

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,
BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No 65

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

Oct/Nov 2022

The Church Goes Animal



Summer seems a long way away, but Holy Trinity, Blythburgh hosted the best attended Animal Blessing service for the last decade. The church welcomed 140 humans, six horses, 58 dogs, two chickens and a corn snake. As has become traditional, Blythburgh's volunteer priest Malcolm Doney – who led the service – delivered a final horseback blessing on his mount Neville, who's still thriving at the age of 29.

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A collection at the service raised £194.21 for local animal charities which will be distributed by Wangford Vet Clinic, who provided veterinary supervision on the day.



Pictures courtesy of Colin Huggins and Paul Lacey.

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Church News

Christmas Market

The church now turns its attention towards Advent and Christmas. The ever-popular **Christmas Market** will take place on **Saturday 26 November 11am-3.30pm**. As ever, it promises to be a convivial occasion, packed with good gifts and Christmas cheer.

Last orders for coffee

Speaking of conviviality, The final café and minimarket of the year will take place on Friday 28 October, 10-30am-12pm. The event hibernates during the cold months and is due to re-emerge on the last Friday of March 2023.

FOODBANK VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you have some time to help local people who are in need? If so, Saxmundham and District Foodbank are looking for volunteers. They're looking for volunteers with a vehicle, preferably working in pairs, to collect and deliver food to households. They also need drivers who are able to collect donated food, and move food boxes between our two centres in Saxmundham and Leiston.

Saxmundham and District Foodbank has been providing a lifeline of emergency food to individuals and families living in Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham and surrounding communities for almost ten years. Working under the umbrella of Lowestoft Foodbank, this locally co-ordinated Trussell Trust foodbank delivers food and other personal items directly to those who need it most. Recipients are referred to them by organisations including Citizens Advice, Social Services, Children's Centres, Housing Associations, MIND, Social Prescribers and local community groups.

Emergency food parcels lasting for approximately three days are prepacked for singles, couples, small families and large families and delivered by volunteers. Some fresh food items, pet food, toiletries and household goods are also supplied. Food is donated by shoppers at local supermarkets or locally purchased using publicly donated funds.

If you're interested in helping as a volunteer, or would like to make a donation of food or funds and would like more information, please email info@lowestoft.foodbank.org.uk, quoting 'Saxmundham Foodbank'.

OH YES WE WILL GO TO THE PANTO...

Thanks to the Blythburgh Latitude Trust, after a Covid-induced break for a couple of years, tickets have once again been booked for a trip to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal Norwich on **Saturday 7 January at 2.30pm**. This year's pantomime is *Jack and the Beanstalk*. As usual, the coach will pick everyone up at the bus stop on the northbound A12 at **11.30am**, and we should be back in Blythburgh around **6.30pm**. The start time should allow us to get to Norwich in time to have a bite to eat before the show and even hit the sales!

This trip is open to everyone who is resident in the parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton, but places are **limited so please book early!** **Deadline** for applications is Friday 16 December.

Please apply in writing to Jenny Allen (Wolsey House, Chapel Road), or by email (jennyanddick@aol.com) with your name and address; the number of places requested; and a contact telephone number. Please also state if any children are aged under 3 and would be sharing a seat with an adult. Please assume that you've got places if Jenny does not contact you.



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GREEN FINGERS

After an enforced Covid break, and the weather challenges all gardeners have faced this year, there was a fantastic turnout on Saturday 6 August for the 2022 Blythburgh Horticultural Society Annual Summer Show.

Twenty-seven entrants submitted a total of 160 individual entries across the 44 categories. The three judges were very impressed by the overall quality of the entries – with the cookery judge from SHAPA being particularly fulsome in her praise.

Many people came along to view the exhibits during the afternoon and enjoyed tea, coffee & cakes which had been made and served by Jenny Allen and her team of helpers. The cakes were amazing and very much enjoyed by everyone.



Val Carse, Chair, presented the trophies which included a new “Overall Vegetable Plate” donated by Sue Ireland-Cutting and the Derek Kett Trowel for Runner Beans.

Val went on to congratulate all the winners, thanked everyone for all their hard work and shared that one of her highlights was the entries from Derek Kett and his family. She noted that the name Derek Kett appears many times on the old Lond-Caulk Cup as the overall winner at the show and that he is still growing

fantastic vegetables, well into his nineties!

