

# BLYTHBURGH

## FOCUS

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## Plans in hand to tackle village traffic

The Parish Council has developed a draft strategy to deal with the long-lasting concerns about traffic through the village. The proposals will be discussed with the village before putting a case to the authorities. Achieving a local consensus on what should be done has proved difficult in the past and the council is determined that any final plan should be agreed by a majority of the village.

Low accident and injury rates mean that expenditure on traffic improvements in Blythburgh has been given low priority by the authorities over the last 25 years.

The traffic on Blythburgh's principal roads, the A12 and the B1125 (Angel Lane/Dunwich Road) is almost entirely through traffic. In the absence of a bypass, A12 traffic has been accepted as a necessary evil. The prospect of additional traffic generated by a Sizewell C project is worrying. The B1125 is considered a rat run and is avoidable.

A proposal for a trial one-way scheme for Angel Lane reached the consultation stage in 1991/1992 but overwhelming opposition from some villagers who believed they would be adversely affected by displaced traffic killed it.

A 30 mph speed limit on the A12 through the village was introduced in 2004. A village survey that year revealed much support for additional traffic management measures. Concerns about the volume and speed of traffic in the village were again highlighted in the 2009 Village Plan.

The Parish Council was asked to lobby for a pedestrian crossing on the A12 and to set up a working group to review the traffic situation in Angel Lane. Traffic management approaches to be considered included flashing 30 mph signs on the A12 and a one-way system in Angel Lane.

The Council formed a working party to consider measures to alleviate the problems still faced by

the community. The evidence for action is partly anecdotal, based on the experience of villagers. There is also evidence from Blythburgh Community Speedwatch, which has operated since March 2009. Many vehicles have been logged speeding.

Traffic flow rates have also been measured. Accident statistics and the results of speed surveys have been obtained from Suffolk County Council and the experience of other communities and advice from the Department of Transport has also been considered..

The Parish Council believes that the approach to traffic management must be clearly focused. Among the draft proposals are:

1. Flashing 30 mph signs on the A12 north and south of the village.
2. More prominent 'gateway' 30 mph signs at the village entrances.
3. A pedestrian crossing on the A12 at the White Hart/Village Hall.
4. The declassification of Angel Lane/Dunwich Road.
5. The improvement of the junction of the B1387 with the A12 at Toby's Walks to facilitate its use by through traffic.
6. The provision of a chicane in Dunwich Road south of the village.
7. The study of other traffic management options including traffic calming and a one-way system for Angel Lane to achieve the elimination of through traffic from Angel Lane/Dunwich Road without displacing it to other village roads, and the provision of a footpath in Angel Lane.

**Alan Mackley**  
Parish Councillor and Chair of the  
Blythburgh Traffic Working Party

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# Glorious memories of a golden time

Wow - what an experience. I can't believe it is all over for me - my last shift at the Olympic Park was Sunday 5th August. I worked in the accreditation centre for broadcast and media personnel in the International Broadcast Centre and the Main Press Centre.

I shall never forget the size and scale of everything and the sheer number of people needed to make sure that the pictures and reports arrived on our television screens and in our newspapers.

Here are just a few of the many memories I have of a truly unforgettable experience.

I hope you all enjoyed the opening ceremony as much as I did. I managed to get in to see the dress

rehearsal but there was a lot in the actual ceremony that I didn't see at the rehearsal so some of it was a complete surprise. My favourite parts were the drums (what an awesome sound they made in the stadium), the Rowan Atkinson sketch and the Queen parachuting in - obviously we didn't see that at the rehearsal.

On a weekend off I managed to get to the last day of the equestrian 3-day event at Greenwich. Four of us were in the front row to see Team GB (including Zara Phillips) grab a silver medal. It was exciting and nerve-wracking stuff but a great day out. Princes William and Harry were there with Kate, Camilla, Anne, Beatrice and Eugenie, so it was a real royal occasion.

My last set of three shifts started on Friday 3 August. Instead of getting the bus, I decided to walk across the park to see what the atmosphere was like as it was my first experience of the Park with spectators inside, and what a difference.

The atmosphere was electric - thousands were pouring across the concourse to their various events. It must have taken me 30 minutes to cross the bridge to the stadium as I kept asking people if

they wanted me to take their photos in front of the stadium. Everyone was so friendly and enthusiastic, it was infectious.

Friday was a really slow day although I did see Jake Humphries (Formula 1 presenter) and Chris Boardman (cyclist) on the escalator during my morning coffee break. However, during the day my manager asked me if I would like some tickets to the athletics in the stadium in the evening. What do you think my answer was?

I managed to get to my seat just as Jessica Ennis started her shot putt event and the noise was breathtaking. I saw her complete the shot putt and run the 200 metres as well as seeing the men's long

jump qualifier, men's shot putt, women's discus, women's 100 metres heats and the 10,000 metres. What a fantastic night.

