

Barratt confirms plans for more houses

150-house Saxon Rise estate could grow to 220

While the first houses in the new 150-house estate on Northampton Road are starting to take shape, Barratt Homes is considering expanding the site by almost a third, to around 220 houses.

The company confirmed that it was currently conducting surveys on the remaining parcel of land - a roughly triangular field to the south of the allotments at the edge of the current building site, stretching down towards the roundabout.

The local pressure group BRANE says it's been told that this site could accommodate another 60-70 houses, though the company is not yet ready to file a planning application

Speaking to the Bulletin, a spokeswoman for Barratt said: "We have a long term interest in developing the entire site, including land south of the allotments, and are currently



The first houses on the new estate are due to be finished this summer. Work will continue until 2017.

conducting surveys on the area to that end. We cannot put a precise figure on the number of homes we are likely to apply for until these surveys are complete."

Fight for the village – or embrace the small town?

The revelation that Barratt Homes is hoping to build another batch of houses on the rest of their land to the east of Northampton Road should not come as a surprise to anyone.

Demand for housing is expected to remain extremely strong for years to come, so there's every incentive for builders to get building. Daventry District Council is well behind on its target for adding more homes and is under pressure to approve planning applications. Local objections therefore may not, ultimately, carry much weight.

The one thing that could make a difference is the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Produced by the community, they guide the future development of an area by setting out a vision and making proposals for improving the area. This could mean stating what new facilities might be needed, identifying the most appropriate sites for different kinds of new developments, or setting local priorities.

The one thing they do not allow is for a community to oppose all development.

For Brixworth, this makes the prospect of further housing developments almost inevitable. The fact that the village has easily doubled in size since the 1980s is not about to change this.

While our facilities are coping at the moment (if only just), add another 200, 400 or 600 houses and it's a different story.

We'll need more capacity at the doctor's surgery, most likely by moving to a new site. The school, too, will run out of space. With over 450 pupils at the school already and no room to expand, it is hard to see any other option than a second primary school. Parking at the shops will remain an issue - knocking down two houses to add half a dozen spaces is only a temporary solution.

Which raises the question: how should we use our Neighbourhood Plan? It's tempting to try and preserve Brixworth's village identity by making it harder to build new houses, but isn't this just trying to stave off the inevitable?

Why not use the Plan to give Brixworth the infrastructure boost we already so badly need? At least that might leave the village in a better position to cope with the new developments which seem as inevitable as Barratt's plans to extend their site.

In a few weeks' time, you'll receive a questionnaire seeking your opinions on planning in Brixworth – we'll also publish it on the Bulletin's website.

If you care about your village, be sure to fill it in. Make your opinion count.

*Maureen
Flavel-White*

The Brixworth Bulletin are:

Claudia Flavell-While, editor
882567; editor@brixworthbulletin.com
Jacquie Hampton, advertising
Fiona Kelsall, invoicing
881557; ad.manager@brixworthbulletin.com
George Hammerschmidt, art and design
880212; art.editor@brixworthbulletin.com
Louise Robinson, distribution
883641; dist.manager@brixworthbulletin.com
Sheila Jenner, treasurer
881173; treasurer@brixworthbulletin.com

Regular correspondents:

Jennifer Fitzgerald
Mike Philpott
Kate Calnan
Brian Webster
Alex Campbell

Letters to The Old School, Manor Road, Hanging Houghton NN6 9ES or post them in our letterbox at the Community Centre.

The *Brixworth Bulletin* is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The deadline for contributions and advertising for the June 2014 issue is 25 April 2014.

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

She added that once the surveys are done and the plans have been firmed up, Barratt would consult with the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Group and BRANE, and hold a public exhibition for local residents.

Bob Chattaway, chairman of BRANE and leader of the Neighbourhood Plan Group, says he is concerned that Barratt are trying to push through the expansion before the Neighbourhood Plan is finished. A Neighbourhood Plan gives local communities greater say about planning in their area, including specifying where new homes and other developments should be built, and some influence over what they should look like.

Brixworth's Neighbourhood Plan is still being worked on, with a consultation due to be sent to all residents in March to get everybody's view on the most pressing issues and priorities.

Barratt's spokeswoman maintains that the company is keen to work with the working group. "[We want] to ensure that any further proposals we bring forward do not prejudice the process or its outcomes," she said.

BRANE plans to oppose the application on the basis that it will further strain the already-stretched village infrastructure and extend too far into the open countryside, radically changing the shape of the village.

Meanwhile, the house builder has been in talks with the holders of the allotments, which, would sit in-between the houses

currently under construction and the potential extension. There was an option to move the allotments, possibly to the tip of the triangular site, near the roundabout, but Barratt says the allotment holders were not in favour of moving. The company now plans to put forward any proposals on the assumption that the allotments will stay where they are.

"We have also agreed to provide an extension to the allotments, along with extra car parking and security fencing, and have already agreed the design of this future work with the allotment holders," the spokeswoman added.

Bob said that the planning application for the extension is likely to be submitted later this year, but that there would be no building work until the initial 150-house estate has been finished. The first houses on the new estate, which is to be called Saxon Rise, are due to be completed this summer. All in all Barratt expect it will take three years to complete the work. - cfw

Individual Electoral Registration is coming

Major changes are in the pipeline for the way in which people register to vote. From July onwards, votes will no longer be registered by household, but for each individual. Everybody will be responsible for their own registration.

The government says that this approach will make it easier for people to register to vote on line, make the electoral register more complete and accurate and reduce fraud.

Registering to vote under the new system will be straightforward. Each person will be asked to give their name, national insurance number and date of birth. This information will be checked to verify that they are eligible to vote. A digital service has been created by the Cabinet Office to support online applications and to allow checking of applications. To simplify the transition to IER in 2014, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) will match their existing electoral register against DWP's database. Those people whose entries can be matched will be automatically transferred to the electoral register and do not need to do anything else. Those people who can't be matched will be invited to apply.

You should receive a letter over the summer which will explain to you how to register and what to do next. - cfw

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Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan

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How?

Complete the questionnaire for the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan, which will be posted through your letterbox shortly.

By drafting a Neighbourhood Plan, communities get a real say about future development in their village – how much, what sort and where. If Brixworth had a Neighbourhood Plan, developers would have to consult with local people and make changes to take their views into account.

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot, and should not, prevent all further development, but it would help to ensure it was on suitable sites, on a suitable scale and made a more generous contribution to improving local infrastructure.

While smaller villages are in danger of losing schools and amenities, fast-growing villages have the opposite problem in that schools, surgeries, shops and other local amenities struggle to cope with the demand.

While some would say that Brixworth has had more than its fair share of new houses in recent times, ours are generally very well-managed so can still just about cope. There is a danger now, however, that unless local people can make decisions on where any further developments should go, how big they should be and what they would bring to the village, this will no longer be the case. Expansion has to be controlled locally if the most important landscapes, wildlife habitats, views and walks around Brixworth are to be preserved for future generations.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which is tasked with putting together the Neighbourhood Plan, is sponsored by Brixworth Parish Council and supported by BRANE. Over 200 people who have visited the Library or Community Centre on a Saturday over the last few months have been consulted already, and we know the issues

that are most important to them.

Now it's your chance to tell us how important those issues are to you. All you need do is to complete the questionnaire that you will receive in March and send it back by the 4th April. The priorities you set will help shape the policies to be included in the plan. Later on, there will be displays and meetings with more information and the opportunity for further comments. Eventually the finished plan will be examined by a planning inspector and if approved become the subject of a local referendum. Any new developments seeking planning permission after that date will need to take the Plan into account.

Each household in Brixworth will receive a four part questionnaire (its not too long); completed questionnaires can be returned at one of our marked collection points. Collection can be arranged if necessary. Extra



copies will be available to download online from www.brixworthbulletin.com or in paper form from the Steering Group. Please ask all members of your household (16 and over) to complete their own questionnaire and make sure we get them back **by 4th April**.

Please complete one, even if we have already spoken to you. - Bob Chattaway



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News from Brixworth Fire Station



Brixworth Fire Station stands on Holcot Road opposite the Village Hall, having moved there from its original site on Church Street some time during the 1950s. Like all fire stations in the county, it is operated by Northampton Fire and Rescue Service, which is a department of Northamptonshire County Council.

The area we normally cover spans from Pitsford past Lamport and Maidwell to the A14, although for large incidents we can be sent anywhere in the county, having over the years attended a huge variety of incidents ranging from mass collisions on the M6 to factory fires at Brackmills.

Brixworth operates on what is known as the 'retained' system, staffed by part-time firefighters living or working in or close to the village, who are available to be called in from their homes or workplaces via bleeper.

This is a system that has endured for many years, and there are scores of Brixworth residents past and present who have given their valuable time in this way to support the local community.

There have been some changes recently that you might want to know about.

One development has been that now we share with Long Buckby and Guilsborough a full-time watch manager, Tony Reid. Tony manages the station, allocates crews and ensures training is up to date. Tony also runs the 'Heart Start' training that we now offer regularly to anyone who wants to learn it; this is a free two-hour course designed to give anyone the confidence to administer life-saving first aid. We have had a very positive response from attendees, and readers may have seen us at events in the village giving taster sessions.

Another significant change is that we now support the East Midlands Ambulance Service EMAS in the village, via what is called the 'co-responding' scheme. This means that, for category 1 calls (the most serious), a fire crew will be mobilised as well. This is because, being in the village already, often we can reach the person first and stabilise the situation in readiness for the ambulance or paramedic when they arrive. This is becoming an important part of our duties, and a number of people in the village have already benefitted from the service, which has been very well received. We now have a van

which enables us to provide the service without needing to take the fire engine out.

Readers may also have had a visit from us conducting home fire safety visits; these are where we give advice on fire safety, how to prevent fires, and what to do in the unfortunate event of having a fire in the home. We will give free advice on the positioning and maintenance of smoke alarms and help you form an evacuation plan of what to do in the event of a fire. Home fire safety visits have been a key element in improvements to fire safety in the home, which have resulted in big reductions to the number of house fires in the county over recent years.

Visitors to the station will have noticed that the building has had a make-over - with double-glazed windows; it's also been redecorated inside and out as part

of a refurbishment programme. This means that the station is more welcoming to visiting groups and people attending the training courses on offer.

Finally, we have taken delivery of a replacement fire engine. Our new Scania Fire Appliance replaces one that we had for several years. The new vehicle is larger and allows us to carry more of the ever-growing list of equipment required for rescues and fighting fires today.

It is fitted with the 'Cobra' system, which is a water powered cutting lance. It enables us to fight the most difficult and dangerous types of fires from outside a building by drilling a small hole in the wall and removing the need to be inside a building with the fire to start fighting it. Northamptonshire is the first UK fire service to deploy these sets in large numbers, and they are already being put to very good use.

If you would like any further information on recruitment at the station, home fire safety, or Heart Start courses please feel free to drop by the station. We are there on Monday nights 7pm-9pm or contact Tony directly via treid@northantsfire.org.uk or 07779064872.



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Brixworth Bulletin scores in National Parish Magazine Awards

I'm very proud to report that the *Brixworth Bulletin* came within the top ten of the 2013 National Parish Magazine Awards.

Any slight disappointment at 'only' coming seventh quickly disappeared when I saw the number of entries – a staggering 710 parish magazines from right across the UK had competed for the accolade. The coveted number one spot went to Devonshire's Ivybridge Magazine; The Old School & Stoke Climsland News (Cornwall) came second, while another Northamptonshire entry, Barton Today, made number three.

