

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

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Issue No.26

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

March/April 2016



New traffic plan to avoid Latitude chaos

A new traffic plan, using information supplied by Blythburgh Parish Council, has been introduced for this year's Latitude Festival on July 14-17 to avoid the unacceptable jams of last year. The key changes for 2016 are:

Three different routes to the site to ensure traffic is balanced more appropriately in the wider area and on approach to the festival. This may mean that journeys appear longer when checked on satellite navigation, but it will be quicker and the traffic flow in the vicinity of the site should improve.

There will be a specific route for family ticket holders. Festival goers are strongly advised to work within the larger plan and follow the signage. The routes will be advertised in advance. The signage will be redesigned and significantly extended to match the new plans and ensure more clarity.

All routes and public gates have contingency plans that can be implemented efficiently.

A new post has been created of Offsite Traffic

Co-ordinator and an ex traffic police officer has been appointed to inform and deliver the traffic plan. This member of staff has many years' experience delivering large traffic plans at festival sites and will focus entirely on the management of traffic throughout the festival.

The Offsite Traffic Co-ordinator will have a team of spotters at key locations and a motorbike response working to him monitoring the routes. He will liaise with police, highways and public transport operators and will also do regular updates via the media and social media.

The car parks inside the site have been changed to accommodate the new plan. New entrances and exits are being created. There will be no use of the car park on the other side of the A12 and therefore no delays from any pedestrians crossing at that point. The bus station and drop off operation will move location to ensure a better overall plan.

For more information, please see the village website <http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

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Raise a glass to the Villager of the Year 2016

Nominations are invited for the Blythburgh Villager of the Year 2016 to recognise the man or woman who has made a particular contribution to village life. Names should be sent to Jim Boggis, Clerk, Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council, Marsh End, Church Road, or by email to blythburghpc@gmail.com, by April 30. The winner will receive a cheque for £50. Members of the Parish Council are not eligible.

The presentation will be made at the Annual Parish Meeting in Blythburgh Village Hall at 7pm on Friday May 27. Wine and light refreshments will be served. You will be able to view an exhibition of local associations and meet county, district and parish councillors at the annual meeting.

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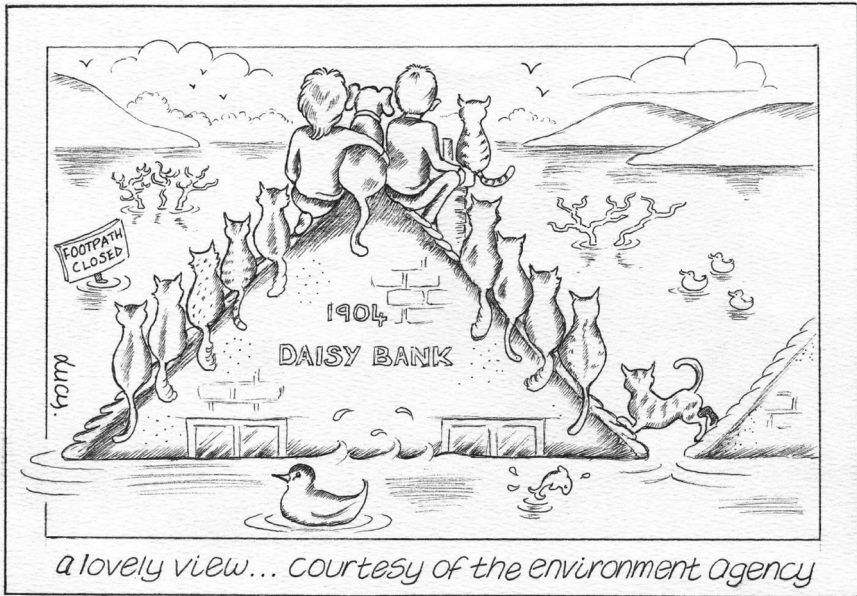


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Home thoughts from a broad...



TRAFFIC WATCH

Dunwich Road Northbound January 7 to February 7: Of the total 40,431 vehicles, 15,400 were travelling between 25 and 30mph and a further 9,700 between 30 and 35mph. Including the 11,650 vehicles travelling at less than 25mph then 6,750 were at or only slightly above the legal speed, representing 91% of the total which is the same as the last time the Dunwich Road was monitored.

