

## Almost done: the Brixworth Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Brixworth Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011-2029 will form part of the Local Plan for Daventry District and will be used in the determination of planning applications within the Brixworth Parish. The plan has been drawn up following extensive interviews and answers to a questionnaire delivered to all residents last year. It has to comply with National and Local Government requirements as well as EU Law.

Brixworth has seen rapid housing growth over recent years – beyond that envisaged for the area. Residents feel that future housing growth should be limited because the shops, roads, school and medical facilities are at or near capacity for the present population.

A development at the village entrance on Northampton Road (Barratts Phase 2) should be the last large piece of the development jigsaw for the period of the plan. The development will bring much-needed improvements to the village facilities, including a new and enlarged doctors' surgery with car parking, advance funding to increase the capacity at the school and additional parking at the Library & Community Centre. The Brixworth Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that the only development supported after this will be limited infill, and no further large-scale development.

The plan seeks to protect vital community services, open spaces, footpaths, community buildings and the Conservation Area. It also highlights the valued views into and from the village and builds on the work of the Village Design Statement.

The draft plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, who are all residents and volunteers, and we would like your views before it is put into its final version. It also has to be submitted to a range of statutory organisations for their comments. Finally, it will need to be approved by village residents in a referendum organised by Daventry District Council. All who are on the electoral roll will have the opportunity to vote. – *Bob Chattaway*



The second phase of the Barratts development should be the last large piece of development until 2029

### Your chance to view the plan

Now that the draft Neighbourhood Plan is published, a six week community consultation is about to start.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's chairman, David Parnaby, said: "It is vital that members of the community view the proposals and have their say."

The Group is arranging a display in the Library & Community Centre foyer from the beginning of June until mid-July and a public meeting on Thursday 11th June at 7.30pm.

#### How can I see the plan ?

Online at [www.brixworth-np.org.uk](http://www.brixworth-np.org.uk) or [www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk](http://www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk), or view a paper copy at Brixworth Library and the Information Point

#### How can I comment ?

On the online form provided or on the paper response form to be left at the library by Monday 13th July

#### What next ?

All comments will be considered and the plan amended as necessary. They will then be submitted to DDC and examined by an independent inspector, after which there will be a referendum in the village to formally accept the plan.



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# Nick Bunting takes Wiig's seat to rejoin DDC

Brixworth has re-elected Nick Bunting as a Conservative Councillor on Daventry District Council in the local elections on 7 May, taking the seat previously occupied by Liz Wiig for UKIP.

Bunting won with 2601 votes, representing 67% of the votes cast and beating Labour candidate Robert McNally with 726 votes (19%) and Steve Whiffen for the Greens, who received 515 votes (13%). He takes up his new post with immediate effect.

"I plan to build on my past record of stopping overdevelopment in the village, and inappropriate industrial development such as the windfarm projects that had been proposed around the village a few years ago," Bunting says. "Right now I'm particularly concerned about the impact of travel on the A508 – we're starting to see drivers skip through the village when traffic on the bypass is backing up. The planned Buckton Fields development at Boughton will only add to this."

Bunting, who apart from his role as District Councillor is chief executive of a professional charity, had previously served as District Councillor for Brixworth from 2000 to 2013.

He joins fellow Brixworth Councillors Ian Barratt and Kevin Parker (both Conservatives) at Daventry – their seats come up for election



in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The third seat had been won by Wiig for the Conservatives in 2011 but became UKIP when Wiig switched allegiance in 2013. Wiig announced last year that she would be standing down at this election, and resigned from the Parish Council – where she has sat for [xxx] years – at the same time.

No other UKIP candidate stood in Brixworth, though Brixworth resident Stephen Pointer did stand as a UKIP candidate in the Daventry suburb of Drayton. He came third in that election, behind Amy Howard (Conservative) and Ken Ritchie (Labour). -cfw

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## Petshop planning application goes to Appeal

Celebrations that the planning application to convert 130 Northampton Road – currently better known as Northampton Pets – into a fast food takeaway had been rejected by Daventry District Council proved to be premature as the owner of the building has decided to appeal against the decision.

The Parish Council Planning Committee will be writing to the Planning Inspectorate to reiterate its objection to the development – there are concerns about the lack of parking at the site, as well as how noise, smells and rubbish from the takeaway would affect the area. The neighbouring shop at 132 Northampton Road was already granted permission for a similar conversion last year.

The appeal will be heard by a planning inspector who is expected to make a final decision by the end of July. The appeal will receive written evidence only, though the inspector will visit the site in person.

DDC has until 4 June to submit its response. Until that date, residents can comment on the appeal at [bit.ly/1QKqZsX](http://bit.ly/1QKqZsX)  
– Claudia Flavell-While



# Pointer vs Parish Council set to run and run

The legal battle between Parish Councillor Stephen Pointer and Brixworth Parish Council is set to continue until the autumn at least, and could even drag into 2016. A preliminary hearing at the end of April brought proceedings no closer to resolution.

Pointer, who is partially sighted, sued the Parish Council and the then-chair, Mike Lacey, in October 2013 over allegations that the Parish Council had failed to make reasonable adjustment for his disability. Specifically, Pointer had asked the Parish Council to provide him with an aid such as an iPad to allow him to read meeting agendas, minutes and other associated paperwork, but while the Parish Council did buy a £514 iPad the deal eventually failed as the parties could not agree the details of the arrangement.

The lawsuit, heard by the employment tribunal service, accuses the Parish Council of discrimination against a disabled person for failing to provide a suitable reading aid, failing to conduct a proper workplace assessment to ascertain Pointer's needs, victimisation, and five counts of harassment.

Presiding Judge David Moore attached a £250 deposit to all claims apart from the failure to provide the reading aid – this means that unless the claimant pays the money, the claims will not be heard. Deposit orders are made for claims that the judge feels are unlikely to succeed.

The time delay in hearing the matter is down to the complicated way in which the case has been brought, and the fact that the list of complaints keeps being amended. An initial pre-hearing, in December 2014, was adjourned after two days without reaching a conclusion. The second pre-hearing in April ended when Moore threw out an attempt by Pointer's legal advisors to expand the initial claim for being unclear and badly written. Pointer has now agreed to personally redraft the modification request ahead of a third pre-hearing on 8 June.

Clearly exasperated, Moore said: "This is an extraordinarily simple case that is complicated by muddled arguments. We have a partially sighted parish councillor who wants a reading aid. When the aid is not immediately forthcoming, he sues. As the issue proceeds, this – unsurprisingly – causes some friction with the body he's suing."

A date for the actual hearing is yet to be set but is unlikely to be before the autumn at the earliest.

Meanwhile, legal costs are mounting. The Parish Council has so far spent £26,670 on its defence, a number that could end up being much higher by the time the matter is concluded; Pointer, who lives on benefits, is represented free of charge by pro-bono lawyers.

The Parish Council, which has to fund the costs from its reserves, plans to put in a claim for wasted costs to recover at least some of the money from the claimant. Moore had little sympathy for Pointer's concerns that he would struggle to pay such costs in the event that he loses the case.



Defending against Pointer's discrimination claims has so far cost the Parish Council £26,760 of taxpayer's money

He said: "The threat of costs appeared over your head the moment you brought the tribunal." – *Claudia Flavell-While*

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# Police Report

A few topics for me to cover for this issue. Firstly, with the summer months now rapidly approaching there are numerous fêtes, parades, carnivals and village festivals being planned. As a local community policing team we are always keen to be involved in these. Please take the time to say hello to your local officer if you do get the opportunity.

There is little doubt that the challenges facing modern day policing are more complex, challenging and varied than they have ever been. To put these demands against a continually reducing budget, we as an organisation have to approach problems differently. People still want to see police officers and know the name of their local officer. Community policing has been central to the way that we have policed over the last decade. It has seen the introduction of PCSO's and now the introduction of Parish Special Constables, the first of whom arrives

shortly for Cold Ashby and the surrounding villages. The aim of the parish constable is for local communities to support their local policing effort within a community which means something to them, to provide a visible presence in the local rural areas, and to improve the overall feeling of safety within a community, by focussing primarily on community engagement, crime prevention and problem solving.

We are continuing to look for volunteers to join us in a multitude of ways, from Horse Watch to Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch and of course, Parish Special Constables. If you are interested in any of these please get in touch for more details.

Lastly, we circulate a monthly report with local crime statistics and reported incidents as well a report from your local PCSO. If you would like to receive this report please drop us an email. - *Sgt Matt Moore*

## Lampport and Hanging Houghton

Hanging Houghton experienced a minor crime wave in the period from mid-February to mid-March with three thefts being reported.

Garden furniture was stolen from the rear garden of one of the houses in Townsend Close. Electrical equipment was stolen from a garden shed in one of the apartments in the Grange. A fence was sawn through to allow access to the garden and a stable in Manor Gardens. It was also suspected that the thieves returned the following night in an unsuccessful attempt to gain access to the stables again.

The Manor Gardens residents were very impressed with the swift police action in recovering some of their stolen goods within two days. Well done to the local constabulary.

I am hopeful that we will be organizing a village BBQ again this summer on the village green – keep an eye on the notice board for dates.

The Parish Council have arranged for the installation of a “dog poo bin” in Hanging Houghton which will be sited on the village green. – *Mike Philpott*

## Friends of All Saints Church Brixworth Annual Art Exhibition

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June 2015, 11am-5pm at the Heritage Centre, Church Street, Brixworth

We will have over 20 local artists exhibiting a range of watercolours, acrylic and pastel art, greetings cards and textiles all available for purchase

## Draughton News

As I write, the daffodils, violets and other early spring signs are disappearing, and the weather has that sting of cold in its tail which now seems to come every year after exceptionally warm springs!

Undaunted, Draughton is gearing up to a new event – a spring sale at Spratton Hall School – as village fundraising begins its 2015 journey. Report coming next issue!

Future events for the village include the Spring Fayre on June 14th, a Barn Dance on June 26th and a classic car gathering with vintage tea on June 28th (and if you have a vintage car you'd like to bring along, we'd love to meet her/him! Please contact Kate Calnan 686747).

If that weren't enough, in September we'll have the Draughton Great British Produce show. For all with allotments, gardens and active kitchens, make a note, we'll be digging for your entries.

It's a sign of the times that all villages are raising funds and competing with other villages for people's money, time and enthusiasm, but it is surely one of the most binding things about village life, and as such, plays a valuable role in allowing people to contribute and Draughton is definitely busy with its own 'Big Society' in miniature!

– *Kate Calnan*

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# Verging on controversy

Were you one of the many people who were unhappy with the knee-high grass growing in front of your house last year? Most of the complaints the Parish Council received in 2014 concerned the unkempt state of the grass verges in the village.

Up until now, Northamptonshire County Council has been responsible for cutting the grass in the village three times a year, with the Parish Council funding two additional cuts. A problem arose last year because it was not considered a fast-growing season, so the contractors were not obliged to mow so frequently.

Due to the complaints and general frustration of Brixworth residents, the Parish Council decided to take matters in hand and negotiated to take all the grass cutting in-house. However, another challenge now stands in the way of Brixworth looking as attractive as it might.

It is a common sight throughout the village to see cars parked on grass verges. While this is not illegal, it causes a number of problems. Parking on grass creates unsightly damage and spreads mud on footpaths. Inappropriately parked vehicles can obstruct a clear view of the road for other motorists. Also, vehicles are not permitted to drive over pavements for pedestrian safety. For these reasons, while people may not be aware of the consequences, parking on a grass verge

may put personal convenience ahead of consideration for other residents.

There is also a very practical consideration to take into account. Where cars are parked on the verges, the Parish Council's groundsman cannot access the grass for mowing.

To highlight this problem, the Parish Council took to its Facebook page and posted a photo of a grass verge in the village that has been seriously damaged by cars parking on it. Alex Coles, Parish Council vice chair, said, "We only wanted to say a gentle 'Please don't'. We were not targeting anyone specifically and we were careful not to include any street names or licence plates in our photograph".

