

# BLYTHBURGH PARISH NEWS



Issue 53

[www.onesuffolk.co.uk/blythburghPC](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/blythburghPC)

July/August 2010

## A great party – please be there

Celebrating Blythburgh, part of the nationwide run-up to London 2012, takes place on 25 July. All events are free and, with the exception of trips on the River Blyth, will run from 11am to 5pm. The tides mean that the two river trips will be at 10.30 and 11.30. There will be a full day of events for all the family.

The detailed programme is:

**Holy Trinity.** Community service 11am; try your hand at bell ringing, noon to 2.30pm; art exhibition by Paul O'Leary; guided tours of the church from noon onwards; and an illustrated history of Blythburgh by Alan Mackley at 3pm.

**The Priory.** BBQ free to parishioners with Blythburgh Parish News voucher (**please see page 3**); licensed bar, ice creams and soft drinks, 1940s Disco from the Jive Bunnies, noon to 2pm, live music from Handle with Care 2pm to 4pm, Tour of priory ruins from village hall, noon, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm, with a range of local stalls and displays in The Priory car park.

**The Village Hall.** Carpet bowls 11am to 1pm; table tennis, pool and air hockey 1.30pm to 5pm; light refreshments. An Information Desk will be outside the hall.

**The White Hart:** Bouncy Castle; nature trails and craft workshop by Natural England, boules, darts and pool.

**By the river.** River trips provided by Natural England 10.30 and 11.30; guided walks with Cliff Waller and Adam Burrows, noon to 4 pm. These will start from the White Hart Car Park 15 minutes before departure.

Celebrating Blythburgh is funded by Suffolk County Council, the Blythburgh Latitude Trust and underwritten by Blythburgh Parish Council. The organisers are extremely grateful to Holy Trinity, Nick and Susan Haward, The White Hart, Natural England, The BLYTHBURGH M@TTERS' Social Group, Charles Morris, and all others who have given their wholehearted support to the project. It would not be possible without them.

## A free day out for Blythburgh's kids

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust is organising a free visit to Pleasurewood Hills on Wednesday September 1 for all children in the parish of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton.

Travel is by coach leaving the Blythburgh bus stop at 9.30 am and returning around 5pm. The Trust will pay for the coach and entrance to the park (which includes the cost of all rides) for each child and one accompanying adult. All you will need to bring is money for food or a packed lunch.

To be eligible, children must be under 16 on 1 September and be accompanied by an adult, either a parent or carer, who will take responsibility for them throughout the trip. Accompanying adults need not be residents of Blythburgh. Regretfully, the trust cannot accept unaccompanied children.

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Places are limited, so book early. The deadline for applications is Wednesday 11 August. Apply in writing to Jenny Allen, Wolsey House, Chapel Road, giving the name and age of children, their address, the name of accompanying adults (one per child) and a contact telephone number. Additional adults will be accepted if seats are available. They will have to pay the entrance fee of £12.50 but there will be no charge for the coach. Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

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# Save our shop and post office

Blythburgh’s shop and post office are in danger. The *Parish News* has consistently warned that if residents don’t use it they will lose it. Now that prospect looms.

Sean Lofty, landlord of the White Hart and the shop’s proprietor, has reorganised the shop and extended the opening hours of the post office. He has offered to get in products requested by shoppers. A free home delivery service on Fridays has been available since April but there has not been a single taker.

Now the loss-making shop is under threat. “I am talking to Adnams about its future but it’s difficult to know what more I can do to promote greater use of the shop by residents,” said Mr Lofty. “It would be a great shame if it has to close. Many of our older villagers depend on it but that isn’t enough to ensure its survival. If anybody has suggestions for improving the situation, I’m very willing to listen.”

The shop and post office have been open for nearly ten years and have been visited by Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and featured in his ‘the pub is the hub’ campaign.

David Tytler, chair of the parish council, said: “If we lose the shop then just getting all those essentials will mean a car journey. I use it on a daily basis and it would help protect its future if all residents did so. It has the best bacon, eggs,

bread, cakes and much more. Far better than any supermarket yet costing only a few pennies more – and there’s no fuel cost to get there.

