

BRIXWORTH BULLETIN

The village newspaper of Brixworth, Draughton, Cottesbrooke, Hanging Houghton & Lamport Issue 43, December 2014



Brixworth engineers secure F1 Constructors' Championship

Mercedes has lifted the 2014 F1 Constructors' Championship, thanks to the stunning powertrains designed and built by Mercedes AMG High Performance Powertrains, Brixworth.

The 400-strong team at Brixworth faced an enormous task to design a powertrain (that's the engine, gearbox and a few other bits) meeting the requirements of the 2014 Formula One season, which saw engines restricted to 1.6 litre V6 turbo engines – much smaller

than the previous season's 2.4 litre V8 models. To make up for the smaller size, the new engines use Energy Recovery Systems to supply additional power. In that way, the new hybrid engines have something in common with a Toyota Prius but that's where the similarity ends.

The Brixworth engineers worked with the Mercedes AMG Petronas Formula One team at Brackley to design the car, known in technical circles as the F1 W505 Hybrid. *(continued on p2)*

The Bulletin needs your help!

It's not often I appeal to you on the *Brixworth Bulletin's* own behalf, but right now we urgently need your help. Our advertising manager is moving house and unable to continue her role so we need somebody else who is able to pick up the baton and help us out.

The job is reasonably straightforward – keep in touch with our many regular advertisers to make sure their adverts are confirmed and meet their requirements, and liaise with new advertisers. You don't need to be an accomplished sales person or even have done this kind of thing before; contact lists and an induction/handover will be provided. All you need is a few hours per quarter; much of this can be done via email in the evening. Though if you have a little bit of time during working hours to make phone calls, that would certainly help.

The role is absolutely vital to our ability to continue producing the *Bulletin*, which is much-loved by all in the villages it serves. As you might imagine, no advertising means no money for the *Bulletin* to cover its print costs, or support any charitable organisations in the village with whatever money might be left over after we've paid the printers.

If you're able to help, please email claudia@icheme.org or call 882567 (evenings & weekends). It would be great to hear from you, as without an advertising manager we will not be able to continue producing the *Bulletin*.

Thank you.

*Claudia
Flavell-White*

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The *Brixworth Bulletin* is published
quarterly in March, June, September and
December. The deadline for contributions
and advertising for the March 2015 issue is
25 January 2015.

Visit www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk, join us on
Facebook or follow @BrixBulletin on Twitter.



Village turns out in force for Remembrance Sunday

It was standing room only in the church for Remembrance Sunday as the villagers turned out in force to remember those who have given their lives in conflict. All local divisions of the Scouts and Guides joined the parade through the village. The service WAS led by Rev Chloe Willson-Thomas and Rev Phil Walter. Afterwards, David Parnaby laid a wreath for the Parish Council at the War Memorial, which had been cleaned and repaired (free of charge) by Resurrection Stonework.

(continued from p1) Instead of focussing just on horsepower or downforce, the team sought the optimum set of trade-offs to find the most efficient engine and aerodynamic car. The result is an increase in engine efficiency from 29% to over 40%

The result speaks for itself – the car has completely dominated the 2014 F1 season, making it arguably the most successful car in the history of the sport. It has claimed every pole, led every lap, and won every race in the season up to the Monaco Grand Prix. With one of the season's 19 races left to run at the time of writing, it has won all bar three races, and came second in 13.

This resounding success not only netted Mercedes the Constructors' Championship, but also led to the powertrain being awarded the Royal Automobile Club's coveted Dewar Trophy, the most prestigious award in British engineering.

The Dewar Trophy has only been awarded 43 times in its 108-year history. Of those, this is only the fifth time the trophy has gone to the Formula One industry – and yet it's the second time it's gone to Brixworth. The company, then known as Mercedes-Benz High Performance Engines, took the award in 2009 for its pioneering work on the KERS (Kinetic Energy Recovery System) Hybrid unit.

Managing Director Andy Cowell said: "To have received this prestigious award for the second time is a fitting tribute to the commitment to excellence within our organisation. As a sport, when we took on the challenge of the radical new regulations introduced for the 2014 Formula One season, few could have foreseen that such performance could be achieved so quickly. It is a testament to the industry – and particularly to the hard work of the hundreds of people at Mercedes-Benz – that those incredible efforts over the past three or more years are being recognised today." – cfw

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Housing expansion goes for planning permission

Barratt Homes is seeking planning permission for Phase Two of the Saxon Rise housing development on Northampton Road.

The plans, submitted to Daventry District Council on 20 October, outline a proposal for up to 90 new houses on the triangle of land between the allotments at the edge of the current new housing estate and the roundabout leading to the Country Park. They also include a new doctors' surgery to replace the surgery further up on Northampton Road. Access to the new houses will be via a new road from the first phase of the Saxon Rise development, which is currently under construction.

Consultation on the project is ongoing, and DDC's Planning Committee is expected to decide on the matter in January 2015 at the latest.

The reaction among villagers has been mixed but, on balance, favourable. While many are worried about the impact that yet more housing will have on already-stretched facilities – particularly the school – the construction of a much-needed bigger surgery would be a big bonus. Members of BRANE and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group believe that, given that DDC already gave planning permission for the first phase of the Barratt development and for the retirement community on the other side of Northampton Road, it is unlikely that the further expansion will be rejected.

The 50 people attending a public meeting on the question in late September concluded that "whilst we would prefer this green field site not to be developed we believe that the benefits to the community on offer will outweigh the harm done to the landscape." As such, neither BRANE nor the Parish Council decided to oppose the development, on the proviso that the promised surgery is indeed forthcoming.

A working party chaired by Chris Millar, Brixworth resident and leader of DDC, is negotiating plans for the new surgery with the Saxon Spires Practice, Assura Medical Centres (the landlords of the existing surgery), Barratts, DDC and the Neighbourhood Plan Group, represented by Bob Chattaway (BRANE) and Mike Parsons (Saxon Spires Patients Participation Group). At the time of writing, they are considering who will own the new building – the challenge is ensuring that the NHS will have no additional costs to bear as the result of having to manage a new, much larger building.

As for the second potential new housing estate between Holcot and Scaldwell Roads, which has been proposed by Redrow Homes, it is unclear whether that group will proceed to submit a planning application. It is thought to be unlikely that such a proposal would

include a new surgery and that would curb local enthusiasm for the proposal.

Car parking at the shops

Meanwhile, it is expected that plans to knock down the two houses next to Troop's Greengrocers and build a second car park on the site won't go ahead. The plans would have been funded by Barratt Homes as part of the first stage of the Saxon Rise development but the money will now be needed to fund the new surgery. Instead, Barratts have sent a letter of intent to the Parish Council to cover the cost of extending the library car park (which is open to shoppers) to the back – a much cheaper proposal than the original plan.

"It's a better solution," says Chattaway. "The original proposal would have only given us eight extra car parking spaces, as we would have lost part of the layby. Extending the library car park will provide five or six new spaces and allow Barratt's to fund the new surgery building."

The two houses next to Troop's will now be refurbished and sold.



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Christmas waste and recycling collections

Here are the Christmas and New Year arrangements for waste and recycling collections in Daventry District:

collection dates

Collections will take place as scheduled, including Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. There will be no collection on Christmas Day (Thursday) and instead ONLY those properties affected will receive a collection on Sunday 28 December.

black bins

Over Christmas, black bins will continue to be collected fortnightly as normal. There are special arrangements for households on Thursday collections affected by Christmas Day. Please make sure you recycle as much as possible, as excess side waste and bins with raised lids will not be collected.

brown bins

From Monday 22 December, brown bin collections will be suspended over Christmas and New Year for all households in Daventry District. This will enable crews to focus on



collecting extra recycling. Please refer to your collections calendar as to when your brown bin will be collected next.

recycling boxes and food bins

These will continue to be collected weekly for all properties on their scheduled collection day. There are alternative recycling arrangements for households scheduled for a Christmas Day collection.

extra recycling

You can put out extra recycling for collection over Christmas.

If you have more recycling than your boxes can hold, please continue to sort your items and place them into clear or white bags next to your boxes.

Large cardboard will also be collected from Boxing Day until Monday 12 January. If you have large cardboard and it won't fit in your recycling box, please flatten it as much as possible and place next to your boxes on your collection day.

Christmas Day alternative arrangements

Households due to have their black bin emptied on Thursday 25 December should instead put their black bin, recycling and food waste out on Sunday 28 December. Properties that would have received a brown bin collection that day should present only their recycling and food waste for collection on Sunday 28 December.

real Christmas trees

Christmas trees will be collected from the first full week of the New Year until 31 January. Please place them next to your recycling boxes or inside your brown bin for collection when the service resumes.

Alternatively you can take them to your nearest household waste recycling centre. Find your nearest at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling

check your new collection calendar

All homes will soon receive a new waste and recycling calendar, including details about Christmas arrangements. It includes your collection dates for 2015 and 2016, so please keep hold of it for future reference.

reporting missed collections over Christmas

Daventry District Council's offices will be closed from Thursday 25 December until 2 January – to report a missed collection during this time, please visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk

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Ace Reuse to be turned into take-away?

Residents are concerned over the news that number 132 Northampton Road – currently the home of Ace Reuse and previously used by the estate agent Merry’s – could be turned into a fast food take-away.

The premises were granted planning permission for conversion into a take-away by Daventry District Council in August. The permission is valid for three years and at the time of writing it is unclear when any change might take place.

Planners at Daventry agreed to the change in use despite local opposition, and even though a similar application was turned down in 2010. While some villagers campaigned against the change of use – a petition against it gained over 90 signatures – the news that planning application had been granted came as a surprise to many. This includes some in the immediate neighbourhood, who say they had not been consulted about the plans.

The main concerns raised at the Planning Committee were disposal of waste cooking oil – a take-away will need to install a fume extractor and a grease trap to prevent build-up of fat in the sewer system – and parking.

Brixworth Parish Council had objected to the proposal, primarily because of the parking issue, and over concerns regarding litter and noise (the take-away could be open till 11pm seven days a week). However, with two pubs, the Red Lion and the George, in the immediate neighbourhood, DDC did not think that a fast-food premises would have much additional impact.

Parking is a bigger issue, as the location has no car park and customers won't be able to use the car park belonging to the Red Lion next door. This leaves on-street parking as the only option. There is some space to park on the road, and while the property is near a bend, Northamptonshire Highways felt that as the road is relatively wide, the amount of parking spaces would be sufficient.

Residents are nevertheless concerned. One neighbour told us: "The parking is a major issue. The parking on Northampton

Road is already bad with all the comings and goings at Ace Reuse. A take-away will make matters worse and there are also the concerns over noise, litter and smell.

"How could planning permission have been granted without all the neighbours having been notified about the proposals in the usual way? We received no letter and as

far as we know nor did our neighbours. We also saw no notices in the village about the application."

The *Bulletin* understands that residents have written to DDC to complain about the lack of information given to them, which deprived them of their chance to object to the planning application. – cfw



The Bulletin gains a new reader

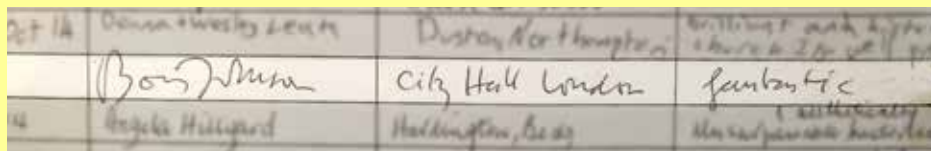
So what? I hear you say. And normally, I'd quite agree. While we of course welcome every new reader who picks up the *Brixworth Bulletin*, it wouldn't normally be the sort of story that's worth a headline.


