

## Council considers reopening Northampton to Harborough railway

*New link likely to be accompanied by thousands of new homes*

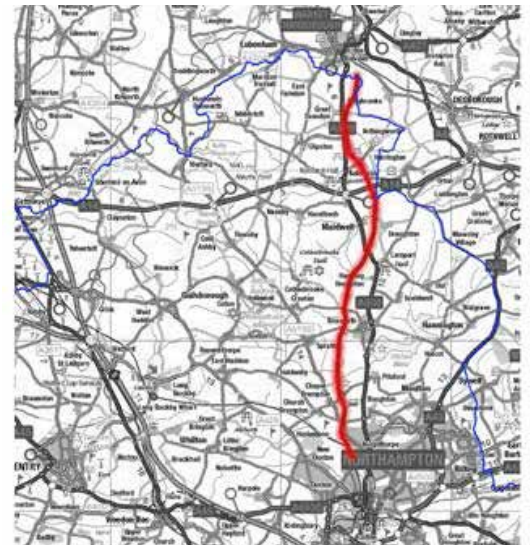
The Brampton Valley railway link between Northampton and Market Harborough could be reopened under plans currently being considered by Network Rail and the three councils that will form the future West Northamptonshire unitary authority.

If built, the railway would reinstate a direct link between Northampton and Market Harborough, with a second branch to connect Northampton with Kettering. However, councillors fear that the proposal, if it were to go ahead, would be linked to the construction of 10,000 or more new houses near the railway.

The proposal first came to light in consultation documents for the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, which were published in August. The plan points out that linking the Midland and West Coast Mainlines in this way would greatly improve commuting options between Northampton and places such as Leicester, Derby and Nottingham and bring significant benefits to the local area as well as nationally. The railway has not carried passengers since the 1973, and was closed in 1981.

Network Rail is evaluating the business case for the rail link and is expected to announce the results soon. The cost for the rail link is currently estimated at £200-300 million.

It is unlikely that the former stations along the old trainline would be reinstated, so a return of Brixworth station is not on the horizon. Instead, it is expected that there would be one stop between



Northampton and Market Harborough, most likely somewhere near where the rail line crosses the A14. It is not yet clear how the train would link into Northampton as much of the former track area between Boughton and Northampton Station has since been built over. In Market Harborough, the proposal is for the tracks to loop around the south-eastern part of town and enter town using the existing approach. Construction would take time – the Bulletin understands that if everything goes ahead, trains could run in 2030 ‘at the earliest’.

While the prospect of reopening the railway has been broadly welcomed, there are fears that the plans would lead to significant housing expansion in the area. The Strategic Plan notes that by 2041, West Northamptonshire needs to build at least *(continued, p.2)*

### What’s YOUR deserving cause?

If you’re a longterm reader of the Brixworth Bulletin, you may well be familiar with the routine. Every couple of years or so, we ask our readers to suggest local Deserving Causes, which the Bulletin might give some financial support to.

In the past, the Bulletin has supported all kinds of causes, raising money for pre-schools and sports clubs, helping repair church roofs and buy equipment for the local parks. Even individual causes can be nominated – in our first year, the Bulletin got behind a disabled girl in the village who needed treatment to support her development which the NHS was unable to fund. The only restriction is that causes have to be local, ie within the Bulletin’s distribution area. The sums we are able to donate varies but typically runs to several hundred pounds.

If you have a suggestion, please outline your cause in an email to [editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk](mailto:editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk) or in a letter deposited in the Brixworth Bulletin’s letterbox in the Community Centre and Library. It would help if you could as much detail as possible about how they money would be used. We will announce the causes in the next issue of the Bulletin, after which the readers of the Bulletin can vote on which causes they’d like us to support.

I look forward to hearing from you. Meanwhile, have a very happy Christmas.

*Naadia  
Flavell-White*

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The *Brixworth Bulletin* is published  
quarterly in March, June, September and  
December. The deadline for contributions  
and advertising for the March issue is 25  
January 2020.

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Scenario	Approximate Requirement to 2041	Supply to 2041	Residual Requirement to 2041
Local Housing Need	48900 dwellings	38500	10400
Local Housing Need + 10%	53700 dwellings	38500	15200
Local Housing Need + 20%	58600 dwellings	38500	20100
Arc-related Growth	61700 dwellings	38500	23200

(continued from p1) 48,900 new houses, of which it has currently identified 38,500. The plan considers options for contingency planning in case housing needs rise beyond those currently foreseen. Depending on the planning scenario, this will leave West Northamptonshire's housing supply anywhere between 10,400 and 23,200 short of the target. The Bulletin spoke with several local District Councillors, and their prediction is that if the railway is constructed, the area will also be expected to take on the majority of the additional housing.

Options here would include spreading the housing needed, perhaps by every village taking an extra 100 houses, but pragmatically, councillors believe, it is more likely that planners would look to construct a brand new greenfield town three to four times the size of Brixworth, or roughly the same size as Market Harborough. It is speculated that such a new town could be located at the station on the new railway.

The speculation is given further weight by the Strategic Plan, which queries whether the current policy of locating new housing within the existing urban areas and limiting rural development should be changed. A change in this policy would pave the way to new greenfield developments designed to serve not only the immediately local needs – commuter villages, in other words.

The Joint Planning Unit is currently considering responses from a first consultation which took place this summer. These will inform a second, more detailed consultation, which is expected to be launched in Spring 2020.

While the railway line may or may not be reopened, the housing shortfall will need to be addressed and councillors expect that the area north of Northampton is likely going to be affected one way or the other. Housing could for example also be linked to the other major infrastructure proposal set out in the Strategic Plan, the Northampton Northern Orbital road from the Bramptons to Moulton.

It is unclear where a reopening of the railway would leave the Northampton and Lamport Railway which currently uses the track. The Strategic Plan speaks of 'compensatory provision' but NLR volunteers point out that this would be a big ask. "It would not just require relocating rolling stock but also track, stations and signalling equipment, and would be a considerable and lengthy setback to what is supposed to be a local tourist attraction," says Graham Peacock, volunteer on the Railway.

He adds that as the scheme may not go ahead, and even if it does will take many years to proceed, so the NLR is carrying on as normal for the time being. "However, uncertainly due to the local plan proposal for a main line reopening may impact on future applications for funding, which could be detrimental even if ultimately the scheme does not go ahead or is some way in the future."

There is also the impact on the walkers, bikes and horse riders currently using the Brampton Valley way. Unfortunately, there are no statistics on how many people use the Way recreationally at present.

The next opportunity for local residents to have their say on the proposals will be in the spring of 2020, when the Council will launch the next round of consultations. Whether you are in support of the plans or against them, make sure you have your say. - cfw

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## Brixworth joins 75th VE Day anniversary party

Preparations are well underway to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in Brixworth. The celebrations will form a part of the national commemorations on the Bank Holiday of Friday 8th May 2020. Please mark the afternoon of the 8th of May as a day to join in village activities!



The events outside the Library and Community Centre will involve a programme of live music and entertainment as well as cream teas.

On Sunday 10th there will be a Peace Service.

Those individuals or organisations wishing to help plan the event and take part are welcome to contact Mike Nice (mike.nice100@googlemail.com).

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# Co-op appeal dismissed – but not over parking

Current plans to demolish the Red Lion pub and build a new larger Co-op on the site will not go ahead, after an appeal against Daventry District Council's decision to reject the application was dismissed.

The inspector dismissed the appeal because the redevelopment would harm the character of the Conservation area and surrounding listed buildings.

The ruling says that while the Red Lion pub was 'not an outstanding example' of architecture, it does add to the character of the Conservation Area. The plans for the new shop make some efforts to blend in with the surroundings, but the inspector considered those efforts to be only 'skin deep', and the new building would fail to preserve the character and appearance of the area and the surrounding listed buildings.

However, on the issue of parking and access for deliveries, which for many villagers had been the key point of objection, the inspector disagreed. The 14 parking spaces would be sufficient, because shoppers



would on average only stay for around 15 minutes, and because – unlike the Spratton Road co-op – the car park at the proposed site would not have to cater for five other shops plus associated village amenities. The impact of the loading bay on the side of the road could be managed if deliveries were restricted to specific times, and the shop would bring economic benefits.

While this leaves the Co-op's existing plan permanently off the table, the ruling does not prevent a new proposal coming forward that could take into account the points made by the inspector from coming forward in the future. - cfw

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# Landowners: can **You** help Brixworth Juniors?

Brixworth Juniors football club would like to ask the landowners of the village if they can part with any land to help us.

The Juniors football club is the largest club in the county with 22 teams including girls now playing successfully. But the price of the success is that we are now at breaking point. The club has almost 300 footballers playing on two pitches at The Ashway and St Davids. We have no opposition to continuing to playing on these pitches, but we have far too many teams at certain ages and limited pitches to accommodate all the games the children now play.

We have recently approached Spratton and Ravensthorpe to see if they can spare any land for us to play on and expand upon, without success.

If we cannot find suitable land closer to home, our only option will be to ask some teams to travel to the local parks at Kingsthorpe and Northampton Racecourse. We hope to avoid having to do this – hence this appeal for help.

If you have any land that Brixworth Juniors could use to allow the football club continue to play in Brixworth or nearby, we would love to hear from you. As the village continues to grow, the club will grow with it so we really do need to expand. We have a great reputation



for playing football in the correct spirit and we have coaches who understand that we are here to develop not only good footballers but decent young children who become adults with the correct values of respectfulness and understanding.

If you can help, please call Simon Compton 07985 810817.

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Issue 63, December 2019



# Parkrun is coming to Brixworth

You have likely heard of the global phenomenon that is Parkrun. You may well be one of the three hundred thousand who turn up to walk or run 5 kilometers (that's 3.1 miles) at 9am every Saturday morning, whether you go to Northampton racecourse, Sixfields, Welland Park in Market Harborough or further afield. From a group of friends who started a regular Saturday morning run at Bushy Park in 2004 to today, when there are 650 events in Britain and a further 900 overseas, Parkrun grows and grows.

And we will soon have an event of our own, at the Country Park. Over the last few months a small team has been planning, approaching funders, landowners and the Country Park and we are close to our launch. We have a lovely course, starting below the car park, out beside the reservoir and back through the country park. It's pretty much all on tracks or tarmac with a couple of small hills at the end. We look forward to hearing what you think of it!

