

Brixworth Ward re-elects Parker, Harris and Irving-Swift

Brixworth Ward has re-elected all three of its sitting representatives in West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), which took over from Daventry District Council in April.

Kevin Parker (Con), Jonathan Harris (Lib Dem) and Cecile Irving-Swift (Con) (pictured, from left to right) each received 17% of the vote and will serve another term representing Brixworth Ward. Not elected were Richard Auger (16%, Con), Christine Water (14%, Lib Dem), Tony Nixon (13%, Lib Dem) and Richard Kempa (5%, Lab).

They will be sitting alongside 90 other councillors in the 93-strong council. WNC is heavily dominated by the Conservatives, who won 66 seats overall, or 71% of the seats. Labour has 17 seats (18%), the Liberal Democrats five seats (5%), the Labour and Co-operative Party three seats (3%), while Independents hold two seats (2%)

Turnout for the WNC election was lower than usual, at just below 30%, though within this Brixworth Ward had the second-highest figure at 45.78%. In the election for the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, also held on 6 May, Stephen Mold (Con) won a second term with 53% of the vote. Runners up were Clare Meechan



Pavitt (Lab, 28%), Ana Savage Gunn (Lib Dem, 15%) and Mark Hearn (Reform, 4%)

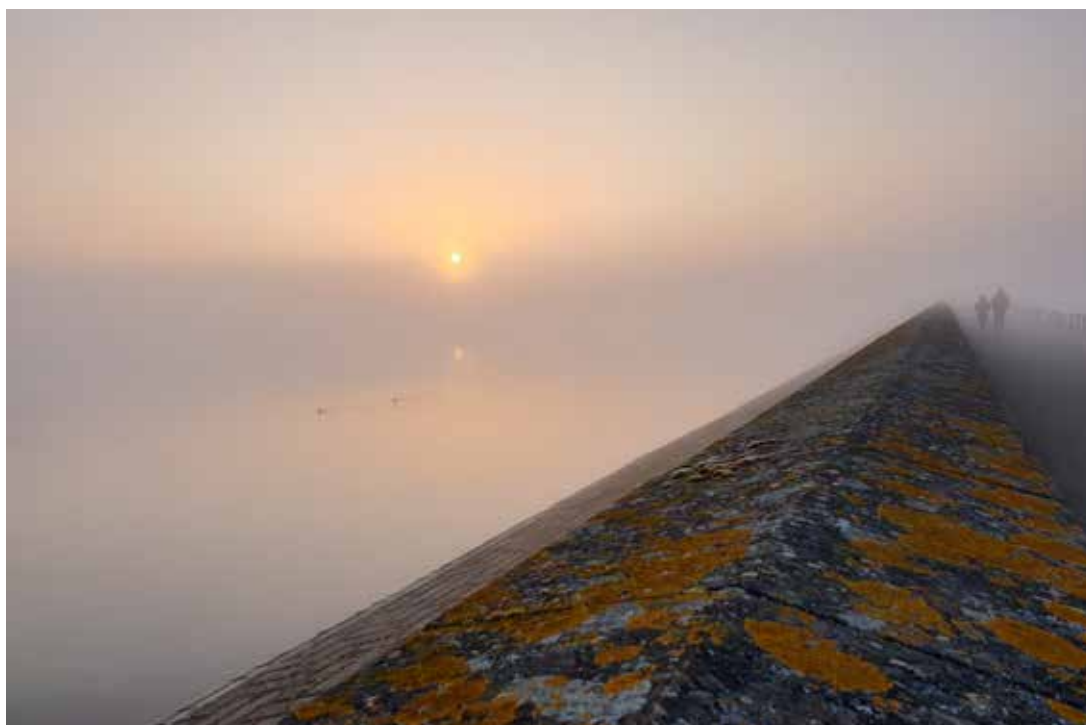
As fellow Conservative councillors, Kevin and Cecile plan to work as a team. They told the Bulletin: "If our villagers need help with anything, we'd like them to send us both an email so we can work together to help them."

Specifically, they are happy to help Brixworth Ward residents get prompt service and responses from their council. "If there are any issues, missed deadlines and promises not kept, do call or email us!"

As for priorities for the next term, they note that the West Northamptonshire Conservatives' manifesto focuses on sustainability, transparent financial management, and maintaining village charm, among other things.

