

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,
BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No 57

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

June/July 2021

THEATRE COMES TO THORINGTON



Lindy O'Hare and her husband Mark who run an organic nut farm in Thorington, have created a spectacular open air theatre venue on their land.

The theatre has been built in a crater left by a WWII bomb. "The shape left by the bomb on the slope created a bowl that invited an amphitheatre," says Lindy. "We did not need to excavate any soil. The project is all made of wood, and the timber was sustainably sourced from the surrounding woods on the farm, so the environmental impact has been kept to a minimum. It is a very green project." The theatre is the brainchild of events organiser and

Issue 57

2

woodworker Silas Rayner who lives on the farm. "The theatre was conceived two and a half years ago, and the construction has been completed by a magnificent team led by Silas with Alan, Amy and Les. The website and back office has been created and run by Joey and Sophie O'Hare," says Lindy.

The theatre can seat up to 350 people, and the productions start on 18 June with a local children's theatre group performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Thorington's packed first summer season includes *Treasure Island*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Wind in the Willows* and *Twelfth Night*, together with opera and comedy. The auditorium has an in-house bar, serving local wine, beer and ice creams.

"The venture was planned before the pandemic, but Covid has made the demand for outdoor space and safe entertainment more attractive. So, you could say the timing of the project being completed and life returning to normal has been fortuitous for us," admits Lindy.

Thorington Theatre can be found on Thorington Road IP17 3RB, turning off the A12 at the Round House. For information about upcoming shows and how to book, go to thoringtontheatre.co.uk.

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

RIGHT ROYAL WRITER

Agnes Strickland. Possibly not a familiar name today, but if you had been alive in the mid-1800s her name was known because of her series of twelve volumes of stories about the queens of England. Agnes' books are now almost forgotten, but she lived an interesting and full life. And she has a local connection.

Born in London in 1796, Agnes was one of seven sisters. When she was still a child, her family moved first to Thorpe near Norwich, then to Beccles and finally to Reydon Hall near Southwold. The sisters were educated by their father, Thomas Strickland, and all had a gift for writing.

Agnes was only 22 when her father died. To supplement the family income, the girls began to write children's stories. Encouraged by their success, Agnes and her elder sister Eliza decided to move to London and try and earn their living by writing. Eliza edited a magazine of society gossip and Agnes, who was "handsome and vivacious, dressed well and talked well", quickly gathered a circle of important and fashionable friends.

In her 30s, Agnes suggested to Eliza that they co-operate in writing the life stories of the queens of England. It wasn't plain sailing because the repositories of national records were, in the early 1800s, not considered "suitable" places for ladies. Agnes was undeterred and, as an accomplished puller of strings, overcame all obstacles; access was arranged and long hours of research and writing commenced.

Timing can be all. The first two volumes of *The Lives of the Queens of England* were published soon after the coronation of Queen Victoria, and became an immediate success.

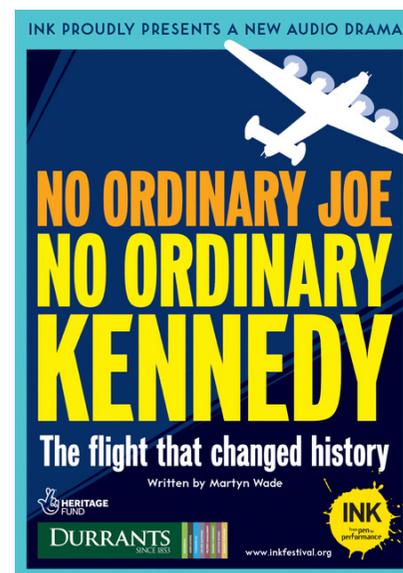
Through her influential friends, Agnes had secured a spot at the coronation and despite greatly displeasing Her Majesty with the publication of *Victoria from her Birth to her Bridal*, they also secured her a place at Victoria's wedding in 1840. The following year, Agnes was presented at court and felt rewarded "by a gracious smile". After this she made a point of appearing every year at the royal drawing-room and, as each successive volume of the *Queens* was published, she offered a crimson and gold bound copy for royal acceptance. The 12th volume appeared in 1846.

