

BLYTHBURGH

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Issue No.21

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

May/June 2015

Blythburgh Day moves home



Celebrating Blythburgh is back with a bang on Sunday July 12 with a new home in the White Hart from noon to five pm. Free boat trips will run from the landing stage on the River Blyth every half hour from ten to two. Booking is recommended and should be made on 079704638266.

The BBQ is free to parishioners on presentation of the voucher. Seconds have to be paid for. Each parishioner, on the presentation of a separate voucher is entitled to either a pint of Adnams Best or a Carlsberg, or a glass of wine and a child's soft drink. Food vouchers should be presented to the BBQ in the White Hart; drink vouchers to the bar. The vouchers are on Page 10.

Live music will be provided by pianist Nick Raison, 12.00 to 2.00pm, and from *Handle with Care*, 2.00pm to 5.00pm. Everybody is welcome, so please be there.

Villagers of the Year announced for 2015

Pat and Terry Goss have been elected joint Villagers of the Year for 2015. Making the announcement at the annual parish meeting in May, David Tytler, chair of the parish council said: "Pat and Terry Goss have had a home in the village for 20 years or so and have always supported and assisted in many village events. Nothing it seems is too much trouble. They are currently playing a major role in the undoubted success of the Blythburgh Film Club, which would be hard pressed to manage without them." Mr and Mrs Goss receive a certificate, their names on the honour board in the village hall and a cheque for £50.

Where to collect your Latitude tickets

Residents will soon be told whether or not they have been successful in their applications for the tenth Latitude Festival in Henham Park from July 16 to 19, 2015. Unsuccessful applicants will be put on to a waiting list. A number of applications were made after the closing date of May 4 and will not be eligible. Payment must be made by June 1. Cheques should be made payable to Blythburgh Latitude Trust.

If confirmation of names or payment is not supplied then the tickets WILL BE re-allocated. Tickets should be collected from Blythburgh Village Hall on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 July between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Identification and signature will be required when collecting tickets.

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New Parish Council takes its seat

Following a non-contested election for the Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council, six parishioners who had put themselves forward for election have been deemed to have been elected. They are Alan De Thabrew, Alan Mackley, Roderick Ore-Ewing, Jeff Sutton, David Tytler and Cliff Waller. The one vacancy will be filled by co-option. Anybody interested in joining the council should contact Jim Boggis, the Parish Clerk

At its annual meeting on May 19, David Tytler was elected chair, Alan Mackley, vice-chair and chair of the planning advisory group, Roderick Ore-Ewing was elected chair of the finance advisory group. Alan De Thabrew and David Tytler were elected as the council's representatives on the Blythburgh Latitude Trust; Alan Mackley as one of the council's trustees on the Blythburgh Village Hall Management Committee. Jeff Sutton will serve on the finance advisory group and was also appointed tree warden. Jim Boggis will continue to be the council's responsible officer on the finance group.

The parish council is the level of local government closest to the community. It is consulted by Suffolk Coastal District Council on a range of issues, especially planning, and by Suffolk County Council, particularly on traffic control, which is a big issue for the village. The Parish Council's direct responsibilities include setting and managing the parish budget and managing local facilities.

The Parish Council funds the speed warning signs on the A12 and the B1125; the village hall; the play site; and bus shelter cleaning. Parish Council initiatives include the Blythburgh

Latitude Trust, a free welcome handbook; traffic management and the Villager of the Year.

The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will be in the village hall on Tuesday July 14 at 7.30pm with the public forum starting at 7.15. Everybody is welcome. Please come and have your say it is important to let the council know of the issues that concern you and that you would like the council to resolve.

Following the district council elections in May, Suffolk Coastal District Council has slimmed down to 42 councillors. The Conservatives remain in control, winning 37 seats, while the Liberal Democrats won 2 seats, Labour 1 seat and there are 2 Independent councillors.

The councillors will represent eleven single-member wards, fourteen two-member wards and one three-member ward across the district, 26 electoral wards in total. Blythburgh is now part of the Wenhaston and Westleton ward, which was won by the Conservative Ray Thorneycroft. Michael Gower stood down as a Conservative candidate in Suffolk Coastal but still sits on Suffolk County Council.

Mr Thorneycroft secured 907 votes, with Lib Dems on 402 and Labour on 393. Previously, Suffolk Coastal had 55 councillors representing 34 electoral wards - with the Conservatives holding 44 seats, the Liberal Democrats 5 seats, Labour 4 seats and Independent councillors 2 seats.

