

Village to benefit from housing plans?

Barratt Homes has revealed details of the proposed expansion to its existing new housing estate – known as Saxon Rise Phase Two. The expansion would see up to 90 more houses built on the piece of land between the existing Saxon Rise housing estate and the roundabout on the A508.

Barratt's planners were on hand to discuss the plans at a well-attended public exhibition in Brixworth on 12 June.

Most visitors the Bulletin saw at the exhibition were not overly surprised at the news that Barratts were seeking an expansion, and mostly concerned with how the developers would mitigate the impact of the new houses on the village facilities.

People were particularly worried about the impact on the doctor's surgery. Brixworth surgery is already at capacity if not beyond, with no room for expansion at the existing site.

There was also some concern about the availability of spaces in Brixworth Primary School, but here the impact is less imminent – as headmaster David Boucher notes in his report on p15, the school's current headcount is still more than 40 below its all-time high.

As for the idea of a footbridge across the A508, a project suggested in the last issue of the Bulletin – while there was general support for the idea, expressed both to Barratts and in several letters sent to the editor, the overall feedback was that while a footbridge is a nice idea, it is not as urgent as some of the other issues.

Barratt planners are now working with Chris Millar, leader of Daventry District Council, other local groups and public services to see

whether there is any possibility they might help address some of the more pressing concerns. Barratt's plans for the site expansion already incorporated a 'Community Reserve Site' – a parcel of land that could be put to whatever use the community wanted. Clearly, the construction of a new and larger doctor's surgery would be an ideal use of the site. Developers are in talks with the NHS and other stakeholders to see whether this is a realistic prospect.

Equally, Redrow Homes – which is working on a proposal for 80 new homes to be built the other side of the A508 – are also keen to see how they might support local facilities, should they win planning permission.

Neither developer has so far submitted any plans for approval, though Barratt says it is working on an application for outline planning permission, which could be submitted to Daventry District Council in mid-September. - cfw



No support for footbridge

It was a nice idea, but escalating costs mean it's unlikely that Brixworth will see a footbridge across the A508 anytime soon.

As readers of the *Bulletin* will know, it's an idea we felt was worth pursuing, and indeed I did receive several letters and phone calls in support both before and after we launched the campaign. That said, others pointed out that while cars might indeed drive fast along the road, visibility was very good, and plenty of people use the crossing without particular concerns. It certainly is true that there haven't been any serious accidents at the crossing (yet, at any rate).

It's to Barratt Homes' credit that they did pick up the idea with the Highways department in Northampton, to get an idea for the costs and everything else involved. Incredibly, the price tag for the bridge has shot up again – if the [£700k] mooted in 2008/09 seemed high, it pales into comparison with today's estimated cost of £1.5m. On that basis, it's hard to see how anyone will come up with the money.

This doesn't mean the idea of providing a better crossing into the Country Park is off the table entirely – Barratt Homes is still investigating an idea to install a new level crossing at the roundabout at the bottom of their new estate.

So watch this space.



Heidi Flavell-White

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For the latest news, visit
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Christianity in Action

On Thursday 31st July, a group of thirty teenagers descended on the playground of Brixworth primary school, equipped with paint, brushes and an enthusiastic desire to make a difference. Three and half hours later they bundled back into the minibuses, tired and paint-spattered but happy with the day's work. All of the benches and playground furniture looked like new.



The day was part of the programme of activities for a CYFA venture. CYFA ventures are residential holidays that run across the country in the school holidays, drawing 14 to 18 year olds from different churches and beyond (<http://www.ventures.org.uk/>). The activities include sports, games and creative activities alongside small group studies and corporate worship. This particular venture is currently based at Swanbourne House School, near Milton Keynes, but was previously located at Maidwell Hall, hence the connection with Phil Walter and BCF Community Church. This is the third year that CYFA has worked with Brixworth Primary School.

It may surprise readers to learn that for many of the teenagers, these projects have been the highlight of their holiday. Often, one of the first questions the teenagers ask at the start of the venture is, 'what are we doing on the Action Day?' For the venture leaders, it is immensely rewarding to see the teenagers embracing the message that God is deeply and personally concerned for every aspect of their well being and turning their faith outwards into practical help for others.

Roll on 2015!

- Phil Walter

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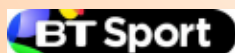
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Station Road continues to top speeding list

If motorists drive too fast anywhere in Brixworth, it's in Station Road. The location got the questionable honour of being the 'top' location in the 2014 Brixworth Speed Watch campaign – same as the previous year. All in all, the Speed Watch Team's location, just outside 1 Station Road – at the bottom of the hill outside the village boundary but within a 30mph zone – accounted for just under half the offences recorded this year, with 73 out of 151 speeding drivers. Second was Holcot Road with 32 cars, while 26 were caught speeding along Northampton Road – in 2013 the roles were reversed with Northampton Road scoring more 'hits' than Holcot Road. Harborough Road accounted for another 15, while the team caught just five drivers breaking the speed limit on Spratton Road.

Slightly more cars were found to be speeding in the morning (7.30-8.30am) than the afternoon (4.30-5.30am). This is a reversal of the 2013 finding, when more offences took place in the afternoon.

In addition, the Speed Watch campaign provided intelligence on three vehicles which being driven without insurance, MOT or tax.

"I was somewhat surprised by the attitude of a few Brixworth residents who were against us doing the sessions in their area; some were



quite upset about it," says Howard Reader, the campaign co-ordinator. "Saying that, there was some residents who thanked us for giving up our time and shook our hand.

"Also I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out and look forward to seeing them all again next time."

Anyone who would like to volunteer for Speed Watch and be trained by the police to use the speed gun please contact Howard Reader at the Information Point Brixworth (just inside the library) Thursday mornings or telephone 882622.

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.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week, 11- 17 May, raised £1436 in Brixworth. Many thanks to all who gave, collected or helped out with the count.

If you would like to help with next year's event, please contact Vanessa Crooks, Christian Aid Week organisers, on 882058. – *Vanessa Crooks*

Queen's Garden Party with a very special guest

Every year, the Queen holds three Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace. They are attended by people from all walks of life as a reward and recognition of public service.

In May, this included a person rather close to home – Mike Lacey, chair of Brixworth Parish Council. He says:

"It was an honour to have been chosen by Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils to receive an invitation to attend and I am still not sure how I managed to qualify for that. It was, nonetheless, a once-in-a-lifetime privilege to actually walk through the gates of Buckingham Palace, pass through one of the front arched entryways and cross the inner courtyard to enter the palace.

I was not introduced to the Queen, or the Duke of Edinburgh, although the Queen did look straight at me. I suppose she must have wondered how I got in?

There were a lot of gold chains around the necks of Mayors from various towns and communities, Bishops and military men of various flavours. And of course a fine display of ladies' hats, mostly on ladies heads, although it was quite windy! I am told that there were about 6,000 guests, so there must have been about 3,000 hats and fascinators, but the Queen's garden easily accommodated all.

There was tea too, served along with your choice of various finger sandwiches and an array of Victoria Sponge, Battenberg Cake or various other treats.

Although I don't really know why I was chosen, I have to say I am honored to have been selected. As I stood sipping my tea, a retired Bishop who apparently attends regularly, asked me "Is this your first time?" "No!" I said, "It's my last!"

It was, after all, a once in a lifetime experience."





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World Wars I and 2 Remembrance Variety Show

Since it is the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 and the 75th anniversary of the start of WW2 this year, Brixworth is remembering the dates through a war time variety show in November. There will be a broad selection of acts ranging from medleys of songs from the era, unpublished poems written at the time, diary readings, a war-time sketch and much more.

A number of organisations and individuals from the village are involved, including the Brixworth Primary School, Brixworth Drama Group and Brixworth Christian Fellowship.

We want everyone, young and old, to join in by dressing up in the period either as civilians or service personnel (soldiers, air force, nurses, navy etc). On the night you will be able to exchange ration coupons in order to buy drinks etc. This is a fundraising event for the Village Hall and we need your support. So make sure you have the date and time in your diary: Brixworth Village Hall, Saturday 15th November, 7.30pm. – *Caroline Monk*

Coming soon: Brixworth Music Festival

Preparations for the first Brixworth Music Festival are well underway now – in fact you should soon be seeing posters and flyers advertising this event.

The first concert will be opened by our Patron, Peter Dunkley, on the 17th September at 7.30 pm. This will feature the Northamptonshire County Youth Choir, conducted by Graham Tear. On the 18th September there will be an Evening of Poetry and Song, with Chloe Willson-Thomas and her husband Gwion Thomas. Kay Soteriou of the Northampton-based ensemble “Muse and Music” will be reading poetry and also singing vocal works by local composers.

On the Friday night (19th September) you will be able to hear one of Britain’s top brass bands – Youth Brass 2000, and then over the weekend there will be concerts all day long: on Saturday morning the Nene Consort will be treating us to a programme of early music, the Northampton Musical Theatre Company will be performing in the Brixworth Village Hall in the afternoon, and in the evening the Northampton Chamber Orchestra will be playing works by Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Vaughan Williams and Mozart.

On the Sunday Brixworth’s own U3A Songsters will be performing after the morning service and in the afternoon there will be an entertaining introduction to wind instruments given by the John Clare Wind Quintet. Radio broadcaster, writer, entertainer and Northamptonshire expert, David Saint, will be speaking on the poet, John Clare, during Evensong, after which the Festival will be brought to a close with a concert of sacred choral music with the Swarbrick Singers.

You can order tickets at the Brixworth Information Point (882622) or buy them at the door. All concerts will be taking place in the Church of All Saints except for the one on the Saturday afternoon in the Village Hall (Northampton Musical Theatre Company).

Tickets are very reasonably priced (£8 and £6) and the concerts after the services on Sunday (Brixworth Songsters and Swarbrick Singers) are free of charge.

So please come along and enjoy a very varied programme of mainly classical music which caters for all tastes. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

– *Vivienne Olive, Artistic Director*

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Police Report

Special Constables

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Our specials say they joined up for many different reasons and enjoy numerous, varied benefits, some of which include:

- Making a real difference to people's lives and the community
- Doing something new and exciting
- Gaining confidence and self-development
- Using existing skills and knowledge to help solve crime and keep communities safe
- Learning new skills
- Increased benefits to employers
- Meeting new people

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What do Specials do?

Specials work in many different police departments and across the county. After initial training, they can go on to perform a variety of roles, three of which are detailed below.

General duties Special Constable: This is the core role which people normally associate with special constables. Duties vary day by day and cover a large spectrum of police work and activity. They can include attending emergency and non-emergency incidents, foot and car patrols, tackling anti-social behaviour, enforcing road safety initiatives, policing town centres on Friday and Saturday nights, conducting house-to-house inquiries and providing security at major events. General duties also include gathering intelligence, executing warrants and responding to incidents such as burglaries, domestic abuse, assaults and traffic offences. Specials often support specific police

operations too, and assist with plain-clothed patrols.

Parish Special Constable: This is a new role giving people the opportunity to be involved in making a real difference within their own community – but they're not restricted to where they live if they would rather work in another area. Parish constables work with safer community team officers, parish/town councils and community groups to make sure that issues that are important to the local community are resolved. They patrol the area in uniform, speaking to people, providing reassurance and discouraging crime and anti-social behaviour. They also work with councils and groups, playing an integral part in developing long term plans to keep the community safe and give talks about safety and crime prevention in schools and local businesses.

Prisoner Investigator Special Constable: This is a new role within our Prisoner Investigation Unit and Volume Crime Team, ideal for those interested in investigating crime. Duties can include obtaining statements, prisoner interviews, evidential file building, making enquiries, gathering and submitting evidence including CCTV, crime and intelligence system research, charging prisoners and issuing penalty notices.

There are also a range of other roles available for people who have specialist skills, qualifications, experience or training, including cyber crime, child protection, investigation and other specialist fields - if you'd like to know more about this email the team at SpecialsRecruitment@northants.police.uk

Which skills do you need?

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- Stay calm in a crisis
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- Think laterally and solve problems
- Plan and take the initiative
- Are tolerant and work well in a team
- Are honest, fair and impartial
- Act with integrity
- Treat people with respect and courtesy

Want to know more?

If you've got a question, or you're thinking about applying, have a look at www.northants.police.uk/specials or email the team at SpecialsRecruitment@northants.police.uk

Brixworth crime statistics

The Brixworth ward covers Brixworth, Scaldwell, Maidwell, Lamport, Hanging Houghton and Draughton.

	Mar-Apr 14	Mar-Apr 13
Burglary Dwelling	3	0
Burglary Other	4	4
Criminal Damage	10	17
Drug Offences	2	2
Robbery	1	0
Theft from Motor Vehicles	7	4
Theft/Handling	7	4
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1	2

In July we dealt with two Brixworth residents for cultivating drugs; both received a caution. A local male was sentenced for robbery at the Brixworth Co-op. A local resident is currently being dealt with for firearms offences.

