

Brixworth Bulletin

Including Draughton, Hanging Houghton and Lamport

Issue No.16, March 2008

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNER SPRING 2008

Subject - 'New Beginnings'



1st Prize - Barbara Ambrose - £25

BRIXWORTH BOOKSHOP WILL CLOSE ON 29TH MARCH 2008



After a period of over 25 years, the Fox in the Pound Bookshop in Harborough Road Brixworth will close on the 5th April 2008. Paddy Fox, who has been the bookseller for the whole of that period, has decided to call it a day. A closing down sale of the stock and some of the fittings will be held between the **4th March and the 29th March** whereby all the stock will be offered for sale **at half price**. The bookcases in the children's bookshop will also be offered for sale.

The building will revert to residential use as part of the Pound House following the closure. The shop hours, Wednesday to Saturday, are from 10.00am and 5.00pm.



PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RUNNER-UP
Thomas Bennett - Brixworth Primary School 1994-1998
Now beginning naval life as a submariner on HMS Talent



3rd PRIZE - COLIN DYSON - THE NEW TRACK



In the last edition of the Bulletin, we announced a photographic competition on the subject of 'New Beginnings'. We received 18 excellent entries and the winning photograph is shown on the front page. We show above the second and third placed entries. It was difficult to make a decision but quite a few entries chose the reservoir as the subject. Some of them were stunning and we may use some of them in future issues when it is appropriate.

The subject for the June issue is 'Birds in Springtime' feathered or otherwise and there will be a similar £25 awarded to the winner. Again, the first three photographs will be published.

PLASTIC BAGS BAN
CAMPAIGN COMES TO
BRIXWORTH

Residents and businesses in Brixworth are being encouraged to join in a new campaign to stop the use of plastic bags in the village.

Daventry District Council is working with local traders on the initiative, which could see Brixworth as the first village in Northamptonshire to become a plastic bag-free zone. The campaign is being spearheaded by staff at the Council's Brixworth Information Service, based at the library and community centre in Spratton Road.

In the UK alone 15 billion plastic bags are used every year. A large number of these bags end up in land fill where they can take between 500 and 1000 years to decompose. The rest pollute rivers and oceans and can destroy wildlife.

The campaign stems from an idea by Brixworth resident Heather Pool, who also works as a Customer Advisor at Brixworth Information Centre. She said "I was reading about the effect plastic bags have on the environment and the ban in the town of Modbury in Devon. There is a similar sense of community spirit here in Brixworth and, as a village, we could work together and improve our environment."

Initial discussions with businesses in Brixworth over the plans have proved positive and work is now under way on consulting both traders and residents on their views.

Stephen Troop, who runs the greengrocer's in Hunters Way, Brixworth, said "I think this is a wonderful idea and I support it all the way. I hope the customers will come on board with this initiative when it is launched and I feel we all have to change the way we think about going shopping and try and remember to take a re-useable bag with us. It is a mind-set change". For more information on how to get involved, contact Heather Pool on 01604 882355.

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KELSAE BELL ONION TROPHY

In 1979, a small group of regular drinkers/amateur gardeners who frequented a popular pub in Great Houghton decided that things could be livened up with a little 'competitive spirit' to add to the usual alcohol spirits! Several gentlemen of this group, who regularly fished just over the border in Scotland, heard about a local onion which grew to an enormous size – it wasn't just the size of the salmon that could be boasted about over a wee dram at the bar! This onion was the Kelsae Onion and so the Northampton Onion Competition was born.



The annual Onion Party has taken place every year since 1979, in early October, under strict supervision by Arnold Haddon, renowned vegetable market stall holder in Northampton whose wife Penny, used to run a greengrocer's shop in Brixworth. With Arnold's experienced eye and one who knows his onions(!), he ensures that only Kelsae Onions are eligible – anything that doesn't fit the exact criteria of a Kelsae in



colour or shape is promptly disqualified before the serious ceremony of the weigh-in takes place.

This select group has now grown to about fourteen couples – it's not just the men who do the sowing of, nurturing of, feeding of, weeding of and talking to the onions. Of course, nobody lets on what actually is used to feed the onions. To each, it is a closely guarded secret. The record weight so far is 4lbs 4 oz which has a long way to go before beating the national record

of about 15lbs. However, we are proud to announce that the trophy, an inscribed bell, has come to Brixworth in 2007, won by Maddy and Pete Kottler with the grand weight of 2 lbs 10 ozs. Not a lot but still the winner! Actually this is the second time a Brixworth couple have won the trophy, Kate and Jerry Fitchett won it in 2005 with a weight of 3 lbs 7 ozs.

Here's to a fantastic growing season in 2008.
Pete Kottler

BEAT THE BOSS



On Sunday 13th January 2008, 15 children from Brixworth Primary School and 10 Scouts from Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group were selected to take part in the filming of the CBBC children's programme Beat the Boss. The filming took place at Brixworth Country Park. The twenty five 8 – 12 year olds were asked to try out two new products, that had been designed by two teams, the Big Shots and the Bright Sparks, then each one had to vote for which product they preferred. The programme is to be shown in the new series of Beat the Boss in Spring 2008.

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SCHOOL GOVERNORS' ONE-STOP SHOP



A new partnership was announced at the beginning of January with the aim of encouraging more Northamptonshire volunteers to come forward as governors in local schools – a unique initiative undertaken by the education charity, the School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) and Northamptonshire County Council.

SGOSS is dedicated to recruiting volunteer school governors with a passion for giving children the best possible start in life, to fill some of the 40,000 vacant places on state school governing bodies in England. They welcome everyone over 18 and believe that representative governing bodies make an important contribution to social cohesion.

The collaboration will introduce quicker application procedures, improved communication and more efficient placement of governors within schools. Currently over 200 people in the county have come forward with the help of SGOSS, but with the new streamlined application process, this is forecast to increase by approximately 100 each year.

People wanting to come forward and volunteer as a school governor will receive an efficient and quick application process.

The photograph shows Janet Scott, Operations Director at SGOSS, Andy Nicols, Principal Advisor for the Council and Councillor Joan Kirkbride, Cabinet Member for Schools at the launch date.

