

**DAISY BANK XCV**

When I open the church, I immediately smell incense. I'm used to it in Roman Catholic churches, but Blythburgh? Very strange. Mind you, the whole thing is strange with the car park empty and just the odd person visiting. I find that very sad. A magnificent church like Blythburgh should and must be seen. It's too precious for people to pass it by. A few weeks back, I watched three young swallows fledging in the porch of the church. As I said to Jenny Allen things like that still going on make other, not so nice things, bearable.

Sad to say that Rafael, who I called "the Church Cat", is no longer with us. That ghastly road again. When I climbed the churchyard steps each morning, more often than not there he was to greet me and pass the time of day. On a couple of occasions, he spent the night in the church and he didn't seem that fussed to be deprived of his overnight freedom. He was a wanderer - I know what that is like.

One of my Siamese, Murphy, took to crossing the road opposite the pub and the then publican, Martin Catlin, phoned me several times to tell me that he was rabbiting in the field behind. In the end I took him down to the A12 in a cat basket and plonked him on the edge in hope that that would scare him. It didn't. The next step was to take him down to the bridge and show him that, with his agility, he could easily access the other side of the road by going under the bridge. It worked, and after several trips he even took one of his younger brothers with him. In the end, he lived to a good age.

There is nothing worse than losing a pet. Especially with somebody like me, who in some ways prefers them to humans. It's not so bad being a misanthrope; in times like this, possibly, emotionally advantageous. But there is a subtle difference between a misanthrope and a miserable B. Hope so. Anyway, it works for me.

Summer brought the sounds of happy children laughing their way along the lane. Some of them continue on to the creek via what we in Daisy Bank call the "driftway". I hear them going along the back railway path after passing in front of the cottage so I know where they are bound.

When I first moved here and found the creek and the boats and swimming almost on my doorstep, I knew that I had finally found a place that I would never leave. My oldest friend came down in late August, as he does every year, with his two girls and their partners. In those first few years here, when they were toddlers, and their mother was still alive, we had some magical summers 'messing around' down there.

We had some friends from London visiting us recently. As we were still 'banged up', they very kindly brought me a container of Adnams bitter. That first swig, after nothing since February, was almost an emotional experience. Tea will always come first, of course, but then its Adnams bitter, espresso black coffee, gin & tonic, and rum, coke and lime in order of priority and preference. I hope that makes sense.

