

More housing plans unveiled

Planners have approached Daventry District Council about at least two more potential new housing developments in Brixworth, in addition to the plans for the land west of Northampton Road we reported on in the previous Brixworth Bulletin.

DDC has received a planning application for 14 new houses on the former Mercedes Benz car park in the north of Brixworth, to be accessed via Eaglehurst. On top of this, there have been informal discussions for a proposed new development on the east side of Northampton Road adjoining the David Wilson estate, which would develop some or all of the land between Poppy Leys and the roundabout opposite the cricket ground with up to 280 houses. Both developments would come in addition to the proposal for 150 houses at Northampton Road West, which has now also been filed with DDC.

"This is madness," says Bob Chattaway, chair of the campaign BRANE, which is fighting the housing proposals. "We are a village under siege."

The proposal for Eaglehurst is by far the smallest, comprising 14 houses on the disused Mercedes car park. It would be accompanied by extra funding of around £80,000 to expand the number of places at Moulton Secondary School, which is currently oversubscribed, as well as £1,288 to upgrade Brixworth's fire and rescue services.

The other proposals would significantly expand Brixworth's borders to the south, adding up to 430 houses with the possibility of a further 150 later. On top of this come plans to redevelop the former wood yard at the bottom of Station Road into an industrial park – plans that were rejected by DDC in December 2010 but which have now gone to appeal. While the new housing in this plan would be limited, residents near the site and those living along High Street and Church Street are worried about the 200+ cars plus lorries the industrial park could put on their doorsteps and through the narrow winding roads of the conservation area of Brixworth.

The reason all these developments are being proposed now is the Localism Bill currently going through parliament in Westminster, which will give local councils a far greater say in planning matters, explains the local MP Chris Heaton-Harris. Once this bill becomes law in November, planners could well find it a lot more difficult to secure planning permission.

Until that happens, the old legislation still applies, and with it the Regional Housing Targets of building over 60,000 new houses in West Northamptonshire between 2001 and 2026. As housing construction is currently significantly behind meeting this target, DDC is under pressure to approve new housing – that is, until the rules change.

"A number of development companies are making speculative proposals and using the old Government's Housing Targets number for the East Midlands as a reason for doing this," explains Heaton-Harris. "Couple with this the fact that the last Government stopped all Districts, Daventry included, from updating their District or Local plans (which detailed where development could go) and we are left with a dangerous gap in planning, which again is encouraging this sort of proposal."

Meanwhile, Heaton-Harris is actively fighting the proposals and has agreed to become president of BRANE. He also supports Brixworth Parish Council, which has started to work on developing a Neighbourhood Plan, which will give Brixworth residents a much greater say in how their local area develops in future. "You might like to contact your Parish Councillors and encourage them in this work," he says. Turn to page 4 of this Bulletin to find out how the work is progressing.



Come join us online

There's plenty happening around Brixworth all the time – and not everyone has the patience for the next issue of the Brixworth Bulletin which, after all, might be three months away.

So, if you'd like to receive your news headlines right here and now, then follow us on Twitter, @BrixBulletin!

And it's not just the Bulletin team that's at it; on Facebook you'll find all sorts of village groups and organisations. Here's just a few:

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Brixworth CEVC Primary School
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If Twitter is not for you, email us at info@brixworthbulletin.com, call 882567 (evenings or weekends, please) or write to Brixworth Bulletin; 13 Station Road; Brixworth NN6 9BP.

Alternatively, you can contact the various team members directly:

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Incidentally, the deadline for material for the next issue is 25 October.

Flavell-White
Jane Neill

Switch off and save

If you think that the bright lights of Brixworth aren't quite as bright anymore, it's not your eyesight that's failing you.

During May and June, some 33,000 street lights across Northamptonshire have been switched off – including many in Brixworth. This is the result of lower government funding for councils, which is forcing Northamptonshire County Council to save some £139 million over the next four years - £73 million in 2011 alone.

While switching off the lights will not make anywhere near that level of saving, the big switch-off is expected to save the Council £2 million a year as fewer lights will consume less energy and require less maintenance.

The switch off only affects the lights maintained by NCC – lights maintained by Parish Councils, District Councils and the Highways Agency have not been affected. NCC says that in residential areas they always strive to leave one light on at the end of a cul-de-sac and a minimum of one light adjacent to a junction. In non-residential areas with a 30mph limit, every other light along the road has been switched off, except areas and roads with known safety issues, where more lights have been left on. In

non-residential areas outside a 30 zone, only those lights that have a road or public safety issues have been left illuminated. Any lights covering remote footpaths and cycleways are subject to individual assessment.

If you see a street light that is not working, check whether there is a sticker on the column like the one pictured before reporting it as a fault, says the local government service provider MGWSP. "Any lights that are not working but are not switched off will be repaired within our normal timescale."

"I hope you will appreciate the very difficult decisions faced by the Council in managing budgets in the current climate," said an MGWSP spokeswoman. "Not only will the turning off of streetlights save money which will help protect some of the more essential services it will be helping the Council to become more sustainable by reducing the carbon footprint."



Plans for Buckton Fields estate dropped

Plans to build over 1000 houses, a primary school and a care home near the Brampton Lane on the northern edge of Northampton towards Brixworth been rejected by Daventry District Council.

Members of the Council's planning committee voted nine to two against the proposal, which were part of Northampton's growth strategy. Councillors were particularly concerned over the impact the proposed development would have had on traffic, particularly the already-overloaded A508 into Northampton. Councillor Steve Osbourne said: "I don't believe this development should take place before there's a bypass built to take away the traffic." Councillor Brian Lomax added the development would swamp the villages nearby, including Brixworth. "You can't do that to a small community without causing considerable resentment," he said.

Local residents, who have spent years fighting the plans, were delighted. However, the developers Ensign may yet appeal against the decision.

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Barratt hands Council reins to Lacey

Councillor Ian Barratt, who has led Brixworth Parish Council since January 2006, has stepped down in late May.

A Councillor on the Parish Council since June 2004, Ian oversaw a number of important achievements during his term as Chair. These included the regeneration of the Spratton Road recreation ground play area (2007), Brixworth becoming runner up of the Large Village of the Year competition (2008), the successful campaign against a proposed wind farm to be sited near the village (2009), and the ten-year celebration of the Library/Community Centre. Significantly, it was under Ian's leadership that Brixworth gained Quality Parish Council status last year.

Ian believes that now is a good time to step down in order to allow somebody else the opportunity of developing their leadership skills. He thanked everybody for supporting him and the Council over the past five years. "In particular, I'd like to thank all the staff, right down to the litter pickers, for the continuity of service they provide. I've particularly enjoyed the case work I've done for individuals."

The other Council members - Colin Bament, Mervyn Ward, David Parnaby, Richard Monk, Elaine Nunn, Steve Pointer and Jennifer Fitzgerald - presented Barrett with a commemorative pen-set to show their appreciation and thanks (pictured).



Ian Barratt (right) receives a commemorative pen-set from Mike Lacey (left)

Ian will continue to serve on the Council. Mike Lacey has taken over as Chair of the Parish Council. He said that Ian's five and a half years of service represent "dedication of a special kind."

Jerry Green Dog Rescue to close

Jerry Green Dog Rescue, which runs a network of seven boarding kennels and dog rehoming centres in the UK, has confirmed it is closing down two of its sites, including the one on the edge of Brixworth.

"We've now had it confirmed, the Brixworth site will have to be closed down and shut by 31 December," says Tracy Cook, who runs the centre together with her husband Phil. The reasons are financial - the charity that runs the rescues says it needs to focus its activities on fewer sites, so has decided to close down Brixworth and another site at Halesworth in Suffolk so that it can invest in the remaining five centres.

For now, the Brixworth rescue centre, which is based on the road towards Creaton near Watson's Petroleum, is continuing to operate as usual. Its boarding kennels are open, and - staff levels permitting - it is still able to take in new dogs and help place dogs in its care. Any dogs not rehomed by the end of the year will be moved to one of the remaining five rescue centres.

Meanwhile a group has been set up to support the rescue centre and buy the site so it can be re-opened as an independent re-homing centre in the New Year. "The owners have put a £300,000 asking price on the site," says Michael Heaton, who is spearheading the campaign to raise the money. "That's not the sort of sum you can raise by rattling tins, so what we're looking for is a benefactor or perhaps someone who'd like to run a dog centre, who can put a more substantial amount of money towards this."

If you think you can help, please contact Michael Heaton on 846032.



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Neighbourhood Plan means more control for Brixworth

A bill is currently making its way through Parliament that could have huge consequences for the future of Brixworth: the Localism Bill, expected to become law at the end of this year, will give communities such as ours far greater powers to create the kind of community we want.

These powers will include the authority to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, plan the location and appearance of new developments, and potentially, the amount of future development. Such a Neighbourhood Plan will be taken

as a material consideration in the approval of planning applications. Developers will also be required to properly consult with communities before submitting large applications.

In view of this, and being well aware of the current pressure from developers seeking planning permission for several sites around the village, Brixworth Parish Council in July organised an information evening on what Localism could mean for Brixworth at the Community Centre. Chris Bowden, a Director of the consultancy Navigus Planning explained the Bill while Richard Wood, Planning Policy and Housing Strategy Manager at Daventry District Council, updated villagers on the status of local planning policies. The meeting was well attended and a lot of interesting discussion ensued. Copies of these very informative

presentations are available to view on the Parish Council's website at www.brixworthpc.org.uk

Following this, the first meeting of the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan

considerable new housing development since 2006.

Mike Lacey, Chair of Brixworth Parish Council, is leading the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for the time being.

The Working Group is actively seeking representative input from all sectors of our community and expects to arrange a series of public meetings over the coming months to solicit your views. In the meantime, if you would like to make a contribution to the work of this Group,

or have opinions you would like to express, please contact:

Jane Macken, Parish Clerk at clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk or Mike Lacey, Chair, Brixworth Parish Council at mlacey@brixworthpc.org.uk

APPROVED

Working Group took place on 12th July. The Parish Council has asked the Group to develop a plan for the village that will align with national policy and the West Northamptonshire strategy, and file a draft plan within six months.

The plan, which will be based on the existing Village Design Statement, should be used to protect the village community from creeping urbanisation and ensure that green spaces around the village boundaries are maintained. In line with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, the plan will be valid until 2026.

Current plans call for 930 houses to be built in the Daventry rural area between now and 2026, and the Group is keen to ascertain what the requirement for Brixworth might be, given that the village has already seen

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Taking a Shine to Brixworth's Saxon Church

Brixworth's amazing Saxon Church is due to take centre stage on 17 September when the Shine project comes to Brixworth.

The Friends of All Saints' Church, The History Society and the staff and children of Brixworth Village School look forward to welcoming local residents to an evening to celebrate All Saint's church. The children of Brixworth School Choir will be singing in the church and there will be art work and writing created by the children on display in the Heritage Centre.

The Leicester-based organisation Watch This Space has been busy organising interviews with local people and they plan

to create a wonderful illumination of the church where images of the church, of local weddings and events will be projected onto the outside of the building for all to see.

The evening events will commence at 7:30pm and there will be refreshments available during the evening. The organising team is looking forward to welcoming as many local people as possible to the event which is part of the East Midlands Cultural Olympiad which hopes to highlight many places of interest in the area leading up to the Olympics in 2012.

For queries, contact Jane Stock on 882389.

Surgery gains nurse advisor...

Saxon Spire surgery has gained the services of a nurse advisor. Former district nurse Sue Dobson now works as an advisor at the surgery on Tuesdays and Fridays.

She will be on hand to chat about health and social concerns, help with specific problems get the specialist support they need, offer advice about benefits and support cancer sufferers during and after treatment. She will also advise about carers and alternative caring situations, and check medication compliance.

To contact Sue, call 740210 or 880228 and leave a message and your telephone number.

Lastly, have you got Daventry District Council travel tokens that you no longer need? If so, please take them to the surgery so they can be redistributed.

...holds Health and Wellbeing Morning

Saxon Spire Practice and the Patient Participation Group invite you to a Health and Wellbeing Morning from 10am to 12 noon on 15 September at Guilsborough Surgery.

