

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

SERVING BLYTHBURGH,
BULCAMP AND HINTON



Issue No 58

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

Aug/Sept 2021

BLYTHBURGH DAY IS BACK BUT MORE NEIGHBOURLY

August is the month where traditionally we celebrate Blythburgh Day, in the grounds of the Priory on Priory Road.

Last year, Covid meant the event had to be cancelled entirely, but the easing of restrictions this summer, means that Chiara and Matthew Saunders and their family are generously opening up their garden once again, on **Sunday 8 August from 3pm to 6pm**. Having been starved of one another's company for almost 18 months, here's a chance to see our neighbours gathered together.

But there's a difference. The virus hasn't gone away, so no-one wants to be part of a crowded, super-spreader event. As a result, Blythburgh Day this year will be a more low-key affair.

It's going to be more like a garden party, open to anyone who lives in the parish, but it won't be advertised to the general public, because we need to be able to spread out comfortably.

You may have to wait until next year for the open-air service in the ruins of the 12th century Priory, live music, stalls, or river trips. There will be free burgers and hot dogs (*make sure you cut and keep your voucher – you will find it on the last page of this Focus edition*), a pay bar, tea and cake. And, most importantly, there'll be the chance to see each properly after far too long. We'll also publicly announce the winner of the Villager of the Year Award.

Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome. Access is via the gate near the Village Hall, or from Priory Road. You're welcome!

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SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

If you thought that speeding on the A12 through the village has got worse over lockdown then recent Community Speedwatch experience suggests you are right - it took just 20 minutes to log 12 vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit earlier this month (including a couple at 47mph).

Community Speedwatch involves using a speed gun to log vehicles exceeding the limit and passing the details to Suffolk Police who issue warning letters. Sessions last 30 minutes and ideally take place at random times, although the most villainous time tends to be weekdays 7-8am. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Matthew Saunders on mdsaunders@protonmail.com or 07971142411

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS FRIENDS

Holy Trinity Blythburgh is *our* church. The Cathedral of the Marshes is part of our identity – whether going to church is our thing or not – and we want to keep it that way. But to keep it standing and weather-proof, it needs friends.

It already has several. A group called the Friends of Blythburgh Church was formed in 1954, beginning with some 76 members. One of the first was the composer Benjamin Britten, whose contribution was one guinea!

If you'd like to help keep this magnificent building standing and enjoy a glass of something lovely, do join us for a **wine tasting** evening, generously hosted by Sonia Boggis of Blyth Valley Wines. **Celebrate the Harvest** will be held in the church on **Saturday 18 September 6.30 for 7.00pm**. Tickets are £12.50 (over 18s only) and places are limited. Reserve yours by emailing Sue Powell at powell596@btinternet.com

Today, we have a growing band of friends drawn from far and wide. In the last few years we have supported vital maintenance work. This includes repainting, putting new lead on the roof, renovating the stonework to enable us to reglaze the windows. In a normal year, we run a programme of events and send out regular newsletters. There's no set fee for membership – most people give between £20 and £50 a year. The church needs friends like you. Please pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or get in touch with Sue Gerrard at sgerrardnew@gmail.com.

VILLAGE HALL OPEN

The Village Hall is now open for business and has its own website. Generous discounts are available to Blythburgh residents.

www.blythburghvillagehall.org.uk

bookings @blythburghvillagehall.org.uk

BLYTHBURGH ARTISTS SHOW, WOODBRIDGE

Blythburgh residents Mary Gundry and Alan Rutter will be joining two other local artists in an exhibition entitled "Quartet" in Woodbridge from 19 to 25 August.



MARY GUNDRY



WIL HARVEY



JAMES POWER



ALAN RUTTER

ARTSPACE
Woodbridge

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WOODBRIDGE
IP12 1AL
www.artw.co.uk

EXHIBITION OPEN
THURS 19 AUGUST
TO WED 25 AUGUST
10am -5pm DAILY

4 SUFFOLK
ARTISTS

graphics until retirement. Using his design experience and love of the local countryside, he produces linocut prints of images of Suffolk.

The other two artists participating in the exhibition will be Wil Harvey from Wenham who uses ink and wash as the basis of his work and James Power from Metfield who works in oils, watercolours and pastels with a passion for Suffolk rural life.

