

Brixworth Bulletin

Including Draughton, Hanging Houghton and Lamport

Issue No.21, June 2009

COMMUNITY THRIVES DURING LAST 10 YEARS



Julie Davenport and Sue Verallo assisted by Ian Barratt and Phil Walter prepare to raise the flag for the first time.

A large enthusiastic crowd attended the initial flag raising ceremony on Saturday 25th April to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Community Centre and Library by Neil Kinnock on the 30th April 1999.

Army cadets, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows formed a 'guard of honour' around the flag pole where the two guests, Julie Davenport, formerly leader of Daventry District Council and Sue Verallo, formerly Parish Council Chairman raised the flag of St George.

Ian Barrett, P.C. Chairman introduced Julie Davenport, family member of the Horne Foundation whose generosity was instrumental in funding the building. Rev. Phil Walter followed the introduction with a speech which stressed that the value of the

building to the local community was immense. The community rooms are used to their full capacity by groups who were represented at the ceremony. There were performances by the B.C.F. band, the Taekwondo group, by the Dancing School and the Brixworth Primary School Choir.

A bugler played as the flag was raised and the P.C. Chairman conducted the singing of 'Happy Birthday' to the building exhorting the crowd to sing with gusto. Bruce Forsyth could not have done better!

Bouquets were presented by three charming little girls to Julie Davenport, Sue Verallo and Mr and Mrs Mike Nice – Centre Manager. Refreshments were served afterwards in the Olive Branch at 1999 prices.

Harvey Fox

WINDFARMS BUFFETTED



Bolsterstone plc have withdrawn their planning application to build six wind turbines at Lodge Farm situated between Brixworth and Hanging Houghton, not because of opposition to the project but due to the extension of Sywell Airport runway which is close to completion. Legislation regarding the safety of airports is governed by the type of air traffic using the runways and the extension of Sywell to allow larger aircraft to use the airport has altered the position of the outer horizontal protected perimeter thus infringing on the two turbines proposed to be built next to the A508. The site map published in Bulletin 18 is shown again with the two affected wind turbines removed.

Mike Corker, Director of Bolsterstone, hopes that the resubmission will be made within 3 months after further consultation with various organisations.

Quote from the Guardian – Tuesday 24th March "Opposition to wind farms should become as socially unacceptable as failing to wear a seat belt, Ed Miliband, the climate change secretary has said. Speaking at a screening in London of the climate change documentary, The Age of Stupid, Miliband said the government needed to be strong in facing down local opposition to wind farms."

At a planning meeting held on the 30th March 2009, Brixworth Parish Council supported the application for the wind farm at Harrington.

Harvey Fox

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Ian Topham

Right Reverend Ian Cundy Bishop of Peterborough



After a long illness, The Bishop of Peterborough, The Right Reverend Ian Cundy died on the 14th May 2009. Villagers will remember his visit to Brixworth on the 4th April 1998, when he officially opened the newly constructed Brixworth Millenium Garden. The photograph shows the Bishop standing in the garden. One of his passions was fast cars, and he had taken a tour of Ilmor Engineering. Our sympathies are with his family.

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BRIXWORTH TRAVEL CLUB

The Club has now been operating for nine years. Over this time the number of users has fluctuated due to ill health and death with new users joining us on regular or occasional basis.

The advent of 'Free' bus transport in 2007 did not recognise the significance of Community Transport schemes in rural areas with the result that the Commercial (profit taking) transport companies are included in this Government initiative, but the voluntary services – which connect with villages and hamlets not otherwise having a convenient transport service – are excluded. In our rural area, along the A508 there is a scheduled service between Northampton and Market Harborough which includes very limited diversions to Pitsford, Moulton and Boughton, but access to Daventry and Kettering requires use of several routes and excessive time frames. Similarly, inhabitants of Pitsford, Holcot, Harrington, Walgrave, Maidwell, Creton and Scaldwell (to name but a few) are virtually isolated for much of the day.

Brixworth Travel Club provides an essential facility to allow people living in the district to travel to Brixworth each Thursday afternoon and also once a month (Tuesday) to three other destinations – Daventry on the second week; Rugby on the third week and Market Harborough/Kettering on the last week. The opportunity to have access to Market Harborough is appreciated by anyone not living near the A508. We also offer a door-to-door pick up and return facility which is not available from commercial operators.

Financial support from Parish Councils yields about a quarter of the costs of hiring a minibus from Daventry Area Community Transport Ltd at cost well below commercial rates and other support is received from local businesses and local authorities.

This support still leaves a deficit of over £2,000 per year which is recovered from users of the service by charging £1.50 return for the Thursday service to Brixworth and £6.00 for the Tuesday visits to Daventry, Rugby and Market Harborough/Kettering.

As mentioned previously, usage does vary from week to week and we would welcome new users. Anyone is welcome – the aim is to allow people without personal transport some mobility, but also to reduce the use of cars where this is appropriate. Ideally we would aim to carry 10 to 12 people on each journey (the minibus capacity is 15) to cover the £2,000 deficit. Our volunteer drivers would be pleased to add other venues if there is a sufficient demand. The important requirement is that the Travel Club operates a regular 'timetable', even if it is only on a limited basis, which users can rely on.

Any publicity which can be generated in the individual villages would be greatly appreciated. Contact should be made through The Olive Branch coffee shop 01604 889030, where booking sheets are kept. Advance advice of wish to use the service is important to make sure that nobody is let down – and also to prevent unnecessary mileage being involved.

