

BLYTHBURGH

Focus

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,
BULCAMP AND HINTON

Issue No. 10

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

July/August 2013



Welcome to Blythburgh's big party

Celebrating Blythburgh is back with a bang on Sunday July 28. The day will start with a guided walk along the River Blyth, leaving from the Village Hall at 10am.

The walk will be followed by an open air service in the historic Priory Ruins at 11.00am led by the Rev. Joan Lyon assisted by the Rev. Malcolm Doney.

Events are free and will be held throughout the day from 11.30 am to 5.00 pm in the Priory Gardens, with the kind permission of Nick and Susan Haward, the Village Hall, and with a very rare opportunity to take a boat trip on the River Blyth.

The BBQ is free to parishioners on presentation of the voucher, which can be found on Page 6. It should be cut out and handed over at the BBQ. Seconds have to be paid for.

The Priory Garden (entry by Village Hall)

Live music from Jack Pescodd, pianist and composer playing some of his own music 12.30 to 1.30pm; from *Handle with Care* 2.00pm to 5.00pm;



BBQ; licensed bar from 11.30 am, ice creams, soft drinks, tea and coffee; and try your hand at origami throughout the afternoon.

Priory Car Park

Bouncy Castle; Blythburgh Speed Watch; bee display; Blythburgh Horticultural Society display; Natural England wild life art and crafts stall; RNLI, and village stalls.

Free River Trips

Leaving from the landing stage behind the White Hart every half an hour from 1pm to 4.30. Booking essential on 07970 463826 or on the day at the Natural England stall in The Priory car park

Information Desk (outside village hall)

Meeting point for guided walk along the river bank at 10.00am; tour of the Priory ruins at 2.00pm.

The Village Hall

Carpet bowls 11am to 1pm, table tennis, pool and air hockey 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm.

The White Hart

An impromptu boules tournament will be held in the White Hart from 4pm. Experienced players will be on hand to offer training before setting up a tournament for all to take part in.

Celebrating Blythburgh is supported by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust and Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council. Everybody is welcome, so please be there.

Where to collect your Latitude 2013 tickets

Tickets to be collected from the Village Hall on Tuesday 16 July and Wednesday 17 July between 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm. Identification and signature will be required. Final details: Page 3.

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Getting to Latitude by minibus, car or bike

Latitude 2013 is open to the public from Thursday 18 July to Monday 22 July with the main entertainment taking place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The main public access to the car parks will open during the morning on the Thursday ready for the opening time of around 2pm. The majority of festival goers will have left Henham Park by Monday afternoon.

Residents with weekend tickets arriving by car should enter through either Green Gate on the A145, Red Gate 2 on the A12 or Red Gate 4 on Middle Barn Lane. They should park where directed by marshals and then make their way by foot to Stables Gate.

The Blythburgh Latitude Minibus service will operate on Friday 19, Saturday 20, Sunday 21 July between the Village Shop and the Festival Day Car Park, a five minute walk from the festival site and is the closest public entrance into the main arena. The bus service is free to those holding Blythburgh Residents' Festival tickets.

Whilst the Day Entrance is primarily for those holding day tickets, a special arrangement has been made allowing those with Blythburgh Residents' weekend tickets to exchange them for wristbands at the Day Entrance once their ID is checked. Once residents have their wristbands they can come and go as they please.

The festival advises residents not to arrive on foot as the roads are not safe for pedestrians.

Residents arriving by bike with weekend or family camping tickets should enter via Orange Gate on the A145 and go to the bike park inside the walled garden, then walk to Stables Gate. The bike park area is also used by buses and coaches so cyclists should be extremely cautious.

Residents can pitch their tents in either family or normal camping depending on which ticket they have applied for and make their way into

the arena via either the main arena entrance or the family arena entrance in the family campsite.

They can also use the day gate on the A12 to park or be dropped off in the day ticket holders' car park and follow the pedestrian route to enter via the day arena entrance with a weekend/family wristband during the times this is open - around 9am to around midnight Friday to Sunday but this is subject to change. This will be more convenient as the walk to and from their car will be shorter.

Residents with day tickets arriving by car should go to the day car park via the Day Gate on the A12. They should park and follow the pedestrian route into the site through the day arena entrance. The Day Gate is subject to change depending on the weather and residents should follow the signs on the day.

The festival traffic plan has been designed in conjunction with Suffolk Police and Suffolk County Council Highways for all cars to access and leave the site directly off the A12 and A145. There will be a temporary 30mph speed limit on the A12, A145 and B1123 and temporary traffic lights on the A12.

