

# the Brandeston

## Playing field plans all set for agreement...

**Plans to improve the playing field** are to be put before the village for approval.

The ideas have been discussed and developed over the past four months.

The aim is to encourage more use of the playing field by providing more facilities.

Ideas include a tennis court, a basketball hoop, and an extension of the existing play area to provide for older children.

There are also plans to provide an informal path around the playing field which can be used by mothers with push-chairs and could also be used for jogging. It will feature trees, shrubs and benches.

Exercise equipment may be included around the edge of the field adjacent to the new path.

It is also intended to have a dedicated picnic and barbecue area at the far end among the trees.

But the open space won't be affected. It isn't the intention to lose the space, and in any case it is guaranteed under the trust document.

The ideas have been developed by a group set up by the village hall committee.

They are Kathy Churchill, Helen Fletcher, Jane Mitchell, Pat Morgan, Sue Thurlow and Peter Thurlow.

The initiative followed the decision to build a petanque piste, which should be completed during April.

The piste will cost £2,900. Of this, a specific fund-raising event raised £700, and £2,200 has come from grants.

But it became clear that it would be necessary to prepare an overall plan for the playing field, rather than seeing the piste as a 'one-off'.

So the task has been to consider what facilities are feasible and what would be in demand.

Ideas have already been

prompted by the village itself in preparing the parish plan two years ago.

But it is important that the vil-

lage feels it 'owns' any final decision.

Total cost of the ideas would probably be £45,000, to be spent perhaps over five years before the project is completed.

It's hoped that almost all of this would be paid for by grants. It's for this reason that the work is spread over time.

Little if any of the expenditure would fall on the village hall, unless we choose otherwise.

So inclusion of each part of the project would only be considered when money is available.

Part of that money may come from the Olympics 'legacy' fund, which is under consideration.

But this application is the reason why there is some urgency about pressing on with getting village approval.

The plans have already been presented to and agreed by the village hall committee.

Below you will see how you can have your say.

We need to have our plans clear by mid April. So now it's over to you...



## ... But first we'll need your approval

Before we go ahead with plans to improve the playing field and bring it into more use, we want your agreement.

You will have several opportunities to make your views known and to discuss the plans with hall committee members.

**A questionnaire** is delivered with this newsletter. This is important. Please complete it and have it ready for when somebody comes to collect it. If you have any

questions then the collector should be able to answer them.

You will see an outline sketch of how the finished project might look on the back of the questionnaire.

**A display board** showing the plans will be in the foyer during April.

**Coffee mornings during April** will

also allow discussion, and committee members will be present to answer any questions.

**The village lunch on 9 April** may include a brief talk by a committee member on the overall vision of the project and how the group came to its recommendations.

**An exhibition evening on 8 April** at the hall (6.30 till 8) will allow a further oppor-

tunity for discussion. Coffee, nibbles and a glass of wine will be available free of charge.

So by mid April we hope to have a clear opinion about the plans from the village. In particular, we want to identify those who are keen to use the new facilities.

If you have any queries, call either Jane Mitchell (685190) or Pat Morgan (685378).



Jane Mitchell, who has been instrumental in drawing up the plans

## The Queen's Wood takes a bough...

The last edition of *the Brandeston* reported that Clemency and Roger Cunliffe have planted a new wood on the north east corner of the village.

The wood lies between Scott's farm track and the grounds of the Old Vicarage.

Roger Cunliffe explains that one of the reasons he and Clemency came to Brandeston was to plant and nurture trees.

A previous owner of the estate planted Jubilee Wood to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, so it seemed right to do the same in honour of Queen Eliza-

beth's celebration.

But with the 'Jubilee' name already taken, the decision was taken to call it simply The Queen's Wood.

Nearly all the trees are native hardwoods, though sadly because of die-back disease it has not been possible to plant ash.

Because a public footpath runs alongside, the Cunliffes hope everyone will enjoy seeing them grow. As Roger says: 'Those who are children now—including our own grandchildren - will be able to watch through the decades and understand that even great oaks have to start as tiny saplings.'

## Your chance to join the petanque team

With Brandeston about to have a purpose-built petanque piste, the team is looking to expand.

The league fixtures include home and away matches against Framsdon, Crettingham, Framlingham, and Kettleburgh.

But at the Brandeston Olympics during the summer, more than 60 players took part in a knock-out competition.

