



## Village plans major celebration of food and drink to coincide with June fete

**This year's village fete will be on 17 June** and promises to be one of the best, judging from early preparations.

For some weeks the fete committee have been plotting, meeting in secret locations for fear of being overheard by spies from Kettleburgh.

In recent years the fete has been held in the grounds of the pub, after having moved from the playing field.

It has proved a success at its new venue, though of course that success is dependent on the goodwill of the pub landlord.

And this year, in co-operation with the committee and thanks to Alexander Aitchison, chef and publican, the Queen's hospitality will generously extend to accommodate several new opportunities to eat and drink to excess, and at the same time make money for the village and the church.

As their contribution to the fun, Alexander and his team have suggested several exciting ideas, including:



- **a beer festival**, also offering ciders, which will run from Friday evening through the weekend.

**a farmers' market** alongside the traditional fete stalls and entertainments.

- **a barbecue run by the fete** in the grounds throughout Saturday afternoon

- **a cocktail bar** for Brandeston's many boulevardiers and well-heeled fun-lovers, perhaps sponsored by a gin company

- **a communal evening meal** in the pub grounds of something slow-roasted, prepared by the pub. It will start around 6.30, so it can include children. And as the culmination of the festivities perhaps

- **a dance** to follow on from the meal

These ideas are still in the embryo stage so there may well be changes before the event.

The most money the fete has ever made was £4,960. But such is Alexander's enthusiasm that he suggests we ought to aim at beating £5,000.

Profits from the fete activities are always shared equally between the village hall and the church.

The festivities will begin at 1pm.

## Talking of bad pennies, just look what showed up

Yes, *the Brandeston* returns! Righting wrongs, campaigning for what is noble and just, leaping tall buildings in a single bound, drinking other people's beer... The newsletter has gone through another Dr Who-like metamorphosis and is back on your doormat.

You'll find many of your old favourites—*Guess Whose Wheely Bin* and *Whose Dog Left This?*, plus horoscopes, puzzles and (for Daily Mail readers) downright lies.

There is also the ever popular *Don't Get Me Started* in which we ask miserable gits from all round the village to make us laugh with the things that really get their goat. (*See 'Wheely Bin' and 'Dog' above.*)

There will also be exciting and politically biased editorials abusing anybody who voted for Brexit.

The newsletter will appear every two months, beginning at the end of April.

## Two elections in a month, yet can't find anybody to vote for?

Once again Brandeston is in the grip of election fever. Just when passions were about to boil over about the county council elections, Theresa May declares a general election too.

But just because you think most candidates are self-serving buffoons, that is no reason not to vote.

So vote. God knows who you choose for Westminster, but there's a candidate in the county elections you might want to consider. Rose Johnson is an independent, a

young mother standing on village communities being supported in helping themselves. It sounds very Brandeston, so you might like to vote for her:

[www.rosejohnson.org.uk](http://www.rosejohnson.org.uk)



Rose Johnson

## Will availability of village archive mean Brandeston history society?

There has been confusion over the village archive compiled by the late Wilda Woodland, since she left it to Wickham Market history society in her will.

But an investigation reveals that all Wilda's work is now neatly stacked in the society's shelves and available to anyone who would like to use it.

There is also other material relating to Brandeston.

The society is based in a hut behind Wickham Market village hall. There is free parking and the archive is open on

Tuesdays (2 till 4) and Thursdays (10.30 till 12.30).

Wilda's documents cover place names, archaeology, religion, manorial history, property, education, business, military and the poor law, as well as other subjects.

It won't be possible to borrow any of the documents, but there are limited copying facilities at the hut or researchers can always photograph what they need.

## New play equipment planned after swings fail safety test

Plans are under way to replace all the play equipment on the children's play area after an inspection by RoSPA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) found that the wooden frame of the swings had rotted below the ground.

The swings were immediately placed out of bounds by the hall committee, pending further investigation.

