

# BLYTHBURGH

## FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,  
BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No.31

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

January / February 2017

## Progress made in improving traffic safety

In a very productive meeting with David Chenery, a senior official from Suffolk Highways, at its January meeting, Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council was reassured that steps would be taken to improve traffic flow and safety within the parish.

The council has been pressing for village gateways. Mr Chenery agreed that one would be erected on the northern entry to the village. He and the council would work together to find an appropriate site for the southern entry.

The council made it clear that it was very concerned about the speed of northern traffic particularly at night as it approached the village. This had led to a number of accidents including fatalities.

Possible solutions including Armco type barriers similar to those between each side of a motorway, near the bend at the White Hart Inn, a roundabout at the edge of the village, and a speed camera were discussed.

David Chenery said that he now understood the concerns and would carry out speed checks on the A12 and re-examine the situation and possible solutions. He would be helped in this

by traffic data supplied by the parish council from its speed warning signs.

A parishioner has complained that the position of the dropped curbs for pedestrians in the new development at Amberley would take anyone in a wheel chair onto the B1125 not Amberley close. Mr Chenery agreed to meet the parishioner in an attempt to resolve the issue.

In discussing the continuing concerns of the use of Dunwich Road as a rat-run, Mr Chenery said that many possible options had been tried but none had proved effective. He agreed to review the Parish Council traffic document. Currently it would be too expensive to make the road one-way. Finally, it was agreed that a pedestrian crossing would be difficult to the North of the Village but that it may be possible to have a crossing close to the bus stops at the southern entrance to the village.



### Would you believe it?

On the evening of Tuesday January 24 traffic on the A12 between Wangford and Blythburgh came to a standstill when a cow strayed onto the road.

## District councils to merge for May 2019 elections

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have agreed to merge, saying that the move will bring more efficiency and savings. Their decision is expected to be ratified by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by September 2017. The first elections for the new council will be held in May 2019. Suffolk

Coastal Councillor Ray Catchpole told the January meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council: "It is important to view the East Suffolk District Council as a new council, not a merger. Personally I am sorry the word coastal has been dropped from the title."

Fund raising for Village Hall



Kitchen Accessories

To book  
Ring Wendy  
01502 478878  
Tx only  
07827 314447

## Curry & Fun Evening

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm

£10 per person (BYO wine)

Raffle etc  
So please  
bring some  
change

# NEAL'S PRIVATE HIRE

Airports. Local & Long Distance  
Friendly Reliable Service



4 -8 Seaters  
Available

**01502 575 888**  
Mob: 07899 011383

## Home thoughts from a broad...



### TRAFFIC WATCH

**Dunwich Road Northbound:** November 5 to December 3. Of the total 40,331 vehicles, 17,725 were travelling between 25 and 30mph with a further 10,646 between 30 and 35mph. Including the 8,125 vehicles travelling at less than 25mph then 36,496 were at or only slightly above the legal speed. This represents 90% of the total which is not as good as last time this road was monitored (93%) but lies about the middle of the range (87% - 93%). Of the other 3,835 vehicles (10%) 3,062 were travelling between 35 to 40mph; 635 (8%) 40 to 45mph; 110 (2%) 45 to 50mph, 23 (>1%) 50 to 55mph; and five at 55 to 60mph.

**A12 Southbound:** December 12 to January 6 2017. Of the total 120,098 vehicles, 41,112, were travelling between 25 and 30mph with a further 36,718 between 30 and 35mph. Including the 7,198 vehicles travelling at less than 25mph then 85,028 were at or only slightly above the legal speed. This represents 71% of the total which is very slightly worse than the last time the A12 Southbound was monitored (73%). Of the other 35,070 vehicles (29%) 19,923 (17%) were travelling 35 to 40 mph; 9,145 (8%) between 40 and 45 mph 45; 3,647 (3%) between 45 and 50 mph; 1502 (1%) between 50 and 55mph; 600 between 55 and 60mph; and 184 between 60 and 65mph. A handful of vehicles were travelling at higher speeds including two between 75 and 80.

