

# BLYTHBURGH

## FOCUS

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Issue No.41

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

September/October 2018



## The Blyth bursts its banks



*The Blyth breaches its banks on September 12 and it could get worse. Picture: Paul Lacey*

## How to use the two village defibrillators

**Val Carse, Community First Responder with East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, writes:** Always dial 999 first in any emergency situation. If the ambulance service considers that a defibrillator is required they will direct you to the nearest one and give you the code to open the defibrillator cabinet on the wall of the village shop. The Mill Farm defibrillator does not require a code. Both defibrillators are easy to use - once they are opened they will 'speak' to you with full instructions on what to do.

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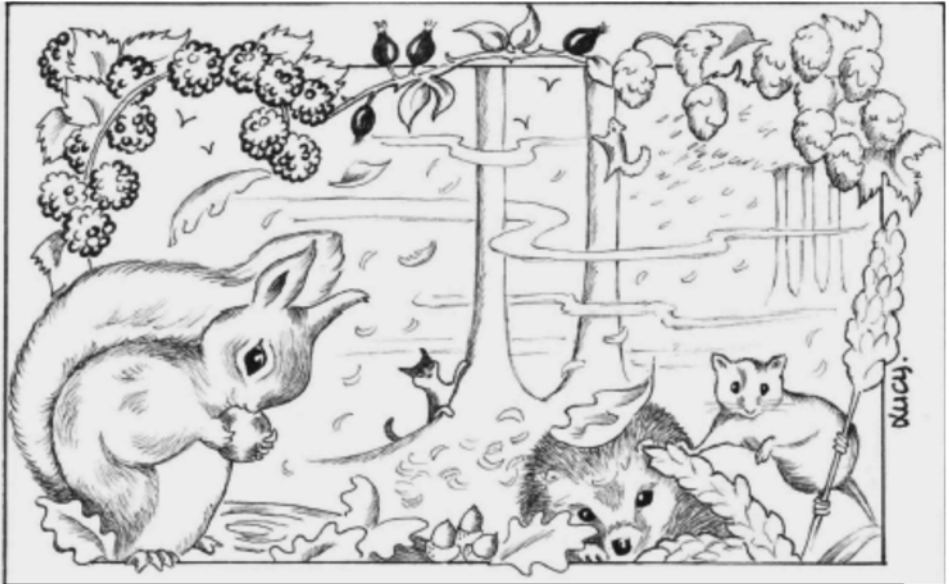
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## Home thoughts from a broad...



### TRAFFIC WATCH-----

Latitude Thursday carried 2,200 more vehicles than the following Thursday (7,449 against 5,246). This is almost the same number travelling at 20mph or under approaching Latitude (2,016 against 137). The majority traffic was between 15:30 and 17:45. For the weekend as a whole an extra 4,100 vehicles travelled North. This doesn't sound too bad except locals avoid Blythburgh during Latitude. Southbound saw a lot of traffic at the end of festival Monday with an extra 3,200 vehicles compared with the next Monday (10,975 against 7,750).

There was some slow traffic between 10:30 and 13:00 most seemed able to maintain a reasonable speed. Over the whole weekend 7,600 more vehicles travelled south than during the subsequent weekend (44,598 against 36,985). While most traffic was at or exceeding sensible speeds, 47 people were between 60 and 70 mph with seven between 70 and 75 mph.

**A12 Northbound:** July with the VAS (display) and in August with the data logger (no display). The difference in behaviour was minimal which I suggest was because regular road users were on holiday and holiday makers who don't know the road so well tend to be more cautious.

**A12 Southbound:** July by the data logger the figures fell between those of March from the VAS and April from the data logger. Thus the percentages driving at an acceptable speed overall were 72% in March, 62% in April and 66% in July. At night 53% were acceptable in March, 40% in April and 49% in July. Again I advance my holidaymaker thesis to explain this.

**Dunwich Road Northbound:** August when 92% (1290 vehicles per day) were driving at an acceptable speed (0-35 mph), 8% were driving at illegal speeds (35-55mph) and just 3 vehicles over the 28 days monitored were at highly illegal speeds of over 55mph.

During the days (07:00 to 19:00) 94% were acceptable and 6% illegal and at night (19:00 to 07:00) 81% were acceptable and 19% were illegal. Late at night (22:00 to 05:00) only 74% were acceptable with 26% illegal but these averaged only 44 vehicles each night. Again these figures are better than those from outside the holiday period.

