

£242,000 Boost for Brixworth Sports

Brixworth is due to see a significant injection of money for village sports facilities, and the Parish Council is looking for input from residents on how the money should be spent.

Barratt Homes has agreed to pay £242,000 for sports and recreation facilities within the village. While it has been agreed in outline how these funds are to be allocated – £68,000 for indoor sports, £109,000 for outdoor sports and £65,000 for open spaces – the detail is yet to be decided in a process led by a newly-created Sports Council.

The Parish Council wants to hear from any groups or individuals within the community who are willing to play a part in making the Sports Council's work a success, and who have ideas for how sports can be developed further in Brixworth.

So get in touch with the Clerk to the Parish Council by emailing clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk if

- you would like to be involved in working with the Sports Council
- you would like to access more resources for a sport or activity you are currently involved in
- you have ideas for new sports facilities for Brixworth
- you would like to promote your club and attract more members.

The Sports Council will take the place of the recently-dissolved Recreation Working Group. It will run autonomously to the Parish Council but will answer to it.

While the exact remit of the Sports Council has still to be agreed, it is anticipated that in addition to proposing how the Barratts money is spent, the Council could take over managing the existing sports pitches and improving amenities. Maintaining the existing playing fields is already the second-largest annual expense for the Parish Council, running to around £15,000 in 2016.



Importantly, the Council would be able to represent all sports and recreation clubs in the village, regardless of their size, and could take a lead in strategically developing additional facilities for a wider range of activities. Proposals for the Sports Council will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting of 27th June.

The Barratts funding is part of payments the company has agreed to make to support village infrastructure, which were a condition of Planning Permission for the new Saxon Rise development at the southern edge of Brixworth. As well as the support for sports and recreation, Barratts is funding construction of a new GP surgery at an estimated £1.25m and paying £1.4m and rising for improvements at local schools (see also p. 5). – *Jennifer Fitzgerald*

Counting the benefits of expansion

Housing development is always a contentious issue in any village. Whenever a planning application for a new housing estate goes in, it raises worries about what effect this will have on local infrastructure – schools, shops, roads, health service etc.

And yet a new housing estate, if done well, can be an opportunity for significant investment in village facilities and amenities.

The Saxon Rise development in Brixworth has been suggested as a case study in how to get it right.

Of course not everyone was in favour of adding 200-plus new houses on the village edge. Barratt Homes were no doubt well aware of the strength of opposition to new housing, considering that their planning application came hot on the heels of the unsuccessful Carter Jonas submission on the other side of the road.

So when Barratt Homes started consulting on their proposals, investing in local infrastructure was part of the discussion from the outset. The result – a boost of close on £3m divided between schools, surgery and sports – will be a lasting benefit to Brixworth which will be felt by just about everyone in the community.

The village owes a particular debt of gratitude to the team that negotiated these investments with Barratt Homes and all the other stakeholders. Thank you Chris Millar, leader of Daventry District Council, who chaired the meetings, Mike Parsons, Mike Nice and Bob Chattaway from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and DDC planners Tom James and Jane Parry.

You did Brixworth a great service.

Heidi Flavell-White

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Brixworth Music Festival returns in 2018

The next Brixworth Music Festival will be taking place in April 2018.

We have decided to change the date of this very successful annual festival from September to April for several reasons. While we were able to stage three very successful festivals in the past three years it was nevertheless noticeable that, at the beginning of a new school year, it was difficult to get schools, choirs and other ensembles involved, when they were just starting to work with a new intake of singers and musicians. This new date – after Easter each year – has been hailed as a welcome change.

The Brixworth Music Festival is gradually gaining a reputation, not only in Northamptonshire but also nationwide and in Europe. Since its inauguration in 2014 we have provided audiences with an interesting mix of classical and contemporary music, interspersed with jazz and light music. Artists have included some of the best orchestras, choirs and bands in the area, as well as international ensembles and soloists. In 2015 we had the pleasure and privilege of hosting the Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir. Thanks to the support of local sponsors, the Northampton Community and National Lottery Funds, we have been able to keep the Festival running, and are now planning the Fourth Brixworth Music Festival in April 2018.

Our aim is to reach out to the community and involve them in all forms of music – and to also include local composers and musicians.

The next Brixworth Music Festival will, once more, offer a programme for all tastes ranging from choral music of the Renaissance to Gospel choirs, classical music for orchestra and string quartet to contemporary works by local composers, and will feature workshops for schools in the area. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved via www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk. – Vivienne Olive, Joint Artistic Director



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Draughton Classic and Vintage Car (and Bike!) Show

This year's Draughton Classic and Vintage Car Show takes place on Sunday June 25th 1pm-5pm.

It promises to be something of a classic event with the 'Best Ever' plant stall, vintage bric-a-brac and the tea marquee which allows for a simple cuppa and slice of cake.

For the truly discerning we also offer a chair in the luxury tea area, where you can treat yourself to the full cream tea experience – scones with clotted cream and jam, sandwiches and delicious cakes.

Games this year are better than ever for all ages. And, of course, there are the cars!

Each year we are blessed with wonderful cars with stunning provenances from nearly every era and, each year, the quality of cars gets better. This year, we also welcome fascinating motorbikes.

So, if you have a lovely car or motorbike you'd like to bring along, please contact sebastian.calnan@yahoo.co.uk

– Kate Calnan

Savills not ruling out future development at Northampton Road

The parcel of land to the west of Northampton Road, where the permissive footpath was closed at the start of the year, remains a potential candidate for housing in the long term.

Ben Knight, land steward for Savills who manages the 50 acre field adjoining Shelleycotes and Froxhill Crescent, told Brixworth's Neighbourhood Plan Group: "We have no plans for development today," but but refused to rule out future development, noting that these issues "will likely be tested."

He pointed out that the field in question was not identified as a future housing site in the current Neighbourhood Plan. However the plan expires in 2029, and the land's ultimate owners – a trust belonging to the Bristol-based Society of Merchant Venturers – are known to take a very long term view of their investments.

Tree plantation

There has been considerable speculation about the line of trees that was planted on the field in February, much to the surprise of residents. Some had noted that, rather unusually, the trees were planted in a line rather than a copse which would be more in keeping with the local landscape. Others were worried that the trees would in time spoil the views over the open countryside, which the Neighbourhood Plan had gone to some lengths to protect.

Some noted that the positioning of the trees appears to follow the same layout found in the most recent (unsuccessful) application to develop housing on the land, the 2011 application by Carter Jonas. Knight confirmed that the positioning of the trees was guided by the Carter Jonas application. He also reminded the Neighbourhood Plan group that planting trees is not development and therefore not subject to planning permission or any restrictions set out in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Nigel Ozier, in his spare time member of the Neighbourhood Plan Group and otherwise managing director/planning for an independent town planner, said: "As a planner, it is incredibly obvious to me why the trees were planted in the way they are. I am disappointed that Savills did not consult with us over their plans, though I recognise they had the right plant the trees. It seems that Savills gave no weight to the plan, and it is disappointing that the Neighbourhood Plan group has no teeth here."

Spratton Road footpath

Another field owned by the Merchant Venturers and managed by Savills is the field adjoining Spratton Road, where a second permissive footpath linking the village to

the Brampton Valley Way was closed at the end of January.

The Neighbourhood Planning Group was unable to persuade Knight to restore access to this popular path, though Knight said he would consider the request and respond at a later date, though by *Bulletin* press time there was no further news. He pointed out that safe pedestrian access to the Brampton Valley Way was provided by a different footpath leading off Saneco Lane near All Saints Church and that Savills was under no obligation to keep providing an alternative.

Paternalistic approach

Knight stressed that the Merchant Venturers, who own significant amounts of land around Brixworth, take a paternalistic approach and support their tenants with the long-term management of the land. "We are keen to work in a productive partnership with our tenant farmers and the local community,"



Savills confirmed that the newly-planted trees (above) follow the line set by the 2011 Carter Jonas planning application (top).

he said. Savills will maintain regular contact with the Neighbourhood Plan Group and both parties agreed to jointly address any issues that may arise. – *cfw*

Social Centre

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

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Wanted: Speed Watch Volunteers



Brixworth's annual Speed Watch campaign, due to run in June and July this year, is still short of a few volunteers.

Participants need to be available on a few weekdays during the day. Training will be provided.

"The speed watch campaign has had some real success in making the village a safer place by highlighting traffic black spots," says Howard Reader, the local campaign coordinator. "However, we rely on volunteers to run the campaign. If we fail to get sufficient volunteers, we can't run the scheme."

If you're interested in helping out, please call Howard Reader on 882622 or visit the information point at the library on a Thursday morning.

Police Report

When I recently attended a meeting at Brixworth Parish Council, we discussed the gap that sometimes exists between the confidence of members of the rural community in reporting issues to the police, and the need of the police for that information.

Which Number?

People often ask which number they should ring and worry that they will be making a nuisance by calling, or that the police are too busy. I often refer to Sir Robert Peel, who founded the police service in the 1820s. He said that the 'public are the police and the police are the public'. In other words, we do it with you, not to you! And nowadays we talk of policing comprising the three parts of the mnemonic PIE – Prevention, Information and Enforcement. If we get the first bits right, we don't need the last bit. All that said, then, we need you to help us police and we need your information. Information (we call it intelligence) is the oil which keeps the engine going for us, if it is not the petrol itself! So the next question asked is 'how do we contact you?' Here are some thoughts:

999 is the national number for crimes in progress, for anything happening that is dangerous, or for suspicious circumstances. Do not hesitate before calling us, when something appears suspicious to you, then it probably is. If a well-intentioned call does

not require the use of 999, you won't be told off, and if we need to call you back on a non-emergency line, we will.

101 is the national non-emergency number. Wherever you are in the country, dialling 101 will get you through to the local police. Previously, you would have dialled 03000 111222 to get through to the Northamptonshire Police switchboard. 101 gets you through to the same switchboard if dialled within the county. I know that this number can require you to queue for some time and that there are frustrations around that, which we are working on.

Anonymous reporting

If you have information you would rather pass anonymously then you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or sending a message online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. Another website aimed at empowering young people with an option to pass on information about crime with guaranteed anonymity is www.fearless.org.

Social Media

Social media is like Marmite – some love it, and some loathe it. Generally, I like it but get really frustrated when people talk on Facebook about this or that problem, and presume that someone has told the police. We don't monitor Facebook pages, so if you are a Facebookie and you see chatter about things that should have, but may not have been reported to us, then please be proactive in encouraging this. Many of the local officers have Twitter accounts and if you tweet, you may want to check out @sgtsamdobbs, @hutch472 or @northantspolice for more local information updates.

So often, we don't get to hear of things happening in our community because people presume someone else told the police. I urge you to keep us in the loop – it is true we are busy, but not too busy. And don't forget, if you are unsure of contacting us, get in touch with a parish councillor – they are rarely afraid to voice local issues, and we are happy to listen. – *Sergeant Sam Dobbs*

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Car park extension set for the summer

The planned extension of the car park at Brixworth library looks set to go ahead during the summer school holidays. The work will see the car park alongside the library extended at the back, towards the primary school. The extension will add five or perhaps even six spaces.

