

Catherine Boardman wins Brixworth seat on County Council



In the Council elections on 2 May, Catherine Boardman (Con) was elected to represent the Brixworth division on Northampton County Council. She follows Chris Millar, who'd held that position for 12 years but stood down at the election to concentrate on his commitments as leader of Daventry District Council (see also p 6).

This does not mean that Catherine is new to the County Council; for the past six years she

represented the Uplands Division, which was abolished in the recent boundary review.

Catherine and her husband Anthony live in Welford, where they have farmed for over 30 years and brought up three daughters. "They're all now married, making us happy grandparents," she says.

"I am a very practical person and my ethos is grounded on a lifetime in farming and the 'university of life'. I believe that for every action there is a consequence and that what we take out has to be put back – how we do that shapes the future for all of us.

Catherine takes a broad interest in all elements of Council business, particularly in the needs of children and young people in our communities. Every year every councillor receives £7,000 to spend in their area, and in the past pre-school and primary school projects were the main beneficiaries of Catherine's Councillor Empowerment Fund.

"I look forward to working with you to help support projects within your communities," she says. "It is always a challenge, particularly because the Brixworth Division comprises Brixworth and 22 other villages! But the money is there to help and I look forward to hearing from groups who think that they might have a community-driven project that would benefit from some support."

"I look forward to getting to know my new communities and attending meetings and events to make that happen. If you need my help on an issue, have a question or would like to invite me to an event please contact me on cboardman@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01858575274." -cfw

Country Park tops vote for Deserving Cause

Brixworth Country Park has won the poll for the *Bulletin's* 'Deserving Cause' for 2013. Particularly well-supported by people voting online, the Country Park racked up almost twice as many votes as the runner-up, the Christian Fellowship's Family Fun Day.

Chief Ranger Chris Howe was delighted. "The support from the *Bulletin* will allow us to build a nature classroom for the many schoolchildren who come to the park each year to study wildlife up close," he says. The money will be spent on a chestnut paling fence and a hand gate to fence off an area in the park, so that the wildlife in the area is not disturbed by everyday activities in the park. Rangers will also set up mini habitats for invertebrates and help with activities such as mini-beast hunts.

In addition, Chris plans to buy a camouflaged wildlife camera. "This will allow us to capture images of wildlife in the park and on the Brampton Valley Way that people rarely get to see. I look forward to using those images for our Facebook pages, *Bulletin* articles and a digital photo-frame that we hope to install in the new visitor information booth."

Meanwhile we're happy to report that, thanks to other fundraising activities, Saxon Spire Surgery has already reached and overshot its goal to raise £20,000 for a new mobile ultrasound scanner. The fund raising campaign to pay for the new guttering and downpipes at All Saints Church is starting to gain momentum, and Reverend Chloe and the church wardens are busily preparing for the Family Fun Afternoon on 2 June. Let's hope the weather is kind to them so that everyone turns out in force, has a fantastic day and in the process helps raise the money for the much-needed repairs!



Sywell Country Park already has an enclosure similar to the one Chris Howe is planning for Brixworth

*Maureen
Flavel-White*

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For the latest news, visit www.brixworthbulletin.com, join us on Facebook or follow @BrixBulletin on Twitter.

Spare a thought for the hard-revising teenagers!

As the tantalising warmth of summer approaches (well, I hope it approaches... says the optimistic teenager whilst looking out at his garden partially shrouded in the remnants of spring snowfall) a lot of you may be looking forward to the sunshine and BBQs. However, for myself and thousands of other teenagers, spring heralds a time where we just want to curl up and hide until the rain that signals the start of summer arrives. Yes, you've guessed it: Exams!

This is the time of year where teenagers around the country are tucked away in their rooms with their nose in the latest revision guide for useless subjects or, in my case at least, staring at a single page in my science workbook and resigning myself to a life where none of my elaborate dreams are fulfilled. It's a thing adults rarely seem to understand. My father is constantly reminding me that this is an important time for me, and that I should be excited about the opportunity these exams present, as he would be if he was in my shoes. I wish I could see it from his point of view; truthfully, I am scared out of my wits. I suppose it's the fear of the unknown that scares me most: the fact that I don't know for sure what life is like, and how it works. Or maybe, it's a fear of responsibility.

It's a bit like childhood. You have no real responsibilities when you're a child, just to have fun. To smile and to laugh. You're carefree, without the knowledge to comprehend the bad things in the world. However, as you grow, responsibilities are thrust upon you which, at first, you accept without complaint. Finally, you're being treated as something more than a child! But quickly, all too quickly, you lose the ability to be carefree and young, fully realising the expectation you have from everyone around you, and the responsibility that means you can't relax all the time, you can't only look out for yourself.

Adolescence is a time where you grow and change, not only physically, but mentally and emotionally. Anyone can tell you that. But for me, I see adolescence not only as a mixture of confused emotions and thoughts: a howling whirlwind of growing pains and irrelevant experiences, but as a realisation that the world isn't about you. However, I suppose it is ironic that I started this with the intention of drawing your attention to the plight of myself and others!

In conclusion, have fun over spring and going into summer, but spare a thought for the hard work, and hopefully success, of many young adults slaving away revising! – *Alex Campbell*



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Carer's Coffee Morning

Do you care for a relative or friend? Why not come along to the Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group's Coffee Morning at Guilsborough Surgery on Friday 14th June, 10am - 12noon. Staff from Northamptonshire Carers will be there to offer advice and support for those who care.

To find out more about our group, contact SSPPG Secretary Barbara Hogg on 01604 880552 or email barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk - *Barbara Hogg*

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Police Report

No news on burglaries

With regards to the recent string of burglaries around Froxhill Crescent in Brixworth, there is little new to report.

The two men who were arrested just as the March issue of the *Brixworth Bulletin* went to press were released without charge as there was insufficient evidence to show either was involved with the burglaries. Since then there have been no new evidential leads, though police continue to sift the available evidence and review past offences.

On the upside, no news also means that there were no new burglaries that appeared to be linked to the series.

Police say they are exploring all lines of enquiry in each case, which include forensics, house-to-house enquires, CCTV and checking for possible witnesses to identify suspects. If you have any information you'd like to pass to the Police, please contact the Brixworth Safer Community Team or call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

The police also works closely with local officers, and are discussing plans for high visibility patrols to advise and reassure, as well as covert patrols designed to identify offenders. We understand the impact that these crimes are having on the community and are taking it very seriously.

Crime statistics

The series of burglaries is reflected in the full-year crime statistics, which are released in April each year.

Brixworth has suffered 225 crimes over the 12 months to April compared with 162 over the same period in 2011/2012.

The increase has been on Burglary Dwelling, where we had 30 compared with last year's 11. Burglary Non Dwelling has reduced from 28 to 18.

The amount of reported antisocial behaviour has dropped, though this does tend to increase over the summer months so do call 101 to report anything that is causing you problems or distress. Brixworth is an alcohol-free zone, which means that no open alcohol containers are allowed in public within the village.

Community Panel meeting

Many came to attend the latest Community Panel Meeting on 18th April.

After reviewing the previous quarter's police priority, burglary reassurance, it was agreed that the priority for the next quarter would be anti-social behaviour and graffiti, particularly regarding youths hanging around the shops and Community Centre and the large amounts of graffiti that has started appearing throughout the village.

The next meeting is 11th July at 8pm at Brixworth Community Centre. Please feel free to come along and represent your village, have your say or just listen.

Graffiti

A large amount of graffiti has started to appear around Brixworth, especially on the Ash Way playing field changing rooms (pictured, top right) and surrounding road furniture. Most of this appears on Saturday evenings when youths gather in the location.

Police have taken pictures of the graffiti to the local schools to try to identify the culprits.

If you have any information that may help identify those responsible, please call the police on 101 or crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.



Police are keen to identify who is responsible for the graffiti that has started appearing around the village.

Brixworth Day Of Action

The Daventry District & South Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership held a Day of Action on 24th April. Everybody was invited to come and raise any concerns they have locally with the Partnership, which includes Northamptonshire Police, Trading Standards, Genesis Housing Association, Northamptonshire Fire Service, Neighbourhood Watch, Community Speed Watch, Parish Nurses, Parish Council, and Environmental Protection.

Residents also had the opportunity to speak to the Crime Prevention Officer and receive information about home security. Meanwhile, officers stopped suspected rogue traders and others were checking for speeding vehicles.

All in all, the day resulted in 20 speed tickets, one car reported for no tax, two people signed up for Neighbourhood Watch and three more enquired about joining.

- PCSO Jo Hillery

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You can contact her on 101; mobile 07584281098 or jo.hillery@northants.police.uk

Daventry Rural, St Catherine House, Harborough Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BX

Opal Framing up for sale

Brixworth's framing business, Opal Art & Framing, is looking for new owners as Nigel and Marina Briggs are realising a long-standing dream and moving to Yorkshire.

The Briggs' took over the successful picture framing shop in the village from Barry and Jill Gunnett in September 2007 (the name, Opal, was derived from the initials of their two daughters!). Despite extremely turbulent times in the economy, the business has remained remarkably resilient.

"Our customer base has been extremely loyal and we are grateful for all the support we have received over the last six years," says Marina. "It has always been our policy to accept any work that comes our way and as a result we have had the privilege of framing a huge variety of art and artefacts ranging from an ostrich egg to wild boar tusks and from masterpieces to babies' first handprints."

"We have often talked about moving to Yorkshire when visiting family and with our daughters turning eight and six years old it was a case of 'now or never'," she adds. As a result, the shop will be closing on Friday 21st June, unless someone expresses an interest in taking on the business by then.



"For the sake of Brixworth and our customers, it is our greatest wish to pass the business on as a going concern. People come from far and wide to bring their work to us and most of our new custom comes by word of mouth." A recent expansion into gifts has proved very popular and adds a whole new dimension to the potential of the business.

"As a couple with young children it has been an ideal business as it has meant we have had the flexibility we needed with school holidays etc. However it would equally suit people who are looking to leave the rat

race and become their own boss," Marina explains.

"We have enjoyed our work immensely and will be sad to leave it and all our wonderful customers behind. We would like to thank all our customers for their support over the last six years and wish them all the best for the future"

If you know of anyone who would like to take over this thriving little business then please do ask them to pop into the shop or call Marina on 07702313880.

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O'Riordan Bond office re-opens

Estate agent O'Riordan Bond's re-opened its Brixworth branch this year, after being mothballed for four years.

"We mothballed the office in 2008-09 as the volume of house sales dropped by 60% across the country due to lack of mortgage finance and lack of confidence," says the estate agent's owner, Simon Bond. Brixworth's other estate agent office, run by Merry's, closed entirely around the same time.

With sales slowly recovering since mid-2012 and buyers, sellers and banks alike beginning to feel more confident, the company decided that the time has come to dust off the furniture and re-open the Brixworth office. "With interest rates set to stay at their record low for some time, we seem to be entering the next phase of the cycle - that of a slow recovery!"

Simon adds: "We have recruited a very experienced estate agent, Adele Taylor, to re-open the office. She will be supported by Gareth Williams, who lives in Spratton."

He adds: "Having been brought up in Welford and schooled at Guilsborough I know north Northants well and am looking forward to O'Riordan Bond Brixworth becoming a big part of the local community again." - cfw



Stolen quadbikes recovered – thanks to Facebook

Thieves who stole two heavily customized quad bikes and a motorbike from Reflex Auto Designer in Brixworth did not get to enjoy their ill-gotten gains for long – thanks to the power of the internet.

The bikes were stolen on Wednesday 27 February from the garage in Northampton Road after burglars first broke into the workshop through a small window and then used one of Reflex's own show cars to ram their way out. "They drove the car backwards through the rolltop door and made off with



The suspected thieves were photographed riding the quadbikes around Northampton

the quadbikes and the motorbike," explains Christian Leggett, who runs the company together with his brothers. "I was at the garage within minutes but the thieves had

already gone."

Before going back to bed, Christian posted details of the ram-raid and photos of the stolen quadbikes on Reflex Auto's Facebook page and a related group. "The photos and description were shared by over 2,000 people," he says. Within days, he was receiving messages that the quad bikes had been seen around Northampton. "By Saturday morning, there were so many sightings, all in the same area – we informed the police and went for a look (with my wife keeping an eye on Facebook while we drove)."

The family arrived in the area just in time to see the police retrieve the quad bikes. The motorbike was recovered a few weeks later, together with some more stolen bikes. Sadly, the thieves made good their escape, for now at least. "The police are still following up some leads which hopefully will allow them to identify the thieves," says Christian.

"It's a good example of how Facebook and the Internet can come to your aid and how a bad situation can be turned good. We recovered everything that was stolen, purely because of Facebook."

