

## Pointer wins against Parish Council

Former Parish Councillor Stephen Pointer has won his long-running court case against Brixworth Parish Council. He'd sued the Council for failing to provide 'reasonable adjustment' for his disability – specifically, an iPad to allow him to read Council paperwork. Damages in the case have not yet been awarded, but the Parish Council's legal fees alone are thought to be over £50,000. This was funded from Council reserves, and is not covered by insurance.

The case centres on a dispute dating from 2013, when Pointer, who suffers from macular degeneration, asked the Parish Council to provide him with a reading aid. While both sides agreed on a £500 iPad as the best option, they disagreed over who should own the device and who should pay the running costs.

With some members of the public and the Parish Council questioning whether it was best use of public money to buy a top-spec iPad for one of their number, the Chair and Clerk changed the conditions imposed from what had initially been agreed – while the Council had agreed to gift the device to Pointer, who would then paying the running costs, the Chair and Clerk insisted it should retain ownership but Pointer still pay the monthly costs. Pointer argued that this was not what had been agreed, and refused to accept the iPad. When after one month and despite numerous phone calls there was no new offer emerging, Pointer sued the Parish Council for harassment and discrimination, first in the County Court and later through an Employment Tribunal.

The Parish Council continued for a while to explore options – there was discussion about sharing costs with Daventry District Council, where Pointer was at the time a District Councillor, and Ian Barratt was still exploring options for an amicable settlement – but by mid-September, the Council ceased all efforts to resolve the situation amicably and concentrated on fighting the court case instead.

Judge Michael Ord, who presided over the case, concluded that the Parish Council failed in its legal duty to make the reasonable adjustment. While it would have been well in its rights to continue to

own the iPad, it could not ask Pointer to pay the monthly costs. The result, he said, was "a disproportionately long and unnecessarily complicated Tribunal claim which [...] has resulted in the [Parish Council] incurring very substantial legal costs."

Michael Lacey, the former chair of Brixworth Parish Council, was particularly singled out for criticism, because he had failed to pass on to the rest of the Council legal advice not to fight the details of providing the iPad because the costs of a further dispute would far outweigh any saving it could make.

The Parish Council says it has noted the judge's comments and is actively reviewing procedures. It is expecting to publish a full report in due course after the final hearing has concluded.

Pointer brought a further five claims of harassment and one claim of being subjected to a detriment by the Council's failure to undertake an Occupational Health Check – of these, he won two of the harassment claims but lost the rest.

The hearing to agree damages and who bears which costs will take place on 3 and 4 October in Bedford.

The full ruling of the tribunal is available on the Brixworth Bulletin's website, [www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk](http://www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk). – *Claudia Flavell-White*



### What's a reasonable adjustment?

Unsurprisingly, the ruling as resulted in a lot of discussion on the internet after the ruling was published – not just about the case in hand, but also about what it might mean for village organisations.

A member of one village organisation asked: "What IS a reasonable adjustment? Does the drama group now have to issue iPads for scripts? Does the PTA now hand them out? Does the church have to give out tablets for Sunday services? Most volunteer organisations don't have the money for that sort of thing?"

It's an interesting question and one that could potentially have a chilling effect on any kind of volunteer activity or club.

However, having done a bit of research, I think the concern is misplaced. Guidance issued by the Equality and Human Rights Commission states clearly that organisations do not have to do more than what is reasonable for them. This depends, amongst other things, on the nature of the goods, facilities or services provided and the size and nature of the organisation. In practical terms, it depends on how much the reasonable adjustment would cost and whether the organisation can afford it, along with whether the adjustment would be practical to make and if it would make a real difference.

The other point is that equality law only applies to associations; legally speaking, those are groups with 25 or more members which have rules governing how someone becomes a member. Informal clubs with fewer than 25 members are not subject to equality law at all.

Obviously, I'm no lawyer and this summary should not be taken as legal advice – if you're concerned whether you ought to make reasonable adjustment, please get an expert's opinion.

*Claudia Flavell-White*

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Visit [www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk](http://www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk), join us on Facebook or follow @BrixBulletin on Twitter.

## A fitting tribute to a sporting life

It was a beautiful sunny afternoon on 7th August when family, friends and colleagues gathered at Brixworth Central Sports Club to celebrate the life of the late John Blason.

An 18 over cricket match was held in John's memory, who had dedicated a large proportion of his life to the local community. John was a founder member of the Brixworth Central Sports Club and the Chairman from 1980 until his death in December 2015.

The match was contested between "The Old Tourists", consisting of friends of John that had spent many happy times with him on cricket tours, and a Central Sports XI.

The Old Tourists took to the pitch with the bat first and with some surprisingly nimble running and a fair few boundaries



John's family and the cricketers raised over £600 for The Stroke Association.

The Central Sports committee decided to name the bar after John as a tribute. A plaque, revealed halfway through the match, christened the bar "The John Blason Sports Bar", a fitting tribute to a gentleman whose fond memory will live forever in the hearts of those whose lives he touched. – Anthony Jennings



to boot, managed to finish their 18 overs posting a score of 124 for 7 wickets. It was then the Central Sports XI's turn on the bat, they put in a fine chasing display but despite their efforts they finished on 115 for 9 wickets. The game was played in good spirits and was enjoyed by all.

## Draughton Summer



At the end of June Draughton hosted our third Classic Car Show, with our village fair alongside. It was a lovely day with cars from the '20s and '30s onwards – the field was full of sleek lines that had graced Le Mans, Goodwood and more; some with the most fascinating histories!

We plan to do this all again next year, and invite more beautiful vehicles, so if you're tempted please contact Sebastian Calnan (sebastian.calnan@yahoo.co.uk)

Alongside all that metallic splendour and fete attractions were the now legendary cream teas served in the marquee, as well as the Pop-up Pub.

Our next big thing in the village is Draughton's Great British Produce Show. It's an invitation to gardeners, bakers, preservers and craftsmen women and children to pit their skills against the rest.

For a full list of classes and an entry form please contact: alison\_wilks@btconnect.com on 686696 or fabienne@fraser-allen.co.uk on 686949. Forms must be submitted by September 9th!

– Kate Calnan



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# Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan: Infrastructure will remain tight

Space at key facilities in Brixworth will remain tight for years to come, an independent examination of the Neighbourhood Plan has concluded. The Examiner agreed with the proposed Neighbourhood Plan that there is only limited scope for future expansion beyond the new developments already agreed.

One of the issues raised was whether the infrastructure (schools, surgery, parking at the shops) would be significantly stronger once currently planned expansions are completed. The Examiner concluded that while the expansions will allow Brixworth to cater for the latest new development (ie both phases of Barratt Homes' Saxon Rise development), the village would not be able to accommodate significant expansions beyond that.

## Primary School to focus on catchment area

The building work, which took place over the summer, will see the Primary School meet current demand. But just to absorb the further rise in pupils once Phase 2 of the Barratts estate is complete, the School will have to stop taking children from villages other than Brixworth and Scaldwell. Existing pupils from outside the catchment area, which currently account for 10% of the intake, will not be affected.

## Moulton School on the limit

The situation is even more stretched at secondary level. While Moulton School has agreed to provide secondary places up to the end of 2029, there are already capacity problems and the school turned away four Brixworth pupils for the September 2016 intake. Northamptonshire County Council is looking to provide a new secondary school, but its location is still unknown. At the same time, more new housing estates in the area – particularly the 1,000 houses currently being built north of Whitehills – will add to the pressure.

## New surgery cannot cope with 'significant' growth

The planned new surgery, which will form part of the Saxon Rise development, will ease the pressure for the near future. The existing facility was built for 3,500 patients but is accommodating between 7,500 and 8,000. While the new surgery is being built to deal with current demand, NHS England

will only plan for five years ahead. With that and the significant growth in elderly patients (St Matthews Home in Spratton is being expanded from 12 to an expected 90 high demand residents, and there are plans still on the drawing board for a new Elderly Care Community to be built near Brixworth cricket club), Saxon Spires practice does not believe it will be able to cope with any significant growth beyond what is already approved for the village.

## Parking to remain tight

Parking in the village centre will also remain tight; there is little scope to expand parking beyond the five new spaces currently being added to the library car park. It is also not clear whether the current agreement that shop customers can park at the former workhouse at weekends will continue once the building is sold.

The full list of questions and responses, along with earlier responses by organisations including Savills on behalf of the Society of Merchant Venturers and Berrys on behalf

of the Trustees of the DM Wood Will can be seen at [www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/brixworth](http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/brixworth)

The Steering Group has worked closely with Daventry District Council to ensure that the Plan will fit with the new Local Development Plan for the District. The Plan seeks to ensure that any future development in Brixworth enhances the village and does not damage the environment, paying particular attention to the infrastructure, the conservation area and the hilltop setting of the village amidst the rolling ironstone slopes and reservoir on its borders.

The submitted Neighbourhood Development Plan for 2011-2029 will be amended in accordance with the Examiner's requirements after which DDC will decide whether to accept the recommendations. If it does, the neighbourhood area will vote whether or not to accept the Plan in a referendum, most likely to be held in November or December.

– Bob Chattaway

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# Police & Crime Commissioner: My first month in office

I am Stephen Mold, the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire. At the time of writing, I have been in the role for just over a month, and so far have found it to be an extremely fast-paced, challenging yet exciting job.

It has been fascinating to learn more about the great work Northamptonshire Police undertake each and every day.

No police officer can ever predict what will happen when they go on shift and it has been a privilege to see at first hand the courage and professionalism of our officers.

I have been very clear that I will protect frontline policing in Northamptonshire. Also following the success of National Specials Weekend I have reaffirmed my support to Northamptonshire Police's Special Constabulary. The strategic use of Special Constables will be an important priority for my term in office. I want to see a focus on maintaining the number of volunteers policing the county at a ratio of approximately one special constable to two full-time police officers.

When I am not testing out the latest breathalysers (*pictured*), I am developing my Police and Crime Plan, which will set out my aims and ambitions as Commissioner to make Northamptonshire safer. One of my key priorities is to ensure our children are safe and protected. I would also like to see a greater use of technology to enable more officers to be out on the front line rather than stuck in stations filling out paperwork and to combat issues such as the exploitation of children, domestic violence and online crime.

Most importantly, I want the people of Northamptonshire to have trust and confidence in both the Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Should you wish to contact me regarding any concerns you may have, please email me at [Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk), or should you wish to report a crime please phone 101 or 999 in an emergency.

– Stephen Mold



## Station Road – an accident blackspot

Hello. My name is Matt Cox, and I have an allotment by the church on the Creaton road.

Whilst sitting in my van in the layby in June, there was an almighty bang behind me. The cause, well, see my photo.

All allotment users know that you take your life in your hands when you cross this road from the layby. People, especially coming from Brixworth, actually speed up taking the corner. I am not saying this was case on this occasion. But the point I and all allotment holders are making is that people just drive too fast as they leave and enter the village. The 30 mph signs need to be moved beyond the allotments if not all the way to Station Cottages.

Fortunately this time there were no fatalities but PLEASE PLEASE act before someone gets killed.

Yours sincerely, *Matt*

## Scaldwell Road junction improvements

Improvements are planned for the junction of Scaldwell Road and Holcot Road. Earlier in the year, an accident at the site resulted in a vehicle going through the fence into the adjacent field.

Northampton County Council officers visited the site, following requests from local residents. They have now ordered a yellow backed advanced "Give way" sign, with associated distance plate, which will be installed on the approach to the junction. Officers confirm that a "SLOW" road marking will also be placed on the carriageway next to the new sign and the junction markings will be refurbished. The hope is that this will warn drivers unfamiliar with the area of the upcoming junction. - *cfw*



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# On the Beat with Brixworth Police

It is reassuring to know that Brixworth has a police presence close-at-hand, thanks to Daventry Rural North's local office.

The team based here are PC 472 Hutchings, PC 196 Osborn, PC 577 Harris, PCSO 7115 Taylor and PCSO 7145 Wright. A Police Officer is a warranted officer with a power of arrest. A PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) is not warranted but acts as an important link between the police and community. They are supported by two volunteers: Stephen Coleman, a Special Constable, and Mike Bailey, who publishes the local crime statistics.

The area they look after covers 42 villages and 220 square miles and stretches from the Boughton roundabout to Market Harborough.

When asked what the top crime issues in Brixworth are, PC Hutchings replies, "It is difficult to say. We cover a wide range of incidents from domestic violence to Road Traffic collisions, domestic and non domestic burglary, and rural crime. Antisocial behaviour can also be a concern, and there is always a spike during the summer school holidays." There has already been an increase of incidents reported around youths in the village over the past couple of months and various incidents of damage and vandalism.

