

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,
BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No.15

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

May/June 2014

Raise a glass to the Villager of the Year

Everybody in the parish is invited to raise a glass to Blythburgh and the Villager of the Year 2014 at the annual parish meeting in the village hall this Friday, May 16 at 7pm. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

The Parish Council is keen that as many parishioners as possible attend the meeting, which it sees as a party to celebrate all the good things that happen in Blythburgh.

Find out what has happened in the last 12 months. Formalities will be kept to a minimum and you can meet friends and councillors and those who run village groups.

The council hopes that as many people as possible will join the party on Friday evening.

At the annual general meeting of the council on Monday evening, David Tytler was re-elected chair; Alan Mackley, vice-chair and chair of the planning advisory group; and John Blakesley, chair of the finance advisory group.

Roderick Orr-Ewing was re-appointed to the financial advisory group with Jim Boggis, the parish clerk, as Responsible Officer. Cliff Waller and Sonia Boggis were re-appointed to the

planning advisory group. Alan De Thabrew and David Tytler were re-appointed as the council's representatives on the Blythburgh Latitude Trust. Alan Mackley and Debbie Gifkins were appointed as trustees of the village hall management committee. Cliff Waller is the council's representative on the Blyth Estuary Group.

Celebrating Blythburgh is back on Sunday July 27. The day will start with an open air service in the Priory ruins at 11.00 am. Events are free and will be held throughout the day from 11.30 am to 5.00 pm in the Priory Gardens, thanks to Nick and Susan Haward, games in the village hall, with free boat trips on the River Blyth provided by Natural England.

There will be live music, a licensed bar and free barbecue for parishioners, together with a number of other attractions. Full details will be announced in the July issue of the *Blythburgh Focus*. The BBQ is free to parishioners on presentation of a voucher, which will appear in the next issue of the *Focus*. *Celebrating Blythburgh* is supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust and Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council.

Latitude 2014 – tickets and collection

Applications for residents' tickets to the Latitude Festival from July 18 to 20, 2014 have been heavily oversubscribed and Olive Forsythe is having to disappoint some applicants or only part fulfil the number requested. All applicants will be told whether they have been successful or not as soon as possible.

Tickets must be paid for by June 1. By then the applicant must confirm the names to be printed on tickets, and the name of the person collecting them. If payment and final names are not supplied tickets WILL BE RE-ALLOCATED.

Collection is from Blythburgh Village Hall on Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 July between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Identification and signature will be required when collecting tickets.

NEAL'S PRIVATE HIRE

Airports. Local & Long Distance
Friendly Reliable Service



4 -8 Seaters
Available

01502 575 888
Mob: 07899 011383

Paul Cook Gardening Services

Fully Insured



Gardening • Grass Cutting
Strimming • Hedge Cutting
Fencing repaired or replaced

Free Quotations On Request

Tel: 01502 478676
Mobile: 07879 285971

Springwatch to come from Minsmere

The BBC's *Springwatch* has moved to the RSPB Reserve at Minsmere, one of the richest areas for wildlife in the UK with more than 5,600 species on site. The three-week series starts on 26 May. Reserve manager Adam Rowlands said the site's rich biodiversity promised viewers a "jam-packed series".

The *Springwatch* team (pictured) plan to be based at Minsmere for three years. Presented by Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Martin Hughes-Games, *Springwatch* is viewed by almost three million people a night and has become one of the UK's longest-running wildlife series.



The 5,600 birds and animals at Minsmere include more than 1,000 species of moth and butterfly, including the Minsmere crimson underwing. There are 37 species of mammals, including otters, stoats, and water voles.

Some of the UK's rarest and most endangered birds, including nightjars, bearded tits and stone curlews can be seen there. Habitats at the 1,000 hectare (2,470 acre) reserve include sand dunes, saline lagoons, reedbeds and woodland.

Mr Rowlands said: "The RSPB has been giving

nature a very special home on the Suffolk Coast since 1947, and we are delighted to be able to share it with BBC viewers in the coming weeks. The rich biodiversity of this glorious coastal location promises a jam-packed series of the popular TV show, providing a great opportunity for people to enjoy the iconic views and wildlife here in Suffolk."

Wildlife specialists have been rigging cameras on the reserve's lagoon over the last few weeks in a series of specially-built hides, linked by corridors of high reed screens to shield the production team from view. Cameras will be carefully

positioned in and around the nests of avocets, terns, oystercatchers and lapwings, allowing constant, real-time updates as they keep watch for predators and strive to raise their young.

