



RIVER WALLS ON THE BLYTH



River wall repairs 2007

With current predictions of climate change and the associated expected increases in both sea levels and storminess, the East Anglian coastal and estuary defences are likely to become under more and more pressure in the future. The banks our ancestors threw up by hand using spades and shovels from the 16th-century onwards are coming under greater duress as we experience more extreme tides. On the Blyth when the original banks were built, ditches were dug across the saltmarsh, creating the soke dyke and this material was then used to build the defences to enclose what became grazing marshes behind, over time some of these were then ploughed and yielded an arable return.

Periodically larger than normal tides would have flooded the reclaimed marshes, walls would have been repaired and after 36 to 60 months the marshes would have been fresh again. By the mid-19th century, the Blyth

would have been largely tamed, its course canalised to the wharf at Halesworth. During the 20th century, the Blyth estuary changed again, from the 1920s to 1950s river walls breached on extreme tides, or in one case to German bombing, to such an extent that it was uneconomic to restore them even using POWs. The land levels once drained, and especially where ploughed, had shrunk, so that when flooded regularly by the tide they became the intertidal mudflats so familiar to us today. In the upper estuary, salt marsh is now largely limited to those areas that were never enclosed or the remnants of the walls themselves.

The mudflats of the Blyth now form an essential part of the East Atlantic Flyway, sustaining vast numbers of birds migrating at the most extreme between Africa and the Arctic, where some of these species up to the medieval period would have stayed to nest on the drier upper salt marshes, they now breed on the remaining enclosed grazing marshes.

Where the banks have breached locally has led to an unusually shaped estuary with the harbour at Southwold at its narrow mouth the tidal flow through this opening keeps it clear and navigable. Research in the early part of the 21st century indicated that further river wall losses and the subsequent increase in tidal volume could damage the infrastructure at the port, there were then a series of surge tides from 2006 to 2013, in 2007 punching 10 holes in the ancient river defences at Tinkers and Delacroix marshes.

The walls at Tinkers, just upstream of Walberswick, have overtopped and breached and in turn been repaired over the decades, although this had become increasingly difficult, in the 1980s, the RAF deployed helicopters to ferry



Avocet, one of the species to benefit

materials to the repair site. 2007 marked the beginning of a new approach. The worst of the breaches which had become tidal, was repaired with sandbags by Natural England (NE) and volunteers from the Blyth Estuary group. NE then worked with the landowner to find a better more resilient solution to what is expected to become an ever increasing issue.

One of the major problems were the original walls themselves, dug by hand, the low pointy structure was immediately next to the soke dyke, (if your tool of necessity is a spade the closer the better) when the tide overtopped the



New dyke and pool creation, easier than with a spade

the wall the material washed into the dyke and was lost for repair, even with modern mechanical repairs and maintenance this had stayed substantially the same since the first wall in 1590. Looking at other similar works, particularly on the Broadland rivers, we opted for a more resilient, nature-based solution, accepting that there would be times, likely more

common in the future when the tides will over top the banks. The banks protect no dwellings, and the wildlife of the site would benefit from occasional inundation. In 2010 machinery was brought onto site which moved the soke dyke 30 meters inland - this dyke was widened and connected to newly created shallow pools to give the maximum area for feeding birds and their chicks, the resultant material was then used to create a much shallower angled wall on the marsh side, now when water flows over the bank it does so harmlessly without the need for repairs afterwards. With the increase in sea flooding, we also increased the size of the pipes draining the marsh, so salt water would be gone in days rather than weeks. On the riverside we have also been working to encourage saltmarsh formation, including the planned installation locally sourced brushwood bundles to protect the outer facing river wall.

In the 10 years since this approach has been further refined and rolled out on other east coast estuaries giving, more resilience, more wildlife and protecting valuable economic assets like Southwold harbour and the A12.

Adam Burrows

Senior Reserve Manager, Suffolk Coast National Nature Reserves, Natural England

FOLLOW THE TRACKS

Check the rapid progress that’s being made on the site of Blythburgh’s old railway station at an **Open Day on Wednesday 21 June 10.30am to 4pm**. Admission free.



THE VILLAGE HALL IS ALL YOURS

Blythburgh Village Hall is open for (your) business and pleasure. Hire fees are extremely competitive and there are discounts for parish residents and organisations. All electricity, including heating, is included in the fees and there’s now a glass-washer to save all that post-function washing up. There’s a projector, screen, and free wi-fi too. It’s ideal for meetings, workshops, parties and all kinds of events.

And if you’d like to get involved in planning Village Hall events and help keep the place going, please make yourself known.

