

# BLYTHBURGH

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Issue No.34

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

July/August 2017

## Sun shines on Blythburgh Day



Blythburgh, was a hive of activity on July 9 as nearly 200 people enjoyed a day of celebration in the garden of The Priory, thanks to Matthew and Chiara Saunders. The village's annual Celebrating Blythburgh Day began with an open-air service led by Blythburgh resident, the Rev. Malcolm Doney in the 12th century priory ruins.

David Tytler, chair of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council, said: "It was another lovely day. At least 160 people came to the garden throughout the day – it was a great turnout. We are very lucky as each year the weather has been superb. A particular thank you to Chiara for all her efforts to make the day a success."

Visitors enjoyed live music throughout the day and a range of activities, including a dog show, treasure hunt, river walk, guided tours of the ruins led by local historian Dr Alan Mackley and free boat trips on the River Blyth provided by Natural England and watched by inquisitive seals.

Chiara Saunders said: "Celebrating Blythburgh 2017 was lucky enough to benefit from excellent weather and good music. However, what truly made the day a success was the amount of help provided by people in the village. As well as everybody who ran stalls and events on the day, there were many who helped behind the scenes. The kindness, support and help received was very much appreciated."

*Celebrating Blythburgh is supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust and Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council.*



Picture: Paul Lacey

**More pictures on Page Ten**

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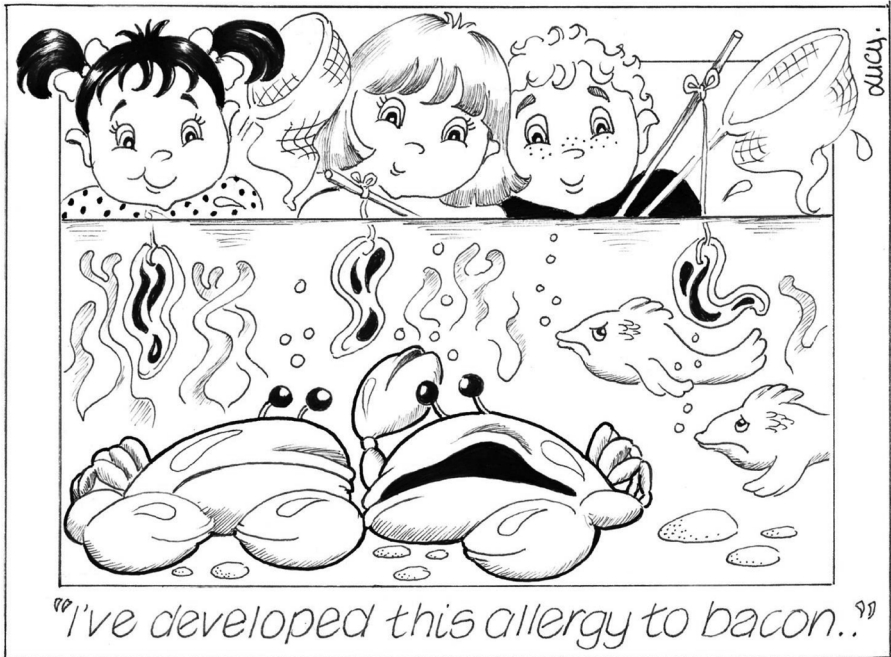
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## Home thoughts from a broad...



### **LATITUDE TRAFFIC WATCH**

Incoming Latitude traffic seems to have gone reasonably but not as successfully as last year. There were two periods when traffic slowed down. On Thursday 13th July from about 14:00 to about 17:00 traffic averaged 14mph which, while irritating to individuals, was not slow enough to affect the volume of traffic with between 500 and 600 vehicles passing each hour. However, on Saturday 15th between 11:00 and 14:00 traffic slowed down to an average of 8mph which caused severe congestion with only about 250 vehicles per hour. I have not been able to discover the cause of this delay.

The relative volumes of traffic between the Latitude week and the previous week are similar to other years: Thursday 6, 4893; Thursday 13, 7420; Friday 7, 6483; Friday 14, 7788; Saturday 8, 5076; Saturday 15, 4634. The A12 is well able to cope with these volumes with average speeds in the high 20s providing there are no hold ups.

The sign was repositioned on Sunday afternoon and removed on Monday evening to monitor southbound traffic leaving Latitude. On Sunday afternoon there was a steady flow of traffic with more than 5,500 vehicles between 15:00 and midnight, equal to a normal 24hour period. Although some traffic is shown as moving slowly the average speed throughout Sunday was in excess of 29mph.

The traffic did not start to build until 07:00 on Monday morning, peaking between 09:00 and 13:00 with almost 1,000 vehicles an hour nose to tail. Although there were times when traffic was a very slow the average for these four hours was 23 to 25 mph. This was similar to last year.

