

BLYTHBURGH

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Issue No. 3

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

May/June 2012

Simon Mayo to visit Blythburgh

The broadcaster Simon Mayo, host of BBC Radio 2's drive-time show, has written his first novel, *Itch*, published by Random House. It is a thriller for 11-13 year-olds, but there's a local twist or two, which is why he's coming to Holy Trinity on Tuesday, 5 June to talk about the book.

The idea for the book came when Simon visited Holy Trinity. He's had a house in Walberswick for many years, and is a big fan of Blythburgh, particularly the church. Some years back, he paid special attention to the board naming the clergy who had served the church. Two in particular caught his eye: "Itchingham Loftes" and "Nathaniel Flowerdew, intruder".

These names made it into the book as the two main protagonists. Itchingham Loftes ("Itch") is a 14-year-old outsider, obsessed by the periodic table. His search for missing chemical elements leads him to a series of dangerous adventures, and epic conflict with evil mastermind, Nathaniel

Flowerdew. Explosions, treachery, and a threat to the world order make for a nail-biting page-turner.

The book has been very well received, with Anthony Horowitz, author of the Alex Rider books, calling it, "A great debut . . . you'll be itching to read more."

Simon is delighted to be returning to Holy Trinity on Tuesday 5 June at 4.30pm, to mark the book's publication. Holy Trinity is hosting the event with Southwold Library and Beccles Books.

He will talk about the novel and its inspiration, and read extracts from the book. Admission is free, and signed copies of *Itch* will be available for sale.

A retiring collection will be taken for the work of the church.

For more details contact: the Rev Malcolm Doney
07812 566 520 or email malcolmdoney@me.com

Official opening of the Blythburgh playsite

Blythburgh Parish Council extends a warm welcome to all families in the parish to come to the official opening of the new play site in Highfields on Saturday June 9 from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. The guests of honour will be speedway stars from the Ipswich Witches, who will be

there with their racing bikes. Snacks and soft drinks will be served. David Tytler, chair of the Parish Council, said: "We are grateful to the financial support from the National Lottery, the Blythburgh Latitude Trust, and Suffolk Coastal District Council."

Raise a glass to Blythburgh on Friday evening

Enjoy a glass of wine and a bite to eat at the annual village meeting in Blythburgh Village Hall on Friday May 18 at 7.00pm. You will be able to get up to date with what has happened in the last 12 months, question your councillors, talk to those who run village groups. And who is Villager of the Year? Find out on Friday.

Blythburgh's jubilee parties and vouchers: Pages 8 and 9

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Hektor breathes new life into Henham

By Sheline Clarke, Editor of Business East Monthly

There's never a dull moment for Hektor Rous. The son of the so-called "Aussie Earl", the sixth Earl of Stradbroke, Hektor moved to Suffolk from Melbourne in Australia to take on the management of the family's 3,500 acre site near Southwold in 2004.

Since then he has made it the home of the Latitude Festival, breathed new life into old buildings and has plans for a new hotel and spa. When he's not meeting planners or festival organisers, he's learning how to maintain ancient oak trees, overseeing building projects, dealing with tenants and local farmers whose animals graze the land and generally living life at the sharp end of running an estate.

He enjoys brewing the odd pint of beer, works seven days a week and admits sleep isn't always an option. Yet despite the hard work and responsibility, he couldn't be happier. He says: "I really love it here. I have a natural affinity with the property and with England. I feel much more English than I do Australian, though my accent may say otherwise. It's one of those rare jobs that you completely love; it's a real privilege and a pleasure to be here."

Hektor already had a long history with Henham, which has been in the Rous family for nearly 500 years, having visited as a child and then helped to manage the property from Australia. But trying to deal with planning and licensing laws from the other side of the world proved almost impossible and to do the job justice Hektor knew he had to become resident.

He says: "We were coming up against what seemed like baffling issues, which was disheartening. So I didn't really have a vision as such, my expectations when I came here were really just to clean it up and try to preserve the park and its history."

Within a couple of months of moving to his new Suffolk home, Hektor realized the park had masses of potential and was completely under-utilized having, at that time, no events. He set about putting that right and in 2005 welcomed back the Grand Henham Steam Rally, as well as the Wings and Wheels Festival, which combines a car rally

and flying display. The following year saw the first Latitude Festival at Henham.

