

# Brixworth Bulletin

Including Draughton, Hanging Houghton and Lamport

Issue No.25, June 2010

## Photographic Exhibition - Ian Topham



Ian Topham will be holding an exhibition of some of his photography at Brixworth Library during the month of June. There will be a selection of colour and black/white images, including landscapes of the local area. In addition to winning 2 first and a second prize in the Village Photography competition last year, one of the above images (Holcot mist) was published in the Guardian newspaper.

## It's Brixworth's Single Biggest Ever Event!

## All Saints' Church new porch



The Carnival procession, starting at 2.00pm on Saturday 3rd July, will be led by the award winning Air Cadets Band from Market Harborough. With 36 entries so far, including Moulton Morris Men and a host of village organisations, the parade will make its way through the centre of the village to St. David's Field.

The parade will reflect Brixworth's

history, its present make up and the future. Entries include the Primary School, the U3A Group, Scouts, John Blason's vintage cars and many commercial organisations.

Programmes will be on sale to every home in the village with details of the route and of those taking part. Once the Carnival has arrived, the Party in the Park will commence and will provide a full and varied programme of entertainment. The Party will be opened by a Surprise Celebrity Guest!

The Wryngwyrn Viking Group will stage a re-enactment. There will be a gymnastic display from Northampton Boys Gymnastic Club, the County Mobile Library will provide a toddlers' story time, and there will be bouncy castles, free samples of new perfumes from CPL Aromas, a range of refreshments outlets, in fact some thing for everyone! Add this to a range of local live musical performances, and we have an event nobody should miss.....and all in aid of charity. *Mike Nice*



Assistant Bishop John Flack will commemorate the new glass porch which has replaced the unsightly wooden porch on Saturday 5th June 2010 at a service to be held at 12noon.

### EDITORSHIP OF BRIXWORTH BULLETIN

I have been editor of the Brixworth Bulletin for over 6 years and before that, I was involved in the production of the Brixworth Bulletin for 12 years. I intend to stand down at the end of this year with issue number 27. No-one on the Bulletin team wishes to take over the editorship and therefore, if any of our readers would consider taking on the editorship, he/she should contact me on 01604 880337.

*Harvey Fox*

# BRIXWORTH and DISTRICT U3A REPORT



Following the conclusion of another successful year there have been just over a hundred membership renewals which is a satisfactory level to continue the activities of the organisation. Four or five new interest groups have started during the last year giving an even wider choice of activities in which members can participate. In addition, the club entered a team in the Village Quiz for the first time this year, but unfortunately didn't challenge the front-runners unduly. We are also proposing to enter a small float in the Brixworth Carnival this year.

Armchair Travel, Art, French, Genealogy, Poetry, Swimming, and Table Games meet regularly either once or twice monthly and some have vacancies to accommodate more members. Due to various factors the Away Days group activities have been curtailed but it is hoped that a full programme can be prepared for later this year. The newly formed Gardening Group is liaising with the village Gardening Club and among their current

activities they are tidying the Millennium Garden. The Holiday Group have recently returned from an enjoyable trip to Bruges although they had to rid themselves of some uninvited passengers on their return, before boarding the ferry! Another holiday has been arranged for this month in Italy. The Lunch Group is well supported and visited the Royal Oak in Walgrave, the Stags Head in Maidwell, and the George at Great Oxendon. The May lunch will be at the George in Brixworth. The Rambling Group have walked at Sherington, Gumley, Hackleton and Bugbrooke, and a full programme is planned for the remainder of the year. The Theatre Group has enjoyed visits to the Royal and Derngate and there are several more visits planned for later in the year.

The monthly meetings held at the Village Hall at 2 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month continue to be very popular and well supported. We have enjoyed talks on The History of Pantomime, a presentation with illustrations on The Northampton Shoe Museum and at the A.G.M. in May a talk by our Chairperson Annie Curtis on her experiences on a Journey in Bhutan. The A.G.M. was attended by almost sixty members, and Annie Curtis was re-elected to the Chair, Philip Pomeroy Secretary, Stan Evans Treasurer, and Peter Davies, Membership Secretary. Jenny Lewis resigned as Vice Chair, Ann Ruch-Davis resigned from the committee, and Irene Neil was welcomed onto the committee. Whilst

taking the chair for the election of officers Philip pointed out that under the terms of the constitution Annie must step down next year, as must all the committee, although the latter may submit herself or himself for re-election. He also pointed out that he would be stepping down as Secretary and during the course of the next year the committee will be tasked with filling these vacancies. It would be beneficial for the future running of the organisation if two or three members would volunteer to join the committee so that we can enjoy some continuity when the changes have to take place. Please contact any member of the committee to put your name forward and any non-members wishing to join should contact the membership secretary Peter Davies, on 880401. *Gerry Dobson*

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## BRAMPTON HEATH GOLF CLUB

Brampton Heath Golf Centre is already a popular venue for golfers. Situated on undulating heath land, it makes for an excellent course to play on throughout the year. Buggies and trolleys are even allowed during winter months.

We have a new head chef, Jay Panesar who has left life in the city and brings fresh ideas to the countryside. Heavily influenced by the contemporary menus of the city he infuses traditional menus with the excitement of contemporary cuisine.

The new menu was launched on April 11th and as he uses local produce from nearby farm shops and suppliers, the produce is as fresh as it can be. We cater for corporate events and parties as well as wedding receptions.

As you would expect, Brampton Heath Golf Club has a well stocked bar together with soft drinks, teas and coffees.

Golfers can play from 6.00 a.m. until 7.00 p.m., the last tee time is at 8.00 p.m. in the summer.

To book your event, conference or to make a reservation, call 01604 880337

# DRAUGHTON NEWS

It has been a year now since the Club Room alterations were finished and the room is in use. The Club Room committee has a Coffee Morning, with a book stall and 'bring and buy' once a month on the first Saturday and these have been well attended.