**Roderick Orr-Ewing**



## Restaurant and bar

### Bar Opening

Mon – Thurs  
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Sun  
11 to 22.30

### Food Opening

Mon – Thurs  
12.00 to 14.00  
18.00 to 21.00  
Fri – Sat  
12.00 to 15.00  
17.00 to 21.00  
Sun  
12.00 to 20.00

### Events at The Hart Winter 2018-19

**Quiz Nights the third Tuesday of each month until April 16. Christmas Quiz Thursday December 20. Booking essential. Teams of four, £4 per person. Nibbles at half time.**

Psychic Supper Nights with clairvoyant Steven Treadaway November 7 and February 27. Tickets £28 available from the bar or on 01502 478217. Non refundable £5 deposit.

**African Supper Night , October 17, 6-9pm.**

**Bookings only. £19.95 for three courses.**

First Friday in each month film night in village hall with pre-show fish and chips. £8 or £6 small. Bookings only,

**01502 478217**

## BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

# When you could buy a house for £80

It was 1959 when Kevin "Bonnie" Parker came to live in Blythburgh: he was 6 years old but his memories are vivid. He left Blythburgh in 1984 when he moved to Reydon,

Church Lane wasn't on mains water so water was drawn from a shared well: the well is no longer visible but, back then, it was imposing with a proper handle and chain. Youngsters took their turn to fetch water and as Bonnie walked back to Cavell Cottage, he could look up at his bedroom window (the one on the left). Toilets were outside and with £80 you could have bought a house on Daisy Bank.

Bonnie went to Blythburgh primary school: just eighteen pupils and three teachers including Miss Long. He remembers a "big old burner" in the school room and how, in winter, they would go into the bungalow beside the school because it was warmer. In summer, Audrey Malen hosted school games at The Green. Around the time Bonnie left, the village school shut its doors for the final time. He had a choice of senior school - Reydon (the council would provide a bike) or Halesworth (no bike provided) - at the age of 11 (or maybe 12), he chose Halesworth but biked anyway.

Although he enjoyed his school days, he would sometimes "take a few days off" to go blackcurrant picking or potato picking. Jack Stannard (Angel Lane) had a bit of land that ran down to the river. He paid 1 shilling (5 new pence) a bag for "spud picking". The rates for picking runner beans were much better (17 new pence) but far more challenging.

During school holidays, youngsters made their own fun and Bonnie spent many happy hours on Blythburgh Common: in the 60s it still straddled the A12, stretching from the water tower to the houses on Wenhaston Lane. He swam in the river and went crabbing under the bridge.

Bonnie remembers both the railway bridge and the road bridge. There was a train in the old station yard shed and further along a corn store.



He remembers spending hours in the old station yard watching the traffic go by or riding a bike round and round a little track and homemade ramp.

The brick wall by the White Hart was another favourite place to sit and watch the world go by. Mr and Mrs Humphries were the landlords and once a month the barber, Alfie Mead, would visit to offer haircuts from a back room. Just imagine telling your mum that you were going to the pub for a haircut!

Lion House, home of Bob Aldred, also served dual functions with a room being used for the doctors' surgery and another for an off-licence or a bakery.

Bonnie remembers Bob's wife, a jolly plump little woman, who always made him a cup of tea while he waited to see the doctor. Bob farmed a small piece of land behind the church as well as his large garden. He kept two Suffolk Punches which were a familiar sight in and around the village and he even used them to cut the hay fields (now marshland).

Bonnie's memories of Blythburgh are vivid and varied and it isn't possible to do them justice in one short article so watch out for Part II in a future edition of the *Focus*.



# The Blythburgh Latitude Trust

**The trust has already  
given away**

**£42,000+**

- \*Helping individuals**
- \*Supporting local projects**
- \*School and youth trips**
- \*Christmas Tea**
- \*Pantomime visit**

**If you have a need, contact the  
honorary administrator, Jim Boggis,  
Marsh End, Church Road (478 687)**

## NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

# Supporting the farming community



As part of harvest celebrations in September, Holy Trinity had a wine tasting to raise funds for the Friends of Holy Trinity. Many thanks to the generosity and presentation skills of Sonia Boggis from Blyth Valley Wines, for putting this on. Guests slurped with great pleasure and in the process raised £287. The Harvest Festival the following day concluded with a hearty lunch. The Harvest Festival collection went to the Farming Community Network, the first port of call for pastoral and practical support for those in need in the farming community.

**Pedal power:** As part of the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust 'Ride & Stride', where people walk or cycle between Suffolk churches to raise funds for these magnificent and well-used buildings, Blythburgh representatives raised a very creditable £320 in September.

