

BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS



Issue 55

www.onesuffolk.co.uk/blythburghPC

November/December 2010

Sign up for a faster broadband

Internet users across Suffolk, particularly in small villages such as Blythburgh, are being encouraged to lobby BT, demanding super-fast broadband access where currently they have poor coverage. The company has launched *Race to Infinity*, a nationwide survey through which poorly-served internet users can demand fibre optic broadband. The top five exchanges with the highest votes as a percentage of households in the area will be upgraded by early 2012. They will also be inspected by engineers before the super-fast broadband is installed.

BT also says that it will give priority to those exchanges which are not initially successful, where at least three out of four homes and businesses vote in favour of better broadband. Many users in the village, whether they use the internet for business or pleasure, have told the *Blythburgh Parish News* that they are unhappy with

the slowness of the current broadband coverage. Now they can register their vote for better broadband by going to www.bt.com/racetoinfinity before the closing date of December 31.

Nicola Currie, from the Country, Land and Business Association, told the *East Anglian Daily Times*: "It is vital these days for everybody in all walks of life, it really is the fourth utility and you cannot operate without it. I would encourage everybody to take part in this survey. Hopefully, it will be the first step towards better coverage."

Hopes of an early introduction of high-speed broadband across Suffolk were dashed by the Government in October when the county was not named as one of two pilot areas. The only areas of England to be included in the trial are Cumbria and Herefordshire alongside the Scottish Highlands and part of rural Wales.

New plant at Sizewell moves closer

The Coalition Government has confirmed that Sizewell is one of eight sites across the country suitable as a site for the building of a new nuclear power station. The new site could be worth up to £700 million during construction and £40 million a year when up and running. Grants may also be available to local communities.

The final decision has yet to be taken and the Government has insisted that future developments must occur without any public subsidy. Suffolk Coastal has set up the Sizewell Task Group, which will represent the interests of local communities. Councillor Andrew Nunn, chairman of the group, said: "We have long recognised

the potential benefits of a new Sizewell, which could mean up to 5,000 construction jobs for six or seven years, and employment at the new power station for up to 900 people. We have made it clear that there are significant local concerns that must be addressed."

Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk County Council are to appoint two officers to concentrate on assessing the potential impact of the development.

There have already been regular meetings with Government officials and councils in the West Country affected by proposals for a third power station at Hinkley Point.

EDF Energy, owner of the plant, is to open an information centre in Leiston and investigative work has already begun on the site, which may result in some footpaths across the site having to close temporarily.

INSIDE

Latitude Trust	3
Cheaper Oil	3
Bystander	5
Mrs Clapham	6
Village Hall	8
John Allen	10
Maslen goodbye	12
Council tax	14
John Cook	14
Character	15
Daisy Bank	16

NEAL'S TAXI

& PRIVATE HIRE

Airports, Local and Long Distance

Friendly Reliable Service

Tel: 01502 575 888

Mobile: 0899 011 383

Paul Cook

Gardening Services

Fully Insured



Gardening • Grass Cutting
Strimming • Hedge Cutting
Fencing repaired or replaced

Free Quotations On Request

Tel: 01502 478676

Mobile: 07879 285971

THE BLYTHBURGH LATITUDE TRUST

Thousands of pounds given away

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust has made several grants to individuals and organisations since its formation two years ago. The grants, totalling several thousand pounds, have contributed to the cost of educational and leisure equipment, trips, and family needs.

As well as grants to many individuals (for whom the details remain confidential), the Trust's donations include:

- A £1295 defibrillator for the Blythburgh First Responders, now operating in the parish in conjunction with the East of England Ambulance Service.
- An outing for children and their families to Pleasurewood Hills.
- A contribution towards the cost of fireworks at the White Hart's bonfire night celebrations.
- Funding for the Christmas tea in the village hall on **December 16, 3pm to 6pm.**
- Support for Celebrating Blythburgh 2010, and for next year's event on **July 31.**

The trust would like to do more. Does your child need a musical instrument; do you need significant work done on your garden? The trust is here to benefit full-time residents who can

show a need, which cannot be met from other sources. Grants are also made to local organisations where a majority of members are full-time residents of the parish, and to support initiatives to build community life in Blythburgh.

