

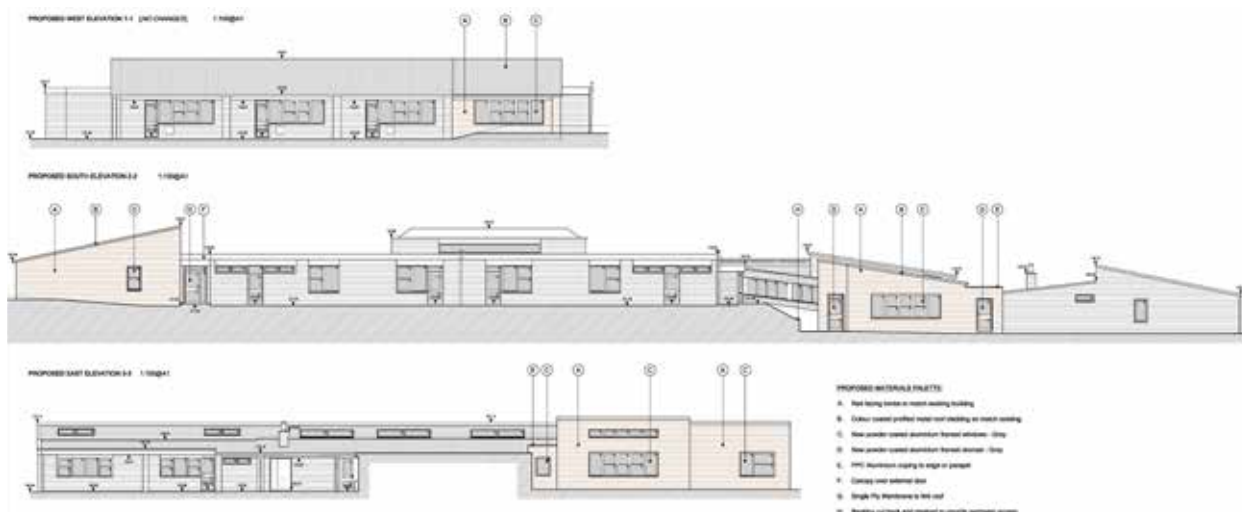
Expansion sees Brixworth Primary top 500 pupils

This year Brixworth CEVC Primary School will see significant building work to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers, from its present roll of 480, to a projected 525 pupils, following the expansion of the village. The new build programme will start this May and is scheduled to be completed in December.

The expansion will make Brixworth Primary one of the largest in the area, at around twice the national average for a primary school. This is still markedly smaller than the largest in the country, which run to well over 700 pupils.

The work will add two classrooms and a staffroom, extend the hall, and provide a new domestic science/meeting room and extra toilets in the Key Stage 1 area. Headmaster David Boucher says: "I cannot say at this point which year groups will be placed in them – room allocations do vary from year to year, depending on the composition of year group sizes. However, I think it is safe to say one classroom will be for Key Stage 1 pupils and one will be for Key Stage 2 pupils."

While the mobile unit that the school has been using for a number of years will remain on site for the short to medium term, Boucher says it may well be put to a different use. The amount of external space available to the pupils will not be significantly affected.



The project is managed and funded by Northamptonshire County Council, with a contribution from Barratt Housing – part of the conditions imposed by Daventry District Council for approving the Saxon Rise housing development.

The hall, which will be extended into what is currently a storage area, will allow the school to accommodate the new maximum number of pupils. It is used for PE lessons, assemblies, lunches, Brixworth Christian Fellowship services, lettings and afterschool clubs.

The work on the hall will take place over the summer school holidays. All non-school groups that would otherwise use the hall, such as Weightwatchers and Brixworth Christian Fellowship Community Church, will re-locate temporarily to the Community Centre Hall.

– Claudia Flavell-White

Your Deserving Cause 2016

This year's Deserving Causes vote proved to be a real nailbiter. All three contenders found themselves in the lead at one time or another, with All Saints Football Club and First Responders finishing neck and neck. In the final count, with the paper votes taken into account, the First Responders ever so slightly tipped the balance, taking 39% of the vote vs 38% for All Saints FC, while the Cricket Club came in with a very respectable 23%.

In monetary terms, this means that of the Bulletin's £3000 donation, £1140 will go to All Saints FC, £1170 to the First Responders, and £690 to the Cricket Club.

All Saints FC plans to splash out on two new strips and match balls. Photos will no doubt follow in the next issue.

The First Responders plan to use part of the money to activate a third kit for use in and around the village, along with some uniforms to make the Responders recognisable as well as professional-looking.

The Cricket Club meanwhile is hoping to use their funding towards improving drainage at Haywards Barn – the ground in the outfield has settled a little since it was built, creating some issues with playing conditions.

Thank you all for participating in the vote, it's been fantastic to see the village so engaged with giving money to good causes.

Claudia Flavell-White

The Brixworth Bulletin are:

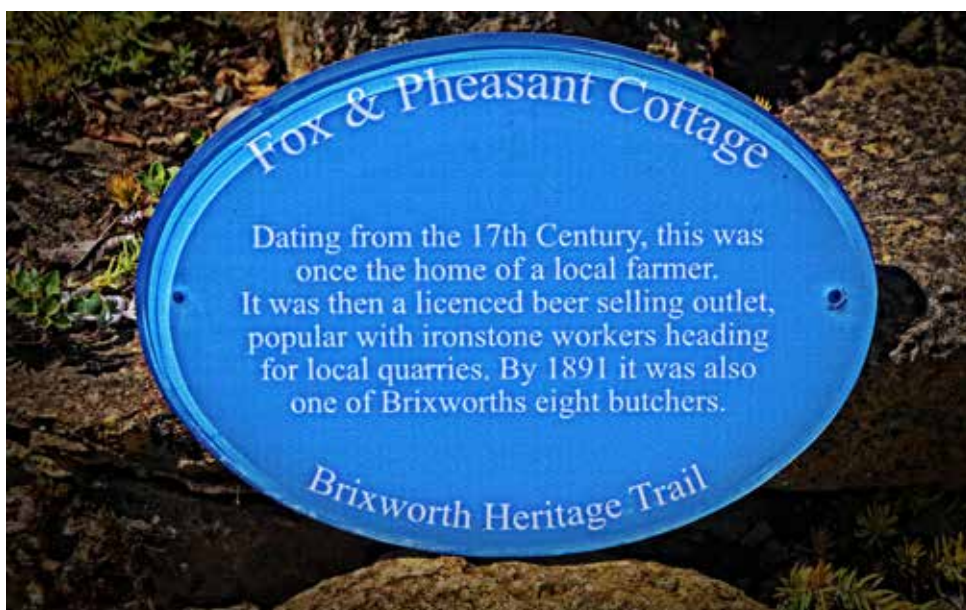
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and advertising for the September 2016
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Blue Plaques on the way!



Our very own Blue Plaque Trail should be up and running by the end of the year. Thanks to a grant from Northamptonshire Community Foundation and donations, the first plaques are on order. Before they can be displayed, the scheme must be approved by Daventry District Council as most of the properties are in the Conservation Area. Around 30 sites and homes have agreed in principle to display the plaques, which will be individually made with historical details supplied by Dennis Coles of the History Society.

Heritage Group Chairman Mike Nice said: "We were able to build on the work of John and Mandy Dawkins, who we will invite back to Brixworth to open the trail. Their research and art work for the Information Board to be sited on The Pound has been vital."

Historic private homes as well as two current public houses, the church, the Heritage Centre and Brixworth Centre are among those that have agreed to display the plaques. – Mike Nice

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Still no ruling on Pointer vs Parish

At the *Bulletin's* press time, there was still no ruling on the long running dispute between Brixworth Parish Council and former Councillor, Stephen Pointer.

Pointer, who is registered disabled because of his failing eye sight, sued the Parish Council for failing to provide him with an iPad to read Council papers.

The case was heard earlier this year, and the final ruling is expected to be announced in early June. – cfw

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Paddy Fox

1943 – 2016

Many readers will have been saddened to hear of the sudden death of Paddy Fox, founder member and former editor of the Brixworth Bugle (1992–2004).

Paddy not only managed the editorial team with persuasive skill but was herself a brilliant investigative reporter, a reflection of her previous career working at 'The Sunday Times' in the 60s and later on 'The Kibworth Chronicle'. Her political awareness meant that it was no surprise that 'The Bugle' was voted by a national magazine, 'The Countryman', Best Community Newspaper in 1994.

Her desire to bring the Brixworth community together extended to inspiring and editing 'Brixworth Country Fare', a village recipe collection which raised money for the Church Spire Appeal. Also, all new residents were delighted to receive the excellent and informative Welcome Pack, detailing everything the village could offer, which was produced by Paddy and fellow Bugle member, David Hymas.

Paddy will be particularly remembered in the village and further afield as the heart of The Fox in the Pound Bookshop which opened in 1982. This delightful place was full of the most unusual publications which reflected Paddy's eclectic tastes and would also regularly be used to host local art exhibitions. Thanks to her charismatic personality the bookshop became a friendly meeting



point where politics and local issues were the topic of many discussions until its closure in 2008.

Before they became so popular nationally, Paddy founded the first Book Group in Brixworth, another example of her never-ending ability to take the initiative. Yet more of her talents can be seen in her participation in Amateur Dramatics. She took part in several Kibworth and Market Harborough productions and her final performance was in Winfrith, a medieval re-enactment in Brixworth Church as part of the Millennium celebrations.

The list is endless when it comes to Paddy's commitment and contribution to the local community. She was a Parish Councillor for many years, a school governor for Brixworth Primary, a driving force behind the Millennium Garden Committee and regularly helped at the local Youth Club. Whilst these are more visible roles, she also demonstrated compassion by being a friendly visitor on behalf of The Alzheimers Society and was a volunteer at Oxfam Bookshop in

Market Harborough twice a week until days before her death.

Brixworth will be a poorer place for the loss of such a life-enhancing, vibrant and passionate woman who has left us a lasting legacy. This indeed was a life well lived.

– Louise Cramp, Jane Neill and Sue Verallo

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Mercedes AMG expands Brixworth site



An artist's impression of what the expanded site will look like

You may have noticed a new building being constructed near the roundabout on the A508 at Mercedes AMG HPP. A new Hybrid Technology Centre will house design, assembly and testing operations in this permanent building, which replaces temporary accommodation and containerised storage.

The new two-storey building covers just over 3000 square metres and will see the ground floor housing clean room, lab-type facilities with testing operations and also parts and component storage, whilst the first floor will be for offices and the plant equipment necessary to support these activities.

Construction work continues apace and the team hopes to move into the new building before the end of the year.

The new building has been designed to reflect the style of the current buildings and represents a significant investment by Daimler at their Technology Centre here in Brixworth, building upon the success of winning two consecutive Formula One Drivers' and Constructors' World Championships with the Mercedes team in Brackley.



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Cleaned For The Queen

As part of the Clean for the Queen campaign to clear up Britain in time for her 90th birthday, on Saturday 19 March 2016 87 volunteers filled 72 bags and uncovered a scooter, tyres, a ten foot blue tube, a Co-op shopping basket, plastic fencing, broken branches of 12 foot, a perfectly serviceable mop and Foster lager cans dating back to the Sydney Olympics 2000!

Eighty-seven volunteers tackled rubbish hotspots such as The Ashway and St David's playing fields, the Pocket Park, Northampton Road from the doctor's surgery to the A508 roundabout, pathways leading from Holcot Road, Eastfield Road and The A508 bypass.

The most shocking area was the stretch of road leading from the Barratt's estate down to the A508 roundabout where 20 bags of rubbish were filled; this is an area suffering from fly-tipping and is, quite frankly, a disgrace.

