



# the Brandeston

May 2010

## ‘Greatest show on earth’—Morgan

Suffolk’s premier summer event once again boasts a feast of the most transpontine delights for the discerning boulevardier.

This year’s fete will once more be held in the grounds of the Queen’s Head, at 2.30pm on Saturday 19 June.

But the fete itself will feature as the centrepiece of a whole weekend of bucolic thrills.



Lucy wheels home Richard’s carry-out from last year’s fete

The pub will host a beer festival, from the Friday to the Sunday, featuring beverages both arcane and astonishing.

Then on Sunday there is to be a hog roast. It’s important to buy your tickets in advance because they always sell out early.

Such is the attraction that one family at least will be making an 800 mile dash home to be present at what all of Suffolk society has come to accept is the *tout ce qu’il y a de chic*.

There is also an extravagant raffle. Gone from the prize list are the usual macramé fireguards and a weekend for two watching the creosote dry on Fred’s shed.

This year’s prizes include:

- \* Dinner, bed and breakfast at the Randolph hotel near Southwold

- \* Dinner voucher for £60 at the very lovely, the very wonderful Queen’s

Head

- \* Two rounds of golf at Fynn Valley golf club

These and several other top prizes are the results of the efforts of mine host, Alan Randall, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. If Alan weren’t a Norwich City supporter he would probably have a lot going for him.

But we still need contributions for the stalls. So if you have

anything to offer, these are the people to call:

Plants and produce – Lady Cunliffe (685326)

Bric-a-brac and collectables – Paddy & Sarah Fielder (685518)

Fashion (hats, handbags, scarves, belts, gloves, jewellery, unmentionables) – Pat Morgan (685378) or Sue Fisher (685480)

Bottles – John Garratt (685233) or Chris McArthur (01473 737553)

Draw prizes – Fred Mugleston (685661)

Tombola – Hilary Whiting (685449)

Books – Wilda Woodland (685421)

Cakes – Ruth Garratt (685233)

Last year the event raised more than £4,000 for the hall and the church. Hall chairman Darryl Morgan doesn’t think that figure can be bettered, but what does he know. Let’s do it!

## Megan wins major poetry award

Megan Owens has won a major national poetry award.

Megan, 17, entered a poem for the prestigious Christopher Power Poetry prize, the most valuable poetry competition for

young poets in the UK.

She won the third prize of £500, with her poem *Jane Loudon*.



Megan Owens

The poem is

based on a Turkish love story and can be read in full on the Brandeston website, but here is part of the first stanza:

*Early spring, you untied your hair*

*Looking back at dust through dew-dusk windows*

*And combed it with the prongs of a shell;*

*Chicoreus Delectus, the snail that had pocketed and smoothed itself into the corner of your eye.*

## Stars of pig club must remain nameless

The Brandeston pig club has six members and its first ten tiny porkers.

They are from two rare breeds—the pigs, that is—Berkshires and Essex, though none of them have names. (The club members are a little too squeamish about getting to know them well, since after October they are

likely to feature prominently on dinner menus across the village.)

The idea for the club comes from Stewart Goldie-Morrison, a veteran of these things



who has run pig clubs before, and represents a triumph of communication for *the Brandeston*, where news of the pig club idea was

first featured.

Your porcine correspondent was present at the first elegant feeding time carried out by Helen Fletcher, seen here dressing down for the occasion in fetching wellies and alice band.

Helen tells *the Brandeston* that inquisitive visitors are welcome to come and admire. (The pigs, that is.)

## Days of wine and poseurs—wine society plans its summer barbecue

The Brandeston wine society is now a couple of years old, and has become a firm (if sometimes afterwards a little unstable) fixture in the village calendar.

Chief oenophile is Martin Churchill, who regularly attracts more than 30 imbibers to his soirees.

As would be expected from Brandeston, these events are models of fastidious analysis.

They can in no way be described as a three-course pig-out accompanied by an increasingly vague appreciation of a line-up of unfamiliar bottles.

The occasion when one prominent member of the society fell through a hedge on the way to the pub afterwards

was quite properly put down to a touch of cryptosporidium in the drinking water. (Litigation is under way.)

Two events are planned for this summer. You've just missed the first—champagne versus English sparkling wines—but the second takes the form of a barbecue, and Mr Churchill will be honing his taste buds to bring us the best, probably of Spanish.

The evenings are open to all who enjoy wine, and no expertise in expected. In fact, any expertise would come as something of a shock.

Call Martin for more details.



Jane Mitchell illustrates the air of sober analysis which inevitably pervades wine society evenings



Chris Hutson isn't sure about this one

## A warm welcome to our new neighbours

Peter and Pippa Brown have moved into Jasmine Cottage, having downsized from a house in Capel.

Peter is a retired lawyer and Pippa is a dyslexic teacher.

Other than her work, Pippa's main interests are her grandchildren and her horses, and

Peter does a bit of sailing when he has the chance.

The interests of their dog Jess seem mostly smiling at people and wagging at other dogs.

The Browns enjoy regular holidays in the north of Scotland.



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

There have been enquiries as to whether there are plans to install any more commemorative plaques in the village hall. So anybody similarly interested in buying a plaque should call Sue Thurlow on 685673...

Down in Low Street we're still waiting for both the cuckoo and the martins, who moved into the rest of the village some time ago...

Mary Mitson-Woods and Alison Molyneux anticipate what they hope will be a happy event. Their dogs Effie and Oswald are about



Marian Hutson weeds in the rain

For those with a taste for a jolly pub, try the Queen early on a

to become acquainted...

Fred's annual spring clean at the hall attracted 16 volunteers, and you should know that Fred has the names of all those who didn't turn up...

## Is this goodbye to the Brandeston?

Could this be the last ever edition of Suffolk's unrivalled and undefeated village newsletter of the year?

Shrewd readers will note the lack of verve and dynamism in this edition. Is this because Brandeston is one of the world's most boring villages, where nothing ever happens?

It's more likely that nobody ever tells the editor anything. So he has to make it up.

But if he wanted a job which involved making up the news he would be working on the Daily Mail.

So it's possible that, when he gets bored with making up the news, there will be no newsletter.

Can this be the end for the Brandeston? Possibly. See next amazing edition...

## Dates for your diary

**4 Jun**—Cinema club, *The Young Victoria*, rescheduled from 11 June

**5 & 6 Jun**—A dog theory course

**18 Jun**—Annual duck race at the Potash bridge

**19 Jun**—Annual village fete, at the pub

**2 Jul**—The Mary Moore Big Band, funking on down for Riding for the Disabled. Call Mary on

**9 Jul**—Cinema club, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

**16 Jul**—Wine society summer barbecue. Call Martin Churchill on 685303

**9 Oct**—horkey harvest supper

TBA—The Brandeston Murders

TBA—inauguration of the World Domination League

TBA—Quiz

## And at the pub...

**4 Jun**—Family feast evening

**18-20 Jun**—Beer festival

**20 Jun**—Hog roast with Brandeston Pickles jazz band

**2 Jul**—Family feast evening

## Angela marries her Richard

Angela Allington has married Richard Gibbons at Brandeston church.

Angela has lived in The Street for 15 years.

Graham Vellacott officiated and, its being

Easter, the church was decorated with flowers.

Also its being Easter it was naturally rainy, though the rain stopped just in time. The reception was held in the village hall.

The Gibbons will live in the village.