Agnes enjoyed her fame enormously and divided her time between work and a round of social events. She made her final home in Southwold and is remembered as a striking figure who "drove through the lanes with a pair of white donkeys".

Sonia Boggis



Agnes Strickland by John Hayes; oil on canvas, 1846; NPG 403; © National Portrait Gallery, London



KENNEDY BLYTHBURGH TRAGEDY BECOMES AUDIO DRAMA

On 12 August 1944, Joseph Kennedy Jr and his co-pilot Wilford J Willy were killed over Blythburgh when their Liberator aircraft, packed with high explosives, exploded over Blythburgh. Joe Kennedy, JFK's elder brother seemed destined to become President of the USA, but it was not to be.

INK festival, which puts on newly written plays at the Cut in Halesworth each year, received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to turn the story of this tragic flight into a drama. *No Ordinary Joe; No Ordinary Kennedy* examines Joe's

complex character, and traces events which led Joe to volunteering for this top-secret and highly dangerous mission, in which he was required to fly a Liberator plane packed with explosives and bail out before it crossed the Channel.

It was originally intended to perform the play, written by Martyn Wade, at the 2021 INK festival and then tour it around a number of aircraft museums in East Anglia. The play has since been recorded as an audio drama and is available via the INK website: <https://inkfestival.org/ink-on-the-road-2/ink-london/#>

Thanks to National Lottery players, the project will also gather and record local WW2 stories which will be then be presented and stored at The Halesworth Museum, and an exhibition displaying parts of the crashed plane curated for the first time from different sources.

VILLAGE HALL RE-OPENS

After more than a year, the Village Hall is reopening. It will be officially open for public use from 1 July. There will be the usual Covid provisions and guidelines, but community groups and activities will be free to use this vital social hub once more. There are discounts for individuals and groups who are resident in the parish. There is also a new, dedicated website: www.blythburghvillagehall.org.uk where you can find details and booking information. Covid permitting we hope to hold a relaunch reception in the village hall on Friday 2 July at 6pm and the Villager of Year will be announced at the same time. Please check the website nearer the date.

GARDEN GATHERINGS

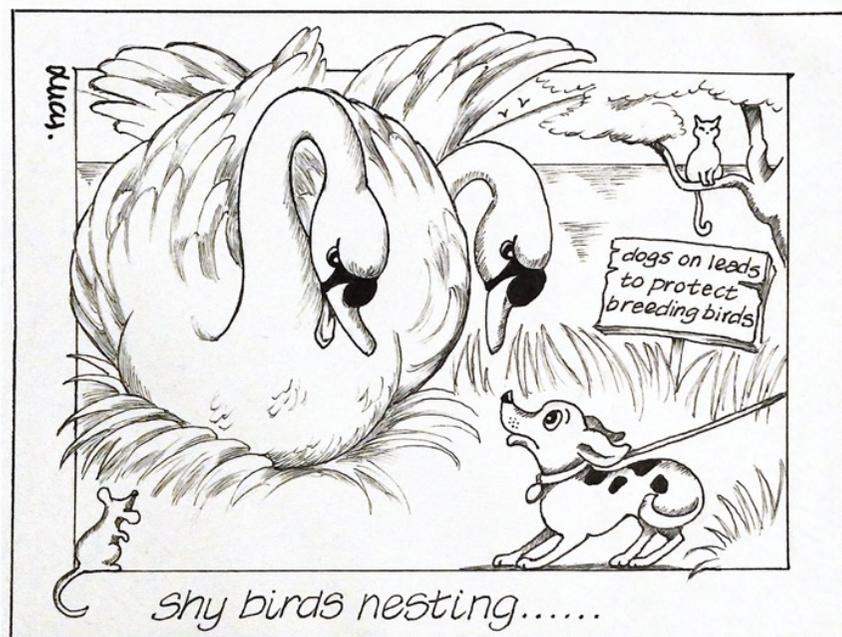
The Horticultural Society (universally known as Hort Soc) Committee is hoping to salvage some of the programme that we put together for last year.

