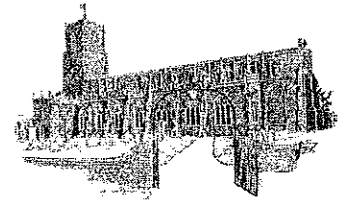


BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS

Issue 39

April/May 2008



POLICE ERROR SLOWS CAMPAIGN

Plans for the Blythburgh Community Speed Watch Campaign have suffered a serious setback despite the best efforts of Councillor Binny Lewis to get the scheme up and running as soon as possible. There have been seven volunteers, one more than the minimum required, but they will have to resubmit the applications as the Police sent the wrong application forms.

Councillor Lewis is pressing the police to provide the mobile speed signs - £60 for ten signs - and the speed gun at £2,100. The organisers of the Latitude Festival have agreed to meet the full cost of the gun. Despite the setback, the Council hopes that Speed-watch will be in place by June 1st.

Flooding: County Councillor Rae Leighton told the open forum that the Blyth Strategy Group had put in a very good paper to the Environment Agency outlining its flood protection proposals. This would be made public after the agency has considered it. Parish Councillor Cliff Waller reported that the Blyth Group is sending information to the agency on an almost daily basis. The matter was discussed in the council meeting when Councillor Lucy Clapham declared an interest. The Council has asked the clerk to obtain an estimate for repairing the river wall

the festival will be provided by Anglian coaches, with one bus going in and one coming out. The current suggestion is that the bus will leave the Blythburgh bus stop at 11.30am and return at 11.30pm. Discussions will be held with the festival organisers as to whether the leaving time can be changed to a later time. The Parish Council has agreed to pay the £50 a day cost out of the sale of tickets.

Discussions are still going on to see how best the Parish Council can distribute the money received from the sale of last year's Latitude tickets. At its January meeting the Council agreed to set up a fund to give small bursaries to the young people of the village to help finance a range of activities such as starting school, changing school, joining university, taking up a new sport or interest such as art or music. The clerk reported that the Parish Council is not legally allowed to distribute money to individuals. Discussions are taking place with the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Suffolk Acre on how best to resolve the issue. The Parish Council remains committed to the scheme and regrets the delay as much as the villagers who might benefit.

The Parish Council currently holds a total of £9,964, made up of £2,087 in the current account, and £7,877.78 in the business reserve/step saver account. The expenditure agreed at the March meeting was £1,196.54 on the village hall insurance; renewed subscription of £28 to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE); renewed subscription of £25 to

Suffolk ACRE; £810.75, for work on the village hall drive, which will be offset by voluntary contributions of £100 each from the two householders who have a right of way over the drive; £23 for the purchase of Parish Maps and £257.20 for the clerk's expenses for 1st November 2007 to 31st March 2008.

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The Latitude Festival: the clerk has been contacted by a number of people to reserve tickets and there is now a waiting list. If you wish to join this list please contact the clerk at 01502 478687 or via blythburgh.pc@btinternet.com. The festival programme has now been published and is available on www.festivalrepublic.com or www.latitudefestival.co.uk. A park and ride service to

BLYTHBURGH POSTBOX

WHY CAN'T WE ALL LIVE IN HARMONY

Hello my name is Rachel Doran. If you don't know me I am your average 16-year-old; I am keen on sport and compete for Beccles Kingfishers Swimming Club. For three years in a row I have won the Best Girl in the Club Trophy. I also won all the other top awards in my age group this year. But this is not why I am writing.

I am writing because many people in the village ask me what the children think of the village and what we like to do. I, like many other teenagers and children in the village, like to spend time outdoors. In the summer of 2007, I spent many hours outside on the land that my parents recently purchased from Sir Charles Blois. I was over the moon, I had all that space to run around, jump on my trampoline, have little get togethers with my friends, other local teenagers along with my boyfriend (who also lives in the village). It was great.

But then a letter came through our door, saying we had to get rid of my trampoline, which was a birthday present, and remove my mum's dream summerhouse. So then we applied for change of use. But it was denied! So what am I and my siblings supposed to do? Where am I supposed to run around with my little brother? Where am I supposed to bounce on my trampoline? How am I supposed to keep fit and healthy? How are children my age and below supposed to be children, to run around and burn off energy? Yes, we may be living in a site of natural beauty but are you going to make the future generation suffer? Please could someone answer my questions because I just can't understand? You should be encouraging young families and children into the village not pushing them away.