**Paul Bennett**

# BLYTHBURGH

## FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,  
BULCAMP AND HINTON

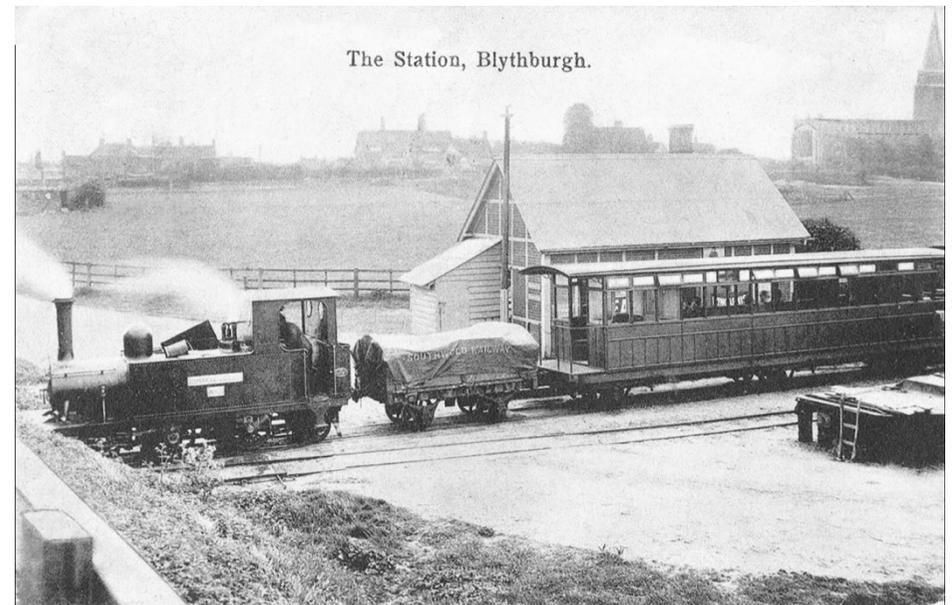


Issue No 53

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

Oct/Nov 2020

### The Goods Shed at Blythburgh Station



*Blythburgh Station with Blythburgh church in the background*

Halesworth to Southwold Narrow Gauge Railway Society volunteers have been working two days each week (sometimes three) since May, on the Goods Shed at Blythburgh Station, on Station Road. The team varies between two and six, and much progress has been made.

Since our last report, the north, west and south walls have been completed, using most of what was still usable of the original timber on the side most seen by the public – the south. Here, the two in-situ louvres have been repaired at the west end, while the gaping hole that faced us over winter

2019/20 has been filled with new and old timber, while the second two louvres, at the east end, have been made up from original pieces (found in the fly-tipped piles) with some cladding cascaded from the north. The Society blacksmith has made up the two missing louvre bracket staples, on his portable forge, the two missing brackets themselves being hand-ground from steel bar.

The roof has also been fully repaired using those rafters that were not completely rotten (or missing, as on the north-west corner), with some added ones, and new purlins: main beams have been repaired at their north ends with oak half-lapped joints, dowelled in. The corrugated iron sheets were far beyond re-use (and are almost certainly not original), so second-hand and new sheets have been erected, with a new ridge piece to match the original, rusted-away, roll-top.



hardener. The brick plinth, outside, is being re-pointed using traditional lime mortar.

Some work remains to be done – the south side brickwork, the east end and doors, and the tracklaying. When the car park was raised with hoggin, surplus material was piled around the shed – so this will be levelled in early October. Traditional railway timber fencing will be provided, at the wish of the owner – who has also agreed that the station platform sign (of which we have a part) can be re-erected. A Society member has offered to fund a replica wagon to form part of the display.

All timber outside is painted with bitumen (to match the original tar as closely as possible) with all inside timber treated against woodworm, dry and wet rot, and then painted with creosote, as it was when built. Particularly important areas (like the louvres) have re-used some quite soft timber: this is treated with

## Join our speed watch team

We regularly keep a watchful speed check on traffic driving through the village. We use two sites in the village: one along the A12 near the bus stop, and another in Dunwich Road outside Mill Farm. We have a good team of volunteers and we regularly set up on random days and times of the week. But we'd welcome more people to help us in the important task.

On the A12 we're collecting data on vehicles who exceed the speed limit, speeding at a rate of 10-12 in a half hour (we tend not to stay any longer than that).

Speeds tend to range from 36–47 mph in this 30 limit, although we have had cars going as fast as 66mph. The details of all speeding motorists' are passed onto Suffolk Police. There are many drivers who do stick to the speed limit, and we thank them for that. !

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact me on 07904476898

**Jeff Sutton**

## Speed Comparisons

Our Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) have been out of action, but they have been repaired, and also we are now able to monitor southbound traffic on the Dunwich Road for the first time.

In September, traffic on the Dunwich Road was being tracked by the Highways department at the Parish Council's request. We've used our VAS and the data logger to compare the figures.\*

### Traffic patterns

Traffic, having dropped to what felt like zero in March and April has been steadily rising and is now back to usual levels for the time of year and on some days greater than usual. Here are some comparisons:

#### *Dunwich Road (Northbound)*

June 2019: the daily average was 1,575 with a peak of 1,732. June 2020: 1,315, peak 1,544.

August 2019: 1,638 peak 2,079. August 2020: 1,601 peak 2,025

#### *A12 Northbound*

April 2019 average 4,705 peak 6,348. May 2020 (no figures for April): average 1,515 peak 2,196.

July 2019: 4, 728. July 2020 5,250.

