

## Bearing a Torch for Brixworth

Monday 2 July will be an exciting day for everyone, with the Olympic Torch passing through the towns around the village – but especially so for Brixworth woman Ruth Gillett. Ruth is one of the fortunate few who were selected from over 8,000 nominees to be a Torchbearer, and will be carrying the torch for part of its way through Kettering.

“I first found out in December but we weren’t allowed to tell anyone for ages. I was so excited, not being able to tell anyone was killing me!” she says.

She adds: “I don’t know yet which part of the Kettering route I will be getting but it will be fantastic

no matter where it is. Now I’m having nightmares about anything going wrong – what if I stumble, drop the torch...”

Ruth was put forward as a torchbearer by her friend Claire Lockwood, who runs the Quercus flower business in Brixworth. “Ruth makes the most amazing difference to our community,” Claire

wrote in her submission. “She is the first to raise money for any charity, from abseiling down the Northampton Lift Tower for landmine removal charities (pictured, above) to fancy dress for Comic Relief



and everything inbetween.” [such as walking over hot coals, skydiving...] Ruth is also very active in Brixworth Primary School’s parent teacher association, where she helps to raise money for toys and equipment. If that’s not enough she’s a keen and talented sportswoman, who captains the Northampton Ladies’ Volleyball team, which has just been promoted to the First Division of the National League.

Her day job is equally hands-on and charitable: Ruth works as a carer for people with learning difficulties, particularly autism. The three currently in her care are now young men but have been with her for almost all their lives. She has also worked as a teacher for difficult children who’ve been excluded from the mainstream school system.

Ruth is not the only Brixworth resident to be directly involved with the Olympics: Mike Nice, who administers the Community Centre, is helping out with the archery competitions at Lord’s Cricket Ground. No doubt there are others – if you are one of them, email the Bulletin on [info@brixworthbulletin.com](mailto:info@brixworthbulletin.com). -cfw



### Helping the Bulletin help Brixworth

It’s not often we get a chance to do something directly for the community. So our appeal to the people of Brixworth, to help us pick a charitable cause in the village to support, was something I really hoped would strike a chord.

Somewhat concerned by the absence of a flood of letters and electronic messages, it was with some trepidation that I went to empty the newly-installed post box in the Community Centre in early April. But I need not have worried: it was positively overflowing with voting slips!

The count was a nailbiting affair, as the two nominated causes – the Brixworth Centre Pre-School, which wanted to make an outside area safe for the children, and the disabled four-year-old Connie (pictured), whose parents were hoping to fund specialist care to improve her walking skills – had both attracted a lot of support. Ultimately, the matter was decided by just half a dozen votes: Connie had won.

Connie’s mum Rebecca says: “We would just want to say a huge thankyou firstly to the voters who got behind Connie and of course to the people at the *Bulletin* for their generosity to begin with in offering the money to a worthy cause. Particularly in today’s climate we are hugely grateful for the financial support from the *Bulletin* as it secures Connie’s next session later in the year. We have just finished our third session, and once again have seen real marked improvement in Connie’s walking which is so encouraging. We look forward to seeing further progress after the session in July.”

Meanwhile, the staff at the Brixworth Centre Pre-school were equally moved by Connie’s story. Chairperson Katherine Haxby tells us: “If by some remote chance we had won the vote, we would have donated the money straight to Connie anyway, (continued overleaf)



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(continued from p 1) as it is such a deserving cause."

In light of this, the pre-school team redoubled its fundraising efforts with a bake sale and a successful application for a Parish Council grant. "A few weeks back on a cold and rainy Saturday afternoon, we assembled a group of volunteers consisting of members of our committee and their husbands, and managed to clear out the playground ourselves, cut down trees etc. We then used some of the money raised to employ a local tradesman to come and make the area safe by installing gates and blocking up cubby holes, so that the playground is now fit and ready to be used by the children.

"The only things that we are now missing are suitable child-friendly gardening tools and outside equipment such as benches, seats, pots and plants."

Surely that's something the readers of the *Bulletin* can help out with!

If anyone reading this has something they think would be suitable, please contact the *Bulletin* on 882678 or editor@brixworthbulletin.com.

*Claudia Flavell-While*

# Plans for new care home near Cricket Club



Brixworth could see the construction of a new care home for the elderly on the outskirts of the village. The proposed Continuing Care Retirement Community would be located at Victoria Barns on Northampton Road, next to the Cricket Club.

The complex would provide a range of care options, from so-called close care, which is tailored to individual needs, to 24-hour care. The proposal comprises a 60 bed nursing home, 30 close care apartments and ten close care cottages. The apartments and cottages would be built to minimize the risk of accidents such as falls.

Close care homes are a relatively new development, designed to allow people to continue living independently while providing help with personal care as required – something most people in their 80s need to some extent.

The developers, Framptons Planning, point out that as people live longer there is a growing need for care homes. Indeed it is predicted that by 2019, one in five people living in Northamptonshire will be over 65, and that in ten years' time there will be 5,000 more people in the county living to 85 and beyond than there are today.

Framptons expect to submit a formal planning application to Daventry District Council shortly, with the Council making its decision around 13 weeks later. -cfw

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# Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee



People up and down the country are preparing to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a series of parties, from informal picnics to big events with a packed schedule. Brixworth and the surrounding villages are no exception, with preparations already well underway in Brixworth, Hanging Houghton and Draughton .

In Brixworth, a small group of residents led by the Friends of All Saints Church is planning an evening of celebration centred around the village's iconic Saxon church. The Brixworth Beacon Jubilee Committee is inviting all residents of Brixworth, friends and relatives to join them in celebrating the Queen's 60 years on the throne. The family party will take place on Monday 4 June at the All Saints Churchyard and car park, from 6.45-11pm.

Do bring the kids – there will be lots of entertainment for all ages! The evening will kick off with a short Service of Thanksgiving outside the church. There will be a marquee in the churchyard with a bar and barbeque and also a selection of genuine Indian curries. For entertainment there will be Morris Dancers, a treasure hunt, lucky dips, games, competitions, face painting and bouncy castles. There will also be prizes for the winners of the Jubilee poster and hat competitions run in conjunction with Brixworth Primary School.

Round about 9pm there will be community singing of patriotic songs lead by the Jubilee Choir, and during the celebration there will be free gifts such as glowsticks, lollipops, paper hats, balloons and other goodies for all.

The evening will culminate with the lighting of the Brixworth Millennium Beacon at approximately 10.15pm, joining some 2,000 other beacons around the world in the "National Beacon of Celebration" event.

The Brixworth Beacon Jubilee Committee would like to thank the many local businesses and organisations without whose generous support the evening would not have been possible. In particular, they would like to thank the Parish Council for their grant of £600 toward the event. Hopefully the weather will be kind on 4 June and the village will rise to the occasion on this most special of days.

If this is not enough for you, then head to Hanging Houghton the following day – Tuesday 5 June - where residents are already preparing a picnic on the village green starting at 2.30 pm (or in Tom's barn if we're having yet another classic British summer).

Alternatively, if your taste is more for BBQ then join the residents of Draughton on Monday 4 June in the late afternoon. The location is the Draughton clubroom, but, as our Draughton correspondent Kate Calnan says: "It's such a small village the location hardly matters!"

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## Planners appeal over housing development

Estate agent Carter Jonas has appealed against the rejection of their plans to build 150 houses on land west of Northampton Road.

The application – the first of two similar-sized housing developments currently under consideration – was unanimously rejected by Daventry District Council in January, and faced strong opposition from within the village and from the Parish Council. Carter Jonas argues that there is demand for new housing and the development should go ahead.

A planning inspector will consider the matter at an informal hearing on 26 June. If the rejection is overturned, the building work could go ahead shortly after. *-cfw*

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# Volunteers relaunch Information Point

At Christmas 2011, the Brixworth Information Point in the Community Centre closed following the withdrawal of funding by Daventry District Council.

Rather than let the office remain unused, a group of 14 volunteers led by the Brixworth Christian Fellowship and supported by the Parish Council has taken on the challenge of running the office, which was formally re-opened on 27 April. The ribbon was cut by Mike Lacey, chairman of the Parish Council, accompanied by Phil Walter, minister of the Christian Fellowship (see below).

The Information Point will be open Tuesdays – Fridays; that is 10am – 1pm on Tuesdays, 12 noon - 1pm on Wednesdays, and 10am-4pm on Thursdays and Fridays. Information centre staff can assist in all manner of problems. Besides tourist

information and links to Council services, it will carry information on village organisations and bus timetables. It will also provide financial counselling from Bromford Support workers on Tuesdays and specialist advice on health matters from the Parish Nurses on Wednesdays.

The information centre is now equipped with wi-fi access to the internet, so you can surf the web whilst enjoying a cuppa in the Olive Branch.

Speaking at the opening, Phil Walter said: "It is important that villagers do use the new service, and encourage the volunteers in their new role."

If you are interested in joining the volunteers, please contact Mike Nice on 880086. *- Mike Nice & Ian Topham*



## Library open seven days a week

Following the consultation earlier this year, it was resolved that Brixworth Library should open seven days a week. The extended opening times have been in effect since mid-April.

Brixworth Library is now open  
Mondays to Fridays 10am to 6pm  
Saturdays 9am to 1pm  
Sundays 1pm to 4pm

Library supervisor Jill Barber says: "I'm very pleased that the proposal to close Mondays was overturned. It will now be open three hours a week longer instead of one hour a week less. Thanks to everyone who responded to the online consultation."

To free up frontline library staff to help customers, the library telephone number has now changed. To contact the library please call the County Council customer service on 0300 126 1000 and follow the options. If you want to renew or request books, make sure you have your library card ready. *-cfw*





# News from the Country Park



Andy Barton. Money for the piece came from donations to the park.

## protecting the shoreline

If you've been in the Country Park or around Pitsford Water recently, you'll have noticed the work being done on the shores of the reservoir. Carillion have been working on behalf of Anglian Water on a major shoreline protection project. This work is part of a £3 million investment at Pitsford that will help preserve the capacity of the reservoir, which despite all the rain in recent weeks is still below capacity (as the above photo shows!). It will also prevent damage to the 7.5mile Pitsford Water Trail.

## outdoor theatre

Outdoor theatre will be coming to Brixworth Country Park on Friday 22nd June,

when Heartbreak Productions will stage 'Much Ado About Nothing'. This production of Shakespeare's comedy is set in World War Two and features wartime costumes, songs and dance. The performance starts at 7.30pm. For tickets and further information visit [www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk](http://www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk).

- Chris Howe

## shop closed

There have been many changes at Brixworth Country Park in the last few months. The most obvious is the closure of the country park shop in mid-March (the country park shops at Sywell & Barnwell closed in January). Inevitably, jobs were lost too, with all the information assistants and the visitor services officer sadly being made redundant. Their contribution to the parks was invaluable and they will be missed. The shop space won't be left empty and at present the County Council is evaluating tenders for use by another business.

## office moves

The Rangers have moved office and are now located in the Mackintosh Centre. We are also planning to convert an old stock room into an information point for visitors and new entrance to the rangers' office. Staff from the Countryside Service office have also moved in to the Mackintosh Centre, from County Hall. The head of Countryside Service, pocket parks officer and administrator are now based at Brixworth. The office moves have also meant a new phone number for the park: you can contact us on 889478.

## Tony Munday

Our colleague Tony Munday, who worked on the Brampton Valley Way for many years, sadly and unexpectedly passed away in March after being diagnosed with cancer at the end of last year. He will be missed by all his Valley Way regulars and all of us in the Countryside Service.