Many thanks to the whole *Bulletin* team – reporters Jennifer Fitzgerald and Alex Campbell, graphic designer George Hammerschmidt, advertising ladies Jacque Hampton and Fiona Kelsall, distribution manager Louise Robinson and treasurer Sheila Jenner – not to forget our army of distributors our loyal advertisers and the many people who send in their news and reports.

The *Brixworth Bulletin* is a real community effort and you all make it what it is. Thank you.

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Pointer brings second claim against Parish Council

Cllr Stephen Pointer has brought a second case against Brixworth Parish Council over claims that he was discriminated against. In the new case, Cllr Pointer sues both the Parish Council as a whole and its chairman Cllr Mike Lacey specifically over claims of discrimination and harassment. Like the previous case, brought in the County Courts last autumn, this case is linked to a disagreement on the supply of equipment to compensate for Cllr Pointer's failing eyesight – specifically, an iPad.

The first case has remained unresolved to date, even though both sides claim to have made several attempts to settle the issue out of court.

It is not yet clear when or how this new case might be resolved, and whether any costs would be covered by insurance or hit the Parish Council's budgets directly. At the Bulletin's press time, the Parish Council had not yet had a chance to debate the case.



Santa's Grotto on a wedding cake

Just before Christmas – but unfortunately just after the December Bulletin had gone to press – Hockleys Cakes of Brixworth sent us this amazing photo of a Christmas themed wedding cake they'd created. Standing a full 1.5 metres tall, the Santa's Grotto cake features Santa's reindeer, his elves and all the toys they have been busy making throughout the year (all of which are hand made from edible sugar paste). The owners of Hockleys, twin brothers Michael and Graham, have even made their way onto the cake during a visit to the grotto.

Hockleys, previous winners of the Baking Industry Awards and finalists in the 2013 awards in the category of Celebration Cake Maker of the Year, made this showpiece cake to show prospective customers.

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Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic has moved

Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic has seen a steady increase in business and has now moved from Church Street to larger premises in Catherine House, Harborough Road.

Established in 2000 by Helen Mathieson (pictured, below), Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic has grown to support three registered osteopaths, Helen Mathieson, Nancy Monk and Charlotte Penney. The new location gives



us an additional treatment room, so that we can offer more appointments for both osteopathy and other complementary therapies. The new clinic has allocated parking, full disabled access and is only a 30 second drive from the old location.

Helen has lived in Brixworth since 1997, and graduated as an osteopath around the same time, 17 years ago. "I thoroughly enjoy

working in the village," she says. "We have a lot of local people coming to us with their aches and pains - about 80% of our patients are from Brixworth and the surrounding villages!"

Osteopathy is a very effective form of hands-on physical therapy that aims to remove the cause of the symptoms, not just the symptoms themselves. Osteopaths look at how well the body is moving and aim to remove restrictions thus improving the general function of the body. Sometimes, the joints themselves are already damaged, for example by osteoarthritis. While osteopathy cannot reverse the structural changes, it can reduce the pain, lessening the strain on the joint by improving the function of the body as a whole, enabling the irritated tissues to recover.

Osteopathic treatment involves soft tissue massage, joint articulation and mobilisation.



We also provide advice to patients to try and help prevent the problem returning. This can include general and specific advice and exercises to improve posture and work station advice.



If you would like to discuss your situation with us before making an appointment, please feel free to call the clinic. We are covered by most private medical insurance companies, but please discuss this with your insurance company first as they may require a referral from your GP.

To make an appointment, please ring us on 889241, between 8.30am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. We offer evening appointments on Thursdays and Fridays. For further information, please visit www.brixworthosteopaths.co.uk

A treatment room is available to rent on a sessional basis. Please contact the clinic for more information.

Also offered at the clinic are:

Sports and remedial massage with Nikki Coleman (07889 729680)

Pilates taught 'one to one' by Lorraine Blackall, The Pilates Way (07976 529414)

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What's your deserving cause?

Once again, the Brixworth Bulletin is able to support one or more deserving causes in or around Brixworth with a financial donation. In the last issue, we asked you to write to us with suggestions of what you think we should support – be it local organisations, people or events. Happily, this has resulted in three such options being brought forward. Now we need your help, and crucially, your votes, to help us decide which of these we should help out.

1) The Scouts

Brixworth is home to a very active and popular scout group. Across the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorer sections, the scouts provide activities each week for over 100 children & young people from Brixworth and the surrounding villages.

As one might expect from the Scouts, camping is always a very popular activity – and this does require a fair amount of equipment.

“We constantly need funding support to keep our tents and camping equipment in serviceable condition for trips and camps, especially for our Scouts & Explorers who regularly go on expeditions such as Brass Monkeys where they camp in January & February,” says Bob ‘Akela’ Pickles, the leader of the Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts. “We would really appreciate a contribution from the Brixworth Bulletin to go towards the procurement of an additional tent for our group.”

“As a group there is a constant demand for equipment for trips and we have many different tents to cover the different events that we organise,” explains Bob. “Our Scouts and Explorers groups regularly go on expeditions such as Brass Monkeys where they camp in January & February. This is particularly punishing for Scouts and equipment alike. On their most recent trip one of the crew tents was damaged so our group would really appreciate the opportunity to replace it ahead of our group camp in May this year.”

2) Draughton village clubroom

The clubroom in Draughton is the heart of this small but thriving community. It allows the villagers to get together for anything from yoga classes to coffee mornings and birthday parties, and is in use every week.

However, the facilities suffer from some underlying problems that this income cannot begin to address.

The main problem is damp – the clubhouse is an old, freestanding building and therefore exposed to the weather. Damp is an ongoing issue, and a damp proofing course would make a huge difference to the atmosphere and future maintenance of the building.

“Obviously, people and organisations pay to use the clubroom, but this just about pays for its ongoing running costs,” says Sebastian Calnan, chairman of the Clubroom Committee. “We haven’t got the funds for any extra expenses, so it’s very hard for us to tackle the damp by ourselves. A contribution from the Brixworth Bulletin would be hugely appreciated.”

3) Brixworth Music Festival

Plans are underway for a music festival to take place in All Saint’s Church in Brixworth in September. The organising committee, led by priest-in-charge Chloe Willson-Thomas, is looking to involve local groups, including young people from the area and from the Music Service in Northampton, playing a variety of classical and lighter music.

Chloe explains: “As it will take place in the church, it will promote the building and bring people to the village. It will also hopefully bring the community together through making and listening to music.”

While the organisers are of course looking for sponsors to help pay for the costs of advertising, catering, and musicians fees and expenses, a contribution from the Bulletin would be a real benefit.

Vote Now!

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The Scouts

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Please either:

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Deadline: 31 March 2014



BB Society to hold book fair

The BB Society are holding a book fair at Brixworth Village Hall on Sunday 11th May 2014

All the usual book fair interests will be represented including flora/fauna, birds, animals, countryside pursuits, maps and prints. Most importantly there will be plenty of books by BB and further information about the BB Society and merchandise. It would also be a good opportunity to visit the trail which is nearby.

The fair is open from 10am until 4pm; admission is free and refreshments are available at reasonable prices.

Denys 'BB' Watkins-Pitchford and 'The Little Grey Men'

Denys Watkins-Pitchford, known as BB, was one of Northamptonshire's most important authors and illustrators. Born in 1905 at Lamport, where his father was the Rector, the young Denys spent his days exploring the local countryside, marvelling at the beauty of nature and wildlife in all its forms. He was a talented artist so, after attending Northampton School of Art, where he won a scholarship to study in Paris, he continued his studies at The Royal College of Art in London.

He also wrote books and, after some early success, wrote the 'Wild Lone' the story of a Pytchley Fox, which is set around the Lamport area. A classic of its type, the book is still much enjoyed and can be particularly recommended to local people who will be familiar with the places mentioned. As a talented artist BB illustrated all his own books and also those of other authors.

In 1942, BB was the winner of the Carnegie Medal for children's literature with 'The Little Grey Men', a story about the last four gnomes left in Britain. Children are introduced to the enchantment of nature through the eyes of the last four gnomes in Britain, Dodder, Sneezewort, Baldmoney and Cloudberry as they make a thrilling journey to find their brother Cloudberry who has not returned from an epic adventure. Many other books were to follow, in total over 60 titles, of which 25 are for children, all illustrated by his own hand. BB also illustrated over 50 books by other authors with his distinctive black and white scraperboard technique and colour plates.

The BB Society was formed in 2000 to perpetuate the memory of BB and build upon his achievements and interests, particularly in the world of conservation where he highlighted the threats to our countryside and the need for conservation. BB did a great deal of work in that direction, not least the reintroduction of the beautiful Purple Emperor butterfly into parts of Northamptonshire.

In 2006, the BB Society was awarded a Lottery grant to create a nature trail in Brixworth Country Park based on BB's book 'The Little Grey Men'. The trail itself consists of double sided totem style panels which portray the story (look for the secret signs along the way) and wooden sculptures of the gnomes, animals and birds. We worked with nearby primary schools and have incorporated some of the children's art work; although initially few of them had heard of BB, they were fascinated and delighted to realize that many of his books are set around the area in which they live.

Each year the BB Society has a Creative Art competition within the schools, centred on BB and the natural world. Some beautiful pieces, in several media have been produced. The standard remains consistently high and more schools are welcome to join.

In 2012 BB Society established an extensive website www.bbsociety.co.uk where more detailed information about both BB and the Society is available.

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Keeping Brixworth's motors running

Jennifer Fitzgerald speaks with David Hamson, owner of Hamson's Garage

What were the origins of the business?

A repair shop was built on this site by Bill Lathbury in 1927 who was the first chap to own a taxi in the village. He was doing more repairs to pushbikes than to vehicles as that was the most popular mode of transport at the time. His two sons, Eric and Cyril, took over from him and when they retired I took over the business in 1984. That means we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary on 1st July this year!

Before taking over this business I had been working for 17 years at W Grose in Northampton, where I served my apprenticeship.

What is your relationship to Brixworth?

I was born in Brixworth and my family have always lived here, going back to my great grandfather. My grandfather had a farm and was a coal merchant.

What changes have you seen over the years?

The major changes have been the building of the industrial development at our end of the village, and the housing development at the other end. We put a new garage up in 1998 and took on MOT testing because the village was getting bigger. We also diversified into horse boxes – we do a lot of work for the Pytchley Hunt.

The recent recession hasn't really affected us. People are tending to keep their cars for longer rather than buying new ones, which has kept us going through the two recessions we have experienced.

The business has all gone very high-tech so it is necessary to keep up with the new technology – the Retail Motor Industry Federation keeps us informed.

Who is currently involved in the business?

My son Matthew is also a director of the business and carries out MOTs. David Webster, my son-in-law, manages reception and the 'front of house'. We have three mechanics, Spen, Nathan and Tom. Spen has been with us 20 years, Nathan and Tom four years.

What type of customers do you have?

Three quarters of our business is for personal customers, and a quarter for businesses. We don't have to advertise because we get our business through word of mouth.

Describe your typical day

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Is your business seasonal at all?

There is always a mad rush just before Christmas as people want to make sure their cars are roadworthy for the winter and for long journeys they may have planned over the holiday. There is always a slight lull during the summer holiday season.

What is the strangest thing that has happened?

