

Pytchley Court Nursing home rated 'inadequate'

One of the care homes in Brixworth has been rated "inadequate" by the Care Quality Commission. Pytchley Court Nursing Home has been in breach of regulations since 2016.

The home has been deemed unsafe mainly for a list of shortcomings in clinical care. These have included inadequate systems in place to assess the physical health of the home's up to 40 residents; staff not always recognising when people were unwell; a failure to undertake proper clinical observations; and individuals not having been referred for medical assistance in a timely way, even after falls. Proper care plans have not been in place and medicines have not always been administered as they should.

The Commission has also criticised a lack of leadership. The home was without a registered manager for one year and was led by four different managers in recent years. A reliance on agency staff has meant that staff did not know the residents and were unable to follow required processes. The last manager has since left the organisation.

A spokesperson for HC-One, the company that runs Pytchley Court, said: "The health and wellbeing of residents is always our number one priority, and we take all feedback from the CQC seriously.

"Following the inspection in September, we quickly put in place a comprehensive action plan to address the feedback we received. A dedicated turnaround manager has been appointed, who is working alongside the senior regional team to support home staff to make sure improvements are made and maintained.



"We are pleased that a recent Local Authority review provided us with very positive feedback on the quality of care being provided, and the priority now is to demonstrate that these improvements are embedded and sustained over the long term.

"We continue to work closely with the relevant authorities, and we are confident we will have made significant positive progress by our next inspection."

The full report of the Care Quality Commission is available on its website at <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/I-320530396>



The future of the Brixworth Bulletin

Yes that's a dramatic headline, and not chosen lightly. The fact is, if the Brixworth Bulletin is going to have a secure future, it needs your help.

The Bulletin is produced by a small but dedicated team of volunteers, with contributions from all over the community. We know it's much appreciated and well-read throughout the villages it's published. However, there were only ever seven of us, and that's just dropped to six: in this issue we say farewell to Jennifer Fitzgerald, who as the main reporter of the Bulletin has had an absolutely invaluable role.

What we need is new people who are willing to join the team. We can use a whole range of skills. Obviously, we could use more reporters. Every issue, there are many more ideas and stories than we have time to follow up on. This is valuable work experience for anyone thinking of taking up a career in journalism, and an amazing way of finding out about our community. If you're more comfortable with design, you could help with redesigning adverts and laying out the magazine. We could also use help with uploading events to our events calendar, invoicing, and the ever-expanding village means always more work for distributors.

On the job training can be provided, the people are genuinely lovely, and the experience can be an invaluable springboard into a new career if that's what you want.

To find out more, email editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk, phone 07421 876504 or visit us at the This is Brixworth exhibition at the Community Centre on 6 April.

Thank you.

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Twitter.



Breadline says farewell to Hanging Houghton

The Breadline would like to extend a tremendous thank you to the residents of Hanging Houghton. On the 2nd January 2019 the vans bid a final farewell to the premises they have resided in for over a decade.

The sandwich production line is moving to new, larger premises locally. Not only do the new facilities offer more space for the growing business, they also provide undercover parking for the vans – quite a luxury after ten years of stocking vans in an open courtyard in all weathers.

The business was started in 2006 with Fran and Tom Saunders making sandwiches in their own home kitchen before going off to their 'proper' daytime jobs. The Breadline has gradually grown since that time and now operates a successful fleet of ten vans and employs 15 local staff.

We have received such huge support from all of the residents of Hanging Houghton in the past 12 years and are grateful to have witnessed firsthand such a great sense of community spirit in the village. – Fran Saunders



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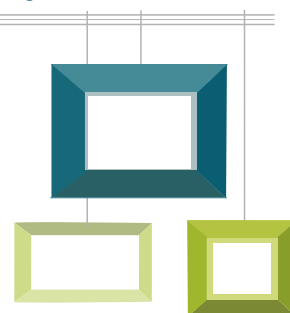
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New Saxon Spires surgery opens after lengthy delay

The new doctors surgery in Brixworth opened at the start of February, some eight months later than initially expected.

The move had suffered lengthy delays over difficulties in getting internet installed, which these days is an absolute must for surgeries. "Resolving this issue proved to be more complex than expected, due to the number of different agencies involved in the provision of primary care IT services," practice

manager Claire Deare told the Bulletin. "We had to explore a number of options to ensure we were able to have all systems working fully.

"We are very grateful for the support of our patients and Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group."



A boost for the Neighbourhood Watch

Brixworth Parish Council will help the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) by replacing old and broken signs around the village and add a few more. "We want to help NHW increase their profile as a deterrent to criminals operating in the village. It is only one of the things villagers can do to prevent crime on their properties and in their neighbourhoods, but it is a very visible one," said Bob Campbell, new NHW member and Parish Councillor.

The plan is to put new signs up on the five roads leading into the village and highlight that NHW is active in the area. More signs will be added on major junctions in the village.

The NHW is run by volunteers and covers over 8 million households around the UK. It's a charity and its members play a vital role in helping the police along with local authorities, reducing crime and building safe communities. According to the NHW, people living in NHW areas are less likely to become victims of crime, most notably burglary. This has led some insurance companies to offer discounts to members of the NHW. As well as increasing the eyes on the streets, NHW offers the opportunity to become a better neighbour by looking out for elderly or less mobile neighbours and thereby building a better sense of community.

The Brixworth group is coordinated by Katie Elmore. While they are grateful to the recent intake of members, including some from the new Saxon Rise development, they'd still like more. If you're interested in joining you can register to be a member on www.northantsnhw.co.uk or, on the Brixworth NHW Facebook page: @brixworthNHW or you can e-mail Bob Campbell at rcambell@brixworthpc.org.uk.



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Brixworth School – from Amazing Animals to Polar Adventures

Spring term topics

At Brixworth Primary School we aim to provide the children with a broad and balanced curriculum. Every term each phase chooses a new topic to explore. This term we have lots of amazing learning opportunities and experiences planned for our children and we have transformed our learning environments to inspire and motivate the children in their learning.

In Foundation stage the children began their topic of “Amazing Animals” by finding three huge, mysterious eggs laid in a gigantic nest in the outside classroom. This led to lots of discussion about how they may have got there and what might hatch from them. Later in the term, we will be having a visit from Bugtopia allowing us to observe animals at close proximity. We will finish our topic with a trip to a farm where we hope to see some newborn animals.



In Years 1 and 2 the children started their topic of “Polar Adventures” when suddenly their lesson was interrupted by a lost explorer. The explorer told the children about the polar regions. It was brought to the children’s attention that the explorer was finding it difficult to make an igloo due to global warming. The explorer set the children a challenge of making igloos out of other materials. Back in class the children worked as teams to try and help the explorer solve his problem.

In Years 3 and 4 the children began their new topic of Super Heroes with an action-packed day. Firstly, the teachers dressed as super heroes and performed a comic for all the children. Children then had a go at writing their own comic. In the afternoon, the children were visited by some real-life super heroes- an army officer, two RAF officers, a firefighter and a midwife. Through the topic, which focusses on geography skills and knowledge of America, the children will be visiting Brixworth Country Park to develop

map and compass skills. To end this unit of learning, the children will put an exhibition together where their learning from art, music, dance and science will be shared with parents.

This term year 5 and 6 will be studying The Tudors. Their Wow Start included a ‘Tudor Quest’ that involved the children finding clues hidden around the school to help them discover their class Tudor. During the first morning back, the children made Tudor houses and decorated their classrooms. After February half term, we are having a Tudor visitor come into school for our Marvellous Middle. Our Fabulous Finish is going to be an exhibition of all the children’s work that has been produced throughout the term.



rehearse and record their own songs,” said Mrs Marsh, their teacher. “They had an amazing day at The Stables in Milton Keynes and I am confident they will have made many memories they will treasure for a long time.”

The children said they had a brilliant time. Luke from Year 6 said: “We got our own dressing room, recording studio and sound room. We also had to sing our song twice. It was really challenging but worth it in my opinion because you have to sing the song solo.”

Play Galleon

Recent visitors to the school could not have failed to notice the amazing wooden galleon that has sailed onto the playground. The ship (pictured, left), which was generously funded by the PTA, has become very popular with the children and has been enjoyed in PE lessons and during lunchtimes and playtimes.

Notivate

The Notivate Singer/Songwriter Programme is a creative music course for children aged 9 – 13 years, in which they write and record their own songs. The programme enables children to express themselves, explore their feelings and perhaps try something for the first time. It offers children the chance to feel better about themselves and is about music, but is more about “me”.

“Some of our Year 6 children were fortunate to experience Notivate where they had a chance to write,

Community Club

The school is fortunate to have a committed, hardworking staff who provide a diverse range of lunchtime and afterschool clubs. The newest club is the year 2 community club. The children have been visiting a group of residents at Boniface House to join them in a range of activities (pictured, below). The children and residents have mutually benefitted from this shared experience and have created many new and lasting friendships.



Brampton Valley Way to be diverted during bridge works

Users of the Brampton Valley Way will need to take a short diversion for a few weeks around June while Bridge 11, between the Windhover pub and Chapel Brampton station, is being repaired.

The bridge will be closed for up to six weeks starting on 3rd June while a new concrete deck is put in at the top of the bridge. The bridge was built in 1879, and whilst well built to the standards at that time, over the last 140 years water has made its way into the brick and damaged it. The concrete deck will prevent this in future and stop further deterioration, allowing engineers to tackle the damage caused.

The works will involve removing the existing railway line from the bridge and excavating the railway ballast and Brampton Valley Way footpath down to the brickwork of the arches as well as down to the piers to expose the original drains. For this to work, this has to be done across the complete width of the structure. It will take two weeks to cast the concrete, which is then coated in sealant and backfilled. After that, the team will put in drainage to funnel water away from the brick structure in future. Only after all this is done can the footpath across the bridge be reinstated, fencing and track put back, and any delaminated brickwork under the bridge repaired to ensure that it retains its load bearing capacity.

The Brampton Valley Way will be diverted locally, taking a few steps down into the valley to bypass the bridge and up again the other side. Cyclists and anyone pushing prams and the like should take note, it is expected that the diversion will involve some steps.

The work is part of Northampton and Lamport Railways' southern extension project, which will eventually see the railway run all the way to Boughton and a new station platform there. NLR volunteers, working with students from Moulton and Northampton College, have already made a promising start to the new station and the first 25 meter section is well underway (see photo). However, with over 200m left to build, there's still a long way to go!