Developers had initially hoped to do the work over the Easter break but ran out of time.

The work is funded by Barratt Homes through Section 106 funding, a mechanism that makes developers help pay for local infrastructure improvements.

The library car park extension replaces earlier plans to extend the car park by the Co-op, on the opposite side of the road. That plan would have added up to ten spaces at a cost of £600k. "Extending the library car park still adds significant parking spaces in the area, at a fraction of the cost," says Mike Parsons, secretary of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group. "The change of plan has allowed us – the steering group, Barratts and Daventry District Council – to use that money on other community projects, such as the new surgery."

New surgery construction

Building work on the new doctor's surgery should commence as soon as the final legal paperwork has been completed, according to the steering group. Legal work has taken longer than expected, but is now nearing completion.

Parsons says: "Planning Conditions state that surgery construction must commence prior to the occupation of the first 10 dwellings and must be completed by the 60th occupation. Phase 2 is now underway, so it should not be long before we see some real action."

Schools funding

The other beneficiaries of Barratt Section 106 funding are the local schools. To date, Barratts have paid Northampton County Council £800K for improvements at Brixworth CEVC Primary School and £600K for Moulton

School, with further payments due as work on phase 2 of the Saxon Rise housing estate continues.

The school in Brixworth is already seeing the benefits of some of these payments – over the last summer, the school was able to build new classrooms, extend the hallway and improve the staff room and staff parking. All children at the school are now being taught in classrooms in the main building, and the mobile classrooms are now used for storage and music lessons. The capacity of Brixworth

Primary has increased from 490 to 525 pupils as a result.

NP Steering Group

Representing the village interest in the negotiations with Barratts – including the Section 106 funding and how it was to be allocated – is the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which is comprised of residents, Parish and District Councillors, who are working together on behalf of the Parish Council on a common goal. – *cfw*



Glorious daffodil display sees in Spring

Every autumn, Parish Council and local residents plant daffodils around the village. As a result, every spring, the display of bright yellow flowers around the village gets bigger and better. No more so than this year, which was hard to beat. Thank you to all the hardworking volunteers!

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Brixworth Country Park update



2017 brought a few changes to Brixworth Country Park and the Brampton Valley Way. Ranger Dan transferred from the Brampton Valley Way to Fermyn Woods Country Park, and Ranger Morgan left for a role with the National Trust in the Brecon Beacons. We thank them both for all their hard work over the years and wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

Senior Ranger Debbie has now been joined by Ranger Andy and Ranger Vikki. The two will share the roles at the Country Park and the Brampton Valley Way, which were previously split.

Folly Pond

A lot has been happening around the park in recent months. In February, contractors came in to dredge Folly Pond which had become severely silted up. The pond is now much deeper and cleaner than it has been for years, and frog spawn was spotted a mere week after the contractors had finished their work. This is extremely encouraging, and demonstrates how healthy the pond is.

You can help to maintain the health of Folly Pond in several ways:

- Don't throw sticks, stones, or other litter into the pond. This will cause it to silt up again and may lead to other problems, such as contaminating the water, which will be harmful to the aquatic life that calls the pond home.
- Keep your dogs out of the water. It is a wildlife pond and our priority is creating a habitat that can support a diverse range of aquatic life. Dogs jumping into the pond disturb the thin layer of silt that forms part of the natural bottom of the pond, where much of the aquatic life resides. The silt clouds the water, affecting the rate of photosynthesis of the aquatic plants, which in turn can have a detrimental effect on the oxygen levels in the pond.
- When dogs jump into and out of the pond they erode the banks. This not only looks unsightly but can cause the pond to leak and increases the amount of soil running off into the water, causing excessive silt.

Some of our volunteers have already had to remove a large quantity of sticks from the pond and the stream that feeds it. They

also helped us repaint the picnic bench and gazebo ready for the summer.

If you would like to learn more about the aquatic life of our ponds look out for our Underwater World pond dipping events. These



The Folly Pond before (top) and after (bottom)

Ranger Andy

Andy brings with him 30 years of experience from the country parks of Leicestershire. He started his career at the age of 16 for the Bradgate Park Trust as an estate junior. In 1985, he moved to Bosworth Battlefield Country Park, which gave Andy more scope to spread his enthusiasm of the outdoors to young and old alike by taking them on guided walks, leading volunteers and improving habitats. He has done the walk so many times he is able to recite the whole of his "Battle of Bosworth" talk in his sleep!

Andy moved on to be Assistant Senior Ranger in the Western Leicestershire Rangers, which included training younger rangers, covering the office admin and organising varied events. He's worked on all of the county's sites covering reed beds, lowland heath and ancient woodland along with the planting of the National Forest. He finished his Leicestershire career at Beacon Hill Country Park in the Charnwood Forest, taking great care of the Iron Age hill fort and reinstating the hillsides to heath with the help of the park's alpaca, rare breed sheep flock, pigs and herd of Long Horn cattle.

Andy moved to First for Wellbeing at the beginning of March 2017 and was running volunteer sessions on his second day of being on the job. He is currently getting to know the area and learning the local 'lingo'.

Andy is a passionate scout of 25 years plus, holding appointments of County Scout Leader and Head Warden of a Campsite for which his countryside and outdoor knowledge has proved to be very useful for teaching young people and leaders various skills.

Ranger Vikki

Vikki has been a conservation volunteer for ten years. While working with the rangers and volunteer team at Stanwick Lakes she realised that it was possible to escape the office and pursue a career



as a countryside ranger. This revelation came halfway through a six-year journey studying part-time with the Open University for a degree in Literature and Creative Writing! After completing her degree, Vikki ran away to New Zealand for a year, and returned with an even greater love of the great outdoors, and the determination to bring about a career change.

Volunteering led to a position as a part-time Assistant Ranger at Stanwick Lakes, and then a one-year placement with the Wildlife Trust BCN as a Voluntary Reserves Officer, learning about many of the varied habitats around Northamptonshire. From here, Vikki took on a casual post as a Ranger for First for Wellbeing, working primarily at Fermyn Woods Country Park, before finally securing her current role as a full-time ranger at Brixworth Country Park and the Brampton Valley Way.

are one hour sessions which have proven very popular with families, however they are equally suitable for adults who want to explore the hidden life of the pond from the safety of dry land. Check our Facebook page for more details, or the events listing at the end of this article.

Bag It & Bin It

The country parks are running campaigns around the school holidays to raise awareness of dog fouling. While we recognise that the majority of dog owners do 'bag it and bin it', dog mess can become an issue when a small minority act irresponsibly. In three weeks over Easter, the rangers sprayed yellow paint around approximately 100 piles of dog poo! There are five dog bins around Brixworth Country Park, and thirteen along the Brampton Valley Way, all are emptied weekly. We welcome responsible dog owners and urge everyone to 'bag it and bin it' to ensure the parks remain pleasant places for everyone to enjoy.

Sensory Garden

Regular visitors to the park will have witnessed the ongoing work in the Sensory Garden. This has included repairing and replanting the raised beds (pictured, top left), and renewing many of the sleepers lining the paths. In February this year contractors resurfaced the paths around the Sensory Garden to improve access. Further improvement works are planned, including a more permanent, bound surface for the paths, as well as the addition of several pieces of sensory play equipment. A consultation about potential new play equipment took place before Easter ahead of a bid submission to Mick George for funding to complete the project. If anyone has any wildlife friendly, bright or scented plants they would like to donate to the Sensory Garden, please email brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk or call 0300 126 5332. We will keep you posted on the progress of this in future issues of the magazine.

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Baldmoney's Wood

Our fantastic team of Thursday volunteers has been working on the seating area near Baldmoney's Wood. The old picnic bench was rotting and the area was looking quite tired. After some preparation work from the rangers, our volunteers took out the old picnic bench, recycling some of the timber to make new seating. They also cleared the small trees surrounding the area to let in more light, and sanded and painted the revetment, which has given the area a new lease of life.

Brampton Valley Way update

The Brampton Valley Way may only be a few feet wide in places but it requires quite a lot of looking after. Its fourteen-mile length includes almost 28 miles of grass edges and hedgerows that need regular mowing and trimming back throughout the summer, nine parking areas and car parks which need litter-picking, along with 13 dog poo bins that need emptying each week.

Storm Doris made a bit of a mess in January and the rangers did their best to clear the trees that were blown over and onto the track. Thank you to the members of the public who contacted us to let us know where the trees were so we could target our efforts.

Brampton Halt

The rangers and volunteers have also been busy making repairs to various sections of the track, predominantly the section between Brampton Halt and Merry Tom. Some of the drain covers had rotted and needed replacing, and the rotten slat on Bridge 14 was replaced once the new rangers finally found where the replacement slat was hiding.



Brixworth Station

Contractors were brought in to make improvements to the access point at Brixworth Station (pictured, above). Poor drainage had led to water flows carving out large furrows in the path, making the area hazardous for anyone who didn't have the agility of a mountain goat. The contractors have put in some French drains to try to prevent any future flooding, and they have reprofiled the surrounding land which should improve drainage. They have also resurfaced the path leading from the road and parking area down to the track.

Lots of little odd jobs have been completed along the Brampton Valley Way, although there is still a lot to do, especially as we enter the mowing season. The rangers will be working throughout the summer, however should you spot anything amiss when you are out and about along the Brampton Valley Way please send us an email at brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk or call us on 0300 126 5932.

Events

By the time you read this Brixworth Country Park will have hosted its first outdoor film screening event, **Cinema Under the Stars**. This was organised by students from the University of Northampton, as a dissertation project for their Event Management degree. The film – Disney's *The Lion King* – sold out quickly, and 500 people watched the sunset in the park before settling down to watch the film. Their aim was to raise £5000 in aid of The Hope Centre, Northampton.

Underwater World is a popular event which gives people of all ages the opportunity to explore the aquatic life of our ponds from the safety of dry land. The one hour sessions of pond dipping provide ample time to dip the nets into the water, identify the exciting creatures that you find, and to look at the creatures that other people have discovered. During the Easter school holidays we found Water boatmen, leeches, large Ramshorn snails and several damselfly larvae, as well as an emperor dragonfly larvae and a water scorpion. There are six packs per session and we recommend a maximum of three participants per pack. Packs are £5 each.

Nature Tots offers a nature themed walk with a ranger followed by a craft activity for pre-school children. The cost is £3.50 per child per session, includes refreshments. Booking essential. Brixworth Nature Tots meet at 10am on the third Wednesday each month during term time.

Our **Xplorer** events provide an excellent introduction to orienteering and are a fun way for families to spend an hour or so exploring the park. Follow the map to find the markers and report back to the rangers to collect your certificate and a gift. Suggested donation of £1 per child.

Join the rangers on a **Minibeast Safari** as you search for minibeasts and identify them. Learn about the different habitats, food webs, and the ways that you can create homes for nature in your own garden. £2 per child.



