

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

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Issue No 47

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

Oct/Nov 2019



Sizewell C: coming our way?

EDF Energy, as part of its proposal build a new nuclear power station next to Sizewell B, ended its third stage of public consultation at the end of March 2019. To our astonishment they launched a further (Stage 4) consultation which ran from 18 July to 27 September 2019.

This fourth stage reveals that EDF are concerned that the widely favoured rail-led strategy for deliveries may not be achievable in the timescale, and therefore introduced a new option of an “integrated freight management strategy”. The rail-led strategy proposed HGV operation from 7am to 11pm with 225 HGVs at peak. The new ‘integrated’ strategy allows for HGV operation potentially over extended hours with a typical day peak of 325 HGVs (650 movements). Not good.

Under all strategies abnormal large loads will be offloaded through Lowestoft. These loads will make their way to the Sizewell site along the A12, through Blythburgh, turning off at Yoxford.

The Parish Council prepared detailed, critical, responses to stages one to three consultations, and have reiterated these views in a further detailed response to stage four. All these responses,

Issue 47

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together with any updates, can be seen on the Parish Council web site at <http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net/assets/Parish-Council>.

On 12 September, the Parish Council hosted an open forum meeting to give Parishioners an opportunity to share their views, so these could be represented to EDF. Here is a summary.

Many of those present believed it was wrong for EDF to have discounted a “by sea” option for freight management, and would like to see this reconsidered. The general mood of the meeting was that traffic would increase significantly and mitigation of the worst effects of this should be considered essential. The following key points were raised:

- B1125 (Angel Lane/Dunwich Rd) needs to be improved/protected due to increase in traffic.
- The level of noise increases with the speed of the traffic so essential to find a method to reduce speed on all roads.
- Increased volume of traffic will affect pollution levels – how will this be managed?
- Can the road surfaces sustain the increased level of traffic and heavy loads?
- Fly parking may become an issue as workers seek alternatives to the park and ride at Darsham. Would number plate recognition help?
- The amount of pedestrian footway along Angel Lane and Dunwich Road is dangerously low. Increased traffic along this road will make it worse. Number plate recognition and speed controls may help and so would an additional footpath.
- Make B1125 one way. (Beyond the scope of EDFs remit as it is an existing problem).

Disappointment was expressed that issues that had been raised in previous consultation stages appeared to have gone unacknowledged by EDF. Would they be addressed?

Anyone who wants to keep up to date on the progress of the consultation and the proposals should go to: www.sizewellc.co.uk.

Val Carse

If you visit <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sizewell-c-new-nuclear-power-station/> you can sign up for email updates



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Wildwatch

As I write, the Wasp Season is coming to an end, although our small corner of Blythburgh hasn't been unduly troubled this year. We're all rightly taught to respect and avoid wasps from childhood as they're one of the few creatures that can defend themselves. In fact,

A Median wasp, related to the common wasp



for some people, they can induce a potentially fatal anaphylactic shock. For that reason alone, we all know what a common wasp looks like.

Evolution has equipped some creatures with either a weapon or toxic body-tissue enabling the animal to avoid predation or disturbance. Since it's no use to the owner of these sometimes-lethal defences if their attacker dies only after they've provided it with a meal, many are decked out in conspicuous liveries. Wasps are no exception, appearing in familiar yellow and black.

Many bee species also use this colour-scheme for similar reasons. However, a number of other insect families are also marked with these warning stripes but have no actual defence, nor are they poisonous to eat. One of the biggest of these families are the hoverflies.

These harmless nectar-feeders and pollinators have adopted the danger signs as a kind of bluff, and the man who first noted

this – and who gave his name to the behaviour – was Henry Walter Bates.

Bates was a contemporary of Darwin and that other under-sung pioneer of evolution, Alfred Russel Wallace. *In fact, Bates and Wallace embarked on collecting trips together, and it was while he was in the Amazon rainforest that Bates conceived the idea of what we now call 'Batesian Mimicry' – adopting the disguise of a much more dangerous animal while in themselves being harmless.*

Bates was one of the many 'Gentleman Naturalists' of the Victorian era and is hardly known outside the scientific community. His studies initiated a whole area of animal behavioural and evolutionary science that underpins much of our knowledge of the natural world. He deserves to be more widely appreciated.