He says "Suddenly you start building momentum and that enabled us to do a lot of the properties up and so we have done a huge amount of work and repairs to parts of the estate that had been let go."

Renovated properties include The Stables, which are now let and run as boutique accommodation, as well as his own home and offices. Most recently the walled garden has been brought back to life and will welcome an event of its own when the first Flavours of Suffolk food festival is staged in May. He is now working on plans to convert a cluster of barns into permanent facilities for the estate's thousands of visitors including a restaurant, coffee shop, craft gallery and brewery.

But the headline act for Henham and central to its renaissance has been the Latitude Festival. Created by London-based Festival Republic, Latitude has a reputation for being a friendly, family-orientated affair for 35,000 guests. Headline acts for the 2012 festival include Elbow and Paul Weller while Jack Dee will be performing on the comedy stage. A study in 2010 revealed the festival boosted the local economy to the tune of £12million.

The success of Latitude has also given Hektor ideas for staging theatre and opera and maybe even drive-in cinema. With Hektor at the helm, Henham is making great progress. He is a people person who now understands that some of the baffling issues he faced when in Australia are not insurmountable and he soon realized that many of the bodies he works with also love the property and have its best interests at heart.

The son of the Aussie Earl has made Henham his patch. He won't be drawn on his favourite event, but says the smell of the steam engines when the rally returned transported him back to his childhood. His working day is a million miles from banking and the dealing rooms where he spent his early career.

For more information, visit www.henhampark.com

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BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

Sir Stanley Marchant, CVO (1883-1949)

A tribute in the Blythburgh Parish News a year ago to Margaret Marchant of White Cottage prompted me to follow up the musical Marchants. Margaret's brother Hugh, for example.

It is fitting in this jubilee year to remember that, while a teacher at the Royal Academy of Music, he was joint co-ordinator of choral and orchestral arrangements for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. He had been assistant organist at Westminster Abbey from 1947 to 1950. Their father Stanley, knighted in 1942, was principal of the RAM from 1936 until his death.

Stanley Marchant's life was devoted to music. Born in London, he started his musical career as a choir boy. He studied the organ and composition at the RAM and then went up to Pembroke College, Oxford, where he took his doctorate in music in 1914.

His first professional posts were in churches and in 1927 he succeeded to the position of organist at St Paul's Cathedral, which he retained until appointed to head the RAM, where he had been a professor since 1913. He married Hilda Holyman, one of his students, in 1915.

His reign as principal was widely acclaimed as a happy one. He was described as having a warm-hearted personality and generating an atmosphere of concord and good-will. He breathed new life into the college where technical proficiency and a liberal outlook were

combined. He was in much demand by academic and consultative bodies.

He was Edward VII Professor of Music in London University and was advisor to the Arts Council and the BBC. His influence was therefore far-reaching. A tribute published after his death described him as a late survivor of a long tradition which entrusted the musical life of the country to organists.

The family's connection with Blythburgh began in the 1930s with the renting of White Cottage which the widowed Lady Marchant was to buy in 1949. In July 1948 the Court Circular of *The Times* noted that Sir Stanley Marchant, who had been organist of Blythburgh church since April 1946, had resigned because of arthritis.

He wrote to the vicar: "Whether my present treatment, exhausting in itself, will result in making it possible for me ever to play again, I cannot say." Sadly, he did not play again. He died in London at the end of February 1949 after another severe attack of arthritis. His funeral service was in St Paul's Cathedral.

There were more connections with Blythburgh. A decade later, one of Stanley Marchant's professors, William Alwyn, at the Academy from 1928 to 1955, when he was sorely disappointed not to be made principal, moved to the village with his wife Mary, whose Royal Academy certificate was signed *Stanley Marchant*.

Alan Mackley

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The motor car – the love in a man's life

On the market: Convertible 1960's Silver Clapham - with classic chassis and original features – its vintage charm, undoubted pedigree and extraordinary body-work make this an unmissable once-in-a-lifetime offer.