Born in 1929, Derek has a long association with Blythburgh: his grandfather farmed Church Farm, his father was born in the farmhouse, his mother was a Blythburgh girl and Derek, one of six children, lived here too.

Taking a trip down memory lane, Derek remembers a time when Blythburgh had four working farms, a well-attended chapel as well as the church, a pub, an off-licence and three shops. A pony & trap delivered groceries round the village and as far afield as Walberswick. It was even



rumoured that, after a few beers in the Anchor, the horse would bring Mr Burton (of Burton Stores) safely home.

Derek's grandmother had a sweet & tobacconists shop and, as a six-year-old, Derek would take his turn delivering milk, enjoying a breakfast of bread & milk with Grandma as payment.

Derek left school at 14, and started work at Dickerson's Nursery (a market garden) in Walberswick. I wonder if this was the start of his passion and extraordinary skill with growing flowers & vegetables.

Trophy Winners 2022

Petrie Rose Bowl awarded for the Best Single Rose: Margaret King

Betty Troughton Shield for the Best Petite Flower Arrangement: Sue Ireland-Cutting

Bob Stringer Plate for the Best Hanging Basket: Terry Goss

Peggy Allen Shield for the Best Foliage Plant: Jenny Allen

Derek Kett Trowel for the Best Runner Beans: Val Carse

Beryl Stringer Spoon for the Best Dessert: Sarah Wickham

Alan Pegg Cup for the Best Fushia: Not awarded in 2022

Vegetable Plate for Overall Winner in the Vegetable Category: Sue Gerrard

Mallaby Cup for Overall Winner in the Flower Category: Sue Ireland-Cutting

Howard Cup for Overall Winner in the Cookery Category: Sue Ireland Cutting

Lond-Caulk Cup for the Overall Winner across all categories: Sue Ireland Cutting

Sonia Boggis

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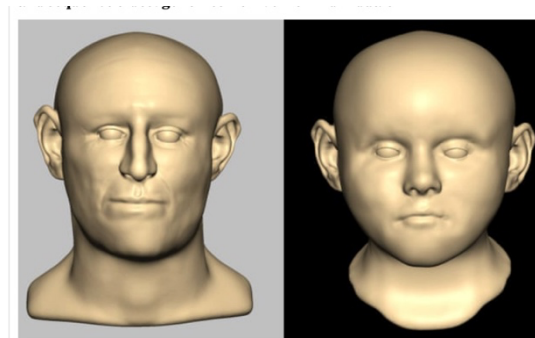
 **MANTINS**
SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

TRAGIC AND LORDLY CONNECTIONS

In the late 12th century, the Jews in Norwich were a small but important community. The Christian Church prohibited the lending of money for interest, and Jews flourished as bankers. They were especially useful to the king for balancing the royal exchequer, and also in providing loans for capitalist enterprises. Some became very wealthy.

Jurnet of Norwich "was an outstanding plutocrat not only in the city but possibly the whole of England". In 1190, the citizens of Norwich turned on their Jewish neighbours in a vicious pogrom. Many died.

Excavations in 2004 discovered skeletons of at least 17 victims, some of whom had seemingly been pitched headfirst down a well. Recent DNA



Based on skeletal remains, researchers reconstructed the face of a male adult and a child. Composite: Prof Caroline Wilkinson/Liverpool John Moores University

analysis has revealed very personal details of the remains. They were Ashkenazi Jews and included three young sisters and there were at least two young boys. If there is a creditable element in this tragic story, it is the action of the custodian of Norwich Castle in providing Jews with sanctuary. Looking further

into the custodian, the name Blythburgh cropped up.

With the castle position went the lordship of the manor of Blythburgh, then a prosperous and influential community. In the second half of the twelfth century, the castle role passed by marriage from Margaret de Chesney to the Norman lord, Hugh de Cressy and on his death to his son.

Hugh de Cressy was a trusted courtier. The list of royal charters he witnessed shows the extent of his involvement with the king's business. He supported Henry II during the war of 1173-4 against the king's rebellious sons. He provisioned Norwich Castle against an attack by the earl of Norfolk, and fought at the battle of Fornham. After the war, he was active in the development of the English judicial system. He divided his time between England and France, commanding royal forces on expeditions. He had important responsibilities in Normandy as constable of the Tower of Rouen, and he sat in judgement with the ducal court. He died in Rouen.