So with such enthusiasm and

with a brand new piste, plans are afoot to hold more competitions.



Marian shows how it's done

There will also be an open morning on a Sunday or a weekday evening (if ever the weather improves), when anybody can turn up and see what it's like to chuck a boule.

The event is likely to be in April, once the piste is built, with village competitions beginning shortly afterwards.

Look out for notices around the village.

## Hall redecoration?

The hall has been open for eight years now. From time to time, parts of the building have needed touching up, but the hall committee feels it may be time to consider a more general redecoration.

So the spring clean will be used to decide what needs doing.

The decision has already been taken that any major redecoration will be contracted out and won't involve members of the village.

(Several members are old enough to remember the song *When Father Painted the ParLOUR*.)

## Eastern Angles new play comes to hall

The popular *Eastern Angles* return to Brandeston with a new play.

The Long Life and Great Good Fortune of John Clare explores the myths about England's 'peasant poet'.

'John' is in a secure unit and believes he is John Clare. His psychiatrist and her partner swot up on the history of the poet, trying to fathom the reasons behind her patient's delusion.

In their search for the real story, all three characters reveal some startling truths about themselves.

The play is at the hall on 25 April at 7.30. Tickets are £8 (£7 concessions), available from Cara Duffy (685655).

## Dates for your diary

**5 Apl**—Vintage fashion bring & buy sale, 4pm

**8 Apl**—Playing field open evening (see overleaf), free, 6.30–8

**12 Apl**—Film club, 7.30: 'Skyfall'

**16 Apl**—Fete meeting in the pub, 7.30

**17 Apl**—Annual church meeting in the church, 7pm

**25 Apl**—Eastern Angles: *The Long Life and Great Good Fortune of John Clare*

**10 May**—Film club, 7.30: 'Anna Karenina'

**11 May**—Hall spring clean, everyone welcome, 2pm

**12 May**—Car boot sale, 10am

**21 May**—Parish council AGM, 8pm

See website for regular events: table tennis, coffee morning, whist drive, zumba, Brownies, mothers & toddlers, pilates, yoga, ballet, community lunch, diet & fitness.

## And at the pub:

Roasts and brunch available every Sunday from 11.30–3.30

## New dance classes

New dance classes in the village aim to provide fun, exercise, poise and confidence.

Ballroom and latin dance classes for beginners are held at Brandeston Hall school.

Meanwhile ballet begins at the village hall on 20 April.

Nursery and reception children are from 9.15–10.

Years 1 and 2 are 10–10.45; and years 3 and 4, 10.45–11.45.

Classes aim towards Cecchetti examination certificates.

Call Liz Watson on 07884 267430 for more details.



Liz Watson

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

Nicola Owens is looking to increased numbers at the toddler group which meets in Easton village hall each Tuesday from 9.45–11.45. If you know anybody to whom this might be of interest, please mention it. Nicola is on 684098...

Over time, things inevitably go missing from the hall. It's bound to happen (though naturally we have our suspicions...). Among the shortfall in a recent audit were 36 water glasses, 6 soup bowls, 12 large knives, 12 large forks, 24 small forks, 12 soup

spoons, 12 dessert spoons and 36 teaspoons. (You have to wonder: it's all in half dozens.)

At least one of the lights in the hall has been out for a while. This isn't because the committee can't be bothered to change the bulb—it's a bit more complicated than that. (Something to do with 'ballast'.) But progress is being made and the problem should be solved soon...

This year's village hall spring clean will take place on Saturday afternoon, 11 May. We are plan-

ning to have the hall decorated shortly but there is always work for willing hands...

Yoga returns to the hall after an absence. It begins on 2 April at 8pm and continues weekly. Call Sally for more information, on 07708 141276...

There have been two recent successful fund raising events at the village hall. Without really trying the quiz raised an astonishing £612; and the evening of archive films provided a profit of £226...

The annual church meeting takes

place on 17 April. Everyone is welcome and there will be drinks, and nibbles. It is hoped to have a speaker from Ipswich Umbrella Trust, for whom the church collected food last year...

The delay since the last newsletter has more significance than usual, since during that period two long-time neighbours have died. We regret that the passing of Andrew Curry and Alan Woodland couldn't be covered by the newsletter at the time, but our sympathies go out to Gill Curry and Wilda Woodland...