

BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS



Issue 54

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September/October 2010

Blythburgh lets its hair down

It was a great day for Blythburgh: the village let its hair down in a day of celebration. A heady mix of parishioners and visitors enjoyed a range of activities including boat rides, a taste of the village's rich history mixed with a pint of Adnams and a hot dog.

Celebrating Blythburgh, part of the nationwide Open Weekend events held in the lead up to the 2012 Olympics, attracted around 350 visitors. And by popular demand, Celebrating Blythburgh will be back next year.

The focal point for the day was the garden party in the grounds of The Priory, where 250 hot dogs and 150 hamburgers were consumed, many of them served free to parishioners. Many thanks to Martin and Dinka Alden, indefatigable BBQ-ists from Southwold, and Michael, from Suzie's Kiosk.

Visitors danced along with the Jive Bunnies' 1940s disco and enjoyed the live music from Handle with Care. Local musician Chris Haddock gave his services free.

The more historically-minded signed up to the tours of the 12th century priory ruins led by Nick Haward and Alan Mackley, who also gave an illustrated talk on the village in Holy Trinity. The

Post Office to open on Saturday mornings

Blythburgh Post Office is to open on Saturday morning as part of a plan to attract more parishioners to use it. Laura Lofty, who oversees the running of the Blythburgh Village Shop and Post Office, said: "We are keen to improve the high level of service we offer so that more people are encouraged to use it. The shop has had a reasonably good summer but we have to maintain the improved numbers to secure its future."

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Regular customers will be saying goodbye to Ruth Clackett, who has run the shop on weekends for eight years. She has proved so popular two farewell cards were needed rather than the usual one. Customers gave generously to provide a substantial farewell gift for Ruth.

The *Blythburgh Parish News* asks readers to join the campaign to keep the shop open. Please use it yourself and encourage others to do the same. Remember: **USE IT OR LOSE IT.**

Village hall saw a brisk turnover of visitors to try their hand at carpet bowls, table tennis, pool and air hockey. The carpet bowls demonstration in the morning was particularly popular.

On the other side of the A12, the boat trips provided by Natural England were so popular that extra trips had to be fitted in within the limits of the tides. Younger visitors enjoyed the nature walks and craft workshops also laid on by Natural England.

At its August meeting, the Parish Council recorded its thanks to all those involved in Celebrating Blythburgh, which was considered to be a great success. In particular, the council thanked Council Chairman David Tytler for being the driving force behind the event and to Susan and Nick Haward for the use of their garden.

The council agreed at its September meeting to repeat Celebrating Blythburgh next year and will apply for a grant from Suffolk County Council when it becomes available. This year's event was funded by a grant from the County Council and the Blythburgh Latitude Trust. A surplus of £150 will go towards the cost of next year's event.

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Thank you Blythburgh, for a great day



The feedback following Celebrating Blythburgh 2010 was overwhelmingly positive. The views were summed up by this letter received by the Parish Council from a family of holiday makers:

We just want to thank you for a wonderful day spent with you at *Celebrating Blythburgh*: it was a real family happy day. The carpet bowls people were so welcoming, patient and just lovely. Then



there was the garden party, boat ride, the bittern cards and the homemade cakes.



Oh, those lovely homemade cakes! Lauren saved some for her Mum and Dad, and, of course, we wished we had bought more Bakewell and treacle tarts from the cake stall on the church lawn.

Margaret also enjoyed the tour around the Priory ruins and was lucky enough to go with some very knowledgeable people and lots of interesting questions were asked.

It was fascinating and we wish the owners well with their project to preserve the ruins.



The children were absolutely full of it when they met up with their parents. We loved the



wonderful friendship the village seems to have. You live in a lovely part of the world: thank you very much for allowing us to enjoy and glimpse your world.



We wish you all and the village the very best. Thank you.

**Harold, Margaret, Lauren and Ben Avis
Lidlington, Bedfordshire**

**See you all
there
next year**



Blythburgh Suffolk

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NEW WINTER MENU

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COUNCIL NEWS

Councils move closer to merger

Suffolk Coastal District Council, which covers Blythburgh, is to merge senior management teams with neighbouring Waveney District Council, responsible for the district north of the River Blyth and including Southwold and Lowestoft.

