

# Brixworth Bulletin

Including Draughton, Hanging Houghton and Lamport

Issue No.11, December 2006

## **PITSFORD RESERVOIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



Sunrise at Pitsford Reservoir photographed recently by Jane Neill

Pitsford Reservoir was opened in 1956 by the Queen Mother. Prior to that date, a number of villages in the area did not have a mains water supply. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening, on the 23rd October 2006 were 56 children and their teachers from Wilsbarton Church of England Primary School who were given a tour of the reservoir. Wilsbarton was one of the villages who did not have a mains water supply prior to 1956. Today the reservoir supplies 45 million litres of water every day to homes in the area.

The Mayor of Northampton Councillor Colin Lill and Anglian Water Chief Operating Officer Peter Simpson celebrated the anniversary by cutting a giant cake depicting Pitsford Water complete with bicycle and fish.

There was a fascinating display of photographs and press cuttings documenting 50 years of Pitsford Water thanks to Jean Templeman of Brixworth Local History Society.

### **NEW YEARS EVE MILLENNIUM BEACON LIGHTING TIME AND ARRANGEMENTS**

The Millennium Beacon in All Saints' Church car park will be lit again on New Year's Eve at 11.30pm for about an hour and will be accompanied by the ringing of the church bells. The Church will also be open for a quiet prayer or meditation. Please come along and commemorate in traditional way the beginning of the New Year with hope for a better one in 2007.

Refreshments will be served around the Beacon with the First Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group in attendance as stewards. All the money raised from the sale of refreshments will be donated to them as part of their 2007 fund raising activities. Please contact David Hymas with any questions on the arrangements telephone number 881755

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# RESULT OF ARSON ATTACK ON BARNS AT BOTTOM OF FROGHALL

*Fire Brigade hoses directed on roof which contained asbestos*



Photograph taken by Jane Neill next morning, after start of blaze

The day before most schools re-opened after the summer holidays, a large barn near the bottom of Froghall was set on fire. The smell of burning hay was noticeable for about an hour in many parts of the village before police vehicles with loud-hailers were touring the village instructing residents to go into their houses and shut all doors and windows and not to remain outdoors.

This instruction was issued at about 3.30pm and again repeated about 9.30pm.

The barn is leased by Mr Tony Leagus and was badly damaged. Fire Brigade vehicles were in attendance until late the following day as the hay burned. Water was continually sprayed on the roof which was thought to contain asbestos. Several residents who suffer from chest

infections were affected by the acrid smell. One neighbour with small children stayed at another location for several days.

It is understood that the barn will be repaired, but the timescale is dependent on the insurance company. A police representative thought that the fire had been started deliberately by youths seen in the neighbourhood shortly before the fire started.

No arrests, as yet, have been made.

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# REVIEW – THE HOLLOW CROWN

## by Brixworth Drama Group

During the summer's productions by Brixworth Drama Group, a cast member in a play about a village drama group says 'That's all we ever do, a nice little farce'. True to form Brixworth has seen light comedies or thrillers and pantomime for a considerable time, but with increasing confidence within the group has come determination to vary the diet. The Hollow Crown marks the first attempt at something different.

The Hollow Crown is not really a play at all, but it is a piece of drama. It was written by a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company and is a collection of a series of contemporary accounts of the Royal Family from William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria, by Royalty, Writers, Historians, even Journalists. It is a serious piece, even when it is funny.

So the scene was set for a serious evening, although the tables in the Hall were laid out informally with nibbles and the audience could, as with the summer productions, have a drink at their table.

Robin Armstrong, Stuart Cooper, Amanda Pilgrim and James Skeggs formed the cast, taking it in turns to rise to the lectern for speeches or in some cases to engage in verbal duelling.



(Photograph by Ian Pilgrim)

There was a song, accompanied by Andy Knight on guitar and Andy Bransby on keyboard. The cast all delivered their lines very strongly throughout, though the material varied somewhat in strength, it was all brought to life by the understanding which the cast brought to each piece. It was clear that the cast had put in a phenomenal amount of work to bring a very high standard of delivery to each piece and to act out the scenes that required it, without props or set.

It's impossible to mention all the episodes specifically, but some particularly impressed, bringing home to the audience a sense of the time and the occasion. Anne Boleyn, awaiting her fate imprisoned in the Tower, writes a

moving letter to King Henry, beautifully and poignantly delivered by Amanda. The dialogue crackles as Stuart Cooper, as King Charles, faces down his opponent James Skeggs as Judge John Bradshaw, during his treason trial. The male cast delivers a very funny ballad about the sex life of Queen Eleanor (no change there then), as her King discovers she's not safe with his best mate, or his best mate either. More humour of the diplomatic kind as James Skeggs describes attempts to discover the physical charms of the daughter of the Queen of Naples, concealed as they are under layers of clothing – the diplomats suspect, in diplomatic language, she may be no beauty. Stuart manages a genuine Scots accent, though we're not sure which part of Scotland, for a diatribe by James I against tobacco. Robin Armstrong reads eloquently of Charles II short-lived love for Catherine of Braganza, expressed through a speech to parliament no less – another piece with a modern parallel.

The Brixworth History Society had a private performance on Thursday 21st September followed by open performances on the following 2 nights. The cast directed themselves. The usual front of house team kept the bar going and the audiences in order.

The Hollow Crown can be performed almost anywhere and the group is prepared to take the production further afield – enquiries to James Skeggs on 01604882492 or james@skeggs37.freerve.co.uk  
Robin Pool

### CHARITY GARDEN PARTY

The beautiful gardens at Lake House Brixworth provided the spectacular setting for a charity garden party on Saturday 2nd September. The event generously sponsored by Horts Estate Agents was organised to raise funds for the Brixworth Youth Foundation, a registered charity which runs the Brixworth Youth Club. The club was set up in March 2005 to provide much needed facilities for young people to meet friends, take part in organised tournaments and be creative.

