

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,
BULCAMP AND HINTON

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<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

July/August 2014

Remember start of World War One

There were only 53 villages across the land who did not lose some of their young men in the course of World War One, some in well documented battles such as the Somme, Loos or Passchendaele, others in more obscure corners of this wide-ranging conflict.

Harry Patch, the last veteran to die age 111 in 2009, said "War's stupid. Nobody wins. You might as well talk first, you have to talk last anyway."

However we view this conflict, World War One has impinged on the consciousness of the nation like no other event. It is therefore appropriate that we should commemorate its outbreak and retell some of its story, particularly from a local angle here in Blythburgh.

There will be a special Service of Vigil at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh on Sunday 3 August at 6pm. This will be similar to many hundreds of services throughout the UK, one of which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be attending on the Monday evening at Crathie Church in Scotland.

HOLY TRINITY DIARY DATES: Concerts, Friday and Saturday 22 and 23 August. See leaflets in church and shop, or visit: www.musicincountrychurches.com. Animal service, 11am Sunday 10 August. Friends of Blythburgh Church: Saturday 13 September, including church tour and wine tasting. Harvest Festival: Sunday 14 September followed by free harvest lunch.

Choose your films at Blythburgh's own cinema

Blythburgh is about to have its own cinema thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund, which financed the equipment currently being installed in Blythburgh Village Hall. A small working party of Hannah Burrows, Pat and Terry Goss, and David Tytler, has been set up to draft plans for Blythburgh Film Club as a free-standing group within Blythburgh M@tters. A Blythburgh Film Festival is planned for Friday and Saturday September 5 and 6. The working party would welcome suggestions for the premiere on the Friday evening and the matinee – perhaps aimed at younger cinema goers – and the evening performances on Saturday. Please send your suggestions to David Tytler on 01502 478521.

Holy Trinity's churchwarden, Jenny Allen, has been invited to attend the Service of Vigil at Westminster Abbey on Monday 4 August in her capacity as Deputy Commissioner for Girl Guiding Anglia. The service at Blythburgh will be a time of prayer, readings and quiet reflection with music led by the Blythburgh Singers.

Following on from this, there will be a commemoration space within the church building to allow residents and visitors to Blythburgh to spend some time with their own reflections. This will be in place for some time and you are invited to bring copies of any stories, photographs or a family memory relating to World War One and leave them for others to read.

If you wish to have these returned, please mark them clearly with your contact details. If you have any enquiries, please contact me, Joan Lyon, on 01502 578171 or joanblyon@gmail.com.

Joan Lyon

Please see Page 3 for Blythburgh's roll of honour

Celebrating Blythburgh July 27: Details and voucher Page 5

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Blythburgh's Roll of Honour – 1914 to 18

On July 30 1915, 24 year old Private 15280 George Stockdale, of the 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, died in France. He was to be buried at Rouen, the first of the men listed on the Blythburgh Roll of Honour lost in the First World War. By the end of the war he had been joined by sixteen others. He was not the youngest. Gunner 42550 Leonard Thompson of D Battery, 107th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was only 17 when he died in 1916.

Southwold's town clerk, Ernest Read Cooper, organized a recruiting meeting in the Market Place in 1914. More than sixty men were recruited. On 7 September they marched away to the sounds of a band and cheering crowds. Little did they know the horrors that were awaiting them.

As befits a coastal community, many Blythburgh men went to sea, some in trawlers commandeered for work such as mine-sweeping. Not all of the little ships returned.

Charles Cross was a deck hand on the trawler *Strathannoch*, which was thought to have struck a mine in April 1917. Harry Kett, 46 years old, died in Malta in 1918 when with the drifter *Qui Sait*.

Leading Seaman William Borrett 237348, Royal Navy, was especially unlucky. His ship *HMS Negro* was escorting another vessel into Scapa Flow in December 1916 when the two vessels collided. *HMS Negro* was lost with most of her crew. The war was no respecter of class or

station. Lieutenant Colonel Dudley Blois, DSO, son of the eighth baronet, was killed on the Somme in August 1916 at the age of 41 while commanding 84th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Just two months later Private 24851 Arthur Hatcher, only 19, of the 1st Battalion, Norfolk Regiment, also fell in France.

