

BRIXWORTH BULLETIN

The quarterly newspaper for Brixworth and surrounding villages

Issue 65, June 2020



Photo: Sean Goodhart

Stay safe: Photographer Sean Goodhart's daughter Ellen puts her gymnastic skills to good use

Stay Safe & Carry On

In almost ten years of editing the Brixworth Bulletin, this must be the strangest issue ever. For the first time ever, we are online only. The few printed copies that might be out there will have been printed out on home printers and taken to those without access to the internet. This is because we normally rely on a small army of volunteer distributors to deliver the Bulletin to village households – but many of our distributors are retired and self-isolating, and in any event we didn't want to add to any risk by sending people door to door.

You'll also find there are fewer adverts than usual – that's because several of our usual loyal advertisers such as restaurants, fitness instructors and schools have found their operations turned upside down or temporarily suspended.

And yet, this virtual issue is the thickest Brixworth Bulletin there ever was. Because paradoxically, with everybody told to stay away from everybody else, community spirit has surged in a way that few would have believed possible. We have had so many contributions from everywhere across our readership, telling us how people have come together to help each other out. Some use technology, Facebook and WhatsApp to keep in touch, others simple printed posters in windows, but the end result is the same. Help is offered, neighbours watch out for each other, and the community comes together.

It has been a strange joy producing this issue and reading the many tales of community spirit in the process. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Most of all: stay safe. Keep well. Together we'll get through this.

*Naudia
Flavell-White*

The Brixworth Bulletin are:

Claudia Flavell-While, editor
882567; editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Neal Brown, advertising & invoicing
07841 531694
ad.manager@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Ian Topham, art and design
art.editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Louise Robinson, distribution
883641

dist.manager@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Sheila Jenner, treasurer
881173

treasurer@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Regular correspondents:

Tracey Calnan, Kate Calnan

Letters to: The Old School, Manor Road,
Hanging Houghton NN6 9ES; or post
them in our letterbox at the Community
Centre.

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and advertising for the September issue is
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Visit www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk, join us
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Twitter.

Brixworth Photographic Competition

In order to alleviate the boredom induced by the current need for self-isolation, we have come up with a plan to help fill some spare time with creative activities among the people in the local area. In conjunction with the Bulletin we're holding a photographic competition.

The competition is open to all amateur photographers, regardless of age, who live in the distribution area of the Bulletin.

The four categories will be Animal, Vegetable, Mineral and Lockdown and there will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category.

The competition is open to anyone, amateur photographers or just smart phone snappers.

Send your entries to brixworthps@gmail.com as JPEG format file. Please rename your files in the following format so that we can easily sort them into the categories for judging and keep track of who each images belong to:

Category_email@address,

e.g. Animal_john.smith@mail.co.uk

Each person can submit one image in each

category. Please include your address and a contact number in your email.

The competition will be judged by the members of the Photographic Society, but the names of the photographers will be hidden from the judges.

The winning images will feature in the 2021 Brixworth Calendar.

The competition will run until the end of June. Winners will be announced on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/brixworthletusknowpage>) by the end of July and the winners' images will appear in the Bulletin. Good luck! - Ian Topham

Deserving Causes

A long, long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, we asked you for your votes for the three local organisations that had been nominated at the Bulletin's deserving causes. Thank you to everyone who did.

I am pleased to confirm the outcome of the vote, which was: Muddy Boots: 179 votes (81%), Brixworth Community Church Soccer & Netball School: 35 votes (16%), and Holcot Playing Fields: 6 votes (3%). Splitting the £3,000 we'd set aside accordingly resulted in £2,430 for Muddy Boots and £480 for Soccer & Netball. We reached a bit further in our pockets to help out the Holcot Playing Fields, boosting their donation to £300.

Hazel Lillies, fundraising coordinator for Muddy Boots pre-school, said: "Thank you so much. These funds are even more important right now, with the school closed and social distancing it is uncertain when we will be able to run fundraising events in the future, especially the kind of event that could raise this amount of money. We look forward to sending you some pictures of how the funds have been used - as you recall, we were hoping to improve our cosy reading area and provide new reading chairs and cushions."

BCC sadly had to call off their soccer and netball school over the Easter holidays due to Covid 19 - but with the event having become a firm favourite in the annual events calendar, the Fellowship will gladly put the funds towards subsidising next year's event.

Jackie Fountain, of the Holcot Playing Fields support group, meanwhile wrote to tell us that our donations will enable the group to buy the next piece of equipment for the playing field as soon as the current health crisis permits.

- Claudia Flavell-While



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Thinking Now, Thinking Forward



Better days will come: The seats may have to remain empty for now, but the day will come where we all get back together to celebrate the end of Covid 19. Photo by Jonathan Harris

Everybody - you have been amazing! Your response to provide volunteering support following the Covid 19 lockdown has been brilliant. One of the things that this horrendous virus outbreak has demonstrated is that Brixworth, like many other places, has a heart and a soul. Having spoken to many people in our surrounding villages, Maidwell, Scaldwell and Creaton – in fact all villages in this district, the same can be said for them. We were told way back in the 1980s (yes – a long time ago) that ‘there is no such thing as society’. How old and outdated this now seems. Society exists and we are a true community because that’s what we have chosen to be. Small actions here, thoughts for others there – that’s what society is. It’s thinking of others over oneself and we are seeing that here, and nationally, in bucketloads.

At time of writing we are clearly not out of the woods and probably won’t be for some considerable time yet, so I urge everyone to follow the guidance – think once again of others and not just yourself.

In my ‘day job’, myself and my wife Christine work with individuals and businesses encouraging them to learn from their experiences, to understand why sometimes what they do works and then, on other occasions, why things don’t. We encourage businesses to understand that the act of planning is often more important than the plan itself. This global pandemic is a monster event in all of our lives, and it is important that locally, regionally and as a nation, we apply these same principles. We must learn from what worked and what didn’t, openly, honestly and with integrity. That, after all, is how you improve.

We all have an opportunity to realise what

is important in life, what we value and what we don’t. We have an opportunity to realise who the important people are in our lives and in our society.

We can see the importance of our amazing NHS and all those doctors, nurses and carers, who, each and every day, literally put others before themselves. And we shouldn’t forget the many other key workers who are seeing us through this crisis. The shop workers in our stores, the people who have reconfigured their businesses to provide delivery services and all of our key workers. The truck drivers ensuring that we all get the supplies that we need. The bus drivers, the postal workers and the refuse collectors and many other people who often do not get the recognition or appreciation that they deserve. Often the lowest paid but the backbone of our society. We must ensure that the future holds appropriate funding, ongoing recognition and absolutely the right resources for these people.

We have also learned how interconnected everything is. We have all noticed the better air quality, the birds singing and people taking regular exercise (appropriately of

course!). We have, I hope, also realised that if you fail to invest in our key services such as our Health and Social Care system, they will wither on the vine. Much like ourselves. Without a doubt these services have been starved of funds in recent years and been forced to focus on efficiencies rather than qualities.

As we think forward, we will all have choices. I know that there are things that I will change in my life – I hope for the better. I hope that as a society we will also make such changes to create a legacy. We owe that at least to all of those who have lost their lives and suffered as a result of this pandemic. We should all take time to step back from this crisis and learn. Learn what’s important. Learn what we value, learn what can be better and do something about it.

I’m not sure where we will be in terms of the lockdown when this is published, but I leave you with the words of Terry Waite, held hostage for five years, “You are not stuck at home, you are home safe”. For those of you who are not home safe, because you are yourselves key workers, a big heartfelt thank you from the rest of us. – Jonathan Harris

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Community Help

A tribute to the many marvellous people of our amazing communities who have stepped up to the plate at this difficult time in order to help those villagers who are self-isolating or struggling to cope.

Brixworth Covid-19 Help Group

Firstly, we have to mention Lisa D who set up the Brixworth Covid 19 Help Group. In a recent interview, Lisa was quick to point out that she cannot take all the credit for the group; but, in the words of Bruce Springsteen, we all know that "...you can't start a fire without a spark," and it was Lisa who had that spark while watching the evening news on March 14th. She said that when she saw "what was coming" and what was already happening in some other communities, she wondered if there would be an appetite for setting up a volunteer support group in Brixworth.

By 15th March, Lisa had already put out some feelers on the 'Brixworth Let Us Know' FaceBook page and was soon "taken aback" by the "tremendous and heart-warming response" from the village. Within days, with the aid of some of her admin team, Johnathan Harris, Christine Ware, Laura-Jane Devanny and "an army of volunteers", the whole village had received a leaflet explaining where anybody self-isolating or vulnerable could get help if needed. Lisa then went on to organise 'Street Champions' and is delighted to announce that nearly every street (in a village with over 2000 homes!) is now covered.

To date, there are over 100 local volunteers in the group helping people with shopping, collecting prescriptions, deliveries and just being on the end of the phone to answer queries or simply for a chat to ease loneliness. One village resident said, "I have been isolating since lockdown started and the help with shopping and delivery, from my group volunteer and others, has been invaluable".

One volunteer, former chef Kath Cockerill (normally to be found working at The George), has even been making soups and cakes for delivery to vulnerable villagers; a grateful resident who had been in hospital for 7 weeks said that Kath's soup was the first thing she'd felt like eating for ages, so much so that she went on to eat both portions in one sitting!

As well as the FaceBook group 'Brixworth Covid19 Help', there is also a website www.brixworthcovid-19help.com which people can go to for useful information and advice pertaining to the pandemic. This even includes regular blogs from a psychologist, Milly Daniels-Young, on how we can look after our mental health and wellbeing whilst isolating or on lockdown. The group has also received support and donations from the Parish Council and other local businesses and is registered with the Northamptonshire Community Resilience Hub.

There are, of course, other groups in Brixworth fulfilling a similar role, the Community Church and First Responders for example, but it was no mean feat to rally over 100 volunteers together to cover a village of this size. It is Lisa's wish, however, that when 'all this' is over, a community volunteer group will continue in some form to support those in need. It would certainly be a positive outcome of the crisis, if such amazing community spirit were to last not just for Covid but well into the future. – Tracey Calnan

Scaldwell Helping Hands

Scaldwell might be a small village, but as soon as the lockdown started, they came together. Over thirty people joined the Scaldwell Helping Hands group on WhatsApp to offer their help to those in the community who needed it.

Like most places, a number of Scaldwell residents are classified as 'vulnerable' and have been advised not to leave their homes at all for the duration. Every house in the village has received a leaflet with the name of the person who is the first point of contact in the event of problems.

What does help look like? Whatever is needed. Helpers buy food, collect prescriptions, walk dogs, or anything else. Whatever the issue, if you are vulnerable, or self-isolating please do not hesitate to reach out. There is a Helping Hand waiting to help you – at a distance, of course, of 6 feet!

Staying safe in Draughton



Draughton is a village of some 60 souls and 26 houses – whilst its big sister, Maidwell, across the valley is a larger settlement of over 260 souls in 138 houses.

Modern life, distance working, extra-curricular interests, the mad whirl of socialising and things 'we have to do and people we have to see' has meant that village communities have, not surprisingly, become disconnected.

Then – into our lives came Covid19 with its resultant restrictions about visiting friends or family, advice not to go out to shop other than for essentials and little in the way of public transport or, in Draughton's case, none! The landscape changed overnight and so did people – and this is how Maidwell and Draughton have reacted.

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COVID-19 Mutual Aid: If you need support

Contact your local Mutual Aid group

Find your local group: <https://covidmutualaid.org/local-groups/>



The group will match you with a local volunteer

Let them know if you need anything else: someone to talk to, collect prescriptions, walk your dog or anything else, they'll try to help or signpost you to someone who can.



Sort out the details

Talk about the different shopping options, when do you need the shopping by? Do you have a preferred local store? Remember, there is a £30 top limit.



Shopping options

If you can, buy over the phone or online from your local shop.

A local volunteer will collect your shopping for you and deliver it to your doorsteps.



If you can't, a volunteer can do the shopping for you and pay upfront.

Do you have a preferred local store? Do you have a shopping list ready? Are you ok with substitutes? Any food allergies or dietary requirements? Where should the volunteer leave the shopping?



How will you reimburse the volunteer?

Bank transfer to the volunteer's personal bank account is the preferred option. If cash is the only option **treat cash as contaminated**. No change will be provided by the volunteer.



Ann Smeaton set up the [DraughtonNN6](#) Facebook page on 26th January 2020. Draughton is a tiny village and yet disparate in its habits because of work locations, working hours etc. and so it seemed a Facebook page for residents and friends could be a good way to share information about planned events or to ask for help with organizing events etc. Several other surrounding villages had set up similar pages so why not Draughton? However, membership was slow to gather and by the end of February we had but four members plus the two group administrators.

