

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

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BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No 50

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

April/May 2020



Coronavirus – we're in this together

By the time you're reading this, circumstances may have changed. The surge of the virus is sweeping across the nation so fast that daily announcements alter our behaviour and our state of mind.

It's worth remembering that this village – and surrounding parish – has experienced plague, fire and war before, yet it's still here. And – most important of all – we have each other. This place has a history of hospitality, care and support, and this will not alter.

It goes without saying that we do not panic buy, we do not look after number one to the degree that we put others at risk – whether that's by how we shop or how we congregate. So, please follow the health advice to protect yourselves and anyone you come into contact with. We need each other.

Issue 50

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And remember that – if anyone is in difficulty – help is at hand. Blythburgh Parish Council has set up a rota of volunteers to help any resident who's facing illness or isolation, and needs help with shopping, fetching prescription medications or another urgent errand. If you, or someone you know, is quarantined, or self-isolating and needs assistance, then please call this number:

07849 138 897

You may be able to organise online deliveries, or call on family or friends to support you, but if for any reason this isn't possible, and you need supplies or medication urgently, please contact this service. The service will be available between **8am and 6pm, seven days a week**.

Volunteers may call on residents who want to use this service to pick up payment before fulfilling the request.

There are already a good number of volunteers, but people may need to drop out, so if you'd like to add your name to the list please contact Val Carse (see details below). You'll need to be under 70 and have no underlying health problems.

If you need transport for a health or some other vital appointment you may be able to get help from the Southwold and District *Voluntary Help Centre* (VHC) which has a car service. They can be contacted 9am to 1pm, Monday to Friday on 01502 724 549 or vhcsouthwold@btconnect.com.

If you're registered as a patient with the Sole Bay Health Centre in Reydon, there's now a weekly drop-off service for prescription medication. Every Thursday, these will be delivered to White Hart Cottage, the house immediately next door to the former Village Shop (the home of Val Carse and Sue Gerrard). If you'd like to take advantage of this service, you'll need to phone the dispensary on 01502 722 326 and give them permission to deliver your medicines this way.

Further information will be distributed to residents as circumstances develop. In the meantime, if you need more information, please contact: Val Carse: valc@btinternet.com 07973 389 898 or Malcolm Doney: malcolmdoney@me.com 07812 566 520.

Stay well!

Malcolm Doney and Chiara Saunders, Joint Editors, Blythburgh Focus

N.B. There is a Facebook group for the village to share news and chat – Blythburgh Village Facebook Group

Wild Watch

“What did the Romans ever do for us?” You may remember the scene from *The Life of Brian* where John Cleese’s character concedes that the Romans did quite a lot for ‘us’. What with their civil engineering (the arch and concrete) and the Julian calendar, it’s easy to overlook the fact that they also introduced a number of plants to our country and our diet.

As spring asserts itself, one plant in particular begins its annual campaign to dominate the edges of paths and roads around coastal towns and villages. It appears in churchyards and untended gardens and grows up to the height of a metre or more. This plant is Alexanders, a member of the carrot family, named after the King of ancient Macedonia.



The Romans held Alexanders in high esteem as an all-purpose food source and brought it with them to Ancient Britain. One of the plant’s vernacular names is ‘wild celery’ which describes its flavour well. Originally from the Mediterranean, it naturalised and was subsequently adopted as a food-plant by the native Brits

themselves. Alexanders eventually fell out of favour as food, partly due to the growing popularity of its cultivated namesake.

It shared this fate with another Roman introduction and relative, ground elder, which also demonstrated a Roman-like tendency to dominate any territory it colonised. Anyone who’s been unfortunate enough to have ground elder in their garden will know how hard it is to eradicate. When I bought a house in Mid-Suffolk 25 years ago, the first words my new neighbour said to me were “I (*expletive*) well hope you’re going to get rid of that ground elder!”

Ground elder was also grown as a pot herb and, like Alexanders, became a victim of its own success and our changing tastes. Both plants are strongly flavoured compared to the milder vegetables we choose today. Ironically, most of these were Roman introductions as well that have, through selective cultivation, produced thicker, juicier leaves, stems and roots without the more earthy tang of by their wild relations.

