

BRIXWORTH BULLETIN

The village newspaper of Brixworth, Draughton, Cottesbrooke, Hanging Houghton & Lamport Issue 48, March 2016

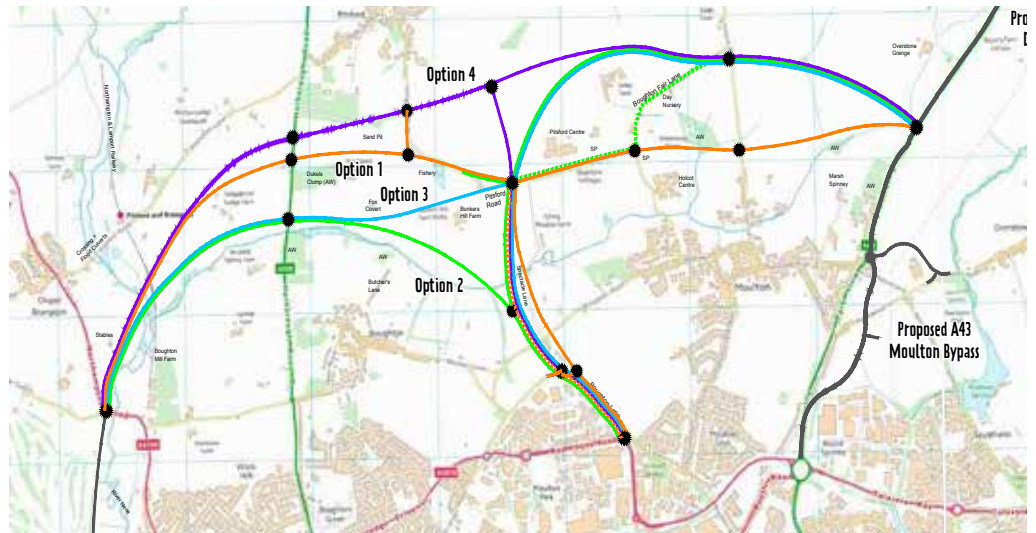
Northern orbital consultation starts

Northampton has started consulting on the route of a potential northern orbital bypass connecting the A428 (Northampton to Welford via Spratton), the A508 and the A43.

The road would provide much-needed relief for the A508, where the daily gridlock is expected to get even worse once the new Buckton Fields housing development near Boughton is complete. Several further developments are in planning on the north side of Northampton, making the construction of the orbital road a priority.

However, town planners warned that construction would only begin in 2018 'at the earliest' and only if money can be found. The Whitehills and Spring Park Residents' Association (WASPRA) estimates the cost could run to £150m.

There is a public exhibition of the route options on 26 and 27 February at Moulton College Management Centre (Kelmars Suite). The consultation will run until 13 March.



Consultation on the four options for the bypass route runs till 13 March. (Graphic courtesy of Northamptonshire Highways)

Michael Clarke, member of Northampton Council's Highways committee, told the Chronicle & Echo: "Details are yet to be finalised about the consultation, but what in essence we will be looking at will be the question of the route, which is quite contentious."

— Claudia Flavell-White

Your Deserving Cause 2016

In the December issue, we asked you for your suggestions for local clubs, organisations or individuals that the Bulletin might support through its 'Deserving Causes' scheme. It's our way of returning any surplus that we might have accrued over the course of publishing the Bulletin to the community.

Thank you very much for your suggestions – it's great to see the good things going on in the village! We've had three proposals from local organisations who'd like your support with our fund, the total value of which stands at £3,000.

How that money gets divided up between the three causes is up to you, the readers of the Bulletin – let us know which of the three gets your vote and we will divide up the funds according to the votes received.

You can vote online www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk or using the voting slip overleaf and post it in the Bulletin's letter box, which you'll find in the foyer of the Library and Community Centre.

Closing date is 31 March 2016.

Brixworth All Saints Football Club

BASFC is one of two football clubs in the village. Brixworth Juniors have children up to the age of 18 and Brixworth All Saints caters for those 18 and above.

The Club fields three teams, the Reserves, the First Team and when possible a Veterans team. Based at St David's Playing Fields, BASFC train every Wednesday evening and play matches every Saturday afternoon, with the Vets team playing on a Sunday morning.

"We take a lot of youngsters from Brixworth when they get too old for the Juniors, as well as friends of some of the players from other villages," says Pete Anscomb, who has been with the club for many years. "We give them something to do, somewhere to go and hopefully some direction. It's great for the sport, the teams and the village to have the youngsters carry on from the Juniors all the way through to the adult club working their way up to the first team, and then when they get to a certain age, the vets," he laughs.

Unlike the Juniors, All Saints does not have much support from sponsors and often the bills cost more than the money the club has coming in. Pete notes that buying kit can be a struggle. "Funding through Deserving Causes would make a big difference as it would allow us to buy new football kit and footballs for the players. Frankly, most of what we have has seen better days." He adds that new kit would boost confidence and enthusiasm. "After all, if you have nice kit, you're more likely to want to show it off and win!"

(continued overleaf)

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quarterly in March, June, September and
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and advertising for the June 2016 issue is 25
April 2016.

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

Support the Sewing Marathon

A group of Brixworth ladies is gearing up for a Sewing Marathon to raise money for Cancer Research UK and the Stroke Association.

Helene Beckett, Emma Franklin and Sarah Dobson will spend the day sewing decorative tree ornaments – so why not kit out this year's tree early?

The Sewing Marathon will take place in the library foyer on Saturday 16 April from 10am to 4pm. The decorations will be for sale on the day, and the Olive Branch will open from 1-4pm. The group would welcome help from anyone willing to bake some cakes to sell in the afternoon and sponsorship for materials.

To donate, please visit www.justgiving.com/Helene-BECKETT for Cancer Research UK and www.justgiving.com/Helene-BECKETT1 for The Stroke Association.

For more information, contact Helene on 883714 or onhelenebeckett@yahoo.co.uk.

Sandra notes the group has several items they would like to spend available funds on.

Firstly, the group is currently rolling out a 'uniform' consisting of polo shirt and fleece. A uniform helps identify members in what is often a panic situation and gives reassurance to casualties while they provide first aid until East Midlands Ambulance Service arrives. To date, only the most active members have got the uniform but the group would very much like to make it available to all members.

Secondly, the CFRs are training more members to help in more complex situations. "This involves costs for courses and extra medical equipment, all of which are funded by our group," explains Sandra. "The extended skills allow volunteers to attend Road Traffic Collisions and so we need to provide High Vis jackets and personal protective equipment, for which we need funds."

Thirdly, the group would like to buy more kit – currently three are in use but having more would make it much easier to provide 24 hour cover, and might allow running a double resource during busy periods. Having spare kit would also cut downtime while items such as defibrillators are serviced, and the First Responders always need to replace medical equipment that goes out of date.

Lastly, the group is hoping to buy some training equipment such as resuscitation manikins, defibrillator trainers, training equipment etc.

Sandra adds: "We cannot thank the people of Brixworth enough for their support. In the nicest possible way, we hope you never get to meet us in our role."

Brixworth Cricket Club

Brixworth has a very active cricket club with four adult teams playing in the Premier League, Division 3, 10 and 13 of the Northamptonshire Cricket League. On top of that, the club's juniors section has over 140 children on the books from U6 upwards and runs U11, U13 and U15 teams. The club has funded three more coaches but needs at least two more (at a cost £300 each) for U6/U7s to help cut down the waiting list of juniors wanting to join.

Running the club takes year-round investment and the club would welcome donations from the Deserving Causes fund to help it meet those obligations.

"For example, we are currently installing a new scoreboard," explains club chairman Chris Timm. "We- have been fortunate to receive some funding from Daventry District Council for this, but still need to contribute another £900 from our own coffers."

The club is also in the process of improving the men's toilet facilities at the club, and recently installed a new security system.

"On top of that, we need new sight screens for the main ground, so the ones we have there can be used at St David's for our 3rd and 4th team - the last quote we received was for £3300 for a set of two screens".

"There is plenty we have done, need to do and would like to do. It would be wonderful if some of the above qualified for the 'deserving causes' funding pot," he adds. - cfw

First Responders

The Brixworth Community First Responders provide emergency care and first aid to people who have called an ambulance in and around Brixworth. The group work with East Midlands Ambulance Service, so if you dial 999, then the local group will be activated along with back up from a paramedic and/or an ambulance.

Sandra Cotterill, co-ordinator for the First Responders, says: "Being in the village means that we often get to the site of the emergency – be it in the house or after a Traffic Collision – before the ambulance does. Those minutes can be the difference between life and death."

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Deadline: 31 March 2016

Obituary: John Blason

John Blason, who passed away in December, was a hugely respected and well-known figure, who has served the village in many different roles over many decades.

John was born in the Rhondda Valley in Wales in 1940 and his family moved to Brixworth when he was five. They used to live in a cottage, since demolished, close to the butter-cross. He went to Brixworth village school and was an active member of the Cubs and Scouts. He attended secondary school in Moulton. Immediately after leaving school, he worked in the family garage, A.H. Blason and Son, a business that was founded by his grandfather Alfred Blason in the 1920s. John became the third generation proprietor of the garage and his son Sam will continue as the fourth generation to run the family business.

Sport was a major part of John's life. He played both football and cricket for Brixworth all his life. He was a founder member of the Brixworth Central Sports Club and was Chairman from 1980 until his death. As well as his involvement with the BCSC, he also served on Brixworth Parish Council and was Sports Editor for *The Bugle* and subsequently *The Bulletin*.

As well as his involvement in local village life, John had a passion for classic cars, and could be seen regularly driving his 1933 Singer 9 – affectionately known as “The Red Rocket” – around the village. He was delighted to take her into the local school for pupils to look at and climb into, as well as transporting Father Christmas to the annual BCSC Christmas party, a tradition which will be maintained by Sam and sister



Sarah! John was also proud to drive her in the carnival cavalcades in the village as well as taking her on rallies and meets throughout the country. John was a member of the The Singer Owner's Club and The Kettering Area Motor Club. Indeed, it was many of these friends who drove their classic cars, totalling thirty in all, which led the funeral cortège to Brixworth Church for a service of thanksgiving and celebration of John's life on January 8th.

The service, attended by over 350 people was a fitting tribute to a much loved family

man, who was a hugely respected and a highly valued member of the local community who will be sorely missed by everyone.

We would like to say a sincere thank you for the messages of sympathy, love and support that we have received from friends, customers and all those who knew John. Thank you to all the drivers of the classic cars who made the day a special one, and to everyone who attended the funeral and joined us in celebrating John's life.

Val, Jo, Sarah & Sam Blason

A Farewell from Brixworth Central Sports Club

It was with great sadness that the committee, members and friends of Brixworth Central Sports Club said their final goodbye to John Blason on Friday the 8th of January 2016. John was a founder member of the club. He started a fundraising programme in the 1960s, became a committee member in 1969 and chaired the club from 1980 until his death in December 2015.