As the years passed, the melancholy toll continued. No fewer than five men died in the last year of the war: in March 1918, Private T/202690 William Cross of The Buffs. Then in April there were three losses: 23 year old Private 12742 George Goddard of the 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment; Private 11049 Robert Meadows of the 6th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and Private 25194 William Smith of the 11th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. And in October, just one month before the end of the war, Sergeant 17867 Fred Wilson, of the 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, died in France.

Ernest Read Cooper wrote of flags coming out and bells ringing when the war ended. Some 'bottles of Fizz were cracked'. But 'the town took it very quietly on the whole.' Memories of the sacrifices were still raw. And the above Blythburgh men, together with Jack Church, George List, William Muttitt, John Smith and Bertie Wilson, have not been forgotten.

Alan Mackley

**With acknowledgements to Stuart Green
for his research into Rolls of Honour**

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WELCOME TO THE WHITE HART

Marie and Lee Knight, the 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*. The Hart also serves other pub favourites so there is something for everybody. Booking is advisable.

The Hart has wonderful estuary views and four self-contained letting rooms.

OPENING HOURS

All-day opening during school holidays

All welcome to Blythburgh’s big party

Celebrating Blythburgh is back with a bang on Sunday July 27. The day will start with free boat trips from 10.30am.

An open air service will be held in the historic Priory Ruins at 11.00am led by the Rev. Joan Lyon assisted by the Rev. Malcolm Doney.

Events are free and will be held throughout the day following the service until 5.00 pm in the Priory Gardens, with the kind permission of Nick and Susan Haward.

The Village Hall will be open throughout the day for indoor sports and there will be the very rare opportunity to take a boat trip on the River Blyth.

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

The Priory Garden (entry by Village Hall)

Live music from pianist Nick Raison 12.00 to 2.00pm; from *Handle with Care* 2.00pm to 5.00pm; BBQ; licensed bar from 11.30 am, ice creams, soft drinks, tea and coffee; and try your hand at origami throughout the afternoon.

Priory Car Park

Bouncy Castle; Blythburgh Speed Watch; Natural England wild life art and crafts stall; RNLI, and village stalls.

Free River Trips

Leaving from the landing stage behind the White Hart every half an hour from 10.30am to 2.00pm.

Booking essential on 07970 463826 or on the day at the Natural England stall in The Priory car park

Information Desk (outside village hall)

Meeting point for tour of the Priory ruins at 2.00pm; and guided walk along the river bank at 3.30pm.

The Village Hall

Table tennis, pool and air hockey 12.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

The White Hart

The party will continue in the evening with fish and chips in paper and live music.

A raffle will be drawn in The White Hart for a meal for two, including a bottle of house wine. Tickets will be on sale in the garden throughout the afternoon.

All monies will be used to defray the cost of the day.

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

Celebrating Blythburgh Family BBQ Voucher

This voucher, available only in the *Blythburgh Focus*, entitles two adults and up to four children under 16 to either a sausage in a roll, a hamburger or veggie burger at Celebrating Blythburgh’s BBQ in the gardens of The Priory on July 27 from noon until five. 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.....

A date for your diary...

The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Tuesday September 16 at 7.30pm with the public forum starting at 7.15. Everybody in the parish is invited. Please come along and have your say.

BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

Of trains, planes and automobiles...

We all have horror story commutes at some point but just imagine the problems you might encounter when your commute takes seven days and involves a hire car, three flights, a 12 hour train ride and two hours in a land rover on unmade roads.

George Sanderson, or "Sandy" as he is affectionately known, joined the RAF aged 15. After completing his training at RAF Cosford, he was offered his choice of ground based jobs but had already made up his mind, he wanted to be a chef, and his first posting was RAF Honington.

