

## DDC sketches out development, threatens landscape

Brixworth Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have raised concerns about the latest local plan issued by Daventry District Council.

DDC's Settlements & Countryside Plan, published in November 2017, identifies Brixworth as one of six Primary Service Villages in the district. These villages would be the prime locations where DDC would be looking to build future housing should it once again fail to maintain its five year supply from developments around Daventry town. Planners have already drawn up a 'wishlist' of sites around Brixworth where, between them, they believe they could build up to 825 more houses.

Bob Chattaway, chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, said: "The plan will not negate our Neighbourhood Plan but neither does it appear to fully support it nor even strengthen it as we would have expected. In fact it probably weakens it. The threat of unwanted, unsustainable, development doing serious harm to the beautiful landscape will still be there."



Spot the difference: the land to the left of the brook is a 'special landscape', to the right is in dispute.

Photo courtesy of Steve Lord, Drone Summit, Brixworth

### One half of Brampton valley under threat

At the same time, the Local Plan proposes to remove some of the protection of the landscape to the west of Brixworth. At the moment, the whole of the area between Brixworth, Spratton and Creaton is classed as a Special Landscape Area, which gives it additional protection from development. However DDC reassessed the area and

now wants to remove the protected zone to Brampton Brook, which means that the Spratton side of the valley would remain protected as a special landscape, but the Brixworth side not.

On behalf of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group and Brixworth Parish Council, landscape consultants have assessed the evidence base that led to the change and found the conclusions to be

### Jittery times for the library

As you read this, the future of Brixworth library – and the rest of Northamptonshire's libraries – should have just been decided.

The many supporters of the library have campaigned tirelessly since the consultation on their future was launched late last year. Since then, the dire straits of Northampton County Council's finances have been making national headlines, particularly since NCC had to invoke emergency spending controls which signal it is effectively bankrupt.

While it wasn't immediately clear how this would affect the library decision, in the long term, it cannot be good news.

And yet, it is this short-term focus on cost cutting has contributed to NCC's financial woes. The root of the problem is the huge rise in social care costs, both for the elderly and for children being taken into care, coupled with a cut back in government funding. Brixworth library is a community hub and provides support networks for both these groups which can help them avoid going into care in the first place. Perhaps it is a function that could be further expanded in time and help solve the problem long term.

Just as long as it doesn't get closed in a desperate bid to balance the books in the short term.

*Maadi Flavell-White*

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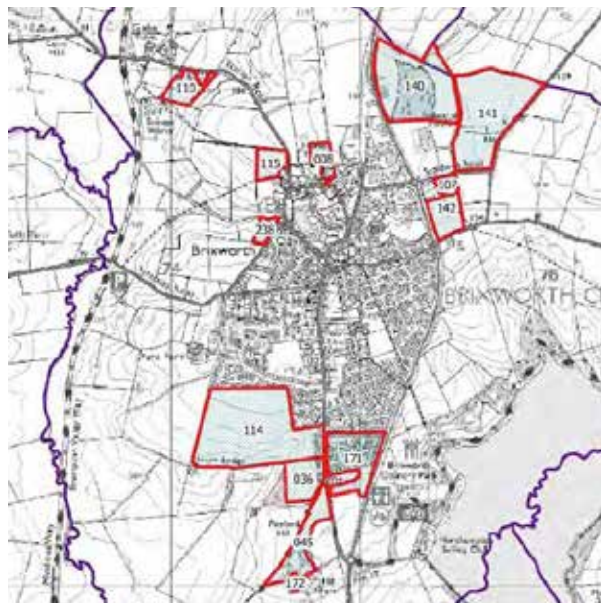
flawed. Consequently, the Council  
and its advisors wrote to DDC  
asking to re-instate that area in the  
Special Landscape Area.

## House-builders' wishlist

The sites around Brixworth that  
landowners want DDC to consider  
for future development include the  
land to the west of Northampton  
Road managed by Savills and two  
further fields along that same road,  
fields along Scaldwell Road the  
other side of the A508, and several  
smaller parcels of land near Frog  
Hall, All Saints Church and the  
former woodyard at Station Road.

It is worth noting the fact that  
a particular site has been put  
forward does not mean it would  
receive planning permission for  
development; indeed the Local  
Plan makes it clear that several of the primary  
service villages have already seen significant  
growth and that further development would  
therefore 'generally' be within the existing  
confines of the village.

"That commitment only holds as long as  
DDC meets its five year supply plan," says  
Chattaway. "All it takes is for a couple of the  
large development sites around Daventry  
town to run into delays and DDC would  
fall behind again. While many of the sites  
identified around Brixworth are deemed  
'unsuitable', that is only a current view. An  
inspector at an appeal hearing could see  
things differently, especially if DDC no longer  
has a five year land supply," he adds. - *cfw*



## Thomas Roe Cash Grants

The Foundation of Thomas Roe is local  
charity with funds available to persons  
aged up to 25 years and resident within  
the parishes of Brixworth and Scaldwell.

Cash grants are available upon  
application to any qualifying person for use  
for educational purposes. Grants can be  
made to assist in the purchase of school  
uniform, books, course materials, musical  
instruments and computer equipment  
and may also be available towards the  
costs of travelling expenses linked to an  
educational venture including school trips.

An application is available to download  
from the Scaldwell or Brixworth PC  
websites or from from the library in  
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form and any further details about the  
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Meetings of the Trustees are held twice  
yearly to consider applications. The next  
meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st  
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# Industrial estate heading for expansion?

The prospect of further development around Brixworth has been raised once again, giving rise to fresh concerns about the impact of more expansion.

A planning application is being made for a new industrial estate on land to the north of the Mercedes site adjacent to the A508 (pictured, right). The application proposes a number of light- to medium-sized units for industry, manufacturing and distribution covering up to 340,000 square feet.

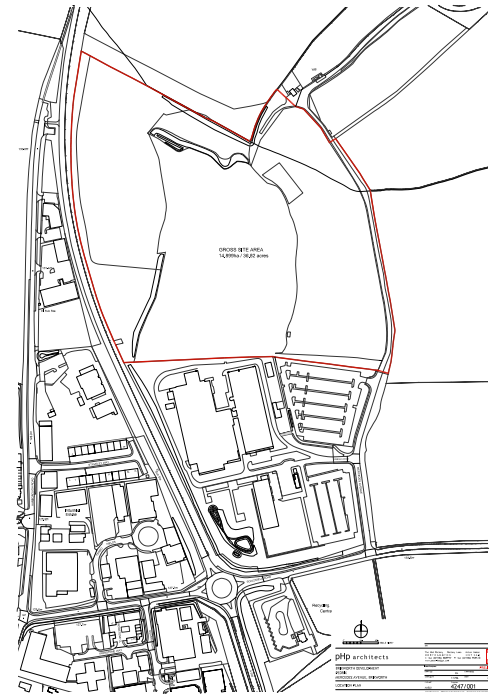
The application includes only an outline plan at this stage. Steve Harley of Oxalis Planning Ltd says: "It comprises just light industrial units but no dwellings. There are no details yet regarding the exact number of buildings or exact appearance, which would be subject to further detailed planning applications. Assessments regarding archaeological interest, ecology, access, visual impact and transport are being carried out."

Robert McNaughton, one of the partners of Pedrix, the architects behind the scheme, stresses that as local people – they are based in Kingsthorpe – they are sympathetic to residents' concerns. He says: "We are based in Northampton and want to benefit the local landscape." The application proposes that

much of the existing tree planting will be retained to screen the industrial units from outside view. Traffic to the new industrial estate would not need to travel through the village, as vehicle access would be from Mercedes Avenue.

Although Brixworth already has a light industrial estate, with more industrial units planned within the new development on Station Road, the developers believe demand exists for even more, based on market research they have undertaken. Daventry District Council's latest Local Plan identifies Brixworth as a Strategic Employment Area, meaning that DDC will generally support new development for business, industrial, and warehousing and distribution in this area. A recent study has found there aren't enough employment space and small industrial units in the District, although the report found the demand for these is highest in Daventry town itself.

Oxalis sent the pre-application consultation to everyone in Brixworth in December and received some 40 responses. The Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) strongly objected because the proposal does not comply with local planning policies and the Neighbourhood Plan – chiefly because it is outside the current confines of the village. As the application stands, the development would not be linked to local needs or services as it would not support existing businesses



or rural use. The NPSG believes the development would be visually unacceptable in open countryside, would cause more local traffic, and set a precedent for further development.

The outline application is due to be submitted to Daventry District Council at the end of February. - Jennifer Fitzgerald

## Correction

In the December issue of the *Bulletin* we reported on the costs hearing between Mr Stephen Pointer and Brixworth Parish Council. We claimed that the former had declared bankruptcy because of his extreme financial difficulties. We have since learned that this is untrue. We are glad to put the record straight and to say that although the case has cost him a significant five figure sum, at no time has Mr Pointer been made bankrupt. We regret this reporting error and apologise for the embarrassment this has caused.

## Red Lion closed

After particularly disappointing trade over the Christmas and New Year period, the Red Lion closed its doors at the end of January. This follows a recent re-brand which found the pub offering Mexican fare.

The landlord, Martin Black, has told the *Bulletin* that the freehold to the property is now up for sale, presenting another potential new development opportunity in the village. Its owner, Ei Group, formerly known as Enterprise Inns, is facing financial challenges and is continuing to sell off hundreds of pubs throughout the country.

Martin is now starting a garment-printing business and plans to move to Spain.

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# Villagers take MP to task over funding cuts



Our MP, Chris Heaton-Harris, visited Brixworth Library in January to discuss Northampton County Council's consultation on the future of the county's libraries.

Some 25 library users and residents from Brixworth and Spratton attended to find out more and to explain how the threatened closure of the library would affect the villages.

They brought many examples of how the library is used and benefits the villages – be it as a venue for the young mums' group or to encourage children to read.

Heaton-Harris explained that the austerity measures were part of the government's plan to tackle the deficit. Villagers pointed out the effect the cut in central government funding

has had – according to NCC's website, this has dropped by £500 million between 2010 and 2019. Heaton-Harris argued that the cuts had been unavoidable to balance budgets.

Concerns were raised over the wider impact of the proposed cuts, in particular the reduced gritting, cuts to the bus services and a contraction of Trading Standards. One elderly resident expressed concern over how this would affect local communities.

Without going into detail, Heaton-Harris revealed that local Conservative MPs were working with Conservative County Councillors, some of whom had made some – in his words – 'interesting' decisions.

Northamptonshire County Council has recently moved into its new offices at an estimated cost of over £53 million, when the programme of cuts underway is designed to trim an extra £30 million.

Other points of debate were calls for better funding arrangements and the possibility of a unitary local authority, which could see Northamptonshire's seven district and borough councils merged into a single structure. Heaton-Harris was sceptical about the likelihood that either would benefit Northamptonshire in the short-term.

The consultation on the future of Northamptonshire's libraries closed in January. The decision was not yet known when the *Bulletin* went to press but was due to be announced around 22 February. Any changes will take effect at the end of March. Please check our website or social media for the latest updates. – *Richard Kempa*

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## Winter Weather forces Outdoor Nativity indoors

This year, due to severe winter weather conditions, Brixworth Community Church made the last minute decision to hold their annual Nativity Production at the school.