Night-vision cameras will also follow the reserve's resident badger family using the latest scientific techniques to study them and unearth the intimate details of their lives, both above and below ground.

Springwatch returns to BBC Two at 8pm Monday to Thursday from 26 May to 12 June.

A nightingale sang in Blythburgh Square

Blythburgh's own David Attenborough, aka Cliff Waller, could hardly contain his excitement as he told all those who would listen - to the bird not him - that there was a nightingale singing in the trees on the north side of the river, never mind Berkley Square.

For the uninitiated, and that's most of us, nightingales are slightly larger than robins, with a robust, broad-tailed, rather plain brown appearance. They are skulking and extremely local in their distribution in the UK while in much of southern Europe, they are common and more easily seen. The famous song is of high quality, with a fast succession of high, low and rich notes few other species can match.



THE WHITE HART

www.blythburgh-whitehart.co.uk/
leeknight148@btconnect.com

Telephone 01502 478217



WELCOME TO THE HART

Marie and Lee Knight, the new landlords of the White Hart, extend a warm welcome to customers old and new.

Marie and Lee plan to focus on locally produced steak and fish in the restaurant, *The Farmer and Fisherman*.

OPENING HOURS

Weekdays: Food 12-2,30pm/6-9pm (9.30pm Friday.)

Bar 11am-3pm/6-11pm

Saturday: Food 12-9pm. Bar 11am-11pm

Sunday: Food 12-8pm. Bar 12-9pm

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

Thanks to a man of steel....

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April, Holy Trinity celebrated the more than 20 years Tom (or Toby) Lond-Caulk has spent as Church Warden.

He was variously described as “a man of steel”, “a cornerstone of the church”, and a “loyal servant”. Tom has now stood down but enjoys the title of Church Warden Emeritus.

The PCC presented Tom with a painting of Holy Trinity by local artist Paul Bennett. Tom’s wife Gillian, who, among other things, masterminds the church’s flowers, was given a bouquet.

Tom said: “We were touched to receive the glorious painting and beautiful bouquet. Many thanks to all those who made the evening possible, and to those who will be sharing my duties in the future. It is a privilege to have been able to serve this wonderful church, and also the village.”

The PCC has been unable to find a new warden this year, and will ask for nominations again in 2015.

Take note: The baroque string ensemble *No Shrinking Violets* will perform what they describe alluringly as “sensuous 17th century music” in Blythburgh church on Saturday 31 May at 7.30 pm. The ensemble is directed by Philip Thorby, emeritus professor of early music at Trinity College. Admission is free, with a retiring collection in support of the church.

Play your part: Continuing the musical theme, there is a splendid weekend of music coming to the church over the August Bank Holiday weekend (22-23 August) with a series of world class concerts organised by the charity *Music in Country Churches*.

The group aims to arrange weekends of music in rural churches of exceptional beauty in order to raise funds for each host church and help other

churches with renovation projects. In this case, proceeds will be shared with our next-door-neighbour, Wangford. The Blythburgh concerts will feature the English Chamber Orchestra, pianists Katya Apekisheva, Charles Owen and Maria Joao Pires, along with the cellist Antonio Meneses.

Holy Trinity needs help to put these concerts on as stewards or programme sellers at all of these performances. (The bonus for you is to listen to wonderful music for free.) If you can help, please email Jenny Allen jennyanddick@aol.com or call her on 01502 478314.

Lights, please: We are beginning to wonder whether the church floodlights might be demon possessed. Certainly some kind of gremlins is playing havoc with the switching system, so that the floodlights on the north side are still going off without warning.

We are getting close to a solution. **Getting friendly:** The Friends of Holy Trinity open day, scheduled for 21 June has been postponed until the autumn.

Animal magic: The ever-popular Blythburgh Blessing of the Animals service will take place this year on 10 August at 11 am.

Malcolm Doney

A new face on the White Hart team

Baby Arthur has joined Lee and Marie Knight, the landlords of the White Hart. Arthur is a brother for three-year-old Freddie.

Blythburgh welcomes him and wishes the whole Knight family a happy and very prosperous life in the Hart, which is once again regaining its rightful place at the heart of the village.



It's a small, small world...

Blythburgh may be a small place but that doesn't mean that it isn't well known and well loved...

