

**THE PARISHES OF  
BRANDESTON AND KETTLEBURGH**

Dear Friends

May has two Bank Holidays, on 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, just three weeks apart. The first is kept (or celebrated) on the first Monday after Labour Day (1<sup>st</sup> May). The second, on the last Monday in May, is known as the Spring Bank Holiday. Both are relatively recent introductions to our annual Calendar.

The Bank Holiday for Labour Day replaced Ascension Day as a day off work. Am I alone in remembering Ascension Day as a day off school? At the school I went to, we were taken off on an outing often involving a lengthy walk and a school picnic. I'm sure different schools followed different customs, but I doubt we were alone in this. Nor do I know whether the Head of our School consciously planned our programme to commemorate Jesus' final walk with his disciples to the hill from which they watched him "ascend" into heaven.

The Spring Bank Holiday has replaced the Whitsun Holiday. Whitsunday, or Pentecost, the day often regarded by Christians as the Church's birthday, commemorates the day when Jesus' disciples, who had been waiting in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, were filled with God's Holy Spirit. They rushed into the crowded streets and spoke boldly to all who would listen, telling them about Jesus, crucified, raised from death and now ascended.

Ascension Day and Pentecost are, respectively, the fortieth and fiftieth days after Easter, so the dates vary each year with the lunar calendar. This meant that the Ascension and Whitsun holidays could take place any time from late April to early June. Such variability was anathema to those who have an interest in predictability and regularity. Their problems were solved by the introduction of our current celebration of Labour Day and the Spring Holiday!

This is another example of how the fairly unobtrusively Christian things, that shaped and underpinned life in this country for centuries, have changed in recent years. I wonder whether Labour Day has any real significance for us, especially since we no longer hear about the massive military May Day Parade in Moscow's Red Square, as we did before 1989.

In these times of economic gloom, of hardship for some and difficulty for many, it is good to be reminded that although the words have changed and the style is different, the things of God have not changed. Each day, life with all the beauty and joy of springtime is a gift of God. And His Spirit is with us, whether we celebrate it or not.

I hope you will enjoy your holidays whenever you take them

Robin

Assistant Priest: Reverend Robin Alderson	688255
	Mob. 07790 242002
<b><u>Brandeston</u></b>	
Elders: Mrs Mary Baker	685807
Dr Anthony Fletcher	685508
Miss Eileen Leach MBE	685298
Churchwardens: Miss Eileen Leach MBE	685298
Mrs Alison Molyneux	685244
<b><u>Kettleburgh</u></b>	
Elders: Mrs Jackie Clark	723623
Mrs Valerie Upson	723078
Churchwardens: Mr John Bater	723532
Mrs Valerie Upson	723078

<b>DIARY FOR MAY 2008</b>		
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	11am	<u>Brandeston 100+ Club Draw</u> at Coffee Morning in village hall.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Deanery Ascension Day Service</u> – see Services
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10am – 12 noon	<u>Kettleburgh Café</u> including Lottery Draw at village hall – see below.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Wine Society – French Country Wine</u> at Brandeston Village Hall – see below.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Brandeston Film Club</u> at Village Hall – see below.
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8am – 12 noon	<u>Kettleburgh Plant Sale</u> at Village Hall – see below.
11 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>		<u>Christian Aid Week</u>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting</u> at Village Hall
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	<u>Brandeston Annual Parish Meeting</u> at Village Hall – see below.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Archdeacon’s Visitation</u> at St Michaels Church, Framlingham
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Kettleburgh Quiz Evening</u> at Village Hall – see below.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	a.m.	<u>Archdeacon visits Brandeston, Kettleburgh and Easton churches</u>
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	2 - 4pm	<u>Easton May Fair</u> including crowning of May Queen at 2.30pm. Ipswich Community Wind Band playing throughout.