Mary, our rector and Doug, our curate, put a lot of work into the Easter Labyrinth in St Catherine's Church on April 3rd, a very moving experience. It coincided with the April Coffee morning and visitors were able to get welcome refreshments right next door.

The May coffee morning had a garden themed 'bring and buy' with lots of plants and books.

The next Coffee Morning will be on Saturday, June 5th. If you are in this area (we are only a mile from The Brampton Valley

Way) please call in. All are very welcome.

There is to be an Art Exhibition in the Club Room on May 16th, the day of the Spring Fayre.

If you wish to book the room for your event or party please contact Anne Hickey on 686200.

The Garden Group is also up and running again. We have had a few meetings with interesting speakers in the Club Room and are now looking forward to visits to gardens in the summer months.

NUON UK LTD have appealed against the Planning Committee's refusal to grant planning permission to erect 7 wind turbines on the ex Harrington Airfield, in the parish of Draughton. The inquiry is to be held in Daventry commencing on July 13th. Will they be successful this time? *Anne Block*

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# COUNTRY EYE



by Brian Webster



Give us this day.....  
From my boyhood days the farming landscape around Brixworth today has changed almost beyond recognition. To be sure there are still acres of wind-stirred wheat and barley, but the lurid yellow of oilseed rape is a comparative newcomer to our fields. The occasional fields of pink-flowered opium poppies and the Miscanthus or elephant grass still look strangely out of place to me.

So where do you go to buy your bread? I guess most of us would reply 'to the supermarket'. But at what cost? The very cheapest of the sliced white blotting paper that passes for bread is 'cheaper' by some way than a loaf from the few craft bakers that struggle on in the face of competition. But is it really?

To buy your supermarket loaf you have to drive some miles to get there, so a proportion of the price of petrol, insurance, road taxes, and maintenance of your car must be included. The bread may well have been produced in a factory a hundred or more miles away. Flour and the other ingredients will have been brought together over vast distances. A lot of bread flour comes from Canada, for instance. The costs of growing the crop are considerable. All require transport, adding to food miles as it is fashionable to call it. Then there will be transport from the factory to a distribution centre, and from there to the store in which you buy it. All these have environmental costs that should be factored into the final total.

The factory that makes it would most likely be using a variant of the Chorleywood process, which involves using various chemical and mechanical processes that change the very nature of the ingredients. The aim is to shorten the baking time from three or more hours by traditional means, to just an hour. By the time it pops out of your toaster it will have been denatured to the extent that our recent ancestors would be hard pressed to recognise it as bread.

It has to be said that some of these same costs are involved in the making of craft bread. But despite the attempts of the

supermarkets to suppress all competition we still have just a few local bakers who produce superb bread, both in terms of taste and probably nutrition. Not so long ago every village had its own bakery. In fact I was born in the simple, earth-floored building, that served for a time as Pitsford's bakery, and I was well in to my twenties before it closed down. To buy hot bread straight from the oven, to slice it into thick hunks and spread it with butter that melted as fast as you spread it, was a treat we took for granted.

Today our nearest bakery is in Spratton, better known as the butchers, while in Brixworth you can buy good bread, also from our butchers, which is made in Market Harborough. Kingsthorpe is blessed with a bakery that has traded in the main road

shopping centre since I was a boy. Long gone is the bakery of Mark Cook, on the village green, hard by the church. Finally among a handful of bakeries in Northampton there is one in Grafton Street, a few minutes from the town centre.

I bake my own bread but not as often as I should, and even then I cheat by using a machine. The bread that results tastes excellent, inevitably being totally different from the mass-produced product. It takes only about twenty minutes to prepare the ingredients and clear up, and three hours later you have a loaf of the most delicious bread. In fact my mouth is watering at the prospect. I'd better get out there and fire up the machine.

My picture this time shows a baler at work in a field between Pitsford and Moulton, in 1972.



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# “How Caesar Augustus came to Brixworth - A Visit to Haddonstone”

by Jennifer Fitzgerald



Visiting the vast Haddonstone yard on the old Harborough Road, I forgot for a while I was only hundreds of yards from my home. In one section, I was transported to the world of ancient Rome, as I strolled in bright sunshine under rows of Corinthian columns, surrounded by frolicking nymphs and playful mermaids. When I entered the moulding workshop, I came eye to eye with Caesar Augustus.

Haddonstone, one of the companies situated on Brixworth's industrial estate, manufactures a wide range of garden and landscape ornaments, including life-size statues. Most of them are produced in a signature cast stone which has a finished texture similar to Portland stone.

Caesar's mould was being recreated by an expert group of craftsmen who build moulds like photographic negatives from wood, carved plaster, fibreglass and rubber. Upstairs he had plenty of company. Here was a treasure trove of casts reflecting many different fashions in ornamental sculpture from assorted influences, including pieces Haddonstone has replicated from establishments as venerable as Eton College.

While Haddonstone counts many stately homes and celebrities among its customers, you don't have to own a huge pile or be a rockstar to own a Haddonstone piece. Whatever the size of your garden, it is likely you can find something to suit your taste and budget. Haddonstone's range extends from replicas of antique and classical designs to modern styles, from columns and porticos to flower urns, from statues and pedestals to sundials and birdbaths, from fountains and balustrades to memorials and coping, from

entire pavilions to fireplace mantels and chimney pieces. Pieces are available in a selection of colours and finishes. Haddonstone also has a small production of wet cast stone and wrought iron.

30% of Haddonstone's products are individually commissioned. It is the cast stone process which allows for this large degree of customisation. This is the recipe:

Take pulverised high specification brushed limestone and mix it with sand, cement and a little water in large silos overnight.

In the morning pack it, semi dry, into moulds, packing it in layers to make sure it is compact.

Pass it through a fast vapour curing process so it is ready within days for packing and shipping to customers.

Haddonstone is the only garden ornament company in the UK which manages the entire manufacturing process from end to end, from design to shipping, and even operates its own fleet of lorries.

