

## Brixworth swings into action for DIY SOS

Local volunteers have come together to build a suitable toilet and wet room for a local disabled woman.

Shelley Balding has been suffering complex health issues following a stroke, which left her with two blood clots on the brain, epilepsy, bleeding kidneys, and a severely dilated left ventricular myopathy. Despite her determination, she will never walk again.

Brixworth resident Julie Wykes had met Shelley through their mutual love of dachshunds. Shelley had offered to look after Julie's dogs while she was away, but when Julie visited Shelley to discuss arrangements, she found Shelley distraught over the conditions in her house.

"Shelley has been fighting for six years with various people to get a grant for a toilet she can get into and a wet room," Julie explains. "I said 'leave this with me' – I had to do something to help. I came up with the idea of putting it on social media as a local DIY SOS, and the response has been amazing."

Nic Haysey of Haysey Designs came up with a plan to create a wet room and an area for Shelley to relax in after seizures. Darren Wood and Jon Billson of JB Builders took on the heavy lifting, such as demolishing the walls. More help came from Conor Haldenby, Phil Lee from AMC Electrical, JML Plastering, and Jamie Yates did the plumbing. Local printer Mark Valentine provided custom T-Shirts, Julian Gaywood, Michael Warner and Sam Toseland sorted out the flooring, Luke Bryan pitched in for the painting, Marcus Mabbutt did the tiling and Jon Noble was fetching supplies. We have had amazing help from supplies from TBS for building supplies, Damian at Dodd Group for electrical supplies, Mark Huntley provided a new sink from TMT Kitchens and Bathrooms, Swoon chipped in with a bespoke chair, and Geberit UK with the toilet. Wickes, Walls and Floors, and Stone Superstore donated further materials including walls and tiles, Plumbase provided all plumbing equipment and Zumba with Charlie are donating money towards a garden shed.



Shelley Balding (left) had struggled for years to get a home that was adapted to her complex needs. A chance encounter with Julie Wykes (right) mobilised the village



Julie says: "All of this has been done for free!!! How amazing and what fantastic community spirit we have here in Brixworth."

Many more offered to help in other ways, such as cleaning, tidying the garden (thank you Marcus Rose!) and fundraising – a cake sale organised by Sharon Payne added £144 which will be used for soft furnishings. "I cannot thank the Brixworth community enough for making this happen and all the hard work, time and love that's been involved," Julie says. "If there is anyone I have forgotten I am sorry as we have tried to keep track of everyone and people are coming on the team every day."

"In the end, we just wanted to make this lady smile again and give her the simple things we all take for granted in life."

– Claudia Flavell-White

*Dear Brixworth villagers,*

I am so delighted that you have become my friends and so many of you are helping me in my difficult situation of no dignity.

There are no words that I could never ever say to you in what you have done for me. Julie asked the villagers to help me and you did.

It's a real honour for me to be a member of this village and finally making friends. You are wonderful in everything you do. I would love to give you a special award for a special village; you've changed my life forever and I thank you for it.

I've been stuck in my home for five years. It was like being in a snow globe watching the world passing by and not being part of it. The events of the this summer are the biggest, most amazing thing that could have happened to me.

Thank you - you are all my heroes.

Love always

*Shelley*

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## New gym helps villagers hit their goal

Hit My Goal, a Brixworth-based fitness  
company, has recently taken residence in The  
Old Farmhouse on Harborough Road, where it  
shares space with the Blue Bicycle Studio.

Owned by a local resident, Hit My Goal  
is not a commercial public gym. Instead, it  
gives clients on the Hit My Goal programme  
a pleasant environment to train and receive  
coaching towards fitness or weight loss goals.

Hit My Goal was set up in 2015 as a  
personal trainer business, but expanded in  
2016 to include an online weight loss course.

Clients join for a range of reasons revolving  
around fitness or to lose weight - to lose a  
few pounds or a few stone, tone up, run a  
certain distance, cycle faster and further, do a  
triathlon or any other fitness goal.

Local resident Andrea Brown joined  
eighteen months ago to lose weight and gain  
fitness. With the help of the personal trainer,  
she has lost 35 kilos and gone from barely  
running 200 meters to completing a half-  
marathon earlier this year.

Coaching is very bespoke and tailored to  
the needs and ambitions of each individual.

For more information, visit [www.hitmygoal.co.uk](http://www.hitmygoal.co.uk)

## Anne Murphy celebrates 106th birthday



Anne Murphy, a resident at HC-One's  
Pytchley Court care home in Brixworth,  
recently celebrated her 106th birthday.

Murphy was born on the 14th July 1912  
at Witton Farm near Oxford. She had  
various jobs throughout her life including a  
doctor's receptionist, a waitress at Lyons  
Cornerhouse and in Busbys department  
store. She has one daughter with her  
husband Peter and has been blessed with  
two beautiful grandchildren.

The most important event in her life was  
meeting the Queen Mother at Kempton  
Barracks with her daughter, Jean. She is  
also proud of her collection of birthday  
cards she has received from the Queen  
and was very excited to add another to her  
collection.

Despite her age, Murphy is still the soul  
of the party and is usually the first up  
dancing when entertainers visit Pytchley  
Court. The surprise birthday party,  
organised by the care team, was attended  
by her family, friends, fellow residents and  
the mayor and mayoress of Northampton.



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# Challenge to Special Landscape changes fails

The borders of the area designated as Special Landscape to the west of Brixworth are more likely to be changed, after Daventry District Council dismissed a challenge by the Parish Council to the changes.

The changes will see an area of land running from Boughton Crossing to Maidwell stripped of its current Special Landscape Area protection, including land west of Northampton Road and Froghall.

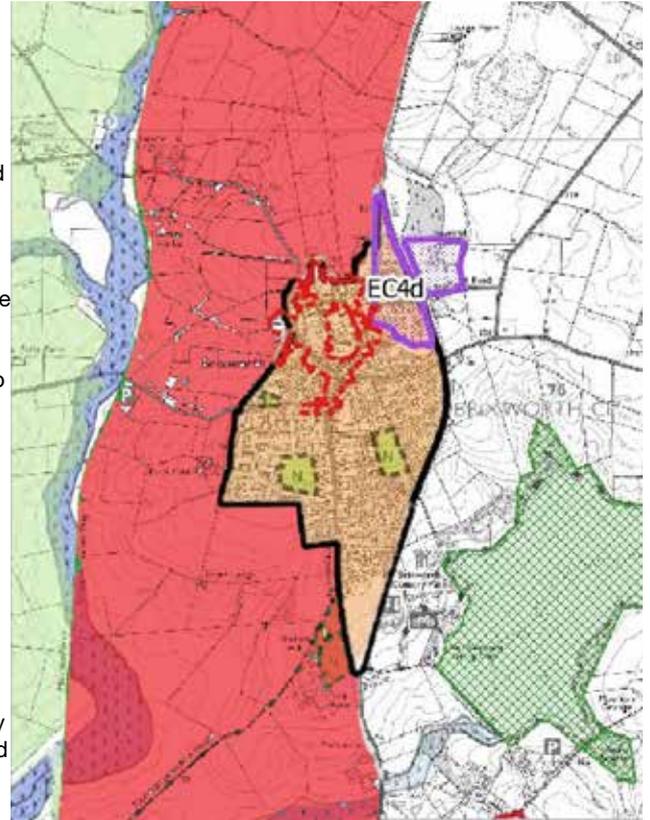
“Areas designated as highly sensitive in the Neighbourhood Plan will still be protected but it is the loss of the additional, higher, layer of protection for some of the surrounding countryside is a cause for concern,” explains Bob Chattaway from the Neighbourhood

Plan Steering Group. The Steering Group had worked with Brixworth Parish Council and a professional planner and a landscape consultant to challenge DDC’s decision, but the Council’s planners dismissed the concerns.

“It seems strange that one side of the Brampton Brook valley will remain in the SLA while the other, the Brixworth side is omitted,” Chattaway says. The groups may use this argument to make further representations on grounds of the soundness of the Local Plan.

DDC is still consulting on the changes, with the latest consultation period closing on 5th October. There will be a public exhibition from 2 to 6.30 pm at Brixworth Library on 3rd September and similar exhibitions at Daventry Library 5th Sept 9.30 am – 6pm, Naseby Village Hall 6th Sept 3 – 7pm and Moulton Community Centre 12 Sept 2 – 6pm. – *cfw*

Below: The red area to the west of Brixworth will lose Special Landscape Area designation under the proposed changes. The remaining SLA area (pale green) will end at the Brampton Valley Way



## Co-op considers Red Lion site

Brixworth Co-op is considering relocating to the site currently occupied by the Red Lion pub. The company submitted a pre-application outlining their ideas at the July planning meeting of the Parish Council.

The Red Lion pub would be demolished to make way for a store two or three times the size of the existing one. The larger shop would stock a broader range of goods, include provision for an on-site deli, and also include space for the Post Office, which would benefit from longer opening times. Outside would be a dedicated car park with parking for around thirteen cars. The larger store would allow the Co-op to employ more staff from the village.

The Co-op’s planners answered many questions from the Parish Council and the public during their presentation. Many of the questions centred around the impact on the current shops, as the departure of both the Co-op and the Post Office would leave big vacancies that would need to be filled. Some were concerned that the move – if it goes ahead – would create a second centre for the village.

Most questions were around the issues of traffic, parking and highways – whether the number of parking spaces provided would be sufficient, whether shoppers would start parking on the road, causing issues on the High Street and increasing the risk of accidents.

A full planning application may already have been submitted by the time this issue of the Bulletin is published so do check Daventry District Council’s website for further information. – *Neal Brown & cfw*



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# Allan Pope BEM

Allan Pope got a surprise when he received a letter from the Cabinet Office. "Haven't I paid my tax bill?" he wondered. He was even more surprised when he found out he had been nominated for the British Empire Medal in the Honours List for his youth work and community service in Brixworth. Pope had to keep the news under wraps, even from his own family, until the Queen's Birthday on 9th June.

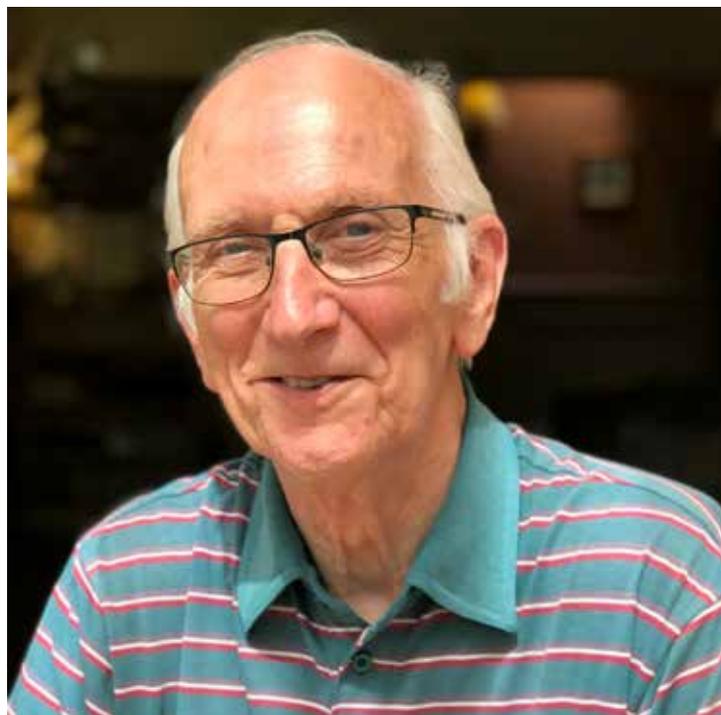
Many Bulletin readers know Pope from his role as an elder at Brixworth Community Church, and as a keen member of the drama group and the Brixworth Bowls Club. However, despite his significant involvement in our local community, he actually lives in Kingsthorpe.

Pope believes the honour has been awarded for the thirty years he worked at the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC), but he left his job there over ten years ago and has only been involved in Brixworth life for the past 4-5 years. He says: "I haven't the slightest idea of who put me forward and you are not told."

The award will be presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, David Laing, from whom Pope has also received a letter of congratulations, but Pope doesn't know when. He expects an invitation to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to follow at some point.