Finding all sorts of creatures and signs of nature in the cars! This has included a full-blown bird's nest, an air-take completely full of a squirrel's nuts, a mouse that got into the door panel of a car and chewed through the electrics, and a bee that blocked a fuel liner.

Also, it can be funny to hear people explain problems with their car by trying to imitate the knock or squeaking sound they have heard. Because of the technology, people can't tell how their car works any more – we use diagnostic equipment to find out.



What are your top challenges?

Keeping our customers happy and keeping our workforce happy.

What message do you have for your customers?

If in doubt, it's best to ask! Free advice is always available. Also, thank you for your continued support, we hope we serve you well.

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Fantastico evening raises funds for Friends

What a fantastico evening it was on Saturday 23rd November at the Friends' Italian Evening! The Brixworth Centre was transformed into a cosy bistro complete with gingham tablecloths, table lamps, candles in Chianti bottles and Italian flags. Full marks to Paddy Fox and Catherine Hole for their superb efforts in decorating the venue.

Guests were treated to authentic Italian food and drink and were entertained admirably by a particularly accomplished magician and our own Rev Chloe with her husband, Gwion, who performed several rather lovely Italian arias together.

The atmosphere throughout the evening was really buzzing and joyful and I am sure everyone would agree that it was a truly memorable evening. Over £1300 was raised for Friends which is an incredible achievement so a huge thanks must go to Sue and Roger Verallo for masterminding the event, for their immense generosity and also for all their hard work during the evening and before. - *Kate Knight*



All Saints Church recognised as Key English Landmark

Eagle-eyed readers of the *Daily Telegraph* might have spotted a mention of All Saints Church, Brixworth, in an article on 'The ten most important buildings in England.'

In it, Simon Thurley, the head of English Heritage, described the ten buildings which, in his opinion, changed the face of the country. While All Saints wasn't among the top ten (boo!), it was included in a list of thirty more buildings that shaped England – alongside The White Tower in the Tower of London, Canterbury Cathedral, Albert Dock in Liverpool, and the Houses of Parliament.

Not shabby company for what some might mistake for an ordinary village church!

Volunteers wanted for war-time variety

A few Brixworth residents want to organise a war-time themed variety show in the village in October or November.

The group already held preliminary meeting to gather ideas at the end of February, but there is still time for more groups and individuals to get involved.

Don't worry if you get stage fright, as there are many roles both on and off stage. However, anybody who wants to participate does have to be prepared to have some fun and be part of the show.

So, if you, your organisation or anyone else you know are interested, please contact Caroline Monk on 882982 or email cjmonk1@hotmail.com.

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Ice made the gentle slope down to the Brampton Valley Way a little tricky. A basket of plump blackberries and 'wild' apples gathered in mid-October were a distant memory as I turned on to the level walk along the track bed of the former Northampton to Market Harborough railway line. My destination was Merry Tom lane, where another left turn would bring me to the road, and thence homeward.

Rainwater puddles had frozen overnight, and shards of brittle-toffee thin ice were sent skittering along the ground as I passed. The cloudless sky had that milky-blue tint typical of a winter morning. There was no warmth from the sun, which hung directly in front of me, not very far clear of the horizon. A robin sang a few bittersweet phrases, his breath clearly visible as tiny puffs of steam as he did so. I had to remind myself that this sweet-sounding warble was really a challenge, to other robins, to stay clear. 'This is my territory, invade at your peril', was his message to all other robins within earshot.

As winter begins to relent a little the plant and animal community starts into life. The first green shoots of new growth start into life, to swiftly become the narrow cluster that will be crowned with the stunning pure white nodding blooms of snowdrops, or the buttercup yellow of daffodils, or Lent lilies, as they were once called. Even in the dead of winter it is still possible for the determined searcher to find the odd blossom of red or white deadnettle, among others.

Turning from the old railway track-bed on to Merry Tom lane, I recollected that

about here was where, not too many years ago, I would have expected to hear the distinctive song of a corn bunting, sounding like someone jangling a bunch of keys above my head. Following the line of the telegraph wire the songster would be revealed as a dumpy non-descript brown bird, a size larger than the familiar house sparrow. The bird watchers' archetypal 'little brown job.' On a good day there would be perhaps two or three of them strung out along the length, and on one memorable occasion I counted five of them, all jangling away in the frosty air.

Sadly it's no more than a distant memory, for among the many declines in the numbers of our birds over the past three or so decades, that of the corn bunting, along with the tree sparrow, another farmland bird, has been the greatest. Numbers of these species have crashed by ninety percent or more, bringing a real threat of total elimination a few years hence. Nowadays I wouldn't know where to go to find five corn buntings in the whole of Northamptonshire.

Let's be honest, most people would not know a corn bunting if they saw one, and maybe, in the hurly-burly of life today, would not care if they completely disappeared. So does it all matter? I think it does, if only because there is a gigantic message for us if only we had eyes to see it.

As day ends, I can sit in my conservatory and watch a flock of starlings performing their complex wheeling aerial manoeuvres, sweeping to and fro, twisting and turning in complete unison. Then in the gathering gloom they spiral abruptly down to the

safety of the welcoming foliage of a thirty foot high Cupressus hedge. Here, protected from the worst of the cold, after a few moments of noisy conversation, they will settle down for the night. Currently there are about fifty birds in this roost, compared with maybe three hundred just a few years ago. The recently published 'Atlas of British Birds' documents a decrease of over 50% in their numbers, so that they have joined the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern. Alongside birds like the house sparrow, skylark, song thrush, nightingale, cuckoo, and a whole hatful of others. All are in serious decline.

The message stays the same, as I have said so many times before. All this is a sign that something is badly amiss with our own environment. We have sown the wind. Are we going to pull back in time to avoid reaping the whirlwind?
- Brian Webster

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Restaurant review

King's Head, Spratton



Over the past year, the King's Head in Spratton has seen a lot of work and a real transformation. Visitors have no idea from looking at the outside of this ancient building that there is such a smart interior inside, completed by fresh flowers on the tables. At the time of our visit, the restaurant was also very busy - always a good sign.

Unfortunately, while the food was fantastic (though not cheap), we have to award a few minus points for what would otherwise have been a perfect evening out in very classy surroundings.

Our wait for our food was a long one - probably because the restaurant was so busy - and we were only tucking into our starters one and a half hours after our arrival. We had ordered aperitifs to keep us going but I could not finish my glass of prosecco because it tasted quite peculiar.

It being Christmas, we treated ourselves to a couple of the finer bottles of wine to go with our choice of main dishes, which included duck and fillet steak. Unfortunately, the young restaurant staff had not been schooled in their wines and delivered them to our table way ahead of our food, oblivious to the fact that they were not suitable to be drunk before the meal.

When it arrived, the food itself was excellent and beautifully presented. We all enjoyed our dishes and completely cleaned our plates. However, the skin of my duck had not been crisped as it should have been, and when we asked for some bread to accompany our starters, which included some fine scallops, only four pieces of bread were served for the seven of us.

The restaurant experience could probably be improved by the addition of a dividing wall between the restaurant and the general area of the bar, which was just as busy as the restaurant. As a result, the dress code was mixed and I felt a little overdressed next to members of the community who had come in to enjoy their regular pint. The proximity of the bar also made for a lot of noise.

This strange experience was highlighted by the arrival of the Bilton Grange hockey team straight from a match clad in their red sweaters and shorts. Standing at the bar right next to our table, we were able to benefit from a lovely waft of manly sweat.

Overall, we had a very enjoyable evening and, it must be said, some of the peculiarities of the dining experience made the event more memorable. The overriding impression was that a lot of attention had been paid to the décor of the restaurant, and indeed, to the food. However, it could be improved even further if more thought was given to the overall experience of the diner, particularly with regards to the drink, the level of service and any extras.

Image	Upmarket, sophisticated
Quality of the food	Excellent
Quality of the drinks	Mediocre
Room for dessert?	Yes
Service	Lengthy
Ambience	Too noisy, mixed with bar
Entertainment for children	No
Loos	Excellent
Parking space	Plenty
Value for money	Fair

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Police Report

Community Panel meeting

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a warm welcome to 2014. With Christmas and New Year festivities out of the way, I already have a few things pencilled into my diary for the coming year.

We recommend getting all your new Christmas gadgets registered with companies like Immobilize, or use product tracking or marking devices like Redweb or SmartWater. These significantly improve our chances of locating stolen property and returning it to the owners.

At the Community Panel meeting on 23 January, speeding was chosen as the priority for this current period.

The next panel meeting is on the 17 April at 8pm at the Community Centre, Spratton Road.

All residents are welcome to attend, so please come along and express any concerns you have.

crime statistics

Overall, there has been a 14% decrease on the same period last year in the county. Daventry area is up by 1%; Brixworth down by

Did you hear or see anything unusual or suspicious?

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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

27%.

However antisocial behaviour was up by 1.2% overall, Daventry rural is up by 11.7% and Brixworth is up by 4.2%.

police surgery dates

I will be holding regular Police Surgeries at the Brixworth Community Centre from 3pm to 4pm. If you have any concerns or need advice please pop along and share them.

Dates this year are: 28 Feb, 28 Mar, 2 May, 11 July, 22 Aug, 26 Sep, 24 Oct and 28 Nov

Lampport and Hanging Houghton News

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

At a party held in Hanging Houghton before Christmas the idea of a carol service on the village green was suggested. This idea was picked up by Nigel and Sue and Hilary and Bob, who then organised the event for Christmas Eve. Fliers were produced and distributed, song sheets printed, lighting arranged, a brazier and fire wood supplied, and mince pies, ginger bread biscuits and mulled wine produced.

Some 30 plus villagers and their relations and children attended on a rather cold and windy night, and a good time was had by all.

Many thanks go to the main organisers and to all who attended. Perhaps it will happen again next year!

Meanwhile, the British Trust for Ornithology has carried out a survey on the estate of Lampport Hall, and found that an estimated 63 species of birds and 31 species of butterflies and dragon flies have been seen on the Estate this year. The plan now is to erect some barn owl boxes over this winter.

No doubt you are all looking forward to the Spring as much as I am!
- Mike Philpott

Easter at the Centre Pre-School

Brixworth Centre Pre-School is holding an Easter Activity Afternoon. On Tuesday 8 April, visitors to the Brixworth Centre, next to All Saints Church, will be able to join the easter-egg hunt, take part in craft activities and trike racing, and of course enjoy the refreshments. The activities will take place from 2 till 4pm

BRIXWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Don't forget to fill in your questionnaire (which will be coming through your letterbox mid-March).

Return it to one of our special boxes in the Library foyer, Troop's, Blason's Garage, Hamson's Garage, The George, The Red Lion or The Coach & Horses.

Further copies will be available at www.brixworthbulletin.com

Deadline: 4th April

Your responses will help shape the village's development & our futures here - especially that of our children.



For help and more information, contact info@brixworth-np.org.uk

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A trip down memory lane

The Bulletin was passed a copy of the commemorative edition of the "Northampton & County Independent" magazine, published for the 1300th anniversary of All Saints Church in May/June 1980.

The magazine is a real treasure trove, containing a mix of articles on contemporary themes of the day together with pieces

looking back over the long history of Brixworth, researched through discussion with local experts and elderly residents.

Some of the comments made in the magazine give a fascinating insight not only into how Brixworth has changed over the three intervening decades but also how far our language and attitudes have changed since the 80s.