While Sandy was there he met Christine. She joined him for his two years posting to RAF El Adem (Tobruk, Libya) and their son David was born in Tobruk. By coincidence, the Commanding Officer was one Group Captain Hubbard who subsequently came to live in Blythburgh in 1975 when he married Margaret Grubbe, who lived at The Priory.

Libya was still under the rule of King Idris when the Sanderson family lived there and Sandy was on duty when King Idris was a guest in the officers' mess. Ever fearful of being poisoned, King Idris had his own chef and tasters so Sandy never did get to cook for this King.

After Tobruk, Sandy was posted to Bawdsy and the family lived in Felixstowe for the next nine years until Sandy was demobbed.

A brief stay in Hull (Sandy's home town) and a return to Felixstowe was followed by a family move to Blythburgh when Sandy became catering manager at Howard Rotavator in Halesworth. With the closure of the works, Sandy went to the rigs off Yarmouth, then further afield to Aberdeen and from this came the opportunity to work for oil companies all over the world.

Much in demand as a camp boss and chef manager, Sandy travelled extensively: often to places that most of us only read about.

Imagine travelling through the Suez Canal on a tow from Singapore to Brindisi, Italy – what would you do if you woke one morning to discover a local had set up their bazaar on your vessel? And, what about arriving on the Falkland Islands expecting to take over a unit but not before you have joined a wedding celebration. Or the time Sandy needed an armed escort in Angola but when he and six others tried to fly out the airline told them they could fly but there wasn't any food for them?

When the Russians left Mongolia there was some damage to the local infrastructure and this included a greenhouse that Sandy needed to re-establish when he took over the catering operations at a joint American-Australian base in the Gobi Desert. Until he got things working properly, he relied on making regular trips to the Chinese border for additional supplies but, as you would expect, Sandy quickly sorted out the greenhouse and even organised the rearing of cattle and sheep so there was a supply of fresh meat.

Even in far flung places it's amazing whom you meet.... Ascension Island is a military island in the South Atlantic and was a staging post in the Falkland War. Visitors were not encouraged and stop over passengers confined to the airport but when village resident Cliff Waller had a stopover, guess who was on hand to give him a quick tour.

Sandy has visited more than 50 countries. The one he would like to add to that list is St Helena.

Words: Sonia Boggis
Illustration: Spike Gerrell



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A walk on the wild side – for 93 miles!

The last time I said “I would like to do that one day...” I found myself getting into a glider with an emergency parachute on my back. Walking a long distance footpath would surely involve less adrenaline.

The only National Trail in East Anglia is the Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast path which is described as one of the more gentle National Trails - generally flat or with only gentle gradients. Sounds just the job for a beginner.

Of course there is the small matter that it runs for 93 miles. The Peddars Way starts a little east of Thetford, at Knettishall Heath Country Park – the path starting at a layby in a small wood that you could easily miss. It follows the



Castle Acre priory ruins

route of a Roman road in a virtually straight line north east to the coast at Holme-next-the-Sea (effectively the halfway mark). You then go eastward (keep going north and you will get wet feet!) on the Norfolk Coast path to Cromer.

I am not a complete beginner as I do walk with a group of friends once a month – although lunch at a local pub does tend to take up more time than the walk. Of course, we are also lucky enough to live in Blythburgh where there are plenty of lovely walks, along the river in either direction. So, armed with my nearly new boots, I felt reasonably confident as I set off.

I planned the walk in detail (a clear trait of a Virgo). I was to take six days and five nights, leaving Knettishall at 10am on the Wednesday, to arrive at the pier in Cromer at 3pm on the Monday. Overnight in small hotels or B&Bs – I left camping behind some years ago. I initially

planned this as a solo walk, but a few friends joined me for various sections, which was great. This really is a walk of two halves. The Peddars Way is relatively quiet (I only saw seven people on the first day). In mid-May the hedges were in full bloom with the crops in the fields soaking up the sun. Parts of the path are quite remote (by Norfolk standards) but you also pass through some interesting spots such as Castle Acre with its priory ruins and Great Massingham (a mile from the path) with its village greens and ponds. There are occasional sections along the road, but overwhelmingly the walk is on pleasant paths.

