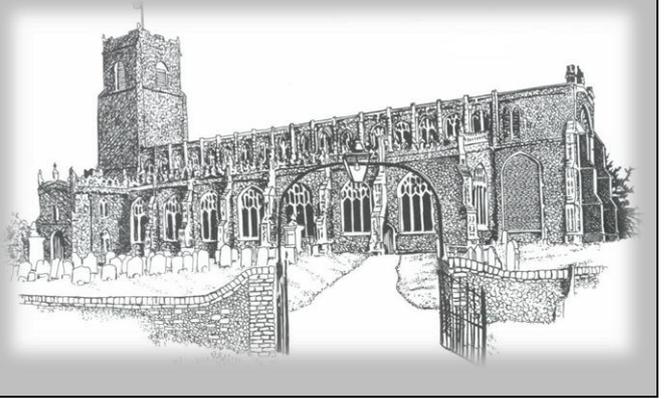


BLYTHBURGH

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Issue No. 12

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

November/December 2013

Local democracy wins on caravan site

Plans to extend the Pine Lodge caravan site from five to ten holiday caravans and for a change of use to create a permanent gypsy/traveller pitch were rejected unanimously by the Suffolk Coastal District Council's planning sub-committee at the beginning of November.

The proposals failed because the site is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, there were considerable concerns about traffic safety, no access to mains water exists and because of incompatibility with the Local Plan

The planning applications, which were supported by the council's planning officers brought objections from neighbours and the four parish councils directly affected, Bramfield and Thorington, Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton, Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet, and Walberswick.

In an unprecedented move, the chairs of the four councils combined to write a letter to Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council, setting out their objections. These focused on the arguments that the site is within an Area of Natural Beauty (AONB); that adding more traffic on narrow Hazel Lane and its junction with the A12 is potentially dangerous; and that the site was not suitable for a permanent gypsy/traveller pitch.

The letter stressed: "We want to make it absolutely clear that we are not anti-gypsy or

traveller. However, if the first gypsy/traveller in SCDC's area is to be created, it should be the result of more measured consideration and wider consultation than can result from an opportunistic application linked to other issues."

The site has been the subject of repeatedly rejected applications for development and has been served with enforcement notices, which, however, were never enforced.

Councillor Herring told the committee that he thought that the issues had been properly raised by other neighbours and the joint parish councils. He argued that a traveller site was not needed at Hazel Lane.

A number of councillors voiced their objections including a robust speech from Councillor Michael Gower, whose ward covers the four parish councils. He cited a number of reasons for the plans to be rejected.

Problems began at the site in 2009 when various work was carried out without planning permission including removal of an ancient hedgerow and a building of primary living accommodation. A series of retrospective planning applications and refusals resulted in enforcement notices being served and a failed appeal against them. In spite of a firm deadline from the inspectorate, no progress was made on these enforcements for four years.

Parish Council precept unchanged for 2014-15

Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council decided that there should be no increase in the current precept of £6,643 in the next financial year, 2014 to 15. The budget, reduced by 13% on 2013-14, allows for expenditure on general items for £6,740 and specific expenditure of £1,500 linked with maintenance and improvement of the Village Hall. The shortfall will be met from reserves. **Details, Page 9.**

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Yes, you REALLY WILL go to the ball!

This year's pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Norwich, is Cinderella, and thanks to Blythburgh Latitude Trust, seats have been booked for a performance on Saturday 4 January at 2.30pm. The coach (possibly a pumpkin) will pick up everybody at the bus stop on the northbound A12 at 11.30am, and should be back in Blythburgh around 6.30pm. This will allow arrival in Norwich in time to have a bite to eat before the show and even hit the sales.

This trip is open to everyone who is resident in the parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton, but places are limited so please book early. Deadline for applications is Friday 30 November.

Please apply in writing to Jenny Allen, Wolsey House, Chapel Road, or by e-mail jennyanddick@aol.com with your name and address; the number of places requested; and a contact telephone number. Please also say if any children are aged under 3 and would be sharing a seat with an adult. Please assume that you have got places if Jenny does not contact you.

The annual pantomime is one of a number of events supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust. Others include, Celebrating Blythburgh, the annual Christmas Tea and this year, fireworks at the White Hart. The trust has also made a major contribution to maintenance of the Village Hall.

Using funds provided for by the sale of cut-price tickets donated by Festival Republic, organisers of the Latitude Festival, the Trust makes grants to meet specific needs of individuals and families living in the parish. The Trustees are anxious to

to encourage parishioners to apply for grants for expenditure that is not covered from other sources. The Trust has already distributed around £17,500. Personal grants have included contributions towards school and other trips, sports and IT equipment, and school uniforms.



