

Brixworth Bulletin

Including Draughton, Hanging Houghton and Lamport

Issue No.15, December 2007



LANDSCAPE SCENE IN VICINITY OF BRIXWORTH BY CATH EVANS

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION—£25.00 FIRST PRIZE

SUBJECT: NEW BEGINNINGS

The Bulletin has decided to hold a competition for amateur photographers of any age to submit photographs on the subject of 'New Beginnings'. If you wish to take part, please e-mail your photograph to brixworthbugle@aol.com.

The subject can be interpreted as widely as you like (not too many babies please) and the photographs will be judged by the Bulletin team. The first three will be published in the March issue of the Brixworth Bulletin and we will pay the winner £25. The Closing Date is 7th

February 2007 and the photographs should ideally be in colour. However, photographs in black and white will be accepted, if it is appropriate for the photograph submitted. We would like to think that this could become a regular competition with £25 being awarded every issue, the subject, of course, being changed each time.

We would prefer photographs which have some local interest, but this is not mandatory. Competitors may submit up to three photographs.



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Spratton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DS

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| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
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| Thur Mar 6 th 2008 | 2pm – 4pm |

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MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION 15th December 2007 – 27th January 2008

ROGER CORFE 1912 – 2004 NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

This major exhibition of paintings by the late Roger Corfe is a unique chance to see the development of a serious artist's work over a long life-time. Spanning eight decades, the exhibition shows how his style broadened out with free handling of paint, enabling him to achieve overtones of impressionism in oils and Turner-esque fluidity in watercolours. He painted 'en plein air' in all weathers, capturing peaceful rural corners and distant landscapes.

The exhibition takes us on an extensive journey through the places which appealed to him most. Early works include fascinating small etchings and pre-war paintings, and later we see Northamptonshire villages and countryside

as well as many other parts of Britain. Further afield there are records of his visits abroad, including France and Italy. Then we are drawn back to his home and studio at Holcot and glimpses of the immediate surroundings. Roger's constant return to the wildlife reserve at Pitsford Water and his continued study of water and light there is astonishing. Here he was entirely engaged with the ever changing variety of weather and seasons. Clouds, impending rain and reflections or overgrown grasses, sunlit trees and dark shadows fascinated him. He had a particular ability to convey the atmosphere of landscape with enormous dexterity in both oil and watercolour.

Born in 1912, Roger Corfe studied at Heatherley's School of Art in Chelsea before qualifying as a dental surgeon at Guys Hospital. He spent WW2 in the Royal Army Dental Corps and returned to settle and practice in Northamptonshire. However, he remained a prolific artist with over a thousand works created during his life due to his unrelenting commitment to painting. A quiet, modest man, Roger Corfe found inspiration in the beauty of landscape, which he clearly enjoyed sharing with us in his paintings.

The exhibition comprises more than 200 paintings, of which 160 will be available to buy. There will also be a display of sketchbooks and etchings. A monograph about the artist's work and life is in preparation to accompany the exhibition. This is a special opportunity for painters and collectors alike.

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery

ROGER CORFE

1912-2004

MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

15 December 2007 - 27 January 2008



Winter at Poodings 1985

oil 31x25 cm

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery
Guildhall Road

Northampton NN1 1DP
01604-838111

Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 2pm-5pm

www.RogerCorfe.com

CATH EVANS - LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER

Cath Evans has lived in Brixworth since the age of 8. Over the last 5 years she has pursued a career as a landscape photographer.

In 2004, her portrait of a tree trunk and branches came second in the 'tree or shrub' category of the Royal Horticultural Society's international photographic competition. She is now an accredited photographer for The National Trust.

Some of her local images can be seen at the Willow Tree Café at Brixworth Country Park and her photographic greetings cards together with her 2008 calendar which show the beauty of Northamptonshire.

The picture on the front page was taken by Cath Evans.

CATH EVANS photography

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NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT AT SPRATTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND



The first phase of the £23,000 Spratton Rec. regeneration scheme has begun. The recently installed charming play area for toddlers and goal posts will shortly be followed by an improved 'access for all'

entrance and a rolled granite footpath. Full restoration of the grassed area where the old swings stood will take place in the spring together with improvements to the currently unattractive steps.

CLAIRE LOCKWOOD – QUERCUS



Village florist Claire Lockwood is looking forward to a busy festive season. Claire specialises in hand crafted Christmas door wreaths made to order, using only locally sourced fresh foliage.

Claire moved to the village nearly three years ago, following her marriage to Tom, making their children William and Rosie the fifth generation of the Lockwood family to be raised in the village! Claire provides a full floristry service, and can be contacted on 01604 880512.

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ORGANISE A BARN DANCE



On the 6th October 2007, the Friends of All Saints' Church, Brixworth organised a barn dance at the Village Hall and over 60 enthusiastic dancers enjoyed every dance from 7.30p.m. until 11.00p.m. A buffet supper was provided which was included in the ticket price and the event raised about

£350.00 towards the Charity's funds. The music was provided by the 'Bananas' group which was excellent. Everyone appeared to enjoy the event and the intention is to have another barn dance sometime in the next eighteen months.



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NEW PREMISES FOR RIGIFLEX AT FERRO FIELDS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Rigiflex moved to Northampton Road Brixworth thirty five years ago and established a flourishing business, making many types of plastic extrusions. After many months of negotiations and planning consultations/permissions, the Directors sold the site, which is on the right-hand side of Northampton Road adjacent to Froxhill Crescent, to Haddonstone Developments and leased Ibx Barn which is in Ferro Fields, Scaldwell Industrial Estate Brixworth. (See photograph). The original Rigiflex building has been demolished together with the large house on the site and work has commenced on building 34 units of housing, but this development is now owned by a new company.

Rigiflex retained nearly all their work-force bar two after the move, but have recruited two new employees as they have added an extra extrusion machine. They have a work-force of 19 personnel working a three shift system covering 24 hours per day from Monday 7.30am to Friday afternoon. Sometimes when the work load is high, additional hours will be worked on Sunday and Friday nights.

Rigiflex supply flexible and rigid extrusions in a wide range of plastics, including P.V.C., Styrene, A.B.S. and Polycarbonate. The products are used in reinforced concrete, the aircraft industry for covering up wiring and piping in British Airways and Virgin cabins (the colours have to match the particular livery of the airline), display shelving and label containers for companies such as Marks & Spencer, Boots, Clinton Cards, Tescos and other high street retailers. In company offices, their products can be seen on office dividers as decorative edgings.

Turnover has increased recently, but it will take 10 years to recover the costs of this move. The Directors, Barry Hammond, Phillip Irmison and Peter Garley have spent money converting the barn into a very eco-friendly environment. The walls have had an additional skin added and the heat given out by the compressors and chillers (housed in an annexe to the building) is blown into the factory area. Scrap plastic is collected and recycled to avoid wastage. Water used to cool the extrusion dies is recycled and very little tap water is used in the factory process. The extrusions dies are designed in-house, but are spark eroded by a subcontractor to produce these exact and

necessary parts of the extrusion process. The dies are stored for future use, in the maintenance area where the engineer has machine tools for servicing the 10 extrusion machines. 40 different colours are stored in bags in a separate part of the building, so that the hoppers of the production machines can easily be refilled when necessary.

The Bulletin would like to thank Peter Garley for taking the time to show me round their very clean and well laid facility and we would like to wish the Brixworth firm continued success in their new location.

Harvey Fox



The above photograph shows the end of the demolition stage of the old factory with only the house at the side of the site to be pulled down. 12 hours after this photograph was taken, all demolition was complete.