As for those wasp-impersonators, the hoverflies, I've recorded at least 20 of the nearly 300 UK species just in and

adjacent to my garden on Daisy Bank. They're worth paying more attention to, so please do some swotting before you swat!

Paul Lacey

One of the Syrphus genera of hoverflies



Meet Martha Burrows – our newest Parish Councillor

I'm 18 years old, was born in the old Norwich hospital and have lived in Blythburgh since then. I'm the middle one of three sisters, with a younger brother. I went to Wenhaston Primary, then Halesworth Middle and finally Bungay High, where I'm doing my A-levels, studying sociology and philosophy & ethics.



I'd like to go to university in the future but am unsure what to do, as I haven't settled on a career path. Long term, I'd like to become a child social worker or another career which involves helping disadvantaged children.

I love spending time at the beach and hanging out with my friends. I also find happiness from travelling to different countries. This year, I volunteered running a summer school in rural Bacău in Romania, through Girl Guiding Anglia. It was one of the best things I've done in my life, as it gave me a chance to give back to a different community, and look at a different way of life. Every week I help out at the Brownie unit in Southwold, which I thoroughly enjoy.

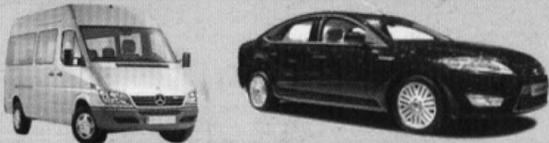
I really appreciate the sense of community that exists in our village, which is being lost in a lot of other locations. However, the poor public transport makes it very difficult to leave the village if you don't have the ability to drive.

I think life in this area could be improved if there were more things for the younger generations to do, as there is a lack of this all the way through Suffolk. I put myself forward for the Parish Council because I was interested in how decisions are made for the village, and I wanted to have an involvement in this.

What gets me angry are the inequalities that still exist all around the world as well as in our own country. I'm also very concerned about climate change. I believe that we need to work together, locally and globally, in order to make the drastic changes that are desperately needed.

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Prizewinners



Blythburgh resident Alan Rutter and his two-year-old Labrador Barley celebrated victory in The Sotterley Cup in September. The working dog field trials involved artificially simulated shooting-day conditions in order to assess, without game being shot, the working abilities of gundog breeds. Barley came top in a field of eight in his class.

Mary Gundry, also a Blythburgh villager, won the Mike Holtom Award for her drawing "Blacksmith" at the opening night of this year's *Inspired by Becker* exhibition in August. Mary's drawing was judged to be



the entry which most effectively reflected an artist's response to the work of Harry Becker.

Judge Meryl Doney presents the award to Mary Gundry, alongside Annie Brundrit, chair of the Inspired by Becker Art Society.

Colin Huggins



Blooming Verges

Brightening up Blythburgh's Verges is finally coming to fruition. The Highways Department, after 18 months of switching from department to department, have finally given their cautious approval to all but two of the areas we've suggested developing. So, planting will commence in November after some clearing, and you may see hi-vis-jacketed people wielding spades and secateurs – using barriers where necessary. We aim to plant wildlife-friendly, low-maintenance long flowering /berrying plants, for a natural look, scented where possible. No hanging baskets or formal planting.

If you don't know anything, about this project, or moved into the village recently, and would like to be involved, please contact me at claire@millend6.plus.com and I'll explain further.

This project is in memory of Pat Goss and Tom and Gillian Lond-Caulk who did so much for the village and all loved flowers. We felt that a living memorial to them would be appropriate and benefit the whole look of the village. We've made a start by planting roses in front of the Village Hall, thanks to money advanced by the Blyth Belles. The Latitude Trust have kindly agreed to sponsor our next planting scheme, and we all look forward to seeing the results! **Claire Lyth**

Foraging Evening at the Belles

On Thursday 5th September, Vivia Bamford gave a talk on foraging to Blyth Belles. The talk covered the dos and don'ts of foraging, plants as food or medicine and the folklore of plants. It was fascinating.