THOMAS ROE CHARITY

Applications for grants to this charity should be submitted to Ursula Morris, Secretary, by mid March 2006. Application forms can be obtained at the D.D.C. Information Centre, Spratton Road

DRAUGHTON NEWS

Great excitement early in December, when workmen came to start on the Club Room extension. Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding with Daventry District Council over the contract, work was stopped. Hopefully this will be resolved in the near future and work can recommence.

The Carol Service on December 18th was lovely. The star readers were Holly and Lauren Duke. Thanks to the ladies who provided the mulled wine, coffee and mince pies which were served after the service.

We are still having problems with the Rothwell Road on the way out of Draughton. Workmen have been and have left a ring of cones, but after rain, the road is still filling up with water and will continue to do so until the drain under the road is cleared. It is very dangerous when it freezes.

Finally – Good News! We are all pleased to say congratulations to Jo and Martin Prout on the birth of their son, Charles Henry.
Anne Block

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DOUBLE YELLOW LINES FOR BRIXWORTH

– *Well just a few.*

Following a public consultation meeting held on 29th January, attended by about 20 residents, the Parish Council agreed that there is now a real need for a limited number of double yellow lines at key village junctions. As a result of this consultation and listening to the concerns of local residents, The Parish Council resolved to approve the following proposals:

- Kennel Terrace / Harborough Road/ Holcot Road Crossroads: 10metre double yellow lines from each corner at the Kennel Terrace entrance outside the Post House and Chambers Butchers. The Council is no longer asking for yellow lines on the Holcot Road side. However, it would like this junction to have a STOP sign with a continued white line at the junction of the bottom of the Holcot Road where it joins Northampton Road.
- Spratton Road/Northampton Road corner. The Council approved double yellow lines around this dangerous corner and asked for the lines to stop at the drain outside No 79 Northampton Road. This should allow the residents at No 81 to park their vehicles outside their property, without having a knock on affect further on down the Northampton Road.
- Layby on Spratton Road adjacent to Hunters Way. The Parish Council has asked for a parking restriction for the layby to a maximum of one hour between the hours of 8am-6pm Monday to Saturday.
- Spratton Road/Pytchley Way T junction. Double yellows on both corners but the lines to be continued on the shops' side as far as the entrance behind the shops.
- The above proposal has been forwarded to NCC Highways Dept. for final approval. If successful, a road traffic order will be raised at a cost of over £3000. It is anticipated that subject to final approval the work could commence in April/May.

For the past two years, NCC Highways Department has been obliged to work to a very limited budget (amounting to little more than essential work only) and it is only through the good offices of our County Councillor Chris Millar that the parish council has found itself in a position to

contemplate putting forward the above proposals. In his capacity as County Councillor, Cllr. Millar has access to a small budget to be spent on minor works in his own constituency. Cllr. Millar has generously agreed to donate a part of his Councillor's privileged allowance to fund the cost of implementing double yellows.

Paddy Fox

Expressions is delighted to welcome **Hilary Mitchell** who has been working in the salon since October. Hilary trained with Sassoons in London and has worked in city salons, before owning her own salon in Overstone and therefore is fully experienced working with both Ladies and Gentlemen. Hilary feels that consultations with appointments is essential and looks forward to welcoming both old and new clients.

Expressions is at 70 Northampton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DY and is open Tuesdays – Saturdays with late nights (until 7.00p.m.) on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please telephone 01604 880770 to make an appointment. **Any clients booking colours with Hilary during March will receive a free manicure.**

WINDSURFING SUCCESS IN BRIXWORTH




Windsurfing probably doesn't spring to mind for most people living in Northamptonshire, but for a group of dedicated windsurfers living in Brixworth, Pitsford Reservoir is an excellent training resource close to home. In September the guys went to the RYA Youth and Masters Windsurfing Championships held at Weymouth and Portland where they competed against over 166 like minded windsurfers from around the UK including two current junior World Champions. Based on the results gained there and over several other events, they have been selected to join the North Youth Zone Squad which places them in the top 60 windsurfers in the country and gives them top quality training from the RYA coaches and is a step to the National Squad from where the Olympic hopefuls are selected. When you are next walking around the reservoir, take a look and you will probably see Riley Harber, Jake Patrick, Luke Foster and Luke Patrick out training in all weather.

Adrian Harber

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**BRIXWORTH BIN
COLLECTIONS BACK ON
TRACK**

A new system of bin collections in Brixworth is now back on track after experiencing difficulties in the first week.

In January Daventry District Council changed the way it collects the grey and brown bins at households district-wide. In any one week, half of the district now has grey bin collections with the other half having brown bin collections. There are no changes to the weekly recycling collections.

Details of how collections would be affected were included on a calendar issued to households before Christmas. However it emerged that many households in Brixworth had received the wrong leaflet and many bins were missed on Wednesday January 23.

Daventry District Council apologises to residents for this error and thanks them for their patience during this period. It staged collections the following Saturday to rectify the problem and has now distributed the correct calendars to homes..

Jo Gilford, Corporate Manager for Public Space at Daventry District Council said "We apologise for any confusion or inconvenience that was caused to residents due to the leafletting mix-up. The problems of that week have now been resolved and households have been issued with the correct calendars. The system of collection rounds has been changed to balance the workloads of our crews more evenly and we are confident it will improve the service in the long-term.

Brixworth is split into two Wednesday collections- Collection A and Collection B.

COLLECTION A

Spratton Rd (Even numbers); Northampton Rd (Houses between Spratton Rd & Kennel Ter.); Kennel Ter.; Pytchley Way; Pytchley Close; Hunt Close; Hunters' Way; Harborough Rd; Brixworth Hall Park; High Street; Hall Farm Close; Silver Street; The Paddocks; Harborough Road; Church Street; Cross Hill; Saneco Lane; Church Street; Frog Hall; New Street; Woodsfield; Grange Court; Newlands; Barneswell Close; Holcot Rd (Odd numbers); Tantree Way; Waterpike; Tantree Way; Burrows Vale; Waterpike; Eaglehurst.