Of course it was disappointing not to be outside on Spratton Road as normal, not least because the children were unable to see Jacko the donkey (though he was pleased to be given a much deserved sabbatical).

However, with new additions to the production, such as the school choir and some powerful Power Point material, one church member commented: "It was the best production I have ever seen!"

The team would like to send a huge thank you for the help given by many to make the production happen. Extra special thanks are due to the children for their beautiful singing and to the school for being so flexible and accommodating.



## Neighbourhood Alert keeps you in touch

Neighbourhood Alert is the messaging service run by Northamptonshire Police.

Previously known as Community Connect, the Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert now allows frontline police officers to send alerts direct from their mobile devices, while out and about policing the county.

Anyone living in Northamptonshire can sign up, free of charge. Just register at [www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk).

The service delivers alerts from Northamptonshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations, as emails, text messages or voice messages. People can also select what topics they want to hear about and how often. Topics covered may include crime alerts, missing person alerts, witness appeals and crime prevention advice.

Police hope the tool will prove to be an effective way to improve information flow in order to help them prevent and detect crime, and reduce anti-social behaviour.

## Friends fight for our library



The Friends of Brixworth Library have been focused on one thing since the last edition of the Brixworth Bulletin: to engage as many villagers as possible in fighting for our lovely library, the future of which still hangs very much in the balance as the Bulletin goes to press.

We held a rally where local residents, businesses, groups and councillors were invited to come, network and give their support to the library. We've been delivering posters and petitions to businesses in Brixworth and the surrounding villages, and also created an online petition.

December was particularly busy when we handed our petition into Northampton County Council, along with a scrapbook of hearts created by the children of Brixworth. Cynthia, one of our volunteers, gave a very measured speech to the councillors on the behalf of the Friends Group, to hopefully help drum home the importance of our library within our community. We even managed to get on the local BBC News!

Our co-chair Issy Spiers spoke at the Parish Council meeting to publicise the plight of our library and encourage the public to complete the online consultation before the 13th January 2018.

We hosted a Christmas Craft event on 22nd December, where Chris Heaton-Harris MP had an opportunity to meet local people and understand the threat to our library (see also p4).

Now all we can do is sit and wait and keep everything crossed that we have all done enough to save Brixworth Library. There is a possibility that our library will be saved in the first wave of cuts, which will of course be amazing and a huge success. However, further cuts are planned by NCC, so we cannot rest on our laurels.

We ask all local residents to please use the

library as much as possible, to demonstrate to NCC that it is valued and needed in our community. Borrow a book, meet some friends for a coffee, attend Rhymetime with your children or Messy Crafts. Our library is one of the few that has a My Hermes service, so make use of it please or it will be gone. Having to travel into Northampton to use a library will in reality will be difficult for some, especially for the young and the very elderly. Brixworth is a rapidly growing village, and we need to maintain a sense of community. The library and community centre provide this hub, so please help us!

Our campaign against the potential closure aside, we have of course organised some of our more standard events, such as our ever-popular Quiz and Chips evening which was well attended and lots of fun. We also held two performances of "A Christmas Carol" by the very talented James Hornsby.

The Friends Group are always looking for new volunteers. We are a really friendly bunch and are keen to brainstorm new and exciting ideas for the library. So please get in touch if you'd like to get involved [chairbrixlib@hotmail.com](mailto:chairbrixlib@hotmail.com) or [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk) You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter. – Lisa Raynes

### Dates of future events

Friday 2nd March 2018, 7:30pm – **Wine Tasting Evening** with guest speakers, authors William Sitewell, Tamsin Winters and Steven Neil. £15 each. Tickets available from the library or via our Facebook Page

Saturday 21st April 2018, 10:00am-1:00pm – **Artisan Fayre**. Lots of lovely local stalls and refreshments. Free entry. Stallholders to contact Issy for details and to book a stall on 07764 802114 or [chairbrixlib@hotmail.com](mailto:chairbrixlib@hotmail.com).

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# DESERVING CAUSES

In the December issue, we asked you for your suggestions for local organisations, clubs or individuals that the Bulletin might support through its 'Deserving Causes' scheme. It's our way of returning any surplus we might find in our bank account at the end of the year to the community.

Thank you very much for your suggestions – it's great to see the good things going on in the village! We've had five proposals from local organisations who'd like your support with our fund, the total value of which stands at £3,000. How that money gets divided up is up to you, the readers of the Bulletin – let us know which gets your vote and we will divide up the funds according to the votes received.

Vote online [www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk](http://www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk) or post the voting slip in the Bulletin's letter box in the foyer of the Library and Community Centre.

**Closing date is 31 March 2018.**

## BCC Soccer and Netball school

Both children and parents benefit as we (Brixworth Community Church) team up with our friends from Sports Reach to run our second Soccer and Netball school on the second week of the Easter holidays. Where the children will develop skills, teamwork and sportsmanship in a fun, safe church run context.

We as a Church do our best to keep the cost for our events to a minimum so that as many people who want to attend can. This being said there has to be a minimum fee per person to cover costs.

More and more these days families fall into financial crisis and are not always able to afford things such as the soccer and netball school. It is our hope that we would be able to support such families.

### How would the money be spent?

If we were to be successful in this grant application then we would use the money to help any disadvantaged families if they should wish to send their children to our event.

### What difference is this likely to make?

In a nutshell, happy children and happy parents. Last year at our first Soccer and Netball School we had over 40 children attend and on world cup day they all brought their parents along to cheer them on. There was also a great opportunity for the parents to team up against the coaches for a friendly game to finish the day. On Sunday we held the award/ celebration ceremony followed by a BBQ.

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# Brixworth Country Park

Brixworth Country Park opened in 1997 and attracts over half a million visitors every year. It provides a green space for local people to enjoy, from individuals to families, school groups and community groups, and everyone in between. The Rangers do their best to keep the park in a good condition for both the human visitors and the wildlife that the park supports. This could not be done without the invaluable support of volunteers, who invest their time into the upkeep of the park.

The three main aims of the Countryside Service are education, recreation and conservation. Much of the volunteer work in the park focusses on conservation and improving the site for recreation. The Rangers also endeavour to put on a calendar of events throughout the year that focus on these three objectives, with a series of educational events for children and adults alike, highlighting the wildlife that can be found within the park, the work we do to support it, and what you can do in your own gardens.

Should Brixworth Country Park be shortlisted as a Deserving Cause the money would go towards a new notice board for the park. The previous one rotted and had to be removed for safety reasons. The notice board would enable us to inform visitors of planned improvement works, provide updates of ongoing work, promote events and opportunities, and act as a focal point of information.

# Brixworth Centre Preschool

Brixworth Centre Preschool is an amazing preschool within the village which offers children a wide variety of experiences and opportunities. The extensive resources that they provide for the children was noted in their most recent Ofsted inspection which saw them receive the highest grade of Outstanding. Brixworth Centre Preschool is a registered charity and is run by a voluntary committee. They are heavily dependent on the fundraising that the committee do as this helps to renew the equipment and resources. In the current climate a number of early years settings are struggling and even closing, due to the Government increasing the amount of free childcare for parents but failing to match this with an increase in funding. This means that many settings including Brixworth run at a loss hourly if they are to employ well qualified staff. However, we understand the importance that well qualified staff can play in a child's learning and staff is one of our strongest areas.

Any money we might receive would be spent on developing our mud kitchen area. This allows the children to use their imaginations whilst using natural resources. They are able to make potions and meals whilst using a range of equipment, mud and water. We would purchase new mixing equipment, jugs, spoons and water containers. This would not only enhance the mud kitchen area but the outside provision in general. Many of the children love using the simple mud kitchen that we already have and it gives them the chance to access things that they would not be able to do at home.

# Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group

Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group is a group of patients who are working with the Practice to help maintain standards of care and services in the Practice. We hold regular meetings every two months, alternating between both surgeries. The work of the Group includes organizing Health Talks, carrying out Annual Patient Surveys, Supporting Carers by an Information Coffee Morning and assisting with Fundraising. New Members are always welcome.

Summer 2018 will see the opening of the new Brixworth Surgery. The building will be handed over as an empty shell and while fittings and fixtures will be transferred from the existing site, there will be additional clinical rooms and a larger waiting room to furnish and equip.

The SSPPG welcome the prospect of having a surgery fit for purpose in our expanding community and would like to play a part in funding these extra items. The more spacious environment will allow the staff to provide a better service to patients.

Funding through 'Deserving Causes' would be a way for patients to be involved in providing the best care possible, to the community.

# Brixworth Centre

The Brixworth Centre by the church provides venues for local activities including a pre-school playgroup, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Scouts, Pilates and Flat Mat Bowling. In addition, we have hosted Quizzes, Harvest Suppers, Bazaars, Shoe sales and a host of other activities both charitable and commercial.

The Centre is much used and loved, but the building is showing its age and in 2018, we are embarking on a major set of refurbishment works starting with the floor and then looking to replace all the windows.

Most of the damage to the floor has been caused by fair wear and tear but it has been exacerbated by the Centre chairs. They are the standard "fold and hang-up" variety which appear in every Village Hall. Each chair leg has a rubber ferrule to stop the metal leg damaging the floor. Over the years these have disappeared leading to additional damage as the exposed tube has pressed into the floor tiles.

The overall condition of the chairs themselves is very good. All we need to do is replace the ferrules. Therefore, we are setting up a separate "Chair Fund" to raise the money to purchase the replacements. We shall save money by fitting these ourselves but obviously we shall need the cash to buy the parts.

It would be fantastic if the Bulletin could contribute to this fund as part of its "Your Deserving Cause" campaign.

## Vote Now!

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BCC Soccer and Netball

Country Park

Centre Preschool

Saxon Spires PPG

Brixworth Centre

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**Deadline: 31 March 2018**



## The History Society

We celebrated the end of 2017 with a social in the Village Hall where we were well entertained by Brixworth's equivalent of Morcambe and Wise, Dave Blake and Mike Hermann. The two had grown up in the village but have since left; the title of their 'talk' was "Post War Baby Boomers". We heard about life in the village and the school in Church Street; especially funny was the description of the children who were ready to go out for their games lesson but had to sit through a BBC radio broadcast first. After passing the 11+ they went to Northampton Boys' Grammar; if they were kept for a detention, everyone in the village knew because they didn't catch the usual bus home!

This year we hope to research life in the village at the end of the war of 1914-18 and discover how the village coped with and celebrated the end of the hostilities.

Meanwhile, Marion Coleman is arranging talks for our monthly meetings. We shall have Michael Brailey telling us about The Royal and Derngate in February, while in March Graham McKechnie will talk about the Saints' legend Edgar Mobbs.

We are also planning outings to Ely and Cambridge in June, along with canal trips and evening visits to Holy Sepulchre, 78 Derngate and Jeyes of Earls Barton.

For details, look for our posters and visit [www.brixworthhistory.org](http://www.brixworthhistory.org). – *Pauline Kirton*

## Letters to the Editor

Over the past few weeks I have found myself almost unable to look at the pavements and streets of Brixworth due to the enormous amount of litter. What has happened to this village, why is it so bad?

I am now taking a rubbish bag with me on my daily walks so that I can clear my path through the debris so thoughtlessly thrown down on the ground. Particularly crisp packets, sweet papers, cigarette butts....