In order to complete the project, the team needs another £18,000 and NLR is appealing for donations to help achieve this. On top of that, the team would love new volunteers, especially anyone with bricklaying experience. If anyone can help, even just for one day, please do get in touch. As an incentive, NLR is offering all new volunteers who help out on the extension a free family ticket to travel

on the railway, as well as a year's free membership to the Northampton and Lamport CIO.

Elsewhere on the Railway, cladding of the new engine shed is progressing well. This should be finished by the time you receive this issue of the Bulletin.

If you would like to donate or join our friendly team of volunteers, or help in any other way, please contact the NLR at societysecretary@nlr.org.uk or telephone the station on (01604) 820 327. The phone line is only manned on Sundays (10am-4pm). If calling at another time, please leave a



message. Donations can be made by cheque, payable to 'Northampton and Lamport Railway CIO' and sent to Southern Extension Appeal, Northampton and Lamport Railway, Pitsford and Brampton Station, Pitsford Road, Chapel Brampton, Northampton NN6 8BA

For more information, details of train times, special events and more, please visit our website at www.nlr.org.uk

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Mighty Magnus Update Ready for



been lucky enough to catch the attention of some celebs and was recently supported by Ruth Jones and had a shout out from X-Factor competitors.

The MMM Army have plans underway for further fundraising events this year. These include a table top sale at Brixworth Centre on Saturday 9th March 2-4pm, a Family Fun Day, a further race night, a family disco and a Viking Berserker fitness challenge starting in February - if you are reading this after it has started don't worry, you can join in at any time!

The end of 2018 saw the Mighty Magnus Army pulling off the ball of the season and raising an amazing £17,000 for the fund in one evening. Much fun was had at the hugely successful evening at the Ritz ball rooms in Desborough, with great music from Grand Quattro, a luxury raffle, an amazing auction event and even a diamond (donated by Steffans the jeweller) won through a heads or tails competition. Many people gave their time and services for free in making this evening the success it was, including the band, the venue and the auctioneer, with great support from the District 1070 E Rotary Club. This event was such a success and so much fun that it is already planned again for this coming year on the 16th November, keep the date free and book early when tickets go on sale!

The generosity and kindness that continues to be shown to this six year old boy is just astounding and has taken the fundraising total to over £80,000. From individual donations and offers of help to music concerts it seems that his plight really has been taken to people's hearts. Recent initiatives in Brixworth have included the local calendar and this year's Panto. He's also

Brixworth Primary School arry on the fundraising efforts with a sponsored bounce for him at the end of January. They continue to support and encourage Magnus and recently organised a robot to be a direct connection to his classroom when he can't be there. Magnus can only manage limited time in the classroom thus the device will be an amazing bridge to all that he is missing.

Magnus' immunotherapy treatment initially didn't go as smoothly as hoped and he had a couple of prolonged hospital stays. He has also had further surgery to assist his nutritional intake and had a device fitted to allow him to be fed straight into his bowel. However, fortunately his health is now slowly improving, and he had a lovely few days away at the end of 2018.

Magnus will finish his frontline treatment in May, after which the family plan to travel to the USA to enrol Magnus in a medical trial which they hope will prevent a relapse. This is paid for by the funds that have been raised. These trials are showing some preliminary promising results but much more research and funding is required to improve the treatments for this rare, but devastating childhood illness.

The Dixon family would once again like to thank everyone in the local community and beyond who have displayed such support over the past year and would like to encourage everyone to continue to do so. Magnus' stoicism and resolve in enduring his illness and treatment and the kindness and generosity of so many individuals helps their ongoing resolve to support Magnus to overcome this dreadful illness. Thank you all.

Contact the MMM team at admin@mightymagnusmedicine.co.uk or Sophie Bell 07843 057855, or follow Mighty Magnus Medicine on Facebook.

Everything is well under way for the next Brixworth Music Festival which will take place this coming May.

This will be the fifth anniversary of the Brixworth Music Festival – not an anniversary that is usually celebrated, but it is nevertheless something of a landmark for all those of us who have been involved in getting this festival off the ground. What started off in in 2014 as a relatively small festival – and was possibly regarded as a rather eccentric idea of festival co-founder, Vivienne Olive – has now grown into an international event, involving musicians from Europe, the Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir, and the establishment of our very own Brixworth Festival Orchestra, conducted by festival patron, Peter Dunkley.

We plan our festival so that it appeals to all lovers of classical, light music and more adventurous excursions into the realms of contemporary music. And with the introduction of the Festival Pass we also hope to encourage people to come along to a wide variety of concerts with only one very reasonably priced ticket.

The Programme

Friday 10 May

7.00pm Bell Ringers of the Church of All Saints
7.30pm Northampton Male Voice Choir

Saturday 11 May

7.30pm Brixworth Festival Orchestra

Sunday 12 May

10.30am Sung Eucharist
7.30pm Fiori Musicali

Tuesday 14th May

7.30pm Northamptonshire Community Choir & John Clare Wind Quintet

Wednesday 15th May

7.30pm An Evening of Poetry and Song

Thursday 16th May

7.30pm Caroline Chisholm – Scenes from her Life

Friday 17th May

7.30pm Tedesca String Quartet and pianist Charles Matthews

Saturday 18th May

3.00pm Piano Recital on the new festival piano with Oksana King
7.30pm Songs from the Shows - Northampton Musical Theatre Company

Sunday 19th May

10.30am Sung Eucharist
12.00 noon Brixworth U3A Songsters & Singing Saints, Brixworth Primary School Choir and Brixworth Flute Group
6.00pm Festal Evensong
7.30pm A concert of Early Music. Sarah Small and Ensemble

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Brixworth Music Festival 2019?

Joint Director of the Festival is renowned baritone, Gwion Thomas. His wife, the Rev. Chloe Willson-Thomas, a singer in her own right, welcomes us to the wonderful Church of All Saints to stage the Brixworth Music Festival, described by the Master of the Queen's Music as an absolute "gem".

You can buy single tickets to each concert, but the Festival Pass (£27) gives you access to almost all concerts of this ten-day festival from orchestral music by Beethoven and Mendelssohn to some of the best choirs, instrumental ensembles and soloists that Northamptonshire has to offer.

Or maybe an evening of chamber music is more to your taste? Brixworth early music specialist, Sarah Small, will once more be playing together with her ensemble, in a programme of works from the 16th century. And the wonderful Tedesca String Quartet will be appearing at the festival for the third time running. Along with works by Mozart and Schumann, they will be performing the winning work of the 2nd Brixworth Competition for Women Composers. Solo pianist, Charles Matthews, will be performing on our brand new piano, donated to the Brixworth Music Festival by someone who prefers to remain anonymous, but who believes whole-heartedly in what we do.

The "official welcome" to this splendid new piano in its new home in the Church of All Saints will take place in the afternoon of the 18th May, when Brixworth pianist, Oksana King, will be giving a piano recital.

For those of you who are interested in the history of the area there will be a performance of "Caroline Chisholm – Scenes from her Life". This is a chamber opera written by joint director of the festival, Vivienne Olive, together with librettist, author and broadcaster, David Saint. David will be performing together with Kay Soteriou, Gwion Thomas, and the German accordion ensemble, "timeless d'accord".

If you enjoy choral music then you will

be able to hear not only the Northampton Male Voice Choir and Fiori Musicali, but also the Northamptonshire Community Choir. This choir will be performing together with the John Clare Wind Quintet which was established during the very first year of the Brixworth Music Festival. On a lighter level the Northampton Musical Theatre Company will be entertaining you to an evening of "Songs from the Shows".

In our regular feature each year, "An Evening of Poetry and Song", Gwion Thomas and Chloe Willson-Thomas will be joining the Northamptonshire group, "Wordplay". This is always a much loved event and involves local musicians, actors and singers. Also emphasising the community aspect of our festival will be the free lunchtime concert on the last Sunday of the Festival, after the morning service. Here you will be able to hear the Brixworth U3A Songsters, the Brixworth Flute Group, the Singing Saints, and the Brixworth Primary School Choir.

So please make a note in your diary and come along to the Brixworth Music Festival: 10th - 19th May 2019. We look forward to seeing you there.

For further programme details and contact information please visit www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk – Vivienne Olive, Joint Artistic Director, Brixworth Music Festival



Call for sponsors

The Festival could not take place without some generous sponsorship. Every year we battle to find donors who can help to make this wonderful musical celebration possible. In a sign of the times the funding of the Festival is on rather shaky footing this year and we cannot be sure of receiving support from our regular sponsors. Last year we received private donations from local people for specific concerts. If you would like to sponsor one of the concerts in the 2019 Brixworth Music Festival please contact us at brixworthmusicfestival@gmail.com. You would, of course, receive a special mention in the programme of that concert, plus reserved seating and a pass for two for the whole festival.



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Caroline Chisholm – the emigrant’s friend

Caroline Chisholm had fascinated me for many years and in 1999 I wrote the book and lyrics for a musical based on her life. I was fortunate in securing the services of award-winning composer Vivienne Olive who provided a beautiful score for the songs. We premiered it in Northampton and then took it to Australia with great success. Since then it has been translated and performed twice in Germany, first in the Opera House in Lübeck and last year in Nuremberg. It is due to be performed again on the 16th of May as part of the 2019 Brixworth Music Festival.

Born in 1808 in Mayorhold in the centre of Northampton, Caroline Jones married a Catholic Scottish soldier called Archibald Chisholm in Holy Sepulchre, her parish church.

Archie returned to duty in Madras in 1833; Caroline followed about 18 months later. She started a school for the children of ordinary soldiers and also what can rightly be called the world’s first day crèche.



Portrait of Caroline Chisholm by Thomas Fairland, 1852

They decided to go to Australia and settled in Sydney where Caroline saw the treatment given to immigrant girls who travelled from England on the promise of a new life. Before too long she set up a home for them.

She clocked up many major achievements. She worked on behalf of the convicts, both male and female and helped many to stay in Australia, to find work and she enabled their families to come and join them.

She lobbied Parliament in London to re-design emigrant ships to have more light, space, proper rations, hygiene, special conditions for children and so on.

She was one of the first people to draw attention to the plight of the Indigenous Australians who had been denied their land rights. She had the law changed to enable immigrants to buy land and to build homes.

She was the first woman in Australia to publish a book.

She opened supply stores for gold prospectors and set up many ‘Chisholm’s Shakedown’, very large, well-equipped equivalent of modern ‘motels’, and she divined water where, later, settlements grew.

The Catholic Church has begun the inquiry into her life as a preparation for possible canonisation. She is already commemorated in the Church of England’s Calendar of Saints on 16 May. She was on the \$5 note, the first woman other than the monarch. There are schools and societies named after her all over Australia and, now, a school bearing her name here in Wootton. Florence Nightingale called herself Caroline’s friend and disciple.

