

**BRANDESTON AND KETTLEBURGH  
PARISH NEWS**

**MAY 2010**

## THE PARISHES OF BRANDESTON AND KETTLEBURGH

Dear Friends

This year's Lent Course provided an amazing experience of exploring, together, some of the less visited parts of our Church buildings and traditions and of discovering the uses that have been made of them. It was an added bonus being a "Greater Benefice" event, enabling us to enjoy a wider fellowship than before.

Rogation Sunday on 9th May will provide us with a further opportunity for sharing in similar fashion. The customs and practices of "Rogation", of asking for God's protection and blessing for the crops and of processions along parish boundaries, date back to the delineation of those boundaries in Anglo Saxon times, but George Herbert's (1593 – 1633) description of the reasons for Rogation cannot be bettered:

*"1. a blessing of God for the fruits of the field: 2. Justice in the preservation of the bounds; 3. Charitie, in living, walking and neighbourly accompanying one another, with reconciling of differences at that time, if they be any; 4. Mercie, in relieving the poor by a liberal distribution of largess which at that time is or ought be made.*

Our own "procession", which will set off from The White Horse, Easton (where some of us will meet for lunch at 12.30) will walk across the fields to Kettleburgh Church, where there will be a Rogation Service at 3.00pm. If, for any reason, you'd rather not walk, do come to Kettleburgh to see the walkers arrive.

During the walk, there will be opportunity to ponder George Herbert's thoughts; the first blessing will be the Deben valley in all its early May beauty; those *bounds* are where our Parishes join and are linked, they are lines of division only if we make them so; walking together, with or without dogs, is a wonderful neighbour-establishing activity; and at our destination, John and Ann Bater's generous invitation to enjoy tea (*liberal distribution of largess!*) on the lawn at Church Farm after the service will make our enjoyment complete.

Let us pray that the weather will further multiply all these blessings.

With love

Robin

Assistant Priest: Reverend Robin Alderson	01728 688255 Mob. 07790 242002
<u>Brandeston</u>	
Elders:	Mrs Mary Baker 685807 Miss Eileen Leach MBE 685298
Churchwardens:	Miss Eileen Leach MBE 685298 Mrs Alison Molyneux 685244
<u>Kettleburgh</u>	
Elders:	Mrs Jackie Clark 723623 Mrs Valerie Upson 723078
Churchwardens:	Mr John Bater 723532 Mrs Valerie Upson 723078

<b>DIARY FOR MAY 2010</b>		
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		<u>Heritage Coast Walk / Run</u> – see below.
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<u>Brandeston Coffee Morning and 100+ Club Draw</u> at Village Hall
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am- 12noon	<u>Kettleburgh Plant &amp; Produce Sale and Coffee Morning</u> at Kettleburgh Village Hall in aid of At Andrew's Church
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<u>Brandeston Village Hall Spring Clean</u> – see below
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 lunch 3pm service	<u>Rogation Service</u> with procession from Easton – see Robin's letter above
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting</u> at Village Hall – see below.
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Ascension Day Eucharist</u> at St Michael's Church, Framlingham – see below.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Brandeston Film Club</u> – “Whale Rider” at Village Hall – see below.
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	<u>Skiffle led service</u> at Parham Church – see below.
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<u>Mardle</u> at Easton and Letheringham Village Hall – see below.

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	<u>Brandeston Annual Parish Meeting</u> at the Village Hall – see below.
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9am-1pm	<u>Farmers Market</u> at Easton Farm Park – local produce, children’s activities, refreshments
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		<u>Easton May Fair</u>
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10am – 5.30pm	<u>Monewden Blacksmiths Shop Open</u> – see below

**Rotary Club of Saxmundham & District**

**28th Heritage Coast Walk / Run**

**Sunday 2nd May 2010**

**Start / Finish - Thorpeness Playing Fields on B1353**

Once again, the event is taking place on some of the most beautiful countryside on the Heritage Coast.

Walkers and runners will be able to enter either the 6, 13 or 26 mile routes, all starting and finishing at the playing fields in Thorpeness. Dogs are welcome, but on leads. All routes are have checkpoints for drinks etc.

All entrants have an opportunity to raise money for charity and this year, the Rotary Club has nominated the East Anglian Air Ambulance as it's main beneficiary. Also, and for the first time, we shall be joined by the ladies from the Suffolk Breakthrough Team who will be raising valuable funds for breast cancer research.

Free parking, shower and toilet facilities are available on site. A good range of hot and cold refreshments, as well as sports massage can be purchased. A bar will also be available.

