

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

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Issue No.24

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

November/December 2015

Hi ho, hi ho, its off to play we go

Thanks to the Blythburgh Latitude Trust tickets have been booked for a performance of Snow White, this year's pantomime at the Theatre Royal Norwich, on Saturday 3 January at 2.30pm.

As usual the coach will pick everyone up at the bus stop on the northbound A12 at 11.30am, and should be back in Blythburgh around 6.30pm. The start time allows time to get to Norwich and have a bite to eat before the show and even hit the sales!



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

Please apply in writing to Jenny Allen (Wolsey House, Chapel Road) or by e-mail (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 got places if Jenny does not contact you.

Blythburgh for the best Christmas shopping

On Saturday 28 November, for the second year running, the Blythburgh Christmas market is taking place in the church, from noon until 4pm. It's the perfect opportunity for buying Christmas gifts – there'll be as many as 20 stalls selling crafts, jewellery, cards, and more. Home-made soups and a winter barbecue will warm your body, and the concluding carol singing will warm your soul.

*The Blythburgh Focus wishes all its readers a happy
Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year*

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Home thoughts from a broad...



Film nights in Blythburgh

Blythburgh Film Club's next films will be shown on December 4 at 7pm for 7.30pm and on Saturday 5 at 3pm for 3.15pm for younger film-goers.

Parishioners, who are members of Blythburgh M@tters or have signed up to the film club's mailing list, will be notified automatically of the films to be shown. If you are not on the email list but would like to be, please email olive@dytler.freereserve.co.uk. Details will also appear on the village hall and parish council notice boards.

There is no charge for the films but voluntary donations of £3 for adults and £1 for children towards the upkeep of the village hall would be appreciated. Wine will be available or you may bring your own. Pop corn, a soft drink, sweets and an ice cream are provided at the matinees.

The White Hart will provide fish and chips from 6pm to 7pm on Friday **for cinema goers only** at £6.99 a head. Booking is essential.

Films already shown include *About Time*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Rio*, *Oh! What a Lovely War*, *How to train your dragon*, *Philomena*, *Frozen*, *Paddington Bear*, *Penguins of Madagascar*, *The Imitation Game*, *What We Did On Our Holiday*, *Robin Hood*, *The Theory of Everything*, *Shaun the Sheep*, *East of Ipswich*, *Jungle Book*, *The Saving of Mr Banks*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Best Marigold Hotel*, *The Second Best Marigold Hotel*, *Night at the Museum*, *Night at the Museum 3* *Some Like It Hot*, *The Hundred Foot Journey*, *The Sponge Bob Movie*, *Mr Holmes* and *Jurassic World*

To hire these films for £1 or for all other inquiries please call Pat or Terry Goss on 01502 478356 or David Tytler on 01502 478521.



01502 478217

Christmas Party Menu

Nov.23 – Dec. 23

For groups of four

Pre-order one week before

the event. Two courses,

£18.95, three courses,

£23.95.

New Year's Eve 2015

Open 11am till late.

Food served 12–3pm, 5–

7.30pm

Music from *Handle with*

Care, 9–12.30am

Hog Roast £5

Holiday Opening times: Christmas Eve 11–11pm, food 12.30-2.30pm/6-9pm;
Christmas Day, 12–2PM. No food, Boxing Day, 11–10.30pm. Food 12-8pm

Winter Events at the White Hart

Quiz every second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, teams of four, £2.50 a head
Fish & Chips takeaway every Friday, £7.50 from 6–9.30

Winter Wednesday nights

*Ribeye Steak Night every first Wednesday of the month.

14oz ribeye, peppercorn sauce and blue cheese sauce. Chips, tomatoes, mushroom & onion rings for two plus a bottle of house wine. £20 per person.

*Fizz and Chips Nights Every second Wednesday of the month.

Chef's market fish board for two with a glass of Prosecco, £15 each.

*Curry Night every third Wednesday of the month. Choose from two curries, rice, home-made onion bhajis, poppadoms and dips with a glass of house wine or a Tiger beer, £12 a person.

*"Iffit" and Pud Night every fourth Wednesday of the month. Chef's selection of four "iffits" (English style tapas) and a pudding per person based on two sharing at £10 a head. (This will not be available on December 23.)