Despite the blustery, wet weather there was a great turn out. On arrival the guests were greeted with a welcome drink. The children were treated to face painting, a bouncy castle and garden games while their parents tried their luck on the popular bottle tombola.

A delicious BBQ was provided followed by wonderful desserts kindly donated by the WI. Live music from the 60's, 70's and 80's was performed by The Commodores who gave their time for free.

The charity auction followed and featured a wide variety of prizes including a Michael Schumacher signature kindly donated by Ellen Parrot and a David Suter print signed by 20 current Saints rugby players. The Auctioneer for the night was Andy Smith who generated some enthusiastic bidding and managed to raise £1700.

The band continued to play into the night and as the wind finally dropped everyone continued to dance the night away.

The Fundraising committee would like to thank Rosemary and David Tuckley for allowing us to use their beautiful grounds and for all their help and support. We would also like to thank the numerous individuals and organisations who donated prizes, time, money and equipment.

The hugely successful event finally wound down having raised a massive £5,500.



# MADE IN BRIXWORTH

## James McIntosh - Mission Africa



was mainly involved in the stone masonry part of the project, but assisted other trades to complete their work.

James thoroughly enjoyed the experience and now plans to move to the Docklands part of

London, where he will work on the building of the Olympic 2012 facilities.

An enterprising product of Brixworth and we wish him every success with his career.

*Harvey Fox*

James McIntosh was born in 1986 and has lived all his life in Brixworth, recently moving from Tantree Way, Brixworth to Wooton. James was one of 15 building apprentices selected from hundreds of applicants across the UK to take part in a new BBC TV series called Mission Africa which will commence in early January 2007 at 7.00pm and will run for 3 weeks and be screened every week-day night.

The series sees 15 apprentices travelling deep into the hostile frontier lands of Northern Kenya. With them is their new foreman Nick Knowles (DIY SOS) and Ken Hames (Beyond Boundaries). Working side by side with local people, the apprentices had six weeks to build a game reserve. The team of rooky builders, electricians, plumbers and architects not only have to build the reserve and bring water to it, but they have to stalk and capture animals such as rhino, elephant and giraffe to help repopulate the area. The ultimate aim of the Mission Africa team is to build a sustainable business that will bring back life to this war torn region of Africa and save endangered animals. Their training takes place at Lewa, a conservancy further south and at Sera, a new community conservation area in the far north of Kenya towards the Ethiopian and Somali borders.

At the build site the team construct a dining room, kitchen and store room along with two separate lodge bedrooms – one of which is to be known as the Mission Africa suite. They were also involved in building a water hole for the wild animals for the local Samburu people.

James went to Brixworth Primary School and Moulton School followed by training in stone masonry at Moulton College. He went to Sera, in Northern Kenya on the 21st August 2006 and worked there until the 1st October 2006 where he



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# HANGING HOUGHTON AND LAMPORT NEWS



On the 7th October the Parochial Church Council organised the Harvest Supper for the Lamport Church. For the first time this was held at the Loder Hall, the village hall in Maidwell, rather than in the church itself. The event was a great success and the hall was filled to capacity. A good time was had by all, and the large sum of £800 was raised for the church funds. Our thanks go to all the organisers, helpers, and all those who attended.

The Parish Council organised the now annual Bonfire Night celebration on Saturday the 4th November. This event was attended by over 100 adults and 50+ children. Again this year we were lucky with the weather. The bonfire was huge and was still smouldering after 3 days. A fine firework display lasted for over half an hour, followed by fish & chips or soup and all washed down by a glass or two of ale or wine. Again many thanks to all those who helped organise & run such a successful evening, particularly Tom Saunders for all his help setting up the barn and building the bonfire.

*Mike Philpott.*

# DRAUGHTON NEWS



A lot has happened in our small village since I sent my last report. Robert Russell has stood down as Churchwarden after 26 years of loyal service to St Catherine's. He had been treasurer for 30 years and was also secretary. The whole of the village joined in expressing their gratitude to Robert for his long and devoted service. We thank Sebastian Calnan for taking over as our churchwarden and Melanie Duke who will be treasurer and Jo Prout who takes over as secretary.

Melanie and Jo organised a wonderful quiz night in the Club Room and cooked delicious casseroles for the event. John Duke set some really good interesting questions and the 'Village People' were the victors. The whole evening was a great success and raised £300 for the church funds.

The Harvest Festival was a lovely service and the auction of produce raised over £60. Thanks to all who helped decorate the church and special thanks to Holly and Lauren Duke who brought along the characters (see picture) to sit by the font.

A Christmas Fayre is being held in the Church on Sunday 3rd December at 2.00pm.

The Club Room extension has not been forgotten and, despite many set backs and dozens of forms to fill in, the Trustees are working hard to get the elusive grant for work to begin.

*Anne Block*

# PARTY-TIME AT THE ALLOTMENTS



A party was held recently at the allotments to celebrate the largest pumpkin. Phil Wright's was the biggest and he is shown in the photograph displaying his pride.

## **BRIXWORTH CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

**Saturday December 2nd 2006**

**Above the Library 12 noon until 3pm**

Father Christmas will arrive in the village at 10a.m.

He will start at the shops and begin his trip around the village ending again at the shops.

He will then be inside the library at 12 noon.

Attractions include

- Face painting
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- Chocolate tombola
- Cakes and preserves
- Raffle for Christmas hamper

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# BULLETIN BOARD

## Brixworth Primary CEVC School

The school has achieved the nationally recognised Basic Skills Quality Mark Award. To achieve the standard the school had to provide evidence to an external Assessor that it met the following conditions:

- A whole school strategy was in place to improve pupils' performance in basic skills.
- Effective assessment and regular review is undertaken of pupil performance.
- The school has a plan and targets for improvement in basic skills.
- There is a commitment to improving the skills of staff to teach and extend basic skills.
- A range of teaching styles are adopted using a range of appropriate resources and materials.
- The involvement of parents in developing their children's basic skills.