Peter Oliver

Additional photographs taken at the flag-raising ceremony

Photographs by Jane Neill



Three former librarians



Dancing School Display



Taekwondo Group

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COUNTRY EYE



by Brian Webster

Bees and butterflies on the way out?



Alliaria Petiolata
Hedge Garlic

Around the village, in those 'neglected' spots where nature is still able to have a say in how things are done, at this time of year you are more likely to find the plant shown in my picture. Tall and very bright shining green, it has small white flowers which attract insect visitors. Look a little closer and you will see that it has four simple petals arranged in the shape of a cross, the unmistakable mark of a member of the cabbage family. Like most cabbages it is good to eat, and tastes strongly of garlic.

Indeed the books have it as garlic mustard, but our ancestors, who knew a good thing when they saw one, had a variety of names for it, including sauce alone and the charming Jack-by-the-hedge. Like most vegetables as it matures and flowers its taste becomes stronger, so if you rush out to try it now, you may find it bitter. Better wait till next year and try the young leaves, which may have a mild garlic taste. You can use it in salads, or cook it briefly in just a little water, but my favourite way is to chop a handful of the leaves and put them in a sandwich of freshly baked crusty bread and butter, with sliced tomatoes, nothing else. My mouth is watering at the thought! If you can't bear the idea of gathering it from the wild, its seeds are available from some garden centres, where you may find it under its scientific name which is *Alliaria petiolata*.

My other picture shows the beautiful orange tip butterfly, in this case the female which perversely does not have the bright orange tips to its wings, so it looks a bit like a small cabbage white. The greenish chequer-board pattern on its hind wings makes it hard to spot when it rests in the flower-heads of cow parsley or keck. This one played hide-and-seek with me. As I tried to move to one side to get a shot of it without the

stem in front, so the butterfly moved around to keep the stem between me and it. I gave up in the end so what you see is what you get.

The connection between the plant and the butterfly is food, for the caterpillar of the orange tip loves nothing better than to munch on the leaves of the garlic mustard. In an ordinary spring the butterfly is quite common, but a recent report from the Butterfly Conservation shows that along with many other formerly common species it has declined alarmingly. A



Anthocaris Cordamines
Orange Tip Female

series of cold, wet springs and summers is thought to be partly to blame, but much more seriously, it is believed the pollen and nectar which the adult insects need for food has become contaminated with pesticides. In particular, the neonicotinides, which are relatively new, and now widely used as crop sprays. In France these have been banned as they have been implicated in the death of billions of bees. You may have read about the decline in our honey bees. Could this be the

cause? Nothing proven as yet, but surely there is a cause for urgent further investigation. Another piece of research, which I find particularly alarming, is that residues of over forty different pesticides have been found in a single dust-fine grain of pollen. Like many of you, I and other members of my family have to use medication for hay fever. So as you sit reading my article you will without a shadow of a doubt be breathing in these near-invisible particles.

As our crops mostly rely on the bees and other insects to pollinate them we could be in for a rude awakening if their decline is not halted. From where I sit, it could be a matter of life and death, our life and death.

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QUARTERLY POLICE REPORT

It has been a busy few months for Daventry Rural North Team covering four community panels which encompasses 200 square miles.

The Panel Priorities for this month for Beat 20 which has Brixworth, Spratton, Creaton, Cottesbrooke and Haselbech villages in the cluster are:

1. Youth and social behaviour at Yew Tree Lane Spratton, Speeding in Spratton.
2. Monitoring of ASB and parking in Brixworth.

The light nights and warmer days are upon us and it is good to see the youth out enjoying themselves. At the present time we have no specific incidents involving the youth in Brixworth, but there may be a perception surrounding an increase in youth activity due to the lighter nights and warm weather.

We have introduced a new service for ASB issues which gives a premium service to the community and to date we have had very few reports for Brixworth. We are also proactive working with local schools identifying youth who cause concern, putting in strategies to prevent and deter poor behaviour.

There are meetings going ahead to develop the youth strategy in Brixworth, the intention is to lead to a youth action

group and stronger representation in the village.

I do understand that there may be a perception of under reporting. So please do call the police or use any of the other means to reach us, such as e-mail, phone call or write to us. You can also complete a community concern card placed at the community centre or through our partners such as the Parish Council. Please speak with councillors who will feed back any information you give whether it be anonymous or not. Please do stop and speak directly with us if you can.

Our Partner the Parish Council is progressing speed watch and at the panel meeting, it was agreed for Brixworth, we as a team do not deal with speeding.

However we are looking at the parking issues and now the yellow lines have been placed, we will carry out enforcement and issue tickets to those who transgress.

Good news which we all love, crime remains low and is still falling.

May I take this opportunity to remind you we are not here 24 hours so please do call 08453 700 700 to report action that requires dealing with urgently or in an emergency 999 or call confidentially to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Jacqui Harris

WHERE HAVE ALL THE POPPIES GONE?



A number of residents are wondering why after two years of fields around Brixworth being cultivated with white poppies, this year the predominant crop is rape with its attendant effect on hay-fever sufferers.

The pharmaceutical company in Scotland which uses the white poppies to produce morphine has decided that their requirements necessitate reducing the number of fields needed for this crop. Unfortunately for this year, Brixworth farmers have been told that their crop is not required.

Crop rotation in any case would have been necessary, but the local farmers are disappointed that their contribution to this market is not required. Richard Turney told me that he would be growing millet for bird seed this year and hoped that the pharmaceutical firm would re-order next year.

Carla Carlisle, writing in her weekly column in Country Life claims there are more than 8,000 acres of poppy fields under cultivation in England. Farmers in the UK are all contracted by the Edinburgh pharmaceutical company Macfarlan Smith, the country's only manufacturer of organic narcotic materials. There is worldwide shortage of medical morphine and this is a good cash earning crop for farmers.