Welford Christmas Tree Farm

Welford Christmas Tree Farm is a great place to buy your fresh Christmas Tree. We pride ourselves on selling fresh Christmas Trees either some grown or locally grown by another member of the British Christmas Tree Growers Association.

We have been growing Christmas Trees for 12 years and now have about 11,000 Christmas Trees, made up of 7 different types to choose from. Christmas Trees are also growing so you can take up to 9 years to produce a good 6 foot Northern Fir!

All our trees are grown with the environment in mind. We use Sheepline Sheep to keep down the weeds between the trees and therefore use less chemical herbicides. This is recognised as an extremely environmentally conscious method of Christmas Tree production where sheep can graze and provide the ground with natural fertilizer. So come and watch these eco friendly sheep at work while you hand pick your tree!

All Christmas trees are grown with an abundance of Christmas Trees in the yard for sale, with plenty of choice and differentiation. We also offer 'Cheese and Calf' and 'Cheese and Dog' where people can choose their own tree whilst still growing other products to substitute or put them up on the day and watch it all there and then.

We also sell stands to put the trees in, most of these hold water to ensure the tree gets a constant supply of water. This will help to keep the needles on the tree and keep it fresh. As well as stands we also sell home made wreaths, nativity and baby Jesus decorations.

As a working family farm we have many animals to visit these include Horses, Donkeys, Goats, Pigs, Sheep and Dogs.

So come and visit Welford Christmas Tree Farm, we are open from Sunday 23rd November onwards. We look forward to seeing you!

Tel: 0781 4022159 - www.welfordchristmastreefarm.com
Portly Ford Farm, Northampton Road, Welford, Northants, NN6 6JF - 2 miles south of Welford on A5199, situated close to junction 1 of the A14



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

Having visited Brixworth Refuse and Recycling Centre regularly for the last 46 years, I have seen many changes there. It is now better kept, cleaner, tidier and better organised than it has ever been. Reuben Price has made an amazing difference to the place and employs exceptionally pleasant and helpful staff.

For many years now, I have bought clothes and shoes there and given them to four families, each with several children – two are single parent families. I know their sizes and likes and dislikes and feel that this is one of the more worthwhile things that I do to help others. Suddenly I find that all clothes and shoes and most toys have to be put immediately into enormous metal bins – no one is allowed to go near them and they are emptied by vast lorries. The families that I have helped for years find it hard to believe that I can no longer do anything for them. Many, many local people and people from further afield came to Brixworth to buy and so re-cycle clothes and shoes in this county which surely should be encouraged BEFORE things are sent abroad which I understand is what is now happening.

Reuben Price used to get a large part of his income from the year round sale of clothes and shoes to local people and had many regular customers. Now he gets nothing at all as, I am told, the contract for clothes and shoes has been sold off separately. I just hope that he will not feel it is no longer worth his while to continue at Brixworth because this major source of his income has been taken away. Every one concerned is very unhappy with the present situation.

I sincerely hope that you will try to get the previous re-cycling method for clothes, shoes and toys restored as soon as possible because everyone was very happy with it.

Josephine Knowles

Dear Bulletin

I am sorry and disappointed to hear that Ms Knowles and others are no longer able to purchase toys and clothes from the recycling centre at Brixworth. For many years this has been a source of some good quality, cheap products for local people and has provided income for those who run the very efficient shop in that area.

Although I am still hunting out the facts, it seems unfortunate at best, that needy local people are apparently now being denied the chance to purchase these items. It cannot be right that vulnerable members of our community are being made to suffer. Less well-off people in the rural part of this county cannot easily or cheaply get to a charity shop for an alternative source of cheaper clothing. A £5 bus fare would more than cancel out any saving they would make.

I intend to raise this matter at the November general meeting of the Parish Council and ask them that we pursue this matter on behalf of local people.

I would be glad to receive your opinion to help gauge the strength of feeling in the community even if it is after the meeting. I can be contacted on bpchair@googlemail.com or by phone on 881250.

The recycling tip is not controlled by the Parish Council, but it is my firm belief that this village deserves an explanation of this apparent change of policy and local needy people must have a voice in any change.

Yours sincerely
Ian Barratt
Chairman
Brixworth Parish Council

YELLOW LINES FOR BRIXWORTH?

WE NEED TO TALK

Parish Council seeks your opinion.

Brixworth Parish Council has recently been approached by a local pressure group asking for what the group considers to be an urgent priority for Brixworth – double yellow lines at certain key areas in the village – the area around the Northampton Road/Kennel Terrace junction has been identified as particularly problematic.

The Parish Council has long acknowledged its concerns over inappropriate speeding and the now frequent instances of careless parking likely to endanger the lives of both pedestrians and other drivers. At the same time, Councillors, ever mindful of the needs of local residents and businesses who sometimes have no option other than to park on the highway, have decided to open up the debate to the whole village - not just to those who may be directly affected, (who, in any such case, would be automatically consulted through the due process of the law) but to EVERYONE in the village.

Towards that end, the Parish Council has initially invited a representative from the Highways Department to carry out a feasibility study on various key areas. This will take the form of a village walkabout with Parish Councillors to identify particular parking blackspots. Areas, which the lobby group has so far identified, are:

- Entrance to the Primary School on Froxhill Crescent.
- The Highway outside the library/community Centre.
- The Northampton Road/Spratton Road junction.
- The Spratton Road/Pytchley Way junction
- Kennel Terrace/Northampton Road junction.


The local police have also been asked to supply traffic accident figures over the past three years.

After consultation with the Highways Department, whose recommendations can sometimes be overly prescriptive and in some instances, make little sense to the average villager, the Parish Council intends to take those 'suggestions' to a public meeting to be held early in the New Year - at which point the public will be invited to have its say in full. The Parish Council wishes it to be known that no decision will be taken on such a controversial issue until those views are fully understood and debated. In the end, it may be that there is no will for double yellow lines at all. If that view predominates, then that view will be respected.

If, in the meantime, local residents wish to write to the Parish Council with their views or who may wish to identify specific areas other than those already mentioned should do so in writing to the Parish Clerk, Jane Macken, 3 Tantree Way, Brixworth, NN6 9UQ.

Paddy Fox

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BRIXWORTH STRIDE 2007



FRESH AT THE START



EXHAUSTED AT THE FINISH!

Cancer Research UK, together with Barclaycard Charity Group organised The Brixworth Stride 2007 on Sunday 28th

October 2007. This sponsored walk was approximately 12 km in length around the Brixworth Country Park. Despite the poor weather, 93 registered to walk, having obtained pledges from friends and relatives to support Cancer Research.

At this moment a minimum of £6,700 has been raised and pledge money is still being received, so the final figure will be higher. The main organisers were Kathy Rowlands and Kate Holt. Liz Melvin would like to thank all brave participants and organisers for raising so much money for such a worthy cause. It is anticipated that this event will be repeated next year. Anyone still wishing to contribute, could ring Liz on 07711209587

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The Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning in the World 2007



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Two coffee mornings were held in Brixworth on Saturday 29th September 2007. Tina Loye, Jane Stock and Jenny Poole held one in Eileen Truby's house from 2.00pm to 4.00pm and raised £176.75 by selling coffee/tea and home made cakes, tombola tickets and commissions from sales made from Phoenix cards, Jackdaw jewellery and Virgin Vie. I would like to thank The Fox in the Pound Bookshop, Daisyroots, The Bread Line, Expressions and Chambers the Butchers for kindly donating prizes for our tombola stall and Alex Monk for the delicious fairy cakes which she baked and decorated (even though she had a broken finger), they literally sold like hot cakes.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event. *Eileen Truby*

Val Blason once again organised a coffee morning behind Blason's Garage



and the total amount raised from a variety of stalls and the sale of coffee and cake was a magnificent £856.53.