All pupils have received a badge and bookmark to celebrate the school's achievement.

## Brixworth Village Hall

Brixworth Village Hall Committee has been busy with fund raising events and has made the following net profits from three recent events

- Quiz Night £300
- Table Top Sale £140
- Halloween 27th October £365

A new Administrator has been appointed for the Village Hall and is now in post. Isobel Lambley, who lives in Brixworth, and is also a Meals on Wheels Co-ordinator for the WRVS in Northampton, can be contacted for bookings on 01604 880654.

It is panto time again. "Oh yes it is". Brixworth Drama Group are performing a traditional Panto "Aladdin" on Saturday 20th January at 2.00pm and 7.30pm., Friday 26th January 7.30pm and Saturday 27th 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

There is a licensed bar from 7.00pm before the performance and during the interval. Tickets are £5.00, adults £ 4.00, children and concessions £15.00, family ticket (2 adults plus 2 children).

If you don't want to be disappointed, be an early bird and get your tickets at Lovell Hardware, Spratton Road, Brixworth 01604 880580 or from Heather Pool 01604 881166. Tickets available early January.

## Brixworth Women's Institute Programme for 2007

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at Brixworth Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members welcome.

- January 9th. Dr M Lewis will talk on the 'Meaning of Dreams'.
- February 13th. Mr S Antrobus will talk of 'Life in the Land Army in Northamptonshire'. (With slides)
- March 13th. Mr M Billingham (Billing Garden Centre) - 'Plants for all seasons'.
- April 10th . Mrs Diana Birch will talk on her Cycle Ride around Cuba to raise funds for Denman College.
- May 8th. Resolutions. These are discussed by W.I.'s all over the country.
- June 12th. Mr T Williams will give a talk on Wills and Assets.
- July 10th . Brixworth W.I. ladies - Taste of Summer.
- August Holiday

Anyone wishing for more information about us, please contact the President on 01604 883615 or the Secretary on 01604 880317.

## POPPY APPEAL 2006

Brixworth raised this year £1385 for the Royal British Legion Appeal. Congratulations to the contributors and local organiser Jonty Myles.

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**"DEEP and CRISP and EVEN"**  
After quite a break, FASMADD (The Friends of All Saints Music, Arts, Drama and Dance) are pleased to announce the return of their famous and well-loved Christmas Concert.

As reflects a Christmas offering, all the traditional ingredients are there - carols for the audience, music with a festive cheer and readings to reflect the true spirit of Christmas. But, in addition, the coveted surprise sixpence in the pudding or gift in the cracker, instead of an orchestra we have saxophones!! As well as the organ, we have recorders!! And at least one of the Carols may sound very familiar but quite different!! Conducted by Brixworth's own musical impresario, Graham Tear, the evening promises to be a great start to the festivities to come. So, please wend your way to All Saints Church (Brixworth) on **Saturday 9th December** for a 7.30 pm start. **Tickets are £6.00 for adults (£5.00 to Friends and concessions) and £1.00 for children** (So make it a real Christmas occasion and bring the whole family). Continue the merry making in the interval with a complimentary glass of mulled wine and a mince pie whilst we try to persuade you to partake in the now infamous FASMAD Instant Raffle! Book your tickets from Lovells' Hardware, Spratton Road or Bev King, 01604 880951 or just turn up on the night. We shall be looking forward to celebrating with you all!

*Roger Brown*

Sandra, Gary and family would like to say thank you to family and friends who have supported us through the very sad time of losing our grandson Harley, who was born peacefully sleeping on August 30th 2006. Also very special thanks to our work friends at Boniface House, Brixworth and Midland Scaffolding Services, Scaldwell, for all their support.

*Sandra and Gary Skinner*

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# PLANNING STATUS REPORT

## STANDARD'S BOARD DIRECTIVE

REFERENCE NO. & DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	P.C. RECOMMENDATION & D.D.C DECISION
DA/2006/0169 Hutchinson 3G UK Ltd. Brixworth Water Tower, Broad St. Installation of three 1.7 metre telecommunications antennas and supporting poles, one 300mm and one 600mm diameter dish antennas, radio equipment housing.	DDC Refused.
WP/2006/0171/F Sywell Aerodrome. Highway improvement works consisting of road widening and realignment of stone wall.	PC 25/4 Support for application
DA/2006/0617 Pebble Cottage, 2 Cross Hill. Conservatory to rear.	PC 27/6 No Observations. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0660 Pitsford Cycle Hire, Brixworth Country Park. Extension to form additional cycle storage area.	PC 25/7 No Observations. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0708 83 The Ashway. Loft conversion and extensions.	PC 25/7 No Observations. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0699 10&12 Kennel Terrace. Conservatories at rear of both properties.	PC 25/7 No Objections. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0774 The Lodge Brixworth Hall Park. Car port and extension to laundry room.	PC 26/7 No Objections. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0776 30 Grass Slade Front porch and window canopy.	PC 26/7 No Objections. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0782 1 Litchfield Close Single garage at front of dwelling.	PC 26/7 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0789 Land adjacent to 33 Lesson Road. Outline application for a new dwelling	PC 26/7 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0797 38 Brampton Way. Two storey extension & first floor extensions to side of dwelling	PC 26/7 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0811 10 Hall Farm Close. Two-storey rear extension.	PC 29/8 The 45 degree sight line should not be infringed. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0817 22 Knightons Way. Single-storey rear extension.	PC 29/8 No observations. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0876 4 Juniper Thorn. Single-storey extension to side & rear.	PC 29/8 No observations. DDC Approved.
DA/2006/0883 The Old Vicarage, 14 Church Street. Listed building consent for relocation and replacement of the existing kitchen.	PC 29/8 No observations. DDC Refused.
DA/2006/0998 CPL Fragrances, Quarry Road. Renewal of planning permission DA/2006/1086 for temporary building for storage.	PC 26/9 The Parish Council objects to this application, which does not appear to be necessary if a new storage unit is to be built.
DA/2006/1000 New Building Farm, Scaldwell Road. Replace a temporary dwelling with permanent agricultural workers dwelling	PC 26/9 No Objection.
DA/2006/0545/F Sywell Aerodrome Ltd. Construction of surface water drainage system to serve paved runway, taxiway and apron.	PC 26/9 The Parish Council objects to this application. It would seem logical to consider the provision of a drainage system together with an application for a paved runway rather than on its own.
DA/2006/1085 20 Northampton Road. First floor extension above garage.	PC 31/10 No Objections although one Cllr wished for concerns over size of extension to be recorded.
DA/2006/1104 27 Pychley Close. Two storey extension to the side.	PC 31/10 No Objections but recommendation that adjacent hedge be retained.
DA/2006/1154 10 Kennel Ter Conservatory to rear	PC 28/11 No Objection.
DA/2006/1168 25 Knightons Way. Single storey extension to rear of building	PC 28/11 No Objection.
DA/2006/1199 8 Waterpike Conservatory to rear	PC 28/11 No Objection