Rachel Doran (Riverview)



OVERHEARD IN THE HART

"I hear that Latitude are looking for volunteers to work in the car park."

"Well, look no further than the Blythburgh Speed Watch volunteers. They can act as sleeping policemen."

The next meeting of the

PARISH COUNCIL

is on Thursday 8th May at 8pm
in the Village Hall, preceded by
the Open Forum at 7.30pm

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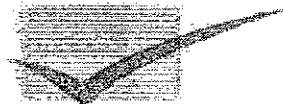
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NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

PUTTING A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS

The re-leading of the south aisle roof at Holy Trinity has started at last. We had to wait until the beginning of March to ensure that any hibernating bats might not be disturbed, but the scaffolding started to go up on 11 March and by the time you read this the work will be well underway. The appeal is going well, with £50,000 raised so far towards our target of £300,000 to repair the roof and also re-point the flintwork that needs attention.

You may be aware that over the last year the theft of metals, and in particular lead, from buildings such as churches has become very common. Holy Trinity has already had a minor theft, but other churches in Suffolk, such as Yoxford, have had much more major thefts. We are obviously very vulnerable now that the scaffolding is in place for the

repair work. The scaffolding is fitted with visible and audible alarms, which the workmen will switch on when they leave and the alarms connected to a mobile phone which Tom Lond-Caulk and I will take in turns to look after, contacting the police as necessary. There is therefore no need for anyone to take any action if you hear or see the alarm. However, it would be very helpful if you could keep your eyes open for any unusual activity around the church and let one of us know if you see anything you consider suspicious. Our telephone numbers are 478272 (Tom) and 478314 (Jenny).

Meanwhile, church life goes on as usual. On Sunday 18 May, Trinity Sunday, we celebrate our Patronal Festival, a kind of church birthday. From 2.30 to

5.30pm we will be holding Open Church and invite everyone in the village to come for a sumptuous Blythburgh tea, and find out about progress on the village plan. Then at 6pm there will be a Songs of Praise. Do come and join us.

As well as our weekly services, we welcome the Beccles Chamber Orchestra back for a concert on Saturday 5 April, and on Monday 5 May at 3.30pm the Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir will be singing a concert of English choral music. From 24 May to 8 June Paul O'Leary and Kathy Clark will be exhibiting paintings in the church. For more details of our services and other events, as well as progress on the repair work, check out our website – www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk

Jenny Allen

Paul Cook

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

ARE YOU SURE YOUR HOME IS SECURE?

The recent theft from an elderly Blythburgh resident in her own home underlines the fact that criminals don't just use the front door to get into our homes: they also go around the back and use the doors and windows to enter and steal. They don't wait until we go out to enter and can steal from one room whilst we are in another, as happened in the village not so long ago. It is important to keep doors locked and windows secure even when we are at home. It is also important that we have good door and window locks fitted in our homes to keep criminals out.

Everyone is vulnerable to burglary. Prevention is always the key to a safe secure home so it is always wise to fit security equipment such as effective door and window locks, door chains and door

viewers.

All of us who live in Blythburgh, Hinton and Bulcamp need to keep a lookout for each other, and for our friends and neighbours, to help prevent criminals coming into Blythburgh. If you see any suspicious activity in your area, people acting suspiciously or vehicles parked in unusual places or at strange times of day, or with occupants behaving strangely, then take note of the vehicle and occupant details and any other useful information. Any information can be important in catching criminals; even the smallest thing can help.

If in doubt call the police, and pass on the information.

Robert Benson

Blythburgh Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator

CALLING ALL LITTER PICKERS

The Parish Council is appealing to villagers to join a **Village Spring Clean** in a litter collection on **Sunday 27th April** from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Volunteers are asked to meet in the village hall. Ploughman's lunches will be available in the hall at the end of the litter pick.



