

BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS

Issue 44

February/March 09



VILLAGE SPEED WATCH GOES LIVE

Blythburgh's Community Speed Watch has finally been launched in a flurry of media interest as the first in Suffolk. The plan was suggested by long-term resident John Humphreys towards the end of 2006 after he had read of similar pilot schemes in other parts of the country.

Not all Blythburgh residents give the scheme their whole-hearted support as they fear that it could turn neighbour against neighbour. Parish Councillor Ro Williams, one of the volunteers, was keen to stress at the January meeting of the council, that the aim is not "to catch people speeding" but rather to slow the traffic down as it passes through the village on the A12. She was supported by Councillor Alan Mackley, who said the aim was to make the village a safer place in which to live. Nobody would be jumping out of bushes to catch unsuspecting drivers.

Drivers will be given plenty of notice that the scheme is in operation through advance warning signs at each end of the monitored zone. The Blythburgh team has been trained by Suffolk Police in the use of the speed gun, donated by Latitude, the music festival held annually on Henham Park. The team's yellow jackets have been donated by Sizewell and the Parish Council has paid for the road signs. The cost to the village has, therefore, been kept to a minimum.

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The volunteers work in pairs during the hours of daylight to verify and record the registration numbers of offending vehicles. Details are forwarded to Suffolk Police, who will issue a warning to the registered keeper. After two letters, details will be passed to a Speed Enforcement Officer with a view to targeted intervention or prosecution.

The Blythburgh scheme currently has five local volunteers, with Parish Councillor Binny Lewis as the scheme co-ordinator. At least one more volunteer is required. For further information, please contact Councillor Lewis on 01502 478624.

Bus shelters on the A12: Suffolk County Council officials have agreed that it would be possible to replace the shelters, with raised kerbing, at an estimated cost of £5,000 a shelter. The county does not have the budget to fund the entire cost and wants to know how much the council is prepared to contribute. Council clerk Jim Boggis is to ask the county how much they would be prepared to spend, treating the new shelter on the south side as the priority. County Councillor Rae Leighton indicated that he would be prepared to make a donation out of his locality budget.

David Tytler

NEED A HELPING HAND?

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust is ready to 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 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

More Parish News: Page 3.

Mrs Clapham is back – Page 6

The next meeting of the

Parish Council is on

Monday 9th March

at 7.45pm 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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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

BLYTHBURGH *VILLAGER OF THE YEAR*

The January meeting of the Parish Council agreed to accept the proposal from a parishioner that the council should nominate a *Villager of the Year* to residents who have made a particular contribution to village life. Nominations should be sent to the Parish Clerk, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road. The intention is to make the first award at the annual village meeting in May.

Planning: Approval has been given for alterations to the estate road at Blyth View, Bulcamp, in order to reduce the impact on the burial ground. An appeal against the rejection of a proposal to build two two-storey houses on land opposite Priory Lodge, Priory Road, has been rejected.

Village 'green' areas: The council gave further consideration to concerns raised by a parishioner with Councillor Lewis about the care of the various pieces of unused land around the village, which attracted litter and could be misused.

One of the difficulties was in establishing who owned the land. A search on one piece of land at a cost of £57.50 revealed only that

the ownership of the land was not registered. After further consideration, the council decided to take no further action immediately but to monitor the situation and where possible to clean up scruffy parcels of land in the next village litter pick.

Finance: There is £2478.21 in the Community Account with £8146.74 in the Savings Account. The estimated spending for the remainder of 2008/2009 is £3,476.97. The council has already decided not to increase the parish precept for 2009/2010.

Suffolk Coastal District Council is hoping to keep its Council Tax increase in April to only three per cent or just eight pence a week on the average Band D bill. The Government appears set to confirm that the council will only get an increase of 1.96 per cent in its grant, which means that it will receive only £8.1 million towards the cost of local services, a rise of £156,000. The collapse in the housing market will see the council's expected earnings fall by £330,000 next year, while the fall in interest rates will re-

duce the council's income by an estimated £350,000 in 2009/2010.

To help keep its costs down, most services will have to find more savings and most of the council's charges, including its car parks, will be frozen. The proposed net budget for 2009-10 is £15,580,000, up by 4.3 per cent from this year's £14,929,000, with the current draft proposals seeing £7.1 million of that funding raised from the Council Tax.

