

***BRANDESTON AND KETTLEBURGH
PARISH NEWS
NOVEMBER 2015***

PARISHES OF BRANDESTON AND KETTLEBURGH

Dear Friends,

After preparing a summary of the discussions from the ‘new’ Benefice Council which has been focussing on the Diocesan Growing in God initiative, I find that I have an ‘itch’ to scratch. So please bear with me while I use this letter to tell you that the success, or otherwise, of our churches is not measured by the number of services we hold each month, nor by how few there might be in the congregation sometimes. We are fortunate, however, to have many hardworking people who also play a part in keeping our churches open for all to enjoy, each in their own way - attending services being only one of these.

We are not called as a Church to be ‘successful’ (though obviously it is great when we are). We are called to be faithful messengers of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, ‘speaking’ it afresh in our generation and moreover ‘doing it’ in ways that that are relevant to today’s lifestyles. So if we follow Jesus’ commandment to “Love one another as I have you”, then where love is shown and received, where people care about their neighbour, community is found and strengthened. It’s in this very way that the many village cafes and social events become the places where the village encounters its church. However painful it might be, our church communities may need to accept that people are not just going to come through the doors and join them. The Church and its community are together wherever the meeting place is. So, as we work to build up community in the places where we live, we also need to build up the worshipping community too. The Growing in God initiative highlighted the need to build up the congregations at our services and this includes the ‘united ‘ ones, which I know are not very popular with many, so that we can get to know better the church people in our adjoining parishes

I’ve been asking some people, who don’t attend them, the ‘why not’ question. Some of their responses you can read more about this in a separate article (page xx). So, before I close, I want to ask you something. Will you do something for me? If you normally attend united services, will you visit someone who doesn’t and invite them to come with you to the next one.

If you don’t normally ‘do’ church at all, will you try a service in your local parish or even a united one! The details of all the ones in November are all on page xx. You might find yourself surprised at the number of people you do know (at least by sight!) and maybe even enjoy it.

Itch scratched, thank you.

With love in Christ Deirdre

Brandeston

Elders: Miss Eileen Leach 685298
Mrs Mary Baker 685807

Churchwardens: Mrs Alison Molyneux 685244
Mrs Mary Baker 685807

Kettleburgh

Elders: Mrs Jackie Clark 723623

Churchwardens: Mr John Bater 723532

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2015
(for further details of each event see below diary)

Monday 2 nd	4pm	<u>All Souls' Day Service</u> at Easton Church
Thursday 5 th	10.00am	<u>Brandeston Coffee Morning, 100+ Club Draw</u> at Village Hall
Friday 6 th	10.30am – 12	<u>Coffee Morning</u> at Kettleburgh Village Hall
Saturday 7 th	11am – 4pm	<u>Christmas Fair</u> iao Suffolk Animal Rescue, at Brandeston Village hall
Wednesday 11 th	10.50am	<u>Act of Remembrance</u> at Brandeston Hall School
Wednesday 11 th	7 for 7.30pm	<u>“Growing in God”</u> at Marlesford Community Hall
Wednesday 11 th	7.30pm	<u>Monewden Local History Society Talk</u> – “The River Gipping Trust” by Lewis Tyler, at Monewden Village Hall
Thursday 12 th	7.30pm	<u>Kettleburgh Parish Council Meeting</u> at the village hall. Future dates: 4 th Feb and 12 th May 2016
Friday 13 th	7 pm for 7.30 start	<u>Quiz Evening</u> at Kettleburgh Village Hall
Friday 13 th	7.30pm	<u>Brandeston Film Club</u> - “Suffragette”

Sunday 22 nd	1 – 5pm	<u>Bridge Farm Open Day</u> at Bridge Farm, Brandeston
Friday 27 th	6.30pm for 7pm start	<u>Whist Drive</u> at Brandeston Village Hall
Saturday 28 th	7.30pm	<u>Brandeston Village Quiz</u> at the Village Hall
Sunday 29 th	2.pm	<u>Castleton Brass Band Christmas Concert</u> at Thomas Mills High School