“It would be a tragedy if the shop has to go. It is as much a part of life in the village as the pub and every effort should be made to save it. I cannot help but feel that those who shout the loudest if it does close will be those who use it least.”

## First responders on the way

Very soon the Blyth Valley Group consisting of responders in Blythburgh, Walberswick and, eventually, Wenhaston will become active.

Call-outs are initiated by a telephone call from the Ambulance Trust. There will be a common on-call rota for the three villages.

The scheme is not intended to provide first aid cover in response to direct calls to the group but of course responders will assist with local emergencies when needed.

If you would like to know more about the scheme and perhaps be interested in joining please call Ursula Mackley on 01502 478438, group co-ordinator. The Blythburgh team has been supported by £1,300 from the Latitude Trust for a defibrillator and £402 from the Parish Council for the rest of the equipment.



## Celebrating Blythburgh Family BBQ

This voucher, which is available only in the *Blythburgh Parish News*, entitles two adults and up to six children under 16 to either a hot dog or hamburger at Celebrating Blythburgh’s BBQ in the gardens of The Priory on July 25 from noon. Entrance beside the village hall.

The voucher can be used only once. Second helpings have to be paid for!

Number of adults.....

Number of children.....

**THIS IS NOT A VALID VOUCHER**



## Blythburgh Suffolk

**THE INN ON THE RIVER BLYTH**

### **The White Hart Inn**

Our restaurant boasts the best view around with a regularly changing menu from our chefs **Andy Crook** and **Sean Lofty** (aka the landlord) offering fresh local produce.

#### **NEW SUMMER MENU**

Home made burgers with hand cut chips.

Crab with pappardelle

Mixed grill, gammon steak, liver, sausage, bacon, mushrooms and chips or potatoes.

Succulent steaks from award winning butchers **Revett's**, garnished with roasted tomatoes, onion rings and chips.

Vegetarian options available.

**LIVE MUSIC:** 24 July **Danny Sax**, saxophone player, singer.

7 August **Steve Forward**, solo guitarist (see utube)

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**Wednesday 9am – 1pm**

**Thursday and Friday 9am – 4.45pm**

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## AROUND THE VILLAGE

# The eagles have landed...at last

Blythburgh's pig farmers are now sleeping more comfortably in their beds at night with the news that the plan to introduce sea eagles into the area has been grounded because of lack of cash. The farmers were concerned that the birds could threaten their herds and bring little benefit to the county.

Natural England, the joint sponsor of the project with the RSPB, has now pulled out of the scheme through lack of cash. It decided it could not commit taxpayers' money to a scheme it would not be able to fund.

The proposal certainly attracted attention with two of the top writers on *The Times*, Suffolk residents Libby Purves and Simon Barnes taking opposing views, as published in two issues of the *Parish News*. The powers-that-be on *The Times* were clearly more impressed by Ms Purves's view, publishing a brief leader opposing the scheme. In the end it was the economy that brought the eagles to ground.

**Bystander** has caught sight of a village document which refers to the venerable people of Blythburgh. Although this is probably a mistyping of vulnerable, Bystander much prefers to be described as venerable. One such venerable resident has coped with his mid-life crisis by treating himself to a very fast sports car. The venerable's wife is delighted that the passenger seat affords her sufficient space to do her knitting. Details of the new monster have been forwarded to Blythburgh Speed Watch.

**During May**, Speed Watch volunteers completed 17 hours of monitoring divided equally between the A12 and Dunwich Road. A total of 25 vehicle registration numbers were passed to Suffolk Police where drivers were exceeding the 30 mph limit. The highest speed recorded was 55mph on the A12 and 42mph on Dunwich Road, both within the 30mph limit.

During June, the roads were monitored for 19 hours. The registration numbers of 23 vehicles were forwarded to Suffolk Police. The highest recorded speed was 57mph on the A12 coming from Darsham.

Debbie Telkman has joined the existing team of six volunteers. If you would like to join the team, please contact Binny Lewis, Speed Watch Co-ordinator, 01502-478624.