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Vice Chair

Chair, finance sub-committee

Ro Williams

Chair, planning sub-committee

Robert Benson

Councillors

Binny Lewis, Lucy Clapham,
Alan Mackley, Cliff Waller

Blythburgh Carpet Bowls

Beryl Stringer

Horticultural Society

Secretary: Jenny Allen 478314

Neighbourhood Watch

Robert Benson 478047

Village Hall

Henrietta Maslen 478438

Bookings: 07850 140581

Blythburgh Society

Chairman: Alan Mackley 478438

MRS CLAPHAM INVESTIGATES:

DESPAIR ON A DESERT ISLAND



Today is glorious. A gentle breeze playfully puffing little white clouds across a cornflower-blue sky, the birds singing their hearts out. All around daffodils are blooming and blossom is shaking its frilly skirts - except of course, in my back yard.

This spring we gaze out at the single brave narcissus, the handful of shrubs struggling to survive and the sludgy mess, once a lawn, supporting the ghostly remains of a beautiful apple tree and a weeping willow planted in memory of my mum and dad.

I make no apologies for raising the subject of flooding again. For us, it never goes away. It is heart-breaking to watch the destruction of the beautiful Blythburgh marshes, not to mention other equally treasured River Blyth.

Householders and landowners are being blocked from repairing riverbanks or putting up flood defences by the Environment Agency, which, rather than maintain the precious areas of land entrusted to it, has chosen to let them rot; along with our salt-water-encrusted gardens, our homes and, apparently, us.

I was told recently by a vil-

lager, having expressed my distress at this callous attitude, that the Environment Agency wants to let areas flood to provide more salt marshes. Having waded round countless East Anglian salt marshes this argument left me speechless - quite a feat.

Another equally caring point put forward others is: "Of course, it's just going back to it's natural state - how it was 300 years ago, before man interfered..." Hate to be nit-



picky, but the present river was actually cut out of the marshes in 1590.

Of course, it's true that if man hadn't stuck his oar in, Blythburgh would not only be underwater but we could still be enjoying smallpox, families could be starving due to the dire state of farming, rain could be pouring through our church roof and our streets

could still be swamped with sewage.

Come to think of it, that last one is quite likely to happen - as all the sewage from the village is pumped along a pipe under the old railway embankment at the back of our houses. Naturally, we have been told we shouldn't have moved so near a river, along with, "poor you but we're all right Jack - we live higher up than you."

Well, it might be worth taking a peek at www.suffolkestuarines.co.uk, showing how much of Blythburgh is likely to disappear underwater if the Environment Agency sticks to its present policy of doing precisely nothing.

We are planning to do something for ourselves to protect our homes and gardens in Daisy Bank but we are having to reach deep in to our pockets, constantly battling lethargic officialdom.

Yes, it is a delight to see a pair of swans making pretty overtures to each other and our pet moorhen who pops in to sit in the birdbath, ludicrous legs all a-dangle, but it's small compensation for living in a barren sea of stinking mud.

Sorry about the temporary sense of humour bypass but I am cross.

They say no man is an island: it sure as hell doesn't feel like it at the moment.

NEWS FROM SUFFOLK COASTAL

COUNCIL READY TO CONSULT AGAIN ON WIND FARM

Suffolk Coastal has agreed that it should have consulted the local community again about the recent proposals by Parham Windfarm Ltd to use wind turbines with smaller blades at their approved wind farm site at Parham. The Council had originally given the green light to the latest proposals without consulting the public as the company was technically just submitting details required under the terms of the original application, and the turbines were the same height, plus there would be less noise.

The latest proposed turbine system would use turbines that are just under 100 metres high to the tip but with shorter, 26.5 metre long, blades on a 73.25 metre high tower. These meet all the conditions originally imposed by the Council.

The wind farm developer will consider whether to pursue this turbine system further and if it does will submit full details to the Council. There would then be a period of consultation with a full report being presented to councillors at a future meeting of the Development Control Committee.

Planning permission was originally granted in July 2006 for six wind turbines to be erected, following the original backing being given by councillors in October 2005 after an extensive site visit and five hours discussion of all the issues. There were more than 700 responses to the original application. The developer had also sought consent to increase the size of the wind turbines.

Visitors and residents wanting to find out more about places to eat in the area can visit Suffolk Coastal's website where the 2008 edition of the *Eating Out in Suffolk Coastal* guide is available. The guide can be viewed or downloaded by logging onto www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/foodanddrink and clicking on *Eating Out in Suffolk Coastal 2008* guide. The guide lists by town or village various eating places from hotels and restaurants to tea rooms and pubs. It also gives information on whether an establishment has disabled access/facilities and for how many it can cater.