Come and find out what information and support is available locally for weight management, arthritis, breatheasy- COPD, mental health and wellbeing, diabetes and other conditions.

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Church fete blown away



High winds meant that the marquee set up for this year's Church Festival and Art Exhibition had to be taken down with considerable haste (see below, right) – but at least it wasn't left for mother nature to dismantle. The flower displays, impressive as always, suffered no such drama as they

were safely set up inside the church. Among this year's entries were the Drama Group's Moses in the Bulrushes (above); The Garden of Eden by the Flower Group (top right); and Joseph and his Coat of Many Colours by 1st Scaldwell Guides (bottom right).

On a separate note, a hand rail (shown left) has been added to the entrance of the church to assist those less able gain access to the church. It has been sensitively produced so that it blends in with the old stonework of the church and will hopefully be appreciated by the many visitors to the church as well as Brixworth residents.



Cash grants for the under 25s

The Foundation of Thomas Roe is a small local charity dedicated to providing cash grants for educational purposes to deserving persons under the age of 25 who reside within the parishes of Brixworth or Scaldwell.

Applications can be made for cash grants to assist with the costs of a school trip; the cost of books and equipment for a college course or even the cost of school uniform.

The next meeting is on 21 September 2011- if you feel that you may benefit don't delay submitting your application form.

Application forms are available at the Library and the Information Zone on Spratton Road or from the clerk to the trustees, Ursula Morris, on 505554 or ursula@enta.net



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Keeping the developers at bay

BRANE has no political affiliations. We would however unashamedly share a platform with a representative of almost any but the most extreme parties if they would help prevent our village and its surrounding countryside being ruined. Our Conservative MP Chris Heaton-Harris is our Honorary President; we also received a visit from Adrian Ramsey, deputy leader of the Green Party, who is also sympathetic to our cause.

Labour considered Northamptonshire one of the pleasant rural areas of middle England ripe for urbanisation. The Coalition promised to introduce Localism to give communities the power to manage their own affairs through a 'bottom up' rather than 'top down' imposed approach - though up to now this still has to be meaningfully defined.

While this could not be done overnight, the process is being artificially delayed because a developer, Cala Homes, has taken the government to court. So far, they are succeeding to keep the previous government's higher housing targets in place until the Localism Bill becomes law in the first quarter of next year. By then, Daventry District Council hopes to implement its plans to revise the target for the 72 rural parishes in their district, and reduce the new

housing requirement to 930 dwellings over 15 years. It appears however that some developers are attempting to preempt this by submitting opportunistic applications based on the old and inappropriate housing targets. By the time Neighbourhood Plans empower local communities to decide which areas are suitable for development, and which to protect, Brixworth could be at least 25% bigger.

In the meantime it seems that official statements proclaim that approval should be the default decision for sustainable settlements. ie a presumption in favour of development. As a direct result of this, Brixworth is besieged by developers eager to foster the impression that they are the answer to Daventry District Council's prayers.

So I say again BRANE has no political affiliations but it is urging its elected representatives at all levels and of all persuasions to act in the best interests of this village and others like it by lobbying hard for change before it is too late.

Whether you live in Brixworth or one of the nearby villages that use its amenities and share the route to Northampton please show you do care by lobbying your elected

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Brixworth Residents Against New Estates

representatives and, above all, by sending a written objection against Carter Jonas' application DA/2011/0628 to build 150 houses south of Brixworth. The alternative is possibly a later second phase on the same site and almost certainly 250 plus houses being built by another developer on the other side of the road.

Daventry District Council will accept your objections right up until the day before the application is heard which is likely to be in late September or October. E-mail brane@talktalk.net for further information.

- Bob Chattaway

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Meet the Codfather

Jennifer Fitzgerald catches up with Cos Manoli, owner of the Brixworth Fish Bar

Most of us have reason to be thankful for Brixworth Fish Bar in Hunters Way. Whether a fish supper is part of our weekly family routine, or a useful standby when we've run out of time to cook, our fish and chip shop has become an indispensable feature of village life.

I interviewed Cos Manoli, the Fish Bar's owner, who is usually to be seen at the back of the shop overseeing the cooking. As is the case with other local business owners, his job appears to be more than a full-time occupation. Indeed, the pressure which comes with keeping on top of a successful business means we will not see Cos behind the Fish Bar for much longer. However, we don't need to worry – he is looking for a successor and will ensure our fish and chips remain in safe hands!

What were the origins of the business?

I'm a native of Cyprus. I left there in 1975 because of the troubles and went to Saudi Arabia where I worked as a mechanic for seven years. I came to live permanently in the UK in 1982 because I had family here.

However, I wasn't keen on working as a mechanic in the UK because the weather was too cold! My father-in-law was in the chip shop business in Birmingham, as was my cousin, so I got involved and eventually took over my father-in-law's business.

What is your relationship with Brixworth?

I began to look for a business somewhere between Birmingham and London, because I have family in both places. I took over the Fish Bar in Brixworth in 1987, when we also moved here. We have lived at a couple of different addresses in the village since then.

What changes have you seen over the years? For example, have you experienced any trend away from fast food?

The business has continued to grow as the village has grown. But we have seen some changes recently. Overall, people are still spending the same amount of money with us, but because of inflation, and the recent increase in VAT, they are now buying more of the cheaper items such as fishcakes and sausages. They are buying less of the expensive food such as fish and kebabs. No, we haven't seen any particular drive towards "healthier" foods.

Who is currently involved in the business?

My wife worked with me for the first five years, but now I have



one full-time staff member, a fully qualified chef, and seven or eight part-time staff who change all the time. The part-time staff are mostly students who live locally and in the surrounding villages. While my chef and I are responsible for the cooking, their roles are to serve customers and to do the cleaning.

What is the secret of making good fish and chips?

That's easy – the fish has to be fresh every day. Most fish and chip shops cook frozen fish but I have never done that. I have a supplier who has been delivering fresh fish to us for 23 years. Our pies and chicken are also fresh.

What is your customer's favourite fish? How are you responding to the calls for us to eat different kinds of fish other than cod?

It's still cod – overwhelmingly. Seventy-five percent of the fish we sell is cod, and 25% haddock. Cod offers more white meat than haddock, which is a flatter fish. No, customers haven't been asking us for any other types of fish.

Describe your typical day and your busiest times. When is the best time to avoid a queue?

Our day really starts the evening before, when fish is delivered before 11 pm and is stored in the fridge. I arrive at the shop about nine o'clock the next morning to check the amount and quality of deliveries and to begin to cook, for example the peas and curry. We open the door from quarter to twelve to 2 pm over lunch, and then I go home to have my dinner in the afternoon. We start cooking again and preparing the oil at 4 pm to open at quarter to five. We shut at 10 pm.

Our biggest rush is between four o'clock and half past seven, so the best time to avoid queuing is after that when we are much quieter. Or on Mondays, when it is hardly worth opening, but of course, we do. Our busiest day by far is Friday, when we make half of the week's takings. Two thirds of our income is taken over the weekend from Thursday to Saturday.

Our busiest period is the three weeks running up to Christmas Eve because people are so busy they want to buy take-outs. The six weeks after Christmas are our slowest in the year.

I only get Sundays off to relax, when I have time to visit the family or watch football. Even then, sometimes I have to do my paperwork on Sunday.

What are the funniest or strangest things that have happened to you?

I can think of a number of things that have really made me laugh. However, I don't want to say anything to incriminate the people concerned because they all live locally!

What are your biggest challenges? I can imagine you may have problems with parking and litter?

I want to keep people happy. I worry every single day that we might do something wrong, and because it is a small village, word will get round and put off our customers. I have to keep on top of everything because a single mistake could end up being reported in the local paper.

Yes, parking can be a problem at times, because there is always too little space, but it gets easier for us in the evenings when the other shops are shut. I haven't had a problem with any crime – only one break-in a few years ago when we lost £35 in cash.

Kids are the main culprits for litter but the litter situation is much better now than it used to be. In any case, I have a good relationship with all the kids who hang out around here. They want to keep in my good books in case they want a job sometime!

I want to hand over the business sometime next year because I have problems with my health. I may sell the business or hire a manager to run it for me. I'm already discussing this with several people who have shown an interest.

What message do you have for your customers?

Thank you very much for supporting me all these years. I will never forget it.



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Pre-loved and ready for reuse

Ace Reuse have recently relocated from Ironstone Way on the Brixworth Industrial Estate to 132 Northampton Road, taking over the old Merry's Estate Agents property.

This shop, run jointly by Mark and Nick Rodwell, is deceptively large inside and consists of four rooms, over two floors, housing an array of preloved items.

Ace Reuse are the main contractors for the Northamptonshire County Council and transport reusable items dropped off at Brixworth Recycling centres to the shop where they are checked to see if deemed fit for resale.

All furniture containing fabric has to meet the correct fire regulations and all electrical items are PAT tested to ensure they are safe to use. If items are sold as working they will have been checked to ensure this is correct but, for example, on a stereo, there may be components that don't work - ie the radio may work but the CD player may not, but this will be reflected in the price.

This shop is a real treasure trove and

seemingly sells everything including furniture, electrical items, bikes, toys, collectable items, CDs, DVDs and books.

The ethos of Ace Reuse is that if they, in conjunction with the council, did not salvage the items from the refuse site, the majority of it would end up in landfill which, as well as being environmentally unsound, would escalate the disposal costs. This off-site re-use shop contributes towards the running costs of the household waste recycling centre outside the village.

With prices starting from £3 for a DVD player, £5 for a stereo and the starting price for children's bikes of £5 it is definitely worth a visit. A delivery service is available for larger items.

The shop is open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday between 9 – 5 and Sunday 10-4.



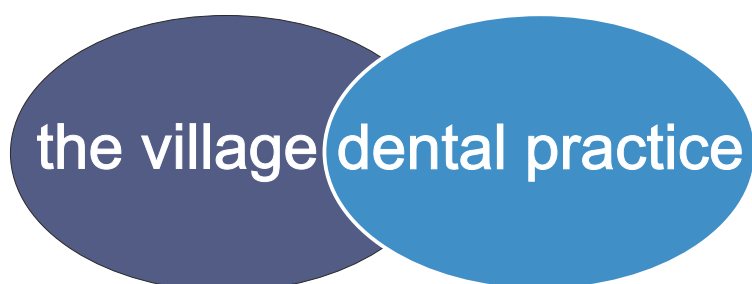
Lampport & Hanging Houghton report

Congratulations to Greg and Jo, who live at No1 Manor Road Hanging Houghton, on their marriage at the end of June. The ceremony took place at Lampport church, with an evening reception being held at the barn in the valley below Hanging Houghton. The reception was well attended, with a large group of local villagers in attendance. A good time was had by all.

With the help of David Ward I am hoping to arrange another village picnic at the end of August/beginning of September. Dates and venue to be publicised by hand notices through your letterboxes.

On a sad note, I have recently been informed of the death of David Bayes, a former resident of Hanging Houghton. Dave and his wife Sue went to live in France some 3 years ago, and Dave died in France.

The Kelmarsh wind turbine is back on the table - they have reduced the number of turbines from seven to six. I am confident that the local Parsh Council will again oppose this planning application. - Mike Philpott



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Wednesday 8.30 – 5.30

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Telephone 01604 880293

News from the Country Park



It's been a busy summer at Brixworth Country Park and if you haven't visited us for a while, here's what's been happening.

