

# the Brandeston

## Ollie wants to 'bring back the village pub'

by *Helen Buckingham*

### The new landlord at the Queen is Ollie Coote.

Ollie has lived and worked in Suffolk pubs run by his family since he was two.

They include the Bramfield Queens Head and the Gt Glemham Crown.

At 18 Ollie then worked at Ufford Park and the Easton White Horse, where his passion for good food and wine was cultivated.

He turned down an offer to train with Gordon Ramsay and Jamie Oliver, preferring to be the master of his own destiny.

Instead he took over at The Lemon Tree in Framlingham, making a huge success of a new brasserie-style operation.

Ollie intends to be a front-of-house landlord. He believes the village pub should be at the heart of its community, welcoming to all. Food-wise,

Ollie intends to change things regularly, courtesy of chefs Jerome Dawson and Andy Logan Smith.



*Ollie Coote—our publicans get a little younger every day, don't they*

Currently lunch is two or three courses for £12.50/£15.50, plus baguettes.

Saturday night is a la carte along with the specials board. Sunday will major on a selection of brunches and a roast, served till 3.30pm with later

closing at 6pm.

The 11th February will be a special Valentines menu, with three courses (all of them sharing-plates) plus coffee for £25 per person.

In future we can expect charity art exhibitions by local artists, a bouncy castle in the garden in the summer and the occasional quiz 'n' curry night.

In June the fete will continue its success in the pub garden.

As for his first views of us as his new customers and how things are going in general, Ollie couldn't be happier.

January is often a quiet time in the pub trade, but it's been quite the opposite for the Queen, with an unprecedented number of customers so far.

And a final point to mention: the pub will use free range eggs—my personal crusade.

## New petanque 'piste' planned and more players invited for next season

Last year Brandeston entered a team in the Suffolk Coastal petanque league.

But such was the popularity that the team was often over-subscribed.

At the French *jour de fete* last August too, the car park was fully occupied with players till it became too dark to see.

So the hall committee is considering a purpose-made piste, and a grant application is being made to set up a permanent area at the bottom of the

playing field.

It will be open to all, of course. But new blood is also needed for the village team in the coming season.



*Reluctant skipper Peter Thurlow: does he have the boules?*

Captain this year, by dint of nobody else wanting the job, is Peter Thurlow (685673). Vice captain is Helen Fletcher (684085).

Aspiring *petanquistes* who would like to be considered for the team should contact Helen or Peter. The new season opens in

March.

## Plans for the Jubilee

Plans for the Queen's Jubilee in June are well in hand, and include:

**A street party** on the Sunday of the long weekend, with discussions still under way as to where to site it. (A street, probably.)

**A black tie jubilee ball** in a marquee (kindly donated by

Aaron and Lucy following their wedding), to be held at the hall.

**Jubilee steps** with wrought iron banisters bearing a commemorative emblem for the hall terrace.

**A bench** bearing a brass plaque in memory of John Elliot, whose generous bequest has made several additions to the hall possible.

**Jubilee mugs**, free to children but otherwise available to buy.

But among other new proposals is the idea of a Jubilee Path bordered by trees and flowers, leading along the side of the playing field.

It is also hoped to hold an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia in the hall.

But to make the exhibition work we need pictures, letters and anything else which Brandies may have kept from 1952, which we can include in the exhibition.

Everything loaned will be returned, of course. Memorabilia should go to Jackie Hounsell (685357).



*Karren Piper is organizing the street party*



*Kathy Churchill is ball supremo*

## Disabled access and hall car park

*The hall car park is showing wear and tear. There have also been occasional problems in pushing wheelchairs through the shingle up the slope from the hall to the road.*

*Both problems are currently under review by the hall committee. The original plan was to lay down a pedestrian path next to the driveway and leading up to the gate.*

*The committee have asked for quotes for the work.*

*In the meantime, new lights have been installed at the hall gates.*



*Nostalgia czar is Jackie Hounsell*

## Nick's renovated barge offers a day's sailing

Many Brandies will know that Nick Hayward has been involved with the restoration of the sailing barge Thalatta for some time.

He has given talks at village lunches during the long rebuilding process.

But that work is almost completed at last and Thalatta is now available for day-sails from about May.

Places can be booked at a once-only introductory cost of £50 per person, including lunch and tea/coffee. If you are interested, call Nick on 685465 to book a place.