The priority for the police in Brixworth for the next quarter will be **Visible Policing**, the community panel has decided at its latest meeting.

All are welcome to join the next meeting, which will take place at 8pm on 15th October in Café Doris, Spratton.

— Jo Hillery

Did you hear or see anything unusual?

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Village comes out in support of

Brixworth residents agree overwhelmingly with the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's suggestions on housing development, village facilities, landscape and economy.

In all, 769 people responded to the Steering Group's survey earlier this year, which set out 21 statements and ambitions that are proposed to underpin the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan. On average, 95.9% of respondents strongly agreed with the statements, with support ranging from 91.6% (on the suggestion that new developments should support a mix of housing sizes and affordable tenures) to 98.2% (on the need

for new housing proposals to support the primary school and surgery)

"This strong support for the statements confirms that the proposals were relevant to the Brixworth respondents and that the questionnaire plus the preliminary interviews we conducted to identify the issues that concerned villages, had accurately identified residents' concerns," says Mike Parsons, secretary of the Steering Group.

Parsons also noted that while the majority of respondents agreed with the need for some new housing development, this only stretches to limited expansion – on average

no more than 100 houses over a 15 year period. With the next phase of Barratts' Saxon Rise development and a potential new housing estate the other side of the A508, that level of expansion could be reached rather sooner, he says.

BRANE members Bob Chattaway, Mike Parsons and Frank Allen are also members of the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Acting on behalf of the BNPSG, together with Mike Nice, and with assistance from Brixworth residents Nigel Ozier and Chris Millar they have met developers and representatives of local councils to discuss the likely impact of further applications for new developments and their implications for the Neighbourhood plan. Some local service providers have also been consulted.

This information and any proposals will be put to a public meeting at an appropriate time.

HOUSING	1= disagree strongly 5= agree strongly				
	1	2	3	4	5
Developers should show how proposals for market and affordable housing contribute to a balanced thriving community.	2	8	39	104	611 (93.8%)
All new development should not be prominent in scale or visually dominant. Its design should be similar to others in the village and should reflect best practice in insulation and energy efficiency.	1	3	18	74	669 (96.2%)
Developments should be a mix of housing sizes and tenures that are affordable to local people. The type and cost should meet the needs of the parish.	3	21	67	92	582 (91.6%)
New development should be incremental allowing organic growth and evolution of facilities.	2	7	37	73	647 (95.0%)
Proposals for any new housing should not undermine the form and character of the village, especially in the Conservation area, nor undermine valued green spaces and valued views.	4	3	22	52	682 (96.0%)

ACCEPTABLE NUMBER OF DWELLINGS OVER 15 YEARS OF BRIXWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

0-50	229	29.8%
51-100	214	27.8%
101-150	165	21.5%
151-200	70	9.1%
>201	20	2.6%
No Response	72	9.4%
Total	769	100%

RESPONDENT STATISTICS

Number of respondents	769	
Of which male	306	39.8%
Of which female	402	52.3%
No gender data	61	7.9%

Respondent Age Bands

16-30 yrs	64	8.3%
31-45 yrs	126	16.4%
46-60 yrs	240	31.2%
61-75 yrs	272	35.4%
76+ yrs	67	8.7%



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Neighbourhood Plan

FACILITIES	1	2	3	4	5
The Primary School and Surgery should be supported. Proposals must provide adequate mitigation for these Parish key services.	0	2	9	34	722 (98.2%)
Developers must be able to explain impact on facilities and how that can be mitigated. These include community and recreational facilities, footpaths and cycleways.	0	2	13	64	688 (97.2%)
Developers should ensure safe and easy access for residents from their site to local facilities and services.	2	3	16	95	651 (96.0%)
All applications for development should identify and demonstrate the additional level of traffic and parking, together with mitigation proposals.	2	5	4	44	712 (97.8%)
Proposals that may impact upon the conservation area will need rigorous explanation on how that will be mitigated.	1	1	21	72	672 (96.6%)
Encourage the retention and use of the bus services and community transport to Northampton, Market Harborough, Milton Keynes and Leicester.	1	1	13	48	705 (95.6%)
LANDSCAPE	1	2	3	4	5
Identify and protect local green spaces of significant landscape value for agriculture, recreation and wildlife.	1	1	13	48	705 (97.8%)
To protect our distinctive landscape, applications for development must include an assessment of potential impact on views identified in the VDS and on trees, streams, hedgerows and other geographical features.	0	5	16	75	670 (96.4%)
Applications must demonstrate how any negative landscape or visual impact will be addressed.	0	4	16	65	679 (96.6%)
Developers must examine the potential of using brown field or previously used land.	4	0	17	55	690 (96.8%)
All development proposals in the open countryside or outside the village confines must not harm or impact on those protected habitat areas and wildlife corridors surrounding Brixworth.	0	2	20	52	691 (97.0%)
ECONOMY	1	2	3	4	5
Support key services such as the Post Office.	0	0	15	59	694 (97.6%)
Engage with existing businesses where appropriate to improve service and aspect. Engage with local businesses on Parish issues.	0	4	41	152	569 (93.2%)
The Saxon Church attracts many visitors and is described by the head of English Heritage as one of the top 40 historic buildings in England. Improvements should be sought in protecting the surrounding Conservation Area.	5	3	18	96	646 (95.6%)
Investigate ways to improve parking situation in the Parish.	5	1	19	84	659 (96.0%)
Since more people are working from home, engage with internet providers to improve services.	5	8	38	127	589 (93.4%)

Draughton News

You have no weddings for years , then two come along at once (almost), so thanks to electrical matters being resolved, we were able to get the beleaguered church heated and lit, all to the accompaniment of an organ.

The second wedding gave us a bonus of a large marquee, which was available for use on the Sunday. So we invited the Jaguar Drivers' Club and other interesting cars, made cakes and scones and held a vintage Tea in the Tent – a jolly affair, and definitely to be repeated next year.

The yard of the aforementioned church has also been managed with wildlife in mind, and has been awarded the Bronze Medal in the Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Scheme. It is a great boost to all those who have mown, scythed and hand-weeded the path, but particularly to the myriad butterflies and bees buzzing and fluttering in the vicinity.

One other innovation was the inaugural Pop Up Pub in our little clubroom. It was a remarkably jolly weekend, and will be repeated on Sept 5-7th. So do come and visit us in Draughton on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening, or during the day on Saturday when we will also be having an unusual take on a jumble sale with delicious teas to boot. Watch out for the signs for more information. – *Kate Calnan*



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Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group



It is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle when you have joint problems.

Dr Simon Twigg will be talking about 'Keeping Your Joints Healthy' at Guilsborough Surgery on Monday 22nd September 7 – 8pm and

Brixworth Surgery on Tuesday 21st October 7 – 8pm.

The Group is holding its next meeting at Brixworth Surgery on September 30th, 6.30 - 8pm. Staff and patients work together at the meetings, to exchange ideas and try to make the practice the best it can be. If you would like to contribute, you are welcome to come along.

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

Country Park – summer update

Summer is now in full swing, with beautiful sunshine and periodic rain showers. We've seen fledgling blackbirds, finches and flocks of swallows. The butterflies are fluttering in abundance, interspersed with common blue damselflies and hawker dragonflies. In the last couple of months alone we have counted upwards of six different butterfly species.

As we have seen the numbers of wildlife increase, we will now start to see the numbers of visitors increase too. At the time of writing it's the last day of school term in Northamptonshire. We have already seen more people about during the week as the schools in the neighbouring county broke up for summer a couple of weeks ago. If this fine weather continues I expect we will see many people enjoying the park for all kinds of reasons.



Although I have not worked in Brixworth for very long, I have seen many summers in previous ranger roles, and am fully expectant of a busy park. I expect our BBQ sites will be very popular, filling the air with that all familiar smell of charcoal burning and a sizzling array of food. Each of the picnic tables are accompanied with a BBQ slab for disposable trays or free standing units. There are only a limited number so their availability is first come, first served. If no BBQ sites are available please do not light one on the ground or on any of the wooden furniture.

What I wish for is that anyone who visits finds the park in good order, and I would entreat all visitors to leave the park as they would like to find it.

Sadly, I must report that this is not always the case. As you may already be aware, there are no litter bins in any of our country parks. This is a deliberate policy because we have found that litter bins:

- discourage recycling
- create more litter around the bin
- look unsightly
- smell
- attract wasps and encourage vermin
- need frequent emptying

As most people travel to the park by vehicle, and bring their lunches and picnics in bags, I would like to suggest that the litter which is generated is taken home, and where possible recycled using the facilities their local borough council provide.

supporting the RSPB

Last month we hosted for the first time a 'Big Wild Sleepout' on behalf of the RSPB. On the night of the summer solstice – the longest day – the rangers invited families with an enthusiasm for wildlife to raise money for the charity, and to see wildlife in a different light.

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As this is the first event of this kind to be held at the park, and a first for the rangers to organise we made a deliberate decision to limit the number of available spaces, and advertised through the RSPB website predominantly. Altogether 13 adults and 13 children camped overnight along with two countryside rangers and two volunteers.

We conducted a bat walk and a torch-lit walk, as well as encouraging the families to search for mini-beasts and stargaze. The activities went well, but as this was a steep learning curve there are things we would do differently. That said, the whole event was great fun for all who attended, and a superb way to raise money for the RSPB.

If you missed out this year, keep an eye on the Bulletin, at the park, and on our Facebook page for any forthcoming events and activities. We could well sleepout under the stars again next year to see the nocturnal wildlife venturing out in the park.

calling all book worms

We are working very closely with the Northamptonshire libraries over the summer to encourage children to explore the wonderful world of books. Each of the country parks are taking part in the "Mythical Maze" Summer Reading Challenge. Search around in the parks to find all ten mythical characters and creatures. To get started sign up at the library and you could win rewards throughout the summer.

In addition to the challenge, we also have a Reading Tree in the information booth next to the Rangers Office. A selection of books has been loaned to us by Brixworth Library for visitors to take out at their leisure and perhaps find a quiet spot on Hill Meadow to read in the fresh air.

butterfly conservation

As already mentioned, we have seen a wide variety of butterflies so far including Peacock, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Skipper, Large White, Small Tortoiseshell, Marbled Whites, Ringlet and a Common Blue. From 19th July until 10th August, Butterfly Conservation are encouraging everyone to record the number of butterflies spotted in a 15 minute session for the Big Butterfly Count. The rangers will be conducting four counts from 11am on Wednesday 6th August; for more information check out our Facebook page.

2020 - Be Active – Be Well – Be Happy

It is a sorry fact that the people of Northamptonshire are the fifth fattest in the country. We are determined to tackle this by increasing the amount of physical exercise and activity undertaken across the county.

We would like to invite, entreat, encourage and challenge families, community groups, businesses and societies to complete 20 Million Steps across the weekend of 5th-7th September.

You can track your walk three ways, either by using the MapMyWalk app on a Smartphone, using one of the treadmills in Northampton town centre, or by visiting the country parks and logging your route with the rangers at the step pod

To make it to 20 Million Steps we, the county council, cannot do it alone so we need you, your Mum & Dad, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, cousins and the friends to come along too. Bring a packed lunch, or a BBQ for your well-deserved lunch or dinner and you could also win prizes. – *Debbie Samwell, Senior Countryside Ranger*



Enjoy an Anglo-Saxon Feast

The Friends of Brixworth Church are inviting all to an Anglo-Saxon Feast, to take place in the Great Hall (marquee) in the grounds of Brixworth Church on Saturday 6th September 2014 at 7pm.

The Lord of the Manor and his Lady will host a great Feast to celebrate the gathering-in of the harvest (as the Anglo-Saxons would have done at this time of year). The good people of Brixworth and beyond are invited to attend dressed in their finest Anglo-Saxon attire (optional but encouraged), to feast on hog roast (or vegetarian alternative) and vegetables accompanied by rustic breads and followed by honey, fruit and nuts etc. Guests will be given a glass of mead upon arrival but there will be plenty of wine, ale or freshly-pressed apple juice to drink throughout the evening. There will be great merriment with music, song, stories, magic and wizardry.

All proceeds will benefit All Saints Church, Brixworth, and contribute to the refurbishment of the organ and maintenance of the church. Tickets are £12 each and on sale from Lovell's Hardware or can be obtained from Kate Knight on 881810. – *Kate Knight*



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History Society Remembers

Every year Brixworth History Society takes a five-day trip to sites of historic significance. This year, being the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, we visited Flanders, the site of so many great battles not only in the First World War but in previous conflicts as well.

The trip was organised as usual by Pauline Kirton and her husband Dave. Over 30 members and friends embarked on to our coach in Brixworth to be met by driver Wayne. He had ample opportunity to demonstrate his skill in manoeuvring the coach through some tight spots during the following days, not least the hotel car park.