There are 160 farms included in this patch,

which act as important eyes and ears for the community, as farm workers have to move around 365 days a year. PC Hutchings and the team are currently visiting as many as they can to give advice on crime prevention.



You may have seen a Manitou telehandler (pictured, above) at local events dressed in police colours promoting a highly effective marking system for machinery. This is lent to the police by Mawsley Machinery.

As funding for police is likely to be cut further in future, the role of volunteers is becoming more important for effective policing. In particular, the police are keen on promoting Neighbourhood Watch schemes. As well as raising awareness and reporting on crime, they serve as important

communications networks between villages. While Moulton has five Neighbourhood Watch schemes, the Bulletin has not been able to ascertain that Brixworth has any! Would you like to be the person who sets one up?

Despite rumours to the contrary, it is not believed that the Brixworth police office is under threat of being closed.

PC Hutchings says there are certain things we can all do to assist the police in their work. These are:

- Only use 999 for emergencies. For all other matters call 101, even if you have the contact details of local police. 101 calls are managed by highly trained staffs that are able to deploy staff appropriately. (The police now work with GPS so the nearest officers can be called even when they are not in their usual working area). Non 101 calls may not be recorded properly.

- Parents – know where your children are, make sure they are "street aware" and safe.

- Join/set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and tap into the local network – for more information check [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

– Jennifer Fitzgerald

## SSPG Health Talks 2016

Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group will be continuing its series of health education talks in the autumn, with a talk by Dr Neil Menon on stroke prevention.

The talks will be at Guilsborough Surgery on Tuesday 20 September 7.30pm -8.30pm and Brixworth Surgery on Tuesday 18th October 7.30pm -8.30pm.

Come along and learn more about this important topic.

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



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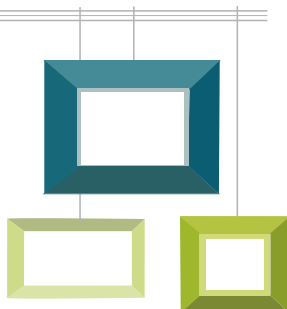
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# Liz Wiig 1948 - 2016

I knew Liz initially through her work as a Parish Councillor - indeed it was she who first suggested I become a Parish and then District Councillor so some might think she has a lot to answer for!

Liz did what she did in a very private and unassuming way, never seeking plaudits or publicity and many probably never really knew what she did for the village or how much she genuinely cared for people. It was Liz who encouraged and helped her husband Cllr Frank Wiig in his campaign against graffiti in the village, even assisting him to buy cleaner and help him remove it.

It was Liz who showed her caring side when she arrived with me to plant wild flower seeds with the Centre pre-school children loaded with sweets and chocolates for them. So much of her work was connected with people who had housing or social difficulties which the public would never become aware of but for which individuals would have eternal gratitude.

Liz was also a District Councillor with me at Daventry and we both sat on the Planning Committee. We spent many hours together looking at plans for the village and whilst

Liz always took note of the law she would continuously say "but how will this affect the village, how will the nearby residents see this?" She knew Brixworth was going to grow and that she represented the people of the village and looked hard to gain positives from developments. She was a great supporter of getting the community involved with the Pocket Park.

Liz often saw herself in a supporting role to others rather than as a leader. Her loyalty was strong and unflinching when she believed an issue to be right but woe betide anyone where she thought unfairness was present! Her sense of fighting for what was right was unquestionable.

Her friends and neighbours meant so much to her, as did the antics of her cat Tilley.

It is typical of Liz that one of her last wishes was to help in the maintenance of Brixworth Churchyard and its beautiful trees and to that end I am told a fund is being set up to raise money in her memory.

A lasting tribute to a true friend of the village. – Ian Barratt



## Liz Wiig's final wish: help with work to the Churchyard

One of Liz's last wishes was to raise money for the upkeep of the trees in Brixworth Churchyard, an area of particular tranquillity and beauty which she enjoyed.



It is planned to make a lasting tribute to Liz by raising money for the upkeep of those trees, some of which need urgent attention. It has been suggested that a single floral bloom on the day from those wishing to mark their respect to Liz and to consider a donation to the Friends of Brixworth Church for the trees she loved so much would be most fitting.

To make a donation, please contact the Friends' treasurer Jill Bament on 882741 or email [jill.bament@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.bament@btinternet.com)

– Stephen Pointer

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# Brixworth Music Festival

## September 2016

The Brixworth Music Festival is now entering its third year and is becoming an established annual event in the Brixworth calendar. It is a festival of classical music designed to bring musicians and classical music lovers together, whether as active performers and composers, as volunteers and helpers, or for those who just want to come along and listen to classical music performed by first-rate musicians.

There is so much musical talent in Northamptonshire and this needs to be show-cased. And what better place for this to happen than in our own wonderful Church of All Saints? It is the perfect setting for a music festival, both acoustically and visually, and will be the backdrop for a series of very interesting concerts that will take place between 16th and 25th September. All concerts start at 7.30pm, and here is a foretaste of what to expect:

The Brixworth Music Festival opens on 16th September with a concert entitled "Best of British", featuring the Northampton Concert Band conducted by Graham Tear – it's probably the best concert band in the area. This concert is a must for those music lovers who enjoy the "Last Night of the Proms" and will include: Jerusalem, Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance No 1 and his Sea Songs, as well as Vaughan Williams' Folk Song Suite, and a host of other music by British composers. There will be something to suit every taste. Don't forget to bring your Union Jacks with you!



On the 17th September the Northampton Chamber Orchestra – again conducted by Graham Tear – will be performing a programme of music which will include Mozart's Symphony No 29, Bach's Concerto for Oboe and Violin, and Handel's Arrival of the Queen of Sheba. Chloe Willson-Thomas will also be singing Vivaldi's Nulla in Mundo Pax Sincera. This is a rare chance to experience an orchestral concert without having to go to a larger town.

Next evening, on the 18th September, some of the best local performers and singers will be entertaining us with "An Evening of Poetry and Song". Singers Choe Willson Thomas (soprano) and Gwion Thomas (baritone), together with Kay Soteriou (mezzo-soprano) and actress Paula Stockbridge will be performing a varied programme together with the John Clare Wind Quintet and pianist Jonathan French.

On Wednesday 21st September there will be a midweek evening piano recital with the Russian-born Brixworth resident, Oksana King. In her "Postcards from Russia", she will be playing some stunningly beautiful masterpieces, including the iconic "Flight of the Bumble Bee" by Rimsky-Korsakov. Alongside other Russian gems by Glinka, Balakirev, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff and Slonimsky you will also hear works of Western composers who toured Russia, such as John Field, Franz Liszt and Robert and Clara Schumann.

The following weekend will be an unusual one, starting on Friday evening, 23rd September, with the Midlands-based Tedesca String Quartet. They will be playing a programme of Mozart, Dvorak, Shostakovich and Samuel Barber, in which they will be joined by baritone Gwion Thomas. Again, this will be a rare treat and an opportunity to hear some great music from the string quartet repertoire.

Last year we had as our special guest Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir.

This year we have invited the German accordion virtuoso, Irene Urbach, who is professor of accordion in Nuremberg. The accordion is taken more seriously as a solo instrument in Germany, and on September 24th Irene Urbach will be showing us just how versatile this instrument is. In a solo recital, entitled "The Accordion: Sorrow and Seduction", she will be playing works in all styles, ranging from chanson, tango and folk music to the classical (J.S. Bach and D. Scarlatti) and avant-garde, including a work especially composed for her by joint festival director, Vivienne Olive. If you are interested in something unusual, then do come along. Vivienne Olive will be guiding you through the concert and explaining some of the more unusual accordion techniques.

The last concert of the festival, "Song for Athene", will take place after Evensong on the 25th September. You will have had the opportunity of hearing the Brixworth Songsters and the Singing Saints at the morning service, and in the evening you can enjoy more vocal music with the Northamptonshire based early music ensemble, Fiori Musicali. Founded in 1983, Fiori are one of the UK's principal providers of classical and early music concerts outside London. Fiori's passion is to bring to life the music of the past, making it accessible to all.

Tickets: these are very reasonably priced: £12 for adults, £10 concession and £8 for under 16s. They can be bought either via the festival website or at the door. For the last concert with Fiori Musicali different pricing will apply.

Please go to [www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk) for more information.

We look forward to seeing you at the Brixworth Music Festival in September and can guarantee that you will be able to enjoy two weekends of interesting and varied programmes in our beautiful Brixworth Church of All Saints. - *Vivienne Olive (Joint Artistic Director of the Brixworth Music Festival)*



# Brixworth – a History in 50 Bulletins

Believe it or not, this is Issue 50 of the *Brixworth Bulletin*. The quarterly newspaper has been published under its current name since mid-2004, though it was preceded by the *Brixworth Bugle*, which had been published for 12 years before then.

We thought it would be a fitting tribute to the *Bulletin's* role in reporting on the key events, developments and issues in the village by summarising the highlights from each issue. To accommodate this mammoth report, we'll be splitting it over two issues – issues 1-25 in this issue of the *Brixworth Bulletin*, and issues 26-50 in December.

And don't forget, if you want to read the past issues in full for yourself, you can! All the PDF files of all previous issues are available on our website at [www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk](http://www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk). - cfw

## Issue 1, June 2004

A planning application was submitted to build 12 houses on the former Texaco garage site on Northampton Road. The developers at the time were considering another 16 mews houses on the site behind the garage then occupied by Ideal Motors. However that was not realized, and Ideal Motors would remain at the site till the end of 2014. The site is currently vacant, and the potential for further housing is once again under consideration. The Brixworth Centre near the Church was seeing some big investment, with £85,000 spent on roof repairs, rewiring, upgrades to the heating system and repairs to the windows. The behaviour of some youths was a regular talking point – groups would gather particularly on the Ashway and near the shops, intimidating some and causing issues with vandalism, littering, drinking and drug taking.

## Issue 2, September 2004

More twists to a longrunning saga of proposed new changing rooms at the Ashway. The estimated costs for building the changing room



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block rose from 86,500 in September '03 to 124,350 in June '04, much to the Parish Council's dismay. Meanwhile, Daventry District Council approved plans by Dallas Burston Group to convert Hayward's Barn into a clubroom, re-instate a tennis court and establish a new cricket field – on conditions that the facilities would be available to the local community.

## Issue 3, December 2004

There was shock at the sudden death of Suresh "George" Patel, 60, who'd owned and run Brixworth Stores for 19 years. His widow Jan was touched by the heartfelt support from many villagers, and vowed to try and continue her husband's business. Elsewhere, the letters column features an impassionate debate over the overgrown state of the churchyard, despite the best efforts of the church volunteers to keep on top of mowing the grass.

## Issue 4, March 2005

Work starts on the new cricket field at Hayward's Barn, which according to club chairman Chris Timm rather resembled the Somme – huge amounts of soil had to be moved to level the ground. The future of the derelict Uplands Centre building opposite the Brixworth Centre, once the infant section of Brixworth School, was under debate. The building, which was most recently a Sure Start centre but once again lies vacant, had at the time been unoccupied for over a year and Northampton County Council lacked the funding for work that would have returned the building to use. Meanwhile, a sold-out five-show run of the Drama Group's pantomime raised £2225 for victims of the Boxing Day tsunami in December 2004.

## Issue 5, June 2005

Determined efforts by volunteers result in the creation of a new youth club in one of the industrial units in Ironstone Way. There was plenty of enthusiasm and a plethora of ideas, such as turning the patio area into a multi-sport arena for football, basketball and netball. But the lack of immediate funds and lack of a comprehensive business plan already raised some doubts over the project's long term viability. Looking at provision for younger children, the Parish Council debated how to spend £10,000 earmarked for play equipment on the Ashway, and the future of other playgrounds, especially the Spratton Road recreational ground, where the last of two skateboard ramps was waiting to be removed, only four years after being installed.

## Issue 6, September 2005

All Saints Church is the focus of attention, with discussion whether a planned new porch area should be outside the church or take the form of a glass porch on the inside. Mike Philpott introduced himself as the new Lamport correspondent, with reports on a Bonfire Night in Hanging Houghton and plans to slow down traffic through Lamport by installing pinch points on the main road. The state of the car park on St David's recreation ground was cause for concern, as was the



behaviour of some of the youths using the ground. And Margaret Lawes introduced herself as the new Parish Nurse for the Christian Fellowship.