LATITUDE TRAFFIC

Urgent action to stop Latitude jams



The parish council is pressing energetically for action to ensure that the Latitude Festival traffic jams seen this year never happen again. Not only was the north-bound A12 blocked for many hours on the Thursday before the event, traffic on the B1125, unable to access the A12, backed up

Dunwich Road beyond the water tower. Whilst there were no instances when emergency vehicles were delayed, that is a real fear for residents who were, in any case, severely inconvenienced.

Festival Republic, the Latitude organisers, have made it clear to the council that it is very conscious that things went badly wrong. It appears from the data generated by Blythburgh's Vehicle Activated Sign that it was not the volume of traffic that was the problem but the failure to get it off the A12 quickly at Henham. All that information has been passed to Festival Republic.

At county level the Strategic Advisory Group, which brings together such agencies as the police, fire, and ambulance services, and the local authorities, has already met Festival Republic. They have engaged a specialist management consultant to work with the highways authority and the police to devise a plan for 2016. The licensing authorities are also involved.

The parish council wants to see traffic moving freely on the A12 and Latitude traffic at least, and possibly all through traffic, prevented from entering the village from the south along Dunwich Road on the day when most festival-goers arrive. The council has its own link to Festival Republic and their representatives will be briefing parish councillors in February on the progress they are making.

Blythburgh Village Hall for your use

The recently refurbished hall, with its own large screen cinema equipment, is ideal for parties, dances, quizzes, exhibitions and concerts. Charges for morning, afternoon or evening sessions or part thereof: parish residents or groups, £25.00; non-residents and groups, £35.00. (Discounts available for block bookings.) To book the hall, call 01502 478521 or 07850 140581.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: David Tytler
01502 478521

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

Chair finance advisory group
Roderick Orr-Ewing

Councillors
Alan De Thabrew, Jeff Sutton,
Cliff Waller
One vacancy

Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687

BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

Horticultural Society
Jenny Allen 01502 478314

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham 070810632987

Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521
Blythburgh Trust administrator
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Village Hall

Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

The day the chair came to market

Friday October 30 – the day before Halloween – was the last of the Friday morning Blythburgh Community Café & Mini Market events in 2015. It was a beautiful day, unseasonably warm, even inside the notoriously chilly church, which may have been one reason why so many had turned up to enjoy tea, coffee, cake and a chat. The youngest I spotted was 10 month old Charlie and, at the other end of the spectrum, 95 year old Prof. John Allen held court at his own table.

Suddenly... we heard the menacing sound of a door creaking open, a blast of chilly air and the



rattle of chains... our eyes turned to the large wooden door...

“Hello, I’ve come to visit Blythburgh” said the lady with the chain of office round her neck as she opened the south door of Holy Trinity. Susan Harvey (pictured)

explained that as the Chair of Suffolk Coastal District Council she was visiting all the Parishes in her area and her visit to Blythburgh would be the sixtieth out of more than one hundred.

Armed with a cup of tea (and a piece of cake) Councillor Harvey circulated. Ro told her about the Community Café, Sarah was on hand to mention Blyth Belles, Binny was handing out flyers for the upcoming Christmas Market, Alan talked to her about the Parish Council and recent planning decisions and Terry was on hand to mention the very successful film nights.

Sue was selling poppies and, as always, had ensured the church was beautifully decorated and there was the added bonus of stunning flower arrangements from the previous

weekend when village residents, Jo and Harry, tied the knot. Gillian, as always, had provided delightful table decorations.

The village was well represented by stall holders: Binny (soft goods), Carol (homemade cakes), Roselyn (Christmas gifts), Wendy (savoury pies and sausage rolls) and regular supporter Sonja (metal work & pottery).

The Community Café, with its rota of helpers (more than fifteen during 2015) proved to be the perfect village event for the Chair of SCDC to attend.

*Halloween is a shortened form of “All-Hallows-Eve” - the evening before All Hallows Day and also known as All Saints Day. Halloween means different things to different people and some think that Halloween dates back almost 2000 years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain.

The ancient Celts believed that on the night of October 31, the night before their new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. They believed that this blurring briefly opened the way for the ghosts of the dead to return to earth.