Who knew that elderberry stems are poisonous to humans or that you should always ask an elder tree before you take something from it? We discovered that mugwort was used as a herb to flavour greasy meat and meadowsweet was used by the Victorian as an equivalent of shake-and-vac. Blackberries (the study of which is called batology) should not be eaten after 28 September because the devil spits on them and burdock burrs were the inspiration for velcro. People who study dandelions are called taraxologists and dandelions are diuretics, hence the French name pissen-lit. Stinging nettles are used to combat rheumatism – tap the joint with the plant – and yarrow is used both for clotting and bleeding but must be avoided if pregnant. For mischief makers, itching powder comes from the inside of rose hips.

This was only some of the interesting information Vivia shared with the Belles in a lively and interesting talk. Vivia takes people on foraging walks and there is more information about her work on her website <https://thesciapod.wordpress.com/sciapod-foray/>.

Chiara Saunders



News from Blythburgh Church

Harvest home

In September at our **Harvest Festival**, 33 people sat down to a sumptuous lunchtime feast, while the service offering went to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Many thanks to all who contributed food, and who made the church look so beautifully seasonal.

Music Maestro

October sees the annual **Alwyn Music Festival**, honouring the composer William Alwyn who once lived in Blythburgh. This year, the festival takes place from **Friday 4 October to Saturday 12 October**, with five diverse concerts and a film showing. Events will take place at: Southwold Church, Blythburgh Church, the Red House and Jubilee Hall in Aldeburgh, and Southwold's Electric Picture Palace.

At Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, on **Friday 11 October 2019 at 10:30am**, the Gildas Quartet and Jack McNeill will be performing: Herbert Howells: Rhapsodic Quintet op.31; Alwyn: Novelette, for string quartet; Lloyd Moore: Airs and Arabesques, for solo clarinet; Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A major, K.581. Ticket price £12 unreserved. Details at: www.alwynmusicfestival.co.uk.

Coffee and more

Join the gathered throng at our monthly **café and Mini-market** on **Friday 25 October from 10.30am, til noon**.

Christmas Market

Our ever-popular Christmas market is on **Saturday 30 November between 12 and 4** – lovely stuff to eat, drink and buy!

Sunday 1 December at 6pm, the Blythburgh Singers will lead a service of **Advent Carols**.

Sunday 22 December 4pm: Candle-lit service of Lessons and Carols (with the Blythburgh Singers)

Christmas Eve 5pm: Crib Service – a favourite with families

Christmas Eve 11.30pm: Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am: Christmas Morning Service (no communion)

New Choir for Blythburgh

You're warmly invited to an introduction to an '*a cappella*' (unaccompanied) mixed choir singing using rhythm-based rock, indie, country rock and folk based gospel, jazz and musical theatre, led by Blythburgh resident experienced singing coach Ashleigh Killen. Singing in a choir helps develop confidence and also helps you find your own voice. Sing harmonies and rhythm from Bass/baritone to soprano with a fresh take on songs you may (or may not) have heard before. No sight reading or previous experience is required. All songs are taught by ear.

This will be a fun, social evening and all are welcome. Please bring friends and relatives. The choir will be open to residents aged 16 and over, who live in Blythburgh and the surrounding area. The choir will meet in Blythburgh Village Hall on a Monday evening between 7pm and 9pm. The first session will be on Monday 11th November. This will be a free, taster session, thereafter it will cost £2.00 a head per session that you attend. There is no obligation to attend every session – we know everyone has busy lives!

Ashleigh, who worked in musical theatre in the West End, now teaches LAMDA, drama and singing. She previously ran a regional choir in Cornwall which performed at the Birmingham Symphony Hall, The Hall for Cornwall and The Eden Project.

If you're interested or would like to know more, please email Ashleigh at: ashleighkillen64@gmail.com.