## Fire & Rescue monument

We are currently working on a project with Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, which will see a small area of the park dedicated to a small monument that will pay tribute to all fire fighters who have served Northamptonshire. The project should be completed by May and the Fire and Rescue Service are hoping to have the monument unveiled by a member of the royal family in the autumn.

## wooden sculpture

Look out for a new sculpture of a magnificent osprey in the next few weeks. This new wooden sculpture will replace the one by the main play area and was carved from oak by local chainsaw carver,



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# Tackling the Ten Peaks for Parkinson's

There are a great many challenges people undertake to raise money for charity. From the Race for Life to a marathon, from skydiving to moonwalks. But few – if any! – of these challenges are as gruelling as the one facing Brixworth resident David I'Anson. David is taking on the Ten Peaks.

The Ten Peaks Challenge is a 24-hour ultra race to climb the ten highest peaks in the Lake District National Park. The course covers 73 km (45 miles) with over 5,600 metres of ascent, that's two thirds the height of Everest. There is no set route: every participant has to find their own way, using a map and compass or GPS.

Just getting round it is a huge achievement: In 2010, 52 people attempted it, including members of the Armed Forces, adventure racers, fell runners, triathletes, ultra distance and elite marathon runners. No one made it to the finish line.

David agrees. "My main goal is simply to complete the course!" he says. "From what I've heard just to finish is all one could ask for when undertaking the challenge."

The second goal is to raise money and awareness of Parkinson's Disease. "My uncle was diagnosed with Parkinson's in March of 2008, at the age of 52," David says.

"Now he says it is very rare that he does not feel tired, no matter how much rest he has. He has to concentrate when walking to ensure he doesn't drag his left foot. His fine motor skills have severely deteriorated which has a huge impact on everyday things like writing or typing, buttoning shirts, or even counting money to pay for things in shops. There are much larger impacts as well, such as the strict drug regime or having to reapply for a driving license every 18 months but it's the little things that seem to have the biggest impact."

He adds: "After seeing how the disease progresses and makes everyday things difficult and frustrating for the sufferer I was resolved to do as much as I could to help."

By raising awareness of the disease, David hopes to help

other people diagnose it quicker, as the symptoms can easily be attributed to ageing. Moreover, Parkinson's UK funds research into understanding the disease which it hopes will eventually lead to a cure and offers support to sufferers and their loved ones.

Such support was invaluable to David's uncle. "My uncle can live life as normally as is possible which I think highlights the importance of the work of charities like Parkinson's UK."

David has already completed a number of races for charity. The Ten Peaks idea was born after he started running with a group of people from Brixworth. "One of the members, Gordon Heron, was

already taking part – he's supports Acorn's Children's Hospice Trust [www.acorns.org.uk](http://www.acorns.org.uk) and recently completed the London Marathon for them. When Gordon asked if I'd like to join, I knew it was something I really wanted to do. It also provided the perfect opportunity to raise funds for a cause I felt strongly about."

A strict weekly training schedule helps David prepare for the challenge. Circuit training, running, gym work, core training, with general runs and rock climbing thrown in for good measure. On top of that come a number of only slightly less daunting 'extreme races', which David has added as part of the fundraising project and also to help him prepare. "The most recent one was the Wolf Run, a 10 km cross-country obstacle course, on 7 April. Coming up I have the Tough Mudder on 12 May at Boughton House Kettering, a 12 mile obstacle course designed by British Special Forces."

He adds: "I don't think it would be possible to undertake such a challenge without the support of my family and friends. From having meals prepared for me to supporting me at races, it's something I will always appreciate and remain thankful for."

The 2012 Ten Peaks Challenge takes place on 21 July. You can support David by donating to his JustGiving page on [www.justgiving.com/David-I-Anson0](http://www.justgiving.com/David-I-Anson0)

-cfw



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# Police Report

This will be last time I write for the *Bulletin* as I take early retirement in July this year.

## dramatic turnaround

I thought I would reflect on the years I have been in the village leading your local police officers and staff. I came to the area in early 2006 and was shocked to find that there was a dispersal area in force, anti-social behaviour was rife, crime was relatively high (242 crimes per annum, 38% of which was criminal damage) and by and large you needed attention. The dispersal zone was inappropriate for a village of this size - what was more important than anything was that you were policed. I recall marauding youths on the Ashway and gangs of youngsters hanging around the village centre intimidating others and damaging property.

I impressed upon my team, not quite a 'no tolerance' mindset, but not far off. Slowly we got to know who was causing the problems, who was committing the crime in their own village and we began to gain your support.

Your Parish Council supported [the creation of a police office in the village] in 2007, which proved a crucial turning point as it increased our presence in the village. Year on year your crime and anti-social behaviour reduced and this year, despite an upward crime trend for Daventry sector, crime in Brixworth parish was down another 20% in 2011 to 128, while calls regarding anti-social behaviour were down 26%.

Much has been achieved by my team and I thank them for supporting me through the years. I would like to express my thanks for the assistance of local residents too, Frank and Liz Wiig have always given their support to me and many other activities in the village. The Parish Council has been very helpful too and I thank them for their dedication to making Brixworth the village it is today.

I leave with pride in what has been achieved here; it's had its ups and downs

like any job but I have enjoyed serving your parish and I hope that whoever takes over from me will get from it as much as I have.

## PCSOs

There has been a lot of concern recently over PCSO jobs. The County and Borough councils' financial support ended this year and the force has had to deselect about 12 PCSOs. I am pleased that Jo Hillery has retained her post. Thank you for all the letters and emails of support for Jo - you have my gratitude. Jo is looking forward to building on her good work and I am sure you will all work with her in that quest.

My thanks go to David Hymas who helped Jo build the Community Panel into a meaningful process. If you want to influence what we do locally, check [www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk) for details of the next meeting.

PCSO Glyn Lewis retires too this summer. Glyn has been a PCSO on this area for almost ten years and has become something of a legend across the northern rural part of our beat. No words can explain the positive impact he has had across his community. He will be sorely missed and I wish him well in his retirement. At this time a replacement has not yet been identified for Glyn but I am assured that his post will be filled despite the reduction in overall PCSOs.

## metal theft update

In a previous Bulletin you may recall me telling you about some farm rollers stolen back last May from Spratton. Enquiries led to a scrap dealer in Warwickshire that in turn led to a Brixworth resident suspect. The male was arrested but denied the charge, however he was later charged and bailed to court. He eventually appeared before the court, was found guilty of theft and ordered to pay £550 compensation and complete 100 hours community service. It's taken time but the wheels of justice get there in the end.

## Operation Guardian

The Force has been running Operation Guardian that concentrates on robbery, dwelling burglary and vehicle crime. It's already achieved terrific reductions and many offences have been brought to justice.

Northamptonshire Police has set up another major operation which will focus on taking positive action to tackle violent offending across the county. Officers will use a variety of tactics including early intervention to prevent a situation from escalating, targeting prolific offenders of violent crime as well as potential victims, and taking an educational approach by involving schools and young people.

As part of the operation, High Impact days dedicated to reducing violence will take place across the county over upcoming months.

## 101

Not room 101, but our new non-emergency number, which is now simply 101. This is being rolled out nationally and will automatically divert you to the local force based on where you are calling from.

The emergency 999 number has not changed. Should you wish to tell us about a crime, a criminal or suspicious circumstances but wish to remain anonymous please call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111.

Thank you. - PS 923 Mike Grady



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# Introducing... Brixworth History Society

Brixworth History Society is dedicated to recording and preserving the history of Brixworth. For eight months of the year, on the third Thursday of the month, the group

holds evening meetings in the Village Hall on Holcot Road with a programme of interesting and entertaining speakers. During the summer months we always organise a long weekend

away to a European city with tours to local places of interest, as well as shorter day trips.

The society has an extensive photographic archive which is used for themed exhibitions at the Heritage Centre in Church Street and occasionally in the Library. The Heritage Centre is open from May to September on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2.30 - 5pm. Admission is free.

A second edition of the popular 'A Pictorial History of Brixworth' will be out later this year.

Members are encouraged to take part in the ongoing activities such as the Oral History project, which records and transcribes the memories of village life, or our metal-detecting group.

Photographs of Brixworth life are always welcome - please get in touch if you have any (originals will be returned!).

Upcoming events this year:

- 16 June** - Day trip to Lichfield
- 28 June** - Guided tour of Brixworth (evening)
- 12 - 16 July** - Long weekend in Amsterdam
- 20 September** - On and off the footplate
- 18 October** - St. Peter's Church, Marefair, Northampton

Annual membership is £10; non-members are welcome to attend for £3 per meeting.

To find out more, contact Heather Parr on 07817 006364 or Marian Coleman on 882219.  
-Heather Parr



## Do you know anything about this photograph?

The above photo was recently discovered by Sue Mallard and was sent to us by the Brixworth History Society. "We would love to find out more about it," says the Society's Pauline Kirton. The photo was taken outside the old Village Hall before it was rebuilt in 1928 - this wooden building was later rebuilt in Scaldwell.

"It could be that the photo has something to do with Easter as some of the ladies are holding rabbits; or it may be a harvest festival because of the trays being held."

If you can help, please contact Sue Mallard on 880267, Pauline Kirton on 880033 or davidkirton212@btinternet.com or any History Society member. - Pauline Kirton

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# Country Eye

## Of unconsidered trifles

What goes on behind closed doors is no business of mine, but I would hazard a guess that none of you go in for a spot of reingestion or refection on the quiet. It seems that whenever animal behaviourists come across a weird observation they cannot resist labelling it not once, but twice. For both these words mean the same – they refer to animals that eat their own droppings, as a matter of routine. The rabbit has this, to us, dubious distinction, but it was not until recently that we discovered it. This is because it does indeed take place behind closed doors, ie in the privacy of its own burrow.

We are all familiar with the hard fibrous round droppings produced by the rabbit. 'Currants' is what we called them when I was a child. These are the result of food having passed through the animals' digestive system for a second time. Rabbits are vegetarians, grass making up a large part of their diet. Modified sugars that we know as cellulose



bind the cell walls of plants together, and stiffen it up. This is impossible to digest by vertebrates, so almost all of them, ourselves included, enlist the help of billions of 'friendly' bacteria in the gut to do this for us.

Food passes through the rabbit quite rapidly the first time around. The resulting dropping are tiny soft pellets, excreted as I have said, in the burrow, where the rabbit immediately eats them again. The second pass through the intestines results in much more thorough digestion of the food, and the 'currants' are the result. Not quite a second bite of the cherry, but I hope you get my drift!

Cows, sheep, and deer tackle the problem in a slightly different way; they chew the cud. The stomach, called the rumen is separated into chambers. Food enters the first chamber and is partly digested. It is then regurgitated

into the mouth, given a good old second chomping, and back into the second chamber for further digestion. And so on. This system still needs the help of bacteria.

Animal droppings are a valuable resource, and there are vast numbers of small creatures, plants, and fungi that depend entirely on them. They include the shiny armoured dor beetles of many species. One kind specialises in sheep droppings, another in those of the rabbit, while a third makes tunnels beneath fresh cowpats and stocks them with dung for its grubs to eat. These beetles fly from one source of food to another at night, and an old folklore name for them was the lousy watchman. This is because they often carry a cargo of dozens of tiny pale brown mites in the crevices of their undersides, and between their legs. Science blesses these relatives of the spiders with the name phoretic mites. Experts argue as to whether these

are merely hitchhikers, or whether they have become parasites, piercing the soft skin between the hard armour to suck body fluids.

