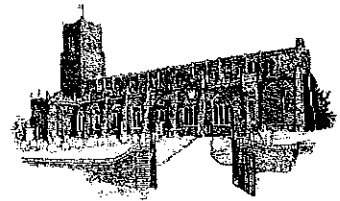


BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS

Issue 45

April/May 2009



THE HUNT IS ON FOR VILLAGER OF THE YEAR

The people of Blythburgh are being asked to nominate contenders for the inaugural Villager of the Year award, set up by the Parish Council. Nominations have to be received by the parish clerk, Jim Boggis, by May 1.

The winner will be selected from the nominations by a small panel made up of representatives from the council, the village plan steering committee and other local associations. Members of the selection panel will not be eligible for the award. The award is intended to recognise the, often unsung, contribution made by an individual to the general well being of the village.

The winner will receive a £50 voucher to be spent in the village shop or the White Hart, subject to the agreement of the new landlord, and a plaque will be placed in the village hall. The winner will be announced at the annual parish meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm on Monday May 11

Parish Plan: The findings of the village survey will be published at an open day in Blythburgh Village Hall on Saturday March 28, from 11am to 3pm when villagers will be invited to indicate their priorities to be included in the village plan. Refreshments will be available.

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When completed the Parish Plan will be presented to a village meeting when the Parish Council and parishioners will be able to question the steering committee. A report will be produced with a summary delivered to all households in the village. It is intended to print the findings in the Blythburgh Parish News.

Planning: Suffolk

Coastal District Council (SCDC) has approved the retention of two caravans for pig stockmen's accommodation at 1, Stone Cottage, Dunwich Road, Blythburgh, with a number of restrictions, including their removal in 2014.

Road names: In response to the SCDC review of road names in Blythburgh, the March meeting of the council recommended that the A12 through the village should be renamed London Road and that the Angel Lane sign should have an arrow pointing towards Angel Lane.

Finance: The March meeting of the Parish Council was told that there was £1,454.47 in the Community Account with £8,160.75 in the Savings Account. The estimated Spending for the remainder of the 2008/2009 financial year is £2,635.26 leaving an estimated balance of £6,979.96. It was also reported that of the £1,875.00 available to the village plan steering committee, £686.32 had been spent, leaving £1,188.68 unspent so far.

Litter: At the March meeting of Blythburgh Parish Council, Councillor Robert Benson expressed concern at the potholes in the pathway to the old station car park by the river and at the rubbish being left by the recycle bins. The council is to seek quotes on repairing the potholes and is to ask SCDC to provide a large wheelie bin for general rubbish.

Bus Shelter: Suffolk County Council has said that it would take time to find out ownership of the land for the new bus stop on the south side of the A12. Parish clerk Jim Boggis has spoken to the owners of the paddock adjacent to the proposed site of the bus shelter and qualified permission has been given for the new shelter. The Parish Council has offered to pay £1,400 towards the cost, providing that a contribution is available from the locality budget.

David Tytler

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SPEED WATCH TAKES TO THE ROAD

Blythburgh Speed Watch volunteers were on patrol for a total of 18 hours during February as they monitored the traffic speeds through the village. The monitoring took place from the two police-approved sites, one of which is on the A12 and the other in the centre of Dunwich Road.

As a result, the registration numbers of three vehicles were submitted to the Suffolk Police Neighbourhood Team, which will send official letters to remind these drivers of the dangers of speeding, particularly in built-up areas and where there is a 30mph restricted area.

The fifth volunteer has now received clearance and police approval and will be joining the team in March. Blythburgh Speed Watch is still looking for more volunteers to join the team of five. A minimum of one hour a week is all that it takes to become a volunteer working in teams of two on a rota basis. Training, of just one hour, will be provided in Blythburgh.

Councillor Binny Lewis, Speed Watch co-ordinator, says: "It

could not be easier. As this scheme is entirely run on a voluntary basis, we are asking more people to step up and join us. We received a good response from the public, so we are hoping more will sign up as volunteers. I would love to hear from you."

For morning information or an informal chat, ring Binny Lewis on 01502 478624.

Lowestoft 'to stay in Suffolk'

Lowestoft is to stay in Suffolk under the Boundary Committee's latest proposals for local government reform in Norfolk and Suffolk, following consultations, which showed little if any support for the plan.

The two main proposals remain as either:

- A Suffolk unitary authority comprising the existing county of Suffolk
- An Ipswich and Felixstowe unitary authority comprising the rest of Suffolk

The committee is asking for any further representations to reach them by May 14 before final recommendations are made to the

Government by July 15, 2009.