Val would like to say a big thank you to all who supported her both on the morning and with generous donations and especially to her family and friends.

BRIXWORTH OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC
 2 CHURCH STREET
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Osteopaths can be thought of as human mechanics. With 4 years full-time training, we are specialists in understanding how the various parts of the body work together. Many people think we only treat back pain and sciatica, but in fact we treat the entire body – muscular strains, trapped nerves, shoulder, elbow, hip, knee and foot pain, headaches, neck injuries etc.

Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic opened in 2000 and supports three Osteopaths, offering a total of 20 years experience. Cranial Osteopathy is available at the clinic and is a particularly effective form of treatment for babies who have difficulty feeding, sleeping or who may be suffering with colic.

Initial consultations cost £40 and follow up appointments cost £35. **Patients typically achieve 90% relief of symptoms within 3-5 sessions.** We receive many patients through GP referral and as members of the General Osteopathic Council, we are accepted by all major insurance companies. For further professional advice, or to make an appointment, please contact us at the above number. Our telephone is answered between 8.30am and 6pm every weekday.

"Over 70% of people come to us following recommendations from friends, families or doctors"

DOGGY DOO'S AND DON'TS ON PUBLIC PLACES



improving with the presence of so many Dog Bins round our village, thanks to our conscientious Parish Council. One of the worst areas is the Ashway Playing Fields where, despite the presence of no less than FOUR Dog Bins, some people seem to think that they can allow their dogs to foul the very ground that young children will be playing on. Children especially are at risk from Toxicaris, a disease caused by the eggs of round worms which can lead to blindness. Faeces also harbour other diseases and bacteria which can be spread on shoes and wheels.

The DDC Dog Warden has been notified of the problem in Brixworth and be warned – Wardens issue **£50.00 fixed penalty spot fine notice to dog owners who do not clean up after their dog in the designated areas.** This act covers all council owned and maintained lands within the 40 and below speed restriction. Failure to pay the fine will result in legal proceedings with a maximum of £1,000 upon conviction.

In case there is anyone out there who is not sure what a Dog Bin looks like, please check the photograph above. There are lots of these all around the village, especially by our Recreation Grounds. Please be a responsible dog owner and use them.

Jane Neill

It is becoming increasingly evident that there are a certain minority of dog owners in this village who seem to assume that they are not responsible for the mess that their dog leaves around the paths and playing fields. This is such a shame as for a while it appeared that the problem of unsightly and potentially dangerous dog excrement was

So what's going on in the Village? Spratton Road recreation ground is looking great with its new play and picnic area, the new changing rooms are just what the village sportsmen and women have wanted for years, the Ashway recreation ground kids area equipment is on order, but everything's being spoiled!

By what? Dog dirt!

The Ashway in particular still has heaps of the stuff appearing at a rate the speed of autumn mushrooms! One minute it's cleaned up, the next it's back again. Your Parish Council is fed up with hearing about sports players having to carry out the plain nasty task of forking up the fundament before they can even begin a game, especially when youngsters are concerned. Joggers on these dark evenings are particularly vulnerable to these piles of poo lurking in the shadows. I went to the Ashway recreation ground to have a look for myself, and as I pushed my bike on to the field, I got a tyreful of the squidgy stuff.

We're not on an anti-dog crusade – dogs do doo-dos and there's plenty of bins to put it in. It's the negligent owners we want to target. You might not like the idea of clearing up the mess, but it's your dog, your responsibility. It's not the caring dog owners who properly dispose of their waste we are aiming at, it's the rest.

But we need your help to educate this messy minority. We are asking you to inform the dog warden if you positively know which dogs and owners are responsible. The dogs aren't at fault, but we want to make sure these owners are educated and aware of their responsibilities towards their pets and residents. Let's work together to make mud the only muck on the Ashway!

Ian Barratt Chairman

Brixworth Parish Council

SECOND PARISH NURSE FOR BRIXWORTH



It was with great joy that we were able to commission Elaine Musgrove as a second parish nurse for Brixworth Christian Fellowship at the morning service at BCF on September 30th. Elaine will bring her wealth of experience as a district nurse to complement the health visiting experience of Margaret, so giving a more comprehensive service to the church and people in the parish of Brixworth. Elaine and Margaret will be working closely

together within the village and between them they will bring many years of nursing experience to the service. You will see them both in and around Brixworth.

Representing Parish Nursing Ministries UK at Elaine's commissioning was Debbie Marsh, parish nurse in Oakley and area co-ordinator. She participated in the service by leading us in prayer for Elaine, as well as bringing greetings from Parish Nursing Ministries UK.

Ian Rees

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PLANNING STATUS REPORT

| REFERENCE NO. & DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION | P.C. RECOMMENDATION & D.D.C DECISION |
|--|---|
| DA/2007 0396 Sunnybank, Station Road. Loft conversion to provide bedroom, bathroom and study. | PC Objection – roof-lights out of character to the property which is in conservation area. |
| DA/2007/0497 Mercedes Benz Technology Centre, Morgan Drive. Manufacturing building with associated staff restaurant and welfare facilities, extension of existing engineering and testing building, provision of car parking, extension of site perimeter road with landscaping. | PC 4/6 No Objection. DDC Approved. |
| DA/2007/0600 87 The Ashway. Construction of wind turbine | PC 26/6 Objection as it is considered unsightly and detrimental to the street scene. DDC Approved for 6 months. |
| DA/2007/0625 Sedgebrook Grange, Brampton Lane (Old Barn Merry Tom Lane). Conversion of redundant barn to Class B1 Office | PC 26/6 No Objection but subject to conditions. |
| DA/2007/0621 44 The Ashway. Single storey rear extension. | PC 26/6 No Objection. DDC Approved. |
| DA/2007 0666 29 Windmill Glade. Two storey extension to include conversion of garage to playroom, utility area & wc at ground level & further bedroom at first floor | PC 26/6 No Objection. DDC Approved. |
| DA/2007/0734 The Manor House Northampton Rd. Erection of a clubhouse for bowls/cricket, laying out bowls area, car park and an access. | PC24/7 No Objection. DDC Approved. |
| DA/2007/0724 1a The Ashway. Two storey extension to side of dwelling. | PC 24/7 No Objection. DDC Approved. |
| DA/2007/0727 31/33 Lesson Road. Demolition of existing property and erection of 3 pairs of semi detached dwellings. | PC 24/7 No Objection. DDC Approved. |
| DA/2007/0731 Rosemount, 22 Northampton Road. New conservatory and vehicular access. | PC 24/7 No Objection to conservatory but concerns to access. DDC Approved conservatory but refused access. |
| DA/2007/0736 CPL Aromas Ltd Quarry Road. Installation of a new silo and bond wall to existing factory. | PC 24/7 No Decision until further information on type of material to be stored. DDC Approved. |
| DA/2007/0754 Land adjacent to 24 Northampton Road. | PC 24/7 PC wishes to see the existing hedge to front of property retained either side of proposed new access. DDC Approved. |
| NCC 07/00016 Brixworth Primary School. Installation of a double mobile classroom unit. | PC 25/6 PC No Objection. NCC Approved |
| DA/2007/0966 12 Woodsfield Outline application for new dwelling (re-submission) | PC 24/9 No Observations. DDC Refused. |
| DA/2007/1130 Pytchley Cottage, Harborough Rd. Brixworth Extension at first floor. | PC 27/11 No Objections subject to landscaping conditions. |
| DA/2007/1192 Coach & Horses, Harborough Rd. Change of use of storage building to letting bedrooms. | PC 27/11 No Objection subject to Listed Building Consent. |
| DA/2007/1071 77 Northampton Road. 4 new terraced houses to replace existing bungalow. | PC 27/11 No Objection subject to resolution of certain concerns. |
| DA/2007/1113 & 1114 Fearing Int. Ltd. Creaton Road. Renewal of permission DA/2003/0492 for factory class B1 light industrial and DA/2003/0490 for light industrial building. | PC 27/11 No Objection. |

SANTA CLAUS WITH HIS HUSKIES ARRIVES AT THE ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR ON SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER AT THE LIBRARY



The event raised £1,000 for Church funds.