Talking of cigarette butts, there is a particular offender who on their daily walks drops a cigarette butt around which is wrapped a thin twist of silver paper. I don't know what this means, but it does mean the butt is not bio-degradable and stays on the pavement or in the gutter, or in my garden, for long periods of time. This one-person littering machine has had quite an effect on Church Street, Pond Close, Silver Street and even around the churchyard. The photo below shows just 3 days' worth of my finds...

– *A very concerned resident*

## A competition for women composers - why?

"Women classical composers still get a raw deal," says the festival's joint artistic director and composer, Professor Vivienne Olive. "Although there is more awareness of present-day female composers, they are still not well represented at festivals and on the radio. Many people cannot name a single woman composer who lived before the 20th century and do not realise that there is a wealth of literature out there waiting to be performed." Many of these composers were forced to write under a pseudonym, were not allowed to study, and indeed were forbidden to compose at all!

The Brixworth Music Festival – now in its fourth year – has proved very successful and has gradually gained a reputation, not only in Northamptonshire but nationwide and in Europe. It also has a strong track record in performing pieces written by women.

This year's festival is staging a privately sponsored competition specifically aimed at women composers. On 25th April, the winning work of the widely advertised Brixworth Music Festival International Competition for Women Composers will be performed by the John Clare Wind Quintet together with singers, Gwion Thomas and/or Chloe Willson-Thomas.

Please see [www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk) for more details.

Along with a jury of local musicians and composers, the Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir, will also be judging the short-list of competition entries. The competition theme this year is Shakespeare, since the winning work will be performed during the week of Shakespeare's birthday. – *Vivienne Olive, Joint Director, Brixworth Music Festival*



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# Brixworth Music Festival

20th - 29th April 2018

Venue: Church of All Saints, Brixworth

The programme for the next Brixworth Music Festival has now been finalised. See the calendar at the end of this issue for all the events, and of course this article. It promises to be one of our most varied and ambitious festivals yet, with a variety of concerts guaranteed to appeal to every musical taste.

From 20th to 29th April you will be able to enjoy nine concerts which range from classical to pop, and from chamber ensembles to brass band and orchestral music. It will also include a very special **Evening of Poetry and Song** which features not only the very best of local musicians and composers but also the winning work of this year's International Competition for Women Composers (see p8 for details).

The festival will start with a bang on 20 April with the band **Memphis Blue**, which specialises in the rock music of the 50s and 60s. Yes, you are allowed to dance in the church!

Next day, on 21 April at 3pm, the Russian-born pianist **Oksana King** will be giving a piano recital with works ranging from J.S. Bach to the 20th century. In the evening you will be able to hear the prize-winning **Northamptonshire County Youth Brass Band**. Not to be missed!

On Sunday 22 April the renowned ensemble, **Fiori Musicali**, will be giving one of their very special choral concerts, with works ranging from old to new.

Each Brixworth Music Festival includes the **Evening of Poetry and Song**, which is always a show-case for musicians, actors and composers who live in the Northamptonshire area. The winner of this year's **International Competition for Women Composers** will be performed at this concert and, since this year's Festival takes place during Shakespeare's birthday week, there will be a Shakespearean slant to this concert. But the concert will also include new works by Festival co-director, Vivienne Olive, and Brixworth composer, Stuart Cooper. Erstwhile BBC presenter David Saint and singer-actor Kay Soteriou will guide us through the evening. Gwion Thomas, Chloe Willson-Thomas and Juliet Lawson will be vocal soloists, and the John Clare Wind Quintet and pianist Oksana King will complete the line-up.

Master of the Queen's Music Judith Weir will have been the final judge of the composers' competition, so this promises to be a very special evening.

The last weekend of the Festival will offer yet more exciting concerts: on Friday 27 – due to great demand – the exquisite **Tedesca String Quartet** (pictured, top) will be playing

works by Haydn, Schubert and Finzi, and on 28 April you will have the opportunity to hear the newly formed

**Brixworth Festival Orchestra**, conducted by Peter Dunkley. The programme will include Beethoven's 7th Symphony and Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp, with soloists Graham Tear (flute) and Rowena Bass (harp).

On 29 April there will be refreshments offered after the morning service, followed by a midday choral concert by **Brixworth Songsters and the Singing Saints**. This is something special since it brings together younger and older members of the community. The concert is also free of charge.

In the evening, this exciting and unusual Festival will be brought to a meditative close with **An Old English Fantasy**, with Sarah



Small (viola da gamba), Felix Heuser (voice), Morag Johnston (violin) and Bernhard Reichel (theorbo). Sarah Small is originally from Brixworth and has now embarked on a very promising career in the field of early music with this newly formed ensemble.

Tickets are reasonably priced. This year we are offering a Festival Pass for £25 which will give you entry to all concerts (except for Fiori Musicali on 22nd April). Anyone aged sixteen and under can attend all concerts for free when accompanied by an adult. Visit [www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk) for more details.

We look forward to seeing you in April!  
– Vivienne Olive, Joint Artistic Director,  
Brixworth Music Festival

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# Country Park update

## Volunteers Special

It has been a year since new rangers Andy and Vikki joined the team at Brixworth Country Park and the Brampton Valley Way. They are now officially no longer 'new'! Over the last twelve months they have witnessed and experienced both sites in all four seasons and have a better understanding of the rhythms of the parks. From the sunshine of summer – through the slightly soggy August – to the snow of winter, they have come to know many of the regular visitors, both human and animal.

Working through a full calendar cycle has also highlighted the amount of work that is required throughout the year, and the invaluable support of the volunteers. Without them, none of the parks could survive. Brixworth Country Park and the Brampton Valley Way are very fortunate to have the support of a variety of volunteer groups.

Volunteering can be very rewarding, for the volunteers and for the rangers working with them. Our volunteers get the best of both worlds: they get to work in the fresh air and enjoy the physical and mental health benefits; and they have the luxury of choosing not to work when the weather takes a turn for the worst! Overall though, our volunteers are a hardy bunch and turn up in all weathers.

As rangers, not only do we get a few extra pairs of hands, but we get to share our amazing natural spaces with others and watch them reap the benefits of working with nature.

## The A Team

The first mention should go to our Brampton Valley Way Thursday group, who have recently acquired the nickname 'The A Team'. A year ago it was just three men, all retired, who willingly gave up a day each week to work along the Brampton Valley Way, or at Brixworth Country

Park when extra help was needed there. Their wealth of experience, having worked with several rangers over the past eight years or more, and knowledge of the sites has proved to be an excellent resource. Gradually, over the course of twelve months that group has grown, and at time of writing we have eight volunteers in our 'A Team'. The Original Three have welcomed the newcomers, shared their knowledge and experience, and helped the rangers teach the new recruits the skills needed for practical conservation work.

Our volunteers are so keen some of them have even asked for mini-projects on areas that need extra attention. Regular walkers, or cyclists, may have noticed the work that Lyndon has been doing to expose the old iron footbridge near Keeper's Cottage along the Brampton Valley Way (*pictured, right*). When the railway was still running, this bridge allowed people to cross over the tracks safely, and several walkers have shared their memories of walking over that bridge in their youth to get to school. Lyndon has put in a lot of extra days working at the bridge, but why does he do it? 'As a walking and cycling user of the Brampton Valley Way I was happy to give something back when I first saw a notice asking for volunteers some years ago. I found I enjoyed it and so carried on! And the rangers are very good at sharing their biscuits!'

## Saturday group

On the third Saturday of each month (except August) we have a regular group of volunteers who work at Brixworth Country Park. Tasks vary throughout the year but include coppicing, scrub clearance and canopy raising during the winter months. Last year they also helped with the replanting around Folly Pond after the improvement works. It is a small group but very hard working, and they do a fantastic job helping us with the upkeep of the park.


## Duke of Edinburgh Award

The rangers receive several enquires each year from students undertaking the various levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The award is designed to give young people the opportunity to challenge themselves and learn more about themselves as they learn new skills, meet new people, and discover that they are capable of more than they imagined. One aspect of the award is volunteering, and we give the students the opportunity to complete that element in the park. Lily completed her DoE with us last year, doing practical conservation work and helping with events during the school holidays. She enjoyed it so much she has stayed on as part of our Saturday group. 'I carried on after my Duke of Edinburgh because I enjoy working with the rangers, meeting new people, working outdoors and doing new things.'

## Extra-curricular volunteering

Throughout the year we welcome several different volunteer groups. These can be corporate groups looking for a team-building day out of

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Lyndon proudly standing in front of the iron bridge near Keeper's Cottage.

the office where they can give something back to the community, but we also have groups from some of the local colleges. These groups vary in skills and ability, and each group has a different reason for wanting to work with us.

This year we have several small groups of Public Service students from Northampton College. These are students hoping to pursue a career in an area of public service, for example, the police or the armed forces. At first glance, practical conservation work may not appear to be the most relevant area for their studies, but it allows them to work as a team, use their initiative, listen to instructions and learn new skills. They have to access the situation they are in (usually unfamiliar to them) and ensure the safety of themselves and everyone around them, including members of the public using the park. If you see us in the park with a group of students, please feel free to stop for a quick chat, as engaging with members of the public is another valuable skill they can learn during their few weeks with us.

Each year we also accept a couple of students studying Countryside Management, or a related qualification, who are looking for work experience to complement their studies. Anyone working in a conservation-based role will know that a wealth of volunteering experience is essential to getting your first job, and the rangers at all the parks are keen to share their knowledge and experience with the young people who may become tomorrow's rangers. The students are with us for a full academic year, and as such, they learn the plethora of skills necessary to manage a country park throughout the year.

### We need your help!

Would you like to volunteer in the park? If you are interested in joining one of our regular groups please contact the rangers on 0300 126 5932 or email [brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk) for more information. We treat our volunteers well, and ensure there is plenty of tea and coffee, plus biscuits, and if we have a fire we try to remember the marshmallows. (Lily and Joanna are particularly fond of the marshmallows...) We have a weekly Thursday group, and a monthly Saturday group, and an exciting new opportunity as well.

Thanks to funding from the Mick George Community Fund, we have been giving the Sensory Garden a much-needed face-lift. We are looking for a volunteer gardener, or horticulturist, to help to keep the raised beds looking their best. If you are a keen horticulturist, or just enjoy pottering about in the garden, and would like to volunteer

we would love to hear from you. Whether it be a couple of hours a week, or half a day a month, any help would be appreciated. You don't need any formal qualifications, just an interest in gardening (although if Alan Titchmarsh has recently moved to the area and is looking for



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something to do...). Maybe you don't have your own garden, or are looking for a way to unwind at the weekend, whatever your motivation, please contact the rangers on 0300 126 5932 or email [brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk) to register your interest.

## Events

The rangers have put together a full calendar of events for 2018, both fun and educational. Remember, only a few of our events are aimed exclusively at children (Nature Tots, for example). Many are great fun for adults too, so don't be afraid to book yourself onto Underwater World!

**Nature Tots** offers a nature themed walk with a ranger followed by a craft activity for pre-school children. £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. Next dates: 21 March, 18 April, 16 May and 20 June.