'On 5th October, 2006, the Standards Sub-committee of DDC met to consider allegations that (former) Brixworth Parish Councillors Frank WiiG and Elizabeth WiiG had failed to comply with Part 2 (Interests) of the Code of Conduct in that, Mrs. Elizabeth WiiG did not declare her personal and prejudicial interest in the Brixworth Youth Foundation at the Brixworth Parish Council meetings held on 27th September and 25th October 2005 and that Mr. Frank WiiG did not declare his personal and prejudicial interest in the Brixworth Youth Foundation at the Brixworth Parish Council meeting held on 27th September and 25th October 2005, when the Parish Council discussed the allocation of £5,000 to the Brixworth Youth Foundation. (Former) Brixworth Parish Councillors Frank and Elizabeth WiiG also failed to comply with Part 3 (The Register of Members' Interests) of the Code of Conduct in that; they did not register their interest in the Brixworth Youth Foundation. The sub-committee decided that Mr. & Mrs. WiiG failed to comply with Part 2 and Part 3 of the code of Conduct when they were serving as Councillors on Brixworth Parish Council. Although the sub-committee recognised that the former Parish Councillors were serving a good cause, there were concerns as to how the matter had been dealt with. The sub-committee recognised the apology that Mr. & Mrs. WiiG had made for the breaches of the Code of Conduct and believed that a similar situation would not arise again.

Consequently the breaches were serious enough for Mr. & Mrs. WiiG to be censured for non-compliance with the Code of Conduct when serving as Councillors on Brixworth Parish Council. Mr. & Mrs WiiG's subsequent appeal was dismissed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Cllr. Paddy Fox, currently a serving member of the parish council is also under investigation for alleged breach of the Code of Conduct, in so far as, it is claimed, she did not declare a personal or prejudicial interest neither did she leave the room during the agenda item. The agenda item in question concerned a list of payments for the council to make for May 2006 which was circulated for members to sign, in order that each account could be passed for payment. One such payment was to be made to the Brixworth Bulletin for the printing costs of The Parish Plan Questionnaire and The Parish Council Annual Report 2005-2006 both distributed in the June issue of the Bulletin. Cllr. Mrs. Fox is a member of the Brixworth Bulletin team.

Determination of this case will follow.

### RIGIFLEX REDEVELOPMENT

The Bulletin talked to Peter Garley Managing Director of Rigiflex in mid November and he stated that new premises had been found in Brixworth on the Trading Estate, which would be much more advantageous to his staff than the previous location possibility at Moulton. A lease is about to be signed and work had commenced on necessary modifications to the utilities supplies.

He hoped the move would take place in the early new year and he would then be able to hand over vacant possession of the Northampton Road site to Haddon Developments for building work to commence.

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Bulletin was hoping to feature a photograph of a complete Parish Council of 14 councillors in this issue, now that Cllr Sue Verallo had been elected unopposed to fill the last vacancy, following a spate of resignations several months ago. However it was not to be, as a result of two resignations from Paul Savage and Simon Killick. At the moment one vacancy can be filled by co-option, the other is running its course in the system. We have been asked to publish the following notice.

**Brixworth Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, which may be filled by co-option. Any resident interested in applying for this vacancy should contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs Jane Mackan, 3 Tantree Way, Brixworth NN6 9UQ or telephone her on 01604 881243 as soon as possible**

## BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS POLICY

Community groups who wish to apply for a Community Grant must submit their grant applications by the 31st December 2006. Application forms are available from the Clerk, Tel: 881243 or e-mail [pc\\_brixworth@daventrydc.gov.uk](mailto:pc_brixworth@daventrydc.gov.uk)

## CHANGING ROOMS ASHWAY PLAYING FIELD

Brixworth Parish Council has placed an order with Thurstons Building Systems for prefabricated changing rooms at a revised price quoted September 2006 which totals £97,244. The anticipated delivery date is February 2007. External works which include stripping the site, pad foundations, foul and surface water drainage, mains electrics and water supply have still to be negotiated. At the last full council, it was resolved to appoint a clerk of works.

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## GRAFFITI NUISANCE



"It is disappointing to see the continual graffiti attacks on our village. This mindless behaviour undermines the efforts of so many people working to make this village a better place and ultimately the cost of removal falls on the Council Tax payer and others who voluntarily help. It is a community problem and I would ask the community to use their eyes and ears and not hesitate to contact any Parish Councillor or the police if they know the identity of those responsible. I hope the expanding Neighbourhood Watch areas which the Parish Council has encouraged will also be able to assist in this matter and that other areas in the village may consider setting one up."