Did he forget Blythburgh? Certainly not. It was his royal patron's grandfather, King Henry I, who had granted Blythburgh Church to the Augustinians of St Osyth, to found Blythburgh Priory. As he lay dying, Hugh

remembered Blythburgh Priory in a charter. He granted lands in Walberswick to the priory, for his own soul, the souls of his mother, father, ancestors, and those of Henry II and his brother. But note the eminence of the witnesses to the charter: two archbishops and an earl. It is clear evidence of the respected position enjoyed by Hugh de Cressy within the royal circle, and an indication of medieval Blythburgh's links with the Anglo-Norman kings of England.

Alan Mackley

BLYTHBURGH FIELD NOTES

We saw the return of several Northern Waders to the Blyth, on 6 August, with a Curlew Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper and two Spotted Redshank. Good numbers of Common Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit also arrived. An Osprey stayed throughout the month and was joined by a second bird on the 16th. On the 18th a Greenshank was on the east side of the Blyth, as well as a Whinchat, a scarce bird these days.

A considerable movement of warblers occurred in late August and early September, consisting mainly of Whitethroat and Chiffchaff, but with a number of Lesser Whitethroat and a few Blackcap and Willow Warbler, while several Wheatears were also seen.

During September, wader numbers continued to increase on the Blyth and on the 5th, five juvenile Curlew Sandpiper, as well as Green Sandpiper and Whimbrel were seen. The Osprey also continued to be seen regularly, with two again on the 9th.

With the hot summer, it has been a strange year for butterflies, with some species doing poorly, while others seem to have thrived. Our rarest regular local butterfly the Silver-washed Fritillary has occurred in record numbers, while species such as the Silver-studded Blue and Green Hairstreak, both connected to heathland have done poorly. The Purple Hairstreak, an Oak feeder has also been scarce. The rarer White-letter Hairstreak no longer breed in the parish, but a small colony still survives a few hundred metres to the south of our boundary in Dunwich Forest.

I have never seen so many flowers on Ivy as this year. This, the last major source of nectar is attracting huge numbers of insects. It is well worth standing near a patch for a few minutes to watch the activity.

The 19th of September saw a Curlew Sandpiper and a Little Stint on the Blyth and 27 Pink-footed Geese flying north.

I. Knownowt

WILDWATCH

“Gosh! You could hear a pin drop”, said a Black Country friend some 40 years ago on a joint walk through East Suffolk. True, compared to some of the more densely populated parts of the country, Blythburgh can appear a haven of peace and quiet.

Humans are capable of hearing sounds between 20 Hz and 20,000 Hz. This range varies among individuals and typically changes with age. Unsurprisingly, many other creatures outperform us when it comes to detecting sounds.

Cats can hear frequencies two octaves above us, while many other creatures' audio range includes ultrasound. Dogs can and, of course, the bats that fly around some of our houses at twilight use it as a form of sonar navigation. That it works just as well in the dark can be seen from the fact that a bat can catch several thousand insects a night. Some bats have the incredible ability to pluck a spider from the centre of its web without getting caught, using just ultrasound alone.

Invertebrates also have the ability to detect sounds far above the range of other creatures. Working with ants, the American Charles Henry Turner was the first scientist to realise that some invertebrates could 'hear' in the true sense. Some use sensitive hairs, 'tuned' to a specific frequency that alerts them to a particular predator. Others have 'eardrums', a tympanic membrane that works in a similar way to ours. Some flying insects can detect a bat's sonar and avoid capture by dropping out of the way. Others can also 'jam' the bat's signal by emitting a sound at the same frequency.

Humans are greatest producers of noise. The 'infernal' combustion engine and its turbine siblings, has revolutionised life for us but done no favours for



Harbour Seal on the River Blyth

many other creatures. Perhaps the greatest effect our noise pollution has had is on marine mammals, seals and whales. Sound travels well through water, and low frequencies can be heard across thousands of miles. Whales used this means of communication for millions of years. Since the invention of marine engines and their low frequency noise, this sound channel has been 'jammed' by us.

Before motorised ships appeared, it was thought possible for a whale in the North Sea to 'talk' to one in the South Atlantic before humans blocked the sound channel with our noisy engines. In doing so, we have cut the whales off from each other.