Last years event saw over 800 entrants take part and around £20,000 was raised for local charities. Over the last 27 years, the Rotary Club has raised well over £400,000 for various charities.

To date, entries are ahead of last year and it would be great if we could reach our target of 1000.

For more information please email '[registrationofficer2010@suffolkonline.net](mailto:registrationofficer2010@suffolkonline.net) or phone 01728 724878

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**BRANDESTON VILLAGE HALL SPRING CLEAN**

This is an appeal to all Brandeston residents and users of our lovely hall – we need your help.

On Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> May we are asking for volunteers to help with a spring clean up of the hall - around the building itself and some jobs to do inside. The committee would be very pleased to see you and grateful for your help. Start time is 10 a.m. – hope to see you there.

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**KETTLEBURGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

This will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 pm in Kettleburgh Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting provides an opportunity for everyone to hear what is going on locally and to make their views known. County and District Councillors, Suffolk Police, all our local organisations and our own Parish Council Chairman are invited to give reports. Take this opportunity to meet your local councillors. There will be a time for questions and refreshments will be provided.

This year the format will be slightly different, with an emphasis on the Parish Questionnaire which took place towards the end of 2009. To make time for this, some of the reports will not be read out, but they will be available for every household in printed form and on the website. Your Parish Councillors have been busy studying the results of the questionnaire and this will be an opportunity to present some of their findings, make some proposals and ask some questions. Come along and find out more. An invitation will be delivered to each house closer to the date.

*Jackie Clark*

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### **ASCENSION DAY EUCHARIST**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm Bishop Clive will preside and preach at a service for the whole deanery at St Michael's Church, Framlingham. Everyone is welcome to celebrate this special day in the Church's calendar with people from all the local parishes so do come along.

*VU*

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### **BRANDESTON FILM CLUB**

**14<sup>th</sup> May – Whale Rider.** The story of a Maori chief's search for his successor that overlooks his granddaughter. A lovely film set in New Zealand.

**4<sup>th</sup> June – The Young Victoria.** A dramatisation of the turbulent first years of Queen Victoria's rule and her enduring romance with Prince Albert.

**Please note that the date of the June Film Club has been changed to the first Friday in the month i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> June. For this month only.**

The film club is always held on the second Friday of the month in the village hall. 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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### **SKIFFLE LED SERVICE**

**COME AND JOIN US - A SERVICE WITH A SWING!**

At 6.00pm on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, the Parham Skiffle Ensemble will be leading worship at St. Mary the Virgin in Parham. The aim of the service is to explore worship through the gospel music of the southern states of America as played by the skiffle groups of the 1950's. We shall be looking at the roots of gospel music

and there will be a collection for the charity Anti Slavery International. We very much hope that lots of people, young and old, will come along to join us in what we hope will be a lively and interesting service. **Parham Skiffers Please note: this service starts at 6.00 p.m.**

The service will start with reference to the captivity of the Israelites in Egypt and their escape led by Moses, and their miraculous passage through the Red Sea. It will then continue with reference to the slave trade, John Newton's (former slave trader captain) realisation of the wrongs of slavery and his writing of Amazing Grace, and finally reference to modern day forms of slavery.

There will be readings and prayers and five Gospel songs with children invited to come and pick up instruments to accompany the final song (This Little Light of Mine)

*George Culpin*

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**MARDLE – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

We are delighted to have the company of American writer Meg Rosoff, who will talk about her 'affair with Suffolk'. As mentioned in last month's magazine, Meg is considered to be on a level with J.K. Rowling, Philip Pullman and Mark Haddon.

Meg's first novel, 'How I live now' won several awards, including the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. Her second novel, 'Just in Case' won the Carnegie Medal. Other titles include 'What I was', and 'The Bride's Farewell'.

This will take place as usual in Letheringham and Easton Village Hall at 7.30pm. A glass of wine and canapés are included in the admission fee of £6. Proceeds in aid of Letheringham Church.

*Sylvia Keene*

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**BRANDESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - Wednesday, 19 May**

All parishioners are urged to attend this opportunity to question your councillors about their efforts on your behalf and to hear reports from your County and District Councillors and to discover where your precept money is spent. A formal agenda will be issued shortly and placed on the village website and on notice boards.

Please make every effort to attend.

