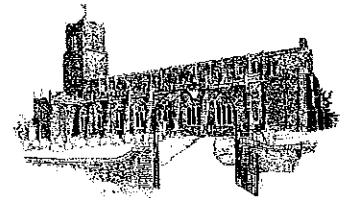


BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS

Issue 40

June/July 2008



COUNCIL TAKES ON FLOOD BATTLE

It has been a fairly hectic 12 months for the Parish Council since its formation in May 2007. David Tytler was elected chair, Ro Williams, vice chair. Two sub-committees were appointed - finance and planning, with Ro Williams and Rob Benson elected chairs respectively. Both sub-committees have been active throughout the year and the council has approved clear policies for each area.

Alan Mackley and Binny Lewis sit on the Village Hall Management Committee; Lucy Clapham and Ro Williams on the Village Plan Steering Committee. Jim Boggis, clerk to the council, is also the responsible officer for finance. All officers and representatives were re-elected at the annual general meeting of the council in May. All councillors and the clerk have undertaken training provided by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

During the year, Councillor Binny Lewis has been active in setting up the Blythburgh Speed Watch Campaign. There are now sufficient volunteers and the necessary finance is in place but the council is still waiting for the police to carry out the necessary checks on the volunteers before training can be provided.

Nearly 50 people, representing all ages and parts of the community attended a special parish meeting in

INSIDE:

Village Plan	2
Time for change?	3
Mrs Clapham	4
Blythburgh Characters	6
Village News	7
Flood Protests	8
Holy Trinity	9
Neighbourhood Watch	10
A New Council?	11
Daisy Bank	12

September to discuss a Parish Plan for the long term future of Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton. A steering group has been set up and is now well under way. (See page 2)

Flood protection is a growing concern for the parish and the council has sought quotes on repairing the riverbank to protect the village. Current estimates are just over £4000 and certificates permitting the work have

been applied for from the Environment Agency. The council is in principle prepared to make a donation towards the cost and is seeking ways to work in partnership with interested parties.

The Parish Council currently holds a total of £8,539.62, made up of £1,110.18 in the current account, and £7,429.44 in the business reserve/step saver account. An external audit of the accounts found everything to be in order.

The council continues to have good relations with the organisers of the Latitude Music Festival at Henham. Half-price tickets have been made available to Blythburgh Parish Council for distribution to residents on a first-come-first-served basis. There is currently a waiting list for Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are likely to be available for Friday. AnglianBus will operate a shuttle service from Southwold to Latitude via Wangford and Blythburgh, £2 single or £3 day return.

Discussions are continuing to see how the Council can distribute the money received from the sale of Latitude tickets. The Council plans to set up a fund to give small grants to those living in the parish to help finance a range of activities or equipment. Discussions are continuing with the Charity Commission and a Deed of Trust is being completed to enable this. Latitude has also agreed to pay the full cost of the speed gun for the Blythburgh Speed Watch Campaign.

The open forum is now held before each council meeting so that views expressed can be taken into account when decisions are made in the formal council meeting. Whilst this has been successful, very few people attend. An open invitation is extended to all in the community to express their views and make suggestions. The council is grateful for the two dozen or so villagers who took part in a very successful litter pick at the end of April.

David Tytler

THE VILLAGE PLAN GETS A STEP CLOSER

Siobhann Quinn, chair of the Blythburgh Parish Plan Steering Group, reported back to the annual parish meeting on the progress of the group so far. Using pages from the Suffolk Acre web site, she explained that a parish plan was produced after an all-inclusive consultation, which will enable the ideas, needs and concerns of the community to be identified. The Parish Council and other local planning agencies will use the plan as an important factor in their decisions.

In addition to Ms Quinn, the Steering Group members are Adam Burrows, Alan DeThabrew, Jon Doran, John Ellis, Alan Rutter, Tom Lond-Caulk and Brenda Motley with Ro Williams and Lucy Clapham representing the Parish Council.

The group has held seven meetings since its formation in October and has set a budget of £1,943. It has secured funding of £1,037 from the Department of Environment and Rural Affairs, £750 from

Suffolk County Council and £250 from the Parish Council. The account is managed by Jim Boggis, clerk to the council. An *Enjoy Your Village* event was organised for Sunday 18 May as part of the needs assessment and consultation process. A report of the event appears on page 12.