At its last meeting, the trust discussed how it could amend its rules to support Wenhaston Primary School, where nearly half the pupils come from Blythburgh. Details will be finalised at the trust's next meeting.

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

Funds are provided by the sale of tickets to the Latitude Festival, thanks to the organisers, Festival Republic. The trustees are Jenny Allen, chair, Lucy Clapham, Michael Nichols, David Tytler and Harry Waller.

Applications should be sent to the honorary administrator, Jim Boggis, Marsh End, Church Road, (478687). He will offer advice on how best to complete the application forms.

The first step to cheaper heating oil

If you are interested in joining a scheme to buy heating oil in bulk for Blythburgh, please complete the slip below and hand it to Sean Lofty, the landlord of the White Hart. At current prices there could be a saving of between 2p and 3p a litre depending on how many households sign up to the scheme. The deliveries would all be on the same day.

Name and address.....

.....

Telephone number.....

Email.....

Average amount of oil used each year.....

Please cut out this slip and hand it to the White Hart or the Village Shop for the attention of Sean Lofty



Blythburgh Suffolk

THE INN ON THE RIVER BLYTH

The White Hart Inn

Our restaurant boasts the best view around with a regularly changing menu offering fresh local produce.

CHANTRY LAMB NIGHT

12 November

Lamb kofta kebab

Pan fried lamb steak

Lamb tagine with cous cous

Mustard crusted cutlets and kidneys

Lamb shoulder with black pudding.

CHRISTMAS MENU

3 COURSES £22.95

Norfolk turkey with chestnut and sausage stuffing

Slow roast pork belly with Lyonnaise potatoes and apple fondant

Aubergine fritters, goats cheese with rocket and ruby chard salad

Pan fried Loch Durat salmon with crushed potatoes and roast squash

Selection of starters and desserts or local cheeses.

QUIZ NIGHT: first Sunday in the month

LUXURY CHALET ACCOMMODATION

Special winter rates: room and

3-course dinner for two £110.

Opening hours: 11-3, 6-11 weekdays

Open 11-11 weekends.

Closed Christmas Day

Open Boxing Day and New Year's Day

12-5 for light meals, closed evenings

New Year's Eve open 11-3 and 6 pm onwards (no live music).

01502 478217

The Village Shop

USE IT OR LOSE IT

If we haven't got what you want, tell us and we will try to get it for you.

Our aim is to meet your needs.

Monday to Friday

7 am to 5 pm

Saturday 9 am to 5 pm

Sunday 9 am to 1 pm

Local fresh fruit and vegetables

Dry cleaning, laundry service, mobile phone top ups.

Papers, magazines, pies, sandwiches, cold drinks, ice cream, cigarettes etc.

Coal, logs, barbecue fuel and everything for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Free delivery on Fridays on orders over £20

Longer Post Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and

Friday: 9am – 4.45pm

Wednesday and Saturday 9am – 1pm

Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve 10-4

Closed: Christmas Day,

Boxing Day & New Year's Day

01502 478833

AROUND THE VILLAGE

Well, who would you like as Mayor?

Would you like a Boris Johnson or Ken Livingstone figure to become your Mayor? Well now is your chance. You are being asked whether or not you would like a mayor to run Suffolk Coastal District Council from next May instead of a leader. Currently most decisions are taken by the council leader and a cabinet of senior councillors. The Government now wants all councils to consider whether to keep this system or elect a mayor every four years. The leader would also be elected for four years, rather than every May.

People have until December 3 to let the council know which of the two options they prefer. Go to www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/your-council/haveyoursay. Alternatively, people can write to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU. Their views will be reported to a meeting of the council on December 16, which will make the final decision. Remember anybody could stand and Blythburgh has a rich range of characters to choose from...

There is nothing like a good rumour. The most recent was that Sonia Boggis, one of Blythburgh's chattering classes, was to open an off licence in the back room of her home. Sadly, this is not the case; the room will be used only to store wines for her new business. One young wag was heard to observe in the White

Hart that a lap dancing club would also have added to Blythburgh's rich cultural life.