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. Next dates: 28 March, 4 April, 30 May,

**Signs of Spring Guided Walk** is a ranger-led walk around the park looking for signs of spring, from the first wildflowers to emerge after winter to the reawakening of the trees. 3 March, £2 per person.

The **Great British Spring Clean** is part of a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign and we will be holding a two-hour walk and litter pick along a stretch of the Brampton Valley Way. Free event on 4 March, no booking necessary.

**Underwater World** – this 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. There are six packs per session and we recommend a maximum of three children (or adults!) per pack. Packs are £5 each. Next dates: 3 and 10 April.

It doesn't matter if it's thin or thick, there are 100 things to do with a stick! The birds are busy with sticks right now, but what can you do with one? **Stick-tas-tic** is a two-hour event exploring the many fun things you can do with a stick, from making mini creature dens and playing games to magic wands and weaving! We will have two sessions on Weds 11 April and 10.30am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 3.30pm.

Join Ranger Andy for a stroll through Martin Moore Wood on 26 May in celebration of the Tree Council's **A Walk in the Woods** month. Spot the different tree species and simply enjoy the experience of being out and about.

A ranger-led **Wildflower Wellbeing Walk** on Saturday 2 June through some of our meadows will reveal the amazing diversity of wildflowers and grasses growing in Brixworth Country Park. £2 per person.

As part of National Insect Week join our **Minibeast Safari**. Ideal for kids to explore, search and find some of the different insects of Brixworth Country Park. Next event Saturday 24 June, £2 per child.

Lastly, if you're not averse to getting some dirt under your fingernails and helping out, come join us on a **Volunteer Work Day**. These take place monthly on Saturdays, next on 17 March, 21 April, 19 May and 16 June, 10am to 4pm.

For more information about any of events, please contact us on 0300 126 5932 or email [brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk). All events are subject to change and weather-dependent. – *Vikki Austin*

## Citizens Advice Daventry needs volunteers

Citizens Advice Daventry and District provides free, confidential, impartial information and advice to the residents of Daventry Town and the surrounding District. We are based on the first floor of the Abbey buildings just off the Market Square in Daventry.

The service relies on a group of dedicated volunteers who give their time freely each week to help others.

We are currently looking for some more volunteers. People who have some free time and are willing to learn a new skill and give about 6 hours each week.

We need people to help us as receptionists, telephone assessors, advisers, IT support, research and campaign support, and as trustee board members.

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# Organ refurbishment gets under way

At last we can safely say that the Organ refurbishment is on its way! Our contractors, Norman Hall and Sons from Cambridge, commenced work on 8th January and hopefully in six weeks time, the instrument will be restored to its former glory.

We are also in a position to announce that the free concert promised to all our sponsors will take place on Saturday 12th May at 7.30pm. We have some superb organists lined up who will be presenting a range of pieces which will not only show off the organ but demonstrate a little of the amazingly wide repertoire of organ music.

In addition, we shall have a few surprises, so please put the date in your diary and we shall look forward to seeing you then.



Posters will be going up in the village nearer the time and although the concert is primarily for our sponsors, we shall be very happy to invite along the curious and well intentioned.

Incidentally, we still need to raise money, so if you wish to become a sponsor please get in touch. There are forms in the church, or from Roger Brown on 880410 or [xias@xiassociates.co.uk](mailto:xias@xiassociates.co.uk)

– Roger Brown, Organ Fund Coordinator

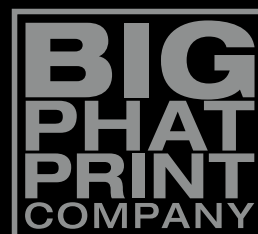


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# Chris Heaton-Harris MP's WESTMINSTER REPORT

## Foreign Aid: Value for money?

I'm often surprised by the large number of my constituents who write to me concerned about the amount of money we spend on foreign aid and if it gives us good value for money.

After the recent reshuffle, Penny Mordaunt MP, the new Secretary of State for International Development, spelt out her overarching strategic priorities for the future of 'Foreign Aid'.

It basically boils down to five points:

1. Develop a bold new Brexit-ready proposition to boost trade and investment with developing countries.
2. Work with the governments of developing countries to ensure they take responsibility for investing in their own people.
3. Push for reform of the multilaterals that receive UK support – and be prepared to cut funding for poor performers.
4. Support the national interest and work with Departments across Whitehall to deliver 'win-wins' for the world's poorest and our Government's domestic agenda.
5. Improve the quality of aid spent by all Government Departments.

Personally I'm very proud of the UK's global leadership in this area but know, if we are to maintain public support for spending money in this area, we must make sure that it is money well spent and actually achieves the goals we set.

Those of you who have contacted me about this subject before will know I believe, if we are serious about alleviating poverty permanently, we need to remove barriers to trade, domestic and international – including those currently imposed by the European Union.

Increasing trade with other nations allows them to not only grow in real economic terms, but also in a sustainable manner. Trade and export-led growth are key to alleviating states from poverty and, as seen with China's rise, can allow countries to enter a virtuous cycle of import and export of goods and services, creating wealth and removing poverty. Essentially, if we get this right we can create and spread wealth across the developing world.

Now that the UK is leaving the EU building stronger trade links is a target we can hit and plans are already afoot, with talks between the UK and other states around the world now taking place regarding post-EU trade.

This includes interest from nations of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations), an area with a value of around \$2 trillion, and continuing to grow at average rates above 5% per year – an area that is a prime example of how the concept of 'trade, not aid' can work in practice thanks to the 'Four Tigers' and the 'Emerging Ten'.

A lot has changed in this area of policy in the recent past and a lot more will change once we leave the EU. Whilst some may feel we are slow in re-orientating our international development policies, I hope that you are happy with the direction of travel.

I can you assure you that I will be watching this with keen intent as I know how important this issue is for many of my constituents.

*Chris*

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## Seniors enjoy Christmas Lunch

Once more this Christmas the wonderful Olive Branch staff and members of the Brixworth Community Church invited village seniors to Christmas Lunch. The guests were greeted by a magnificent Christmas table, crackers with hats and terrible jokes for everybody to immediately get into a great Christmas mood.

Prior to the meal, children from Brixworth CEVC Primary School sang beautifully and afterwards there was rich entertainment and singing of well-known songs and carols. This created much enjoyment; as always they looked and sounded terrific.

Our starter was followed by roast turkey with all the trimmings and a range of drinks to help us to enjoy the Christmas pudding. Mince pies and mint chocolates, together with coffee or tea ended a wonderful Christmas Lunch.

As in previous years, Angela Moles joined us with her guitar to sing and play a number of seasonal songs. We all enjoyed her beautiful voice and playing.

Surprise surprise, Father Christmas parked his sleigh in Sprattok Road with Rudolf tied to the car park gates. He visited our gathering (via the lift) bringing good tidings and cheer, leaving everyone a Christmas present after talking to us about the year. It was amazing how much he knew about life in the village.

After we all waved goodbye, Andy Bransby lead us for everyone to join in singing a range of Christmas Carols. Pastor Andy Lloyd-William reminded us of the significance and meaning of Christmas.

At around 3 pm after many farewells we all went home full of happiness, contentment and good will in our hearts.

Grateful thanks go to all involved in preparing and serving the meal, those who provided excellent entertainment and of course local sponsors who so generously helped support the event. – *Derek Munday and John & Janet Hodges*

# Operation Christmas Child



Like many other people in our community, each year before Christmas my family and I spend some time and care packing a shoe box or two for Operation Christmas Child. For years now, Brixworth Community Church has managed and run a processing centre at the Library and Community Centre for people to leave their shoe boxes. This year I had the great pleasure of helping the boxes that little bit further along their journey and learnt a bit more about the wonderful community in which we live.

Before our boxes can be moved on to their next destination, every single one must be checked through thoroughly by a team of dedicated volunteers.

After all boxes are checked and sealed, they are carefully stored upstairs in the Community Centre awaiting a collection day. Collection day arrived with a big white van driven by two more volunteers who were taking our boxes to a warehouse in Coventry. Our amazing community and surrounding areas donated 1,239 boxes this year. Due to this staggering kindness, some boxes had already been collected a week or so before... but we still had over 600 shoe boxes to carry downstairs and load into the van like a game of Tetris.

With achy legs and wry smile we only just managed to close the van doors after the last box was loaded. Our part was done and our shoe boxes were off on the next leg of their journey.

It has been incredible, yet very humbling, to be able to witness closely what the community efforts of so many add up to both metaphorically and physically – seeing the sheer volume of 1,239 brightly wrapped shoe boxes is somewhat overwhelming! Our community was just one small part of a huge scale operation, run completely by volunteers, to reach out to children in poverty stricken or war-torn countries. Just think, on Christmas Day there were 1,239 children with smiles on their little faces as they opened their shoe boxes and discovered someone, somewhere in the world, thought of them this Christmas and cared enough to let them know. Our wonderful community helped put a smile on each one of those 1,239 children's faces.

– *Lara Gwinn*



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# Ambitious and full of local colour

It's the end of January which traditionally means Panto time!

Panto time means songs, dancing, laughter and interaction with hopefully a young audience. The opening performance was a matinee on a grey Saturday afternoon. I had 'borrowed' a couple of young ladies from some friends so I was not feeling out of place and we headed off to the Village Hall to be entertained.

Brixworth Drama Group have spent many months rehearsing their take on the old tale of Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs. It's a Panto, so there are a few things we need; A Dame, a baddie or two, a hero and of course a beautiful star to be rescued. We got all these and more.

This was a debut production for two new directors, Sandra Moxon and Caitlin Braham-Nicoll and judging by the nervous looks on their faces and frantic running between lighting and back stage, they were on edge.

The audience were in their places, some with non-poisoned apples purchased at the front door (a nice touch), others with sweets, but everyone ready to be entertained.

Brixworth Drama Group, whilst overflowing with enthusiasm and not too shabby in the talent department, are an amateur group and this should not be forgotten. A first performance is daunting, especially when you have put so much work into the preparation,

so nerves can lead to a few minor errors and there were a few. However, you had to look hard to suggest they spoil the performance. In fact, I would argue they added to the occasion and made it all that more special. I am quite sure the cast won't need a director to shout "Wake up, Snow White" on all the performances!

A few lines were forgotten here and there, but the prompt hidden at the side of the stage did her job to almost perfection and when they could not help, 'Dame' Dolly Dumppling, played brilliantly by Rod Rogers, was on hand to ad-lib his way through the pause. Although not even Rod could fix the non-opening door to the Dwarves' house. Still, invisible walls allowed the show to go on.

Rod's interaction with the audience, whilst strained at times, gave many of the young audience a memory to take home with them. However, Rod does need to take note of his timings towards the end as the groans of "Finish, finish" could clearly be seen and

heard from those behind the curtains after at least the fifth rendition of 'I am the Music Man'.

The songs were well chosen and expertly converted to include Brixworth references, including a very fine line about the 'Yellow' Lion! Our young dancers did Olivia Church's choreography proud and Sue McAspurn was highly amusing as Speak True, the mirror.

Whilst everyone on stage was excellent, there were a few stand-out performances.

Young Maya Hall was a very believable Snow White and held the stage in a way that defied

the knowledge that this was her debut performance. Another debutant, Sam Pickles, displayed exuberant flair as the flamboyant Prince Frederick.