Questionnaires will be formulated in June and July based on early consultation and distributed to every household – including second-home owners – in the parish of Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton during August. The information will be collected, collated and analysed during September. A report will be published in October and further events will be held to inform the action plan. The group will produce a final report with a village action plan in December.

For further inquiries please contact Ms Quinn or any other member of the steering group.

David Tytler

The next meeting of the **PARISH COUNCIL**

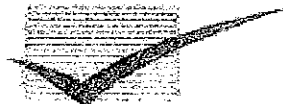
is on Monday, 14th July at 8pm in the Village Hall,
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• **CITY AND GUILDS QUALIFIED**

A TIME FOR CHANGE—BUT HOW?

Radical and unprecedented changes are taking place in local government due to the severe financial pressures imposed on local authorities, additional requirements for services and by legislation. Greater expectations of the services and the need to meet the green agenda put an additional strain on resources.

Suffolk County Council is rethinking how it does things and how it is organised: from answering the telephone, to the procurement of supplies, to the contracting of road engineering firms for highways maintenance.

The council has taken on a radical reorganisation of schools across the county. Suffolk underachieves in education and the council is determined to address the problem. This means a rebuild of many primary and secondary schools to make them fit for the 21st century. Many of the careers that young people will pursue in ten years' do not exist today. The council is ex-

amining how it provides education for 14- to 19-year-olds. Here is an interesting statistic: 84 per cent of children have played computer games; 74 per cent of teachers have not. There is a need for a better understanding of children and young people and how they learn.

Environmental issues are also placing heavy demands on local services. We cannot, for example, afford the financial penalties of using landfill sites. The proliferation of waste means that we have to look at the whole business of waste management and recycling.

On top of all of that, the Government has ordered a review of local government across Suffolk. Currently, there are district and borough councils with a county council over them. Inevitably we will move to unitary authorities providing all services: one county council, an east and west Suffolk, and an Ipswich unitary? Unitary authorities sound sensible but

how do we organise that across a county as large and as diverse as Suffolk? What about democratic representation and accountability?

Currently, there are 75 county councillors – 13 from Suffolk Coastal - each representing about 7,500 people. In addition, 55 councillors each representing about 1,800, sit on Suffolk Coastal District Council. How are one or maybe two councillors going to be responsible for what is now being done by five? How do 118 towns and parishes in Suffolk Coastal alone relate to a new unitary authority? Answers to me, or better still, the Boundary Committee, which has been told to report to the Secretary of State by 31st December.

Rae Leighton

Note from the chair of the Parish Council: when submitting reports please use as little paper as possible: print on both sides, use all available space and remember that people can share copies.

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MRS CLAPHAM INVESTIGATES:

THE THING ON THE MARSHES



Take a couple of empty washing-up liquid bottles, some odd-shaped pieces of coloured foam, several lengths of orange string and a pile of old asbestos (better get a grown-up to help you with that) and let's see what we can make, shall we?

A horrible eyesore, that's what.

Having prayed for rain on the day of the village litter-pick so I could have a Sunday morning lie-in, I twitched back the curtains only to be met with bright sunshine and the usual view of a large white plastic thing on the marshes, which had beached itself there over the winter.

Naturally, all the spikes and day-glo waistcoats had been nabbed by the time I reached the village hall so I had only a sack, a pair of rubber gloves, a dog and my good friend Pat to help me face the gruelling task ahead.

Being thoroughly unselfish, I suggested our team clean up the marshes visible from the Clapham house, amongst others. Our first treasures were a golf ball, several lager cans - sadly empty - crisp packets and an old shoe. Makes you

wonder...presumably someone was playing golf off the side of a boat, had his leg bitten off by a shark then drowned his sorrows with a beer and crisp fest, while the shark spat out the shoe which floated up river.

We took our job very seri-



ously, me, Pat and the dog.

Limbo-ing under barbed wire and through vicious brambles in our eagerness to reach a yoghurt carton, squelching through wellie-sucking mud and trying not to fall flat on our faces in the green slime, which now decorates the marshes, as we dived at a discarded sock - must have arrived with the shoe.

Toby can normally be relied on to fetch, so we explained to him that we needed help to

retrieve a plastic bottle from a wet spot too deep for us to reach. He was brilliant. Time and again he waded out looked at the bottle, laughed and paddled back without it. Pat - whom I had always thought was pretty smart - than had the bright idea of throwing a large stick at the bottle to send Toby in the right direction.

