

the Brandeston

Suffolk's village newsletter of the year!

January 2008

Ding dong bell ...

Brandeston is to feature in two major bell ringing events during the coming months.

In February the bells of All Saints church will ring out their celebration of 250 years of campanology at Brandeston.

One of the founders of British bell ringing was Samuel Francis, who readers will not be surprised to learn was a resident of Brandeston, and was part of a famous peel at the church in 1759.

Captain of the Tower Chris McArthur explains that ringing began before that date, so the celebration is planned for 2nd February this year.

Brandies will no doubt want to show their appreciation by turning up in support.

But in addition to the 250th anniversary, May sees the Suffolk Guild striking competition, at which competing teams from all over Suffolk compete for the prize of boss

bell ringers of the county.

This kind of event will be well known to viewers of *Midsomer Murders*, though this occasion is hoped to have a less violent denouement.



The picture shows John Garratt, Chris McArthur, Persephone Booth, Jane O'Leary and Peter Arbon

Hot favourites are from

Pettistree, though the silken dandies of St Mary le Tower in Ipswich are expected to push them close.

The bells play an important if unobtrusive part in village life. At least one Christmas party paused at midnight this year to go outside and listen to the midnight peel from the church, as the moment to toast the arrival of Christmas.

And a few days later a visiting team from Stowmarket rang in the new year.

Chris McArthur is looking for new recruits to the team. Perhaps we might suggest a have-a-go session for potential peelers.

Darryl Morgan chairs hall

Darryl Morgan says he is 'honoured' to chair the new hall committee, following November's AGM.

Steve Williams has retired after 18 years as treasurer, so his place is taken by Nick Holland-Brown with Sue Thurlow, last year's chairman, moving over to become



Darryl Morgan

hall secretary.

Morgan, an acknowledged bonviveur and cultural icon, is confidently expected to lead the village into a new era of artistic and culinary renaissance.

Pussy's doing well

A prodigal pussy who went walkabout last June has returned home—to the joy of his young owner.

Beau is the pet of Megan Jeffery of Mutton Lane. When he went missing, Megan put up posters all round the village, appealing for news.

But time passed with no word, and Megan had given up hope.

Then in November an un-

known cat arrived at the Haywards' in Mill Lane. (The Haywards have a reputation among roaming cats as being a good billet.)



So they advertised the cat around the village. At first the Jeffery family didn't believe it could be Beau, who by this time had been missing for more than four months.

But sure enough, the boulevardier was back home. Now he's doing well and showing no further inclination to go aroaming.

Bread, banter and Basil's eggs—the coffee morning celebrates five years!



The heart and soul of Brandeston's social life is Thursday's regular coffee morning, which celebrated its 5th anniversary recently.

It began as the brainchild of Sue Etheridge and Jackie Rice, both of whom are still involved. Since its launch it has never missed a week, and that includes the period when the old hut was demolished and the new hall was being built.

During that period the event moved up to the old chapel.

Over those five years the

regulars have raised more than £5,000 for hall funds.

Each week more than 30 high-livers turn up to socialize as well as taking the opportunity to buy bread, free range eggs, fruit, vegetables and preserves, to dip into the library of books and gawp at the celebrities.

A travelling post office also provides all the services needed.

The fifth anniversary was celebrated in style with a cake, cut by Ruby Peck, the oldest resident in the village, with young helpers Sam and Sophie.

Live theatre returns: Eastern Angles bring Cuckoo Teapot

Live theatre returns to Brandeston with *Cuckoo Teapot*, a play by Eastern Angles.

Their plays were always a huge favourite with the village, and this represents their return after probably seven years.



In *Cuckoo Teapot*, Kate Griffin tells the story of a young Norfolk lad who returned from the Potteries without a teapot, but with a baby instead.

Cuckoo Teapot, written by Kate Griffin and directed by Ivan Cutting, tells the story of how, every autumn, the breweries of Burton-on-Trent used to take young farm workers from Norfolk to help malt their barley...hence the phrase 'Gone-for-a-Burton'.