However, I was rather tickled when I was sent this photo of London Mayor Boris Johnson signing the visitors' book at All Saints' Church, Brixworth, clearly having picked up the latest copy of the *Bulletin* on the way.

What brought him to Brixworth, and why wasn't anyone told of it? I asked the Tory press officer who'd so kindly tweeted me the photo. "It was a very impromptu visit – Boris saw the sign for 'Saxon church' and insisted on stopping!" came the answer. "He'd been at Northampton Uni and was on his way to Corby. Had been in St Albans and Bedford earlier in the day too."

As for what he thought of the church – well, Boris isn't always as verbose as he is on *Have I Got News For You*. Still, no one would disagree with his verdict of "fantastic". – cfw

As for what he thought of the church – well, Boris isn't always as verbose as he is on *Have I Got News For You*. Still, no one would disagree with his verdict of "fantastic". – cfw





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For further information see our website



Lucky escape as car crashes into Lovell Hardware

Lee Horton and his customers at Lovell Hardware can thank their lucky stars that no-one was injured when a car smashed through the shop front on 22 September. The driver of the BMW, an elderly man, had to be released by the fire crews but was unharmed. Luckily, Lee and his colleague had been out the back and there were no customers in the shop at the time. As for the 'No Parking' sign that appeared on the boarded-up shop front – we don't know but can only suspect Lee's wry sense of humour.

Reporting illegal vehicles

Is there a car parked in your road for days on end that you think might be illegal or abandoned?

You can now find out if that car is actually taxed and MOTd by visiting www.vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk. You can check as many cars as you want and find out when their tax and MOT expire. If their tax has expired by two months or more you can contact ELVIS (End of Life Vehicle Impound Scheme) by phoning 101 - when asked for the department say "Elvis" and it will connect you. They'll then arrange for it to be removed through the Council's Environmental Protection team.

<https://www.vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk>

Illegal Advertising and Flyposting

Dealing with illegal advertising and flyposting can be complicated because responsibilities and powers sit in several sets of hands, i.e. Daventry District Council (DDC), Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and private owners. DDC have now agreed a system with NCC Highways so that they can immediately remove banners or posters on railings and roundabouts, which are usually NCC's responsibility. Anything that is not an immediate threat to highway safety is photographed and reported so that NCC can confirm whether or not it should be removed. A couple of months ago, DDC removed lots of large Luther van Dross banners. We will do the same with any others, where we are able, if we are told where they are.

The Environmental Crime lead at DDC can and does impose fixed penalty notices whenever appropriate, and can prosecute where there is sufficient evidence. It can however only take action where there is a witness to the offence who is willing to make a statement.

Residents should report all littering, dog mess, fly-tipping and fly-posting issues to DDC, who will deal with them promptly. The best way to report to DDC is via the website online reporting or by email – go to www.daventrydc.gov.uk/online and click on the relevant subject under 'Report something'.

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Police Report

Introducing our new Sergeant...

Having now officially started at Brixworth I wanted to introduce myself. My name is Matthew Moore and I'm really pleased to be the new rural North Sgt based at Brixworth. It's a beautiful part of the county (I've run around the reservoir many times) and has a well-established and committed team already in place. I have been with Northants Police now for 17 years and have lived in Northampton for most of my life. I have worked across numerous departments in the police over the years including CID (criminal investigation), custody, offender management, response and prisoner handling, and so bring a wealth of experience with me.

I am still very much getting my local knowledge up to speed. In my first week I have been to Kelmarsh Hall for early stage planning for next year's Shambala festival and a debrief on the most recent.

One of the key areas that I want to look at is how we meet with members of our local community. 'Have your say days' has been an

excellent way for members of the community to voice their concerns to local officers. I have put plans in place to put this to use in rural Daventry and hope to see this up and running in the coming months. Watch this space for further details.

For those keen on following us on social media, we now have a Daventry Rural Twitter account, @Norpol_DavRN

Locally we were fortunate that the remnants of hurricane Gonzalo, whilst bringing down a multitude of branches (and several trees) passed without serious incident.

Unfortunately, there have been some thefts of Harken Furlers from boats at the reservoir. We have also suffered some sporadic horse tack thefts across the district and have offered tack marking sessions at local stables. If you have such equipment that is not marked, please do get in touch by emailing SCTDaventryRural@northants.police.uk – *Matthew Moore*



Did you hear or see anything unusual?

Contact Northampton Police on 101 or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Your local officer is Jo Hillery, PCSO 7145. You can contact her on 101; mobile **(NEW NUMBER!)** 07557 778882 or jo.hillery@northants.police.uk

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

...and our Police and Crime Commissioner

I'm Adam Simmonds, your Police and Crime Commissioner. It is my role to work with the Chief Constable and Northamptonshire Police, to cut crime and make our communities safer.

A large part of my role is setting the strategic priorities of the Northamptonshire Police for which the Chief Constable has responsibility to ensure their successful implementation. To do this effectively, it is vital that local communities are involved wherever possible.

I want Northamptonshire to be the safest place in the country and I am confident that we can achieve this. When I was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire in November 2012, I set out the strategic priorities in my Police and Crime Plan. These included a 40% reduction in violent crime, making Northamptonshire's roads safer, addressing the complex issues of rural crime and a large expansion of the Force's Special Constabulary. My full plan can be viewed at www.northantspcc.org.uk.

Since November 2012, the Force has made great strides in achieving the ambitious targets that I set out in my Police and Crime Plan. However, to build on this success, it is important that communities such as Brixworth, Lamport, Hanging Houghton, Draughton and Cottesbrooke are involved and able to have their say and provide feedback to enable us to improve further and make progress.

I will continue to engage with communities across the county, updating you with information relevant to your area. I invite you to contact me with any concerns or share your feedback on the policing of Brixworth, Lamport, Hanging Houghton, Draughton and Cottesbrooke, or the wider county. Please contact me on commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk or write to me at Force Headquarters, Wootton Hall, NN4 0JQ. I look forward to hearing from you. We are also looking to recruit Special Constables in your area. If you are interested or know someone who is, contact me at the address above. To receive regular updates please sign up at www.northantspcc.org.uk/signup.aspx

X7 bus now every half hour

The timetable for the X7 bus service between Milton Keynes and Leicester has been revised and the bus now runs a half-hourly service.

The upgrade from the previous hourly interval is the result of subsidies paid by Barratt Homes as part of the first phase of the new Saxon Rise housing development. New bus timetables are available from the Information Point. – *Mike Nice*



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Setting the pace

Pacesetter Sports provides a diverse range of sport, fitness and wellbeing services in the area and in Lamport, by working with



primary schools and providing fitness facilities and the help of a personal trainer.

Managing Director Nick Bellamy, who set up Pacesetter in November 2010, says: "Our vision is to bring sport, fitness and wellbeing to a wide audience. We're pleased to say that this vision has stood the test of time and is flourishing."

Schools Coaching

Pacesetter Sports' main focus is its work in Primary Schools across

the county. This is most relevant locally and one of our schools is Brixworth CEVC Primary School. One of our experienced coaches goes in on a Wednesday to deliver a 'Change 4 life Club' during lunch time, followed by upskilling sessions for two year groups in the afternoon. Upskilling is where our coaches deliver a program of teaching the teachers to develop certain sports and activities within the PE curriculum. This provides benefits to both children and teachers and we are finding more and more schools have turned to upskilling as a way to demonstrate 'impact for OFSTED'. We then provide after school clubs as well, Dodgeball on a Wednesday afternoon followed by Multi Skills on a Friday.

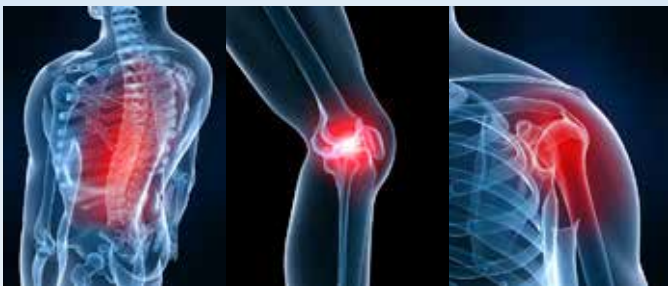


If you're a parent or guardian of a child at Brixworth CEVC Primary School and are interested in booking on for the remainder of this term please visit our new online booking system at www.pacesettersports.co.uk/bookings.

Fitness and Personal Training

Here at Pacesetter Sports we have a personal trainer on hand to attend to all clients' fitness needs. 'Studio One' is based in the beautiful countryside of Lamport Manor. It's a functional indoor training area specifically designed for individual and group training.

Together with the personal training we have group sessions including Zumba, circuit training and boot camp and we also have sports and relaxing massage options. – Nick Bellamy



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Bye-bye orange glow

In recent weeks, you may have noticed the odd sight of parallel columns of street lights in Brixworth, as the old street lights have been taken down and new ones installed.

They're just a few of over 40,000 new street lights being installed throughout Northamptonshire by contractors Balfour Beatty, who have won a 25-year PFI (Private Finance Initiative) deal for the work. In the first five years, most of the existing lighting infrastructure will be replaced. Balfour Beatty will also be responsible for maintaining and repairing the lights over the full contract period.

The new lights use 60% less energy than the old ones, and that is a significant saving for the Council. For the technically minded, this is achieved by using a dimmed Cosmo lamp with the Phillips Iridium family lantern at P6 lighting standard, coupled with solar powered bollards. A central management system allows lighting columns to be operated, controlled and monitored remotely by computer.

This does not only save energy, its white light is much more appealing and actually helps fight crime, because it is much easier to recognise faces in white light. That is true for humans and machines alike: CCTV works better in white light than in orange light, too. The result, it is hoped, will be better-quality witness information for crime investigations (not that there will be much need for that in Brixworth, we hope).

Work to replace the lights in Brixworth began in mid-August. It has taken longer than expected because Western Power Distribution, the electricity grid operator, and its contractors, have been laying a mains cable. This has also disrupted lighting for some residents. In particular, Balfour Beatty has received a number of calls about the

Brampton Way cul-de-sac which suffered complete darkness for around two weeks.

Balfour Beatty have asked us to pass on their sincere apologies for this.

At the same time, there has been some disruption caused by the temporary traffic lights set up in Northampton Road by WPD's contractors.

Some lighting work is currently on hold for safety reasons; it has emerged that the exact location of some underground gas supply pipes is not known. Deregulating the business of transporting gas means it's not always clear who owns what, underground. Until Balfour Beatty has spoken with all the independent gas companies, clarified who owns the pipes and obtained reliable maps, they are unable to dig in those areas.

Balfour Beatty Living Places Contract Director, Pat Walsh, said: "We do our very best to avoid disruption and inconvenience for residents and road users. But members of the public will appreciate that our number one priority is – and will always remain – their safety, and that of our own workers too. Please let us know if you think we could be doing anything differently or better to make our works easier for you to live with."

If you would like to provide feedback to Balfour Beatty about their work, you can call their customer care team on 0800 0850257. More information about the lighting upgrade



Old meets new: an old, orange street light on the right, with its replacement on the left

can also be found on the website <http://www.lightingnorthamptonshire.com>

Do you like the new street lights? Have they made a difference in your area? The Bulletin would be interested to hear what you think. – Jennifer Fitzgerald

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Wanted: your unloved winter woolies

This year, Daventry District Council (DDC) and partners have teamed up with the Hope Centre, a Northampton-based charity, and launched the Christmas campaign 'Clothes for Christmas' to support people and families of all ages facing real hardship and uncertainty this winter.