The speeds of the other 3,700 vehicles (9%) were 2803 vehicles were 35 to 40 mph (7%); 688 at 40 to 45mph (1.7%); 156 (less than 1%) at 45 to 50mph; 29 at 50 to 55 mph; 4 at 55 to 60mph and 2 at 60 to 65mph. These figures are very similar to those for September 2015.

A12 Northbound February 7 to March 7: Of the total 115,013 vehicles, 52,700 were travelling between 25 and 30mph and a further 27,800 between 30 and 35mph. Including the 19,500 vehicles travelling at less than 25mph then 100,000 were at or only slightly above the legal speed, representing 87% of the total. This is almost the same as the last time the A12 northbound was monitored.

The speeds of the other 15,000 vehicles (13%) were 8,900 vehicles at 35 to 40 mph (8%); 3,773 at 40 to 45mph (3%); 1,372 (1.2%) at 45 to 50mph; 642 at 50 to 55mph (less than 1%); 224 at 55 to 60 mph; 76 at 60 to 65mph; 21 at 65 to 70mph; 2 at 70 to 75 mph. Daily volumes remain consistent at Mondays to Thursdays 4,000 to 5,000; Fridays 5,000 to 5,500; Saturdays and Sundays 3,000 to 4,000.

Blythburgh Parish Council has agreed to pay £50 for the removal of excrement from the brick-built bus stop on the north side of the A12. The council has recently spent £1,178.40 on removing the wall from the front of the shelter in the hope of discouraging its use as a public lavatory.



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Friday 12- 230pm/6-9.30pm

Saturday and Sunday 12-3pm/5-9pm

Events at the White Hart

Quiz every second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, teams of four, £2.50 a head with nibbles. The prize money is divided between the winner and Holy Trinity.

Fish & Chips takeaway every Friday, £7.50 from 6–9.30

Wednesday nights

*Ribeye Steak Night every first Wednesday of the month.

14oz ribeye, peppercorn sauce and blue cheese sauce. Chips, tomatoes, mushroom & onion rings for two plus a bottle of house wine. £20 per person.

*Fizz and Chips Nights Every second Wednesday of the month.

Chef's market fish board for two with a glass of Prosecco, £15 each.

*Curry Night every third Wednesday of the month. Choose from two curries, rice, home-made onion bhajis, poppadoms and dips with a glass of house wine or a Tiger beer, £12 a person.

*"Iffit" and Pud Night every fourth Wednesday of the month. Chef's selection of four "iffits" (English style tapas) and a pudding per person based on two sharing at £10 a head.

How to apply for Latitude tickets

Applications for the eleventh Latitude Festival in Henham Park from July 14 to 17, 2016, will be opened at 9am on May 2. Payment must be made by June 1. Cheques should be made payable to Blythburgh Latitude Trust. Each Blythburgh resident has a right to apply, not an entitlement to receive tickets as Festival Republic limits the number provided. Day tickets are not available for the Thursday.

When residents first arrive at Henham, they must swap their ticket for a wristband before they can enter the site. Once they have the wristband they can come and go freely. Residents are likely to be asked for photo ID or proof of address. Festival details are on www.latitudefestival.co.uk

1. Please apply, using the form below, to Olive Forsythe, Abbey Cottage (the pink cottage opposite the White Hart and beside the Village Hall) stating:

- Contact’s name, address and telephone number and email address.
- The name of each resident applying for a ticket (Maximum 1 per resident).
- Type of ticket, either weekend, day (stating day/s required), child (ages 5 to 12) or teen day or weekend (aged 13 to 15). Children under five go free.
- Camping: family, general or not required (weekend tickets only).

2. Applications by telephone or email WILL NOT be accepted

3. Applicants will be contacted and notified whether or not their application has been successful.

4. Applicants’ ticket allocation will then be held for 1 month. During this period the applicant must CONFIRM names to be printed on the tickets, the name of the person collecting the tickets and make payment. If confirmation of names or payment is not supplied then the tickets WILL BE re-allocated

5. Tickets to be collected from Blythburgh Village Hall on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 July between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Identification and signature will be required when collecting tickets.

