



the Brandeston

Village demands answers

Pea harvesters once more caused uproar in the village this year.

A convoy of the offending vehicles drove through the village during August, only to be held up as usual by cars parked in the street.



Have you seen this harvester?

One car was scratched, another was 'bumped' onto the pavement, a hedge was damaged and verges were scoured by the behemoths trying to squeeze past.

When that failed they blocked the exit to the village hall, just at the time when the weekly coffee morning was drawing to its close.

Village veterans panicked and ran amok, Nescafe everywhere. Many claim to have been blocked in for much of the day.

First on the scene was Professor John Brodholt, who left his game of croquet to bring order to the proceedings.

Eventually the police were called and managed to restore order before things turned ugly.

There are now demands for the parish council to step in, to insist that the pea contractors make proper arrangements if they intend to use the village as a rat run next year.



John Brodholt: the

New date for the horkey supper

The date for the harvest horkey supper is now 21 October.

Format is as before: a two course supper, which is free to village residents.

But you need to pay £5 for a ticket, to book your place, and then your £5 is returned on the door.

Afterwards, the *Friends of the Brandeston Light Railway* have been persuaded to tell all about a fascinating but little known aspect of village history. This now forgotten railway line was at one time planned to run from Friday



Do you remember this station?

The return of the Bonfire Night: less

The Brandeston bonfire returns, but in a different format from before.

It will be held at Rose Farm in Mutton Lane, and will feature a bonfire but with only a small firework finale.

Past events had become too spectacular for their own good and there were concerns about safety.

So please don't bring any fireworks of your own, other than sparklers for the kids.

The best guy competition will however be reinstated.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children under 14. That will include a burger or hotdog, with a mulled wine for adults or a fizzy drink for children.

The event is on Saturday 4 November, and begins at 6

New-look children's playground begins with swings—zip wire to follow

One of the Arab states has announced that it is to build the world's longest zipwire.

But it will almost immediately be out-classed by the Brandeston zipwire, which is intended to run from the playing field all the way to Earl Soham and back again. Eventually. And at no time will your feet touch the ground.

For now though, it's in-

tended to run from one side of the playing field to the other. Fund raising begins in January.



Chair of the committee Sue Thurlow tries out the zip wire at a secret location, prior to purchase

Work on the new swings in the children's playground began on 25 September.

The concrete footings have been left to set, and the work will be finished in a week.

The swings have been paid for by grants from Suffolk Community Trust, Suffolk

The apple festival returns, all the better for a nice bit of wassailing

Last Christmas Twelfth Night a party of chirpy wassailers trailed round the village in the drizzle, lustily singing to apple trees and demanding strong drink from their owners.

The idea was to bring them good luck and lots of apples during the season ahead.

So this year's apple festival will find out just how successful the wassailing has been.

It's your opportunity to bring along your apples and turn them into juice and cider.

The event is on 1 October at the village hall. We will have all the equipment necessary to

chop and press the fruit. All you have to do is bring your washed apples and some containers.

Any sort of apples will do, including windfalls. You will be offered advice on how to keep the squishings as juice, or make your own Brandeston scrumpy.

There will also be cider tasting, a bar, games, things to buy, things to eat and drink and all connected with, er, apples.

Sally Western will be running the cake stall and would welcome donations. Anything vaguely appley will be fine.



An apple very similar to those likely to be squished

Back by popular demand! Brandies let

Last year's popular series of talks, 'People with a Passion', is to be repeated this year.

The idea began, as most good ideas do, over a pint in the pub. The man still sober enough to spot its potential was Darryl Morgan, who is in charge again this season.

Last year showed what an eclectic bunch Brandies are.

Alastair Chapman spoke on the city of London, Lidunka Vocado illuminated us on tales of the earth's core, and Michael Cousens waxed lyrical on Mahler's 'Resurrection'.

Then the last was by Jonathan Campbell, on childhood ailments and first aid for kids.

By happy chance, his advice on kids came in immediately useful. During the following week, two separate doting grandparents who had been paying attention spotted problems with their young charges. One of them would have been quite serious if it hadn't been noticed.