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Mardle</u> at Easton village hall. Dr John Blatchley, former headmaster of Ipswich School will be talking about the history of Letheringham Priory. Admission £6 inc drinks & nibbles.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Kettleburgh Annual Parish Council Meeting</u>
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	<u>St Botolph's Choir</u> at Easton Church
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	7pm for 7.30 start	<u>Brandeston Whist Drive</u> at village hall – see below.

**KETTLEBURGH CAFÉ – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – QUESTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 14<sup>th</sup> May**

Do you have an enquiry for the Annual Parish Meeting? Have you got something you wish the residents to know about? There will be a box for you to put your enquiries / questions into at the next coffee morning (or on the evening of the Annual Meeting) These will be collected and raised at the Annual Parish Meeting on 14th May. This Annual Parish meeting is a meeting of the Parish, not the Parish Council, and anyone can speak. Take this opportunity to have your say and see if there is a way to take it forward.

*Cllr. Gwenda Weeks (Community)*

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**BRANDESTON WINE CLUB – 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30 p.m.**

This time it is Country French wines – Pays d’Oc and others. There will also be food to accompany the tasting so please contact Martin Churchill if you want to come along – 07810 023207.

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**BRANDESTON FILM CLUB – 9<sup>th</sup> May**

The next film will be “Perfume – The Story of a Murderer” (2006) starring Ben Wishaw, Francesc Albiol and Gonzalo Cunnill. Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, born with a superior olfactory sense, creates the world’s finest perfume. His work, however, takes a dark turn as he searches for the ultimate scent.

Film starts at 7.30 p.m. New members are always welcome – membership is £10 for the whole season. Once you have become a member all films are free.

*Sue Thurlow*

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**KETTLEBURGH PLANT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING**

Don’t miss our annual plant sale on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May from 8.00 am to 12.00 noon. The village hall will be full of the usual array of flower and vegetable plants. This year Derek Hill has grown over 40 varieties of tomato plus aubergines, peppers, cucumbers, courgettes, squash and other vegetables. If you want to see if your favourite variety is on the list check out the events listing on the village website [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/KettleburghPC](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/KettleburghPC). Other keen gardeners from the village are also growing seeds and potting up plants and we will also have sweet peas, herbaceous and bedding plants. If you have any spare plants at home they will be most gratefully received. We will have a produce stall for jam, chutney, marmalade, eggs, rhubarb, cakes

etc and all donations are most welcome. Refreshments will be available all morning and there will also be a draw.

*Claire Norman*

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**KETTLEBURGH QUIZ EVENING – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

There will be a Quiz Evening at Kettleburgh Village Hall on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 p.m. Profits will be sent to St Elizabeth Hospice. Tickets available from Nicky Comer 724609. Sorry about rather short notice.

*NC*

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**BRANDESTON WHIST DRIVE – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Have you ever toyed with the idea of attending one of our Brandeston Whist Drives - then now is your last chance until the Autumn nights start to draw in again. You are cordially invited to come to the May Whist Drive at Brandeston Village Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> May. Doors are open from 7.00pm with cards dealt promptly at 7.30pm. All it will cost is a mere £2.50 per person and this includes the provision of fine wines, superb refreshments and sparkling company throughout the evening.

Make your mind up now! We would love to see you. If you want to know more, call either Pam or Rick Reade on 685920

*Rick Reade*

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**ADVANCED NOTICES**

June		<b>Tea @ 3</b> in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice – see below.
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	7.30pm	<b>Concert</b> in Easton Church. – see below.
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	4 – 6pm	<b>Kettleburgh Fete</b> – more help needed – see Notices
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	10am	<b>Easton Festival</b> – anyone wishing to submit work to the Art Exhibition (which is this year being run by Letheringham) please apply to Fiona Kerr at the Farm Park (746475) for details.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	6pm	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Earl Soham Scout Group Annual Duck Race</b> at Brandeston Bridge – see below.
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	2.30 – 5pm	<b>Brandeston Fete</b> at Queen’s Head – see below.
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	11am – 5pm	<b>Kettleburgh Gardens Open Day</b>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June		<b>Mardle</b> at Easton Village Hall. Pat Adams on ‘Antiques, Bygones’
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June		<b>Strawberry Tea</b> at Kettleburgh Village Hall