Rev. Nicholas Chubb was the last vicar to live in the original vicarage

A festival had been planned that year to celebrate the church's anniversary. It was certainly intended to be a grand affair and was going to be opened in June with a special thanksgiving service by none other than Dr Donald Coggan who had stepped down as Archbishop of Canterbury that January. The service would also be graced by the attendance of HRH Duke of Gloucester. However, other attendance at the service was strictly "By invitation only". Surely, that would not be acceptable today!

The festival programme spanned five months of concerts, local exhibitions and fairs, and included a concert by the BBC Singers, which was to be broadcast on the radio. It also included a Gymkhana!

Some other things we have learned:

- The Vicar of Brixworth at the time, Rev. Nicholas Chubb, is referred to as a "Country Parson". He was the last vicar to live in the original vicarage (pictured, left), leaving it for the more comfortable and less costly new vicarage during the 1970s.

- In a story that sounds familiar today, a newly married Mr John Jones and his wife (who is unnamed – wives are commonly referred to simply as the wife of "Mr X" in the magazine) were reported to be battling with "Planning" in their renovation of a cottage in Silver Street. They were required to raise the heights of their ceilings and increase the sizes of the windows. Perhaps "Planning" are more conservation-minded these days?

- Bryant Homes were still in the process of building the so-called Wolfage Manor estate, centred around Froxhill Crescent, which had started in 1975. Some 220 out of 557 planned homes had already been built. A three-bedroomed semi detached with heating and garage was priced from £19,250 and a three bedroomed detached house from £22,500.

- The name of "Lesson Road" had been created by putting together the beginning and ending syllables of the local builder Leslie Hamson.

- Even in 1980, there was a concern that the school would come under a pressure of numbers from the spate of private housing. At the time, there were 277 children in nine classes, and three classes in mobile classrooms (There are 454 children today). The school had been an all-age school until 1954 when senior pupils left to go to the new Moulton Secondary School.

- The number of pubs in the village had already been reduced to three (from eight

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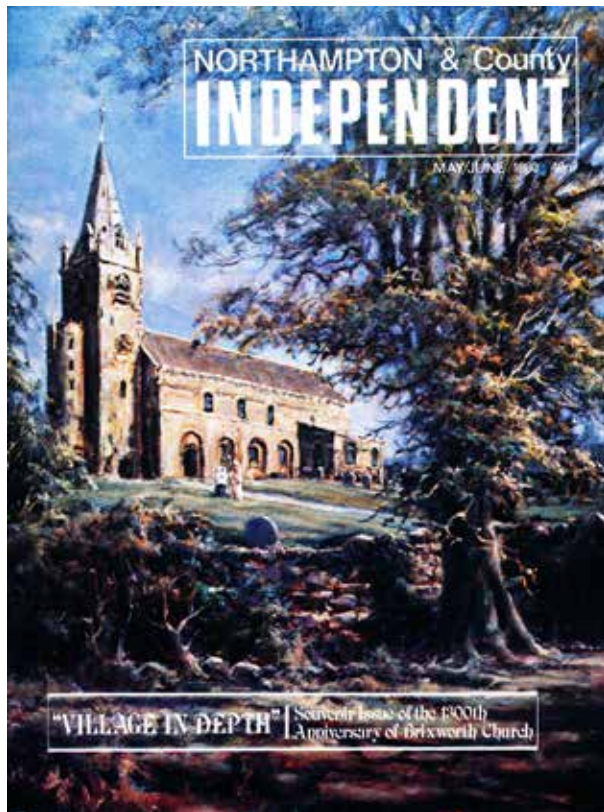
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in the 1930s, all serving different brews). One of the journalists complained about the recent round of price increases exclaiming, "Where will it end... (at) £1 a pint?!"

- The Coach and Horses pub was run by Les and Bob Lillie who were advertising a traditional three-course roast lunch for £4.00 (including VAT). The George had recently been rebuilt and Robert and Cynthia Dent were the landlords. The Red Lion was managed by Lewis and Kathleen Bramwell who held weekend "sing-alongs" with a resident organist! In commenting upon pub life, the magazine remarked that both men and women frequented the pub nowadays, as if to point out this was a recent trend!

- A new restaurant had opened at The Old Post House that year which was recommended by Egon Ronay and open seven days a week.

- Lovell the Ironmongers was already established on Spratton Road.



People used to fear being sent to the Brixworth workhouse on Spratton Road, which at one point housed 2,281 people.

- The premises of a factory for metering pumps (Bran & Luebbe) had been extended that year creating more employment in Brixworth.

- The village was able to support a thriving fashion store called "Francesca" owned by a Mrs Hussey who lived in Brixworth Hall Park.

Other interesting facts unearthed in the magazine going back further in Brixworth's history:

- Both Saint Chad and Saint Owen, Christian missionaries from France, are believed to have visited Brixworth in AD 680, the year the church is said to have been founded.

- Hanging Houghton was completely laid waste by the plague in 1685.

- In the eighteenth century, one of the Vicars of Brixworth, John Lyne, drowned in Brixworth Hall Lake.

- The Brixworth workhouse on Spratton Road had been greatly feared. In 1894 it housed 2281 residents (called "casuals") including 233 women and 138 children. The men were required to break road stone

and until 1898 the women had to pick oakum (according to Wikipedia, a kind of tarred fibre painstakingly unravelled from old ropes and taken apart into fibre) – a common penal occupation in prison and workhouses.

- The monument at the bottom of the village on the A508 into Northampton is a stone cross and drinking trough erected in 1907 in memory of the third Lord Chesham. He suffered a fatal fall in Welton while out riding with the Pytchley Hunt.

The *Bulletin* would be pleased to hear from anybody who has a first-hand account of the church's 1300th anniversary and can infuse any of these stories with some personal colour. We shall be bequeathing the magazine to Brixworth History Society.

- Jennifer Fitzgerald

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Draughton News

Draughton began 2014 with a village quiz, which saw our little Clubroom positively oozing brain cells - (plus a few other things from the walls - but the surveyors have been called in to look at that!!). It is the only building, apart from the church, that the village has for get-togethers, and is a truly important focus for the 50 or so souls that live here. Coffee mornings are open to all, and we have many passing cyclists and walkers who drop in on the first Saturday morning of every month to join us for a cup and a brownie! It's always a struggle to find the cash to keep this building going, but we manage to pay the bills - just! Maintenance is more of an issue, and with the church next door also proving a bottomless pit, Draughton purses are stretched to breaking. So for a mere £1 for coffee, brownie, chat and the Saturday papers, join us and swell our coffers on the first Saturday of each month, from 10.30 till noon.

Oh...and the Vickers table won the quiz - with two Simons an Ali and a Sheena. Your correspondent's table came a creditable 4th.....(out of five!!!!)

- Kate Calnan



Father Christmas comes to Brixworth Central Sports Club

On the 22nd December Central Sports held a Christmas party for the children of Brixworth. The party was attended by over 40 children and their parents and was free as the costs were covered by the proceeds from a fun day in the summer and a Halloween party. The children were entertained by a balloon sculpture artist Ian Ewers who kept the boys happy with balloon swords, the girls with flowers, puppies and teddies and some of the adults with hats and spectacles. The big surprise of the day was Santa who arrived in a red vintage Singer sports car driven by our own John Blason. They drove around Froxhill, Spratton Rd and came to a stop outside the club house on St David's recreation ground much to the delight and excitement of the children who all then received a present from Santa. The party ended with a buffet and disco. It was deemed to be a great success by all who attended.

The club is now open 5 days per week and membership is only £3 per year per adult (children are free) and £2 per year for people over 60 years. The club can also be booked for functions with no cost on the days that it is open and for a very small charge to cover heating etc on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We welcome new members and old and have Sky and BT Sports as well as family fun days throughout the year.



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Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group

Heart disease is a major health problem, but one that lifestyle changes can help a lot to prevent or manage. To find out more about what you can do, come to the upcoming talk by Dr Neil Menon on Healthy Hearts, on Tuesday 1 April at Guilsborough Surgery, 7-8pm.

The Patient Participation Group is holding its AGM on Wednesday 30 April at Brixworth Surgery, 6.30pm. Our aims include providing resources and activities that benefit the practice population and finding ways of improving the care provided. If you have an interest in healthcare and would like to contribute, do come along.

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

Outdoor nativity ventures inside

In the past years, I have often looked forward to the Christmas Carol Concert held outside the library, and this year was no different. Held by the Brixworth Christian Fellowship, there has always been a certain warmth in standing outside in winter's frigid air, singing Christmas carols with the local community, and it's one of many things held in Brixworth during the holiday period which seems to bring the local community together. In the past years we've seen lots of things: fake snow, defecating donkeys, and cute children dressed as our favourite Nativity characters, and all these festivities have only really happened because of the spate of dry weather surrounding the day upon which the event would take place. This year, however, chance deigned that rain would pour, and since the event requires much electricity to run, the annual outdoor Christmas Carol Concert was moved inside.

Despite the drastic change in both seating capacity and temperature, the change in scenery did nothing to temper the cheerful spirits of regular attendees, although it did make the traditional hot chocolate and warm mince pies afterwards feel much less deserved! The enthusiasm was the same, and the interpretation of the Nativity story was only slightly hampered by the smaller stage, the only missing element being the traditional steed upon which Mary and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem.

Credit to the Christian Fellowship and the Centre staff who made the best of an out of control situation, resulting in an altogether festive treat for all the family.

– Alex Campbell



Pensioners enjoy Christmas with the Christian Fellowship

The Brixworth Christian Fellowship welcome some 70 pensioners to the annual Christmas lunch.

Prepared by no less than 17 volunteers, entertained by the children from Brixworth Primary School choir - and of course visited by Santa himself! - it was a highlight of the Christmas season to all who took part.



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A new headmaster for Spratton Hall

Simon Clarke has been appointed headmaster of Spratton Hall from January 2014, succeeding Stephen Player, who retired in the autumn.

Simon has extensive experience in IAPS schools. His first teaching post was at Gresham's Prep School in Norfolk from 1995 to 2005, where he became head of English and Drama, as well as coaching teams in all the major boys' sports. He then moved to Millfield Prep in Somerset to be head of English and director of Drama until 2007. Since then Simon has been deputy headmaster at Spratton Hall until his recent appointment as headmaster.

He is married to Danny, who also teaches at Spratton, and they have three children, aged 10, 8 and 5 all of whom are pupils in the school. Simon is a keen cricketer, and, with his drama background, an avid theatre-goer.



Draughton Village news

Draughton began 2014 with a village quiz, which saw our little Clubroom positively oozing brain cells - (plus a few other things from the walls - but the surveyors have been called in to look at that!!). It is the only building, apart from the church, that the village has for get-togethers, and is a truly important focus for the 50 or so souls that live here. Coffee mornings are open to all, and we have many passing cyclists and walkers who drop in on the first Saturday morning of every month to join us for a cup and a brownie! It's always a struggle to find the cash to keep this building going, but we manage to pay the bills - just! Maintenance is more of an issue, and with the church next door also proving a bottomless pit, Draughton purses are stretched to breaking. So for a mere £1 for coffee, brownie, chat and the Saturday papers, join us and swell our coffers on the first Saturday of each month, from 10.30 till noon.

Oh...and the Vickers table won the quiz - with two Simons an Ali and a Sheena. Your correspondent's table came a creditable 4th.....(out of five!!!!)



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. They 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).