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| Monday | Circuits | Village Hall | 8.00 - 9.00 |
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Brixworth Youth Foundation is a small local registered charity whose aim is to help young people grow and mature as responsible citizens by providing services that occupy and entertain them and allow them to socialise in a safe environment. Our philosophy is rooted in a belief that young people are an important building block of our society and that they will benefit from more diverse activity which broadens their experience and may allow them to learn new skills. In doing so we aim to support, rather than suppress youth culture. This means we try to be tolerant but also set down boundaries around behaviour that affects others. We try to be realistic about what young people do when not in the presence of their parents, teachers or other adults. Currently we operate two separate ventures:

Brixworth Youth Club has been in existence since 9th March 2005. It is for Brixworth young people between the ages of 11 years to 17 years of age. Average attendance on a Monday is fifty young people, giving an annual rate of 2,500 attendances per year.

The club aims to open on two nights per week, Monday and Wednesday and, according to the number of volunteers available, is generally open during all holiday periods except Christmas and New Year. Unfortunately we have had to suspend Wednesday nights due to shortage of volunteers.

The club is run by a shrinking pool of around 11 unpaid volunteers, seven of whom form the Board of Trustees/Management Committee. The range of activities provided includes arts and crafts, pool, darts, table tennis, table football, football, computer games and dance mats. The club also provides the opportunity to just meet and make friends. We also hold competitions with cups and trophies as prizes in order to encourage formal participation in organised events. The club is affiliated to the Northampton Association of Youth Clubs and has had the services of a youth worker to expand the craft sessions available.

Brixworth Media Club was developed from our work with young bands and offers a rock master class to young bands, music

technology, karaoke and DJ skills led by the qualified music leaders from a Corby based charity Big About Music. We have held several performances at the Village Hall to allow our members to demonstrate their skills and a karaoke night on the 8th November allowed our members to demonstrate what they were learning with the support of singing music leaders.

We are currently exploring the establishment of a youth theatre for Brixworth and the surrounding areas (**Brixworth Youth Theatre**). We have recently raised funds to purchase a new pool table and we have also raised funding to install good quality basketball equipment.

One difficulty we face is the reluctance of funding bodies to provide revenue monies to cover running costs. If the County Council had not supported the development of the Media Club with revenue, the sole revenue available to the club would have been the contribution from Brixworth Parish Council. If this had happened the club would have had to close during the latter part of the 2007/2008 financial year.

The Foundation needs the support of the people of Brixworth, local businesses and the County, District and Parish Councils, if it is to develop and thrive. If you can help in any way, contact me on 07913 110934 or 01604 889135

*John McFadyen
Chairman & Trustee Brixworth Youth
Foundation*

Editor's note: Running costs per year for the Youth Foundation amount to £22,000 per year which includes £14,000 leasing costs per year for the building. The Youth Foundation Trustees are committed to a lease contract for the building in Ironstone Way which has seven years to run on the original 10 year lease.



ANTIQUES, HEALTHY PACKED LUNCHES AND CREAM TEAS



Where would you go to get advice on environmental health, having your dog micro-chipped, healthy packed lunches for the kids, refuse collection and recycling, joining a reading group and more? Brixworth Library and Community Centre of course!

On Thursday 11 October we opened the doors to all of the services on offer at Brixworth Library and Community Centre. We added antiques valuations, quick health checks from the Parish nurses and special cream teas to displays from various Daventry District Council services at our first ever Open Day.

Councillor Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council and Anne Lovely, Principal Librarian welcomed over 1000 visitors during the afternoon, including Parish Councillors, District Councillors and County Council representatives. BBC Radio Northampton recorded interviews and several reporters and photographers were in attendance. It was a great time for informal networking and celebrating the huge range of services that we can offer jointly between the library, the DDC Information office, the Parish Council and Brixworth Christian Fellowship, who all work in partnership at the Brixworth Community Building.

The special cream teas provided by the Olive Branch and the Antiques Roadshow style valuations proved to be extremely popular and staff stayed well past normal closing time to accommodate the demand!

A big 'thank you' is given to everyone who helped to organise the event and helped on the day and to all the local people who came and made the afternoon such a success. Special thanks to Jayne Bunting and the staff at the DDC Information office who had the original idea.

We must definitely make this an annual event!
Anne Lovely




Brixworth Information Service
Brixworth Library & Community Centre,
Spratton Road,
Brixworth
Tel: 01604 882355 / 889362

Christmas Holiday Arrangements

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Monday 24 th December | Closed |
| Thursday 27 th December | Closed |
| Friday 28 th December | 9.00 - 5.00 |
| Saturday 29 th December | Closed |
| Monday 31 st December | 9.30 - 5.00 |

BRIXWORTH – A winning community but can we still call ourselves villagers?

For the second year running, Brixworth was placed second (along side Crick) in the annual Village of the Year Competition run by Northamptonshire Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), - pipped at the post by the village of King's Sutton.

The Village of the Year Competition is all about the strength of the voluntary work ethic in the village and about the amount of time that ordinary residents contribute towards helping their community and as such Brixworth has, once again, scored very highly.

Unfortunately, under the rules of the competition, Brixworth must rest on its laurels as its population of over 5000 has now exceeded the upper limit of what ACRE deems to be a large village.

We invited Northamptonshire ACRE to comment on our village status – should we now be calling ourselves a small town then? 'Interesting question' says ACRE's Chief Executive, David Quayle 'We will examine our ruling on the upper limit question – but it seems to be a bit of a grey area and off hand I know of no clear guidelines, for example I was once mayor of a town with a population of well under 5000.'

We spoke to Richard Wood, Head of Planning Policy at D.D.C. regarding the definition of a large village and a small town. He replied that it was not just a matter of population size but strategic concerns were important. For instance, if it was decided to consider a village for housing development, then after extensive consultation with villagers, the village could be designated a small town even before the construction of houses had been completed.

So where does that leave us?—seemingly in no man's land. Would anyone out there, care to come up with an answer? *Paddy Fox*

Brixworth Drama Group presents a production of 'Toad of Toad Hall'. This timeless classic by A. A. Milne is an adaptation from Wind in the Willows, written by the great story teller Kenneth Grahame. It is the story of the eccentric and colourful Toad and is told with fun, laughter and some dramatic and sad scenes. It is a tale of true friendship and loyalty through some testing and trying times but told with colour and life. Join Toad and his friends Badger, Ratty and Mole and travel along with them on their journey to the lavish end. It is a tale to be enjoyed by the whole family, young and old alike.

Showing on Saturday 19th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th of January 2008 look out for future details for times and prices. As Toad would say "it would be absolutely splendid to see you there".