We stayed in Mons during the visit but first we travelled to Poperinge (known to the British Tommy as "Pops"). Here we had a guided tour of Talbot House, an "Everyman's Club" for soldiers and officers based in the Ypres Salient. We also met Sabine, our specialist battlefield guide, who answered all our queries with a seemingly inexhaustible good humour and (nearly) flawless English, which was just one of her three languages.

We visited a number of important sites during our visit but three stand out. The first was the Mons Canal, where during one of the first days of fighting, two of the British Expeditionary Force won Victoria Crosses for defending a bridge and another soldier was killed further along, holding off the enemy single-handed whilst his comrades retreated. Also in Mons we visited the St



The History Society at the Ploegstreet Memorial to the Missing

Symphorien Military Cemetery, which holds German and British graves, including that of Private Parr, the first British soldier to be killed in the conflict. On a small hill in the cemetery towered the awe-inspiring Cross of Sacrifice.

On the Sunday, we travelled along the Messines Ridge, the area of the largest mining operation of the war. When the explosives placed in the tunnels were detonated, it was heard hundreds of miles away in London. Then we took a look at the crypt of Messines Church, which was used as a dressing station by the Germans. Corporal Hitler was amongst its patients. We also went to the Ploegsteert Memorial to the Missing, which contains over 11,000 names of soldiers whose bodies were never recovered. It included three men from Brixworth, Alfred James Holt, Reginald Ernest Hamson and Charles Daniel Bray. We laid a wreath at the foot of each of the respective panels bearing their names.

Later we went to Ypres to see the Menin Gate, through which so many soldiers marched to the battlefields. Now it is a memorial containing the names of 55,000 soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient and whose bodies were never identified. We witnessed, with hundreds of others, the Last Post Ceremony which is held there every evening. This is always a very moving occasion. It was good to see so many schoolchildren taking part in the ceremony.

Schoolchildren were also to be seen visiting other battlefields with their reconstructed trenches. Of course, the trenches can only give a sanitized version of what they must really have been like.

Space only allows me to mention a few of the places we visited and I have only described some of the most important ones for me. But there were plenty of lighter moments and time to relax in the many pavement cafes. In the



The grave of Lt Dease VC, awarded the first VC of WWI

evenings we were able to sample the many excellent restaurants situated in the Grand Place of Mons and the nearby streets. The Belgians have got a reputation for welcoming their British friends and this was amply demonstrated during our stay. – Dennis Coles

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WWI Flypast over Spratton

Sunday 26th April 2015 at 3pm

It's a bit of an advance warning, but put 26 April 2015 in your diary. On that day it will be exactly 100 years to the day that a young airman from Spratton won the Victoria Cross, the nation's highest award for bravery, for his actions on the Western Front in the First World War. Sywell Aerodrome have a replica of the biplane that was flown by Lt Rhodes-Moorhouse and they will fly over Spratton at 3pm on 26th April 2015.

Here's what happened on that fateful day in 1915.

"The raid on Courtrai unfortunately cost the nation a very gallant life, but it will live as one of the most heroic episodes of the war. The aviator started on the enterprise alone in a biplane. On arrival at Courtrai, he glided down to a height of 300ft and dropped a large bomb on the railway junction. While he did this he was the target of hundreds of rifles, of machine guns, and of anti-aircraft armament, and was severely wounded in the thigh. Though he might have saved his life by at once coming down in the enemy's lines, he decided to save his machine at all costs, and made for the British lines. Descending to a height of only 100ft, in order to increase his speed, he continued to fly, and was again wounded, this time mortally. He still flew on, however, and without coming down at the nearest of our aerodromes, went all the way back to his own base, where he executed a perfect landing and made his report. He died in hospital not long afterwards."
– despatch by an eyewitness, dated 30th April 1915, reported in *Flight Magazine*, 7th May 1915.



The flypast of a BE2b biplane will be part of Spratton's tribute to all 133 men from the village who served in the First World War. A large commemorative event will take place in the grounds of Spratton Hall School on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April 2015 with vintage vehicles and aeroplanes, stalls, talks, a book launch and a 1914-18 fashion display.

The event is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and organised by Spratton Local History Society and Spratton Parish Council.

Brixworth Badminton Club

Brixworth Badminton Club is in need of new adult members (16+), preferably with some playing experience.

We play on Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm – 9.30pm, and some Friday evenings also, at Guilsborough School.

The Club is affiliated to the Northampton League and has five teams entered this year.

We're a friendly bunch with a competitive edge; we also have some social events throughout the year.

Membership fees are very reasonable.

Please do come along and join us (first evening is free), just drop in or contact Trevor on 07825 597381 or email trevitox@hotmail.com

Come and try bowling!

Brixworth Indoor Bowls Club are holding a 'Come and Try' evening on Friday 12th September. Starting at 7.30pm, the free event is an opportunity for any residents to just turn up and have a go.

Tuition will be provided, and no equipment or experience is necessary. The club meets at Brixworth Centre on Church Street, with a warm welcome to novices of all ages. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, phone 880317.

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Country Eye

Lament for a Lost Countryside

A year or two ago it was widely stated that since the end of World War II, we have lost 95% of the flower-rich meadows that once graced our landscape. So frequently did I come across these vibrant splashes of colour in our English lowlands that I am sorry to say I tended to take it for granted that they would always be with us? Yet gradually over the intervening period, one by one, they have been ploughed up, or built upon, or tarmaced over. Even more alarming, recent news from the Wildlife Trusts shows their decline has hastened to the point where an astonishing 98% have gone. You don't get much closer to total extinction than that.

So it comes as heartening news that HRH Prince Charles, has lent his initiative and considerable expertise to a consortium of charities, including the Wildlife Trusts, Plantlife, and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, to try and conserve those few patches of colour-filled grassland that still remain. And from them seed is being harvested and sown into other areas to try and mitigate in some small measure for what we have lost.

It is a tragedy to me that many young folk under the age of thirty-something may never have enjoyed the heart-stoppingly beautiful sight of an ancient unimproved meadow at the end of May, when just about every plant species is coming into full flower. The yellows of cowslips, buttercups, kingcups if there are damp patches; pinks and reds of ragged robin and campion, and yarrow; white from the lacy exuberance of Queen Anne's lace, hogweed, sneezewort, pignut, and yarrow again! The blues and purples bring in knapweed, scabious the thistles, and the wonderful tufted vetch.

Pitsford Reservoir, when I worked there – almost half a century ago – was a vastly different place to today. The general aspect was far more open, and much of the enclosed land had not been ploughed, fertilised, or re-seeded. I regularly came across the striking pink flower spikes of the common spotted orchid (pictured, right), each flower intricately pencilled with dark purple markings. I doubt if many still survive today. Another little treasure that I have



not seen for many years is the crosswort (pictured, below), so named because its leaves are in groups of four, forming a cross-shape around the stem, and the four tiny yellow petals are similarly arranged. Another uncommon species of the grassland was the large-flowered hemp nettle. Not the stinging nettle type this one but related to the white and red deadnettles, which turn up as colourful garden and wayside weeds.

Every few yards as I walked around the water, I would disturb a skylark; pouring out its cascade of song phrases as it ascended, it would sometimes climb so high that it was a mere speck in the sky. Cuckoos were everywhere. Or so it seemed, insisting on shouting their name, while the liquid bubbling call of the female sounded quite different, and needed to be listened for. Another bird that nested every year, and was confined to ancient grasslands, and scrubby areas, was the whinchat. There were two places where I could rely on hearing their insistent alarm calls, sounding exactly like two pebbles being clinked together; and many times I have waited and watched quietly as they fed their youngsters. In the rougher, marshier places a pair or two of redshanks bred, and I have several times found their nests, hidden in a tuft of rushes, and admired their eggs, greenish intricately marked with black. Four of them, strongly pear-shaped, fitted perfectly together, so the incubating bird could cover them.. Their chicks, like animated bumblebees on spindly legs, can run as soon as they are hatched. Redshanks still turn up at migration



times, but they are mainly on their way to and from their breeding and wintering grounds

I have indicated that flower-rich grasslands are not just pretty to look at; they support vast communities of lower plants, and animals. From the fox that stalks the rabbit, to the frog that catches the tasty crunchy beetle, the butterflies, bees, and all the teeming wildlife that call a healthy meadow their home. So it is not merely a field of flowers and grasses, pretty to look at but not much else. It is part of the incredible mosaic of nature. Obviously we are the

poorer for having lost them, but they also they raise a much bigger question. How much longer can we carry on destroying the natural world, before the comfortable envelope within which we ourselves live begins to tear itself apart? - Brian Webster



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John Cornwell: debunker of popes, A-List author, and happy Draughtonian



Over tea on a garden table that used to belong to Doris Lessing, the Bulletin interviewed another successful author. John Cornwell, who has made a career out of researching and exposing the practices of the Catholic Church, has a home in Draughton. We caught up with him just before he was leaving for Manchester to take part in the Radio 4 programme "Beyond Belief" the next day.

John's interests may seem like a dry subject but his background as a journalist (he has written for the Observer among other publications) means he provides a pacy read that makes his books quite "un-put-downable". His writing sheds light on some of the scandals that have rocked the Catholic Church in recent years.

John moved to Draughton from Camberwell in 1976, having been "overwhelmed" by the beautiful countryside he discovered in Northamptonshire. It was an ideal move for his wife, Gabrielle, who has a keen interest in horsemanship. They brought up their children here, have many friends in Brixworth, and used to frequent The George regularly. Gabrielle served on Draughton's Parish Council for many years. John now works between Draughton, London and Cambridge, where he is a Visiting Fellow and leads several initiatives exploring the relationship between science and ethics, and pursues an interest in neuroscience.

He is best known for his book "Hitler's Pope", published in 1999, which has become an international bestseller. He was at pains to point out that he did not intend the title to imply that Pope Pius XII supported the German dictator. Rather, the book explains how Hitler was able to exploit the Pope for his own ends. However, his book may be one reason why calls to have Pius XII beatified have not yet been answered.

The material in John's books is directly based upon his own life experience. Recruited at the age of twelve to become a priest, his early writing focused on the contrast between the working class environment of east London where he grew up, and the monastic life he experienced at Cotton College in the Peak District. In time, he abandoned life as a seminarian and went up to Oxford to study English literature. Postgraduate studies at Cambridge followed, during which he lost his faith altogether through pursuing an interest in philosophy. Twenty years later, partly through the influence of his wife, he returned

to the Catholic fold. However, he does not attend church regularly.

Given that John has researched in depth so many of the Church's shortcomings, it is perhaps surprising that he re-found his faith. While he does not believe it possible to prove scientifically the reality of religion, he believes human beings have the capacity for "religious imagination", similar to artistic imagination.

Asked about the reaction to his books, John says it has been mainly positive. He receives a huge postbag, mainly from other liberals, many of whom tell him they have found consolation in his writing. Indeed, John believes his work provides a helpful service to the Church. While some of the most positive reviews of his work appear to have been written by ex- or non-Catholics, among his Amazon reviews is a positive plug by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor.

Given the nature of his books, it is perhaps surprising that the Vatican granted John no fewer than two opportunities to meet Pope John Paul II. The reason for one audience was his investigation into the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of the Pope John Paul I (despite rumours that had been circulating, John concluded he had died of natural causes). On another occasion, he was commissioned by Vanity Fair to cover a visit John Paul II was making to Sicily. John Paul II may not perhaps have been so accommodating if he had known he would himself become the subject of one of John's later books, ("The Pope in Winter", 2005).

Other interesting people that John has met include the Catholic writer Graham Greene – he was the last journalist to interview him before he died in 1991. He has had several public spats with the atheist Richard Dawkins. The gift of garden furniture he received from Doris Lessing was part of her getting rid of all her possessions at one point to cure "writer's block" – the remedy was apparently effective.

John's next book will be based on his experience of working as an orderly in an Oxford mental hospital during his student years. During this time, he struck up a relationship with a hospitalised academic, a philosopher, who had a profound influence on him. It will also describe the realities of a mental institution at that time.

His last book, "The Dark Box", was published earlier this year. A history of the practice of confession, it provides a plausible explanation for the extent of sexual child abuse that has been uncovered throughout the Catholic Church. When we asked John when he had last gone to confession himself, he admitted it was way back in 1961.

The rest of the village doesn't seem to be overly star-struck at having a 'famous author' in their midst – as one pointed out, he's part of the fabric, having lived in the village for longer than most!

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Brixworth's bell-ringers want to rope you in!

Through open windows this warm summer, many of us can hear the sound of the bells ringing out from All Saints' church on Sunday mornings and Friday evenings. If you listen carefully, you may be able to pick out the sound of six distinct bells as the bell-ringers start with rounds (when the bells are rung in succession) before they move into changing patterns of notes they call "methods".

However, you may not always be able to identify as many as six. On the evening the *Bulletin* went to visit the bell-ringers, one rope was hanging empty. Brixworth is running short of bell-ringers and needs more recruits.