From a young school boy John was a keen sportsman and remained so throughout his life, playing football for Brixworth. His greatest love however was cricket, and he played for Brixworth XI first team. When he could no longer play he supported the local cricket and football teams and could be found any Saturday after the garage closed sitting by the bar in the club, bottle of Bud in his hand, watching the sport on the TV with his friends.

Looking through the archived minutes in recent months, when the committee was planning on extending the present lease, it became clear just how long John had been an active fund raiser. Supported by his wife Val, he organised dances and events in the club's early days to raise funds for the building, decoration, and a bar for the club house. In later years he also led the way to raise funds for the extension, which incorporated the changing rooms and kitchen. His humour is evident in the club minutes and the committee and club members never tired of his stories of those early days. In 2014 the club celebrated 45 years with a hog roast, live music and it was with great pleasure that John was presented with an engraved tankard in recognition of his untiring involvement with the club.

The club house, affectionately known as the “pavi” by his family, took up a lot of John's time and it wasn't until he was unable to carry on with all his little jobs that the committee realised just how much he did. He was always there to let maintenance people in to the building, cashing up and checking the till and a thousand and one other jobs that have had to be taken over to keep the club open and running smoothly. As such John was always and will continue to be number 1 on the club's membership list. He was a much loved and admired man and in the words of one of his favourite songs will be ‘always on our mind’. - *The Committee, Brixworth Central Sports Club*

Police report

Over recent months Northants Police has embarked on a review of the services that we provide. The funding cuts that we have been subject to since 2010 have meant that we have had to radically change the way that we operate. The service review has looked at a multitude of areas of policing, including the community teams; it is anticipated that this review will conclude imminently.

PCSO Natalie Halling has now left Northants Police, having accepted employment elsewhere. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking her for her hard work on the area and wish her well for the future. Unfortunately, all indications at this stage are that this vacancy will remain unfilled. PCSO Wright and PCSO Taylor have both contributed towards the community policing for this area and in the short term it will be on this basis that we continue.

While we await the findings and recommendations of the service review, we anticipate significant change in the way that SCTs are structured. On this basis, and to avoid change and then further change, I will await the results of this review before reviewing PCSO areas at a local level.

Lastly, you may have been aware that there were plans to close both Watford Gap office (which covers the rural south area) and Brixworth office (covering the rural North). I can confirm that Watford Gap office closed in December and the staff relocated to Daventry police station, where they continue to police the rural south area. For a multitude of reasons, it has been decided that Brixworth should remain open.

I will provide a more detailed report of any changes to the SCT upon the conclusion of the service delivery review. - *Sgt Matt Moore*

Surgery build to start in the autumn

Construction work on the new doctor's surgery is due to start in the autumn this year.

The new £1.2m surgery will be almost double the size of the existing one and provide a much-needed expansion of facilities, with six consultation rooms and additional facilities for nurses, together with more than double the number of parking places. It will be built by Barratt Homes as part of the second phase of the Saxon Rise housing development on Northampton Road in Brixworth.



At the latest review meeting, the project partners - Saxon Spires Practice, the healthcare property company Assura, Barratt Homes, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the leader of Daventry District Council, Chris Millar - confirmed that the project was on track. Construction is expected to take ten to 11 months, with the practice due to move in soon after completion.

Barratts will take over the existing surgery and potentially redevelop the site. - *cfw*

Defibrillator gift to village



Following first-aid training of Brixworth Library and Community Centre staff, Mandy Lowe, the Community Response Manager from East Midlands Ambulance Service, has arranged the gift of a community public access defibrillator.

This valuable piece of life-saving equipment is now housed in a locked cabinet outside the library. The code to the cabinet is registered with the ambulance service and will be provided to the general public if required, within a 500m radius of the building. Mandy Lowe said: "Whilst it is appreciated that this will not cover the whole village, it is centrally placed to provide cover to the majority and is in a place known to all."

This is an exciting addition for the village. Although anyone can use the unit without training, the Brixworth's Community First Responder Group are going to offer simple training evenings to gain knowledge and understanding of how to use this device.

Dates for free training sessions at the Centre will be provided in the next Brixworth Bulletin.

Thanks are due to the following groups who have and will support this project:

- Brixworth Community First Responders – training and support
- Brixworth Library - housing and providing electricity to the unit
- BCF Community Church – paying for the installation, and
- East Midlands Ambulance Service, Northamptonshire Division – donating the unit.

We hope that all will respect and protect this unit, which has the potential to save lives. - *Mike Nice*



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Pointer vs Parish Council awaits ruling

The employment tribunal brought by former Parish Councillor Steven Pointer vs Brixworth Parish Council has concluded, but the judge is not expected to announce his ruling until later April or May.

The judge and two lay advisors spent nine days from November to February hearing evidence. However the three will not consider the case until mid-April, with the ruling announced within a month.

Unless there are further delays, we will bring you the outcome of the case in the next Brixworth Bulletin, which will be out in early June. - *cfw*

Neighbourhood Plan in home straight

Brixworth's Neighbourhood Plan is entering the home straight, with a referendum expected to take place in the autumn.

Throughout January and February, the plans were available to view online and at Brixworth Library, and villagers were invited to comment. Independent examiners are now considering all comments made during this time.

Provided that this does not result in any recommendations to alter or redraft the plans, the next stage of the process will be its formal adoption by Daventry District Council, followed by a formal referendum, in which the residents of Brixworth will be invited to vote on the plan. Provided it receives more than half the votes, the plan will then become part of the wider development plan for Daventry District, and help decide planning applications in Brixworth until 2029. - *Bob Chattaway*

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Villages await ultrafast broadband decision

Residents of Lamport, Maidwell, Hanging Houghton and Draughton are currently on tenterhooks waiting to see whether the promised rollout of ultrafast broadband becomes a reality or fails at the final hurdle.

Gigaclear, a provider of ultra-fast fiber optic broadband, has been in the area since summer 2015 gauging whether there is sufficient interest in their service to go ahead with the installation. While in the autumn at last year it had seemed as if the rollout would go ahead, at least in large parts of the area, the company has recently had to revise its figures and reveal it needed to sign up more households to make their business model work. As the Bulletin went to press, Gigaclear was still 17 households short of its target.

"We're so close to the tipping point - if there are people in the area who are still considering whether or not they should sign up, it is in the community's interest to take the plunge," says Craig McFadyen, sales manager with Gigaclear.

While most villagers greeted the setback with dismay, for residents of Hanging Houghton it was actually good news. Hanging Houghton had shown the least interest in faster broadband and had been warned that this could result in the hamlet being left out,



even if the rollout did proceed in the other three villages. Gigaclear now says that if the overall numbers meet the targets, it will bring its service to all four villages, irrespective of individual sign-up levels.

There is no guarantee that another fibre optic broadband service would move into the area if Gigaclear fails to meet its target. If it does, it would most likely be through BT, though BT's Infinity service is considerably slower than that provided by Gigaclear.

Superfast broadband is already widely available in Cottesbrooke and Brixworth, where installations began more than a year ago. Most the village now has access, though some parts are still waiting to be upgraded.

To check the status of your house, visit www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/rural-broadband. - *cfw*

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Draughton News

Draughton seems to have been in hibernation for the last few months, only coming together for a jolly seasonal carol service. But, we are slowly stirring like the birds and the bulbs (who obviously don't know what the month is - and who can blame them with the topsy-turvy winter we've had?!).

We are now looking towards our first big event on the 26th June – namely the Classic Car Show with Cream Tea Tent, Pop up Pub and, this year, a variety of fête stalls to appeal to all ages.

This is a major fund-raising event for this little community and is growing from the seed planted a few years back. The first Draughton Classic Car Show brought over 35 wonderful cars to the village and raised several hundred pounds for village funds. This year monies raised will be for the Clubroom and the church fabric.

So, if you have a classic car that you'd really like to show off, we'd be delighted to see you – and it, of course!

Please contact the organisers on 07850 018069 or 07764 162437 to talk turbos or discuss dashboards, and help fill the field with classics. – *Kate Calnan*

Delve into history at Lamport Hall



As far as records go back, an imposing house has always sat at the top of the hill at Lamport. Today, Lamport Hall offers unique and fascinating insights into local history as well as a beautiful setting for contemporary cultural events.

Lamport Hall was occupied more or less continuously by generations of the Isham family, until Sir Gyles Isham bequeathed it

to the Lamport House Preservation Trust in 1974. The family's history can be traced back to before the Norman Conquest, when the de Ishams were tenant farmers living in the village of the same name near Kettering. One branch of the family settled near Pychley in the fourteenth century. John Isham, who made a fortune in the wool trade, acquired the estate at Lamport in 1560. His grandson was knighted by James I, and created a baronet by Charles I in 1627.

The house was developed in various stages. Unfortunately, little remains of the original Tudor manor apart from a glimpse of its foundations which can be seen under the floorboards in the dining room. The central part of the existing house was designed in 1655 by John Webb, and the two wings were added in the eighteenth century by Smith of Warwick, who built a lot of country houses in this area. An extension at the back of the house, and the current gardens, were added in the nineteenth century.



The library at Lamport Hall

In 1907, a Lord Ludlow took a tenancy for hunting and fitted out the stable block. During the Second World War, the house was requisitioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, and Italian Prisoners of War who worked



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the farm were housed in the stables. After that, the house fell into a state of neglect, and due to a widespread infestation of dry rot required a great deal of renovation. The last room was only finished in 2003.

The house has been home to a number of interesting characters. Among these are Sir Thomas, 3rd Baronet, who inherited at the age of 18. Like many of his class, he went on the Grand Tour in the 1670s and brought back a large collection of furniture and paintings, which visitors can enjoy today. However, his extravagance nearly bankrupted the family. Betrothed to marry the daughter of a wealthy Dutch merchant, he died, aged 24, of smallpox on the eve of his wedding, so failed to obtain her dowry.

The Victorian baronet, Sir Charles, laid out the current gardens. While on a visit to Nuremberg, he discovered terracotta figures that miners were using for good luck. Known as an eccentric, he bought over a hundred of these gnomes to populate a rockery. Believing they came alive at night, he built the rockery to face the house and kept a book of the gnomes' activities he saw through the window.

Only one of these gnomes survives today. Allegedly, after Sir Charles' death, his daughters shot all the others out of resentment that he had spent more time with the gnomes than with them. The survivor is officially the oldest garden gnome in the world



The famous gnomes were allegedly shot by Sir Charles' daughters. Only one survivor remains - he is the oldest garden gnome in the world.

by a talk by Gyles Brandreth, whose father was a contemporary of Sir Gyles at Oxford University, and who was christened after him.

Lampport Hall has been receiving more publicity in recent years. Before Christmas it was featured on the BBC's "Celebrity Antiques Road Trip". A few years ago, it appeared on "Countryfile" in a feature about the children's author BB, whose book, "The Little Grey Men", was inspired by the Lampport rockery.

The house is open to the public from Easter - October on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Bank Holiday weekends. A programme of events runs over these months, including an antiques fair (Easter weekend), a crafts fair (first May Bank Holiday weekend), country festival (second May Bank Holiday weekend), and in the summer open air theatre (this year - Midsummers Night's Dream), jazz and cinema.