COLLECTION B

Froxhill; Stonehill; Shelleycotes; Dairy Close; Broadlands; Honey Holme; Windmill Glade; Oathill Close; Brampton Way; Spratton Rd (Odd numbers); St David's Road; Parkfield Rd; Northampton Rd (numbers); St David's Close; Holcot Rd (Even numbers).

**EXHIBITION AT BRIXWORTH LIBRARY
'Portraits and Figures' features artwork
by Ann Saunders**

**It will run from Friday 7th March until
Friday 4th April.**

**Artworks in graphite and oil paint will be
on display as well a selection of framed
prints.**

**Further details on
www.snowball-gallery.co.uk**

• BULLETIN BOARD •

BRIXWORTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Brixworth Village Hall. Our programme for 2006 is as follows:-

March 11	Mr Pepper	The history of skittles
April 8	Mr Day	Pop to Uncle (a pawnbrokers life)
May 13	Mrs Diana Birch	Resolutions
June 10	Sharon Henley	Personal safety (Police)
July 8	Mrs Dodge	Talk on Guide Dogs
August 12	HOLIDAY	
Sept 9	Mrs D Ferraro	Yogo History, Philosophy and Benefits
Oct 14	Annual Council Meeting	
Nov 11	Mr McGrath	Talk - Living with the H A Tribe Tanzania
Dec 9	Christmas Party	

New members and visitors are very welcome to come and see us. Please contact either our President on 01604 883615 or our Secretary on 01604 880317.

Sixth Sense

The exhibition 'Sixth Sense' will be held in the Floyd Conference Room at Highgate House in Creaton on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd June 2008

From 10.00am to 6pm each day
Stella Benford, Belinda Collett,
Sheila Manwaring, Brenda
McKetty, Nora O'Keefe, Lisa
Sawbridge and Jenny White

**COTTESBROOKE VILLAGE
GARDENS
OPEN DAY**

**SUNDAY 4th May 2008
2.00pm - 5.30pm
Including home made teas**

The Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group will be holding a cake and second-hand book stall in Brixworth Library foyer on the second Saturday of each month during 2008 to raise funds for the scout, cub and beaver packs in the village. The stall will be open from 10a.m. until 1.00p.m.

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We are pleased to report that membership is increasing and we are looking forward to an interesting programme of activities in addition to our regular monthly meetings. 18 members joined the Rambling Group for a short walk on 30th January and then joined up with members of the Luncheon Club for an excellent meal at the Stags Head, Maidwell. There will be a further Rambling/Luncheon Club meeting on 27th February with a guided walk around Brixworth followed by lunch at the Coach & Horses. Activities and meetings are also being arranged by the Away Day, Art and Family History Groups.

We are very pleased to gratefully acknowledge the generous grant awarded to our U3A by the Brixworth Parish Council.

Our meetings for the next few months are as follows :-

DATE	SPEAKER
Wednesday 6th February	Martin Lord - Citizens Advice Bureau
Wednesday 5th March	Sue Edwards – The Story behind the Painting
Wednesday 2nd April	Rosemary Cobbald – Living & Working in Saudi Arabia
Wednesday 7th May	Tim Chamberlain – Wills, Probate & Inheritance

All meetings take place at 2.00pm in the Brixworth Community Room, Spratton Road.

You can enjoy an interesting selection of speakers, learn more about our Interest Groups, make new friends and enjoy a cup of tea at a small charge. Admission is free to members who have paid an annual subscription but anyone interested in joining or learning more about U3A is most welcome to attend any meeting at a charge of £2.00 each.

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Philip Pomeroy

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Brixworth History Society

Brixworth History Society has been meeting in the village regularly for over 15 years. The society was formed after a request for old photographs of Brixworth for a local exhibition was met with an overwhelming response. The society now has over 60 members who take an active part in opportunities to share and explore their common interest in the history of Brixworth and beyond.

Brixworth History Society members are offered a programme of activities, including talks on a range of historical topics, and visits to places of historical interest, both in England and abroad. During the past few years our trips have included Salisbury, Tewkesbury, Portsmouth, and this year, Winchester. We have also had longer trips abroad to the War Graves of World Wars I and II in France, Visits to Rouen and the Loire Valley in France, Lille in Belgium, and this year to Valkenburg in Germany.

The society provides safe storage for historical documents, photographs and artefacts relating to the history of Brixworth. A selection of items from the archives is regularly displayed in the Heritage Centre during April to October every year.

New members are given a warm welcome at our meetings which take place on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Village Hall (except during the summer months).

The annual membership subscription for a couple is £15, single annual membership is £10. A guest visit is £3 payable on the door.

All meetings are held in the village hall starting at 7.45pm.

If you are interested in joining the society, or have any queries, please contact **Heather Parr**, Secretary on **01604 631183** or heather.parr@brixworthhistory.org

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FLOODING IN BRIXWORTH



To my knowledge, flooding due the inadequacy of storm drains and foul sewer drains has been a problem in Brixworth for the last quarter of a century. In 1980 there were about 500 houses and now in 2008 the number of homes has risen to over 2,000 plus innumerable extensions and conservatories. The antiquated drainage system has in part, been improved, usually by the intense pressure applied on Anglia Water by affected residents.

There are several critical areas in the village, the bottom of Harborough/Northampton Road near the Red Lion, the High Street junction with Silver Street, the bottom of Froghall (recently flooded for three days in late January 2008) and again recently near the new development on the Holcot Road. (see photograph)

Large diameter drains were installed in Tantree Lane helped by balancing tanks (hydro brake system to restrict the flow during flash floods to 4.5 litres/sec) installed in the Beazer Estate and upsizing the drains in the Harborough Road during 1996.

The developers of the 14 houses in the Holcot Road (McInerney Homes) understood that they could discharge water into the drains in the Holcot Road but investigations carried out in January 2008, revealed that the existing drains were cracked below the surface at the crossroads of the Holcot Road and the Northampton Road near the butchers and therefore could not carry the additional drainage water. It is understood that a new drainage pipe will be laid along the lane adjacent to the village hall to link the new development (Harrington Gardens) with the main drain in the Northampton Road near the George Public House.

