

# BLYTHBURGH

## FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH, BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No. 6

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

November/December 2012

## Going to the panto ... Oh yes we are

Everybody in the parish is invited to this year's pantomime at the Theatre Royal Norwich again following the success of last year's trip, thanks to the Blythburgh Latitude Trust.

This year's pantomime is *Aladdin*, and seats have been booked for Saturday 5 January at 2.30pm. The coach will pick everybody up at the bus stop on the northbound A12 at 11.30am, and return to Blythburgh around 6.30pm.

The trip is open to everybody who is resident in the parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton, but places are limited. Deadline for applications is Friday 30 November.

Please apply in writing to Jenny Allen, Wolsey House, Chapel Road, or by e-mail to [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com) with your name and address; the number of places requested; and a contact telephone number. Please also state if any children are aged under 3 and would be sharing a seat with an adult. Please assume that you have places if Jenny does not contact you.

### Welcome to the new White Hart

The new landlords at the White Hart, Greig Barnes and Adrian Carr, who also run the Black Tiles in Martlesham, are already making their mark on the pub at the heart of the village.

The obvious signs are the candles and blazing fire. Inside there is the familiar staff but what is new is Greig's friendly welcome.

Greig has been in pub management for more than 12 years. Adrian has been a chef for 20 years, including a spell with Gordon Ramsay.

Many changes are planned for The Hart but for what is happening now, please see Page Four.

### Enjoy an exotic night in the village hall

The next Film Night in Blythburgh Village Hall is at 7.30pm on Saturday 24 November, showing *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* starring Dames Judi Dench and Maggie Smith with Bill Nighy amongst others. *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, which received good reviews on its release, follows a group of British retirees who move to less expensive and seemingly exotic India.

Enticed by advertisements for the newly restored Marigold Hotel and bolstered with visions of a life of leisure, they arrive to find the place a shell of its former self. Though the new environment is less luxurious than imagined, they are forever transformed by their shared experiences, discovering that life and love can begin again when you let go of the past. Tickets are £5 each and can be purchased from the Village Shop. Blythburgh Film Nights are supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust.

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## Council seeks views on traffic schemes

The Parish Council's thoughts on traffic management developed further when councillors, seeking advice on what might be practicable, met Bob Clench of the County Council's Highways Unit.

Starting with the identification of problems and possible solutions, the question of cost was put to one side, although that will be decisive in the end. Bob Clench favoured a refuge on the A12 for pedestrians, and a traffic-calming chicane in Dunwich Road, south of the village.

As for a crossing outside the White Hart, there is a Catch 22 situation. Pedestrians need a crossing because they can't see the northbound traffic until the last minute. But a crossing is not possible because drivers travelling north would not see it until the last minute!

Some improvements would depend upon the acquisition of privately owned land: improvement of the Toby's Walks junction, for example, and safer access to the Village Hall and Recycling Site;

and taking a strip from the garden of The Bird House to extend the Angel Lane footpath, which would halve the length of the really dangerous stretch for pedestrians.

The one scheme that would make a lot of other things possible is the improvement of the B1387 to create a Blythburgh southern bypass. If you are opposed to street lighting, don't panic! It is not mandatory for any of the proposals under consideration.

Bob Clench will provide some ideas of cost for various schemes. Meanwhile, please think about your priorities and complete the questionnaire on Page 9. The results will be presented with the Parish Council's draft strategy at a public consultation meeting. Residents might also consider their reaction to raising money for traffic schemes by increasing the precept, that is, the council tax.

**Alan Mackley**  
Parish Councillor

Chair of the council's traffic working party

## Small increase in Parish Council precept

The Parish council agreed a 7.5% increase in its precept for 2013-14; for Band D households this raises the rate from £36.83 to £39.59. The total estimated spend in the parish for 2013-14 is £9,330, an increase of £860 (10%) on 2012/13. Any shortfall will be met from reserves.

The council's costs are:

Clerk's remuneration to remain at £8.50 per hour, £85 per month. No change.

Subscriptions to local organisations, £210. Up £12.

Insurance and audits, £2,100. Up £100

Maintenance, including contribution to necessary village hall improvements, £3750. Up £1250.

Councillors' Expenses £200 (£160 to date 2012-13). No change.

Training, £50 for the clerk and each councillor. No change.

Miscellaneous, £1,500. Down £500

## Four appointments to Walberswick PC

Suffolk Coastal District Council has appointed four people to serve alongside the sole Walberswick Parish Councillor David Webb, following the mass resignation of other councillors. Walberswick should have seven parish councillors and needs at least three to allow it to carry out its duties legally.