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A ranger-led **wildflower walk** through some of our meadows will reveal the amazing diversity of wildflowers and grasses growing in Brixworth Country Park. Learn to identify the wildflowers and the different management techniques used to look after our wildflower meadows. £2 per person.

Join the rangers to split some wood, and cook your Smores on our **Fires and Smores** event. Ideal for children aged 4 upwards (accompanied by an adult). £2 per child, or £5 for a family of four.

Ranger Andy will teach you everything you need to know the safe use of knives and lighting the fire with a fire-starter as you take part in our **Kelly Kettle Challenge**. Make yourself, Mum or Dad, a nice cuppa. £2 per person, or £5 for a family of four.

Explore the Brampton Valley Way with one of our rangers on a wildlife walk and litter pick. A great way to walk a section or two of the fourteen-mile linear route and give something back. The ranger will point out and identify wildlife that you see and hear along the way while everyone does their bit to keep the route litter-free.

Join the Rangers on **Wellbeing Walk** along the Brampton Valley Way. Enjoy a gentle walk along the way, and learn about the history of the site and the wildlife you will see and hear on your walk.

For more information and booking a place, please contact us on 0300 126 5932 or email brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk. All events are subject to change and are weather-dependent.

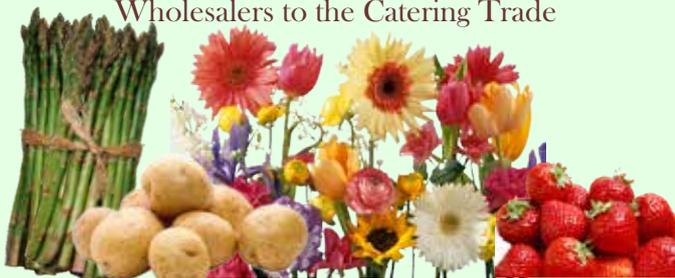
– Vikki Austin

Dates for the diary

- Wildflower walk – Saturday 10th June
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 17th June
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 21st June
- Wellbeing Walk (BVW) – Wednesday 12th July
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 15th July
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 19th July
- Wildlife walk and litter pick (BVW) – Sunday 23rd July
- Fires and Smores – Wednesday 26th July
- Kelly Kettle Challenge – Wednesday 26th July
- Xplorer – Wednesday 2nd August
- Underwater World – Tuesday 8th August
- Minibeast Safari – Wednesday 9th August
- Xplorer – Wednesday 16th August
- Underwater World – Tuesday 22nd August
- Minibeast Safari – Wednesday 23rd August
- Fires and Smores – Wednesday 30th August
- Kelly Kettle Challenge – Wednesday 30th August

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Lampport & Hanging Houghton

A highlight of this spring in Lampport and Hanging Houghton was the safari supper, which was held in April to raise funds for Lampport Church.

The evening was organized by Hilary Cox and proved to be a great success. The idea of the supper is to give villagers the chance to meet their friends and neighbours from the village, as well as fund raising. A total of £420 was donated to the church.

The annual public meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 25th May in the church at Lampport. There will be drinks and nibbles before the meeting starts at 6.45pm, with the meeting starting at 7pm. The meeting will give you the chance to meet the new chairman. There will also be a short presentation by the police officer who is the area coordinator for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and the chance to meet the new village coordinator. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have regarding the scheme. We will then be able to finish any drinks and nibbles at the end of the meeting.

I would like to welcome the new occupants of the 'The Old Cottage' at 8 Manor Road. They are Dan and Coleen who have three children Millie aged 13, Freddie aged 9 and Elsie aged 7. They moved to our village from Northampton and I'm sure we all wish them well.

The other new residents are Emma, who moved into Clint Hill Farm at the end of 2016 with her three sons, Benjamin, Harry and George, aged 8, 10 and 14. – *Mike Philpott*

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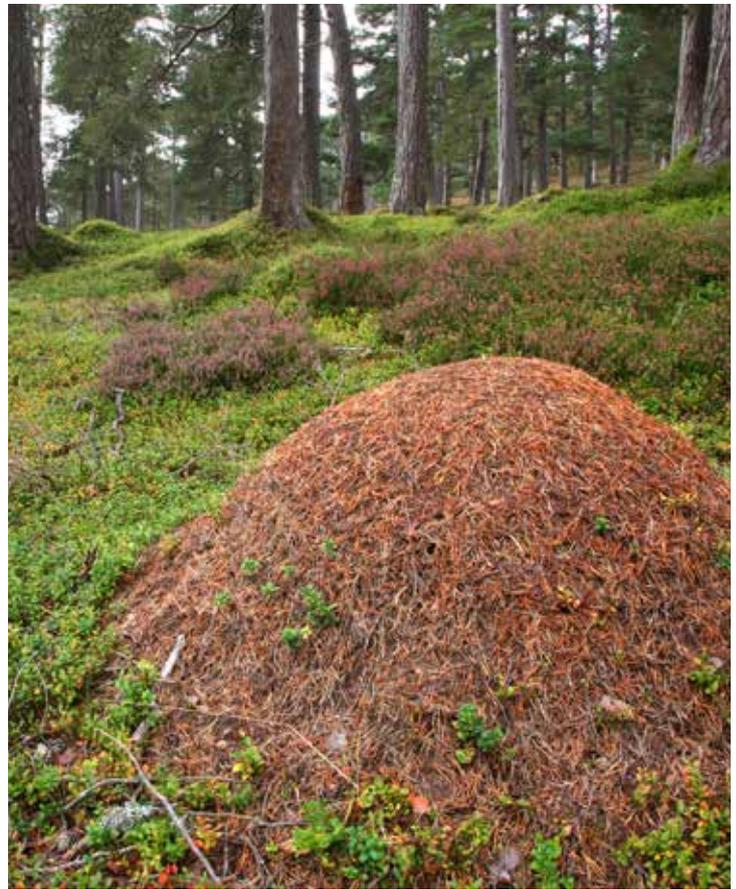
Country Eye

Strength in numbers?

Three miles south of Brixworth lies Harlestone Firs, 300 acres of mainly conifer woodland that is popular with walkers from miles around. Any time from March to the first autumn frost there you will also find our largest kind of ant, the formidable wood ant. A third of an inch long it will sink its jaws into the unwary and spray strong acid into the wound. Not a beast to be trifled with. I well remember being there on a March day. The warm rays of sunshine had tempted the first ants to awaken from their winter slumbers. They had found a warm patch of earth to bask in as they clung to one another to conserve heat. Then down came the chilling rain turning their suntrap into a puddle. Thinking they would drown or chill to death, I was amazed to find later the rain had evaporated and there they were none the worse.

Rare elsewhere in Northamptonshire, it was introduced over a century ago by the then Earl Spencer because its pupae were thought to be good pheasant food. So well has it settled in that there is nowhere within the wooded area where it isn't found. Its huge nests are unmissable. Every few yards its domed nests of pine needles can be seen. Some of the nests may be a yard high and twice as wide, while the ants can be seen as they scurry in all directions in search of food or nest-building materials.

Without exception they are all sterile females, most living only a few weeks while others live for a year or more. Aphids and caterpillars are main food sources, the former dragged back to the nest by a team of workers before being butchered and eaten. A



big nest will have several egg-laying queens and 100,000 or more workers.

These citadel nests are connected along well-worn paths to a number of satellite nests. All the ants in this super-colony get along well, grooming each other or exchanging gifts of food. They carry the same scent badge, which they test with their antennae or feelers. To ensure the colony functions smoothly a high degree of organisation and coordination is necessary. It seems they pass information to each other by rubbing heads and stroking antennae, much like their close relatives the bees. They do not see well, nor do they need to.

The nest is skilfully thatched with pine needles to make it proof against summer rains. Openings at intervals lead to a maze of passages leading to chambers that house the precious eggs, grubs, or pupae. Opening up or closing vents carefully controls temperature within the nest. At night all the entrances are carefully sealed. In winter the surviving ants retreat to the depths where they slumber together in tight clusters. There is as much of the colony underground as there is above, so it is not stretching the truth overmuch to say that big nests resemble our own mega cities in their complexity. Their defences when threatened are pretty impressive too. Anyone unkind enough to thrust a stick into the nest would see an army of guard ants rush to the breach. There they stand erect, jaws open wide, and spraying columns of acid, which has a vinegary smell, into the air. Their main predators are badgers and green woodpeckers. Both seem to be oblivious to their bites, the woodpecker as it laps up adult ants and their pupae with its long sticky tongue.

As a boy I lived in Kingsthorpe, and we used to walk across fields, crossing the river at the long-gone Walker's Mill and the butterplank bridge. To this budding young naturalist, overwhelmed then, as I still am, by the astonishing beauty of the natural world, there seemed no reason why anyone should ever want to destroy it. Now with the ever-expanding maw of Northampton, virtually all is covered with tarmac, bricks and mortar up to the very edge of the Firs itself. I cannot help asking how long before the ants, the woodpeckers, badgers, bluebells, this whole complex natural wonder is faced with the ultimate enemy – the bulldozer. Even the valiant wood ants cannot see that off. – Brian Webster

~The George~

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It's a sell-out for the Lion King

Enterprising students from the University of Northampton have masterminded a cinema spectacular which at Bulletin press time promised to be a roaring success.

The five Events Management undergraduates have organised an open-air cinema screening of Disney's *The Lion King* as their main final-year project.

All 500 tickets for the Cinema Under the Stars event, which took place at Brixworth Country Park on Saturday 13 May, were snapped up in a matter of a weeks – with the organisers convinced they could have easily sold twice as many.



Letisha Swamy, Lucy Barwell, Dominique Dorsett-Vidal, Abigail Mackenzie and Lauren Sheppard are organising the family film screening to raise money for Northampton homeless charity, the Hope Centre.

But while they've found the marketing of the event a doddle, there's been a mountain of regulations and red tape to cut through to stage a public performance.

"Marketing was very straightforward," said Letisha. "We mainly relied on social media to spread the word, targeting a Brixworth community page on Facebook, for example, and the sales just took off – our 50 early bird tickets sold out within just four days."

Abigail added: "What's been really hard work has been arranging all of the licences and paperwork to stage a public event.

"There's catering licences, health and safety to consider, child protection guidelines, a licence to broadcast the film, environmental health rules and we've even had to be in touch with the police and fire service. People might think holding an event in a field would be easy to organise, but there's so much hard work involved behind the scenes."

The students have booked an open-air cinema company to screen the film and organised a variety of attractions to ensure it's a fun-filled evening, including a bouncy castle, catering, face painting, a balloon artist and live music.

You can still support the Hope Centre by visiting our website www.justgiving.com/fundraising/CinemaUnderthe-Stars2017

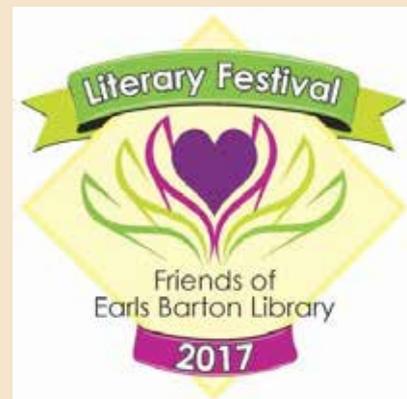
Literary Festival comes to Earls Barton

Every year in June, Earls Barton holds a fortnight-long festival, culminating in the Village Carnival.