Pope started working at NAYC, a voluntary organization funded by trusts, fundraising and voluntary donors, as a field officer when he was invited to help set up a centre in Peterborough after helping in a church youth club. Pope then returned to fill a vacancy in Northampton, where he has spent most of his life. His work with NAYC involved visiting youth clubs across the county, helping to start new ones, and organizing training courses and competitions. He also held the role of personnel officer, responsible for recruiting volunteers, and then became deputy chief executive.

The highlights of Pope's time at NAYC included bringing the



disabled and able-bodied together for weeks away, and taking groups for adventure holidays to locations as far-flung as the Hebrides and even overseas to Iceland and Yugoslavia.

He says the ethos at NAYC was to give young people time and allow for risk-taking, and to be prepared for a hard slog. Sometimes he returned home late in the evening feeling his work had been very rewarding, at other times he wondered why he was doing it.

And while young people's interests and activities have changed – "In my day it was all ping pong and snooker" – he doesn't feel their needs have changed at all over the years. "Young people still need to feel wanted and loved." – *Jennifer Fitzgerald*

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## Parish Council asked to tighten up financial oversight

External auditors looking at Brixworth Parish Council's accounts for 2016/17 have noted a breach of proper practice and asked the Parish Council to tighten up its financial oversight.

The auditor highlighted that there had been insufficient budget for the legal fees as part of the Employment Tribunal brought by Stephen Pointer that had been ongoing at the time, and that the council hadn't reallocated sufficient money from the reserves budget before the invoices were paid. In addition, some legal payments were made before they were formally approved by the Parish Council, in order to meet payment deadlines.

The audit report recommends that in future, the council monitors budgets more closely, and does not approve spending before sufficient funds are reallocated from other budget lines.

The errors occurred under a previous parish clerk and the current clerk says he has already put in place measures to ensure the auditor's recommendations are met.

Other issues raised were relatively minor and relate to a failure to reclaim VAT on some small expenditures (since rectified by setting up a direct debit card for the Parish Council) and an overspend of a few hundred pounds on the purchase of Christmas trees for the village in 2016.

The audit is part of normal practice for parish councils; Brixworth's accounts for 2016/17 were subjected to a more in-depth audit after two local electors recorded concerns over the accounts. Dealing with these questions raised the cost of the audit from around £400 to £1,394. – *Claudia Flavell-White*

# Brixworth's Neolithic origins

We may already feel proud of Brixworth's ancient church and Anglo Saxon heritage, but Brixworth is far older than many of us knew. Excavations carried out ahead of the Saxon Rise II development have confirmed that our village has Neolithic origins!

Indeed, while there may have been disquiet about Barratt Homes building new properties on the site, the archaeological finds uncovered during a dig from June to October 2016 show that people have lived there for the past 5000 years.

The excavations were led by Peter Boyer of Cotswold Archaeology and about 30 archaeologists. This type of study has been required as part of the planning process for the past thirty years or so. Boyer says: "The finds are fairly typical for this area. Because the bedrock is ironstone, it is to be expected there will be more activity than in other areas with heavy clay soil that are not so well drained."

A significant amount of material from the mid-Iron Age right through to the late Roman period was uncovered. This included a Neolithic pit containing some pottery, an early Bronze Age pot, enclosure ditches for a settlement, two round houses, a stone-lined cistern from the mid to late Iron Age, three grain-drying ovens and a regulated system of Roman fields and ditches. There was also a full Iron Age skeleton and other human remains which are possibly late Roman. Boyer says: "There was nothing of value, but some ironwork and iron tools of interest which were probably part of a blacksmith's hoard." He notes that the site has remains of many different periods very close to each other, making it an interesting sites to study.

It is apparent that the settlement in Brixworth shifted over time from north to south. The Roman remains were found mainly at the bottom of the hill. Northampton Road runs over a Roman road. The Saxons moved back up to the top. The interesting geophysical



The southern half of the excavation area, showing Early Neolithic to Late Iron Age features



The southern half of the excavation area, showing Early Roman to Medieval features

material crosses the bypass – the University of Leicester undertook some research east of the A508 some years ago.

All the finds are currently held by Cotswold Archaeology. They should normally be handed over to the local authority but due to a lack of funds, Northampton County Council is not yet able to store them at the heritage site planned at Chester Farm.

Mike Nice has been seeking to display some of them in the entrance foyer of the new GP surgery. Chiltern Archaeology are due to release the first items of pottery soon. Nice

is now applying for grants for display cases.

Members of the Brixworth History Society had an opportunity to visit the excavations at Saxon Rise. If you would also like more information about them, a detailed report should be available shortly on the Cotswold Archaeology website. – Jennifer Fitzgerald



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# Farewell Jill Barber

Jill Barber, a familiar face at the library for 17 years, will be leaving us sometime during the coming months. Although she heard this news last October, Barber does not yet know her leaving date. "I've really no idea when," she says.

Although Barber has had time to get used to the idea, she says: "It was a shock at the time. It's an odd position to be in."

Barber's role has been made redundant as part of Northamptonshire County Council's spending cuts. Management of Brixworth's library, which is currently shared by Barber and her job-share partner, Heather Williams, will pass to Sheila Jolley at Kettering.

Barber started working in the library during the half term of October 2001, a few years after the Community Centre opened. Barber feels that being part of the Community Centre makes the experience of working at Brixworth quite unique. The library staff take care to coordinate their activities with other events that take place there.

There have, of course, been a great many changes during her time. Barber says they undertake far more activities than when they started. "Our hours initially were 23 a week, now they are 44."

Working with children has become a big focus of the job and has involved a huge learning curve for Barber and her colleagues. The library experienced an uptake in visitor numbers when it took over Universal Children's Services, which includes running Rhyme Time and Play and Learn for the under-ones.

When asked about personal highlights of her time at Brixworth, Barber says: "Seeing the children come in as babies, watching them grow, then seeing their siblings, is lovely. They call us by our first names, they have such trust in us, and they tell us what they are doing." Brixworth has become a large part of her life – many people don't realise that Barber actually lives in Kingsthorpe. She said: "I feel a lot of my customers are friends, people come in and chat. I feel

part of their life and they have also supported me through tough times, not only at work but personally."

It's obvious Barber is sorry she has to leave. "I'm quite sad that I'm going but I get to spend more time with my grandson and it will be a new chapter in my life." Barber had already gone part-time last year and in future will have even more time to spend with her twenty-month old grandson, and to pursue her love of motor racing. She has been attending the Grand Prix at Silverstone for the past 36 years and her diary is full of motor events lined up at Snetterton, Brands Hatch, Rockingham and Donington.

Although she is going, Barber is reassuring that the library will be left in capable hands by a team that visitors are already used to – including Gemma, Sam, Christine, Zoe and Abby. "I'll miss my colleagues because we have a good working relationship, we get along well and have a giggle. We are a very happy team, I have loved working with them."

Indeed, Barber feels so attached to the library that, while not making any promises, she may come back to support the library as a volunteer. "I will see how I feel. I am not ruling it out," she says.

– Jennifer Fitzgerald



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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 speakers followed by tea and a look at all the information on interest groups and an opportunity for new members to sign up.

In May the London Studies Group went on a coach trip to Greenwich, home of the Meridian, the Cutty Sark, the Royal Observatory, the National Maritime Museum, the Old Royal Naval College, the Thames Cable Car and Greenwich park and market.

The U3A songsters once again participated in the Brixworth Music Festival in April in All Saints Church.

The Architecture Group is continuing its study of Victorian Architecture – in particular industrial architecture. After July they will leave Victorian architecture for a couple of months in order to go back to basics with a look at "Staircases" through the ages, while in August they will visit the newly restored Delapre Abbey.

The Book Club reads have included "Autumn" by Ali Smith, "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes. Future reads will include "The Child" by Fiona Barton and "The Silk Factory" by Judith Allnatt.

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



Earlier this year, the garden group visited Titchmarsh House Garden in glorious weather

# Retirement for Lee Brown as Holcot Road Garage shuts

The garage on Holcot Road shut at the start of June, and its owner, Lee Brown, went into retirement after providing tyres and general mechanical repairs to the village for 35 years.

Brown had known for several years that the land which housed his premises would be sold on to a developer. There are plans for four sizeable new homes to be built on the plot.

Brown very much enjoyed working in the business and says if the land hadn't been sold, "I would have probably carried on." Before closing, he had considered finding another unit in Brixworth to run the business from, but couldn't find anything suitable. As 90-95% of his customers were local, the difficulty in finding an appropriate alternative site in the community was also a stumbling block for passing the business on.



Brown began his career working on cars in the village with Dave Watts of Ideal Motors, who had two sites in Brixworth at one time. He moved into Holcot Road in April 1983. He built up the business, initially with contracts with a number of large companies, and at its height, the business had five employees. However, when car leasing became popular, firms tended to take contracts from main dealers and Brown shifted to offering services to local people. The business subsequently grew as Brixworth did and Brown says his customers matured alongside him.

## Hanging Houghton and Lamport News

The older residents of Hanging Houghton will remember Judith Davidson who died in June. She and her husband John worked the Clint Hill Farm until it became too much for them, when they moved to a bungalow in Brixworth.

Following that, the farmhouse was refurbished and the land sold for development, leading to the creation of Manor Gardens.

John died some years later. He had been very active in the community and was chairman of the Parish Council for a good number of years while he lived in the village. Judith ran a thriving business selling the produce from her goats and chickens.

You will have no doubt noticed that the old telephone box has now been refurbished and turned into a defibrillator box. It is hoped that the training of the volunteers will soon take place so that this facility can start to be put to good use. – *Mike Philpott*

Another familiar face in the garage used to be Brown's mum, who helped out in the office and with the bookkeeping. She died a couple of years ago, and since then, Lee has been doing everything by himself.

Brown says it is too early to say what he will be doing with his new-found leisure time. He may become more involved in gardening – if his wife, Aileen, lets him! He is certain he will miss the contact and conversations with local people and would like to pass on his heartfelt thanks. "I'd like to thank all our customers over the years for supporting us." – *Jennifer Fitzgerald*



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Scores of volunteers have braved the July heat to renovate the sensory garden

# The sun shines on the Country Park

Earlier on in the year it felt as though the sun would never shine, and then, suddenly the heatwave arrived and memories of the wet and chilly start melted away. The grass and meadows have been tinder dry over the summer and we would like to thank our visitors for being safe with their barbecues.

Although our picnic benches each have a stone slab next to them (to place a barbecue on) a few people still put them on table tops or straight onto the grass. As well as causing unsightly damage to the picnic benches and meadows, it could have had more severe consequences if it had set fire to the grass.

## Brixworth Country Park

It is with immense pleasure that the Rangers can announce that by the time you read this the Sensory Garden renovation project should be complete. The project was made possible with funding from GrantScape and the Mick George Community Fund, as well as the hard work of our regular volunteer team, several corporate volunteer groups, a plethora of work experience students, and the ranger team, who have all been working on the project for months.

Our regular volunteer team spent many weeks with paint brushes in hand adding a splash of colour to the Sensory Garden, often in the extreme heat and with little shade. Jacob, our volunteer dog, kept an eye on everyone, inspecting their work and often getting paint on his ears, nose and tail.

The volunteers also helped with the heavier work, including building raised beds in the Food for Free area. These will be planted with vegetables whose foliage should provide a variety of textures, and our education rangers will be able to use the area with school groups.

A group from Nationwide spent a long, hot July day repairing the fence around the pond. Some of the old posts had rotted and snapped in the ground, and they did a fantastic job in the heat digging out the rotten stumps and putting in new posts. It is not an easy job on the best of days, but they were determined not to be defeated by the conditions, including the dry ground which has been as hard as concrete.

A new pond dipping platform was installed by a group from Barclaycard in August. This involved placing metal gabions next to the pond and filling them with stone, to act as a

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solid foundation for the new platform. Again, this was not an easy job, but we hope they enjoyed the team building experience.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped with the renovation project, and all our visitors for their patience during the works. We hope you all enjoy the new Sensory Garden.

## Brampton Valley Way

September marks the beginning of the winter work programme for the rangers. This involves cutting back the hedgerows that have begun to encroach the paths over the summer, as well as scrub clearance and coppicing. Coppicing is an ancient management practice whereby hazel and other species can be harvested for usable timber (such as stakes and binders for hedge-laying), leaving the stumps – or stools – to regrow for future use.