BRIXWORTH VILLAGE HALL REDECORATION OF RECEPTION ROOM/BAR



The small hall has been decorated by a team of volunteers from Daventry Volunteer Centre – Brushes and Spades Project. To celebrate 'Make a Difference Day' (MADD) 10 volunteers worked for a week in various combinations to redecorate this room. N.C.C. paid for the paint and materials but the volunteers were only given some food and soft drinks.

MADD is a nationwide event sponsored by Volunteering England to celebrate and promote work throughout our society. The event takes place in October each year and is open to any person or organisation prepared to lend assistance on a voluntary basis to people/groups/organisations etc. in need of help.

Mercedes High Performance Engines Ltd. have donated £7,000 towards the cost of decorating the rest of the Village Hall, which it is hoped will be completed by the end of this year.

The photograph shows Frank WuiG (far left), Chairman of the Village Hall, with representatives of Mercedes Benz and Brushes and Spades volunteers. Many thanks are given to the un-named volunteers. *Jane Neill*

DRAUGHTON NEWS



The wall on the west end of the churchyard has been rebuilt. It was in a very dangerous state, only held up by the 'Road Narrows' sign. The major cause of this problem was the amount of ivy and valerian growing in the wall; so a band of willing helpers came along on Saturday 10th November and worked hard to cut it all back and generally give the churchyard an extra clean up. The regular rota of grass cutters has done a good job of regularly maintaining the grass but at this time of the year there are also so many leaves to pick up.

The wall on the North East has also been rebuilt but that was broken down in July last year when we had 'ravers' who climbed the wall looking for the illegal rave.

Work should be starting shortly on the Club Room extension. The Trustees were grateful to receive a donation from The Hollowell Steam Rally Committee towards the refurbishment of the Club Room. Meanwhile we shall be having our Annual Harvest Supper on 30th November and look forward to using the room more in future when we have a kitchen and toilets.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Dorothy and Dave Smart who have been stalwarts of the village and we welcome the new families moving in to Draughton. *Anne Block*

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BOOK EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

BOOK EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

U3A (The University of the Third Age) is an international organization particularly aimed at the over 50 age group who are interested in social and learning activities. There are large branches of U3A in Market Harborough, Northampton, Kettering and Wellingborough some of which are finding difficulties in accommodating the number of members.

We are pleased to report that a new branch of U3A is being formed to cover the Brixworth and District area. A launch meeting was held in the Brixworth Community Room on 16th October with 32 people in attendance and 36 people attended the first official meeting on 7th November in the same venue where John Dawkins gave a

very interesting talk on the History of Brixworth.

Brixworth & District U3A will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month for the foreseeable future at 2.00pm in the Community Room, Spratton Road, Brixworth. At each meeting there will be a speaker or social activity and refreshments. As time goes on and the members get to know each other, we will be creating small "interest groups" who will study or participate in specialized subjects selected by the members.

The subjects of these "interest groups" are virtually unlimited but popular subjects are History, Rambling, Lunch Club, Foreign Languages, Bridge, Scrabble, Art or any

other subject of interest. We are particularly looking for members who would be interested in leading one of these groups.

U3A encourages learning and social activities with the main emphasis being on enjoyment. None of the learning groups will involve examinations or qualifications; it is simply an opportunity to extend friendships and gain some knowledge or experience.

The next meeting will take place in the Community Room at 2.00pm on Wednesday 5th December with an illustrated talk on "Trekking the Annapurna Circuit, Nepal".

Anyone over the age of 50 will be made most welcome.

For further information, please contact Gerry Dobson (tel. 882493) or Philip Pomeroy (tel. 781246).

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GOODBYE & THANK YOU TO BRENDA KEW



After almost thirty years of escorting our village school children across the busy Northampton Road, Mrs. Brenda Kew has now retired as our lollipop lady – she will be badly missed and it is certain that many generations of pupils past and present would wish to pay tribute to Brixworth's 'first lady' and to express their gratitude for her conscientious and devoted service to the community over these many years.

A Brixworth resident born and bred, and a carer all her life, Brenda was a nursing auxiliary, working for some time at Pitsford Geriatric Hospital, mostly on the night shift, which is why she was delighted to be appointed as lollipop lady for Brixworth, which despite the often cold, wet and windy two hour daily stint, at least meant she could get a normal night's sleep!

For Brenda, the job was all about her very special relationship with the children, many of whom regularly stopped for a 'natter', sharing their thoughts and troubles. Such was her charm that mothers regularly used Brenda as a 'bribe', to encourage their sometime reluctant offspring with 'come on, let's go and see the lollipop lady' – it always worked!

The only thing that really got Brenda down was petty bureaucracy which dictated that she could only escort school children – a law which she was happy to ignore for the elderly or mums with toddlers.

REPLACEMENT LOLLIPOP LADY

The need is urgent.

The Bulletin telephoned the Road and Crossing Safety Department of Northants County Council to ask when Brenda Kew would be replaced. Shirley Harrison, NCC School Crossing Patrol Manager, reported that sadly she was not allowed to recruit because of the County Council's recruitment freeze currently in place due to lack of funds. However through Mrs. Harrison's good offices and those of Cllr. Chris Millar (County Councillor for Brixworth) an exception has been made in the case of Brixworth. However, we're not out of the woods yet – Mrs. Harrison reports that it could take a few months to find and train up a replacement (please see her advertisement on this page). This vacancy needs to be filled ASAP.

PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING

Brenda's retirement has arrived at an awkward time for the school and its pupils because the anticipated installation of the zebra crossing opposite the old Rigiflex site has had to be delayed because of the developers' temporary right of access for their construction vehicles site through the Northampton Road entrances. Even though the creation of the Froxhill entrance is well under way, the developers are not allowed to use it for their heavy construction vehicles.

Upon completion of the first phase of the development and prior to the occupation of the last dwelling on the site, the two existing accesses from Northampton Road will be permanently closed to vehicular traffic and at this point, the much needed zebra crossing will be installed together with the creation of off road parking in the area currently used as a bus stop. (The bus stop will be moved southwards beyond the mini roundabout).

The Headteacher and staff are doing their very best to cope with this situation (they are currently conducting road safety classes with the children). The School staff, the school governors together with the Parish Council appeal to local drivers for patience and extra caution during this difficult and potentially hazardous period.

A further condition laid down in a 106 agreement is that a 'continuous footpath shall be laid out through the site between Northampton Road and the site boundary with the school'. Headteacher, David Boucher has indicated his satisfaction with the planned route but realistically recognises that the path cannot and will not be used until the safety of the children can be guaranteed.

MORE WILL BE DONE

In view of the problems surrounding the development of the old Rigiflex site and in the light of the delay on the Zebra Crossing and the 'lollipop vacancy', a school 'Travel Plan' will be expedited as a matter of urgency in order to ease current congestion and hopefully to reduce the number of parents driving to the School. It is expected that a parents' evening will be called soon to discuss the proposal.

Paddy Fox

Have YOU got the X Factor?

We are looking for a special person to join our team of enthusiastic and dedicated School Crossing Patrollers!

Can you spare around one hour per day during school term times to help parents and children cross the road safely near Brixworth Primary School? Are you two friends who could job-share?



Qualifications needed? None! We will train you.

Pay: £5.94 per hour plus half pay during school holidays!

Fitness: You will need to have a good level of fitness* (a medical check-up may be required), be able to move briskly into and off the road and work in all weather conditions. You can be any age from 18 to 70!

