

BLYTHBURGH

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Issue No.27

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

May/June 2016

Celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday

Everyone is welcome to a Bring and Share picnic on June 12 from 12-2p.m. to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Weather permitting, the venue will be The Priory garden thanks to Chiara and Matthew Saunders. The village hall is the backup venue in case of inclement weather.

Access to The Priory garden will be via the entrance by the Village Hall and the Village Hall car park is also available for those attending this event. Tea and coffee will be provided but it would be really helpful if you could bring along a plate of food for the communal table as well as cutlery and a chair. We hope to see you all on June 12.

**Supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust.*



Who's who on the Parish Council 2016-17

Chair, David Tytler; Vice Chair, Alan Mackley; Responsible Finance Officer, Jim Boggis; finance advisory group, Roderick Orr-Ewing, chair with Jeff Sutton and Jim Boggis as members; planning advisory group, Alan Mackley, chair, and Cliff Waller and Sonia Boggis as members; Village Hall Trustees, Alan Mackley Jo Waller; Blythburgh Latitude Trust Trustees, David Tytler with one vacancy following the resignation of Alan De Thabrew from the council; SALC representative, David Tytler; SPLG representative, Alan Mackley; Blyth Estuary Group Representative Cliff Waller; Tree Warden, Jeff Sutton.

Alan De Thabrew's resignation means that the Parish Council needs a new councillor. If you are interested please contact Jim Boggis on 01502 478687

Raise a glass to the Villager of the Year 2016

Please do your best to come to the Annual Parish Meeting in the village hall at 7pm this Friday, May 27 when you will be able to raise a glass to the Villager of the Year 2016. Wine and light refreshments will be served. You will also be able to view an exhibition of local associations and meet county, district and parish councillors.

How to collect your Latitude tickets - Page 5

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Home thoughts from a broad...



Locals enjoying another half-term...

TRAFFIC WATCH

Car hits 90mph through the village

A12 Southbound Period March 9 to April 5: Of the total vehicles 153,176, 53,600 were travelling between 25mph and 30mph with a further 47,700 between 30mph and 35mph. Including the 9,300 vehicles travelling at less than 25mph, 110,661 were at or only slightly above the legal speed, 72% of the total.

Of the remaining 42,500 their speeds were: 25,125 (16%) at 35mph to 40 mph; 10,849 (7%) at 40mph to 45mph; 3,878 (2.5%) 45mph to 50mph; 1,727 (1.1%) at 50mph to 55mph; 640 (less than 1%) at 55mph to 60mph; 196 at 60 mph to 65 mph. A few cars were travelling at higher speeds including one at five in the morning at 85 mph to 90 mph. These figures are broadly similar to those for December 2015.

Dunwich Road Northbound April 10 to May 8: Of the total 35,919 vehicles, 15,500 were travelling between 25 and 30mph and a further 10,900 between 30mph and 35mph. Including the 4,900 vehicles travelling at less than 25mph, 31,200 were at or only slightly above the legal speed. This represents 87% of the total compared to 91% the last time the road was monitored.

The speeds of the remaining 4,600 vehicles (13%) were: 3,513 vehicles (10%) at 35mph to 40 mph; 872 (2%) at 40mph to 45mph; 208 (less than 1%) at 45mph to 50mph; 51 at 50mph to 55 mph; 14 at 55mph to 60 mph; and 1 at 60mph to 65mph.

Roderick Orr-Ewing



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Monday to Saturday

9.00am to 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Subject to change
according to demand*

How to collect your Latitude tickets

Payment must be made by June 1. Cheques should be made payable to Blythburgh Latitude Trust, and sent to Olive Forsythe, Abbey Cottage (the pink cottage opposite the White Hart and beside the Village Hall). If confirmation of names or payment is not supplied by then the tickets WILL BE re-allocated

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.

When residents first arrive at Henham, they must swap their tickets for wristbands 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



The Blythburgh Latitude Trust

The trust has given

£32,500+

- *Helping parishioners with many needs
- *Supporting local projects
- *School and youth trips
- *Christmas tea
- *Pantomime visit

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

BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

Volunteers, villagers and villages

May 11 2016 was the final day in office for Susan Harvey, Chair of Suffolk Coastal District Council who, during her year in post, had set out to visit, and attend an event, in every one of the 118 parishes in her district.

To mark the end of her tenure Susan, and husband Stephen, hosted a reception at Bruisyard Barns to celebrate the diverse events that regularly take place across this region and the role volunteers play in all areas of these communities. The place was packed with volunteers, local representatives and a goodly number of parish and town councillors.

