

BLYTHBURGH

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Issue No.28

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

August/September 2016

Blythburgh's big party comes home

Thanks to Chiara and Matthew Saunders, Celebrating Blythburgh is back where it belongs – in the Priory garden on Sunday August 21.

The day will start with an open air service in the historic Priory Ruins at 11.00am led by the Rev. Malcolm Doney.

Events, including the opportunity to take a boat trip on the River Blyth, are free and will be held throughout the day following the service until 5.00 pm. The Village Hall toilets will be open throughout the day.

The BBQ is free to parishioners on presentation of the voucher below. It should be cut out and handed over at the BBQ. Seconds have to be paid for!

The Priory Garden (entry by Village Hall)

Throughout the afternoon, live music from pianist Nick Raison and *Anyone's*, a local band, a BBQ and licenced bar, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Guided tours of the ruins by local historian Alan Mackley at 2pm and 4pm. Sarah

Wickham will lead a village treasure hunt during the afternoon.

Priory Car Park

Natural England wild life art and crafts stall; RNLI and village stalls. If you would like to have a stall please contact Chiara Saunders on 07906844945.

Local naturalist Cliff Waller will lead a river bank walk leaving from the village hall at 4.45pm.

Free River Trips

Leaving from the landing stage behind the White Hart every half an hour from 11.30am to 1.30pm. Booking is essential on 07970 463826 or on the day at the Natural England stall in The Priory car park.

Any monies raised during the day will be used to defray costs.

Celebrating Blythburgh is supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust. Everybody is welcome, so please be there.

Celebrating Blythburgh Family BBQ Voucher

This voucher, available only to parishioners in the *Blythburgh Focus*, entitles two adults and up to four children under 16 to either a sausage in a roll, a hamburger or veggie burger at Celebrating Blythburgh's BBQ in the gardens of The Priory on August 21 from noon. Please enter the garden through the gate by the village hall. This voucher can be used only once. Second helpings have to be paid for!

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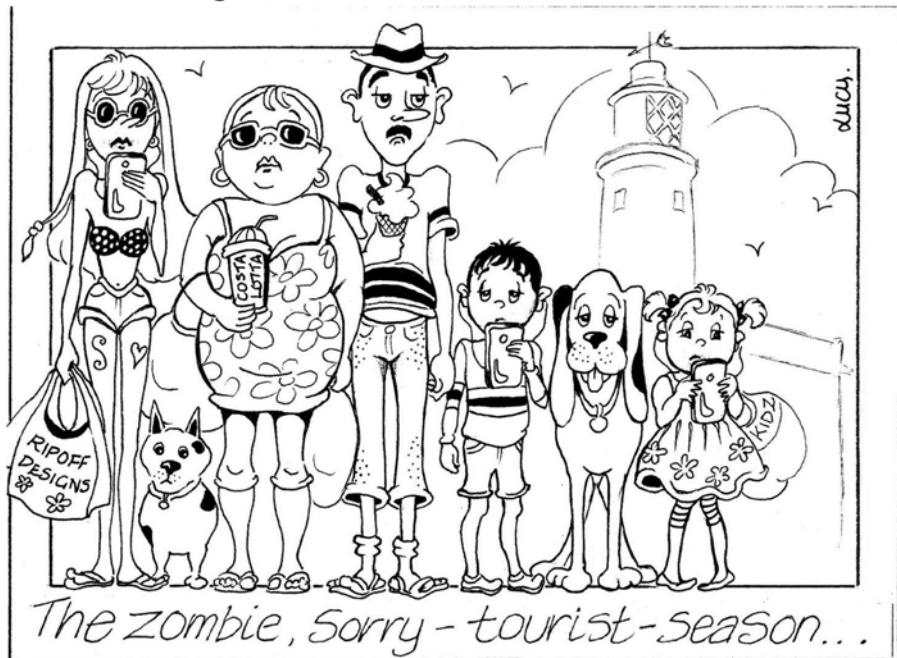


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Home thoughts from a broad



TRAFFIC WATCH

Free flowing A12 – well done Latitude!

The Latitude traffic plan was a great success! From both the stats and direct observation there appeared to be no disruption from Latitude traffic arriving for the festival. By midmorning on Monday, however, the southbound A12 was very congested with traffic leaving the festival site. At its July meeting, Blythburgh Parish Council decided that next year, it would monitor the southbound traffic.

