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# the Brandeston

## Village hall AGM—the potted high-lights for the 197 who weren't there

*Is this the most boring story ever in the Brandeston? See next amazing issue!*

**In a shock move this month**, the Brandeston leads with the minutes of the village hall AGM, held in November.

The village is gripped by feverish speculation. Will the dishwasher be at just the right height to satisfy the monthly lunch team, or an inch or two too low?

Can the new electric piano be heard in the hall from the cupboard in the gents where it currently resides?

And will the trench needed for the new lighting finally reveal the suspected resting place of the Holy Grail?

Read on if you can bear it...

**Finances** continue to look healthy.

**The dishwasher** is making progress towards installation. It's an industrial machine, which is to say that its wash cycle is brief, and it should be installed in the new year.

**Storage** continues to be a problem, but the last suggestion for solving it met with a resounding raspberry from the village, so for the moment it's in abeyance.

**Outside light** is about to be installed on the gate posts, to illuminate what has always been a problem area. But we shall need to dig a trench between the gates and the hall. So if you're handy with a shovel or you happen to have a mini-digger at your disposal, your efforts will be welcome.

**New committee members** were agreed. Frank Eyles has replaced the late Nick Holland-Brown as treasurer. Cara Duffy has become bookings manager following Jacky O'Brien. Helen Fletcher has joined as sort-of minister without portfolio, and is currently looking at grants for the play area.

**New cleaner.** Catherine Gill has had to give up the post and her replacement is Pat Peck.

**Bookings.** There are 14 events regularly booked for the hall, weekly or monthly, and the village has held eight ad hoc during the year.

The fete was the most successful financially, producing £4,960 (shared with the church). The Neil Innes con-

cert raised £1194, and the coffee morning contributed £900. The horkey supper—though free—still produced a profit of £90.

In addition, there continue to be private bookings most weekends.

**The strengthened path** behind the hall was installed to allow vehicles to drive over it. The grass is now growing over it and it has bedded in well.

**A wheelchair 'drive'** has been requested, between the gates and the hall, and is under consideration. But it would be very expensive.

**Crockery and glasses** have been replaced to bring the numbers up to requirements.

**A laminating machine** is now used to prepare more professional and weather-proof village notices, but it's also available free to villagers.

**The key safe** has not been an overwhelming success. It's simple enough in principle: in order to get the key you punch in a numbered code. But it's so dark outside the hall door that it's almost impossible to read the keyboard. We could have a back-to-the-drawing-board situation.

**The website** continues to prosper. It received 14,000 visits during the last year.

**Fly tipping** of garden refuse in two places around the ditches brought heated exchanges.

*All the Brandeston glitterati turned out for the Christmas dance...*



Sandra is astonished...



Chris is smug...



Richard is amused...



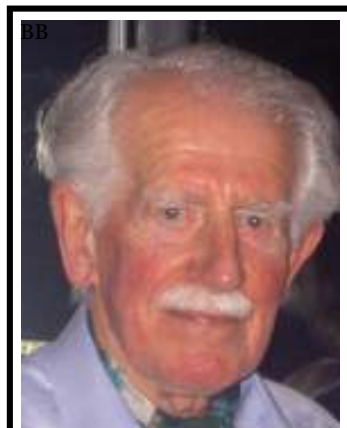
Lucy is joyous...



Jackie is candlelit...



and Paul and Shirley are just pleased it's Christmas.



**Bob Tipper**  
fondly remembered,  
who died during  
October

## Welcome packs for new arrivals



Newcomers to the village will in future receive a 'welcome pack'. The idea is the brainchild of Jane Mitchell, and includes a home-made cake, bottle of fizz and details of village services. It's sponsored by 'Green Thumb'.

## Christmas days of wine and poseurs—an Italian job

The Brandeston wine society holds its annual Christmas tasting and dinner on Saturday 11 December.

Dress will be black tie, as usual, and the theme of the evening will be Italian.

Brandeston's finest palates (and quite a lot of others) will be offered a glass of prosecco on arrival.

The dinner menu is uncertain at the moment but seems likely to feature venison.

But to accompany it, there will be a white gavi then three reds: amarone, barolo and brunello di montalcino.

