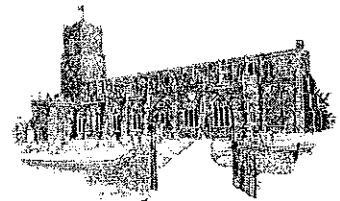


BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS

Issue 37

Dec 07/Jan 08



GETTING UP TO SPEED

Volunteers in bright yellow jackets could soon be seen in Blythburgh as they monitor the speed of traffic sweeping through the village oblivious to the 30mph limit. After a long campaign launched by the Parish Council in March 2004, involving the Council, Suffolk Police, the Home Office and the Highways' Agency, the council took a number of decisions at its last meeting to help make the Blythburgh Community Speed Watch scheme a reality.

Suffolk County Council has been given the green light for countywide campaigns following a successful trial in Debenham. Before any scheme can start, however, the county council has to provide any relevant speed data together with a recommendation whether to proceed or not.

Each parish wanting to take part must fund the costs of a speed detection device, at least £2,200, road signs and high visibility jackets. Blythburgh Parish Council is in discussion with four neighbouring parishes to see whether they wish to become part of the campaign and to share the costs. Blythburgh Parish Council has agreed to fund up to two-thirds of the costs and has thanked Sizewell A Power station for providing two all-weather high visibility jackets, which volunteers will have to wear whilst monitoring traffic. It was

also agreed that Councillor Binny Lewis should act as scheme co-ordinator with Councillor Ro Williams as deputy.

The police will vet volunteers from the village and, once trained in how to use the device and in health and safety, will be expected to monitor A 12 traffic one hour a week.

The speed and vehicle details of any offending vehicle will be recorded and

passed to the police. A letter of caution will be sent to the registered keeper of the vehicle warning of the dangers of excess speed. Repeat offences could lead to prosecution.

The estimated timeline for setting up the campaign in Blythburgh is between six and eight weeks to allow for the vetting and training of volunteers. If you wish to become a volunteer please contact Councillor Binny Lewis, Mill Cottage, Dunwich Road. 01502 478524.

The Parish Council agreed at its last meeting that the precept for 2008 to 2009 should be £5,200, an increase of about £7 per household. Councillor Ro Williams, chairman of the council's finance sub committee, said the rise was regrettable but explained that general running costs for the year were £4021.00. Extra costs would be incurred next year for general maintenance and Village Hall repairs estimated at £1300.00.

The council currently holds £10,794.63 but some of this money will be used to fund the Speed Watch Campaign and the start-up costs for the Parish Plan. The clerk reported that the council had received £1597.67 in reclaimed VAT. Payments included two unpaid bills for the audits in 2004 and 2005. It was also agreed to pay RoSPA £94.00 for its report on the play site. As no immediate repairs were considered necessary the council agreed that the future of the site should be considered as part of the Parish Plan. The site would be monitored and any essential work undertaken.

The council also agreed to resurface the approach to the Village Hall and ask the two householders, who had a right of way over the land, to make a contribution of £100 each.

**WISHING ALL OUR
READERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS
& PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**



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NOTE FROM ANGEL MARSH

I have realised that to find room to write about another 41 villagers no longer with us is an impossible task. Suffice it to say that I remember with great joy my old neighbour Jack Stannard and his son, Jackie. On Christmas morning, he would ring and say: "I've just ringed you to wish you all the joys." He was also the only person I have ever heard use that old English word *joycund* to describe a lovely morning. I do not think we shall see the likes of him again and I always paused by his grave to tell him all the goings-on in the village. Happy days.

Remembrance Day is not long gone, so here is my poem, *Right Dress*, which old soldiers like me will instantly remember.

Right Dress!

Faintly I hear it,
That shuffling sound,
Getting it right,
Ready for the final command.
They stand before me,
Row upon row,
Dressed by the right
For ever.

Important persons
Inspect the smart, uniform rows,

Looking for someone they know.
Usually grandchildren
Grown old with the stories.
Grown families with the names:
Paschendael, The Somme, Ypres.

Some came back
Never to speak of it again.
Never to voice all that they had seen,
All that had to be endured
In that murderous conflict.

Only to stand,
Once a year,
Marching behind the flag,
Dressing by the right,
Moving off in columns
As they had once before,
So many of them
Never to return,
Fallen within minutes
Now the white ranks
Remind us of their sacrifice,
Remind us of the people
Left behind
Whose descendants walk the ranks,
Shaking their heads
At the waste.