A12 Northbound, July 7 to 10 and July 14 to 17: Thursday 7, 5034; Friday 8, 6046; Saturday 9, 4823; Sunday 10, 4155. Thursday 14, 7389; Friday 15, 7228; Saturday 16, 5652; Sunday 17, 5315.

The statistics show that on Latitude Thursday an extra 2,355 vehicles passed through Blythburgh compared with the previous Thursday, an extra 1182 on Friday, 829 on Saturday and 1,160 on Sunday. The important point is that at no time did the average speed drop below 25mph apart from the period on Thursday afternoon when the police had their speed camera van set up at the bus stop just in front of our speed sign (VAS). During this period the average speed was just below 25mph.

Roderick Orr-Ewing

Vacancy for parish councilor

Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton and Bulcamp Parish Council is seeking to co-opt a parishioner to fill the current vacancy. If you are interested please email Jim Boggis, the clerk on blythburgh.pc@gmail.com with 100 words to explain why you would like to join the council.



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BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

What a Turkish delight...

Blythburgh, Brooklyn and Rennes: our starting points for a family gathering in Istanbul. Miraculously we rendezvoused in the shadow of the Hagia Sophia at a small hotel surrounded by snow and cats; the snow disappears quickly. Istanbul is at the crossroads of an historically important trade route between East and West and, as early as 1465, the Topkapi Palace was one of the major residences of the Ottoman sultans. Walking through the empty rooms, courtyards and beautiful gardens you can feel their privileged presence but you can also imagine their isolation; a beautiful bird all alone in a gilded cage. After more than 600 years it was in-fighting, in-breeding and isolation that finally brought their reign to an end.

Outside in the streets, which were the scene of the recently failed coup, it is all hustle and bustle; exotic aromas and bright colours compete for attention. The spiders web of streets, each specialising in a particular commodity, draws you in and demands to be explored. Not to mention, the network of folks all too willing to help you find that "must have" Turkish carpet, leather jacket or trinket who are persistent but charming.

When you need a snack, fish caught with a rod and line from the Galata Bridge, cooked and served immediately in a fresh bread roll takes some beating.

Religion remains an important part of everyday life for many. Christian churches and Muslim mosques exist side by side but it is the sound of the mosques calling worshippers to prayer five times a day that you hear.

The Blue Mosque, built between 1609 and 1616, and named for the blue tiles that cover the interior, is distinctive with its six minarets. Leaving your shoes outside, you can queue to

enter what is an enormous space and designed such that all worshippers have a view of the Imam. As the sun sets, the mosque is illuminated by floodlights. Strangely this reminded me of our own floodlit "Cathedral of the marshes" and I also realised that the 1465 date associated with the Topkapi Palace was similar to the date we think the current Blythburgh church was completed.

A visit underground to the 6th Century Basilica Cistern, just 150 metres from the Hagia Sophia, highlighted the re-use of material from a late Roman period building in the construction of



this Cistern. Two of the re-used column bases are very distinctive and carved with the visage of Medusa; you may even have seen them as James Bond rowed his way through this underground cistern in *From Russia with Love*.

This re-use of materials got me thinking about the most recent group I guided round Blythburgh church. I make a point of showing examples of materials that have been re-used from an earlier church that stood on the same site – another reminder that recycling is far from a modern invention.

One of the really nice things about these visits is how interesting and knowledgeable our visitors are and, on this occasion, it was a gentleman from Ordinance Survey who pointed out the Victoria Regina "bench mark" on the outside of the church; have you spotted it?

Finally, thanks to everyone who attended the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations in the Priory garden kindly hosted by Chiara and Matthew and congratulations to the competition winners – Florence, Felix, Sue, David, Ro and Matthew. This event was supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust and organised by Blythburgh M@tters.

Sonia Boggis

LATITUDE 2016 (with pix Ed Sheeran and Latitude from desk top)

Securing its place as a UK festival

As the crowds rolled in to Henham Park, Suffolk for the 11th edition of Latitude festival the sun beamed down on over 35,000 people. Despite the drop in ticket sales and the recent political shock waves still ringing in the air this traditionally middle class festival once again offered a genuine sense of camaraderie, of community, a mutual respect for one another's welfare and well-being often lacking at some of the UK's other big music events.

That English summer rarity, the sun, was shining, and barring a slight shower on Saturday evening, continued to do so for the weekend - if you were willing to queue for two hours revellers could even cool off with a swim in the lakes - a much anticipated activity for the many that return year after year.

