

Thank you!

So here we are again – as I'm putting together this issue of the Brixworth Bulletin, the UK has just gone back in lockdown. Many are worried – worried about their health, about when they'll see their relatives again, worried about their job or whether we'll have anything like a normal Christmas. Others are accepting the situation with a stoic shrug, noting that the impact on their lives is pretty limited, all things considered.

But the pandemic has also brought out the best of everyone. Not only during the spring lockdown, but throughout summer and autumn, people have been going the extra mile and looking out for each other.

Below, find some of the messages of appreciation which we'd love to share with everyone. Meanwhile, best wishes to all the Bulletin's readers. Stay strong, stay well, and be kind.

Maudie Flavell-White

I would like to say a special thank you to two of my neighbours who have helped me to get through this year. They are Kirsty and John Sullivan of the Ridings Brixworth and Chris and Stuart Billington also of the Ridings Brixworth. Thank you both for all your help this year.

Rosemary Jenkins

Myself (Charley) and Mario here at the Flavour Trailer would like to thank Brixworth for their continued support and for keeping our business alive through lockdown.

Everyone has been so kind and supportive, keeping our burger dream alive.

We are in Brixworth, opposite the Co-op every Friday and Saturday 5pm - 9pm.

Charley Cummings and Mario Shephard

I'd love to thank Gail Smith who was picking my prescriptions up on a regular basis during lockdown as I was shielding.

This was really appreciated and was one less thing to worry about during a very anxious period.

Phil Payne



Photo by Clive Mason / Getty Images

Spot the star photographer

In this issue, we speak to Clive Mason, globe-trotting and award-winning sports photographer for the news photo agency Getty Images. When he's not on assignment with the Formula One team, at the Olympics or on some other painfully glamorous location, he's home in Brixworth relaxing and has even been known to take the odd snap of our well-loved church. Turn to page 20 and 21 for his story and more of his amazing photos.

We'd like to thank everyone who donated to the repair of our windows at Bulldog and Bear, especially Dan Perry and James Gregory for donating their time to a car wash with proceeds going to us. It has been a difficult year for us.

Dan Clarkson

I'd like to thank Eddie Edmonds and the doormen/women who kept us safe at the Co-op, and the staff of the Co-op and all the village shops for keeping us all supplied throughout this strange year.

Phil Leeson

Thank you to Freddy Fudge, who got my daughter back and forth to work before she eventually started working from home. Also his fantastic service to lots of people during lock down.

Hazel Smith

I'd love to thank the lady in the bat mobile that supplied meals on wheels. All of the above mentioned people and also our post lady who dressed up. I saw Spider-Man running around and waving at the children, dinosaurs riding bicycles. You were all marvellous.

Sharon Cowie

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 and Phil Purcell

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

The Brixworth Bulletin is published
quarterly in March, June, September and
December. The deadline for contributions
and advertising for the March issue is 25
January 2021.

Visit www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk, join us
on Facebook or follow @BrixBulletin on
Twitter.

We need to thank Freddie Fudge for the service he provided to lots of people during lockdown and for being an absolute asset to the village.

Pete Chilver

Freddie Fudge has gone above and beyond for so many people but especially my in laws...in their 80s father in law with dementia...all mental health support was suspended. Freddie ensured they got to their beloved Purple Ivy every week and supported with prescription drops when the lockdown was at its worst. He refused payment for a number of things he did. He really is an asset to this village. And a kind man.

Karen Johnson

Thank you to our neighbours in the Close for their continued offers of help & support to me & my husband. Happy memories of the VE celebrations and the Sunday afternoon 'teas' in our driveways!

Thank you all from Sue & David Carter

I would like to thank Lynne Saxton. During lockdown at the start of March

we went into shielding due to our son having intractable epilepsy. Lynne was amazing and would go on many occasions and queue up outside the chemist to collect his meds. Something we didn't want to be exposed to. Lynne is also a First Responder and several times during lockdown she rushed around to us when our son stopped breathing during a seizure, she is always offering support especially during the pandemic for our son. She also set up a FB Group for our group so we could all stay in contact, which was especially good as we had new people in the cul-de-sac who moved during lockdown. She never complains. Thank you, Lynne.

Julie Young

I'd like to nominate Troops. They were amazing throughout the lockdown, quickly implementing a delivery service to so many people young and old, locally and further afield. They are always friendly and accommodating. Nothing seemed to much trouble for them they just sprung into action and responded to the situation to help others. There was not inflated prices and lovely produce. I don't even remember them charging for delivery!

We unexpectedly had to self isolate and needed supplies at last minute (no family locally to help) they sent a delivery that evening. I was very grateful. They offer a brilliant service to the community.

Louise Berry

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR HOME IN NORTHAMPTON IS WORTH



Use Our FREE Instant Online Valuation Tool

If you're thinking of moving, start by getting a Hometrack Valuation Report to see how much your home is worth.

Paul Chant
Branch Director



Hometrack is the UK's largest automated valuer of residential properties and is relied upon by 13 of the 15 top UK high street lenders.

This report normally costs £19.95 and includes ALL recent house sales near you!

Get your **FREE** online valuation report now at:
www.EweMove.com/NorthamptonNorth
or call: (24/7) **01604 267 772**

EweMove respects any existing sole agency agreement already in place with another agent.

Commemorating a groundsmen

Brixworth Parish Council is considering improvements on St David's recreation ground including the children's' play area.

Unless I am hallucinating in my dotage, I remember that Brixworth used to have a well-loved groundsmen a while ago. Sadly, he died, and the village raised funds in his memory. I believe this was spent to provide play equipment including the still existing small slide.

Unfortunately, the plaque commemorating this community generosity has long-since disappeared. I wonder if anyone could remember the gentleman's name. I think it may have been a Mr Groves? If I can be certain of the name, I would like to ask the Parish Council to provide another plaque recording the village appreciation and to display it in the play area.

If anyone can remember, please get in touch via the Brixworth Bulletin (editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk). – Ian Barratt

Donations help restore clubhouse following break-in

Brixworth Central Sports Club reopened briefly ahead of the November lockdown, thanks to generous donations to help restore the premises after a break-in.

The clubhouse was vandalised in mid-October by a group of intruders. Three brand new televisions had been ripped off the walls, parts of the ceiling had been pulled down, the internal doors had been damaged with a crowbar, the shutter across the bar had been forced open and the till was heavily damaged.

The perpetrators made off with several bottles of alcohol and a petty cash box containing only a small amount of money. The three TVs, which had been left by a fence in



the park, became wet and unusable overnight. The total damage is estimated at over £15,000.

With the insurance payout unlikely to cover all the costs, villagers – especially the clubs using the premises – were devastated. SANDS United, one of the football clubs playing on St Davids, had organised a fundraiser to help repair the damage.

The campaign raised almost £5000, well in excess of the original goal, in part thanks to a very generous donation from money saving expert Martin Lewis, support from TV presenter Ben Shepherd and many donations from local residents.

“The offers of help and support from local businesses and club members has been amazing,” said Jackie Bird, the club’s chair. “With the help of people giving up their free time we have almost finished putting the club back together.”



She added: “This is the first time since the club was built in 1969 that it has been broken into and the mindless damage caused for a few bottles of alcohol and small change was devastating and unbelievably upsetting for the committee (who are all volunteers) and the club members. On the positive side we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has helped get us back up and running.”

Guiders wanted urgently

1st Scaldwell Guides urgently need two new Guiders if the company is going to continue after February 2021.


I have been involved with this company as a Guider since September 1966 but due to covid 19 can no longer continue with face to face guiding although I am willing to give any support I can.

Many people have been part of our guiding team since 1966 including Robyn Mowbray who will be moving away from the village early 2021.

The Guides meet weekly at Brixworth Centre during the term. Girlguiding UK stipulates that there has to be a minimum of two adults at each meeting.


Unless help is offered this Guide company will close which is not what either of us want.

Please contact me, Jill Gunnett on 01604 880929 for more information or if you are able to help. – Jill Gunnett



BRIXWORTH WILLS

For professional advice in the comfort of your own home, contact Rosie Wright for a free initial appointment.

Specialist in Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Estate Planning


STEP

Rosie Wright is a member of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners and of the Society of Will Writers



Rosie@BrixworthWills.co.uk www.BrixworthWills.co.uk
01604 973373
42 Froxhill Crescent Brixworth Northampton NN6 9LN

Planning Matters

Many of you will have seen a number of large-scale planning applications for various types of development on the edge of Brixworth. Planning is a topic that generates a whole load of emotions from those who have had dealings with it – perhaps sometimes more negative than positive. Words like delay, confusion, inconsistency, obstruction, frustration come to mind. It can be frustrating if you are in favour of something which doesn't come to fruition and similarly if you are against it and despite your protestations it goes ahead anyway.

In reality, planning is rarely if ever decided purely on public opinion. Most planning decisions are based on plans and policy that have been developed over many years, and there is a hierarchy to these plans.

At a National level, there is an overarching policy called the National Planning Policy Framework. In our area we have the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Plan, followed by the Daventry District Settlements and Local Plan Part 2. These frameworks provide the backdrop to which all developments must be referenced. Even though we will soon become part of the new West Northamptonshire Council, these plans will stay in effect until 2029. Many areas, including Brixworth, also have a Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statements which informs planning decisions also. The Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2016, after being endorsed by 96% of resident votes.

The purpose of such an approach is to control and shape development in an appropriate and well thought through manner to ensure that communities are engaged in the process and infrastructure is part of the overall picture. These policies are designed to prevent speculative planning applications and to protect green spaces, special landscape areas or certain areas that have 'high sensitivity' to development. These policies are also designed to ensure that any development is sustainable and within the existing boundaries of villages.


Recently there has been a consultation to change the current planning system. Now, it would be fair to say that planning is not without its challenges, and improvements could be made. However, I doubt that what is proposed is the solution to the problem. The main reason is because as a country we are not building enough houses and the blame has been placed with the planning system. However, what those who are proposing this new system of planning have failed to grasp, in my view, is that in the UK currently, we have over one million planning permissions that developers have not built out and 9 out of 10 planning applications get the go ahead. So giving more permissions quickly is not going to improve delivery.

These changes would bring a zoning system which is effectively determined at central government level with little or no local involvement or influence on these. The major change would be that planning is effectively granted at the point of adopting a local plan which will have, at most, two stages of consultation, imposing national design codes, giving non-negotiable housing numbers to build, all of which will take away the ability of local people to have a say at each stage of developments in their area.

Even the role of Neighbourhood Plans is thrown in doubt and Village Design Statements which exist for many of our villages, did not even appear in the proposals. This impacts massively on local participation.

The final area of proposed change would remove the need for developers to build affordable homes on developments of less than 50 homes and remove their requirement for Section 106 Funding which is effectively a contribution made by developers back to local communities to meet their needs to further enhance and improve services and the environment for residents. Without this Brixworth would not have recently benefited from the new Doctors' Surgery.

So, the point of this article? If you have views, get involved. Ask questions of your councillors. Make your voice heard through planning committee meetings at both a Parish and District level. For now, at least, locally you have the opportunity at more than one stage to get involved. – *Cllr Jonathan Harris, Brixworth Ward*



Can an Osteopath help you?