We are asking people to donate their clean unwanted and unloved winter woollies, including coats, jackets, jumpers, sweaters, scarves, hats, gloves and socks.

The Hope Centre provides a lifeline for people and families from all over the county, including Daventry district. It supports and encourages everyone to rebuild their lives, find work and regain their independence.

If you have any unwanted winter woollies, please drop them off at the Information Point at Brixworth Community Centre by Tuesday 16 December. The Information Point is open 10am - 3pm Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10-12 noon on Saturdays. – *Emma Parry*



Community Calendar now on sale

The 2015 Community Calendar is now on sale, price £4. Featuring a look at Brixworth's village organisations, it is available from K. Troop, Blason's Garage, Brixworth Library and the Community Centre. All proceeds to the Brixworth Centre Pre-School playgroup.

The Calendar is generously supported by Brixworth Parish Council. – *Ian Topham*

Photographic Society's portrait sessions

Brixworth Photographic Society will be holding their Annual Christmas Portrait Evening on Saturday 6th December, in the Community Centre from 5pm, with all proceeds going to a local charity.

Please come along and get your photos taken, they make lovely presents.

All prints will be delivered in time for Christmas. – *Ian Topham*

Draughton News

Draughton has had an extraordinarily busy autumn, squeezing a veritable quart into a pint pot.

Most of the village Autumnal activities have involved raising money for St Catherine's Church, including the usual culprits of the Harvest Supper and the auction of produce at the Harvest Festival, with the addition this year of a Produce and Flower Show. It was great fun and hugely successful and certainly something that hasn't been seen in the village for many a year – but we think this is such a welcome addition to the village canon of events that it is definitely here to stay.

We added a wide array of jellies, bottles, cakes and breads to marrows, beetroot, onions, eggs, leeks and more – and then the artistic types produced photographs, plate gardens and even insects made of loom bands (not something seen in the earlier produce shows to be sure!)

Pop in to the pop up

Alongside all of this we have enjoyed the other new attraction that is the Pop Up Pub, where our little Clubroom warms to chatter and the merry consumption of wine, ales and pork scratchings! The third weekend Pop Up Pub will be on the last weekend of November. We would love it if those from other villages were to pop in to prop up the pop up. There's a warm welcome for all.

Christmas produce is restricted this year to wreaths being made to order. So, if you haven't got your wreath when the Bulletin drops through your door, please contact Alison Vickers on 686949 and order yours: 12" or 14" – all totally natural and a snip at £18 + £24 respectively. – *Kate Calnan*

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Ready for superfast broadband?

One of the *Brixworth Bulletin* team recently signed up for fibre-optic broadband access. Their experience prompted us to investigate the roll-out of fibre optics in the Brixworth area. While access to fibre optic is made available to other internet service providers too, the fibre optics infrastructure is installed and maintained by Openreach, the infrastructure division of BT. We asked BT to explain the what, why and how.

How far has fibre optics been rolled out in our area so far?

Many parts of Northamptonshire are getting access to fibre broadband as part of Broadband Delivery UK, a government initiative to improve broadband in rural areas.

This is being delivered locally by the Superfast Northamptonshire project. The first stage of this project is a partnership between BT and Northamptonshire County Council that aims to make fibre broadband available to more than 56,000 premises by the end of 2015.

The project has already provided 28,000 homes and businesses with access to high-speed fibre broadband. In addition, more than 175,000 premises have been covered by BT's commercial rollout across Northamptonshire.

Seven fibre optic cabinets have gone live in the Brixworth exchange area, covering 1800 premises. Brixworth is also covered by BT's existing work to upgrade the broadband network across Northamptonshire.

What is the schedule for rolling it out to the whole community?

Residents can find out further information at postcode level on Northamptonshire's interactive "When and Where" map at www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net. The site also provides all of the latest broadband news and updates from the project.

Who can access the fibre optics that have already been installed?

Residents can find out which cabinet they are connected to via the BT ADSL Checker www.dslchecker.bt.com. They can also find out if they can receive fibre broadband by entering their address details on most broadband comparison sites. They may also notice 'fibre broadband is here' stickers on their nearest green roadside fibre broadband cabinet.

What does the roll-out involve?

A great deal of work is needed to connect a particular area to the fibre broadband network.



In the very early stages, survey work has to take place. This provides information about the local infrastructure. Once the survey work is complete, planners schedule the work that needs to be done. A new green fibre broadband roadside cabinet is installed and when this goes 'live' customers can start placing orders.

Which suppliers are responsible for which parts of the process?

Openreach is responsible for the last mile of the UK access network – the copper wires and fibre connecting homes and businesses to their local telephone exchanges.

The Openreach network is 'open' meaning homes and businesses benefit from a choice of communications providers operating in a highly competitive market.

What are the advantages?

Speed is the main benefit when upgrading to a fibre broadband product. This brings faster download and upload speeds; the ability to access the internet via multiple devices without experiencing a slow connection; faster downloads of films and music; a better online gaming experience; improved file sharing for businesses, solutions based on Cloud computing and being able to work more flexibly as a result.

Why are some customers complaining that they cannot access the full speed promised?

There are many factors that impact on broadband speed including how a home network is set up and what equipment is being used. If anyone feels they are getting speeds well below those advertised by their internet service provider, they should contact them directly to make them aware of any issues. – *Jennifer Fitzgerald*



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Country Eye

Fungal mycelia and all that

Homo sapiens, wise man, the human being, the peak of evolution, the dominant species, whichever way you cut it, be in no doubt, we are the king pins. We decide the future, the way things will be. It's just the way it is, and ever will be. I am glad that's settled.

Or is that really part of the rabid mantra we have bamboozled ourselves into believing? Out there in the real world that we trample beneath our feet without a second's thought, there are other, unseen but infinitely more powerful, forces at work. The most important of them, arguably, are those we have not even deigned to give a name that is recognisably English. There are a great many of them, but lets just for now consider the mycelium. What's a mycelium I hear you ask? Just turn over a rotting log, a pile of leaves gently mouldering away, a fragment of bark that has come adrift from that long-dead tree trunk,



A fungus found at Pitsford Water

and you will almost certainly see what looks like a network of white threads, like tufts of cotton wool that have been teased apart. That's your average mycelium.

We need to back-pedal a bit here. Everyone knows what a mushroom is, and a toadstool, and the difference between them. Except that in nature there is no difference. A mushroom is a toadstool is a mushroom. In other words the difference is the way we humans see them. Biologically they are both fungi. So far so good, except that not even the experts can agree what a fungus is. For a long time fungi (incidentally I say fun guy, others call them funge-i) were lumped together along with plants. But modern thinking says they are so different they deserve to be in a kingdom all of their own. So for our purposes we have the kingdoms of animals, plants, and fungi.

The toadstool or mushroom is merely a fruiting body, a means of reproduction. It may be scientifically inaccurate but who cares? Roughly we can compare a single toadstool with, say, a rose in your garden. The bush is what you see all of the time. The rose is what, when pollinated, will give rise to the fruit, which holds the all-important seeds. So the toadstool is the fungal product of the mycelium, by which it reproduces itself. Meanwhile the mycelium works away, out

of sight, for the remainder of the time. But there is more, much more than that. Fungi are some of the main agents of what we think of as decay. Their daily bread is dead plant and animal matter. This they pass through their systems, joining an uncountable army of others in recycling what are from our point of view, redundant nutrients, and making them available once more. Part of that great unending system without which we could not survive.

If this were not enough, it has long been known that many plants, and especially trees, will only thrive in partnership with underground mycelia. So there is as much going on underground as there is above in ancient woodland, indeed beneath all undisturbed land. Fungal mycelia are also amongst the largest and longest-lived of all living things. Astonishingly, there is ongoing research that is even indicating that trees may relay information to each other, not only through their own extensive root systems, but also via this incredible invisible network.



White mycelium on dead tree bark

They may look fragile and delicate; indeed many of them will crumple and collapse at the merest touch. But they are capable of incredible feats of strength. Take the inkcap or lawyers wig fungus for example. This is the toadstool on which fairies and suchlike are alleged to sit. Narrow, cylindrical, with a shaggy surface, and a rounded top, I have seen recently laid paving slabs lifted by them. They smash their way through a pile of solid tarmac abandoned at the roadside. This apparently impossible feat is accomplished by harnessing the power of water, through hydraulic pressure. Using this same pressure trees as tall as the 300ft high giant redwoods of California are able to transport water from their roots to their topmost twig.

– Brian Webster

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Equestrian royalty in our back yard

Any walker in the area around Maidwell or Hanging Houghton can't have failed to notice a huge upgrade in the quality of horses out and about on exercise – and for that we look to the remarkable event rider Piggy French (real name Georgina – her sister called her "Piggy" when she first saw her and it stuck!). Piggy is just celebrating her first year as a 'local', having moved to a superb new yard in Maidwell in 2013.

Piggy is one of the country's leading riders and a member of the UK's World Class Squad. She has been riding for what feels like forever. Her first big win came in 1996 with her Junior horse, Lloyds Gamble, but it was Rebecca Finch's Flintlock II who was her real breakthrough horse and who took Piggy to her first Badminton in 2003. He was also her team gold medal winning horse at the Young Rider European Championships in 2001 where they finished 4th individually. Piggy went on to become European Silver Medal Winner, Under 25 Champion and a member of the British World Equestrian Games Squad in 2011, to cite but a few accolades.

When we met Piggy, she had just finished another packed eventing season and was at the start of what is euphemistically called a 'quiet time'. That simply means that she is not required to leave the yard at 3am every weekend for some far-flung corner of Britain or Europe to compete her talented horses. Instead she spent her first 'free' weekend dashing over to Ireland to look for some new equine talent to fill her yard! This will be repeated several times in the hope of finding 'the one'.

The new yard is stunning: exquisite, airy stables; washrooms and heat lamp spas (for horses); an arena with surely one of the best views in the county; the tidiest tack room and rug store you will ever see, and some very, very happy horses. Some are still being kept ticking over into the winter, whilst the main campaigners have their downtime for four to six weeks, being mostly turned out and left to 'be horses' with quiet time and no demands made upon them. They come back into training in December to get ready for the first events of the new season in the early spring. Piggy doesn't hunt a lot over the winter but might go out occasionally to 'educate' younger horses.

The move to the yard followed what had been a very difficult time for Piggy, after the two horses she had had in line for the London Olympics both sustained injuries, leaving her absolutely devastated. It's clear that pain is still there, but as a true sportswoman she dusted herself down and got back in the saddle. She credits her beautiful yard with helping to lift the gloom. Above all she gets up in the morning for the 'fab' horses, their 'lovely' owners and the 'good people' who have supported her and helped to re-light the passion.

One extra bit of stardust has been sprinkled by the comedienne Jennifer Saunders, who



Piggy French riding Westwood Mariner at Burghley 2014.

Photo copyright Trevor Holt

has placed her four year old eventer with Piggy. A lovely roan horse, he has grown from a 16.1 to something over 17 hands, so he's preparing to make quite an entrance!

There was more local interest at this year's Burghley three-day event with Piggy and Westwood Mariner (owned by a local syndicate including Lampport's Sue Wood, and known as 'Rooney' in the yard as he's 'super talented but a bit 'wild''). Westwood Mariner finished 14th, and would possibly have been higher had not the big brass band blown their stuff in the arena and exited by the collecting ring just before he went in!

In her last event of this season, Piggy travelled to France for Le Lion D'Angers World Young Horse Championships. She finished in 3rd place on Cooley Dream Extreme in the six-year-old class and 5th in the seven-year-olds class on Carpe Diem IV – both super prospects for the future.

