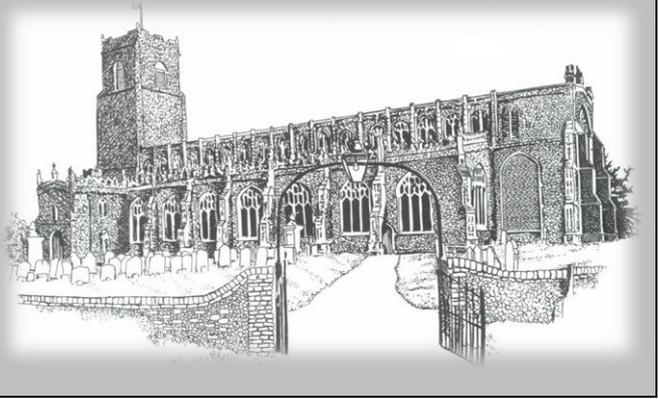


BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

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Issue No. 11

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

September/October 2013

The sun shines down on Blythburgh

The sun shone down on Blythburgh at the fourth *Celebrating Blythburgh* day in The Priory garden. The day started with an open air service in the historic Augustin Priory Ruins.

The Rev Joan Lyon, team vicar at Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, said: "We are here to celebrate that we are part of this community; to celebrate this village, all the different circles of friendship and activity which overlap at different times and seasons and for different reasons but today all are represented here."

Mrs Lyon, the first ever woman to preach in the priory was assisted by the Rev Malcolm Doney, assistant priest at Holy Trinity. She said: "We have the privilege once again of taking a big step back into history by gathering for this service in these ruins – ruins of a building which was built in the 12th century."

Live music was provided in the afternoon and villagers and guests were able to take a trip on the River Blyth provided by Natural England, which also ran a craft stall. The BBQ was free to parishioners and visitors to the garden were given a tour of the ruins by the owner, Nick Haward.

An impromptu boules tournament was held in the White Hart from 4pm., where experienced players offered training before setting up a tournament.

Gary Doy, of Southwold, displayed his 1949 Lister petrol engine which drove a forge drill used by Burton Brothers Builders of Blythburgh. Other displays were provided by Blythburgh bee man, John Blakesley, the RNLI and the Blythburgh Community Speedwatch.

Mrs Lyon said: "Sun, cake, beer, hamburgers, music and friends, old and new plus a congregation of 45 or so in the Priory ruins – these are my memories of Celebrating Blythburgh, held in Suzie and Nick Haward's beautiful garden. Thank you to them.



"The theme of sharing which began the day in the church service continued as people shared their skills – great music to chill out to – and their gifts of cooking and hospitality. We do live in a garden in Blythburgh, in the widest sense, surrounded by nature and beautiful landscapes.

"The interior landscapes of people's lives can sometimes be rough places but the quietly joyful atmosphere of this day of celebration brought us together in a way which certainly lifted my heart as I hope it did all who were present. We have much to celebrate. "

Celebrating Blythburgh is supported by the Parish Council and the Latitude Trust.

A12 estuary flood defences by the spring

Flood defences to protect the A12 as it crosses the Blythburgh estuary will be complete by the end of spring 2014, says Suffolk County Council. The building of a sluice gate is to be investigated further. The work will help prevent a repetition of the flooding in 2007 which closed the road. Public exhibitions, setting out the proposal in more detail, will take place in Blythburgh and Southwold later this year.

Paul Cook

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Farewell to Dr Andrew Eastaugh

Dr Andrew Eastaugh has decided to retire at the end of September 2013 after nearly 30 years in General Practice at Southwold Surgery. He said: "As many of you will know I have decided to stop working at the end of September. "I choose to avoid the word retire, as I see it as an advance, not into old age, that comes on its own whatever, but rather an opportunity to change focus and do things differently. The decision has not been easy. It has been a privilege to be invited into people's lives, when they are vulnerable.

"The relationship between doctor and patient is two-way and I shall be leaving with many fond memories. However, it is the right time for me and the practice as it will enable my successor to join the team before the move to the new building and contribute to shaping things for the future."

Dr Eastaugh has been, and continues to be, instrumental in the development of a number of significant local health initiatives including the new Health Centre and the Voluntary Help Centre and he is a member of the League of Friends of Southwold Hospital. For those who would like to wish him well please come along to the Cardinal Newman Hall between 12.00 and 2.00pm on 27th September 2013. There will also be a collection box at Southwold Surgery for anyone who would like to contribute to Dr Eastaugh's leaving present.

Dr Eastaugh will continue to be involved in the local community, especially in the development of a care home next to the health centre and may even be prevailed upon to do the occasional locum at the surgery.