August 2019: average 5,548. August 2020: 5,458.

**Roderick Orr-Ewing**

\*We hope to give details of this monitoring exercise in the next edition

## 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 confidence*

Apply now

The trustees are

- Jenny Allen, Chair
- Jeff Sutton
- Michael Nicholls
- Malcolm Doney
- Sarah Wickham
- Harry Waller

### Your Parish Councillors

**Chair:** Roderick Orr-Ewing

**Planning Advisory Committee:**

Sonia Boggis, Jeff Sutton, Val Carse

**Finance Advisory Committee:**

Roderick Orr-Ewing, Chiara Saunders,  
Jim Boggis

**Councillors:** Malcolm Doney, Martha Burrows

**Clerk:** Jim Boggis 01502487687

### Blythburgh Associations

**Blythburgh Latitude Trust**  
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

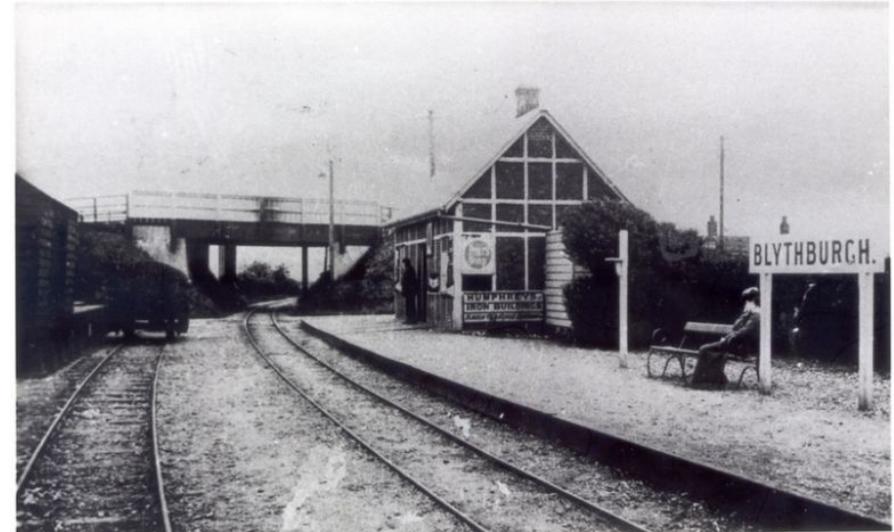
**Village Hall and Film Club**  
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

**Horticultural Society**  
Val Carse 07973 389898

**Blythburgh Matters**  
Ro Williams 01502 478484

**Blyth Belles**  
Sarah Wickham blythbelles@gmail.com

www.blythburgh.onesuffolk.net



*Blythburgh Station*

There is a great deal of interest in the building – and the station and railway of which it formed a part – so the plan for the future is to open the building from time to time for organised groups, people on guided walks, and other interested gatherings, so that the story of Blythburgh Station's heritage and its fifty-year importance to the village can be told. The Society hopes that it will be possible, in the future and with the consent of the community, to restore some more of the station on its original site, without affecting the amount of car parking provided.

**James Hewett and Ken Penrose, Co-Chairmen**

HALESWORTH TO SOUTHWOLD NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

[halesworthtosouthwoldrailway@gmail.com](mailto:halesworthtosouthwoldrailway@gmail.com)





## 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

**The Star Inn**  
**Wenhaston**  
**Halesworth**  
**Suffolk**  
**IP19 9HF**  
**01502 478240**  
**www.WENHASTONSTAR.CO.UK**

## Aliens in Blythburgh?

In medieval Government-speak, 'aliens' weren't ET's relations but simply those born in another country. The 15th century was the century of Columbus. For Blythburgh, the period is notable for the grand rebuilding of the parish church. For the king, needing to finance his war with France, the century was an opportunity to levy a tax on 'aliens'. From surviving documents, we can say who they were.