However, the post generated a number of comments from residents pointing out that they have nowhere else to park their vehicles than on the grass. The Councillors were quite taken aback by the fierceness of some of the responses.

The Council hopes it can count on the community's support in addressing an issue



that so many residents raised as a priority last year. However, it appears there are intensely held mixed views about this matter, so the online debate may continue for some time yet. - Jennifer Fitzgerald

## Volunteers needed for Speed Watch

Brixworth's Speed Watch team is urgently looking for more volunteers to help out with the annual speed awareness campaign, which is starting in July.

The campaign checks vehicle speed at several known speeding hotspots around the village, raises driver awareness and highlights areas of particular concern. Last year's Speed Watch was instrumental in highlighting the speeding problem at the bottom of Station Road, as a result of which the police recently agreed several extra speed calming measures.

If there is anyone who is concerned about the speed of traffic in the village, for example young mothers with children in school or pre-school, and who can spare a few hours a week for three weeks, we would love to hear from you. Training will take place at Caroline Chisholm School in Northampton on 20 June.

To register your interest, please contact Howard Reader at Brixworth Information Point in the library on a Thursday morning or call 882622. - Howard Reader, Speed Watch co-ordinator.



**T**his year we celebrate our 20th Anniversary! To mark the occasion we have decided to build a water feature on the course between the 9th and the 18th holes, right in front of the Club house. The course is set in undulating heathland and has got arguably the best fairways in the County.

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# Country Eye

## Welcome back, Red Kite

So how do we get rid of all those undesirables? Where our wildlife and wild places are concerned it seems all too easy. But first I think we need to settle what we mean by the word. To me it seems to mean any plant or animal that turns up in the wrong place, especially if that place has somehow escaped the heavy hand of humankind. Such arrogant behaviour on our part towards the natural world is not new of course. What has changed, especially since the 1940s, are the development of tools that enable us to make ever-more drastic alterations to landscapes that have remained broadly untouched since the last Ice Age.

Our attitude towards our semi-wild surroundings needs to change, and change swiftly, as we are approaching a point where the wanton destruction worldwide will trigger off an unstoppable avalanche of mass extinctions of species. We, who think we know so much, in truth have hardly begun to scratch the surface of the complex relationships among and between the species out there. As I have said before, it's a certainty that out in my garden there are plants and animals that are completely unknown to science. In other words never before been seen by humans, let alone studied by them. Without such knowledge how can we hope to make sense of the intricate life web of which we are a part?

Of course there are things happening out there to the benefit of our wildlife community. The recent welcome reappearance of two birds of prey in the skies over Brixworth is a case in point. I refer to the red kite and the buzzard, both of them driven into local extinction by relentless and misguided persecution. Locally the red kite was well on the way to oblivion by the middle years of the nineteenth century.



Accused of carrying off lambs and chickens, its fate was sealed. Let's admit that young chicks, especially of game bird species are vulnerable to them, and need to be reared under protective cover. Yet thorough and painstaking observation shows that in sheep-rearing upland areas, sheep carrion can be a major food source. At lambing time their enthusiastic clearing up of placentas could be regarded as a service. Instead it may have given rise to the lamb-stealing notion. It has been pointed out that the long legs and small feet of the red kite make it impossible for it to kill a lamb.

Here, the red kites occupying territories around Brixworth will seek their prey among other birds like wood pigeons and blackbirds, while in season they prey heavily on the eggs and young of carrion crows and magpies. Certainly, abject panic seems to ensue whenever the large narrow-winged, wedge-tailed silhouette of a red kite in hunting mode appears over my house. Returning again to the issue of large prey, it is certainly one of our larger predators, with a wingspan that can measure five-and-a-half feet. Recently I asked members of my family to guess the weight of an adult red kite. As I expected their guesses came in way too high, including one at sixteen pounds. (I won't mention any names but you know who you are Dave). Actually my son got it more or less spot on when he said 'the same as a bag of sugar' i.e. 1kg. So how is a lightweight like this going to be able to carry off a lamb weighing around 4kg?

Sad to say the illegal killing of these entirely useful birds still takes place. As a scavenger on the hunt for prey it is easy to tempt them with a bit of meat laced with a pesticide or other poison. And it is by no means unknown to find the corpses of birds that have been shot. It seems the conviction of the minority lives on that anything with hooked beak and sharp talons must be destroyed. Red kites often nest close to us, and in some parts of their range they have been attracted to large garden bird tables stocked with meat. So could it be that a red kite is coming to a bird table near you some time soon?

Next time I will write about the buzzard that has spectacularly recolonised our county, entirely under its own steam.

— Brian Webster

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# Putting the Church at the Centre of the Village

Unbelievably, a full two years have passed since Rev Chloe Willson-Thomas arrived at All Saints Church. Although dwindled to a very small number, she says the congregation she inherited in 2013 was “very kind and supportive”.

Since then, Rev Chloe has been busy. Believing that “The church should be the centre of the village”, she has introduced many changes “to get the church moving more, to get people more involved”. This has included morning family services, a toddlers’ group, and Taizé evening services incorporating candlelight and easy-to-learn chants from the Taizé community in France. Attendance has been rising gradually and Rev Chloe was thrilled with the turnout of about 80 people on Mothering Sunday.

Her family (a husband, two teenage children still at home, and an eldest daughter away at university) have adjusted well to their move to Brixworth, too. They still return to Leicester regularly where her son is at school and they have many friends.

Rev Chloe’s background as a professional singer and singing teacher has brought a new aspect to life at All Saints. In 2014, the Brixworth Music Festival was launched, which she hopes will become an annual event if funding can be secured. She says, “I’d like to develop Brixworth’s reputation for music. I have a vision where music brings people to the church. The church has very good acoustics and, of course, it is situated in a lovely spot”.

Working with Holcot’s church organist, James Bonsor, Rev Chloe has also set up a children’s choir called “Singing Saints”. This caters for 10-11 year olds and new members are always welcome.

The Christmas Tree Festival last year was another successful initiative, when many village organisations supplied and decorated their own tree, making the church look very pretty and festive. Rev Chloe felt this theme was particularly apt for All Saints, given its connection with St Boniface – a relic believed to be a bone of the saint is preserved by the church.

According to legend, in the eighth century in Germany, St Boniface came across a group of pagans worshipping an old oak tree dedicated to the god Thor. St Boniface chopped down the tree and a tiny fir tree was discovered growing between its roots. St Boniface declared the fir tree would from then on be a holy symbol, its evergreen leaves representing eternal life.

In addition to All Saints, Rev Chloe also manages the Holcot Parish Church of St Mary and All Saints. She says, “Of course, it’s a smaller church, but with more children. Sometimes we have had a breakfast together before the service, and we have held some outdoor services”. She also holds joint services with the Brixworth Christian Fellowship at Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Day, and is a School Governor at Brixworth Primary School.

What Rev Chloe enjoys most in her role is seeing children come to the church for the first time in many years, and the opportunities she is given to help people at difficult times of their lives.

She admits that what has been most challenging has been “starting new things off and making them happen, and making the services more accessible for all.”

Fortunately, she says people have responded very well to the changes. She hasn’t experienced any resistance, either, to her being a female priest, which she encountered occasionally in previous situations. She thanks the Friends of All Saints Church for the help they have given her (and makes a plea for more people to join them) and says she has also been impressed with the support she has received from the Peterborough diocese for this, her first incumbency.

Rev Chloe has clear ideas about where she would like to lead the


church in future. Her main objective is to attract more families into church. She sees huge potential for this given that she conducted no fewer than 26 baptisms last year! To support such growth, it has become essential for the church to have some toilet facilities and a servery, and initial talks about this are underway with the appropriate authorities. She also wants to introduce a Sunday school, for which she has already enlisted some volunteers.

She sees her role in serving the community as a privilege and in a historical light. “The church was founded by monks from Peterborough who were sent to several areas of Mercia. I feel that I have been sent by God to continue what they started during the 8th to 9th centuries—to spread the love of God.”


“I think a lot of people aren’t aware of how beautiful the church is. Do come and see what we are doing!”



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# Brixworth Country Park - Spring

## Autumn & Winter

Since our last update much has happened at Brixworth Country Park. We have had great success in the conservation work we have completed; in doing so we have a clearer view of what to do in the coming seasons. With the help of contractors our playground is looking fresher; and we look to extend our interactive play facilities throughout the park. We have also seen some vandalism, with an attempted break in to our car park machine.

The Brampton Valley Way is also doing very well after a programme of work has seen different stages completed. There has been extensive tree management along bank to the south of Kelmarsh Tunnels, ground and tree clearance at Keeper's Cottage, and continued work to improve the wildflowers at Triangular Meadow.



Pond including Dragonfly Larvae, Great Diving Beetles and lots of Freshwater Shrimp. The finds we have recorded tell us that we have a thriving, healthy pond, which we hope to encourage.

## Spring Holidays

Easter saw such wonderful weather for all of us across the county, perhaps not so much on Good Friday, but Bank Holiday Monday saw our car parks full to overflowing. We also had a wonderful time exploring our natural world with visitors at our "Underwater World" and "Bugs About" activities throughout the week. Lots of inquisitive youngsters found a wide variety of aquatic life in Bottom

## Playgrounds

With assistance from TCL and Reid Playground Maintenance, we have been able to refurbish our main playground. For some time, we have been missing three playground pieces, and the cableway has required a replenishment of bark chippings. The playground repairs include two new "springer" items, a new "spirotte", a refill of sand in the play pits and a fully restored cableway.

The stage of play development in the park will be to introduce "wild play" items along the different routes. The country park has so much to offer naturally that we hope to enhance this. As we will need to seek capital funding for the project it may take a little time to materialise, but I hope to keep you updated of any progress.

## Conservation maintenance – the Bottom Pond

The drainage problem at Bottom Pond has now been resolved. With assistance from the Countryside Service's Woodland & Estates team the old fractured pipework has been removed entirely and replaced. Fibrous roots from the willow situated directly above the pipe broke through the pipe wall and slowly filled it; with nowhere to go, the water flooded the footpath in front of the pond.

We do have more work to do in the pond, which will hopefully take place in the Autumn of this year to restore the lining to the wall, bank stabilisation and new fencing. In the meantime our visitors can help with the bank erosion by keeping their dogs out of the pond, while we tackle the invasive North American Signal Crayfish.

## Volunteering

A monthly volunteer group has started at Brixworth on the third Saturday of each month. Morgan leads the group around the park completing various tasks. So far, we have seen approximately seven new volunteers join us on these works days, and we are always happy to welcome more.

As well as this we have been supported by Moulton College students from a range of courses all developing their skills in a live working environment. They have been working with rangers throughout the week on tasks such as weeding, pruning, tree removal, furniture repair and other general maintenance tasks.

With volunteers assistance we have also been able to begin a programme of understory clearance and hazel layering. Self-set saplings often litter the floor of the woodlands, with brambles also

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# into Summer



making it difficult for ground flora such as bluebells to bloom. By clearing the scrub understory we open the ground up to light and water and improve the overall health of the woodlands. Once this has been cleared we can then “layer” the hazel, using existing hazel branches cut to the wick and replanted to repopulate woodlands with a much better understory of trees. In time, we hope to harvest the hazel through coppicing as stands for any hedge-laying we carry out.

## Brampton Valley Way – Oxendon & Kelmarsh Tunnels

Most recently Dan and his Thursday volunteers have completed their work clearing the southern bank at Kelmarsh Tunnels. The main focus has been to clear the west side to open the woodland floor up for flora, and to create a better flight path for birds and bats. Work on the east side will commence this coming autumn season.

With a student volunteer, the picnic area at Keeper’s Cottage (Draughton Car Park) has been opened up, old or worn bench tops have been replaced and treated. Although not often used, we hope that by making the clearing more visually appealing, visitors may start to use the area for rest stops or picnics.

At Oxendon Tunnels, we have been working to clear the drainage gully, removing sludgy leaf litter, brambles and self-set trees. It is vital work to ensure water and roots cannot damage the brickwork of the tunnels.