Osteopaths don't just treat back pain – we can help with pain related to pregnancy, pelvic pain, sports injuries, neck pain, recurrent headaches, joint pain, sciatica and other nerve problems. Patients have also found osteopathy helpful for digestive issues, circulatory problems, neuralgia, sleeping problems amongst many others.

Call now to discuss your symptoms with one of our experienced Osteopaths

BRIXWORTH
OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC
PART OF THE APOLLO HEALTH GROUP



No need to wait. You can be seen within 24 hours. Call now or visit to book on-line anytime
www.brixworthosteopathy.com

01604 889241 | info@brixworthosteopathy.com

Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic, Catherine House, Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northants. NN6 9BX

Online Pilates Fitness & Health Studio Paula Edmonds

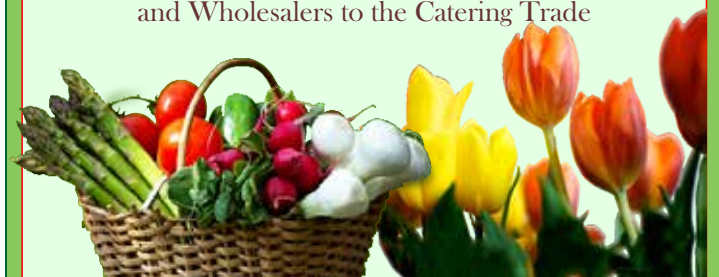
Join me online for £7 a week
Bringing motivation to you

#WomensHealth #Pilates #Strength

Email: paulaedmonds@mac.com

K. F. TROOP & SON

Fish, Fruit, Vegetable & Flower Retailers
and Wholesalers to the Catering Trade



6 Hunters Way, Brixworth, NN6 9EL
Tel: 01604 882366; Mobile: 07885 562130

Proposed Local Services Centre divides opinions

A proposal to build a 'Local Services Centre' on the outskirts of Brixworth next to the cricket club and opposite the new doctor's surgery, has stirred fierce debate among villagers about the size and future of Brixworth.

The proposed mixed use development would include a new shop and pharmacy, two food takeaways, a drive-through coffee outlet, a gym, six office unit and six other non-food retail units. In their planning application, the developers said that the application responds to "demonstrable demand for new commercial and service uses to support the community at Brixworth, and within the hinterland villages." They added they already have a firm proposal from a supermarket to take over the shop at the centre of the site.

The proposal has prompted a range of opinions. A survey carried out by Jonathan Harris, who represents Brixworth on Daventry District Council, showed of 230 respondents by the time we went to press, 58% were against and 42% in favour. The views aired online also reflected a broad range of opinion. Some noted that Brixworth really needs more shops and the parking facilities to go with it. They felt that the proposed site would be more suitable than the controversial suggestion of moving the Co-op to the site of the Red Lion pub, for which a final ruling is still awaited. The idea of having a pharmacy within walking distance of the surgery was also welcomed.

However, there is considerable unease about the size of the proposal and the constant expansion of Brixworth, with many commenting that a development of that size would change the character of Brixworth into a town. People were unhappy about the likely increase in traffic from the A508 and the impact on people in the neighbouring Saxon Rise estate. Others pointed out that the increase in local facilities would make Brixworth a more 'sustainable' location for future housing, meaning that further housing expansions would be more likely to be approved.

The Parish Council's planning committee has objected to the proposal because it is on land outside the village confines which is regarded as highly sensitive to change and is a designated local green space. The objection states that: "If approved, this application will create an unacceptable hard edge to the rural setting and will also alter the setting of the village of Brixworth when travelling from the south. It will create a new out of "town" feel to that part of Brixworth that is counter to the planning policies which promote our village centre on Spratton Road. In contrast, the Spratton Road area is reached by many walkers as it is more central whereas having a new



facility effectively outside of the village, the majority of users are likely to drive."

The proposal is expected to be considered by Daventry District Council's planning committee either in December or early next year.

– Claudia Flavell-White

Lamda Tuition



Qualified (Cert Ed) and experienced tutor (with DBS)

Availability for pupils 13yrs + for tuition in:

Speech * Text * Acting * Verse Speaking

Exams to Gold Medal + Audition Coaching

Lessons 1:2:1 in person and online

07850 0180969

S.E. Wilkinson & Son
Northampton's Oldest Independent Family Funeral Directors
Established 1877

"Large enough to cope, small enough to care"

- 24 hour personal and sincere supervision
- offering 140 years of experience and dedication
- advice and estimates given without obligation
- arrangements at our office or in your own home
- private chapels of rest
- pre-paid funeral plans available







We are proud to be a family owned business offering the complete funeral service to families in Northampton and surrounding areas, maintaining dignity and traditional values.

01604 637852

30 Grove Road Northampton NN1 3LQ

www.wilkinsonfunerals.co.uk info@wilkinsonfunerals.co.uk

"Quietly serving bereaved families with courtesy and respect"

Brixworth Covid 19 Help

Yesterday while in the Co-op another shopper struck up a conversation with me. During the brief chat she confided that she comes to the Co-op, so she can talk to someone, because she is lonely at home, living on her own with no one to talk to and, during lockdown nowhere to go. This short conversation reinforced how important it is to continue to reach out to our neighbours and friends to check how they are, especially during the lockdown.

Our fabulous Street Champions have continued to support their areas in Brixworth, throughout the summer and into the second lockdown. Whilst reports of a vaccine on the horizon is great news, the hard reality is that most will not see it until the middle of next year. As a consequence we know that we still have some way to go to before we are in, what the government are calling, the "new normal".

How are we helping

- We are here to have a chat and to connect. We will bring own tea or coffee to your doorstep, while we are in national lockdown and there are plans afoot to have a spot in the Olive Branch, where there will be a friendly face for people to come and have a brew and a natter with someone, when the national lockdown



Co-op raises cash for mental health

The Brixworth Co-op, led by Steve (left) and his gallant band of volunteers managed to raise over £500 during a sponsored exercise bike ride held in the store. For the month of August, they managed to raise over £2,000 for MIND, the mental health charity.

is over and the Olive Branch is open for business again.

- We are working with the Brixworth Community Food Share, helping them share their pre-cooked meals.
- We continue to help with errands for those that are isolating.

If you need help because you are isolating

or struggling because of Covid-19, please reach out to your Street Champion or the Brixworth Covid 19 Help Group via their Facebook page.

Contacts in the village

- Jonathan 07759 977981
- Christine 07899 845627
- Lisa 07592 690902

Other useful numbers

- For Mental Health Support (Northamptonshire) 0800 448 0828 – available 24/7
- Citizens Advice Northampton 03444 889 629 – normal hours
- Northamptonshire Covid-19 Helpline 0300 126 1000 (Option 5) – normal hours
- COVID-19 Testing: 119 (order a test for home delivery, if you are showing symptoms or find local test center)
- NHS Non-emergency 111 – Lisa



applying technology to security

- ✦ Intruder Alarms
- ✦ CCTV
- ✦ Fire Alarms
- ✦ Access Control
- ✦ Intercoms
- ✦ Monitored Systems

Alarm Installation & Maintenance
Commercial & Domestic

Insurance Company Approved

Brix Secure Ltd 01604 882456
www.brixsecure.co.uk jason@brixsecure.co.uk



info@blasonsgarage.co.uk www.blasonsgarage.co.uk Tel: 01604 880229



A.H. Blason & Son
Automotive Engineers

- Fuel sales
- Class 4 M.O.T
- Servicing
- Repairs

Open Mondays - Saturdays



T&T ROOFING

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

Local personal service, based in Brixworth



01604 889447
07855 051198
07851 726812

Electric charge points proposed for Northampton Road



Charge points for electric vehicles could be installed at one or two sites in Brixworth, under a proposal by the company Liberty Charge which is supported Northampton County Council and funded by Innovate UK – a government-funded non-departmental public body. The proposal suggests installing two 22kW chargers at the layby on Northampton Road, and another one in the layby on Spratton Road. Each charger

Road layby, opposite the shops was already very busy. It suggested moving that charger 'off street' into the Library and Community Centre car park – however that cannot be taken forward at this time as the current scheme is only for on-street charging

Liberty Charge is currently consulting the households around the proposed sites,

could handle two cars at a time, so each location would provide charging facilities for four cars.

Brixworth Parish Council warmly welcomed the proposed chargers on Northampton Road but noted that the Spratton

and there is no specific date for when Brixworth's chargers might be installed, but the Bulletin understands that it will likely be sometime in 2021.

The proposed chargers in Brixworth are part of a wider project to improve the availability of on-street electric charging facilities in Northamptonshire. The availability of on-street charging is seen as a major barrier in the takeup of electric vehicles by people unable to install off-street parking at their homes. The project would see the installation of over 60 charge points across Northamptonshire, with the first ones arriving in November this year.

If you would like to suggest a site for an on-street charge point, you can submit it at northamptonshire-self.test.achieveservice.com/service/Register_your_interest_in_on_street_electric_vehicle_charging. To keep up with the progress of the project, including details on which sites are currently going through the planning progress, visit www.smartmovenorthamptonshire.net/page/electric-vehicles-northamptonshire.

– Claudia Flavell-White

Can you listen to children reading?

The Schoolreaders project urgently needs volunteers to listen to children read in local primary schools. The concern is that during the lockdown earlier this year, thousands of children won't have had enough reading practice. The race is therefore on to make up for lost time.

In a normal year, one in four children leave primary school unable to read well. Most children will have missed a term of school, so the reading gap is now wider. Children who struggle with reading are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed as adults.

Schoolreaders are active across the country, including Brixworth, to support children's reading and prevent them falling further behind. If you want to make a difference to a child's life, apply to become a Schoolreader. No qualifications are needed; just a love of reading and some spare time each week. The process to become a Schoolreader takes a few weeks, so if you think you can help, please apply now at www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form or call 01234 924111 for further information.

BRAMPTON HEATH GOLF CENTRE

- 18 Holes of Golf from £24 per person.
- Lessons delivered by our 2 PGA Professionals - £23 per half hour.
- Golf simulator - £25 per hour.
- Fully stocked Pro-Shop with the latest in golfing fashions.
- Society Packages from £23 per person - 8 players minimum.
- Footgolf from £6 per child and £9 per adult.

For further information call 01604 843939 or email: info@bhgc.co.uk

These boots are made for walking

An interview with Dave Askew, founder of the rapidly growing online community Northamptonshire Walks

Although born and bred in Lincolnshire, one of England's flattest counties, Dave Askew has always loved pulling on his walking boots and heading for the hills. Now a long-time resident of Northamptonshire, he shares his love of walking on his blog and website Northamptonshire Walks, whose corresponding Facebook group has recently seen its membership pass the 6000 mark. Much to his astonishment, Dave was recently named as one of the 'Top 18 Influencers in Northamptonshire' by the Northampton Chronicle & Echo and he is often a guest on BBC Radio Northampton.

