

March 2010

the Brandeston

EXCLUSIVE

Horkey supper to be free!

New members to boost committee

The annual horkey supper is to be free to village residents, the hall committee has decided.

The shock move can be revealed by *the Brandeston* following urgent talks at last week's committee meeting.

Final arrangements have yet to be made, but the decision has been reached in principle.

Several issues remain to be ironed out. Members of the committee recognized that villagers must still apply for tickets, so as to gauge numbers of those attending.

It will also be important to retain the integrity of the event and avoid villagers ap-

plying for tickets on a whim and then not turning up.

It is envisaged that friends and family of villagers should still be welcome.

So one way forward would be to sell tickets as usual, but first of all only to villagers, then invite outside guests to take up any tickets left.

Then on arrival villagers only would be given a full refund of the price of their ticket.

The cost of the free meal would be mostly recouped by the sale of alcohol, the raffle and tickets to village guests, leaving only a slight shortfall.

Hall chairman Darryl Morgan explains:

'When we moved here 34 years ago the horkey supper was the big event of the year.

'Everybody came, and Pat and I found it an excellent way of meeting people.

'But in recent years the event has gone off the boil a little, and we would like to reinstate it once more as the principal event in the year.

'It is after all the harvest supper. Although village life has changed over the years and the harvest in its literal sense doesn't involve many people any more, psychologically it's still important.'

The village hall committee has been boosted by the arrival of three new members.



Frank Eyles

Nick-Holland-Brown died tragically in January and Jacky O'Brien and Lucy Daykin are retiring from active service.

Nick's position as treasurer has been taken by Frank Eyles, while Cara Duffy succeeds Jacky as bookings manager.



Helen Fletcher

Helen Fletcher also joins, for the moment as a sort-of minister without portfolio, or Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. She will add much needed glamour to the line-up.

Should the horkey supper be free? Brandies give their views



Peter Smyth: 'I haven't lain awake worrying'



Eve Crane: 'Yes, I think it should'



Don Evans: 'Always used to be free'



Ruth Garratt: 'I'd be all for it'



Tim Bater: 'It's a good idea really'



Alison Molyneux: 'Absolutely!'

Looking ahead to the fete—bigger, brighter, better

The enormous success of last year's fete has spurred on organizers looking to make an even bigger impact this year.

Although the decision to move the event from the playing field to the grounds of the pub proved initially controversial, increased numbers and a dramatic boost in profits have justified the move.

In the last year at the playing field the fete made £1500 profit. But that figure doubled in its first year at the pub, and last year the figure grew again to an amazing £4,000.

The money raised is shared between the church and the village hall.



Mary Baker

The church is represented on the hall committee by Mary Baker, and she is spearheading their contribution to the event.

The committee is looking for new stalls and new ideas to complement those which have proved so successful.

The first planning for the fete will be held at the pub at 8pm on 15 April, and all those with ideas or willing to take part are welcome to attend.

Village hall in spring clean shock

Fred Mugleston will be organizing his annual spring clean extravaganza again this year, on Saturday 8 May at 10am.

It involves tidying up the car park, cleaning windows, attention to the children's play area, cleaning paintwork and so on.

Fred is looking for volunteers.

Decision not to salt roads may have been illegal, lawyers claim

It is possible that the county council's decision to withdraw road gritting from Brandeston during the long winter could have been illegal.

On one notorious morning, two cars were written off and the village was almost cut off when multiple car accidents occurred both at Kettleburgh and Earl Soham ends.

Now a specialist road accident lawyer has pointed out that the local authority have a duty to

maintain the highway and to keep it safe for traffic.

One of the factors at issue is whether the council had the finances available to pay for the gritting.

But it was well publicized that councils did not have sufficient stockpiles of salt.

This might be accepted as proof that the council did not undertake all reasonable steps to keep the roads safe, and so were failing in their statutory duty.

Then of course there's the pot holes... 'I read the news today. Oh boy!'

