32 bowlers from far and wide gathered to compete for the Beryl Stringer Memorial Cup donated by her family.

Competition was keen and well done to inaugural winner Jim Boggis who was presented with the trophy by Beryl's son, Roy Stringer.

And congratulations too to Colin Huggins who completed his first competitive 10k run in well under an hour.

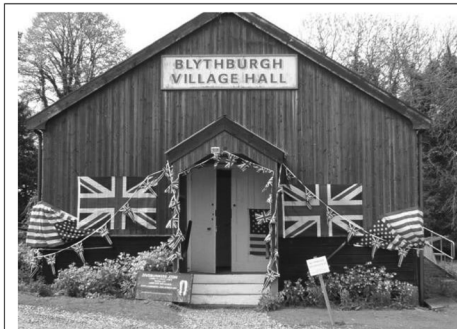
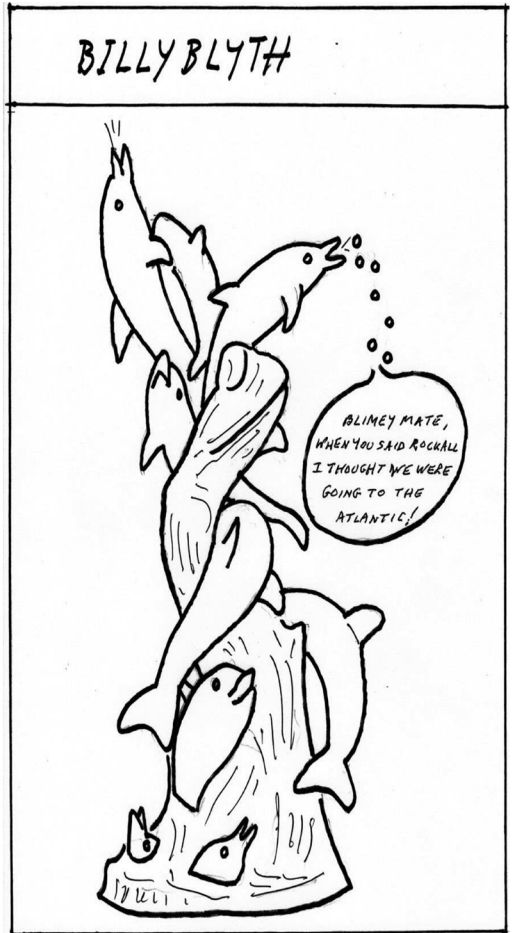
Memorial Quiz

The next Owen Williams' Memorial Quiz in aid of SUDEP (Sudden Death in Leprosy) will be held in Blythburgh Village Hall at 7.15pm on Saturday January 23. Entry is £10 a head including a fish and chip supper, for teams of four.

To enter please contact Ro Williams on 01502 478484 or 07886 465552 or email ro@blythburghplus.com.

Blythburgh Focus

In the 2015 National Parish Magazine Awards, the *Blythburgh Focus* was placed in the top ten per cent, coming 51st out of more than 600 entries. If you would like to place an item or advertisements, please contact David Tytler, email davidtytler@btinternet.com or telephone 01502 478521.



Blythburgh Village Hall for your use

The recently refurbished hall, with its own large screen cinema equipment, is ideal for parties, dances, quizzes, exhibitions and concerts. Charges for morning, afternoon or evening sessions or part thereof: parish residents or groups, £25.00; non-residents and groups, £35.00. (Discounts available for block bookings.) To book the hall, call 01502 478521 or 07850 140581.

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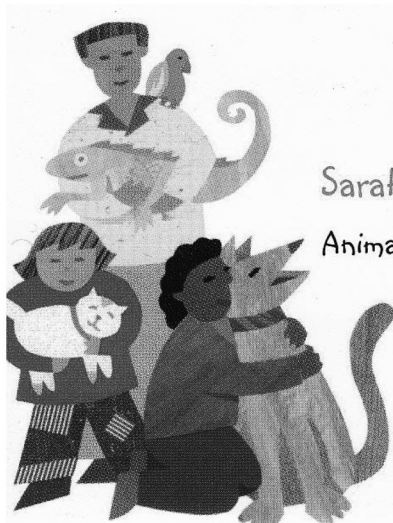
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Notes from Daisy Bank LXXI

Coincidence and serendipity seem to have played no little part in my life. The other day a chap came down to the gallery with his wife to say that he was sure he had some connection with me. Because of hints of my earlier life in some previous *Notes*, it turned out that not only had we attended the same school but in all probability, been in the same class. They have a holiday cottage in the village and have an old family connection with a cottage in Daisy Bank.

My first school was a girls' Roman Catholic convent school in a northern suburb of London. In the first one or two years, the school would take a small percentage of boys. And in my class there was probably no more than half a dozen of us and of course all about five years old. Strangely, I remember one or two names and in particular Andrew Parker Bowles, former husband of the famous Camilla. It turned out that we became best friends but as the years rolled by and his career and status far exceeded my own, we lost touch. Inevitable I suppose, with our backgrounds being so different. Him posh, me not!

However, although neither of us have any memory of the other, John, semi-resident of Blythburgh, must have been one of those half dozen little boys. How bizarre is that? I suppose in a way something happening like that is reassuring in that we are not all strangers passing in the night. Everybody has a connection no matter how small it is.

Just recently, one of the highlights of an autumn and long dreaded winter has been the monthly market up at the church on the last Friday of every month. I recommend in particular the pies, quiches and the fruit cake - take a bag you might need it. Well known as somebody that doesn't 'join in' and is not a lover of social gatherings, I

am forced to make an exception in the case of this market. My stomach wouldn't have it any other way.



The ivy on the house continues to grow and is now starting to join up with the trees. Some pundits say that ivy does no harm and some do. Who cares say I. Somebody else's problem when we're gone. As long as the house doesn't fall down in the next few years, then that's fine. Perhaps we will become famous for it and people will come from far and wide to see 'The house in the Ivy'. 'How do you put up with it Mr Bennett. Surely you're worried about the outcome?' The headline will read: *SUFFOLK MAN LIKES LIVING IN AN IVY BUSH.*

Christmas is over and Daisy Bank will be looking forward to yet another year in its history. I wonder what delights 2016 holds or conversely what tragedies. Ever the optimist, I'm sure things will be OK. Even the house.

Paul Bennett

A date for your diary: The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will be in the village hall on Tuesday March 15 at 7.30pm with the public forum starting at 7.15. Everybody is welcome.