Haddonstone's manufacturing plant moved to Brixworth in 1988 when the present site became available. The site spans four acres and 70 out of its total UK workforce of 110 are based here. Haddonstone provides three volunteer firemen to the community and supports the church and several local charities. The MD of its Pennine Stone company, Richard

Walsh, is a Brixworth resident.

The company was established by the Barrow family in 1971 to replace their interests in the declining leather and shoe industry.

With a turnover of around £10m, Haddonstone appears to be weathering the difficult economic climate well, as people seem to be investing in their existing properties rather than move house. From Brixworth, Haddonstone exports its pieces all over the world. The company is currently fulfilling a £1m order for the prestigious Qatar Pearl project, a man-made development site in the Gulf. It has an operating base in Colorado to serve the US market.

If you are interested in seeing what Haddonstone has to offer, it is recommended that you visit the show garden in East Haddon or browse their catalogue on the internet (<http://www.haddonstone.com>). You are also welcome to browse through seconds which are put out in the yard at Brixworth.

As for Caesar Augustus, he is reputed to have said,

“I found Rome a city of bricks and left it a city of marble”.

Although Haddonstone does not create objects in marble, I'm sure Caesar would approve of the splendid enhancements the company is making to homes and gardens across the globe.

A black and white advertisement for Paul Martin Hairdressing. The main image shows a young man and woman embracing. The man is wearing a dark tank top and jeans, and the woman is wearing a light-colored crop top and jeans. The text on the advertisement includes:

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# POLICE QUARTERLY REPORT



The end of March sees not only the end of the financial year but the crime year too. The County has seen almost an 8% year on year crime reduction, which is great news, but as ever there is always more to do! Brixworth itself has seen a small increase from 196 to 199 crimes and as my last report, the increase is made up mainly of shed and garage 'breaks'. 200 crimes is 200 too many but given that 3 years ago figures were around 300 we are maintaining an overall reduction. More reassuring is a reduction in home burglary down from 21 to 16, this, despite a recent period when Brixworth was hit (along with several other rural villages) with car key breaks, where offenders break in solely for your car keys. We are conducting a leaflet drop on the Ashway to raise awareness of these crimes and some simple preventative measures that may reduce the likelihood of you becoming a victim.

Haselbech and Cottesbrook suffered just 2 and 1 crimes respectively, Draughton recorded nil.

You may recall that the previous priority for the area was 'Speeding on Froxhill Crescent' – we carried out several enforcement sessions and I had a 7 day survey conducted, the results of which did not show there to be a problem with 85% of vehicles travelling at or below 30mph.

Your Community Panel met once more in March and the agreed priority is now anti social behaviour in the village centres of Brixworth and Spratton. We are conducting patrols to identify unacceptable behaviour and will deal appropriately with any offences, involving parents as necessary.

The next Community Panel meeting is on 22nd July at the Community Centre at 7pm; this meeting is open to the public and newcomers are welcome to come and join the

forum, please consider the opportunity and if interested just turn up or give me a call.

Some of you may be aware that on the evening of March 3rd this year a large number of youngsters decided to meet up in Brixworth – this was out of the ordinary and saw numerous youths going out on a cold night looking for trouble. We managed to control the situation calling on resources from Northampton, dispersing the youngsters and preventing any disorder. I would ask parents to consider what their youngsters are doing when, out of the blue they decide to go out, when this is not their normal behaviour.

An adult male who committed an assault in Brixworth in September 2009 was recently jailed for 11 weeks. On 30th April a misuse of drugs act warrant was conducted in the village, an adult male was arrested and is currently on bail. A local adult male was stopped in his car and found in possession of a class B drug; he was also arrested and has been charged and

bailed to court.

In the last fortnight we have seized 2 vehicles for no insurance and several drivers have been issued with tickets for no seat belt and using a mobile phone whilst driving. On May 1st 2 local youths were dealt with for shoplifting from the CO-OP. On 11th May, a local adult male was arrested for shoplifting from the CO-OP and for motoring offences, he has been charged and bailed to court.

My team welcomes PC Robb Walker a transferee from Leicestershire and PC Sandy Holland from Northampton, and PC James Reid is soon to move on to Towcester - I will let you know of his replacement in the next issue.

If anyone has any information on crime please speak to one of us, email us on [SCTDaventuryRuralNorth@northants.police.uk](mailto:SCTDaventuryRuralNorth@northants.police.uk) follow the link on the force website [www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk) or should you wish to remain anonymous call 0800 555 111. *Sgt.MikeGrady*



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# BULLETIN BOARD

## BRIXWORTH GARDENING CLUB

Brixworth Gardening Club meets on the last Friday of the month in the hall above Brixworth Library at 7.30 p.m. (unless otherwise stated). We have a varied programme of speakers and we welcome new members so just come along and enjoy a talk, refreshments and meet our members.

The annual subscription is £7 plus £1 per meeting. Visitors £3 per meeting.

Contacts: Pam Pettit – Chairman – 01604 880666

Judy Smith – Secretary – 01604 881186 or email: udygardenclub@aol.com

### 2010 PROGRAMME

Friday 28 May	Colin Lill – ‘Hedgehogs the Gardener’s Friend’ May bring rescued hedgehogs with him
Wednesday 23 June	Pettifers – Banbury (cost to be advised)
Wednesday 7 July	Kelmarsh Hall – Tour of gardens with Head Gardener Esther McMillan – Tea/coffee - £6
August	No meeting
Friday 24 September	Nick Brown – Lecturer at Moulton College – ‘Questions Gardeners Ask’.
Friday 29 October	Jane Cobbald – ‘Under an English Sky’. Talk about gardening by the stars and the benefit of gardening with copper tools. Tools for sale.
Friday 24 November	Annual Meeting and Christmas Party.
December	No meeting

### COMMUNITY PANEL MEETING

The quarterly meeting is on July 22nd 2010 at 7pm in the Spratton Road Community Centre. The purpose is for residents to review and discuss local Police priorities. Residents are welcome to come, participate and get involved. Many thanks. *David Hymas*

### COPY DATE FOR BULLETIN 26

The next edition of the Brixworth Bulletin will be on the 1st September 2010. Copy date will be the 1st August 2010, but contributors and advertisers are asked to advise the editor of their requirements as soon as possible.