As part of the event, the Friends of Earls Barton Library are this year organising a Literary Festival, which takes place on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June.

The two days will see poets, authors, an adult story teller, musicians and actors read, run workshops on creative writing and self-publishing, act, sing, play, rap and interact with audiences of all ages. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

The printed programme will be available very soon, along with tickets. Please contact Carolyn on 07584 093039 or ebllitfest@gmail.com for more information.



The Friends of Earls Barton Library support the library in various ways: raising money for the free monthly film club equipment, sponsoring the Summer Reading Challenge, purchasing tables for bridge classes and a very popular Sunday Mah Jong group, re-stocking the kitchen and much more. – *Mary Kennedy*



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1st Scaldwell Guides complete Swimathon

Once again the 1st Scaldwell Guides had a tremendous showing at the Rotary Club's Swimathon fundraising event. The Guides' team completed 88 lengths in one hour, totalling nearly 1.5 miles. They collected £138 in sponsorships, of which 50% will go to their chosen charity or back to their own company.

The Swimathon saw 21 teams with over 100 swimmers and the event is on track to raise over £6,000 for local or national charities and good causes.

The Rotary Swimathon is organised annually by the four Rotary Clubs in Northampton, and will next take place in March 2018.



The 1st Scaldwell Guides' Swimathon team, from left to right: Janine, Emily, Sophie, Jennie, Mollie and Barry (honorary Guide for the day and husband of company leader Jill Gunnett). Jill did not swim but can be seen at the back between Sophie and Jennie.

Last year the Swimathon received a Community Service Award from the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians in the USA. This prestigious award is for promoting service to Youth through Scouting and Guiding.

- Stan Evans

Local vineyard hopes for post-Brexit fizz

Brixworth vineyards have welcomed speculation that British wines could receive a boost as a result of the UK leaving the European Union.

Simon Wragg, drinks specialist and lecturer in marketing at the University of Northampton, has speculated that if the UK were to introduce trade tariffs on imported EU wine, this would push up the price of a bottle significantly for UK consumers and make local wines more competitive.

Julia Bennett, who runs Brynne Vineyard with her husband Mark in Brixworth, said: "You can buy a bottle of EU wine for £3 or £4 a bottle from Lidl. I can't make it for that price, let alone sell it for that."

"Despite UK wine generally costing more than EU supermarket wine, we are finding there is a growing demand for locally produced, good quality food and drink. People like to know where their produce comes from, and make a conscious effort to support local businesses."

Wragg added: "An import duty could be disastrous for France, Italy, Spain, Germany and other EU producers. Some EU suppliers are already vulnerable to a decline in trade, due to poor weather conditions, so to have barriers put up could pile on the pressure among some European growers.

"The UK's own wine-producers might look to increase their domestic market share in UK supermarkets, filling up empty shelf space created due to the scarcity of imported EU wine."

If reciprocal trade barriers were put in place by the EU, Simon believes that might present a great opportunity for the UK to expand beyond its domestic market.

He said: "Realistically, we are never going to be major exporters of wine to the established wine-making EU nations. But, there may be an opportunity to sign trade deals with non-EU countries, for example the USA, Japan and China, which has an increasing thirst for wine."

"Throw in the possibility of the reintroduction of duty free regulations, which will put an end to people filling up their car boots on booze cruises to the continent, and the UK could be in a very interesting position post-Brexit for domestic wine producers to increase their market share and evaluate opportunities for their product," said Wragg.

Bennet noted: "Some people still think of English wine as the stuff our dads made at home in the 1970s and 80s, but when they taste our wine they can't believe how good it is.

"English wine's reputation is growing, and hopefully the situation with Brexit will play into our hands."

Simon agrees. He said: "Our strength currently lies in sparkling wine. We give the French a real run for their money, with UK wines winning a number of prestigious international awards recently, consistently beating French Champagne in blind tasting competitions. So we have a brilliant product to export."



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Lampport Church repairs complete

Residents of Lampport and Hanging Houghton enjoyed a social afternoon in the Church of All Saints at Lampport at the beginning of May to celebrate the completion of a five-year programme to repair and redecorate the church.

“The oak paneling in the bell tower (pictured, below) was infested with death watch beetle and had to be replaced, at a cost of £6k alone,” says church warden Mary Parker. “The whole interior has been repainted and the windows thoroughly cleaned, and repairs were needed to some stonework, the door to the vestry and the organ casing. In all, the cost of the work came to over £28k.”



The majority of the work was largely funded through grants totalling £18k from a variety of sources, including Northampton Historic Churches trust, the Isham family and Lampport Hall, the Sudborough Foundation and several other local and national charities. The remainder was paid for by church funds. The church also benefits from a number of fundraising activities in Lampport and Hanging Houghton. – cfw

other local and national charities. The remainder was paid for by church funds. The church also benefits from a number of fundraising activities in Lampport and Hanging Houghton. – cfw



Brixworth Centre Preschool celebrates Outstanding rating

Staff at the Brixworth Centre Preschool were delighted that the pre-school was rated as ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted in its latest report. Upgrading their previous ‘good’ rating, inspectors praised the preschool’s “extremely warm and affectionate staff” who are “highly qualified and extremely experienced.”

The report states: “Staff expertly plan a very wide range of interesting and imaginative activities that is based on children’s individual learning needs. The quality of teaching is exceptional. This ensures that children make excellent progress in their learning and development and are very well prepared for school.”

Supervisor Emma Hinde told the *Northampton Chronicle*: “I cried a bit when I first read the report. We’re all delighted. Getting that rating is so difficult but the staff here are such a good team.”

Brixworth Centre Pre-School has 46 spaces for local children from two and a half years. For more information or to add your child to the waiting list, visit www.brixworthcentrepreschool.co.uk

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Hannah Saxton: First Brixworth, next the West End?

Many people will say that even trying to become an actress in today's world is a very bad decision; you'll never have job stability, you're constantly going to be judged and you'll probably spend most of your life as a waitress. I agree that it's an incredibly difficult business to get into and even more difficult to get anywhere once in it. However, I cannot imagine doing anything else. I'm far too wiggly to sit behind a desk, too easily bored to stick to a routine and generally just too weird to do an everyday job.

It does get tiring hearing all the reasons why I shouldn't pursue my dream and of course everyone has those thoughts late at night as to whether you made the right decision, or you have completely messed up your life. To that end, public speaking is the number one fear worldwide. "Public" anything is usually enough to get people panicked. Be it a toast at a wedding, karaoke or an acceptance speech; the thought of putting yourself in the public eye and doing anything is the top fear for most people. And I do that for my job. I willingly walk on to the stage and make a complete arse out of myself, as many of you who have seen the

Brixworth Players performances have seen. Actors should be admired, for we do far more than just learn lines.

Performing in such companies as the Brixworth Players and Royal & Derngate's Youth Musical Group really helped me see that acting was my way forward. I love performing for people, and have done since a young age. My first professional job was with Looking Glass Theatre performing their pantomime Aladdin, and although it was tough long days, the connections you make with your fellow company members is something that I have not found anywhere else. With the Royal & Derngate I found my love of singing in such shows as Unheard, Carmen, Spring Awakening and Sweeney Todd. I also had great fun performing Grease with the Lighthouse Theatre Company in Kettering, and Troilus and Cressida with Masque Theatre.

I always loved performing in the nativities at school and, after we moved to Brixworth, my family frequently went to see the pantomimes in Brixworth Hall. I joined the company when I was 16, whilst I was studying for my GCSE drama at Moulton School. In



Brixworth I performed in the pantomimes Treasure Island, Snow White and Cinderella. I also performed in their summer shows of Brenton Vs. Brenton and Murdered to Death.

Getting accepted into The American Academy of Dramatic Arts solidified my belief that I might actually be able to do this. I have spent three years in Los Angeles, the home of TV and film, and I have had some of the most amazing experiences of my life and met the most wonderful people. I was lucky enough to be invited to the premiere of Sully; the film about the plane landing on the Hudson, and there I met Tom Hanks, Clint Eastwood and Aaron Eckhart. I also went to the book signing of John Cleese, and Rachel McAdams came into my place of work. On top of that I had the opportunity to be a part of my friend's web series Life As A Mermaid. It's aimed at 8-15 year olds and it's about a young mermaid trying to fit in in the human world. It's on YouTube and we appreciate any support from our viewers.

LA itself is a very vibrant city, but I feel it lacks the culture that, as a Brit, I am used to. TV and film is a great experience to have and I love being in front of the camera, but I think for right now at least, my future is about the theatre. My plan is to go to London and see what awaits me there.

I would like to thank everyone who has ever believed in me, especially my family who have given me all their love and encouragement., my incredible friends – it's wonderful to have people who believe I can do this. I would also like to thank the Brixworth Players who were a wonderful group to work with who still send support and love my way. – Hannah Saxton

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First Community Lunch fills the Village Hall

During a busy Easter weekend in the village, Brixworth Cares hosted a free community lunch at the Brixworth Village Hall. The idea was to put on a lunch for everyone in the village to enjoy.

The Brixworth Cares team set the scene with decorated dining tables, including a table decorated especially for the children. We even had a children's activity area set up, so parents could have a few minutes to chat together whilst the children were entertaining themselves decorating biscuits etc.

We had advertised the event on social media and with posters around the village, but we were not quite sure if anyone would turn up. We need not have worried! We opened the doors at 1PM and by 1:30PM, the village hall was a hive of chatter and laughter with a wonderful aroma of the amazing food prepared by Billie Passchier, the team's Chef or 'Boss' as she was known on the day. Following the main courses of Beef Bourguignon or Chicken Fricassee, with rice and a fantastic selection of root vegetables, out came the dessert - Hot Cross Bun Bread & Butter Pudding or Creme Egg Cheese Cake, made for us by One Finger, One Thumb owner, April Jones.



In all, fifty-three residents joined us for lunch, including thirteen children. Abbie Atkins, who helped us serve the food commented, "It was a delicious lunch and great turn out".

The team at Brixworth Cares must thank the brilliant local businesses who supported the event. K.F. Troop & Son provided all the vegetables. The Big Phat Print Company produced loads of posters and flyers for us.

A special thanks must go to the *Brixworth Bulletin*, who helped us pay to hire the village hall.

Equal to the support of the *Brixworth Bulletin*, there is one resident who contacted

the team very early on to say whilst he was not able to help out in person, he wanted to be a part of the idea. We want to say a big thank you to Roger Titman who donated £100 to the event.

I personally want to thank the team also: Billie Passchier, Paula Bryans, Danielle Hillery, Claudia Flavell-While, and Sharon Conquer. They put in a lot of hours before the day and worked their socks off during the event. Thank you.