*Mark Hounsell*

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**MONEDDEN BLACKSMITHS SHOP OPEN – Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Blacksmiths', Carpenters' & Wheelwrights' Tools, with Bygones of interest. Examples and photos of work by Mary Moore and her late husband Hector. Special guest: Ray Hubbard, with display of horse-related items. Admission free. All welcome.



HELMINGHAM HALL  
GARDENS



PLANT HERITAGE AT HELMINGHAM

## SPRING PLANT FAIR

SUNDAY 30 MAY  
10.30 - 4.00

*£6 including entry  
to Helmingham Hall Gardens*

- \* 800 Free rare iris
- \*National Plant Collections      \*Specialist nurseries
- \*Plant Doctor
- \*Garden accessories
- \*Homemade lunches and teas in the Coach House

Helmingham Hall IP14 4EF

[www.nccpgsuffolk.org](http://www.nccpgsuffolk.org)

[www.helmingham.com](http://www.helmingham.com)

Enquiries to 01449 736358

## ADVANCE NOTICES

Sat. 12 <sup>th</sup> June	4 – 6pm	<b>Kettleburgh Fete</b> in The Chequers gardens – see below
Sat. 19 <sup>th</sup> June		<b>Brandeston Fete</b>
Mon. 21 <sup>st</sup> June	7.30pm	<b>Mardle</b> with local celebrity Peggy Cole, at Letheringham & Easton Village Hall
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	6.00pm	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Earl Soham Scouts Group Annual Duck Race</b> at Brandeston Bridge– see below.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	7.30pm	<b>Winston the Singing Farmer</b> , at Brandeston Village Hall. In aid of Carriage Driving for the Disabled
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30am – 12 noon	<b>Cat’s Protection Coffee Morning</b> at Manly, Kettleburgh – see below.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> July		<b>Letheringham Summer Party</b> – ‘Riverside open gardens’ – people will be free to wander & enjoy. Boat trips on the river, various stalls and cream teas. Everyone welcome.
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> July		<b>Autojumble</b> at Church Farm, Kettleburgh. Beware, we will be after you! <i>Derek Holt</i>

### KETTLEBURGH VILLAGE FETE

Not long to go now before the fun of the fete

To remind you all Saturday June 12th at 4pm in the Chequers Gardens (Thanks to Debbie and Ron)

So .....beware you will be asked by John Bater to help:- selling raffle tickets, collecting for the white elephant stall, books, plants, cakes, putting up marquees, manning stalls/ activities, taking down marquees, etc.

Why not beat John Bater to it and volunteer for something?

The fete works so well because of the efforts of so many in the village.

Book the date, invite your friends and let’s have another great day.

*Valerie Compton*

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### ANNUAL DUCK RACE

Come and support your local Beavers, Cubs and Scouts! Our annual DUCK RACE is to be held on Friday 25th June from 6pm at its usual location, the meadow beside Brandeston bridge. Scouting is run entirely by volunteers, and the funds raised by our big fund raising event provides money for equipment for our lively and successful Scout Group. This year the Duck race will have a BBQ, a beer tent and lots of games and stalls for children and adults alike. Do please come and join us!

Further information, Sally and Steve Western. Bridge Farm Brandeston. Tel. 685320

*Sally*

*Western*

### **KETTLEBURGH – CATS’ PROTECTION LEAGUE COFFEE MORNING**

There will be a coffee morning in aid of the Cats’ Protection League on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July from 10:30a.m – 12 noon at Manly, Easton Road, Kettleburgh. The Ipswich Community Wind Band will be playing and the special guest this year is Rob Dunger from BBC Radio Suffolk. With her new hip, Kay will be looking forward to welcoming you to Manly, at the top of the hill, past the Chequers. Come for coffee, a chance to chat with friends, to listen to the band and take part in the raffle. There is plenty of room to park.

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### **WEDDING NEWS**

CONGRATULATIONS! to **Angela Allington and Richard Gibbons** who were married at All Saints’ Church, Brandeston on Easter Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2010. Angela lives at Ashton House in Brandeston while Richard lived at Sotterley, Beccles. Richard is a retired banker having worked in London a long time and Angela is a health and safety consultant working with a local firm.

The wedding, among April showers, was attended by about sixty people, mostly family from both bride and groom. The bride was given away by John Houston, an old family friend, whilst the Best Man was Peter Usherwood who had known Richard since boyhood days. Both the men gave us entertaining speeches as they reached down into the lives of Richard and Angela whom they had known a long time. The bride was supported by Lucas (6) and three bridesmaids, Eva (6), Mimi (4) and Isabella (2), who were her pretty grandchildren. The bride was dressed in a full length lavender dress.