We were lucky with the weather and everyone was extremely grateful for the union jack-festooned refreshment tent which included tea, coffee, hot chocolate and homemade cakes provided free of charge by the Olive Branch and the Brixworth Cubs and Scouts Group.

The event was a huge success not just because of the amount of rubbish picked up but also because it brought so many community groups together including the children from Brixworth Primary School who designed posters advertising the event at several village shops and organisations.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this event both enjoyable and successful. – Sandra Moxon



Before (above) and after (below): The layby on Northampton Road



Body in Country Park is missing man

Police have confirmed that the body found at Pitsford Reservoir on 14 May is that of the missing man, Colin Addington.

Police and volunteers had been searching the area around Brixworth, Pitsford and Holcot for several days beforehand. Addington had failed to arrive for work on Tuesday 10 May; his van was found parked near the reservoir later the same day.

The reservoir and country park remained closed to visitors for most of Saturday while recovery operations took place. Police say the death is not regarded as suspicious and thanked the public for their help with the search. – cfw

Chinese takeaway set to open in July, Indian Restaurant delayed

A new Chinese takeaway is due to open next to the Red Lion on the corner of Northampton and Harborough Road at the beginning of July. As the Bulletin goes to press, the refurbishment works are in full swing.

ACE Recycling, which had previously occupied the premises, has moved a few doors up to road to the former Daisy Roots infant shoe shop.

Meanwhile, builders are still working on the new Indian restaurant opposite Chambers butchers on Kennel Terrace. Its owners, who run the Wild Ginger restaurant in Upton, have not yet been able to give the Bulletin an opening date. – Jennifer Fitzgerald

Merry Tom Mansion rejected

Daventry District Council's Planning Committee has rejected plans for a mansion built in the Arts & Crafts style at the bottom of Merry Tom Lane.

The proposed house would have seen a huge eight-bedroom mansion built off Merry Tom Lane, at the crossing with Brampton Lane.

However, the plans contravened both Daventry's policies and the emerging Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan. It could still have been approved on grounds of its exceptional architectural quality. However, Daventry's planning committee were unconvinced, and the proposal was rejected by 9 votes to 3 (despite the planning officer's recommendation to approve). – cfw

Finessing Saxon Rise development

Access to the new doctors surgery has become a tricky issue to resolve, specifically a proposed right hand turn lane on Northampton Road to facilitate access to the new surgery from the south. The original proposal would have cost over £400,000, a large amount for the relatively small amount of vehicles thought likely to approach the surgery from that direction.

Barratt Homes have met with Chris Millar and NCC Officers to discuss the necessity for this. It was agreed that Barratts would explore less expensive alternative schemes.

Meeting a separate requirement to provide a new three-metre wide footpath on the left hand side of the road down to the bypass, Barratts had already agreed to a suggestion by the Neighbourhood Plan Group to build a combined footpath and cycle way which will cross all the way from the bus stop opposite the cricket ground through to the southern end of the development and allow cyclists a direct route towards the country park.

Meanwhile, it is expected that the 30mph zone will be extended, likely to the bus stop. – cfw

Developers challenge Neighbourhood Plan

An Independent Examiner has been appointed to scrutinise the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan in light of objections raised by several parties against the plan.

In all, the formal consultation on the plan drew eight responses. The strongest objections – perhaps unsurprisingly, given that the Neighbourhood Plan essentially seeks to curtail major further housing developments outside the village boundary until 2029 – came from agents for landowners.

Savills, who have an interest in three areas of potential development, including the field west of Northampton Road (where Carter Jonas were refused planning permission for a major new housing estate a few years ago) set out their objections over 256 exhaustive pages. Berrys, who have an interest in land near the Scaldwell Road, east of the A508, also lodged complaints, calling the Neighbourhood Plan 'backward looking'.

The examiner chosen to inspect the Plan is Rosemarie Kidd, a planner from North Yorkshire with over 30 years experience in rural and urban planning including advising on and examining Neighbourhood Plans. It will be up to her to decide that if a public hearing is necessary for her to reach a decision on the specific issues raised. – cfw

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DDC proposes three-weekly bin rota plus charge for brown bins

Daventry District Council may only empty black bins every three weeks from mid-2018 onwards, and charge extra for emptying brown garden waste bins. The proposal, outlined in a public consultation earlier this year, would see the blue and red open recycling bins replaced by a single closed bin, the same size as existing black and brown bins, which would be emptied every two weeks. Food waste would continue to be collected weekly, and the council is considering introducing a new weekly collection for used disposable nappies.

Jo Gilford, DDC's Portfolio Holder for Environment, said: "Maintaining the status quo is not a sensible option, as the cost of the service would more than double, and be too expensive to run. So we have to look at a future option that is affordable and will deliver a good quality service for our residents." DDC pays £750,000 a year for the current service, but once that contract comes to an end in June 2018, the cost is likely to rise to £2 million. The alternate proposal would cost 'only' £1.25 million.

Replacing the recycling boxes with a single larger bin is likely to be a popular measure, DDC says – the recycling boxes can be messy and are widely unpopular. Residents would also be able to recycle large cardboard boxes in the bins, without cutting them up first.

Charging separately for garden waste collections – at a cost of £35 a year – may prove less popular, especially in rural areas. DDC argues that not everybody needs or wants brown bin collections and it is unfair to charge for a service only some people want. Charging

Existing service	Proposed 1-2-3 service
 Large black bin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubbish which cannot be recycled Collected two-weekly 	 Large black bin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubbish which cannot be recycled Collected three-weekly Considering weekly disposable nappy service
 Blue recycling box <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic, glass, aluminium cans and foil Collected weekly 	 Large recycling bin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All recycling, including large cardboard, with insert for glass Collected two-weekly
 Red recycling box <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper, small cardboard Collected weekly 	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large cardboard cut up and placed in red box 	
 Brown food caddy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food waste collected weekly 	 Brown food caddy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food waste collected weekly
 Large brown bin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden waste Collected two-weekly 	 Garden waste options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put in black bin Home compost Pay for additional large bin (equivalent of 69p per week) Collected two-weekly
Around £2million per year from 2018	Around £1.25million per year from 2018

for the service could encourage more home composting, and small quantities of garden waste can be put in the black bin instead. More to the point, DDC admits it needs to charge extra for garden waste recycling to make the numbers add up, and the law does not allow it to charge for less bulky, specialist collections such as nappies or food waste.

DDC says that while some people will be concerned that emptying black bins only every three weeks will make them smell bad, most of the sources of odours should be dealt with by collecting food waste and nappies separately.

Councillors are currently considering feedback received earlier this year and will announce its final decision over the summer. – cfw

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Fraser-Allen steps into Barratt's shoes on District Council

Local elections were held throughout the country on 5th May 2016. Brixworth also had an opportunity to elect a new Councillor (one third of Daventry District's Councillors are elected every three years).

Fabienne Fraser-Allen was elected to replace Ian Barratt who retired this year. She joins fellow Conservatives Kevin Parker and Nick Bunting as the representatives for our Ward.

Fabienne lives in Draughton with her husband and three sons aged 8, 7 and 4. They moved to Northamptonshire four years ago, but Fabienne already knew the area well as her husband's family hails from near Crick.

Having studied law, Fabienne has worked in the recruitment and food industries. Since living in Draughton, Fabienne has become very active in village life, believing strongly in the importance of being involved in the local community.

When asked about her top priority, she says, "It's about protecting villages. I don't want excessive development, but I do want to protect and grow local businesses for the people who are here, particularly in farming". She also wants to see more visible community policing to tackle such issues as the surge in fly tipping. Making the area safe and secure financially is important to her and she plans to work alongside the new Police and Crime Commissioner, Stephen Mold, also elected on 5th May, to promote greater cyber-safety for local children.

Fabienne was delighted to be contacted by the Bulletin and offers this message to her constituents: "I am now your district councillor with Kevin Parker and Ian Bunting. And remember we are here to



represent you all. So do not hesitate to contact us if you would like our help."

Fabienne can be contacted at ffraser-allen@daventrydc.gov.uk
– Jennifer Fitzgerald

Stephen Mold elected Police and Crime Commissioner



Stephen is the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.

Stephen is happily married to Nikki. They have a young family and are seeing first-hand how wonderful and challenging bringing up children in the modern world can be.

Stephen had a normal upbringing; climbing trees, playing football and then joining the Air Training Corps. This taught him tolerance, how to work with others through team-work, the importance of taking responsibility and the value of public service.

Over the last 30 years, Stephen worked his way up through the ranks, from his first job unloading lorries through various senior roles on to running his own business.

Stephen is passionate about making sure everyone gets their opportunity to make the most of their lives. As the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, Stephen wants to ensure victims are put at the heart of everything he does. He is focused on addressing the problem with alcohol and drug fuelled crime across

Northamptonshire, as well as working to end domestic violence. In addition to this, he also wants to make sure that the towns and villages of Northamptonshire are safe for children and free from those who wish to harm them, either physically or online.

Stephen is committed to protecting the number of frontline officers and believes that there is an ever increasing opportunity to exploit new technologies, to enable more officers to be visible on the streets of Northamptonshire tackling the issues important to local residents; rather than being stuck at stations filling out paperwork.

If you would like to contact Stephen, he can be reached at Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk

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School celebrates Ofsted success

Ofsted reaffirmed Brixworth CEVC Primary School's status as a 'Good' school following a recent inspection by Ofsted – its first since September 2011.

The report, based on an inspection on 22 March, noted significant success and improvements since the last inspection. For example, the outcome of Phonics Screening at KS1 places the Brixworth CEVC Primary above outstanding schools; the school has recently received a Pupil Premium Award for the progress disadvantaged and vulnerable children make; and the school's sports teams have enjoyed success as Indoor Athletics County champions in the intervening period.

The school also recently defended its title as holders of the Daventry Schools Cross Country Shield against 19 other schools from the area with an impressive 189 point-margin. The competition involved 47 children from Year 3 to Year 6.

While there were some areas for improvement, these had already been identified by the school ahead of the inspection.

The letter refers to the school's shared 'aspirational values' and governors, staff and parents are determined to offer the highest levels of provision and opportunity to pupils.

The report notes: "Pupils are very enthusiastic when they talk about the school. They have a strong sense of fairness, and are very kind and mindful of the importance of looking after others."

"It was striking how often pupils in all year groups told me how they would 'keep on trying' if they found something difficult. Perseverance to improve their work has become routine."

Specific findings include:

- Senior leaders, including governors, have an accurate view of the strengths and areas to be improved across the school.
- By the end of key stage 2, more pupils than average make expected progress, with disadvantaged pupils making progress at similar rates to other pupils in the school.
- Teaching assistants receive specialist training so that they are well placed to support the specific and sometimes complex needs of individual pupils, and pass on their expertise to other members of staff.
- Pupils have very positive views about the school. They appreciate how friendly it is and that teachers make learning fun and encourage them with praise.

The next steps for the school are to improve the quality of writing and to close the gap in achievement between disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and others.

Head teacher David Boucher said: "There is a real determination among staff and governors to build on the inspection and to work with energy and commitment to take the school from good to and go all the way to outstanding." - cfw

Brixworth primary awarded 'Most Improved' honour

Brixworth Primary School has been lauded as one of the most improved schools in the country in terms of the attainment and progress disadvantaged pupils have made in Brixworth primary since 2011.

This makes Brixworth CEVC Primary School one of only three schools, out of over 300, in Northamptonshire to have received the local award. The school received the award in the Key Stage 2 category of the Pupil Premium Awards 2016. Pupil Premium funding is provided through central government to support the learning and outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils in schools nationwide.

The award recognises that staff have provided disadvantaged pupils with a good start in life and prepared them well for secondary school. The award also recognises the role leadership in the school has in sharing the school's achievements, strengths and experience with other schools. – David Boucher, Head of Brixworth CEVC Primary School

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Quote from our Ofsted report:

"Children are eager to participate & show high levels of engagement in activities. They are curious and keen to try new things out for themselves. They make good progress & acquire good skills & attitudes to support their future education".