## Issue 7, December 2005

The Co-op re-opened after a five-day, £150,000 refit, prompted by a no-holds-barred criticism of its condition and service in the previous Bulletin by the vicar at the time, Rev Anthony Watkins. Watkins' complaints of long queues, empty shelves and poorly-trained staff were echoed by many villagers, and there was even talk of a boycott. The efforts to alleviate the queuing resulted in the three-till arrangement still in operation today; however staff – many of which were Brixworth residents – were upset by the remarks, which they felt were not all justified. To add to their woes, the Co-op suffered two armed robberies in a short period. In Lamport, Rev Mary Garbutt was licensed by the Bishop of Brixworth in front of a packed church. Finally, Mercedes Benz High Performance Engines was established as a separate entity from Ilmore Engineering. The business at the time employed 450 people and occupied a site at the bottom of Quarry Road.

## Issue 8, March 2006

There was more discussion about the future of the Uplands Centre, with Brixworth History Society pushing for the site to become a local museum. Even then, Dennis Coles of the History Society acknowledged that negotiating terms, complying with regulations and obtaining funds would make this a daunting project. Four councillors resigned abruptly from the parish council and petitioned for a by-election, triggering a cycle of elections till sufficient candidates could be found to fill the vacancies. Meanwhile DDC approved plans to demolish the former Rigidflex site at the corner of Northampton Road and Froxhill Crescent, to make way for 34 houses.

## Issue 9, June 2006

Doubts were being raised over the future of Brixworth Village Hall over difficulties finding a volunteers for the roles of chair and treasurer, after the previous incumbents stood down, and there was a real threat the hall may have to be sold if the vacancies could not be filled. On a lighter note, Brixworth came out in support for the village resident and swimmer Caitlin McClatchey, who was preparing for the 2008 Olympics after winning two gold medals at the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

## Issue 10, September 2006

The appeal for the future of the Village Hall in the previous issue had an effect as no fewer than 17 residents came forward to join the Committee, including Neil Pound as chairman and Tony Pratt as treasurer. First priorities were stabilizing the finances, with measures to increase the usage of the hall and adjusting fees to account for rising energy costs. In Hanging Houghton, plans to develop fields belonging to Clint Hill Farm took shape, with plans for eight new high-end houses at the edge of the hamlet, including two very large six bedroom three-garage houses with paddocks. In Brixworth, CPL Aromas – under pressure to address smell nuisance to neighbouring properties – agreed to install an 'electronic nose' to determine the substances causing offensive odours.

## Issue 11, December 2006

The Bulletin celebrates the 50th anniversary of Pitsford Reservoir. Opened in 1956 by the Queen Mother, the artificially-created reservoir enabled several nearby villages to have mains water for the first time. By 2006, Pitsford Reservoir would supply 45 million litres of water per year to homes in the area. The fire brigade had to deal with a large fire which damaged barns at the bottom of Frog Hall, in a suspected

arson attack. An open letter by Father Watkins in the previous issue prompted a lively debate about speeding in the village, particularly on Northampton Road and Froxhill Crescent, where cars were clocked at 51 mph.

## Issue 12, March 2007

The local Police was happy to announce a move back to the village, leaving temporary accommodation in Moulton in favour of St Catherine's House, Brixworth. The Parish Council helped out by subsidising the rent in the initial period, noting that the village base would result in more police on the village streets, which they hoped would help alleviate villagers' fears of antisocial behaviour by local youths – a considerable concern at the time. Sergeant Mike Grady and his team of two PCs, two PCSOs and two Special Constables had to cover 42 parishes in total. Meanwhile, a former pottery factory on Holcot Road was demolished to make way for 14 houses – today's Swansnest.

## Issue 13, June 2007

There was big news from Mercedes Benz HPE when Prince Andrew opened the company's new site on the north-eastern edge of the village. Expansion was immediately on the cards, with plans to add a second building by the end of 2008 and plans to extend both at a later date. The two new buildings would offer ample space to build F1 engines and modern workspaces for the 250 employees. On the Ashway, the long-running saga of the changing rooms finally reached its conclusion when the new rooms were formally handed over to the Parish Council. Just outside the village, Brixworth Nursery Farm – a day care centre for adults with learning difficulties – was nearing completion. Looking back into the past, the History Society provided the story of the Brixworth Union Workhouse on Spratton Road.

# ~The George~



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## Issue 14, September 2007

Unusual crops were found growing around Brixworth, with a full field of morphine-bearing poppies grown – perfectly legally – near Froxhill Terrace. The crop was harvested and sent to Scotland for processing. Plans to rejuvenate Spratton Road Recreation Ground were still under discussion, with proposals for new swings, goal posts and picnic tables and hopes for additional facilities for older children in the longer term. In Draughton, residents worked hard to obtain funding for building works on the village club room, including a new kitchen and toilet facilities. Another long-running story, the dream of converting the Uplands Centre into a local museum, came to a sad end when the History Society concluded it would not be able to raise the £50,000 needed.

Issues 17 - 21: A proposed wind farm between Brixworth and Hanging Houghton (pictured - the imagined view from All Saints Church) caused a heated debate.



its population now exceeded the 5,000 mark prompted the discussion whether Brixworth had now become a small town. Apparently the boundary of town vs village is somewhat vague – there are towns with fewer residents – but it does raise the question of just what Brixworth is today...

## Issue 15, December 2007

New play equipment arrived at Spratton Road Rec Ground. The £23,000 investment saw a new toddler play area, swings, goal posts and access gates. The factory formerly belonging to plastic extrusion company Rigiflex was demolished – Rigiflex had moved to Ferro Fields some time earlier – and work started to build 34 new homes on the site.

Schoolchildren had to say farewell to their lollipop lady when Brenda Kew, who'd spent 30 years escorting kids across Northampton Road, retired. Northants County Council hoped to find a replacement 'within months'.

There were concerns about a minority of irresponsible dog owners who let their pets foul the local parks, and the village welcomed its second Parish Nurse, Elaine Musgrove. Finally, the decision to prevent Brixworth from competing for the title of 'Village of the Year' because

## Issue 16, March 2008

Brixworth's book shop, the Fox in the Pound on Harborough Road, closed at the end of March when owner Paddy Fox – founder and editor of the Brixworth Bugle, among many other achievements – decided to call it a day.

Meanwhile, following public consultation the Parish Council decided to enforce double yellow lines at various locations in the village, including the corner outside the butcher's on Kennel Terrace/Harborough Road, the junction of Spratton and Northampton Road, and the layby on Spratton Road near the shops. Black and brown bin collections moved to a fortnightly cycle, and there was disquiet about the inadequacy of the drains in several parts of the village, causing regular flooding outside the Red Lion, on the junction of High Street and Silver Street, and the bottom of Froghall. Following intense pressure, Anglian Water agreed to install larger diameter drains.

Brixworth Youth Foundation, the organisation behind the local youth club, proudly celebrated its third birthday. There were no applications for the job of lollipop lady, and the search started to become desperate.

## Issue 17, June 2008

All the new houses being built on the Rigiflex site at Froxhill Crescent and on Holcot Road would be affordable homes, available for shared ownership or rental, it was confirmed. A scheme to reduce use of plastic bags gathered pace, with children from the Primary School designing new cotton bags, while planning permission was granted for new zebra crossing on Northampton Road opposite the Rigiflex site.

In Hanging Houghton, the development of Clint Hill Farmyard was gathering pace. Houses at what would be known as Manor Gardens would sell at between £500,000 and £1.8m. There was also first mention of a proposed wind farm under consideration between Hanging Houghton and Brixworth, much to the chagrin of both Parish Councils. Meanwhile the police were clamping down on anti-social behaviour, with local pubs being enrolled in a pub watch scheme. The vacancy for the lollipop lady still had no interest.

## Issue 18, September 2008

The proposed windfarm between Hanging Houghton and Brixworth took centre stage. No fewer than 200 people from the surrounding villages attended a public meeting, some asking questions some voicing concern. The new canvas bags, designed by pupils from Brixworth Primary School, were launched in local shops. Problems at Pitsford Reservoir's water treatment plant meant that some 250,000 people in Northamptonshire, including all the residents of Brixworth and surrounding villages, were told to boil their water before use. It was announced that Brixworth and Guilsborough Surgeries would merge to form what would be known as the Saxon Spires practice, touting access to a wider range of services.

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## Issue 19, December 2008

Mercedes HPE applied for permission to build two wind turbines on their site on the edge of the village – only to withdraw them shortly after to wait for more information. Necessary repairs to All Saints Church in Brixworth were estimated to cost over £100,000 – with just the most urgent roof repairs, at £15,000 consuming existing reserves. Sergeant Mike Grady, much respected for his work in Brixworth, said a temporary farewell to take up a temporary Inspector posting in Northampton. Jane Ames took over as Chair of the Youth Foundation from John McFadyen.

## Issue 20, March 2009

There was finally confirmation that the zebra crossing near the school would be completed by the summer – though much to the disappointment of locals, there was still no lollipop lady. A report on Brixworth's vineyard at Fleur Fields – in operation since 2004 – raise eyebrows amongst many who did not realise who did not realise that Brixworth produces thousands of bottles of wine every year. The Parish Council almost unanimously objected to the proposed windfarm between Brixworth and Hanging Houghton, mainly because of the visual impact of the historic area.

## Issue 21, June 2009

Bolsterstone plc withdrew their plans for a six-turbine wind farm, not because of local opposition but because of the extension of the runway at Sywell Airport, but planned to submit a proposal for a smaller four-turbine site within three months. The poppy-growing scheme around Brixworth came to an end as the Scottish customer reduced its requirements, while plans were being made to revive the Brixworth Flower and Produce Show, last run some 30 years earlier. The Library and Community Centre celebrated its tenth birthday with a flag raising ceremony, while Draughton welcomed the opening of its refurbished Club Room. Alas, while the zebra crossing outside the school was finally completed, there was no sign of the long-awaited lollipop lady – or crossing warden, as the role was advertised.

## Issue 22, September 2009

While final preparations were underway for the Flower and Produce Show, Central Sports marked its 40th anniversary. The Brixworth Community First Responders were launched in the hope that having a local group of trained volunteers would allow emergency treatment to arrive more quickly to help anyone with a serious illness and save lives. Meanwhile plans were submitted to build a new 'technology park' on the former timber yard (Mabbut's wood yard) on Station Road, just outside Brixworth.

## Issue 23, December 2009

The Produce and Flower Show in September proved to be a big hit, featuring some 300 exhibits and some fantastic prizes including Formula 1 memorabilia signed by Lewis Hamilton, Jensen Button, Rubens Barrichello and Ross Brawn. There were plans to turn the Uplands Building near the church, vacant for at least six years, into a Sure Start children's centre. Plans for the windfarm between Brixworth and Hanging Houghton appeared dead in the water when the company behind the scheme ceased trading.

## Issue 24, March 2010

As preparations got underway for the 2010 Brixworth Carnival planned for the summer, the Parish Council was making plans to spend up to £10,000 on a BMX/Skateboard project in the village. There was early concern that Brixworth could be heading for a significant expansion, after an assessment of development land in Northamptonshire found six suitable sites around Brixworth, which

between them could accommodate almost 800 more houses. Sergeant Mike Grady returned from his secondment as Inspector, happy to be back with his old team.

## Issue 25, June 2010

Worshippers at All Saints Church were pleased to see the completion of the new glass porch, which replaced a rather unsightly wooden porch, on the inside of the church. The Bulletin visited Haddonstone on Harborough Road and got lost in the world of landscape ornaments. The police was pleased to note – despite a slight increase from 2009 to 2010 – crime had fallen by one third since 2007. Maidwell Primary School was delighted to announce it had been rated as Outstanding in its latest Ofsted report – a huge achievement given that only six years earlier, it had been in special measures.

## The Bulletin now covers Maidwell and Scaldwell

Eagle-eyed readers will have noticed that the masthead now says that the *Bulletin* is "the quarterly newsletter of Brixworth and surrounding villages". That is because, as of this issue, the *Brixworth Bulletin* is now also distributed in Maidwell and Scaldwell, as well as Lamport, Hanging Houghton, Cottesbrooke and Brixworth, and that's frankly too much to fit on one line!

Welcome to the new villages. I hope you will find the *Bulletin* of interest. If you have any reports on events in your village, announcements or any other articles you think would be of interest to the *Bulletin's* readers, please send them to us at [editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk](mailto:editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk) – cfw

## ~The George~

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# Chris Heaton-Harris MP's WESTMINSTER REPORT

## A week is a long time in politics

Someone once said that a week was a long time in politics; well that has proven true in pretty much every week since the day of the European Union Referendum on Thursday 23rd June. In fact the political history and future direction of our country has changed in hours, or even minutes, several times over the last few weeks.

