

BLYTHBURGH

Focus

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,
BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No.37

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

January/February 2018

Painting honour for Mary



By Andrew Clark, Arts Editor, East Anglian Daily Times

Blythburgh artist Mary Gundry's painting, *Working Men in the Field*, inspired by her hero, Suffolk painter Harry Becker, has been chosen from a field of 1,800 entries to take part in the annual exhibition of the prestigious Royal Institute of Oil Painters (ROI) which is held at The Mall Galleries off Trafalgar Square. Mary had her work accepted for the 2014 exhibition but this

year's successful submission has the added emotional element because of the artist who inspired it. Becker is buried in Blythburgh churchyard, so she feels there is a connection between them. "I was thrilled when *Working Men in the Field* was selected. "I love the way Becker lays on paint.

Continued on Page 7

NEAL'S PRIVATE HIRE

Airports. Local & Long Distance
Friendly Reliable Service



4 -8 Seaters
Available

01502 575 888
Mob: 07899 011383

DKC PLUMBING SERVICES

Comprehensive 24/7 service supplied for

OIL BOILERS

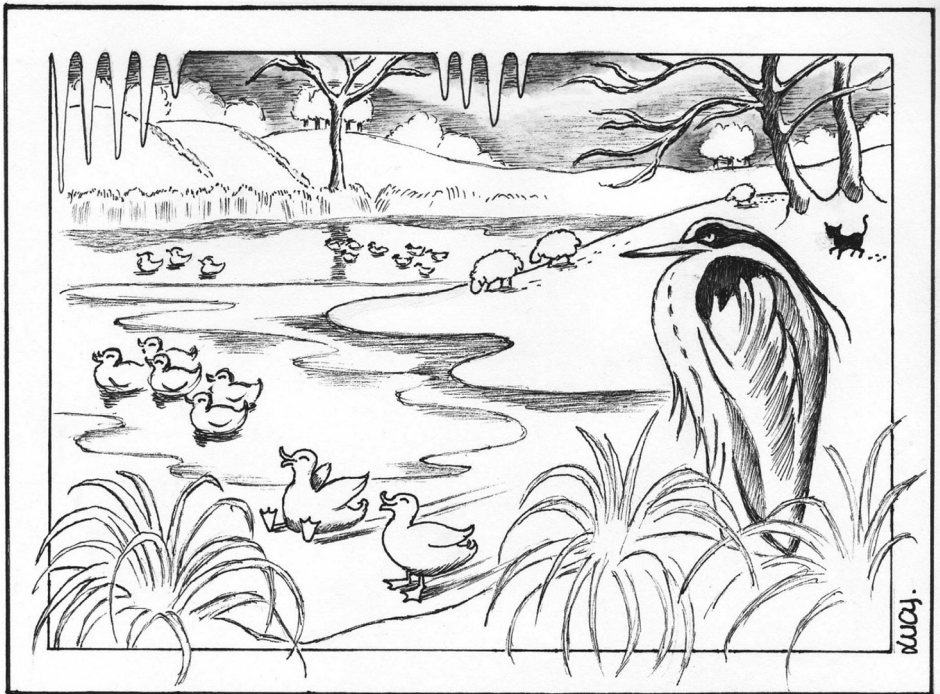
PLUMBING

TILING

Telephone David on 07740272791

Email. DKCplumbingservices@gmail.com

Home thoughts from a broad...



TRAFFIC WATCH

The speeds have been divided into three categories: Acceptable (0 to 35mph), Illegal (35 to 55mph) and Highly Illegal (55 to 80mph) and again I have looked at different periods of the day so as well as the whole 24 hours of each day I have figures for Daytimes (07:00 to 19:00); Nights (19:00 to 07:00) and Late Nights (22:00 to 05:00).

Dunwich Road Northbound, November 5-December 8: 88% (1069 a day) were driving at an acceptable speed, 12 % (145 a day) were at illegal speeds and 1 car every 2 days was driving at Highly Illegal speeds. During the daytime from 07:00 to 19:00 the figures are slightly better at 90% acceptable; 10% illegal and 1 car every 4 days was highly illegal. At night there are fewer vehicles and higher speeds. 74% were acceptable; 26% illegal and 1 car every 4 days was highly illegal. Late at night between 22:00 and 05:00 the figures are 69% driving at or below 35mph; 30% between 35 and 55mph and only 2 vehicles over the whole period between 55 and 80mph.