**It's hail** and farewell. Bystander is delighted to hear that Sonia Boggis and Roderick Orr-Ewing have been co-opted to serve on Blythburgh Parish Council until the elections next May, but sorry to learn of the departure of David and Julie Eaton from their joint roles at Holy Trinity. Julie is to study for a masters degree in creative writing, and David will focus on his other responsibilities. They leave on 5 September.

**Wickham Market** is Suffolk Coastal's Village of the Year, 2010. Should Blythburgh enter next year?

**BYSTANDER**

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair

David Tytler

01502 478521

[david@dytler.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:david@dytler.freeserve.co.uk)

Vice Chair/Chair finance sub-committee

Ro Williams

Chair planning sub-committee

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

Henrietta Maslen 01502 478551

Bookings 07850 140581

## MRS CLAPHAM INVESTIGATES

# Can it really be all over now?

They think it's all over – it is now. The World Cup that is. And the football season? Oh no, NO chance.

Not being blessed with the brains of a footballer, I'm having trouble trying to figure out how a "season" can last a whole year.

OK, we may have had ten days or so before the World Cup began to turn on the telly and not be confronted by lots of chaps with funny hairstyles running around with a little ball hanging on the edge of the pitch examining their finger nails or kicking each other in the shins.

But we'd already suffered days of in-depth (if you can apply that expression to footie) discussion on who would win. Well, I could have told them – not England.

The hysteria was all good fun, of course. I mean all those flags everywhere.

Fascinating conversations were to be had about the effect driving around with two flags streaming above your vehicle would have on the climate. Frankly, there was enough hot air being spouted by the media to punch a magnificent hole in the ozone layer.

I did, however, enjoy hearing about the researcher who was doing a survey into the size of men's - shall we say brains as this is a family publication – and asked that anybody with a particularly small one should attach a couple of St George's flags to his motor as they would be easy to spot.

And wasn't it sad that the company producing the flags flew into a panic and had to rush in extra staff to meet the massive demand for them. It seems that the World Cup just crept up and took them by surprise. Same as our England team, apparently.

I also enjoyed the supermarkets' "World Cup Specials" frenzy.

It seems that we needed to have our potato salad and coleslaw served up in enormous plastic troughs so that we could get stuck in without ungluing our eyes from the day's match.

Naturally, all pizzas, curries and beer had their prices slashed but it was a little puzzling to find half-price dog food amongst the football special offers.

As you may have guessed I can take or leave football and having made a point of watching the England games, I think I agreed with our players – I really cannot be bothered to make the effort. Bless 'em, DON'T they work hard for their dosh, along with the faintly insane Fabbio Wot's-'is-face?



I even understand why the nice woman who rented the holiday cottage next door for four weeks announced that it was a World Cup free zone.

And I AM sorry for all those whingers who complained that there was too much ruddy tennis on telly when my beloved Wimbledon was on. Well, pardon me, but I don't think two weeks is too

much to bear and, besides at least tennis players actually make an effort to win.

Then, of course, there's our wonderful British player Andy Murray. Oh sorry, Scottish player – he lost didn't he? But not without making the most touching and ridiculous bow to our Queen. Stout chap.

I am quite sorry it is all over though, as I have only just memorised the word vuvuzela. For some reason it seemed to matter. I do hope somebody comes up with a loud raspberry-blowing device for the next World Cup.

I hope I have not offended anybody. But surely, you would not support the English football team if you cannot take a joke.

# New rules for Latitude tickets

Latitude tickets will be distributed on a different basis next year. Instead of two tickets (either weekend or per day) for each resident, this will be reduced to one following the unprecedented demand this year. Applicants will be required to pay for their tickets when their order is placed. The Blythburgh Latitude Trust, which handles distribution of the tickets as well as grants funded from the proceeds, has acted swiftly to meet the concerns of residents who were unable to obtain tickets for this year's festival. Demand this year meant that the allocation was claimed within three weeks of publication of the

March issue of the *Blythburgh Parish News*, which explained the distribution arrangements and encouraged residents to "apply now". The tickets will continue to be offered on a first-come-first-served basis once the release of tickets is announced in the *Blythburgh Parish News*. All those with an address in the parish will be eligible to apply. Any tickets unsold by June 1, 2010 will be made available to parishioners, again on a first-come-first-served basis. Ticket holders must provide photo ID at the gate to Latitude.

