

# BLYTHBURGH

## FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,  
BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No 60

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

Dec/Jan 2021/2

## SUFFOLK HIGHWAYS REFUSE TO SOLVE BLYTHBURGH'S TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE



Here is the issue in a nutshell. Vehicles are using Angel Lane and Dunwich Road as a rat-run. Specifically, we're talking about the section of the B1125 which runs through Blythburgh between the A12 and the crossroads with the B1387 at the water tower. The Parish Council has urged Suffolk Highways to

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explore ways in which we can reduce the traffic, but they have point-blank refused. The question is: what do we do next?

First, some important background. Suffolk Highways are, in principle, intent on dissuading people from using this stretch of road. There are signs at both ends saying that it is for "Blythburgh Village only". Other direction signs tell road-users that they should use the B1387 instead (the road between the water tower and the A12).

Drivers ignore these signs. In September 2020, the Parish Council asked Suffolk Highways to undertake a traffic survey at two points on Angel Lane and Dunwich Road. This revealed that up to 3,480 vehicles a day (peaking at 500 per hour) were passing through – and here's the important point – 95% of these were through traffic.

Representatives of the Parish Council, together with local residents, corresponded with Suffolk Highways to discuss these findings. We proposed that we explore means of reducing the traffic, such as turning this section into a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) by physically blocking access to through traffic, and other means of inhibiting the flow. We proposed, and agreed to pay for, a feasibility study.

The Parish Council believes that the amount of through traffic is a threat to the wellbeing of residents and a physical danger to pedestrians (especially at the section near the A12 junction, where there is no footpath, and at the crossing point near Chapel Lane which is effectively a blind corner). At certain times of the day, particularly in the evening, there is a traffic jam as vehicles trying to turn right on to the A12 meet traffic coming the other way. If Sizewell C gets the go ahead, expect this to be worse.

Having, over the last year, put all this to Suffolk Highways in a running correspondence, we have been given what looks like a conclusive response. On 22 September this year, a Design Engineer from the LHB and Minor Works Team of Suffolk Highways, as part of a lengthier assessment, said:

*I would exclude the options of both the introduction of a LTN at the south of the village or prohibiting traffic at the north. If we are to consider any scheme that diverts traffic away from the village we need to bear in mind the suitability of the diversion route. Unfortunately, having assessed the reported accident data over the past 10 years, there have been numerous accidents at both the A12 junction with the B1387, and the B1125 / B1387 staggered cross-roads. I have serious reservations that the number of vehicle movements should be dramatically increased at either junctions.*

The engineer's evaluation was passed on to Suffolk Highways Transport Strategy team who, on 1 November, told our Parish Council:

*The Transport Strategy Team have carefully considered this and have found that they are unable to support the installation of the LTN type scheme at this location as this would put undue pressure on other junctions that are already potentially problematic, as per the report made by the LHB Team previously. This means that there is no further action Suffolk Highways can take to try and alleviate the through traffic using this route.*

Let's highlight that final line: **“This means that there is no further action Suffolk Highways can take to try and alleviate the through traffic using this route.”**

This assessment begs at least one huge question: If Highways don't trust the safety of the B1387 as a diversionary route, why do all the road signs point traffic in this direction? The assessment needs to be challenged.

In effect, Suffolk Highways is refusing to take the wellbeing of Blythburgh residents seriously. This is a scandal! Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will not simply accept this as a *fait accompli*. But if the Council is to persist in challenging Suffolk Highways conclusions, then it needs your help.

If you believe that Highways should do something to reduce the traffic passing through our village on this section of road, then please make your voice heard. Please send an email to one or more of these addresses:

Our MP, Thérèse Coffey: [therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk)

Our County Councillor, Richard Smith: [richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk)

Our Parish Council Chair, Roderick Orr-Ewing:  
[roderick@millend6.plus.com](mailto:roderick@millend6.plus.com)

Suffolk Highways Transport Strategy schemes:  
[transport.schemes@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:transport.schemes@suffolk.gov.uk)

It will add strength to your comments if you include your name and postal address, and do please be polite and respectful, however angry you might feel! Thank you.

**Malcolm Doney**

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU

Christmas is always a big occasion at our very own Cathedral of the Marshes. Here's what to look out for. . .