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July		<b>Annual Riverside Party</b> at Easton, with buffet lunch and music.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	3.00pm	<b>“Music at Watermill”</b> i.a.o. Kettleburgh Village Green
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July		<b>Suffolk Autojumble</b> at Church Farm, Kettleburgh
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30am – 12 noon	<b>Cats Protection Coffee Morning</b> at Manly, Kettleburgh. Guest of honour: Innis Cloete, Esq. B.V.Sc, MRCVS
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	12 noon – 4pm	<b>Hog roast on the green</b> at Kettleburgh Village Green <b>Note: Change of Date</b>



### Tea @ 3

Throughout the summer months, St Elizabeth Hospice is inviting people to hold fundraising tea parties or simply make a donation to have a cup of tea. Tea @ 3 is a simple and fun way you can raise money for the Hospice either at work, school or home.

Did you know that as a nation we get through 165 million cups of tea a day? Therefore why not gather your work colleagues for a tea break, invite your friends round for tea and cakes or host a coffee morning. You could even give your tea party a theme – a mad hatters tea party, cream tea or teddy bears picnic. Maybe you could have a cake stall as well and ask for a donation for a cup of tea and a slice of cake. You can hold the event at home, in the garden, at work, in a local café or tea shop, at school or in your local community or village hall.

By taking part in Tea @ 3 you will be supporting St Elizabeth Hospice to provide care and support to patients in East Suffolk who have a life-limiting illness. The focus of the Hospice is quality of life - aiming to meet patient’s physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs whilst giving support and help to family, friends and carers. St Elizabeth Hospice is an independent charity and all of the wide ranging services are provided free of charge. It costs £8 per minute to run the Hospice, with annual running costs of £4.2 million.

For more information about holding your own Tea @ 3, please contact the fundraising office on 01473 723600, email [fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk) or visit our website [www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk](http://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk)

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**CONCERT IN EASTON CHURCH- 9<sup>th</sup> June**

The organist Tim Butterworth will play light classical works and the Orwell Park community choir will sing Vivaldi's 'Gloria'.

Tickets £6 (under 12s £3), to include refreshments in the interval, available in advance from Polly (747449) or on the door. Proceeds to both Letheringham and Easton churches.

*Sylvia Keene*

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**BRANDESTON FETE – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

Different venue this year. Usual time 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. but in the grounds of the Queen's Head. The new venue means new things to do, new stalls and games. The pub will also be running a beer festival over the weekend so it should be a very jolly weekend in Brandeston

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**1<sup>st</sup> EARL SOHAM SCOUT GROUP – ANNUAL DUCK RACE**

Please come and join us for our annual duck race! You will find us in the usual place – Brandeston Bridge – on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm.

We will have a beer tent, games, stalls, bouncy castle and more – it really is a fun evening for all the family. Our scout group at Earl Soham is ever increasing in numbers – we now have two beaver colonies, two cub packs, and very soon two scout troops. We need to buy more tents to put them all in! The duck race is our one big fundraiser of the year, so please come and support us if you can. Thank you.

*Sally Western*



<i>Remaining 2008 Dates</i>	
<i>2 May</i>	<i>5 September</i>
<i>6 June</i>	<i>3 October</i>
<i>4 July</i>	<i>7 November</i>
<i>1 August</i>	<i>5 December</i>

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**PEGGY (MARGARET LAURA) HAYWARD 18<sup>th</sup> July 1917 – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

I am writing to thank all those who attended Peggy's Burial Service at All Saints' Church, Brandeston, on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March. The turnout was a fine testament to the many friends who knew her over the years and she would have been so pleased to have been honoured in that way.

As you will know, Peggy valued friends above all and had little interest in material matters, being most at home when involved in some local activity such as the WI, Mothers' Union, Bridge, Croquet, bowls, etc..... but all the time talking to people.