Copies of the guide are available from Suffolk Coastal's Tourist Information Centres at Wood-

bridge, Felixstowe and Aldeburgh and from Tourist Information Points sited in post offices, pubs, restaurants and local shops throughout the district. Establishments that are not featured in the guide and who would like to have an entry in a future edition, can contact the Council's Economic Development and Regeneration team on 01394 444451 for further information.

Stephen Baker, currently Suffolk Coastal's chief executive is also to become chief executive of Waveney District Council. From April, Mr Baker will divide his time equally between them in a move that will place an increased emphasis on joint working and sharing of experience, resources and knowledge. Each council will remain independent: this is not a merger but a pooling of resources, talents and knowledge between two areas with many common features. Both Suffolk councils face coastal protection challenges, share transport links, have tourism and ports as key economic drivers, and have large rural and environmentally important areas.

The district's own website for young people www.sctv.org.uk has just reinvented itself in a deliberate move to ensure more young people visit the site and keep up to date with what matters to them in Suffolk Coastal. Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices (SCTV) last year launched the website but the young people behind it quickly realised that they were accidentally excluding many of their target audience.

Alex Stewart of SCTV said: "We originally designed our site with FlashPlayer, a software programme which allowed us to have lots of nice-looking graphics and animations but which we quickly discovered was not compatible with everyone's computers. So we have linked up with one-suffolk and relaunched our site. Just email enquiries@sctv.org.uk .

SCTV is the first district wide forum for young people and aims to promote the reputation of young people in Suffolk Coastal and raise awareness of their needs for local services. The formation of the group has been assisted by the district's youth co-ordinator, who is funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

SIR CAPEL CHARLES WOLSELEY BT (1870-1923)

The forgotten last resting place of Sir Capel Wolseley was revealed recently when brambles covering his grave in Blythburgh churchyard were cleared. He came from an Irish family whose baronetcy was created in 1745 and succeeded a distant cousin as 9th baronet in 1890.

He spent the early years of the twentieth century in Russia. He was active in St Petersburg in 1900 raising money for a Russian famine relief fund and served as British Vice-Consul in Archangel from 1900 to 1909. In WWI he was a captain in the East Surrey Regiment. He saw action at Gallipoli, and served in Egypt, Palestine, the army of occupation in Albania and, appropriately, the north Russia expedition in 1919.

Sir Capel married in 1907 into a military family: his wife Beatrice's father was Colonel Knollys of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Both husband and wife believed in the importance of their British lineage and its overseas links. He was involved with the Education Fund for Europeans and Eurasians in India and, in 1921, his wife visited the United States to launch the British-American Kinship Clan, with membership limited to those of British origin.

She lauded the Americans as the "greatest ideal-

ists in the world", although disliking their skyscrapers, and believed in the formation of an international armed force to keep down war. The surest route to international understanding was, she thought, education, but it was a slow, discouraging way. In the meantime something forceful was needed to settle affairs and differences.

But how did Sir Capel come to Blythburgh? It is a sad story. On 27 August 1923 he was cycling across Blythburgh common, intent upon visiting a relative who lived nearby. He failed to hear a car approaching from behind and turned into its path. Knocked from his bicycle he sustained head injuries and died soon after reaching Southwold Hospital. At the inquest held the very next day in Southwold, his sister Winifred said that his sight was bad. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and the car driver, Walter Tarrant, was exonerated from blame.

Sir Capel had no children to succeed him and the title passed to a cousin. Lady Wolseley died in 1947 and her ashes were scattered in Blythburgh. In the light of her British-American kinship interests, she might have been pleased to know that the current 13th baronet is a Texan.

Alan Mackley

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HOW THE COUNCIL DECIDES ON PLANNING

The planning system works on the basis that an application will be approved unless it is harmful to planning policies. Policy is set out in three tiers: National Policy circulars, the Regional Strategy, and the Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan. The planning authority – the decision-making body – is Suffolk Coastal District Council. They must consult the Parish Council. The Parish Council's role is to represent the interests of the Blythburgh community. The Council should listen to the views of residents but must reach its decisions in the light of its own role and responsibilities.