As it's so late in the year already, we can't fit much in, but we hope to arrange at least a Garden Visit as well as the Summer Garden Party and Summer Show. Depending on how things pan out, we may be able to have the annual dinner, film night and Social/AGM.

The church has been booked for this year's summer show which (all things being equal) will be on Saturday 17 July. Entry is open both to Hort Soc members and all Blythburgh residents, and entry forms will be sent out to members in the near future. There will be categories for vegetables and soft fruit, flowers and plants, flower arrangements and cookery.

If you would like to join the Hort Soc, or have any questions about what we do, or the forthcoming programme for the year please do get in touch at valc@btinternet.com

Val Carse



STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

The summer months are a good time to view the Milky Way. If you choose a sufficiently dark night you will be able to glimpse this from Blythburgh with the naked eye.

All of the stars that you can see, no matter in which direction you look, are part of our local galaxy. We call this galaxy the Milky Way. When people talk about viewing the Milky Way they generally mean looking towards its centre where the density of stars is at its greatest.

It is not the easiest target to spot, but is well worth the effort. You need a cloud free and moonless night. The sky must be truly dark, which at this time of year will mean waiting until at least 11pm. Also you need to keep away from bright lights such as the church. Let your eyes adapt to the darkness and you should be able to see a misty band of light reaching up from the horizon. The best opportunities will be in the first two weeks of June looking southeast and the first two weeks of July looking south.

Our sun is one of an estimated 100 to 400 billion stars in the Milky Way. As stars go, it is middle aged, fairly ordinary, stable and unexciting. When you live a mere 93 million miles from a star, these are all good characteristics for it to have!

Ours is a spiral galaxy, meaning it would look a bit like a Catherine-wheel firework if you could view it from above. We are about 25,000 light years from the centre on one of the spiral arms.

More than 4,000 planets have been identified orbiting stars within our galaxy, and so far we can only look at relatively close stars. It was thought that the Milky Way represented the entire universe until in the 1920s American astronomer Heber Curtis – subsequently supported by Edwin Hubble – proved that ours was but one of many galaxies.

Now we know that the Milky Way is one of at least 200 billion galaxies, all with their own billions of stars and potentially countless planets.

Colin Huggins





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

01502 451047 www.suffolkcarcentre.co.uk

SPOTTED IN BLYTHBURGH

January started with a real treat, up to 25 Bean Geese just outside the village between the A12 and Wenhaston Road. These birds are the rarest of the regularly occurring grey geese who breed up in the Russian Taiga. Up to nine Bewick Swans frequented the area near Hinton crossroads, four of which stayed for much of **January** and **February**. The Blyth estuary held good numbers of the usual wintering waders with Avocet, Dunlin, Knot and Black-tailed Godwit, along with exceptional numbers of Curlew, a few Grey Plover and the occasional Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit. A summer plumage Great Crested Grebe near the bridge was an unusual species for the Blyth. Raptors in **March** have included three sightings of White-tailed Eagle, Hen Harrier, Red Kite and, near the end of the month, the first Osprey. Other summer migrants have also started to appear with Wheatear and a female Black Redstart in a local garden. The real highlight however were two Cranes at the eastern end of the estuary, just within our parish.

The slightly finer weather has also started the flora blooming, with bright yellow Lesser Celandine particularly attractive as well as the paler Primroses, but the more interesting species is the tiny delicate, white flowered Danish Scurvy Grass, which forms a white strip along the roadside. It is really a salt tolerant coastal plant, but with the winter salting of the roads removing competition, it has spread along roadsides inland. Very rich in vitamin C, hence its name, it was often taken on long journeys to avoid scurvy. Flowering Cherry Plum was also now in full bloom, providing a good opportunity to separate it from the similar Blackthorn which flowers a little later.

