

Welcome to Blythburgh



**A warm welcome to  
one of Suffolk's  
most historic villages**



# Welcome to Blythburgh

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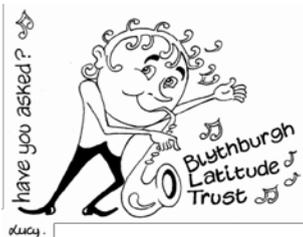
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**Published by Blythburgh with Hinton and Bulcamp Parish Council March 2 March 2018. Edited by David Tytler and Alan Mackley.**

# A brief history of Blythburgh



Blythburgh has nearly 1,400 years of recorded history. It was a centre of Anglo-Saxon authority and one of the earliest Christian sites in East Anglia. In 654 the bodies of the Christian Anglian King Anna and his son Jurmin were brought to Blythburgh after they fell at Bulcamp in battle with the Mercian Penda.



*An eighth century writing tablet found in Blythburgh*

At the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 Blythburgh, one of Suffolk's twelve market towns, had wealth and influence. It was part of the royal estate. The church was one of the richest in the county..

Around 1120 Blythburgh priory was founded when the church was granted by the king to the Augustinian canons of St Osyth. At its peak the priory received income from about 40 Suffolk parishes and the number of canons could have been in double figures.

Excavations have confirmed that the priory church was Blythburgh's rich early church and the parish church is one of its unendowed daughters. Blythburgh's long decline began perhaps in the 14th century. The Black Death was a turning point, causing the population to crash and disrupting social and economic activity. Blythburgh had still not recovered one hundred years later. In 1490 the market was moribund: there was only one stall.

## Welcome to Blythburgh

Paradoxically, Blythburgh church was rebuilt in this difficult period. But the grand new church reflected neither a large nor especially rich community. Instead it expressed the fear of individuals for the fate of their souls. By deliberately conspicuous expenditure they hoped that the prayers of the living would speed their souls through purgatory to salvation.

The sixteenth century brought great changes. In 1537 Henry VIII suppressed the priory, by then very poor. A storm in 1577 damaged the parish church and killed two people. Zealous Protestants in the 1640s removed altars and images, and smashed glass. In 1663 the church was reported as falling into disrepair and disuse. There had been no communion for the past twelve years.

Alderman Robert Brooke, a London grocer, bought the Blythburgh estate in 1592. He also acquired Cockfield Hall in Yoxford. The family let the traditional home of the Lord of the Manor,



Westwood Lodge, as a farmhouse. The estate passed by marriage to the Blois family later in the 1600s. In the seventeenth century Blythburgh's physical and economic decline accelerated. A fire in 1676 wiped out the centre of the village.

Blythburgh's population rose rapidly from the end of the eighteenth century, peaking in 1851. But most people were very poor. A forbidding symbol was the 1766 opening of Bulcamp House of Industry.

It was an even more feared workhouse in the nineteenth century, with over 550 inmates in the 1820s. In the twentieth century it became a hospital and after closure was converted into 'Blyth View' private residences.

In the nineteenth century Blythburgh's worshippers were not to be found not in the parish church but at the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Dunwich Road, built in 1837. The neglected church mouldered into decay.

It was closed in 1881, coming close to sharing the fates of Covehithe and Walberswick whose equally imposing structures fell into ruin and were drastically reduced. A national campaign helped to repair and reopen the church. A battle between conservationists led by William Morris and the local committee favouring restoration was long and heated.

Blythburgh shared the long established attraction of the Blyth valley to painters. The Royal Academicians Ernest Crofts and John Seymour Lucas altered modest buildings in the early 1900s to create picturesque houses in Priory Road.

Blythburgh has been a hub of communications without really benefiting from them. The Blyth navigation between Southwold and Halesworth opened in 1761. By the start of the twentieth century commercial traffic had moved to the railways and that on the river had ceased. The river has flooded back over the marshes downstream of Blythburgh to create a wild life habitat, now designated as a National Nature Reserve. A new turnpike road carved its way through the centre of the village in 1785. The Southwold Railway opened in 1879 and ran for fifty years.