Following retirement from a long career in banking and training, the whole venture started out as a humble blog chronicling Dave's local walks with his two Westies; as he always says, 'All I did was go for a walk and put it on a blog', sharing his routes with readers using detailed descriptions and photographs taken along the way. The instructions are easy to follow and full of amusing anecdotes reflecting Dave's sense of humour. If you visit his website www.northamptonshirewalks.co.uk, there are now over 120 walks to choose from, covering



most of the county. Dave's eventual aim, with the help of enthusiastic walker Penny Gasson, is to have every Northamptonshire town and village covered. On the website, the walks

appear in a numbered list but can also be sorted by time and distance or selected from an interactive map.

The very first walk Dave blogged about was Walk No.1 Castle Ashby Circular (6.5 miles); with its combination of stately homes, views, riverside paths and the fascinating church at Whiston, he still believes it to be one of the best in the county and a great starter walk. When pushed to choose his absolute favourite Northamptonshire walk, however, he opted for Walk No.58 Fotheringhay Circular (6 miles), not only for the sense of history amongst the ruins of Fotheringhay Castle, birthplace of Richard III in 1452 and place of execution for Mary Queen of Scots in 1587, but because it also incorporates sections of water meadow along the Nene, other villages with interesting histories, and a watermill.

Dave believes that 'a bit of history or local folklore' is an essential ingredient for a great walk, and it should also include some lovely views, a mixture of terrain, a hidden undiscovered place if possible and, preferably, a good pub or tea room on route. In his opinion, the only essential equipment needed for walking is a pair of comfortable boots (trainers only on the driest of summer days!), a waterproof quick-drying coat (and trousers, if very wet), some water and a snack. This simple, inexpensive list makes walking an activity that all can afford and the comprehensive list of walks on Dave's website has something for everyone, from shorter more accessible routes, such as

BRIXWORTH DENTAL IS NOW RE-OPEN
EMERGENCY | GENERAL | COSMETIC
BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY
01604 880 293 | enquiries@bvdental.co.uk

Walk 25 Abington Park (1.75miles) to the long-distance Jurassic Way and the 51 mile Northamptonshire Round.

It's the Facebook group that makes Northamptonshire Walks so special, though; Dave has succeeded in creating an online community where members can share photographs, reviews of walks they've completed and general advice and recommendations. Pre-Covid, membership stood at about 1,000 but it has seen a 500% increase in the past six months! Local walking has been one of the few activities allowed throughout the lockdown period and many people have been discovering the joys of getting back to nature and appreciating the countryside on their own doorstep. Dave has received numerous grateful messages from people who have joined the group and say it has been 'a lifesaver' during these difficult times. The physical and mental health benefits of regular walking are well documented; but being part of an online walking community adds an extra social dimension, especially at a time when we're not allowed to meet in big groups.

The Northamptonshire Walks website has a section for 'Town and Village Walks' and it's Dave's intention to add Brixworth to that list in the near future by documenting the Blue Plaque walk around the village. Other walks in this area include the following:-

- Walk No.8 Old Village Circular – 8 miles
- Walk No.20 The Bramptons & Brampton Valley Way – 3.5miles
- Walk No.104 Maidwell Circular – 2.5 miles
- Walk No.118 The Lamport Circular – 3.7 miles

One of the most recent additions to the list is Walk No.129 Pitsford Reservoir Circular (6.7 miles), those of us fortunate enough to have this one practically in 'our own backyard' may often take it for granted, but Dave believes that its all-terrain track, natural beauty and wealth of wildlife should not be underestimated.

The website also boasts a section on 'Walks Outside Northamptonshire' which includes the hugely popular Walk No.35 Woburn Circular (8 miles). This is a route which has sections passing through both a Deer Park and the famous Safari Park (although there are moves afoot to try and divert this path); group members who have completed it, proudly post photographs of the wildlife they have encountered on route, both of the indigenous and non-indigenous variety. Dave's personal favourite outside the county is Walk No. 77 The Castleton Circular (9.5 miles) in the Peak District, taking in the two peaks of Lose Hill and Mam Tor and the ridge between them, on 'a fine day' Dave considers this to be 'one of the best ridge walks you'll ever do' – having done that

route myself, I agree. He also photographs and documents walking routes he encounters whilst on holiday abroad. One of his favourite walking countries is South Africa, but his most memorable walk was Walk No.108 Palermo City (4 miles) a foodie stroll around Sicily's capital which included eating quick-boiled octopus!

Dave is clearly well travelled, but it soon

becomes obvious that his real passion is for the natural beauty, fascinating history and variety of countryside to be found in every corner of our own county. As our world continues to be rather restrictive, the people of Northamptonshire can count themselves lucky that Dave Askew has made the task of exploring our own county so easy and enjoyable. Happy trails, everyone!

– Tracey Calnan

Brew Caravan Café- in a field near you!

Betty Brew, a lovingly restored vintage caravan café, finally opened in May 2020. All the events she'd had booked were cancelled due to Covid but then something novel happened during lockdown. People started walking. Previously quiet footpaths, such as the paths from Moulton, Overstone and Holcot, which meet at Rectory Farm just off the A43, became almost busy! The Elliotts, who farm there, suggested that their daughter Sarah open Brew for passing walkers and see what happened.



What happened is that Brew went 'viral' in the local area. The thirty walkers who stopped for coffee and cake that first weekend told their friends, shared photos of Betty on social media and even more people started walking those footpaths in the following weeks.

To be fair Brew had a monopoly at that time as there were very few other places open to get a barista coffee and home baked treat! Brew now has a faithful group of regulars who walk over every weekend, several of whom have said that knowing Betty is there motivates them to get out of the house for a walk. New customers are still arriving at the caravan and at least once every weekend someone finds her by accident. One couple even thought she was a mirage that was brought on by their craving for real coffee!

Brew's mission is to encourage people to get walking in the countryside, help build community and reward all that positive activity with the perfect hot drink and treat. As owner Sarah Elliott says, "My whole business plan was that I will walk for cake and I assumed other people would too!" She was inspired by Clare Balding's book *Walking Home* and the need for a career change. She is overjoyed that Brew has provided an oasis of sunshine in a dark time for people, knowing that walking is good for both physical and mental health.

Brew is open every Saturday and Sunday, currently from 10am-4pm, though times may change as the days get shorter. Sarah says she will keep opening as long as people want to keep walking and has home-made soup on the winter menu! The 'Brew Barn', an ex-cattle shed, has just been cleaned out to provide a shelter from the elements. As it was designed to allow air to circulate for livestock it will hopefully provide a Covid secure environment to enjoy treats from Brew in. The next plan is fire-pits for marshmallow toasting and an alcohol licence for mulled wine and other winter treats!

During the winter there is a small amount of parking available at Rectory Farm, so people can park there in order to start and end their walk at Brew. Sarah advises care turning in off the A43 (opposite the green footpath sign) and to turn left when leaving, turning round at the Holcot-Sywell roundabout if necessary.

Brew is usually open at Rectory Farm but can travel anywhere she's invited! Betty's whereabouts is updated on Facebook and Instagram @brewcaravan, where you can also find maps, directions and photos of the renovation (and the cakes!).

Northampton and Lamport Railway: Grant award, Theft and Santa

Culture Recovery Fund Grant

The Northampton and Lamport Railway is extremely grateful to receive a substantial Government grant to secure its future and help it rebuild going forward.

On 6th October Northampton Steam Railway Ltd (the NLR's operating company) was awarded £46,000 by the Culture Recovery Fund to 'keep us on track' and help cover expenses incurred during 'lockdown' between March and July. Funds will also be used to carry out essential repairs and renewals that were planned for this year but put on hold when our income dried up. Without this funding we faced a real prospect of not being able to run trains anymore because we did not have the resources left to undertake this vital work before deterioration reached a point of becoming a safety issue.

The money will also give the NLR a chance to modernise as a business and diversify by looking at new sources of income so that we can be more resilient in future.

The NLR was unable to open at the start of the season in March because of coronavirus. Our purely volunteer-run line remained shut for five months and began running steam-

hailed train services again in August as part of a phased reopening.

The Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage is part of the £1.57bn rescue package announced by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to safeguard cultural and heritage organisations across the UK from the economic impact of coronavirus. The NLR is one of 445 heritage organisations across the country to receive a lifesaving financial boost to help them through the coronavirus pandemic.

Theft at the NLR

We are very sad to report that at the end of September/early October the NLR has suffered at least two incidents of theft of B4 bogie parts (for those who don't know, 'bogies' are the 4-wheeled trucks that run under our passenger coaches).



The parts were taken from our operational spare bogie sets, which are essential to keep our carriages running if a fault develops.

Due to the amount of work involved in removing these parts, and a need for a car or van to remove them, we believe they are being stolen to order.

Any information, including such items being offered for sale or appearing at another heritage railway with no history attached, would greatly assist us in our search for the culprits. Please email webteam@nlr.org.uk if you can provide any information.

The NLR is run purely by our wonderful volunteers who give their spare time to help preserve our railway heritage. Events like this (unfortunately this is not the first targeted theft we've ever suffered) are extremely disheartening, undermine what we have worked hard to achieve and can cause a major setback in our progress, especially in what is already such an extremely challenging year.

Santa Special

It is approaching that time of year again...!

Bookings are now open for our Santa Specials trains. However, due to the "new normal", we have made some changes to the event to help you safely celebrate Christmas at the Railway.

Unfortunately, we have decided to close the Grotto this year. Instead, Santa will be on the train, riding along greeting and chatting to our passengers as you travel through the Northamptonshire countryside.

Tickets are sold on a 'per table' basis to maintain social distancing, with up to four people from the same family/bubble per table.

For full information and tickets please visit our website at www.nlr.org.uk

Six reasons to choose us to...

...sell your home in Brixworth

1 We are local and understand Brixworth

O'Riordan Bond is the only estate agent with an office in Brixworth - a local office with local knowledge. We believe we sell in the region of 60% of all Brixworth properties each year because of our local knowledge.

2 We advertise your home regularly

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

3 We're open at times to suit you

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

4 Your home will be professionally photographed

Each instruction in Brixworth and the surrounding villages will benefit from FREE IN HOUSE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND FLOOR PLANS.

5 We show your property at it's best

We take time and effort to represent every property in the best possible light. On www.oriordanbond.co.uk you will find floorplans, numerous colour photographs, location maps and printable colour brochures for properties.

6 We get you the best possible price

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

Call our Brixworth office today on 01604 880077

oriordanbond

Brixworth First Responders expand and change name

Brixworth First Responders, volunteers for East Midlands Ambulance Service, have grown a lot over the last few years since we started in 2011 and we now have 6 active responders in Brixworth with others in Spratton, Scaldwell, Walgrave and Naseby, with prospective new responders in Mawsley and Brixworth.



As the group is expanding and moving forward we are changing our name to Rural Northants Community First Responders to enable us to include all the other villages.

We will still be allocated jobs by EMAS but with more responders we will be able to cover a larger area. We are currently fundraising to get our own CFR car in January 2021 and will be looking for support from local businesses.

Anyone interested in joining us please contact our Co-ordination Sandra Cottrell on 07970268288 and she will be in touch.