I read the news today. Oh boy! Four thousand holes appear in Brandeston. And though the holes were rather small They had to count them all. Now they know how many holes it takes to fill the village hall.'

-courtesy of Lennon & McCartney & Darryl Morgan.

Nobody can possibly have missed the number of pot holes caused by the frost. And somebody did count them all.

Sue Thurlow biked round the village with her official parish council hat on, and didn't even claim for the mileage.

So how many are there then? Not quite 4,000 admittedly. The answer is 54.

Hall security still a headache for the committee

Hall security has been a long-standing headache for the committee.

Since its opening, every event has needed a member of the committee to be present to open the hall and then lock it again after the event is over.



Darryl Morgan

Although all evening events should be over by 11pm, it is not unusual for guests to prove difficult to dislodge.

As a result, it can mean that some unfortunate committee member has to wait around until almost midnight to lock the doors after everybody has left.

Now, chairman Darryl Morgan is investigating the installation of a key safe, which hirers can access via a security code.

Dates for your diary

6 Apl—Eastern Angles: *The Long Way Home* (tickets: Jacky O'Brien, 685266)

9 Apl—cinema club: *The Boat That Rocked*, 7.30

13 Apl—village lunch, 12 (*Sue Etheridge*, 685300)

30 Apl—whist drive, 7.30

8 May—hall spring clean

19 May—parish AGM

19 Jun—village fete

Every Wednesday—table tennis, 7-9

Every Thursday—coffee morning, 10-12

Every Friday—toddlers group, 9-12

And at the pub...

First family Friday—family suppers on the first Friday each month, children's main course £5

How many Brandies does it take to change a light bulb?

Nobody knows. So far we've tried four and that wasn't enough.

Observant visitors to the village hall recently will have noticed that some of the light bulbs have apparently blown.

Assiduous as ever, the committee duly formed the intrepid Brandeston Village Hall Light Bulb Removal and Replacement Sub-Committee to put matters right. All ex-SAS and teetotal to a man.



Four blokes turned up to fulfil the task, with a pile of scaffolding as would have enabled the painting of the Forth Bridge from end to end.

Sadly though, like so many things in life, it's not that simple. Instead of the bulbs, it's something to do with the transformers, apparently.

So the ever doughty men of the BVHLBR&RSC have agreed (duly minuted) to meet again.

Watch this space for more exciting adventures of the BVHLBR&RSC.

Know anything about camcorders?

The hall committee intends to apply for a grant to buy a camcorder, to record village life.

But the task of investigating the options sadly falls to Peter Thurlow, who wouldn't know a camcorder from a cheese and pickle sandwich. And the rest of the committee are no help either.

So if anybody knows anything about camcorders, please call Peter on 685673.

Parish pump... what's hot and what's barely tepid at the coffee morning and elsewhere

The Neil Innes show was a huge success and made a profit of £1194. But the same week the hall had a fuel delivery costing £871 and the new path beside the hall has cost £1122. so it's just as well...

Mary Mitson-Wood, Jane Mitchell and Ann Hayward, the ladies of the village lunch, have been on a hygiene course to make sure they know how to avoid poisoning their diners...

Just time to join the 100+ Club. You have a better than one-in-five

chance of winning over the year...

There are plans to install new lighting at the gates to the village hall ...

During the recent icy snap when roads were blocked by accidents, the school bus couldn't get through. So four intrepid school students - William, Sam, Becca and Flossie—recalled that they are equipped with legs and made their way to school in Framlingham over the fields. (This story is from a proud mother... Kids? They don't know they're born.

Now when I were a lad...)

Sue Thurlow feels the village really ought to have a proper cricket team, a chance to dress up and eat exquisite teas and doze to the buzzing of bees and the satisfying thwack of leather on willow. And presumably play some cricket. Surely there are some cricketers in the village?

The parish council has set this year's precept at £1800, a reduction of 14% on the previous year...

Coming soon: a kite workshop ...



David Risk muses on whether he can possibly wait till May and the next edition of the Brandeston