Harvey Fox

ARSON ATTACK ON SPRATTON ROAD PLAY EQUIPMENT



On Saturday morning, 14th March 2009 at 2.30am approximately, the children's equipment on the Spratton Road was set alight by persons unknown, using old newspapers brought across from the Co-op's waste bin. £2,500 worth of damage was caused to the woodwork bridges and metalwork was buckled. Even though the Parish Council

have insurance for this equipment, it will take several months for the contractor to repair the damage.

It is unbelievable that people would deprive the youngsters of Brixworth of a much loved facility for months. It is heart breaking to the action group who had lobbied for its installation.

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BRIXWORTH DRAMA



On Saturday 25th April, Brixworth Drama Group moved out of their normal venue at the Village Hall to present a performance of 'The Hollow Crown' a sequence of readings describing the 'Fall and Foibles of the Kings and Queens of England' in the setting of All Saints' Parish Church.

This had been performed some time ago in the Village Hall, but the magnificent interior and acoustics of this ancient building had been considered by the Drama Group as appropriate for an expanded rendition of this journey through the history of the English (and latterly British) monarchy from the Norman Conquest until the end of the Victorian era. With a cast of seven, a varied vocal colour was achieved to enhance the dramatic effect. Although the performance is intended as readings, as indicated above, several passages were delivered with little reference to the script, which added to the

impact compared to the earlier rendition. The depth of space in the presbytery and choir stalls was used to good effect, although the female voice projection occasionally failed to make best use of the acoustic possibilities.

An audience in excess of 70 experienced a notable production of an unique chronicle recalling the good, the bad and the ugly over more than ten centuries of the monarchy. The venue certainly added to the effectiveness of the presentation and we look forward to future uses of the Church for this type of event. The Friends of All Saints Church facilitated the use of the venue and all proceeds go towards The Friends in their support of maintaining the structure of this magnificent building.

The Readers were Robin Armstrong, Stuart Cooper, Alex Monk, Caroline Monk, Elaine Musgrove, Robin Pool and James Skeggs. Incidental music was provided by Andy Bransby.

Peter Oliver

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BULLETIN BOARD

Guiltsborough Surgery Patient Participation Group (GSPPG)

The aim of the group is to provide additional support and services to patients in the local community, not normally provided by GP's.

Recent initiatives have included establishing a Tai Chi exercise class, creating a directory for Carers and holding a Health Information Day for Diabetes.

There is an open invitation to any patient or local resident to join us at either of the events listed, to learn more about how you can make a difference to your healthcare.

A Carers Coffee Morning will be held at Guiltsborough Surgery on Friday 12th June from 10am to 12 noon.

Anyone acting as a carer (either in a full or part-time capacity) is invited to attend and have an informal chat with a GSPPG representative, GP or representative from a Carers Agency. Useful information and support materials will be available.

We are holding our AGM on:

Wednesday 17th June 7 – 7.30pm at Guiltsborough Surgery

On the agenda will be plans to establish a patient group which will include all patients from the new Saxon Spires Practice, formed by the recent merger of Guiltsborough Surgery and Pytchley Court Health Centre at Brixworth.

For more information or to get involved, please contact John Brooks, Chairman GSPPG by e-mail john@fle.co.uk or 01604 743554

BRIXWORTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE PROGRAMME

- July 14th** History of Candles and making. A Talk by Mrs Marianne Parry. Competition Candlestick.
- September 8th** Canons Ashby House A Talk by Mr P J Hatfield Competition Model Cottage.
- October 13th** Annual General Meeting.
- November 10th** Music and Memories from 1950's by Miss Polly Feely Competition Old Song Sheet.
- December 8th** Party Night

New members and visitors always welcome. If you wish to know more, please call us: President 01604 883615. Secretary 01604 880317. We are here to help you

Musical Success

Congratulations to members of the Brixworth Primary School Band who performed at the Regional Series of the National Festival of Music for Youth! They have been selected to perform in the national finals at the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham in July. A great achievement for the children and their conductor, Mr Roper.

Village Hall Quiz

Over 60 people competed in the Village Hall quiz held on Thursday April 2nd 2009.

Ten teams took part in the fun evening, answering questions such as "What was the previous name of Hamson's Garage." No I'm not telling you the answer if you don't know, you should have come along and paid your £3 entrance fee.

Yet again congratulations to the Brixworth Christian Fellowship who won the shield, however as it is now full, they kindly offered to buy a new one to put their name on. Can no one manage to beat this formidable team ?

The evening was slightly marred by shouting and some bad temper but the Question Master promises to behave better next time. Maybe. *Dennis Coles*

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From Larkrise to Brixworth.....

Reviving an old annual village event.....



Devotees of the recently televised series *Larkrise to Candleford* were enchanted not so much by the fairly uneventful story line but rather by the measure of community spirit that abounded amongst impoverished neighbours. Times were hard then so caring and sharing was an everyday normality. Just as importantly the series demonstrated the fun they enjoyed with leisure activities that were simple and always home grown, so costing next to nothing.

That was then and this is now and not that much has changed – once again most of us are facing hard times and looking at ways of cost cutting, much of it to do with self-sufficiency in our gardens.

This is why a group of friends, are planning to revive a one time annual event popular in the village some thirty summers ago.