Guided tours are offered round the house. A new attraction for visitors this year is an exhibition of working horses in the stable block, complete with a large collection of donated memorabilia. - Jennifer Fitzgerald



Sir Gyles, who starred with Greta Garbo in 'Anna Karenina'

and a recipient of a Blue Peter badge.

Sir Gyles, the last of the Ishams to live at Lampport, was a celebrated actor before he joined active service in the Second World War. One of his career highlights was appearing as Levin in the film "Anna Karenina" starring Greta Garbo in 1935. The 40th anniversary of his death will be commemorated in July

Lampport & Hanging Houghton News

The Christmas Carol Singing took place on Christmas Eve on the village green. This year it was organised by Colin Harris and Bob Cox - you have our thanks. Despite the cold and damp, over 30 villagers attended and we enjoyed mulled wine, stollen and some lusty singing.

There are a number of new arrivals since September. They are:

- Lampport Lodge - Paul and Sharon Harris and sons, who moved from Ascot
- 18 Manor Road - Tom and Harriet Wise, both young school teachers
- Jasmine House, Manor Road - John and Nuala Ellis, who moved here from Silverstone
- 6 Manor Gardens - Christine Ingram moved here from Northampton

We welcome them all to the village and look forward to meeting them at some of our future events.

On a much sadder note, I regret to inform you of the death of Sue Chamberlain of Manor Gardens at the beginning of January. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends in the village, as well as the Parish Council, of which she was a valued member.

- Mike Philpott

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Where do the gulls go?



(Thanks Stephen Fry!)

You may or may not have noticed that Pitsford Reservoir is home to hundreds, if not thousands of gulls. They've populated the reservoir since it was first built in the mid 1950s but in most notes on the reservoir they hardly ever get a mention. You can find lists of ducks such as anywhere you care to check for information on the reservoir and along with swans, herons, cormorants, the odd red kite and a few buzzards while the poor

Bob Campbell from The Ashway has spotted a weird phenomenon over many years right here in Brixworth. It's the kind of thing you notice and then put to the back of

your mind and forget about until you notice it again. A bit like the Bristol Hum. It's all to do with birds and in this case specifically seagulls - or gulls, using the correct name.

gulls apparently don't exist! Maybe this is the reason they leave the reservoir every day at dawn and disappear, somewhere to the North West? They are simply upset with being ignored.

And that's the problem really - where do the gulls go?

Bob has watched from his garden at any time of year and seen the gulls leave Pitsford from dawn until around 9.30am then return at dusk using the same flightpath. Every single day come rain, shine, snow, storm and tempest, they tend to leave the reservoir, in groups of usually five or ten but sometimes up to 50 at a time, and fly diagonally over his garden. Then at dusk they return, again in small groups, and land in Pitsford Water, covering large parts of the reservoir in a sea of white. Quite a sight in the late evening.

"They don't circle the reservoir," says Bob. "They head off with an apparent plan and disappear toward Creaton and beyond."

Do they fly to another reservoir and hang out for the day there? Perhaps where they feel they are more appreciated? Or do they fly off to a landfill site somewhere to the northwest of Brixworth and feast on the rubbish for the day?

It's not really the kind of question that will cure world hunger or put a man on Mars; but it is interesting, at least to Bob. Any answers on a postcard (or by e-mail) to the editor; and we'll let you know where the gulls go in the next issue. Hopefully!

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Welcome to Pitsford Water

The nature reserve on your doorstep

Pitsford Water Anglers Map

For up to date fishing reports visit www.anglianwater.co.uk

Key to Fishing Points

1. North Fields Shore
2. Stone Barn Point
3. Stone Barn Bay
4. North Farm Bay
5. Gravel Bank
6. Grange Farm Creek
7. Sennan's Bank
8. Rigby Point
9. The Wrie
10. Pitsford Creek
11. Ponic Bank
12. Vibe Tower
13. The Dam
14. Sailing Club
15. Sailing Club Bay
16. Sailing Club Bank
17. Three Trees
18. Brixworth Bay
19. North Bank
20. The Cliffs
21. Hill Bay
22. The Narrows
23. Gorse Bank
24. Pig Stream
25. Stilton Point
26. Bog Bay
27. Duffin's Reach
28. The Tunnel
29. May Tree Point
30. Holcot Arm



anglianwater

You may be familiar with the Country Park but are you aware of the extent of riches Pitsford Water offers north of the Brixworth-Holcot causeway?

This area hosts a nature reserve managed by Anglian Water and is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is home to over 10,000 individuals of different species of wildfowl such as widgeon, shoveller, gadwall, teal and goldeneye, many of which overwinter here from Scandinavia. Other attractions include herons, warblers, great white egrets, transient otters, harvest mice, yellow neck mice, five species of grebe and three species of divers.

"We want as many people to enjoy the site as possible", says David Rose, Anglian Water's manager at Pitsford. "We've provided fifteen miles of grass paths for walkers and eight hides for birders. We just need to keep disturbance to a minimum to protect sensitive species. That's why we don't allow dogs and bikes."

Water companies in the UK are legally required to keep their sites favourable for wildlife, to enhance biodiversity and increase the range of species – especially those that are rare or native to the UK. Anglian Water has been one of the front runners in doing this and employs a team of ecologists who draw up the management plans for their water parks. A wide range of habitats is maintained at Pitsford through coppicing, keeping grassland to a required height, and preserving certain areas for grazing. Anglian

Water contracts with the Wildlife Trust to manage the reserve and provide qualified staff. It also works closely with the Country Park which manages other visitor facilities.

Like the Country Park, the nature reserve is self-funding. Anglian Water's water parks (which also include Rutland, Grafham, Ravensthorpe and Hollowell) are renowned for their trout fisheries, and angling provides Pitsford's main source of income. The reservoir is stocked with 30,000 rainbow trout and 1000 brown trout every year. Fishing for predator fish, such as pike and perch, is also available. Courses in fly fishing are on offer throughout the year for all levels of experience.

However, David says a recent concern is the arrival of the "killer shrimp" at Pitsford that threatens the aquatic ecosystem. "It's a non-native species that eats other invertebrates to extinction. We request all water users to check and clean their equipment on site to check its spread."

Permits to visit the nature reserve can be bought at the fishing lodge. You can also keep up to date with sightings of wildlife there on Pitsford Reservoir's Facebook page and the Northants Birds blogsite. – Jennifer Fitzgerald

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Dr Feelgood to headline Rock In The Park

Blues rock band Dr Feelgood will headline Rock In the Park, a rock and blues music festival coming to Brixworth Country Park on 9 and 10 July.

Rock In The Park 2016 is being organised by the David Reger Memorial. It is a not-for-profit event with all funds going to Birmingham Children's Hospital and local community groups involved in the events organisation.

David Reger (pictured below, with his nephew) sadly died in August last year. He was widely known in the village, where he and his dad Phil worked on many building projects. He spent



time with his friends riding his motorbike and playing in the pub darts team.

What many people did not know about this happy 23 year old was that he was a cancer survivor. He was treated and cared for by Birmingham Children's Hospital. Diane and Phil, his mum and dad have decided that a fitting memorial



to their son David would be to raise much needed funds for this incredible institution.

Birmingham Children's Hospital provides the widest range of children's health services for young people from Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond. They lead the way in pioneering international research in a large number of medical areas including childhood cancer. All funds from Rock In The Park will go toward them achieving this and helping local community organisations.

– Kim Phillips

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Country Eye

Swan Song

“Black Star”, David Bowie’s latest album, appeared on January 8th this year, his birthday. His myriad of fans were still basking in the freshness and deep meaning of its varied tracks three days later, when his death from cancer was reported. Some said that the album presaged his death. What is certain is that popular culture has lost one of its greatest talents, whose interests spanned many of the arts, never to come before us again. In every sense “Black Star” was David Bowie’s swan song, which the dictionary defines accurately if badly as ‘a final gesture before dying.’

The legend of the dying swan has been around for at least two thousand years. As its death approaches, the bird is supposed to sing more sweetly than at any other time. In reality the only sounds that come from that extraordinarily long neck are a variety of snores, grunts and hisses; quite out of keeping with its grace and elegance on the water. Much more interesting to me is how the bird came by its long neck in the first place. Watch the ducks and other waterfowl on Pitsford Water, and it is plain that while some of them dive in search of waterweeds and other foods, others, including the swan and some of the ducks, ‘up-end’. Paddling with their feet they stretch their necks down to the bottom to find tender water plants or algae – or in the autumn the abundance of seeds that sink there. If all of them had equally long necks there would be intense competition for the food within reach. Over hundreds of thousands of years of evolution some sought fresh pastures; and so some species have learned to dive, while others evolved necks of different lengths. So from the tiny teal, through the gadwall, shoveler, wigeon and mallard, to the mighty mute swan, all are able to exploit an underwater food source without competition between them becoming too severe.

According to the latest figures, published by the British Trust for Ornithology, there may be about 35,000 mute swans in these islands, and the population seems broadly stable from year to year. A dip in these numbers took place during the 1970s. Its cause was shown to be the huge quantities of lead shot from angler’s fishing weights and shotgun pellets that fell to the bottom of the water. There the feeding birds mistook them for seeds, ate them, and they accumulated in the birds’ bodies. At the height of the problem three to four thousand swans died annually. Campaigning led to a ban on the lead in 1987. But



much still remains out there, lying buried until bank re-alignment or other works expose them potentially to cause local problems.

Several pairs of mute swans nest annually on Pitsford Water, where their down-clad brown cygnets sail to and fro in convoy to the delight of many visitors. Then, as the summer wears on, their numbers swell as other birds fly in from elsewhere. At its peak I have known over 150 swans to be there! They have all come for a very important reason. It is the time of the annual moult, when all their feathers are shed to replace the worn-out ones with a brand new set. But why Pitsford? Unlike many other birds, swans shed all their primary wing feathers, those ‘finger’ feathers so essential for flight, at the same time. This means that until the new ones grow, they are in effect flightless. This leaves them vulnerable to predation. With its large area of water, Pitsford provides a safe haven. As soon as the moult is completed they start to drift away again.

Graceful and elegant they may be, but there is one time they are less so. Because of their weight, over 30lbs sometimes, and wingspan on over seven feet, they struggle to get airborne. They need a long runway whether on land or water, pattering along flapping furiously into the wind, in order to take off. Once aloft their powerful direct flight has the added bonus of the wonderful sighing, wing music, to me one of the most evocative sounds of our countryside. Truly a swan song. – Brian Webster

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Chris Heaton-Harris MP's WESTMINSTER REPORT

EU: To stay or not to stay

Firstly, I would like to wish all of you a happy New Year!

As you all well know, at the end of last year David Cameron formally announced his plans to renegotiate Britain's position within the European Union by "seeking a better deal" for Britain ahead of the intended referendum.

In short the Prime Minister's reforms focused around four key areas; immigration, economic governance, competitiveness and sovereignty.