Dr Feelgood and John Coghlan's Quo headline Rockin' The Park



On 9-10 July, Brixworth Country Park will be jumping to the sounds of Dr Feelgood and John Coghlan's Quo at Rockin' The Park. Plus, the evening of Friday 8th July will be an open mic / jam session.

The not-for-profit Rockin' The Park is being organized by a group of volunteers from Brixworth to help fellow residents Phil and Diane Reger raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital in memory of their son David.

'Wolfy', as David was known to his family and friends, tragically lost his life in a motor bike accident in August 2015 at the tender age of 23. However, he was treated successfully as a child for cancer at the hospital. Following his recovery, he became actively involved in raising funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital as a way to say thank you. His family, whilst devastated by his loss, do not want his life to have been in vain and have valiantly decided to carry on where he left off.

Rockin' The Park kicks off on Friday 8th of July with an open mic and jam session between 7.00 and 10.00pm, as do the Saturday and Sunday sessions between 10.30am and 12.00pm. Local bands, singers or performers who would like to come and have a go on a large open-air stage should complete the form and register at www.rockinthepark.co.uk.

In addition, the festival organisers are also looking for people to fill the 15 to 30 minute slots between band changes on stage. So if you are an acoustic player, singer or have a small set up and would also like to play to a large audience please complete the form on <http://www.rockinthepark.co.uk>.

There will be a wide range of music with something for everyone. In addition, there will be over thirty locally sourced beers, ales and ciders, plus a number of locally distilled artisan gins and vodkas. To mention a few names: Beers include Nobby's, Silverstone, Phipps NBC, NVB and Hart. Gins include Warner Edwards and Hart.

For the kids, there will be rides, bouncy castles, face painting and more. Food will include hog roasts, wood fire pizzas, paella, burgers, hot dogs and sausages as well as healthy options such as jacket potatoes, and the less healthy-more yummy pudding varieties of ice cream and freshly-made doughnuts.

All this will be happening right on your doorstep in Brixworth Country Park. Debbie Samwell, Senior Countryside Ranger, said: "The festival is a great way to raise funds for a worthwhile charity, and it is wonderful to have a family friendly festival here. We are always happy to accommodate new ideas, especially so when it is being organised by a local community group. It is important to us to be a part of the community, and help wherever we can. We wish David Reger Memorial the very best success, and to all of the visitors an enjoyable time!"

Entry to the open mic / jam session on Friday is FREE. Details of tickets for either Saturday, Sunday or the weekend can be found on the festival website <http://www.rockinthepark.co.uk>. Adult day tickets start at £22.50 and weekend ones at £37.50 – an absolute bargain!

Holders of both day and weekend tickets will be issued with a wrist band on arrival, giving them the freedom to come and go as they please. Parking and camping is also available and if you don't fancy the walk to and from the park, The Red Lion will be offering a mini bus service across the weekend from the community centre.

Tickets can also be purchased from The George, The Red Lion, Brixworth Hardware and drop ins at the Brixworth Community Centre. Ticket numbers are limited so you need to snap them up quickly.

To see all the latest news about the festival, band announcements, ticket availability, camping, car parking, catering, local accommodation and more go to www.rockinthepark.co.uk and Facebook.

This is a not for profit event, all proceeds will go to Birmingham Children's Hospital and selected local community groups. The hospital provides a wide range of children health services for young people from Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond. They lead the way in pioneering international medical research including childhood cancer. To find out more about Birmingham Children's Hospital please go to <http://www.bch.nhs.uk/>

Saturday		Sunday	
Open Jam Session		Open Jam Session	
Ugly Fruit	5 Piece Rock Band	Retro 45's	Old School rock n' roll – guitarist for Brixworth
Guy Valarino	Has worked with Emeli Sande	Rapscallion	Local folk rock band
Drivin' South	Local rock covers band – drummer from Brixworth	One Step Behind	UK's longest surviving Madness tribute band
Reggae Matik	Reggae covers band	Whiteroom	Local contemporary rock band
Never The Agreed	Rock covers band	Reprojam Squad	Local funk band
Whole Lotta Led	UK's leading tribute to Led Zeppelin	The Houndogs	Rockabilly at its best
Nine Miles South	Country tinged rock	White Noise Radio	Alternate rock from Bristol
Jordan Herbert Band	Local singer / songwriter	Sons of Icarus	Rock band who have recently supported Rival Sons & Orange Goblin
Dr Feelgood	Popular rhythm and blues band	John Coghlan's Quo	Authentic 70's Quo with the band's original drummer

Country Park Update

Each spring we eagerly await the refreshing sights of buds bursting, leaves unfurling and birds busy gathering materials for their new nests. This year we have watched these changes as they unfold, in some cases the mild weather has brought bulbs to flower earlier and migratory birds move in sooner than expected. The spring also sees some positive new changes to the county council's working model, in the form of our new First for Wellbeing CIC.

What is First for Wellbeing?

First for Wellbeing is a new Community Interest Company (CIC) that was set up by Northamptonshire County Council, the Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Northampton with the aim of dramatically improving the physical, mental and social wellbeing of people in Northamptonshire.

First for Wellbeing will work together with public, private and voluntary sectors to improve and streamline existing services and to create new and innovative ways to help people live the best life they possibly can. The services they will deliver include weight management, stop smoking programmes and financial advice as well as services of support and promote community inclusion.

What is the aim?

Our aim is to support people to improve on all aspects of their wellbeing in order to live a longer, healthier, more well-balanced life.

As part of the old Public Health and Wellbeing directorate, the Countryside Service was one of the teams to be transferred to the First for Wellbeing CIC at the start of April. This is a positive change to



the way council operates. On the ground, you will still see the rangers continue to manage the County Council's parks and deliver excellent service to our visitors. Brixworth Country Park remains an asset of the council and will remain as such, open to the public to provide access to the countryside for all.

If you have any questions, or would like more information about First for Wellbeing, you can visit the new website www.firstforwellbeing.co.uk, sign up to the First for Wellbeing newsletter, call us on 0300 126 5000 or have a chat with a duty ranger.

Veolia Environmental Trust – Grant Bid

Last November we applied to the Veolia Environmental Trust for a grant of £36,000. We hoped to use the grant to rejuvenate our Sensory Garden within the park. In March we learnt that our bid was not successful on this occasion.

With the funding we had hoped to completely rebuild the sleeper beds, which are slowly deteriorating; resurface the footpath throughout the area to maintain a space which is accessible for all; introduce new planting as well as new sensory play pieces and a colourful canopy structure. In short, our proposal would have given the area nearby to the café a much-needed facelift.

As it is not to be (at least not for now), we return to the drawing board to look at alternative ways to finance this project. I would like to thank any of you who offered your support. It is vital to any funding bid we make and we will keep you informed on any developments with this project.

Volunteering

With a small team of three to manage Brixworth Country Park and the Brampton Valley Way, we can feel a little short-handed at times. However, this year we have been lucky to see our volunteer numbers increase. Students from Moulton College continue to support our work, and this year we have been able to provide a volunteering opportunity for students from Northampton College. We have worked on removing redundant tree guards, hedge-laying, woodland and pond management, hay raking and deep clean litter picking.

We have also worked on weeding the sensory garden beds and keeping the area tidy, however this is a job that requires more regular attention. If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a Sensory Garden Volunteer, please get in touch. We are looking for volunteers who have a particular passion for horticulture,



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permaculture and allotment holding as we would like to develop our “food for free” areas within the garden and in the wider park.

All volunteers will be asked to complete an application form, attend an informal interview with the Senior Ranger to assess suitability. For more information and to request an application form, either pop into the Ranger's Office at the park, or give us a call on 0300 126 5932.

We do also run a monthly volunteer day on the third Saturday of each month; the duty ranger will work with you on a wide range of practical management tasks.

Holiday Activities

I would like to thank everyone that came along and took part in our school holiday activities. We ran two activities each week throughout the holidays; with Xplorer Orienteering on the Wednesday and a pond dipping event on the Thursday. Both were very well attended, and enjoyed by all who took part. We advertised the events on the council's event page, our Facebook page, and in a number of local publications. While they are great fun for all who take part, it is particularly encouraging for us as the money we raise is used directly for park resources such as more supplies and equipment for activities, tools and materials for projects and other general maintenance items. So a big thank you to all who came along, your support is paramount, and we hope you enjoyed taking part.

If you are looking for something to do to keep the children occupied throughout the half term holidays, we will be running two activities:

Xplorer Orienteering

Wednesday 1st June, 11am – 3pm

Why not put your skills to the test and find all of the orienteering markers out in the park? With two challenges to pick from you can make the most of a day out in the park by putting your teamwork, observation and map reading skills to the test! Challenge 1 is a 15 marker trail with colourful images to find and identify; Challenge 2 is a 10 marker trail with quiz questions to answer. All trails are suitable for all of the family, and will predominantly follow the hard standing paths around the park. We suggest a donation of £1 per child to cover the cost of materials. Booking in advance is not necessary for this activity.

Mini-beast Safari

Thursday 2nd June

Throughout the day, rangers will be on hand to help mini-explorers find and identify as many insects, arachnids and invertebrates as possible. Meeting by the old bird hide, we will search high and low, using magnifying glasses to help us see the mini beasts better and sweep nets to capture flying insects. We will run three hour-long sessions from 11am, 12:30 and 2pm with a maximum of 20 children per session. A charge of £2 per child is applicable for this event; all proceeds will be reinvested in educational/activity supplies.

Booking in advance is advised for the Mini-beast Safari as all spaces will be sold on a first come, first served basis. To book in advance please call the park on 0300 126 5932.

Summer Holidays

As the summer holidays are often the busiest times for rangers it can be difficult for us to deliver children's activities. Where possible, we will post up a fun, educational environmental self-led quiz trail and a “Things to do at Brixworth” flyer is available to take from the Info Booth. If you are looking for more activities to keep the little ones occupied, Nature Detectives (part of the Woodland Trust) has a brilliant website with hundreds of printable ideas.

If you would like to receive updates about our ranger led activities, please subscribe to our Facebook page.

Third Party Events

We also play host to a number of fundraising, sporting and, this year, a musical event. The following is a time table of the externally organized events that will run from the park, and in many cases around the reservoir track.

The country park meadow can be hired out for charity, public or private events. If you are interested in holding your event here, please

speak with a ranger or give us a call to discuss your idea. We can then assess the suitability of the event and check availability with our colleagues prior to making a provisional booking. An event request form must then be completed and returned with an appropriate risk assessment and evidence of suitable public liability insurance before we can confirm the event. We would advise against any advertising of the event prior to confirmation to avoid disappointment.

DATE	TIME	TITLE	ORGANISER
12 June	08:00 – 15:00	Ride Out With Russ	Russell Watson
9-10 July	09:00 – 23:00	Rockin' The Park	David Reger Memorial
16th July	09:00 – 15:00	Jog4James	Always A Chance
17th July	06:00 – 15:00	Triathlon	Go Beyond

Rockin' The Park

In previous years the park has hosted a theatrical production and community events such as the Merry Tom Folk Festival. This year, we are very pleased to announce that on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th July, the park will be filled with the sound of music, as Brixworth will play host to the David Reger Memorial event “Rockin' The Park”.

Your View Counts

Visitor surveys are available from the café, visitor booth and online for all of our visitors to use to provide feedback on the park. The surveys play a very important part in effectively managing the park, to ensure we are putting our energy into projects that our visitors consider important, to keep facilities in good repair and understand better what we are doing well. They take just a few minutes to complete but help a great deal; and not just us, quite often there are comments, questions and suggestions that are more relevant to our partner organizations such as The Willow tree Café and Anglian Water, which we will then pass on for their attention.