Fiona Hodkin was a very bad Queen Caligula. Bad in character, which took some acting skill to carry off. There were strong displays from stalwarts, Allan Pope and Roger Chapman as the hapless bunglers, Bogwort & Stinkwort, and Tom Moxon is clearly learning from his time on the boards with a solid performance as Danny Dumppling.

However, the performance of the afternoon goes to Mike Culverhouse as Black Wing. He owned the stage each time he appeared which gave confidence to the debutants around him. Well done, Mike.

This was an opening performance from an amateur group that is growing in both confidence and depth of talent. Its purpose was to entertain and that it did exceedingly well. Credit should be given to the joint Directors, Sandra and Caitlin for having the confidence to push the bar. Being a joint effort and their first stab at direction, they could have played it safe. They didn't. They set the bar high and came very close to exceeding it.

There were mistakes, there were missed cues and missed lines. There were prop malfunctions, although I doubt we will ever know who kicked the smoke machine away from the stage and onto the audience, but the whole cast set out to entertain the audience with oodles of passion and as the audience left, the conversation was of content and satisfaction as well as young shouts of 'Wow, how good was that!'.

Brixworth amateur dramatics is alive and kicking thanks to this merry band of players. I for one will wait with eager anticipation for their next performance. – Neal Brown



## Social Centre

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Chris Alderson-Smith Dining Suite	No charge if a full meal is booked
The Barn	£100 per day Friday to Sunday £60 Monday to Thursday evening Additional charges during December
The Loft	£100 per day Friday to Sunday





## Cinema Under the Stars presents: Toy Story



Cinema Under the Stars will be screening Toy Story I at Brixworth Country Park on Saturday 12th May 2018.

The event, organised by final-year BA Events Management students at the University of Northampton, aims to tackle homelessness in Northamptonshire by raising money for the Hope Centre, a charity for homeless, vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community.

The movie to be screened was chosen by Northamptonshire residents in a public vote, and Toy Story I was the winner. Guests can indulge themselves in popcorn, candy floss, hot dogs, prosecco and ale, all whilst raising money for charity. There will also be plenty of action packed fun for the family including face painting, bouncy castles, raffles and more.

The organisers – Laura Smyth, Atlanta Lloyd, Lauren Farnell and Marie Amon – have good reason to expect that the all 500 allocated tickets will sell: last year's event sold out in just five weeks. To avoid any disappointment, please ensure you purchase your tickets early from [https://cinema\\_thestars18.eventbrite.co.uk](https://cinema_thestars18.eventbrite.co.uk)

For more information, please email [cinema\\_thestars18@hotmail.com](mailto:cinema_thestars18@hotmail.com) or visit our Facebook page on: <https://www.facebook.com/cinemaunderthestars2018>

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## Join Cynthia Spencer's Sunset Stride



Photo by Pixearl Photography

Students at the University of Northampton are organizing a 'Sunset Stride' charity walk to raise funds for Cynthia Spencer hospice.

The event, a 12km walk, will help raise much-needed funds for all the work Cynthia Spencer does supporting patients and their families throughout Northamptonshire. It will take place at sunset on 21 April at Brixworth Country Park. Registration will start at 6pm, and the walk itself around 7.30pm.

The walk is being organized by a group of Event Management students from the university, Cattrina Milne, Elaine Hall, Jitka Podzemska and Maki Swantnerova, and forms part of the final year of study.

Participants are encouraged to light up a lantern in memory of their loved ones, which will add a touch of light to the walk and create a beautiful symbolic display whilst the sun sets over the lake. There will also be the opportunity to dress to impress, with your best carnival attire so bring your craziest outfits or have your face painted before you take on the walk.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering for the event or to find out more including the registration fee and sponsorship requirements, please visit our website for more information [www.cynthiaspencer.org.uk/sunsetstride](http://www.cynthiaspencer.org.uk/sunsetstride). – Cattrina Milne

## Management Centre

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# Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group has had lots of fun since last term.

The **Beavers** have been making new friends and welcoming a lot of new starters. This has meant playing games and completing friendship challenges, exploring the village, and learning about safety. They've visited the library to learn about why it's such a brilliant place and have helped the community by making "save our library" posters. Cooking has been a fun opportunity to experiment with new foods that they might not have tried before. Later this term, they'll be trying their hand at bell ringing, doing some space-related activities, some exciting experiments and will finish off by doing an Easter egg hunt and some Easter crafts.

The **Cubs** have been working on their entertainer badge by performing acts to each other and parents. Another evening was spent on science activities, such as growing crystals. Still coming up is a look at how to do DIY and use tools safely, Mothers' day crafts, and they'll have lots of games to add to the ones they've done so far this term.

The **Scouts** have also been working on their entertainer and musician badges by preparing and performing music. They've done a long walk along the Brampton Valley way and are exceptionally grateful to the

Windhover for refuelling them with chips at the end of their journey. Other highlights have been rock climbing and pancake making. They have the cold winter camp to look forward to this term, and will be preparing by learning about what equipment to use, how to stay warm when they're camping in the cold and how to pack a bag. The camp will be Hogwarts-themed so we look forward to seeing them try potion making and Quidditch. Later on this term, they will also be learning how to play water polo and will be doing some treasure trails and Easter egg hunts.

So far this term the **Explorers** have been off-road cycling in the dark, cooking pancakes, had a night playing board games and have planned a Peak District walk for March. Also coming soon we have an evening cooking Chinese food and will be assisting on the leadership team for the winter camp.

## Can you help?

We are very lucky to have a wonderful range of adult volunteers from all sorts of backgrounds that help to run the group for our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. The roles range from helping with administration to running fun-filled and adventurous activities and are flexible around the amount of time that each volunteer is willing to give.



If you would like to get involved, get in touch and we'll help you to find a role that you'll enjoy, that will also really make a difference to the young people in our village.

To see more about what we're getting up to, follow BrixworthScaldwellScouts on Facebook or contact the Group Scout Leader at [brixworth\\_gsl@btopenworld.com](mailto:brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com). To put your young person (boy or girl) on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please contact [brixworthbeavers@btinternet.com](mailto:brixworthbeavers@btinternet.com).

To find out more about Scouting in general, visit <http://scouts.org.uk>.

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## Brixworth Church Yard maintenance

There are lots of complaints about the state of Brixworth Church Yard but it is a lot better than it was last year, thanks to the people who spend a lot of time down there. They provide their own kit which needs fuel and batteries charged, but they are happy to provide this. Our church yard is a very big area so needs more people but a very big THANK YOU goes to those who put in so much effort.

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## Local Guiders celebrate over 100 years service



Girl Guiding has a long and distinguished history – not just as a movement, but also for some of the individuals. Last year, several of the Guiders for the 1st Brixworth Brownies, 1st Scaldwell Guides and 1st Brixworth Rainbows received long service awards. Between them, the five Guiders have served the girls of the local villages for over 100 years.

In the 1st Brixworth Brownies, Michelle Cole received her 20 year long service award. At the 1st Scaldwell Guides, Jill Gunnett completed a phenomenal 50 years of service, Victoria Howlett ten years and Robyn Mowbray five years. Meanwhile Elaine Coe at the 1st Brixworth Rainbows celebrated 20 years of service.

Congratulations all on these remarkable achievements!

The Brownies and Guides both meet at Brixworth Centre, Church Street on Tuesday evenings. - *Jill Gunnett*

## Preventing Strokes and Heart Attacks

Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group will continue its series of Health Education Talks with a talk on Preventing Strokes and Heart Attacks by Dr Neal Kennedy. The talks will be at Brixworth Surgery on Tuesday 10 April and Guilsborough Surgery on Thursday 3 May, starting at 7pm.

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

## Planning update

<b>DA/2017/0852</b> <b>52 Froxhill Crescent</b> Single storey front extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/0802</b> <b>Land at Foxlea, Holcot Road</b> Construction of access track (resubmission)	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/0695</b> <b>Rookery Gardens, 34 Church Street</b> Lawful Development Certificate for conversion of loft incl 2 more windows and 8 rooflights	DDC Approved
<b>PD/2017/0047</b> <b>1 Waterlee Furlong</b> Prior approval for single storey rear extension (conservatory)	DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/0857 and DA/2017/0856</b> <b>Charter House, 35 Spratton Road</b> Change of use from office to DI (retrospective) & Change of use of part of ground floor from office to A3 (restaurant/cafe)	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

<b>DA/2017/0908</b> <b>130, 130A &amp; 132, Northampton Road</b> Ancillary A5 staff room, change of use first floor of 132 Northampton Road to residential flat. Subdivision of A1 shop at 130 Northampton Road into two shops with ancillary staff areas.	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/1002</b> <b>St David's Recreation Ground</b> Siting of storage container	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/1132</b> <b>Berry Bank, Silver St</b> Fell trees within a Conservation Area	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/1134</b> <b>The White House, Froghall</b> Work to trees within a Conservation Area	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/1133</b> <b>101, Northampton Road</b> Work to trees within a Conservation Area	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/1098</b> <b>1, Lone Pine Court</b> Work to tree subject of	BPC No Objection DDC Approved



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## Lampport and Hanging Houghton

The months just before Christmas were not good for Hanging Houghton. We had a number of unsuccessful burglary attempts, and unfortunately one at Manor Farm which succeeded, which must have been devastating for Tom and Fran.

I am also sorry to report that Sheila Colton lost her battle with cancer at the end of January, aged 93. A longterm resident of Hanging Houghton, she had lost her husband John the previous year.

On a more cheerful note the Harvest Supper was well attended and a good time was had by all. The event raised a lot of money in support of the Church. Many thanks to all the volunteers for their valuable contribution and help. Special thanks go to Roger Wood for his sterling work on the washing-up!

The now annual Christmas Carols on the Green was another great success. Nigel Cole arranged for an organist to attend which greatly added to the event. Claudia Flavell-While supplied stollen for all who attended. Colin Harris created and distributed the invites – his poetry is something I look forward to each year. Most attendees arrived with their own choice of tittle and nibbles. Many thanks to all who helped and attended. See you all again next year, let's hope that we can exceed the 50+ who were there this year. – *Mike Philpott*

### An exhibition of local artists

Three artists from Brixworth and surrounds – Belinda Collett (resident of Brixworth since 1980), Alison Bull from Broughton and Gill Denbigh from Whilton are due to exhibit some of their work at the Alfred East Gallery in Kettering this spring.

The exhibition, titled Journey into Light, opens Tuesday 6th March and runs until 14th April. The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4.45 pm (last admission 4.30pm). Entry is free.



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## Brixworth & District U3A

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

More than fifty members enjoyed another three course Christmas Lunch at Northampton Golf Club, Harlestone. It was a unanimous vote to do it again this year so the date has already been booked in the diary.

Over the past few months the Book Club have read and discussed four very different books including "I Capture the Castle" by Dodie Smith and "Outlander" by Diana Gabaldon. Not everybody has enjoyed all of the books but they have stimulated interesting and lively discussion.



The family history group has a new leader and the programme for 2018

will include "Using Newspaper Archives" to learn about your ancestors and "Scandals" to discuss one or more scandals members may have found out about their ancestors.