In view of past history, it is hoped that this arrangement will allow flood water from flash floods to be adequately dealt with and not cause manhole covers to lift near the Red Lion.

It is concerning that on examination of the number of planning permissions for extensions to existing houses and conservatories added over the last five years, that the drainage system in Brixworth may not be capable of dealing with torrential rainfalls falling onto the additional roof areas.

It would be useful if the Parish Council would arrange for the Anglia Water Authority and N.C.C. to bring drawings of the drainage system in Brixworth to a meeting, so that residents could understand the complex and antiquated system.

Harvey Fox


BRIXWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY – PROGRAMME 2008

All meetings will be held in the Brixworth Hall at 7.45pm except those marked *

Thursday 21 February	The Roman Military Research Society	"The Life of a Roman Legionary during the 1 st & 2 nd Century"
Thursday 20 March	John White	"The Good, The Bad, The Ugly" Church Iconography
Thursday 17 April	Dr Cathy Smith University of Northampton	"Witchcraft in Early Modern Northamptonshire"
Thursday 15 May	Jayne Lawes Bath & Camerton Arch. Soc.	"Geophys – Time Team Tool in our Society"
During May & June, informal trips to the following places will be announced: Cottesbrooke Hall & Gardens – leader Deni Willis Lyvedon New Bield including a picnic & a visit to Oundle – leader Den Coles Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire – leader Heather Parr		
Saturday 5 July*	Day Trip to Winchester	
Thursday 17 July – Monday 21 July*		A Long Weekend in Europe Visit Valkenberg, Cologne, Belgian Ardennes
Thursday 21 August*	John Dawkins Evening Saunter	Tour of Brixworth with Thrapston Historical Society
Thursday 18 September	Susi Marshall	"Georgiana Spencer, The Phenomenal Duchess"
Thursday 16 October	Northampton Medieval Society	"Medieval Daily Life"
Thursday 20 November	Heather Parr Brixworth History Society	"Wolfage Manor, Brixworth"
Thursday 18 December		Christmas Celebrations

Visitors are welcome at £3 per person at each meeting.

Contact: Heather Parr; t: 01604 631183; e: heather.parr@brixworthhistory.org; web: www.brixworthhistory.org



BRIXWORTH OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC

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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.

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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"

POLICE QUARTERLY REPORT

Following my last report local representatives met and discussed local issues in November and agreed to make no changes to the priorities for the area in which Brixworth falls - parking, youth nuisance/underage drinking and speeding.

Parking – work continues with partners on this issue and by the time you receive this bulletin there will have been an open meeting hosted by the Parish Council on Tuesday 29th January 08. Together we propose the laying of double yellow lines on the crossroads of Harborough Rd, Kennel Terrace and Holcot Rd, on the corner of Spratton Rd onto Northampton Rd and around the junction of Spratton Rd and Pytchley Way. In addition to this, limited waiting is proposed in the lay-by outside the shops. These proposals are seen as a solution to the continual irresponsible parking by motorists using the areas with the intention of making the roads safer and, in relation to the lay-by – alleviating the lack of space available by preventing cars being parked there all day. At weekends I remind those wishing to use the facilities in the village centre that they may use the QMP/Boniface house car park.

We have issued numerous warnings to drivers over parking and have prosecuted 2. You may be aware that at present we have placed no waiting cones at the junction of Spratton Rd and Pytchley Way. These remain in place for 2 weeks as an education exercise to indicate where it is unlawful to park. Within the first week 3 motorists have been issued with fixed penalties for parking on this coned area. Once the cones are removed we will issue a fixed penalty notice to any offenders found causing an unnecessary obstruction.

Youth Nuisance/Underage drinking - We have maintained our evening patrols and find that there has been a marked decrease in such incidents over the last 3 months – reported incidents dropping from 25 in October to 3 in January. We will continue to monitor the situation and are aware that weather plays a factor.

Speeding – This is raised as an issue across all our 45 villages and we endeavour to carry out enforcement proportionate to the problem. Concerns raised in Brixworth prompted us to have a 7-day speed survey conducted on Northampton Rd near to the Holcot Rd junction in November – this showed that 8397 passed through and that there is not a speeding issue at that precise location. We will however carry out checks elsewhere in the village and report that since November 1st we have visited 80 sites across our area and dealt with 48 offenders. Further survey work is planned to identify speeding hot spots.

Crime in Brixworth has been fairly low over the last 3 months with overall figures for the year at least 10% down on last year.

An adult male is on bail in relation to theft

from the COOP in October. Following the execution of a warrant in the village in July an adult male has received an adult caution for possession of a controlled drug.

On 23rd Oct 3 Northampton males were arrested for theft of metals from Holcot Rd; all three have been reported for the offence. Theft of lead has transferred to stainless steel due to a recent hike in its scrap value.

All 3 drink drivers from the village have attended court and all have received disqualifications ranging from 15months to 3 years.

A 16yr old male youth has been to court over the reported stealing of a car on 27th Oct; the court has referred the case to the diversion clinic.

An adult male arrested having been found in possession of items stolen in a burglary in Brixworth (Aug 07) admitted handling stolen goods. He is currently serving a 15month sentence for this and other offences.

A Brixworth farm outbuilding was destroyed by 6 local youths on 12th Nov. All have been dealt with by way of a reprimand clinic.

A local 18yr old female has been remanded in custody pending offences committed in Warwickshire

In the early hours of New Years Eve the marquee mounted at St David's was destroyed by fire. There are many rumours in the village as to who the offender was, and we believe the offence was witnessed, however,

we do need something stronger than gossip to take the investigation further – if you know something about this crime please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The young man from Creaton charged with dangerous driving following an incident on 9th April 07 when a local male was knocked down and injured on Brampton Way appears in court on 30th Jan charged with dangerous driving.

LOOK AFTER YOUR MOTORBIKE.

A number of motorcycles have been stolen in Brixworth recently. We have received some intelligence to suggest a local tradesman is using the opportunity to plan later motorbike thefts. Please make sure your bikes are fully secured and alarmed where possible.