Charles Dickens was so impressed by her work that he was inspired to create Magwitch the convict in ‘Great Expectations’, he also sent the Peggottys and the Micawbers to Australia at the end of ‘David Copperfield’. He even based his ‘Bleak House’ character, Mrs Jellyby, on Caroline.

She returned to England to lobby parliament and died on March 25th 1877, Archibald died in August that year. Her funeral was at Northampton Cathedral on Saturday 31st March 1877.

Caroline and Archibald are buried in Billing Road Cemetery, Northampton. – *David Saint*

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Chris Heaton-Harris MP's WESTMINSTER REPORT

Policing and crime prevention

Recently Brixworth has seen a spike in criminal activity, some of it very serious indeed.

I know there is a growing level of concern about this – and quite rightly so. I see this reflected in the e-mails I receive from you telling me about it, reading posts on various social media sites and when I talk with local residents.

Living just down the road in Pitsford, I can promise you these concerns are not exclusive to your village either. I think many of us were relieved to hear, back in November 2018, that a local male was arrested in connection to local rural based crime in our area.

Alas, because of various Brexit-related parliamentary activities, I was unable to attend the Brixworth Crime Prevention Evening held on the 22nd January. I know it was really well-attended and that many residents were able to talk about their concerns directly to those who look after policing locally.

As well as you letting the police know about your concerns, I am going to meet the Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner in February to go over the concerns people have expressed to me and what can be done to allay people's concerns.

As you might expect, I keep a close eye on police and police-funding issues.

Currently, there are two excellent PCSOs that cover the Brixworth area and are stationed in the village. I know some of you feel that this is not enough; however, the nature of policing and the pressures on police time are changing rapidly and to be frank, I'd be surprised if this level of policing changed massively anytime soon.

This is also a subject I've raised with fellow Ministers nationally – as have, I believe, all the other MPs from our county.

This year the amount of funding available to Police & Crime Commissioners will go up by £800m – if they use their precept flexibility fully.

Locally, the total budget managed by Stephen Mold, our Police and Crime Commissioner, has risen a great deal over the past year and now stands at £5,227,000.

However, you should note these increases might not mean you see more police on the street locally; even with the recent spike in crime we do still live in a relatively low crime area – and long may that continue.

Chris

Post The House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA

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e-mail chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk

Twitter @chhcalling


Volunteers needed for Spring Speed Watch

Organisers of the annual Community Speed Watch would love to expand the programme and run it twice a year – in spring as well as autumn. However to make that happen, it will need more volunteers.

Whether or not the spring Speed Watch will happen in 2019 will go ahead depends on whether enough volunteers put themselves forward in time for the next training course, which organisers hope will take place at Caroline Chisholm School in Northampton in late March or early April.

If you cannot make that date but would still like to help out, the team for the autumn watch would also be grateful for the support. This year's autumn speed watch will take place over six weeks starting mid-September. Brixworth will be joining forces with the village of Old, so it will be a joint team covering both villages in alternate weeks.

If you'd like to find out more, contact Juliette Keeping on juliette@bertsdad.plus.com or 881311.



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The Conveyancing Process

As an estate agent, the question I always get asked by people wanting to move is 'How long do you think it will take to find a buyer?'

The answer, if a property is correctly priced, is normally not that long. However you don't pay a good estate agent just to find you a buyer, you pay them to get the transaction through.

Over the last decade, the conveyancing process has become more complex and time consuming, culminating in transaction times of up to 16 weeks. Forward-thinking estate agents have begun employing sales chasing staff who are trained to liaise between vendors, purchasers, solicitors, lenders and other agents in the chain. As important though is helping clients understand the process in order to avoid the frustrations often associated with moving home.

I thought I would use this month's edition of the Brixworth Bulletin to summarise the sales process. I hope it gives you a better understanding of all that is involved.

Once you've selected your conveyancer there's a period of requesting and gathering info on your property. You will be asked to fill out and return the following forms:

- Property Information form (TA6): this is a general questionnaire and includes information on boundaries, disputes and known proposed developments (like motorways or railways), building works, council tax, utilities, sewerage, contact details.
- Fittings and Contents form (TA10): provides details of which fittings and fixtures you would like to include with the property.
- Completion Information and Undertakings (TA13): is more technical, but also includes finalisation details including arrangements to hand over the keys, how and where you will complete, and ensuring that the house is free of all mortgages and liability claims.
- Seller's Leasehold Information Form (if your property is leasehold).

Get ahead, if you can, by having these forms ready to go as soon as you decide to sell.

Now the hard work really begins. Your solicitor or conveyancer will draw up a contract that outlines all the details of your property and sale (known as the 'contract pack'). It will include information on the sale price, the property boundaries, which fixtures and fittings are included, legal restrictions or rights, like public footpaths or rules about using the property, any planning restrictions, services to the property, like drainage and gas, and when the sale will complete.

Once you have accepted an offer on your property a conveyancer can spring into action and accommodate your buyers' conveyancers request for the contract pack. The buyers' conveyancer will review the contract pack and start conducting searches. They may have some questions for the sellers' conveyancer about items in the contract pack, known as enquiries. Once these have been answered they will need funds, either from a mortgage source or cash from a bank. They are now ready to proceed to an exchange of contracts.

Exchange of contracts is where the contract is signed and you establish a legally binding commitment with your buyer. Normally 10% of the property price will be asked for at this stage and you could forfeit this money if you then pull out of the deal. Any deeds are now transferred to your conveyancer alongside a rundown of any charges such as your conveyancer's fee, any outstanding loans or mortgage amounts to settle and any estate agent fees.

The completion date is now set in stone now so you can get busy with packing and start things moving! – *Stuart Little and Adam Wellesley*

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Does your home insurance really cover you?

Home insurance is big business. If you have a mortgage on your property, it will be a term of that mortgage that you have sufficient buildings insurance cover in place. Even if there is no mortgage on the property you will be well advised to keep your property fully insured up to its rebuild value and to check the policy you take out, properly covers your situation.

You are insuring your most expensive possession against damage but how often are you reading and reviewing the policy to ensure it provides adequate cover?

Providing insurance is a business and naturally the more claims that a provider can exclude or reject the better the provider's profit margins. I will not be so cynical as to say insurance providers try to catch you out when offering you a policy, but if you fail to provide accurate information you can very quickly find yourself without cover. For example, most insurance policies will exclude any damage caused during the course of construction or building works. This means that if a fire breaks out whilst construction works are ongoing, it is likely that your insurer will not cover you for the damaged caused.

Other common reasons for rejecting a claim include:

- Where a property is unoccupied for over 28 consecutive days (a real problem with rental properties and holiday lets).
- Accidental damage and damage caused by pets.
- Failure to disclose that a lodger is residing at the property

- Running a business from the property
- Damage to gates and fences is also usually excluded from home insurance policies
- Negligence and poor maintenance
- Wear and tear
- Failing to correctly advise insurers about what types of locks and alarms and other security features the property has.

Cover for the above can be available but you will have to speak to your insurance provider and in some circumstances you may need to obtain specialist insurance.

We all know to be honest with insurance providers when taking out a new policy. The law in this area has recently changed and generally insurance companies are not now allowed to reject insurance claims on the basis that incorrect information was provided if the incorrect information is entirely unrelated to the claim.

There are numerous home insurance comparison sites and obtaining insurance is not only simple but also relatively cheap. My advice to you is read the policy exclusions and if the cover does not fit your circumstances speak to the provider and obtain a bespoke policy.

The above is for general information only and should not be read as legal advice. You may need to seek independent advice in respect of your specific matter. - *Saranjit K. Minhas, Solicitor*

Library celebrates anniversary with community event

On 6 April the Library and Community Centre is marking its 20th birthday by organising a 'This is Brixworth' event. The idea is to celebrate all our community offers its residents.



Over 30 village organisations will be running stalls in all parts of the building. Those taking part include the Cricket Club, Gardening Club, Sailability, First Responders, the Bowls Club, the Neighbourhood Plan Group, the Photography Society, Friends of the Library, the Community Church, the Drama Group, the Brixworth Bulletin and the Parish Council. There are groups attending catering for a whole range of interests and ages. Among the highlights will be a performance from the U3A Choir.

The event starts at 10am and closes at 4pm.

Mike Nice, centre manager and organiser of the event, said: "This is a free event for the whole village to appreciate what a vibrant community we have, and to learn more about opportunities within the village."

The day has been organised with support from the Friends of Brixworth Library. The Olive Branch Coffee Shop will be open throughout the day.

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What does a funeral celebrant do?

My name is Sheenagh Cross. I have lived in Brixworth for 40 years and worked in and around the village over those years. After taking redundancy I felt I still had plenty to give and wanted to carry on working – it was just a case of finding the right job to do.

My jobs have always involved people. I very much enjoy being able to help people and I will always give my all to whatever job I am doing. It took me a while to find the right thing, but after a lot of research I undertook my training to become an Independent Civil Funeral Celebrant. I do not belong to any religious or humanist organisation.

Some of you may understand this role and others may not, so please allow me to explain, very simply, what this job title means.

When a person dies there is usually a service or ceremony held to say farewell to them. My role is to lead this service or ceremony in whatever way the family asks for, or, if the person has left instructions themselves, then to carry out their wishes. This can either be religious or non-religious or indeed a mix of the two. I am able to practice in crematoria, green spaces or chapels, but not churches. I will meet with the family as soon as possible to take their instructions and to learn about the person themselves. Each person is unique so each service or ceremony is unique too, there will never be two identical ceremonies. This is achieved by my listening to families and gaining an understanding of the person and creating that special occasion to both say goodbye and to celebrate their life.

I am happy to meet with groups or families to explain further or for you to meet me, so I can explain how I can help you when the time comes for you to need my services. I can be contacted on sheenaghcelebrant@outlook.com or 07518 029066.



Draughton report

Draughton has been a fantastically busy place in the last few months.

In November, the Loder Hall was nearly overheated thanks to our quiz night attracting so many bodies, the turning wheels of sheer brainpower and a good sprinkling of chilli powder on the supper. Over £900 was raised for the church roof – which, you may remember from the last issue of the Bulletin, lost its lead to thieves in October.

Just a couple of weeks later Draughton folk turned out with a wonderful array of beautifully crafted gifts, decorations, hyacinths and more, which found very willing customers who, duly fortified by the delicious soups, hot drinks, cakes and mulled wine, dug deep and, again, over £900 was raised.

