

BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS



Issue 59

www.onesuffolk.co.uk/blythburghPC

July/August 2011

Adnams confident shop will stay

Teresa Holman, Tenanted Estates Manger of Adnams, told a meeting of around 35 parishioners on Monday that the company was confident that the village shop would remain open when the current tenant leaves in September.

The company has interviewed three applicants and expects to make an announcement in the next few days. It is not clear whether the Post Office

will remain. One possibility is a travelling post office.

The White Hart was first to join Prince Charles' Pub is the Hub scheme and he and the Duchess of Cornwall visited the shop in September 2008.

An ad hoc team of villagers considered the possibility of running the shop as a community enterprise. But while all respondents to the flyer seeking parishioners wanted the shop to stay

open, very few volunteered to work in the shop on a regular basis.

David Tytler, parish council chair, said: "Whilst there is a clear wish in the parish for the shop to stay it seems that a community enterprise is simply not viable here. I am delighted, however, that Adnams seems to be on the brink of announcing plans for the shop to continue as a commercial venture."

An open invitation to celebrate village life

Celebrating Blythburgh is back on Sunday July 31, following its successful launch last year. The day will start with an open air service in the Priory ruins at 10.30am, led by the Rev. Malcolm Doney with a little help from his friends.

Events are free and will be held throughout the day from 10.30 to 5.00pm in the Priory Gardens, Village Hall, Holy Trinity and on the River Blyth. A detailed programme can be found

on the village website. The BBQ is free to parishioners on presentation of the voucher, which can be found on Page 11. It should be cut and handed over at the BBQ. Seconds have to be paid for!

Celebrating Blythburgh is supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust and Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council. Everybody is welcome, so please be there.

The play site...nearly there

It has taken a long time but at last the new Parish Council play site in Highfield is almost complete. The last piece of equipment is on its way from France and the old swings are waiting an overhaul and repaint. The £15,000 project has been financed with grants from the Big Lottery Fund (£10,000) Suffolk Coastal (£2,383) the Blythburgh Latitude Trust (£2,000) and Suffolk County Council's Locality Budget (£800). The work was carried out by Adventure Playgrounds Ltd of Norfolk after three tenders were considered and the plans were amended by a group of Highfield residents. A formal opening is planned for later in the year, to which everybody living in the parish will be invited.

Latitude 2011 – details on Page 3

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Getting in and out of Latitude

Weekend ticket holders can go on to the site on Thursday, although there is a reduced programme. Blythburgh residents will be required to show photo ID when they first exchange their tickets for wristbands. The check is likely to be rigorous.

Weekend or family tickets: Residents arriving by car should drive to the weekend car parks, either Green Gate on the A145 or Red Gate 2 on the A12 or Red Gate 3 on Middle Barn Lane. They should park where directed by traffic marshals and then make their way by foot to Stables Gate.

Residents arriving by bus will be taken to the onsite bus station at The Stables from where they should walk to Stables Gate. Cyclists should enter via Green Gate on the A145 where they will find a bike rack inside the car park. They should then make their way on foot to Stables Gate. Residents arriving by taxi or being dropped off should follow the traffic signs for drop off via Red Gate 1 on the A12. Having arrived at the on site drop off, they should then walk to Stables Gate.

Once inside Stables Gate, residents will need to swap their weekend ticket for a wristband after having their photo ID checked. Once they have their wristbands, residents can come and go as

they like 24 hours a day all weekend. They should leave either via Stables Gates or any of the campsite gates in the car parks. Weekend visitors cannot use the Memorial Gate, which is reserved for families.

Some golf buggy shuttles will run to Stables Gate but demand for these is likely to be high.

Residents with weekend tickets who plan to visit on a daily basis should swap their tickets for wristbands as explained above. They can then return to their cars and drive to the day entrance on the B1123.

Day tickets: Residents can swap their day ticket for a day wristband at the day arena entrance. Cyclists should enter the day car park via the day gate where they can lock their bike to the fencing provided. Day ticket holders arriving by bus will be taken to The Stables where they should board an internal shuttle to take them to the day entrance. The gate will be available Friday to Sunday for entry from 9am to midnight and for exit until 3am.

Residents should not approach the site by foot as this is not considered safe.

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust wishes all festival goers a great weekend.