You can also follow us on Instagram as Rural_northants_cfr, Twitter as @CfrRural or email us on info@ruralnorthantscfr.co.uk

Grants for young people in Brixworth and Scaldwell

Many families have found things challenging during the Covid 19 pandemic. A small cash grant for educational purposes may help those in need during this difficult time.

The Foundation of Thomas Roe provides small cash grants for young people, under 25, 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 10 March 2021 for consideration at the charity's next meeting. This meeting is scheduled for 10 March, where grant applications will be considered.

Introducing Infinity

Situated at the heart of Brixworth, Infinity Fine Jewellery is owned by me, Justin.

I have been in the jewellery industry for 30+ years and I use this to ensure my shop is providing the best service to the people of Brixworth and surrounding areas.

My biggest inspiration will always be my late father whom I had the pleasure to learn from and work alongside in the family business 'Lumbers' for 15 years in Banbury, Oxfordshire. I will always remember my father telling me that "one of the beauties of working in the jewellery industry is that every single day you come to work, you will be seeing and touching something completely and utterly unique... and you will never have a day that was the same as the previous!"

He had the kindest smile and a truly affectionate laugh; everyone was always at ease when discussing jewellery with him. His level of personal service is what I will always strive to offer my clients along with a guaranteed selection of beautiful jewellery and giftware.

When my father sadly passed away in 2003 my wife and I decided to take the leap and move to Australia. I secured an incredible position within the house of Cerrone; a jeweller to the stars, family owned and a business which gave me the perfect platform to extend my knowledge, under the master's eye; Nic Cerrone, he gave me invaluable

education and passion for the jewellery business.

My wife and I returned to the UK and for the past 12 years have built a close relationship of clients privately within Northamptonshire and further afield, as well as still supplying friends and family in Australia and the Far East.

I always wanted to open a retail premises of my own. My goal was to create something very personal, a truly special environment that my clients could relax in as soon as they walked through the door. The location where I am today ticked all the boxes and I was delighted to be able to keep the building as a jewellers, which it previously had been. I transformed the interior and exterior of the building, with a modern, luxury feel in mind. My clients have often said when they enter Infinity Fine it's like stepping into another little beautiful world! Today, the shop is filled with gorgeous British jewellery designs with a variety of price tags. With large overheads, I am able to offer my clients the best price (even better than any high street store) with a guaranteed, unique experience.

The village of Brixworth means a great deal to me and my family, I love how many incredible small businesses we have here at our disposal. I am thrilled to be one of them.

Thank you for taking the time to read more about Infinity Fine Jewellery.

– Justin Gomersall

Infinity Fine Jewellery
Unique pieces to treasure for a lifetime

Located at the heart of Brixworth, Infinity Fine Jewellery offers a beautiful boutique to shop unique jewellery and watches with unrivalled personal service.

Repairs, restoration, cleaning and custom jewellery available

Telephone: 01604 267927
Email: jb@infinityfinejewellery.com
1A Kennel Terrace, Brixworth, Northamptonshire, NN6 9DL

Country Eye

Clodbird & Co – on the way out?

I have written before about the corn bunting. I make no apology for doing so again, for this plain unassuming 'little brown job', in birdwatchers talk, is in real danger of disappearing forever from our countryside. Nor is it alone, for there are a whole suite of species of birds and other wildlife that look set to join it in the race to oblivion. A recent large study from Germany shows us that in recent decades well over half of our wildlife has vanished from our countryside. It is many years since I last heard the scratchy little ditty of the corn bunting, which sounds very like someone jangling a bunch of keys together. This was along Merry Tom Lane where I once heard five of them singing along a few hundreds of yards of overhead phone line.

The odd thing about the corn bunting that I could never figure out was their patchy distribution across the land. Where others could be widely found, it turned up in one place but was missing from large areas that to my human eye looked entirely similar. Obviously they knew something I didn't. Hereabouts, apart from Merry Tom Lane I could rely on finding them in a few places around Pitsford Water, while there was another strong colony at Sywell Country Park, where I once found a winter flock of above fifty birds feeding on a stubble field. I would guess there are not more than fifty in all of Northamptonshire right now. Closer to home I could rely on finding them in the area centred on Tithe Farm at Holcot. I believe all are gone from these places now, although I glean from the county bird reports that they manage to hang on here and here.



In earlier times corn buntings were familiar enough to have earned a few folklore names. Clodbird comes, not for its earthy coloured feathers but for its habit of perching on clods left behind by the plough in the heavier soils. So now you know why clodbird, in my title. In its open field territory it would use any slight prominence as a perch to pour forth its simple song. Often this would be a solitary thistle swaying gently in the summer breeze. Those who have studied its behaviour closely found its breeding behaviour to be much more complex than they imagined. Indeed you may think it makes even the more salacious TV dramas sound quite tame by comparison. It turns out they are polygamous with the male commonly paired with two or more females. One observer in Cornwall reported a male paired with no fewer than seven females. Yet in summary he found it generally 'a boring bird to watch', spending long periods apparently doing nothing. You may think they were very busy indeed whenever his back was turned! But we must remember this is normal behaviour for the corn bunting.

Another disappearing bird is the linnet, a feathered sprite that was ever present on my wayside rambles in former times. A bundle of grey and brown enlivened by its pink breast it seemed I heard its cheerful song every few yards as I went; part of a joyful chorus that included the related greenfinch, goldfinch and chaffinch, along with yellowhammer, whitethroat, dunnoek, cuckoo, robin and wren. From the surrounding fields, especially in damper places the wild calls of the lapwing filled the air as they tumbled seemingly out of control through the sky overhead. From high overhead, a mere dot against the clear blue sky, the cascading silvery notes of the skylark cascaded down.

Just about all of these have gone now or are very much reduced in number. Only in our nature reserves and other such places are they to be found in anything approaching their former abundance. These 'islands' are not enough on their own for long term survival. They need to be linked via the wider countryside. This gradual erosion of our bird and accompanying wildlife populations seems to have happened almost by accident. We need to urgently realise that our apparently uncaring scattergun approach to our surroundings will no longer do. In the end does it all matter? Remind yourselves that, like it or not we, all of us, are still part of nature's fabric. If it unravels much more we are in dire trouble, with the very real chance we go down with it.

The recent endless catalogue of destroying wildfires, floods, ferocious winds, searing droughts that happen with increasing frequency across the globe; together with the ongoing ravages of the current pandemic surely we have the final wakeup call we need. The good news is there is still time, just, to turn things around. I see encouraging signs in the recent TV films by Sir David Attenborough, and the inspiring rise of the young with Fridays for Future and the enigmatic teenager Greta Thunberg. There are many others. I believe there can be a great future for all if only we work together to make it happen. Please live the change we need. – *Brian Webster*



Safely Contained Self Storage

Secure storage container units for all your **business** and **domestic** needs

Drive up location

7 days a week site access

Flexible, affordable storage solutions

Park Farm, Spratton Road, Brixworth, Northampton Nn6 9DS

info@turneypf.co.uk

Tel: 01604 880 237 07731 399885

www.safelycontained.co.uk



Photo by Sean Goodhart

Remembering the Fallen

Like most things, Remembrance Sunday in 2020 was somewhat different. Nevertheless, many Brixworth residents took the opportunity on Sunday 8 November to make their way to the church yard of All Saints in Brixworth to remember and appreciate those who lost their lives in the two world wars, and the sacrifices of the armed forces since.

Standing in neat, socially-distanced lines, of course.

Lampport and Hanging Houghton enjoy a Take-Away Harvest Supper

Unable to meet for the usual convivial evening at the village hall in Maidwell for obvious reasons, the residents of Lampport and Hanging Houghton were determined not to miss out on their annual Harvest Supper.

Organised by Susie Wood – the Masterchef, Margaret Westley and Cathy Dugmore, the villagers enjoyed a take-away. Some people chose to meet in their small groups at home and having made their choices from the menu, the food was delivered ready to serve.

The ladies even managed to co-ordinate the raffle which helped to boost the profits. The evening proved a big success, raising over £800 to support Lampport Church. Everyone was delighted and a good time was had by all.

Many people have asked if it can be repeated, so it looks like the lucky residents of Lampport and Hanging Houghton can look forward to another special delivery in December.

– Cathy Dugmore

Community Foodshare takes off

This autumn has seen the launch of a new initiative in the village. Brixworth Community Foodshare is a joint venture involving The Olive Branch Coffee Shop, the Parish Council and Brixworth Co-op via its Foodshare scheme.

The idea is to use good food that would otherwise end up being wasted, to be cooked and served by Olive Branch volunteers, as free weekly evening meals. Co-ordinator Elaine Coe, has been collecting items since September, mainly from the Co-op, but also given by other village shops. The Parish Council has given the project a grant to enable additional items to be purchased to complete the weekly family meals.

The scheme was extended over the October half-term school holiday to provide free packed lunches for local children who would miss a free meal at school. Again, the volunteers were on hand to prepare the food, but this time, early in the morning!

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of local residents who have provided food and made cakes to help out. Businesses such as The Good Loaf have delivered bread to augment the supplies from the Co-op. Most importantly though, all the families that have so far taken part in the scheme are helping to decrease food waste and improve our local, national and global environment.

If you would like to find out more about the family meals, please contact Elaine Coe on 07771 985867 or get in touch via the Facebook page Brixworth Community Foodshare. If you would like to join the team of volunteers to prepare and serve food on a rota basis, please contact Mike Nice on 880086. – Mike Nice & Elaine Coe

G. HAMSON & SON LTD

PRIVATE, COMMERCIAL & HEAVY MOTOR ENGINEERS



- Vehicle Steam Cleaning
- Air-conditioning Service
- Pre-packed Solid Fuels
- Calor Gas Stockist



Harborough Road Garage, Brixworth, Northants. NN6 9BX
Telephone 01604 881098

Ruth Gillett runs virtual London Marathon for missing friend

Brixworth resident Ruth Gillett was over the moon earlier this year to run in the London Marathon, raising money for the Missing People charity.

Ruth's connection to the charity is via a family friend, Jack Hillsdon, who has been missing since 2012. "Jack is a family friend who I grew up with (our mums have been friends all my life). He went off on his travels on 1st July 2012. He was in Marseille on the 14th July 2012 and there has sadly been no trace of him since. Jack is now 37 and has been missing for 8 years."

Ruth raised almost £4,000 for Missing People, who help families of those with missing loved ones and maintain a 24/7 help line for anyone in need.

While the physical London Marathon, which would have taken place in April this year, had to be cancelled due to Covid, participants were invited to run a 'virtual' marathon in early October in their own local areas. Ruth chose to run with a friend, Earl Barton resident Sarah Lowe, who was raising money for Whizz Kids. Their route took her from Earl's Barton through the centre of Northampton, up through Moulton and Holcot, round the south side of the reservoir and finishing in Brixworth. At the same time, all entries for the 2020 London Marathon have been carried over to 2022, so Ruth will be heading to the city in two years' time to do it all over again.

After completing the virtual London Marathon, she told her friends and supporters: "Thank you to all of you that made our day the most amazing experience ever. I didn't dream we would have so much support and such amazing cheer stations - London 2022 is going to have to up its game to match this!"



Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group

Virtual Carers drop-in

The SSPPG is working with the Practice and Northamptonshire Carers to offer a Virtual Carers drop-in session on Zoom each month. The past few months have been especially difficult for carers.

If you look after someone, you are welcome to join the meeting. They will be held on the first and third Tuesday each month 1.30pm - 2.30pm.

To join the meeting call Northamptonshire Carers on 01933 677837 or 01933 677907 for log-in details.

SSPPG meetings

The bi-monthly SSPPG meetings are now being held on Zoom. The next meeting is on Tuesday 1st December 6.30pm. If you are interested in supporting the work of the practice and would like to join the group, please contact the secretary.

For more information about the SSPPG contact the secretary Barbara Hogg on 01604 880552 or email hoggbc66@gmail.com. There is more information about our meetings and events, on the Saxon Spires website.

Brixworth Home & Hardware



- Fireside products
- Paint
- Timber
- Bulbs
- Watch batteries
- Kitchenware
- Bakeware
- Logs & kindling
- Calor gas & coal
- Dry cleaning, etc.
- Pet snacks
- Bird food

Hunters Way, Spratton Road, Brixworth - 01604 880580
(formerly Lovell Hardware)

PROFESSIONAL TUTORING

MATHS AND ENGLISH
TUTORING FOR
STUDENTS AGED 6 - 16

Kip
McGrath
EDUCATIONCENTRES



Call now for a free assessment on 01604 790844
(Moulton Park, Northampton)

Mighty Magnus Update

It's been a while since we provided an update on Magnus and the amazing fundraising efforts that were underway to support his treatment for High Risk Neuroblastoma, a rare, aggressive childhood cancer. We'd like to now bring you up to date with the progress he has made and let you know that with your help we have managed to achieve our treatment fundraising target.

When we last reported in the Bulletin (March 2019) Magnus was coming towards the end of immunotherapy at the end of his 18 month course of frontline treatment with the NHS. Plans were being put in place for his travel to New York to access a vaccine trial aimed at preventing any relapse of the neuroblastoma. At this time The Mighty Magnus Army had raised £80,000 towards the fundraising target of £225,000 and there was a ways to go.

It is difficult to explain how stressful this time was for our family. Magnus was greatly affected by all the treatment he had received and we awaited on tenterhooks for clear end of treatment scans. Only upon these results would we be able to access this potentially lifesaving treatment and we still had to raise the necessary £150k in the next 3 months.

That we achieved the target and got to New York is due in large part to the people of the village, their generosity, endeavours, connections and sheer persistence for our cause. Furthermore the kindness, support and generosity shown to us as a family, by so many people was just incredible. Our family made it through this troubled time because of this and we will always remain grateful.

We are delighted to report that Magnus has remained cancer free since those scans. He completed the vaccine trial in July, on his fifth visit for treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York. We hope the treatment will protect him for the foreseeable future.

For a 7 year old he soon became a seasoned traveller on the regular visits to Manhattan. Mostly he hated it, the thought of the hospital days too stressful for him to think about. Fortunately we were able to distract him with visits to Central Park and the Microsoft and Nintendo stores where he was able hang out and do what boys his age should be doing. He also grew to love NYC

bookstores where he could buy his favourite graphic novels and Manga books. As you can imagine the trip in July this year was a very different experience from all previous trips.



New York and the airports were deserted, and we had had to visit the USA embassy for special dispensation to travel.

Magnus does not require any further treatment but will continue to be scanned regularly for the next year. He will remain under follow up by oncology services forever due to the intense treatments he has received. We hope he will not experience too many post treatment problems.

He is now back at Brixworth Primary school full time and loving it! He really enjoys learning and socialising with his friends and being able to take part in all the things he has missed out on over the last two years.

This year we also achieved the amazing

amount of £222k in Magnus' account at Solving Kids Cancer, in large part due to the unbelievable fundraising efforts by so many individuals, organisations and businesses of Brixworth. Many, many activities were undertaken including a second Mighty Magnus Fundraising ball, sponsored events, stalls and fitness challenges. We were incredibly fortunate to be adopted by the McManus family pub chain as one of three local charities they wanted to raise funds for to celebrate fifty years in business. This started in January with a cycle challenge in each of the McManus pubs supported by Virgin Active which raised several thousand pounds for each of the charities. Sadly due to the impact of Covid the further planned events by the McManus family have had to be postponed but the money already raised will take the fundraising pot above the original target. All monies raised are held by Solving Kids Cancer. Any monies raised that have

not been spent on accessing the vaccine will be held for the next four years to be used for Magnus should he need further treatment. After this time any monies will be used to support other children.

2020 has been such a difficult year for everyone. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community and the NHS for their unwavering support and kindness over the last three years. We feel sure that the community will continue to show the same support they gave to our family to each other in the months ahead, and that in 2021 things will start to improve.

Wishing you all a Peaceful Christmas and New Year. – Kate and Sandy Dixon

Taste the true flavours of Indian, Bangladeshi and British Asian cooking cultures

OPENING HOURS
7 days a week
including bank holidays
Mons - Sats 5 -11pm
Sundays 5 -10pm

Takeaway and deliveries

8 Whitehills Crescent
Northampton, NN2 8EP
t: 01604 844244 / 843500
e: info@lasaan.co.uk
www.lasaan.co.uk



Brix & Mortar

Last few weeks to take advantage of Stamp Duty holiday

The chancellor's policy, earlier this year, of suspending of stamp duty on the first £500,000 of all property sales in England and Northern Ireland has not just increased sales numbers but also helped boost house prices. August saw the highest monthly price rise in more than 16 years, says the Nationwide. It describes the housing market recovery as "unexpectedly rapid".

What is stamp duty?

Stamp duty is a tax paid by people buying properties, although it varies slightly across the UK. In England and Northern Ireland buyers pay Stamp Duty Land Tax. In Scotland it is Land and Buildings Transaction Tax, while in Wales buyers pay Land Transaction Tax. The amount handed to the government depends on where you are in the UK, and the

price of the property. The recent changes to stamp duty only apply to buyers in England and Northern Ireland.

What has changed?

The government has temporarily increased the stamp duty threshold to £500,000 for property sales in England and Northern Ireland, until 31 March 2021. Anyone completing on a main residence costing up to £500,000 before then will not pay any stamp duty, and more expensive properties will only be taxed on their value above that amount. This will save buyers as much as £15,000, if they are buying a property of £500,000 or more.

The move was aimed at helping buyers who have taken a financial hit because of the coronavirus crisis. It was also intended

to boost a property market hit by lockdown, which according to the Halifax, saw house prices fall for four months in a row. The average stamp duty bill will drop by £4,500, Mr Sunak has suggested, with nearly nine out of 10 people buying a main home this year paying no stamp duty at all. However, critics worry it could encourage people who were planning to buy next year to accelerate their plans to take advantage of the tax break. This could lead to a slump in demand when the tax break ends.

The positive and negative effect on transaction levels

It is clear that the stamp duty holiday has had a positive effect on the number of transactions. However, the speed at which the market recovered from the slumber of lockdown has taken the housing industry by surprise. The three elements that make up the housing transaction are conveyancers, mortgage providers and estate agents. Estate agents were one of the first industries to come out of lockdown back in mid-May and, although operating in a covid-safe way, have been able to pretty much get back to normal. Unfortunately, pre-lockdown, the conveyancing and lending process was already under pressure and often taking up to four months to go from sold subject to contract through to exchange. With the added elements of higher volume, stricter lending criteria and home working, there is a concern that many buyers, if leaving a purchase until after Christmas, will not be able to hit the end of March deadline. – *Stuart Little*



Thinking of buying or selling in Brixworth?

HOMES URGENTLY REQUIRED IN YOUR AREA

call **Stuart**, your local property specialist, on

01604 616886

stuart.little@horts.co.uk

view all our properties online www.horts.co.uk

Your local property consultant

stuart little



T&T PLUMBING

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

Local personal service, based in Brixworth



📞 **01604 889447**

📞 **07855 051198**

📞 **07851 726812**

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts are immensely grateful for the support from our scouts and parents helping to us to keep things going. To add to the COVID situation, our regular meeting place at the Centre sustained fire damage at the beginning of September, and we are unable to return there until the hall has been repaired.

Everything has been impacted and we have followed National Scouting guidelines to keep our leaders and scouts safe, which combined with nowhere to meet, has frustrated leaders and scouts. Even the Remembrance parade was affected as we could only have a restricted number of scouts and leaders in attendance.

Sadly, the county's scouting groups have struggled to return to regular meetings. Across the county groups almost 300 leaders or parent helpers have stepped down, impacting the ability to restart. In Daventry District, only 7 out of the 19 Daventry groups are full functioning, but over 50% are still unable to reopen.

Three Brixworth & Scaldwell leaders have stepped down over the summer and the COVID guidance affects the scout-to-leader ratios. Going forward, we will need leaders and parent helpers in order to return to full strength. Please let me know if you would like to join as a leader (brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com).

As the weather changes, the autumn term is the time of year when we would typically return to indoor activities, however without a venue our options have been very restricted. Consequently, we are unable re-open until January 2021. We will notify everyone once we start planning to resume sessions.

– Bob Pickles

History Society update

Once again, I am the bearer of bad news, with the October, November and December meetings of the Brixworth History all being cancelled. They have all been carried over to 2021, in the hope of better times.

Some October dates from history.

October 732, at the Battle of Tours, the Arab advance into North West France was halted (I never knew they got that far)

October 1216 at Newark, King John died at Hewark after he lost his treasure crossing the marshes of the Wash.

October 1929 the American economy comes crashing down as Wall Street collapses. Don't suppose that cheers you up! – Chris Knowles, Secretary, Brixworth History Society

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.

The cycling group have had two enjoyable outings in the last two months. The first being a 28-mile ride as storm Francis subsided. They had to negotiate a fallen tree as well as a puncture and a bike chain coming off. Despite the problems it was a very pleasant ride. The photo is of an Autumn ride, which included a visit to the Naseby battle site at Fairfax View and gave everyone an opportunity to look at the battle site's story board at Naseby. The 20-mile route took in surrounding villages. In the hazy sunshine the views were truly spectacular.



Some members of the Garden Group opened their gardens for members of the group to visit. These were timed entries so as to comply with Covid19 restrictions on numbers meeting outside. It was a great way of meeting up with other members and catching up on all the gossip! It is hoped in the new year that speakers can be found to entertain the garden group members via Zoom.

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 committee are meeting via Zoom and the monthly meeting with speakers are also being held via Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month. The AGM will also be held via Zoom with members being able to join in.

Further information on the u3a and interest groups can be found on our website www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth. – Judy Smith

CHAMBERS

High Class Family Butchers



Christmas Fare

Fresh locally reared Free Range Turkeys
Free Range Geese
Top Quality Beef & Lamb
Free Range Pork
Home Cooked Pork Pies

Christmas Specials
Meat Hampers



105 Northampton Road, Brixworth
01604 880226

Brixworth Music Festival – planning for the future

I recently came back from a short holiday in Norfolk where I visited the small town of Mundesley. Although still October the seafront part of the town seemed like the typical seaside ‘ghost town’ that one associates with the middle of winter. The place was dead, souvenir shops and cafes shuttered up; the town seemed to have turned in on itself. I found it incredibly sad and it made me think of our Brixworth Music Festival. At this time of year I would normally be writing about the success of the Brixworth Music Festival 2020, our very own festival which had always brimmed over with life and new ideas.