Sarah Johnson, one of Brixworth's regular ringers, says, "It's a great opportunity to make new friends and learn a skill you can enjoy for life". There are many other things that make bell-ringing an ap-peal-ing (sorry for the pun!) pastime, too.



Brixworth's bell-ringers enjoying their weekly workout.

Firstly, it can take you to places you might never otherwise see, even if you are a regular church-goer. In Brixworth, you climb up a centuries-old spiral staircase to the ringing chamber, where the ringers pull the ropes. You can continue up the open tower ladder to the clock room (which houses a magnificent clock mechanism installed for Queen Victoria's Jubilee), then up another ancient open ladder to the belfry. Six huge beautifully engraved bells hang there, one nearly four feet in diameter, weighing between seven and 16 hundredweight each. The oldest five (Northamptonshire churches traditionally have five bells) were cast in the seventeenth century, the newest one was donated in 1994.

Bell-ringers are welcome to offer their services to any bell-tower. Bell-ringing can also provide some unusual adventures. In 1976, Brixworth's bells had to be taken down to be fixed with metal headstocks. A chair was hoisted up the empty tower so that wire could be fixed to the windows to prevent birds from getting at the bells. A number of bell-ringers took a ride up the spire to enjoy the view – health and safety wasn't so strict



back in those days!

Bells are among the largest and loudest instruments in the world. Each one has a different note, and eight bells can provide a full octave. However, nothing about bell-ringing appears to be standard. Churches have different numbers of bells, which can be rung in any combination. Lichfield Diocese even has a mobile belfry that turns up every year at the Hollowell Steam and Heavy Horse Show. All bells sound different, depending upon their size and quality. Their individual tone depends upon the thickness of the bell and how the clapper interacts with it.

The bell-ringing familiar to us in Brixworth is unique to the UK – 5000 churches have bells in this country – and the English-speaking world. Even within the UK there are major differences. For example, in the West Country, a ringer calls out the numbers for changes (see insert) which are much quicker than here. On the continent, you hear chiming, as one or more bells are simply swung from side to side. Some exceptions are found around Verona, Bologna and Milan in Italy, which each have their own bell-ringing technique.

Bell-ringing also supplies some fascinating insights into this country's social history. It is believed bell-ringing was introduced around

Bell-ringing for Beginners

Bells rung in the sequence of 1-2-3-4-5-6 make a simple round. All other sequences are called a change.

There are a maximum 120 changes possible on five bells, and 720 on six bells.

Change-ringing is when the changes are pre-determined in a pattern. These are like tunes and are called methods, and are learned by heart.

A complex system of 5040 changes makes a peal. A peal can take over three hours. In Brixworth's ringing chamber several plaques commemorate half and quarter peals made on special occasions.

The bell-ringers rang a quarter peal to celebrate Rev Chloe's induction last year.

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Bell-ringers enjoy a unique perspective of their villages

400 AD. As well as calling people to worship, bells traditionally provided warnings, e.g. of invasion, and may have been used to tell the time. They continue to announce important events, such as New Year, and many people took up bell-ringing to prepare for the millennium, the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic torch relay.

Perhaps because of their important role in the community, bell-ringers have always enjoyed a degree of independence from the churches that host them. It is the bell-ringers

that decide when the bells will be rung, nowadays with the permission of the churchwarden. The entrance to Brixworth's bell-tower is typical in being separate from the entrance to the church.

And, of course, bell-ringing has always provided an opportunity for socialising at the pub. This may be the reason why so many village pubs are located near a church. Indeed, bell-ringers have enjoyed a somewhat raucous reputation in centuries past. In Brixworth, a trip to the George after Friday night practice continues to be part of the bell-ringers' weekly routine.

It also replaces the need for a stretching class and provides a good physical workout. If you are interested in joining the bell-ringers please contact David Hamson, the Tower Captain, on 881098. – Jennifer Fitzgerald

1622	Four bells were hung (the 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th)
1683	The sixth bell was hung
1897	Automatic mechanism installed to mark Queen Victoria's Jubilee ten years earlier
1905	New beams installed to support bell ropes
1976	Cannons cut off and wooden heads replaced with metal heads and plain bearings replaced with roller bearings
1994	New treble bell donated from restoration fund headed up by Paul Morgan

Some dates in the history of Brixworth's church bells

Hanging Houghton & Lamport news

Bob Cox – the Parish Council's tree man – organised a work party of local villagers to cut the basal growth on the lime trees that are TPO protected at the entrance to the village of Hanging Houghton. Thanks to all those who volunteered to help namely Bob, Colin Harris, David Ward, Percy May, Buff Marshall, Clive Westerly, and me. Our thanks also go to Tom Saunders who cleared away all the brash.

We send our best wishes for the future to Guy and Caroline who have now moved from 19 Manor Road, and the house's new inhabitants, who moved in on 1 August. More news in the next issue.

It is with regret that I have to inform of the death of Kenneth Charles Bignall, who died on 23rd June and was buried at Lamport Church on 4th July. Ken and his wife Margaret moved into Manor Gardens last year. Our sympathy goes to Mrs Bignall and her family.

Lastly, villagers got together for the Hanging Houghton BBQ on the Village Green on the 23rd of August (unless it rained, in which case it was in Tom Saunders' barn). More details next time!
– Mike Philpott

Brixworth Primary School

The Primary School is part of Brixworth's community.

Our pupils are involved in community activities including the delivery of harvest festival parcels to senior citizens in the village; church services; singing and performing at Saxon House, Boniface House and Pytchley Court. We will also be involved in the upcoming WW1 commemorations. Perhaps you have attended one of our fêtes, this year's was a little damp, but still very successful.

We are a large school with a current roll of 449. Our small school feel is maintained through the use of teams that include up to two year groups. The team leaders ensure the smooth running of their year groups and feed back to the headteacher. In the past the school has had in excess of 490 pupils in its classrooms and is confident about being able to manage any increase in pupil numbers. We continue to offer a high quality education for the children of the village with Key stage 2 SATS results that are well above the national average.

We hope that you will support your local primary school as you have done in the past. – David Boucher, headmaster

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Things to consider when selling your home

1. Always obtain more than one valuation, preferably three. Ensure that at least one is from a local firm or individual that lives in the area and has a thorough knowledge of local property values.
2. Ensure your appointed agent is motivated to sell your home. Ask how the agent works and how the negotiators, selling the property, are incentivised.
3. Establish early on who will pay for the marketing, and if this is the agent, what coverage they will undertake. Most agents give great marketing within their 'no sale – no fee' terms but always ask if there are other methods that can you used, even if they charge for it.
4. Check out how different agents market properties online, do they utilise premium displays, are they on all the major websites or just one, do they use floor plans and most importantly how good is the quality of the photography?
5. Try and avoid being present during a viewing. Do not show your home yourself even if you're not sure someone else can do the job better. Buyers will tell you what you want to hear and not be objective. Let the agent earn their money and report back with useful feedback.
6. Make sure your home is easy for the agent to show and is

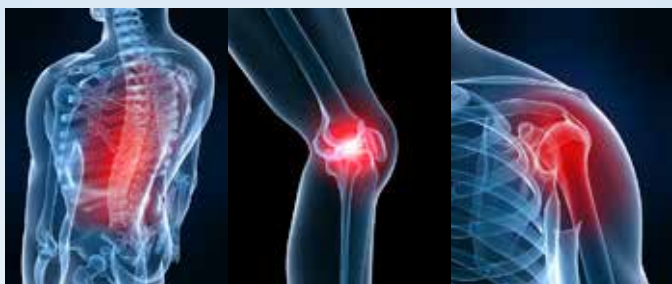
presented as well as possible. Homes sell better when furnished.

7. Avoid being tied into a lengthy contract. Sign for no more than 12 weeks and use this time wisely. Break it up into three periods of four weeks and review price and marketing strategy. The market is busy and houses are selling so if yours isn't then there is something fundamentally wrong.

8. Consider different methods of selling. Ask the agent if they can offer your property for sale via auction or informal tender (sealed bids). This doesn't work for every home but for the right ones can achieve considerably more money than the traditional method.

9. Instruct a solicitor the moment you start the marketing process. They can then be ready with all the paperwork including the registered title deeds, before any offers are accepted. Delays can lead to you losing a buyer unnecessarily.

10. Try to ensure you have alternative accommodation to move to and don't get excited about exchange and completion dates until the solicitors and lenders start to get all the paperwork in order. Most sales will fall into place in their own time so save yourself unnecessary stress. – *Stuart Little, Horts Estate Agents*



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Reaching out to the elderly



The elderly can often feel isolated and out of touch with their local community, especially in rural areas where transport and local shops are in decline and the opportunity to meet with others is diminished.

Organisations like the Happy at Home Partnership work to reach out to these people, to reduce these feelings of isolation, and to offer practical help and access to services.

Happy at Home is already well established in South Northamptonshire and is now looking to expand its services into Brixworth.

"We work with volunteers who want to give something back to the community in which they live and our aim is to match these volunteers with elderly men and women who need support," explains project coordinator Nicola Toms. "Our volunteers normally visit for an hour or so once a week, to chat over a cup of tea. This can be a lifeline to a lonely person for whom life may consist of looking at the same four walls, day in day out."

92 mile Charity Challenges DONE!

Brixworth man Darren Edwards has completed his 92 mile challenges in aid of the Beating Bowel Cancer charity.

Virgin London Marathon	4hrs 9 min
Brecon 54 miles Trek Fest	23 hrs 50 min
Tough Mudder (12 miles)	4 hrs 20 mins
TOTAL	32 hrs 19 mins

Trekking buddy Paul Simpson joined Darren for the Trek Fest and Darren's son Ben for the Tough Mudder. All started with The London Marathon in April, followed by TrekFest in June and finishing with the Mudder in July.

The Beating Bowel Cancer charity focuses on early detection of bowel cancer, encouraging everyone to get any changes or concerns checked without being embarrassed. Darren had first-hand experience of bowel cancer, following the sad passing of his step mother Celia in August.

Thanks to all the support shown, with special mention again to the Edwards & Simpson families, Chambers Butchers, Dominic LeHane Salon, White Horse Old, Hellidon Lakes Golf, Brampton Halt, Asda Kingsthorpe and Beckworth Emporium.

Darren set a target of £2,000, and is within touching distance of making it! Please support Darren, Paul & Ben with every pound towards the target greatly appreciated! That's it for this year, as the garden needs weeding.

It's easy to donate just visit www.justgiving.com/Darren-Edwards002 - Darren

All volunteers are trained to check for safety issues within the home of an elderly person and highlight where these may need to be addressed. Volunteers give outdoor chains, plug-in night lights, blankets, carbon monoxide alarms and information packs with details about other agencies, services and facilities elderly people can use within their local area. To this end, Happy at Home works closely with the Fire Service, the Police, the Red Cross, Age UK and other agencies.

The Partnership recently visited the Saxon House care home in Brixworth for the first time and plans to organise more activities in Brixworth in the second half of the year.

"Hand pampering (manicures) has proved to be very popular and even four of our gentlemen visitors had their nails trimmed and hands massaged, everyone certainly enjoyed the tea and cake and chat that follows," says Nicola. "As well as the hand pampering afternoons, we have also organised entertainment which often involves a sing-song of the old favourites which everyone has thoroughly enjoyed."

Other agencies such as Age UK and the National Centre for Independent Living often also come along to these afternoons with advice and information.

Nicola adds: "We would like to reach out to more people and are always seeking volunteers to work with us. If you know of any elderly men or women in your community who may be lonely and in need of support, we would very much welcome the opportunity to help. Or perhaps you know potential volunteers, or would be prepared to volunteer yourself? If so, we'd love to hear from you!"

You can contact the Nicola through the Daventry Volunteer Centre at nicola@daventryvolunteers.org.uk or phone 01327 300614

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Murdered In Brixworth

It was a typical summer's evening. Rain was sheeting down and England had been knocked out of the World Cup. But we had another evening of foul play to look forward to. We headed for the Village Hall where Brixworth Drama Group (BDG) were staging their latest production, *Murdered to Death* by well-known playwright Peter Gordon.

This hilarious farce is a send-up of all those Miss Marple stories by Agatha Christie, set in the 1930s. There were some new faces as well as familiar ones amongst the cast but the new scenery recently purchased by the group considerably enhanced the whole setting. Also new to the group was the director Sarah Thompson, whose classy direction could be seen bringing out the best in the cast.

First we meet Mildred (Amanda Pickering) together with her young companion Dorothy, played by Gemma Broadhead. Gemma brought just the right air of resignation to her role as she acts as unpaid house maid. Mildred owns the house together with most of the surrounding area and therefore is loaded. Despite this, she conveys a sparrow-like anxiety that her weekend party should go smoothly. Given the insolent nature of her butler, Bunting, who displays a flair for sarcasm deployed with aplomb by Alan Pope, her concerns are very understandable. In this sort of play, Mildred is clearly doomed to an early demise and so it transpires... Guests have been invited for the weekend, of course, to ensure we have a reasonable clutch of suspects. When Mildred is shot, the hand and wrist are clearly visible through the doorway, but to whom are they attached?