The Village Hall is there for you, please make use of it. To find out more, and for contact details, just go to blythburghvillagehall.org.uk.

WHAT’S YOUR JOKER ROUND?

Your friendly local pub quiz is now up-and-running at the White Hart on the second Thursday of every month. The next ones coming up are on **8 June and 12 July**.

There’s no need to book, just turn up at 7.15pm with a team of up to four people and the quiz itself begins at 7.30 sharp. Entry is £5 per person and snacks are included.



- Domestic and commercial
- Rewires
- Additional sockets and lights
- PAT testing
- Inspection & Testing





**PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
24 HOUR CALL OUT**

T:01502 478473 M:07884 477110 M:07717 176655
E:mrwfelectrical@hotmail.co.uk
W:www.mrwfelectrical.co.uk



Wickham Care Company t/a Walfinch Suffolk Coastal

-  01728 666232
-  sarah@walfinch.com
-  www.walfinch.com

Walfinch
INDEPENDENT HOME LIVING

THE GROWING SEASON IS UPON US!

There was a great turn out for our Horticultural Society April outing to Green Island Gardens which had been suggested by a member at the AGM: we are grateful for all suggestions so do please keep them coming.

Our next event this June is our neighbourhood Garden Safari, providing the opportunity to see how everyone else is doing with their plots!

Just a reminder that our **Annual Summer Show**, described by our Chair as “Blythburgh’s fiercely competitive, but friendly summer fruit, veg and produce show”, is open to all including non-members and will take place In the church on **Saturday 29 July** – so remember to start planning and planting for this event.

If you’d like to join the Horticultural Society, or want to know more about what we do, please get in touch (details below); membership is still at the bargain price of £5 a year!

Sonia Boggis

Secretary, Blythburgh Horticultural Society: sonia.boggis@btinternet.com



HOLY TRINITY, BLYTHBURGH

Aldeburgh Festival in Blythburgh Church

Thursday 22 June, 8.30pm 'The Swan': In the twilight at Blythburgh

Church, pianists Pavel Kolesnikov and Samson Tsoy play an atmospheric programme inspired by this unique location and its cherished sunsets. This includes works by Rachmaninoff, Schubert and the world premiere of a new commission by Leonid Desyatnikov. Tickets from: Brittenpearsarts.org



Take a break

Please join us for coffee, cake and to browse our stalls (see picture) at our regular monthly **café and mini-market on Friday 30 June: and Friday 28 July 10.30am-12pm.**

Animals ahead Save the date: the hugely popular **Blessing of the Animals service** takes place on **Sunday 20 August at 11am.** All creatures great and small are welcome.

BLYTHBURGH CELEBRATES THE CORONATION

The all-important dog show – can you spot Camilla?



No need for the marquees – the sun shone





A local firm with a world of experience



NORTON PESKETT SOLICITORS

For you

- ◆ Buying and selling your home
- ◆ Re-mortgages and transfers of equity
- ◆ Wills and probate
- ◆ Court of Protection
- ◆ Family and children matters
- ◆ Criminal matters
- ◆ Personal injury claims

- ◆ Civil matters
- ◆ Notarial services
- ◆ Care home fees
- ◆ NHS continuing healthcare
- ◆ Trusts and deceased estates

For your business

- ◆ Commercial property
- ◆ Partnerships
- ◆ Employment matters
- ◆ Planning and regulatory issues
- ◆ Licensing
- ◆ Company formations
- ◆ Agricultural law

Lowestoft,
148 London Rd North
T: 01502 533 000

Beccles
Exchange Square
T: 01502 718 700

Gorleston
66a Bells Road
T: 01493 452 204

Great Yarmouth
141 King Street
T: 01493 849 200

Halesworth
52 Thoroughfare
T: 01198 872 513

enquire@nortonpeskett.co.uk www.nortonpeskett.co.uk

No hidden costs

Same day response

Friends, food, drink, games, great raffle prizes and a very relaxed atmosphere.

Thank you to all who helped organise the day and all who came and made it so enjoyable.



BEFORE HE WAS KING

Did your invitation to the Coronation turn up? Mine didn't. Undeterred, we headed for Westminster to experience the atmosphere. What surprised me were the memories that flooded back of Charles before he was King. From my mother speaking of how wonderful the coronation of the late Queen had been and the well behaved 4 year old Charles (maybe because I had recently misbehaved again!), to her vivid descriptions of the detail and feel of the robes worn by the Earl of Stradbroke – remembered from when she trained as a seamstress at Denny's in Southwold.