The Rambling and Strolling groups timetable for 2018 will include Ravensthorpe, Little Brington and Ecton and many other Northamptonshire villages. This is a very popular group and most months there are between 40-50 members stopping for lunch after the walk/stroll.

The Fine Dining evening group meet every three months the first being February.

A new group will be launched in 2018, "Social Cycling". If you are thinking of a new fitness regime after the indulgences of Christmas and New Year, this could be the group for you!

Due to lack of space in the last issue we unable to have a photograph printed showing members enjoying our 10th anniversary tea party at Northampton Golf Club, so here it is.

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

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# Library events

## MyHermes Parcelshop

Don't forget, Brixworth Library is now a myHermes Parcelshop - you can collect, send & return your parcels from Brixworth Library via myHermes - to find out more visit [www.myhermes.co.uk/parcelshop](http://www.myhermes.co.uk/parcelshop)

## Get involved

Our new "Friends of Brixworth Library Group" is up and running and we are just starting to plan Events for next year, so check out the Friends of Brixworth Library Facebook page for dates of next meetings, the latest news and any upcoming events. We are a friendly group and new members are always needed and welcome.

## Upcoming Friends Events

### Wine Tasting Evening by Brynne Vineyard

Friday 2nd March, 7:30pm with presentations from local authors.

### Artisan and Craft Fayre

Saturday 21st April 10am to 1pm. For details on both events, see p5.

## 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 a couple of 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 like 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 any young adults 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 Heather, or apply online at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved)

Book Club - The Brixworth Library Morning Readers Group usually meets first Tuesday of every month 10.30am. Open to all - please ask at library or email [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk)

## Activities for Under 5s

### Rhymetime

Mondays 2.30pm

### Play & Learn for Under 5s

Tuesdays 1.30 - 2.30pm

### Play & Learn for Under 1s

Thursdays 10am - 12noon

### Baby weigh-in clinic

Now fortnightly, check our Facebook page for clinic weeks

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

### Rhymetime for the Under 5s

Fridays 10.20am for 10.30am start

### IAIM Infant Massage with Leveta Lawson

Wednesday mornings 11am - 12 noon term-time only booked in advance.

These are 5 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 when Under 5s sessions are taking place.

## Activities for children up to 12

### Crafts

Saturdays 9am - 1pm, Sundays 11am - 2pm - free drop-in sessions

### Messy Crafts

Wednesdays 2.30pm every school holiday - next session Wednesday 4th and 11th April.

Under 8s must be accompanied by their parent or carer.

## Other Services

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

Easter holiday closures: Friday 30th March, Saturday 31st March, Sunday 1st April and Monday 2nd April. Open all other days as usual

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

**Note: All the above information is subject to the library remaining open. A final decision on the future of Northamptonshire libraries is not expected until 22 February and will take effect at the end of March. Please check our website or social media for the latest updates about the future of the library.**

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# BRIXWORTH MATTERS

[www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org](http://www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org)

Was it me or did last year disappear in a flash!? Time waits for no man does it? Whatever we are going to do with our lives this year, we had better get on and do it before the year runs out again! With that in mind, did you have a new year's resolution and are you sticking to it? Every day is a new day with endless new possibilities for us to do new and interesting things but did you know God wants to do something completely new and amazing in all of our lives today?

The moment you believe in Christ, a spiritual metamorphosis takes place — everything changes! As one writer puts it, "nature forms us. Sin deforms us. Schools and education inform us but only Christ transforms us". The Christian is not just somebody who becomes nice (and even that can be a work in progress for some!) he becomes new. He doesn't just turn over a new leaf. He receives a new life. A Christian is not like a tadpole that has made different changes over time and becomes a frog but rather he is like a frog who has received the kiss of grace and becomes a prince. That is what we are. We are changed radically and dramatically by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Some people don't like change, others are frightened of new things and what it means to step out in faith but, as another writer puts it, "the greatest step anyone can take is to step out in faith, to believe what God says about who Jesus is and accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. The second greatest step you can take is to believe what God says about who you are". 2 Corinthians 5:17 says "If anyone is in Christ Jesus he is a new creation. The old has gone the new has come".

Please get in touch if you want to know more about this new life in Christ.

In the meantime, no doubt, see you about.

Best wishes *Andy*



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on 07958 604961



**SPORTS REACH**

**SOCCER & NETBALL SCHOOLS**  
11th-15th April 2018  
BRIXWORTH




**WHO IS IT FOR?**

Soccer School is for anyone aged 7-12  
Netball School is for anyone aged 8-12

**WHAT DOES IT COST?**

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(£30 for additional siblings and anyone on income support.)

**WHEN & WHERE?**

At Brixworth Primary School,  
Wednesday 11th. - Saturday 15th. April  
Time: 10am-4pm (5pm Sat)  
Saturday 15th. Family BBQ -  
from 4:30pm approx  
Sunday 16th. 10:30 Awards Service

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Andy Lloyd Williams / Mark Palmer  
TEL: 07954 604961/07917 573784  
EMAIL: [andyllloydwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:andyllloydwilliams@gmail.com)  
[bfc.cw2012@btinternet.com](mailto:bfc.cw2012@btinternet.com)

Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis.



# EASTER

Come and join us

## Good Friday

Easter Walk and Service  
Easter walk begins at the  
Library Community Centre at 10.30am.  
Walk finishes up at the Saxon Church for  
a joint service just after 11am.

## Easter Sunday

Family Celebration  
Brixworth Primary School  
Froxhill Crescent  
Starting at 10.30am.  
Everyone is welcome  
Join us for refreshments afterwards



## Senior Citizen Christmas Lunch

On the 20th day of December the Olive Branch organised 65 pensioners, 23 children, 20 volunteers, 4 teachers, 3 course Christmas meal, 1 singer guitarist, 1 father Christmas and a partridge in a pair tree! The result was 85 happy and fully fed (and watered) pensioners and volunteers! A big thanks to local sponsors for helping to make this great community event happen, to the Children and Teachers of the school choir, Vernon and Sue Salmon who managed the event and all those who volunteered to be a part of something that has become quite special in our great Community (not forgetting father Christmas at this busy time). It was great to see so many smiling faces on this joyous occasion as we remembered that Jesus is the real reason for the season.



## Shoebox Appeal

1,239 smiling faces! That's maybe hard for us to imagine, but if you have been involved in this year's Shoebox appeal, then you have helped to put a smile on a child's face this Christmas. People from Brixworth and the surrounding area rose up to the challenge again this year, and helped needy children in this world know that they are not forgotten this Christmas. If you have filled a shoebox with gifts, helped process a box, or helped load a van, make no mistake you have helped to change a child's life this year by showing that someone in this big old world cares for them! Brixworth Community Church would like to thank all those people who have given of their time and energy to make this year's shoebox appeal a success. On behalf of the Children, and of Samaritans Purse... THANK YOU!

## The Olive Branch

Your Community 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.



## Brixworth Community Church Weekly Events

<b>Sunday:</b>	10:30 – 11:45	Main Service of Worship (Brixworth School) (including Junior Church and Creche)
<b>Monday:</b>	19:30 – 21:00	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
<b>Tuesday:</b>	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
<b>Wednesday:</b>	13:30 – 15:00 19:30 – 21:00	Home study Group Home study Groups
<b>Thursday:</b>	10:00 – 11:30 19:45 – 21:30	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group* Home study Group
<b>Friday:</b>	17:00 – 18:00 18:15 – 19:15	Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years* Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11*

(\*held at the Library & Community Centre)

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

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

# ALL SAINTS CHURCH

[www.brixworthchurch.com](http://www.brixworthchurch.com)

**Rector:** Rev. Chloe Wilson-Thomas  
The Vicarage, Station Road  
t: 01604 882014  
e: [chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com](mailto:chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com)  
**Churchwarden:** Mrs Vanessa Crooks  
5 Waddon Field; t: 01604 882058



Dear Friends,

As we put the cold winter months behind us and move into March, the lighter evenings and new signs of life bring hope. In the church we are now well into the season of Lent, a time when we prepare ourselves for Easter through reflection, prayer and giving up some of the things we most like. Our calendar of readings speaks also of sacrifice: At Christmas God came in amongst us as a human being, and we now prepare for the giving of himself in the form of his Son on the cross at Easter. His sacrifice on the cross meant that we could once more be at one with him, and look forward to life after death. It was a giving of God's very self in the human form of Jesus Christ--for us.



Our first big service this month also speaks of sacrifice---the sacrifice made by mothers everywhere for their children. We will be celebrating that at our Mothering Sunday Celebration on 11<sup>th</sup> March. It's lovely to see the many babies that are born in our village through the Christenings or baptisms that take place here, and I pray that as each baptised child journeys through life protected by the love of God, they might grow into young people who also make sacrifices for others.

I look forward to seeing you at our services this Easter to join together in worshipping a God of love, and welcome you to future events here.

There is lots of information about us on our website and Facebook page.

*Rev. Chloe*

## FROM THE REGISTERS:

**Weddings:** Ian Stevens and Claira Corfe

**Burials:** Roy Hewitt

Josephine Furness



**Christmas tree festival  
and market**



## EASTER SERVICES

**Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>**

10.30am Mothering Sunday All-Age Celebration

**Palm Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

10.30am Joint Family Communion (with Holcot)

**Maundy Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March**

7.30pm (Brixworth)

The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

**Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

10.30am Ecumenical Walk of Witness with the BCC

2.30pm Meditation on the Cross

**Easter Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

10.30am Family Communion

## CHILDRENS' ACTIVITIES

### JUNIOR CHURCH: Growing Saints

Every third Sunday at 10.30 am

### SINGING SAINTS YOUTH CHOIR:

Wednesdays at 5-6pm

### JELLYBEANS TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays at 1.30-3pm

Please see website for more details

## BRIXWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

20th - 29th April



A variety of music to suit all tastes  
[www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk)

Summer Fete on  
Sunday June 3rd 2 - 4 pm



Two Junior Church members



This year, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 19th April 2018 in the Community Centre, Spratton Road. The Annual Parish Meeting is open to everyone, and features presentations from various local community groups.

Free refreshments will be available from 6.30pm, and the meeting itself will begin at at 7pm.

If you or your organisation would like to come and speak at the meeting, please email the Clerk, Peter Rowbotham (clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk).

We now have a seat available for a new Parish Councillor. If you would like to join the Parish Council, or just arrange a more in-depth chat about the requirements of the role, please get in touch.

We're especially keen to hear from you if you have a background or interest in any of our existing or upcoming projects!

Free training is available to all new councillors.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch itself began life in the UK over 30 years ago in response to rising crime, but as times have changed it covers all aspects of keeping safe.

In 1983, Northamptonshire Police set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme which was seen as one of our first in the UK. Five years later, in 1988, the Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch Association was formed to establish and run the scheme as an independent organisation.

The main aims are to prevent crime, reduce fear of crime, improve safety, and encourage neighbourliness and a supportive spirit across communities.

That means that whilst combating crime remains the core aim, it also helps out in other important ways to help protect communities, such as supporting the elderly and vulnerable.

Neighbourhood Watch promotes good citizenship and greater public awareness through Neighbourhood Watch groups run by volunteers. It increases public participation in the prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour; reduces fear of crime; improves police/community liaison, and increases public and community safety.