Before Christmas, the little clubroom played host to a great crowd of both old and new residents from the village – some so new they were still unpacking! The event was the Pop up Pub and it was a raging success, with Dorothy's legendary 'Wassail' warming the room along with the wood-burner, some excellent bites and games. The names 'Jen' and 'Ed' were (and still are) floating around the village attached to wonderful reports of a super night, for it is they who organised the whole thing.

There was a lovely Carol Service on Christmas Eve which, as ever, was a beautifully candlelit event and a proper start to the festivities.

And then, on to 2019. On the last Saturday of January, 50 people came together at the Loder Hall in Maidwell to pay tribute to Robbie Burns.

The chieftain haggis, which was borne in above the swinging kilt of a Gordon Highlander no less, and the traditional fare of the night (plus a few drams!) fuelled the Highland Games that followed and a reckless enthusiasm for sassenach versions of curling, reeling, deer stalking, salmon fishing and caber tossing had to be seen!

Huge thanks must go to those who helped so much with the food preparation (especially Ann S and Irene B who gave up a whole day!), the hall preparation and to all those who turned up the next morning to help clear away the evidence of a pretty riotous evening.

An amazing one thousand pounds was made for the church roof and of course, huge thanks also to all who came and gave so generously of their time, their energy and a willingness to abandon any and all sensibilities! – *Kate Calnan*

Lampport and Hanging Houghton News

The poppy appeal raised a record amount of £287.71 this year in Hanging Houghton and Lampport. Someone must have made a very generous contribution as the total usually collected is more in the region of £80.

Carol Singing on the green at Hanging Houghton was again a big success with about 50 attendees from the two villages and their friends and relations. Unfortunately, the keyboard player was unable to attend this year, so the singing was unaccompanied. That did not however dampen the enthusiasm and the singing was quite hearty, even if one of the carols was sung to the wrong tune. – *Mike Philpott*



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Community boating scheme to expand

Crusader Community Boating is raising funds to buy a second boat so it can expand.

The Northamptonshire charity runs a purpose-built canal boat to allow people with physical or mental disabilities, as well as those from care homes, to enjoy a day trip on the local waterways. A second boat would enable it to expand this service and also offer it to primary school children.

Trips run from Gayton Junction, along the Grand Union Canal. Passengers either bring a picnic or we make a lunch stop at the Wharf canalside pub at Bugbrooke. There is no charge for these trips as we rely on voluntary donations and our own fundraising activities.

To help fund the free trips, we also run a number of private charter trips for groups of up to 20 passengers.

The charity, run entirely by volunteers who are also responsible for generating their own funding, is continuing a service for the local community that was started by St John Ambulance over 20 years ago.

For further details, please see www.crusadercommunityboating.org.uk and follow us on Facebook /crusadercommunityboating – Colin Neal, Chair of Trustees, Crusader Community Boating

2019 Calendar raises funds for local causes

The sales of the Brixworth 2019 Calendar have raised over £550 to go toward the Mighty Magnus Medicine Fund. We also managed to raise over £100 for the Little Acorns Playgroup through the sale of prints from the Christmas Portrait Sessions.

Many thanks to all those who gave so generously and also those who stocked and sold the calendars throughout the village.

We will be present at the Brixworth Day in the Community Centre on the 6th April when we will be discussing aspects of photography, and selling some of our prints to discerning customers. We will also be discussing our recent trip to the Yorkshire Dales and showing some of our results and efforts.” – Ian Topham



New opening hours for RSPCA Brixworth

The RSPCA cattery at Brixworth is now open seven days a week 11am to 2pm for cat and rabbit viewings. Dog viewings are still appointment only.

The RSPCA is always looking for volunteers to help on-site at Brixworth or for fundraising or in its shops around the county as well.

Follow the RSPCA Northamptonshire branch on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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2018 Poppy Appeal sets new record



The Poppy Appeal for 2018 has been a remarkable experience and success. The appeal ran officially from October 25th until November 11th, but donations are welcome all year round.

The response of the local community has been quite overwhelming with people turning out in all weathers to get their poppies. It's been the first time for me to organise the Poppy Appeal for Brixworth and I've been overwhelmed with the response.

The British Legion and myself would like to thank Rob and Bev King, John Wardell and Gabriel Leeming for their support and help with previous poppy appeals, the local businesses who kindly had a collection tin and tray at their workplaces, the people of Scaldwell, who had a WW1 themed dinner and raised over £260, the Reverends Chloe and Andy for the Remembrance Day services and collection and Mike Nice and his team of Marshals for organising the parade.

A very special thank you to all those who came to get their poppies from outside the Co-op on the three Saturdays involved. Yes, it was freezing, but so worthwhile as the total raised by Brixworth District to date is £4,276.72 – a new record.

Well done everyone and let's look toward this year's appeal.

If there are any local businesses that would like a collection tin and tray for 2019 or if anyone would like to order a wreath or any further information about the Royal British Legion, please contact me on 07979 258659 or email me at razoredie@live.co.uk. – *Eddie Edmunds, Poppy Appeal organiser for Brixworth District*

Brixworth & District U3A



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

After the November reading of "The Great Gatsby" the Book Club will in February be reading "The Good People" by Hannah Kent and in March "Animal Farm" by George Orwell.

Following on from all the Carol singing and Christmas activities the Singing for Pleasure group will commence the new year with further rehearsals including songs from Abba, Angels, Cabaret, a tribute to Queen's greatest hits and many more. They will also be performing at the Music Festival on Sunday May 19th.

The Badminton group meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month in Old Village Hall. Although not quite up to Olympic standard, it's great exercise and enjoyable at the same time (see picture). They are always looking for new members.

The March meeting will be registration day when all of the interest group leaders will have tables set up with all the information relevant to their group.

The April meetings talk will be "Stories of the Canals" by Derek Harris.

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



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DIY SOS Update

As many of you already know, many in Brixworth have been contributing to a DIY SOS for Shelley Balding, 47, with the goal of making her home more suitable for her health needs.

Seven years ago, Shelley suffered a stroke, which left her unable to walk and fully dependent on her family – a huge change to her previous active and athletic life.

Escalating health issues have left Shelley extremely poorly and with a limited quality of life - Shelley describes life as a goldfish bowl from which she is unable to participate. Loneliness, isolation and poverty are everyday realities.

A chance encounter last summer with fellow dog lover Julie Wykes led to the DIY SOS, which the Bulletin reported on at the time.

Since its start in the summer, the work has been going on at pace. The core team of Julie, interior designer Nichola Haysey, Jon Bilson of JB Building Services, local plumber Conor Haldenby and local builder Darren Wood drew up plans, raised money, organised volunteers and marshalled supplies. The mission was to create new wetroom, remove a narrow corridor and set up a new sitting area so that Shelley had a space to use when she couldn't use the stairlift to get upstairs and to eliminate any narrow spaces so that she can easily access her new wetroom.

Six months on, the work is very nearly finished. It has entailed a huge amount of work – tiling, plastering, electrics, flooring, plenty new fixtures and fitting to install and so on. We had huge support from everywhere – tradespeople from far and wide donated their time, often at next to no notice, building supplies and specialist shops gave us goods, fundraisers helped us raise cash for the bits we could not get donated, couriers picked everything up – the list is long and I am sorry if there's anyone who isn't mentioned. Your help is hugely appreciated.

Thank you very much to everyone – in no particular order: Towcester Building Supplies (TBS), Wickes in Northampton, Dodd Group Electricals, Stonesuperstore, Walls and Floors in Kettering, Plumbase on Gladstone Road, Bells in Kingsthorpe, Jimmy Garrod and Plumbco, Jon Noble of JPN Distribution, Route1Express, Topps Tiles, ADS Heating Solutions, First Choice Lighting, Paul Driver at Jewsons, Jamie from JML Plastering, Richard King of R.King Plastering in Towcester, Paul Schofield of Unique Exteriors, not to forget JPP Surveyors in Brixworth and Daventry Building Control, who've been with us throughout this project. Then there was Phil Lee from AMC Electrical, Geberit, Kingsthorpe Karpets, Luke Bryans of LB Contracts, Johnstones, Kurtis Walsh of ASK Tiling, Marcus Mabbutt of MCM Ceramics, Jason Campbell and Adam Mace.

Whilst all of this was going on, Julie Wykes and Sharon Payne were fundraising in the village, baking so many cakes, carrying out sales on their front lawns and supporting the teams coming in and out of the Shelley's home.

Unfortunately, during this project, poor Shelley and her family have had to put up with a lot of noise, comings and goings, building dust and disruption. On top of this, Shelley's health has continued to decline rapidly.

I have been updating Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as much as possible, so to see the progress and result for yourself, look at: <https://twitter.com/HayseyDesigns>
<https://www.facebook.com/hayseydesigns/>
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– Nichola Haysey



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Seniors enjoy a sumptuous Christmas

If you were anywhere near Brixworth Library and the Olive Branch Community Coffee Shop on the morning of Wednesday 12th December, you will have seen a stream of people disappearing through the side entrance. At the Olive Branch, Vernon and Sue Salmon plus a host of volunteers were preparing a four-course Christmas lunch for 70 senior citizens of the village.



Upstairs in the Community Hall more volunteers were beavering away. Tables were being arranged, napkins folded, crackers and candles placed and glittery sparkles liberally sprinkled.

By 11am the room was set and looked beautifully festive and the recipients were eager to get seated and start the celebration.

Proceedings started with a visit from the Key Stage 1 choir from Brixworth Primary, all sporting Santa hats and beaming smiles. After their superb singing finished it was all volunteers to the fore to distribute a wonderful piping-hot meal to all. After the starters and

turkey and trimmings had been devoured two extremely large, flaming Christmas puddings were paraded around the hall by Vernon and Dawn. These were quickly consumed along with lashings of custard. For those who still had room this was followed by mince pies, coffee and mints - a fitting end to a sumptuous meal.

Fully content now, the elderly folk were then visited by Santa distributing presents (and cracking very

dubious jokes) and they were beautifully entertained by Angela Moles accompanying herself on guitar. This lovely lady takes time off work every year to come and the assembled company really look forward to seeing her. Following on, there was community carol singing led by Andy Bransby at the keyboard and finally a short address by Rev Andy Lloyd Williams from Brixworth Community Church.

By 3pm coats and hats were being worn and happy folk were returning home, but the army of volunteers were still beavering away at the washing up and returning the hall to normality. It would be nearly 5pm before the last volunteer left the building – a long day!