The results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire will be available for scrutiny and analysis in the Village Hall on Saturday 28 March. This will be a drop in event and refreshments will be provided free of charge. The first steps to creating the village action plan will be taken at this event and so comments and suggestions from parishioners will be an integral part of the process. The Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Plan Steering Group is anxious that as many residents as possible attend.

David Tytler

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS IN PLACE

Suffolk Police have introduced a system of Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) following a review of police effectiveness. All teams have a dedicated sergeant and are made up of police officers, community support officers and special constables, working alongside council staff and community partners.

The Saxmundham & Framlingham SNT is Sergeant Daye Goddard, PC Kevin Stollery, based in Saxmundham, and PCSO Jamie Newson covering Blythburgh in co-ordination with PC Stollery. They can be contacted on tel. 01473 613500, saxfram.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Crimes to look out for this month: heating oil, red diesel and metal thefts are still occurring. If you see any suspicious activity around residential premises, farms, building sites, and schools immediately report it to the police by telephoning 01473 613500 or using the 999 service.

Charity or private enterprise?

Many people find donating old clothes and goods to charities a good method of clearing out their cupboards. Charities often use doorstep collections to gather donations directly from people's homes. Some of these collections, however, may not be as charitable as they appear.

The vast majority of leaflets distributed to households are from genuine registered charities such as Clothes

Aid, which is a registered charity collecting clothes on behalf of various UK groups. Clothes Aid collectors always carry identification, drive vans marked with their logo, and usually the partner charity logo.

Some flyers received from other companies give the misleading impression that the items are being collected for charitable purposes. In reality they may be collected by commercial operators who sell donated items for profit. This misleading impression is in some instances reinforced by a reference to a registration number, which people may think is that of a charity, but is in fact a limited company number.

If in doubt, contact the charity commission help line 0870 333 0123, local authority licensing department, or local trading standards. The law requires that bona fide charity collectors carry identity cards. You can also check the legitimacy of a company by visiting Companies House website which is www.companieshouse.gov.uk.

Donation bags should state the charity's name and registered charity number, the authorised collectors agent's name, address and telephone number, along with a financial statement indicating what proceeds the charity will receive. Legitimate collectors should carry identification.

Robert Benson

Blythburgh Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator

Paul Cook

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MRS CLAPHAM INVESTIGATES: THE HOME OFFICE



Thank you to the kind people who asked if I'd had a lovely break, following the statement in the last Parish News that *Mrs Clapham is on holiday*. Were we basking on some sun-drenched foreign shore, zooming down a sparkling Austrian ski-slope or doing a spot of Christmas shopping in New York?

Well, no, we were actually spending a long (very wet) weekend in Wiltshire with some old chums - highly enjoyable, but not exactly tan-topping-up stuff. Still, it's good to know the *Parish News* Editor has a sense of humour - of sorts.

Anybody who is self-employed will know how difficult it is to take time off work to enjoy a decent holiday - no work, no pay. Add to that an artistic bent and you'll know how difficult it is to take *any* kind of holiday.

We're all so rubbish with money. I've yet to meet an artist, writer, performer etc. who can say with pride: "Accounts? Just love 'em!" Your average arty type displays about as much talent for book-keeping as your average haddock displays at knitting bobble hats.

So we are destined to spend a good deal of time in our own homes, while others sensibly save - or trust themselves with credit cards - and go swanning off to foreign parts at the drop of a chapeau or fez. Some of them, I gather use their pensions, whatever they may be.

I'm not complaining, no, honestly.

Suffolk on a beautiful day is as good if not a better place to be than anywhere else on earth - and when the sun blazes down out of a cloudless sky...

However delightful your surroundings and gor-

geous your other half, it's still possible to suffer from cabin fever when your daily routine is kitchen, studio, kitchen, studio, kitchen, sleep, kitchen...

I'll bet even Angelina Jolie gets a bit weary of the same old routine, washing nappies and staring at Brad Pitt day in, day out. And spare a thought for poor Victoria Beckham, nothing but pout, pout, discuss the meaning of life with Becks and, er, pout.

I've always hated routine. You don't need a routine to work from home, do you? Hah!

Well, it is possible to stay in bed all morning, read the papers, watch telly, think about work, have a long bath, sharpen some pencils, phone a friend, do your nails then go out for the evening.