Roderick Orr-Ewing



## Restaurant and bar

**01502 478217**

Specialising in steak and sea food. Booking essential.

### **BAR OPENING TIMES**

**Monday to Friday**

**11 – 3pm / 6–11pm**

**Saturday 11 – 11pm**

**Sunday 12 – 10.30pm**

### **FOOD OPENING TIMES**

**Monday to Thursday**

**12 – 2pm / 6 –9pm**

**(9.30pm Friday)**

**Saturday and Sunday**

**12 –3pm / 5 – 9pm**

**Fish and chips take-away every**

**Friday, 6.30 – 9.30 £7.50**

### **“10 mile menu”**

Monday – **Friday**, 12 – 2pm. Main ingredients sourced within 10 mile radius (not available in holiday time.) Two courses, £12, three £16.

### **Accommodation**

B & B winter special until end of February, £50 single, £70 double

## Village Store

**01502 478047**

### **OPENING HOURS**

**January – February:** Monday – Wednesday, closed. Thursday – Friday, 10 – 4pm. Saturday. 10 – 5.30pm. Sunday, 12 – 4pm. **From**

**March:** Monday– Saturday, 9.00 – 5.30pm. Sunday, 10.00 – 4.00pm

### **FEBRUARY – EVENTS FOR THE DIARY**

#### **February 7 – QUIZ NIGHT**

All welcome. 7.30pm start. Groups of four, £3 per person, nibbles at half time. Half of monies to the winners, the other half to Blythburgh church/Blyth Belles.

#### **February 13 – PSYCHIC SUPPER**

7pm for 7.30pm. £25 per person for two courses and evening with clairvoyant Steven Treadaway. Booking essential, meal two days before.

#### **February 14 – VALENTINES**

Main menu plus sharing specials Saturday 11 – 14 February. Booking essential.

#### **CURRY NIGHT**

6– 9pm. Choice of three curries, rice, poppadum, dips and onion bhaji. £10 per person. Booking essential.

## BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS (with drawing in pictures)

# Land of penguin, puma but not people

Chile is 2,700 miles from north to south and 110 miles, on average, east to west. Probably the most remote of the South American countries, it is geographically isolated by the Atacama Desert in the north, Patagonian Icefields to the south, Pacific Ocean along the west coast and the Andes Mountains to the east.

Punta Arenas, on the Strait of Magellan, was one of the most important cities in Chile before the Panama Canal opened in 1914 providing a safer and quicker sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Today, little remains of its former glories: faded colonial buildings and corrugated low-rise houses. But look closer and blue plaques speak of Amundsen and Scott.

Walk to the water's edge and Terra del Fuego is a stone's throw away and sturdy vessels wait to take scientists to the Antarctic peninsula. It is easy to lose yourself in the excitement of polar exploration but this trip we were planning to travel north, taking 50 days, to reach the Atacama Desert.

The local Fernandez bus departed early. We were mesmerised by the straight road that stretched into the distance and the initially flat vista that changed slowly but dramatically over the next four hours. Trees draped in lichen, buff necked ibis prodding the ground, Caracara on rickety posts and lesser rhea in family groups. We made one stop: no signs of habitation, the man just lit a cigarette and watched us disappear into the distance.

Puerto Natales isn't a big place by our standards: brightly coloured mostly corrugated iron houses, 19,000 inhabitants and, accompanied by at least one local dog, it is easy

to get everywhere on foot. Nestled at the opening of Ultima Esperanza Sound and with a backdrop of fjords and icefields, the setting was spectacular but the weather, even in summer, is unpredictable and some days, our only view was the black-necked swans at the water's edge.