Richard Maslen

The next meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL is on 14th January 2008 at 8pm in the Village Hall, preceded by the Open Forum at 7.30pm.

Your Parish Councillors

Chair

David Tytler
Telephone: 478521

Vice Chair

Chair, finance sub-committee

Ro Williams

Chair, planning sub-committee

Robert Benson

Councillors

Binny Lewis
Lucy Clapham
Alan Mackley
Cliff Waller

Blythburgh Carpet Bowls

Beryl Stringer

Horticultural Society

Secretary: Jenny Allen 478314

Neighbourhood Watch

Robert Benson 478047

Village Hall

Chairman: David Tytler 478521

Bookings: 07850 140581

Blythburgh Society

Chairman: Alan Mackley 478438

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Since the time of last writing the reserve has shared the fate of much of the rest of Suffolk Coast and has been afflicted by what seems a rolling series of catastrophes. Fresh water flooding in May was followed by the foot and mouth scare followed by worries about blue tongue disease, then the extreme tides of early November, bird flu outbreaks and finally another set of large tides.

All of this has left the wildlife reeling and in many cases swimming around to find some dry ground. Because of the May floods, followed by the wet summer, many birds were less successful than normal, bitterns were particularly affected and they are at the greatest long term risk from the most recent

salt water floods. Much of the reed beds, both at Walberswick but also on the wider coast, where they feed and nest, have been covered by the sea, and although we can drain the salt water off quite quickly it will be many years before the bitterns food supply of fish recover to their previous levels.

The other huge change on the reserve in the early November floods was the failure of the river wall around Tinkers' Marsh, which breached in nine places. Since the flood, the 100 plus acres have remained under water and it is yet to be seen whether the damage can be repaired. With the loss of this important high tide roost area we are already seeing changes in the

distribution of birds around the estuary on the top of the tides. There are real concerns about the breeding prospects for species such as the avocet next year.

With so much having happened in the last few months I am hopeful the winter will be a quieter time to catch up on some of the work on the site, particularly maintaining the footpath network (or at least those bits still dry) and refurbishing the Blyth hide. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to phone.

Adam Burrows
Site Manager
Natural England
01502 676171

Paul Cook

Gardening Services

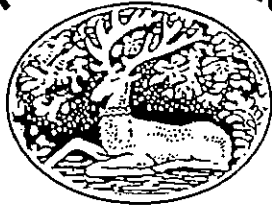
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**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL**

Mike, Heidi & Ruth

COUNCIL REJECTS PLANS FOR NEW HOMES

A special meeting of the Parish Council held at the end of October rejected two planning applications for sites in the heart of the village. Parishioners were able to air their own views in the open forum before the meeting. The applicants were also able to explain their cases and answer questions.

There was considerable discussion both in the open forum and in the meeting on the application to build two two-storey houses on land opposite Priory Lodge, Priory Road, Blythburgh. The applicant, local resident Nick Haward, addressed all the points raised. Three letters from parishioners opposed to the application were read. The views of the meeting formed the basis of the consultation letter sent to Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Amongst the concerns expressed in the letter were that although the applicant had identified two families envisaged as residents of the new houses, there was no guarantee that the properties will go to full-time local residents or, that if they do, sufficient controls exist to prevent the properties subsequently being used as second homes. The designs were considered to be well thought-out, although not suitable for the site or setting proposed, being situated in Blythburgh's conservation area. It was thought that the buildings would be detrimental to the settings of the nearby grade II listed buildings.

It was thought that the proposed development would materially detract from the character and appearance of the site and its surroundings, and that the site in its undeveloped form makes an important contribution to the character of the area and the setting of the two adjacent listed buildings.

The second application sought retrospective permission to change agricultural land to a domestic garden and the erection of a shed/summerhouse and replacement of a dilapidated outhouse with a wooden shed on land to the east of Angel Lane.

The views expressed at the meeting were used to respond to Suffolk Coastal District Council. In the letter to the district council, the Parish Council pointed out that Angel Field has several

levels of protection. It lies within an Area of Outstanding Beauty, is part of the Blythburgh village Conservation Area and is managed as an Environmentally Sensitive Area.