All Souls' Day is the 2nd November, it is a day in the Church's calendar set aside for the commemoration of the faithful departed, In our group of seven parishes there have been 21 funerals this year to date, and so it seemed to me there might well be a need to hold a service of commemoration this year. It will be at All Saints Easton, starting at 4pm and anyone; regular or occasional church goers; or not; is most welcome to come and share in this peaceful, simple, reflective service of music and prayer and to use the stillness to remember loved ones departed. There will be an opportunity to light candles in memory of those we have loved, and you are also invited to bring a small posy of flowers to leave there if you would like to. There will be time afterwards for tea and cake and conversation.

If you are unable to attend but would like me to name someone in the prayers for you, please do feel free to get in touch, or leave me a message.

No Christian is solitary,
 through Baptism we become members one of another in Christ,
 members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death.
 One family, we dwell in him,
 One church, above, beneath;
 though now divided by the stream,
 The narrow stream of death
 (Words by Chares Wesley)

Deirdre

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE AT BRANDESTON HALL SCHOOL

We would be delighted if any of the villagers from Brandeston would like to join us at the front of school on Wednesday 11th November for our Act of Remembrance. We aim to start at 10.50.

Mary Baker

SUFFOLK ANIMAL RESCUE
CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 7th November
11am - 4pm
Brandeston Village Hall, IP13 7AD



- * Christmas trees, baubles, decorations
- * Handmade crafts *Christmas cards *Huge bottle stall
- *Toiletries * Raffle
- * Jewellery & Accessories
- * Scarves & pashminas *Teddy tombola
- *Clothes *Gift hampers *NEW homeware
- * Cat & Dog hampers, bedding & gifts
- * Cakes *Refreshments & soup
- *Christmas gifts & LOTS MORE!!!!

GROWING IN GOD - Update

Many people took the time and trouble to attend the meetings of the Benefice Council, others made their responses via the booklet questionnaire, which had a wide distribution across all seven parishes. The process of Growing in God has now begun, and will be continued by each parish, as they look for ways to facilitate growth. It has been a first step in a process to encourage every church community to look at how to create a growing church community. To look at what they do, why they do it like they do, and to recognise what they are already good at and would wish to preserve, and then to decide what steps they can take to play their part in assuring the future of their church by encouraging 'growth'.

Of the four criteria suggested by the Diocese, the result of all our responses was overwhelming, we need to '**Grow in numbers**' and secondly as this begins to happen; it may also help to '**Grow younger**' congregations. The remaining two categories were growing in 'influence' and growing in 'depth'. So the choice made in a group of small rural parishes should come as no surprise.

The next step, is that PCCs begin to pray, think and talk about any of the issues identified at the Benefice Council and in their preliminary PCC discussions to decide what it might be they could do to create an environment that will encourage Church growth. To discover what might be done, or not done, to begin planning for change. While at the same time retaining and valuing the good things that already exist.

While obviously we ourselves can't grow younger, what can we do now is to look for ways to encourage younger generations to an encounter with God, in any way we can. Take the small steps we can now that will help us toward securing the future of the church in our community for those who come after us.

The pessimists were saying "Oh, I didn't bother to take part – nothing will change". To these I say, "yes it will, because it must, your Church simply cannot go on expecting everyone to join the few in Church on Sunday .

Idea's raised to help our church grow in number included:

Building up attendance at 'united' services, getting to know people from other parishes better, keeping the Book of Common Prayer services where they are popular. Using more modern services where appropriate, improving how we communicate – better advertising. Creating/ update welcome packs/leaflets and deliver them to new residents . Avoiding 'jargon' /'church language' where possible.

What people already felt was important to us as church included:

Variety in liturgy, the 7 buildings, parish community events, bell ringing the choir, preserving the individual parish identities, and still being a worshipping community (of South Loes) in 10/25 year time

So as the PCCs begin to take this thinking and talking forward into action, as they work to build up community in the places in which they live, we also need to build up the worshipping community too, as one church held securely within seven parishes. For

growth to have a chance we need to build up attendances at all our services and this includes those in ‘our ‘ home parish, but also the united one’s too.