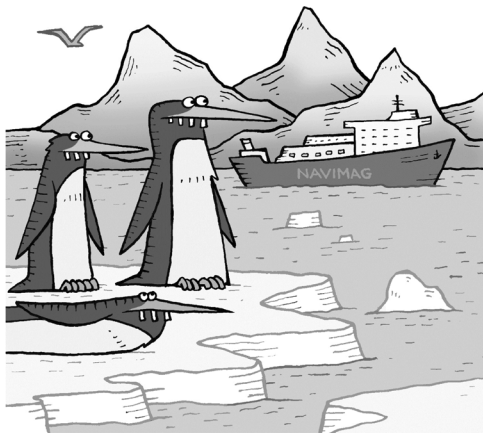
The highlight of our time in Patagonia was the challenging "W" trek in Torres del Paine National Park. The "W" is known for soaring mountains, undulating shrub, glaciers, vast lakes and icebergs. It is home to condor, guanaco, and the stunning Magellanic woodpecker and illusive pumas which we only identified by their scat.

The trek was physically exhausting and by the end of each day we were grateful for a bunk-bed in a Refugio. Pre-warned to expect rain, sleet, snow, high winds and sunshine all in the same day, we counted our blessings that we enjoyed clear skies and stunning views for the whole trek.

Back in Puerto Natales we awaited the arrival of the Navimag Ferry, our home for the four

day trip through the Patagonian fjords to Puerto Montt. Reports were of bad weather and unpleasant sea conditions and our departure was delayed by two days. On the plus side, our travelling companions included several horses in an open lorry on deck and with such a valuable cargo the captain took great care to ensure the smoothest possible passage.

Seduced onto deck by tantalising glimpses of cloud shrouded fjords, we braved wind and rain to spot penguins, sea lions, dolphins, whales and albatross. We were not disappointed but our binoculars took days to dry out once we reach Puerto Montt and the next stage of our Chilean adventure.



**Words: Sonia Boggis**  
**Illustration: Spike Gerrell**

# Council explains Sizewell C misgivings

Blythburgh Parish Council is concerned that the construction and operation of the proposed nuclear power station Sizewell C will have unacceptable negative effects on Blythburgh. The council agreed its response to the proposals of the plant's French owners EDF Energy at its January meeting.

The council's main concerns are the direct effects Sizewell C will have on the village, particularly its adverse effects on traffic and safety through the village, and its impact on local services, especially the tourist industry in the area.

Blythburgh Parish Council has taken the opportunity to offer some suggestions to mitigate these issues. Together with their additional transport analysis, Blythburgh Parish Council hopes these issues can be discussed with EDF Energy and Suffolk County Council as part of an on-going dialogue with the affected villages during this consultation process.

Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton has grown up straddling either side of the main road since 1785. The population of the village is now

**Suffolk County and District Councillors have decided to tell EDF that they will withhold their backing until the issues surrounding traffic, transport, the environment and plant design have been resolved.**

approximately 300 residents. The village is set in a landscape of outstanding natural beauty with tidal river, marsh, heath, small woods, pasture and arable fields.

Blythburgh is an historic part of Suffolk with nearly 1,400 years of recorded history. The village has a magnificent medieval church, as well as other areas of special historical importance. It is a very popular tourist destination. The visitors include church lovers, artists, birdwatchers, music lovers and others who come seeking relaxation in a rural environment.

Equally, the demographics of Blythburgh are important as the village has an ageing population, who are likely to see and live through the effects of the construction period, but are unlikely to

see any of the possible benefits.

Sizewell C will require additional transport of large quantities of materials and thousands of workers. The use of sea and rail for transporting freight are supported. However, Blythburgh Parish Council has concerns regarding additional road traffic impacts on the A12 and B1125 to the north of the site. Overall, it is considered that there is a serious lack of transport information provided with this stage of the consultation process, notably an absence of traffic figures and detailed analysis.

There is also the fear that Blythburgh could become an unofficial drop-off point for car-sharing schemes, which has happened in the past. The provision of a possible designated car park for the village has been identified as a suitable suggestion that would alleviate this problem, while benefiting the village.

As well as the possible rise in workforce traffic, there is also concern about the increase in HGVs, lorries, buses, and light vans passing through the village associated with Sizewell C. These will not be reduced by the park and ride schemes being proposed. It appears there has been no analysis of the effects on the B1125.