Delighted, he leapt in to the water, returning triumphant, stick in mouth.

Strangely, we found no discarded fruit on our hunt - odd, when you think how many people are now being fined for throwing an apple core into a hedge. They couldn't be biodegradable, could they? Or are people carefully taking them home to avoid prosecution, while merrily emptying their car ashtrays on the side

of the road?

Anyway, I will keep you in suspense no longer - what, you ask, became of the large white plastic thing on the marshes? Well, my lovely husband said he'd help when it was low water and, bless him, he was wonderful.

Helping me under the barbed wire, while he stood on the path and shouted directions as I skidded across the sludge to retrieve what turned out to be... a large white plastic thing.

The White Hart



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BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

ALAN MACKLEY, DECEASED

What is the editor thinking of in allowing a contributor to elevate himself to the worthy list of kings, royal academicians, musicians, military men, and one brothel keeper, who have so far graced this series? But, as author of this piece, I make no apologies. I am dead too. Or so the Internet says. It must, therefore, be true.

It is not difficult to establish a presence on the World-wide Web. If you publish something, hold an exhibition, are associated with an organisation that has a website, or have appeared in the press – a reference is likely to be picked up. There is nothing you can do about it. I could easily find several fellow villagers. And now a website has been created to make it even easier to look for people:

www.spock.com

Naturally, I looked for myself. Not as an ego trip (or only a little) but a desire to read what others might discover about me. And there I was. Alan Mackley, deceased. The computer that reached this conclusion could not find my picture. I know of two on the web but they're difficult to track down. But it had illustrated my demise with a reproduction of the front cover of one of my books. There was no doubt about it. I was as dead as the Monty Python Blue Parrot. No wonder the phone had been quiet recently. Doubly worrying, because there had been no flood of commiserations either.

Mark Twain once wrote that reports of his death were greatly exaggerated. I second that. But how could I have been so easily shuffled off? The reason is that there is more than one Alan Mackley. Spock's

unthinking computer had found two people with the same name and combined their entries. My name-sake doesn't sound a bad guy. An Australian, he died in 1982. He was a first-class cricket umpire no less, standing in the Australia v England Adelaide test in 1963. There is still a cricketing trophy named after him in Western Australia.

Resisting the temptation to add these highly desirable qualifications to my CV, I decided to do something about the duplication. Cyber murder was one possibility. Why not simply erase my competitor? But I could not live with the guilt. The only practical solution was to establish a proper identity for myself on the Spock site and transfer all the relevant references to it. The ease with which this could be done was frightening. And I must keep an eye on the result. Because the Spock computer will continue to trawl the web and allocate new references it finds, they may still finish up in the wrong place.

I am not a fan of personal exposure on the Internet. Not for me the younger generation's predilection for social networking sites where they publish their entire lives, or at least the lives they would like to have. Yet I had to resurrect myself. A minimalist personal reference on which Internet citations could be focussed seemed to be the only option.

Thankfully (at the time of writing) I am back in the world of the living. It must be true. The Internet says so. Unfortunately, I cannot now claim responsibility for deciding that Simpson (Australia) was caught at the wicket for a duck in Adelaide in 1963.

Alan Mackley

Your Parish Councillors**Chair**

David Tytler, Telephone: 478521

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

NEWS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

Blythburgh Village Hall is let on a regular basis to Blythburgh Bowls on a Tuesday, either afternoon or evening, and to the Pont Nevis Morris Dancers every Thursday evening during autumn, winter and spring. The bowls club pay a much-reduced rate. The hall is also used, free of charge, for their bi-monthly meeting and by the Village Hall Committee.

The soak away from the kitchen needs to be replaced and the Parish Council is currently seeking the best way to do this. The council is also obtaining quotes on building a storage hut on land at the rear of the hall. The Parish Council will apply to County Councillor Rae Leighton for a grant from the locality budget towards the cost. The village hall driveway has been relayed and the question of parking at the hall is currently under discussion.

Toby Lond-Caulk has kindly agreed to repair the damage to the case of the clock given to the hall by Audrey Mallan. David Tytler ran another village hall quiz, which was greatly enjoyed by everybody and made a handsome profit for the hall funds. Thank you, David, for that and for continuing as booking clerk with a general oversight of the hall.

I would also like to thank the other members of the committee for their help and support, especially Mick Nicholls, the treasurer, for not allowing us to go into the red. The committee is looking for a new secretary. At up to three meetings a year, it is not too onerous a task. Volunteers should contact me.

