

# BLYTHBURGH

## FOCUS

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Issue No.36

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

November/December 2017

## Oh yes, we will go to the panto !



By popular demand and thanks to the Blythburgh Latitude Trust, tickets have been booked for a performance of Sleeping Beauty, this year's pantomime at the Theatre Royal Norwich, on Saturday 30 December at 2.30pm.

As usual the coach will pick everyone up at the bus stop on the northbound A12 at 11.30am, and we should be back in Blythburgh around 6.30pm. The start time should allow us to get to Norwich in time to have a bite to eat before the show and even hit the sales. This trip is

open to all residents of the parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton, but places are limited so please book early. Deadline for applications is Friday 10 December. Please apply in writing to Jenny Allen, Wolsey House, Chapel Road, or by e-mail [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com) with your name and address, the number of places requested, and a contact telephone number. Please also state if any children are aged under 3 and would be sharing a seat with an adult. Please assume that you have got places if Jenny does not contact you.

## The Big Dig returns to Blythburgh

Cambridge University archaeologists and a team of schoolchildren will return to Blythburgh in May 2018 to dig metre-square pits to help explain 1500 years of Blythburgh's development. If you would like to offer a spot in your garden please contact Sonia Boggis, Chiara Saunders, Meryl Doney or Alan Mackley.

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## Home thoughts from a broad...



### TRAFFIC WATCH

It is apparent that our Vehicle Activated Sign has an effect on drivers' behaviour particularly on Dunwich Road. The Council decided it would be useful to know the speeds vehicles would do if there was no sign to remind them. To that end it purchased a Data Logger. This has the same data gathering ability as our VAS but without the display. We have now been monitoring the three positions around the village for long enough to know the range of speeds at each with a display and it will be interesting to see if those figures change when motorists don't feel 'watched'. I will report in the next edition of Focus.

As before the speeds have been divided into three categories: Acceptable (0 to 35mph), Illegal (35 to 55mph) and Highly Illegal (55 to 80mph) and again I have looked at different times of the day so as well as the whole 24hours. I have figures for Daytimes (07:00 to 19:00); Nights (19:00 to 07:00) and Late Nights (22:00 to 05:00)

**A12 Southbound**, September 3 to October 1: The overall figures show that 74% (4409 per day) were driving at an acceptable speed, 25% (1515 per day) at illegal speeds and 1% (978 per day) at Highly illegal speeds. Between 07:00 to 19:00 the figures are slightly better; 77% acceptable; 23% illegal and an average of 8 vehicles per day highly illegal. At night the pattern changes, with lower volume and higher speeds. Only 50% were acceptable; 46% illegal and 3% (30 vehicles per night) highly illegal. Between 22:00 and 05:00 the figures are 38% at or below 35mph; 56% between 35 and 55mph and 6% (12 vehicles per night) between 55 and 80mph.

**A12 Northbound**, October 9 to November 3: Overall 88% (3963 per day) acceptable, 12% (535 per day) illegal and 13 vehicles per day highly illegal. Daytime the figures were 91% acceptable, 9% illegal and 2 vehicles highly illegal. Nights were 66% acceptable, 32% illegal and 2% (10 vehicles per night) highly illegal. Late nights were 63% acceptable, 34% illegal and 3% (6 vehicles per night) highly illegal.

**Roderick Orr-Ewing**



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Christmas Day

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Bar: 12-10pm

Food: 12-6pm

New Year's Eve

Bar: 11 to late

Food: 12-3 pm, 5-9pm

New Year's Day

Bar: 12-11pm

Food: 12-8pm

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## CHILEAN ADVENTURE PART 2

# Palafitos, potatoes and pudu ...

Leaving the vast empty landscapes and dramatic peaks of Torres del Paine was a wrench but the next leg of our trip took us across the Canal de Chacaotakes to Chiloé, the largest island of the Chiloé Archipelago. The ferry trip was short but we were surrounded by wildlife: penguins, sea lions, pelicans and seagulls.

The roads were challenging: narrow, dusty and with oncoming traffic on our side of the road because there were fewer bumps! There were plusses because, in the queue at a set of roadworks, we caught a glimpse of a Pudú (second smallest deer in the world) and purchased a steaming potato cake: a delicious and filling mix of cooked and raw potatoes. We later discovered that almost 200 different varieties of potatoes are grown on Chiloé

The island is charming: small villages hang on hillsides and houses cluster around small harbours. Our destination was the capital Castro and one of the colourful wooden stilt houses (palafito) lining the water's edge. Palafitos, many now destroyed by earthquakes and tsunamis, were traditionally the houses of fishermen who would, at high-tide, tie their boats up under their houses.