But we all know about the devastating effects the Covid virus has had on the arts and community events. The Brixworth Music Festival is just one more casualty, and many of our regular performers are now struggling to survive.

The festival we had planned for May 2020 would have been one of our most ambitious yet, a veritable feast of music, involving musicians from the most diverse range imaginable. Amateurs and professionals working side by side, with styles of music ranging from the 16th century to the avant-garde, classical music to light entertainment. We had planned concerts of chamber, choral and orchestral music, featuring not only the Brixworth Festival Orchestra (founded and conducted by our patron, Peter Dunkley) which was preparing to celebrate Beethoven’s 250th anniversary, but also including our newly formed Brixworth Festival Choir (conducted by Graham Tear) which was getting ready to celebrate VE Day on the opening night of the festival. Graham Tear has been one of our most important contributors to the festival, not only as a conductor but also as a superb flute player.



Back when we could still do this: The Brixworth Festival Orchestra, conducted by Peter Dunkley, in 2019. Photo by Chloe Willson Thomas

Reverend Chloe Willson-Thomas and her husband Gwion were co-founders of the festival and helped me get it off the ground in 2014. But they have now left Brixworth, for Chloe to take up a new post in Berkshire. While wishing them both well, this has also been a tremendous loss. Together, Gwion and I were joint artistic directors, and both he and Chloe made a great contribution as professional singers. I wrote a duet for them both – Sweet Te Deums – which they performed exquisitely, and my Brixworth Bell Prayer for soprano and choir was also dedicated to Chloe.

Now that Gwion Thomas has stepped down as joint artistic director I am pleased to announce that early music specialist and Brixworth resident, Sarah Small, will be taking over from Gwion. Sarah has been a regular performer at our festivals, both as a virtuoso soloist on the viola da gamba and together with her own early music ensembles. I am very much looking forward to working together with her.

As well as offering performing artists a platform, the festival also gave composers an opportunity to have their works performed. And with our international competition for women composers we could redress the balance and draw attention to the fact that women composers have largely been ignored throughout history. We were very honoured to have Judith Weir, Master of the Queen’s music, as part of the jury. After inviting her to the festival in 2015 Judith has remained a firm supporter of the Brixworth Music Festival. The competition attracted attention from all over the world – including Europe, China and Australia – and this year’s winner from London, Florence Maunders, would have had her organ piece performed by Ian Clarke on the newly refurbished organ of All Saints Church. The generous anonymous donation of a new grand piano for the church raised yet further possibilities. Our resident pianist, Oksana King, had bravely fought with the limitations of the extremely old piano that had been standing in the church for decades, but we now have a brand new Kawai piano that is waiting to be played.

Many other local musicians have made regular and outstanding contributions to the festival. Our Evenings of Poetry and Song had become a popular feature, with singer Kay Soteriou and writer and broadcaster, David Saint (both of whom founded the ensemble Muse and Music), composer Stuart Cooper, young gifted singer Sam Pickles, and poet Roger Brandon Jones. The Swarbrick Singers (conductor Ian Clarke) and Fiori Musicali (conductor Penelope Rapson) contributed to the many choral performances on offer, and most years the festival included local brass bands and ensembles for musical theatre. The morning service of the last Sunday of the festival was always followed by a concert with the U3A Brixworth Songsters and many younger local musicians. And it was through the festival that the very popular John Clare Wind Quintet came into being, performing each year with



Professional & Affordable

Phone: 07368 929873 Email: dw.plumbing@outlook.com

- Bathroom installation/ renovation
- Kitchens
- Power flushing
- Heating installation/ upgrade
- Under floor heating
- Leaks & blockages
- 24/7 emergency call out
- Maintenance
- Guttering

programmes that included music ranging from light entertainment to the avant garde.

But while being mainly a community event, we were nevertheless happy to branch out and invite professional performers from farther afield, notably the Tedesca String Quartet (Birmingham), the ensemble for new music, Rarescale (London), and this year we had also invited Frances Lynch from the Electric Voice Theatre (London). Frances had been working on a programme about notable women from the Northamptonshire area and had created a new work about Brixworth Country Park. And among our international guests was a colleague of mine from Nuremberg, the accordion virtuoso Irene Urbach who astounded the audience with a colourful recital of works ranging from popular to contemporary classical music. Most people in the audience had never heard the accordion played as a serious solo instrument before.

For those of you who are interested in learning more about the festival's history and the music performed our indefatigable website and publicity manager, Emily Curtis, has kept an excellent up-to-date Facebook page which is full of information, write-ups and photographs. Just go onto www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk and follow the Facebook link.

The musicians are, of course, the visible (and audible!) aspect of any music festival. But behind the scenes there is a huge amount of organizing. Without a team of dedicated workers, the Brixworth Music Festival could never have taken place. In addition to Emily Curtis I should also like to mention other members of the committee who have helped to make the festival such as success, notably Dr. Stan Evans, our treasurer, and Annie Curtis who was in charge of the catering. She and her team worked hard to make each concert an event that gave the audience and performers a chance to get together and chat over a cup of tea or a glass of wine. Churchwarden, Vanessa Crooks, has also been of invaluable assistance, working away quietly in the background and always there whenever we needed her. And of course we mustn't forget the bell ringers of All Saints Church who rang in the beginning of the festival each year!

Does the festival have a future?

One possibility of trying to adapt to the new circumstances would be to perhaps stage a smaller version of the festival next year, possibly a Brixworth Chamber Music Festival, involving small groups of performers and soloists. Audiences would have to obey social distancing rules and therefore be reduced in size. Shorter concerts could be repeated so that no-one misses out due to the limited numbers allowed to attend. And while the Church of All Saints could still be a focal point – providing the new Interim Rector is agreeable – it might also be possible to use other venues. Open air, garden or courtyard concerts with limited seating could provide enough space for audiences. (At the time of writing, the new Interim Rector of All Saints, David Reith, is still to be inducted.)

Unfortunately, in the wake of the Covid virus restrictions, various committee members of the Brixworth Music Festival have stepped down, and I am now appealing to the community of Brixworth in the hope that we can form a new committee. Roles that urgently need to be filled are those of Treasurer, Publicity Manager and Fundraising Manager. It has always been a policy of the festival to address all issues of diversity and any ideas are always very welcome. If you are interested in either becoming a new committee member or have any new ideas, then please write to me at volvecomp@aol.com.

Meanwhile, I shall remain optimistic and hope that we can meet again in the not too distant future and once more enjoy listening and performing music together. I shall close by quoting from Judith Weir's blog from May 18th 2020:

Knowing the endless arrangements that go into an annual festival, I thought with particular sympathy about Brixworth's cancellations last week... Let's hope our wonderful country festivals will be refreshed by their year off, and come back to astonish us again in 2021.

Please keep well and stay safe. And – newsflash – keep a lookout for Sarah Small and her ensemble who may be able to treat us to a concert before Christmas. – *Vivienne Olive, Joint Artistic Director, Brixworth Music Festival*

Call us to arrange a visit!

- Large nursery garden
- Access to 600 acres of farmland
- Fun farm activities...
collecting eggs, picking fruit, watching chicks hatch, feeding the lambs and cows

Open 7.30am – 6pm
5 days a week
51 weeks of the year

Welcomes children from 3 months

Sunny Socks
NURSERY SCHOOLS LTD

Sunny Socks Nursery School, Brixworth

01604 882155

brixworth@sunnysocks.co.uk // www.sunnysocks.co.uk // Facebook @SunnysocksBrixworthNursery

C | M
COX MINHAS
SOLICITORS & MEDIATORS

Catherine House
Harborough Road
Brixworth
Northampton
NN6 9BX

Buying or selling a house?
Get a conveyancer you can trust!

We're a local friendly firm of solicitors based in Brixworth Village,
it's easy to pop in to see us!

"We recently engaged Cox Minhas in the sale and purchase of our properties. We found them to be both thorough and knowledgeable. They guided us through the process in a friendly and supportive manner, always keeping us in the loop and explaining everything in a way that meant we actually understood! Sanj was always at the end of the phone if we needed her and she was happy to give advice that wasn't even that relevant to the purchase! They worked to our timelines and made sure we were all moved in time for Christmas." Sophie and Rob

Christopher Cox
Saranjit (Sanj) Minhas
Amelia Sacarello Goddard

Call us now on 01604 973977 and we'll get you moving!

COX MINHAS & CO Limited company number 10570646.
A body authorised by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority. SRA number 636407



Sparks fly behind Kimi Raikkonen of Finland driving the (7) Alfa Romeo Racing C38 Ferrari on track during practice for the F1 Grand Prix of China at Shanghai International Circuit.
Photo by Clive Mason/Getty Images

Inside the Formula One Covid Bubble

... and other stories from award-winning sports photographer and Brixworth resident, Clive Mason

Clive Mason's earliest memory of taking a photograph was on the island of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic where his father, a keen amateur photographer, had been posted. At seven years old, he took a photograph with his father's camera of Jonathan the Giant Tortoise (at 188 he's thought to be the oldest known living terrestrial animal), and Clive still recalls the excitement of watching that image being developed. By the age of thirteen, he had his own darkroom set up at home and was a keen schoolboy photographer.

After leaving school, a chance meeting with the deputy editor of the Northampton Chronicle and Echo led to him being given a roll of film (an expensive item at the time) to 'show what he could do'. This resulted in the Chronicle publishing some of his photographs and, with the optimism and naivety of youth, he soon headed off to London to freelance and make his fortune as a professional photographer. After finding himself sleeping on friends' sofas and surviving on a diet of sugar puffs, he returned home and was lucky enough to be taken on as a staff photographer at the Chronicle. Fortunately for Clive, none of the other staff particularly enjoyed being sent to photograph sporting events, so he soon found himself at cricket matches and Cobblers' games, camera around his neck, developing an enduring passion for sports photography.



Chris Atkinson of Australia and Subaru World Rally Team in action during stage 9 of the Wales Rally GB
Photo by Clive Mason/Getty Images

By 1994, Clive was back in London working for Allsport, later taken over by Getty Images, for whom he has worked since. To this day, Clive still enjoys the thrill and challenge of capturing motion in a single still image. He finds sailing the most rewarding sport to

photograph and has covered the last four Olympic sailing regattas. He says that whilst it's 'a huge challenge being out on the water all day with expensive specialist equipment', the sea, sky and wind are an intoxicating mix for a photographer. He has particularly



Flat out: Paul Darmanin and Karma Randall in action in their Nacra 17 in Middle Harbour, Sydney. Photo by Clive Mason/Getty Images for Nikon

treasured memories of the 2016 Rio Olympics with Christ the Redeemer and Copacabana Beach forming a backdrop to the sailing. Clive has also photographed the downhill skiing events at a number of Winter Olympics, which is also challenging as the skier's approach is so fast and silent, the photographer can never be sure when they will appear and has to be constantly at the ready.