It seems like much longer than a couple of months ago that our country voted to leave the European Union – a result that shocked many people (although I did win a few pennies on it), but one that I truly believe is in the best interests of our nation (if you want to read why, you can find more information on my website, [heatonharris.com](http://heatonharris.com)). The negotiation process of our exit will be slow and considered, but the effects of the vote have already had a huge impact on what will be our political history.

For the first and perhaps most noticeable impact, I was disappointed to see the Prime Minister step down. I think he has had a fantastic and lasting impact on my party and this country. His legacy includes him presiding over a government which has reduced the deficit by two thirds and created 2.5 million more jobs. He led us out of the doom and gloom of the bad economic times that followed the banking crash/great recession of 2008 to now, where our economy is strong, businesses are thriving and banks are lending.

That leads us on to the second major impact: a new Prime Minister

in Theresa May. Those who know me know I always wanted a second female Prime Minister and I was delighted that the way the Conservative Parliamentary Party voted meant that we would have an all-women shortlist for our membership to choose from. Indeed, it was an all-women short list containing two state-educated amazing women in Parliament, who were in the final based purely on merit.

When Theresa May's rival dropped out of the race it meant the country found itself with a new Prime Minister much quicker than most expected. This was and is a good thing. After weeks of political (and therefore economic) uncertainty, the country breathed a sigh of relief that a new PM was in place and decisions were being taken.

One of the first things our new Prime Minister did was have a reshuffle and I am delighted to have been made an "Assistant Whip"; giving me the job of getting our new Prime Minister's business through the House of Commons as quickly as possible.

I know you'd expect me to say this, but I am excited about working for someone I know to be a strong leader and a brilliant negotiator – something we need to smooth our country's exit from the EU.

Gradually now the dust will settle after our "Brexit" vote and already there is evidence that Britain is being welcomed back into the global community. A large number of countries have indicated that they would like to have a trade deal with the UK (previously there could only be trade deals between the EU and other countries) including India, the USA, Canada, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand. I fully expect this list to grow rapidly and for the day we formally leave the European Union (and sign a trade deal with it) to also be the day we sign trade deals with a host of other countries.

So we have exciting times ahead – but hopefully less uncertain politically than the couple of months we have just had.

*Chris*

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## Housing Market Post-Brexit

Well, whichever way you voted, I think you can agree that we have all had an interesting and worrying few months leading up to Brexit. Now, as we stand the other side of the decision what are the facts and figures with regard to the housing market?

**Activity** - With sales grinding to a virtual halt for the two week period leading up to the vote it appears, at least for now, that we are heading back to normal. In saying that, we are still in need of more homes, both second hand and new. I guess the mere fact that we had a result was as if a weight had been lifted and people started to make firm buying decisions again.

**Prices** - It was expected, by some, that we could see prices adversely affected should the UK vote to leave the EU and, even though we are still in the early days of post Brexit, reports seem to be more positive than negative. House prices have in fact recorded a "surprise" rise in June, according to the latest Halifax house price index. They say the average UK property rose 1.3 per cent to a new record of close to £216,823 between May and June, an "unexpected" increase that was twice the rate of monthly growth between April and May. A rival index published for the same period by Nationwide, which typically shows less dramatic movements but a similar trend, estimated monthly price growth held steady in June at the same rate as the previous month.

## 60 Years Northampton Sailing Club

On Saturday 2nd July past and present members of Northampton Sailing Club and their families enjoyed a wonderful day of celebration for the Club's 60th anniversary. A traditional afternoon tea with garden games and on the water fun took place on Saturday with a disco and pork roast in the evening. The Club Annual Championships took place on the Sunday and the weather was very kind on both days.

This fun, family event saw six past Commodores joining the current Commodore, Neil Barford, in cutting a celebration cake. Many old photographs were on display charting the progress of the club to date. In his speech, Neil touched on the success of the club in introducing so many of the community to sailing, it's support to school and youth groups and the fact that previous members include Olympic participants.

The club offers RYA certificated courses through its Watersports Centre and supports new members by providing race training evenings for those new to the sport.

**Lending** - Mortgage availability is good, banks still want to lend and interest rates are at an all-time low. In the run-up to the EU vote, 5 and 10-year fixed-rate mortgages have been at some of their lowest ever levels. HSBC is now offering a five-year fix at 1.99% – matching a rate it offered last year – while Leeds building society currently has the cheapest 10-year fixed-rate deal, priced at 2.89%. HSBC has just launched Britain's first fixed-rate mortgage with a rate below 1%: a two-year fix at 0.99%.

**What now?** – I can only report the current facts and haven't got a crystal ball. The economic landscape will continue to shift following the UK's vote to leave the European Union. Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England suggests we are prudent. He says it is important to think about the affordability of loans in the long term. I would very much agree with that. Think with your heart but buy with your head! – *Stuart Little*

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# Country Eye

## Requiem for a bundle of feathers

In July 1960 I was walking slowly along the railway track bed at Kingsthorpe, eyes and ears alert for the sights and sounds of a hot summer. Grasshoppers chirped unceasingly along the rank flower-strewn grassy embankment. Clouds of butterflies, blues and browns and whites clustered around the heady nectar feasts of rampant purple knapweed. Fat bumblebees rested quietly in the foliage, drunk with sugary overload.

Every few yards it seemed a whitethroat erupted from a bush, rising maybe twenty feet or so to cast his scratchy warbler song to whoever might be listening. Late season advertising from a bird that would in a matter of weeks be heading south in search of warmer weather. Then, of a sudden, a sound like two pebbles being clinked together focused my attention. The calling was their alarm at my passing. Perched atop a tall thistle was a robin-sized bird, neat and subtly beautiful, a visual poem of brown, white and black, with striking white eye stripe, while below it was coloured a warm pinkish-buff. It was a whinchat, and at least four of them were encountered during my walk. They had made this their summer home, nested and raised a brood of five youngsters. In a week or two they too would head southwards.

The following year I found them on rough marshy grassland along the River Nene at Rushmere Meadows. Here in June two or three pairs were busily feeding young that had already left the nest and were free flying. The air seemed filled with their stony calls as they kept in contact with one another.

Exactly ten years later I was working as a fishing warden at Pitsford



Reservoir. On my patrols around the perimeter whinchats were present daily from their first arrival at the end of April until they left in September. At least four pairs raised their young there. My most recent local encounters with this delightful little bird were both nearly 20 years later. I saw one in May along the Nene not far from the Rushmere sighting, and last of all a male, still resplendent in his bright breeding dress, at Sywell Country Park. It was the end of September so most likely he had broken his migratory southwards journey, to refuel on the abundant insect life there.

So what has happened to turn the whinchat from being a regular summer breeding resident with us, to becoming not much more than an occasional vagrant at migration times? We need to turn to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) for the answer. Since 1988 they have published three impeccably accurate surveys of the status of all our birds, based on the observations of tens of thousands of keen bird watchers across the nation. An example of 'citizen science' long before the phrase was coined. It seems the whinchat's decrease in numbers began in the early 1900s. The first BTO atlas states that they had disappeared from many parts of lowland England by 1968-72. Even so they were able to reliably put the population nationally at 20,000 - 40,000 pairs.

Twenty years later, numbers had declined further, to around 14,000 pairs, while the most up-to-date survey says they have 'all but disappeared' from England. Tellingly, it goes on to put the cause of this catastrophic crash in numbers as a 'direct result of agricultural intensification'.

So let's trawl through my own observations to see how they compare. Certainly intensive farming occurs all along the railway, now the Brampton Valley Way, and part of the nation-wide network of public walkways. So this narrow strip of unimproved grassland appears insufficient on its own to sustain them.

Pitsford Reservoir is different in that it has been the natural invasion of thick scrub cover that has proved unsuitable for them. Being part of the nature reserve managed by the wildlife trust it would be possible to manage part of the area in their favour.

Finally the Nene site has disappeared under concrete and steel and glass identikit offices. So between them bland brutalist architecture and bland brutalist factory food production have seen the demise of a beautiful wild bird.

Does it matter. I think it does. And you? – Brian Webster

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# Rockin' The Park - July 2016

On the 8-10 July, Brixworth had a Rock Festival, and a bit of a beer and cider festival too, all at the same time, in the same venue. I don't know how many of the country's villages have ever had their own rock festival, but I'm thinking not many. We should be proud to have one, especially one with a charity cause at its heart.

This kind of event can only ever take place with a lot of goodwill. The budget for the festival was not large and the organisers worked a whole series of minor miracles to get it all together.

Friday night, which we didn't attend, was an informal session, but both Saturday and Sunday featured local bands and professional headliners. We had a mixture of original material, covers, and tributes, in a range of styles from rock, metal, and reggae. Something for everyone, and if something was not to your taste, there was the beer festival tent where a very nice range of beer from mainly local breweries could be sampled.



Getting into the spirit at the jam session. Photos by Ian Topham, Brixworth Photographic Society

I would like to give a special mention to both the headlining acts from the weekend. On Saturday evening we had Doctor Feelgood (pictured, left), a very well-known rhythm and blues band from South Essex. Since the 1970s they have had single and album hits. While there have been personnel changes over the years, the current line-up has been playing together for 15 years. What has never changed is the playing style which I can vouch for,

having seen the original band. The Feelgoods played a tremendous set and seemed to enjoy the open air venue and the banter with the audience. My personal highlight was Steve Walwyn's slide guitar, and the band gave us great versions of well known numbers such as Back in the Night, Down at the Doctors, and Milk and Alcohol.

On Sunday afternoon, we missed some of the early bands but did wander down in the afternoon. John Coughlan's Quo (pictured, below) played to a set of dedicated fans on Sunday. John is the original drummer of Status Quo, leaving in the 80s, but he has formed a band to play in the Quo style (almost more so than the 'real' Quo, using Marshall Amps and Telecaster guitars to replicate the sound of the original band's live heyday in the 1970s. If you just closed your eyes and listened to the sound of Sweet Caroline or Down Down, you would not know it was not Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt playing; in fact from what I hear about them, John's band are probably playing better. So it wasn't some second rate tribute outfit you were listening to, more a first rate homage.

Some of you might think well, these are acts from long ago, why should I



be interested? In fact the programme also featured a lot of younger acts and you could be watching a superstar of the future, in a field in Brixworth Country Park. You simply never know – I was present when U2 played Nene College (as it then was) library in about 1980.

Sadly, attendance numbers did not do the organisers' efforts or the quality of the bands justice. It's hard to put on an event that doesn't clash with something at this time of year, and the Sunday was one of the

big sports days of the year, but my wife and I managed to combine the two. When there is a venue you can walk to, put down your folding chair and spend all day listening to music in a very nice environment at a reasonable price supporting a very worthwhile charity at the same time, it's very difficult for me to understand why so few people locally bothered to turn up. There was plenty of publicity too.

So finally I hope that we have not seen the last of this excellent and well-organised event. – Robin Pool

## A statement from the organisers

We set out to achieve three things: To commemorate and celebrate the life of David Reger; to continue with and fulfil David's promise to raise much needed funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital; and to bring the community of Brixworth and surrounding areas together to celebrate.

We certainly believe we achieved our goals and hope that everyone who attended the festival enjoyed themselves.

We are already planning to do this again next year but to a slightly different format. The goal is to put on something even better next time.

The organisers and David's family wish to say a massive thank you to everyone who turned up, helped raise funds, sponsors, donators, volunteers, service providers and staff who all conspired to help us put this event together. In particular we wish to thank Northamptonshire Council for allowing us to stage the event in Brixworth Country Park.

We would love to hear from you with any suggestions you may have, so if you would like to offer any kind of feedback, please do so via the website [www.rockinthepark.co.uk](http://www.rockinthepark.co.uk). – Dean Barron

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# Re-use, don't recycle

If you are somebody who cares about the environment, or who has joined the growing movement for re-cycling and re-purposing, then pop down to ACE Reuse!

ACE takes re-usable goods discarded at the local Brixworth tip and sells them on, thereby making an important contribution to reducing the amount of landfill. Goods they sell include items of furniture, electrical equipment (PAT-tested for safety), toys, garden equipment, repaired white goods and general bric-a-brac.

In April, ACE was able to re-locate a little further up Harborough Road to where they now occupy the former Daisy Roots building. This move has meant they have been able to more than triple the size of their premises and the welcome addition of a car park at the back.

The business is owned by Nicky Rodwell. He runs three similar shops in Kettering and Wellingborough, which are much larger than even the new Brixworth outlet.

The Brixworth shop, which is open seven days a week (10am – 5pm Monday to Saturday and 11am – 4 pm on Sunday), is run by David Li. David is passionate about re-cycling, having worked at the Brixworth tip himself and seen a lot of needless waste going into the bins.