When you reach the coast you can deviate to the Le Strange Arms at Old Hunstanton and watch the sun set over the sea - one of the few places you can do this on the east coast.

The Norfolk Coast path is busier, particularly at Wells-next the-Sea which I happened to reach



Cromer Pier

on a sunny Sunday. The scenery along the coast is stunning as you pass through Thornham, Brancaster, Burnham Overy, Wells, Morston, Blakeney, Cley next the Sea. The hardest part of the walk is the stretch between Cley and Weybourne – over four miles of shingle – before the final landmarks of Sheringham and Cromer.

A good experience that I can recommend – whether you just want to walk part of the trail, or do the whole length. Lessons I would pass on is to build in a rest day if possible – oh, and avoid new boots.

**Words and pictures
Colin Huggins**

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Notes from Daisy Bank LXII

I obviously don't know what I'm talking about and my opinions have no worth but here goes anyway.

Can anyone tell me why Suffolk County Council is spending untold millions on building earth banks alongside the A12 in order to 'alleviate flooding' that happens maybe once in a blue moon and then only lasts for maybe 24 hours: perhaps twice in the time I've lived here, which now seems for ever. Last year was an exception and then it only lasted for perhaps 48 hours. The result is that the A12 traffic is diverted via Wenhaston and is an inconvenience and annoyance for the people of Wenhaston and for the road users for sometimes less than a day.

They brought all this heavy machinery in and tore up the vegetation and wildlife each side of the road so that they can 'neatly' landscape it when the work is finished. Did anyone in the bureaucracy of Suffolk County Council give it any real and deep consideration. If they gave as much thought to spending God knows how much on those ridiculous wicker screens to prevent 'flying bird kill', then obviously not. I despair!

As most of you probably know, my dear friend Ray Brown died on June 1. Yet another example of 'rules and regs' came in the last two weeks of his life in Southwold Hospital. Towards the end and in a single room, his daughter Charlotte brought in one of his pictures to put on the wall at the end of his bed. It lasted 24 hours before the hospital authorities decided that it was a possible source of infection and it was banned.

When I was accused and admonished for bringing the odd very small jar containing an equally very small gin and tonic into him in those last two weeks, so he had something to look

forward to before the end, I sort of understood. But banning a picture on the wall? It would almost be laughable if it wasn't so pathetic. I'm afraid rules, regulations and bureaucracy have taken over from the one thing that the NHS was famous for compassion.

Enough moaning. As you walk up our lane towards the church, there has been a bunch of Canterbury Bells with the most wonderful pale blue colour which I don't believe I have ever seen before. When I open the church in the morning, it's always a treat to see them. Let's hope they return and maybe even multiply and cover the whole bank with their beauty.

Please come and see it but perhaps by the time you read this, it will be too late.

Our garden continues its wildness but as of last year I started to buy two shrub roses every week to turn most of it into a rose garden. I'm up to number 30 now and, with the existing roses, we must now have nearly fifty. I will stop when I run out of room and they start to encroach on the wild part. The criteria are that they have to be fragrant and have to grow to more than six feet.

For my partner, being more of a gardener than me, this is a new departure. So maybe in the end I will turn into one. A gardener that is. But maybe not. I hate digging, weeding and have no innate ability to recognise a weed from a flower unless the latter is in bloom and sometimes not even then. And of course I suffer from the disease called laziness, for which there is no cure. Whereas B, who isn't lazy, just seems to know what's what. I think in the end I'd better stick to painting.

Paul Bennett



Gillian Lond Caulk is named Blythburgh's Villager of the Year by Parish Council Chair, David Tytler, at the annual village meeting in May. Gillian is in many ways the face of Blythburgh, a stalwart of Blythburgh institutions and societies. Gillian's grandmother, born at Blyford, was half sister to Alice Burton of Burton's Stores, Blythburgh. When Gillian's mother took over in 1954 she and her twin Judy weighed dried fruit to corn, measured drapery to paraffin oil, fitted ladies blouses, and broke up sugar blocks.