I have recently been asking people I meet who never or seldom attend church the ‘why not’ question, and the answers have been though provoking and interesting :

“*I don’t know where or how to park my car*” Well this has a simple resolution and it’s all about communication, ask for a lift from someone, and if you are going on Sunday invite your neighbour to come with you.

“*I won’t know anyone there*” Well you might be surprised and find you do, and if you don’t go; you never will, and this goes straight to the heart of being part of a community.

“*I don’t want my church to close*” Going elsewhere won’t make this happen. None of our 7 churches will close while they have an active /effective Church Council to run it, and have sufficient funds to pay for the Parish Share, insurance and maintenance.

“*I want to give my money to my church* “ Your church treasurer will be more than delighted to help you set up a direct debit so that your donation goes straight into your church bank account. Or you can send him a cheque from time to time, and then simply ignore the offertory plate when it is passed around, or put in a small token donation.

These last two comments were often repeated, and my response was always the same, no church will close while it is needed, and to be needed they have to be used. So by going elsewhere, even once a month, you will not damaging or weaken ‘your’ church., in fact you will play your part in strengthening one of the others. And all seven parishes host the united services in turn, thus benefitting from having a choir, hearing the bells, having a much larger congregation to worship and sing with, and the added bonus of having much larger offertory plate than usual. .

So if we take anything at all from the Growing in God initiative, it is that we can come closer together, it is that together we are stronger, together we can be braver and support one another. And oak trees grow from tiny acorns!!

At our final session of Growing in God on **Nov 11th in Marlesford Community Hall at 7pm for 7.30 (and there is some wine left believe it or not!)** We will be hearing about any parish specific ideas for encouraging a growth in numbers or attracting younger people to church related events. Some parishes have already had an idea or two, and some have even already started something new and how exciting is that!.

So regardless of if you’ve been part of the process from the start, attended just some of it, or if you wanted no part of it, don’t stop imagining, don’t stop praying and asking God what it is that he has in mind for the future of our seven parishes. *Deirdre*

MONEDDEN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Talks are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from Sept to April, at 7.30pm at Monewden Village Hall (next to the church). Visitors welcome £2.50. The annual subscription is £12 for our 8 meetings and is due at the September meeting. Next couple of talks are:-

November 11 th	The River Gipping Trust	Lewis Tyler
December 9th	Dads Army, the history of the TV series	Dave Steward

Peter Driver

KETTLEBURGH PARISH COUNCIL

will hold scheduled meetings on 12th November 2015, 4th February 2016 and 12th May 2016. All will start at 7:30pm and be held in Kettleburgh Village Hall.

BRANDESTON FILM CLUB 2nd Friday of each month starting at 7.30pm at the village hall. Membership is £10 for the year.

November 13th	Suffragette (2015)	The foot soldiers of the early feminist movement, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State. Director: Sarah Gavron Writer: Abi Morgan Stars: Helena Bonham Carter, Meryl Streep, Ben Whishaw
December 11th	Cinderella (2015)	A live action retelling of the classic fairy tale about a servant step-daughter who wins the heart of a prince. Director: Kenneth Branagh Writer: Chris Weitz (screenplay) Stars: Lily James, Hayley Atwell, Helena Bonham Carter

BRIDGE FARM OPEN DAY – 22nd November. 1pm-5pm

Following our successful open day last year, we will be opening up again this year. We now have a wider variety of workshops, making high quality products. You may even be able to buy an early Christmas gift. We will also have a pop-up cafe, featuring Henrietta Innam’s gorgeous cakes. Do come and visit us and have look round.