Then the Coronavirus pandemic hit – and what a change it brought!

Inspired by Maidwell – about which, more below – we leafleted each house about DraughtonNN6 and how it might help and suddenly it burst into life! Virtually all Draughton residents who are on Facebook (a pre-requisite of membership) are now members, with nearly every household represented. The group members have been helping each other with shopping, plants, DIY materials, labour (socially distanced of course!) and general information about local businesses who deliver etc etc. We have our very own papergirl (go Dorothy!), egg producers, a church mowing rota and, above everything else, support! Our thanks must go to everyone who has truly stepped up and stepped in to help their neighbours and the “Community”. It feels like this spirit will stay long beyond lockdown.



In the midst of this difficult time, for many a time of loss or real hardship, it is so wonderful to see this re-igniting of communities everywhere. No report on DraughtonNN6 would be complete without pictures of a lovely example of this in our village! Several households have wandered to their gates in the last week or so to find the most exquisite little gifts from the super-talented Watkins family – beautifully painted stones with the words ‘stay safe’ on the backs. There

will have to be an exhibition of these little beauties as soon as we can all safely get together, but we hope you enjoyed the pictures.

A lot of inspiration in developing DraughtonNN6 came from the amazing WhatsApp group **MAIDWELL- support group** set up by Simon Hall and Fiona Howes (more on them below). – *Kate Calnan*

Maidwell: Support available!

As the prospect of lockdown became apparent in the middle of March and spurred on by a similar initiative in the South West,

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Unpacking the delivery at home



Simon and I met to discuss how we and others might be able to support our village community in the coming weeks. Maidwell has always been a friendly and neighbourly village and they were certain that people would be happy to help those in the village who were vulnerable. After an initial straw poll of the best way to proceed, we decided to set up a village-wide WhatsApp support group. Leaflets outlining the

details of the support group, what it hoped to offer and how to join the WhatsApp group were rapidly distributed to all households in the village by six volunteers. The initial response was rapid and heart-warming, enabling offers of assistance and requests for help to be co-ordinated quickly and easily. The group now has 80 members in the village, showing an amazing level of involvement. As the WhatsApp group was

intended to focus primarily on supporting the village in practical ways, a separate Facebook group was set up to address the need for more social interaction, through the sharing of 'funnies', details of local/online events and just a daily chat.

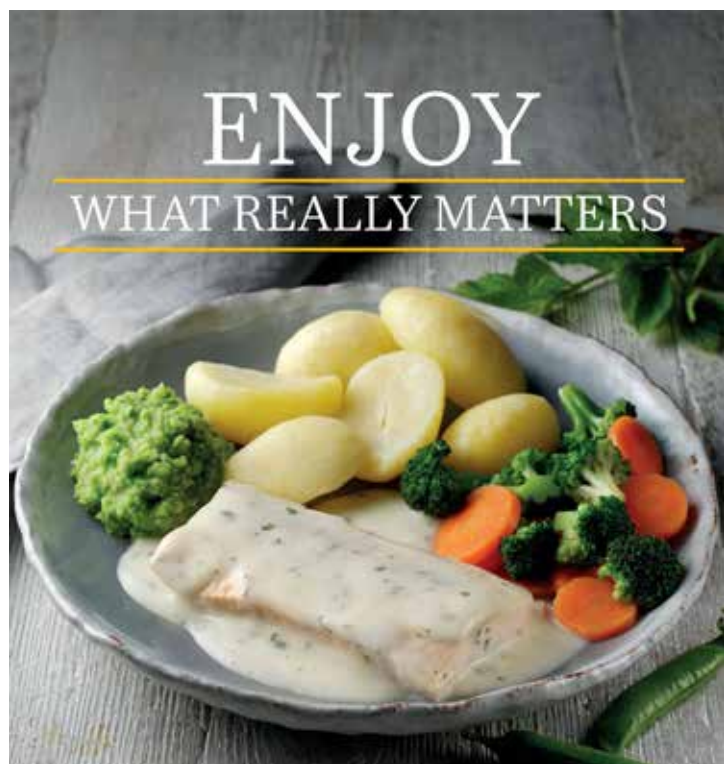
In addition to the admin that any group requires, Simon sends out official information from local government and volunteer forums (including countywide updates from the Local Resilience Forum/Neighbourhood Watch etc). Dawn Wright, who has joined as the third administrator, coordinates weekly village-wide deliveries from Troops in Brixworth and from Joseph Morris Butchers and Fiona organises a twice-weekly supermarket shop for those who are vulnerable or 'shielding'.

However, the WhatsApp group has flourished far beyond this. It has seen numerous kind offers of help, from an initial donation by one villager of a bottle of hand sanitiser for each household in the village (delivered by another villager in his vintage taxi, to the delight of a number of children), to offers of plants, household items and general 'know-how'. Those seeking equipment to help with the long list of DIY tasks that there is no longer an excuse to put off have had prompt offers of assistance. Where items have needed moving around the village, the village postman, Rob, (note from Draughton – Rob, the postman, is an absolute diamond!) has been happy to help so that social distancing can be preserved. The WhatsApp group has enabled quick exchanges of information, whether it is the village pub's take-away daily specials, which garden centres are now able to deliver or, to feed the village's latest addiction; who has jigsaw puzzles they are willing to share!

It has become more evident than ever that a community's strengths can be magnified in times of difficulty and even those who've lived in the village for many years have said they've become aware of far more people in the village and feel more connected to their neighbours. The Maidwell Support Group administrators would like to thank the whole village for its outstanding display of neighbourliness and hope to support the continuation of this valuable community spirit as the country looks forward to taking small steps towards what will no doubt become a new normality. Fiona Howes

One of the clever initiatives that you can see whilst driving through Maidwell are posters in house windows showing that help is available there whilst for those requesting help there is a similar poster in red.

– Fiona Howes



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Northants Coronavirus support line

A new support line has been launched to support the most vulnerable members of our community. The new support line allows those who cannot leave their homes under current restrictions and those who have nobody to call upon for help, to request support in getting access to food, prescriptions and other vital services that they require. There are a large number of people across Northamptonshire who are currently in isolation for various reasons. These include individuals displaying symptoms of Coronavirus and those with existing health conditions, those who are pregnant or those aged 70 and above.

The Customer Service Centre at Northamptonshire County Council will manage the helpline and ensure that individuals receive appropriate care and support. The Community Resilience Service will co-ordinate requests for help in conjunction with the District and Borough Councils, mapping those requests by area and linking them up with local community groups, volunteers and voluntary organisations.

Those requiring help are asked to call the support line on the following number: 0300 126 1000 (option 5) People can also email nccg.communityresilience.covid19@nhs.net and ask for help, or fill in our online form

Meanwhile, Daventry District Council has set up an area on its website with news and advice on the coronavirus, which brings together general information as well as updates on local services, from planning to benefits, and local park closures to refuse collections. Visit <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/your-council/news/advice-on-coronavirus/>

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Marking VE Day from a Distance

Above: Staff Sergeant Shayne Yeomans (The Royal Lancers), 103 Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, representing the Army and those currently serving; Mr Eddie Edmunds representing the Royal British Legion Mr Tony Hockenull, representing the Royal Navy and those who had served previously. Also in the picture is "Tommy", a representation of the sacrifice of earlier generations, erected in 2018 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Photo taken by Mr Ian Topham, representing the Royal Air Force and those who had served previously.

Left: Florence and Gretel Pinney dressed as land army girls

Below: Mike and Helen Nice celebrating VE Day at their house in Brixworth.



A day in the life of a key worker

Whilst most of us are on lockdown, working from home, furloughed or self-isolating, there are still many in the village who are getting up every day and going to work as usual; not only the dedicated frontline NHS staff, but also those who are keeping things 'ticking over' - those in the food supply chain, the transport workers, the postal workers, the refuse collectors – to name but a few.

The District Nurse

Other illnesses and health conditions are unaware that there is a new kid on the block, Covid 19, and they continue as usual, which means that the skills of Brixworth resident Lynnette Edwards are still very much in demand. Lynnette works for the Northamptonshire District Nursing team and is experiencing an increased workload with many patients no longer able to attend their GP surgery or hospital appointments.



Lynnette receives a list each morning of those patients needing a visit from her, a list which often gets longer as the day goes on. On average, she makes 15-18 'visits' in a day, and her tasks can include treating diabetics, attending to wounds or changing dressings. Since Covid 19, most of her patients are the elderly and vulnerable who are self-isolating and a visit from Lynnette is often the only human contact that they will have all day. She says that while most remain in good spirits,

many are lonely and desperately missing their families; she would love 'to stay and chat longer' but the current workload makes that impossible.

When asked about PPE, Lynnette said that they have always worn an apron and disposable gloves when visiting patients, but now they also have single use masks and are washing hands and using sanitiser with far more frequency. As an added precaution to protect the nurses, those colleagues who are having to self-isolate at home call each patient in the morning to check that they have no Covid 19 symptoms.

Unlike nurses in the hospitals, District Nurses have no place to change out of their uniforms before travelling home and Lynnette reports that, sadly, some of her colleagues have been verbally attacked whilst out in public in their uniform. On the whole, however, Lynnette says that the public, especially here in Brixworth, have been tremendously supportive and the 'noisy' appreciation shown on Thursday nights 'means such a lot' to her and her colleagues. Thank you, Lynnette. Let's keep it up, Brixworth!

The Care Home Staff

Catherine Billing, Brixworth resident and Senior Night Care at Boniface House says: "Here at Boniface House we have always prided ourselves on the care we give to our residents but over the last few weeks that has had to be substantially upgraded in the light of the Covid19 Virus crisis.

Following the latest Government guidelines, which can change regularly, our daily routines now include the constant monitoring of our residents and giving explanations to some of our dementia patients on why we are having to make these changes to their daily routines.

Residents are now not allowed visits from their family and friends. This is hard on them and, as carers, we have to explain the reasons why. Our residents' families have been very helpful and understanding during this difficult time and we, as staff, are grateful for the cards and messages we have received thanking us for what we are doing to make their loved ones as safe as we can. We have set up a system where residents' families can 'Facetime' with their relatives in order to maintain some degree of contact. This, we believe, has been appreciated by all concerned.

Changes to working practices now include taking residents temperatures twice daily and constant monitoring for any signs of the known symptoms of this disease. We are only too aware of the frailness of some of the people we look after and will do everything in our power to keep them safe.

As staff members we are following all guidelines regarding cleanliness although I would like to think that we have always set the bar high prior to this outbreak. We are well supplied with personal protective equipment, despite what we sometimes read or hear about from national media channels, and are required to wear face masks at all times to protect our lovely residents.

We believe, so far, we are doing a good job and all of us are determined to carry this through to, hopefully, a good conclusion as far as Boniface House is concerned.

Finally, I would like to thank all our supporters for their help, good wishes and understanding at this difficult time."



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The Taxi Driver

Freddie Fudge is known to many in Brixworth as Flat Cap Cabs. As a taxi driver, once lockdown was announced, Freddie knew that his usual stock-in-trade would be drying up, but soon realised how he could put his services to good use and help villagers out.



Freddie has been offering NHS workers a fifty percent discount on any journey and free trips for the over 70's to collect shopping or prescriptions, even if they insist on paying him. He covers all of the surrounding villages, but as most of his customers are Brixworth based, if he isn't already on a job, he can be 'on call' to do a pick up within ten minutes, which could be very useful for a key worker who is suddenly called in to cover a shift. Freddie has been making trips to the hospital, both for NHS workers and those needing to attend appointments, to the supermarkets and even to the train station for those still having to commute to London. Whilst not as busy as during 'normal' times, he says that he has a number of regular customers as well as people he is helping out on a voluntary basis.

In order to make his passengers feel safe and comfortable, Freddie provides one use paper masks and plastic gloves should people wish to use them, and he cleans the interior of the taxi with anti-bacterial wipes after each journey. He reports that most of his passengers are still upbeat and retain their sense of humour, 'after all, you've got to these days, haven't you?' he says. Freddie is clearly an optimist, he reports that the quieter roads are making his job much easier and appreciates the positive effect this is having on the environment, a small plus point in the midst of this terrible crisis.

Freddie says that staying home and 'doing nothing' at this time was 'never an option' for him if he could be useful, and he was full of admiration for all the local businesses who have adapted and stepped up to the plate to help their community out at this difficult time. He believes that we are 'blessed' to be part of such a great village and wants to thank everyone for their continued support of local businesses.