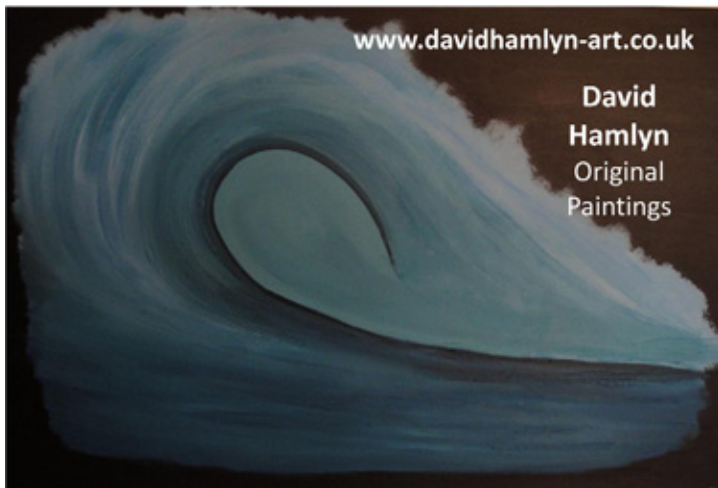
new play area

In June we opened a new play area on the site next to the Willow Tree Cafe, where the Nature Hut used to be. Shown in the photo to the right, it is aimed at younger children and features wig-wams, a play ship, mirror and musical panels, mushrooms, a covered sand box and the musical orb. The area has been finished with artificial grass, which is ideal for running and playing. Don't forget to look for the woodland animals who peek out from the picket fence! The area can be entered via steps from the cafe patio and a step-free access to the right.

We also added two new and exciting pieces of play equipment in the main play area. The Titan, a five-armed, raised carousel (pictured, above), and the Mirage, a three seater roundabout, have proved very popular since being completed at the end of June.

disabled facilities

Visitors with disabilities will find a new changing area that will better meet their needs. The Changing Place is equipped with a hoist, adjustable changing bed and privacy screen to support personal care needs and has enough space for two carers to provide assistance where needed. The Changing Place is located directly opposite the Visitor Centre and Shop entrance and operates under the national RADAR key scheme.



Merry Tom Folk Festival

At the start of July the park hosted the Merry Tom Folk Festival. This two-day family-orientated festival saw over 1,000 people entertained by great performances from some of Northamptonshire's finest folk and roots musicians. With two stages, a host of craft stalls, children's entertainment, good food and local ales from Nobby's Brewery there was something for everyone, and the damp start did little to prevent people from enjoying the event. It was a great sight to see so many tents and camper vans in the hay field next to the park! Look out for further news concerning the 2012 festival.

planting and repairing

Two groups of corporate volunteers from Barclays Bank and Barclaycard did some excellent work in the park during June and July.

One group spent the day working on tree aftercare, which involved removing redundant tree guards and stakes, pruning damaged branches and weeding around newly planted ones. They also planted



some hawthorn trees near the reed bed. The second group made a good job of repairing and repainting the benches and picnic tables on and around the main recreation meadows and installing paving slabs for disposable BBQs.

like us on Facebook

Brixworth and all the other country parks have now got Facebook pages! You'll find park news, information, events and wildlife sightings, as well as photos on these pages. Simply look for 'Brixworth Country Park' and find us on Facebook. There are also pages for Northamptonshire Pocket Parks and Northamptonshire Country Parks. The Brixworth page has pictures of wildlife we've seen over the summer and of the Merry Tom Folk Festival.

Abington Wind Band

On Sunday 18th September there will be music in the park again. The Abington Wind Band will be entertaining visitors between 2pm and 4pm. Their stage will be the meadow nearest the play area, with Pitsford Water as the back-drop.

You can contact Brixworth Country Park on 01604 883920 or via email: brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk

- Chris Howe, Senior Ranger

Police Report

by Sgt Mike Grady

Community Panel meeting

Anti-social behaviour linked to vehicle nuisance was raised as a worthy locally-identified priority at the April Community Panel meeting. There have been many complaints about noisy exhausts, music being played from vehicles and engines revved late at night along with general poor driving standards. My team set about tackling some of the main offenders and some were issued with a ticket to have their exhausts fixed and all were advised to stop the excessively loud music and unnecessary engine revving.

One individual chose not to fix their exhaust and the offence was dealt with at court with a fine imposed. Strangely, the individual still failed to heed the courts advice and we had their vehicle inspected resulting in a delayed prohibition and a requirement to fix a host of defects. Another youngster has also ignored the requirement to fix their exhaust and a court summons is now being prepared.

Generally the nuisance has ceased and the number of calls regarding such issues has reduced significantly so hopefully the message has finally got through.



PC Mark Osborn has joined the Brixworth police team

Ilmor Engineering

Community Panel minutes

At a well-attended Community Panel meeting on 28 July, 21 residents discussed with the police and parish council concerns ranging from the Co-op opening hours, reduction of street lighting and parking, to speeding, use of mobile phones whilst driving and sale and use of drugs, as well as police cuts.

Special officer Jo Hillery reviewed the crimes during the last quarter and reported on the most recent police priority, anti-social behaviour and noisy vehicles. Residents felt that since the warmer weather and school holidays would encourage people to be outside, the priorities should be kept the same over the summer.

All felt that there has been some real improvement in the issues raised in the past. However, the police needs as many people as possible to attend the Community Panel to help set their priorities.

The next meeting is on Thursday 27 October in the Community Centre's coffee shop at 8pm. Minutes of the July meeting are posted on the Brixworth Post Office window. *-David Hymas*

You may recall in the last Bulletin I reported significant damage done at Ilmor Engineering. Although no further damage has been caused, youths have been onto site again and thrown things around leaving a huge mess for staff to clear up. If you have any information as to who is responsible, please let us know as we would like to speak to the persons involved.

Metal thefts

Metal theft remains an issue for all areas due to the price of the raw materials being constantly on the rise. In May, some agricultural equipment was stolen from Spratton; this was tracked to a scrap metal dealer and back to the individual weighing the equipment in for cash. The individual was identified, arrested, interviewed and charged, and bailed to court. The next hearing is due in August so I should be able to update you with a result in the next Bulletin. Most metal thefts are opportunistic so if you see anyone scouting around please give us a call on 03000 111222, or if something is being taken without permission call 999.

recent crime

Overall crime remains pleasingly low with no particular crime type causing concern locally. There has been a car key burglary (where a home is broken into to steal car keys in order to take the car) in Brixworth on 17th July. There were several similar offences in town and towards the north of the county in recent weeks, so this is therefore a timely reminder to ensure your car keys are secure and out of sight in your home. Although this wasn't the case in Brixworth, your home could be attacked should car keys be visible from outside. If anyone would like a home security pack or some crime prevention advice, please give us a call or speak to one of my team.

team update

Student officer Tom Afford has now moved on to Northampton town. However we welcome PC Mark Osborn, who joins us from the Incident Resolution Team, where he worked from Daventry covering the area as a response driver. Mark knows the area well and has been itching to work over here for some time; he is settling in very well.

As always should you have any concerns, please call us, speak to one of my team or visit our website where you can enter your thoughts which may well influence our local priority in future.

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Delayed launch for Sure Start

After weeks and months of fixing snags, the determined staff of Brixworth's new Sure Start Centre are ready to start operations.

But while the work to convert the old adult education centre in Church Street has been beset with difficulties – as the Brixworth Bulletin goes to press, we are still awaiting definite confirmation for when the building will open its doors – staff are undeterred. The first activities have already taken place in form of a family outing to Wicksteed Park in mid-August, followed by another on 17 September. Most other planned events will take place in the Centre and its outdoor area as soon as the finishing touches have been completed.

Sure Start is primarily a service for families with children under five although a range of activities for older children will be offered throughout the school holidays. The ethos of Sure Start is to support parents and carers in their role during the early stages of a child's development, providing information, guidance and access to a wide range of services. The Centre will also be an opportunity for children and adults to socialise and make new friends.

Among the regular activities planned will be stay and play sessions and a bumps, babies and breastfeeding group. On the first Thursday of each month there will be a buggy walk commencing at 1.30 from the library entrance.

However, Sure Start Children's Centres are not predominately aimed at mums. There are Brixworth Dads' fun sessions planned, which are also open to Grandads and male carers.

Many of the Sure Start services are free. Sally Bussey, Manager of the Brixworth Centre can be contacted on 01327 313861 for further information.



Campsite for Country Park

Planners have given the green light for the construction of a camping site at Hill Farm, Northampton Road, Brixworth, near the Country Park.

The campsite, on land owned by Dallas Burston Estates, will occupy 5 hectares north of the existing visitor centre and will be available to holiday and recreation users. The plans include a shower/wc/laundry building, a site office, siting of timber bases for yurt tents, hard standing for touring caravans and an aquatron bioplant sewage system.

Most of the site will be open grassland. The site will be accessed by a private road running parallel to the existing road to the Country Park. It will join the A508 at a roundabout which serves the Pitsford Road, Northampton Road and Brixworth bypass. There will be allocated parking for 60 cars.

Although visible from the road, planners are confident that the site won't create an eyesore and will boost the number of visitors to the Country Park.

Developers have until June 2014 to begin the work, though no start date has been set as yet.



Thinking of buying or selling in Brixworth?

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Brixworth A.D. 680

Vicar: The Revd A. J. Watkins
Churchwardens: Mrs S. Woodhead, 8
Brackenborough

Mr M. Lewis,
8 Beech
Close

FROM THE VICAR

September may not be the best time of the year for drawing your attention to the churchyard and other related matters but November (which is, in the tradition of the Church, the month for remembering and praying for the dead) will be over and gone before another issue of the Brixworth Bulletin appears.



The Resurrection, Cookham - Stanley Spencer

This month's picture could be said to be rather quirky but it does say something to us about the themes of death and resurrection which are at the heart of the Christian Gospel. We have to die before we can attain eternal life just as the seemingly "dead" seed planted in the darkness of the earth has to change radically before it can sprout with life. Daily our Christian baptism only takes root in our lives if we allow our sinful desires and innate selfishness to die so that we can show that we are capable of better behaviour through being in a state of grace with and through Christ our Saviour.

Stanley Spencer's vast painting of the Resurrection set in Cookham (churchyard) where he lived, was partly inspired by the seventeenth century Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in London (John Donne) whose description of a churchyard as "the Holy suburb of Heaven" led the

artist to include in the picture many of his friends and some members of his family emerging from their graves. The painting has all sorts of connotations to do with Spencer's personal experience of life that aren't relevant here but it certainly gives us a sense of a churchyard coming alive rather being a scrapheap for the dead!

The churchyard at Brixworth is large and could easily become a wilderness but thanks to the stalwart attention and sheer hard work of a few men who volunteer to keep it in a tidy state without any remuneration it is in as good a state now as it has ever been. However, their work is hampered by those who ignore the diocesan rules & regulations by placing all sorts of objects on the graves of relatives which impede the machines and endanger their users. There is no authority given in this churchyard or any other in the diocese for surrounding the plots with stone chippings, railings, toys, bells or plastic objects of any sort. Some people have even encroached on parts of neighbouring graves. All that is allowed is a simple vertical headstone for a burial plot or a square horizontal tablet over cremated remains with a suitable inscription. So please see that all else is removed or else these unauthorised objects will have to be removed by others.

Let me stress that these rules aren't made by me but it is my duty as parish priest and overseer of the churchyard to see that they are carried out. Sadly, I have experienced more trouble over the churchyard than any other single matter that comes under my responsibility. When some break the rules, others are encouraged to do the same and those who have, perhaps reluctantly, obeyed them are naturally grieved that others have seemed to get away with doing so. I know that these issues can be very emotive for some but it needs to be made clear that, in paying for a churchyard plot, one is paying for the privilege of using that piece of ground not ownership of it and, therefore whether we like it or not, the owner (i.e. the Church of England through its officers) has the right to make the rules & regulations about what is put there.

On the second day of November, the Christian Church observes the commemoration of All Souls, the day after the celebration of All Saints on 1st November (even if that feast is anticipated for practical reasons on the previous Sunday). In recent years, residents of Brixworth have been encouraged to visit the church on that day at their convenience between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. to light a candle in memory of departed loved ones and spend some time in prayer for them. This opportunity has obviously been found to meet a need for some and I hope others will consider making use of this opportunity this year. All are welcome to come to the Church for this, no matter where their relatives and friends have been laid to rest.