Chatting to a man in the next carriage of the Trans-Siberian Railway (somewhere around Lake Baikal) I discovered his mother had organised Aldeburgh Festival events in Blythburgh church.

Seated next to "Colonel Bob" on a plane from Atlanta to Cincinnati (en route to The Kentucky Derby) we quickly established he had been stationed at Holton during WWII. A fighter pilot, he was very familiar with the River Blyth and "that big church"; a welcome landmark on the way back to base.

Even in Asia, we met folk who remembered summer holidays spent in the area: crabbing at Walberswick; swimming at Southwold; boating at Blythburgh; exploring the countryside and picking blackberries from hedgerows.

Their reminiscences were wonderful to hear and it gave one pause for thought to hear others talk of Blythburgh so fondly from such a distance.

And it's not just in the far flung places. Travelling around the UK over many years, I've frankly been amazed by the number of people who "know" Blythburgh.

Some visited as children and retain vivid memories of the coast, the countryside, the freedom to roam and "seeing" the burnt claw marks of Black Shuck on the door of the church.

Others visited as adults and variously remember the landscape, the walks, the wildlife, a pint at the White Hart, the history and Holy Trinity Church.

Those that live here also care about the village and strive to make it a better place for us all to live. The Annual Village Litter Pick organised by Blythburgh M@tters attracted a dozen volunteers

who, sacks in hand, set out from the Village Hall to clear rubbish admittedly with the promise of Katie's cookies and Easter eggs for the younger volunteers (*special thanks to Teigan-Marie, Harley and Henry*).

The village Speed Watch team set up under the leadership of Binny Lewis which has become a model others have followed. The Blythburgh Latitude Trust supporting village projects and individuals using money raised from the sale of

Festival tickets. The monthly Community Café & Mini-Market, started by Ro Williams and Roselyn Crane, and run by a team of volunteers.

Volunteers also run the Village Hall committee, the Parochial Church Council, Neighbourhood Watch, the Horticultural Society, the Parish Council, Blythburgh Remembered and, until recently, First Responders.

Then there are the individuals who work tirelessly, often unseen, and

just get things done. Since 2009, the Villager of the Year award has enabled some of the individual contributions to be recognised.

An early recipient, Tom Lond-Caulk, recently stepped-down after 20 plus years as church warden which brings me nicely to Holy Trinity.

Recently, almost everyone I know who passes through Blythburgh, has asked about the church lights. Some are not church goers, some don't stop in the village very often but they had missed seeing the church lit at night; "it's iconic, I know I'm home when I see it. I've missed it"...

Blythburgh... a small village, but one that holds a place in people's hearts, near and far.



Words: Sonia Boggis.
Illustration: Spike Gerrell

BLYTHBURGH VILLAGE SHOP

(next to The White Hart Inn)

Our opening hours are:
7am to 7pm Monday to Friday
8am to 5pm Saturday
9am to 4pm Sunday



- Fresh bread, milk, meat, fruit, vegetables,
Groceries and household items
- ***Coming soon: hot pastries and soup***
 - Freshly made filled rolls and cakes
 - Freshly baked croissants to order
 - Hot and cold drinks
 - Charcoal, logs, kindling and salt
- Newspapers, sweets, tobacco, maps and mobile phone top-ups
 - Gifts, greetings cards, stamps and stationery
 - Dry cleaning and laundry service
 - Prescription collection point
- Orders taken for meat, vegetables, bread, croissants and newspapers
(feel free to email, or collect a form in store)
 - Holiday home welcome packs

Alan and Katie look forward to seeing you!

Blythburgh Village Shop 01502 478833

Mobile: 07968 976933

Email: blythburghshop@live.co.uk

The Little Plumbing Company

Domestic plumbing and heating

Gas and oil installations

Specialist in under floor heating

Central heating design and installation

Certificated in unvented mains

pressure hot water systems

Boiler servicing

Free estimates - Fully insured



Free consultation

Paul Sayer

sayerpaul@btinternet.com

07963 958772



Providing you with the very highest
quality client care and legal advice

MANTINS
SOLICITORS & NOTARIES



• Notarial Services • Wills • Probate • General Property Matters
• Residential and Commercial Conveyancing

82 High Street,
Southwold,
Suffolk IP18 6DP

Partners:
Katia Martin LLB
& Greta Tancred

01502 724750
www.mantins.co.uk
enquiries@mantins.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Local planning rules no longer rule!