As she reflects on 2014, Piggy is thrilled at the way her team of up-and-coming horses, together with the team of people who work with her to produce and care for these charges, have become truly established. Part of the business of such a yard is to find, bring on and sell young horses – something she finds hugely rewarding when giving these lovely creatures the best possible start to put them in good stead for their future work. Parting with a talented youngster is tough, as Piggy can get very attached to her charges, but it's a business and she still gets huge pleasure from seeing them go on to fulfil their potential.

Piggy also trains rising human stars, with working pupils who come to learn alongside her.

Looking ahead to 2015, Piggy is particularly excited by one horse - Tinka's Time. He's had a lot of time out with an injury but is coming

back slowly and she hopes to get him back on song as she considers him to be one of the best.

So, if you see a particularly beautiful horse wandering down the lanes toward you in the area, take the time to stand and admire – you could be looking at equestrian royalty.

– Kate Calnan

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Brixworth Music Festival

17th - 21st September 2014

The first Brixworth Music Festival was a resounding success, attracting well over 500 visitors – an achievement which can make the organisers, sponsors and members of the wider Northamptonshire area very proud indeed.

Thanks to an army of volunteers and musicians, both amateur and professional, this unique event could be kick-started into existence, drawing attention not only to the immense amount of musical talent that exists in Northamptonshire but also to a need to at last incorporate the Church of All Saints, our long neglected village landmark, into a festival that could celebrate music, friendship, working together – and also a sense of pride.

After an initial welcome by the bell-ringers of All Saints' Church the Festival got underway with a concert that set the tone and high expectations for the following days. This was an exciting evening with the Northamptonshire Youth Choir, a prizewinning choir of great repute in both the United Kingdom and Europe. Conductor Graham Tear brought the concert to life with his informative introductions to each work, and marimba-player Jemma Sharp made a very special contribution as soloist in Bob Chilcott's work, *The Making of the Drum*. The organist, Stephen Moore (St. Matthew's Church, Northampton), completed the programme with works by Mendelssohn and Stanford

The following "Evening of Poetry and Song" was a treat for all who love the solo voice, whether in speech or song. Kay Soteriou moved the audience with her reflective renderings of poetry and solo song, while Rev. Chloe Willson-Thomas and her husband, Gwion Thomas, completed the programme with their interpretations of works ranging from the Classical period to the present day. Simon Smith was the brilliant accompanist who supported the whole evening.

On the Friday evening the prize-winning brass band, Youth Brass 2000, let the church rock. What a fantastic evening! Conductor, Cathy Fountain, was the most unassuming of conductors, giving us wry, humorous introductions to each of the works that were played. But when the whole ensemble got going it was obvious that both Cathy and the Band were absolutely first rate. What a privilege it was to have this ensemble take part in our Festival.

The weekend brought with it the most intensive part of the Festival – which had the volunteers from the village working practically non-stop. In addition to the concerts going on all day there was also an Arts and Crafts Exhibition in the Brixworth Centre.

On the Saturday morning the Nene Consort gave us a very special and unusual concert of music ranging from the early 16th century to the present day. The audience were fascinated by the various sizes of recorder being played. And we were all delighted to welcome a special guest on the viola da gamba, Sarah Small, a resident of Brixworth who is now studying in London.

On the Saturday afternoon the well-known and established Northampton Musical Theatre Company entertained us all to a concert of music from various musical shows. This ensemble has been going since 1898 and we all enjoyed a concert of light music in the Brixworth Village Hall, which our redoubtable team of caterers turned into a small cafe for the event.

Saturday evening gave us all the highlight of the Festival: Graham

Is it Rumpelstiltskin? Oh no, it's not...

This January, Rumpelstiltskin will perform an amazing feat of magic and turn straw into gold; but it comes at a high price....

Join Prince Opal, Ruby and the people of Strawville as they try to stop the evil goblin from taking the young Prince Diamond away.

Come along to Brixworth Village Hall as Brixworth Drama Group present this fun-filled family adventure through panto land. Tickets are available from Lovells Hardware store or from Libby on 07445 641 817.

Shows on Saturday 24th January at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Friday 30th January at 7.30pm and Saturday 31st at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Will Dame Knick Knack ever get her hands on old Carbuncle? Will King Jade ever have a wish come true? And will Milkshake the cow ever stop being a nuisance?

Book now and join the adventure. – Sue l'Anson

Tear conducted the Northampton Chamber Orchestra in an unforgettable concert of works ranging from Beethoven to the 20th century. Chloe Willson-Thomas could at last demonstrate her abilities as a coloratura soprano in a performance of Mozart's *Alleluia* from his *Exultate, jubilate*. Most moving was the performance of Vaughan Williams' "The Lark Ascending", which was written in 1914. Violinist, Stephen Hague, had the audience spellbound in a work that celebrates nature and our precious English countryside.

For those who had been working hard during the Festival, the Sunday morning provided us with a very thoughtful and welcome Morning Eucharist at All Saints' Church where we could hear the Brixworth All Saints' Church Choir, conducted by Robert Wakefield. This was followed by a delightful concert given by the Brixworth U3A Songsters, which included solos by harpist, Maggie Wall, and soprano, Judith Gammage. We were treated to a variety of choral music, backed up by their musical director and pianist, Helen Thorman.

The Sunday afternoon concert was something totally unexpected. The John Clare Wind Quintet gave a concert that appealed to all ages, with professional instrumentalists of the highest order. Once more, Graham Tear led us through a concert that both informed and entertained. It was one of those small, but very special highlights of the Festival.

Sunday evening saw the peaceful close of the Festival.

At Evensong, David Saint gave a very thoughtful sermon on the poet, John Clare – our very own Northamptonshire poet. Not many attended this Evensong – but, in a way, it was a lovely, quiet meditation on the turbulent days that had gone before. This service was followed by a moving concert of sacred choral music given by the Swarbrick Singers, conducted by Ian Clarke. Chloe Willson-Thomas sang in the first performance of Vivienne Olive's "Brixworth Bell Prayer" which was especially written for the Church of All Saints – the centre of this wonderful festival of music.

After the final concert, the bell ringers of All Saints' could be heard once more, bringing the Brixworth Music Festival to a close.

Thanks go to all volunteers and sponsors, to the Committee of the Brixworth Music Festival and to our Patron, Peter Dunkley. And very special thanks to all the musicians who made this festival possible.

Due to the success of this year's event, the Brixworth Music Festival will return in 2015. Check www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk for updates.
– Vivienne Olive, artistic director

Brixworth & District U3A



Members of the U3A enjoying a trip on the Thames

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 U3A Songsters performed in Brixworth church on 21st September, after the morning service, as part of the Brixworth Music Festival.

Several members of the U3A also volunteered their help with refreshments during the five days of events.

The Theatre Group went to the Royal & Derngate to see 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' in October. They also had an enjoyable afternoon watching The Stamford Shakespeare Company performing 'The Taming of the Shrew' on August 9th at Rutland Open Air Theatre, Tolethorpe Hall. It was ideal weather for a picnic in the lovely grounds before the performance.

A coachload of members went for a day out on 5th September to Windsor where some saw the colourful spectacle of the Changing of the Guard before being well looked after on an Edwardian-themed trip on the River Thames to just outside Bray where they were treated to a lovely afternoon tea in a decked-out marquee. The weather was glorious, so after tea they played croquet, boules and other games on the lawn.

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

Lampport & Hanging Houghton news

A lot of new residents have moved into the village this quarter.

Mother and daughter Kerry and Sarah Massey are in 8 The Croft. They have moved from Notting Hill, London with their four dogs. Further along in 3 The Croft are Tony and Alison Wasikowski, who moved from Loddington.

In 19 Manor Road are Michael and Stephanie Woods and young daughter Ava, who moved from Mawsley.

And finally at Nuriz in Manor Road are Bethany Jones and Antony Roche and their children, three-year-old Jack and seven-month old Freddie, who moved here from Spratton.

I wish them all a warm welcome to Hanging Houghton.

I am sad to have to report the death of Paul Chamberlain in September. The memorial service was held in the church at Lampport on the 29th September. There was standing room only, as the family, friends and colleagues paid their respects, a fitting tribute to a gentle giant of a man. I am sure that we all offer our condolences to his wife Sue and family.

I hear that there are moves afoot to repeat the carol singing event on the village green at Hanging Houghton on Christmas Eve – keep an eye on the village notice board. – *Mike Philpott*

Would you like to join our community choir?

Mawsley Community Choir has been going for nearly two years, and in that time we have competed in a few local music festivals and competitions and achieved a 1st and 3rd. We're a friendly bunch of people from all walks of life from age 15



to 71 and just enjoy singing together. Our choir is open to all areas, members travel far and wide every Thursday evening for rehearsals.

We are always very keen to recruit new members into the choir – we are particularly in need of men for our tenor and bass sections. We meet at The Centre in Mawsley from 7.30pm for two hours during term time (from 7pm on the last Thursday of the month). You really don't need any previous experience, there are no auditions and you don't need to be able to read music. You can come along to your first rehearsal for free and see what you think. If you decide to join (and we really hope you do!) then subscriptions are £2 per week, payable termly, which is between £24 and £30 per term. If you would like more information, please contact our secretary, Sue Butterworth, on 07793 386232 – *Sue Butterworth*



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Brixworth Village Organisations

Winter 2014

Type	Name	Contact	Telephone	E mail/ Website	Venue
Youth	Beavers	Kim Phillips		brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com	Brixworth Centre
Youth	Cubs	Bob Pickles		brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com	Brixworth Centre
Youth	Scouts	Jez Leeke		brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com	Brixworth Centre
Youth	Explorers	Doug Leach		brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com	Brixworth Centre
Youth	Rainbows	Elaine Coe	881978	www.girlguiding.org.uk	Community Centre
Youth	Brownies	Michelle Coles	880024	www.girlguiding.org.uk	Brixworth Centre
Youth	Guides	Jill Gunnett	880929	www.girlguiding.org.uk	Brixworth Centre
Youth	Little Acorns Pre-School	Supervisor	07534 426594	www.littleacornsbrxworth.co.uk	Village Hall
Youth	Olive Shoots (Mums & Tots)	Becky Reid	882327		Community Centre
Youth	Surestart	Janice Layton	880246		Children's Centre
Youth	Rhymetime (under 5s)	Jill Barber	0300 126 1000	jbarber@northamptonshire.gov.uk	Library
Youth	Dynamites	Rev. Phil Walter	882040	philwalter@btinternet.com	Community Centre
Youth	Brixworth Primary School	David Boucher	883900	head@brixworth.northants-ecl.gov.uk	School
Youth	Brixworth Centre Pre-School	Emma Hinde	07791 906305	brixworthcentrepreschool@yahoo	Brixworth Centre
Youth	Mighty Oaks (After School)	Jo Bailey	07508 659017	mightyoaksbrixworth@aol.co.uk	School
Youth	Brixworth Juniors Cricket	Mandy Batchelor	07966 045231	apbatch1@btinternet.com	Cricket Ground
Youth	Krystle's Dance Academy	Krystle Gerrad	07791 852891	krystalgerrad@btinternet.com	Community Centre
Youth	Sunny Socks Nursery	Lesley Eaton	882155	www.sunnysocks.co.uk	Park Farm
Youth	Brixworth Juniors Football	Rob Kelly	7531004415	www.brixworthjuniors.co.uk	St. Davids/Ashway
Sport	Brixworth All Saints Football	Ian Bandey	07812 609095		St. Davids Field
Sport	Brixworth Cricket Club	Chris Timm	07718 628895	brixworth.play-cricket.com	Cricket Ground
Sport	Angling Club	Adrian Rose	881873		
Sport	Badminton Club	Trevor	843064	Trevitox@hotmail.com	Guilsborough Sch.
Sport	Golf Society	John Wilson	880490		
Sport	Indoor Short Mat Bowls	Janet Hickman	880317		Brixworth Centre
Sport	Circuit Training	Alison Cooper	077321 65546	info@act-ive.com	Village Hall
Sport	Tai Chi	Cuong Sam	7958039715		Village Hall
Sport	Pilates	Louise Grumi	07766 807184	pilateswithlouise@gmail.com	Community Centre
Sport	Tennis Club	Will Haxby	880715	brixworthtennisclub.org.uk	Cricket Ground
Sport	Yoga	Anne Widdup	07729 099206	change4good@annewiddup.com	Community Centre