Parkrun is all about community and participation. Genuinely, all are welcome from the athletes who finish after 16 minutes to those who are still walking the course after an hour. All run or walk the same 5km. And like all events, we will have a tail walker so you will never be last! One of the statistics of which Parkrun is most proud is that the average finish time gets longer every year; this is an indication of how participation is broadening. And a key initiative is Parkrun practices, where GP surgeries, including Saxon Spire, 'prescribe Parkrun' to any for whom a sociable bit of exercise in the outdoors might help. Doing Parkrun is often the goal of couch-to-5K and we hope to welcome any local groups.

As we've planned for this, we have been very fortunate to have the help and support of many individuals and organisations. Daventry council, Health England, Northamptonshire Sport, Brixworth Parish Council, AMC Electrical, Pebble Events and Haddonstone have all been incredibly generous in contributing to the setup costs and equipment. Debbie at the Country Park is guiding us through the minefield of permissions and other requirements, as are Anglian Water. We run at Northampton and Market Harborough and both events, with others, are helping us learn and practice all the skills needed to put on the event. But what makes Parkrun happen week after week are the volunteers. If you have ever been to a Parkrun, you'll have seen the hi-viz heroes in their yellow jackets, setting you off, encouraging and directing you around the course, timing you and making sure that later on Saturday morning, you get an email or text with your result. If you have run at the racecourse, chances are that you will know Bryan, a marshal so loyal that 'Bryan's Corner' on St George's Avenue is now very much a place! We asked Bryan why he volunteers and he said, "My simple answer is that it's fun and worthwhile. If you are, or have been, a runner, it'll give you a completely different perspective of those taking part. Parkrun is for everyone – runners, joggers, walkers, wheelchair/buggy pushers etc. If you're not a participant, I guarantee that you'll feel that it's a rewarding experience – you'll be made to feel welcome, supported and that you're a key part of the team that's made parkrun happen; without you there's no Parkrun! So give it a go!"

We reckon our event will need 18 people each week to make it work. Marshals will put out signs, check the course and encourage our walkers and runners, particularly as they reach those hills. We also need people to time, give out and scan position tokens, brief first timers and be our tail walkers. Could this be you? If you can spare a



couple of hours from 8:30 on a Saturday morning, the answer is yes. The roles are all straightforward, we will show you what to do and as Bryan said, you will get more out than you put in. You can give us your time as often or as rarely as you like; you are not committing to every Saturday for evermore. If you would like to learn more, please email [brixworthcountryhelpers@parkrun.com](mailto:brixworthcountryhelpers@parkrun.com) or once the event has started, come and talk to us at the Country Park on any Saturday morning from 8 am. We are a friendly bunch! - Nick Wilson

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# Country Park update

Autumn is a beautiful season and at this time of year the trees and shrubs in the Country Park are adorned in warm, vibrant colour.

By the time you read this Bulletin, winter will be upon us and the scenes in the Country Park will have changed. Nothing is static and other positive changes have taken place among the Rangers.

At the end of August, Ranger Andy left Brixworth Country Park to take on a role with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Andy enjoyed a farewell barbecue at the Country Park (pictured, below) organised by Senior Ranger Debbie Samwell and supported by colleagues from Brixworth, other local Country Parks, volunteers, Andy's wife and regular users of the park. Thank you to everyone for helping make this a happy occasion. Andy has settled into his new role well.



A replacement Ranger, George, was recruited and began work in October. More about George in the next Bulletin.

## Park Run

Debbie has been working with Park Run organisers for a few months now to set up a new Park Run route. With support from Anglian Water, the route will start at the country park, and continue along the reservoir track. Northamptonshire Sport, through funding have kindly supplied the park with a Defibrillator, to enable Park Run to operate. It will of course also be available in emergency situations at other times, making the park even safer for all.

When we are able to, we will publish the start date for the weekly Park Run events.

## Work at the Park

The thatched shelter by Top Pond, opposite the Willow Tree Cafe, was set alight around midnight on 13th August. No suspects have been named at the time of going to print. Many thanks to all of the volunteers and PCSO Sangster, for helping clear up the remains. Rebuilding of the shelter is expected once a building specification is put out to tender.

Twenty-five young shrubs were planted in the Sensory Play Garden. Some have taken well others are struggling. It was heavy work preparing the ground. Many thanks to Ranger Andy with a heavy duty rotavator and the help of dedicated volunteers.

Anyone interested in joining the small team of volunteer gardeners to help upkeep the garden, please contact Debbie. Volunteers meet weekly on Monday or Thursday.

Any donations would also be welcomed and appreciated.

## Volunteering & Work Placements

Over the summer we were ably assisted by two students on their holidays, looking to keep busy; they conducted surveys of ponds and meadows to identify the prevalent species. They also took the initiative to re-stained meadow benches (pictured, right).

We have also been working regularly with two Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) participants. The two young men have been working on meadow management and furniture maintenance throughout the summer. We will work on a series of woodland and pond management tasks throughout the winter.

Before the summer, we worked with School Work Experience student Alex. For a week's placement, he joined in with the work undertaken by rangers, and participated well in the weekly team day replacing stock fencing in Martin Moore Wood. He wasn't afraid to get stuck into any task set to him, and was a real asset to us.

Moulton College work placement students have already started their year's program with us; we have one student from the Arboriculture course, and another from Countryside Management. We will predominantly work on improving woodlands and the orchards with them over the winter. In addition to this, we have welcomed some Supported Learning students from Northampton College this week.

## Supporting wildlife

We supported a Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust Membership Display over the summer by allowing a space for them to encourage new members to

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the Trust. Although this doesn't provide us with any direct funding, we value the ongoing success of the work carried out by the Trust to make improvements to habitats and species within the county. Providing this space helps raise public awareness of the Trust and their valuable work.

### Fire safety awareness day

Following on from the county wide NFRS Summer Safety Campaign, Ranger Andy and PCSO Lumbis spent time speaking with visitors over a busy weekend. The aim was to raise awareness about fire safety, especially regarding the safe use and disposal of BBQs in rural spaces.

Later in the summer, we also hosted the Lowland Resource Northamptonshire SAR for a training day. The day went well. It was a good opportunity to engage with the public and to train in a live environment.

### Country Park Events

Events in the park led by both Rangers and external organisers were well attended.

Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, Brownies and Guides enjoyed lots of visits to the Park. Northamptonshire Sport also ran a series of free activities during the summer.

### Keeping your park clean

Following the Great British Spring Clean and Paint Means Poo campaigns earlier in the year, litter levels have remained low. Many people have enjoyed visits to the park and it is encouraging to see people taking their rubbish home. The Rangers would like to thank the public for their cooperation.

# News from Brampton Valley Way

Clearance of trees encroaching from Martin Moore Wood was undertaken for Brampton View Care Home.

Small summer project repairing the boundary fence in Martin Moore Wood.

Clearance of vegetation from culverts and other structures is ongoing. Also, clearance of trees across from the benches to offer views of the countryside.



Batastic Tunnel Walk through Kelmarsh was a great success. Thirteen people attended and bats, including Noctule bats (*pictured, above*), were seen emerging from the entrance. Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle bats were heard.

### Kelmarsh and Oxendon tunnels

Pre-Winter clearance of path edges, hedgerows and tree line commenced. Also cutting back overhanging and drooping branches of trees from Boughton to Hanging Houghton at time of going to print, and continuing North.

Other winter tasks will include clearance of rainwater gullies atop the tunnel entrances, clearing ditches, thinning out self-set Ash and thorn, as well as clearing vegetation from culverts in readiness for structural inspections.

If you would like to help out in future, please contact the Rangers.

### Sheep in triangular meadow

Grazing has gone well throughout the summer, and the flock have now moved onto pastures new... Some work will be done on to the stock fence to prevent escapes next year.

Rangers would like to thank all users of the Brampton Valley Way, especially dog owners/walkers who kept dogs on a lead and under control to help protect the sheep. - *Debbie Samwell, Senior Ranger, and Valerie Thomas, Valued Visitor*




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# Country Eye

## Lost Worlds – Vanished Spaces

The man and the boy moved carefully around the edge of the field. Not just to avoid damaging the growing crop but, it being wartime, to avoid attracting the attention of the local bobby who cracked down hard on what he saw as ‘suspicious activity.’ Their destination was an ancient hedgerow that marked an irregular boundary between two fields. All that remained of former woodland, it held a rich variety of shrubs, testimony to its great age. The man had known this hedgerow since he himself was a boy having been taken there by his father.

Several of the bushes within the hedge had grown into small trees over the years, and their slightly roughened shiny dark brown bark with purplish bloom marked them out as wild plums. Every autumn they bore an abundance of the most delicious fruit, some of them nearly as big as golf balls. The man carried with him a large woven willow basket, and he quickly set to gathering in the richly golden fruit, each one flushed with scarlet. The boy, being a child of wartime and ever hungry, could not resist the temptation of such rich fare, and gobbled them down, with the abundant juice drooling down his chin. Soon though, even he had had enough, and began plucking the lower fruit within his tiny grasp. In an hour or so the basket was full, and they made their back to the road and thence back to Pitsford, where Auntie Nell



would transform some of the fruit into jam, golden and glowing as if a ray of sunlight had been captured in every jar. The rest would be bottled for puddings and pies to be enjoyed during the dark days of winter. This was one

of the very many ways in which country folk supplemented the basic diet.

Of course the man in the snippet above was my Dad, Fred Webster. And I was the lad who was with him. I must have been about eight at the time, so it would have been 1943. Dad kept chickens for eggs and meat, and he had two allotments in the field opposite the playing field, which now languishes under miscanthus. The dark menacing days of wartime marked a long period of food rationing. But everyone had enough to eat, and it is said that our diet then was as healthy as it has ever been.

Rapacious change has taken place across our local landscape for longer than many realise. Not long after Dad and I gathered wild plums not just the venerable hedgerow, with its valuable harvest, but the entire fields all disappeared into the scraping clawing maw of the ironstone quarrying industry. Either side of the Harborough Road from Dukes Clump spinney towards Brixworth today is lower than the road, resulting from the ore-bearing stone that was torn from the ground. A decade or so later saw the giant new Pitsford reservoir built, a much more benign project that nevertheless sprawled over some 800 acres of local landscape. Deservedly it is recognised as of international importance for its birdlife and is a much-loved feature. But another semi-wild wildlife community disappeared beneath its expanding waters.