Ultimately though they know the local communities and its wishes. "We have been your councillors for ten years. Our priorities for Brixworth have not changed due to an election. We are going to be your voices and over the next four years we believe that for Brixworth in particular, we will make sure that the village retains its charm with for the wellbeing of us all your Country Park, the Brampton Valley Way, that your village school retains its outstanding rating and that deliver the right social care if you need it."

Jonathan Harris meanwhile plans to hold WNC to account, call out unfairness and work for greater transparency. "People in the Daventry area have seen their council taxes rise higher than average and they have concerns about the effectiveness and efficiency of the new council," he



Lockdown photo competition: And the winner is....

.... Kirsty Wilkinson for her fabulous photo of socially-distanced runners enjoying Pitsford Reservoir at dawn. Thank you everyone for sending in your incredible photos. They were so great we managed to find space and show a selection of the other entries, turn to page 24.

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said. "We also have unequal taxes with green bins being charged in some areas and not in others. This is both unequal and unfair."

He noted the need to improve highways services, the roll-out of measures that help residents and local business do their bit for tackling climate change, and to balance the pressure to build new homes with the protection of rural areas.

With regards to his priorities for the Brixworth Ward, he notes the remarkable community spirit and the support networks that have come out of the pandemic, and which Jonathan was personally involved with. "Our intention is to support and develop these and work with parishes to support them and connect them together more effectively."

Other priorities are tackling the climate emergency – an urgent need which Harris thinks should be considered in all activities – rural public transport, which he thinks has withered away due to lack of investment.

Most importantly, Jonathan recognises his role in raising residents concerns in WNC. "I will be listening to residents about their concerns and issues and feeding back into the council to make sure that decision-makers get to hear about them. I will resolve issues where I can and be a connector for sharing information from the Council."

If you have an issue to raise with any of Brixworth Ward's councillors, you'll find their contact details above. They look forward to hearing from you. - *Claudia Flavell-While*

Contact details

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59/60 bus now stops in Brixworth

The Number 59 and 60 bus service is now stopping in Brixworth. The line connects Welford and Northampton, taking in Welford, Naseby, Thornby, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Creaton, Spratton, Brixworth, Chapel Brampton, Kingshorpe and Northampton as well as a limited service to Market Harborough.

The Brixworth stop is at Spratton Road near the Co-op. There are three services each way on most days. A timetable is available at www.unobus.info/services/northampton/5960/60/.

John Hunt, chairman of Spratton Parish Council, and Anna Hughes, avid bus user and member of Creaton Parish Council, were instrumental in keeping the bus route alive after the government withdrew the central subsidies for many rural bus routes in 2018. Funding is now raised through direct contributions from the villages on the route, but this has made negotiating the funding a time-consuming annual challenge.

However, both are determined to keep the route alive. John said: "Public transport in villages is a vital lifeline for people of all ages who don't drive for one reason or another – school children, pensioners, and everyone in between. In the future I can see us relying on buses even more, as an important way to reduce car use and combat climate change." He added that it can take a great deal of effort to establish new bus routes, so it is all the more important to keep existing routes operating.

The stop in Brixworth is particularly welcome as it will give people from the surrounding villages access to some of Brixworth's services, including the library, the shops, and the surgery. Equally, John noted, it's a good way for Brixworth residents to visit some of the surrounding villages, and could be a great way to discover new walks. – *cfw*



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Bye DDC, hello WNC

The switch from Northamptonshire's eight district councils into two unitary councils took place on 1 April. For the most part, the switch – which brought together Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire under the joint banner of West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) – doesn't appear to have caused many ripples.

Green bins

The first thing many people in the area noticed was the renewal notice for green bin collections, which for the next period only covers ten months to 1 April 2022, to



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Council**

bring the timing and cost of the green bin subscription cycle in the former Daventry District area in line with Northampton town. Unfortunately, that also meant a price rise – DDC had charged £37 for 12 months, whereas the £35 for ten months equates to an annual cost of £42, rate already paid in Northampton town but a 20% increase for the former Daventry areas.

Surprisingly, households in South Northamptonshire, who have historically not paid for green waste collections, continue to get their brown bins emptied for free. The Brixworth Bulletin approached WNC's chief executive Anna Earnshaw for comment, but did not receive a response as yet.