A true enthusiast will find the Clapham hugely reliable and a dream to handle, if treated with respect, and will remind older fans of the – much classier – earlier Robinson model. Three careless owners, so has developed a nasty whine and an unhealthy need for excessive re-fuelling.

Better forget that last bit.

But doesn't it make more sense if you are – heaven forbid – looking for a man, to ignore the lonely hearts pages and advertise in *Classic Car*, *What Yacht*, *Nuts and Bolts* or *My Shed* catalogues?

Forget Loaded, and go for *Downloaded* – sorry, but you get the point.

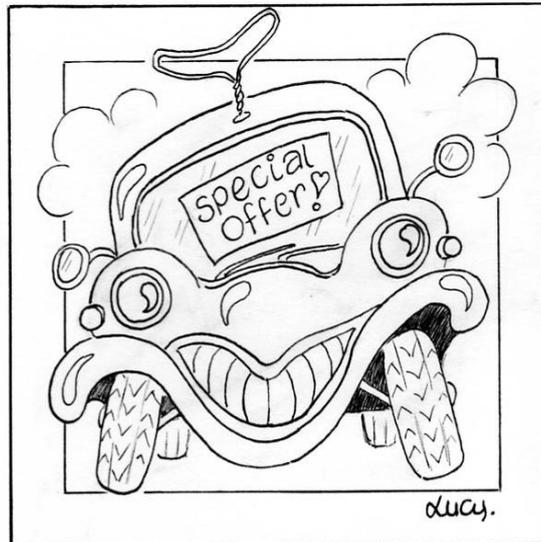
I mean, have you ever met a bloke who is as enthusiastic about his wife as he is about his, say, train set, drum kit, football team, music system, sit-on mower etc.? Well, those who let it show in public, anyway. Rare as hen's teeth, I'd say.

I've often felt what a delightful life to be a car owned by a real fanatic: to know you will be cherished, admired, taken out at weekends without having to ask and talked about endlessly over pints with mates, before being lovingly garaged; to watch your man turn in to a grizzly, madly over-protective bear if anybody so much as flicks a sweet-paper in your direction or touches your body-work.

Two out of my three exes (remember, I *am* very old) were motor mad. I spent many a happy – and oily – hour in my teens helping my boyfriend restore a Mark I Cortina, and I mean restore. Sanding, filling, painting, waxing, learning all there was to know about tappets, points and how to compete with a tin box on wheels when it comes to pleasing your man.

I found it surprisingly fascinating. Mind you, I found *him* fascinating, which obviously helps. Naturally, I have forgotten everything I learnt about big ends - or pretend I have - and find the best method of dealing with a breakdown is to open the bonnet and stand by the side of the road looking helpless. It still works every time – even with an ageing blonde – a man will invariably pull over to help.

Basically "Man, he know how to fix big heap car – woman, she good with washing machine". Horribly un-pc but extremely effective. I can zip my feminist lip as well as the next woman, if it's to my advantage.



As well as holding spanners, I have also done my fair share of enduring hours of freezing at cricket matches, watching football - dreadful, unless it's Chelsea – Yeah! - mixing concrete bases for sheds, admiring carpentry equipment, discussing diggers and dumpers and taking up time I will never get back walking round fairs turning over old motorbike parts.

A pal of mine had a boyfriend who would take his motorbike apart in the

kitchen then put various parts on the stove to boil in her best saucepans – helps remove old grease apparently. He simply couldn't see why she objected.

Anybody familiar with my vehicle will be aware that it is not a precious little goddess, it's a, well, car. At the moment it contains a crate of empty glass bottles, some straw, a tent, a bag of compost, the usual old sandwich packets and plastic bottles, ancient inedible chewing gum and two broken umbrellas.

The exterior sports some fine examples of pigeon poo – yes, I know it's bad for the paintwork and I don't *care!!!* I might even paint it orange with purple flowers. Or not.

Mrs Clapham and her classic chassis are out of here – Ms Robinson is back.

BLYTHBURGH

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Welcome to the Queen's Jubilee

A day of partying to celebrate the Queen's jubilee begins in the White Hart from lunchtime on June 4 2012. There will be a bouncy castle, live music and a barbecue with special offers for those living in the parish using the vouchers below.