Finally November brings us to another Remembrance Sunday. Attendance at our 10.45 a.m. Service of Remembrance has been quite good in recent years but considering the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and the soldiers who have lost their lives in that conflict in recent months and years I think it could better. It is an opportunity for us all, no matter what religious affiliation, to get together to show respect to those who have made the supreme sacrifice of late (and their grieving relatives) even if we have doubts about the wisdom of the present conflict and the manner of its direction.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Watkins

ALL SAINTS' CALENDAR

Sept, Oct, Nov 2011

SEPTEMBER	4	Sunday	Trinity XI	Services at 7.45 a.m. & 10.15 a.m. (NOT 6.00 p.m.)
	11	Sunday	Trinity XII	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	14	Wednesday	The Triumph of the Cross	(Holy Cross Day)
	17	Saturday	"SHINE"	Events in the evening
	18	Sunday	Trinity XIII	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	21	Wednesday	St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist	
	25	Sunday	Trinity XIV	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	29	Thursday	St Michael and All Angels	
OCTOBER	2	Sunday	Dedication Festival (Anniversary of Consecration)	Services at 7.45 a.m., 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	9	Sunday	Harvest Thanksgiving - Trinity XVI	Services at 10.15 a.m. (Family) & 11.00 a.m. (Holy Eucharist) Evening Harvest Service at Holcot 6.00 p.m.
	16	Sunday	Trinity XVII	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	18	Tuesday	St Luke, Evangelist	
	23	Sunday	Trinity XVIII	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	29	Saturday	29th Annual Brixworth Lecture at 5.00 p.m. (in Church) given by Dr Leslie Webster-tickets £5: <i>Wall Paintings to Altar Cloths: Furnishing the Anglo-Saxon Church</i> -preceded by tea in Heritage Centre	
	30	Sunday	Patronal Festival of All Saints	Services at 7.45 a.m., 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
NOVEMBER	2	Wednesday	All Souls' Day	Requiem Eucharist at 10.00 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	6	Sunday	Trinity XX	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m. (No 7.45 a.m. service)
	13	Sunday	Remembrance Sunday - Trinity XXI	Services at 7.45 a.m., 9.30 a.m. (Requiem), 10.45 a.m. & 6.00 p.m. 10.45 Service of Remembrance in Church & then at War Memorial
	19	Saturday	Annual Christmas Bazaar	11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Community centre (above Library)
	20	Sunday	Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
	27	Sunday	Advent I	Services at 10.15 a.m. & 6.00 p.m. 6.00 p.m. Advent Procession with hymns, readings & carols in candlelight
	30	Wednesday	St Andrew, Apostle	

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM	Sunday	10 July	Freya Elizabeth Wickens Amelie Grace Heron	2 Swedish Houses 20 Knightons Way
HOLY MATRIMONY	Saturday	25 June 30 July	Oliver Jason Wilfred Leech & Lisa Mary Taylor Michael John Flanders & Alison Margaret Brown	3 Knightons Way Nailsea, Nr. Bristol
HOLY BURIAL OR CREMATION	Tuesday	24 May	Rosalie Kitty Bull	11 St David's Road
	Tuesday	7 June	Barbara Valentine Manning	15 Parkfield Road
	Monday	13 June	Florence Rosalie Clements	Saxon House
	Monday	20 June	Winifred Gladys Brown	Freehold St., Northampton
	Thursday	23 June	Yvonne Muriel Smyth	Foxtan House, Old
	Friday	24 June	John Frederick Smith	2 Holcot Road
	Thursday	30 June	Dennis William Smith	30 Northampton Road
	Tuesday	5 July	Eileen Coles	5 Copper Leaf Close, Moulton

SERVICES

Sundays		Weekdays		
7.45 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (first Sunday of the month)	Tuesdays	9.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
10.15 a.m.	Sung Eucharist & Address	Fridays	7.45 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
6.00 p.m.	Evensong	For other days, see weekly sheet in Church		

Thank you to all who took part in the recent Festival Quiz. The winner drawn out of a hat was Jean Axford of Earls Barton. Thank you also all who supported the Festival Weekend in any way. It raised well over £3,000 for the Church, which it certainly needs in these difficult times. Thank you too those who supported and helped with the Christian Aid collection in the village, which totalled £1,443. A. J. W.



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

What is Church?

There are many misunderstandings about church, the biggest perhaps surrounds the question "what is church?" As someone once said "we don't go to church we are the church!" In this issue we want to focus upon this question, by looking at some of the areas where church and community meet, where church is about people, and to see that far from it being out of touch or irrelevant, it touches people's lives exactly where they are.

Church is about people, the discovery of their relationship to Jesus, and their life together as a family of God. It is by no means an exclusive club but a place where we will find acceptance, love, joy, peace, abundant life and a great deal of fun on the way.

In July we as a church (the people that is) trialled something called "Messy Church". Around 70 people including eleven families came along and enjoyed family fun, food, craft, stories and much more. It has a real appeal to families with the idea of learning about God in a fun environment (the food was pretty good too!) Why not join us on Sunday 18th September for our next Messy Church from 4-6p.m.?

All that we share in this issue is about the church (people) being involved in the Community of Brixworth and we hope that something will encourage you to try "church" perhaps for the first time. You can be assured of a very warm welcome by the church, the people!

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil".

Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on 882040

Fun, Food and Celebration for All ages



It's fun, it's FREE and it's fantastic!
18th September 2011 4pm - 6pm
Brixworth Library & Community Centre

Book your place as a family by contacting our Community Worker on:-markp.BCFCommunityworker@virginmedia.com or in the Olive Branch Coffee Shop at the Centre (889030)



Prayer Surgery

As a church we are convinced that God does hear and answer prayer, that God is concerned for each one of us. In view of this, we have installed a "Prayer Box" in the Olive Branch Coffee Shop with slips of paper for anyone who wants us to pray specifically for anything that is causing concern or worry to you in health, relationships and so on.

We are looking to enlarge this by offering a Prayer Surgery on a Monday evening between 6.30 and 7.30p.m. in the Olive Branch. This will be a confidential opportunity to share any prayer request and to pray with you that God will intervene for good.

You just need to turn up, and you will find folk very helpful as we bring these things to God in prayer. This will begin on Monday September 12th.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



We will be collecting again this year from October – look out for the leaflets in the Olive Branch Coffee Shop.

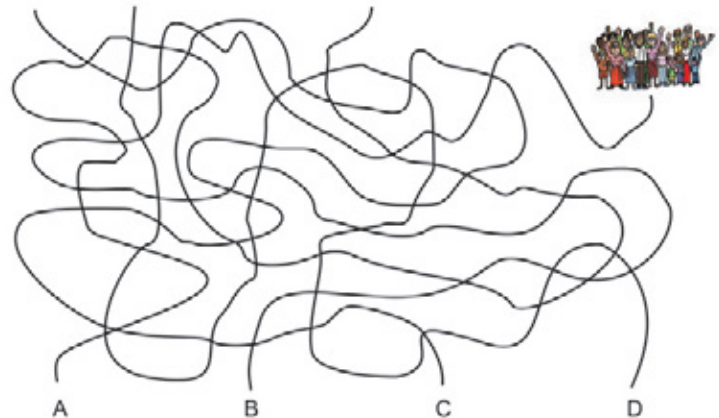


Dynamites – if your child would like to come to our Friday children's club we start again on Friday September 16th 5 - 6p.m. for Key Stage 1 children and 6.15 – 7.15 for Key Stage 2 children. at the Library & Community Centre. For more info call Phil on 882040



Olive Shoots is a Mums and Tots group who meet on a Thursday in term time from 15th September 10 -11.30a.m. at the Library & Community Centre. Lots of fun is had by both tinies and parents – if you would like to come along just turn up and ask for Margaret.

Which route take you to the church, A,B,C or D?



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.

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)

Forthcoming Events:

Harvest – Sunday 18th September at the school
Christmas outdoor Nativity – Sunday 18th December

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

Brixworth Parish Council Newsletter

12th Edition, Autumn 2011



Message from the Chair of Brixworth PC

For more than five years Ian Barratt served as Chair of Brixworth Parish Council which, as an unpaid volunteer, has to be considered to be dedication of a special kind. Ian chose not to stand this year and I was elected.

My name is Michael Lacey. I was born not so far away in Solihull – not too many years after the Luftwaffe has been using my parent's house, in Coventry, for target practice! But my earliest memories are of my father taking me for walks in my pram around an airfield where I would wave at the aeroplanes. As a teenager I emigrated to Canada with my family. We lived in Vancouver; where my first job was working as an electrician in a radio station, but at the same time I learned to fly. This led to my going back to school to study Aeronautics



After 20 years, living in British Columbia and California and working as a Chief Engineer, Demonstration Pilot and Aircraft Salesman, the economy of British Columbia collapsed; times were tough and I thought it might be nice to see if I could get a job back in the UK, just for a little while – of course. I ended up working as Sales Manager for Lord Hanson's Air Hanson at Blackbushe Airport in Surrey. One day, immediately following the fall of the Berlin wall, I was invited to join a Trade Delegation on a visit to Eastern Europe. We had some success, selling a number of aircraft, but I also met my wife-to-be. She was one of a number of doctors who had expressed interest in one of our aircraft as an air ambulance and in conversation I made the mistake of correcting her when she made a mistake about something or other.

Not long after that I returned to Canada with my new wife to take up a position as Sales Manager and Chief Pilot for a company in Toronto and before too long set up my own company, contracting

Continued overleaf

Parish Council Grants

The Parish Council provides grants to voluntary, community organisations that serve the Parish. Organisations are welcome to apply for a Community Grant.

A grant application form needs to be completed and returned to the Clerk before the deadline—next deadline is 31 October. Application forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk or downloaded from the Parish Council website (www.brixworthpc.org.uk). The Council considers grant applications twice a year, at a special Grants Meeting held in April and November.

Parish Questionnaire

The deadline for return of Parish Questionnaires had just passed when this newsletter went to press. We received almost 120 completed questionnaires, a quarter on-line. Thank you to everyone who took the time to tell us what is important to you and what the priorities for the Parish Council should be.

We have not had time to analyse the results but a quick overview indicates that grass cutting and litter are particularly important to residents and, thankfully, things that residents are generally satisfied with. Full results will be in the next newsletter.

Meet your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council holds surgeries in the Library/Community Centre 10–12pm. They are held on the first Saturday of each month. Dates of the surgeries are: 6 August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November and 3 December.

Come along and meet your Councillors informally and tell us what you think about Brixworth.



Brixworth Needs You!

There are lots of ways that you can help make Brixworth a better place by getting involved:

Parish Councillor

We have two vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you are interested in joining us, or if you want to know more, contact Jane Macken on 881243 or clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

An organised group of residents devoted to crime and anti social behaviour prevention. Meetings are held three times a year in March, July and November in the Olive Branch Coffee Shop. The police provide details of recent crimes, scams, unwanted callers etc in the area. Advice on home security is provided. John Haywood is the Chairman of the group and new members are always welcome. To find out more please contact John (johnhaywood@bigfoot.com) or the Parish Clerk.

Brixworth Community Panel

Meetings are held every quarter in January, April, July and October at the Brixworth Community Centre. The Police and Parish Councillors are present together with residents from Brixworth and surrounding villages. With a resident as Chairman, currently David Hymas, the panel meets for residents to discuss any concerns they may have, decide on the priorities for the police for the next quarter and receive feedback on crime and reported incidents during the last quarter.

Meetings are advertised in the Post Office shop window, Police Notice board in the foyer of the Library/Community Centre and on the Parish Council website. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Special Constable

A Special Constable is a volunteer police officer, volunteering their free time – at least 100 hours a year – to support regular police officers. To be eligible to be Special Constable, you must: be over 18 years of age; have a right to live and work in the UK, be of good character, have a good level of fitness and healthy, have no more than 6 points on your driving licence within the past four years and not be in employment that is incompatible with the office of a Special Constable.

Parish Council Meeting Schedule

Members of the public are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting—please come and see what we do and participate in the meetings. Meetings are held in the Library/Community Centre. All meetings start at 7.30 pm except Full Council which starts at 7.15. At Full Council meetings members of the public have the opportunity to the Council in the Public Open Forum session at the start of meetings. At any Committee Meeting members of the Public can participate in the debate but will not be able to vote.