We are working with Brixworth neighbourhood watch trying to increase interest and membership. If you are interested in joining or helping out please get in touch.

We and community partners are still interested in hearing your concerns so please let us know by filling out one of the cards available in the Community centre, emailing us on SCTDaventryRuralNorth@northants.police.uk, or calling 08453 700700, or simply telling us when you see us.

PS Mike Grady

A regular surgery at the Community Centre 10-11 am will be held on Saturday mornings:- 1st March, 22nd March, 12 April, 3rd May and 24th May



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RICHES, GLORY, STATUS....!

I hope all these things come your way one day, but here's a more immediate offer....caring for Brixworth and the people in it, trying to get best value in making the village a place we all enjoy and respect, helping people in difficulties and making our voice heard!

Ever thought of joining the Parish Council? I've been told, "They wouldn't want me, I'm too busy, I've no experience" and even "Nobody asked me".

I'm the Chairman of Brixworth Parish Council and I'm asking you to consider becoming a Parish Councillor. Really to consider.

The present Parish Council has almost completed its 4 year term and 14 places are to be filled by election. It's really easy to put your name forward and you could soon be part of the election and hopefully then a Parish Councillor helping to serve and shape the future of the village.

You need some time to spare one evening each month for one meeting of the full Parish Council and there are four specialist committees you could help with – Recreation and Amenities, Highways and Environment, Finance, and Planning, though there's a lot more opportunity for those with more time to spare. No experience? None of us had any at one time or other, but it's a great way to learn how decisions are made, and to be part of making them! Enthusiastic? So are we! Although some Parish Councillors have their own party political views, the Parish Council is not run on party lines – everything we do is for the good of the village, not along any political party lines.

So what have we done recently, what sort of things could you get involved in? We've raised funding and completed a new sports changing room on the Ashway, begun a re-development of Spratton Road recreation ground complete with a new toddlers area, have attracted a new police office now based in the village, we're helping to support projects from village organisations and clubs, we represent our views to the District Council on Planning matters, and most importantly, we make sure your money is spent wisely and we squeeze every drop of value from it. The list goes on. We have had a hugely successful last four years in my view, so make that first step now towards being part of the next 4!

About the pay...er... There isn't any! But we do refund out of pocket expenses.

If all you wanted was Riches, Glory, and Status, I don't think you would have read this far. Take that first step towards joining the grass roots of democracy here in the Parish. Our clerk, Jane Macken, will be

glad to explain how to stand for election (contact details below). Want to know more about what it's like to be a Parish Councillor? Have a chat with any Parish Councillor or give me a ring (881250) or e-mail bpchair@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you! Ian Barratt Chairman BPC

THE NUTS AND BOLTS.

Local Elections – Thursday 1st May, 2008.

Election of a District Councillor

The Brixworth Ward which includes several nearby villages is entitled to 3 representatives at Daventry District Council. One of these seats is due to election on 1st May.

Elections of Parish Councillors.

Brixworth village is entitled to 14 representatives.

The Public Notice of Election will be published on 13th March, 2008. (Watch the village notice board) Any resident wishing to stand for election either at District or Parish level should contact either the Parish Clerk who will have nomination packs available from 13th March. (Her number is 01604 881243). Packs will also be available from the Returning Officer at DDC (01327 871100). The completed nomination papers need to be returned to the DDC offices no later than noon on Friday 4th April, 2008. Both the Returning Officer and the Parish Clerk will be happy to offer assistance or to answer any queries. If sufficient candidates come forward, an election will take place on 1st May, 2008. Polling Station: Brixworth Village Hall. The hours of polling will be from 7am-10pm. The counting of votes for the contested parish council elections is expected to take place at the Saxon Suite, Daventry Leisure Centre on Friday 2nd May, 2008.

REPLACEMENT LOLLIPOP LADY

Despite notices in the local press and Bulletin, no candidates have come forward for post of 'Lollipop Lady' for the school crossing in Northampton Road. If anyone is interested, telephone School Crossing Patrol Manager on 01604 654448.

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Dear Sir

A few years ago I was contacted by a lady from Brixworth who was writing a dissertation about my great uncle, Stephen Walker of Walgrave. He founded Walkers shoe factory in Walgrave and had connections with Brixworth. I believe he was guardian of The Brixworth Union Workhouse.

Unfortunately I lost touch with the lady in question and did not see the work she produced. She was Canadian or American. I wondered if any of your readers would know who she is.

Yours sincerely
Susan Edwards

Dear Sir

As a resident of Brixworth, I would like to thank the Sports Committee for their quick action in getting another marquee to replace the one damaged by the fire outside the sports pavilion on New Year's Eve.

I noticed all the numbers of people pulling together to get the party going so that everyone could have a good time.

I would like to wish them all, a very happy and healthy new year, while the village spirit is still with us.

Yours faithfully
Madeline Battison

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COUNTRY EYE



by Brian Webster



The Trouble with Scandinavians

Despite a lifelong passion for wild nature, its conservation and the environment, I must come clean and confess that I have always had an identity crisis. In other words telling plants and animals that are closely similar to one another apart has always been a problem. Partly I guess this has been due to my complete lack of interest in “classroom” biology. I remember as an eleven year old my enthusiasm was shattered by the most abysmally awful biology teacher. His idea of a lesson was to read out two or three pages from a textbook and then order us to copy it out. End of lesson.

It's bad enough with obscure groups like spiders and fungi; my expertise with these must rank as slightly worse than zero. Even wild flowers and birds still give me trouble from time to time, as Northamptonshire's great botanist Gill Gent would no doubt confirm. Down to the present day she has come to the rescue as I struggle to put a name to quite widespread wild flowers.

A small flock of chaffinches gather annually at this time on the lawn beneath my bird feeders. Here they feast on the seeds discarded by the fussy blue, great, and cole tits from the feeders. Although the occasional chaffinch learns to hover before the feeding ports to snatch the odd seed, most of them seem to find it beyond them. So they spend their time looking upwards, watching the tits intently, and waiting for one of their handouts. Lucky for them only about one seed in four seems to be worth eating by the tits. The rest are tossed aside with apparent disdain.