The "Quartet" exhibition can be seen at Artspace Gallery, 64 Thoroughfare, Woodbridge, IP12 1AL (www.artw.co.uk) and will be open every day from 10am – 5pm.

Mary is recognised for her figurative work which has been reproduced as cards, prints and a book *Drawn to Southwold*. During the various lockdowns, as part of a group of artists who regularly compared and critiqued their efforts by email, she has been experimenting with her work, the results of which will be on show here.

Alan is a printmaker who studied graphic design at Hornsey College of Art and practised as a graphic designer in London for over 20 years. He eventually trained as a teacher and taught

INSPIRED BY BECKER EXHIBITION

The Inspired by Becker Art Society is holding its annual exhibition in Blythburgh Church from **August 13 to 16, 10.30am-5.30pm**. This year, the exhibition theme is "Freedom".

The artist Harry Becker was born in Colchester in 1865 and studied in Antwerp and Paris before returning to paint in London and Colchester. He moved to Suffolk in 1913, living in Wenham and nearby villages, to pursue his true love, painting and drawing local life – often going into the fields with the labourers at dawn. He died in 1928 and is buried in Blythburgh churchyard.

The Inspired by Becker Art Society exists to raise public awareness of Harry Becker. Its annual show displays the work of contemporary artists inspired by some aspect of Becker's work. For more details of the exhibition, and information about the Paint Out Competition to be held in the church grounds, visit www.ibbas.co.uk.



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What's on

Date	Event	Venue	Time
30 th July	Cafe and Mini Market	Church	10.30-12.00
8 th August	Railway Open Day	Blythburgh Station	10-4pm
8 th August	Not Blythburgh Day	The Priory	3-6pm
13 th - 15 th August	Freedom – group art exhibition	Church	10.30-5.30pm
22 nd August	Animal Service	Church	11am
27 th August & 24 th Sept	Mini Market & Cafe	Church	10.30-noon
18 th September	Celebrate the Harvest	Church	6.30 for 7pm

Regular Events

Every Tuesday from 3/8/21	Line Dancing	Village Hall	7.30pm
11am every Thursday. If you'd like to join a tour, please phone Colin beforehand on 07508 888 460 in case there are restrictions.	Tours of the Village Church	Holy Trinity Church	11.00am
First Friday of the month from September	Film Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
1 st Thursday of the month	Blyth Belles	Check with blythbelles@gmail.com	7.30pm
2 nd Wed of the month, bimonthly	Parish Council Meetings	Village Hall	7.15pm



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LYTHBURGH FIELD NOTES

Late May to Late July

The nearest Nightingales to the village were two singing birds at Toby's Walks, although sadly, here, the dreaded Japanese Knotweed has now been spread over from the West side of the road by illicit motorcycles.

Another frightful alien, the New Zealand Pirri-pirri Bur, has also established. Said to have arrived in the UK attached to imported wool it was not recorded in Suffolk until 1952 but has established in profusion on the acid grass heaths, particularly around Minsmere. It is now a major threat to many of the rarer tiny plant species. Strangely, at its original Suffolk site north of Eastern Broad it has never become a problem. The burrs of this plant are hooked like velcro and easily fasten onto the fur of deer or rabbits which spread it.

This area behind the motorcycle site also now has the parish's only Sand Martin colony, close to where a local plant Smith's Pepperwort is found. Several of the rare short turf species of dry sandy heath for which East Suffolk Sanderlings are famous also occur here, such as Teesdalia, Shepherd's Cress, the moss like Mossy Tillaea, the tiny early Forget-me-not, Bird's-foot, Slender Parsley Piert and several rare or local diminutive clovers such as the petite pink flowered Clustered Clover and the white ground level flowers of Suffocated Clover.

May 25 produced a female Montague's Harrier on the East of the estuary, a very scarce bird these days, as very few pairs now breed in Britain.

Normally, by June the main spring bird migration period has finished, although a few rare migrants often still occur and the 6th was red letter day, when a first summer Red-footed Falcon was found on Westwood Marsh, and later in the evening an adult Purple Heron. Both these birds stayed for several days, and eventually travelled far enough up the marsh to enter our parish. Much of the time, the Red-footed was feeding extremely high with up to 12 Hobby, obviously on a massive hatch of some large insects. Another southern vagrant appeared on the 12th, when a Collared Pratincole flew up the Blyth.