## Forthcoming Activities

### Surveying

In February we started to survey areas on the Brampton Valley Way, and at Brixworth for all flora and fauna. Although at first glance there doesn’t appear to be much, the meadows and woodlands are full of wildlife, even at that time of year.

To give us a clearer idea of what is there all year round; we are extending the surveys throughout the year on a quarterly basis to cover all seasons.

The dates and details for the forthcoming surveys are:

#### Brampton Valley Way

Wednesday 6th May 2015  
Wednesday 5th August 2015  
Wednesday 4th November 2015

#### Brixworth Country Park

Wednesday 20th May 2015  
Wednesday 19th August 2015  
Wednesday 21st October 2015

If you have a keen interest, or have any experience in wildlife surveying and would like to assist us with the survey work please get in touch with us.

## Volunteering

### Brampton Valley Way

Every Thursday (meet at Brixworth) 3rd Saturday of each month

### Brixworth Country Park

## Events

Here are a few of the events we expect to have at the country park throughout spring and summer. If you are interested in more information about these kinds of events please get in touch and let us know if you would like to be added to our event mailing list (rest assured we will ONLY email with details of forthcoming events, and your details will NOT be passed on to any other person, department or third party without your prior consent)

May	Brixworth	Quiz Trails & Prizes
May	Brixworth	Brixworth Bay & Back Guided Walk
June	Brampton Valley Way	Evening Bird Song Walk
August	Brixworth	RSPB Big Wild Sleepout
August	Brixworth	International Bat Night Walks

Details for events that we run can often be found on our Facebook pages.

## Social Media

Both Brixworth and Brampton have Facebook pages, which have now been set up to allow visitors to post to the pages and pictures. We also have a Twitter account @BXCPCBVW which again visitors can post pictures to, or wildlife sightings.

For all enquiries, please email: [brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk) or phone 889478. - Debbie Samwell, Senior Countryside Ranger

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(clockwise from top) The van came to rest in the garage wall of the Hare and Hounds; the Range Rover remained at the bottom of Station Road; the hole left by the van



## Dangerous Corner

On 15 April, afternoon cups of tea were rudely interrupted by a loud bang that sounded as though a bomb had exploded. A quick look out of the windows of 21 Church Street revealed a black Range Rover that had been violently pushed to the side of the road; it had a large dent in its off-side and a dislocated off-side rear wheel. It was difficult, at first glance to see whether or not anyone inside had been injured because the inflated air-bag obliterated any view through the vehicle windows.

It soon became clear that the Range Rover, which had been going up Station Road from the junction with Church Street, had been struck in its side by a van which was coming down Station Road and was about to turn left into Church Street. By the time concerned and helpful neighbours had arrived at the scene of the collision, the van had continued uncontrollably along Church Street and had come to an abrupt halt with its front off-side wheel firmly embedded in the garage wall of The Old Hare and Hounds, having brought down one of the new lamp posts in its travels.

After an interval, the police arrived, followed shortly by an ambulance. By very good fortune, it seems that the only injury suffered by the car driver was some bruising, probably caused by the air-bag. It is not known whether the van driver was affected in any way but he remained perfectly mobile.

We all know how dangerous this bend can be when taken too fast and without due care. In this case, the greatest damage sustained was by the Range Rover (which is probably a write-off), the silver van and the garage stone wall. - *George Hammerschmidt*



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## Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group



Do you care for a relative or friend? Why not come along to our Coffee Morning at Guilsborough Surgery on Wednesday 10th June, 10am -12noon. Staff from Northamptonshire Carers will be there, to offer advice and support for those who care.

For more information contact Secretary Barbara Hogg on 880552 or email [barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk)



# The Return of the Brixworth Music Festival

After the great success of the first Brixworth Music Festival last year we are now planning a second festival for September, with even more events for you to enjoy.

As well as ensembles and choirs who performed last year (Northampton Chamber Orchestra, Youth Brass 2000, Northampton Musical Theatre Company, Brixworth Songsters, John Clare Wind Quintet and the Swarbrick Singers) we will also be inviting new guests to come and perform, such as the Ensemble Marquise (early music), Rarescale (contemporary flute and guitar music), Reedology (clarinet ensemble) and the Northampton Concert Band. A completely new element will be a late night jazz concert at the weekend – dependent on funding.

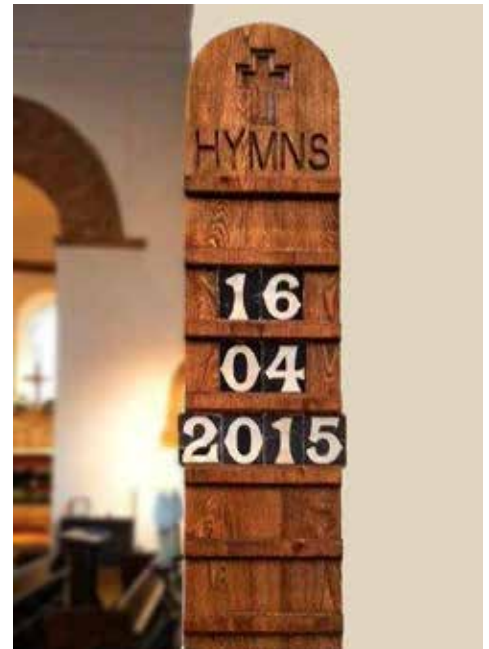
We hope to get the younger members of the Brixworth community involved with a workshop for children on one of the Saturday afternoons. This will include the Brixworth children's choir, The Singing Saints, under the direction of James Bonsor and Reverend Chloe, who will also be singing together with her husband, Gwion in another "Evening of Poetry and Song", hopefully joined once more by the singer and poetry reader Kay Soteriou.

We are particularly honoured to have as a special guest, composer and Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir, who will be in Brixworth on the second weekend of the Festival. She will be talking about her music at 6pm on the 27th September in the church. Performances of her music can be heard throughout the festival, so please watch out for the programme which can be found on our website from August when tickets will also be available.

We are still at the planning stage for this second Brixworth Music Festival, funding applications are in the post, the Festival Committee has taken up its work again, and Gwion Thomas will be joining me as Joint Artistic Director. If anyone in the community would like to sponsor one of our concerts and get a special mention in the Festival programme, please get in touch with our fund-raiser and liaison officer, Mary Parnell (m.parnell.123@btinternet.com).

We are confident that the second Festival will be just as successful – if not more so – than the first and that Brixworth will gradually become known as a centre of music. We look forward to seeing music lovers of all tastes and age groups in September. Meanwhile, check [www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk) for the latest updates.

– Vivienne Olive, Joint Artistic Director



## Moulton student makes new Hymn Board for All Saints

The Friends of Brixworth church are delighted with a new Hymn Number Display Board that has been crafted by a young local resident.

Matthew Astle, an 'A' Level Design student at Moulton School, has made the new piece of church furniture as part of his final year's coursework.

Over the past twelve months Matthew has worked with members of the Parochial Church Council to select the design, choose a material, colour and decoration. He has shown a number of skills to achieve the end product which is already in use in the Church.

The board is 'classic' in design and is very much in keeping with the age and decoration of our historic church. It is a testament to Matthew's skills and we hope it will remain as part of the fabric of the church for many years to come.

– Kate Knight, Friends of Brixworth Church

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## Brixworth Drama Group Summer Production

# 'ALLO 'ALLO

*"Listen very carefully, I will say this only once..."*



Brixworth Drama Group is to perform an amateur production of 'Allo 'Allo by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft on Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th July, 7.30pm at Brixworth Village Hall.

Based on the hugely popular TV comedy series, the stage version of 'Allo 'Allo follows the adventures of Rene (James Skeggs), the hapless café owner in war-torn France, as he and his wife, Edith (Heather Pool), struggle to keep for themselves a priceless portrait stolen by the Nazis and kept in their cellar. Rene is hiding two British airmen and is endeavouring, with the help of the Resistance, to repatriate them. However, communications with London through a wireless disguised as a cockatoo add to some of the many embarrassments he endures in the company of his patrons. Matters come to a head with the news that the Führer is to visit the town. Rene will need all the wit he can muster to save his café and his life....!

If you enjoyed the TV series, you'll love this, and if you don't remember the TV series, then you'll still have a thoroughly enjoyable, laugh-out-loud evening. So please come along and enjoy the fun as Brixworth Drama Group recreate this comedy.

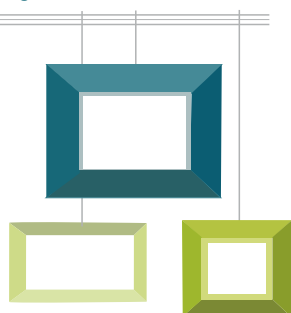
Tickets are £6 and can be purchased at Brixworth Home and Hardware or Libby Bowers (880672). A warm welcome and a licensed bar await you.

For info contact Sue I'Anson on 880238, 07841 381345 or sueianson89@gmail.com.

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### Women's Tour Cycle Race to visit again

Following the success of last year, the International Road Race known as the Women's Tour is once again passing through Brixworth.

The route passes along Spratton Road and, as last time, the best viewing may well be outside the Library and Community Centre, where seating and refreshments from the Olive Branch will be available. The race passes through on Friday 19th June and timings and further details are available from the Information Point. - *Mike Nice*

# Brixworth History Society

## Summer Photographic Exhibition

You may have noticed a number of people walking around Brixworth taking photographs during the past few months. They could have been members of Brixworth History Society taking them for our summer photographic exhibition in the Heritage Centre.

We are using the view from old pictures and reproducing the same view for 2015. The results make interesting comparisons with the past and present landscape of Brixworth and are on display in our summer exhibition.

The photographic exhibition is open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons in the Heritage Centre from 2.30-5pm until the end of September. Entry is free and there are refreshments available to purchase.

The Heritage Centre is on the village green in the historic heart of Brixworth. Combine a visit to the exhibition with a visit to the ancient All Saints' Church and take a 'selfie' alongside the butter cross and the village stocks.

## Historic Archive

Members of Brixworth History Society are often asked to support other groups by providing facts and pictures from bygone days. The Ironstone Society has an exhibition in Brixworth Library during June and we were asked to help out with previous research that our members have archived.

During the past number of years we have been building an archive of oral histories from many local residents who grew up in Brixworth. They record their memories of their family life, childhood activities, working life, hard times and good times. This is an ongoing project and makes for fascinating listening.

The Society has an extensive archive illustrating the history of Brixworth and if you would like to contribute or there is something you wish to find out please get in touch.

We have monthly meetings, usually on the third Thursday evening of the month, with an invited guest speaker. There are also regular trips to places of interest.

The annual membership is £12 per person or £3 per visitor for each meeting.

## Contacts

Chairman: Heather Parr Tel. 07817 006364  
Email: hlparr@aol.com

Secretary: Dennis Coles Tel. 07725 432651  
Email: mail@denniscoles.net

Archivist: Pauline Kirton Email: pakirton6@gmail.com

Archivist: Deni Willis Tel. 880612

Website: www.brixworthhistory.org



# Brix & Mortar

## Selling off-market

Since opening the Brixworth Office in '99, O'Riordan Bond has seen many changes to Brixworth and the surrounding villages.

Locally, the housing market was very strong in 2014 and prices on average increased by 8% across properties in Brixworth year on year. Our office registered well over 900 new prospective purchasers last year; they were a mixture of people living elsewhere who were hoping to buy a home for the first time in the village, or people who already live here looking for their next dream home. The difficulty is when you already own a home and are looking to take the next step, it is often scary going to the market with your own property when you haven't found your own next home yet.

Unfortunately, in the current property market, speed is of the essence. Unless you've put yourself in a position where you can secure the right house as soon as it becomes available, you will more often than not be beaten to the punch by somebody else who can move faster. This could be somebody who did take the leap of faith and secured a buyer on theirs, one who was prepared to sit and wait for them to find their next dream home.

This is one of the reasons why an awful lot of properties in Brixworth sell 'off market'.