Blythburgh Parish Council is in the process of updating its own Traffic Strategy, which includes traffic counts and data analysis for traffic flows in and around the village.

As a result of speeding through the village together with the lack of pavements, there are very serious safety issues in the village. It is understood and accepted that the railway must be fully utilised and that the best possible option for linking directly into the Sizewell site is from the sea.

Sizewell C will have an adverse impact on the surrounding area, local communities, visual appearance, and amenities, which will badly affect tourism in this area of Suffolk.

*\*At the end of its discussions, the council asked parishioners who had concerns about Sizewell C to write their own letters to EDF.*

*The full consultation document can be seen on the Parish website [Blythburgh.onesuffolk.net](http://Blythburgh.onesuffolk.net)*



RECOMMEND A  
FRIEND - 10 ITEMS  
FREE

# Pressed For Time

Your Local Ironing service

## Prices

### **Adults:**

Shirts, skirts, dresses & trousers £1.50 each  
T. shirts, jumpers, sweatshirts, cardigans £1 each

**Children:** 80p  
per item

### **Bedding:**

#### **Sheets -**

Single £1.50, Double £2, King £2.50, Super King  
£3 each

#### **Duvets -**

Single £1.40, Double £2.00, King £2.50, Super King  
£3.00 each

- Smoke free home
- Blythburgh and surrounding areas
- Morning pick up and tea time return
- Free pick up and delivery on all orders over £15
- 48 hour turn around



**Mob:** 07481 902129

**Email:** [tracycross50@googlemail.com](mailto:tracycross50@googlemail.com)

"Come and visit Tracy in Blythburgh village shop for more information"

# 2016: A year in the life of Blythburgh

Blythburgh resident Colin Huggins has been photographing events and everyday life in the village throughout 2016. The resulting pictures form a record of how we live today and should be of interest to everybody living in the village.

Colin will be showing a selection of the photographs on the February Film Night at 7.15, February 3, ahead of the main feature, to which you are very welcome.



March – Village Shop Re-opens





July – Blessing of the Animals Service

## NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

# Simon Pitcher installed as canon



Team Rector Simon Pitcher, who heads the Sole Bay Team of eight churches, has been made a Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds in recognition of his services to the Diocese.

Besides being Team Rector, for the last six years, he has also been Rural Dean, which has meant overseeing 54 parishes in the Waveney and Blyth Deanery. During this time, the deanery has gone through a significant amount of restructuring - which still continues - while Simon has also seen his Sole Bay full-time clergy team reduce from four to (at one point) one.

Simon was installed as canon at evensong on 20 November, St Edmunds Day. He gets his own stall (seat) in the cathedral, is allowed to call himself "Prebendary", is given a badge to wear on his preaching scarf, and the right to wear red buttons on his cassock.

**Christmas activities** at Holy Trinity, Blythburgh were popular and well-received. The annual Christmas market held in the church at the end of November drew a vibrant crowd. The atmospheric candle-lit carol service with the superlative Blythburgh Singers attracted a congregation of around 100. Dedicated carol singers roamed the streets of the village, with an evocative finale in the ruins of the 12<sup>th</sup> century priory. An enthusiastic family crowd came to our Christmas Eve crib service. More than 70 saw Christmas Day arrive at Midnight Communion, and another 60 plus celebrated Christmas morning a few hours later. This year, Holy Trinity donated its offerings to MSF UK (Medecins Sans Frontieres) for its work in Syria, and to the Church Urban Fund for its support of people in need in UK cities. Christmas congregations donated £959. Taking Gift Aid into account, this is likely to reach £1000.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

**Chair: David Tytler**

**01502 478521**

**Planning advisory group: Alan Mackley**

**Cliff Waller and Sonia Boggis**

**Finance advisory group**

**Roderick Orr-Ewing**

**Jeff Sutton and Jim Boggis**

**Councillor**

**Jo Waller**

**Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687**

## BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

**Blythburgh Latitude Trust**

**Jim Boggis 01502 478687**

**Village Hall and Film Club**

**Olive Forsythe 01502 478521**

**Horticultural Society**

**Jenny Allen 01502 478314**

**Blythburgh Matters**

**Ro Williams 01502 478484**

**Blyth Belles**

**Sarah Wickham 070810632987**

# YOUR LOCAL LEGAL EXPERTS

Offering a full range of legal services.