Sign up to the British Red Cross

The British Red Cross is looking for volunteers to support it in its work of helping people in crisis across the world and around the corner here in Suffolk, including vulnerable people in the community. It is part of a global network of volunteers and staff, responding to conflicts, natural disasters and individual emergencies.

The Red Cross is launching an extensive counter top box programme in Suffolk and need volunteers to look after boxes in local communities and villages. This could not be simpler: empty the box and bank the money every two to three months, with minimal paperwork. Every box in the county can gather as much as £10.00 a month, which soon adds up to a lot of money, enabling the British Red Cross to continue its life saving work both here in Suffolk and overseas. If you could spare a little time please contact Caroline Keates on 01842 768361 or e-mail ckeates@redcross.org.uk

Please come to the
Annual Parish Meeting
in Blythburgh village hall
on Monday 11th May 2009
at 7:30pm

*The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the annual
 general meeting of Blythburgh Parish Council.*

The regular council meeting will start at 8.00pm at the earliest.

The White Hart



Blythburgh Suffolk

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ARE WE READY FOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR?

Councillors had a lengthy, and sometimes impassioned, debate on whether or not Blythburgh should enter the Suffolk Village of the Year competition. Council chairman, David Tytler, ruffled feathers when he said that he thought the state of some of the roads and frontages leading into and out of the village, including the A12, were "too scruffy" for the village to be considered for the award.

Councillor Alan Mackley pointed out that the appearance of the village was only one of the criteria, which – out of a total score of 100 – were: community spirit, 30; Parish Council, 20; natural environment; 20; general appearance of the village, 20; and special achievements that impress the judges, 10.

In considering the criteria, it became clear that Blythburgh had many significant strengths, such as the natural environment, a fantastic church, a deep history - enhanced by the *Time Team* programme on *The Priory** - the hall and the Parish News. Many others, such as the village plan, the Blythburgh Latitude Trust, the Community Speed Watch and the Parish Council itself, needed time



to develop. The council agreed that it would not enter Blythburgh this year but would consider the position very carefully in 2010.

Parish Clerk Jim Boggis, made the point, however, that if other people or associations within the village wanted, they could enter the village on their own account. Anybody interested should contact Mr Boggis on 01502 478687.

* *Skeletons in the Shed* will be shown on Channel 4 at 5.30pm on Sunday March 28.

HELP CLEAN UP BLYTHBURGH

The annual Litter Pick organised by Blythburgh Parish Council is part of the county-wide programme run by Suffolk County Council in conjunction with BBC Radio Suffolk from the 30th March to the 12th April.

The Blythburgh Litter Pick will take place on Sunday April 5th, starting from the village hall at 10.00 and ending at 12.30. Free wine will be provided and a ploughman's lunch will be available at £1 a head. It is hoped to match the great success of last year's clean-up.

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

BLYTHBURGH CARPET BOWLS

Beryl Stringer

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Secretary: Jenny Allen 478314

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Robert Benson 478047

VILLAGE HALL

Henrietta Maslen 478438

Bookings: 07850 140581

MRS CLAPHAM INVESTIGATES:

WELL WE HAVE FINALLY DONE IT



I may have mentioned a couple of years ago that the Claphams were planning to join forces with my brother and buy a larger house for the three of us (and, of course, the dog) to share. As we're pretty fond of Blythburgh - and most of it's residents - we were more than a bit chuffed to be given the opportunity to buy next door and join the two. Ideal.

Lovely views of the marshes, a big and, joy of joys, a dry garden. We've found a pipe in the corner which let all the water in so a one-way valve should do the trick.

I know, I know, we'll probably still get the odd flood, as people have so gleefully pointed out, but we have other cunning plans.

As my brother, Nigel, previously lived only three doors down the lane, it seemed obvious to do the moving ourselves. Hah!

This was the last family home (Mum had also lived there) so it was choc-a-bloc with our old toys, a book collection the size of a small library, familiar old furniture and endless nostalgic hard-to-chuck objects. Incidentally, I cannot praise our dustmen highly enough: the 60 or so bags of

rubbish we threw out over that fortnight were all taken with a good-natured wave. Anyway, after weeks of emotional sorting, dumping and transporting everything up the lane - including thousands of vinyl records, endless model railway paraphernalia and a full drum kit, courtesy of my dear



brother - I would have given anything for just a glimpse of a Pickford's van.

But we made it, with very little bloodshed.