The Shopkeepers

In Psychology, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs puts food in the very first 'basic physiological needs' level of the pyramid, along with warmth and shelter. Not since World War 2 has obtaining everyday provisions been at the centre of our lives; none of the post war generations in the UK will be used to queuing up to buy food or have faced supermarket shelves empty of some of the most basic necessities. It's a sobering experience, making us all realise



how much we take our year-round easy access to a variety of food for granted.

In Brixworth, we are fortunate to have an array of local stores who have remained open and gone above and beyond to keep the community serviced during these difficult times.

Joel, Katie, Steve and the team at the **Co-op and Post Office** have been central to this; under difficult circumstances, and with some members of staff self-isolating, they have pulled together and continued serving and smiling throughout the lockdown. As we can all appreciate, the size of the store means that it is not the easiest place to implement social distancing measures, but the team say that, on the whole, the community has been "very supportive and understanding", especially when there were problems with stock availability. They are particularly grateful to the people who have been volunteering outside to help keep the shop running and everybody safe. They have also been boosted by customers thanking them for their hard work and those who have come forward to offer masks and other protective equipment.



Next door, Namrata and the team at **Well Pharmacy** would also

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like to say “a big thank you” to everyone for their support and patience during the past few weeks; particularly to Brixworth fire station who have been instrumental in delivering prescriptions to those who are vulnerable at this time. In order to comply with government guidelines, they have had to implement a system where only one customer at a time can enter the shop, but in order to ease the situation, they have also set up a free text alert service that lets you know when your prescription is ready for collection.

John at **Chambers Butchers** (pictured, top) also reports that they have been much busier than usual, he

thinks this is probably because “...people are not leaving the village so much and trying to shop locally”. He says that, although it was “challenging” to get enough supplies to meet demand at first, things have settled down now and he hopes that when things return to normal, people will continue to shop more locally.

The closure of our pubs and restaurants during lockdown has left many people facing the prospect of having to make three meals a day, seven days a week at home – is it any wonder that the shops have been so busy! It, therefore, came as a great relief to many that places offering a take-away service were allowed to continue operating. Sultana, Rob and Nur at **The Purple Ivy** (pictured, right) have seen their restaurant business suffer and had to reduce their staff, but report that “... the community has supported us through the take-away service, which is really appreciated”. As well as their regulars from before the lockdown, they have seen many new customers and report that people are “...a lot more patient and understanding than we have found previously”.

The **Coach and Horses** has also been operating a take-away service from Wednesday to Saturday 5-8pm, with their Fish and Chips proving as popular as ever. **Troops** has been keeping us supplied with fresh fruit and veg and delivering its successful

essentials boxes. On the home front, many villagers have been ‘digging for Britain’ by growing their own in their gardens or on their allotments. The ‘Bake Off’ effect has taken hold during the lockdown, with flour and vanilla essence still being in short supply in many shops; with all this increased cake consumption, it’s lucky that the government has been allowing us to continue exercising.

Clearly, those villagers working in the food supply chain are as busy as ever, with many thanking the public for their support and understanding. Maybe it’s now time, however, for us to be expressing our gratitude to them for helping to keep us fed and watered and meeting our “basic physiological needs”. Undoubtedly, one of the best ways we can thank them is by continuing to support local businesses long after the Covid 19 virus has been vaccinated into oblivion.

– Neal Brown and Tracey Calnan



There ain't no party like the Co-op queue party!

April - the month our lives slowed right down. If I'd told you six months ago that for the fourth month of 2020 all the Maccy D's would be shut, you wouldn't be able to get a Greggs' Steak Bake for love nor money, most people wouldn't leave their postcode for weeks on end AND some fool with a dodgy speaker, a dubious playlist and a much needed trip to a hairdresser would be manning a queue to get into the local Co-op, you'd have said that I'd taken leave of my senses, but no, that is indeed where we all found ourselves.

Food, drink and toiletries still needed to be bought however, meaning all supermarkets the country over had their work cut out ensuring their staff and shoppers stayed safe in these worrying times. As an Industrial Food Technologist, I am classed as a key worker, spending long hours staring at my laptop screen playing my part in ensuring the UK's food supply chain is kept as robust and sustainable as possible in these unprecedented times. Once product is planned, produced and shipped from the factories, it has, of course, to be sold.

Brixworth's Co-op has a wonderful work force but a team of volunteers were now also needed to man the doors and ensure social distancing was adhered to from the moment the store opens, to the moment the store closes, seven days a week.

I had heard via the good old Brixworth Let us Know Facebook page that volunteers were urgently needed and after a two



minute interview in the fruit and veg aisle, snappy dresser Joel informed me that I could start the next day and basically had free rein as far as keeping the waiting masses calm. So, I spent that evening frantically putting together an epic crowd pleaser of a playlist on Spotify ('The Brixworth Co-Op Social Distancing Boredom Buster', in case you wanted to chuck some shapes to it in the comfort of your own homes) and dug out the dodgy speaker I'd bought from Delboy on a cheap package

holiday many moons ago. Since then, I've been taking on three (ish) hours shifts in my spare time on the Co-op doors and come rain or shine. Dressed in high vis, the job of us volunteers is ensuring that there are only ever a maximum of ten shoppers in the store at any one time, that the entrance floor is kept dry (let's be honest, no-one needs a broken leg right now), that shoppers are evenly distributed over the store (the wine aisle appears to be a significant hot spot for overpopulation) and the queue outside is entertained.



Keeping queuing shoppers amused, and safely apart: Neal Brown (left) and Jo Longbottom (above)

During my volunteering shifts, I've danced and sung with the waiting shoppers, played games with children, run an aerobics class or two (what I know about aerobics you could write on the back on a stamp), been an agony aunt, carried shopping, organised 'Name That Tune' games, given recipe advice to people that couldn't get hold of self-raising flour, vanilla essence or pasta, reminisced about various music festivals, taken requests for the next singalong, minded children / pushbikes / buggies and generally had a shed load of fun... all at a two metre distance, of course.

So, the next time you go the Co-op and see a person explaining that two small sized toddlers really does NOT equal one normal sized person, that yes, only using the cash machine DOES still count as one more person in the store or that no, we have zero idea how much vinegar is needed to clean your patio windows, do give us a wave (or a smile) but more importantly, sing along to their tunes if they happen to have a disco going on.

It could be Van Halen or it could be Vera Lynn, it could be Abba or it could be Aerosmith, but one thing's for certain, provided you're happy, patient and kind (not to mention at least two metres away from the any human you don't share a house with), there ain't no party like an NN6 Co-op queue party! – Jo Longbottom

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Mercedes HPP breathing aid helps save lives



Staff at the Mercedes AMG HPP site at Brixworth (pictured, below) have switched from making powertrains for Formula 1 cars to producing a breathing aid that is saving lives of Covid-19 patients in the UK and elsewhere.

The breathing aid was developed in partnership with engineers at University College London. It is a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device that helps many Covid-19 patients and allows the more complex ventilators to be reserved for the most serious cases.

Engineers at UCL and Mercedes-AMG HPP worked round-the-clock to reverse engineer a device that could be manufactured rapidly by the thousands.

The breathing aid was produced in fewer than 100 hours from the initial meeting to production of the first device. A second iteration, which consumes 70% less oxygen (a vital improvement because oxygen supply has become a bottleneck in some hospitals), received regulatory approval in March.

Mercedes' Brixworth site has been repurposed to produce the devices, and 40 machines that would normally produce F1 pistons and turbochargers are now producing CPAP devices at a rate of 1,000 a day. Hospitals around the UK are using them already,

including Northampton General Hospital, which received its devices in mid-April. The design has also been shared openly around the world.

Professor Rebecca Shipley, Director of UCL Institute of Healthcare Engineering, said: "These life-saving devices are relatively simple to manufacture and can be produced quickly. We hope that, by making the blueprints publicly available, they can be used to improve the resilience of healthcare systems preparing for the Covid-19 pandemic globally. My thanks goes to the brilliant engineers, business managers and team at UCLB who have come together and made this happen at a pace that would be considered unimaginable under normal circumstances."

Andy Cowell, Managing Director of Mercedes-AMG High Performance Powertrains, said: "Since the project was announced, we have received an incredible number of enquiries about the CPAP device from around the world. Making the design and manufacturing specifications openly available will allow companies around the world to produce these devices at speed and at scale to support the global response to Covid-19."



Brixworth Central Sports supports ambulance services



As with many small businesses Brixworth Central Sports Club is closed during this period of isolation. As a small thank you and in appreciation the committee have donated drinks, chocolates, nuts and crisps to Northampton North Ambulance Services in Kingsthorpe.

We would like to send a massive THANK YOU for all their hard work at this difficult time. Stay home, stay safe. - Eliza Pestell Gathercole, Brixworth Central Sports Club

Cash Grants available

Are you under 25 and would like a cash grant for educational purposes? The Foundation of Thomas Roe provides small cash grants for young people who live in the parishes of Brixworth or Scaldwell.

Grants have previously been provided to support young people with: purchase of school uniform; books and course materials; musical instruments; computer equipment; and travel expenses linked to education, including school trips.

Application forms can be downloaded from Brixworth and Scaldwell Parish Council web sites or from the Clerk at thomasroefoundation@gmail.com

Completed application forms must be returned to the Clerk, preferably by email and in Word format, by midnight on 23 September 2020 for consideration at the charity's next meeting on 7 October, where grant applications will be considered.

Temporary changes at Saxon Spires



The team at Saxon Spires practice would like to thank everyone who has made or donated us items to help us work safely and comfortably during the covid pandemic. This includes scrubs for our team to wear at work, and headbands to protect our nurses' and dispensers' ears from

getting sore wearing masks and visors all day, as well as items of PPE donated by local people.

We are open and trying to provide as normal a service as possible, within the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic. If you need an appointment, please phone either Brixworth or Guilsborough Surgery and we will arrange this for you. The appointment will be via the telephone. If a video or face-to-face appointment is needed, the doctor or nurse will arrange this with you.

We are trying to limit the number of patients in the practice, in order to minimise the risk of spread of the virus. We have also changed staff working patterns to have less staff on site, so we are able to maintain safe social distancing. But we ARE OPEN! We are here for our patients.

You can also contact us online by logging into patientaccess.com or downloading the Patient Access app. You can message your GP directly from your patient access account. Go into the "health advice" section and there you will find the facility to message the practice. This links directly with your clinical record.

You can activate online access by simply telephoning us on 01604 740210 (Guilsborough Surgery) or 01604 880228 (Brixworth Surgery). – Claire Deare, practice manager, Saxon Spires Practice

NLR: Please help keep us on track

The Northampton and Lamport Railway (NLR) is appealing for help from our local community to keep it 'on track' through the coronavirus pandemic.

The heritage railway is run purely by volunteers. They have been working hard for many years to keep history and nostalgia alive by running steam and diesel trains over part of the old Northampton to Market Harborough line. Many families, from the old to the very young, visit to experience the sights and smells of yesteryear.

However, for the wellbeing of our visitors and volunteers, NLR had to temporarily close during the current national crisis.

Coming immediately after the closed winter season, the railway's finances were already at their lowest ebb. The unexpected complete loss of income from visitors means NLR has no money coming in to pay for the unavoidable bills and essential renewals. This poses a huge threat to the railway's future.

Northampton and Lamport Railway is therefore appealing to the public to help it urgently raise £10,000. Without this money the railway will really struggle to get back to full steam when restrictions are lifted.

One way we are asking people to help is by purchasing a gift card for the Railway via www.nlr.org.uk.

Gift cards bought now will give the line vital income through this challenging period. However, unlike a traditional donation, people can then redeem the equivalent value off ticket prices for a visit in the



future. The cards will be valid for two years and can be used towards tickets for any future NLR event, once the railway is able to re-open.

People can also donate via NLR's secure Golden Giving fundraising page or by sending cheques payable to 'Northampton Steam Railway Ltd' to Pitsford and Brampton Station, Pitsford Road, Chapel Brampton, NN6 8BA.

For more information, please visit the Railway's website at www.nlr.org.uk or find us on Facebook: @NLRailway

Thank you. – Adam Giles, NLR General Manager

CEVC Primary School

The last few weeks have seen challenging and uncertain times for both the staff and children at Brixworth CEVC Primary School.

On the 20th March, Brixworth Primary School followed Government advice and closed for the majority of the pupils until further notice. We have remained open, including during the Easter Holiday period, for the children of keyworkers and for our vulnerable children. We have between 10 to 20 children attending per day.