*Henrietta Maslen
Chair, Village Hall Committee*

Blythburgh Horticultural Society was formed in 1985 with the main purpose of holding a competitive summer show. Whilst it is still held each year, the society has developed into a social club with a horticultural slant. The summer show is held on the last Saturday in July 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, the more fun it is. Local experts judge the entries, and the show is open in the afternoon for visitors to enjoy the exhibits and home made cakes and tea. Cups are presented for each sec-

tion and for some individual classes.

Each year we try to raise money for charity and arrange a number of outings but the high point of the year was probably a Garden Safari around the village on 2 September, culminating in tea at Lucretia Cottage. This was a real eye-opener as we toured eight very varied and impressive gardens. A summer garden party is held in the garden of one of our committee members and there is an annual dinner, a chance simply to get together and enjoy a good meal in pleasant company. In November we hold our AGM, which we try to make more of a social event, keeping business to a minimum.

There is no need to have green fingers to join the society, just an interest in gardening – if only from the comfort of a deckchair - and an enjoyment of plants and gardens in general. We have around 50 members, most but by no means all living in Blythburgh. The annual subscription is £1.50 per member, surely the best value in the village.

Toby Lond-Caulk

The Blythburgh Society continues to act as a focal point for dealing with questions about Blythburgh's history and queries from family historians. There is a steady flow of enquiries by email, post, and telephone. Radio and TV researchers use the society as a contact point. The society has a steady income from sales of its book *Poaching Priors of Blythburgh* but stocks are almost exhausted. There are other activities and projects that the society could develop but, not alone among village organisations, it lacks a secretary. A volunteer would be made most welcome.

Alan Mackley

The Bowls Club is now in its sixth year. Most members had never played before joining. We have progressed well and have had several friendly games with Reydon, Rumburgh, Chediston, Walberswick and Knodishall. We win some, lose some, but always have a very pleasant social evening. Since starting, we have donated money to the Tsunami Appeal, Red Cross, Cancer Research, a children's hospice and the Village Christmas Tea Party.

Beryl Stringer

THE PROTESTS FLOOD IN

The debate about coast and river defence is not a party political one, declared Suffolk Coastal MP John Gummer at a recent meeting in Blythburgh Village Hall. The local community may find itself lined up against government but not specifically a Labour one.

John Gummer argued that we owed it to past generations to continue to do our best to hold what we have, and that we should not leave a much higher bill for future generations by avoiding spending today. The coast and estuaries should be looked at as a whole and their defence must be the starting assumption. There may be places where retreat is unavoidable but it must only be after taking the best advice and in consultation with local communities.

There are fundamental problems with the cost/benefit analysis methodology. The costs are public and the benefits private. Only if compensation is included in the calculation – a public cost – will government be willing to spend to avoid an even higher bill, i.e. achieve a public benefit. Therefore, only the prospect of compensation if defences are removed (an argument that can be pursued with the aid of

European Community legislation) will alter present philosophy.

'Fight every single item of defence withdrawal' was John Gummer's recommendation. On the most difficult individual cases get the best deal you can, including possible public/private partnerships. But don't concede the fundamental proposition that defence is the basic assumption.

In response to questions from Blythburgh residents, John Gummer undertook to look at the question of the breach threatening Church Lane, and at the matter of rat-running through the village, which can only get worse if, as seems likely, Sizewell C is developed.

Alan Mackley

LIVE ON AIR

Blyth Valley Radio will be formally opened on 14 June and begin broadcasting via the internet from 1300 to 1700 hours each day. Broadcasting on air will depend upon the grant of an Ofcom license. An application cannot be made until Ofcom opens its next period for receiving submissions from this region.

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A church building has stood in Blythburgh for a thousand years witnessing to the love of God and the faith of His people. The present magnificent building which can be seen rising out from the Blyth estuary – sometimes affectionately called the Cathedral of the Marshes – is acknowledged to be one of the foremost parish churches in the country, not only architecturally but also for the atmosphere of peace and calm which pervades it. This is frequently referred to by the up to 15,000 visitors each year. While the church community feels privileged to be custodian of such a wonderful place, it also brings huge responsibilities particularly, as is true at the moment, when major repair work is required.

The Team Vicars with responsibility for Holy Trinity are Julie and David Eaton who hold the post as a job share – perhaps proof that it is possible for the Church of England to move with the times. The post of Team Rector has been vacant since June 2007 and the job cannot be filled until difficulties within the Team are resolved in relation to the appointment of women priests.