Off-market selling means selling a property without advertising it publicly. It requires the

estate agent to act as the broker to match prospective buyers with properties that are not listed on any websites or splashed across office windows. Once a phenomenon that mostly applied to high-end properties in London, off-market selling has become increasingly common in the countryside too – including in Brixworth.

A purchaser, who wants a specific house and is prepared to pay a premium for it, will register with an estate agent and wait for the right property to become available. This can often mean they have the chance to have a "one-off" viewing before the property is announced to the market.

The advantage for the seller is that it allows people with properties to sell to

gauge the interest in the old property 'on the quiet' while they search for their next move. The absence of competing potential buyers means that there is less pressure to move right away - once the interested buyer is found, it is often possible to agree the sale subject to the vendor-client finding their next dream home. This in turn moves the vendor to the front of queue when the best properties in Brixworth come to the market, increasing the chances of the vendor being able to purchase their dream home when they find it.

This kind of activity is one of the reasons why Brixworth continues to be a strong property market and why people continue to want to move to Brixworth. – *Simon Bond*

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<p><b>Four</b> We give your home maximum exposure</p> <p>We reach a massive audience. This year we will spend £150,000 marketing our clients property across Northamptonshire and North Buckinghamshire using a wide range of media: press, web, radio and our own publications.</p>	<p><b>Five</b> We show your property at it's best</p> <p>We take time and effort to represent every property in the best possible light. On <a href="http://www.oriordanbond.co.uk">www.oriordanbond.co.uk</a> you will find floorplans, numerous colour photographs, location maps and printable colour brochures for properties.</p>	<p><b>Six</b> We get you the best possible price</p> <p>Being local and focused on selling property in Brixworth and the surrounding villages means choosing O'Riordan Bond Brixworth increases the chances of securing a purchaser at the best possible price.</p>

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# Brixworth & Scaldwell Guides



Since Christmas, the Guides have been busy taking part in lots of activities including candle making, a pyjama party and quizzes. We have also been making the most of the new cooker in the Centre, making biscuits and Easter nests.

Outside of Brixworth, as part of World Thinking Day we attended Arts Go Global – a regional event with guides from across the Midlands in Newark and, a bit nearer to home, some of the guides took part in the a sponsored swim organised by the Northampton Rotary Club (see separate report). Between them they completed over a mile!

# Rotary Swimarathon

Saturday 28th March 2015

Under the circumstance, this year's Swimarathon, organized jointly by the four Northampton Rotary Clubs, was a reasonable success. It must be remembered that we had to find a new venue and only learned of this at the beginning of January. So we were very late in attempting to get teams and Business Sponsorship.

We eventually had to choose between holding the event at either the Boys School in Billing Road or the Chris Moody Sports Therapy & Injury Rehabilitation Centre at Moulton College. We eventually chose the Chris Moody Centre and that proved a great venue. They could only accept us on the first weekend of the schools Easter Holidays. Unfortunately, this meant that a number of teams that had previously supported our Swimarathon could not do so this year. This was due to previous team members being involved with Cub and Guide camps, Easter holidays and the Duke of Edinburg award scheme.

Due to a lack of support we decided to consolidate the event on the Saturday and cancelled the arrangement for the Sunday. On the Saturday we had 11 teams made up of 50 swimmers and they all said they had had a great time and would love to come again next year. The 50 swimmers are to be congratulated in completing a total of 955 lengths that works out to be over 13.5 miles. The All Girls Zena team of six swimmers completed the most lengths at 113 in the 50 minutes in the pool. We had some very young swimmers in the two AquaBees teams, some needed swimming supports to compete but they all finished happily. So far the swimmers have raised over £1,500 in sponsorship, but this will increase as we collect all the money. We were fortunate to receive £1,200 in business sponsorship. So we should have made a reasonable amount on the day. This year we have offered to return 50% of the swimmers' sponsorship money to the individual teams to donate to a charity or good cause of their choice.

– Stan Evans



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## Toddlers wiggle for charity



The children at Sunny Socks Nursery School are proud to announce that their sponsored 'Giant Wiggle' raised £456 for Action for Children.

Action for Children is a national charity that makes a difference to children and young people across the UK, ensuring their futures can be brighter and happier for years to come.

The children and toddlers all had fun wiggling like caterpillars & wiggled 4 times round the car park to raise their sponsorship money.

They would like to thank all those that donated with a giant thank you!



# Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts



The winter term is always a tough one with the dark nights and the temperamental weather. However we scouts do like to make the best of it and while more of the activities we do are indoors then we would like, they are none the less always fun.

In January the group started a second Beaver colony on Monday nights. There are now two colonies of eighteen Beavers each. This means the group was able to take twelve young people off the waiting list. With the new Beavers in mind we decided to look at the Friendship Challenge badge. The Emergency Aid, Disability Awareness and Animal Friend activity badges dovetailed nicely into this theme. The Cats Protection League visited the Beavers to tell them all about looking after their pet cats and the Beavers had a great time meeting lots of different animals and finding out how to care for them at Pets at Home. Chinese New Year Celebrations were a good way to look at how people live in other countries, and the Beavers played Easter themed games with a difference learning how it might be for someone less able than themselves. The Beavers also looked at knots, a good scouting staple, made some fab gifts for Mothers Day and played games with potatoes on Potato Night!

Meanwhile the Cubs have also been getting up to all sorts of fun stuff. They celebrated Burns night with some haggis and Irn Bru as well as celebrating Chinese New Year with lots of Chinese food. The Cubs spent a couple of evenings looking at astronomy, even getting to look through some decent telescopes. They dressed up for World Book Day and also made some great things to give their mums on Mothers Day. To finish the term they had a go at Backwoods Cooking – do you get the impression there was a food theme this term? – and had an Easter Hunt.

Cubs are still looking to swell the ranks of their leaders so if you fancy joining in the fun and finding out exactly where all the mud come from – let us know.

Over on Wednesday nights the Scouts have also been busy. They started the term with some new members and did a little team building to help everyone get to know each other. They have been working on their Promise, Global and Fitness challenge badges. They have taken part in stargazing, celebrated Chinese New Year, been hiking, taken part in some craft work and a treasure hunt. Soon many of them are off on camp – more of that in the next update.

Explorers started the year with some pancake cooking, and a little bit of fitness doing the bleep test. They have taken part in district quizzes, and a Paint Ball Camp. They went to Corby pool and jumped off the high board and met the local MP, Chris Heaton-Harris to ask him a few questions. On top of all that they have taken part in orienteering, had driving lessons, had a talk on cybercrime and been swimming. I am exhausted just writing about it!

Things to look forward to in the next scouting update are a visit from Bear Grylls, the Chief Scout, at the County Day in May, and a report back from the Scout Camp. Also look out for the Explorer Scouts. Twenty three of our young people are hoping to go to Kandersteg,

Switzerland in August 2016. They will be working hard to raise funds for this expedition by arranging all sorts of events. Please support them in their endeavours. If you know of any scheme at your company that supports such causes please put our name forward or let the leaders know how they can apply.

On another note – the scout group has a huge amount of equipment that needs to be stored in a dry safe place with easy access. Currently it is stored at the centre and various leaders' garages and homes. The group would like to put this all together in one readily accessible place. Do you or do you know of anyone that could help us with this? The group is open to suggestions – a vacant garage or barn, a storage container on a piece of land. If you can help us in this matter please contact us.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 21st May 2015, 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Overstone Scout Campsite. After a short meeting refreshments and fun and games will be available for all. Please come and join us.

As always we continue to look for new leaders in all sections, particularly Cubs and Scouts. If you would like to find out more about becoming involved please come and talk to us and find out how you to can join in all the fun.

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@btpopenworld.com](mailto:brixworth_gsl@btpopenworld.com). To put your young person (boy or girl) on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please email their name, date of birth, your name, address and telephone numbers to [brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk) – *Kim Phillips*



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# Brixs and Morton's fundraising smashes first target

A fundraising drive in memory of Brixworth mum Lindsay Morton, who tragically passed away of a stroke in November 2013 at the age of 39, has raised over £4600 and the total keeps on rising.

Lindsay's widower Nick Morton, together with a group of local dads, has got together to raise money in her memory for two charities. Nick Morton, Stuart Little, Tom Brooks, Lee Henderson, John Wooding, Gary Hooker, Phil Ashby, Richard Nicz and Michael Hand are currently training for the Wolf Run



this summer, having successfully completed the "Sole Destroyer" a 10k run in mud and through freezing water, earlier this year.

They are raising money for The Stroke Association and Northampton General Hospital's Gosset Ward Special Care Baby Unit.

"It's such a terrible shame. Linz was such a wonderful person that lit up a room and had a presence that touched all that met her. She is sadly missed, no more so than by her fantastic children Lilly and Tom," says Stuart Little. "We are all close friends from the village. They guys were thinking about doing some events and I suggested we did it in memory of Lindsay."



The donation towards the Special Care Baby Unit will help fund a high specification ultrasound machine which will help the hospital better assess and care for the – on average – 25 babies born each year in Northampton with heart disease.

The machine can also help plan further medical care, not only early on in a baby's life but also right through until the late teenage years.

While the hospital has an ultrasound machine, it is not the most sophisticated model on the market. The unit the hospital would like to buy costs £72,000. In March, the hospital was £17,000 short of that sum. The Brixworth fundraisers hope to give the hospital a real boost towards their goal.

Stuart says: "Our initial target was for £1000! But the generosity of people has been amazing many from the village so this has been smashed. Hopefully the Wolf Run in June will help us raise more and we may try and do something else before the end of the year."

The Wolf Run will take place on Saturday 13th June at Stanford Hall Leicestershire, and the fundraisers hope to have a fun afternoon with BBQ, bouncy castle, face painting etc at The George afterwards.

Come along and support the effort. And don't forget to visit our donation page at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/brixsandmorton> – Stuart Little



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# Village Fair in aid of Mind

In January I started a six month period of fundraising for the charity Mind. I have convinced myself and some of my friends to all give something up during this period. I've given up chocolate, others have given up alcohol, sweets and fast food. Our fundraising page just for this already raised £215.

The first event was a bake sale at the library on the first weekend of January which raised £130. I then held a pub quiz at The George in April. The George put on a barbeque for me along with this and we raised £323.50 with the winners receiving a bottle of champagne and a Hotel Chocolat box of chocolates.

This brings us up to a total of £668.50 so far. I am finishing off the six months with a craft fair at the village hall on Saturday the 27th of June, 10am-4pm. Entry will be £2, free for under 12s. I have already secured sponsorship to cover the cost of the hall allowing all funds raised from stallholders and visitors to go straight to Mind.

We have cards, jewellery, knitted and fabric gifts, chocolates, cakes, candles, scarves and handbags and even vintage bird feeder teacups on offer!

There will be refreshments at the fair, a 'guess how many sweets in the jar' competition, and a raffle which already comprises a number of prizes including vouchers for photography, hairdressing and beauty.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported me so far. – *Emily Ames*

# Village Networks: bringing expert advice



The outreach vehicle is visiting Brixworth over several months including June and July. The vehicle is full of information with experts and free advice on welfare benefits, debt, health and wellbeing, better deals for gas, electricity and heating oil (bring your statement along!), job-seeking support, computer lessons and volunteering opportunities.

Come and see us on Wednesdays 17th June and 15th July, 11am – 2pm outside the library, and 2-4pm near the primary school in Froxhill Crescent.

On other days, the vehicle will be visiting Long Buckby, Weedon, Yelvertoft, Crick and Kilsby. Village Network would welcome requests from other villages to visit them. For details see [www.snvb.org.uk](http://www.snvb.org.uk) or contact Nick King if you need help or advice on 01327 358264 or [nick@snvb.org.uk](mailto:nick@snvb.org.uk) – *Nick King*

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# Brixworth & District U3A

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

Twelve members went with the theatre group to see Jesus Christ Superstar at the Royal and Derngate in March.