My walk through the Park on Saturday morning was even more exciting. The crowds were as dense as ever and the roar from inside the stadium was deafening.

During the day I was offered tickets to the basketball - Team GB v Australia. Team GB did well to be leading at half time but they eventually succumbed

to the Aussies by 106-71. We left the basketball just in time to see on the giant screen in the park, Mo Farrah finish his race. What a great evening.

Sunday was my last day and it was quite emotional saying goodbye to everyone. As I was walking across the park for the last time I kept saying to myself make the most of this. When I got to the gate a volunteer said: "Good Night Gamesmaker, see you tomorrow."

I just burst into tears when I told her it was my last shift. She shouted to all the crowds who were leaving to give me a round of applause and they did.

What a way to finish.

**Ro Williams**





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# Group Captain Kenneth Gilbert Hubbard OBE, DFC, AFC (1920-2004)

It is not essential to have nuclear weapons in your CV when you come to Blythburgh. Nevertheless, the engineer responsible for the aerodynamics of Britain's H-bomb, dropped as dummies over the Suffolk coast, and Ken Hubbard, who led the flight of Valiant bombers for the live drop from Christmas Island in the Pacific in 1957, both settled in the village.

The son of a professional footballer, Ken Hubbard was born in Norwich and educated at local schools and the technical college. He joined the RAF in 1940 and was commissioned as pilot officer in 1941. After two years as a flying instructor he left for the Middle East to train on Wellington bombers, joining 70 Squadron for months of operations over Italy, Yugoslavia and Romania, being awarded the DFC for 'displaying great courage, determination and devotion to duty'.

A Squadron Leader by the end of the war, he then had spells with 104 Squadron in Egypt, the Empire Armament School, and on the directing staff of the RAF Flying College. In 1954 he commanded an RAF station in Iraq at the time the Persian authorities nationalised the Anglo-Iranian oil refinery at Abadan. For his work he was appointed OBE.

As Wing Commander in 1956, Ken Hubbard assumed command of 49 Squadron, flying Britain's first V-bomber, the Valiant. The squadron was to execute *Operation Grapple*, to test the performance of thermo-nuclear weapons in the megaton range, many times more powerful than the A-bombs dropped on Japan.

After supervising months of training, he led four aircraft to Christmas Island via Canada and the United States. Ken Hubbard piloted the aircraft

which dropped the first bomb. More tests were conducted over a fifteen-month period.

Hubbard and his crew were awarded the AFC.

Ken Hubbard retired from the RAF in 1966. He had married in 1946 but the marriage was dissolved in 1953. Farming in the West Country proved not to his liking. He became a director of a cousin's refrigeration engineering company, responsible until 1982 for marketing and sales.

He married Margaret Grubbe in 1975, moving to her Blythburgh home, The Priory. He was very active in his retirement and in the community. He maintained contact with the *Grapple* crews as President of their Megaton Club. He worked for the Air Training Corps and the RAF Benevolent Fund. He chaired the local parole committee for HM Prison Blundeston. And he was a Blythburgh Parish Councillor.

There was, though, still time to enjoy his love of animals, being involved with the inauguration of the annual animals' service in Blythburgh Church. He enjoyed reminiscing over a drink in the White Hart. His story *Operation Grapple* was published in 1985 and a new edition entitled *Dropping Britain's First H-Bomb* came out in 2008.

Ken Hubbard never doubted that "The only effective way to maintain peace is by being strong and capable of protecting all that we hold dear." He wrote that he failed to understand how the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Peace Women could not comprehend this.

Ken Hubbard died in January 2004. His decorations and extensive career documentation and photographs were sold for £14,000 at auction in 2006.

**Alan Mackley**

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**Congratulations to** Katie Timpson and Alan De Thabrew, the stars of Blythburgh Village Shop, on their marriage in Whitby on Saturday August 25. We wish them everything they wish themselves.

**Blythburgh Speed Watch** reported 34 vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit during August. The highest speeds recorded: 60mph on the A12 and 41mph on the Dunwich Road.

# Latitude 2012 – the best ever

By Paul Lester of The Guardian

It might have been the muddiest but the seventh Latitude Festival was also the best, a fact already evident on Friday, with excellent acts from vintage must-sees to critics' favourites and fast-rising hipsters.

Despite the weather, Dexys were dapper in their wide-brimmed hats and high-waisted trousers. There is such good feeling about their return few seemed to mind that the performance focused on the new album. Janelle Monáe's retro-futurist soul was impressive, even if it did feel more like a showcase for old styles than a signpost towards funk's future.

Considering Latitude's reputation as a child-friendly festival, there wasn't much music for kids – perhaps why Lana Del Rey elicited such big teen screams. Exuding film-noir class, her voice was fine and her charisma off the scale.