Dung flies, khaki-coloured hairy relatives of the housefly, which may be seen swarming above cowpats in the summer, also depend on it as their food source. There is an old country belief that cowslips (pictured, above), sadly now far from common in our fields due to modern industrial farming methods, always grew best where the ground had been manured by cow dung. In fact these flowers were originally called cowslips!

Of course we humans have long recognised the value of animal dung. In the days when nothing was ever wasted I remember an aunt who lived in a little old two rooms up and two down cottage at Pitsford. The internal walls were of wattle-and-daub. To make this a lattice of woven twigs, like a sheep hurdle,



Above: Dung beetle on a cowpat

was daubed with successive layers of mud mixed with cow dung, straw and cow hair. When it had dried hard it made an effective lightweight room divider. Dung was also incorporated into the cob walling which was once common in the north west of our county. I am sure many examples still survive in our older buildings.

The wheel has come full circle; today we are looking at ways of using dung as biofuels, notably by fermenting it in digesters to generate methane (i.e. natural) gas.

- Brian Webster



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# Hitting the ground running

After several changes of ownership, things are looking up for **The George**. Jennifer Fitzgerald speaks with the new landlords

Dating from the 14th Century, The George pub is one of the best known landmarks in Brixworth. Its current owners, Gary Graham and Wendy Alderman, are recent newcomers. Jennifer Fitzgerald called in to see how they have been settling in and what changes they have been bringing to this historic focal point of our community.

## How long have you been running The George?

We took over the pub one year ago, on 3 January 2011. Gary had decided he wanted a change in his work - he had been travelling round the world for twenty years as a repair engineer for heavy engineering plants. Wendy had been working as a Tesco store manager. So, it has been a big change in our life, but we think we have now adapted.

## What is your relationship to Brixworth?

We come from Warwickshire and at first were looking for a pub there to take over. However, we fell in love with The George as soon as we saw it - the building, the lovely village and the surrounding countryside. We have been surprised how everyone has made us feel so welcome.

## What changes have you seen?

As we have built our reputation, the pub has become a lot busier. We had a very good Christmas which has led to increased business since then. We serve home-made food and the pub has become very family oriented.



We've introduced some signature dishes such as our own special sausages which Chambers the butchers make using our own recipe and real ale. We also have a George Burger now!

We also put on a lot of entertainment. We have a live band once a month, and we make sure we vary the type of music each time. On St George's Day we had folk music and Morris Dancers. For the Jubilee we're having a reggae band and there will be a "tug of war" in the field next door in aid of "Help for Heroes". Other events have included a makeover night and a night with a clairvoyant.

There's also a darts team now which plays on Tuesday nights.

## Who is involved in the business?

Apart from ourselves, there is Matt our bar manager, who comes from Rugby. Annette, who comes from Brixworth, helps Wendy in the kitchen. Our bar staff are all local young people and we like to think we are one big family.

## What type of customers do you have?

On Friday and Saturday nights we have a regular drinking client base, of all ages ranging from late 30s to 60s, and we have made many good friends among them. A lot of local groups now come to meet at The George, including the football coaches for the Under Eights, the Photographic Society, the Drama Group, the Bellringers and the Cricket Club.

## Describe your typical day

After getting Wendy's son Cameron ready for school, in the morning there is paperwork and the books to be done. There is also cleaning, ordering and preparation in the kitchen before we open for lunch at midday. After lunch, we have to re-lay the tables, do our emails and arrange the buffets for opening at five thirty. We are open all day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from midday. We close on Monday for a break and to catch up on paperwork.

## Any seasonal variations?

The business has been pretty consistent with no real slump at any time, although it tends to be a bit quieter during the school holidays.





## What is the funniest thing that has happened to you?

We can't think of anything in particular. Sometimes we have spontaneous sing-alongs with our customers at the bar!

There have been a lot of outstanding memories. We are surprised that we have been able to turn around the business more quickly than we expected, and by how well we have been accepted by people here.

## What is the strangest thing that has happened to you?

The George, along with the Red Lion, is reputed to be haunted. Wendy and Cameron have experienced some things which have really scared them. Sometimes Wendy can feel somebody standing by her side in the kitchen. She was once checking the kitchen door was locked when she saw a big black shadow there. Cameron has seen somebody standing at the end of the upstairs corridor at night.

## What are your top three challenges?

We want to increase the range of food we serve, so we can also attract customers from outside Brixworth. We are focusing more on children's food and can also cater for vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free customers. We want to grow the music and entertainment, and to introduce more guest ales. Information on our guest ales, and our specials, is posted on our website.

## Local musicians wanted!

Do you live in or near Brixworth? Are you a budding musician?

The organisers of Brixfest, a musical festival coming to Lake House in the heart of the village in July, would like to offer local performers a chance to participate at the festival.

"We would love to offer a platform to local artists," says the festival's host, Rosemary Tuckley.

So far the line up of rock, blues and acoustic musicians includes one local artist, the young singer, guitarist and composer Charlie Howitt. However the organisers would like to extend the invitation to other local talent, who'll be able to perform in the picturesque surroundings of the lake at the centre of Brixworth Hall Park, the village's best-kept secret.

Brixfest will be taking place on 28 July, from 11am to 11pm. Tickets will cost £10 in advance or £12.50 on the day. For further information contact Rosemary Tuckley on 880280 or [rosemarytuckley@talktalk.net](mailto:rosemarytuckley@talktalk.net).

## What's on at the Library

- Art Exhibition by John Sutton throughout May
- CD & DVD Sale 1-3 June
- K'Nex afternoon 27 May & 29 July
- Diamond Jubilee Children's Craft Activities 6 June 10.30am – 11.30am
- Summer Reading Challenge starts 14 July For 4- 12 year olds throughout the Summer Holidays. There will be a full programme of activities available nearer the time, including a Circus Skills workshop on Thursday 26th July – details to follow.
- Pitsford Ironstone Quarry Exhibition 28 July –19 August
- Open Studios Art Exhibition with Belinda Collett and others - late August and throughout September.
- Rhymetimes for the Under 5s Fridays, 9.45am
- Scrapbooking & Crafts Club for adults & teenagers 10 am – 12 noon, one Saturday a month upstairs
- Most Sundays there will be some activity for families to take part in, so do come in to find out what's happening each week.

All libraries will be closed on 4 and 5 June (Spring Bank Holiday and Diamond Jubilee Day), but open Sunday 3 June from 1 – 4pm as usual.





## What message do you have for your customers?

Thank you for your support over the past 12 months – we have had so much help and encouragement. Now we have got our feet under the table, - watch this space!

# the george



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- + Regular Real Ales

The George, Northampton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BU  
01604 881439 [mail@thegeorgeatbrixworth.co.uk](mailto:mail@thegeorgeatbrixworth.co.uk)  
[www.thegeorgeatbrixworth.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgeatbrixworth.co.uk)



# Over Fifties Open Day

Daventry District Council held an Over Fifties Open Afternoon on 26 March at the Brixworth Community Centre to raise awareness of the facilities available in the community to those of 50 years of age and over.

Amongst the local support groups associated with the venture, were those who aim to support the elderly and vulnerable within the community with practical advice and care, health management and advice for healthy living and eating.

The Parish nurses (*above, left*) were on hand to give advice on how to stay healthy. There was also a course in chairbics (*above, right*), followed - of course! - by welcome refreshments (*left*). Thank you all for attending and supporting the event! - Ian Topham



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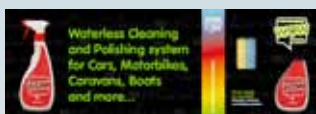
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## Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group

We are a group of patients from Brixworth and Guilsborough Surgeries, working with the Practice, to give patients a stronger voice in how the Practice is run.

Upcoming events this summer:

- Carers Coffee Morning on Friday 22 June, 10am-12noon, at Guilsborough Surgery. There will be tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. Northamptonshire Carers will be present to offer information and advice for those who care for others.
- SSPPG AGM on Tuesday 3 July from 6pm at Guilsborough Surgery. You are welcome to join us.
- Complementary Therapy Day with taster sessions for a range of therapies.

Watch out for details of further events this Summer on our information boards in Brixworth and Guilsborough surgeries.

To find out more about our group, contact SSPPG secretary Barbara Hogg on 880552 or email [barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk)



# On yer bike!

How many bikes does your family own? According to Jeff Webb of Pitsford Cycles at Brixworth Country Park, it is likely you'll now have more bikes than people in your household.

This is because biking has been going through a great resurgence in recent years. In particular, there has been a "vertical explosion" in road bikes, he says, following Lance Armstrong's sustained success in the Tour de France. Bikes offer a combined package of benefits – an enjoyable leisure activity, an opportunity to socialise with other cyclists, and exercise for keeping fit.

There are about a dozen different types of bikes nowadays – racing bikes, mountain bikes, hybrids (road bikes with some facilities for offroading) and downhill bikes. (Many Alpine and Scottish ski resorts now offer downhill bike tracks off season). The "Aston Martins" of bikes are made from carbon fibre, which offers frames that last a lifetime - they don't rust, are very light and absorb vibration.

You probably already knew there were bikes for hire at Brixworth Country Park. You may also have seen the gleaming rows of new bikes for sale outside the Warden's office. However, Jeff offers far more than these. His team specialises in building customised bikes for individual requirements. They also undertake a great many repairs.

Jeff opened Pitsford Cycles in 1998 when Anglian Water took over the Country Park

and the Visitor Centre opened. At first he offered just cycle hire but gradually increased his stock so that his shop is now a vast cavern of bike accessories offering everything from special energy-boosting drinks and snacks to trendy biking fashionwear.

His four full-time staff are all qualified specialists who are mad keen on the sport. A couple of them compete at national level and one is aiming for the 2016 Olympics. They are supported by four to eight part-timers, depending on the season, who are usually Brixworth young people.

Northamptonshire County Council has responded to the growing popularity of cycling by starting the Norbitel cycle ring road, which joins Brackmills with Moulton Park and will eventually link up to the Brampton Valley Way. It may take another ten years, however, before the scheme completes a cycle route right round Northampton.

Many family businesses have folded as

bike retailing has moved from small shops to big chains. By contrast, Jeff's business is booming and he is now looking for ways to expand.

For a map of cycle routes in the area visit [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/walking/Pages/CycleLeafletsGuides.aspx](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/walking/Pages/CycleLeafletsGuides.aspx) - jf



## Cash grants help education

The Foundation of Thomas Roe is a local charity with funds available to persons aged less than 25 years and resident within the parishes of Brixworth and Scaldwell.

Cash grants are available to any qualifying person for use for educational purposes. Grants have previously been made to assist in the purchase of school uniform, books and course materials musical instruments computer equipment and would be available towards the costs of travelling expenses linked to an educational venture including school trips.

The trustees meet twice a year to consider applications, currently in September and in March.

Anyone wishing to apply can pick up an application form from the Library in Brixworth. Alternatively an application form and any further details about the charity can be obtained from the clerk to the trustees Ursula Morris on 505554 and [ursula@ursulamorris.co.uk](mailto:ursula@ursulamorris.co.uk).



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## Father's Day

**Sunday 17th June**

Treat "Dad" to a 2 course meal for just £9.95 or 3 course meal for £12.50

### Free golf for Dads

on our championship short course. Children pay just £3.50 and "Dad" plays for free.