- Debbie Samwell, Senior Countryside Ranger


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Country Eye

Freaks and Monstrosities

'Eat your greens' has been heard across many a dining table over the years as mothers have urged their children to clear their plates. Cabbage and Brussels sprouts, kale and calabrese, cauliflower and kohlrabi, and many others collectively become greens when they come from pan to plate. But what do they all have in common? The answer is that all come from one wild ancestor, a plant that still grows along some of our coasts.

Beginning in the Mediterranean region aeons ago, clever gardeners among our ancestors have selected and bred from the wild stock to develop all of these and many other varieties across temperate parts of the world. Even the wild plant was used medicinally, and doubtless still is by many savvy folk. The trick that these early growers taught themselves was to keep a sharp eye out for variations, and by selecting seeds from them, over time they produced all these valuable vegetables from the one source.

Of course all this could never have happened if plants did not tend to vary naturally. Over my lifetime as a humble and hesitant naturalist/gardener I have come across quite a number of them. It was while working as a warden at Pitsford Reservoir that I found a monstrous version of the marsh thistle, commonest thistle not only of marshland, but also of damp woodland. Normally the marsh thistle is tall and slender, spiny-leaved of course, and crowned with a dozen or so smallish purple flowers. But one plant I came across would not be out of place in John Wyndham's nightmarish sci-fi 'The Day of the Triffids.' About 4ft tall the stem was narrow but nearly a foot



wide, and crowning it were over 150 densely packed flowers. Most likely the cause of this was mechanical damage to the seedling plant, perhaps by being trampled on or being nibbled. Plants with hollow stems quite often develop in this way, dandelions being regularly reported. Experts, ever ready with an obscure name it seems to me, have called this fasciation.

Purple toadflax often turns up as a weed along footpaths and on old walls in our towns and villages. A relative of the snapdragon it was introduced over a century ago as a garden flower. Its flowers are tightly two-lipped so nectar-seeking insects have to push them apart to gain access. Normally purple, as the name indicates, a pretty pink version occurs occasionally. One of this shade that grew in my garden had two flower spikes instead of the usual single one, while a third division was noticeable towards the tip of one of them. The original seed had come from a local factory car park.

For many years in my own garden I have grown and enjoyed the bloussily beautiful luxury of foxgloves. The seed originally came from Harlestone Firs, and by selecting seed from the best flowers, I have managed to produce three different colour variations apart from the normal: white but with the colour markings present, a pale pink, and almost purple. In addition the stems have sometimes been well over 6ft, double the 'normal' height. On just one occasion I was treated to a peloric flower, one that looked like a pretty single pink rose attached to the tip of a spike of the normal hanging bells. A beautiful freak indeed!

As I write this the greenish-yellow flowers of alexanders are out. Common around our coasts, introduced by the Romans, it is a tall plant related to the wayside hogweed and angelica. Like the dandelion I discover all parts of it can be eaten. Flower buds and young stems can be cooked; I have made an indifferent wine from the leaves; while the brownish-black roots can be peeled and cooked – they taste very like a strongly-flavoured parsnip. As if that wasn't enough, the large black seeds can be ground up and used like pepper. It was after I had tried this that I discovered that the name Macedonian pepper had been given to it. If there is any reader brave enough to try this for themselves, I will be happily give them a sample of the pepper and a few seeds to grow the plant for themselves. – Brian Webster

~The George~

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NLR steams ahead for Station Road service

Yes, you read that correctly! If the Northampton and Lamport Railway succeeds in raising sufficient resources, we may hear again the hoot of a steam train chugging along to a station at the bottom of Station Road.

The railway line between Northampton and Market Harborough, laid down in 1859 by George R Stephenson (the grandson of George Stephenson who built the first railway line for steam locomotives) was torn up in 1984. It had initially carried two trains in each direction every day, mainly transporting coal and locally quarried ironstone, and eventually became double track. However, by the 1980s, local rail traffic had declined and the final timetabled service ran in 1973.

In 1981, a few railway enthusiasts started to explore how the line could be preserved. Since then, the Northampton and Lamport Railway Preservation Society has grown to 276 members. A core group of about thirty are actively involved in keeping the railway line running.

Chairman Simon Jenkins says: "As British Rail completely removed the old track, we have had to lay new line and bring in rolling stock. As well as the steam engine, we have several diesel shunters. We lease the trackbed from the Country Council for a peppercorn rent."

The current line runs for about a mile and a quarter from Brampton station, which is tucked away between Sedgebrook Hall and the Brampton Halt pub (once the coal merchant's house). It offers a short, pleasant excursion for half an hour back and forth through the fields linking Brampton to Pitsford, and the interest of seeing a steam train and original signal box in action.

One of about 350 heritage railways in the UK, the Society holds a series of themed events throughout the year. Jenkins says: "Our Teddy Bear weekend was particularly successful. We'd like our own 'Brampton Bear' to become a well-known local brand." Further events this year include celebrating the Queen's birthday in June with a platform party, a night-time Halloween train, and Santa Specials. The experience of a train ride can be supplemented by a visit to a café, gift shop, a second hand book shop, and a bric a brac store. Plans are in place to re-open a museum of railway artifacts next year.



While the Society has benefited from bequests and a significant donation of old track from Transport for London, it is always stretched for volunteers. Running a railway is labour-intensive and needs dozens of people on visitor days. Society secretary Brian Chambers emphasises that

any and all skills are useful: "We need people not only for engineering work but also for restoring old carriages, cooking, accounting, shop-keeping, managing the website and marketing." For those seriously interested in fulfilling a childhood dream of being a train driver or working signals, access to training courses and qualifications are available.



The next steps are completing the extension of the line to Boughton, repairing a bridge, and raising £50,000 to build a brick station at Brampton. After a new contract with the County Council is signed this month, track can be laid to Merry Tom, and eventually on to Brixworth. This will result in a line 3 – 4 miles long with three stations. However, at an estimated cost of at least half a million pounds, Brixworth may have to wait a few years to hear that familiar hoot!

For more information on visiting the Northampton and Lamport Railway, to become a member, or to volunteer your services, contact the Society's website at nlr.org.uk. – *Jennifer Fitzgerald*

~The George~



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Chris Heaton-Harris MP's WESTMINSTER REPORT

My Private Member's Bill – Royal Assent!

This April, at the end of a long parliamentary journey, my Access to Medical Treatments (Innovation) Bill received Royal Assent.

I brought in the Bill, which is now an Act of Parliament, back in June 2015. The Act evolved considerably as it passed through the Commons. After ten months of extensive cross-party working, and key measures on off-label prescribing were added, the Bill passed into law with support from MPs of all parties.

The Act has the potential to make a real difference to patients by encouraging and expediting the spread of innovative, evidence based treatments, and warning against those which have proven to be risky or ineffectual. Furthermore, by facilitating better information sharing it is hoped that it will support and encourage medical research in new areas.

In an age of ever-evolving medical treatment, this Act will make sure the amazing work that goes on in our NHS every day is not isolated to one hospital, surgery or practice, but is easily seen and accessed by every registered medical practitioner searching for the best treatment. The appetite for encouraging medical innovation and supporting off-label use has been made very clear throughout the passage of this Act and I am delighted these measures have finally made it into law.

The Act empowers the Secretary of State to create a database of innovative medical treatments, including new uses of existing drugs, off-label. Its central aim is to ensure the effective collection and dissemination of information about innovative treatments carried out by registered medical practitioners.

This has two strands. Firstly, with regards to new, emerging treatments, the Act seeks to make sure that data is shared across research centres and that both the successes and failures of new treatments are readily available to clinicians up and down the country.

Secondly, its other key aim is to raise awareness of the off-label use of existing drugs which have been proven to be effective for other conditions. This includes drugs for breast cancer, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and prostate cancer and the list is likely to grow rapidly as more new uses are found for old drugs. These 'repurposed' drugs, which are often very cheap, are regularly prescribed in specialist centres but are not consistently used across the country.

A few weeks ago, US President Obama said in his State of the Union address to Congress that it was time to attempt a "moonshot" in cancer. He affirmed that information and data sharing would be at the crux of this final battle against the disease. The following day, the President visited a school in Louisiana. He told the children there that cancer would be cured, not his lifetime, but in theirs.

This Act has the potential to be a small foot up for our own research, and to let us tell our own school children that it was British scientists who achieved this momentous moment in history.

Chris

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Brix & Mortar

Why you can't beat face-to-face

At Horts we pride ourselves on the way we work. We are experienced estate agents who believe in a personal one on one service with our clients. So when I read the past Ombudsman's thoughts on the matter I thought it worth bringing to your attention. Here's what he said.

"A current major debate in the property world is whether online agents (that is those that only provide a service through electronic channels) will have an impact in the marketplace. Looked at objectively, such a new service provision is simply another way for consumers to buy and sell properties.

However, any new concept in the market place should improve or develop what is there so that service to the consumer is enhanced, and the debate is mostly about whether online agents can improve the process of selling property or whether they bring some reduction in service to consumers.

It seems odd to me, given my experience of consumer dissatisfaction over the past nine years, to introduce to the process of selling people's most valuable asset (with the associated emotion and difficulties that can arise) something which does not give the consumer an advantage over what is already there – and in many ways could bring about disadvantage.

I recently purchased some goods online, paying by credit card. When the items arrived they were damaged and I had been sent an invoice for the purchase price to be paid within 14 days. Naturally enough I wanted to complain but was unable to get any sense from or indeed any certain method of contacting the online provider.

The frustration of such poor after-sales service was enormous – and I was only spending around £50!

I cannot help thinking that someone who is selling their house, incurring fees in the thousands and trying to coordinate a move to another property, would be experiencing levels of frustration far beyond mine in a situation where the service provider was a remote function.

Where service provision fails, the consumer wants to speak to someone face to face: after-sales service is key if there is a shortcoming.

But there is a greater danger if the service fails pre-sale and there is no way of easily speaking to a real person. Under 'traditional' estate agency arrangements, if a buyer or seller is unhappy or has a question or concern pre- or post-sale they can simply go to the branch office and express their concerns.

Some people might be culturally aligned with online service – but when selling a house? It has got to be better for the consumer if there is a real and readily available agent.

A particular message has to be that transparency and full disclosure must always apply. There has to be a level playing field for both agents and consumers so those key principles of transparency (charges,

liabilities and commitments) and disclosure (any material aspects of the contract that might be unusual) are all important.

In my experience from complaints I saw in my time as Ombudsman, consumers do not always understand the agreement that is put in front of them and the liabilities they are taking on. The ability to question and perhaps negotiate is afforded if the agent is sitting in front of you, not so easy if the agreement simply arrives in your inbox.

The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations require that agents fully equip consumers to make informed decisions. That principle can be better achieved if the consumer is able to challenge what is presented and if conversations are possible face to face.

Consumers need to understand that service levels may differ from agent to agent, but will particularly between the professional in the high street and the remote internet offer."

- Christopher Hamer, former Property Ombudsman



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Brixworth runners take on London Marathon



Brixworth residents have been out in force tackling the London Marathon on 24 April. In all, five locals participated (if there were more that we overlooked, our apologies!)

Emma Brennan, Claire Lockwood and Judith Rose (pictured above, left to right) along with Kevin Gudgeon took on the 26.2 mile route through the capital, raising money for their various nominated causes.

Emma Brennan started running exactly a year ago with a group of mums from the

village. "Initially I only managed lamp post to lamp post," she says, "but in time we entered our first 5k, then I challenged myself to 10k. Soon I signed up for my first half Marathon at the Royal Parks, London, last October. I loved every minute."