Born in London, daughter of a City of London police sergeant, Peggy worked for Chrysler before joining the Admiralty, as it was then called, at the start of the war before the department was evacuated to Bath where she met and married Ken, a fellow civil servant. They had an interesting life, travelling to many locations abroad. Initially, Ken was posted to Africa but after the war Peggy followed him to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) where I was born. Tours then followed in Hong Kong and Singapore before returning to the UK, including a spell at Royal William Yard, Plymouth, before a posting to Malta for three idyllic years. On return again to the UK Ken was based in London and we settled for 13 years on the North Downs in Surrey before they made a final 'retirement' move to Suffolk.

It was in 1969, therefore, that Peggy and Ken found their ideal location – Brandeston – which remained their favourite place of all, not only because of its rural beauty but also because of its people who became such firm friends. After suddenly losing Ken in 1985, Peggy remained for 10 years in the house they built, before feeling she should move to a bungalow – Bedfield being the nearest. This was excellent, practically, but Peggy realised she had made a mistake leaving Brandeston and could not rest till returning to her spiritual home in the village she loved. It was very sad that she should suffer from dementia over recent years which deprived her of the ability to remember friends as in the past and therefore she withdrew from active participation in village activities.

However, we remember Peggy as she was - a warm, bubbly person always pleased to meet and talk.

My thanks also to Robin who conducted a most appropriate service last Monday.

*Nick Hayward*

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**NOEL COTTON**

26<sup>th</sup> December 1919 – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Noel was born and brought up in Framlingham.

He was the eighth of twelve children. As a boy he went to Sir Robert Hitchams School, and was a chorister in the Framlingham Church Choir, but his chief interest was in the birds and animals in the fields around Framlingham, and in other country skills. At an early age he learnt how to make catapults; he would find promising hazel branches in the spring, bending and tying them for a season so they grew to just the right angle of his purpose, and then cut them the following year. He also knew how to stalk animals getting within catapulting range of his prey, so that he could supplement the family larder.

He left school at 14 and found employment as a pump operator with Pratts, an oil and paraffin merchant based in Framlingham. Pratts were taken over by Esso and moved to Saxmundham, and Noel kept his job, cycling over to Saxmundham each day.

He was called up in 1940, joining the RAF, and served much of the war at RAF Ballykelly in Ireland. At the end of the war the RAF invited him to continue in the service, but he preferred to return to Esso in Saxmundham where a job had been kept open for him.

Noel married Sybil Arbon in Brandeston Church in 1952.

They moved to Ipswich in 1953, and on leaving Esso in 1955, he took work as a driver for a wholesale Greengrocer. In 1982, Noel and Sybil returned to Framlingham, buying a new house very close to where he had lived as a boy.

Noel was a keen smoker. He appreciated Liquorice Allsorts, enjoyed playing cards (he and Sybil had met at a whist drive in Brandeston Village Hut), crossword puzzles and was a lucky Bingo player; but his chief interest later in life was his allotment, where he grew vegetables of every kind for the table. He also took an immense interest in the progress of Ipswich Town Football Club during their glory years, watching from the terraces in the North Stand with the “roughs”. He took less interest after the turnstiles were replaced by ticket-only football.

Noel always enjoyed life, and was much loved by his many great nephews and nieces.

Having scarcely known one day's illness during his life, he was hit by a stroke in February 2008. After a short illness in Ipswich Hospital, he died on 10<sup>th</sup> April. He was buried in Brandeston Churchyard on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008.

