

BLYTHBURGH

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BULCAMP AND HINTON



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<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

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Issue 66

2

qualify. You can do this either by email (blythburgh.trust@gmail.com) or send a paper copy to the Trust Administrator (see address below). You don't need to tell us what you need the money for, but the idea of this grant is to help with household bills such as energy, food and transport. Payment will be by cheque made payable to the person named on the Council Tax bill, unless another payee is specifically requested.

Other grants still apply

If you're facing needs which can't be covered by this £50 payment, you can apply separately for a grant from the Blythburgh Latitude Trust in the usual way. The maximum grant, as a rule, is £300, but exceptions can be made. The difference from the £50 cost-of-living offer is that you would need to make an application for a specific need (eg: energy bill, appliance repair, emergency house maintenance). Simply complete an application form, available online or from the Trust's administrator. The Trustees will then consider the application. If it's successful, you will receive the grant. The process is then completed when you provide us with receipts.

Jenny Allen, Chair, on behalf of the Blythburgh Latitude Trustees

For a normal grant application form go to:

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net/directory/blythburgh-latitude-trust/>

or email the Trust Administrator: blythburgh.trust@gmail.com

*or write to: Trust Administrator, Blythburgh Latitude Trust,
Marsh End, Church Road, Blythburgh, Suffolk IP19 9LL.*

STRUGGLING WITH BILLS? HELP IS AT HAND

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust was created to support residents of the parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton with cash grants. The Trust receives money from the sale of Residents Latitude Festival tickets and uses the proceeds to help local individuals and organisations.

Usually, people or groups will make an application for a grant to help pay for school uniform, say, or to help fund a community event. But the trustees have decided that, in the current cost of living crisis, they would like to spread the safety net a little wider.

So, the Trust is offering a **one-off payment of £50 to any permanent resident household, to help with cost of living bills.**

How it works

If you are a permanent resident in the parish, and would like to claim this grant, simply **send us a copy of your Council Tax bill for 2022/23 to confirm that you**

BERYL & BOWLS ON THE CARPET

Many of us remember Beryl Stringer as a stalwart of a variety



of Blythburgh activities, but were you aware that she, along with Sheila & Alan Pegg, Gillian Lond-Caulk and Michael Easy, was a founder member of the Blythburgh Carpet Bowls Club some 20 years ago? Beryl passed away in 2015, but she is remembered every year as

bowlers and friends gather to compete for the Beryl Stringer Memorial Trophy donated by Beryl's family.

This year Beryl's Night also marked the start of our 20th year celebrations, and 32 of us gathered on 1 November for a night of healthy competition and delicious food. The evening was particularly special as we were joined by current Club President Eric Thompson and his wife Rona, Roy and Pam Stringer and Michael Easy who sourced the clubs original mats.

At the end of an evening of intense competition, there was a tie for first place with David (Rumburgh) beating Jim (Blythburgh) in the sudden death play-off. Prizes were presented by Beryl's son Roy, who is still a Blythburgh resident. After the cut and thrust of competition, we all relaxed and, amidst much laughter, remembered Beryl and a number of amusing anecdotes accumulated over 20 years. We recalled Cyril and Sue Cronin scuppering our chances of a win at Sudbourne by producing two bottles of wine as we picnicked at Iken Cliffs ahead of the match. We told the story of Eric Thompson and Michael Easy getting completely lost in the wilds of Norfolk when they took a wrong turning

as they left Thorndon one dark night (no sat navs to help back then). There was the rogue sprinkler which administered a thorough soaking as we left the Blaxhall Ship en route to a match. And then, there was the still infamous trophy presentation when Poppy, our captain for the night, promptly dropped (and irreparably damaged!) the rather splendid Cup!



Beryl was our President for several years. She enjoyed her carpet bowls and was known as an accurate and reliable bowler. But she was also very competitive. Over the years we discovered "Beryl time": for football fans it's a bit like "Fergie time". Depending on the state of play (read Beryl winning), the half-time tea break was moved forward or, conversely, there was always time for "just one more end". The fact that so many people turn out for "Beryl's Night" is testament to the affection she commanded.