In East Anglia the majority were what we would now call Dutch (the country did not exist then). In the far west, by contrast, most would be Bretons or Irish. In the 1400s, 12 aliens are listed as resident in Blythburgh. Five were Dutch. There was also a Frenchman, a Brabanter (Flemish), a Scot and a Breton. The prior had two foreign servants, John Palmere had two, and Roger Bored and Agnes Northales had one each. Four of the aliens were householders.

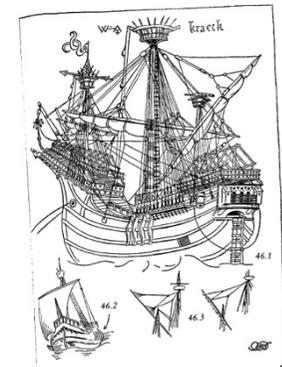
How do Blythburgh's neighbours compare? The count for Wenhaston is just one, and for Westleton two. But the coastal communities were very different. In Walberswick, 49 aliens are listed. The Dutch predominated, but one man came from as far as Genoa. The Southwold count is 55 including an Icelander – Walberswick certainly was sending fishing boats to Iceland at this time. Dunwich, before coastal erosion finally destroyed the town and port, had 53 aliens. Covehithe with 10 and Easton Bavents, with a remarkable 55 foreign residents – as many as Southwold and more than Walberswick or Dunwich – reveal maritime activity that was to be destroyed by coastal erosion.

These figures are – if the number of alien residents is an indication of involvement in international trade – evidence that Blythburgh was not a port of any significance. Nevertheless, it was a community familiar with foreigners, including some who were long-term residents.

Blythburgh still welcomes residents from wherever they hail. Currently, 16 (5.1%) of us were born beyond England and Wales

*A wealth of information on this subject can be found on <https://englandsimmigrants.com>.*

**Alan Mackley**



*A 15th Century  
European trading ship*

# Suffolk Car Centre

At Suffolk Car Centre  
we have over 40 years main dealer experience  
and bring quality used car sales  
to Reydon & Southwold  
at our Reydon Business Park site.

All our cars are fully serviced with new MOTs  
plus 6 months' warranty  
to give a complete peace of mind package.

With over 50 cars in stock  
and with finance packages available,  
we are sure that there will be a car to suit you.

**Suffolk Car Centre Ltd**  
Exchange House  
Reydon  
Suffolk  
IP18 6SZ

[sales@suffolkcarcentre.co.uk](mailto:sales@suffolkcarcentre.co.uk)

01502 451047 [www.suffolkcarcentre.co.uk](http://www.suffolkcarcentre.co.uk)

## Confessions of a Clerk

Even if you don't 'know' the person, you'll probably recognise the name Jim Boggis, in his capacity as Clerk to Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council. Jim stepped down at the end of September and agreed to an interview with yours truly (and yes, we share a name because we're married!).

*When and why did you take on the role?*

It was 2006. My daughter had just started university and you were working abroad, so I had a bit of time on my hands in the

evenings. The Parish Council was advertising for a clerk, I applied and, following an interview with Henrietta Maslan (Chair), got the job.

*I believe you had an interesting start to the role? Yes, I attended one meeting before taking a six-month sabbatical from my day job to join you in New York. The Wenhaston clerk stepped in and, by the time I returned, she had everything working brilliantly, and David Tytler had been elected Chair.*

*What have been the highlights? If I had to pick just one thing it would be securing the extension to the village hall car park. I know it's only a "grace and favour" arrangement but it solved so many issues we had at the time and we must thank Sir Charles Blois for that. Other*

highlights would be the erection of the glass bus shelter on the A12; setting up the Latitude Trust; getting the first defibrillator outside the Village Shop; being involved with the vehicle activated speed sign (VAS) scheme. And, perhaps strangely, I get a thrill seeing our information boards and the "same family" of information boards around and about.

*What about the frustrations, there must be some? I get very frustrated when I hear people say that Councillors are only in it for themselves. This has not been my experience. I have met, and worked with, some incredibly interesting and committed councillors. In*

the main they are volunteers, whose key motivation is to improve the community within which they live. New legislation is another challenge; it is putting a greater and greater burden onto parish councils and often, in my opinion, delivers no 'real benefit'.