## SAXON SPIRES PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

In the past year the Doctor’s Surgeries at Guilsborough and Brixworth have merged to become the Saxon Spires Practice. The existing Patient Group at Guilsborough is now seeking patients from Brixworth to join the group. Our aims include, improving communication between staff and patients and encouraging a spirit of self help and support amongst patients. We currently run two Tai Chi Classes, have found a Health Walks leader to offer easy walks in the area and are looking to set up a Heart Support Group for patients.

For more information please contact Barbara Hogg 01604 880552 or email barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk

## BRIXWORTH CENTRE PRE-SCHOOL SUCCESS



Brixworth Centre Pre School underwent a recent Ofsted Inspection and were subsequently awarded an “Outstanding” rating. Congratulations to the Staff and pupils in achieving this result. The photograph shows the school celebrating.

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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.	P.C. 29/1 Traffic increase objections. Now amended but still PC concerns.
DA/2010/0026 11 Eaglehurst. Conversion of garage to family room.	P.C. 25/1 No objection. DDC approved.
DA/2009/0983 132 Northampton Road. Change of use from A2 (Estate Agency) to A5 (Fast Food Takeaway)	P.C.25/1 Many objections DDC refused.
DA/2010/0032 Park View 35 Lesson Rd. Conversion of garage to bedroom.	P.C. 25/1 No objection. DDC approved.
DA/2010/0027 Barn at South Lodge, Park Farm, Spratton Road. Conversion of agricultural building to B1 USE (Offices)	P.C. 25/1 Objection on grounds of inappropriate location. DDC approved.
DA/2010/64 10 Eastfield Road. Two bay windows to front of property.	P.C. 22/3 No objection. DDC approved.
DA/2010/132 Cedars Farm, Silver Street. Conversion and extension of outbuilding to form a 3 bed property. Construction of a single storey pitched roof stone garage.	P.C. No objection. DDC approved.
DA/2010/ 0161 75 Northampton Rd. Refurbishment and extension of existing dwelling house to create 2 dwellings. Erection of four new houses.	P.C. 23/3 No objection. DDC approved.
DA/2009/0168 Land to north of Draughton Harrington. Construction of a seven wind turbine farm.	P.C. 17/6 No objection. DDC refused.
DA/2010/0235 2 Tantree Way. Part conversion & extension of garage.	P.C. 29/3 No objection.
DA/2010/0220 & 0221 The Manor, Harborough Road. Alteration and extension to existing single storey rear kitchen wing to increase height to create accommodation above, pitched roof with rooflights.	P.C. 29/3 No objection.
DA/2010/0276 Rumwood, Hall Park. Demolition of existing dwelling & erection of 2 new dwellings	P.C. 28/4 Objection

## GUIDE'S COFFEE EVENING

Many thanks go to everyone who supported our Coffee Evening on March 30th at Brixworth Centre. Altogether we raised £249.69 plus £103.00 from selling quiz sheets.

We were able to present Lucy Tame (one of our guides) with a cheque for £353.00 towards her trip to Sweden. Lucy has been selected to represent Northamptonshire at the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden in the summer 2011. Well done Lucy Jill Gunnett – Guider 1st Scaldwell Guides




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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have been asked to be the Chairman at the next Community Panel Meeting to be held in the Spratton Road Community Centre at 7pm on Thursday July 22nd 2010.

At the last meeting on Thursday March 18th 2010 the attendance was very disappointing, in that apart from the Police, only 7 residents turned up, all of whom were already officially involved in community matters one way or another.

The main purpose of the meeting is firstly to review the current Police priorities, which was speeding on Froxhill Crescent. Then secondly, it is to agree the set of priorities for the next few months, which is anti-social behaviour covering drunken and rowdy behaviour, causing a nuisance particularly to the elderly and littering, mainly in the village centre by the Hunters Way shops. Apparently after a period of relative peace, this anti-social behaviour has started up again as the next generation of teenagers take over.

We can all play a part in this Police initiative not least by supporting them by coming to the next meeting on Thursday July 22nd and having an input into the next set of priorities. The meeting only lasts about an hour and is very much a participative and friendly affair. Frankly, the previous lack of residents' support demonstrated by the poor attendance is very demotivating to those who are trying to tackle community issues, not least our very hands on Police Force under Sergeant Mike Grady together with PCSO Jo Hillery, who is particularly involved with young people.

I look forward to residents attending this meeting on next Thursday July 22nd 2010 at 7pm in the Spratton Road Community Centre. *David Hymas*

An HM Government anti-social behaviour leaflet dropped through my door today. It reminded me that on a mid October Friday evening in 2008 I was sitting at home with my wife when there was a loud banging on the door and the front window.

My wife opened the door and I heard voices but could not make out what they were saying. I heard my wife exclaim "I suppose you think that was funny". Suddenly I could hear raised anxiety in my wife's voice and could make out another voice I did not recognise. In the background I was now aware of other voices that appeared to be from a sizable group of people.

We are close to a cut through between different parts of the village. My wife was challenged to 'come outside'.

I went to the side door which is partly screened from the front of the house by a five foot solid gate. On the way I grabbed a thick stick about 40cm in length for protection. I scaled the gate and managed to work my way round my neighbour's front garden until I was adjacent to the alley. I could clearly hear a number of voices. I was very scared and considered Gary Newlove's murder when confronting youths who were interfering with his car, as I contemplated what to do next. I was thinking about retracing my steps when out ran one male youth intent on carrying on the assault upon our home, closely followed by a female who took up a position a couple of yards from the house so she could get a clear view of the scene. I recognised the male and was in a state of shock as I was familiar with him as a member of the Brixworth Youth Club, for whom I was a volunteer and trustee. Although belligerent at times he had never struck me as one of the young people who would be involved in any sort of antisocial behaviour. I was still trying to make sense of it when another youth sprinted to the side of my wife's car, parked at the front of the house, and grabbed hold of the driver's side door handle in a very aggressive stance. He was also someone I recognised from the youth club but his reputation and behaviour was far more worrying.