Future meetings are as follows:

Planning	Monday, 5 Sept
Recreation & Amenity	Tuesday, 20 Sept
Planning	Tuesday, 26 Sept
Full Council	Tuesday, 27 Sept
Highways & Environment	Tuesday, 4 Oct
Finance	Tuesday, 11 Oct
Planning	Monday, 17 Oct
Full Council	Tuesday, 25 Oct
Planning	Monday, 7 Nov
Grant Applications & Finance	Tuesday, 15 Nov
Recreation & Amenity	Tuesday, 22 Nov
Planning	Monday, 28 Nov
Full Council	Tuesday, 29 Nov

Agendas will be displayed at least four days before the meeting, please check for any changes to meetings. Contact details for the Clerk and Councillors are available on www.brixworthpc.org.uk and in the Library.

Message from the Chair of Brixworth PC (cont.)

Canada-wide sales and marketing management for Gulfstream Aerospace. My wife did not like living in Canada and not long after the events of 9/11 we returned to the UK, buying a house in Brixworth.

I have been a member of the Parish Council for about five years. I did not intend to become Chair, but now that I am we have, for the first time, appointed Councillors to handle public relations for the Council and we have established a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to try and take advantage of the provisions in the Localism Bill that may allow us a greater say in Planning Legislation and how it affects our village.

Meanwhile, the Parish Council consists of a group of dedicated, unpaid volunteers, who are doing their best for you and the future of our village. It would be nice if we could count on your support at Council meetings, from time to time.

Country Eye

by Brian Webster



Take a bunch of keys and thrust your index finger through the key ring. Now hold them out and give them a good shake for a second or two. Pause and then do it again; and again. Congratulations, you have just produced a fair imitation of the song of the corn bunting. Not that your attempt would fool any self-respecting male corn bunting, who, armed with this jingle sets out to warn off any rival male who would steal his territory, and at the same time to attract a mate.

This enigmatic bird, the largest of our buntings, is also the most endangered. So much so that it is on the government's Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern, its population having decreased by some 90% over the past 35 years. So it is in real danger of extinction nationally. Until quite recently I used to hear and see it on my way out of the village towards Northampton. The field where it lived is unfortunately the very one on which it is proposed to build 150 houses. Tempting it back would need for it to be farmed appropriately to continue producing profitable crops, along with the seeds and invertebrates for the birds. High-grade agricultural land like this is too valuable to abandon to the bricks and tarmac of an identikit housing estate.

The corn bunting is not the only Red Listed bird to be found there. The Barn Owl, with a national population of only some 3000 pairs, may be seen quartering the bare land in the winter in search of the mice

and voles that are its food. Within the past few days I have heard the song of the reed bunting, where it was most likely breeding. This is another species whose numbers are drastically reduced nationally. I am reliably informed that a skylark, one of our best-loved birds, has been heard singing over the field, and could have bred. Its numbers have plummeted by over 50% in recent years. Song thrush, starling and house sparrow also forage regularly over the area, and are Red Listed because of declines in their numbers of more than 50%.

Add to this a further ten species which are on the Amber List of Birds of Medium Conservation Concern, and I would hardly say that the area is of only minimal wildlife interest as the developers claim. And this is without taking into account the badgers from two setts who search for food within the field, as their long-established trackways prove. In my view the disturbance caused to them by housing would lead to their dying out. (They do not go elsewhere, as suitable locations will already have a complement of badgers).

But in my opinion the main reasons why this application should be turned down are these. First the rainwater runoff from the development, however it is dealt with, would increase the risk of flooding downstream. In this connection County Councillors Ben Smith and Brendan Glynnane, both experts on local flooding problems, have recently publicly stated that, in their view, there is a serious risk of a flood in Northampton, due to climate change, within the next five years. Building this estate would exacerbate this risk.

Then there is the inevitable increase in traffic. Anyone who has driven into town at peak times will know it's near gridlock, while the pollution caused to those poor souls living close to the crowded roads in Kingsthorpe is already well in excess of deemed national 'safe' levels. The extra pressure on already overloaded local facilities, such as shops, schools, open spaces, etc would be intolerable.

On 2 June the government published its National Ecosystems Assessment, in which for the first time an attempt has been made to put monetary values on aspects of nature and the countryside that many of us regard as priceless. The view to the right as one leaves the village along the Northampton road is without doubt one of the finest in the county (I would say in the nation). Those lucky enough to live where they may enjoy it from their windows or their gardens may be interested to learn that this document values the experience at £300 per person, per year, in terms of health and wellbeing benefits. Vastly undervalued in my opinion, but I suppose one has to start somewhere. Yet the developers would seek to deprive us of this, offering a 'softer edge to the village', whatever that may mean, by way of exchange. I don't think so! I would willingly settle for what we have now.

Hot on the heels of the above publication we have 'The Natural Choice', a government White Paper setting forth proposals for the future of the natural environment. Among these are Green Areas Designations which would 'allow local communities to give protection to areas that are important to them for recreation, the view or their importance for wildlife.' Surely the area in question would qualify on all three counts.

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Draughton News: it's all about gardens, and Andy Sturgeon...

Summer is a comin' in – and Draughton has had such a busy Spring we're just lying fallow for the next six weeks, notwithstanding the harvest is gathering pace around us.

The Spring Fayre in May took over £600 in a fast and furious (and jolly windy) two hours – and all credit to this small village for putting on such a great show. The highlight, as ever, were the plants, and this year they were worthy of any of the great UK garden shows.



Gardening is a recurring theme in Draughton so we were especially thrilled to be able to host an Evening with Andy Sturgeon, the TV Presenter and five times Chelsea Gold medal winner (to

name just a few of his achievements). Andy came to speak to an audience of 150 in a marquee and held people rapt for an hour and a half with his ideas of garden design, design influences, his own design journeys and some stunning pictures to illustrate his talk. 'Charming', 'informative', 'fantastic' and 'gorgeous' were just some of the comments (both the presenter and his gardens)! The day before he'd been filming the Tatton Show for the BBC (whilst he was doing his talk he could be seen on BBC 2) and the week before he'd been designing in Russia, so we were truly honoured.

Autumn events include a September Jumble and Jamboree (chutneys, jams and jellies) on September 17th, a concert with up-and-coming soprano Rachel Major on October 22nd and then the annual Christmas Fayre on December 3rd. Order forms for produce will be available from ann.wall@gmail.com.

- Kate Moon

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts in demand

The Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group is flourishing and bursting at the seams. We are a highly successful group, with a leadership team keen to offer a wide, challenging and fun programme of events for young people to become involved in.

The Beaver Colony has done a wide variety of things this last term including a hike from MerryTom to Windhover, rugby, tennis and finishing off with their own Olympics. Not to mention earning their animal carer, hobbies, first aid and global badges. Unfortunately we had to say good bye to two of our leaders, but we have managed to recruit one replacement.

The Cub Pack have been looking at all things Australian, as well as going camping, bell boating, earning their cycling badges and coming second in the District Cub quiz, and taking part in the County Cub quiz. Sadly one of our Cub leaders will be stepping back from active involvement, but we hope to keep her vast knowledge and experience within the group.

The Scout Troop has also been very active. They have made films, looked at flying – kites, aeroplanes and rockets – meteorology and forestry. They also took part in the district raft building and racing event, and did the Krazy Kanonia – cycled 56km, camped overnight, then cycled back. And again we lost a leader this year, but I am please to say we a former Beaver leader has come forward to work with Scouts and another parent has expressed an interest about getting involved.

The Explorers have been involved in

everything from scuba diving to camping – in January - as well as golf and raft racing.

The success of our Scout Group means we have a large number of young people who want to get involved. Unhappily this means we have a growing waiting list and this also means that we have many young people waiting who have never had the chance to be Beavers. As our waiting list continues to grow, so does our need for leaders, not only to replace the ones we have unfortunately lost, but attack the waiting list by setting up new Beavers, Cubs and Scout sections within the group.

We need enthusiastic people to lead our sections, help out occasionally, be part of the executive committee – what ever you have to offer – we can use.

We will also be looking for suitable facilities to accommodate the new sections when we can get new leaders. Currently Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group sections meet in the Village Centre on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The other evenings at the centre are already fully booked. In an ideal world a purpose built Scout Hut with some land to carry out activities would be great, but being Scouts we are always prepared and make the best of all opportunities.

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit <http://scouts.org.uk/>. To find out more about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group Kim Phillips, Group Scout Leader on 07815 070878 or info@armarketing.co.uk.

- Kim Phillips



Going rafting with the Brixworth and Scaldwell Scouts. Special thanks to CPL Aromas, who kindly donated the barrels.

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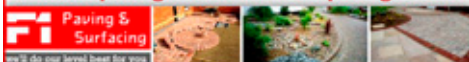
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U3A report

by Gerry Dobson

Brixworth and District U3A has seen a change at the top: Annie Curtis has stepped down after completing a hugely successful three-year term, to be replaced by Philip Pomeroy. We owe much to Annie's enthusiastic leadership – her time in the chair has seen the membership expand by about one hundred members to the present total of approximately one hundred and thirty.

Annie has agreed to continue in the supporting role of vice chairman and Brian Collett was elected honorary secretary to succeed Philip following his elevation to the chair. The remaining members of the



committee, being eligible to serve for a further term, were elected en bloc, although there were minor role changes involved and Lee Everett kindly agreed to continue as the auditor.

The July meeting was addressed by two representatives from the Samaritans who described the roles of the volunteers and the types of problems with which they are faced on a regular basis. As usual the August meeting was held at the Northampton Sailing Club at Pitsford Water and the raffle was held for the benefit of Sailability (sailing for the disabled). The September meeting will include a talk on DNA.

All the interest groups vibrant and active, though some of the activities do take a summer break. The Table Tennis group has moved from the Youth Club in Brixworth and now meets in the Pitsford Village Hall as they have a table available. By the time this is published we also hope to have the Badminton group up and running at Old Village Hall. As we cater for members from the outlying villages it is pleasing to be able to use the facilities that these villages have available. The Bridge group has met every week since January when it started and the fifteen beginners are making good progress

under the able tuition of Brian Collett and a couple more have now joined the group.

Lunches have been held at the Brampton Halt, The George in Brixworth and the White Horse in Old and we also had an evening out at the Three Swans in Market Harborough. The August lunch will be held at the Old Saracens Head at Little Brington.

We've been rambling at Gayton, Laughton and Badby Woods and overall the weather has been extremely kind to the walkers allowing them to enjoy the scenery in full. The French Group parlent successfully and the Poetry Group rhyme regularly, whilst the Theatre Group have enjoyed several plays including 'Yes, Prime Minister' at various local theatres. The Genealogy Group continues to make good progress in the members' research and many interesting facts have emerged in relation to previous generations with some startling discoveries.

New members are always welcome as the more members we have increases the potential for additional interest groups to be formed. Applications for membership may be made to the membership secretary on 880401 or alternatively visit our website at www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth

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Letters to the Editor

time to step down

Dear Bulletin,

As you will know, I have decided to step down as chairman of Brixworth Parish Council after a five year stint. It has been a roller-coaster ride of exhilaration and setback.

One highlight must be the award of Quality Status for the Parish Council. This is an achievement all involved can be proud of. It's one thing as a council thinking you're getting things right, but quite another to succeed in passing tough tests to prove we're getting it right. Few councils can manage it!

Our record in squeezing the last drop of value from your money by reducing our spending without sacrificing services must be second to none - especially the cuts in our share of Council tax on several occasions.

On a personal basis, I have found individual casework a challenge and satisfying, helping residents with matters ranging from housing to village safety and the tip.

Disappointments? Landowner's objections stopped us building the skateboard and BMX park we had planned with a huge amount of money promised in grants. And the bridge to make the bypass crossing safer, especially for families and young people. The crossing we did get promised by the county council still has to appear but we are assured it will.

But it's the people who make or break councils, and I am proud to have led a superb group of Parish Councillors and employees throughout my five years of chairmanship. Inevitably, there has been a turnover of Councillors - not everyone can manage up to three meetings or more a week for month after month. The dedication of Parish Councillors (remember, they are not paid!) never ceases to amaze me. Their support to me has been never short of 100 percent.

But all things run their course, and I feel it is time for another person to make their mark on village life, so I have stepped down (voluntarily!!!). Your new chairman, Cllr Mike Lacey, is an experienced Parish Councillor and an excellent choice of chairman. I offer him my unqualified support in the future. I remain a Parish Councillor and will continue to fight for what is best for the village.