A reception was held in Brandeston Village Hall; for some of the time an entertainer kept the children happy – and the adults too sometimes! The couple left in the middle of the evening to spend two nights at Seckford Hall as their only honeymoon so far.

We send our love and good wishes to Angela and Richard with our prayers that they may be very happy in their married life. God bless you. GV

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### **BRANDESTON BAPTISM**

We happily record the baptism of Benjamin Stuart Bradley, aged 8 months, who is the fourth child of Adam and Jo who live in Pickett’s Road, Felixstowe. Grandparents of Ben are Peter and Trish Smyth from Brandeston. Ben had been very ill, in and out of hospital, for the first few months of his life; in the service we were very thankful to God for much answered prayer as now he is a strong, fit boy.

This was a great family occasion with at least thirty children present!, one of the Godparents being Clare Hart, Jo’s sister from Wangford. A reception was held at Brandeston Hall, which is an ideal setting for this occasion with all these children, who were cared for by a hard working professional entertainer.

We send our love and prayers for all the family but thinking now of Ben that he will grow to be strong and fit in all ways, learning to love God.

God bless you, Ben. GV

### **PETER RILEY WHATLING**

With sadness we record the death of Peter Whatling, aged 69 years, in Ipswich Hospital where he died peacefully with his family round him on Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2010. Peter had been living recently at 11 Fairfield Court, Framlingham but when he got really ill he went to his sister, Shirley Rutterford, in Worlingworth. A service of thanksgiving was held for his life at Worlingworth Church on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, followed by interment in the churchyard where he was buried amongst the Whatling family. The service was well attended by family and many friends; he was such a likeable, outgoing person. A Bible reading was read by his niece Alyson Bristow, and a poem called "Trees" by Adrian Whatling, the service taken by Rev. Graham Vellacott. It is recorded that there were over 160 people at church.

Peter was born on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1940. He was the third child and first son of Norton and Margaret Whatling, born in Fingal Street, Worlingworth. Whatlings are recorded in that place as far back as the 1400's; his grandparents lived across the road at Potash Farm. Peter was one of eight children so childhood was lively and competitive but great fun. He would help his father and grandfather who were both thatchers, but Peter did not follow that tradition. He did, however, build up an interest in the countryside; his father had pigs, calves, chickens and rabbits and his grandfather used a horse and trap. In the harvest time he would help on the farms, he was just a happy normal child in the life of a Suffolk county village.

He loved music and dancing and would sing at family parties and even his sister's weddings. Football – Peter was very good at it and had a lifelong interest in it. A Town supporter, he would take his brother Keith to Ipswich for training for about two years with Ipswich Town, but sadly he had to give up through injury. During these years his brother John died; this had a big impact on Peter.

When Peter left school he started work at the Grange for a while then he went to work for Gobbit's, the building firm. There he learnt the skills of the trade until after a year or two he set up business on his own which ran for at least ten years, very successful, employing about eight people including one of his brothers; the business folded because of a large bad debt.

Family – Peter was married first to Doreen and in 1967 John was born, then in 1971 he married Julie in Eye, thereafter Emma, James and Ed were born; the family lived in Bedfield for a short time, then Ipswich, then to Kettleburgh where they lived in Upperfield House, Easton Green where the children grew up. He worked for developers in London for two years but that was not his life. So from the building trade he went back to the land, his first love, and managed the farms in Kettleburgh for Major Lee-Smith in the early '80's. He worked hard and loved it. Peter retired when the Major gave up the farms but Peter kept his skills alive with local building work, Kettleburgh Post Office being one big project.

But what of the man himself who we all knew and loved?

He loved his family more than anything else; I emphasise that - he was proud of their achievements, he encouraged them, he would say the world was their oyster, go and enjoy, make the most and they have done that too. He made a good speech at Emma's wedding, supportive and funny.

Peter was nearly lost with a wasp sting at Kettleburgh P.O., saved by air ambulance. Peter was always cheerful, friendly and helpful, he saw the best in people; a gentleman, he would not allow swearing on site, he could argue especially about politics, he loved Maggie Thatcher. The children would say "Dad taught us to live our dreams" – good advice for us all.

A man who will be greatly missed, he has given something, so much of himself to all of us here. We thank God for Peter's life. May he rest in peace.