The festival has space for many more cars than the number expected. Parking is free and there should, therefore, be no problems with vehicles being parked or abandoned off site. However, any cars parked illegally will be towed away.

The hours of entertainment are from 7pm to 3am on Thursday and 11am to 3am on Friday to Sunday. The main entertainment will finish at 11pm: the subsequent entertainment will be low key, such as cabaret and comedy so should not result in any annoyance to residents. If you have any complaints call the complaints hotline on 01502 578502.

Take the minibus from Blythburgh to the festival

The bus will run from Friday 19 July till Sunday 21 July.

Depart Blythburgh Shop: 10.30; 12.30; 14.30; 16.30; 18.30; 20.30; 23.30.

Depart Festival Day Car Park: 11.00; 13.00; 15.00; 17.00; 19.00; 21.00; 23.59.

If you have any queries, please call in at Blythburgh shop, or telephone 01502 478833.

THE HART

Quiz night

Monday 29th July, quiz starts at 8pm

Teams of 4-6 people, £1 per person to enter

1/2 time nibbles included

Charity raffle in aid of the *East Anglian Children's Hospice*

Booking advisable on 01502 478217 limited spaces available.

Latitude festival

18th – 21st July

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Sunday: 11am to 10pm, food 12pm to 8pm

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For special offers: see A boards or visit

www.Blythburgh-whitehart.co.uk

or like us on Facebook and TripAdvisor

Britten's special love for Holy Trinity

This year sees the centenary of the composer Benjamin Britten, who was born in Lowestoft, but spent most of his adult life in Aldeburgh. He had an uncomfortable relationship with the Church, but loved churches, and sacred music, composing large quantities himself. And he had a particularly soft spot for Holy Trinity, Blythburgh.

In 1954, Britten was one of the first 50 people to pay a subscription of one guinea as a 'Friend' of Blythburgh church. It was the beginning of an enduring relationship. From the early days of the Aldeburgh Festival – which he set up with his partner Peter Pears in 1948 – Britten had used Aldeburgh parish church as a venue for concerts, but found its vicar difficult to deal with.

So, in 1956 he dispatched the young Ronald Blythe, now best known as the author of *Akenfield*, to see if Holy Trinity might be available. Blythe details, in his newly published memoir *A Time by the Sea*, how he knocked on the door of the vicar, the Rev Arthur Thompson, to make his petition:

"... he came to the door polite but puzzled. He was elderly and rumpled and faintly alarmed.

'The Aldeburgh Festival,' I repeated.

'Is it a band?'

'Sort of.'

'In my church?'

'It would of course be sacred music.'

And so the deal was done. The first concert included works by Palestrina, Bach, Purcell and Thomas Tomkins.

Thereafter, Holy Trinity was used regularly for Festival events, up to and including this, Britten's centenary year, when four concerts were held in the church.

But the high point of the relationship between Holy Trinity, Britten and the Festival came at one of lowest. In 1969, on the very eve of the Festival, Snape Maltings went up in flames, only two years after it had been opened by the Queen. The building, and the programme, lay in smoking ruins.

What would happen to the bewildering number of events? Musicians had been booked, and tickets bought. More urgently, what would happen to the major performance of Mozart's opera *Idomeneo*, conducted by Britten, which was due to open the festivities?

Phone calls to senior clergy in the small hours, and a huge logistical operation, meant that second costumes and a stage-set were brought by lorry to Blythburgh; the cast was assembled in the churchyard; and the opera was staged in the west end of the church. That year, pretty much the entire festival was hosted here.

The wonderful acoustic of the space and its calm grandeur – identified by Benjamin Britten – has since come to the notice of a host of musicians. Producers at BBC Radio 3 are fond of the church for broadcast concerts, and the home-grown Blythburgh singers can be heard, on the first Sunday of every month, at 6pm at choral evensong. We have Benjamin Britten to thank, for helping place us on this musical map.

Malcolm Doney

Coming up at Holy Trinity

Fri 26 July 10.30-12.30: Café and mini-market: on the last Friday of every month the church is hosting a collection of stalls offering a variety of items for sale including coffee, cakes, home-made products, jewellery, honey, decorative cushions and second-hand books. This will be a regular feature until October.

Sun 28 July 11am: Celebrating Blythburgh Day service: the opening service for Celebrating Blythburgh Day will be held in The Priory ruins.

Sun 4 August 11am: Animal service: Holy Trinity's enthusiastically attended animal service is at an earlier date this year. All creatures, great and small, welcome.

Fri 30 August 10.30-12.30: Café and mini-market

7.30pm (time tbc): Intermedii concert: a welcome return for this choral group from Luxembourg.