Valid from 1pm 17.6.12  
 Full T&C's on website

### Upcoming events include:

Night Golf - June. Date TBC  
 Lee Westwood Golf Academy – July 25th-27th  
 Equine Exhibition - Sep. Date TBC

# Brixworth Parish Council Newsletter

15th Edition  
Summer 2012



## Annual Council Meeting

At the Annual General Council meeting held on 15 May 2012 Cllr Michael Lacey was elected again as Chairman of the Council.

The following Parish Councillors were elected as the Chairmen for the council committees as follows: -

Planning	Cllr David Parnaby
Recreation	Cllr Steve Pointer
Highways & Environment	Cllr Colin Bament
Finance	Cllr Richard Monk

## Parish Council Election 3 May 2012

The following Parish Councillors were elected, unopposed, at the election held in May: -

- Colin Bament
- Ian Barratt
- Bob Chattaway
- Michael Lacey
- Richard Monk
- Sandra Moxon
- Kevin Parker
- David Parnaby
- Steve Pointer
- Elizabeth Wiig
- Frank Wiig

The council particularly welcomes Sandra Moxon as a new councillor and is pleased to see the return of Bob Chattaway.

The council currently has three vacancies for parish councillors. If you care about the community, feel that you would make a difference and would like to join this new council please contact the Clerk to the Council.

## Localism in Action — Brixworth Information Point

On Friday 27 April 2012 the Chairman Cllr Michael Lacey and Rev Phil Walters opened the new Brixworth Information Point, which is located in the former DDC office in the Library/Community Centre. The Parish Council will be working in partnership with the Brixworth Christian Fellowship, who will manage the day to day running of the office, alongside the community centre.



## Opening Times

Tuesday	10—1 pm Bromford Support (Advice on housing and finance everyone welcome)
Wednesday	12-1 pm Parish Nurse (Drop in—any health concerns)
Thursday	10-4 pm Info. Point Volunteers
Friday	10-4 pm Info. Point Volunteers
Saturday	10-12 pm Parish Cllr Surgery (First Saturday of the month).

Some information available during opening times: -

- Guide to NCC, DDC and Parish Council services
- Local places of interest, cinema, theatre
- Local transport (bus time tables, DACT)
- Village maps, events, clubs and organisations
- Support for the elderly

Information Point Tel. No. 01604 882622

Email [brixworthinformationpoint@btconnect.com](mailto:brixworthinformationpoint@btconnect.com)

For more information or to contact your Parish Councillors go to our website at [www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk) or contact the Clerk to the Council Mrs Jane Macken on 881243 or email [clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk)



### In April 2012 the Parish Council provided grants to the following voluntary village groups

Brixworth All Saints Football Club	£200- running of the Club
Brixworth Beacon Jubilee Committee	£600- Jubilee Celebrations 4 June 2012
Brixworth Centre Pre-School	£635- equipment for the lower play ground
Brixworth First Response Group	£1,000- purchase of training defibrillator
Brixworth Junior Football Club	£700- cost of using the sports pitches
Brixworth Neighbourhood Watch	£150- purchase of signs
Brixworth Residents Against New Estates	£200- signs and leaflets
Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group	£460- purchase of P.A. system
Brixworth Village Hall	£2,000- purchase of tables, redecoration
Brixworth Youth Foundation	£2,500- rental of the building, new boiler

The Council has a small amount of money left for additional grants this year and will be considering applications again in November. Application forms are available from the council's website or contact the Clerk. The closing date is 31 October 2012.

### St David's Recreation Ground Regeneration

The St David's working group has been looking at ways to improve the car park as well as the tennis courts and play area. One suggestion is to have a one way system in through St David's Close and out Froxhill Crescent.

Proposals for new play equipment and ideas for the tennis court area have been on display in the Library/Community Centre foyer during May. Thank you to everyone who has completed a feedback form. These proposals will also be on display at the school fete on Saturday 23 June, so please do come along and have your say.

### New Parish Council website

The council is having a new website, same address [www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk). Please take time to have a browse. It will include :-

- Dates of meetings
- Minutes of Council and Committee meetings
- Council contacts details
- Council's responsibilities

This site will be developed to include links to other village websites. Please let us know what your views are, what should we include?

**Don't forget the council is on facebook. To receive updates on meetings and occasional village news search for 'Brixworth Parish Council' and 'like' us .**



### Dates of meetings

### June – August

Parish Cllr Surgery	Saturday, 2 June
Planning	Monday 11 June
Highways & Environment	Tuesday 12 June
Full Council	Tuesday 19 June
Planning	Monday 2 July
Parish Cllr Surgery	Saturday, 7 July
Full Council	Tuesday 17 July
Planning	Monday 23 July
Recreation & Amenity	Tuesday 24 July
Parish Cllr Surgery	Saturday, 4 August
Highways & Environment	Tuesday 7 August
Planning	Monday 13 August
Full Council	Tuesday 21 August

Agendas will be displayed on the notice boards and on the website at least four days before the meeting, please check for any changes to meetings. All meetings are held in the Community Centre, Spratton Road and start at 7.30pm except the Full Council which starts at 7.15pm.

Cllr Surgeries are from 10.00—12.00pm

**For more information or to contact your Parish Councillors go to our website at [www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk) or contact the Clerk to the Council Mrs Jane Macken on 881243 or email [clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk)**



## Parish Council Annual Report



### Chairman's Overview —Cllr Michael Lacey

As we rapidly approach the end of a four year term as a Parish Council it seems appropriate that I should express my thanks to those who serve now and those who have served during our four year term. The effort each has given in service to our community is seldom appreciated. None are paid and several even pay their own expense and so it is only right that I say a sincere; thank you.

Looking back across this last year, we have done most of the things that are, traditionally, expected of us. We have given financial grants to various organisations within our community, in order to assist them. We have acted as a consultee for Daventry District Council in planning matters that are brought before us and have done our best to meet legislative expectations, especially where large developments have come forward. To that end, we declined to support the Carter Jonas application as we could find nothing in relevant local legislation to justify it. In other cases decisions were not always as clear cut, but we have done our best to meet the obligations of legislation, while maintaining an active concern for the community.

When we came to set our budget for the coming year, we made a point of living within our means and did not ask for any increase that would have affected taxes; in fact, if you look at your Council Tax Bill you will find that we actually ask less per household than we asked last year.

We also reviewed how we communicate as a Parish Council and started to look into Public Relations resulting in potential changes to how we use our website and our creating a Brixworth Facebook page.

Lastly, learning that the position of the PCSO in our village is under threat due to Northampton County Council budget cuts we have voiced our support for the position and the Officer involved, in the hope that Brixworth might avoid the brunt of the change.

A new Parish Council will be elected on May 3rd. I very much hope you will be able to support their efforts on your behalf for the next 4 years.

### Planning Committee Report – by Cllr David Parnaby Chairman

Following the surveys which took place last year on land to the south of the village, an application for the construction of an estate of 150 houses was submitted by Carter Jonas on behalf of the Society of Merchant Venturers. This application, for an estate outside the village confines created grave concern throughout the village and, following a campaign by residents and rejection by the Parish Council, was finally refused by Daventry District Council on 11 January 2012.

An application for the building of 14 houses on the former Ilmor carpark, a brownfield site to the north of Eaglehurst was approved, subject to certain reservations, at a full Council meeting on 23 August 2011.

The Committee meets at three-weekly intervals on Mondays at 7.30 pm in the Library/Community Centre. Applicants are invited to attend. Members of the public are also most welcome.

### Recreation and Amenities Committee Report—by Cllr Steve Pointer

The Parish Council is looking at regenerating the play area and tennis courts on St David's Recreation Ground. A working group has been set up, which includes members of the council, local residents and members of the football clubs. The group have also been looking at ways to improve the access to the car park. A consultation on ideas for new play equipment is to be held from Saturday, 21 April 2012. Residents are invited to come along to the Library / Community Centre foyer to view the ideas and make suggestions. Anyone interested in joining the group to help improve this area and seek funding please contact the Clerk to the Council, Jane Macken .







## Parish Council Annual Report



### Finance Committee Report—by Cllr Richard Monk

This has been yet another difficult year for many Brixworth resident's with inflation, increasing unemployment and concerns about whether services provided by local authorities will continue. Against this background our success in maintaining our services and delivering value for money is due to the commitment of your Parish Council's hard working staff and Councillors. Yet again we received another unqualified audit of our accounts - a tribute to the professionalism and hard work of our Clerk.

As a result, yet again, the Parish Council has maintained its services to Brixworth, effectively managed its finances and, therefore, been able to not increase the Parish precept.

### Summary of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2012

#### **Income**

Precept	97,710
Sports clubs	4,084
Community Centre	1,979
Other	323
	<b>104,096</b>

#### **Expenditure**

Staff & admin.	58,029
Community Grants	13,950
Highways	4,674
Recreation	15,375
	<b>92,028</b>

**Surplus 12,068**

Balance as at 31 March 2011	128,869
Plus surplus	12,068
Balance as at 31 March 2012	140,937

During the year the Parish Council provided grants to the following local organisations: -

Brixworth All Saints FC	200
Brixworth Junior FC	1,100
Brixworth Cricket Club	1,250
Brixworth Youth Club	4,500
Brixworth U3A	800
BRANE	300
DACT	1,000
Brixworth Police	4,800

As important as the control of the Council's financial affairs is our control of health and safety. As both employer and provider of facilities, there have been no reportable accidents during the year.

Your views are important, whether coming to Parish Council meetings, speaking to your Councillors, completing surveys or coming to the monthly Parish Councillor surgeries in the Library and Community Centre. Please let us have your views so that we can ensure that you are effectively represented.

### Highways & Environment Committee - by Cllr Colin Bament

Over the last year the A508 by pass crossing has been finished and the warning lights are now operational. The school entrance along the rear of the new Highfield development is now opened, this saves people who use the pedestrian crossing, from entering the school via Froxhill Crescent. During the next Financial year MGWPS will be carrying out road surfacing work in Church Street, High Street and Creaton Road.

The hedges and footpaths on the David Wilson estate are being prepared for the handover to the Northamptonshire County Council.

### **Brixworth Parish Council Contact Details**

#### **Parish Councillors**

Mike Lacey (Chairman)	mlacey@brixworthpc.org.uk
Ian Barratt	ibarratt@brixworthpc.org.uk
Colin Bament	cbament@brixworthpc.org.uk
Steve Pointer	spointer@brixworthpc.org.uk
Elaine Nunn	enunn@brixworthpc.org.uk
Kevin Parker	kparker@brixworthpc.org.uk

#### **Email Address**

#### **Parish Councillors**

Liz Wiig	ewiig@daventrydc.gov.uk
David Parnaby	dparnaby@brixworthpc.org.uk
Richard Monk	rmonk@brixworthpc.org.uk
Mervyn Ward	mward@brixworthpc.org.uk
Frank Wiig	fwiig@daventrydc.gov.uk
Richard Vizor	rvizor@brixworthpc.org.uk

#### **Email Address**

Clerk to the Council, Jane Macken Email. clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk or Tel. No. 01604 881243



# BRIXWORTH MATTERS

[www.bcfchurch.co.uk](http://www.bcfchurch.co.uk)

## Olympics

You will notice on these pages that we as a church are organising a series of events in the two weeks leading up to the Olympic Games. With some help from a church in Mississippi, who we have linked with, we are planning events for the Community which we hope you will feel able to share in.