That is why, on that night, the ancient Celts would extinguish the fires in their homes, to make them cold and undesirable, and dress up in all manner of ghoulish costumes to parade noisily around their villages to frighten away any spirits.

Finally: Congratulations to long term residents Rona and Eric Thompson on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. We also wish Eric well as he recovers from his recent op and a speedy return to bowling for the BBC.

Sonia Boggis

PLANNING: At its meeting on November 17, the parish council objected most strongly to Badger Homes’ proposal to eliminate the two affordable homes from the Amberley development, meeting its obligation instead with three one-bedroom flats in Leiston. The council deplored this exploitation of a short-term situation with uncertainty caused to housing associations by the last budget, a claimed lack of demand for the Blythburgh houses, and Badger’s assertion that they could not afford to build them. The council has stressed to the planners the need to take a longer-term view, encouraging residence rather than second or holiday home use, and the importance to Blythburgh of balancing its housing stock with the rising generation in mind.



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Lee and Marie Knight look forward to welcoming you to the refurbished and restocked village store catering for all your essential needs – and much, much more.

Opening hours will be posted in the shop window.

Congratulations Jo and Harry!



When Miss Jo Mickleburgh became Mrs Harry Waller at Holy Trinity Blythburgh on October 24

OTHER NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

Christmas services in Blythburgh

Saturday 19 December 4pm:
Carols by Candlelight
Slightly different this year, with music and voices provided by Patsy Murray and friends.

Tuesday 22 December 5.45: Carol singing round the village. Meet at Jenny Allen's house (contact 01502 478 314 or jennyanddick@aol.com for details).



Christmas Eve 24 December 5pm: Crib Service: *Great festive fun for all the family.*

Please note there is no Christmas Eve Midnight service in Blythburgh this year, but there will be midnight services at St Margaret's, Reydon and at St Edmund's, Southwold. For more information go to www.solebayteamministry.co.uk.

Christmas Day 25 December 11am: Family Service (followed by short service of Holy Communion for those who wish to stay). *Children are invited to bring a present they have unwrapped that morning.*

There is no service in Blythburgh Church on Sunday 27 December.

Malcolm Doney



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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

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TRAFFIC WATCH

Speed sign will monitor southbound traffic

The third post for the village speed warning signs on the A12 north of the White Hart to monitor southbound traffic has now been installed although the equipment will be out of action for the next two weeks as it is letting in water and has been returned to the manufacturer. The up-to-date statistics are:

Dunwich Road 17:00 Sunday 6th September to 09:00 Saturday 10th October.

Of the total 42,238 vehicles, 119,500 were travelling between 25 and 30mph and a further 11,500 between 30 and 35mph. If the 7,300 vehicles travelling at less than 25mph is included then 38,400 were at or only slightly above the legal speed, representing 91% of the total. The breakdown of the other nine per cent (3,800 vehicles) was 2,941 vehicles travelling at 35-40 mph (7%); 653 at 40-45mph (1.5%); 167 at 45-50mph (less than one per cent) ; 43 at 50-55mph; 12 at 55-60mph; and one at 60-65mph. Daily volumes are now down to between 1,200 and 1,300 a day throughout the week.

A12 12:00 Monday 12th August to 15:30 Wednesday 11th November

Of the total 127,585 vehicles, just over 62,000 were travelling between 25 and 30mph and a further 29,000 between 30 and 35mph. If the 21,000 vehicles travelling at less than 25mph is included then 112,200 were at or only slightly above the legal speed, representing 88% of the total. The breakdown of the other 12% (15,000) was: 9,038 vehicles travelling at 35-40 mph (7%); 3,707 at 40-45 (2.5%); 1,482 at 45-50mph (1.2%); 723 at 50-55mph (less than one per cent); 293 at 55-60mph; 90 at 60-65mph; 33 at 65-70mph; ten at 70-75mph; and two at 75-80 mph.

Daily volumes are roughly: Mondays to Thursdays 4,000 to 5,000; Fridays 5,000 to 5,500; Saturdays and Sundays 3,000 to 4,000.

Roderick Orr-Ewing

BLYTHBURGH POST BOX-----

I am writing to sing the praises of the NHS. Yes really! Well, James Paget to be precise – perhaps even more surprising, going by past experiences.