Then the offer came of a place in the London Marathon, running for Cynthia Spencer Hospice. "It's always something I have watched on TV but never dreamed possible or even achievable."

Emma had to raise at least £1250 to support the invaluable service and care that the hospice offers. She says: "I am a registered nurse myself, therefore this particular charity is very close to my heart. I have witnessed first-hand the amazing work they do there."

To raise money, Emma held a giant online raffle during December, which alone raised £1399 and caused a great buzz within the village.

At the same time, Emma found more companies willing to sponsor her in exchange for seeing their logo on her running vest – these were Belmont Press, Fed 3 Projects and Caring Kindergartens.

Added to some very generous cheques from individuals the grand total at the end of April stood at well over £4,000.

"This has been a fantastic journey of highs and lows, the training has gone well but as a working mum and a few weather issues to factor in sometimes it has been tricky," Emma says.

Emma's fellow runners were no less determined. Kevin Gudgeon completed the marathon in support of the Macintyre Housing Association – a group providing affordable housing, particularly for individuals with special needs who can have their houses adapted to suit them. He says: "I had a fantastic time running the London Marathon this year, it was one of the hardest and best things I have done in my life!" Kevin continues with his fundraising efforts, and he hopes to keep adding to his total over the course of the coming months.

Claire Lockwood meanwhile ran the marathon on behalf of The Children's Trust, a charity providing support for children with brain injury. Her current total stands at £2200, a fantastic achievement.

Congratulations to all! - cfw

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Cricket Club to host Beer & Cider Festival

Brixworth Cricket Club is to host its first Beer and Cider Festival from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 June. This new and exciting three-day event that will include live music, a children's disco, a hog roast, Junior Tennis Tournament and adult 6-a-side cricket tournament will very much be a family and village event and no doubt a great party.

Friday night will be a family fun night with a disco and a BBQ from 7.30pm. For adults there will be a selection of over 16 different beers and ciders from all over the UK, as well as wine and soft drinks.

Saturday 25 June will see a cricket match during the day; the bar will be open from 2pm with the wide selection of marvellous beers and ciders available.

From 7.30pm admission will be by ticket only. There will be three live bands, a hog roast and the bar will remain open until midnight – if you would like to buy tickets for this evening event please email BrixworthCC@outlook.com or contact Will Haxby on 880715.

On Sunday 26 June there will be a 6-a-side cricket tournament featuring local clubs and a junior tennis tournament. The bar will be open from midday.

The organisers hope that this informal, relaxed and fun-filled event will attract many visitors from Brixworth and surrounding villages and generate needed funds for the future development of the clubhouse, including male & female changing rooms and the other facilities that are shared by the cricket and tennis clubs. A donation will also be made to the Stroke Association which is the cricket club's chosen charity this year.

Everybody is welcome, so please do make every effort to come along and join the fun! – Will Haxby

Refurbishment & Events for Central Sports

The outside area at Brixworth Central Sports is going to get a facelift with an extended patio area at the front of the club house and more outdoor seating. The club had wanted to do this work for some time, but first had to renew its lease agreement for the ground with Brixworth Parish Council, a project that has taken close to two years to complete. Other work to the building itself has already been completed, such as refurbishing the gents' toilets and decorating and general maintenance throughout the building.

On the 17th July, the club is having a bar naming ceremony in remembrance of John Blason. We welcome friends of John's and club members to attend and share in the celebrations.

This year we are planning bands, quizzes, killer skittles, darts matches as well as our weekly £50 bonus ball. During the European cup matches when England are playing we will be reducing the price of our beer. All events will be advertised on Brixworth Central Sports Club Facebook page as well as the Bulletin Event Calendar and posters.

The club is run by volunteers so we are always looking for people who are interested to join us either as members (£1 per adult, children free) or to support us as a committee member. If you are interested pop in and speak to the bar staff. The club is open on Sundays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and can be booked for free on the evenings that it is open to members.

– Jackie Bird for the BCSC Committee

Ride out with Russ

A charity cycle event will see scores of riders taking to their bikes on 12 June in and around Brixworth.

'Ride out with Russ' encompasses a choice of three cycle routes, at 35 and 55 miles plus a short 7 mile route around Pitsford Reservoir. Not only is it a great day out, it is also in a very good cause – the £10 minimum entry fee will raise money towards the Anthony Nolan charity, which supports people with Blood Cancer.

For further information, go to Ride out with Russ on Facebook or visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/russellwatson>

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Lamport & Hanging Houghton News

I am sure that many of you will have wondered what had happened to our faithful postman Eric Fluester.

He suffered a heart attack in December, had two stents inserted in his heart, and spent three days in Kettering hospital. He had planned to return to his job when he was fit enough to take on the role again.

However his hoped-for recovery took a turn for the worse, as the medication he now had to take for his heart clashed with his arthritis treatment. He now has to manage without the arthritis tablets, and this resulted in Eric having to retire early from the Post Office, much to his regret.

Eric had delivered the post to Lamport and Hanging Houghton from 1974 when his family moved to the Old Post Office in Lamport, and again when his family moved to Manor Road, Hanging Houghton, where they now live. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Eric a long and happy retirement.

On a sadder note I regret to announce the death of Colin Seaton who died at the age of 80 in April. Colin and his son Nick lived at 9 Manor Road.

Colin was born in Maidwell, did his National Service and served his time in Egypt at the time of the Suez Crisis. He worked for the railway and lived in a railway house at Lamport Crossing. He later worked as a farm labourer, both for Bill Saunders at Manor Farm and other farms in the locality.

Colin moved into their home in 1988 with his wife Violet and his two sons - Nick and younger son Andrew. Violet kept the family on the straight and narrow and Colin cared for her during a long illness.

Colin was a likeable old rogue - in the years following Violet's death enjoying a smoke, a drink and good company.

What summed up Colin for me was the sign on his garden gate, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here." - Mike Philpott

History Society records its silver

Hundreds of people flocked to the Village Hall on Saturday 16th April to have a look at an exhibition arranged by Brixworth History Society.

The Society celebrated 25 years last year with a free

exhibition to show everyone what had been accomplished since 1990.

Maps and items of interest from the society's archives showed the development of the village through the years especially artefacts and coins from the Roman Villa excavations in the 1960s and 70s, newspaper articles about Brixworth and details of the Lords of the Manor. Photographs depicted the lives of the ironstone workers in the 19th and 20th centuries. There were photographs of May Day from 1914 until 1983 when the first and last May Queens were crowned, village celebrations, school life throughout the 20th century and of the ten public houses.

More recent research on World War I and villagers' memories of life in the Brixworth during the 20th century were included.

Other areas included the railways and employment, sports, farming, the workhouse, the Pytchley Hunt, and results of the society's analysis of the census details from 1841 until 1911; all of which have made Brixworth what it is today.

Refreshments and items to purchase from publications were also available.

The History Society would like to emphasise that the archives could only have been put together by the Society because villagers and ex-villagers, both in England and abroad, have kindly given us or lent us their own photographs to copy. Without their help there would be no archive of Brixworth for future generations. Therefore very many thanks to all who helped to make the exhibition so successful.

It was noted during the exhibition that the Society had no pictures of school or playschool since the 1980s; photographs from Lesson Road, Broad Street and Eastfield Road were also lacking as were new developments in the village. We feel it is important for village life to be recorded.

If you can help in any way please contact the archivists: Deni Willis 880612 or Pauline Kirton 743431 on pakirton6@gmail.com. The Society meets usually on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall. See posters for details of meetings. - Pauline Kirton



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Ultrafast broadband to arrive by the autumn

There has been relief for residents of Maidwell, Draughton, Lamport and Hanging Houghton after ultrafast broadband Gigaclear announced they had had sufficient signups to roll out their service to the area.

The company is currently finalising plans and network routing, with installation work to begin imminently. Work is expected to commence in June and be complete by the end of October.

The news was all the more welcome after it became clear that British Telecom were not looking to bring faster broadband to the area, even if the villages weren't covered by an alternative supplier. BT's rural broadband rollout depends on financial support received from the county councils. Northampton County Council says it only allocates such funding to villages where no third party provider has indicated an interest – irrespective whether that service ultimately goes ahead. - cfw

Yoga classes start in Maidwell

The practice of yoga can be many things - limbs in weird and wonderful postures, or an aesthetic sitting in lotus position with eyes closed hands on knees chanting OM. To me it is a practice of exercising the body with a view to nourishing it with love and awareness, to bring stillness and silence to the mind through exploring yoga philosophy and deep relaxation. To this end I practice a deep relaxation exercise called Yoga Nidra. Yoga Nidra takes one to a place of relaxation on a physical, emotional and mental basis.

Following the success of an evening class at the Great Oxendon Village Hall, I have kindly been asked to hold a morning class in Maidwell. The first class will be held on 9 May 2016 at Maidwell Hall, from 11 am to 12.30pm.



The first hour will be practicing yoga postures and breathing and the last half hour will be deep relaxation. You will need to be warm and comfortable for the deep relaxation so you may want to bring your own throw and warm socks. For further details or to book a place, contact me on 07785 501916 or dvija9@hotmail.com. If you book a place would you please let me know if you want me to provide a throw and cushion. - *Dvija Mehta*

Draughton News

It's a quiet spring here in little Draughton – but we are blossoming towards our big day on June 26th.

DRAUGHTON CLASSIC CARS & VILLAGE FAYRE



Sunday, June 26th

1pm - 5pm

Village Fayre Stalls, Games
and Draughton's legendary
Cream Teas
+
Pop Up Pub

If you have a classic, vintage or even a veteran car or motorbike, see the notice below and contact Sebastian Calnan on Sebastian.calnan@yahoo.co.uk.

The teas are fantastic and this year we will have a whole new attraction of village fair stalls. Plants, produce, games etc will ensure there's something for everyone, so while the enthusiasts talk the 'torque' or whatever, those keener on sampling cakes or throwing the horseshoes can indulge their other sides....

And there's the Pop Up Pub to slake your thirst.

All of this is in aid of Draughton Clubroom and Friends of St Catherine's Church.

We do hope to see you there - or, should that be, HERE? - *Kate Calnan*

Welcome Pack in 3rd Edition

Brixworth's Welcome Pack is now in its third edition, having gained sponsorship from a local charity. The packs are prepared and delivered by volunteers from Brixworth's Information Point and are presented free of charge to new residents. Co-ordinator Mike Nice said: "The basic information folder has grown in size to be over 40 pages packed full of useful details about village services, traders and clubs and organisations. Each edition is updated so new residents have the most up-to-date information. We deliver directly to new residents on the Barratts Estate, but of course others may slip through the net."

If you are new to the village, and have missed out on this valuable guide, call in to the Information Point at the Library and Community Centre and claim yours.

- *Mike Nice*

March for Myeloma raises thousands

On Sunday 15th May, a beautiful sunny day was the perfect setting for the 55 walkers who supported the inaugural 'March for Myeloma' walk by taking to the roads and paths around Brixworth, starting and finishing at the Coach and Horses. Brixworth resident and Myeloma patient, Jon Missin, has so far raised over £4,500 in aid of Myeloma UK and hopes to increase that amount further by walking round the coast of the Isle of Wight within three days in June.

Jon was diagnosed with Myeloma, a relatively unknown and incurable cancer of the bone marrow, in February 2015. Myeloma UK provides families like Jon's with help and support.

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

I think we are all glad to see the end of the dark nights – it means we can start getting out and about once again. Not that it stops us really!

Many of you will have seen members of the Scout Group taking part in Clean For The Queen, and what a remarkable job they did too. You will also have seen them on parade in the Village for St George's day. It is a great sight to see so many young people turning out for community events.