One way to manage these invasive species, perhaps, is to copy the Romans and restore their position as pot herbs. If you know how to recognise the plants from other members of the family, don’t uproot them but gather some stems and leaves, wash well, and rediscover the taste of our ancient past.

Paul Lacey



THE STAR INN



Set in the beautiful rolling Suffolk countryside, The Star has open fires in the winter and a good selection of traditional bar games, the large garden has a boules pitch to enjoy in the summer.

The range of real ales and home cooking using local ingredients make The Star a popular choice with locals and visitors alike.

Come and visit us and see the doom at St. Peter’s church or take a walk on one of the five commons of Wenhaston.

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

We are open every day from 12 noon-3pm & 6-11pm
Open all day on Sunday from noon – 11pm.

Food is served daily from 12.30-2.30 & 6.30-9.00pm

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www.WENHASTONSTAR.CO.UK**

Rhubarb and a Blythburgh Bias

Wakefield is famous for its coal-mining heritage, cathedral and rhubarb. So, despite torrential rain, flooding and a persistent daughter, we journeyed to Wakefield in February for the annual Rhubarb Festival.

Our first stop was the cathedral with its 14 bells. The bells are usually rung as a ring of 12 but with the extra 2 bells they have the option to ring in different keys with either 10 or 6 bells. Wakefield Cathedral was the first to have 14 bells but this idea has been copied by others, including Canterbury and York. Outside you can't miss the impressive 247foot spire, home to peregrine falcons, which is alive with stalls featuring rhubarb in all its guises.

A native of Siberia, rhubarb was first recorded in the UK in the 17th century. It has certainly thrived in the Yorkshire climate and Yorkshire Forced Rhubarb has a Protected Designation of Origin. We discover the famous Rhubarb Triangle of Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield which covered an area of 30 square miles before visiting a rhubarb forcing shed in the centre of the triangle.

Back in Blythburgh our rhubarb was only just beginning to show signs of life but enter a rhubarb forcing shed (by candlelight) and the sight is unbelievable: they grow rhubarb indoors, in total darkness out of season. Yorkshire forced rhubarb is much prized in London restaurants of



and commands prices to match. We purchased just three sticks as a treat!

Chatting to fellow visitors we discovered a couple (from Kent) who know Blythburgh Church well. Oh yes, they said, we always stop on our way to the World Indoor Bowls Championships at Potters.

For the last 20 years bowlers have descended on Potters Resort at Hopton for the World Bowls Championships – some come to play and many, many more to watch – with the BBC broadcasting live coverage of the final week. We have been a number of times, it's always a good day out and it is rare that you don't bump into someone from one of the many local bowls clubs. Blythburgh bowls club (affectionately known as the BBC) was started in 2000 by, among others, Beryl Stringer. Beryl is still sorely missed but, thanks to Roy and Pam Stringer, we gather every December in Wangford Village Hall to remember Beryl and compete for her trophy.

Blythburgh is a small village but it always amazes me how many people, often for quite unusual reasons, know of and love our small corner of the world.

Sonia Boggis

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The Village Hall Needs You Will you help us to preserve the future of our village hall?

The Village Hall is an important part of our village – without it a number of our social clubs would disappear: film night, line dancing, Blyth Belles and choir. And it has been a part of most of our village celebrations and social gatherings. But its future hangs in the balance. Olive Forsyth, who has looked after the hall for many years is ready to take a step back and we are looking for volunteers to help run the hall.

The Village Hall is a charitable entity and is run by a board of trustees. We are looking for villagers who would be happy to volunteer as a trustee – the board needs six trustees, three of which will be needed to fill the positions of chair, secretary and treasurer. Two further trustees will be members of the Parish Council. Meetings are held every two months and the work-load should not be too heavy – although ideas about how to make the most of the hall for the benefit of the village would be helpful. Trustee insurance is in place, which means no one is personally liable.

