

Village fights new housing plans

A public consultation is underway on plans to build for a major new housing development on the outskirts of Brixworth.

Developers are investigating the feasibility of a potential new development initially comprising 150 houses on the southern side of Brixworth. The proposal would affect a parcel of land that runs along the southern edge of the village, from behind Sunny Socks nursery to the east of Northampton Road, bordering Froxhill Crescent, Shelleycotes Road and Stone Hill Way. The parcel of land was previously submitted to Northamptonshire County Council as suitable for 300 houses. The current plans include a large amount of green space which could potentially be developed at a later time.

The plans, which are expected submitted for planning permission to Daventry District Council (DDC) soon, are counter to policies held by both the District and Brixworth Parish Council to stop development outside the village boundaries.

However, Amy Hallam, senior planner with the property consultant Carter Jonas, points out that DDC faces a significant shortfall of new housing, and therefore has to consider planning applications more favourably than normally. She says: "DDC considers Brixworth to be a sustainable location with a variety of facilities and services available, and the 150 new houses would help meet that shortfall. Our proposal would complement the existing settlement pattern and give a softer edge to the village. The new properties would overlook a large green space that would be complemented with new landscape planting."

Forty-seven of the 150 new houses would be affordable housing for local people. There are also plans for a new children's play area, allotments, footpaths and cycleways.

There is already huge concern among Brixworth residents. An initial meeting of the Parish Council's planning committee saw an unprecedented turnout of villagers, who were unanimously opposed to the proposal.

They are worried that Brixworth has already had a lot of new housing in recent years without a similar increase in facilities: since the late 1980s, the number of houses in Brixworth has risen by 55%, while the village has lost seven retail spaces. The trend has continued: over the past six years, the village has grown



Growth at all cost?

It's an often trotted out phrase that something has "changed beyond recognition", but in the case of Brixworth that really is true: since the 1980s, the village multiplied in size several times over. Of course, new housing is not necessarily a bad thing – it brings life into the village and allows local businesses to thrive. But people also need infrastructure: schools, healthcare, shops etc. As it is, the primary school relies on Portacabins, the doctors' surgery sends people to Guilsborough, and if you manage to find a space for your car at the shops you're luckier than most.

Any new housing development must support the village infrastructure, and go hand in hand with work to improve local services. If you value village life and want to ensure people can live in the Brixworth without having to add to the perpetual traffic jam going into Northampton, then we need force the developers back to the drawing board. We need to make sure that Brixworth slows its rapid growth and remains a village, or that it gets the kind of investment and facilities a small town deserves.

*Naomi
Flavel-White*

The Bulletin needs your help!

I know it's only a short while since the Bulletin last called for help, but with several of the current team moving away and taking on new jobs, we could use some extra help with various aspects of the Bulletin.

If you're able to set aside a few hours a month and have an interest in your village, journalism, or supporting a much-loved village newsletter, then we'd love to hear from you.

Our contact details are: Brixworth Bulletin; 13 Station Road; Brixworth NN6 9BP; phone: 882567 (evenings after 7.30pm and weekends); email: info@brixworthbulletin.com.

The deadline for advertising and editorial for the next issue is 25 July.

Council cuts funding for No 62 bus

Stagecoach Midlands have confirmed to the Bulletin that Northampton County Council plans to withdraw funding for all “socially desirable, but uneconomic” bus services between now and autumn 2011.

This will affect the Number 62 bus service from Brixworth and Scaldwell to Northampton. Stagecoach is currently evaluating whether it can make the route commercially viable and how.

This could mean reducing the frequency of the service, increasing fares, or both. If neither is deemed commercially viable, the service could be scrapped altogether.

If the Number 62 survives, fewer buses and/or increased fares would be bad news for the elderly, young people and people on low incomes who are the main users of the service.

However, there is some good news regarding the X7 from Leicester and Market Harborough to Northampton, which passes through Brixworth. The number of services on the route, which is already run on a commercial basis, could be increased, meaning that some of the potential cuts to the Number 62 could be made up for by more services on the X7. For those who simply want to go into



Northampton, this is potentially good news as this service takes a much more direct and quicker route.

Steve Burd, managing director of Stagecoach Midlands, informed the Bulletin that the review of the 62 and X7 services will take until May and any changes would be implemented in June and July. We'll let you know of any progress when we hear of it.

Independent companies are also looking at the effect of these changes. The Brixworth taxi service KPD Private Hire plans to set up a small shuttle service between Brixworth and Northampton, starting 13 June.

“The service will run every hour, possibly even every half hour depending on demand,” KPD’s managing director Phil Dawes tells the us. “We like to think of our shuttle as an alternative to the regular bus service - while we cannot compete with the big operators in terms of cost and numbers, we can offer a reliable, friendly and helpful service.”

New housing plans (continued from page 1)

by some 90 houses including those on the former Rigiflex site and the Swansnest development on Holcot Road.

The prime concern however is that, contrary to DDC’s view that Brixworth can sustain further development, the village infrastructure is already at capacity. Both Brixworth Primary School and the secondary school in Moulton are near their limit, and there are concerns that roads, shops, the doctor’s surgery etc could not cope with extra demand.

Villagers, including many from the adjoining development around Froxhill Crescent, have now formed an action group. BRANE (Brixworth Residents Against New Estates) is led by Bob Chattaway, who resigned his position as chair of the Parish Council’s Planning Committee to lead the action group.

Chattaway urges those who are worried about the plans to act immediately. “The consequences for Brixworth could be disastrous if permission is given for these houses to be built,” he says. “Apart from the impact on the landscape, the extra traffic, extra pupils at already crowded schools, and extra patients at the surgery it could open the floodgates for more development on several other sites. Most people have remained in, or moved to Brixworth to enjoy village life.”

For more information on the campaign opposing the development, email brane@talktalk.net or visit www.spanglefish.com/brane.

The plans were presented at a public exhibition on 21 May at Brixworth Village Hall, and villagers have until 3 June to send their feedback to the developers. To take part, write to Carter Jonas LLP, Anchor House, 269 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7LL. Deadline for submissions is 3 June.

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A fine excuse for a street party



The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton at the end of April offered a welcome excuse for the people in and around Brixworth to get together and toast the couple with a glass of wine, beer or lemonade. Not to forget the bunting, cakes and nibbles!

Clockwise, from top left: a Ford Mondeo has been transformed beyond recognition with the help of many rolls of Union Jack tablecloth from Lovell's Hardware. The car was later auctioned for charity and raised £300 for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice. Meanwhile, revellers were loving their street picnic on Broad Street, while the children enjoyed the costume competition; Hanging Houghton village green; and some fine party decorations off Knighton Way.



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Police Quarterly Report

By Sgt Mike Grady

Scrap Metal Thefts

At the Community Panel Meeting on 27th January metal theft was agreed as a priority for this current period along with burglary. Soon after the meeting, a number of thefts of metal were reported close to the Leicestershire border. Liaison with Leicestershire colleagues eventually resulted in the naming of a suspect and a warrant was executed at their home address; although no evidence was found that could be directly attributed to the thefts there have been no further incidents reported.

We continue to target those who help themselves to metal and recently two males were arrested stealing rail track. We also managed to identify the dealer who took in the scrap and that individual was arrested for handling stolen goods.

On 29 March we had a team on the A508 stopping any vehicle that caused the slightest suspicion. On 31st March we ran an operation specifically targeting 'Rogue Traders' in the Brixworth area and numerous vehicles were stopped and thoroughly checked; offences dealt with and intelligence gained; a further operation is to be conducted in the near future.

If anyone sees anyone 'scouting' for scrap or acting suspiciously near driveways or other premises please give us a call on 03000 111222.

Community Panel Meeting

There was a good turnout at the Community Panel Meeting held at the Brixworth Community Centre on 28 April. After a review of last quarter's Police priority, theft and burglary, it was agreed that the next quarter's priority would be anti social behaviour with particular regard to noisy vehicles like motorcycles. This priority reflects the increase in outside activities during the summer. The next meeting is at 8pm on Thursday 28 July, at Brixworth Community Centre. Please feel free to come along and represent your village, have your say or just listen.