Today Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that no one has to feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated where they live. It's about encouraging and empowering people to look out for each other: crossing barriers of age, race and background to create strong, safe and cohesive communities that benefit everyone.

Neighbourhood Watch acts as the ears and eyes of the community. As a result, it has been shown that Neighbourhood Watch areas are far less likely to be targeted by criminals: crime cannot flourish in a community that cares.

In Northamptonshire the schemes are run by a dedicated and loyal band of volunteers that operates an independently constituted not-for-profit organisation: run by its members, for its members. Any resident of the county can join the scheme.

Residents in any neighbourhood, who support the aims and objectives of Neighbourhood Watch, agree amongst themselves that they will come together and form a local scheme. This might be a single street or set of streets, a housing estate, a wider community or town. There is just one Brixworth neighbourhood watch scheme which is co-ordinated by Katie Elmore, (email address katie.elmore@hotmail.co.uk)

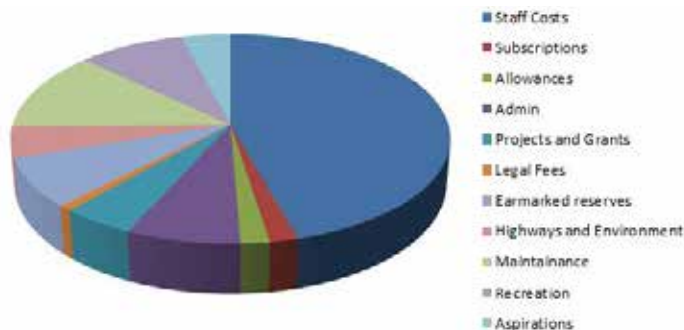
Katie is looking to step down from this role and if anyone is interested in either supporting her or taking over please contact Katie on her email address.



# Our 2018/19 budget

April sees us enter a new financial year and over the last few months the Parish Council has been busy planning the budget for Brixworth. Within your Council tax bill is a portion called the 'precept'. This is the amount of your Council tax that is provided to Brixworth Parish Council to manage its responsibilities in the community. These vary from paying staff who administer and carry out maintenance in the village to the provision and upkeep of facilities such as playing fields, grass verges and some street lighting, to name just a few.

Balancing a budget is no easy task. Whilst ensuring we fulfil our mandatory requirements, we also wanted to take account of the views of as many residents as possible.



A few years ago, the Parish Council adopted the Living Wage as an ethos for those who directly work for the Parish Council and, in keeping with this ethos, the 2018/19 budget has allowed for an increase in line with recommendations from The Living Wage Foundation.

The Parish Council recognises that with village growth comes an increase in vehicles and by its very nature, more challenging issues surrounding speeding. In last year's budget, funding was allocated for the purchase of an electronic speed sign and this project is in its final stages of completion. We hope to see electronic speed warning signage appear in the village in the coming months.

For 2018/19, the Parish Council wanted to once more, focus some attention on transport issues.

Parking, or should we say *illegal* parking, is a growing concern for many residents and the Parish Council recognises this. It is not an easy process to bring an increase to traffic warden presence in the village, however, the Parish Council believes we should get started. We have allocated funding that we hope will result in a significant increase in activity. We will keep the village updated on our progress through our social media information points and future issues of the *Brixworth Bulletin*.

In 2016, the Parish Council introduced festive lighting to the village. Our local businesses supported this idea by allowing us to locate these Christmas trees and lights on their premises. Mr Troop also provided some additional trees at his own expense for which we again thank him. The result was a real festive feel in the village. Last year we increased the number of Christmas trees and lights and we have allocated funding to further expand this project in 2018.

In addition to the festive lighting, 2017 saw the introduction of flower planters at the entrances to the village. We have increased the funding for this project further to potentially include winter flowers in 2018.

The creation of a Brixworth Sports Council to bring organised sporting activity, no matter what size and what sport, together is something the Parish Council is passionate about.

Creating such an organisation is important as we want to ensure everyone has an opportunity to take part in and have a say in how we enable sporting activity in the village. Deciding what facilities are needed, now and in the future is a key part of growing community. There are two things that are needed to achieve the goal of an active Sports Council; time and money. It takes hard work by those Councillors who have taken ownership of the task and a lot of time to achieve the right result. Progress has been made and the Parish Council recognises that what will be needed during 2018/19 is money to implement the Sports Council. Therefore, funding has been allocated in the budget to support the Sports Council.



Creating a budget that meets our growing needs must be done carefully as it is all of us who have to provide this funding within our Council Tax. The Parish Council's Finance Working Group have worked hard to accommodate all the improvements we have mentioned as well as keeping the normal costs of the village as controlled as possible. They have done a great job. The net result of the 2018/19 precept will be to see the precept for a Band D property rise from £1.27 per week (2017/18 financial year) to £1.52 per week (2018/19 financial year). That's a £0.25 per week increase.

## Planning matters

The meeting of the Planning Committee of 20th November saw the election of a new Chairman, Frances Maria Peacock, who with previous planning committee experience and a relevant professional background was keen to take on the role.

Since the last issue of the Bulletin we have received a number of applications, a significant proportion of which were for tree works within the Conservation Area. The others were more diverse in nature and included one domestic extension, as well as an application for the siting of a storage container on St. David's Recreation Ground. Another application was concerned with changes to nos. 130 – 132 Northampton Road, to create an additional flat, new staff areas and the division of no. 130 into two shops. This has since been approved by Daventry District Council.



Two other applications involved demolition of existing buildings, and the respective sites used for new development. An application for four new dwellings on the site of a garage in Holcot Road was received in November and a decision is awaited from DDC. The other application is for the construction of a single storey office, as well as a steel building to accommodate plant and serve as a repair workshop. This was received in December and a decision is awaited from DDC.

## Saturday surgery

Our monthly Parish Council surgery continues to raise a host of questions. Here are a selection of questions and answers from the last quarter.

*I have overhanging trees in the street and it's restricting the pathway.*

If the tree is on adopted highway land then Northamptonshire County Council would deal with this. This can be reported through the NCC Street Doctor web site ([www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk)). If the tree is within the garden of one of the adjoining houses then you should speak direct to the occupier. If the tree is dangerous or causing an obstruction then the Council can serve notice on the resident to rectify the matter.

*I think my neighbour has changed the property and has not had planning permission.*

You can check on the Daventry District Council website ([www.daventrydc.gov.uk](http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk)) to see if a planning application has been submitted. If you think permission is needed and you can't see an application online, you can ask for an Enforcement Officer to look into the matter. You can email the details to [comments@daventrydc.gov.uk](mailto:comments@daventrydc.gov.uk) or call 01327 871100.

It is important to remember that planning enforcement must be discretionary, proportionate, expedient and reasonable. An enforcement notice will only issued by Daventry District Council as a last resort.



*The condition of the road needs urgent attention. Who do I report this to?*

Any issues regarding a public highway should be reported to the County Council using Street Doctor. ([www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk)). This includes potholes, street lighting and footpaths.

*How can I view a Planning Application? How do I lodge an objection?*

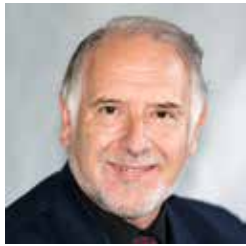
All planning applications can be viewed online at the Daventry District Council website. There is an option on the Planning Application details screen to comment on any current planning application.

*Who enforces the parking in the village disabled bays?*

The disabled bays at the Community Centre & Library are the responsibility of the Northants County Council. Any enforcement would therefore come direct from the County Council.



# Brixworth Parish Council



Ian Barratt



Jackie Bird



Neal Brown  
*Chairman, Media & Communications*



Elaine Coe



Stuart Coe



Alex Coles  
*Chairman*



James Collyer



Stephen James  
*Vice Chairman*



Sandra Moxon



Caitlin Braham  
Nicoll



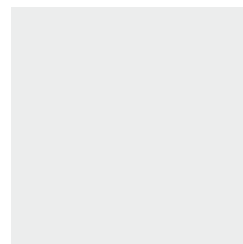
Kevin Parker



Frances Peacock  
*Chairman, Planning*



Peter Saxton



You?



Peter Rowbotham  
*Parish Clerk*

10 Shelland Close  
Market Harborough  
Leicestershire LE16 7XU

Email: [clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk)  
Telephone: 07983 141 786

Facebook: [facebook.com/brixworthpc](https://www.facebook.com/brixworthpc)  
Twitter: [@brixworthpc](https://twitter.com/brixworthpc)

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

Parish Council photos by  
Brixworth Photographic Society

## Parish Council meetings March to May 2018

### Full Council

Thu 22nd March 2018 ..... 7.15pm  
Thu 26th April 2018 ..... 7.15pm  
Thu 31st May 2018..... 7.15pm

### Planning

Mon 12th March 2018..... 7.30pm  
Mon 26th March 2018..... 7.30pm  
Mon 23rd April 2018 ..... 7.30pm  
Mon 14th May 2018..... 7.30pm

### Media & Communications

Weds 21st March 2018..... 7.30pm  
Weds 18th April 2018 ..... 7.30pm  
Weds 16th May 2018..... 7.30pm

# What's on

25 Feb	Purple Rain	Derngate
27/2-3/3	RSC: Hamlet	Derngate
2 Mar	Wine Tasting Evening	Brix Library
2 Mar	Adam Hess & Glenn Moore	Underground
3 Mar	Signs of Spring Guided Walk	Brixworth Country Park
4 Mar	Great British Spring Clean	Brampton Valley Way
4 Mar	NMPAT Wind Band	Derngate
4 Mar	Spring Fair	Kelmarsh Hall
4 Mar	Tennis Tournament	Brix Tennis Club
5-6/3	Paul Chowdhry	Derngate
7 Mar	Suggs	Derngate
8 Mar	NMPAT Big Sing: Nene	Derngate
9 Mar	Scott Bradlees Postmodern Jukebox	Derngate
10 Mar	Reginald D Hunter	Derngate
11 Mar	NMPAT Orchestra	Derngate
13 Mar	Brixworth Belles - Elsie's Cafe	Brixworth Village Hall
14-25/3	Shrek The Musical	Derngate
16 Mar	Larry Dean	Underground
17 Mar	A Springtime Concert with Swarbrick Singers	All Saints, Northampton
19-24 Mar	Gilbert & Sullivan - The Pirates of Penzance	Royal
22 Mar	Seminar: Wills and Powers of Attorney	Brixworth Library
23 Mar	Iain Stirling	Underground
26 Mar	Madame Butterfly	Derngate
26 Mar	Jess Robinson	Royal
27 Mar	David Ross Primary Schools Music Festival	Derngate
28 Mar	Jonathan Pie	Derngate
28 Mar	Mark Steel	Royal
28 Mar	Xplorer Orienteering	Country Park
29 Mar	David Baddiel	Derngate
29 Mar	The Opera Boys	Royal
30 Mar	The Sensational 60s	Derngate
30 Mar	Henry Blofeld	Royal
31 Mar	Joe Lycett	Derngate