Latitude's new band booker was spot-on. Alt-J – contenders for this year's Mercury prize – thrilled with their idiosyncratic mix of dubstep, folk and indie.

Saturday opened with the mellow soul of Lianne La Havas, and there was a good turnout for Daryl Hall: Maneater and Out of Touch offered the kind of glossy US radio pop to which every Brooklyn blog band aspires, and Rumer joined him for Sara Smile. Django Django – along with Alt-J the electronic/indie band to watch – played to a packed crowd, and SBTRKT, the masked man of "post-dubstep", turned the Word (RIP) tent into London club FWD>>. Elbow closed Saturday with music for festival dads, climaxing with a firework display at odds with their dour anthemic rock.

Sunday's line-up was strong, but could have benefited from more urban acts to dispel criticisms that Latitude is middle-aged/middle-class. Alabama Shakes' blues rock was powerful, pianist Lang Lang an esoteric delight. It was left to Wild Beasts and Paul Weller to bring the curtain down on a festival that is starting to feel like a serious alternative to Glastonbury.

*This article is reprinted by kind permission of The Guardian*



**One hundred men in Lycra raced through Blythburgh on a brilliantly sunny September Sunday on the first stage of the 2012 Tour of Britain. They emerged from Angel Lane to find that the village had turned out in force to wave flags and cheer new heroes such as world champion Mark Cavendish, and Tour de France winner and four-time Olympic gold medallist Bradley Wiggins. Police outriders, support cars and a helicopter overhead added to the excitement. Delays to normal traffic and the time taken to clear the ensuing jams were forgiven.**

**The annual animal blessing** service at Holy Trinity Blythburgh on August 19 welcomed a menagerie, including dogs, cats, guinea pigs, a ferret, three horses, and a praying mantis. There is a tradition of animal blessing services at the church, going back to at least 1981.

This year's service was hosted by Holy Trinity's associate priest, the Revd Malcolm Doney, who quoted Burl Ives' version of "There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly", which he described as "an entertaining, if slightly inaccurate, lesson in biodiversity." The Bible reading was the account of creation in the Book of Genesis, which Malcolm

said set "a framework in which we, as animal, human beings live in intimate relationship with God, and the creation that surrounds us. It's not us and them. It's us and us."

Horses Millie and Gatsby are regulars at Blythburgh's animal services, though "they don't like the hymns," according to owners Pat and Terry Goss, and they were joined at the back of the church by Malcolm's own horse, Neville.

At the end of the service, still in cassock and surplice, Malcolm swung into the saddle to give a horse-borne final blessing.

# BLYTHBURGH

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# The sun shines down on Blythburgh



Blythburgh's third annual celebration day on July 22nd happily coincided with the first really sunny day of the summer and attracted around 300 visitors. The day opened with a service in Holy Trinity Church. Villagers and visitors enjoyed games in the Village Hall, and a barbeque, bar and music in the garden of The Priory.

A group of stalls created a market atmosphere under the trees by the bouncy castle and a display of bees.

Special treats included tours round the priory ruins and update on archaeological developments, and a wildlife walk.

Those lucky enough to have a place on the river trips found perfect conditions on the Blyth.

**Pictures by Alan Mackley**

The organisers are

grateful to Nick and Susan Haward; the Jive Bunnies; Natural England; M. R King of Halesworth; and all those who helped throughout the day. *Celebrating Blythburgh* is supported by the Parish Council and the Blythburgh Latitude Trust.



## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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# The search goes on for life-savers

By Tom Potter of the East Anglian Daily Times

A potentially life saving medical service is seeking to strengthen its capability by recruiting new volunteers.

First Responders are rarely in ample supply, but their efforts in an emergency could mean the difference between life and death. Few local groups are sufficiently subscribed with volunteers despite the role requiring only a limited commitment of time – and some smaller communities across Suffolk have just one volunteer covering the area.

Responders usually provide first aid, before the arrival of paramedics, for people suffering breathing and chest problems, strokes and sometimes cardiac arrests, but do not respond to crashes, pregnancies, paediatric cases or assaults. Volunteers can start training at 17.

Jonathan Needle, of the East of England Ambulance Trust, said: “The role of first responder is ideal for people who want to help their communities.

“Lives could be lost without the service. There are no doubt advantages to arriving at the scene of an emergency.” Ursula Mackley, who leads a group of seven First Responders in the Blythburgh area, said the role also extended to reassuring people at the scene other than the patient.

Members support the ambulance service in making sure that certain types of 999 calls are responded to as soon as possible. Often first on the scene of an emergency, the volunteers are specially trained to provide basic life support and to use a defibrillator.

Groups meet regularly across the region with members completing a weekend training programme followed by occasional sessions.