Beavers had planned to be looking through telescopes after the February half term, but the weather was against them. Than you to the Northampton Astronomy Society who still came out on a miserable night, just in case. Despite the weather, Beavers still learnt loads about the stars in the sky and built a solar system in a shoebox. As well as being Superheroes one night, they also made some lovely things for Mother's Day and enjoyed lots of lovely Easter activities. The summer term started with games in the country park, and an explosive experiment night at the centre. Things planned for the remainder of the term include the ever popular Potato Night, a bug hunt, a scavenger hunt, and Dads and Lads Night. And of course we will finish with a good soaking on Water Night and a party in the park as not only is it the Queen's 90th birthday year, it is also the 30th birthday year for Beavers!

Cubs came back in February to a treasure hunt around the village, followed by activities related to Mother's Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter. In keeping with the Easter theme the Cubs were delighted to welcome Rev Walters to take a look at Christianity for their Faith badge. After Easter the Cubs began working on their personal challenges and took up DIY. Later in the term they have a sponsored cycle ride to look forward to, Olympics night, and preparation for the Cub camp at Overstone Park. They will finish the term with wide games in the country park and an American themed evening at the centre.

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group Annual Challenge

New for 2016, Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group have set themselves a challenge for 2016 to collect 100,000 pennies.

The reason for the challenge is that we have to relocate our equipment, which unfortunately means an increase in storage charges.

Many of us simply 'dump' the copper from our pockets and purses and it remains there gathering dust. Please help us put it to good use and bag it up and give it to the scouts. If you need us to collect it please use the contact details below. Otherwise please hand to one of the leaders at the regular weekly meetings.

Of course, you may be a very lucky person in possession of an empty garage, barn or storage unit, and kind and generous enough to allow us to use it for a nominal fee. If so, we would very much like to hear from you. Please contact Pete Lennon, Group Scout Leader brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com

Scouts, since the February half term, have been working on a number of challenges – not least personal ones, one chosen by the scouts themselves and one by their leader. As part of the entertainer badge the Scouts took part in Brixworth's Got Talent, inviting their parents to enjoy a whole variety of different skills. One evening was spent in the Country Park playing wide games, working on those vital team-building abilities. The Scouts also went back to basics and practised their all important knots. Since Easter the Scouts have been a lot more outdoorsy. They have been planning night hikes, taking part in orienteering, cycling. They too have an Olympics evening planned, as well as pioneering, a camp fire BBQ and much more.

Explorers, being older, can turn their hand to most things – like helping to repair the bell tents which they did at the end of February. They also managed to fit a few games in too! They went rock climbing at Benham and hosted the district music quiz, before having a go on the golf driving range at Cold Ashby. They started back after Easter with wide games at Overstone and a campfire with food and then played badminton back at Benham. With scuba diving and many more activities to look forward to, the Explorers will have an action-packed few weeks before packing their rucksacks and heading off to Kandersteg. There they will be swimming in mountain lakes, tobogganing, canyoning and much much more. Expect a full report in the autumn.

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 to can join in all the fun.

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

1st Scaldwell Guides

The guides have successfully ticked off several of their 60th birthday '60 Things Challenge' including a trip to Gallone's Ice Cream Parlour, learning to tie friendship knots and learning about Guiding in the 1950s.

Our target for the Penny Pot Challenge, raising money for Northampton General Hospital, was 60 pots - we currently have 84 pots and have raised over £600! We also raised £491 as part of the Northampton Rotary Swimmarathon.

– Jill Gunnelt & Vicki Howlett

New owners & new vision for Red Lion

Back in November 2015, business partners Nigel Toseland and Sharon Payne took over The Red Lion. What they found was a good village pub whose appearance and reputation were a little tired.

Nigel and Sharon saw potential for The Red Lion to be more than just a village pub. Their vision was to create a village location that encompasses the whole community of Brixworth and the surrounding villages. Sharon discussed her ideas with their chef, Karen Warner. The result of this discussion has had social media running warm with chatter.

You see, Karen is not just a chef. Karen has grand ideas that matched those of Nigel and Sharon. Not only does Karen have grand ideas, she also has a little media savvy. The Red Lion has always been on Facebook, but in 2016, Karen began to use it to get their message out to the village. And the buzz grew.

The Red Lion Cafe – yes Cafe, as well as Pub. That's the name from 7:30am until 3pm, when the cafe transforms back to a pub. Of course, The Red Lion is a pub and will always cater for those who like a lunchtime drink with friends, or a social evening having a beer over a game of pool or darts, or simply sitting back to watch the game on the big screen, but from early morning it's the Red Lion Cafe. With red and white chequered tables, the Cafe has a real village feel. The comments on Facebook began to flow from the first breakfast serving, complementing the food and service.

With breakfast underway, The Red Lion Cafe launched its carvery offering on Sunday lunchtimes to equally good reviews. Karen adds: "We have plans to make the family area a place where the community can come to meet for just a cup of tea and a chat or hold their group meetings here."



Karen told me about the upcoming plans to renovate the family area by removing a chimney and part of a wall. This will make the Cafe bigger to accommodate more friends during the day, and for the Pub to have live music events catering for all tastes in the evenings.

Karen told me: "The Red Lion is not the same pub, it's changed. We have people coming to The Red Lion now who have lived in the village for 17 years and never once stepped through the door. We want everyone to come and see what we have to offer the community." – Neal Brown

Brixworth & District U3A Report

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. There are now 211 members in the group.

A new weekend group to meet on the last Sunday of the month had their first meeting in the Heritage Centre in January. It was decided that members of the group would pair up and take it in turns to organise an event. The February get together was to The Royal Oak pub in Walgrave for Sunday lunch.

The Family History group for the first meetings of the year have taken family mementos along and talked briefly about their family history. In April they had a professional genealogist talk to them on where to look when stuck with research on their families.

The armchair travel group continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month where members of the group give talks on their travels which have included Sri Lanka, Cornwall, Mexico, South Africa and many other destinations.

The lunch group this month are having a return visit to Northampton College where in the past they have enjoyed tasty three course meals prepared and cooked by the students.

Registration day in March was also a promotion of groups available within the U3A. There was a photographic presentation running on the big screen and a display of dancing by the Irish Ceili group.

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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Library events

Half-term activities

Sea themed Messy Crafts

Wednesday 1st June 2.30pm
Crafts (including painting, gluing etc) for children up to 12 years, under 8s must be accompanied by their parent/carer. Free, but please book in advance either at the library or email brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk

Summer Reading Challenge

16 July – 10 September:
From Monday 25th July throughout the summer holidays

Inventive Crafts

Mondays 11am–12noon
For children aged up to 12 years.

Messy Crafts

Wednesdays 2.30pm
For children aged up to 12 years
Both sessions free to all, but please book in advance.

Weekly 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.

Rhymetime for the Under 5s

Mondays 2.30pm and Fridays 10.30am

Play & Learn for Under 5s

Tuesdays 1.30 – 3pm

Play & Learn for Under 1s

Thursdays 10am – 12noon

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

Family activities

IAIM Infant Massage

Wednesday mornings 11am – 12 noon, upstairs in the Children's Centre area.

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 (see infant massage by Leveta Lawson on Facebook).

Adult events

Brixworth Library Morning Readers Group

The Book Club normally meets the first Tuesday of every month 10.30am. Date of June Book Club Meeting is Tuesday 21st June at 10.30am, when will be discussing "The Silk Factory" by local author Judith Allnatt. Open to all – please ask at Library or email brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk

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 (eg couple hours a week or fortnightly, term-time or school holidays only) but you must be available to help on a regular basis.

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.

IT Buddies

As Nick & Robin are getting so many enquiries for help with IT, we would welcome more volunteer recruits to our team.

We are also looking for volunteers aged 14-17 to help with the Summer Reading Challenge.

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

Other services

IT Buddies

Our wonderful volunteer IT Buddies, Robin & 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.

NAB Mobile Unit

On the Library & Community Centre forecourt Wednesday 27 July 11.30am – 12.45pm for help and advice on visual impairment issues.

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Opening Hours

Monday – Friday 10am to 6pm
Saturdays 9am to 1pm
Sundays 11am to 2pm
The library will be closed on Monday 29th August (bank holiday)

Contact us at brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk – note new email address, also check out the new website www.firstforwellbeing.co.uk

Keep up to date with all the latest activities at www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary
– Jill Barber



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Planning update

DA/2015/0911 Brixworth Library Demolition and reconstruction of part of retaining wall and extension of rear car park to provide 5 additional parking spaces	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2014/0588 Visitor Centre, Northampton Road Change of use of land to provide rugby pitch, football pitch and parking area at land rear	BPC No Objection Application Withdrawn
DA/2015/0822 32 Damherst Piece Two storey side extension and new entrance porch (resubmission)	BPC Objection DDC Refused
DA/2015/1123 Land at The Old Barn, Merry Tom Lane Construction of dwelling, conversion of barn to ancillary residential use and landscaping	BPC Objection DDC Approved
DA/2015/1099 Lake House, Brixworth Hall Park Construction of two detached double garages, one with studio above	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2015/1092 Mercedes HPE, Morgan Drive Construction of two storey building to replace temporary buildings and containers. Construction of canopy area to rear service yard	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2015/1061 Hadleigh Cottage, Holcot Road Construction of single garage with room above and conversion of existing double garage to self contained annex	BPC No Objection DDC Refused
DA/2014/0937 Church End, Brixworth Hall Park Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of two storey dwelling with detached garage	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2016/0014 57 Stonehill Way Two storey and first floor side extension over garage to be converted to study	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2016/0028 116 Northampton Road Demolition of attached outbuilding. Construction of single storey rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2016/0127 33, Broadlands Single Storey rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2016/0096 22 Burrows Vale Demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey side/rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2016/0085 6 Dairy Close First floor side extension and single storey rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

Sunny Socks fundraiser



Children of all ages from Sunny Socks were invited to raise money through a sponsored Treasure Hunt for the Down's Syndrome Association. We are pleased to announce that £533 was collected for the charity. Well done & thank you to all the children and families who raised this considerable amount.

Learn to use the defibrillator

There has been a great deal of interest in the new defibrillator which is now available 24 hours a day and is housed in a cabinet outside the Library and Community Centre. The First Responders have been training residents to use this piece of life saving equipment.

The next training session is at the Community Centre on 9th June starting at 7.30pm. Contact Lynne Saxton (lynne.saxton@tiscali.co.uk or leave your name at the Olive Branch Coffee Shop. You may be the next person who needs to save a life in Brixworth. – Mike Nice

Larger car park at the library

Work to increase the size of the car park at the Library and Community Centre will take place over the summer. The timing was picked to minimise disruption on users of the library.

The work will see the existing car park extended towards the back, creating five more parking spaces and bringing the total to 18. The work is being funded by Barratt Homes. Daventry District Council made funding the extension part of the conditions for approving the Saxon Rise housing development. – Mike Nice



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Parish Council Elections and Call to Arms!

This year the Parish Council was to be elected on the 5th May along with the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Councillors for Brixworth Ward and Daventry District Council. Brixworth Parish Council consists of 14 members from which a chairperson is elected.

However, this year only 7 of the present council decided to stand for election and as there was only one application from the residents of Brixworth the election was uncontested and the 8 members were automatically elected.

The parish Council needs a quorum of members (5) in order to be able to vote on issues raised at meetings which are held monthly, therefore we are looking to recruit more residents to the council.

Despite the application date for election has now passed, after the 5th of May interested parties can apply to be co-opted on to the council and will have as full voting rights as the elected members.

The Parish Council has completed a number of projects over the past 12 months and looks forward to doing many more in the future so if you would like to support your local community we would welcome your applications. All new members are allocated a mentor to support them in the first few months and training is also available.

The eligibility criteria is that candidates must be at least 18 years old, a British citizen or an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union, and meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

1. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards
2. You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election
3. Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area
4. You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

The elected members of the new PC are: Ian Barratt, Jackie Bird, Neal Brown, Alex Coles, Stephen James, Sandra Moxon, Kevin Parker and Peter Saxton. We would like to add your name to this list.