The main square was alive with people – families, courting couples, neighbours - all relaxed and enjoying entertainers and musicians. When, a few days later, an open air boxing ring appeared, the knowledgeable crowds enthusiastically supported the local Castro boxers but only if they boxed well! The Inglesia San Francisco Church dominated the square and, with its two steeples and distinctive yellow and purple livery, reminded one of a Disney creation.

There were undoubtedly issues with farmed salmon (and other seafood) but the local fish market was something else. My time at sea on

research vessels proved to be useful and we ate the best fish and seafood imaginable in the tiniest, most crowded eatery run by the fabulous Dona Maria. We never did discover the reason for the display of old steam engines on the waterfront but we were delighted (and somewhat surprised) to find Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies from Ipswich, England represented by engine number 15688.

It's impossible to travel around the archipelago without noticing the unique architectural style of many buildings. Partly due to the physical remoteness and partly because of the materials available most houses are built from wood and wood shingles.

Historically, Jesuit missionaries arrived on Chiloé around 1700 and built a number of chapels throughout the archipelago.

Despite their expulsion in the late 1700s, more than 150 traditional style wooden churches can still be found and many are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We visited one at

Achao, arriving a few minutes before noon. The wooden church looked splendid but, as we locked the car, all hell broke loose. Claxons blared and I thought the world was about to end but ... no one else batted an eyelid. Earthquakes and tsunamis are a real and present danger here and, in the heart of an evacuation zone, they test the evacuation claxons every single day.

Our next destination, a full day's drive north, was Pucon in the Chilean Lake District but, before we leave, Chiloé has one final surprise: to our shock and horror and the delight and amusement of the locals we discovered that sea lions really do eat seagulls!



**Words: Sonia Boggis**  
**Illustration: Spike Gerrell**

## NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

# A nativity play with a difference



On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm, Blythburgh Church sees a unique community production of a nativity play with a difference. *A Lion for the King* is based on an ancient legend that the three wise men came to Bethlehem along the silk route from China. But it also has impeccable local credentials. The cast is entirely drawn from children in surrounding villages and towns.

The play, based on a book of the same name, is written by Blythburgh resident Meryl Doney. The music was composed by music therapist Angela Reith and is directed by Julia Bowles, Head Teacher at Wenhaston Primary School. Staging and lights have been provided by local production company Blackwing Ltd and with costume expertise from theatre designer (another Blythburgh resident) Claire Lyth. Do come along and support this uniquely local production. It's FREE, with a retiring collection towards expenses.

**Get growing:** Fourteen members of the congregation and Team Rector Simon Pitcher gathered together in the village hall on Saturday 4 Nov to discuss the topic: *Past, present, future – where next for Holy Trinity*. Charting the last five years, revealed remarkable achievements – given a regular Sunday morning congregation of around a dozen. These include 24 weddings, 19 funerals, 13 baptisms, and raising around £1,000 a year for good causes. There is an ongoing, major reglazing and stained glass conservation programme. We have installed new floodlights, refurbished the church's electric system, renovated the toilets, and resurfaced the car park. Holy Trinity has also hosted a wide range of exhibitions, concerts and events, not to mention services.

Small discussion groups then considered possible plans for the future. A wide range of opportunities for development were proposed, including: how the church might help co-ordinate pastoral care in the community; finding new ways to explore the contemplative dimension of faith; and of providing a continuing service and contact with people who came to the church through baptisms, weddings and funerals.

## Christmas dates in Blythburgh Church

**Sunday 3 December 6pm:** Advent Carol Service with the Blythburgh Singers.

**Saturday 16 December 4pm:** *A Lion for the King* – a delightful musical with an imaginative take on the journey of the Three Wise Men, featuring a cast of children drawn from local towns and villages. Admission free.

**Thursday 21 December:** Carol singing around Blythburgh. Please meet at Wolsey House, Chapel Lane at 5.45 to move off at 6pm.

**Saturday 23 December 4pm:** Candle-lit Lessons and Carol Service (with the Blythburgh Singers).

**Sunday 24 December 5pm:** Crib Service – a favourite with families.

**Sunday 24 December 11.30pm:** Midnight Communion.

**Monday 25 December 10am:** Christmas morning service.

# Taking a breathtaking flight into history



Picture by Martin Needham

"You wouldn't get me going up in one of those things!" was the common view of wives and partners when eight intrepid men gathered for a flight in Classic Wings De Havilland Rapide TX 310 G-AIDL from Norwich. Admittedly the plane was more than 70 years old, and made of wood and canvas. But it was my birthday, and the type had first flown in the year of my birth, so I had to go.