As someone who believes that the status quo is not in the interest of the UK, I know we need a much reformed European Union for me to honestly say to you that I believe remaining in this club is in our best interests.

Obviously I welcomed the Prime Minister's recent decision to allow Ministers the opportunity to campaign on either side of the argument. It will encourage meaningful debate and hopefully give Britain the best chance of getting what it wants - whatever the outcome. Whilst I accept that this is a hugely complicated matter, it is right that the final decision on our future lies in your hands.

Before being elected to the House of Commons I was an MEP for over ten years. During my time I witnessed firsthand the worst excesses of European integration. Today, the European Union has a significant influence on the UK's social, economic and political

landscape, and yet, since the UK joined the European Economic Community in 1973, it has never shared the strategic vision of the organisation's founder members. In its current existence, remaining in the EU is not in our national interests, nor, for that matter, in the interests of many of our European partners.

Put simply, the EU is not fit for purpose. This is why our relationship with the EU will remain a top priority for me during this Parliament, and I will continue to be strongly involved with it.

As some of you might know, shortly after the 2010 General Election, I was one of three MPs who got together and decided to set up the Fresh Start Project, which had four key aims;

- Examining the options for a new UK-EU relationship.
- Setting out what this new relationship could look like.
- Establishing a process for achieving change.
- Building political support to make it happen.

I plan to keep pushing Ministers to ensure we battle hard in these negotiations. If we achieve what I want, then I will vote to stay in; but I will not accept a second-hand deal which does not address the fundamental flaws of the EU and my hunch is that neither will the British people.

If any of you would like to learn more about the Fresh Start Project you can do so by via www.eufreshstart.org. Alternatively, to discuss any of the issues raised in this article, please do not hesitate to get in touch via one of the methods below.

Chris

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Brixworth Community First Responders

Your chances of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest reduce by 7-10% for every minute that passes. That is a scary statistic, but yet up to 75% of victims survive, as long as CPR and defibrillation are delivered promptly.

The role of the Brixworth Community First Responders is to bring to the local area the skills and equipment to provide early CPR and defibrillation to increase people's chances of survival.



Since our article in the September Bulletin, we have bought an additional kit, and we are delighted to now have three kits to respond with. It may not sound like much, but it's the result of having raised £3000 to purchase and run the kit, not to mention attracting and training the volunteers who use the kit within YOUR community aiming to provide 24 hour cover.

We have managed to train four volunteers to intermediate level, meaning that their additional skills allow them to administer extended skills and treatment for Diabetes, Asthma and babies from 12 hours old as well as being called to Road Traffic Collisions. We also have two more volunteers who are awaiting their basic training whom we look forward to welcoming to the team shortly.

Our skills and volunteers have been called into action quite frequently in recent months, supporting East Midlands Ambulance Service in what is historically their busiest time over the winter, as I'm sure you will have heard about on the local and national news.

We hope that by telling you about us, you will be better aware of who we are and what we do – not that we hope you'll ever have to benefit from our skills! Also, we have a fantastic new logo (see above!) which we hope you'll see when you're out and about.

Our equipment, training and ongoing costs are entirely funded by fundraising and donations, and each kit costs in the region of £5000 to purchase. Should you wish to donate, you can do so by visiting <https://localgiving.com/charity/brixworthcfr>

If you feel you would like to support us in any way – promoting our services, donation, becoming a volunteer, using us as a charitable cause for an event you are doing via our local giving page, then we would be delighted to hear from you. You can email us via Sandra.cottrell@care4free.net, follow us on Twitter (@brixworthcfr) or like Brixworth First Responders on Facebook.

– Ashley Fenn

Access to Innovative Treatments getting closer

At the end of January, my Private Member's Bill on access to innovative medical treatments went through its final stages of Parliamentary process, the Report Stage and Third Reading.

The Bill would lead to the creation of a database of experimental medical treatments and the results obtained so far, accessible to doctors, which would allow doctors to prescribe such treatments before they've been fully approved by regulators.

Following extensive consultation, I tabled a number of amendments that combined my Bill's database of innovation with a different Bill that helps patients get access to off-patent medicines. I managed to get cross-party consensus for my finished work and so now the Bill heads over to the House of Lords for their scrutiny.

If my Bill becomes law, then we will be one small step closer to having a user-friendly database accessible to all registered medical practitioners that contains details of off patent drug use, clinical trials, best practice and innovation being practised across the NHS.

Following the votes, Mr Graham Hampson Silk, from the charity Empower, said: "I was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2001, and I'm still here today because of medical research facilitated by the patient data of the leukaemia community. I was one of the lucky ones by being in the right place at the right time. But we need to start taking luck out of the equation by spreading this information faster and wider. This database could have the power to do just that.

"Indeed the drug that saved my life has already shown early promise in other conditions, the off-patent provisions in the Bill could also see patients granted access to a far broader set of treatments which would really open up our health system." – *Chris Heaton-Harris MP*

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Outdoor Nativity



What a brilliant idea – an outside nativity with a real donkey! – to give everyone the opportunity to hear and see the ‘real meaning of Christmas’.

As a family we are new to the village of Brixworth, yet everybody has heard of the ‘outside nativity’ so when we heard we had to go.

It truly was magnificent from start to finish. The Christian Fellowship brought a modern twist to a traditional theme and made it relevant for today. The children dressed up as kings, shepherds and angels (ours included) and really enjoyed themselves in a well behaved manner. But whilst standing there listening to the beautiful choir and singing the traditional Christmas carols you felt a sense of belonging – so many villagers turning out in the bitter cold and slightly damp weather, but nonetheless coming together brought a warmth to the air and a twinkle in the eye that you are part of a caring community.

The nativity ended with a hot drink and mince pie. Can't wait till next year! – Hayley and Paul Clarke

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Housing Market 2016

My Prediction

UK house prices are both a national obsession and a key driver of our economy. It is also the question I get asked the most when bumping into my fellow villagers. 'What do you think the prices are going to do?' Well, let's look at the various factors that force prices up or down.

Buyer confidence

Jobs and the ability to find work has always been a huge driver for the housing market. The number of people out of work in the UK fell by 58,000 to 1.91 million in January. This is its lowest level for more than six years.

Supply and demand

Even with all the current new homes that we see going up around us, the Government is still going to be very shy on meeting the demand of homes required for our ever growing population. This void of property is as much of a problem here as it is on a national level. Nationwide's chief economist, Robert Gardner, said the main concern is that construction activity will lag behind strengthening demand, putting upward pressure on house prices and eventually reducing affordability.

Interest rates

Mark Carney, the Governor of The Bank of England, has ruled out an interest rate rise this year and suggests it will not move

upwards until well into 2017.

Buy to let investors

With bank interest rates being so low, for so long, the buy to let market has flourished over recent years. Even with tax relief being reduced on the interest element of the mortgage from 2017 and an additional 3% stamp duty being added onto the purchase of second homes from April 1st, this will continue to grow. People still see bricks and mortar as a safe haven for their hard earned money.

Help to buy schemes

Although the 95% mortgage has not returned in the shape it was before the 2008

slump, both the Government and new homes developers are offering financial incentives to help first time buyers. Those with 5% to put down can borrow 20% via interest free loans allowing them 75% mortgages on homes with a purchase price up to £600,000.

Facts and figures

I would expect we will see a similar increase here as is being predicted by the experts on a national level. Both the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and Rightmove are forecasting a 6% rise in property prices. The rise is chiefly driven by ongoing supply shortages, though RICS expects that the price rise will start to slow as more new houses are built. — Stuart Little



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Brixworth Photographic Society

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. By that reckoning, Brixworth is blessed with some very talented pictographic wordsmiths. For the last four years, they have been coming together as the Brixworth Photographic Society.

The Brixworth Photographic Society meets usually every week to discuss anything in general and photography in particular. During the winter or darker months, we have sessions on post-production techniques, studio lighting with models and occasional outdoor

trips to indulge in some pyrotechnics. During the summer, or lighter evenings we venture out to photograph the local scenery, flora and fauna. We also plan to go on regular weekend outings, with past excursions to the North York Moors and the Lake District. We have successfully held photographic exhibitions locally.

If you feel like joining us to discuss anything related to photography, we can be found in 'The George' on most Thursdays from around 8.30pm. - *Ian Topham*



David Philips

David works in the music industry and consequently he gets to see a high proportion of famous name bands and performers during the course of any one year. He had a book published called 'The Drummers Perspective' in 2010 showing the view from the drummer's riser. He is currently working on a second book which will be out soon.



(Clockwise, from top left): Slash, by David Philips; Blue Tit, by Graham Billing; Carlsberg Brewery at Night, by Graham Billing.

Graham Billing

Graham's background is in the print industry, so he is a good judge of the quality of an image and can describe the processes involved in their production.

He is a keen ornithologist and also has a well-developed passion for planes and cars. He also enjoys working with models using light and shade to enhance their features.



Sean Goodheart

Sean is interested in lots of different kinds of photography, using modern digital but also analogue film. Architecture, night-time images and fireworks are strong themes. The two analogue images are taken with a cheap plastic camera, showing you don't need expensive kit to get interesting images. Sean is working on a series of images with the expectation of gaining his LRPS award. (that's a Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society).



(Clockwise, from top left: A Gate near Blueberry Farm, by Ian Topham; Brixworth Church, by Sean Goodheart; Sunrise over Cottesbrooke, by Ian Topham; and Architecture by Sean Goodheart.

Ian Topham

Ian's photographic interests vary widely. He prefers Landscape photography as they don't tend to move around too much, so it's a relatively simple process to get a decent image. He has recently developed a particular interest in panoramic landscapes and photo merge techniques, after attending a lecture at Bletchley Park on Gigapixel Imaging fired his imagination. That is not to say that he won't try his hand at anything else. He's a bit of a gadget freak as well.

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

We have seen Christmas and the New Year come and go since we last reported on the Scout Group's activities. As always every section has been extremely busy.

Beavers looked at the firework safety code, considered symbols and followed a trail deciphering the clues as part of the Communicator activity badge. They also thought about endangered animals and Fairtrade goods as part of Global Issues and took part in a great Christmas party with lots of crafts. After the Christmas break we said goodbye to some old friends as they moved up to Cubs, and welcomed lots more new ones to Scouts. Beavers have been creative with Lego, K'Nex, Hama Beads and Magnetix, had a go at cooking pizzas, making smoothies and rocky road cakes. They have also celebrated Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday.

Due to people's changing commitments Beavers on Monday nights are looking for adults to join the leading team. To find out more, come and see us or use the emails below.

Cubs, in the build up to Christmas, considered personal safety, something all young people need to be aware of these days. Then it was on to making Christmas decorations and a special event at the Pinnacle climbing centre to finish the term off nicely. For the first half of the spring term, Cubs have been working toward their Entertainer and Science activity badges. After the initial week welcoming all the new Cubs who have moved up from Beavers with a few well chosen games, it was thinking caps on to work out what everybody was going to do to earn their entertainer badge. This culminated in a performance the following week for all parents – and very good it was too! The next two weeks saw numerous science experiments including growing crystals and cress, making rockets, looking at ant



farms and wormeries and understanding what litmus paper does.