Keyworker children exercising with Joe Wicks during lockdown

From the outset we made our parents aware that there is no expectation of them to become teachers. It can be very over-whelming

thinking about the prospect of having to educate children at home, especially if they are juggling home schooling different year groups whilst still working from home themselves.

For the first two weeks, the children were able to use a learning pack the school had produced and sent home on the day we closed. After Easter the KS2 children (years 3-6) have been using 'Google classroom', a free and secure web service which allows each teacher to share files, post videos to the children and chat to their class. Pupils can submit their work to the teacher, chat to friends and make comments to their class in the chat room. Foundation Stage and KS1 (years 1 and 2) children have their learning uploaded weekly onto



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the school website. The teachers are contactable by email, and the teachers have made videos to the children on our website so they can see their familiar faces.

We are overwhelmed by the quality of the learning we have received and enjoyed seeing the photos and videos parents have sent in to us. Their commitment to their children's education is incredible and we thank them for all their support.

A further impact of the 'new normal' is the cancellation of school events. These range from Church services, the Yr 6 Drama Production, the Foundation Stage Farm trip, Easter Bingo and the most disappointing of all, our Year 6 Residential to Whitemoor Lakes. This is usually such a welcome ending of the year for our oldest children and a chance for them to experience new things and reflect on their time at Brixworth Primary School before they move on to their next chapter of education.

With what seems like perfect timing we are delighted to announce that we have been accredited with the Northamptonshire TaMHS bronze award, Targeted Mental Health in Schools programme. This is a programme helping to build knowledge and capacity within schools to deal with mental health through training, support and new approaches to better meet the mental health needs of all children.

The Whispering Woodland Library

Prior to the school closing, we were delighted to officially open our new library –

The Whispering Woodland. A dedicated and enchanting area of the school to encourage a love of reading for all our children. Opened by Miss Stockbridge, English Leader, during World Book Day on the 5th March, the library has been largely financed by the PTA, although the children did hold a pyjama day where the children wore their PJ's to school, to raise money for some books.



Lenette Warren, Chairman of the PTA said: "Our vision as the PTA has always been to enhance the schools ability to provide the best environment for our children's education, so we were very excited to get behind Mrs Young's vision of a new library for the school. All



Miss Stockbridge opened the library on World Book Day

the fundraising events held by the PTA have helped towards the transformation of the mobile classroom into not just a functioning library, but also a magical place where children can go and enjoy reading for enjoyments sake.

"We hope it is a place where children will love to spend time, to escape into a story, and develop a love of books and literacy."

– Dianne Carrick

Chris Heaton-Harris MP's *Take-Away* WESTMINSTER REPORT

Great local food in lockdown

I recently posted on my Facebook page, asking local pubs, restaurants, shops and cafes which are offering takeaway and/ or delivery services to get in touch so that I can share their details on my website and social media.

Myself and my team have had lots of responses from great businesses all over the constituency, and as promised I want to do my best to make as many people aware of their services as possible! At times like these we need to rally together to support our small firms wherever possible (treating yourself to a safely prepared and delivered takeaway doesn't seem like a bad idea, either).

Below, you can find a list of takeaway and delivery services being offered locally, with contact details and any specific information that's been provided by the businesses themselves. If you are a business owner, and you want to be added to the list, please get in touch with me via email at chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk with the subject heading 'Website Takeaway List'.

- Bull's Head – Arthingworth: 01858 525637 (traditional pub food)
- Purple Ivy – Brixworth: 01604 949326 (Indian)
- Lasaan - Northampton: 01604 844244 or <http://lasaan.co.uk> (Indian)
- The Flavour Trailer – Brixworth: <https://www.theflavourtrailer.com/> (delivery burgers)
- Bulls Head – Clipston: <http://bullsheadatclipston.tripod.com/> or 01858 525268 (traditional pub food, weekend takeaway/ delivery, including Sunday lunches)
- Red Lion Inn – Crick: <http://www.redlioncrick.co.uk/> or 01788 822342 (traditional pub food)
- Indian Lodge – Crick: <http://indianlodgecrick.co.uk/> or 01788 877481 (Indian)
- The Three Cranes – Great Cransley: <http://www.threecranes.co.uk/> (takeaway pub food)
- Witch and Sow – Guilsborough: 01604 743888 or <http://www.thewitchandsow.co.uk/> (traditional pub food)
- Not a Taxi – Lilbourne: 07943 092446 (groceries and takeaways, click and collect)
- Head of Steam – Lilbourne: 01788 860166 (community shop offering takeaway/ delivery in Lilbourne)

- Verdes Sandwich Shop – Long Buckby: – 01327 843161 (sandwiches)
- The Stag – Maidwell: <https://www.the-stag-maidwell.co.uk/> or 01604 686700 (traditional pub food and some staple items)
- Collins Fresh Produce – Northampton: <https://www.collinsfresh.com/> (groceries and fresh produce)
- The White Horse – Old: whitehorseold.co.uk (traditional pub food)
- King's Head – Spratton: 01604 847351 (gastropub takeaways)
- The Sheaf Inn – West Haddon: thesheaf.foodorders.co.uk or 01788 511693 (traditional pub food, pizza, curry)


Chris

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

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Country Park Update

Spring has sprung and has made way for a summery splash of green everywhere as trees – at the time of writing - are now (mostly) fully in leaf. Prunus species like Cherry and Blackthorn have lost their blossom, and are well on their way to fruiting. By June the hedgerows and woodlands will be alive with new life as birds have nursed their young chicks into fledgling birds. Bats too will have birthed their young pups, and will be encouraging them out into the night sky to hunt.

Many of you reading this will have visited our parks in the past, and will have missed the changing season throughout the lockdown period. Hopefully, with the return of the swallows, you too will be able to once again return to the parks and enjoy some much needed Vitamin N(ature).

As mentioned in the December edition of our update, I have been joined by George as the Countryside Ranger for Brixworth & Brampton. George started back in October 2019 and has taken on his new role with gusto and positivity. Although new to our work he has taken on each challenge and has already developed well. I hope you have all had chance to meet him now, but do stop to say hello when you see him. To help you

get to know him a little better he has put together a few words himself.

Hello, my name is George...

I have joined the Ranger team following a varied journey that has always been grounded in a love for the natural world. I originally wanted to study biology, however I first

keeper at a golf course there. That made me realise that I relished the opportunity to work outside, and thus a life spent in a laboratory wasn't for me! On returning home, I studied arboriculture at Moulton College, after which I spent a summer back in Canada felling dead aspen trees and helping to maintain land inhabited by a small



took a year out to train as a ski instructor in Canada and then found work as a green

valley community. My experience of meeting people from different cultures, with diverse worldviews, also led me to study philosophy at the University of East Anglia.

This degree allowed me to reflect on the meaning of life, and my final dissertation on ancient Chinese Taoism and its emphasis on being at one with nature reignited my desire to work in the natural environment. While money and status are important to some, the 4th century BC Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu's advice that to "Be content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realise there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you." made it clear that a life spent in harmony with nature, developing one's innate character and embellishing that of others is what truly makes one's journey fulfilling. And with that in mind I saw no better place to work than at Brixworth Country Park.



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I have been truly impressed by our dedicated team of volunteers who regularly turn out and work diligently to help maintain the areas under our care; without them we would certainly struggle to maintain the parks in the way that we do. Their knowledge and experience of the Brampton Valley Way especially has provided me with some wonderful times. I had not previously known of the Brampton Valley Way but now that I am I can see just how valued it is as a community resource. Unlike the Country Park, which is a man-made space shaped by the view of people, the Valley Way is a strip of nature that has been made accessible but is otherwise left to its own devices; something which in this time of drastic human activity provides a welcome solace to the often harsh concrete habitats we now find ourselves residing in.

Corona Virus

Despite the restrictions on public access to NCC country parks, George and I have remained at work as it is a little difficult for us to 'work from home'. We have been able to implement good social distancing in the work place, in order to continue to maintain the parks for you all to come back to. Routine seasonal tasks are underway, and we are doing our best given the circumstances to make repairs and undertake routine maintenance on our facilities.

Mowing of path edges, and strimming around furniture at both parks is now ongoing, completed by ourselves at Brixworth, and on the Brampton Valley Way, by local contractor Tim Whittaker. We do this to allow a small margin for visitors to stand aside to allow others to pass; I realise there are some who may question this work as it cuts down pollinating plants, but within the wider scope of the parks we leave ample food for pollinators within our wildflower meadows and hedgerows.

We started repainting the public toilets in late April, and hope to have them fresh and clean in time for when the parks are fully open again. We did expect to have some of the playground items repaired in early April, but this has been put on hold for the time being. We will also be working on staining and repainting benches and fences and, if we can source the materials, repairing other fences and gates.

Most importantly I would like to thank everyone who would normally visit us regularly by car for adhering to the government's lockdown guidelines. I hope you have all been able to find an open space, or an area of local countryside, to take your daily exercise and enjoy the wildlife it has to offer. Likewise, to those of you who have been able to take your exercise at the parks, thank you for maintaining good social distancing measures.



Public Engagement

By now our event and activity programme would have seen pond dipping at Folly Pond during the Easter break, Xplorer Orienteering, and a new programme of events being led by the Active Parks team. Sadly, they have all been put on hold until lockdown is lifted. At the moment we are discussing possible events for the summer holidays. Likewise, all of the externally organised events such as UoN's Sunset Stride and the weekly Park Run have been either temporarily suspended, or cancelled altogether.

Sadly, our regular volunteering days have also been temporarily suspended, we still are not sure when we will be able to resume, but we will announce any changes on our

website or social media pages. Luckily, we were able to carry out two volunteer dates at Boughton Car Park on Brampton Lane in February/March to continue with laying the hedge around the perimeter. We are two thirds of the way around now, and expect to complete the work early in 2021.

Wildlife Spotting

On a much more positive note, we have heard a great deal more birdsong over the last few weeks, with chiffchaffs returning to the area recently. Despite not yet hearing any cuckoos, we have found cuckoo-flowers at Triangular Meadow, common spotted orchids emerging nearby to Maidwell, and a beautiful sea of bluebells on the east rising south of Kelmarsh Tunnel. Butterflies have been seen in abundance, including peacock, small



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Common Spotted Orchid emerging near Maidwell

tortoiseshell, orange-tip and speckled wood, fluttering around both parks. Be on the look out for marbled whites, red admirals, meadow brown and gatekeepers as we move into summer.

A great way to help you identify species of butterflies, moths, plants and trees is an app by iNaturalist call 'Seek'. The app uses image recognition to help you to identify what you have found, simply open the app, aim the camera and wait for the ID. I've been using this almost daily, and uploading my findings to iNaturalist to help them record species found at that location. It's really simple to use, and does not require registration, so it's a great tool for families to get out, explore their surroundings and learn about the wildlife around them.

Things to come...

Sheep grazing at Triangular Meadow on the Brampton Valley Way is set to return

later in the summer this year. Last year, we supported a local young farmer by allowing him to graze a small flock on the meadow. This was incredibly useful for us as the sheep grazed down last year's vegetation, ate flower heads and redistributed them in droppings, and broke up the ground to allow for better seeding. As they cleaned up the meadow last year, we will wait until the flowers have set seed before reintroducing the flock in late August. They will then eat up all of the remaining grasses and flowers to maintain a nutrient poor soil, essential for wildflower growth.

A phoenix is soon set to rise from the ashes of the old thatched shelter at Top Pond in the Sensory Play Garden at Brixworth. We have been successful in tendering the work to another local firm, PDB Fencing,



Cuckooflowers in the Triangular Meadow

with support from a master thatcher to replace the old shelter that burnt down last August. We received a great deal of support, and many offers of help, for which we are very grateful. Work is expected to start in early May, and to be completed by early June; please keep a safe distance from the work site whilst repairs take place.

Social Media

As Rangers we do not have direct access to our website, so making changes or updates can be a little slow. However, we do have accounts on many social media platforms. Many of you may be following our Brixworth Country Park Facebook page, but I wonder how many know of the page for the Brampton Valley Way. Likewise, we do also have an account on Twitter, and a newly created Instagram account. Primarily we use these as ways of communicating important news, updates about events and volunteering opportunities, and sharing photos of our parks that we think you might like. Unfortunately, it is not always easy for us to share as much as we would like, and certainly not to respond to all comments or direct messages. That said, please do share your photos of the parks with us, and our followers to help spread positivity and joy. If you need to contact us directly about a concern or query you have, please do so by email or telephone, we'd love to hear from you; email: brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk or telephone: 0300 126 5932.