The annual dinner could not happen without the volunteers and the generous donations from members of the Brixworth community which enables us to subsidise the event and make a donation to both Marie Curie and Cynthia Spencer charities. It is a very special day in the Brixworth calendar – one where it is a privilege to volunteer.

– Angela Cowley

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From Serving to Service

I found myself with some free time, my days were going slow, so I started at the Olive Branch some fifteen months ago. The first few days of working there were really quite unnerving, but soon I fitted in quite well with cooking, prep and serving. We really are a friendly team, and always share the work. Everyone is working hard; there is no time to shirk. The customers are lovely; a really friendly bunch. They pop in for a coffee and often stay for lunch. The food is very popular, the price you pay is fair. So if you haven't tried us yet, we hope to see you there. My journey with the Olive Branch has led me to the Church. I now enjoy both places and have fulfilled my search. When Andy said "Do come along and join the congregation" I came along eventually after much deliberation. Thank you all for listening to my story told in rhyme. I'm amazed how much my life has changed since helping that first time.

– Terrie Wardle, January 2019

David Hymas 1933-2018



Pictured, from left to right: David Hymas, Jane Neill, Margaret Hymas

It was with great sadness that I received the news at the end of last year that my friend and fellow Bugle/Bulletin colleague, David Hymas, had died, aged 85yrs old. Although David and his wife Margaret had moved from the village of Brixworth about five years ago to live in a retirement complex near Newbury, I remained in touch with them and occasionally met up for a catch-up.

David was one of the founding members of the Bugle Team, retiring from the Bulletin in 2005 after ten years' continuous service as treasurer. He worked tirelessly not just for that but also for Brixworth in general. David was the moving force behind the installation of the Millennium Beacon in the car park of All Saints Church. He also meticulously fulfilled the role of Parish Council correspondent for at least five years, being a regular presence at Parish Council meetings. He was heavily involved in Neighbourhood Watch, the Youth Club and many village schemes to enhance the lives of local residents. Perhaps one of his best accomplishments was compiling The Brixworth Welcome Pack, a publication crammed with local information designed to help village newcomers feel comfortable with their surroundings.

Myself, the Bulletin team and I'm sure many in the community of Brixworth would like to pass on sincere condolences to Margaret, her three sons and grandchildren. – Jane Neill



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History Society programme for 2019

The History Society's AGM was held on 17 January and the programme for this year was announced:

- 14 February: National Leather Collection. Speaker: Phillip Warner
- 14 March: Wicksteed Park. Speaker: Plan Addiss
- 18 April: The Women's Land Army in Northamptonshire. Speaker: Helen Frost
- 16 May: Walter Tull. Speaker: Graham McKechnie
- 19 September: To the Manor Born. Speaker: Derek Blunt
- 17 October: C15th Brixworth. Speaker: Anthony Farrow
- 14 November: Bletchley Park – Britain's espionage factory. Speaker: Bob Horner
- 12 December: Christmas Social Evening

The day and half-day trips and tours for this year will be announced at a later date.

The History Society meets in Brixworth Village Hall on the above dates from 7.30pm. Annual Membership fee is £15 per person. Visitors are welcome, and pay a charge of £3 per event.

For details of the society please visit www.brixworthhistory.org or see posters around the village.

Everyone is welcome! – Marian Coleman, secretary to Brixworth History Society



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Soccer and Netball School is back!



This year will be the third year that we as a Church have invited the Sportsreach team to run a week of soccer and netball fun.

We are hoping for slightly better weather this year than last time, while at least it was dry the mountain mist was a little odd.

The 15th of April last year was a memorable day as England's netball team scooped gold at the Commonwealth Games. They beat host nation Australia in a historic match with a last-minute 52-51 victory. With the world championship in Liverpool this July we are hoping that this may have encouraged more

and practice various different skills and strategies, whilst also enjoying matches getting them ready for Saturday's 'World Cup'.

This is one of my favourite days at the soccer and netball school, there is always so much fun and lots of food as the BBQ is

people to join up for the netball school.

It will be the same kind of format as in previous years, where we have daily Bible times with the children, which helps to develop the moral and spiritual aspects of a child's life. The children (7-14yrs) will choose either football or netball for the week,

fuelled up and churning out choice hotdogs and burgers. It's also the day where the children battle to win the Sportsreach World Cup. Not forgetting the parents v coaches matches, last year we really felt as if the parents had been training up especially!

Please remember to look out for the flyers to book your place. Flyers will be distributed via the school as previous years.

Please contact Mark (07917 573784) or Andy (07958 604961) from Brixworth Community Church if you would like to book a place or find out more. – *Mark Palmer*



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- Built-up flat roofing systems
- Re-slating & re-tiling
- Guttering & lead work
- Storm damage & emergency repairs
- Extensions & loft conversions
- General house repairs and building work

Local personal service, based in Brixworth

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📞 **07855 051198**
📞 **07851 726812**

T&T PLUMBING

- Central heating
- Boiler replacement
- Conversions
- Bathrooms designed & installed
- Landlord certificates
- General house repairs and building work

Local personal service, based in Brixworth

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

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group continues to provide a wide range of activities over the winter-spring term to the young people in our village thanks to the volunteer leadership team.

Beavers have been having great fun this term trying a variety of new activities. We welcomed some new Beavers at the start of the term and they have been settling in well. We collected some Ips and 5ps in empty Smartie tubes for the RSPCA who came to visit us and have been learning about Chinese New Year, trying some food and taking part in craft activities. Most recently we had a craft evening in the run up to Valentine's day. Next term will see us taking trips to Gallone's for pancakes, Mercedes and The Country Park as well as having a Circus skills lesson too! The Beavers are also looking forward to their first sleepover at Overstone campsite!

Cubs (pictured, below) have had another busy and varied term starting with an evening of traditional board games - an essential



lesson in teamwork and cooperation. They have earned their home help activity covering ironing, cooking and washing up, sewing, and tidying up. They consolidated their cooking skills with the chef activity learning about food health and hygiene, and how to cook biscuits and pancakes. They have covered disability awareness learning about sign language and the requirements of disabled people. Cubs enjoyed a half-term trip to Boost at Riverside before returning to cover their First Aid, Book Reader and Hobby Night badges. Cubs completed the term by exploring the Brixworth Heritage Trail, Mother's Day crafts and the all important Easter Egg Hunt.

Scouts started their busy winter term with roller skating at the Benham Centre and the opportunity to build a tilt alarm as part of their electronics badge. They managed to fit in another night walk with chips, always a popular way to reward a good walk and thank you to Brixworth Fish Bar

for their support. Scouts ended the half-term with a trip to Laser Quest in Northampton. They tested their cooking skills again making pancakes on camping stoves, participated in wide games at Brixworth Country Park and a sponsored rough sleepover at Overstone to raise funds for The Hope Centre in

Northampton before completing the term with Mother's Day crafts and an Easter Egg Hunt.

Explorer Scouts have been continuing navigation training to prepare for an event in the Lake District, we had a remotely supervised night hike and a joint fire with the Scouts. We spent several weeks perfecting industrial look copper pipe candlesticks and this term are prepping for a camp where we will assist on the leadership team.

We are very lucky to have a wonderful group of adult volunteers from all sorts of backgrounds that help to run the group for our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. Without volunteer leaders, activities would not run each week so to paraphrase Lord Kitchener – **BRIXWORTH SCOUTS NEEDS YOU!**

As well as leaders, we need help with background activities. We need a secretary to organise the leadership meetings and exec members to support fund raising and support the leaders. Commitment is flexible around the amount of time that each volunteer is willing to give. If you can help, get in touch and we'll help you to find a role that you'll enjoy, and that will really make a difference to the young people in our village.

To see more about what we're getting up to, follow Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts on Facebook or contact the Group Scout Leader at brixworth_gsl@bopenworld.com.

To put your young person (boy or girl) on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please contact brixworthbeavers@btinternet.com, and to find out more about Scouting in general, visit <http://scouts.org.uk>.
– Bob Pickles

Brixworth Gardening Club

Brixworth Gardening Club usually meets on the last Friday of the month at 7pm in Brixworth Village Hall.

The annual subscription is £8 plus £1 for each meeting attended. Visitors are welcome, the charge is £3 per meeting. On 29 March we will hear from Martin Keeley of Rutland Willows, on 26 April Chris Ward will tell us about wildlife gardening, and on 31 May John Gibson shares highlights from Chelsea. In June we'll have an evening visit to a local garden, on 18 July we'll go on a coach trip to Sandringham House in Norfolk and in August we have tea and cake in a member's garden.

There are posters in various locations in the village showing the details of speakers. More information can be obtained from Judy Smith on 01604 881186 or e-mail selby.smith@btinternet.com.



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

Brixworth Short Mat Bowls Club

At the end of January, half-way through the winter league programme, Brixworth Short Mat Bowls Club were in joint first place with Welford having won five matches and lost two.

Brixworth are the defending champions in the Northamptonshire Independent Friendly Short Mat Bowls League.

In November the club had its annual club singles competition. Twenty-three members took part with Bill Bates beating Jenny Chapman in the final 6-0.

January saw the annual target bowls and fish and supper night with 19 members competing. Mike Nice won the singles tournament with a combined score of 16. Dave Templeman was runner up with a score of 12. The doubles was also hotly contested with the play off being won by Bill Bates and Roger Chapman with a score of 7.

Both evenings were great fun and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Short mat bowling is good fun and new members are joining all the time. If you would like join us and try it out we meet at The Brixworth Center in Church Street (entrance from the church car park) on Fridays at 2.30

and 7.30pm. Equipment is provided. For more information contact Janet on 07762 211721.



Above, left to right: Bill Bates, Janet Hickman and Jenny Chapman celebrating a successful Singles night

1st Scaldwell Guides complete Swimarathon



Once again, we congratulate the 1st Scaldwell Guides for their magnificent efforts in the Rotary Swimarathon. Their two teams completed 181 lengths of the 25 metre pool in one hour and raised £150 in sponsorship. Their total swim was equivalent to 2.8 miles, that is further than from Brixworth to Scaldwell.

The above picture shows the members of the 1st Scaldwell Guides swimming teams with their certificates and medals. Teams participating in this event are able to nominate a charity or good cause to receive 50% of the sponsorship money they have raised. The 1st Scaldwell Guides have chosen to use the money to go towards the running of their group.

Our Swimarathon set a new record for sponsorship money raised by the competitors, reaching almost £8500. It took place in the pool at the magnificent Chris Moody Centre at Moulton College. In all we had thirty-two teams participating with just over 140 swimmers, of all ages and abilities. The youngest was under five and the oldest over 75. In a couple of teams we had some very young swimmers who needed swimming supports to compete, but they all finished with over 50 lengths. There were other remarkable achievements, with a total of 1,660 lengths completed. That works out to be nearly 26 miles.