The council believes that the value of this landscape requires the maintenance of an open aspect across the extended gardens and objects to the proposal for change of use, and the erection of the summer house. The council had no comments to make on the replacement of the dilapidated outhouse other than that any replacement or related work should not impinge upon the area of the extension to the garden.

The council also questioned the applicant's (long-term Blythburgh resident Jon Doran) description of the strip around Angel Field as dead land. The council contends that it was created to facilitate access for the maintenance of the stock-proof wire fence around the field located some two metres within its boundary. The strip is part of Angel Field and similarly protected, including Environmentally Sensitive Area management. The Council objected to the development of an implied right of way around the edge of Angel Field, given its sensitive status.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Robert Benson, chair of the planning sub-committee, and was attended by four of the seven parish councillors. Apologies for absence were received from the council chair, who was on holiday, the vice-chair, who was away on other council business, and a councillor who was working abroad.

PLEASE COME TO TEA

Blythburgh's village Christmas tea will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 13 December from 3.30 to 6.00pm to which everyone in the village is welcome. There will be a festive spread, games and, as long as you have been really good, perhaps a visit from a very special person. You should already have received an invitation through your letterbox but if not, or if you've lost it, just give Beryl Stringer (478818) or Jenny Allen (478314) a ring. The tea is being supported by Holy Trinity, the Bowls Club, the Horticultural Society and the Blythburgh Society.

MRS CLAPHAM INVESTIGATES:

ENJOYING WATERSPORTS - WITHOUT MOVING



I don't know if anybody has noticed but the Clapham household is now the proud owner of its very own private swimming pool-cum-ice rink. We used to have a lawn but it was such hard work for my poor husband we decided a natural pool was altogether more practical.

And of course it's very green, providing a wonderful habitat for all the flora and fauna which are partial to a soggy spot in which to frolic, when we're not thrashing up and down practising the breast-stroke. Hope I don't sound too smug but while others are spending thousands on trendy pools, ours has cost nothing - courtesy of the Environment Agency, amongst others, who refuse to interfere with nature by repairing a few holes in the river-bank.

Of course, it is a little tricky putting the washing out wearing a snorkel and flippers but when we have a nice big surge tide it's extremely handy being able to boat from one garden to another without the chore of unlatching gates - you just scull gently over the fences.

This is also a great advantage when playing one of our favourite games - catching the neighbours' garden furniture before it floats merrily out to sea. Then there's spot the sewer, which involves checking out the bubbles and trying to decide if it's a drain under the water or a family of rats making a break for it.

We have an exciting time in Church Lane so it was good to be able to share it with the

but it was unusual to have a waterfall cascading down our garden steps. By the time the water had reached our back doorstep we were both in agreement that we preferred it the way it was.

Never mind that the little marsh birds are losing their nesting sites - we have hundreds of seagulls to replace them - and who cares if hedgehogs are drowned and our barn owl no longer skims over the marshes at dusk searching for field mice, long gone to drier quarters? What if people do lose their homes or businesses in the next surge tide?

We're told there's not enough money to protect our corner of coast with proper defences - or even to do minor repairs to river walls. Naturally, the Government has more important things to spend our money on - investigations in to dodgy donations for example - but Britain has been an island for quite a while so you'd assume

they might have seen this coming and put something aside for a rainy - or floody - day.

Lastly, a huge thank you to everybody who rang or visited us during last month's flood to offer help and beds. Merry Christmas and God Bless You, Every One.



nation recently - not that any policemen popped round and suggested we move out, or that any more than one rather laid-back recorded flood warning troubled our evening.

Being used to our natural swimming pool we weren't too disturbed to wake and find it a little fuller than usual

PLANNING BLYTBURGH'S FUTURE BEGINS

Blythburgh's Parish Plan should be complete by the end of next year. The Parish Council has agreed to fund initial expenditure of up to £250 and be responsible for at least five per cent of the subsequent cost with the remainder coming from grants. The council undertook to review the situation regularly.

The steering committee has identified the following objectives:

- To provide an authoritative statement of what the residents of Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton feel about their parish now and their hopes for its future.
- To inform Parish, District and County Councils and other bodies providing important services to the community of the opinions of residents on the issues that are important to them.
- To set out an achievable and long-term vision for the future and to establish priorities for action.