– Debbie Samwell (NCC Senior Ranger) & George Dickinson (Countryside Ranger)

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Country Eye

Springtime Sprite Arrives: all is well!

Welcome warm sunshine streams into my conservatory. There is a chilly edge to the wind as a butterfly drifts by, and my spirits are instantly uplifted. It is not my first butterfly of the year. I have already seen several brimstones, the sulphur coloured males and paler females, plus a solitary small tortoiseshell. Appearing all white the bright orange flashes mark this as a male orange tip. Surely now we are leaving the dark days of winter behind us.

This is very much a butterfly of my childhood. I can recall the many times I have followed it, willing it to settle so I can look at it more closely. At last it is attracted to the hazy white umbrellas of Queen Anne's lace flowers, for here its probing tongue can seek out the life sustaining nectar feast. As I get closer my questing gaze reveals nothing. The butterfly has vanished, so it seems. Then abruptly it takes off right in front of me and is gone. The apparent disappearance works this way. As the butterfly settles it folds its wings over its body, tucking the front pair behind the hindwings. These have what appears as a green chequerboard pattern on a white background, closely mirroring the flowers it rests on. Even the green is not real, being made up of a blend of black and yellow peg-like scales attached to the wings and arranged like the tiles on a roof. Our eyes see this combination as green.

True green pigment is a rarity among our butterflies. Anyone who has tried to rescue a butterfly fluttering against a windowpane may have noticed a dust-like powder on their hands. This is made up of the scales which cover its wings, each one loosely attached by a peg. Looked at under a strong magnifying glass these are intricately shaped and brightly coloured and to me of great beauty.


The female lays her eggs on the developing buds of hedge mustard or lady's smock, two common wayside plants of the cabbage family. About pinhead size and skittle shaped, they are pale in colour but soon turn bright orange, making them easy to find. The caterpillar is bright green and nearly invisible on its foodplant. At first it can be cannibalistic, eating any of its own kind it comes across. But soon it settles down to chomps away and passes through several skin moults as it grows bigger. Eventually it clambors among the developing seedpods, attaches itself firmly by a silken pad at its hind end, and a girdle around its 'waist' and sheds its skin for the final time to reveal the chrysalis. This is green at first but as the plants' seedpods ripen gradually turns straw coloured to match. It remains thus over winter until hatching the following spring.

Nature's annual rhythms took countless millennia to evolve and continue so to do. The orange tip is part of the wayside plant and animal community, linked in so many

ways to others. For example, many of its eggs, caterpillars and chrysalids will be eaten by birds and mammals. Ladybirds will eat them, and I have seen an adult grabbed by a perfectly camouflaged crab spider as it lay in wait among the flowerheads. Around 300 eggs may be laid by the female. Of these only two need to survive to adulthood to maintain the species. Thus, this great natural resource keeps the annual cycle running. If more than two survive, eventually a population explosion will occur. Conversely less than two and extinction will follow. This enormously complex system, called Gaia by some, is maintained in what I have called a fluid equilibrium. We may be reluctant to recognise




it but we are part of this system. There is no escape however much we may deny it. I find myself asking why we seem unable to recognise this and retune ourselves to listen, have respect and regard, and return to a more satisfying truly sustainable lifestyle. Truly this is within our grasp if only we have the collective will to reach out for it. What's not to like about this? – Brian Webster



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Growing Veg in small spaces

Being stuck at home in glorious weather has brought out the gardener in many of us, and for some, thoughts have turned to growing vegetables. But what to do when you're not blessed with a large garden or an allotment?

Thankfully, growing vegetables in small spaces doesn't have to be challenging. There are a multitude of plants that can quite happily take up tiny pieces of space like in a window box or small area of a garden that with a little care can provide an extra food source that aids with the purse strings too. Small lettuce like 'Tom Thumb' or 'Little Gem' will only take up the size of a small plate in your garden, and dwarf varieties of runner beans like 'Hestia' or dwarf French beans like 'Evergreen' can be placed in large flower pots with ease as long as you don't plant them out too early. May is hopefully a good time to plant these directly into outside soil or you can start them off in pots on a sunny windowsill before eventually hardening off and planting outside.

Beetroot varieties again don't take up a lot of space and many like

'Bolthardy' have pretty good disease resistance and like the name suggests in 'Bolthardy's' case don't run to seed so quickly. Succession planting spaced two weeks or so apart gives a continuous supply through the growing season.

You can also save seed from squashes, courgettes and grow directly by putting in a small flower pot and growing on again the following year. This is not only fun, it also saves money. If you keep seed from the strongest plants, over time you can build a crop that not only gives a greater yield but if lucky can become more disease resistant.

I have myself dug over a small patch of disused land at the top of my garden and turned it into a small veg garden and meditation space because it's quiet up there. At the moment I have planted onion sets, strawberries, blackberries, and rhubarb up there. Dig for victory maybe an old slogan, but in times of need (and keeping your sanity) it can also be used to give you your exercise with the benefit of produce too.

Happy growing! – *Tim Wykes*



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Brixworth History Society

The History Society enjoyed its first lecture by Bob Farey on the great but forgotten philanthropist Aldred Cockerill. There is no recognition of his benevolence (shame on you Northampton Council and the County Cricket Ground).

Then the virus arrived, and cancellations were the order of the day. Most lectures will now feature in the 2021 programme. Let us hope we can resume our programme with the lecture on 17th September about the Great Fire of Northampton.

Watch this space and our website, www.brixworthhistory.org. In the meantime, keep your distance and keep safe.
– *Chris Knowles, Secretary*

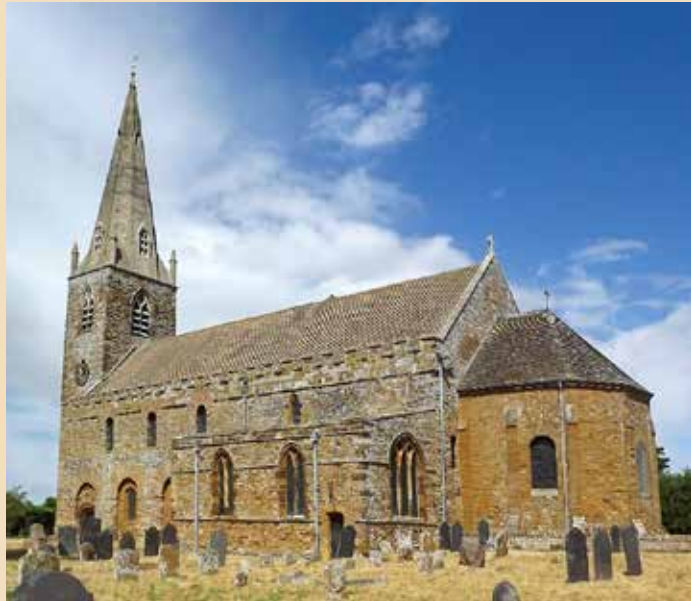
Brixworth Music Festival – Cancelled

Due to the Corona Virus outbreak we are having to cancel this year's festival. It was promising to be a wonderful event, but we hope to be able to repeat it next year.

Meanwhile, thank you to all of you who have come along and supported past festivals. For further information, visit www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk

Please keep well – and hopefully we will see each other next year.
– *Vivienne Olive, Joint Artistic Director*

Support our historic church



All Saints' Church, Brixworth is the largest surviving Anglo-Saxon building in this country.

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This ancient building needs continuous attention to ensure its survival both now and for many years to come.

The Friends of All Saints is a non religious charity, formed in 1983, with the sole aim of caring, preserving and fostering an interest in this unique building. But, in order to continue to do this, we need your help.

There are a number of ways you can do this: join the Friends; support our fundraising events; or become a trustee and help us explore new ways to continue to protect the church for many generations to come.

To join the Friends, make a donation or help in any way please contact Kate Knight on 01604 881810 or email brixworthfriends@gmail.com.

We would love to hear from you! – *Kate Knight*

Colin Bament 1934 - 2020

Colin died in hospital on 19th April, following several months' struggle with a serious chest infection. He was a familiar face and a friend to many in Brixworth.

He grew up in Northampton, living above his father's butcher's shop in Collingwood Road. (That's why he was called 'Colin'!) As a child he attended St Matthew's church and was educated at the Northampton Town and County Grammar School.



In the early 1950's he completed his National Service in the Royal Corps of Transport, where he learnt to drive. On leaving the army, he attended Moulton College of Agriculture, and then worked on farms and for the Milk Marketing Board. He returned to the butchery business for a while and then became a lorry driver.

After moving to Stannard Way, Brixworth with his wife, Jill, he also became a retained firefighter. He was often to be seen running along to the nearby fire station. Colin was a good neighbour, always ready to help when he could.

For many years he was a bell-ringer at All Saints Church. More recently, he served as a Parish Councillor, a member of the Parochial Church Council and on the Brixworth Centre Management Committee. He was also a volunteer driver for DACT, helping people without their own transport to attend medical appointments. He was a fan of Formula 1 motor racing and a keen supporter of Northampton Saints rugby team.

For over seven years he had served as our Verger at All Saints Church: a job which involves (among other duties) setting up and assisting at most services, including baptisms, weddings and funerals. He was always there and always ready to help with many other tasks at the church.

We shall all miss him, and extend our deepest sympathy to Jill, to his son Nicholas and his wife Nicola, to his daughter Sarah and her husband Geoffrey, and to his four grandchildren: Chloe, Nate, Alex and Connie.

Goodbye, Colin, and thank you. – *Vanessa Crooks and Verity Chilver, Churchwardens*

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The Mysterious case of the Brixworth Phantom

“She floated past us like a spectral galleon on the early morning mist, and we drew our coats tighter and hurried on....”

Clive and Lesley McDonald live on Knighton's Way. Here they share a lockdown mystery with the readers of the Brixworth Bulletin.

“Lockdown in Brixworth for us has meant a lot of walking. We've lived here for over twenty years and didn't realise until now how little we really knew the village.”

So what did you find out?

“From our house to the far end of Merry Tom Lane takes forty five minutes. We do it in the early mornings and the same people run, bike, or dog walk past us every day. Often they catch us both ways. They're all really friendly but keep their distance.”

Anything else?

“The Phantom you mean? A bit of what you might call an unexpected mystery did play out in front of us. It had me scratching my head for a few days and I had to put on my Sherlock Holmes deerstalker hat and have a good think to get to the bottom of what

happened.”

Really, a mystery in Brixworth what was that?

“Well, we kept trying different walking routes. One day for instance we walked all the way down the 508 to the White Swan at Lamport, and then back home through Scaldwell

and found some Lamas unexpectedly lurking in a field on the way. But it was the time we walked out of the village on the Creation Road when we met with what I can only describe as some kind of ghostly apparition. I say that because at the time I really couldn't see any



other explanation and it was also a very misty morning with the dystopian silence we all know of no one going to work anymore and the hounds howling away in the background as they tend to do round here.”

You mean down by Pytchley Hunt kennels?

“That's right, it began just about there. We'd found a spent horseshoe and that's supposed to be good luck and we were intending to take it back home with us, but that really doesn't have anything to do with what happened. Or I didn't think it did.”

The dogs have always been there, you know you're in the countryside when you hear them, it hardly makes it into a hound of the Baskervilles mystery?

“No it wasn't them specifically but it does involve a dog. We happened to be following a dog walker. A young girl with the dog on a lead, nothing unusual. We usually go past the allotments, walk to the bottom and then turn back because you run out of pavement and it can be a fast road.”

So what happened that was unusual, you've got me intrigued now?

“We thought the girl would have to turn back too, she was about fifty metres in front of us- unless of course she intended to carry on to the other dog kennels where they do the boarding-.So because of social distancing we turned back before she did and left her to carry on or turn back as she pleased.”

Is that it?

“We thought it was. On the walk back we went up past the Swedish houses just to extend the walking route a little bit and along Frog Hall.”

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That would bring you out onto the Spratton Road just a little way up from the shops. You did already know where the shops were I take it?

“Yes, of course. But the thing was as we got towards the top there was this same girl again walking her dog back down the lane towards us! How had she done that? Was she a twin? Were there two of her? She’d not only managed to get back in front of us but was going in the opposite way down the hill while we were still coming up it! She’d been in front of us before we’d turned round; And now she was in front of us again. Which was impossible. So seeing her again gave us a real double take, a total affront to logic and common sense.

I couldn’t figure out how she’d done it. Had she got some kind of exact doppel-ganger lurking ahead ready to baffle us? But even if she had it was unlikely the dog would be exactly the same too. Was she a ghost? Some phantom dog walker roaming the lanes of Brixworth every morning constantly and impossibly appearing in front of lockdown walkers ready to scare the bejesus out of them?”