*Ian Barratt Chairman of Parish Council*

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Editor: Harvey Fox	880357
Sports Editor: John Biscoe	880229
Advertising Manager: Sue Verallo	881422
Advertising Design: George Hammerschmidt	880212
Distribution Manager: Jane Nell	880618
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Pitsford Toddler Group meets every Wednesday in term time from 9.30am to 11.30am, at Pitsford Village Hall (next to the Griffin Pub).

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We also have special events, which in 2006 have included a sponsored toddle for Barnados, sales of various goods for Mums and kids, summer trips out including Wicksteed Park, and most recently a Halloween party.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bulletin

I would like to reply to the open letter from Father Watkins in the last issue of *The Bulletin*

Your present Parish Council has been extremely pro-active concerning road safety. Unfortunately many people seem unaware of our present initiatives even though minutes of all meetings are published and many can be found on the internet. Our vicar is really pushing an open door with road safety as far as we are concerned; we are in total agreement with his concerns and I thank you for the opportunity to point them out.

1. Froxhill Crescent has been identified by residents as one potentially dangerous road. With your Parish Council's encouragement, a police covert speed measuring exercise was set up in Froxhill Crescent a few weeks ago. The maximum speed measured was an amazing 51mph and a large number of vehicles were travelling at well over 30 mph. The irony is that in this residential area with virtually no "through traffic", the speeding vehicles were thought to be largely those of local people – maybe some of them the very ones who are complaining about speeding motorists!

2. We have identified Northampton Road as an area of particular potential danger – from the old Hilltop garage area down to the butchers in particular. The Council has debated whether "no parking" lines on the corner by the butchers would help. It would certainly improve visibility and allow the dropped kerb to be used by the elderly and parents with push-chairs. We have been informed that this cannot be done without a legal Order which would certainly be well beyond our finances at present.

3. We have looked at the problems of crossing Northampton Road – a pelican crossing is a possibility. It would mean a loss of parking places and we would need to ensure it was silent at night for the sake of peace for the local residents.

4. We are active in considering a working group to study the problem of road safety in the village – all are welcome to contribute.

I have personally met with County Council representatives recently, concerning the Safe Journey to School scheme asking what are the chances of getting funding? I was told that the scheme will eventually cover all County schools, but it is no longer at the instigation of each school – the scheme now means the surrounding area has to be risk assessed and the most dangerous areas will be dealt with first. Brixworth is quite a way down the list. It is often argued that parked cars slow traffic down and so any alterations have to be made with caution, though personally I'm not sure about that.

It seems that eventually the surrounding area of the school may receive attention and we can augment this to improve the rest of Northampton Road when we see what will be provided as part of the Scheme. However, we are all aware of the delays for what can be perceived as low-priority work. A while ago a vehicle crashed into the planters on the Spratton Road chicane causing them damage. We were told the planters had to be removed on safety grounds and although the contractors were most helpful and co-operative, their funding did not allow removal of what became an eyesore for many months. Sadly, it appears that if someone gets badly injured or killed, then you rise up the queue. To try and make improvements ourselves, we have again made contact with the school governors, and this time their very positive response has been most appreciated and we look forward to working with them in the future.

I know the Parish Council will want the School's view on the plans for a huge radio transmission mast on top of the water tower in addition to the extra ones already planned - that is yet another issue we face.

I thank Father Watkins for raising the issue of road safety. I hope I have been able to show you that the present Parish Council is far from believing that everything is satisfactory and are taking a positive approach to this. It is perhaps unfortunate that our role is one of campaigning for improvements rather than having complete control of a budget enabling us to do everything ourselves. But, rest assured, despite feeling at times that the odds are stacked heavily against us, this is a very live issue for your present Parish Council.

Yours sincerely  
Ian Barratt  
Chairman,  
Brixworth Parish Council

Dear Bulletin

I totally agree with the vicar. (Bulletin 10 Church letter) It is absolutely horrendous the speed of motorists driving on the Northampton Road.

I just cannot understand why the Council have done nothing at all in persuading the traffic to slow down in this village. Apart from the 30m.p.h. sign when you approach the village, there is nothing else at all.

I recently visited the village of Spratton and was totally amazed that the road through the village has slow-down humps along the complete length of the village and has a crossing by the village shop.. Surely if it can be done in Spratton and a speed camera in Chapel Brampton, then Brixworth must be the next priority for traffic lights, slow-down humps or crossings before there is a serious accident.

The Parish Council should ask the village if we think the present arrangements are quite satisfactory – And the answer will be NO.

Yours sincerely

A very unhappy Brixworth resident



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Brixworth Centre Pre-School,  
Church Street will be holding a  
Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2nd  
December 2006 from 2-4 pm.  
To include Father Christmas,  
children s festive activities, face  
painting, £50 cash prize draw,  
various stalls and refreshments.  
Come and join us for an afternoon  
of Christmas Fun!

Dear Editor

I have mentioned upon a previous occasion, the general attitude towards the 'Youth of Brixworth on our streets' (YOBS).

A recent experience I had would perhaps help to justify my defence of these much maligned Lads and Lassies. Travelling from Spratton at about midnight my journey was interrupted by two large bollards placed in the centre of the second speed restriction lane. Hazard lights on, I got out of the car to remove them. I was joined almost immediately by four lads who helped me to remove them. They told me of course that they were not responsible. I laughed and said it was a harmless prank and that in my youth (about fifty years ago) I could have carried out a similar act. The friendly lads all shook hands with me and I continued my journey. At no time did I feel threatened. They were good honest lads.

Upon later reflection, and aware of the possible reaction of many of my acquaintances i.e. to get out of the car and immediately blaspheme and make accusations (possibly wrongly) to these lads, perhaps then their attitude could have been one of resentment with possible unpleasant results.