Planning matters

This report on Planning Matters is the last of the current Parish Council's Term of Office as, following the uncontested election, a new committee will be formed.

With reference to the last report on the large Arts and Crafts style residential property off Merry Tom Lane, this application was defeated by nine votes to three, by Daventry District Council Planning Committee. Whether this is the last of the matter, the coming weeks and months will see, as the applicant does have a right to appeal.

As you will probably have noticed from the works currently proceeding, the application by Mercedes AMG High Performance Powertrains received approval, and the provision of the permanent facilities is now well under way.

During February an application was made by Telefónica to improve O2's 4G coverage in the area by installing a new

15m mobile mast on the corner opposite Mercedes, in front of Mawsley Machinery. Your Parish Council did not object to the application.

Negotiations are continuing between Barratt Homes and Northamptonshire Highways in respect of the extent of footpaths and a right hand turn into the proposed surgery.

ACE Recycling have recently taken over the old Daisy Roots premises; does this mean the owner of 132 Northampton Road is going to convert his premises into the hot food takeaway for which planning permission has been granted?

As with previous reports there still remain several applications outstanding with Daventry although at this time a majority of these are domestic extensions and have not been opposed by your Council.

Parish Council Achievements

These are some of our achievements over the past 12 months.

Pet shop: In 2015 a planning application was received relating to the retail premises at 130 Northampton Road, Brixworth, currently used as a pet shop. The application, which was for a change of user of the premises from its current use to that of a hot food takeaway, was objected to vigorously by the Parish Council and this objection was later sustained by the Planning Committee of Daventry District Council.

Dog fouling: This initiative of education and enforcement activity specifically targeting irresponsible dog ownership was a great success whereby volunteers were provided with cans of brightly-coloured biodegradable paint to spray on dog mess, in order to shame irresponsible dog owners into clearing up their dogs mess.

Speed watch: Each year Brixworth Parish Council supports Brixworth Community Speedwatch in their efforts to tackle the Fatal Four. This operation targets those motorists committing the four most common offences that can contribute to serious injury or road deaths on our roads. They are speeding, mobile phone usage, not wearing a seatbelt and drink driving. We would like to thank Howard Reader for his tireless dedication in co-ordinating Brixworth Community Speedwatch.

Station Cottages traffic calming: Whilst there continued to be a drop in cars caught speeding from the first Speedwatch campaign, it became evident that Station Road had the biggest problem, with 48% of speeding offences. Therefore, to combat speeding in excess of 70mph, it was decided that extra measures were needed. New village sign plates reading "Station Cottages" were erected as well as "30" carriageway road marking roundels being painted, to remind drivers that they are entering a community where 12 families and their children live. These signs were made possible by joint funding from Brixworth Parish Council, Northamptonshire County Council Highways and from County Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift's Empowerment Fund.

Silver Street traffic calming: The residents of Silver Street and Brixworth Parish Council got together to discuss how inappropriate speeds on Silver Street could be tackled as well as reducing the number of drivers using Silver Street as a rat-run. It was decided that introducing a narrowing feature, i.e. chicanes with bollards, would best serve the community. The cost of this scheme was met by partnership of Northamptonshire Highways and the Parish Council and was a great success.

Grass verges: In 2015 the decision was taken to bring the mowing of grass verges back in-house and under the control of the Parish Council. This led to them being mowed 16 times in 2015 compared to just 3 times in 2014.

Grants awarded: Brixworth Parish Council have recently reintroduced the Grants Fund which is available to local organisations that benefit local residents. One such organisation to have 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.



Bulb planting: In October last year the Parish Council invested in more daffodil bulbs which Parish Councillors and members of the public planted around the village.

Parish Council meetings June - August 2016

Full Council: 28th June; 26th July; 23rd August
Planning committee: 6th June; 27th June; 18th July;
8th August

Media & Communication committee: 8th June; 13th July;
10th August

Brixworth Parish Council

Clerk: Emma Baker
clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk
01933 682447

4 Well Street, Finedon NN9 5JP
www.brixworthpc.org.uk
www.facebook.com/brixworthpc
twitter.com/brixworthpc



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

 BCF Community Church

BCF Community Church welcomes Andy Lloyd-Williams as their new Minister. Having started on 1st April, Andy is already making himself known around the village.

Let me tell you about him! Married to Hazel with two children, Summer and Lucas, (both Brixworth school age) they currently live in Market Harborough (where Andy was born and grew up) and hope to move into the village by September. He proudly supports Leicester City FC, but I am sure we can convert him to the Cobblers and the Saints! He loves sport and hopes to bring something of that passion with him into the village through the church.

Andy became a Christian in his twenties and has been involved in full time Christian work for over ten years. We are delighted to welcome him into the church and pray that God will use him in the coming days as he shares God's love for us.

We live in a rapidly changing world with values, lifestyles, world politics and much more taking on a very different look. What about God in all this? The Bible is clear that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, and we as a church seek to follow His example and His teaching, so that in a changing world, often bringing with it confusion, pain and mistrust, we can show that in Jesus there is joy, peace, relationship, purpose and confidence available through Him.

This is the last Brixworth Matters thought I will bring, and my prayer for the future is that you and I together might continue to experience God's love in Jesus Christ. May God bless you richly.



Contact:
Phil Walter on 01604 882040

Andy Lloyd Williams on 07958 604961

BCF Easter Holiday Club 7th and 8th April 2016

The BCF FREE Easter Holiday Club this year was again a rip roaring success. We welcomed 104 children from this great community to join us for 2 mornings of great fun and games, including human hungry hippos, parachute fun, dance actions, arts and crafts and a quiz.

Our theme this year was taken from the gospel of Matthew where we found that "with God all things are possible". We had great fun reliving well known Bible stories such as David and

Goliath and Jesus calming the storm, which helped us to remember that when we have a friend in Jesus, there is no challenge that is too big to overcome, for with God all things are possible!

It was great again to see so many parents and carers turn out for the celebration event on the Friday afternoon, a big thanks to you all for your continued support.

Big thanks also to each and every one of the volunteers who sacrificed their valuable time to help all the children to have such great fun. Thanks to the young volunteers (teenagers from the village) who chose to help out. Thanks to the School for letting us use their building as a venue. Thanks to NAYC (Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs) who did a fantastic job supporting us again.





St George's Day Service

It was a great honour for BCF Community Church to welcome Brixworth & Scaldwell Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for the annual St George's Day Service recently. After marching behind the flags through part of the village we all gathered at the Primary School to worship God together and learn lessons from the Bible about team building. Great fun was had by all especially when Rev Andy brought out the giant Jenga, and it was a pleasure to dedicate two new flags for service!

Official welcome and Induction of Andy Lloyd-Williams

Saturday 3rd September

Come and join us at the Village Hall from 3 p.m. after which we will share tea together. This will be a great opportunity to meet him and also to hear a bit more about him.

Good Friday Walk

Joined by folk from All Saints and others from the village, around 70 folk remembered the death of Jesus Christ as we followed a cross around part of the village. It was a meaningful occasion and we ended up at the Olive Branch where copious amounts of Hot Cross Buns were consumed. Why not join us next year?



Summer Holiday Children's Club

We look forward to running the Summer Holiday club in July (25th, 26th and 27th) and hope that you'll be able to join us and our friends from Mississippi! Details will be available in late June. Due to the school undergoing building work, the venue will be different but the fun will be the same!



Calling all Children and Young People!

BCF provide a number of regular opportunities for children to join in fun activities – here are some of them:

All held at the Library & Community Centre



Olive Shoots - Mums and Tots
Every Thursday from 9:45 a.m.



Dynamites – KS1 – 5:00-6:00
KS2 – 6:15-7:15 each Friday
in term time



TNT – for teenagers – 7:30-9:00
a Tuesday evening

Also held at Brixworth School Sunday



Sunday – BreaCFast@9
(9:00-10:00) for the family –
one hour of eating breakfast
and sharing God's love in a fun
way.

Junior Church – 10:30 - as part of our morning service we have a special time for the children as dedicated folk share stories from the Bible in an imaginative and fun-filled way.

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

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 Andy on 07958 604961 or go online www.bcfchurch.co.uk

All Saints' Church, Brixworth

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are in the weeks of Easter, and the readings in our church services focus in on the Resurrection. We have been hearing about the fascinating accounts in the gospels of Christ's appearances to his disciples after his death. They help us to reflect on the truth of the Resurrection. And the theme of new life mirrors the new growth happening all around us in our created world.

The resurrection means not only victory over death, but also victory over evil and the injustice in our world. Belief in the Resurrection and in the presence of Christ amongst us redirects us and sets us on a new path. We are encouraged to put aside the old self and adopt a new way of living.

Here at All Saints, there continues to be new life emerging. We continue to start up new groups, and children, especially, are very welcome at our services. We have just started a junior church held on Sunday morning—"Growing Saints", and our friendly weekly Toddler Group, Jellybeans, continues to grow. We have just formed a new fundraising group, who are busy organising our Summer Fete, and our Festival Committee is preparing for our third Brixworth Music Festival in September.

We are a church community that is open and welcoming to a variety of people. We look forward to seeing you amongst us very soon.

Rev. Chloe



Rector:

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

Churchwarden:

Mrs Vanessa Crooks
5 Whaddon Field t: 01604 882058

PATTERN OF SERVICES

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion followed by 'Coffee Pot'
Thursdays	9.30am	Holy Communion

FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDINGS:

Kyle Bradbury and Leanne Cole

BAPTISMS:

Evie Georgia Russell
Charles George Dolman
Gemma Rose Wilds

BURIALS:

Philip John Dodwell
Marion Grace Simpson
Lynda Mary Miller
Christopher Edward Hart
Vivien Jane Leeming



GROWING SAINTS - Our Junior Church,
meets every
third Sunday of the month, in church at the
10.30am service (except in August).
Join us to learn more about Jesus whilst having
fun
in a friendly and caring environment.
For primary and preschool age children. 😊



BRIXWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL



16th - 18th September
and 23rd - 25th September

New committee members welcome

JELLYBEANS TODDLER

GROUP

Wednesdays
at 1.30pm in the
Brixworth Centre



BRIXWORTH CHURCH FETE

Sunday 5th June 2pm - 4pm

Flower festival, Stalls, Games, Refreshments

Grand Raffle, Music and Dancing

Come and join the fun

Followed by Songs of Praise



HAPPY FATHERS DAY

Father's Day Afternoon Tea

Sunday 19th June 3pm - 5 pm

Treat Dad (or yourselves) to a traditional afternoon tea

Enjoy a sandwich selection, cakes and scones

Choice of teas available, coffee or juice

To be held in marquee in Churchyard
(or Brixworth Centre if raining)

Tickets on sale from Brixworth Home & Hardware or
telephone Vanessa Crooks on 882058



