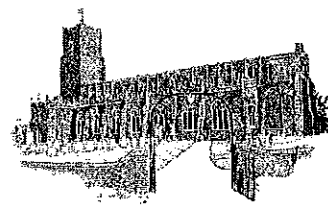


BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS

Issue 43

December 08/January 09



HATS OFF TO THE QUEEN OF SPEED

She's done it! After many months of saintly patience, negotiation and persuasion with sometimes reluctant partners, Parish Councillor Binny Lewis has finally put the Blythburgh Community Speed Campaigners on the A12. Five parishioners are now fully accredited in using the speed gun donated by Latitude, the annual music festival held in Henham Park. More volunteers are required and those interested should contact Councillor Lewis on 01502 478524. It is essential that more volunteers are found in order to maintain the momentum of the campaign.

At the last minute, the police announced that extra permission would have to be given for Blythburgh Speed Watch to operate on the A12. Councillor Lewis worked her magic and permission has now been given. The first patrol within the next week or so will be accompanied by Suffolk Police, who, after some initial reluctance, are now firm supporters of the Blythburgh initiative, the first to go live in Suffolk. They plan to arrange media coverage for the first outing and to use the Blythburgh scheme as a blueprint for any future Speedwatch campaigns in the county.

The volunteers will work in pairs recording the speed and the number of vehicles exceeding the limit will be noted and passed to the police. The patrols have to

take place in daylight. A letter of caution will be sent to the registered keeper of the vehicle warning of the dangers of excess speed. Repeat offenders could face prosecution.

The organisers of Latitude have asked Blythburgh Speedwatch to monitor the volume and speeds through the village during the peak period for Latitude traffic of 2pm to 6pm Thursday 16th July 2009.

Finances: The November meeting of the Parish Council

decided to hold its precept at the 2008 rate. There will, therefore, be no increase in the rates paid to the council. The council currently holds a total of £10,937.31 - £2,790.57 in the Community Account and £8,146.74 in the Savings Account. These figures do not include money held by the council for the Parish Plan.

It was also agreed to make donations of £50 to Macmillan Cancer Support and £25 to the Citizens Advice Bureau, both in Suffolk. The clerk to the council is to ask the CAB for details of opening hours and to let the council know how often parishioners had used its services.

Planning: Suffolk Coastal District Council has approved the erection of a one-and-a-half storey side extension at Dunwich Rd, Blythburgh, the erection of a single-storey garden room at the rear of the Old Ambulance House, Blyth View, Bulcamp, and alterations to The Green, Priory Road, Blythburgh. The Parish Council objected to the granting of a Lawful Development Certificate for the continuing use of land for a mobile home in association with pig and rabbit breeding business at Haw Wood Camp, Darsham Road, Hinton

David Tytler

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NEED A HELPING HAND

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust has now been set up and will offer grants for one-off expenditure to benefit full-time residents or families, who can show a need, which cannot be met from other sources. Grants will also be made to local organisations. Normally, grants will not exceed £200. Exceptional circumstances could result in a higher award. Only one payment a year will be made to any one applicant but, successful or not, all will be able to reapply the following year. The trustees are: Jenny Allen, chair, Lucy Clapham, Michael Nichols, David Tytler and Harry Waller. Full details: Page Seven

The next meeting of the
Parish Council is on
Monday 12th January
at 8pm in the Village Hall

*Everybody is welcome to attend and to raise their own
concerns and questions at the
Open Forum from 7.30pm*



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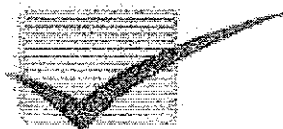
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DIG THIS! THE VILLAGE INVADED

Time Team rolled into town in October. Digging and lifting gear led a procession of 4x4s and trailers. There were some eighty people on site, served by portable loos and a diner. A helicopter (oh no, not another one) circled overhead. Archaeology Today! The more sensitive souls in the village might have thought 'Apocalypse Now!' It was all justified for the creation of 48 minutes of TV for Channel 4. But the sight of Tony Robinson (remember him as 'Baldrick?') scurrying around, and long-haired archaeologists in trenches, and even views of some local faces for the sake of entertainment, must not be allowed to detract from the fact that the holes dug in the back garden of The Priory were to investigate one of the most important historical sites in the county. A place associated with the very earliest days of Christianity in East Anglia.