Finally there is the bypass, another needed project that carved a swathe through the landscape. It too has changed not just the scene, but also it has altered the plant and animal life along its corridor. I have to come clean here and say that I have benefitted from the roadside tree planting that was intended to heal the scar. Among them were a number of seedling apples yielding a variety of fruit, and I annually risk life and limb to harvest some, along with some excellent sweet chestnuts (pictured, above). At home I prepare and cook them and freeze them for crumbles and pies to enliven many a winter meal. It seems that eight-year-old lives on in your wrinkled old writer. - Brian Webster

The big season is on its way!



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# Allotment holders wanted!

At the end of October, the grass stops growing and in our gardens everything starts to go dormant for the winter. You wouldn't think it, but this is the best time of year to take over a vacant allotment and start to work on it.

Glebe allotments, which are the allotments on Station Road past the church, are looking for new plot-holders to take over vacant plots.

It's a little bit surprising, in a village of the size and population of Brixworth, that an allotment zone would have vacant plots. But we do, and there is a variety of different sized plots offering a range of challenges. We have to admit it is a challenge, because a vacant plot means one that has not been tended or given up by a previous plot holder and may have a year's growth of grass and weeds covering the exceptional loamy soil that all our plots have. So we are not lying to you, a bit of work awaits, but that work is part of the challenge and in fact part of the benefit of having an allotment plot in the first place. The winter period is the time to get the plot ready, and you have plenty of time to clear it knowing that it is not getting worse when there is snow on the ground or it's a bit too wet to dig. The time frame also allows you to think about what you would like to grow on the plot and plant things like raspberry or blackberry canes that are best planted over the winter.

Getting started on an allotment isn't that difficult. All of the steady plot holders were beginners once and advice is available about what does well here and what doesn't – we are not in a paradise location, we have a bit of altitude and the whole area is somewhat open to northerly winds. But mostly it starts with acquiring some seed, sowing it according to instructions and then waiting for some plants to show up. Then they have to be tended as needed and eventually you get the reward, some home produced fruit and vegetables that you grew for yourself. True, this may mean some twisted and forked carrots that look as though they should be in a glass bottle in the science museum, but that is all part of the fun. If you do well, you may even have extras that you can give to neighbours and friends.

If anyone is wondering whether they have the time in their already busy lives for a hobby like this, I would say that you should expect to visit your plot twice a week at least for an hour or two each time. The retired plot holders are there more than that, but they spend the extra discussing the weather, what has been eating the sweetcorn, or which bird species they spotted earlier that day. The other thing about the plot is that the plants, and the weeds that will thrive if allowed, don't wait. Putting off a job until tomorrow or the next day is not generally the way to go. The plot doesn't look after itself, this isn't TV!

So given that it's hard work, why would you do it for a hobby? Well, speaking from



experience (I have had a full size plot for nearly 25 years) I would say that sometimes it has been a struggle. You go away on holiday and come back after two weeks and you can't see the crops for weeds. I used to have a senior management role and how I balanced work and family with the allotment I don't really know, but what I do know is that it had a huge effect on my mental and physical wellbeing over the time period. You may not know it, but amid all the talk of the Mediterranean diet, it was actually the outdoor lifestyle of the Italian farmers that was found by the original researchers to be the secret of a happy life.

So what do we expect from our plot holders apart from the commitment? There are common areas to keep tidy, but it is mostly what you shouldn't do that is important. In the past, plots have been abused and used as little more than rubbish tips. So while

there is a long and honourable tradition on allotments of using scavenged materials for fencing, sheds, and crop protection, please don't bring stuff that doesn't belong. On your plot you can be as innovative as you like with combinations of fruit vegetables and flowers. No big trees. Some plot holders keep chickens.

For all this we ask £10 per year at the moment for the larger plots. No-one here is doing it for the money saved but it's worth thinking about the fact that an established row of a mixture of summer and autumn fruiting raspberry canes will provide a few kilos of fresh fruit from late June until early October, check the shop price and work it out.

So if you would like a tour of the site to see what is available, please contact either Nigel Toseland on 889447 or Robin Pool on 881166

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# First single from talented local singer

Sam Pickles, who attends Pitsford School and who lives in Brixworth, recently achieved one of his dreams by releasing his first single. 'Everyday', a rock/pop ballad, which was written and produced by



Brixworth-based composer Stuart Cooper, was released globally on 30+ online platforms on 23 October. The song is also out in the UK as a CD single. The release of 'Everyday' is part of an ongoing musical project that Sam and Stuart have been working on since early 2019. The song is from a projected musical, 'Wonderland'.

Originally called 'You Mean To Me (More Than I Can Say)', the song was premiered at the 2019 Brixworth Music Festival, where Stuart is Artistic Advisor, with Sam on vocals and Stuart on piano. The song met with great success at the Festival, so Stuart decided to re-work it

as a rock/pop ballad for release as a single to give it wider recognition. More songs from 'Wonderland' are due to be premiered at next year's Brixworth Music Festival which takes place from 8th to 17th May 2020. These Festival premieres will be followed by the recording of further songs from 'Wonderland' for release as an album in late 2020 or early 2021.

The project involves several other local professional musicians who are involved in the project. If this article has pricked your interest, 'Everyday' is now available as a download, or for copies of the CD contact [stuart.cooper@zen.co.uk](mailto:stuart.cooper@zen.co.uk).

For more information about next year's Brixworth Music Festival, visit [brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk](http://brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk). – Stuart Cooper

## Curry and Quiz for Brixworth Church

The Friends of Brixworth Church are organising another "Curry & Quiz" Evening on Saturday 1st February 2020 in the Brixworth Centre, Church Street, Brixworth. Start time is 7pm for a 7.30pm meal. Tickets are £12.50 each. This year tickets are limited so please reserve early. There will be a raffle, there will be prizes, and of course there will be a bar. Teams should be six (or less) to a table.

Reservations can be booked by contacting: Kate Knight 01604 881810 or Gill Brunton 01604 880941



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# Primary School celebrates Harvest Festival

Once again, Brixworth Primary School would like to thank parents and the local community for the donations and warm welcome the children received during our recent Harvest Festival.

Harvest Festival is a chance for us to celebrate the food we eat and everything that we are thankful for.

Our Year 1 classes (age 5-6) set off on a delightful autumnal walk down to All Saints Church, where they were joined by family members to celebrate and thank God for the food given to us and being able to share it with the less fortunate.

The children sang songs, read poems and stories. They had lots of fun and were very well behaved.

*I enjoyed reading our poem and showing my muscles as an action – Anthony*

Once all the harvest gifts were collected and hampers collated, Foundation stage children (age 4-5) and Year 6 children (age 10-11) delivered them around the village.

The Foundation children were excited to share their gifts with the residents of Pytchley Court, Saxon House and Boniface House. The children sang songs that everyone could join in with.

*We delivered harvest parcels around the village. It was a real joy to see the elderly people smile when they could be lonely and then they have the joy of seeing the children delivering food to them. We now feel proud of ourselves and it was lovely to meet them all. George and Oliver – Year 6*



All together we delivered over 80 harvest boxes however we would be delighted to hear from you if you know an elderly person who we are unaware of. Please email [office50@brixworth.northants.sch.uk](mailto:office50@brixworth.northants.sch.uk) to register an elderly resident for next year.

Some of the reactions we got:

*"I am writing to thank you, your staff and children for their kind donation of a harvest parcel that my mother received. In the 1970s she worked as a dinner lady and then in the 1980/90s as a classroom assistant at the school which she loved before retiring." Mr H*

*"A huge thank you to the children and staff for the fantastic 'Harvest parcel'. You only truly appreciate the pleasure these parcels give us when you are on the receiving end. It is so heart warming to be remembered". Mr and Mrs B*

*"Thank you so much for the harvest gift from the pupils of Brixworth School which my husband and I, both nearing 90 and both disabled really appreciate. It was so kind". Mr and Mrs P*

*We give food to people at Harvest because it is sharing – Maya*

*We went to the care home. We told them our Baby Mouse story and sang them songs. – Darcy*

*We gave the old people a nice smile to make them happy. They joined in with the actions in our songs. – Elsie*

Our Year 6 children went to deliver Harvest boxes to the elderly around the village. They loved going from house to house and enjoyed seeing the smiles on their faces when they

opened the door. The hampers contained fruit, vegetables, cans, biscuits and cereals.



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# Brix & Mortar

## Buyer numbers hold steady as speculative sellers stay away

The price of property coming to market across the UK at this time of year usually experiences an autumn bounce, with an average rise of 1.6% in the month of October over the last ten years. But, as the industry publication Property Reporter notes, this year sees a more sluggish monthly rise of just 0.6% (+£1,942), the lowest at this time of year since October 2008. With a slowdown in the number of properties coming to market, down by 13.5% compared with this time last year, there are strong signs that many would-be sellers are being deterred by the combination of muted pricing power and short-term political uncertainty. In contrast, buyers seem undeterred, with the year-on-year number of sales agreed being little changed, down by just 0.5%.

The weekly run-rate for property coming to market in October (the average number of new listings per week) is also depressed – according to the Property Reporter, it's the lowest total at this time of year since October 2009. This is down 13.5% on the same period a year ago. Potential sellers are perhaps being deterred by the lack of price momentum, with not only a muted monthly price rise of 0.6%, but also average new seller asking prices 0.2% lower than this time last year. While the number of buyers has held up well so far, the lack of new property listings coming to market now may reduce the number of purchases in coming months as there will be less choice of available properties to tempt buyers.

In contrast, and a positive for those who

have come to market and are serious about selling, buyer activity is holding steady. Property Reporter states that the number of sales agreed is virtually unchanged on the same period a year ago at just 0.5% down. Furthermore, those who are selling are finding that their sales are more likely to proceed successfully to completion.