Felling is another task that takes place in the autumn and winter. But you claim to love nature, why do you want to cut all the trees down? I hear you say.

We don't want to cut all the trees down, however, if a tree begins to die, or is diseased, we must make it safe for visitors at the park and along the Brampton Valley Way. If we can identify any trees in the autumn that might pose a problem later in the winter, we should be able to reduce the number of windblown trees blocking the path.

Sometimes, self-set saplings need thinning out to enable the remaining ones to flourish. Other trees can be made safe by removing some of the boughs rather than felling the entire tree. There are lots of reasons for felling trees but please rest assured we don't do it for fun, only to improve the area for wildlife and our human visitors.

The Brampton Valley Way isn't just a pleasant walking path and cycle track. A section of it is also shared with the Northampton & Lamport Railway (NLR), who run trains along their tracks between Boughton Road and Brampton Halt. The tracks currently run all the way to Merry Tom Crossing, but extensive repair work needed on some of the bridges means the trains cannot travel that far yet.

It has long been an ambition of NLR to extend the tracks all the way to the Spratton Road car park, and Northamptonshire County Council have recently agreed a lease in principle, pending the funding for this exciting and ambitious project.

The project is still very much in its infancy, and NLR have been working closely with the rangers, the Wildlife Trust and the Brixworth Local Planning Steering Group to ensure any future development work does not have a major impact on the Brampton Valley Way or the wildlife and habitats it supports.

The proposal is for the railway track to share the path in much the same way as it currently does. The footpath and cycle track will need to move to the side, which will result in an improvement in the path surfacing.

We wish to reassure people that that section of the Brampton Valley Way will absolutely not be clear felled. Some trees will have to be removed to make way for the improvement works, and this will be done in a responsible way. The rangers have already identified several trees that will have to be removed or reduced for safety reasons as part of our routine management work. Many of the trees and shrubs along the Brampton Valley Way are self-set; however, the removal of any trees will be supplemented by the planting of new species in other areas where appropriate.

Wildlife surveys will be carried out to see what species are currently using the area, and what actions we will have to take to ensure the area remains suitable for them. It will also allow us to improve the habitats and perhaps encourage more species diversity.

It will be several years before NLR are in a position to extend the track along that section between Merry Tom Crossing and Spratton Road car park, and this will enable the rangers to produce a management plan that ensures that any works undertaken are done in a sympathetic way. Reducing some of the tree cover will encourage more wild flowers to grow, especially on the eastern banks. This, in turn, will attract more butterflies and other pollinators, which will provide a food source for birds and small mammals. Overall, the proposed works



Jacob, the volunteer dog, overseeing the work on the Sensory Garden

should see an improvement in the amount of wildlife along the Brampton Valley Way, which the rangers find quite exciting.

If you would like to know more about this project, or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the rangers at [brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk).

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| Chris Alderson-Smith Dining Suite | No charge if a full meal is booked  |
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## Events

Yes, we know the kids have just gone back to school, but we are already looking forward to half-term and have a great events calendar for you.

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.

Join the rangers on the Brixworth Bat Walk to search for the world's only flying mammal. Using bat detectors you will be able to listen for the high-pitched sonar the bats use to navigate, and identify different species from the frequency of their call. £5 per person. Booking essential.

A firm favourite for Hallowe'en, join the rangers for two days of pumpkin carving. Have fun carving scary, or funny, faces into your pumpkin. £5 per pumpkin. Booking essential.

A popular event last year, make your very own Hibernacula, and provide winter homes for a variety of different insects. £3 per person. No booking necessary, just turn up and start making!

Running for one day only, join one of our education rangers on our Nature's Tricks or Treats event and follow the spooky clues to find out about nature's gruesome side! Decide if they are 'tricks' (false) or 'treats' (true)! Why not try your hand at bug hunting in the woods

too and see which creatures like to lurk in the dark! £2 per child.

To coincide with the Tree Council's Seed Gathering Season, join the rangers on a seed gathering day in the park.

Learn how to identify trees in the winter with our new event Show us your tips! One guided walk will take place around Martin Moore Wood near the Brampton Valley Way, and the second will take place in the park.

Holly Wreath Making will use materials from around the park to make a winter wreath to add to your festive decorations. Details TBC, check our Facebook page for more information.

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

## Dates for the diary

- Volunteer work day – Saturday 15th September 2018 – 10am to 4pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 19th September 2018 – 10.00am to 11.30am
- Brixworth Bat Walk – Saturday 21st September 2018 – 6pm to 8pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 17th October 2018 – 10.00am to 11.30am
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 20th October 2018 – 10am to 4pm
- Hibernaculum event – Tuesday 16th October 2018 – 11am to 2pm
- Seed Gathering Day – Wednesday 17th October 2018 – 11am to 1pm
- Nature's Tricks or Treats – Monday 22nd October 2018 – 10.30am to 3pm
- Hibernaculum event – Tuesday 23rd October 2018 – 11am to 2pm
- Pumpkin Carving – Wednesday 24th October 2018 – 10.30am to 3pm
- Pumpkin Carving – Thursday 25th October 2018 – 10.30am to 3pm
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 17th November 2018 – 10am to 4pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 21st November 2018 – 10.00am to 11.30am
- Show us your tips – Saturday 24th November 2018 – 11am to 1pm
- Show us your tips – Saturday 1st December 2018 – 11am to 1pm
- Holly Wreath Making – Wednesday 5th December 2018 - TBC
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 15th December 2018 – 10am to 4pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 19th December 2018 – 10.00am to 11.30am



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# Mighty Magnus' Medicine

Many of you will already be well aware of Mighty Magnus' Medicine Fund, and others of you may have seen the eye catching Mighty Magnus' Medicine logo around Brixworth and the surrounding area.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Mighty Magnus, as he's become known, he is an incredibly brave six-year-old who lives in Brixworth with his family and who is currently fighting a rare childhood cancer.

Days before Christmas last year, Magnus was admitted to Northampton General Hospital with pain, and scans showed he had a large abdominal tumour. In January, Magnus was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma. Unfortunately the disease had already spread to his bones and bone marrow and he started chemotherapy the following day.

The treatment is punishing – a prolonged course of chemotherapy, radiotherapy, stem cell replacement and immunotherapy over one year, and major surgery to remove the tumour. Magnus will require constant monitoring in the years following.

Amazingly Magnus has responded as well as can be hoped to the treatment so far; an embodiment of the spirit and strength of the Viking warriors that he so loves.

The Mighty Magnus Medicine Fund was created in May to raise funds for essential treatment not offered by the NHS. At the time a vital drug required for treatment – Dinutuximab Beta – was not available and the family faced the prospect of having to fund this themselves. Thankfully the NHS has now since advised that it will fund this drug following a public campaign. This has come as a massive relief for Magnus' family and the other families who were facing months of uncertainty.

In order to give Magnus the best chance of survival and avoid the high risk of relapse, he will need access to the latest and most innovative treatments currently only available in the US and elsewhere.

The immense courage and determination shown by this remarkable little boy and his family has inspired friends, neighbours and the wider community to join together to help fund life-saving treatment for him which is currently not available in the UK.

A host of fund raising events have already been held in and around Brixworth by groups and individuals, such as the Brownies hosting a delicious bake sale, the Cubs doing a sponsored cycle around the reservoir and one Brixworth resident cycling 100 miles to raise funds. A local tradesperson is generously donating a percentage of all earnings from work he undertakes in Brixworth. The village school which Magnus, his brother and cousins all attend, has run numerous events including cinema nights, sponsored runs and a viking helmet shaped cookie sale! Great fun was had recently at a Race Night hosted at Brixworth Village Hall in conjunction with

the Rotary e-club of district 1070 which raised a staggering £2500!

Numerous local individuals, companies and community groups have, and continue to generously donate money, prizes, facilities and their time to support the campaign. So far, raising over £40,000 – and Magnus's parents Kate and Sandy are overwhelmed by the support and generosity.

Kate says: "This has been such a tough eight months since Magnus's diagnosis because his treatment has been so intensive, but we could not have got through it all without the amazing kindness and support from so many people, including complete strangers who have been so generous and taken Magnus to their hearts."

Volunteers are working hard organising more great fun events including a Family Bingo afternoon on Sunday 2nd September at Caterpillar Day Nursery in Market Harborough, a 'Swish' clothes swap on Friday



12th October in Brixworth Village Hall, Walk/Run and Fun-day, hopefully at Brixworth Country Park (date tbc) and a Black-Tie Ball and Charity Auction at the Ritz Ballroom in Desborough on Saturday 24th November.

If you are able to, please support Mighty Magnus' Medicine Fund by attending any of the wonderful events being organised and by "spreading the word" to your friends and family. If you would like to organise or help with fundraising, (big or small) or have fundraising ideas we'd love to hear from you so please get in touch by emailing [admin@mightymagnusmedicine.co.uk](mailto:admin@mightymagnusmedicine.co.uk) or via the Mighty Magnus Medicine page on Facebook.

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# Country Eye

## A Sad Loss for Local Wildlife

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the death – of a tree. Not just any old tree but THE tree, the one about which I have often written before, 'my tree.' I am referring to the tree that formerly dominated my front lawn. Now I am supposed to know a bit about trees, but in truth if you were to ask me its species I would have to admit that to this day I am unsure. It was there in the garden when I moved into this house in 1991, a small nondescript looking thing that grew to about 7 metres high. With pointed oval leaves, purple in spring, its twigs were thorny, and it bore red berries in the autumn, which the birds were not over-fond of. My best guess is a kind of Sorbus (Rowan).

The interest for me began about 1993 when I planted at its base a small variegated-leafed ivy, which I had grown from a cutting taken from Delapre Abbey grounds. It was a weakly little plant and it took a couple of years for it to establish, but once having done so there was no stopping it. It grew and grew both in girth and branches until it had completely smothered the tree, so that as soon as you turned into the street, there it was. In the process it became a wildlife haven. Wood pigeons and blackbirds nested in it annually, while a colony of house sparrows made it their headquarters, with numbers ranging from a dozen or so up to fifty. Starlings also used it as a winter roost and on one foggy night I watched well over a thousand of them parachuting into its welcoming shelter. All these birds were completely safe from cats because the dense ivy foliage made it unclimbable, although many a moggie tried and failed.

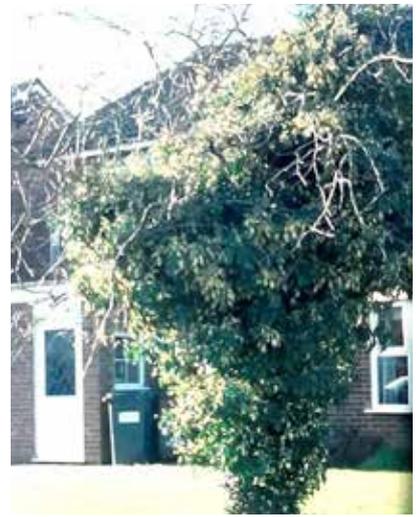
As well as shelter and safety the ivy provided food for a huge range of other wildlife. Its black berries ripened in spring when other food was scarce. Starlings and sparrows, pigeons and doves, and most of all blackbirds and song thrushes eagerly devoured them. One winter this food supply was commandeered by a mistle thrush,

which seemed to spend more time chasing off other birds than actually feeding. In September the flowers yielded a vital late supply of nectar to bees, butterflies, moths and hoverflies, and I have often watched blue and great tits drinking from them. The dry and warm shelter amid its leaves served as hibernating sites for comma, small tortoiseshell peacock, and brimstone butterflies.

I was delighted that from the beginning the dainty holly blue butterfly colonised the tree. This tiny insect is alone among the sixty-odd British butterflies to have two generations yearly, each of them on different food plants. In spring caterpillars feed on the buds and flowers of holly, while in autumn they feed on ivy. So when I decided that this tree had outgrown my ability to cope with it, before I called in the tree feller I needed to satisfy myself that all this wildlife had somewhere else to go. This took a while and I must say sorry to any of my neighbours who may have seen me peering intently into their hedges and gardens, etc, and wondered what I was up to.

So I still have not got used to seeing a bare space where my tree once was. In its time it made a huge contribution to my enjoyment of the local wildlife. It was my connection to the real world, away from the bruising presence of the human zoo. Shall I be planting another tree to replace it? Not for a year or two but I have a great love of our Field Maple. A well-behaved little tree that would not look out of place on my small front lawn. Or maybe a cherry for the sake of the fruit.