#### For you

- Buying and selling your home
- Re-mortgages and transfers of equity
- Wills and powers of attorney
- Court of Protection
- Family and children matters
- Criminal matter
- Civil and personal injury claims
- Trusts and deceased estates
- Notarial services
- Care home fees
- Equity releases and lifetime mortgages
- NHS continuing healthcare

#### For your business

- Commercial property
- Employment matters
- Licensing
- Company formations
- Planning and regulatory



**Quality Solicitors  
Norton Peskett**

- Direct lawyer contact    Same-day response    Clear Price Guarantee    Free First Advice    Saturday openings

Changing the way you see lawyers.

01502 533019  
Lowestoft  
01502 533 000

enquire@nortonpeskett.co.uk  
Beccles  
01502 718 700

Gorleston  
01493 652 204

www.qualitysolicitors.com/nortonpeskett  
Great Yarmouth  
01493 849 200

Halesworth  
01986 872 513

# 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](http://www.WENHASTONSTAR.CO.UK)**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Big turnout for memorial quiz

Nearly 80 people crowded into Blythburgh Village Hall on Saturday 21 January to take part in the third Owen Williams Memorial quiz. The total raised was £540, which was donated to SUDEP (Sudden Death in Epilepsy) [www.sudep.org](http://www.sudep.org). Contestants answered questions on topics such as sport, connections, beat the intro and odds and ends. In the interval they enjoyed a meal cooked by Wendy Sutton, assisted by her husband Jeff.

In a closely fought contest, the quiz was won by a team from Owen's old school, Stowmarket High, who have entered every year. There was only a four-point gap between the top three teams. Ro Williams, Owen's mother said: "It was great to see so many people enjoying the evening and raising money for a cause which is very close to my heart. I know Owen would have loved the evening and this is our way of ensuring that he will not be forgotten."

**Top Date;** Blythburgh Day this year will be held on July 9 in the gardens of The Priory, thanks to Matthew and Chiara Saunders. The day will start with a service in The Priory ruins followed by free boat trips, live music and a licenced bar.

**The Parish Council** is seeking someone to clean the bus shelters weekly. Do you have an hour a week to spare? Do you care about the village? If so then here is your opportunity to earn £10 per week and improve the look of the village. Please contact Jim Boggis, parish clerk, on 01502 478687

# MANTINS

## SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

Providing you with the very highest quality client care and legal advice in the following areas:

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

**82 High Street, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6DP**  
**Tel: 01502 724750 Fax: 01502 797930**  
**[enquiries@mantins.com](mailto:enquiries@mantins.com)**  
**[www.mantins.co.uk](http://www.mantins.co.uk)**



## The homecare service where peace of mind comes as standard.

Due to continuous success of Prestige Nursing + Care Norwich, we now have a branch in Halesworth, Thoroughfare. Please call in to meet our friendly branch team who would be happy to discuss a package tailored to your needs.