Ilmor Engineering

Over the weekend of 9-12 March 2011 extensive damage was caused to the Ilmor engineering site off Quarry Rd Brixworth. The manager had disturbed a number of youths on site on the Friday evening but it is thought they returned and threw rocks and stones, sprayed offensive words, damaged several vehicles and threw pallets, barrels and other debris about leaving the area resembling a bombsite. It seems they accessed the site by damaging fencing at the neighbouring pocket park. It is disappointing to see such damage caused within the village to a company who employ many local people and we appeal to you for any information in relation to these offences as the investigation is ongoing.

Is your child safe online?

PCSO Jo Hillery arranged for a parental information session at Brixworth primary school recently to help parents understand the dangers of allowing their children free access to social networking sites and some measures that can assist in protecting a child. It was disappointing that only a handful of parents turned up to what was a very informative session. Should anyone wish to research this themselves just enter 'Think you know' or CEOP into a search engine and follow the guidance links from the website.

Crime Statistics

April sees the end of the crime year so statistics are available to compare with last year.

Brixworth has suffered 157 crimes over the last 12 months compared with 199 over the same period in 2009-10. The largest reductions are in house burglaries, where we've had five incidents compared with last year's 16, criminal damage, which has dropped from 51 to 30, and vehicle theft, where numbers have been cut by two thirds from 13 to four.

Hanging Houghton suffered four crimes this year compared to two last year, Lamport three down from eight last year and Draughton two this year compared to three last year. This general downward trend is mirrored across the county with significant reductions in burglary, robbery and vehicle crime. We cannot afford to be complacent and the reductions will make it more difficult to maintain a downward trend in 2011-12 but we continue our prevention activities across these crimes.

Brixworth reports a 25% reduction in reported antisocial behaviour; we are aware however that the summer brings increases in unacceptable behaviour so please do call in on 03000 111222 to report anything that is causing you problems or distress. We would also like to remind you that Brixworth is an alcohol-free zone and therefore no open alcohol containers are allowed in public within the village.

Team Update

PC Ben Fathers was injured at an incident in Holcot in January and has severely damaged tendons and ligaments and as a result will be off duty for some time. In the meantime PC Tom Afford joins PC Jason Brotherton, PCSO Jo Hillery, PCSO Allan Whenmouth, PCSO Glyn Lewis and myself. PC Singy Bagniak starts work at Moulton College in May and will work alongside my team out of term time.

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Shoddy work blamed for housing delays



For the past two years, residents of Brixworth have been watching the transformation of the former Rigiflex site on Northampton Road and Froxhill Crescent into a new housing complex. But work on the site has stalled several times, and in spring 2011, the houses are still not ready. Unsurprisingly, we get asked the question: what's been going on, why the delay?

We did try to contact the housing association Genesis, but no one was available to comment. Elaine Ferguson, Affordable Housing Officer at Daventry District Council, told us that according to Genesis there were issues with initial contractor's work. Legal proceedings are now underway and the contractor was removed from the site while a new contractor is completing the work.

Since then, Genesis have uncovered further problems caused by the work of the first contractor which need to be rectified before

people can move into the houses, which the new contractor is also working through.

While under the original plans, only ten of the 34 homes in Highfields would have been designated as affordable housing, the plans have changed and now all 34 units will be affordable. Nineteen of the homes will be rented out as social rented houses, while the other 15 will be available under a shared ownership scheme, where people part-own and part-rent a house. Such schemes are designed to help people get on the housing ladder who would otherwise struggle to buy a property.

Genesis wants to give priority to people with a local connection, and the relevant applications are currently underway. For more info, visit www.geneshomes.org.uk.

Draughton village news

Spring is finally busting out of every crevice and inhabitants are stirring (there's no choice with the cacophony of birdsong!)

In the church sits a gleaming new boiler, which, as I write, has blown only cold air through the vents (just testing!) but with oil and engineer, Carol services as cold as last year's will be a thing of the past. We are hugely grateful to those who have given their time to clear and paint the boiler room – and to next winter we say... "We're ready for you!"

Yoga continues on Monday evenings and is so popular that it is to continue through the holidays.

The Garden Club draws people from far and wide and Coffee Mornings are often visited by cyclists and walkers from the Brampton Valley Way.

The village is bracing itself for yet another application to build a wind farm near the Harrington Airfield. They are now trying for three turbines – having formerly considered 12 then submitted an application for seven which was turned down at planning and appeal.

Lastly, as the Bulletin was going to press, Draughton was gearing up for the Spring Fayre on May 22nd – a popular event of stalls, art, games and the legendary Draughton Teas. Fingers crossed the weather was kind and all enjoyed the day.

Kate Calnan

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Breadline's on the rise

Jennifer Fitzgerald finds out why the economic crash has been good news for the village sandwich shop

Anyone who passes along Harborough Road in the middle of the day will not have failed to notice the growing queues and the increasing number of people sitting eating outside The Breadline. The growth of this sandwich shop in Brixworth has been impressive – every time I pop in there appears to be a greater variety of items in the display units, and another new menu board crammed full of tempting choices. Now offering even more places to sit in the spring sunshine, and with the day's newspapers always laid out for browsing, The Breadline has brought a touch of continental café culture to the village.

I interviewed Lynda Forskitt, the shop's manager, about how The Breadline has become such a success.



What were the origins of the business?

In November 2003, Fran Fulks took over this shop from Barbara Welsh, who had been running it as a small sandwich shop called 'On the Breadline' for the previous couple of years. Fran got the idea from her stepdaughter who had been helping out at the café in Brixworth Country Park. I took on the job as manager of the shop. Apart from having had a job once as a waitress, I didn't have any previous experience in catering. However, I had experience of working in home care, which gave me an idea of what people need and want.

What is your relationship to Brixworth?

All the shop staff live in Brixworth. Fran lives in Hanging Houghton. I've lived in Brixworth for 45 years but I can't remember the village ever having had a café before.

What changes have you seen over the years?

We've grown from strength to strength and as a result we've increased the different products we sell. There are not just sandwiches and filled rolls, but also salad boxes, hot food, plated meals, paninis, jacket potatoes, as well as specials such as cooked stew and dumplings and chicken curry. People like variety.

Customers have also become more sophisticated in their tastes.

Popular choices at the moment are the New York Deli sandwich (ham, cheese and pastrami) and the cream cheese bagel. Top favourites are always sausage and bacon, breakfast rolls, jacket potatoes and hot rolls.

Apart from the shop, a large part of what we do is selling to local businesses on the industrial estates and to construction sites. We make deliveries to all the surrounding villages such as Creaton, and travel as far as Moulton Park, Market Harborough, Corby and Kettering. This part of the business started in 2004 with one van. We now have five vans and six drivers! Needless to say we're all very proud of the way the business has expanded and are lucky all the staff are so committed to making it a success.

Our bread is bought in from a local bakery in Market Harborough and we make a lot of the products fresh ourselves here on the premises. There is an industrial unit at Hanging Houghton which focuses on making sure the vans are fully stocked. About seven people work there.

People spend more money these days on eating out. It's easier to buy lunch than to make it at home, and it's probably just as cheap.

A few years ago, we put a table outside and last year we bought a sun umbrella. We now have five tables and two umbrellas. Of course, they draw people in.

One of the fastest areas of growth within The Breadline is our buffet service. From a small tray of sandwiches to a full business lunch it's proving more and more popular. Companies can no longer afford to take clients out for an expensive, time-consuming lunch. Therefore we are the alternative, the added bonus being that we will deliver.

When the recession started, we were concerned about how it was going to affect us. But the downturn does not appear to have had any effect - people will still pay to have good food. We haven't seen any changes, in fact we are now a lot busier than we have been in previous years.





Who is currently involved in the business?

Fay, Chelsea and Fiona work with me in the shop during the week and we are open on Saturday. However, I take a well deserved break at the weekend!

How many customers do you have? What type of customers do you have?

We don't know exactly but I'd say we probably serve several hundred customers a day. Most of them are business and working people who need to be in and out very quickly as they are buying food during their lunch hour. We have a lot of customers from Mercedes-Benz and local businesses, and also students from Moulton College.

Our busiest times are during the summer as people are out and about more.