There must be an easy answer. I take it you did the obvious thing and asked her?

“No. She floated past us like a spectral galleon on the early morning mist and we drew our coats tighter and hurried on. I did what any man would do and spent the next week turning it over in my mind and trying to figure it out. My wife wasn’t so perplexed, and I knew there had to be a logical explanation somewhere, I just didn’t know what it was.”

So what was it?

“Ahhh. It turns out you can get onto the Brampton Valley Way down by the bridge, and if you walk along it a short way there’s a path that takes you back up that comes out opposite Sunny Socks Nursery. It must be a shorter route than the one we took and that’s how she was able to get in front of us coming back the other way.”

So she wasn’t a doomed and tragic dog walking phantom circling the village in the early morning glom?

“No, but she might have been. I’m keeping my eyes peeled. You never know what you’re going to find on these walks.”

Pandemics: The long view

The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic and how it’s affected our lives might often be described as ‘unprecedented’ – but is it? Go back far enough in history and you’ll soon find details of previous deadly epidemics. Not just the Spanish Flu of 1918-19, but the bubonic plague, which, in 1665, left a deadly mark on the country. This rat-borne epidemic killed scores of thousands of people in London alone. It also struck further afield.

The plague does not seem to have hit Brixworth in that year. Twelve burials took place there in 1665, compared to 16 in 1663, six in 1664, 14 in 1666 and eleven in 1667. Draughton parish register records no burials at all in 1665.

The situation was very different at Hanging Houghton. Only 18 householders were listed there in connection with the 1674 hearth tax, but a total of 15 Hanging Houghton residents died within three months in 1665, all apart from one being flagged in the Lamport parish register as plague victims. Only four other burials appear in the register in that year.

Many of those falling sick in the hamlet were put into isolation. The dead were not carried to Lamport churchyard but buried either in the field or “at home”. A typical record in the parish register is of my ancestor “John Line, ye elder of Houghton, dying of the plague at a Cabin in ye field was there buried Sept:3d”.

All the local plague victims were buried between 10 August and 5 November. The most poignant group is John Smith who was buried on 14 October and “James, John, Elizabeth, Susan and Sarah, being all the children of the said John Smith of Houghton dying of the plague were buried at home about 1st, 2, 3, 4 or 5th of Nov”. Lamport baptism records indicate the children’s ages were 10, 8, 5, 3 and 1 when they died. It seems their mother Elizabeth survived.

So, why did the pestilence focus on Hanging Houghton? When describing the earthwork remains of the Montague family’s great house and its gardens immediately south of Manor Farm, Historic England states the building was abandoned in 1665, “following the demise of the entire family during the plague”.

However, nobody with that surname appears amongst the 1665 burials in the Lamport parish register. The only burial of a person with that surname found in Northamptonshire in that year is recorded at Weekley as: “Edward Mountagu eldest sonne of Edward Lord Mountagu was buried Octob: 13: 1665”.

Whether or not the Montague family was wiped out, it is entirely plausible that the infection was brought to Hanging Houghton when they fled from the perils of London to their country residence. – Francis Howcutt



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Spring in Kelmarsh



During these challenging times, we would like to share some images of the gardens and estate to our visitors, followers and volunteers, we hope they bring you some joy and tranquility.

We would like to say an extra special thank you to all the key workers who are keeping us all going - you are all truly amazing. We look forward to the day we can welcome you all back to the Hall and Gardens. Keep safe, and sending you all our best wishes. – *The Kelmarsh Team*

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Community projects get £300k boost

Northamptonshire Community Foundation has awarded over £317,000 to 92 community projects tackling the coronavirus.

Several larger Strategic Response Grants, worth up to £20,000 each, help larger local partnerships and some of the underlying issues. Rachel McGrath, Deputy CEO of the Foundation, said: "For example we have funded a collaboration of several Northampton food banks to ensure sufficient food supplies across each of their venues to effectively respond to food aid requests."

Serve Rushden have been awarded £15,707 working in partnership with East Northamptonshire Community Resilience Hub to help people in crisis, especially those with complex mental health needs, to ensure there is a co-ordinated package of support and safety net provided to reduce individuals being at risk.

Support Northamptonshire covering Wellingborough and Northampton have been awarded £16,030 working in partnership with Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council, Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation, Pravasi Mandal and Wellingborough District Hindu Association to tackle the disproportionate impact the Coronavirus has had on vulnerable local Asian people and communities.

Northampton Hope Centre have been awarded £20,000 working in partnership with Re:store Northampton, Weston Favell Food Bank, Shine Development CIC, St David's Food Bank and Bugbrooke Food Bank to ensure local food banks for vulnerable residents on low income have a good and varied supply of food.

Home-Start Wellingborough and District have been awarded £14,023 working in partnership with Relate Northamptonshire, Service Six and Mind to provide a co-ordinated support hub to especially vulnerable families and children and young people at risk.

Jessica Slater, CEO of SERVE Rushden, said: "This crisis has brought the country to a standstill, although the situation has been terrible, it has highlighted the important work our voluntary sector does, not just during a crisis but every single day. SERVE has seen many people come to us to volunteer and support the most vulnerable in our community, it has really brought the community together." For more information, visit www.ncf.uk.com.

The show must go on... or maybe not?

It's no secret that the performing arts industry is one of the many casualties of the Covid 19 Lockdown, with most theatres and other venues being closed since 16th March. The Society of London Theatres currently states that the closures will last at least till the end of May; although many in the business, including Andrew Lloyd-Webber, believe that it could be the autumn before things start getting back to normal, with many productions having to re-tech and rehearse before reopening.

The Royal and Derngate has been closed since March 18th, with 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert', 'Grease', 'Educating Rita' and the National Youth Theatre Connections Festival amongst the many affected shows. With regard to cancelled performances, The Chief Executive, Jo Gordon, and Artistic Director, James Dacre, report that the majority of customers have accepted credit notes or tickets for future dates rather than refunds. They also say that, in spite of the financial impact of Covid 19 on everybody, they have been 'moved by the number of customers who have donated all or part of their ticket value to us. This support is invaluable and will make a huge difference to us as we work towards a successful reopening.' Having worked in theatres across the UK and Ireland, I can confirm that The Royal and Derngate is a highly regarded producing theatre and venue within the entertainment industry and a favourite with many artists; so, fingers crossed.

Theatres are not the only victims of cancelled performances, of course, the Summer of 2020 is looking decidedly bereft of the usual array of music and arts festivals, from Glyndebourne to Glastonbury and our own Brixworth Music Festival – all cancelled! The cancellation of the Edinburgh Festivals will hit the industry particularly hard, however, as this is where up and coming artists cut their teeth and hone their craft; no other festival gives them the opportunity to perform in front of such a worldwide audience. It's important to remember that not everybody in the Arts (in fact hardly anybody!) is rich and famous and, like many other sectors of the workforce, they are now facing unemployment for the foreseeable future.

A number of recent newspaper articles and social media posts have suggested that the Arts are now irrelevant. In the face of the current crisis it's undoubtedly true that 'our health workers are worth a whole lot more than actors and musicians' – but, when we enter the new world at the end of the pandemic, let's hope that there's still a place for the performing arts; after all it's been part of life since the days of Ancient Greece, 6th Century BC, and enriches it in so many ways. Imagine lockdown and self-isolation without the likes of the BBC, Netflix and other services offering us a daily diet of escapism, none of it would exist without those working in the creative arts industries.

Whilst television and online entertainment continue to play an important role, for those of you missing the magic of live performance, here are some other FREE offerings for you to enjoy at home; not quite the same as being there but worth a watch:

- **The Show Must Go On/Andrew Lloyd Webber Musicals** starting @7pm each Friday and available on YouTube for 48 hours.
- **National Theatre at Home:** every Thursday at 7pm and then on demand for 7 days afterwards on YouTube. In the spirit of its NT Live screenings in cinemas, some of its most successful productions can now be screened direct to your living room.



- **Shakespeare's Globe** has announced that it will release no less than 40 productions through its Globe Player service for you to enjoy at home – without the rain and air traffic overhead!
- **The Stay at Home Festival** with live streaming most days from The Cosmic Shambles Network, and then on demand, many top names, including Josie Long, Prof Brian Cox, Sara Pascoe and Stephen Merchant, have lined up to keep us entertained and laughing for the foreseeable future; after all, if anything's going to get us through the pandemic in this country, it's our unique sense of humour! – Tracey Calnan

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Volunteers wanted for the next Panto

Brixworth Drama Group are planning a pantomime for January/February 2021.

It was quite obvious that there was some disappointment from our regular audience (dare I say 'fans'?) that we were unable to produce the regular village pantomime last January.

So our plan is to put on a production, yet to be decided, early 2021.

We sincerely hope that in a few months the current restrictions will be lifted.

It will be nice to have a reason to get-together and rehearse (yes.... we really do rehearse!) and have a project to work towards.

It will, of course, depend on the time we have to organise things. It will also depend on the number of people who would like to be involved. We are always willing to welcome new members. There's plenty to do, on stage and off.

All being well, we would normally start rehearsing around late July.

If you would like more information you can contact me directly at jsjamesds271@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing from you. Stay safe. – James Skeggs, on behalf of Brixworth Drama Group

Listening posts go virtual

Jonathan Harris, the Liberal Democrat District Councillor for the Brixworth Ward at Daventry, normally holds regular face to face 'listening posts' in the villages of Brixworth Ward. While those have been suspended, for obvious reasons, Jonathan can be contacted on the phone. He is also happy to arrange an online Zoom meeting. so please do get in touch either on 07759 977981 or via email at jonathanharrislibdem.iCloud.com



It's a dog's life...

Pytchley Hunt hounds being exercised on the Brampton Valley Way. Photo by Andrea Brown

Brixworth & District U3A

Due to us all being in lockdown during the Coronavirus outbreak, the U3A members have been finding different ways of being involved with their groups. Book group 1 are keeping in touch via e-mail and Book group 2 have set up a Zoom video conferencing group. Some tabletop games members are playing scrabble on line with each other. The garden group have been asked to provide photos of their gardens to send to the U3A newsletter (see attached photo).



The U3A has also set up a Facebook group that any member can join by contacting the Secretary and giving their membership number it being a closed group.

The March open meeting attracted a few new members so hopefully they will all be back once life gets back to the "new normal".

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



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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group started the spring term with a great mix of activities however the term has been cut short. We are currently closed for regular sessions but have been attempting to maintain contact as best as possible.

Beavers were able to celebrate Chinese New Year, investigated space and science activities, and visited Gallones in Kingsthorpe.

Since the lockdown they have held an online meeting in April. They had a scavenger hunt around their homes and renewed their beaver promise as it was at George's day. Virtual sessions are more complicated than meeting at the centre, but they will attempt to run more during the lockdown.

Before lockdown the **Cubs** were able to hold a games-night, they played some of their favourite board games they got at Christmas and taught each other the rules. They also took part in the entertainer evening where parents attended to see their Cubs host an evening of "light entertainment" with a mix



of magic, comedy, dance and music. Since the lockdown the Cubs have received some worksheets to earn badges and are looking at options for virtual meetings.

Prior to the lockdown, 15 Scouts managed a cold, and very wet, weather camp to earn

their 2020 Brass Monkeys badge. This year our camp had a special guest, Jack, Steve's 77-year old dad. Jack had been leader at Southport 15th Sea Scouts in the 1970s/80s and threw himself into all the activities. Well done Scouts and thank you to all the leaders, especially Jack.

Scouts also managed to complete their level 5 first aid, played badminton, went trampolining at Bounce and had a board games night. Remaining activities have been postponed and we are investigating virtual sessions.

Explorers crammed as much as possible into the early part of the term. They hosted a murder mystery evening, planned and registered for their Duke of Edinburgh award, went on a night hike, pancake making, had a professional relationship counsellor talk, played glow-in-the-dark hockey, and held a quiz night planned and held by one of the explorers.

We look forward to welcoming all our scouts back to the centre as soon as we are able. In the meantime – keep safe.

Scouts still need you!

Although we are closed for regular meetings, we still welcome support. 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



Scouting, before and after lockdown started: Scouts on a wet Brass Monkeys camp, (left) and Beavers keeping in touch via videoconference

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

To put your young person (boy or girl) on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please contact brixworthbeavers@btinternet.com. – Bob Pickles

Scaldwell Guides and Brixworth Brownies



On Saturday March 14th, all Girlguiding members were invited to take part in the Midlands Region Parkrun takeover to publicise guiding to the general public. The 1st Scaldwell Guides and 1st Brixworth Brownies chose Wickstead Park Kettering. Several Brownies and Guides took part with their families and all guiding members were awarded the above badge on completion. I might add participants could walk, run or jog! Many were walking although there were many runners too. We all had a good morning of exercise in nice surroundings, dry but chilly weather but it was rather muddy underfoot.