A couple of weeks ago I noticed that something odd was going on with the chaffinches. They seemed to be spending much more time than usual arguing and squabbling amongst themselves. And then one day a female was found dead on the lawn. The razor-sharp keel to the breast-bone indicated that it had died from starvation. No doubt deprived from food as a result of all those disputes, I thought.

And there the matter would have rested until I noticed that something was not quite

right with one of the chaffinches. The giveaway was a narrow white stripe between the folded wings and the tail, which expanded into a broad white rump, to give it the birdwatcher's term. It wasn't a chaffinch at all, but a brambling, refugee from its homelands, to the north in Scandinavia. When I looked closer there were three of them, the same length but noticeably bulkier than their close relative. I was able to admire the delicate ash-grey and black head markings, and most of all the rich salmon on their chests and underparts. So that was what all the fuss was about.

Bramblings do not often come into back gardens. As seedeaters they rely largely on the fallen seeds of beech. When this crop fails or is used up, they then have no alternative but to seek alternative supplies. In some winters they are quite rare, but in others fairly common. To me it was a rare treat to have them as guests, but obviously they were not welcomed by the neighbourhood chaffinches.

By the time you read this the first butterflies of the year are likely to be out and about.

It will be a toss-up which of three species will be first on the scene. My nomination for the earliest is the sulphur-yellow brimstone, but it could be the scarlet-and-black small Tortoiseshell, or even the red admiral. The latter butterfly has come on by leaps and bounds as our milder winter have allowed it to overwinter here. My picture shows a male brimstone sharing a flower with a large white.

HANGING HOUGHTON AND LAMPORT NEWS

At the moment there is very little work being done on the Clint Hill Farm site for the proposed development of 8 houses. Presumably this is due to the downturn in the housing market and the developers are waiting for things to change? The developer has been contacted about the damage being done to the grass verges in the village by the site traffic and asked to make good the damage.

Clint Hill Farm and the immediate outbuildings have now been put up for sale at £500,000. I assume that the Lamport Trust have decided to sell the property in its state rather than renovate and then sell it?

The Parochial Church Council have decided to postpone the proposed Valentines evening, and are now going to hold a fund raising evening on the 15th March 2008. This will be held at the Loder Hall in Maidwell with food, drink and good company on offer – please make a note in your diary.

Lodge Farm on the A508 between Hanging Houghton and Brixworth has applied for planning permission for a change of use on one of their barns. They have applied to convert it to light industrial use. They have also asked for permission to increase the size of the farm entrance and clear some of the existing hedges to allow better vision to the anticipated increase in traffic to the site. The PCC have commented on the potential danger of this traffic to/from the site onto a very fast and busy A508. *Mike Philpott*

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PLANNING STATUS REPORT

W S ATKINS LOSES NEW N.C.C. HIGHWAYS ENGINEERING CONTRACT

REFERENCE NO. & DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	P.C. RECOMMENDATION & D.D.C DECISION
DA/2007/0979 46 Stonehill Way. Rear extension and first floor side extension over garage.	PC 24/9 No observations. D.D.C. Approved.
DA/2007/0986 Land to rear of 20 Northampton Road. Minor alterations to previously approved application DA/2007/0264 for detached dwelling	PC 24/9 No observations. D.D.C. Approved.
DA/2007/1035 25 The Ashway. Conservatory at rear.	PC24/9 No observations D.D.C. Approved
DA/2007/1061 4 Barnswell Close Extension over garage and utility.	PC 15/10 No observations. D.D.C. Approved.
DA/2007/1068 91 The Ashway. Extension to side of dwelling.	PC 15/10 PC objected. D.D.C. Approved.
DA/2007/1071 77 Northampton Road. Four new terraced houses. Demolition of existing bungalows.	PC 15/10 PC raised concerns. D.D.C. Approved.
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. D.D.C. Approved
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.
DA/2007/1192 Coach & Horses, Harborough Road. Change of use of storage building to letting rooms.	PC 18/12 No objection to proposed changes to windows. No Objection to listed building consent for change of use.
DA/2007/1231 18 Brampton Way Two storey rear extension	PC 26/11 No Objections. D.D.C. Approved
DA/2007/1232 69 The Ashway Single storey rear extension	PC 26/11 No Objections. D.D.C. Approved
DA/2007/1238TC Mercedes Benz Morgan Drive Installation of 10 metre 3G monopole mast	PC 26/11 No Objections D.D.C. Approved
DA/2007/1247 1 Shelley cotes Rd. Single storey rear extension.	PC 26/11 No Objections. D.D.C. Approved
DA /2007/1260 7 Froxhill Walk Two storey dwelling with new vehicular access.	PC 26/11 PC Objected. D.D.C. Approved
DA/2007/1360 Land to the west of Mercedes Avenue. Installation of 60 metre high anemometry mast to measure wind speed and direction.	PC18/12 No Objections providing site is considered suitable and has been designated for commercial use.
DA/2007/1316 & 1317 1 & 2 Hunters Way. Two one bedroom flats at first floor above No 1 and on one bedroom flat at first floor above No 2.	PC 18/12 PC strongly objects.
DA/2007/1362 72 Froxhill Crescent. Change of use of garage to use for grooming of pet dogs.	PC 29/1 Objection
DA/2007/1419 25 Knightons Way. Single storey rear extension.	PC 29/1 No objections
DA/2007/1400 Buckton Fields, Land at Brampton Lane Boughton. Residential development consisting of approx. 1250 dwellings	PC 29/1 Traffic increase objections.

Northamptonshire County Council have awarded the new engineering contract for delivering the highway policy in the County for the next ten years to May Gurney – WSP. Atkins, the current holders of the contract, are extremely disappointed not to continue in partnership with N.C.C., but the transfer has already started between the two companies to ensure continuous highway service.

The staff presently employed with Atkins will transfer to May Gurney – WSP on March 29th. Some people may have the opportunity to stay with Atkins and move to contracts and positions elsewhere.

There is a REPS meeting scheduled for Wednesday 23rd April to be held at 1830hrs at Brixworth Highways Depot, at which time, a review of progress will be provided.