Council tax

WNC increased council taxes by 4.99 per cent this year (excluding parish council tax and payments for fire and police), the maximum amount permitted. Cllr Rebecca Breese, WNC portfolio holder for finance, said in a period of great uncertainty and reduced central funding, the council tax rise was important to provide stable foundations for the new council.

She said: "Grant funding from government has fallen from 58 percent of council income in 2013/14 to what will be 38 percent next year. Council tax is therefore the largest element of our income, at £215million that's two thirds of our income and the area we have most control and direct influence over its generation.

She added that the new council had allocated £170 million to support vulnerable adults and children, including council tax reductions for households in financial difficulties, a £425,000 hardship fund and £75,000 fund to help young people who are leaving social care at 18.

Planning matters

On planning issues, the new council has decided to maintain local committees mirroring the previous arrangements for most applications.

The planning authorities of Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire Council and the County Council were replaced by three 'area-based' committees – one each for Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire, who will deal with the majority of planning applications. Alongside this, a new Strategic Planning Committee

will be set up to deal with larger, major applications which carry wider economic and growth implications for West Northamptonshire, such as large new housing developments, also known as Sustainable

Urban Extensions (SUEs).

The old committees continued sitting until the new committees could be established following the early-May elections. Planning services continue as normal, with old websites redirected to the new planning portal at www.westnorthants.gov.uk. – *cfw*

Burglar jailed after string of break-ins

A Brixworth resident was jailed for 42 months after being found guilty of committing a series of burglaries in the village in January.

Mark Howland, of Kennel Terrace, Brixworth, had pleaded guilty to break ins at the doctors surgery, the George Inn pub and Chambers butchers over a four-day period in January.

The defendant told the court that he'd had a "fairly chaotic weekend" where he'd consumed drugs and alcohol, which he'd linked to mental health issues. His defence lawyer told the court that Howard remembered little of his actions that weekend, but admitted he had 'no real excuse' for his actions.

The court heard that Howland had 25 previous convictions for 49 other offenses and was serving a suspended 12-week sentence for another robbery.

Howard was sentenced to ten weeks in jail for each of the offenses, plus 12 weeks for the suspended sentence, to be served consecutively.

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Bambino Mio gets royal visit

Princess Anne has visited Bambino Mio in Brixworth to present the company's founder and managing director, Guy Schanschieff, with a Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade. While she was there, she also officially opened the company's new headquarters in Staveley Way.

Schanschieff commented: "This was a really special way of celebrating our business success and it was an honour to introduce HRH The Princess Royal to some of our Bambino Mio team."

Bambino Mio was awarded the Queen's Award in recognition of its international success and work to make renewable nappies available worldwide. The company now sells nappies in over 25 countries worldwide and has a turnover of around £18 million.

Writing on Facebook after receiving the award, the company said: "The whole team at Bambino Mio are still over the moon about our visit from HRH The Princess Royal to Bambino Mio HQ this week! Princess Anne visited us to present us with one of the UK's most prestigious awards - The Queen's Award for Enterprise, which is personally approved by Her Majesty the Queen.

We are thrilled that the hard work of our team has formally been recognised on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen. We also want to say a BIG thank you to all of you for helping us spread the reusable love."

Princess Anne also opened the company's newly-expanded HQ, which now has a new office and new warehouse space.

"We even managed to create reusables fit for royalty, with a bespoke miosolo all-in-one nappy and swim set package for her newest grandson Lucas to enjoy with his parents Zara and Mike Tindall!," Bambino Mio wrote.



Update on Red



Discussions have been taking place, led by Cllr Jonathan Harris, and supported by members of the Parish Council, with representatives from the Cooperative Group regarding the Red Lion site in Brixworth.

"Whilst many of us in Brixworth were baffled by the planning inspector's decision to uphold the appeal, now that the permission has been granted I have had to take a pragmatic view on things, and have been determined to do the best with the situation that I can for local residents and the village as a whole," says Harris.

Before the final decision had been taken, Harris opened a line of communication with the Cooperative Group to ensure that the village got some benefits, whether or not the appeal was granted.

Discussions have taken place regarding parking, road markings, the introduction of a new pedestrian crossing, the possibility of a short 20mph zone, ensuring low impact external lighting, protecting verges from parking, landscaping, the visual impact of the store by minimizing large window displays, staff parking arrangements, community

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Proposed local service centre refused

An application for a 'Local Services Centre' north of the cricket ground on the outskirts of Brixworth has been refused by Daventry District Council's planning committee because it would undermine Brixworth's village character.