Blythburgh today is very different from the place of even fifty years ago. Redundant cottages were demolished until a demand for second homes halted their destruction. The mill was pulled down in the 1930s. A dairy, grocers and off-license have gone. So have the reading room, and the school. The chapel is a forlorn sight. But the village hall is still a focal point for community activities.



A rejuvenated village store has been re-housed next to the White Hart, which has served customers for more than 500 years. Fine beams from the sixteenth century are still to be seen in the bar, but the timber frame on the roadside has been replaced by brick. A fashionable Dutch gable was added in the seventeenth century. The Hart's lively history includes its use as a court house, for selling livestock (and even a wife in the eighteenth century), and as a rendezvous for smugglers.

The church still commands the valley, as it and its predecessors have done for more than 1,300 years. It looks, as always, upon a changing village and landscape. For a walk through the village go to <http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net> and search for a walk through Blythburgh.

**ALAN MACKLEY**

**Blythburgh Remembered** is an on-going project that focuses interest on the history of the village – its landscape, buildings and people. A current activity is the recording of the reminiscences of people who knew the village as far back as the 1930s and beyond as they recall the experiences of their earlier family members.

From time to time Blythburgh Remembered holds meetings to present film, audio recordings and photographs. The project can draw on copies of TV films, radio broadcasts, its own recordings, well over 1,000 photographs of Blythburgh in the past, and has a comprehensive knowledge of documentary sources. Displays are mounted at other events such as the annual village meeting. If you have memories, photographs, documents or ideas please contact Sonia Boggis (01502 478687) or Alan Mackley 01502 478438.



# Welcome to Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh has a small and faithful worshipping community who warmly welcome visitors to services for private reflection and prayer, to listen to inspiring music, or just to marvel at the wonderful angel roof. Many people find a spiritual home within its walls. Holy Trinity's understanding of the Gospel is to be open and inclusive with a desire to deepen faith while following Jesus in today's world.



Holy Trinity is part of the Sole Bay Team of Churches within the Deanery of Waveney and Blyth in the Church of England Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The churches come together for team services, study groups and social events.

Holy Trinity is affectionately known as the *Cathedral of the Marshes* and was among the first parishes to hold an annual service for the blessing of animals, providing the template for one of the episodes of the *Vicar of Dibley*, written by Walberswick resident, Richard Curtis.

The church is used regularly as a venue for concerts, including the Aldeburgh Festival, exhibitions, café, mini-market and workshops. The church has a Fairtrade stall, sells good quality Christian goods and cards, and offers an excellent Guide Book for sale and a church trail leaflet and toy box for children. The church is open every day of the year from 9am to 6pm (or dusk if earlier). There is a large car park adjacent to the church. You are welcome to visit and to wonder.

## Monthly service times-----

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: 11am Holy Communion (Common Worship) at St Andrew's, Walberswick. 6pm Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) led by The Blythburgh Singers directed by Ellis Bell with organist Victor Scott at Holy Trinity, Blythburgh

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: 11am Holy Communion (Common Worship)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 11am Team Service (See notice board for venue.)

Every Wednesday 5pm Service of Evening Prayer or Compline

### For further information, please contact

Team Rector Canon Simon Pilcher

[revsimon@talk.talk.net](mailto:revsimon@talk.talk.net)

Part time Priest Rev. Malcolm Doney,  
01502 478229

[malcolmdoney@me.com](mailto:malcolmdoney@me.com)

Churchwarden Mrs Jenny Allen  
01502 478314

[jennyanddick@oal.com](mailto:jennyanddick@oal.com)

[www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk)  
[www.solebayteamministry.co.uk](http://www.solebayteamministry.co.uk)

# Meet the Holy Trinity clergy



Blythburgh Church is currently in the care of the Sole Bay Team Rector, Canon Simon Pilcher, who is based in Southwold. He is the first point of contact for all Blythburgh inquiries, [revsimon@talktalk.net](mailto:revsimon@talktalk.net). The team vicar is the Rev Alan Perry, a former headteacher from Romford, based in Wangford.



Blythburgh resident, the Rev. Malcolm Doney, is helping out by taking communion services on the second and fourth Sundays

of the month. Malcolm studied fine art at St Martin's School of Art (now Central St Martins) in London. While teaching art in secondary schools, he developed a career as a writer and editor. He has worked in journalism, advertising TV and radio and is the author (both in his own right and with his wife Meryl) of 12 books. He is a regular contributor to *Pause for Thought* on BBC Radio 2.