The turn out across the district of 72.4 per cent of the 96,411 eligible voters was significantly up on the 49.3 per cent of voters who turned out at the last election in May 2011.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations to Jeff and Wendy Sutton at the Old Custom House for what they have done to their garden bank facing the A12. It looks a picture with spring bulbs and there appear to be lupins and other perennials, which will look lovely. Jeff has even cut the verge on the A12, which makes it look neat and tidy. Big thanks to them for enhancing the appearance of our lovely village

Mary Gundry and Colin Huggins



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At The White Hart

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Speed warning signs are here!

Following years of persistence, Blythburgh Parish Council was told at its May meeting that a speed warning sign was now operating in the Dunwich Road. It will be moved to a site on the A 12 in the next few weeks.

The parish council will be responsible for moving the sign to each of the sites following clear advice from the Department of Transport that fixed signs are less effective as motorists become familiar with them and ignore them. The Council is still pressing Suffolk County Council to provide a site on the northern side of the village.

The sign will also store data recording each traffic movement, when and at what speed it passed. This will be downloaded by the parish council when the sign is moved.

The information will be reviewed every six months or so to identify traffic speed and flow. It will also measure the sign's effectiveness.

The Parish Council is keen to install prominent gateway signs for the village on the A12 and possibly the B1125 but again is waiting for the county council to approve the positions and the

design. The cost of two signs on the A 12 has been met by the Parish Council, and by grants from the Blythburgh Latitude Trust and from Suffolk County Council.

Gateway village entry signs are a popular speed reduction measure in rural Suffolk. Their effectiveness is difficult to quantify but Department of Transport studies found that they reduce speeds, especially when used in conjunction with other measures such as road markings, speed limit roundels, and flashing speed warning signs.

Defibrillator: The Parish Council is seeking planning permission to house a defibrillator, previously used by Blythburgh First Responders, in a cupboard in the village shop.

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 14 at 7.30pm with the public forum starting at 7.15. Everybody is welcome. Please come and have your say as it is important for the council to know the concerns of the village and its priorities.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: David Tytler
01502 478521

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

Chair finance advisory group
Roderick Orr-Ewing

Councillors
Alan De Thabrew, Jeff Sutton,
Cliff Waller
One vacancy

Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687

BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

Horticultural Society
Jenny Allen 01502 478314

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams
01502 478484

Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Blythburgh Trust administrator
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Village Hall
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

Six years on – and where are we now?

Can you believe that it is almost six years since the Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Plan was published and, nearly eight years since 50 parishioners signed up to the principle of having a Parish Plan?

Blythburgh, in common with many places, is very reliant on volunteers and, in 2007, it was a small group of enthusiastic volunteers who took on the mammoth task of producing The Plan. Three have since left the village but most still live here: Ro Williams, Adam Burrows, Lucy Robinson, Alan De Thabrew, Tom Lond-Caulk, Brenda Motley and Alan Rutter.

With an over-arching objective to "set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, how to preserve valued local features and to map out facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future", where the devil did they start?

Well, to find out what residents wanted the steering group had to raise funds, develop questionnaires and send them out. The response was excellent with 174 people, including children and young people, from 104 households returning questionnaires. Much more work was then needed to collate and analyse the data before another public meeting prioritised the action plan.

All the high priority issues had champions and, six years on, many good things have been done as a result i.e. the information boards.

Two high priority areas that continue to have a high profile in the village are Blythburgh M@tters and traffic management. Blythburgh M@tters was set up to facilitate, publicise, organise and encourage social events in the village. Six years later that is exactly what it's done, and continues to do, under the leadership

of Ro Williams. As well as organising events – such as litter picks, treasure hunts, beating the bounds and a village picnic, a barn dance to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and a party to celebrate the Royal wedding – it has also provided support for new ventures such as "flicks in the sticks", and spin-offs such as the well supported monthly Community Café and Mini Market, and Blyth Belles..

Traffic management under the guiding hand of Alan Mackley continues to be a significant issue. Progress takes time especially when building

consensus and dealing with local government but this has been an area of unrelenting focus. The most recent questionnaire (Blythburgh Focus, Nov 2013) garnered responses from 17 households representing 30 adults.