A12 Southbound, December 10-January 7: 72% (3268 per day) were acceptable, 27% (1235 per day) were illegal and 21 vehicles a day were highly illegal. Daytime the figures were 75% acceptable, 24% illegal and 6 vehicles a day highly illegal. Nights were 53% acceptable, 44% illegal and 2.3% (15 vehicles per night) highly illegal. Late nights were 58% acceptable, 38% illegal and 3.6% (7 vehicles a night) highly illegal.

Roderick Orr-Ewing



Restaurant bar open all day

Specialising in steak and sea food. Booking advisable
Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Fish, prawns etc from our own on-site smokehouse.

Asian Delight Night

3 courses £17.50 a head
Wednesday January 31,
6-9. Booking advisable

Psychic Supper

With famous clairvoyant
Steven Tredaway.
2 courses £26.50 a head
Tuesday February 27, 6-9.
Bookings only.

01502 478217

Village Store

The village store caters for all your essential needs. The shop also offers deli goods, fresh coffee and snacks and home-smoked produce. You are very welcome.

Opening hours*

Monday

9.00am to 5.30pm

Tuesday and Wednesday

Closed

Thursday and Friday

9.00am to 5.30pm

Saturday

9.00am to 5.30pm

Sunday

Closed

*Subject to change

01502 478047

BLYTHBURGH REFLECTIONS

Unholy Connections from tinsel to Mrs T

As we took our decorations down on twelfth night the finer detail of pictures and sculptures emerged from the tinsel and trimmings. As always, it gave us pause for thought that, in the last 30 years, so many interesting and talented artists have called Blythburgh home: Ray St Clair Brown, Paul Bennett, (Paul O'Leary), Nick Catlin, Dorothy Midson, Colin Huggins and Mary Gundry.

Looking further back a number of well-known artists have resided in the village including, for example, John Seymour Lucas at The Priory and Ernest Crofts at The Green. There have also been many others who have taken inspiration from these environs.

Just before Christmas, *The Lowestoft Journal* reported that Mary Gundry had been awarded a place in the annual exhibition of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters at The Mall Galleries in London. Her painting, *Working Men in the Field*, was selected from 1,800 entries and had been inspired by the work of Harry Becker. Harry Becker is buried in Blythburgh churchyard and his daughter, Margaret Janet Becker, who wrote the 1935 *History of Blythburgh*, is remembered by a plaque on the north aisle of Holy Trinity.

Reading about Mary's success reminded me of two chance meetings that only happened because of an art exhibition at the Mall Galleries. It was very early this century when Donald T Regan visited London and attended an intimate breakfast meeting hosted by my then boss.

Some people have more than one career and this was certainly true for Donald T Regan. He

served as chairman and CEO of Merrill Lynch from 1971 to 1980. He left Wall Street to serve as Secretary of the Treasury in the Ronald Reagan Administration from 1981 to 1985 and became White House Chief of Staff for the following 2 years. His challenges with Nancy Reagan are well documented and he finally "resigned" over the Iran-Contra debacle. His

book, "For the Record", is described as "frank and revealing".

In retirement he had taken up painting landscapes and it was an exhibition of his art work at the Mall Galleries that had brought him to London. It was also an opportunity to catch up with old friends and one old friend was on her way to meet him – perhaps Margaret could join us?

Imagine our shock when Margaret turned out to be Mrs Thatcher with Dennis in tow. Love her

or hate her, it cannot be denied that she had an amazing presence and, at that time, still retained the ability to take over any situation, and that is precisely what she did. The planned tour of what was, at that time, the largest equities trading floor in Europe became the Margaret Thatcher show.

She asked incisive questions, charmed die hard Labour supporters and surprised sceptical traders with a detailed knowledge of their craft and all with no preparation. Dennis was the perfect foil and surprisingly sharp. Donald Regan just seemed delighted his old friend was having such a good time. The only ruffled feathers that day were in security.