During the strange year of 2020, Clive has been the official Getty Images photographer for the Formula 1 Grand Prix. For him, fast cars are extremely photogenic, and he loves capturing the speed and light during a race. This year has been somewhat different, however, with only 20 photographers being allowed to attend each Grand Prix as opposed to the 110-120 who would normally be there. Each photographer has been put into a 'bubble' and Clive is part of the F1 'track bubble', whilst others might be assigned to the garages or paddock area. Everyone involved has to undergo a Covid test twice a week and socially distance wherever possible.

Most of this year's races have been limited to European circuits and Clive was disappointed to miss out on the Japanese Grand Prix as, being such a unique track and setting, this is one of his favourites to photograph. He was also disappointed not to get to photograph the Tokyo Olympics and fears that the 2021 rescheduled event, if it happens, may be a very scaled down affair.

When asked if there are any sporting events on his wish list that he has yet to cover, Clive said that he would love to have a photographic assignment in Vietnam, one

of the few countries he has yet to visit. He is also interested in the fact that the 2024 Paris Olympics is to include surfing as an event for the first time which is due to be held in Tahiti in French Polynesia. Clive is quick to acknowledge, however, that he has been very fortunate to have attended so many prestigious sporting events and to have made a successful career out of his passion for photography.

For any young, aspiring photographers out there, Clive believes that, whilst cameras and equipment have improved considerably, the pressures are now far greater; the advent of digital photography has led to clients having

far greater expectations and a desire for immediate results to feed the insatiable thirst of social media. For Clive, however, the quest for capturing that perfect moment of motion in a sport still requires practice and patience, and he never tires of rising to that challenge. The results of his talent and commitment are apparent in his many published photographs and the numerous awards he has won during his career.

For more information and to see some of Clive's amazing photos of the 2020 Formula One season, please visit www.clivemason.com. – Tracey Calnan

The man behind the lens: shot on assignment for Nikon in Middle Harbour, Sydney. Photo by Corey Rich for Nikon



Planning update

What's on

DA/2020/0454 Oak Gates 2, High Street, Brixworth Works to trees in a conservation area	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/0391 88A, Northampton Road, Brixworth Conversion of loft space by increasing height of building and installation of dormer windows	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/0360 20, Waterlee Furlong, Brixworth First floor extension over existing garage	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/0294 2, The Croft, Brixworth Single storey front extension	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2018/0565 Land Adjacent To Brixworth Country Park Change of use from agricultural land for the purposes of a touring caravan site	BPC objected DDC refused
PD/2020/0038 Jubilee Farm, Brixworth Road, Spratton Construction of agricultural building for storage of straw	DDC prior approval not required
DA/2020/0342 14, Newlands, Brixworth Construction of summerhouse in rear garden	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2019/0144 Land To The West Of Mercedes Avenue, Brixworth Outline application with main point of access included for development to provide commercial floorspace for Class B1b, B1c, B2 & B8 employment uses	PC objected DDC refused
DA/2020/0564 19, The Ashway, Brixworth Two storey front and side extension	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/0522 Ilmor Engineering Ltd, Quarry Road, Brixworth Replacement of temporary battery energy storage units with permanent battery energy storage system.	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/0497 Orchard Lodge, Silver Street, Brixworth Decking and outbuilding to rear of property (retrospective)	BPC observations made DDC approved
DA/2020/0463 Land Off Pitsford Road, Chapel Brampton Formation of agricultural track; provision of hard surface to existing agricultural track.	BPC supported DDC refused
DA/2020/0436 The Old Bakehouse 4, Kennel Terrace, Brixworth Demolition of three existing garages and construction of new office (Revised scheme to include enlarged basement office)	BPC supported DDC approved

5-6 Dec	Santa Specials 2020	N'pton & Lamport Railway
7 Dec	Natural Minds	Brixworth Country Park
7 Dec	Brixworth PC Planning	Virtual Meeting
11 Dec	Health Walk	Brixworth Country Park
12-13 Dec	Santa Specials 2020	N'pton & Lamport Railway
17 Dec	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting
18 Dec	Health Walk	Brixworth Country Park
19-20 Dec	Santa Specials 2020	N'pton & Lamport Railway
27-28 Dec	Special Event	N'pton & Lamport Railway
4 Jan 2021	Natural Minds	Brixworth Country Park
4 Jan	Brixworth PC Planning	Virtual Meeting
14 Jan	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting
20 Jan	Lamport & HH Parish Council	Check notice board
25 Jan	Brixworth PC Planning	Virtual Meeting
28 Jan	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting
1 Feb	Natural Minds	Country Park
15 Feb	Brixworth PC Planning	Virtual Meeting
25 Feb	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting
1 March	Natural Minds	Country Park
8 March	Brixworth PC Planning	Virtual Meeting
17 March	Lamport & HH Parish Council	Check notice board



This page is sponsored by

your local property consultant

stuart little

Tel: 01604 616886 Fax: 01604 639955 Mobile: 07970 251814 Web: www.horts.co.uk



Scaldwell installs new defibrillator

Scaldwell Parish Council are pleased to announce that they have recently completed the purchase and installation of a new defibrillator machine. It can be found inside the telephone kiosk on the central green in the village.



The location was chosen for its access to anyone in the village, being less than two minutes away from the main residential areas.



The kiosk itself will also benefit from an uplift over the coming months.

Scaldwell now has two publicly accessible defibrillators – the second one can be found by the main front door of Stabilised

Pavements Ltd located at the top end of the High Street.

– Phil Purcell



Annual Bulb Planting

This Autumn's Bulb Planting Afternoon was a great family event with well over 30 villagers of assorted ages joining in. We managed to socially distance whilst planting a huge number of daffodils in the verges along Harborough Road between the Coach and Horses and the China Garden. Once again, the Parish Council paid for the bulbs.

Watch for the results next Spring. – Mike Nice

Brixworth Photographic Society

As you can imagine, Brixworth Photographic Society cannot hold the ever popular Christmas Portrait Sessions this year. We will endeavour to arrange some sessions next year, COVID permitting, when the weather is improved and we can arrange outdoor shoots.

Brixworth 2021 Calendar

The Brixworth 2021 Calendar will be available from the end of November and will include all the images from the BPS/BB photo competition held earlier in the year, not just the winners and runners-up. Available from all the usual outlets, usual price of £5.00, and as previously, all money raised will go to a local charity.

computer doctors



- Laptop Screens Replaced
- Windows Not Starting
- Wireless Network Setup
- Mac Repairs
- Virus and Malware Removal
- Remote Repairs by Appointment

For Free Advice on Your Computer Problem

Tel 01604 411444

Free Collection & Delivery Service Available

www.computerdoctors.co.uk



All Saints', Brixworth

Good News for our Community

www.brixworthchurch.org

New Beginnings: meet the new vicar!

After a slight delay, we've finally moved into Brixworth and begun ministry here. I come with my wife, Leah; our now 8-month-old daughter, Hannah; and our Labrador, Paxton.



Obviously this is a strange time to start a new role, especially one that's so people-focused. I really enjoy meeting people and getting to know them and, while technology has allowed this to continue (to a certain extent), I much prefer face-to-face interactions. This second lockdown is another bump in the road, but I'm really keen to get back to weekly live services as soon as possible. If you are able to come along and say 'hello', that would be lovely.

When Reverend Chloe moved away, back in Spring, the Coronavirus pandemic was just beginning, but the expectation was that it would soon be over. I am writing this many months later but, if anything, the end feels further away. Our hopes have been raised that there might be a vaccine on the horizon, but it may well be some time yet before things return to 'normal'.

We've all had to learn to do things differently, and our church is no different. We're still working out what church will look like for the next few months, but if you need anything from us, or would like to talk, I'd be very happy to hear from you. I look forward to getting to know many of you in the years to come.

David Reith, revdavidreith@gmail.com, 01604 880 139

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was sad that we couldn't meet all together on Remembrance Sunday, but we are so grateful to those who created the poppy display, and those who helped put together the online act of remembrance. Thank you!



Christmas Tree Festival 2020

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th December

Subject to there being no new restrictions that prevent it being held, this year our Christmas Tree Festival will have trees spread all round the outside of the church, spaced apart to light up the churchyard for two dark December evenings.

1

TREES MAY BE WITH OR WITHOUT POTS. THEY CAN BE TIED TO STAKES (PROVIDED), OR ANCHORED WITH GUY LINES.

2

TREES CAN BE SMALL OR LARGE, REAL, ARTIFICIAL, OR CREATED FROM YOUR IMAGINATION.

3

WE HOPE TO GET AS MANY TREES AS POSSIBLE, BOTH FROM ORGANISATIONS, AND FROM INDIVIDUALS.

Trees should be brought and decorated on the Saturday afternoon ready for a grand socially distanced switch on at 4.00 pm. The lights will be switched off at 6.00 pm, leaving the trees to allow daytime visits on the Sunday. After another lit evening from 4.00 till 6.00, the festival will end with a word from David, our new vicar, and the church floodlights will be put on to facilitate the removal of trees.

Visitors to the festival will be expected to keep to their social bubble and distanced from others, and adults and older children are asked to wear masks on the site.

“There will be no charge either for bringing a tree or for entry, but donations will be accepted for local charities and church work.”

We have a few places where it is possible to provide mains power, first come first served, and weather permitting, but we hope most trees will be independent, and have the battery powered lights now readily available, and maybe the group or person's name illuminated in some way.

We do hope you, and or your organisation, will want to take part in this. Unlike inside the church where space is limited, outside it's the more the merrier!

For further details, ring Roger on 01604 307 614, or Vanessa on 01604 882 058.

...AND CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE STUFF HAPPENING THIS CHRISTMAS! —>

HOW TO JOIN IN



Sunday, 10:30am

We might not be allowed to meet inside or outside to worship at the moment, but we will still provide a service online each week.



Thurs, 7:15pm

We are meeting each Thursday night for a time of fellowship, prayer and praise.



**Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!**

Find links at...

**www.
brixworth
church
.org**



Chairman's Chat

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

Grants Applications

Apply for a grant for your community group.

BPC meets the Co-op

Outcome of discussions with representatives from the Co-op.

Bulbs, Benches and Wildflowers

Update on our work in the local environment.

Following the Rules

Protecting our community during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Chairman's Chat

As we prepare to enter the New Year it is worth reminding everyone of the forthcoming changes to the local structure from April next year. Northamptonshire County Council will be split into two Unitary Authorities, North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire. West Northamptonshire will comprise of Northampton, South Northants District Council and Daventry District Council, of which Brixworth is part.

Over the coming months more details will be released on the structure concerning Planning and Highways, Social Care will be administered by a Trust which will be funded by both Unitaries. As details are released these will be shared on our social media platforms.

Finally, from our socially distanced Remembrance Sunday through to the festive season, it seems timely to remind everyone to follow the current Government rules and advisories covering the meeting of families and friends.



Grants Applications—Brixworth Community Food Share Group

Each year Brixworth Parish Council allocates a proportion of its precept to community grants.