This technique is just fine (apart from the boredom) as long as you don't have to deal with anything as basic as paying the bills.

Being, now, a little older and a lot wiser, I've had to accept the routine everybody else goes along with and work five, six or seven days a week. But at least it's me telling me what to do.

Self-discipline is all (all!) you need. And other people being aware that you are actually working, not just lounging around, biscuit-dunking and reading *Hello* magazine. Delivery drivers, meter readers, chatty holiday-makers will all make a bee-line for you if you poke your head above the easel, not to mention the mobile which only stops going hell-for-leather: "if you're at home, could you possibly...?"

You'll have to excuse me, I must get back to chewing the end of my paintbrush.



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.

Applications should be sent to the honorary administrator, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road (478 687). 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



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*

WELCOME MR PRESIDENT



The *Blythburgh Parish News* is happy to publish this caricature by Blythburgh artist Lucy Clapham of Barack Obama, America's new president, as he settles into the Oval Office at the White House after a welter of praise across the world. The son of a black father and white mother, his inauguration was an historic day, heralding a new and perhaps more hopeful future.

The first African American to be elected President, a headline in *The Times* proclaimed: "Americans of all colour get the real feel for national celebration" He in turn told America: "We have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord."

The drawing of President Obama will be in Lucy's next book in the *People of the Day* series, which contains potted biographies and caricatures of leading people in the 21st century.

Lucy has contributed nearly 150 caricatures in the books. They include Freddie Flintoff, Bruce Forsyth, Bob Geldof, Barry Humphries, Boris Johnson, Michael Palin, Luciano Pavarotti, Alan Sugar and Gordon Ramsey.

All the proceeds go to the Cystic Fibrosis Charity, a cruel disease Lucy's cousin died from two years ago. All the information can be found on the website, peopleoftheday.com The books are also available at Amazon.com and from Waterstones, W.H. Smiths and Tesco.

BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

AUDREY MALLAN (D.1994)

The East India Association and the Royal Central Asian Society had reasons to be pleased with their joint meeting at the Caxton Hall, London, in March 1940. The hall was full and Brigadier Sir Percy Sykes's lecture *Afghanistan: the Present Position* was well received. Sir Michael O'Dwyer, a former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, made a witty speech from the chair. Other speeches followed and a vote of thanks was proposed. Then shots rang out. Sir Michael fell dead. The Secretary of State for India, Lord Zetland, and two senior Indian administrators were also hit. The gunman, an Indian-independence zealot, was overpowered and arrested.

One of the speakers at that meeting was Audrey Malan. She was better known to the public as intrepid traveller Audrey Harris, author of *Eastern Visas* published in 1939. The book described her journey in 1935-36 to the Far East and back. This captured the imagination of the correspondent for *The Times*. A despatch from Simla in August 1936, headed 'English Girl's Travels. India via Manchukuo and Tibet' is typical.

The story reported: "Miss Audrey Harris, a young English girl now staying at Viceregal Lodge, has just completed an adventurous journey, travelling alone from London across Siberia, to Manchukuo, Korea, Japan, and the Dutch East Indies, and thence to India by way of Khatmandu, in Nepal, and Yatung, in Tibet. After a stay in Simla she plans to return to London via Afghanistan, Persia, and the Caucasus.

"Miss Harris travelled 'hard' across Siberia to Manchukuo and Korea, and then down into Peking. The British authorities tried to dissuade her from going on to Jehol, but she was helped by the Japanese and travelled there in an omnibus filled with Japanese soldiers." Truly a roll-call of today's trouble-spots.

Audrey Harris had married Edward Malan just two months before that fateful London event. Her life as wife of a Harrow School housemaster was to be very different from her eastern adventure, but the enduring contact she maintained with former pupil, King Hussein of Jordan, is evidence that an exotic element survived.