Latitude has a reputation for an eclectic and diverse line up covering its music stages. New music and upcoming acts is the festivals forte and with the addition of the BBC Introducing stage this year little known performers provided surprises and hidden gems. But the obscure and niche has been making its way onto the Obelisk and BBC 6 stage increasingly and the evidence of this was even more apparent this year. Electro, Punk and Melodic sounds filled the park from the likes of *MO*, *Lapsey* and *Slaves* leaving anyone looking for anything mainstream a little lost.

As always the Indie scene was strong with huge names securing their places at the top of the bill including stand out sets from the Maccabees, the National and British Sea Power. British Sea Power, whose fifty-minute set on the Obelisk provided just the tonic to kick start the weekend.

Two new songs entitled *Spark* and *What I'm Doing* were aired betwixt the familiar sounds of *No Lucifer* and *Remember Me*. Some people out front waved pieces of foliage in salute. It might be a fairly low key affair in terms of billing, but they're a national treasure, and one that shows no sign of waning with age. The Maccabees followed with a flawless performance for the second time in the festivals history and delighting crowds just the same as before.

Performing tracks from their award winning albums *Wall of Arms* and *Colour It In* the rank and file of merchandise-clad fans swayed along to *Toothpaste Kisses* to complete their melancholy set.

As the sun set and the kids sloped off to bed, the rest headed to the woods for a set from *Artful Dodger* followed by Mike Skinner and *Murkage* which ignited a long night of raving and set the tone in the woods for the rest of the weekend. The crowd bounced and jeered to *Dodger* and Skinner made it feel like a secret South London performance we'd all been allowed into. And suddenly, this is where it's evident that no other small British festival quite manages to strike this balance between established names, shrewd gambles, newcomers and '92s.



Saturday night brought Latitude favourites *Frightened Rabbit* to the stage. Why they still occupy the teatime slot rather than one of the higher echelons near the top of the bill remains a mystery, particularly when they can drop gems such as *Get Out, Holy*, and *The Modern Leper* in the first three songs. Unsurprisingly, every song received rapturous applause, with *Keep Yourself Warm* in particular causing scenes of pandemonium. For *The National*, Latitude has become something of a home from home where UK festivals are concerned. Making their third appearance in six years, and second as main

stage headliners, it's little wonder a huge crowd gathered to welcome them. Coming on stage to The Smiths' *Please Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want*, Matt Berninger and his band might have a dour miserable side of their own they made perfect Saturday night entertainment.

As Sunday lunchtime approached, a buzz stirs around the campsite. Whispers of the return of a special guest from the 10-year anniversary persuades hoards towards the BBC 6 music stage. As the gossip had predicted internationally renowned singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran joined Irish soul singer Foy Vance on stage - to the delight of everyone in attendance.

When the 2016 line up was released and New Order topped the bill it was inevitable that Sunday would be the busiest and most anticipated night of the weekend. After an international tour the legendary Mancunian band took to the Obelisk stage to arguably the largest crowd of the weekend. However, the strenuous tour and 90 minute set appeared to take its toll on the Indie idols as they left the stage early without making much of an impression. No fireworks, no dramatics and almost no atmosphere despite their 'big finish' of Joy Divisions *Love Will Tear Us Apart*. Unfortunately the ordeal left the non-die hard fans feeling flat. Was it really how organisers wanted to draw the weekend to a close?

What the festival may have lacked in mainstream music names it made up for in its alternative arenas once again proving the Latitude Festival is a place to experience the unusual, the interesting and the eye opening. A combination of the slightly displaced and chaotic music line up and the diverse line up for poetry, literary and comedy as well as the hot sun drove crowds away from the music and into spoken word. Where else would you get served frozen cocktails by Keith Allen? Or find oneself surreally entertained by Jane Horrocks reciting punk rock classics? Not to mention Adam

Buxton interviewing Louis Theroux, or a comedy line-up that grabs the spotlight from Edinburgh's revered Comedy Festival and milks it for all its worth.

The biggest queue of the weekend was seen outside the Film and Music Arena. If you wanted to see a rare interview between long term friends Adam Buxton, comedian and renowned podcast producer and Louis Theroux, a journalist made famous by his hard hitting documentaries you had to get in early. The two came to the stage to rapturous applause before handing out glasses of 'backstage champagne' to the front rows. Hailed as one of the most insightful and honest interviews given by Theroux, the pair discussed his previous work



and his topical views. No doubt for the lucky few who made it through the doors into the dark, secret arena, this would have been the highlight of their weekend. The podcast is due to be available on Adam Buxton's *Soundcloud*

in the coming weeks and is definitely worth a listen. It once again begs the question - Why do Latitude organisers insist on such small arenas causing so many to miss out?