Morning services take place in the church each Sunday, alternating between traditional and modern language forms, and there is a very well attended Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of each month led by the Blythburgh Singers. We are very fortunate to have such a high quality of musicians regularly leading our worship.

Special services took place at the major festivals of Christmas and Easter, including special events aimed at children. The Harvest Lunch after the Harvest Thanksgiving service was enjoyed by forty people seated at the back of the church. The Blessing of Animals Service at the August Bank Holiday weekend is always great fun, we never know which of God's creatures will turn up, from stick insects to horses and llamas.

In May 2007, Holy Trinity suffered a great loss in the unexpected death of Alan Pegg, one of our two churchwardens, who had done so much for the church over many years. He has been greatly

missed. Jenny Allen has been elected as churchwarden in his place. Tom Lond-Caulk continues as churchwarden.

Later in May, Trinity Sunday was celebrated by the *Blythburgh Festival*, which took place over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Many parishioners helped to make this a success and the response to photographs and memorabilia for display came from far afield.

The prayer board in the Hopton Chapel is well used by visitors as they share their worries and concerns with God, and we include their intercessions in our regular services. This reminds us that although the resident community may be small, the wider community that the church serves is large.

In April 2007 the new vestry was completed, and this has made a great difference to the ease with which chores are accomplished and the speed with which service essentials are taken out and put away, as well as being aesthetically much more pleasing. Throughout 2007 a major preoccupation of the Parochial Church Council was the preparations for the repair of the south aisle roof, estimated at around £200,000, and further repairs particularly to the pointing will make the total project around £300,000. Peter Coghill is the link-man between the PCC and Whitworth Co-Partnership, our architects. An appeal for funds was launched at the beginning of November and is likely to continue over the next few years.

Jenny Allen

BLYTHBURGH, BULCAMP & HINTON PARISH PLAN

The Village Event was a great success. A big thank you to everyone who joined us on Sunday 18th May for our Enjoy Your Village event. More than 130 people from parts of the parish and across a whole range of ages came to the event. Everybody gave us lots of ideas, good points and issues, which we will now analyse to create the questionnaire for each household (it may take us a while so bear with us.) A special thank you to the committee, exhibitors and stall holders whose hard work in the past few weeks and from 10am Sunday morning ensured that everyone could enjoy our village on the day!

Siobhann Quinn

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

THREE CRIMES THIS YEAR

This year has seen three major crimes in Blythburgh. In the first on Wednesday 6th June 2007 at 4.15pm an elderly lady was robbed. One man, described as 5ft 5in tall wearing three-quarter length jeans, fat and with stubble appeared in her house, accompanied by a second man, 5ft 10in. slim with short dark hair. In the second crime, on Monday 4th February at 4.30pm, an elderly lady on her own was targeted and robbed in her home by three men. The first, a 5ft 5in 35-year-old, was accompanied by two younger men in their twenties 20's, one with dark hair.

These crimes have significant similarities including the targeted victims, the style of entry and descriptions of the criminals. They illustrate how important it is that we keep doors, especially in the rear of our properties, locked to prevent unexpected entrance by thieves to our homes. It is also a lesson for us to keep an eye out for each other, including friends and neighbours, who may be vulnerable or living on their own. If you see any suspicious behaviour or vehicles, then record it and if in doubt ring the police.

The third crime occurred recently during restoration work to Blythburgh Church. At some time between

midnight and six in the morning on Sunday April 13, the church was raided by a team of furniture thieves who forced entry through a stained glass window in the northwest corner of the building. After entering the church they stole three pieces of furniture, including a 15th Century chest.

Blythburgh is a small village with significant numbers of people passing through. However, in the spirit of Neighbourhood Watch we should work together and keep our eyes and ears alert to any criminals, so that we make sure they know we are watching and that they are not welcome here.

It is important that we do not frighten people unnecessarily but, equally, police checks, which are offered automatically after a robbery, are clearly too late. For example, a Home Shield visit is provided after burglaries. What is less well known is that householders or families with vulnerable relatives, can request such a check. I can only recommend that this is done.

Robert Benson

Blythburgh Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

FROM SHOOTING RANGE TO STREET LIGHTS

At its planning meeting in April, the Parish Council raised no objection to the building of an indoor air pistol and air rifle range at High Lodge Shooting School. It believed that the range is a legitimate addition to an existing business and that there were unlikely to be any additional problems regarding traffic movements or noise at the relatively isolated site.