*So finally, have you enjoyed it? Absolutely. Yes, I have. Over the 14 years I have engaged with passionate and committed individuals who are experts in their field; I have got to know our parish better than I could have imagined; communicated with many parishioners on a wide variety of issues and enjoyed the debate (and company) of all our councillors.*

**Sonia Boggis**



## Autumn thoughts for the garden

I hope everyone's garden has flourished this summer with lots of wonderful colour, as well as tons of lovely fruit and vegetables. Perhaps the one thing we can't complain about this year is the weather.

As space comes free in the garden, sometimes we're left with a problem. It may be possible to raise a quick crop from the space, especially early in September, but it's really too early for digging over. So, what to do?

It may be a good idea to sow a green manure which can be dug in later, or even to sow dwarf French beans. The seeds can be very cheap and even if you don't get a crop before the frosts arrive, they're a nitrogen fixer and can be treated as a green manure.

Many of the green manure crops are actually a lot of work to dig in, but mustard and red clover are ideal. The mustard is a favourite, but be aware that it's a member of the brassica family and so it's a bad idea to use it on plots where there may be club root, as it provides a reservoir for the infection. Clover isn't as vigorous, but it does fix nitrogen and is safe on club root infected plots.

With the clover, just dig it in with the normal winter digging. Mustard, growing taller, is best roughly cut off with shears or a scythe and the foliage popped onto the compost heap with the rest of the plant being dug in.

The Horticultural Society programme that we put together earlier this year has now been

completely cancelled, and we will not be able to hold either the annual dinner or the Annual General Meeting. This year's programme, as well as subscriptions, will be held over for next year and I will circulate the programme again with new dates early next year. In the meantime, let's hope a vaccine against Covid-19 is available soon.

### Val Carse

Secretary, Blythburgh Horticultural Society

If you'd like to join Blythburgh's sociable Horticultural Society, contact Val at [valc@btinternet.com](mailto:valc@btinternet.com).



## The Church

### Back in the swing

We've been delighted to get back into the swing of things at Holy Trinity, and pleased to note a rise in congregation numbers – double our pre-Covid attendance on some Sundays. We very much missed not being able to host Blythburgh's annual Flower & Produce Show, but we did manage to have a Harvest Festival service, with splendid seasonal decoration, even if new Covid restrictions meant that we had to abandon our scheduled harvest picnic



### Choral Evensong returns

We're also very happy to announce the return of Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of each month, starting on **Sunday 4 October at 6pm**. The harmonious Blythburgh Singers, led by Ellis Bell, are enthusiastic about singing again even if – because of distance requirements – the choir will be half its normal complement.

However, since this is a popular service, we'll have to be careful about numbers and distancing. To avoid disappointing anyone who might turn up only to find the church is 'full', **we need to ask you to pre-book**. *If you'd like to attend, please contact Jenny Allen by email at [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com), or by text on 07710 254 665.* She will need to know, in advance, the name and contact details of all who plan to attend. It would also help to know those people are in the same household, so we can group those together and save space. The booking deadline is 5pm on Saturday 3 October.

### Service pattern

Gratifyingly, Blythburgh services are now returning to a recognisable pattern across the month. Normally this will be:

#### First Sunday

11.15am Holy Communion (Common Worship) at St Andrew's, Walberswick.

6pm Choral Evensong, Blythburgh

**Second Sunday** – 11.15am Holy Communion (Common Worship) at Holy Trinity, Blythburgh.

**Third Sunday** – 9.30am lay-led Morning Prayer in Blythburgh.

**Fourth Sunday** – 11.15 Holy Communion (BCP) in Blythburgh.

Just to remind you, the church is open for peace, quiet and prayer every day in daylight hours.

# Christies Care

Est. 1987

Living independently at home



Everybody wants to stay at home for as long as possible.