The centre would have included space for a supermarket and pharmacy, two food takeaways, a drive-through coffee outlet, a gym, six office units and six more non-food shops, along with a considerable amount of parking.

Explaining their decision, planners note that the size of the development and its distance from the village centre would mean that most people would need to drive to get there, and that it would have a 'negative urbanisation impact' on the character of Brixworth. On top of that, they note that the applicants hadn't shown the development was actually needed, nor had they properly considered the development's impact on local roads or any historic artefacts on the site, which is close to known iron age settlements and Roman sites.

In their application, the proponents of the plan had argued that there was demonstrable demand for new commercial and service space at Brixworth and surrounding villages, and that the development would have created 'vibrant local centre, commensurate with the size of Brixworth, and serving the surrounding villages.'

At the time of writing, it is not yet known whether the applicant, the multimillionaire landowner Dallas Burston, is planning to appeal.



Lion Co-op site

transport, delivery movements and opening hours.

The Cooperative group have agreed to a 10pm closing time as per the current store hours, as opposed to 11pm which was within the application.

Many of the proposals will be subject to the agreement of West Northamptonshire Highways.

The local elections have caused a slight delay, and there is still no clear timeline for demolition and construction. However, bat surveys and initial work to tidy up the site started in May, as the arrival of a minidigger illustrates. As soon as we have more information, we will provide an update.

(reproduced from Focus on Brixworth, with kind permission)

Longer tip opening times till end of June

Brixworth household waste recycling centre (HWRC) will remain open six days a week till 30 June.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) extended opening times for all its tips to six days a week in May and June. This will help it cope with increased demand seen during the pandemic while allowing all users to maintain social distancing.

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Underground, overground, keeping

If you recognise the names Uncle Bulgaria, Tobermory and Madame Cholet, then, like me, you're probably of a certain age and remember growing up watching 'The Wombles'. Although originally created by author Elizabeth Beresford in the late 60's, its recycling message is still right on trend today and it is the namesake of our very own Brixworth Wombles – you may have seen them in their neon bibs scrabbling in the local hedgerows with a long stick.

The Brixworth Wombles started as a Facebook group set up by Peter Duffy. All the Wombles agree that littering/fly tipping has become more of a problem during lockdown but, at the same time, they have found litter that dates back decades, such as crisp packets and cans with sell by dates in the 1990's. The oldest find to date, however, has been a vulcanite beer stopper from T Manning & Co. a town brewery which ceased to exist when it was taken over by Pickering Phipps in 1936!

Crisp packets and drink cans, along with the inevitable fast-food packaging, make up the bulk of the rubbish that is collected by the Wombles. Some of the more unusual items recovered have included full tins of paint, underwear and a sofa. They once thought they'd come across a dead body rolled up in a carpet, thankfully a false alarm, and the saddest thing Peter recalls finding is a recently drowned mouse in a rain-filled empty crisp packet – a reminder that littering isn't only unsightly but a danger to wildlife.

I joined some of the Wombles for a socially distanced litter pick on a sunny spring afternoon. Equipped with all the necessary accoutrements, gloves, bib, bin bag and picker, we set off along the A508 by-pass. I must admit, I was a little nervous going along such a busy road and grateful for the Hi Viz vest and safety signs. The Wombles had already done one pick along this stretch of road and recovered no less than 80 bags of rubbish but, in the meantime, the council had been along and cut back the shrubbery thus exposing more of the undergrowth and a lot more rubbish. We only covered half of its length on this afternoon, from the Country Park roundabout to the public footpath crossing point, but still managed to collect 16 bags of litter, a wheelie bin, two water tanks and other large items. It is clear that the bulk of littering along this road is caused by motorists throwing things out of car windows, particularly sandwich wrappings, plastic drinks bottles and coffee cups, probably bought from petrol stations on route and discarded without a second thought for the countryside, wildlife or community they were passing through.

Whilst local people may not be accountable for the littering of the A508, the rest of the village is a different matter and Peter would like to see the whole community get involved in taking responsibility for their environment. An Easter Holiday initiative to encourage families

to go out 'wombing' safely in our parks, saw family groups out doing their bit and, more importantly, educating their children about the effects of littering.