The two councils have shared chief executive Stephen Baker, as well as the head of planning and the audit manager for two years, which has already saved more than £200,000. The new proposals would see one senior management team in place by October, with nearly 30 per cent fewer posts and annual savings of around

£400,000. The proposed new management structure would see the two councils with one chief executive, four directors and nine heads of service. This is an overall reduction of five posts, four of which are currently vacant and one pending retirement.

If both cabinets agree to the changes the decisions will need to be ratified by the two councils before the new structure can be put in place for October. Ray Herring, leader of Suffolk Coastal, told the *East Anglian Daily Times* that a complete merger of the two councils could “happen in due course”.

How to deal with parking on the pavement

In response to a request from the Parish Council for clarification on the law regarding parking on footpaths, Sgt. Dave Goddard, of Suffolk Police said:

“It is an offence to park on a footpath...this causes a danger to pedestrians...a fixed penalty notice can be issued....if however the footpath is not obstructed (e.g. because it is wide enough to accommodate a car and allow safe access) we would exercise discretion as to whether we should issue a ticket, advise or do nothing.

“If a problem is witnessed and someone is affected they should report the matter to 01473 613500....take a photo if safe to do so...we do not want confrontations between photographer

and car driver/owner...and if we have a unit available they will attend....if the offender is local and persistent we would have to take action with the district council possibly with a view to seeking an ASBO or similar. We may be able to work with highways to look at getting white advisory lines down on the road(s) affected.”

Finance: The September meeting of the Parish Council was told that there was a total of £9890.16 in the council's two bank accounts.

Cheques to the value of £829.85 had not been cleared at the time of the meeting.

Traffic Bollards: The broken bollards at the junction of Angel Lane /A12 have been replaced.

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

Bookings 01502 478521

MRS CLAPHAM INVESTIGATES

Why, why, WHY not Delilah

Another summer, another Latitude Festival come and gone. And, for those of us lucky enough to get tickets, what a buzz it was: Florence and the Machine, Vampire Weekend, Tom Jones...sorry...Tom Jones?!

Yup, the 70-year-old sex bomb was a surprise, last minute top of the bill, much to the delight of his knicker-throwing fans and the horror of Latitude's security guards. Some bright spark had decided to put him on the tiny stage in the woods - a place normally reserved for late-night raves - and surround the area with high, metal fencing to keep out the...er...audience.

As they decided to erect this, with no warning, several hours before Mr Jones was due to appear, this caused a few problems for people trying to get back to their camp site through the woods.

We were confronted with hysterical security guards, armed with walkie-talkies and megaphones (yes, really) screaming at a perfectly calm crowd: "You can't come through." As the only way back to camp was a 4-mile-hike or an airlift, this somewhat irritated people, especially gentlemen and ladies of the press who were supposed to be reporting a performance they were unable to witness.

Latitude being a very child-friendly festival, there were hundreds of mums eager for their kids to see this legend live, so it added to the fun that our Tom was to perform at midnight and didn't hit the stage until half past.

As we waited, swaying sleepily unable to see anything but hordes of impatient festival-goers, those with no stamina or tiny tots began to fade away while the rest of us made rude remarks about the old boy having to spend hours in make-up having his face tucked back behind his ears.

But it had to be worth the wait, I mean - to hear the man sing Delilah and Sex Bomb live...except that he didn't. Every song was from his new gospel album - all very well but not likely to impress the kids.

Yes, I know he's got to number one in the charts (despite the damning remarks of one record producer and nearly every youngster in the Latitude crowd) and when he performed again on the main stage a couple of morning's later he went down a storm but that first Thursday night was more than a little disappointing.

Enough moaning - apart from the fact that BBC Radio 4 pulled out this year (shame) and we weren't able to rub shoulders with some of the funniest comics around.



Sadly, Latitude had serious problems this year with two allegations of rape on site, but this was dealt with so quietly that many people were unaware. I was told there was a large plain-clothes presence after this but security was already tighter than ever this year.

All in all, this year was a corker. From the Sadler's Wells ballet, the brilliant cast from *Hair*, the laser light

show on the lake to the cracking bands, the usual daft attire of the general public and the flipping good (mostly) food stalls, the Latitude cocktail is a heady mix.