Right now, I'm sitting in my new studio in the garden - well, more of a glorified shed, converted in to a delightful den by my thoughtful husband and his lovely brother. Actually, what I'm really doing is hiding.

The house is covered in plas-

ter dust, the attic's stuffed to the gills, the spare bed has disappeared under piles of curtains and the garden is home to a sea of mud, bits of greenhouse, chainsaws and a large digger.

I'm a tad nervous today as an opening's being made in an inside wall. I shouldn't be, what with engineer's drawings and many discussions on the subject - but listening to all the intricacies of the job is rather like overhearing a bunch of surgeons chatting about your upcoming operation, thinking that you're safely anaesthetised.

Anyway, it's a great excuse for me to escape the chaos while the dust - literally - settles. And boy, does it settle. However many dust sheets or carefully sealed off areas, the stuff gets everywhere - up your nose, in your food, down the plughole, even in the dog's ears.

Mind you, I have high hopes of a peaceful household. When I apologised for snapping at my brother over breakfast (not my best time of day) all he said was: "You've always been like that, I'm used to it. I don't pay any attention."

Wise chap. No wonder we get on so well.

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust is now making grants

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust has made its first grants to applicants living in the parish. The grants are for one-off expenditure to benefit full-time residents or families who can show a need which cannot be met from other sources.

Grants will also be made to local organisations where a majority of members are also full-time residents of the village, and to support initiatives to build community life in Blythburgh. Funds are provided by the sale of tickets to the Latitude Festival, thanks to the organisers.

Normally, grants will not exceed £200. Exceptional circumstances could result in a higher award. Applications for grants for children under 16 should be endorsed by parents or carers. Only one payment a year will be made to any one applicant but, successful or not, all can re-apply the following year.

All applications will be treated in absolute confidence

**Applications should be sent to the honorary
administrator:**

**Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road, Blythburgh
01502 478687**

**He will offer advice on how best to complete the
application forms.**

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Wenhaston Pre-School

Wenhaston Pre-School welcomes children aged 2½ to rising 5 years. Located 3 minutes from the A12 in a purpose built facility within the Wenhaston Primary School, the Pre-School has use of the school's large outdoor play area. The Pre-School offers children a safe and exciting environment for fun, learning

BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

CLAUDE FRANCIS ARTHUR EGERTON (1864-1957)

After the artist Joseph Southall had visited Blythburgh church in 1903 on behalf of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings he wrote: "The vicar seemed to me to be a mere nobody compared with the churchwarden, Mr Egerton." In the same year, the SPAB's architect Alfred Powell surveyed the church and noted that Mr Egerton himself had suggested a way to erect scaffolding to permit examination of the roof. At a time when the SPAB and the Church Restoration Committee were at loggerheads over the question of conservation or restoration of the medieval fabric, a determined and knowledgeable churchwarden was likely to be a key figure. Who was Mr Egerton?

Claude Egerton, then 39 years old, was a civil engineer. He was also a member of the extensive Leveson-Gower family and could claim an array of dukes and earls among his kinfolk. He was educated in England and then, after an engineering pupillage, worked on the Mersey Tunnel and other railways and spent 12 years in India building railways and bridges. He was elected a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1890 and returned to England in 1898, becoming a partner in a Westminster civil engineering firm.

Claude Egerton lived at Bulcamp farmhouse. He would have been a frequent traveller on the Great Eastern Railway from Liverpool Street, changing at Halesworth for the Southwold Railway to Blythburgh. Ironically, given his professional specialism, the local railway was to cause him considerable embarrassment.

A newsletter of the Southwold Railway Society records that one day in 1901 Mr Egerton bought a cheap first-class return ticket from London to Southwold. On that occasion he chose to end his rail journey at Halesworth and was driven home to Blythburgh. We must imagine a confrontation at Halesworth station because Mr Egerton found himself in Halesworth County Court in November 1901. The GER maintained that Mr Egerton had no right to break his journey at Halesworth but should have continued to Blythburgh.

His cheap ticket was valid for journeys to Southwold, Walberswick, Blythburgh, Wenhaston and Darsham, but not Halesworth. The GER therefore sued for 5s. 1d, the difference between the 13s. 9d. that Egerton had paid and the full fare. Mr Egerton argued that he had in fact gone to Blythburgh, albeit not by train for the final part of the journey. His protestations were in vain. Judgement was given for the railway company.