Sally and Steve Western

THE BRANDESTON WHIST DRIVE – Friday 27th November

Doors open at 6.30 For a prompt start at 7, at Brandeston village hall.
The cost remains at £2.50 per person. This includes a choice of fine wine and the usual selection of superb locally - produced refreshments at half time. New members please contact Peter on 01728 747315 .However due to the success of Rick and Pam during the ten years of their stewardship, space dictates future numbers are restricted.
The advanced notice of number of attendees helps us to gauge the amount of food and wine required and the number of tables required on the night. We look forward to seeing you all.

Peter Smyth

BRANDESTON VILLAGE HALL



**SATURDAY 28TH
NOVEMBER
7.30 PM.**

**TICKETS £7.50 PER
PERSON INCLUDING
SUPPER**

**To book a table for your team of up to
6 people please ring 685807**

CHARITY BRASS BAND CONCERT

The Christmas concert is in aid of the Scout Group that meets in Earl Soham and Kettleburgh; they are fund raising to purchase and maintain camping equipment and run children's activities. It is also to support the Band, which had the good fortune of qualifying for the national final championships this year and hence is now short of funds to purchase and maintain instruments and sheet music (it's probably just as well we didn't end up needing to insure a national trophy as well). Obviously, the band (which is of the inclusive type that more normally does fetes etc) feels at its peak right now, having had

our confidence boosted by qualifying and then practicing like mad for the finals. We are very much enjoying rehearsing Christmas music ready for this Christmas concert and have some lovely pieces lined up for your entertainment.



Refreshments

Raffle

Castleton

Brass Band

Christmas Concert

Sun 29th Nov at 2pm

Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham

Tickets £10

OAPs and children £5

Tickets available on the door

Ring 01728 273712 to reserve tickets

Or reserve online: 1stdebenvalley.suffolkscouts.org.uk

Or buy online from: castletonbrass.org.uk



Family Entertainment

*Fundraising for 1st Deben Valley Scout Group
and Eye based Castleton Brass*

ADVANCE NOTICES

Fri 4 th December	6.30pm	Kettleburgh Christmas Tree Lighting
Wed 16 th December		<u>Brandeston Carol Singing</u> at the Queen's Head
Sat 19 th December		<u>Old Chapel Candelit Evening</u> at Brandeston Chapel

Kettleburgh Christmas Tree Lighting – Friday 4th December – Lights on at 6:30p.m

Come along to Kettleburgh Village Hall on Friday 4th December for the Kettleburgh Christmas tree lighting. The hall will be open from 6:00p.m and at 6:30 we will sing a carol or two around the tree and turn on the Christmas tree lights. The Village Hall Committee is providing mulled wine and mince pies and the decorated Christmas tree, in its new position on the green by the hall. There will be Christmas music and time to chat. All are most welcome.

BRANDESTON CHRISTMAS CHOIR – it is hoped to practise again this year before the singing around the village Christmas tree and the carol singing in the pub on 16th December. Further information to follow.

OLD CHAPEL CANDLELIT EVENING – as usual the Saturday before Christmas – 19th December. More details later.

PAST EVENTS

THE CHURCH CYCLE RIDE/STRIDE

The forecast was not good, so we set off with wet weather gear, but by the time we arrived in Ipswich (on the bus) the clouds had parted to reveal the sun and the day warmed up considerably. Bill & I had planned a walking route to take us around the Ipswich town centre churches. We started at St Margaret's, by Christchurch Park. Unlike our country churches, most of the Ipswich churches are not always open, so this was a good opportunity to see inside as well as notch up numbers on the sponsor form. The day also coincided with the Heritage Open Day, so we were able to visit several historic buildings in between our church visits. The first of these was the Masonic Hall in Soane Street, where we were warmly welcomed and shown around. Our route took us next to the churches either side of Tavern St – St Mary-le-Tower, which is often used for concerts, St Stephen's – used for the Tourist Information centre, St Lawrence – now a café. Other medieval churches visited included St Nicholas – the C of E Diocesan centre, St Peter – used as a base for music making and St Clement - being renovated for a wellbeing centre.