Still interested? To arrange an informal discussion with us, or to meet locally to chat about the role of a 'Lollipop' person, please contact the School Crossing Patrol Manager on 01604 654448.

It's more fun than you think!

*Please! Do talk to us if you have a minor medical condition that you think may prevent you from successfully applying for the job. This is not always the case.
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POLICE QUARTERLY REPORT

Since my last report a group of local representatives have met and together a decision was made that the Policing Priority for the area should be

- 1 Parking
- 2 Youth Nuisance/underage drinking
- 3 Speeding

We have been working on these issues since mid August and together with local authority partners have been campaigning for clear parking restrictions to be placed on Spratton Road, Pytchley Way, Northampton Road and the junction of Kennel Terrace Northampton Road and Holcot Road. Negotiations are on going.

Your Parish Council have organised for some alterations to Northampton Road including a zebra crossing, moving of a bus stop and additional dedicated parking. Some improvements to St David's Close are planned too in an attempt to prevent parking there for the sports field.

Since mid August we have conducted 38 directed patrols specifically targeting youth nuisance. Over 60 cans of alcohol have been seized and several packets of cigarettes. A small number of youths in the village remain on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts in an effort to curb behaviour that affects others. I continue to plead to parents to question what their children are doing and why they come home drunk.

We have conducted 11 speed checks and enforcement in the village and a number of tickets have been issued, mostly to Brixworth residents.

The representatives will meet again in November to discuss progress and decide on priorities for the next 3-6 months.

Since August there has been a marked increase in dwelling burglary in the area (8). Some of these have been car key burglaries. This is a relatively new method of stealing motor vehicles. Please take this opportunity to check your own security and make sure your car keys are hidden out of sight, NOT on the hall table, in your door lock or within reach of letterboxes or cat flaps etc. A Northampton male has been arrested in relation to some of these and we await progress on the case.

Three drink drivers have been caught within the last month and all have been charged and bailed to court.

Of concern nationally is an increase of theft of metals, in particular lead and copper. We have been hit dreadfully with Spratton School and church being hit, also Scaldwell, Lamport and Holcot churches. Please keep your eyes peeled for any activity on roofs – if you are at all suspicious please call us on 08453 700700.

On two occasions, 3 adults have been arrested recently in relation to theft of metals, one group from an offence in Holcot and the other on Holcot Road Brixworth.

A young man from Creaton has been charged with dangerous driving following an incident on 9th April 07 when a local male was knocked down and injured on Brampton Way.

An ex-Brixworth male has been sentenced to a 12 month suspended sentence for 2 years and 250 hours community service for burglary (some offences committed in Brixworth).

The appeal to Crown court mentioned in the last Bulletin finally took place on 24th Sept and

a local shop keeper was sentenced to 28 days imprisonment for storing and selling alcohol without a licence and selling alcohol to a minor. All the alcohol seized has been passed to local charities for disposal.

We executed a search warrant under the Drugs Act at an address in Brixworth on 13th July, an adult male was later arrested and he is currently on delayed charge bail pending enquiries.

PCSO Jemma Simkins has now embarked on her career break and we welcome PCSO Jo Hillery to the team. We also have another Special Constable, Steve Miller, who will be out on patrol once a week to assist on the area.

We are still interested in hearing your concerns so please let us know by filling out one of the cards available in the Community Centre, calling on 08453 700700, emailing us on SCTDaventryRuralNorth@northants.police.uk, or telling us when you see us. *PS Mike Grady*

GUILSBOROUGH SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP
A leaflet, giving carers information about where they can find help and support, will be launched at a Coffee Morning/Bring and Buy, to be held on Friday 14th December at Guilsborough Surgery from 10-12am.

For more information about the group contact Barbara Hogg 01604 880552 or www.villagelink.org.uk/gspg.html

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**Tuesday 4th December 2007
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HOLCOT ROAD
BRIXWORTH**

**NO BEACON LIGHTING THIS
NEW YEAR'S EVE**

The Brixworth Millennium Beacon will not be lit this New Years Eve. This was mentioned in the March 2007 Bulletin, the reason being previous poor attendances and the unpredictability of the weather. The Beacon will however continue to be lit for important national and local events. *David Hymas*

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FROM THE VICAR

Dear People of Brixworth

Do you think there is anything to be said in favour of moving the Village War Memorial from the churchyard to a more prominent place in the centre of Brixworth? Obviously it is very convenient for myself and members of All Saints' Church where it is now, but I can appreciate that a position nearer the shops in Spratton road would be preferable for many. If such a move led to a better public observance of Remembrance Sunday within the village, I would be very much in favour of it.

The population of Brixworth is now over 5,000, including children of all ages, yet well under 100 gathered recently at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday for a service of commemoration lasting about half an hour including the Two Minutes Silence at its heart and connecting us briefly by radio with what was happening at the same time in London at the Cenotaph. The service used follows the form agreed by leaders of the main Christian denominations some decades ago. It is simple, dignified and short. Maybe there could be more participation by local Christian clergy of different denominations and some involvement of local organizations. If anyone would like to suggest any changes to the form of service used, I would gladly consider them for next year.

In the nineteen-sixties many people felt that the annual observance of Remembrance Sunday should be dropped or at least changed somewhat but it survived intact and in this twenty-first century seems to be as relevant as ever when almost week by week we hear of injuries and deaths amongst those serving in our own armed forces in conflicts that are taking place in other parts of the world. Over 80 British soldiers have been killed in action so far this year. Surely this should matter to us all and make us want to make some tangible response.

Perhaps our present Prime Minister, Gordon Brown is right in declaring that lessons are needed in 'Britishness'. Perhaps they are needed not just for recent immigrants but for all of us, who are in danger of losing any real sense of identification with our own nation and its history in terms of responsibility not just to our own fellow-countrymen but to others that we can help in our world today. Individualism, which can so easily become a form of selfishness, is so prevalent in our society today that the right kind of pride and responsibility towards our nation and its affairs is often minimal except when it has anything to do with sport!

Opinions about our involvement in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places differ sharply. I myself have flirted with pacifism in the past and have been outspoken sometimes about the jingoistic pomp of certain Remembrance observances but surely there is a great deal to be said in favour of getting together in our own community at least once a year – Christians, Muslims, Jews and those of other faiths, parish councillors, school governors, leaders of parish organizations and the members they serve – to show respect and gratitude publicly and corporately to those who have given so much (including some from this village), willingly or unwillingly, in aid of the protection of the realm and its values in its contribution to the world.

Let us see if we can do better in showing our appreciation and solidarity with our young endangered soldiers **NEXT YEAR**.

With my best wishes

Yours sincerely

A.J.Watkins

P.S. I hope that all who have visited the churchyard in recent months have been impressed by its tidiness and cared-for appearance generally, thanks to the regular hard work and public-spirited nature of a few in our community, who wish to remain anonymous but can often be seen at work in the churchyard in lighter times of the year. We have much cause to be grateful to them all at All Saints' since we simply cannot afford to pay anyone to do such work. However, I think I should mention one person, Neville Russell, who volunteered some years ago to cut the grass around the church itself in the old part of the cemetery and until this summer could often be seen hard at work in the first part of the morning. Latterly he has had to give up due to poor health. Many people in the village have made very appreciative remarks of late and asked that these should be passed on to those who've contributed to the gratifying state of our churchyard at this time. The churchwardens are particularly pleased that we don't have to rely on sheep for the moment because attractive though they are in some ways, they have created a number of problems in the last few years. A.J.W.