The festivities continue in Holy Trinity with a barn dance and ploughman's supper at 7pm. £5 for adults including supper, under 12's - £2, free for villagers. Please see details, including a voucher, on Page 9. The day will end with the lighting of a village beacon.

The organisers of both events, which are supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust, hope that as many people as possible will take part to make the Queen's Diamond Jubilee a day to remember in Blythburgh.

Choral evensong, led by the Blythburgh Singers, will be held in Holy Trinity on Sunday June 3 at 6pm. It will incorporate music from the Coronation and be followed by a celebratory glass of bubbly since it is also Trinity Sunday, the church's Patronal Festival.



Blythburgh Suffolk

THE INN ON THE RIVER BLYTH

ADULT'S VOUCHER VALID JUNE 4 2012

Villagers are invited to present this voucher for either a complementary pint of beer or a glass of wine. This voucher can be used only once.

Number of adults.....

Please cut out this voucher and exchange it at the Hart for your free drink

SUPPORTED BY THE BYTHBURGH LATITUDE TRUST

THIS VOUCHER IS NOT VALID



Blythburgh Suffolk

THE INN ON THE RIVER BLYTH

CHILDREN'S VOUCHER VALID JUNE 4 2012

Children living in the village are invited to present this voucher for a free BBQ and a soft drink. This voucher can be used only once.

Number of children.....

Please cut out this voucher and exchange it for your free BBQ and drink

SUPPORTED BY THE BLYTBURGH LATITUDE TRUST

THIS VOUCHER IS NOT VALID



Come to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee at a barn dance, ploughman's supper and lighting the beacon



7pm Monday, 4 June 2012

Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh

Tickets: £5 per adult including ploughman's supper (under 12s - £2)

Villagers: Free using voucher below

To buy tickets please contact:

Sonia Boggis
01502 478687

or

Ro Williams
01502 478484

sonia.boggis@btinternet.com

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TICKETS WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS

Squash and water will be provided free of charge. Beer and wine will be available to buy.

THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM BLYTHBURGH LATITUDE TRUST



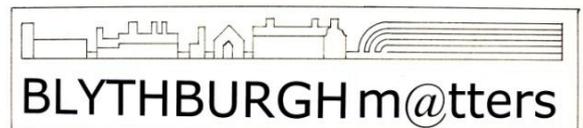
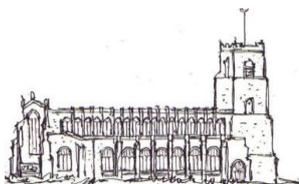
This voucher entitles residents of Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton to free tickets, including supper, on a first-come-first served basis, for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Blythburgh Church on Monday June 4 at 7pm. Please cut out this voucher and exchange it for your tickets in Blythburgh Village Shop.

Name.....

Address.....

.....
Number of adults.....

Number of children under 16.....



THIS VOUCHER IS NOT VALID

Village to vote on new sculpture

The Easter art exhibition in Holy Trinity Church was a great success, featuring the work of four artists with strong East Anglian connections: Laurence Edwards, Iain McKillop, Nicholas Mynheer and Brian Whelan.

Beast of Burden, a sculpture by Laurence Edwards, of Yoxford, particularly caught visitors' imaginations. Sited behind the altar, the work looks as though it was made for the space. The central figure holds its burden like long arms with a 14ft span, cast in bronze from giant hogweed. They mirror the wings of the Blythburgh angels in the roof.



Many people, particularly Blythburgh residents, have said how good it would be if it could stay. The Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity welcomes the idea in principle, but would have to seek funding for the project and wants to

hear the views of local residents before making a decision.

Beast of Burden will be in the church until June and a response sheet for views will be available in the church and the village shop.

You can also email Blythburgh's associate priest, Malcolm Doney, at: malcolmdoney@me.com. Consultation will end in mid-June.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF-----

The Parish Council raised objections to a planning application for a rear entrance for vehicles to Mill Farm via Lodge Lane and to the replacement of a hedge on the Mill Farm/Lodge Lane boundary with a 50m long, 2m high brick wall. The council found the evidence provided in support of the application unconvincing, and also objected to the misrepresentation of the council's position.

