

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,
BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No 63

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

June/July 2022

BLYTHBURGH'S BIG JUBILEE JAMBOREE



It all started at the beginning of the year when the Parish Council asked Ro Williams, Blythburgh's resident party animal, if she'd be willing to put together a group of people to come up with some ideas to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in June. And so, the Jubilee Planning Team was formed. The started out by asking you how you'd like to celebrate. This generated a huge number of ideas, many of which saw the light of day, as we've all witnessed: Bell ringing, treasure trail, scarecrow competition, photographic exhibition, hog roast, picnic afternoon, and more.

Issue 63

2

But it's all very well drawing up a list of ideas, the next task is making those things a reality. All of which demands logistics, legwork, volunteers and enthusiasm. And a wider team of volunteers more than pulled their weight. But even then, it will only work if people are willing to turn out. And boy, did they do that!



In round numbers, roughly 60 people came to the churchyard to witness the Halesworth ringers send out a jubilee peal to start the celebrations. Over 70 people attended the opening of the splendid photographic exhibition, charting 70 years of Blythburgh life. More than 150 gathered at the White Hart to feast on a Blythburgh hog, and to sing, dance, play games and admire the fireworks. And a further 80 plus braved a damp Sunday to enjoy a picnic and prizegiving at Mill Farm. We can safely assume an aggregate attendance of something like 400. Not bad for a small parish!

And then of course, 24 households made extraordinary scarecrows, featuring figures from the last 70 years, and children were given Blythburgh jubilee celebration mugs designed by local artist Jeff Fisher, not to mention the mass production of the hand-made bunting which swathed the village. All hard work, but enormous fun.

It's fair to say that, altogether, the Jubilee weekend was one of the parish's most successful community events we've seen for a long time, attracting a wider and more diverse representation of our locality, across generations. Marked by a strong sense of friendly neighbourliness.

To thank all the people who contributed to making this event so special and so Blythburgh would take up the rest of this publication, but you know who you are and here's an enormous thank you to each and every one of you.



SCARECROW COMPETITION WINNERS:



- 1st** – Brousson family (Haw Wood Farm) – Queen on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- 2nd**– Greenwood family (Lion House) – Harry Potter
- Joint 3rd**– Ashford family (8 Dunwich Road) – astronaut on the moon and O’Hagan family (9 Dunwich Road) – astronaut on the moon

More scarecrows on page 7

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





BLYTHBURGH DAY: 31 JULY 2022

We’re delighted to announce that Blythburgh Day will be taking place on Sunday 31 July in the gardens of *The Priory*. Entrance to the gardens will be via the garden gates to the left of the Village Hall. Signs will point you in the right direction. In the past Blythburgh Day has been open to the wider public, but this year the event is intended for residents of the Parish and their guests.

11am: The day starts with an open air with a service in the 12th-century Priory ruins.

12pm: the festivities begin

During the day the following will be available:

- Bar
- Tea and Coffee
- Cakes
- BBQ – burgers or sausages (for a free meal, please bring the voucher printed on the last page of this Focus)
- Raffle
- Fun Dog Show (planned for 2.00pm to be confirmed)
- Boat Rides (this is yet to be confirmed, please sign up to the Blythburgh Matters email service* to get updates)
- Music
- Children’s Games
- Horticultural Society Plant Stall
- Guided Tour of ruins
- Stall by Blythburgh Railway Shed - including tours of the Shed

5pm: The day ends

**email blythburghmatters@gmail.com to ask to receive regular updates about village events and news*



- 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

GET GROWING . . .

Blythburgh’s fiercely competitive, but friendly summer fruit, veg and produce show is drawing near. It will be held in Blythburgh Church on **Saturday 6 August**, but it’s time to start planning your entry. Members of the Horticultural Society will already have received programmes and entry forms, but this event is open to everyone. So, if you want to join in, you can get details and application material from me (see details below). The summer show is one of the key events in the parish calendar.

We had our first outing of the year in March – a visit to the RHS at Hyde Hall, where there was lots to see. We thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic spring displays and managed to fit in breaks for coffee and scones, and a leisurely lunch. The outing was made complete with a visit to the marvellous shop – buying some unusual and high quality plants.

Our next trip was to be a visit to the East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden in May, but we decided to postpone it due to bad weather on the day. We’ll rearrange it for a date in July.