Thalatta in full sail

## Drawing and fitness among new courses

The hall is delighted to welcome two new regular bookings this year.

The Rosemary Conley fitness and weight loss classes began at the new year and currently there are about 20 members.

Meanwhile professional artist and teacher Helen Gilbert gives Saturday morning drawing classes—contact Helen on 648326.

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

Darryl has just discovered that last year was the 200th anniversary of the pub. Pity we didn't know at the time...

The Street always puts on a good light show at Christmas, but there is a suggestion that we have a village Christmas tree next year...

The existing village barbecue is mostly held together by rust and Fred's willpower, and the hall committee has agreed to invest in a new one, expected to be gas-powered...

## Eastern Angles returns with a tale of local wartime courage

Eastern Angles bring their touring show to the village once more, with a tale of what might have happened had Britain been invaded in 1940.

The play focuses on the lives of one East Anglian family, exploring an intriguing 'what-if?' scenario of how Britain would have coped with invasion.

It's summer 1940. We are at war with Germany and the life of Diane Bowles is in turmoil. With her husband behind bars in a POW camp Diane is left in charge of her teenage nephew Wilf, eager to get one over on 'Jerry'.

But Diane's brother-in-law has more ambitious ideas. His plan is to build a secret underground bunker manned by a small unit men ready to

wage guerrilla warfare in the event of enemy invasion.

He goes to a gamekeeper with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the local landscape.

When 19-year-old Prue, a recent recruit to the Auxiliary Territorial Service comes



The Spetisbury patrol

looking for lodgings, Diane welcomes the spirited young woman into her home. Soon the five villagers find themselves dealing with events and emotions they never thought they would have to face....

The play is showing at the village hall on 23 February.

Tickets are always snapped up, so it's important that you book your tickets early. They are available from Mary Baker (685807).

## New members join hall committee

The hall committee has been a few members short for a while now.

So the current old lags are delighted to welcome two keen new members—Lucy Lea and Terry Robinson, near neighbours in The Street.

Terry has already taken on research into the revamp of



Terry Robinson and Lucy Lea

the hall's audio-visual equipment and the installation of the jubilee steps from the hall terrace.

Lucy will take on the role of fund raiser once she has completed the imminent and rather pressing engagement of her wedding to Aaron in June.

## Dates for your diary

**23 Feb**—Eastern Angles, tickets from Mary Baker (685807)

**Spring, date tba**—Dog show

**Apr/May, date tba**—Race night

**May, date tba**—Annual parish meeting

**3 Jun**—Jubilee street party

**4 Jun**—Jubilee ball

**16 Jun**—Village fete & beer festival

**19 Aug**—Brandeston Olympics

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

## ...and at the pub:

**11 Feb**—Valentines dinner, £25 per head. Call Ollie on 685307

Roasts and brunch available every Sunday from 11.30—3.30

Rolling exhibition of local artists beginning some time during spring

## Planning permission

Brandies will recall that planning permission has been given for building new houses in Mutton Lane.

You should also by now have received a letter from Suffolk Coastal's planners seeking your views on the new conservation area appraisal.

The parish council is hoping to invite a planner to address the village at the annual parish meeting in May.

Mark 'Mr Reasonable' Hounsell has taken up semaphore and yodelling, though not at the same time. Readers are invited to guess which of his new enthusiasms is the more popular with his lady wife...

The bark in the children's play area will shortly be renewed...

And there have been rumblings about providing a hard area for other games. Hall chairman Darryl Morgan wants to know if there is a demand....

There have been two thefts in the

village—one from The Street and one from Friday Street. In case you need it the phone number for Christian Hassler, our community policeman is 01473 613500...

There are plans to upgrade the hall's audio-visual equipment, which is a tad behind the times...

Here's a tale. The Christmas lunch offered a free glass of wine with each meal. Additional wine should have been bought separately at £1 per glass. But diners were left to help themselves and trusted to leave their money. As

a result, from 12 bottles of wine only £12 was taken. So eight out of every nine glasses drunk at the village lunch weren't paid for...

Meanwhile the wine society was given 18 bottles of wine by a French chateau, free, on the understanding that drinkers gave a proper review of the wine. But very few people bothered...

There is discussion of high speed broadband for the village. The man who can explain more is Mark Hounsell, parish clerk (685357)