Blythburgh Goes Animal

Animals occupied Holy Trinity church on 19 August. By invitation! Two magnificent chestnut horses, Archie and Neville, were joined by 130 humans, 35 dogs, one cat, one chicken and a 70-year-old tortoise called Speedy. The theme of this **Blessing of the Animals** service was how much God's creatures have to teach us about love and empathy. Our thanks to Wangford Vet Clinic for lending us the veterinary surgeon Dr Catherine Thomas. Her presence was much appreciated. We raised more than £400 for the animal rescue charity Four Paws.





The Blythburgh Latitude Trust is making grants

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust makes grants to individual parishioners, families and organisations to meet specific needs.

For your grant, contact the honorary administrator, **Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road, (478 687)**

All applications will be treated in complete confidence.

Apply now

The trustees are **Jenny Allen, chair, Jeff Sutton, Michael Nicholls, Malcolm Doney, Sarah Wickham and Harry Waller.**

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Councillor: Malcolm Doney, Martha Burrows

Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687

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Horticultural Society
Val Carse 07973 389898

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham blythbelles@gmail.com

A message for all newcomers to Blythburgh: if you have come to the village in the last three years and not received a welcome pack please contact Roderick Orr-Ewing on roderick@millend6.plus.com



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For those wishing to stay in the area, camping at The Star is available by prior arrangement.

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Peggy's Trees

A book on oak trees, prompts **Prof John Allen's** memories of his late wife's horticultural prowess.

Earlier this year I read *The Glorious Life of the Oak*, by John Lewis-Stempel: which is poetically inclined, but disguised as prose. My sketchy knowledge of the subject recollected "hearts of Oak", "touch wood", and the importance of oakwood for the construction of ancient buildings and, of course, Nelson's ships at Trafalgar. But the book also told me more. The size of oak trees is phenomenal, typically of a girth of 300 feet, living for hundreds of years – some even a thousand. That within each oak exist many living things – moths, insects, nesting birds and dangerous pests, and that these wonderful trees cope with them. The historic planting of vast forests for peace and war. The author emphasises that although many variants exist in several countries abroad, Britain has more than elsewhere and is their true home.

Speaking of which, my wife Peggy and I moved into our retirement home in Blythburgh 40 years ago. In the back garden of 2, Angel Lane are: a weeping silver birch, a Hawaiian broom, a Judas tree, a blue spruce, a Siberian crab apple, a dense evergreen and a tamarisk. In the front garden are another Siberian crab apple, a liquidambar – with its outstanding red autumn leaves – and an ancient ginko tree which has uniquely designed leaves, more like a fern, with no central vein. A yew and a bay are tucked away neatly. Anybody can see those trees even today, but only I can recall the 22 trees Peggy also planted – and removed – for one reason or another!

Peggy spent her formative life on a farm created by her father on the prairie land of Saskatchewan in Canada to which he had emigrated before World War I. So, I wonder where she learned about all her special trees. She had 'green fingers' no doubts, and the southern half of our back garden produced nearly 30 edible vegetables, fruits and nuts. But I doubt this was a copy of her distant Canadian log cabin environment. This was unique, with chicken, cattle, horses, and buffalo, wolves and moose from the wider spaces, characterised by minus 40 degree winter temperatures, with the nearest neighbour two miles away, and the nearest village seven miles.

So, she was returning to arable lands here in Suffolk. She said that her eight years here were the happiest of her life. Her growing family launched – and many experiences to be found. She enjoyed the Horticultural Society, the Womens' Institute, learned to play bowls in Southwold, and even gave a lecture about her experiences, rescuing many varieties of injured birds: moorhens, chaffinches, hedge sparrow rook and even a cuckoo!

Walking to Jerusalem – on stage

In 2017, Blythburgh resident Arthur Pooley walked from London to Jerusalem as part of a group pilgrimage to support the plight of Palestinians. The trip was arranged by a small human rights charity, the Amos Trust. One of the pilgrims was the playwright Justin Butcher. He wrote about this epic journey in a book *Walking to Jerusalem*, published last year by Hodder. Justin has turned the book into a one-man performance. Billed as "a playful and inventive blend of theatre and stand-up" it is on a national tour. It is at the **New Cut in Halesworth on Friday 11 October and Saturday 12 October**. Along Roman roads and refugee routes, with occasional outbreaks of blisters, tear gas and desert spirituality, Justin Butcher traces the perils, pitfalls and marvels of the path to Jerusalem. To find out more visit www.newcut.org/events.