As I reached him I grabbed his left wrist which was trailing behind him but he was very quick and pulled free at which point I could not see his right hand and fearful that I might be stabbed, as he had a reputation for carrying knives, struck him twice across the back of his upper leg and buttock with the stick in an attempt to get him to the ground. He however spun away and ran off down another alleyway.

My wife called the police and a community support officer arrived some

five to ten minutes later and having obtained the addresses of three of the youths involved I gave this to the officer.

Next day I was informed by the same officer that he had interviewed the three youths and that they had admitted the offense but claimed it was a 'prank' that went wrong. He told me to my shock that the lad who had been at the car had suffered a broken thumb.

A few days later I was informed by the police that I was possibly to be charged with assault after the youth's mother decided to press charges. Four weeks after this I was summoned to be interviewed under caution at Weston Favel police station in the presence of a solicitor. The police involved did not wish to press charges but the case was reviewed by a senior officer who had no option but to refer the case to the Crown Prosecution Service due to the injured youth being under age; however after a year of waiting a decision was taken not to prosecute.

This case gave me much cause for angst and although relieved not to have to be dragged through the courts, I did though hope that a court case might expose once more the fact that the system is skewed away from citizens being able to defend their property and families. None of the young people involved in this incident faced any prosecution or threat thereof despite at least two of them admitting that at a later date they returned to my property and attempted to provoke another incident. Prior to this incident I was a Parish Councillor, I was a Secretary of State appointed lay member on the Northamptonshire Multiagency Public Protection Arrangements Senior Management Board and an active volunteer and trustee of the Brixworth Youth Foundation. The incident made me give all of this up, for fear of being targeted simply for being known in the community.

So was this simply a prank that went wrong and where are the parents?

*John McFadyen*

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# TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY BY MANDY DAWKINS



The Lynn Family of Kibworth Beauchamp Leicestershire, my Grandfather centre front.

With the popularity of television programmes such as 'Who do you think you are?' and 'Heir Hunters' tracing your family tree has become one of the most popular hobbies or pastimes of today.

I was lucky as I inherited a family tree that my mother's brother paid a researcher to produce. I took advice from genealogy books to check out that the information I had been given was accurate as it is easy to accept information on a plate and take it at face value. Although I was born in Newark, Nottinghamshire, my family tree started in 1673 in Stanwick, Northamptonshire then onto Werrington in Northamptonshire (now Cambridgeshire). Having made several visits to the Northampton Record Office I was able to check out all the Northamptonshire facts. Going to the local Record Office in the county your family

comes from or Kew National Archive is invaluable, there is so much more detail on original records than you would get from a web site such as Free BMD (marriage, births and deaths). Parish records books have been analysed and by looking at the indexes it is now so much easier to find relatives.

Personally, I have found being a member of Genes Reunited, an internet web site, very beneficial. At the moment a straight forward annual membership is £13.45, for this you can enter your tree onto the web site and you are then in touch with all the other subscribers. After entering my family tree I extended my inherited tree and other branches of my and my husband's family with the help of other members.

Other web sites I use are Find My Past and Free BMD. A piece of advice, wait until the winter

months when you have time to sit at the computer and treat yourself to a subscription to one of the web sites where you can look at censuses from 1841 to 1911.

One of my biggest regrets is not asking enough questions of my elders when they were alive, they are one of the best sources of information to get you started. Sit granny or grandad down and ask away, they will probably love telling you about the past and make notes that you can refer to later.

Be prepared for some surprises and a few intriguing mysteries, it can become addictive being the Miss Marples of the family. I now send an annual update of any new information to cousins at Christmas.

I was given lots of memorabilia by my grandmother who was ladies maid to Lady Jane Dewer whose father was Sir James Dewer the inventor of the thermos flask. My granny travelled everywhere with Jane Dewer as she did her hair and prepared her clothes every day. I also have an invitation from the Maharaja Gackwar of Baroda dated March 1925 inviting my grandmother to dinner at the Hotel Negresco in Nice, with this was the menu and signatures of the other guests. I do not know how she came to get the invitation - this is what I mean about asking questions when people are alive.

I have now made a large scrap book of all the family paper memorabilia, from my father's school reports, my mothers CV, death notice letters, and advertisements for my great grandfathers family business in Kibworth Beauchamp. I also have some very old family photos and copies of wills. Hopefully my family will keep these now they are in book form and easy to look at.

After spending more time at the Record Office I have managed to trace my mother's family back to the late 1500's in Higham Ferrers and as I now live in Thrapston I feel I am back to my roots.

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# PIN MONEY

What nonsense it is to cling to the Julian calendar and think about time in terms of B.C., A.D. or even politically correct B.C.E. For me there are only two æons: B.P. (Before Plastic) and A.P. (After Plastic). Diners and American Express cards were first launched in the USA in 1950, initially mainly for travel and restaurants. It was not until 1966 that, unsought and unbidden, a Barclaycard embossed with my name, dropped through my letterbox. The accompanying documents offered me a new way of spending money, or even better, a new way of buying things without, apparently, handing over any money at all! Until then, we'd made do with cash and cheques and if we ran out of the former and our potential supplier would not accept the latter, we were stymied. In 1969 another little piece of plastic, the cheque guarantee card, later to turn into a debit card, came into use. Looking just like the credit card, its purpose was to underwrite a cheque up to the dizzying value of £50. So, as far as I am concerned, 1966 marks the borderline between B.P. and A.P. No longer did we have to carry round those charming, designer leather pouches, filled with gold sovereigns and tied securely with a drawstring. The cheque book, even with the guarantee card, began to look less appealing with its £50 limit. Not only could we use Plastic to pay directly for goods and services but we could even withdraw cash from our bank accounts by means of machines located in walls just by sticking our cards in a slot and specifying how much we wanted. It seemed like magic. The plastic card quickly became our universal passport to a wealth of financial transactions; A.P. had well and truly rebooted our calendars.

