

# BLYTHBURGH

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Issue No. 7

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

January/February 2013

## Village gives clear message on traffic

The number of responses to the traffic questionnaire in November's Focus could have been higher but the message was clear.

The proposals most favoured were a chicane in Dunwich Road to deter through traffic, with the improvement of the B1387 to Toby's Walks, and its junctions, to provide a safe alternative route. The extension of the footpath in Angel Lane was also well supported.

Detailed traffic flows measured on a Friday in May 2011 have been obtained for Dunwich Road /Angel Lane. A southbound peak at about 7.15-7.30 am and returning traffic at 3.15-3.30 pm, attributable to Sizewell, are clear.

Walberswick traffic accounts for between a quarter and one third of all vehicles on these roads. During a secondary peak from about 8.45 to 10.15 am, northbound traffic from Walberswick approaches half the total. If our neighbours observed the 'Blythburgh Village Only' signs, there would be an appreciable reduction in through traffic.

The construction of Sizewell C may be a distant prospect, with a seven to nine-year construction

period starting in 2016 a possibility. However, the traffic implications demand attention now.

On-site accommodation for 2,000 to 3,000 workers (half the peak total) and park and ride facilities (all south of Blythburgh on the A12) will reduce the traffic load on local minor routes.

Traffic on the A12 will increase, although 85 per cent of HGV movements are expected to be from the south. The B1122 from Yoxford will be the principal access to the site.

On-site parking for 1,000 vehicles will be provided for those not using park and ride. How many of these may choose to use the B1125 through Blythburgh is not known.

That potential traffic flow, and the use of village roads for long-term parking in connection with car-sharing schemes, are causes for concern.

The Parish Council will address these issues in its response to the Sizewell C stage one consultation process. Tom McGarry, Communications Manager, Sizewell C, will be invited to Blythburgh to meet villagers and answer their questions.



**Inside: Information boards rejected, Going up in smoke, Blythburgh Character, Who's Who in Blythburgh, Sonia Boggis, Daisy Bank.**

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# Council rejects information boards

Blythburgh Parish Council has rejected original designs for the new signs planned for the village, in the car parks of the White Hart and the Church. The project, jointly funded by the parish council, the Area of Natural Beauty and Natural England began three years ago.

There has been no consultation since and the council has not seen any draft designs until now. The boards were intended to attract visitors and to guide them to points of interest within the village, both historical and recreational.

The primary purpose of the boards is to promote Blythburgh, within an Area of Natural

Beauty (ANOB), not the AONB surrounding Blythburgh. The current designs make little reference to the village and contain irrelevant illustrations such as the House in the Sky in Thorpeness. There are also textual flaws. The designs are on the village web site.

At its meeting on Monday, the council decided that talks should be sought with the AONB so that the boards can more accurately reflect the village and meet the original intentions. No payment will be made until the boards are redesigned and approved and recognition is given to the joint funding.

## Going up in holy smoke...

Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, is not known for its bells and smells and would certainly not think of itself as High Church but Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was a night to remember.

The church folk thought, however, that it would be good to have just a touch of incense. It was not long after the service started, however, that fumes began to billow across the church leading to much coughing and the covering of faces.

Quick thinking church warden Jenny Allen, used to smoke and fire as a senior guider in East Anglia, took the urn outside. As she did so, a bleeping was to be heard. A smoke alarm? No, it was the midnight alarm on the clock in the vestry, which nobody knew was switched on.

Equally quick thinking, associate priest, Malcolm Doney said the sound indicated the start of Christmas.

Fortunately, the organist resisted the temptation to play *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* as the congregation left the church.

*PS Holy Trinity carol singing and Christmas services raised £470 for Médecin sans Frontières and the Loft youth project in Southwold. Many thanks to everyone who coughed up.*

## The mystery of the black hat

The question is to whom does this mystery head covering belong? It first appeared at Lucy Robinson's pre New Year bash. Bearing close resemblance to a John Lennon cap – though one of his was navy and the other black leather – it has a beautiful bright red silk-like lining and a black trim on the peak.