*RA*



## PAST EVENTS

### PALM SUNDAY

Once again Jacko the donkey was due to lead the Palm Sunday procession, however, heavy overnight rain made the ground very soft and it was impossible to hitch-up the trailer to transport him to Kettleburgh. However, some hardy folk processed without him, singing and playing recorders in the teeth of a northerly gale. Inside the church it was warm and we held our palm crosses high as we remembered Christ's entry into Jerusalem. Robin and Graham shared the service with Robin preaching and Graham celebrating and it was lovely to have them both taking part. *VU*

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### KETTLEBURGH – TIM AND EMMA (née Whatling) NUNN

#### EASTER SUNDAY: A KNEELER GIFT

What fantastic snow! People were arriving for church with water-boots, hats and coats on in the snow and leaving with the same attire because it snowed all the time, amazingly beautiful as I looked out of the church window. The church was almost full of people as we gathered for worship on Easter Day, presented the Pascal candle to God for blessing and then went on to seek His blessing on a kneeler given to the church. Let me explain.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2004 Tim Nunn and Emma Whatling were married in St Andrew's Church on a lovely hot Saturday afternoon; a brilliant occasion, a really happy country wedding much blessed by God. A reception, with marquee, was held on Church Meadow by the kindness of John and Anne Bater with eating, drinking and dancing into the night.

Tim's parents, John and Pam Nunn who now live in Majorca, as a result of the experience of the church and this happy occasion, have kindly made and donated a kneeler to St Andrew's Church. On Easter Sunday we thanked God for this kneeler, asked His blessing on it, and committed it to Him for His service. The kneeler shows dates and the names of Tim and Emma. This is a great asset for the church which will almost certainly be used in the Sanctuary for the priest. We hope that Emma and Tim, John and Pam will be able to visit us in the future. Thank you for this attractive kneeler.

God bless you both.

*Graham Vellacott*

Many thanks to Graham for leading such a lovely service on Easter Sunday (and for the Easter eggs!)

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### BRANDESTON 100+ CLUB

Winners for April 2008 draw :-

First : Phyl Shaw

Second : Nick Holland Brown

May draw will take place at the village hall at 11.00am on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May

*Mark Hounsell*

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**KETTLEBURGH GREEN TRUST LOTTERY WINNERS - drawn 4<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

Valerie Upson - First Prize = £25

Trevor Jessop - 2nd Prize = £10

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**NOTICES**

**MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL APPEAL**

Many many thanks to everyone who helped sell – and a big thank you to everyone who gave so generously. Total raised £100.

*Pat Bishop*

“Every £1 your customers or friends give you for their daffodil will support the provision of nursing care to a terminally ill person and their family. Each £20 you raise funds an hour of that unique nursing care.

In Suffolk and Norfolk we are currently supporting 60 nurses, and last year we nursed over 600 patients.”

*Judith Hall, Marie Curie Cancer Care*

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**LETTER FROM ST ELIZABETH HOSPICE**

‘Dear Mrs Bishop,

Many thanks for your large donation of stamps, which we received last month.

..... about 50-70% of the stamps go abroad and these are mainly to dealers who are splitting them up and selling them on individually, these are mainly repeat buyers who know that our volunteer gives good quality stock that comes directly from a charity. Stamp collecting is very popular in China and she has a couple of dealers in Singapore and Malaysia who supply them to the Chinese. She regularly sells to USA, France, Netherlands and Italy, so stamps saved by them can end up all over the world.

The remainder of the stamps are sold to UK based people, mostly individuals who are putting the stamps in their private collection. There are not many UK dealers as it is a bit of a declining hobby as most stamp collectors are of the older age group now.

The value depends on who is interested and bidding at the time, the price of a kilo of GB commemorative stamps can vary between £25 and £38. She gets higher prices in the winter than summer as it is a hobby that people spend more time on in the winter evenings. Ebay is the best place to get the highest price for the stamps as it is a global outlet and the prices raised are the true market value.’

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**A NEW BABY**

Congratulations to **Kevin and Sarah Moore** on the birth of their daughter **Bethany** on March 31<sup>st</sup> (also their wedding anniversary), weighing 7lb 4oz. Kevin and Sarah live in Framlingham and were married at Kettleburgh Church. She has very proud grandparents in Jean and Alfie Moore of Street Farm, Kettleburgh. We send our love to them all.