Well done the Blythburgh Latitude Trust, which arranged a summer's day trip to Pleasurewood Hills for parish children and their parents. A good time was had by all and it is planned to repeat the outing next year.

But what is the trust going to do for the grown-ups? Current suggestions include a day at Yarmouth Races or Chelmsford Cricket or a river or sea trip.

What would you like? Contact the indefatigable Jim Boggis, trust administrator on 01502 478687 to give him your ideas, which will be discussed at the trust's next meeting.

Blythburgh Speed Watch reports a first: on three consecutive morning sessions no vehicles exceeded the 30mph limit through the village. Between August 31 and September 22, 18 hours monitoring was completed with 38 vehicle registration numbers being passed to Suffolk Police.

The speed gun was re-calibrated in October. Sixteen hours monitoring was completed between October 22 Oct and November 5. Twenty vehicles were reported for exceeding 30mph. The highest speed was 52mph on the A12 going north.

Bystander

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair

David Tytler
01502 478521

david@dytler.freeserve.co.uk

Vice Chair/Chair finance
advisory group

Ro Williams

Chair planning advisory group

Alan Mackley

Councillors

Lucy Clapham, Cliff Waller

Sonia Boggis, Roderick Orr-Ewing

Parish Clerk

Jim Boggis. 01502 478687

BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

Carpet Bowls

Beryl Stringer

Horticultural Society

Jenny Allen 01502 478314

Neighbourhood Watch

Rob Benson 01502 478047

Speed Watch

Binny Lewis 01502 478624

Village Hall

Olive Forsythe

Bookings 01502 478521

MRS CLAPHAM INVESTIGATES

Filling the breach for our peace

Our marshes have recently boasted a couple of exotic new additions, much to the surprise of the resident army of seagulls. The largest, bright yellow, its long neck lazily scooping the mud and clay, while its companion grumbles - squat, scarlet and indomitable - along the ruined river bank.

Yes, the three-year wait is over - the digger and dumper have finally settled on Blythburgh's desolate shores. The breach in our river wall is gradually being filled, thanks to the dogged determination of Andrew Blois, who negotiated his way over a mountain of bureaucracy to protect his own land - and us.

The small communities perched along the Blyth were not considered important enough for the Environment Agency to waste any time or money on but were we allowed to take matters in to our own hands and fill the breach? Oh no, we had to get planning permission first.

I caught one or two from the agency wandering up and down the ruined bank one day, making notes on how to do nothing about the wrecked path their agency had allowed to crack and crumble over the years. They were taking their life in their hands, examining the damage. The reason the bank had been neglected was that none of their men was allowed to work on it because of 'elf n' safety'.

Funny, the general public had been permitted to walk this perilous footpath for so long, without being issued with arm bands and snorkels. It's amazing, too, that in the dangerous old days, people used to patch up the bank from boats. And it did the trick, for a few hundred years.

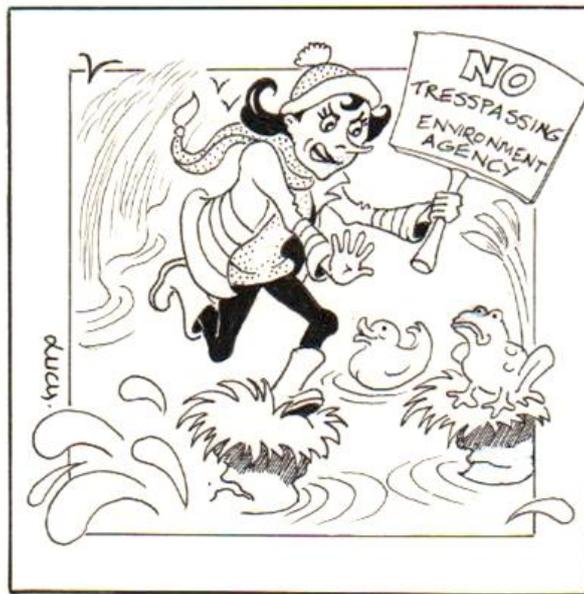
Naturally, we weren't so green then and didn't have to check with a dozen different agencies to see if we were going to upset the seldom-spotted purple newt or the lava of the three-nosed marsh gnat. For some odd reason we

thought then that the comfort and safety of mankind was equally as important. We might even have been daft enough to think that protecting people's homes was a better way to spend millions than building up the A12 to protect the traffic.