Blythburgh remembers Edward and Audrey Malan in their retirement living at The Green, Edward dying in 1980 and Audrey in 1994. Audrey was concerned about what she described as the 'deterioration of the village'. There were not enough people to run things, arising from the general ageing of the inhabitants, the growth of holiday homes and the isolation, as she saw it, of the Highfield Estate. There was a melancholy list of lost institutions such as the school, reading room, choir and football team. She worked hard to counter such decline. There is a physical reminder of Audrey Malan in the Lombardic lettering on the outside of the east wall of Blythburgh church, an inscription restored at her expense in memory of Edward Malan, and interpreted as: *To the honour of Blessed Jesus, the Holy Trinity, Mary and St Anne, this chancel has been rebuilt.*

Alan Mackley

BLYTHBURGH'S NEW YEAR QUIZ

***Pit your brains against Blythburgh's finest
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7.30pm on Friday 30th January***



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BLYTHBURGH NEWS & VIEWS

POST BOX

CARING FOR THE VILLAGE

I was sad to read (*Parish News December/January*) that Beryl Stringer thinks that I don't care for my fellow villagers, because I do. Eleven years on the Parish Council and still on the Village Hall Committee, surely means that I do care. And as far as the helicopter saga is concerned, perhaps if people can sit down and talk to each other with some give and take on either side, things could be resolved amicably. The mafia call it accommodation. Confrontation never ever works and bitterness just wears you out, as I of all people should know.

On the other hand the village is to be congratulated on its pre-Christmas Village Tea. A reluctant attendee, I was heartened by the attendance and the conviviality; the organisers deserve a pat on the back.

Paul Bennett, Church Lane

THE BLYTHBURGH SOCIETY

In the absence of any concrete offers of support to keep the society going the committee of the Blythburgh Society has decided to put it into suspension. The society will make grants of £500 each to the church restoration fund and the Suffolk Records Society. The latter grant will be tied to the provision of additional illustrations in a volume about Blythburgh church that is being prepared for publication by that society. £2,000 will be granted to the Blythburgh Latitude Trust for disbursement according to its rules.

To aid the possible relaunch of the Blythburgh Society, or the formation of another society with similar aims, the committee will put aside the balance of its funds, expected to be about £550, as pump-priming money. If a credible request for this fund has not been received by the end of 2013 the money would revert to the Blythburgh Latitude Trust.

THE PRIORY REVEALED

The *Time Team* programme on its archaeological dig in the grounds of The Priory in Blythburgh will be shown on Channel 4 on March 29 at 7.30pm. Entitled *Skeletons in the Shed*, the hour-long programme features Nick and Susan Haward, owners of The Priory, local historian Alan Mackley and the White Hart. It promises to add considerably to knowledge of Blythburgh and its role in the early Christian Church in East Anglia.

TACKLING CRIME IN THE VILLAGE

There have been 16 crimes in Blythburgh from 1st April 2008 to the 1st January 2009. Eleven of these crimes remain undetected. The detected crimes were: one criminal damage; one dangerous driving; one aggravated taking of a motor vehicle; one minor wounding with intent; and one assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

The unsolved crimes are: two burglaries from buildings; one accosting; three thefts; two thefts from motor vehicles; two crimes involving motor vehicles; and one burglary from a dwelling. In addition there were also 11 crimes, mainly theft, at the Latitude Festival, which did not involve the village.

The mobile police station will continue to visit Blythburgh village and stops in the lay-by in Dunwich Road, just down from the A12. It visits about once every three weeks. The next visits to Blythburgh are Tuesday January 27 and Friday February 13.

Exact times can be found on the Suffolk Constabulary website.

OVERHEARD IN THE HART

"He was really good on the bed and then we went onto the carpet."



SOAPBOX

BEWARE OF BOYRACERS

Having lusted since I was 19 for a Mercedes sports car I finally bought one as my present to me for my 59th birthday. It's brill. David and I did a grand tour of Europe in it 15 months ago. We didn't bother with suitcases but packed the boot and went into posh hotels with Asda or Lidle carrier bags encompassing our essential clean clothes and washing equipment.

BAG LADY



My top speed on the tour was 120mph on German autobahns and Italian autostradas. Perfect roads for such speeds. Not a pedestrian in sight and no Sunday drivers.

Such speeds in those circumstances are ok. But then there are Eng-



lish roads and what might seem to be fast roads but which go through residential areas.

As a girl racer in a fast car, I know how hard it is to comply with speed limits that suddenly go from 60 to 30. But then you never know what's round the corner. Blythburgh is a prime example.

Being individuals committed to supporting local businesses, nightly we cross the road to ensure our local hostelry survives. Understand, it's not that we like pubs or want a drink; it is pure altruism that takes us to the White Hart on such a regular basis.