Police do not think that the burglary is linked to the string of break-ins in Brixworth last autumn and winter. - cfw



Police recovered the quadbikes at the Southfields estate, Northampton

Community Speedwatch

Twenty-five volunteers joined the Brixworth Speedwatch programme this spring and have since completed their training at police HQ Northampton with PC John McQuaid. John gave a very interesting talk on the safety issues involved and the dos and don'ts when using the radar gun around Brixworth. The volunteers are monitoring traffic at six sites in Brixworth: two sites in Spratton Road, two sites in Northampton Road, one site in Holcot Road and another in Harborough Road.

During the first session on 6-12 April, the volunteers caught 64 speeding motorists – 37 on Northampton Road, 14 on the Holcot Road, seven on Harborough Road and six on Spratton Road.

The volunteers are hardly inconspicuous: each volunteer wears a high visibility jacket, and there are warning signs near the approved site on the day to warn drivers of our presence. Drivers caught speeding will be sent a warning letter from the police for a first offence, a sterner letter for a second and three offences will be followed by police action.

We share the equipment with other villages in the area, so each get to use it for three weeks in the year.

Further sessions in Brixworth followed on 20-26 April and 4-10 May.

- Howard Reader, Speedwatch Co-ordinator



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Chris Millar steps down as County Councillor



As the County Councillor for the Brixworth Division since 2001, I took the decision last year to step down in this year's elections to focus on my duties at Daventry District Council.

It has been a real honour and pleasure to represent the following villages at the County Council level over the past 12 years: Arthingworth, Brixworth, Clipston, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Draughton, Great Oxendon, Hanging Houghton, Haselbech, Kelmarsh, Lamport, Maidwell, Naseby, Scaldwell and Spratton!

During my time as a Councillor, I have been fortunate to have met many well known figures from the world of politics including Government Ministers, the former Mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani

and have paid two visits to 10 Downing Street at the invitation of the Prime Minister David Cameron. Having said that, I personally have always found the most rewarding part of my local Councillor role is when I am able to assist and/or represent local constituents either individually or collectively on matters that are important to them. It has also been a pleasure to assist a wide range of local community groups with additional funding through the NCC Empowerment Fund scheme which has brought many local benefits. - Cllr Chris Millar

From South Africa to Austria – via Hanging Houghton!

Moving from South Africa to UK in 2001 was not nearly as stressful as it could have been! We were fortunate to arrive in Hanging Houghton and find ourselves surrounded by good neighbours. We are only sorry that we have not been able to reciprocate all the generous hospitality we have enjoyed over the years. We would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone - you made living in a new country much easier.

A very big 'Thank You' to Tom Saunders who has been the most supportive and generous landlord.

Dave often quotes from Shakespeare:

*There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.*

We again find ourselves on a tide this time heading to Austria to live near our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters. If you ever find yourself in Vienna, please make contact, we're annelarkan@gmail.com

- Dave and Anne Larkan

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Hanging Houghton Report

At last we seem to have seen the last of the winter (hopefully!). Let me remind you with this photo of the snow man and family which (in the week before Easter!) brightened up the entrance to our village courtesy of the Bulletin's editor Claudia and her daughter Robyn.



Ann and David Larkhan are leaving us to go to live just south of Vienna to be near their daughter and family, please see their attached farewell note. We wish them both a bon voyage and an enjoyable future in Austria.

We have new neighbours who have moved into 7 Manor Gardens, they are Ken and Margaret Bignall who moved here from Haselmere on the Surrey border. They lived in this area some years ago when Ken was employed in the vicinity. They have four daughters and have relocated to be nearer to them. We wish them a warm welcome to Hanging Houghton.

You may have missed seeing John Colton taking his dogs for a walk around the village. He has recently undergone a hip operation and is now convalescing at home. He has started to take a small amount of exercise and we hope to see him running around the village soon!

There are a number of Hanging Houghton residents who have celebrated their 70th birthday this year. They are organizing a village get-together in order to celebrate/commiserate the occasion. Invites are being issued with all the details to the villagers. - Mike Philpott



Red Lion back in business

The Red Lion pub has re-opened, having been re-built and redecorated following the fire that closed it in late October (as reported in the December issue of the *Bulletin*).

Since 23rd March, landlord and owner Garry Booker has been able to welcome patrons back to the pub and the bed & breakfast facility upstairs. Garry's sister has taken advantage of the new opening to take over the franchise for the kitchen, and the pub now offers a wider range of meals.

It remains unclear what caused the fire that broke out on 25th October 2012 – the most likely culprit is an electrical fault. According to Garry, neither the police nor the insurers have been able to find any proper explanation for the blaze.

Garry, who was born in the village, comes from generations of the Booker family who moved to Brixworth in the late 1800s. He took over the Red Lion from his brother-in-law seven years ago and is keen to keep it a traditional village pub. He is particularly proud of its skittles team. - *Jennifer Fitzgerald*

Educational cash grants available

Did you know that there is a local charity supporting education of under-25s in Brixworth and Scaldwell? Anyone who meets the criteria can apply for a cash grant, provided it's for educational purposes. It can be used to cover the cost of buying school uniform, books, course materials, musical instruments and computer equipment, as well as helping with travelling expenses (for example, a school trip).

Pick up an application form from the library in Brixworth, or contact the Clerk to the Trustees, Ursula Morris, on 505554 or ursula@ursulamorris.co.uk. The next meeting to consider applications will be on 25th September 2013.

Any unused Travel Tokens?

You may remember Daventry District Council issuing travel tokens a few years ago. Many people did not have a use for them.

I collected and re-distributed them at the time. Now I am looking at doing this again.

If you have any of these tokens in the back of a drawer and have no use for them, please take them in to Brixworth or Guilsborough surgery for my attention. Many thanks for your help! - Sue Dobson, nurse advisor.

Friends of Brixworth Church celebrate 30th anniversary

The Friends of Brixworth Church will celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, there will be a weekend of celebration on 1-2 June.

The day will begin with the Friends' **Annual General Meeting** at the Brixworth Centre, Church Street at 11am followed by a Service of Thanksgiving led by the Bishop of Brixworth, The Right Rev. John Holbrook.

After the service, history is on the menu back at the Centre with the **launch of a new book** unearthing the history of All Saints Church at Brixworth. *The Anglo-Saxon Church of All Saints Brixworth* is being launched by the Brixworth Archaeological Research Committee and brings together the results of over 40 years of archaeological research in and around Brixworth church. Authors David Parsons and Diana Sutherland plus other members of the committee, publishers, sponsors and contributors will be present for the launch.

The weekend also sees the return of the annual **Art Exhibition** at the Heritage Centre. From 11am to 5pm, everyone is invited to view (and buy) watercolours, acrylic and pastel art, greetings cards and textiles by over 20 local artists.

The next day, the Friends and the new Priest in Charge Chloe Willson-Thomas look forward to welcoming everyone to the church for a **Family Fun Afternoon**. Starting at 2pm there will be a BBQ, bar, children's picnic teas, stalls, bouncy castle, children's entertainment, games etc. The day is being presented jointly by the PCC, Friends of Brixworth Church and assisted by the Brixworth Christian Fellowship. Proceeds will go to the maintenance of the church which needs to raise £10,000 for rainwater goods' repairs and replacements.

Throughout the weekend the Church will be decorated with flowers and displays by local community organisations. Everyone is welcome to visit. - *Kate Knight*






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Shining a light on Saxon Spires Surgery

Brixworth residents can relax in the knowledge that their GP practice is one of the best in the County. When the previous Pytchley Health Centre merged with the Guilsborough Saxon Spires practice in April 2009, it became part of a beacon practice already achieving high levels of patient care.

Guilsborough has been a training practice for over twenty years, and practice manager Kathryn Baines is part of a programme that supports practices that need some help for a variety of reasons.

The merger, which had been under consideration for several years beforehand, came at the time of Dr Alston's retirement when Dr Southcott was seeking a new partner. Both practices recognised that only large practices were going to survive well in future. Since then, Kathryn Baines says, "the two practices have come together very well, through a lot of team-building and by doctors working on both sites."

In addition to the normal range of GP services, the practice hosts a podiatrist (every Friday), physiotherapist (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) and even a reflexologist (Friday). Both the Brixworth and Guilsborough sites have a dispensary serving people who live more than a mile from their nearest pharmacy, and Guilsborough also has a regular pharmacy which caters for everyone (and delivers if needed).

Patients have demonstrated their appreciation of the practice with the magnificent response to the appeal for funds to buy a new ultrasound unit - something the NHS cannot provide. Since last summer, they have raised £22,000 - £2,000 ahead of the original target - through events ranging from coffee mornings to golf days and running marathons. This new machine will allow Dr Boon to continue to scan patients with gynaecological problems to help decide whether they need to be referred to a consultant. In future, she hopes to develop her skills to include doing scans for pregnancy viability, gall bladder and kidney



problems. It may even be possible to set up a service with an ultrasonographer who will be able to scan a wide range of areas, such as scanning knees, shoulders etc.

The downside to the popularity is capacity, with Brixworth in particular running into problems. At the time of the merger, Brixworth had 6,500 patients and Guilsborough 7,500. Since then, the practice has continued to grow at the steady rate of several hundred new patients a year. However, Brixworth's premises, built 20 years ago, are now confined and outdated - but the lease has another 18 years to run.

The practice has done what it can to alleviate this problem by revamping Brixworth's reception area, enlarging its dispensary, bringing in a nurse prescriber and increasing the number of staff. Significant new housing in Brixworth is bound to add to the pressure. "Realistically, I don't see how the Brixworth practice can continue to operate in the current building for another 18 years," Kathryn says.

Scarily, the Guilsborough practice, which moved to new premises as recently as 2005, is now starting to juggle for space too!

Part of this pressure is also down to patients having higher expectations than before. Kathryn says: "It doesn't matter how many new appointment slots the practice can fit in, there will never be enough!"

A recent patients' survey showed waiting times to be an issue. Delays are caused by emergency appointments made on the day; while there will always be space for patients who feel they need to be seen the same day, it is worth considering whether a problem really is so urgent it cannot wait, or whether it can be dealt with by a nurse, before phoning for a same-day appointment.

In future, patients will increasingly be able to do things online. It is already possible to order repeat prescriptions via the internet and Kathryn says it will not be long before patients can also book their appointments online.

- Jennifer Fitzgerald

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Who's Who

Saxon Spires prides itself on only recruiting doctors that share their patient-focused values. Each of them has their own particular interests and specialisms. Interestingly, the practice has found it quite difficult to recruit male GPs so most of the team are women. Saxon Spires is a training practice and a number of the current doctors in the practice trained at Guilsborough themselves.

The Doctors

Professor Catti Moss

Senior Partner. Awarded the honorary title of Professor by Warwick Medical School. The driving force behind Guilsborough's GP training. Interested in minor surgery and dermatology. Often in the media.

Dr Simon Twigg

Participates in the management of the practice and is the practice lead in the new Clinical Commissioning Group. Undertakes minor surgery. Rheumatology specialist and the practice's musculo-skeletal lead.

Dr Julia Boon

Family planning trainer and the prescribing lead in the practice. Recently obtained a certificate in reflexology. Training to use ultrasound.

Dr Neil Menon

Also a GP trainer, director for the regional doctors' training programme. Interested in cardiology. Works part time.

Dr Chander Nayer

Trained in India and retrained as a GP in the UK, including at Guilsborough. Mainly at Brixworth and Brampton View nursing home.

Dr Kim Kavanagh

Joined 18 months ago. Specialises in dermatology and will take over minor surgery from Prof Moss in future. Looking to become a GP trainer. Based mainly at Guilsborough.

Dr Estelle Briggs

Based at Brixworth. Works part time.

Dr Joanna Warcaba

Joined the practice last August. Originally trained as a nurse and worked in paediatrics and palliative care before training to become a doctor. Has a strong interest in palliative care.

Dr Elizabeth Scott

Previously a long-term locum at Guilsborough. Works part time.

Dr Julia Railson

Joining in June 2013. Her training included

stints at Guilsborough. Her work will be split between Guilsborough and Brixworth.

The Nurses

Cathy Uttley is sadly missed after her sudden passing in 2011. Many patients still miss Cathy who was a very dedicated nurse. The new waiting room and play area for children has been dedicated in her memory.

Diana Furniss

Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Prescriber. Deals with minor illnesses and contraceptive implants.

Andrea Wetherhill

Nurse Prescriber. Specialises in diabetic treatment. Based at Guilsborough and runs the diabetes clinic at Brixworth.

Helen Taylor

Takes the lead in childhood immunisations and has an interest in coronary heart disease. Works at Guilsborough and Brixworth. Works part time.

Lynne King

Nurse Prescriber. Specialises in COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Also runs heart clinics. Based at Brixworth.

Maria Farman

Specialises as an asthma nurse. Based at Brixworth.