Now, as I gaze out over our flooded fields, watching the sunset over the water as the Little Egrets cosy up for the night I think.....Oh Lord! Where's my camera?

Once that last bit of clay has been dropped into the breach this wonderful view will be gone forever (well, probably for my lifetime). And now we have enough soil in our garden - thanks to some great friends and neighbours - to stop the tide coming in and out I've grown really fond of that outlook and the shimmering water...and the swans...and the mist on a summer's morning.

Why are we such a contrary lot?



We say it's outrageous to have comedy acts such as Ann Widdecombe or John Sergeant on *Strictly Come Dancing* when it's like a reeeally serious dance competition - and then vote for them in our millions. We moan because our village shop doesn't have the insect repellent we require. They order it and we never ask for it again.

The landlord of the White Hart, Sean Lofty - according to one or two - does nothing for the village. He puts in a dartboard, pool table, boules pitch, as requested, lays on a games evening, firework display, Halloween night, themed meals, quiz nights, karaoke, bands, good food....and how many people turn up?

So, I thank Mr Blois for doing so much to pull us out of deep water. And cheers to Mr Lofty for his efforts.

Blythburgh Film Premiere



Blythburgh Village Hall

Friday 26 November 2010

7 for 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £5 per person or £8 for 2
includes

Bucks Fizz & canapé reception

Book your ticket now

Please ring Ro on 01502 478484

Come dressed appropriately for the red
carpet as the paparazzi will be in
attendance!!

Spooks and all at the village hall

Bookings continue to boom for Blythburgh Village Hall, which is now home to a number of local and regional associations. The Boogie Nights Keep Fit Club meets on Mondays when the Parish Council is not meeting. Tuesday sees the Carpet Bowls Club in residence, with the Jive Bunnies dance classes on Wednesday and the Pont Nevis Morris Dancers on Thursday.



The Blythburgh M@tters social group meets one Friday a month and regular 1940s tea dances are held on Sundays, frequently following sessions of the African Drummers dance group. The hall was used for the General Elections in



May and is used occasionally by the Regional WI. It has also been used for parties and meetings. It has also been used for training Blythburgh's First Responders.



The annual general meeting of the hall management committee was told that, as a result of the healthy bookings, income was at a good level. The heating and emergency signs have been overhauled; the fire extinguishers have been checked, a fire certificate has been issued and a regular maintenance contract arranged. Potholes in the driveway have been repaired by Nick Haward after building works in The Priory grounds. The driveway will be re-dressed once the work is completed. A damaged manhole has also been replaced.

The hall, refurbished nine years ago, needs re-decorating inside and out. The committee will work with the Parish Council, which owns the



hall, to seek estimates for the work, for the repair of the floor and replacement curtains.

Olive Forsythe was elected to replace Henrietta Maslen as chair of the committee. Jenni McElroy was re-elected as secretary and Michael Nichols as treasurer. The committee consists of Alan Mackley and Roderick Orr-Ewing, representing the Parish Council, Gillian and Tom Lond-Caulk, Paul Bennett and Binny Lewis.

***Pictures of the Jive Bunnies' Halloween Tea Dance which attracted some 90 people.**



Mousemates Computer Clubs



Computer Classes for all ages and abilities
at the
Stella Peskett Hall, Southwold
Starting January 2011

- Computers for Beginners
- Next Steps
- Computer Clubs for Improvers
- Handling Digital Photos
- Altering Digital Photos

To register your interest or for more information:

Tel: 01728 627174 (answerphone if unmanned)

Or e-mail: enquiries@mousemates.org.uk

**NEW
CLASS**

BOOGIE NIGHTS!