All the other equipment has been inspected and is safe, but since it has been in place for about 20 years the hall committee has decided to begin a renewal programme.

It is hoped that all the equipment will be replaced within the next two to three years.

The cost of the new swings will be £4500 to £5500. Grant applications have been made to both Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Suffolk Foundation, and it is hoped that most of the money will come from those sources.

The parish council have also given £500.

The new swings are hoped to be installed by the summer.

Earlier this year the fence surrounding the playground was also replaced.

## Talk on children's first aid

The present successful series of talks by *People with a Passion* concludes with a contribution



Jonathan Campbell

on practical first aid for children by Jonathan Campbell, consultant paediatrician at Colchester Hospital.

*People with a Passion* will return in the autumn, and is expected to feature talks on Pompeii, the building of the Eurotunnel and the Hundred Years War.

## Dates for your diary

**Mon 24 Apr**—Talk by Jonathan Campbell on children's first aid at the hall

**Sat 29 Apr**—Eastern Angles present 'Prudentia Hart' at the hall

**Sat 6 May**—Wine society

**Wed 17 May**—Annual parish meeting

**Sun 21 May**—Tennis club first birthday party

**Sat 17 Jun**—Village fete

**Fri 30 Jun**—Safari supper

**Sun 23 Jul**—Garden party at the Mitson-Woods

## ...and at the pub

**Tues 2 May & every Tuesday through summer**—Unlimited barbecue+sides+salads+one drink for £16. Children eat half price & takeaways available. From 4pm. Pub hours for barbecues: open from 3pm on Tuesdays

## Village walk and breakfast raises £350 for hall funds

Seventy one people came out for an Easter Saturday ramble...



...followed by a full English breakfast at the village hall.



The walk featured a n extremely docile and affable lamb...



as well as a clown and a six foot chicken.



## New yoga classes

A new programme of yoga classes for beginners opens at the hall at end of April.

The class is described as 'gentle' and Sally Nelson, who leads the classes, promises that you will 'slow down, soften, connect your movement with the breath and move naturally'.

It is also claimed that the classes can help you sleep better, which may be another spur for many people to join judging from grumbling conversations in the pub.

The class will be held on Mondays, from 9.30 to 10.45am, and on Tuesdays from 8 till 9.15am).

Sally is on 07708 141276 or at [sallypnelson@gmail.com](mailto:sallypnelson@gmail.com).

## Parish pump... what's hot and what's not at the coffee morning and elsewhere

Brandeston has suffered a bijou crime wavette. Two incidents have been reported, both of the sort usually out of our league. First there was a burglary, now we have reports of theft of heating oil. Vigilance of course is always a good idea, but any time the police sternly expect that we should all cut our hedges to no more than a metre high you know things are going a bit too far...

The domestic staff at Thurlow Towers reported seeing a swallow during the third week of

April. They were summarily dismissed and thrown out of their cottages for telling fibs, but has anybody else seen one yet...?

The parish council have erected posts around the triangle at the Cretingham junction, where it was being churned up by parking

There was to have been a story about promised improvements in broadband for the village. But (rather like the improvements in broadband) it's been held over...

Did anybody see Professor John

Brodholdt being interviewed on BBC telly, explaining life, the universe and everything? For those who missed it, John can often be heard addressing much the same thing over a pint in the Queen on Friday evenings...

Brandeston is once more competing in the Suffolk Coastal petanque league, after dropping out for a season—though 'competing' may not be the right word. The new team marked their debut in spectacular fashion by losing at Cretingham by 4-0...

And speaking of petanque, it is intended that the weekly barbecues and petanque and tennis sessions will begin again once the weather gets warmer, probably on Wednesday evenings. The fire is lit, all you have to do is bring along your food, booze and a sprinkle of charisma and join in...

The 100+ club has been well supported again this year, and has 127 members. The club holds a monthly draw at the coffee morning with money going to village hall funds...