CALENDAR FOR ADVENT 2007 UNTIL LENT 2008

Dec. 2nd FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT. Services at 7.45a.m., 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
6.00p.m. ADVENT CAROL SERVICE (in candlelight)
8th Saturday IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF B.V. MARY 9.30a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST
9th SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT. Services at 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
16th THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT. Services at 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.

23rd FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT. Services at 10.15a.m. and 4.30p.m.
4.30p.m. VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE in church.
24th CHRISTMAS EVE (Monday) 9.00a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST
2.00p.m. CRIB SERVICE for the very young
(5.00p.m. HOLCOT CAROL SERVICE followed by
VIGIL MASS OF THE NATIVITY)
11.30p.m. BLESSING OF CRIB and MIDNIGHT MASS
25th CHRISTMAS DAY (Tuesday) 7.45a.m., DAWN MASS OF THE NATIVITY
10.30a.m. DAYLIGHT MASS WITH CAROLS

26th Wednesday. ST. STEPHEN. PROTOMARTYR. 10.30a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST
27th Thursday. ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST. 10.30a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST
28th Friday. HOLY INNOCENTS' DAY. 10.30a.m.
29th Saturday. ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY. 12 noon HOLY EUCHARIST
30th SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FAMILY. Services at 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
31st Monday. New Year's Eve 12 noon HOLY EUCHARIST
Jan. 1st 2008 (Tuesday) CIRCUMCISION and NAMING OF CHRIST
11.00a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST with hymns and address.
6th SUNDAY. EPHIPHANY OF CHRIST Services at 7.45a.m., 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
13th SUNDAY. BAPTISM OF CHRIST. Services at 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
20th SUNDAY. EPIPHANY II 10.15a.m. SUNG EUCHARIST and ADDRESS
No evening service this Sunday
25th Friday. CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL 7.45a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST
27th SUNDAY. EPIPHANY III Services at 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
Feb. 3rd SUNDAY. PRESENTATION OF CHRIST. Services at 7.45a.m., 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
10.15a.m. CANDLEMASS PROCESSION and SUNG EUCHARIST
6th ASH WEDNESDAY. 10a.m. and 7.30p.m. HOLY EUCHARIST and ADDRESS
10th FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT. Services at 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
17th SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT. Services at 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
24th THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT. Services at 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
Mar. 2nd MOTHERING SUNDAY (LENTIV) Services at 7.45a.m., 10.15a.m. and 6.00p.m.
10.15a.m. FAMILY SERVICE followed by HOLY EUCHARIST
N.B. ADVENT CAROL SERVICE is made up of Bible readings, hymns and Christmas Carols based on the Advent themes and collects leading us into the season that prepares us for the Christmas celebration.
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE for all denominations – the day before Christmas Eve
CRIB SERVICE – for the very young on Christmas Eve along with parents, friends etc.
EASTER 2008 is very early and therefore ASH WEDNESDAY, the first day of Lent occurs within a few days of the end of the Christmas season at Candlemass.

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

Sunday. 30th September Harry Samuel GRAY, 2 Far Brook
Isabelle Mai YOUNG, 25 Brampton Way
Bethany Eva YOUNG, 25 Brampton Way
Sunday. 4th November Harvey James MARTIN, 11 Eaglehurst

HOLY MATRIMONY

Saturday. 1st September Edward David LOWE and Lucy PARKER
Saturday. 13th October Gary Hadyn CAPLE and Louise CAVE
Saturday. 24th November Mark Richard Amos TURNEY and Catherine Christine Chudley ATTWOOD

HOLY BURIAL

Thursday. 30th August Olive Ethel CRIPPS (former resident)
Friday. 12th October Stanley YOUNGMAN, 2 Glass Slade
Saturday. 20th October Mary Alice SMITH (former resident)

COUNTRY EYE



by Brian Webster



Plea for a Touch of Sanity.

Our village is in turmoil and has been so for some time. The idea of building houses and flats on redundant industrial or commercial land is basically a good one. Government tells us that homes are urgently needed, but the sites around Brixworth seem to serve to cram the largest number into the space available with scant thought for people's quality of life. How long before they become slums, I wonder?

The iniquitous ruling that allows gardens to be called 'brownfield land' has led to more homes to be shoe-horned into the tiniest spaces. The development opposite Pytchley Court is a prime example. Ironically the developer's publicity stresses the quality village homes aspect. Nothing could be further from the truth. This is no more than an off-the-peg set of buildings squeezed into someone's back garden. I shudder to think what will be made of the former Rigiflex patch. I believe that part of this development is to be of much-needed affordable homes. But what do we mean by affordable? My archaic brain nurses a figure of £50 or £60,000. Doubtless a multi-millionaire developer would think £200,000 is affordable. Incidentally, where will this 'new build.' come out on to the street? I have heard that it will access Froxhill Crescent close to the school. What fun folk will have finding their way in and out whilst the school run is on!

Talking about the school run, I had hoped that, after all the publicity about the healthy aspects of walking to school, it would have slimmed down somewhat with the start of the autumn term. Not a bit of it. There are more cars than ever before, and it seems that hardly anyone drives a small car any more. Gas-guzzling obscenities line up twice daily for hundreds of yards around the school to disgorge their contents. Those seeking to justify these vehicles often argue that they are concerned for the safety of their children. This may or may not be so while they are in it, but sure as eggs are eggs they are spewing out pollution for their little darlings to breathe in from the arse/back end.

From my window in the cul-de-sac where I live I can see 16 properties. On a recent

Sunday morning, I counted 32 motors crammed into driveways or scattered along the pavements. It has become commonplace to have to risk life and limb around the village by walking into the road to get around them. An increasing number of houses have paved over their gardens to accommodate them. This leads to increased run-off whenever it rains, with the risk of flash flooding.

Finally, what about those hideously huge vehicles which pass as the modern generation of farm tractors? These noisy beasts are the ultimate in gas-guzzlers, at a time when oil is rapidly becoming a scarce and finite resource. When they pass along our narrow village streets they cause chaos to other road users. Only the other day I had to back up to let a vast yellow rubber-tracked machine with a multi-furrowed plough in tow pass along the Northampton Road. A combine harvester with balloon tyres only just managed to scrape through the chicanes along Spratton Road, while the driver sat in his cab on a level with the bedrooms in the nearby houses. I couldn't help thinking of the Martians in H G Wells' 'War of the Worlds' as I craned my neck to look up at him.

Even these don't qualify as the ultimate in vehicle size in Brixworth. Several times daily, from as early as 4.30am and until after dark in the evenings giant articulated lorries haul vast yellow (why are all these things bright yellow?) monstrosities through our narrow streets. These must be at the very limit for size allowed on our roads. It is a mystery to me how they were given permission to operate through our village. One thing is sure. Sooner or later there is likely to be an accident, with someone injured or even worse.

All this doom and gloom brings me to my picture this time. Intentionally it has nothing to do with the above (how could it?). I hope you enjoy the autumn colour as we settle into the dark short days of winter.

HANGING HOUGHTON AND LAMPORT NEWS



The Harvest Supper was held in October at the Loder Hall in Maidwell and was a great success with good food, wine and convivial company, over £600 was raised for the church funds.

More work was carried out on the churchyard at Lamport, the large yew tree near the entrance was pollarded on the advice of a tree surgeon, and volunteers from the villages helped to dispose of the large quantities of timber

The annual Bonfire Night took place on Saturday, and was well attended by local villagers and friends.

Over 70 adults and 60+ children enjoyed the very large bonfire, excellent firework display, some fine wine and beers, and splendid food from the food van from the 'Bread Line' in Brixworth.