## Bus timetable (602) Latitude Festival to Southwold 2010

*Fri 16th July, Sat 17th July and Sun 18th July 2010*

Latitude	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000
Blythburgh, Angel Lane	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Reydon, Halesworth Rd	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1710	1810	1910	2010
Southwold, Market Place	0915	1015	1115	1215	1315	1415	1515	1615	1715	1815	1915	2015
Reydon, Wangford Road	0918	1018	1118	1218	1318	1418	1518	1618	1718	1818	1918	2018
Wangford, Norfolk Road	0925	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1625	1725	1825	1925	2025
Blythburgh, Angel Lane	0935	1035	1135	1235	1335	1435	1535	1635	1735	1835	1935	2035
Latitude	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	1645	1745	1845	1945	2045

Latitude	2310	2340	0010
Blythburgh, Angel Lane	R	R	R
Reydon, Halesworth Road	R	R	R
Southwold Market Place	2330	0000	0010
Reydon, Wangford Road	R	R	R
Wangford, Norfolk Road	R	R	R

Bus travel £2.50 single or £4 day return. R = Request driver to stop

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# Join a youthful summer of fun

A large range of summer activities for young people is being organised by Suffolk Coastal District Council throughout August, from afternoon Pay'n'Play sessions to week-long day camps for those aged eight and above.

Pay'n'Play activities include dance mat parties, football, puppet making, Wii games, dodge ball and giant garden games. Longer activity camps are available at eight different locations across the district packed full of arts and crafts and sports.

Each day is themed ranging from Sea World volley ball and crab football to Shining Stars film making and costume designing. Camps can be booked by the day or for the full week.

The district's five skateparks are holding several sessions throughout August to help give beginners the boost they need to get the most out of the skatepark. They will also be hosting the Skate Jams tour combining impressive skate boarding displays and live music.

The full activities brochure is available from the district's leisure centres or tourist information centres or [www.coastalpotato.co.uk](http://www.coastalpotato.co.uk) or [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime),

or ring 01394 444779 or email [active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk).

**On your bike:** The 29<sup>th</sup> sponsored bicycle ride in aid of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust will be held on Saturday September 11 from 9am to 5pm. The money raised by the cyclists and walkers is divided equally between their own church and the trust. The aim is to visit as many churches and chapels as possible. Many smaller churches and chapels are open that day only.

Sponsor forms can be obtained from Tom Lond-Caulk, Swallows Corner, Angel Lane, or from Holy Trinity Church.

**Receiving the Villager of the Year award at the annual meeting of the Parish Council in May was quite unexpected but nevertheless much appreciated. Thank you very much, everyone.**

**Tom Lond-Caulk**

**Blythburgh's annual blessing** of the animals will be held in Holy Trinity at 10.45 am on Sunday August 29.



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## Log on to Blythburgh's social life

The BLYTHBURGH M@TTERS' Social Group is building an email update circular. Please email [blythburghmatters@btinternet.com](mailto: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. Please ring Jenni on 01502 478883 or email if you have any queries.

Boogie nights has been running for five weeks now and proving to be popular. Come along on a Monday at 7.30pm and join the fun and get fit. Please note - there will be no classes on September 13 or November 8.

The Treasure Hunt in May was very well supported and all had a good time. The Garden Visits at the end of June were successful and our thanks go to the Horticultural Society for their assistance..

Due to the August bank holiday weekend we will have Outdoor Games at The White Hart pub a week early on Friday August 20, volleyball, croquet and swingball. The pub is also having a BBQ that evening. We look forward to your support.

The Quiz Night at the Village Hall is on September 24. Teams of four are £10 per team. Please ring Ro on 01502 478484 or e-mail [ro@blythburgh.plus.com](mailto:ro@blythburgh.plus.com) to book a table.

Cinema night will be held in November. Please ring or email Ro to let her know what type of film you would like to see. Suggestions so fare are: *Mamma Mia*, a Bond film, *Dirty Dancing*, *Shrek*, or an old black and white.