You can 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.



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Cinderella in a party mood

At the end of January we start looking for the first shoots of spring, and for those entering the village from the South it's not the earliest snowdrops that may catch the eye, but the boards advertising the drama group's latest production. After the 25th time, it gets harder year on year to find a pantomime that hasn't been done, so a process of elimination this year led to Cinderella.

Ben Crocker's script produced a delightfully light mood not designed for star turns but for ensemble playing, where all the cast members get their turns to shine, and shine they did in what was considered by many regular audience members to be one of the best the group has done.

Seeing it on the last performance I found the cast in party mood, as the Prince (Sophie Cardwell) and manservant Dandini (Tamsin Green) set the scene with a lot of confident banter, with audience participation from the full house, and hey-ho thigh slapping the order of the day.

If you want ugly sisters, Brixworth Drama Group will not disappoint you; and the exceptionally ugly Ben Richards and Mike Culverhouse let rip with plenty of wiggling, pouting, and a great exhibition of tantrum-throwing by Ben that one or two younger audience members immediately adopted as a model. Eunice in charge of costumes performed her annual miracle fitting the



sisters into a variety of outfits. Even more awful than the sisters was their mother Devilia, played with style and cruel authority by Heather Pool, as she pandered to the sisters and dominated her pathetic husband Baron Hardup, a very wimpish Allan Pope, and the beautiful Cinderella (Hanna Saxton). The silly Baron had spent his last pennies on a horse, Brixworth Bullet being really well acted by both the front and the back half of twins Jacob and Isaac leach. The baron is just about to be visited by bailiffs Ammer and Tongs played by Stuart Cooper and John Wardell, but Cinders thwarts them by sending them on a trip round the village hall.

While devilish Devilia tears up Cinder's party invitation, help is at hand, as Buttons, played with his usual assurance and humour by James Skeggs, and the fairy godmother (either Amanda Pilgrim or Yvonne Keller depending on the performance) conspired in one case magically and the other practically, to rain on the Hardup's parade. Rain being particularly appropriate for the Ugly Sisters as Buttons plied them with large amounts of genuine BBC Gunge.

Then Cinders gets her carriage, goes off to the ball, some incidents happen with a shoe and an artificial leg, and finally, to no-one's particular surprise, the shoe fits Cinder's foot not those dreadful sisters, and the blossoming romance between the Prince and

Cinders reaches its inevitable conclusion.

The live band has always been a great feature of the Brixworth Pantos and this year they provided the background for the arriving audience, and interval entertainment as well as a whole series of special mention for fine clear delivery, but also the Hardup's for a crazy song and dance routine in a key unknown to music! New girl Elizabeth Moxon was given her chance to show her dancing talents in a comic routine with Buttons. As a routine, pride of place went to the final comic turn in front of tabs, where Buttons led chorus members in a hysterical rendering of 'If I was once upon the stage'.

Director Sue Ianson has pulled off another coup and even found time to sing and control the back stage crew.

Thanks are also due to the stage crew, make-up, the front of house volunteers and all those who contribute something without which the annual journey into Panto land would not take place. The group needs new members, especially younger adults – you can always be made up to look older!

The next production will be 'Murdered to Death' by Peter Gordon, which will be played from 26-28 June. It's a parody of Agatha Christie.
- Robin Pool


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Brixworth & District U3A

Our group meets in Brixworth Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm. We have a variety of interesting speakers and time afterwards for tea and a look at all the information on interest groups and sign up.

The Walking Group set two new records on Tuesday 14 January when there were 40 walkers and 20 strollers. There were two non-walkers who joined for the lunch, and the extremely large number was catered for very well by the staff at the Windhover.

The February walk in Brixworth has been strictly limited to a combined total of 45 due to the maximum number of lunches the Coach & Horses can provide.

Fortunately there is no such restriction for the March event at The Old Red Lion in Kislingbury.

Twenty members of the Theatre Group went to see the matinee performance of 'Mansfield Park' at the Royal & Derngate and most thought it was one of the best interpretations they had seen.

The U3A Songsters along with the



Hunsbury Voices choir entertained the U3A members at their meeting held on 4 December.

The Ceilidh Dancing Group (see picture) is proving very popular with new members signing up. It is good fun and at the same time very good exercise!

The evening dining group visited The George pub in Great Oxendon in November and are going to Highgate House in February. This group meets quarterly.

Further information on the U3A and interest groups can be found on our website www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth. - *Judy Smith*

Planning update

DA/2013/0711, 25 Holcot Road Work to tree subject to Tree Preservation Order.	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2013/0779, 47 The Ashway Work to tree subject of Tree Preservation Order.	BPC No Objection DDC Approved.
DA/2013/0831, 12 Eastfield Road Construction of detached bungalow including parking and access.	BPC Objection DDC Refused
DA/2013/0922, 54 Northampton Road Single storey rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2103/0066, Old Station Yard, Station Road Erection of BI Units, access and 9 dwellings.	BPC Objection DDC Approved

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Beat ovarian cancer - Make Time for Tea

In March 2014, to raise funds and awareness for Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, The Eve Appeal is encouraging people to Make Time for Tea.

The Eve Appeal is the only national charity dedicated to raising funds for world-class research into, and awareness of, all five gynaecological cancers. In March as part of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month we ask people to get together with friends, family and colleagues to hold a tea party for us to raise money and awareness of ovarian cancer for the benefit of all women.

Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common cancer in women; each year in the UK almost 7,000 women are diagnosed, and 4,300 women die from the disease.

The Eve Appeal is determined to change this and by holding a tea party for us you could help save the lives of the women you love. So dust off the recipe books, bring out the tea set, hang the bunting and get ready to eat cake in the name of charity!

For more information, call 020 7605 0100 or email tea@eveappeal.org.uk.



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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

All members of the Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout group made the best of the weather through September and October, doing as many activities outside as they could before moving indoors for the darker November and December nights.

The entire group once again joined the villagers on parade through the village on Remembrance Sunday. It is great to see so many young people taking time to honour others sacrifices.

The **Beavers** enjoyed a variety of activities, including following a flour trail in the country park and taking part in back to front night, where they 'started' at the end, wore their uniforms backwards and 'ended' at the beginning with lots of back to front games in between.

In the build up to Christmas we made Christmas cards, some of which the Co-op printed and sold, made Christmas Pudding Truffles (you wouldn't believe where the chocolate got!) and had a lovely party.

The **Cubs'** pursuits were perhaps a little more serious as they took a good long look at personal safety, which included the firework and green cross codes, stranger danger, building site and online safety and how to make a 999 call. All very important stuff. The term ended with some Christmas crafts and of course a great party.

Meanwhile the **Scouts** went out walking and cooking, then spent a night shooting air rifles, learning how to start a fire and how to tie knots. One evening they did 'Scouts got Talent' competition and found out they certainly did. They spent a fabulous night at Mereway Fire Station – our thanks to the Northamptonshire Fire Service, and ended the term at Adrenaline Alley in Corby.

Last, but by no means least the **Explorers** had a great bonfire party, and welcomed a couple of visitors to their midst. The first talked about emergency medicine and the second about sexual health awareness. They

did some backwoods cooking and had a wonderful trip to the cinema at Sixfields where not only did they watch a film but they got to see much of what happens behind the scenes. Many will also have seen them in the weeks before Christmas accompanying Santa as his sleigh went round the village.

Hopefully you all have also see the wonderful calendar produced by Andy Nickerson – one of the Beaver Scout leaders, and local professional photographer. All funds from the sale go to the group; there a still a few available at the greatly discounted price of £2 from the library, information centre and when you drop your young people off at their section meeting.

Another member of our team has also been busy building a website for the scout group. It is a work in progress, but if you would like to check it out please go to <http://brixworth.daventryscouts.co.uk>. We hope that we will soon be able to post the terms planned activities for each section, photos, details of fundraising activities and much, much more.

Sadly another long-standing member of the leader team, Liz Bell, stood down at Christmas. She has been a Beaver Leader, a Cub Leader and a Scout Leader and has been a strong supporter of many of the group's activities. We will miss her.

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group is a very popular one, and continues to buck the Daventry District trend as the number of young people involved continues to grow. With more than twenty-five young people involved in Explorer Scouts, our unit sets the standard for other units within the District, there are nearly forty young people in both Scouts and Cubs and Beavers operate to the full capacity of twenty-four. We also have a very extensive waiting list.

This is a large number of young people and the logistics of being able to offer all the activities we would like to is becoming

more and more difficult. After February half term, the Scouts will be split into two troops with one doing an activity at the centre and the other off site. This is a pre-cursor to the two troops becoming separate units as of September; one meeting Wednesdays and one meeting Mondays. Once the two Scout troops are up and running, two Cub packs will be created and then two Beaver colonies.

This will significantly improve the activities the young people can get involved in and address the ever-growing waiting list. HOWEVER to do this we need more adults to join the leader team. Volunteers will get to work with existing leaders, learn from them, discover more about scouts and be ready when the split comes to step into their role.

Who can get involved?

Anyone (subject to CRB clearance).

Is it a weekly commitment?

Not necessarily, if you can help us every two weeks, that's great. The more leaders we have the more flexible we can be in our approach and the wider the experiences we can offer to our young people.

Do you need any special skill?

Not really, but if you have, we can offer an even wider experience to our young people.

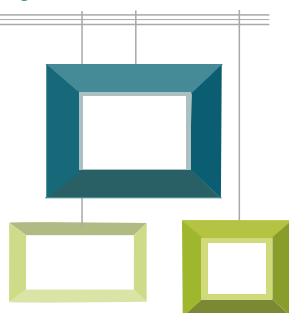
If you would like to find out more about becoming involved please come and talk to us and find out how you to can join in all the fun – and find out were all that mud actually comes from!

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit <http://scouts.org.uk/>. To find out more about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group contact Pete Lennon, Group Scout Leader. 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

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Thinking about becoming a landlord ?

With the number of buy-to-let loans reaching its highest level for four years, record rents are propelling landlords into expanding their property investments. Should you be thinking about getting involved in the buy-to-let sector and how easy is it to become a landlord?

Average UK rents have soared by 13.6% since 2009, with a further rises predicted over future years.

In addition, the number of UK households renting has increased over the past decade from 31% to 36%, according to the latest Census data. This will continue to increase and is heading far more towards the figures seen in many parts of Europe.

There is currently great demand for rental homes in many popular areas including Brixworth.

what is a buy-to-let mortgage?

A buy-to-let mortgage is money offered by a lender (a bank or building society) to fund a property that will be rented out. The borrower will not occupy the property.

how does a buy-to-let mortgage differ from a regular residential mortgage?

The difference between a buy-to-let mortgage and a standard residential mortgage is how the borrower's income is assessed.

Instead of looking at your earned income, a lender views potential rentals income as your primary income source. Some lenders might also take the landlord's personal income into account.

As different lenders assess this in different ways, you must compare all of the deals on offer.

how do buy-to-let mortgages work?

Typically, lenders will want your anticipated rentals income, verified by independent sources, to meet at least 125% of the monthly interest payments on the loan. This will be based on the pay rate for fixed and tracker deals, or a lender's standard variable rate (usually an extra 1%, or more).

This is to ensure landlords (and the lender) is covered during void periods when the property is empty and not rented out, and reassures the lender that the borrower will still be able to meet the payments.