**William Alwyn Festival:** Local composer, the late William Alwyn (he used to live in Dunwich Road, Blythburgh) is celebrated in his own festival which runs this year from Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 October. Seven performances will take place in Blythburgh Church, featuring Alwyn's own compositions, among others. Also, since he was best known for film music – writing some 200 scores – there will be a screening of a film he wrote the music for at the Electric Cinema in Southwold. Details at: [www.williamalwyn.co.uk/festival/location](http://www.williamalwyn.co.uk/festival/location). Leaflets are also available in the church.

**Coffee time:** The morning of Friday 26 October sees Blythburgh's monthly café and minimarket in the church from 10.30-12.00. This will be the last one before March 2018.

**Early for Christmas:** No-one wants to think about Christmas yet, but here's a reminder that on Saturday 24 November, Holy Trinity will be hosting the hugely popular Blythburgh Christmas Market, which will run from 12 noon until 4pm.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

**Chair: David Tytler**  
01502 478521

**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**

**Blythburgh Matters**

**Ro Williams 01502 478484**

**Blyth Belles**

**Sarah Wickham 070810632987**

# The animals came



## Caring for

We have ten chickens in our B Bessie, and so on. My horse at with it, and it made me laugh. T Alex, Agnes, Alice, Ada. . . The him that . . .

Naming is very important. Tho to call your kids. Did you name sometimes choose names beca The more we know about the depend on each other. Yes, we seem trifling or sentimental to believe that we are named, and

**This article is based on the**



# e in mob-handed

## Who's who at the animal service

There were horses, dogs, three tortoises, a leopard gecko, a woodlouse, two snails, a wormery, guinea pigs and a plastic lion.

There were also 136 humans to make up the numbers.

**Pictures; Colin Huggins**



## r all our beloved friends

lythburgh chicken co-op. They all have names: Henrietta, Mabel, Gloria, the back there is called Neville. I didn't choose his name, though – he came. The names of our first lambs from our sheep consortium all begin with A: our dad, our magnificent ram was called Ed. Ed Balls. Can't think why we called

se of you who've had children may have gone through agonies deciding what to name them after another family member or to honour friends, or heroes? We name them because they fit their characters, or their looks: Jet, Patch, Tiger.

Anyway our planet works, the more we understand that all animals and plant life live in a troubled world where human life is sometimes cheap so it might be worth asking for blessing on our pets. But *all* our relationships have value. Just as I am loved, by God, so we name and love each other, and the animals in our care.

**Rev Malcolm Doney's address at Holy Trinity's animal service.**

# THE WILLIAM ALWYN FESTIVAL 2018



BLYTHBURGH  
•  
SOUTHWOLD

WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY  
**3–6 OCTOBER**

*Artists include:*

**SARAH-JANE BRADLEY** (Viola) • **PETR LIMONOV** (Piano) • **JENNIFER PIKE** (Violin)  
**LESLEY-JANE ROGERS** (Soprano) • **THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC WIND ENSEMBLE**  
**RICHARD SIMPSON** (Oboe) • **RACHEL SPEIRS** (Soprano) • **KATHRYN THOMAS** (Flute)  
**TIPPETT STRING QUARTET** • **SARA TRICKEY** (Violin) • **JOHN TURNER** (Recorder)  
**VILLIERS STRING QUARTET** • **LUCY WAKEFORD** (Harp) • **CHARLES WATT** (Cello)  
**NATHAN WILLIAMSON** (Piano)

Alwyn will be represented by vocal, chamber and instrumental works which highlight the wide diversity of his craft. Alongside these works will be music from the standard repertoire and music by twentieth century composers. Also, given that Alwyn was a highly respected film composer of some two hundred scores there will be a screening of one of his classic films.

For further details please visit [www.williamalwyn.co.uk](http://www.williamalwyn.co.uk)

E-mail: [williamalwynfestival@gmail.com](mailto:williamalwynfestival@gmail.com) Box Office: [www.snapemaltings.co.uk](http://www.snapemaltings.co.uk)





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## Charity concerts in memory of Pat Goss

The renowned violinist Benedict Cruft is to give two concerts in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association in Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, on Saturday 22nd September at 7 pm and Sunday 23rd at 4.30 pm. Tickets are £10 on the door or £15 for both concerts. The concerts are in memory of much-loved Blythburgh resident Pat Goss who died in February of Motor Neurone Disease.

Benedict began playing the violin at the age of six and will perform Bach's six sonatas and partitas for unaccompanied violin in the church. There will be three pieces in each concert.

