

June (though really July) 2017



## Perfect weather and bumper programme for fete brings crowds and record income

**This year's village fete was the most successful ever!**

The event made £5372, a record, divided as always between the church and the village hall.

The previous record was set in 2010, when we made £4960.

Also, for almost the first time in living memory we had glorious weather, as a change from the usual horizontal rain.

The weather clearly made a difference to the enjoyment as well as the end result. But so did the content of the event, with a farmers' market, new stalls, beer festival and a wonderful supper laid out in the pub gardens.

The supper came as a culmination to the day, a wonderful village feast laid on by the pub.

Tables were laid out in a single line under the trees, looking entirely Mediterranean.

Diners enjoyed any number of dishes, and no doubt the self-satisfaction of a successful fete plus the effects of the all-day



beer festival greatly enhanced the spirit of bonhomie.

After supper, diners were entertained with music by Matt Cobbold and Friend.

'I thought it was a magnificent event,' says hall committee chair Sue Thurlow.

'The weather no doubt helped to make for such a happy atmosphere. The whole fete was crowded and everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves.

'The raffle was amazing, making the most money and with the best prizes ever, and for that we must thank Sally Baker.

'The farmers market too contributed a slightly different atmosphere to proceedings.

'So we have a lot to live up to next year. But we've had the fete and feast, ScotFest, getting up in the middle of the night to run the Dunwich Dynamo food station, and all the rest of the village activities. So we're probably due to put our feet up for a while before we start again.'

## Improvement in broadband still not due till next year

Councillor Helen Buckingham reports that it seems any improvement in broadband speed is still not likely till early next year, at the earliest.

Annoyingly, Kettleburgh already has super-fast broadband, (though heaven knows what they need it for.)

But we are dependent on extending the facility from Earl Soham. (Don't ask.)

There are suggestions that mobile internet may overtake community broadband, and Sean Quinn already has a facility which is available to others, though it may be costly.

There was also talk of line-of-sight signals from the church tower, but funds don't allow for a specialist technology editor on the *Brandeston*, and the grasp of your correspondent was already being tested at this point. So for more information, ask Helen.

## Parish AGM shows active council making progress

Big scandal of the evening was the complete lack of booze. In Brandeston, when an invitation declares 'refreshments' it doesn't mean instant coffee and biscuits, even if they were fig rolls.

Some highlights of the evening are shown elsewhere on this page. Here are others.



**Traffic on Manse Hill.** The parish is looking for financial support from the county to improve the bend at the

bottom of the hill.

**Speeding.** Results from SID, the speed monitor device, show that on the whole drivers seem to respond to being reminded, report Councillor Paul Kirton. It is early days but seems a success. The device is moved from time to time, for greater effect.



**Grassy triangles.** We have two: one at the bottom of Mutton Lane and the other at the junction with Old Maids Lane.

But it seems nobody actually owns them. So the parish is applying to claim ownership for the village.

To do so, Helen Buckingham would like to hear from anybody who can provide evidence of the village having used the triangles in the past.

**Village hall.** Sue Thurlow reported to the parish council on the current situation with the hall. The financial position is sound and a reputation has been established as one of the best halls in Suffolk. News of the play area is given elsewhere.

**Church.** Vicar Deirdre has retired, but selection of a successor may be lengthy and dependent on the 'Grantchester' effect to find anyone at all.

## Play area re-vamp started by late summer

Replacement of the swings is hoped to be completed by late summer, and will be part of a general renewal of the play area. This is likely to include exciting new types of play equipment.

A figure of £4800 has been raised for the work from grants (including £500 from the parish council).

The hall committee are interviewing contractors and a decision will be made on 19 July.





## Fete, ScotFest and Dumwich Dynamo



Fete: a touch of glamour



Fete: a touch of danger



Fete: the party's well under way



Fete: the table awaits



ScotFest: the party's just beginning



Dumwich Dynamo: refuelling stop at Scott's Farm



ScotFest: Sue, Tracey, Victor, Kathy and Martin

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

Exciting news for ornithologists. Victor Scott, Jane Mitchell and Will Elson have all independently seen a red kite over the village. The kite is rare in East Anglia, having been reintroduced in Berkshire in the 1980s after becoming almost extinct. For non-ornithologists, they can be recognized as being bigger than a buzzard and with a pronounced v-shaped forked tail...

And on the subject of nature, the delays in cutting the verges means that there are bee orchids in flower on the triangle at the top of Old Maid's Lane...

Now to a cause for celebration.

Brandeston petanque team has won a game! The match was lost 3-1, but since all previous matches had gone 4-0 this is a triumph...

Apparently, for years there have been rumours of a hidden crypt somewhere under the church. The late Wilda Woodland as village historian claimed there was a lost chapel somewhere in the village, so could they be the same? Then of course there are all those legends of the Holy Grail being buried somewhere in Brandeston. You just have to wonder...

Every year the Dumwich Dynamo passes through the village. Thou-

sands of cyclists start out from London to ride through the night to Dumwich for breakfast on the beach. If you've never heard of it, that's because it passes through the village in the early hours. This year a team of volunteers got up at 1.30am and provided a food station for the cyclists, to raise money for the village hall. At 10am there was still a queue. It was set up outside Scott's Farm, and raised nearly £700. A special mention in despatches goes to Julian Fox, who baked 150 sausage rolls for the event.

Then there was the ScotFest, at which 150 people gathered to listen to music, smoke funny fags

and practice free love. (Well OK, eat fish and chips then.) Since it clashed with the Dumwich Dynamo, some people almost went straight from one to the other. It only scraped in here just ahead of deadline, so it's sadly not as well represented as it should be.

The village hall will be closed on 28 and 29 July while the floor is sanded...

Apologies for the late publication of this newsletter. It had to be delayed to report on the fete, and then publication date clashed with school holidays at Brandeston Hall, who kindly print it for us.

### Dates for your diary...

Sun 23 Jul—Garden party at the Mitson-Woods

Fri 15 Sep—safari supper

Sat 16 Sep—village quiz

Sun 24 Sep—harvest festival

Sun 1 Oct—apple & cider festival

Sat 14 Oct—harvest horkey supper

Every Wednesday during summer—village barbecue

Beginning October—a return of the Brandeston talks, 'People with a Passion'

### ...and at the pub

The kitchen will be closed from 14-29 July. But instead the pub will offer a range of pop-up street food.

## A summer Sunday lunch and croquet

This year we celebrate high summer with lunch in the gardens of Rose Farm Cottage.

The invitation is courtesy of the Mitson-Woods. There will be a lunch of cold meats, salads and puddings. There will also be a bar. Afterwards, demonstrate your killer instincts with a game of croquet, though other lawn games are also available for the more squeamish.

Tickets are £10 (adults) or £23 (family of two adults and two children under 6), and are available from Mary or Richard on 684026.

The event is to raise funds for the hall and tickets must be bought beforehand.