More and more insects are starting to appear, and several of the beautiful bright yellow Brimstone butterflies have been seen in the village, and it is also the time to look for the tiny delicate Holly Blue. **April** started off with a Spotted Redshank on the Blyth, and the first Swallows in the parish – followed later in the week by the arrival of Sand Martins, but both of these hirundines species were desperately struggling for food due to the very strong cold north winds, which reminded me of an incident years ago on a West coast island. Although it was not quite so cold, I saw Swallows going to roost in old garage. Visiting it the following day, I found over 30 birds dead on the floor, a very sad end for birds having struggled back over the Sahara to lose their opportunity to breed.

By the 13th, two fine male Ring Ouzel were ensconced on New Delight Heath, where they remained for at least 12 days, while later in the month another bird was seen behind Blythburgh church. On the 14th, two Ruff and a drake Gargney were seen on the east end of the estuary, while on the 20th, a Spoonbill and two first summer Little Gull arrived. By the end of the month the first Swift and Stone Curlew appeared in the parish. Early **May** brought a number of our summer warblers, and over 20 species of wader were seen around the estuary, including Whimbrel, Sanderling, Golden Plover and Common Sandpiper, while both Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were recorded. The spring flora was very slow due to the poor weather, but a fine sight on the left along the Westleton road was a blaze of magenta formed by a dwarf form of Common Stork's-bill on the arable reversion.

I Nonowt

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
- Michael Nicholls
- Malcolm Doney
- Sarah Wickham
- Harry Waller

Your Parish Councillors

Chair: Roderick Orr-Ewing

Planning Advisory Committee:
Sonia Boggis, Val Carse

Finance Advisory Committee:
Roderick Orr-Ewing, Chiara Saunders,
Al Besley

Councillors: Malcolm Doney,

Clerk: Al Besley

Blythburgh Associations

Blythburgh Latitude Trust
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Village Hall Management Committee
Malcolm Doney malcolmdoney@me.com

Horticultural Society
Val Carse 07973 389898

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham blythbelles@gmail.com

www.blythburgh.onesuffolk.net

CHURCH DOORS OPEN WIDER

Holy Trinity, Blythburgh remains open in normal daylight hours for visitors. Our services will – as usual – be open for all-comers, but we will be complying with Government guidelines as they evolve. Depending on guidance on distancing, we may need to ask you to continue book ahead for some popular services (such as Choral Evensong which takes place on the first Sunday of each month at 6pm). Please email Jenny Allen at jennyanddick@aol.com before 5pm up to the day before the event.

Here's the normal pattern of services:

- First Sunday of the month 6pm Choral Evensong
- Second Sunday 11.15am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- Third Sunday 9.30am Morning Prayer
- Fourth Sunday 9.30 Morning Prayer Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

If you'd like to join Holy Trinity's well-attended Thursday evening 8.30pm Zoom services of Compline please email Jenny Allen (see above).

Food Bank collection point

This is a reminder that we have now set up a collecting point for food donations to be passed to Lowestoft Food Bank. There is a large plastic crate inside the church to the left of the main door, beside the Traidcraft stall, with up-to-date details of what is needed urgently as well as what is currently in good supply. This is updated weekly.

Looking ahead

- We're hoping that our free, weekly, guided tours of the church by Colin Huggins will resume on Thursday 1 July, depending on current Covid guidelines. These take place at 11am every Thursday. If you'd like to join a tour, please phone Colin beforehand on 07508 888 460 in case there are restrictions.
- Our much-loved monthly Café and Mini-Market – held in the church on the last Friday of the month, from 10.30 till noon – is due to re-start on Friday 30 July.
- *Freedom*, a group art exhibition of work inspired by the famed local artist Harry Becker, is taking place in the church from 10-16 August. More information at www.ibbas.co.uk.
- Our yearly Blessing of the Animals service is due to take place on Sunday 22 August at 11am.