Take the bus from Blythburgh to the festival

Friday July 15 to Sunday July 17 2011

Latitude Bus Station 0900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1900 2000

Blythburgh, Angel Lane 0935 1035 1135 1235 1335 1435 1535 1635 1935 2035

Latitude Bus Station 0945 1045 1145 1245 1345 1445 1545 1645 1945 2045

Latitude Bus Station 2310 2350 0030

Blythburgh, Angel Lane *R *R *R **Single: £2.50/Return £4. * Request stop**

Apply to the Blythburgh Latitude Trust for a grant now

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust makes grants to meet specific needs to individuals and families living in the parish. It will also give grants to groups to support projects to improve the quality of life in the Parish of Blythburgh, Hinton and Bulcamp. If you have a need, contact the honorary administrator, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road (478 687). All applications will be treated in complete confidence. Normally grants will not exceed £200. Exceptional circumstances could result in higher awards. Parents or carers must endorse applications for children under 16. Apply now.

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BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyle (1848-1939)

Blythburgh church's 1905 Restoration Committee was very well connected. It included three Royal Academicians and the director of the Victoria and Albert museum. At its head was Louise, the sixth of Queen Victoria's nine children. She was no ordinary princess. Regarded as the most beautiful of the royal daughters, she was intelligent, a very talented sculptor and artist, a feminist and politically progressive.

In her early years Louise was frustrated by court restraints but in 1871 she was the first royal princess since 1515 to marry a subject, albeit the high-status Marquis of Lorne, later Duke of Argyll. The marriage was hailed by the press as striking a 'democratic' note. From 1878 to 1883 Princess Louise was Lorne's consort as governor-general of Canada. After her return to Britain she became increasingly involved with the art world, with avant-garde tastes, exhibiting at the Royal Academy for example.

The princess's beauty, flirtatiousness and unconventionality, and doubts about the happiness of her marriage, led to much speculation about amorous liaisons. Courtiers, artists and her equerry, Colonel William Probert, were among the names mentioned. But Louise's biographer found no substantial evidence to support the allegations. However, Colonel, then Captain Probert, features in the link between Princess Louise and Blythburgh.

The princess was no mere figurehead for the

causes she supported. She was the founder president of the Women's Educational Union, helped launch the Girls' Public Day School Company, and was an active president for the infant National Trust. I don't know whether the princess ever visited Blythburgh. She was certainly at Cockfield Hall, Yoxford in August 1905 for an art exhibition and fancy fair which hoped to raise £3000 for the church. One of her sketches was first prize in a draw – tickets 10/6 each, ahead of contributions from no fewer than six eminent artists, for whose sketches ticket prices were lower at 5/-. I wonder where the princess's sketch is now?

The event was seen by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings as an opportunity to lobby the princess to ensure that the church was repaired in accordance with its principles and not over-restored by the local building committee. The society pressed the princess's equerry, Captain Probert, and he promised to 'put in a word' although he could not promise that the princess would direct the building committee in the path desired by the SPAB.

That lobbying was not successful because just over a year later the SPAB reluctantly disassociated itself from the work being done at Blythburgh. Had the royal connection worked well for Blythburgh? Contemporaries were in two minds about that.

Alan Mackley

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: David Tytler, 478521

Vice Chair/Chair planning advisory group: Alan Mackley

Chair financial advisory group: Roderick Orr-Ewing

**Councillors: John Blakesley, Lucy Clapham, Alan DeThabrew
Cliff Waller,**

Clerk: Jim Boggis. 478687

BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

Carpet Bowls: Beryl Stringer

**Horticultural Society
Jenny Allen 478314**

**Neighbourhood Watch
Rob Benson 478047**

Speed Watch: Binny Lewis 478624

Village Hall: Olive Forsythe 478521

Flying straight into the heart of Africa

When the Archbishop of Canterbury clambered out of the tiny Cessna 260 on the runway at Bunia airport in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Mothers' Union choir launched into song, scores of children waved, the British Ambassador took his place, and a panoply of Congolese bishops shuffled into line. For the second time.

Minutes before, a grander aircraft had touched down, and everybody assumed that Rowan Williams was on that.

There were shades of Palm Sunday – if there was an aeronautical equivalent to entering on a donkey, this single prop plane was it. I was on that plane with the Archbishop at the end of June as I was covering his visit for the *Church Times*.