When all her guests had left, Lucy found the hat lonely and abandoned. For two days she hoped and hoped its owner would appear to rescue the poor thing but nobody turned up at her door.

**CHANNEL 4** will screen a *Time Team* programme about Henham Hall on Sunday 20 January at 5.25 pm. They will be looking for the Elizabethan mansion destroyed by fire in 1773.

"I know," she thought. "I'll take it to the Tylters' on New Year's Eve. Who ever it belongs to is bound to be at their house." But no, the poor thing now languishes at Abbey Cottage..

In this freezing weather, such a covering would be very welcome especially for someone with just a light covering of locks. And such a handsome chapeau should not be so forsaken.

Just knock on the door of Abbey Cottage and the cap will be happily returned. The Cinderella slipper test will apply.



## Blythburgh Suffolk

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## Happy New Year from us all at The White Hart

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(This offer is valid until 28/03/2013 but excluding 14/02/2013.  
No booking required. The offer may be withdrawn without prior notice.)

## Valentine's Day, February 14

Show your Valentine you are all Hart by booking your Valentine meal with us. Pop in or call the pub for menu details.

## 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.

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[www.Blythburghwhitehart.co.uk](http://www.Blythburghwhitehart.co.uk)

**BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS****Edward Murray de Mérindol Malan,  
MBE (1911-1980)**

Edward Malan's father, Walter de Mérindol Malan, was a member of the Indian Civil Service and one-time Registrar of the Chief Court of Punjab. He carried a Huguenot name. Through his mother, a Murray who died in 1913, Edward could claim a documented descent from the first Duke of Atholl and beyond that to William the Conqueror.

Edward was educated at Winchester and Oxford, where he won the Chancellor's Prize for Latin prose composition in 1933. It was published by Blackwells: just four pages long. A very slim volume indeed.

He became an assistant classics master at Harrow school in 1935. It was a difficult period for Harrow. A brutally frank history of the school refers to the perception of the institution in 1942 as 'a decayed snakepit'.

At a time when the standards of teaching varied from 'inspirational to unspeakable' Edward Malan stood out: 'there were sensitive and cultured housemasters, such as the otherwise austere and meticulous Wykehamist Edward Malan at the Knoll.'

There was a break for war service in London with the Political Intelligence Office of the Foreign Office, and a spell in post-war Italy as a temporary major in the Royal Artillery for which he was awarded the MBE.

Back at Harrow, he became a housemaster in 1948. He had married the intrepid traveller Audrey Harris in 1940 and under their care at The Knoll they had Prince, later King Hussein of Jordan, establishing a relationship that lasted until the Malans' deaths.

Retiring in 1963, they came to Blythburgh to enjoy nearly two decades together at The Green in Priory Road. Edward Malan died in 1980 and there was a memorial service in Blythburgh church in October of that year.

There is a physical reminder of Edward Malan in the Lombardic lettering on the outside of the east wall of Blythburgh church, an inscription restored at his widow Audrey's expense. It is interpreted as 'To the honour of Blessed Jesus, the Holy Trinity, Mary and St Anne, this chancel has been rebuilt.'

**Alan Mackley**

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## BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

# From Britten to Mayo, via Charles

For a couple of days early in December, Holy Trinity was transformed into a recording studio and film set. The weather was not kind to the production team, contributing a mix of thin sunlight, rain, sleet, snow and freezing cold temperatures.

One could never say that the inside of Holy Trinity is ever particularly warm but for these two days, whilst fighting the cold that seeped into their core, this team worked their magic. Cellist Jamie Walton has recorded the complete works for cello by Benjamin Britten. Jamie Walton, with film director Paul Joyce, was at Blythburgh Church to make a film about Britten's Solo Cello Suites to accompany these recordings which will be released as a box set in August 2013.

Starting early and working late into the evening, the team strived to create different moods for each of the three cello suites.