The next event is the summer garden party on **18 June**, and further information about that will be circulated to members very soon.

If you’d like to join the Horticultural Society, please get in touch with me, membership is a bargain at £5 a year!

Happy gardening!

Val Carse

valc@btinternet.com

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 553 000
 Beccles, Exchange Square T: 01502 718 700
 Gorleston, 66a Belts Road T: 01493 652 204
 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

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, Sarah Wickham, Michael Nicholls, Val Carse, Malcolm Doney and Harry Waller.

Your Parish Councillors

Chair: Roderick Orr-Ewing

Planning Advisory Committee: Val Carse, Paul Lacey

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

Councillors: Matthew Saunders, Ashleigh Sendin

Clerk: Al Besly

Blythburgh Associations

Blythburgh Latitude Trust
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Village Hall Management Committee
bookings@blythburghvillagehall.org.uk

Horticultural Society
Val Carse 07973 389898

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah.Wickham@blythbelles@gmail.com

SCARECROWS TAKE OVER BLYTHBURGH



WILDWATCH

We're fortunate in Blythburgh to live in a designated Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). On a sunny day, the views over the Blyth Estuary towards Southwold, and those to the west, are delightful and pleasing to our eyes. We humans take this appreciation of things very much for granted. But how do other creatures perceive things? In many ways, they see a different world from us.

Dogs don't have the ability to see in colour that we primates do. Their sight uses colour in different ways, principally to aid hunting. They can perceive moving objects at great distances and focus on them, but their range of colour and grey tone vision isn't exceptional.

Cats have eyes that have adapted to their nocturnal hunting skills. They also have a layer on their retina that reflects light back to its source and improves the definition of the object by over 40%. This reflective layer – also possessed by other nocturnal hunters – is what makes their eyes shine in the dark.

Falco tinnunculu kestrel male



Birds, of course, need to have excellent vision just to avoid accidents when in flight. Many species can see parts of the spectrum that mammals can't. This ability, called Tetrachromacy (meaning 'four colour'), gives them access to the ultraviolet. Birds use this ability for several things, including courtship, and one of our local species uses it when hunting for prey.

Kestrels are predominantly hunters of small mammals. Voles and other rodents leave smelly trails of urine along their regularly-used paths. Anyone who has kept a dog that isn't house-trained will know that an ultraviolet torch will show where their pooch has transgressed – and kestrels look for these trails from above to spot places where their prey may be moving.

Invertebrates have visual skills that make us mere mammals seem primitive. As well as the ultraviolet, many can perceive polarised light. Butterflies, like the brimstone, and many species of fly, can detect swift movement, something that helps all insects avoid predation.

Local resident, Professor Richard Fortey, is a world authority on trilobites. Trilobites were some of the earliest animals on Earth, and their fossils show that their eyes not only were multi-celled, but that the silica lenses were a doublet. In cross-section, the lens resembles a modern aspheric one, used to correct for aspherical aberration.

Humans discovered how to make these lenses in the 17th century. Trilobites were using them over 400 million years ago.

Paul Lacey

BLYTHBURGH CHURCH NEWS

Take a break

Please join us for coffee and cake at Blythburgh's gathering place – the monthly **café and mini-market: 10.30-12pm on Friday 24 June and 29 July.**

Sky in July

On **Saturday 2 July** the Norwich based choir **Voice Project** will finally get to perform *Arc of the Sky*, a composition inspired by the idea of a bird's-eye view of Holy Trinity Church, and the Blyth estuary landscape it sits in. The choir were unable to perform the piece earlier, because of Covid restrictions, but made a remarkable film with the singers recording and filming themselves. You can find this on voiceproject.co.uk. But now, with the support of Waveney & Blyth Arts they will get to perform the piece in its designated home. There will be two performances, **at 6pm and 8pm.** Tickets available at the website above.

Inspired by Becker

Every year, a group of local artists hold an exhibition of their work in Blythburgh Church. It is organised by the Inspired by Becker Art Society (IBBAS) in appreciation of the internationally recognised artist Harry Becker whose grave is in the churchyard

This year's show is IBBAS's tenth anniversary exhibition and takes place on **Saturday and Sunday 30 and 31 July, 10am-5pm.** There will be a preview on **Friday 29 July 6-8pm.**

Harry Becker was born in Colchester in 1865, and studied in Antwerp and Paris before returning to paint in London and Colchester. He moved to Suffolk in 1913, living in Wenhaston and nearby villages, to pursue his true love, painting and drawing local life – often going into the fields with the labourers at dawn. He died in 1928.