My lovely mother was in and out of hospital around 15 years ago with various infections and small strokes. Sometimes she was lucky enough ending up in Southwold but more often than not it was the dreaded Paget.

Having had unfailingly kind and professional help from all the paramedics, she would be admitted to the Paget, where, to say the least, the care was poor for patients and family alike.

I simply cannot believe how James Paget has changed. My beloved 93-year-old cousin was rushed there last month with a massive infection. Friends and family were all treated with great kindness as she lay there unconscious. Her condition and all the treatment she was having was explained with endless patience. So different from Mum.

To our delight and the doctors' surprise, Phyllis pulled through (one tough cookie) and was transferred to Ward 12. Every patient was allocated a nurse for the day and night, notes were passed and nobody was left confused and alone. The food was good (honestly) – Phyllis said that she could not remember when she last woke up to a full English breakfast. We visited at any time and, most important, of all, the patients were treated with respect and good humour.

Phyllis was medically fit for a good week before she went home as the hospital staff was determined to ensure that her house was safe and that all the help she might need was in place. And it was. This is one of the recent criticisms of the latest round of NHS bashing. Well, if hospitals are taking their time before sending vulnerable patients home, good. I have nothing but praise for the care dear Phyllis received. Thank you Ward 12 and thank you James Paget.

Lucy Robinson



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When church visitors saw red

Blythburgh Church attracts many visitors and some are disposed to make a contribution towards the cost of its maintenance. Others have thought differently: "I would have been willing to have given something towards preserving so fine a church, but will give nothing towards red paint and tawdry monuments," wrote one in the visitors' book.

Philip Cunningham, from London, exclaimed: "Such a fine old church was never intended to have red paint used in such a reckless manner on it." "Glorious old church desecrated by daub of glaring red," wrote an FRCVS (Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) from London. Churchwarden Dick Collett told a newspaper reporter in 1979 that in a later visitors' book, no longer around, one entry was so strong in language that it could not be reproduced.

The critical comments were written in a book that spans the period September 1886 to September 1890. Then perhaps 1,000 visitors a year came to the church, many from overseas. They came from Africa, Australia, Burma and Canada. North and South Americans were represented. From Europe came the Germans and the French, and even someone from as far away as Warsaw.

The clergy were of course attracted to the church. They included the bishops of Liverpool, and Auckland, New Zealand. In the visitors' book you can also find artists, including a young Alfred Munnings, and John Seymour Lucas, a few years before he bought three old cottages in the village and turned them into *The Priory*. He was "sorry to see the use of red paint in such a beautiful church".

Writers also visited the church. There was Henry Rider Haggard, author of *She*, and *King Solomon's Mines*. Another signatory was the author and drama critic Clement Scott. He had written with enthusiasm about Cromer and the surrounding area in a series of *Poppy-Land* articles in *The Daily Telegraph*. This led to the Norfolk coast becoming a fashionable resort from the 1880s.

Another favourite of his was "Lazy Lowestoft, the very pink of propriety." The railway station "introduced an air of respectability." There was a "scrupulously select" pier. The visitors, Scott wrote, "are all middle-class people of the highest respectability." Perhaps so too were the visitors who alighted from the Southwold railway and walked to the church.

From photographs the red paint can be seen on the chancel walls. It was not there before the restoration that began in 1881. As redecoration it would not have required the bishop's approval, although no doubt the patron would have been consulted. It could have been the work of any one of the four incumbents of the period 1879-1902, with the patrons Sir Charles Blois or his son Sir Ralph.

Some visitors looked to the future. "It is hoped no more of the church will be painted red." "Could not the red paint be removed?" "I hope next time I come this glorious church will have lost its modern paint and have the pillars scraped." That was August 1899. The paint was removed, although I do not know when. A visit then became a more relaxing experience.

Alan Mackley



Sizewell C comes closer

EDF and CGN (China General Nuclear Power Corporation) have signed the heads of terms of an agreement in principle to develop Sizewell C with a view to develop two EPR reactors, powerful third generation pressurised reactor.

During the development phase, EDF will take an 80 per cent share and CGN will take 20 per cent.