Caron Blackwell

Phlebotomist healthcare assistant (specialises in collecting blood samples). Does blood tests, spirometry, ECGs, and healthchecks for lifestyle issues including cholesterol and glucose tests for diabetes. Based at Brixworth.

Jane Walton

Similar responsibilities to Karen. Supports Catti with minor surgery. Based at Guilsborough.

Shirley Walker

Phlebotomist (does blood tests). Also works at Brampton View.

Others you may meet

Kathryn Baines

Practice Manager and Partner. Deals with all aspects of the management of the practice and oversees both sites but is based at Guilsborough. Also takes part in training of GP Registrars and Foundation Doctors.

Sarah McCallum

Office Manager at Brixworth.

Changes to the NHS – how do they affect Brixworth?

This is a year of change for the NHS and while the nation-wide changes might seem confusing and remote, they will affect all surgeries, including the one at Brixworth.

Saxon Spires' Dr Simon Twigg says that GP practices have formed Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), which have replaced Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) as the local bodies responsible for commissioning local health services and controlling the local health budget. The CCGs also allow local practices to share back-office functions.

GP practices will manage the budget for secondary services. However, Dr Twigg points out, "The Daily Mail headline that your local GP will be given millions to look after your care is an unbalanced viewpoint." In reality, GPs have to reduce costs without sacrificing quality, and every month their performance will be subjected to a peer review.

Other changes include the application of a national tariff, reducing the scope for negotiation of prices, the "Choose and Book" system which allows patients to choose a provider, and allowing non-NHS providers to supply services as long as they meet required clinical standards.

All of this is likely to affect Brixworth less than some other practices, because of Saxon Spires' excellent performance (see facing article). This means it has a relatively low rate of referrals to hospitals, lower than average use of A&E, and it uses its prescribing budget well.

However, it is clear that our GPs are not enthusiastic about this new system, which is perhaps understandable given the many changes that have been introduced into the NHS in recent years. Dr Twigg said that the system was still divisive and could be taken advantage of as long as organisations are penalised for failing to meet targets. He suggested that the constant monitoring of referrals and expenditure were not the best use of a clinician's time.

While politicians have promised to ring-fence the health service from cuts, the effect of inflation is certain to lead to a rationing of costly interventions, such as hip and knee replacements. These will now have to be managed by GP practices on a quota basis.

Dr Twigg explained that GPs were also sceptical about the practice of setting budgets for surgeries based on historical activity, because effective practices that do not refer many patients to hospital receive less money. – *Jennifer Fitzgerald*

Not mincing their words

The *Bulletin* went along to interview our village butcher, Keith Chambers. It was good to see him looking well after the period of prolonged illness he has suffered recently.

What were the origins of the business?

I started it in 1988. I've always been a butcher - I trained with JS Bates in Market Harborough. I originally set up with my brother but he semi retired ten years ago because of health problems. In the beginning, my father helped us out in his retirement.

What is your relationship to Brixworth?

I live in Market Harborough. I came to Brixworth to work in the butchers, which was then owned by JS Bates, for five years before taking it over myself.

The famous Brixworth pate was developed by Stuart (Bates). He is really a trained chef but became a butcher because he inherited the business from his family. The pate used to be made here but then Stuart set up in the industrial estate in Brixworth. It's been made for about 30 years and is still doing well, although it is no longer sold in Harrods.

What changes have you seen over the years?

Not many, really, because we aim to stay a traditional butcher and



Keith Chambers (left) and John Bozier

haven't changed what we do. For example, we make a point of not selling pre-packed meat. The biggest change has been the introduction of barbeque food during the summer, which we prepare here, like everything else.

Prices are still going up. They have risen about 15% in the past three years. Now the price rises are due to the horsemeat scandal - the supermarkets are trying to source their meat more locally now. It's worth knowing that if meat is boned or finished off in the UK it can be called British; it does not need to be raised here. The price rises haven't really affected our sales, but we do see that we tend to sell more mince, sausages and stew towards the end of the month when people are running out of money.

Who is currently involved in the business?

John (Bozier) has been with us nine years. He lives in Brixworth. Derek (Haimes), who used to be a butcher with the Coop, works here on Friday and Saturday, and my wife Liz joins us on Saturday.

Tell us about your customers

We only sell to private customers. We try not to get involved in catering to businesses as it simply doesn't pay.

Describe your typical day

We open at 7 o'clock and shut at 5.30pm during the week and at

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4pm on Saturday. We are here at 7 to get the shop ready. While we serve customers at the front, we are preparing the meats at the back. The meat is delivered to us from the market as full carcasses. We bone it and butcher it here on the premises.

We make our own sausages by mixing shoulder of pork with seasoning. We cure our own bacon, made from loin of pork, by salting it and keeping it for 14 days before slicing. Beef is hung between 14 and 21 days, and lamb between 7 and 10 days. (Nowadays lamb is bred and sold all year round in this country). Pork has to be sold within the week as it doesn't keep.

All our beef and lamb comes from the Rugby market. It is all local meat which is killed locally. We used to have the best grazing land for lamb in the country around here. Our pork is free range and comes from Suffolk.

Our poultry comes from a RSPCC approved farm in Suffolk, and our eggs are from Grange Farm in Lutterworth.

What are the seasonal variations, eg the run up to Christmas?

Christmas, Easter and the summer are our busiest times. Before Christmas, we are working 19-hour days for a 10-12 day period.

If the weather is good, summer can be our busiest time of all because of the popularity of barbeque food. This can mean we are busy for 8-10 weeks.

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

Someone actually came in once and asked for vegetarian meat!

Another customer ordered a whole lamb once and when they saw it, wanted to know why it only had two legs, because, of course, shoulder of lamb is what we call the front legs.

Someone complained once that the turkey we had sold them hadn't got very much meat on it. This was because they had cooked it upside down and hadn't seen where the meat was!

What are your top challenges?

Getting back to full health and strength, so I can continue for another twenty years. This is happening slowly but surely.

What message do you have for your customers?

Thank you for your support over the past 25 years. Please continue to shop locally! - Jennifer Fitzgerald

Redevelopment of Mabbutt's woodyard likely to go ahead

Plans to redevelop Mabbutt's woodyard on Station Road, Brixworth are likely to be approved, two years after being dismissed by Daventry District Council.

Under the plans, which were resubmitted in February, the remains of the derelict woodyard will make way for nine light industrial units and parking for over 200 cars, plus several houses along the road. The same proposal was thrown out by DDC in December 2010 because of financing issues and opposition to the construction of new houses outside the village, a decision upheld in a later appeal.

The Parish Council also opposes the plans, which it says would bring a significant increase in the amount of traffic through the conservation part of Brixworth, particularly heavy traffic, the impact of which would be "devastating".

However, UK planning laws changed in 2011 to presume in favour of sustainable development. In practice that means that unless there are specific policies or material considerations that prevent development, the councils have to grant permission. Because of this, sources tell the *Bulletin* that it is unlikely that the redevelopment plans will be refused this time around. - cfw

Brixworth & District U3A

Our group meets in Brixworth Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month. There is usually an interesting speaker and we enjoy the chance to socialise. At the March meeting we decided to try something a little different, and got each of the 20 or so interest groups to put on a display to show what they had on offer.

It was our busiest monthly meeting so far with 89 U3A members present. We were also pleased to welcome some special guests. Parish and District Councillors Liz Wiig and Steve Pointer were shown around by Annie Curtis and our local librarian, Jill Barber, viewed the displays with Irene Neil. Members said they enjoyed the afternoon. It was interesting to discover what all the groups get up to. There was more time than at the usual meetings to chat with friends and by all accounts the refreshment counter was very busy!

All of our groups are run by our members and no special expertise is needed. Our interest group co-ordinator is always interested in any suggestions for a new group or you can even agree to run one yourself. At the moment you can choose from table tennis, badminton or rambling if you are feeling active. If you like something more leisurely you might choose French, music appreciation, poetry or architecture. If you like games there is bridge, a quiz or table top games. Or if you enjoy your food there is our lunch club or our evening dining club. You are asked to pay for refreshments or sometimes a small amount towards the hire of a room but where else can you enjoy a morning or afternoon out for as little as 50p?

Our Away Days are always popular. Our most recent one was to London to visit Alexandra Palace, a vast Victorian building in north London. We began the visit with a presentation on the history of the palace which was built in 1873 as a public centre of recreation, education and entertainment and as north London's counterpart to the Crystal Palace. We learned that it was badly damaged by fire on two occasions before becoming the headquarters of the BBC, the world's first regular, public television service in 1936. Part of the building is now used as an exhibition and concert hall but much of it is now derelict. We were given a guided tour and heard that plans are in hand for a programme of refurbishment once the necessary grants have been obtained.

The day was completed with some free time in St Albans. Some members chose to visit the Abbey while others looked for somewhere warm to buy refreshments as it was one of those freezing cold March days! - Christine Pratt

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Facelift for Brixworth Centre

The Brixworth Centre is home to organisations like the Brownies, Scouts, preschool, bowls club and many more. Like many buildings it started to look tired after many years of constant use. Committee member Georgina Kelly along with Claire Hirst wanted to bring extra life into the centre. Claire contacted Helping Hands, a Church group whose volunteers offer their skills to improve the environments of others. Georgina was proactive in sending out emails and gathering support from local people including parents of the children who use the centre.

During the February half term break the team went into action. The main hall was repainted, ceiling tiles fixed and porch revamped. The toilet block received new toilets, taps, lighting and new flooring. Damaged plaster was fixed in the



The Centre's Committee was ably assisted by Helping Hands

Local trades people not only offered their time to help with the more technical jobs but also supplied new toilets and lights free of charge, as budgets were tight.

Further news about the Brixworth Centre Management Committee: we have seen a big increase in the number of people attending our committee meetings as a result of the recent article in the Bulletin and we will be voting in a new Chairperson, treasurer and secretary during the AGM in June. - *Graham Cleary, current Chairperson, BCMC*

lower hall and work started on the outside areas to include trimming, weeding and more work is to take place to further improve the outside play grounds. They worked every day during half term to complete the task before preschool started again on Monday morning – work finished at 10pm Sunday night!!

The result has been amazing and very well received by users and locals alike. It has really improved the appearance of the building and has made it a more pleasurable place to be. I would like to thank all the volunteers from helping hands along with parents and locals who worked tirelessly to complete this mammoth task in such a short period of time.



Hours were spent trimming and weeding the gardens outside

History Society News

The Brixworth History Society has been meeting for over 25 years with the aim of researching, archiving, and raising the awareness of the history of Brixworth in Northamptonshire.

The society has regular exhibitions of photographs and artefacts in the Brixworth Heritage Centre and in the library.

Members and guests are offered a variety of activities including speakers on historical topics and visits to places of interest within the UK and Europe.

The Heritage Centre will be open on the weekends 2.30pm-5pm from 4 May until 29 September. There will be an exhibition of photographs of "The Old Streets of Brixworth" so come and have a stroll down Memory Lane. Roman artefacts discovered on an archaeological dig on the site of a Roman Villa will also be on display.

Refreshments will be available but look out for the special Sundays when we serve cream teas! Entry is free.

The History Society has organised a day trip to Bridgnorth for Saturday 15 June. We will visit the High Town and Low Town connected by the steepest inland cliff railway in Britain. One of the main attractions is the Severn Valley Railway trip between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster. On the way back to Brixworth there will be a stop at the Much Wenlock priory ruins.

Look out for details of our events in the local community centre, library, and selected shops.

If you would like to know more, or would like to come along to our meetings and activities, please contact Heather Parr on 07817006364 or Marian Coleman on 882219.

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Spring comes to the Country Park

All living things at the park were glad to see the end of the long, cold winter and the melting of snow that lay on the ground until the Easter weekend.

Spring was welcomed in with splashes of colour from daffodils, aconites, cowslips, snowdrops, crocus, grape hyacinth, snake's head fritillary and bluebells. Bumble bees were first spotted visiting these flowers in the fourth week of April. When the buds on the trees finally burst open we were treated to an abundance of catkins, blossom, flowers and fresh green leaves. As the birds continued to struggle with the cold weather and the start of the breeding season, we kept up the supply of seeds and fat and were rewarded with large numbers of birds visiting the feeders. We also recorded a first at the feeders, a pair of reed buntings.

Over the past few months we have been continuing with habitat improvement work in Jack's Wood, near Bottom Pond, and around the bird hide. In Jack's Wood we finished the coppicing and thinning work we started in winter 11/12 and planted new trees that will help re-establish and diversify the structure of the wood.

At the bird hide we removed some of the larger trees to increase the size of the feeding area and reduce the amount of leaf litter getting into the pond. With the help of some donated plug plants we are hoping to improve the grass area in front of the hide and make it more attractive to insects, which in turn may encourage more birds in to the feeding area. We also diverted the rain water from the roof of the hide into the feeding area to create a marshy area next to the pond.