He played in the Covent Garden orchestra, the LSO, the Philharmonia and London String Quartet in the 1970s before becoming Associate Concertmaster of the Hong Kong Philharmonic in 1980. While living in Hong Kong he also formed the Tononi String Quartet, which gave regular recitals and broadcasts in Hong Kong, Macau and China. In 2003 he returned to Hong Kong to be Dean of the School of Music of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Music in 2012.



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## OBITUARY

# Remembering Ray Catchpole

Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Ray Catchpole, who died in July, never let his illness get the better of him and threw himself whole heartedly into his council work. Originally from Lowestoft Mr Catchpole had lived in Sibton for the last 30 years.

A retired property developer, he was a highly respected expert on Feng Shui, which he became interested in after working in Hong Kong. He was one of the founders as well as the chairman of the UK's Feng Shui Society.

He was elected ward member for Wenhaston and Westleton in May 2015. He had previously been parish clerk for Cookley and Walpole Parish Council, as well as Campsea Ashe Parish Council.

Suffolk Coastal Leader Ray Herring said: "Raymond was a valued member of Suffolk Coastal. He was well liked by fellow councillors and staff alike where he was famed for his diligence, supportive nature and good manners. He was one of nature's gentlemen.

"He is probably best known for his outstanding work as vice chairman of the planning committee, where his careful considered approach, complemented by his quiet sense of authority, helped massively when the committee was considering complicated and sometimes controversial applications. It says a lot about Raymond's quiet determination that he managed to contribute to this council in such a full and active way, particularly when given three years to live when cancer was diagnosed over a decade ago.

"Raymond obviously enjoyed the council work. He never let the cancer get the better of him, throwing himself whole heartedly into council worked,"

Mr Catchpole was a member of the Sizewell C Task Group and the Enabling Communities Task Group and was also temporarily appointed to Walberswick Parish Council by Suffolk Coastal in early 2016 and so helped to ensure the parish council was quorate and able to transact its business. Mr Catchpole was married to Sylvia and had two step sons Nicholas and Jonathan.



*This article is reprinted by kind permission of the East Anglian Daily Times. Picture: Paul Nixon*

## Notes from Daisy Bank LXXXVI

I know we've had a wonderful June and July as far as the sun is concerned but I'm hoping that August and September and possibly even October don't let me down. I thrive in the sun even though I am fair skinned and as you all probably know by now, I am not fond of rain and cold and winter. I recognised that we have to endure it but I never look forward to it.

My partner likes log fires and the cosy cottage ambience of it all, but the horror of the outside still has to be faced sooner rather than later. And of course the garden goes into a sort of purdah and hibernation; I wish I could do the same.

The Canterbury Bells – *Campanula* - have had another good summer along the lane next to the church. If you remember I put a sign up there a couple of years ago for them not to be cut until they 'went over' naturally.



And joy of joys they have flourished and multiplied. Even some white hybrids have appeared. We had a visitor in June who remarked on how wonderful they were as she came down the lane. Perhaps one day they will spread further down the lane to the church steps.

I have decided to close my gallery at the end of the summer. With me not painting and the odd one being sold, the numbers of pictures are gradually diminishing and before it gets to the stage of empty walls, the time has come to finish. No longer will I have to endure people coming down and wanting to know where the Fern Collection is.

To remind you, the garden hut which it originally was, was meant to be a cattery and then through circumstance sort of morphed into an art gallery. When the cattery business turned out to be a non-runner, and not wanting to return to the world of real work, I painted a few pictures and the rest is history.

I never expected to be anything other than a tourist painter and with a lot of perseverance it succeeded. And with exhibitions various, we were able to make a reasonable living. Before I finished up at just the church, I went anywhere there was a venue for itinerant painters. I remember once coming around a sharp bend in the road in my 2cv and some of the pictures leaving the car by the back door and spreading themselves liberally all over the road. Those were the days of my painting in gouache with glass frames so a few were lost but no matter. I was pretty prolific at the time and there were plenty more.

One of the sheds will be made redundant and its contents will be moved into the gallery. Not reverting to a garden shed again but more of an extra storage facility. Life is a circle and the circle has revolved and a new one has evolved.

For the last God knows how many years I have always painted my own Christmas card and that will continue but as far as any other work being produced well, who knows. Never say never but the interest in it has all but waned. The garden is king now.

Once again Daisy Bank is starting to wind down for the winter and retreat into itself and I suppose I will just have to live with that fact, ghastly though it all is.

**Paul Bennett**