We weighed in, literally, and waited for fog to lift. I passed the time reading one of my companions' T-shirts, stretched over a generous belly, displaying masses of aeronautical information. Our safety briefing said fill the rear seats first, so that the plane did not topple on its nose, and leave first from the front.

Action in an emergency involved jumping through the cabin door, or pulling a ring in the roof at the back, cutting a circular hole through which you could climb, needing a good push from the rear. Tough on the last man in the queue.

Then, after an oil check with a broom handle as dipstick, we stepped on a beer crate (or something similar) pulled on a dangling rope, and hauled ourselves aboard. Up and away!

It was a great experience, floating over Norwich at about 1200 feet, not too noisy and very smooth. Large windows provided a fine view of Sunday shoppers - you could almost recognise them. All too soon we returned to the airport and our relieved families.

The Rapide was a stylish 1930s short-haul twin-engined biplane, carrying eight passengers, and was used by the RAF in WW2. The craft in which I flew was built for the RAF in 1946 and went straight into civil operation. Its

many owners and activities since have included ferrying Fox's Glacier Mints around the country. The present owners bought it at auction in 2015 for £124,700 and it is based at Duxford.

Fortunately, I left research into the fate of the first production Rapide until after my flight. The plane entered the King's Cup air race in 1934 but withdrew when damaged by hail stones. It went into service with Hillman Airways, later part of British Airways. On 2 October 1934 it left Abridge in Essex for Le Bourget, Paris, carrying seven passengers. In poor visibility over the Channel, it dived into a calm sea with the loss of all on board. An investigation attributed the accident to pilot error, lacking navigation and blind-flying experience.

I then thought of Douglas Corsellis, visitor to Blythburgh with his family in the 1920s, when aerial photographs of the village were taken from his De Havilland Moth. He died in 1930, crashing in takeoff from Hendon in fog. His *Times* obituary referred to a 'lengthening list of those, in this present year, cut off untimely.' Flying in the 1930s could be dangerous. Fortunately, for me, 2017 was much safer!

**Alan Mackley**



# An apple a minute keeps B



## ***The team of 15 pickers who climbed, peeled pressed a***

Blythburgh's first recorded Apple Day took place on Saturday 10 October in the back garden of Malcolm and Meryl Doney. The idea was to take advantage of the autumn fruit bounty, which was in danger of rotting on the ground, and turn it into juice.

A cheerful crew of 15 people came, equipped with fruit, knives and energy. The apple crushing and pressing was made possible thanks to Laura and Simon Roberts of Union farm who lent two splendid presses for the day.

While adults chopped and pressed, the two youngest



# Blythburgh at arm's length



## ***nd bottled a countless number of apples on Apple Day***

members of the party, Oscar and Millie shinned up one of the Doney's apple trees (all health and safety guidelines were of course adhered to), to remove fruit that hadn't yet fallen.

The team enjoyed a hearty bring and share lunch, accompanied by the liquid fruits of their labours

(terrible pun, Ed). In the afternoon, attention turned to pears, which were also turned into delicious juice. It was a marvellous day of enjoyment and co-operation, and all participants agreed that we should endeavour to hold another next year.

## Christmas Market returns to Blythburgh

The famous angels in the roof of Blythburgh Church will be overseeing a different kind of Christmas event this year; a Christmas Market that is warmly welcomed by the church and village community alike.

The host of carved medieval heavenly messengers, have made at the Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh famous as the "Cathedral of the Marshes". They have looked down on at least 450 years of Christmas celebrations.

This year, the 5th Annual Christmas Market is taking place on Saturday 25 November, from 12 midday until 4pm. People will gather from far and wide to buy hand-crafted seasonal presents from local producers.



They come to buy presents, to eat and drink delicious Christmas provender, and to soak up the unique atmosphere of this ancient but welcoming building. Christmas wreaths, knitted wear, artisan-baked goods, handicrafts, and vintage artefacts are all on sale, and admission is free. Blythburgh Church is clearly visible from the A12 and there is plenty of parking space.

## News from Wenhaston Bowls Club

The sun is setting on another successful outdoor season for Wenhaston Bowls Club during which the club was active in a number of leagues as well as providing opportunities for beginners and improvers.

Club members once again achieved success in the Suffolk County Championships and were winners of the Lowestoft and District League under Captain Chris Peck. Wenhaston teams also competed in the Halesworth 3 Wood League (Runners Up), the Saxmundham and

District Division 1 (3rd) and the EBA Wednesday Lowestoft BE League (mid-table).

The club hosted five open afternoons and an internal Thursday afternoon challenge ran throughout the season to encourage new members as well as providing a social forum. The annual tournament attracted 24 teams from across the region. The next outdoor season starts in April 2018; please contact Sonia Boggis on 478628 for more information.