Imbiber-in-chief Martin Churchill had in mind a vino

santo for dessert, but he can only work with the rubbish at his disposal and the popular if embarrassingly misinformed view is that dessert should be accompanied by port.

The price is still not certain but will probably be £25 to £30 each, depending on final numbers.

At the moment about 50 are expected.

Although plans are near completion, if you haven't booked your place yet it's possible there may still be

spaces.

There is, after all, always more wine where that came from.

Email Martin at martin@holmestravel.co.uk.



## New season's programme for film club

The film club provides a monthly film on a big screen, for an annual membership of only £10.

The 2010 season ends with *Miracle on 34th Street*, specially for Christmas., but the first six films in 2011 are:

**The Last Station**, historical drama about Tolstoy's struggle with fame, 6 Jan

**The Hurt Locker**, set in Iraq, 3 Feb

**Crazy Heart**, doomed romance of a fading country and western star, 3 Mar

**Tamara Drew**, the film of Posy Simmonds' highly successful pictorial novel, 7 Apr

**Dark Blue World**, a wartime friendship is tested by two friends' love for the same woman, 5 May

**Mrs Henderson Presents**, the story of the Windmill Theatre, starring Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins and Will Young, 2 Jun

**Please note: dates are now first Thursday of the month**

## Dates for your diary

**Christmas fair**—4 Dec

**Film club**—*Miracle on 34th Street*, 7.30

**Wine Society Christmas dinner**—11 Dec, 7.30 (Martin Churchill, 685303)

**Brandeston Christmas lunch**—14 Dec, 12.30 (Sue Etheridge, 685300)

**Carol service at the pub**—15 Dec, 7pm

**Candlelit wine party**—18 Dec at the old chapel in Mill Lane, 7.30 (Coffee morning or Sue Thurlow, 685673)

## ...and at the pub:

**New Year's Eve dinner**

*In spite of endless requests, Brandies still refuse to provide news for this newsletter. In future therefore and if the editor has to continue to invent stories, the newsletter will be renamed the Brandeston Red Flag and will become a mouthpiece for the editor's well-known and virulent left wing views.*

## A very warm welcome to Jenny & Terry Robinson, and our other new neighbours



Using the vast resources of *the Brandeston*, the editor went out on his bike one snowy Saturday morning to interview as many new neighbours as he could find, but could only cadge coffee and choccy biscuits from the Robinsons at Oakside, because the others were out.

Terry and Jenny have come to the village from Canterbury, where they lived for four years.

The move was inspired partly to be nearer their children, partly to

be back in a village with atmosphere and partly to get out of Kent.

They were influenced in their choice by browsing the website, which convinced them that Brandeston was the place for them.

They are looking forward to maintaining the garden and, recklessly, Terry wants to revive the vegetable plot and to become self-sufficient..

Apologies to Brendan and Sally Baker at Pantiles and the others just arriving for not being included. But welcome to Brandeston.

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

One of Lydia Freeman's ponies has been involved in an accident with a car in the village. Lydia feels something should be done about speeding—hardly the first one. Two years ago a number of recommendations were drawn up, one or two of them quite radical, though the parish council adopted the idea of the white lines. There is still however the idea of allowing hedges to grow into the road ????????????????

Apparently the idea of The Brandeston Awards was dropped from the horkey because word got

around that some people were concerned that it might lead to rivalry, and fighting breaking out in the hall...

The committee's other big idea for future horkeys - well, Peter Thurlow's actually—was to make a film of *The Brandeston Year*. But the grant application was given the bum's rush by the Lottery fund, so no annual village film either. It looks as though future entertainment will be back to watching Darryl Morgan play the spoons or listen to Mark Hounsell's inexhaustible and

ever-popular aircraft impressions...

*The village is agog at the news that Brandeston now has its very own Lord Lucan connection.. It can now be revealed that a certain family, not long arrived here, have what can only be described as 'connections' to the Lucans, know those close to the mystery very well and are able to spill a number of beans on the scandal...*

And a merry Christmas to all our readers...



Alan and Jane seem curiously impervious to news that they will have to wait till January for the next edition of the Brandeston