Charles was around a long time before assuming the mantle of King Charles III, and many people have stories of him touching their orbit. To my knowledge, Prince Charles visited Blythburgh twice. Once in 1995 when he arrived by helicopter (which he piloted) to attend a Music in Country Churches concert and again in 2008 when both he and Camilla visited the White Hart and village shop as part of the Pub is the Hub initiative of which he was patron. I gather both visits were much enjoyed by those who turned out to watch, but there is no record of Charles' views on this matter.

Turning to the personal, in 2002 I had a surprise encounter with Prince Charles. Let me explain. The building I worked in had been extensively rebuilt, not easy given its location in the City of London. During excavations a Roman defensive wall and medieval bastion were found and subsequently preserved. On this particular day we were all aware the Prince was to officially open our building, but only those on the official tour route (including the Roman wall basement) were on standby and suitably briefed. For the rest of us, it was business as usual with a short diversion later in the day for a bit of glad-handing at the actual opening ceremony.

My morning had been the usual round of meetings including a brainstorming session about some of the challenges with information flows around capital



markets and investment banking given Chinese wall restrictions. I was busy trying to distil the essence of this session when someone walked straight into my office. The immediate next step is a bit of a blur, but I swear he said “Hello, I’m Charles” before proceeding to wave his hand at my board of scribbles and ask very pertinent questions.



Sonia Boggis

The gaggle of people outside clearly wanted him out of there but he took his time, was totally engaged and very charming. That he incorporated parts of our conversation about walls into his remarks at the opening ceremony impressed me.

WILD WATCH

Recently we’ve read a lot about the sorry state of England’s freshwater rivers. From a position from which they were beginning to recover from decades of industrial misuse some 40 years ago, they have now been allowed to become polluted with agricultural chemicals and our own effluent.

As well as joining a protest or one of several action groups (which I encourage you to do), there is something many people can do to help freshwater wildlife: create a garden pond. I realise not everyone will feel capable of doing this, nor feel they have the space to do so. But...!

As with many other things in life, size doesn’t always matter. Even an old washing bowl, sunk into the ground, will attract creatures which need clean freshwater to deposit eggs and allow their young to develop. If you can, however, spare time and a bit more space then a larger pond will bring greater benefits.

There are plenty of good sources of information explaining how to build and what you’ll need in materials. You don’t need to dig deep. Yes, a bit of depth acts as a refuge for some creatures, but variation is the most important thing about wildlife ponds, together with the source of the water. Don’t be tempted to fill your newly-created pond with tap water. It contains lots of chemicals intended to



A civilised Blythburgh pond

protect us but which will discourage natural colonisation. Rainwater is all you need.



Hoverfly larva in a rainwater-filled bucket

Pond levels naturally rise and fall with the supply of rain. The receding edge of a pond is the most dynamic part of the entire waterbody. It is here where pioneer species of plant and animal compete to colonise the margins. This area of the pond is constantly changing as rainfall and drought enlarge or shrink its area. The greater the area of

what is called the ‘drawdown’ zone, the greater the biodiversity.

Don’t be tempted, either, to ‘charge’ your pond from another source. The best thing you can do is leave it to colonise naturally. This can be fun too, checking weekly to see what has arrived. If you have children, you could encourage them to turn the pond into a science project by keeping records of what they see. In nature, ponds are ephemeral – they come and go over time – but given the chance to remain undisturbed by human intervention, they can become important refuges for local biodiversity of all kinds.

Paul Lacey

**Specialist legal advice
in Southwold**



<u>Residential Property</u>	01502 724750
<u>Commercial Property</u>	23a High Street,
<u>Wills and Powers of Attorney</u>	Southwold, Suffolk
<u>Probate</u>	IP18 6AD
<u>Notarial Services</u>	MANTINS.CO.UK



SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

DAISY BANK CXIII

Little Nell, the cat who I've looked after for many years when my neighbours Sue and Paul go on their hols, has sadly died. She turned up initially as a stray and accommodation, comfort and food were laid outside their back door. Eventually Peter Coghill, formerly of this parish, donated a kennel which was put outside their back door and eventually and inevitably, she came inside. For the last few years, probably due to failing eyesight, she decided to remain upstairs where she obviously felt safe.

I wonder if you've read anything by Derek Tangye, who moved from London after the last war to Cornwall in order to grow daffs and potatoes. He started with a rabid aversion to cats. Eventually one turned up, and when that one went to cat heaven, another one came along, and so on ... His eventual cat conversion gave him lots of material to write the many books that he wrote for the rest of his life.