Even some elderly ladies in the village have begun to buy from us. They say it makes sense for a person living on their own to buy a salad box from us, and it's cheaper for them than buying all the ingredients they need to make a salad.

Apart from them, I've the impression that a lot of people in the village don't know us yet.

Describe your typical day

From Monday to Friday, I get up at quarter to five. As I live just round the corner, I'm here for quarter past five. By that time, the milk has already been delivered to the doorstep and the bread arrives here at about six o'clock. Customers start arriving any time after six so I find myself already serving them in between preparing the fillings for the sandwiches for the day. At half past seven, stock arrives from Hanging Houghton and Fay joins me at half past eight. From half past seven, I'm getting the pasta and salad boxes ready. Mr Troop makes his delivery of the fruit and veg we need about this time, too.

We serve hot food until two o'clock in the afternoon. After that, we're cleaning up. We close at three o'clock.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you?

I was really busy once and there were a lot of people in the shop. I took an order but then forgot it and had to go outside and ask a male customer, "What sauce do you want on your sausage?" The whole place fell about laughing.

We like to enjoy ourselves and we dress up for special occasions like Red Nose Day and Children in Need. The first year, I dressed up as Mr Blobby and a customer sponsored me to run over to Daisy Roots in my costume. This year we dressed as Cow Girls.

What are your top challenges?

Being able to meet all our customer's requests – we do like to be as accommodating as we can. For example, should something not be on our menu we are happy to try and provide the request. I have some regular customers come in for breakfast and they are always trying to catch me out. Last week they decided to go 'continental' I found myself rushing home to collect some cornflakes for them!

Also, not eating too much! It's very tempting to snack sometimes.

What message do you have for your customers?

Thank you for your custom. We hope you keep coming back. We enjoy meeting you – old and new customers alike. We'll always give you a friendly welcome.

Coming away from a longer chat with Lynda than usual, I can vouch for the sincerity of her final comment. The personalities of its staff must be a large part of The Breadline's winning formula. It's not just that Lynda and her colleagues enjoy cooking. They take real pleasure in interacting with their customers and coming up with new ideas to make them happy.

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Crafty Beggars!

by John Mc Fadyen

One of Brixworth's better-kept secrets is its proliferation of crafters.

Crafting, making things, is one of the arts, and crafters work in many different mediums from ceramics, glass, stone, wood, clay and metals, to plastic, textiles, paper and card. Crafting can range from those skilled in contemporary crafts, traditional and/or heritage crafts to 'hobbyists'.

Some would separate the 'fine arts' from crafts and argue that the former is about aesthetics and expression whereas they consign crafting to those who create objects decoratively designed and often with a useful purpose.

Motivation for different crafters springs from different sources, from those who wish to be self-sufficient or recycle materials as a conservation measure to those who simply enjoy doing something 'artistic' as a way of expressing themselves, filling time or trying something new.

All across Brixworth there are people who are skilled in needlecraft, refurbishing old, vintage or discarded products, making clothing, cosmetics, soap or consumables such as traditional jams and other edible delights, making occasion cards, stuffed toys or even jewellery.

Crafting has a long social history, but the present-day arts and crafts movement is founded upon a premise that ordinary people can be creative and have creativity in their lives.

Like the range of crafts and crafting materials it is probably true that there are different motivators for crafters that spur them on, some artistic, some economic and some indeed political.

The range of people crafting, the breadth of their chosen materials and the use to which they put their end products also varies greatly and Brixworth is rich in all aspects, from those who craft commercially, those who do it for charitable reasons to those who simply do it for fun.

In Brixworth there is one shop with an artistic and crafting bent: Opal Art & Framing which has taken over from the well established

B. R. & J. B. Gunnett in Northampton Road. Until recently we also had La Boutique which sold unusual gifts and home accessories, also in Northampton Road. Unfortunately this has now closed. A quick look at the Brixworth-on-line directory shows that Brixworth also boasts at least two home working craft makers, Ashway Bears, who make traditional handcrafted mohair bears and Jilly b Cards, who specialize in handcrafted greetings cards and invitations.

One accessible craft, growing in popularity is jewellery making. There is of course a very popular silver smith in Brixworth: Helen West in Kennel Terrace retails bespoke handmade gold and silver

jewellery. However other materials are also popular in jewellery making such as other metals, wood and even plastics. An even more accessible form of jewellery making is beading.

Beading can involve plastic, glass and metal components with beautiful end products created at reasonable cost. There is a wide range of different quality products that can be produced from children's pieces to the most ornate and intricate costume and day pieces. One budding 'beader', Joanna York has been producing lovely bespoke necklaces and



Joanna York has been making beaded jewellery for over two years

bracelets for family and friends for two years. "Beading is a very rewarding and relaxing pass-time; most therapeutic. It helps me unwind and relax after a hard day".

Joanna manages the Coleman's Craft Warehouse in Rushden where a full range of craft products is available as well as hugely popular craft workshops that can be booked at any Coleman's shop. She also acts as a consultant to Kars the leading wholesale trader of hobby supplies in the Netherlands and Belgium. Her works have been displayed recently at Europe's largest trade show for the creative craft industry in Birmingham the Craft Hobby and Stitch International.

How many more crafters are out there in Brixworth making things of beauty to use and enjoy?

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Country Eye Transports – of delight?

by Brian Webster

appear bankside, and the towpath was still thronged with anglers, who were obviously catching fish. Sadly on many occasions we came across dying carp and other species that had been caught by the screws of passing boat traffic, with huge wounds across their backs.

At most of the villages along the route there were the inevitable motley collection of ducks, mostly mongrels descended from wild and domesticated mallards or wild duck. These seem to largely subsist on food tossed to them from the boats and from the bankside, like the ones by the causeway at Pitsford Water.

Steaming along the railway line from Northampton to Market Harborough, the little compound loco huffed and puffed as it hauled its two coaches along the valley of the Brampton Nene. Stopping at every station, including Brixworth and Spratton, it marked the first stage of my journey with my mother to Southwell in Nottinghamshire, where an aunt lived. The journey took most of the day, the last stage involving a change at the splendidly named Rolleston Junction, set in the middle of nowhere, for the push-pull service that operated to Southwell.

For a twelve year-old it was a magical journey and I was suitably smoke begrimed by journey's end. Yet even then motor transport was rapidly replacing the steam that had itself supplanted the coaches and carter's wagons a century beforehand. As George Wood recounts in his book *Lambs' Tails for Breakfast*, buses became available to take them into town, but it was the railways that local people relied on to travel further afield. Even the newspapers came to Pitsford on the early train from Northampton.

Although the line escaped the swingeing axe of Dr Beeching, in the 1960's passenger services were withdrawn, other than the occasional football special, which would languish by the signal awaiting access to the main line at Kingsthorpe. Still the broad valley would echo to the clanking of long trains of empty coal wagons as they were hauled northwards to the collieries, until the line finally closed in August 1981.

The canals were another part of our transport system that eventually gave way to the relentless pressure of road and rail combined. Many of the closed railway lines became 'leisure walkways', green arteries that extended into the countryside, much of which became effectively barred from public access; away from the long-established network of footpaths and other rights of way that is.

The canals were different in that access to the towpaths had long been permitted. Many of them fell into disuse when they were no longer used for long-distance haulage. Yet I remember the occasional horse-drawn craft, a single horse pulling a barge laden with coal to the wharf on the River Nene at Northampton. Diesel-powered working craft were still commonplace along the local network.

Nowadays the canals again bustle with activity, with ownership of narrowboats fitted out with every convenience as 'homes-from-home' growing apace. I see that we, Joe Public, are again being invited to send in our observations of wildlife along the waterways, as part of the annual national survey. Unfortunately a downside of all this expansion has been the churning up of the most popular locations by the boats so that the water is turbid and muddy. Light cannot get through to the water plants so they die, and the wildlife that depends on them is much reduced. Kingfishers cannot see their prey so they tend to seek refuge on the side-ponds and storage reservoirs.

For several years I was invited to join a pair of custom-built hotel boats as leader of wildlife-themed cruises. Herons and kingfishers did

Canalside mute swans seem extremely tame and approachable, but beware those that have downy young in tow; these may become very aggressive. Incidentally there is no truth in the oft-quoted notion that a swan can break a man's leg with a single blow of its wings. I have handled a good many swans in my time; it's true that they will give you a severe buffeting and pecking if given the chance, but nothing worse than this.