Latitude Festival 2016 Ticket Application Form

Resident’s name for contact							
Address							
Telephone Number							
E-mail							
Ticket Application							
Name for EACH ticket	Child (5 to 12)	Accompanied Teens (13 to 15)	Fri	Sat	Sun	Weekend	Family Camping

Prices: Weekend, £45; Day, £16; accompanied teens weekend, £40 day £10, children, £8

BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

Ten Months after the earthquake

In April 2015 Nepal was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed over 8,000 people and left 3.5 million people homeless. This earthquake caused Hannah Burrows' service project to be re-directed to Cambodia.

Elizabeth Boggis was born in Blythburgh in 1988 and the village remained her home base until 2014 when she completed her PhD and entered the world of work. In February 2016, 10 months on from the earthquake, Elizabeth travelled to Kathmandu (the capital of Nepal) with the ambitious target of reaching Everest base camp at 5,364 metres above sea level.

Kathmandu appeared as busy as ever: tourists, trekkers and climbers thronging the dusty streets, packed with street traders and traffic but Kathmandu is far from back to normal. Major temples, museums and monuments are still closed. Most of those that are open have scaffolding and wooden struts supporting crumbling structures – piles of rubble are everywhere. There are still infra-structure challenges so all the restaurants and lodgings have candles on hand for the regular power cuts – torches are provided for visits to the “facilities”.

The return of the tourist dollar is helping with the regeneration programme but there is still much to do and national governments are being urged to do their bit.

Elizabeth's trek to base camp started with a short flight in a twin prop plane to Lukla. The landing strip is one of the most dangerous in the world but apparently the flight was even more frightening than the landing. There is no margin for error in this region, something that everyone was reminded of when one of these planes crashed killing all 23 on board whilst

Elizabeth was trekking. February is early in the season to trek to basecamp but Elizabeth was blessed with clear weather and stunning views of Ama Dablam, Lhotse and Everest. Despite the blue skies it was cold and as soon as the sun dropped behind the mountains the temperature plummeted. Minus 20 Celsius and no heating meant that Elizabeth slept in most of her clothes and kept a bottle of water in her sleeping bag – Elizabeth's tip is that the bottle must be plastic as cold metal can “burn” you badly.

The route to base camp has almost everything - steep uphill stretches where you can hardly put one foot in front of the other, precipitous downhills when your calf muscles are screaming, terrifying rope bridges crossing deep ravines and those narrow paths that hang off the side of a mountain when it's best not to look.

The one thing that is missing on this trek is oxygen - at 5,364 metres above sea level there is a

lot less oxygen so it was important to acclimatise and allow the body to adjust – failure to do this properly can be fatal.

Elizabeth explains that her arrival at basecamp is something she will never forget: undoubtedly a personal achievement but so much more. It had given her a deeper knowledge of this amazing country and appreciation of the very special Sherpas she came to know so well.

Despite arriving back in Kathmandu “smelly and shattered” (and 3Kg lighter), Elizabeth plans to return to climb Ama Dablam. But for now it's back to the UK and her job of managing risk for an international company!

Words: Sonia Boggis

Illustration: Spike Gerrell





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The Blythburgh man working bo

Don Black talks to John Allen, about his role in the creation of war

Professor John Allen celebrated his 90th birthday last month, his powerful brain as alert and creative as the one we remember from the distant past.

John is the one active surviving “boffin” among scientists who kept the UK at the forefront of advanced aeronautics in both war and peace.

With the end of the 1939--45 war he returned to Felixstowe with the RAF's Marine Experimental Establishment from Rhu, on the Gare Loch in Scotland.

The loch was perceived to be beyond the range of German bombers. It offered deep waters but mountain turbulence as well.

“Generally steady air conditions over the North Sea made for more accurate tests flying from Felixstowe,” he said.

“We enjoyed clear skies while western regions lay beneath low dark clouds. Our easternmost location, moreover, gave Harwich Harbour a strategic advantage. One wonders why, with these advantages the seaplane concept is now limited

mostly to countries with lots of remote waterside communities and to small islands with no land space for airports. Seaplanes left our scene rapidly after the end of World War II.”

John points out that concrete runways had been built near and far to meet military needs, engines were more powerful and wing flap development

permitted shorter runways and heavier aircraft. The landplane took its place as the ultimate machine for civil and military flying.

Many of us remember the hulls of two flying boats that finished their lives as houseboats at Felixstowe Ferry.

One was a Supermarine Southampton, which in 1947 went



Behind the scenes to keep us safe

planes and weapons through the second world war and afterwards.

to the RAF Museum at Hendon. The other, a Fairey Atalanta ended in a bonfire.