The papers for the SPAB-Blythburgh dispute, which ran for 25 years, indicate that although the SPAB had local support, including that of the patron, they finally conceded defeat. They deplored the way in which the church restoration project was being handled, yet were unable to sway the local committee. Was Claude Egerton among the Blythburgh personalities determined to keep the SPAB out? Or even the most influential one? The jury has still to decide, but I have my suspicions.

Alan Mackley



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HOW TO DEAL WITH NOISY NEIGHBOURS

Noisy neighbours can make life a misery so here are some useful tips on how to deal with them.

Step 1: Consider the situation

If your neighbours are causing an unreasonable level of disturbance to your life, you will want to take action quickly. But before you do anything, take time to make sure you have the situation straight in your own mind. Ask yourself the following questions: What is the disturbance? What effect is it having on me? What would I like to do to resolve the problem? You may find it useful to write some notes.

Step 2: Talk to your neighbour

It may be possible that your neighbour is unaware of the disturbance the noise is causing you. First you should try talking to your neighbour face to face. If possible, choose a time to visit when the noise is not taking place. This will let them know you are not trying to intrude on their activities, but would like them to be more considerate of your needs. Be courteous, polite, and willing to listen to their point of view.

Remember, they might not realise they are causing a problem. But be clear about what the problem is and how it affects you. If they are apologetic but the problem later persists, try talking to them a second time. If you feel nervous or intimidated by your neighbour, take a friend, partner or other neighbour with you when you visit. If you are seriously concerned about your safety, don't go at all and pursue the matter officially.

Step 3: Take notes

Keep a record of all conversations you have with them.

Step 4: Write a letter

If the problem continues, try writing your neighbour a letter. This may seem formal, but it can be an effective way of communicating if talking doesn't seem to work. Take time to compose the letter, writing a draft version first. Then type or write it up neatly. Your neighbour is more likely to heed a considered letter than a scrawled note on a scrap of paper. Make sure you keep a copy of the letter. This is evidence that you have tried to resolve the situation yourself and will be of interest to your local authority should it become a formal complaint.

Step 5: Keep a diary

Make a note of each incident of noise disturbance, recording the time it occurred, the type and volume of the noise, and the effect that it had on you. This will help you to be specific when dealing with your neighbour, and again will serve as evidence should you need to pursue a formal complaint.

Step 6: Find a mediator If you are unable to resolve the issue yourself, consider involving a trained mediator. They will invite you and your neighbour to sit down together and help you to reach an amicable resolution. Community mediation services are available free of charge from the charity Mediation UK.

Step 7: Contact your Local Authority

Look in the telephone directory to find the contact details for your local authority. They will be able to advise you on what further steps you can take to help resolve the situation. If the matter has become very serious, then ask to register a formal complaint against your neighbour with the Environmental Health Department.

Step 8: The Environmental Health Department

You are likely to receive a visit from an Environmental Health Officer who will discuss the issue with you and let you know how they can help. Your neighbour is likely to receive a notice that a complaint has been made against them. This notice will not identify you as the complainant. The Environmental Health Department will first try to resolve the matter with your neighbour informally, but should this fail and the noise is deemed a "statutory nuisance", then the matter may be taken to court. Your neighbour may be served with an Abatement Notice ordering them to stop causing a nuisance. They must then adhere to the terms of the notice or risk being fined up to £5,000.

Step 9: Further Information

For impartial advice on dealing with antisocial behaviour, contact the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Robert Benson
Blythburgh Neighbourhood Watch

ANTI FLOOD MEASURES ON THE A12

The go-ahead has been given to raising the A12 through Blythburgh to prevent flooding and work is expected to start within the next few months. The government has now agreed to contribute £2million for the work. The road will be raised by about a metre.

The road had been flooded for 24 hours in November 2007 and it was feared that if the work was not carried out the road would be vulnerable to flooding 12 times a year, crippling the local economy and disrupting the main link between Felixstowe and Great Yarmouth.

Suffolk County Council was not prepared to pay for the £1.85 million project out of its budget and asked the Government to fund the work. Government agreement followed a meeting with Waveney MP, Bob Blizzard held at the site with transport minister Paul Clark at the end of the year.

Blyth Valley Radio has been awarded a community radio licence. It is now all systems go to set up the FM transmitter and begin broadcasting. You can already hear BVCR from noon to 5pm every day streaming on the Internet at www.blythvalleycommunityradio.co.uk.

The station, operating out of a WW2 bunker at St Felix School, aims to give the local community, and charitable, social and voluntary groups opportunities to promote themselves. It seeks to raise awareness of issues that affect the community, to provide information and news and, of course, entertainment.