Nobody wants to be sent to a care home.

 [sarah@christies-care.com](mailto:sarah@christies-care.com)

 01728 666232

[www.christiescare.com](http://www.christiescare.com)

## **MRWCF** Electrical Ltd.

- Domestic and commercial
  - Rewires
- Additional sockets and lights
  - PAT testing
  - Inspection & Testing



**PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE  
24 HOUR CALL OUT**

**T:01502 478473 M:07884 477110 M:07717 176655**

**E:mrwfelectrical@hotmail.co.uk**

**W:www.mrwfelectrical.co.uk**



## NORTON PESKETT SOLICITORS

A local  
firm with a  
world of  
experience



### For you

- Buying and selling your home
- Re-mortgages and transfers of equity
- Wills and probate
- Court of Protection
- Family and children matters
- Criminal matters
- Personal injury claims
- Civil matters
- Notarial services
- Care home fees
- NHS continuing healthcare
- Trusts and deceased estates

### For your business

- Commercial property
- Partnerships
- Employment matters
- Planning and regulatory issues
- Licensing
- Company formations
- Agricultural law

Lowestoft,  
148 London Rd North  
T: 01502 533 000

Beccles  
Exchange Square  
T: 01502 718 700

Gorleston  
66a Bells Road  
T: 01493 652 204

Great Yarmouth  
141 King Street  
T: 01493 849 200

Halesworth  
52 Thoroughfare  
T: 01986 872 513

[enquire@nortonpeskett.co.uk](mailto:enquire@nortonpeskett.co.uk) [www.nortonpeskett.co.uk](http://www.nortonpeskett.co.uk)

No hidden costs

Same day response

## Wild Watch

Swallows gathering on the telephone lines are as much a sign of autumn as the cuckoo is the harbinger of spring. Drawn by loud twittering to their presence on a neighbour's TV aerial, I watched two adult birds feeding some juveniles prior to their departure to sub-Saharan Africa.



*Pre-migration swallows, adult feeding*

We tend to think of swallows as our special birds, but they have an almost global range. Swallows in the USA migrate to South America in the northern hemisphere winter. Likewise, birds bred in Kazakhstan overwinter in southern India and Indonesia. In mid-latitude countries, swallows are present all year round.

It does seem amazing that a bird weighing less than an ounce can complete a journey of several thousands of miles. For European birds, this includes a return trip across the Sahara Desert, the largest stretch of arid land outside Antarctica. Why they do this has only been understood recently.

The Sahara has not always been the size that it is now. It fluctuates in a roughly 40,000 year cycle due to changes in the tilt of the Earth relative to the sun. Rock drawings made by hunter tribes up to 12,000 years ago show grazing animals living in what is now desert.

The search for food is what drives most animal migration. Over the millennia, birds have flown north to the insect-rich meadows of Europe in order to breed. This behaviour has been going on despite regular expansions and contractions of the desert. Forty thousand years may seem like a vast period of time but, in terms of evolutionary behaviour, it's a blink of an eye.

Swallows are by no means the greatest migrants. Arctic terns, often called sea-swallows, probably holds the record for distance covered in a year. They breed in the sub-arctic regions of northern Europe, Russia and North



*Arctic Tern*

America during the northern summer when the fishing is good. Then they fly south to Antarctica to enjoy the southern hemisphere summer. One bird ringed as a chick on the Farne Islands was re-trapped, just over three months later, in Melbourne Australia – a journey of at least 14,000 miles. Arctic terns can live for 30 years, so not only do they travel further than many other animals – they probably see more sunlight than any other creature on planet Earth.

We know why birds migrate, but we have much to learn about how they do it.

**Paul Lacey**

## Specialist legal advice in Southwold



Residential Property

Commercial Property

Wills and Powers of Attorney

Probate

Notarial Services

01502 724750

23a High Street,  
Southwold, Suffolk

IP18 6AD

**MANTINS.CO.UK**

**M** MANTINS  
SOLICITORS & NOTARIES