15 Sep 6.30pm: Kingfisher Sinfonietta concert: Music for strings, including Britten, Bartok and Elgar.

BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

Remembering a very different place

Early in 2011, I was extremely fortunate to spend time chatting to a number of residents and former residents of Blythburgh. These cosy chats culminated in our first Blythburgh Remembered event, "Growing up in the village", which painted a picture of what it was like growing up in Blythburgh in the first half of the 20th century. Both Alan Mackley (my Blythburgh Remembered partner) and I were delighted by the enthusiasm that greeted this event and, by popular request, here follows a short synopsis of Part I. Watch out for Part II in the next Blythburgh Focus.

Alan Mackley set the scene with a photographic walk through Blythburgh village as it was about 100 years ago; he started in Dunwich Road which, at that time, was largely open spaces, avoided the undeveloped Angel Lane and paused briefly outside the stores and post office. The pub looked very different with no side entrance, the forge was still operational, The Green was two brick-faced cottages and in 1940 the bill of sale for Church Cottages detailed the right to extract water from a well. A school photograph from 1912 shows 67 children and the village population at that time was 600 which is twice what it is now and excluded the workhouse.

As well as looking different, the mod cons we take for granted today just didn't exist. Back in the 1940s the Elmy family lived down Church Lane and we were treated to the voices of Margaret Nichols (nee Elmy) and her sister Mrs. Pam Nolleth chatting about their mother drawing water from

the well and needing to fill the copper and boil it before she could use it. Even as recently as the 1960s, when America was putting men on the moon, not everyone in the village had flushing toilets.

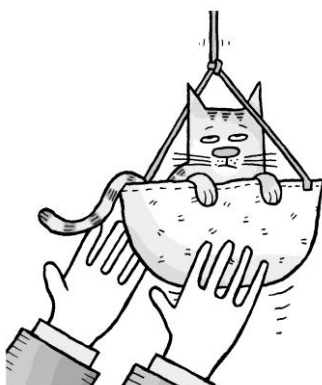
Delivery services were also very different in the early 1930s. Derek Kett's grandmother had a farm and a shop which sold sweets, tobacco and milk (straight from the cow) and Derek, at the age of six or seven, started delivering milk twice a day. His payment - bread and milk for breakfast!

Derek met interesting people on his milk delivery round and these included a real character called Windy Hurren. Windy Hurren was the fish man before Mr. Bird started up and he also "took care" of bikes. On Sunday mornings, Derek had to deliver milk to the other side of the school and en route he was often called on to help Mr. Hurren.

Head out of the upstairs window, smoking his pipe, Mr. Hurren would lower his woven fish bag down on a piece of string. Derek's task was to put Mr. Hurren's cat in the bag and watch while it was wound up to the bedroom.

In Part II we will hear from Anita Barbrook (nee Kett) who was born in Toby's cottages in 1936 and whose early years in the village were very influenced by WWII. A recording of this event is available.

**Words: Sonia Boggis.
Illustration: Spike Gerrell**



Celebrating Blythburgh

Family BBQ

This voucher, available only in the *Blythburgh Focus*, entitles two adults and up to four children under 16 to either a sausage in a roll, a hamburger or veggie burger at Celebrating Blythburgh's BBQ in the gardens of The Priory on July 28 from noon until four. Entrance beside the village hall. This voucher can be used only once. Second helpings have to be paid for!

Number of adults.....

Number of children.....



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A very taxing business indeed...

I started work in June 1941 as a Scientific Assistant Grade III at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. My salary was £184 a year. This was big time: at last I was a taxpayer. I was in digs and went home to Leytonstone by train at weekends although we worked on Saturday morning. I even saved some money.

There were no excitements about my taxes until 1957 when working at AVROs in Cheshire and living in Bramhall. I was shocked to receive a severe letter accusing me of robbing the realm as I had forgotten to declare £56 interest on my Post Office Savings Bank account, which I had not used for years. I never found out which clever tax man spotted this error but it busted a long felt dream of having no criminal record.

All went well again until 1970 when I was living in my flat in Kingston, Surrey, so that I could walk to Hawker Siddeley, working on Hawks and Super-Harriers while my wife Peggy swanned around in the quite village of Blythburgh, where I am writing this piece.

The Kingston HM Revenue rang me to query my high percentage use of the space in my flat as an office, which I think said was 60 per cent. Well, it was only a two-room flat and I had lots of papers, books and reports. A nice young lady appeared to examine the evidence and the culprit. She expressed astonishment at the amount of paperwork and I can see her mind working overtime to understand my life style.

While we were going over my tax return she also queried some money sent to BIS. She knew this stood for the British Industrial Sand Company, near Redhill, which mined Fuller's Earth.