We send our love and sympathy, our prayers that they may know God's comfort and peace, to Julie, Emma, James and Ed, Shirley, Colin, Keith and all the family. May God bless you. GV

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## PAST EVENTS

### TABLE TENNIS AT BRANDESTON VILLAGE HALL

We have had a most enjoyable and successful season. We have had a regular number of players, including two youngsters, Matt and Megs, whom we have seen improve with their table tennis and have got on so well with the older members.

Hope everyone feels fitter, ready for some summer sun and hopefully we will start again in September. We finished Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, with a friendly competition which ended a happy and enjoyable season. *John, Ruth, Doug and Chris*

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### VILLAGE BREAKFAST

It was great to see so many people at the Kettleburgh Village Breakfast on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The team in the kitchen were kept very busy, providing cooked breakfasts for some old friends and quite a few new faces too.

I would like to thank Mandy and Patrick Garland, Vickie and Derrick Neilson, and Barbara Holt too, for their hard work in the kitchen. The morning made a profit of about £210, which will help maintain the Village Green. *Helen Kay*

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### SOUTH AFRICAN PANORAMA

On Friday 26 March Kettleburgh Village Hall was the venue for a most enjoyable evening of slides and experiences from South Africa. To set the scene, Chris Parfitt began the evening with traditional music from Nelson Mandela's tribe, the Xhosa people. Unlike his previous film evenings, this talk used digital photography and there was a slight panic when the laptop would not initially perform...but the evening began on time

at 7:30p.m and just under 40 people were soon transported to Cape Town, with a fine view of Table Mountain. Several people in the audience had also been to South Africa and were able to share their experiences with us too. We saw the wide variety of landscape, fauna and flora, with some stunning close up shots of elephants and giraffes, the bird of paradise flowers growing by the roadside and the giant protea. During the interval, the South African theme continued with refreshments that included local wine, biltong, South African maize snacks and fruit kebabs. There was also time to look at the souvenirs Chris had brought back which included some beautiful carved animals, recycled art work that made use of old Coca Cola cans and some very colourful fabric (not as colourful as Chris' 'Mandela' shirt!) We then learned about the poverty of the townships and the small steps that are being made to improve living standards, and also saw scenes from Nelson Mandela's 'home' on Robben Island.

The evening concluded with a raffle. £248.03 was raised for St Andrews Church, so thanks are due to all who helped to make the evening such a success.

*JC*

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### **WHAT MAKES A MEMORABLE 'PALM SUNDAY'?**

Well! A Bishop and a donkey called Rosie! and lots of other people who all came together on the day, to make a great celebration.

A fine spring morning obviously helped get things off to a good start, as did planning and a willingness of seven rural parishes to come together for this special occasion. This was on March 28<sup>th</sup> when 60-plus people assembled at the Dog and Duck, together with young people from Easton's COSMIC (Children on Sunday meet in Church) together with Bishop Nigel, his Chaplain Deirdre, who is also a Campsea Ashe resident, and the clergy from the Greater Benefice, not forgetting the combined choirs of the parishes, all of whom were led by Rosie over the railway bridge and in to church. The procession was so long that the donkey was out of sight before the last few people were crossing the bridge.

On arrival at church, the Churchwardens formally greeted Bishop Nigel. Rosie, as though it were a daily event, and despite the organ playing and people singing, nonchalantly walked into church munching a few carrot pieces. Having paused to give both the chancel step and grating a good hard look, she delicately placed both her front hooves on the stone floor either side of the grating and, well, the rest is history, as they say! While Rosie left via the south chancel door shortly afterwards and was taken home in style in her trailer, the rest of us finished a good deal later next door at the Old Rectory with coffee and biscuits courtesy of Mike and Sally Ball.

And so a very memorable Palm Sunday was duly celebrated in Campsea Ashe, there was a real 'buzz' of anticipation beforehand, which was satisfied in full measure by the most joyful and uplifting Sunday that we've had for a long while. I for one look forward with much excitement to the next 7 parish 'big event'.

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**BRANDESTON 100+ CLUB**

The first draw of the “new” year :-

First Fred Mugglestone  
Second Charles Freeman

Next draw on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May at the village hall

Mark Hounsell

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**KETTLEBURGH GREEN TRUST LOTTERY**

This month's (April) Kettleburgh Green Trust Lottery winners were

1st Prize: E. Davies  
2nd Prize: Stuart Keeble

Trevor Jessop

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**NOTICES**

**WICKHAM MARKET MEDICAL CENTRE –  
NEW APPOINTMENT BOOKING SYSTEMS**

We are pleased to inform patients that on the 26 April we will be installing a new 24 hour telephone booking system and an online appointment booking system via the internet.