The council agreed that the proposed wall was inappropriate in this location, which is an important visual amenity being a soft, green, element of the Blythburgh village landscape. The Council requested Suffolk Coastal District Council to instruct the applicant to replant the hedge in a gap he had created. The council also objected to the proposed vehicular access, which it believed would create hazards for Bridle Way users. The increased use by vehicles of the concealed Lodge Lane entrance on Dunwich Road would add to dangers for passing traffic.

The following elections took place at the annual meeting of Blythburgh with Hinton and Bulcamp Parish Council on Monday evening: chair, David Tytler; vice-chair, Alan Mackley; Alan De Thabrew and Cliff Waller were re-elected as co-opted councillors. The following appointments were also made: responsible finance officer, Jim Boggis; finance advisory group, chair, John Blakesley, members, Jim Boggis and Roderick Orr-Ewing; planning advisory committee, chair, Alan Mackley, members, Sonia Boggis and Cliff Waller; Village Hall Trustees, Alan Mackley and Alan De Thabrew; tree warden, Lucy Clapham.

Complaints. The council decided that unless there were exceptional circumstances it would not deal with anonymous complaints.



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Also wanted: CDs and DVDs. For all items to be collected by June 16, please call 01502 478521.



Lack of First Responders threatens life-saving service

Blythburgh urgently needs Community First Responders, the people who volunteer to respond to emergency calls on behalf of the Ambulance Service in the community where they live or work. Volunteers get comprehensive training covering basic life support.

By providing first aid in the crucial minutes before an ambulance arrives, First Responders increase the chance of survival considerably, especially after a cardiac arrest.

The parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton is served by the Blyth Valley Group, which includes Blythburgh, Wenhaston and Walberswick. This year there have been two call-outs after a cardiac arrest.

A substantial sum was donated to the group by a family after two first responders attended one of these incidents. A set of equipment will be purchased for a newly trained responder in Wenhaston. Other call-outs included a fall, two strokes, breathing problems and a seizure. The two Blythburgh responders attended most of these call-outs.

To become a responder you have to be between 18 and 70 years old, which means that the parish will lose both of its responders as both will be having their 70th birthdays.

So **PLEASE HELP!**

For further information please contact Ursula on 478438. It could be a matter of life or death.

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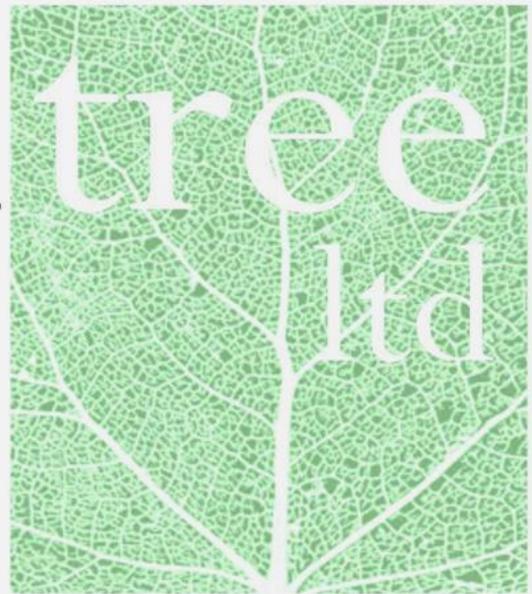
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Preventing flooding on the A12

By Bill Harrison

Although the A12 bridge over the Blyth estuary is a robust modern structure the dip in the road north of the river is vulnerable to flooding – as occurred for 26 hours in November 2007 when the storm surge went upstream of the bridge and flooded the road from the northwest.

The water continued to rise, overtopping the riverbank on the north-east side. The Environment Agency, which is responsible for the estuary, built a small further bank on the north-west intended to protect from a one-in-ten-years flooding event: it has already stopped a couple of flooding threats.

Further future flooding is likely when North Sea storm surges down the east coast add to the normal ebb and flow of the tide. Suffolk County Council earmarked £1.9M in 2009 for dealing with the problem, drawing on funds made available by the Government for the A12. These funds are intended to enable a more ambitious investment to cater for a flood.