**Jenni McElroy**

## Everybody welcome to have their say


The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday, September 13 at 7.30pm. Raise your concerns and questions at the Open Forum from 7.15pm.

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# Buying a round the right way...

**Buying a round is a peculiarly English institution but is fraught with difficulties for the unwary, as many newcomers to the White Hart will have discovered, sometimes to their cost. Here William Greaves, one of Fleet Street's finest, gives his ten rules for drinking.**

**1.** When two or more enter the pub together, the first through the door begins proceedings with "Now then, what are we having?" He or she then orders and pays. This is "the first round".

**2.** This player, or "opener", remains "in the chair" while other friends come in to join the round. He will remain in this benefactory role until (a) his own glass sinks to beneath the half way mark or (b) another drinker finds himself almost bereft of his original refreshment and volunteers to "start a new round".

**3,** In the absence of new arrivals, any player other than the opener may at any time inquire whether it is "the same again?" On receiving his instructions, he will order and pay for "the second round". (NB The second round is the last one to be specifically numbered. Beyond that, nobody wishes to be reminded how many they have had and, anyway, no-one should be counting.)

**4.** All players, regardless of sex, age or social status, are expected to "stand their corner". (Pedants note, we are talking here of the only "round" in the English language that contains a "corner".)

**5.** Any new entrant is not expected to "buy himself in" but should be invited to join the round by whoever is in the chair (see Rule 2). If, however, he is greeted by silence he may either (a) buy a drink just for himself or (b) attempt to buy a round for all present. If (a) or, worse still, (b) is acceptable to the congregation then the new entrant has been snubbed and should in future seek out more appreciative company. There is one important exception...

**6.** For reasons of haste or poverty, a new arrival may insist on buying his own with the words: "Thanks, but I'm only popping in for one". If he is then seen to buy more than three drinks, he will be deemed a skinflint, neither broke nor in a hurry, and will be penalised for his duplicity by being ordered to buy the next round.

**7.** Although everyone in the group is normally required to buy at least one round before leaving, the advent of either drunkenness or closing time sometimes renders this unattainable. In such circumstances, any non-paying participant will (a) have "got away with it" and (b) appoint himself "opener" at the next gathering. However, any player who notices on arrival that the round has "got out of hand" and has no chance of reaching his turn before "the last bell", may start a "breakaway round" by buying a drink for himself and all subsequent arrivals.

This stratagem breaks the round in two, keeps the cost within manageable proportions and is the only acceptable alternative to Rule 5.

**8.** When a pressing engagement elsewhere precludes further involvement, it is wholly unacceptable for any player who has not yet been in the chair to buy a round in which he cannot himself be included. In such circumstances Rule 7 (a) and (b) therefore apply.

**9.** In the event of any glass becoming empty, a new round must be called immediately. This should not necessarily be called by the owner of the empty glass because this places the slower drinker at an unfair fund-saving advantage.

(N.B. Whereas it is permissible for any member of the round to decrease the capacity of his individual order - "just a half for me, please" - the opposite does not hold good. A large whisky, for instance, may be offered but never demanded.)

**10.** In various parts of the country, a particular establishment will impose its own individual code. In one Yorkshire pub, for example, the landlord's Jack Russell terrier expects to be included in every round.

Where such amendments exist, and are properly advertised, they must be piously observed. We are, after all, talking about a religion.

***The author is expected in Blythburgh in February and is happy to be bought a drink according to his rules.***

# Margaret Janet Becker (1904-1953)

If Blythburgh ever thought about twinning with a continental community it could do worse than consider a place in Bavaria. Artistic connections with Germany are especially strong. The wife of Ernest Crofts RA of The Green was German. Harry Becker, painter of the farming community and local resident from 1915 to his death in 1928, was the son of a godson of King Ludwig I of Bavaria. Harry's daughter Janet became a respected Suffolk historian. One of her most enduring works is *Blythburgh, an Essay on the Village and its Church* published in 1935.