Our thanks go to all the volunteers who helped out on the night and afterwards to clear up the site and particularly to Tom & Fran Saunders for all their help prior to and during the evening. A photograph from the event can be seen above, courtesy of Jan Fossey
Mike Philpott

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY FOR BRIXWORTH



The lack of affordable homes in rural villages is having an adverse effect on the viability and sustainability of rural life. Both young and old are having to move away from their communities to find affordable accommodation.

Brixworth Parish Council has been concerned for some time about the lack of suitable affordable housing in the village and recently have been in communication with Northamptonshire Rural Housing Association to try and address this matter. NRHA specialise in building small schemes of affordable housing for people with strong local connections to Brixworth.

Affordable housing explained *What is affordable housing?*

NHRA defines it as housing for those who cannot afford to purchase at current market levels. The housing is managed by a Housing Association (registered social landlord) and can be in the form of rented accommodation or New Build Homebuy (this is the new name for shared ownership/shared equity).

What is New Build?

New Build Homebuy allows purchasers to buy a minimum initial purchase of at least 25% of a newly-built home and pay rent for the remaining share. Purchasers may buy further shares in their home when they can afford to do so – a process known as staircasing. The purchase of further shares will be at market value. In rural areas such properties will always remain as affordable housing as purchases are only able to staircase up to 80%.

This means that the house cannot be bought outright and will remain with the housing association as an affordable home for new residents if the original residents move on. New Build Homebuy offers the same benefits and risks as full home ownership.

Who is affordable housing for?

It is the objective of the Parish Council that any scheme aimed at meeting a proven

need would be managed by a specialist rural Housing Association that has a local lettings policy restricting residency to those with a strong local connection. It is also desired that a planning agreement is put in place that restricts the housing to those with a strong local connection as well. A strong local connection would be current residency in the Parish, close relatives in the Parish and/or currently employed in the Parish.

As mentioned before, the housing is for those who cannot afford to purchase at current market levels and this can be first time buyers, older people looking to downsize, families or people whose circumstances have changed.

Affordable properties managed by NRHA with a local lettings policy would always be available for local people who have that need. The allocation of available properties would be dealt with via the Local Authority Housing register, The Housing Association and the Parish Council. The Parish Council would be involved to confirm any potential residents' local connection.

In order to find out the extent of the need in Brixworth and to identify whether or not the needs of local people are being met. NRHA is undertaking an independent housing needs survey of the village on behalf of the Parish Council.

In this respect, it would be helpful if you could spend a few minutes completing the

survey which every Brixworth household will receive in early part of 2008, either to indicate a housing need or to pass comment on village life and affordable housing. This will enable us to provide a profile of local housing needs together with a general picture of the current housing situation. *All the information will be treated with the strictest of confidence and individual replies will not be seen by the Parish Council or any other organisation.*

Further information regarding affordable housing or the housing needs survey is available from NRHA.

Northamptonshire Rural Housing Assoc. Unit 19, Whitwick Business Centre, Stenson Road, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 4JP. Tel: 01530 276545 or E mail:

joanne.richardson@midlandsrh.org.uk

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About 60 village people gathered round the war memorial outside the All Saints' Church, Brixworth to observe the two minute silence at 11.00a.m. on Sunday 11th November 2007, which was followed by a short service of commemoration. Wreathes were laid by representatives of village groups and small crosses were planted

around the memorial by individuals attending the service. In addition to those killed and wounded in the two World wars and subsequent conflicts, special mention was made of the recent dead and wounded in the on-going situation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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PHILIP HOLLOBONE MP

Member of Parliament for the Kettering Constituency

reads, enjoys and is pleased to support the Brixworth Bulletin.

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Tels: 01536 414715 / 0207 219 8373 / 07979 850126

E-Mail: hollobonep@parliament.uk

Address: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Philip is always pleased to visit constituents in their own home if more convenient

This page is paid for out of the House of Commons Incidental Expenses Provision for Philip Hollobone MP

BRIXWORTH GIRLS U15 FOOTBALL TEAM



Brixworth girls U15 are the only girl's team in Brixworth at the moment and have been for a while. Last season they won the league, The NTFA cup, The League Cup, and were finalists in the County Cup.

This season has also started well they have won all their opening games and are currently top of the league. The girls are now in an age band where they cannot defend their NTFA cup but we will be doing

our best to win the league and reach the final again of the County Cup .

The team has been together for many years and has a wonderful team spirit and fantastic support from both the parents and the club. We have some wonderful memories from last season which will be very hard to match but we are going to do our best.

Thanks for your support *Antony Hanson*

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SNAK SHAK

We have come to know and love the convenience of the SNAK SHAK on Brixworth Industrial Estate. After 4 years, Karen has decided to move on to pastures new and Maria of THE BREADLINE, a resident of Brixworth, who having been a former chef, looks forward to continuing the good name of the SNAK SHAK and introducing new lines to tempt the taste buds.

The SNAK SHAK will open Monday – Friday at 7am – 2pm and if required on Saturday mornings THE BREAD LINE will be open as normal 7am -1.30pm.



BADMINTON CLUB

The club has grown in membership this season, largely on the back of gaining the coveted Sport England Premier Clubmark accreditation. We now have nearly 50 members, but can still accept more, especially ladies. The new junior section, which meets on Fridays during term time at 6.30p.m is thriving with a membership of 15. Seven of our thirteen year olds are now playing regularly for the Northants 'under 15' team and are showing great promise.

We are again going to The All England Championships in Birmingham on the 8th March by a 49 seat coach and we have a few spare places for non-members. Anyone interested, please call me on 01536 723182. Apart from this, we have a range of family orientated non-badminton social activities for members.

We now have 7 teams in the Northants League and play friendly matches as required.

Philip Imison

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 Front row: C. GATHERCOLE (Ass. Manager), M. SHARMAN, E. PHILLIPS, S. LINNELL, G. WHECZOREK

Following a turbulent pre-season, involving resignations from three key committee members; a shortage of available players; and a lack of club funds; both the 1st team and reserves are currently holding their own at around mid-table in their respective leagues. A new committee has now been formed, but we are presently looking for additional members to assist in duties like match-day nets, line marking, assistant referees, fund raising and general support. We are still in need of good quality footballers in order for us to compete with teams at the higher end of the leagues.

Our financial position has been addressed and by way of various fund raising events, including a hugely successful BRIXWORTH GOT TALENT (PERHAPS) night, raised the annual pitch rental and clubhouse monies. The date for BRIXWORTHS GOT TALENT (PROBABLY) 08 will be announced in later bulletins.

I would like to thank all involved for their exceptional efforts so far this season and if you would like to contact me for any reason my details are below:

Nigel Eldred Chairman BASFC
 07812609095 or neldred@hotmail.co.uk

BRIXWORTH RED LION FC

Our second season in the favourites Sunday Combination Premier Division sees us topping the table at the beginning of November. We have four victories, one draw and one defeat.

In the cup competitions, we unfortunately lost to one of the favourites, St Margarets in the second round of the NFA Sunday Cup and have received byes into the other two.

As in previous seasons the goals are being shared around the team, with Craig Spraggons leading the way with five. Player Manager Adam Knight has four and Neil Champelovier, Joe Beard and Matt Coleman all on three.

We now play our home games at the Ashway and would like to thank the Parish Council for all their help. Many thanks to Gary at the Red Lion for his continued sponsorship and our new home kit. *Ian Bandey*

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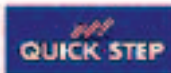


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