While many of ACE's customers come

from other parts of Northamptonshire as well as Brixworth, some visit from as far afield as West Bromwich! David says they fall into two categories – individuals of any ages who are interested in shopping at low prices, for example young couples setting up home and buying temporary furniture, and others who buy to restore and sell goods on themselves to the popular old retro and “shabby chic” market. David knows many of his customers personally and contacts them when items arrive he knows will interest them.

He says the main challenge of the business is to turn over as much stock as quickly as they can before they run out of room. However, there appears to be no difficulty in shifting eventually all the items they collect. The new premises are a great help in this regard as ACE now has the room to present items for customers to see easily.

Someone from ACE is permanently stationed at the tip to manage collections and delivery to the shop. In addition, individuals can bring unwanted items to the premises themselves and ACE also offer house clearances.

David encourages anybody in Brixworth to consider previously-owned items before going shopping. “If you need anything, do come in and have a look. We price very reasonably. You don't always need to buy new.”

– Jennifer Fitzgerald

## National Service remembered

One of our local historians, Tony Dawson, recently published a book about his time in National Service more than sixty years ago. Tony was a Brixworth resident all his life, and former chair of the Brixworth History Society.

Being sent abroad from the age of 18 to nearly 21, was a very formative experience for a young man who had never left the village before. Over three years, Tony found himself visiting more than fifteen different countries, mainly in the Far East.

Tony says, “I wrote this book not as an autobiography as such, but as an attempt to record, in as much detail as I could, the experiences of being a British National Serviceman during the mid-fifties.”

The book details Tony's life during the aftermath of the Korean war – he recounts the conditions in Korea as utterly dreadful at that time – and during the Suez crisis, which meant Tony's service was extended as British military forces were unable to get home easily.

Serving as a Corporal NCO and trained in heavy transportation, Tony was sent on many different missions, often on his own, to link up with different military detachments who needed his support. His proudest period was when stationed alongside Gurkhas with the 6th Burma Rifles and wore their symbol of crossed knives on his uniform.

His book is full of interesting anecdotes and humorous incidents. These include the story of one night when Tony was attached to a mobile army dental unit situated in the middle of a jungle clearing in Malaya. A terrific noise raised the alarm and suspicion that the camp was under attack by Chinese terrorists. However, the intrusion turned out to be nothing more serious than a water buffalo that had got stuck on the perimeter fence!

His family encouraged Tony to write it all down. Although it was the first book he had written – Tony is now working on a couple of others – he didn't find the process particularly hard, and working in a systematic manner, he completed it over a period of about three years.

Tony says, “I hope everyone will find this book interesting to read, especially young people contemplating a career in uniform”.

– Jennifer Fitzgerald

“National Service – A Slot in Life” by Anthony Dawson is available on Amazon as a Kindle edition.

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# The Churchyard at All Saints

There has been a lot of comment regarding the churchyard of late, and we thought we would clarify a few things.

Below are some key questions and answers about the churchyard.

If you would like to help, or discuss any part of it, then do please feel free to get in touch.

## **Q. Who is responsible for the churchyard?**

A. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible. This is a volunteer group of churchgoers elected from the congregation annually. This is not the same as the village Parish Council, which is a civil organisation. The Parish Council does become responsible for maintenance after the churchyard is closed – but more on that later.

## **Q. Who maintains the grass?**

A. The Church is heavily reliant on a network of local volunteers who give their time and equipment freely to maintain the grass. We used to maintain this via sheep, but due to complaints regarding them eating the flowers, we have switched to human effort.

Despite this, we never seem to have enough helping hands, and we have unfortunately lost a couple of our key volunteers in the last few years which has had a noticeable impact. If you can volunteer to help with this maintenance do please get in touch. We have a mower you can use, and will provide training and safety equipment.

## **Q. Can't you just hire someone to mow the grass?**

A. External contractors cost around £500 a time. This is a lot of money for us, as we only have what is donated on the plate at our Sunday Services. We do not receive any monies from the Parish Council or the government for this.

Hopefully the Bulletin readers will have noticed that we did indeed commission a contractor to break the back of it but we can't do this that often as we simply don't have the funds. We hope new volunteers can help maintain it through the rest of summer.

## **Q. I can't give my time, but can I help with the churchyard upkeep via a donation?**

A. Of course. Please contact our Treasurer.

## **Q. I pay my taxes, can't you just ask the Parish Council for money?**

A. Unfortunately, Brixworth Parish Council has decided they will not fund grant applications from religious organisations. This was recently reaffirmed (28/06/16) when a grant application for tree maintenance was declined on this basis. We believe this to be wholly without merit and have appealed. If you agree we suggest you make your opinions known to your Parish Council.

Hence the only current source of funding for churchyard maintenance is via the Church congregation.

## **Q. The Church is rich, can't the Queen pay for it?**

A. This is a popular misconception. The fact is our Church is a heritage site of international significance and whilst it is a privilege to worship and live near such a site, it does require significant upkeep. Our accounts are reviewed annually and are available from the PCC treasurer. The inconvenient truth is the other churches in the diocese are already subsidising the parish by a large sum to keep the church at its current levels. This isn't fair.

## **Q. Why can't you charge the families of the people in the churchyard for maintenance?**

This is harder than it sounds. Firstly, families can leave or not be from the area and it can be difficult to trace them. Secondly, consider what happens if a family fails to pay. The PCC are just fellow normal villagers like yourself – we're really not in the business of going around and demanding monies with menaces, nor would we want to!

## **Q. So, what's the future - what happens when the churchyard is full?**

At the current rate of internments, we expect this to occur within seven to ten years. This has already been flagged in the recent Neighbourhood Plan.

Brixworth PCC have no intention of



purchasing additional land once the churchyard is full. Simply put, we do not have the six-figure sums for such an investment.

Once the Closing Order has been granted, a PCC may require the Parish Council to take over the maintenance of the churchyard within three months. PCCs usually try to give at least 12 months notice, so that Parish Councils can budget for this. We have already notified Brixworth Parish Council of our near term intentions, so that they can consider funding and buy suitable land for the next burial ground – unless the village decides to simply use the Civil Cemetery at Kingsthorpe.

More information is available at [www.peterboroughdiocesanregistry.co.uk/churchyards.html](http://www.peterboroughdiocesanregistry.co.uk/churchyards.html) and [brixworthchurch.com](http://brixworthchurch.com).  
– Anthony Farrow, for and on behalf of the Brixworth PCC

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# Guides swim from Brixworth to Scaldwell

The 1st Scaldwell Guides are to be congratulated for their magnificent efforts in this year's Swimarathon. Not only did they enter in two teams, who completed 178 lengths in their one hour in the 25 metre pool, they also collected £491 in individual sponsorship. Their total swim was equivalent to 2.75 miles – further than from Brixworth to Scaldwell. Very well done!

Teams participating in this event can nominate a charity or good cause to receive 50% of the sponsorship money they have raised. The 1st Scaldwell Guides have chosen to use their £245 to go towards the running of their group.

The swimmers are, from left to right, Barry (honorary Guide for the day), Poppy, Heidi (behind Poppy), Bethany, Jill (Guide Leader), Chloe, Mollie, Katie, Vicki and Janine. Jess and Lily also swam but are not in the photo.

We were delighted when this year's Swimarathon received a Community Service Award from the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians. This prestigious International Award is for promoting service to Youth through Scouting and Guiding.

The Swimarathon is an annual event organised by the four Rotary Clubs in Northampton and our next event is scheduled for 25th and 26th March 2017. For more information, visit [www.swimarathon.com](http://www.swimarathon.com). – Stan Evans, on behalf of the Swimarathon Committee



## And they host tea & coffee parties too!

On Tuesday 7th June, The Scaldwell Girl Guides, 1st Brixworth Brownies and Brixworth Rainbows joined together and hosted a tea party at The Centre celebrating the Queens 90th Birthday. There were 43 girls in total who all participated in several arts and craft activities during the evening and then finished with a tea party and of course, lots of cake which was very kindly donated by Cakery Bay (Louisa Nycz)

A couple of weeks earlier, the Guides hosted a coffee evening to celebrate their fundraising activities, which was extremely well supported. Stan Evans from the Rotary Club came to speak about the Swimarathon (see below), which raised £491. Alison McCulloch, charity co-ordinator for Northampton General Hospital, attended to present certificates to the Guides and their supporters for raising £662 for the hospital and its chemotherapy unit – money painstakingly raised via a “penny pot” challenge. A total that far exceeded our expectations!

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. We give girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. Rainbows are for girls age 5-7yrs, Brownies 7-10yrs, Guides 10-14yrs

Rainbows meet at The Community Centre, Wednesdays 4pm-4.45pm.

1st Brixworth Brownies take place at The Centre on Tuesdays 5.45pm – 7pm.

1st Scaldwell Guides takes place at The Centre on Tuesdays 7pm-9pm.

It is all about having fun and making new friends! Take part in lots of activities including cooking, crafts, challenges, camping and outings. For more information, contact Jill Gunnett on 880929 or visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

For information on Rainbows or Brownies, please call 0800 169 5901 or visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk). – Vicki Howlett, Jill Gunnett and Kerry Ferrier

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# Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Both the **Beavers** groups had a great night playing games with potatoes, found lots of bugs on a walk through the Kelmarsh Tunnels, took part in a scavenger hunt, played some great games with dads, mums and other adults that came as their partners and got 'slightly' wet with water games in the Ashway Park. Finally we had a party in Scaldwell Park, celebrating the Queen's 90th and Beavers 30th birthdays.

Meanwhile the **Cubs** took part in a sponsored cycle ride around the reservoir, joined other Cubs from across Northamptonshire at the County Cub Camp, carried out their own Olympics, played wide games and held an American night.

The two **Scout** troops sent some teams to take part in the Daventry District night hike, built a whole host of things on pioneering night, held a BBQ and played wide games and also held their own Olympics.

Our **Explorer** Unit was visited by a guest speaker from the local history society, held a movie night, went scuba diving, took part in driving lessons, made father's day gifts, played Tennis and went trampolining. This August a number of them are travelling to the World Scout Camp at Kandersteg, Switzerland. We wish them a safe and enjoyable trip.

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit <http://scouts.org.uk>. To find out more about Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group, please contact Pete Lennon, Group Scout Leader, [brixworth\\_gsl@btopenworld.com](mailto:brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com). – Kim Phillips


## Cash grants for under 25s

The Foundation of Thomas Roe is a small local charity, which is dedicated to providing cash grants to deserving persons under the age of 25 who reside within the parishes of Brixworth and Scaldwell for educational purposes.

Applications to the charity can be made for cash grants to assist with for example the cost of a school trip, the cost of equipment and books for a college course, musical instruments, travelling expenses linked to an educational venture or even the cost of school uniform.


The trustees meet twice a year in September and in March. The next meeting is on 28 September.

Application forms are available at Brixworth library, the Brixworth and Scaldwell parish council websites, or from the clerk Ursula Morris (505554 or [ursula@ursulamorris.co.uk](mailto:ursula@ursulamorris.co.uk)).



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## Do you enjoy singing?

The choir of All Saints, Brixworth require new members! Why not give it a go? We will be holding a choral workshop on 8 October, 2-5 pm. Anyone is welcome to come and have a sing, meet the current choir members and find out what a friendly group we are. The workshop will be run by two professional singers accompanied by the church organist. All you need is the desire to sing – come and have a go! – *Chloe Willson-Thomas*

# Lampport and Hanging Houghton News

Another burglary took place in July in one of the apartments in the Grange. Thieves got away with computer equipment and iPads. Please be vigilant and secure all windows and doors, particularly during hot weather.

A very successful village fete was held on the Sunday the 24th July to raise funds for the refurbishment of Lampport Church. The event took place at Roger and Susie Woods' farm in Lampport on a lovely sunny afternoon. There were lots of games and stalls to enjoy and fine cakes and refreshments on sale in the marquee. The fund raising committee are to be congratulated for all their hard work in organising such a fine event, which I am told raised a good sum for the refurbishment coffers. Thanks are also due to the Lampport Estate for providing car parking and offering free access to the walled gardens at the Hall.

Thanks are also due to all of the local residents who manned the various stalls, I was particularly impressed with the "car park attendant" on the day, who was very helpful!

At one of the Sunday church services in July which coincided with the wedding anniversary of Paul and Sue Chamberlain a special dedication took place of a kneeler that Sue was working on before she died, which Mary Parker kindly completed. Afterwards in the graveyard the ashes of Sue and Paul were interred at their headstone. – *Mike Philpott*



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# The History Society

When we reach that time of year which is laughingly called British Summertime, members of Brixworth History Society like to get out and about to discover the history around them.