The Archbishop doesn't really do grand – he's a bit embarrassed and occasionally amused by being feted. He travels in a grey clerical shirts and a black suit – well a black jacket and trousers that nearly match. He says: "I feel a bit of a fraud looking too much like a sort of imperial legate".

He consoles himself by believing that it's not him who is the centre of all this attention but a "global symbol of the global Christian family". I found another story – I saw a great deal of personal affection for a humble man, who genuinely held the troubles of the people of Congo in his heart.

He was visiting the country to "express some kind of solidarity." The DRC has a deeply scarred history, with brutal and incompetent government, and a savage civil war in which Congolese people slaughtered one another in the name of politics, nation, ethnicity, or simply for profit. An unspeakably horrific element of the conflict has been the use of rape as a weapon of war by combatants of all sides.



We were visiting the diocese of Boga in beautiful north-east Congo, where the country's Anglican Church was founded in 1896, by Apolo Kivebulaya. The war in this region took the form of conflict between the Hema and Lendu tribes.

The Church has been doing heroic work in reconciliation and rehabilitation of former combatants - many of them school children - and tribal groups, and in working with women who have been the victims of sexual violence, and who, bewilderingly, have found themselves shunned by their families despite having done nothing wrong.

Rowan Williams was most himself when sitting with a group of ostracised women, with a group of pygmies - they call themselves citizens - who had been displaced from their forest homes by the fighting. Or when leaning forward to impress the head of the UN mission that there was work here that deserved help and resources.

He wasn't there to 'fix' Congo, but he did give the people there a confidence that they were being taken seriously by someone who could give voice to their plight. So the farewell was, if anything, warmer than the welcome.

Malcolm Doney

Please come to the next meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm on Monday 12 September. Open Forum at 7.15. Please be there. The council would love to see you.

Enjoy the nature on your doorstep

Now is a great time to get outside and explore. Blythburgh is surrounded by natural beauty and gems to discover, including three National Nature Reserves (NNRs). The most obvious is the Suffolk Coast NNR where you can enjoy the estuary and its wildlife at Blythburgh or heathland, woodland, shingle beach and vast reed bed at Walberswick, an internationally important nature reserve.

Natural England also manages Benacre and Westleton Heath NNRs. Enjoy a walk along the beach between Kessingland and Covehithe to see summer visitors such as little terns and sand martins, or take an evening stroll on Westleton Heath to be in with a chance of hearing *churring* nightjars or spot a dartford warbler flit across the heath. The reserves are also home to an array of plant life, mammals and insects too and are perfect places just to get away from it all.

Events are running throughout July and August, starting with Celebrating Blythburgh on July 31 where Natural England will be running boat trips on the Blyth and wildlife art and craft in the Priory garden. To pre book your boat trip call Adam Burrows on 07970 463826

Other dates: Thursday August 4, Marine Day on the village green in Walberswick, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm. Monthly Health Walk is led by Reserve Manager Will Russell, on Wednesdays at 10am: July 1 and September 14 at Walberswick and August 10 at Westleton Heath. Please contact Will on 07876 796143 or Stepping Out in Suffolk for further information.

For further information go to www.naturalengland.org.uk/NNR or ring Carrie Bewick 07717 426534 or email carrie.bewick@naturalengland.org.uk

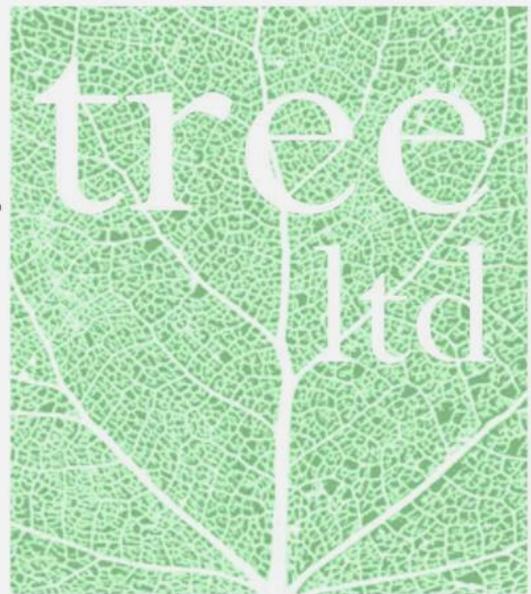
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Repairs, celebrations and a new face

In November 2007, Holy Trinity launched a major repairs appeal to carry out urgent work on the fabric of the church. The main task was to re-roof the south aisle where water was coming in. Re-pointing of the flintwork high up on the walls, particularly at the east end, was needed together with conservation or replacement of some eroding stonework as well as numerous minor works.