The 2018 event was generously supported by local businesses, who between them donated £1600 to the Swimarathon. Donations came in from companies including Cave and Sons (stockbrokers), Jones Wholesale (Business Store), the Poplars Hotel in Moulton, MHM MacIntyre Hudson (Accountants), James Sutton (Prescription Goggles) and Wilson Browne (Solicitors). We thank them all for this vital support.

The Swimarathon is an annual event organised by the four Rotary Clubs in Northampton and our next event is scheduled for Saturday 27th April 2019 at the Chris Moody Centre. – Stan Evans, Swimarathon Committee



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Planning update

DA/2018/0725 Lodge Barns, Harborough Road Work to tree subject to Tree Preservation Order	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2018/0724 Lodge Barns, Harborough Road Work to trees and removal of tree within a conservation area	BPC Objection DDC Approved
DA/2018/0709 Sunshine Barn, Holcot Road Change of use of agricultural building to a single dwelling	DDC Approved
DA/2018/0580 The Red Lion Hotel, Harborough Rd Demolition of public house and construction of new AI retail unit	BPC Objection DDC Refused
DA/2018/0483 Brixworth Nursery Farm, Holcot Rd Change of use of land from agriculture to private sport and recreation area	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
PD/2018/0060 Mercedes Benz High Performance Engines, Morgan Drive Prior approval for installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) equipment on building 1 & 3 plus HTC building	DDC Prior Approval Granted
DA/2018/0932 69, Broadlands Work to tree subject of Tree Preservation Order TPO 121	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2018/0870 Park Farm, Spratton Road Work to tree subject of Tree Preservation Order TPO 121	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

DA/2018/0865 Cedars Farm, Silver Street Works to and removal of trees within a conservation area	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2018/0862 63, 65 & 67, Broadlands Work to tree subject of Tree Preservation Order TPO 121	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
PD/2018/0066 45, Hornbeam Row Prior approval for single storey extension with pitched roof 6m from original dwelling and 4m maximum height	Withdrawn
DA/2018/0966 1, Hunters Way Work to tree subject of Tree Preservation Order DA 246	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2018/0953 Lake House, Brixworth Hall Park Work to three cedar trees within a conservation area	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2018/0947 Victors Barn, Northampton Road Removal of Conditions 4, 6 & 7 of planning permission DA/2014/0910 (Conversion of offices to 5 dwellings) relating to permitted development to the dwellings and the provision of means of enclosure	BPC Objection DDC Refused
DA/2018/0929 Holcot Road Garage, Holcot Road Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission DA/2017/0700 (Demolition of garage and construction of 4 dwellings) relating to external elevations and internal layout	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

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Library events

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
Saturday 10am to 2pm

Bank Holiday closures

Friday 19th April
Saturday 20th April
Monday 22nd April
Monday 6th May
Monday 27th May

myHermes Parcelshop

Don't forget, Brixworth Library is a myHermes Parcelshop - you can collect, send and return your parcels from Brixworth Library via myHermes. To find out more visit www.myhermes.co.uk/parcelshop.

IT Buddy

After a bit of a break, our friendly volunteer, Ian, is once again offering free help with your IT questions. Ian is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. Bring your own device or use one of our computers. Pop in to see us to make an appointment.

Blue Badge applications

Our Volunteer, Lynda, will be here on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-12:30 to help with online Blue Badge Applications. Enquire at the library to make an appointment.

Library to You service

If you or someone you know struggles to visit us at the library because of age or disability, we can bring the library to you. We have volunteers who will hand-pick items based on your tastes, deliver them to you in your own home and all for free! If you are interested in this service or would like more information please call us on: 0300 126 100 [option 5, then option 1, and ask to speak to a member of staff at Brixworth Library.

Free activities for Under 5s

Rhyme Time for Under 5s

Mondays 2:30pm

Play & Learn for Under 5s

Tuesdays 2pm – 3pm

Play & Learn for Under 1s

Thursdays 10am – 12noon

Includes baby weigh-in clinic with health visitor every fortnight (7th March, please check Facebook page for more clinic dates).

Rhyme Time for Under 5s

Fridays 10:30am

POPs: Introducing your baby to solids

Part of the 'Positive Outcomes for Parents' series of workshops, delivered by Community Nursery Nurse Trish Tetley-Jones.

These workshops and support sessions are

open to all parents of under 5s who would like a little extra help or advice. These are a great opportunity to discuss any problems you are having and to meet other parents going through exactly the same thing. Her next few sessions will focus on introducing solids. Book your free place by ringing or texting Trish on 07917574144.

Wednesday 20th March 1pm – 2:30pm

Wednesday 15th May 1pm – 2:30pm

A session is also being held at Guilsborough Surgery: Wednesday 17th April 11am – 12:30pm

Leveta Lawson - IAIM Baby Massage

Leveta holds regular baby massage classes at the library. International Association of Infant Massage courses are suitable for babies from six weeks old. A five-week course costs £60 including all materials. Sessions must be booked and paid for in advance. Check Leveta's Facebook page for upcoming dates and booking information: <https://www.facebook.com/infantmassagebyleveta/>

Activities for children 4 to 12

Saturday Club 11am-2pm

Free fun for children aged 4 to 12 years. Every Saturday we will have a different activity and theme, including: crafts, quizzes, party games, scavenger hunts and lots more. Check our Facebook Page for this week's theme.

Messy Crafts

Wednesdays 2pm every school holiday. Next sessions:

Wednesday 10th April

Wednesday 17th April

Wednesday 29th May


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

Get involved


The Friends of Brixworth Library have been a wonderful support group over the last year and continue to run regular events 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?

The Friends are very generously donating £1000 worth of brand new books to Brixworth Library. They are also asking customers and members of the public to join them in donating new or nearly new books to add to our stock. If you have finished reading all your Christmas books and would like to give them a good home then please drop them off at the library.


Please note that the library is only able to accept books that have been published in the last 5 years and are in good condition. Anything we are unable to lend we will sell with all proceeds going to the library.


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What's on

01/03	Dr Michael Mosley	Derngate
02/03	Shakin' Stevens	Derngate
02/03	Brixworth PC Surgery	Community Centre
03/03	An Evening with Brian Blessed	Derngate
04/03	Abigail's Party	Derngate
06/03	U3A: Registration and promotion of Groups	Brixworth Village Hall
08/03	The Reluctant Dragon	Underground
10/03	NMPAT – Orchestra Spectacular	Derngate
11/03	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
12/03	KT Tunstall	Derngate
13/03	NMPAT – Big Sing	Derngate
14/03	History Society: Wicks-teed Park	Brixworth Village Hall
15/03	Bernie Keith	Derngate
15/03	Shappi Khorsandi	Underground
16/03	Ben Fogle	Derngate
16/03	Jack Lukeman	Underground
17/03	NMPAT Wind Band Spectacular	Derngate
17/03	Wedding Fair	Kelmarsh Hall
18/03	H.M.S Pinafore with Trial By Jury	Royal
18/03	NPAT Trust Romeo and Juliet	Derngate
23/03	Eric & Ern	Derngate
24/03	Simon Yates	Derngate
26/03	Doctor Dolittle	Derngate
27-31/03	Cirque Bezerk	Derngate
28-31/03	Room on the Broom	Royal
28/03	Parish Council Meeting	Brixworth Village Hall
29/03	Justin Moorhouse	Royal
29/03	Gardening Club: Rutland Willows	Brixworth Village Hall
31/03	Gyles Brandreth	Royal
31/03	Antiques and vintage Fleamarket	Brixworth Village Hall


03/04	U3A: Life on a Narrowboat	Brixworth Village Hall
03/04	Adam Kay - this is going to hurt	Derngate
05/04	A beautiful noise - the Neil Diamond Story	Derngate
06/04	Jess Robinson	Underground
06/04	This is Brixworth	Brixworth Library
06/04	Brixworth PC Surgery	Community Centre
06/04	The Greatest Showman Sing-a-Long	Derngate
07/04	Artisan Fair & Spring Walk	Kelmarsh Hall
8-13/04	Edmond de Bergerac	Royal
12/04	The Carpenters Story	Derngate
13/04	The Bootleg Beatles	Derngate
13/04	Chris Lewis: The Long Walk Back	Underground
14/04	Ant Middleton	Derngate
14/04	Ian McKellen	Derngate
15/04	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
17/04	Ballet Black	Derngate
17-20/04	Soccer and Netball Schools	Brixworth Primary School
18/04	Remembering The Movies	Derngate
18/04	History Society: Land Army	Brixworth Village Hall
19-20/4	Dinosaur World Live	Derngate
19/4 - 11/05	Ibsen's Ghosts	Royal
20/04	Andrew Bird	Underground
21/04	Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac	Derngate
21/04	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Lampport Hall
21/04	Country Show	Kelmarsh Hall
22/04	The Girl On The Train	Derngate
22/04	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Lampport Hall
22/04	Country Show	Kelmarsh Hall
25/04	Parish Council Meeting	Brixworth Village Hall
26/04	Gardening Club: Wildlife gardening	Brixworth Village Hall
28/04	The Sensational '60s	Derngate
30/04	Paul Merton's Impro Chums	Derngate

01/05	U3A: The Two Ronnies	Brixworth Village Hall
02/05	Wet Wet Wet	Derngate
03/05	Stewart Francis	Derngate
04/05	Brixworth PC Surgery	Community Centre
04/05	Julian Clary	Derngate
5-6/05	Art, Craft and Design Fair	Lampport Hall
7-11/5	Rock of Ages	Derngate
10/05	Brixworth Music Festival - N'pton Male Voice Choir	Church of All Saints
10/05	BMF - Brixworth Male Voice choir	Church of All Saints
11/05	BMF - Brixworth Festival Orchestra	Church of All Saints
11/05	John Luke-Roberts	Underground
12/05	BMF - Sung Eucharist	All Saints
12/05	BMF - Fiori Musicali	All Saints
12/05	Bill Bailey	Derngate
13/05	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
13/05	Paul Young	Derngate
14/05	BMF-Northamptonshire Community Choir and John Clare Wind Quintet	Church of All Saints
14-15/05	Birmingham Ballet - Peter and the Wolf	Derngate
14-25/05	Richard III	Royal
15/05	BMF - An Evening of Poetry and Song	Church of All Saints
16/05	BMF - Caroline Chisolm: A Chamber Opera	Church of All Saints
16/05	History Society: Walter Tull	Brixworth Village Hall
16/05	UB40	Derngate
17/05	Brixworth Music Festival - Tedesca String Quartet	Church of All Saints
17/05	Rob Auton	Underground
18/05	BMF - Piano Recital: Oksana King	Church of All Saints
18/05	BMF - Songs from the Shows	Church of All Saints
18/05	RPO: Music and Nature	Derngate
18/05	Carl Hutchinson	Underground
19/05	BMF - Sung Eucharist	Church of All Saints
19/05	BMF - Midday Concert with Brixworth Choirs and Flute Group	Church of All Saints
19/05	BMF - Festal Evensong	All Saints
19/05	BMF - Early Music Ensemble	Church of All Saints
26-27/05	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
30/05	Parish Council Meeting	Brixworth Village Hall
31/05	Gardening Club: Chelsea highlights	Brixworth Village Hall
01/06	The Biz at the Church	All Saints
01/06	Brixworth PC Surgery	Community Centre
02/06	Summer Fete	All Saints Brixworth



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Chairman's Chat

Stephen James reviews the current quarter's work with the Parish Council.