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Brixworth Village Organisations

Winter 2014

Type	Name	Contact	Telephone	E mail/ Website	Venue
Adult	All Saints Bellringers	David Hamson	881089		Church
Adult	Friends of All Saints' Church	Caroline Monk	882982	brixworthfriends1@btinternet.com	Church
Adult	All Saints' Flower Guild	Margaret Oliver	881012		Church
Adult	Brixworth Drama Club	Sue l'Anson	07990 624713	sueianson89@googlemail.com	Village Hall
Adult	First Responders (Non-Emergencies)	Phil	07989 267071	www.emas.nhs.uk/cfr	
Adult	Art Class for Beginners	Ray Coles	494160		Community Centre
Adult	Bridge Club	Andy Heaver	880721		Heritage Centre
Adult	Gardening Club	Judy Smith	881186		Community Centre
Adult	University of the 3rd Age	Peter Davies	880401	peter.davies@waitrose.com	Village Hall
Adult	Women's Institute	Linda Murray		lindamurray48@hotmail.com	Village Hall
Adult	Photographic Society	Ian Topham	880780	ian@tophams.net	Community Centre
Adult	BRANE	Bob Chattaway	881281	brane@talktalk.net	Community Centre
Adult	Brixworth History Society	Heather Parr	07817 006364	hlparr@aol.com	Village Hall
Community	Brixworth Information Point	Mike Nice	882622	brixworthinformationpoint@btconnect.com	Community Centre
Community	Community Centre	Mike Nice	880086	mike.nice100@googlemail.com	Community Centre
Community	Village Hall	Hayley Wincott	880654	administrator@brixworthvillagehall.co.uk	Village Hall
Community	Brixworth Centre	Julie Tear	882818	julie@brixsecure.co.uk	
Community	Heritage Centre	Tony Brunton	880941		Heritage Centre
Community	Central Sports Pavilion	John Noble	7789515346		St. David's Field
Community	Brixworth Bulletin	Claudia Flavell-White	882567	editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk	
Community	Parish Nurses	Elaine Gregory	07812 507875		Community Centre
Community	Brixworth Christian Fellowship	Rev. Phil Walter	882040	philwalter@btinternet.com	School/Com. Centre
Community	All Saints' Church	Rev. Chloe Wilson-Thomas	882014	chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com	Church
Community	Brixworth Parish Council	Emma Baker	881243	clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk	Community Centre
Community	Olive Branch Coffee Shop	Mike Nice	889030	mike.nice100@googlemail.com	Community Centre
Community	Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group	Barbara Hogg	880552	barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk	
Community	Brixworth Library	Jill Barber	0300 126 1000	jbarber@northamptonshire.gov.uk	Library
Community	Foundation of Thomas Roe	Ursula Morris	505554	ursula@ursalamorris.co.uk	
Community	Brixworth Fire Station	Tony Reid	07779 064872	treid@northantsfire.org.uk	Fire Station
Community	Police	Jo Hillery	101	Jo.Hillery@northants.police.uk	Catherine House
Community	Neighbourhood Watch	Sandra Cottrell	07970 268288	Sandra.Cotterell@care4free.net	Community Centre

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Scaldwell Guides

The autumn term for the Scaldwell Guides, Brixworth Brownies and Moulton Guides started with a trip to London Zoo. Particular favourites included the giraffes, monkeys and tigers. We have completed the Chocolate Go For It with activities including chocolate tasting and designing new chocolate bars. In preparation for our monster mash weekend away during half term we made several spooky treats. Well done to those who joined the villagers for the annual village bulb planting.

– Vicki Howlett & Jill Gunnett,
1st Scaldwell Guides



Primary School racks up successes

Brixworth Primary School PTA

Brixworth Primary School PTA is run by a small group of hard working Parents and Teachers to help raise funds for our local school.

We run various popular fundraising events each year such as school discos, summer fair, Christmas bazaar, quiz night and Easter bingo however we always welcome any other suggestions and would be delighted to hear from anybody who could spare their time to assist.

Please visit and remember to like our Facebook page to keep updated on future events (Brixworth Primary School PTA).

Our work is greatly supported by local businesses. The PTA (and of course the school's pupils) are extremely grateful to these businesses that sponsor our events with gifts and financial donations.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued and ongoing support.

Julie Macdonnell & Heather Gardener, joint chair

brixworthprimarypta@gmail.com

Brixworth School PTA,
Brixworth CEVC Primary
School, Froxhill Crescent,
Brixworth, Northants, NN6
9BG

Telephone: 883900 (please
ask for Linda, the School
Secretary) – Julie Macdonnell



It is a real joy to be able to report on progress made in the school, where 460 pupils are well taught by dedicated staff who ensure every child is prepared for life. The school's statutory (SATs) results for our Key Stage 2 pupils places us in a very good position. To make some comparisons the 2014 outcomes are as follows:

Reading	Level 4+ 93% (national 89%)	L5+ 69% (national 50%)
Maths	L4+ 95% (86%)	L5+ 64% (42%)
Spelling and Grammar	L4+ 95% (76%)	L5+ 64% (52%)

The school is also succeeding in the arts and sports. Over 150 pupils took part in the Northampton Drama and Music Festival. A string of successes led to the school being named Daventry District Primary Sports School of 2014. Its indoor athletics team won the Daventry District completion and then went on to represent South Northants and Daventry at the Winter School games. In football, both the boys' and the girls' team achieved second place in the county. Both the netball and boys cricket teams were placed in the district competitions. The girls cricket team qualified in second place from the district and came third in the county competition. Finally, the school's Key Stage 1 multi-skills team qualified in first place in the district competition and secured second place in the county finals.

The school community looks forward with optimism in the future and on this note, there is a vacancy on the board of governors. The board's role is to help set the strategic direction of the school. Governors have to attend at least six full governing body meetings and a number of committee meetings in the academic year. In addition, governors are expected to be fully engaged with the school for example, through visits. The governors are looking to invite a member of the local community who can bring key expertise and skills to the school. If you are interested in school governance or would like to know more about the role then please contact me through the school office. – Rev. Phil Walter, Chair of Governors

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Here is the latest instalment of fun and games from the Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout group. Each section has been taking advantage of the lovely weather and light nights while they lasted and the young people have been getting up to all sorts.

All the **Beavers** have been out and about the first half of this term. There was an exciting scavenger hunt around the Pitsford side of the reservoir and a Bat Walk in Scaldwell (the bats didn't come out for the Beavers, but the Beaver Leader saw them when the Beavers had all gone home and it was quiet!). The Beavers have also considered a Code of Conduct, looked at different aspects of keeping safe while out and about near water and at home, collected conkers and visited the church. They also made candles for Diwali and had a great Halloween party. (pictured, right).

Meanwhile the **Cubs** visited Holdenby House for an exhilarating Falconry experience, where they got to see lots of different raptors and learn all about them. They also visited the cinema and learnt how to look after their cycles with the help of Halfords. They have been working on their Emergency Aid badge, learning the best things to do in different crisis situations and had a great visit from the Police Dog. And of course they also had a great Halloween party.

On Wednesdays the **Scouts** went on a local hike using all the navigation skills they had been learning. They had fun with food and practised their circus skills – juggling, tightrope walking and clowning about! Some of the Scouts made up a team and took part in the District Star Trek – where they had to follow a map to different stations, undertake challenges at each station and find their way home some time in the early hours of the morning – hence the name Star Trek! Last but not least they have been building overseas relations with a scout group in Spain.

Our intrepid **Explorers** have also been up to lots. They started with a BBQ in the Country Park, went shooting one evening, cooked eggs in spuds and cakes in oranges and went on a night walk. They had a tour of the Gallone's Ice Cream Factory and of course an ice cream afterwards! They played skittles another evening and finished the term with a scary film for Halloween – I am not sure many of them slept properly afterwards!



Section Meeting Times

Beavers Thursday 6pm to 7.10pm (new finish time)

Cubs Thursday 7.20pm to 8.35pm (new start time)

Scouts Monday 7.30pm-9.00pm

Explorers either Monday or Wednesday 7.30pm to 9.00pm or as advised.

Work on the website is ongoing, so please check it out periodically at <http://brixworth.daventryscouts.co.uk>.

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

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit <http://scouts.org.uk>. To find out more about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group contact Pete Lennon, Group Scout Leader brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com. To put your young boy or girl on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please email their name, date of birth, your name, address and telephone numbers to brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk

– Kim Phillips



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It's blooming Brixworth

At least, it was in two parts of the village, thanks to Brixworth Centre Pre-School and Brixworth and Scaldwell Scouts.

Early this year, Daventry District Council offered a supply of flower seeds free, but you had to put in a bid for them explaining how the plants would enhance the village and how they would be looked after. To our delight, both my bids succeeded and first off were the pre-school who busily planted their seeds near their centre. Beetles, slugs, snails and millipedes were all discovered with much delight and the difference between dead nettles and stinging nettles quickly learned and that's before we even got started!

The children dug and weeded the area and raked in the seeds – not bad going when you've not even started school! Despite the rain, they worked magnificently under the watchful eye of their helpers and they could hardly believe their eyes when the plants eventually burst into bloom. To think it all came from a little seed! The children's interest and curiosity are a real credit to their pre-school.

The Scouts, aided by some Parish and District Councillors dug a new border by the War Memorial in the churchyard. And was that soil hard! But the young people (and us oldies) persevered and even though flowering was delayed by the dry weather they eventually made a colourful backdrop. And the seeds will be collected to start it all over again next year.

It was a pleasure for me to organise this project and my thanks are due to all who took part and the leaders and helpers of both organisations for being so community minded. That's especially Laura from the pre-school and Jez from the Scouts for letting their young people have this opportunity to learn about and respect the environment and for providing a colourful display for villagers and visitors to enjoy and Rev. Chloe for her interest and support.

And next year? We have won another bid for something slightly different, so, as they say, watch this space!

Ian Barratt, Brixworth District Councillor and Brixworth Parish Councillor

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Annual Bulb Planting

Some 20 people, including family groups, three Parish Councillors and a welcome contingent from the Guides, turned out to this year's annual bulb planting around Brixworth in October. The Parish Council pays for the bulbs, but volunteers have to do the hard part.

One challenge this autumn was to counter the damage the bulbs in some grass verges have suffered as a result of the ongoing works to install the new street lighting and move electrical cable underground.

Each year we plan to increase the areas of planting around Brixworth to give a more cheerful spring season. If you would like to see daffodils in your local green space – then join us in our efforts in 2015! – Mike Nice

Brix & Mortar

1000 years of house building

With the latest modern housing development on the south of our village well underway, I thought it would be interesting to compare modern building techniques with those used by the builders of our oldest building, the Saxon church.