*Pat Bishop and Valerie Upson*

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## **PYRENEAN TREK**

*Sponsored by the Kettleburgh Café – 1st Friday of the month - come along and donate to a very good cause and enjoy coffee or tea and home-baking too.*

On 1<sup>st</sup> June Mark Sargeantson of Copyhold Cottage in Kettleburgh is setting out on a very long walk.

He is walking the GR10 Trail in France from the Atlantic coast to the Mediterranean. This trail runs the entire length of the Pyrenees along the French/Spanish border with a total distance of about 540 miles.

Mark will climb the equivalent of five times the height of Everest and hopes to complete the walk in 50 days.

Staying in refuges and mountain huts Mark is hoping to raise £50,000 for Cancer Campaign in Suffolk and dedicating the walk to the late Dr John LeVay from Charsfield. John was Consultant Oncologist at Ipswich Hospital until he lost his life to the disease in March this year. He was a founder of Cancer Campaign in Suffolk.

Anyone wishing to donate to the charity can do so by visiting:

[www.justgiving.com/marksmountainwalk](http://www.justgiving.com/marksmountainwalk) or by calling Gina Cooper at the charity on 08456 026607

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## **KETTLEBURGH VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENTS**

With the onset of better weather, (or in spite of its late arrival!!), work has started on the programme of improvements at the village hall. Outside, Gary Meadows is painting the joinery and replacing or repairing where necessary. Already, a new bargeboard has been installed at the front of the hall and the kitchen windows re-glazed along with new putty to several other windows.

Inside, we have installed the new units under the kitchen sink and provided two larder units to provide much needed storage space. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the assembly and installation of the units and gave up their time over the Easter weekend: Jackie Clark, Mark De Roeper, Robert and Liz Marzetti, John Bater, Matthew Fann and Patrick and Megan Garland. The plumbing was carried out by Frank Birt. New towel dispensers have been installed in the kitchen and toilets, thanks to Tony Murphy.

We are also grateful to Mark De Roeper, John Bater and Patrick Garland for offering to trim the grass around the hall during the summer.

Further work is planned to improve the hall and we will keep you informed of its progress.

*Terry Comer – Chairman Village Hall Committee.*

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**KETTLEBURGH VILLAGE FETE**

Thank you if you have already volunteered but we still need some more help.  
We need several more pairs of people to sell raffle tickets at Solar (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May) and on the Market Hill Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June. If you can spare half an hour or more to help we can team you up with someone. (Pat 723657, Valerie C 723080)  
Keep collecting and inviting friends

*Valerie C*

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**BRANDESTON COFFEE MORNING**

Just a reminder that the Thursday coffee morning has a visiting Post Office – so somewhere to get stamps, currency for holidays etc.

*Sue Thurlow*

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**EASTON BOWLS CLUB**

The Easton Bowls club will soon be starting up again for their summer season. A full set of fixtures, both league and friendly matches, have been arranged. New members very welcome, please contact Mike Cattermole or Sue Edwards on 746312.

*Sylvia Keene*

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**EASTON SCHOOL NEWS**

**Snape Photographs**

The photographs taken by the Snape photographer are now on the website for you to browse and order if you wish. Go to the school website ([www.eastonprimary.org.uk](http://www.eastonprimary.org.uk)) then go onto the events page and click on the link to the photo page. Don't click on 'view slide show' as there is a problem with this at the moment.

**Going Bowling**

We have been able to forge links with the village bowls club and we hope to start taking children from class 3 bowling after half-term. We successfully applied for and secured a grant of £600 from the 'High Sheriff award' to buy some bowling woods for the children to use.

**School Garden**

Over the holidays Dave Chapman built our raised beds and our garden designer (Mrs Hussey) has been busy digging them over. We hope to plant soon so that we can have our first crop later in the term.

This is the first phase in our garden development which we hope to have completed before next spring. Many thanks to Mr Chapman and Mrs Hussey for their hard work so far.