If you would like to get involved, in any capacity, call Bill Jagger on 01502 726106, or have a word with one of the station's history men, Alan Mackley and John Allen, who can be heard on line most Thursdays at 2 pm.

Listed buildings: There are 18 listed buildings in Blythburgh, 17 of them grade II. Holy Trinity is grade I and the milestone 220 metres north west of High Lodge is grade II.

The latest annual assessment by the Audit Com-

mission on how local councils are managing their finances has rated Suffolk Coastal as one of only 12 to score top marks for its financial standing. Every year, the commission publishes its use of resources assessments which not only puts a critical microscope on every council's financial, asset and risk management but also takes account of the way it is linked to each organization's priorities and how it supports overall value for money.

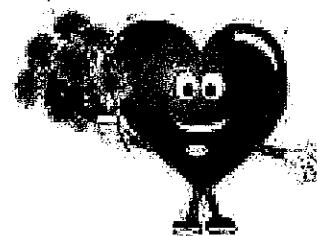
Crimes: There were no recorded crimes in the parish of Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton between Monday, January 12 and Saturday, March 7 2009.

And it's goodbye to him: The Blythburgh Parish News is sorry to report that Mike Davis, our genial host at the White Hart is to leave at the beginning of May. A former Blythburgh Parish Councillor, Mike is a familiar figure around the village, but is now to concentrate his energies on The Plough, Wangford.

Mike did the village a great service by opening the Post Office and Village Stores next to the pub, a move that has been recognised by Prince Charles, who visited the shop with the Duchess of Cornwall last year. It is hoped that the new landlord will continue with the shop. Villagers, however, will have to continue to use it or lose it.

Heidi, who has run the shop for almost as long as it has been open, has been off for some weeks recovering from an operation. The Blythburgh Parish News wishes her a speedy recovery and hopes to see her smiling face back in the shop as soon as she feels able.

Get Well Soon!



David Tytler

NOTES FROM DAISY BANK XXX



Clara and Babs have gone to the great chicken heaven in the sky. A sad day. It's only now that we realise what a dreadful hole their absence is going to make in our day-to-day living here at Fern Cottage.

Having decided to live with us a couple of years ago and vacate their position in Derek and Lilly's team, we fed them several times a day and at night they would roost at the back of the garden near to their old home and friends. Occasionally Barnaby, the cockerel, would come up for a feed to see how they were getting on but apart from that they led a very full and pleasant life. Oliver and Oscar the pheasants seemed to like hanging around with them and life was good for all. A couple of nights ago Mr Fox decided that their lives must come to an end and that was that. Hopefully he or she had some hungry cubs and it wasn't all a dreadful waste. We will miss them.

I know I've mentioned my 2cv before but I feel that it hasn't been enough so here goes. The picture is an oil painting I did of it for an exhibition a few years ago. I now use it in some form or other to advertise my annual exhibition at the church.

With this particular painting, it was a frosty day and I noticed that the spider's web on the nearside front wing had been highlighted by the frost. Had to paint it. The car is parked in its usual place on the far side of the car park, courtesy of the church, of course.

However, on the far side of the car park, near the exit there is a small hump. In cold weather - before I stumbled on the ubiquitous WD40 - when the car was not starting, I would leave it parked on that hump so that I could start it on the slope of the car park. This involved pushing it off the hump and running alongside it and then about halfway across the car park, jumping in, selecting second gear and Bob's your uncle.

On one occasion, running alongside, I stumbled and fell. The car then made its own way across the car park coming to a gentle rest on the normal parking area. The worse scenario would I suppose have been it crashing into an innocent passer by on Church Lane or finishing up on the roof of my gallery.

I would probably have left it there for advertising purposes and just got another one. I've now got some advertising on the two doors and the boot so I will hold that idea in reserve if times get hard.

I applaud Andrew Blois and his attempt to fill the breach on our side of the river. And although I have a file thick with letters on the subject of flooding and its implication for Daisy Bank, somehow I think that anybody who does try is fighting a losing battle. I have always said that the only solution is to raise the railway track path and by doing so the houses along Church Lane would have a chance and the sewerage system for Blythburgh would be protected. I will of course continue to put my finger in the dike in the form of the wall that my neighbour Derek, Paul C and I have built. And hopefully by the time that breaches I will be history - *'you remember, that eccentric hack painter that lived with his partner and lots of cats in that cottage with ivy all over it. Very odd people.'*

Paul Bennett