A successful grant application processed in August was for the new Brixworth Community Food Share Group. This is a newly established organisation that wants to save food from being wasted in landfill by making a meal to share in the community. This is a new project with a partnership between the Olive Branch, community volunteers, the Parish Council and the Brixworth Co-op.

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/>

PARISH COUNCIL



Brixworth Parish Council Meets up with the Co-op

Brixworth Parish Council (BPC) has been proactively trying to find a solution to the proposed redevelopment of the Red Lion. As residents know, the Co-op has acquired the property in the hope of converting the 1920s public house into a small supermarket. This has been met by significant opposition by the Parish Council, Daventry District Council planners, Northamptonshire County Council Highways and many residents due to the location being within the Conservation Area and the potential danger of locating car access onto a main road.

District Councillor Jonathan Harris has been instrumental in communicating with the Co-op's Acquisition and Development Manager, Tony Hind, who agreed to meet with Jonathan, BPC and a representative of the resident's group who have opposed the development on this site.

The discussions included:

- Our concerns about highways safety;
- Whether there would be an alternative site for car-parking;
- The lack of car park spaces on the site;
- Whether the design of the building was conducive to a Conservation Area.



This application has been turned down twice but the Co-op are appealing for the second time. The Parish Council, District Councillors and Brixworth residents have done everything in their power to oppose this development and now it will be heard by the Planning Inspectorate who is employed by the Secretary of State to make the final decision. This should happen before Christmas.

Environmental Issues

“I’ve been following all the rules, but my neighbours haven’t.”

We can all be very quick to criticise others in our community and call them out for behaviour that we believe is breaking the measures in place to protect our community.

As we have been recently reminded, many of these lockdown measures are guidelines and to some extent rely on people’s judgment. The guidelines are also being updated frequently. We may be tempted to falsely accuse someone of breaking the rules when we ourselves are not clear.

Rules such as the “rule of six” mean that – apart from a set of limited exemptions including work and education – any social gatherings of more than six people will be against the law. It may be better to check that you are sure of what is happening before dialling 999.

The situation is changing all the time– from lockdown, to the “rule of six”, back to lockdown and a possible vaccine. Check out <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing> to keep up to date with current guidance.

You can report a possible breach of coronavirus measures to Northants Police <https://www.northants.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/c19/tell-us-about-possible-breach-coronavirus-measures/> but before you do you might want to take a deep breath, count to ten, and ask yourself some questions :

- Is it an emergency?
- Is there a threat to life?
(including road traffic incidents where someone is injured or the road is blocked)
- Does it feel like the situation could get heated or violent very soon?
- Is there a risk of serious damage to property?
- Is a serious offence in progress?
- Is there a serious disruption to the public?

Bulbs, Benches and Wildflowers

The Parish Council has a long standing programme of planting throughout the village, choosing an area and planting it with flowers every year. To date, the roundabout at the Ashway junction, several of the verges and the village name signs as you enter and leave the village have been planted with a variety of plants and wildflower seeds.

This year the Parish Council has chosen the area of common land outside the Village Hall. The bench is to be refurbished and a hard standing put in place with wildflowers planted behind it. The flowers not only look beautiful, they also provide food for the declining bee and insect population in the form of leaves, nectar and pollen. Alongside this they can provide places for insects to shelter and breed. During the winter months the wildflower seeds are an important food source for birds and small mammals. The Parish Council also supports the annual bulb planting programme. This coming spring and summer we look forward once again to Brixworth in bloom!



New Member of Staff at Parish Council

The Parish Council has moved to tackle its ever-growing workload and also to meet expectations of a developing community.

To meet these demands the Parish Council had recently advertised an 8 hour per week part-time post to assist the Parish Clerk to ensure the smooth running of the Council. The Parish Clerk works 30 hours per week and amongst other things ensures that our business is delivered lawfully and that the Council's decisions are implemented.

The recruitment process has been completed and an appointment is being processed. The role is based at the Brixworth Community Centre & Library although some working from home will be required during the current COVID-19 restrictions within the workplace.

The skills we required included being a good communicator with an ability to deal with a wide range of people with both diplomacy and tact. IT skills are always essential as we extensively use the Microsoft range of products including Word, Excel, Publisher and Outlook.

The Parish Council serves an estimated population of 5910 (4,288 electors) with an annual budget of £196k.

In addition to the day to day workload the Parish Council has a number of key projects in the pipeline.

The successful candidate is expected to start work with the Parish Council in the new role by December.



Full Council (Thursdays): 26 Nov, 17 Dec, 28 Jan 2021, 25 Feb

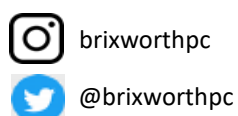
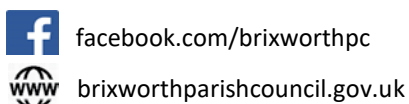
Media & Comms (Wednesdays): 11 Nov, 09 Dec, 13 Jan 2021, 10 Feb

Planning (Mondays): 16 Nov, 07 Dec, 4 Jan 2021, 25 Jan, 15 Feb

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



Stephen James

Chairman



Sandra Moxon

Vice-Chairman



Elaine Coe

Chairman, Media & Communications



Tom Mitchell

Chairman, Planning



Frances Peacock



Ian Barratt



Jackie Bird



James Collyer



Kevin Parker



Lina Howarth



Lynne Compton



Stuart Coe



?

Peter Rowbotham

Parish Clerk





BRIXWORTH
COMMUNITY CHURCH
Following Jesus Together

BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1188559)

As I write this article (in the beginning of November) we have just gone into our second national lockdown. It is of course frustrating as there appears, at this stage, no end to the virus. The prolonged restrictions are testing us all in different ways but perhaps most of all it is, and will be, our patience that is tested the most. We must therefore persevere. Persevere in patience as we wait for the pandemic to run its course. We surely need God's help for this. To cry out to him if we have never done so before, to ask him for the strength that we all need at this difficult time.

As a Church, we have been praying a particular prayer to help us do this. Would you like to join us?

Why not say the following words prayerfully and together as a village we can stand together and come before our God.

Many Blessings as always. [Andy](#)

Lord God, our Heavenly Father
who rules over all the earth and is the sustainer of life itself.
Thank you that you are completely faithful in every way.
Forgive us that, as a Nation, we have turned away from you.
Lord, at this challenging time, turn our eyes and our hearts back to you.
Grant wisdom to our leaders and protect the vulnerable among us.
Lead us we would pray, out of this pandemic
and then guide us forward to follow Your Son and our Saviour.
In Your mighty Name we pray.
AMEN



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on 07958 604961

Brixworth Advent Windows

As a church we are running Advent Windows around the village to allow us to share the story of Christmas and the good news of Jesus birth while remaining within the COVID restrictions. Why not visit the windows throughout December to enjoy the surprise that will be opened at each window whilst following the story of Jesus's birth.

Calendars will be available to print from the church website <http://brixworthcommunitychurch.org>, from Troops, and from the Olive Branch Coffee Shop (lockdown permitting.) These will share the date and address each window will be revealed as well as the story of the nativity.

Children... there will be a prize at the last window to be opened, for handing in your calendar showing what you have seen in each (or most) window. The last window will be opened on Christmas Eve outside the Olive Branch / library where hot chocolate will be shared with those who attend between 4 and 7pm.





Brixworth Outdoor Nativity Moves to Your Home !!

Covid-19 restrictions have not deterred Brixworth Community Church from presenting their Annual Outdoor Nativity Service which has always attracted several hundred people. This year however, for outdoor read indoor as preparations are currently under way for this special occasion to be recorded and available to be celebrated in YOUR home on Sunday 20th December. This promises to be as memorable occasion as in previous years, so look out for publicity leaflets which will be distributed in the near future.



FREE children's packed lunches

Brixworth Food Share

Adapt and create seem to be the watchwords for survival during the pandemic.

The Olive Branch Community Coffee Shop volunteers could not continue with their weekly pensioners' lunch so have worked together with the Parish Council and Brixworth Co-op to provide free family foodshare evening meals.

Free packed lunches were also provided over the autumn half-term school holiday.



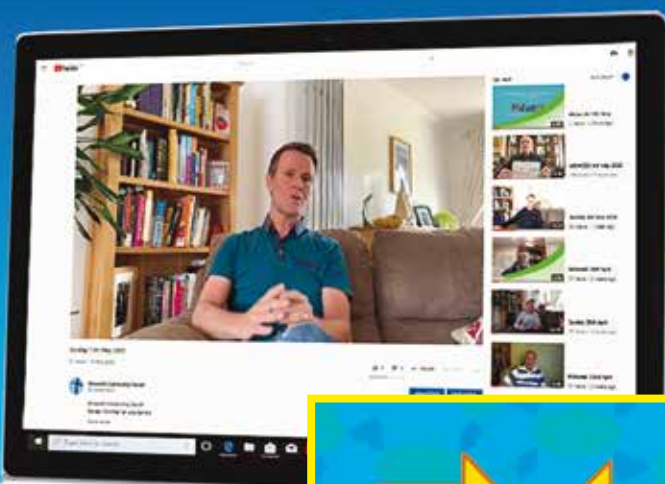
YouTube Channel

Brixworth Community Church

Every Sunday
Online Short Service.

Every Sunday
Kids Church Online.

Every Wednesday
Midweek Message.



**KIDS
CHURCH**

ONLINE

NEW Every Sunday

Re-gilding the cockerel

Building maintenance can at times involve scaling lofty heights, especially when you're dealing with something on the roof. While that might be a daunting prospect for anyone, spare a thought for the steeplejack who had to scramble up the spire of All Saints Church to fetch down the weathervane for some much-needed attention.

On 23rd September 2020 a team of expert steeplejacks, Walton Access from Staffordshire, climbed Brixworth church tower and affixed ladders up to the top of the spire. One brave member of the team climbed to the very top of the steeple and carefully removed the very rusty and battered looking cockerel weathervane from its resting place overlooking the village and brought it down to the ground.



Above: Steeplejack Jake Walton replaces the freshly regilded Weathervane atop All Saints Church steeple, 12th October. Photo by Sean Goodhart. Below: The cockerel, before and after. Photos by Tony Knight

The cockerel was taken to a workshop for repair and re-gilding.



On 12th October the steeplejack team was back to return the renovated, shiny and proud cockerel back on top of the church spire.

At the same time the

steeplejack team conducted a survey of the fabric of the steeple, spectacularly abseiling down and around the sides. They also tested the lightning conductor and generously repaired and replaced some roofing tiles on the church which had been damaged a few weeks before during a storm.

The cockerel last came down for renovation in 1992.

No one I have spoken to, not even a past church warden, can remember the church without the cockerel on top of the spire. "Its just always been there", is the answer I get when I try to establish when it was first erected.



If anyone knows different as to when the cockerel first appeared on the spire, I would be very interested to hear from them.

– Kate Knight, Friends of Brixworth Church

This page is sponsored by **Brixworth Landscaping**

Email: 82matthewc@gmail.com

Phone Number 07702 317828

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Brixworth-Landscaping>