- To stimulate discussion among residents on what can and should be done, both now and in the future, to improve community spirit and involvement to make Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton an even better place to live.

Siobhann Quinn has been elected chair of the committee. Councillors Ro Williams and Lucy Clapham represent the Parish Council. The committee wants to hear the views of all, whether full time or part time residents, and particularly those who feel their views are not always heard. Volunteers will be asked to help run consultation events and deliver leaflets and questionnaires.

A budget has been established and the committee has written to several people and local organisations to request funding and support. Feedback has been positive and County Councillor Rae Leighton has agreed to provide £750 from the locality budget. For further information, please contact Siobhann Quinn, 01502 478083
email: Siobhann2357@btinternet.com

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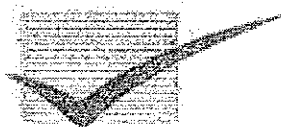
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BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

MARTIN SHAW (1875-1958)

Few of us dare claim an association between our house and all things bright and beautiful. Strictly speaking All Things Bright and Beautiful, because the composer of a tune for that much-loved hymn once lived in Blythburgh. Martin Shaw was a composer of church music – very English church music - as he reacted with passion against the assumption that only German music was worth listening to, and against the sentimentality of all things Victorian. He was born in London of a musical Yorkshire family. His first Suffolk connection came with marriage in 1916 to music teacher Joan Cobbold.

Shaw studied at the Royal College of Music among contemporaries such as Coleridge-Taylor, Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst and John Ireland. It was years later that he realised that it was there that he found his Englishness – rather ironically given the names of his fellow students. He was a Hampstead church organist from 1895 to 1903 but was something of a Chelsea bohemian. His early work was in the theatre, co-operating with Edward Craig - he first met him in Southwold - and conducting for the dancer Isadora Duncan on two European tours. He was attracted back to the organ loft in 1908 by Percy

Dearmer, vicar of St Mary's, Primrose Hill. That partnership was to produce two milestones of English congregational music: Songs of Praise (1925) and the Oxford Book of Carols (1928).

Military service in the First World War was curtailed by ill-health. His patriotism was expressed in campaigns against the performance of German music and he published Six Songs of War in 1914. A year later he arranged the traditional tune 'Royal Oak' for 'All things bright and beautiful'. His crusade against the domination of German music continued. He looked for his roots in English folk-song and the Elizabethans, in the company of Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst. Such sources were to inspire the two great publications of the 1920s.

Martin Shaw was a crusader for English music for more than 50 years. In 1936 he became diocesan music organiser in Chelmsford, retiring to Suffolk in 1946. He composed a cantata God's Grandeur for performance at the first Aldeburgh Festival in 1948. In 1955 his life-long friend Vaughan Williams joined him for a thanksgiving service in Southwold church. He died at his final home in Southwold three years later. And the Blythburgh connection? Farthings.

Alan Mackley

ROUNDUP

Construction will start next year on the district's first **wind farm** at Parham airfield after the developers were given the final go-ahead by Suffolk Coastal. Saxon Windpower say that the wind farm will generate enough energy to meet the average needs of around 3,000 homes, without producing the emissions that are blamed for global warming. The turbines will be just under 100 metres high to the tip but with shorter 26.5 metre long blades on a 73.25 metre high tower. These meet all the conditions originally imposed by Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Twenty-three **eco-friendly** Scandinavian-style holiday lodges are to be built in Darsham. The lodges will use state-of-the-art eco technology such as rainwater recycling, grey water flushing toilets and solar panels, natural materials such as sedum roofs and sheep wool insulation. Much of the existing planting will be kept, with the cabins sitting in small glades, surrounded by larger areas of managed woodland. The lodges will be situated east of the

A12 in Darsham. Access to the site will be via the existing petrol station, where a new internal access road will be built.

Life on the Broads, farming the land and people living and working in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lavenham and Southwold in the early 20th century are all brought to life in a series of DVDs, now available through all Suffolk libraries.

Age Concern Suffolk has just launched a monthly help desk at the Patrick Stead Hospital, Bungay Road, Halesworth on the first Wednesday of every month, from 9am to 12.30 pm.



OVERHEARD IN THE HART

"Training ... it's like teaching a mermaid to walk."

TURNING BACK THE FLOODS

The Environment Agency's continued refusal to make money available to protect the Blyth Valley from flooding has led to a flurry of public complaints and a number of initiatives.