It was not long before credit cards began to proliferate: as well as AMEX, Diners and Barclaycard, soon there were Eurocard, Mastercard, VISA and a host of others issued in their many versions, sometimes bearing pretty pictures, by other banks. Competition flourished – and, alas, so did crime. Wherever money flows, criminals hover with unscrupulous and greedy claws. A game of security leapfrog began in attempts to thwart card fraud. We had signature identification, mechanical imprint of embossed cards, magnetic stripes and photo-cards bearing their owners' mug-shots. None was fully effective for long but in 2003 a new idea was trialled in Northampton: chip and PIN. Small computer chips were embedded in the cards and programmed with a four-digit personal identification number (PIN) which the card holder had to remember and had to key into a machine in order for a transaction to be validated.

And that was when the headaches began. For the security to be effective, no one but the card holder must know your PINS. Rules were promulgated and have

proliferated: PINS must not be written down (lest the cards and scraps of paper be discovered and matched by some wicked criminal); easily memorable combinations of digits (such as 1234 or 0000) must be studiously avoided as must using the same PIN for all your cards, in case a smart criminal find your wallet and, were he to be another Alan Turing, be thereby enabled to rob all your bank and store accounts in one fell swoop. Furthermore, you should change your PINs regularly but still not write them down anywhere.

Well, I can barely remember the year of my birth let alone the PINS of my three credit cards, one debit card, my burglar alarm, my log-in security codes for two internet banks (and these are not simple four digit affairs but continue to become ever more convoluted). What possible strategies can one devise? Year of birth? Year of marriage, first or second? Childrens' birth years? There are other possibilities with years but the trouble with most of them is that, as far as one's personal life is concerned, they all begin with 19 or 20 and that hardly makes for maximum security. Of course, there's history: the battle of Hastings, Blenheim, the Great Fire, the year of Charles' beheading (Charles I, that is), Trafalgar and Victoria's accession but these may not spring easily to mind for everyone.

So what about creating mnemonics linking numbers with the alphabet? If A=1, B=2 etc we can make up all sorts of words and even turn them into pseudo sentences such as "HIDE, AGED DEAF HEAD or I'll BIFF you and throw ACID in your FACE after which I will FEED you BEEF". You can tell that this PIN business does more for my aggression than for my literary style.

There's one more useful trick for those of us past the first flush of youth: anyone who did National Service will remember their service number and the first or the last four digits will spring easily to mind. So that's handy - but for the dreaded need to keep changing the darned things and for the fact that, as time passes, fewer of us have the advantage of having served Queen and Country.

I did think of writing down my numbers and locking the piece of paper in my small domestic safe – but it, too has a four-digit code to gain access and how will I remember that?

Despite all such precautions, my wife had her Debit Card stolen and there was no piece of paper inscribed with its PIN anywhere, but clearly the thief was a mind reader because within twenty-four hours, £400 had been spirited from our bank account.

With an ageing memory, I'm doing my very best to be angelic and diligently to follow all the rules and guidelines but, with the utmost effort and the best will in the world, just how many PINs can an Angel be expected to have dancing in his or her head? *George Hammerschmidt*

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**August 10th** No meeting

**Sept 14th .** 'Pitsford Water Nature Reserve' Talk by Dave Francis  
Competition: A natural souvenir from a holiday.

**Oct. 12th .** .Annual General Meeting.  
No competition.

**Nov. 9th.** 'The curious story of the diary in the attic' by Tony Boullimier  
Competition: Toy

**Dec. 14th .** Christmas Party.



Brixworth Women's Institute held a coffee morning at Saxon House on the Saturday before Easter and raised £297. The ladies dressed up for the occasion as can be seen from the photograph.

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As with all villages Scaldwell is busily raising funds for several projects and so fund raising is very much in our thoughts with summer approaching.

The young parents have busily been raising funds to redevelop the playing field with all sorts of events over the past couple of years. They recently received the good news that they have been successful in obtaining funding from Playbulder via Northamptonshire County Council. This means that they can now get down to serious planning and are currently preparing a "wish list" and draft plans. They have worked really hard and I am sure the children will really enjoy the new facilities. Their current project is Bra Recycling – 'give us your support'. Bras are costly and difficult to manufacture, which can result in short supply in developing countries. BCR Global Textiles collect the old bras from the bra banks and sort them into different grades of textiles to ensure that the best use is made of all textiles when recycled or distributed worldwide. There is a pink box located in the village hall ready to receive donations. If you are out this way I am sure someone would take in your donation or ring 881950.

Our Village Hall is also in need of redecoration and new lighting so, again, the committee is going full steam ahead to raise funds. The Hall is really well used with Pilates on Monday evening, Yoga on Tuesday, an Art Group on Wednesday and indoor bowls on Thursday evening and with regular social events during weekends.

The Church family is working towards the installation of a toilet and servery which will give the Church the opportunity of using the building for a wider range of social events and give much needed facilities, especially for those who travel distances to weddings or funerals and for visiting clergy!!

We anticipate a busy but enjoyable summer.

There will be a Ladies Pamper Evening in the Village Hall on Saturday 15th May at 7.00pm. Treatments available are Reflexology, Shiatsu, Manicures, Reiki, Indian Head Massage and facials. Funds raised will go to Kidney Research and Crazy Hats Cancer Charity.



A load of hay was flung against the stone wall in Station Road recently. The vehicle was negotiating the corner of Church Street and Station Road when the accident happened which resulted in a damaged wall. As can be seen from the photograph.