So far in my life, I have never felt intimidated by the groups and feel that if I treat them as boisterous young adults I shall in return receive respect.

I am told that one day I shall get 'mugged'. It may be 'say' one chance in a hundred. Am I to treat the other ninety nine per cent as villains and would that reduce that chance in a hundred. I think not.

R. Beaumont

**Editorial note:**

Mr Beaumont's letter raises some interesting points. A study issued on 22nd October 2006 by the Institute for Public Policy Research claims that Britain has become a place increasingly fearful of its teenage population and Britons are more likely than other Europeans to blame young people for antisocial behaviour. They are also less inclined to intervene if they find teenagers causing trouble. The study finds that 65% of Germans, 52% of Spanish and 50% of Italians would be willing to intervene if they saw a group of 14-year-old boys vandalising a bus shelter – but just 34% of Britons would be willing to do the same, for fear of physical attack. If Brixworth residents have views on the letter or the Study findings, please write in to the letters page.



Last year over 2,100 gift-filled shoeboxes went from Brixworth and the surrounding villages to Belarus in response to the Christmas appeal organised by the international charity "Samaritan's Purse". This appeal has been run again this year, with the boxes heading for Mozambique, and the response indicates that this idea has captured many people's imagination and is becoming a regular feature of the village's Christmas celebration. No figures about totals are available at the time of writing, but the stacks of boxes have been similarly encouraging, overflowing from the collection point at The Olive Branch into other parts of the building. We will try to let you know how many boxes have been sent in later issues. Thank you to all who have taken part!

If you haven't heard of the concept, you fill a medium-sized shoebox with goodies and it makes a wonderful Christmas present for deprived kids across the world. It is a very simple but effective way of sharing with others, which is what Christmas is really all about! If you want more information, you will find leaflets at The Olive Branch coffee shop on Spratton Road about the scheme. Alternatively, you can

go to [www.samaritanspurse.uk.com](http://www.samaritanspurse.uk.com) which will also show you where money given goes, as well as provide a link to the charity's main website where there are details about the projects that are supported throughout the year.


The project officially finishes at the end of November, because of the time needed for distribution (the charity deals with over 1 million boxes!), so we are sorry if you missed out this year. Why not put a note in your 2007 diary (that you will probably get for Christmas!) to fill a box next year and bring a smile to another child's face on Christmas Day? *Ian Rees*

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# BRIXWORTH UNDER 12'S FOOTBALL TEAM



Many thanks to W.S. Atkins for their continued support

# BRIXWORTH YOUTH FOUNDATION NEWS

Brixworth Media Club came a step closer to becoming a reality with a successful bid for funding from the Local Network Fund. This money will provide digital recording equipment, a P.A. system, computer and a camcorder amongst other things.

But the good news does not stop there. The foundation is now working in conjunction with Big About Music (BAM), a Kettering based charity who will provide more equipment and music leaders, taking the whole concept up several gears. BAM have conducted two 'taster' sessions and are consulting with the young people to find out what they want in the village.

On offer are such things as a rock school for those either in a band or wanting to get into music. The music leaders will teach young people the A-Z of the music industry, song writing, production, record marketing and getting onto the touring circuit. DJ lessons with professional club DJ's karaoke lessons and music creation using state of the art software are among the other things on offer.

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"This is a fantastic opportunity to get something exciting going for the young people of Brixworth" says Jessica McFadyen, Chair of Brixworth Media Club Planning Committee.

The other arm of the media club will be movie/video production for anyone interested in becoming the next Steven Spielberg or Tom Hanks, or wanting to make their own pop/rock/video.

The club will be set up as Brixworth Media Club and will be a separate element of the Youth Foundation working beside the Youth Club. BMC can be joined by subscription and a small fee for attendance and booking sessions for recording. Anyone interested in leading the drama/cine section please contact John on 889135.

In addition to the above news, the Army Cadets have now set up a branch in Brixworth at the club premises. They operate every Tuesday night from 19.30.

The Youth Club and the media club need volunteers 18 years and older! Come along and enjoy.

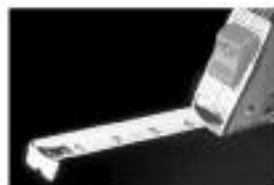
Look out for the next Rock Night on 2nd December 2006.

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## BRIXWORTH CRICKET CLUB 2006 REVIEW

It's been a frustrating season both on and off the field for Brixworth Cricket Club in 2006. After six seasons of playing in the top league in the County, the first team were relegated after a nail biting final day and despite winning our last match, Desborough's last ball victory in the gloom against Rushden, sent us back to Division 1. A series of cruel injuries at crucial times – most notably to Andy Roper, which led to a tragically early retirement from top flight cricket – deprived us of key players for large chunks of the season. The weather played its part too and whilst we certainly weren't the worst team in the league we weren't able to secure enough points, ultimately to maintain our place in the Premier League. Despite relegation, the club is confident of recruiting the right calibre of players to help us bounce straight back, if not straight away, certainly within 2 seasons.

The 2nd X1 finished the season strongly with an excellent group of young players making increasingly significant contributions and there are real grounds for optimism that the team will start moving up the leagues again from 2007.

Perhaps most encouraging of all is the progress being made by the junior section – at all age groups, which bodes extremely well for the future of the club. Under Andy Bransby's management and Tom Chapman's enthusiastic captaincy, the U17s finished in the top 3 in their league. Several players were regular 2nd X1 players and the likes of Tom, Adam Shulver, Ashley Hammond and Fraser Bennett have a great future at the club as they make the transition to regular senior cricket. Our U13 and U11 squads made great progress and with indoor coaching for both age groups over the winter, these groups will go from strength to strength next year.