Notes From Daisy Bank LXXXII

My subject is sewage. So if you are of a sensitive disposition or are just commencing your breakfast then I suggest you read this later.

I was talking to our neighbour Derek and I asked him where the cesspit was in our garden. What Derek doesn't know about Blythburgh isn't worth knowing. For longer than we've been here, mains sewage has been connected to most of the village including us Daisy Bankers. I had some crazy idea of finding it, digging it up, and making a pond out of the resulting cavity.

"No", said he, "there never was a cesspit". Evidently, apart from a few 'posh' houses, the rest of the populace relied on a bucket and spade. Horror! Wooden shed-like loos were outside, a bucket and all the essentials provided, and that same bucket would be emptied when full. "But where?" I asked. Liquids were poured on to the garden, "solids" were dug into the ground and left to mature, then veg and the like were grown over them.

As a town/city slicker of yesteryear, it never crossed my mind that flushing loos were not universally part of everyday life. Yes, my grandmother had an outside loo, but courtesy of Mr Crapper, Armitage & Shanks and the like, all lavatories in my tender experience were of the flushing variety. It was true that in my experience of the 'hot countries', anything was possible: from a hole in the ground, to a ship I was on once with a Malay crew, up on the officers' deck had the usual facilities, but the crew had porcelain type holes in the deck.

So, people of Blythburgh, thank God for modern times. But, I have one dire warning for you. The sewage of the village of Blythburgh is eventually piped along the old railway path which borders the back gardens of Daisy Bank. Over the years, there have been several blockages before it reaches the pumping station on the Wenhaston road. And, when the floods come, that pipeline and its associated manholes overflow. And when the water levels start to rise courtesy of the Greenland icebergs, it could be that that same pipeline will be permanently covered in water.

The result? A complete stoppage or blockage of almost every loo in Blythburgh. From time to time over the years I have warned the authorities that building a wall along the length of that part of the railway track might be politic. With a bit of luck, I'll be tucked up in Blythburgh churchyard when all this happens and in dry ground, thank God; I've always had a horror of being buried at sea and in a watery grave.

Other than that, Daisy Bank starts to wind down in preparation for ghastly winter. About the only good thing involving climate change is that the winters are tending to be warmer. Of course, I miss the snow but you can't have everything. I can always get one of those snow machines and just pretend. **Paul Bennett**

Digging into our past

A crowdfunding appeal has been launched to secure another year of test-pitting in the village. In the last three years Access Cambridge Archaeology brought local schoolchildren to dig pits in 25 gardens and nearby to plot the development of the village from Anglo-Saxon times. The ACA scheme has ended but we can engage the Cambridge team for another year before it finally disperses, if we can find the money – over £5000. Happily, pledges from Suffolk bodies, the Latitude Trust and the generosity of villagers mean that we can go ahead in 2020 but the appeal is needed to anchor the project and cover contingencies and the envisaged publications and exhibitions.

The appeal link is https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/blythburgh-suffolk-archaeology/feedback?utm_term=xGpzmw44p

You can help by publicising the appeal through social media sites and, of course, donations large and small are gratefully needed. A link to the ACA report and a review of other archaeological finds is on the village website <http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net/history/archaeology>