The Brixworth Flower & Produce Show

The projected date:

Saturday 19th September 2009

To take place in a marquee in All Saints' Churchyard with several classes of produce: For example:

- Ten fruit and vegetable categories to include produce such as apples and plums, potatoes, carrots and other root veg., onions, tomatoes and beans.
- Four or five flower categories to include dahlias, penstemons, rudbeckia, jugs of roses and other seasonal plants.
- Eight cookery categories: Victoria sponges, flapjacks, scones, pizzas, jams, marmalades and chutneys.
- A class of floral arrangements.
- Five or six classes for the under 14's such as a 'garden on a tray', potato people, flower arrangements and fairy cakes.
- A photographic category with the deliberately loose title of 'Brixworth life' – in other words, anything as long as the photographs and scenes are local.

But we need your help and involvement!

We have enough preparation time to change some of the classes if necessary because we know that there are plenty of expert gardeners out there who may well have better suggestions for other categories. We are also short on judges, so again nominations would be welcome.

Please contact either:

Paddy Fox 01604 880337 or Jane Stock 01604 882389 who'd be happy to chat. Prize winning certificates will be awarded and The Bulletin will be pleased to highlight those successes.


The afternoon show will be followed by a traditional home cooked Harvest Supper at the Brixworth Community Centre beside the Church. There will be a band so dancing may follow.

The friends? They are the Friends of All Saints' Church and profits, if there are any, will be donated to the Church Restoration Fund.

Final details of events and categories will be published in the next Bulletin and advertised around the village. *Paddy Fox*

The next edition of the Brixworth Bulletin will be on the 1st September 2009. Copy date will be the 1st August 2009, but contributors and advertisers are asked to advise the editor of their requirements as soon as possible.

**YOUR HISTORY SOCIETY
NEEDS YOU!!**



Brixworth History Society would like to hear your memories of life in the village in the 1950's and 60's. We are hoping to build an archive of village life in these decades. This will be the focus of our Heritage Centre display in 2010

If you have any memories or photos of Brixworth in these times, please contact Pauline Kirton 880033; Deni Willis 880612 or any committee member.

BRIXWORTH and DISTRICT U3A UPDATE

Our first full year of operation reached a successful conclusion at the end of March and following the receipt of membership renewals at the April meeting we are fast approaching our limit for members. Only a very few of last years members didn't renew their subscription, but the influx of new members over the last couple of months more than compensated for this.

As usual the meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month commencing at 2 p.m. with a raffle and tea and biscuits after the speaker. We have had presentations on dolls houses, garden birds, and at the AGM in May we had a presentation on the Talking Newspaper, followed by complementary tea and cakes.

All the established groups meet once a month apart from the Art, and Table Games groups which meet twice monthly. Lunches have been held at The George Great Oxendon, The Fox and Hounds Great Brington, with this months lunch due to be held at The Stags Head Maidwell. Rambles have been successfully undertaken starting and finishing for lunch at the Foxton Locks Inn (postponed from February due to snow), The Red Lion Yardley Hastings, and the May walk is to start from Waterloo Farm near Great Oxendon. The Genealogy and Conversational French groups continue to flourish and the Away Days outings started with a visit to Kelmarsh Hall in March and the Carpetbaggers Museum in April. A new Theatre group has started with a trip to see 'Dinner Ladies' at The Royal in April, 'Just Between Ourselves' in May, and bookings now being taken to see 'Chicago' on 10th July.

The committee continue to meet bi-monthly to review progress and we would like to hear from any members with an interest in any subject that may form the basis of a new interest group. Any one interested in joining should contact the Membership Secretary, Peter Davies on 880401. *Jerry Dobson*

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PLANNING STATUS REPORT

REFERENCE NO. & DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	P.C. RECOMMENDATION & DDC DECISION
DA/2007/1400 Buckton Fields, Boughton. Residential development consisting of approx. 1250 dwellings.	PC 29/1 Traffic increase objections. Now amended but still PC concerns.
DA/2008/1234 CPL Fragrances , Quarry Rd. Permanent retention of two temporary storage buildings.	PC 5/1 No objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2008/1252 6 wind turbines between Brixworth and Hanging Houghton	PC 27/1 PC objects. Application withdrawn.
DA/2009/0064 Telefonica O2 UK. Brixworth Water Tower, Broad Street. Installation of a new antenna affixed by yolk arms to existing pole mounted antenna at height of 19.4 m to top of antenna supported by pole bracing on water tower.	PC 16/2 PC strongly objects. DDC Approved.
DA/2008/1265 Eaglehurst Barn, Tantree Lane. New conservatory to rear.	PC 26/1 No objection. DDC Refused.
DA/2009/0183 36 Stannard Way. Dormer extension to front & rear and garage conversion.	PC 30/3 No objection.
DA/2009/0206 8 Highslade. Single storey extension (in access of 4 metres deep) to rear.	PC28/4 No objection.
DA/2009/0209 3 Dairy Close. Side extension above & to rear of garage.	PC/28/4 No objection subject to conditions
DA/2009/0260 10 Tantree Way. Take down existing conservatory and build single storey extension.	No decision yet
DA/2009/0262 Land to north of Visitors Centre, Brixworth Country Park. Change of use of agricultural land to camp site. Erection of camp site office.	No decision yet.