So how does our village of Brixworth compare to these national statistics? The third quarter of this year (01/07/19 – 30/09/19) saw, excluding new homes, 61 properties come to the market. This is far fewer than the same quarter in 2018 and far less than the 13.5% drop spoken about above. However, and in trend with national data, sales levels are still strong and of those 61 properties available, a healthy 42 found buyers. Our prices are also staying strong with, as an average, 2 bedroom terraces achieving £180,000 - £200,000, 3 bed terraces £200,000 - £225,000, 3 bedroom semi-detached houses £225,000 - £275,000, 3 bed detached houses £250,000 - £300,000 and 4 bedroom detached houses between £350,000 - £500,000.

Another noticeable change in our local market is the decline in buy-to-let investors and the increase in first time buyers, the building block of a healthy market. So my advice would be, and to reiterate the points above, if you are serious about moving home we are very likely to have a keen buyer waiting. – *Stuart Little*

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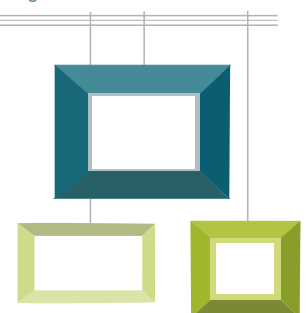
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# Swarbrick Singers welcome the Advent

The local chamber choir, the Swarbrick Singers, are performing a seasonal concert at All Saints' Church in Brixworth on Saturday 30 November.

The choir will be performing Missa Puer natus est, an ethereal mass by one of the great English Renaissance composers, Thomas Tallis.

Alongside the mass there will be renditions of Magnificat Antiphons by Arvo Pärt, William Byrd's Laetentur coeli, Sing joyfully and Morten Lauridsen's Sure on this Shining Night

The concert will start at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £15.00 including refreshments and will be available on the door.

## Draughton Update

It's been quite a quiet year for this village although a couple of new ventures were tried.

Summer saw the marquee filled with Jazz and teas and lovely plants and then the evocative sounds and smells of Spain and tapas. As ever, and as with all villages both large and small, we struggle for manpower to help with events which has a real impact as to what can be achieved but, as usual, we have punched above our weight!

Autumn sees a Quiz for November at the Loder Hall in Maidwell and then the return of the ever-popular Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Bazaar in Draughton's St Catherine's church from 11am-4pm on Saturday 7th December – with Christmas crafts for sale and delicious refreshments including hot soup and mulled wine to warm the spirit. – *Kate Calnan*



### Brixworth Community Church annual ramble

Glance back to late summer, when members and friends from Brixworth Community Church went on their annual ramble, this time around Hollowell Reservoir. – *Mike Nice*

### Save your used stamps

Once again, we appeal to readers of the Brixworth Bulletin to save your used postage stamps for charity. Every year Brixworth resident Judi Beaudoin collects the stamps for the benefit Canine Partners – a charity that trains dogs to become assistants to people with varying levels of disability. All stamps are welcome, not just Christmas stamps.

The collection box will be in the library foyer throughout December and January.

### Brixworth Dental welcomes new patients

Brixworth Dental Practice, a private dentist based near the workhouse in Brixworth, is currently accepting new patients. New patients are seen at a special rate of £45, which includes full extensive assessment, oral cancer screening, clinical x-rays if required and full tailor-made treatment planning.

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# An ode to the humble bee

With winter thoughts turning to log fires and the indoor life, it's easy to forget about the humble bee. Not the bumble bee, which is large and round and noisy, but the humble honey bee, which is smaller, more wasp-like (and, therefore, often swatted for its pains!) and mostly black with the occasional tan or grey banding. It is also vital in the work of pollination.

Honey bees are not domesticated but are kept in hives for the convenience of beekeepers to make the taking of honey easier. Only honey bees are kept in hives, survive the winter as a colony and swarm. They are by nature tree-dwelling and feral so wild colonies may exist in hollow trees or, more inconveniently, in chimneys or hollow spaces in houses.

Now - let's hear it for the girls! I had always thought that the worker bees gathering the honey were the lads, out to fill the cells of the hive for the good of the colony, but no! The worker bees covering and pollinating your fruit and flowers are all girls.



Maidwell beekeeper Terry Mortimer at work

Fruit-growers and farmers would be in a mighty pickle without them, and yet, farming these days is rarely conducive to the plight of the bee. There are some wonderful leys of flower strips down at Hanging Houghton which buzz throughout the spring and summer, and there is growing debate about the short and long-term effects of pesticides in agriculture. Gardeners are finally waking up to the importance of the bee and planting a wider variety of native bee-friendly species of flowers than ever before, but there is a long way to go to redress the balance. And that's before taking into account the impact of the dreaded varroa mite, the most devastating pest of Western honeybees.

We are fortunate to see a rising number of private and passionate bee keepers. Indeed, in the Brixworth Bulletin area there is a thriving bee-keeping community.

In Maidwell, Terry Mortimer tends a growing number of hives and sells local honey to an increasingly large number of customers.



Beehives waiting for new tenants

Terry is developing and expanding the number of hives he tends and is also helping others to set up their own hives. He's also the go-to person should you come across a passing swarm in need of a new home. To contact Terry: [terrymortimer@terrymortimer.plus.com](mailto:terrymortimer@terrymortimer.plus.com)

Of course, as the bees go about their work they produce the all-important honey, alongside beeswax for candles or polish. Both honey and beeswax are used for cosmetics. Fermented honey transforms into mead to drink, while another bee product, propolis, is a resin collected from trees also used for medicinal purposes.



Spot the queen!

So – what can we all do to help the bee?

Don't clear away ivy flowers if you don't need to – these are the last important source of nectar and pollen of the year and are important to winter stores, whilst those with hives may have to back up nature's pantry with sugary products.

Check the seeds and flowers you intend to plant for next year are good for bees – there are lots of indicators in seed catalogues and on the packets themselves as to whether they are going to help the cause.

And finally.....a little postscript from the

Northamptonshire bee keeper's site:

On Christmas Day, legend has it that the bees sing the Lord's praise at midnight – so - wish them a happy Christmas and give them something sweet.



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# Chris Heaton-Harris MP's WESTMINSTER REPORT

## Policing and crime prevention

Hope all is well in Brixworth!

In case you aren't all aware, there's been a lot happening in the Northamptonshire Police Force recently and I thought it was important to share the latest news with you all and let you know about the changes going on to make Northamptonshire as safe as possible.

Recently, the Government's police inspectorate body published their findings of a report conducted on the Northamptonshire Police Force in January. The report did not make for healthy reading.

The report branded the Force's performance as 'inadequate', pointing to failings in efficiency. Zoe Bellingham, the inspector in charge of the report, stated that she had serious concerns about the Force's ability to investigate crime and manage anti-social behaviour. A lot of this has been to do with administration and organisation.

Amongst various other shortcomings, the force has struggled to some extent with the level of funding they receive. Thankfully, the new Government has committed around £750 million to improve police services across the country and I have contacted the Home Secretary to try to see what can be done for Northamptonshire.

Following the bad news of the report, The Chief Constable, Nick Adderly, has been quick to respond and acknowledge the Force's shortcomings. In a video published on social media, Mr Adderly was open about the challenges that the Force now faced, showing serious determination to turn things around.

I was reassured to see that the Chief Constable has been open about these failings and outlined a mission for improving the service. Mr Adderly took his role shortly before the report was published, so it's great to see that he's entered in with such determination to put things right.

The most notable of the new changes is an upgrade in the digital systems. Where the Force was previously experiencing a significant backlog of crimes being allocated to investigators, the Force is now implementing a raft of measures to dramatically cut these down. Last year the number of backlogs was 700. Today it is 70.

On top of that, they have also changed the way they allocate investigations, meaning that officers now own individual cases. Whereas before it may have been hard for victims to get in contact with those running their cases, this new scheme goes some way to breaking down barriers between the police and victims.

These changes are hugely important. But it is also imperative to get fresh feet on the ground. It's fantastic to see that Northamptonshire had already set themselves the target of recruiting 200 new police officers, not only expanding the capabilities of the Force but offering more job opportunities for aspiring officers in the county.

On top of these targets, Northamptonshire residents will be happy to see national funding pledges extending to improving this Force. Over the next three years, the Government plans to put an extra 20,000 officers on the street. The Home Secretary's recent announcements mean that Northamptonshire Police will be aiming to recruit an extra 57 officers in just the first year of police officer increases on top of the 200 already targeted.

Both the Chief Constable and the Police, Fire and Crime

Commissioner Stephen Mold have welcomed the funding and are looking forward to making the most of it.

The Force is not out of the woods yet. There are still many more improvements to be made to make sure that Northamptonshire is kept as safe as possible. Nonetheless, the response of the Chief Constable shows the distance that the Force has come, and it gives me a great deal of hope to see the collaborative efforts that the Force has set to work.

This is something which is naturally very important to me and I plan to keep a close eye on any developments and keep in touch with the good people now in charge of running the force. I hope to be writing this time next year about the vast improvements we can expect to see in the coming months.

*Chris*

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# Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group have started the autumn term with a good mix of events.

**Beavers** have welcomed some new starters to the group who have been taking part in some great activities. One of the highlights was a visit from a local history society when they got to see how a real knight put on his armour, learn about traditional weapons and even try some archery. We have also been learning about recycling with a new theme, Scouts Northamptonshire Avoiding Plastic Pollution (SNAPP) which encourages everyone to take part in activities that reduce the use of plastic over a twelve month period.

Beavers have also enjoyed Halloween games (with sweets), working towards their Builder badge with Lego and even a trip to Laser Zone!

**Cubs** started with a busy term, welcoming six new Cubs moving up from Beavers at the beginning of term. In September Cubs participated in what has become the annual Brampton Way walk or what the cubs call the "Chip Walk" as we finish the walk at the Brixworth Chip Shop. We have also had a visit to the Brixworth Fire Station to learn about fire safety and how to plan an escape route from your home if there was a fire.

Cubs had an excellent night with the Brixworth Bowls club who taught the cubs how to play the game. It's harder than it looks, but we did have a few Cubs who managed to hit the jack. We've also had a Lego Master build night, a heritage walk through the village and an Escape room evening.

The SNAPP project to reduce plastic pollution is a common activity for our group and cubs have started working towards earning a new Community badge by pledging to reduce plastic usage.

Brixworth Scouts got back to nature this autumn when owls and a hawk came to the Centre and Dave from Icarus Falconry delivered a fantastic talk on these amazing birds as they swooped over the scouts' heads. We followed this up with learning about morse code and semaphore, sending messages by torchlight. Those torches were



Explorer Scouts enjoying the summer on a muddy homemade waterslide

used again when scouts played wide games in the forest at Overstone scout camp followed by toasted marshmallows.