He has been a churchgoer since childhood and was ordained in the Church of England in 2002 as a part-time non-stipendiary minister and moved to Blythburgh in 2009. He and Meryl have two grown-up children. Malcolm is pictured on his horse Neville at Holy Trinity's annual animal service.

## Friends of Holy Trinity-----

Holy Trinity has withstood tempest, willful damage and the weathering of 600 years. Its calm grandeur draws thousands of admiring visitors each year, while remaining a working parish church.

But it needs help. Blythburgh is a small community, and a church as old as this – if it is to continue to be a place of inspiration for succeeding generations – demands constant attention. The community is dedicated to keeping this beautiful place intact. But it can't do it alone.



Blythburgh church has a wide fan base, the Friends of Holy Trinity, Blythburgh with members not only from the village, but from as far away as Penrith, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Bath, and even the USA. One of the earliest members was Benjamin Britten. His name is entered in the membership book just above that of Mrs Becker, widow of Suffolk painter, Harry Becker.

There are currently 79 signed-up friends. Funds raised are used for the maintenance and enhancement of the church building to the benefit of the whole village. For more information, contact Secretary to the Friends Meryl Doney: The Birdhouse, Old Angel Lane, Blythburgh IP19 9JW or on [meryldoney@me.com](mailto:meryldoney@me.com)

Welcome to Blythburgh



## Restaurant and bar

Specialising in steak and sea food. Fish, prawns etc from our smoke house. Booking advisable.

Food opening times  
Monday to Thursday  
12 to 2.30 6 to 9  
(9.30 Friday)

Saturday and Sunday  
12 to 3 and 5 to 9

Breakfast daily 8 to 10am

Fish and chips take-away

Friday, 6.30 to 9.30 £7.50

Large Beer garden

Self contained rooms with  
estuary views

**01502 478217**

## Village Store

The village store caters for all your essential needs.

The shop also offers deli goods, fresh coffee and snacks and home-smoked produce. You are very welcome.

### **Opening hours\***

Monday to Saturday

9.00am to 5.30pm

Sunday

10.00am to 4.00pm

\*Subject to change

**01502 478047**

# A walk on the wild side



The Suffolk Coast National Nature Reserve (NNR) in Blythburgh is one of three managed by Natural England along the Suffolk coast, the others being Benacre and Westleton Heath. A reserve since 1973, it continues into the neighbouring parishes of Walberswick, Dunwich and Westleton.

It is made up of some of the best remaining areas of Sandlings heathland, together with reedbeds, inter-tidal mud-flats, grazing marsh, hay meadows, woodland and the tidal estuary of the River Blyth.

The reserve is one of the most diverse sites in the UK, with a wide mix of habitats in a small area. The reserve's Westwood Marsh is one of the largest blocks of freshwater reedbed in Britain. It was reclaimed for grazing at the beginning of the 18th century but flooded for defence purposes during World War II allowing the reeds to spread back over the marsh, returning it to its former glory.

Hay meadows have been re-created on the periphery of the marsh by summer-mowing areas of reedbed, resulting in a habitat rich in plants. Some of the NNR's woodlands were planted for game cover in the early 19th century but suffered severe damage in the great storm of 1987 and have since been part cleared and replanted. The Suffolk Sandlings heaths are the result of centuries of grazing by sheep and rabbits.

Since 1999 the reserve has been managed by Natural England, Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) with the Trust managing the hen reedbeds on the road to Southwold and jointly with the RSPB the Dingle area near Dunwich.

Access to the site is by the more than 20 miles of public rights of way and nearly 400 acres of open access heathland, two of the most convenient access points for the village being along the estuary from the White Hart Inn or along the bridleway opposite Highfields.

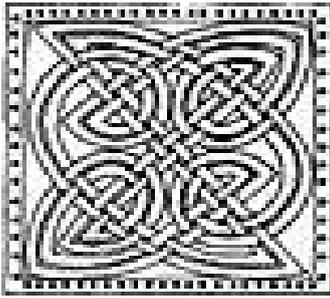


If you take these routes they lead you through a range of habitats where distinctive wildlife can be found - in the reedbeds bittern's boom and otters rear their young, on the heaths red deer can be seen whilst in the woods it is more often a glimpse of a secretive badger.