The first guests to arrive are Colonel Craddock (Andy Knight) with a boring store of half-remembered anecdotes. So successfully did Andy convey this role that I cannot remember any of them either. He is accompanied by his apparently dull, long-suffering wife Margaret (Sue MacAspern). Both actors have got history with the BDG and turn in solid, reliable performances in their latest roles. While Margaret is upstairs, Mildred takes the opportunity to discuss her past relationship with the colonel and threatens to tell his wife. When he later claims to have lost his pistol, we are wondering if it his hand we have seen firing the fatal shot. Of course, that is far too obvious a conclusion for anyone to jump to, except Inspector Pratt (played by Mike Culverhouse), who arrives in the second act with a full range of malapropisms and spoonerisms. "Charge him with a breach of the police" was one of my favourites. But I am rushing ahead, two more guests have to arrive, Elizabeth Hartley Trumpington and Pierre Marceau. Pierre is played with a wonderful French accent by Ben Richards. The Colonel puts on a nice display of xenophobia with



references to Agincourt and Waterloo. Elizabeth and Pierre claim to have met on the train, but are they just what they seem to be? Of course not; and it transpires that Dorothy suspects Pierre of being a fraud and tries a bit of blackmail on him. Finally we are introduced to Miss Joan Maple, the local busybody - a character portrayed faultlessly by Caroline Monk. Her observational powers had failed to detect other vehicles in the drive, as she pretends not to realise that Mildred had guests, and wangles herself an invitation to stay for dinner.

So, a fine covey of suspects for acting Inspector Pratt to get his teeth into in the second act, where he is greeted by a long-suffering Constable Thompkins, played by Will Brown. Thompkins is thoroughly patronised by the Inspector. Many of us will, from time to time, have suffered this sort of indignity, but the Inspector manages to go a stage further and shoot the poor Constable in the foot. And so we proceed with a good stock of red herrings, character twists and a second murder to the final denouement. No, I'm not allowed to tell you who did it!

Oh, I forgot to mention that the femme fatale, Elizabeth Hartley Trumpington, was played by the lovely Hannah Saxton. She displayed her considerable acting talent, ably demonstrating how she has passed an audition for the American Academy of Dramatic Art. Hannah, you have graced local stages in a variety of roles, and all your friends wish you every success as you step on to a bigger stage in Los Angeles. - *Dennis Coles*



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Walk It! Jog It! Run It! Cycle It!

Brixworth Country Park provided the setting for a fundraising challenge in aid of six Kettering General Hospital (KGH) charities.

The event, 'Walk It! Jog It! Run It! Cycle It!', which took place on Sunday 6th July, saw 150 people walking, running, jogging or cycling around the reservoir in order to raise money. On display from Saints Rugby Club were both the Aviva Premiership Trophy and the Amlin Challenge Trophy, while Bernie, the club's mascot, was there to start the race.

The event was organised by John Newman Hairdressing and Beauty of Rothwell, and was the third such fundraiser the hair salon has organised. This year's event benefitted the Stroke Unit Fund, Cardiac Unit Fund,



Ophthalmology Unit Fund, Colorectal Unit Fund, Wish List Fund and, for the benefit of staff at KGH, Revive the Recreation Hall Fund.

Shirley Newman, director of John Newman Hairdressing and Beauty, remarks: "We never could have expected such an incredible turnout. I'm so proud of my family, friends, clients, and everybody who came to make the event possible. Everyone has been so enthusiastic, and it's because of their efforts that the day was such a huge success - both as an exciting day out, and as a fundraiser for our local hospital!"

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U3A Update

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 London Studies Group (*some members pictured right*) are exploring the routes and events which have shaped our great metropolis. There are currently 23 members with a waiting list.



The Songsters proudly performed with two other choirs in their first concert of the year at The Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury on 14th June. The Songsters sang twelve lively songs, with delightful solos performed by Vanessa Crooks with 'My Lord What a Morning' and Christine Peacock singing 'Homeward Bound'. The concert was well attended despite the warm weather and the World Cup competition and managed to raise in excess of £540 for local charities. The Songsters are performing next at Brixworth church on 21st September as part of the Brixworth Music Festival.

The Theatre Group, with 27 members, watched Stamford Shakespeare Company performing 'The Taming of the Shrew' at Rutland Open Air Theatre in August.

The Art Appreciation Group has had talks with slides by several members of the group on various topics including John Singer Sargeant and the Impressionists. In June they were lucky enough to have portrait artist Carol Crossman, to talk about her work and show examples. Future talks will be about Norfolk artists and a members' visit to Claude Monet's house and garden.

Further information on the U3A and interest groups can be found on e www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth. – Judy Smith

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From London to Hanging Houghton

I was evacuated from London to Hanging Houghton at the age of six. It was my second time away from that war-torn city. I recall being taken from a bus by a lady I was later to learn was Mrs. Clark. She was to become my foster mother for the next year. She simply stepped onto the bus I was on and said, "I'll take this one." In that moment I had a new mother and a new family. I had more than one new family between 1939 and 1945. The bus ground away and I was whisked into a new world, for I came from what was then the world's greatest city to something which, to me, was so very different indeed.

Mrs. Clark lived in the end house of a block of three, possibly four attached homes. These were old even then. My guess, they'd been built in the 19th Century. They lacked running water and the toilets were out-houses down the back garden: long-drops or buckets were used. My bedroom was a tiny attic room right at the top corner of the end house, the home nearest to the main street. I recall a back kitchen, a lounge room (parlour) but cannot remember the bedrooms. As a little fellow, I spent a great deal of time outside. I was virtually only indoors to eat and sleep.

Hanging Houghton as I remember it, turning off the main road to the right, one could quickly walk the distance to the village proper. It was just two or three hundred yards away. On the right hand side there was nothing but a high fence or wall until one reached the gate-keepers little building. I recall tall, possibly bamboo canes at the corner of the main road and what is now called Manor Road. A friend and I sometimes climbed the fence to cut those canes to play with. My friend would balance the long, straight canes on his nose, something I never learned to do

At the gatehouse a gravel driveway led to a manor house. I wasn't allowed in there and was invited only once. This was to a child's birthday party. I think there were about six

children there and we had jelly, biscuits and cupcakes – something I'd probably had only once or twice in my life before that time.

no mains water

On the left hand side of the road, walking towards the village, the first building was the old schoolhouse. It's still there and is now a home. Between the school house and the gate-house was an area you might call the village square. In the middle of this area stood a rather ornate-looking cast-iron water pump. I think it was mounted on a block of some sort. Housekeepers would come here with their galvanized buckets to collect water for their homes. It was a place where women would gather to talk a little.

The water table must have been very high, for in the front of the home I lived in I found a round wooden cover which covered a shallow well. I recall the water was just below the cover. I didn't tell Mrs. Clark of my discovery for I thought I might have been considered naughty for having removed that cover. Something told me she would have considered it dangerous.

a tiny hamlet

Beyond the square and off to the left was the block of attached homes I lived in. They were not brick, possibly mud-brick or stone. But if one proceeded straight ahead one came into the main street – if you could call it that. There were probably three or four houses to the left and the same number to the right. The village main street wouldn't have stretched more than a hundred yards.

On the right, about the second or third house down, was a farmer's home. My good friend, Peter, who was about five years my senior, lived there with his father. His father was a widower. Behind the farmer's residence were the milking shed and the place for

processing cream and making cheese. Behind this again was a pig sty and chicken runs. There was also, the huge mound where the cow dung was placed. We used to wheel it out from the cowshed in wheelbarrows. As I recall it, the chickens ran everywhere down the back. They certainly were 'free range' in its broadest sense and only locked away at night to keep them safe from foxes.

That was about it. The street came to a halt. There was a broad lane which narrowed down quite quickly running off to the left. The fences were wooden here. Directly ahead was a fence with a gate and a track which led up a hill to another farmer's property. The lane to the left meandered down to another field, a steep field, in which Peter's father kept his score or so of milking cows. Peter and I would go down to this field and bring in the cows twice a day. They would simply follow us up the lane to the farm. And of course, the cows had a pecking order and some of them had names. The lead cow always summoned the others with a call if we turned up early. Conversely, they'd be waiting patiently, three abreast behind the gate if we were late. They certainly knew the routine.

The cows, incidentally, were all milked by hand. There was no milking machine. It was hard labour but, as a little fellow, I enjoyed helping where I could. Peter, of course, worked as hard as a grown man despite his age. After milking, we'd take the cows back to the field, return and then hose out the shed. I think we used a stirrup pump to get the water pressure up, or it could have come from a tank. All of this labour resulted in two full churns of milk ready to be taken away every day.

Your need to remember that the Second World War was on and food, especially groceries were scarce. However, living in that village had its advantages. We had wild-rabbit a bit, more chances of fresh eggs than the average. I cannot remember our fare but we lived okay.

visits from soldiers

Whilst I was there we twice had visits from soldiers. Once there was a party at Mrs.



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– child evacuees in World War II

Clark's home when some British Tommies, who were friends of Mrs. Clark's husband, came for the evening. It was Christmas, I think. Her husband wasn't there, to my knowledge. I recall the soldiers laughing as they found the iced-cake they'd brought along so hard they could not cut it. The soldiers were throwing it up in the air and letting it fall on the stone floor, trying to shatter it. I did not understand, of course, but I guess they were all a little tipsy. I recall eating some of that cake with its thick, rock hard icing.

One teacher, a dozen children ranging from five to fifteen. It was certainly different. The school was eventually converted to a home.

The second time was when a squad of American G.I.s came and camped between the tiny area behind our house and the first house on the left hand side of Manor Road. They brought with them a 40mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun. Better – they allowed me to play on it every day they were there. I'd swing its barrel up and down, and this way and that. No danger, of course, because it wasn't loaded. But every morning, early, they'd be at action stations, manning that gun and huddled in their trenches behind sandbags, rifles pointed in case an enemy did attack at dawn

The Americans became quite concerned one morning though, when I lay down behind their BAR (somewhat like a Bren gun) This gun was loaded and they joked among each other but seriously scolded me for getting beside this weapon. I doubt they were there more than a week. One morning I got up early and the little field was empty. They'd slipped away during the dark hours. It was as if they'd never been. To this day I wonder if they survived the war.

In 1951 I moved with my family to Australia. There are no dukes, earls, barons and even squires out here. Australia is an egalitarian society. No touching the forelock here. But Hanging Houghton was, I think in retrospect, the property of the family who lived in the Manor House. I think the farmers paid for the right to farm, and the homes paid rental, but I'm not absolutely sure of that. But I sensed deference when the Manor people were being mentioned.

long-lost friends

I have no idea of family names of people living in the Hanging Houghton at that time other than the Clarks. My farmer's son friend was named Peter. The gatekeeper's son, possibly James. There may have been another boy name Albert. This is all pretty vague, but I was only six years old at that time. I also recall a white house somewhat to the south of us on the main road. A girl of about eleven years of age lived there.

I know the farmer owned a huge Clydesdale called Paddy. He'd come over to a fence so we could climb, two or three kids at a time, on his broad back. A second horse had had to be put down shortly after I arrived. So Peter's father owned a horse, a bull with a broken horn, and about twenty cows, some pigs, and lots of chickens. There were sheep, but I think they belonged to another nearby farm.

I also have a vague recollection of a railway line somewhat off to the north. I recall walking across it, but I cannot be sure where it was. What I do recall is that I was very aware of all of the fields and woods around that little hamlet. For, as I said earlier, I spent most of my time out of doors. I knew where to find the bird nests in the hedges, where the haystacks to play on were. Also, I knew where the wild honey bees' nest was in the hollow log up the street.

I recall the days a dozen or so Italian

prisoners of war, accompanied by one lone old man with a pitchfork as guard, came into the street to do some repairs. They were a cheerful, laughing lot glad to be free of the war I suspect. One of them must have been a bee-keeper in his life before the war because he reached into that hollow log and pulled out several pieces of honey comb. He gave me a piece, patted me on the head a used words like 'bambino.' As I recall it, I didn't eat it; too many bees flying out of it.

fond farewells

Then one day my father arrived. He was a soldier and in uniform. He'd come to take me home. My foster mother cried when I left to go back home. Little boys don't notice these things. It's all just a part of life. But it must have been hard to part with a child who had become family for so long.

We travelled back to London by bus and train. There I remained for some months before I, along with a myriad other children, were once again evacuated. This time it was to Lancashire. But that is another story. – *Tom Ware* (republished with kind permission)

Do you remember any of the people mentioned? Do you have recollections and stories of your own about the villages covered by the *Bulletin* to share? If so we'd love to hear from you. Write to editor@brixworthbulletin.com or call 882567 (evenings & weekends)



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WESTMINSTER REPORT

A numbers game

Those of you who regularly read my column will know I try not to do the normal politician thing and bamboozle everyone with statistics, but this time I thought I would actually include lots of local statistics to prove to you just how well things are going in the local economy.