If you have a need, contact the administrator, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road (478 687). He will be happy to help in making applications to the Trust

All applications will be treated in complete confidence. Normally grants will not exceed £200, although exceptional circumstances could result in higher awards. Parents or carers must endorse applications for children under 16.

The trustees are Jenny Allen, chair, Alan De Thabrew, Michael Nichols, David Tytler and Harry Waller.

The Latitude Festival 2014
Thursday July 17 - Sunday July 20

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telephone 01502 478217

Follow us on **FACEBOOK** for up- to- the-minute news and offers

Luke & Jo would like to thank everybody for their continued support at The Hart. Halloween went well with lots of familiar faces. Our fireworks' night, in association with the Blythburgh Latitude Trust was a big success.

We look forward to seeing you all over the festive period.

Christmas @ The Hart

Have your Christmas party in style: dance the night away at one of our live music evenings, get together with friends and colleagues for a few drinks or enjoy a festive meal from Nov 25 – Dec 23.

The Christmas menu is:

Lunch: 2 courses, £14.95

3 courses, £19.95

Dinner: 3 courses, £23

Christmas Day @ The Hart

Enjoy Christmas day at £39.95 per person for 3 courses. No cooking, no washing up, just relax and let us do the hard work. Please call Jo or Luke on 01502 478217 for more information. Booking advisable.

Live music nights

Saturday 7, 14 and 21 December

Live music in the bar from Stephen Amer, playing classic, contemporary and festive swing, including the best of the Rat Pack, Bubl , Big Band numbers and Traditional Swing, all given the traditional swing treatment.

New Years Eve @ The Hart

See 2013 out in style at The Hart. Free entry: 3 course set menu available in the restaurant £39.95 per person. Smart dress only. Professional DJ from 9pm until midnight. Over 18's only.

News from Holy Trinity

After a slow start, our monthly café and mini-markets are now very much on the Blythburgh social map. It's now a small but vibrant hub for good coffee and cake, a chance to catch up on the gossip and buy a variety of goods, many of them hand-made. Held on the last Friday of the month the final one before next spring is in the church on Friday 28 November from 10 to 12 – a chance to see neighbours and pick up Christmas goodies.



Keeping the church standing

Every five years, our architect gives the church a thorough 'medical', called a Quinquennial Inspection. We've recently had the report back. Given the antiquity of our building, we were relieved to receive a relatively clean bill of health. Nonetheless, we still need to find around £10,500 for essential remedial work on the building.

If you'd like to help keep your church standing, why not become a *Friend of Holy Trinity*? You'd be joining 56 people, from all over the country who care enough for the place to make a regular donation for its upkeep (Benjamin Britten was one of them.)

Surprisingly, of the current 56, only two live in Blythburgh. Holy Trinity could really do with a bit more local support. To find out how to join, see the leaflets in the church, or talk to Meryl

Doney, the friends' secretary 01502 478229 or meryldoney@me.com.

Digging deep

At the end of October, a hardworking bunch of villagers gathered to clear weeds from the foot of the church walls – one of the remedies suggested in our Quinquennial.

The sun shone on us, volunteers worked hard – the children competing on who could find the fattest, shortest, longest and thinnest worms. At the end of the intense work-out we were revived by slabs of delicious cake from the village shop.

Green sward

You may notice a beautiful, pristine swathe of turf in the churchyard to the east of the church. This is a new area dedicated to the burial of cremated remains.

Important dates for your diary

Sunday 1 December 6.00pm: A service of Advent Carols with the Blythburgh Singers

Saturday 21 December 6.00pm: A service of Lessons and Carols, led by the Blythburgh Singers

Sunday 22 December 3.30pm Crib Service (please note, this is at an earlier time and date than previous years).

Tuesday 24 December 11.30pm: Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am: Christmas Morning Service (please note, this is not a service of Holy Communion as advertised elsewhere, and takes place an hour earlier than last year).

Sunday 5 January 6pm: No Choral Evensong on this day; Sole Bay Team Carol Service for Epiphany at St Edmund's, Southwold.

SPEEDWATCH: During September, Blythburgh Community Speedwatch reporter seven vehicles for exceeding the 30mph speed limit through the village. The highest reported speed was 39mph on the Dunwich Road.

BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

Farmer Thomas comes to Hinton Hall

It was a rather grey day in Blythburgh but my conversation with Thomas (aka Toby) Lond-Caulk was anything but dull. During WWII many farms were taken over by the War Agricultural Executive Committee, better known as War Ags.

Surprisingly, at the end of the war these farms weren't immediately returned to their owners instead they were put out to let by War Ags. Thomas' parents – Thomas and Mynie – at that time farming in Surlingham, were offered farms at Kelsale Lodge, Westwood Lodge or Hinton Hall. Upon inspection, Mynie declared Westwood Lodge too big but Hinton Hall was just right, so the Lond-Caulk family came to Hinton Hall in October 1946 – the boy Thomas was just 11 years old.

The farm was mainly arable – barley, wheat, oats and sugar beet – and came with five full-time workers. The young Thomas helped out with the horses and remembers taking them to Mr. Jefferies the blacksmith in Thorington to be shod (the forge in Blythburgh had closed by then).

Between 1946 and 1950 Thomas' father took on additional farmland as a tenant of Sir Ralph Blois and, in 1950, when War Ags returned farms to their original owners, the Lond-Caulk family stayed on at Hinton Hall as tenant farmers.

The world was changing and so was farming. By 1953, peas had become an important crop and almost half the acreage at Hinton Hall was given over to pea production: a lucrative but very labour intensive crop.

All the work was done by hand and contracts with the Big 3 in Lowestoft – Birds Eye, Mortons and the Co-op - were rigorous and

required the peas to be at the factories within two hours of being picked.

Farming was the family business but 11-year-old Thomas still needed to be schooled. Having passed "the scholarship", Thomas was bound for Bungay – at that time, an all-boys grammar school. The journey proved to be onerous - bike to Darsham, train to Beccles, and another train to Bungay - so Thomas had to stay in a school-run boarding house during the week; a rather unpleasant place. To this day, Thomas cannot face rice pudding.

At 18 (1953) National Service called and

Thomas briefly joined the Army Catering Corp in Aldershot before moving to Yeovil with the Royal Army Service Corp.

It was in Yeovil that Thomas passed his lorry test, the only driving test he has ever taken.

The following year Thomas headed for Germany in his lorry to build bridges; that would be floating pontoon bridges across the Weser at the town of Hamlin (of Pied Piper

fame). It must have been successful because Thomas' next assignment was in Berlin which meant travelling through the Russian Zone.

Things were different in 1954 and the instruction even if you broke down, don't stop was good advice. Fortunately all went well and after two years national service Thomas returned to Hinton Hall to continue learning the ropes alongside his father.

Thomas succeeded his father and farmed at Hinton Hall until his retirement in 2004 and therein lies another story.



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

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Councillors object to planning applications

In the Open Forum at the Parish Council's November meeting parishioners expressed concerns at a proposal by Badger Homes to demolish *Amberley* and build nine houses behind the old chapel in Dunwich Road.

The impact on properties in Highfield, the lack of architectural distinction and, especially, the dangerous new junction with Dunwich Road was stressed. The Parish Council did not object in principle to the development. It was consistent with Suffolk Coastal's Local Plan. There was a presumption in favour of such development in Blythburgh. However, the council objected to the proposal in its present form.

The new entrance was dangerous, squeezed between the chapel and *Cedarcroft*, passing within two metres of the bungalow's front door. Close to the Chapel Road junction, opposite Hawthorn Farm's blind entrance, it had poor visibility towards Angel Lane. Southbound traffic would be within 30 metres of vehicles at the estate entrance before they could be seen.

The scheme provided one 5-bedroomed house, six with 4 bedrooms and two 3-bedroomed affordable homes. The Local Plan calls for three affordable houses. There were other concerns. The Local Plan requires that the development should be appropriate to the character of the community. Although the house designs are

unexceptionable in themselves, they could be anywhere. The council felt that the opportunity should be taken to provide a higher standard of design, with some distinction for Blythburgh. There were model schemes in other villages of houses with much higher levels of energy efficiency and low ecological footprints.

Other concerns included the maintenance of green boundaries around the site, especially to the north from which the new houses would be seen across an open field within the conservation area. The provision for screening recycling bins seemed inadequate and the council wished Blythburgh's character as a dark village with no street lighting to be respected. The impact on local infrastructure such as schools, power, broadband and sewerage must be considered. Surface water flow was already a problem during heavy rain and outflows from a new estate could make the situation worse.

The council also objected to a proposal to convert the garage at White Cottage in The Street into a two-bedroom dwelling. The location has a history of problems with on-street parking and was inappropriate for a residence. The site, within the conservation area and close to listed buildings, was a very sensitive one and the design of the new property was thought to be of insufficient merit in this context.