It was estimated that the work could cost between £250,000 and £300,000 but until the roof was removed it was not possible to see the state of the beams and how much remedial work would be necessary. In the event, the beams were in a much better state than could have been hoped.

An appeal was launched and the resulting contributions were many and varied. Some gave of their talents, for example through concerts given by Valerie Walker and friends, the Blythburgh Singers, Amici and others. Some rode their bikes in the annual sponsored bike ride organised by the Historic Churches Trust, or donated the collections at Christenings, weddings and funerals.

Trusts and other organisations provided grants; some gave in kind, for example, the publicity pop-up banners and the churchyard step repairs. But a very substantial proportion of the funds were provided by individual donations great and small. For example, no fewer than 2,400 envelopes were filled, raising £37,000 including gift aid.

Having raised more than £210,000 by the end of April it was possible to close the appeal: a celebration service of choral evensong, led by

the Bishop of Dunwich was held on 19 June, Trinity Sunday, our patronal festival. The Bishop said how much Holy Trinity is appreciated by all who worship and visit as a wonderful holy and spiritual place, and how important it is to ensure that such places are looked after and cherished so that they can be handed on to future generations.

Come rain or shine, Holy Trinity is open to all every day of the year during daylight hours. The Diocese's Open Churches Week (6-13 August this year) is a bit superfluous to us, in that it aims to encourage churches not normally open to welcome visitors through their doors. However, Holy Trinity has undertaken to serve cream teas in the church from 3-5pm each day. Any help you can give would be very welcome – please call me on 478314.

The Service for the Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday 14 August; a change from previous years when it has been on the August Bank Holiday weekend. All creatures great and small are welcome, however many legs they have.

The Rev Joan Lyon has been appointed team vicar at Blythburgh and will be licensed by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich on 8 September in Holy Trinity. A Scot, she joins Holy Trinity from the Anglican Chaplaincy in Luxembourg. She will be living in the Vicarage in Wangford and have responsibility for Wangford, Sotherton and Uggeshall as well as Blythburgh.

For more information, visit www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk

Jenny Allen

Bringing Blythburgh history to life

Building on the highly successful event *Blythburgh Remembered; Growing up in the Village*, a Reminiscence Tea was arranged as a step towards *The Working Village* presentation planned for later in the year, writes **Alan Mackley**. A trial run in the chapel of The Priory, with a talk about the history of the priory site showed how that very atmospheric venue could be used for relatively small gatherings. So far these activities have been organised on an ad hoc basis but the tapping of Blythburgh's rich history could merit a more formal approach. Preparations for the launch of a Blythburgh History Group are in hand. Be ready to join it. And bring your local ghost stories with you.

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AROUND THE VILLAGE

Fab homes, but no planning approval

Have you visited the water tower to see the new House Martin homes? Erected without interference from local planning committees, each new home has fabulous views of the surrounding countryside, with those on the south side particularly in demand. In the 70s, before the population of these smart little navy blue birds with their striking white bottoms started to decline, there were good numbers on the water tower with up to 60 pairs.

The decline of these elegant little gems was not down to the general drastic national reduction in numbers, but because the tower was painted, covering the rough concrete on which they could attach their mud homes. The erection of the artificial boxes is a boon, especially in a dry year when mud has been at a premium. The erection of the artificial boxes makes it easier for these stylish little birds to adhere their traditional natural nests to the building.

You don't have to be birdwatcher to enjoy the spectacle. Go to see them whizzing around the water tower, as before long they will be setting off on their much longer and more perilous flight to Central and Southern Africa. This scenario was created by the village conservation group, who would like to thank Neil Walker of Essex and Suffolk Water for his enthusiasm in providing the nest boxes and also David Harvey of ESW who had contractors fix the boxes to the tower.

Blythburgh Villager of the Year 2011 is Ray St Clair Brown, who has recently moved to

Southwold. A talented artist who provided the basic drawings for the village sign, Ray Brown is a former parish councillor and for many years collected medicines from Southwold surgery for parishioners unable to make the journey themselves. A small group considered three nominations from the parish and their selection of Ray was widely applauded when the presentation was made at the annual village meeting in May. His name will be added to the honours board in the village hall and he received a cheque for £50. Well done and thank you, Ray.