More details at www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk.



Araneus diadematus
Garden orb weaver spider
male

Arachnophobia is the most common irrational fear globally, with up to 6% of humans admitting to it. Statistically, it tends to affect women more than men – but then both Gerald Durrell and David Attenborough, those great naturalists, admitted they were prone to it. I had a manager years ago, who always put on a pair of thick gloves before tentatively helping me move objects from a cobweb-lined shed.

As you will have now guessed I'm referring to spiders. Such is their universal reputation for inspiring fear, you would think that every single spider in the world was dangerously venomous. Barely a year goes by without a tabloid paper reporting 'killer' spiders at large in the UK.

Well, the fact is that most spiders are indeed venomous. They are all predators, with one curious exception, and need to be able to subdue prey often much larger than them. Importantly, however, no UK spider is venomous enough to seriously hurt a human.

Spiders themselves are prey. I have watched spiders constructing webs between the bars of a window. They nearly always sit tucked up under the top bar waiting for a fly to arrive. They have learned that birds cannot reach them there. If they were in the middle, the sides or the bottom of the pane, they would be snatched and become food for a nestling.

The most fearsome spider we encounter is probably the giant house spider *Eratigena atrica*. The females construct flat non-sticky webs in little-used corners of a shed or house and rarely venture far. The ones we see stalking across the floor in autumn are males, looking for spider love. They rarely bite humans and are more like to hide or run away.



If you take time to look in the hedgerows or the corners of your garden, you may be lucky enough to see one of the more exotically-coloured spiders from the 650 or so species in Britain. Many are small and go unobserved. Some, like the jumping spiders, have large eyes and can see distant objects clearly.

Without spiders, we would be plagued by troublesome insects, including those that *do* sting and bite us and suck our blood. They have to endure life's vicissitudes too, so spare the spider from the rolled-up newspaper. You may even end up liking them.

Paul Lacey

NOT BLYTHBURGH DAY

Please put the 8th of August in your diary and hope for sunshine. The plan is to have a scaled down Blythburgh `Day on 8th August from 3-6 in The Priory Gardens. The event will be open to village residents only and will be a change to meet up and socialise and will take the form of a garden party with a bbq, tea, cakes and a bar. Once we are confident the event can go ahead leaflets will be posted through letterboxes with details and the voucher for the bbq.

Argiope bruennichi Wasp spider



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

DAISY BANK

To continue the Ray story with gin, beer and plaques involved, recently I asked Keith, a friend who lives in *Ocean View* on the main road to help me put a new plaque which I'd bought for Ray's graveside cross. Imagine my surprise when we found that some kind person had obviously found the plaque and screwed it back on. By the way, the cottage is called *Ocean View* because when it was first built there was a remote chance of seeing the sea. But with additional buildings in subsequent years, the 'view' vanished.

In recent months there have been a few personnel changes in Daisy Bank with Athel Cottage and Rosemary Cottage having new owners. Welcome to them, and the enigma that is Daisy Bank. The place that nobody seems to know about and where time seems to stand still. I introduced myself to one of the new owners as a bit of a reclusive or, I suppose I should have said, just a plain misery. I think Covid has made us become even more reclusive.

Eventually, we will just disappear, and people will say, "Whatever happened to the people who lived in Fern Cottage?" How exciting would that be. An exquisite mystery.

Some years ago in one of my "letters to friends", I told them about a couple called Mr and Mrs Didly, who helped us out in the garden and the house. Mrs



Didly did the cooking and cleaning and Mr did the garden and odd jobs. They lived somewhere on the marshes, and just turned up every day for work for which they were paid an embarrassing pittance. Eventually, after several letters following the Didly saga, they disappeared and were never seen again. Remarkably, some of my letter receivers actually

believed it all, which was very gratifying. The mother of all wind-ups!