For more information, call Ursula Mackley on 01502 478438.

*This article has been reprinted by kind permission of Tom Potter and the East Anglian Daily Times*

## Lucy Clapham resigns from council

Lucy Clapham’s letter of resignation was accepted at the September meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council. She has been a member of the council for five years. In her resignation letter, Mrs Clapham said that she felt that two councillors did not take the views of others into consideration.

Her resignation has been reported to the Suffolk Coastal District Councils’ elections office, which will supply a notice to be displayed on parish council notice boards advertising for applications from people wishing to be a parish councillor. The notice will be displayed for 14 days. If nobody comes forward, the council will seek to co-opt a new councillor.

## Harvest, music, wine and song at Holy Trinity, Blythburgh

**Sunday 23 September.** Harvest Festival at 11am to be followed by a light lunch. This year, the diocese is supporting the charity Water Aid and the guest speaker will be Paul Daley from the charity. Gifts of food tinned or fresh, are welcome for St John’s Housing Trust, Lowestoft.

Those wishing to attend the lunch are asked to contact Jenny Allen on 01502 478314 or sign up on the sheets in the church or in the village shop.

**October 5-7.** William Alwyn Festival to celebrate the life and music of composer and flautist William Alwyn, who lived in Blythburgh until his death in 1985. Holy Trinity concerts are

at 10.30am on Friday 5 October by the Cavaleri Quartet and at 7.30pm on Saturday 6 October by the Prometheus Orchestra. For more information visit [www.musicweb-international.com/alwyn](http://www.musicweb-international.com/alwyn)

**Saturday 20 October.** Tutored wine tasting led by Sonia Boggis of Blyth Valley Wines at 7pm, Suggested donation of £10 per person to raise funds for the church. To reserve a place please call Sonia on 01502 478687 or Jenny on 01502 478314.

**Sunday 14 October.** Pakefield Singers Tenth Anniversary Gala Concert at 6.30pm with the Kingfisher Sinfonietta. Tickets £12 on the door or telephone 01502 573733.

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## Notes from Daisy Bank L I I I

In June's edition of the *Suffolk Magazine* in an article entitled Thrilling Places, it was intimated that I was living in a wood with a beach hut for a gallery. I'm still looking for the wood and, where the beach hut is, I have no idea, although I find the idea quite appealing.

I was also quoted as having long lunches accompanied by lots of gin. The gin was right but lunch isn't included when Ray and I get together. After all, to the cognoscenti it would be an offence to Mr Gordon and Mr Schweppes to eat as well. Anyway, we have too much to talk about without worrying about food.

Five minutes of fame I suppose and all publicity is good etc. and as for the reference to McDonalds, I've only ever been twice in my life and will probably never go again, so they could be as good as a five star restaurant as far as I know. And Americans such as Col. Saunders and his chicken emporium will definitely never see me darken their door.

Anyway, surely we've realised by now that Tesco, W H Smith and Costa Coffee are about to take over the world. If they can realise their dreams in conservative Southwold, then the world must be their oyster. And it follows that consumption by them of us, is imminent. Please God, I'm long gone when all that happens.

The other evening I'm sure I heard a horse and cart coming down the lane heading for Daisy Bank. The strange thing is that I heard it but then forgot about it as though horse and carts habitually come down the lane. An echo from the past maybe?

Many years ago I was in a room on some ghastly oil installation somewhere off the coast of Holland when I was aware of my mother sitting opposite looking at me in a benign sort of way. The whole episode was so natural that reading a book that was really interesting me, I looked up, saw my mother and carried on reading. It was some time later that I realised what had happened. By the way, my mother had died several years before.

Some years before all that, I went to see quite a famous faith healer in London called Ted Fricker. For several years I had been suffering from chronic back pain so much so that I had had to resign from the overseas company I was working for.

While he was working on me, he told me that his spirit guides were talking about me and they were referring to how good an artist I would be when I decided to do it.

Working then for an overseas electronics company, at that time I had no idea that 20 odd years later I would finish up as a painter.

And by the way from that time on my backache improved and has continued with only the odd hiccup to this day. I also have to report that the neck pain from destroying the nest episode in my last DB article has also disappeared; maybe Mr Fricker is still looking after me only this time from 'the other side'.

So what does it all mean? God knows.

**Paul Bennett**

## The Blythburgh Focus

The *Blythburgh Focus* (and the *Blythburgh Parish News* before it) is funded privately and is not controlled or supported financially by the Parish Council. Any comments about the *Focus* should be sent directly to the editor, David Tytler, 01502 478521 or email [david@dytler.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:david@dytler.freeseerve.co.uk) and not to the council. Contributions should also be sent to this email address. The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will be held in the village hall on November 12 starting with an open form at 7.15pm and followed by the council meeting at 7.30pm. Everybody is welcome.