To keep fit and burn off some of those marshmallow calories we had a session on the importance of keeping fit and eating healthy foods followed by an exercise competition – we had to turn the heating down at the Centre with all that running around. Keeping active continued with climbing and caving at Pinnacle with some very brave scouts overcoming fears of heights and the dark spaces but we are sure they made those 'fears' up because we heard lots of laughter from all involved. We have a few more sedate weeks, building some Warhammer models which will be painted and most importantly making a poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday parade.

**Explorer Scouts** have been enjoying many activities outdoors including a water slide at Overstone camp site, a night hike, orienteering, air rifle shooting, camping, outdoor cooking and cycling. As the nights draw in we have run a movie night and cookery competition and we are planning our annual Christmas craft sessions.

Scouting is about our community and we were pleased to represent Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts at one of the most important days of the Scouting calendar which is the Remembrance Day service. Once again we had a good turnout from all sections and we joined the people of our village at the church on the 10th November.



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This term has seen more leader achievement celebrations and we were proud to welcome Irene Lockley, our District



Commissioner, back to Brixworth to present our scout leader Nick Davies with his woodbeads for completing his leader training (pictured, above). Well done Nick!

Irene also presented our explorer leaders Doug and Rose Leach with their 15 years' service awards. Well done and thank you to Doug and Rose for all your hard work!

## SNAPP

Single use plastic is a huge environmental issue. Northamptonshire Scouts have pioneered a scheme to encourage the use of alternatives to reduce plastic usage. Brixworth Scouts have signed up to the SNAPP (Scouts Northamptonshire Avoiding Plastic Pollution) scheme, and all sections will work towards reducing plastic usage throughout the year. For more information how you can help please visit: <http://northantsscouts.org.uk/index.php/snapp>

## Scouts need you

We'd like to send a big thank you to everyone who has signed up to the Co-op scheme to support local groups. So far you have helped raise over £1,800! If you would like to help us, please visit: [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership) or [membership.coop.co.uk/causes/27843](http://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/27843) and follow the instructions to help Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts.

If you would like to be more involved as a leader, assistant or admin support then please 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. Commitment is flexible around the amount of time that each volunteer is willing to give.

To see more about what we're getting up to, follow BrixworthScalwellScouts on Facebook or contact the Group Scout Leader at [brixworth\\_gsl@btopenworld.com](mailto:brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com).

To put your young person (boy or girl) on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please contact [brixworthbeavers@btinternet.com](mailto:brixworthbeavers@btinternet.com).

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

# Brixworth & District U3A

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

The Science and Technology group visited Taylor's bell foundry in Loughborough. It was

a trip back into Victorian industrial heritage being in the same family for 150 years and using the same methods. Bells are cast for owners around the world.

The Local History group enjoyed an excellent walk and talk tour of the Blue Plaques in Brixworth. About 20 members met at the Olive Branch to be led by Mike Nice who was instrumental in giving the village the plaques some three years ago. After a lot of research by Mike and the authors of the Guide to Brixworth History, 30 properties now have blue plaques on their walls.

The Table Tennis group meet on the second and fourth Thursdays each month. On average between ten and 14 members attend. There are two tables and play consists of doubles matches so that everyone has an opportunity for a rest!

The December meeting's talk is "Rhyme nor Reason 'tis the Season" with Alan Tumber. Alan presents some lovely Christmas songs and poetry with visual effects, there's comedy and tradition side by side.

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



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# Library events

## Opening Hours

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

## Bank Holidays

Brixworth Library will be closed on the following dates:

Wednesday 25th December 2019

Thursday 26th December 2019

Wednesday 1st January 2020

## 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](http://www.myhermes.co.uk)

## IT Buddy

Ian, our friendly volunteer, can offer free help with your IT queries. Ian is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. Bring your own device or use one of our computers. Pop in and see us to make an appointment.

## Blue Badge Applications

Our volunteer Lynda is here on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 to help with

online Blue Badge Applications. Enquire at the library to make an appointment and to find out what you need to bring with you.

## Library to You Service

If you, or someone you know, struggles to visit us 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 1000 [option 5, then option 1, and ask to speak to us at Brixworth Library].

## Supporting Independence

The Supporting Independence Programme provides up to 12 weeks of individual support based on a comprehensive assessment of your needs. A range of support is available, from help accessing local classes, events or exercise opportunities to advice on good nutrition, healthy lifestyle or managing long term conditions. Support can be face to face or over the phone depending on your preference.

Katheryn will be based in the library on a weekly basis. If you feel you have slowed a little, are feeling less confident getting around

or need someone to help on a regular basis please call 0300 126 1000 to book an appointment or complete a self-referral form at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/sip](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/sip).

## Brixworth Workbox

Brixworth Workbox has found a new home at Brixworth Library. They are a small friendly group of crafters who are keen to welcome new members. They meet every Thursday between 1.30 and 3pm. Bring along your current projects, enjoy a cup of tea, learn from others and share your experience. Just drop in.

## For the Love of Books

New for this year is our adult reading challenge: 'For the Love of Books'. You have until October 2020 to pledge and then to read (or listen) to 25 books. The choice of books is entirely up to you but every 2 weeks we announce a new mini-challenge to add a bit of variety to your reading. Past mini-challenges include: try an eBook, read some non-fiction and choose a book with a red cover. Pop into the library to pledge, pick up a reading log, share your recommendations and of course choose your books. Find out more and sign up at: [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/library-service/Pages/for-the-love-of-books](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/library-service/Pages/for-the-love-of-books).

## Free activities for Under 5s

Our under 5s sessions are returning after their summer break and some of them have new names. All sessions are free and there is no need to book. (Please note that some sessions only run during term-times, more information is available on our Facebook page.)

### Rhyme Time (under 5s)

Mondays 2.30pm and Fridays 10:30am

### Pre-School Play (under 5s)

Formerly Play and Learn for Under 5s. Tuesdays 2pm-3pm; restarts Tuesday 10th September

### Pre-School Play (under 1s)

Formerly Play and Learn for Under 1s. Thursdays 10-11am

Includes baby weigh-in clinic with health visitor every fortnight (next on 5th September, please check our Facebook page for further clinic dates).

## Infant Massage

Leveta Lawson holds regular infant massage classes at the library. International Association of Infant Massage courses are suitable for babies from 6 weeks old. A 5-week course costs £60 which includes all your materials and must be booked

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**1 We are local and understand Brixworth**  
O'Riordan Bond is the only estate agent with an office in Brixworth - a local office with local knowledge. Each 2019 instruction will receive a 20% discount on our sole agency fee.

**2 We advertise your home regularly**  
If you instruct O'Riordan Bond to sell your home, your property will be advertised online within 48 hours. Our network of local branches will help the right person being found for your home in the correct time scales.

**3 We're open at times to suit you**  
We're open at times to suit our clients. 9.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, Saturdays and Bank Holidays, convenient for viewings after work and at weekends.

**4 Your home will be professionally photographed**  
Each instruction in Brixworth and the surrounding villages will benefit from FREE IN HOUSE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND FLOOR PLANS.

**5 We show your property at it's best**  
We take time and effort to represent every property in the best possible light. On [www.oriordanbond.co.uk](http://www.oriordanbond.co.uk) you will find floorplans, numerous colour photographs, location maps and printable colour brochures for properties.

**6 We get you the best possible price**  
Being local and focused on selling property in Brixworth and the surrounding villages means choosing O'Riordan Bond Brixworth increases the chances of securing a purchaser at the best possible price.

Call our Brixworth office today on 01604 880077

oriordanbond



and paid for in advance. Check Leveta's Facebook page for all upcoming dates and booking information: [www.facebook.com/infantmassagebyleveta](http://www.facebook.com/infantmassagebyleveta)

## Activities for children aged 4 to 12 years

### Saturday Club

Every Saturday from 11am-1pm we have a different activity and theme, including: crafts, quizzes, games, scavenger hunts and lots more. No need to book, just drop in. Check our Facebook Page to find out what we are up to this week.

### Messy Crafts

Every Wednesday afternoon in the school holidays we run our popular Messy Crafts session. We have a different theme each time with lots of different projects to choose from for ages 0-12 years. Our next session will be on Wednesday 30th October at 2-3pm. Booking opens a couple of weeks beforehand in the library or via email.

## Volunteer with us

We welcome any young adults volunteering for their Duke of Edinburgh award. For more information about volunteering at the library, pop in for a chat, email [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk) or view our volunteering roles and apply online at: [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved).

## Friends of Brixworth Library

The Friends of Brixworth Library are our wonderful support group who continue to run an ever-popular and ever-expanding series of events at the library. Please do support them - they are a friendly and committed group and new members are always needed and welcome.

The Friends always have lots of exciting events on. Keep up to date via their Facebook page @FOBXL.

## Other Services

Other Services available at your local library include:

- Bus passes – new, lost and renewals
- DVD hire
- Checking service for online Blue Badge Applications
- Computer use – free on Fridays (charge for printing)
- Photocopying
- Laminating
- Library shop – lovely new stock for children. Perfect for presents.
- Room hire – please speak to staff or go online for our full list of charges

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

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

# Winter warmth at Brixworth Library



This autumn, the Friends of Brixworth Library have been preparing for Christmas.

Providing a daily newspaper for the library remains popular and has been expanded to include the Northampton Chronicle as well the "I". Don't forget to let us know your views on twitter @of\_brixworth.

Our Quiz and Chips on September 20th 2019 was as popular and well-attended as ever. Look out for another in the New Year.

Our next big event is the Prosecco Shopping Event on Friday December 6th from 3:30pm. This is the ideal place to buy gifts, especially for those difficult to buy for, while supporting an excellent cause in the library and shopping local, supporting local craftspeople and reducing the environmental impact of gift buying by avoiding a journey into town or a delivery van's carbon footprint.