Students from Northampton College visited the park once a week during their spring term, to help with work in the Sensory Garden.



They were a great help with the weeding, cutting back vegetation and coppicing the dogwoods. The Sensory Garden will also benefit from re-planting, surfacing repairs, a new pergola and a new bench in the thatched gazebo this year.

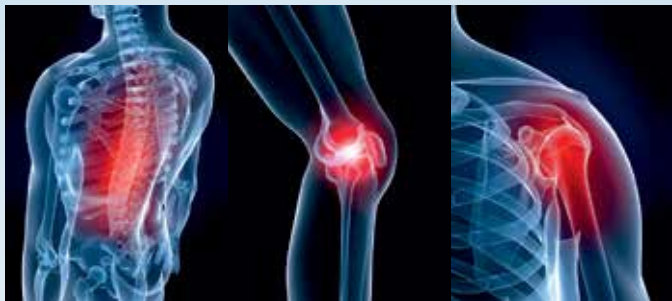
Entertainment at the Park

This summer sees the return of two entertainment events to the country park. On Saturday 22nd June we welcome back Heartbreak Productions with their thrilling production of 'Alice – An Extraordinary Adventure', which blends both of Lewis Carroll's Alice books into one fast-paced show full of engaging dialogue, inspiring music and magical adventure. Tickets for this family event are available at www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk.

Then on 12th and 13th of July the park will host the **2nd Merry Tom Folk Festival!** First held in 2011, the festival returns with a great line-ups for the main and second stages, an acoustic tent, children's entertainment, percussion workshops, food and craft stalls and beer tent. Acts confirmed include: Something Nasty in the Woodshed, The Angels' Share, Jinsky, Dead Like Harry, Navaro, Galley Beggar and the Duncan McFarlane Band. A 'Local Showcase' session will kick-start Saturday's main stage billing. To get tickets, more information or involved in the festival please visit www.merrytom.co.uk.

More information about this year's events, including a talk on barn owls by a local expert, can be found at the Countryside Service website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/parks or you can follow us on Facebook.

Finally, we would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported the country park in the *Brixworth Bulletin's* deserving cause vote. – Chris Howe



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Dear Friends,

As the new Priest-in-Charge at Brixworth and Holcot, I send my greetings to you all, and take the opportunity of saying how pleased I am to be here at last. My installation seemed a long way off, but finally arrived at the end of April. It was a wonderful day—we were blessed with wall-to-wall sunshine all day long, and the Church was packed with well-wishers.

It has taken us a while to settle in. Moving house along with three teenagers, two cats, two gerbils and a large lizard takes some doing but we've at last got the vicarage straight! And we've had a wonderful welcome from everybody---parishioners, neighbours, and people in the village, too.

Having lived in the suburbs of Leicester for many years, living in the country is new to us, but I've been impressed by the beauty of the villages round here. Brixworth is a lovely village—so peaceful, and it is wonderful to have the reservoir nearby as a stretch of water to visit.

I do feel very privileged to be here to serve in two such beautiful churches. But I want to see them flourish and grow. I am here to further the mission of God, and to make his love known to all who live here. So I will be looking at how I tackle things very much with a fresh pair of eyes, and making changes where needed. My emphasis will be on making the churches more welcoming and much more accessible to newcomers, and to families. But I'll also be working to promote the Church of All Saints, and to make known its unique history, not only as a building, but as an ancient site of Christian worship.



Image of St Bonifaceto mark his day, 5th June

I look forward to getting to know you all, and to welcoming you in amongst us.

Reverend Chloe

JUNE	1	Saturday	Friends' Day	Service of Thanksgiving led by the Bishop of Brixworth at 12 noon
	2	Sunday	Corpus Christi (transferred from 30 th May)	Solemn Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	9	Sunday	Trinity II	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	16	Sunday	Trinity III	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	23	Sunday	Trinity IV / Birth of John the Baptist	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	30	Sunday	Trinity V / St Peter and St Paul	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
JULY	7	Sunday	Trinity VI	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	14	Sunday	Trinity VII / Sea Sunday	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	21	Sunday	Trinity VIII	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	28	Sunday	Trinity IX	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
AUGUST	4	Sunday	Trinity X / Transfiguration	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	11	Sunday	Trinity XI	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	18	Sunday	Trinity XII / Assumption of the BV Mary	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	25	Sunday	Trinity XIII	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
SEPT	1	Sunday	Trinity XIV	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.
	8	Sunday	Trinity XV	Sung Eucharist at 10.15 a.m.

Friends' Day - Saturday June 1st

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Friends of Brixworth Church. As part of our celebrations on 1st June, Dr David Parsons will be launching a book on the history of the church representing the culmination of decades of research. The book launch will follow a service of thanksgiving in church at 12noon led by the Bishop of Brixworth.

The day will also feature an Art Exhibition in the Heritage Centre and a Gala Evening in the marquee in the church grounds.

Family Fun Afternoon - Sunday June 2nd

Fun and games for all the family, BBQ and licensed bar.

From the Registers

Holy Burial	27 th February	Martin Charles Mabbutt	41 Stannard Way, Brixworth (cremated remains)
	8 th April	Roy Thomas Chapman	Cedarwood Nursing Home, Northampton (formerly of Brixworth)

Parish News



Brixworth Parish Council News & Views- Early Summer 2013 edition
Visit us at <http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/>

edited by Ian Barratt

Thank you, 700 times!

Community takes on Project to Reduce Speeding!

Have you seen these volunteers around the village? Wondered what they are up to? Well, all can now be revealed!

To tackle speeding vehicles the Parish Council has joined Community Speedwatch. Volunteers are trained to use a police-type radar speed gun. Particulars of speeding motorists are passed on to the police who will send them a warning letter. We are using several sites in the village where residents have complained of speeding traffic and will be adding more to our list.

Speedwatch is aimed at educating motorists to cut their speed. But we will inform the police of any speeding blackspots we find and anyone they catch can't say they weren't warned!

Initially we have around 25 trained volunteers and will operate over a 6 week period to be repeated depending on the number of offenders we spot. To make this possible we needed to prove the Community wanted it and we needed signatures. Which is where **you** all came in, pledging your support with time running out rapidly!

Cllr Ian Barratt set himself a target of getting 500 signatures in just a few days. And thanks to you he got enough to make Speedwatch possible and over 700 of you signed your support!



L-R Cllr Ian Barratt, Mike Nice, Howard Reader

But this is *Community* speedwatch so we have now placed it in the very capable hands of Howard Reader who is now running it on behalf of the Community on a continuing basis.

Well done to all concerned - together we've made a difference! Oh, and what did it cost us? Nothing!

Walk on by.....

Oh for the chance to in parts of Brixworth. Cllr Liz Wiig says she is concerned at the number of cars parked on pavements making it impossible for a parent with a buggy or a sight-impaired person to pass, forcing them out on the road and exposing them to real danger.

Come on. Motorists, give a thought for these people and leave plenty of space for them to get past. Let's face it, you're not supposed to be on the pavement at all!



Posed picture on unadopted road

We don't want to report you to the police for this offence - we'd far rather you took this to be a gentle reminder so we can all be, in the words of another song, "Walking Back to Happiness!"

New Councillor Welcomed!

Laura Wright is another new Parish Councillor we have recently welcomed. She tells us she is the proud mum of a very energetic young son, and she will soon be starting a new job at Brixworth Centre pre-school. She has had previous experience working for the community in Central Sports and tells us she loves running round Pitsford Reservoir! Even more impressively, she has just completed her first half marathon! You'll need all that energy on the Parish Council, Laura! It's a pleasure to have you on board with your real enthusiasm. And like your athletics interest, we hope your involvement with us will run and run!

**Welcome to new Parish Councillors Paul Williamson and Laura Wright!
To adapt a well known phrase or saying....."Brixworth Parish Council is Full"!!**

Recreation Committee

The committee has replaced two items of unsafe equipment with an obstacle free run course and a toddler slide/climbing frame. Keep a look out as we have many projects in the pipeline for the near future. Here are just a few things - a climbing frame called a Nexus for 13 plus age group on The Ashway, a small regenerative adjustment to Spratton Road some more new equipment and fencing to St Davids and lastly to plant wild flowers and bulbs on areas that are suitable. There are many plans and many things we can do as a committee and with your help we can do this.

Steve Pointer, Recreation and Amenities Chair



Chair's Chat

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who came out to the Brixworth Parish Annual Meeting in April. It is always encouraging to have a good crowd and I was pleased to announce that the Parish Council was, finally up to full strength thanks to Jackie Bird; Laura Wright; Joe Hodgson and Paul Williamson who have recently joined the Council.

I should also thank those members of the Council who have freely given of their time and expertise since their election last year. They are Ian Barratt (Finance Committee Chairman); David Parnaby (Planning Committee Chairman); Colin Bament (Highways Committee Chairman); Stephen Pointer (Recreation Committee Chairman); Bob Chattaway; Anthony Hockenhill; Liz Wiig; Sandra Moxon and Kevin Parker. I have noted those who held the responsibility of Committee Chairman last year and would say that different members will likely hold the post next year, but it is a time consuming job which deserves special appreciation and thanks.

Many of you will know about our tree planting campaign, when we invited residents as well as children from the Primary School, the Scouts and the Junior Football Team to help us plant some small trees. This effort was led by a Councillor Ian Barratt who recently was elected as a District Councillor and is likely familiar to you all. 100 Trees were planted but most fell foul of hooligans who happily destroyed them. So my next question was; will we try again – with bigger trees? Perhaps we will, but Ian will not be able to lead a new campaign without assistance. If you visit St. David's Playing field, there is little, if anything, to be seen of our trees – but you will be able to see some of the new Children's Play equipment we have been investing in, for local children.

You have probably seen members of the council and others, suitably dressed in fluorescent vests pointing a speed gun at passing motorists in our Speed Watch programme. Maybe they were pointing it at you? I asked one particular councillor who seems to take strange pleasure at trying to catch me, "Tony (Hockenhill), have you caught anyone yet?" The answer was surprising as some people have been caught not just once, but several times – on the same day! It seems every year people complain to the Parish Council about speeding in the village; and although previous efforts have not really provided evidence of it, this program seems to be supporting the concern. One concern, the A508 Bypass, was not a part of the program and we are looking to see if it might be added.

There has been much concern expressed about the attraction Brixworth appears to have for developers. It is an attraction that led to the formation of BRANE to resist unwanted housing development, with some success.

More recently, the Parish Council has been considering a Neighbourhood Plan and Brixworth has been recognised by Daventry District Council as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Parish Council has set up a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group whose job it will be to engage with the residents of Brixworth and find out what the community wants in the way of a plan for the future of the community.

The writing's on the wall.....

.....and the signs, and the fence and the post box!

Graffiti has become widespread in the village. If you can, photograph the tags and email it to Jane, our Clerk. She will pass it on to the police as they may recognise the owner. Please help us to keep our Village graffiti-free!



Contact us.....

Clerk to the Council: Jane Macken MILCM, clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk tel. (01604) 881243 and at

http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/

Jane does not work 24/7! If she is not available, just leave your number and she will get back to you at the earliest opportunity.

Parish Councillors

Mike Lacey (Chair)

Ian Barratt

Bob Chattaway

Liz Wiig

Tony Hockenhill

Sandra Moxon

Paul Williamson

Full contact details on <http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/council-contacts/>

Steve Pointer

David Parnaby

Colin Bament

Joe Hodgeson

Jackie Bird

Kevin Parker

Laura Wright

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Surgery	Sat June 1st, Sat July 6th
Highways Committee	Tues June 4th
Planning Committee	Mon June 10th, Mon 8th July, 29 July
Full Council	Tues 18th June, Tues 16th July
Recreation Committee	Tues 23rd July

Meetings are held in the Community Centre. Full Agendas are available a few days before the meeting on line at <http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/> or on the notice boards in the library entrance or by Troops the Greengrocers. Press and Public welcome.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a plan drawn by the desires and expectations of the people living in the neighbourhood. The Parish Council but it does not write it. That is the responsibility of the Steering Group.

Bob Chattaway, chairman of BRANE says that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group consists of a current Core Group membership of 8 that we would like to see expanded to include representative views from all areas of the village and to this end, he invited volunteers to meet with him. He also recognised that not everyone would be able to commit to full time membership of the Group, but would still be welcome as Associate Members – he calls them Stakeholders. It is this group that will be calling on you to contribute your opinion in specific areas of particular and immediate concern. The Neighbourhood Plan will extend up to 2026 and we realise there are limitations when looking ahead that far, but what we do now will be critical to how the village develops into the future. It is not just new housing either, but desired services and facilities are a part of the whole when thinking about Brixworth of the future.