We all think the event was a success and are now working on an idea for an event for the summer. Keep an eye out for something different, with a fun element. - Neal Brown



The team's chef Billie goofing around the kitchen in-between courses

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Easter Egg Hunt raises £2,700

On Good Friday over 160 children helped by parents and friends set off from St Davids playing field to find Easter Eggs left around Brixworth by the Easter Bunny. Fortunately the weather stayed dry although a little windy and cold.



Organised by Katie from the Northampton Pets shop in the village the children visited ten landmarks and businesses which included the library, the stocks, pet shop, butchers, greengrocers and others, collecting a numbered plastic egg and a clue to the next location.

Back at the finish at the playing field the numbered plastic eggs were exchanged for a chocolate one.

A tombola, raffle, jewellery stall, filled balloons, hot drinks were just some of the stalls that welcomed people back. The event raised over £1,700 for the blood cancer charity Bloodwise, boosted to over £2,700 by Barclaycard.

A great day was enjoyed by all and hopefully it will become an annual event.

– Martin Carnell

The return of the BCF summer holiday club

With the summer holidays fast approaching, BCF Community Church are already starting to plan the next Holiday Club, which will take place from 26-28 July.

You will no doubt remember that last year we had to run things on a smaller scale as the school was having extensive building work done. The good news is that all the work has been completed and we are running this year's holiday club back at the school with a BBQ, celebration and award ceremony at the Olive Branch.

As in the past we are offering this holiday club as a freebee thanks to BCF church funding and the Northamptonshire Community Foundation. The registration forms will go out in the second week in July via the school as in the past. Please return your completed forms with your £10 deposit asap as we will be working on a first come first served basis. Priority will be given to children who regularly attend BCF Junior Church and Dynamites.

From all your friends at BCF Community Church

Welcome to China Garden



China Garden, the first takeaway to be located in the heart of the village, opened on the 2nd March.

The food outlet on Northampton Road is the first business venture Ben Wang has set up, having worked as a chef for over ten years. He decided to take on a lease in Brixworth as he perceived it to be a friendly place lacking any similar facility. Ben is assisted by his wife, Gloria, and Kim who staffs the front desk and takes the orders.

China Garden offers the standard Chinese fare that British people have come to expect. The most popular dishes are Crispy Duck, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Crispy Beef, Beef in Blackbean Sauce and Duck in Plum Sauce.

Business is going well so far and Ben and his colleagues are pleased with the feedback they have had. They would like to be known for having a good chef, a high standard and wide variety of fresh food, excellent customer service as well as the highest levels of hygiene.

The takeaway is open six days a week (closed on Monday) from 3 to 10.30pm on weekdays and from 3 to 11pm on Saturday. – Jennifer Fitzgerald

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- ★ We aim to deliver a wonderful early years experience for all the children in our care

Quote from our Ofsted report:



"This is a welcoming, homely and friendly nursery which promotes commendable standards of care & learning in a fully inclusive manner".

Another Phone Box adopted

Classic red phone boxes may not be used much for making phone calls anymore, but their iconic status is resulting in them being put to all sorts of new uses.

Parish Councillors in Scaldwell, much like Hanging Houghton (see the previous issue), thought its phone box could serve new and better purposes and as a result, it has been adopted by the Parish Council.

The Council plans to use the phone box to house a defibrillator which would benefit the community, and arrange for training. All being well, the new defibrillator should be installed and ready for use later this year. – *Phil Purcell*

Volunteers needed for Pump Restoration



The pump, seen in the background above, was hidden in an ivy-covered wooden box and is now in need of restoration

Scaldwell Parish Council would love to restore the old village water pump, located on a wall at the village green.

Until recently the pump was hidden inside a wooden box which was covered by ivy. When the ivy was cleared a few months ago, the wooden box was found to be in a poor state of repair.

Rather than just repairing the box, the council would like to know if any fellow villagers would like to undertake a community

project to repair or replace the existing wall, expose and repair the original pump, and make the whole area a feature of the village.

The council would of course be able to offer some assistance and guidance, but the aim is for this to become a village community led project, rather than a council initiative.

Please contact any of the councillors or the clerk (e-mail: scaldwellpc@gmail.com or mobile: 07547 505027) to express an interest. – *Phil Purcell*

New Website for Scaldwell Village

Scaldwell village has re-launched its website at www.scaldwellvillage.org.

The site now features news about the village, a calendar of upcoming events, agendas and minutes from the Parish Council, information about Scaldwell church, services and bellringing, updates about Scaldwell Village Hall (including how to book it for an event), and village activities run by the Scaldwell Club. The club organises a broad range of village activities over the course of the year, ranging from a summer picnic to the annual fireworks display.

In addition, the website has a huge register of useful links for a broad range of services of interest to the village, covering everything from local GPs, social services, contact details for the local MP and where to report highway repair issues.

– *Phil Purcell*



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Friends host Antiques & Curios Quiz

What is it? What is it used for? What's its value?

These are some of the questions posed at the Antiques & Curios Quiz held on 17th February by the Friends of All Saints Church. The questions were set and entertainingly presented by Denise Cowling, Senior Auctioneer at Gildings Auction House, Market Harborough.

At the start of the evening Denise gave an informative presentation on her chosen career, peppered with unusual and humorous anecdotes. She brought along a selection of antiques and curios which were relevant to the questions on the quiz sheet. These were displayed for the teams to view and assess for clues.

Whilst teams pondered and discussed the answers they were served a Ploughman's Supper of homemade pate, cheese, pickle, crackers and crusty bread. A bar was available for drinks.

There were huge sighs of disappointment and surprise mixed with cheers of accomplishment and a lot of chatter as Denise gave out the answers to the questions. There was some good humoured competitiveness amongst the teams. Eventually one team was announced the winner and presented with a prize.

The evening was very well supported and the Trustees of The Friends were delighted to have raised £1120 toward funds.

Many thanks go to everyone who helped to organise and present this most enjoyable event. They are too many to mention but their support is very much appreciated. – Kate Knight

History Society News

At this time of year Brixworth History Society takes over the Heritage Centre on Church Street at the weekends for the spring and summer.

The society is presenting a photographic exhibition in the Heritage Centre called "Down Memory Lane". Brixworth village has expanded rapidly during the past few years and we have selected a collection of photographs from our extensive archives which will give you a gentle reminder of Brixworth in earlier times.

The exhibition will include a display of Roman pottery and artefacts which were unearthed in the late 1960s and early 1970s of a Roman villa which was situated to the north of the church.

The Heritage Centre will be open at weekends from Saturday 20 May until Sunday 24 September 2.30pm to 5pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

On Saturday 17 June members of the Society and friends will be travelling on a coach trip to Portsmouth for the day which will include a visit to the Mary Rose museum. There are still spaces on the coach; if you would like to join us please contact Deni Willis on 880612. Further summer excursions are planned for Chester Farm Heritage Park and Stanford Hall.

Our monthly meetings start again in September. Meetings take place in the Village Hall on Holcot Road on Thursdays and always start at 7.30pm; visitors are very welcome. The guest speakers are:

- 21 September: Peter Perkins, "Our Industrial Heritage"
- 19 October: Susan Wheatcroft, "The History of Christian Names"
- 16 November: Drew Gray, "19th Century Magistrates"
- 14 December: Christmas Social Evening

For further information please visit www.brixworthhistory.org or contact Heather Parr on 07817 006364.

– Heather Parr, Chairman, Brixworth History Society



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Village Welcome Pack

The pack is now in its fifth edition and has been completely updated. It now contains a copy of the Heritage Trail Leaflet, revised clubs and societies list and the most recent directory of businesses. It is available free of charge to all new residents.

The Information Point volunteers, who produce the pack, are sad to announce the passing of John Dunkley, a long standing volunteer. We send our condolences to his family.

There are now a couple of spaces for new volunteers in the Information Point. Now in its fifth year of operation, it is open four days a week in addition to our new Parish Clerk, Peter Rowbotham, who is based there on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

If you would like to know more about volunteering here, please contact Mike Nice on 880086.



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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

We hope you all had a lovely Easter. Here is the latest update on what the Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group have been up to.

The **Beavers** enjoyed making pancakes, and taking part in pancake races. They also loved playing team games and following a flour trail in Brixworth Country Park – apologies to those who were concerned about the flour they left behind – it normally blows / washes away by the next morning. A big thank you to Katie who welcomed the Beavers into her shop and let them look and hold the animals as they learnt how to look after them. Then just before Easter the Beavers made some lovely gifts for their mums and took part in some exciting Easter activities which included an Easter Egg Hunt.

At the same time, the **Cubs** had a fantastic time roller blading at the Benham Centre. They also enjoyed a visit to Pets at Home where they learnt about caring for all sorts of different animals. The Cubs also worked on their creative badge and made something lovely for Mother's Day. Out of doors, they learnt to navigate in Brixworth Country Park and took part in an Easter Egg Hunt.

Meanwhile, the **Scouts** have had a whole troop challenge night, with lots of different tasks and test to compete against each other in. They also spent a couple of evenings working on their digital badge preparing presentation on the activities they had been involved in. Navigation practice followed, with a treasure hunt, a grid hunt and a walk outside the village. They too prepared some lovely Mother's Day gifts and finished the term with an exciting trip to the go-kart track.

Since the last report, the **Explorers** have gone off road biking from Market Harborough along the Brampton Valley way to Brixworth, walked around the village and taken part in the Rotary Karting event. They made and ate pancakes, held a games evening, and practiced driving off road safely within the grounds of Pitsford School with a qualified driving instructor. The explorers finished the term with a BBQ and Easter Egg hunt in the Brixworth Country Park.

All sections took part in the **St George's Day Parade** (pictured, top right) from the Community Centre to the primary school which was joined by Marcus Thornycroft, the Daventry District Commissioner.

The group would like to apologise about the lack of response people may have been experiencing when trying to contact the **Waiting List** administrator. We now have appointed someone to look after this role, and hopefully you will be contacted shortly with updates.

The **AGM** will be held on the 18th May 2017 at the Brixworth Centre starting at 6.30pm. Please join us and find out more about Scouts.

Many members of the **executive committee** are stepping down this year after many years of service with the Scouts. These roles are



ideally suited to people who would like to help, but cannot commit on a weekly basis.

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

Brixworth & Scaldwell has a new **Group Scout Leader (GSL)** – Lisa Irons, formerly one of the Scout Leaders. The group wishes her good luck in her new role.

To find out more about Scouts visit scouts.org.uk. To find out more about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group contact Lisa Irons, Group Scout Leader brixworth_gsl@bopenworld.com. To put your young boy or girl on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please email their name, date of birth, your name, address and telephone numbers to brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk. – Kim Philips

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bcc fest 2017 Weekender
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Friday – From 6pm
 Family fun night, BBQ and Rock 'n' Roll band from 8pm

Saturday – 2pm to midnight
 Hog roast and 3 live bands from 7.30pm
 Evening admission by ticket only

£10 Adult/Young Person Ticket (includes hog roast)
£7 Child/Under 12s Ticket (includes hog roast)

Sunday – From 2pm
 T20 cricket, Junior Tennis tournament and BBQ food available all day

For tickets and further details please contact Will Huxby E: 01604 880715 e: brixworthbcc@outlook.com
 Brixworth Cricket Club, Northampton Road, Brixworth, NN16 9QQ

Village Voices at 25



From the fledgling aspirations of a group of parents at their children's playgroup in the summer of 1992, Village Voices has blossomed into a well-supported choir which has reached its silver anniversary.

