

November 2015

the Brandeston

RIP

Christine Jane Bays

On September 30th family, friends and villagers gathered in All Saints church to honour and say farewell to Chris. Chris had fought her illness with great determination, courage and with her usual lovely smile but sadly she had lost her battle.

Chris trained at Bart's Hospital, moved to the Marsden in the Brompton Road and later to the Marsden in Surrey where, for many years, she was the night duty nursing sister dealing with bone marrow transplants.

Chris and Phil were married in 1974, a marriage that turned out to be truly made in Heaven. However the road to love does not always run smoothly. Early in their relationship she left Phil for Australia in a rickety overland bus, travelling through Turkey, Afghanistan, Jordan, Malaysia and New Zealand. A photograph records her shooting at tin cans in the Khyber Pass!

Phil was not easily deterred and his letters to down under paid off when they were reunited at Southampton Ocean Terminal and married soon after.

In 1976 they bought an ancient camper and spent the next six months in Greece, Turkey, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. This was followed by a trip through the French canals to the Mediterranean in a tiny boat to the Balearic Islands.

Chris and Phil gave their children, Katie (*pictured with Chris*) and Ben, a wonderful, Swallows and Amazon type childhood at the wooden shack she and Phil owned at W r a b n e s s . Undaunted by the lack of modern amenities she gave them the rare gift of untroubled freedom.

Chris loved Brandeston and the fourteen years she spent here she described as the "happiest accident imaginable." In return she was loved by us all; she was funny and such great fun and she leaves a large gap in our community.



November 100+ Club winners

£25 No 93 The Duffy Family

£10 No 61 Peter Brown

DIARY DATES

FILM CLUB 7.30pm at the Village Hall

November 13th: Selma

A chronicle of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

December 11th: Cinderella

A live action retelling of the classic fairy tale about a servant step-daughter who wins the heart of a prince.

BRANDESTON VILLAGE QUIZ

Saturday, 28th November in the village hall starting at 7.30 p.m.

Teams of 6 are invited to join in – please ring Mary Baker 685807 to register your team.

A light supper will be served at half-time. Tickets £7.50 per person.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday December 5th at the Village Hall

OLD CHAPEL CANDLELIT EVENING

19th December –7.30pm. Tickets £5 from Coffee Morning or Sue Thurlow on 685673.

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO BRANDESTON

Clare and John Burgess have moved into 1 The Leas. They are keen to take part in village activities and have suggested setting up a play reading group. Anyone like to take part? **Ring Clare on 685078**

Further down the lane **Emma Douglas and Bevis Renn** have moved into 4 The Leas

Sue Prosser has come to Blacksmith's Barn, Low Street

Jan and Richard Baldwin moved into Priory Barn with their two sons and daughter in the summer. We wish Jan a speedy recovery from a very nasty accident .

www.brandeston.net

Items for next issue to mitsonwoods778@btinternet.com or 684026 or janelazydayz@gmail.com or 685190

THOUGHTS FROM

THURLOW TOWERS

It's always seemed odd to me that a village like Brandeston doesn't have a history society. Perhaps it's because Wilda used to 'do' our history for us. But with Wilda gone, her years of work sit in a few shoe boxes somewhere, for the moment lost to us.



So while we work out what to do about that, I wondered, where else do we start? Then I heard of Darryl's drone! Imagine, our very own thingy to zoom about over the village taking telling pictures of hitherto unrecognized iron age hill forts and, of course, finally revealing Brandeston to be the resting place of the Holy Grail! (Where else would it be buried, after all?)

Only it turns out Darryl can make the drone thingy ascend, perfectly in control, but then it has a mind of its own and was last seen chasing motorbikes along the Kettleburgh road. So perhaps the history society should have a more literally down-to-earth launch.

But what? Any ideas? Perhaps we all turn up at the village hall one dark evening, bringing whatever bits of pottery or old bottles we've dug up in our gardens over the years; and over a glass or two we discuss whatever rumours or gossip about our history we've had handed down to us.

Anyway and whatever form it takes, expect something to happen some time soon. Your ideas would be very welcome, as would anybody who can fly Darryl's drone. (Really, the rubbish you have to work with sometimes.)

TENNIS COURT

Our wonderful new tennis court is open for residents of Brandeston, Cretingham and Monewden. If you wish to book the court (thereby ensuring a time to play and taking precedent over casual players), you need to buy a 'household pass' for £10 for the remainder of this year. This enables you to book a 1 to 2 hour slot up to 2 weeks in advance using the booking sheet on the court notice board. Passes are also available from the pub, Lillie will answer any queries. Only one per household required. For anyone else in the villages, if the court is free, just turn up. and play.

DOG FOULING

A gentle reminder to dog owners to check their dogs on the playing field as dog poo has been found where children play. Plastic poo bags have been found thrown into the ditch. The Hall Committee would be grateful if these bags could be taken home to their own rubbish bins.



BRANDESTON WEBSITE

Darryl Morgan, who runs the Brandeston website, has updated it, (the first since 2006), with a new look and some new features. One of these is to store the Brandeston email list which is used to circulate news to residents and supporters of events in the village about things that are going on, events at the Queen, cats that go missing, bikes for sale etc. etc.