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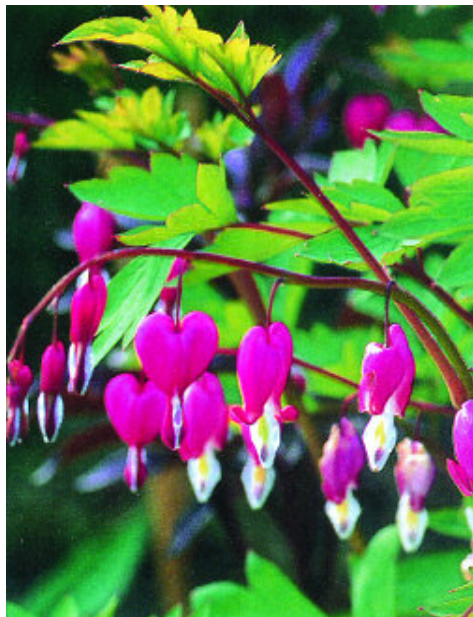
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# Gardening Notes by Catherine Hole



## Dicentra Spectabilis

The year has already progressed from spring flowers to early summer flowering borders. A very cold winter resulted in snowdrops blooming far later than usual extending their season well into late March and coinciding nicely with crocus, early daffodils and narcissi, creating drifts of mauve yellow and white bulbs.

The foliage of these bulbs will have yellowed and faded and should be gently removed, the nutrients from the leaves having returned to the bulbs, and an application of general fertiliser will boost flowering next year.

Tulips must be dead-headed to prevent seed forming but leave foliage until yellowed as with the other bulbs.

Forget-me-nots (myosotis) will have provided clouds of delicate blue flowers and can now be removed as plants become tatty and will have self-sown to provide plants for next year.

A very attractive hardy herbaceous perennial to note at this time of the year and consider for your own garden is Dicentra 'spectabilis' growing to 60 x 45cm, the flowers, each one pink and white appear as 'bleeding hearts'. (see photograph)

'Erodium' of the geranium family provides a long summer show of cup shaped flowers and is also known as 'stork's bill' by way of the shape of the seed head. It prefers a well-drained situation such as amongst paving where it freely self seeds.

Early flowering shrubs such as jasmine, forsythia, flowering currant, (ribes) and viburnum having flowered, should be cut back to keep them to a tidy, manageable size.

Staking is important, and easier to achieve before the plants become too tall and floppy. Ideally, twiggy branches pushed firmly into the soil surrounding the growing plants blend in well, resulting in a beautiful natural border. Alternatively bamboo canes or commercially made metal supports can be used, available from all garden centres or nurseries.

Topiary shapes of balls or cubes, created using 'box' (buxus sempervirens) will have grown a little, and may appear 'shaggy'. Trimming regularly will keep the shapes crisp and neat.

Penstemon is not reliably hardy, and to protect the plants from frost, the foliage should not be cut back until May as this promotes tender fresh growth.

The tall ornamental lilies will be in bud now. It is important to be vigilant for the 'Red Lily beetle' which is exactly as it's name implies - bright red, and voraciously devours the foliage whilst also laying eggs on the leaves and disguising them to look like caterpillar faeces. Avoid dropping the beetle as it always lands upside down, the underside being brown and virtually impossible to find again. Destroy eggs and beetle by squashing..

Once all danger of frost has passed, gradually introduce to outdoor temperatures, tender plants grown undercover, such as bedding plants and vegetables; courgette, marrow, sweetcorn, runner beans, and French beans. Should the weather become dry, watering is important to establish these plants and to ensure that they grow to their full potential. A small flower pot sunk into the ground next to the marrow and courgette plant directs water straight to the root.

Potatoes should be earthed up to ensure that the growing crop is not exposed to light as this turns the tubers green and is poisonous. Early potatoes are ready to be dug when the size of a hen's egg. Main crop, when the stems begin to die down and wither and which should then be removed to avoid 'potato blight' the disease that caused the Irish potato famine.

From June roses should be dead-headed to ensure continuous flowering unless they are a variety that is followed in the autumn by decorative hips.

To ensure sweet peas have a long flowering season pick regularly and also water well as they prefer moist soil conditions.

Herbs are an attractive addition to a border providing visual interest and culinary use. Fennel, (green or bronze) has a lovely light, airy, soft feathery look, growing to 1.5 metres. The flowers are yellow, appear like a landing pad, and are greatly favoured by insects. The foliage can be chopped and added to fish dishes, the seeds are slightly aniseed flavoured and can be used as breath fresheners. Rosemary can be grown as a natural shrub or clipped to a shape or as hedging. It can be used in casseroles and to flavour lamb. Kebab sticks can be created by cutting woody stems and stripping the leaves. Delicate blue flowers appear in early summer.

Sage (Salvia officinalis) has soft grey foliage and blue-mauve flowers in late summer. This plant will achieve a metre in height and width. Leaves are chopped and added to stuffing mix for chicken and pork.

Mint is popular in the kitchen for the delicious sauce to accompany lamb. Cut the stems to the ground when they become shabby and fresh growth will soon appear. However,

if a few stems are left the mauve flowers that appear are attractive to insects.

These herbs enjoy well-drained soil in a sunny position.

At this time of year if ponds are exposed to sunlight, blanket-weed will become a problem, but by simply twisting a stick round amongst it, it can easily be lifted up and removed, putting it to one side in case any wildlife is caught, so enabling it to escape.

It remains to be seen the type of summer we have. It would be nice to experience a warm summer this year with long spells of sun and occasional showers to keep we gardeners happy.

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The PCC arranged a spring social event in April to raise funds for the church.

A good time was had by all, with fine food, drinks and good company. The event raised over five hundred pounds.

It would be good to see a number of our new residents at these events in the future as it is the ideal way to meet the neighbours.