Lenders generally lend mainly to those with large deposits, with most deals expecting you to put down at least 30% (or even 40%) as a deposit. The best deals are at the lowest loan-to-value rates of 60% or below.

loan fees

Buy-to-let mortgage fees that secure the best rates are usually not low. A top fixed rate deal could have a loan fee of 2.5% (£2,500 on a £100,000 mortgage, for example), or higher.

Those deals with higher interest rates will charge lower loan fees.

Before signing up for a loan, you need to make sure the high loan fee you're paying is worth it. Sometimes fees are so high that a deal with a higher interest rate but lower fee might be a better choice.

rentals returns

Try to achieve a five percent return on your rentals investment every year. Some properties, especially apartments, might reap as much as 7% annually.

does the type of tenant matter?

The type of tenant renting your property can make a big difference.

For instance, many lenders have restrictions on mortgages for student lets and homes of multiple occupancy (HMO's).

tax implications

Unlike residential property, a buy-to-let property is not exempt from capital gains tax. Also, rent received is regarded as taxable income.

However, you can offset interest payments on your mortgage against tax on rentals income, along with other expenses, such as agent's fees and some maintenance costs.

For more information and advice give Stuart a call on 616886.

– Stuart Little, Horts Estate Agents



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Chris Heaton-Harris MP's

WESTMINSTER REPORT

Constituency Campaigner of the Year

Politics is full of surprises and I've certainly had a nice surprise recently - I've learnt that I have been nominated by one of my constituents and a national charity for a Dods Parliamentary Award: "Constituency Campaigner of the Year."

Perhaps even more surprising to many in Westminster is that I wasn't nominated for my work on wind farms or helping people fight unwanted planning applications locally, but instead in relation to the work I have been doing with the charity "Bliss" and an amazing local campaigner on the issue of neonatal care.

Many of you will know I have been constantly campaigning on raising standards in neonatal care and also the subject of stillbirth since my election as your MP back in May 2010. I got involved because I was contacted by a mum who had both good and bad experiences locally with the premature birth of her twins. One, alas, passed away a few weeks after being born; the other is now a strong lovely girl at a local primary school. This mum now campaigns for better care for others, so that no new mother in the future has to go through being separated from and losing a child – and she asked me to get involved in her campaigning efforts.

You'd be surprised at the variation in practice and in outcomes across the country and even between local hospitals in the NHS in neonatal care. I think it is imperative that we continue to drive forward improvements in this area, so health professionals have an even better understanding of how to deliver the best possible outcomes and that all women and their children can have access to quality, safe and locally-led care.

Obviously these issues are incredibly important for the families they affect both here in my constituency and across the country and the work that I have undertaken alongside "Bliss" is the very least that I could do to help this charity which does such amazing work in helping parents who suddenly find themselves in a frightening situation with a sick new baby.

I know many of you feel that national politics is all a bit shouty and argumentative. That is only part of political life and a small part at

that, but it is the part that the newspapers and TV like to cover. They tell us that you, the public, like watching it. However, getting coverage for this "less sexy" sort of political work is much harder than getting it for a controversial subject and so it is nice to be able to get some positive publicity for these causes through this nomination.

You can find out more about the amazing work Bliss do by going to their website: www.bliss.org.uk

As ever, if I can be of any help, please contact me. My details are below.

Chris

Snail-mail	The House of Commons Westminster London SW1A 0AA
Telephone	0207-219-7048 or 01604-859721
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Mr M. Lewis, 8 Beech Close

t: 01604 880158

t: 01604 881836

Dear Friends,

As I draw near to the completion of my first year here in Brixworth, I reflect on those I have got to know in the Parish, and the very warm welcome I've had during these few months.

It has been good to see new faces emerging at All Saints, and a relaxed, informal and joyful feeling to the services there. The highlight of Christmas perhaps for me was seeing a young 'Mary' ride right up the nave of the Church on the back of a surprisingly obliging donkey at our crib service –and all without incident!

We are now moving towards Lent, a season of grace, penance, and conversion, and a time of the renewal of the promises we made at our baptism. It is also a season when we take stock of ourselves, and our attitude towards others. But as well as Lent having a penitential feel to it, it is also a joyful journey towards Easter and the light of the risen Christ.

We begin March with a celebration of St. David, patron saint of Wales, at our Family Service on March 2nd. This should be a colourful service, with daffodils and Welsh cakes provided afterwards! St David lived a very simple life. His most famous miracle is when he is believed to make the ground rise during one of his sermons so that he could be better seen and heard. This happened at the small village of Llanddewi Brefi, which is actually where my husband grew up. St. David's motto was 'to always do the little things' as this was what mattered. This I think is a good way to approach Lent. As well as seeing it as a season when we give up things, let it be a time when we give to others—a time when we do the little things for those who need our help.

I hope that Lent and Easter prove to be a time of renewal for you all, not only due to the longer days and new growth happening all around us, but also because of a sense of God's love and presence with you, shown by his gift to us of his Son, and by Christ's bursting from the tomb on Easter Sunday.



Rev. Chloe

Normal Sunday Services	1 st Sunday of the month	10.30 am	Family Service
		11.45 am	Said Eucharist
		6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
	2 nd Sunday	7.45 am	Said Eucharist
		10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
	3 rd Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
		4.00 pm	Taizé Service
	4 th Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
	5 th Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist

Normal Weekday services		
Tuesday	9.30 am	"Coffee Pot" – a short communion service followed by coffee
Thursday	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist

Special Services for Lent and Easter

Sunday	2 nd March	10.30 am	Family Service (St David's Day)
Ash Wednesday	5 th March	7.30 pm	Holy Eucharist
Mothering Sunday	30 th March	10.30 am	Family Service (instead of 6th April)
Wednesdays -March April	12 th , 19 th , 26 th 2 nd , 9 th	7.00 pm	Lent course
Sunday	6 th April	11.45 am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting



Holy Week

Palm Sunday	13 th April	10.30 am	Family Communion (with Holcot)
Tuesday	15 th April	9.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Evening Prayer
Wednesday	16 th April	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday	17 th April	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Holy Eucharist The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday
Good Friday	18 th April	10.00 am 2.00 pm	Ecumenical Walk of Witness with the BCF Meditation on the Cross
Easter Sunday	20 th April	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist Taizé Service

From the Registers

	Holy Baptism	Holy Matrimony	Holy Burial
October	Mackenzie Katie Wainwright Bowen Lily Thomas		Louisa Emily Scott
November	Cameron Lewis Collins Hannah Louise Cross	David Charles Best & Emma Lauren Pearce	Mary Elizabeth Gittins Emma Jo Henry
December	Leah Rose Mae Valentine		Evelyn Winifred Sharp George Bernard Mitton
January			David Leonard Line





BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.bcfchurch.co.uk

Church in the Community

The Oxford English Dictionary describes “community” as “a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common”. Increasingly our village and surrounding villages need both the sense of, and reality of community, which brings with it many benefits to us all. In this issue, we want to applaud those who help us as a church, as part of this community, by highlighting the work that is done voluntarily to develop community within our area of the County.

As a church we have recently undergone a name change (BCF Community Church) because we strongly believe that care, love, acceptance, combatting loneliness and reaching out to those in need follows the example of Jesus, as He went around His community over two thousand years ago.

Apart from the desire to be part of and serve with our community, there is much that we offer as a church. Our Junior Church (Sunday School) at 11.15 at the school whilst the adults share worship together. Children’s and young people’s clubs during the week (around 20 young people including leaders are off to an Adventure weekend in March). Parish Nursing, referrals to Daventry Food Bank, activities in the Olive Branch, Mums and Tots and much more, give opportunity for folk to feel the benefits of real community, of which the church itself is part.

We invite you all to be part of the BCF Community, as it serves our village and reaches out to those in need with the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

May God Himself Bless you

Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on 882040



Messy Church – a great time was had by children and their parents on a Sunday afternoon in February – this popular event includes art and craft, games, drama and a talk as well as food and a goody bag for the children! The next one is to be held on

Sunday 16th March at the Library & Community Centre at 4.00-6.00p.m. Hope to see you there.



Shoebbox Appeal 2013

A great big thank you to all in the Community who responded to give a magnificent total of 1187 boxes which went to Kyrgystan. Thanks to all who contributed, to those who volunteered to sort and check them, (if you would like to be involved in 2014 let us know). Every box was a box of love that made a difference to a child last Christmas.

The Outdoor Carol Service Inside!



For the first time in 14 years we had to take our outdoor Nativity inside due to the weather! Did it matter? Yes and No! The Centre was packed out upstairs and downstairs as the Nativity was acted out and Carols were sung. Unfortunately not everyone was able to see the performance due to the crowds of people. However, to see some of the school children (and a few parents) transform themselves into angels or kings or shepherds was truly magical!

“There is something about the Christmas Story that makes me cry every time” said one parent and another onlooker was glad that the true meaning of Christmas, often lost, is still celebrated and remembered in this way.

We hope and pray that the 2014 Nativity will be outside and as a village event will be thoroughly enjoyed and understood for what it depicts



Pensioners Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 11th December 2013

Each and every Wednesday of the year BCF Community Church open up the Olive Branch Coffee shop to the pensioners of the village, serving them with a fine two course meal and a tea or coffee to wash it down with. This is always a well-supported event with as many as 30 pensioners enjoying the experience each Wednesday, with volunteers from the village cooking and serving the meal. December 11th was the day that the Olive Branch management had chosen for the pensioners Christmas Dinner. 70 pensioners from the village came and enjoyed the experience. Here's what they said;

The Pensioners Christmas Dinner, is always a fantastic community event, where volunteers from our village put some of their valuable time aside to help our

Jill... said
"Great food and laughter.
Father Christmas's brother
was hilarious!"

Mrsula said...
"Good service,
good food and
the company
was excellent!"

Bab's said...
"I loved to see and
hear the children
singing the
Christmas songs.
Beautiful!"

Peter said...
"Seems to get better
every year!"

Bill said...
"What a great team effort! Good
to see people from the village
getting together and helping
us to have such a great time!"

pensioners have a great time. At this particular event we had 17 volunteers, Father Christmas's brother and the schools children's choir who made the whole event just so special. A big thanks to David Boucher, the teachers and those wonderful children and all those people who helped so many people have such a great time! It is just so great to be part of a community that wants to join together to bless the senior folk of the village.

Olive Branch Volunteer

I volunteered to help out at the Olive Branch some 18 months ago, I was grateful that my Father had been welcomed to the Pensioners Luncheon Club and I felt it was a way I could give something back to BCF for the friendship he was receiving there. A Wednesday Pensioners lunchtime stretched to a Thursday afternoon as well within a short time. It is nice to feel part of a team and we are always busy but still have a laugh. It was a way of meeting people as I was new to the village (other staff, regular and occasional customers). It has enhanced my cooking skills and I no longer blanch at the thought of cooking a 'Brixworth Breakfast' which I did at first (still manage to burn the toast occasionally though!). There are always other people on duty at any time so you are never at a loss for a helping hand or advice.

I have my Food Safety and Hygiene Certificate but the Olive Branch will support you in doing this. In summary you feel appreciated by the other staff and the customers and I would thoroughly recommend it.

Chris Norbury



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 10-11.30

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.

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)

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 www.bcfchurch.co.uk

Parish News



Brixworth Parish Council News & Views – Winter 2014 edition
www.brixworthpc.org.uk



In this edition of the Bulletin, you will read a lot about the questionnaire to be sent to every household by Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

During his recent visit to Daventry, the Under-Secretary of State for Planning, Nick Boles, stressed the importance of Neighbourhood Plans in shaping the future of villages such as ours.