Since 2006 it has had 27,612 users in 64,138 sessions and 414,624 pages were viewed. The most looked at topics were:

- Fete 2013-Before the Rain (6073 views)*
- French Evening (5154)*
- Jour de Fete (5119)*
- Mr & Mrs James Moorman's Wedding (4706)*
- Lucy and Aaron's Wedding (4662)*
- Fete 2008 (4624)*
- Nobody's Wedding (4521)*

Our old village email list has been transferred to this new system so you can check that you are included or become a new recipient by registering – you can do this on the front page of the new website www.brandeston.net If you are already on the list it will tell you. There is a separate list for the **Brandeston Wine Society** and by signing up on that list, which you can find on the Wine Society page, Martin Churchill will keep you up to date with the society's events.

Sending an email to this list remains the same – to Kathy Churchill on kathy.churchill@keme.co.uk or me sue.thurlow@btconnect.com and we will circulate it for you. This is a really good way to keep up to date with what is going on so **please do register.**



We are having a Christmas Tree again this year on the green outside the pub.

The lights will be turned on at 6.15pm with a carol being sung around the tree followed by everyone going into the pub for the traditional carol evening which starts at 6.30. The date is Wednesday 16th December. For those interested in singing, the carol practices have started in the hall on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 – 7.30 and are lead by Janet Weston. The choir is hoping to extend its repertoire by including part singing and at least one medieval carol in Latin.

FIRE AT BRIDGE FARM

We are shocked to hear of the recent fire at Bridge Farm which seriously damaged the Western's barns. The fire led to the Open Sunday being cancelled in November. Our commiserations to the Western family for this horrible event which resulted in the loss of chicks as well as buildings.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Refurbishment of the hall

100 new wine glasses and tumblers have been bought as we were ending up with lots of odds and sods which doesn't look good if you are organising a sit-down party. The old ones are being stored in the Chapel. If anyone is having a big party and wants to borrow them they are very welcome – give Sue Thurlow a ring on 01728 685673

We have ordered new tables and chairs. The current ones have served us well for the last 10 years, but some of the mechanisms on the tables are a bit dicey and Terry is constantly mending them. Also the chairs are getting tatty and some of the backs are broken. The new tables are 5ft across instead of 6ft to enable chat across the table rather than just talking to adjacent neighbours. The chairs have taller backs which make them much more comfortable and have a stacking trolley which will avoid wear on the fabric. The tables have already arrived and the chairs are expected any day.

November sees the start of refurbishment outside. The hedges and ditch edges have all been cut and the hall painted again. Outside repairs and improvements are being made to the children's play area - new bark is being put down and we are replacing fencing posts as necessary. The chestnut tree in the play area will soon be trimmed.

Has anyone thought how lucky we are to have these marvellous facilities? It doesn't happen by chance but by hard work from volunteers. A new resident was fearful of offering to help too soon after moving in. We are all Brandestonians from the moment we arrive, so don't be shy. There is always something that needs to be done and nobody is too 'new' to offer and take part.

The darling Iggly Piggies in the Brandeston Pig Club will soon be roast pork! Sad but a fact of life in the countryside!

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Your Councillors are working hard to ensure the village remains a safe and lovely place to live. During the summer they have been lobbying for monitoring from the Police to help raise the awareness of the dangers of speeding. The Framlingham policing team now looks after 52 rural villages and PCSO Christian Hassler, explains why this has not yet happened. There are not enough resources for the Police to provide the service that they would wish to. Cuts in budgets and staff means they are constantly having to prioritise workload and speeding is an issue in every village.

Councillors are to roll up their sleeves and do what they can to improve things. Councillors Duffy, Kirton and Mitson-Woods donned high viz jackets and surveyed all the speed limit signs and signposts. They have reported back on the work that needs to be done to clean, straighten, make safe and clear vegetation to make sure signs are clearly visible to motorists. The work will be done by a Councillors' work party in the next few weeks.

Councillors have considered and responded to planning applications at Priory Barn, The Leas and Red House Barn. They recommended that the former two should be approved but considered that the retention of the agricultural building at Red House Barn, which was given a demolition order by SCDC once the Barn was completed, should not be retained and converted to house a swimming pool, stables etc. Councillors asked for the matter to go before the Planning Committee rather than be delegated for an officer decision.

Councillor Buckingham and Terry Robinson are working on the provision of high speed broadband. Councillor Duffy is the Council's liaison with police matters and will be attending a consultation meeting later in November.

The gates to the playing field are in need of full refurbishment and the Council has approved funding to get the work done as soon possible, The gates were made by Hector Moore, Mary's late husband, and are a very special feature the village street. Hector was renowned in the county and beyond for his skills as a blacksmith and we are fortunate to have his lasting legacy in the village.

...and just in case you are experiencing those "winter is coming" blues here are some reminders of Brandies enjoying last spring and summer. What is the collective noun for a lot of Brandies? **Answers to the Editors for next edition.**



..... and finally

The 'theft' has been reported of an unauthorised so called 'SCDC' sign in the bridleway in Old Maid's Lane - any hands up??