If the Parish Council's comments are to be effective they must relate to relevant material planning considerations, not personal viewpoints. Planning is the most sensitive area when it comes to a parish councillors' Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest. The Parish Council's comments will not overrule those of the Environment Agency, the Highway Authority etc on technical matters. Most planning applications are determined by Council Officers, not by Committee.

Development within Blythburgh is constrained by planning policy and several additional layers of control, for which the boundaries are all different. The physical limits of the village are defined. Within these limits development is possible in principle. Outside the area, countryside policies apply. The land to the west of Church Lane has additional protection.

The whole of the village is in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area to the east of the A12 is part of the Heritage Coast. A Conservation Area covers part of the area within the Physical Limits Boundary, and some fields outside it. Development or change should not be detrimental to this area but actually preserve or enhance it. This applies to demolition as well as construction, and to trees.

Some buildings are listed as of special historical or architectural interest. Part of the village lies within a Scheduled Archaeological Site and much of the village area, although unscheduled, is considered to be of archaeological significance. Part of the area to the east of the village lies within the Walberswick National Nature Reserve. The Blyth valley is a Special Landscape Area. Some land adjacent to the village is managed as an Environmentally Sensitive Area. Individual trees may be covered by Tree Preservation

Orders

The material planning considerations for the Parish Council include: the Local Plan and draft future plans; environmental impact assessment; representations received from consultees, landowners and the public; precedent and previous appeal decisions

Typical planning considerations include: impact on visual appearance/amenity; traffic capacity of road network; degree of overlooking; general level of disturbance caused by use; car parking provision and the impact on any Conservation Area.

It is also important to be aware of matters which do not affect planning decisions. These include: noise/disturbance during construction; concern over future use; anti-social behaviour of applicant; solely the level of objections and those covered by other legislation. Comments to the planning authority must be relevant and based upon evidence. One such valid comment (of approval or objection) will outweigh any number of invalid comments.

These are the main themes relevant to applications for development in Blythburgh: key facilities in villages; village services and facilities; housing. Infilling or small groups (not more than five units related to each other) of new houses are permitted, in principle, within the Physical Limits Boundary, but subject to conditions. The development of three or more units would be expected to include one to three units of affordable housing (the need must first be quantified). Exceptionally, affordable housing development may be permitted outside the Physical Limits Boundary.

Other planning decisions likely to affect the Parish Council include: transport, A12 improvements; tourism, encouraged to the west of the A12, but not in certain areas already under pressure to the east; conversion of rural buildings; flooding; coastal protection; recreational facilities; allotments; footpaths; motor sports; caravan and camping sites and the old Blythburgh Hospital.

The Parish Council should respond to the District Council in a succinct manner and state its overall approval or objection to an application. In some cases conditions may be attached to an approval. It may also be appropriate to highlight key pros and cons of an application, bearing in mind that the planning process is a debate involving numbers of interested parties.

NOTES FROM ANGEL MARSH

Whether it is old age a-creeping or a cold that's going on and on, I have decided that this will be the last from me for the time being. Perhaps there is somebody else in the village with something to say about how they see life here, especially a voice from the much younger end of the age range.

Beccles Choral Society's next concert contains works by East Suffolk writers and composers. Unusually, they are, apart from one, all still alive. This part of the coast does seem to attract composers and painters in particular. Blythburgh has been home to Martin Shaw, William Alwyn and his wife, both prolific composers of film music as well as works for orchestra. Today there are three painters working in the village that I know about and, I suspect, there are a lot of other creative ideas brought into being by this wonderful landscape in which we are fortunate to live.

So here is a recent piece, which arrived a few days ago.

Good Friday 2008

Standing in my window,
Quiet breathing behind me.

Silvery light,
Over the river,
Over the marsh.

Distantly,
Faintly white in a pewter sky,
The lighthouse, barely visible...

Nothing moves;
Garden and field
Still, soundless.

Until the wren's song
Bursts over all,
Welcoming the sun.

Richard Maslen

WHY NOT JOIN THE GARDENERS?