Neighbourhood Plans are expected to agree with national and local planning guidance and although the Daventry Local Plan is delayed, this does not prevent us from creating and approving our own Neighbourhood Plan.

Please support your village by completing the questionnaire.

Planning Committee

The question of the buffer strip on the northern edge of the new Barratt Homes development now appears to be on its way to resolution as a result of an agreement between the residents of the neighbouring houses to acquire part of the buffer strip from the developers. Barratt's have actually **donated the land** to the residents.

The **planning application** for the building of a Continuing Care Retirement Community, comprising a 60-bed nursing home, with care hub, 30 close-care apartments and 10 close-care cottages, at Victor's Barn at the southern edge of the Village is yet to be heard at Daventry. The number of close care apartments has now been reduced to 25 and the number of close-care cottages to seven. Even so, the Parish Council feels that the development would increase the pressure on facilities in the Village.

There has been a **further application** in this area, this time for the conversion of and extensions to offices at Victor's Barns, Northampton Road, to form seven dwellings. The Parish Council objected as, whilst the change of use from commercial to residential use might in isolation be acceptable, in conjunction with the application for the Retirement Community, it is an addition to an already large potential development. Additionally, the Council has concerns over the changes in the appearance of the area which are altering its character. Were all the proposed developments to go ahead, the area south of the Village would be subject to considerable additional traffic. These proposed developments have included this proposal for seven dwellings, the Continuing Care Retirement Community, a pony trekking centre and a

Parish Council Meetings

Meeting Dates 2014

Full Council	18 March, 22 April, 20 May, 17 June
Highways Committee	1 April, 3 June
Parish Council Surgery	1 March, 5 April, 3 May
Planning Committee	10 & 31 March, 14 April, 12 May, 2 June
Recreation Committee	25 March & 27 May
Most meetings start at 7.30pm, full council at 7.15pm.	

All dates, times and agendas are published on our notice boards at least three days before the meeting. All regular meetings take place in the Community Centre, Spratton Rd.

Parish Councillor Surgeries are held 10am to noon on the 1st Saturday of the month in the library foyer.

nearby campsite, together with the (apparently unfinished) castellated structure on the edge of the cricket ground. Since 2010 there have been no less than five **planning applications** relating to this area to the south and west of Northampton Road, of which three have so far been approved.

Following closely on the heels of this application, another application has been submitted for the construction of a country house and the conversion of an existing building to an annex for storage purposes on land at the The Old Barn, Merry Tom Lane. This application remains to be considered by the Parish Council.

Turning to the Conservation Area, the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has written to Northamptonshire County Council expressing the concern of Brixworth residents at the potential increase of traffic through this area generated by new developments. Residents believe that such developments, including the recently approved development at Station Yard, will increase traffic through this already congested Conservation Area in the Village with a consequent adverse effect on the old buildings in that area. The response so far from Northamptonshire County Council has proved to be unconvincing and the matter will be pressed further.

Finally, the proposed Main Modifications Consultation to the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan has now been published and is being studied.

Chairman, BPC Planning Committee



Chair's Blog

I thought it would be nice, this time, if I could start with a little good news when I received a letter telling me that one of our long-standing and most respected Parish Councillors was resigning.

Bob Chattaway has been a Parish Councillor since 2002 and in that time he has been a leader. He also established Brixworth Residents Against New Estates (BRANE) one of our more successful Community pressure groups.

Although it is fair to say that Bob and I have not always agreed on everything, it is equally fair to say that each of us has learned from the other - at least, I know I have learned from him and I am thankful for the service he has given.

Of course, Bob is not the only Parish Councillor and as we near the end of another financial year, I am reminded that it is not long before the Council will be electing new officers. I should also be thanking those who have held office for this year. There is nothing like a challenge, but this last year has been particularly challenging.

Although I read that the economy may have turned the corner; that is yet to show at Council level. In the past, the Parish Council has awarded financial grants to various organisations in the village. Unfortunately, we will be unable to do so this year and, what is more, if we are to keep any increase in Council Tax to a minimum, the budget reductions at District level mean we have to save money wherever we can.

Lastly, I must mention our **Neighbourhood Plan**. This is a local plan that manages the future of our community according to the wishes of the community. It is not a District or even a Parish Council plan, it is a plan representing the views of all who live in Brixworth. But, as you might expect, there is a catch. To formulate that plan we need **to hear from you**. We can't just assume we know what you want.

For some time now we have been talking to people in and around the library. Their views are guiding the composition of a questionnaire which you should receive soon. If you value village life, if you have views about the environment we live in, this is your chance to influence legislation that will manage the future of our community. Even if you work somewhere else and think you only really sleep and spend weekends here, **PLEASE** make sure your voice is heard.

Chairman, Brixworth Parish Council

Highways and Environment Committee

Another busy quarter for Highways and Environment. Some may have noticed that the Co-Operative has resurfaced its rear surface yard and has started painting its shop fronts. Another successful campaign has been Speed Watch where we can report a 25% reduction in speeding since April. A big thank-you to co-ordinator Howard Reader and all the volunteers.

Those who live near The Ashway may have noticed sprayed patches on the footpaths and the playing field. This is to raise awareness of dog fouling. The suggestion by DDC is to pick an area and spray paint dog faeces to highlight the problem to dog walkers and see if there is a reduction.

2014 marks the centenary of the beginning of World War I. I am delighted that we have found a stonemason to clean and repair the Brixworth War Memorial **FREE OF CHARGE**; a kind and generous gesture that we are all appreciative of.

Northamptonshire Highways is running a road safety campaign in schools and businesses to remind pedestrians and motorists to take care. A shocking 190 pedestrians and cyclists are killed or injured every day on UK roads.

Some residents may have noticed that there have been traffic wardens in the village since June 2013 - so park legally, otherwise a ticket will be slapped on your windscreen.

Chair, Highways and Environment Committee

Finance Committee

It's been a whirlwind of work in recent months - appointing a new Clerk, reviewing regulations and now working on the Precept - the amount of money we plan to spend next year. This is one of the hardest tasks a Council has to do.

For the past four years any increase has been kept to a minimum with some years having no increase at all. In order to stay in line with inflation we have decided to increase the precept for the next financial year which means there will be an increase of 2.5% in our share of your Council Tax for 2014-2015.

Chairman, BPC Finance Committee

The Big Poppy Plant

Supplies of poppy seeds are being made available to plant poppies to mark the Centenary of the start of The Great War. We have a group from the Community willing to help take this on and a bid has gone in. We hope we are successful and able to mark this important anniversary in such a vivid and lasting way.



Watch this space for further news of our bid!

Contact Us

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Emma Baker Email: clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk Telephone: 01604 881243

Come to the library!

It is free to join your local library. Once you have joined you can use your membership card in any Northamptonshire library, where you can borrow books, rent DVDs (£2.50 per week including latest releases), hire audio books (£1.80 per three weeks) or use the computers (membership not required), plus much more.

Library members now have access to free downloadable e-books, e-magazines, e-music and e-audio books, all available through the County Council website – www.northamptonshire.gov.uk – go to “E” at the top of the Homepage A-Z. Members can also renew and request books online; there is a charge of £1.30 per item to request, but it’s free to children under 11 years.

other services

- Free wi-fi
- Free internet access on Fridays
- Photocopying service – charges apply
- Laminating service – charges apply
- Library shop
- Exhibition space upstairs for hire – enquire for charges etc
- Glass cabinets downstairs to hire

bus passes

To obtain a new free bus pass, you need to have been born before 5th April 1952. You will have to bring proof of age (birth certificate, passport or driving licence) and proof of address (a recent household

bill); there is no need for a photograph. Bus passes can be renewed two weeks prior to expiry date. Bus passes can only be obtained at libraries.

clubs and events

Rhymetimes for Under 5s and their parents/carers
every Friday morning 10.10-10.30am – free to all.

Scrapbooking & crafts club
Saturday morning 10am – 12noon once a month

Book club
First Tuesday each month at 14.30pm

Discovery Club
Wednesdays during term time, 15.30-17pm

Messy crafts
Wednesdays during school holidays 14.30–15.30pm, for 3 – 12 year olds. Look out for other activities during school holidays too.

Careers advice
Thursdays, adult learning advisors offer free advice on CVs, job applications, help with career advice etc. Please book in advance with library staff.

New! Comic book club
fortnightly for children and young adults; enquire at library for more details.

For more details of activities and events at the library, check our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary

Next NAB Mobile Unit visit – Wednesday 26th March 11:30am – 12:45pm on the forecourt of Brixworth library.

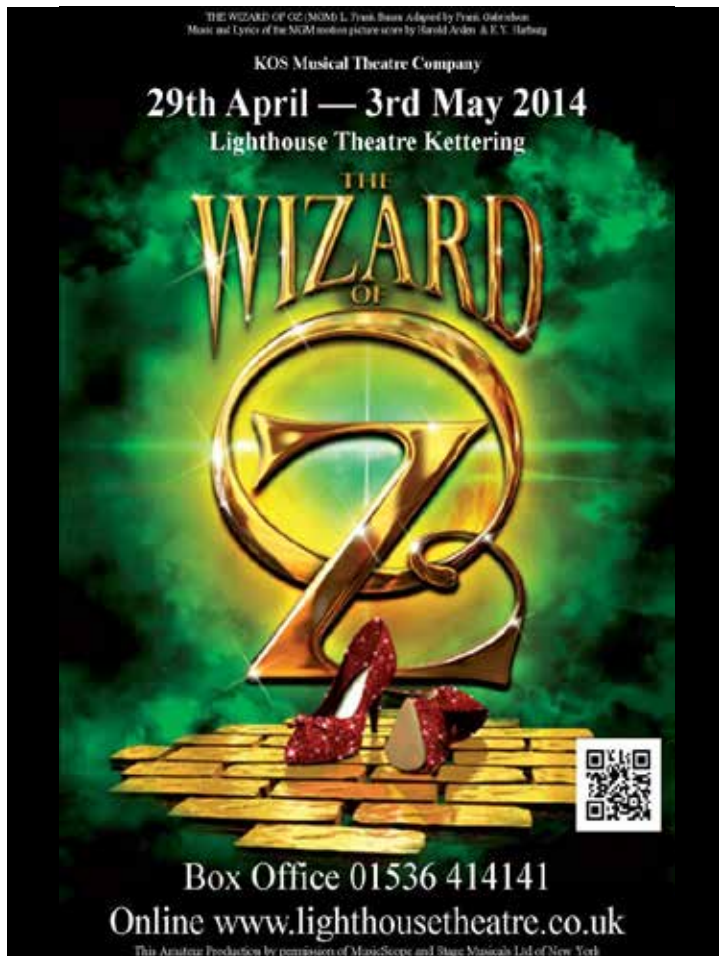
get involved

If you would like to get more involved with your local library, there are plenty of volunteering opportunities for all ages, including Duke of Edinburgh students – check out the volunteering Section at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk for details of volunteering roles and online application form.

Or join the Friends of Brixworth Library to help run and organise fund-raising events for Brixworth library. Funds raised go towards activities and events for children in the library and extra equipment. Friends groups have helped stop the closure of libraries in the past and are now essential to keep them running in the future, so they need your support!

Ask library staff for more details on how you can get involved.