When the draft Plan is complete, it will be offered for examination by a professional who will make sure it is within the law. When satisfied, the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum by the people of Brixworth. It is their Plan, your Plan and providing it has a favorable vote it will become the Planning Law for Brixworth and all others will be required to recognise it and abide by it.

It is not too late! If you would like to help, the Steering Group would like to welcome your help and the best way of making yourself known would be for you to contact Bob Chattaway (brane@talktalk.net) he is the Vice Chairman of the Group. The Steering Group needs help with meetings to be planned; newsletters to be prepared and delivered and many other things. And we want to fast track the whole thing to be ready with a draft by Christmas. Engagement with the village is not necessarily as easy as you might think!

Mike Lacey, Chairman

Planning Committee Report

Recently a major concern for the Planning Committee has been the application for Planning permission for land at Station Yard (also known as Mabbut's Yard) on the Creaton Road, north west of the Village. This land is currently occupied by derelict and semi- derelict buildings and application has been made for the construction of nine dwelling houses and a number of large industrial buildings, intended to house offices/light industry. While some type of development of this site might be seen as being welcome, the Parish Council opposed this application, chiefly on the grounds that there would be a marked increase in traffic proceeding through the already severely overloaded roads through the Village Conservation Area, particularly along Station Road, Church Street and High Street towards the A508.

Looking at the future of planning in the Village overall, Daventry District Council has recently authorised Brixworth Parish Council to lead on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan which will form a template to shape the future of the Village in the light of the wishes of the Community.

David Parnaby Planning Committee Chair



Parish Council Annual Report 2013



Chairman's Overview — Cllr Michael Lacey



It seems a long time since the Parish Council Elections last year and that is what really started the year, although you might be forgiven if you didn't notice because there were not enough people standing for election to require a vote. It is not the first time, either; however, I am pleased to report that we have been able to co-opt willing

volunteers from the community, now, to fill those empty council chairs – some of which had been empty for some time.

It was shortly after the election that your council elected to throw its weight behind the defence of the Carter Jonas appeal and we voted to put our money where our mouth was by securing professional services to argue why the rejection of the proposed development should not be overturned on appeal. In the end, Carter Jonas withdrew their appeal.

Meanwhile, our desire to establish our own Brixworth Neighbourhood Development plan has been ongoing and led to our formal application to Daventry District Council for official recognition as the Neighbourhood Development Plan representative for the Parish of Brixworth. It took a while, but we received approval recently and are now addressing how we reinvigorate our efforts.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan is an important step in modifying legislation to take the views of a community into account and to do that; your views need to be heard. It is important. So, our next step is to find ways in which you might be heard. And to find ways to keep you informed of progress, because, in the end, we will be asking you to vote in a Referendum and it will not be a vote on what the Parish Council plans, it will be a vote on the plan of the people, and I hope you really will take part in that because it can affect the future of the village in which we all live.

We invited members of the community to help us plant trees within the community and many did, including pupils from the



Primary School, scouts and Junior football club. But vandals could not resist and before too long the majority were destroyed. WE will get bigger trees next time! We have also appreciated the input of various members of the

community as we have invested in new children's play equipment.

More recently still, the Parish Council has committed to a Community Speedwatch programme in which volunteers from the community will receive training from the Police and then monitor vehicle speeds within the Parish. Every year there are complaints about perceived speeding in the village and the number of volunteers far exceeded our expectations. So if you are caught exceeding the posted limit by one of your neighbours, you will receive a polite letter from the Police to let you know it has been noted.

I might add that each Parish Council meeting allows time for members of our community to ask questions of the Council, or suggest something we might consider, or simply bring things to our attention. Unfortunately, few make use of this opportunity and many think we are not listening or are not relevant in today's day and age. Of course, I would dispute that, but I would also encourage Brixworth residents to take time to support the Parish Council and make sure their voice is heard.

Planning Committee Report – by Cllr David Parnaby Chairman

As mentioned by the Chairman in his report (above), a major concern for the Parish Council over the past year was the application by Carter Jonas for the building of 150 houses on land to the west of Northampton Road. After opposition by Brixworth Parish Council and rejection by Daventry District Council (DDC), the applicants appealed but later withdrew their appeal prior to it being heard. However, a planning application by BDW (Barratts) for the building of 150 houses on land to the east of Northampton Road, opposed by the Parish Council, was subsequently allowed by DDC, together with BDW's applications for two alternative schemes involving the demolition of two dwelling houses and designed to increase the number of parking spaces in the centre of the Village. Very recently a planning application was received in respect of land in Station Yard (also known as Mabbut's Yard) for nine dwelling houses and a number of buildings intended for office/light industrial use. A major concern here was that the development would lead to a marked increase in traffic through the already congested Brixworth Conservation Area. This application was rejected by the Parish Council but has yet to be dealt with by DDC.

Recreation and Amenities Committee Report—by Cllr Steve Pointer

After nearly two years of planning the committee had to change its plans for the St David's play area, the idea of all new play equipment was put on long term hold. However with the help of a grant, from the S106 agreement from the Highfields development, the committee was able to replace the log trim trail and cabin slide, with a Parkour free running course and a toddler slide/ climbing frame.



Keep a look out as the committee has many other projects in the pipeline for the near future, including a climbing frame for 13 plus on the Ashway playing field, a small regeneration adjustment to Spratton Road, new fencing to St David's play area and lastly to plant wild flowers in the pocket park.

There are many projects and many things we can do as a committee and with your help we can do this.



Parish Council Annual Report 2013



Finance Committee Report—by Cllr Ian Barratt

Summary of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2013

Income	
Precept	97,005
Sports clubs	3,540
Community Centre	2,872
Grant - Play Equipment	10,970
Other	311
	114,698
Expenditure	
Staff & admin.	61,342
Community Grants	14,545
Highways	5,733
Recreation	16,189
New Play Equipment	19,155
Professional Planning Fees	6,031
Information Point	1,030
	124,025
Deficit	(9,327)
Balance as at 31 March 2012	142,044
Less deficit	9,327
Balance as at 31 March 2013	132,717

Yet again your Parish Council faced the challenge of giving you, the residents of Brixworth, continuing good value for money in what we do. For several years we have managed to freeze or even reduce the amount we ask from you. With inflation stubbornly refusing to reduce and our scope for savings almost exhausted our options are few.

We could have reduced spending on our projects, such as new play equipment, new bus shelters, maybe cut the grass less often, or stop financially supporting our deserving Village groups but we really think that's not what residents want. So increasingly we are taking on no-cost projects, such as the tree planting and Speed Watch you will read about elsewhere.

It is worth mentioning that your Parish Councillors work without pay and some spend considerable time and money working on projects and carrying out their duties never being repaid for their time or expenditure.

The Council Tax is being calculated differently this year. To collect the same amount as last year to invest in running and improving our services, we need to increase the amount by 2%

So reluctantly, we have decided to increase our Precept by under £2 **per year** for the average household to cover the amount we lose through funding changes and a small sum to maintain our services to you.

Our Reserves are for hard financial times. So we are again using some of this money this coming year. However, we can't continue this year after year or the pot will soon become empty.

Most of your Council Tax goes to the County Council, and some to District Council. Your Parish Council will receive only around £60 per year per average Band D home. Or under 30p a person each week for a typical family. We hope you will agree with us that this still represents extremely good value in these cash strapped times.

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

Brixworth All Saints FC	200
Brixworth Junior FC	700
Brixworth Youth Club	2,500
BRANE	200
DACT	750
Neighbourhood Watch	150
Brixworth Scout Group	460
Merry Tom Events	350
Brixworth Heritage Bridge Club	200
Brixworth Jubilee Committee	600
Brixworth Centre Pre-School	635
Brixworth First Response Grp	1,000
Brixworth Village Hall	2,000
Brixworth Police	4,800

Highways & Environment Committee

The committee receives several complaints through out the year with regards to resident's trees and hedges causing an obstruction by overhanging footpaths, as well as parked vehicles blocking footpaths. The parish council can not enforce any action to be taken, but respectfully requests that all householders consider the needs of other residents and help to keep the footpaths clear enough to allow pedestrians, including children, mothers with pushchairs and the disabled, to pass safely.

This year the council decided to remove the dilapidated wooden bus shelter along Spratton Road and is looking to replace the brick bus shelter on Northampton Road.

Brixworth Parish Council Contact Details

Parish Councillors

Mike Lacey (Chairman)
Ian Barratt
Colin Bament
Steve Pointer
Kevin Parker
Joe Hodgson
Paul Williamson

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Parish Councillors

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David Parnaby
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jbird@brixworthpc.org.uk
lwright@brixworthpc.org.uk

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BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.bcfchurch.co.uk



I have just read a newspaper article about a Headteacher who hanged herself for “fear” of losing Ofsted’s Outstanding status. Such tragedies hopefully will not be repeated but it does beg the question “how big a problem is fear in our society?” In our community of Brixworth and surrounding villages I see many who are fearful of losing their livelihood, vandalism, mugging, burglary, health, death, loneliness, abuse and so the list goes on. Such fear is sadly not uncommon and is often suffered alone.

Jesus offered some good advice in this area when he said “perfect love drives out fear” – the love that is found in Jesus himself as followers of Jesus have found over the centuries and still are finding today. It is summed up in the command to “love the Lord your God...and love your neighbour as yourself”. God’s divine promise is that he will be with us for ever as we place our trust in Him, and then as we love our neighbour, we help them to overcome fear and loneliness as love and care are shared.

Have a great Summer free from fear!

Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on 882040



A SUMMER OF FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Following the success of last year’s visit from a Baptist Church in Mississippi, we are planning again to receive them and here’s what we are doing!

Family Fun Day

Saturday July 27th 2013

From 1p.m.- 5p.m at the field near the entrance to the Country Park includes Bouncy Castles, BBQ, Fun races for children, face painting, arts and crafts in the Marquee and generally have a great time.

We are looking again for this event to be free with just a nominal fee for Car Parking.

Open Air Songs of Praise

Sunday July 28th

Open Air Songs of Praise including the Salvation Army Band

4 p.m. outside the Library and Community Centre join us on what we trust will be a sunny day!





Children's Holiday Club

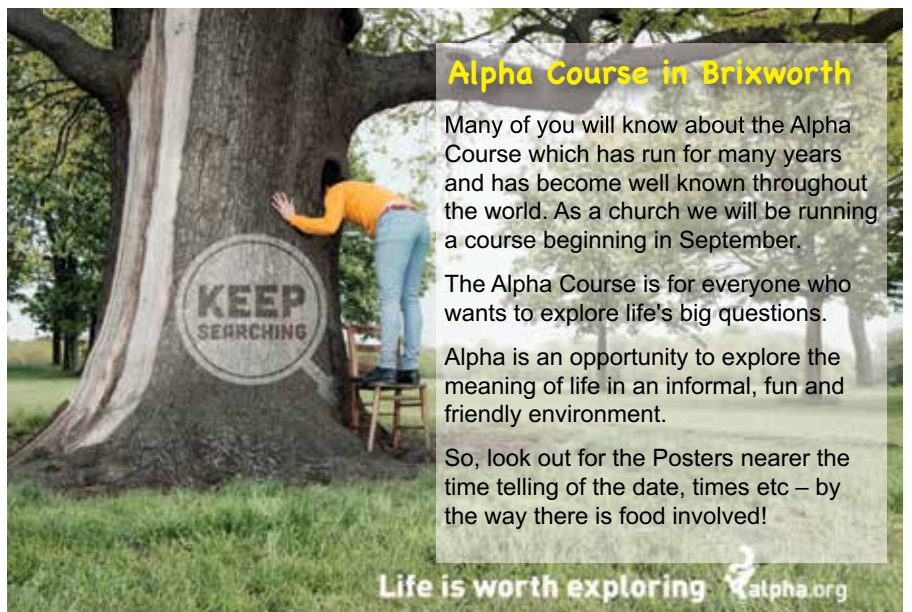
Monday 29th – Wednesday 31st July

Children's Holiday Club at the school 9a.m.- 12.30 p.m. (for children of Primary school age (up to 11)

Do you want your child to have an amazing three days of fun?

Registration and booking will again from the end of June when full details will be available. Due to work being carried out at the school over the Summer period it may be necessary to curtail numbers, so we suggest getting your registration forms in as early as you can.

During this week with the Americans we hope to get involved in a Community Project at the School to enhance their environment.



Alpha Course in Brixworth

Many of you will know about the Alpha Course which has run for many years and has become well known throughout the world. As a church we will be running a course beginning in September.

The Alpha Course is for everyone who wants to explore life's big questions.

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal, fun and friendly environment.

So, look out for the Posters nearer the time telling of the date, times etc – by the way there is food involved!