**Bring
a
Friend!**

at **Blythburgh Village Hall**



A Popular and Lively Dance Exercise
Class for Adults.

Come and join us for a Fun and Enlivening
Workout, designed to get everyone enjoying
Dance and feeling Fitter !

Mondays 7.30- 8.30pm

£3.00 per Session

For More Info Call Georgina 07990 594294

Professional Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher and Mum !

Also at Rumburgh Village Hall on Wednesdays

VISIONS

Making the leap from wheel to wing

The visions of manned flight go back a long way into history but Leonardo da Vinci probably got closer than most. Many visionaries attempted to fly but often paid for their audacity with their lives. Wilbur and Orville Wright succeeded in 1903. What was so special about their vision?

They were bicycle makers, as this was seen as a high-tech challenge of the day: spoked wheels, pneumatic tyres, the choice between controllability and stability, gear-changing methods, safety and reliability etc.

In the 1890s there were a lot of pioneer flyers and even International Aeronautical Conferences. In the third, held at Chicago USA in 1903, the Wrights took account of world progress and recognised another high-tech challenge. By 1899 they had resolved to put their bicycle business on second priority and devote just four years to creating a flying machine and performing the first manned, powered flight of all time. What a vision! If they could fly within four years they would return to their bicycles.

They made several crucial decisions. They first built and flew gliders. Unlike many pioneers, they chose not to fly from a steep hill since this afforded little flying time and usually in an accidental death. Recognising that they could learn little from the birds, since flapping wings are complex and inefficient for manned flight, they nevertheless observed that birds were superior acrobats in coping with gusty winds. So they designed their flying machines to be highly controllable - which meant that they were unstable and needed skilful piloting.

The choice of the location for their constructions and flights was vital. They wanted a gently sloping site (about five degrees) with a soft surface, steady natural winds and remoteness to deter unwanted observation of their progress. They investigated possible places all over the US and finally settled on the sandy Kill Devil Hills on the eastern seaboard in North Carolina.

There then remained three major tasks. Firstly to discover the laws of aerodynamics, which were unknown at the time, how to design the right-sized machine and then set up all the

paraphernalia required to build and test a series of flyers each better than its predecessor.

However, there was another matter: the flying site in North Carolina was 550 miles away from their home, workshops and bicycle business in Dayton, Ohio. That is about the distance from London to Turin in Northern Italy. There were trains, motor cars and telegrams available at the time but the sheer effort needed to cope with the distance was astonishing.

As an aeronautical engineer, I have studied the Wrights work very closely indeed. I have a two-volume account of their work - *as they wrote it* - which shows vividly how difficult it is to turn vision into reality. Even after three years Wilbur confessed that his aerodynamics were a muddle. In 1982, I met Abigail Welsh, a god-daughter of the Wrights and whose father was one of their test pilots who crashed to his death in 1912, the year Wilbur died.

John Allen

Beware bogus calls

Residents are warned to be on their guard against bogus callers trying to trick them into giving their credit or debit card details over the phone. Suffolk Coastal District Council says that bogus callers claim to be council officials saying that the resident is due a council tax refund but need to confirm their credit or debit card number to process the payment.

On most debit or credit cards the first four digits are the issuer's identification number, so cards from a particular bank all start with the same first four numbers and end in the cardholder's unique card number. By asking the name of the resident's bank, the bogus callers are able to repeat the first four digits of their debit or credit card number and ask them to complete the rest. Suffolk Coastal will never ask for card details over the phone unless residents have contacted the council to make a payment. Report bogus calls to the local trading standards office on 08454 040406. If you have already given any information to someone you suspect is a bogus caller you should contact your bank immediately.