If we are unable to recruit enough volunteers, we will look at other options which could include the Parish Council becoming the sole trustee. It is not ideal as we would like to see different people in the village running the Village Hall than those who are on the Parish Council.

If you are interested in helping keep the Village Hall going, please email either Chiara Saunders on chiarasaunders@mac.com or Malcolm Doney on malcolmdoney@me.com.

White Hart Takeout Service

Marie and Lee at the White Hart are currently offering takeaway food two nights a week: Wednesdays and Fridays.

On Fridays, between 5.30 and 7.30pm, they will be selling fish and chips. The kind of fish on offer will vary depending on supply. The Wednesday take-out offer will be at the same time but there will be a different menu, which will change from week to week. Prices will vary according to ingredients.

You will need to make your order the day before by text message to Marie on 07870657266 or by email at leeknight148@btconnect.com.

Once you have made your order, you will be given a time slot for collection to avoid contact with other customers. Please make sure only one person from your household makes the collection. Marie will provide full pick-up and payment details when your order is confirmed. Bon Appetit!

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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.**

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: Roderick Orr-Ewing

Sonia Boggis, Jeff Sutton, Val Carse

Chiara Saunders, Jeff Sutton, Jim Boggis

Councillor: Malcolm Doney, Martha
Burrows

BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

Blythburgh Latitude Trust
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Village Hall and Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Horticultural Society
Val Carse 07973 389898

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Blyth Belles

www.blythburgh.onesuffolk.net

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

Latitude tickets – new arrangements

This year, we are making some changes to how Blythburgh residents apply for Latitude Festival tickets. We are doing this to conform more closely with the terms and conditions laid down by the promoters of Latitude, and in order to maintain fairness and transparency. *NB: At the time of going to press, Latitude had not been cancelled. With circumstances changing every day, please be aware that by the time you read this there may well be no 2020 festival.*

This is how it works:

- Latitude tickets will be offered to *full time residents* of the Blythburgh with Bulcamp & Hinton parish only.
- Each full-time resident may apply for one ticket for their personal use. One resident per household may apply for tickets on behalf of other full-time residents in their household.
- You will need to confirm that you are a full time resident when applying for your ticket, and provide proof of residence when collecting tickets.*
- Completed forms should be delivered to Jenny Allen, Chair of Latitude Trust, Wolsey House, Chapel Road, IP19 9LW. Applications by telephone or email WILL NOT be accepted. The deadline for applications is Saturday 2 May. Forms should be placed in a sealed envelope. Loose forms will not be entered into the draw.
- We are not provided with enough tickets to cover every resident in the village, so applications will be opened at random by members of the Latitude Trust.
- All applicants will be notified, whether or not their application has been successful.
- Applicants' ticket allocations will be held until 23 May. During this time the applicant must confirm names to be printed on the tickets (each adult named must be a full time resident), confirm the name of the person collecting the tickets and make payment. If confirmation of names or payment is not made, then the tickets will be re-allocated.
- Successful applicants must pay for their tickets by 1 June. Cheques should be made payable to Blythburgh Latitude Trust and sent to Jenny Allen.
- Tickets will be available for collection in Blythburgh Village Hall between 6 and 7 pm on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 July. .

*Everyone collecting tickets will need to bring proof of residency with them – for example, their driving licence, utility bill, council tax bill. Anyone found fraudulently claiming residence will be banned from applying for tickets in the future

Please complete the form attached at the end of the Focus if you would like to apply for tickets

Making good the shed

It is fairly common knowledge that there used to be three-foot-gauge railway line which ran for 50 years between Halesworth and Southwold, via stations at Wenhaston, Blythburgh and Walberswick. Since it closed in 1929, the remnants of this iconic and historic branch line have gradually disappeared: the last surviving building on the entire railway is at the car park alongside the A12 and the Blyth – the Blythburgh station goods shed.



The Halesworth to Southwold Narrow Gauge Railway Society was formed in 2018 to record, preserve and restore what remains of the line, and has turned its attention to the goods shed. The Society believes that such an important part of local history ought to be preserved, and – with the permission of the landowner Sir Charles Blois – work was started in 2019.

