



Bright new year, bright new Brandeston!

A bright new year brings a bright new Brandeston.

As you see, *the Brandeston* newsletter is now two pages and in full colour, with pictures and stories about those in the village making the news.

The new format will keep you up to date with what's happening in the village, as well as offering Brandeston's first gossip column (though naturally, this being Brandeston, there will be nothing to put in it...)

But the major new innovation which may dramatically impact on village life in the future sees the launch at last of Brandeston's own village website, at www.brandeston.net.

It's been worth waiting for. The website has been built by top boffin Darryl Morgan, and represents a major new resource for the village.

Initial reactions judge it to be outstanding. Mostly Darryl's. But its success depends of course on how well it is used.

Its features include:

People making the news, featuring details of the recent fund-raising project by the 'babes on bikes' which to date has provided £7,000 to impoverished Kenyan villages.

A photo gallery where you can post your favourite pictures and view those of others

Meeting places—information on the pub, the church, the



Darryl Morgan: the website is for information and to contribute - 'We'd like a dialogue'

village hall and the old chapel

Events and what's on

Village enterprise—not only established businesses but offers of gardeners, baby sitters, dog walkers and others

The Brandeston story—a potent history of the village.

A food page where villagers

can swap their favourite recipes and talk about food and wine

And to ensure up-to-date information and debate among the village:

The Brandeston Blog where you can argue about the issues that concern you. Current subjects are: How can we make better use of the old chapel? Where can we store the hall's outside furniture?

'We hope the website will be used as a source of information, but also that village people will contribute to it,' Darryl explains. 'We'd like a dialogue.'

'In particular we hope the *Brandeston Blog* is well used as a discussion forum.

'We also see the website as a means of keeping in touch for people who have moved away from the village.'

New dates for your diary

Late February—**bingo**

End of February—**quiz**

8 March & subsequently—**wine society**

19 May—**flamenco dancing & tapas evening**

7 July—**craft fair**

14 July—**disco and barbecue**

September—**radio play**

At the pub—'Feast on a Tenner' 22 January, Valentines Day dinner 14 February, Shrove Tuesday pancakes 20 February

Days of wine & poseurs

The first event of the Brandeston wine society is on 8th March at 8pm and is intended to feature a tasting of wines from a single grape variety, as well as making future plans.

It is organized by the decidedly un-posy Nick Holland-Brown, with a little help from his friends. We need to know numbers: call Nick on 685048 or nickhb@btconnect.com, or Peter Thurlow, 685673 or peterthurlow@btconnect.com.

www.brandeston.net

Flamenco and a radio play top the bill

Flamenco dancing, a craft fair, a quiz, a sleazy cabaret, a day of tracking wildlife, bingo, and a radio play complete with sound effects, old fashioned microphones and announcers in dinner jackets.

Those are among the exciting events Brandeston is planning over the coming months.

The new events co-ordinator is Sam Tassera. She is working with others to produce a comprehensive programme of events for all tastes during the year ahead.

But the list above gives a flavour of the wide ranging ideas which will add further to the cultural and educational life of the village, as well as more knees-ups.

'We've only just begun to compile the full programme,' Sam explains.

'There are still a number of gaps we have to fill. We have plenty of ideas, but new ones are always welcome.'



Sam Tassera— 'We've only just begun...'



As well as the events listed overleaf, the hall's regulars events are:

Ballroom dancing—first and third Thursdays (8-10)

Tap dancing—every other Monday (6.30-7.30)

Film club—second Friday (7.30)

Mothers & toddlers—Friday mornings (9-12)

Coffee morning—Thursday mornings (10-12)

Table tennis—Wednesdays (7-9)

Pilates—Mondays (9-11) and Thursdays (2-4.30)

Whist—fourth Friday (7.30)

Brandeston lunches—second Tuesday (12)

Yoga—Tuesdays (7.30-8.30)

Gosford Park to open film season

A new season of films opens with murder at a country house shooting weekend, at which Ivor Novello just happens to be staying ...

Then comes a Mel Brooks comedy western, Judi Dench and Maggie Smith in a 1930s Cornish romance, a Cary Grant classic, then Woody Allen's nostalgic look back at the glory days of radio. Full list:

12 January: Gosford Park

9 February: Blazing Saddles

9 March: Ladies in Lavender

13 April: North by Northwest

11 May: Radio Days

A warm welcome to our new neighbours

Here are just a few of our new neighbours, and apologies to those not mentioned.

Graham and Susan Edhouse have moved to Friday Street from Upminster in Essex, with their two children Sean (18 this week) and



Graham and Susan Edhouse

Hayley (10). They are renovating what was Brocnor and is now called Sorrell Cottage.

Scott and Rebecca Bange have moved from Southampton with their sons Matthew (9) and Henry (5). They live in Bracken House in Mill Lane.

Jane Mitchell returns to Brandeston from Morocco after 20 years away. She has moved into Meadow Cottage in Ponds Piece, having interrupted her exotic lifestyle of travelling around Europe and beyond with her lucher, Alfie.

Sean and Patricia Quinn have moved to Rose Farm Barn from

Grundisburgh with daughter Emilia (9).

Dan and Fiona Macaulay moved into 16 Low Street just two weeks after the birth of son Samuel. They also have a daughter, Isobel (2).



Isobel Macaulay

Arts & crafts

Brandeston is already home to a number of talented craftspeople. Now plans are on the table to launch a new arts and crafts group—to provide opportunities to exchange ideas and expertise and encourage others to try their hand. Contact Sam Tassera (684010 or sam@tassera.fsnet.co.uk)

... & bingo!

Eyes down with Fred Mugleston, some time in late February. Pat Morgan has details—call her on 685378.

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

Since they began about a year ago, *Hayward's Hoofers* fortnightly ballroom dancing class has raised almost £1,000 for the village hall...

The Post Office is always present at the coffee morning, providing a comprehensive service...

What are these rumours about Brandeston being the hiding place of the Holy Grail...?

Fred Mugleston, always the boulevardier, insists on the best. His usual new year's eve banquet with friends at the village hall included lobster thermidor and game pie...

The parish council is considering a request to rename Low Street as 'Lower Candy', which was its original name. In bastardized form it was in recognition of a local landowner, the Earl of

Gosford, who was later appointed governor general of the British part of Canada...

And by a strange coincidence, on Friday the film club is showing *Gosford Park*. Not to be missed...

The Queen's Head roulette evening on new year's eve raised £50 for Macmillan Cancer Relief...

Some residents will recall Bill and Cathy Dempsey, the American couple who lived here and were such favourites (particularly at the pub) during the 1980s. They are to return to the area on holiday during March...

The next edition of *the Brandeston* will appear in March and, following grumbles, regularly every two months thereafter.