The London History Group had an enjoyable and informative day out in London on the 10th April with the weather being kind. Irene led the group around the old East End of London. Among many buildings viewed was the soup kitchen for the Jewish poor, built circa 1902, and two very old pubs – The Ten Bells where the ladies of the night used to ply their trade and Dirty Dicks which is believed to be one of London's oldest pubs. Time was spent looking round Spitalfields Market where some members enjoyed lunch. The photo below was taken on the steps of Christ Church built circa 1740-1750 by Hawksmoor.

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



## Players wanted – outdoor green bowls

The Outdoor Green Bowls team at Cold Ashby is looking for new players to come and join in. Beginners are most welcome!

The team plays both home and away. If interested, please contact Gerry Kimbell 01604 880593 or 07710 619545.

# Sure Start Centre on the move



Some of you may have heard that the Brixworth Sure Start Children's Centre building in Church Street has closed and are worried that this service might have been stopped.

However, we are delighted to announce that the Children's Centre has re-located to Brixworth Library, within the Library & Community Centre. This means that all the services are now in one central location, easier for all to access. We would like to

welcome Lucy Walker, Brixworth Sure Start Children's Centre Manager, and her team, Lynne and Anna, along with Bridget Panther, Brixworth Health Visitor, to Brixworth Library.

Bridget will be running her usual weekly Thursday morning baby weigh-in clinic from 10am to 12.30pm in the new "Pod" on the mezzanine floor at the library – there is a lift in the foyer to the first floor, and newly-installed stair gates at either end of the mezzanine for the children's safety. Running alongside the clinic is a free, drop-in "Play & Learn for under 1s" activity on the mezzanine from 10.30am to 12 noon, delivered by LibraryPlus Children's Centre staff member Christine Horne.

On Thursday afternoons from 1pm, Bridget will be running the Developmental Checks Clinic. Sure Start staff members will be available for information and advice and also run a "Time for Twos" session (pre-booking required). "Tiny Treasures" will run on a Monday morning 10.15–11.45am from 1st June. Again, you'll need to pre-book these sessions with Sure Start, and staff members will be based at Brixworth on a regular basis.

All Children's Centre activities are listed in the Sure Start Daventry & Rural Cluster programme including those run by LibraryPlus Children's Centre staff, Sure Start staff and local Health Visitor Clinics. Just pop in to Brixworth Library to get your copy!

We are all enjoying working together as a team and hope you find the new facilities more convenient and easier to access. Why not drop in to the library and see what we have to offer – the under 5s area downstairs has lots of new toys (and books!) that are available at all times, whilst the mezzanine floor is used for specific activities as advertised in the Sure Start programme. We look forward to welcoming you soon! – *Jill Barber*

## Come to the Primary School Fayre!

The PTA has had a busy Spring Term with four successful events. The 'World Book Day' themed disco was full of character, the Easter Bingo was choc-tastic, Mother's Day stall was sweet and lovely and the after-school Tuck Shop went down a storm. We would like to thank everyone who helped and supported these events.

Our annual Summer Fayre is due to take place on Saturday 27th June between 12-2pm. The theme this year is 'Summer Tea

Party' with a children's Bake off Competition. There will be many fun games and activities including face painting, tattoos, hair-braiding, coconut shy, tombolas and go karting to name a few. Plenty of refreshments will be available with strawberries and cream and cloudy lemonade, cakes, ice creams and a summer barbecue with the support of the local scout group. Weather permitting the children will dance with the Maypole and also the school choir will be performing.

Stalls in the main hall offering a variety of locally-made crafts, gifts, photography and other wares. Our raffles are always a huge success with this year's first prize being an iPad. Tickets for both the raffle and entrance can be purchased on the day. All funds raised directly benefit the children.

Without the support of parents, teachers, carers, children, grandparents etc the PTA would not be able to hold such events. We are always looking for new ideas and support, if you would like to get involved, no matter how big or small then please get it touch.

We hope to see you at the Summer Fayre! - *Heather Gardener and Julie Macdonnell, joint Chairs*. Email: [brixworthprimarypta@gmail.com](mailto:brixworthprimarypta@gmail.com); School office 883900

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# Library events

## Activities for children

*Holidays and term-time*

**Rhymetime** for the Under 5s and their parents and carers  
Mondays 2.30pm & Fridays 10.15am

**Crafts & Discovery Club** for children aged 4-11 years  
Mondays 3.30-4.30pm

### Play & Learn

Under 5s: Tuesdays 1.30-3.00pm  
Under 1s: Thursdays 10.30-12noon

### Family activities

Sundays 1-4pm

For the latest activities, check [www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary)

*May half-term holiday*

### Messy Crafts

Wednesday 27th May 2.30pm; Free to all children 2-11 years – book in advance either in library or email [brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

*Summer holidays*

All Under 5s activities will continue at their usual times throughout the holidays. This year the **Summer Reading Challenge** theme is "Guinness World Records". Look out for more details nearer the time. There will be activities throughout the summer holidays every Wednesday afternoon from 2.30-3.30pm – all free!

## Other events

**Exhibition:** Ironstone Quarrying Around Scaldwell & Brixworth  
6th - 27th June

A display of photographs, maps, drawings and documents covering many aspects of this once important Northamptonshire industry

### Book Club

First Tuesday of every month, 10.30am. Please note new time!

We now have 2 **IT buddies** – Robin and Nick. If you need help with IT basics, or using a lap top, or want to get to grips with a new iPad, or any other IT questions or queries, then Robin and Nick are here to help! Just come in and make an appointment. This has proved a very popular service, and we have had a lot of positive feedback from satisfied customers.

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 a £1?

### NAB Mobile Unit

On the Library & Community Centre forecourt Wednesday 22nd July 11:30 to 12:45pm for help & advice on visual impairment issues.

### Village Networks Mobile unit

On the Library Forecourt from 11am to 2pm on 17th June & 15th July, then at Froxhill Crescent by the School from 2pm to 4pm. Free advice on health and wellbeing, money, debt counselling, reducing household bills, job-seeking advice and support, and volunteering opportunities.

## Get involved

We need your help! If you have a little time to spare, why not consider a volunteering role at the library? We have several specific volunteering roles at the moment:

### Under 5s activities helpers and leaders

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. Training provided – you will need DBS check and complete an online "Safeguarding" module.

### Display assistant

If you would like to make the most of your creative skills making displays for the library then this is the role for you!

### Super Sunday volunteer

If you have some time to spare on a regular basis from 1-4pm on a Sunday, this is a varied role. You could be greeting customers, making coffees, helping with craft activities, tidying and shelving etc.

### Stock assistant

If you have a tidy mind and like shelving books, enjoy reading and socialising with customers, then this is the role for you.

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](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved).

## Other services

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 or pod hire

## Opening Hours

Monday – Friday 10am to 6pm

Saturdays 9am to 1pm

Sundays 1pm to 4pm

Closed Spring Bank Holiday Monday 25th May and Summer Bank Holiday Monday 31st August.

Contact us at [brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk) Keep up to date with all the latest activities at [www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary)

- Jill Barber

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# Thomas Tresham's Treasures

Not a day passes but we are made uncomfortably aware of the prevalence and dangers of excessive religious zeal. This is not, however, only a contemporary phenomenon: one has only to read (or watch) Wolfe Hall to be reminded of how dangerous it was in Tudor times to declare oneself a Protestant or a Roman Catholic, depending on whoever was occupying the English throne at the time. Happily for us, one sixteenth century recusant left us two wonderful and mystifying buildings, both within easy reach of Brixworth and both well worth a visit: they are Rushton Triangular Lodge and Lyveden New Bield.

Apart from their architectural charm and, in Lyveden's case, delightful setting, both buildings are adorned with Christian symbols which proclaim the passionate and self-harming commitment to Catholicism of their builder, Sir Thomas Tresham. The Tresham family (a great Northamptonshire dynasty alongside that of the Ishams of Lamport) was of Norman descent and they had a colourful history. Sir Thomas, as a result of his religious zeal, was heavily fined, lost his fortune and was imprisoned for fifteen years. His son, Francis, died in the Tower, having been one of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators.

Rushton Triangular Lodge is a small, most unusual building. It flaunts Tresham's passionate belief in the Holy Trinity which is repeatedly indicated in the building by the number 3: it has three walls, each surmounted by three triangular pediments and each wall measuring  $33\frac{1}{3}$  feet, each with three trefoil windows with triangular openings. The building has three floors and a triangular chimney. Three Latin texts, each comprising 33 letters run round the building on each façade.

There are numerous more symbols on this delightful folly, completed in 1597; the joy of a visit is to try and spot them resorting, when necessary, to the English Heritage guidebook for help.



Only 14½ miles from the Triangular Lodge is another of Sir Thomas's treasures, the large unfinished house, Lyveden New Bield. It was intended as a banqueting and hunting lodge and has a ground plan in the shape of a symmetrical Greek cross. It is set in beautiful countryside, ideal for a picnic. Money having run out, the house is as the builders left it in 1605 but visitors can still explore, inside and out, and identify the Great Hall and Great Chamber, the kitchens and ovens and the first floor bedrooms. There was an intention to add a third floor but that remained unfulfilled and the house is, and has been since 1605, open to the sky.

As with the Triangular Lodge, the house is amply decorated with religious symbols, in this case the emblems of Christ's passion which are beautifully carved in stone panels; identifying these various icons makes the visit interesting, challenging and an excellent treasure hunt for younger members of the family.

Near the house is a beautiful miniature landscape including a small canal and a mound with a spiral walkway to the top, designed to be gently navigable by ladies with long skirts.

Having viewed these beautiful buildings and their peaceful surroundings, one can pause to reflect that not all religious zeal is of necessity harmful to others.

A visit to Lyveden can be enjoyably rounded off in the tea-room which serves homemade treats, including soups, cakes, and cream teas.

Approximate distances in road miles are:

Brixworth to the Triangular Lodge - 15; Triangular Lodge to Lyveden - 15; Lyveden to Brixworth - 25, making it a round trip of 55 miles.

Details of opening hours and admission charges are available on the English Heritage and National Trust websites (for the Triangular Lodge and Lyveden New Bield respectively). - *George Hammerschmidt*

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# Meet the Brixworth Belles Planning update

The Brixworth Belles are a new group that has started up in the village for ladies of all ages. The first meeting in February was a very jolly gathering of wine tasters (we understand everyone made it home safely)!

In March a speed chatting session ensured that we got to meet and chat with as many ladies as possible in the time allowed. The Brixworth First Responders came to the next meeting in April and gave a very realistic demonstration on how to recognise the signs of a heart attack and what to do if you suspect someone is having one. And coming up on May 14 there will be a quiz night, so get a team together and join us at St David's Clubhouse for a fun evening. Meetings/activities for the rest of the year are as follows:

10th June Walk and Talk: The history of Pitsford Reservoir  
Meet at Country Park (shops), walk starts at 8pm prompt

8th July Mid- Summer Party: BBQ and Treasure Hunt  
Meet at Country Park from 7.30pm

13th August History of Brixworth Walk  
Meet at the George at 7.50pm, walk starts at 8pm prompt

10th September Meditation Evening  
Brixworth Village Hall, start time 8.15pm

8th October Cocktail-tasting  
Meet at The George, start time 8pm. An additional payment will be charged for this event, the cost is yet to be confirmed

10th November Ben Frazer, The Cake Artisan. Behind the scenes of The Great British Bake Off  
Brixworth Village Hall, start time 8.15pm

8th December Christmas Party  
Brixworth Village Hall, start time 8.15pm.  
Wine, beer, fun and dancing!

All ladies are welcome at our meetings and everyone is assured of a very warm welcome. Come along by yourself or with a friend (you do not have to be from the village).

Membership is £10 per year and £3 per meeting. Or, come as a guest as often as you like for £5 per meeting. If an event carries any additional costs, such as flower arranging or crafting, we will ask you to bring your own materials or charge a supplement in addition to the £3/£5 charge.

Contact: brixworthbelles@hotmail.com, join us on facebook: www.facebook.com/brixworthbelles or tweet us @brixbelles. You can even have a chat by ringing 07854015488.