As part of the festival weekend The Friends of All Saints Church Brixworth will be holding their 13th Annual Art Exhibition on Sat 6th & Sun 7th June 2009 in the Heritage Centre, Church Street, Brixworth. There will be more than 120 exhibits for sale from over 25 local artists including paintings, carvings & jewellery. The opening hours are
6th June - 11.00-5.00
7th June - 11.00-5.00

BRIXWORTH CHURCH FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Saturday 6th June & Sunday 7th June 2009

FLOWER FESTIVAL 'Say it with flowers'

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 4pm

Saturday 6th June

BBQ £5 (with available bar)
BEETLE DRIVE £1 & QUIZ £1

Starting at 6.00pm

Sunday 7th June 2009

CHURCH FETE with Radio Northampton's BERNIE KEITH

2.00pm – 4.00pm

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BRIXWORTH OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC

2 CHURCH STREET

01604 889241

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 £42 and follow up appointments cost £38. 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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Realistic Options

I think on balance I agree with the decision not to recommend the Brixworth wind farm and a number of valid reasons have been given. Possibly the Harrington Airfield proposal is a better option as there is less nearby habitation and it would seem to be a windier site. However I do wonder whether those against it have turned it down for the right reasons. I have followed the discussion fairly carefully and it seems to me that much of the argument given by the Stop Brixworth Windfarm group has been playing on people's fears and emotions and with, dare I say it, a touch of 'nimbyism'. For example, the poster which they have put up all round the village is misleading and provocative. It appears to show a turbine right next to the church, when in fact the nearest one would have been about a kilometre away.

As a keen conservationist I am all in favour of trying to preserve Special Landscape Areas and the like but to do nothing is the worst possible option. I will not go into the question of global warming and whether mankind has contributed to it as, to any rational person, this is no longer in doubt. Anyone who has been lucky enough to visit a part of the world where there are glaciers will have seen dramatic evidence for themselves. By the end of this century the effects of climate change may completely dwarf any concerns we may have at present about visual impact.

I would like to know what those against windfarms suggest as an alternative. It is true that windfarms on their own are not enough, but they have to be part of the solution. It seems to me that the only other realistic options to reduce our carbon footprint are either a massive expansion of nuclear power or to go back to a standard of living similar to that which we had in the first half of the twentieth century. Are they seriously prepared to accept either of these?

In this country we really are dragging our feet on this issue. Spain, for instance, admittedly has far greater scope for solar energy production, but they are also way ahead of us in building windfarms. We may not yet be too bothered by global warming but unless we act, our children and grandchildren certainly will be.

Julian Bull

Dear Editor

It was just over a year ago, when I wrote to the Bulletin with my concerns about the dispiriting and at times depressing message delivered by the Rev. A. J. Watkins month after month in the Bulletin.

Following the printing of that letter by the Bulletin, I was approached by numerous local people who said how much they agreed that leaders in our village should do exactly that – lead.

Times are tough for all of us. In the last edition of the Bulletin, Rev. Watkins reminded us what an unhappy state we are sinking into and our young people are being ignored by their parents. He then adds comment on the state of the BBC and the state of the Israelites for good measure.

Of course we need realism. But at this time more than ever, what we really need is inspiration and confidence from our local leaders. What we seem to get time after time from Rev. Watkins is telling us what we already know and comments on nurses being suspended for praying, do nothing but repeat what we can read every day in the Daily Mail or the Sun.

I like a moan like everyone else, and probably yes, I am as guilty as the next man of putting too much faith in the banks over recent years. But I expect – especially as we head towards Easter and its eternal message

of hope – that leaders like Rev. Watkins give us a little more than blame for the state we are in.

Ashley Riley

Dear Sir

I have followed the controversy of the proposed wind developments around Brixworth. It seems that something is missing from the diagram featuring comparative heights of various structures, that is a gas or coal fired powered station. Objectors seem to be quite happy to use electricity as long as it is generated somewhere else and other people have to live near to these towering, ugly structures. If we are serious about combating global warming then we have to invest in renewable energy. Wind power is just part of the picture. 'Not in my back yard' will not safeguard our futures only the property values of the lucky few.

Richard Showers



Dear Editor

Recently, I was quite horrified on leaving the village to head north along the 508 to realise what a scene of total devastation has appeared at the roundabout where Mercedes-Benz have ripped out the hedgerows while building their monstrosity of a factory.

I would like some reassurance from them that they have received the necessary planning permission to do this on land which I assume does not belong to them but

to Highways. More importantly, are they going to make good what they have destroyed and provide a pleasant screen to their premises?

I am also concerned that the rather lovely view of our "rural" village from the west/Spratton side has been completely altered by this imposing industrial unit. How could Daventry District Council have allowed such a dominating structure to be built? Poor old Brixworth.

Jane Neill

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- Celebrity Granny, cookery writer and gardener, **Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall**, talks on her latest foray into generational perfection, *The Good Granny Companion*.
- Decorating expert and Farrow & Ball consultant **Joa Studholme** guides listeners through the opportunities Colour offers to transform your living environment.
- Prolific author and academic **Katie Campbell's** *Paradise of Exiles* revivifies the eccentric Anglo-Italian set of Tuscany as they gardened and gossiped their way through the dying years of the nineteenth century.
- Acclaimed biographer **Martin Wood** ranges through the tradition of country house decorating and previews his next subject, Laura Ashley, designer and brand queen.
- Columnist and anthologist **Ursula Buchan** surveys the bygone post-war gardening scene and its true characters – including Nancy Lancaster in *Garden People: Valerie Finnis and the Golden Age of Gardening*.
- **Andrew Wilson**, Chelsea Flower Show judge and designer, **Tim Richardson**, landscape critic and thinker, and **Stephen Anderton** debate what makes gardens personal and how they bear the character of their makers.
- Geffrye Museum deputy director, **Christine Lalumia**, speaks on the representation of interiors and gardens in painting.