Good luck to Mike, good luck to the Parish Council and good luck to the village!

Ian Barratt

what a mess

Dear Bulletin,

There should be more publicity regarding the litter problem within Brixworth. It is such a lovely village and it is a shame that it looks such a mess most of the time. On my walk this morning I picked up four carrier bags

full of litter from St David's recreation ground because the few bins there were completely full. We cannot complain about the litter if the Council does not provide the litter bins.

There is a similar problem with provisions for dog mess: I often walk my dog around the village and pick up after him but there are no bins to dispose of the waste. It is not very pleasant walking around with a carrier bag with waste in it! There are always complaints about dog fouling, but where are the bins?

Maureen Garrod-Rose

Millennium Garden

Dear Bulletin,

I have seen the Millennium Garden go from waste ground to something that the village should be proud of, but not anymore. The garden is now looking sad after the carers have died. Could the Bulletin find out who owns it, and find a leader from a local gardening club to organise a Spring or Autumn clean up? It could be a wonderful asset in front the church and the Centre, instead it is forgotten and not looked after.

I enjoy gardening, not successfully, and I would like to join as a labourer if such a project is possible. I would also donate £100 to the expenses, plants or refreshments!

Name supplied



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Putting Brixworth on the map

John Holbrook, the new Bishop of Brixworth, reflects on his appointment, rekindling enthusiasm and Bristol City FC

Not many small communities like ours can boast of having a Bishop. Indeed, when the new Bishop of Brixworth, John Holbrook, told his family and friends about his appointment, they all asked, "Where's Brixworth?"

Of course, we do not really have any special claim on Bishop Holbrook as he is a Suffragan Bishop, the assistant to the Bishop of Peterborough, Donald Allister. He replaces Bishop Frank White who left at the end of last year. I caught up with Bishop Holbrook in the magnificent surroundings of Peterborough Cathedral on the day of his installation at the end of June. He was showing round a group of visitors from the Diocese of Seoul in Korea.

Bishop Holbrook is clearly pleased to put Brixworth on the map. He explained to me the incidental connection he had discovered between his new title and Wimborne in Dorset, where he has lived for the last nine years. A relic of Saint Boniface was found buried in the wall of All Saints' Church in the nineteenth century. It was from Wimborne that St Boniface recruited supporters for his mission to Germany in the eighth century.

Bishop Holbrook has already visited Brixworth, stopping to pray at All Saints on his way home from his interview in Peterborough for his new position. Perhaps a theme for his prayers was the phrase he repeated several times during our meeting, "The only place to be is where God wants you to be".

While new to us, Bishop Holbrook is no stranger to the Midlands. His wife, Elizabeth, a chartered accountant, grew up in Rugby. The



Above: Bishop Holbrook receiving Rushden and Diamonds' very special football shirt

family has lived previously in Banbury for eight years, and in Milton Keynes for four. They have now moved into a home in Mears Ashby which will allow Bishop Holbrook to reach most places in the Diocese within an hour.

His family also includes a daughter, Anna, age 16, who has just completed her GCSEs, and a son, Thomas, 19, a student at Durham University.

Newly consecrated as a Bishop, Bishop Holbrook has been ordained for 26 years, after having studied at Oxford. He admits to a common theme running through all his career interests as a young person, which ranged from being a fireman to a politician and to a vicar, and believes that at age 49 he is still young enough to want to change the world!

His personal interests include watching football – he follows Bristol City having grown up on the edge of that city. He was quite chuffed when the Rushden and Diamonds club presented him with a special shirt printed with "Bishop 2" on the back. He has been to the races at Towcester and looks forward to visiting Silverstone at some point.

Having already spent nine years as a country vicar, Bishop Holbrook professes a love of rural churches because they allow clergy to share in all their congregations' lives. He thinks that rural churches can have the kind of impact upon their communities that town churches can only dream of.

He spoke excitedly about encouraging church members to be more confident ("While we are ordinary, God is extraordinary"), of reawakening people's enthusiasm for the things of God, and of engaging in a world where so many things, such as starvation, injustice and conflict, are contrary to what he believes God wants. He also conveyed his respect for followers of other faiths, demonstrated by his work among Muslim taxi drivers in Banbury after the events of 9/11.

I had gone to meet Bishop Holbrook with no particular expectations but came away feeling uplifted and inspired by somebody who is warm and personable and exudes a still presence.

I asked for a message for the people of Brixworth and "our" new Bishop replied, "I will be delighted to get to know the church and the village and have a huge sense of pride".

- Jennifer Fitzgerald

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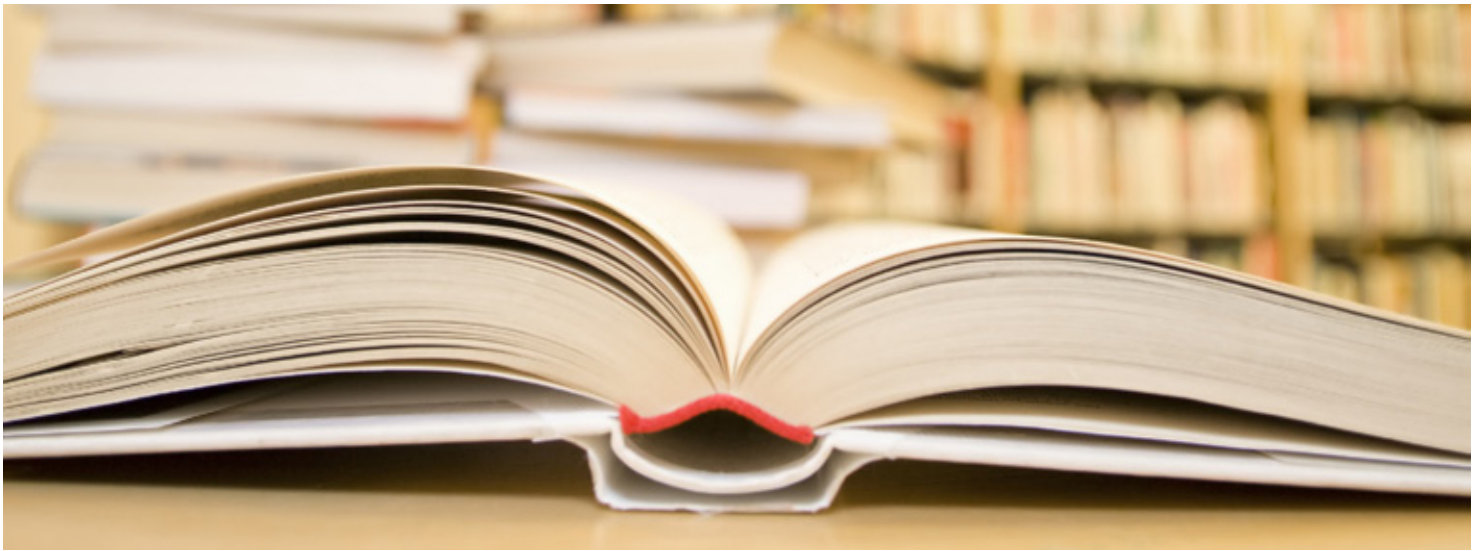
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Health and Wellbeing at Brixworth Library Open Day

On Thursday 22nd September, from 2-5 pm, Brixworth Library will hold its annual Open Day.

This year there is a general health and wellbeing theme to the Open Day. Library staff will be on hand to advise on the best health and wellbeing sites on the internet, as well as explaining the range of services available to you in the library. Come and have a go on the Wii Fit as well!

There will also be activities for children throughout the afternoon in the library in conjunction with staff from the SureStart Children's Centre, who can also give advice and support for families and their under 5s, whether you're a new parent looking for advice or struggling with a specific issue.

The Friends of Brixworth Library will be on hand to explain how you can get involved, their role in the library and any events they have planned.

Staff from the Daventry District Council Information Services Office will be available to assist with any queries. Also members of the DDC Health Team will be promoting their health walks programme and advice on healthy eating.

Come and meet your local Parish Councillors, who will be there throughout the afternoon – so come and have a chat, see what they do and how you can get more involved!

The parish nurses, Margaret and Elaine, will be available to check your blood pressure and give advice on any health concerns you may have.

Also throughout the afternoon, the Olive Branch Coffee Shop, run by the Brixworth Christian Fellowship, will be open for teas, coffees and light refreshments.

Other organisations taking part are the National Association for the Blind, Age Northampton – promoting their over 55s Health Programme of Events & Activities, Brixworth First Responders, Kettering General Hospital Trust and others, including alternative therapies, still to be confirmed.

So come on in, get to know more about what is happening and on offer in and around the village, find out how to stay healthy, and indulge in afternoon tea all in one friendly building!

What can you do at the library?

Brixworth Library is open Mondays to Fridays 10am to 6pm and Saturdays 9am to 1pm. It is free for all to join, no ID or proof of address needed. Did you know you can hire DVDs for just £2 a week – current titles too and some Children's DVDs are only £1 a week (TV tie-in DVDs). There is also a range of books on CD or tape to hire – ideal for that long car journey.

You can also access the internet. Many websites are free to view eg DirectGov and Ancestry – you can research your family tree for free only in the library. Full internet access is free every Friday (normally £1 per 20 minute session).

Also free on Fridays is Rhymetime for the under 5s and their carers (9:45 to 10:25 am and 10:30 to 11:00am) – come along and join in the fun.

Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00pm you can get free advice on writing your CV, job interview techniques, career advice and job search. Half hour sessions can be booked in advance.

Upstairs in the library is the library shop and exhibition area, which can be hired for exhibitions; phone for prices and booking. September sees the return of the Open Studios Art Exhibition with Belinda Collett, including Cath Evans and others – get your copy of the Open Studios Brochure at the library.

Don't forget you can now apply for a bus pass in the library too!

How about getting involved yourself?

The Friends of Brixworth Library Group welcome new members. They meet every second Tuesday of the month at 2:30pm. You could help the Committee plan and organise fund-raising events, or help raise the profile of the library – or just help out occasionally at events. Alternatively you can just join the Friends Scheme: for £7 per year you will receive five free requests and a quarterly newsletter.

Or you could become a volunteer at the library. Various roles including meeting and greeting, crafts volunteer or our "Library To You" service – choosing and delivering books for our housebound customers.

For more information on all of the above, pop into Brixworth Library or phone on 01604 882153.

- Jill Barber

Brix and Mortar

My name is Stuart Little and I have been in the property industry for 25 years, during which time I have worked for various independent and corporate estate agents. Four years ago I qualified as a surveyor, under the SAVA scheme, which allows me to offer Home Condition Surveys and Energy Performance Certificates. In 2010 I decided to work under the Horts Estate Agents banner as one of their 'Realtor style' self-employed property consultants. I did this in order to combine all my skills and to offer home sellers a different approach from the traditional estate agency model. I have just moved into the village with my partner Julie and daughters Olivia and Mille. I hope to help many of you move home over the forthcoming years. But enough about me!

I have been asked, by the Brixworth Bulletin, to write a short article on the Brixworth property market, which I guess will cover the reasons why my family has bought a property here.

Brixworth has proved one of the most popular North Northamptonshire villages for many years. It has an immense array of properties from character homes in the original old village through to modern homes on the various developments that grew during the 70's, 80's and 90's. As one of the county's larger villages it also boasts great shopping and social facilities in addition to the popular primary school. Weather permitting we can all enjoy family walks and bike rides around the reservoir or along the Brampton Valley Way.

All of the above contributing factors

have allowed our village to maintain, according to www.rightmove.co.uk, one of Northamptonshire's best 'for sale' to 'sold' ratios. An incredible 50% of marketed property sells (the average is around 25-30%). Whilst we are on the subject of the housing market here are some more interesting facts regarding saleability and prices. As we all know the property market peaked in the middle of 2007 and dropped by around 20% up until the end of 2009. However, certain parts of Northampton and many of the popular villages have now bounced back to figures that are only 10% or less than their peak price. Although the general trend of sales has been down this year, compared to 2010, Brixworth has actually increased. With price ranges suiting most pockets and property types for all. Brixworth also enjoys a large percentage of home movers staying within the village.