Following this event, all meetings and activities were stopped and the group is currently waiting to find out when activities can resume.

– Jill Gunnett Guide leader and Michelle Cole, Brownie leader.

CHAMBERS High Class Family Butchers

BBQ Time

Fresh local beef & lamb
Free range pork
Home-cooked meats
Home-made sausages
Beef, pork & lamb burgers
Kebabs & pork ribs
Marinated chicken



Delicious!

105 Northampton Road
Brixworth
Northampton, NN6 9DX
01604 880226

DA/2019/0912 22, Spratton Road, Brixworth Construction of two storey side extension (re-submission of a previously approved scheme under DA/2019/0190 to include a first floor window to side elevation)	BPC Supports DDC Approval Householder App
DA/2019/1106 2, Blackthorn Crescent, Brixworth Single storey front extension and first floor rear extension	BPC Supports DDC Approved
DA/2019/1092 The Old Farmhouse, Harborough Road, Brixworth Demolition of rear ancillary buildings. Construction of new family room and self-contained annexe for elderly family member (resubmission of DA/2019/0745)	BPC Supports DDC Approved
DA/2019/1071 25, Lesson Road, Brixworth Single storey porch extension to front and raise existing roof to rear	BPC Supports DDC Approved
DA/2019/0925 Land Adj 12, Knightons Way Outline application for construction of one dwelling all matters reserved other than access	BPC Object DDC Refused
DA/2020/0037 Land At Paddock Lodge, Tantree Way Demolition of existing garage and construction of one pair of semi-detached dwellings (two dwellings) and replacement double garage	BPC Supports DDC Refused
DA/2020/0034 103, Froxhill Crescent, Brixworth Two storey rear extension	BPC Supports DDC Approved
DA/2019/1100 36, Knightons Way, Brixworth Single storey rear and side extension (resubmission)	BPC Object DDC Approved
DA/2020/0002 Stonecourt 10, Church Street, Brixworth Removal of tree within a conservation area.	BPC Supports DDC Approved
DA/2019/0995 The Sycamores, Brixworth Hall Park Works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO 30	BPC Object DDC Approved

This insidious disease that has led to world-changing actions, and the even more serious problem of climate breakdown, are two sides of the same coin. Solve one and you solve the other. Let me explain. Best information indicates that it first arose in a so-called wet market in China, where live and dead animals of many species are sold for human food.

Most of these animals naturally carry a range of different pathogens, and it seems one of them has been able to cross the species barrier into us. We have little or no resistance to it, hence the problems we now face. But without our global transport network the virus could easily have been contained. Vast amounts of fossil fuels are what keeps this transfer system going, by air, land and sea, thus releasing CO2 and other harmful gases into the atmosphere and present weather patterns are the result.

Likewise, our system of industrial food production. Thousands of tons of pesticides and fertilisers, mostly made from oil, rain down onto the soil to grow and maintain our crops, causing pollution of land river and sea.

Of course, these are all problems of our own making. Some would agree we have sowed the wind and now we reap the whirlwind. So how do we get out of this mess? Not by a return to the Stone Age as some have suggested. I believe that by combining the best of the new technologies by working alongside – not against – nature we can feel our way into a steady sustainable economy.

The ultimate source of all power has always been the sun. Best of all it is free and for our purposes unlimited. Used directly it does not pollute. We already have well-developed ways of harnessing solar, wind, tidal, and geothermal power, making a substantial contribution towards powering our lifestyles. Present subsidies given to fossil fuel extraction if redirected towards renewables would allow rapid ratchetting up of all these sources. The bonus would be the creation of, so the experts say, up to a million new well-paid rewarding jobs.

Travel will have to be severely limited; I see no alternative to that. And that alone would mean that these new killer viruses would find it hard to transfer between continents. New forms of powering ships and planes are being developed but will take time to come onstream. In the meantime we are already rediscovering many of our needs are available at local level. It seems obvious to me that if something can be grown or made locally then it should be.

We are blessed with our own greengrocer and butcher and I believe they are seeing resurgence in their trade as a result of current restrictions. People have told me that they are finding not only are their goods of better quality they are also cheaper, once running costs to and from the supermarkets are factored in.

Our needs from overseas should come by land or sea by preference and only as a last resort by air. Regarding leisure the present restrictions some folk are rediscovering local pastimes and pleasures like gardening, especially growing some of their own food. Even a windowsill can be used for growing herbs and cut-and-come salad leaves. In my small garden I grow a range of vegetables are soft fruit, with new potatoes and runner beans to last several months.

Signs are we are re-finding and re-working old pleasures, and this can only lead to simpler lifestyles that are pleasant and above all sustainable. Sadly, signs are our politicians, of whatever persuasion, are planning a return to the old broken 'business as usual' system. They could squander our very last chance. So, we must ensure, by any legal means, change to a simpler, more enjoyable lifestyle, with good jobs and enough for all, including the poorest. We can do this together. Are you up for it? – *Brian Webster*



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All Saints' Church, Brixworth

www.brixworthchurch.com



When Revd Chloe asked me in January if I would write for the Bulletin, I knew exactly how I was going to begin this article, because Chloe and her family were going to move to Farnham Royal in Buckinghamshire. There she has taken up the post of Rector. So, we have said goodbye to Chloe, Gwion and their family and we wish them well for the future.

For the Brixworth and Holcot parish churches, we wait to find out who will be the next Parish Priest. At the moment we are between priests, in an interregnum, which is a time of transition. For the time being, the church wardens are keeping an eye on things.

But since Revd Chloe and her family departed, so much has changed. The virus is a challenge to our daily lives, to our culture and to our faith in ways that we have not seen in a generation.

We are doing our bit to maintain physical social distancing. For now, the church buildings are locked and, apart from a few necessary exceptions, we are staying at home. But the church has not gone away.

We cannot hold church services, but we use social media more. As well as a couple of websites, we have a public Facebook page (see below) which you are invited to visit. We post prayers and services as well as any useful information to pass on.

The BBC has come up trumps and there are regular services on TV and Radio, which I am happy to recommend, which you might find helpful.

Some churches have tried new things with streaming services from kitchens, for example. I tried live streaming for the first time on Palm Sunday. Obviously, this year we could not use a real donkey. However, the best alternative I had to hand was an Eeyore glove puppet. I do not think that really worked. Tigger for Easter was also a bit of a flop!

The changes brought about the impact of the virus seem to have come upon us suddenly with little time to prepare. Fortunately, most of us have been willing to adapt to the situation. For example, many of us are rediscovering our immediate neighbours and have been taking extra effort to look out for each other. When we go shopping, we need to be that bit more organised and to be more patient with the queues. Being patient is something worth working on for the future too when the lockdown is lifted.

Where is God in all this? That question is always present in the background somewhere. Whenever tragedy strikes us, that question comes to the front. For myself, I believe that God has not promised that tragedy will never happen. After all, Jesus Christ, the son of God, was tortured to death. Jesus even felt that God had abandoned him. The message of Easter is that God's love and power is stronger even than death. God does not abandon us but keeps us company through thick and thin.

So where is God in all this?

God is in acts of kindness given to friends and strangers alike

God is in the thoughts and prayers we share for people who are hurting

God is in the shopping for our family and for those who are self-isolating

God is in the community spirit which we encourage

God is in the comfort we give to those who are tired and grieving

God is in the tears and in the smiles

God is here.

May God bless us all,

Rev Eric Rew

Contacts for general church enquiries:

- All Saints, Brixworth
V Crooks, Churchwarden, (01604) 882058
- St Mary and All Saints, Holcot
L Hunter, Churchwarden, (01933) 222910

Find us on the internet:

- All Saints Brixworth Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/BrixworthChurchAllSaints/>
- St Mary and All Saints Holcot website:
<http://www.holcot-church.org.uk/>



Chairman's Chat

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

Grants Applications

Apply for a grant.

S106 - Enhancing Sports

Residents' number one complaint.

Talking Points

Domestic violence, pollution and fly-tipping.

Farewell

Brixworth Parish Council loses two valuable members.



A fitting tribute to the NHS!

Chairman's Chat

Since the last Bulletin we will have had six weeks of lockdown. Local events, including VE Day celebrations, have had to be cancelled; the local sports clubs including cricket, football and tennis came to an abrupt end or indeed didn't even start! And in addition to this local meeting places such as the library and Pitsford Reservoir are also closed. All of this can be very stressful and so please read the article 'Talking Points'.

It has been heart-warming to see the incredible numbers of villagers coming forward to offer help and assistance to others. I would like to express my thanks to all those volunteers who have ensured that the vulnerable are being cared for. A special thanks to Lisa D and her team of volunteers who have been helping during these times with the Brixworth Covid-19 Help Group.

You will no doubt be aware that Council meetings have become virtual; I believe we were the first in the county to do so! For further information please contact our Clerk.

Lastly, I would like to bring your attention to the NHS website. If you need an NHS service, try to do it online first. You can either use the website <https://www.nhs.uk/> or the new NHS App which is simple and secure, and includes the quick NHS coronavirus status checker to explain about your current experience of the virus. This will help the NHS plan in its response to Coronavirus by showing where the virus is spreading and how it affects people.

And it goes without saying #stayhome #staysafe

Applying to Brixworth Parish Council for a grant

Each fiscal year Brixworth Parish Council allocates a proportion of its precept to community grants. We are pleased to offer these grants, throughout the year, in order to encourage and support our voluntary organisations with their community activities and projects with the purpose of bringing direct benefit to the parish and its residents.

All applications for funding are considered on their merits and the amount of any grant awarded is always at the sole discretion of the Parish Council. The grants awarded during the last financial year included the Brixworth Park Run, Brixworth Cricket Club and Brixworth First Responders.

If your local group would like to be considered for a Brixworth Community Grant, please check eligibility and download the form <https://www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/forms/>

BRISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL



Council Gets Closer To Deciding How To Spend Its S106 Money

Back in October 2019 we published an article 'How would you get Brixworth moving? Section 106'.

The article spoke about how as a result of development in the village the Council, with BRANE, negotiated a fund for enhancing and developing sports within the village. The funding has been very specific and the £242,050.67 has been divided as:

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

The Council has been approached by Brixworth Junior Football Club (an all weather pitch), Brixworth Cricket Club (storage and new equipment for St David's Playing Field), Brixworth Indoor Bowls (equipment), Brixworth Community Centre (enhancement to encourage indoor sports such as table tennis) and the Council itself intends to put forward an application for a multi-use games area (MUGA) on St David's Playing Field.

The local s106 project proposals will be discussed in full by the Parish Council in the summer. However the final decision on the allocation and use of the funding will be taken by Daventry District Council which is currently holding the developer funds in compliance with the various legal agreements.



Talking Points

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Whilst many of us have been able to enjoy the sunshine that has accompanied this pandemic, there are those who are unfortunately left in isolation with their abuser.

With this in mind, the Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership have compiled a list of support networks that can help anyone who is being abused, or those with concerns about family, friends or neighbours.

Northamptonshire Police

If you have any reason to think someone is in immediate danger, or your life may be at risk, call 999.

If you're experiencing domestic abuse or are concerned for someone who is, report it to us by calling 101.

Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS)

NDAS offers a 24-hour advice line on 0300 0120154, on Facebook using @NorthamptonshireDAS and via email at advice@ndas-org.co.uk (during office hours)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline website provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. They can be called, for free and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247. The website also has a form through which women can book a safe time for a call from the team: www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Women's Aid

Women's Aid has provided additional advice specifically designed for the current coronavirus outbreak, including a live chat service. Visit www.womensaid.org.uk

Men's Advice Line

The Men's Advice Line is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them. It can be contacted on 0808 8010327 or at www.mensadvice.org.uk

NUISANCE & POLLUTION

Is your life being made a misery by noise, smoke or odours?

The good weather has given many households the opportunity to get out into the garden to enjoy a drink or a barbecue.

However, at this time of the year any persistent noise or smoke nuisance can cause misery for neighbours, especially during lockdown, when our gardens and outdoor space has become much more important.