We offer a wide range of services to help support your care needs:

- Personal Care
- Nursing Care
- Home from Hospital
- Palliative Care
- Respite Care
- Specialist Care
- Support with daily living
- Companionship

For more information on any of our services please contact:

**01986 899075**

[email\\_halesworth@prestige-nursing.co.uk](mailto:email_halesworth@prestige-nursing.co.uk)

**Prestige**  
Nursing+Care

[www.prestige-nursing.co.uk](http://www.prestige-nursing.co.uk)

# DKC PLUMBING SERVICES

Comprehensive 24/7 service supplied for

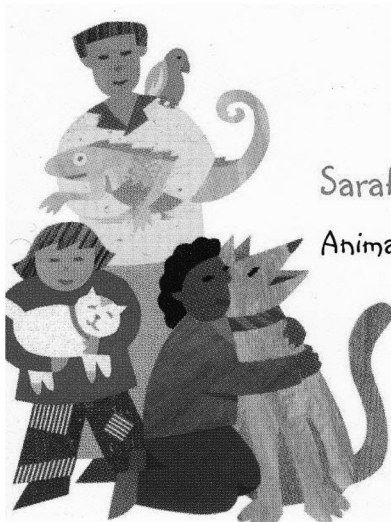
**OIL BOILERS**

**PLUMBING**

**TILING**

Telephone David on 07740272791

Email. [DKCplumbingservices@gmail.com](mailto:DKCplumbingservices@gmail.com)



A PET'S BEST FRIEND

Sarah Grimwood

Animal sitting & dog walking

9 Bigod Close

Halesworth

IP198SR

01986873592

[frary8sr@btinternet.com](mailto:frary8sr@btinternet.com)

# Notes from Daisy Bank LXXVII

A pall of depression hangs over Fern Cottage in darkest Daisy Bank as winter takes a firm and icy grip. My longing for summer is almost palpable. Not B of course; she loves all that cosy fire business. Perhaps if I took a couple of deckchairs and two gin and tonics into the back garden and brewed up the chiminea until it glowed, we could pretend that all was well and the warmth of the summer had come at last. But maybe shorts and tea shirt would be taking things a bit too far.

At the risk of repeating myself endlessly, (I'm sure I say this every year), the six nations in February and the start of the 2017 FI a bit later might just about get me through to the spring. It's going to be tight this time though!

Having said all that, the one thing I do like about winter is snow. The trouble is that we don't seem to get it any more. My childhood seems to be full of memories of snow, even snow at Christmas time. Sledging. My dad made me a sled and every year it was wheeled out and taken down to the local park where there were several slopes to run it on. Happy fun days.

During our family time in Henley-on-Thames where my Dad had a small family grocer's shop, I remember going out with him in his Morris van and delivering around the Oxfordshire countryside. One time he was delivering to a small village called Christmas Common high in the Chilterns and got stuck in a snow drift. Eventually he was dug out by a party of people walking back from a funeral in the local village churchyard.

I remember in one of my other lives as a travelling salesman going to a chemist shop in Deepcut, now infamous for other reasons but then quite an isolated place. On the way back I too got stuck in a drift and had to dig myself out.

I always carried a spade in the boot in the winter. Like tyre chains, it was a necessity.

In my time in Norway I remember driving along the roads and seeing children going to school with several reflector lights hanging from their school bags in order to make them stand out in the dark and perpetual snow. Such a pretty sight to see all those flashing reflectors as they walked along the roads. I also remember having an argument with a taxi driver about acid rain that according to him we, i.e. the UK, were dumping on Norway from our industrial north. At one point he stopped the taxi and got out and I thought his temper had got the better of him and it was time for action. But no. He picked up a handful of snow from the side of the road and asked me to taste it. He was right. It tasted of acid.

Years ago, walking on Henham Park with B, the snow was up to our knees in places. No longer. Those halcyon days are over. Instead, and in my bah humbug mode, it seems like some kind of compensatory exchange to the delights of modern living. After all, we've now got things like smart phones, Facebook, Twitter, (whatever that is), satellite navigation and the coming of the driverless car, none of which I want anything to do with. Just give me back the snow to make winter almost bearable and you can shove the rest.

**Footnote:** As many of you know Pat and Terry Goss are going through a very difficult time. I feel constrained to acknowledge their fortitude and inner strength, enabling them to cope with it all. I am reminded of the last line of Philip Larkin's wonderful Arundel poem: *'What will survive of us is love'*.

**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 March 21 at 7.30pm with the public forum at 7.15. Everybody is welcome to have their say.