Apparently, "google" reckon that they get around half a million weekly searches for "the meaning of life". A question asked by many, who in these days of uncertainty, where nothing seems to be rock solid, seek to know if life is really meant to be like this? During these two weeks there will be opportunity to ask, to debate, to question and to simply enjoy great times of fun, laughter and entertainment.

Why not take a look at the plans outlined and then join us on the journey to the Olympics. It will be good fun along the way.

May God bless you all

Phil Walter (Revd)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil", with a horizontal line underneath.

Contact: Phil on 882040

## Easter Walk

On Good Friday around 70 people shared a short Service in front of the Community Centre including a very well performed drama of the Easter Story. Following this we walked around part of the village following a cross, as we remembered together the death of Jesus Christ the Son of God. We ended up at the Olive Branch where we ate Hot Cross Buns – a good time was had by all!



## Brixworth Information Point

We just want to say as a church thank you to the Parish Council for their support and help in this joint venture to open the ex Daventry Office as an Information Point (see separate article for details). We hope this will serve the Community well.





# Journey to the Olympics

## For Families

### Saturday 21st July - American Fun Day/Cycle Ride

We have booked a field near the reservoir to have games, bouncy castle, bbq and lots of fun for the whole family. If you fancy riding round the reservoir before you get there we will join you!

### Sunday 22nd July - Outdoors Songs of Praise

Outside the Library & Community Centre – join with us, the Salvation Army band, a Gospel Choir and we hope some of the Drama Group as we have our own version of Songs of Praise. From 4 p.m. – ample seating available.

### Saturday 28th July - Barn Dance for the whole family

In a barn near the reservoir with food, live music and a chance to have a great time! Tickets will be £6 each to cover costs and will include a ploughman's lunch.

## For Couples

### Thursday 19th July - Answers to difficult Questions

At The George in Brixworth – enjoy a drink as we seek to answer some of those difficult questions about God.

### Friday 20th July - A Celebration of Love!

A three course meal in the Library & Community Centre hall with live music, great food, in a relaxing atmosphere. Hear some thoughts on true love!

### Tuesday 24th July - Quiz Night

In the Library & Community Centre teams of around four compete for an amazing trophy!

## For the Women

### Wednesday 25th July - Pamper evening

Come along and spend an evening being pampered at the Library & Community Centre.

## For the Men

### Sunday 15th July - Mens Breakfast

8.30 a.m. in the Olive Branch (Brixworth Breakfast on the house!) which will include a short talk.

### Saturday 28th July - Men's Golf Day

At Delapre – whatever your skill or handicap all are welcome.

## For Children

### 24th - 26th July - Holiday Childrens Club

For KS1 & KS2 – three mornings of fun packed activity for children. From 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. on each of those three days. Book your children in early!

### Thursday 26th July - Celebration BBQ

For children and their parents who attended the Children's Club from around 4 p.m.

To book any of the above, call in at the Information Point or The Olive Branch or call Phil on 882040



### 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

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

Well that's a bit about us.

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

[www.bcfchurch.co.uk](http://www.bcfchurch.co.uk)



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Vicar: A new appointment awaited

Churchwardens: Mrs S. Woodhead, 8 Brackenborough 01604 880158

Mr M. Lewis, 8 Beech Close 01604 881836

## CALENDAR June, July, Aug. & Sept. 2012 Services & Principal Events

JUNE	2	Saturday Friends' Day	<i>Friends of All Saints AGM – 11.00 a.m.; Service of Thanksgiving led by the Bishop of Brixworth – 12 noon; Tour of the Church led by Dr Diane Sutherland – 12.30 a.m.</i>	
	3	Sunday	Trinity Sunday	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.
	3 & 4	Sun. & Mon.	<b>Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend</b> – Art Exhibition in the Heritage Centre 11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.	
	4	Monday	6.45-11.00 p.m. – celebrations in the churchyard and car park to include children's competition, raffle*, Morris dancing, face painting, community singing & licensed bar culminating in the lighting of the beacon at 10.00 p.m.	
	10	Sunday	Feast of Corpus Christi	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.
	17	Sunday	Trinity II	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.
	24	Thursday	Trinity III	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.
JULY	1	Sunday	Feast of St Peter & St Paul	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.
	8	Sunday	Trinity V	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.
	15	Sunday	Trinity VI	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.
	22	Sunday	Trinity VII	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m..
	29	Sunday	Trinity VIII	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.
AUGUST	5	Sunday	Trinity IX Feast of the Transfiguration	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	12	Sunday	Trinity X Assumption of the Blessed Virgin	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	19	Sunday	Trinity XI	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	26	Sunday	Trinity XII	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
SEP	2	Sunday	Trinity XIII	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.
	9	Sunday	Trinity XIV	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 6.00 p.m.

\*To purchase raffle tickets in advance of the evening contact Michael Lewis, churchwarden, on 881836. Prizes include a balloon flight across the county, a trial microlight lesson and match hospitality at Northampton Town FC. Tickets cost 50p each.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BURIAL	9 March	Gwendoline Hiskey	21 Pytchley Way, Brixworth
	12 April	Stanley Frank William Eldred	Pytchley Court Nursing Home, Brixworth
	12 April	Ronald Edward Horn	Finedon, formerly of Brixworth

### How Near Are We in Appointing a New Vicar?

There isn't a great deal to report in terms of what has happened to date with regard the appointment of a new incumbent. It is still early days and there are a number of hoops that need to be gone through before the position is advertised.

Nevertheless, that is not to say that nothing has happened. The parochial church council and churchwardens have met with the Rural Dean and the Archdeacon of Northampton to discuss the procedures of a new appointment and how the parish is to be managed during the course of the interregnum. In essence, the churchwardens with the Rural Dean become the official sequestrators of the parish, and church life carries as normal with visiting clergy covering the main Sunday Eucharist, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Details of the main Sunday services are outlined in the Calendar. The only significant change is that baptisms will for the time being be held in the main Sunday service and not in a special baptism service as they have been under Father Watkins. Those wishing to discuss arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals should contact the churchwardens in the first instance.

The most crucial aspect of the new appointment procedure, is the compilation of a parish profile. This document will be used to inform prospective incumbents about the village: its social make-up, organisations and the relationship of the church within the community. Importantly, the parish profile will also outline the vision of where we see the church in the future. It will take a little while for the PCC to agree on the parish profile, but when it does the position will be advertised.

### Appeal for an Organist

After providing sterling service in his retirement for almost 8 years, our regular organist Ron Gates has decided to call time on his playing on a Sunday. Ron, who lives in Northampton, has decided to assist in a church nearer to home. This does mean that we do need an organist on Sunday mornings. A regular commitment, although ideal, is not essential. During the interregnum, the organist would simply need to accompany hymn singing and play a selection of short pieces during the eucharist – nothing elaborate would be needed. The post would suit both an experienced organist or equally a pianist wishing to gain some experience on the organ. There is a remuneration fee per service. For further information contact the churchwardens.



# Reverend Watkins retires

After 30 years as Vicar of All Saints' Church Brixworth and as Rector of St. Mary and All Saints' Church Holcot, the Reverend Anthony Watkins has retired. To mark the occasion, and following a service of Solemn Evensong and Benediction, a farewell party was held on 19th February at Brixworth Centre attended by many, many parishioners and old friends. He was presented with several gifts, tokens and cards. Father Anthony takes with him our very best wishes for a happy retirement at his new home in South London.

At the time of going to press, it is not known who will fill the vacancy created by Reverend Watkins' retirement. We're expecting an interregnum of several months before a new incumbent is appointed. Sunday Services will continue to be conducted by visiting clergy for the time being.

Those who have a need to arrange a wedding, funeral or baptism, should, in the first instance contact either of the two church wardens, Sheila Woodhead on 880158 or Mike Lewis on 881836. – Paddy Fox



## Dear People of Brixworth,

A few months have passed since my official "farewell" took place in February and my subsequent retirement began but I am anxious to let it be known in the village how much I appreciated not only the generous gifts (including, of course, the handsome cheque) but also the warmth of the tributes and the reception given to me both verbally and in the form of cards and letters. It is my intention to respond to all these written messages but I know that will take some time.

Many years ago when I was about 17 and still in school, I remember attending the "farewell" of my local rector, the Rev H. S. Richards, who had baptized me, prepared me for Confirmation and in many ways been a role model for the priesthood to which I secretly aspired as time went on. I was brought up in a village called Llanfoist, just outside Abergavenny in Monmouthshire. In thanking the parishioners for their farewell gifts to him the rector related the tale of a previous incumbent in a neighbouring village, who had become so unpopular that hardly anyone went to his church. So relieved were his parishioners to hear he was going (incumbents in the C. of E, weren't obliged to retire in those days and could stay

on until they died) that they gave him a really generous leaving present. But he decided he had better remain in the parish, thinking himself more appreciated than he had thought!

Perhaps the reason why the rector told that particular tale was due to his feeling that he was tolerated rather than loved or even appreciated in his parish over the 29 years as incumbent and was therefore quite surprised by the warm reception he was given when he retired. Similarly, I have believed myself to have been tolerated more than liked and certainly never tried to cultivate popularity during my time in Brixworth. I know that I have upset people at times and had disagreements but regarded all that as inevitable in trying to do my job. Indeed a former churchwarden at Holcot (my other parish) warned me when I arrived in September 1981 that I was never going to please everybody and so might as well please one person at least, namely myself! However, I hope that pleasing myself hasn't been seen as my guiding principle in my ministry while not allowing myself to be swayed by others simply in order to please or avoid disagreement.

Despite a few painful experiences in earlier days through my lack of experience, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed being Vicar of Brixworth with its variety of opportunities and I can look upon many blessings and enrichments through my dealings with the people whether churchgoers or not. My regrets are to do with missed opportunities and all that I have failed to do for individuals and the parish as a whole.

I find that I am missing the countryside of Brixworth and the surrounding area as well as its unique parish church, but Bromley has its compensations with lots of shops near at hand as well as frequent buses and trains and the seclusion of the college and its grounds.

Please remember me in your prayers as I try to adjust (not altogether willingly) to retirement, as I continue to keep you in my own prayers.

All blessings,  
yours sincerely  
A.J. Watkins

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# WESTMINSTER REPORT



So, pending an appeal, the infamous "Cleric" Abu Hamza recently lost his case at the European Court of Human Rights against him being extradited to the USA to face terrorism charges.

Good! I hated the fact that British taxpayers were paying huge sums of money to keep someone in the country who, quite obviously, didn't like the country he was living in, even though it had looked after him so well.

But what exactly is this European Court of Human Rights and why does it seem to have so much power over how we go about our everyday lives here in the UK?

This Court (the ECHR) was created by the European Convention for the Protection Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms way back in post-war 1950 and is based in Strasbourg, France.

The Convention itself recognised that "Human Rights" are not absolute. Exactly what they mean in practise often involves the balancing of an individual's rights against the rights of others and the need to uphold a civilised and well-functioning society. Thus no document can set out exactly what these rights mean in every circumstance and thus the application of "Human Rights" actually confers great powers and discretion to the judiciary.

Even though the Court was set up all this time ago, it was only in 1998 that an amendment to the original Convention was passed that it became a requirement for all countries that had signed up to the ECHR to accept the Court's power to make binding judgments. At the same time, the last Labour Government introduced the Human Rights to apply the legislation in the UK.

From 1966 when the UK first subscribed voluntarily to the Court's pronouncements until the end of 2010, the UK faced over 350 rulings from the ECHR and about 75% of these ruled against the UK. Many

of the latter judgments have been high profile cases which caused great concern across British society.