- Jill Barber



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What's on

1 Mar	Essence of Ireland	Derngate
1 Mar	Ministry of Sound - Deep House	Roadmender
1 Mar	NT Encore War Horse	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
4 Mar	Hedda Gabler	The Castle, Wellingborough
5 Mar	51 Shades of Maggie	Lighthouse, Kettering
5 Mar	Hopelessly Devoted	The Castle
6 Mar	Tell us a Story	The Castle
7 Mar	Sam Carter Trio	The Castle
7-8 Mar	Peppa Pig's Big Splash	Derngate
8 Mar	Joe McElderry	Lighthouse
8 Mar	Baroque Double Bill	The Castle
8 Mar	Isabel's Well	The Castle
10-15/3	Passionate Woman	Derngate
11 Mar	The Sound of Music	The Castle
11 Mar	Mark Thomas	Corby Cube
11-12 Mar	The Emperor's New Clothes	The Castle, Wellingborough
12 Mar	Circus of Horror	Lighthouse
13 Mar	Hotsy Totsy	The Castle
14 Mar	The Tenors	Derngate
14 Mar	We will be free	The Castle
14 Mar	Barron Knights	Lighthouse
14 Mar	Magic a kind of Queen	Corby Cube
16 Mar	John Lill	Derngate
16 Mar	Orchestral Explorers	Underground
17 Mar	Jethro	Lighthouse
17 Mar	Rumours of Fleetwood	Derngate
19 Mar	Moscow State Circus	Derngate
20 Mar	River Monsters	Lighthouse
20 Mar	Barry Steele's Roy	Derngate
20 Mar	Animal Farm	Royal
21 Mar	Russell Kane	Derngate
21 Mar	Laughing Boy Comedy	The Castle,
21 Mar	Russell Kane	Derngate
21 Mar	Alexander O'Neal	Deco Theatre, Northampton
22 Mar	Lee Hurst	Corby Cube
22-23/3	Hapaning	Lighthouse
24 Mar	Blood Brothers	Derngate
26 Mar	Mobile Sight Centre in Brixworth	Library & Community Centre
27 Mar	Motherland	The Castle
27 Mar	Dave O'Higgins Quartet	The Castle,
28 Mar	Barry Cryer's Twitter Titter	The Castle, Wellingborough
28 Mar	Comedy Live	Lighthouse
29 Mar	Sleeping Beauty	The Castle,
29-Mar	Voulez Vous	The Castle,
30 Mar	Mothering Sunday Cream Tea Specials	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway

30 Mar	The Bolshoi Live - The Golden	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
2 Apr	An Evening with Pam Ayres	Lighthouse, Kettering
3-4April	Russell Brand	Derngate
4 Apr	Think Floyd	Lighthouse
5 Apr	Top of the Town	Deco Theatre, Northampton
5 Apr	Joe Brown	Derngate
5 Apr	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	Lighthouse, Kettering
6 Apr	Grimethorpe Colliery Band	Derngate
7 Apr	Old MacDonald had a Farm	The Castle,
8 Apr	Easter Activity Afternoon	Brixworth Centre Pre-School
8 Apr	Illegal Eagles	Derngate
8 Apr	Hammer and Tongs	The Castle
10-Apr	Hansel and Gretel	Lighthouse
10 Apr	Immortal Chi	The Castle
10 Apr	Barry Palmer's Savoy Jazz Band	The Castle
10-11/4	Dinosaur Zoo	Derngate
11 Apr	Kate Rusby	Lighthouse
11 Apr	British Sea Power	Roadmender
11 Apr	The Neville Staple Band	The Castle
12 Apr	That'll be the Day	Derngate
12 Apr	Broadway and Beyond	Lighthouse
13 Apr	Bootleg Beatles	Derngate
14 & 16 April	Theatre Workshop: Spy Academy	The Castle, Wellingborough
15 Apr	The Bible (Abridged)	The Castle
15-17/4	I believe in Unicorns	Royal
17 Apr	Susan Boyle	Derngate
17 Apr	Back to Broadway	The Castle
18/4-10/5	Every last Trick	Royal
19 Apr	Let's hang on	Derngate
19 Apr	Only One Direction	Deco Theatre, Northampton
19-21 April	Easter Egg Special Train	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
20 Apr	Easter Egg Hunt	Kelmarsh Hall
20 Apr	Kelmarsh Country Fair	Kelmarsh Hall
20-21/4	Antique & Collectors Fair	Lampport Hall
22-26/4	Fiddler on the Roof	Derngate
24 Apr	Karen Sharp Quartet	The Castle
24 Apr	Jim Davison & Richard Digance	Lighthouse, Kettering
25 Apr	Josh Widdicombe	The Castle
26 Apr	Rubbish	The Castle
26 Apr	Coutney Pine	The Castle
27 Apr	Suggs	Derngate
28-30/4	Science Museum live	Derngate
29/4-3/5	The Wizard of Oz	Lighthouse
1 May	Brian Conley	Derngate
3-5 May	Teddy Bear Weekend	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
4 May	Classical Masters	Derngate
4 May	Kelmarsh Hall Open	Kelmarsh Hall
4-5 May	Art, Craft & Design Fair	Lampport Hall

7 May	T J Higgs	Lighthouse
8-11/5	Scooby Doo	Derngate
11 May	Cream Tea Specials	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
13-14/5	Frank Skinner	Derngate
15 May	Sarah Millican	Derngate
15 May	Hot Flush	The Castle
16 May	Fish	Roadmender
16 May	Solid Silver 60s	Derngate
16 May	Barb Jungr sings Bob Dylan	Corby Cube
16 May	Kathryn Tickell	The Castle
16-31/5	Let it Be	Derngate
17 May	Monday's Child	The Castle
17 May	Abba Reunion	Lighthouse
18 May	Jon Richardson	Derngate
18 May	Postman Pat Live	Lighthouse
20 May	The Medieval Hall House in Yorkshire	Lampport Hall
21 May	Blofeld & Baxter	Lighthouse
22 May	Suggs	Lighthouse
22/5-1/6	Moominsummer Madness	Underground
22 May	Stars of Strictly	Corby Cube
23 May	Jackson in Concert	Lighthouse
24-26 May	Cream Tea Specials	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
25-26/5	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
25 May	New France Old England (Re-enactment)	Kelmarsh Hall
26 May	Grumpy Old Women	Lighthouse
26-31/5	Let it Be	Derngate
28 May	Omid Djalili	The Castle
28 May	The Little Mermaid - Ballet	Lighthouse
1 Jun	Northants Ultra	Lampport Hall
7 Jun	A Disney Party	Lighthouse
7 Jun	Grumpy Old Women	Corby Cube
8 Jun	John Williams Performs	Derngate
8 Jun	The Searchers	Lighthouse
10 Jun	Incompetent Architects	Lampport Hall
13 Jun	Marty Wilde & the Wildcats	Lighthouse, Kettering
15 Jun	Lampport Hall 100	Lampport Hall
15 Jun	Cream Tea Specials	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
21-27/6	Art Exhibition	Lampport Hall
27 Jun	Bugle Boy	Lighthouse
28 Jun	Hewlett & Friends	Lighthouse
29 Jun	House Tours	Kelmarsh Hall
29-Jun	Cream Tea Specials	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
30/6-6/7	The Life and Works of BB	Lampport Hall
1-5 July	Horrible Histories	Derngate
4 Jul	Hot Air Balloons & Jazz	Kelmarsh Hall
5 Jul	The Merchant of Venice	Lampport Hall
6 Jul	Jazz in the Garden	Lampport Hall
11 Jul	Motown's Greatest Hits	Lighthouse
13 Jul	Derngate Proms	Derngate

Brixworth Juniors.fc



U12 players wanted

Brixworth Juniors FC U12s currently play 9-a-side football in the "B" League of the NDYAL and in preparation for the change to 11-a-side next season, we are looking for new players to join our squad.

The Under 12s training occurs every Wednesday evening at 6pm in winter at Kingsthorpe College & at all other times of the year at St David's Playing Fields or the Ashway Playing Fields, Brixworth.

If your child is interested, please feel free to drop by to one of our training sessions or alternatively e-mail us on under12s@brixworthjuniors.co.uk or call Dave O'Leary (01604) 889690, Ron Little 07935 390492 or Rob Gross on 07988 707696 for further information.

U9 Pumas and Panthers

The two Under 9 teams continue to impress and have a very impressive record. The Panthers have played 14 matches so

far this year and have won 11 of them, with goals being scored by every member of the Panthers team it makes them a force to be reckoned with at their age level.

U7 Panthers

The Under 7s have also been enjoying themselves in their mini-soccer 5-a-side games. They play every fortnight at Dallington against teams from the local area and are showing some great skills and determination in their quest for victory. Brixworth can be extremely proud of our youngest team as they have a only lost 2 of their 12 matches.

If you would like to read any of our match reports please have a look at our website www.brixworthjuniors.co.uk.

If you would like to join any of our teams or offer any sponsorship for any of the teams please get in touch. Brixworth Juniors is a well-respected FA Charter Standard club with excellent training and playing facilities. Coaches are FA qualified and CRB checked.

- Rob Kelly

Tennis Club begins its second year

Brixworth Tennis Club will begin its second year on 1st April 2014 and we are looking for more members of all ages and abilities to join this already popular club.

At the end of 2013 the club had 122 members, including an impressive 69 juniors. Membership fees are amongst the lowest in the county, at £50 per year for under 18s and £20 for students, while a family membership is £120. There are no additional court fees.

The Tennis Club has three superb hard courts and is based within the impressive grounds of the cricket club on Northampton Road. We hold regular club sessions as well as junior group coaching sessions which are run by experienced, qualified tennis coaches.

We have regular social events and members can enjoy a beer, a glass of wine or a soft drink at the club bar at selected times. Friday evenings proved extremely popular last summer. There were often in excess of 150 adults and kids associated with the cricket and tennis clubs playing sport, enjoying a drink and a BBQ in the beautiful grounds on a warm summer evening.

Further information about the Tennis Club is available at www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk, or call Will Haxby on 880715.

- Will Haxby

Cricket winter update

As the rain continues to tumble down and our national team returns from a torrid tour of Australia, we are nevertheless looking forward to another cricket season which begins at the end of April. Work has been going on all winter to plan for next season. As always raising new funds is a key activity to ensure we can keep growing the club and improving our facilities.

new junior sponsor



I'm delighted to confirm that Jackson Grundy has agreed to become the club's official sponsor for junior cricket. This means that all junior teams will have Jackson Grundy's logo on their playing shirts, as will the Club's 3rd XI. The agreement also includes ground perimeter advertising boards, a web link on the club's new website and use of the ground for company events. We are delighted to continue our association with Jackson Grundy who have been generous supporters for several years through their Community Support Programme.

winter nets

Winter nets for senior teams and U15s start at Moulton College (John Ashby Hall) from Wednesday 5 February (8-10pm) and continue every Wednesday until 2 April. The League season starts on Saturday 26 April and there will be a warm up fixture the weekend before. Junior Registration will take place on Friday 28 March.

Anyone who is interested in playing cricket, at whatever level, should visit www.brixworth.play-cricket.com and get in touch with us - phone chairman Chris Timm on 882591 or junior cricket manager Many Batchelor on 07966 045231. As always, anyone interested in helping out in any capacity - umpiring, scoring, bar help, coaching - please don't hesitate to get in touch! - Chris Timm