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DRAMA GROUP'S PRODUCTION OF 'TOAD OF TOAD HALL'



TOAD OF TOAD HALL REVIEW

For a number of years Mark Sharman has been a reliable member of the production team at the drama group, doing sets and lighting – important but never seen. Mark had a long time ambition to direct Toad of Toad Hall and this week in late January, it was realised. Not a small production to start with or a one-act cameo, but a production that strained the resources of the group – a cast of 20 and 12 delightful children from around the village doing their bit as singers and animal extras.

Everyone knows The Wind in the Willows from which the play is derived. The four central characters, Mole, Ratty, Toad and Badger play out the simple tale of country folk, yet the play yields lots of surprises and surreal and comic moments. The play provides a whole range of small cameo roles for almost the entire company, too numerous to mention. Amongst the cameos were a number from newcomers to the group and notably a group of local teenagers who have overcome their natural reticence and have thoroughly enjoyed their first experiences on the boards.

The play opens with the meeting of the delightful round mole, played by James Skeggs, whose passion for anything edible was clear; the rather more reserved Water Rat, played by Eileen Truby; and the appropriately gruff Badger; played by Mike Culverhouse. The three characters present a nice contrast in style and personality. They discuss the latest doings of the rogue of the riverbank, Toad. Cue the mellifluous amphibian himself, played by newcomer Jon Mackley. Now Toad is a complex character in this play, not the open, hyperactive, bumbling type, but a Toad where the much more calculating, devious, insincere side is very much on display, with Jon acting brilliantly more with eyes and face than by movement. In fact, this Toad is so palpably dislikeable that one wonders why the three friends bothered to liberate his house from the stoats and weasels who had

'borrowed' it when Toad was incarcerated, but eventually they did.

The story takes us from the Riverbank to the Wild Wood, to Badger's house, to Toad's defiant appearance in the Courtroom, his escape and flight around the countryside, to the weasels and stoats in Toad Hall. Many of the scenes had great theatrical quality: the Wild Wood with its thousand eyes and menacing trees; the riverbank with Toad's caravan complete with ventriloquist and apparently-talking horse; Badger's house with its realistic fire and feel of home. Then comes the incredible and riotous courtroom

scene, with the entire cast somehow on the stage as a typical parody of British Justice is enacted with conviction first, evidence later. It is a pity that Ratty failed to appeal to the Court of Toad's Rights!

Each new scene was defined by a high quality set and props that combined to give the whole production a much stronger visual element than in previous productions, and required a large and well organised stage crew (Gang-show experienced). This advance in production standards will be hard to follow. Furthermore, there was the music, very nicely played by the two Andys – Knight and Bransby – that complemented the solo and group singing. The Carol was beautifully sung by the younger cast members, and much of the score was composed by the group's own Stuart Cooper. Angela Lichfield surpassed herself with the make-up, especially Toad and Badger, while Eunice Ellis did her normal excellent job on a very large variety of costumes.


Well done to Mark and the entire group for a memorable performance based on a lot of hard work behind the scenes and teamwork on the night.

Robin Pool

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS



On the 8th, 9th and 10th May, the Drama Group will be performing two one-act plays. These will be: **Camp Confidence** by **Diana Raffle** and **The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley**, the third in the series of plays by **David Tristram**.

Jon Mackley



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BRIXWORTH YOUTH FOUNDATION



Brixworth Youth Foundation, a registered charity, reaches a milestone on 9th March 2008 as it celebrates three years of operating. Over the three years we have gradually improved the facilities and introduced new activities. We have a new pool table, the money for which was raised from fundraising and a wonderful donation from Bran and Leubbe/SPX. We have state of the art five-a-side goals, purchased with a donation from Waitrose of £1,700 and £500 from the High Sherriff's initiative. We are currently sourcing basketball poles and nets with a donation of £1,466 from the Community Youth Fund.

Although this may indicate a measure of success we began from a very 'low base' with much equipment begged and borrowed and not suitable for non domestic use. Given our location in an industrial building, for which we pay a full commercial rent, and the basic state of this building, there has been much to do. We are now seeking funds to get new carpets as the existing ones are in a shocking state. Nevertheless we are proud to have continued to provide such a facility and indeed slowly but surely improve it.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the small group of volunteers (currently we have eight committee volunteers and four non committee volunteers). In this report the focus is upon one of the non committee volunteers, Phil Reger, who runs his own property business and has been in Brixworth for almost 20 years. Phil takes charge of outdoor activities for the youth members in all sorts of weather and participates and supervises sports such as five-a-side football and cricket. In addition to this, Phil puts his wide range of skills to use by helping with repairs and minor building works. In the last year, Phil has built new storage facilities and installed central heating and hot water. Until Phil installed the heating and hot water, the building was cold and the only source of water was from an outside tap. Phil's help has been invaluable and his dogged and continued support for the

Foundation is very much appreciated. Phil enjoys the respect of all the young people and is in much demand.

Members attending Brixworth Media Club on a Thursday night have developed new skills in setting up and operating PA systems, lights and smoke machines and in the music technology, DJ skills and singing.

With the support of Big About Music and at the request of the local police, a gig was organised at Brixworth Village Hall to give young people a focus on Halloween night. This event was funded through D.D.C.

We are currently exploring the establishment of a youth theatre for Brixworth and the surrounding areas. We are also interested in the concept of setting up a Social Enterprise for young people, so watch this space in 2008. We are establishing a members' committee to ensure the young people who attend our clubs have a direct say in matters as well as developing their life skills. The Foundation continues to need the support of the people of Brixworth, local businesses and County, District and Parish Councils. If you want further information or can help in any way as a volunteer or sponsor, contact me on 07913 110934 or 01604 889135.

*John McFadyen, Chairman and Trustee
Brixworth Youth Foundation*

HOW SELFISH IS IT POSSIBLE TO GET?

I am a member of the local fly fishing club at Pitsford Reservoir. At the start of each fishing season, early to mid March, we organise a 'litter pick' to remove all of the debris and litter that accumulates over the winter months.

