

The return of Suffolk's unbeaten village newsletter of the year!

the Brandeston

December 2008

Bold plan to record Brandeston's history on film

We thought we were immortal.

Brandeston people seemed to live forever in an unchanging world of their choosing.

A world in which friends could always be found whenever you dropped in at the Queen.

And the Thursday coffee morning was the village casbah where gossip is always more important than what comes in a cup.

But over the past few months two so-familiar faces have left us.

Anthony Fletcher and Basil Norman, both embodying the village in their differing ways, have died.

In the recent village plan, the one clear and universal demand was that there should be no change. But of course change is always with us, whether we want it or not.

We must embrace it because we have no choice. But that isn't to say that we should forget the things that pass. Or of course, the people.

Basil and Anthony will remain in the village memory for many years. But their passing, the memories they

took with them and the things they represented, deserve a more considered and permanent epitaph.

For some time there has been a vague idea about trying to record the history of the village—both as it was and as it gradually unfolds.

There are people who recall what the village was like during the 1950s, or during wartime or before.

But each year brings its own minor dramas. Trees blow down, a new house is built, and of course Don's garden gets flooded.

(Well, not just every year. More like every month.)

Each one of these minor events makes an impact and so changes the village, little by little.

Babies are born and new neighbours arrive who will become the village characters of the future.

It may be ironic that a project to record the village may be just getting off the ground

in time to miss two of the most cherished characters in the village.

But if it succeeds, it will record our history as

we know it and as it has yet to unfold.

The idea is to interview village people, about their childhoods, what brought them to the village and how they have seen it change.

At the same time, we want to record the everyday events as they occur.

Hopefully, the results will be shown each year at the horkey



Anthony and Basil



Helen, Marian, Sue and Graham

supper, as a film of the Brandeston year.

To the uninitiated, making a film with very few resources and almost no experience might seem a daunting task.

But, as *the Brandeston* can now reveal, it's no less daunting to the initiated.

The project was agreed at a meeting in the pub, where it was thought strong drink might provide courage.

In fact it's quite possible that it might get no further than the pub, just sitting about in the Queen and talking about it.

So who are these Boswells of Brandeston? Who are the film makers who are to record all our yesterdays and our tomorrows?

They are Marian 'Movie Mogul' Hutson, Helen 'Hold That Pose' Fletcher, Friday Street's answer to the Cohen Brothers, Sue and Graham Edhouse—and Peter Thurlow, who sees himself as an iconic figure, a bit like David Attenborough but without the charisma.

Expect to see the Brandeston film crew working about the village shortly. Or possibly just sitting in the pub.

'Superb' parish plan provides basis for response to new housing scheme

No sooner had the parish council welcomed the 'superb' parish plan than it has been pressed into use.

Suffolk Coastal's new 'development framework' identifies an area in Mutton Lane which might be used for future potential housing development.

It covers the area covered by the now defunct chicken sheds, and other buildings used for light engineering and other purposes.

A response from the village is required by 16 February, and the parish council has arranged a public meeting for 11 February for villagers to air

their views.

The parish plan has been researched over the past 18 months by a group of villagers and is based upon the detailed views of more than 90% of Brandeston residents.

Parish clerk Mark Hounsell urges villagers to attend the

public meeting.

'This is an opportunity for residents to play a role in keeping Brandeston the desirable place to live that the plan shows is your overwhelming view,' he says.

Mark can be contacted on 685357.

www.brandeston.net

Improvements to the hall

The hall has received a £1300 grant to pay for the extended storage space which has recently been installed.

The money comes jointly from the parish council and the county council (through councillor Peter Bellfield).

The committee identified unused space in the men's and women's lavatories, which has now been utilized by the installation of cupboards.

The work was carried out by Tim Owens, assisted by Mark Hounsell - though according to Mr H 'all I did was hold the tools'.

There has been pressure on storage space since the building of the hall. It arises largely from the need to find somewhere for the play group's toys, though gradually as the hall is used for new purposes the need for more storage is likely to increase.

Big band plays hits of the '40s

There is a rare opportunity to see and dance to a live big band at the hall on 17 January.