Sadly, for the first time in living memory no Turtle Doves have bred in the parish. This species provides one of the true sounds of summer, with its gentle purring notes, is in rapid decline nationally. Unfortunately, large numbers are still annually shot on the continent. Although Spain have introduced a one year ban for this year, the French alone are still killing up to 50,000 a year.

A new mammal was also recorded in the parish for the first time, Roe Deer, when a pair was seen at Hinton. This was my second sighting in North East Suffolk this year, after only two other sightings in the last 50 years.

Obviously, this species is at last starting to establish, following on from the now regular occurrence of Muntjac and Chinese Water Deer.

An unusual late and large number of Adders occurred in the village in late May and early June, probably delayed by the cold weather. Several were seen in local gardens, along the railway track behind the White Hart and near the landing stage, many being small last autumn young, but still dangerous. Unlike many snakes, they have between six and 20 live young. It is prudent to keep dogs and other animals close to you at this time of year, as several dogs have died from bites in this parish over the years – although some have recovered, it's been at considerable expense.

I Nonowt

CAFÉ SOCIETY RETURNS

After a soft restart in July Blythburgh's much-loved monthly Café and Minimarket should be back in full swing in the church on Friday 27 August and Friday 24 September, 10.30 till noon.

RAILWAY OPEN DAY

The Halesworth to Southwold Narrow Gauge Railway Society are opening the Blythburgh Station site (to the right of the Village Hall) on a trial, low-key basis on **Sunday 8 August, from 10am and 4pm**. No charge will be made.

The restored 1879 Goods Shed (which has been entered for a Railway Heritage Award) will be open, and there will be Society volunteers on hand to explain the history of the site. Artefacts that have been discovered during the excavation of the station building will be on display: the excavated foundations can be viewed.



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STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

Each August we get the chance to see a celestial firework display and this year conditions are expected to be good, subject as always to the weather.

Meteors, perhaps better known as shooting stars, are caused by grains of dust, although they can be larger, which wander into the earth's atmosphere at great speed and burn up (or more correctly vaporise). They can occur at any time, but there are occasions in the year when the orbit of the earth passes through a dense area of such dust, often left behind by a comet. The Perseid shower is one of the best and has the advantage of being in the summer, which can result in a much more pleasant viewing experience than those occurring in the dead of winter.

This shower is caused by debris left by the Swift-Tuttle comet which passes our way every 133 years, most recently in 1992. They are at a height of about 60 miles when they vaporise and generate the streak of light that we see as a shooting star. The Perseids are named after the constellation of Perseus from where they appear to emanate, but they can occur anywhere in the sky, so you don't need to know where Perseus is. Look high in the sky (more than half way up), and roughly to the north, to stand the best chance of seeing them. The peak of the shower will be on Thursday 12 August. The best time to view will be from 10.30pm onwards, by which time the moon will have set and the sky will be properly dark. As always, give your eyes time to adapt to the darkness. Try to stay away from bright lights – including your phone!

The later you can stay up, the more meteors you'll see as the numbers will increase into the small hours. No binoculars are required as you want to be able to see as much of the sky as possible. You'll be looking up for a continuous period, so my suggestion would be to use a deckchair or sun lounger if you have one.

It's still worth trying on the nights either side of this date if the weather lets us down. It will be interesting to see how many we can all spot. Good luck.

Colin Huggins



Perseid meteor (Blythburgh - 2020)



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The Blythburgh Latitude Trust is making grants

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust makes grants to individual parishioners, families and organisations to meet specific needs.