In considering plans for a conservatory extension at 1, Blyth View, Bulcamp, the council paid particular attention to the size of the proposed conservatory, a substantial addition to the ground floor of the property, but noted the reasonable objective of providing direct access to the conservatory from more than one ground-floor room. The council had no objections.

The council did, however, object to the building of a replacement summerhouse at Cavell Cottage, Church Lane, a part of Blythburgh with the most restrictive planning controls. The proposed summerhouse would be substantially larger than the one it would replace, with a floor area more than four times that of the existing structure. The proposed colour scheme of green timber and red pantiled roof was considered to make the structure even more intrusive. The Parish Council believed that this application amounted to a new development and not the simple replacement of

an existing structure. The council suggested that if a replacement summerhouse was needed it should be no larger than the present one, and that its walls and roof should be of timber and allowed to weather to its natural colour.

At its May meeting, the Parish Council raised no objections to an application from Haw Wood Camp, Darsham Road, Hinton, for the retention of use of land and buildings for a dog and rabbit breeding business. The council did, however, have reservations and concerns over the standards of animal welfare at the premises.

The council also considered a request from Flagship-Housing for the improvement of the existing single street light and the provision of two more in Highfield, following the recent robbery there. Councillor Lucy Clapham reported that she had spoken to residents and felt that they were prepared to stick with the one light but thought that security lights should be provided for vulnerable areas. It was also pointed out that the robbery had taken place in the late evening and not in the dark. It was agreed that the council could not support the request but would recommend the provision of security lights.

NEWS FROM SUFFOLK COASTAL

PLANS FOR NEW TOURING COUNCIL

A joint submission has been submitted arguing the case for new East Suffolk Unitary Council to be set up as part of the Boundary Committee's review of local government in Suffolk. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney would be joined with parts of Mid Suffolk and Babergh, uniting communities with shared life-styles and goals, to create one council to provide all the key services to around 250,000 residents.

The submission describes East Suffolk as a gateway to the world with its two nationally important ports, and a place where much of the world seems to want to visit with their guarantee of a warm and friendly welcome. At the same time it is a home for residents who give it top-class ratings for quality of life and for world-beating innovative industries. The area combines unspoilt countryside and coastline with bustling seaside resorts, tourist attractions, high performing state and private schools, well-below average crime rates, and is also a magnet for business investment.

The submission anticipates having an innovative *virtual council* that will move around its communities, with a network of offices rather than one remote central headquarters. It expects to set up a network of area committees that will work alongside the town and parish councils to help deliver decisions and services on a local basis.

The plans have the full support of the groups repre-

sented on Suffolk Coastal, the administration of Waveney, plus Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Councils. The full concept submitted to the Boundary Committee is on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future

Suffolk Coastal says that the appointment of its Chief Executive Stephen Baker to a shared role with Waveney District Council will immediately save each authority around £40,000. Mr Baker is being paid £125,000 and took up his new role with Waveney at the start of April.

Sign up for the county games - SCDC is looking for sporty youngsters to represent their district at the county's own festival of sport - Suffolk Youth Games - which is being held in Ipswich on Sunday, July 6. Special training and selection sessions are open to anyone wanting to take part. The training courses for each sport will develop individual skills in the weeks leading up to the Games with each course costing £10 or £8 for concessions. This year's games for ten to 16-year-olds will feature nine competitive sports – athletics, badminton, basketball, girls cricket, football, hockey, table tennis, tag rugby and tennis. The athletics competition includes events for young people with disabilities. For further information call 01394 444652, email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

COUNTY NEWS - RING UP THE CASH WITH THAT OLD PHONE

Suffolk schools have been given the opportunity to make money from old mobile phones and help the environment at the same time. Suffolk County Council and Recycle Your Mobile have been working together since 2006 to encourage people to recycle their unwanted mobile phones for the benefit of schools in Suffolk. Since the launch of the project, more than £13,750 has been raised for local schools and almost 4,000 unwanted phones have been diverted from landfill sites.

For each recyclable phone donated, the nominated school will receive up to £5 and improve children's understanding of the benefits of recycling and the need to protect our environment. So far the scheme has diverted three tonnes of hazardous waste from landfill and one Suffolk school has raised £1,500 in just one term.