– Brian Webster



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# Friends of Brixworth Library

On June 15th we hosted another Quiz and Chips night. The quiz was sold out and raised over £200 for the Library. The next Quiz and Chips will be on 19 October, with tickets available soon from the library or on Eventbrite, with drinks for sale on the night. Make sure you book early!

We will be hosting a Winter Shopping Event in the library on November 2nd. This is a Friday evening after school, so please encourage friends to come along and get some early Christmas gift shopping. There will be lots of unique stalls, so it's the perfect opportunity to buy something really special whilst helping to support a good cause, independent local traders and a great local resource.

On December 7th we hope to host the actor James Skeggs who will be hosting a Christmas-themed presentation on the history of pantomime Dames. Look out for events advertised on our Facebook and Twitter accounts; tickets will be available from the library and on Eventbrite soon.

Thank you to everyone in Brixworth and beyond who has and is still supporting the library. Our next meeting is on September 12th, so join us if you would like to get involved, even if you can only help for one event or just have a really good idea for us to use.

Finally, we have been really pleased to see the ways some of the money we have raised has been spent in the library. You will have seen the new giant Connect 4 set in the children's area, but we are also thrilled to have been able to support some of the really exciting events taking place as part of the Reading Challenge this year including a magician and circus skills. With your continuing support we can help to provide more activities like this.

– Elaine Coe, Chair FOBL



# History Society update

The last of our Members meeting before the summer break was on 17th May with an entertaining and passionate talk by Paul Rabbitts on his love of Bandstands which included our very own bandstand in Abington Park Northampton and Rockingham Road Park Kettering.

On 7th June our members visited the Holy Sepulchre Church in Northampton. The Church dates 1100AD and is Northampton's oldest building. The first Earl of Northampton, Simon de Senlis had the inspiration for the building after seeing the Jerusalem original during his 1st Crusade to the Holy Lands.

John Kightley MBE and David Parish MBE gave an interesting account of the original church building with alteration and restoration that followed through the ages and the Church's strong connection with military life of the County.

On 23rd June was our members annual coach trip, organised by Deni Willis to Ely and Cambridge. We seem to strike lucky with the weather and this year was no exception. Our members enjoyed a morning stroll through Ely centre with opportunities to visit Ely Cathedral and its Flower Show, Oliver Cromwell's House and the outdoor market. Then a short ride to Cambridge for lunch and a vast choice of attractions – Colleges, Universities, City Centre or just relaxing along the River Cam before returning late afternoon.

On 7th July a small group joined John Dawkins (a former Chairman) for an evening tour of 'old' Brixworth. The Heritage Trail started from The Pound opposite The Coach and Horses PH and took in many buildings of interest in the village that now display a blue plaque.

On 12th July a dozen of our members enjoyed a day on the Oxford Canal (*pictured, above*). We set off from Braunston for a gentle cruise in glorious sunshine through the countryside to Napton, followed by a splendid pub lunch at the Folly before returning in the afternoon. This is a popular event with our members and another trip is being planned by Dennis Coles in September this time from Gayton.

The next members meeting is Thursday 13th September 7.30pm at the Village Hall with Alaric Neville presenting 'History of Phipps and brewing in Northampton (with samples!)

For details of the society and the remaining programme for 2018 please visit our website [www.brixworthhistory.org](http://www.brixworthhistory.org) or see posters around the village. Everyone is welcome!

– Marian Coleman

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# Music Festival sees record turnout

This year's festival was our most ambitious yet, running from 19th to 29th April. Not only are our audiences getting larger, but we are now receiving requests from musicians throughout Great Britain who want to come and perform. The new date of the festival in Spring has proved to be most welcome for any number of logistical reasons, although April this year did turn out to be rather chilly. For this reason we are going to stage the next festival in 2019 slightly later, in the middle of May. But who can predict the caprices of the British weather...

One of the reasons for the larger attendance was the introduction of a "festival pass" – a brainwave of our publicity manager, Emily Curtis. For the grand sum of £25 it was possible to come along and enjoy concerts ranging from chamber to orchestral music, from early music to pop, from amateur to professional, with truly every age represented. Listeners were tempted to come along to concerts that they would possibly have otherwise ignored, simply by virtue of having a pass that let them come to a total of eight events.

On the 20th April the festival got off to a romping start with music from the 50's and 60's, performed by local band **Memphis Blue**. After a few problems with the amplification in the first half of the concert, all was rectified in the second half and, thanks to Rev. Chloe, the audience were allowed to dance in the church aisles.

In the afternoon of the 21st April we were treated to a complete contrast: an intimate piano recital by Russian-born local pianist, **Oksana King**. The grand piano in the Church of All Saints – nearly 100 years old! – reacted sympathetically to Oksana's interpretation of works by Bach, Benjamin Britten and Vivienne Olive. The Brixworth Music Festival has started up a **piano fund** as a new instrument is badly needed for a recital of this kind. Praise must go to Oksana King for her sensitive handling of the somewhat battle-scarred grand piano which has served the church for so many years.

In the evening of the 21st April the church was packed to hear the **Northamptonshire**



**County Youth Brass Band** which is the senior brass band of the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust. It is one of the best brass bands in the country and the audience were treated to a truly unforgettable evening of music from the 20th and 21st centuries. The programme was balanced and contrasted by memorable vocal performances in each half from the two winners of the Derek Needle Vocal Fellowship Awards: Freja Leveritt and Abigail Taylor provided quieter, reflective moments with solo songs (sensitively accompanied on the piano by Beth Hodgson).

Mention should also be made of trombone soloist, Sarah Williams, with her beautiful performance of the Londonderry Air, arranged by John Iveson.

On the 22nd April, and once more to a packed church, the renowned ensemble **Fiori Musicali** took the audience on a musical journey through the life of Christ, with choral and instrumental works from the Renaissance, Baroque and 20th century. The pure vocal sound of this choir is one of the hall marks of Fiori Musicali, as is their attention to authenticity. Baroque violinist Kerstin Linder-Dewan provided a virtuosic instrumental contrast, with both solo works and together with harpsichord accompaniment provided by conductor and director, Penelope Rapson.

A regular feature at each Brixworth Music

Festival is the **Evening of Poetry and Song** which showcases the varying musical talents of musicians and composers living in the area. As it was Shakespeare's birthday week on the 25th April this was taken on as an idea that ran through the whole evening, which was subtitled *If music be the food of love...* The John Clare Wind Quintet, singers and actors Kay Soteriou and David Saint, singers Gwion Thomas, Chloe Willson-Thomas, Siân Thomas, Juliet Lawson, pianists Oksana King and Richard Heyes, and composers Stuart Cooper and Vivienne Olive all came together to entertain the audience to a varied programme, which actually sported quite a lot of contemporary music as well. Highlight of the evening was a memorable performance of the prize-winning work of the First Brixworth Music Festival Competition for Women Composers. Gwion Thomas and the John Clare Wind Quintet gave a stunning performance of Australian composer Karen Lemon's *The Truth*, the *Post Truth* and *Nothing of the Truth*. Judith Weir (*Master of the Queen's Music*) was head of the jury and confirmed this as the winning piece out of a pre-selected short list.

The last weekend of the festival began on Friday, 27th April with an exquisite concert by the **Tedesca String Quartet**. This is the resident quartet of the Midland Sinfonia whose fine playing makes them very much in demand throughout the country. The Brixworth Music Festival was delighted



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to be able to invite them for the second year running. The programme included Haydn's String Quartet in d minor, op 42 and Schubert's Quartet in a minor, the so-called Rosamunde Quartet. But of particular interest was the rarely performed work by Gerald Finzi, *By Footpath and Stile*. Gwion Thomas not only introduced the song cycle but gave a perfect rendering of the work that captured every nuance of both poetry and music – a truly unforgettable performance.

With such rich pickings it is difficult to choose a concert that stood out from all the rest. But with the newly formed **Brixworth Festival Orchestra** (pictured, left), under the baton of Peter Dunkley, all expectations were more than fulfilled. The church was packed on the 28th April and the audience were treated to an exciting concert of works by Mozart and Beethoven. Having been catapulted into the evening's programme by a furious rendering of Mozart's Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, the audience were then treated to Mozart's Concerto for Harp and Flute. Here the orchestra showed they could not only be fast and furious but also lyrical and sensitive when working together with soloists. Graham Tear's flute playing was not only virtuosic but almost transcendent in its beauty, both blending and contrasting with the ravishing playing of harpist, Rowena Bass.

After the interval the orchestra brought the concert to a climax with an impressive performance of Beethoven's 7th Symphony. Beethoven himself regarded this work as one of his best, and he would certainly have enjoyed listening to the Brixworth Festival Orchestra on this Saturday night. The slow second movement – which is a set of variations that uses two themes – is probably the most well known movement of the symphony, but it is the last movement that is famous for its unbounded energy. With their boisterous performance both orchestra and conductor took the audience with them on an exhilarating joyride that left everyone smiling.

The 29th April brought the Brixworth Music Festival to a quieter more meditative close.

After the morning service there was a short concert that involved three different Brixworth choirs which brought together various age groups of the community. The church was full of people who had come to hear the various voices of the **Brixworth U3A** (a regular and much-loved participant), the Singing Saints,



and the **Choir of Brixworth Primary School**. From one generation to another, the baton was passed from the younger to the older and then again to the younger members of the community. First of all we heard four singers from **The Singing Saints**, which is a small choir run by the Rev. Chloe Willson-Thomas and James Bonsor (Holcot). The singing of the four girls was delightful.

The concert was then brought to a close by the larger choir of the Brixworth Primary School. In the capable hands of their teacher and conductor, Sharon Marsh, this choir of enthusiastic children gave the audience much enjoyment with their polished performance. All of them were very attentive and obviously loved what they were doing. It was good to

see so many in the church, being part of a festival that is meant for all.

In the evening the final concert of the Brixworth Music Festival was preceded by a Festal Evensong, with the **All Saints Church Choir** in the capable hands of organist and choirmaster, Robert Wakefield. This was then followed by a delightful recital of early music, performed by the Early Music Ensemble (pictured, left), which once more took up the Shakespeare theme.

Viola da gamba player **Sarah Small** performed at the very first Brixworth Music Festival in 2014 and the festival organizers were delighted to have discovered such a special talent who actually came from Brixworth. Meanwhile Sarah has embarked on an international career and this last concert, with her newly-founded ensemble, brought the Brixworth Music Festival to a fitting close.

Without the support of the audience, the hard-working committee, the committed performers and volunteers, and especially our sponsors, the Northamptonshire Community Foundation and Daventry DC, as well as many private sponsors, this all would not have been possible. A heart-felt thank you to you all!

– Vivienne Olive, Joint Artistic Director

We are pleased and encouraged by the success of the Music Festival here in Brixworth, but would appreciate ideas or suggestions from the local community for future concerts. Please send these to [brixworthmusicfestival@gmail.com](mailto:brixworthmusicfestival@gmail.com) or write to: The Vicarage, Station Road, Brixworth, Northants NN6 9DF



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# The pipes are (definitely) playing!

After a twelve week silence at the beginning of 2018, the sound of organ music from All Saints' Brixworth once again wafted over the village. To celebrate the fact, on 12th May, our sponsors, guests and friends were invited to a reception and concert at the church.

Robert Wakefield, our church organist, along with guest Mark Pescott chose a programme of pieces ranging from Haydn to Bach which demonstrated the range of this beautiful instrument.

To give some contrast and to show where our "pipes" originated, The Nene Consort performed a selection of short pieces employing a range of recorders of all shapes and sizes (which firmly put paid to the myth that a recorder is a squeaky pipe given to ten-year olds to drive adults mad!)

Chloe Willson-Thomas magnificently sang the Benedictus from Mass No7 in B flat major by F J Haydn accompanied by Pescott, whilst on a lighter note (sorry) Wakefield performed a Nautical Extravaganza by Noel Rawsthorne. He then challenged the audience to spot all the well-known tunes hidden in the arrangement which caused great amusement as each one came to light.

Finally, Gwion Thomas and Christi Seyd Brown supported by members of the church choir gave a spirited rendering of the old folk tune "Soldier Soldier" complete with comedic "business" and appropriate costume.

A raffle and retiring collection raised enough money to gild the mouths of the organ pipes, which was completed in July.