One ray of hope came in November when the Government said there might be grants available to deal with flooding at the A12 in Blythburgh, which has resulted in the closing of the road. Transport Minister Rosie Winterton told the House of Commons that whilst her department was unable to fund any repair efforts but confirmed "schemes of this kind would be eligible for funding."

Waveney MP Bob Blizzard said: "The fact that we now have an assurance that flood mitigation work at Blythburgh would be eligible for funding is very encouraging news and I remain confident this work will be carried out in due course."

County Councillor Guy Macgregor, Suffolk's portfolio holder for roads and transport, was less enthusiastic: "It is very vague. We cannot spend a lot of money purely on the indication that something will be favourably received by the minister."

Suffolk County Council, Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council have joined to challenge the latest Environment Agency proposals for the Blyth Estuary. In its recently published Blyth Estuary strategy, the Environment Agency has said it will no longer fund local flood defences, leaving local communities to fend for themselves in the future.

Councillor Alan Mackley represented the Parish Council at the formal launch of SCAR (Suffolk Coast Against Retreat) at Winston Grange, John Gummer's house. SCAR was formed by Gummer some two years ago to bring together like-minded organisations and individuals from Southwold to Felixstowe with a common interest in maintaining protection of the Suffolk coastline for future generations.

SCAR believes that given the increasing threat to the coast and tidal rivers, and the totally inadequate level of finance available, it is time to expand the membership of SCAR to achieve greater public awareness. A wide range of organisations were represented, including Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils, Southwold Town Council, Walberswick Parish Council, the Suffolk Preservation

Trust, the Alde and Ore Association as well as individual landowners and others.

Councillor Mackley said: "There were some very angry people at the meeting. The Environment Agency was castigated as useless; planning for 100 years ahead was described as nonsense, and the current neglect of defences was described as criminal. There are aspects of SCAR's thinking that I have problems with. However, they are a vehicle for the encouragement of co-operation between coastal bodies and individuals and, subject to the precise proposals they make in their expected letter, they are an organisation to stay in touch with."

HOLY TRINITY NEEDS MAJOR REPAIRS

Inspections by the church architect have revealed that fairly major repairs are needed to Holy Trinity Church if the weather is to be kept out. The highest priority is the south aisle roof, which is leaking in a number of places and needs re-leading. This was last done in 1935 and as the expected life is 70 years it has lasted quite well, particularly as this side of the church suffers from the worst of the weather. This will be Phase I of the repair project.

The work is urgent and it is hoped that it will start early in 2008. It will cost nearly £200,000. Phase II will be re-pointing the walls which will cost at least £100,000. This means the church will have to find £300,000 over the course of the next few years, an enormous amount for a small community. There are a number of charitable trusts, which may make grants towards the work but a very substantial amount will have to be found by the church from individual supporters. We hope to hold a number of fund raising events during 2008 and that these will be well attended. The church now has a website where details of the appeal and events will be posted in due course: www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk

A general appeal for funds was launched at the beginning of November and already a number of people have very generously given their support. Anyone else wishing to do so should contact Dick Allen, Church Treasurer at Wolsey House, Chapel Road, telephone 478314.

CALLING ALL CAROL SINGERS

With Christmas coming up, there's lots happening at Holy Trinity. Come and join us to sing carols around the village on Thursday 20 December. Singers will meet at 5.45pm at Wolsey House, Chapel Rd, and sing for about an hour and a half before refreshments. Proceeds will be for St Mungo's, a charity helping the homeless. Please let Jenny Allen, 478314, know if you will be coming or you would like a visit.

Other Christmas activities are:

December

- Tues 11 Evening carols led by the Wenhaston Girls Choir
- Sat 22 Service of Lessons and Carols, 4pm
- Sun 23 Preparing for Christmas, 11am
- Mon 24 Crib Service, 3pm
- Mon 24 Midnight Eucharist, 11.30pm
- Tues 25 Family Service for Christmas Day, then Holy Communion, 11am
- Sun 30 Joint Service Reydon, 9.30am

January

- Sun 6 Epiphany Carol Service led by the Blythburgh Singers, 6pm
- The normal pattern of services resumes in January:
- 1st Sun 9.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
6pm Choral Evensong led by the Blythburgh Singers
- 2nd Sun 11am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
- 3rd Sun 9.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
6.00pm Short service of Compline (evening prayer)
- 4th Sun 11am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
- Said Holy Communion takes place every Tuesday at 10am.