Some of the other specialities of the heaths include the silver studded blue butterfly and the natterjack toad as well as birds such as the nightjar and woodlark. Marsh harriers are a common sight and the mudflats of the Blyth host wintering flocks of avocet, knot and dunlin whilst common and little terns are summer visitors.

For further information please call the reserve office on 01502 676171 or download the reserve leaflet, which is available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35020?category=23001>

Welcome to Blythburgh



# Blythburgh with Hinton and Bulcamp Parish Council



*Opening Blythburgh play site June 2012 with the Ipswich Witches speedway stars*

The Parish Council is the level of local government closest to the community. It is consulted by Suffolk Coastal District Council on a range of issues, especially planning. Its direct responsibilities include setting and managing the parish budget.

The Parish Council funds the Village Hall; the play site in Highfields; bus shelter cleaning on the A12; and the Blythburgh Community Speed Watch, although this is currently suspended.

Recent council initiatives include the creation of the Blythburgh Latitude Trust; Celebrating Blythburgh; and a traffic management plan which is currently being discussed with Suffolk County Council and should result in speed warning signs on the A 12 and B1125. and village gateways on the A12 and B1125.

The Parish Council is responsible for setting and managing the Parish Budget; maintaining the village hall, playsite and bus shelters; and reviewing planning applications.

## Blythburgh Parish Council

# Blythburgh Parish Council

Blythburgh with Hinton and Bulcamp Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday every other month, January to November. The council meeting starts at 7.30pm following a public forum at 7.15pm. The council currently consists of:

**David Tytler**, who has been chair since May 2007, has lived in the village since January 1997. Now retired, he was formerly a national newspaper executive. His only journalism now is to edit the *Blythburgh Focus*. He can be contacted on 01502 478521 or [davidtytler@btinternet.com](mailto:davidtytler@btinternet.com).

**Alan Mackley** has been council vice-chair and chair of the planning advisory group since May 2007. After retiring as an oil industry scientist he established a new career as an academic historian. And historians never die. He has lived in the village since January 1979.

**Sonia Boggis** was co-opted to the council in September 2016 having previously served as a member of the planning group. Sonia and her husband Jim moved to Blythburgh in 1986 and their daughter was born here two years later. For many years Sonia travelled extensively with her work but since 2010 has run a small independent wine business from her home in Blythburgh.

**Roderick Orr-Ewing** has been a parish councillor for eight years and is a member of the financial advisory group. He first moved to Blythburgh with wife Claire at the beginning of 2002 and has lived in the village full-time since 2007. He started working life in the theatre as stage manager then production manager but is now a carpenter/builder.

**Jeff Sutton** was elected to the council in May 2015. He moved to Blythburgh in 2012 after managing his own garage business in Kings Lynn. He and his wife Wendy run a B&B in the village. He enjoys cycling, walking and village life.

**Cliff Waller** is the longest serving Parish Councillor and has lived or worked in the village for more than 40 years. He has had varied careers, and was the former Site Manager for Suffolk's Natural England's Coastal Nature Reserves, with much of the managed land falling within the parish of Blythburgh. He is now an ecological consultant and wildlife tour guide and leads the Parish Council Environmental Working Party.

**Jo Waller** teaches in a sixth form college in Ipswich and lists her other interest as swimming and reading.

**Jim Boggis**, the Parish Clerk, has lived in Blythburgh since 1986 and has been clerk since October 2007. Now retired, he worked for BT on many aspects of communications, from world leading research into optical fibre systems to the integration of customer data networks. He can be contacted by letter to Marsh End, Church Road, or telephone on 01502 478687.

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**Dr Therese Coffey** was re-elected MP for Suffolk Coastal in June 2017. She was educated at Somerville College, Oxford and University College London, where she was awarded a PhD in chemistry. The Prime Minister appointed her Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities at the Department of Food and Rural Affairs.