Discussions seeking to maintain and repair the estuary flood defences have included the Blyth Estuary Group, which represents a range of local interests. Since 1977, the Environment Agency has had a policy of allowing the Blyth estuary defences to be eroded.

SCC is now analysing options for protecting the A12 traffic route, which will be out for consultation later this year. The two options are to simply raise the road over the dip between the Blyth bridge and the Halesworth / Beccles junction; or build a flood barrier downstream of the A12, which will protect the road, but obscure the view downstream.

The apparently common sense first option is affordable, could be undertaken within the existing land controlled by SCC, and would enhance the views of the estuary. It would, however, cause considerable traffic disruption during construction, and would not prevent flooding upstream from the A12.

The more complex, extensive - and expensive –

second option involves building a flood barrier downstream to the east of the A12, with culverts and sluice gates to control water flow. The size and shape of the barriers, culverts, and the provision for a fish passage are currently being studied. Provision will also need to be made for an additional one foot height to the river wall south east of the bridge, to provide protection from the surges for the cottages between the river and the White Hart.

The main issue, however, is to make a flood barrier solution affordable, and getting agreement with the Environment Agency regarding the design and its operation and maintenance requirements. There are three possible designs for the barrier :

- 1, a broad sloping landscaped barrier. This is favoured by the Environment Agency but would probably cost more than the available funds;
- 2, a narrower barrier, incorporating a metal sheet pile core, which appears as a landscaped slope;
3. an exposed sheet pile barrier, taking the least space. This is the cheapest option, but visually intrusive.

Obviously, all the barrier designs will block the downstream view of the estuary along the dip in the A12. All the designs also involve the need for SCC to buy land and as it is protected for wildlife, SCC would have to provide alternative land to compensate for the loss of habitat.

Investigations, consultations and negotiations will continue through 2012. The Environment Agency will need to sign up to the on-going operational and maintenance consequences, the various environmental concerns will need to be satisfied, and the local community and business interests taken into account. A full public inquiry may be called.

If general agreement on an affordable solution is reached in 2012, SCC could commission construction to start in autumn 2013.

This article is based on a meeting with SCC officers on preventing A12 flooding.

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Joan Elizabeth Brown 7.12.1927 – 28.2.2012

Joan was born in Woodford, Essex in November 1927. She had a happy childhood, shared with, and made much more fun no doubt, by brother Derek and later arrival sister Jean.

Family life was not without conflict and tension, their mother enjoyed the pleasures of her garden and particularly cherished a loan pear tree, which produced fruit once in while. In one of those less productive years, the few remaining pears were being nurtured toward maturity.

However an unfortunate discovery was to be made concerning a particular low hanging pear... a large bite had been taken from said pear. Interrogation followed and the unsurprising response from each of these three children was "not me mummy". Forensic examination followed these denials. The evidence, still hanging on the tree, revealed a bite with a gap between two front teeth. Joan! No escape from the forensic eye of a mother.

At school Joan shone at sport, particularly netball, and dance, joining a dance troupe with her sister Jean. The living room carpet at home was frequently rolled back to reveal a concrete floor ideal for a tap dance routine, following which enthusiastic applause could be heard (according to their brother).

Joan was also an excellent pianist, playing mostly by ear, sharing lessons with Jean, although by all accounts Joan spent most of her time staring out of the window, probably at the pear tree.

The war years were of course not easy, with the growing family spending many difficult nights, sleeping in an Anderson shelter, and the loss of two Uncles in North Africa, one a favourite of Joan's.

Leaving school Joan began an apprenticeship as a hairdresser working locally in Woodford. It was here in a local youth centre that she met future husband Ray.

Following their marriage in 1950 they moved to London, where Joan continued working as a hairdresser in Chelsea. 1956 saw the arrival of their first child Christopher and a move to a flat in Battersea. At this point Joan stopped working as a hairdresser to give support to Ray in his developing career as an artist and illustrator.

More children arrived on the scene with Jonny and later a daughter, Charlotte. 1987 saw them move to Blythburgh, where Joan became a lively member of the W.I. whilst continuing to support Ray in his work.