A three-day dig is necessarily contrived and pressured. But it has to be done properly. You can't touch a scheduled archaeological site without permission and supervision, as the restorers of the village hall discovered a few years

ago. So English Heritage and the County Archaeological Unit had to be satisfied that the work would be carried out according to their professional guidelines.

The outcome of a Time Team dig is always unpredictable. Medieval tradition says that in 654 the bodies of Anglian King Anna and his son were brought to Blythburgh after defeat by pagan Mercian Penda. But dreams of finding a 'Tutankamen's Tomb' in the village were never likely to be realised. Nevertheless, 1,400 years of history were there to be unearthed, and the enigmatic ruin of what was once one of the richest churches in Suffolk waited to be investigated. Preliminary surveys with ground-penetrating radar suggested where to dig. But there were still disappointments. A modern cess-pit turned up. And the hoped-for line of a cloister wall turned out to be an old garden path. However, important discoveries were made in some twenty trenches. They will take months to interpret. Bones for example. Some buried with reverence, some tipped haphazardly into pits, and others with walls built on top of

them. Pottery, glass and metal: all will contribute to the final picture. Already, a church some 50 metres long with a central tower has emerged. Imagine what Blythburgh must have looked like with two large churches close together. And scatters of pottery from the seventh century onwards show where the Saxons settled from the top of the hill, down the slope towards the river. And at the highest point perhaps, a fortified site, putting the 'burgh' into Blythburgh.

The trenches were filled and the scars in the garden will heal. But the work will not be forgotten. Producing a TV programme was only one of the objectives. The results from the survey should help to fill gaps in knowledge not just about the Blythburgh site but more generally about the early Christian period in this country. A report will be written and a scholarly article published. Light will be thrown upon Blythburgh's earliest days and a basis for future management of this very important site will be established.

Alan Mackley

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

Henrietta Maslen 478551

Bookings: 07850 140581

Blythburgh Society

Chairman: Alan Mackley 478438

COUNCIL NEWS

A SAD FAREWELL TO THE TELEPHONE KIOSK

With some reluctance the council has decided to withdraw from BT's Adopt-a-Kiosk scheme for boxes taken out of use. Whilst it would only have cost £1 to register and an annual electricity bill of around £20, the council felt that the kiosk was not sufficiently central to the village for it to be retained. Whilst the council could have moved it to a more central position it was agreed that the cost would have been prohibitive.

Village Hall: The council is to provide a new notice board for the hall entrance and seek quotations for replacing the existing soak away. Any work that is carried out will have to be observed by an archaeologist. The hall management committee is to be asked to consider cleaning and re-hanging the curtains and to provide regular hall accounts to the council's finance sub-committee. The sub-committee also wants to introduce a long term maintenance programme for the hall. Councillor Ro Williams said that she was keen to encourage more parishioners to organise clubs and events that could use the hall.

Keeping Blythburgh clean: The council is to investigate who owns the various pieces of public green spaces around the village so that they can be kept in good order.

The play site: The clerk is to continue to monitor the play site in line with the recent Rospa report, which showed that there were no matters of serious concern. The catch on the gate is to be repaired and overhanging greenery cut back.

Electoral Register: The council felt unable to respond to Suffolk Coastal's request for information on the occupation of homes in the village. The council expects home owners to be honest about the number of people living with them.

David Tytler

THE PULLING POWER OF THE PARISH NEWS

The Blythburgh Village Hall Committee has a new secretary after looking for one for several months. Jenni McElroy responded to the advertisement in the last edition of the Parish News and her offer was warmly welcomed by Henrietta Maslen and the hall committee.