For your grant, contact the honorary administrator,
Jim Boggis, Marsh End,
Church Road, (478 687)

All applications will be treated in confidence

Apply now

The trustees are

- Jenny Allen, Chair
- Michael Nicholls
- Malcolm Doney
- Sarah Wickham
- Harry Waller

Your Parish Councillors

Chair: Roderick Orr-Ewing

Planning Advisory Committee:
Val Carse

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Roderick Orr-Ewing, Chiara Saunders,
Al Besley

Councillors: Malcolm Doney,

Clerk: Al Besley

Blythburgh Associations

Blythburgh Latitude Trust
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Village Hall Management Committee
Malcolm Doney malcolmdoney@me.com

Horticultural Society
Val Carse 07973 389898

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham blythbelles@gmail.com

www.blythburgh.onesuffolk.net

DAISY BANK

We now have a muntjac, a pheasant and a fox who, on a regular basis, feed in front of our French windows. Birds various, and squirrels, it's almost like our own *Spring Watch*. Milo, the Siamese, is kept in at night, and during the day, wears a collar with several bells so at least the birds are safe. He and the deer and the pheasant ignore each other, and the fox is aware of the damage he might have inflicted on him if he made a play for Milo, so they too ignore each other. Unfortunately, baby rabbits and mice are not so safe. Occasionally, I manage to save a mouse from those dreadful fangs, but not very often. I can't blame Milo, because that's what cats do, but it doesn't mean I like it!

Most mornings, when I feed the birds, I see a blackbird on the bench outside the kitchen looking at me through the window. I then go and do the usual peanuts and birdseed distribution, finishing with an elevated tray of sunflower seeds. And there is the blackbird, almost in the tray before I finish. Occasions like that make life worth living!

The garden is so late this year. Hardly any sign of the roses, but the weeds are fine thanks and are going great. Thank God for Andre the gardener and his team, otherwise we would be truly miserable.

Still fighting laziness but am gradually losing the battle. Sitting in an armchair watching the box or a deckchair in the garden is so much more appealing. At the moment, we're devouring Jeremy Clarkson and his farm programmes. I don't even like the man, but his dry wit and incompetence make the programmes a must-see. I've learnt more about farming and the trials and tribulations a farmer has to go through than ever before

Anyway, it's been a life saver in all this of endless and excruciating boring football! Sorry football lovers, of which I'm sure there are many.

The Canterbury bells are looking magnificent at the top of the lane. My notice, which is still there, did the job and the Philistines have been kept at bay. If nothing else, that will be something to remember me by when I'm long gone. Hopefully they will continue to spread and eventually line the whole lane next to the church. Please go and see them. It's worth it.

I had a card from Peggy Meredith saying that bell ringing is starting again. I love the sound of our bells. So much more inspirational that the noise of the A12 and the ghostly motorbikes.

Perhaps now there's just a hint of an end to the pain of the last two years. I'm not really sure that things will ever be the same again as they were up to 2019, but at least it will be a sigh of relief that familiar things and events are gradually coming back to what they were. Milo has jumped up on my desk and put himself between me and the computer screen, which means he wants something to eat. How he knows that will have the result it does, God knows.

YOGA WHILE YOU WALK

I'm a country girl, with a love of nature, animals and the countryside we are so lucky to be surrounded by here in Suffolk. I am a yoga teacher on a mission – to make yoga classes accessible to anyone who has ever thought about trying it. For a variety of

reasons, many people think about it but never actually get to a class.

Last year in lockdown, like almost everyone, I had to totally reevaluate my way of working. My organisation, Serenity Yoga Suffolk, changed. We have

developed a whole new way of yoga'ing called Serenity Yoga Walks. These are fun, relatively short, socially distanced walks suitable for almost anyone to try. Interwoven along the route are lots of different yoga stretches, and we always finish up with a standing meditation to clear the mind and relax.

The walks take

place on Saturdays, in Peasenhall and Sibton, Dunwich and Thetford Forest. We hear birdsong, see passing deer, squirrels, rabbits, butterflies, bees and even a lizard! It is an immersive experience, and connects you with the earth, surrounding yourself in nature and strengthening and toning the body through yoga stretches.

Bethany Last





BEACH WALKING YOGA

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CONTACT BETHANY
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WILDWATCH

The churchyard is currently providing a wonderful show of lady's bedstraw in flower. The Bedstraw family, known as Galiums, are found all over the UK, turning up in woods, on marshes and fens, and on heaths and grassy meadows. They are characterised by leaves that grow in whorls along their stems and this is usually enough to identify them in the field.