**Carol Service** with the Blythburgh singers: Saturday 18 December 4pm

**Carol singing round the village:** Monday 20 December (contact [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com) if you'd like to join in, or be sung to)

**Crib Service** (an informal gathering around the crib): Friday 24 December 5pm

**Midnight Mass:** Friday 24 December 11.30pm

**Christmas Morning Service:** Saturday 25 December 10am

Please note that there will be no services in Blythburgh on Boxing Day, 26 December (there is a Team Service at St Edmund's Southwold that morning), but there will be a service of Choral Evensong on **Sunday 2 January at 6pm.**



## BLYTHBURGH FIELD NOTES

A few later migrants were seen around the Blyth in late September, including Lesser Whitethroat, Wheatear, Redstart and Swallow, while a Peregrine and a movement of Meadow Pipit were seen on the 30th.

Early October saw the arrival of winter waders, including both Knot and Sanderling, as well as several more sightings of Peregrine, while a White-tailed Eagle was seen again on the 16<sup>th</sup> and a Great White Egret on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

There is a strange East Anglia misnomer for calling Glasswort "Samphire", which is a completely different species, and a member of the carrot family, mainly frequenting sea cliffs on the South and West coasts, although the name Samphire now seems to have now been adopted nationally.

There are some claims though that the name Samphire comes from the French herbe de Saint-Pierre, St Peter's herb, and Glasswort or Salicornia is also called poor man's Asparagus. Many people don't realise that there are about eight species in the UK, some of which are very rare. They are also extremely difficult to identify. It's not until mid-September to October that it is even possible to identify some of them.

Species found close to the village include Purple Glasswort, which is commoner here than Common Glasswort, while Long-spiked Glasswort and the rare Yellow Glasswort are also found, while further down the estuary Branched Glasswort occurs. Two additional rare species the Perennial and One-flowered can be found near Walberswick. If collected, Glasswort should always be snapped off, it is extremely brittle and uprooting any wild plant is against the law and subject to heavy fines.

A Great White Egret, a Spotted Redshank, as well as 74 Golden Plover were seen on 8 November on the East side of the Estuary.

**I Nonowt**

### IT COULD BE YOU!

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Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council has a vacancy for someone like you.

If you who want to help make sure this is a good place to live, and are ready to oversee issues like local planning, traffic, environment, services etc, then think about playing your part.

To find out more, please contact Roderick Orr-Ewing ( the current Council Chair) [roderick@millend6.plus.com](mailto:roderick@millend6.plus.com), or Al Besly (the Council Clerk) [blythburgh.pc@gmail.com](mailto:blythburgh.pc@gmail.com).



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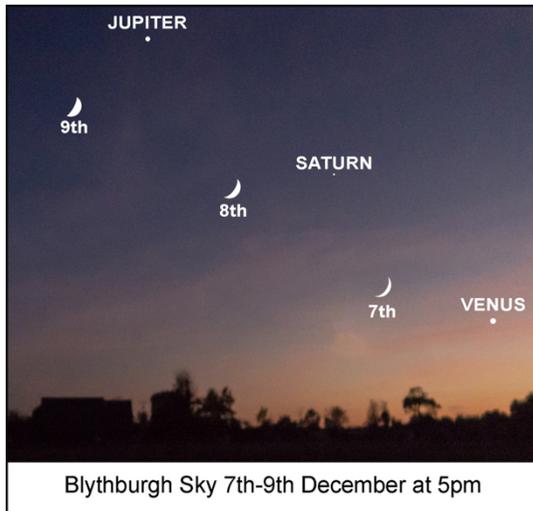
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## STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

Five planets in our solar system are visible to the naked eye, and in early December there is a chance to see three soon after the sun sets. As a bonus, a beautiful crescent Moon will pass by the planets each night to assist you finding them. The evenings when you might take a look are from Tuesday 7 to



Thursday 9 December. You need a clear view of the southern horizon, and the best locations will be Angel Lane or the church car park around 5pm.

Venus is the first planet to be 'visited' by the Moon. Only slightly smaller than us, Venus orbits closer to the Sun, and is currently 35 million miles from Earth. It is the brightest object in our night sky after the Moon. This is due in part to a dense covering of sulphuric acid clouds which reflect the light of

the Sun and retain its heat: an extreme example of the greenhouse effect! Its average surface temperature is 464°C.

Close to the Moon on the second night is Saturn. This is harder to spot as it is fainter than Venus and Jupiter. Famed for its rings, Saturn is currently nearly a billion miles from us with a diameter almost ten times greater.

On the Thursday evening, the Moon passes close to Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system. It is currently 490 million miles from us. Both Jupiter and Saturn are gas giants, rather than rocky planets like Earth and Venus. Binoculars or a small telescope should allow you a glimpse of Jupiter's four main moons, which switch positions around the planet each night.

Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto were identified by Galileo Galilei in 1610. They were the first objects proven to be orbiting a planet other than Earth, an idea that contradicted the religious belief that the Earth was the centre of the universe. As a result, Galileo was sentenced to life in prison, although this was reduced to house arrest, where he spent the last years of his life. Thankfully, astronomy is no longer such a dangerous pastime.

**Colin Huggins**

## CHURCH CAR PARK MAKEOVER

Holy Trinity is fortunate in having a spacious car park, which is useful, since we host a large number of public events, as well as services, throughout the year. However, if there are no marshals, visitors often park spontaneously, which can create a kind of log jam effect. We've now taken steps to help give some shape to the space, by planting a row of trees in the centre. You'll have seen that we now have five trees, together with some paving and posts, marking the centre line, with the hope that cars will be able to see where to park nose to the centre at busy times. There's a Hornbeam, two Acer Negundos, and two evergreen Crataegus (Hawthorn) trees. These will create shade as well as stature.

*This is important if you use the car park.* We've noticed that our neighbours are using it more over recent years. We're happy to continue to offer this facility, but please remember that it's primarily there for church visitors. Several times a year we host large-scale events in the church, when we ask that residents remove their vehicles. One such occasion is our Carol Service on Saturday 18 December (afternoon/early evening).

If you park a vehicle regularly in the car park, and would like notice of dates when the whole space is needed, please let Jenny Allen have your email address at [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com).

We'll also be erecting signs informing visitors that we depend on donations for upkeep of the car park. If you're a regular user, please consider this.



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## WILDWATCH

Blythburgh's character and history evolved around its proximity to water.

The Blyth Estuary and the marshes, which surround two-thirds of the village, have been a source of trade, a means of transport and are still a haven for wildlife, especially for over-wintering migrant birds.

Planet Earth lies in the 'Goldilocks Zone' of the Solar system where liquid water can exist. However, the freshwater that humans and 97% of life on Earth needs, comprises less than 3% of our planetary water by volume. Much freshwater is locked up in the seasonal icecaps and permafrost in the Earth's high latitudes, in rivers, lakes and the atmosphere. Humans have depended on these resources for generations developing many ways of tapping them.

Our planet's richest ecosystems are those that receive regular supplies of clean freshwater. These include the tropical and temperate rainforests and – closer to home – the fens, marshes and river systems like the River Blyth. To be of use to life, water has to be in liquid form, containing little or no mineral salts and pollutants, and freely available.

We use freshwater to grow crops, along with fertiliser, pesticides and other chemicals. Rain then washes these contaminants into rivers and watercourses, and we have to purify the water in order to make it drinkable. We also flush untreated sewage and other effluent into our rivers and the sea, along with the tainted runoff from roads, car parks and private drives.

In order to provide continuous energy, we've built enormous reservoirs and dams drowning large areas of natural habitat. The proposed Sizewell C plant will require millions of gallons of freshwater – but, we're told, from desalination, a process that requires high levels of energy consumption.

COP26 showed that humans have to halt the burning of fossil fuels to avoid a climate catastrophe. Of the many side-effects of heating our planet, one will be the loss of much freshwater to natural ecosystems. This will impact food availability over the globe and create a human refugee crisis like no other. All the water on Earth is all we have. It won't be replenished from space – unless we're hit by a comet. Runaway atmospheric heating is what drove liquid water from the surface of our lifeless neighbouring planet, Venus.

We need to treat Earth's freshwater as a precious and limited resource. All life depends on it, and that includes the life we depend on.

**Paul Lacey**

Blythburgh Marshes in Winter



### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GOES AUTUMNAL

At the end of October almost 35 members got together for a social evening in the village hall. A nourishing supper of soup, French bread and cheese and biscuits was enjoyed by all, together with the odd glass of wine. We were entertained by a pumpkin lantern competition, an autumn basket competition, a raffle and a gardening quiz. Everyone agreed that it was a fun evening, and wonderful to get together again.



After several very successful years Cilla Wilson stood down as Chairman and I was nominated to take over which I accepted with pleasure.

Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh has been booked for the summer show next year on Saturday 6 August. There will be the usual classes for entries – vegetables, flower arrangements and cookery, so we look forward to another enjoyable day of friendly competition.

The full programme of events for members for next year will be circulated early in the New Year.

If you'd like to join the Hort Soc please contact me – details below. A few pictures from the social evening are attached.