It is amazing to think how close together all these ancient places of worship are, and the efforts and inspirations that went into building them so many centuries ago. We visited many other denominations – Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Quaker, Unitarian, United Reformed – 19 churches in all. There was even time to join the crowds cheering the cyclists as they finished their section of the Tour of Britain Cycling Race, before we caught the bus back home, passing Pat and Persephone on their bikes as they made their last stop of the day at Brandeston.

Jackie Clark

After a wet start the day turned out sunny, a splendid day for a cycle ride. Not so many visited us this year; 42 compared with 63 last year. Kettleburgh's total is £771.50.

Thank you to all cyclists, walkers, sitters and especially all who sponsored.

Pat Peck

Two cyclists from Brandeston raised the grand total of £907. Well done to you both. We also had 14 sitters at the church and chapel. It turned out to be a glorious afternoon and to sit in the sun at the chapel was a delight.

Thanks again to everyone who helped in every way.

Ruth Garratt

KETTLEBURGH GREEN TRUST LOTTERY

Results of the October draw are as follows:-

1st Prize: Susan & Trevor Jessop

2nd Prize: Jackie & Bill Clark

Trevor Jessop

BRANDESTON 100+ CLUB

Results of October 100+ club draw:

£25 No 82 Ian & Jenny Harvey

£10 No 28 Sue Eyles

NOTICES

HOUSE MOVE

Graham and Mary Vellacott have moved house after living in Soham House, Brandeston, for forty eight years. We have moved to a new house in Earl Soham street, opposite the church and village hall and on the same side as the Earl Soham surgery. Our new address is Strettham House, The Street, Earl Soham, Woodbridge IP13 7SF. There will be no change in our phone number, 01728 685423.

People have been very kind to us and sent us many cards – THANK YOU all for this, many have come in person and waded through the waters of a building site to give us a beautiful card or possibly flowers.

At present we are in the midst of getting used to living in a brand new house full of safety measures and insulation; warm and cosy! There have been problems and still are, we had no TV for a week because of aerial problems and (as I write) we have no phone or broadband but life does go on. We are grateful when people have lent us their phone. We look forward to welcoming many people to come and see us, you are welcome! Our previous house, Soham House, is sold to a lovely family; Jonathan (an O.F.) and Clare Rigler, with children Lucy and Oliver who attend Brandeston Hall School.

Graham Vellacott

DOG FOULING

A gentle reminder to dog owners to pay attention to their dogs on Brandeston playing field as dog poo has been found in the areas where children play. Also plastic poo bags have been found thrown in the ditch. The hall committee would be grateful if these bags could be taken home to their own rubbish bins please. Thank you.

<p>EASTON PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER 5 HOURS PER WEEK</p> <p>Responsible for maintaining the administration of the Parish Council within the legal boundaries set for Local Government. Reporting directly to the Chair and carrying out duties as agreed by the whole council. Salary and Training in accordance with experience. This is a varied and rewarding post. Further details – Chair, Mrs Sue Piggott -01728 746622 / sue.e.piggott@btinternet.com.</p> <p>To Apply, please send CV and 2 References to The Chair Easton Parish Council, Oakburn, Harriers Walk, Easton, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0HA</p>

THE SURVIVING WINTER APPEAL

Unbelievable as it might sound, 450* vulnerable people in Suffolk die in the winter months from causes directly attributable to the cold and poor living conditions. The vast majority of individuals affected are over 65 years old.

In fact, this is just the tip of the iceberg- almost 30,000** households in Suffolk currently live in fuel poverty. Many will suffer in silence during the coldest months, hidden from view, withdrawn from their community and surrounds.

Spearheaded by the Suffolk Community Foundation and in partnership with Age UK Suffolk and the East Anglian Daily Times, the Surviving Winter campaign offers vulnerable older individuals respite from the anxiety of managing fuel costs and the opportunity to stay warm and healthy during the winter. Over £85,000 was raised in the winter of 2014-2015, helping over 300 older households in the county.