Paul Lacey

Unusual day-flying bat, possibly Noctule

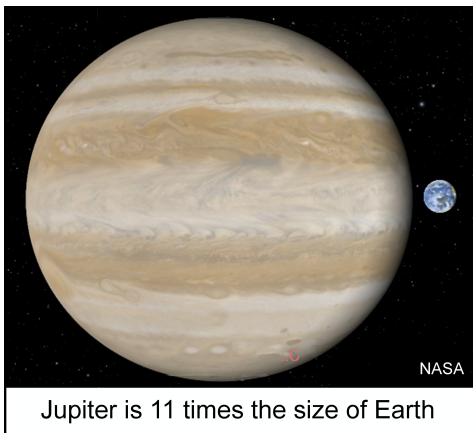


STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

I'm not much of an early riser, and so I've missed the bright planets that have only been visible before sunrise for most of 2022. That's all changing now with Saturn, Jupiter and Mars all being present in our evening skies in early October.

The brightest and easiest to find of these is Jupiter – the giant of the solar system. By the time the sky becomes dark, at around 8pm, you'll find Jupiter low in the east. By 10pm, it's south-east and much higher. Its brightness makes it unmistakable as, apart from the Moon, it's by far the brightest object in the evening sky.

Jupiter is currently 369 million miles from Earth, which is about as close as it gets, and therefore this is a good time to see it. The planet is 11 times larger than the Earth and is believed to have up to 79 moons. A good pair of binoculars or a telescope will show you the planet's disc, and the four largest moons named Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. These appear as star-like dots in a straight line either side of the planet.



Jupiter is 11 times the size of Earth

Ganymede is the largest moon in the solar system – bigger than the planet Mercury and our moon, and two thirds the size of Mars. Its surface is made of ice mixed with rock and is cratered, similar to our own moon.

Jupiter is a gas giant and doesn't have a solid surface, but the four main moons do, and so, in theory, you could land on them. If you were on Ganymede, what would you see in the sky? Like our moon, Ganymede keeps its same side facing its planet all the time, so if you are on that side the sky would be dominated by Jupiter which would appear 24 times larger than our moon does from Earth. If you are on the other side then – whenever Ganymede is facing this way – you would be able to look back at the distant Sun.

At this distance, the Sun would appear to be about a fifth of the size that we see it, and shine with only a 25th of the intensity. Around the Sun, you might be able to glimpse four pinpricks of light, just like the Jovian moons that we see, but these would be the four inner planets of Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

Colin Huggins

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BI 125 ROAD CLOSURE?



The prospect of Sizewell C getting built is becoming ever more likely. As a result, the BI 125 Working Group has been set up to look at the problem of traffic passing through Angel Lane and Dunwich Road. The group consists of representatives from EDF, SCC Highways and the parish councils of Westleton, Walberswick and Blythburgh. Their task is to explore ways of mitigating the disruption caused by the inevitable increase of traffic caused by

the construction.

Two schemes were put forward for Blythburgh. Option 1 would be to block the BI 125 completely at the junction with the BI 387 (water tower junction), and Option 2 would be to reconfigure the junction so the traffic to Walberswick has priority, and traffic to and from Blythburgh has to negotiate a slightly convoluted junction.

Blythburgh Parish Council felt that this was a decision for the whole village, so detailed information was sent out to anyone in the Parish who was on the Electoral Roll, including a ballot form with three options; the two mentioned above, and the third was 'No Change'.

About a week after the papers were sent out, a public meeting was held in the village hall on 8 August to offer the opportunity for villagers to ask questions and put their points of view.

The meeting started with an introduction by the Chair of the Council, and then Councillor Paul Lacey gave an overview of the Working Group, its objectives and the proposals. The floor was then opened for villagers to voice their opinions. This they did.

The results of the ballot were overwhelmingly in favour of Option 1: to close the Dunwich Road at the Junction of BI 125 and BI 387. The total votes cast were 54 which represents 38% of the 144 ballot papers issued.

The results were:

Option 1 – Block south end of Dunwich Rd: 44 votes

Option 2 – Modify the BI 125/BI 387 junction: 8 votes

Option 3 – No change: 2 votes

Of the 90 ballots not returned, we have to assume that, apart from a few people being away, the majority of them are indifferent to the result and are happy to live with whatever is decided.

The Parish Council has now forwarded the village's decision to the BI 125 Working Party which, in the view of the Council, is a clear mandate for

making the Angel Lane/Dunwich Road a No Through Road, with access and egress only at the Angel Lane/A12 junction, the Street and Chapel Road.