Southwold Surgery's 2013 flu clinics

Wednesday 25th September at Walberswick Village Hall between 14:00 and 14:45 hrs.

Tuesday 1st October at Wenhaston Village Hall between 14:00 and 14:45 hrs.

Wednesday 2nd October at the William Godell Pavilion on Southwold Common. This clinic will be in conjunction with a fundraising day for the Sole Bay Care Fund. Morning Session : 10:00 – 12:45 hrs. Afternoon Session: 15:00 – 17:45 hrs.

You may arrive for your immunisation at any time and if a certain date is not convenient, you are welcome to come to any of the three

venues. It is not necessary to confirm your attendance in advance nor do you need to turn up at the start of a clinic to ensure you will be immunised as there are sufficient vaccines for all eligible patients. Please wear loose fitting upper clothing to allow the nurses easy access to your upper arm.

Please contact the surgery if you are house bound and need to book an immunisation at home. Also if you are the carer for a house bound patient and because of that have difficulty attending a clinic, please advise the surgery so you can be immunised at the same time as the housebound patient

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Quiz night

The next quiz night at The Hart will be on Monday 30 September, in aid of the RNLI. The quiz will begin at 8pm. Teams of 4-6 people, £1 per person, nibbles included. Please call 01502 478217 to book your team's place.

Limited spaces available.

Autumn/Winter opening hours

Monday – Friday

Open: 11 – 3pm & 6pm – 11pm

Food served: 12 – 2:30pm & 6 – 9pm (9.30 on Friday)

Saturday and Sunday

Open: 11am – 11pm (10pm on Sundays)

Food served: 12-9.30pm (8pm on Sundays)

Halloween / Bonfire night

The Hart this year will be hosting some new and exciting events to do with all things spooky and that go bang! Keep your eyes peeled for news on our 'A' boards for further details of our celebrations, certainly not to be missed!

24 | vouchers

Yes they are back... our 24 | vouchers will be printed in the East Anglian Daily Times from Monday September 16. Collect four tokens to receive 2 main meals for the price of 1.

Jo and Luke look forward to seeing you soon.

Telephone: 01502 478217

A warm fuzzy feeling in an idyllic setting

The scorching sunshine that accompanied most of this year's Latitude Festival helped make it the most enjoyable yet. With headline slots going to *Brits-done-good*, *Fouls*, and *Bloc Party*, the line-up was unrivalled by most other UK festivals. Not only for the quality and diversity of its music acts but for living up to its reputation by welcoming the best of the theatre, dance, poetry, literature, cabaret and film worlds again.

Attracting festival goers ranging from toddlers to the over 60's and beyond, Latitude's family friendly ethos means there's very little of the boorish behaviour which sometimes affects the larger festivals.

Most of the food also provides a welcome respite from standard festival fare of burgers and chips. Oysters do battle with haggis pie in one corner of the field, while everything from Mexican cuisine to pizzas and tapas sit appetisingly around the arena. None of which is overpriced. That isn't to say the value continues across all outlets.

This year's £2 hike in cup prices, although still refundable, made your first pint of beer or cider £6.50 despite Tuborg becoming one of the festival's main sponsors and being the only drink available on draft over the whole weekend. Any qualms, however, are soon forgotten when spending a sunny weekend listening to this year's highlights on the various music stages with the bad taste only replicated by German synth act *Kraftwerk*, who took to the stage Saturday night. Talk of their 3D show swamped the festival with speculation and hype.

However as night fell over Henham Park fans struggled to find the obligatory 3D specs as they flooded to the Obelisk stage. A 30 minute wait ensued until the group walked on stage to take their famous formation behind keyboards. After just a few minutes of their live performance the crowd began to thin.

People ditched the sombre atmosphere in search of the BBC 6 Music tent for what was a truly electrifying performance by modern

dance-pop group *Alt-J*. Playing tracks from their debut album *An Awesome Wave*, the innovative, melodic sound blew the top off the tent and left fans with that festival buzz.

The Latitude spirit was encompassed by Friday night's show from Scottish songstress Sharleen Spiteri in the recently reformed *Texas*. Their mix of old and new made this a special moment for all ages bringing a sense of nostalgia as crowds sang along, not missing a word.

Once again getting a spot in the much favoured comedy tent was an achievement, especially with the promise of seeing TV star Sean Locke, and comedy legends Dylan Moran and Eddie Izzard – who had fans queuing for 3 hours.

The capacity of this stage leaves fans disappointed year after year, unable to see their favourite acts, as the festival opts for an intimate atmosphere without offering an alternative in the form of screens and loud enough sound.