In a friendly and co-operative atmosphere, residents of Priory Road, Church Road and representatives from Holy Trinity met in June to resolve the traffic problems in the area. The meeting was arranged by the Parish Council to discuss the difficulties in this particular area. The wider question of traffic flow in the village is being considered by a Traffic Working Group set up as a result of the village plan.

Priory Road is barely wide enough to allow the easy passage of emergency vehicles and the June meeting agreed that residents would not cause any obstructions in the road or park on verges. The Parochial Church Council is happy for affected residents to park in the church car park, although they may ask motorists to provide registration numbers. The PCC also agreed to reinstate no parking signs on the bend by the village sign. It will be interesting to see whether all the promises are kept...

Bystander

Celebrating Blythburgh Family BBQ

This voucher, available only in the Blythburgh Parish News, entitles two adults and up to six children under 16 to either a sausage in a roll, a hamburger or veggie burger at Celebrating Blythburgh's BBQ in The Priory gardens on July 31 from noon until four. Entrance beside the village hall.

This voucher can be used only once. Second helpings have to be paid for!

Number of adults.....

Number of children.....

THIS IS NOT A VALID VOUCHER

Notes from Daisy Bank XLVI

When I first moved here in 1987, the garden I inherited was truly magical. Having previously been looked after by some very professional and dedicated gardeners, it was a joy. With a combination of stupidity and laziness on my part, that wonderful garden has now in part disappeared.

What is left is a combination of wildness and some small attempt at gardening on the edge of disaster. Thank God for B and her labours over the years and recently Paul with his too. It's not unpleasant but is still a poor shadow of its former glory. Again, my philosophy of being the guardian of the house and garden rather than the owner seems appropriate. I hope even with my faults, the people who have lived here and will live here are not too disappointed with my caretaking.

One takes pleasure in assuming that all will be well with other properties but that is not always so. In Priory road I remember Mrs Woodgate's charming cottage, straight out of Jane Austin, and her pretty front garden surrounded with aubrietia close to its iron rail fence. After she left us that all went and some ghastly tropical sand garden replaced it. Thank God it is fighting back with ox eye daisies, cornflowers and the like.

I'm sure Edna is heaving a sigh of relief wherever she is. But oh dear the magnificent old wisteria has now disappeared from the house next door. Like the loss of the aubrietia, walking along Priory Road has lost some of its magic without those beautiful spring blossoms that adorned the front of that old house for as long as I can remember. But then who am I to throw stones when I failed in my own garden?

Margaret Hubbard a former caretaker of that wisteria agreed that were we able to press a button and get rid of humanity in favour of this

blue plant, then we would do it. We agreed that both our fingers would be on that button and we would press it at the same time together and with no real regrets.

Both Margaret and Ken were great animal lovers. When Maxwell, one of my Siamese was killed on the A12, they picked him up and brought him home to Fern Cottage. Doing something like that showed how they both felt and we never ever forgot their kindness. Ken and I disagreed about several things, our politics being at the opposite ends of the spectrum, but I admired what he had done in the war and his exploits as a pilot. I've always had a thing about flying and admiration for those who do it.

I have been a life long fan of the writer Neville Shute: *A Town Like Alice* and *On the Beach*. Many years ago I made an offer on a house in Walberswick formally owned by his wife. It seemed appropriate somehow but as with all things it all fell through for one reason or another. Years ago I was on an oil tanker trading to the Middle East. The captain had worked with Neville on the Sunderland Flying boat in Southampton before the war so I was able to pick his brains about my hero.

Recently I went back and saw the house, which is at the end of Stocks Lane in Walberswick; it was part of the open gardens they were having in the village. I remember the surveyor, when he delivered his report, saying that it had the finest view of the sea anywhere on the Suffolk coast and he was right.

Then, I imagined the old sea dog *that I'm not* with a big telescope watching the shipping going up and down the coast and thanking God that that part of my life was well and truly over. Anyway, wild garden or not, this now is where we belong and we couldn't possibly be happier!

Paul Bennett

During May and June, Blythburgh First Responders dealt with four call-outs. If you cannot be an active responder you could help with fund-raising or look after money and equipment. Call-outs do not happen often, but lives have been saved, not so long ago in a nearby village. If you are working, you could cover night times or weekends. Whatever you can do, please call Ursula Mackley on 01502 478438.