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the Brandeston

Queens Head reborn as free house

We can all breathe again. The Queen is back.

After months of rumour and uncertainty, our pub has finally been reborn as a free house.

Step forward Tim and Anna, mine hosts for what we hope will be years to come.

The pub has been bought by Trevor Coe and Neil Jackson, who also own the Cretingham golf club.

There are no grand plans for change, though there are several minor ideas under consideration.

The area in front of the main fireplace may soon see leather armchairs instead of dining tables, and perhaps



there may be rugs to make the pub look more homely.

Tim is at pains to point out that the Queen will continue to be 'a classic pub which serves good food, not a restaurant'. 'It's a village pub and our main support is the village,' Tim explains.

As well as Adnams there have

already been several other beers on tap, and Tim is happy to hear recommendations about new ones.

The pub now sells hot tapas which are available as simple bar snacks, and the menu will be seasonal with a strong emphasis on locally sourced food—including game and mutton.

Tim and Anna plan to be open on

Christmas Day from 12 till 4, serving mulled wine, and a set Christmas lunch is available if you book.

On New Year's Eve, there won't be a set dinner. Instead the pub will serve a range of canapes and there will be a live band.

New options for funding tennis court

After the disappointment of a failed grant application to Sport England for a new tennis court, it's hoped that the money can be raised from elsewhere.

The court will cost £30,000. But since tennis is not of majority interest the hall committee were keen to pay for it mostly from grants and specific events, rather than from the hall's own funds.

Currently there are new grant applications to Suffolk Coastal and others, and it is possible they may produce as much as £25,000.

Meanwhile the playing field group are looking at other more short term projects, including a basketball area, for older children, landscaping and seating around the petanque piste and a built barbecue area at the bottom of the field.

Village sewage to boldly go where no sewage has gone before

Continuing complaints about surface water flooding in the village may at last be reaching a solution.

At a recent public meeting at the village hall, a representative of Anglian Water explained the proposals which it's hoped will finally bring an end to years of misery for some villagers.

The regular overflow in Low Street at times of heavy rain will it's hoped be solved by fitting a larger pipe.

It means that

Low Street will have to be dug up, though it's not known for how long.

The aim is to carry the sewage direct to Framlingham across country, thereby bypassing Kettleburgh. (No doubt to their delight.)

There will also be work on the sewage station in Low Street, installing a new pump for the long trip to Framlingham.

The entire works will cost £1 million. They are due to begin during the summer of 2014 and it is hoped they will be

Mutton Lane housing under way, but still doubts on four more

Work has begun on the six houses being built on the meadow in Mutton Lane.

There are still outline plans for four more homes on the site of the old chicken farm next door. But it is expected that full permission will be granted.

The parish council have always objected to the development because it's outside the village envelope.

But as usual their objections have been ignored by Suffolk Coastal planners.

The outstanding objection concerns the type of homes likely to be built there.

The original application was for four bungalows. But the description has been changed to 'dwellings', which perhaps suggests an attempt at building two-storey houses after all.

Suffolk Coastal can be expected to proceed with their customary spineless incompetence. But there will be further news in the New Year.



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New fete date after recent wash-outs?

The date of the village fete may be changed, after disappointing weather in recent years.

The suggestion at the village hall AGM came from Darryl Morgan, who as past chairman has seen several fetes suffer from dreadful weather.

In recent years the fete has been held in the middle of June, though David Risk points out that previously it had traditionally been held during July.

The suggestion for a change was well received, and the committee will consider a possible change for next year.

In his report on the year, chairman Paul Baker welcomed the progress made on the playing field project (*see*

overleaf). He noted the impressive bookings record for the hall, which continues to make a profit.

He also pointed out that Suffolk Coastal's decision to withdraw the hall's rates exemption had been withdrawn after co-ordinated protests.

The exemption is worth £350 per year.

There may be a question mark against the bonfire party in future.

There have been organizational as well as health and safety issues to overcome, and attendance was low this year.



Paul Baker

For the first time, the event lost money. That in itself is not critical, but may be an indication that a different event may be more successful.

There is also a planned change in accounting for 'depreciation' to the hall.