Words: Sonia Boggis
Illustration: Spike Gerrell

Tom Lond-Caulk

Focus is very sad to report the death of Tom Lond-Caulk, one of Blythburgh's longest-standing and most well-known and well-loved resident at the age of 82. Tom, or Toby as he was often known, had lived in the parish since a very small child. First at Hinton, where he farmed for many years having taken over the farm from his father, and latterly in the heart of the village at Swallow's Corner where he moved with his wife Gillian on retirement.

He was always at the centre of village life, as Chair of the Parish Council, Churchwarden of Holy Trinity, and in many other roles over the years. His ability to fashion absolutely anything out of metal was legendary as was his skill in reversing trailers.

Tom will be greatly missed by the whole village. Our deepest sympathies are with his wife Gillian, with his daughters Rachel and Alice and with all the family. The funeral is in Holy Trinity, at 11.30 on Tuesday January 23. A full tribute to Tom will be published in the next edition of the *Focus*.



Picture: Colin Huggins

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY

Roaring success for Christmas market

The Blythburgh Christmas Market held at the end of November was a roaring success. It was a heroic, communal effort by local people to get it up and running, and the public flooded in from far and wide. The church was heaving with people buying gifts or just getting a (literal) taste of Christmas cheer. The event raised £685.

Flickering candles, swags of greenery, a traditional nativity scene, a massive, twinkling Christmas tree, and huge banners set the scene for more Christmas events in the church. The children's performance of *A Lion for the King* (see review page 16) was an original take on the traditional story of the Three Wise Men, and a showcase for local talent across the generations.

The Advent Carol Service and the Lessons and Carols featured sublime music by the Blythburgh Singers. Carol singers serenaded the village. Families flocked to the crib service on Christmas Eve, and yet more came to services at midnight and then on Christmas morning. The aggregate number of participants at Advent and Christmas events was some 600 or more. As a result of people's generosity, we raised more than £1,000, which will be shared between the homeless charity, St Mungo's and development projects in Kagera diocese in Tanzania (one of the poorest areas of the country) which is twinned with the Sole Bay team of churches.

Coming up: Preparations are now under way for another community theatrical drama event, the *Southwold Passion*, which, with a cast of locals, will be staged around St Edmund's Church, on 26, 27 and 28 March. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwold-arts-centre.

Continued from Page 1

Painting honour for Blythburgh's Mary

"I loved his directness and I wanted to capture that look, that feel. He worked with a limited palette and I tried to stay true to that as well. I submitted the painting because I was particularly pleased with it and because I felt that it would be slightly different to what everyone else was likely to enter."

She said that despite its period setting the subject matter had a timeless quality: "I was inspired by an old black and white photograph of workers in a field and it just seemed the perfect subject for a painting."

Mary now spends much of her time capturing life in and around Blythburgh and Southwold. "I love figurative painting and my ambition is to develop a looser style. That's what I am working towards. I started out doing very graphic, illustrative work, beach scenes – things like that, and it's nice to think that I am developing and breaking away from such a literal style."

Mary is also a huge admirer of Laura Knight, a close friend and collaborator of another giant Suffolk talent Alfred Munnings. "I particularly love her sketches and drawings of clowns and dancers – and Degas, of



course, I love his work. It's always figurative work I am drawn to."

Since closing the Halesworth Gallery which she ran with partner Colin Huggins, Mary has developed a love of working on canvases in situ. She remains drawn to the beach but has developed a love for painting "en plein air in oils particularly."

"Now I have more time I can capture the bustling High Street of Southwold, crabbers at Walberswick and Blakeney, Norwich Market, Aldeburgh Yacht pond, cafes in Holt and put it down on canvas on the spot, rather than committing it to a sketchbook and then working it up in the studio later, although I do larger pieces in the studio."

This article is reprinted by kind permission of the East Anglian Daily Times

The next meeting of Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton Parish Council will be in the village hall on Tuesday March 13 at 7.30pm with the public forum at 7.15. Everybody is welcome. Please be there.

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM – PART ONE

A long memorable

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine."

The Balfour declaration was 100 years old on 2 November 2017. The 50th anniversary of the military occupation of the West Bank and Jerusalem, and the 10th anniversary of the Gaza blockade also fell in 2017. The declaration's first object has been realised. The second part has been sadly neglected.