Scouts managed to cram in loads between half term and Christmas. There was time to look at making fires and using them to cook, complete a little bit of fitness training, take part in some Christmas craft activities and a winter treasure hunt. The term was completed with an ice skating trip to Beckworth emporium. Since Christmas, Scouts have been gearing up for Brass Monkey camp, which was at Overstone this year. The theme for the camp was an international one, and Brixworth Scouts practised their Greek dancing, some cuisine and learnt the Scout promise in Greek too. It was a wet, windy and wild weekend – but enjoyed by all.

Explorers tried their hand at making fires and cooking, then spent some time helping Santa get ready for his epic trips around the village in the build up to Christmas. They hope everyone enjoyed it, they certainly enjoyed meeting all of you and would like to say a huge thank you for all the support you gave them. The spring term started with a planning meeting, and a walk near Draughton. Some of the Explorers joined the Scouts at Brass Monkey Camp, then they followed this up with a trip to Cineworld – behind the scenes and go-karting (pictured, above).

The Explorers will continue to raise funds for their trip to Kandersteg in 2016. Watch out for events being advertised.

As always we continue to look for new leaders in all sections. If you would like to find out more about becoming involved please come and talk to us and find out how you too 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@btopenworld.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 – Kim Philips



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Seniors enjoy a Christmas Lunch

DA/2105/0923 Pytchley Court Nursing Home Remodelling of external access to provide ramp and new external steps	DDC Approved
DA/2015/0838 Land to east of Northampton Road Reserved matters application for details of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping of Medical Centre building	BPC Support DDC Approved
DA/2015/0980 8 Shelleycotes Road Two storey rear extension and first floor existing single storey extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2015/0995 52 Lesson Road Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
I5/00083/CCDCOU The Cottessmore, Brixworth Office Park Change of use of the Lapwing rooms from their current D2 use to mixed A1, A2, B1 and D1 uses at, Northampton Road	DDC Approved
DA/2015/0771 29 Tantree Way Two storey front extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

It was with a sense of pleasurable anticipation that we arrived at the community centre for the Pensioners Christmas Lunch.

and coffee. Wine was provided for those who wanted it. As we finished this excellent meal we were treated to songs by Angela

This annual event is organised by Brixworth Christian Fellowship Community Church and volunteers of The Olive Branch coffee shop. The hall upstairs was decorated with lights, and tables were laid out with crackers and menus. A pleasant hum of voices greeted us and we settled down to chat with old friends.



The meal was preceded by the arrival of the primary school choir who sang some lovely songs with great gusto! After an encore we settled down to a delicious meal of prawn cocktail or melon, followed by the special roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Everything was piping hot and well cooked. This was of course, followed by Christmas pudding, mince pies

Moles, some haunting songs with guitar were followed by old favourites such as "Tipperary" which we all joined in!

As we finished our chocolate mints we listened to the Rev. Phil Walter give his Christmas message, which was as usual interlaced with jokes. Father Christmas then arrived and amidst much laughter distributed presents to everyone.



We concluded this year with an audience choice of carols accompanied by Andy Bransby on the piano. As we finally made our way out, we all confirmed that this was one of the best Christmas lunches provided by the dedicated volunteers of the Olive Branch, led by Chef Vernon Salmon, and they are to be much applauded for this yearly event.

– Margaret Wood

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1st Scaldwell Guides

At the beginning of October some of the guides went off down to Wembley for the BIG GIG - a pop concert put on especially for guides! Along with 10,000 other girls we danced and sang along to Ella Henderson, Nathan Sykes and many others. Later in the term we took part in a Guides and Brownies take over of Kids Play in Kettering. We also held a 'Robyn Party' to celebrate Robyn's (one of our leaders) successful completion of her warrant. Congratulations Robyn!

This year we celebrate our 60th birthday. We are undertaking a '60 Things' challenge across the year which we have started by decorating and filling penny pots for the Northampton Hospital Chemotherapy Unit fund. So far this term we have started our Go For Its and enjoyed a session of hip hop dancing, courtesy of our Sainsbury Active Vouchers.

– Jill Gunnett and Vicki Howlett



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Library events

New at Brixworth Library

IAIM Infant Massage with Leveta Lawson
Wednesday mornings 11am – 12 noon
upstairs in the library.

These are five week courses for parent or carer and baby (from age 6 weeks). Price is £60 per course to include all materials, payable in advance to Leveta Lawson (see infant massage by Leveta Lawson on Facebook). Next course starts Wednesday 23 March.

Business start-up workshops

Self-Employment: Is It For Me?

Wednesday 2 March, 10-12

For anyone thinking about starting a business, this workshop provides an opportunity to explore the basic principles and procedures required to establish a successful business.

Social Media for Businesses

Wednesday 9 March, 10-12

Are you social media savvy? This workshop takes a look at the world of social media from a business perspective, and will help you to develop an effective social media strategy for engaging with your target audience.

Effective Websites for Businesses

Wednesday 16 March, 10-12

This workshop offers a practical guide to creating and managing your website and online presence, helping you to promote your business in an effective and efficient way.

All workshops are held upstairs in the pod at Brixworth library. Participation is free but places are limited so booking is essential.

To book on any of these workshops please contact answersplus@northamptonshire.gov.uk or phone 361447.

Activities for children

Brixworth Library is now the designated Children's Centre for Brixworth. All events are free of charge and take place in the Children's Centre Area upstairs in the library – lift available in foyer. The Children's Centre is closed to other users when Under 5s sessions are taking place.

Rhymetime for the Under 5s

Mondays 2.30pm and Fridays 10.30am

Crafts & Discovery Club for children aged 4-11 years

Mondays 3.30 – 4.30pm term-time; crafts may be available through the holidays.

Play & Learn for Under 5s

Tuesdays 1.30 – 3pm

Play & Learn for Under 1s

Thursdays 10am – 12noon

Baby weigh-in clinic with the health visitor
Thursdays 10am – 12noon, followed by developmental checks.

Family activities

Sundays 11am – 2pm

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

Easter holiday and half-term activities

Messy Crafts

Painting, gluing and more for children up to 12 years, under 8s must be accompanied by their parent/carer.

Wednesdays 30 March, 6 April and 1 June 2.30pm.

Free; please book in advance at the library or email brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Adult events

Book Club meets first Tuesday of every month 10.30am

Open to all – please ask at library or email brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Our wonderful volunteer **IT Buddies**, Robin and Nick, are available if you need help with IT basics, using a lap top, want to get to grips with a new iPad, or have any other IT questions or queries. They can give you free 1:1 help and advice at a convenient time for you at Brixworth Library. 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.

NAB Mobile Unit – on the Library & Community Centre forecourt Wednesday 23rd March 11.30am – 12.45pm for help and advice on visual impairment issues.

Get involved!

Children's activities helpers and leaders

Thinking of a career working with children, but need some experience? We are looking for volunteers for under 5s activities and children's crafts activities and can offer you training, work experience and a reference. There are activities most days of the week, so hours can be flexible but you must be available to help on a regular basis.

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

We are open 11am – 2pm on a Sunday. If you have some time to spare on a regular basis, this is a varied role, could be greeting customers, making coffees, helping with craft activities, tidying and shelving etc.

Stock assistant

Perfect for someone with a tidy mind who likes shelving books, reading and socialising with customers.

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For more information please speak to Jill or come in and speak to Jill, or view the volunteering roles and apply online at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved.

Other services

- Bus passes – new, lost and renewals
- DVD hire
- Checking service for online Blue Badge applications
- Computer use – free on Fridays (charge for printing)
- Photocopying
- Laminating
- Library shop
- Room or pod hire: For more information, please speak to library staff.

Opening hours

Monday – Friday 10am to 6pm
Saturdays 9am to 1pm
Sundays 11am to 2pm (note new time!)

Bank Holiday closures

Easter Weekend Friday 25 March to 28 March
and Bank Holiday Mondays 2 and 30 May.

Don't forget it is free to join your local library and open to everyone!

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

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.

In late October some members of the Irish Ceilidh group went to listen and dance to a live Ceilidh band at the St James Working Men's Club, which was organised by the Northampton Ceilidh Group. The evening also included a display of Riverdance-style dancing and a buffet. The evening was a great success and they are looking forward to the next one.

2015 was the second year of the Christmas Tree Festival at Brixworth Church and all the local groups were invited to supply and decorate a tree. Janet Womack took on the challenge and the brief was for all interest groups to provide a themed decoration relevant to their group to decorate the tree. As can be seen from the photograph, everyone excelled themselves! Hopefully they can all be dusted off and saved for Christmas 2016.

The first walk of the year was from The Coach and Horses in Brixworth, over fields and down to the reservoir and back for lunch. The weather was kind to us although it was muddy and slippery underfoot and the stiles needed a lot of negotiating as did all the badger setts. Not for the faint hearted!!

A record number of 101 members attended the November monthly meeting when the talk was by Carole Ward (a Brixworth resident) on her life as a Tiller Girl. Just the thing to cheer up a November day.

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



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Tesco Local Community Grants

Tesco awards six grants per year in each of its 428 regions to make sure the funding is spread evenly across England, Wales and Scotland. In total the grant scheme will support around 2,500 projects each year.

Because we're expecting there to be a major demand for grants, the communities charity Groundwork will assess all of the applications and prepare a shortlist for a Tesco regional panel to narrow down to three projects, which will then go to a vote in Tesco stores.

Tesco customers will vote over two weekends in their store for their favourite shortlisted project. These will all receive grants, with the first place getting £12,000, the second-placed £10,000 and the third-placed £8,000.

What the grants can fund

The grants will fund capital projects that provide community benefit and have free and open access to all members of the community for a minimum of six days a week, during daylight hours.

The grants programme will be open to organisations such as: voluntary and community organisations, registered charities, health bodies, parish or town councils, social enterprises, Community Interest Companies, community councils, local authorities and

housing organisations. Other not-for-profit organisations might also be eligible.

Projects that would typically receive funding include:

- Parks, pocket parks and urban green spaces
- Green corridors – river and canals, cycle ways
- Formal and informal play areas
- Open access sports facilities within public parks and recreation grounds – eg football pitches, tennis courts and cricket pitches
- Informal outdoor recreation facilities; eg gym equipment, trim trails and woodland walks
- Nature reserves, community woodland, ponds and village greens
- Churchyards
- Seafront improvements
- Community allotments, community gardens, orchards and city farms

There's no match funding requirement to access this grant, but the grant should be the majority of the funding required for your project, which could be a stand-alone project or a discrete, self-contained part of a larger project or part of a phased project and will need to be delivered within six months of receipt of the grant. Landowner's permission is essential and you might also need planning permission.

Important dates

Funding round 1:
19 October 2015 - 27 November 2015

Funding round 2:
April / May 2016

Funding round 3:
September / October 2016

Funding round 4:
April / May 2017

Funding round 5:
September / October 2017

Funding round 6:
April / May 2018

Treacle's back!