Suffolk Community Foundation is now asking you to pledge your Winter Fuel Payment to those in need of extra support during the winter.

The money raised will be used in 2 ways:

- Support payments to those in need to help heat their homes properly, eat healthily and keep in touch with their community.
- Grants to local charities who support older, vulnerable people.

This truly is an extraordinarily worthwhile campaign, so please.....IF YOU DON'T NEED IT, PLEASE DONATE IT!

For ways to donate please contact The Suffolk Community Foundation on 01473 602 602. To claim please contact Age UK Suffolk on 01473 359911

**Public Health England 2012/13 **Office for National Statistics*

***Office for National Statistics*

REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE A LOVED ONE IN FRAMLINGHAM THIS CHRISTMAS

St Elizabeth Hospice is inviting the local community to join them this Christmas at the Community Light up a Life service at St Michael's Church, Framlingham, to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one at this poignant time of year. Every year, the hospice holds these candlelit services to offer local people the opportunity to reflect on their memories of family, friends and colleagues who are no longer with us.

The service will be held on **Sunday 29 November at 4pm** in the Church and will be led by Reverend Canon Mark Sanders.

Light up a Life services are free to attend, suitable for the whole family and open to anyone. They include carols, music, readings and the occasion to light a candle in memory of your loved one.

You can also personalise a St Elizabeth Hospice Special Memories Card, perhaps with a photograph, poem or drawing, to display at the service of your choosing.

Pauline Donkin of St Elizabeth Hospice, said: "Christmas is a time for giving and sharing, a moment for enjoying being with your family members and loved ones. But it is also a

time for reflecting on the lives of loved ones we have lost, remembering these special people and the cherished memories that we hold dear to our hearts.

“The Light up a Life service is open to anyone who would like to come. They don’t have to have been cared for by the hospice and they could just be someone you can’t be with over the Christmas period.

“Every Christmas we hold these events in your local community so everybody can come together and reflect on those memories at this special time of year and we hope you will join us at your nearest service.”

If you would like to attend the Light up a Life service or to request a Special Memories Card, please call 01473 723600 or email fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk

Once again, there is also the opportunity to dedicate a light in a loved one’s memory online on the Hospice’s virtual Christmas Tree at www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/lightupalife

Your donation will help provide care and support to people in Suffolk this Christmas living with a progressive illness such as cancer, motor neurone disease and heart failure.

VILLAGE WEBSITES

For up-to-date information about your village, visit these websites:

www.brandeston.net

www.kettleburgh.suffolk.gov.uk

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Please send, deliver or e-mail any contributions for the magazine by 15th of each month to:

Mrs Val Butcher, Woodlands, Church Road, Kettleburgh, IP13 7LF

or e-mail valerie.butcher@talk21.com, tel: 724777.

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

Covers

Thank you very much to **Martin Myers-Allen** who has provided some lovely cover drawing for recent magazines. Thank you also to **Janet Weston** who is providing regular drawings for our magazine cover.

If anyone else would like to draw a cover sometime, you are very welcome.

ORAL HISTORY – Part 1

As Monewden Local History society approached its 40th anniversary I had been looking at some notes I took at one of the early meetings. We had managed to gather a group of local tradesmen to talk about their working lives in the first half of the 20th century.

Mr Aldous, a harness maker with a business in Debenham high street said he started work in 1913 at the age of 12. He was paid the sum of 6 old pence (two and one half pence today) which doubled when he reached the age of 13. He worked from 7am-7pm with a half hour break for dinner and tea. The hides they used were purchased twelve months ahead and these would be rubbed with Russian tallow and laid on fitted racks. The tanning process would take 3-4 years to complete but no leather was waterproof, it was the grease that was put on it that made it so. When making pony harness he inserted 9 stitches to the inch, a set taking 11,000 stitches, all done by hand. He told us that many wealthy people were notoriously bad payers and you had to embarrass some to get what they owed you. He talked of visiting big houses, even on Christmas day to get his money. One day he called at a farm where the farmer met him at the gate. This man had lost part of his arm.