It used to be assumed that the only buildings the Anglo-Saxons made of stone were churches. Recent archaeological finds have shown that some noblemen's halls were also being built of stone in the late Anglo-Saxon period.

construction

The walls were made in many different ways, some were made from wattle and daub, others were planked in one of many ways, some were even 'cavity walls' with moss or grass infill. Although there is no archaeological evidence for it, literature suggests that some of these wooden walled buildings may have been further strengthened by iron reinforcing bands.

In areas where wood was scarce, e.g. many of the Northern Isles, some buildings had stone or turf walls. In Iceland it is known that entire buildings, including the roof, were made of turf. Some of the later Saxon Royal Manors may have been stone built, perhaps even with glass windows, probably influenced by continental stone palaces. Roofs were generally thatched although turf and wooden shingles may also have been used.

Large halls and manors may well have been surrounded by rampart walls and ditches so they became a fortified residence, such as the hall at Cheddar, or the late Saxon manor at Goltho, said by some to be England's first castle! Also within the walls would have been

a well, latrines, a chapel, workshops, barns, pens for livestock, hen houses and perhaps other outbuildings. A smithy was often just outside the wall because of the fire risk a forge represented.

Many houses would have been decorated with carvings. These carvings may well have been painted. Gold may also have been used to decorate some of the great halls.

Most houses had only one floor and often only one room. Some of the larger buildings had more than a single room, although not generally more than three. Some of these larger buildings may have had one end used as an animal shed in the Scandinavian style.

heating and lighting

Windows were very rare and light would generally come from candles or lamps which burnt animal fat and a central fire built on a raised clay hearth. Hearths were generally oblong or rectangular and often had a frame of wood or stone. The windows may have had

vellum stretched over them, as this allows light in but keep draughts out or, rarely, may have been glazed. Windows may also have been shuttered. The fire was the 'central heating' and 'cooker', although a few houses may also have had a clay bread oven.

doors and floors

Doors had iron or wood hinges and were closed with a latch. Some doors would also have a lock. The floors would have been of packed earth or wood. The wooden floors may have been just simple floorboards or may have been made of tessellated wooden tiles. There is also some evidence that halls may have had raised wooden floors, with steps leading up to the entrance.

There are a few Anglo-Saxon clay floor tiles known from 11th century ecclesiastical centres, but these do not appear to have been used in houses and halls. The floor was often strewn with straw and/or sweet-smelling herbs. – *Stuart Little*



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WESTMINSTER REPORT

Dangerous Dogs

Until very recently, I never really had any reason to concern myself with the Dangerous Dogs Act.

In fact, as a dog lover (although not a dog owner), I've always enjoyed the time I've spent walking dogs belonging to family and friends.

Occasionally, when I've been out knocking on doors, I've come across slightly naughty dogs. Anyone who has ever delivered a leaflet will be able to tell a tale about the dogs that lay silently in wait of the slightest bit of a finger to appear through a letterbox, pushing a leaflet through, before leaping and slamming themselves against the door whilst trying to nip the finger.

Very, very, rarely have I come across a nasty dog and so, as I say, I have never really thought at all about the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Then, a few days before I wrote this, a terrible tragedy occurred in my constituency.

A six month old baby girl was killed by a family pet dog, in the most horrible dog attack I have heard of. A relative was looking after the baby and was also bitten when she tried to get the dog away from the infant. Police and paramedics who arrived on the scene tried to revive the baby girl, but alas, she did not survive.

The dog was destroyed on the scene. Initially, the exact breed of the dog was unknown, but as I write, after DNA tests, it has been revealed that the dog was an American pit bull; a prohibited breed under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act.

Since this attack, I can honestly tell you that this is now a subject being readily discussed across my constituency.

As the days have passed, a number of Police Forces and other agencies have been detailing how many dog attacks they have had to deal with. To me, the numbers seem to be quite high; 6,447 people were admitted to hospital for dog bites in 2011/12 - a 5.2 percent rise on the previous 12 months. Of those, under-10s accounted for the highest rate of admissions by 10 year age group, with 17 per 100,000 population. That is 1,040 admissions. I have not seen the numbers for us here in Northamptonshire, but I can honestly say that concerns about dogs have not appeared in my Parliamentary mailbag much at all.

I did know that the amended Dangerous Dogs Act only came into effect on the 13th May this year.

It strengthens the existing legislation that made it a criminal offence for a person in charge of a dog to allow it to be "dangerously out of control". The new amendments to the Act mean that previous powers now extend to cover incidents on private property (in addition to public spaces).

Obviously, I am keen to see how this new law is being implemented and to ensure that any lessons that can be learnt from the horrific event that took place in Daventry on Friday night, are learnt as quickly as possible.

I am also very keen to hear your views on this matter. Whether you have personally had issues with a dog you perceive to be "dangerous"? Have you ever reported such an incident and if you have, what did you think of the response? Do you think the Dangerous Dogs Act is strong enough? And what are your views in general on this subject?

You can send your comments to me at the House of Commons, or the email address, both listed below.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Yours,

Chris

Snail-mail	The House of Commons Westminster London SW1A 0AA
Telephone	0207-219-7048 or 01604-859721
e-mail	chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk
Twitter	@chhcalling



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Planning update

DA/2014/0482 – Catherine House, Harborough Road Change of Use to Osteopathic Clinic (Retrospective)	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2014/079 – 132 Northampton Road Change of Use from Retail to Hot Food Takeaway (Class A5)	BPC Objection DDC Approved
DA/2014/0517 – Brackenborough Single Storey Front Extension Brixworth	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2014/0646 – Paladon Systems Ltd, Ferro Fields Alterations to roof of offices. Construction of single storey extension to link existing industrial buildings	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2014/0623 – Junction of A508/ Northampton Road Four non-illuminated sponsorship signs at the roundabout	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
I4/00044/CCDFUL – Brixworth Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Froxhill Crescent Retention of an existing double mobile classroom	BPC No Objection NCC Approved
DA/2014/0610 – The Ashway Two storey side extension	BPC Objection DDC Approved

Olive Branch seeks volunteers

The Olive Branch Coffee Shop in the Library and Community Centre is now 15 years old. Many of our volunteers have been with us since we opened and are now seeking to reduce their hours or retire. Now we are looking for community – minded village folk to help out for a morning or afternoon shift once week.

Run by volunteers from Brixworth Christian Fellowship, the Olive Branch has become a focal point in the lives of many, providing company and support.

If you feel you could help out, please call in and leave your contact details behind the counter or ring Sue Salmon on 881190. Training and friendship will be provided!

New website for the Bulletin

Well, it's not a new site – in fact it looks exactly like the old one – but with immediate effect you can find the Brixworth Bulletin's website at www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk.

Stop by and take a look. You'll find contact details, all the latest updates, and of course the archive, containing ten year's worth of Brixworth Bulletin back issues. – cfw

Practicing Tai Chi

The autumn term brings an anniversary that astonishes me each year. For all my life, I have been someone who has endured, rather than enjoyed, any of the sports I have participated in. Yet now, six years on from starting to train in tai chi chuan, practicing this martial art is still an important part of my daily routine.

My beginning was not promising. Initially attracted to tai chi by its renowned health benefits (muscle strength, flexibility, balance, aerobic conditioning), I confess that its reputation for not being too taxing also appealed to me. Imagine how my thinking was challenged when I found out we would be learning applications designed for self defence!

I struggled physically too. To my embarrassment, my movement was so limited, our teacher mistakenly thought I must be suffering from arthritis.

So what made me stick at it? The experience of finishing each class with such a clear head and enough fresh energy to go home and clean the house from top to bottom (although I never did!). The constant encouragement of our teacher, Cuong Sam, also kept me going. His dedication to the development of each of his students has been inspiring. Besides, as the class takes place practically on my doorstep, it became impossible for me to make excuses for not attending, even to myself, on early weekend mornings when the comfortable alternative was to stay in bed.

The curriculum offers a lot of variety, which keeps classes interesting. We learn static and moving exercises called Qigong for building our strength, drills and partner work, called Pushing Hands, and the hand form – a low-impact routine of relaxed and usually circular movements. We also study the forms and applications for weapons – spear, sabre and sword.

It is a lot of fun and provides a good workout. As a result, I feel fitter, have gained new awareness of how I and other people use our bodies, and am more confident about tackling physical challenges.

Of course, not everybody starts to learn tai chi from such a low base as I did, and my fellow students include individuals who are already experienced in the “harder” martial arts such as judo and karate. Richard Griggs used to practice shotokan karate. He says:

“I spent many years learning karate but as I got older the intensive physical training took a greater toll on my lower back and knee joints to the point the pain made me give it up to seek a more gentle pastime. I saw an article about tai chi in the Brixworth Bulletin some three years ago now and consequently joined the club. It's a complete contrast to karate, much kinder on my body but still challenging and physically and mentally demanding. Cuong is a fantastic teacher and I would recommend tai chi to anyone seeking an exercise and training regime that is different from the norm, vast in its variety and physically and mentally rewarding. Irrespective of age or fitness level, tai chi has much to offer”.

So, whether you are a total beginner as I was, or someone more knowledgeable like Richard, why not come along and find out how you could benefit from tai chi? We meet on Saturday mornings at 9.30 am in the Village Hall.

For further information, contact Cuong Sam on 07958 039715.

– Jennifer Fitzgerald



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Parish News



Brixworth Parish Council News & Views – Winter 2014 edition

www.brixworthpc.org.uk



Chair's Chat

Ever since I started writing this piece for the Brixworth Bulletin, I have found this Autumn/Christmas issue to be the most difficult to write. It is mid-October today, the sun is shining and a gentle breeze is organising the clouds in a blue sky. But I expect that when you read

these words that sort of weather will be a distant memory and Christmas will be just around the corner. So how do you write now, to be read in a month or two?

In the past, I have written at some length about the proposed Brixworth Neighbourhood Development Plan and I am pleased to say it continues to progress. In fact, from where I sit now, I have high hopes that the first draft of this proposed legislation for Brixworth will be completed by the time you read this.

I hope I have explained why a Neighbourhood Plan is important to all of us; and that everyone understands that it is this potential legislation, driven by the residents of the Parish, that once accepted, will guide DDC in how they deal with Planning Applications for Brixworth. It is being prepared by a Steering Group on behalf of the Parish Council and I think we should all appreciate the amount of work and effort that they have been putting into it in an attempt to do the best they can for the community we all live in. They are not professionals, nor are they necessarily, Parish Councillors. I was going to call them "normal" people, and of course they are, and yet they are challenged to write Policy for us that will be adopted by DDC - subject to your approval at a future referendum - it is you that will have the final say! How good is that?

But many of you have already been speaking. You have completed and returned questionnaires, or responded to questions when asked, giving your views and it is those answers and views that are driving the composition of the Neighbourhood Plan that will guide development here in Brixworth until 2029.

You may be aware of plans to build a new and improved Brixworth Surgery. That is the result of feedback shared with the Neighbourhood Plan Group and the efforts of members of that group to dig into a situation and discover facts we could all work with and negotiate a preferred outcome for the village. Thank you all for your help.

As we look back at the current year it is clear that there is one "resident" of our Parish that deserves special mention. I refer, of course, to Mercedes AMG High Performance Power Trains who build the Hybrid Power Units that power the cars that have won this year's Formula One Constructors Championship - and objective met. And they will likely power the car of this year's Formula One Driver's World Champion too. We tend to forget how fortunate we are to have such a business here, in Brixworth.

This has not been an easy year, so far, for the Parish Council and although there is no requirement for it to be easy, some years are better than others. In particular, we find we are playing catch up in our legal relationships with various organisations in the village. Someone once told me a contract was something you put away in the bottom of a drawer, to gather dust, hoping to never see it again. I don't think they meant it literally, but the Parish Council and others in the village are guilty of just that. It is not the end of the world, but the longer you leave an agreement in that drawer the more outdated it becomes, as events continue to develop and move on. Now, some of the agreements made with the Parish Council many years ago seem to be coming back to haunt us, as well as those who contracted with us. It needs to be put right and that is our aim.