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## REFLECTIONS

# Two boys in a boat, the stuff of dreams

Whilst the good folk of Blythburgh celebrated the Henley Regatta, Jim and I were several thousand miles away celebrating a regatta of a very different kind.

When Bermuda was selected to host the 35th America's Cup (AC 35) it came as a surprise (some may say shock) to many Bermudians. With no organisational continuity from one America's Cup to the next, Bermuda had to gear up very quickly to figure out the logistics of hosting such a prestigious event.

Committees formed to grapple with all manner of challenges: From the logistics of supplying super yachts with fresh flowers, to satisfying sponsor requirements without adversely affecting local businesses (this even included the formidable Miss Ward who would continue to sell snow cones from her barrow whatever anyone said about "ambush marketing").

Not being owners of a super yacht meant that much of this passed us by. That is, until earlier this year, when we were surprised when my nephew, Ethan, and his crew, Tom, were selected to represent Great Britain at the America's Cup in Bermuda. That's not, you understand, selected to sail with Sir Ben Ainslie in the massive LandRover BAR foiling catamaran, but selected to represent GBR in the Endeavour Feva Regatta, a key plank of the America's Cup legacy for 10 to 14 year olds.

Consequently, our own logistics planning clicked in to place. Where to stay? How to get there and how to secure AC 35 tickets in what turned out to be one of the most expensive places on the planet? When was the last time you paid the

equivalent of £5.99 for one red pepper? Cost aside, Bermuda is a fantastic place. The people were friendly, welcoming and very proud to be hosting the oldest challenge cup event in the world.

The boats in the America's Cup are hardly boats in any conventional sense. They "foil" with just the tips of their blades in the water, travelling at speeds up to 40 knots in just a 10 knot wind.

They are a magnificent sight as they fly across the water. The final was fought out between Team USA (the holders) and Team New Zealand (the challenger) in a best of 13 format and, very unexpectedly, the New Zealand boat outstripped Team USA in every way.

But we were there for something much more important. Ethan and Tom were involved in the week long RS Feva Endeavour programme. A unique chance to get behind the scenes at an America's Cup: experience the buzz of the Event Village, meet the AC sailors, tour their bases

and compete in a two day Regatta. The culminating event of this programme was to be televised across the world when RS Feva sailors from 11 countries had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do battle between the America's Cup races and race on the race course of the America's Cup during the final.

The grandstands were packed, every vantage point taken. We held our breath. We jumped up and down. We screamed. We shouted. We could hardly believe what we were seeing. The race was tight – very tight – the boats jostled to fill their spinnakers on the final run before turning tightly for the line. BANG! Only 4 feet separated first and second but Ethan and Tom had won! Inspiring a new generation – it truly is the stuff of dreams.

**Sonia Boggis**



## OBITUARY

# Peter Wickham – 1926 to 2017

Peter Wickham was an East End boy from Canning Town, next door to the Royal Victoria Docks. The community was close, but the housing conditions weren't great in those days. Peter's dad worked for Silvester's who made tin foil, and Peter inherited the family engineering gene.

Slum clearances in Canning town in the 1930s saw the family move to Romford where Peter went to school. He trained as a car mechanic and, according to family lore, the first car he worked on was a Rolls Royce.

As World War II started, he was called up to REME, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, at the age of 18. After the war, he was sent to Palestine as a dispatch rider as part of the British peacekeeping force as the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians heightened. It was lonely being a young man in the forces. And there was an arrangement for young women to become pen-pals with lads. And that's how a certain Joan Clark came to know Peter. They corresponded for a year and met when he was on leave.

They met in London, with Joan carrying a red rose to identify herself. She was expecting a glamorous young man in uniform, but Peter turned up in his demob suit – he loved a suit. From two strangers meeting, love gradually blossomed. They were 20 when they met, 21 when they became engaged, and 23 when they married in 1950. Living in Romford, Peter was working as an engineer in Silvester's, the firm his father managed.

Joan's family had moved to Norfolk, and she missed them, so Peter agreed reluctantly to move to a village near Swaffham. Peter agreeing – somewhat against his will – to initiatives made by the proactive Joan was to become something of a pattern. It was a mark of his easy-goingness, which enabled him to shrug his shoulders, adapt, and make the most of what came his way.

Things were to change when Peter's dad died. His sister Doreen emigrated to Australia, leaving Peter to look after his mother. Peter's mum came

to live with him and Joan – not a great arrangement. And it was having Peter's mother under their feet that prompted a shift from mechanical engineering to pub management that was to shape their lives for the next 30 plus years.