Indeed, it has been a little while since I talked about this, though recently there has been a whole host of good news:

Importantly, unemployment is still going down. In June, the claimant rate across the whole of my constituency was 1.9%, or 896 people, and quite a number of those people live in Daventry itself. Long-term unemployment is down 42.9% on last year and youth unemployment is down 35.7%. With the news I detail a little later, I'd like to think there is a strong chance we can eliminate unemployment locally if we keep the economy on track nationally.

Gross weekly earnings for full-time workers rose to £685, £65 more than the national average, and a typical full-time worker here earns £37,429 a year, more than £4,000 more than the national mean.

The median house price locally is £215,763 and 73% of us own our own homes (compared with the national average of 63%).

Consumer spending in the area increased 8% in January-March 2014, compared with the same period in 2013. Spending on home improvements has also increased by 8% for the same time period.

Turnover for small businesses in the retail sector was up 11% in Quarter 1 of this year against 2013 and the number of business start-ups locally for the same time period was up 20%.

In fact a third of all our small businesses locally have been set up in the last three years, a third of all start-up owners are female and the average age of a start-up owner is 43.

Recently there has been a lot of good news on the local employment front: The logistics parks developer Prologis has received planning permission for the DIRFT 3 development on the outskirts of Rugby, which will create nearly 9000 new jobs over the next decade. Prologis also has planning permission for a development just north of

Wellingborough, which involves a project that should add at least 300 local jobs in the short-term.

Just down the road, "Rushden Lakes", a £50m shopping and leisure development on the site of the former Skew Bridge ski club outside Rushden, has received planning permission. The development will provide up to 2000 jobs and retail and leisure facilities.

In the town of Daventry itself, two logistics companies, Clipper and Norbert Dentressangle, are planning to take on a couple of hundred people each, Ford are redeveloping their college campus with a multi-million pound investment, and the government has just given the go-ahead and, through the Local Growth Fund, funding for a new campus for Northampton College in the town and for a new link road by-passing Flore and Weedon.

All of this good news comes from a number of things working together: local businesses growing in confidence, branching out and expanding, bigger national businesses looking at the UK, liking what they see and investing heavily in our country and the government keeping to its long-term economic plan.

Yes, all this good economic news has its own consequences, but for now let's just reflect on how the local economic picture has transformed and how that makes everyone's future brighter.

Chris

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Planning update

DA/2014/0266 – Lynchcroft, Saneco Lane Single Storey Extension	BPC No Objections DDC Approved
DA/2014/0220 – 52 Froxhill Crescent Two Storey rear extension and insert new window to first floor side elevation	BPC No Objections DDC Approved
DA/2014/0242 – 11, Newlands Demolition of existing double garage. Construction of new garage and workshop, single storey porch/wc to front elevation, single/two storey rear extension and new external chimney to side elevation.	BPC No Objections DDC Approved
DA/2014/0311 – 3 Northampton Road Construction of Detached Double Garage (Revised Scheme)	BP No Objections DDC Approved
DA/2014/0230 – Beech Hill, 25 Church Street Construction of Single Dwelling	BPC Objected DDC Refusal
DA/2014/0245 – The George Inn, Northampton Road Construction of a play area involving the erection of play equipment and landscaping works and the installation of 2 No. of Jumberellas	BPC Objected Withdrawn
DA/2014/0265 – 10 Pytchley Close New Double Garage and Storage Space over	BPC No Objections DDC Approved
DA/2014/0281 – 11 Woodsfield Single Storey extensions to front, side and rear	BPC No Objections DDC Approved
DA/2014/0428 – 1 Far Brook Two Storey front extension	BPC No Objections DDC Approved
DA/2014/0360 – Land to East of Northampton Road Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission DA/2013/0334 (Reserved Matters Application for residential development) revised house types Plots 29, 53, 55, 59, 82, 83, 85, 89, 91, 92, 112 and resiting of northern boundary fence.	BPC Objection DDC Approved

Library events

For children

Myths & Legends – Monday 1st September 11am
Stories and activities for the whole family

“Mythical Maze” Messy crafts – Wednesday 3rd September 2.30pm

Stories, rhymes and activities – Mondays 2.30pm
For under 5s and their parents/carers

Rhymetime – Fridays 10.10am
For under 5s and their parents/carers

Storytime – Saturdays 10.30am
For ages 9 and under

Family activities – Sundays 1-4pm

Other events

The **Book Club** of the Brixworth Library Afternoon Readers Group meets first Tuesday of every month at 2.30pm. Join them on Tuesday 2nd September to read “The Trigger by Tim Butcher”, followed by “The Moon Field” by Judith Allnatt on Tuesday 7th October. Open to all – please ask at library or email brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Exhibition: “The Creative Stitchers” – Saturday 4th October until Thursday 30th October. Come and see beautiful needlecraft by a local group. Free to all on the mezzanine during library opening hours.

For more information on booking the mezzanine for an exhibition, please speak to library staff.

The Library will be supporting the **20 Million Steps** project, which aims to encourage people in Northamptonshire to get walking this September. See www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/publichealth for more details, and download the “Map My Walk – 20 Million Steps” App to count your steps and give health information.

Friday 5th, Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th September is the 20 Million Steps weekend, when everyone in Northamptonshire will be encouraged to do some walking to count towards the aim of 20 Million Steps Countywide (One weekend, 10,000 people, 20 million steps).

Toddle Steps – Friday 5th September 11am
After Rhymetime, join us in a “toddle” around the library to count towards the 20 million steps – for under 5s and their parents/carers.

Do the Conga – Saturday 6th September 12.30pm
Krystle, from Krystle’s Dance Academy, will help us find out how many people we can get in a conga line!

Check www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary for more information

Other Services

- Bus Passes – new and renewals
- Volunteering opportunities
- DVD hire
- Help with online Blue Badge Applications
- Computer Use – free on Fridays (charge for printing)
- Photocopying
- Laminating
- Library shop
- Room Hire/Exhibition Space Hire

Contact us at brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Jill Barber, Brixworth Library Manager

Christmas Tree Festival

Open to all businesses, groups and organisations in the village.

Why not decorate a Christmas tree to display in the church?

Come and meet Saint Boniface who discovered the very first Christmas tree.

All Saints’ Church, 6th -14th December 2014

For further details, please contact Rev. Chloe Willson-Thomas on 01604 882014 or chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com



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BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.bcfchurch.co.uk

What is church?

Is a question I get asked quite often because traditionally the church meets in a church building. BCF Community Church meets in a school, so can we call ourselves a church? The answer is clearly yes, because the local church is made up of people gathering together seeking to know God and serve Him, whether that be in a magnificent building as we have in Brixworth or in a School or other appropriate building.

So what will you find if you came to church on Sunday? Well, firstly you would find a warm welcome at the door as you enter and then from the church folk you will meet! Ordinary folk of all ages meeting together to worship God, explore faith and find His love. You would find relevance to your life, help and encouragement from other normal people who believe that Jesus is the answer to our needs.

You will pick up very quickly that we have a heart to bless our community and the excerpts in this issue reveal what "the church" is involved in. You will also see we cater for children and young people both on a Sunday and during the week with many opportunities for friendship at all levels.

Most importantly, I believe you will have an opportunity to meet God, to explore the claims of Jesus and enjoy the contemporary worship of God.

I would be very happy to meet you if you have any questions about "church" and hope very much that you will be able to join with us not "in" the church but "as" the church.

Every blessing
Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on 882040



Christmas Senior Citizen Lunch



Wednesday 10th December at the Library & Community Centre. As in previous years we will be holding this celebratory meal along with some entertainment for those who share each Wednesday at the Olive Branch and due to the size of the venue a few more. If you would like details then call in and speak to Sue or Vernon.

Alpha Course in Brixworth

Alpha Course?

Do you want to explore the Christian Faith in a non-threatening environment where you can talk openly and ask questions? Then the Alpha Course is for you! Evenings start off with a meal together at 7 p.m. (first evening is 10th September) followed by a DVD talk followed by discussion and comment. This concludes at 9p.m and runs for around 12 weeks.

These are really helpful times for all ages and there really is no pressure just a relaxing opportunity to see for yourself.

When? Wednesday 10th September
7-9:00 pm

Where? Brixworth Library and Community Centre
Spratton Road NN6 9DS

If you are interested phone Mark on the dedicated mobile number
07922 644673



Shoebox Appeal 2014

The Shoe Box appeal is nearly on us! Sorry to remind you so early that Christmas is on the distant horizon but by the time the next Bulletin is published we hope that around 2000 boxes would have left for Eastern Europe to be greeted by children who will often only ever receive that box for their Christmas. Poverty, war and so much more these children, often orphaned, face brings home to us all how much we are blessed with in our lives.

We hope you will be able to put a box together in late Oct/Nov details of which will be found in the Library & Community Centre. If you feel able to help in the checking and packing of boxes then please do not hesitate to leave your details at the Olive Branch – 889030 and we will contact you.

Childrens' Holiday Club 2014

What a time we had with 112 children, around 30 helpers, good weather, great children, perfect venue and great enthusiasm! This describes the three day holiday club at the end of July.

Four teams took part in Craft activities, Sport, Party Games, Bible Stories and quizzes, singing, eating biscuits and drinking squash and generally having a great time. Points were given for various things and the winning team received their Gold Medal and the others their Silver.

This presentation and a taste of the three days was the culmination of the Club when on the Wednesday evening over 300 people had a BBQ and heard and saw what the children had done. We thought it was great and by these comments so did others!



Next year – we hope to repeat it again and apologise that due to numbers some were disappointed – we will work on that for 2015.



Songs of Praise

On Sunday 20th July in the sunshine over Brixworth the Salvation Army Band shared with us in an Open Air Songs of Praise outside the Library & Community Centre. A mix of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, an interview with Rachel focussing on her life change since she encountered Jesus,

a dart board challenge that revealed none of us reach the mark! Although we may try hard it is only through Jesus that we can ever come into a relationship with God. Rounded off by a welcome drink and biscuit a good time was had by all!

Christmas Outdoor Nativity

Save the date! Sunday 21st December 2014 – outside the Library & Community Centre – be prepared for something different added to the familiar Carols and Nativity.

More details in the December issue.



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

All Saints' Church, Brixworth

Priest-in-Charge:

*Rev. Chloe Willson-Thomas
The Vicarage, Station Road
t: 01604 882014
chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com*

Churchwardens:

*Mrs Vanessa Crooks
5 Whaddon Field t: 01604 882058*

*Mr Michael Lewis
8 Breach Close. t: 01604 881836*

Dear Friends,

We have just celebrated the feast day of St. Augustine of Hippo. It is said that before he became a Christian, he was passing a church, and heard singing coming from it. He ventured in and happened to hear one of the greatest preachers of the time, Ambrose. This led to great things. Eventually St. Augustine experienced a powerful conversion, and he went on to become one of the greatest and most influential minds in the history of the Christian Church.

It was wonderful during the summer to walk up to All Saints' and hear children's voices wafting out on the breeze. It was a new sound for many—the sound of the children's choir Singing Saints rehearsing during June and July. Children from Brixworth have enjoyed coming together in song, and having fun. They have made wonderful progress with their singing in only a short space of time. It has been exciting to see and hear their enthusiasm, and we now have plans for a Christmas concert when they start again in September.

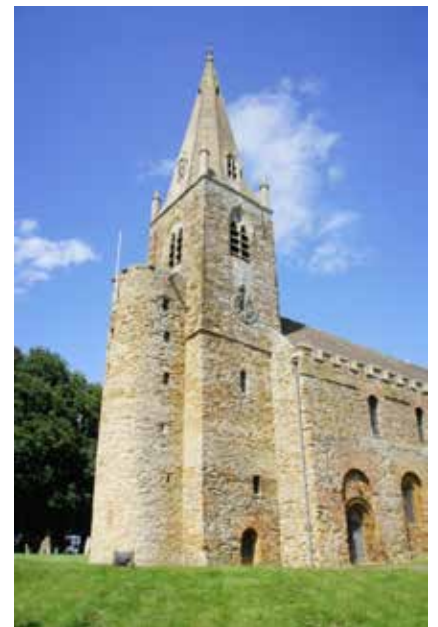
A church that is constantly filled with music is a happy place, because music brings people together. And All Saints' is an ideal location for music making with its beautiful location, and good acoustics.

When we make music, when voices and instruments weave together and harmonise with each other, we are forging relationships—musical relationships. Relationships between friends always follow on from this. In doing so we echo the relationships between the Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. People are by nature relational, and God wants us to take an interest in each other, and show care and concern for others when there is need.

There is more music to come at All Saints. In September the first Brixworth Music Festival kicks off, and we will be hosting eight concerts, using talent from all around Northamptonshire and beyond. We hope that you will join us for this.