The Amos Trust, a charity working to bring justice and hope to the forgotten, organised the *Just Walk* from London to Jerusalem, arriving on the centenary day, to demand full equal rights for everyone calling Israel/Palestine their home. Eight of us set out from London on 10 June 2017 aiming to walk all the way. 50 supporters joined us in the first and the last two weeks. We were 10 to 20 the rest of the way as others joined for a week at a time.

In the first week we walked from London to Dover. After the ferry crossing to Calais, we followed the *Via Francigena* pilgrim path towards

Rome, starting with five weeks through France, via the First World War battlefields, and the cathedral cities of Arras, Laon, Reims, Langres and Besancon. We walked over a week through Switzerland, via



Lausanne and around Lake Geneva, then up the Rhône valley to the St Bernard pass, the highest point of our walk. We walked over four weeks through Italy, via Aosta,

walk to Jerusalem

line of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and

Vercelli, Garlasco, and Piacenza to Fidenza. Here the road to Rome headed south, and we continued on the *Via Emilia* via Parma, Modena, Bologna and Faenza to Ancona. After 12 weeks on the road, and 2000 km, we reached the Adriatic.

A 20 hour ferry crossing us to Durres in Albania, from where we followed the *Via Egnatia* to Istanbul. In our week in Albania we passed through Peqin, Elbasan and Qukes. In four days in Macedonia we walked around Lake Ohrid and through the cities of Ohrid and Bitola. In four weeks in Greece we walked via Edessa and Pella to Salonika, and on via Kavala, Xanthi, and Alexandroupolis to the Turkish border. Two weeks in Turkey took us through Tekirdag, and along the Sea of Marmara to Istanbul after a total of 19 weeks on the road, and walking 3000 km.

We flew from Istanbul to Amman

for our last two weeks, no longer walking in a straight line but visiting numerous places of interest, both in the towns and country. First, in Jordan, we visited Petra, walked



through the Dana reserve, and down to the Dead Sea.

In Palestine, we spent several days walking in the countryside of the West Bank and around Beit Sahour, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, and in the Negev desert and next Gaza, finally arriving in Jerusalem on 2 November. In the next edition of *Focus*, I will go into more detail about whom we met and what we saw in Palestine.

Arthur Pooley

A piece of Blythburgh's written history

From time to time important documents about Blythburgh's history appear on the market. The Friends

of the Suffolk Record Office

have just paid £1040 for a Latin

document on vellum describing

a 1620 grant of Blythburgh

property to Robert Hopton.

He was a descendant of Sir

John Hopton whose grand

tomb is in Blythburgh church.

The document also details a

grant of 1538 to Arthur

Hopton that covers the union

of the property of the recently

dissolved priory with the estate

already held by the Hoptons.

The 1620 date is a puzzle

because the Hoptons sold their

Suffolk estate to Robert

Brooke in 1592 (he died in

1601) and it was conveyed to

Robert's son in 1597. The

Hoptons and Brookes battled

for some time over title to land and perhaps the 1620 document was created in connection with this.

The estate eventually came to the Blois family by marriage. Another document still for sale on Abe

Books for £690 is a four-page 1764 proposal for the Bulcamp House of Industry (later Blythburgh

hospital) by the architect Thomas Fulcher. Very interesting but expensive. The Friends will need

support if they are to buy that as well.



Alan Mackley

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: David Tytler
01502 478521

Planning advisory group: Alan Mackley
Cliff Waller and Sonia Boggis

Finance advisory group
Roderick Orr-Ewing
Jeff Sutton and Jim Boggis

Councillor
Jo Waller

Clerk: Jim Boggis 01502 478687

BLYTHBURGH ASSOCIATIONS

Blythburgh Latitude Trust
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Village Hall and Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Horticultural Society
Jenny Allen 01502 478314

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blvth Belles
Sarah Wickham 070810632987



NORTON PESKETT SOLICITORS

A local
firm with a
world of
experience



For you

- ◆ Buying and selling your home
- ◆ Re-mortgages and transfers of equity
- ◆ Wills and probate
- ◆ Court of Protection
- ◆ Family and children matters
- ◆ Criminal matters
- ◆ Personal injury claims
- ◆ Civil matters
- ◆ Notarial services
- ◆ Care home fees
- ◆ NHS continuing healthcare
- ◆ Trusts and deceased estates