Ticket prices £8. Ring 01604 686543 or e-mail enquiries@kelmarsh.com

The Quadrangle Saxophone Quartet will be performing in All Saints' Church Brixworth at **7.30pm on Saturday 27th June 2009**. Quadrangle was formed in 2008 with the aim of exploring the diversity within the repertoire and exploiting the chameleon-like versatility of the saxophone.

The players have a high pedigree of saxophone playing:

Richard Ingham – soprano sax
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Alison Owen-Morley – baritone sax
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All past issues of the Bulletin can be viewed on www.brixworthbulletin.com. Messages can be sent to the editor using a pre-set addressed e-mail format

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AT LAST NORTHAMPTON ROAD HAS THE ZEBRA CROSSING!

Work began on the 16th March 2009 and the Highways Dept. completed the work by the end of March. All we need now is a candidate for the post of Crossing Warden to be appointed. The official advertisement for applicants for the post is shown below



Have YOU got the X Factor

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

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



Qualifications needed? None! We will train you.

Pay: £6.28 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.

Still interested?

For an informal discussion with us, or to apply for the post, please contact the School Crossing Patrol Service on 01604 654445. (Application form available from the school).

It's more fun than you think!

NB An Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau check is required for this post.

Hunt riding along Brampton Valley Way



HANGING HOUGHTON AND LAMPORT NEWS

DRAUGHTON NEWS

A Spring supper was held in April at the Loder Hall in Maidwell which was well attended by the villagers of HH & Lamport.

The event raised over £600 for the benefit of Lamport church. Thanks to all who attended, it was a pity that some of the newcomers to the villages could not have joined in the fun and got to know their neighbours!

On the subject of wind farms, the planning application for the site between Brixworth and Hanging Houghton has been withdrawn. We wait to see if an amended application is to be made. The Parish Council have written in response to the Harrington wind farm application and strongly objected. It is a pity that Brixworth PC did not do the same!!!!

There is to be a charity auction on the 11th July at Lamport Hall. This is in aid of the Lamport Church which needs funds to carry out a significant amount of work on the church building. It will start at 12.00 noon with the auction starting at about 1 o'clock. There will be a hog roast and a bar serving refreshments. If you have any items that you would be prepared to donate, please contact Iain Kennedy on 01604 880755. Items for sale can be offered on the basis of all or part of the funds raised being donated to the church.

Mike Philpott



Thanks to grants from Biffaward, Northants County Council and donations from Hollowell Steam and to all the people of the village who have been raising funds for the Club Room extension.

At last, after so many set-backs, the work is completed and we now have our new kitchen and toilets.

There is to be a Grand Opening Ceremony on May 15th and the Trustees have been trying to contact anyone who has lived in the village and had interest in the Club Room over the years. It is difficult to find addresses for people who have moved away, especially if they have married and changed their names.

Plans have now been submitted, by NUON to Daventry District Council, for 7 wind turbines on the old Harrington Airfield in the parish of Draughton.

A discussion was held in the Loder Hall, Maidwell to help the Parish Council in their decision.

On another evening Professor John Twidell from Leicester gave an interesting talk on Modern Wind Technology and the need for renewable energy and answered questions.

We now await the outcome of the planning committee at Daventry District Council.

Anne Block

CHARITY RIDE IN MEMORY OF MARTIN ANDERSON

Sunday 15th March 2009 would have been Martin Anderson's 50th Birthday. As a tribute to him, a bike ride was arranged from Draughton Crossing to Market Harborough and back on March 14th. Sixty eight cyclists took part in the ride, including Rosemarie, Martin's wife and their two children, Grace and Harry.

Even the young and the very old managed to complete the distance in just over 2 hours and the riders were awarded with a medal each and all enjoyed a champagne lunch at Draughton. Almost £2,000 was raised for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice Charity.



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Gardening Notes by Catherine Hole

Borders can be both colourful and productive during the summer. Vegetables add another dimension and provide great satisfaction in picking your own produce.



Runner beans have attractive foliage and recent new varieties have flowers of red, white, pink or combinations of these colours. The ground should be thoroughly dug and manure or compost incorporated to feed these hungry plants. 2m bamboo canes pushed firmly into the ground spaced 15-20cm apart to make either wigwams or 2 rows 60cm apart tied at the top will create a strong framework. Beans may either be started off one per 3cm pot in a greenhouse or on a windowsill which will be quicker and avoid slug or snail damage or simply planted 2 per cane 4-5cm deep, the weaker of the pair may be removed when 12cm high but is not essential. Watering is important and it is more efficient to water the base of each plant rather than sprinkling.



The young plants will need guiding and possibly tying gently to start twining around the canes. Once reaching the top of the canes the tips must be pinched out to prevent top heaviness. Beans will be ready to pick by August when the pods are

approx. 10cm and still flat and tender before beans inside have begun to swell.

Other salad crops to consider that are compact, are beetroot, radish, spring onion, sown directly in to the border in small numbers every few weeks to provide continuous cropping, otherwise you will have a glut. A few lettuce seeds sown in a pot and transplanted to the prepared border when 3 leaves have developed, will be ready to eat after approx. 10-12 weeks. Successive sowings will provide a continuous crop. They do not take up a lot of space especially if small varieties such as 'little gem' are chosen.

To complete the effect, flowers to consider growing from seed for the border are 'antirrhinum' (many colours available) Cosmos (pink or white), Centaurea cyanus (cornflower - deep blue is the most striking), 'Nigella' (love in a mist) which has feathery foliage and pale blue flowers followed by attractive large seed heads. Edible flowers provide an additional interest; these could include 'Nasturtium' and 'Calendula' (marigold), both of which are in many shades of orange and yellow, to add colour and a peppery flavour to salads. Alternatively many of these and others are available as 'plug plants' at garden centres or nurseries.