The building was in a very poor state, filled with several tonnes of fly-tipped rubbish, with a quarter of the roof missing, trees growing through it, and at least half a tonne of ivy and detritus weighing down the remains of the roof. The rubbish was cleared, with Sir Charles's help, by a large team of volunteers, and a drawing of the building was made by Oliver Densham of Halesworth. Then a complete survey of its condition was undertaken, and a list of timbers requiring replacement was made up: as much of the historic fabric as possible is being saved. Over the winter of 2019/20, the vegetation on the roof and in the foundations was removed, leaving the surrounding trees for protection, and the main structure jacked up and straightened – a process which was interrupted by the three major storms of February.

In March, specially-cut and treated timber was obtained from Clarkes of Walsham, to match the existing beams and



plates: these are now being incorporated into the structure. As weather and the Covid-19 virus situation permit, volunteers will proceed during summer to fill the hole in the floor, level round, rebuild the roof, parts of the walls, and the doors. Some of the plinth is missing, but similar bricks from the same brickyard have been obtained.

Part of the Society's remit is industrial archaeology, and many interesting new discoveries have been made: however, the largest mystery remains, which is what the shed was used for. It has traditionally been known as "The Coal Shed", but there is no onsite evidence of this use. The louvres on the south side are equally mysterious: doubtless other anomalies will be unearthed during the work!

Ken Penrose and James Hewett, Co-Chairmen of the Halesworth to Southwold Narrow Gauge Railway Society

For more information go to: www.halesworthtosouthwoldrailway.co.uk.



On the verges



If you look carefully, you'll notice that there has been some creative work taking place on Blythburgh's verges. Take a peek at: the A12 junction with Angel Lane, the corner of Priory Road and A12, the corner of Dunwich Road and Highfield, the corner of Angel Lane and Chapel Road, and Amberly Close. Plots have been dug and most plants will have been put in the earth. In terms of visible progress all plants are currently very small. However the tiny roses outside the Village Hall, which were planted last year, have made very good growth.

A big thank you to the Blythe Belles and the Blythburgh Latitude Trust who provided the money to make the planting of the verges possible. I would also like to add a reminder that this whole project was to be a living

memorial to Pat Goss and Tom and Gillian Lond-Caulk who did so much for the village.

Volunteers have been marvellous. The verges have had a slow start. The highways were very slow to grant permission. Then Eddie Krutysza of Hattens Farm Nurseries (www.hattensfarmnurseriesmetfield.co.uk) had assorted problems which I needn't bore you with. However, he has done us a BIG favour, with some terrific deals.



I had intended to lead a Pied Piper progress through the village verges to point out what had been planted. In the current situation that's not possible. If you'd like to know more about the plan, or to volunteer your help please email me at claire@millend6.plus.com.

Claire Lyth

Blythburgh Church

Church activities

Following guidance from the UK government in order to safeguard communities from the spread of coronavirus infection Holy Trinity Church has closed its doors until further notice

In the meantime, online, **Morning Prayer** is being livestreamed from the Oratory of Bishop Martin Seeley every morning at **8.30am**, Monday to Saturday, on the Bishops' Facebook page [@BishopsCofEsuffolk](#).

Evening Prayer/Evensong is being livestreamed from the Cathedral Monday to Friday at 5.30pm on the Cathedral Facebook page [@Stedscathedral](#); on Saturday and Sunday it will be at 3.30pm.

Sunday morning Eucharist from the Cathedral will be livestreamed at 10.00 am on the Cathedral Facebook page.

No Art for Easter

As a result, our planned exhibition in the church *Stations on a Journey*, featuring 15 'Stations of the Cross' paintings by Mark Cazalet, has been cancelled.



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Villager of the Year

Please complete the form below and return to Jim Boggis, Clerk, Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council, Marsh End, Church Road by April 30. The presentation will be as soon as health guidelines permit. Serving members of the Parish Council are not eligible. The winner receives £50 with his or her name on the honours board.