31 Mar	Dads Army Radio Hour	Royal
31 Mar - 2 Apr	Easter Special Trains	N'ton & Lamport Railway
1 Apr	BCC Easter Sunday Family Service	Brixworth School
1-2 Apr	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Lampport Hall
1-4 Apr	Below Stairs Grand Opening	Kelmarsh Hall
1 Apr	Tennis tournament	Brixworth Tennis Club
2 Apr	Remembering Fred	Derngate
3 Apr	Underwater World	Country Park
4 Apr	Xplorer Orienteering	Country Park
4-7 Apr	The Selfish Giant	Royal
5 Apr	The Hollies	Derngate
6 Apr	Lisa Stansfield	Derngate
7 Apr	Jasper Carrott	Derngate
7 Apr	Tom Stade - I swear	Royal
8 Apr	RPO: Mark Bebbington performs Chopin	Derngate
10 Apr	Underwater World	Country Park
10-14/4	Awful Auntie	Derngate
11 Apr	Brixworth Belles - Dishes inspired by Elsie's Cafe	Brixworth Village Hall
11 Apr	Stick-tas-tic	Country Park
11-13 Apr	Sports Reach Soccer and Netball School	Brixworth School
15 Apr	Shappi Khorsandi	Royal
18 Apr	Nature Tots	Country Park
18 Apr	Bill Bailey - Larks in Transit	Derngate
20 Apr	Brixworth Music Festival: Memphis Blue - Music of the 50s and 60s	Church of All Saints
20 Apr	Lucy Porter - Choose your Battles	Underground
21 Apr	BMF: Piano Recital - Oksana King	Church of All Saints
21 Apr	BMF: Northamptonshire County Youth Brass Band	Church of All Saints
21 Apr	Artisan Fayre	Brix Library
21 Apr	Volunteer Work Day	Country Park
21 Apr	The Bootleg Beatles	Derngate
21 Apr	Cynthia Spencer Sunset Stride	Country Park
22-Apr	BMF: Angel Voices - Fiori Musicali	All Saints Church

22 Apr	Rumours of Fleetwood Mac	Derngate
24-28/4	The Last Ship	Derngate
25 Apr	BMF: An Evening of Poetry and Song	All Saints Church
27 Apr	Brixworth Music Festival: Tedesca String Quartet	All Saints Church
28 Apr	BMF Brixworth Festival Orchestra	All Saints Church
28 Apr	Brixworth Juniors Quiz and Disco	Brixworth Village Hall
29 Apr	BM: Brixworth Songsters and Singing Saints	All Saints Church
29 Apr	Brixworth Music Festival: An Old English Fantasy	All Saints Church
1-5 May	Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em	Derngate
5-7 May	Teddy Bear Weekend	N'ton & Lamport Railway
6 May	Shane Filan	Derngate
6-7 May	Art, Craft and Design Fair	Lampport Hall
6 May	Tennis Tournament	Brixworth Tennis Club
8-12 May	The Importance of Being Earnest	Derngate
9 May	Brixworth Belles - Falconry Display	Brixworth Village Hall
12 May	Cinema Under the Stars - Toy Story	Brixworth Country Park
13 May	Motown and Philadelphia on Tour	Derngate
14-19/5	Art	Derngate
16 May	Nature Tots	Country Park
18 May	Stuart Goldsmith	Underground
19 May	Volunteer Work Day	Country Park
24 May	Jason Manford	Derngate
26 May	A Walk in the Woods	Martin Moore Wood
26 May	Danny Baker	Derngate
27-28/5	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
28 May - 2 June	Education, Education, Education	Derngate
30-May	Xplorer Orienteering	Country Park
2 Jun	Wildflower Wellbeing Walk	Brixworth Country Park
3-Jun	Tennis Tournament	Brixworth Tennis Club
3 Jun	All Saints Summer Fete	All Saints, Brixworth



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## Brixworth Landscaping

For personal service & creation of your ideal garden, contact Matthew Cox:

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

82 Froxhill Crescent  
Brixworth  
Northampton NN6 9LN





## Talk to the Backhand!

The evenings are once more getting lighter and a lot of us can't wait for spring time to be here again. The tennis season, however, never stops and you will regularly find some hardy souls hurrying across the Brixworth baseline and whipping a backhand back over the net, if they're lucky.

Whether you are just starting to play or you've been hitting since before the Borg McEnroe era, Brixworth Tennis Club caters for you. So, what do we offer?

Saturday morning sees a flurry of activity as the Junior coaching sessions take place between 9.30 am and 12.30pm, then in the afternoon the club's WhatsApp group lights up phone screens all over the village as players get ready for the Sunday AM Bash. There is always a good turnout of players and it would be great if we could get more to join in. The first Sunday of the month there is a Round Robin Mixed Doubles tournament and this is always good fun as well as a great chance to meet and play with lots of different people.

Monday mornings is our Ladies Coaching session and it would be ace if we could get some more ladies from the village to join in. This is a 90 minute pay as you play session so you don't need to be a club member to attend the first couple of times so why not give it a go? Break out your rusty racket and get active!

Tuesday evening is our Over 18s club night and Friday Night is club night but these only really start back up when day light allows it. Recently we have been booking courts at Kings Park to carry on the Friday Club Night and this has proved really popular.

Brixworth have also joined the Northants Lawn Tennis Summer League and starting in April we have 10 fixtures against other local clubs. Hopefully all goes well and we can report some good news in the near future.

Don't forget that the tennis club are always on the lookout for volunteers to help with fundraising and tournaments. Don't worry, you won't have to join the committee but any extra help you feel you could offer would always be welcomed.

The tennis club also has a new website where you can find out more but while you are looking sign up for club membership. Just go to [www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk](http://www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk). - Sandra Moxon

## Race Night raises over £1200 for Brixworth Juniors

In late November, a Race Night Fundraiser at the Central Sports Social Club raised over £1200 for Brixworth Juniors Football Club. The club will use the money to support the children and coaches.

This was all possible because of the help and generosity of our village, our loyal supporters, sponsors and the fabulous raffle prize donations.

Our races were sponsored by EG Swingler & Sons, Image Landscape Gardeners, Brixworth Wills (Rosie Wright), The Breadline, Absolute Electrical Solutions (Joe Cox), Alternative Conservatory Roof Solutions (John

Hales) and A Webb, Plumbing and Heating.

Thank you to the following for the fabulous raffle prizes: Victoria Hings - Piano lessons in Brixworth, Whittlebury Hall Spa, Purple Ivy, The George, Me & I clothing, The Beauty Room in Overstone Spa, Royal and Derngate, Absolute Electrical Solutions, Bombay Palace in Kingsthorpe, Ann Foley - Feel Good Factory Holistics, Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic and Forever Living by Sarah Chaloner.

Our next event will be our annual Quiz/ Disco night to be held on 28th April 2018 at Brixworth Village Hall. - *Georgina Swingler, Chairwoman of the fundraising committee*

## Quorn Family Tennis Cup

Brixworth Tennis Club will be holding an LTA Quorn Family Tennis Cup event shortly. This event is made for an Under 5 to Under 10 child to play together with an Over 18 family member (parent, carer, guardian, step parent, co-parent, uncle, auntie, sibling or grandparent). So break out the old headband free the wooden racket from its clamp, squeeze into those tight 1970s shorts and head over to [www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk](http://www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk) to get more details on what is sure to be a fun event for all involved.



Thinking of buying or selling in Brixworth?

HOMES URGENTLY REQUIRED IN YOUR AREA

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**01604 616886**

[stuart.little@horts.co.uk](mailto:stuart.little@horts.co.uk)

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Your local property consultant

stuart little

## Top FA Coach to train with UIs



Brixworth Juniors Boys U-11s have been invited to represent Northamptonshire FA at a special coaching session with Peter Sturges (*pictured, above*), the Football Association's national lead coach for players aged 5-11.

Brixworth Juniors FC is the current Northamptonshire FA 'Charter Standard Club of the Year' and this invitation is the latest endorsement of the club. Brixworth Juniors provides quality football coaching to over 250 boys and girls competing in the NDYAL from U-7 to U-18 plus a Minis-football section for 4 - 6 year olds.

Club chairman Rob Kelly said: "The invitation to train with Peter Sturges represents a great opportunity for the players involved, a fitting tribute to the efforts of the volunteers and parents, and a super start to the celebrations this year of the club's 25th anniversary which will be taking place in the summer."

For further details about joining the club please contact [secretary@brixworthjuniors.co.uk](mailto:secretary@brixworthjuniors.co.uk) – Rob Kelly

## Under 10s Girls play first tournament

The girls of Brixworth played in their first tournament at the beginning of December. They lost only one of their four matches, with their new goalkeeper Milly only letting in one goal all morning in some thrilling and entertaining games.

A generous donation by Jackson Grundy has allowed Brixworth Juniors to

supply new kit for the U10s girls team, which was started earlier last year and had many Saturday morning training sessions leading up to the tournament. As you can see, they were thrilled and overjoyed. Football gives the girls and their parents an opportunity to see how they are developing. One parent told me he could see the massive difference in the team from six months ago.

So on behalf of the club, here is a massive well done to the players and a super thanks again to Jackson Grundy, we really appreciate your support.

We are always looking for new players to join and if you are interested and in years 3/4 or 5 at school then please get in touch, 07985 810817. – Simon Compton



## Cricket Club renews partnership with Jackson Grundy

Jackson Grundy will continue to support Brixworth Junior Cricket for another two years. Confirming the agreement, Nick Rees, Marketing Director at Jackson Grundy said, 'I'm excited about the next couple of years and wish all your teams the best of luck for the coming season.'

We will welcome back over 115 juniors who were registered with the club last season. The club runs competitive teams at u13 and u11. All players representing these teams will wear Jackson Grundy branded playing kit. We run additional groups at u9, u7 and, for the first time, u5!

Anyone interested in joining up should either contact the club or come down to the ground on Friday 23 March from 6pm. Parents

### Save the Date: Summer Social Events

22-24 June: Brixworth CC Music and Beer Fest

22 July: Help for Heroes T20 fundraiser

of existing junior members should receive a newsletter in the coming weeks outlining plans for the new season.

The club is also delighted to welcome Richardson Care Homes as an additional junior sponsor for training kit and equipment.

As this part of our club continues to grow and flourish it brings additional financial pressures via coaching courses, new equipment, regulatory compliance and the financial support we receive is critical.

Brixworth now boasts the largest ladies section in the county with over 35 ladies signed up for us last season. We have continued to train and take part in tournaments over the winter (with great success) and have exciting plans for this coming summer. This is a phenomenal achievement to reach such numbers in less than a year and testament to all those involved in getting this off the ground. If anyone is interested in joining our ladies section, please contact Claire Dale on 07747 600838.

Men's cricket continues to flourish, too. We run four teams that play in the Northants Cricket League. Our 1st X1 finished 6th in the Northants Premier League last season and with some exciting recruitment over the winter we're looking forward to improving on that position this year. Our 2nd and 3rd teams narrowly missed out on promotion from Divisions 3 and 9 respectively. Congratulations to our 4th team on promotion last season - into Division 12.

Winter nets take place at Pitsford School from late February to mid April. For details please contact those listed below.

As always the Club is keen to welcome new players and – crucially – volunteers, as we continue to grow across our various sections. Whether you're interested in umpiring, scoring, helping behind the bar, keen to get into coaching, or helping out with the admin, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Chris Timm, Chairman, on 07718 628985 or Will Haxby, Vice Chairman, on 07912 267988. – Will Haxby



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