At the end of May, blessed with a beautiful day, a dozen members and friends headed to Leicester. Blue Badge Guide Colin Crosby took us to the central square on the old Fosse Way, originally a Roman Road running from Lincoln to Exeter. On the way we passed the Travelodge now standing on the site of the White Boar Inn where Richard III is alleged to have stayed the night before the battle. Next we visited Jewry Wall which despite its name is also of Roman origin, and which is next to the ruins of the Roman Baths.

Then on to Bow Bridge. Although not the original medieval bridge, its attractive Victorian replacement stands on the site of the bridge which Richard III would have crossed on his way to do battle with Henry Tudor. Legend has it that as he rode out his spur caught the bridge. A wise woman predicted that on his return it would be his head that caught the bridge. When his naked body was brought back, slung over the back of a horse, his head did indeed hit the bridge.

We returned via Castle Park. The medieval castle itself was built on the ruins of the old Roman Wall. Some of the bricks from the wall are also incorporated into Brixworth Church.

Finally we went to the Cathedral, where we saw in awe the tomb of the last Plantagenet.

In June we took a trip on the canals. The Grand Union and the Oxford Canal are both over two hundred years old and their coming transformed the local boot and shoe industry, giving them improved access to their markets. We hired a boat from the lovely village of Braunston. Soon we crossed the baby River Leam at the start of its journey to Leamington Spa and the River Avon. We travelled on through meadows full of clouds of golden buttercups and canal banks lined with yellow Flag Iris. Our destination was the bottom of Napton Locks where we found we had to go through the bottom lock in order to have enough room to turn round. Fortunately the volunteer lockkeeper could not have been more helpful. A thoroughly enjoyable day.



Our annual coach trip saw us head to Hereford with its impressive Norman Cathedral and a viewing of the Mappa Mundi. It is very strange to look at this early medieval map which showed Jerusalem as being in the centre and England in the bottom corner. Hereford boasts several other early buildings and museums and is well worth a visit.

Later in July we took another canal trip, this time from Cosgrove, following the Grand Union southwards. The Grand Union is a much later canal than the Oxford and improved engineering techniques resulted in it being broader and straighter than its older cousin. Amongst the interesting features was the cast iron aqueduct soaring over the Great Ouse. Built in 1811, the aqueduct replaced the previous brick-built structure which collapsed. This had been designed to replace the nine locks

which originally enabled the canal to cross the river valley. Further on we passed Wolverton with its eye-catching mural of a steam train on the wall of the old railway workshops.

In August and by the time you read this, we will have continued our 15th century theme with a visit to Bosworth Battlefield for a guided tour and explanation of the events which took place there over 500 years ago changing the course of English history.

In the autumn we return to the Village Hall for our regular monthly meetings kicking off in September with a talk on the history of the Saints Rugby Football Club. Looking further ahead plans are being laid for a long weekend in Normandy during the summer of 2017. We hope this will include a visit to the famous Pegasus Bridge.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings and we are always pleased if you decide to join us as full members. More details can be found on [www.brixworth.org](http://www.brixworth.org) and our Facebook pages. – Dennis Coles

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# Brixworth & District U3A

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



On the gloriously sunny Monday 18th July, eighteen members of the Architecture Group including friends and guests visited Apethorpe Palace near Oundle (pictured). This is a fascinating building with a long and very chequered history. Having fallen into disrepair in the 1980s, the palace was compulsorily purchased and put into the care of English Heritage. They carried out a programme of essential repairs but it was always their intention to sell the house on, preferably for single family private occupation. This was a tall order but, in 2014, it was announced that the palace had been sold to French anglophiles Baron and Baroness von Pffetten.

It is now one of their main residences and they continue to complete the restoration whilst occupying a private wing and agreeing to an 80-year commitment of 50 days public access to the historic state apartments and gardens.

Our English Heritage guide was exceptionally well informed and gave us an informative and fascinating tour of the palace and grounds.

Access to the Apethorpe Palace is strictly by appointment only through English Heritage and, following our visit, comes highly recommended.

The Theatre Group had their annual visit to Tolethorpe House open air theatre. The weather was perfect and 17 members enjoyed picnicking in the lovely grounds before seeing the matinee performance of "The Tempest".

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

## Planning update

<b>DA/2015/0638 Land off Merry Tom Lane</b> Construction of single dwelling with access road and formation of access to Merry Tom Lane	BPC Objection DDC Refused
<b>DA/2016/0130 Land To East Of Northampton Road</b> Variation of Condition 28 of planning permission DA/2014/0900 (up to 90 dwellings, doctor surgery etc) for details of access, footpaths and drainage prior to the occupation of the doctors surgery	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

<b>DA/2016/0166 22 Dairy Close</b> First floor rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2016/0129 Park Farm, Spratton Road</b> Construction of new livestock shed	PC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2016/0345 5 Willow Gardens</b> Single storey side extension	PC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2016/0495 Land at Ironstone Way</b> Construction of classic car storage garage	PC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2016/0511 3 Andrews Court</b> Single storey rear extension and conversion of part of garage to habitable room	PC No Objection DDC Approved

### Christmas Portrait Sessions

Brixworth Photography Society will be holding their annual Christmas Portrait Sessions once again in aid of local charities.

The sessions will be held on the last weekend in November in the Community Centre, Spratton Road.

If you're interested, please contact Ian Topham ([ian@tophams.net](mailto:ian@tophams.net)) or message via local Facebook pages to book your session.  
– Ian Topham

### Notice of Engagement

Previous Brixworth residents Sandra and Gary Skinner are absolutely delighted to announce the engagement of their fourth daughter Roxhannah to Mr Liam Wright of Gorleston, Great Yarmouth.

So happy for both of you and Arrabella.  
Mum and Dad xxx

## Social Centre

## Moulton THE VENUE

The College Social Centre is a state-of-the-art, fully licensed facility, comprising the Barn Bar, the Chris Alderson-Smith Dining Suite and the Loft Bar.

The Barn Bar is a large, open plan area accommodating up to 200 people that can be used for a variety of different events, including trade fairs, birthday parties, Christmas parties, Christening receptions, dance classes, group meetings and training events.

The Loft Bar is a smaller, more intimate venue that can be used as part of a larger event or on its own for smaller events.

To discuss any aspect of these facilities please email: [thevenue@moulton.ac.uk](mailto:thevenue@moulton.ac.uk)

Or contact one of our Hotel Services Managers on: 01604 491131

Moulton College, Pitsford Road, Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7SY

[thevenue.moulton.ac.uk](http://thevenue.moulton.ac.uk)

Search for us on: [www.venuefinder.com](http://www.venuefinder.com)

Chris Alderson-Smith Dining Suite	No charge if a full meal is booked
The Barn	£100 per day Friday to Sunday £30 Monday to Thursday evening Additional charges during December
The Loft	£100 per day Friday to Sunday £20 Monday to Thursday evening





# BRIXWORTH MATTERS

 BCF Community Church

May I take this opportunity to say a huge 'thank you' to all those who have so kindly welcomed myself and my family to Brixworth. The messages of support and encouraging personal conversations we've had particularly down at the Olive Branch Coffee Shop have been so uplifting, and for this we are very grateful.

It is such a huge privilege to serve God as Pastor in this community. It is one that I will endeavour to do with all my heart. One such responsibility is a short thought within this article, so here goes for my first one.....

Politically speaking it has been quite a year already hasn't it, with much change and turmoil.

The EU referendum result back in June shook many people's foundations, politically, financially and personally. It may have caused many to ask questions like – 'What are my foundations built on?' What is the strength of my long term security?

Some may look to money, a job, a person or even a political figure for strength and security however, real strength will only be put to the test when the 'storms of life' hit us out of the blue.

Jesus said, 'He who hears the words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on rock.'

Jesus was saying that his words bring life, and put into practice, they can provide the strength that we need to get us through every storm of life when they come, and every shock to the system, whether it be political or something a lot more personal and painful. Through him we receive a spiritual security that will last for all eternity.

Every blessing,

Andy [Contact Andy Lloyd Williams on 07958 604961](tel:07958604961)



## My Family

Here are my family; Hazel my wife and my two children, Summer (7) and Lucas (6). The children are already getting know many children in the area through church activities and they will be going to Brixworth Primary School from September.

I've been a Leicester City fan all my life so it's fair to say it's been a good 12 months! My wife and I both enjoy sport and keeping relatively fit. It includes hiking, biking

and swimming and I completed my first proper Triathlon a couple of years ago. I love cooking and we enjoy being outdoors and having fun with our kids. However, we can't deny that when they go to bed and I'm not out with a church responsibility it's difficult to beat a takeaway, a box of Maltesers and chilling out in front of a decent film!

As a church we meet down at the school on Sundays at 10.30am and we'd love to see you down there!



**Ordination Service for Andy Lloyd-Williams**

**Saturday 3rd September 2016**

Come and join us at the Village Hall from 3 pm. 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.



## Summer Holiday Children's Club 2016

The BCF Summer Holiday Club went really well again this year, with 66 children attending. The memory verse came from Proverbs 3 "Trust in the Lord completely". Which was very apt, as we had moved to a smaller venue, and that's exactly what we had to do. As many of you know the school is undergoing some extensive building work, so we were unable to run the holiday club there. After much thought and risk assessments we decided to go ahead and run the club on a smaller scale at the Library and Community Centre. All that came seemed to have a fantastic time getting involved in the various different activities. Mop Hockey was a clear favourite (big thanks to James from

NAYC), not to mention the joy clearly being experienced with the "Fun and Games" and the "Arts and Crafts".

A big thanks to our friends from Mississippi, and all the volunteers from this brilliant community that helped to make this such a great Holiday Club. Thanks also to Jill Barber and her team at the Library for the use of the mezzanine floor, and to the Northamptonshire Community Foundation who awarded us with a grant to help with the cost of the Holiday Club.

God willing, we hope to be running all future Holiday Clubs back at the school.

From all your friends at BCF Community Church.



## Phil Walter - 20 years of Service



Sunday June 12th. saw us celebrating Rev. Phil Walter's 20+ years of service to the church and community. We are sad to see him step down after such a long time. He felt it was time to move on to a new challenge advising churches nationally from his many years of experience, before he retires.

Our new Pastor, Andy Lloyd-Williams opened the time of celebration, then Andrew Reid a past church Elder spoke incorporating anecdotes from when he worked with Phil in Brixworth. After that an amazing buffet lunch appeared it seemed out of nowhere. There was then time for some of the 120 visitors both local and from further afield to pay tribute to Phil and his wife Ruth. We will really miss Rev. Phil leading BCF Community Church, but he is not leaving the village so you will still have chance to catch up with him in the shops and of course the Olive Branch Coffee Shop which he help start.

## The Alpha Course

Alpha really is for anyone who's curious. The DVD talks are designed to encourage debate and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment.

10 weekly sessions to include a FREE 2 course meal.

Starts: September 2016 7-9pm

Where: The Olive Branch, Brixworth Library and Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DS

For further 'info' contact Mark on 07922 644673 or Facebook BCF Community Church



## 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

<b>Sunday:</b>	10:30 – 11:45	Main Service of Worship (Brixworth School) (including Junior Church and Creche)
<b>Monday:</b>	20:00 – 21:30	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
<b>Tuesday:</b>	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
<b>Wednesday:</b>	20:00 – 21:30	Home study Groups
<b>Thursday:</b>	10:00 – 11:30	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group*
<b>Friday:</b>	17:00 – 18:00 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

# All Saints' Church, Brixworth

Dear Friends,

## What is your "Be-attitude" to life?

September is a time of new beginnings. With the summer holidays over we come into a new season and period of change before the winter sets in. In the early weeks of September the theme in our services is Jesus' teaching in his great Sermon on the Mount. He lists a short series of ways in which we can enjoy life to the full—and basically 'be happy'. These are called the "Beatitudes." In short, they ask that we hunger and thirst for what is right and just in our world, and that in humility and gentleness we should try and extend tolerance and forgiveness to all around us.

I write this in the wake of several shocking and sickening terrorist attacks in our world, which convinces me all the more, that Jesus' words, although written two thousand years ago, are completely relevant for our violent and unpredictable world today. They give us a wonderful example to follow as we seek to make changes in our lives. This should be our "be-attitude" to life.

Our beautiful and historic church here in Brixworth continues to change and evolve, as you can see from what is going on here on the opposite page. And yet we seek to constantly live and breathe the values that Jesus asked of his disciples, which will never change. We ask you to share those values by coming in amongst us. You are very welcome.