The *Swing Street* big band plays George Gershwin, Glen Miller, Duke Ellington and Nat King Cole, as well as jive, rock and roll and later.

Tickets are £12.50 on the door. 7.30 start.

Committee reports profit of over £7,000 for hall over last year

The village hall has made a profit of £7,132 over the past year, the recent AGM was told.

Treasurer Nick Holland-Brown



Lucy Daykin: new hall manager

said that trading income from outside hirers had also increased, by more than £1,000. This

represents a 26% increase in the number of private lettings: 63 in all.

Chairman Darryl Morgan described moving the fete to the pub as 'the most important decision of the year', but one which proved its success with record profits and enthusiastic reports from everybody.

The current committee was re-

lected with the exception of Eve Crane and Mary Mitson-Woods, who are standing down. Both will still be involved in the monthly village lunches.

Eve's position as hall manager will be taken by Lucy Daykin. Mary's marketing position will not be filled and will be absorbed by other members.

The full committee is: Darryl Morgan (chair), Sue Thurlow (secretary), Nick Holland-Brown (treasurer), Lucy Daykin (hall manager), Jacky O'Brien (bookings), Fred Mugleston (maintenance), Marian Hutson (user groups' representative), Kathy Churchill (parish council representative) and Peter Thurlow (communications).

New dates for your diary

20 Dec—Candlelit Christmas cheese & wine party at the old chapel, 7.30 (entirely non-religious), tickets £5

9 Jan—Cinema club

13 Jan—Village lunch

17 Jan—Big band live! (Tickets £12.50 on the door)

21 Jan—Parish council meeting (still some good seats left)

5 Feb—Strictly Come Haywards' Hoofers: the return

5/7 Feb—'Cinderella': pantomime at Kettleburgh village hall

11 Feb—Housing development meeting, 8pm

28 Feb—French dinner & cabaret (enquiries to Pat Morgan, 685378)

Coming soon! A Brandeston murder mystery

At the pub...

26 Dec—Boxing day lunch

31 Dec—New year's eve game dinner

A warm welcome to our new neighbours

We have new neighbours at last in Low Street, though one of them has merely moved down the road.



The Old Police House is the first home of Danny Wilson and his partner Emily, whose name quite by chance is also Wilson.

Danny is the son of Sally, who lives in The Street. He is a construction site manager and Emily is a photographer, from Framlingham.

The move was long drawn out but Danny and Emily are here in time for Christmas.

So what happened to the Brandeston?

The Brandeston has been missing for the past few months because you've all been very boring, so there has been nothing worth reporting. Try to be more interesting in future, or the newsletter may move to Kettleburgh where the editorial board can look forward to a regular diet of mayhem and catastrophe.

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

This year's fete made a profit of nearly £3,200 for the hall and church...

The public phone box opposite the Old Vicarage will be removed when BT get round to it...

The Brandeston website is the second most visited community website in Suffolk, after Bury St Edmunds. Last month it received 889 visits, compared to 781 for Needham Market, 640 for Woodbridge and 422 for Fressingfield brownies. It's good to know we can get the better of a bunch of girls...

On unpacking after their holiday, the Mitson-Woods found a scorpion in their bed linen...

And the Thurlows were picnicking by a river in the south of France when who should turn up but the Gills, their next-door neighbours here in Brandeston...

The last wine society tasting event was a black tie affair, especially for Christmas. Tim Owens once again starred with a three course meal for 50...

In view of the long delay since the last newsletter, much of this news is very old and some of it is

hardly news at all. (A phenomenon immediately recognized by all Daily Mail readers.) Anyway, the big story is that Mafeking has been relieved...

The hall committee is keen to know of anyone with skills to bring to aspects of running the village hall—particularly practical skills, to help Fred in his agean task of the annual spring clean. Call him with a long list of your skills on 685661...

Brandies will be delighted to hear that Ivan Leach has returned home from hospital...



Jane Mitchell can't face the prospect of waiting until February (or whenever the editor can be bothered) for her next edition of the Brandeston.