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What's on			
Date	Event	Venue	Time
10 October	Police Connect – public meeting for Suffolk residents to share what they think	Wherry Hotel, Lowestoft	7pm
11 October	William Alwyn Festival	Church	10.30am
18 October	Hort Soc film and food night	Village Hall	TBC
25 October	Mini Market and Cafe	Church	10.30-12
15 November	Hort Soc Social/AGM	Village Hall	7pm
30 November	Christmas Market	Church	12-4pm
1 December	Blythburgh Singers will be leading a service of Advent Carols	Church	6pm
22 December	Candle-lit service of Lessons and Carols (with the Blythburgh Singers)	Church	4pm
24 December	Crib Service	Church	5pm
24 December	Midnight Mass	Church	11.30pm
25 December	Christmas Morning Service (no communion)	Church	10.am
Regular Events			
Every Tuesday	Line Dancing	Village Hall	7.30pm
Every Thursday	Tours of the Village Church	Holy Trinity Church	11.00am
First Friday of the month	Film Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
1 st Thurs of the month	Blyth Belles	blythbelles@gmail.com	7.30pm
2 nd Wed of the month, bimonthly	Parish Council Meetings	Village Hall	7.15pm

If you'd like to receive news by email of upcoming events and social occasions in the village, the best thing to do is to sign up for blythburghmatters@gmail.com, our local info hub. To put your name on the email list, email Debbie Telkman at blythburghmatters@gmail.com.

Oh yes we will go to the panto again!

Thanks to the Blythburgh Latitude Trust, tickets have been booked for our annual trip to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal Norwich on **Saturday 4 January at 2.30pm**. This year's pantomime is *Cinderella*. The coach will pick us up at the bus stop on the northbound A12 at 11.30am. 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 every resident in the parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton. Places are limited so please book early! Deadline for applications is Friday 6 December.

Please apply in writing to Jenny Allen (Wolsey House, Chapel Road) or by e-mail (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.

Bench blessed



Tom and Gillian Lond-Caulk were much loved in the village and we all miss them enormously, especially the Horticultural Society. Tom was a founder member, chairman and president. Gillian didn't have such a high profile but was a constant supporter of all its activities and a brilliant quiz-setter for all our events.

The Hort Soc's committee wanted a permanent memorial to them. We decided on a bench near the church where Tom had been such an active member. We spent 2019 raising the necessary funds and, thanks to everyone's generosity, reached our target in under a year. Crispin Chalker, from Big Wood, showed us several of his designs and we quickly made a unanimous decision.

On 20 September we held a short commemoration and blessing of the bench by the Revd Malcolm Doney. He and I spoke of Tom and Gillian's contribution to village life and how much they are missed. Malcolm



commented that the bench was "very Tom" and he would have liked it. There were 31 people present including Tom and Gill's daughters Alice and Rachel and several family members.

After the blessing we all enjoyed a glass of Prosecco in the sun: a perfect ending to a lovely, nostalgic afternoon. **Cilla Wilson**

In Conversation with Tom Lond-Caulk

Swallows Corner hasn't been the same without Tom and Gillian, but I do like the new bench honouring their memory. It prompted me to go back to a recording from 2012 when Tom and I talked about his memories of moving to this area.

Tom was just 11 years old when his parents moved from Norfolk to farm at Hinton Hall in October 1946: they were offered a number of tenancies but chose Hinton Hall because his mother refused to go to Westwood Lodge because it was "too big".

The farm was mainly arable – barley, wheat, oats and sugar beet – but they also kept cattle, pigs, chickens and geese. Back then, farming was labour-intensive, and Tom remembered helping in particular taking their horses across to Thorington to be shod.

Tom joined the army in May 1953 for his National Service. Initially joining the Catering Corp he was soon moved to the Royal Army Service Corp. He learned to drive a lorry and passed his test: he never passed a car test because he claimed his lorry test covered it! Then it was off to Germany for bridge-building exercises in Hamelin of Pied Piper fame, and he quoted: "the River Weser broad and wide, washes its banks on the southern side, a pleasanter spot you never spied".

After National Service, he returned to farming, officially taking over from his father in 1982. Their tenancy agreement expired when Tom retired in 2004 and passed back to the Blois estate. Tom told me that he would have liked to have been an engineer or a design engineer. That wasn't to be, but the village definitely benefitted from Toms' industry: the Jubilee beacon, candlesticks and a stainless steel lectern for Holy Trinity are just examples. I'm sure he would be delighted with the new bench on Knoll Green. **Sonia Boggis**