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ENIGMA 21 ANSWERS

Across: 1, Pulchritude; 9, Rubicon; 10, rattle; 12, instant; 13, dancing; 14, syrup; 15, archangel; 17, Ruritania; 20, serum; 22, starlet; 24, uncover; 25, linear; 26, upset; 27, Westminster.

Down: 2, unclasp; 3, constrain; 4, rabid; 5, Titania; 6, delving; 7, Brains Trust; 8, abuser; 11, agglomerate; 16, crapulous; 18, realise; 19, tallest; 20, secrete; 21, revise; 23, tarsi.

NEW YEAR QUIZ

**Pit your brains against Blythburgh's finest in the Village Hall Fun Quiz,
7.30pm Friday 11 January, 2008**

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NOTES FROM DAISY BANK XXIX



Did you see Mr Grumpy on the television the other day, complaining again? Yes, folks it was me, *Disgruntled from Daisy Bank*, banging on again about the flooding, weeks before the most recent onslaught, which closed the A12 and threatened many of our homes. It appears that the open day put on by the Environment Agency at Walberswick and Reydon were a fait accompli. Take it or leave it.

The Blyth Estuary is going to radically change over the next 20 years and there's little or nothing we can do about it. From the map we were given showing the forecast of land under water, the area of tidal salt marsh flooding will double in size. Walls won't be repaired again so that when a breach occurs then that's it. Either get a boat or move.

While I am fairly sanguine about the loss of open marsh to the sea and I fully understand the policy of giving up land in order to save so called more important areas of East Anglia, I and the inhabitants of Daisy Bank are not prepared, as Derek, our neighbour puts it, to *watch the television in our wellie boots*. And citizens of Blythburgh, I remind you again you that if we go, then your sewerage system that runs along the back of our gardens will be compromised as well.

All we are asking for is that the old Southwold railway track, which is now a *permitted way* owned by Sir Charles Blois, be raised by no more than three feet and that the sewer manhole covers are bricked up to that level. I suspect that in 1929 when the railway closed that the level of the track was probably three feet higher than it is now anyway.

Of course if I were to sell my house, in which case, hell would have to freeze over before that ever happened, then I could market it as a waterside property. Perhaps a little jetty at the bottom of the garden, a medium size cruising yacht and a dredged channel to the breach in the river wall and the world is my oyster. In fact what am I moaning about? Bring it on!

I'm beginning to think that somebody is eventually going to accuse me of sign pollution. A sign in the car park, courtesy of the parochial church council, advertising my wares, two *Slow Please Cats Crossing* signs, two gallery signs and a brand-new *Thanks* sign.

The latter is to thank visitors and residents of Church Lane, alias Daisy Bank, driving slowly and carefully up and down it.

Our last remaining Siamese, Murphy, is now badly deaf and is therefore totally vulnerable to cars/vans that drive by. Isn't life strange? He was the one that used to cross over the A12 opposite the pub until I showed him a way under the bridge. Often he would be several days away, sometimes sleeping in Ken Hubbard's Duck shelter or in one of Bob Stringers old sheds on his field next to the church. He was by far the most venerable and yet the irony is that he is the great survivor.

And referring to my last DB complaining about the housing situation, great news. House prices are set to drop drastically. Forty percent has even been mooted. Sooner the better. Unfortunately my party have decided to close Post Offices all over this part of Suffolk and naturally enough, I am vehemently against that. It's just another nail in the countryside's coffin. I may be a member of the Labour Party but I don't have to agree with everything they do. I am and always have been a committed socialist. The reason I became a member was to try to influence in some small way what is being done by the champagne drinkers in Westminster. So watch out Gordon, *Disgruntled of Daisy Bank* is watching you.

For those of you who remember Oscar the pheasant, well he's still with us and being fed whenever he visits. He must have forgotten what a gunshot sounds like by now. Sadly Barnaby the cockerel has been semi banged up for his own good and even more sadly the goose with the lump on his head died peacefully in the night a few days ago. We both enjoy Derek and Lilly's chickens and geese and would miss them terribly if they weren't there. Little things like that make life all the richer and Blythburgh all the better to live in.

Paul Bennett