It just goes to show there is more responsibility to being a Parish Councillor than meets the eye. It is not a bragging opportunity; it is not a financial opportunity; it is a commitment to serve the community we live in, to the best of our ability. None of us are professionals and in fact, few if any of us bring political expertise to the job - other than our experience in a diverse array of careers; be it housewife and mother, or Air Force Officer, businessman, nurse or computer technician. The common denominator is a desire to serve the community in which we live as a way of expressing our appreciation for being able to live here. We don't always get it right and in fact we sometimes get it wrong, but we always try to do what we can for the benefit of our neighbours here in Brixworth. We will shortly be considering re-electing the Parish Council and I hope we will be able to introduce new members from amongst Brixworth residents.

Usually, on the first Saturday of each month the Parish Council holds a surgery at the library - or in the summer in front of the Library - weather permitting. It is an opportunity for us to meet our neighbours and understand what you have on your mind; and opportunity for one-to-one communication. Good ideas are not limited to Parish Councillors! It is also an opportunity for you to mention your appreciation, if you would like to.

Parish Councils do not often look to religion for guidance these days, but Christmas is coming up, so perhaps a short story.

Those of you who were brought up in the Christian tradition, regardless of denomination, have likely heard that Jesus told his followers that "there are many mansions in my Father's house and I am going there to prepare a place for you". My dad rather took that to heart.

For as long as I can remember he always wanted to grow his own grapes and all through my childhood, into my teenage years there would be little pots placed lovingly on the windowsill, wherever we lived, each containing a little black stick. They were my dad's grape vines. I don't remember any of them ever growing beyond the black stick stage, until we emigrated to British Columbia in Canada. It seemed that everyone grew grapes there and, at last, my dad was able to plant some cuttings and watch them grow, see them flower and watch as tiny little grapes started to form - and then we had to move!

Dad never did taste any of his grapes, not one. But he was not one to give up and would always say "when I get to heaven, I'm going to grow grapes!" Then, to whoever was listening he would say - "And when you get there, make sure you come over to my place and try my grapes; they will be the best grapes you ever tasted. Then I'll come over to your place and try yours!"

What am I trying to say? Patience, I guess, is a virtue. Nothing happens immediately and often not when we want it to, but as we spend time this holiday season reconnecting with family and friends, we do have the promise of a New Year and the opportunity to make the most of it.

To end, then, I expect I should be wishing you Christmas cheer, warmth and friendship as well as the very best for the 2015? But I rather think I should be extending those greetings to you on behalf of the Parish Council and also the members of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering group, as we all look forward to the peace of Christmas and the challenge of the New Year.

Mike Lacey, Chairman, Brixworth Parish Council

Planning

The main planning application to come before the Parish Council recently was Barratts' application for outline permission for up to 90 more dwellings on land to the east of Northampton Road (outlined in red versus the existing development in blue). The application also seeks permission for a doctor's surgery, associated public open space, landscaping and infrastructure, and seeks to revise the position of plots 17 to 20 within the Saxon Rise Phase 1 Development to facilitate visibility.



The associated benefits - the proposed surgery and an extension to the library car park - are substantial and the Planning Committee voted not to object to the plan.

Liz Wiig retires

After many years of service to the Parish Council and other organizations of the village, Cllr. Liz Wiig decided to retire from the Parish Council in October this year. I would like to say thank you, Liz, on behalf of Brixworth Parish Council for your many years of service as a member of the Council.

Mike Lacey

Parish Councillors

Mike Lacey	Tony Hockenhull	David Parnaby
Ian Barratt	Joe Hodgson	Stephen Pointer
Jackie Bird	Stephen James	Malcolm Rous
Neal Brown	Sandra Moxon	
Alex Coles	Kevin Parker	

Councillor contact details can be found on the Parish Council website www.brixworthpc.org.uk/council-contacts

Parish Council Meetings

Full Council Meeting 16th December 7.15pm
Planning Meeting 8th December at 7.30pm

Meetings take place in the Community Centre, Spratton Rd. Dates for 2015 meetings have not yet been set, but Full Council meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of every month and a list of dates will be posted on the Brixworth Parish Council website in December.

All meeting dates, times and Agendas are published on our notice boards at least three clear days before the meeting and confirm times.

Parish Councillor Surgeries are held from 10am to noon on the first Saturday of the every month. They are held in the library foyer with a private room available for confidential matters.

Contact Us

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Emma Baker Email: brixworthpc@gmail.com Telephone: 01933 682447

All Saints' Church, Brixworth

Do you believe in Santa? I do!

But I once won a large Santa in a raffle—it was a fibre optic Santa, that laughed out loud and glowed in six different colours. It was so garish that it actually frightened our young daughter, and we eventually had to throw it out! Sadly, too often, Santa Claus is represented in this way, and is a far cry from the one that we should believe in.

Many of us forget that the figure that became Santa Claus really did exist, in the form of a Saint—St. Nicholas. “Santa” wears a red cape and pointed hat because he was originally a bishop in the fourth century, and on 6th December, the church celebrates his feast day.

Secular culture has rather obscured St. Nicholas, who has come to be known as Father Christmas in this country, and Santa Claus in America. But by the 11th century St. Nicholas had become a very popular saint across the whole of Christendom, and in England we have about 400 churches which are dedicated to him..

Why was he so popular? Because of his kindness and generosity to those in need. He went out of his way to help the poor and vulnerable, and especially children. He gave in secret, and expected nothing in return. The most well-known legend about St. Nicholas is that he gave out gifts to the poorest children in the town to celebrate the birth of Christ. That legend lives on, and his generosity reflects what is at the heart of the Christmas story.

As we approach Christmas, a season of giving, St. Nicholas helps us to remember God's love, and the greatest gift he has given us in the form of his Son, Jesus Christ. This is why, yes, we should believe in St. Nicholas or “Santa”, and more importantly, believe in the spirit of generosity that he stands for. This generosity should be part of our lives, not just during the Christmas season, but throughout the year.

Rev. Chloe



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

Sunday Services

1 st Sunday of the month	10.30 am	All-Age Service
	11.45 am	Said Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
2 nd Sunday	7.45 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
3 rd Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Candlelit service of meditation
4 th Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
5 th Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist

Services for Advent and Christmas

Advent Carol Service	6.00pm	Sunday, 30 th November
Christingle Service	4.00pm	Sunday, 14 th December
Joint Carol Service with Brixworth Christian Fellowship	7.30pm	Tuesday, 23 rd December
Crib Service	2.00pm	Wednesday, 24 th December
Midnight Mass	11.30pm	Wednesday, 24 th December
Family Communion Service	10.30am	Thursday, 25 th December

Every Wednesday: 1.30pm, 'Jellybeans' toddler group; 4.00pm, 'Singing Saints' childrens' choir



Don't miss our **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AND MARKET**

6th - 14th December

Sponsor a tree to stand in the church.

Grand switching on of lights ceremony on 6th December at 4pm

An event for the whole village

Recent events:



Anglo-Saxon Feast

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Anthony Mons Thor Bridges
Chloe Elizabeth Tildesley
Petal Major-Howard
Erin Alice Gudgeon
Theo George Noble

Weddings

Daniel Kilsby & Jessica Smith
Colin Sibley & Hannah Varley
James Harvey & Claire Young
Susie Lamb & Adam Pack
(Correction from Bulletin Issue 42)

Burials

Patricia Fry
Neville Russell



Brixworth Music Festival



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.bcfchurch.co.uk

What is the meaning of life?

Apparently one of the most frequently asked questions on Google is “what is the meaning of life?” – what is life really about? There are of course many views on this matter, many dead ends, many false claims and of course many who would take advantage of such a search. So why do we as human beings have this need in our hearts to search for meaning and purpose? I can only respond from my own experience from the age of seventeen when my search ended and I began to experience the love of God through Jesus. I found my life was different, my attitudes, goals, perspectives were changing and as I have grown as a Christian, I have found real meaning in my life.

As Christmas approaches, we may ask the question what is Christmas really about? Underneath the 21st Century glitter is the birth of Jesus, God in human flesh who dwelt among us. He revealed in his lifetime, and in his death the purpose of God to restore a living relationship with Him.

May each of us enjoy this Christmas celebration sparing a thought for the lonely, hungry, grieving and sad folk who live in our community.

Every blessing
Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on
882040



Outdoor Christmas Nativity Sunday 21st December

Outdoor Christmas Nativity – Sunday 21st December @ 4p.m. outside the Library & Community Centre. This year with a slightly different touch. If any children would like to take part dressed as an angel, king or shepherd then please contact us on 882040

Christmas Day Morning

A great way to begin your Christmas festivities as we celebrate together with Carols, children showing their presents, and much more, all are most welcome.

Come Carol Singing with us!

Thursday 18th December – meet outside the Library & Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Village Carol Service at All Saints Church on 23rd December at 7.30 p.m.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

By the time you read this we hope there will have been well over 1,000 boxes processed and sent off for delivery to needy children in Eastern Europe. We thank you for the support you have given to this year's campaign and can assure you that every box sent brings a smile to the face of a child and makes a difference to their enjoyment of Christmas. For some your box will be the only present they receive!

Thanks again – the final total we will give you in the next issue.

Senoir Citizen

Christmas Lunch

Takes place on Wednesday 10th December when around seventy share a Christmas meal with some entertainment in the Library & Community Centre. Sorry all places are now fully booked.





Children's Holiday Club

For three days during the holidays in July over 100 children shared together in what can only be described as "fantastic"! With a mixture of games, stories, singing, craft and so much more the children (and the adults) enjoyed an amazing experience. We were so sorry to have to stop receiving applications because of adult to children ratios, health and safety and so on.

Next year our friends from Mississippi (Fairview Baptist Church) are back with us and we hope that it will be another great experience for the children.




The Olive Branch Coffee Shop

Has been in existence since the Library & Community Centre opened in 1999. It's ethos is to serve the Community around us with quality food and drinks at a non-profit making price. It is also a place where many have found help and comfort, friendship and acceptance.

We would love to see you there if you have never visited us and assure you of a warm welcome.

On another matter, because the Olive Branch is staffed by volunteers (both from BCF Community Church but also folk from the community) we are always looking for people who could offer a few hours a week to work with us. If interested either pop in and leave your contact details or call Sue on 889030.



BCF Community Church

Has a real heart to serve our community both practically and spiritually. We are aware that Sunday's have become difficult for many families who may wish to attend church together, but are unable to for various reasons. We are considering how we can make that easier and family friendly and will let you know the way forward once we have decided. If you have any thoughts on the subject please share them with us.

Alpha Course in Brixworth


Alpha Course?

The aim of the Alpha Course is to explore the meaning of life through the means of a DVD presentation followed by discussion in a relaxed atmosphere where every comment is valid and listened to. Every week begins with a hot meal and we aim to finish by 9 p.m.