Stop Press!! Country Eye will be holding a local crafts/fun day at the Red Lion Inn, Brixworth on Sunday 4 September. More information in my next article.

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Grand designs for water tower

The water tower on Broad Street has recently been encased in thick plastic sheeting and has been a hive of activity as workmen power jet the exterior and refurbish it. This is part of an Anglian Water £300m asset maintenance programme which will 'cheer up' this austere plain and common type concrete water tower by late June.

On other occasions, refurbished water towers have provided a 'Grand Designs' opportunity to turn the tower into a dream home. The disused water tower in Great Doddington was up for sale in 2009 with planning permission to convert it into a residential property, and fetched £100,000.

Although these concrete towers look grey and faceless, with windows and a roof extension added they could become trendy 21st century homes.

Water tower conversions are not



unknown, with a lovely red brick example already in existence in Finedon.

It is unlikely, given this recent refurbishment, that Anglian Water are ready to decommission our own iconic structure.

Believe it or not, such water towers even have their own enthusiasts' club: The British Water Tower Appreciation Society, exists to connect enthusiasts of water towers to share their enjoyment of their artistic, cultural, architectural, historical, social and engineering significance.

Who can teach French?

La Jolie Ronde, a language learning organisation which provides elementary French and Spanish lessons to primary school aged children, urgently requires a French speaker to take over the Brixworth classes.

We have been searching for many months now without success and if we do not find a replacement soon we will have to cancel the lessons and the children will be very, very disappointed. We therefore really hope that the readers of the Brixworth Bulletin can help us prevent this from happening.

The classes are being held in Brixworth on a Monday and Friday lunchtime. Teaching qualifications are not required as full training in the La Jolie Ronde methodology will be provided.

If you are interested please fill in the online enquiry form at www.lajolieronde.co.uk/run-your-own-class/ or call us for more information on 01949 839715; please ask for Christine or Jenny

Community support

Estate Agent Jackson Grundy has launched a scheme to raise funds for community groups including those in the Brixworth area.

The scheme sees the company donate 5% of their commission upon completion of a property sale to a local cause. Vendors have a choice from a small number of nominated good causes.

To date the scheme has raised over £1500 with cheques issued so far to the Village Hall, Brixworth Centre Pre-School, Brixworth Cricket Club and the Country Park. Brixworth Youth Foundation and the Olive branch are also organisations that have been nominated and are awaiting payment.

In memoriam

Stan Shelton and family would like to thank everyone for the messages of sympathy and beautiful floral tributes following the sad loss of Margaret Eldred, our devoted wife and mother.

Thanks to all who attended the funeral on 1 March at Brixworth Church. Thank you also to all at Pytchley Court and to Finch & Sons, Funeral Directors.

Barbara Wise and family would like to extend their sincere thanks to all the Brixworth folk who supported them with their kindness, generosity and prayers for Bill – a great comfort to us at this very sad time.

Brixworth Landscaping

For personal service & creation of your ideal garden, contact Matthew Cox:

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Coach and Horses named top inn

The Coach and Horses pub in Brixworth has been named as one of the Top Ten Real Ale Hotels by the UK by the independent travel website Trip Advisor. "Getting that kind of rating from a site as important as Trip Advisor is incredible," says landlord Les Pike. "What I'm really pleased about that we did so well in a poll that covered all of England. It's a credit to all the staff here and the hard work they put into the pub and the B&B."

The rankings were compiled from votes cast by visitors to the Trip Advisor website, who gave the Coach and Horses a score of 98.9%. Les says he has no idea whether the rating has brought extra visitors ("I can't tell, it's been so busy!"), but other members of staff say they've noted a definite increase in visitors.

It's not just the locals who enjoy a night at the Coach & Horses either. Since the pub became a four-star Bed & Breakfast, visitors have come from all over the world. "They've come from Thailand, from Hong Kong, you name it!" Les says.

All Saints' Festival Weekend

All Saints' Church annual summer festival will take place this year over the weekend 4/5 June. As in previous years there will be the spectacular Flower Festival in the Church, with this year's theme being "Celebrating 400 Years" – but do you know what of?

Across both days, the Art Exhibition in the Heritage Centre gives visitors a chance to view and purchase a vast range of local talent. Expect to find something to suit all tastes and budgets.

From 6pm onwards on the Saturday evening, the Bellringers have organised their popular BBQ, Beetle Drive and quiz (contact 880941 for more information; tickets are available from Hamson's garage).

The Church Fete will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 5 June from 2-4 pm. There will be stalls, games, a raffle, tombola and refreshments, along with a band, on what we hope will be a sunny day.

Wiig re-elected to DDC

Elizabeth Wiig has held her seat as the representative of Brixworth Ward on Daventry District Council with a comfortable majority. At the local elections on 5 May, she received 65.2% of the vote with 1411 ballots cast. The other contenders, Sam Barratt for the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party candidate Steve Whiffen each received just over 17% of the vote.

Overall, the Conservatives won 12 of the 13 available seats on DDC.

Policing escapes funding cuts

Policing in Brixworth and the surrounding villages is unaffected by any cost savings being proposed by the Northamptonshire Police Authority. A spokeswoman with Northamptonshire Police told the Bulletin that there are no plans to change local policing in Brixworth as a result of the cutbacks and no reduction in officer numbers for Brixworth and the surrounding villages.

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Society organisers play for free*

*please call for details

Don't forget, the **Spike bar**, also open to visitors, is now open later every night of the week.

It's the ideal place to watch **live sports** on large **HDTV** screens, get a bite to eat or to relax on the terrace.

Our **BBQ** (most weekends) is one of the best value in Northampton and fast becoming very popular too!



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Brixworth Parish



Council Newsletter

11th Edition, Summer 2011

Message from the Chair of Brixworth PC

Welcome to this super-sized issue of your Parish Council Newsletter and Annual Report.

So how is the Parish Council doing with serving the village? (I can hear your answer from here!). But seriously, we want you to have a say in how we spend your money. We think we've got it right, but do **you** think we've got it right? Look for the Village Questionnaire in this issue of the Bulletin – *and return it!!* Your opinion counts!

Remember, the details of all our meetings are on our noticeboard near Ken Troops, and you can read all about it, as ever, on www.brixworthpc.org.uk. Even better, call in on one of our meetings – we'd love to see you.

Cllr Ian Barratt— Chairman

Your Parish Council wants you to tell us what you think about Brixworth

The time has now come to update the Parish's plan for the future so that the Parish Council can ensure that it focuses on the areas that are of most importance and concern to you. So Inside this edition of the Bulletin there is a questionnaire asking for your views on the village and what should be the Parish Council's priorities for the future.



Tell us what you want Brixworth to be like!

Parish questionnaire

Please take a few minutes to fill the questionnaire in and return to either the Library foyer, K Troops Green-grocers or, if you prefer, you can complete it on-line at www.brixworthpc.org.uk. It is your chance to have your say and help us set the priorities for the future.

The Parish Council will consult further when we have produced a plan and draft priorities for the village's future.

What does the Parish Council do for Brixworth?

The Parish Council is directly responsible only for some things that effect the quality of village life. However, it can influence service providers, such as Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire County Council. We can also try to influence other providers of services such as the police and bus companies.

What is the Parish Council responsible for?

Recreation Grounds and Playing Fields:

- o The Ashway Playing Fields
- o Spratton Road Recreation Ground
- o St David's Recreation Ground

Various Public Open Spaces including: -

- o The Millennium Garden, Church Street
- o The Pocket Park, Eaglehurst
- o The Pound, Harborough Road/High Street

Grass cutting and litter picking at:

- o The Heritage Centre
- o Holcot Road, large green
- o Recreation grounds and playing fields
- o Various small Public Open Spaces
- o The Village Hall green.

Bus shelters, litter bins and benches

Support and grants to community groups

Ashway Changing Rooms

Brixworth Community Centre

How much does your Parish Council cost you and how does it spend your money?

The Parish Precept for 2010/11 will be £97,710, a cost of approx. £1.00 a week for a Band D household.