The four temporary appointments are District Councillors Michael Gower and Stephen Burroughes, who represent Walberswick and Wenhaston, and Peasenhall respectively, former District Councillor Peter Austin who lives in the

parish, and David Tytler, chair of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council. Suffolk Coastal has the power under the Local Government Act 1972 to make temporary appointments to a parish council until other councillors are elected to take office. The Secretary of State is informed of any order made.

**Blythburgh** with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council co-opted Debbie Lark as a councillor at its November meeting. She replaces Lucy Robinson, who resigned.



## Blythburgh Suffolk

THE INN ON THE RIVER BLYTH

The new landlords of The White Hart, Greig and Adrian, wish Blythburgh residents and visitors a warm welcome: relax and unwind by the open fire, savour our freshly prepared food and enjoy your favourite tippie.

### Christmas at The White Hart

Come and celebrate the festive season; book your Christmas party with us and PARTY HARTY through to New Year. Watch the White Hart A boards for up-to-date information.

### Holiday opening times

Christmas Eve: 11am to 12 midnight (food 12 noon to 8pm)

Christmas Day: bar only 11am to 2.30pm

Boxing Day: 11am to 11pm (food 12 noon to 8pm)

New Year's Eve: 11am to 3pm/6pm to 1am (food 12 noon to 2pm/6pm to 9pm)

New Year's Day: 12 noon to 10pm (food 12 noon to 8pm)

### Enjoy a real Sunday roast

Choose from, rump of beef, leg of lamb, loin of pork, or chicken, served with fresh vegetables, crispy roasties, large Yorkshire pudding and proper gravy.

### Take a piece of our Hart away with you

Take away meals available 6pm-9pm:

Fish and chips, beer battered sausage and chips, the McHart burger and chips, scampi and chips. All at £6.50 each.

### Opening hours

Monday to Friday 11am to 2.30pm and 5.30pm to 11pm

Saturday 11am to 11pm; Sunday 11am to 10pm

**01502 478217**

## BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

# Daniel of Beccles (late 1100s to early 1200s)

A few weeks ago I gave a talk in Beccles and was asked whether I knew anything about Daniel of that town and a possible connection with Blythburgh Priory. A long shot indeed but I did come up with something.

Not only had Daniel, clerk, rented property from the priory, he had actually requested to be buried there. Let's hope that he has not since been disturbed. But was he the same man? Well, the date is consistent and so is his status. From a delightful booklet published by my questioner Anne Frith and others, I learned much more.

Daniel was the author of *Urbanus Magnus*, The Book of the Civilized Man or The Book of Manners; the first such book to have been written in England and to have survived. It is a three thousand line Latin poem of advice to men and boys of the late twelfth century on how to live with others without giving offence.

His work is well-known in academic circles but until recently he was not recognised in Beccles. A reason is that a mis-transcription by John Bale in Tudor times led to the work being ascribed to a Daniel Church.

Daniel's text suggests that he was connected with the court of King Henry II. He is concerned with morals and manners. He provided advice to readers who wished to be venerated, to be noble among lords, to lead civilized lives and to manage their property well. He provides a revealing glimpse of life in the medieval hall.

Pigs and cats must be excluded but a charger and palfrey were allowed if you waited until you were outside before you remounted your horse: hounds, mastiff pups, hawks and other hunting birds were accepted.

As a guest, you should not put your elbows on the table, although you could on your own. Do not speak with your mouth full.

If you must belch, be mindful to look at the ceiling. In front of grandees do not pick your nose. Do not be a nose-blower or spitter at dinner.

There was more basic advice. Only the host could urinate in the hall. Others should go outside. If you wished to empty your bowels find a hidden place in a wood and face into the wind.

Daniel assumed that women were naturally immoral. Nevertheless, cuckolds should learn to stare up at the ceiling, and whatever your wife did, avoid harming your marriage. But if there was something you did not want people to know, don't tell your wife.

Finally, there are eleven lines of Latin verse that are well worth remembering after 800 years: *Si domini coniux in te sua lumina vertat.....Quam te commaculet domine furiosa voluptas.*

'If your lord's wife propositions you, you are on a hiding to nothing, pretend you are ill.' Was it the men in medieval England who had headaches?

That was Daniel of Beccles, and in death, I like to think, of Blythburgh.