Sadly tragedy struck soon after with the death in London of Jonny and only 18 months later the death of their second son Christopher. Clearly a very painful time for all the family and whilst Joan recovered eventually, the events of her life took their toll.

Although Joan had been a sprightly and lively young woman, a series of falls and a broken leg limited her activity. Whilst she received excellent care and wonderful support, those later falls, and the start of dementia meant that she could no longer be cared for at home. In May last year Joan was admitted to the Priory Paddocks Nursing home, where she was very well looked after by dedicated nurses and carers. Ray and Charlotte are extremely grateful to them all.

Joan died peacefully on the 28th February with her loving daughter Charlotte and Ray by her side. She will be sadly missed.

The Rev. Malcolm Porter (Joan's nephew)

**The next meeting of Blythburgh Parish Council
is on July 9 at 7.30pm. Open Forum at 7.15pm.
You will be very welcome.**

Notes from Daisy Bank LI

In the opening scene of the film *'Howard's End'*, Vanessa Redgrave is walking through autumn leaves in a wood near her house, *'Howard's End'*. The sound of those leaves as her feet brush them aside is so evocative and makes a glorious opening to a wonderful film

If unfortunately, I were faced with dilemma of losing either my hearing or my sight, there would be absolutely no contest. Even speaking as a painter who loves what he does, the thought of losing my ability to listen to music and the sounds of this magical world we live in would make the decision easy.

In my childhood before the monster of television had me in its clutches, the radio was god. Being a weakling child with tuberculosis, I once spent six months in bed and, as a treat to make up for this ordeal, my parents bought me a radio. From day one it was hardly ever turned off. To this day, the *Afternoon Play*, *Desert Island Discs* and the *Archers* form the must listen to programmes in a very long list.

In a sightless world, life here in Daisy Bank would continue just as it always has, with the sounds that are so familiar. The rattle of the milkman's van as he comes down the lane and before that, the newspaperman and Dylan next door barking to remind them who is in charge.

The wakening bird song with the beginnings of light filtering through our curtains; the sound of the doves and pigeons starting their day, followed by songbirds trying desperately to compete. Then, its time for tea making.

I make my way down the stairs and feel my way into the kitchen to start the ritual. While the kettle is boiling and the teapot heated, I take the bucket of birdseed out to the back garden and walk seven paces across the lawn to the birdbath, distributing the seed like scattering corn. Return to the kitchen and the kettle is boiled. Back to bed with tea and papers to listen to the *Today* programme on Radio Four.

Meanwhile the pigeons descend on the birdseed and start squabbling between themselves and

the jackdaw and magpie intruders. Later the smaller birds will pick up what the greedier, bigger ones have left. By that time *Oscar* the pheasant will have announced his arrival. I will be up he will be given a mixture of peanuts and seed. His partner *Annabel* will stand quietly and politely apart waiting for him to finish.

Later in the morning and sitting in a summer garden feeling the heat on my face, I will hear Derek next door talking to his geese and chickens while he feeds them. Later still, the front gate will tinkle as the postman delivers a mixture of interest and boredom. The dogs at Union Farm on the other side of the Blyth Valley will start to bark excitedly when they are let out and the peacocks at Laurel Farm will answer them from this side. Once, several years ago a peacock came into our garden but whether it was one of the Laurel crowd I have no idea.

From time to time, we hear the two tone sound of the train on its way to Lowestoft or London, a memory perhaps of the Southwold train as it rattled past the back of our garden in the twenties.

Then occasionally the bells from Wenhaston Church and the magnificence of our own bells here in Blythburgh. If only they practised every day, I would never tire of it.

In my previous village there was clock bell and it never bothered me although according to some recent news, new comers in a village somewhere in England have complained about the sound of their church clock keeping them awake. Surely they know what to do if they don't like it.

Now it's evening and the birds have gone to bed, quietness reigns. Just this last evening as I write this, B and I went into the garden and heard our first nightingale of the year. And so to bed and I can still see and all is well in Daisy Bank.

Paul Bennett

Reminder: raise a glass to Blythburgh on this Friday

Enjoy a glass and a bite to eat at the annual village meeting in the Village Hall on Friday at 7.00pm