I have never understood the "I won't book a ticket until I know who's appearing" attitude. First, you'll be lucky to even GET a ticket if you wait and second, if all you want to do is see, say, Tom Jones, go to one of his concerts.

And you'd miss all the people-watching. My absolute favourite was three pretty dancers, decked out in scanty, '20s gear, teaching a mixed crowd of young and old to do the Charleston. Brilliant fun.

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SONIA BOGGIS CONTINUES HER TRAVELS

Of warriors, chicken's feet and bogies

Early May, standing on Darsham Station with a 10 kg backpack; excited and apprehensive. Two days later I arrive in Hong Kong in the early evening. The cloud base is very low. The Peak is shrouded in dark rain clouds and the famous Hong Kong skyline is dimmed by misty rain.

I'm staying in Kowloon – the “local” part of town. My hotel (digs would be a more accurate description) is squeezed between a grocery store and a pick your own fish restaurant. The streets are full of people and the roads packed with bicycles, mopeds, cars and taxis largely stationary but with hooters and horns blaring. There are neon signs everywhere – unfamiliar “pictures” advertising everything but, at this point, conveying little to this intrepid traveler.

My entry to mainland China is via Macau, a former Portugese colony. I avoid the Macau casinos but enjoy an unplanned visit (yes, I was lost) to the local fish market. Stall holders bring their wares to market in bulging white plastic sacks precariously balanced on bikes which they park haphazardly before racing to sell their still wriggling produce.

In the south I came across communities that still fish with cormorants and work the rice paddies with water buffalo. Contrast this with the very visible infra-structure building taking place throughout the country; bridges, roads, railways, blocks of flats – amazing and, according to an Australian civil engineer, extremely well constructed.

A highlight for me was walking the 10 km section of The Great Wall from Jinshanling to Simatai. This is a fairly mountainous region and I had no idea that The Wall would follow the contours of the mountains so closely. I was unprepared for the near vertical climbs and descents (mostly on all fours) but the scenery was stunning and the panorama of watchtowers marching along the distant ridges were spectacular. Hot, exhausting and worth every exhilarating step.

No visit to China would be complete without a visit to Xi'an, home of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses. My expectations were high and I wasn't disappointed. The army was buried with the first emperor of all China in 221 BC and rediscovered in 1974 by local farmers digging a

well. Three pits are open but many others have been identified including the Emperor's tomb. Only one warrior has been found whole. Reconstructed warriors and horses are on display whilst others have been reburied or not excavated while the international community works to develop ways to preserve the colour of newly exposed pieces. Life size bronze birds have also been uncovered and the workmanship was breathtaking.

Shanghai encapsulated modern China. State of the art, easy to use subway system – well it was once I found the English button: the fastest commercial airport train - Maglev - with a top speed of 301 kph; the tallest building in China, Shanghai World Financial Center, affectionately known as the handbag building; and Expo 2010 attracting visitors, both national and international. A thrusting, bustling metropolis.

Throughout China the food was excellent, especially the spicy Sichuan cooking in the south west and Peking duck in Beijing. The only disappointments were badly cooked chicken's feet (a local delicacy) and the three bite scorpion I refused for obvious reasons. After six weeks, my time in China was ending, I would be taking the train from Beijing to Ulaanbaatar. By this time I was familiar with the vagaries of train travel in China but this would be my first border crossing and it's no ordinary border crossing. Believe it or not, the size of railway gauge in China is unique – something about not being invaded by train...

A Gobi Desert sand storm followed by thunder, lightning and torrential rain is my last memory before the border. On the train it was tense; forms were filled out, passports scrutinized, cabins searched, nobody smiled. Eventually we were cleared to leave China. The train, with us still on it, was taken into a large shed so that the bogies could be changed. It's fascinating as each carriage is lifted up, the China bogies pulled away and replaced with Mongolian bogies before the carriage is lowered and fixed in place using a locating pin. Six hours later, still no access to a toilet, the fascination was wearing thin and we still had to face the Mongolian border guards. It was at this point I started to wonder what would happen if my Mongolian entry visa wasn't in order...



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Engineering the way out of a crisis

IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) developed many novel ways of measuring global energy dynamics and predictive methods for future changes that can give more helpful guidance than many economic models. The 1973 meeting, described in VISIONS #1, led to the formation of a research programme which produced some intriguing results.