Indeed, the Court's recent rulings seem often fly in the face of the common understanding of what "Human Rights" are and mean.

Since 1998 we have effectively sub-contracted the definition of our "Human Rights" to a number of foreign Judges. Their interpretation of rights has led to our ongoing troubles in trying to extradite individuals like Abu Qatada and Abu Hamza. Whilst these cases have annoyed a large number of people, probably the judgment that has caused the most controversy and public debate is the Courts' demand for the UK to give convicted prisoners the vote.

So, how do you solve the problem of this Court making bizarre judgments that can both upset the law-abiding majority and be in conflict with protecting our nation's security?

I believe the time has come for us to repeal the Human Rights Act (1998) and replace it with a new UK Bill of Rights. This would allow British Judges to interpret "Human Rights" as before, but if the Judges believed that legislation approved by Parliament violated these rights, they would refer it back to Parliament for alteration. Thus Parliament could check whether a legislative change was needed to respect "Human Rights" or determine that the Judges verdict had gone beyond those rights.

In short, this reform would reinstate Parliamentary democracy in this field and then, hopefully start the process of restoring public confidence in "Human Rights" and the sooner we reconnect "Human Rights" with the British people, the better.

*Chris*

Snail-mail: The House of Commons  
Westminster, London. SW1A 0AA.  
e-mail: Chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk  
Twitter: @chhcalling  
www.makinghumanrightswork.org.uk  
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# Photographic Society Update

Only a couple of months since the society was launched and membership is steadily growing.

We held a successful Studio Portrait Session in the Brixworth Community Centre on 22 March. For those amongst us who had never worked with studio lighting, it was an interesting experience. Thanks to Jo and Jordan from Skears Photographic for agreeing to model for us; their support, knowledge and assistance with technical difficulties helped to sort out any problems and contributed to the success of the evening. Another studio session is planned for later in the year, once the nights start drawing in.

We continue to meet in the George every other Thursday; however there will be opportunities to get out and about when the fine weather arrives and we will be planning a series of Location shoots over the summer months.

Look out for the posters with information about our planned meetings, which will detail what we are doing and where we intend to do it!  
- Ian Topham



## Lampport & Hanging Houghton News

The Lampport and Hanging Houghton Parish Council Annual General Meeting will be held at Lampport Church on 23 May, starting at 7.15pm. This is your chance to hear what the council has been doing over the past year and to raise any questions that you may have on local issues. Drinks and nibbles will be provided!

While one vacancy on the PC has already been filled another remains. If you are willing to have a go please contact the parish clerk Frances Allbury on 01536 790870.

We plan to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee on the Bank holiday on 5 June starting at 2.30 pm. It will take place on the village green in Hanging Houghton - all parishioners will receive a flier with all the details in the next few days. If the weather is unsuitable we have the option of holding the event in Tom's barn, but hopefully the weather will be kind.

Mark Peters' new partner Natalie has moved into 1 Croft with him and we wish her a warm welcome to Hanging Houghton.  
- Mike Philpott

## Brixworth Womens Institute turns 90

Brixworth Womens Institute is enjoying a very busy year in 2012.

We will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary in November with a 1920s themed afternoon tea. We would love to see as many past members at the celebration as possible. As usual, we have an interesting programme of speakers and events this year. We would like to invite women of any age to join (or re-join) us at our monthly meetings.

It's always a fun evening in the company of other women. Please come and give us a try.

Programme for rest of 2012

- |              |                              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| 12 June      | Memories of the 60s          |
| 10 July      | Saxon Spires Practice        |
| 11 September | Wildlife in Northamptonshire |
| 9 October    | AGM                          |
| 13 November  | Gift wrapping                |
| 11 December  | Christmas party              |



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# Brix and Mortar

## High Street Offices and Newspaper Ads

The internet is changing the way we buy and sell property and is now, by far, the preferred method used for finding or selling a home.

Less than ten years ago estate agency branches were the first port of call for those looking to buy or sell property. Clients would telephone to register on a mailing list, or arrive armed with a torn-out advert from the local newspaper.

Estate agents used to claim that a third of all of the properties they sold came from potential purchasers walking into their offices, a further third came from newspaper adverts and the final third from people that had seen 'For Sale' boards. This is no longer the case.

As technology goes forward it may be no surprise for you to hear that the majority of property is now sourced via the internet.

So is this the end of the estate agent?

My answer is a definite No! Although I do predict an end to estate agents having multiple offices in one town, most buyers and sellers will still prefer to benefit from the expertise and negotiating skills of

knowledgeable property experts but will not choose them based on the number of branches they have or the amount of pages they have in the property section of the local newspaper.

With most people now searching for their ideal home online, vendors will demand that agents advertise on the best sites and in the right way.

Rightmove.co.uk, primelocation.com and findaproperty.com are used by most estate agents but even that is not enough. With so many properties on these sites the best agents are now upgrading their monthly subscriptions in order to be able to advertise their vendor's homes in larger boxes and with premium positions, thus giving their clients the edge.

The moral of this story is: when looking to get a valuation on your home, check the estate agent out online first. Look at their website, read reviews of their service and make sure they subscribe to a minimum of three National portals (including Rightmove) and see how well they present their current selection of homes. - Stuart Little



### THE TWINS GIFT COMPANY

The Twins Gift Company was launched in September 2011 by Karen Davidson and Lindsey Civil who are identical twins based in Sywell Northamptonshire.

Karen and Lindsey are both volunteers for The Department of Twin Research and it was on a trip to St Thomas's Hospital that the idea of a Gift Company specifically for twins and multiples was born. Karen gave Lindsey a 'Two Pearls in a Pod' necklace signifying twins, Lindsey was thrilled with the gift and the rest as they say is history.

The aim of The Twins Gift Company is to provide gifts and cards for all occasions for twins, multiples, Mothers of Twins & Multiples and their families. We have worked alongside some fantastic designers and artists to come up with our unique collection of gifts.

[www.twinsgiftcompany.co.uk](http://www.twinsgiftcompany.co.uk)  
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# One act comedies

Brixworth Drama Group's summer production in June will feature two one act comedies: Slim Chance by Peter Gordon and Brenton versus Brenton by David Tristram and live music by the group's very own musicians.

**Slim Chance by Peter Gordon** is a hilarious comedy, which centres on a slimming club and the various characters who attend. Jean, the branch organiser of the club, is frustrated by the late arrival of her charges. Even when the motley collection of members have all arrived, it is clear that the slimming aspect of their weekly meetings is the last thing on their minds!

**Brenton versus Brenton by David Tristram** is an epic saga of lust, greed, power and wealth, and a dark secret that inflames a family feud. This spoof of American soaps and epic min-series is set in the manic world of Chigaco's biggest advertising agency and is filled with mysterious characters and shoulder pads wider than the door.

Sue l'Anson, chairperson of the drama group, says: "Once again our reading group have found plays which are extremely funny and entertaining. Brenton versus Brenton is by the same writer who gave us the Little Grimley plays which were performed with such success a few years ago. Think Dallas comes to Brixworth. Slim Chance is by a new writer for us but it is a gem. On first read through it had everyone laughing as many of us could identify with the larger than life characters. The humour is adult in places and there is something for everyone."

The plays will be performed at the Village Hall on 21, 22 and 23 June. starting at 7.45pm each night. Tickets are £6 and available from Lovell's Hardware and The George. For further information contact Sue l'Anson on 07990 624713 or sueianson89@gmail.com.

- Jon Mackley

# Draughton News

'Summer is Ycumen in' – or so goes the song – although you'd be hard pressed to know it from the grey skies above and the puddles below, all timed neatly around the announcement of the hose pipe ban...

Our Easter culminated in the depositing (by a soggy Easter Bunny) of 40 eggs around the village and a resulting search by the village children.

The youngsters brought Easter crafts to the clubroom bonnets, baskets, a tray garden and beautifully decorated eggs. The crafts continued as the children had their faces painted and decorated buns and cupcakes – good fun and lunchtime appetites duly ruined!



## Draughton Garden Club - eat the weeds!

A weed is just a plant in the wrong place and a hugely entertaining talk by the *Bulletin's* own Brian Webster in April opened a whole new culinary world. So rather than poison them why not find the edible ones instead and serve them for dinner – nettle soup anyone?

Draughton's Spring Fayre on May 20 was a must-visit venue for plants, preserves and produce from the talented villagers – not to mention the now legendary teas! And, with the Queen's Jubilee to be marked by a village Barbecue, Summer can't 'ycumen' in soon enough!

- Kate Calnan

The Rowbarge Jammers Present

# BRIXFEST 2012

Lake House Gardens, Brixworth Hall Park  
sat 20th July  
12-11pm

Tickets bought in advance: children 2-14 £5, adults £10, at the gate £12.50

Music festival featuring local & Guildford based bands & artists \* Jam session - all comers welcome (by prior arrangement) \* Alternative entertainment through the day \* Licensed bar, hog roast, burgers, BBQ \* Local business stalls \* All funds raised for charities: Help for Heroes, Warwicks & Northants Air ambulance & other Local Charities

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# Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts –

The run up to Easter was as busy as ever for the Scout Group.

Beavers practiced being like Bear Grylls this half term learning about map-making, scout craft, tracking and doing some back woods cooking. The tracking was great fun in the Country Park, using torches in the dark!

Cubs started the half term looking at hobbies, collecting, sports and reading, as well as a little bit of art thrown in for good measure. They ended with a campfire at Overstone and games in the wood. Two more

cubs were awarded the Chief Scout Silver Award – the highest badge a Cub Scout can get – well done to them.

Scouts are doing brilliantly in all their Olympic Challenges: by Easter all their hard work put them in the Top 20 out of nearly 1300 Scout Groups nationwide taking part in the challenges. Well done. Preparation for the River Wye cruise continues and takes place over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

Explorers have been enjoying a programme of outdoor adventurous and cultural



Above: Two cubs receiving their silver chief scout award

## 1st Scaldwell Guides

In March, 1st Scaldwell Guides were invited by Northampton's mayor Councillor Jamie Lane for a guided tour around the Guildhall including the Mayor's Parlour. Amongst other things they saw the Great Hall, Council Chambers and portraits of all the previous mayors. They finished their tour in the dungeons, which had been used as a jail in earlier times. Some Guides were able to try on the mayor's robes, which are passed on to each mayor whatever size, with no alteration!



1st Scaldwell Guides are currently participating in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Challenge. As part of this they held a WW2 theme evening dressed in 1940s clothes with hairstyles from that era. They learnt about food rationing, how to do the Lindyshop and ate Spam sandwiches!  
- Jill Gunnett

activities which included night time orienteering in Rockingham Forest, cooking a Burn's Night supper, learning to set up and operate the new PA, sound and light system (graciously part funded by the Parish Council), made National Science Week go with a bang, air rifle shooting, mountain biking in the dark, and street sports at Corby's Adrenaline Alley.

The Scout Group also followed up the highly successful New Years Eve Disco with an equally enjoyable Easter Disco that included Bingo and a Raffle. Everyone who attended would like to thank Rose and Sarah for all their hard work in pulling this together. I would like to thank McGowan Investments, Daisy Roots, Brixworth Engineering, Mawsley Machinery, J A P Northampton, Bambio Mio, Pitsford Cycles, Staples, Volvo, Waitrose, Itchy Feet, Morrisons, The Kings Head, It's a Gift, Avon and At Heaven who all donated prizes to help us raise funds for the group.