Sonia Boggis



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CHRISTMAS AT BLYTHBURGH CHURCH

It all kicks off on **Saturday 17 December at 4pm with Carols by Candlelight**, featuring the angelic voices of the Blythburgh Singers. On **Wednesday 21 December**, a group of hearty **carol singers** will tour the dark streets of the village. If you'd like to join in, pitch up at **Wolsey House, Chapel Road at 6pm**. Refreshments afterwards to help thaw out. There will be a **family-themed Crib Service at 5pm on Christmas Eve**. This is followed later that night by **Midnight Mass at 11.30pm**, a Blythburgh tradition. On Christmas Morning itself there will be an informal **Christmas Day service at 10am**. Everyone is more than welcome.

The Friends of Holy Trinity, Blythburgh are offering an imaginative Christmas card (pictured), focused on our much-loved 'Cathedral of the Marshes', which has been designed by Blythburgh artist Jeffrey Fisher. These cards are on sale for the bargain price of £5 for a pack of ten, and are available on the church bookstall which is open all day during daylight hours. Proceeds go to support the upkeep of our medieval church.

Please note, there will be no service of choral evensong on Sunday 1 January.



MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS

In September, the Horticultural Society visited the Beth Chatto Gardens near Colchester. The garden is based on ecological planting: the right plant for the right place, and members were able to explore gravel, water, reservoir, woodland and scree gardens. The weather was kind and a good time had by all.

In October, we hosted our Garden Film Night in the village hall. Twenty-eight members gathered for a glass of wine and two films: a short historic video of the Blythburgh floral carpet project, and a film from early 2000, about the Lost Gardens of Heligan.

Both the AGM and Social Supper took place on 18 November. A good crowd of 36 braved the inclement weather and were treated to a warming supper of homemade soup followed by a cheese board. Teams competed in a horticultural-themed quiz masterminded by Cilla Wilson, tables were lit by autumnal decorations, created by members. A splendid raffle, organised, as ever, by Sue Ireland-Cutting raised a healthy £136. Thanks are due to everyone who has worked so hard to put this event together.

We take a break over the winter, but will be back next year with a new programme of outings and events.

If you would like to join the Horticultural Society, please email sonia.boggis@btinternet.com – it's great value at £5 a year.

Sonia Boggis

Secretary, Blythburgh Horticultural Society



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DAISY BANK CX

A couple of weeks ago we had a minor emergency in Fern Cottage. We were able to call on our neighbours Colin and Val to help us out. Living in a village where there are people who'll come to your rescue is priceless, and we are eternally grateful to both of them. We might not have a lot to do with village socially, but we both appreciate and love living here.

Daisy Bank is beginning to get ready for winter. Summer seems such a long way away, albeit that this last summer has been a glorious delight. With our trees cut back in the front garden, the sunlight has reached parts that haven't seen the garden for many a year. Several years ago, a journalist came down here to interview me with reference to my paintings, and reported that the cottage was situated in a wood. A bit of an exaggeration, but hey ho. The newly planted front border is thriving, and there's new paintwork on the windows and doors. Can't bring down the tone of Daisy Bank!

I've planted fast-growing and prolific flowering climbing roses on some of the tree stumps which, in a few years, will give an entirely new aspect. We still miss that cosy feeling of protection from the trees, but they were just too much of an increasing problem to life and also limb. I don't want to be rattling bars: "*Blythburgh man accused of manslaughter and sentenced to life in prison, after ramblers killed in lane*". Mind you, think of the reading I'd be able to do.