Data collected since 1800 showed that global energy experienced a steady growth in supply. At first wood predominated, then came coal, peaking in 1910. Crude oil, first exploited in 1848, then took over and is now probably beginning to decline as natural gas consumption rises. Nuclear energy started in the 1950s and renewables - wind, wave, tide and geothermal heat - have now joined the mix.

I find that the most remarkable feature of their analysis of the energy 'market' over 200 years is that the yearly global energy supply grows on average by about 2.3% per year. There are some wiggles on the way but even those caused by two world wars do not disturb this result.

Why is it, when so many countries, with such divergent needs, have a combined growth that is so stable? Is it the underlying drive for growth? Whatever it is the consequences are clear. The world's energy need has increased by three times every 50 years, nine times in a century and about 80 times in 200 years.

No wonder there are shortages, price rises and calls for restraint. Of course this pattern has benefited some countries: the UK's economy was boosted by coal in the 19th century; the Middle East became rich from its oil and Russia is beginning to feel the value of its natural gas.

Another feature of IIASA's work was the exploration of some very visionary engineering solutions. Although little understood, it is remarkable how many engineering projects have to be investigated - and then thrown away for every one that actually becomes reality. Some of the designs may not actually be intended to be built, but are very useful in exploring boundaries of possibility and whether key relevant issues have been correctly judged.

For instance: Energy Island was a scheme to supply all the global energy needs from hydrogen produced from seawater by fast breeder nuclear power plants in the Pacific and shipped around the world in large tanker ships. The Zero-Energy City employed liquid air for its energy supply - the 'exhaust' from the heat engines was just ordinary air, which could hardly be called pollution. The Hydrogen Tree was a genetically-modified tree persuaded to create hydrogen gas instead of wood.

It is noteworthy that hydrogen features many times as a future energy source. There is a clear reason for this derived from the 200-year global energy data already mentioned. IIASA found that the ratio of carbon to hydrogen in global energy has steadily decreased from coal (the highest) to natural gas the lowest.

The next stage, it is argued, would be pure hydrogen, which is, of course, carbon-free. The idea of a world hydrogen economy was first raised in 1972 and IIASA looked into the means and consequences of such a solution. But when? Might some other energy source appear as a result of their visionary efforts?

John Allen

Everybody welcome to have their say

The next meeting of Blythburgh Parish Council is in the village hall on Monday November 8 at 7.30pm. Parishioners are invited to raise their concerns and questions at the Open Forum from 7.15pm

BLYTHBURGH CHARACTERS

Col Harry Churchill MC (1909–2004)

We have become accustomed to viewing WW2 as a humorous affair conducted by bumbling bank manager Captain Mainwaring. The experience of Harry Churchill, who left Barclays Bank in Eastbourne to go to war in 1939, was very different.

Born in Kent, Harry Churchill was a sergeant in his school OTC and joined the TA as a gunner in 1936. In 1939 he was a captain commanding a troop in 58th Field Regiment RA. He went to France in 1940 and was evacuated through Dunkirk in a Royal Navy destroyer. By 1942 he was a major and battery commander and part of 44th (Home Counties) Division sent to the Middle East to reinforce the 8th Army, holding the line at El Alamein.

His division was deployed by the newly-arrived General Montgomery to tie up, in the event successfully, a German Panzer Division while the Allied attack went ahead. The 44th Division suffered heavy infantry casualties and Churchill's regiment was switched to 50th (Northumbrian) Division for the advance across North Africa.

At the Mareth line, Churchill's regiment was exposed to an enemy counter attack and the guns had to be pulled out by tanks and one by his scout car. He was awarded the Military Cross for his conduct during this battle. The Germans retreated to Tunisia and eventually capitulated. Churchill was promoted to second-in-command of 64th Field Regiment and prepared for the invasion of Italy.

Churchill's regiment, one of three in the division, had 24 25-pounder guns and in September 1943 his job at the Salerno landing was to go ashore with the first infantry with a reconnaissance party to select positions for the

guns. It was bloody affair. It had been expected that the defenders would be Italians but they had just sued for peace and Germans replaced them.