In the August issue I hope to report of a truly warm and successful gardening summer season.



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Brixworth Primary School Fete will take place on **Saturday 27th June 2009** between **12 noon - 2pm**. There will be the usual attractions and stalls plus quad bikes and go-carts.

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Profile of Brian Webster, Country Eye Columnist Brixworth's very own David Attenborough!

Now this was one Profile that I was really looking forward to doing for "The Bulletin". Ever since the very first "Bugle", many years ago, I have always loved the "Country Eye" column with its consistently interesting subject matter, always told in a delightful witty style. Through the years, I almost felt as if I knew Brian Webster personally. I had an image in my mind of how he looked and sounded. I knew he must be an incredibly knowledgeable man, especially about local natural history and I was interested in finding out how he had gained such experience.

Having been a proof-reader for the "Bugle" and the "Bulletin", another reason that I loved Brian's column was because I rarely had to make any changes to it. So it was with surprise that I found out that he had had very little education and no formal qualifications.

Brian Webster was born 74 years ago in Pitsford, in a small lean-to attached to the Bakehouse. His mother and father were both in service in Pitsford, then during the war, having failed to join up due to "flat feet", his father worked at the Fire Station. After the war, he obtained a job at Wolverton Railway Carriage Works and it was there that tragedy struck the family when a carriage fell on Brian's father and killed him.

As the oldest child in the family – he had two younger sisters - Brian felt a certain responsibility following this disaster and therefore at the age of just 14 he left school to seek employment. There followed many years of lots of different jobs with Brian prepared to try his hand at most things - the first being to drive a tow-truck at the Timken factory, distributing spare parts, stationary etc. and the worst job, six awful weeks planing tar off the newly built Grosvenor Centre car park.

Following two years of National Service from 1953-55, Brian worked in the boot and shoe trade where he met his late wife, Evelyn, on a bus. They married in 1958 at Kingsthorpe and went on to have 4 children, two boys and two girls. Sadly, after the birth of their 3rd child, Evelyn developed agoraphobia and was unable to leave the house. Eventually, she could be persuaded to go out in the car and as she also felt happy in churches they gradually explored further afield where Brian took up photographing churches.

During the 1950s, Brian drove a bus for the United Counties and spent 8 happy years "poddling around the countryside at 20 miles an hour". It was this that helped Brian develop his love of natural history as he drove around, making notes about the countryside he saw.

Later he met up with George Wood, his first cousin once removed, who had also lost his father when young and they became best



pals. It was George who got him a job at Pitsford Reservoir as Assistant Fishing Warden which led on to a job in Gloucestershire, at the edge of the Cotswolds, as warden-in-charge of the 240acre Robinswood Hill Country Park – one of the earlier Country Parks created in Britain. One of the challenges there was to get publicity for the park but without a budget, Brian had to use local newspapers to spread the word. His articles made it to the Nationals occasionally, even attracting the attention of BBC and HTV. One such programme was about Brian's "hairy" snails – actually protoplasmic extensions that poke through the snail's shell, picking up various detritus that then serves as very effective camouflage. Sadly, as the snail gets older, the extensions rub off inevitably resulting in them becoming bald, and easy prey for many birds.

From 1979 until he retired in 2000, Brian worked for Northampton Museums, initially as a van driver then as a Natural Sciences Officer in charge of the Natural History Collections. One of his main accomplishments there was to catalogue 44,000 fossils including some of the most

important fossils in the world. He also discovered that an herbarium of 3500 plants from the 19th century that he was told probably needed to be thrown away actually belonged to local cleric Rev. John Downes, a fellow student of Charles Darwin.

At the same time, Brian had a weekly spot on a Radio Northampton programme called "Country Air" which had the accolade of achieving an award for the best in-house programme for disabled and disadvantaged people. He was very upset when, after 8 years and for no apparent reason, it was ditched.

For over 40 years, Brian has taught anything to do with natural history and the countryside at night schools in Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Gloucestershire, mainly for the Workers' Educational Association.

Having spent several very enjoyable hours in the company of Brian Webster, I can see now where his talents have come from. What is most amazing is the fact that he is self-taught and has acquired his vast knowledge of natural history through his own hard work. Right from when he was 8 years old and writing journals (apparently, he telephoned his hero, James Fisher, who worked alongside Peter Scott at the time, to get advice and this proved a turning point in his life) to the present day with his daughter and son-in-law, he now runs an internet archive – www.country-eye.co.uk - with thousands of pictures and text showing wildlife and open spaces, human history and earth history), Brian has shown an incredible ability to write and talk on all aspects of nature and conservation. I sincerely hope that I can continue to look forward to his most enjoyable articles in "The Bulletin" for many years to come.

Jane Neill



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BRIXWORTH ALL SAINTS' FOOTBALL CLUB



BRIXWORTH RESERVES – UNBEATEN SO FAR

The season so far has left both the 1st team and reserves at the higher ends of their respective leagues. The reserves have not lost a game so far and are in a great position to win their league with just a few fixtures remaining. The 1st team have had a great run in the league and have finished the season in a very respectable 3rd position. Alas the club has come runners up in 3 no cup competitions, 2 of which were lost in penalty shoot outs after extra time had been played. On the whole it has been an excellent season, especially considering the plight of the club just a season ago.