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

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



*Rev. Chloe*



**Fathers' Day Afternoon Tea**



**Pets' Service**

PATTERN OF SERVICES		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month</b>	10.30am	All-Age Service
	11.45am	Said Eucharist
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	7.45am	Said Eucharist
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	10.30am	Sung Eucharist with Junior Church
	6.00pm	Taizé Service
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
WEEKDAY SERVICES		
<b>Tuesdays</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**Weddings:**

Russell Edwards and Jennie Green; Kelvin Rose and Katherine Jenner

**Baptisms:**

Ted Oldfield, Molly Kiziak, Charlie Kiziak, Elliot Leeson, Isla Hafford, Simon Neal, Claudia Neal, Victoria Eldridge, Brooklyn Dawson, Levi Conner, Charlotte Pilsworth

**Burials:**

Kenneth Seymour, Ann Seymour, Barbara Chapman, Peter England, Frederick Smith, Peggy Marriot, Norma Causby, Anthony Saxby



# New website address: [www.brixworthchurch.com](http://www.brixworthchurch.com)

## JELLYBEANS TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays, at 1.30pm  
in the Brixworth Centre

## Pudding Party

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
7-9pm

In Brixworth Church

A choice of delicious desserts and puddings to choose from.



**Growing Saints - Our Junior Church** meets every third Sunday of the month, in church at the 10.30 service (except in August).

Join us to learn more about Jesus whilst having fun in a friendly and caring environment.

For primary and preschool children.



## BRIXWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL



16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September  
and 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September



## Volunteers needed to help with the upkeep of the Churchyard.

Can you spare an hour or two once a month to help with the cutting of the grass?

If so, please contact  
Vanessa Crooks on  
01604 882058



Mower and safety gear available for use

## All Saints Christmas Market

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2-4pm

In Brixworth Church

Father Christmas will turn on  
the tree lights at 3pm



★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Christmas Tree Festival  
3<sup>rd</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December





## What can we do?

In the maze of Government, County Councils, District Councils, Parish Councils... who does what? What exactly are a Parish Council's responsibilities?

Here is a handy list of some of the duties we **must** do and the powers we **can** use.

Our duties, the **MUST** dos

**Accounts** We must keep proper accounts which are audited and have someone responsible for keeping them.

**Acceptance of Office** All Parish Councillors have to sign to say they will follow the law and the rules of the Parish Council.

**Annual Parish Meeting** We must hold one for anyone in the Parish to attend if they wish. This is a meeting about parish matters, not just Parish Council matters. Anyone could call it, but in reality it is the Parish Council which does.

**Annual Parish Council Meeting** Called by the Parish Council as a "summing up" of what they have done during the year and electing new Officers.

**Bio-diversity** – duty to consider it in all Council activity.

**Website information** – duty to provide information.

Our Powers – **CAN** dos

**Allotments** – we can provide allotments if that is possible. The price of land makes this very expensive. There are already two allotment sites in the village.

**Burial grounds** At present Parish Council provision of this is not necessary in Brixworth.

**Bus shelters** – we do provide bus shelters. Some near new estates are given to us by developers.

**Bye-laws** We have bye laws for our Recreation Grounds which have the force of law.

**Christmas lights** – we are looking to support Christmas lights in the village this year.

**Citizens Advice** – In the past we have given grants to Daventry CAB.

**Community Centres** – The Parish Council are trustees of the charity which runs the library and community centre building.

**Crime prevention** – We have Speedwatch in the village with members of the local community being trained to use radar speed guns to educate speeding motorists. It is now run by the Community, but the Parish Council set it up initially. It runs at no cost to the Parish Council.

**Entertainment** – power to support

**Highways** – Much is done by County or District Councils, but the Parish provide street seats and some street lighting. Lots of the trees in public places in the village belong to the Parish Council and we maintain them. There is also the Millennium Garden, the flower beds outside the library and grass cutting within the village. We have a right to be consulted on new roads, even the street names! We can also place signs such as warning of narrow streets.

**Litter** – We provide a large number of litter bins and dog waste bins.

**Newsletters** – our newsletter is published in the Brixworth Bulletin at regular intervals, supplemented by our website and Twitter and Facebook feeds in between times.

**Parks** – we own and maintain St Davids Rec, Spratton Road Rec, the Ashway Sports Field, the Pocket Park near Eaglehurst and a number of smaller patches of land throughout the village. We provide and maintain play equipment on them.

**Planning** We are consultees on Planning Applications, though the District Council makes the final decision.

**Traffic calming** – we can take measures to reduce speeding such as our work with Silver Street.

**Transport** – powers to fund community transport schemes.

**Village signs** – powers to provide.

**War memorials** – The Parish Council has taken on the right to maintain this listed memorial and in recent times has arranged its cleaning.

**What else could we provide?**

Not top of our list, but we have powers to provide Public Clocks, to buy land, can subsidise any telecommunications facilities, provide public toilets.

**And...**

We can provide Public Wash Houses under a 1936 Act, Boating Lakes, Holiday Camps and run our own Lottery!

You may be relieved that your Parish Council has no plans to carry out any of these at present!

Finally, we can spend a limited amount of money each year on anything else that would benefit the community.

So how do we know what you want? We hold surgeries where the public can tell us, we know through listening to you. But best of all TELL US!



## Liz Wiig

Brixworth Parish Council was saddened to learn of the passing of Liz Wiig. Liz served the local community as a Parish Councillor for 13 years, including some time as

Chairman of the Parish Council. Liz was also a Daventry District Councillor for many years. The Parish Council sends its sincere condolences to her family and friends.

## Planning matters

Welcome to the first report of the new council on planning matters.

Since the last report no major applications have been received, applications have generally been for domestic extensions and work to trees.

Whilst negotiations continue between Barratt's and Northamptonshire County Council it is understood procurement of a contractor to construct the new surgery is underway, more information on this to follow in next issue.



Work on the Chinese takeaway and Indian restaurant are continuing, with both looking like they will shortly be opening for business, no doubt opening dates and opening times will be published on social media.

As many of you will be aware Moulton School have issued a consultative document on increasing the intake.

Daventry District Council has also advised they will be issuing an updated strategy on the provision of affordable homes in the district. Further information on this will follow in the future together with any impact on Brixworth.

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 Parish Council.



## Parish Council meetings September to November

### Full Council meetings

27th September 7.15pm  
25th October 7.15pm  
22nd November 7.15pm

### Planning meetings

5th September 7.30pm  
26th September 7.30pm  
17th October 7.30pm  
9th November 7.30pm

### Media & Communications Meetings

14th September 7.30pm  
12th October 7.30pm  
9th November 7.30pm

## Brixworth Parish Council

Alexander Coles (Chairman)

Ian Barratt

Jacqueline Bird

Neal Brown

Stephen James

Sandra Moxon

Kevin Parker

Justyna Pittam

Peter Saxton

Clerk: Mrs 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

# Library events

## Summer holiday activities

"The Big Friendly Read" Summer Reading Challenge 2016 ends Saturday 10th September for 4-12 year olds. There are only a few days left to get your six books read to get your certificate and medal.

Look out for details about our Roald Dahl 100th Birthday Celebration in September!

## Activities for Under 5s

### 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

### Baby weigh-in clinic

Thursdays 10am – 12noon, followed by developmental checks.

### Rhymetime for the Under 5s

Fridays 10.20am for 10.30am start

### IAIM Infant Massage with Leveta Lawson

Wednesday mornings 11am – 12 noon term-time only.

These are five week courses for parent/ carer and baby (from age six weeks). Price is £60 per course to include all materials.

All Under 5s activities are in the Children's Centre Area on the mezzanine – lift available in foyer. The Children's Centre area is closed to other users when Under 5s sessions are taking place.

## Activities for children up to 12

### Crafts

Saturdays 9am – 1pm, Sundays 11am – 2pm

### Messy Crafts

Wednesdays 2.30pm every school holiday. Under 8s must be accompanied. Free, but please book in advance either at the library or email [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk)

## Adult events

New every Sunday!

### Colour Me Calm - Adults' Colouring

Free and suitable for all ages teens upwards. All materials provided, we have a wide selection of colouring sheets to choose from. Drop in from 11am to 2pm.

### Book Club

The Morning Readers meet the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30am. For information, email [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk)

### NAB Mobile Unit

On the library forecourt Wednesday 23rd November 11:30am – 12:45pm. Drop in for help and advice on visual impairment issues.

## Theatre

We are hosting Mark Carey's "Into The Breach" at the library on Friday 30th September at 7.30pm on the mezzanine. Tickets are on sale at the library and cost £7.50 each to include refreshments.

## IT Buddies

Our wonderful volunteer IT Buddy Robin is available if you need help with IT basics, using a lap top, want to get to grips with a new iPad, or any other IT questions or queries. Unfortunately we have lost our other IT Buddy, Nick Sims, which leaves us very short-handed. If you need help, please contact the library to make an appointment.

## Get involved

We are looking to set up a new "Friends of Brixworth Library Group" this September. Anyone interested please contact Jill Barber at [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk).

Thinking of a career working with children, but need some experience first? We have volunteering roles for **Under 5s Activities Helpers/ Leaders** and **Children's Crafts Activities Helpers/Leaders** 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. We would particularly like Rhymetime Helpers (no singing required!) and Rhymetime Leaders.

We are urgently looking for a new **IT Buddy**. This is a very popular service, and following the departure of one of our existing IT Buddies we are very keen to recruit more. The hours are flexible, and we can book people in for whatever time is convenient for the volunteer within Library opening hours.

We also welcome anyone volunteering for their **Duke of Edinburgh Award**.

For any of the above roles, or for more information on volunteering at the library, come in and speak to Jill, or apply online at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved)

## Other Services

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

## Opening Hours

Monday – Friday 10am to 6pm  
Saturdays 9am to 1pm  
Sundays 11am to 2pm

Closed on Monday 29th August. - Jill Barber

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# What's on

Area event Local event

Submit yours at [www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk](http://www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk)

7 Sep	Squeeze	Derngate
8 Sep	Simon & Garfunkel Story	Derngate
8 Sep	Chinese State Circus	Lighthouse
9 Sep	Joan Collins	Derngate
10 Sep	Sounds of Philadelphia	Derngate
10-17/9	A Tale of Two Cities	Royal
16 Sep	Sounds of the 50s	Derngate
11 Sep	Chas and Dave	Derngate
14 Sep	Sean Lock	Derngate
15 Sep	John Lodge	Derngate
17 Sep	Sue Perkins Live	Derngate
18 Sep	Dahlia Festival	Kelmarsh Hall
19-24/9	Dead Sheep	Royal
16 Sep	Brixworth Music Festival: Northampton Concert Band - Best of British	Church of All Saints
17 Sep	BMF: Northampton Chamber Orchestra	Church of All Saints
18 Sep	BMF: An Evening of Poetry and Song	Church of All Saints
21-Sep	BMF: Postcards from Russia - Piano Recital	Church of All Saints
21 Sept - 2 Oct	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Derngate
23 Sep	BMF: The Tedesca String Quartet	Church of All Saints
23 Sep	Forbidden Nights	Lighthouse
24 Sep	BMF: The Accordion: Sorrow and Seduction; with Irene Urbach	Church of All Saints
24 Sep	The Rubettes	Lighthouse
24-25/9	Althorp Food Festival	Althorp House
24-25 Sept	Secret Gala Weekend	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
25 Sep	John Lodge	Lighthouse
25 Sep	BMF: Sung Eucharist	Church of All Saints
25 Sep	BMF: Song for Athene: Fiori Musicali	Church of All Saints
28 Sep	Miles Jupp	Royal
28 Sep	Meeting of the Trustees of the Thomas Roe Foundation	Heritage Centre
30 Sep	John Lennon through a Glass Onion	Royal
30 Sep	Into The Breach - Mark Carey	Brixworth Library
1 Oct	James Acaster	Royal
4-5/10	Richard Alston Dance	Derngate
6 Oct	60s Gold	Derngate

7 Oct	Puppetry of the Penis	Derngate
8 Oct	Killer Queen	Derngate
8-9/10	Gift & Craft Fair	Lamport Hall
9 Oct	The Greatest Love of All	Derngate
10 Oct	Jimmy Osmond	Derngate
10-15/10	The Woman in Black	Derngate
11 Oct	Brixworth Belles Chocolate demonstration	Brixworth Village Hall
12 Oct	10cc	Derngate
13 Oct	UB40	Derngate
14 Oct	Brian Cox	Derngate
15-16/10	Malcolm Arnold Festival	Derngate
16 Oct	Graeme Swann	Derngate
17 Oct	Ministry of Science Live	Derngate
17-19/10	The Complete Deaths	Derngate
18 Oct	Jimmy Carr	Derngate
20 Oct	Solid Gold Rock'n'Roll	Derngate
20 Oct	Marcus Brigstocke	Royal
21 Oct	Steve Backshall's Wild World	Derngate
21 Oct	Purple Rain	Derngate
23 Oct	Sensational 60s	Lighthouse
22 Oct	N'pton Oktoberfest	Derngate
23 Oct	Upfront Comedy	Royal
24-29/10	The Gruffalo's Child	Royal
25-29/10	Grease	Derngate
28 Oct	Rich Hall	Royal
30 Oct	Halloween Trains	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
30 Oct	Brixworth Antique and Vintage Fleamarket	Brixworth Village Hall
31 Oct - 4 Nov	Dirty Dancing	Derngate
2 Nov	Bernie Keith	Royal
3 Nov	The Horne Selection	Royal
4 Nov	Ghost Hunt	Derngate
4 Nov	Ralph McTell	Royal
6 Nov	Ten - A Ten Year Celebration	Royal
5 Nov	Angelos & Barry	Royal