**Alan Mackley**

### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

**Chair: David Tytler**  
01502 478521

**Vice Chair/Chair planning  
advisory group: Alan Mackley**

**Chair finance advisory group  
John Blakesley**

**Councillors**

**Alan De Thabrew**

**Roderick Orr-Ewing**

**Debbie Larke**

**Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687**

### BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

**Carpet Bowls**

**Beryl Stringer**

**Horticultural Society**

**Jenny Allen 01502 478314**

**Neighbourhood Watch**

**Rob Benson 01502 478047**

**Speed Watch**

**Binny Lewis 01502 478624**

**Village Hall**

**Olive Forsythe 01502 478521**

## BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

# When Sonia met Derek... et al

Born in the 50s, I ponder my early memories of Blythburgh. As a child, my family walked and biked on a Sunday. Joining the A12 from the Southwold direction, Blythburgh church dominated our view across the water.

Back then, no trees blocked the vista and the cathedral of the marshes was the perfect description.

Walking from Walberswick direction, the church tower, emerging above the tree line, would be our first visible sign of Blythburgh.

My grandparents owned a car and driving from the Ipswich direction, my brother and I would compete to be the first to spot Blythburgh church knowing then that we were almost home.

As a teenager, my memory is of the White Hart; wood smoke, Adnams old ale and a warm welcome.

Married in 1985, we came to live in the village a year later. Ron and Dorothy Midson ran the Village Store and Post Office on the corner of Chapel Road with London Road and we looked forward to Dorothy's pies at the weekend.

The night of 15 October 1987 was stormy but it wasn't until the next morning that we discovered one or two of our trees had blown down, winds were still high and getting worse. Through the morning we lost a couple more trees, the silver birch by the church steps came down, and the electricity and phone lines failed - no mobile phones then.

I remember checking on Dick Caddell (Cherry Tree) before walking to the telephone box

opposite John and Mary Andersons' (Bay Cottage) to see if I could make a call. The A12 was deserted and we stood in the road watching as, one after another, tiles lifted off Ferndale's roof and smashed below.

Blythburgh was fortunate; in places across the south of England, lives were lost and much damage done: according to the Met Office the last storm of similar magnitude in England had been in 1703.

At this time, Blythburgh had a thriving W.I. and, although never a member, I was always made

welcome. The guest speaker I remember most vividly spoke on identifying your seasonal colour palette. This caused much hilarity as colour swatches were passed round and our ideas on what suited us challenged.

When our daughter was small we spent many happy hours visiting Derek Kett's ducks and geese, Group Captain and Mrs.

Hubbard's waterfowl (The Priory) and the donkeys grazing the triangle of land opposite Miss Marchant's (White Cottage).

Our regular walks round the village often included a stroll in the garden of The Green.

Audrey Malan loved her garden and she welcomed those who found enjoyment in both the formal upper garden and, less formal, lower walk. We particularly enjoyed the lower walk in spring when it was a carpet of bluebells. Audrey Malan was also generous in opening her garden for village events.



**Sonia Boggis**  
**Illustration: Spike Gerrell.**

**Thanks to Canon Harry Edwards, Blythburgh Remembered has video footage from the 1990 Village Fete at The Green and plan to show it in the Village Hall. If you would like to attend a showing please call Sonia on 01502 478687.**

# BLYTHBURGH VILLAGE SHOP

*(next to The White Hart Inn)*



7am to 6pm Monday to Friday  
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### **Christmas Opening:**

Christmas Eve 7am to 7pm  
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Boxing Day 9am to 2pm

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  - Newspapers, sweets, tobacco, maps, lottery
  - Gifts, greetings cards, stamps, stationery
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- Orders taken for meat, bread, croissants & newspapers
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# Christmas at Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, invites villagers to join members of the congregation to sing carols around the village on Friday 21 December. The singers will meet at 5.45pm at Wolsey House, Chapel Road, sing for about an hour with refreshments to follow. Please let Jenny Allen on 01502 478314 know if you will be coming or if you would like a visit.

Christmas activities are:

Friday 21, 5.45pm: Carols around the village;  
 Saturday 22, 4.00pm: Service of Lessons and Carols by candlelight; Sunday 23, 11.00am: Eucharist; Monday 24, 4.00pm: Crib Service; Monday 24, 11.30pm, Midnight Eucharist; Tuesday 25, 11.00am: Family Service including Communion.

On Sunday 30 December there will be a Sole Bay Team service at St Margaret's Reydon at 11am, and no service in Holy Trinity. From Sunday 6 January, all Trinity's morning services will start at 9.30am.