Harrington wind farm refuses to go away. The initial planning application for 7 turbines was declined by the district council, so the would-be developers have now raised an appeal. This appeal will be held for 2 weeks commencing on the 13th July and will be held at the DDC offices in Daventry, please try to attend to show your disapproval or otherwise. It would seem that the developers are determined to blight our beautiful countryside. If all of the planned wind farms get approved the A14 corridor will turn into a turbine alley, which is almost unbelievable considering that we live in the lowest wind speed area in the whole of the UK? The only current local wind farm is at Barton Wold and this has never been more than 20% efficient in the years that it has been operating!!!! *Mike Philpott.*

## OUTSTANDING PRIMARY SCHOOL SET FOR GROWTH



### Rosemary James & Pupils

From special measures and a falling roll in 2004, Maidwell Primary School has enjoyed a remarkable turn around. With the help of excellent teachers and teaching assistants, parents and Governors, Head Teacher Rosemarie James has guided the school to Ofsted Outstanding in an unusually short period of time. In December 2009 and under the new and more stringent testing criteria the school was awarded overall Outstanding by Ofsted.

To coincide with this remarkable achievement, the school also received confirmation that they had been awarded funding for significant redevelopment of the school. This summer, work will commence on a new school hall. The development, funded by Northampton County Council, will also include a new library, office, kitchen, storage space and on-site parking for 9 cars.

The development will impact on the school's extended services, providing additional space for after-school clubs and activities. For the first time, the children will be able to enjoy hot school meals and the kitchen will facilitate cookery lessons. As well as significantly enhancing the school environment, the new building will be a much appreciated asset for the local community. With the hall available for community use and significant off road parking, the project will be a real benefit to the village and surrounding areas. Under the guidance of the head, the school has come a long way and now attracts pupils from across the county. The curriculum is wide and varied and is designed to engage children and encourage learning. The educational practices are modern and challenging for all. The Ofsted inspection report stated "The high quality of education provided by the school is due in no small way to the highly effective leadership of the head teacher".

However, everyone contributes. The staff thoroughly enjoy working at the school and their enthusiasm rubs off on the pupils, creating an enjoyable working environment. There is a driving ambition, shared by the governors to seek to make the school even better. Rosemarie James commented "The challenge is to continue, always to improve and, I intend to make sure we stay Outstanding".

*John Hall Governor Maidwell Primary School*

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## FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

18th SEPTEMBER 2010

Following on from the tremendous success of last year, the Flower and Produce Show committee would like to give some advance notice of this year's classes in order to allow the residents of Brixworth and beyond, time to prepare for September. **An insert is included with this issue listing the classes.** The members of the fund raising committee were delighted with the interest and enthusiasm shown, last year, for this event. Over two thousand pounds was raised for the preservation of All Saints' Church, Brixworth. We hope that this advance notice of the classes will generate some much horticultural and culinary activity in the coming months in preparation for September 18th 2010. *Jane Stock*

**Joan Shelton** would like to thank everyone who attended the Brixworth Old School Reunion on the 13th March. It was a great turnout and thanks to all who donated raffle prizes. A grand total of £425 was raised for Macmillan nurses cancer support.

## BRIXWORTH ALL SAINTS FOOTBALL CLUB



Brixworth All Saints' 1st Team

We have reached the end of an arduous season and a successful one it has been. The 1st team finished a very respectable 4th position, just 7 points behind the league winners Harborough Town. A very tight league with 4 teams contending until late in the season. The reserve team had an outstanding campaign also, winning the league cup final 1-0 against Blisworth and clinching 2nd spot and promotion after a nail-biting win against Kettering Orchard on the last day of the season. The horse racing on film fundraising night was a

huge success with valuable funds for the club. I would like to thank our club secretary Ian Bandey for his exceptional effort in making this possible. I would also like to thank the Brixworth Historical Society for his book, 'Passing Times'. A literal and pictorial book which reflects Brixworth football over the years. Congratulations to all involved in the club for their exceptional efforts this season. Nigel Eldred Chair BASFC 07812609095 or [neldred@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:neldred@hotmail.co.uk)

## BRIXWORTH CRICKET CLUB



Devon Malcolm & Jason Gillespie discuss the pitch with Dave Salisbury

As we approach our third season at the Club's new ground on the outskirts of Brixworth, there are already many great memories of the opening two years. In 2008 both teams remained undefeated and won their respective leagues – a unique feat in Northants league cricket.

However, 2009 was arguably the most exciting year in our history. We saw some outstanding cricket, as our 1st XI returned to the Northants Premier League and the Club received a huge amount of publicity – both locally and nationally – with the arrival of ex Aussie Test star, Jason Gillespie to partner our very own pace legend Devon Malcolm. In an Ashes summer this was a great coup and it proved too good an opportunity to miss for Sky Sports News who came up to cover Jason's first game for the Club.

2010 promises to be equally memorable. The Club is celebrating its 75th anniversary and we have some major events planned – as detailed below. On the playing side, we have recruited some exciting new players, including Steve Crook, who was with Northants until last summer and Ben Howgego who remains one of the County's most promising young batsmen. The objective for the 1st XI this season is to finish mid table and the 2nd XI will be aiming for promotion from Division 4.

Development throughout the Club remains a vital objective. Our 3rd XI which formed last year will continue to flourish as more juniors come through our ranks. This year we will run 4 junior teams for the first time at u11, u13, u15 and u17.

If anyone would like to play for the club - at a junior or senior level then please contact Chris Timm on 01604 882591.

Much has been achieved over the past 3 years as the new ground continues to improve. However this is just the start. We have agreed plans for a new clubhouse, which will accommodate a range of sports and activities, available for the entire village to use. We also need new ground equipment so we can continue to improve our playing area and practice facilities.

### CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

To help raise funds towards the new clubhouse and new equipment and to celebrate the Club's 75th anniversary, we are holding two major events this summer;  
 Friday 30 July Brixworth Select XI vs Lashings World XI ([www.lashings.com](http://www.lashings.com))  
 Saturday 31 July Brixworth Cricket Ball  
 Further details on both events will appear in the Club brochure, to be distributed shortly as well in publicity material around the village. Also, visit [www.brixworthcc.co.uk](http://www.brixworthcc.co.uk) for more information on these and other events the Club is holding throughout the summer.

Chris Timm

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