Both the District and Parish Council would ask everyone to be respectful towards neighbours. If you are being adversely affected by noise, please follow these steps:

- Politely approach your neighbour and explain what is troubling you. You may find this difficult, but often people are unaware that they are causing a problem. Most will be glad to do what they can to reduce noise, and a personal approach can be better for neighbour relationships.
- If you cannot deal with the problem personally, and you do involve the District Council, then it will contact you to arrange for an officer to contact you to explain the investigation process.

More information on noise, smoke and odour nuisance together with links to report issues online can be found at <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/business/environmental-health/pollution-control/>

FLY-TIPPING

With the recent enforced closure of the Brixworth Recycling Centre, many of us have noticed an increase in instances of illegal fly-tipping in our local rural area.

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

All householders are legally responsible for their household waste and can face a fine if they do not take reasonable measures to ensure that their waste is legally disposed of - that means a fine of between £150 and £400!

The support of the public is key to our efforts to tackle this issue, so the Parish Council strongly urges all residents to report any suspicious activity they encounter.

You can report fly-tipping and other environmental crimes using the on line self-service system on <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/business/environmental-health/environmental-crime/fly-tipping/> or by calling the District Council on 01327 871100.

FAREWELL



Quality Parish Council. From left to right: Dr P Blantern and M Lacey with Colin Bament.

Colin Bament sadly passed away on Sunday 19 April 2020. Colin was the person who persuaded me to become a Parish Councillor and he was my mentor. He held the position of Chair of Highways & Environment and it is that role I took up when he retired from the Council in 2013 - something that I am still passionate about. At BPC we didn't just see Colin as a Councillor but also as a friend. Mike Lacey has many fond memories of him including being persuaded to become a bell ringer! They formed a strong friendship and with Colin's support Mike became, first, a Parish Councillor (there's a pattern here!) and then Chair of the Council itself. In Mike's words, which are echoed by many, "Colin was more than a bell ringer and a Parish Councillor, he was also a friend who helped others".

In addition to this, Colin found time to be part of an incredible team of volunteers who would drive those in need to their medical appointments throughout the District, a volunteer fireman and the warden of Brixworth church. Colin really was a friend of Brixworth and a friend who will be missed by all of us.

Sandra Moxon



The Parish Council has lost a long-standing employee on Saturday 7 March 2020. Brixworth resident **Beryl Smith** had worked for the Parish Council since 2002 as a litter picker and would often be seen on Spratton Road carrying out her daily duties. Beryl was a recognisable face in Brixworth and was very friendly with time for everyone. The Parish Council, as well as many residents, appreciated the invaluable contribution Beryl made to keeping our village clean and tidy.

Her long-time colleague and friend Marc remembers Beryl as 'hard-working and would go out of her way to help you out, and we would always have a joke and a laugh. I will sorely miss working with her as part of the BPC team'.

Peter Rowbotham, BPC's Clerk, added, 'Beryl provided an indispensable service to the Parish Council and the residents of Brixworth; she had been dedicated to her job since 2002. Beryl was incredibly conscientious and we will all miss her here at Brixworth Parish Council.'

Stephen James
Chairman



Sandra Moxon
Vice-Chairman



Elaine Coe
Chairman, Media & Communications



Frances Peacock
Chairman, Planning



Alan Lovell



Ian Barratt



Jackie Bird



James Collyer



Kevin Parker



Lina Howarth



Lynne Compton



Stuart Coe



Tom Mitchell



Peter Rowbotham
Parish Clerk



Full Council (Thursdays): 28 May, 25 June, 30 July, 27 August

Media & Comms (Wednesdays): 20 May, 10 June, 8 July, 12 August

Planning (Mondays): 11 May, 1 June, 22 June, 13 July, 3, 24 August

Surgery (Saturdays): 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 1 August

Annual Parish Council (Thursday): 21 May

Please check website and noticeboards to confirm dates and times.

Note: All meetings are currently being carried out via video conferencing. For further information please contact the Clerk.

Contact the Parish Clerk:

Peter Rowbotham, 10 Shelland Close, Market Harborough, LE16 7XU
E-mail: parish.clerk@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Telephone: 07983 141786



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Having to do Sunday services online, it has been very weird getting used to speaking into a camera. That said, I guess we have all had our awkward moments in the last couple of months, particularly surrounding social distancing. It all goes against the grain doesn't it, but then, it will do. We have not been made to be 2 metres apart. We've been made to be close to God and close to others. So we will miss a hug or going for a walk and sharing life with our family and friends.

Well, let me encourage us all. God doesn't practice social distancing. He doesn't need to. He is perfect and guaranteed to be virus free! Indeed, in some parts of the Bible, it's like God gives us all one big reassuring hug. After all, He loves us and wants to be close to us all.

Romans 8: 38-39 for example says, 'I am convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love, death can't life can't, the angels can't, the demons can't, nor our fears for today and our worries about tomorrow, even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

You see, no government measure can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. However, we must be 'in Christ Jesus' to receive God's love. We come to the Father's love through Jesus his Son and anyone can do that. Jesus's death and resurrection has made that possible.

Yes breaking another social restriction, it's like God, in Jesus, holds out his hand to us all. If we take hold of him, he takes hold of us and then will hold us and carry us and never let us go, not even after we die.

The coronavirus has raised some spiritual questions in folk. If that is you, and would like to chat about things or would simply like someone to pray for you, please get in touch. Alternatively, check out our online Sunday services and midweek messages. Remember God wants to be close to us all.

Many blessings [Andy](#)



Contact [Andy Lloyd-Williams](#) on
07958 604961



Saints Captain Alex Waller joined us for Men's Breakfast

Our first men's breakfast of the year (March 14th) and depending on the Covid19 restrictions may be the only one of the year? But what a great time we had. Northampton Saints Captain Alex Waller joined us for a free breakfast and a chat, sharing some of his story of how he became captain of the Saints, victories and disappointments alike. Altogether a brilliant morning a great speaker, a great breakfast and many happy blokes! Please watch this space for further dates. Our hope is that after the restrictions have been removed, we will be able to arrange new dates for further events.



YouTube Channel
Brixworth Community Church

Every Sunday
Online Short Service.

Every Wednesday
Midweek Message.



Saturday Night Fever

With the UK lockdown forcing the cancellation of theatre trips, dinner parties, evenings out with friends and most normal life entertainments. What do you do on a Saturday night?

On April 18th & May 9th, you could have joined several other people on the video link quiz nights, run on behalf of Brixworth Community Church by Nigel & Sue

We have had two evenings of quiz-based fun, when we were able to enjoy each other's company and the inter-team banter! Who can forget the debate on whether zero is a number or just a placeholder!! Thankfully Zoom has a 'mute all' button and in good quizzing tradition - the quizmasters' word was final!

The first evening we had 24 households taking part with slightly less on the 2nd. As well as church members and their families, we were joined by several Brixworth residents that are not linked to the church. A great opportunity to reach out to friends and neighbours.

We are all looking forward to meeting each other again in person, but in the meantime let's use every opportunity to keep connected to each other.

Look out for other Church events in the coming weeks and months.



COVID19

We have a number of volunteers who are able to shop or collect medicine for those who are vulnerable and don't have a support network.

If there is anyone you know who is vulnerable and on their own who may need help then please give us a call.

Also for those who are seeking support spiritually at this time then please also call we are happy to pray for you or chat to you.

Andy on 07958 604961
 Mark on 07917 573784

Hebrews 10 v23-25 (NLT)

23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. **24** Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. **25** And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Nigel & Susan Cole



Brix & Mortar

The property market during and post lockdown

Well it certainly has been an interesting couple of months since our last article in the Brixworth bulletin. Like many non-essential workers our industry has been put on hold and, during the lockdown period, we have been unable to attend properties for the purposes of viewings or valuations. However, like many other industries that have not been able to operate in their normal manner we have managed to use technology in order to continue to offer a valuable service to our clients. Virtual valuations is one example of this and has allowed clients to interact with us via FaceTime, WhatsApp video or Zoom. It may not be quite as accurate as a home visit but it certainly has given us the opportunity to offer a reasonably accurate price bracket that can be tweaked once lockdown is lifted.

New business was not the only part of our industry that was affected by lockdown. On the 23rd of March, when we were asked to

close our branches and work from home, we had a large pipeline of properties which were sold subject to contract but not yet exchanged. Many surveying firms stopped doing physical inspections, with only a handful doing desktop valuations which meant a reduced number of mortgages being offered. On the legal side conveyancers and solicitors were told by the government that they should not be exchanging on anything other than vacant properties. These make up a very small percentage of transactions. A recent Zoopla report suggested that 82 billion pounds worth of property was currently going through the British legal system. Anyone that has bought and sold property will realise just how fraught this period of time is and how getting that exchange done is so important.

I expect that by the time this article has reached you lockdown will either have been lifted or there will be a roadmap of when and

how we will all be able to return to work. The property market has always been one of the major anchors of the UK economy and, as property is most people's greatest asset, we will all be pondering how house prices will be affected once sales start to resume.

My personal opinion, and as somebody that has been in the business long enough to remember the recession of the late 80s/early 90s and the financial recession of 2008, I think this is a very different scenario. Interest rates are the lowest they have been in the bank of England's history and the government have endeavoured to keep businesses afloat with financial help in order to allow us all to get back to some sort of normality. We have to remember that at the point of lockdown in late March the economy was as strong as it had been for many years. However, the property market, like all markets, will have prices set by supply and demand. I guess we will all have to wait and see. – *Stuart Little*

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is still active as we need to monitor the impact of the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2) for Daventry District 2011-2029 on the Neighbourhood Plan.

This process has, of course been slowed by the Coronavirus. Work undertaken for the new West Northants Joint Planning Unit, such as the Strategic Land Availability Assessment, also remains the subject of scrutiny by the group.

As previously reported in the Bulletin, DDC refused an application to demolish the Red Lion and build a new retail store for the Co-op, and Planning Inspectors dismissed a subsequent appeal on grounds that some aspects were contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan. Since then, the Co-op has submitted a new application. We have objected to latest application as they remain contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan. We are also concerned about the potentially detrimental effects on other stores in the village and the effect of increased traffic on the Conservation Area. – *Bob Chattaway*



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Northampton Sailing Club – a Gem on Your Doorstep

As we write, access to Pitsford Reservoir has been closed and all activity at Northampton Sailing Club has been suspended. Normally at this time of year we would be looking forward to a fabulous summer on and around the water. However, once lockdown is over, we are hopeful that outdoor spaces will be the first to be reopened and we can once again enjoy all that the reservoir has to offer.

When it reopens, Northampton Sailing Club will once again be welcoming members of all ages and abilities for a wide range of activities. As well as sailing (for complete novices to experienced racers) there's also windsurfing, paddle boarding and canoeing on offer.

If you've never sailed before, then you can book sessions with an experienced instructor. As a Sailing Club member, you can take part



in weekly club coaching sessions to practice and improve your skills, then you can go on to racing or cruising on the reservoir. There are also sessions for kids and juniors from



beginners to racers. The Sailing Club has showers and changing facilities on site as well as a bar and kitchen.

There's a friendly atmosphere and lots of land-based social activities too – pub quizzes and parties as well as seasonal events such as bonfire night and Christmas dinner!

We are planning to run some Discover the Water sessions on Saturday mornings where you have the opportunity to try out all of the different water activities and experience what the club has to offer. Of course, these have had to be put on hold, but we hope to bring you news of them as soon as the club reopens.

The beautiful surroundings of Pitsford Reservoir and the large expanse of water should

give us plenty of space in which to practice social distancing. And what could be nicer than a summer evening out on the water, followed by a barbecue and maybe a beer?

For more information go to www.northamptonclub.org or <https://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonSailingClub>
– Gordon Halfacre



Short mat bowls – three on the bounce

Brixworth Short Mat Bowls Club have won the Northamptonshire Independent Friendly Short Mat Bowls League for the third year running. After a winter of mixed results, they stormed back and won their last three games taking 16 points out of a possible 18.

A double mat win over Yelvertoft and Kilsby and a match win over Guilsborough saw them win the league by six points from Yelvertoft. Again, this season Brixworth did not lose a home match.

We have welcomed new members and play on a Friday afternoon and evening, so if you fancy having a go please contact Janet on 0776 221 1721. It's good fun and you will be made to feel very welcome. – Martin Carnell

T20 cricket postponed

After much discussion and following the advice from the English Cricket Board, we have reluctantly postponed the charity T20 cricket family day between Brixworth Cricket Club and the Help for Heroes Cricket Team to 2021. As soon as the date is finalised we will inform you. Thank you everyone for your support and we look forward to next year. – Martin Carnell, Area Team Lead, Help for Heroes, East

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Email: 82matthewc@gmail.com

Phone Number 07702 317828

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