The painting is one I did of Tuzzie Brown's bicycle. Many years ago, Tuzzie had a large vegetable plot on the main road. It was a wealth of vegetables, dahlias and sunflowers; I painted several versions of that garden over the years. Tuzzie would, from time to time, come down on his bike bringing vegetables to us which were greatly appreciated. He was one of the flat-capped, good old Suffolk boys who would often be seen cycling around the Lanes. They've all sadly gone now and are almost forgotten. Still missed though.

Paul Bennett

What's on			
Date	Event	Venue	Time
2nd July	Village Hall Opening reception – check website	Village Hall	6pm
17th July	Hort Soc Summer Show	Church	
30th July	Cafe and Mini Market	Church	10.30-12.00
8th August	Not Blythburgh Day	The Priory	3-6pm
10-15 August	Freedom – group art exhibition	Church	
22nd August	Animal Service	Church	11am
Regular Events			
Every Tuesday from 1/7/21	Line Dancing	Village Hall	7.30pm
We're hoping that our free, weekly, guided tours of the church by Colin Huggins will resume on Thursday 1 July, depending on current Covid guidelines. These take place at 11am every Thursday. If you'd like to join a tour, please phone Colin beforehand on 07508 888 460 in case there are restrictions.	Tours of the Village Church	Holy Trinity Church	11.00am
First Friday of the month from September	Film Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
1st Thurs of the month	Blyth Belles	Check with blythbelles@gmail.com	7.30pm
2nd Wed of the month, bimonthly	Parish Council Meetings	Village Hall	7.15pm

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 503 000

Beccles
Exchange Square
T: 01502 718 700

Gorleston
65a Bells Road
T: 01493 452 204

Great Yarmouth
141 King Street
T: 01493 849 200

Halesworth
52 Thoroughfare
T: 01198 872 513

enquire@nortonpeskett.co.uk www.nortonpeskett.co.uk

No hidden costs

Same day response



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.

📞 01728 666232

✉️ sarah@christies-care.com

www.christiescare.com

HOW TO SPOT A SCAM

Fraudsters use numerous ways to target us – emails, social media, phone calls, letters and doorstep selling. They all want one thing: to get our personal details, steal our personal information or get us to make a payment. Scammers don't always act immediately – they can be friendly and helpful at first. This is a trick – they are 'grooming' us into trusting them before asking for money.

Romance scams have massively increased during lockdown, as more people use dating apps to find friendship or a partner. All ages are targeted: hard-up students using dating apps have been persuaded by people expressing love and friendship to "help with an emergency" or to "lend" their bank cards in return for a payment. Criminal gangs use bankcards for money laundering – a form of identity theft. Meantime the card holder is left without love or money. They may also face a criminal charge.

According to Action Fraud, people often don't report scams because they're embarrassed ("How could I have fallen for *that*?"). But reporting a scam is critical, both to help stop other people being scammed and to find out ways of recovering your money. In 2019 the banks agreed to a voluntary code which said that if someone "has taken reasonable care and has any element of vulnerability" they are more likely to receive a refund.

A few tips:

Protect yourself from scams

- Never click on a link in an email or attachment that asks you to 'verify' your details, offers you a refund or says you have a technical problem – even if the website looks official.
- Never buy something from a company before checking they are legitimate.
- Never believe a letter that says you've won a competition or lottery – you haven't!
- Never give money to, or agree to buy vouchers for, someone who is offering to help you.
- Always pay for a purchase with a credit card if you have one – it can be easier to get your money back that way.

Report a scam

- Call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk.
- Tell Trading Standards – by phoning the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133 or the Leiston branch on 01728-832193.
- If you have made a payment in response to a scam, contact your bank immediately. If you're worried about a bank transfer made in the last 24 hours, call 999.