Spring is here again and the Blythburgh Horticultural Society Committee has been busy planning the programme for the year. There has already been a walk through the snowdrop woods at Dunwich, followed by lunch at Bridge Nursery. Future plans include a visit to the Ladybird Nursery at Snape in May, in time to buy plants for the containers, and another to Hales Hall, near Beccles in June.

For full details of our programme for 2008, why not join us? The society is a friendly bunch and green fingers are not a requirement for membership – it is as much a social club as a horticultural one.

The subscription is only £1.50 per person per year and new members will receive the society's programme card and newsletters. Just get in touch with Kate Doran at Riverview or any member of the committee.

Jenny Allen

Blythburgh, Bulcamp & Hinton

Parish Plan Steering Group

We want to know what matters to you in our Parish

What you like, don't like, or want to keep as it is

Come and tell us and *Enjoy Our Village*, around the Church and Green

TRINITY SUNDAY 18th MAY 2007 - 2pm to 6 pm

We expect to have a cricket match, Maypole dancing, Morris Dancers, stalls, local skills demonstrations and tea in the Church.

COUNTY NEWS

Suffolk communities can now benefit from the Suffolk Green Fund, which will help them become greener, thanks to the East of England Development Agency, which has launched a three-year *Cut your Carbon* campaign. Communities taking part will be able to measure their carbon footprint and seek to win EEDA match funding for projects that apply fresh thinking to cutting carbon emissions. Suffolk County Council is supporting the campaign and has set up the Suffolk Green Fund.

Suffolk communities can now send their *Cut your Carbon* proposals, which could range from local energy schemes to community landscape projects, promoting green tourism or banning plastic bags. Awards from the Suffolk Green Fund will then be based on the winning entries announced by EEDA. The Suffolk Green Fund will provide £100,000 in matched funding for winning communities from Suffolk to cover the gap in funding that successful communities still need to find. The money will be available for both capital and revenue costs and can be used by groups to cover some of the set up costs of developing their ideas. For more information, please call: 0800 0433 094 or visit www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk. For more information on the Suffolk Green Fund and the Creating the Greenest County initiative, please visit: www.greensuffolk.org

The GrandDriver scheme, which is designed to refresh and update the driving skills of older drivers, is set to return to Suffolk this summer. The project is aimed at reducing the number of killed and seriously injured older drivers in Suffolk. Department for Transport findings show that a driver over 65 is four times more likely to die as a result of a crash than a younger driver.

The programme, funded by the Department for Transport, is run by Suffolk County Council Road Safety. Targeted at drivers over the age of 65, it's hoped that any driver having age related health problems and feeling they could improve their driving is welcome to attend sessions. If you'd like to apply for a place at one of these sessions, please email: vivienne.carter@csduk.com or write to: Michelle Haward, Road Safety Office, 6 The Churchyard, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1RS.

Suffolk County Council is to invest around £750,000 each year in cultural organisations to:

- Encourage more people to visit arts' organisations

and museums. The priority will be to inspire children and young people and engage vulnerable adults and older people.

- Develop the potential of culture to make a significant impact on the lives of vulnerable adults through accredited learning programmes for people with learning disabilities, projects for older people and their carers and creative work with people with dementia and their carers.
- Secure increasing amounts of external funding for cultural organisations in Suffolk.

Deliver a programme of celebratory events and activities across the county as part of the nationwide Cultural Olympiad programme (2008-2012).

All Suffolk's regularly funded arts and museums organisations have received an increase in grant this year - the first time in four years. Three organisations, Suffolk Artlink, the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds and Bury Art Gallery, have received additional funding to assist the growth and development of their businesses.

Suffolk County Council has been rated as *improving well* by the government watchdog, the Audit Commission, in its Comprehensive Performance Assessment for 2007 and maintains its four star rating. Suffolk's Fire and Rescue Service has also been judged as improving well. In its report *Direction of Travel 2007*, which judges all fire and rescue services, the Audit Commission says: "Suffolk Fire & Rescue Authority is improving well and performing strongly across a range of key indicators and represents excellent value for money."