The Little Plumbing Company

Domestic plumbing and heating

Specialist in under floor heating

Central heating design and installation

Certificated in unvented mains
pressure hot water systems

Boiler servicing

Free estimates - Fully insured

Free consultation

Paul Sayer sayerpaul@btinternet.com
07963 958772/01502 575527



MRWCF Electrical

**DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL*

** REWIRES *EXTRA SOCKETS/LIGHTS*

** P.A.T. TESTING*

**INSPECTION AND TESTING*

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE

24 HOUR CALL OUT

TEL/FAX: 01502 478473 MOBILE: 07884 477110 / 07717 176655

EMAIL: MRWCFELECTRICAL@HOTMAIL.CO.UK



NAPIT
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL INSPECTORS AND TESTERS
**CITY AND GUILDS QUALIFIED*

Happy Blythburgh memories

In 1986, the three cottages next to the White Hart were empty save for Miss Fountain who kept the keys for us while we moved in over several months. Miss Fountain did not live long after we came to Blythburgh in the summer. Gradually, we moved in with our daughter Abigail after her GCSEs. Jon Doran arrived then Julia Bell, who is now the only original left.

Now we are more or less settled in among lovely neighbours, in the wonderful country town of Halesworth, with every facility you could wish for; a peaceful place after the traffic noise and Sunday motorbikes.

Blythburgh will always remain in our hearts as a place of so much joy. Memories of the garden, and in those early days, Alice our wayward goat, our chickens with the huge cockerel Malvolio - he of the yellow legs, famously photographed for

the local paper at an Animals Service in Holy Trinity. Then there was the meadow, of course, with its view and the bee orchids in late summer.

And how can we forget the village itself, with its river and marsh; all inspired my last three poetry collections, for which I will always be thankful.

Most of all, we will always remember our friends in Blythburgh, who, over the years, made it so welcoming. Some alas, are no longer with us. Of these, our wonderful neighbour Jack Stannard and Audrey Milan at The Green were very special people, but we remember all of those who are no longer here with a great deal of pleasure.

So from lovely Halesworth, we send you our love with all our happy memories.

Richard and Henrietta Maslen

Enjoy a Bavarian Christmas

Blythburgh resident Susan Haward invites you to her Beach Café on the promenade below the Sailors' Reading Room, Southwold, for a Bavarian Christmas. Enjoy a wrap-up warm BBQ, Kinder Punch and Christmas Bazaar on Southwold Lights Weekend, Friday December 3, 4pm onward; Saturday and Sunday, 4 & 5 December, daytime only. Suzie's traditional Christmas decorations will be available at Adnams' Christmas Market on Saturday, 5 December.

Providing you with the very highest quality client care and legal advice





• Notarial Services • Wills • Probate • General Property Matters
 • Residential and Commercial Conveyancing

**B2 High Street,
Southwold,
Suffolk IP18 6DP**

**Partners:
Katie Mantin LLB
& Greta Tancred**

01502 724750
www.mantins.co.uk
enquiries@mantins.co.uk

CHRISTMAS in HALESWORTH
Saturday 4th December

THE BIG SWITCH ON

Carol Singing in The Thoroughfare
from 10.00am

The Southwold and Reydon Corp of Drums
about 4.30pm

Switch-on by well known TV & film actor
Bernard Hill
about 4.45pm

Dickensian Dress Theme

Pyrotechnic Display
from the tower of St Mary's Church
about 5.15pm

Lee Vasey Band in The Market Place
from 5.30 - 7.00pm
and Santa

for up to date event news, visit www.halesworth.net

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Precept rise held to £2.59 per household

Blythburgh Parish Council is raising the parish precept in 2010-11 by £2.59 for a Band D household. The reasons were carefully explained to the November meeting of the Parish Council by Councillor Ro Williams, chair of the financial advisory group. Last year's rise was £3.56.

The precept for 2009-10 of £5,750 covered the cost of the new bus stop, maintenance of both A12 bus stops, upkeep and safety checks of the play site, remuneration to the clerk, fees to professional organisations, new councillor training and insurance for the parish council and village hall. The council has set aside £2,000 to repair the hall's drainage system.

Once all payments have been made the council will have £1,215 in its current account and £5,162 in its contingency fund. The council is facing additional costs for 2010-11: a five per cent rise in insurance costs, small increases in

subscriptions and the clerk's remuneration, £500 towards redecoration of the village hall, £750 towards two information boards, and a £100 increase in the council's training budget for any new councillors elected in the May 2011 local elections. Donations were reduced by £205.