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# We Need You!



## Donations

A big thank you to all the hardworking ladies at Saxon House. Their craft group knits and sews to make all sorts of lovely things to sell, and they very kindly donated £50 to the Scout group from monies they have raised from their sales.

## Recruitment

We have a fabulous dedicated team of volunteer

leaders who work hard throughout the year to ensure that the young people in Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group enjoy a fantastic time. Some of our leaders have been with the group for ten or more years and now feel that it is time to step down. I hope we won't lose them completely; some have expressed a desire to move to a different section, others to play a part in the Executive Committee helping to raise funds.

This does mean that come September, in order for the young people to continue to enjoy the activities they do with the Scout Group we need to recruit new volunteer leaders – quickly. We particularly need leaders for Cubs, at least four.

With so many leaders stepping down this is an ideal opportunity for a new Cub Scout Leader to join and make the pack their own. We also need to strengthen the Scout Troop with a few more leaders, at least one who is prepared to become the Scout Leader and be heavily involved in the planning.

Quite bluntly, unless we find new leaders, Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group will be unable to continue to provide a Cub Pack session on Thursdays, and the activities the Scout Troop take part in will be severely curtailed. This will also begin to impact on Beavers, as they will have nowhere to move up to. The more leaders we can recruit, the more flexible we can be – for example in Beavers we have several leaders who help every other week.



Above: Scouts demonstrating that there's no such thing as 'too cold for camping'

You don't have to be Bear Grylls, we are looking for people who interact well with young people, perhaps have some organisation skills to help with planning, or might have some outdoor skills. Basically if you are enthusiastic, we can train you to become an excellent Scout. Plus all this

looks great on your CV!

If you can spare us some time, come and see us, talk to one of the leaders, or contact me. Scouting offers fantastic experiences to adults and young people alike.

Or come to our AGM, which is on Thursday 24 May in the Village Centre from 6.30pm, followed by a meeting for those going on the Family Camp.

Perhaps leading is not your cup of tea. What about the Executive Committee? We need to strengthen this with people who are willing to get involved, plan and run ideas for fund raising and raising

awareness of the Scout Group

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit [scouts.org.uk](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](mailto:info@armarketing.co.uk) - Kim Phillips

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# Brixworth and District U3A

## Fifth Birthday celebrations

Five years ago this October that a group met to establish the Brixworth and District group of the University of the Third Age (U3A). Its initial membership of about thirty has since trebled, making the group a huge success that has satisfied a need for the village and the surrounding areas.

There are now twenty active sub-groups which meet with varying frequencies from weekly to quarterly or even occasionally like the Theatre Group and the Holiday Group.

## Group Updates

A recent outing was to the Theatre Royal at Drury Lane, not for a show but a guided tour behind the scenes, front of house, and a presentation on the history of the theatre. The most recent theatre outing was to see Ladies in Lavender and further trips are to be arranged to the Stamford Open Air Theatre, as and when available, throughout the summer.

The Ramblers and Strollers had over forty participants at Ravensthorpe, a successful

turnout at Harlestone, and further walks planned for Maidwell and Nobottle. They're certainly doing their bit in supporting local hostelries!

The Lunch Group also continues to meet monthly having visited the Stag's Head in Maidwell, the White Swan in Holcot, the George in Brixworth, and the Whyte Melville in Boughton. In addition the Sunday Group have occasional lunches and a further evening outing was to the Three Swans hotel in Market Harborough.



Bridge is proving to be a popular pastime with over 20 members, and our four-man team recently came a creditable second out of eleven in a U3A inter-branch competition.

The Poetry Group has branched out into play reading and may form a choir, whilst the Garden Group have a full programme of visits to local gardens arranged throughout the summer.

The Genealogy Group continues to thrive with several members giving presentations about their ancestors, and the newly formed

Architecture Group already has 24 members and has enjoyed tours of Brixworth Church and Kirby Hall.

The Badminton Group, meeting at Old Village Hall, continues to attract a steady number of participants, as does the Table Tennis Group, meeting at Pitsford Village Hall.

The monthly meetings are still popular, and over 70 members recently came to enjoy presentations on travels in Africa, life and times of a ship's pilot, and a humorous talk on art.

## Upcoming Meetings

The July presentation is, appropriately, from Age UK who will be providing information on ways in which they can help the increasing population of pensioners. As before the August meeting will be at the Sailing Club when we expect the usual high turnout.

Also don't forget the AGM will be held on 6 June this year. This is a perfect opportunity for members to volunteer for the committee as, in accordance with the rules, three members are due to retire.

The details of all activities are on the website [www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth) and also available from the Membership Secretary Peter Davies on 880401. – Gerry Dobson

## Cheryl Harris, Registered Osteopath at the Newlands Practice, Brixworth



Cheryl Harris has been offering osteopathic treatment in Brixworth for more than six years and is now working from her new location in Newlands (opposite The George Inn). At the Newlands practice you can enjoy the highest level of care and dedication to your family's health in a friendly, professional environment.

Osteopathy can help a wide range of conditions such as back and neck pain, sciatica, headaches, sporting and repetitive use injuries, hip and shoulder girdle pain, postural issues and more. Cheryl works in a holistic way and patients report that their general wellbeing improves after treatment.

Cheryl also offers Cranial Osteopathy, a very gentle treatment suitable for newborns with settling issues such as colic and irritability and for women during pregnancy. Initial consultation £40 (one hour). Follow-on session £35. 10% discount on your first visit to the Newlands Practice with this advertisement. Cheryl Harris is registered with all major private health insurers.

3A Newlands, Brixworth, NN6 9DN

Tel: 01604 949490

Web: [www.cherylharrisosteopathy.co.uk](http://www.cherylharrisosteopathy.co.uk)



## Bands in the Park – Abington

Abington Park will play host to a packed programme of live music every Sunday this Summer culminating in a grand finale that will see Northampton join the rest of the nation in the Bandstand Marathon – part of the London 2012 Festival and the Cultural Olympiad.

The Bandstand Marathon will mark the close of the national London 2012 cultural event and will also mark the end of Northampton Borough Council's popular Bands in the Park season.

This year's season is the longest the park has hosted for ten years with bands booked to perform at the bandstand every week from 6 May to 9 September.

Bands in the Park will feature traditional brass and wind instrument bands, Folk in the Park, an afternoon of music from Northampton's best covers' band, music to accompany the runners during the "Race for Life" event, and, of course, the Bandstand Marathon finale featuring music, community singing and an instrument amnesty.

The bands are free to watch and perform every Sunday in the Abington Park Bandstand from 2-5pm (some events are longer - please check programme for exact timings).



## Yoga on your Doorstep

If you thought that Yoga was just for the ultra-bendy, leotard clad type then think again! Yoga is a perfect system for body, mind and breath which will leave you feeling balanced, energised, calm and clear-headed.



Yoga is suitable for all ages from 0 to 100 because it takes into account the unique needs of the individual. Whatever your starting level of health or flexibility you can gain immense benefit from relearning the art of relaxation, improving your breathing, taking the body through a comprehensive range of movements and discovering the restorative qualities of contemplation/meditation by finding the 'still point' within.

Experienced yoga teacher Anne Widdup runs two classes a week in the Community Hall above the Library (details below).

Students are encouraged to work according to their ability in a relaxed and enjoyable way. A typical lesson includes posture-work, breathing techniques, relaxation and/or meditation. Regular yoga practise helps to improve balance, strength, posture, coordination and concentration, all of which help to combat the stresses and strains of modern day life.

Students can join at any time throughout the year and can elect to pay weekly or purchase a discounted block booking.

Class times are as follows:

Monday 7.30 – 9.00 pm

Tuesday 1.45 – 3.15 pm

Contact Anne on 07729 099206 or via [www.annewiddup.com](http://www.annewiddup.com)

## Learn To Nordic Walk

Where: Brampton Valley Way at Spratton Road car park

When: 29 June, 6 July, 13 July and 20 July. Free taster session on 22 June.

Cost: £25 for four sessions including all equipment

Time: 9:30 - 10:30am

Please book in advance for the taster session to avoid disappointment.

To book call Lizzi England on 236361 or email [eenland@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:eenland@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

# Smile for a Lifetime

In this day and age it is certainly a possibility to keep your own teeth for your lifetime, as long as you look after them and let the professionals help you and that means attending regularly.

Good oral hygiene starts at a very young age. If parents understand how to care for their own teeth, this can be passed on to the children. Of course the opposite is also true. It is vital that children come to the dentist from a young age to give them the very best chance of a great smile and keeping their teeth for life.

Research shows that people with healthy gums and teeth not only have a better quality of life but also have decreased levels of diabetes, digestive problems and heart disease. By encouraging essential and preventative care a small problem can be easily diagnosed and treated saving on what may be costly treatment later.

The new team at the Brixworth Village Dental Practice, Dr James Hewitt and his hygienists Lesley and Lynda are passionate about healthy teeth and gums. They will give you the best advice and care to help you improve and maintain fantastic oral health.

James brings a wealth of experience to Brixworth and is happy to advise his patients on ways to improve their smile. If fillings are needed, he only uses white filling material – so no more mercury silver fillings to spoil your teeth. If you have any problems with the appearance of your teeth ask him what he would recommend to improve your smile.

As well as James (who is here every day) we have Dr John Davey, an orthodontist with over 25 years experience who has completed thousands of cases. Orthodontics has advanced incredibly over the years and there are many different options for moving and straightening teeth, from the traditional train tracks to the Invisalign system, which is invisible and can be removed for eating.

To complete our team is our implantologist, Dr Tom Donnelly. He has successfully placed hundreds of dental implants since 1997, from filling single tooth gaps to full sets of teeth for people previously wearing full dentures.

We pride ourselves in being able to offer a full dental service. We would love to meet you to advise you on how to smile for a lifetime.



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# Thought of making your Will?

It is natural to feel uncomfortable about making a will. In fact one of the main reasons why people do not make wills is because they feel it is tempting fate. However, it is very important that you consider making a will as you can ensure that your assets are passed to those who you wish to benefit.

While on maternity leave and talking to other mums and dads in Brixworth I got many questions. Many did not have wills, or have parents or family members in need of a will or power of attorney. I hope to answer some of the frequently asked questions here and hope to arrange a drop in day at the community centre to give out some free legal advice in this area if there is a good enough response.

Whilst this is not any by any means an exhaustive list, if you can answer yes to any of the following questions then it is important that you make a will:

- Do you own a house?
- Do you have children?
- Do you have family that you do not wish to inherit?
- Do you want to leave money in trust to a vulnerable child or adult?
- Are you unmarried and cohabiting with someone who you would want to leave your estate to?
- Do you wish to leave a legacy to a charity?

## why make a will?

A will is a legal declaration of who you wish to leave your estate to on your death. It enables you to also appoint an executor and trustees to deal with the administration of the estate and any trusts created out of the will. Furthermore you can appoint a guardian for your children.