Planning changes have weakened control by elected councils and passed the initiative for the provision of housing to speculative developers.

That was the conclusion reached by the Parish Council in its submission to the Commons Select Committee on Communities and Local Government, inquiring into the first two years of operation of The National Planning Policy Framework.

The NPPF, introduced in April 2012, aims to achieve sustainable development - allowing growth that ensures better lives for ourselves without meaning worse lives for future generations.

Planning officers, when considering applications, are now giving great weight to the NPPF's objectives and the national interest.

The Parish Council has found in relation to planning applications affecting the village that protection afforded to the AONB in Suffolk Coastal District Council's Local Plan and to Blythburgh by its physical limits boundary, is being over-ridden.

The Parish Council is in favour of some development, especially when it leads to an increase in the resident population. However, it fears that making a case against inappropriate development is now very difficult. Matters are made worse by the fact that SCDC does not have a development plan which identifies a five-

year supply of housing land – one of two Suffolk districts which lack one.

Such authorities are then under great pressure to approve any application to build houses. A further worry is that the possibility of appeal against rejection will lead officers to recommend approval of dubious schemes.

The result, concludes the Parish Council, is that there is no guarantee that building will be where it is wanted, of the type that is needed, will be energy-efficient, or will be related to existing infrastructure.

There is no guarantee that new builds will not go into letting or second-home use. The demand for affordable homes will not be satisfied nor will such homes be considered in relation to employment prospects and the transport infrastructure.

The position of the Suffolk Preservation Society, expressed in the latest edition of its 'Suffolk View', is much the same. Thus, says the Parish Council in its submission, the NPPF has weakened the position of elected councils and transferred the initiative for building houses to speculative developers with their commercial imperatives.

The council has raised its concerns with Suffolk Coastal Councillor Michael Gower.

Alan Mackley

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: David Tytler
01502 478521

**Vice Chair/Chair planning
advisory group: Alan Mackley**

Chair finance advisory group
John Blakesley

Councillors

Alan De Thabrew

Debbie Gifkins

Roderick Orr-Ewing

Cliff Waller

Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687

BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

Horticultural Society
Jenny Allen 01502 478314

Neighbourhood Watch
Rob Benson 01502 478047

Speed Watch
Binny Lewis 01502 478624

Village Hall
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Simple solutions...

...to any problem

Personal

Buying and Selling Your Home
Re-mortgages & Transfers of Equity
Preparation of Wills and Powers of Attorney
Equity Release & Lifetime Mortgages
Court of Protection
Family and Children Matters
Administration of Trusts & Deceased Estates
Criminal Matters
Personal Injury Claims
Civil Matters
Notarial Services
Care Home Fees
NHS Continuing Healthcare

Business and Employment Services

Commercial Property
Partnerships
Employment Matters
Planning and Regulatory Issues
Licensing
Company Formations
Agricultural Law

For all your legal needs,
we're solicitors *for everyone*

www.nortonpeskett.co.uk

Email: enquire@nortonpeskett.co.uk

Norton Peskett

SOLICITORS *for Everyone*

For more information contact one of our local offices:-

LOWESTOFT

148 London Rd North
Tel: 01502 533000

BECCLES

Exchange Square
Tel: 01502 718700

GORLESTON

66a Bells Road
Tel: 01493 652204

GREAT YARMOUTH

141 King Street
Tel: 01493 849200

HALESWORTH

52 Thoroughfare
Tel: 01986 872513

MRWCF Electrical

***Domestic and commercial**

*** Rewires *Extra sockets/lights**

*** P.A.T. Testing**

***Inspection and testing**

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE

24 HOUR CALL OUT

TEL/FAX: 01502 478473 MOBILE: 07884 477110 / 07717 176655

Email: MRWCFElectrical@hotmail.co.uk



NAPIT National Association of
Professional Inspectors and Testers
***CITY AND GUILDS QUALIFIED**



THE STAR INN



Set in the beautiful rolling Suffolk countryside, The Star has open fires in the winter and a good selection of traditional bar games, the large garden has a boules pitch to enjoy in the summer.

The range of real ales and home cooking using local ingredients make The Star a popular choice with locals and visitors alike.

Come and visit us and see the doom at St. Peter's church or take a walk on one of the five commons of Wenhaston.

For those wishing to stay in the area, camping at The Star is available by prior arrangement.