Our thanks go to all those involved in making the evening such a success. In addition, we would like to thank all the sponsors and



Mark Pescott (left), Assistant Director of Music at the church of St Peter and Paul, Kettering, joined Brixworth organist Robert Wakefield for the celebratory concert

donors without whose contributions we would never have achieved our target. Thank you and well done.

Please come along at any time to see the organ in all its glory or look out for services and other concerts to hear how it has improved as a result of its wash and brush up. It really is worth a visit!

– Roger Brown, Organ Fund Co-Ordinator

## Brixworth and Scaldwell Guides

The Guides have had a busy time recently. We raised money with the 1st Brixworth Brownies holding a Sweetie Bingo night, with the proceeds donated to Brixworth Centre.

Many guides enjoyed a Harry Potter-themed weekend away at Macqueen House, Twywell. We even had snow!

Several went to the Division camp at Castle Ashby, and a good weekend was had by all.

Three of us go to the County Camp at Foxlease Guides training centre in Lyndhurst the end of July. A trip to Brownsea Island is also on the programme. – Jill Gunnett and Vicki Howlett

## RSPCA centre welcomes dog food donation

Brixworth RSPCA centre has thanked raw petfood specialist Natures Menu for donating 4000 pouches of dog food.

Stefanie Roe, from the RSPCA Northamptonshire, said: "We are extremely grateful for the generosity Natures Menu has shown us by donating such a substantial amount of dog food. The donation will help us to change our dog's diets to include good quality food and make sure they have the best start from us before they go to their new homes."

Natures Menu will be donating more than quarter of a million pouches of dogfood to a number of charities across the country throughout this year.

The RSPCA centre is based at what used to be Jerry Green (JG) Dog Rescue at Creaton Road, Brixworth, and is open to visitors from 11am-2pm every day apart from Wednesdays.



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# Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group has been very busy during the summer term. The weather has been on our side and where possible we have tried to take advantage by getting out to Overstone, Brixworth Country Park, Pitsford Water and around the village.



**Beavers** always start their term making new friends by welcoming new beavers to the colony. Their first activity was planting sunflowers for their Gardener's Badge followed up with a visit to Gallones factory in Kingsthorpe - everyone loves this activity. More locally they had a trip to Brixworth Fire Station - another favourite. Beavers earned their Entertainment badge with an evening learning fun dances and performing them to the rest of the group. They braved a walk through the Kelmarsh tunnels along the Brampton Valley Way and enjoyed a sports night at St Davids Playing Field trying cricket, football and rugby with 3 visiting coaches. They have earned the Crafts activity badges making gifts for Fathers Day and worked towards their Orienteering badges with an evening at Brixworth Country Park working in teams to follow trails around the park. Beavers improved their cycling and scooter skills at St Davids Playing Field around an obstacle course. They ended their busy summer term with a party in the park at Brixworth Country Park.

**Cubs** have been working on their Animal Carer badge with the opportunity of a guided walk around West Lodge Rural Farm. They followed this up by building a bird feeder and bird bath. Cubs also found time to earn their Craft activity badges with Father's Day gifts. They have been very active taking the challenge of cycling around Pitsford Water, wide games at Brixworth Country Park, holding an evening of cricket and other sports on The Ashway playing fields and participating in a Treasure Trail around Market Harborough. The highlight of the summer term was County Cub Camp at Overstone in July where cubs made new friends and participated in new activities. This was their first cub camp for many, including some of our leaders, but everyone seemed to enjoy the experience: possibly because the weather was so good.

**Scouts** have had a packed summer term working on their survival skills, learning traditional scouting skills including fire starting, shelter building, backwoods cooking, first aid and basic knife skills. They also helped to brighten up the welcome signs around our village with the

flower boxes - thank you again to Mr Troop and the parent helpers. We also made the village a little tidier with a litter pick around The Ashway and St David's Playing Fields. Scouts also participated in pioneering skills making catapults with bamboo canes and elastic bands (pictured, left), learned about healthy living with Brixworth's very own A&E consultant - thank you John, took part in a cycle ride to Market Harborough along the Brampton Valley Way, bell-boating on Pitsford Reservoir with sausage and hot chocolate at the end, and distributed poppy seeds around the roundabouts around Brixworth as part of DDC's 1918-2018 Remembrance Celebration. They finished the term with taster water-polo training at Northampton School for Boys and even had a match against Wootton Scouts.

**Explorers** made a homemade glow-in-the-dark hockey puck on a 3D printer to play glow-in-the-dark uni-hockey, participated in an Easter egg treasure hunt at Brixworth Country Park, went on a weekend cycle ride, and took part in their DofE camp activities. They went bell-boating on Pitsford Water with scouts, played ultimate frisbee at the Ashway fields, took part in a monster water pistol fight and built a water slide at Overstone, went swimming at Corby and completed their term with an evening of driving skills at Pitsford school.

In July four **Brixworth Network Scouts** took part in this years Dragnet challenge which is held in Cumbria and won. The challenge is for a team of four to navigate and trek 30 miles across the Lake District without being caught and consequently losing a life. Our team managed to avoid capture and arrived at the finish on time 36 hours later. Congratulations to Oliver, Jude, Daniel and Kieran. Network Scouts is the final section in Scouting and is for 18-25 year olds, anyone interested in joining should contact Jane Macken on Network@daventryscouts.co.uk

## 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 BrixworthScalwellScouts on Facebook or contact the Group Scout Leader at 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.

To find out more about Scouting, visit [scouts.org.uk](http://scouts.org.uk). - Bob Pickles



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# Cyclists with lots to crow about

The Cobblers call on Clarence, the Saints boast Bernie and the Steelbacks swear by Steeler to summon their fans' support, but they don't hold a candle to Colin the Cockerel, the emblem of cycling club Brixworth Velo. "Colin is presented to the cyclist who's been guilty of a 'cock-up' on our weekly ride, so no one really wants the accolade!" said the club's co-founder, the aptly-named Simon Fowler.



"He's been awarded for such cycling no-nos as struggling to fit a tyre after bragging how easy it is and wearing left and right socks on the wrong feet. When I won him for wearing so much hi-vis that they said I looked like a lollipop man, it was a bit embarrassing explaining why I had a toy cockerel perched on my desk but it's a great talking point!" Simon enthused.

Which isn't to say that they don't take the sport seriously; in July they raised more than four thousand pounds for Meningitis Now by cycling 200 miles in two days in memory of Jonty, son of Velo member Paul Jarvis, who died of the disease back in 2005 aged just six.

Later this month, they'll be back in their saddles for Cycle4Cynthia, the fundraiser for Northampton's Cynthia Spencer Hospice, where they hope to pedal off with the trophy for the biggest team. "Now that would be something to crow about!" he enthused.

Cycle4Cynthia 2018, which is generously supported by headline sponsor EMW Law LLP among other businesses, will take place on Sunday 23rd September at Althorp, offering 5, 25 and 50 mile routes.

For more information, including registering for the ride, visit [www.cycle4cynthia.co.uk](http://www.cycle4cynthia.co.uk). For more details on Brixworth Velo, call Simon on 07980 601861 or find the club on Facebook.

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# Lampport and Hanging Houghton Christmas Fair supports Mighty Magnus

Lampport and Hanging Houghton are planning to host a Christmas Fair at the Swan in Lampport on 1st November. The fair will be in support of Lampport Church Fabric Fund and Mighty Magnus charity.

The fair will run from 10am to 3pm with refreshments provided by the Swan. Tickets will be just £5, to include tea, coffee etc. "We have many local traders joining us with a variety of goods from gin to jewellery, cards, candles, scarves etc," says Cathy Dugmore, who is co-organising the Fair together with Margaret Westley. "It will be a great opportunity for some early Christmas Shopping."

## Thomas Roe cash grants available

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

Any qualifying person can apply for cash grants for educational purposes, such as help with buying school uniform, books, course materials, musical instruments and computer equipment. They may also be available towards the costs of travelling expenses linked to an educational venture including school trips.

You can download an application form from the Scaldwell or Brixworth PC websites or pick it up at the library in Brixworth. For further details, contact the clerk to the trustees, Ursula Morris, on 505554 or email [Ursula@ursulamorris.co.uk](mailto:Ursula@ursulamorris.co.uk).

The trustees meet twice yearly to consider applications. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd October 2018.

## SSPG: New surgery fundraising exceeds target

Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group (SSPPG) would like to thank everyone in Brixworth who has contributed to the equipment fund for the new surgery. Donations from village organisations, businesses and individuals exceeded our original target of £13,000. As well as purchasing the basic equipment for the additional consulting rooms, we can now add some specialist equipment. We now look forward to the opening of the new building.

I am sad to report that the chairperson of the SSPPG, Sandra Attwood, passed away in July. The group would like to pay tribute to her dedication and leadership over many years.

Our next meeting is at Guilsborough Surgery on Tuesday 11th September, 6.30pm. If you would like to support the work of the practice, you are welcome to come along. Meetings are held every two months, alternating between Brixworth and Guilsborough Surgeries. For more information contact Barbara Hogg on 880552 or [barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk) -Barbara Hogg

## Trombone Player Wanted

Do you play, or did you used to play the trombone? Naseby Village Band are looking for a Trombone or French Horn player to join our 14-piece wind band. We don't take things too seriously, it's about music, banter and having fun.



We practice Thurs evenings 6-7:30pm in Naseby. Even if you haven't played since school, you'll be in good company, so blow the dust off and come along. Contact Brian on 743151 or 07713 106926 or look up Naseby Village Band on Facebook.

## Scaldwell park equipment awaiting repairs

Following recent checks of the park equipment we have had to take a couple of items out of use. Until the necessary repairs have been carried out (which won't be long), we would ask users of the park to respect the cordoned off areas by not allowing your children onto these marked areas. - Phil Purcell

# Planning update

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>PD/2018/0013</b><br><b>28, The Ashway</b><br>Prior approval for single storey rear extension  | DDC Prior Approval<br>Granted         |
| <b>PD/2018/0014</b><br><b>Barn at Froghall</b><br>Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwelling  | DDC Prior Approval<br>Granted         |
| <b>DA/2018/0279</b><br><b>Land Adj The Old Bakehouse, 4 Kennel Terrace</b><br>Demolition of three existing garages and construction of new dwelling (revised)                          | BPC No Objection<br>DDC Refused       |
| <b>DA/2018/0269</b><br><b>Haddonstone Ltd, Harborough Road</b><br>Demolition of existing finishing shed and construction of new finishing shed   | BPC No Objection<br>DDC Approved      |
| <b>DA/2018/0260</b><br><b>Land to the west of Mercedes Avenue</b><br>Outline application for development to provide commercial floor space for Class B1b, B1c, B2 & B8 employment uses | BPC Objection<br>Withdrawn            |
| <b>DA/2018/0213</b><br><b>The Manor House, Victors Barn</b><br>Construction of detached garage   | BPC No Objection<br>DDC Refused       |
| <b>DA/2018/0418</b><br><b>Mercedes-Benz HPE, Morgan Drive</b><br>Single storey extension to western elevation of existing manufacturing building                                       | BPC No Objection<br>DDC Approved      |
| <b>DA/2018/0413</b><br><b>24, Grass Slade</b><br>Demolition of existing conservatory, construction of rear extension (revised)   | BPC No Objection<br>DDC Approved      |
| <b>DA/2018/0365</b><br><b>The Woodyard, A508 Brixworth Bypass</b><br>Lawful Development Certificate (existing) for the use of the site for a woodyard                                  | DDC Certificate of Lawfulness refused |
| <b>DA/2018/0356</b><br><b>Micron Precision Engineering, Saxon Fields</b><br>Extension to existing industrial building  | BPC No Objection<br>DDC Approved      |
| <b>DA/2018/0353</b><br><b>8, Spratton Road</b><br>Change flat roof to pitched roof on existing rear extension and front garage   | BPC No Objection<br>DDC Approved      |
| <b>DA/2018/0268</b><br><b>73, Northampton Road</b><br>Construction of conservatory to rear of dwelling   | BPC No Objection<br>DDC Approved      |

# Sunset Stride smashes fundraising target

The Sunset Stride, held in April at Brixworth Country Park, had an amazing turn out, with 196 participants taking on the challenge of the 12km walk. It raised over £6,000 - well ahead of the £4,000 target - for Cynthia Spencer Hospice, which will help the charity provide daily care to terminally ill patients and their families.