All those years ago, Village Voices was the brainchild of Pam Knight, her Dutch friend Betty Youngman, and Ian Clarke who was persuaded to direct the group and who also runs Northamptonshire's premier chamber choir, Swarbrick Singers.

Village Voices put on regular concerts of mainly classical choral music at All Saints'.

The Saxon church is a favourite venue

because of its marvellous acoustic. The latest event on 31st March had a French theme with works by César Franck, Maurice Duruflé, Gabriel Fauré and the centrepiece was Jean Gille's 'Messe des Morts'. Ian is well known for putting together interesting and fairly demanding programmes for his choirs.

The choir is 35-strong with a wide age range but welcomes new members, especially tenors who seem to be a rare breed nationally. The principle has always been that members do not necessarily have to be expert or trained in music, just to sing enthusiastically in tune with their neighbour; this has resulted in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and well received concert performances.

During the last six summers, the group has also staged absorbing one-day workshops open to the public and not just to choir members. This summer sees the opportunity to rehearse and then perform Haydn's 'Creation'. Pam Knight says: "It's a good way for anyone to sing a major work from scratch under Ian's expert guidance and, you never know, you might enjoy embarking with us on our next 25 years."

The event will take place on 18th June at the Village Hall in Old and details can be found on the choir's website www.village-voices.org.uk, their Facebook page www.facebook.com/VillageVoicesChoirNorthants, or by calling Pam on 781630. An anniversary concert will be held in December. – Paul Sanders-Hewett

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.

The London Studies Group forthcoming trip is to Three Mills Island on the River Lea. This has been a centre for milling for at least one thousand years.

The Science & Technology group started meeting in June 2016 and have since covered many topics including the civil engineering of bridges. There is a visit on 4th May to the Ardley Energy Recovery Facility near Brackley. The plant processes 95% of non-recoverable waste away from landfill into electricity.

The March meeting was Registration Day and promotion of the interest groups. The Singing For Pleasure group entertained members with selection of songs (see *photo*) and the Irish Ceili Dancing group demonstrated some dances encouraging some members to join in which proved to be a lot of fun.

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

Northamptonshire Carers anniversary

Northamptonshire Carers, an organisation supporting people supporting relatives or friends with a disability, long-term illness or other additional needs in county, is 25 years old this year.

To celebrate, the organisation is holding a celebration. Carers Week, starting on 12th June, invites budding writers, poets, photographers and artists for a competition and exhibition at the Carers Centre at 123 Midland Road, Wellingborough. The work will be exhibited all week from 12th June and is open to everyone.

Entries must be in by 8th June. Judging is on 13th June. For more information or help transporting your work, please contact Deidre Daish on 07376 061101.

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BCF Soccer and Netball School



In the four days leading up to Easter more than a dozen men, women and teenagers aged from 15 to 75 years assisted Sports Reach to put on the first Soccer and Netball School in Brixworth.

It was forecast to be cool with the odd shower, but it stayed dry and no one was worried about it being cool with all the racing around outside.

A remarkable group of youngsters, mostly from primary schools in the locality, signed up. They were lively, competitive, polite and fun.

The coaching by Sports Reach was of a high standard all round and I am sure that the volunteer helpers learned a lot too.

The children enjoyed the simple and straightforward study times which allowed them to ask the big questions about God and Life in groups of half a dozen. And they learned some fun songs to well-known tunes.

By 5 o'clock on Saturday with the barbeque in full swing, I was thinking it was time I went home to my family visiting from London, who were waiting for me at home. But there was one last thing to do: the parents vs coaches netball match. With a mere 34 years since my last game, it turned out to be a surprising experience with one of our friends keeping her light under a bushel as she turned out to be an ex-Western Province player from South Africa! The coaches team meanwhile were fortunate to have young Amy Metters who turned out to be a demon shooter.

Children and adults alike had so much fun that I can thoroughly recommend anyone to join in the next time Sports Reach visits Brixworth. – Deidre Daish

'Celebration of Love' for Valentines

This was the fourth year that the Celebration of Love event has taken place. Organised by BCF Community Church and The Olive Branch, each time proving more popular. This year all tickets were sold within five days, and we even had a waiting list for anyone dropping out.

The meal is cooked to order by The Olive branch staff and is served by waiters and waitresses from the village all dressed in black and white including some teenagers who enjoyed the fun evening.

The meal began with a choice of three starters and four mains – pan-fried duck proved most popular. This was followed by a choice of five sweets or cheese and biscuits.

During the evening there was live music and poetry was read with some humour. The evening finished with a short message on love by Pastor Andy Lloyd-Williams.

Below just one of several messages received at The Olive Branch after the event. – Vernon Salmon, The Olive Branch

*We spent a wonderful evening with friends
At the BCF 'Valentines' Dinner*

*The entertainment was good
And the food a definite winner.*

*Serving us was a team of volunteers
Who were friendly and so much fun*

*So thank you and cheers
A job well done.*

*So Valentine's Day passed
We look forward to the spring*

*We are so blessed: this lovely world
Makes your heart sing.
– Anonymous*



Planning update

PD/2016/0082 Agricultural Building, Tollbar Cottage, Pitsford Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling (resubmission)	DDC Refused
DA/2016/1009 Brixworth Nursery Farm, Holcot Road Variation of Conditions 5, 6 & 7 of DA/2015/0286 (Construction of 10 independent living units, clubhouse and staff accommodation) relating to the occupation of the independent living units and staff accommodation to carers not employed by Brixworth Nursery Farm)	BPC Comment No objection DDC Approved subject to conditions
DA/2016/0963 The Old School Room 12A, Church Street Change of use from childrens centre to dwelling	BPC Objection DDC Approved subject to conditions
PD/2017/0007 Foxlea, Holcot Road Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwelling	BPC no comment DDC approved
DA/2017/0214 Park Farm, Spratton Road Extension to existing building	BPC no comment DDC approval not needed
DA/2017/0130 & DA/2017/0129 The Manor, Harborough Road Listed Building and Planning Consent for construction of single storey rear extension and porch	BPC no objection DDC withdrawn
DA/2017/0001 29, St Davids Road Demolition of store and lobby and construction of two storey side extension	BPC no objection DDC approved



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BRIXWORTH MATTERS

 BCF Community Church

Easter may seem a long time ago now, but if you're anything like me, the evidence of it can still be seen on my waistline!!! It was also good to have a few extra days off for many of us and hopefully allowed us a little time to reflect, maybe on the real meaning of Easter.

As I thought back to the crucifixion myself, there is the powerful moment, just before it, in the garden of Gethsemane, where it can appear that Jesus is all alone. Close by are his disciples but when they fall asleep it seems to emphasise his solitude. Yet, Jesus was far from alone! He was wrestling with his father God in prayer.

The most difficult times for us all can often feel the loneliest. Yes, people may be nearby but we must still face the circumstances ourselves. However, in such times we can remember we are not alone, God is always with us and He completely 'gets us'.

Psalm 139: says "Where can I go from your Spirit, where can I flee from your presence? If I go to the heavens you are there; if I make my bed in the depths you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

Like Jesus, God wants us to talk to him. We too may need to wrestle with God, but his desire is to have a real honest relationship with us and to walk with us through the highs and lows of life, and to get to the point where we too can say like Jesus "not my will but yours be done." I know from my own experience there is no safer and fulfilling place than being in the centre of God's will, even if life is difficult.

Best wishes.

Andy



Contact Andy Lloyd Williams on 07958 604961



Soccer and Netball school

During the second week of the Easter holidays, BCF Community Church organised a fantastic Soccer and Netball School held at Brixworth Primary School. Over 40 children from the area signed up for 4 days of developing skills and playing matches in netball and football alongside learning bible stories in a really fun and enjoyable way. The week concluded with numerous competitions in each sport, as well as a BBQ and coach's vs parents match.

The Church was helped greatly by SportsReach, a UK organisation that assist churches nationally and internationally to run these events. Their gifted coaches saw each child really improve in their sport but more importantly increase in confidence - and they had a great time!

The Church would like to thank all those who volunteered to make everything happen, The School, for allowing the premises to be hired out for such an amazing community occasion and of course the children and parents. The whole thing was a great success.



St. George's Day Service



On the 23rd of April, BCF Community Church welcomed Brixworth and Scaldwell Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to their now annual St George's Day Service. The youngsters and their leaders began the morning by walking behind their standards from the Community Centre and were welcomed at the school by the Church. During an enjoyable service the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and their leaders renewed their promises, while later it became apparent there were some budding actors - particularly in the Scouts - when Andy brought to life the story of the Good Samaritan in a fun and engaging way.

Summer Holiday Children's Club



Summer Holiday Children's Club 2017

With building work at the school now complete, this year we are back to normal at the school with our Summer Holiday Children's Club. The club will run from Wed 26th to Friday 28th July and will include all the things the kids are used to such as crafts, songs, games and fun Bible stories.

Booking forms will go out as normal through the school. Please contact Mark for further details on 07917 573784

Senior Citizen Excursion

Instead of the normal Wednesday Senior Citizen lunch at the Olive Branch for a change we all went on a lunch trip to The Bulls Head, Clipston. The pub cooked a really good roast beef and all the trimmings, served up promptly and tasted really good with plenty of food. Then came the pudding, a choice of 3 and again these were nicely presented and tasted really good. The staff at The Bulls Head really looked after us all. Everyone said how much they enjoyed the lunch out and many said "When can we go again".

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 2017 7-9pm
Where: The Olive Branch Coffee Shop, Brixworth Library and Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DS
For further 'info' contact Andy on 07958 604961 or Mark on 07917 573784 - 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

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

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

If you would like to know more about anything in Brixworth Matters or to know more about the Christian Faith, then phone Andy on 07958 604961

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

Something for everyone!



As we move into June, we are preparing for our Friends' Day Celebrations and Church Fete (June 3rd and 4th). The Friends of All Saints' work hard to preserve your ancient and beautiful parish church, and promote its history. The church has a connection with St. Boniface, whose feast day is on 5th June. He was born in England, but is remembered for his missionary activity in Germany, where he converted and baptised thousands. His qualities were courage and loyalty, and his determination to spread the gospel is inspiring.

But as well as a place steeped in history, All Saints' is also about **people**. We are a friendly, welcoming and inclusive community, which likes to experiment with different styles of worship.

We had a busy Easter period, with services well attended. We had a beautiful morning for our Palm Sunday Family Service, and after gathering at the bottom of the hill, we walked up into the church, with a young 'Jesus' riding a donkey. On Good Friday, we joined with the BCF at a moving act of witness in front of the church, and nailed heart-shaped prayers to the Cross. On Easter Sunday, the atmosphere at our Family Communion was one of joy and celebration,

as we let off party poppers to symbolise Christ's bursting out from the tomb!