# County and District Councils

Richard Smith was elected as Blythburgh's representative on Suffolk County Council in May 2017. He had previously represented Aldeburgh and Leiston for seven years but chose to move to the ward in which he lived when the seat became vacant. He is the SCC Cabinet Member for Transport and Transformation and oversees Sizewell C for the county. Previously in finance he had held an honorary financial position at St James' Palace for 13 years and ran a bookshop in Saxmundham when he moved to Suffolk permanently in 1991.

**Raymond Catchpole** was elected to Suffolk Coastal District Council in May 2015, representing Wenhaston and Westleton, which covers Blythburgh. Brought up in Lowestoft, his business life centred on estate agency, consultancy and property development, the latter often in partnership with a local authority. His last involvement in property development was the Asda store in Lowestoft. He has been clerk to four parish councils. He is a member of DF's Sizewell Forum.

**Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC)** covers the coastal area of Suffolk from Felixstowe and the outskirts of Ipswich up to the Blyth estuary. The key responsibilities of the council, based in Woodbridge, are to collect council tax, pick up domestic waste from households and planning.

**Suffolk County Council (SCC)** is based in Ipswich. Its key responsibilities are education, waste disposal, adult social care, roads, children and young people services and the environment.

**Blythburgh Parish Council**  
[blythburgh.pc@gmail.com](mailto:blythburgh.pc@gmail.com) /  
<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>  
**Suffolk Coastal District Council**  
<http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk>  
**Suffolk County Council**  
<http://suffolk.gov.uk>





# Blythburgh Village Hall

## **The recently refurbished hall is ideal for parties, meetings, dances, quizzes, exhibitions and concerts**

Blythburgh Village Hall was built on land leased to the Blythburgh Women's Institute (WI) in the 1930s. The WI was given the hall and land in 1998 and passed it to the Parish Council in 1999 and the hall was renovated to a high standard in 2001. An unsightly roof was replaced in September 2006 and the hall was refurbished during 2012-13. A new disabled ramp was installed in 2014.

The hall is run by the Village Hall Management Committee, which represents all societies, a cross section of the village and trustees from the Parish Council.

In the period just before and after the Second World War, the hall was alive with children and adults. There were weekly or fortnightly dances with local bands and villagers mixing with local troops and the Americans stationed nearby. The wonderfully sprung Canadian maple floor was, and still is, a major attraction.

Socials were a big feature of village life in those days. Refreshments and evenings of singsongs, children's games, adults doing their party pieces, songs and instrumental items, and stories, all helping to pull the village together in difficult times. Whilst the village school was open, school concerts were held in the hall. Blythburgh whist drives were *the* ones to attend.

Blythburgh Village Hall, which now has its own cinema equipment, is still very much in business as families celebrate birthdays and other family events. Local bands and local and regional societies use it as a rehearsal room or for their meetings. So if you have a cause for celebration or you fancy a whist drive, keep the hall in mind. It is a priceless asset.

### **Charges for morning, afternoon, evening sessions or part thereof:**

**Parish residents or groups           £25.00**

**Non-residents and groups           £30.00**

**(Discounts available for block bookings.)**

**To book the hall, call 01502 478521  
or 07850 140581**

**Village Hall Management Committee Chair  
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521**



## The Blythburgh Latitude Trust has given grants totalling £42,00+

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust offers grants for one-off expenditure to benefit full-time residents – individuals or families - who have a need which cannot be met from other sources. Grants will also be made to local organisations where a majority of members are full-time residents of the village and for initiatives to support a community spirit in Blythburgh.

Funds come from the sale of tickets to the Latitude Festival and other donors. Normally grants will not exceed £200. Exceptional circumstances could result in higher awards. Parents or carers must endorse applications for grants for children under 16.

Normally, only one payment in any 12 month period will be made to any applicant but, successful or not, all will be able to re-apply the following year.

For example, grants could be made for:

- School uniform/equipment
- Musical instruments
- Sports equipment
- Out-of-school activities
- Motability
- Increased security
- Respite care
- Start-up money for new village societies
- Development money for existing groups
- Supporting community spirit

All applications will be treated in absolute confidence. By agreement, payments to groups may be published. All enquiries to the honorary administrator, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road, (01502 478687) who will be happy to help applicants seeking a grant.