A recent partial success has been reaching an agreement with Suffolk County Council for the installation of Vehicle Activated Speed signs in

Dunwich Road and on the A12 to the South of the Village (but sadly not yet to the North of the Village). Traffic issues associated with Sizewell C are a looming issue and the parish council continues to represent forcefully your concerns.

Some of the issues identified in The Plan have been successfully over-taken by events such as improved access to recycling bins but it's not been possible to make progress on all fronts and sadly the lack of maintenance of public rights of way is one such area. If you would like an email copy of the Parish Plan please email blythburgh.pc@gmail.com



Words: Sonia Boggis

Illustration: Spike Gerrell

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(next to The White Hart Inn)

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Alan and Katie look forward to seeing you!

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Mobile: 07968 976933

Email: blythburghshop@live.co.uk

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

From art to a month of music

If May was the season for the visual arts in Blythburgh church with the arrival of the highly praised exhibition of sculptures of angels and boats by the artist Derek Nice, then June is the time for music.

The visual delights of the church are matched by its acoustic qualities – one of the reasons for its long association with the Aldburgh Festival, dating back to Benjamin Britten's days.

This June sees the return of the festival, and four concerts will take place in Blythburgh church: Sat 13 June 3pm (singer Andreas Scholl); Sat 21 June 2.30pm (Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time); Monday 22 June 3pm (Ensemble A Cumpagnia with music from Corsica: Tues 23 June 7.30pm (Renaissance music from Ensemble Organum). Beware, the first two concerts are already sold out. For more details, contact www.aldeburgh.co.uk.

Holy Trinity will, as usual, be hosting the monthly Blythburgh café and mini-market on the mornings of Friday 26 June and 31 July.

Looking ahead, on Saturday 1 August the Blythburgh Horticulture Society annual flower & produce show will take place in the church, and Sunday 9 August sees the much-loved Animal Service at 11am. Blythburgh's Associate Priest Malcolm Doney is on sabbatical, so won't be leading the service, but informed sources suggest that his horse, Neville, may be in attendance as usual, together with equine friends Milly and Gatsby Goss.

The clergy and congregation would like to express their warmest thanks and appreciation for the generous gifts made by the Tuesday night White Hart quizzers this year.



History in the back garden: The story of how Nick and Susan Haward refurbished The Priory, once owned by painter John Seymour Lucas, and its 12th century ruins is a fascinating one. The whole story has been painstakingly pulled together by the Hawards and can be found on www.blythburghpriory.co.uk

Toby's Walks: It has been agreed to remove all signage, picnic benches, litter and dog bins, and on-site bollards, and to re-secure the doors of the toilets (which have been forced open). The entrances will also be secured, which involves moving the metal gates to the road-side and installing fencing either side. The estate will then

erect signs to say the site is closed and is private land. It is hoped that the new measures will stop people using the site as a public resource. At present, people can park in the pull-ins and walk into the site.

A-boards have been purchased by Blythburgh M@tters for the use of everybody in the village to advertise events. Heavy enough to be stable on the A12, they have a plastic film which is held in place by a magnet so there is no need to laminate posters. Each side will hold 4 x A4 sheets which is A2 size. Anybody wishing to use them should contact Ro Williams on 01502 478484. She asks that if the boards are borrow they are returned clean and without any posters.



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An evening with Roger McGough



Roger McGough is appearing at St. Edmunds Hall, Southwold, on Friday 3rd of July at 7.70pm as part of the Southwold Arts Festival. McGough was part of the underground culture of pop music and poetry which erupted in Liverpool in the 1960s and Roger was at the forefront of both.

With John Gorman and Mike McGear – brother of Paul McCartney – he formed *Scaffold*, an anarchic trio with comic songs, comic sketches and Roger's poetry. They began at the Edinburgh Festival but soon had several hit records and by 1968 had reached No.1 in the UK Singles Chart with their version of the memorable *Lily the Pink*.

He came to national prominence with the publication of *Mersey Sound*, an anthology of poetry by himself and two other Liverpool poets, Adrian Henri and Brian Patten. The title was a conscious association with the eruption of the music of the Beatles and other Liverpool groups known as the Mersey Beat. The poems are irreverent, sardonic and sad. They brought poetry down from the dusty shelves of the hushed libraries and solemn universities out into the street.

Tickets are £15.00, available the Box Office at St Edmunds Hall, open daily from 12 to 3pm. Tel. 01502) 72257 or book on line: www.southwoldartsfestival.co.uk

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 or a hamburger at Celebrating Blythburgh's BBQ in the White Hart on July 12 from noon until five. This voucher can be used only once. Second helpings have to be paid for!