And next time you pass the church, listen hard for the music, and come in! Who knows where it might lead you...

Rev. Chloe



Friends Gala Evening

Pattern of Services

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

Weekday services:

Tuesday at 9.30am said Eucharist, followed by

10.00 am "Coffee Pot" - a time of fellowship with coffee & biscuits

Thursday at 9.30am Holy Eucharist

Toddler group: **Jellybeans** meets at 1.30 pm every Wednesday afternoon in the church and the Brixworth Centre.



Brixworth Music Festival will take place

17th - 21st September

www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk

From the Registers

Baptisms	Weddings
Katherine Mary Jackson Darcy Elizabeth Watson Oliver Walter Toesland Scott Rowland Betsy May Fenn Thomas Stanley Fenn Thomas Edmund Fitzgerald Iris Rose Harris Edward James Harvey Heather Jane Longbottom Faith Olivia Rose Kyla Jade Rose Mia Rose Wagg Leo Finn Linnel	Rebecca Johnson and David Garrett Graham Nobbs and Trudy Hall Jonathan Newman and Emma Goodson Robert Kurn and Lucy Armstrong Susie Lamb and Mark Pack Rachel Evans and William Cookson Sarah Seelig and Ian Renard Donna Wilson and Scott Rowlings
	Burials
	Dorothy Allen

Look out for our

**CHRISTMAS
TREE FESTIVAL**

December 6th - 14th 2014

Come and see the display of Christmas trees in the church.

There will also be opportunities to buy Christmas gifts.



Chairman's Overview

Cllr Michael Lacey

Every year, in May, the Parish Council elects new officers and that means I am approaching the end of my third term serving in the capacity of Chairman. I would, therefore like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our current members: **David Parnaby**, who has been

Vice-Chairman and has chaired the Planning Committee, as well as the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. **Sandra Moxon**, has chaired and reinvigorated the Highways Committee. **Ian Barratt**, who has chaired the Finance Committee. **Liz Wiig** is our longest serving Councillor.

Stephen Pointer, has been Chairman of the Recreation Committee. **Kevin Parker** is a member of our legal panel that assists with our current legal defence, as is **Paul Williamson**. **Joe Hodgson** proves that you don't have to be retired to be a Councillor, and so does **Jackie Bird**. Of course I cannot overlook **Malcolm Rous**, who brings experience from his time as a member of a neighbouring Parish Council, and our resident humorist, **Tony Hockenhill**. I thank you all.

We have had three resignations in the course of the year and I would like to publicly thank Colin Bament, Laura Wright and Bob Chattaway for their service to our community. I must also take this opportunity to thank Jane Macken who was Clerk to the Council for more years than I can tell. Jane has taken a new step in her career. We are fortunate, though, to have been able to employ Emma Baker, our new Clerk who comes to us from Finedon.

Early in the year, we discovered to our surprise that the Brixworth Central Sports Club had expanded onto land it had not leased from the Council, and that the original lease dating back to the 1970s was not really up to current standards. The Parish Council has paid for a new lease, to be drafted and the land in question on St David's Playing Field has now been accurately surveyed and mapped, without charge to the Club.

You may have noticed, the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has recently been surveying residents' views, both in person and by a village-wide formal survey. This is intended to ensure all residents have an opportunity to state their views regarding various issues that are governed by a Neighbourhood Plan, which we hope to have ready for you to vote on as soon as next year. A Neighbourhood plan will control many aspects of future village growth and it would be a pity if your voice is not heard. I hope the next phase will offer you another opportunity to express your opinion and desires for the future of our community.

Kevin Parker was appointed Highways Warden recently and that is indicative of how much Sandra Moxon and the Highways Committee have achieved in this last year. Basically, if there is a highway issue that needs attention, Kevin is your man; or at least the first port of call.

Meanwhile, moves are underway to improve efficiency of the Parish Council in the way that we do things. I should also remind you that all Parish Council meetings are public Meetings which you are welcome to attend, not only may you attend but you can also ask questions of the Council or perhaps provide information that might be lacking. Each monthly meeting sets time aside for just that. So all that is left is for me to say is, thank you for your support of the Parish Council and thank you to the members of the Parish Council for their generous commitment to the Parish.

Highways and Environment Committee

Cllr Sandra Moxon, Chairman

The Committee is responsible for maintenance of public open spaces such as The Pound, The Buttercross and the land adjacent to Brixworth Village Hall. Its remit includes the inspection and maintenance of Parish Council owned trees and its own street lights, the maintenance and provision of street furniture including benches, litter and dog bins, and bus shelters. Any consultation documents relating to transport, waste management, minerals, environment, highways also need to be considered by this Committee. In addition to this, the Committee is responsible for Parish Council representatives assigned to Pitsford Waters, Village Hall, Brixworth Centre, Library/Community Centre, Parish Paths and Parish Trees. We are in partnership with other Local Authorities that deal with street lighting, waste management, grass cutting, footpaths, right of ways and bridleways, county highways and street signage.

The Highways and Environment Committee works tirelessly to ensure that Brixworth is maintained and provided for. In 2013/2014 issues that have been tackled include: Japanese Knotweed, drains, parking, speeding, road signs, graffiti, unruly shrubbery, restrictive parking plans, Street Doctor, street names, litter bins, maintenance and ownership of footpaths, underground leaks, bulb planting, road resurfacing, dog fouling, war memorial and bus shelters.

Recreation Committee

Cllr Stephen Pointer, Chairman

It has been a very busy year for Recreation and the local parks and it is impossible to name all projects.

One that stands out is the new play equipment at St David's, which has seen tireless support from Jane Macken and the local residents who spent hours of their time, so thank you to all of them.

The second has to be the flower and sign planting by the local school children. It was a great day and thanks to Tony Hockenhill, Liz Wiig, Ian Barratt and all the children and school teachers involved!

I would like to thank the pocket park group who worked so long and so hard on trying to rejuvenate the pocket park area.

It is very difficult to get volunteers nowadays but the recreation committee over the last year has met some of the best and I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with them.

Thank you to Peter Anscorb, who with the help of his family and others not only cleaned up the tennis courts but also bought the nets. This is true community spirit and I'd like to say thank you to him.

Planning Committee

Cllr David Parnaby, Chairman

Of the many planning applications received over the last year, most have been minor and uncontroversial, but there have been some major applications to which the Parish Council has objected.

One of these involved plans for nine houses and six industrial buildings at Old Station Yard, also known as Mabbutts Yard. We opposed this, chiefly because of the undesirable and unsustainable impact the additional commercial traffic would have, especially on the Conservation Area. There has already been damage to walls and we believe that additional traffic from the industrial units would likely add to it. Unfortunately, Northamptonshire County Council's highways authority disagreed. They also did not second our concerns about the cumulative effect of development in neighbouring villages on the roads in Brixworth. These and other objections were not sustained and the development was approved.

As mentioned overleaf, we are concerned about the impact the planned Continuing Care Retirement Community at Victor's Barn at the southern end of the village might have on the already overloaded medical facilities in the village. These concerns remain even though the plans have now been scaled back slightly and include a consulting room. We are also worried about the additional traffic generated by this large complex. Consequently, we have lodged an objection. The application has yet to be heard at Daventry.

Generally, the Parish Council is concerned over the increasing changes in both the appearance and the use of the whole area to the south of the village and its immediate surroundings, which we think are altering or threatening to alter its character. The Council

Finance Committee

Cllr Ian Barratt, Chairman

Although the Finance Committee deals with employment and regulation it is the Finance side which often raises the most interest.

Once again, our prudent approach has seen expenditure and income are closely balanced. The surplus is partly due to an organisation returning a grant, low vandalism and luck for not needing much contingency money.

In the 2014-15 budget, the Parish Council decided on a modest increase of 2.5% per household per year whilst attempting to preserve services.

Once again, we could offer modest financial support to worthy village organisations, and it was satisfying to hear how well such money was used. It is unfortunate that such grants have been completely cut for the present year so we will not be able to offer this help to youth organisations and such-like in the coming year.

In the light of our employment and advisor costs and possible high legal costs which are not covered by insurance, it seems less likely that we will have spare funds this year for unplanned projects.

believes that, should all the developments that have been proposed for this area come to fruition, there would be a considerable increase in traffic. These proposed developments have included the Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) mentioned above, a pony trekking centre and a nearby camp site, together with the (apparently unfinished) castellated structure on the edge of the cricket ground and the conversion of offices at Victors Barns to dwelling houses. Also recently approved has been an application for the construction of country house with the conversion of an existing building on land at the The Old Barn, Merry Tom Lane.

Whilst no application for planning permission has yet been made, Barratts are considering a further development of up to 60 houses to the south of their present ongoing development to the east of Northampton Road. Redrow Homes are also known to be contemplating a development to the east of the village along Holcot Road, although, once again, no application has been received.

A considerable amount of housing is being thrust upon Brixworth at this time. In an effort to give residents a say in the future of the village, Parish Councillors and residents have formed a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The response to the questionnaire this group recently sent to all households has been encouraging. The responses will help the Group create a plan which, once approved, will form a template for the development of Brixworth so that its future size and shape will be decided by its own community and not merely, as to date, by external developers.

Summary of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014

Income

Precept	95,027.00
DDC Grant	1,978.00
Sport Clubs	1,888.00
Community Centre	2,926.61
Grants – Neighbourhood Plan	5,540.00
Other	6,073.00
	113,433.00

Expenditure

Staff / Admin	60,365.00
Community Grants	5,340.00
Highways	886.00
Recreation	28,859.00
Legal Costs	6,572.00
Neighbourhood Plan	1,278.00
Planning Fees	1,872.00
	105,172.00

Surplus	8,261.00
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Balance as at 31st March 2013	132,717.00
Add Surplus	8,261.00
Balance as at 31st March 2014	140,978.00

During the year the Parish Council provided grants for the following organisations: Brixworth Cricket Club, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee, Brixworth Junior Football Club, Brixworth Youth Foundation, Friends of All Saints Church, Friends of Brixworth Library, Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group, Brixworth Tennis Club and Brixworth All Saints Football Club

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01604 881243

What's on

28 Aug	The Sooty Show	Lighthouse, Kettering
29/8-20/9	Regeneration	Royal
30-Aug	Frozen Sing-a-long	Corby Cube
1 Sep	Jersey Boys	The Castle, Wellingborough
3 Sep	RSC Live: Two Gentlemen	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
4 Sep	Jasper Carrot	Derngate
4 Sep	NT Live: Medea	EF Filmhouse, Castle & Cube
5 Sep	Jimmy Carr	Derngate
6 Sep	Anglo-Saxon Feast	All Saints, Brixworth
6 Sep	ELO Experience	Derngate
6 Sep	Grease	Lighthouse
6 Sep	Purple Zeppelin	The Castle
7 Sep	The Illegal Eagles	Lighthouse
9 Sep	Lisa Stansfield	Derngate
10 Sep	Tony Stockwell	Lighthouse
10-11 Sep	The Gruffalo	Derngate
11 Sep	Tad Newton's Jazzfriends	The Castle
12 Sep	The Paul Zerdin Show	Lighthouse
12 Sep	Come and Try Bowling	Brixworth Centre
12-Sep	The Kings of Swing	Derngate
13 Sep	Big Chris Barber Band	Lighthouse
13-14/9	Behind the Curtain	Derngate
13-14/9	Once in a Blue Moon	Corby Cube
15-20/9	New Jersey Nights	Derngate
17-21/9	Brixworth Music Festival	Various venues
17 Sep	An audience with Tim Brooke-Taylor	The Castle, Wellingborough
17 Sep	Shakespeare in Music	Lampport Hall
17-18/9	Peppa Pig's Big Splash	Lighthouse
18 Sep	Frank Turner	Roadmender
18 Sep	Bay City Rollers	Corby Cube
20 Sep	Des O'Connor	Lighthouse
21 Sep	The Lindisfarne Story	Lighthouse
22-27/9	One Man, Two Guv'nors	Derngate
24 Sep	Not about Heroes	The Castle
25-Sep	One Night of Queen	Lighthouse
25 Sep	Swing's the Thing	Masque
25 Sep	Danny Bhoj	Corby Cube
26 Sep	Strictly Sixties	Corby Cube
26 Sep	Allo Allo	The Castle
26 Sep	Omid Djalili	Lighthouse
27 Sep	The Moons	Roadmender
27 Sep	John Bishop	Royal
27 Sep	From the Jam	The Castle
27 Sep	One Night of Queen	Lighthouse
28 Sep	Billy Elliot (live)	EF Filmhouse, Castle & Cube
30 Sep - 1 Oct	Richard Alston Dance	Derngate