The event was organised by a group of third-year Event Management students at the University of Northampton.

Catrina Milne, one of the event managers, said: "It went better than we could have ever imagined! It was great to see all the walkers in their wonderful Rio-inspired carnival outfits creating a fun and colourful atmosphere. Lighting up the walk with their lanterns, they created a breathtaking display over the lake whilst the sun was setting. It made it a truly memorable experience that will ever be forgotten for all of those involved."

"We would like to say a big thank you to all our walkers, volunteers and suppliers for being a part of such a well worthy cause, which will help the hospice to continue to give the special care and attention to those in need," she added.

To find out more about the event, visit the Sunset Stride Facebook page. – *Catrina Milne*

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# Library events

This will be my last article for the Bulletin as Brixworth Library Manager, so I would just like to say it has been a privilege working here and meeting all you lovely people, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. I shall still be here in September, but when I do go, Sam and Gemma will still be here joined by Christine and Zoe, so I know you will all be well looked after. Sheila Jolley will be managing both Brixworth and Kettering Libraries going forwards.

## 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

Thursdays 10am – 12noon now fortnightly (6th & 20th September, 4th October etc).

### 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. Price is £60 per course, payable in advance to 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

### Messy Crafts

Wednesdays 2pm every school holiday

Next session: Wednesday 24th October at 2pm. Under 8s must be accompanied by their parent or carer

Please book in advance either at the library or email [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk)

The **Summer Reading Challenge** ends on Saturday 15th September this year, so you still have a little time to finish reading your 6 books and get your medal and certificate!

## Activities for adults

### 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)

## Get involved

Our Friends of Brixworth Library Group have been a wonderful support group over the last few months and continue to run regular events, including the ever popular Quiz Nights, in the library. Please do support them - they are a friendly and committed group and new members are always needed and welcome - why not come along to one of our informal meetings, or look on the Friends of Brixworth Library Facebook page to see what's going on.

## Upcoming Friends events

### Quiz & Chips Night

Friday 19 October, starting 7.30pm. Book early to avoid disappointment - tickets are available on Eventbrite

### Winter Shopping Event

Get your Christmas shopping done early on 2 November, 3.30-5.30pm. Lots of local craft stalls plus hot drinks and food from the Olive Branch.

Check out the Friends of Brixworth Library

Facebook page for all the latest updates and news.

## 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 a member of staff, or view the volunteering roles and apply online at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved)

## Other services

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

Contact us at [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk)

## MyHermes Parcelshop

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), but note new opening times.

## Blue Badge applications

Our Volunteer, Lynda, will be here on Wednesday mornings from 10-12 to help with online Blue Badge Applications. Enquire at the library to make an appointment.

Keep up to date with all the latest activities at [www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary).

## Change to opening hours

Please note that Brixworth Library's opening hours are now

Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm  
Saturdays 10am to 2pm

– Jill Barber



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# What's on

|           |  |                                     |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1-22/9    | The Lovely Bones                           | Royal                               |
| 2/9       | Tennis Tournament                          | Brixworth Tennis Club               |
| 2/9       | Family Bingo for Mighty Magnus             | EWf Party Centre, Market Harborough |
| 2/9       | Kids for a Quid                            | N'pton & Lamport Railway            |
| 3/9       | Public Consultation on Daventry Local Plan | Brixworth Library                   |
| 8/9       | Stamp out poverty fund-raising walk        | Meeting at Brampton Halt            |
| 8-9/9     | Peppa Pig's Adventure                      | Derngate                            |
| 8-9/9     | Autumn Working Week-end                    | Station Road, Brixworth             |
| 11/9      | Brixworth Belles - Painting Evening        | Brixworth Village Hall              |
| 12/9      | Friends of Brixworth Library               | Brixworth Library                   |
| 13/9      | History of Brewing in Northampton          | Brixworth Village Hall              |
| 15/9      | Volunteer Work day                         | Brixworth Country Park              |
| 15/9      | The Greatest Showman Outdoor Sing-along    | Kelmarsh Hall                       |
| 19/9      | Nature Tots                                | Country Park                        |
| 19/9-6/10 | Kinky Boots                                | Derngate                            |
| 21/9      | Brixworth Bat Walk                         | Country Park                        |
| 22-23/9   | Peppa Pig Visit                            | N'pton & Lamport Railway            |
| 24/9      | An Evening with Aggers                     | Royal                               |
| 27/9      | Parish Council Meeting                     | Brixworth Village Hall              |
| 29/9      | Hal Cruttenden: Chubster                   | Royal                               |
| 29/9      | Scott Gibson                               | Underground                         |
| 30/9      | Sara Pascoe                                | Royal                               |
| 2/10      | Seann Walsh                                | Royal                               |
| 5/10      | Dracula: The Bloody Truth                  | Royal                               |
| 6/10      | Phil Jupitus                               | Royal                               |
| 7/10      | Tennis Tournament                          | Brixworth Tennis Club               |
| 8/10      | Etta James Story                           | Derngate                            |
| 9/10      | Brixworth Belles- Psychic Evening          | Brixworth Village Hall              |

|          |   |                        |
|----------|---|------------------------|
| 9/10     | Chris Ramsey  | Derngate               |
| 9-20/10  | Touching the Void   | Royal                  |
| 10/10    | Rip it Up   | Derngate               |
| 11/10    | An Evening with Stacey Dooley   | Derngate               |
| 12/10    | Rick Wakeman  | Derngate               |
| 12/10    | SWISH - pamper evening with clothes swap in aid of Mighty Magnus Medicine | Brixworth Village Hall |
| 13/10    | Level 42  | Derngate               |
| 13/10    | Darren Harriott - Visceral  | Underground            |
| 13-14/10 | Malcolm Arnold Festival   | Derngate               |
| 16/10    | Hibernaculum event  | Country Park           |
| 17/10    | Nature Tots   | Country Park           |
| 17/10    | Seed Gathering Day  | Country Park           |
| 18/10    | Ross Noble  | Derngate               |
| 19/10    | FOBL: Quiz and Chips  | Brixworth Library      |
| 19/10    | An Audience with Simon Reeve  | Derngate               |
| 20/10    | Volunteer work day  | Country Park           |
| 20/10    | Echo and the Bunnymen   | Derngate               |
| 21/10    | Shoulder to Shoulder  | Royal                  |
| 22/10    | Natures Tricks or Treats  | Country Park           |
| 22/10    | David O'Doherty   | Royal                  |
| 23/10    | Hibernaculum event  | Country Park           |
| 23-27/10 | West Side Story   | Derngate               |
| 24/10    | Pumpkin Carving   | Country Park           |
| 24/10    | Rhondda Rips it up  | Royal                  |
| 25/10    | Pumpkin Carving   | Country Park           |
| 25/10    | Parish Council Meeting  | Brixworth Village Hall |
| 25/10    | Showstoppers Kids Show  | Royal                  |
| 25/10    | Showstoppers the Musical  | Royal                  |
| 29/10    | 10cc  | Derngate               |
| 31/10    | Marcus Brigstocke   | Royal                  |
| 1/11     | Lamport and H Houghton Christmas Fair                                     | Lamport Swan           |
| 2/11     | Winter Shopping   | Brixworth Library      |
| 2/11     | RPO: Symphonic Rock   | Derngate               |
| 3/11     | Tennis Tournament   | Brixworth Tennis Club  |

|       |                                      |                           |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3/11  | Jools Holland                        | Derngate                  |
| 3/11  | Rob Newman                           | Royal                     |
| 3/11  | Steve Bugeja                         | Underground               |
| 4/11  | Upfront Comedy                       | Royal                     |
| 9/11  | Joanna Lumley                        | Derngate                  |
| 9/11  | Zoe Lyons                            | Underground               |
| 10/11 | Sixties Gold                         | Derngate                  |
| 11/11 | Heroes for Peace                     | Derngate                  |
| 12/11 | Live on Mars                         | Derngate                  |
| 13/11 | Brixworth Belles- Shoe Museum        | Brixworth Village Hall    |
| 13/11 | Dylan Moran                          | Derngate                  |
| 14/11 | The Odyssey                          | Royal                     |
| 15/11 | Foster and Allen                     | Royal                     |
| 16/11 | Ray Jayner                           | Royal                     |
| 17/11 | Volunteer work day                   | Country Park              |
| 17/11 | That'll be the Day                   | Derngate                  |
| 18/11 | NMPAT Youth in Concert               | Derngate                  |
| 21/11 | Nature Tots                          | Country Park              |
| 24/11 | Winter Tree ID - Show Us Your Tips!  | Martin Moore Wood         |
| 24/11 | Charity Ball in aid of Mighty Magnus | Ritz Ballroom, Desborough |
| 26/11 | Northants Sings Out                  | Derngate                  |
| 28/11 | Michael starring Ben                 | Derngate                  |
| 29/11 | Parish Council Meeting               | Brixworth Village Hall    |
| 29/11 | RPO: Mariam Batsashvili              | Derngate                  |
| 30/11 | Simply Sinatra                       | Derngate                  |
| 1/12  | Winter Tree ID - Show Us Your Tips!  | Brixworth Country Park    |
| 1/12  | Strictly Northampton: Children       | Derngate                  |
| 1/12  | Strictly Northampton                 | Derngate                  |
| 2/12  | Tennis Tournament                    | Brixworth Tennis Club     |
| 7/12  | A history of Pantomime Dames         | Brixworth Library         |
| 11/12 | Brixworth Belles - Christmas Party   | Brixworth Village Hall    |
| 15/12 | Volunteer work day                   | Country Park              |
| 19/12 | Nature Tots                          | Country Park              |
| 20/12 | Parish Council Meeting               | Brixworth Village Hall    |

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| DAY    | CLASS    | VENUE        | TIME        |
|--------|----------|--------------|-------------|
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# All Saints Church

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

Dear Friends,

## LIVING WATER



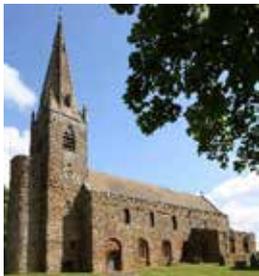
**Rector:** Rev. Chloe Wilson-Thomas  
 The Vicarage, Station Road  
 t: 01604 882014  
 e: [chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com](mailto:chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com)  
**Churchwarden:** Mrs Vanessa Crooks  
 5 Waddon Field; t: 01604 882058

I hope you have come back from your summer break feeling refreshed. The sun shone wonderfully on our summer fete in June, and then for many weeks, continued to shine, making it one of the driest, hottest summers on record. I write this on one of the hottest days of the year.

But I think the dry weather, although wonderful for holidays, has made us all aware how vital water---which we normally take for granted---is for the growth of all we see around us.

In the gospel of John, Jesus offers the Samaritan woman at the well "Living Water" so that she might never be thirsty again. The more we get to know Jesus, the more we are filled with his Spirit---and the more we grow as human beings. The Bible says that we are "changed from one degree of glory to another".

Our community here at All Saints is one which is continually changing, growing and evolving, not just numerically, but also in terms of spirituality and fellowship. We will be celebrating at the beginning of October with a weekend called "Mellow Fruitfulness" focussing on all the good things that autumn brings.



We will also be experimenting with two new services: an All-Age Communion, and a new service based on Celtic spirituality, which will centre on the healing power of the beauty of Creation. Our events and services are open to all. We look forward to welcoming you here to grow and change alongside us.

*Rev. Chloe*

### SUNDAY SERVICES

- |                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1st Sunday</b> | <b>at 10.30am All-Age Service</b> |
|                   | <b>11.45am Said Eucharist</b>     |
|                   | <b>6.00pm Choral Evensong</b>     |
| <b>2nd Sunday</b> | <b>7.45am Said Eucharist</b>      |
|                   | <b>10.30am Sung Eucharist</b>     |
| <b>3rd Sunday</b> | <b>10.30am All-Age Communion</b>  |
|                   | <b>6.00pm Taizé Service</b>       |
| <b>4th Sunday</b> | <b>10.30am Sung Eucharist</b>     |
| <b>5th Sunday</b> | <b>10.30am Sung Eucharist</b>     |

### WEEKDAY SERVICES:

- Tuesday 9.30 am Communion**  
**10.00am "Coffee Pot"**
- Thursday 2.30pm Celtic Healing Service**



# “MELLOW FRUITFULNESS” WEEKEND

OCTOBER 6-7

FLOWER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AT 7.30PM

“AN EVENING OF WORD AND SONG”

Tickets £8 (on the door, or from Home and Hardware)  
Includes a glass of wine and tasty nibbles

SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER CREAM TEAS 3-5PM  
£3.50



# ALL-AGE Communion Service

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
of the month

At 10.30am

## “COFFEE POT”

Coffee and cake,  
And a chance to chat  
Tuesdays at 10.00am  
ALL WELCOME!



## CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2-4pm

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Starts 1<sup>st</sup> December



# CELTIC



# HEALING SERVICE

Music, mindfulness, meditation, and time to just “be”  
*Second Thursday of the month at 2.30pm*



Why not use your beautiful  
parish church as the venue?  
See our website for details



## Chairman's Chat



Welcome to the Parish Council pages of the Brixworth Bulletin. I hope you find the content informative and keeps you up to date with our activities.

Firstly may I introduce myself - my name is Stephen James, and

I'm the new Chairman of Brixworth Parish Council.

The Parish Council elects its new officers at the Annual Meeting in May, and this year there have been several changes. I have taken over from Alex Coles, who has been the Chairman for the past three years. Sandra Moxon is the new Vice Chairman of the Parish Council and Francis Maria Peacock remains Chairman of the Planning Committee with Elaine Coe now chairing the Media & Communications Committee.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank Alex Coles, Neal Brown and Peter Saxton who have all recently stood down because of other commitments. They have all worked hard for the benefit of the Brixworth community in their time as Parish Councillors.

I would also like thank both Bob Campbell and Tom Mitchell for recently stepping forward and joining the Parish Council. The commitment from Bob and Tom will help the Parish Council make a positive contribution to village life. Further details about the new parish Councillors are provided within the Parish pages.

The Parish Council still has a vacancy so If you are a Brixworth resident aged 18 or over and have lived in

## Entrance Planters flourish



For the second year running Brixworth Parish Council have provided colourful window boxes at the four entrances to the village. Boosting the project, this year saw the scheme extended to include Station Cottages on Creaton Road. Like last year the project was put together with the help of Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout group and Troop Grocers.

Scout leader Fiona Hodkin organised the scouts to fill and place the planters around the village. This activity will earn them their community badge.

Mr Troop said, 'I am delighted to be involved in this worthwhile project and so pleased that there has been so much positive feedback.'

the parish for at least 12 months, becoming a Parish Councillor is an excellent opportunity for you to get involved in the way the village is run.

If you are interested in working within the community as a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk at [brixworthpc@gmail.com](mailto:brixworthpc@gmail.com) who will be able to provide additional information. An application form is available from the Parish Council web site.

**Stephen James, Chairman**

## African Delight for the Roundabout



Another of the Parish Council's projects to make Brixworth a more pleasant place to live in is the planting of the roundabout at the entrance to The Ashway. In previous years the Parish Council had received many complaints about the appearance of this roundabout, so it resolved to address the issue by planting up African Daisies – a plant that enjoys poor soil, exposed conditions and provides colour throughout the year. A quick annual maintenance is all that is required to transform this once dilapidated roundabout.

## Temporary reprieve for Number 60 Bus

Daventry District Council (DDC) has stepped in to rescue an important rural bus route which was set to come to an end this summer following the removal of its subsidy.

The District Council has agreed to pay a subsidy to keep the number 60 service from Northampton to Welford going up to the end of March 2019.

The number 60 service carries more than 28,000 passengers per year from a number of Daventry District villages including Welford, Naseby, Cold Ashby, Thornby, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Creaton, Spratton, The Bramptons and Brixworth, into Northampton.

This service was due to cease in July after Northamptonshire County Council decided to remove support for bus services county-wide as part of budget savings.

DDC's temporary funding for the bus service will allow the 60 to continue – on a slightly reduced timetable – until the end of the current financial year.

## Memorial bench to create a lasting legacy

A memorial bench to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War is to be installed within the Brixworth Millennium Gardens. The steel bench will feature a design with images of soldiers, crosses and poppies.

The bench is part of a wider scheme across Daventry District this year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Many of the organised events and activities across the district will take place within the three or so months leading up to November 11, echoing the Hundred Days Offensive – the Allies' final push along the Western Front which finally broke the military stalemate.

## Welcome to our new Councillors

### Bob Campbell

Bob has lived in Brixworth with his wife for 18 years. Having retired last year at the age of 60; he now feels ready to use his life and business skills to help the community where he can.

Bob was a businessman and has a broad range of skills. For many years he trained in graphic arts and worked in design management, marketing and sales. He latterly ran his own business in Brixworth working from home for 10 years. He is also an excellent "strimmer" often volunteering in his spare time in the churchyard!

Bob is a firm believer in maintaining a vibrant community. He loves the old but enthuses the new and does not think that the village can stand still.

### Tom Mitchell

Tom has worked all his professional life in architecture and construction, having starting as a draughtsman at Sir John Brown AE Henson and Partners at Billing Road to eventually running his own consultancy.

Tom has lived in the village for nearly 24 years, having moved from Kingsthorpe Northampton. Tom has seen great changes to the village environment and general expansion and is keen on assisting the Parish Council to ensure the progress retains the existing village heritage.

Tom said: "I have seen a great deal of change. I feel it's fitting that in some small way, I too make a contribution to the Council by offering my many years of professional experience in trying to shape and perhaps, safeguard the village for years to come."

## Defibrillator for The Ashway

The village now has a new defibrillator in place thanks to some great partnership working between the Brixworth Juniors Football Club and the Parish Council. The new defibrillator is now in place at The Ashway Changing Rooms and is now all available for use.



The project has been jointly funded by Brixworth Parish Council and Brixworth Juniors with the initiative being kicked off by the Football Association. The FA had joined up with the British Heart Foundation to call on grassroots football clubs to help save more lives from cardiac arrests by installing life-saving defibrillators.

The photograph shows Simon Compton from the Football Club together with Parish Council Chairman Stephen James.

Stephen James said 'Defibrillators can be the difference between life and death, which is why the Parish Council was happy to grant aid this vital piece of equipment and have it nearby in case of an emergency.'

## Planning Matters

The applications dealt with by the Committee over the past few months have consisted to a greater extent of the usual things, such as extensions and work to trees in the Conservation Area. However, there have been some major applications (and pre-applications) which have generated plenty of interest within the village. One of these is the proposal to develop the land to the west of Mercedes for commercial purposes. The Parish Council has objected to this on the grounds that it contravenes policies in the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan, Daventry Local Plan and West Northamptonshire Core Strategy. There is also concern about an

## New app keeps track of DDC bin rota

Daventry District Council has introduced a new mobile app to help people get to grips with the new waste and recycling collection service which was recently introduced within Brixworth.

The app allows people to set up reminders which bins to put out and features handy guides showing what can be put in each bin.

The Daventry District Council app is available from Apple's App Store and the Google Play Store. It also shows the latest news from DDC as well as information about local facilities, shops, bars and restaurants.

Almost 3,000 people across Daventry have already downloaded the app since its launch when Daventry District switched to the new 1-2-3+ collection service.

People without access to a tablet or smartphone can check their bin day via [www.daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling) or refer to the collection calendar they were sent ahead of the launch of the service.

## Poo patrol and litter picking

A couple of years ago Brixworth featured on Radio 4 for spearheading a campaign to clear up dog mess left in public places. At the same time the Parish Council organised with community groups successful litter picks. These are on-going campaigns and continue to need volunteers to help. If any groups are interested in keeping Brixworth beautiful please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council on 0798 314 1786 or email [clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk).

increase in traffic and the environmental impact associated with this proposal, especially as the development would be outside the confines of the village.

Another proposal – which at the time of writing was only at the pre-app stage – concerns the possible re-location of the Co-op supermarket to the site of the former Red Lion pub which is now closed and vacant. The intention is to provide a larger supermarket with more than double to floor area of the existing one. This would result in the pub being demolished and replaced with a purpose-built new building.

# Brixworth Parish Council



Stephen James  
*Chairman*



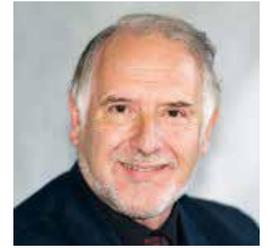
Sandra Moxon  
*Vice-chairman*



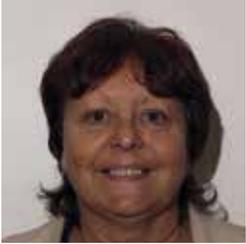
Frances M Peacock  
*Chairman, Planning*



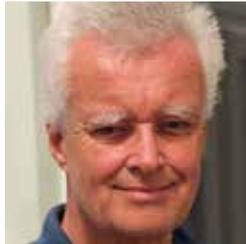
Elaine Coe  
*Chair, Media & Comms*



Ian Barratt



Jackie Bird



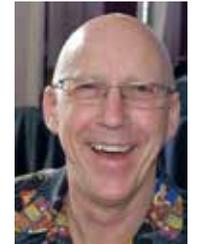
Bob Campbell



Stuart Coe



James Collyer



Alan Lovell



Tom Mitchell



Kevin Parker



Peter Rowbotham  
*Parish Clerk*

10 Shelland Close  
Market Harborough  
Leicestershire LE16 7XU

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Telephone: 07983 141 786

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

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

## Parish Council meetings September to December

### Full Council

(Thursdays, Village Hall)

27th Sept.....7.15pm  
25th October.....7.15pm  
29th November...7.15pm  
20th Dec.....7.15pm

### Planning

(Mondays, Comm'ty Ctr)

3rd Sept.....7.30pm  
24th Sept.....7.30pm  
15th October.....7.30pm  
5th Nov.....7.30pm  
26th Nov.....7.30pm  
17th Dec.....7.30pm

### Media & Comms

(Weds, Comuni'ty Ctre)

19th Sept.....6.45pm  
17th Oct.....6.45pm  
21st Nov.....6.45pm  
19th Dec.....6.45pm

### Surgery Dates

(Sats, Community Ctre)

1st Sept.....10am  
6th Oct.....10am  
3rd Nov.....10am  
1st Dec.....10am

## Sports Council

The Brixworth Sports Council has recently met a number of times to develop its approach to improving Sports provision within the village.

One area highlighted for discussion was the requirement for more sports fields. Existing sports clubs are growing and there is unprecedented demand for the

existing sports pitches. Other sports are also looking for facilities.

If you have any ideas or possible recreation sites within Brixworth (which may be available) could you please email the Parish Clerk at [brixworthpc@gmail.com](mailto:brixworthpc@gmail.com)?



# BRIXWORTH MATTERS

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

*"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble". Psalm 46:1*

I was overjoyed some months back to hear the Thai football team and their coach had finally been rescued. It was something that many around the world prayed for. The rescue raised a familiar question - Why is it that God answers some prayers but appears slow to respond to others? It is an age-old mystery that leaves us simply having to trust that God knows best.

Romans chapter 11 verse 33 says, "O, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and untraceable His ways!"

What we need is faith and trust in God in the good times but also in the darkest of times, through circumstances that from a human perspective can seem impossible.

I was listening to a cave diver explain the complexities involved in the rescue of the children. Each child had to entrust their lives completely into the hands of the Navy seal divers (and their diving equipment) for the rescue to happen. It was an amazing example and illustration of the kind of faith that we need at times and also reminded me of the beginning of the poem by Minnie Haskins that says this:

'God Knows'

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day (in the lone East).

Best wishes *Andy*



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on 07958 604961



## Summer Holiday Club 25th-27th July 2018

Over the last seven years we have been praying for the holiday club not only for the safety of the children, but that there would be good weather and that God would keep the rain away. This year was quite different, of course we were praying for the safety of the children, but also for protection from the hot weather! What can I say... other than God answers prayers! All had good fun and a safe time, with perfect weather, even on Sunday as we shared with all the parents and carers what their children had been up to at the Holiday Club. Hot dogs and burgers were enjoyed by all, the bouncy castle however, was enjoyed by the children only (lol). One parent said "every year my children have been excited at the thought of going to Holiday Club. it's a wonderful way to start their summer break, having fun with friends in a positive and caring environment".