The dress code may have been smart casual but with chains of office encouraged, Ro Williams and I found ourselves surrounded by bling. There is a well-known phrase that every picture tells a story and we discovered this is true for the chains. Two of particular interest were worn by the Mayors of Aldeburgh and Felixstowe: the Felixstowe chain is the only one in the country which incorporates the insignia of the Royal Air Force, this honour being granted in 1962 when the seaplanes left, and a year marker on the Aldeburgh regalia which dates back to 1625.

A photo montage playing throughout the reception showed the places Susan had visited during the year. These pictures emphasised the wide range of events that take place across the region and highlighted the large number of volunteers who give their time and energy to make things happen.

The pictures even showed the less than glamorous, but nonetheless essential, parts of running these events: making sandwiches, baking, putting out chairs, washing up, cleaning up, putting out the bins and dealing with the vagaries of our weather!

You may remember that Susan visited Blythburgh in October last year, attending our regular Community Café and Mini Market. The photographs of Blythburgh featured Wendy Sutton's pies and sausage rolls (much appreciated by our host), the interior of Holy Trinity and the village sign.

Susan emphasised that volunteers are the life blood of communities and ours is no exception: we are a small village but many of you volunteer and often what you do is far from public view.

Blythburgh Parish Council initiated the Villager of the Year award to give us all the opportunity to nominate those who, in our opinion, make a contribution and make a difference. Since its inception, you have awarded this honour to George Ellis, Ray St Clair Brown, Thomas Lond-Caulk, Margaret Nichols and Gillian Lond-Caulk. Pat and Terry Goss are current holders of this award and, despite recent events (not to mention a temporary enforced stay in

Walberswick), they play a full part in organising and supporting our village events and organisations.

Pat and Terry face their challenges head on – there is much to admire and much to learn from their stoicism - and as their year as Villager of the Year draws to a close perhaps this is a good opportunity to raise a glass to all our volunteers. Cheers!

Finally: thanks to Ron Midson who answered our call to retrieve a bag of wine and champagne from Blythburgh bus stop as its careless owners headed for London. We count ourselves lucky to live in a place where this seemingly abandoned bag hadn't just disappeared.

Words: Sonia Boggis
Illustration: Spike Gerrell



From bombs to birds at Orfordness

On Wednesday March 16, I set off with my neighbour Alan Mackley and my grand niece Sarah, a budding archaeologist at Sutton Hoo, for a special tour of Orfordness, which holds the wartime remains of aircraft weapon research and testing, going back to the First World War.

Senior members of present occupants, The National Trust, had arranged this visit to exchange experiences with us. This Orfordness island had unique qualities: it was remote, large and flat. In WWI it had a grass airfield from which aircraft could attack submarines and Zeppelins: guns, bombs and rockets could be safely tested without danger to the public.

I became involved from 1950 with the newly named Orfordness Research Station when I returned from the Marine Experimental Establishment at Felixstowe to the Royal Aircraft Farnborough as a boffin joining a

team of 30 engineers and scientists developing the UK's first atom bomb, code named Blue Danube. This was to be carried by the cold war V Bombers, Valiant, Victor and Vulcan.

The bomb was large, posing many unsuspected novelties and some almost impossible problems to solve. It was 24 feet long, weighed only 5 tons and after release from the bomber at 50,000 feet at Mach 0.9 it accelerated to attain a speed of Mach 1.12 before splashing in the North Sea, eight miles away.

We assembled the test dummies at Farnborough and more than 50 were launched over Orford, being tracked by their radar and kine-theodolites, a photographic instrument for the collection of trajectory data. I visited the 70-strong team engaged in this precision task to discuss their data, comparing it with

that from RAE telemetry transmission in the bombs.

Throughout its 70-year history, the Orfordness site has changed its role, staff and ownership as weapons took many different forms. We saw the later bombs and very special bomb-proof test houses, now so derelict that exactly what they contained and did were mysteries. I am sure that there were no nuclear warheads at Orfordness, although it was eventually an outstation of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment based at Aldermaston.

We also met a visiting group from Fort Halstead, near Sevenoaks. I had worked with their forebears 66 years ago when they assisted in producing Blue Danube. I gave a talk about our joint tasks and left some rather rare historic reports on these subjects.

As we walked around for five hours I was

strongly reminded of my visit to ancient Egypt. There I was looking at relics whose purposes were lost in time but there was a difference. We have a few years to put together dispersed information from veterans still alive today. This was not possible in Egypt but might just be captured for Orfordness. We were very grateful to David Mason and David Warren from the National Trust for a most informative and enjoyable outing.

*Alan and I made two broadcasts for Radio Castle at Framlingham, one about the atom bomb work at Orford Research Station 1949-54; the other about my 500 test flights on seaplanes at Felixstowe 1944-50. They can be heard on the audio tab on the village website, <http://blythbuirgh.onesuffolk.net>.