We are open every day from 12 noon-3pm & 6-11pm

Open all day on Sunday from noon – 11pm.

Food is served daily from 12.30-2.30 & 6.30-9.00pm

**The Star Inn
Wenhaston
Halesworth
Suffolk
IP19 9HF
01502 478240**

www.WENHASTONSTAR.CO.UK

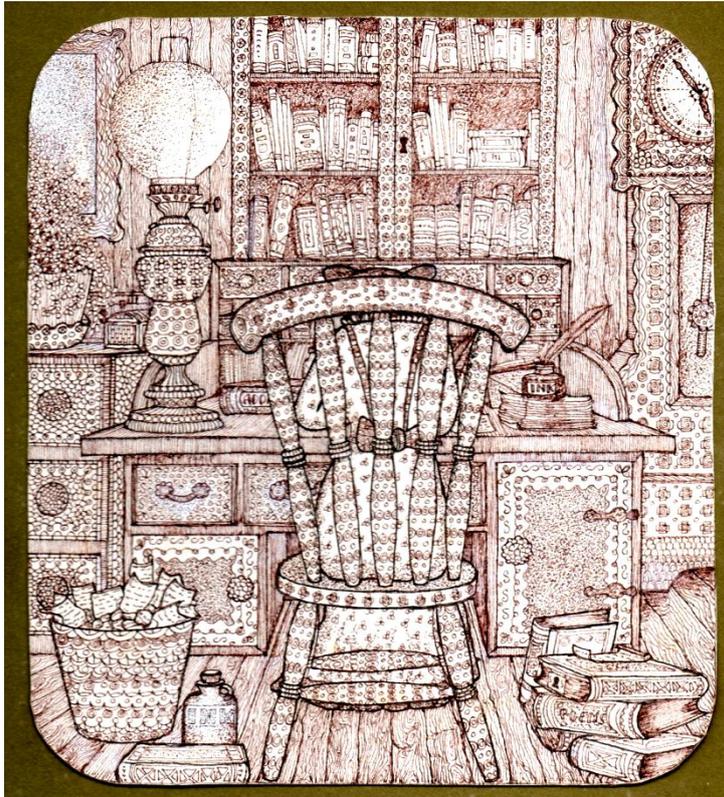
Notes from Daisy Bank LXI

Spring at last and England after their last minute defeat in Paris have come away with relative glory in all the other matches. Consequently my summer is looking better than it did.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said in my battle with Mr Mole. We continue to spar for the ownership of the back lawn but he refuses to back down. I have tried mole repellent, a humane mole catcher, a solar powered anti-mole noise machine and even vegetable oil. A couple of days will go by and I think I have won but then up he comes again. Of course I can't kill him. If it's him or the lawn, then he wins. But at the moment my lawn looks like the Somme.

Talking of which I have a picture on my wall of my great Uncle Tiny who I obviously never met but reminds me of all that horror each night when I climb our stairs. Where he was killed and how, I will never know. All I do know is that he was one of my paternal Grandfather's brothers who himself spent the major part of the first war in a prison camp in Germany.

You could say that he was lucky and of course he was when so many didn't survive. Like most of his generation he never talked about it nor of his brother and it wasn't till after he died that I found out. To me he was a much adored grandfather, who was one of the guards on the



Flying Scotsman and to a little boy, that was glamorous enough.

Instead of parking our car in the church car park which over the years I have been very grateful to do, I now park in our driveway further along the lane. Unfortunately that is another battle that I am conducting with the local wildlife.

This time its pigeons and the enormous amounts of waste that they dump on top of the car. Short of cutting down the trees or getting a licence for a double barrelled, I have tried parking in various places on the drive where I think the pigeons won't be roosting. But when I do that, they just move along until they're positioned correctly over the car and do it anyway. It's almost as though they are playing with me.

And of course we spread copious amounts of wild bird seed on the lawn so in a way I am encouraging them to stay and continue to abuse my kindness. Anyway, I've now bought a car cover which strangely enough has resulted in very little 'abuse from above'. Like Mr Mole they appear to have won that battle.

Continuing the wildlife theme, a million years ago I used to draw pictures like the above in some vain hope that I would become a famous children's book illustrator. I'm still waiting.

Paul Bennett

A date for your diary...

The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Tuesday July 15 at 7.30pm with the public forum starting at 7.15. Everybody in the parish is invited to attend.