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**Planning advisory group: Alan Mackley**  
**Cliff Waller and Sonia Boggis**

**Finance advisory group**  
**Roderick Orr-Ewing**  
**Jeff Sutton and Jim Boggis**

**Councillor**  
**Jo Waller**

**Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687**

### BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

**Blythburgh Latitude Trust**  
**Jim Boggis 01502 478687**

**Village Hall and Film Club**  
**Olive Forsythe 01502 478521**

**Horticultural Society**  
**Jenny Allen 01502 478314**

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## MAIL BOX



## Our car was not a diesel!

*Blythburgh Parish Council sent the last issue of the Focus, containing a letter from Val Carse, which was very critical of local MP Therese Coffey. Here is Dr Coffey's response:*

Thank you for making me aware of the letter.

The letter contains many factual inaccuracies. Regarding the speed of traffic on the A12, this is a matter for the County Council, as such I suggested contacting local County Councillor Richard Smith.

As for the vehicle, we rented a car which took petrol.

Yours sincerely

Therese Coffey MP

**David Tytler, editor of the Focus, writes:** *Dr Coffey appears to have missed the central point of the Val Carse letter, which was that in her brief visit to the village, presumably to discuss the concerns of constituents, she parried questions with the answer that that particular subject was not part of her brief as Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.*

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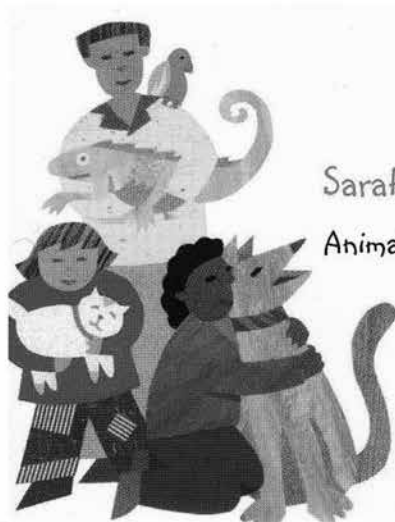
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# Notes from Daisy Bank LXXXI

Several times a week *Raphael* the black and white cat from Priory Road will help me with opening the church. He would really like to come in with me but that could end in a lot of chasing and hiding so I have told him that's just not on.

So now the cat situation in Church Lane is that *Raphael* has been designated by me as the *The Churchyard Cat*. Two doors away, *Little Nell* who prefers her own exclusive company and hardly ventures out at all is called *Miss Reclusive*. *Milo*, our Siamese, looks after our garden and all the territory between us and the church and is called *I'm Too Posh For All You Moggies So Stay Out Of My Way Cat*.

*Alice*, our black and white cat moved next door a few years ago, deciding she did not want to live with us any more. She fell out of a tree, resulting in an injury which meant several visits and several hundred pounds in vet fees. In her eyes that was somehow my fault and she left.

We pass each other in the garden sometimes but that appears to be that. However she has a penchant for Carnation milk and will occasionally knock on the door for same. She brooks no stroking or any of that sort of familiarity, finishes her milk and leaves. I'm still fond of her whether she likes it or not.

Then *Lucy's* team looks after all the houses at the end of the lane and her chief cat *Delilah* is called *The Guardian of the Lane Cat* which she patrols several times a day. In other words everybody knows where everybody else stands in the cat hierarchy of Daisy Bank. Occasionally there are disputes and disagreements but things soon settle down. After all that's just the nature of the beast, or rather the cat.

After several weeks of repairing the second breach on Appleton Marshes, with the September spring tides the breach has returned. I know I have banged on over the years about the flooding issue and the lack of protection for Daisy Bank but I must admit I do love to see the



lake returning. We all know that regardless of the loathsome Trump and the confused Nigel Lawson and their ridiculing of global warning, that their Canute like stance is just plain stupid. I am sure that in 100 years time at the very least the whole lane and its houses will be permanently flooded and in another few hundred years Blythburgh will become an island.

The whole process is now beyond redemption and no matter that technology is increasing exponentially; surely nothing can now be done at this late stage.

Daisy Bank is now preparing to go into its winter purdah and I into my reclusive shell. Like the hedgehog, I will seek a warm and comfortable position and dream of spring and the summer to come. And if Mr Lottery calls with a very large cheque, I will book a flight to Sicily and buy a villa in the mountains.

My first love has and always will be Tuscany but even there, being further north, the cold winds still blow in winter. But would I? Perhaps not. With the large cheque I could still plan and scheme for a possible move and live the whole thing in my mind without actually doing it. You don't need money to dream.

**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 January 9 at 7.30pm with the public forum at 7.15. Everybody is welcome to have their say, Please be there.