We are also very keen to welcome children in amongst us. Our Junior Church on the first Sunday of each month is proving popular. Please do explore our website for details of what's on here. I hope that there will be something to inspire everybody. I am looking forward to welcoming you in amongst us very soon!

Rev. Chloe



FROM THE REGISTERS:

Burials: John Wilson
 Dorothy Watkins
 Elizabeth Darlow
 Rosalind Oppido
 Angela Bowler

Baptisms: Zachary Gray
 Brodie Phillips



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

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



For primary and pre-school age children.

TREASURE HUNT FOR ALL AGES
ending with a barbecue
AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

SATURDAY 15th July
Starting at 4pm

Fun for all the Family



BRIXWORTH CHURCH FETE Sunday 4th June, 2 - 4pm

To be opened by **Bernie Keith**
Stalls, Games, Refreshments & Grand Raffle
Abington Wind Band &
Display by **Krystle's Dance Academy**
Followed by **Songs of Praise**



HAPPY FATHERS' DAY

Fathers' Day Afternoon Tea

Sunday 18th June 3-5pm

- Treat Dad (or yourselves) to a traditional afternoon tea
- Enjoy a sandwich selection, cakes and scones
- Choice of teas available, coffee or juice
- To be held in marquee in Churchyard (or Brixworth Centre if raining)
- Tickets on sale from Brixworth Hardware or telephone Vanessa Crooks on 882058





Brixworth Parish Council has received a lot of comments from residents concerned with the levels of crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the village, and in mid-March, four Parish Councillors met with Sgt Sam Dobbs and PCSO Matt Taylor to

discuss the challenges of policing in the area.

Unfortunately, it seems that most of the people who report concerns on social media or to the Parish Council, don't report them to the police.

It is vital that residents with information about any crime or antisocial behaviour telephone the police on 101 to report it.

You may think that it's a waste of time and that nothing will be done. However, all reports are logged by the police and enable them to see where to focus their resources. Help them to help our community!

I'd like to thank everyone who came along to the Annual Parish Meeting in April. There were presentations from several community groups which provided valuable insight into their activities, and these were well received.

There was also a presentation about the proposed formation of Brixworth Sports Council. It is hoped that this project will replicate the success of a similar scheme in nearby Mawsley village, empowering village sports clubs to raise additional funding and to share and manage the village's resources.

You can read more about the sports council project elsewhere in this edition of the *Brixworth Bulletin*.

Brixworth's Great British Spring Clean 2017

Children can teach us many things and it was inspiring to see so many children involved in Brixworth's Litter Pick which took place on 18 March 2017. The youngest child to volunteer was two years old and the oldest was 12. We should be proud that these children stepped forward to clear up the waste discarded by others.

Many adult members of the public also turned up to make our village a more pleasant place to live, including representatives from the 1st Brixworth & Scaldwell Girl Guides, Brixworth Christian Fellowship and the Olive Branch. One dog walker was apologetic that he could only offer ten minutes of his time, but we were grateful to all volunteers, and ten minutes the volunteer filled half a bag. Just ten minutes made a real difference!

The volunteers litter picked The Ashway Playing Field and the streets and footpaths around The Ashway, Spratton Road playing field, Northampton Road (including the layby to the south of the village), and the Conservation Area including the church grounds. In total, 49 full bags were collected, plus ten tyres, a

pair of Hunter wellies, two very sad dolls, some wire fencing, an oxygen tank and a microwave oven!

Brixworth Parish Council would like to thank the volunteers from Brixworth Christian Fellowship and the Olive Branch for providing free refreshments, and the 1st Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts for providing the gazebo.

Extra special thanks to all the members of public, old and young, who gave up their own time.



Planning matters

For those of you with long memories you may remember last year we reported on an application for a large 'Arts and Crafts' style dwelling on the junction with Merry Tom Lane and Brampton Valley Way, and finished the piece with "watch this space". Well, a further application has been made for an equally large dwelling which again your Council has made objections to. This time being able to cite clauses from the recently 'made' Neighbourhood Plan.

We are sure most of you will have noticed the substantial amount of planting that has recently place to the south of the village. Enquiries to Daventry have been to check if this should have been subject to a



Planning application, Daventry have confirmed that this is not required. Please be assured that both your Council and the Neighbourhood Steering Group will be keeping an eye on this and any future proposals in this area.

Daventry have also informed the Parish Council that they are going to reassess the Conservation Area; updates on this will be made in future Bulletins.



At long last the China Garden has opened to the public, but no further news is available on the Indian Restaurant Purple Ivy.

Welcome, Anthony Jennings!

The Parish Council welcomes another new member to the council, Anthony Jennings. Anthony moved to Brixworth in May 2015 with his partner and stepson aged 6 years soon to be followed by the birth of their daughter now 16 months old. His stepson attends Brixworth Primary School and has settled well in the village playing football and cricket for Brixworth.



Anthony was brought up in a small village near Banbury and is originally from Stratford Upon Avon where his family still live. He went to school in Middleton Cheney where he enjoyed playing rugby although he hasn't played for some years now. He played for his school and for Banbury until he was 18. He is a big Saints fan and started supporting them after playing with his school at Franklins Gardens.

Many of the residents will have met Anthony at Blasons garage where he is the Office Manager. He moved to Blasons from JRM Motorsport in Daventry in March 2016. Anthony's main hobby is motorsport. He enjoys watching all motor sports including Rally cars, classic and historic cars, Formula 1 and endurance. He regularly marshals at Silverstone and 5 years ago was part of the JRM team in the Le Mans 24 hour endurance race where the team came 6th overall but were the first place British team.

Anthony has a busy time with his young family and he also regularly visits his family at weekends in Stratford. His family have always been very involved in their local community so when Anthony moved to Brixworth he wanted to continue to enjoy the community feeling and be able to offer his services to the village, therefore when a vacancy occurred on the Parish Council it provided him with an ideal opportunity to do both.

Fly tipping

Fly tipping is the dumping of waste illegally instead of using the authorised methods such as kerbside collection or using the nearby Recycling Centre.

Fly-tipping causes lots of problems locally including:

- A cost to the Brixworth council tax payers and private landowners to clear it up
- Threats to humans and wildlife, and damages to our environment
- Spoiling our enjoyment of our village and countryside

Daventry District records on average about 100 fly tips a month. This is now rising year on year and is becoming a regular eye sore around the area.

Persons evidenced to have committed a small fly tip offence can now be issued with a £400 fixed penalty notice. In addition to this the carrying waste without a licence is a fine of £300.

Allowing waste to be carried by an unlicensed waste carrier is also a fine of £300. This is a 'duty of care' offence that all householders need to be aware of. Most fly tips originate from householders who have given their waste to a 'man in a van' for low cost with little regard to where it's going to end up. Illegal waste disposal companies will always undercut those operating within the law.

Householders are legally responsible for any household waste produced on their property. You could be fined if your waste ends up fly-tipped and

you cannot show that you have taken reasonable steps to prevent it. There are several ways to dispose of the waste that cannot go into your bins:

- Take large waste items to your local recycling centre
- Always use a licenced waste carrier to remove your waste. It is a legal requirement to use a licensed waste carrier
- Use the District Council's service to remove bulky waste items. There is a charge for this service and details can be found on the on the Daventry District Council web site.

The support of the public is key to our efforts to tackle this issue so the Parish Council strongly urge all residents to report any suspicious activity they encounter. You can report fly tipping and other environmental crimes using the on line self-service system on the District Council's web site or by calling the District Council on 01327 871100.



Grass cutting

The grass cutting season is now well underway and the Parish Council has been working throughout the village maintaining its open spaces. As well as grass cutting the Parish Council strims these areas, carries out weed spraying and collects any litter. As well as maintaining its own land the Parish Council also cuts the grass on the highway verges within Brixworth on behalf of the County Council.

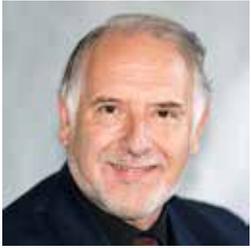
Parking on grass verges is a persistent problem in some parts of the village and can lead to verges becoming an unsightly state. The Council has already missed some streets as drivers parking on a grass verge have prevented grass cutting from taking place both underneath the vehicle and around it.

Please help us keep Brixworth 'Clean and Green' and do not park on the verges.

If you have any comments on the street scene services offered by the Parish Council please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk or call him on 079 8314 1786.



Brixworth Parish Council



Ian Barratt



Jackie Bird



Neal Brown
Chairman, Media & Communications



Elaine Coe



Stuart Coe



Alex Coles
Chairman



James Collyer



Stephen James
Chairman, Planning



Anthony Jennings



Sandra Moxon



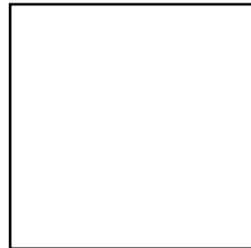
Kevin Parker



Justyna Pittam



Peter Saxton



You?



Peter Rowbotham
Parish Clerk

10 Shelland Close
Market Harborough
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Email: clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk
Telephone: 07983 141 786

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Web: www.brixworthpc.org.uk

Parish Council photos by
Brixworth Photographic Society

Parish Council meetings June to August

Full Council

Tues 27th June 2017 7.15pm
Tues 25th July 2017 7.15pm
Tues 22nd August 2017.... 7.15pm

Planning

Mon 5th June 2017..... 7.30pm
Mon 26th June 2017..... 7.30pm
Mon 17th July 2017 7.30pm
Mon 7th August 2017..... 7.30pm

Media & Communications

Weds 13th June 2017..... 7.30pm
Weds 19th July 2017 7.30pm
Weds 13th August 2017 ... 7.30pm

Library events

Activities for Under 5s

Rhymetime for the Under 5s

Mondays 2.30pm

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.

Now fortnightly, check our Facebook page for clinic weeks.

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, must be booked in advance.

These are five-week courses for parent/carer and baby (from age six weeks). Price is £60 per course to include all materials, payable in advance to Leveta Lawson (see Facebook page: infant massage by Leveta Lawson) or see staff at library.

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 during Under 5s sessions.

Activities for children up to 12

Crafts

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

Messy Crafts

Wednesdays 2.30pm every school holiday – next session Wednesday 31st May, and every Wednesday throughout the summer holidays.

Under 8s must be accompanied by their parent or carer. Free, but please book in advance either at the library or email brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk

Summer Reading Challenge 2017

This year's theme is Animal Agents and we shall announce our programme of events nearer the time.

Adult events

Adults' Colouring Club

Free and suitable for all ages teens upwards. All materials provided, we have a wide selection of colouring sheets for you to choose from, so why not give it a go! Helps you relax and unwind. Drop in from 11am to 2pm, tea and coffee available for £1.