We look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon. – Ann Foley, Brixworth Belles

<b>DA/2015/0096 – The Slip</b> Single Storey Rear Extension and Extension to Porch	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>A/2015/0058 – 130 Northampton Road</b> Change of Use from Retail to Hot food Takeaway (Class A5)	BPC Objection DDC Refused
<b>DA/2013/0510 Victors Barn, Northampton Road</b> Outline application for a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) comprising the provision of up to 60 bed nursing home with care hub, up to 25 close care apartments and up to 7 close care cottages	BPC Objection DDC Approved
<b>Review of Mineral Planning Permission DA/97/1140C, Land at Boughton, Pitsford</b> Modern conditions relating to the extraction of Northampton sand ironstone and overlying minerals	BPC No Objection NCC Approved
<b>DA/2015/0123 32 Damherst Piece</b> Two storey side extension and new entrance porch	BPC Objection DDC Refused

## Letters to the Editor

### Thank you.

We would like, through the Brixworth Bulletin, to pay a heartfelt Thank You to the people of Brixworth for the kindness they have shown to our brother Martyn.

Martyn has been struck down by vascular dementia, a terrible disease which, in the last few months, has robbed us of a most kind, caring and warm individual. He was one of nature's true gentlemen who would help anybody, whenever he could. Due to his illness Martyn took to wandering around in the early hours, putting himself at great risk. Martyn is now in hospital, being assessed, before hopefully moving to a care home.

So we, his family, wish to say a special thank you to Steve, Ken and staff at Troops, Lee and staff at the Hardware Shop. To all the staff in the Co-op, to Katie in the pet shop, to his friends in the Olive Branch, Sharon and Sheena and all at Saxon House, also Maureen and all his neighbours. Thank you for showing tolerance and kindness to our brother.

On March 24 I believe someone walking their dog found Martyn. We would like to say thank you personally to you, so please let the Bulletin know who you are.

So to all our most sincere, deepest and heartfelt thank you to you all.

- Derek, Yvonne and Joy Robinson

## Perfect 8 for Brixworth Bowlers

Four of the Brixworth Indoor Bowls Team were recognised at the AGM of their Northants League. The team members scored a 'Perfect 8' during their home victory against Guilsborough.

This meant they were presented with 'Hot shot' medals. They are Helen and Mike Nice, John Wykes and Jenny Chapman. Together with the rest of the Brixworth team, they finished mid-table in the league this year, but with a more settled team, hope for better things next season. The club meets every Friday afternoon and evening throughout the year at Brixworth Centre. – Mike Nice



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# All Saints' Church, Brixworth

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are in the weeks of Easter, and the readings in our church services focus in on the Resurrection. The fascinating accounts in the gospels of Christ's appearances to his disciples after his death help us to reflect on the truth of the Resurrection, and on



what that momentous event might mean for us.

Because of the Resurrection, everything is different for us, not just on Easter Sunday, but always. Belief in the Resurrection and in the presence of Christ amongst us redirects us and sets us on a new path. Following Jesus Christ encourages us to turn our lives around. We are offered new life.

As I look out of my study window on this beautiful spring day, I can see that new life echoed in the crisp blue sky and the emerging pink blossom.



On the opposite page, you will find details of all the new things we are doing in this wonderful building---your parish church. If you fancy doing something completely new this summer and autumn, why not come along and join us? You will be sure of a warm welcome.

*Rev. Chloe*

Pattern of Services		
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month	10.30 am	All-Age Service
	11.45 am	Said Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	7.45 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Taizé service
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday & Thursday	9.30 am	Holy Communion



**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



# BRIXWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

18th - 27th September



A variety of music for all tastes:  
Classical, Jazz, Baroque, Contemporary  
And a children's workshop

## ALL SAINTS' CHOIR

Do you enjoy singing?

Why not join us? We are a small group of friendly and enthusiastic singers, who meet each Thursday evening at 7pm at the church.

We will be singing "The Peacemakers" by Karl Jenkins on October 2nd and 3rd jointly with Rothwell Church Choir and Singing Saints

## COFFEE POT

A time of relaxation and fellowship

All welcome

Tuesdays at 10.00 am after our 9.30 am Communion Service



## SINGING SAINTS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

(Years 5 and 6)



Meets on Wednesdays at 4pm - 5pm  
Individual voice tuition given

## JELLYBEANS TODDLER GROUP

Fun and Friendship

We meet on Wednesdays at 1.30pm in the church and then at the Brixworth Centre



## PETS SERVICE

We will be holding a Pets Service here on 5th July at 10.30am.

Please bring your pet along!



## FRIENDS FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Saturday 6th June

Art Exhibition, Gala Evening, and Flower Festival.

Speaker: The Bishop of Brixworth

Sunday 7th June

### SUMMER FETE AND FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON

Bouncy Castle, bric-a-brac, raffle, plants cakes, £1 stall, Coconut Shy, games etc.

From the Registers	February	March	April
Weddings			Sarah Parkinson & James Finney
Baptisms	Phoebe Runiewicz	Jacob Gray	Iona Campbell
Burials	Olwen Cooter	Shirley Mash	



# BRIXWORTH MATTERS

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

Having recently returned from S.E.Asia and visited some remote villages in Laos and Northern Thailand, I am amazed how different life is compared to us here in the UK. It isn't just the difference in lifestyle (they have so little) but what struck me was the sense of community, of belonging, of being valued as individuals that was part of their life together. A sense of "Belonging" is a very important part of our natural being and without it loneliness can easily overwhelm us.

We at BCF Community Church place a high value on ensuring that people find a warm welcome to whatever we do, from BreaCFast@9 for young families, to our main Service at 10:30, to our children's clubs and holiday clubs, to the Pensioners lunches each week, to the Olive Branch Coffee Shop, to the work our Parish Nurse is involved in, and lots more. We believe that people are important to God and therefore important to us.

Whether you are new to the village or have been here a lifetime, we invite you to share with us and experience with us God's love in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is always someone to speak to at the Olive Branch should you have any questions about the work we do for all age ranges in the community here in Brixworth and surrounding villages.

May your summer be filled with the joy of belonging.

Every blessing  
Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on  
882040



## Looking back

### BreaCFast@9

#### Launched on 19th April!

Churchgoing with a difference! Designed for young families the hour we spend together begins with Breakfast and then leads on to half an hour of family worship – story, song, craft, prayer and much more. Starting at 9:00 through until 10:00 it enables young families to begin their day with a shared breakfast (free of course) and a fun packed half hour to follow – then the day is yours!

Why not join us and others at the School each Sunday during term time.

### Easter Children's Holiday Club

For two days over Easter around a hundred children joined us at the school for a great deal of fun, laughter, learning and activity. In four teams the children took part in craft, sport, games, stories dancing and singing having a real fun time. This free Holiday Club was sadly over-subscribed, so some had to be turned away.

The last day ended with parents and friends seeing their children receive certificates and catch a glimpse of some of the things their children had been doing.

Our Facebook page received comments on how much fun the children had! Thank You.





## Good Friday Walk

A short Service outside the Library followed by a procession following a raised cross. Around sixty folk gathered to remember the death of Jesus Christ. It was a sobering time as the two village churches as well as Christians who worship outside the village remembered the sacrifice Jesus made for us. A short remembrance opposite the Coach and Horses and back to the Olive Branch for Hot Cross Buns concluded a very special hour together.



## Valentines Meal

What an evening! Live music, three course meal (waiter(ess) service), good company and a loved one to share the evening with – what more could we ask for? A short talk on the real meaning of love found in Jesus, plenty of banter and a late night for those clearing up rounded off a great evening.



## St George's Day Parade



Once again we were able to welcome around forty Scouts, Cubs & Beavers to a St George's Day parade and Service. Having raised the flag at the Centre



## Looking forward

**Mississippi** – From 27th May until 27th July, one of our friends from the Mississippi Church link we have will be with us. Shiloh, a young girl who just loved Brixworth when she came two years ago as part of a team, is coming to learn more of what BCF does, take part in everything and we hope you can meet her as she will be around the village.

**Children's Club** – July 22nd – 24th our Summer Holiday Children's Club (Key Stage 1&2) takes place in the School from 09:00-13:00. Fun packed day includes sport, craft, stories, dance and much more in a safe and well organise environment. We realise that this event is always oversubscribed but we will seek to be fair in this as best we can.

As previously, the registration and information will go through the school nearer the time and through the Olive Branch for those with children at other schools.

**Open Air** – On Saturday 25th July in the afternoon we will be holding our celebration of the Children's Club which will include the giving out of medals and certificates, hear the children singing and see the craft they have made. This is an outdoor event outside the Library. The Salvation Army Band will be leading some hymn singing a great afternoon is envisaged which will end with a BBQ at the back of the Library & Community Centre.



## COFFEE SHOP

More than just a Coffee Shop, the Olive Branch is the place to meet, be kept informed of Village life and receive a warm welcome. If you have never tasted the fine coffee and food – why not try it!

Mon, Tue, Thur 10-3.00, Fri 9.30-2.30,  
Saturday 9.30-1.00  
Wed 10-11.30

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

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

## BCF Community Church Weekly events

<b>Sunday:</b>	09:00 – 10:00	BreaCFast@9 (Brixworth school)
	10:30 – 11:45	Main Service of Worship (Brixworth school) (including Junior Church and Creche)
<b>Monday:</b>	20:00 – 21:30	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
<b>Tuesday:</b>	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
<b>Wednesday:</b>	20:00 – 21:30	Home study Groups
<b>Thursday:</b>	10:00 – 11:30	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group*
<b>Friday:</b>	17:00 – 18:00	Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years*
	18:15 – 19:15	Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11*

(\*held at the Library & Community Centre)

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

# Parish News



Brixworth Parish Council News & Views – Summer 2015 edition

[www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk)

## A Year in the Life



A year in the life of a Parish Council is similar to a Tax Year in that it does not start on the first of January. Each Council serves a four-year term between elections, which in turn is divided in four annual sections. In May each year, the Council members are elected to various posts within the Council by other Council members.

I have been elected to chair Brixworth Parish Council for the last four years. It was an entirely unexpected honour as well as a responsibility. There is no real school to learn how to be Chairman of a Council, there is no in-depth legal training and so, if elected you become engaged in a steep self-help learning experience. Clearly there is always room for improvement and lots of opportunity for error. I hope I have been able to minimise the latter and it is important, here, to acknowledge all the help I have received along the way.

There is, equally, no special qualification for Council membership. We all jump in at the deep end and wonder if we can swim – most do.

In the end, Councillors are normal people with one out-

standing difference - they believe they have an obligation to support the community in which they live and they do something about it.

Unfortunately, unselfish people who are prepared to support the community in which we live seem to be fewer and farther between these days.

Because of this I would like to take a moment to say "thank you" to all of those, who have served all of us, by committing themselves to our community as Parish Councillors. They are all unpaid for their work and yet they spend valuable time supporting the community in which we live and, yes, we all benefit from their commitment.

I will also remind you that next year - 2016 - is the year when a new Brixworth Parish Council will be elected for a new four-year term. If you think there are things that might be done, or done differently, why not take a positive approach and stand for election to the Parish Council? It could be one of the most important things you ever did!

In recent years, when elections come around, there have not been enough candidates for the 14 seats on the council and so those who did stand, and that includes me, were elected without a vote, by default, which hardly seems right in a democratic society. So I would encourage you to stand. You may not win a seat - I might not either, but at least we would both know we tried. - Mike Lacey

## Planning Committee

Our main focus remains on application DA/2014/0900. This application, by Barratt Homes for outline planning permission for up to 90 homes on land to the east of Northampton Road on the southern border of their current development was supported by the Parish Council and approved by the District Council in February 2015. Both Parish and District attached the condition that the developers provide an entirely new Surgery for the village. Barratts have also agreed to provide five additional parking spaces in the car park on the Eastern side of the Library/Community Centre.

The Parish Council opposed the application to change 132 Northampton Road from a recycling shop to a hot food take away. Amongst the objections were that such a business did not fit into the Conservation Area, that its situation on a bend in the road would create traffic hazards and that noise, smell and litter would create a nuisance to neighbours.