What's on

3 June	Pop Factor 2016	Lighthouse
4 June	The Proclaimers	Derngate
5 June	Dancing in the Streets	Derngate
6 June	Carers Coffee Morning	Guilsborough Surgery
7-1/6	Horrible Histories	Derngate
8 June	RSC Live: Hamlet	The Castle, EF Filmhouse
8 June	Brixworth Belles Summer BBQ	Brixworth Country Park
9 June	Swing Serenade with Susan Vallient Spear	Brixworth Village Hall
11 June	The Queens 90th Birthday Celebration	Brixworth Church
12 June	Ride Out With Russ - Charity cycle ride	Brixworth Country Park
12 Jun	Upfront Comedy	Derngate
13 Jun	Community Concert	Derngate
15-16/6	The Festival	Derngate
16 Jun	Graeme of Thrones	Derngate
17 Jun	Sara Pascoe	Royal
18 Jun	R&D Community Choir	Royal
18 June	Hits of the 60s 70s and 80s by The Two of Us	Central Sports St Davids
19 Jun	Bobby Davro	Lighthouse
22 Jun	Jamie Raven Live	Derngate
22 June	Talk:Exercise for Health	Guilsborough Surgery
23 June	Europe Referendum	Brixworth Village Hall
23/6-2/7	The Tempest	Royal
24 Jun	Chicago Blues Brothers	Derngate
24 Jun	Sinatra, Sequins and Swing	Lighthouse
25 June	Grumpy Old Women: 50 Shades of Beige	Lighthouse
25 June	Mayhew School of Dance	Derngate
25 June	Hog Roast, Beer/Cider and Live Music Festival	Brixworth Cricket Club
25-29 June	Art and Contemporary Craft Show	Lampport Hall
26 Jun	RPO:The Planets	Derngate
26 June	Classic Cars, Cream Teas and Spring Fair	Draughton

26 June	Brixworth Tennis Club Junior Tournament	Cricket ground, Brixworth
26 June	Miss Galaxy Northampton Charity Fundraiser	Royal Bengal, Northampton
28 June	Brixworth Parish Council	Brix Community Centre
29 Jun	Lady Boys of Bangkok	Lighthouse
29-30/6	Peppa Pigs Big Surprise	Derngate
30/6-3/7	Althorp Literary Festival	Althorp House
2-4/7	Sarah Millican	Derngate
5 July	Bill Bailey - Limboland	Derngate
6 July	Talk: Exercise for Health	Brix Surgery
7 July	Branagh Theatre Live: Romeo and Juliet	EF Filmhouse, The Castle
7 July	Bubbles with Boris (Johnson)	Underground
8 July	Bringing Back the 60s	Lighthouse
8-10 July	Rockin The Park	Brixworth Country Park
9 July	Dancing Schools UK	Derngate
9-10 July	Flashback Festival	Rockingham
10 July	NMPAT Summer Festival	Derngate
12-16/7	Gangsta Granny	Derngate
12-17/7	Oliver!	Royal
14 July	Brixworth Belles Vineyard Tour	Fleur Fields Vineyard
16 July	Branagh Theatre Live: Romeo and Juliet	EF Filmhouse
17 July	Last night of the Proms	Derngate
17 July	John Blason Bar Naming & Central Sports Fun Day	Central Sports St Davids
22 Jul	Rhythm of the Dance	Lighthouse
22-23/7	Market Boy	Royal
23 July	Russell Watson	Derngate

23 July	Quiz and Chilli night	Central Sports St Davids
23-24 July	The Great British Food Festival	Kelmarsh Hall
25 July	Storytelling in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
26 July	Brixworth Parish Council	Brix Community Centre
1 Aug	Arts Slam	Underground
8 Aug	Storytelling in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
11 Aug	Brixworth Belles Quiz Night	Brixworth Village Hall
23 Aug	Brixworth Parish Council	Brix Community Centre
27-29 Aug	Mixed Branch Line Weekend	N'ton & Lampport Railway
28-29/8	Antique and Collectors Fair	Lampport Hall
4 Sep	Dahlia Festival	Kelmarsh Hall
4 Sep	Brixworth Belles Arthritis Discussion	Brixworth Village Hall
7 Sep	Squeeze	Derngate
8 Sep	Chinese State Circus	Lighthouse
8 Sep	Simon and Garfunkel Story	Derngate
9 Sep	Joan Collins	Derngate
10 Sep	Sounds of Philadelphia	Derngate
10-17/9	A Tale of Two Cities	Royal
11 Sep	Chas and Dave	Derngate
16 Sep	Sounds of the 50s	Derngate
17 Sep	Sue Perkins Live	Derngate
18 Sep	Dahlia Festival	Kelmarsh Hall
21/9-2/10	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Derngate
23 Sep	Forbidden Nights	Lighthouse
24 Sep	The Rubettes	Lighthouse
24-25/9	Althorp Food Festival	Althorp House

Got an event? Tell us about it!

Did you know that you can also find out event calendar on our website? It is updated all the time, so its listings should be the most complete you can find.

Even better, the website has an event submission form that anyone can use to add their event. Whether it's a church fete or a jumble sale for charity, a club AGM or a sporting event – go add it to the events section at www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk. Local events are colour-coded to stand out from the rest. All submissions are automatically added to the printed Bulletin.

So whether you want to know what's on, or want to make sure the rest of the village knows about your organisation's upcoming plans, go and use the Bulletin's event calendar.

– Claudia Flavell-White

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Tennis Club hosts inaugural Junior Tournament



On Sunday 26 June 2016 Brixworth Tennis Club will be hosting its first ever Junior Tennis Tournament following the success of its Adult Tournament last September in which club chairman Will Haxby lifted the trophy. On confirming that the Club was going to create a Junior Tournament, Will said: "The club is really looking forward to hosting its inaugural Junior Tennis Tournament on Sunday 26 June. The day promises to be lots of fun and we hope for a really good turnout."

More than 20 Juniors ranging from the age of 6 to 16 have signed up, and the Club is delighted that Richard Turner, who coaches the Juniors on Saturdays, has stepped into the fray to umpire the event.

Will Haxby said: "I would urge parents in Brixworth and the surrounding villages to encourage their children to enter the tournament. It is open to all children of all abilities between 5 and 16 years and will be split into appropriate age groups. There will be a lot going on at the grounds that day, what with the Junior Tennis Tournament, the beer festival and a six-a-side village cricket tournament. Please do come along and join the fun."

The children will be split into aged groups, so if you think your child may be interested in raising the winner's cup please contact the club at secretary@brixworthtennisclub.org.uk or call Jonathan Martin, club secretary on 07970 100196.

Tennis coach James Haleyn added: "Competition is a great opportunity to put your newly learnt skills from your coaching sessions into practice in a competitive environment. Good luck to all those who enter!" – Sandra Moxon

Mike Nice wins Target Bowls Competition



On Friday 22nd June over 20 members took part in the annual target bowls competition with a fish and chip supper. As always the competition produced a lot of fun and good banter with the eventual winner being Mike Nice with 27 points. The highest placed lady was Bernadette Byre with 17 points.

The Club meets every Friday at 2.30pm and 7.30pm at the Brixworth Centre, Church Street. New members – of any age! – are very welcome. Contact Janet on 880317 or 07762 211721.

Reger Charity Golf competition

On a cold windy Saturday, 23rd April, several golfers from Brixworth and surrounding areas met at Cold Ashby Golf Club in memory of David 'Wolfy' Reger who sadly died in August 2015 following an accident on his motorcycle.

The competition was organised by his father, Phil, pictured right driving from the first tee. His goal is to raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital, a charity close to the family's heart, as David had been successfully treated there for T-Cell Lymphoma when he was a child. – Ian Topham



All Change for All Saints

Both Brixworth All Saints 1st and Reserve sides have consolidated their positions in their respective leagues under the management of Scott Eveson and Dan Lockey, with the playing side stabilising after a transitional period.

During the transition, we lost a number of key volunteers. Our treasurer stepped down and some long-time players and helpers hung up their boots. Some of these have given many years of service to the club, such as Dave Jackson and Pete Anscomb. They will be missed.

Pre-season begins on 29th June. We meet at St David's Playing Fields from 7pm. Come along and get involved in supporting the growth of this 100-plus year old football club.

Anybody interested in getting involved with Brixworth ASFC contact the chairman Nigel Eldred on 07812 609095 or neldred@hotmail.co.uk; or come down to the playing fields on 29th June at 7pm and come and enjoy getting involved in football. – Dan Lockey

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U18 Pumas victorious



Brixworth's Under 18s football team, the Pumas, have achieved their ambition of lifting the county-wide Pinner Cup trophy – the same one that a year ago only just eluded them.

This year, the Pumas were more determined than ever to leave the pitch at Sixfields Stadium with both hands on the winner's trophy.

From the first whistle, the Pumas looked defensively solid with the back four being well-shielded by two defensive midfielders. Wooldale Blues struggled to keep possession whenever they ventured into the Pumas' half and whenever the game broke down the Pumas launched a lightning counter attack through their lone striker and fast supporting wingers.

As the game progressed, Wooldale found themselves pushed back into their own half and a succession of corners piled some serious pressure on their goal. The Blues' goalkeeper didn't look at all comfortable with corners being floated towards the back post and the Pumas knew it. A lovely floated cross caused chaos and a fine header saw the ball nestle in the far corner of the Wooldale Blues net. The stadium erupted as the Pumas travelling fans cheered them on.

A couple of the Wooldale Blues players were obviously unsettled by this and their tackles and general demeanour deteriorated badly with the referee having to step in a few times to calm things down. The Pumas central midfield duo certainly helped to wind them up with some excellent play that made it almost impossible for them to get the ball.

By half time it was clear that the Pumas were really the only team likely to win but 1-0 is never a secure scoreline in football. The second half followed much the same pattern of play with Wooldale trying to pressure the Brixworth goal but Wooldale's link up play in the final third was poor and Brixworth took every opportunity to counter attack quickly.

As the game drew on you could see there were many tired legs and minds on the pitch. The game was becoming a succession of tackles and poor passes when from out of nowhere Wooldale struck a shot that the Brixworth keeper only just managed to deal with. This seemed to focus the minds of the Brixworth Pumas and they redoubled their efforts.

Some great vision saw a superb long pass from the left midfield across to the right wing where the attacker rounded the keeper but was forced wide by a defender. The Pumas attacker showed great clarity of mind as he controlled the ball, waited and then slipped an inch perfect pass for his team mate as he ran in at the back post. The net rippled and the Pumas fans roared. The score was 2-0 with less than five minutes to go. The Pumas goal scorer was clearly emotional as the magnitude of what he had just done overwhelmed him.

The referee's final whistle blew and the contrast between the two teams' body language showed just how much this trophy meant to the Pumas. This was the last ever cup game for the team and their manager, Adam Hayock, and I am sure it made it all the sweeter to go out on such a high point.

Brixworth Juniors is a well-respected FA Charter Standard Club with excellent training and playing facilities. All of our coaches are FA qualified and have been through the Enhanced CRB check.

If you would like to read some more about the club please have a look at our website www.brixworthjuniors.co.uk.

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

Playing hockey with the Saints

Northampton Hockey Club (The Saints) is the largest club in Northamptonshire, with 14 senior teams (four ladies', seven men's, two mixed and Back to Hockey), junior boys and girls teams and training from as young as three! Whether you're an experienced junior or a novice adult, we can cater for you.

We offer specialist coaching and matches for children from three to 18 years. Sessions take place at Moulton College Astro Turf (Gate 3) on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

There are charges to join training but we don't charge for the first training session so you can come along and get to know us. Parents are required to stay for the duration of the session until the age of 8. Our clubhouse is fully equipped with a cafe and BT Sport so you watch your children train and play with a hot cup of coffee whilst chatting to coaches and parents alike!

At the same time we provide Back to Hockey sessions for parents who would like to start playing hockey with other inexperienced or "rusty" players, keep fit and have some fun. A sympathetic coach is provided and the charge is only £2 per session to help cover costs. A stick is provided, you just need trainers.

For more information please check out our website: www.saintshockey.org, uk or email info@saintshockey.org.uk.

– Andy Dale



Get fit this Summer!

Mawsley Touch Rugby Club are seeking new players, whatever your ability – experienced or complete novice, men/women, age 16+. Touch is a rapidly growing, minimal-contact sport and an excellent way to keep fit in a fun social environment.

Times: Saturdays 9am-10.30am and Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm (BST only)

Venue: Mawsley Playing Fields, NN14 1GY

Contact: mawsleytrc@gmail.com or find us on Facebook

www.mawsleytouchrugby.com



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