Latitude is growing and apparently changing its image but will it adapt. The adjustments made to the sight and its layout show a clear understanding from the organisers but will the arenas catch up? As the music headliners opens its parameters and they continue to have more of a following for its alternative stages will the festival loosen its hold on the 'small and intimate' approach to give people the space to see the acts?

As the years pass Latitude is staking its place firmly in the UK festival landscape, and rightly so. It continues to delight and surprise year on year with more people returning than to any other festival. This is without doubt due to the beautiful setting, eclectic roots and warm, hazy atmosphere it brings every year.

The day the village hall

To mark Royal Ascot Pat and Terry Goss organised an Ascot evening at Wendy Sutton. Sue Ireland decorated the hall including a floral arch. The Robinson. Mick Nichols and Meryl Doney were second and third. The



TERRY AND PAT



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SUE AND VAL

Very many thanks to
took the pictures and
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colinhuggins8@hotmail

It became Royal Ascot

ended by nearly 50 people. The greatly appreciated food was provided by the best hat competition was judged by Sarah Wickham and won by Lucy the evening ended with *My Fair Lady* with its classic Royal Ascot Scene.



JEFF AND WENDY



ELDA AND DAVID



GILLIAN AND TOM



SONIA



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SUE, COLIN AND MARY



URSULA AND ALAN



RO AND DAVID



DAVID AND OLIVE

to Colin Huggins who
d gave all race-goers a
eir picture.

opies please contact Colin on
l.com or 01502 478573.



MIKE AND SARAH



ROSELYN AND JOHN

An historic building well worth saving

Blythburgh Chapel in Dunwich Road is a forlorn sight, visibly decaying, isolated on a small plot by the Amberley Close development. Its present state belies the most important position it held in Blythburgh life for more than a century. The chapel was built in 1837 and later enlarged. The meaning of the date 1860 on the front is not clear.

The Primitive Methodists, advocating a simpler or purer form of Christianity, left the main Methodist movement in 1811. They proved strong in rural areas, especially attracting poor farm workers. The 1851 census of religious attendance shows that they then had some 45 chapels in Suffolk. They were generally simply built, reflecting the poverty of their supporters. In Blythburgh the chapel was very active. In 1851 it attracted 60 scholars in the morning, and the afternoon and evening attendances were 167 and 105 respectively.

At the same time the parish church had an average of 10 communicants. The congregation was 35 plus 21 scholars in the morning and 60 plus 21 scholars in the afternoon. While Holy Trinity mouldered into ruin as one visitor put it, and was to be closed as unsafe in 1881, the chapel thrived.

The Primitive Methodists returned to the main Methodist Union in 1932 and the chapel was closed in the 1970s. The building is unprotected,



outside the conservation area and unlisted. It is, however, arguably of significant historical and architectural importance. Its importance to the people of Blythburgh is undeniable. And while architecturally simple, it is characteristic of its religious movement and, as English Heritage's own guide on the subject states: "It would be wrong to judge a Primitive Methodist chapel against the standards for a Catholic church."

The building could also be deemed a rare survivor, externally at least being unaltered. It would be most unfortunate if the building were lost. A new use, possibly as a dwelling, that preserved the appearance of the building from Dunwich Road, would seem desirable.

Blythburgh Parish Council has applied to Suffolk Coastal District Council to have the chapel registered as a non-designated heritage asset, a status which would have to be taken into consideration in the planning process.

Alan Mackley

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

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Village Hall

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NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

Back home firmly in the saddle again



Eighty-six people, 19 dogs, two cats, and two crabs (in a pail) attended the Blessing of the Animals Service. The Rev. Malcolm Doney led the final blessing on his horse, Neville. No animals or humans were harmed. The crabs returned to the sea.

Celebration in the ruins: The church will take a hand in the re-

launch of Celebrating Blythburgh Day on Sunday 21 August, leading an open-air service in the ruins of the 12th century priory at I Iam.

Harvest festival: On Sunday 4 September at 6pm, Holy Trinity will celebrate Harvest Festival with Choral Evensong, followed by seasonal food and drink. All are very welcome.