Come and celebrate with us or join us at our next meeting to add your ideas in the New Year. Look out for our "Body in the Library" murder mystery soon. - Elaine Coe

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# Planning update

<b>PD/2019/0032</b> <b>Buildings at Froghall, Brixworth</b> Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling	DDC Withdrawn
<b>DA/2019/0489</b> <b>My Hob 8, Church Street, Brixworth</b> Replacement doors and windows	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2019/0412</b> <b>25, Holcot Road, Brixworth</b> Work to tree subject of Tree Preservation Order DA 275	BPC Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2019/0041</b> <b>Land Adj The Old Bakehouse 4, Kennel Terrace, Brixworth</b> Demolition of three existing garages and construction of new office	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>PD/2019/0040</b> <b>Foxlea, Holcot Road, Brixworth</b> Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to BI office use.	DDC Prior Approval not required
<b>DA/2019/0484</b> <b>14, Eaglehurst, Brixworth</b> Render existing brick rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2019/0465</b> <b>69, Spratton Road, Brixworth</b> Construction of vehicle access	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2019/0545</b> <b>2, Froghall, Brixworth</b> Demolition of existing outbuilding. Construction of replacement outbuilding with single storey link to main house, plus first floor side and rear extension.	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2019/0418</b> <b>Stoneleigh, Saneco Lane, Brixworth</b> Construction of a detached dwelling	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

**A ARCHITECTURE**  
**D DESIGN**  
**P PLANNING**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* BUILDING PLANS PREPARED AND \*  
\* APPROVALS OBTAINED \*  
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# Co-op Local Community Fund picks Centre Preschool

Brixworth Centre Preschool is delighted to announce that we have been chosen to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund.

We provide childcare at The Brixworth Centre for children from two and a half years to four and are graded Outstanding by Ofsted.

To help us raise vital funds, we'll be relying on Co-op members. When a member buys selected products or services from the Co-op they earn a 5% reward for themselves, with a further 1% for local causes like ours.

We would like to use the money raised from the Co-op fund to help us buy new large physical equipment for the children to improve their physical development both indoors and outdoors.

Co-op members can choose a cause by going online [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership). We really hope that people will visit the website and choose us to support.

If you're not a member you can join instore or online at [www.coop.co.uk](http://www.coop.co.uk) – Victoria Starmer



## Help plan the Sunset Stride 2020

We are final year students studying for a degree in events management at the University of Northampton and we are inviting you to participate in our research.

Our event, the 3rd annual Cynthia Spencer Sunset Stride, is a walk at sunset to raise money and awareness for Cynthia Spencer Hospice which provides specialist palliative care services in Northamptonshire. There is a ticket fee plus we ask participants to raise personal sponsorship money (this is not compulsory though).

The event will take place in April 2020. Please help us to improve the event by giving us your feedback.

This year, we are excited to be organising this event with a Glow in the Dark theme.

If you are interested in the event, please follow our Facebook page for updates by searching @SunsetStrideFundraiser and fill in the short confidential survey you will find there.

It will take approximately 3 minutes to complete... on your marks, get set, glow for it!



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# What's on

28 Nov - 5 Jan	The Further Adventures of the Owl and the Pussycat	Underground
30/11	Swarbrick Singers - Advent to Christmas	All Saints Brixworth
30 Nov	Christmas Wreath Making	Lampport Hall
30 Nov - 1 Dec	Santa Specials 2019	N'pton & Lampport Railway
30 Nov	That'll Be The Day	Derngate
1 Dec	Advent Carols	All Saints Brixworth
5 Dec	Lampport Christmas Lecture	Lampport Hall
6 Dec	Christmas at Lampport	Lampport Hall
6 Dec	Prosecco Shopping Event	Brixworth Library
6-29/12	Cinderella	Derngate
7-8 Dec	Santa Specials 2019	N'pton & Lampport Rail
7 Dec	Brixworth Centre Pre-school Christmas fair	Brixworth centre
7 Dec	Christmas at Lampport	Lampport Hall
7 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival and Bazaar	Draughton Church
7 Dec	Brixworth PC Surgery	Community Centre
7 Dec	Christmas Market	All Saints Brixworth
8 Dec	Christmas at Lampport	Lampport Hall
10-11 Dec	Santa round the village	Brixworth village
14-15 Dec	Santa Specials 2019	N'pton & Lampport Rail
15 Dec	Brixworth Outdoor Nativity	Community Centre
15 Dec	Christingle Service	All Saints Brixworth
16 Dec	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
19 Dec	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
19 Dec	Carols Round the Beacon	All Saints Brixworth
21-22 Dec	Santa Specials 2019	N'pton & Lampport Rail

24 Dec	Childrens Nativity Service	All Saints Brixworth
24 Dec	Midnight Mass	All Saints Brixworth
25 Dec	All-Age Communion	All Saints Brixworth
25 Dec	Christmas Service	Brixworth School
29 Dec	Mince Pie Specials 2019	N'pton & Lampport Rail
4 Jan	The Burlesque Show	Royal
6 Jan	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
11 Jan	ABBA Mania	Derngate
13 Jan	The Rod Stewart Story	Derngate
15 Jan	Circus of Horrors	Derngate
16 Jan	Big Girls Dont Cry	Derngate
16 Jan	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
21 Jan	The Classic Rock Show	Derngate
24 Jan	Dance Those Magical Movies	Derngate
25 Jan	The Greatest Hits of Motown	Derngate
26 Jan	UK Pink Floyd Experience	Derngate
31 Jan	One Night Of Elvis	Derngate
1 Feb	Lost In Music	Derngate
1 Feb	Curry and Quiz Evening	Brixworth Centre
2 Feb	The Simon and Garfunkel Story	Derngate
9 Feb	RPO:From The New World	Derngate

12 Feb	Ed Byrne: If Im Honest	Derngate
13 Feb	Tango Fire	Derngate
17 Feb	Midge Ure	Derngate
21 Feb	A Celebration Of Phil Collins	Derngate
22 Feb	Jimeoin: Ramble On!	Derngate
23 Feb	The Boys Are Back!	Derngate
1 Mar	Tony Blackburn	Derngate
4 Mar	NMPAT Big Sing	Derngate
5 Mar	NMPAT Big Sing	Derngate
6 Mar	Stewart Lee	Derngate
7 Mar	Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac	Derngate
8 Mar	NMPAT Orchestra Spectacular	Derngate
8 Mar	Josie Long: Tender	Derngate
15 Mar	NMPAT Wind Band Spectacular	Derngate
19 Mar	Tommy Tiernan	Derngate
20 Mar	Jimmy Carr	Derngate
22 Mar	Rob Beckett	Derngate
23 Mar	Firedance	Derngate
25 Mar	Remembering The Oscars	Derngate
26 Mar	David Baddiel	Derngate
28 Mar	A Celebration Of Northamptonshire	Derngate
29 Mar	Be Bop A Lula	Derngate
30 Mar	Burn The Floor	Derngate
8 May	75th Anniversary of V.E.Day	Library/Community Centre



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Weds.	Pilates	The Centre	6.15 - 7.00

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### Chairman's Chat

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

### Grants Applications

Could you be the next recipient?

### Overgrown trees and shrubs

Your legal requirements as a resident.

### Budget Survey

We asked 100 people and our survey said...

### Keeping crime low at Christmas

Top tips for a safer season.

### Road rubbish

Why it doesn't pay to dump rubbish at the side of the road.

### Section 106

How would you get Brixworth moving?

### Your Councillors

Who's who and do you want to be one?



*Kennel Terrace in snow*

### Chairman's Chat

I can confirm that the Council, through its Sports Council, is currently looking into funding improvements to existing facilities and providing new opportunities. Read on to see how you can provide or enhance recreation in Brixworth.

As society becomes ever more environmentally aware, the Council will be looking into ways to offset its own carbon footprint and will be discussing proposals over the coming months to facilitate this. Along with this we will also be trialling a wild flower area, with a view to provide additional areas within the village. This will complement the existing flower display on the Northampton Road roundabout, summer and winter flower boxes as well as the perennial daffodils.

Finally as we enter the festive season, on behalf of the Council may I extend best wishes for Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all of the residents of Brixworth.

### Grant Applications

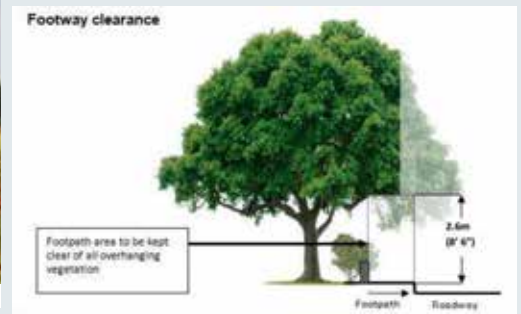
Village organisations with projects in mind can apply for a Community Grant Fund from the Parish Council to help with overall funding. Applications forms and guidelines can be downloaded from the Council's website [www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)



Recent organisations that have benefited include SANDS United Football Club, Brixworth Cricket Club and the new local Park Run.







### Overgrown Trees and Shrubs

Owners or occupiers of property within Brixworth have a legal responsibility to ensure that the roads and paths adjacent to their property are not obstructed by vegetation. The public highway must be kept clear of obstructions to allow all users to benefit including drivers, cyclists, equestrians or pedestrians, which may include pram and wheelchair users, and those with mobility and visual impairments.

Safety inspections are carried out on a regular basis by Northamptonshire Highways and any reports received from members of the public or from the Parish Council will also be investigated. Reports can be made on-line at [fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk) website.