At present the average prices being achieved are £100-125,000 for two bedroom modern terraces/ semi detached homes, £120,000 - £140,000 for three bedroom modern terraced homes, £140,000 - £160,000 for modern three bedroom semi detached homes, £160,000 - £180,000 for modern detached homes and £180,000 - £350,000 for four/five bedroom modern detached homes. Prices obviously can vary substantially depending on the particular development, condition of the property and also whether it has had any additional building work carried out. Older properties both in the village itself and along some of the main roads are also still

fetching very good money. In general the North Northamptonshire villages enjoy around a 10% premium on the suburbs of Northampton.

Comparing Brixworth with other villages surrounding Northampton such as Bugbrooke to the East where 35% of the marketed property is sold, Earls Barton to the West 32% and to the South Road with 24% it clearly shows that our village is very desirable and as long as the price is right, property will always sell. I believe that this is because the village offers so much.

So if you are looking to sell or buy, Brixworth is a safe bet. It is like the real estate agents mantra: location, location, location. It simply means identical homes can increase or decrease in value due to location. Others may argue, but I think Brixworth is one of the best locations in Northamptonshire.

- Stuart Little, Horts



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DA/2010/1047; 24 The Ashway First Floor extension	10.1.11 PC No objection 3.2.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/0008; 1 Burrows Vale First Floor side extension	24.1.11 PC No objection 21.2.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/1010; 1 Grange Farm Cottages, Holcot Road Conversion of detached garage to dwelling	21.12.10 PC Objects 14.3.11 DDC Refused
DA/2011/0068; 1 Horseshoe Close Two storey and single storey front extension (revised scheme)	14.2.11 PC No objection 21.3.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/99 Brixworth Post Office, 5 Hunters Way One non-illuminated fascia sign and one non-illuminated projecting sign	7.3.11 PC No objection 1.4.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/0135; 17, Pytchley Way Single storey rear extension	7.3.11 PC No objection 18.4.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/0265; 10 Grass Slade Two storey rear extension with single storey side and rear extension (revised)	9.5.11 PC No objection 2.6.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/0237; 36 The Knoll Two bed bungalow	18.4.11 PC No objection 20.5.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/0221; 8 Pytchley Close Construction of first floor extension and single storey rear extension	18.4.11 PC No objection 13.5.11 DDC Approved

DA/2011/0182 Mercedes Benz HPE, Morgan Drive New visitors car parking with external lighting	29.3.11 PC No objection 3.5.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/0153 All Saints Church, Church Street, Brixworth Construction of metal handrails at south door	31.3.11 PC No objection 20.4.11 DDC Approved
NCC 11.00016; Raybell & Sons, The Old Brickworks, Harborough Road, Pitsford Provision of a parking area and waste storage bays (retrospective application)	29.3.11 PC No objection 8.6.11 NCC Approved
DA/2011/0203 Campsite, Land at Hill Farm, Northampton Road Construction of shower/wc/laundry building, repositioning of approved camp site office, siting of timber bases for yurt tents, hardstanding for touring caravans (not static), repositioning of aquatron bioplant, formation of gravel vehicular accessways (revised scheme)	18.4.11 PC No objection 8.6.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/0304 23 Broad Street Alterations and extensions to include pitched roof over existing flat roof creation of first floor accommodation with rear dormer. Creation of annexe	9.5.11 PC No objection 10.6.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/0328; Pytchley Cottage, Harborough Road First Floor extension over garage and extension to kitchen	24.5.11 PC No objection 21.6.11 DDC Approved
DA/2011/0376 Mercedes Benz HPE Siting of temporary buildings and adaptation of existing storage containers, to provide additional design, development, manufacturing and testing accommodation. Alterations to trackside building, including formation of enclosed porch under existing canopy. (Part retrospective)	6.6.11 PC No objection 23.6.11 DDC Approved

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On stage with the Brixworth

Review of One-Act Comedies performed 11 June 2011

Fumed Oak by Noël Coward

As a playwright and a person, Noël Coward was not famed for his sympathetic attitude towards women, so it comes as no surprise to find that in Brixworth Drama Group's latest three-play offering at the Village Hall, one man takes on three ladies and despatches them with ease. The hero of the piece, Mike Culverhouse as Henry Gow, comes home one evening from work, and fortified with a few whiskies taken on the way, informs the three he is leaving them for good. And what a threesome: three generations, wife, daughter and mother-in-law; Caroline Monk as the wife swings from domineering matriarch at breakfast to grovelling at Mike's feet to pick up the ham supper he has thrown away, along with his relationships. Libby Bowers as Mrs Rocket (a Dickensian naming) sneers at the younger generations from the sidelines, plenty of sneering to do as the dreadful Elsie the daughter sniffs her way through breakfast and whines her way through everything else. The timing of Sophie's sniffing was particularly telling, and her appalling recorder playing stole the show. The breakfast scene was especially well done, with its mute opening, and Mike watching the breakfast antics with heavy silence, knowing it will be for the last time.

The set and staging by Mark and Karen Sharman gave the piece a proper 'period' feel complemented by the right clothing and props. Direction by Stuart Cooper, assisted by Ruth Cardwell, brought out the changing times and attitudes, though with Coward, it's the man, not the woman, who heads for the new life.

- Robin Pool

The Lunch Hour by John Mortimer

This was the second of the three plays staged by the increasingly ambitious Brixworth Drama Group. It amply justified the view that money invested in a good script is not wasted.

Set 50 years ago, the story tells of an executive's attempts to spend his lunch hour with a junior colleague in a cheap hotel near King's Cross. In booking the room, he devised an elaborate cover story so the hotel manageress did not think there was anything untoward going on. Unfortunately, he omits to tell his young lady colleague of this.

At first the young lady is coquettish. As the manageress makes solicitous remarks about how tiring the journey from Scarborough must have been, the young lady becomes at first confused, then angry and eventually hysterical as she starts to live the part and consider herself hard done by. These mood swings were admirably portrayed by Sue l'Anson whose lips could be seen getting noticeably thinner, whilst Amanda Pilgrim was very convincing as the manageress, being troubled for the lady at first and then put out at the thought that she was not going to be reimbursed for the shilling (5p) for the gas meter. Meanwhile the man played by Jon Mackley expressed tenderness towards his lady followed by increasing frustration and irritability as the quarter hours chimed by and he had got no further with his designs.

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable performance from all under the capable direction of Heather Pool assisted by Jean McDonnell.

- Dennis Coles



A Cut in the Rates by Alan Ayckbourn

To finish, a curiosity from the pen of Alan Ayckbourn, the sort of thing I can imagine being dreamed up over quite a few beers one evening. The theme may have been familiar, but it's not the joke itself but how you tell it. And very well told it was too, with Andy Knight leading, striking exactly the right balance to keep the audience guessing. Elaine Musgrove was an excellent foil, playing the typical jobsworth council visitor just right, as did Janet Buchanan as Andy's 'undead' wife, avoiding the temptation to go over the top into caricature that could have ruined the joke. Pity the gas board official coming later, maybe they really would have got sawn in half! As a bonus the saw made an extra appearance as a stage hand, which actually made the whole thing funnier still. After that the audience went home very satisfied indeed. Alec Hodgson also got the direction of this one spot on, as a firm hand was in evidence.

All credit to Andy Knight for getting in and out of role to keep the audience entertained before during and after, ably assisted by Les Evans, in an acoustic guitar duo. Norwegian Wood was a particular favourite of mine. All in all, a particularly good evening's entertainment.

- Robin Pool

Drama Group

Coming up: *I'll be back before Midnight*



Brixworth Drama Group will be performing the thriller "I'll be back before Midnight" by Peter Colley on Friday and Saturday 30 September and 1 October, and the following week on 7 and 8 October at 7.30pm at the Village Hall in Brixworth.

This third outing for the drama group for 2011 is a combination of comedy and mystery. It is the story of Jan, who is recovering from a nervous breakdown, and her husband Greg, an archaeologist, who has rented an old farmhouse where Jan can recover. Jan's situation becomes worse when Laura, Greg's beautiful but manipulative sister arrives. When George, the owner of the farmhouse, tells stories of a terrible murder that took place in the farmhouse and the ghost that stalks the grounds, Jan's imagination becomes aroused and she is tormented by strange sounds in the night and visions of the vengeful ghost. When she tries to defend herself from this apparition, events take an unexpected turn in a night of unimaginable suspense as time begins to run out for the residents of the farmhouse.

Director Mark Sharman, whose previous directing credits with Brixworth Drama Group include the ambitious *Toad of Toad Hall*, said: "Peter Colley's atmospheric thriller and ghost story is both hilarious and terrifying. It will challenge the actors' delivery of comic timing and suspense. The audience will enjoy a white-knuckle performance with some laugh-out-loud moments and some spine-tingling scenes."

Peter Colley is a Canadian stage- and screen-writer and his play *I'll be back before Midnight* has become one of the most popular Canadian plays worldwide. It has been nominated for numerous awards around the world including nine nominations at the New Zealand 2008 NAPTA Awards, where it won three, including "Best Play".

As usual for these productions, the hall will be laid out in cabaret style seating and there will be a licensed bar and live music during the intervals. Tickets are £5 for adults and £4 for concessions and will be available from Lovell's Hardware on Spratton Road in Brixworth and from Libby on 880672. For the latest information visit the Brixworth Drama Group website on <http://brixworthdrama.pcirot.com> or visit their Facebook page.

- Jon Mackley

Have you got a passion for art?

Northamptonshire Decorative and Fine Arts Society welcomes new members.

The Society meets on the third Tuesday of the month to hear illustrated lectures by specialists on a wide variety of subjects in the broad fields of the decorative and fine arts.

Subjects covered this year include *The Life and Music of Gustav Mahler* and *The Fire and Restoration of Windsor Castle*, while the Christmas lecture on 14th December will feature *An Evening with Eric Knowles of Antiques Roadshow* fame.

All lectures start at 7.45pm and are held in the Cripps Hall of Northampton School for Boys, Billing Road, Northampton.

As well as the lecture programme, the Society organises visits to galleries, country houses and museums. Its volunteer groups undertake church recording (producing a written and photographic record of the entire contents of a church) and Heritage protection (assisting in the preservation of fabrics and books) in local houses and museums.

Interested? Then join the Society's next meeting on 21 September. Professor Michael Wheeler will talk on *Art and the English Bible*. Visitors pay £5, membership is £30.

For more information, see the website at www.northantsdfas.org.uk or call George Hammerschmidt on 880212 or email ham@gotadsl.co.uk.

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Brixworth talent at street dance championships

Brixworth teenagers Bethany and Sophie Alexander have helped the Northampton-based street dance group DanceVybz to a dual first place in the All England Street Dance Championships earlier this year.

The under-16 group Alpha, of which Bethany is a member, became UK champions for the second year in a row. Meanwhile the over-sixteens group Omega, with Bethany's older sister Sophie, stormed to win for the older age group. Both teams will now be representing the UK in the Street Dance International World Championships, which take place in Austria this October.

On the day children as young as 11 competed and qualified for a place in the European and the World Championships, dancing in solos, pairs and the Electric Boogie category.



DanceVybz are currently looking for sponsorship, if anyone knows of individuals

or companies who may be interested please contact Julia Alexander on 07912 038551.

A hooray for holistic therapies

With many of us suffering from a myriad of symptoms it can be difficult to know how to manage our own health. More and more people are consequently turning to natural healthcare either as an alternative to, or to complement orthodox treatment.

Louise Jensen, founder of Brixworth-based Balancing Health holistic therapies, says she used to feel helpless watching her eldest son suffer from allergies and gaining little relief from prescribed medicines before deciding to consult a Kinesiologist.

Kinesiology is a way of communicating directly with the body via muscle testing. By applying gentle pressure to an isolated muscle (usually an arm) it is possible to trace the root cause of a dysfunction, before developing a treatment plan. This could consist of gentle stimulation to acupuncture points, herbal supplements, dietary changes, muscle reprogramming or flower essences to heal emotional and mental stress.

Louise reveals that this visit changed her life. "I was staggered at the results obtained in a relatively short space of time and I made the decision that I wanted to train in complementary healthcare, to enable others take control of their own health."