By far the most frequent pieces of rubbish that we encounter are parcels of dog mess tied up in plastic bags. These are usually discarded under hedges, thrown into the branches of trees/bushes or worst of all thrown into the reservoir feeder streams. This is absolutely amazing considering that this is a public water supply reservoir!!

This is obviously not the fault of the dogs, but of some irresponsible dog owners. Surely they are capable of disposing of their nasty packages in the proper manner i.e. take them home with them, rather than leave them in totally inappropriate areas of this popular public amenity.

It is understandable why they choose to walk their dogs in such beautiful surroundings, but why do they insist on spoiling it for others?
Mike Philpott

PS. Please also note that dogs should be kept on a lead and away from the water's edge according to the Anglia Water Authority by-laws for the reservoir.

Editors Note

This is not the only problem area near Brixworth. The same disgusting behaviour occurs on a favourite dog walk near Lynch Lane and the fields surrounding it. A neighbour whose garden backs on to the fields has found similar packages in her garden and in the trees. A notice is to be posted warning dog owners against this behaviour at the entrance to the fields.

Plastic bags take hundreds of years to degrade. D.D.C. advise dog owners to use degradable bags which degrade in 45 days and deposit the bags in either the special dog 'poo' bins sited around the village or take the package home and deposit it in their grey bin. (See also page 2).



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ARSON ATTACK ON NEW YEAR'S EVE MARQUEE



Despite arsonists burning the marquee erected adjacent to the Sports Pavilion for the New Year's Eve celebrations at 4.00am on the 31st December 2007, Committee members carried out a sterling job of clearing up the mess and erecting a replacement marquee in time for the party in the evening. The Sports Committee would like to thank Alan Odell from Creaton, who very kindly lent a marquee so

that the event could take place.

By all accounts, the event was very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all those attending.

Two fire engines from Brixworth and Moulton attended the blaze in St David's Close. Committee members expressed their disgust at the action of the arsonists particularly as the event had been organised for the benefit of the local community.

BRIXWORTH AMATEUR GOLF SOCIETY

2007 proved to be another successful golfing year with high numbers playing at each venue. The presentation evening was held at Kilworth Springs Golf Club. The Golfer of the Year was Mick Bull with Geoff Green as runner up. The Captain's Shield was presented by Paul Cox to Mick Bull.

The George Clapton Memorial Trophy was won by Steve Marriot who also won the Tim Moulds Jug.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 27th March 2008 at 8.00pm at the Sports Field Pavilion, Brixworth, Everyone, new and existing members are welcome. Venues for 2008 have been arranged for 11th April at Oundle, 6th June at Northampton Club, 15th August at the Bedfordshire Club and 10th October at Kingsthorpe Club.

Anyone interested in joining the club, please ring John Wilson on 01604 880490.

BRIXWORTH ALL SAINTS FOOTBALL CLUB

The season so far has left both 1st team and reserves in the lower positions of their respective leagues and points are much needed from future games in order to avoid relegation. The reserve team proceeded into the semi-final round of the reserve division cup following a 5-4 thriller versus Great Houghton. Opponents and date of the tie are still to be announced.

We are still looking for additional members to assist in duties like match-day nets, line marking, assistant referees, fund raising and general support.. We are always in need of good quality footballers in order for us to compete with teams at the higher end of the leagues. Training is at 7.00pm every Wednesday.

The date for 'BRIXWORTH'S GOT TALENT 08' will be announced in later Bulletins, but is likely to fall on the last Friday in August. Anybody interested in submitting an act should contact me.

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 on tel: 07812609095 or neldred@hotmail.co.uk

BRIXWORTH RED LION F.C.

As we enter February, it sees us lying second in the Premier Division with a record of five wins, one draw and two defeats. We have also reached the semi-finals of the NTFA Goodliff Cup and face St. Margarets for a place in the final at Sixfields. Only six league matches remain and if we can win all of these, we will definitely finish as runners up or even as champions.

Craig Spraggon is still our leading scorer with eleven goals and Matt Coleman is next with seven. Adam Knight and Neil Champelovier are close behind with six and five goals respectively.

We are hoping to arrange some social events in the near future to help with funds and promote the club. As always a big thank you is given to Gary for his sponsorship and food after our matches.

Ian Bandey

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Brixworth Cricket Club

It's been a busy winter, with 3 major events since the end of last season along with intense planning for the Club's move to its new ground on Northampton Road in April.

An extremely well attended junior presentation evening in October, with over 40 of our young cricketers present, along with proud parents, celebrated a successful season where, for the first time we posted 5 age group teams. The Club now has around 60 junior cricketers, which bodes well for the future success of the club. The Under 10s, in their first season were 'team of the year' and special mention must go to our Under 17s, a team who have been together for over 5 years, under the captaincy of Tom Chapman and the management of Andy Bransby. Many of these players will now go on to play a major role for the club in senior cricket.

Our annual dinner was held at the now traditional venue of Sunley Management Centre in December, superbly run as always by club member, Ian Hardwick who is Manager at Sunley.

The Club's AGM took place in January and members received updates from the committee on progress at the new ground, player recruitment and funding plans. New captains were also appointed for all senior teams; 1st XI – Alex Lacey; 2nd XI – Andy Roper; Sundays – Tom Chapman.

Russell Parsons is the new secretary replacing Andy Roper who has done a magnificent job over the past 2 years and who will now concentrate on running our 2nd XI and organising major fundraising events.

The new season starts on 26 April and the club is delighted to confirm that our Saturday teams will be playing at the new ground. Most Sunday and junior cricket matches will most likely continue to be played at St David's this year as the new square continues to bed in and the practice facilities and club house are developed.

The Club is talking to many local businesses about sponsorship opportunities, in terms of advertising boards, brochure advertising and other donations to help with new equipment purchases and running costs. If you would like to help the club and get involved in any way, then please get in touch with any of the contacts below.

Indoor nets are taking place on Sunday evenings at Moulton Leisure Centre from 5.30pm – 6.30pm. As always, the club would be pleased to welcome new players of all ages to help the club continue with its growth plans at senior and junior levels.

Chris Timm – Chairman 882591

Andy Roper – Vice Chairman 07876 202103

Andy Bransby – Junior Manager 882622



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