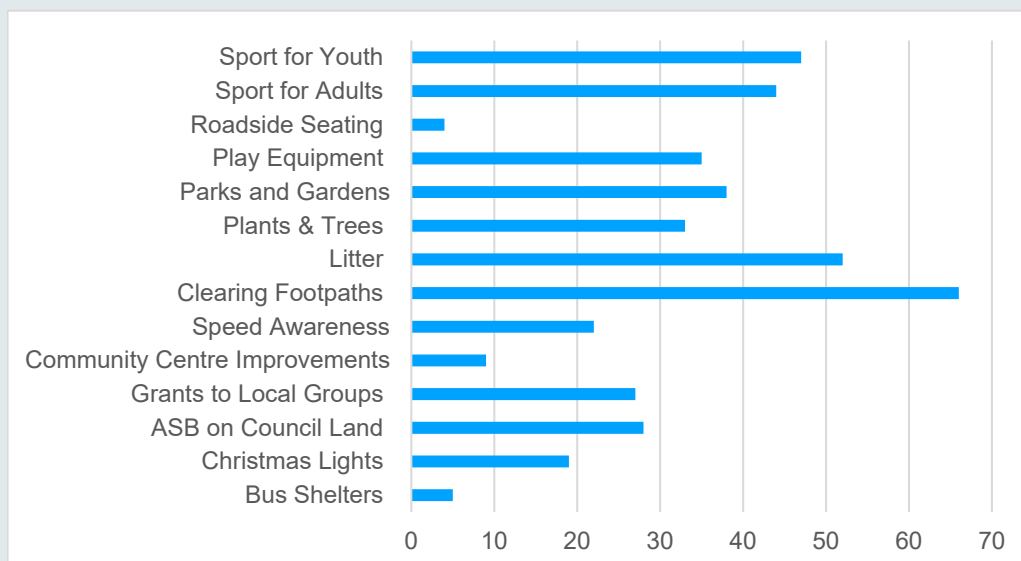
If a landowner or occupier's co-operation is not gained and any necessary corrective action is completed within a reasonable time, Highways will consider taking formal enforcement action. The Highways Team will issue a formal legal notice on the landowner or occupier giving 21 days to clear the obstruction. If this formal notice is ignored, then Highways will organise for the work to be carried out and will then recover any reasonable costs incurred from the owner/occupier.

For pedestrian areas, the minimum headroom is 2.6m (8ft 6 inches) and vegetation should be cut back vertically.

It should be remembered that it is illegal, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, to disturb nesting birds (officially from February until August). Some trees within Brixworth will also be 'protected' as they may be subject to a Tree Preservation Order or growing within a Conservation Area. Owners/occupiers can check the status of trees and the approval process by contacting Daventry District Council.

### Our Budget Survey

As part of our budget setting process we asked you to fill in a short survey on social media to find out what Parish Council services are important to you. This is what you told us:





## Don't be naughty this Christmas, stay safe in Brixworth by following the 12 Days of Christmas Safety

1. Never place candles near your Christmas tree or decorations and don't leave them burning unattended.
2. Don't leave gifts on view in your car while out Christmas shopping.
3. Always switch Christmas lights off and unplug them before you go to bed.
4. Most fires start in the kitchen! Don't leave cooking unattended.
5. Don't overload plug sockets.
6. Don't forget to test your smoke alarms during the Christmas period.
7. Drive safe and know your limits. Don't drink and drive. Be aware you may still be over the limit the morning after Christmas parties.
8. Don't leave Christmas presents under your tree if they are in view of windows or doors. Make sure windows and doors are kept locked.
9. Dispose of boxes and rubbish discreetly. Leaving boxes outside will give away the fact that you have new and valuable items in the house.
10. Avoid over loading fires and log burners.
11. Domestic Abuse increases during the festive period. If you are experiencing domestic violence please call the Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service 24-hour helpline on 0300 0120154 or visit [www.ndas.co](http://www.ndas.co)
12. Decorations can burn easily - don't attach them to lights or heaters.

Find out more by visiting:

[northants.police.uk](http://northants.police.uk)  
[northantsfire.gov.uk](http://northantsfire.gov.uk)

## Speed Indicator Device

# 90%

of all drivers on Spratton Road remain within the legal limit



## Reported Crime within Brixworth Summer 2019

# DOWN 18%





# How would you get Brixworth moving?

Section 106 money has been provided by developers to mitigate some of the impact of the new development.

Brixworth has £242,050.67 which has been provided in order to fund:

- outdoor recreation £108,904.83
- indoor recreation £67,882.53
- of parks and public gardens £65,263.31

If you have a proposal and are an organisation that meets the criteria then you could be involved in the discussion. Apply by 29 February 2020. For more details visit our website [www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk)

1. Be **ELIGIBLE** for S106 funding
2. Be **AFFORDABLE**
3. Be an **EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCE**
4. Provide **ADDITIONAL BENEFIT**
5. Be **ACCESSIBLE**
6. Be **REALISTIC, ACHIEVABLE** and **READY** to be considered
7. Be **FINANCIALLY VIABLE**

## Full Council

Thursdays

14 November  
28 November  
19 December  
16 January

## Media and Comms

Wednesdays

20 November  
18 December  
15 January

## Planning

Mondays

4 November  
25 November  
16 December  
6 January

## Surgery

Saturdays

7 December  
4 January

Please check website and noticeboards to confirm dates and times.  
Note: All meetings are in the Community Centre (side entrance)

## Contact the Parish Clerk:

Peter Rowbotham  
10 Shelland Close  
Market Harborough  
Leicestershire  
LE16 7XU  
E-mail: [clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk)  
Telephone: 07983 141786



## Check out our website and social media accounts

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

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

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Stephen James  
Chairman



Sandra Moxon  
Vice Chairman



Elaine Coe  
Chairman, Media and Communications



Frances Peacock  
Chairman, Planning



Alan Lovell



Ian Barratt



Jackie Bird



James Collyer



Kevin Parker



Lynne Compton



Stuart Coe



Tom Mitchell



Could this be you?



Peter Rowbotham  
Parish Clerk





**BRIXWORTH**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
*Following Jesus Together*

# BRIXWORTH MATTERS

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

(Registered Charity No 1046921)

The recent news story of the 4 year ban of the athletics coach Alberto Salazar is an interesting one. Up until 2017 Salazar was Mo Farah's coach for many years including his years of Olympic glory. However, recently US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), has found Salazar guilty of numerous cheating offences in order that some of the athletes he coached, that were complicit in the cheating, might gain an unfair advantage on the track. There is no suggestion Farah was complicit.

However, it all reminded me of the verse in the bible in Timothy that says, "an athlete does not receive the victors crown unless he competes according to the rules." Yes the bible talks about cheating as an athlete but relates it to the Christian life and faith.

In other words, the bible says this: you can't cheat your way into heaven! You can't cheat your way into a relationship with God. It comes only through Jesus Christ. Jesus himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6)."

There were other aspects of this news story that allows us to continue the analogy. Behind the scenes, there has been a 4 year court battle since investigations against Salazar began. He is appealing the decision so there will be another court hearing further down the line too.

One day, when we breathe our last, we will all have to face a court hearing, where we will have to stand in front of our maker and give an account for our thoughts and deeds. There will be no appeal. However, if our faith was in Jesus and our life bore the evidence of that, we have nothing to worry about. Quite the opposite in-fact. Jesus will say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant . . . . Come in and share in your master's happiness!'

Many blessings *Andy*



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on  
07958 604961



## Outdoor Christmas Nativity 2019

**Sunday 15th December at 4 p.m.**

Come and join us as we celebrate and act out the Christmas Story. If you have children they may like to take part! Dress them up as an angel or a shepherd or a king and we will include them in the Nativity (great photo opportunity!)

We hold it outside the Library and Community Centre and Brixworth primary school choir will be singing.

Normally over 400 folk Attend. Look forward to seeing YOU this year.

Hot mince pies and hot chocolate served FREE after the Nativity.

P.S If the weather is inclement we will be holding the Nativity at the School at the same time.







## LIGHT PARTY

The Light Party held at the Community Centre on 31st October turned out to be a great success! Our hope was to encourage young families in the village to celebrate all that is light and good as an alternative to Halloween. We did this with fun packed activities including doughnut challenges, glow in the dark volleyball, tin-can mayhem and hotdogs, to name but a few. It was great to see some new faces. One parent said "it is so good that the Church has offered all this for free". A great evening as it turns out for all the family! Big thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it happen.



## BAPTISM SERVICE

Once again this year Brixworth Community Church held a baptism service. Many were in attendance to witness Anthony Jennings testify to his new found faith in Jesus Christ.

It was touching to hear his personal story before he took the plunge.

Thanks again to the school for agreeing for us to hold this most important event on their premises. We look forward to the spring of next year as we have another baptisim service planned already!



## BRIXWORTH REMEMBERS

On Sunday 10th November, we gathered as a community to remember the great cost that many have paid for the freedoms that we enjoy as a nation. This year was particularly poignant as it marked 100 years of remembering.

After the customary walk from the Community Centre, the Saxon Church soon became completely packed. The occasion is clearly one of those events in the calendar that draws together such a wide variety of individuals and groups. The service included songs, prayers, poems and a reflection about Gods love and peace through faith in Jesus Christ. Outside we laid wreaths and 2 minute's silence was followed by the 'Last Post' played beautifully as always by Liam Cox. Huge thanks to him and to all those who helped and served during the morning.

## Christmas Day at Brixworth Community Church

You can be sure of getting your Christmas Day off to the best start! Meeting in the school from 10:30-11:15 we celebrate together the birth of Jesus with carols, a reading and an opportunity for the children (and one or two parents no doubt!) to show off their presents. A warm welcome awaits.



## The Olive Branch

Your Community Coffee Shop, the Olive Branch is the place to meet, be kept informed of Village life and receive a warm welcome. If you have never tasted the fine coffee and food – why not try it!

Mon, Tue, Thur 10-3.00, Fri 9.30-2.30,  
Saturday 9.30-1.00  
Wed 10-11.30

Pensioners Luncheon Club Wed 12 noon\*  
\*(membership currently full ask to be added to waiting list)

The Olive Branch,  
Library & Community Centre,  
Spratton Road, Tel 889030

Run by volunteers this non-profit making venture has a welcoming atmosphere.



## Brixworth Community Church Weekly Events

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

(\*held at the Library & Community Centre)

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

If you would like to know more about anything in Brixworth Matters or to know more about the Christian Faith, then phone Andy on 07958 604961 [www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org](http://www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org)

# All Saints Church

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

**Rector:** Rev. Chloe Wilson-Thomas  
The Vicarage, Station Road  
t: 01604 882014  
e: [chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com](mailto:chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com)

Churchwarden: Mrs Vanessa Crooks  
5 Waddon Field; t: 01604 882058



## ARE YOU READY FOR CHRIST?

### Are you ready? Have you done it all—got it all?

But hang on—don't panic—because we still have Advent to go. Advent is all about getting ready--- a wonderful season of expectation and of hope. It's a season when we ask ourselves if we're ready for Christ—we reflect on ourselves as people and where our lives are heading.

We're waiting for the arrival of the child in the manger and the hope that he will bring for the world—the hope that evil and injustice will be overcome by love. During this time we also reflect upon Christ's second coming at the end of time when God's kingdom will finally be established here on earth. It is my prayer that we can all look beyond the business and commercialism of the next few weeks to remember what the season is really all about.