Life is worth exploring alpha.org

BCF Weekly events

Sunday:	09:45 – 10:30	Informal gathering
	11:15 – 12:30	Main Service of Worship (Brixworth school) (including Junior Church and Creche)
Monday:	20:00 – 21:30	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
Tuesday:	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
Wednesday:	20:00 – 21:30	Home study Groups
Thursday:	10:00 – 11:30	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group*
Friday:	17:00 – 18:00	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 Brixworth Matters or to know more about the Christian faith, then phone Phil on 882040 or go online at www.bcfchurch.co.uk



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.
If you have never tasted the fine coffee and food – why not try it!

Mon, Tue, Thur 10-3.00, Fri 9.30-3.00,
Saturday 9.30-1.00
Wed 10-11 & 1.45-3.00

Pensioners Luncheon Club Wed 12 noon*
*(membership currently full ask to be added to waiting list)

The Olive Branch, Brixworth Library,
Spratton Road, Tel 889030
Run by volunteers this non-profit making venture has a welcoming atmosphere.

WESTMINSTER REPORT

Of localism and landgrabs

Over the three years I've been your MP, local people have raised concerns about the planning system with me more than any other issue. I, in turn, have been raising your concerns directly with Ministers.

Those of you who know me will know how frustrated I have been with the lack of progress on removing the last Labour government's centrally imposed housing and renewable energy targets. In planning jargon they are called regional spatial strategies or RSSs and even though you might not have heard of them, these RSSs have had some direct effects on you and the village you live in.

In fact, if you look to the south of Brixworth you'll see a new development happening that I attribute to the courts not allowing us to remove these RSSs when we came into government.

If you regularly read my column in here, you will know that I am a big supporter of localism – giving local people much more say about decisions that affect where they live. Indeed, nearly nine years ago I contributed to a book called "Direct Democracy" which outlined how localism could and should work if implemented properly.

There were many aspects to localism but the one that got the most interest was concerning planning. I fundamentally believe that the more involvement local people have in the planning process, the better the results of the planning process will be.

I've been asked by many residents why certain recent planning decisions have been allowed. In the simplest possible terms, it is because that, under the old RSS housing target figures, Daventry District Council only has just over a two year land-bank (supply of land for housing) and in law it should have a five year land-bank. Thus, even though the Council has turned down unwanted speculative housing plans, the developers have been able to win on appeal as the Daventry District is not hitting this five-year target.

The current Government has tried a number of times to rid itself of these RSSs. They are targets set when housing was booming and are completely out of date. However, each time the Government has said they should go, a big housing developer has taken it to court – saying that Government needs to complete a large consultation process before it can say they are gone – and judges have ruled for the developer each time.

Personally, I have issues with the fact that a judge can overrule Government policy in such a way, but this is how things stand.

However, I am delighted to inform you of some very good recent news: As of the 12th April, 2013, the Regional Spatial Strategy housing targets for our area have been abolished.

Now these outdated RSSs have gone, councils can reassess their own housing targets based on local demand and other local factors.

What does this mean for councils like Daventry? The answer is very good news – this change should push their current land-banks from just over two years to near six years in a matter of weeks.

Now this has happened, developers will not be able to use the lack of housing supply based on old numbers as a reason to pepper the village with unsustainable planning applications.

In itself, this does not mean that all the potential developers of sites around Brixworth will up sticks and go away. As we all know, Brixworth is a lovely place to live and is very, very, attractive for developers. What it does mean, though, is that you should have more of a say in any future development in and around the village and that the developers cannot use what many believed was a technicality, to impose unwanted development on the village in the future.

There is a lot more that needs to be done to bring localism into the planning system, but at last we are moving forwards.

Chris

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Twitter	@chhcalling

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An A4 printed sheet landed on my doormat the other day, from among others, the County and District Councils, from the police and from the fire brigade, inviting me to a meeting at which free 'portable ashtrays,' were to be given away. My Milliganesque mind immediately started to run wild. Wow! I thought, someone has come up with an ashtray that you can pick up and carry from one place to another. Has human ingenuity no limit? And then my daughter gently pointed out that a portable ashtray is a small lidded container that you can attach to your key ring, the better to secrete your fag ash within it. As a one-time 40-a-day smoker who kicked the habit in 1979 I was doubly disappointed, though I hasten to add there is no prospect of me returning to the habit!

It was partly human ingenuity that led to the 50-foot high lime tree that dominates my 40-foot long garden. Like virtually all of our countless thousands of street lime trees, this one is a hybrid, dignified by the botanist with the title *Tilia x europaea*, among others. It arose as a crossing between our two native lime trees, the small-leaved and the large-leaved species. In the wild, the small-leaved is not uncommon, but its large-leaved relative is much less so. As both species have been known to occur together it is more than likely that the crossing to make the hybrid would have occurred naturally. Some enterprising plantsman could have chanced upon it, or have deliberately engineered the crossing by cross-pollination using the parents, and bingo, the daddy of all street trees was thrust upon us.

Few folk who live in proximity to these trees have a good word to say for them. Being hybrids they grow rapidly, so that the tree in my garden is at most 50-60 years old, in other words it is growing at the rate of a foot a year. Elsewhere they have been known to grow

to 110 feet and more in height. Part of an avenue extending from Spratton Road, these limes pre-date the building of the Froxhill Crescent estate, where I live. As I have said the tree in my garden

is a mere 40 feet from the house, and there are others even closer to some of my neighbours. When the estate was planned this should have been taken into account, but where rapacious developers are involved, maximising the profit from every last square foot was and is the bottom line. So the houses were built too close to the trees.

At some date in the future a decision will very likely have to be made. Either the trees must be felled, or the row of houses demolished. A complication is the fact that the trees are subject to a preservation order, which legally protects them. Maybe it will end up with one of these trees being blown over in a gale, to come crashing down on the house of some luckless owner, thus forcing the issue.

The wildlife they support is a plus side to having these trees. The caterpillars of the buff-tip and lime hawk moths feed on the leaves. The former at rest mimics a bit of dead twig, while the latter gives a passable impression of a fragment of bark. The feast of sticky honeydew secreted in late summer by countless millions of aphids, is eagerly sought by crowds of bees and ants, butterflies, hoverflies, and other nectar seeking insects. It is the same honeydew that is not welcomed when it drifts onto nearby windows and car paintwork, as it is corrosive and difficult to shift, to say nothing of its effect on any laundry hung out to dry.

For me a definite plus to the trees and rough grasses growing beneath them is that are home to the shade-loving speckled wood butterfly (pictured, above), an absolute gem whose caterpillar feeds on the grasses. - Brian Webster



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Short mat bowling

At the end of the Indoor Short Mat Bowls season, Brixworth ended up in a creditable mid-table position in the Northants 'Friendly' League. It has only been the club's second season in the league, and it gives members grounds for optimism for the future. For those of a less competitive nature, the club has regular social bowls occasions.

At the end of April, the club also hosted the League AGM with over 70 players from eight different clubs enjoying a great social as well as business event.

The Brixworth Club welcomes new members of any age and experience; it meets at the Community Centre in Church Street on Friday afternoons (2-4pm) and evenings (7.30-9.30pm). More details from Mike Nice (treasurer) on 880086 or Jan Hickman (chair) on 07762 211721.

So you think you can drive?

There's an opportunity for 17-24 year olds to improve their driving skills with an advanced driving course on Porsche's road and test track at Silverstone.

The half-day CarKraft course, which is organised by Northamptonshire Highways with the help of Northants Police, combines workshops, simulators, skid tracks and advanced driving lessons on public roads.

There is also a version of the course for non-drivers which includes a first driving lesson, advice on how to choose the right driving instructor, insurance advice for learner drivers and help with filling in a driving license application form.

David Lee, roads policing officer for Northamptonshire Police, says: "Sadly, we saw an 83% increase in road deaths across Northamptonshire last year and we're passionate about not seeing a further increase this year." Young drivers in particular are at risk, he adds. "While 17 to 24 year-olds represent only 12% of all licence holders, over 20% are involved in fatal road traffic collisions."

The CarKraft experience, which is held at the Porsche Experience Centre at Silverstone Circuit, is made up of three workshops.



The first is an interactive session for all participants covering the "Fatal Four" - seatbelts, mobile phone use, drink driving and speeding. The four are the main factors linking serious or fatal car crashes.

Non-drivers then have their first driving lesson followed by help with tests and paperwork, while drivers head out on the skid tracks where they practice how to drive on slippery roads and regain control of a skidding car. Drivers finish the day with an advanced driving lesson on public roads, including single carriageway, dual carriageway and motorway driving.

All participants receive a £50 insurance discount voucher and discounted driving lessons or a free "Drive Smart" session.

The next courses take place on 9 June and 7 September at Silverstone and cost £49.99. To book, visit www.CarKraft.info.

Phoenix from

Ideal Motors adds a new string

A family business, Ideal Motors Coachworks has been established as a company since 1948; the present owners took it over in 1986. They are John Leggett, who had worked with the company since leaving school in the 60s, his wife Christine and their three sons, Christian, Jon and Matt. The company was initially based in Leicester Street, Northampton, but moved to Brixworth in the mid-70s. The family now all live nearby though Christian is the only one who lives in Brixworth.

Until a few years ago, Ideal Motors was an accident repair specialist and employed 12 people. "But then the way in which insurance companies allocate their work changed, and they went from working with a large number of small, local approved repairers to engaging a smaller number of franchised multi-site companies that could turn over more cars at a fixed cost," explains Christian. "Two and a half years ago, we'd do 25 cars a week. Then that dropped to three and then to practically zero, leaving us very exposed - we'd put all our eggs in one basket, unfortunately."

Ideal Motors had to lay off all the staff, leaving just the family members and a big headache about the future of the company. The solution was to diversify. "My brothers have always had an interest in modified cars,



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the Ashes

g to its bow – with custom cars

particularly VW which have quite a large following. So we turned the hobby into what's now a key part of the business, under a new name: Reflex Autodesign. “

some flags on the roadside which does help – as long as the wind doesn't blow them over!”

The work for customized cars has turned into the new growth business for the family. Through its website, Reflex Autodesign sells custom kits such as wheels, lowered suspension kits (further improved with the help of Brixworth Engineering) and air suspension kits. “It's early days but we've built up a good reputation and done some high profile cars which are now doing well in



Reflex Autodesign specialises in modifying cars, mainly VWs

keeping it. You're only ever as good as your last job so we go to considerable lengths to get things exactly right. Our motto is 'without compromise',” Christian explains.

With business looking up again, the family is once again hoping to take on more employees.

As for the future, the Reflex Autodesign part of the business looks sure to expand. The family is also looking for new premises better suited to the new business and changing customer base, as the current location is less than ideal and the buildings are starting to show their age. “It would be great to have something that's more modern, with a designated customer reception area – if you have people driving for hours to get to you who then have to wait for several hours more while you work on their car, you want to make them comfortable. We're hoping to find something suitable within the village if at all possible – I may be the only one in the family who actually lives in the village but we have all become quite attached to Brixworth!” - cfw



Ideal Motors when it first moved to Brixworth in 1976 – at what was then the edge of the village.

It was a case of build up a new business or shut up shop, Christian admits.

Accident repairs remains an important part of the business though, mainly for local people and longstanding customers. “Insurance companies will use all sorts of tactics to get people to take their cars to their approved repair shops but people still have the right to specify a workshop of their choice. Not many people know that though.”

For anyone other than the 'regulars' (and there are indeed one or two customers who turn up every few months with a new dint or scratch, Christian reveals with a grin), Ideal Motors can also be hard to find. Sat just behind what used to be the Texaco garage on Northampton Road, it is now hidden behind the row of houses built on the former forecourt. “Many people assumed that we went out of business when the garage closed, and we were refused planning permission for signs,” Christian explains. “We've since put

shows, which in turn brings more business back to us,” Christian says.

Some customers will go to considerable lengths to make their car unique. One example is a VW Caddy van which was modified to remove the sliding door from the rear compartment. This was far from a small job, as Reflex Autodesign had to remove a large part of the body and replace it with the (door-less) section from a left-hand-drive Caddy van. The van is now raking in the wins at shows, and the company picks up a good deal of business as a result.

The customer base has changed radically, Christian says. “A few years ago, almost all our customers were local - Brixworth and Northamptonshire. Now it's nationwide; Manchester, Scotland, Ireland, London...”

Reflex Auto Design enjoys a considerable following on social networking sites, but won't rest on its laurels. “It's not that hard to gain a good reputation, the hard part is



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Marathon achievements

Hooked on an emotional rollercoaster

Every year, the London Marathon motivates thousands of people to take part and raise money for a good cause. Among those running the 2013 London Marathon were Julie Young and Tom Nuttall from Brixworth, who were fundraising for autism and Parkinsons charities, respectively, and between them managed to raise over £6,000.