Dear all,

I just wanted to say a big thank you to the people of the village who offered so much support when my cat Treacle went missing.

He was away for three weeks and three days. Throughout that time I was comforted by the the posts and messages from people looking out for him. There are too many to name, but one person I must thank is Julie Munday who went looking every day and offered me a lot of advice and support. She even came out and scanned a cat who was identical to Treacle.

Treacle turned up on Sunday 31st January. He just popped through the cat flap. I would love to know where he's been, but I guess I'll never know.

The comments from everyone when I reported him safe and well were equally lovely - it's nice to report a happy ending. Brixworth is a lovely village and people come together when you need them.

Thank you once again I truly am grateful for your support. – Janet Leeke

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Review: Puss in Boots

Whether the French philosopher Voltaire really did say "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" may be open to debate, but as a passionate advocate of free speech he would not have disagreed with it. That would make him the perfect patron saint of pantomime dames, but no: in this year's Pantomime offering from Brixworth Drama Group – as seen in the Village Hall in early February – Voltaire becomes a snarling sneering demon, played with spirit by Alex Coles.

Alex has all his lines in rhyming couplets, which must have made them a lot easier to remember! So too did his nemesis Fairy Feline, well played by Ruth Cardwell, who introduced us to the plot, or what passes for plot in these things.

Young Tom is returning from years away to the reading of his father's will. Joining him are his brothers Dick and Harry, and Dame Doris Doolittle. In Tom's family it would be fair to say that the brains were not shared out evenly, Harry having just sold the family flour mill for a net loss of ten pounds, to the evil Voltaire. However, the will did not amount to much, with Tom receiving just the mill cat with a golden guinea around its neck. A little later, the cat has gone lame from too much walking, and Tom meets Fairy Feline, who persuades Tom to part with the guinea in exchange for a pair of boots. And that is how little cat, played sweetly by Boo Moxon, becomes the swashbuckling Puss in Boots, played with calm authority by Gemma Fletcher.

On his travels, Tom meets the royal family, played by Roger Chapman and Amanda Pilgrim, and a rather feisty daughter, Princess Pearl, a role that Tamsin Green has practised, and it showed. For Tom and Pearl it's love at first sight, but the family will not consider a poor commoner, as they are broke after all.

Still, the cunning cat gets Tom into the palace and apparently tricks the family into believing that Tom is none other than the fabulously wealthy, and therefore socially acceptable, Marquis of Carabas. Ay Caramba! Voltaire sees danger, and tricks Dick and Harry into robbing the cat of his boots, and exposing Tom as an 'imposterrrr'. Enter Fairy Feline, who with some help from Dame Doris, persuades the brothers to undo the harm they did, and hey presto, Puss in Boots is back.

But the royal family has been lured to Voltaire's castle, and Puss must act quickly. Voltaire has his pet ogre, Gormless, well played by a newcomer to the group Ben Hollands, lined up for Princess Pearl, but the stupid ogre who has the power to transform into any kind of creature, is tricked by Puss into transforming into a mouse, which makes a tasty snack for Puss. Together with Fairy Feline they find the source of Voltaire's power, which the Ogre showed them before being eaten, and so, armed with sword and flashing lightbulb, they defeat the Demon who is promptly banished. The way is clear for Tom to discover that he and his brothers own the castle, and that he really is the fabulously wealthy Marquis of Carabas, and to claim the willing Princess Pearl.

What a plot, you couldn't make it up, could you?

So while that was going on, we were well entertained. Principal entertainers were Dame Doris, played as if he had been a dame all his life by Allan Pope, with adlibs, one liners and music hall jokes, and the mad Oddjob, the Royal Family's go-to man, played with massive energy by Sue l'Anson. These two were aided and abetted by Dick and Harry in a variety of guises and accents as the dim duo, played with life and style by Heather Pool and Eileen Truby. They gave us a highlight of a different kind with a silent decorating scene once played by Bruce Forsyth and Norman Wisdom, but with its roots firmly in Laurel and Hardy. Sue McAspurn featured loudly as the Major Domo, whose announcements deafened all within range, which in this case means Pitsford and Lampport.

Brixworth Pantomimes have given a number of ladies from the area the chance at a young heroine's role and this year Elizabeth Moxon took her chance with Tamsin Green as her love interest. The production also benefits from a live band, led by Lynda on Bass and Flute with Les on guitar and Dave/Sam on percussion. Elizabeth and Gemma who were both taking important roles for the first time visibly

grew into their roles as the performances progressed. Assistant Director Sophie Cardwell also backed up the chorus numbers.

John Wardell, Sarah Thompson and Elaine Gregory all handled their minor roles well, and a special mention should go to the younger members of the cast Sophie, Tom, Milly, and Ellis, who had lines of their own to deliver and

dancing to do. Other younger members gained experience backstage, as without a pantomime horse in this production, the Leach brothers became the stage crew.

Thanks are also due to Eunice who has made our costumes and provided the prompt, and make-up artist Angela. Libby Bowers co-ordinated front of house and sends her thanks to all our volunteers.

If anyone thought, missed cues apart, that the second half of the Pantomime was slightly disjointed, you might be interested to know that a significant part had to be written out two weeks before the first performance due to illness, and that some of the larger and smaller roles had to be recast due to an unusual rate of attrition among cast members. Director Mark Sharman still managed to put together an entertaining production while running the sound lighting and effects with help from Sabrina, and together with wife Karen who runs the stage, they also put together most of the scenery. Without their efforts undoubtedly there would have been no production this year. Next year, who knows? No production is scheduled for the summer and the group needs Directors. Its senior cast members who put so much energy into their performances are not getting any younger, and it is now quite likely that there are parents in the audience who were treated to their first live theatre experience by the same players!

Live theatre is an expression of freedom, and in an age where the expression of free ideas is still a crime in the many parts of the world where demons rule or exert undue influence, is still an important part of our heritage. Keep the spirit of Voltaire alive. – Robin Pool



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BRIXWORTH MATTERS

BCF Community Church

Being part of the community of Brixworth since 1985, Ruth and I have made many friends, seen the village change, BCF Community Church growing and had the privilege of leading the church since 1996. This year for us is a year of change, as I am taking up a new role with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (to which we are affiliated as a church) leading Church Revitalisation in the UK. This means that we are as a church looking to appoint a new Minister hopefully to begin in April. I am around in a part time capacity until the end of June when the post becomes full time.

The good news for us, is that we intend to remain in Brixworth which is very dear to us, and indeed where possible to be active in the community, for example continuing as a School Governor.

Change is not always easy and I am reminded in the lead up to Easter that the disciples, the followers of Jesus, were having to get used to life without Him. The words of Jesus were ringing in their ears "I will send a comforter to be with you – the promised Holy Spirit". Easter is a time for reflection – the Son of God gave of Himself on the cross, to take on Himself the punishment for our sin.

John Newton was a slave trader who became a Christian and his life changed drastically. He wrote the well-known words of the hymn "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see".

May God bless you this Easter time.

Contact: Phil Walter on
01604 882040

Christmas Outdoor Nativity 2015

Wow what a day! Set up began in the morning, chairs put out, rain came down in torrents, chairs taken in, a rainbow appeared in the sky, chairs come out and all was ready by the 4 p.m start!

It was a truly a village event with between 300-400 folk gathering to share in the singing of Carols and watching the Nativity scene unravel before them. Jacko the donkey, very kindly brought to us by David Hamson, behaved well until he decided he had enough! The meaning of the Christmas story was shared and all in all a very successful afternoon ending with Hot Chocolate and Mince Pies.



Annual Senior Citizen Christmas lunch 2015

Around 70 folk sat down to a feast on the 16th December as the festivities began. The Key Stage 1 school choir entertained with a selection of songs which received thunderous applause. Three courses later, crackers pulled and coffee served, we were treated to a local musician singing and playing the guitar, sharing a range of songs which we all joined in with. Father Christmas then arrived (looking oddly like Mike Nice) and gave each one a present.

We are grateful to all the volunteers who gave of their time and energy on that day and for their part in making the day so memorable.



Not to be missed!!!

With Easter coming our diary is filling up – why not join us for any of the events over Easter.

Good Friday 25th March –

with folk from All Saints as we remember the death of Jesus. Meet at the Library & Community Centre at 11:00

Easter Sunday 27th March –

Family Service at the school 10:30 - join us we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Christmas Day at BCF

The start of the Christmas Day festivities could not have been better! A packed hall, the singing of Carols, sharing with the children the toys they had received, focussing on the birth of Jesus in different ways and generally starting the day with joy and thanksgiving.

If you missed it in 2015 we invite you to come this year to this Family time.

BreaCFast@9



Every Sunday in term time we invite you as a family to share with us in a fun packed hour. Starting with breakfast together as a family, there are songs, stories, craft and more. It is a very informal church experience! Why not try it you will not be disappointed!

Easter Holiday Club

At the school for 5-11 year olds –

April 7th – 8th look out for literature from the school nearer the time to register (if your child is not at Brixworth then phone Mark on 882832 for details)

1251 Shoe Boxes

Sent from Brixworth to Kyrgyzstan at Christmas

Thanks to all who contributed, to those who volunteered to sort and check them, (if you would like to be involved in 2016 let us know.)



The Olive Branch

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,
Library & Community Centre,
Spratton Road, Tel 889030

Run by volunteers this non-profit making venture has a welcoming atmosphere.



BCF Community Church Weekly Events

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

You will always receive a very warm welcome at any of our Services on a Sunday at 10:30. At the school. As we share together in worship, we also provide a Junior Church for children of all ages. Come and join us!

If you would like to know more about anything in Brixworth Matters or to know more about the Christian faith, then phone Phil on 882040 or go online www.bcfchurch.co.uk

All Saints' Church, Brixworth

Dear Friends,

A Mother's love.....

On March 6th at All Saints we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday. It will be a joyous celebration of motherhood, and all that it entails, and a chance to thank our mothers for all that they do for us. The love a mother gives is a unique sacrificial love—a love that will never go away. Have you ever thought of God as a mother rather than a father? In the Bible, God is described as being like a mother hen who gathers her chicks under her wings.

Many of those getting married this summer here at All Saints will choose the great passage from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians to be read out which describes God's love as self-giving, patient, kind and never ending.

We can see examples of that type of self-giving in our world. Take for example Mother Theresa's care of the poor in Calcutta, Martin Luther King's dedication to racial equality in America, and Stephen Hawking's devotion to uncovering secrets of the universe. Theirs is a devotion to the other that is so strong that they actually merge with the other and lose sight of themselves. That, too, is what a mother does.

There are times when I see that happen in our church community, and further afield, in small acts of kindness and support to others. And when it does, it makes me smile, because despite all that we see in our world on our television screens which appals us, our faith can still remain. Because I know that if we look for Him-- or Her, God is there to be found, coming from within us.