They worked hard and played hard, and always brought their mums home a present of

a large Staffordshire teapot.

The drama shows the 'Norkies' pitted against 'Burtonians' in a battle for jobs, and a young couple involved in a Romeo and Juliet-style love affair.

Tickets will be available from the coffee morning, the pub, or Sue Thurlow (685673). Please book early so we can establish numbers, or there is the possibility of cancellation.

And for your further delectation ...

We do our best to see off the winter gloom with a full programme of wacky, boozy, noisy, contentious and sausage shaped events over the next couple of months.

First off is the quiz night and sausage supper, with tickets already so scarce they are only available on eBay.

The valentines dance is a popular fixture in the Brandeston social whirl, and once again features a live band.

Meanwhile at the pub, Alan dabbles with the launch of a new children's menu, under the title of the 'Friday family dinner'.

He is also betting on the innate meanness in most men, though clearly not those of Brandeston, with an early and cheapo valentine's feast: 'I love you but I'm skint' - two courses from the menu, for a tenner.

New dates for your diary

26 Jan—Quiz night & sausage supper

2 Feb—25th bell ringing anniversary

8 Feb—Cinema club

9 Feb—Valentines dance with live band Tyler Kent: £10 (685661)

15 Feb—Wine society

4 Mar—Eastern Angles

And at the pub...

21 Jan—Feast on a tenner

1 Feb—Friday family dinner

7 Feb—'I love you but I'm skint' early valentines dinner

2 Mar—Mother's day lunch

Meet our new vicar



Robin Alderson is our new vicar, following the retirement of Graham Vellacott. He comes to the benefice of

Brandeston and Kettleburgh after ministering to the primitive hill tribes of the upper Alde valley.

Website welcomes visitors from 38 countries

In its first year, the Brandeston website has welcomed visitors from 38 countries.

The top five are the UK, USA, Australia, Germany and Canada.

The Netherlands, Norway, France and Thailand also feature high on the list. Iran, Peru, China, Brunei, Uganda and Indonesia are among the less likely visitors.

In all there have been 6,013 visits to the site, representing about 120 each day, and 327,664 hits.

The most popular factual pages were the Queens Head, what's on, contact us, the Brandeston story, need to know, enterprise, recipes, and the hall project.



Most popular of all have been the pictures, with James Moorman's wedding and the hog roast at the pub taking pride of place.

Webmaster Darryl Morgan says: 'I'd like to thank all the people who have used the site and made it such a success.

'I hope people use it both as a source of village information and as a way of keeping abreast of what goes on here.

'I have two or three regular contributors but I would like more - both articles and photos. People like looking at photos of other people from the village.'

Parish pump ... what's hot and what's still not past its sell-by date at the coffee morning and elsewhere

A Canadian woman has traced her family to Brandeston more than 150 years ago. Bonnie Mackling's family now lives near Winnipeg, but following family research by Wilda Woodland, she now plans to visit the village for the first time during the summer...

An evening of MR James ghost stories at the church has been cancelled, because church bosses considered it 'inappropriate'...

Suffolk Coastal is due to re-

place its current refuse system of black plastic bags with wheelite bins in April...



Jane Mitchell left on her travels with her lurcher Alfie at the end of October, intending to spend Christmas in

the Greek Islands. But Christmas cards from Jane arrived from the Canaries. She never could make up her mind...

Let's remember that the glass and paper banks at the pub raise money for the village. Use them whenever you can...

The editor confirms that another of his great ideas has gone down the lavatory. Since nobody has offered to help in a film of 'the Brandeston year' it looks as though the entertainment at this year's horkey will be the usual old stuff cobbled together at the last minute...

The fridge in the hall is on its last legs and is about to be replaced...



Ruth Garratt can't hide her disappointment on realizing that the Brandeston won't be published again until March

Do you have news for the Brandeston? Then email the editor at: peterthurlow@btconnect.com or phone 685673.