IBBAS exists to raise public awareness of Harry Becker. Its annual show displays the work of contemporary artists inspired by some aspect of Becker's work. There will be artist demonstrations taking place over the weekend. More details: www.ibbas.co.uk.

Animals ahead

Blythburgh Church's ever popular **Blessing of the Animals Service** is due to take place at **11am on Sunday August 21.**

BLYTHBURGH FIELD NOTES

On the 12 March, a fine male Hen Harrier was seen at New Delight, these have been an extremely rare visitors this winter, while the next day a male Black Redstart was seen. On the 23rd a fine bright yellow male Brimstone butterfly was seen in the village, one of several around the parish. This is an encouraging sign as this species survives and overwinters better after hard weather.

On the 25th a fine male Peregrine was found feeding on a kill on the edge of the estuary, while the first Wheatear was also seen. The 29th saw the reappearance of the White-tailed Eagle on the Blyth, which went to roost in Henham Park.

The extremely mild March weather brought the Gorse into flower exceptionally early, creating a blaze of colour on some of the dry heaths. We also have the smaller flowered Western Gorse in the parish, which blooms much later in the year.

By April 20, several summer migrants had returned, including Stone Curlew, Swallow and Lesser Whitethroat, while one or two Ring Ouzel were seen between the 24th and 28th.

On 25 April White Stork flew over the village, but no recent births seem to have been recorded. This bird is believed to be from the reintroduction programme at Knepp in West Sussex. Two days later, three Spoonbill were seen circling the Blyth, but unfortunately did not land, although a Whimbrel and two Spotted Redshank – one of which was in its fine black summer plumage – were more obliging.

On 28 April, the second winter Glaucous Gull reappeared on the estuary, and a Cetti's Warbler has been regularly heard singing behind the White Hart and by the Village Hall; this is unusual in the village, especially in such a dry habitat.

May saw the arrival of many more summer migrants, including a Cuckoo which has been regularly heard calling around the village. Good numbers of two attractive butterflies have been seen nearby, the dainty Holly Blue and Orange-tip – the females of the latter are plain white but far more delicate looking than the true Whites. Their food plant is Hedge Garlic, also known as Jack-by-the Hedge, the leaves of which are extremely tasty in salads.

I. Knownowt



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

SURPRISES, SAND AND SWEETS

Bill Remembers 1953



William 'Bill' Fletcher, now in his late 80s, is still tall and upright with twinkly eyes and a ready smile. He enjoys gardening and watching football, but in his younger days he was a Grenadier Guard. They are one of the oldest and most iconic regiments in the British Army, easily recognised by their scarlet tunics and bearskins. Bill, once my next-door-neighbour, recalls life as a soldier being full of surprises: 1953 was no exception.

Remember the floods? Out of the blue, a line of red buses arrived at the barracks: the Regiment were off to Canvey Island to fill sandbags. From Canvey Island, they returned to Chelsea barracks to guard Buckingham Palace and St James Palace and for marching practise. Bill remembers training for guard duty at the Palaces: "I marched out from my post in one direction, and my fellow Grenadier marched in the other direction. We both turned at the same time and marched back. The skill was stopping at exactly the right place by shortening and lengthening our stride. Getting it right took a lot of concentration and practise."

Regular marching practise was part of daily life as they prepared for the Coronation on 2 June 1953. The night before the Coronation, Bill's regiment moved from Chelsea Barracks to Earls Court. Once there they were issued with a sack and told to fill it from a heap of straw, which was to be their bed for the night. On the morning of the Coronation, Bill was issued with three barley sugars: rations for the day ahead! He also remembers that it absolutely poured with rain.

There was great excitement and some three million people turned out to see the parade: many camped out overnight to secure their spot whilst others arrived on the day to swell the numbers lining the procession route. The Coronation parade was some two miles long and took around 45 minutes to pass any given point. Bill remembers there was a lot of waiting around: "This was the army – you waited around a lot". The parade snaked around London. As parades do, it stopped and started. It closed up and then got going again at the correct distance.