**Val Carse**

valc@btinternet.com



## 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:** Malcolm Doney,

**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






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## BEACH WALKING YOGA

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<p><b>CLASS</b> (1hr 30 mins)</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p><b>09.30 Saturday</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p><b>12.30 Thursday</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p><b>PRICES</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p><b>£8</b> on the day</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p>drop in <b>£40</b> for <b>6</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p>or <b>£65</b> for <b>10</b>.</p>	<p><b>CLASS (1hr)</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p><b>12.00 Saturday</b> (once a month)</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p><b>PRICES</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p><b>£8</b> on the day</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p>drop in <b>£40</b> for <b>6</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #e91e63;"/> <p>or <b>£65</b> for <b>10</b>.</p>
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**CONTACT BETHANY**

✉ serenityyogabethany@outlook.com ☎ 07930 199582

[www.serenityyogasuffolk.com](http://www.serenityyogasuffolk.com)

## DAISY BANK CII

Now the trees have been cut down, in a way we miss the cosiness that they provided to the front of the house. And also, their removal has exposed the very tired paintwork on the windows – so that will have to be addressed. But at least in the summer we will have a border that the sun reaches so that we can plant some flowers. When we first came here, that whole front border was a mass of red poppies in the early summer. The seeds of course are still there, having laid dormant for decades, so perhaps they too will have a revival. And, of course, the possibility of a falling leylandii coming into our bedroom with evil intent has been eradicated.

At the moment, I am painting this year's Christmas card which is now the only time I do any of that. The office where it used to all happen is beginning to smell of oil paint again, but on first visit seemed very musty and unloved. The easel is still there, and tubes of paint mixed with hardened and useless paint brushes. It's all rather sad as opposed to yesteryear, when it was a hive of activity and hopefully creativity. Now the annual card has developed into a bit of a chore. B has demanded "chocolate box" this year, so any thoughts on another *da Vinci* copy with adjustments, have been shelved for now. Perhaps next year if, please God, there is one.

Daisy Bank is gradually going into its mothball season, and the holidaymakers have put their buckets and spades away. Sadly, our little Muntjac has disappeared, and we hope that nothing nasty has befallen him. The sounds of shotguns over the marshes are not very reassuring as I don't believe they are protected by law. Men and guns!!

We are having a change in cars so our yellow and blue 2cv will shortly be changed for a pastel blue one. We were going to respray the existing one blue, but Peter – who looks after it for us – says the rust was a problem. Evidently, the new one isn't as leaky, so we won't have to use an umbrella inside the car.

This will be 2cv number five. My first one was bought in my early 30s when I started a teachers' training course. It suited my new 'student image' at the time. And, of course, I fell in love with them and consequently they have been lifelong car companions. Our other, more 'comfortable', car might have looked ok, but it failed its recent MOT miserably, and we decided to swap it for a more sporty comfortable car. So we will shortly be 're-car'd'.

**Paul Bennett**

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## THOUSAND YEARS IN JUST FIVE MILES

Friday the 5 November was one of those gorgeous autumn mornings: chilly with light to moderate wind, blue sky and sun. A perfect day for walking and a bit of mardling.

Our proposed route, thanks to John G, was a circular route of just over five miles with a planned stop for lunch at the public ‘hide’ accessed from the beach adjacent to Minsmere, and culminating in well-earned liquid refreshments at the Eels Foot Inn at East Bridge.

The ever-changing landscape we encountered is part of what draws so many to this part of the world: woodland, shoreline and coastal marshes to name but three. We were blessed with a magical day, when every bend in our path revealed something new to see, and further blessed that one of our group had a story to tell or an insight to share every step of the way.



A skylark rising, hovering, singing and falling back down to earth, maybe surprisingly, prompted recollections of Glenn Miller: he performed Skylark with Ray Eberle on vocals in 1942! Massive concrete tank traps on the dunes served as a reminder of WWII, but on this particular day were providing cover for a number of birdwatchers on a stonechat mission.

The Konik ponies, introduced at Minsmere to help maintain the wetland habitats, were grazing the reed bed edges, helping to create habitats for bitterns and snipe. Our little band of Filosophers (the F is intentional) walked



and talked. You might catch a mention of a Franz Klammer here, a “Barry’s step” there or even a whisper of Cutty Wren.

But, and it is a big but, the most amazing thing we came across was the ruins of the original site of Leiston Abbey. From the bird reserve it looks like a ruined barn, but this abbey,

founded in 1182, was inhabited for almost 200 years before tides forced the community further inland. This may be a ruin, but in WWII it took on a new guise: a pillbox was camouflaged within the walls of the ruined chapel.

Move forward to the present, and a wonderful stained-glass window has been installed as “a joyful celebration of life” but it is also “a poignant reminder of the impermanence of the form that life takes”. Well done to artist, Arabella Marshall, who took my breath away.

**Sonia Boggis**