Tom and Julie ran together the whole way. Tom was nursing an injured knee from mile 6 but kept going and finished running the majority of the way. A few days after, Julie wrote to the *Bulletin* with an elated "I DID IT!". She added: "I am totally hooked now and loved the continued 26-mile carnival atmosphere till mile 19. Anybody following me on a tracker may have realised that I stopped moving at that point and then again very slowly for the next two miles; the reason for this was that I had the start of an asthma attack and was suffering from sharp pains in my chest and impossible breathing. After walking for two miles I continued to run to the end although a bit nervous.

"The whole day was a crazy emotional rollercoaster for me, including many people calling out their support and putting their thumbs up to my charity; often people saying 'go on Jules, my son is autistic, great cause'.

Crossed the line unofficially at 5.50 – I can do better than that..."

Jen's Army marches on!



A group of ladies from in and around Brixworth was among the 15,000 women participating in this year's Moonwalk – a walk over the Marathon

distance of 26.2 miles, taking in the sights of London at midnight, in aid of breast cancer research. Key to the event, which took place on Saturday 11th May, is that all participants have to be brave enough to walk in their bras.

Diana O'Neil, Julie Carr, Davina Marriott, Sharon McGrath, Hayley Mower, Jo Lett, Ellie Roberts, and Julie and Kirstie Thorneycroft have completed the challenge in memory of Brixworth resident Jenny Roberts, a much-loved mum, wife, daughter and dear friend. Jenny sadly passed away last July after a two-year battle against cancer.

At the time of going to press they have raised £1,200. If you would like to add, visit www.walkthewalkfundraising.org/jens_army



"Bum Run" raises over £2,000

Brixworth man Darren Edwards joined over 35,000 runners at the London Marathon. Running on behalf of the Beating Bowel Cancer charity Darren was very noticeable in his Beating Bowel Cancer "Bum Shorts" as part of a 50 strong charity team, completing the distance in 4 hours 6 minutes.



The big day brought to a close nearly six months of training and fundraising that raised £2,100 for a charity that helps to raise the awareness and early detection of bowel cancer, the UK's second biggest cancer killer. In total the Beating Bowel Cancer marathon team raised over £100,000 on what was a very emotional day following the terrible events in Boston.

You may have seen Darren training around the reservoir as well as collecting donations outside Asda Kingsthorpe and Sainsbury's Northampton. Bum shorts and the "guess my time" sweepstake board brought smiles and fun to a very serious subject and treatable condition that touches so many lives. A huge thank you to staff and customers of Asda and Sainsbury's for supporting Darren with over £1,000 raised. A special thanks to Darren's family and close friends (Caroline, Eden, Ben, The Simpsons & Amber) for coping with the bitterly cold weather on the collection days.

Darren's fundraising target was finally achieved at the quiz night at the White Horse in Old. The goal was to raise just over £500 on the night. Eighty people packed into the pub for the quiz, raffle, sweepstake and games – in total they raised £548. Another huge thank you to Jenna at the White Horse and everyone who joined us.



The thank yous don't stop there as they go out to everyone who gave their support in whatever way they could. From the smallest handful of coppers to the raffle prizes donated by; Chambers Butcher, Fleurfields Vineyard, Beckworth Emporium, Nobby's Brewery, Waitrose Market Harborough. Another special mention goes to Brixworth Dental Practice for their generous support too.

Darren's sore legs will be back around the ressie soon, but he has entered the ballot to run next year's London Marathon so keep an eye out next time!

If you want to see more about Darren's Marathon challenge then go to his JustGiving page where donations can still be made; www.justgiving.com/Darren-Edwards29/

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Draughton News

A slow start to the year – but the village finally emerged from its enforced hibernation on Easter Monday to take part in an Easter Egg Hunt and to show the most beautiful array of arts and crafts which were set out in the clubroom. The rabbit had set the eggs according to the clues and there were very full bags and baskets to show for the efforts, but, back in the clubroom, the best was yet to come.



Bonnets, baskets, decorated eggs and plate gardens were displayed and they were fantastic!

After the hunt the children turned their talents to cake decorating and eating said cakes.

People were so generous with their donations of eggs, cakes and general help and the hours flew by. We suspect most of the children failed to eat lunch – or possibly even tea – so much cake and sweet stuff was consumed...

At the time of writing, the village is girding its loins for the Spring Fair on May 19th. We look forward to raising enough money to wire the cooker in the clubroom, buy the shed for the outside storage and generally bring everything up to spec.



Thoughts are turning to the churchyard to find a balance between keeping it tidy and wildlife-friendly. As I write, the primroses are more abundant than I've seen them and the violets and wood anemones are thriving, so it looks beautiful; but a cry will go out to villagers to tame it all soon.

The vegetation on the road into the village on the airfield side has been cut back dramatically and it feels much more open. We thank the farm for making this much clearer and safer! - *Kate Calnan*



Colourful pay-off for bulb-planting efforts

Back in October, a small army of children and their parents got to work at various sites around the village, planting daffodils (see also Brixworth Bulletin 35, December 2012). Six months on, Oliver, Thomas and William, who'd helped plant the bulbs, returned to admire the fruits of their labour: a wonderful display of yellow daffodils.



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Acting workshops with Brixworth Drama Group

Have you ever fancied trying your hand at acting? Maybe you'd like to have a go at stage lighting and sound. This summer, the drama group are going to be holding a series of 'have a go' workshops. They will take place on a Tuesday evening (date to be announced!) from 8pm and everyone is welcome. Come along and have ago, you might find you have hidden talents.

Planned workshops include:

- An introduction to Shakespeare
- Directing and improvising
- The technical bits – lights and sound
- The art of choral speaking

For more information find us on Facebook, look out for posters around the village or email our chair sueianson89@gmail.com

Coming up: Talking Heads

In September, the Brixworth Drama Group will be performing Talking Heads, a series of monologues by Alan Bennet which reflect his marvellously observant view of the British way of life. They are often touching and real and very funny. This is a challenging project for the group and we hope you will support what I am sure will be an entertaining, yet thought provoking evening. - Sue l'Anson, chair, Brixworth Drama Group

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Above: Team Boniface are Kim Philips, Lynn and Ian Topham, and David Philips (left to right).

Team Boniface wins Village Quiz

Team Boniface showed they were the real know-it-alls at the 2013 Brixworth Village Quiz, which was held in the Community Centre on April 12th, 2013.

The event, organized by Brixworth Christian Fellowship, was a great success with over 50 participants. The quiz masters, Mike and Helen Nice, subjected the contestants to 70 questions covering seven different categories from history and sport to Brixworth village life.

At the end of the last round there was a tie for first place between Team Odd Bods and Team Boniface, who had both scored 53 points. The tie-break question proved to be a real teaser - "what is today's melted down value of a 2012 Olympic Gold medal to the nearest pound?" Team Odd Bods thought £1,000 and Team Boniface guessed at £680. The answer was £410 as the medals are predominantly silver, handing the win to Team Boniface whose answer came closest. They received a prize of Ten Pin Bowling vouchers and the now much-coveted Brixworth Village Quiz Shield. - Bernard Lawes

Brixworth Welcome Pack

Whilst most will not have wanted the new housing development, some feel it is important to welcome the new residents and help them participate in village life to the full.

With the support of the Parish Council, Brixworth Information Point is putting together a Welcome Pack. This will be delivered to all new residents and made available to estate agents, the library and the school. The pack will provide information about local services and amenities and feature local traders, clubs and societies.

To ensure your organisation or service is included, contact Mike Nice on 880086. This will be free of charge. - Mike Nice

Information Point extends opening hours

Brixworth Information Point is now just over a year old and with some new dedicated volunteers we have been able to increase our opening times. Situated just inside Brixworth Library and Community Centre, we are now open every Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

With the aid of Bromford Support and the Parish Nurses we were able to deal with over 2,000 individual enquiries in our first year. The Parish Council holds monthly surgeries in the same office and we are now open five days a week. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please contact Mike Nice on 880086.

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Weds.	Pilates	The Centre	6.15 - 7.00

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Yet more exciting activities have been enjoyed by the fun-loving boys and girls of the Brixworth and Scaldwell Scouts.

The Beavers celebrated Chinese New Year, had a go at map-making, and learnt about safety. They also made some lovely things for Mothering Sunday and invited all their mums for tea and cakes, which they had decorated beautifully. They also had a brilliant night tracking in the country park with their torches.

The Cubs celebrated Burns Night with real haggis and Chinese New Year with lots of food to taste and try. They also worked on their hobbies, collectors and artist badges and their global challenge.

The Scouts and Explorers Brass Monkey Camp, which was delayed in January, finally took place in March. Guess what – it snowed again! They pitched their tents in the snow on Friday night, and took part in archery, climbing, zip wire and many other events in the snow. In fact they did everything in the snow that weekend. They all had a great time, and were extremely tired when they came home.

St George's Day Parade

For the first time the Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group took part in the St George's Day Parade (pictured, above). They walked from the community centre through the village to Brixworth Primary School and participated in the Brixworth Christian Fellowship's celebration of the day. St George is the patron saint of the scouting



movement, chosen by Baden Powell because he considered him a shining example of what a good scout should be. When St George faced difficulty or danger, however great, even if it was a dragon, he did not turn away. He faced it with everything he had, boldly and with confidence using every power he had to overcome it. Baden Powell thought a scout that faced life like this would be a successful one.

Leaders' honours

St George's Day is also an opportunity to honour the leaders and young people in Scouts who have worked hard and achieved special awards. Mr Robert Pickles, Cub Leader, has recently completed his training and was presented with his Wood Bead Badge in recognition of his leadership and service to young people. Five cubs had recently achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award and four beavers recently received the Chief Scout Bronze Award - the highest awards for their sections.

To find out more about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group contact Kim Phillips, Group Scout Leader on 07815 070878 or info@armarketing.co.uk. To put your young person (boy or girl) on the waiting list for beavers, cubs, scouts or explorers please email their name, date of birth, your name, address and telephone numbers to brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk - Kim Phillips

1st Scaldwell Guides

The Guides have enjoyed another busy but enjoyable term. As part of the World Thinking Day celebrations, we shared cultures from around the world including traditional food, dance and art while at the division celebrations we enjoyed a world drumming session.

We also held a coffee evening in aid of Red Nose Day. The Guides planned and ran their own stalls which included cakes, a raffle and a tombola. In total we raised £286.25. Many thanks to all those who took part or attended. - Jill Gunnett

Rainbows re-opened

The Brixworth Rainbow unit was recently re-opened, after lying dormant for a few years. Elaine Coe, who spearheaded the revival of the group, says: "I have been a Guider for years and was looking to get involved in the village. I used to run Rangers – the oldest Guides at 16+, but my daughter was turning five so if I wanted her to go to Rainbows I had to open it.

She adds: "Every meeting we try to play a game, sing a song and do an activity. We recently made a jelly garden, with lime jelly grass, flowers and a pear mouse with chocolate button ears."

"However, we are already full, with 12 girls currently attending Rainbows. There were already several more names on the waiting list, within a week of me restarting the unit," she says. "If we could gain another adult helper we could accommodate 18 girls."

The Brixworth Rainbows meet at the Community Centre in the library building on a Monday afternoon at 4pm. If you are able to help so that the unit can expand, or if you want further information about the Brixworth Rainbows, contact Elaine on 881978 or 07771 985867. - cfw

Northants Pilates

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You will be able to book a session on our Pilates Reformers, Trapeze Table and other equipment or try a mat class.

View our timetable at www.northantspilates.com or contact Studio Director, Karen Grinter on: 07713 077139



Planning update

DA/2012/0371 10-12 Spratton Road Demolition of two dwellings, formation of car park, cycle parking, seating area and associated landscaping. Creation of vehicular access from Spratton Road and associated highway works	26.11.12 PC Objects 19.12.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0613 Pitsford Cycle Hire, Brixworth Country Park Extension to form additional cycle storage area	3.9.12 PC no objection 14.11.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0713 54 Stonehill Way Construction of summer house (retrospective)	15.10.12 PC No objection 12.11.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0774 3 Church Street Single storey rear extension	5.11.12 PC No objection 13.12.13 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0805 Victors Barn, Northampton Road Construction of cricket scoreboard/equipment store	27.11.12 PC Objection 19.12.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0811 14 Knightons Way Single storey side and rear extension incl demolition of existing conservatory	27.11.12 PC No objection 11.12.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0837 6 Highslade Single storey rear extension	27.11.12 PC No objection 24.12.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0868 12 Stannard Way First floor rear extension and front elevation roof dormer extension	17.12.12 PC No objection 14.1.13 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0884 17 Windmill Glade Two storey front first floor side and two storey rear extension.	17.12.12 PC No objection 14.1.13 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0944 11, Broad Street Renewal of planning permission for single storey extension to rear	7.1.13 PC No objection 7.2.13 DDC Approved

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What's on at the library

Meet the Manager Saturday 1st June 10-11am

An opportunity for everyone to meet Grace Kempster MBE, Libraries & Customer Services Manager, and give their views on how the Library Service is or is not meeting their needs.