"Oh, that is the British Interplanetary Society, of which I am a Fellow," I replied. "When are you off then?" she said pleasantly. I guess she thought I was odd but harmless and unlikely to be plotting to cheat the realm of its taxes. She concluded the interview with "Well you cannot claim more than 40 per cent." I responded by asking: "How does a nice girl like you get into the tax business?"

We now move on to 1994 by which time I arrived in Blythburgh, Peggy having died in 1987, an event beyond which I could see no future. Gradually life, albeit a different one, returned and Angela Hughes became my PA, which gives no idea at all of the help she has given me over more than 20 years.

We would visit Lowestoft annually to call in at the tax office. We were shown into an inspector's office and went through the return: any mistakes or omissions were dealt with swiftly and quite pleasantly. I think this inspector liked meting his clients – rather better than filling in forms or writing sharp letters to miscreants.

Yes, we enjoyed our visit to the tax office and he would always be at his office window watching us depart. We would wave to him as we got back to the car. It was all very civilised and pleasant.

I was completing my annual tax return in 2011, in my 91st year, still at Blythburgh: Angela, now Mrs Howes, was still my devoted PA. I was a little concerned that I was putting in my third year of losses caused by Science Museum archive work, which took much more effort than I had expected with less time to do my consultancies, although I was still a Visiting Professor at Kingston University, and my memoirs were improving daily.

There have been many changes to the income tax system – and for the worse. Lowestoft was closed and the office transferred to Great Yarmouth, which we never visited. Then I had to write to Manchester, Bolton, Ipswich and finally Leicester and there seemed to be little continuity.

I expect this deterioration has come about by the introduction of the on-line system with the inevitable creeping incompetence that this breeds. I will say no more except that this creates an inhuman feeling, which I had not experienced over the last 68 years.

All my recent troubles would have been resolved many years ago if I could have gone to see my nice tax man in Lowestoft.

John Allen

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Notes from Daisy Bank LVII

My next exhibition at the church will cover the first three weeks in September and yes, it will be another *Waterland*, with yet again my obsession with all that I see around me.

However now and again in order to have a landscape break, I enjoy painting copies of famous pictures. It's almost like doing a jigsaw puzzle, trying to interpret how these famous painters have, and do, put their pictures together.

I usually add something to the pot so as to make it a little bit of me. Vermeer, Renoir, Degas and the rest. They have all had to suffer my copies. So this time in order to remind you of my one exhibition of the year, I have included a Jack Vetriano, he of the *Singing Butler* fame.

If you know the original you can spot what I've added and although it's in colour, the colours themselves are subdued so maybe it might not be so bad in black and white. Sorry Jack.

My conversion of the garden to one of roses continues apace. Just finished planting number 16. However there have been some set backs. Mr and Mrs Rabbit have decided that the young shoots of several of the roses make good eating and have probably put those affected back at least a year. They are all wired up now and protected. Realisation of our own ignorance can be painful. The other day I spotted a monk-jack deer in the orchard at the back so maybe he's helping himself as well.

Earlier in the year I noticed that Alice our black and white cat was either eating or bringing in for inspection, a rabbit a day.

So besides rescuing those that could be rescued, I even put wire protection around a rabbit hole so at least the poor little things would have a chance against the beast. Am I crazy? Probably. But even with expense, the wildlife comes first. If the moles want to dig up the lawn and the rabbits then so be it. We'd rather have the wildlife. And



yes, we are still feeding Oscar the pheasant. He usually disappears in the summer but obviously times are hard.

The other day, we went to see the actress Claire Bloom and arts presenter Humphrey Burton do a reading of Edith Sitwell and Williams Walton's *Façade* in Southwold Church. One of the pieces called *Popular Song* is on my Desert Island Disc list, when Kirsty Young eventually gets round to asking me. In my dreams.

That particular piece is the one that covers happy memories of my own childhood. B and I were also able to ask Humphrey how our friend John Amis, the musicologist and broadcaster was.

We were recently invited to John's 92nd birthday party at Humphrey's house in Aldeburgh but John was ill and the party had to be cancelled.

Well known curmudgeon and misery that I am, I don't believe in celebrating birthdays and of course hate parties. But if by some miracle I make it to my 92nd, then you are all invited. Please, please, don't hold your breath.

Paul Bennett

STOP PRESS: Jim Boggis, clerk to Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council, has been appointed temporary clerk to Walberswick Parish Council. The next meeting of Blythburgh Parish Council will be in the Village Hall, September 9 at 7.30pm preceded by Open Forum. David Tytler, chair, 01502 478521; Jim Boggis, clerk, 01502 478687.