## Planning update

<b>DA/2011/0573 Land North of Eaglehurst</b> Outline application for residential development, estate road and associated works	23.8.11 PC No Objection 26.9.11 PC Objects 10.2.12 DDC Approved
<b>DA/2011/1010 13 Kennel Terrace</b> Single storey rear extension and single storey front extension (revised scheme)	9.1.12 PC No objection 16.1.12 DDC Approved
<b>DA/2012/0017 6 Hunters Way</b> Installation of Photovoltaic panels to roof of existing building	30.1.12 PC No Objection 27.2.12 DDC Approved
<b>DA/2011/0628 Land To West Of Northampton Road</b> Outline application for residential development of 150 dwellings, allotments, play area, associated public open space, landscaping and new vehicular and pedestrian accesses	22.8.11 PC strongly objected 11.1.12 DDC Refused
<b>DA/2012/0050 Frog Hall Cottage, 1 Froghall</b> Demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of one bed roomed ancillary guest accommodation and garden store	20.2.12 PC No Objection 23.3.12 DDC Approved

## who can make a will?

If you are over 18 (or even younger if you're in the Armed Forces) and of sound mind then you can make a will. It is also possible to make a will for a loved one who has lost capacity by applying to the court of protection (you'll need legal advice for this).

## what are the intestacy rules?

If you don't leave a valid will your estate will pass in accordance with the intestacy rules. If you are married or are in a civil partnership, the first person entitled to your estate under the intestacy rules is your spouse/civil partner, but he or she will not necessarily inherit the whole of your estate. The amount your spouse/civil partner would inherit depends on how much is in your estate and which of your blood relatives survive you.

## do I need to see a solicitor?

It is always recommended to see a solicitor to ensure your will is validly drawn up and executed; however, it is possible for you to create a will by yourself.

## how can I protect a disabled child?

Whether your child is a minor or an adult it is important that you make provision in your will for them to ensure that anything that is left for them is held in trust so that any benefits that they may be entitled to are not affected.

## what is a lasting power of attorney?

A lasting power of attorney ('LPA') is a document in which a person can appoint someone or more than one person to act for them at a time when they perhaps no longer have mental capacity to deal with their own affairs. There are two types: one deals with property and financial affairs and the other with health and welfare decisions. It is important that you do not delay in having one of these in place. Once someone loses capacity, family and friends may need to apply to the courts for authority to deal with matters on their behalf without a valid LPA in place. – *Caroline Redshaw*

*Caroline Redshaw lives in Brixworth and works with Woodcock and Thompson Solicitors in Daventry. She can be contacted on 07854214149 or credshaw@wtsolicitors.co.uk*

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# What's on?

27 May	Northants Ultra 35 Mile Race	Lampport Hall
29-30 May	Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures	Derngate
2 June	RPO: Nigel Kennedy plays Brahms	Derngate
3 June	Cooking in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
2 June	Jubilee Jamboree	Abington Park
2-4 June	Branch Line Experience	Northampton & Lampport Railway
3 June	Jubilee Event	Delapre Abbey
3-4 June	Art Exhibition	Brixworth Heritage Centre
3-4 June	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
4 June 6.45pm	Diamond Jubilee Party	All Saints Church, Brixworth
4 June, 4 pm	Diamond Jubilee BBQ	Draughton Clubhouse
5 June, 2.30pm	Diamond Jubilee Picnic	Hanging Houghton
6-9 June	Happy Days - the Musical	Corby Cube
7 June	Rhod Gilbert	Derngate
9 June	Harborough Carnival	Market Harborough
9 June	Shoe Store Tour	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
12 June	Painting in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
12 June	White (children's theatre)	The Underground
12 June	WI: Memories of the 60s	Brixworth Village Hall
13 June	Planning Beds & Borders	Lampport Hall
14 June	Lords and Lamps	Kelmarsh Hall
15 June	Motorhome & Caravan Show	Kelmarsh Hall
15 - 17 June	Althorp Literary Festival	Althorp House
15-16 June	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Derngate
16 June	History Soc: Day Trip to Lichfield	Brixworth Village Hall
16 June	The Rapture	The Roadmender
16 June	Michael Winslow (Police Academy)	Corby Cube
17 June 2-5pm	Cottesbrooke Garden Fete	Cottesbrooke Hall
17 June	Father's Day Trains	Northampton & Lampport Railway
17 June	The Sounds of the Supremes	Derngate
19-22 June	Gulliver's Travels	Corby Cube
20 June	School Arts Festival	Derngate
20 June	Bonham's Valuations	Kelmarsh Hall

21-23 June	Drama Group One Act Comedies	Brixworth Village Hall
22 June	Much Ado About Nothing	Brixworth Country Park
22-24 June	Gardener's Fair	Cottesbrooke Hall
22 June	The View	The Roadmender
23 June	80s Mania	Derngate
23 June	Drag Racing Championships	Santa Pod Raceway
23 June	Bacchanalia	Underground
25 - 30 June	Save the last Dance for Me	Derngate
28 June	History Soc: Guided Tour of Brixworth	Village Hall
28 June	Getrude Jekyll	Kelmarsh Hall
28 June	Gervase Phinn	Corby Cube
29 June	Landscape in Watercolour	Lampport Hall
29 June	Barb Jungr & Jeb Loy Nichols	Corby Cube
30 June	Foxton Locks Festival	Foxton Locks,
1 July	Cooking in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
6-8 July	The Wizard of Oz	Abington Park Museum
6-28 Jul	Hedda Gabler	Royal
7 July	Games Time	Delapre Abbey
7 July	Ugly Bug Ball (under 5s)	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
7-8 July	Hollowell Steam Rally	Hollowell
10 July	WI: Saxon Spires Practice	Village Hall
11 July	Design your Garden	Lampport Hall
11-14 July	Angelina Ballerina - the Mousical	Derngate
12 July	Empress Elizabeth of Austria	Kelmarsh Hall
12-16 July	History Soc: Trip to Amsterdam	Amsterdam
14 July	Festival of History	Kelmarsh Hall
14 July	DRAM JAM Rodigan	The Roadmender
14-15 July	Falcons & Raptors Fair	Althorp House
15 July	RPO: Last Night of the Derngate Proms	Derngate
20 July	Adam Ant	The Roadmender
20-21 July	Theatre in the Garden - Black Beauty	Althorp House
21 July	Shakespeare: As You Like It	Lampport Hall
22 July	Dragon Boat Race	N'pton Midsummer Meadow
22 July	Jazz in the Garden	Lampport Hall
28 July	Brixfest - Music at the Lake	Lake House, Brixworth
28 July	Drum & Bass Summer Gathering	The Roadmender
28-29 July	Vintage Vehicle Gathering	Northampton & Lampport Railway

4 Aug	Costume Store Tour	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
4 Aug	Music Festival	N'pton Market Square
9 Aug	Northants Churches	Kelmarsh Hall
10-12 Aug	Kennel Club Agility Trials	Kelmarsh Hall
11 Aug	Battle Proms	Althorp House
14 Aug	The Spencers at Althorp	Althorp House
15 Aug	Tropical Encounters	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
16 Aug	Murder Mystery Dinner	Kelmarsh Hall
16-26 Aug	The Railway Children	Abington Park Museum
18 Aug	Family Fun Day	Abington Park Museum
23-25 Aug	Holcot Steam Rally	Holcot
25-27 Aug	Seaside Special Trains	Northampton & Lampport Railway
26-27 Aug	Antique & Collectors Fair	Lampport Hall
25-27 Aug	Steam Rally	Earls Barton
8 Sep	Shoe Store Tour	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
8 Sep	Find out about your shoe's ancestors	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
9 Sep	Farmers Market	Kelmarsh Hall
11 Sep	Wildlife in Nortants	Village Hall
12 Sep	Gardens down the Ages	Lampport Hall
14 Sep	Richard Street (The Temptations)	Derngate
18-22 Sept	Radio Times	Royal
19-29 Sept	The Crucible	Abington Park Museum
20 Sep	History Soc: On and Off the Footplate	Village Hall
22 Sep	Drawing & Painting Autumn Landscape	Lampport Hall
23 Sep	Cycle for Cynthia	Althorp House
22-23 Sept	Railways at War	Northampton & Lampport Railway
29 Sep	Future Fund Hoedown	Derngate
9-13 Oct	The Woman in Black	Royal
13-14 Oct	Art & Craft Fair	Lampport Hall
14 Oct	Level 42	Derngate
17 Oct	Plants for Free	Lampport Hall
18 Oct	Julian Clary	Derngate
18 Oct	History Soc: St Peters Church	Village Hall
24 Oct	Kevin Bridges	Derngate
25 Oct	A Kind of Queen	Derngate
25 Oct	Ralph McTell	Corby Cube
27 Oct	Danny Bhoj	Corby Cube

# Mixed Fortunes for Mixed Hockey Club

The February frost put paid to the first of our two games that month and, unfortunately, the thaw didn't do us any favour as we went down 2-6 to a very strong Saints team. March didn't see an improvement in our luck as non-hockey-related injuries to our goalkeeper and one of our ladies left us playing a tough Long Buckby team with Jon Davies playing his first game in goal and Kristie Hughes making her debut for the club. Things went from bad to worse when our captain, Tracey Pettitt, received a facial injury that caused the game to be abandoned. Luckily the injury proved not to be as serious as we first thought and she returned to playing and training in less than a fortnight.

Tracey's return coincided with the NMHA 7-a-side tournament and, having been bolstered by the availability of some of the Towcester Ladies, confidence and

expectations were high.

The tournament started well with a comfortable victory over Bugbrooke. When this was followed by another victory over Amateurs we were beginning to wonder what we could achieve. A loss to Old Moults caused a bit of doubt to kick in, but when we rounded off the day with a draw against a very strong Saints team and wins over Fat Cat and Northgate there was some frantic mental arithmetic being carried out. Unfortunately the winner's medal was not destined to be ours, but a well deserved runner's up medal was more than welcome.

27 March saw an end to winter training at Wellingborough School. Over the weeks we have had an increase in attendance and seen a few new faces come and, sadly, go. Hopefully all those that came along had some fun and felt the benefit. Training will resume again in September.

Our final league game of the season came on the 21 April against Northgate and, after a fluctuating season, we were looking for good result to see us through the summer. We fielded a strong team, yet again strengthened by the Towcester Ladies, and after surviving some early pressure we took a deserved lead thanks to Nicola Pannell. The game was end to end stuff, but Nicola Pannell's second goal eased our nerves and paved the way for a superb goal from Alex Pettitt to seal a 3-0 win.

The game was followed by the AGM, which saw Ross Egan take over from Alex Pettitt as vice captain, with Alex becoming vice chairman and Roger Clayton confirmed as chairman. It was also time for the handing out of the annual awards and this year Alex Pettitt was confirmed as the top scorer, Ross Egan as most improved and Jon Davies confirmed as both Club Person and Player of the Season.

We are looking for players for the upcoming 2012/13 winter season so, if you are interested in joining our growing hockey family, please contact Jon or Tracey on 07500 633921, [BrixworthMHC@gmail.com](mailto:BrixworthMHC@gmail.com), [BrixworthMHC.onsport.com](http://BrixworthMHC.onsport.com) or via our Facebook, Twitter or Google+ pages.

- Jon Davies



## Brixworth Golf Society - Annual Review

Under Geoff Green as Captain, 2011 proved to be another successful golfing year with high numbers playing at each venue.

As a mark of his Captaincy Geoff presented each member with a BAGS coaster. He awarded the Captain's Shield to Rob Bennett

Nigel Rylance won the George Clapton Memorial Trophy in January. Colin King won the Tim Moulds Jug, while the winners of the Cup, played for on each day out, were Geoff Green, Phil Porch, Nigel Rylance and Rob Bennett. Rob Bennet was also crowned Golfer of the Year, with Colin King as runner up.

In 2012, we have arranged to play at Cold Ashby on 15 June, Market Harborough on 10 August and Kingsthorpe on 5 October.

If you're interested in joining, please ring John Wilson on 880490. - John Wilson

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