When? Wednesdays 7-9:00 pm

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

Why not come along and share in the Alpha experience? Just phone Mark for more details. dedicated mobile number
07922 644673



BCF Weekly events

Sunday:	09:45 – 10:30 11:15 – 12:30	Informal gathering 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 18:15 – 19:15	Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years* Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11*

(*held at the Library & Community Centre)

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

Library events

Activities for children

Every week throughout the year (holidays and term-time; free)

Stories & Rhymes for the Under 5s – Mondays 2.30pm

Rhymetime for the Under 5s – Fridays 10.15am

Storytime for ages 9 and under – Saturdays 10.30am

Family activities – Sundays 1-4pm

Check for all the latest activities at www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary

Other events

Brixworth Library Morning Readers Group & Book Club

This meets first Tuesday of every month 10.30am. Please note new time! Next meeting Tuesday 2nd December 10.30am, where the Club shall be reading "Entry Island by Peter May". Open to all – please ask at Library or email brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Christmas Fayre Saturday 29th November

The library is open every Sunday 1-4pm. Why not come along for a quiet read of the Sunday newspapers or your favourite magazine, and enjoy tea and biscuits for £1.

Get involved!

We need your help! If you have a little time to spare and would like to get involved in your local community, or develop your skills as part of your CV, why not consider a volunteering role at the library? We have several specific volunteering roles at the moment:

Under 5s Activities Helper/ Leader

If you enjoy working with young children, we currently have vacancies for volunteers to help deliver and/or prepare activities for the Under 5s. This could be an hour or so any weekday or weekends. If you could help on a regular basis, but not necessarily every week this is a great fun and flexible role.

Homework/Discovery Club Helper

Wednesdays 3.30-5pm, term-time only. If you enjoy working with children 4-11 years, helping with homework queries or preparing activities etc, this could be the role for you. Can be on an occasional or regular basis.

Children's Library Helpers

Whether you would enjoy helping keep the Children's Library tidy, updating displays, creating displays, helping with or creating children's activities term-time or holidays, or both, this is a flexible role that you can adapt to suit your skills and your time.

IT Buddy

If you enjoy working with computers and helping other people learn, this could be the role for you. We often have customers at the library who would like to learn the basics of using a computer, laptop or tablet, so we are looking for volunteers to help. Hours for this role are flexible – can be arranged to be mutually suitable between volunteer and customer.

For any of the above roles, or for more information on volunteering at the library, come in and speak to Jill, or view the volunteering roles and apply online at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved. We also welcome Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers.

Other Services available at your local library include:

Bus Passes – new and renewals
DVD hire
Help with online Blue Badge Applications
Computer use – free on Fridays (charge for printing)
Photocopying
Laminating
Library shop
Room hire/exhibition space – For more information on booking the Mezzanine for an exhibition, please speak to library staff.

Brixworth Library opening hours:

Monday – Friday 10am to 6pm
Saturdays 9am to 1pm
Sundays 1pm to 4pm

Christmas opening times
We shall be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day only – all other days open as usual including Saturdays & Sundays.

Contact us at brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk. Keep up to date with all the latest activities at www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary – *Jill Barber*

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I notice along the Brampton Valley Way, by the old station off Creaton Road, there is a sign warning users not to enter as the land is contaminated.

It appears that the Pytchley Hunt walk their dogs and exercise their horses across this piece of land.

Are we safe to assume that the land is now sufficiently decontaminated to be considered no threat to humans, their dogs or other wildlife, or is there still a lingering concern?

Ian Topham

Winter Crafts & Quiz Trail

The Country Park at Pitsford Water will be organising a Winter Crafts & Quiz Trail during the holidays. Check the Park's Facebook and Twitter pages for details, or look for posters at the Country Park.

Village Hall for hire

Brixworth Village Hall is available for private bookings. So, if you've a birthday party coming up, or want the facilities for any other purposes, contact the administrator on 880654 or 07531 873471.

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What's on

28 Nov	Alan Davies-Little	Derngate
29 Nov	The Beat	Roadmender
29 Nov	That'll be the Day	Derngate
30 Nov	Santa Special Trains	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
30 Nov	Jasper Carrot	Lighthouse, Kettering
4 Dec	Christmas Afternoon Tea	Kelmarsh Hall
5 Dec	The South	Roadmender
5 Dec	Brixworth Songsters	Pitsford
5-20/12	Dear Santa	Corby Cube
5 Dec - 4 Jan	Peter Pan	Derngate
5 Dec	The South	Roadmender
6 Dec	Torville & Dean	Corby Cube
6 Dec	Christmas Lights Switch-On	All Saints, Brixworth
6 Dec	Kettering Symphony Orchestra	Masque Theatre
6-7 Dec	Santa Special Trains	N&L Railway
6-14 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival	All Saints C'ch, Brixworth
8-30 Dec	Pinocchio	The Castle, Wellingborough
9 Dec	Christmas Door Wreath Workshop	Kelmarsh Hall
10 Dec	Christams Table Deco Workshop	Kelmarsh Hall
11 Dec	Brixworth Songsters	Brixworth
11 Dec	Swing's the Thing	Masque Theatre
13 Dec	Fish	Roadmender
13 Dec	Met Opera Live: Meistersinger	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
12-29 Dec	The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	Deco Theatre
12 Dec - 4 Jan	Aladdin	Lighthouse Theatre
13-14 Dec	Santa Special Trains	N&L Railway
13 Dec - 9 Jan	Magical Mishaps	Underground
20 Dec	Inspirial Carpets	Roadmender
20-21/12	Santa Special Trains	N&L Railway
20 Dec	Bill Burton's Christmas Party	Lighthouse

21 Dec, 4pm	Outdoor Nativity	Brixworth Community Centre
24 Dec	Frozen Singalong	Corby Cube
27-30 Dec	Cats: Sleeping Beauty	Corby Cube
9 Jan	Beyond the Barricade	Derngate
10 Jan	Motown's Greatest Hits	Derngate
12-17/1	Moscow City Ballet	Derngate
15 Jan	Jim Davidson	Lighthouse Theatre
16 Jan	Hayseed Dixie	Roadmender
16 Jan	Showaddywaddy	Lighthouse Theatre
16-17/1	Burlesque Show	Royal
17 Jan	Met Opera Live: Merry	EF Filmhouse
20-25 Jan	Dick Whittington & his magical Cat	The Castle
22-23/1	Anton and Erin	Derngate
22 Jan	Treasure Island (screening)	The Castle
23 Jan	An Evening with Bernie Keith	Royal
23 Jan	The only way is Downtown	Corby Cube
24 Jan	N.Dance	Derngate
26-31/1	Dreamboats and Miniskirts	Derngate
27 Jan	Sleaford Mods	Roadmender
27 Jan	The Barr Brothers	Royal
30 Jan	Let's twist again	Corby Cube
31 Jan	Jo Harman and Company	The Castle
31 Jan	Met Opera Live: Les Contes	EF Filmhouse
1 Feb	Rachmaninov No 2	Derngate
3 Feb	An Evening with Noel Fielding	Derngate
3 Feb	Light	Corby Cube
3-4 Feb	Noodles	The Castle
4 Feb	Sing-a-long Sound of Music	Derngate
5 Feb	Omid Djalili	Derngate
5 Feb	Sara Pascoe	Royal
6 Feb	Johann Strauss Gala	Derngate
6 Feb	Hats off to Led Zeppelin	Corby Cube
10 Feb	Dead Poets Death Match	Corby Cube
11-12/2	Ross Noble	Derngate
12 Feb	That'll be the Day	The Castle
12-14/2	Annie the Musical	Lighthouse
14 Feb	Romantic Classics	Derngate

14 Feb 4-7pm	Family Valentine's Disco	Brixworth Centre Pre-School
14 Feb	Met Opera Live: Iolanta	EF Filmhouse
19-28/2	Oklahoma!	Derngate
19 Feb	Andy Parsons	Royal
21 Feb	Three Wise Monkeys	Corby Cube
21 Feb	Count Arthur	Royal
22 Feb	CRB: Youth Brass 2000	Corby Cube
24 Feb	Broke	Corby Cube
26 Feb	Motown's Greatest Hits	Corby Cube
26 Feb	The Selector	The Castle
27 Feb	Psychic Sally	Lighthouse
27 Feb	Helen Kind School of Dance	Corby Cube
28 Feb	An Evening with Monty Don	Lighthouse
3 Mar	Levellers - a curious life	Derngate
4 Mar	Life & Music of Doris Day	Lighthouse
5 Mar	Park	The Castle
6 Mar	Paul Carrack	Derngate
6 Mar	Only Fools and Boycie	Corby Cube
7 Mar	Richard & Adam	Derngate
8 Mar	Nathan Carter	Corby Cube
10 Mar	Rumours of Fleetwood	Derngate
11 Mar	Brendan Cole	Derngate
12 Mar	Joe McElderry	Corby Cube
12 Mar	Elvis in Vegas	Corby Cube
13 Mar	Dylan Moran	Derngate
14 Mar	Suzanne's Street Dance	Corby Cube
16-21/3	Jesus Christ Superstar	Derngate
16-21/3	The Mikado	Royal
24-29 Mar	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime	Derngate
25-28/3	Corby Gang Show	Corby Cube
28 Mar	Basil Brush Show	Lighthouse
29 Mar	Essence of Ireland	Derngate
1 Apr	Aled Jones	Derngate
3-4 Apr	The Tiger who came to Tea	Corby Cube
7 Apr	Hugless Douglas	The Castle
10 Apr	Chicago Blues Brothers	Corby Cube
12 Apr	Christoph Koenig	Derngate
22 Apr	Andy Parsons	The Castle
23 Apr	Milton Jones	Derngate
24 Apr	Let's hang on	Corby Cube
25 Apr	Al Murray	Derngate
29 Apr	Lee Nelson	Derngate

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KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

Your plans for the future are at the heart of everything you do. A small investment now can ensure that your assets reach your children, grandchildren and other relatives rather than ending up in the wrong hands.

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To arrange an appointment in the comfort of your own home call Toni Chambers on 07702 059562 or email: tonichambers@willsnorthampton.com

Wills Northampton
ESTATE PLANNING

U8s

The under 8s enjoyed a busy summer of football tournaments which included playing at Northampton Town's home ground, Sixfields. This clearly made for excellent pre-season preparation as the under 8 Pumas team have started this year's campaign in style, with the first round of seven matches completed the team have won six and lost one, scoring a staggering 53 goals along the way. The core of the Pumas team have been together for over three years now and it's been great

to see the boys develop individually and as a team. Due to increased numbers we have now fielded a second under 8s team, despite having not played together in last season's fixtures at Dallington the Panthers have quickly established themselves and have recorded some notable victories in their first season together. Matches are played on a Saturday morning at St David's and at various locations around the county with training being held on the 3G pitch at Kingsthorpe Community College on Tuesday evenings between 6 - 7pm.

– Dan O'Toole



Minis

The club's youngest group of players have started their fun training sessions at St. David's and the turnout from the village has once again been fantastic. With nearly 40 children already signed up for the Saturday morning coaching sessions there is a lot for the coaches to do, not only coaching the children but also trying to keep them focused. As we all know keeping 5-7 year olds' attention on something for more than 10 minutes can be tricky and you can often see a couple of children chatting and pointing at an aeroplane in the sky whilst a game is going on around them. If your child takes part in the Minis you will have seen this too but rather than standing on the sidelines why don't you join in and become a coach as well? Get in touch.

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.

If you would like to read some more about the club 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. – Rob Kelly

Donate your clean unwanted or unloved winter woollies and help support people and families in times of real hardship and uncertainty this Christmas!

Drop off your unwanted coats, jackets, sweaters, cardigans, hats, scarves, gloves and socks by Thursday, 18th December, 2014 at Daventry District Council's Reception, Lodge Road, Daventry.

Daventry District Council is supporting the Hope Centre, a Northampton-based charity that is well placed to distribute clothes directly within the local community and beyond, helping people and families of all ages, backgrounds and needs.

For more information contact Della Butcher at dbutcher@daventrydc.gov.uk or phone (01327) 302418



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