

the Brandeston

Alan Randall to leave pub: what now for Queens Head?

In a shock move, popular landlord Alan Randall has announced that he is to leave the pub.

The announcement will come as a blow to the village, if not perhaps a complete surprise.

But Brandies will now ask what is to come next for their favourite boozier.

Last year the pub was awarded an AA star for the quality of its food. This year it is shortlisted in the East Anglian Daily Times food and drink awards.

Alan has been at the pub for six years and has worked hard at making the pub a crucial part of the village.

For the last three years the annual fete has been held in the pub gardens.

To complement the event, each year Alan has arranged a weekend-long beer festival and Sunday hog roast.

The cumulative effect of having a weekend mini-festival has meant a dramatic upturn in the fete's fortunes, with record-breaking receipts.

But Alan was particularly affected by the tragic death last year of his mother, a lady who became well known to the pub's regulars for her weekend visits with husband Andrew.



Alan Randall
Yet Alan's commitment to the village has never wavered.

For all but a brief period, the Queens Head has always been an integral part of the village, and has become increasingly so during Alan's tenure.

So now, we have to wonder what happens next. Brandies

will ask anxiously what plans Adnams have to replace him.

It is still unclear when Alan and Jane may be leaving. Although Alan has handed in his notice, it could still take weeks or even months before a new and suitable tenant is found.

the Brandeston has quizzed Adnams bosses on the succession. According to the brewery, if a strong contender comes forward soon then there could be a new landlord within a month.

That seems unlikely, though the brewery 'definitely' expects a new tenant in place well before the Christmas season kicks off.

Although this is still very early days, there has already been significant interest in taking the pub.

It is believed that at least two potential new landlords have put their names forward to Adnams for consideration.

Mutton Lane housing bid: new plans to council

Suffolk Coastal council are to consider a new bid to build houses on derelict land in Mutton Lane.

The original proposal, by Adrian Sansom, was for nine houses.

But it was opposed by Brandeston parish council and turned down by Suffolk Coastal planners.

Now, Sansom's new bid is for four 'executive' houses and two 'affordable' homes.

The parish council continues to fight plans to build on the site since it is opposed by the village, whose views were made clear in the parish plan.

Those views were re-affirmed at May's annual parish meeting.

The parish council has sought support from our district councillor Bob Snell, who sits on the planning committee.

Dan Poulter MP has also been approached but he is reluctant to become involved in what he sees as a quasi-judicial matter.

Speaking on behalf of her husband to the parish council, Mrs Sansom has made it clear that there are no plans to tidy up the derelict buildings to the north.

'I believe a very strong case for rejecting these plans has been made,' says parish council chairman David Risk.

'We now wait to see if local opinion really does count.'

Second £4000-plus triumph for village fete

The total raised was an astonishing £4,780.

This comes close to last year's record figure of £4,981, which was considered a one-off.

Hall chairman Darryl Morgan had estimated before the event that it couldn't be higher than £4,000 at best.

New attractions included strawberries and cream, petanque, pony rides for chil-

dren and a human fruit machine.

Once again in the tug-o-war,



Brandeston took on a rest-of-the-world team and smashed them.

Brandeston's own Nostradamus failed to predict the end of the world (again), but foresaw a lot of women meeting tall handsome strangers and going on long journeys.

The most successful activity was the prize draw, which made £966. Next successful was produce and plants (£562) and the bottle stall (£411).

Brandeston's jour de fete brings rural France to the Deben valley

Rural France enjoys its village fetes as well as we do.

They take much the same format as ours do too, though perhaps with a rather different *je ne sais quoi*.

But with so many Francophiles in the village, and the petanque team doing so well, we thought we'd not only have our usual fete but a French version as well.

So the celebrations take place on Sunday 21 August.

The highlight is a three-course lunch *à la française* and *à la française*: charcuterie, then coq au vin, then Normandy apple tart.

In France the lunch would take place under the shade of an avenue of plane trees. We don't run to that, though the hall committee are working on it for future years.

The cost of lunch is £10 per head (or *par la tête* as the French probably say). Children's tickets are £5.

Wine will be French, of course, and served by the jug. So please bring a jug which can hold at least 1/2 litre.

The rest of the day is free. After lunch there will be dancing to French music at a *guinguette* on the hall terrace, as well as petanque, kite flying and all kinds of ooh-la-la.

To add flavour to the occasion, a suitable form of French dress is encouraged.

(Inevitably it's going to descend into dubious caricatures from *Allo Allo*, but it can't be helped.)

Tickets are available from Sue Thurlow on 685673.



More of this foreign kind of thing can be expected

Street party for Queen's jubilee?

Plans are afoot for a weekend's celebrations next June to mark the Queen's 60th jubilee.

To date, suggestions for the festivities include a street party, a ball, an exhibition of royal memorabilia, a competition to make life-size replica Prince Philips out of everyday household utensils and a practical demonstration of the workings of a guillotine.

The jubilee celebrations will take place over the later than usual bank holiday weekend of 2-4 June.

All ideas are still in their infancy and a meeting for anybody who would like to become involved is planned for next month, 7.30 on 25 August at the village hall, to discuss what might be possible.

Dates for your diary

21 Aug—French lunch & *guinguette*, 12.30, tickets £10 from Sue Thurlow (685673)

16-18 Sep—Exhibition of art & photography

8 Oct—Harvest horkey supper, details later

22-23 Oct—Exhibition of art at Brandeston hall school

5 Nov—Bonfire night, details later

19 Nov—Quiz night

3 Dec—Charabanc outing to Southwold or Bury St Edmunds

Regular events include drawing, film club, wine society, table tennis, petanque, pilates, toddler group, coffee morning, village lunch, yoga, whist and zumba.

...and at the pub:

First Family Friday is the first Friday of every month—a family evening with all main courses at only £5



Brandies on the piste, part deux: Is Chris Hutson vainly hailing a bus? Will they let him on dressed like that? No, these are action shots taken from a recent village petanque match. Brandeston currently lies in third place in the league, in only the team's first ever season.



They always show you up, don't they... Well done, William! Full marks for knowing mother's favourite brand!

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

Patience in Mutton Lane is the first in the village to install solar panels in the roof to generate energy. We now await news of Brandeston's first wind farm...

And speaking of odd things to find in the garden, Pauline was a bit surprised to find a horse in hers. It had jumped the hedge and, afterwards, it jumped back...

The road to Kettleburgh is due to be closed between 15 and 19 August during working hours, for road and drain repairs...

The Hiutsons have lost a tortoise

called Doris, though it's not clear that it's aware of that, being a tortoise. So there is no point going round calling for it. Anyway, the Hutsons would like to hear of anybody who finds one...

There has been a report of a couple of suspicious characters in a white transit van hanging about and asking after scrap metal...

The village is invited to set up a rounders team to play in a new Suffolk competition...

Alan Woodland often despairs of modern life, especially what

passes for humour. So he has bought and kindly donated to this newsletter a book of the best of British humour. Watch out for chuckles from the collection in forthcoming newsletters...

Best wishes to Sue Etheridge, who broke her elbow in a fall and was taken to hospital. She is now back home after surgery...

The latest winners in the 100+ Club were Helen and Barry Saxon, who received £25; and Danny Wilson who won £10...



Rebecca can't do without her chips, but we find her wondering whether she can wait till September for the next edition of the Brandeston