We are still looking for additional members to assist in duties like match-day nets, line marking, assistant referees, fund raising and general support for next season. Training will resume on Wednesday 3rd June, starting at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

The presentation dinner and dance evening at the Broomhill hotel was a huge success with nearly 75 people attending. Thank you to Adrian Cockerill and Carl Ward for organizing the event. 2008-09 honours went to the following

Club person of the year – Adam Knight
 Young player - Jack Eaton
 1st team-managers player– David Bennett
 1st team-players player – Matt Poulton
 2nd team- managers player- Ian Dennett
 2nd team- players player – Simon Linnell

I would like to thank all involved for their exceptional efforts this season and if you would like to contact me for any reason, my details are below
 Nigel Eldred–chair BASFC 0781260905
 or neldred@hotmail.co.uk

BRIXWORTH JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

The football season is almost over for most of the Brixworth Juniors teams and we have seen a number of successes.

The U 8's team in their first year of playing together were promoted twice during their three phase season. In total they played 21 games – won 15, lost 4 and drew 2. Top scorer was Ewan Fitzgerald who scored 24 out of 57 goals.

There was success for the U 9's who were runners up in their League before Christmas. Jay O'Leary scored 21 goals and Ellis Russell 18.

The U10's Bulls also finished the season on a high with an 8-0 win and were promoted as champions of their league. Great team effort by the whole squad all season with the top scorers being Henry Reid with 16 and Jude Hillier with 11.

The U16's girls had another successful season winning the Northants FA County Cup and subsequently going on to represent Northants in the Central England Regional Final of the Tesco Cup in Birmingham, where the girls from Brixworth and Rothwell played against teams from professional clubs like West Brom. The team are now looking for additional players as they hope to play in the Ladies League next year.

Finally, a big thank you is given to all the managers and coaches for their time and commitment this season. *Jon Howarth*



The boys pictured with Manager Andy Reid and Coach Darren Hillier are Jude Hillier (capt), Frazer Little, Charlie Lloyd, Harry Littlemore, Kieren Stockwell, James Moore, Ed Griggs, Moritz Eck, Henry Reid, Mikey Bailey and Carl Robertson.



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Distribution Manager: Jane Neil	880816
Treasurer: Sheila Jenner	881173
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Brixworth Cricket Club – looking forward to a long, hot, successful summer

After two forgettable summers, in terms of weather, we're due a 'good un' and the long range forecast seems favourable.

Playing success

Last season certainly wasn't forgettable in terms of the Club's fortunes. Our first season at the new ground proved to be an inspiration to all who played there. Both senior teams won their respective leagues, remaining undefeated in the process – as far as anyone can remember, no other club in the history of Northants League cricket can boast this feat.

The first team therefore regain their place in the Northants Premier League – the top level of league cricket in the County. The second X1 move back up into Division 4 and we have started a 3rd X1 which will give some of our budding youngsters an opportunity to experience senior league cricket alongside some more experienced players.

Returning to the premier league will pitch us against some of the best amateur and ex-professional players in the county. It will be extremely competitive, as we have already found after the first two rounds of matches. However we are confident that we have recruited well – Alex Wakely has joined the club from the Northants Academy. He was England U19 captain two years ago and will play for the club whenever his County commitments allow. James Lucas and Tom Worthington have moved across from Old Northamptonians and John Allen has joined from Kibworth.

We are delighted that England fast bowling legend, Devon Malcolm will continue to play this season, in addition to agreeing to become the Club's President this year. Devon has already made a massive contribution in the short time that he has been at the club and his influence and contacts within the game can only benefit the club over the coming years.

We are also very pleased that Darren Gough has agreed to be registered with the club for the coming season and we look forward to him playing as many games as his very busy schedule allow.

Improving Facilities

A massive amount of progress has already been made and the new ground is acknowledged even after only twelve months, to be one of the best in the County. It's very much a work in progress and each year significant improvements will be made. The playing surface and outfield are already excellent - testament to the outstanding work of our head groundsman, Dave Salisbury and his team. This has been our primary focus along with providing the best possible practise facilities.

Last season we were able to purchase two net cages and matting thanks to Awards for All National Lottery Funding and these proved invaluable for all players.

This season, thanks to grants from Daventry District Council and West Northants Development Corporation we have been able to build a new, permanent, artificial practice area with a fixed netting system, which will enable us to increase the number of juniors, in particular, we can coach at any time.

We are indebted also to Brixworth Parish Council for the ongoing support over the past year. Grants have enabled us to buy new equipment for the junior section and, most recently, a new wicket mower for the new ground, meaning that we now have two sets of equipment (mowers and rollers) for the two grounds in the village.

Junior Cricket

It's no surprise that our three junior teams prospered last season, with the better facilities and the increased number of coaches to look after them. We received Clubmark accreditation last year, in recognition of the way we run our junior section. This season the club will once again run 3 teams, at U15, U14 and U12. We are encouraging more players/parents to become qualified coaches so

that we can run more teams in subsequent years – especially at U10/U11 levels - and as our facilities continue to improve, we should be able to do so. We are very conscious of the need to develop players at an earlier age and anyone from age 9 is welcome to attend sessions at the club on a Friday evening – see details below.

Junior training sessions;

U15/U14/U13

Monday evenings; 6pm – 7.30pm

U12s/U11/U10

Friday evenings; 6pm – 7.30pm

Volunteers needed

Finally, a plea to anyone in the village who has an interest in cricket, coaching, scoring, helping out with social functions, making teas (we now have two grounds and therefore two sets of players to feed!). As the club gets bigger are going to need more people to get involved. If you are interested in any of the above, or know anyone who might be, then please get in touch with the club – we'd be very pleased to hear from you! *Chris Timm*

Contacts;

Club Chairman	Chris Timm	882591
Jun. Manager	Andy Bransby	07711618959
Club Secretary	Russell Parsons	881728

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