Paul Cook

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BLYTHBURGH VILLAGE SHOP

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
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Holiday Opening Times

Xmas Eve 7am to 6pm

Xmas Day Closed

Boxing Day 8am to 1pm

27th to 30th 8am to 5pm

New Year's Eve 8am to 5pm

New Year's Day 8am to 1pm

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PEAK TIMES ON THE A12

Having been at home for some months I have noticed the enormous amount of traffic using the Dunwich Road between 4.30 and 5 pm to gain access through the village to the A12 via The Street and Angel Lane. The same happens in reverse in the mornings. I am aware that a questionnaire has been circulated round the village on various topics including the traffic problem – the latter having been discussed repeatedly and at length as a number of Parish Council meetings.

I am also aware that the village is shortly to implement a voluntary scheme to monitor speeding traffic and notify the police.

Speeding is endemic in the populous and little can be done on a day-to-day basis to control it, especially as our county councillor has said there are insufficient funds to install a speed camera on the A12. However, this is only part of the picture. The speed and number of vehicles is, to be frank, quite frightening and an accident involving property or persons is ultimately inevitable. I don't want that to happen to anybody.

Whilst speeding may be endemic, e.g. 35 in a 30 mph area, the speeds here are clearly grossly excessive, especially given the roads involved i.e. cars turning into The Street from Dunwich Road at such a velocity and without due care and attention to anything coming in the opposite direction so that anyone exiting their drive or going into Dunwich Road would not stand a chance. There have been a number of near misses.

Though a solicitor, I am not expert in road traffic law but I believe that Section 59 of the Police Re-

form Act 2002 makes it an offence for a motor vehicle to be used in a manner which causes harassment, alarm and distress. Indeed, I understand that the Warwickshire police are using this power to control traffic problems. Section 59 (3) provides that if a person is warned, their details and those of the vehicle are recorded for future reference in case of a repetition when a prosecution may take place. The Multiple Traffic Offences Act 2005 would also seem to apply.

The difficulties for the police are witnesses and evidence before action can be taken and the constraints of limited manpower.

This is not nimby-ism. Whilst the problem may be nationwide, we have a situation, which will get worse as Sizewell building progresses. At a previous Parish Council meeting, the head of Sizewell said he wished to know of any traffic problems (as occurred during the original building). He promised to take appropriate action once notified.

I would suggest to him, the council and the police that if that gentleman meant what he said, he stand on the pavement at Dunwich Road/The Street/Angel Lane daily for a week between 8.30 and 9 am and 4.30 and 5pm to witness for himself. To be fair I would emphasise that the problem is not only Sizewell traffic.

I have tried to be constructive and positive and assist in a practical and workable solution acceptable to all but a solution nevertheless. What do others think?

David Watson

CHRISTMAS AT HOLY TRINITY

Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, invites parishioners to join them singing carols around the village on Wednesday 22nd December. Meet at Wolsey House, Chapel Rd, at 5.45pm and sing for about an hour with refreshments afterwards. Please let Jenny Allen know if you will be coming or if you would like a visit: 01502 478314. Other Christmas activities are:

Saturday 20th, 4.00pm, Service of Lessons and Carols; **Sunday 21st**, 9.30am; Advent Matins;

Wednesday 24th, 3.00pm, Crib Service, 11.30pm, Midnight Eucharist; **Thursday 25th**, 11.00am, Family Service for Christmas Day, followed by Holy Communion.

Details of services, appeals and events:
www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk

Mrs Clapham is on holiday

BLYTHBURGH LATITUDE TRUST

Need a helping hand?

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust offers grants for one-off expenditure to benefit full-time residents or families who can show a need, which cannot be met from other sources. Grants will also be made to local organisations, where a majority of members are also full-time residents of the village. Funds are provided by the sale of tickets to the Latitude Festival, thanks to the organisers.

Normally, grants will not exceed £200. Exceptional circumstances could result in a higher award. Applications for grants for children under 16 should be endorsed by parents or carers. Only one payment a year will be made to any one applicant but, successful or not, all will be able to reapply the following year.