New heights of innovation were reached in the poetry tent when *Dead Poet* took to the stage. Mark Grist and MC Mixy portrayed how it might be if Sylvia Plath entered into a rap battle with Ted Hughes in a hugely enjoyable and engaging show drawing crowds in throughout until the sometimes quiet poetry stage was filled with charmed listeners to this witty and up-and-coming show.

Top highlight across the stages came from Luisa Omelan in the Cabaret tent with her uniquely funny, open and heart-warming show *What would Beyoncé do?* This hour long performance had the audience going from the brink of tears to dancing to the *Queen B's* classics at an erratic pace – a real pleasure to watch.

Latitude never fails to give you that warm fuzzy feeling, the one you only get when standing side-by-side with a stranger in a muddy field singing at the top of your lungs. With its idyllic setting and unique qualities, it is no surprise that Latitude attracts bigger crowds, year-on-year.

Emma Robinson

Speedwatch August 2013: During 12.5 hours monitoring 13 vehicles exceeded the 30mph speed limit through the village. The highest speed recorded was 40mph on the Dunwich Road.

BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

When bombs fell over the village

Early 2011 saw the first Blythburgh Remembered event Growing Up In The village. Some very special individuals were able to paint a picture of what it was like growing up in Blythburgh in the first half of the 20th century. Anita Barbrook (nee Kett) was born in Toby's Cottages on the B1387 to the East of Toby's Walks in 1936. In this extract, she shares her memories of village life during WWII.

"The sky at night was very active as the search lights would sweep across and search for the enemy aircraft. One day I remember seeing bombs dropping from a plane which was on its way home to Germany. This was in the direction of Toby's Barn, just a short distance from Toby's Cottages which was where we lived.

"We were told afterwards that they were trying to bomb the A12 but missed and bombed the fields instead.

"I also remember bombs were dropped at the back of our garden and then further back over the heath land.

"Another day when I was in our garden I observed a plane flying very low and close by me and then going over the sand quarry, which was at the back of our house. To my amazement it started machine gunning at men who were working on the cranes – thankfully nobody was injured but I was really scared and wondered if the plane was going to turn round and come back and shoot at me. Fortunately it didn't.

"Something that sticks in my mind was the sight of an American plane falling from the sky and coming down on heath land this side of Walberswick. It was on fire as it dropped from the sky and that was



a terrible sight. I remember Mrs Critten from Southwold driving her ambulance really fast to the scene. I was standing at the top of Toby's Road at the crossroads – Dunwich, Blythburgh and Walberswick.

"The premises next to us were used as an army billet; the soldiers were very friendly and very active coming and going day and night.

"Of course, we had no shelter so when the siren went off we climbed under our very solid dining room table and hoped for the best. The daily newspaper and radio were a must in these very worrying times. My sister Pat and I did get very

frightened at times at what was happening around us.

"My Dad (Tom Kett) joined the home guard, as did many men in the village, and he was out most nights on observation duties at Easton Bavents; as you can imagine, they were looking out to sea to see if they could spot the enemy coming but fortunately they didn't."

A recording of this event is available.

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

News from Holy Trinity

Harvest Festival: Sunday 22 September at 11am. There's a special twist this year, with everybody invited to bring an object which represents their gifts and talents. This might be a mug to symbolise hospitality, a plant to represent gardening. "Use your imagination!" urges Rev Joan Lyon. The service will be followed by a Harvest ploughman's lunch, to which all are welcome. If you're coming, please call Jenny Allen (478 314).

Rake and Cake: Saturday 26 October from 10-12. The church invites volunteers to help de-weed the church. Over time, weeds have worked their way into the crevices at the foot of the outside of the building. Ultimately, they could damage the stonework, so they need to be removed. Please bring a pair of gardening gloves, a bucket, and maybe a hand fork. Your efforts will be rewarded with coffee and cake. (No rakes are actually needed – they just rhyme with cake.)

Café and Minimarket: The friendly monthly café and mini market held in the church on the last Friday morning of each month will continue until 28 November. It will resume in March 2014.

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Council tries to deal with “that wall”

Few recent developments in Blythburgh have attracted as much attention from residents as The Mill Farm Wall. Fronting the property on Dunwich Road and Lodge Lane, with the length of the bridleway visible from the highway resurfaced with asphalt, the character of this once green element of Blythburgh’s landscape has been transformed. Suburbanisation is one description.

In 2002 a planning application to replace the property’s boundary hedge with a wall was rejected. An appeal against the planners’ decision also failed. The planning inspector wrote that the soft edge provided by the existing hedge to the property was important because of its prominent position, proximity to the countryside and contribution to the street scene. It reinforced the green edges to the properties and land to the south and provided continuity with the bridleway hedgerows.