What does the Parish Council spend your money on:

Recreation Ground Maintenance	40%
Village Maintenance	6%
Administration/Running Costs	40%
Grants for voluntary organisations	10%
Support for Brixworth Police Office	4%

Change of Parish Councillors

Frank Wiig has resigned from the Parish Council after many years of commitment to the village. He will be missed by the Parish Council. As a result of Frank's resignation we now have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If anyone is interested in becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk on 881243 or email clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk.

David Parnaby's commencement as a Parish Councillor was announced in our last edition. David has lived in Brixworth for almost fifteen years. He is married to Paddy and has two sons and one daughter. Born in Cumbria, he was educated there prior to attending Trinity College, Dublin, where he studied law. Graduating in 1964, he spent five years in law in London and Hampshire before joining the Royal Air Force in 1970. During his Royal Air Force career he served in a number of command and staff posts in the United Kingdom, Gibraltar and Germany.



After retiring from the RAF in 1996, he became County Executive of St John Ambulance, Northamptonshire before joining the Ministry of Defence, Defence Logistics. He served there initially as Customer Liaison Officer for the Royal Air Force and finally as Senior Customer Liaison Officer with responsibility for all three Services. He finally retired in 2009. His principal interests centre on golf, theatre, opera, history and classic motor cars.

A listening Parish Council

As well as asking the village's view through the Parish Questionnaire the Parish Council is going to start Parish Councillor Surgeries on a trial basis. The surgeries are aimed to give residents of Brixworth the opportunity to talk to their Parish Councillors.

Surgeries will be held from 10.00 am until noon on the first Saturday of the month in Daventry District Council Office at Brixworth Library/Community Centre: 4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December.

We look forward to seeing many of our residents.

Freedom of information

Under the Freedom of Information Act every public authority, including the Parish Council, has a duty to maintain a publication scheme. Publication schemes provide a crucial role in supporting and providing a greater openness and transparency across the public sector. You can download the Parish Council's publication scheme and guide to information on the Parish Council's website or view it at the Library. If you have any questions about either of these documents please contact the Clerk.

Parish Council meeting schedule

Members of the public are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting. Meetings are held in the Library/Community Centre. All meetings start at 7.30 pm except the Full Council that starts at 7.15 pm. Members of the public have an opportunity to address the Council at the Full Council meeting, during the Public Open Forum session. At any Committee Meeting members of the Public will be allowed to participate in the debate, but will not be able to vote.

Future meetings are as follows:

Planning	Monday, 6 June
Highways & Environment	Tuesday, 7 June
Planning	Monday, 27 June
Full Council	Tuesday, 28 June
Planning	Monday, 18 July
Recreation & Amenity	Tuesday, 19 July
Full Council	Tuesday, 26 July
Highways & Environment	Tuesday, 2 August
Planning	Monday, 8 August
Full Council	Tuesday, 30 August

Agendas are displayed on the notice board and on the website at least four days before. Please check for any changes. Contact details for the Clerk and Parish Councillors and Minutes of meetings are available on www.brixworthpc.org.uk and in the Library.



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Brixworth A.D. 680

Vicar: The Revd A. J. Watkins 880286
 Churchwardens: Mrs S. Woodhead, 8 Brackenborough 880158
 Mr M. Lewis, 8 Beech Close 881836

FROM THE VICAR

Dear People of Brixworth,

Why is WHITSUNDAY usually called the Festival of PENTECOST these days? Admittedly the former title is attractive and sounds much more English, yet Pentecost is mentioned in the Bible whereas Whitsunday is not and, in any case, it has lost its association with the Christian Festival. The title Pentecost, from a Greek word meaning 'fiftieth', reminds us that the original Jewish feast was observed on the fiftieth day from the Passover celebration. It was originally an agricultural festival marking the end of the wheat harvest (earlier in the Middle East than in our own country) but in time became associated with the Giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai, an essential part of Israel's coming to birth as a nation with its own distinctive faith and characteristics.

In the Christian Church, Pentecost marks the fiftieth and final day of the Easter Season and celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the virtual birth of the Church which was regarded as the New Israel of God and open to both Jews and Gentiles. At one time it was a very popular day for baptisms and the distinctively titled 'Whitsunday' was an abbreviation of 'White Sunday', a title recalling the white robes worn on that day by the newly-baptized. However, the colour usually associated with Pentecost is red, not white, reminding us of the tongues of fire that seemed to fall on the heads of the apostles on that day and also of the blood shed by many of the early Christians in defence of their faith and its practice.

Sadly, Whitsunday and even Pentecost are obscure and almost meaningless titles these days to many outside the Church since the Bank Holiday associated with them has long disappeared but for the Christian Church the Festival of Pentecost is enormously important as it emphasizes the ongoing mission of the Church to bring in new members year by year and preach the Gospel of Christ afresh to each generation.

As the date of Easter is so late this year, we shall celebrate Pentecost after our Fête & Flowers Festival but please try to come along to something during the first weekend of June (after the Spring Bank Holiday), the details of which are given elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Yours Sincerely,

A. J. Watkins



*The Descent of the Holy Ghost by Titian
 Santa Maria della Salute, Venice*

continued overleaf

Sundays

7.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist (first Sunday of the month)
 10.15 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Address
 6.00 p.m. Evensong

Services

Weekdays

Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 Fridays 7.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 For other days, see weekly sheet in Church

ALL SAINTS' CALENDAR JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2011

JUNE	2	Thursday	Ascension Day	Services at 10.00 a.m. & 7.30 p.m.
	4	Saturday	Friends' Day (St Boniface)	12.00 noon Service of Thanksgiving & Dedication
	5	Sunday	Seventh of Eastertide	Services at 7.45 a.m. & 10.15 a.m. 2.00 p.m. Annual Fête in the Churchyard
	12	Sunday	Festival of Pentecost (Whitsunday)	Services at 7.45 a.m., 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	19	Sunday	Sunday of the Holy Trinity	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	24	Friday	Birth of St John the Baptist	Holy Eucharist at 7.45 a.m.
	26	Sunday	Corpus et Sanguis Christi	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
JULY	3	Sunday	St Peter & St Paul, Apostles	Services at 7.45 a.m., 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	10	Sunday	Trinity III	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	17	Sunday	Trinity IV	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	19	Tuesday		10.30 a.m. Brixworth School Leavers' Service
	24	Sunday	Trinity V	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	31	Sunday	Trinity VI	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
AUGUST	7	Sunday	Transfiguration of Christ	Services at 7.45 a.m., 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	14	Sunday	Assumption of B.V. Mary	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	21	Sunday	Trinity IX	Service at 10.15 a.m. only
	28	Sunday	Trinity X	Service at 10.15 a.m. only

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism	Sunday	20 February	Sophie Emma Fitzgerald	c/o Park Farm, Brixworth
	Sunday	13 March	Thomas James Ferguson Sawyer	1 Frog Hall
Holy Burial	Wednesday	5 January	Wayne Granger	Kettering
	Thursday	20 January	John Francis Coleman	14 Stannard Way
	Wednesday	2 February	Kevin Michael Crooks	5 Whaddon Field
	Tuesday	15 February	Margaret Eldred	Pytchley Court Nursing Home
	Wednesday	13 April	Doris May Musson	Saxon House
	Monday	9 May	Philip Alcock	Formerly of Stannard Way
	Tuesday	10 May	Edmond Cuthbert Vandergert	15 Stannard Way
	Thursday	12 May	Tony Hiskey	21 Pytchley Way



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

“CHANGE”

The debate on whether “change” is always necessary will roll on and on, particularly at this time of difficult financial instability.

The pace of change in our society often leaves people feeling fearful, inadequate and lonely. The legacy of such change can leave folk wondering whether anyone really cares about them! This is the theme of this Community Matters – “Who cares?”

We are blessed as a community to have so many people working tirelessly for the good of its residents – from children’s clubs, sports activities and teams, after school activities to various adult groups catering for all kinds of interests. However, there are many in our communities whose lives have been shattered through illness, death, unemployment, loneliness and much more.

Jesus told a parable about a man who was mugged whilst travelling on a notorious stretch of road between Jerusalem and Jericho. Robbed beaten and left to die this man had only one hope – someone to pass that way and care!