John moved to Farnborough to supervise the development of

Britain's first atomic bomb. From 1950 until 1953, John oversaw the dropping of dummy nuclear bombs from a height of eight miles over Orfordness by Lincoln



bombers based at Martlesham Heath.

These days he is “turning swords into ploughshares” with research into manmade islands, aerial re-vegetation of arid lands and disaster relief, notably an off-runway container carrier.

John's love of Suffolk began in 1930 when his uncle George Druitt

retired from his business as a stonemason and quarry owner and bought a house at Southwold.

John recalls that its cost then would now just about buy the equivalent of one plank for a beach hut in the resort.

Educated at state schools in London and taking a BSc in aeronautical engineering at London University, he earned top prizes in his discipline. A student apprenticeship with Handley Page honed his practical skills.

He married Peggy Heath in 1948. They had two sons, also engineers, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She died in 1987.

**John Allen also designed the casing for Britain's first hydrogen bomb which was launched off Christmas Island in 1957 from a Valiant bomber piloted by another Blythburgh resident, Group Captain Ken Hubbard. Although the two men lived within a few hundred yards of each other, they never met.*

_This article is reprinted by kind permission of Don Black and the East Anglian Daily Times.

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

A busy time for Blythburgh church

The church car park is a valuable local amenity, but it has become overgrown and potholed, affecting the space and safety of the facility. This area is now in the process of being cleared and improved, for the benefit of local residents, and visitors to the church and the area.

Easter starts on Palm Sunday 20 March. At 9.30am there is a lay-led service of morning prayer with a Palm Sunday theme. There is a cycle of services taking place every evening of Holy Week around the churches in the Sole Bay team. The guest preacher for these is the Rev. Malcolm Doney.

His series of addresses is called "Endings and Beginnings". The services will take place at 7.30pm in the following locations:

Monday 21 March: St Andrew's, Sotherton:
From innocence to understanding *Genesis: Who are we and why?*

Tuesday 22 March: St Margaret's, Reydon:
From demolition to renovation *Israel in exile: Waking up to broken dreams.*

Wednesday 23 March: Holy Trinity, Blythburgh:
From eternity to here *God with us: Finding God in the mirror.*

Thursday 24 March: St Peter & St Paul, Wangford: **From belief to action** *Maundy Thursday: Living our lives, not someone else's.*

Friday 25 March: St Edmund, Southwold: **From absence to presence** *Good Friday: Searching for God in the dark.*

Easter Saturday 26 March at 4pm Holy Trinity is inviting families to help construct the Easter Garden, and to take part in our annual Easter egg hunt in the churchyard.

Easter Day service I Iam at Holy Trinity.

Raising the glass: In the windows on the south side of the church we have a few remaining pieces of medieval stained glass. On 4 April Holy Well, the stained glass conservation studio in Wells, Somerset, will remove these pieces and carry out conservation work on them together with other medieval glass fragments from the church that they already have in safekeeping. These will then all be placed back in the window together. We hope that the exercise will be complete by June this year. It can be undertaken, thanks to the generous legacy of Mr. John Lee.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Sunday 10 April Holy Trinity meeting at 9.30am, followed by coffee and simnel cake. Anyone on the church electoral roll is welcome. It is your church, whether or not you attend services.

Coffee time: The monthly village café and mini-market restarts on Friday 29 April.

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Vice Chair/Chair planning advisory group: Alan Mackley

Chair finance advisory group
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Cliff Waller and Jo Waller

Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687

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Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484
Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham 070810632987
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Quiz raises £500 for charity

The second Owen Williams Memorial Quiz was held on Saturday 23rd January in the Village Hall, Blythburgh, Suffolk, and raised an impressive £500 for SUDEP (Sudden Death in Epilepsy) Action.

The quiz was set up by Owen's mother Ro Williams in memory of her son who died in July 2014 aged just 39. A packed hall of 18 teams enjoyed a night of fun but challenging questions, a raffle and a fish and chip supper.

Owen was a DJ and trivia enthusiast so it was fitting that the winning team not only included Owen's sister Kerry but was named after his DJ nickname – DJ Swill.