She concluded: “The proposal would be harmful to the character and appearance of the surrounding area, having regard to the location of the site in an AONB.’ The inspector dismissed the applicant’s willingness to screen the wall with planting because of the lack of space and that it would not overcome “the visual harm.”

The property changed hands in 2010 and in 2012 the new owner applied for permission to replace the hedge on the Dunwich Road and Lodge Lane boundaries with a 1.8 metre-high wall, with an entrance for vehicles from the bridleway into the rear of the property. Blythburgh Parish Council objected to the application because of its impact on the green rural character of the location.

The council disagreed with the applicant’s argument that using a new Lodge Lane entrance would be safer than the existing one from his garage on Dunwich Road. The council also questioned the applicant’s right to use the bridleway for this purpose. The entrance to Mill Farm had always been from Dunwich Road and access from Lodge Lane was not even possible until the new owner opened a gap in the Lodge Lane hedge.

The parish council’s powers in planning matters are limited. It is consulted by planners but can only advise. It has no decision-making authority. It is also relevant that the hedge in question had no statutory protection. It could be removed and a wall of any material and design up to one metre in height built without planning permission.

The planners’ response to the 2012 application was quite different from that in 2002. The wall was approved on condition that it be set back to allow planting of a hedge between it and Lodge Lane.

The county highways authority also required that Lodge Lane should be resurfaced for a minimum of five metres from its junction with Dunwich Road. The question raised by the parish council of the applicant’s right to use Lodge Lane for vehicular access was not addressed.

Once a planning decision has been made only the applicant can object to it. Other aggrieved parties may have the options of going to the Ombudsman or the High Court. Unusual actions for a parish council. However, if work is not in accordance with that approved, the planning authority can issue an Enforcement Notice.

Blythburgh Parish Council has drawn the planners’ attention to a number of ways in which the Mill Farm scheme may not be compliant. The wall is too high; on the wrong alignment and there is insufficient space for a hedge; and the asphaltting of Lodge Lane is excessive.

It was a condition of planning approval that the applicant’s scheme for resurfacing should be approved in writing. A search in the publicly available planning file has failed to find evidence that this was done. The applicant’s right to drive down Lodge Lane has been questioned again. The planners’ response is awaited.

What is certain is that a Mill Farm wall is here to stay, with some resurfacing of Lodge Lane. There should be a viable screening hedge. But the character of a once rural part of Blythburgh will have changed forever.

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Notes from Daisy Bank LVIII

This is my seventeenth year exhibiting at the church. For those of you who don't know, in 1996 the Blythburgh Group was formed, consisting of myself, a photographer, a potter, another painter and a furniture maker. The criterion for belonging was that you had to be a full time professional and live in the village.

For such a small village it was surprising that we could get enough people who filled that brief. After about five years it had run its course and that left me to carry on. Shortly after that I decided not to exhibit anywhere else and have never regretted that decision. Happy days but in the end everything changes. On the right is one of the paintings now languishing up in the church waiting for somebody to buy it.

I killed my first myxomatosis rabbit today. It was sitting in the road waiting for some kind soul to put an end to its misery. But of course nobody does and they pass on by, oblivious to its agony.

When I was a young boy cycling through the Chilterns – I lived in Henley-on-Thames – waves of rabbits would pass over the road before me such were their numbers. That situation could no longer carry on and in the end a horror story was forced into their innocent lives and it still continues to this day.

Did anybody think of the wild rabbit as a potentially vast source of food? Teams of shooters instead of teams of scientists were all it would have taken: a nice clean death like the death I gave that poor rabbit today. I hope the man who introduced that dreadful disease to the UK is or has been dreadfully punished for the crimes he committed against innocent creatures. Nothing changes.

We are told that the badgers are a protected species but even as I write this, they are being culled in Somerset and soon to be in Gloucester.



Culled is an easy word to use, so much better than killed. Can anybody answer this: why aren't all cows vaccinated against TB at birth?

Having had the disease twice in my early life, it is now virtually eradicated in humans so why not cows? Is there a monetary aspect to all this I ask myself.

Anyway rabbits and even moles are safe in our garden and yes we have hedgehogs. The rabbits eat my newly planted roses and the moles have made a mess of our lawns but who cares?

We went to a concert last night up at the church given by an *a cappella* group from Luxembourg. At the beginning when they were singing some pieces from Byrd and Tallis.

, I thought how appropriate to listen to this type of music in a setting that four hundred years ago, just maybe it would have been performed as new and innovative music: a sort of Michael Jackson of their day, who by the way, despite my love of classical music, I also like and have several of his CD's. So there.

Paul Bennett

The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council, will be in the Village Hall, November 11 at 7.30pm preceded by the Open Forum. Come and have your say. Everybody is welcome.