They were a very different proposition. A small bridgehead was established and a troop of guns got ashore, followed by the remainder next day. Churchill was awarded a bar to his MC for conduct in this crucial battle "that was a magnificent inspiration to the rest of the regiment".

In the advance through Italy, two of Churchill's colonels were killed and he often found himself in command of the regiment although his position was never confirmed because territorial officers were not approved of in that position.

The regiment went on to Venice where it mounted its guns on DUKWs, and his long and tough campaign ended with a meeting with the Yugoslav army, many of whose soldiers were girls.

At the end of the war Harry Churchill returned to Barclays bank. He married Diana Herbert in 1952 and they had two children. He served the bank in Rhodesia and in 1967 succeeded in repatriating at least part of his savings by buying a ketch and sailing it home to England.

For the next few years the family used the boat as a home, based in France and the Channel Islands. After a spell in the Dordogne they moved to Blythburgh in 1979 where Churchill added astronomy and computing to his hobby of wood-turning. Diana died before him but fiercely independent Harry lived on in relatively isolated Toby's Cottage, driving a car until he was 90.

Alan Mackley

Book your table for the Village Hall Quiz

The BLYTHBURGH M@TTERS' Social Group is still building an email update circular. Please email blythburghmatters@btinternet.com to be added to the list. Rest assured that your email addresses will be used for that purpose only and not revealed to others. The quiz night at the village hall will be on Friday 24 September. Teams of four at £10 per team. Please ring Ro on 01502 478484 or e-mail ro@blythburgh.plus.com to book a table. If you have any queries please ring Jenni on 01502 478883 or email BLYTHBURGH M@TTERS.

Notes from Daisy Bank XLII

In a previous existence, so long ago it is almost like a half remembered dream, I was asked by my boss to dribble a football down a supermarket aisle and having first ascertained where the manager was located, to lift the ball up on my instep and deliver it into his arms.

“There you are sir, a gift from my company if you buy X amount of tinned goods.”

The whole exercise was inherently fraught with danger as, being a keen rugby player, the skills of football had never been imparted to me. Had I been asked to tackle the manager and sit on his chest, then, I would probably have been up for that and done so with relish. But tricks with a football? I think not. Needless to say I didn't last long in that job and after 18 months I was asked to consider my position.

And my point being? After many years of being told what to do and how to do it by bosses and other so called in charge people, when I was 30, I decided that enough was enough and I must become master of my own fate. After several years free-lancing for various companies that I could take or leave as I wished, I finally settled in Blythburgh 23 years ago and became totally self-employed.

I have to say that those last 20 odd years have very definitely been the happiest of my entire life. So thank you Blythburgh for being the catalyst in my final conversion. And of course thank God for the wonderful partner that has shared this time with me.

There is something nice about living in a place called Daisy Bank. And because we purposely don't mow our daisies on the front lawn, they have now become prolific and almost cover it completely. It would be a sin to get rid of them, so we don't. Next year in June come and have a look, why don't you.



The picture is of the lane in winter with one of our dear departed Siamese outside the gate staring at our wonderful church.

I know I have mentioned it before but it is amazing when you think of the countless people who have walked down this lane in the past thousand or so years. From Charles Dickens on his way to Blundestone in the mail coach to Roman soldiers marching north to subdue those rebel east Anglians and build forts inland from Great Yarmouth such as Burgh Castle.

Then there were the Normans sending their builders north to places like Bungay first to build castles again in order to subdue the natives and then cathedrals to create communities around Christianity. I often look out of our sitting room window and imagine them all, trudging back and forth over the millennia, clanking armour and swords, and hard breathing horses and carts. I am sure just occasionally I can hear and feel their echo. Or maybe it's just the milkman.

Paul Bennett

Blythburgh Speed Watch reported 12 vehicles for exceeding the 30mph speed limit during August; the highest recorded speed was 53 mph on Dunwich Road. Poor weather conditions limited the number of hours to 14.5 hours. During July 25 vehicle registration numbers were forwarded to Suffolk Police for exceeding the 30mph speed limit; the highest recorded speed was 40mph on Dunwich Road and 52mph on the A12. In addition to the 14 hours given to Speedwatch, volunteers also completed eight hours of traffic monitoring, four hours on the Friday before Latitude and four hours on the Friday of Latitude. The traffic figures were reported to festival organisers.