Peter was not a natural landlord. He was, by nature, a private person, who liked to keep himself to himself. When off duty, he would even cross the road to avoid having to chat to regulars. "I've done enough talking to them," he'd say.

Being a landlord was a role in which he excelled. He took on a different, easy, social persona behind the bar. He and Joan ran pubs in Essex, Norfolk and Norwich. It wasn't always easy: some situations were hard, causing stress and heartache. Things improved when they crossed into Suffolk – with young Mike in tow – and took on the White Hart, Blythburgh, in 1972.

Things really blossomed here in this big pub with big skies. Peter was as happy here as he had ever been. He revolutionised the place, making it one of the first pubs in the area to serve evening meals. Peter did things properly. Always an immaculate dresser, he would don evening dress for the supper crowd. The pub gave him a stage on which he performed, you should see him flambéing the desserts with a dramatic flourish.

He and Joan made good friends in the village, and locals were very fond of them. Talk to any old-stager and they'll tell you this was a golden age for the Hart, Peter was the landlord for 16 years.

In some ways, Peter lived an unremarkable life, but what's wrong with that? Here was a man who was easy in his own company, so laid back, he was practically horizontal. He was not ambitious, not driven, but straightforward, loyal, loving, kind. He enjoyed simple things, such as a beer and a sandwich outdoors with a dog at his feet. Peter Wickham, you were a good bloke who lived a good life.

*This article is taken from the Rev. Malcolm Doney's address at Peter's funeral.*

# Let every flower bloom – and win?



Picture: Colin Huggins

A high point of Blythburgh's summer social calendar falls on Saturday 5 August this year, when the Horticultural Society holds its Annual Show in the church. Did you realise that any Blythburgh resident is eligible to enter exhibits, whether or not they are a member?

Have you grown ravishing rhubarb or a fabulous fuchsia, or made some magnificent marmalade? If so, why not enter? The more the merrier. (Blythe Belles – don't forget those hanging baskets!) For a full list of classes please contact the secretary, Jenny Allen (01502 478314, [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com)) All you have to do then is bring your exhibits to Holy Trinity between 9.30 and 10.45am. The show is open to everybody in the afternoon from 2.30 to 4pm, when teas will be served and the prizes presented.

Why not become a member of the Hort Soc? It only costs £3 a year, and as well as the Show you can come along to talks, garden visits, and social events such as our ever popular annual dinner. Just ask Jenny Allen for a membership form.

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Sarah Wickham 070810632987

# A long, long w

Funny thing. Having subjected myself to the charms of Latitude for more than ten years, the chicken feels far springier than she did back then. Perhaps it's just the company I keep.

Or, maybe, it's a fear of turning into one of the miserable gits who moan about the noise from the festival.



Southwold was awash with them last week, all eager to rain on Latitude's parade and deeply shocked at my disloyalty when I pointed out that it was only once a year: "We should all get free tickets" they protested. "If we lean out of the maid's window in the attic, we can hear a faint

drumbeat when the wind is in the right direction."

Blythburgh was treated handsomely by Latitude as



always. We all piled on to the free bus with our lovely cheap tickets (ha. ha, Southwold and thank you Olive and the Blythburgh Latitude Trust) ready to be entertained - and exhausted.

There is no question – festivals are knackerings.

After a short stroll (!) from the bus to the main area there were the usual searches. All very



# Walk in the park

friendly, unlike the terrifying staff on the main gates.

But that was the only sour note – this year was the best yet. Brilliant organization, friendly security and almost pleasant loos.

There were the usual no-nos: no barbecues, alcohol etc – but there were some added items this year: no umbrellas (in England?) And no selfie sticks (result). Oh the disappointment of having to leave our generator



behind having dragged it so far.

If you missed Latitude this year, you may not want to know that Susan Calman was as funny as

ever, Sadler's Wells as stunning and Katherine Jenkins in a punt



singing *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, faintly comical.

Mumford and Sons were amazing but so morose they left me feeling in need of a healthy dose of Chas and Dave.

I take my squinted hat off to you Latitude and wag my pussycat tail – it was a vintage year. Thank you.

**Words and drawings  
by Lucy Robinson**

# Enjoying the fun on Blythburgh Day



Picture: Paul Lacey



## NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

# Let your animals join in the magic

The ever-popular service The Blessing of Animals will be held in the church at 11am on Sunday 13 August. All creatures great and small are welcome. Other dates for your diary include:

**Regular coffee:** Blythburgh's social hub, the village-run, monthly café and mini-market takes place in the church on Friday 28 July, Friday 25 August and Friday 29 September, from 10.30-12.00.