6 Nov	Jimmy Carr	Derngate
7-12/11	Buddy	Derngate
7 Nov	The Boy with Tape on his Face	Royal
8 Nov	Brixworth Belles Craft Night	Brixworth Village Hall
8 Nov	Why the Whales Came	Royal
11 Nov	Foster & Allen	Royal
13 Nov	NMPATS Youth in Concert	Derngate
14 Nov	Aida	Derngate
15 Nov	Romesh Ranganathan	Derngate
15 Nov	Bikeology	Royal
16 Nov	The Hollies	Derngate
17 Nov	Jools Holland	Derngate
18 Nov	The Catherine Tate Show	Derngate
18 Nov	Stephen K Amos	Royal
19 Nov	Dancing Schools UK	Derngate
20 Nov	Strictly Northampton	Derngate
21 Nov	An Evening with Gervase Phinn	Derngate
23 Nov	The Shires	Derngate
24 Nov	Dr Hook	Derngate
25 Nov	ABBA Mania	Derngate
25 Nov	Lucy Porter	Underground
26 Nov	That'll be the Day	Derngate
27 Nov	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra	Derngate
28 Nov	The Elvis Years	Derngate
29 Nov - 31 Dec	Peter and the Starcatcher	Royal
29 Nov	Maximum Rhythm & Blues	Derngate
30 Nov	Elaine Page	Derngate
2 Dec	Ross Noble	Derngate
6-29 Dec	The Pied Piper	The Castle
9 - 31 Dec	Snow White and the Seven Dwarves	Derngate
6 Dec	Brixworth Belles Christmas Party	Brixworth Village Hall

## T&T PLUMBING

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**01604 889447**  
**07855 051198**  
**07851 726812**

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Phone: 01604 882390  
Email: [82matthewc@gmail.com](mailto:82matthewc@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 07702 317828

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Brixworth  
Northampton NN6 9LN



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# “It was a really fun day!”

That was just one of many comments by the parents of one of the 28 children, aged five to 16, who took part in the Brixworth Tennis Club first Junior Tennis Tournament in July.



Everyone had a thoroughly nice time, with parents and grandparents congratulating the Club for providing children and their families with ‘a great time’ as well as laying on ‘very well organised event’. Coach Richard Turner was complimented on doing ‘a great job’.

Children as young as five played their very first tournament and then watched the teenage players slice, splice, spin and serve at a speed that the traffic police would have slapped an instant driving ban on! The weather was kind and sun-cream and refreshments were supplied to keep all the competitors going.

So a huge well done to all of Brixworth Tennis Club’s Junior competitors and congratulations go to the Mitchell Wilkinson, who won the Mini Red, Toby Haxby, who won Mini Green, and Archie Reid, who triumphed in the Green category.

We already look forward to next year’s Junior Tennis Tournament! - Sandra Moxon

# Panthers Plate Pride

Brixworth’s under 12s football team, the Panthers, ended their season on a high when they won the Northampton and District Youth Alliance Plate Cup Final at the Sixfields Stadium on the 14th of May.

The “A-League” team had won their place at the Cobblers home ground after an eventful cup run. From winning a tense penalty shoot out in the first round, they grew in confidence; winning their semi-final 12-nil with one of their best performances of the season.

Playing in front of a stadium packed with friends and family, the team were rocked when their opponents Parklands Tigers took an early lead against the run of play. To their credit, they did not panic and continued to play their passing style of football. It was a frustrating first half where they were not able to convert their chances, until just before half time. A well deserved goal made the half time team talk much easier.

All of their hard work and training paid off in the second half, with an early goal giving them a deserved lead. This gave the team confidence and they began to dominate, taking a 3-1 lead. Parklands fought back with another goal, but it was the Panthers’ day. Two more goals followed, giving them a 5-2 win. However, credit must also be given to Parklands who fought hard and played some good football.

The celebrations began with the team lifting the plate to loud cheers.

It was an emotional occasion for all of those that had watched the team start as seven year olds. In particular the manager Rob Jones, who watched his son play his last game before joining the Cobblers Academy. His performance showed why he has been snapped up by the League Two champions. He is the third player to move on from the team to an academy, which is a credit to the coaches and players at the club.

Brixworth Juniors Football Club began life in 1992 and for the past two decades has gone from strength to strength.

All coaches are at least FA level 1 standard, with some FA level 2 and FA Youth Award Module 1 & 2 coaches. – Andy Glenn

# Adult Tennis Tournament

Brixworth Tennis Club’s second adult tournament will take place on 18 September. This event will be followed by High Tea which involves a lot of cake. The tournament starts at 2pm and is open to members and non-members aged 17 and over.

Last year’s winner Will Haxby said: “Last year’s tournament was great fun. I am looking forward to playing again this year and would strongly urge others to enter the tournament as it really is an event for all abilities and nobody takes themselves too seriously”.

For details contact: [secretary@brixworthtennisclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@brixworthtennisclub.org.uk)

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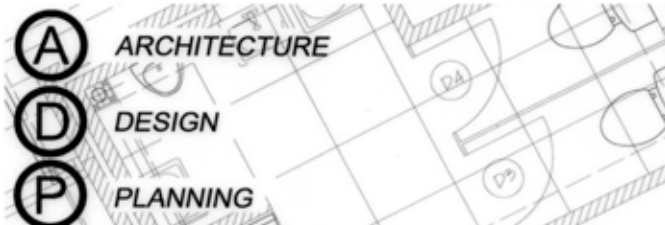


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# Under 12s triumph in six-a-side

On the weekend of the 12th July the Brixworth Pumas under 12s travelled to Corby to take part in the six-a-side tournament in tribute of Thomas McNamee, a young boy who suddenly passed away in 2014 of a heart condition. The tournament in his memory raises funds to the British Heart Foundation.

The Brixworth boys were quarter finalists last year. Energised after lifting the trophy in the Kislingbury tournament the previous week, they were keen to keep the up the winning run.

They played five games in the qualifying stages against some tough opposition from Corby and the surrounding areas. The side won all their games pretty convincingly, with the only 0-0 draw against the eventual finalists Riverside. Riverside were a strong and determined team from Peterborough with a keeper who stopped everything the boys threw at him. Nevertheless, the Brixworth lads made it through the group stages and proceeded to the quarter finals. There they encountered a team from Kettering, which proved to be no match – the Pumas scored five goals to secure their



the lead with some neat passing and one twos, only to then lose their concentration and allow their opponents to equalize. There was to be no drama of penalties, as the boys

the strong team that they had encountered in the group stages.

The final was as suspected a close affair. Both teams had chances and both keepers were a match for the forwards who attempted to beat them. As the game was closing in to the last few minutes and the spectre of a penalty shoot-out was looming, the boys created one last chance. Some neat interplay saw Jack slide the ball forward to Tom who spotted the keeper out of position and managed to lob the ball into the top corner (pictured, left). The keeper didn't stand a chance. Seconds later the whistle went, and the boys were overjoyed (deservedly so!).

While the summer break is upon us, the coaches are busy recruiting and signing players for the 2016-17 season. Should anyone wish to join Brixworth Football Club please do not hesitate to get in touch with either Simon Compton 07985 810817 or visit the website to register your interest.

– Simon Compton



place in the semi-finals, where they were to be pitted against the hosts Stewart & Lloyd.

Straight from the whistle the Pumas took

struck with two goals within a few minutes from Tom and Dewi and proceeded to the finals. There they would be playing Riverside,

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# Under 18s lift the Knockout Cup

Having already secured second place in the league, Brixworth Pumas under 18s came into this Knockout Cup Final against Falcons Blues looking to cap off a remarkable season. The Pumas boasted an impressive league record, winning 19 games, drawing 1 and losing just 2, scoring a staggering 114 goals along the way. Furthermore, Brixworth had already been named County Cup champions after defeating Wooldale 2-0 just 1 month prior to this final. Seeking to claim their second trophy of the season, the Pumas visited Sixfields Stadium as the slight underdogs, matching up against a Falcons side who had already claimed the league title, winning all 22 of their matches.

The game was a tightly-contested affair, with a number of early crunching challenges and physical battles setting the tone of the final. However, it was Brixworth who applied the majority of the early pressure, with wingers Connor Gibbins and Scott Brooksbank terrorising Falcon's full backs, and frontmen Aiden McCoach and Kieran Legg continuing to pose an early threat. Deservedly, it was the men in red who took the lead in the early stages of the second half. A corner, ferociously whipped in by Brooksbank, caused panic in the Falcons box, and Pumas top-scorer Gibbins was on hand to poke the ball into the open net.

Falcons began to fashion chances of their own. The best fell to the their frontman, who found himself bearing down on goal, only to have Pumas centre back Jacob Tuck make a superb last ditch tackle to eliminate the threat. Tough tackling from right-back Josh Fitzgerald in tandem with tireless work from Ross Evans-Smith aided Brixworth in keeping the league champions at bay. Brixworth's solid and uniform first half performance meant they went into the break with a one-goal lead.

Brixworth began the second half the same way they played the first. As the Pumas sought to double their advantage, they continued to heap heavy amounts of pressure on the Falcons backline. Substitute Jacob

Reid latched onto midfielder Ryan Coxhill's through ball, only to be brought down in the penalty area. Alas, Brooksbank hit his penalty straight at the Falcon's goalkeeper. But this missed chance was not to be dwelled upon for long. A low cross from Reid was fumbled by the opposing keeper, allowing striker McCoach to hook the ball back into the six-yard box, and winger Brooksbank slammed the ball into the roof of the net. Nothing less than Brixworth deserved.

Brixworth goalkeeper Bradley Gathercole efficiently commanded his box, with several saves, mainly in the second half, including phenomenal reaction stop with his feet to deny the Falcons striker. That, and a long range effort which struck the woodwork, was the closest Falcons came to breaking down Brixworth's backline. Substitute Tom Wiseman ensured Brixworth remained focussed and solid at the back, and target man Cameron Stockwell was introduced in



Back row (from L to R) Adam Haycock (manager), Tom Wiseman, Cameron Stockwell, Jacob Tuck, Connor Gibbins, Bradley Gathercole, Kieran Legg, Jack Sullivan, Josh Fitzgerald, John Sullivan (Asst. Manager). Front Row (from L to R) Alex Haycock, Scott Brooksbank, Ryan Coxhill, Aiden McCoach (Captain), Oli Gravedtock, Jacob Reid, Ross Evans-Smith

Brixworth centre-midfielders Ryan Coxhill and Oliver Gravedtock dominated the centre of the park, effectively nullifying the attacking threat that Falcons posed down the middle. Substitutes Alex Haycock and Josh Fitzhugh injected additional quality into the Brixworth side where legs were beginning to tire.

As the game wore on, Falcons began to dominate possession. But the Pumas' defence stood firm, with centre back Jack Sullivan executing several crucial headed clearances. Left back Ross Evans-Smith remained composed under pressure and worked tirelessly; a performance that earned him the Man of the Match award.

the latter stages of the match, who tirelessly worked to ensure the opposing defenders had little time on the ball.

The full time whistle blew, crowning Brixworth the Knockout Cup Champions. Composed and clinical when attacking, yet dogged and determined when defending, the cup final triumph was nothing less than the defiant Brixworth deserved. This second cup victory marked the end of a phenomenal final season; a clear indicator of just how far this team has come under the committed management of Adam Haycock and John Sullivan. With two trophies and a runners-up medal, it truly was a closing season to remember for Brixworth Pumas. – Jacob Reid

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## Short Mat Bowling

During the summer, the Brixworth Short Mat Bowling Club has had a number of friendly practice matches which they have mostly won. Friday afternoon and evening practice sessions have continued with new members joining.

If you would like to have a go we meet at the Brixworth Centre in Church Street every Friday at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Just come along and have a go, its great fun. For more information contact Janet on 880317 or 07762 211721. – Martin Carnell



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