Parish Council Budget for 2014 – 2015

The budget for 2014-15 was built around the following assumptions:

Clerk's remuneration to remain at £10.19 per hour, but time increased by two hours a month to cover two sessions when the clerk would be available to parishioners for consultation. Increase £278.36.

Subscriptions: SALC, SPLG, CPRE and Community Action Suffolk, no change. Insurance and audits:

Council insurance up 10% at end of three-year agreement, hall up by 3%. Audits and playsite inspection reduced by £173. Maintenance, grass cutting, bus shelter cleaning, speedgun calibration, hall maintenance £1,500, general items £400. Reduction of £1,000.

Expenses to include Speedwatch, £250, Celebrating Blythburgh, up to £250, and annual parish meeting, up to £100. Expenses, up to £25 for each councillor and £100 for clerk. Increase £675. Training, £50 for each councillor and the clerk. No change. Miscellaneous, includes new items i.e. dog bin, plus unspecified items. Reduction of £1000. Donations, Villager of the Year, £50.

Estimated Total Spend: £8,240 (overall reduction £1,259); operating costs £6,740; discretionary items £1,500.

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Notes from Daisy Bank LVIV

Nothing much happening in Daisy Bank this month so I thought I'd tell you that I have a particularly bad sense of smell. Good thing for bad smells of course but not for the good ones. However, I do find that smells can sometimes evoke memories: some good and some bad.

There is an unsalted butter produced by Mr Waitrose that, when I open the packet, I am a little boy again, looking up at a counter in Sainsburys in Enfield High Street, watching the man behind the counter pat butter with two wooden paddles, ready to put into a greaseproof packet. I love that smell. For me that butter is the best.

Is it the memory or the taste? From time to time, I can open what I call my memory drawers and recall many other things and it's all to do with their smell.

For example, I am walking in a field of grass intermingled with thyme and rosemary at the back of the first villa we stayed at in Tuscany. Every step produces a waft of crushed loveliness and I long to be there, my favourite place after Blythburgh.

Another drawer produces the smell of a slightly sweating cart horse and its nosebag of oats as it plods slowly up the road with me sitting next to the milkman. I know that when it reaches the end of our street I must get off and walk home and pray for the next time my mother allows me to do it again.

The smell of fresh baked rolls in the ABC café in Enfield Town after, as an alter boy, serving mass for the nuns at the local convent. My mother took me there every day for a year so I could get a medal from the Pope. Not in person you understand but forwarded on from Rome, which, evidently, was some foreign place where His Holiness lived. My father, a family grocer, is coring a sample from a whole cheddar cheese before he buys it from the wholesaler. The smell, as he passes the core near my nose is delicious.

The sour and almost overpowering smell of the London River as I join a ship in the Albert Dock. If you fall in that highly toxic muck, it's a fast track to hospital and the stomach pump. The miasma of smog as I walk in front of our grocer's van waving my father forward until I come suddenly and shockingly face to face with a red London Trolley bus, stopped and unable to continue.

The smell of lavender in my mother's dressing table drawer which, I know I should not be opening and Golden Virginia tobacco as my father rolls yet another cigarette. Max, a black cat who lives nearby and decides to live with us exuding the aroma of Condor pipe tobacco, which his previous owner smokes.

It took some time to disappear, if in fact it ever did. The unique and slightly perfumed smell of a Siamese cat as I bury my face in its fur.

All these memories are there still and just waiting for me to open the appropriate drawer.

Back to real time. For some time now I have been cycling every morning and my latest route, recommended by Derek my neighbour who is also a cyclist, has turned out to be a winner. The old railway track at the back of our garden, the Wenhaston Road, Onyets Hill, turn left and past Sole Bay Pine shop. Over the A12 through the lovely wood by Redcap Farm.

Turn left at Five Finger Post and back on the Dunwich Road, Pig City and home. The first morning I tried it, when I'd got about half way I saw another cyclist making his way towards me. Of course it was Derek going the other way around. We stopped, had a chat and then met again twenty minutes later in the Church car park, our circular routes complete. Five miles altogether. I recommend it. And the smell of pigs isn't that bad when you get used to it. And of course, it's another memory to put in another drawer.

Paul Bennett

The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council, is in the Village Hall, at 7.30pm, January 13, preceded by the Open Forum at 7.15 when an official from EDF will explain the latest moves on the proposed building of Sizewell C.