**Angel voices:** On Saturday 2 September at 7.30pm, the marvellous Blythburgh Singers, whose voices bring so much to Holy Trinity's monthly choral evensong, will be giving a concert in the church. Entitled *Inspired by Evensong*, it promises a cornucopia of choral music and readings.

**Bringing in the sheaves:** From September 2017, the communion service held on the second Sunday of each month will start at 11.15am, not 11am. The first will be Sunday 10 September, the Harvest Festival service, followed by a seasonal lunch. If you would like to join us for our harvest lunch, please email Jenny Allen [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com) or Meryl Doney [meryldoney@me.com](mailto:meryldoney@me.com);

**Pedal power:** Saturday 9 September sees the annual Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride, from 9am to 5.00pm – where people on two wheels or two feet, tour Suffolk churches in aid of Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. It's some years since we've had anyone riding to raise funds for Holy Trinity. Interested? If so, please contact Tom and Gill Lond-Caulk on 478 272.



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# **The Blythburgh Latitude Trust seeks the next 'Big Idea'**

In addition to making grants to individuals and village groups , the Trust is looking for the next 'big idea' to improve village life. Any thoughts? Please contact the honorary administrator, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road, (478 687)

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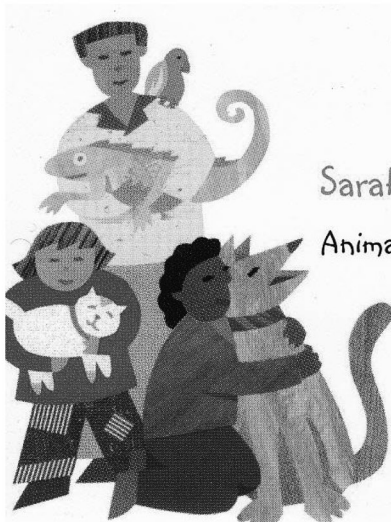
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# Notes from Daisy Bank LXXIX

It's a day in early May and it's mid to late afternoon. We've found a new place in the garden to sit and have tea or if later, a couple of drinks.

It's about four and we are both enjoying Cinzano and ice cold lemonade with a slice of lime in long fluted glasses. B is taking in the sun and I am listening to Puccini on my CD Walkman. Not a cloud in the sky and I am playing *La Rondine* (The Swallow), one of his less known operas.

I am dreaming of Tuscany and I am happy and I know that B is too. Milo our Siamese joins us and we are even happier. There are plenty of sad days in life so when a happy one comes along surely you must grab it, and we did and we do.

The election is over and the endless bickering has finally come to an end. Nothing will have changed in Daisy Bank whatever the outcome and all will carry on as before. Surely, it always does?

The garden is coming to life and thank God the roses have recovered from two years of bad and inept pruning by the novice gardener. Andre, the gardener from Romania and rose expert, has taken over the pruning and things are beginning to look up.

Unfortunately, two years have in effect been lost by my lack of knowledge and not reading the instructions!

Our philosophy with the garden is that weeding is done in a rather desultory way. I love Queen Ann's Lace so all though it is considered a weed; I hate it being weeded until it has gone over. We also have several thugs in the garden. Rose Bay Willow herb is allowed providing it doesn't interfere with anything of importance. The

**Blythburgh Parish Council** is asking all village residents to ensure that their hedges and trees are cut well back to avoid overhanging and blocking paths and roads. The problem is particularly acute in Dunwich Road and Chapel Road.

dreaded ground elder is not wanted but is so prolific that it is impossible to get rid of. So we get rid of it as and when. Evidently the leaves are edible and some people use them in salad. I suspect we could supply half of Suffolk with ground elder leaves were there a market for it.

The other thug is a geranium known as Cranes bill; a lovely pink flower with interesting foliage that is allowed again in between real flowers. Of course hog weed and nettles are weeded immediately on sight! At least half of the garden is more or less left to its own devices apart from mowing and cutting back when it gets too much. Although interested in gardening it isn't a consuming interest.

We watch all the gardening programmes avidly but there I am afraid it ends. Love to be in the garden of course but Mr Lazy is always hovering relentlessly over my head.

Here's something that some of you might find amusing and some of you might not

**I went away the other day,  
I left her just like that.  
It's not as though she's quite alone,  
She's always got the cat.  
But now I'm feeling lonely  
And really rather sad  
I should have brought the cat with me  
Then it wouldn't have been so bad.**

*Footnote:* I am just amazed at the wonderful display of flowers – lupins, poppies and ox-eye daisies - that greet people on the A12 when you pass by the Custom House. It enhances Blythburgh and the gardener/gardeners should be applauded for their effort. And I do!

**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 September 12 at 7.30pm with the public forum at 7.15. Everybody is welcome to have their say. Please be there.