Regrettably, Daventry District Council's Planning Committee was not convinced and approved the application.

Hot on the heels of this application came another by the same applicant, in respect of the immediately adjoining premises, 130 Northampton Road. These premises are currently used as a pet shop and the application was once again for change of user to a hot food take away. The Parish Council strongly objected, for broadly the same reasons as before. Additionally, there was an independent and obviously effective on-line campaign by residents against this application. The application for change of user was subsequently refused by Daventry District Council.

Work on the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan continues and it is hoped that a summary of the Plan will be available for public scrutiny in June. - David Parnaby



## Have you got an idea of Village proportions?

As residents of Brixworth, we all like to come home from a busy day at work, or relax in the evening after a manic day keeping the next generation entertained, and know how lucky we are to live in our wonderful village. We know it's not perfect. We know we would like it to be just a little better here, or a little tidier there; but overall, it's a great village to be a part of.

When we sat down late last year to think about how we should allocate the financial budget for Brixworth in 2015/16, one idea stood out - A Village Project - Something that we as a Parish Council could do, with an element of your Council Tax for the whole village and something that, at the end of 2015/16, we could all be proud of.

We were able to budget some funds for this purpose and all that we need now is the inspiration of ideas.

One strong idea is to re-invigorate the roundabout at the junction of The Ashway and Northampton Road as you come into the village. To clean it up, perhaps plant some spring flowers, or longer lasting flowers. Maybe have a "Welcome to Brixworth" embellishment on the roundabout. We have

lots of options to think about - but only in regards to the roundabout.

Here is where you as residents come in.

Do you have an idea? Can you think of something that, within our budget, would make you, too, proud to show your friends when they visit you from outside the village? Why don't you tell us your idea and help us make it a reality.

There are only a few boundaries for your imagination. It should be something that benefits everyone in the village, not just one area. It needs to be manageable. By this we mean within our budget and able to be achieved by us, not an outside contractor. And it should be something that is sustainable for the years to come at a low cost.

If you have an idea, speak to a Parish Councillor, or email us at [clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk)

We need to hear your ideas by the end of June 2015, so we have enough time to turn your idea, if selected by the Parish Council, into a reality.

## Where did our website go?

How did that happen?

As most of us were tucking into our Christmas dinner, or wondering why we just ate so much, someone with apparently little excitement in their lives thought it would be fun to destroy part of the Brixworth Parish Council website ([www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk))

When we noticed something was wrong (not quite on Christmas Day, as after all, there are more important chocolates to eat), we began an investigation.

Our website had indeed been hacked and we were unable to log in to the main part of the website. If you have ever had your own computer infected by a virus, you will be familiar with the result.

However, every cloud has a silver lining, and this was no different. It made us realise that the website was not as informative as we would like it to be. We asked ourselves, why are we not more prevalent on the world wide web?

So, having moved to a new and more secure server, we set about creating a new website. One that updates its own security so we can safely forget to do it.

We are not quite there with the finished article just yet, but will be soon. In the meantime, if you need some information from us, and cannot find it on our web page, please email [clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk).

The events prompted us to revisit our presence on social media. Love it or hate it, but this is where the action is. So,

we re-ignited our activity on Facebook. Prior to the hacking, we had a grand total of 58 "Likes" to

our Facebook page. We were clearly not lighting any fires! We set up a "Media Team" of councillors and staff who keep everyone up-to-date with our activities and things happening in Brixworth. In the last two months of this group working, "Likes" of [www.facebook.com/brixworthpc](http://www.facebook.com/brixworthpc) have risen to over 170 and more importantly for us, the number of people we have reached via Facebook (those people who have seen our page directly or had a friend share something on our page) has passed the 5,000 mark.

So, why have we focused this energy?

Communication of the activities of the Parish Council has always been a challenging task, but if you don't know what we are doing, how can you tell us if we are doing it right (or wrong)? Social media provides us with a 21st century platform to engage with the village and fellow residents. This is how we can know what you would like us to do, both for you and with you.

Why not take a few minutes when you next sit down with a nice fresh cup of tea, or that much needed coffee, and check us out on Facebook or our web page. You may be surprised at what you find! - Alex Coles



# Standing up for what you believe can make a difference

Back in January of this year, the Parish Council received a planning application to change the status of 130 Northampton Road from A1 (a retail shop) to A5 (a take-away). Having previously received an identical application for 132 Northampton Road back in August 2014, we duly published the application for discussion at the February Planning meeting of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has limited authority when it comes to planning matters. All we are able to do is accept or object to an application. Daventry District Council have the authority to approve or reject.

Most planning meetings are pretty straightforward, with only the occasional debate on this small matter or that small matter. They never tend to send the village into a heated debate.

February's planning meeting proved different!

Planning meetings tend to be held on a Monday evening at the Community Centre, and February was no exception. What was the exception was the volume of chatter over the preceding weekend on social media sites. It quickly became clear that the feelings within the village might mean we needed to change our meeting venue slightly as the number of village residents who indicated they would be attending the planning meeting to voice their concerns grew to a point that the small meeting room in the Community Centre would not be suitable.

After a quick resettling of rooms, we set out some additional chairs in the entrance to the Community Centre. What a good idea that turned out to be! We had close to a full attendance by Parish Councilors, all three District Councilors who represent Brixworth, and about 20 village residents. Oh and Ms. Katie Bland, the owner of the Pet Shop.

There were many excellent contributions from village residents and the mood was very clear - Does Brixworth really need two new take away shops in the conservation area? Not according to the majority of people at the meeting.

The Parish Council was of similar mind and unanimously voted to object to the application. As I mentioned before, the Parish Council are not able to reject the application. This has to be the decision of Daventry District Council.

It was this point when the residents of the village decided to encourage Daventry District Council to reject the application by instigating their democratic right to petition the planning committee at Daventry to follow the example of the Brixworth Parish Council.



An online petition quickly gained momentum, resulting in well over 500 signatures objecting to the application. Was that enough? It seems no. With support from some residents, Katie Bland commenced a written petition around the village. This written petition gained a further 420 signatures. Enough? No.

Our local MP at the time, Mr. Chris Heaton-Harris, received over 50 email-letters requesting his support to write to the planning committee at Daventry urging them to reject the application.

We even had a young pupil at Brixworth Primary School start her own petition with her classmates that resulted in attention from Northampton Chronicle.

All this local opinion and local press coverage drew attention to the application, and the planning team at Daventry took a very close look at the application. With support from Brixworth's District Councilors, they decided to reject the application on a number of regulation-related grounds.

The moral of this story is quite simple.

Public opinion matters. If you have a concern speak up about it and have your voice heard. We cannot always achieve everything we would like in life, but if we just shrug our shoulders and quietly walk away, we will always not achieve. But if you stand up for what you believe is right, you do at least have a chance, given that enough feel the same way, to be heard and give those who make our decisions an opportunity to listen.

Thank you to everyone in the village who signed the petition and supported the opinion. - Neal Brown

## Parish Council Meetings June to August

### Full Council Meeting

June 23, 19:15 - 21:00

### Full Council Meeting

July 28, 19:15 - 21:00

### Full Council Meeting

August 25, 19:15 - 21:00

### Full Council Meeting

September 22, 19:15 - 21:00

### Full Council Meeting

October 27, 19:15 - 21:00

### Full Council Meeting

November 24, 19:15 - 21:00



# Why am I a Parish Councillor?



Who in their right mind happily spends at least one evening a month sitting around a table talking about roads, grass, street lights, a house extension here or there, litter, dog fouling or any number of other seemingly mundane topics?

That is certainly a question that went through my mind in May 2014. However, I thought to myself, "why not go and find out". So I did.

Being a member of the Parish Council is a voluntary act, but that's the last time the word "voluntary" will be used in this article. As a Parish Councillor you are an elected representative for Brixworth. Unpaid: YES, unrewarded: NO. As residents of Brixworth, we live in a fantastic village. Brixworth is vibrant and has an amazing mix of people from all walks of life. We have many young people, infants to young adults. We have young mothers and fathers, working hard to bring up the next generation and we have our more mature generation with their wealth of life's experiences.

No matter which genre you fit into, we all look to Brixworth to provide a safe, environmentally-friendly and happy place to live. Brixworth must be doing something right as we are growing and the desire to live in the village has never been stronger.

Is Brixworth a perfect place to live? Of course not! We have our fair share of challenges. Every village needs to grow so we can continually enrich our community, but growth needs to be managed.

The Parish Council manages the village. It is responsible for ensuring you have what you need to live safely and peacefully. It also looks to the future and tries to predict what you will need. None of this is simple and takes quite some effort to co-ordinate and deliver, but when I look back over the last year, I can see what has been achieved.

We have a new housing development at the entrance to the village from Northampton Road. We have sporting facilities that, whilst some have some work to be done, should be the envy of most villages. We have a team that, co-ordinated under the guidance of the Parish Council, has negotiated the inclusion of a brand new Doctor's surgery for the village - fully funded. And last, but not least, a Village Plan that provides the potential to protect us all from the perils of out-of-control growth.

Since I became a Parish Councillor, I have been a part of designing the financial budget for the next financial year. I have worked closely with our Cricket Club to create a small land lease. I have worked with our football clubs discussing the use of our playing fields. I have spent many hours discussing dog fouling, litter, pet shops and many more topics.

We don't always agree on ideas or topics, but what we do have is a common objective to support the growth of our village life in a positive way.

What do I get from being a Councillor?

Firstly I get to learn about the place I live! How it ticks and what makes it such a great place to live. I learn about the challenges associated with managing a village such as Brixworth. I learn how to work as a team, on occasions how not to work as a team, but always, and I mean always, in the end, how to work as a team.

But most importantly of all - I learn what it feels like to achieve something for others, and to know the feeling that Brixworth is OUR village.

Why not come along to a Parish Council meeting and feel this for yourself? - Neal Brown

## Contact Details

### Clerk to the Council

Emma Baker

Email: [Brixworthpc@gmail.com](mailto:Brixworthpc@gmail.com)

Tel. 01933 682447

Website: [www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk)

### Parish Councillors

Mike Lacey

Alex Coles

David Parnaby

Kevin Parker

Sandra Moxon

Jackie Bird

Joe Hodgson

Malcolm Rous

Ian Barratt

Stephen James

Neal Brown

Stephen Pointer

Daniel Bennett

Councillor contact details can be found on the Parish Council website [www.brixworthpc.org.uk/council-contacts](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/council-contacts)

# Juniors drive Cricket Club from strength to strength

The new season is well underway and for the first time we have four adult teams playing at different levels throughout the Northamptonshire Cricket League. The growth of the Club in recent years, especially the junior section, means we can now give the opportunity to more people to play competitive cricket.

At the time of writing (after two games of the League Season) each team has won at least one game. Prospects look good for another successful summer and the weather apparently will be OK for the first few months at least.

As mentioned, our junior section goes from strength to strength. We have around 140 juniors from U5 up to U15 and they all come up to the ground on a Friday evening for coaching, while many parents enjoy a drink and a burger at our popular Club Night. Most age groups are now full - although there is some space at U15 and U13 and if anyone is interested in joining or moving to play at Brixworth, please contact me or our Junior Manager, Mandy Batchelor. We play competitive games in the U15, U13 and U11 age groups.

As always, for the club to continue to grow and function effectively, we are always looking for new players - at all levels - and require volunteers to help with coaching, umpiring, scoring and general support around the club and ground. Please get in touch if you think you can help. - *Chris Timm, Chairman*

Contact [christimm\\_24@hotmail.com](mailto:christimm_24@hotmail.com) or 882591.

## Devon Malcolm International X1 vs Brixworth CC

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July @ Brixworth Cricket Club

Match start time: 2.30pm.