Brixworth Photographic Society Exhibition 1-30 June

Exhibition of photography upstairs on the Library Mezzanine floor.

Scrapbooking Workshop Saturday 8th June 9.30am-12 noon

A small informal group who meet one Saturday a month upstairs at the Library for scrapbooking and similar crafts. A small charge of around £3 goes towards materials and room hire.

James Hornsby presents his one-man show "Great Expectations" Friday 14th June 7.30pm

The Friends of Brixworth Library look forward to welcoming James Hornsby once again with a fantastic one-man production of a Dickens classic - this time it is "Great Expectations", which we have based on his previous sell-out productions of "Twist" and "A Christmas Carol". Tickets will be available from the Library - book early to avoid disappointment!

The Library Daytime Book Club 1st Tuesday each month, 2.30pm

Informal book club, new members always welcome

NAB Mobile Wednesday 24th July 11.30-12.45pm

The Northamptonshire Association for the Blind's mobile will once again be on the forecourt of the Brixworth Library & Community Centre building offering free information about visually impaired matters.

Rhymetime Fridays 10.10-10.30am (term-time)

Free to all Under 5s and their parents/carers. We are looking for volunteers to help run our Rhymetime sessions - not every week, but just to help, for example, when local staff are not available and possibly in school holidays. This is very popular with the children and their families or carers - a good opportunity to meet up and have a chat as well as singing nursery rhymes, but we are struggling to keep it going every week, so any volunteers welcome.

May Half-Term and Summer Holidays

There will be various events for children at the library during all school holidays - please ask at the library, or visit the County Council website www.northamptonshire.gov.uk, or check out the Brixworth Library Facebook page for more details. The Summer Reading Challenge theme this year is "Creepy House"

Brixworth Community Fayre - 9am-1pm Saturday 8th September

Open day showcasing the local community, so any local organisations interested in taking part please contact either Mike Nice at the Olive Branch or Jill Barber at the library. More details will be available soon.

Friends of Brixworth Library Quiz Nights

Held approximately every six weeks, check at library or on Brixworth Library Facebook page for details.

The Friends of Brixworth Library are always looking for more people to get involved - helping with events such as the Dickens' productions, Quiz Nights etc, or bringing new ideas to help raise awareness of the Library as well as raising funds to support the Library eg sponsoring children's events, Dickens productions, new furniture.

Other services at the library - Bus Passes, DVD hire, computer hire, free Wi-Fi, laminating service, fax service, photocopying, free access to Ancestry.co.uk for those wishing to trace their family tree, a selection of newspapers and magazines and, of course, books!

Open seven days a week, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Saturdays 9am-1pm and Sundays 1-4pm.- *Jill Barber*



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What's on

till 9 June	Art in the Park	Abington Park Museum
till 23 June	A Day at Alfred Sargent Shoe Factory	Northampton Museum
24 May	Tubular Bells for Two	Derngate
25 May	Chris & Pui	Corby Cube
25 May	Rigoletto	Corby Cube
25-27 May	Cream Tea Trains	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
25 May - 6 July	Made in the Midlands	Northampton Museum
26-27/5	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
27 May	We'll meet again	Derngate
28-29/5	Behind the Curtain	Derngate
29 May - 1 Jun	Oliver!	Corby Cube
29 May -28/6	If the Shoe Fits	Northampton Museum
30 May	Reginald D Hunter	Derngate
30 May	The Trickster	Black Bottom Club
30 May - 1 Jun	Delapre Beer Festival	Delapre Park
31 May	Bill Bailey - Qualmpeddler	Derngate
1 June, 11 AM	Friends of Brixworth Church Anniversary	Brixworth Centre,
1 June, 10am	Meet the Manager	Brixworth Library
1 June	Murder Mystery	Northampton Museum
1-2 June	Art Exhibition	Brixworth Heritage Centre
2 June	Family Fun Afternoon	Brixworth Church
2 June	Northants Ultra 35 Mile Race	Lampport Hall
6 June 10am	Delia Thomas on Kettering Museum	Northampton Museum
7-9/6	Celebrities on Ice	Derngate
8 June	Bermondsey Joyriders	Roadmender
8 June	Shoe Store Tour	N'ton Museum
8 June	Leather Stamping Workshop	Abington Park Museum
9 June	Terrier Show	Pytchley Hunt, Brixworth

10-15 June	New Jersey Nights	Derngate
10 Jun	Miles Kane	Roadmender
11 June	Ducal Monuments & Formal Gardens	Lampport Hall
12 Jun	Talk: Plants & Alpines	Kelmarsh Hall
13 Jun	Roy Orbison & Friends	Corby Cube
14 June	Great Expectations	Brixworth Library
14 Jun	The View	Roadmender
14 Jun	Evening with Chris Fiddes	N'ton Museum
14-15 June	Newgrounds Dance Company	Corby Cube
16 June	Last Night of the Derngate Proms	Derngate
16 Jun	Rudi Lickwood & Chums	Royal
19-20 June	NMPAT School Arts Music Festival	Derngate
20 Jun	P Johnston on Alfred East	N'ton Museum
21 Jun	Brian May and Kerry Ellis	Derngate
21 Jun	An Escape Plan	Roadmender
22 June	Shoe Customisation Workshop	Northampton Museum
22 June	Alice - An Extraordinary Adventure	Brixworth Country Park
22-28/6	Lampport Arts Week	Lampport Hall
23 Jun	The Cut Flower Garden	Lampport Hall
27-29/6	Run!	Royal
29/6	There's a Monster in my Piano	Corby Cube
29/6-29/9	Mod Culture	Northampton Museum
30 June	Steam and Cream	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
1-2 July	The Land Agent: Past, Present and Future	Lampport Hall
3 July	Summer Garden Walk	Lampport Hall
4 July	Rock'n'Roll Paradise	Derngate
5-6/7	Jason Manford	Derngate
6 July	Funeral for a Friend	Roadmender
6-7/7	Hollowell Steam Fair	Hollowell
7 July	Summer Festival of Music	Derngate
8-13/7	Midnight Tango	Derngate
9 July	Lawn Care	Lampport Hall
10-13/7	His Dark Materials	Royal
10 July	An Introduction to Herbs	Kelmarsh Hall
11 July 12.45am	Brixworth Pre-School Picnic & Party	Brixworth Centre

11 July	Dean Atta	Corby Cube
11 July 8pm	Brixworth Community Panel	Community Centre
12-13 July	Merry Tom Folk Festival	Brixworth Country Park
19 July	Paul Weller	Delapre Abbey
20 July	The Wanted	Delapre Abbey
20 July	The Comedy of Errors	Lampport Hall
20-21/7	Festival of History	Kelmarsh Hall
21 July	James Morrison	Delapre Abbey
21 July	Jazz in the Garden	Lampport Hall
27 July	Family Fun Day	Field near Country Park
27-28 July	Vintage Gathering	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
28 July	Open-air Songs of Praise	B'worth Library
29-31 July	BCF Children's Club	Brixworth School
31 Jul	Althorp Afternoon Tea	Althorp Hall
7 Aug	Storytelling in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
10 Aug	Battle Proms	Althorp Hall
17 Aug	'Ram Jam' Rodigan	Roadmender
21 Aug	Talk: Norah Lindsay	Kelmarsh Hall
24-26 August	Branch Line Experience	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
25-26 August	Antique and Collectors Fair	Lampport Hall
28 Aug	Love your Trees	Lampport Hall
29 Aug	Under Her Skin	Underground
6-28/9	To Sir, with Love	Royal
8 Sep	B'worth Community Fayre	B'worth Library
9-11/9	Ballet: Romeo and Juliet	Derngate
11 Sep	Talk: Van Gogh	Kelmarsh Hall
12 Sep	Plant Propagation	Lampport Hall
12-14/9	Ballet: Swan Lake	Derngate
15 Sep	Autumn Farmer's Market	Kelmarsh Hall
19 Sep	Hats off to Led Zeppelin	Corby Cube
21 Sep	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Derngate
21-22 Sep	Kettering Vintage & Steam Fayre	Kettering
28-Sep	Stewart Lee - Much a-Stew about Nothing	Derngate
28-29 Sept	Railway At War	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
30/9 - 5/10	Cats	Derngate

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Tennis Club in full swing



Brixworth Tennis Club opened its doors on Monday April 1st. Despite appalling weather over 60 brave souls turned out for the club's open afternoon. Coach James Haley and Laura Mineards kept groups of children extremely active by running a series of games, while the adults enjoyed cups of tea and a tour around the wonderful grounds that the club shares with the cricket club.

The tennis club currently has 86 members. Encouragingly, many are under 18, which gives the club a real family atmosphere and adds to the relaxed, sociable nature of the club. The club has a bar where members can enjoy a drink and on Friday evenings, members can also enjoy a barbeque.

The tennis club is seeking more members of all ages, in particular more adults to give the club sessions, which are held three times a week, a real buzz. Membership is very affordable and a junior coaching programme caters for all abilities on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

For further details please go to www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk. Anyone wishing to join the tennis club should contact Will Haxby on 880715 or chairman@brixworthtennisclub.org.uk - Will Haxby

Star-studded party for Cricket Club

Legendary cricket player **Devon Malcolm** is turning 50 this year and he's looking to mark the occasion by raising £50,000 for the schools cricket campaign Chance to Shine.

This means that this year's celebrity charity cricket match at Brixworth will be even more star-studded than usual. Confirmed attendees include **Chris Tarrant, Michael Holding, Mike Gatting, Mark Nicholas, Charlotte Edwards, Mark Austin, Paul Nixon, Mal Loye** and Question of Sport captain and cricketing legend **Phil Tufnell**.

The Pro-Celebrity XI vs Brixworth XI match will take place on Thursday 20 June at Brixworth Cricket Club. Walk-in entry on the day is £5; for further information and to book a table, contact Claire Hall on 020 78201859 or email claire.hall@cricketfoundation.org.uk

The Cricket Club's 2013 summer ball will take place on Saturday 22 June at the club grounds. Tickets are £45 (£35 for club members). For tickets and further information contact Tracey Bennet on 505104 or traceybenn@hotmail.co.uk

As reported in the last issue, the club has been awarded a substantial grant to develop the existing barn into a modern clubhouse. This will enable a whole variety of clubs to use the clubhouse throughout the year. We expect to start work by the end of June, to be completed for the start of the 2014 season.

We have new captains this season at 1st and 2nd team level in James Lucas and Dave Marlow. Some excellent additions to our first team squad allied to the return from injury of Paul Blakemore and Ross Mclean

make our objective of finishing in the top six of the Northants Premier League a very realistic one. The re-appearance of a number of 'ex' players will strengthen the 2nds with promotion out of Division 5 a priority this season. Martyn Cowley continues to lead our 3rd XI and we're hoping for another promotion for his team, which would be great as we hope to launch a 4th XI next summer.

Any enquiries about playing, umpiring, scoring or helping generally should be made via our website - www.brixworthcc.co.uk

Junior training evenings take place every Friday evening from 6.15pm. We run competitive teams at u14/u13/u11 and will play a number of friendly kwik cricket matches for our u9s group.

If your child is interested in playing, contact Mandy Batchelor at apbatch1@btinternet.com

End of the Road for Mixed Hockey Club

Sadly, the upturn in results Brixworth Mixed Hockey Club saw at the beginning of the new year didn't continue. Brixworth MHC failed to pick up another point and lost the Wooden Spoon final as well. Unfortunately, this run of results, coupled with a dwindling squad, has caused the club to fold after 37 years. Whilst this is the end of the road for the winter league mixed hockey team, it is not necessarily the end of the summer touring side and, who knows, maybe we'll reform the club sometime in the future.

Finally we would like to thank all those who have played for, supported, sponsored and umpired at the club over the years and wish everyone all the best for the future, be it with another club or another sport. - Jon Davies

Amateur Golf Society

Under the captaincy of Steve Nixon, 2012 proved to be another successful golfing year.

The 2012 winners of the various Trophies are:

Rob Bennett	Captain's Shield
Rob Bennett	Golfer of the Year
Colin King	GoY runner-up
Nigel Rylance	George Clapton Trophy
Colin King	Scratch Cup
Colin King	Tim Moulds Trophy
DDolman, M Bull,	Summer Venues Cups
S Nixon & C King	

Venues for 2014 have been arranged for 14th June Lutterworth, 9th August at The Leicestershire and 4th October at Brampton Heath.

Anybody interested in joining please ring John Wilson on 880490



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