Speaking only as the lady who delivered the occasional pot of coffee, I was continually amazed: a camera mounted on a boom which was capable of spiralling down from the roof angels to the circle of light marking centre stage, the atmosphere created by strategically placed candles, the shaft of sunlight through a window and certainly and not least, the impact of the music.

Talking of the music, because of the cold Jamie Walton needed somewhere to keep warm and practice. Just imagine washing up to the sound of a 300 year old cello being played by a maestro.

This set me thinking about other events I remember taking place in and around Holy Trinity. The famous names: Prince Charles arriving by helicopter to support Music in Country Churches. The newly married Alex Kingston and Ralph Fiennes being driven off in a Cadillac (much admired) to the strains of The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.

Simon Mayo telling Malcolm Doney about his new novel and how the names for his hero –Itch - and villain - Mr. Nathaniel Flowerdew (intruder) – came from the Role of Perpetual Curates in the church.

The showcase for local talent: who could forget the spectacular Floral Carpet or the first Rose Festival? Or all those who put in so much time and effort to make these successful?

Who didn't look forward to the Blythburgh Group exhibitions featuring works by Dorothy Midson, Paul Bennett, Ray St Clair Brown and Nick Catlin or The Passion Play supported by a multitude of willing (!) volunteers.

Living where we do, the church is ever present: an early memory of the Animal Service is our daughter (quite small) announcing the arrival of a bull, after a quick double take to ascertain she was correct, we followed her into church with our goldfish.

Harry Edwards officiated that day and on a number of other memorable occasions; his sermon on the nature and meaning of trust was

unforgettable and his choice of Christmas attire eagerly awaited.

In all these situations the building is the backdrop. It's been where it is a very long time and many of us have memories associated with it. Some of these will be very personal but if you have stories or memories you would be prepared to share, I would love to hear from you (contact me on 478687).

**SONIA BOGGIS**

*Jamie Walton's box set of Britten's Solo Cello Suites and DVD is scheduled for release in August 2013. Blythburgh M@tters, in conjunction with Holy Trinity, hope to screen the DVD in Blythburgh Church at a later date.*



# BLYTHBURGH

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# New phase for Blythburgh flood relief

Plans for a major A12 flood relief scheme at Blythburgh are now one step closer to becoming a reality. Suffolk County Council is working with local partners on the option to install a sluice to prevent water flooding the road during a tidal surge.

This would tackle the problem of tidal flooding at Blythburgh, avoiding the scenes of 2007 when this key route from Ipswich to Lowestoft was closed, causing major disruption to traffic, residents and businesses.

The proposal is backed by the Blyth Estuary Group and the local community, and is being carried out by Suffolk County Council, with advice from Natural England and the Environment Agency. It offers an alternative to raising the road level, while protecting the estuary flood defences and the recently completed work on Southwold Harbour.

In the New Year, residents will have the opportunity to see and comment on proposed

designs for the sluice at a series of open events. In the meantime, further assessments will be carried out to make sure the scheme does not create adverse effects on the natural habitat and increased flood risk for neighbouring properties.

Before planning permission is sought, the county council will work with partner agencies to conduct environmental impact surveys and flood risk assessments. Local people will also be consulted on the plans to inform the final proposal. If permission is granted, and plans are approved, construction work could begin at the end of the summer 2013.

The nearby estuary is a complex habitat, which is home to many important bird and animal species. If planning is approved to develop the sluice and associated flood defences at Blythburgh, any construction work would take place between September to December to minimise disruption to over-wintering birds and summer traffic using the A12.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Could you be a volunteer?

Sue Ryder is looking for reliable volunteers to support people living with dementia and their families as part of a new dementia partnership of three nationally recognised charities – Sue Ryder, The Chantry, and Age UK Suffolk and Suffolk Family Carers.