Planning Matters

Francis Peacock, Chairman of the Planning Committee looks at the kinds of issues raised in planning.

Crime Prevention

Crime concerns us all in Brixworth. We look at the size of the problem and some solutions.

Street Doctor

Pot holes are the scourge of our roads.

Precept and Budget

A guide to where your money goes and what's in store for next (financial) year.

New Councillor

Alexa Dunkley joins the Council



The Council arranged for Winter planters this year. Purchased from Troops, this one's on Creton Road

As we move into the New Year we are all faced with two uncertainties, Brexit and the formation of new Unitary Authorities in Northamptonshire.

Until Parliament agrees a Brexit solution there is little we can do, but with regard to the Unitary Authorities, the Government is nearing its completion of consultation (due by the end of January 2019). Parish Councils have been advised there are likely to be costs associated with the changes and we have taken the step of allowing a contingency within next year's budget.

The Council is aware of recent crimes within the village and held a meeting with representatives from the police to discuss the problem and the best way to move forward in reducing these figures. The Council will use social media platforms to pass on any recommendations from the police. The police also held a crime prevention evening at the Community Centre to discuss with residents actions they can take to make their homes and vehicles more secure. We will also be investing in Neighbourhood Watch signage around the village as an added deterrent. In the meantime the police have apprehended a group from Nottingham who they believe are responsible for the latest series of crimes, and they are currently awaiting trial.

Information from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been downloaded, showing that vehicles are speeding through the village with speeds up to 90mph recorded going out of the village. The overall average shows 50% of motorists are speeding through the village. The SID will be regularly moved to other locations in the village.

At present Village Organisations with projects in mind can still apply for a Community Grant Fund to help with overall funding, but applications should be in accordance with the guidelines required before consideration. Applications can be downloaded from the Council's website www.brixworthpc.org.uk.

The Council is still looking to co-opt another Parish Councillor, anyone wishing to apply should contact our Clerk, Peter Rowbotham at brixworthpc@gmail.com



Police Liaison

The perception of crime is often the biggest problem we have and it was no different when The Parish Council met with the Daventry Community Safety Manager and the Neighbourhood Police Officer.

Brixworth crime figures are diminishing year-on-year, however there's been a spike in theft from vehicles in the village - a gang from Nottingham has been arrested. Violent crime, including domestic violence, saw a slight increase, which is in line with national trends. Is there less crime? Well, it's not quite as simple as that. Social media plays its part in increasing this perception but there certainly isn't anything to say crime is out of control. The Parish Council agreed to continue to promote community safety in the following ways:

Encourage the reporting of crime: Police resources are allocated to hot spots. Without reports, these areas cannot be identified. Use the 101 hotline to report crime where possible.

Work with the Neighbourhood Watch Team: Provide signage and resources, and encourage volunteers and community members to play a role in crime prevention.

Promote Crime Prevention: Share key messages via social media. The Parish Council can link to Northants Police who recommend products which can be used by the community.

Host Events: Such as a tool marking morning for local trades people.

Promote Seasonal Safety: From the Northants Police and the Community Safety Team.

Use the Crime Prevention Officer: Look at lighting levels, landscaping etc and recommend improvements.

Planning Matters

Apart from the usual house extensions and tree works applications, we have dealt with applications for new dwellings, conservatories and garages. Not all of these have been straightforward because there has been concern about the impact on the street scene. As a Parish Council we must preserve the character of the village, although the need for new buildings and adaptation must nevertheless be recognised. It is often a matter of getting an acceptable balance between the two. Some developments, no matter how much they are amended, will never be appropriate for the area for which they are proposed.

A fine illustration of this is the recent refusal by Daventry District Council for the proposed new Co-op store on the site of the former Red Lion pub in Harborough Road.

Despite the applicant having attempted to address our concerns, the fact remained that this was an inappropriate location despite Brixworth being in need of a larger store. One of the reasons given by DDC was that the appearance of the proposed building was not considered to be in keeping and did nothing to enhance the character of the Conservation Area. It would also result in the loss of the existing building, which although not viewed as being of architectural quality by some, is nevertheless considered by DDC to make a positive contribution to the Conservation Area.



The Weasley's House in Harry Potter must have been a planning nightmare! Copyright; Rafael Chies

New Councillor

The Parish Council are delighted to welcome Alexa Dunkley, who joined the Council in November. Alexa is originally from Brixworth and currently works as a solicitor in Leicester. Stephen James, Chairman, welcomes the expertise Alexa brings. "She's a talented solicitor and we're sure her knowledge will help us in the future".

The Parish Council Budget and Precept

The Brixworth Parish Council has its budget for 2019/2020. The total expenditure for the year will be £183,680 with £163,620 of this coming from the 'precept'. The Parish Council has the right to raise this money via the Council Tax process and the 'Brixworth Precept' will appear on your itemised Council Tax Bill.

The Parish Council uses its money to maintain its parks & recreation grounds, grass cutting, some street lighting and litter picking as well as playing its part in the structure of local democracy whilst it maintains its vital role in acting on behalf of Brixworth.

The proposal will increase the precept by approximately 4p per week on D band properties.

In addition to the precept the Parish Council also has money set aside for both projects and reserves.



A veritable pothole factory in Church Street in January 2019. Cyclists beware! It doesn't look like they've been marked for filling, but they're forming along seams between different surfaces. Spratton Road, Northampton Road and Creaton Road are all in need of repair - along with the rest!

Potholes are a real problem around the village, the county and the country as a whole (no pun intended!). The Parish Council keep pressure on the relevant authorities to get them fixed.

A lot of it is down to our weather (that old chestnut!). Freezing in the winter and then baking in the summer cracks the surface over time. Very small cracks at first, expand setting the scene for our cars to do the rest! Add the wear of heavy traffic, and remember cars are getting heavier each year, and holes start to appear. If they aren't nipped in the bud the surface degradation accelerates until large holes form.

Fixing potholes is the responsibility of Northants County Council Highways department and it is one of the most expensive problems the Highways have to deal with. If you're sad, like me, check the potholes in your road and see how many form along seams between different surfaces laid at different times, or around filled-in utility holes.

Repairing potholes can only ever be a stop-gap solution but it's the best anyone can reasonably do. Without a complete resurface the holes are bound to reappear over time, but none of us want our roads closed for a complete re-lay.

Because of funding restrictions Councils have had to prioritise. In Northants for instance: "For a pothole to be considered a safety defect it has to be at least 40mm deep but this is on our busiest roads. For more local roads, our intervention levels would start at a depth of 50mm". So not every hole will get priority treatment. And that's just the depth! Some holes in the village are one or two metres long.

It's clear that temporary fixes store up huge problems for future generations. But funding cuts over a long period of time just exacerbate the problem. Every bad winter and very hot Summer (remember, we had one last year) create yet more holes. The average repair bill per hole around £56 and with an estimated 2.2 million potholes around the country (apparently most of them in Brixworth) the overall cost is huge - add to that the cost of damage to cars increased insurance premiums then you have a major financial problem.

If you find a pothole that you think needs attention go to the Street Doctor on Northants County Council website. You'll be doing us all a favour!

<https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk>





New Logo

The original Saxon eagle sits in a display case just inside the main church entrance. It's a bit battered and bruised but the Parish Council have used the motif for many years. Now we've brought it kicking and screaming into the 21st century courtesy of Brandmotive Ltd in Market Harborough. They've smoothed the edges, refined the line-work and it looks better than ever! Not bad for something possibly 1,500 years old or more!

Stephen James
Chairman



Sandra Moxon
Vice Chairman



Frances M Peacock
Chairman, Planning



Elaine Coe
Chairman, Media and Communications



Ian Barratt



Bob Campbell



Stuart Coe



James Collyer



Alexa Dunkley



Alan Lovell



Tom Mitchell



Kevin Parker



Peter Rowbotham
Parish Clerk



Parish Council Meetings - March to June

Full Council

(Thursdays)

28th March - 7.15pm
25th April - 7.15pm
30th May - 7.15pm
27th June - 7.15pm

Planning

(Mondays)

11th March - 7.30pm
15th April - 7.30pm
13th May - 7.30pm
10th June - 7.30pm

Media and Comms

(Wednesdays)

21st March - 6.45pm
25th April - 6.45pm
30th May - 6.45pm
27th June - 6.45pm

Parish Council Surgery

(Saturdays)

2nd March - 10am-Midday
6th April - 10am-Midday
4th May - 10am-Midday
1st June - 10am-Midday

please check web site and noticeboards to confirm dates, times and venues.

Contact the Parish Clerk:

Peter Rowbotham
10, Shelland Close
Market Harborough
Leicestershire LE16 7XU

E-mail: clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk
Telephone: 07983 141 786

Check out our Website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Web www.brixworthpc.org.uk.



facebook.com/brixworthpc



[@brixworthpc](https://twitter.com/brixworthpc)



[brixworthpc](https://www.instagram.com/brixworthpc)



Could this be you? You could be in the roll of honour on the right! If you want to be a councillor and serve the village call the Clerk!



BRIXWORTH
COMMUNITY CHURCH
Following Jesus Together

BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org

(Registered Charity No 1046921)

Well what a few months it has been in the House of Commons. The issue of 'Brexit' has really divided the nation not to mention MP's. The political stalemate that we find ourselves in has led to a great deal of political uncertainty and is causing much anxiety. Ultimately, we do not know what is going to happen next and how it will all pan out.