Join us to support Devon Malcolm in his benefit year and help to raise valuable funds for his three chosen charities;

- Chance to Shine
- Lords Taverners
- Jamaica Hospital League of Friends

Held in the beautiful surroundings of Brixworth Cricket Club this all day bash will feature:

- International cricketers and celebrities
- VIP drinks reception and marquee lunch
- Kids cricket coaching session and Kwik Cricket with Alex Tudor and England Women Coaching Ambassadors
- Anecdotes from our cricketing legends
- Charity auction

Cost: £957 for a Gold table; £1,350 for VIP table (9 people plus celebrity)

Public food stalls and bars with a distinctly **Caribbean theme** will also be set up to cater for those who simply want to turn up and watch the game.

Parking on site; **£10 per car; £5 for walk-ins.**

For more information or to purchase a table, contact Chris Timm on: 07718 628985 or [christimm\\_24@hotmail.com](mailto:christimm_24@hotmail.com)



# Summer is here..... Where shall we go today?

## Country Houses and Gardens

Althorp	NN7 4HQ	<a href="http://www.althorp.com">www.althorp.com</a>
Coton Manor Gardens	NN6 8RQ	<a href="http://www.cotonmanor.co.uk">www.cotonmanor.co.uk</a>
Cottesbrooke Hall	NN6 8PF	<a href="http://www.cottesbrooke.co.uk">www.cottesbrooke.co.uk</a>
Holdenby House	NN6 8DJ	<a href="http://www.holdenby.com">www.holdenby.com</a>
Kelmarsh Hall	NN6 9LY	<a href="http://www.kelmarsh.com">www.kelmarsh.com</a>
Lamporth Hall	NN6 9HD	<a href="http://www.lamporthall.co.uk">www.lamporthall.co.uk</a>

## Parks and Walks

Brampton Valley Way	See routes at Brixworth Country Park
Brixworth Country Park	NN6 9DG
Sywell Country Park	NN6 0QX

## Museums and Railway

Carpetbagger Aviation	NN6 9PF	<a href="http://www.harringtonmuseum.org.uk">www.harringtonmuseum.org.uk</a>
Northampton and Lamporth Railway	NN6 8BA	<a href="http://www.nlr.org.uk">www.nlr.org.uk</a>
Sywell Aviation Museum	NN6 0BN	<a href="http://www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk">www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk</a>

For more information and places to visit further away, please visit Brixworth Information Point at the Community Centre.

Balanceability develops confidence, spatial awareness, dynamic balance and the skills to ride a bicycle WITHOUT stabilisers.

call now for your nearest course:

Ceri Moore, Balanceability Instructor on  
07894 686 873 or 01858 545 994  
email: [groovyriders@btinternet.com](mailto:groovyriders@btinternet.com)

it's fun to ride!




# What's on


24-25/5	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
24-25 May	May Bank Holiday Trains	N'pton & Lampport Railway
25 May	Bank Holiday Opening	Kelmarsh Hall
27-May	Flash Gordon	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
27-28/5	Dara O'Briain	Derngate
27-30 May	Cats: The Witches of Eastwick	Corby Cube
28 May	Danny Boy	Royal
29 May	Blade Runner	EF Filmhouse
30 May	Killer Queen	Derngate
31 May	Natalie Clein performs Dvorak	Derngate
30 May	Susan Calman	Royal
31 May	RPO Family Day	Underground
3 June	UB40	Derngate
5 June	The Drifters	Derngate
5 June	Dingley at Lampport	Lampport Hall
5-27/6	The Hook	Royal
6 June	West End Men	Derngate
6 June	The Chris & Pui Show	Corby Cube
6-7 June	Church Festival incl Gala Evening, Summer Fete and Art Exhibition	All Saints Church, Brixworth
6-7 June	Art Exhibition	Brixworth Heritage Centre
7 June	An Evening with David Sedaris	Derngate
7 June	Northants Ultra 35 Mile	Lampport Hall
8 June	Appropriate Behaviour	EF Filmhouse
8-13/6	Derren Brown	Derngate
9 June	The Country House in WWII	Lampport Hall
9 June	NT London Road Live	EF Filmhouse
10 June	Bonham's Valuation Day	Kelmarsh Hall
13 June	Charity BBQ	The George, Brixworth
14 June	Draughton Spring Fayre	St Catherine's, Draughton
16 June	Ministry of Science Live	Derngate
16-21/6	Kontakt	Underground
17-18 June	The Festival 2015	Derngate

21 June	Father's Day Cream Tea Specials	N'pton & Lampport Railway
20 June	Chicago Blues Brothers	Derngate
23 June	Jimmy Carr	Derngate
26 June	Draughton Barn Dance	Draughton
26-27/6	Octonauts	Derngate
27 June 12-2pm	Brixworth Primary School Summer Fayre	Brixworth Primary School
27 June	Craft Fair in aid of Mind	Brixworth Village Hall
28 June	Classic Car Gathering	Draughton
28 June	The Music of John Williams	Derngate
1 July	ENO Live: Carmen	Corby Cube
1 July	Bonham's Valuation Day	Kelmarsh Hall
2-4 July	Immune	Royal
2-4 July	Brixworth Drama Group: Allo Allo	Brixworth Village Hall
3 July	Godspell	Derngate
4-5 July	Hollowell Steam and Heavy Horse Show	Hollowell
8 July	The Overtones	Derngate
9 July	Rock'n'Roll Paradise	Derngate
11 July	The Tempest (in the Garden)	Lampport Hall
11 July	Northampton Dance	Derngate
12 July	Traditional Jazz in the Garden	Lampport Hall
15 July	Brooke Weston Trust	Corby Cube
16 July	NT Everyman	EF Filmhouse
17 July	McBusted	Delapre Abbey
18 July	Jessie J	Delapre Abbey
19 July	Alfie Boe	Delapre Abbey
22 July	RSC Live: The Merchant of Venice	Corby Cube
23 July - 1 Aug	Fame Jr	Underground
25-26 July	Vintage Gathering	N'pton & Lampport Railway
3-7 August	Drama Course: The Snow Queen	Underground
10-14 August	Drama Course: The Snow Queen	Underground
29 Aug	Storytelling in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
26 Aug	RSC Live: Othello	EF Filmhouse

26 Aug	RSC Live: Othello	Corby Cube
26 Aug	Storytelling in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
29-31 August	August Bank Holiday Trains	N'pton & Lampport Railway
30-31 August	Antique and Collectors Fair	Lampport Hall
4-26/9	Brave New World	Royal
5 Sep	Draughton Produce Competition	St Catherine's, Draughton
5 Sep	Medieval Banquet	All Saints, Brixworth
5-6/9	Mister Maker	Derngate
6 Sep	Dahlia Festival	Kelmarsh Hall
7-12/9	The Mousetrap	Derngate
8 Sep	Memorial Service for BB	Lampport Church
9 Sep	Bonham's Valuation Day	Kelmarsh Hall
11 Sep	Screaming Blue Murder	Underground
13 Sep	The Billy Fur Years	Derngate
13 Sep	Doc Brown	Royal
15 Sep	24 Hours from Tulsa	Derngate
17 Sep	Roy Orbison & Friends	Derngate
17 Sep	Abbanania	Corby Cube
19 Sep	An Evening with Aggers & Swanny	Derngate
24 Sep	The ELO Experience	Derngate
25 Sep	Screaming Blue Murder	Underground
26 Sep	Strictly Sixties	Corby Cube
27 Sep	Dahlia Festival	Kelmarsh Hall
28 Sept - 3 Oct	Hairspray	Derngate
1 Oct	James Acaster	Royal
2 Oct	A Golden Age of Magic	Royal
3 Oct	Henning Wehn	Royal
6 Oct	Trevor Noah	Derngate
8 Oct	Paddy McGuinness	Derngate
9 Oct	Steve Hackett	Royal
9 Oct	Screaming Blue Murder	Underground
10 Oct	Dancing Queen	Derngate
10 Oct	Jason Byrne	Corby Cube
10-11 Oct	Gift and Craft Fair	Lampport Hall



**YOGA FOR YOU**  
 Brixworth Library Community Hall  
 MON 7.30 - 9.00 pm  
 TUES 1.45 - 3.15 pm  
 All abilities welcome  
 01933 673212 / 07729 099206



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## Ruthies Home Comforts

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Will be on sale at Brixworth Village Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June from 1 - 4pm.  
 Located on the Holcot Road opposite Stannard Way, NN6 9BS  
 Come and have a browse

# BrixworthJuniors.fc

## Sixfields Cup

This season we have been doing really well in the knockout cup competitions. We had a lot of teams in Semi-Finals and two teams made it through to the finals: Martin Henry and his U14 team and Adam Haycock and his U18 team. Both the finals were played on Northampton Town's pitch, Sixfields, on the 10th May. Hopefully they will be triumphant on the day.

The Semi-Finalists were Rob Jones U11 Pumas, Rob Kelly U10 Panthers, Darren Hillier U16 & Jon Howarth U18. Taking six teams to the semi-final point of the competition shows how much work the coaches put into training the players and how well the players themselves have done.



## U7 Minis

One of our current U10 coaches, Nick Rose, is going to start working with the Minis again. The experience he has gained from working with the older age groups will be invaluable to the new coaches at Minis and will no doubt help bring the next wave of players through ready for anything.

I would like to thank Nick for all of his help, and guidance, over the last five years and wish him luck with the Minis. I can still remember how during a small game the Minis all stood still and stared at the aeroplanes that flew over while the boy that loved football dribbled around them.

This year three U7 teams are about to graduate to the U8 game and this means that we have lots of spaces for new players next season. Minis are Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 school children – girls and boys are welcome to come and play.

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](http://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](mailto:chairman@brixworthjuniors.co.uk) – Rob Kelly.

## Golf Society Report

Under the captaincy of Mike Bull, 2014 proved to be another successful golfing year with high numbers playing at each venue.

The various trophies were won by:  
Captain's Shield - Phil Porch  
Golfer of the Year - Tommy Dolman  
Golfer of the Year Runner-up Ray Bucky  
George Clapton Trophy - Tommy Dolman  
Scratch Cup - Paul Cox

Cup played for at each of the four venues – Andy Green, Rob Bennett, Steve Marriott and Paul Cox

Venues for 2015 have been arranged for 19th June at Forest Hills, 7th August at Aspley Guise and 2nd October at

Cosby. Anybody interested in joining please ring John Wilson 880490 – *John Wilson, Secretary*

## Tennis Club in full swing (again!)

The new season at Brixworth Tennis Club began on 1 April. With new members joining, a very high number of adult members renewing their membership for the club's third year and an extremely encouraging number of Junior members being coached and playing at the club on a regular basis the Tennis Club really is in full swing.

Three new nets for the courts were purchased for the start of the new season and volunteers have spent many hours at the courts sorting out the significant moss problem, painting walls and ensuring that the courts and premises are in top condition. Many thanks to the volunteers.

Players of all abilities and ages are extremely welcome to join. It really does not matter if you have never held a racket before, not played for many years or fancy yourself as the next Roger Federer or Serena Williams.

The subscriptions are amongst the lowest in the country. Adult and Junior coaching is also available. Please note: a Junior Summer Tennis Camp will be taking place 17-21 August (10am -1pm) at Brixworth Tennis Club, anybody interested in their children attending should contact James Hayley directly [coach@brixworthtennisclub.org.uk](mailto:coach@brixworthtennisclub.org.uk)

There are many social events held throughout the year. On Friday nights between April and September, tennis and cricket club members can enjoy a drink from the club bar, catch up with friends or enjoy a BBQ within the beautiful grounds. There are normally circa 150 people at the club every Friday playing or watching the sports and having a glass of wine or a beer, they really are enjoyable evenings.

Anybody interested in joining Brixworth Tennis Club should contact Will Haxby on 880715 or 07912 267988 or visit the club website [www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk](http://www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk).

**ACTIVE** 

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Try a personal trainer or join one of our fitness classes in Brixworth

DAY	CLASS	VENUE	TIME
Mon.	Circuits	Village Hall	7.00 - 8.00
Mon.	Circuits	Village Hall	8.00 - 9.00
Weds.	Pilates	The Centre	6.15 - 7.00

Classes are for all levels of fitness

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