Suffolk County Council has been selected to take part in a groundbreaking new project, which will find new ways of working on climate change. The Forum

for the Future Project has experience of working with local authorities on sustainable development and for the first time will work with the county council to use innovative approaches used by global companies such as Apple, Procter and Gamble and Nokia, to help with the challenges Suffolk faces against climate change.

A team will work with Suffolk County Council and two other local authorities over a six-month period to address problems that prevent them from taking the lead in tackling climate change. The approach is designed to inspire creativity by transferring approaches that have been successfully used in other sectors. More information can be found at <http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk>.

The county council is to receive a subsidy from the Government of £102m towards the cost of treating the waste that is leftover after recycling and composting. The grant will cover half the cost of the new plant.

NOTES FROM DAISY BANK XXXII

I know I moan and continue to moan about the noise pollution from the motorbikes – wait until the world championships are held up there and some of you might feel the same – but one noise that I look forward to is the sound of a helicopter. Now in a previous life that sound meant being sent to prison for a couple of weeks on some grotty oil rig in the north sea but now we have our own visiting chopper which lands in Peter Nash's garden.

To my mind that puts little old Blythburgh well up the celebrity ladder. I've met the lady pilot who is very matter of fact about her expertise, which makes her able to drive the thing, but I know different. I've told all my friends who are equally impressed and wished they lived in Blythburgh.

Years ago I used to do the pools with a friend in Norwich. The promise was that if we won – he always checked the results – then he would arrive and land in our garden. Needless to say I'm still waiting and what were the pools anyway?

Mind you I have had a mere hint of lady luck passing me by. A cousin of mine was a policeman working on the Yorkshire miners' strike and was called back to his local station at Stevenage to be told he had won a then substantial amount. He accepted the cheque broke open a bottle of bubbly and then went back to Yorkshire. I suppose if you love your job enough ... but the miners' strike?



Occasionally I find it difficult to drum up some ideas for the article and this is one of those times. So, I enclose a drawing of Farmer Grey of Hinton Farm whom we used to visit from time to time. A great character, Arthur loved his Guinness and it was always a pleasure to watch him drink it.

Paul Bennett

A TESCO'S AND A HOCKEY PITCH PLEASE

Ask most of us for our views on a subject and we're usually only too happy to oblige. Which is one of the reasons our recent Village Event was such a success. The event was organised by the Parish Plan Steering Group, which invited parish residents to come and have some free fun in return for their opinions on the village.

And come they did – more than 100. The sun shone on the church field as our friendly east wind fluttered the maypole ribbons and tinkled the bells of the Morris dancers. Very Olde England - and very colde (sic). There were local skills, including willow weaving, and superb home-made cakes, made by the ladies of Blythburgh, and handed out with tea in the church. An energetic rounder's match kept the younger residents warm along with the inevitable bouncy castle. The highlight was to win a helicopter trip, piloted by Bo Maggs. The flying ace gave us a hair-raising demonstration of her skills, with the help of her gorgeous assistant Peter Nash, hovering over the field and

dropping numbered golf balls on to a marker. Nearest ball won the prize - this turned out to be Emily Blois (aged eleven weeks).

Clever, those golf balls. You picked a number for free and in return wrote your views on post-it notes and stuck them (unsigned) to large boards placed in the barn. There was high praise for the pub and post office, a big no to street lights, requests for a couple of notice boards for the village "not locked please" and cleaner and tidier bus stops. But it was the kids who really came in to their own - as one little charmer put it: "Not just old people live in the village."

The Latitude festival was top of their list: weekend passes, free tickets and enough tickets for everyone please. There were also requests for a youth club and somewhere to play ball games and - a Tesco. Interesting idea.

But my two favourites - and I hope the Parish Council will take note - were requests for a hockey stadium and a chocolate factory.

Lucy Clapham

FILLING THE BREACH

Volunteers from Southwold and Walberswick have completed a mammoth task to fill a breach caused by the storm surge of 9th November 2007 allowing 100 acres of the picturesque Blyth Estuary to be reclaimed from the sea. The work started weeks ago when more than 2,000 sand bags were filled at Walberswick Quay before being taken up river in a flotilla of small boats provided by local river users. A handful of experienced river users then set about the tricky task of filling a hole that sees the tide surge in and out twice a day. In just two days of hard manual labour the barrage was completed and the reward was to see the water levels on the marsh begin to drop.