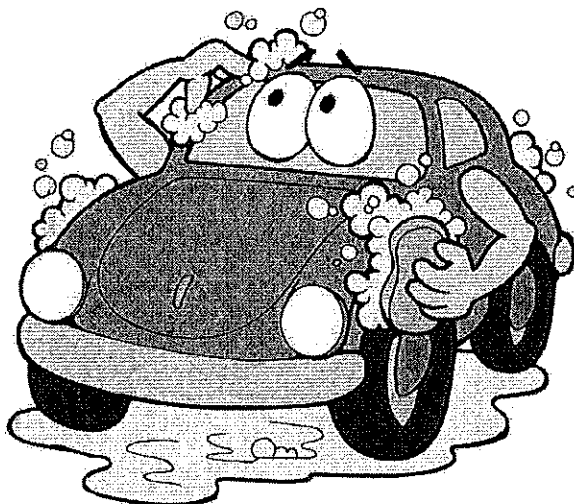
SEA EAGLES GROUNDED

Plans to introduce white-tailed eagles, sometimes known as sea eagles, into Suffolk have been abandoned by Natural England. There has been considerable consultation about the introduction of the birds, which would have been captured from elsewhere in Europe. Natural England has decided that rising sea-level damage to the coastal reed beds has threatened the natural feeding grounds of the county's bitterns. The sea eagles feed off similar grounds and as a precaution to protect the bitterns the Suffolk scheme has been dropped. It is possible that the birds will be released elsewhere in the east of England and if so, they could become regular visitors to the coast.

NOTES FROM DAISY BANK XXXI



I have decided to clean our car. We've had it now for six years so maybe it's time to give it a new lease of life. It's present state, covered with dirt and verdigris in equal portions, could of course be the answer to the strange and rather mocking fingers that point at us as we motor along the Suffolk lanes. Then again, it could be because of its deckchair roof and heavily dented body.



Several years ago my partner, unbeknown to me, did clean it. A few days before I had noticed a crop of healthy looking grasses growing out of the side window. I suppose I had thoughts of something similar to Adnams' Distribution Roof, i.e. a living car roof/window. But perhaps the boys in blue might have taken exception to a living roof.

Mr Peter Grubb of Henstead, a model of integrity in the world of low life car merchants, supplies and looks after the 2cvs that we've had over the years. Ours has a new chassis – 2cvs chassis are subject to rust – and the engine and all moving parts are sound. What the paintwork and body looks like is way down the list of priorities. And when the annual MoT comes up and Peter gives it the thumbs down, then it's on to another one with sometimes parts swapped over from the old one or even its predecessor. There are one or two others in the area but with the deckchair top it's still unique. Let's hope the laughter and pointing fingers are benign. Anyway, as I've said before, it's only a stop-gap until the Porsche 911 is delivered.

The wall is now complete and ready to withstand the next high tide. Come the spring hopefully it will grass up and blend into the path and become stronger as a result. The suggestion in the last edition of the *Parish News* that I take some of my ex ship beams out of the house structure and make them in to an ark, is perhaps a tad premature. I'm

afraid, dear correspondent, that in order to sell holidays, the odd stretches of the imagination or just downright 'porkies' have to be told in order to make a living. Retirement *sans pension* is not an option for us painters!

We've now got a moorhen living in the garden to add to the menagerie of Oscar and Barnaby and the odd passing hen. All of course are welcome and can expect a good feed. Also in the shed city that is our garden, I am having an ongoing battle with a mouse that wants to live in one shed which has vulnerable items in, whereas I want him to live in the garage. So for the last two days I have been catching him in a

humane mousetrap and depositing him in the garage only to find him back in the shed the following morning and banged up in the trap as usual. It's the Parmigiano cheese that he can't resist. I don't blame him - neither can I.

Getting back to birds various, it reminds me of the distant past when I had to make a trip from Singapore to Honolulu and then by military transport to Midway Island for some ghastly job or other. The island itself is tiny and really no more than a land strip on a beach with a few trees and a small US military camp. Bikes being the only means of transport apart from walking, it was quite unnerving late at night after leaving the local hostelry and wandering drunkenly along the path with hundreds of nesting gooney birds covering any spare open bit of grass. They were in fact of the albatross family known as a laysan and this particular branch only ever nested on Midway and then sort of disappeared, where nobody quite knew. Whatever, they were totally disinterested in some drunken English cyclist disturbing their night and just carried on with whatever they were carrying on with. After all they've probably been nesting there for a thousand years, long before man decided to pollute it.

Paul Bennett