Here's a little anecdote of coincidence to fill this space. In my late teens I went into the Merchant Navy as a Radio Officer. At that time most Radio Officers were employed by Marconi, and we were sent off to various shipping companies. It was a bit of a lottery. You could have been sent on a pilgrim ship from Jeddah to Bombay. It could be a tanker or an iron ore carrier, a passenger ship or a whaler in South Georgia or

even a millionaire's yacht in somewhere like Monaco. My first few trips were on Banana boats, as we called them, going down to the Caribbean. Thank God it was bananas and not pilgrims, although the posh yacht would have been good.

John Phillips was a Marconi Radio Officer, and he went down with *The Titanic*, after sending the first SOS ever, using a spark transmitter. Moving to Godalming in Surrey in my late twenties I was walking around a park in the centre of the town and there was a memorial sign to John Phillips. It turned out that he'd been born in Godalming and the park was named after him. So, there we have my own very tenuous link to *The Titanic*. Fame at last.

Paul Bennett

FREE TRIP TO NORWICH?

Tickets for the pantomime in Norwich have now all been taken up, but there's still room on the bus (free of charge) if you'd like an afternoon shopping in Norwich on 7 January. The coach leaves Blythburgh from the bus stop on A12 northbound at 11.30am, and leaves Norwich at around 5pm. Just drop a line to Jenny Allen: jennyanddick@aol.com



WILDWATCH

We humans' relationship with trees has been continuous since our ancestors decided to abandon them and walk upright. We've used them as building materials and food. We've worshipped them and incorporated them into our art and culture. We've burned them when cold, or when we needed to get up steam.

Blythburgh has an interesting collection of trees, ranging from handsome exotic specimens in gardens to stunted oaks along the edges of the marshes. Holy Trinity Church displays how we've trusted in timber's marriage with stone to build long-lasting structures where important gatherings take place. And nothing draws people together like a log fire, whether in a family home or at a winter's event.

Many people seem to be reassured by the presence of trees. They have a longevity that maintains the spirit of place and, when threatened by axe or saw, people get upset and protective of them.

Yet, over the decades, we've also been responsible for clearing our native woods and forests on a vast scale. Whether for agriculture, expanding townships, industry, or vanity projects like HS2, much of our ancient woodland has disappeared.

We can plant new trees to create new woods, but we can't recreate ancient woodlands. They are an extremely complex biome that takes centuries to form and includes fungi, invertebrates both under and above ground, birds, animals, and flowering plants. Many have formed complex relationships, which take time to establish, much longer than we realise.

When timber was the material of choice for many things like ships, wagons, houses, we replaced the trees we

harvested. Not all timber requirements need big trees – we needed more tool handles than ships. The creation of ‘coppice with standards’ woodland management provided both humans and wildlife with what they needed; a sustainable and continuous habitat.

But perhaps the most valuable provision woodland provides is soaking up the carbon we’re continuing to produce, despite the existential threat to our own species. Today’s obsession with ‘growth’ doesn’t seem to apply to any long-term sustainability, at least not in the minds of those who make the rules.

Charities like The Woodland Trust are working hard to retain what’s left of our woodland heritage, but why should this important work be left to charities?

Surely, it’s time for humans to learn to trust in their old beliefs and learn something about the past for, without that knowledge, do we have a future?

Paul Lacey





Veteran tree, Quercus ruber oak, at Benacre



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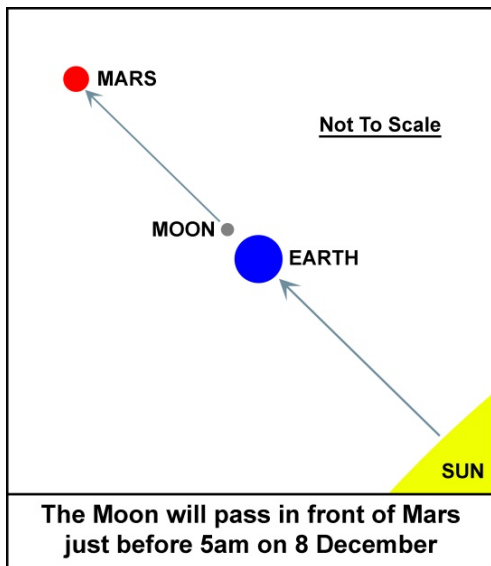
STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

The highlight this month is the planet Mars. It can be seen throughout the night and is well positioned from about 6pm onwards. Look east in the early evening, and you'll see it as a bright object with a red colour. It's not quite as bright as Jupiter, which can still be seen to the south, but it will be easy to find.