Janet's artist mother Georgina taught drawing at St Felix School from 1916 to 1923. Janet appears to have been there for a while although she was also taught in London, thanks to a generous godmother. A note-book she started at the age of 19 records her then as a London University student. During a visit to Southwark Cathedral the sight of a recently-cleaned monument inspired a life-long interest in the subject. She trained under Professor Ernest Tristram of the Royal College of Art, a pioneer in the conservation of medieval wall paintings. Janet developed a career as cleaner and renovator of church monuments which took her widely across England and Scotland. She claimed to have washed the faces of many kings, aristocrats and gentlemen. After her father's death, Janet lived with her widowed mother at The Old Vicarage, Wangford. Her wide historical and conservation interests are demonstrated by membership of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Diocesan Advisory Committee on the Care of Churches. She was a council member of Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History and belonged to Suffolk Preservation Society.

In addition to carefully researched historical studies she published a volume of verse and two novels. *Ploughshare into Pylon* of 1939 describes battles of the 1920s and 30s between rural preservationists and encroaching road improvers, the motor car, speculative builders and the electricity pylons of the title. Of course there were some who did not mourn the replacement of their insanitary cottages, the arrival of electricity and the opportunity for greater travel. A local battle won in the 1930s with Janet's involvement was the saving of eighteenth-century Blyford Bridge. She could not have foreseen the changes to the Suffolk landscape brought by WW2 although eventually the protective measures sought by her fictional characters came about. Among the documents discovered by Janet Becker is a seventeenth-century recipe for beer. Apart from a long list of herbs, the beer contained rhubarb, senna and liquorice. Its purgative properties are best left to the imagination. The brew is unlikely to attract Adnams as a seasonal speciality. It might also compromise any Blythburgh twinning attempt. The beer would certainly not conform to the *Reinheitsgebot*, the Bavarian Purity Law of 1516. There is a memorial to Janet Becker in Blythburgh Church. **Alan Mackley**



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## Notes from Daisy Bank XLI

There are some people who should be let into a garden for maintenance purposes and some who shouldn't. I occupy the latter position. I am the 'sit in the deck chair and view' type of gardener.

*B... Come into the garden, I want to show you...*

My mother, a consummate gardener, would sometimes ask the same question and I would desperately try to find an excuse not to go. So when I am now asked to 'see something in the garden', I drop everything and go immediately. It's a way of trying to compensate for the insensitivity of my youth and the regret I feel in not showing any interest in my mother's passion. I think they call it love.

We go into the garden and I am shown a rambling rose that has been hidden for many years, presumed dead, under a canopy of other foliage. It now inhabits the top of the bush ten feet up and is a riot of loveliness.

*B... It would be nice to clear the brambles and hops that are choking it at the bottom.*

I begin clearing with gusto and set to with the secateurs and shears. Seeking to view the operation from another angle, B makes her way around to another path and leaves me momentarily unsupervised. Bad mistake. By the time she arrives, I have severed all the rose branches thereby cutting off all life to the wonderful show above.

On the other side of the village, in all probability, you would have been able to hear my reaction and the foul language that ensued. I am still in recovery mode although it all happened some weeks ago now.

Living as we do in a small cottage there are various sheds dotted around the garden which, luckily, is on the large size. And in one of these sheds we keep some spare clothes. From time to time over the years the odd mouse has dropped in for some shelter, either to make nests in the odd suit or eat some of the more interesting material.

Usually this problem is cleared up by blocking entrance points and employing a humane catcher, bated with some of our finest cheddar. Several months ago things started to get out of hand. Every morning for a couple of weeks, I would go through the routine of inspecting the trap and taking its contents up to the car park for it to start a new life in what, to something of that size, must be like me moving to Yorkshire, heaven forbid.

Now, while I realize that there must be several dozen mice living in the garden, how was it possible that all of them seemed to be focused on that particular shed? Of course there was a vague possibility that the same mouse was returning from 'Yorkshire' each and every day. At one point I tried marking its back with a magic marker but it turned out to be too tricky and distressing for both the mouse and me. Eventually I got somebody competent – Paul C – to refresh my pathetic attempts to block holes and the trap now remains unsprung. Of course he will be back. But perhaps we will have to wait till winter comes and he starts to get a bit chilly.

Anyway, that journey from the car park each day must really have been getting him down!

**Paul Bennett**



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