After a priest and a religious leader passed him by he must have felt he was going to die – until a man from Samaria, a country with whom the Jews had no dealings, took pity, placed him on his donkey, took him to an Inn where he received medical attention and care. This parable was told in answer to a question “who is my neighbour?”

Within BCF you will find people who care because God cares and we trust we will be able to serve you in a positive way.

May God richly bless you,

Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on 882040

Who Cares?

Parish Nursing

- 2 Parish Nurses working in the community of Brixworth
- Involved in caring for those in need
- Personal and healthcare referrals
- Professional help and advice



Parish Nursing
Ministries UK

Contact: Margaret on 077832 104405

Cancer Support Group

If you are interested in meeting up for an informal coffee and chat, Please contact Sheena via the Olive Branch Coffee Shop, Parish Nurses or telephone Sheena



Contact: Sheena on Northampton 880138

Counselling

Fully trained professional counselling in Brixworth in co-operation with The Manna House Counselling Service in Northampton

- Available in Brixworth
- Complete confidentiality
- A caring response to those in need
- Nominal charge



Contact: Ruth on Northampton 633304



Mark Palmer

From 1st May BCF are employing a "Community Worker" by the name of Mark Palmer.

Mark, has for the last four years been a full time Youth Worker at NAYC serving communities in Northants by setting up and helping to run Youth Clubs.

Married, with two children, Mark's role will be to further strengthen links between BCF and the community as he assesses needs and seeks to resource them.

He is better looking in the flesh!



COFFEE SHOP

More than just a Coffee Shop, the Olive Branch is the place to meet, be kept informed of Village life and receive a warm welcome.

Pensioners lunch on a Wednesday at 12 noon

(need to book on 889030 or in person)
If you have never tasted the fine coffee and food – why not try it!

Mon - Thur 10-3.00, Fri 9.30-3.00,
Saturday 9.30-1.00

For more information phone The Olive Branch on 889030

Run by volunteers this non-profit making venture has a welcoming atmosphere.

Children

Whenever children come into the Olive Branch Coffee Shop they have the opportunity to colour a picture which is then put on to Olive Branch TV with their name and age.

In this issue, we are running a "Children's Colouring Competition" just pick up a sheet of the story of the Good Samaritan – colour it in put your name, age and telephone contact number and return it to the OB.

Each entry will be put on to Olive Branch TV which is shown during opening hours and 3 of them will be chosen to receive a Prize!

Closing date is 18th June 2011

Wordsearch: Caring people

Can you find 15 different types of people who care for us? Words can be spelt up, down, diagonally & backwards. Letters appear only in one word, they are not shared by 2 or more words.

F	B	U	Z	R	Q	O	N	V	R	E	D	K	Q	E
K	T	X	I	F	Z	M	C	N	K	E	J	F	D	E
R	U	O	B	H	G	I	E	N	X	Z	H	A	F	A
P	A	R	I	S	H	N	U	R	S	E	G	T	A	B
R	U	L	P	P	D	D	K	E	W	I	R	M	O	H
O	P	Z	Z	H	E	R	C	H	R	P	B	D	O	M
T	V	S	I	N	D	I	A	B	Q	U	G	S	C	N
C	V	P	T	M	L	G	E	U	L	G	P	E	U	R
O	K	I	U	O	W	R	O	A	G	I	T	R	Q	E
D	S	C	P	C	I	S	N	R	T	E	S	G	A	H
T	D	K	K	F	S	C	O	A	R	E	F	J	C	T
R	E	R	A	C	E	T	L	C	J	A	J	I	Z	A
Y	T	T	G	B	S	X	C	A	T	H	T	R	L	F
Z	B	E	N	A	I	S	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	Q
J	R	M	P	E	K	O	X	B	R	K	Q	B	F	I

AMBULANCE
DOCTOR
HOSPITAL
NEIGHBOUR
PASTOR
CARER
FATHER
LIFEGUARD
NURSE
POLICE
DENTIST
FIREBRIGADE
MOTHER
PARISHNURSE
TEACHER

BCF Weekly events

Sunday:	09:45 – 10:30 11:15 – 12:30	Informal gathering Main Service of Worship (including Junior Church and Creche)
Monday:	20:00 – 21:30	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
Tuesday:	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
Wednesday:	20:00 – 21:30	Home study Groups
Thursday:	10:00 – 11:30	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group*
Friday:	17:00 – 18:00 18:15 – 19:15	Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years* Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11* (*held at the Library & Community Centre)

Well that's a bit about us.

If you would like to know more about anything in this leaflet or to know more about the Christian faith, then phone Phil on 882040 or go online at www.bcfonline.org.uk

What's on?

28-30 May	Ivor the Engine Special Event	Northampton & Lampport Railway
29-31 May	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
31 May - 4 June	Horrible Histories	Royal & Derngate
3 June	Teddy Bear's Picnic	Northampton Underground
4-5 June	All Saints Church Summer Festival	All Saints Church, Brixworth
5 June	All Saints Church Fete	All Saints Church, Brixworth
3-25 June	Eden End	Royal & Derngate
4 June	Rapture	The Roadmender
5 June	Northants Ultra 35 Mile Race	Lampport Hall
5 June	Creaton in Bloom	Creaton Village
6-11 June	Yes Prime Minister	Royal & Derngate
7 June	Jazz Morley	The Roadmender
8 June	The Dangerous Summer	The Roadmender
11 June	Brixworth Drama Group One Act Comedies	Brixworth Village Hall, 7.30 pm
12 June	Northampton Music Festival	The Roadmender
15 June	Choosing Plants for the Garden	Lampport Hall
15 June	Nils Lofgren	Royal & Derngate
17-18 June	Brixworth Drama Group One Act Comedies	Brixworth Village Hall, 7.30 pm
18 June	Rabbits, Ladders and Stars in Jars	Royal & Derngate
18 June	Bollox to Poverty	The Roadmender
18 June	Northampton Symphony Orchestra	Royal & Derngate
19 June	Father's Day - Free Travel	Northampton & Lampport Railway
19 June	Shaolin Warriors	Royal & Derngate
20 June	Guided Walks in the Garden	Lampport Hall

24-26 June	Plant Finders Fair	Cottesbrooke Hall
25 June	Canterbury Tales	Lampport Hall
25 June	The Moons	The Roadmender
23 June - 8 July	Much Ado About Nothing	Delapre Abbey Gardens
26 June	Theatre: Pinocchio	Lampport Hall
28 June	Ladies' Day	Lampport Hall
29 June	Simplifying Landscape in Watercolour	Lampport Hall
29 June	Rory Bremner	Royal & Derngate
1 July	Bruce Bane	Corby Cube
1 July	Rich Hall	Royal & Derngate
1-2 July	Art Exhibition Week	Lampport Hall
2-3 July	Hollowell Steam and Heavy Horse Show	Hollowell
2 July	Mek Mi Laugh	Royal & Derngate
3 July	Party in the Park (free entry)	Wellingborough
3 July	Northamptonshire Country Fair	Northampton
3 July	New Generation Concerts	Royal & Derngate
3 July	Open Gardens	Moulton
3 July	The Burlesque Show	Royal & Derngate
5 July	Architectural History Talk	Althorp House
5-9 July	Avenue Q	Royal & Derngate
8-9 July	A Comedy of Errors	Royal & Derngate
7 July	Garden Design Workshop	Lampport Hall
8 July	British Grand Prix	Silverstone Circuit
8-9 July	Merry Tom Folk Festival	Brixworth Country Park
9 July	Music for a Summer's Evening	St Peter and St Paul's Church, Northampton
9-10 July	Scarecrow Weekend	Crick
10 July	Open Gardens	Ravensthorpe
14 July	Mark Thomas	Corby Cube

