

The return of

November 2009

the Brandeston



More hall storage problems— should we reduce size of terrace?

Audacious plans to build on part of the village hall terrace will be discussed at next week's AGM.

The move comes as clamour grows for more storage space, and would mean incorporating one end of the terrace into the existing store room.

The committee wants your views.

On other matters, hall hirings are down but fund raising has increased. Trading profit for the last 11 months was £5406.

Chairman Darryl Morgan expressed satisfaction at the hall's performance this year:

'The hall continues to be both financially sound and to play an active part in the social

life of the village,' he says.

'We are always looking for ways to improve, and our latest addition was the hearing loop, thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.



Darryl Morgan

We've had three major events during the year. All were big social occasions that the village does so well. 'Our thanks go to everyone for the support they give the hall either through organising events or for attending and we look forward to another successful year.

The meeting begins at 8pm, and after the formal business and questions there will be a free buffet and drinks.

Ideas wanted on how best to spend John's bequest

From the day he moved to the village, John Elliot became a regular visitor to the village hall.



He never missed a coffee morning. He came to quizzes, horkeys, the whist

drive, the village lunch. The hall became an important part of John's life.

So when he died, John generously left £5,000 to the hall.

Now we need to decide how best to spend the money so as to provide a lasting memorial to him.

That's where you come in. The committee wants to hear your ideas.

How did you manage without it?

Yes, it's back! Our own award-winning and unbeaten village newsletter, the Brandeston, has been out of production for more than a year. Prized past editions are already turning up on Antiques Roadshow.

The absence was principally caused by printing difficulties, though there were other problems. The determination of the village suddenly to become very boring and the editor's natural indolence both played a part.

Enjoy this edition, and do try to be more amusing and newsworthy in future.

New hearing loop

An application by the committee to the Big Lottery Fund means a new hearing loop for the village hall.

Installation of the loop means that users of hearing aids can 'tune in' to the technology and have their hearing boosted for events such as the cinema club.

The grant was for £718, and the loop has already been installed earlier this month.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Youth club, anyone?

One of the suggestions in the parish plan was for a village youth club.

The suggestion may have come from someone for whom youth clubs hold fond memories.

But it seems today's young people prefer their parents to drive them around the country to pursue much more specific activities.

Past efforts to establish a youth club have not been successful. Also, these days it's necessary to be vetted as being a proper person to be working with children.

But if none of that puts you off and you'd care to be a youth club leader, then this is your chance. Call Mark Hounsell on 685357 and offer your services.

Keep fit the French way!

(No, no, not that! Behave yourself!)

Developers of new houses have to pay a levy through the local authority to provide 'play space' in the immediate area.

As a result, by last August Brandeston was entitled to over £4,000. The good bit is that part of this would have gone to Cretingham and Monewden, only they don't have any suitable open space of their own.

So instead it all comes to us. *(Pause for smug.)*

There are two proposals for spending the money, which

will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The first is to replace the bark in the children's play area. Obviously this is not only very boring but also expensive.

As everyone will agree, a much better idea is to erect a gentle keep-fit circuit of apparatus around the edge of the playing field, of the sort often seen in France.

It would also be much more appropriate for older children, for whom the playground is out of bounds.

www.brandeston.net

Plans for improved wheelchair access

The footpath beside the hall often becomes churned up during the winter months, and the problem is exacerbated when vehicles are sometimes parked there for unloading.

There have also been problems with wheelchair access to the hall down the slope from the gates.

So the committee is investigating a means of improving the surface for both wheelchairs and walkers.



A scene from a previous Christmas dance. Get your tickets early!

New film season features *Slum Dog Millionaire*

The new cinema season began this week with *The Lives of Others*.

But the star of the season will be the multi-Oscar winning *Slum Dog Millionaire*, which shows on 12 February.

The programme for the next few months is:

- 11 Dec—A Christmas Carol
- 8 Jan—The Edge of Love
- 12 Feb—Slum Dog Millionaire
- 12 Mar—Revolutionary Road
- 9 Apl—The Boat That Rocked
- 14 May—Whale Rider
- 11 Jun—The Young Victoria

Membership is £10 for the year but with no admission charge, and is available at the door. Just turn up and pay once, then enjoy a whole year's films.

New dates for your diary

- 19 Nov**—Village hall AGM, 8pm
- 19 Nov**—Coffee morning (and every Thursday), 10-12
- 23 Nov**—Tap dancing (and every other Monday), 8pm
- 25 Nov**—Table tennis (and every Wednesday)
- 27 Nov**—Whist drive, 6.30 (and last Friday of the month). Tickets £2.50 from Rick & Pam Reade (685920)
- 28 Nov**—Christmas dance, 7.30. Tickets £10 from Chris Bays (685668), Fred Mugleston (685661) or Marian Hutson (685565)
- 3 Dec**—Haywards Hoofers ballroom dancing (and every first Thursday). Tickets £5 per couple
- 4 Dec**—Wine society festive special, 8pm. Black tie. Tickets from Martin Churchill (685303)
- 5 Dec**—Christmas fair
- 8 Dec**—Village lunch (and every second Tuesday), 12.30. Tickets £4 from coffee morning or Sue Etheridge (685300)
- 11 Dec**—Film club (and every second Friday)
- 12 Dec**—Southwold excursion. Tickets £10 (children free) from Pat Morgan (685378)
- 19 Dec**—Candlelit chapel Christmas party (strictly non-religious), 7.30. Tickets £5 from Sue Thurlow (685673) or coffee morning

And at the pub...

- 16 Dec**—Carol service, with mince pies and sausage rolls

A warm welcome to our new neighbours

After a long time left sadly empty, The Wheelwrights at last becomes a home again.

We welcome **Stewart and Bel Goldie-Morrison and their daughter Daisy.**

They haven't come far—from



Marlesford, in fact.

Daisy attends Thomas Mills school and Stewart works with a Framlingham based

charity, the Country Trust, which aims to bridge the gap between urban and rural communities.

Chris and Sam Strachan have lived here in Brandeston for five years.

Sam teaches at Brandeston Hall and Chris works for the Environment Agency.

But the big welcome goes to **Kyle Strachan**, their newly



adopted son, who is just three next month.

When your correspondent visited the family to take the picture, Kyle was

playing in his sand pit and presented the editor with one of his very best earwigs. So a big welcome to the earwig too.

With apologies to those of our new neighbours who weren't at home when the editor called round on his bike

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

Fred Mugleston reports a large black cat which has been trying to bludge lodgings from him, only it's too fat to get in the cat flap. If anybody knows whose it is, please call Fred on 685661...

The hall is in the process of buying new trestle tables, to replace the heavy old wooden ones...

The hall will be decorated for Christmas on 28 November, prior to the dance. All volunteers of a festive disposition are welcome to help. Long white beard and domesticated reindeer are not essential, but willingness to lend a

hand is a plus. Miserable old gits need not apply...

Between May and September, the village website had 2691 visits and 16706 page views. Most popular pages were the fete pictures and the French cabaret...

Last month's quiz was organized by Lucy and Richard Daykin and raised £250 for the Martlesham branch of the RSPCA...

Alan Randall's cooking exhibition had to be cancelled because he had swine flu. It will be rescheduled for the spring...

People are asking what happened to the film about the Brandeston year, supposedly due to be shown at the horkey...

And speaking of the horkey, the event this year made £340. Even without the film...

The bonfire party was once again held at the Old Vicarage, courtesy of John and Xiao-Lin King. It raised £130...

The playing field is being cut regularly by Brandeston Hall school, at no charge...



An anonymous Brandeston woman as she hears that the Brandeston won't appear again until January