Here at All Saints there is much going on to help us do that. As well as our weekly Sunday services, look out for our traditional Advent Carol Service by Candlelight. There are also our Carols Round the Beacon and Family Nativity service.

And at our Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Market we'll not only be welcoming Father Christmas, but also St. Nicholas, and St. Boniface who is said to have discovered the first ever Christmas Tree! We eagerly look forward to welcoming you with us this Advent and Christmas to celebrate the coming of Christ, and also to sample the mulled wine and the mince pies!

*Rev. Chloe.*



### OUR SERVICES

- 1st Sunday at 10.30am All-Age Service**
- 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 9.30 am Communion**
- 10.00am "Coffee Pot"**

- 2nd Thursday 2.30pm Celtic Healing Service**



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

### ADVENT CAROLS

Sunday 1st December at 6.30pm  
"From Darkness to Light":  
Advent Carols by candlelight.

### CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am. An  
Informal service for all ages.  
Join the celebration and support  
the work of the Children's Society.

### CAROLS ROUND THE BEACON

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm  
Mince pies, mulled wine and lighting of the  
Millennium Beacon.

### CHILDRENS' NATIVITY SERVICE

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm  
An 'instant nativity'. Come and have fun!  
A chance to dress up as a character in the  
Christmas story.

### MIDNIGHT MASS

December 24<sup>th</sup> 11.30pm  
A beautiful and traditional Christmas  
service.

### ALL-AGE COMMUNION

Christmas Day at 10.30am  
A lively, informal Communion service  
for all the family.

## CELTIC HEALING SERVICE

Time to just "be"

Second Thursday of the Month  
at 2.30pm

# CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm  
Stalls, Games, raffle,  
refreshments,

And of course  
**FATHER CHRISTMAS!**  
And the start of our  
**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL!**

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

**ALL-AGE WORSHIP**

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE  
MONTH AT 10.30AM

**ALL-AGE COMMUNION**

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY AT  
10.30AM

**JELLYBEANS TODDLER  
GROUP:**

WEDNESDAYS  
AT 1.30-3PM

*Please see our website for  
more details*

# Hockey Heroes



Northampton Hockey Club is running its Hockey Heroes programme for four to eight year olds in the new year. The programme is designed for children with no experience of hockey and is based at Moulton College.

Hockey Heroes is a fun and welcoming programme that aims to develop children's physical and character 'superpowers'. Over six weeks, children

will not just learn essential hockey skills like dribbling, passing and scoring goals, but also character development essentials such as teamwork, communication, perseverance and respect.

Our aim is for children to have lots of fun, experience lots of success, and feel like a hero. This will boost their confidence and ensure a positive experience of physical activity and sport that will have a beneficial effect in the rest of their life.

It costs £32 for six sessions, two sticks, a ball and a personalised t-shirt.

The next Hockey Heroes course at Northampton Hockey Club starts on Saturday 4th January at 9am. Sign up here by searching for your postcode or Northampton via this link: [Hockey Heroes Booking Link](#)

Further courses follow later in the spring, starting on 29th February and 25th April. – *Andy Dale*

# Bowler Bill Bates lifts first Ellis trophy



Presenting Bill with the cup, from left to right: Betty Howell, Bill Bates, Terry Ellis, Helen Ellis

This summer, the Bowls Club sadly lost one of its founder members, Brian Ellis. Brian was part of the group that set up the club in 2005 and played regularly in matches.

In memory of Brian, his family donated two trophies for the club's singles and doubles championships.

Sixteen members entered the competition for the first ever Brian Ellis singles trophy this October. In the final, Bill Bates beat Betty Howell. Brian's son Terry Ellis and his wife Helen presented Bill with the trophy that evening.

The club played four pre-season friendlies during summer, winning three and losing one. The new season, which sees Brixworth defending its champion title, kicked off on 11th October against Welford. Pleasingly, the game resulted in a home win for Brixworth.

In September, Brixworth Cubs invited us to give them the experience of indoor bowls. Twenty-four cubs and four leaders all had a go. While they might have had mixed success, all had a good time. They also took part in a quiz on short mat bowling – three cubs achieved full marks and were rewarded with a treat.

We have welcomed some new players recently. If you too would like to join us, we play on a Friday at 2.30pm and 7.30pm at the Brixworth Centre in Church Street.

Equipment is provided, so come and have a go. It's good fun and you will make some new friends. For more information contact Janet on 07762 211721. – *Martin Carnell*

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# Brixworth Tennis Club wins two League awards

The Ladies' and Men's Squads of Brixworth Tennis Club have received two awards at the Annual General Meeting of Northampton Lawn Tennis League (NLTL) and had their names entered on the League's Honours Board - a huge achievement considering that Brixworth Tennis Club has only been playing in the NLTL for two seasons!

Every year, The League, as it's affectionately known, recognises clubs' achievements in categories such as Biggest Home Score, Biggest Away Score, Most Matches Played and Most Consecutive Victories.

Brixworth's Ladies squad finished third in the Most Consecutive Victories category, behind County and Dallington, with nine wins in a row out of ten matches. In the Biggest Home Score category, the Ladies came second out of 121 squads, having lost just one game out of 49 in a match.

The Men have also held their own by also featuring in the Most Consecutive Victories category – Brixworth was one of two clubs out of 22 clubs to have two squads feature in the Most Consecutive Victories category.

It is a remarkable achievement for such a young club – Brixworth Tennis Club was founded in 2013. It first entered The League with its one Mixed squad in 2018 and won promotion later that summer – the only squad in the NLTL to achieve promotion in its first season. In 2019, the club repeated the feat and was promoted again.

Some fun stats for the past season: there were 14 cakes consumed, 112 balls used, 120 teas, coffees or beers drunk, one racket demolished, one pair of shoes destroyed, leaving one player to play in socks. We've had 480 handshakes and we're ready to go for the next summer season too!

Whilst we celebrate our members' achievements in The League, there is also a vibrant social section with the Club's Singles Ladder and Doubles Box League seeing a huge amount of matches being played. So, please remember that we are a club for all levels and if you fancy having a quick whack of the tennis ball, do get in touch with us either via our website [www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk](http://www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk) or telephone 07434 621395.

In addition to being the tennis version of David and Goliath, the Club is in the midst of building its own independent clubhouse. This



Left: Ladies' Captain Sandra Moxon with League Chair Dominic Sefton and the Phillips Cup.



Right: Captain Miles Tildesley, Brixworth Tennis Club Chair Rob Kelly and the Beeby Memorial Trophy

will enable year-round comfort and style to its members and the Club's committee wishes to extend its gratitude to its members for volunteering to fill a skip, build walls, paint and decorate – without volunteers, life would be more expensive! – Sandra Moxon

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# Cricket Club celebrates Andy Bransby Memorial Day



There have been many memorable days at Brixworth Cricket Club over the years. Last year's inspiring Help for Heroes event springs immediately to mind. And who can forget the various Lashings and other charity and fundraising games where we welcomed a host of world-famous international cricketers and celebrities to Brixworth, helping us raise valuable funds for local charities. We're proud of our ability to put on a good show.

Sunday 1 September 2019 was no exception. Many would say it was our best yet, where the Club showed its true fabric and spirit in memory of one of its finest servants over the past three decades.

Andy Bransby, who passed away in the summer, is sorely missed at Brixworth Cricket Club. He was player, umpire, coach and club president, but those simple words don't do justice to the impact he made on all those with whom he came into contact. We will be forever grateful for Andy's support – whether that be coaching junior age groups, umpiring our senior teams for so long and, in latter years, our junior teams too. Any request was always greeted with a cheery response which, more often than not, was in the affirmative. Even when his body began to fail him, he would offer his services, albeit to oversee a slightly less serious level of competition – such was his love of our great game.

The presence of so many players, past and present, and the countless other members, friends and family who turned out on a fine, late summer's day bears testament to the immense respect and affection he was afforded by all.

The response to our idea of a memorial game was such that we ended up having three teams, made up of three generations. Those loosely termed the veterans (over 35s), who formed the nucleus of the team that came through the leagues in the 1990s

and won promotion to the Northants Premier League in 2000. Several of the u30s hadn't picked up a bat or ball for many years, but their former coach would have looked down with great pride and no doubt let out a few of his hearty laughs as he saw the action unfold and their competitive spirit remain undimmed. The u21s represent much of the club's future and many have come through our junior ranks from a young age. Andy had watched their development with great interest as umpire and supporter over the years.




Generation change: Brixworth CC chairman Chris Timm presented the Bransby Shield to his son Henry, representing the U21s

Those who hadn't played for some time started remembering, and gradually their former skills began to re-surface. There was even some surprisingly good cricket on offer to entertain a crowd that kept growing as the afternoon went on. It was competitive when it needed to be and there was much laughter on and off the field as old friendships were renewed. Meanwhile some new inter-club rivalries made for fascinating viewing. But most importantly, it was great fun and a fantastic celebration of Brixworth Cricket.

Congratulations to the u21s who were deserved winners of the Bransby Shield. And many, many thanks to all those who made it such a special day, and who contributed so generously enabling us to donate £750 to Cancer Research. To Angela Cowley, Jackie Shulver, Jenny Chapman and the ladies from Brixworth Community Church for preparing the sumptuous teas. To Adi Coulton for his generosity as always in providing such wonderful meat for the BBQ and then for cooking it! To Martyn Cowley and Sharon Pestel for their tireless work behind an incredibly busy bar. To the captains and all the players for turning out to make it such a memorable occasion. To Phil Wright and Chris Mousley for umpiring. The final thank you goes to our magnificent ground staff – Nigel Riches, Ash Hammond, Steve Shulver and Andy's dear friend, John Wykes, for preparing a superb wicket and for making the ground look absolutely magnificent. It would have made their old mate incredibly proud.


And so a great day came to a close – a fitting tribute to a true legend of Brixworth Cricket.

– Chris Timm, Chairman, Brixworth CC



## YOGA FOR YOU

Brixworth Library Community Hall  
**MON 7.30 - 9.00 pm**  
**TUES 1.45 - 3.15 pm**  
 All abilities welcome  
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 www.annewiddup.com



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