For the coming season, so far we have Charles Freeman on Pompei,

Terry Robinson on building the Channel Tunnel, and Lucy Oswald talking on a subject which is being kept a secret (at least from the editor).

So if you also have a passion you're prepared to talk about, and it's suitable for airing in public without causing a rush for the doors and the police being called, let Darryl know

Pig club report: tasty treats make for tasty happy piglets



The pigs have had a lovely summer and all of them are fit and well after lots of tasty treats. (They love apples and butternut squash).

They have become a tourist attraction with visitors from as far afield as Devon, Cornwall and London. They are adept at using their automatic water tap and greet the arrival of any visitors with happy squeals.

There is still a bit of a size difference, but they are all catching up with the big black boar and it's harder to spot the little sandy one. Their departure will come in the autumn, but they have certainly had a very happy free range

Racing, music and

The harvest festival is at All Saints' Church on Sunday 24 September at 11.00 am.

After the service, at 12 o'clock, there is a light lunch—outside if it stays warm.

There is also a collection of harvest gifts of fresh food for Mills Meadow, and tinned or packaged food for the Ipswich food bank.

Then at 3pm on Sunday 15 October at the village hall, there is a concert of light music by the Morning Chorus.

It is directed and accompanied by Janet Weston, with guest tenor Roger Robinson and Sally Webb playing the clarinet.

Tickets are £10, to include delicious light refreshments. Call 685792 or 685807 for your tickets.

All proceeds go to the upkeep of our grade one listed All Saints Church.

Then it's race night on 28 October in the village hall, starting at 7.30. Tickets are £5, to include a glass of fizz, nibbles and one free bet.

Don your best or what-

Dates for your diary...

Sun 1 Oct—apple & cider festival

Sat 21 Oct—Harvest supper. Tickets from coffee morning or Sue Thurlow, 685673

Sun 15 Oct—Concert of light music. Tickets from 685792 or 685807, or at the door

Sat 28 Oct—Race night. Tickets from Sally Baker, 684438 or Jan Bladwin, 684449.

People with a Passion: dates to be confirmed

Sat 4 Nov—Bonfire night

Sat 2 Dec—Christmas shopping in Southwold. Coach tickets from Pat Morgan, 685378.

...and at the pub

Sat 30 Sep—Harvest feast. Tickets £20 from the pub, tel 685307

Sat 12 Oct—Six course tasting menu, £50. Tickets from the pub

Crown or strava? All is revealed

Can you get the Crown? Are you on Strava?

If you know what this means you are a keen runner or cyclist, and we now have two 'segments' in the village.

One is on Mill Lane and one from Brandeston Hall to the Cretingham bridge - have a go and see if we can get the course record for the village local runners. A few have tried it already.

If you don't know about Strava, it's an online community of runners, walkers and cyclists who compare and compete. It's a fun way to

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

The hall was closed for two days during July for sanding and treating the floor...

The multi-talented, courageous and handsome petanque team ended the season with eight matches and eight defeats. In fact out of a total of 32 games played they only won one. So sadly their talents didn't extend to playing petanque. But they remain popular in the league, since every other team knows how well they will be fed and wa-

tered when they come to play. (Though water rarely features...)

And on the subject of petanque, it's possible that next year the village piste may also be hosting Framdsen since their own piste was at the Doberman, and the pub has closed...

Winners of the August 100+ club draw were Steve Western and Mr and Mrs Drury...

There are rumours of a dra-

matic breakthrough in super-fast broadband to the village. As always, BT are saying nothing. But it is possible that we may actually get superfast before the next edition of this mighty organ...

There will be a Christmas choir again this year. Rehearsals begin at 6.30-7.30 on 1 November and will continue every Wednesday until Christmas. Once again, Janet Weston has agreed to be choir mistress. Everybody is welcome...

Pat Morgan is arranging another Christmas shopping trip to Southwold. It has always been a huge success, though many trippers don't get much further than the Crown. Seats on the coach are limited, so book soon...

Kylie from the Toddler Group is holding a Macmillan coffee morning at the usual toddler get-together on 29 September. She has been inspired to do so because a close relation has breast cancer and the nurses have been 'amazing'. Tea and