About three months back, a ginger cat turned up next door and decided to stay. Unfortunately, it turned out that he lived on the Henham Estate. Sue and Paul duly returned him to his real owners after his ID chip was checked. A few weeks ago, a black and white cat turned up in similar circumstances and has now taken up permanent residence with them. Their two little dogs, Millie and Lacy have taken all this cat activity in their strides, and all is well with cat and dog relationships. The new arrival, by the way, is called Teddy.

More recently, I had a knock on the door and it was Matthew who lives in Priory Road asking if I'd seen a little black and white cat who had gone missing over the weekend. Sadly, he was found much later on the ghastly A12, yet another victim of wheeled vehicles. Cats and all animals have always been more important than cars to us, and if there was a way of protecting them by banning cars, we would get rid of ours in a heartbeat. The cars, not the cats.

As I explained to Matthew, we moved here from the next village to create a safe haven for our cats and apart from one loss in the early years, all has been well. One thing right from the start was to make sure our cats were shut up at night. So to that end, we constructed an outside run with viewing chambers so that when we were out, or at night, they had the ability to be outside but in a confined way. Chris Packham has said that roosting birds are vulnerable in darkness from 'Mr Cat' so that is an added bonus; Milo has several bells around his neck which is also a deterrent to bird kills. The mice are not so lucky!

When we lose our pets, it a tragic bereavement no matter how long they have been with us. We are hoping and praying that Milo will be with us as long as he possibly can. The thought of him not being here any more is too traumatic for us to contemplate. He by far is the most intelligent and most

loving and loved cat that has ever lived with us. When my time comes, as it will, and St Peter hopefully welcomes me to pass through his gates, I will find out first if all my much beloved cats are waiting for me on the other side. If he says no, then I will of course refuse to go – even if the alternative is the other place. So there.

Paul Bennett

BLYTHBURGH FIELD NOTES

March ended with a large influx of Black-tailed Godwit on their way back North, and a Peregrine Falcon was seen on several occasions.

A Spoonbill was seen on 4 April, while the 7th was a red letter day on the Blyth, with a White-tailed Eagle, an Osprey and two Common Cranes heading North over the Estuary. The 10th produced two more Spoonbill and the first Northern Wheatear, while a late Short-eared Owl was seen on the 26th and up to ten Spotted Redshanks were present throughout the month.

Early May produced an exceptional movement of Bar-tailed Godwit and Ruff, with over 40 of the former, and 27 of the latter, while Greenshank and both Common and Green Sandpipers were also seen.

The change to slightly warmer weather saw the arrival of various warblers and both Nightingale and Swallows around the village. Sand Martin are back in the motorbike pit, but no House Martin around the Water Tower yet.

Lots of butterflies are around the village, with good numbers of Orange Tip. It's main food plant here being Hedge Mustard, and although the males are obvious, the females lack the orange and are similar to some of the Whites. Sulphur yellow male Brimstones have also been obvious, but again the females are whiter, although they do show faint orange spots. Holly Blue has also been frequent, being found mainly on Ivy, one of its food plants.

The field along the Westleton Road just before New Delight is a blaze of magenta created by vast swards of Common Stork's-bill, here Brown Argus butterflies are present, as they now use this plant as a food source.

The short period of Southerly winds brought a host of Southern species on our coast, with a Bee-eater and Black-winged Stilts at Southwold and Kentish Plover, Purple Heron and Golden Oriole at Minsmere. Elsewhere, Hoopoe and Great Reed Warbler occurred, along with several Night Heron, while Northern bound waders included a surprising number of Temminck's Stints.

I Noknowt

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, Roderick Orr-Ewing, Paul Lacey and Harry Waller.

Your Parish Councillors

Chair: Roderick Orr-Ewing

Planning Advisory Committee:
Paul Lacey

Finance Advisory Committee:
Roderick Orr-Ewing,
Al Besly

Councillors: Matthew Saunders,
Ashleigh Sendin, Jude Blois, Claire Orr-Ewing

Clerk: Al Besly

Blythburgh Associations

Blythburgh Latitude Trust
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Village Hall Mgement Committee
bookings@blythburghvillagehall.org.uk

Horticultural Society
Val Carse 07973 389898

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham blythbelles@gmail.com

www.blythburgh.onesuffolk.net



Suffolk Car Centre

At Suffolk Car Centre we have over 40 years main dealer experience and bring quality used car sales to Reydon & Southwold at our Reydon Business Park site.

All our cars are fully serviced with new MOTs plus 6 months' warranty to give a complete peace of mind package.

With over 50 cars in stock and with finance packages available, we are sure that there will be a car to suit you.

Suffolk Car Centre Ltd
Exchange House
Reydon
Suffolk
IP18 6SZ

sales@suffolkcarcentre.co.uk

01502 451047 www.suffolkcarcentre.co.uk