1 Oct	Stephen Fry	EF Filmhouse
1 Oct	Great Expectations	The Castle
2 Oct	Toseland	Roadmender
2 Oct	Three and four quarters	Corby Cube
2 Oct	Steven Berkoff	The Castle
3 Oct	Johnny Cash Roadshow	Corby Cube
4 Oct	Dancing Queen	Derngate
4 Oct	Chas & Dave	The Castle
5 Oct	Michael Palin: Travelling	Derngate
6 Oct	Sir Roger Moore	Derngate
7-11/10	Bad Girls - the Musical	Lighthouse
8 Oct	The Johnny Cash	Derngate
8 Oct	Buddy Holly & the Cricketers	The Castle
8-11/10	Dusk	Corby Cube
9 Oct	The Treatment	Roadmender
9 Oct	10cc	Derngate
9 Oct	The Sensational 60s	Lighthouse
10 Oct	Clannad	Derngate
10-Oct	Gilmore & Roberts	The Castle
10 Oct	Dr Feelgood	Lighthouse
11 Oct	Steeleye Span	Lighthouse
11 Oct	Seth Lakeman	Derngate
11 Oct	Met Opera - Macbeth	EF Filmhouse
11-12/10	Gift & Craft Fair	Lampport Hall
12 Oct	Crazy for Gershwin	Derngate
14 Oct	Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers	Lighthouse
14 Oct	Dance Triple Bill	The Castle
15 Oct	Syd Lawrence Orchestra	Lighthouse
15 Oct	Mama Hood	The Castle
16 Oct	Chris Martin	Corby Cube
16 Oct	Knightmare Live	Lighthouse
17 Oct	Live @ the Lighthouse	Lighthouse
17 Oct	One Night of Elvis	Derngate
17 Oct	The Counterfeit Stones	The Castle
17 Oct	Susan Calman	Corby Cube
18 Oct	Joe Brown	Lighthouse
18 Oct	Purson	Roadmender
18 Oct	Megaslam Wrestling	Deco Theatre
19 Oct	Bay City Rollers Story	Lighthouse
18-19/10	Annual Arnold Festival	Derngate
18 Oct	Met Opera - Le Nozze Di	EF Filmhouse
20-21/10	Private Peaceful	Corby Cube
21 Oct	Charlie Landsborough	Lighthouse
21 Oct	Marcus Brigstocke	The Castle
21 Oct	The Billy Fury Years	Derngate
21-25/10	This is my Family	Royal
22 Oct	Vampires Rock	Derngate
22 Oct	The Nutcracker Ballet	Russian State Ballet
23 Oct	Dancing in the Streets	Derngate
23 Oct	Blake feat Camila Westlake	Lighthouse
24 Oct	Superstars of Wrestling	Masque Theatre
24 Oct	Sixties Gold	Derngate
24 Oct	The Amazing Snakeheads	Roadmender
24 Oct	Stephen K Amos	Lighthouse
24 Oct	Chris Ramsay	Corby Cube
25 Oct	The Black Dyke Band	Derngate

25 Oct	Beauty & the Beast	The Castle
25-26/10	Room on the Broom	Corby Cube
26 Oct	Paul Daniels and Debbie McGee	Lighthouse Theatre
27 Oct	Paul Chowdry	Royal
27 Oct	Duck the the Truck	The Castle
27-30/10	Winnie the Witch	Underground
27-30/10	Afraid of the Dark	Underground
28 Oct	UV Universe	Masque Theatre
28-29/10	Around the World in 80 Days	The Castle
28 Oct - 1 Nov	South Pacific	Derngate
29 Oct	Foster & Allen	Royal
30 Oct	Hal Cruttenden	Royal
30 Oct	The Rat Pack	Corby Cube
30 Oct	An Evening of Burlesque	The Castle
31 Oct	David O'Doherty	Corby Cube
1 Nov	Family Day	The Castle
1 Nov	Met Opera Live - Carmen	EF Filmhouse
1 Nov	Mark Steel	Royal
3 Nov	Squeeze	Derngate
3-8/11	Frankenstein the Musical	The Castle
4 Nov	Big Country	Corby Cube
5 Nov	Aled Jones	Derngate
6 Nov	Jools Holland	Derngate
6 Nov	Alabama 3	Roadmender
7 Nov	Marty Wilde	Derngate
7 Nov	James Acaster	Royal
8 Nov	Jason Byrne	Corby Cube
8 Nov	Lest we Forget	Derngate
10 Nov	The Woman in Black	Royal
10-15/11	The Full Monty	Derngate
12 Nov	Macbeth in Pitch Black	The Castle
14 Nov	Roy Orbison	Corby Cube
15 Nov	Concierto de Aranjuez	The Castle
18-19/11	Lee Mack	Derngate
20 Nov	Henning Wehn	Lighthouse
21 Nov	Classics by Candlelight	Derngate
22 Nov	The Blockheads	The Castle
22 Nov	Strictly Northampton	Derngate
23-Nov	The Manfreds	Derngate
25-Nov	Jimmy Carr	Derngate
26-Nov	La Traviata	Derngate
26 Nov-4 Jan	Merlin	Royal
27 Nov	Bellowhead	Derngate
28 Nov	Alan Davies-Little	Derngate
29 Nov	The Beat	Roadmender
29 Nov	That'll be the Day	Derngate
30 Nov	Jasper Carrot	Lighthouse
5 Dec	The South	Roadmender
5-20/12	Dear Santa	Corby Cube
5 Dec - 4 Jan	Peter Pan	Derngate
8-30/12	Pinocchio	The Castle
12 Dec - 4 Jan	Aladdin	Lighthouse Theatre

Northampton Sailing Club

It's been a busy time for Northampton Sailing Club as the annual Club Championships were held on Saturday 19th July in very light conditions. So light in fact that only one race was completed throughout the day. Twenty-one boats entered with the prizes going to Zoe Bowen for 1st Junior and Lady Helm, Chris and Adam Larr in 3rd in their RS200, Pete Warne in 2nd in his Solo, with Will Gulliver becoming the Club Champion in the D-One.

After the prize giving, the club was transformed for the Summer Party. Club members enjoyed the social evening with music from Frontcover and Elaine's amazing BBQ.

On the Sunday, members took part in the fun racing. With light winds in the morning there were a number of paddleboard races and competitions followed by some bellboat racing. The wind built in the afternoon so the club ended the day with some Pico sailing and a backwards sailing race.

For the Team 15 Pitsford Pirates, the group are currently 2nd in their division of the Inter-Club Championships following a series of exciting race wins. Young Pitsford Pirate, Ben McCann, has also recently come back from competing in the Techno Worlds out in France.

The racing JAYS are awaiting their final competition in the Anglian Water Series on 27th September at Northampton Sailing Club, which will determine their final position of the year.

The club are getting ready to welcome the British Moth Nationals in August and September will see a busy month as the RS 500, RS 600, Supernover and Lighting 368 and RS Feva Grand Prix, will all be taking place at the club.

For anyone interested in getting involved, we have a number of



courses coming up including windsurfing, sailing and powerboating along with our youth multi-activity weeks, which have just got under way.

Last but certainly not least, Northampton Sailing Club have just a few more sessions left of their free for all members Club Coaching sessions on a Tuesday evening. From 6.45pm, Andrew York and Tom Castle give you the chance to sharpen your racing skills and test them out in mock races!

For more information on courses, hires and social events at Northampton Sailing Club, please visit www.northamptonssailingclub.org or call 01604 880248. We're also on Twitter @NorthamptonSC.

Golfers in hot competition for Bridge Cup

The annual golf competition between Brixworth and Spratton was held at Cold Ashby Golf Club on Saturday on 19th July.

Despite having to dodge showers for most of the day, some 40 golfers attended to compete for the Bridge Cup, now in its third year, with honours even after the first two events.

Spratton were the victors this year after a close-fought contest. Organiser Wayne Brown, the Brixworth captain, said he was pleased with the way the day had gone. "Everybody enjoyed



themselves and there was some good-natured banter between the two village teams. We lost narrowly this year but we'll be back stronger for next years' challenge."

After the event the golfers enjoyed the prize giving and a buffet in the clubhouse. - *Graham Billing*

Caption: Wayne Brown (right) handing the Cup to Spratton's captain, Chub Martin.



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Club Day

This season's club day was on the 25th June and apart from the usual fantastic turnout from all the players and coaches, we had the local Scout troop serving up some fantastic hot food and drink. The raffle prizes were pretty good too, with the top prize coming from Pitsford Cycles, a Specialized child's bike. Many of our village businesses also gave very generously with prizes from Troops Grocers, Chambers Butchers, Helen West Jewellery, Daisy Roots, Mercedes Benz, The Coach & Horses and The George Inn. Northampton Town FC and John Henry Sports also gave prizes.

The rain held off and all the players had a great time, the Scouts kept all 450 people fed and watered, which is no mean feat, and raised some funds for their troop at the same time. The club house did a roaring trade in ice creams for the children as well as serving stronger beverages for the more discerning adult clientele.

At the time, the World Cup was in full flow and the players were keen to try some of the tricks and skills they had seen on the television. I even saw the cheeky Italian corner (where they scored against England) being used in one game. Everyone was in good spirits and the matches were played in exactly the same way.

At the end of the afternoon of football nearly all of the boys got together for a club photo. Hopefully we will be able to do this each year and see how our village club grows.

I would like to thank everyone that has helped out in any way during the club day and over the course of the season for the time they have freely given to help the children of the club. Let's look forward to a new season and all the possibilities it brings...



Daventry Town Tournoi - U9s

The U9s went to Daventry after just missing out on a place in the final of their two previous tournaments. There were 16 teams in four groups vying for the cup and Brixworth made heavy going of their first two group games getting two draws. They won their last game and went through into the quarter finals. It was a tight game, 0-0 after extra time when they slotted home their penalties and strode on to the semis where they met a team from Rugby. A tense affair was won with a great goal from a free kick and a last minute clearance off of our own goal line. They'd made the final and the boys celebrated like they'd just won it.

The final was against Northampton Soccer Stars and it was a close hard-battling game

with no inch being given. A few good chances were created by each team with Brixworth hitting the cross bar and Soccer Stars missing an open goal. And so after a fiercely competitive game that threatened to boil over a couple of times it finished 0-0 after extra time. Penalties again. Ethan stepped up and drove the ball high into the net, our goalie Will stepped into goal, scared the life out of their player and he drilled the ball past the left hand post. 1-0. Stirling stepped up and was unlucky to be saved by their goalie, especially after the awesome game he had just played as sweeper. Will moved back into goal and he must have really frightened the next player as his penalty sailed over the cross bar with Will just watching it and smiling at it. Liam made the long walk to the penalty spot, placed the ball on the spot, stepped back, looked at the ref and then sending the keeper the wrong way stroked the ball into the goal.

I've never seen eight boys erupt into such extravagant celebration at exactly the same time. It truly was a moment to behold. They more than deserved the victory and their first ever tournament cup to go with it. A happy to start to the summer holidays indeed.

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

If you would like to join any of our teams, become a coach or offer any sponsorship please get in touch by email on chairman@brixworthjuniors.co.uk.

Brixworth Juniors is a well-respected FA Charter Standard Club with excellent training and playing facilities. All of our coaches are FA qualified and have been through the enhanced CRB check. – Rob Kelly, chairman, Brixworth Juniors FC

U10s lift the cup



This summer Brixworth u10s entered four tournaments. We lost the Daventry 6s and the Cobblers Cup on penalties in the semi-finals. We also lost the Bletchley 6s in extra time of the final. But just when we thought it was going to be an early summer, along came the Moulton 6s.

The games came thick and fast as the temperatures soured well into the 80s. This meant the squad was everything. Alistair Jardine, Alex Cattell, Dylan Hill, George Patten, Harvey Webb, Mac Coulson, Owen Hutchinson and Pearce Jones all played an even part as we gained plenty of points to get through to the semis.

We beat Moulton, Wootton White, Football For All (FFA), Kingsthorpe Jets, drew with Oundle and Towcester with our only defeat Coming from Wotton Red. Fourteen points put us back up against our only victors in Wootton Red. This time it was a totally different story, we took control from the off with our pass and press game. A well-deserved 2-0 win put us into the final to face FFA.

With four minutes on the clock, a misjudgement at the back saw the ball sneak into the net, when it was thought to be going wide. In true character which this team has in spades, they changed nothing, nobody moaned or blamed, they just kept calm, kept helping, kept encouraging and gave their all. Within two minutes it was 1-1, an excellent goal, which started with cracking slick passing through the pitch and was finished with mesmerising solo skill. Despite us pushing constantly for the remainder of the final we couldn't break a solid FFA down. So penalties ensued. This time three perfect penalties meant the cup was ours.

After the final, three refs approached me and said that, as well as winning the cup, our children played lovely football and their behaviour was impeccable. Every one of the children above plus Fabian Sgoluppi, Joe Sterling, Louisa Henry, Sam Miller and Tom Glenn are an absolute credit to their parents and Brixworth as a whole.

Well done all of you!

– Rob Jones, U10s manager



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