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A musical celebration of Christmas

The next event in the Southwold Concert Series is a welcome return for Suffolk-based vocal ensemble *Seraphim* and their conductor Vetta Wise on Saturday 5th December, 7.30pm, in St Edmund's Church, Southwold, following concerts throughout East Anglia, London and Venice .



Seraphim will be joined by distinguished instrumentalists Anna Noakes (flute) and Gabriella Dell'Olio (harp), both faculty members at Trinity College of Music in London. The concert *Deo Gracias!*, features Christmas music from a wide variety of traditions. The music will include Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, works by Bach, carols from the Renaissance and 20th century and arrangements of African folksongs.

The concert is preceded by a reception to mark the launch of the new Southwold Music Trust, which is supporting the Concert Series. The trust is one of the Southwold Town Mayor's nominated charities for the current year.

All concert goers are welcome to join the reception, which is at 6:30pm in St Edmund's Hall on Cumberland Road. The concert will begin at 7:30pm in St Edmund's Church (only a two-minute walk away) and will last one hour, with no interval.

Tickets are £12 for the reception and concert, with children aged 16 and under absolutely free. Advance ticket purchase is recommended to avoid a long wait for tickets on the door. For more information, visit www.southwoldconcertseries.co.uk, or call the box office on 01502 726 161 during office hours.



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Notes from Daisy Bank LXX

The cold winter air is beginning to spread along the lane towards Daisy Bank. Already I am beginning to forget summer and pray for it to come back again. I have this ongoing dream of escaping to a little house in Sicily in November and returning in May when the Queen Ann's Lace and the bluebells are once more. I've probably been on about this before so apologies if I have. Of course I love being in Blythburgh even in the winter but I still dream of the heat and the sun.

And then of course there's Christmas. Now for me, it is just a religious mark on the calendar and not really a very happy one at that. I used to love it but now it's something to get it over with as soon as possible. In yesteryear I would have longed for Christmas and hated not being at home for such a joyous time. Happy memories of home with my family and extended family: lots of cousins, Christmas trees, decorations and presents to give and receive. An exciting time.

My first Christmas away was in Kingston, Jamaica, aged nineteen. I remember drinking lots of rum, coke and lime and doing my usual 'collapso' at the end of it all. And then waking up in an inappropriate place, sunburnt with dinner plate size blisters on my back and of course a substantial mind bending and belligerent hangover.

The next one to remember was in New Plymouth in the north island of New Zealand. All I can remember of that one is of having a barbecue on the beach and being annoyed at the black volcanic sand getting mixed up with the hot dogs; I can taste the grittiness of that sand even now. I've never liked barbecues since then. - burnt meat, dry rolls and clouds of choking smoke. No fun for me.

The next one was somewhere between Daz

Island and Suez either in the Persian Gulf or the Red Sea. There was a lot of false hilarity and, being at sea, very little to drink but lots to eat. Pulling Christmas crackers with your fellow male officers isn't something that I look back fondly to.

Then several more in the Far East, mainly Singapore, where it's always hot, it's always humid and it's so very far from home. In those days we could only afford to call home once a year at Christmas and then it was like talking to somebody in a goldfish bowl with several people crunching crisps next to one's ears. So hearing disembodied voices from your loved ones having a jolly family holiday didn't really make things any better.

And then you just get older and some family members are no more and so there seems little point to it all. Just memories left but happy ones. So roll on summer and the quicker it gets here the better.

On a more cheerful note, Milo our seal point Siamese continues to enthral us with his antics and of course his love. The other day there was a knock at the door and, because there is a large notice saying please ring the bell, I was slightly irritated that whoever it was, hadn't taken any notice of my instructions. "*Wait and they'll ring the bell and then I will go and see who it is.*" Again another knock on the door, banging the knocker quite loudly this time. I get up slightly miffed. Two blue eyes greet me in the half windowed door with a slightly anxious look on his face; we'd locked him out.

Still anxious about his meanderings up and down the lane. So if you see him please speak nicely to him. At least winter and Christmas won't seem so bad with him around.

Paul Bennett

A date for your diary: The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will be in the village hall on Tuesday January 12 at 7.30pm with the public forum starting at 7.15. Everybody is welcome.