Rev. Chloe

Priest-in-Charge:

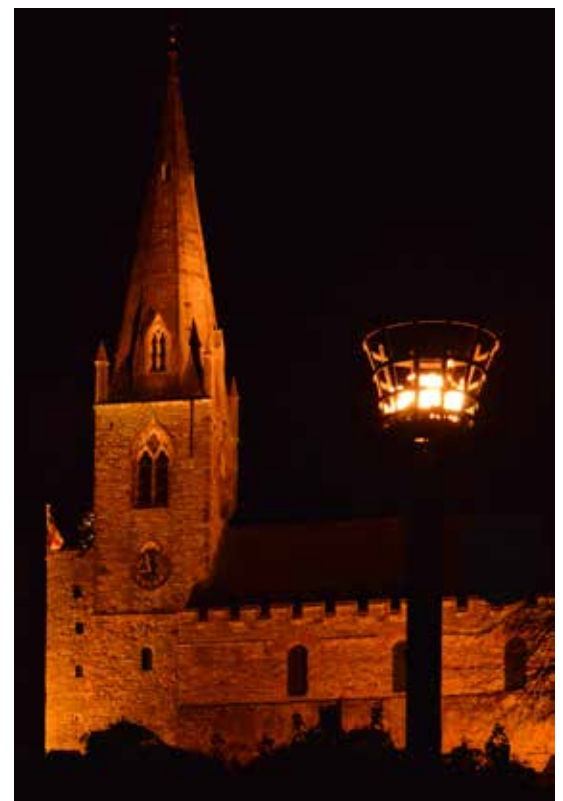
Rev. Chloe Willson-Thomas
The Vicarage, Station Road
t: 01604 882014
chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com

Churchwardens:

Mrs Vanessa Crooks
5 Whaddon Field t: 01604 882058

Mr Michael Lewis
8 Breach Close t: 01604 881836

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES		
1 st Sunday of the month	10.30am	Family Service
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
2 nd Sunday	7.45am	Said Eucharist
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
3 rd Sunday	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
	10.30am	Junior Church "Growing Saints"
	6.00pm	Candlelit Taizé Service
4 th Sunday	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
5 th Sunday	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
NORMAL WEEKDAY SERVICES		
Tuesdays	9.30am	"COFFEE POT"



Carols round the Beacon

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms: Oliver George Reeves
Elliot Joe Russell

Burials: John Henry Blason
Mary Monica Vandergert
Daisy Edna Walton

SPECIAL SERVICES

March 6th: Mothering Sunday Celebration

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday 20th March: Family Communion (jointly with Holcot) Tuesday
 Tuesday 22nd March: 9.30am Eucharist; 6.00pm Evening Prayer
 Wednesday 23rd March: 6.00pm Evening Prayer
 Maundy Thursday 24th March: 7.30pm The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday
 Good Friday 25th March: 11.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness with BCF
 2.00pm Meditation on the Cross
 Easter Sunday 27th March: 10.30am: Sung Eucharist
 4.00pm: Taizé Service

**Our Junior Church,
 "Growing Saints" meets
 every third Sunday at 10.30am**



Singing Saints Children's Choir, Wednesdays at 4 pm



Christmas Tree Festival



Christmas Market



With 2016 now well under way, we're only a couple of months away from the May local elections. This year is an election year for Brixworth Parish Council, which will coincide with the elections of a Daventry District Councillor for Brixworth Ward and a new Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, on Thursday 5th May 2016.

Brixworth Parish Council has 14 seats but only 10 are currently filled. The Parish Council needs more residents who can engage with their community. If you care about local sports, responsible spending of local taxes, protecting the village from over-development, supporting local organisations financially, or simply care about the village and its past, present and future, please consider becoming a Parish Councillor. Make a difference. Contact the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Emma Baker: clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk

Grants funding resumes

After a gap of one year, Brixworth Parish Council decided to reintroduce the Grants Fund, which is available to local organisations that benefit local residents. One such organisation to have recently received a grant is the Brixworth Community First Responders, an organisation of volunteers who are trained in basic life-saving interventions to attend emergency calls received by the ambulance service and provide care until the ambulance arrives.

As call-outs are within the immediate area of the volunteers, Brixworth CFR can arrive at an emergency scene in a matter of minutes which can make a life or death difference. Brixworth CFR has six volunteers who, since

2011, have attended over 220 calls ranging from chest pains to strokes, and loss of consciousness to seizures.

The Brixworth CFR applied for a grant in order to fund an additional defibrillator, a machine which is commonly used to treat heart attacks and has been used at least 12 times to save the lives of local residents.

Brixworth Parish Council is proud to have enabled such an organisation to have made a difference to its community.

For more information on grants, please visit www.brixworthpc.org.uk/council-policies

Planning matters

Following our report last October, we are able to advise that all of the reserved matters in respect of Phase 2 of the Barratt Homes development have been approved. Together with this application, those for a new surgery and additional parking spaces adjacent to the library are now proceeding through the planning process. The two properties adjacent to the shops in Spratton Road have been sold and are currently undergoing refurbishment.

The application for the building of a large Arts and Crafts style residential property at the far end of Merry Tom Lane, to which the Council objected, is due to go before Daventry's Planning Committee in the coming weeks.

During November, the Council considered amendments to the planning conditions relating to the proposed Care

Home at Victors Barn, at the southern end of the village. The Council believed that these amendments were not beneficial and opposed the proposed changes.

December brought the application from the County Council to create two additional classrooms at the Primary School together with internal alterations and additional car parking. This was approved.

The New Year brought an application from Mercedes-Benz to convert some of their temporary buildings into permanent facilities. The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

Notice was also received on a consultation on changes to The National Planning Policy.

John Blason

The Parish Council was saddened to learn of the recent passing of John Blason. John was an incredibly active and well-respected figure in the community, including during

his 24 years on the Parish Council. We are grateful for the positive contribution John made to village life, and we offer our condolences to his family.

2016/2017 Budget report

The Finance Working Group has the responsibility of producing a budget for the forthcoming fiscal year 2016/17 for full Councils approval. The financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March and the Parish Council are required to approve the budget and precept by the end of January of the previous financial year.

As with last year we propose to keep the Community Grant and an amount of £2,500 has been included within this years budget. The allocation of grants is to be the same as this year. Likewise the Village Project remains and an amount of £2,500 has been allocated.

We are continuing with the Living Wage. It has become apparent during this year that these rates are reviewed each November and we have taken this into account whilst preparing our figures. These increases will be incremental over the next three years to bring the Living Wage and Minimum Wage in line.

2015/16 has been an extremely difficult year for Brixworth Parish Council. We have continued to improve the facilities and amenities needed by the village, especially to St David's Playing Field, where further expenditure is required

in the coming years. We have continued to absorb costs in connection with proceedings at the County Court and Employment Tribunal from general reserves.

The approved budget for 2016/2017 is as follows:

Staff Costs	£62,380
Subscriptions and Fees	£2,375
Expenses and Allowances.....	£3,300
Administration	£10,150
Projects and Grants	£6,000
Legal Costs	£11,000
Ear Marked Reserves	£8,570
Highways and Environment	£4,500
Maintenance	£16,400
Recreation	£11,120
Total	£135,795

The Parish Council have estimated the income during the year to be £11,960. Taking into account the income and budgeted expenditure for 2016/2017 the Parish Council have increased the precept by 14.63% to £123,835. The increase equates to approximately £0.16 per household per week.

Parish Council meetings March - May 2016

Full Council meetings: 22nd March 7.15pm;
26th April 7.15pm; 24th May 7.15pm.

Planning meetings: 14th March 7.30pm; 4th April 7.30pm;
25th April 7.30pm; 16th May 7.30pm

Media & Communications Meetings: 9th March 7.30pm;
13th April 7.30pm; 11th May 7.30pm

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council: 17th May 7.30pm

Brixworth Parish Council

Clerk: Emma Baker
clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk
 01933 682447
 4 Well Street, Finedon NN9 5JP
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Alexander Coles (Chairman)
 Ian Barratt
 Jacqueline Bird
 James Hodges
 Stephen James
 Michael Lacey
 Sandra Moxon
 Kevin Parker
 David Parnaby
 Peter Saxton

What's on

26 Feb	Heather Small Live	Derngate
26 Feb	Westcoast	The Castle, Wellingborough
27 Feb	Katherine Ryan	Derngate
27-28 Feb	Move your Bones	Lighthouse, Kettering
28 Feb	Jason Donovan	Derngate
28 Feb	Upfront Comedy	Royal
1 Mar	Stewart Francis: Pun Gent	Lighthouse
1 Mar	Dilly Keane	Royal
2 Mar	Fairport Convention	Lighthouse
2 Mar	Rob Beckett	The Castle
3 Mar	Clare Teal	Royal
3 Mar	Alison Rayner Quintet	The Castle
3-4/3	Zhelaniy Circus	The Castle
4 Mar	The 80s Invasion	Derngate
4 Mar	Screaming Blue Murder	Underground
4 Mar	Tommy Tiernan	Royal
5 Mar	Skerryvore	The Castle
5 Mar	Shane Filan	Derngate
5 Mar	Manon Lescaut	EF Filmhouse
5 Mar	Richard Herring	Royal
6 Mar	Spring Walk	Kelmarsh Hall
6 Mar	The Tommy Cooper Show	Lighthouse
6 Mar	NMPAT Orchestra	Derngate
6 Mar	Mothering Sunday Services	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
7-12/3	The Yeomen of the Guard	Royal
8vMar	The Circus of Horrors	Derngate
8-12/3	Singing' in the Rail	The Castle
9 Mar	Hangmen	The Castle
9 Mar	An Evening with Lulu	Derngate
10 Mar	NMPAT Big Sing	Derngate
10 Mar	Golden Eagle Jazz Band	The Castle
11 Mar	Live at the Lighthouse	Lighthouse
11 Mar	Sean Lock	Derngate
12 Mar	Parton Sings Parton	Lighthouse
12 Mar	The Bootleg Beatles	Derngate
13 Mar	NMPAT Wind Band	Derngate
14-19/3	The Perfect Murder	Derngate
15-16/3	The Best Thing	The Castle
16-19/3	Welcome to Thebes	Royal
16-19/3	Blue Stockings	Royal
17 Mar	Simon and Garfunkel Story	The Castle
17-19 Mar	Days of Significance	Royal
18 Mar	Lee Mead	Lighthouse
18 Mar	Team Freewheeler Charity Disco	Lighthouse
18 Mar	Frank's Comedy Club	The Castle
18 Mar	Screaming Blue Murder	Underground
19 Mar	Robert Haberman	The Castle
19 Mar	Dane Baptiste	Underground
19 Mar	Mash Dance Extravaganza	Lighthouse
21 Mar	Boris Godunov	The Castle