Going forward there is much to look forward to – with a great group of youngsters and a new ground, which already looks stunning and which, when ready, will be one of the best in the County. We should play some games there next season, but league cricket won't begin until 2008. It's a great shame that the planners saw fit to deprive Brixworth of quicker access to a truly superb facility – the sooner we can move this forward the better, for all concerned. The club is also extremely frustrated by increasing wanton acts of vandalism to the ground and practise equipment – during 2006 one sightscreen and a net cage were completely destroyed and the square was damaged on several occasions – moving to the new ground can't come soon enough.

The Club's annual dinner takes place at Sunley Management Centre on 1 December and winter indoor nets begin at Moulton on Sunday 7 January at 5.30pm.

*Chris Timm Chairman*

## BRIXWORTH UNDER 16'S FOOTBALL TEAM



Back Row: Gary Cox, Tom Watkins, Jack Curtis, Chris Wood, Russell Rainbow, Barney Anderson and Dan Lane.

Front Row: Luke Anzelmo, Luke Norrey, Andrew Greasley, Ben Lucas, Kerryn Smyth and Jamie Draper.

Brixworth Under 16's have made a very strong start in the John Henry league this season, winning all their games so far and are currently top of the league. In eight matches they have scored twenty nine goals and conceded just five and are three points clear with a game in hand.

A big thanks to Ray Bell and Sons for kindly sponsoring our kit.



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### RED LION FOOTBALL CLUB

Our first season in the Premier Division has started well with four victories and two defeats seeing us lying second in the table. Craig Spraggon is once again leading the way in the scoring stakes, but a fit again Matt Coleman is starting to catch him up. An early exit from the NFA Sunday Cup was disappointing, but we are still in three other cup competitions and will be hoping to defend the Ken Parker Cup which we won in dramatic fashion recently.

In the final which was held over from last season we defeated favourites Loft Style Sinners 4-3 after extra time. Matt Coleman scored twice within the first ten minutes, only for Loft Style to pull it back to 2-1 at half time. Adam Knight then pounced on a poor back pass to restore a two goal lead, but the Sinners then dominated and scored twice to take the game into the extra half hour.

With penalties looming Steve Roe swept home Ian Dennett's corner with the last kick of the match to earn a well deserved victory. Many thanks are given to everyone who came to support us on the day and to Gary for his continued sponsorship. Also thanks to Toseland & Jones Plumbing Services for our away kit & Central Sports for allowing us to use the pitch at St. Davids until The Ashway has changing rooms.

*Ian Bandey*



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# COUNTRY EYE



by Brian Webster

## Evening Flight at Pitsford Water

As I sat in my conservatory watching a lurid blood-red sunset they came over, just above treetop level, honking like a fleet of taxicabs with hiccups. About twenty of them, Canada geese on their way to an overnight feast of spilled grain in the farmers' fields.

These in your face birds have become such a part of the national scene that it is hard to realize that they are, in fact, recent additions to our fauna. They were brought here from their North American homelands in the 18th century to grace the lakes in the ornamental grounds of the rich. By the 19th century escapes were becoming commonplace, but even as late as 1950 they were not common in the wild in Northamptonshire.

As part of my job at the Northampton Museums I was given a collection of eggs, made by a boy from Earls Barton, in the 1950's. Although egg collecting was illegal even in those days, it was still something that boys did. Among them was what I believe was a Canada goose egg, and if I am right this may well be one of the first records of the species nesting along this part of the Nene valley.

And from small beginnings the Canada goose has flourished. Its numbers have increased to the point where it has acquired pest status. The wildlife enthusiasts dislike it because its aggressive behaviour prevents other species from nesting nearby. Only the mute swan is big enough to face it down. (Ironically the mute swan itself, although native in some areas, was semi-domesticated as long ago as the 12th century, not for its beauty, but because our ancestors knew a good meal when they saw one.) Many farmers complain that the winter feeding flocks, often several hundreds strong, lead to compaction of the soil, which makes spring-growing crops grow more slowly.

In their native area Canada geese are strongly migratory, their autumn travels taking them from the Canadian Arctic as far south as Mexico. Over here they tend to be largely resident, so it is tempting to think that, having been uprooted and transported half a world away from home, they have forgotten which way to go. The reality is that our winters are much milder so there is no need for them to migrate.

Many of you will have been enthralled by the shots of wild geese arriving on their wintering

grounds in the BBC series 'Autumn Watch.' Unfortunately we have no such thing around here, although a few geese, thought to be from the far north, do turn up at places like Pitsford Water, and duly have their names taken to be recorded for posterity in the pages of the county bird report.

So the spectacle of Canada geese honking their way across an autumn sky is about as near as we are likely to get

## GOODBYE TO ALISON SPARKES



The Brixworth Centre pre-school was sorry to say goodbye to Alison Sparkes at the end of the summer term.

Alison has been involved with the pre-school for a number of years both as a staff member and as a Chairperson and committee member.

Alison and the team have worked tirelessly to make the pre-school the success it is today.

The committee, parents, staff team and of course the children would like to say a big thank you for all the hard work and dedication to the pre-school over the past 7 years and wish her every success in her teaching post at Brixworth school.

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**.Bulb planting Day  
15th October.**



Over 40 residents turned out, armed with spades and trowels to take part in an afternoon of Spring bulb planting around the village's open spaces and grassy verges. The enthusiasm was overwhelming to the extent that there were scarcely enough bulbs to fulfil demand.

'With that number of volunteers, we actually could have planted twice as many bulbs' say the organisers. 'We'll be better prepared next Autumn when we intend to do it all again.'

Whilst the event was organised by the Parish Council, particular thanks go to local residents Mike Nice for orchestrating and publicising the event and to Mrs. Jayne Bunting and her Dad for supplying the bulbs at a bargain price.