**The trustees are Jenny Allen, chair, Harry Waller, vice chair,  
Michael Nichols, Jeff Sutton and David Tytler.**

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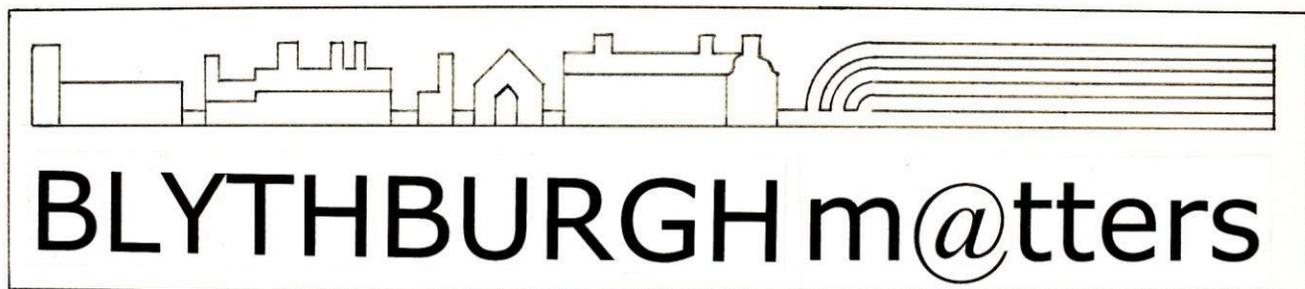


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Welcome to Blythburgh



Blythburgh M@tters is a village group that facilitates and co-ordinates social activities within the parish. In the past we have arranged events such as the Café and Mini Market, quiz evenings, games evenings, film shows, historical talks and parties for events such as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Royal Wedding.

An e-mail circulation list is used to publicise events, both for those the group organises and for other organisations in the village, such as the Church, Horticultural Society, Film Club and Natural England. To be included in the list, please email [info@blythburghmatters.org.uk](mailto:info@blythburghmatters.org.uk). If you would like to be involved in helping at any of our events or if you would like to organise one of your own, please contact Sonia Boggis (01502 478687) or Ro Williams (01502 478484) and they will be pleased to hear from you.



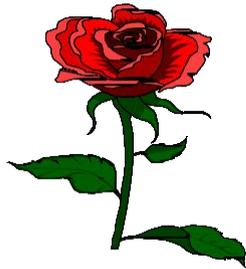
## Bell ringers in Blythburgh

Are you a bell ringer or would you like to learn? Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh, has six bells in excellent condition rung from the ground floor. There is currently no regular band of ringers within the village, but visiting ringers are warmly welcomed and neighbouring towers (churches) have ringers who often practice methods or ring peals at Blythburgh. Holy Trinity is within the North East District of Suffolk Guild of Ringers and new ringers of all ages are actively encouraged. For further information, please contact the Tower Correspondent, Peggy Meredith, on 01502 478580 or visit [www.suffolkbells.org.uk](http://www.suffolkbells.org.uk)

## BLYTHBURGH FOCUS



The *Blythburgh Focus*, edited by David Tytler, is published every other month and delivered free to every house in the parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton. The *Focus* contains regular features and local news, pictures and advertisements. To place items or advertisements please telephone 01502 478521 or email [davidtytler@btinternet.com](mailto:davidtytler@btinternet.com) Current and past issues are available at <http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>



# Blythburgh Horticultural Society

There is no need to have green fingers to join your local horticultural society, just an interest in gardening – if only from the comfort of a deckchair! - and an enjoyment of plants and gardens in general.

### **So what does the society offer to its members?**

Blythburgh Horticultural Society arranges a number of outings each year. For example in recent years we have visited the The Place for Plants at East Bergholt, the Henstead Exotic Garden, the gardens at Heveningham Hall and the Walled Garden Nurseries, Farnham. We often combine these visits with a pub meal and to keep the costs down we usually use our own transport, sharing cars. We also arrange occasional lectures, a summer garden party in the garden of one of our members, and sometimes we take off on ‘garden safaris’ around a number of members’ gardens.

We hold an annual Summer Show in late July or early August. This is a competitive event, with the usual range of classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers, cookery and flower arranging. No special expertise is required to enter, and the more people that do so the more fun it is! Each autumn we hold a dinner, a chance simply to get together and enjoy a good meal in pleasant company.