With the exception of the information boards, which are a direct result of the Parish Plan, all expenditure is needed to maintain the status quo. The total bill comes to £7,120, a shortfall of £1,370 based on the current precept of £5,750. The council considered three options: a five per cent rise (£1.73 per household) leaving a shortfall of £1,083; a seven per cent rise (£2.59 a household) a shortfall of £940; a ten per cent rise (£3.45) a shortfall of £795. Whichever option was chosen, the balance would be taken out of the contingency fund. After some lively debate, the council opted for the £2.59 option.

OBITUARY

(Reginald) John Cook 1928 to 2010

Reginald John Cook was born in Wiltshire 82 years ago, the oldest boy in one of ten children. He grew up near Swindon and worked for a number of years on a dairy farm, where he developed a great love of animals and became a skilled dairy farmer. In 1966, a former employer invited him to move to Suffolk to work as a dairy farmer near Yoxford.

John married Pam in 1950. They moved to Suffolk with their four children, Terry, Dawn, Kevin and Paul. Mel was born after the move to Suffolk. John was always a kind and gentle man. He took great pleasure from his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Friendly and easy to get on with, John loved to meet people and would natter with anybody he met. It was not unusual for him to be late home for tea. Pam would send out one of the children to find him: invariably he would be chatting to somebody he had bumped into.

John and Pam were married for 50 years and he missed Pam enormously when she died ten years

ago. Their children remember the example of loyalty and devotion they set.

John's love of animals went beyond work. He always had dogs until quite recently. He liked to visit animal parks and sanctuaries and enjoyed spending time on his field where he kept a variety of animals. He had hens and a favourite cow called Buttercup. Buttercup and John became ill at the same time with Buttercup dying just before John.

John was lovingly cared for in his later years by his daughter Mel. She enabled him to stay in his own home and be close to his family, enjoying a good quality of life. He was a thoughtful man, who always remembered to give thanks where it was due and he would certainly be grateful for all the love and support he received.

John's family wants to thank everybody for all their cards and kind messages. They also want to thank all those who attended the funeral in Holy Trinity and for the generous donations made to the Horse Rescue Fund.

BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

Abraham Fleming (c1552-1607)

On that fateful day of the fourth of August 1577 “Into the parish church of Blibery the thing entered, placing himself on a beam, wheron suddenly he gave a swing through the church and slew two men and a lad, and burned the hand of another person among the rest of the company, of whom divers were blasted”.

The thing was the Devil in the guise of the ghastly hound of the East Anglian marshes, Black Shuck. Fleming’s words turned a violent thunderstorm from a natural event into a text for the sinful. He used a superstitious image to dramatise his religious message. Behave or else.

Fleming was not yet a clergyman – he was not ordained until 1588 – but his religious zeal was already evident in his published work. London born, he spent five or six years working in the city’s publishing houses before graduating from Peterhouse, Cambridge, in 1582.

He worked as a translator, editor, indexer and compiler. One of his earliest works was a translation from the Latin *Of Englishe Dogges*, and his account of the great storm that hit Bungay and Blythburgh in 1577 was just one of a number of descriptions of marvellous events.

He is best remembered as the general editor of the 1587 edition of Raphael Holinshed’s *Chronicles of England, Scotland and Ireland*, for which he obtained much new material in extending the coverage of Elizabeth I’s reign. His firmly protestant and anti-papal beliefs were clearly revealed. His sentiments were expressed so strongly that they attracted the attention

of censors and some of his more virulent passages were toned down.

Eventually, religion became more important to Fleming than publishing. After ordination he became chaplain to Katherine Howard, Lady Howard of Effingham, and from 1597 countess of Nottingham.

Eventually, under the patronage of Archbishop John Whitgift, he was placed at St Pancras, Soper Lane, London. He was well-known as a preacher and although none of his sermons was published, his devotional works remained in print well into the seventeenth century. He died at Bottesford in Leicestershire, aged about 56.