*Pictured: Under parental guidance, two of our younger residents planting out daffodil bulbs in the pocket park.*

**BRIXWORTH OLD SCHOOL  
REUNION  
9th SEPTEMBER 2006**



Pictured above: Joan Eldred, Jeanette Kelp and Eileen Wapples – some of the old school. Jeanette lives in Spain and it is 17 years since she has met her friends.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the reunion and all those who donated prizes for the raffle, also to all those who helped prepare the room and clear away at the end of the event. Thank you to everyone who made the night a great success. It was lovely to see people we hadn't seen for years. Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the night and hoped that there would be another one in the future.

*Joan and Eileen.*

**COPY DATES FOR NEXT ISSUE**

The next issue of the Bulletin will be delivered at the end of February 2007.

Copy is required no later than 1st week in February and advertisements by mid February. These are the last possible dates and it would be appreciated if contributors and advertisers would submit their requirements as soon as possible.

**Father A. J. Watkins 25th  
Anniversary as Vicar of All  
Saints' Church, Brixworth**



Father Watkins, the vicar of All Saints' Church Brixworth, felt very disappointed that his congregations both in Brixworth and in Holcot, had appeared to have completely forgotten his special day. On Thursday 28th September 2006 Father Watkins had been incumbent for All Saints' Church, Brixworth and St Mary's and All Saints' Church, Holcot for 25 years. Apart from a few cards, neither of his congregations mentioned it to him or remarked upon it. How sad, he must have thought! Little did he know that behind the scenes there was frantic activity, collecting contributions and preparing for a surprise ceremony after the Harvest Festival Evensong at Holcot Church on Sunday 8th October. Maybe he was a little surprised to see so many people at this evening service, particularly considerable numbers of Brixworth parishioners, but he still failed to be suspicious. After the service, everyone was invited to the Church Rooms for refreshments and it was then that the vicar discovered what had been going on! He was presented with a lovely new 'cotta' (a white surplice or overgarment) and everyone toasted his health and thanked him for his years of service to the villages.

*Jane Neill*

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**COFFEE MORNING AT BLASON'S GARAGE**

On Sunday 24 September over 100 people attended Brixworth Christian Fellowship to celebrate ten years of Phil and Ruth Walter's leadership in the church. The two morning meetings were led by Rev Timothy Alford, a long-time friend of the church and former General Director of the Africa Inland Mission, and a church lunch followed.

Both Phil and Ruth are well-known because of their many activities in the village (for instance, Phil is also a governor at the Primary School) and are committed to serving the community. Phil explains, "At BCF we are eager for people to know about the love of God, so we want them to see it in action!"

These last ten years have seen God bringing about some dramatic changes to the fellowship under Phil and Ruth's leadership. Perhaps the most obvious has been the fellowship's partnership with Daventry Council and Brixworth Parish Council in the building and running of the Community Centre, but others include a steady growth in numbers attending so that there are usually around 70 people on a Sunday morning, the establishing and running of The Olive Branch Coffee shop, taking on a part-time associate minister to share the workload, and the appointment of a Parish Nurse to serve the community in September 2005. And what will the next ten years bring? That is impossible to say, of course. No one could have predicted the developments of the last ten, so there are certainly many more surprises in store.  
*Ian Rees*

Coffee mornings were held throughout the U.K. on 30th September 2006 and two were held in Brixworth. Val Blason writes "I would like to say a big thank you to all who supported the coffee morning for Macmillan Nurses at Blason's garage. The sun shone and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves whilst £732.25 was raised. I was so thrilled with this wonderful amount. Thank you so much."

Jane Stock held a separate event at Daintry House, Harborough Road. Jane writes "Thank you so much for all the support that you gave to the Macmillan coffee morning. Altogether we raised £312."

Well done to Val and Jane and to their supporters who raised over £1000 from Brixworth.

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**JOHN HAMILTON DUFF**  
BRIXWORTH CENTRAL SPORTS  
TREASURER



John Duff, Brixworth Central Sports Treasurer for 24 years died recently in Cynthia Spencer Hospice. Despite ongoing and painful treatment, John continued to attend monthly meetings and kept the finances of the club up to date and under close scrutiny. He retained his humour and remained remarkably positive until his illness forced his resignation. Brixworth Central Sports will greatly miss John's hard work, dedication and commitment and the thoughts of the committee and all members go out to Liz, Mr Duff senior and all the family.

John was also a former president and player of Brixworth Cricket Club. He was a total enthusiast of the game, and in his playing days, possessed his own inimitable stance and bowling style. He remained a loyal supporter and will be remembered with great affection by all.

### DAVENTRY DISTRICT SPORTS AWARDS 2006

The Annual Daventry District Sports Awards will be held at Daventry Leisure Centre on Thursday November 30th 2006

There are 3 Brixworth finalists, all in different categories.

Caitlin McClatchey – Two times gold medal winner at the 2006 Common-wealth games.

Jack Rose – gold medal at 2006 Club Championships and in the County Floor and Vault Championships.

Natalie Reay – She played for Leicester City Centre of Excellence and women's teams U12-U16's. Last season she represented Northants County U16's.



A promising start to the season to both teams although there have been mixed results. The squad is building; however we are always looking for new players. Chris Gathercole has stood down as first team manager and the team is now being led by Carl Ward. This has now left a vacancy for the Vice Chairman's position and we are inviting applicants to apply by 21st November. Should anyone feel they have anything they can add or bring to the club we will be more than happy to consider them. We are still looking for regular

linesmen and would welcome anyone who can volunteer for this.

A Bingo night is being planned for late November to raise funds for the club, look out for posters round the village confirming the date, along with notices for the Christmas events. Thank you to Luke for his time and effort put in to the Newsletter, you may have seen them around, and Dave Franklin for his continuing efforts at training. Training is on Wednesday evenings at St .Davids' playing field starting at 7pm.

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