However, perhaps the political context we find ourselves in provides the Church with a wonderful opportunity to share Jesus. Folk are being forced to think about their futures, not just about their holidays and what the pound will be worth against the euro, but what they believe, who they can trust in, what are we building our lives upon, and is there anything or anyone out there that can provide real certainty?

Well faith in Jesus Christ can provide answers to these questions and much more. Following Jesus may not resolve Brexit but a relationship with God through Jesus provides real certainty and real strength, with access to God's wisdom and power and of course the opportunity to pray for our political leaders.

Jesus said (speaking about his teaching) "everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practise is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall because it had its foundations on the rock." (Mat 7: 24, 25)

Right now it feels like the House of Commons stands on sand as our nation's politics appear to be crumbling to the ground. The certainties or 'rock' that Jesus provides through faith is knowing that God is with us in this life, no matter what personal or national 'storm of life' comes our way and he will be with us for all eternity, working all things for His Glory! In Jesus our future with God is guaranteed.

Best wishes *Andy*



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on 07958 604961



SPORTS REACH

Soccer & Netball Schools

17th-21st April 2019
BRIXWORTH



WHO IS IT FOR?

Soccer School is for anyone aged 7-14
Netball School is for anyone aged 8-12

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The Price: £49/child
(£30 for additional siblings and anyone on income support.)

WHEN & WHERE?

At Brixworth Primary School,
Wednesday 17th. - Saturday 15th. April
Time: 10am - 4pm (5pm Sat)
Saturday 20th. Family BBQ -
from 4:30pm approx
Sunday 21st. 10:30 Awards Service

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andy Lloyd Williams / Mark Palmer
TEL: 07954 604961/07917 573784
EMAIL: andyllloydwilliams@gmail.com
bcf.cw2012@btinternet.com
WEB: www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org

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



Men's Breakfast

On the 9th February, I joined other men from the surrounding area at the Olive Branch for a free men's breakfast. I turned up feeling a little nervous, but was put at ease as I began to speak with other men who were in a similar position, and we just seemed to click. The breakfast was a free full English and well received. The speaker John Stevens was great as he shared his thoughts on "what Jesus would say about Brexit". I was interested to hear that Jesus would probably think that it is an issue, but it's not the be all and end all as it seems to be at the moment. Other matters of life are more important. All in all an enjoyable experience and all the men I saw left with a smile on their faces!

by Mark Waller



Outdoor Nativity

As always a few weeks before Christmas, Brixworth Community Church held their annual nativity open air event. Last year the elements forced us inside up at the school, but this year we were back outside again as the weather was kind (though cold)! This enabled many more folk to see the production. Carols, readings, some stunning angelic appearances not to mention Brixworth Primary School key stage two choir and of course Jacko the donkey all made the event a great success. Afterwards we soon warmed up a bit upstairs in the community centre with hot chocolate and mince pies. Big thanks also to all those who helped set up the stage and lights. It looked amazing.

EASTER

Come and join us

Good Friday

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

Easter Sunday

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

Senior Citizen Christmas Lunch



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

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

(*held at the Library & Community Centre)

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

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

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BRIXWORTH

www.brixworthchurch.com

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

Political uncertainty, poverty, homelessness, terrorism and violent crime to name but a few.
Where do we stand in amongst all this?

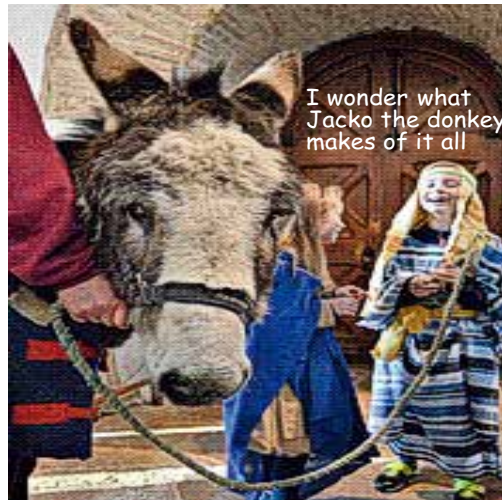
Is there something we can do, no matter how small, to improve ourselves and the world?

We are now coming to the season of Lent, to many, a time when we give up things - but it's also a time when we reflect on ourselves and our direction in life. It asks us to stop and consider turning around and starting down another path.

What is really important to you? Is it success and security, or do friends and relationships figure more strongly? Would you like to change anything?

Jesus Christ was and *is* a person of compassion and integrity, and a force for good in our world. He has set us a pattern to follow - a new path to tread. To live by his example or "Way" means to turn our own lives around and face the world full of expectation and hope.

I look forward to welcoming you in amongst our friendly community here at All Saints to find out more about Jesus, to be changed by him and to follow his footsteps together. *Rev. Chloe*



OUR SERVICES

1st Sunday of the month

10.30am All-Age Morning Worship
11.45am Said Eucharist
6.00pm Choral Evensong

2nd Sunday

7.45am Said Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday

10.30am All-Age Communion
6.00pm Taizé Service

4th Sunday

10.30am Sung Eucharist

5th Sunday

10.30am Sung Eucharist

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesday: 9.30am Eucharist followed by Coffee
Pot at 10.00am

2nd Thursday of the month: 2.30pm Celtic
Healing Service

Thursday at 7.00pm: Candlelit Evening Prayer

"SHARING FAITH" COURSE

Grow in confidence in sharing your
faith



In three simple group sessions.

9th, 16th 23rd March

EVENING EVENT

Saturday 1st June 7-7.30pm

"THE BIZ"

Fairground organ, miniature steam
engine rides, barbecue, beetle drive
and quiz

SUMMER FETE

2nd June 2-4pm

BRIXWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 10TH May- Sunday 19th May

Featuring amongst others: Northampton Male Voice
Choir, Northampton Musical Theatre Company,
Brixworth Festival Orchestra, and the Tedesca String
Quartet

A FESTIVAL PASS IS AVAILABLE
www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR CHORISTERS FOR
BOTH OUR ADULT AND YOUTH CHOIRS**

**Our choirs sing a variety of music styles, have
a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, and the
church has a wonderful acoustic to sing in!**

**INFORMAL,
RELAXED,
UPLIFTING!**

**All are welcome at our
ALL-AGE SERVICES**

Morning Worship

First Sunday of the month 10.30am

All-Age Communion

Every Third Sunday at 10.30am

For more details please see our website or ring 882014

Cricket Club looking forward to the new season

Brixworth Cricket Club's 2019 Senior fixtures get underway on Saturday 27th April with Brixworth's first team hosting Horton House at the Northampton Road Ground and our fourth team playing Great Oakley at St David's. Let's hope the weather is kind and remains so throughout the coming season to allow lots of both Senior and Junior cricket matches to be played at both cricket grounds in the village.

The cricket club is in rude health going into the 2019 season. A lot of work at the Northampton Road ground has taken place over the winter months with new drainage installed to the main playing area outfield (pictured), the clubhouse bar area extended, redecorated and new flooring laid. Furthermore, there will be just over 100 children under the age of 13 registered, learning to and playing cricket on a regular basis which is great to see. There is also a large pool of Senior players who will be representing the Club's four Senior teams each Saturday, in 2018 105 players represented the four senior Brixworth teams! Pleasingly there are some very talented teenagers playing at a good level, which bodes well for the future success of the club. Volunteer numbers at the club have also increased, however we could always do with more adult helpers and adult players, so if you have an interest in playing/ coaching/scoring/ helping behind the bar/helping with the BBQ or umpiring please contact Will Haxby by email brixworthcc@outlook.com

We will be holding a registration evening for new Juniors (school years 1-8) who would like to play on Friday 29th March, 6pm – 8pm at the ground on the Northampton Road. Coaches will be on hand to meet and talk

to parents of children wishing to join the club and the bar will be open. Membership fees for the 2019 season for new members are among the lowest in the County and are £70 per child, £60 for siblings of new members. New Members will be extremely welcome.

The Friday evening Junior cricket training sessions will start again on Friday April 5th and run until early September. These Friday evenings from 6pm at the ground on Northampton Road are always popular and great fun. With over 100 children being coached on the outfield, parents enjoying a beer/wine/prosecco or two from the clubhouse bar and food available from the BBQ. It really is a good, fun night and everyone from the village is welcome. If you have not visited the ground before please do come down to the club, enjoy a drink from the bar and a burger and see for yourself what an enjoyable evening it is at a beautiful venue.

Brixworth Cricket & Tennis Club will be hosting its fourth annual Beer/Music Festival Weekender from Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd June. The event proves really popular every year with 500 people from the village and surrounding area attending. Save the date – everyone is welcome!

There will once again be a choice of over 20 beers and ciders with exotic names to choose from. There will also be prosecco, wine and Pimm's and of course soft drinks for juniors and any drivers.

sponsoring the new raincoats, keeping the girls (and coaches!) warm and dry. It is much appreciated by them all as we work our forward to a more competitive U12s league next season!

The cup starts again early in February with a tricky first match away to Corby. Let's hope there is another cup run all the way to the final again. As Brixworth does not have the largest catchment area we are always looking to encourage new girls to join the club, so if there are any new families within the village or girls who know



Friday 21st June (starting 6pm) is a family night with Junior cricket coaching, a live band playing, a BBQ and the bar will of course be open.

Saturday 22nd June sees the main events taking place. The bar will be serving from 2pm, a cricket match will be taking place from midday, brilliant live music acts will be performing from 7.30pm onwards and there will be hot food served (vegetarian option will be available also). Evening admission is by ticket only, adults £12 (includes hot food), under 12's £7 (includes hot food). It will be a brilliant night and to purchase tickets please contact Will Haxby on 01604 880715 or by email: brixworthcc@outlook.com

There will be more cricket on Sunday 23rd June (timings and format TBC), the bar will once again be open from 2pm serving the marvellous selection of beers/cider and there will be a tasty BBQ.

Everybody is welcome to come along to the Festival Weekender, all ages, the more the merrier. We would love to see you there, it guarantees to be once again a terrific weekend. – Will Haxby

U11s Girls say a massive thanks

Brixworth Under 11s Girls are having another excellent season – their first season playing regular Saturday morning games every week. Although the games are technically non-competitive at this level, the girls are anything but!

They are playing excellent football, working as a team and have won more games than lost. There have been wins against every team including our nemesis (and the team that beat us in last year's cup final) Crick and a strong Rushden and Diamond.

Many thanks to Ironstone Software for



of any 9 and 10 year olds who would like to join, then please get in touch with the club secretary Simon Compton at secretary@brixworthjuniors.co.uk