Whether or not this actually goes ahead, is dependent on many factors – not least of which is whether Sizewell C will actually go ahead, since the project still faces many technical, legal and financial issues which have yet to be resolved.

The Parish Council would like to thank everybody who took part in the discussion and who voted.

The minutes of the meeting can be read on the parish council website under 'minutes' or by going to:

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net/assets/Minutes/Minutes-Public-Meeting-8th-August-2022.pdf>

Roderick Orr-Ewing

Chair Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council

BLYTHBURGH DAY: TAKE TWO

Blythburgh Day, which was scheduled for late July, but was postponed due to illness, finally took place on Sunday 18 September. It took on a Harvest theme, which was celebrated in an atmospheric, open-air service which launched the day in the 12th-century priory ruins. The weather held for a cheerful day which celebrated the essential friendliness and goodwill of the parish. It was packed with live music, good food and drink, knowledgeable priory tour, and some food-nature rivalry with fairground games and the inevitable dog show! Given the Harvest theme, a collection was made for local Food Banks. Which raised £136.60.

Many thanks are due to Chiara and Matthews Saunders for making free with their garden (and precious priory), and to all the volunteers who helped make Blythburgh Day happen.



Pictures: Colin Huggins

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust is making grants

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust makes grants to individual parishioners, families and organisations to meet specific needs.

For your grant, contact the honorary administrator, **Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road, (478 687)**

All applications will be treated in complete confidence.

Apply now

The trustees are **Jenny Allen, chair, Sarah Wickham, Michael Nicholls, Val Carse, Malcolm Doney and Harry Waller.**

Your Parish Councillors

Chair: Roderick Orr-Ewing

Planning Advisory Committee:
Paul Lacey

Finance Advisory Committee:
Roderick Orr-Ewing, Chiara Saunders, Al Besly

Councillors: Matthew Saunders, Ashleigh Sendin

Clerk: Al Besly

Blythburgh Associations

Blythburgh Latitude Trust
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Village Hall Management Committee
bookings@blythburghvillagehall.org.uk

Horticultural Society
Val Carse 07973 389898

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham blythbelles@gmail.com

DAISY BANK CVII

One day if you pass me by and say “Hello Paul”, and I look a bit vague, there’s a reason. I suffer from what is known as *Prosopagnosia*. It isn't a nasty, but it can sometimes be very uncomfortable. It means that I find it hard to recognise faces and features. Over the years, I’ve developed a way of talking to people as if I know who they are, when in fact I have no idea. People knock at our door sometimes and greet me with familiarity, and of course in the end I have to ask them who they are and how I know them. Very embarrassing. I also suffer from mild dyslexia which has an adverse effect on my spelling. Thank God for word-search and of course my editor, B, who before spellcheck was my only defence against the constant ridicule of my friends.

Today, 25 August, it finally rained. It must be over two months since it last did. Thank God, the rain god and the garden god for saving the garden and my peace of mind. I love the sun, and I used to hate the rain. Not now. It can rain for a week and I'll still be happy. Of course, it won't and when it stops I'll feel bereft. I've never known a summer like it. Later, and it still hasn't rained to any degree. Evidently there’s an old well somewhere in the garden. Maybe the time has come to do some digging.

Ever since I moved here 35 years ago, my oldest friend and his family have been coming to stay every August. His two girls were virtually toddlers when they first came, and now of course they are both mature women. Sadly, their mother, dear Ann, died a few years ago but now they come with their husbands who in lots of ways have enhanced their visits.

On the menu, there has always been boating and sailing down the creek below the church, and bike rides and walks on the marshes, and trips to Walberswick and Southwold, and of course very enjoyable pub lunches. The boating has been put on hold, but all the rest still takes place and it is always sad to wave them goodbye for another year. Jim, my friend, lives up on the Mendips, and the two girls live in Bristol and Bath, so its a bit of a hike to get here but thank God they’re still willing to do the journey.

On their first or second visit, they left their sandals behind. “Leave them till next year,” Ann said. By the time they came back, they’d grown and the sandals wouldn't fit. I've still got them. They now occupy the windowsill outside the kitchen – gradually deteriorating, but still a reminder of happy summers. Many years ago, I did a painting of them and it sold; the buyers were thrilled when they heard the shoes story and their provenance.

Paul Bennett