The event is held annually to ensure that Owen's memory is kept alive and to raise money for a worthy cause. Those interested in

entering next year's quiz can register their interest by emailing ro@blythburgh.plus.com

Suffolk in Limbo: The eagle-eyed might have spotted a brief un-credited appearance by parish councillor Alan Mackley on *Look East* on 9 March. He was contributing a Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group view to a piece about the impact on Suffolk of the uncertainty surrounding the Hinkley Point nuclear power station project. With serious concerns being expressed about technical and commercial issues it is possible that only a political decision will save that scheme. The possible knock-on effect on Suffolk is not known. Until the state of limbo ends, thinking about even modest changes to our local infrastructure is inhibited because the planning basis is impossible to quantify.

MANTINS

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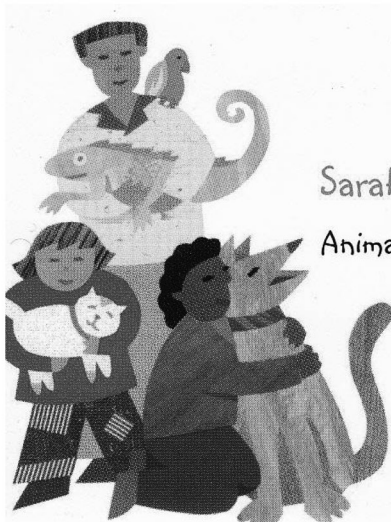
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Notes from Daisy Bank LXXII

Daisy Bank is just coming out of its winter shut-down mode. Holiday makers and second homers having retreated into the security of their main homes, near or far away, are now preparing to return. We, the permanent residents, are dreaming of the spring that will come and the summer that will surely follow it.

The birds still need feeding and Milo our Siamese still ventures out occasionally but prefers the wood burner and the storage heaters to the excitement of the garden and outdoors. And now that he has been forced to wear not one, but two bells around his collar, his ability to hunt successfully has been severely curtailed and for that we are pleased. He isn't. But then, we all have to make sacrifices. You can hear him coming from some way off and if you do hear then promise, it's not a reindeer, for that's what he sounds like.

We have always been envious of both my neighbours having wonderful and clear views across the marshes. In fact, when we first came here the view was although not as good as theirs, still quite reasonable. But since then trees have grown and bushes have got bigger gradually over the years; any view that we did have has all but disappeared.

I remember looking out of my bedroom window and with a pair of binoculars being able to see *Laurel Farm* to the west and *Union Farm* to the north west. I often wonder if while I was looking at them, they were looking at me as well. It reminds me of the famous scene in Hitchcock's *Rear Window* when Jimmy Stewart,

who has been studying the nefarious goings on in the flats opposite, is suddenly spotted by Raymond Burr, the murderer and he, the murderer, realises that he will have to 'take care' of an incapacitated Jimmy. And no, I didn't see any murders and more importantly, nobody came to 'get me'. Not yet anyway.

There is now quite a large gap leading to our back gate so from a 'kitchen washing up position', there is at last, a view to look at and, with the marshes flooded most of the time, it's pretty spectacular. Hours of fun pretending that we're not washing up but just looking at the marsh. And when the final tidal surge trundles its way across the marshes to swamp us all, at least we will have plenty of warning! On the washing up subject, two years ago we bought a dish washer and for a time we quite liked it. But, since then we've probably used it no more than a dozen times. Maybe it's the view that's put us off the dishwasher.

Before I forget it, the *Blythburgh Harbour Master*, had a spell in hospital before Christmas and is, therefore, not currently patrolling Daisy Bank and the river area. Those of you who are used to my neighbour Derek walking up and down the lane and creek area with Linden will surely have noticed his absence.

He is at home recovering and getting better and we are hoping that he will renew his patrols in the early spring. Plenty of rest and attention from Lilly and Linden should and are, doing the trick.

Paul Bennett

COUNCILS SEEK MERGER: Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are planning to create a "super council" which, by population, would be the largest district authority in the country. It would probably be known as the East Suffolk Council.

The two councils have shared a chief executive since 2008 and a senior management team since 2010. At a joint meeting in Lowestoft, the council's two cabinets said that the merger would "bring significant improvements in service delivery" by saving more than £800,000 a year across the two districts. A local advisory referendum will probably be held in June or July this year to gauge people's views but it would not be binding.

A date for your diary: The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will be in the village hall on Tuesday May 17 at 7.30pm with the public forum at 7.15.