For example, grants could be given to assist with:

- School uniform / equipment
- Musical instrument
- Sports' equipment
- Out-of-school activities
- Motability
- Increased security
- Respite care
- Start-up money for new societies in the village
- Development money for existing groups

All applications from individuals will be treated in absolute confidence. With agreement payments to groups may be announced.

The trust will normally consider applications every three-months but will also deal with any emergency needs.

The first applications should be sent to the honorary administrator, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road, (478 678) by January 31 2009. He will be happy to offer advice on how best to complete the application forms.

The trustees are: Jenny Allen, chair, Lucy Clapham, Michael
Nichols, David Tytler and Harry Waller

WORK STARTS ON THE RIVER BLYTH BANK REPAIR

After a long hard fight, work is starting on repairing the breach in Blythburgh's river wall. In order to allow access for vehicles to the site, a fair amount of foliage has to be cleared. This will only affect the footpath (the old railway line) between the recycling point and the beach below the church. There should be no permanent damage.

Andrew Blois, local landowner and member of the Blythburgh Estuary Group (BEG), explained the repair work and brought the village up-to-date on flood defence

work along the River Blyth. Immediately prior to the Parish Council meeting he explained that the BEG disagrees with the Environment Agency's strategy in taking no action to preserve flood defences on the River Blyth. The disagreement centres on the validity of the science, the costs involved and the methodology used in doing the cost/benefit analysis. He then went on to explain the arguments in detail.

The EA strategy concluded that to hold the line throughout the Blyth Estuary would cost £34 mil-

lion over the next 100 years. The BEG, however, estimates that the same results can be achieved for less than £1 million over the same period.

He said that the areas that breached last November had been allowed to drop 300mm below known storm surge heights. He said: "The problem is shoddy maintenance over the last 50 years, not increasing natural forces."

Mr Blois, who is organising the repair work in Blythburgh, said that all the necessary permissions had been granted. He was initially funding the project but would be grateful for a contribution from the community. A group of local residents is setting up a flood defence fund and it was made clear at the November meeting of the Parish Council that the council will look favourably on an application from such a body. The council cannot give grants to individuals. Mr Blois said that he would also be grateful if parishioners with specific skills volunteered their services for future repair work.

David Tytler



Wenhaston Pre-School

Wenhaston Pre-School welcomes children aged 2½ to rising 5 years. Located 3 minutes from the A12 in a purpose built facility within the Wenhaston Primary School, the Pre-School has use of the school's large outdoor play area. The Pre-School offers children a safe and exciting environment for fun, learning and development.

For further information, ☎ 01502 478819

BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

ERIC BLAIR (GEORGE ORWELL) 1903-1950

That George Orwell is a pseudonym is well known. The political writer and essayist concealed his real name, partly to avoid embarrassing his parents, partly as insurance against failure, and simply because he disliked the name Eric. He thought it sounded too much like a prig in a Victorian boys' story. What is less well known is that another pseudonym, Edward Burton, could have been chosen for his published writing.

Orwell's first published book was *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933). It was an account of his tramping days in England and the poverty he endured in Paris while struggling to write novels. He told his literary agent that he always used the name P. S. Burton when living among the poor and this, as well as Orwell, was an option for use in publication. More light is thrown on his choice of name in an account of a deliberately engineered arrest for drunkenness in east London in December 1931.

Orwell wrote: 'I told the story I always tell, viz. that my name was Edward Burton.' A biographer has speculated that this name is a reference to the British explorer who went native in order to reach the forbidden city of Mecca. A parallel, perhaps, with Eric Blair's immersion among the 'natives' to research his book on down and outs.

But there is a more likely explanation. Read on in Orwell's account. He continued: 'My parents kept a cake shop in Blythburgh where I had been employed as a clerk in a draper's shop; that I had had the sack for drunkenness and my parents, finally getting sick of my drunken habits, had turned me adrift.'