“What dew yew want master ”? he enquired.

“I want some money” said Mr A.

The farmer extended his hook and said “ Well shake hands with that bor cos so dew I”

Hector Moore, the well-known blacksmith from the forge at Brandeston was full of interesting facts.

He worked from 6am-6pm Monday to Friday finishing at 4pm on Saturdays. He was apprenticed for 2/6d per week but there were “perks” If a colt was brought in to be shod for the first time it would cost the farmer 3/6d or a gallon of beer before the “beer nail” (the first nail, was driven). This was because the animal would probably take much more controlling to calm it down “If yew knew the farm it was coming from then yew knew what to expect” he said. Sometimes we would get a poorly nourished animal in from someone on hard times. “When poverty gets in the stable it gets in the kitchen”.

It was hot painful work and it took him a while to get used to the blistered knuckles and armpits when sparks went up his sleeves. Copious amounts of home brewed beer were drunk, especially in summer, and “I can never remember anybody washing up! The beer was just about right. Any better and we wouldn’t have got it, any worse and we wouldn’t have drunk it.”

On shoeing Hector told us that if a team of horses were pulling a wagon with 4 ton of grain up to Ipswich he could put new shoes on a horse on a Monday and they would wear them out in a week. An alternative was to do “removes” where he would remove the shoes and refit them on the horses’ other side. A new set of shoes cost 6/8d in the 1950s. They didn’t waste and could make one new shoe from one and a half old ones.

A farmer named Wilson (Cretingham or Framsdan?) had 38 shire horses of which that wonderful old character, Sam Friend, drove four. Shire horses suffered a complaint whilst working the Suffolk clay land. It was known as “greasy leg”. Hector said “It was because they were being worked in conditions they weren’t bred for, it was their hairy feet that was the problem. They got growths on their legs that often became infested with maggots. They never got the problem if they were working in the north. The Suffolk Punch never got them. We would treat the infected leg with Stockholm tar as we were first line veterinary people in those days and could help horses quite a bit.”

Hector pre-dated the horse whisperers in that he would breathe into a horse’s nostrils to calm it down. An alternative was to rub your own saliva along its lips. The biggest aid to dealing with horses is confidence but to back it up, most horsemen had a “lure”. The principle of this device goes back to ancient times and has a lot of magic connected to it. Probably the element that did the trick was the aniseed and other aromatic chemicals that were added to the wax ball which was then “cured” by being strapped under the armpit for a couple of months. It was thought that rubbing this on the horse’s nose would have a calming effect. He said that people who knew horses could prevent them entering a field by rubbing something on a gatepost.

(I remember Moggy Hennessy having a problem with a horse that wouldn’t go past the black dustbin sacks that we put outside the cottage ready for collection. When I offered to remove them she told me that this was the problem the horse had and she was trying to cure him of it!)

While he was still learning his trade he saw his “Guvnor” shoe an ox. A suet firm used a pair of oxen to pull a decorated advertising cart and one of the beasts dropped a shoe just outside Brandeston. An ox shoe is made in two pieces, with a flange on each that goes into the cleft with all the nails driven into the front of the hoof. He had never shod an ox before but very little fazes a true craftsman and he worked out what he had to do by looking at the other feet.

Peter Driver

(More to follow next month)

CHURCH CLEANING

Brandeston

1st Jane Mitchell and Louise Paget
8th Helen Fletcher and Karren Piper
15th Ruth Garratt and Mary Baker
22nd Christine and Colin Matthews
29th Julia Elson and Kelly Jeffery

Kettleburgh

Margaret Meadows
Alison Gibson
Jackie Clark
Jane O'Leary
Fay Clarke

CHURCH FLOWERS

1st Helen Saxton
8th Eve Crane
15th Nancy Demetriadi
22nd Ruth Garratt
29th

Katie Harris
Jackie Clark
Jackie Clark
Jackie Clark

ADVENT