Nominee	Proposers
Reasons for Nomination	

Blythburgh's Gold Rush

As if a link with the Staffordshire hoard of Anglo-Saxon garnets and gold (*Focus* January) was not enough, Blythburgh now has a hoard of its own. Recently announced is the discovery in February last year of 19 Iron Age gold coins somewhere not publicly declared but “near Blythburgh”. Many of the coins have been attributed to the pre-Roman tribal leader Addedomaros, the Celtic King of Trinovantes. The coins, found by a metal-detectorist, date from 45-25 BC and are thought to have been deposited after AD20.



Money has been raised to bring back the Cambridge team that visited the village for the last three years, as a private venture with Granta Heritage, now that the university scheme has ended and there has been plenty of encouragement for villagers to join in the 2020 Test-Pitting project on 4 and 5 May. Although coronavirus has meant cancelling these May dates, we are hoping to rearrange the event for later this year or next year. Once this has been reorganised, we will be in touch to ask if you would like a one-metre square test pit in your garden (with invisible mending afterwards) get in touch with Alan Mackley, Sonia Boggis, Chiara Saunders, Meryl Doney or Jenny Allen. Gold is not guaranteed but an interesting contribution to an understanding of the development of the village is.

Alan Mackley



SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

The collection of coins was found near Blythburgh

What's on			
Date	Event	Venue	Time
Please note that due to coronavirus most events are now cancelled. We have included events later in the year but they remain subject to review – regular events will also be cancelled.			
13 th May	Parish Council AGM	Village Hall	7.15pm
25 th July	Hort Soc Summer Show	Church	TBC
9 th August	Blythburgh Day	The Priory	11-5
16 th August	Animal Service	Church	11am
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
Last Friday of the month	Café and Mini Market	Holy Trinity Church	10.30-12
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

Specialist legal advice in Southwold



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 Southwold, Suffolk
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MANTINS.CO.UK



How does your garden grow?

On 5 March BC (Before Corona) Blythe Belles met to hear a talk on composting by the ever-enthusiastic Kate Osborne of Beach Bonkers fame, who last year ran the beachcombing excursion to Leiston beach.

Kate was somewhat taken aback to discover that every attendee at this meeting already had a compost heap. Nevertheless, I think we all learnt something new from the session, one of the top tips for me being that you don't need to turn your compost heap, although doing so does speed up the process. Kate emphasised the importance of aeration of the heap - huge amounts of damp grass clippings do need to be separated with scrunched up paper or straw.

What can be composted?

All vegetable material, grass clippings, wood ash in moderation, animal hair, chicken manure.

What shouldn't be composted?

Perennial weeds and non-vegetable food waste.

On the subject of learning from others, here is the **Blythburgh Horticultural Society** events calendar, coronavirus permitting:
 Saturday 6 June: Summer Garden Party, 3.30pm Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road

Sunday 14 June: Wenhaston Grange Open Day
 Saturday 25 July: Summer Show – Holy Trinity Church
 Tuesday 1 September: Beth Chatto Gardens
 Thursday 24 September: Annual Dinner 7 for 7.30pm the Bell, Walberswick,
 Friday 16 October: Garden Film Night – 7pm Village Hall
 Friday 20 November :Social/AGM – 7pm Village Hall
Val Carse

Traffic Survey

The Parish Council, along with many residents have been concerned about the weight and speed of traffic on the B1125 (Angel Lane/Dunwich) as it passes through the village. They have been consulting with Suffolk Highways Community Liaison Engineer and have agreed with him to undertake a traffic survey as soon as possible. They were due to set this up in April this year, but the coronavirus lockdown has affected the traffic flows, so will reinstitute this once a form of normality returns.

LATITUDE TICKET APPLICATION FORM

Contact name.....

Address

Telephone number.....

Email.....

I am a full-time resident of Blythburgh and so are all those on whose behalf I am applying for tickets (please sign and date)

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Name for EACH ticket	Child (5 to 12)	Accompanied Teen (13 to 15)	Fri	Sat	Sun	Weekend	Weekend Family Camping

Prices: weekend, £45, day, £16; accompanied teens weekend, £45, day £16, children, £8. Under fours are free and do not have to be registered in advance.