Why not join us? The annual cost (November to October each year) is only £5 per person. For more information please contact the Secretary, Jenny Allen, Tel 01502 478314, [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com) or just fill in the slip below and hand to the Treasurer Val Carse, White Hart Cottage, London Road, Blythburgh.

I/We would like to join Blythburgh Horticultural Society and enclose £3 per person membership fee

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Tel no: .....

e-mail address .....



## **Blythburgh Film Club** **Blythburgh Village Hall**

### **Choose your films at Blythburgh's own cinema**

Following the successful launch of the Blythburgh Film Club in September 2014, films will normally be shown on the first weekend of every month. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm. You may bring your own refreshments although wine will be available. The White Hart will provide fish and chips from 6pm to 7pm for cinema goers at £7.45 a head. Booking is essential, mentioning that you are a film goer..

Terms of the licence held by the hall restrict advertising the films to be shown. Parishioners who are members of Blythburgh M@tters or have signed up to the film club's mailing list will be notified automatically. Details will also appear on the Parish Council notice boards..

There is no charge for the film but voluntary donations of £3 for adults and £1 for children towards the upkeep of the village hall and its services would be appreciated.

The films shown so far: *About Time*; *Rio*; *The Grand Budapest Hotel*; *Judy Dench Philomena*; *Frozen Oh! What a Lovely War*; *How To Train Your Dragon*. *Captain Phillips*, *A Night at the Museum*, *East of Ipswich*, *Jungle Book*, *Saving Mr Banks*, *Mary Poppins*, *Robin Hood*,



**Dunkirk**



**Victoria and Abdul**

*Poppins*, *What We Did on Our Holiday*, *Disney's Robin Hood*, *The Imitation Game*, *The Theory of Everything*, *Paddington 1 and 2*, *Their Finest*, *Churchill*, *Dunkirk*, *Victoria and Albert* and *Goodnight Christopher Robin* . If you miss any of the films, DVDs can be hired for £1 or bought for £2.

Films are normally shown as soon as they are available on DVDs but if there is a film you would particularly like to see and for all other inquiries, including details of films to be shown, please call Terry Goss on 01502 478356 or David Tytler on 01502 478521. If you would like to go on to the club's email list to be kept informed of the films to be shown please email Olive Forsythe on [oliveforsythe@btinternet.com](mailto:oliveforsythe@btinternet.com)

**Supported by Blythburgh Latitude Trust**



## The homecare service where peace of mind comes as standard.

Due to continuous success of Prestige Nursing + Care Norwich, we now have a branch in Halesworth, Thoroughfare. Please call in to meet our friendly branch team who would be happy to discuss a package tailored to your needs.

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## Blyth Belles

# Calling all women ...

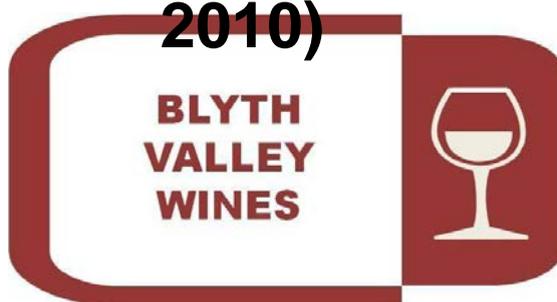
Would you like to meet women with a bit of attitude and get-up-and-go? Well, come and join the Blyth Belles. A group of women in the Blyth Valley villages have set up regular meetings for young-at-heart people - nobody is too old or too young - so long as you've got a love of life and have plenty of ideas of things we can do.

It is early days, but we've been thinking along the lines of activities and talks with demonstrations on any subject from arts and crafts to science and nature, sports and leisure to food and cookery.

We might plan trips to the theatre, do a bit of fund-raising for some charities we like or maybe do some outdoor things such as walks or summer picnics. But you might have more ideas and we need them.

Meetings are held in the Blythburgh Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. For further information please call or text Sarah Wickham on 07810632987.

## Blyth Valley Wines Independent Wine Merchant (established 2010)



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## NOTABLE HOUSES: The Priory, Priory Road

# History in the back garden

John Seymour Lucas, painter, antiquary and collector of architectural artefacts, bought some old cottages from which he created The Priory, Blythburgh, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the emerging style of the Arts and Crafts Movement. At around the same time, his friend and fellow Royal Academician, the artist Ernest Crofts, bought a pair of cottages next door and remodelled them to form The Green. The two of them set about creating two individual and carefully detailed country retreats.