The theme this year was 'God can do anything'. For as the Bible says 'nothing is impossible with God' (Luke 1 v37). The new activities this year were Gladiators, Balloon Banging, memory verses and rounders. When interviewed the children suggested that Gladiators was the favourite, followed closely by Mop Hockey.

Big thanks to all the volunteers, to the Northamptonshire Community Foundation, to NAYC, to the School and to you parents and carers for your continued support!

Thanks and God bless! From all your friends at Brixworth Community Church.





## Summer Splash

Saturday 30th June saw our Truth 'n' Teenagers group (TNT) off to Rutland water aqua park where we had a great time falling (and jumping) off the inflatables. After we had got out of our wetsuits we joined the rest of the groups from NAVC for a picnic and a chillax in the summer sun. Great fun, something that we'll definitely be looking to do again.



## Dynamites

In June we celebrated our Dynamites Children's Club at a special family service for the children and their families. Certificates and prizes were awarded to all the dynamites that came! The children who attended had a sneak preview of this year's holiday club song. After the service we all met at the Olive Branch not only for a picnic, but also to watch the next England world cup game.



## An evening with Celebrated Pianist Lincoln Noel



Lincoln is a well known County personality who, through his music, has entertained audiences, both locally and nationally via cabaret and West End musicals.

An enjoyable evening of music from a variety of genres is in prospect. The evening will include a buffet meal with coffee and tea. Bring your own wine.

**Friday 21st September, 7.30pm - 10pm**  
**Upper Hall Library & Community Centre**

Tickets £5 per person are limited and can be obtained from The Olive Branch Coffee Shop or The Information Point.

During the course of the evening there will be an opportunity to receive information relating to the Churches forthcoming Alpha Course

## School Leaver Service

On Tuesday 17th July we teamed up together with the School and All Saints Church for the school leavers service, where we handed out a Bible to the children of year 6 who were leaving for senior school. It was great to see the church full at this great service where the children were blessed as they prepared to start this next chapter of their lives.

## 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<br>19:30 – 21:00 | Home study Group<br>Home study Groups  |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | 10:00 – 11:30<br>19:45 – 21:30 | Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group*<br>Home study Group  |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | 17:00 – 18:00<br>18:15 – 19:15 | Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years*<br>Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11*<br>(*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

# Brixworth Cricket Club v Help for Heroes

On a beautiful warm English summers day in July, Brixworth was treated to a fabulous day of cricket and family fun. The Brixworth Cricket Club played host to the Help for Heroes Cricket Club in a two-match fund raising event in support of the Help for Heroes Charity. During the ten years that the charity has been in existence, over 340 million has been raised and over 17,000 individuals and families have been helped. Offering this support to thousands more who need it remains possible due to fundraising events like this.

The Help for Heroes Team members are all recovering veterans who have benefited from the support of one of the four recovery centres in the UK funded by the charity. Cricket is part of the wider recovery program which helps the wounded, injured and sick look beyond illness and injury, regain their purpose and reach their full potential. The Help for Heroes cricket club was formed in 2013 with their inaugural game against Northamptonshire County Cricket Club disability team at the County Ground in Northampton.

The two T20 matches in Brixworth proved to be exciting and competitive. Help for Heroes took the first game, with H4H reaching 162 for 3, beating Brixworth's 136 for 7 by 26 runs. Brixworth came back to take the second match with 189 for 4, beating H4H's 129 for 8 by 60 runs. It would seem that Devon Malcolm has lost none of his pace as he

bowled a wicket maiden over.

The H4H team proved to be no easy opponents, with some competitive batting and bowling. Wickets fell and 50s were scored. The teams received generous and deserved applause after the matches and Devon Malcolm and Staff Sargent Shaun Yeomans presented commemorative medals.

One of the highlights of the day was a flypast by a Hurricane aircraft from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight which made three passes over the cricket ground.

A petting farm, face painting, Help for Heroes merchandise stall, raffle and children's games were just some of the attractions on offer. There was also a local artist who painted the neighbouring poppy field.



Help for Heroes team captain Michael Kennedy (left) congratulating Brixworth player Ian Bandy

REME provided much-needed muscle for putting up the tents. They also brought with them an eight-wheel recovery truck, which added a different dimension to the day.

Two of our celebrity guests were Heinrich Brussow, South African International rugby player who joined the Northampton Saints in February 2018, and Cobus Reinach, the Springbok scrum half, who also joined the Saints in 2018.

We were treated to a guest appearance by Penny Diamond, a former contestant on the TV show Stars in their Eyes. She performed songs from the 80s and a tribute to Blondie. Penny gave her time freely, traveling from Derby, in support of Help for Heroes.

Almost a 1000 people were treated to the humour of Dominic Lehane who compered the event and Mark Wright who acted as our DJ and sound technician, keeping the crowds entertained late into the evening.

A good day was had by all. Thank you Brixworth, and thank you also from HRH Duke of Sussex (aka Prince Harry) who has written to me with a request to pass on his very best wishes to the teams and everyone involved in the event. – Martin Carnell, Local Help for Heroes Coordinator, Northamptonshire

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# Brixworth Tennis Club

## Family fun at Birmingham and Wimbledon

Three families enjoyed some of the benefits of being members of Brixworth Tennis Club (BTC). Gaurang Mehta and his six-year-old son, Ishaan, qualified to play at the finals of Quorn Family Tennis Cup at Birmingham. In addition to taking part in the finals they also had the opportunity to watch professionals, such as British No. 1 Johanna Konta, play. Gaurang said: "Unfortunately we didn't win, but we had the most enjoyable day ever."

In the meantime, young club members Louisa and Toby were lucky enough to win the Wimbledon ballot and spent a glorious day at the famous club watching Serena Williams and Roger Federer. Toby (pictured, right) also enjoyed watching Britain's Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid defend their Wimbledon wheelchair doubles title and said of Wimbledon itself. "From the moment you walk through the historic gates till the moment you walk out, you cannot help but be impressed." Both, they say, had "a magical day out".



## Northants Summer League

Closer to home there has been a battle for promotion in the tennis leagues. This has been the first time ever that BTC has entered the Northants Summer League which involves 21 tennis clubs from around the

area. From the start of the season BTC has hovered around first and second position with several far more experienced clubs biting at our ankles for the coveted top two positions for promotion. At the time of going to press we were hanging in there! But whatever the result BTC's League Squad is proud to have done so well. – Sandra Moxon, Brixworth Tennis Club Secretary

## Football fun day

I was very impressed with the support the Brixworth Football Club received for its 25th Anniversary Club Day. It was a fantastic day and enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to all the coaches and volunteers.

The day went off without any hitches. The veterans put on a delight of a match versus our U18s and they eventually ran out winners, not for the want of the referee trying to help the juniors at least score a goal (yes that was me refing!)

The children had a fantastic time. While I am not sure who came up with the delightful idea of soak the coach, my U10s girls gladly stepped forward on multiple occasions to soak me... Still all the proceeds go to a good cause and of course I shall have the last laugh when I get them all back training in August!

Thanks again to everyone who helped support the club, it was fantastic. Thank you! – Simon Compton

## Under 10 Girls try for the cup



Brixworth Junior Football Club under 10 Girls' season oh so nearly ended with a fairy tale cup win... As reported last time, the cup started with a home draw against Kingsthorpe Melody. We started badly and soon found ourselves 2-0 down, though a stunning second half fightback levelled the match at 2-2 at the end of full time so extra time it was. From then there was no holding Brixworth back, one more goal for a deserved 3-2 win and the dreaded penalties avoided thanks to Mia's late winner.

Next they brought home the semi-final. The Kingsthorpe Symphony were the guests and soon put to the sword. The previous meeting between the teams had seen Kingsthorpe win 7-2 on the coldest day of the year; this year the weather was much improved and so were Brixworth with the game finishing 4-1 with 2 goals from Mia, one from Evie and Elizabeth's first goal, winning the girls a slot in the final.

Finals day was at Raunds and meant an early start for the girls against Crick – a team we had never beaten. A good start was followed by Crick scoring twice against the run of play. First a classy goal from Nina after a well worked build up and Evie (direct from a corner somehow) saw the score levelled but then Crick scored two more in the second half, seeing them to a deserved win. It was a great experience for all the girls, thoroughly enjoyed by the very vocal support and very nearly glory! They all gave their all, kept smiling throughout and enjoyed the game despite the result.

The team have developed over their first year of playing competitive football and next year hopefully can go one better... – Russell Parsons

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# Two tournament wins bring U14s Puma's season to stunning close

Brixworth Under 14s Pumas have had a great close season winning tournaments recently at Corby in June and Daventry in July.

First was the Corby Thomas McNamee tournament which supports the heart foundation. Having won it two years ago, this year the Pumas played in a group of eight, with the top four making the semi-finals.

All started well with two wins and two draws, then a slight blip with two close 1-0 defeats which meant the last game would be tight affair to make the top four. The boys pulled it together and won 2-1, making it into the semi-finals. There were some very physical teams in this competition and the boys had some challenges that they had not faced too many times before.

In the semis, the team was drawn against one who had beaten them earlier in the tournament, but this time around they got off to a flyer as with some neat interplay between Roberts and Peasland we struck early to take the lead. Stewart and Lloyd got back into it with a great equaliser, leaving it to Peasland to turn a half chance into a great chance as he banged home the winner in the final minutes.

The Final saw the Pumas facing the Magpies who they had beaten 3-1 in game one. This time around the Brixworth boys had to come from behind as the Magpies took the lead after five minutes. The crowd was silenced though as Brixworth, playing the nicer football, equalised with a great volley

from Roberts who was producing some fantastic football and winning goals. Later he laid on the winning goal for Truman to drive it home and win the first trophy of the summer.

The Daventry tournament was held in July on an absolutely fantastic sunny day, and with gazeboes up and sun tan lotion applied the team set off in two groups of five teams, the top of which would go through to the quarter finals. In the first game the Pumas were three up after seven minutes in what were just ten minute matches. Even though the opposition got two back, it was a great start. The next three games ended 0-0 but were exciting affairs as the Pumas created plenty of chances just couldn't score them. Having finished third in the group, the team played the Parklands Tigers in the quarters and won 3-0. The semis against West Haddon were a tighter affair: after full time it was still 0-0 and the teams moved to the golden goal extra time rule. With two minutes left on the clock a free kick and a well worked routine with hours of training ground practice saw Delaney roll the ball



past the wall onto the sweet left foot of Truman who flicked it into the net to win and take the Pumas to the final.

The final featured Brixworth Pumas vs Lillington from Leamington Spa, who the team had drawn 0-0 against in the group stages. From an early lead with a cheeky little back heel into the net by Delaney, Lillington equalised with a header from a corner. With only two minutes left on the watch, an inspired substitution saw Compton off and Roberts on, who in turn received the ball with his back to goal and a quick swivel and shot saw him deliver the winning goal.

An excellent day had by all and the boys were really happy again with their wins. Well done lads. – *Simon Compton*

## Autumn Working Weekend

The annual working weekend will be held on 8-9 September at Station Road, Brixworth, by kind permission of the Brixworth Farming Company.

Amongst many great activities there will be displays of ploughing, working engines, vintage farm machinery, organised displays, bric a brac stalls, refreshments and an appearance by the Peak Vale Tractor Pullers.

All profits raised are to be donated to the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. – *Phil Purcell*

## White Horse Golf Society

Now into its fourth season, the White Horse Golf Society is a friendly, informal golf society based in the village of Old. It takes its name from the pub where after a few pints some of us formed the belief we could actually play golf.

The society is open to players of all standards, abilities and levels of competitiveness, from absolute beginners to those in the categories of 'contenders' or 'eternal optimists'. A generous handicapping allowance of up to 36 shots means any level of ability and age has a chance of glory, however fleeting. The emphasis is on good company, good banter and occasionally some good golf. Lady golfers would be very welcome to join those who have expressed an interest in forming a Ladies Section.

We currently have 50 members on our event mailing list with roughly half turning out to our regular 'Stableford' matches, keeping it small and friendly. These are held once a month on Sundays from March to November at courses in and around Northamptonshire. There is also weekday social golf plus Friday night Scrambles during the summer months. No joining or membership fees, you simply pay and play as and when you feel like it.

If this sounds like your sort of golf then find out more by dropping an email to [whitehorsegolf@gmail.com](mailto:whitehorsegolf@gmail.com).



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