After the Parade, Bill recalls two things very clearly: he was hungry and all the uniforms and bearskins were thrown away as they were completely ruined in all the rain. The surprises continued: participation in the trooping of the colour; being there when the Queen presented the Regiment with new colours at Buckingham Palace; but, 70 years on, it is the Coronation Day that burns brightest in Bill's memory.

Sonia Boggis



Wickham Care Company t/a Walfinch Suffolk Coastal

☎ 01728 666232
✉ sarah@walfinch.com
🌐 www.walfinch.com

Walfinch
INDEPENDENT HOME LIVING

DAISY BANK CV

It's the middle of April and the solitary bees are waking up and wanting out. In the autumn they somehow find their way into our sitting room and bury themselves in cracks and holes in the various exposed beams. If they manage to survive the cobwebs and spiders during the winter then by this time of the year they're good to go. They make a bee line (sorry!) for the French windows and we give them their freedom. Long may the whole process continue.

Meanwhile, the squirrels are nesting in the roof and no doubt giving the wiring a good chew, and it will probably mean another trip up into the attic when the wires various are breached. In a previous life, I had dozens of electrical shocks and burns, so I'm probably immune – but maybe not so with Mr Squirrel. Anyway, we tend to shy away from looking up in the attic and the various holes in the felting. The thought of re-roofing is too dreadful to contemplate.

Loads of planting in the front garden border. I recommend a lady in Uggeshall who 'does' by-the-roadside plants. Over the years we've bought many from her, and of course a lot cheaper than the garden centre. Having said that, Holton Garden Centre is a life-saver. On that same road in Halesworth, we used to buy wonderful lettuces from a Mr Pretty – a good old Suffolk boy, his vegetable garden was a work of art. Sadly, he's no longer with us. I'm not overly fond of lettuces, but his were magical.

The cushions and the garden seats are ready to go, as is the parasol. B hates it. She says it looks like a big black bird hovering over the garden. Mind you, she also thinks that the mast of the redundant boat at the back of the garden looks like a rifle. I had to move it so it can't be seen from the house. We aim to please!

Footnote: Our Siamese Milo came in from the garden a couple of days ago holding his paw which had swollen up. Even his leg was puffed up. A quick visit to the vets and a couple of injections, and he was right as rain the following day. The vet said it was a bee sting. What about us being kind to bees? She also said that he needed a couple of teeth out, so the visit was fortuitous as it turned out. So maybe we should be grateful to the bee!

Paul Bennett

BLYTHBURGH STATION OPEN DAY

The Halesworth to Southwold Narrow Gauge Railway Society are hosting an open day at the site of the old station on **Tuesday 21 June, from 10.30-4.30**. There's free entry, free tea and coffee. The day features live steam models, films in the Village Hall, and a display of found artefacts. See the progress that has been made in the unearthing and partial restoration of this unique and historic 1879 narrow gauge station.

*More details: www.halesworthtosouthwoldrailway.co.uk
halesworthtosouthwoldrailway@gmail.com*

WE APOLOGISE

The editors of *Blythburgh Focus* are sorry, because there have been some distribution problems of late. Our former (extremely reliable) distributor stood down before Christmas, and we have been struggling to make sure that everyone who should get copies actually receives them, using a handful of volunteer helpers. We realise that there have been a small number of gaps, and that, crucially, some households didn't receive the April/May edition which contained application forms for Latitude, and as a result were unable to be included in the ballot tickets. At the time of writing the Blythburgh Latitude Trust are trying to remedy this. So, we wholeheartedly apologise. However, please do remember, that the writing, editing, designing and distribution of *Blythburgh Focus* is done on an entirely voluntary non-profit basis. We are doing our best. If you know someone who should be receiving *Focus*, but isn't, please do let us know. And if you could help with the distribution (six times a year), that would be much appreciated.

Malcolm Doney and Chiara Saunders
malcolmdoney@me.com chiarasaunders@mac.com

 **BBQ VOUCHER – BLYTHBURGH DAY 2022** 

Please present this voucher to the BBQ stand at Blythburgh Day to claim your free burger or hot dog. The voucher entitles each member of a Blythburgh household to one free burger or hot dog.

Property name:.....

Number of residents:.....