

the Brandeston

September 2007

Parish or planners: who decides?

Who has the biggest say in Brandeston's future: us or the planners?

That is the key question which is driving moves to implement a parish plan.

Though the local planning authority will always have powers to dictate policy at a district level, a strong parish plan drawn up by Brandeston itself will weigh heavily in any future planning decisions.

The plan also has other virtues. It means that the village has a platform on which we can debate what we want for our future.

Alarmed villagers turned up at the first public meeting at

shock suggestions that there may be calls for street lights in Brandeston.

Parish council bosses later made clear there were no requests for street lights.

But a strong plan, backed by the village, can make sure no such ideas are ever likely to emerge.

The plan is intended as a blueprint for all aspects of our future which concern us.

It could include social and community matters, transport and other services, economic issues, land and the environment, leisure, facilities for the young and the old and communications.

Membership of the steering group is open to anyone living in the village. But it is important in any case that the final



Alastair Chapman

plan covers everyone's views.

The first step is to draw up a questionnaire, to go to every house in the village. Nick Hayward and Alastair Chapman are working on a draft. The questionnaire will need to be extensive, and it is expected to be distributed during October.

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Once the initial results are analyzed, villagers will be invited to an open event, at which the initial findings can be discussed informally over a cup of tea or a glass.

That event is provisionally planned for early next year.

One of the most interesting questions concerns the age at which villagers should be eligible to put forward their views.

Other villages have plumped for 16 as the minimum age, but the strong feeling of the steering committee is that this is too conservative, and should be lower. Since the plan concerns the future, it should reflect the opinions of those who will grow up to inherit the village.

Brandeston: dance capital of the Deben valley?

Once more, Brandeston shows itself to be Suffolk's temple of terpsichorean endeavour.

With summer now nothing more than a distant puddle in the rear view mirror, dance fever once more grips the village.

On the first Thursday each month and beginning on 6th September, Haywards

Hoofers once more sow on their sequins for the return of ballroom dancing at the hall.



The cost is £5 per couple, 8 till 10, and bring your own booze.

Meanwhile, tap dancing also returns on 10th September at 6.30, and costs £3.50 for an hour.

Contact Pat Morgan (685378) or just turn up.

And for those who prefer others to do their dancing for them, the East Suffolk Morris Men celebrate their 50th anniversary with a gig at the Queens Head on Monday 17th September, starting at 7.30.

Pre-school group goes from strength to strength

The facility for young children has been a great success story of the village hall.

About 20 children attend the pre-school group in the hall regularly. Toddlers and their mothers meet on Friday mornings, and older pre-school children can attend on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.



Fiona with Izzy and Sam
'Children can develop their friendships in the toddler

group and then go on to pre-school,' says Fiona Macaulay, who attends regularly with her children.

The group is to hold a fund raising 'ladies' night' of shopping at Earl Soham primary school on 18th October, entry £3 on the door. Call Fiona on 685183 for details.

Why is he so happy?



Return to tradition for horkey

This year's horkey harvest supper returns to a more traditional format.

In the past the event has sometimes been moved to lunchtime. But from now on it will revert to the evening.

The price is £8 and the menu will be: a seasonal soup; cold ham and salt beef with jacket potato and salads; and apple pie.

Each guest will receive a free aperitif on arrival, and afterwards drinks will be available at the bar.

The menu is organized by Eve Crane and Mary Mitson-Woods, who also run the successful monthly community lunches.

'Catering for this number of people requires a simple menu, and several people have asked that we return to what was always our old menu at the hut,' says Eve.

There have been other suggestions that the menu should be more sophisticated, or better represent the harvest.

Meanwhile village hall bosses deny



Eve Crane

that the entertainment afterwards will be strippers. It is described as 'a surprise', though it is believed to be a surprise mostly to the organizers.

It will however include a quiz based on the Brandeston year.

Tickets are limited, and are available from Eve Crane (685893), Sue Thurlow (685673) or the Thursday coffee morning. Closing date for buying tickets is 9 October.

Wine society in secret booze shock

The Brandeston wine society once more inhales deeply of the grape, only nobody can remember which one it will be.



Martin Churchill

At the last tasting in June, topers agreed what would be on offer at the next event, on

Friday 21st September (8pm).

However, clearly members had imbibed well that evening because now nobody can remember what that decision was.

Rumour has it that it may be a selection of the pinot noir and chardonnay grapes, but at the time of going to press all is still a blissful miasma of uncertainty. However, Martin Churchill is on the case. (So to speak.)

Whatever the outcome, what a fine illustration this is of the enjoyment that the society can offer, for as little as the £5 entry fee.

Film club returns with Beatrix Potter

Once upon a time there was a film club, which showed some lovely films.

Then summer arrived and the film club stopped. Instead, people spent their time grumbling about the weather.

But when at last summer was over, folk could go back to watching films instead.

'I know,' said Mary, who ran the club with her chums. 'Let's change the way we do it!'

'Instead of charging people for every film, we'll just charge them once at the beginning, and then they can come and watch as many films as they like, quite free!'

'To start, we'll have that nice film about Beatrix Potter! We'll charge £10 membership and for that people can watch all 9 films until next summer, when we can all grumble

New dates for your diary

6 Sept—ballroom dancing

10 Sept—tap dancing

21 Sept—wine society

22 Sept—craft fair

12 Oct—film club

13 Oct—harvest horkey

18 Oct—play school 'ladies' night'

1 Dec—Southwold by bus

31 Dec—free new year's eve party

At the pub....

17 Sept—morris men

15 Oct—feast on a tenner

16-19 Oct—national sausage week

about the weather again!'

The Brandeston film club season begins at the hall at 8pm on Friday 12 October.

A welcome to our new neighbours

Well, new to the top of the village anyway. The Ferrars have moved into the Chapel House from Low Street following the Gaughans' move to Earl Soham.

The picture shows Poppy, Kerry, Bea, Damian and, in front, Jude and labradoodle Woody.



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

Brandeston was awarded second place in Suffolk's 'village of the year' competition. Next time we must actually take it seriously...

Thanks to Mark Hounsell and Tony Etheridge, who put together the splendid new furniture on the hall terrace. Pity they couldn't arrange some sun so we could use it properly...

Congratulations to Brandeston's own Ruby Peck, who



will be 90 on 12th September!

News from the website: in six months, 530 people have visited and viewed 15,240 pages.

Many are from the USA, Australia and Germany, maintaining village links. Darryl Morgan requests articles, photos and news...

Ructions over Red House Barn. A row over the roof has led to a 'stop' order, preventing further work. There are apparently plans to use the final building for holiday lets.

The happy David Fisher overleaf is celebrating James Moorman's marriage to Jo-



anna Newell, his childhood sweetheart, at Thorpeness.

The next edition of the Brandeston will appear in November...

Do you have news for the Brandeston? Then email it to the editor at: peterthurlow@btconnect.com. Scurrilous and disgusting gossip is particularly welcome, though it may not be published and only be used for the editor's personal amusement.