Then I broke my ankle – on my way to the local we frequent in London. Back in

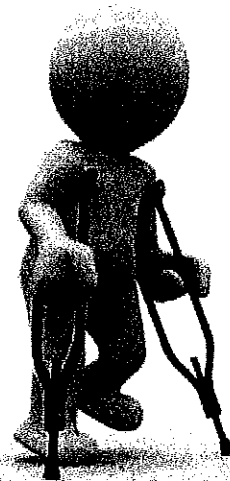


Blythburgh, what a revelation. Apart from the usual behaviour of people asking David "does she take sugar" there was the failure to see me at all. Given David's wheel chair driving skills (I was left wondering every evening whether I would make it to the pub still in the wheel chair as he negotiated the final bit of our front path which sloped at a frightening incline and then he had to do a 90 degree left turn without tipping me out) there was the A12 to cross.

Some drivers were wonderful and stopped to allow us to cross without fear, flashing their lights at oncoming cars to warn them – possibly more that I might attack if assaulted by a speeding 2CV than that they might hurt me: I'm no wimp.

Then there are the drivers who believe that country roads and particulary tiny lanes are there for them to show off. Zoom, they go without thinking of the impact their noise and speed has on pedestrians in unlit streets. Going to dinner at friends was sometimes terrifying as drivers turned into Blythburgh's tiny streets but behaved as if they were on Germany's autobahns or at worst. Britian's A roads instead of the C or D roads (do they exist) which they were.

Binny Lewis may be annoying some with her determination to fight the speed kings and queens on our bit of the A12 but to me, she's a star. Still hobbling a bit from my broken ankle, I can get across the road and I can walk up the side streets but I don't want or need to be terrified by show-offs who don't know when or where they should use the power of theirs cars.



Olive Forsythe

NOTES FROM DAISY BANK XXXV

Because of the delay in writing this and the *Blythburgh Parish News* being published, I am typing this around the middle of November after all the media interest and comment about the First World War, it being 90 years since the armistice.

Even if the number of people affected by the loss of life in the second war was quite small, most people have relatives who died in the first. At the top of my stairs in a sort of picture gallery of happy times, there is a photograph of my Great Uncle Tiny who was killed in that war. And apart from the fact that he was my paternal Grandfather's brother, I know nothing else about him. I suspect that Tiny was a family name so I would say it would be almost impossible to find how and where he died and is buried. And now there is nobody alive to ask anymore. I keep a poppy behind his picture so at least there is somebody in his family who remembers him.

In Wangford churchyard, on visits first to my mother's grave and then subsequently to Dad's, I was always aware of a military gravestone next to the path. A coal trimmer on a minesweeper, he had been killed in the first war. And as an ex mariner myself, that little headstone for me, was all the more poignant. For those of you who don't know, on a steam ship a coal trimmer keeps the bunker of coal level so that the ship doesn't become unstable, list and possibly sink.

Years ago, I wrote the following about the coal trimmer and his sad death. Maybe in real life, he was a farmer?

Suffolk Farmer

In this churchyard I lie dead

Suffolk Farmer born and bred,

A favourite son of village life

Seven children and a sorrowing wife.

Killed in action on the water deep

In my bunk and fast asleep,

Bones brought home and buried here

A churchyard for my thirtieth year.

Now friends are gone and I'm alone

Names forgotten and weeds have grown

None remember my short life

Seven children and a sorrowing wife.

So when you pass my gravestone by

And see the place where I do lie,

Spare a thought for this farming man

And say a prayer if you possibly can.

My Grandfather, whom I loved dearly, never talked about his experiences in the war and I didn't find out until long after his death that he had been captured early on and spent several years as a POW in Germany. When he came back he joined the railways and finished up as one of the guards on the Flying Scotsman. You can imagine how many points I scored at school on those sorts of stories. His wife died in a mental hospital – the family talked about her going mad but she was obviously suffering from Alzheimer's. After a short period living with us, which for me was bonus time, he went to live with a 'woman'!

In those days 'living in sin' was one degree away from a capital offence in my part of North London. And somehow the little boy that I was, who had adored his Grandfather, was made to believe that in reality he was the devil's disciple at the very least. I was never allowed to see or have contact with him again. How sad is that, especially as it appears that I have followed in his footsteps having never been married myself.

Paul Bennett