Gardeners will be familiar with one of the family. Cleavers, also called sticky grass and goosegrass, grows along hedgerows and in overlooked corners of the garden. The various local names come from the tiny hooks that cover almost every part of the plant's surface. These allow it to cling to other plants, to walls and our hair and clothing, giving it the yet more modern name of 'Velcro plant'.

Picked early, before its seeds appear, cleavers has been cooked as a vegetable. Its stickiness has also been put to good use as a strainer for removing hair from milk. Its main human use, however, has been in herbal medicine, especially as a poultice and a tea.

Galiums contain a sweet smelling active ingredient called coumarin, stronger in some species than in others. One member of the family, sweet woodruff, has traditionally been used as a flavouring. Richard Mabey, the doyen of botanical historians, suggests in his seminal book *Food for Free*, that adding a sprig of woodruff to a bottle of apple juice makes it "positively ambrosial".

The flavour and the smell of coumarin increases on drying, one reason woodruff has also been used in potpourris. It's also why lady's bedstraw got its name.

Dried coumarin releases a scent like that of newly-mown hay – a smell many find pleasant – and which led to cleavers and lady's bedstraw being used as a stuffing for mattresses. As well as producing a nice pong, coumarin is also an effective flea repellent; an important benefit in days when domestic hygiene was rather less common than it is today.

The Galiums belong to a larger family called *Rubiaceae*. As well as being a source of useful medicines, including Quinine, the family has also provided us with red dye in the form of rose madder, used by the ancient Egyptians.

But perhaps the most famous – and arguably the most valuable – family member is *Coffea*, from which, of

course, we get coffee.

And that, for many of us, has the most alluring smell of all.

Paul Lacey



Lady's Bedstraw in the Churchyard



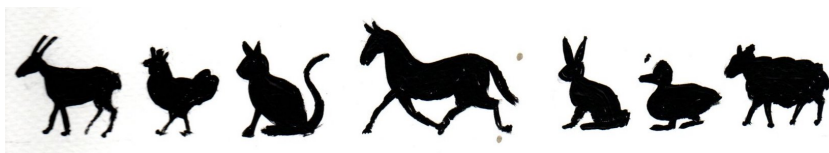
Galium Aperiens Cleavers



Blessing of the Animals

Holy Trinity, Blythburgh
11.00 Sunday 22 August 2021

All creatures great & small very welcome



BADINGHAM, BUMPS AND BOWLS

Lockdown may be easing, but it does seem likely that the road ahead will be a bit bumpy for some time to come. That said, it has been a delight to begin the journey back to some semblance of normality.

Given the warmer weather but mindful of the need to comply with Government restrictions, the first activity we re-started was lawn bowls. Games are played outside; rules were put in place to comply with social distancing and a rigorous equipment cleaning regime was implemented.

Initially, we had to forego our post-match cup of tea but that seemed a small price to pay for the opportunity for a bit of competitive sport, a catch-up with old friends and lots of fresh air.

There are a number of outdoor lawn bowls greens locally, and although some are difficult to spot you may well have seen others as you drive (or bike) around the lanes. An easy one to spot is adjacent to the Badingham White Horse - look for a largish rectangle of levelled and manicured grass which, if there's a match in progress, will be populated by groups of people usually wearing some item of white clothing.

Things may look confusing but pause a while and you will soon realise that the basics are very simple. The green is divided into several lanes, and there are often a number of games taking place simultaneously. One player stands on a mat and rolls a small ball (usually white) to the other end which then acts as the 'target'. Players then take it in turns to roll somewhat larger weighted balls (bowls) at that target. The idea is to stay in your lane, but accidents do happen! Points are scored based on who finishes closest to the target. Sounds simple doesn't it!

Bowls has been around a long time and in various guises is played in many different places: pétanque is essentially French but did you know it used to be played at the White Hart? Bocce, with its Italian roots, is a great beach game, crown green bowls (or bumpy bowls as we affectionately call it) is a game of the north, and carpet bowls, essentially a winter game, is played in a number of local village halls.

Has this piqued your interest? Would you like to have a try at bowling? If so, let me know.

Sonia Boggis



BLYTHBURGH DAY VOUCHER 2021

This entitles the bearer to a free burger or hot dog for each member of their household. Please cut out and bring it to Blythburgh Day at The Priory

Name _____

Address _____

Number in household _____