Letting the light in: On Sunday 25 September at I Iam there will be a service of dedication of the newly replaced medieval glass in one church window, together with the reglazing with clear glass of three more. The dedication will be undertaken by the Rt Revd Tim Stevens, former Bishop of Leicester, who has strong local connections.

New Team Vicar: The Sole Bay Team Ministry is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Team Vicar to start in October. The Rev Alan Perry will be particularly responsible for the parishes of Reydon and Wangford, and for the development of youth outreach.

Alan was previously the headteacher of King Edward's Church of England High School and Sixth Form College in Romford, Essex. His wife, Sue, also a teacher has secured a teaching appointment in Woodbridge.

MANTINS

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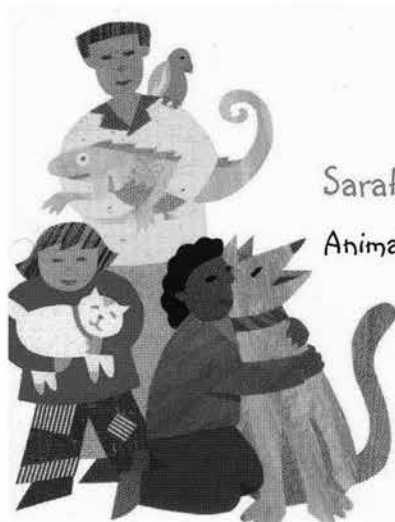
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Notes from Daisy Bank LXXIV

*"I've got an aversion to cats" or "Room enough to swing a cat in"
or "What's all the fuss about. It was only a cat"*

How many times do I have to hear things like that? Substitute dog for cat and there would be outrage and possibly even the odd letter from Tunbridge Wells. Have I ever heard somebody say, "I have an aversion to dogs"? No. And by the way we are dog lovers and have had pet dogs of our own, so we are in no way anti-dog. We even go to pubs to have lunch where we are sure there will be dogs. For us, dogs and pubs sort of go together. Just please spare a thought for us cat lovers the next time you use the *swinging cats* phrase.

Smithie, a grey and white cat, arrived at our door six years ago. Nothing new there. Several had arrived before him and several after. All were re-homed apart from *Alice* and *Molly* who decided to stay with us. Unusually, *Smithie* announced his arrival with a series of loud wails and protestations so there was no way that we could have missed him. He demanded to be taken notice of, and taken care of, as *soon as possible please*. Ignoring him was not an option.

A notice in the shop and a call from Colin and Mary on the other side of the car park asking if they could view. They did so over a cup of tea and for the last six years *Smithie* has been a very important part of their lives and Colin and Mary have been a very important part of his.

Sadly, a few weeks ago, Colin appeared at our door to say that *Smithie* had tragically died. A big hole in the stomach and lots of sadness and tears. For that, dear readers is what us cat lovers feel like when we lose our dear cat friends. We feel bereaved and distraught and like you dog lovers, we feel very, very, unhappy.

The other day somebody came down to the gallery and asked me what I was currently painting. I had my gardening apron on at the time and also some gloves. I told them that I wasn't painting and hadn't done so for at least six months. Indeed, I had no intention at the moment of even contemplating starting something. *"As you can see, I'm gardening and frankly I'd rather be gardening than painting."* Heavens to Betsy, did I really say that?

My mother was a great gardener. The one thing I have of hers to remind me of her devotion to gardening is a small red Wilkinson ladies metal spade. I use it now for exterminating Hog Weeds, which is an ongoing battle in our garden.

When she was alive I showed little or no interest in the effort she put into the gardens that she created: we moved quite a lot in the early years of my childhood. I wish she was here in our garden now.

I know she would have loved to have given me advice and possibly even the odd bollocking when I planted something so obviously to her, in the wrong place.

Both B's and my parents are buried alongside each other in a churchyard in the next village and beneath my mother's name is the following, taken from Proverbs 31:16.

"She has considered the field and bought it and with the fruit of her hands she has planted a vineyard."

Paul Bennett

Villager of the Year 2016

Alan Mackley, vice-chair Blythburgh Parish Council, presents the certificate to Olive Forsythe, Villager of the Year 2016, for her contribution to village life. She runs the village hall, obtaining grants for improvement and refurbishment, including the cinema equipment and a new kitchen, handles the distribution of the parish Latitude tickets and lays out the Blythburgh Focus.