15 July	Youth Arts Slam	Corby Cube
17 July	Dragon Boat Race	Northampton
15-30 July	Flathampton	Royal & Derngate
15-July	Landrover Owner Show	Billing Aquadrome
16-17 July	Festival of History	Kelmarsh Hall
21 July	History of privies and water closets	Kelmarsh Hall
22 July	Too Bright the Sun (storytelling)	St Peters Church
23 July	Much Ado About Nothing	Lampport Hall
23-24 July	Vintage Gathering	Northampton and Lampport Rail
24 July	Althorp Revealed	Althorp
24 July	Tame Valley Stompers - Jazz	Lampport Hall
29-30 July	Antiques, Furniture and Collectables	Lampport Hall
12-14 August	Kennel Club Agility Trials	Lampport Hall
13 Aug	Battle Proms	Althorp House
14 Aug	A history of Gardens	Lampport Hall
19-21 August	Northampton Balloon Festival	Billing Aquadrome
23 Aug - 3 Sept	End of the Rainbow	Royal & Derngate
26 Aug	Fillet-o-Soul	The Roadmender
27-29 August	Branch Line Experience	Northampton and Lampport Rail
28-29 August	Antiques and Collectors Fair	Lampport Hall
2 Sept	One Man Starwars	Corby Cube
3 Sept	One Man Starwars	Royal & Derngate
4 Sept	Country Eye crafts & fun day	Red Lion Pub, Brixworth
9-24 Sept	Basket Case	Royal & Derngate
17 Sept	Outdoor Illuminations	All Saints Church, Brixworth
22 Sept	Ed Byrne	Royal & Derngate
24-25 Sept	Railway At War	Northampton and Lampport Railway



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Making the most of summer

This summer, as the shorts and sunglasses come out and a large segment of the young adults in the local area are set to head off to the much hyped Reading and Leeds Festivals, what's left for those of us staying behind? From local festivals to gigs, here are my ideas on how to get the most from your summer.

@The Roadmender

Firstly to Northampton's main venue for bands, The Roadmender. The 25th of June sees the return of The Moons, a five piece from Northampton. The Moons were founded in 2008 by singer, songwriter and guitarist Andy Crofts, formerly the bassist in The On-Offs and today Paul Weller's keyboard player. They will soon be releasing an album titled 'Tales of the Unexpected' which includes a duet with Paul Weller himself. Being a fan of this band, I would definitely add this gig to my watch list.

Festival season

The Balloon Festival is one of the key events in Northampton every year and 2011 will be no exception. At its new location at the Billing Aquadrome, which has hosted the Balloon Festival since 2009, this year's 22nd iteration may be smaller than in previous years but with more focus on the main attractions. The festival runs from 19-21 August so don't miss one of Northampton's most famous annual events.

Having raised over £84,000 for charities in 2010, Hollowell Steam Rally and Heavy Horse Show returns on 2-3 July. Although not really a youth event, I'm assured there will be live music, including Re-Ignite, a band put together by the multi-talented James Taylor. Not to be mistaken for the legendary American singer/songwriter, Northampton's James is very much heading the same way, from piano to guitar, and as quoted by one

by Peter Harmer

of his own band "you name it, he plays it". So, whether it be with Re-Ignite or his other band Divinity, this musician is surely one of Northampton's hottest prospects for the future.

Up and coming

Despite the lack of gigs around Brixworth and the cancellation of a band night at the village hall on 31 April, there are still many upcoming bands in the area. For those of you with a heavier taste in music, Milestone, a band mainly based in Brixworth, have been playing the metal circuit for the last couple of months and having almost filled the Racehorse in town for their gig in January, charismatic front-man Bart Chmura, lead guitarist Anthony Rogers, bassist Nathan Rogers and drummer Dave Hutchins are certainly looking for other gigs in and around the area. As a friend and fan of the band, I believe these guys have the potential to really take off in the next year so if anyone knows of any available gigs, make sure to contact the band or visit their Facebook page.

If festivals and organised events aren't your thing though, with both local football and cricket clubs to watch and play for and playing fields on which to have a game of whatever you'd prefer with a group of mates, the summer of 2011 is looking like an exciting one for all young people.

In my next piece I will be considering topics such as youth unemployment and university fees. As always, if anyone has any suggestions, contributions or anything they'd like to be propelled into the public eye to help the youth of the area, make sure to contact me at peter.harmer@live.co.uk.

Guide to Easter Bonnet Parade

Prior to Easter, 1st Scaldwell Guides, who meet in Brixworth, had a great time designing and making hats for an Easter Bonnet Parade. Mid Division Trefoil Guild presented Easter Eggs to the lucky winners of the competition. The Guide Leader Jill Gunnett said: "The Guides were asked to bring to the meeting items to create their hats from. We invited our local Trefoil Guild to judge the hats. It was lovely evening, which was enjoyed by all."



The idea of the event was to host an event giving an opportunity for two generations of Guiding to interact. Although you may join Trefoil Guild at 18, it tends to be older members and retired or ex Guiders who are the main age range.

If you would like any further information regarding joining Guides please contact Jill Gunnett on 880929.



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Planning update

REFERENCE NO & DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	RECOMMENDATIONS & DECISION
NCC 10/00070/CCD; Brixworth Country Park, Mac Centre Change of Use from mixed residential and meeting/function room/office to meeting/function room only	1.11.10 PC No objection 17.12.10 NCC Approved
DA/2010/0820; Cedar, Brixworth Hall Park, Renewal of outline planning permission DA/2007/0213 for a new dwelling	25.10.10 PC Objects 24.11.10 DDC Approved
DA/2010/0944 Garden House, Brixworth Hall Park Raising of roof to include accommodation including rear dormer, first floor extension to hall and pitched roof to garage	22.11.10 No objection 30.12.10 DDC Approved
DA/2010/0959; 17 Broadlands Single storey side extension to form bedroom and wet room and repositioning of 1.8m fence.	13.12.10 PC No objection 7.1.11 DDC Approved
DA/2010/0503; Old Station Yard, Station Road Outline application for erection of B1 units, access and nine dwellings (resubmission)	22.11.10 PC Objected 15.12.10 DDC Refused
DA/2010/0859; 1 Horseshoe Close Two storey front extension	1.11.10 PC Objected 24.11.10 DDC Refused
DA/2010/0982; 9 Northampton Road Demolition of existing garage. Construction of single storey side extension to form garage and dining room	13.12.10 PC No objection 21.1.11 DDC Approved
DA/2010/1031; The Manor, Harborough Rd Listed building consent for internal and external alterations including creation of new doorways, new window opening	10.1.11 PC No Objection 24.1.11 DDC Approved
DA/2010/1046; Brixworth Library, Spratton Road Two non-illuminated fascia signs and one non-illuminated wall mounted sign	10.1.11 PC Objects 8.2.11 DDC Refused

Hanging Houghton and Lamport News

There have been two more thefts from Hanging Houghton since the last issue of the Bulletin. These were both from the gardens of houses in the village, garden tools and a weather vane were taken. Please be vigilant and look out for strangers.

Even more concerning to villagers is the news that Harrington wind farm has raised its ugly head once again. Having been defeated in their first attempt to get planning permission, energy company Eon is submitting another application to install three wind turbines on the old airfield. I hope that they again fail in this, although they seem determined to ruin the scenery in this most picturesque part of Northamptonshire.

A longstanding issue regarding the provision of parking for residents of Manor Walk in Hanging Houghton appears to have stalled due to lack of funding. The housing association which owns two of the four houses in Manor Walk is not able to take on this project at this point in time.

Lastly, the villagers enjoyed the unexpected sunshine on 29 April to toast the newly-wed Royals at their picnic on the village green. It was especially nice to welcome some of our new neighbours, such as Nigel, Sue and Helen Cole, who have just moved into Townsend Close and Matt and Julie Patten from Manor Walk.

Mike Philpott



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Heritage SHINEs through

All Saints Church in Brixworth, along with several other historic churches in Northamptonshire, are set to get a boost thanks to £50,000 worth of Lottery funding awarded to the SHINE heritage project.

SHINE will work with local enthusiasts to create a website with information such as trails, photos, videos, music and stories connected with the churches and their villages. SHINE will culminate in the autumn with a series of outdoor illuminated exhibitions.

The local churches participating are All Saints Brixworth, All Saints Earls Barton, St.

Peters Northampton, Holy Trinity Rothwell and St. Peters Oundle. In Brixworth, local organisations including the History Society, Friends of the Church and Brixworth Primary School will hold an illuminated exhibition on 17 September.