For your business

- ◆ Commercial property
- ◆ Partnerships
- ◆ Employment matters
- ◆ Planning and regulatory issues
- ◆ Licensing
- ◆ Company formations
- ◆ Agricultural law

Lowestoft,
148 London Rd North
T: 01502 533 000

Beccles
Exchange Square
T: 01502 718 700

Gorleston
66a Bells Road
T: 01493 652 204

Great Yarmouth
141 King Street
T: 01493 849 200

Halesworth
52 Thoroughfare
T: 01986 872 513

enquire@nortonpeskett.co.uk www.nortonpeskett.co.uk

No hidden costs

Same day response

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**



THE STAR INN



Set in the beautiful rolling Suffolk countryside, The Star has open fires in the winter and a good selection of traditional bar games, the large garden has a boules pitch to enjoy in the summer.

The range of real ales and home cooking using local ingredients make The Star a popular choice with locals and visitors alike.

Come and visit us and see the doom at St. Peter's church or take a walk on one of the five commons of Wenhaston.

For those wishing to stay in the area, camping at The Star is available by prior arrangement.

We are open every day from 12 noon-3pm & 6-11pm
Open all day on Sunday from noon – 11pm.

Food is served daily from 12.30-2.30 & 6.30-9.00pm

**The Star Inn
Wenhaston
Halesworth
Suffolk
IP19 9HF**

01502 478240

www.WENHASTONSTAR.CO.UK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Book your table for the memorial quiz

The 4th Owen Williams Memorial Quiz will take place in Blythburgh Village Hall on 20 January at 7.30 p.m. You are invited to enter a team of 4 and the cost is £10 per head which will include a hot supper, cooked by our very own Wendy Sutton and her capable team of helpers.

There will be a draw on the night and all proceeds will be donated to SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) in memory of Owen who died in 2014 aged just 39. For more information on SUDEP please go to www.sudep.org.uk or if you would like to make a donation please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/djswill>

Last year the quiz was won by a team of Owen's school friends who were presented with the Owen Williams Memorial Shield. This will be held by the 2018 winners for 12 months. Past events have filled up quickly so to be sure of a space, please ring Ro on 01502 478484 to secure your table.

Mobile Library returns to Blythburgh. The mobile library will be stopping in Amberley Close between 9.40 and 10.00 every four weeks on Wednesdays. The 2018 dates are: 24 Jan, 21 Feb, 21 Mar, 18 Apr, 16 May, 13 June, 11 July 8 Aug, 5 Sept, 3 Oct, 31 Oct, 28 Nov, no visit on 26 Dec.

The mobile library gives access to hundreds of thousands of books, including large print, audio-books and children's books. You can also hire CDs and DVDs for a small charge. If the items you want are not on the van you can reserve them from the library catalogue free of charge and have them delivered on the van at a later date.

MANTINS SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

Providing you with the very highest quality client care and legal advice in the following areas:

Residential and Commercial Conveyancing
General Property Matters
Wills
Probate
Notarial Services

82 High Street, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6DP
Tel: 01502 724750 Fax: 01502 797930
enquiries@mantins.com
www.mantins.co.uk



The homecare service where peace of mind comes as standard.

Due to continuous success of Prestige Nursing + Care Norwich, we now have a branch in Halesworth, Thoroughfare. Please call in to meet our friendly branch team who would be happy to discuss a package tailored to your needs.

We offer a wide range of services to help support your care needs:

- Personal Care
- Nursing Care
- Home from Hospital
- Palliative Care
- Respite Care
- Specialist Care
- Support with daily living
- Companionship

For more information on any of our services please contact:

01986 899075

email.halesworth@prestige-nursing.co.uk

Prestige
Nursing+Care

www.prestige-nursing.co.uk

Notes from Daisy Bank LXXXII

Serendipity. A word that friends and acquaintances have accused me of over using. Guilty as charged and what's more, I don't care.