Number of adults.....

Number of children.....

Celebrating Blythburgh Family Drinks Voucher

This voucher, available only in the *Blythburgh Focus*, entitles two adults and up to four children under 16 to a drink: a pint of Adnams' bitter, Carlsberg larger or a glass of house wine for adults and a soft drink for children at Celebrating Blythburgh in the White Hart on July 12 from noon until five. This voucher can be used only once.

Number of adults.....

Number of children.....

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Film nights in Blythburgh

Blythburgh Film Club's final weekend of the current season begins on Friday June 5 at 7.30pm, doors opening at 7pm, with a children's matinee on Saturday June 6 at 3.15pm, doors opening at 3pm. The films are both new releases.

Wine will be available but you can also bring your own refreshments to the adult showing. Pop corn, a soft drink and an ice cream will be supplied at the matinee.

The White Hart will provide fish and chips from 6pm to 7pm on Friday for cinema goers at £7 a head. Booking is essential, mentioning that you are a film goer and letting bar staff know when you have arrived.

Parishioners who are members of Blythburgh M@tters or have signed up to the film club's mailing list will be notified automatically of the

films to be shown. If you are not already on the email list but would like to see, please email olive@dytler.freereserve.co.uk

Details will also appear on the Parish Council notice boards. There is no charge for the films but voluntary donations of £3 for adults and £1 for children towards the upkeep of the village hall and its services would be appreciated.

The new season will start early in September with films on the Friday and Saturday evenings with a matinee for younger film goers on the Saturday afternoon. Wine and nibbles will be provided at both evening showings. Donations will not be sought. Films will be shown monthly during the winter.

The following films have been shown so far: Richard Curtis's *About Time*; *Rio*; *The Grand Budapest Hotel*; Judy Dench and Steve Coogan in *Philomena*; *Frozen*; Richard Attenborough's *Oh! What a Lovely War*; *How To Train Your Dragon*. *Captain Phillips*, *A Night at the Museum*, *East of Ipswich*, *Jungle Book*, *Saving Mr Banks*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Imitation Game*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and *Paddington*. If you missed any of the films, DVDs can be hired for £1.

If there is a film you would particularly like to see and for all other inquiries, including the films to be shown please call Pat or Terry Goss on 01502 478356 or David Tyler on 01502 478521.



Apply for a Latitude Trust grant

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust makes grants to meet specific needs of individuals and families in the parish. It has already given away more than £24,000, providing, for example, IT, sports equipment and school uniforms. The Trust will also give grants to groups to support projects to improve the quality of life in the parish of Blythburgh, Hinton and Bulcamp. The Trust has, for example, supported the play site, village hall, the Christmas Tea and the annual pantomime visit.

If you have a need, contact the honorary administrator, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road (01502 478 687). All applications will be treated in complete confidence. Normally grants will not exceed £200. Parents or carers must endorse applications for children under 16.

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Beryl Stringer 1930–2015

Gillian Lond-Caulk remembers Beryl Stringer on behalf of all her friends

It was a surprise to realise that my sister Lucy, and Derek and Lily Kett have known Beryl for 60 years plus. So where to begin. Roy Stringer, as a small boy remembers his mother arranging coach trips to the pantomimes etc when first in Blythburgh. Then there were the socials in the WI hall, games, dances, family fun in the 1950s.

A keen WI member, eventually becoming president. Beryl was always thinking of things to do and, being Beryl, the food was always good. Fund raising for the hall – how many piles of clothes, bric-a-brac, table tops sales did we sort out with endless cups of tea and cakes for visiting WIs. There were also the coach parties.

Then the shows – a nativity play old tyme music hall. We were in a Persian market with a snake charmer whistling a snake from a basket, hula-hula girls, grass skirts of baler twine, witches with dry ice smoke and cauldron, sea songs and yes, I was a mermaid sewn into a tail, and of course I still remember Beryl and Lily dancing the Can Can energetically, surprising both themselves and the audience.

More recently there was the Monday Meet with Beryl leading the team of ladies for nearly 10 years providing a hot meal once a fortnight for the over 65s and those on their own. There was always a full Christmas lunch and party in December.

Beryl was a founder member of the Horticultural Society, becoming president after Lady Mallaby. A keen supporter of the outings

and the summer show, Beryl's name was not only often on the cookery cup but on many other cups as well.