Louise first took a Diploma in Allergy and Environmental Therapy with the British Institute of Allergy and Environmental Therapy, before completing a diploma in Classical Kinesiology which incorporated clinical medicine, anatomy and physiology, counselling, nutrition and practice management.

Although Louise has trained in numerous additional therapies over the past ten years including Reiki, Crystal Healing, Colour and

Sound Therapy and Hopi Ear Candles she admits Kinesiology is her real passion.

"I love the work I do, it is so rewarding and no two cases are ever the same. To watch a child change from being labelled uncontrollable to calm and happy by eliminating a few intolerances from their diet never ceases to amaze me, or to see someone shed their anxiety and reach their full potential is astounding. I feel lucky to be in a position where I can empower people to take control of their bodies and achieve and maintain optimum health."

Louise believes that most conditions can be helped. "Of course it is unrealistic to think that everything can be 'cured',

but, for example, if treating a patient with cancer I would be looking to offer the body emotional support and to alleviate some of the symptoms caused by medications which can affect the body's capacity to digest food."

Louise continues "Kinesiology works so well because it treats the person as a whole and recognises that often a condition will be caused by a mixture of physical, nutritional, energetic and emotional imbalances and the corrections used will reflect this. It is suitable for all ages from babies to the elderly. I have even treated horses and dogs!"

To find out more you can visit Louise's website at www.balancinghealth.co.uk or call her on 07812 108913.



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OFSTED Inspector 09/03/09

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What's On

Sept - 9 Oct	Northamptonshire Open Studios	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
Sept - 6 Nov	What the Shoe Trade did for us	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
1-4 Sept	The Secret Garden	Abington Park Museum
3 Sept	One Man Starwars	R&D Undergr'd
3 Sept	The Fool of the World (story)	Royal & Derngate Underground
4 Sept	Country Eye Craft Day	Red Lion Pub, Brixworth
7 Sept	Joe Longthorne	Royal & Derngate
8 Sept	Martin Simpson	Royal & Derngate
8 Sept	Laughing Boy	Corby Cube
8-21 Sept	Formula Fashion	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
9-24 Sept	Basket Case	Royal & Derngate
9 Sept	Strictly Sixties	Corby Cube
10 Sept	Shoe Store Tour (free entry)	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
10 Sept	Churches of Northampton	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
11 Sept	Guided Garden Walks	Lampport Hall
13 Sept	Queen Eleanor Crosses	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
14 Sept	Hadouken!	The Roadmender
14 Sept	Numberjacks	Royal & Derngate
14 Sept	Gardens History	Lampport Hall
14 Sept	Guys and Dolls	Corby Cube
15 Sept	Appreciating Street Furniture	Brixworth History Society
15 Sept	Rise to Remain	The Roadmender
17 Sept	Jumble Sale	Draughton V Hall
17 Sept	Outdoor Illuminations	All Saints Church, Brixworth
18 Sept	Abington Wind Band	Brixworth Country Park
20 Sept	Happy as Larry	Royal & Derngate
22 Sept	Ed Byrne	Royal & Derngate
22 Sept	Hayseed Dixie	The Roadmender
22 Sept	The Social History of the Allotment	Kelmarsh Hall
23 Sept	Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers	Royal & Derngate
23 Sept	Solomon & Sheba (spoken word)	Royal & Derngate Underground
24 Sept	The way back home (children)	Corby Cube
24 Sept	The Unthanks	Royal & Derngate
24-25 Sept	Railway At War	N'pton and Lampport Railway
25 Sept	RPO: Beethoven Piano Series Pt I	Royal & Derngate
28 Sept	Stephen Merchant	Royal & Derngate
29 Sept	Scattered (dance)	Corby Cube

29 Sept	Jason Byrne	Royal & Derngate
30 Sept & 1 Oct	I'll be back before Midnight	Brixworth Drama at Village Hall
30 Sept - 22 Oct	The Two Gentlemen of Verona	Royal & Derngate
30 Sept - 22 Oct	Milton Jones	Royal & Derngate
1 Oct	Lee Nelson	Corby Cube
1 Oct	Puppetry of the Penis	Royal & Derngate
2 Oct	Illegal Eagles	Royal & Derngate
4-5 Oct	Richard Alston Dance Co	Royal & Derngate
6 Oct	Laughing Boy	Corby Cube
6 Oct	Essence of Ireland	Royal & Derngate
7 Oct	The Twang	The Roadmender
7 Oct	Vagina Monologues	Corby Cube
7-8 Oct	I'll be back before Midnight	Brixworth Drama at Village Hall
8 Oct	The Nelson Riddle Orchestra	Royal & Derngate
8-9 Oct	Craft Fair	Lampport Hall
11 Oct	The History of Rectory Farm	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
12 Oct	The Hollies	Royal & Derngate
13 Oct	Al Murray	Royal & Derngate
14 Oct	New Model Army	The Roadmender
14 Oct	The Magic of Queen	Royal & Derngate
15 Oct	Streetdance Championships	Royal & Derngate
15 Oct	Jason Byrne	Corby Cube
16 Oct	The Drifters	Royal & Derngate
18 Oct	Lee Nelson	Royal & Derngate
19 Oct	John Barrowman	Royal & Derngate
19 Oct	Plants for free: increase your stock	Lampport Hall
20 Oct	Milestones	Brixworth History Society
20 Oct	Tellison	The Roadmender
20 Oct	Cara Dillon	Corby Cube
22 Oct	Stiff Little Fingers	The Roadmender
22 Oct	Fiddlesticks	Corby Cube
23 Oct	Arnold Festival	Royal & Derngate
24 Oct	Glen Campbell	Royal & Derngate
25 Oct	Mark Watson	Royal & Derngate
25 Oct	Tindersticks	Royal & Derngate
26 Oct	The Overtones	Royal & Derngate
27-29 Oct	Charlie & Lola	Royal & Derngate
27-28 Oct	Craft Activities	Abington Park Museum
27-Oct	La Traviata	Royal & Derngate
28-Oct	Madame Butterfly	Royal & Derngate
29 Oct-10 Dec	Art Society Annual Exhibition	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
29-Oct	Arthur Smith	Corby Cube
30-Oct	Halloween Ghost Trains	Northampton & Lampport Railway

30 Oct	David and Karen - Magic is Back	Royal & Derngate
31 Oct - 5 Nov	Calendar Girls	Royal & Derngate
1-19 Nov	The Go-Between	Royal & Derngate
2 Nov	The Day of the Dead	Royal & Derngate Underground
7-12 Nov	Blood Brothers	Royal & Derngate
11 Nov	Barb Jungr sings Bob Dylan	Corby Cube
13 Nov	Youth in Concert	Royal & Derngate
14 Nov	Micky Flanagan	Royal & Derngate
15 Nov	Merry Christmas Music Hall	Royal & Derngate
17 Nov	19th Cent. Education in Northants	Brixworth History Society
17 Nov	One Night of Elvis	Royal & Derngate
18 Nov	Paul Carrack	Royal & Derngate
19 Nov	Victoria Wood & Me - a Tribute	Brixworth Village Hall
19 Nov	Back for Good	Royal & Derngate
20 Nov	High School Rocks	Royal & Derngate
21 Nov	Lacuna Coil & Straight Line Stitch	The Roadmender
21 Nov	Vampires Rock	Royal & Derngate
22 Nov	Glenn Miller Orchestra	Royal & Derngate
23 Nov	ABBA The Show	Royal & Derngate
24 Nov	Anoushka Shankar	Royal & Derngate
25 Nov	Reginald D Hunter	Royal & Derngate
26 Nov	Stephen K Amos	Corby Cube
26 Nov	Strictly Northampton	Royal & Derngate
27-Nov	RPO: English Classics with Julian Lloyd Webber	Royal & Derngate
29-Nov	Alabama 3	The Roadmender
29 Nov - 4 Dec	One Snowy Night	Corby Cube
30 Nov - 8 Jan	Alice in Wonderland	Royal & Derngate
30 Nov - 8 Jan	Christmas with the Ratpack	Royal & Derngate
3 Dec	Draughton Village Christmas	Loder Hall, Maidwell
3 Dec	That'll be the Day	Royal & Derngate
3 Dec	Costume Store Tour	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
3-4 Dec & every Dec wk/e	Santa Special Train Service	Northampton & Lampport Railway
6 Dec - 8 Jan	Down the Rabbit Hole	Royal & Derngate Underground
7-11 Dec	Potted Panto	Corby Cube
8 Dec	Make a Christmas Door Wreath	Lampport Hall
8 Dec	Lampport Society Christmas Party	Lampport Hall
9 Dec - 8 Jan	Aladdin	Royal & Derngate

Sports Page

Football First Team tops its league

Last season brought great rewards to Brixworth All Saints Football Club: The First Team finished at the top of the Combination Premier league and came runners-up in a hard fought cup final, losing 1-0 to Welford.

The Second Team likewise had a great season by coming runners-up in the reserves Premier league and followed up with a convincing league cup final win over Gretton.

The Veterans were beaten by Moulton in the County Plate cup final, a great achievement to reach a final in their first season.

It was very rewarding to see all the hard work and preparation paying off. Many thanks to the managers, players and backroom staff for all of their efforts.

New season, new management

The club would like to welcome our new management team to their new roles. All are former players with strong connections to the village: the First Team manager is Simon Howard with David Marley and Ady Pestell in assistance, and the Second Team manager is Kris Desmond.

Celebrating the centenary

2011 will be a momentous year for Brixworth All Saints Football Club. We mark 100 years of football in the village and we will be celebrating this with various functions and activities throughout season. We have formed a Centenary Committee to organise the events. On 24 September there will be a get-together of former players young and old. A buffet, memorabilia, speeches, photographs, chin-wagging and reminiscing will be the main aspects of the day. Anybody interested should contact our club secretary Ian Bandey or Nigel Eldred.

We will be looking for a sponsor for the Centenary football kits which would display your company name, well advertised throughout the year.

Pete 'Dutchy' Holland 1961-2011

On a sad note the club has lost a dear friend from within the community. Pete



'Dutchy' Holland passed away in May following a battle with illness. Pete was a great influence for Brixworth football in his time; forming, playing and managing Brixworth Dekars, taking them from a Sunday morning friendlies team all the way to the premier league. He managed and ran the line for the All Saints and was a part of the newly formed Veterans team. Our thoughts go out to Trace and everybody lucky enough to have known him during his life. RIP Dutchy.

Come and help out

We are always looking to recruit new members to assist in duties such as match-day nets, line-marking, linesmen, fundraising and general support. If you would like to contact us for any reason, our details are:

Nigel Eldred – Chairman BASFC 07812 609095 (neldred@hotmail.co.uk); Ian Bandey-Secretary 07847 395660 (i-bandey_28@tiscali.co.uk)



No Hick-up for Lashings XI

Following on from last year's 5 wicket defeat to a Brixworth Select XI, the Lashings World XI returned to the Dallas Burstton Cricket Ground in Brixworth looking for a win.

The Lashings XI, including Brixworth coach Devon Malcolm, Zimbabwean Henry Olonga and a selection of former England, India, Pakistan, Australia and New Zealand international cricketers duly set about the task. Helped by a century from Graeme Hick, Lashings eventually won by 73 runs.

With the score now at one win apiece, the scene is now set for the next match on 20th July, 2012, when the Lashings World XI are due to return to play the decider. - Ian Topham

Brixworth Badminton Club – Open Night

We are currently looking for new members and are holding an open night on Wednesday 21st September from 7.30 – 9.30 p.m.

Come down and play for the night, at no cost, see the facilities and whether joining our friendly club would suit you.

Brixworth Badminton Club plays on Wednesday and Friday nights from 7.30 to 9.30 (term times) at modern facilities at Guilsborough School sports hall, playing on 4 courts.

Whilst the club should appeal to those social players wanting to improve, it also provides a challenge for those who aspire to play more competitively.

For more details visit our website at www.brixworthbadminton.co.uk or contact the club secretary Jonathan Tame on 01604 881179 or jonathantame@sky.com

Alternatively, just turn up after 7.30 pm on Wednesday 21st September at the sports hall at Guilsborough School with suitable footwear. - Jonathan Tame