If you have any information, stories or memories relating to the churches within the SHINE project, or want to get involved, contact Megan@watch-this-space.org.uk

SHINE is part of Igniting Ambition, a Cultural Olympiad programme in the East Midlands, which adds a cultural dimension to the London 2012 Games.

Volunteer gardeners needed

Brixworth Country Park urgently needs the help from green-fingered volunteers to take charge of maintaining the Sensory Garden and the borders around the Mackintosh Centre.

Like other publicly-funded activities, budgets for maintaining the Country Park have been tightened. While in past years, country parks officer Chris Howe used to have a budget to pay for such gardening maintenance, this is no longer the case. Can volunteers from the local community fill the gap? If you can help, please contact the park on 883920 or email brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk



Brixworth littered with winners

PCSO Jo Hillery recently ran a joint waste management day at Brixworth Primary School in conjunction with DDC; this involved a litter pick in the village and education about litter, recycling and caring for the environment as well as a poster competition involving the children from Brixworth Primary school.

The photograph above shows Jo Hillery and David Hymas, Chairman of the Community Panel with the winners of the competition, Jack from year one (first prize), and William (2nd prize) and Kai (3rd prize) from year five.

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Review - the Queen of Hearts

by Robin Pool

Brixworth Drama group has been presenting winter entertainment for many years, usually a traditional pantomime based on an old adapted script and this year was no exception. However innovation is still possible, and this year the key role of the dame character, the title and lead role of Queen of Hearts, was actually played by a woman, Sue McAspurn. No cross dressing here. Sue played with authority and no-one suffered more under her rule than her wimpish consort, played by Dennis Coles. Around her the many cast members all shone, and the result was a pacy, entertaining production where a large cast all contributed.

Don't look too closely at the plot; whoever wrote the script had probably been drinking Lewis Carroll's tea. Queen Fairy Jean McDonnell sets the scene, plenty of baddies for the kids to hiss at - Stuart Cooper's snarling red-faced Demon, Mike Culverhouse as the scheming Sir Sinister Spade, who somehow became even more menacing when he lost his voice! In and out bounced the white rabbit, Eileen Truby born to the role, looking for the Duchess, we never found out why, but it didn't seem to matter.

Somewhere in there was a bit of a plot, something to do with tarts, inexpertly assembled by the Queen and equally carefully snaffled by the Knave of Hearts, David Harris playing the much maligned knave with a nice comic touch, ably assisted by his equally comic sidekick, Kirsty Fitzgerald as the Tweeny Maid. Tweeny Maid? Don't ask.

Back in Wonderland, Mad Hatter Amanda Pilgrim and Walrus Libby Bowers give us a great little scene, perfectly imagined with particularly good costumes and lots of nice touches.

Alex Monk as Alice was picture perfect, pursued by Prince Valentine, Sue l'Anson wearing the trousers with panache. All the characters



weave together beautifully into a light, carefree production.

On the final night, both Kirsty and Mike had more or less lost their voices, which seemed to add to the comedy, and allowed one final twist, as the director improvised a costume to rescue Kirsty from her singing duties. Singing has not been a great strength of the group but this time not only this improvised number but also the set pieces really stood out, with Sophie Cardwell as Mischief giving a really wonderful version of You can do Magic, well backed by Sue and Alex. As usual Andy Bransby and his keyboard provided the music; the sets were great and the costumes stood out as they do every year.

Thanks should also go to the volunteer assistants, and the group would like to hear from anyone who is prepared to help.

Overall, a very entertaining if somewhat mad production. We can only look forward to the next winter effort, Treasure Island.

Coming up: one-act comedies

Brixworth Drama Group will be performing three One-Act comedies under the heading of "Tonight at 7.30" for their summer production. The performances will take place on Saturday 11 June and on Friday and Saturday 17-18 June at 7.30 at the Village Hall in Brixworth.

The first play, Noel Coward's Fumed Oak, is directed by Stuart Cooper. It is an 'unpleasant comedy' set in the 1930s, and shows the frustrations of a hen-pecked husband who finally reaches the end of his tether with the façade of his family's suburban life.

The second play is Lunch Hour, written by John Mortimer and directed by Heather Pool. The play, set in the 1960s shows a romantic meeting between a middle-aged man and woman in a hotel room: as

the man tries to explain their illicit union to the interfering hotel owner, their web of deception suddenly takes on a life of its own...

Finally, A Cut in the Rates, written by Alan Ayckbourn, is a dark comedy set in the mid-1980s which is directed by Alec Hodgson. It tells of a rates inspector who investigates a property where the bills have not been paid for some time; however, all is not as it seems with the mysterious couple who occupy the property.

As usual for the summer productions, the hall will be laid out in cabaret style seating and there will be a licensed bar.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £4 for concessions and are available from Lovell's Hardware and from Libby on 880672. For the latest information visit <http://brixworthdrama.pciot.com> or visit their Facebook page.

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The monthly meetings continue to be well supported with an average attendance of around seventy and speakers have covered the life of a butler in a local country house, a most interesting tale of her experiences of living with her father by the daughter of the late Eric Morecambe, and a tale of discovery of an unknown sister in Australia by our Chair, Annie Curtis. The June meeting which includes the AGM is a talk on the Royal British Legion and July is about the work of The Samaritans. The August meeting is as usual at the Sailing Club, but on 10 August instead of the 3rd.

Group activities remain popular with the Bridge for Beginners attracting between twelve and sixteen members every week and the Rambling and Lunch groups regularly seeing in excess of twenty present. Lunches have been held at the Red Lion, Thornby, The White Swan at Holcot, and future ones are planned for The Brampton Halt and The George. An experimental evening dinner was held in March at Highgate House and as this proved very popular a further evening out has been planned for June at The Three Swans Hotel in Market Harborough. Rambles have been held at Great Houghton and Piddington which also included a visit to the Roman Museum. Future walks are planned for Gayton, Yelvertoft and Badby.

Genealogy has seen a steady increase in popularity and now has eighteen members meeting every month to listen to specialist speakers and discuss the results of their individual research results from the preceding month. The Theatre Group are booked in for a performance of Yes, Prime Minister at The Royal and Derngate and will also be seeing a production performed by the Stamford Shakespeare Company at the Rutland Open Air Theatre, Toilethorpe Hall. The Poetry Group have enjoyed some lively discussions on an eclectic range of poems from Pam Ayres to Shakespeare and have also listened to Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas. The Music Appreciation evening in



March, featuring a Spring theme was again fully booked and a Summer theme evening is expected in the near future. The Armchair Travel Group have travelled the world without leaving the confines of the Heritage Centre but the Holiday Group are going to the Forest of Dean in September with visits also arranged to Hereford, Hay on Wye and the Black Mountains. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the Parish Council for the provision of a grant of £800 to the groups in support of their ongoing

educational programmes.

Following three years of increasing support we are now entering our fourth year and expect the membership to continue the steady upward trend. The more members we have, the more interest groups we are able to support, which gives members a wider choice. Applications for membership may be made to our Membership Secretary Peter Davis on 880401 or alternatively visit our website at www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth

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Sports Page

Football: Brixworth Juniors shine



Brixworth Juniors Football Club run teams from under 8 to under 16 years and has more than 100 boys on its books, the vast majority of whom come from the village.

Teams start playing games from under 8 onwards, but for younger children from 4 years Tony Proctor, Paul Smith and Kirk Knowles hold fun training sessions at the Ashway playing field on Saturday mornings.

This year the under 8's are running two teams, the Panthers and Pumas, both of which have enjoyed excellent seasons. To date the teams have played a total of 38 games, winning 24, drawing six and losing eight, scoring more than 150 goals in the process.

Whilst the results have been fantastic, they are not really important at this age (although try telling the children that!). Both team managers ensure that all players get a fair

amount of playing time in each game with the aim being to improve the children's skills as well as their confidence on the pitch.

At under 8 the games are non-competitive. This concept was tested to the full on 5th February, as the fixture list threw up Brixworth Panthers (below) vs Brixworth Pumas (above). The game was a hugely enjoyable affair, with the Panthers just winning 2-1. What was most pleasing about the day was seeing the strength of both teams who produced one of the most exciting games of the season.

As the season draws to a close all the children should be proud of how they have approached the games; always with fierce determination to do their best, but also taking the results, whichever way they went, with good grace.



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