John Allen



Believe me, it still fl

With continuing flooding in Church Lane, Paul Bennett wrote to the Environment Agency

On 23rd October 2008, after a long series of correspondence with you, I received a final reply to my last letter stating that: “We are able to confirm that all dwellings were above the level of the river bank. Consequently we are not planning to undertake any localised protection for properties at Church Lane.”

Several years ago the existing breach on the southern part of the river about 400 hundred yards west of the A12 bridge was repaired by the landowner. Since that time a new breach has occurred about 200 yards further to the west on the same bank. Again, since the time of the repair on the first breach, it has deteriorated and with another surge tide will fail also. And, with the state of much of the other sections of river bank, the time will surely come when the bank will dissolve completely all along that

southern section. Then, this part of the marsh will duplicate the exiting tidal mud plain that exists on the east side of the A12.

In the intervening years since 2008, the A12 has been raised to protect it after the last surge tide did so much damage and the road was closed for several days. Also a substantial wall has been built by you to protect Walberswick car park and a few houses in that area.

Again in the years since 2008, the inhabitants of Church Lane have suffered several severe floods in their gardens and the consequential seepage of sewage into their



gardens. So far we have just about survived any flooding in the Church Lane properties themselves but again, that is only a matter of time before this happens.

As you are aware, the main sewage line for Blythburgh runs along the

floods in Blythburgh

old railway path that borders the back gardens of the houses in Church Lane. Recently we have had two major sewage blockages which could have resulted in a severe health and safety issue. Over the years, my immediate neighbour has had to have a tanker down to his property in order to remove the contents of his substantial pond where it has been contaminated by sewage.



Over the years, I have seen the flooding and sewage issue become more of a problem and inevitably, there will come a time when the path will flood on every high tide and will cover the pipeline and its associated manholes with permanent standing water. This will result in seepage into the sewage system for Blythburgh and the pumping station at the end of the path will just not be able to cope. As a result the whole of the Blythburgh sewage system will grind to a halt.

Recently a new housing estate has been built in Blythburgh which of course has provided even more sewage for the already overloaded system; a house in the village has

suffered seepage into their house as a result of a blockage.

The solution is to my mind quite simple. Either the pipeline is diverted to another part of Blythburgh, or a wall is built along the river side of the railway path

protecting both the existing sewage system and the 11 properties that are at risk in Church Lane, including my own.

I realise that we do not have the same influence, both political and financial, as some of the residents of Walberswick but we still pay our water rates, council and income tax in much the same way as they do.

Recently one of my neighbours contacted somebody from your Agency and was told that he was unaware that there were any properties at all in Church Lane. It seems that since my last correspondence with your agency in 2008, our silence has resulted in some loss of memory on your part.

At the time of printing Paul had not received a reply

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

A favourite for bell ringers everywhere

At its Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April, Holy Trinity was pleased to welcome Paul Simmons as a new member of the PCC and Meryl Doney as Church Warden, joining existing Warden, Jenny Allen, and Warden Emeritus Tom Lond-Caulk.

The other elected members of the PCC are: Arthur Pooley, Roselyn Crane, Charles Morris and Peter Coghill.

Among a number of reports it was noted that travelling bands of bell ringers enjoy coming to ring peals at Holy Trinity Blythburgh because – as one noted campanologist chimed – it has perhaps the finest bells in Suffolk. Anyone interested in taking up bell ringing, or joining one of the local bands should ring Peggy Meredith on 478 580.

Summer sounds: In line with Holy Trinity's historic associations with the Aldeburgh Festival, there are three Aldeburgh concerts taking place in the church in June, on 12, 19 and 20 June. See www.aldeburgh.co.uk for more details. Warning: because the concert is at 3pm on Sun 19 June and is Kings' College Cambridge Choir is sold out, and car parking is at a premium, so we request that Blythburgh residents please remove their cars from the church car park on that day.

Anniversary alteration: Please note that on Sunday 12 June we are changing the time of our morning service. It will now be 9.30am, and will be BCP communion, instead of 11am, in order to fit in with Blythburgh village events to celebrate the Queen's birthday. The church hosts the regular village café and minimarket on Friday 27 May and June 24

Who let the dogs in? This is an advance notice to say that the Sole Bay team service at 11am on Sunday 31 July will be the popular Blessing of the Animals service, led by the Rev Malcolm Doney with the help of his horse, Neville.

**YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Chair: David Tytler
01502 478521

Vice Chair/Chair planning advisory group: Alan Mackley

Planning advisory group: Cliff Waller and Sonia Boggis

Chair finance advisory group Roderick Orr-Ewing

finance advisory group Jeff Sutton and Jim Boggis

Councillors Jeff Sutton, Cliff Waller and Jo Waller

Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687

BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

Horticultural Society
Jenny Allen 01502 478314

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham 070810632987

Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Blythburgh Latitude Trust a
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Village Hall
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In high praise of Blythburgh church



**India Knight
in the
Sunday
Times
Magazine:**

"We were driving back from lunch last week when we detoured via Blythburgh church in Suffolk, the *Cathedral of the Marshes*, which has an angel roof. Twelve insanely beautiful 15th-century wooden angels carved along its ceiling, wings unfurled, gaze down at the congregation (saved, somehow, from Puritan destruction/desecration in 1644, presumably by virtue of their great height).

"I love these roofs and wanted to show my daughter. It so happened that the choir was rehearsing. We sat, looked up, listened for a while, and then traipsed wordlessly out, dazed and transported. I genuinely can't think of a comparable experience anywhere outside of a place of worship."



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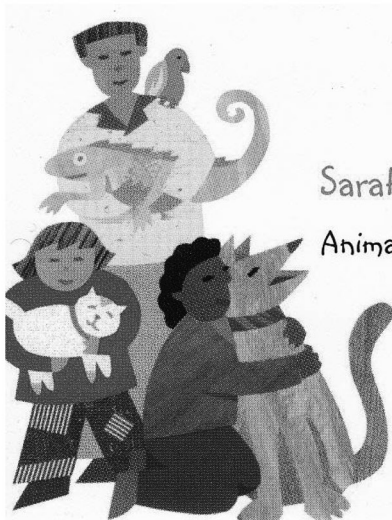
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Notes from Daisy Bank LXXIII

I am sure I have mentioned *Shed City* before. As we live in a tiny house with a large garden, *Shed City* has allowed us to store things that won't fit and have no room for. Two years ago Paul C built a purpose built log shed for our wood burner. That left two redundant sheds, one of which now houses a freezer and bird/cat food and the other has been turned into a workshop.

Were you to enter this workshop you would see a work bench with a vice, a mains light and power point and a range of tools hanging in neat rows on every wall. Screws and nails of varying sizes are easily obtainable from glass jars. Power drills and bits and all one would want for the process of DIY and the man who enjoys such things, are available and ready to go.

Unfortunately dear reader, where I have a knack for organising a workshop, I do not have the same knack for using any of the tools or equipment in it. The workshop is meant for more able people like Paul C and visiting friends helping out with the odd repair and construction. Indeed one such friend bought me three wood chisels several years ago with the understanding that I did not go anywhere near them; they would be reserved for him to use when he came down for a holiday. As he hasn't been for a few years, they remain virgin and untouched, as agreed.

In the last few weeks I have taken pity on the postman and his having to come down several steep steps to access our letter box. So, there being nobody to hand, I bought a new independent post box and decided to tackle the job of erecting it myself just inside our front gate. The new box which appropriately is red in colour has four fixing points that allow it to be screwed to a wall. However, in this instance, it has to be screwed to a wooden hand rail and therefore there are only two fixing points available.

Trying to hold a relatively heavy metal box with one hand and screw with a driver in the other

hand does not go well. After a lot of effort and time, I have still not been able to screw the nail all the way into the rail. The Philips head of the screw is beginning to deteriorate under so much mindless brute strength and effort and has very nearly reached the end of its life. Even getting the screws out again is starting to get onerous and in the end appears to be impossible.

So, back to the workshop to get a pair of pliers and eventually I manage to get the screws out. I decided to use a battery powered drill to make a more substantial hole. The trouble is that the bit I used on the drill was bigger than the screws provided so I had to revert to the workshop once again to find some bigger screws.

I changed the bit to a bigger size and started to drill again. Unfortunately the implement that I used to tighten the bit in the drill – I think it's called a chuck - had not been tightened enough, so that the bit came out of the drill and is now very firmly wedged into the rail.

I swore dreadful oaths and jumped in the air a couple of times and considered destroying the box with a big hammer. In the end, I repaired to my office to play some music and have a cup of tea in the knowledge that if I continued, a cardiac arrest might well ensue and blue lights would be flashing. After finishing my tea and listening to several tracks from a Clean Bandit CD, I returned to try to get the bit out of the wood and resume operations.

In the end the box is fixed albeit with the two screws proud of the other side of the rail and therefore a danger to anyone grabbing it. Two broken junior hacksaws later, one sharp end is removed and I give up on the other one. A law suit could follow but I don't care. The postman is appreciative of the new box but has noticed that, in his words, *'It's a bit wobbly'*. Again, I don't care. No more pity for the postman. My pity pot is empty.

Paul Bennett

A date for your diary: The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will be in the village hall on Tuesday July 19 at 7.30pm with the public forum at 7.15.