Remember that the Blair family had moved to Southwold in 1921 and my subject lived there with his parents at times in the 1920s and 30s. His novel *A Clergyman's Daughter* (1935) is set in a thinly disguised version of the town. He was familiar with Blythburgh and must have known that the Burton family kept a shop in The Street. James Burton ran a grocer's shop in the building now known as Little Thorbyns. He was also clerk to the parish council. So, how very close did Burton's store in Blythburgh come to being immortalised in connection with twentieth-century classics such as *1984* and *Animal Farm*!

It is tempting to wonder whether Mr Burton ever received a call from Bethnal Green police station: 'I'm sorry to trouble you sir, but I have a man here who claims to be your son.'

Alan Mackley

VILLAGE PLAN

It seems a long time ago that many of you completed those lengthy questionnaires for the parish plan, so we thought it was time to give an update on the progress so far. Over the last few months the information gathered from the questionnaires has been put into the Suffolk ACRE database and we are in the process of analysing the results.

We are aiming to bring the results of our initial analysis to the next Parish Council meeting in January and shortly after that we will have another village event when the full results will be available for viewing and discussion. We will also be making the prize draw, for those that completed their questionnaire slips.

This event is sure to be of great interest to everyone so keep a close eye on your letterbox and notice boards for more information.

Siobhann Quinn
Chair Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Plan
Steering Group



BLYTHBURGH
VILLAGE HALL

BLYTHBURGH'S NEW YEAR QUIZ

*Pit your brains against Blythburgh's finest
at the Village Hall Fun Quiz
7.30pm Friday 30 2008*

*Free refreshments, bring your own drinks
Raffle and bottles of wine for the winners*

Teams of up to four at £10 a table

To book your place ring 01502 478521

BLYTHBURGH SOAPBOX

I certainly agree and sympathise, as I know many other parishioners do, with Pamela Pringle's comments about having to endure a helicopter landing next door to her (*Blythburgh Parish News 42*). After all, there is a heliport only a few miles away. I wonder how many readers of the Parish News would like to be in her position? Another point, sadly, is that it could devalue the property.

Regarding Paul Bennett's remarks in an earlier edition of the *Parish News* about Blythburgh being on the map as celebrity: how can that be the case just because Prince Charles visited and a helicopter lands frequently. Surely it is much more important that neighbours care about each other's feelings and help when they are in need, as I know many do. They are they ones that make Blythburgh special to live in.

Beryl Stringer, The Street

I take Pamela Pringle's point re the celebrity helicopter landing in Angel Lane. Of course I don't live nearby and unlike me, she objects to the noise, which I fully understand. All I can say is that I would cheerfully exchange the continuous noise of motor-bikes from ten in the morning to three in the afternoon nearly every weekend throughout the year, for the occasional helicopter landing in my garden. At least it's over in a few minutes.

Of course I have a certain amount of sympathy for Pamela's objections but then how many people on her side of the village have over the years, had sympathy for my situation whether it be the proposed reinstatement of the Southwold Railway, the breach and consequent flooding on Appleton Marsh and the danger to properties in Church Lane and of course the motor bike noise?

Paul Bennett, Daisy Bank

The Trading Standards Office is warning people to be on the watch for this postal scam as Christmas approaches. A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911, a premium rate number. DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the call. If you do receive a card with these details contact Royal Mail Fraud on 0207 239655 or ICSTIS, the premium rate service regulator at www.icstis.org.uk

David Watson, The Street

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SERVING SOUTHWOLD & SURROUNDING AREAS

Does the Blythburgh Society have a future?

The society was founded in 1988 to encourage an interest in, and pursue the study of Blythburgh past, present and future, and to initiate publications and artistic activity based upon such themes and research.

Much of the society's activity has been in the local history field. It has never been short of ideas. Its public meetings have always been well attended; it has organised competitions, and its book 'The Poaching Priors of Blythburgh' has sold well.

But people willing to help run the society have always been thin on the ground. In recent years secretarial support has been patchy and the chairman and treasurer have been essentially caretakers, keeping the society active to receive questions about the village and its history, and to look after the income from the sale of books.

Now that the book stock is exhausted it is an appropriate moment to put the question: should the society be wound up and its assets distributed in accordance with its original aims, or should the society be re-launched?