She was also involved in the floral carpet in the church, raising money for the air ambulance, Christmas parties for the children, Jubilee celebrations, garden parties and then the bowls' club.

A founder member of this village activity, she did enjoy it so, she was accurate and reliable and our president. Then there were also little kindnesses towards friends. In the late 50s she was an extra pair of hands helping my brother and sister in the village shop while I spent a month in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

There are so many more memories but there are some of Beryl's amongst her community. Communities consist of people and they are the threads of living and doing together and Beryl was for so long a strong thread in many lives.

For more than 50 years she worshipped in and cared for Holy Trinity and at one time was a member of the Parochial Church Council.

So it is fitting that we said farewell in the church, with sadness of course, but grateful for her legacy of fun memories of village life, doing things together. Thank you Beryl, a steadfast faith, so just au revoir for now.

This article is based on Gillian's tribute to Beryl at her funeral in Holy Trinity last month.



Blythburgh Village Hall, which now has its own cinema equipment, is ideal for parties, events and clubs. The cost per morning, afternoon or evening session is £20 for village residents and groups and £35 for others. To book the hall, call 01502 478521.

Notes from Daisy Bank LXVII

Spring is here again in Daisy Bank and thank God we have all survived the winter without too many winter ailments. Delilah the matriarch of most of Lucy's cats now expects to be fed most every morning and any other time of the day that she can persuade us to do it.

Years ago a stray cat arrived at our door and we would feed it religiously. Poor benighted animal with no shelter and little or no love. We just had to feed it. And then of course we found out after a years worth of feeding and increased cat food bills, that she actually lived with Lucy and was called – yes you guessed it – Delilah.

Since those wilderness years we have fallen in and out of love with her on a regular basis. Mainly, because our own cats have had their noses put out of joint by a very bossy and extrovert visitor. But now, we've just given in as, effectively, our hands are tied.

Billy the Fish who delivers our fish every Wednesday is smiling more than usual and the postman is skipping more lightly down the steps. The paper man and the milkman no doubt are doing the same but are too early to be viewed. In fact I've never ever seen either of them and yet the milk and the paper are delivered as promptly as ever.

Brian the Waitrose provides me with a joke every fortnight and is always concerned about my knee; he had the op several years ago and was very helpful in dispelling any fears I might have. I'm ok with pain but as with many people the unknown is the frightening thing.

And on that front, with the weather improving by the day, my bike rides are frighteningly near to starting up again. Sadly no gin with Ray in Southwold any more but hey ho; I still miss him.

Lots of brambling in the garden and with Paul C moving the greenhouse to a more suitable position, I might even grow a few tomatoes this year. And a grapevine is something I'm looking forward to.

In my previous home, in the summer the conservatory was almost impenetrable with leaves and grapes from a Black Humburg Grape Vine. Had it been allowed to continue, it would have probably filled the house up as well. Similar to the ivy that is busy filling up Fern Cottage as we speak.

One day passers by in Church Lane will just see a giant ivy bush with, in the evening, a few lights shining from within its depths. Our inheritors will have to sort all that out no doubt but not us. We like it as it is.

With water now permanently on the marshes with another breach in the river bank, we all wonder where it will end. Unfortunately in the interregnum of no water for two or three years, the reeds have multiplied so that the water is not so evident as before which is a shame.

I still look forward to the time that we can have a mooring at the bottom of the garden. Should put thousands on house prices of the Church Lane property owners. And of course I care about that very much...

Paul Bennett

Guest curator

Blythburgh resident Meryl Doney is the guest curator for this summer's prestigious annual Cley 15 Contemporary Art, the North Norfolk exhibition, held in the village of Cley-next-the-Sea.

Meryl says: "In September I challenged artists with the theme for the exhibition: *Marvellous in Ordinary*, taken from a description of the work of Suffolk artist Margaret Mellis. Her driftwood collages are the primary inspiration title."

The challenge has been enthusiastically taken up by 52 artists from Norfolk, with three guest artists from Suffolk – Lawrence Edwards, Telfer Stokes and Charlie Hawkins. The exhibition will be opened by Roger Law one the originators of TV's *Spitting Image*.

The exhibition is open daily 10am-5.30pm from Thursday 2 July to Sunday 2 August 2015, at St Margaret's Church, the beach, Norfolk Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre, Crab pot Bookshop and Clay Windmill. For information www.cleycontemporaryart.org.