Book Club

The Brixworth Library Morning Readers Group meets first Tuesday of every month 10.30am. Open to all – please ask at library or email brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk

Get involved

We now have a "Friends of Brixworth Library Group" up and running, but new members always welcome. The Friends Group meets six-weekly, the next date is Friday 30th June at 9.30am in the library. The Friends are also planning a "Vintage Fair" to be held in the library on Saturday 4th November, more details nearer the time.

Quiz Night is back!

Quiz nights will be held every other month, with the next one taking place Friday 14th July at 7.30pm with our original and ever-popular Quiz Master Steve.

We welcome teams of up to four people. The cost is £2.50 per team member, tickets are available from the library.

Gain experience

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 would also love to recruit more **IT Buddies** – we need volunteers to help customers with IT queries, getting to grips with new lap-tops, iPads, tablets etc and also help with Blue Badge online applications.

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 view the volunteering roles and apply online at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved

Other Services

New Service! "myHermes Parcelshop"

You can now collect, send & return your parcels from Brixworth Library via myHermes – to find out more visit www.myhermes.co.uk/parcelshop

- Bus passes – new, lost and renewals
- DVD hire
- Checking service for online Blue Badge Applications
- Computer use – free on Fridays (charge for printing)
- Photocopying
- Laminating
- Library shop • 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

Bank Holiday Closures: Monday 29th May, Monday 28th August; Open all other days as usual

For more information on upcoming events and all the latest updates, please contact us at brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk and visit us on www.firstforwellbeing.co.uk or www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary

– Jill Barber



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What's on

Area event Local event

Submit yours at www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk

27 May	Rail Ale and Music Trains	N'pton & Lamport Railway
28-29 May	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
28-29 May	Rail Ale and Music Trains	N'pton & Lamport Railway
31 May	Xplorer Orienteering	Brixworth Country Park
31 May	Kevin and Karen Dance	Derngate
1 June	Henning Wehn	Derngate
2-4/6	FloVibe Festival	Kelmarsh Hall
2 June	That'll be the Day	Derngate
3 June	Iconic Movie Soundtracks	Derngate
4 June	Northants Ultra 35	Lampport Hall
4 June	Worlds Greatest Drummer	Derngate
4 June	Church Fete	All Saints Brixworth
4 June	Liza sings Streisand	Derngate
6-7/6	Mayhew Dance Company	Royal
7-8 June	Ben and Hollis Little Kingdom	Derngate
8 June	Brixworth Belles Swing Fit evening	Brixworth Village Hall
8 June	Joel Dommett	Royal
9 June	Jimmy Carr	Derngate
10 June	Concert: Northampton Male Voice Choir	Lampport Church
10 June	An Evening with The Lincoln Noel Trio	All Saints Brixworth
10 June	Wildflower Walk	Country Park
12 June	Wellbeing Walk	Country Park
16 June	Beverley Knight	Derngate
17 June	History Society; Day Trip to Portsmouth	Portsmouth
17-18/6	AACI Autoshow 2017	Kelmarsh Hall
17 June	Volunteer Day	Brixworth Country Park
18 June	Fathers Day Cream Tea Trains	N'pton & Lamport Railway
18 June	Fathers Day Teas	All Saints Brixworth

18 June	Workshop - Sing Haydns Creation from scratch	The Village Hall, Old, Northants
18 June	Jan Mracek Performs Mendelssohn	Derngate
21 June	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
21 June	Trevs Big Challenge (51 miles in 24 Hours)	Brixworth Country Park
22 June	The Illegal Eagles	Derngate
23-25 June	BrixccFest 2017	Brixworth Cricket Club
23 June	Motown and Philadelphia	Derngate
25 June	Vintage and Classic Car Show	Draughton
25 June	Junior Tennis Tournament	Brixworth Tennis Club
27 June	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
29 June	Brixworth Cancer Support Group	Saxon House, Brixworth
30 June	Heather Small	Derngate
1-2 July	Steam Fair	Hollowell
6 July	Russell Brand	Derngate
8-9 July	Great British Food Show	Kelmarsh Hall
8 July	Alice at Wonderland	Derngate
9 July	Cream Tea Steam Trains	N'pton & Lamport Railway
11 July	Brixworth Belles Gin Tasting and Tour	Warner Edwards, Hannington
13 July	History Society Trip to Normandy	Caen
14-15/7	Great Expectations	Royal
15 July	Treasure Hunt & BBQ	All Saints Brixworth
15 July	Twelfth Night	Lampport Hall
15 July	Volunteer Day	Brixworth Country Park
16 July	Trad Jazz in the Garden	Lampport Hall
16 July	Cream Tea Steam Trains	N'pton & Lamport Railway
16 July	Film Music Gala	Derngate
19 July	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
21 July	Music and Supper	Lampport Hall
23 July	St Trinians School Break Up	N'pton & Lamport Railway
23 July	Wildlife walk and litter pick	Brampton Valley Way

25 July	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
26 July, am	Fire and Smores (Booking essential)	Brixworth Country Park
26 July, pm	Kelly Kettle Challenge (Booking essential)	Brixworth Country Park
26 July	Xplorer Orienteering	Brixworth Country Park
27 July	Brixworth Cancer Support Group	Saxon House, Brixworth
27-29/7	Derren Brown	Derngate
2 Aug	Xplorer Orienteering	Brixworth Country Park
5-6 Aug	AACI Autoshow 2017	Kelmarsh Hall
5 Aug	Maidwell BBQ	Loder Hall
8 Aug	Brixworth Belles Flower arranging	Brixworth Village Hall
8 Aug	Underwater World	Country Park
9 Aug	Minibeast Safari	Country Park
16 Aug	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
16 Aug	Xplorer Orienteering	Brixworth Country Park
19 Aug	Volunteer Day	Brixworth Country Park
22 Aug	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
22 Aug	Underwater World	Country Park
23 Aug	Minibeast Safari	Country Park
26-28 Aug	Gala Weekend	N'pton & Lamport Railway
27-28/8	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Lampport Hall
30 Aug am	Fire and Smores (Booking essential)	Brixworth Country Park
30 Aug pm	Kelly Kettle Challenge (Booking essential)	Brixworth Country Park
31 Aug	Brixworth Cancer Support Group	Saxon House, Brixworth
12 Sep	Brixworth Belles Bingo evening	Brixworth Village Hall
16 Sep	Volunteer Day	Brixworth Country Park
16 Sep	John Bishop	Derngate
17 Sep	Des O'Connor and Jimmy Tarbuck	Derngate
20 Sep	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
21 Sep	History Society: Our Industrial Heritage	Brixworth Village Hall

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Cricket Club plans second Weekender

Great start for 2017 season

Brixworth Cricket Club's 2017 Senior fixtures started on Saturday 22nd April with bright sunshine and beautiful warm weather, and as always the ground on Northampton Road was in marvellous condition. The ground at St David's is looking in terrific condition also. Let's hope the weather remains kind throughout the coming season and allows lots of both Senior & Junior cricket matches to be played at both cricket grounds in the village.

Over 100 under-13s are registered at the club, learning and playing cricket regularly. There is also a larger pool of Senior players who are representing the club's four Senior teams each Saturday – pleasingly there are some very talented teenagers playing at a good level, which bodes well for the future success of the club. Volunteer numbers at the club have also increased, however we could always do with more adult helpers and adult players, so if you have an interest in playing/coaching/scoring/helping behind the bar or umpiring please contact Chris Timm on 07718 628985.

Social Fridays

Friday evenings from 6pm at the ground on Northampton Road continue to be great fun, with the parents enjoying a beer/wine/prosecco from the clubhouse bar and food from the BBQ, while the 100 children are being coached on the outfield. If you have not visited the ground before please do come down to the club, enjoy a drink and a burger and see for yourself what an enjoyable evening it is at a beautiful venue.

Beer and Music Festival Weekender

Following its great success last year, Brixworth Cricket & Tennis Club will be hosting its **Second Beer and Music Festival Weekender** from Friday 23rd June – Sunday 25th June. There will be a choice of 20 beers and ciders with exotic names to choose from, including last year's favourite "Love Muscle", along with prosecco, wine and Pimm's.

Friday 23rd June from 6pm which is **Family Night**, with Junior cricket coaching, live Rock n' Roll music, an extensive BBQ and the bar will of course be open.

Saturday 24th June sees the main events, with a **Northants Premier League** cricket match starting at 11am, **three live bands** performing from 7.30pm to go with the **hog roast** (vegetarian option available). The bar will be open from 2pm. Evening admission on the 24th June is by ticket only, costing £10 for adults and £7 for under 12s (both including hog roast). For tickets please contact Will Haxby on 880715 or email brixworthcc@outlook.com

On Sunday 25th June, starting at 2pm, we'll host a **20/20 cricket match** and a **junior tennis tournament**. Drinks and BBQ will of course both be provided.

Everybody is welcome to come along to the Festival Weekender, all ages, the more the merrier. We would love to see you there, it's sure to be a terrific weekend. – *Chris Timm*

Best season ever for Short Mat Bowling Club



The winning team. From left to right, back: Mike Nice, Dave Templeman, Andy Bransby, Bill Bates, Martin Carnell. Front: Bernadette Byrne, Janet Hickman, John Wykes, Helen Nice. Also played but not in the photo are Roger and Jenny Chapman

Brixworth Short Mat Bowling Club enjoyed its best ever season, finishing runners up in the Northamptonshire Independent Friendly Bowling League's 2016/17 season. The match stats: Won 8, lost 4, finishing on 44 points. League winners were Welford with 48 points.

If you would like to try short mat bowling, and join us on our social events, come along to the Brixworth Center in Church Street. We meet Fridays at 2.30 and 7.30pm (equipment provided). For more information contact Janet on 07762 211721. – *Martin Carnell*

Register now for Tennis Club Junior Tournament

"IT WAS A REALLY FUN DAY!" - That was just one of many comments from last year's Brixworth Tennis Club first ever Junior Tennis Tournament in which 28 juniors from Brixworth, as well as the surrounding villages, ranging from the age of 5 to 16, took part.

The day had sunshine, sun-cream and satsumas. Children as young as five played their very first tournament, to be followed by the teenage players slicing, splicing, spinning and serving at what looked like more than 100mph!

Last year's Mini Red Winner, Mitchell Wilkinson, commented: 'The tournament was great fun – really enjoyable'. Fourteen year old Green Winner Archie Reid agreed, 'I had a really fun day, it was such a friendly tournament. Good luck to everyone who enters this year!'

This year's tournament will be taking part on Sunday 25th June alongside Brixworth Cricket Club's Cider Festival with a 20:20 match and a BBQ in the afternoon. Like last year there will be children of all abilities between 5 and 17 years of age and will be split into appropriate age groups of 5 – 8 (Mini Reds), 9 – 12 (Mini Greens), 13 – 16 (Greens) and 17 -18 (Greens) mixing up the boys and the girls, so if you think your child may be interested in raising the winner's cup, please contact the Club at secretary@brixworthtennisclub.org.uk or call Jonathan Martin, Club Secretary on 07970 100196.



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