On 1 December Mars passes as close to the Earth as it will get this year – a distance of 50.7 million miles. By the morning of 8 December, it reaches opposition, which means it's exactly opposite the Sun as seen from Earth. In fact the Sun, Earth, Moon and Mars will all be in a straight line.

If you're an early riser and the sky is clear, you'll be able to witness the full moon pass immediately in front of Mars. This happens at about 4:57am but start looking a bit before this time. The planet and the moon will be in the west of the sky by then. Mars will reappear from the opposite side of the moon at about 5:58am. This is known as a lunar occultation of Mars and it's the first time one has been visible from the British Isles since 1952. The next won't occur until 2052.

Mars is not much more than half the size of Earth, and even at its closest the naked eye will only show it as a point of light. A telescope is needed to show a small red disc. If you want to see the occultation then you may need at least a pair of binoculars, as the much closer full moon will appear more



than 100 times larger than Mars, and its light may drown out the sight of the planet.

As the closest planet to Earth, Mars has always attracted a good deal of interest. Elon Musk, the founder of SpaceX and the richest person in the world, has his sights set on Mars. His vision is for humans to live on other planets, and the first step is the Red Planet. He's working towards sending fleets of spacecraft to Mars, ultimately leading to our colonisation. He envisages a million people eventually going to the planet.

So maybe there really will be Life on Mars. Personally, I'm staying in Suffolk!
Colin Huggins

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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, Paul Lacey and Harry Waller.

Your Parish Councillors	Blythburgh Associations
Chair: Roderick Orr-Ewing	Blythburgh Latitude Trust Jim Boggis 01502 478687
Planning Advisory Committee: Paul Lacey	Film Club Olive Forsythe 01502 478521
Finance Advisory Committee: Roderick Orr-Ewing, Chiara Saunders, Al Besly	Village Hall Management Committee bookings@blythburghvillagehall.org.uk
Councillors: Matthew Saunders, Ashleigh Sendin	Horticultural Society Val Carse 07973 389898
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BLYTHBUGH FIELD NOTES

Late September saw a movement of warblers through the parish, mainly Whitethroat and Chiffchaff, but also good numbers of Lesser Whitethroat and Willow Warbler.

The 25th produced a rare bird, when a Corncrake was seen on the east side of the estuary: a bird I have only seen once in the parish, when I flushed one twice in Lumphall. This is a species which has almost disappeared as a breeding species in southern Britain, due the improvement in agricultural machinery – allowing quicker and earlier cutting of hay meadows, the bird’s normal habitat. Having spent part of my boyhood in Lincolnshire, I can remember hearing birds call in the meadow behind our old farmhouse, but like most crane species they are extremely difficult to observe. The scientific name *Crex crex* comes from the rasping call they make, which we could imitate really well by dragging a comb across the edge of a match box. The most reliable place to see this summer migrant now are the western isles of Scotland. I remember camping on South Uist and having several birds calling around me, making the occasional sighting easier.

The 10th of November saw another rare occurrence, when three Red-rumped Swallow were found feeding over Collin’s Island on the Blyth Estuary. These are a species which breed in southern Europe. My first sighting was in the Trodous Mountains in Cyprus, while dug in relaying movement back to HQ, through one of the huge heavy, so-called portable radios which – with a spare battery – weighed enough to become a real challenge to lug round at altitude. The only previous sighting in the parish was one I found on Westwood Marsh some years ago.

On the 10th of November two Water Pipit and a Spotted Redshank were seen on the Blyth.

I. Knownowt