Over the summer parishioners and visitors were asked for their views on whether the Laurence Edwards sculpture in Holy Trinity Church should become a permanent fixture. Of the 43 responses received, 30 were in favour, 10 were opposed and a further three asked if it could either be on temporary display or sited elsewhere in the church.

In a further development, an anonymous donor is buying the sculpture and has offered it on permanent loan without cost to the church.

## BLYTHBURGH TRAFFIC QUESTIONNAIRE

Please put your choices of action in order of preference. Each adult in the household can give his or her own selection one to seven in the columns provided.

ACTION	ADULT 1	ADULT 2	ADULT 3	ADULT 4
A12. Central refuge for pedestrians to cross to bus stops				
A12. Improve access to village hall/recycling sites				
A12. More prominent sign to mark village boundary				
Access only signs for The Street				
Extend footpath in Angel Lane towards A12				
Chicane south of village in Dunwich Road to slow/deter traffic				
Improve B1387 from Water Tower to Toby's Walks for through traffic				

I/We live on (tick one):

Church side A12		London Road		Chapel Road		The Street	
Angel Lane		Dunwich Road/Blind Lane		Highfield		Other	

Any other suggestions

**Please cut out and return completed questionnaire to the Village Shop by November 30**

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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  
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# Notes from Daisy Bank LIV

As the poet Philip Larkin wrote in a letter to the writer Kingsley Amis some years ago *And now there's Christmas, as if there wasn't enough to worry about*. A slightly jaundiced view of the festival but I have some small nuggets of sympathy.

Every Christmas for many years, I have produced my own card. Besides friends and family, I also send them to people who have bought pictures from me so that I can tell them the dates of the following year's exhibitions. However, there are only so many snow scenes, cats in party hats by fires and pretty pictures of rural Suffolk at Christmas that one can produce. Two years ago, to break with tradition, I even copied the picture of a famous Russian Icon, which was a bit drastic considering that most people these days have a secular bent and don't look at Christianity quite as I do.

So heaven knows what it's going to be this year. But then, like these articles, even when I seemed to have completely run out of ideas, something always seems to turn up.

Another cottage for sale in Daisy Bank I see. And this of course means the possibility of another *holiday cottage*. Be it for profit or as a second summer home, it yet again changes the village into something it was never meant to be. In the distant future, I predict that Blythburgh and the surrounding villages and towns will be exclusively holiday cottage land and nobody will ever live here permanently again.

When I first came to the village 25 years ago, ours was possibly the only holiday cottage in the village and now it seems every other one is. So you could say I started the rot and am therefore guilty as charged, milord. Even when I bought my first house many years ago in the next village, it was just an investment in the future, property in the south being too rich for my limited income at the time. But by definition, I suppose it was still a holiday cottage. And, although in the end I did live in it permanently and my father before me, it was still not a permanent home.

About ten years ago, the holiday cottage business changed and with clients becoming a bit fussier and demanding, I decided that enough was enough and kicked it into touch. When some of the punters started to complain about the odd cobweb and began to expect starter packs, I knew that my time as a landlord was coming to an end.

I began to hear stories of so called welcome packs, which included things such as a bottle of ghastly Chardonnay, a copy of the *Daily Telegraph* and enough viands to keep them going for a couple of days and God knows what else. Even though we had never been greedy and our rates were way below our competitors and we still took dogs, didn't worry about breakages and were on hand at all times for complaints, some of them still moaned.

I remember one couple arrived from Wales in a very dilapidated car late at night, stayed for an hour and demanded their week's money back. *'It wasn't what we thought it was going to be like'*. I gave it to them of course and even sent their dog's bowl back, which they had left in the kitchen where he had obviously had a quick meal. Too late to go back to Wales, they probably put up at the Southwold Swan for a night's luxury on me. Another time, a single lady arrived, stayed for the obligatory hour and then appeared at our door in tears – *'It's too dark and too scary to stay there by myself for a week'*.

Another refund and consequent loss of income. But to be fair there were plenty of visitors over the years that loved it and even came back every year after their first visit. We even made lifelong friends out of a few of them and all in all it was a reasonable way to make a modest living. Sometimes we even liked it. And, I suppose these cottages do provide a lot of enjoyment for families, and if the owners make some money out of it, then good luck to them. It's only me being controversial again. See, I told you in the end I always come up with something. Now for the Christmas card.

**Paul Bennett**

**The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council is in the Village Hall on January 14 at 7.30pm. Open Forum at 7.15. All are welcome.**