21-26/3	The Last Tango	Derngate
23 Mar	Lysistrata	The Castle
24 Mar	Russell Kane	Royal
24 Mar	Partikle's String Theory	The Castle
26 Mar	Starlight Dance - Carousel	Lighthouse
26-28 Mar	Easter Egg Special Trains	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
27 Mar	How the Lion became King of Tinga Tinga Land	Lighthouse
27-28/3	Easter Trail	Kelmarsh Hall
27-28/3	Country Fair	Kelmarsh Hall
27-28/3	Antique & Collectors Fair	Lampport Hall
28 Mar	Hello Kitty	Derngate
28 Mar	The Railway Children	EF Filmhouse
29 Mar	The Marvellous Imaginary Menagerie	The Castle
29-30/3	Bear Behaving Badly	Derngate
30-Mar	Codebreakers	Lighthouse
30 Mar	Grass	The Castle
31 Mar	Tosca	Derngate
31 Mar	The (almost) Complete History of Britain	The Castle
31 Mar	Rapunzel	Lighthouse
1 Apr	David Morgan: Blammo!	The Castle
1 Apr	Totally Tina!	The Castle
1 Apr	Blofeld & Baxter	Lighthouse
1-23/4	King Lear	Royal
2 Apr	Champions of Magic	The Castle
2 Apr	RPO: Charles Dutoit	Derngate
2 Apr	Live: Madame Butterfly	EF Filmhouse
2 Apr	The Wizard of Oz	Lighthouse
4-9 Apr	Priscilla Queen of the Desert	Derngate
5 Apr	My Friend Peter	The Castle
7 Apr	Ukulele Orchestra of GB	Lighthouse
7 Apr	Tad Newton's Jazzfriends	The Castle
8 Apr	Ruby Wax: Frazzled	Lighthouse
8 Apr	Frank's Comedy Club	The Castle
10 Apr	Bolshoi Live: Don Quixote	EF Filmhouse
11 Apr	Solid Silver Sixties	Derngate
11 Apr	Tiddler & Other Terrific Tales	The Castle
11-16/4	Urinetown - The Musical	The Castle
13 Apr	Pasha Kovalev	Derngate
13-14/4	Dance: May Contain Food	The Castle
14 Apr	Pam Ayres	Lighthouse
15 Apr	The Birthday Party	The Castle
15 Apr	Stuart Goldsmith	Underground
16 Apr	Live: Roberto Devereux	EF Filmhouse
16 Apr	Raymond Froggatt	Lighthouse
16-17/4	The James Plays	Derngate
19 Apr	Stig of the Dump	The Castle
20-23/4	Thoroughly Modern Millie	Lighthouse
21 Apr	Dalloway	The Castle
23 Apr	The Knights of Music	Derngate
23 Apr	A Pocketful of Grimms	The Castle
25 Apr-1 May	National Theatre: Connections	Royal
24 Apr	Lucia Di Lammermoor	The Castle
26 Apr	Bellowhead	Derngate

27 Apr	We'll Meet Again	Derngate
27 Apr	Becoming Hattie	The Castle
28 Apr	Alex Merritt Quartet	The Castle
29 Apr	Great Scot!	The Castle
30 Apr	The Spirit of Elvis	Lighthouse
30 Apr	Patrick Monahan	The Castle
30 Apr	Met Opera Live: Elektra	EF Filmhouse
30 Apr	Julian Clary - The Joy of Mincing	Derngate
30 Apr-2 May	Teddy Bears Weekend Trains	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
1 May	From The Jam	The Castle
1-2/5	Art, Craft & Design Fair	Lampport Hall
3 May	Menopause the Musical	Lighthouse
3 May	With a Little Bit of Luck	The Castle
3-7/5	Joseph	Derngate
5-7 May	Spymonkey's The Complete Deaths	Royal
6 May	Psychic Sally	Lighthouse
7 May	Ian Waite & Natalie Lowe	Lighthouse
8 May	A Night of Queen	Lighthouse
9-14/5	Heartbeat	Derngate
10-14 May	The Massive Tragedy of Madame Bovary	Royal
13 May	Screaming Blue Murder	Underground
15 May	RPO: Alexandra	Derngate
15 May	The Searchers in Concert	Lighthouse
19 May	The Illegal Eagles	Derngate
19 May	The Dreamboys	Lighthouse
19 May	Rich Hall - 3.10 to Humour	The Castle
20 May	Tell me on Sunday	Derngate
20 May	Pinocchio Ballet Theatre	Lighthouse
20/5 - 11 June	Soul	Royal
21 May	Roy Chubby Brown	Lighthouse
23-28/5	Chicago	Derngate
27 May	Screaming Blue Murder	Underground
28-30 May	Bank Holiday Steam Trains	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
29 May	The World's Greatest Drummer Concert	Derngate
29-30/5	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
30 May	We've Only Just Begun	Derngate
1-2/6	Bill Bailey - Limboland	Derngate
2 June	Tony Stockwell	Lighthouse
3 June	Pop Factor 2016	Lighthouse
4 Jun	The Proclaimers	Derngate
7-11/6	Horrible Histories	Derngate
8 June	RSC Live: Hamlet	The Castle, EF Filmhouse
17 June	Sara Pascoe	Royal
18 June	R&D Community Choir	Royal
19 June	Bobby Davro	Lighthouse
22 June	Jamie Raven Live	Derngate
23 June - 2 July	The Tempest	Royal
24 June	Chicago Blues Brothers	Derngate
24 June	Sinatra, Sequins and Swing	Lighthouse

Pumas pushing for promotion



Brixworth Pumas Under 12s have been playing some terrific football and currently sit second in the B League, with wins against Kingsthorpe, Welland Valley, both Falcons sides, Soccer Stars and notably the league leaders Wootton St George. The boys are riding high and looking forward to the second half of the season where they will be pushing for promotion.

In the County Cup they recently defeated last year's semi-finalists Irchester Romans in a thrilling 2-0 victory taking them through to the next round. Sadly that's where their luck ended, as - after playing a commanding game against Thrapston, which ended level at full time - the dreaded penalties kicked in. End result was that we were knocked out, losing in a sudden death penalty shoot-out. 'Maybe next year!', the boys proudly boasted!

The boys' ability has massively improved from last season - keep it up.

Cox and Collier sponsor kit

The Pumas say a massive thanks to Tony Cox of Cox and Collier as he funded the new training tops for the boys.

"Cox and Collier Developments are extremely proud to have helped in providing the training kit for the Under 12s Pumas

Brixworth football team", Tony says. "We appreciate being asked to help the boys develop a great football team, and hopefully aiding in developing a great team spirit."

Cox and Collier are a local development company specialising in building high quality homes and helping land owners obtain planning consent for new buildings to enhance their potential returns. The company is always seeking more opportunities to assess, both for potential new builds and for converting large buildings to new homes or apartments. If interested, please contact Tony Cox on 882444. - *Simon Compton*

New sponsors for Brixworth Juniors

Secretary Simon Compton wishes to say a massive thanks on behalf of the club to the local firms who have come forward to sponsor the Juniors. Each of the sponsors shown on the boards were very happy to show their support to the club with varying levels of funding were received for which we are very grateful. The boards will go out every Saturday and Sunday and show the supporters, families and players that we have local firms within the village and surrounding areas who are committed to helping out grassroots football. The kind donations from Jackson Grundy, Watson Fuels, The Dental Practice, Brixworth Home & Hardware, Pitsford Cycles and Barratt Home are crucial to enabling Brixworth Juniors to fund further youth module coaching courses to both aid the coaches and give the children enhanced learning opportunities.



Girls team

The Juniors is also adding a girls under 11s team to its profile. Whilst this is in its early stages, they are all keen and enthusiastic turning up for training in some nasty conditions. So it's been a real joy to watch them improve and in their first match before Christmas they defeated a strong Kingsthorpe side 4-2. The girls were chuffed to pieces.

As this is a new side being set up, we have encouraged one of the girls' parents, Alex Green, to take up the mantle of coaching the girls. Alex will be attending his level 1 course in the next few months - as a charter standard club it's part of our criteria to have all coaches trained to a minimum standard. With over 220 registered players at Brixworth, funding is top of our priorities to ensure that all children from Brixworth and the surrounding areas get a chance to play sport.

Anyone wishing to join or support the club or wishes to sponsor one of the A boards then please feel free to call Simon on 07985 810817. - *Simon Compton*

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Pumas and Panthers enjoy Cobblers Day Out



Brixworth Juniors Under 9s Pumas and Panthers have been adjusting to seven-a-side football this season and the additional physical demands that a larger pitch and longer halves bring. The larger pitches in particular mean the boys are having to think about their position on the pitch far more than when they were on the smaller five-a-side pitches. I'm pleased to say that most of the coaching ideas that we have been working on in training are starting to shine through on match days. The Pumas have been placed in a highly competitive league and have more than held their own against teams from all over the county with many of the teams containing academy players. Unfortunately, our form hasn't been up to our normal standard, putting us in the second tier Plate competition, but we hope to progress to the latter stages, especially with the final being played at Sixfields.

Following a really good match in the morning where the boys grabbed a last

minute equaliser, we had a team 'Dads and Lads' afternoon out at the recent Northampton Town home match which saw the Cobblers take on Morecambe. The Pumas & Panthers formed a guard of honour waving flags to greet the players on to the hallowed turf of the Sixfields pitch and we were made to feel welcome by all of the staff and players of Northampton Town Football Club. The match itself had the Cobblers playing some of the best football I've ever seen them play as they ran out 3-1 winners and judging by the smiles and level of singing I'd say that the next generation of supporters have been found!! A special mention goes to Mark Young for organising such a great afternoon for all the boys.

We're just over half way through this season with lots to look forward to, from the coaching side it's a real pleasure watching the boys grow and develop into really competent footballers ready to take on the next challenge. – Rob Kelly

Tennis Club on recruitment drive

While Brixworth's tennis club started out well in 2013, it now needs to boost its membership again to meet a number of financial goals. The costs of playing tennis in Brixworth are very low, and bring the benefit of joining a vibrant social scene.

The club would like to push membership to beyond 100 (from a high of over 120, numbers have dropped to about 90). This would allow the club to put aside funds to maintain the three hard courts to a high standard, install floodlighting for year-round play, and allow the club to heat the barn, which could then be rented out for extra income.

Will Haxby, the club chairman, says: "Increasing membership would also help us achieve a more equal gender split, putting us in a better position to receive grant funding."

Due to the generosity of Dr Dallas Burston in opening the tennis courts as well as the cricket pitch to Brixworth, the costs of playing tennis here are probably among the lowest in the country. Adult membership costs £55 per year, £20 for youngsters and £125 for a family of four.

Will explains that the add-on costs are low, too. "Unlike most other sports, it doesn't cost much to kit yourself out. On average, it should be possible to equip children with a racket,



ball and shoes for less than £50 each."

Joining provides lots of opportunities to meet new people. Club nights are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays when members have the opportunity to play each other. On Friday evenings, tennis players can mix with the cricket club while enjoying a drink and barbeque in a beautiful setting.

"We're not seriously competitive either, so there's no need for beginners to be put off," says Will. "James Haley and his team of coaches offer lessons that are quite affordable. We run tennis camps during the school holidays, too."

Joining up couldn't be easier – simply go to the website at brixworthtennisclub.org.uk or call Will on 880715. – Jennifer Fitzgerald

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