Both these systems will allow patients to make their own appointments with a GP, Nurse or Phlebotomist 24 hours a day. Patients will also be able to cancel and check appointments. However if Patients prefer they will still be able to speak to a Receptionist to book an appointment

To be able to use this service patients will need to register on the practice website [www.wickhammarketmc.co.uk](http://www.wickhammarketmc.co.uk) Registration requirements are detailed on the homepage.

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**ENJOYING THE COUNTRYSIDE!**

I have been spotted litter picking and I'll tell you why I do it. I live off the countryside, therefore I treat it as part of my garden. I gather blackberries, elderberries and sloes in their season and pick up a bit of road kill.

What a pleasure it is to be out, hearing the blackbirds and skylarks singing and seeing the first celandines and primroses of spring.

How wonderful the violets have been this year. I haven't seen them so lovely since I was a child and picked bunches for my mother. Anon

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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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### **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, IP13 7LF  
or e-mail [valerie.butcher@talk21.com](mailto:valerie.butcher@talk21.com), tel: 724777.

Please send e-mails in Microsoft Word format, PDF or jpg for pictures/scans.

Covers are always welcome too!

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### **TIMES PAST**

‘A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay’

May 1<sup>st</sup> has always been a great rural festival. It was the day when the Maypole was erected and the children danced round it holding the long ribbons that were attached to the top of the pole. The children would be divided into two halves, one half dancing in the opposite direction to the other, so that the ribbons became plaited as the dance progressed. The reverse ended with the ribbons again hanging free from the top of the Maypole. A May Queen was chosen from among the girls. Easton continues to hold a May Fair which this year will take place on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Rogation Sunday is May 9<sup>th</sup> when it was the custom for the clergy to go out into the fields and bless the crops. This was re-introduced here in the '80's when, for many years, an afternoon service was held at Brook Farm on the Brandeston-Kettleburgh boundary. Recently this service has been transferred to Church Farm, Kettleburgh where again it will be held this year.

Whit Sunday is a festival in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. This year it falls on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Whit is generally thought to mean 'white'. It may refer to the old custom, observed on this day, of the rich giving milk from their cows to the poor. It was a time for feasting, frolics and games when Morris and country dancing were performed.

Not many people will remember Empire Day, May 24<sup>th</sup>. This was the birthday of Queen Victoria and observed throughout the British Commonwealth from 1904 when the world

map had many pink coloured areas. During the 1930's the Framlingham Weekly News reported the local happenings. In 1932 Brandeston and Kettleburgh's Women's Institute invited all the village children to a tea at which an address was given by Colonel Neilson, C.B.E on the British Empire. Entertainment was provided by candidates of the Girl's Friendly Society who belonged to both villages.

1937 saw the Headmistress of Kettleburgh School holding a service of special hymns and prayers, the children listening to the wireless broadcast from St Paul's Cathedral which was attended by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The afternoon was spent in sports and games. In 1928 sports were held again, this time in a meadow belonging to the Old Rectory.

Lastly. Restoration Day, May 29<sup>th</sup>. The anniversary of Charles II's jubilant entry into Whitehall in 1660. It may be remembered that this was recorded here as Kettleburgh's Rector, Cuthbert Dale was re-installed. He documented the fact in the Church Register ... 'Here beginnith a Legale Register aggaine'.

'Mist in May, heat in June,  
Makes the harvest come right soon.'

WMW

### A full list of services can be found in the middle of the magazine

#### CHURCH CLEANING

##### Brandeston

2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Fletcher and Karren Piper  
 9<sup>th</sup> Peter and Trish Smyth  
 16<sup>th</sup> Ruth Garratt and Mary Baker  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Kelly, Megan and Connie Jeffery  
 30<sup>th</sup> Marian Hutson and Julia Elson  
 6<sup>th</sup> June Jane Mitchell and Louise Paget

##### Kettleburgh

Liz Marzetti  
 Anne Bater  
 Pat Peck  
 Val Butcher  
 Margaret Meadows  
 Sue Scott

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Saxton  
 9<sup>th</sup> Jackie Hounsell  
 16<sup>th</sup> Sue Rainbird  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Wedding (22<sup>nd</sup>)  
 30<sup>th</sup> Eve Crane  
 6<sup>th</sup> June Ruth Garratt

Fay Clarke  
 Fay Clarke  
 Kathleen Taylor  
 Kathleen Taylor  
 Jeanne Durbin  
 Jeanne Durbin