It may be only an accounting procedure, but it has proved confusing over the years in how to present the finances.

So instead, in future, the committee will estimate how much is necessary to put aside for maintenance and repairs. That will make clearer how much money is left available for other purposes.

There are changes in the committee. Fred Mugleston is retiring as maintenance manager and Brian Smurden will be taking over some of his tasks.

Village Christmas tree returns

Once again this year we will have a village Christmas tree.

Last year's innovation saw our first ever tree, mounted by the village sign. Terry Robinson dutifully trotted down twice a day to turn the lights on and off.

But Terry has made improvements this year, and with the wonders of modern technology we actually have a timer.

The tree will be erected well before the pub carol service, probably on Thursday 12 December.

Ought there to be carols around the tree?

New arrivals in the Street are John Brodholt and

Lidunka Vocadlo and their sons Humphrey, Bert and Wilf.

They will be splitting their time between here and London, where John and Lidunka are both professors of mineral physics at University College London.

Lidunka says they are particularly looking forward to



their garden after the lack of play space for the children, and the marvelous walks around the village.

John is particularly looking forward to the pub, and was alarmed that as soon as they bought the house the pub closed.

Meanwhile Sue Fisher's dad Bill celebrated his 100th birthday here, with a dinner at the pub and then a party at the hall.

Bill lives in Leytonstone — still by himself — and remains a

Dates for your diary

13 Dec—Film club showing 'Great Expectations (2012 version), 7.30

17 Dec—Village Christmas lunch, 12.30. Tickets all sold out.

18 Dec—Christmas carols service at the pub, 6.30

21 Dec—Christmas candlelight drinks party at the old chapel in mill lane., 7.30. Tickets £5 from Sue Thurlow (685673) or coffee morning

See website for regular events: table tennis, coffee morning, whist drive, zumba, Brownies, mothers & toddlers, pilates, yoga, ballet, community lunch, diet & fitness.

... and at the pub:

18 Dec—Christmas carols service, 6.30

Christmas Day—lunch (bookings only) & open 12-4 for drinks.

New year's eve—canapes through the evening & a live band

Also at the pub, try the tapas bar snacks and free chestnuts and marshmallows for toasting by the open fire.

A welcome to our new neighbours and a happy 100th birthday to Bill, an honorary Brandy

whizz at baking cakes. But he is a regular visitor, especially

to the pub, and is by now an honorary Brandy.

At his party he danced and sang—in Arabic. But since it was a song he learned in

north Africa whilst serving with the army during the war, in the interests of discretion and good taste he declined to translate the lyrics.



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

How did you survive the storm? As usual, Low Street was heroic. Whilst much of the village went on with life as normal, much of Low Street struggled through four days without electricity. But a tree had brought down telephone cables too. So once again proving themselves the most incompetent organization since the dawn of civilization, BT took four weeks to put right the damage...

A cherry tree on the village green was diseased and has come down. The parish council intend to plant a replacement it in the spring...

The firework party had to be delayed by 24 hours, from Saturday to Sunday, because of rain. That seems to have affected the attendance with fewer people there than usual...

A quiz arranged by Mary and Paul Baker and Richard Daykin raised £260 for hall funds...

Feathers may fly over a dispute about doves. The Thurlows had a pair, which in turn produced another pair. But then all four disappeared, to be tracked down to the Yates, who seemingly have a much more des res dovecote.

Mind you, the doves still return to the Thurlow to feed, but then bugger off to the Yates again.

The Christmas Fayre made an astonishing £1500 for the church fabric fund. This may be because Chris Hutson brought his charisma to a vital role in the event...

Cara Duffy's father, Gerry Hollebone, died during late November, aged 101. ..

The village sign has been missing for months, whilst it's repaired. (It was erected in 1977 for the jubilee.) Latest news is that it's hoped it will be back by early in

the new year...

Please note the changed rubbish collection days over Christmas: from Tuesdays to Mondays 23rd and 30th December. Then back to the normal Tuesdays...

The paucity of gossip for this regular item this edition suggests that the village must be becoming much more boring. No wonder the newsletter appears only spasmodically...

And a Merry Christmas to all our readers...