At various times in my life, as I suspect with most people's lives, serendipity has lead me down one path or another. In my early teens and on a course in Southampton I met a chap who was an ex-sergeant in the parachute regiment. He had been in Suez and Aden and had combat experience. Although a few years older than me, we became friends and at the end of our training we both had the opportunity to go up to the Dew Line (Distant Early Warning Radar stations) in Northern Canada.

The money earned would have been tremendous because of the isolation and long periods in the frozen waste etc. In the end I decided not to go with him and instead went to sea, which after all, we both had been trained for. After a couple of years he came back to the UK and then applied to be a security guard on the open cast diamond fields in Sierra Leone. I remember seeing him off at Gatwick Airport with him promising to see what it was like and if it was ok, he would try to get me a job there.

It turned out that corruption was rife and over the next year 'fully corrupted' himself, he would send by post small diamonds that he 'found' to his mother who lived in Swindon. When he came back after a year, he was able to fund a commercial pilot's licence at Elstree aerodrome. I remember going down in my white MGB roadster, having been influenced with my purchase by him having one too.

In the end we had a row over a blind double date which is too trivial to go into and we lost touch. I had the feeling he would either end up as a drug runner or a mercenary, so maybe it was a good thing that we did end our friendship. After all, it could have ended with me being eaten by a polar bear or shot by a diamond smuggler.

In my twenties I applied for a job as an engineer with the BBC. A pre interview coffee over the road from Portland Place in London and running in torrential rain across the road and arriving drenched at the board interview was always

going to end in tears. Later I applied to ABC in Australia and eventually got a job with NZBC in Auckland. The idea was to go out there on an assisted passage for a tenner, stay the obligatory two years and then come and re-apply to the BBC. In the end I reneged on that too as I couldn't bear to leave home for those two years. A few years later I finished up in Singapore for five years with a short break home in between. So much for home sickness.

Pan forward another few years and I took a relief job on a gas platform off Yarmouth in the summer holidays from the teacher training course I was doing. In the end after four years and completing the course, I finished up doing ten years in the North Sea in a very part-time capacity. The money was good so I could afford to play at it. Ugh!

And of course in the beginning, I came to Blythburgh to start a cattery in Fern Cottage after an attempt to buy a chocolate shop in Framlingham didn't work out. And then because the rules changed for keeping cats, I decided that the business would not be financially viable so I became a painter for the next 25 years. And now all that's finished and I live in Fern Cottage with my dear B and a Siamese cat called Milo and look after 128 roses with plans for more.

Its my old friend serendipity and lots of good luck that has brought me here to Daisy Bank and writing this article for the local parish mag!.

In my last DB I talked about the cats who live in Daisy Bank. I should have added that there are three dogs who also live along the lane. Tragically, Rosie, a very pretty and mature west highland white terrier, died two weeks before Christmas. Sue and Paul belong to something called the Cinnamon Trust, whose members take in dogs whose owners are either in hospital or just can't look after them any more. Rosie arrived in the summer and had six happy months of deserved love and affection before she decided that her life had run its course. Daisy Bank will miss her and even though her stay was a short one, one can only imagine how upset Paul and Sue have felt since she left.

Paul Bennett

Well, blow me down...



The scene on the A12 mid-morning on January 3 captured by Alan Mackley when the rare black poplar was blown down. The roots have been inspected by Nicholas Newton, Suffolk Coastal's arboriculture and landscape manager, for signs of the current aggressive strain of honey fungus to determine whether or not it would be worthwhile to replant. Residents in the Conservation Area were reminded at the recent meeting of the Parish Council that they were not allowed to cut down or severely prune trees in their garden without gaining permission from Suffolk Coastal's planning department.

A nativity play full of style and passion

A Lion for s King, Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, December 16.

One only had to see the scene shifters at work all in black to know that here was a production with a touch of class.



Taking nothing away from the talented young cast, they clearly benefited from the professional adults supporting them. People such as Meryl Doney, writer and director; Angela Reith who composed the music; set and costume designer Claire Lyth; and stage carpenter Roderick Orr-Ewing. (At this point it is worth remembering the large number of skills possessed by Blythburgh residents.)

The cast reacted splendidly with particularly good performance from the two leads, Zech Knight as chief astronomer and Gwyllim Hawarth as King Herod who showed good stagecraft as the wicked one of the piece and reacting well to the boos of the final curtain call.

David Tytler