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**VILLAGE WEBSITES**

For up-to-date information about your village, visit these websites:  
[www.brandeston.net](http://www.brandeston.net)  
[www.kettleburgh.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.kettleburgh.suffolk.gov.uk)

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## TIMES PAST

### Memories of life as it was at one Kettleburgh cottage in the '60s

Matthew Denson, then a small boy of five lived at Little Manor opposite the home of the Portch family which was the right hand part of Bullace Cottage, now the residence of Mr and Mrs Gilbert. Matthew writes:

'Mr Portch was a very tall man (for that time) being just over 6 feet. He was a stevedore in London Docks and I believe he came originally from the Stepney area. Mr Portch used to drive an old Jowett car backwards and forwards between Kettleburgh and London. He stayed in London during the week and came home at weekends. I do remember that Mr Portch was very much into digging holes. At one time he dug a huge hole in his front garden that was to become a cess pit. That was as far as it went. However when it rained it used to fill with water. There was an apple tree that overhung the "pond" and the smaller Portch kids would swing, Tarzan like, over the pond from a rope suspended from the tree. One summer Mr Portch came home from London and the car had been playing up on the way, so he decided that he would use the deep pit in the garden as an inspection pit. He placed some scaffolding boards across it and carefully inched the car over. Then he climbed underneath into the pit and commenced his repair. Unable to complete this before night fell, he left the car suspended over the pit until the following morning. During the night there was a creaking and grinding noise and when I looked out of my bedroom window in the morning, I saw just the back end of the car sticking out of the pit.

As I have said, Mr Portch was into digging holes. He apparently got fed up with always banging his head on the low ceiling so he came to the decision that he would lower the floor in the kitchen and not doing things by halves, he lowered it by about three feet. This then meant that the kitchen effectively had mud walls up to three feet and a mud floor. Apparently the fairly newly installed electric cooker was suspended on its flex, pulled so tight that you could almost have played a tune on it.

Mr Portch then came across the road to speak to my father, who was an architect, to say he was a bit worried about his house, as there seemed to be cracks developing. My father went to have a look and told him that he had undermined the foundations and that unless he filled it in pretty quick, the whole house would fall down around his ears. I can only presume that he took the advice and filled the hole in, as the house remained standing. I gather from my father, that for some reason, Mr Portch also dug out the hall to a depth of several feet and that when the postman came, the kids used to have to lie on their bellies and fish for the post from the bottom of the pit.

Mr Portch's fascination for holes did not just stop with holes in the ground. Apparently in the living room there was a door that he considered was incorrectly placed. To remedy this he knocked a door shaped hole in the wall, where he wanted it to be and filled the old doorway by making a cross of wood over the space and covering it up with brown paper.

In another hole-related episode he had purchased a very expensive suite of furniture for the living room and became annoyed when his ten children began wrecking it. His remedy for this was to move the furniture up to his bedroom. However being a small cottage with narrow stairs this proved to be a little difficult. To rectify the situation he cut a large hole in the bedroom floor and one in the ceiling above it. He then threw a block and tackle over the rafter in the bedroom ceiling and hauled the furniture through the hole in the bedroom floor. He was discussing it with my father who said, "I will come over and give you a hand in repairing the hole in the floor." Mr Portch replied, "Oh that's OK, I've done it already. I took the bedroom door off and put it over the hole!"

(Memories to be continued)

*WMW*

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### **MAGAZINE ARTICLES**

Please send, deliver or e-mail any contributions for the magazine by 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to: Mrs Val Butcher, Woodlands, Church Road, Kettleburgh,  
or e-mail [valerie.butcher@talk21.com](mailto:valerie.butcher@talk21.com), tel: 724777.

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**Cover:** Many thanks to Charlotte Butcher, age 9, who has drawn a lovely picture of a primrose for our cover this month.

Cover pictures are always very welcome from anyone who likes to draw – just drop them in to me at the above address.

*VB*