The Blythburgh event was also described in Holinshed’s *Chronicles*. Given Fleming’s editorial involvement, the account is obviously not an independent one. Fleming’s use of the Black Shuck legend is interesting. He saw that his message against the sinfulness of the times could be strengthened by employing an image with which the superstitious people of Blythburgh would have been familiar.

Although Fleming wrote that the creature “Flew with wonderful force to no little fear of the assembly, out of the Church in a vicious and hellish likeness”, he made no reference to those “claw-marks” on the inside of the north door. If they had been there would he not have mentioned them? Evidence, I believe, that they are of a much later and more prosaic origin.

Alan Mackley

Everybody welcome to have their say

The next meeting of Blythburgh Parish Council is in the village hall on Monday January 24 at 7.30pm. Parishioners are invited to raise their concerns and questions at the Open Forum from 7.15pm. It would be a good opportunity for people considering standing for the Parish Council in the local elections in May 2011 to see how the council operates.

Census next year

The ten-yearly census of all households in the United Kingdom will take place on 27 March 2011. The census provides detailed information about the population to enable central and local government, health authorities and others to plan housing, education, health and transport.

The census is also recruiting staff: visit www.censusjobs.co.uk or contact your local jobcentre.

Notes from Daisy Bank XLII

More than a few years ago, I did a painting of a small dinghy tacking across the marshes at the back of Daisy Bank. Of course it was a fictitious craft, the marshes were rarely covered with any degree of water and I suppose it was me imagining what it would be like to sail a boat up to our back gate.

It is now three years since the great flood of November 2007 when the river breached and eventually somebody is bound to try it on a decent high tide. Maybe it will be me? The skylarks and small mammals have moved out and snipe, curlews, egrets and the rest of the waders have moved in. To look at the marsh now, established and with two tides a day converting it into a vast lake, anybody new to the area wouldn't believe that cattle once grazed on that land. It could have been like that for hundreds of years.

Examine the environment agency's predictive map of East Anglia in the next 50 years and you will be shocked. The Wash has expanded making Cambridge a port and along our part of the coast most of the towns have disappeared or been isolated by the sea.

Unless a miracle happens or we stop chopping down trees in the rainforest and all the rest of the ghastly encroachment on nature that we happily practise, then in my opinion that map could look a whole lot worse. Of course we won't and it will. Professor Lovelock and his Gaia principle will be proved right and the planet will bite us back and could eventually get rid of us humans altogether. Are we so conceited that we actually think we are *that* important?

In a hundred years or sooner our part of the world will consist of several isolated small islands consisting of a small population of maybe fisherman and small holders living without utilities - all that won't be viable anymore for such a small population – and the majority of us will have moved west and inland to higher ground and a civilisation with which we can't bear to part.

Things we take for granted, such as supermarkets, road trips to Norwich and a drink down the pub, would be no more. We'd still be able to watch *East Enders* because of its location in Elstree and not the real East End, which would of course have disappeared, like most of London, under water.

Mobile phones would give us communication in between the mail and supply boats that deliver once a week. We may even become a tourist oddity with people spending their holidays on boats touring these islands and researching abandoned settlements and historically interesting churches such as Holy Trinity that can still be seen above the water line.

If all the above comes true does it matter that much? Everything changes. Nothing remains the same. Perhaps, a new beginning for our descendents, this living adjustment breeding a new generation of more independent and self-sufficient people, hopefully more aware of what a beautiful and amazing planet we live on.

Oh! I've just woken up: a strange dream I had and I can't remember whether it was good or bad? It was pretty real though!

Paul Bennett

The red carpet comes to Blythburgh

Residents of Blythburgh, Bulcamp and Hinton are gearing up for their first Film Premiere of the hugely popular film *Mamma Mia* on a full cinema-sized screen, which is being installed in the Village Hall especially for the event, on November 26 in what promises to be an exciting event. Tickets for the evening - £5 each or £8 for two - will include a Bucks Fizz and canapé reception. According to Blythburgh M@tters, the organisers of the event, the paparazzi will be on hand to take photos on the red carpet so ticket holders are urged to dress for the occasion. Tickets are available from Ro Williams on 01502 478484 on a strictly first come first served basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.