In April 1911 *Country Life* featured an article on Lucas's property, then known as Priory Place. Entitled *A Lesser Country House of the XVII Century*, (a stretch of the imagination!) The article



included a number of photographs of the property, with two second floor dormers and the east cottage extension, complete with the beautifully naturally lit painting room on the first floor - all yet to be built.

The geometric gardens had been set out a decade or so earlier complete with the lily pond, adorned with a classical lead urn on a low level parapet and pedestal, barrel dovecot and extensive perimeter and crafted yew hedging. The article also mentions a 14<sup>th</sup> Century fragment of a stone built chapel at the

west end of Priory Place, which had been converted into a cottage

By the time Nick and Susan Haward bought the property in December 2005, The Priory and the Priory ruins were both Grade II Listed. It was clear that the house needed a lot of work and the ruins at the bottom of the garden were in dire need of preservation.

Once the house was put to rights, the Haward's turned their attention to the Priory ruins, enlisting the help of John Ette, English Heritage's Monument's Inspector. He gave clear and concise guidance regarding delicate clearing of 80 years of brambles and ivy. It was slow going and to everybody's amazement behind what looked like an ivy clad tree was a tower of mortared core-stonework, 25 feet high.



Over the years, important historical finds had been made in the garden. An eighth-century writing tablet, for example, now in the British Museum, writing style. Medieval floor tools had also turned up. But the first systematic archaeological investigation came in 2008 – the Priory ruins had attracted the attention of Channel 4's *Time Team*. They undertook a three-day dig for the programme *Skeletons in the Shed*. Probably the most important discovery was a burial probably of the seventh century, which confirmed the existence of a religious site predating the Priory of the Blessed Virgin Mary, established at Blythburgh by the Black or Austin Canons in or around 1125. Blythburgh Priory was back on the map as a real monument.

**NOTABLE HOUSES: The Green, Priory Road**

## A building not quite as it seems

This Grade II listed building, in its present form is one of the most picturesque in Blythburgh, but is not as old as it looks. It was created in the early twentieth century by Ernest Crofts, RA, from two timber-framed cottages, probably of the seventeenth century. He re-used earlier material from elsewhere.

One of the cottages was reputedly a butcher's shop. Ironically, like his artist neighbour John Seymour Lucas, RA, at The Priory, in pursuing an idealistic view of the past, fashionable in the arts and crafts' period, scant regard was given to the priory ruins disturbed in the landscaping of the garden.

Crofts (1847-1911) was born in Yorkshire, the son of a successful manufacturer who sent him to Rugby School before he continued his education in Berlin. There he decided to become a professional artist, he studied in Germany, and, on his return to London, under painters of historical and military scenes.



In Düsseldorf he met his future wife, Elizabeth Wüsthofen. The subject of his first work accepted by the Royal Academy had a German theme: *A Retreat: Episode in the Franco-German War*.

Crofts' fine draftsmanship, attention to detail and the dramatic intensity of his work, made him tremendously popular and financially successful. He quarried the Civil War for subjects: *Cromwell after the Battle of Marston Moor* and *The Funeral of Charles I* can be found in Burnley and Bristol Art Galleries respectively.



The Napoleonic wars also attracted him. *On the Evening of the Battle of Waterloo* is in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool. Historical and contemporary scenes represented the third strand of his output, including his largest work *Queen Elizabeth Opening the First Royal Exchange*, where it may be found.

There is a memorial plaque to Crofts in Blythburgh church. His image was sculpted by Allan Wyon, the last of a celebrated family of coin, medal and seal engravers. Allan's grandfather's brother, William Wyon, chief engraver at the Royal Mint, created the image of Queen Victoria that appeared on the Penny Black stamp and in many other places.



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# Working for Blythburgh

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**Teams work alongside other organisations including local councils.**

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**The teams aim to attend 90% of serious crimes within ten minutes. For the year the team achieved 67.3%, but is currently around 80%.**

**For assistance telephone 101 or visit [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk)**

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Natural England	Blythburgh	01502 676171
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