Is there support in the village for a re-launched society?

Are there any potential officers out there?

A decision needs to be taken in early 2009

If you are interested in taking the society forward, please contact Alan Mackley (01502 478438) or Dick Allen (01502 478314)

NOTES FROM DAISY BANK XXXV

On a visit to the Henham Steam Rally recently, my partner and I took a helicopter trip over Blythburgh and were amazed and stunned by the sight of the Blyth Valley, the flooded marshes and the whole estuary towards Southwold. Those of you who saw that wonderful programme to celebrate Britten's *Serenade For Tenor and Horn* by the BBC Symphony Orchestra will remember how amazing it looked when filmed from a helicopter coming up the estuary towards Blythburgh. Like taking a boat up the river, you see the whole area in a new light and love it all the more. We are so lucky.

As I write this, we are having our kitchen done. If you live in a one up and one down, the kitchen is a second room and when all there is are two freestanding taps, a washing up bowl for a sink and no cooker, one longs for a return to normality. One plus point is that the trench that has appeared on the floor to take an alteration to the plumbing, has provided our Siamese cat Murphy with a convenient loo. So much nicer having a pee inside than having to go outside in the cold and wet of an October Indian Summer, ha ha.

I haven't told our friend Jim, the builder, and anyway he's now concreted over the trench and Murphy has returned to his normal arrangements, so best he doesn't know. Some time ago, he and his wife Delia were over for a visit. Getting up to leave and putting on his coat, which had been hanging on a chair, he was shocked to find that Murphy had blessed his pocket with a substantial amount of pee. I thought he took it very well! Thank God Jim is an animal lover.

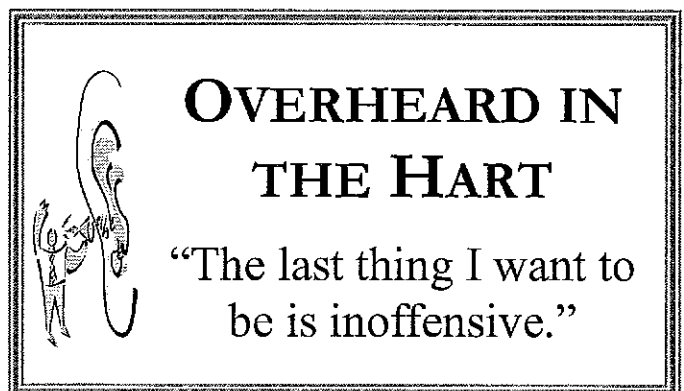
So with the wonderful steam rally, Latitude and the Southwold Theatre and then of course our usual clothes stall at the Green Peace do, its been a busy summer. The rain for the first was teetering on disaster but I'm afraid the Green Peace was not so lucky. This time we took a gazebo but unfortunately without the instructions or some-

body competent to put it up. Not a natural gazebo putter-upper, thank God for John and Mary Axon who live down in deepest Daisy Bank for helping me get it up before the rain came down in serious mode. All the Suffolk hippies still continue to come out of the woodwork, namely the Saints, to mix with the good old Suffolk boys and the incomers such as we. Oh to have roots and family in a place I love so much.

And then imagine my embarrassment when invited to Lucy and David's to celebrate Nigel's birthday after having broadcast to Blythburgh in the last Daisy Bank that I hate parties. My big mouth does sometimes get me into trouble.

Well known for my tongue in cheek prose, I now change into Mr Intensely Angry. Person or persons unknown have removed one of my two Slow Please Cats Crossing signs that have been outside Fern Cottage in Church Lane for several years. Had person or persons unknown, discussed with me their objections to the signs, I would of course have taken note and perhaps put them somewhere else or, possibly got rid of them altogether. I now suggest that persons or person unknown put two fifty-pound notes (the cost to me of manufacture and installation) into an envelope and pop it through my letterbox when I'm not there. I might be a little unreasonable were they to approach me now, having just discovered it's missing. I hope that sounds threatening enough.

Paul Bennett



**THE PARISH NEWS WISHES ITS READERS A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**