



New ideas planned for village playing field

How should we best make use of the playing field?

That's the question the village must address in the coming few weeks.

There was a time when the field was used regularly on Sundays for football, but that hasn't been the case for several years.

It had been the traditional location for the village fete, till it was realized that the pub gardens offered a more intimate venue.

Recently, annual events like the French day and this year the Greek Olympics, have also used it to the full.

Yet even they are only once a year. Otherwise, though the playing field is sometimes used for a kick-about, it is largely under-used.

Nobody wants to change the wide open space, nor would

the trust deed allow it. The playing field as such will remain.

But for some time, the hall committee has been looking at



The playing field was perfect for the Brandeston Olympics, but isn't used enough

ways in which the space can be brought into more use, and by more of the village.

The issue has come into sharper focus with the agreement of grant funding for a proper petanque piste.

Until now, the village team has had to play its league matches on the car park.

The new piste will be open to all users, but the question is where to put it.

It's this question which has prompted the serious rethink

of how best to use the playing field.

The committee has discussed the option of laying an all-weather path around the edge of the playing field, with trees, seats and a wild flower garden, and to locate the piste and perhaps other facilities at points along it.

There is also the exciting idea of a tennis court, usable also for other sports.

But any developments shouldn't adversely affect the view from the hall terrace or affect those living nearby.

The grants for the petanque piste require us to decide soon when work is likely to begin.

So the need for an overall plan has become urgent.

The views of the village are important. This is your playing field just as it's your hall. So all opinions are welcome.

Once a proposal is ready, the village will have the opportunity to view it and discuss it.

In the meantime, anybody on the hall committee will be pleased to hear your ideas.

Suffolk Coastal planners treat village with 'arrogant contempt'

Work on Red House Barn proceeds slowly because the builder has instead built a 'cart lodge' nearby.

The parish council objected to planners about the cart lodge and were ignored.

Meanwhile, there is permission for six new

houses in Mutton Lane with the possibility of four bungalows still to be considered.

Here, the parish council have objected to the planned development at every step and Suffolk Coastal bosses have

ignored the village plan, which they encouraged is to draw up.

At the last election the government's promise was that 'localism' would rule. Local people would have a real voice in determining the future of their communities.

In practice that has meant that, as always, the planners have ignored the parish council and treated the village with an arrogant contempt.

So much for democracy. So much for localism.



Free horkey harvest supper once again brings village together

As has become the tradition in recent years, this season's harvest horkey supper was once again free to villagers.

The decision was taken three years ago to try to restore the horkey to its original and traditional status as the highlight of the village year.

Once, it represented the turning of the season, the end of one cycle and beginning of the next. Though the village is no

longer as directly involved in what happens on the land, it still provides an opportunity to bring Brandies together.

So making it accessible to all was a priority.

This year 64 sat down to soup, home-

made sausages (from Tim Owens) and a selection of puddings.

Stephen Bayfield entertained after dinner with a repertoire of Suffolk tales.



The Brandeston Olympics

A village day out, what Brandeston does best. We even had some proper Greeks (and several who pretended to be, under the influence of the occasion)



You can't run about on an empty stomach



This is what can happen after too much ouzo



Fred celebrates his first ever hole-in-one



Two contestants in the chocolate biscuit eating competition



Contestants await their big event



Which event is this?

Village hall is the place this new year

It's open house at the village hall this new year's eve.

For those saddos with nothing better to do, no other parties, no dinner invitations and no friends: come and mix with others just like you and pretend to have a good time.

Or call in on your way somewhere, or after your dinner parties, to flaunt your social mystique.

There will be music and it will be warm. Beyond that, bring your own food and drink (and friends if you have any).

Doors open at 9.30. Call Pat Morgan on 685378.



Robin the vicar was very lucky to be at the Christmas Fayre at the same time that Father Christmas popped in. The two shared a cup of tea.

Parish pump... what's hot and what's pretty festive at the coffee morning and elsewhere

The Friends of the Brandeston Light Railway will shortly begin an exciting programme of industrial archaeology. These intrepid gentlemen (no women allowed obviously) intend for the first time to identify the exact course of this legendary line...

Donna Johnson's purse was stolen, at the same time as Will Elsom's bike. They were discovered abandoned at the top of Upper Candy. It's assumed both were the victims of a sneak thief...

Lydia Freeman is looking for

lodgings for one of her grooms. Lydia can be contacted on 684025...



Cara Duffy's father, Gerry Hollibone, celebrated his 100th birthday at the hall. Gerry first knew the village when he was stationed at Brandeston Hall school during the war...

Meanwhile Eileen Leach celebrated her 88th birthday with a party at the Mitson-Woods with a

choir led by Janet Western...

It's understood that the field which gives tractor access to the bonfire site at the Old Vicarage is to be planted with a wood by Lord Cunliffe. So we will need to rethink the bonfire next year...

For the first time, we have a village Christmas tree. Naturally a celebrity was required to switch on the lights. Harry Smith is a Suffolk actor currently the toast of the New York stage and was in the village. Unfortunately Harry had to return to the US early

Dates for your diary

- 14 Dec—Film club
- 18 Dec—Village Christmas lunch
- 19 Dec—Carol service at pub, 7pm
- 22 Dec—Chapel Christmas party
- 31 Dec—New year's party
- 11 Jan—Film club
- 19 Jan—Quiz
- 1 Feb - Film club

See website for regular events: table tennis, coffee morning, whist drive, zumba, Brownies, mothers & toddlers, zen macramé, pilates, community lunch, diet & fitness, film club, and drawing.

...and at the pub:

New year's eve curry night
Roasts and brunch available every Sunday from 11.30—3.30

New members for hall committee

Two new members joined the hall committee at the AGM last month.



Paul Baker

Paul Baker becomes chairman, replacing Darryl Morgan who has retired.

Jane Mitchell is the other newcomer. The rest of the committee is Mary Baker,



Jane Mitchell

Frank Eyles, Helen Fletcher, Fred Mugleston, Lucy Nobbs, Cara Duffy, Kathy Churchill, Terry Robinson and Sue and Peter Thurlow.

owing to pressure of film commitments...

Once again it's anticipated that a star will shine over Brandeston this Christmas as every year, bringing wise men from the east. (That'll be Kettleburgh then.) It's generally thought to be an address in Low Street...

This newsletter was intended to be full of holly and mistletoe and crackers and good cheer and offers of free hampers. But instead, just a merry Christmas to one and all...