The launch of Suffolk Dementia Helpline available 9am – 5pm, provides information and a confidential ‘listening ear’ to people living with dementia and their families. Volunteers are needed to staff the help line and to visit people who have been diagnosed with dementia in their own homes. If you can spare some time weekly or fortnightly to make a difference to your local community, please contact: Momtaz Ali - Email. [momtaz.ali@sueryder.org](mailto:momtaz.ali@sueryder.org) Tel. 01473 295200

**BLYTHBURGH M@tters** is holding a Village Quiz and supper in the Village Hall on Saturday 19 January at 7.30. The price of £25 for teams of four includes a sausage and chip supper which will be supplied by the White Hart during the interval. A vegetarian option is available. Please bring your own drinks. Just turn up on the evening – and if you do not have a team, don't worry, the organisers will make up a team for you.

**DURING NOVEMBER** Blythburgh Speed Watch volunteers monitored traffic for a total of 26 hours. Thirty-nine vehicles were reported for exceeding the 30mph limit. The highest recorded speeds were 52 mph on the A12 and 42 mph on Dunwich Road.

**FRAMLINGHAM** based internet radio station Radio Castle has broadcast an hour-long conversation between Alan Mackley and neighbour John Allen about John's involvement in the 1940s with seaplanes at Felixstowe. You can hear the programme anytime by using the 'Listen Again' facility on the website [www.radiocastle.com](http://www.radiocastle.com). There are some other local-history programmes there, produced and presented by Alan Mackley, which may interest you.

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# Notes from Daisy Bank LV

Am I a happy man? Yes. Do I laugh a lot? Yes. Some years ago we had some friends staying and I was videoed walking around the garden and sitting talking. The whole thing was dominated not only by my excessive gob but also by my laughter.

I remember in a previous life, in an office situation, people who didn't know me would avoid me. Most queries would be directed to my colleagues. It was only when I asked them why that they told me: "You look aggressive and it puts the punters off. They'd rather talk to us."

Unfortunately, I do have that rather grim and unfriendly stare when I walk along the street.: that sort of 'don't mess with me' look. Also in groups of people I tend to sit on the side line and observe rather than get involved. Again in a previous life, my job was, in situations like that, purposely to make conversation with people and sort of entertain. Ugh! So if you see me walking about Blythburgh with a scowl on my face you will now know why.

**And Daisy Bank?** Daisy Bank has gone into winter retreat. Derek still walks Dylan along the lane and Lucy had a party after Christmas to cheer us all up. But the highlight of Christmas for us is the carol service up at the church. An all-candle affair, the choir just seems to get better and better.

This year they even had a piece by Peter Warlock or using his other name Philip Hestletine, which, for me, sort of made the whole thing complete; I'm particularly interested in the inter-war composers such as Lambert, Moeran and of course Warlock.

B and I are now formally putting in a request for *The Apple Bough* for next year's concert. So

hopefully somebody out there involved will hear us. B and our friend Alison were in New Zealand several years ago and suddenly they both heard the *Apple Bough* being sung by Kings College Choir.

It was just before Christmas and B started to cry obviously feeling a bit homesick and just maybe missing me. When she turned to see if Alison had noticed, she too was crying. Sadly, Alison died just before Christmas which makes it all the more poignant.

I know I bang on about the church but it really is a privilege to live so close to it and at a time like Christmas it comes into its own.

Looking after Blythburgh church in a small way is a joy and thoughts of ever leaving Blythburgh are cancelled every time I look up at it from our garden.

**A couple of footnotes:** In a previous DB, I mentioned my experiences with the faith healer Ted Fricker. Amazingly, a lady living in *Blyth View* phoned David Tytler and told him that her daughter-in-law was Ted's grand daughter and that Ted's wife was about to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. (They sent her a copy of *Focus*.) Of course I phoned the lady in Blythburgh and we compared notes. Small world!

And lastly, I served as a parish councillor for nearly ten years and the reason I joined was because of Jane Humphries who persuaded me to get involved. At that time Jane was the council clerk under the chairmanship of Farmer Bob Stringer. Sadly, Jane died last year; its people like her that make a village tick.

**Paul Bennett**

**The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council is in the Village Hall on March 11 at 7.30pm. Open Forum at 7.15. Everybody is welcome.**