Peter has been overwhelmed by the support the group has received from the village and the generosity of some of our local businesses. Various items that make a Womble's task easier, have been donated by Hort's Estate Agents, GuttVac, local councillor Jonathan Harris, LJ Wainwright Ltd, Manic Botanic, Eddie Edmunds, Harris Decorating, Elite Plumbing & Heating and a very useful six-foot picker from Pro Move Relocation Ltd. By the time of publication, there will most likely have been other donations as the community really seems to be behind this initiative, and even the friendly toots from cars as they drive past the Wombles at work, are much appreciated. Norse, the council's environmental services provider, has also been helpful; acknowledging that they do not have the manpower to do the job themselves, they have also provided equipment and will pick up Womble collections from any designated spot.

Some may argue that keeping our hedgerows and verges litter free should always be the Council's responsibility, but others, including The Wombles, would agree that '...things that the everyday folks leave behind' shouldn't be there in the first place and it's everybody's responsibility to Keep Brixworth Tidy! – Tracey Calnan



Meanwhile, in Maidwell...

A separate colony of Wombles has emerged in Maidwell. A first Womble litter pick in late April produced an impressive haul, particularly around the A14/A508 junction.

Pictured: Head Womble Colin Rabjohn inspects the loot.

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our verges litter-free...



If they keep at it, they may complete the car....The Brixworth Wombles came together through the initiative of Peter Duffy (third from right).The group now has almost 150 members. Photo: Ian Topham

Meet the Brixworth Wombles

Whilst the recent Covid restrictions have had some positives such as families going out for more walks and exploring the local area, there has been a noticeable increase in litter. Over the Christmas period I couldn't help but notice the ever-growing pile of litter gathering at the layby on the Northampton Road by the Saxon Rise Estate.

I have been aware of the litter issues locally for some time as I have been a volunteer litter picker for Brixworth Country Park for the past seven years or so after finding the path from the Ashway down to the Park to be in a terrible state. This is not under the remit of the Country Park but was easy for me to clear and maintain on my walks to the Park.

After several weeks of running or walking past the layby on Saxon Rise several times a week, I decided to do something about it as this is my home and it was looking awful. After filling seven bags of litter I made the decision to post what I had done on the village Facebook page. I had an overwhelming response of support and comments including from Raechel Palmer-Charles who asked if she could join me one day as she wanted to clear St. David's playing fields. So that's what we did, filling four bags from the hedges and play areas.

I became aware of someone who wished to clear the A508 and so Raechel and I joined Helen Wilkins and her partner Laurence Chamberlain. We all discussed what we wanted to achieve and the equipment that we wished for. Little did I know that this was the beginning of something so big.

I decided to start a Facebook page to promote and record what we were doing and to improve communications. I wrote a post asking if anybody had or could purchase a set of road signs and then shared it on the village Facebook page. I was overwhelmed by the response and support. Small local businesses stepped up and I was inundated with offers for which we, as a group, will be eternally grateful.

We now have 147 members, have cleared over 600 bags of litter plus vast quantities of larger debris and over £700 worth of equipment has been donated from the very generous local businesses.

We have now cleared all of the verges and ditches in our local area but we can extend further afield in the future. The priority now is to focus on the village itself. Already we have been able to loan out our picking equipment to encourage local families to go out litter picking and we've had stunning results, so much so that the village looked very good over the Easter holiday.

I have also been able to alert two larger businesses to issues that they have caused. One has given a very positive response and I'm awaiting an update but the other (a builder of a recent estate) is very much a work in progress.

A huge thank you must go to the village community. If it wasn't for the amazing donations and the willingness of all who have volunteered, we could not have achieved all that we have. In addition, many thanks go to Norse Daventry (Council Contractor) who have been incredibly supportive and highly proficient in removing our collections. They are as frustrated with the litter situation as we are. After a couple of proactive meetings with Norse Daventry, they have now agreed to supply us with the bags required and have donated a small supply of pickers and bag hoops.

So, what does the future hold?

The aim of the group must now be to educate and encourage everyone to keep our beautiful village clean and tidy. It really doesn't have to be time consuming. If everyone collected litter in the immediate vicinity of their home, then the whole village would benefit. We also need to maintain all the hard work put into clearing the road verges surrounding the village..

I'm proud of this beautiful village. Let's make it better. – Peter Duffy

Called to the Bench!



Walking along Brampton Valley Way or along the paths of Brixworth Country Park? Then be sure to keep your eyes peeled: the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians that

dwell there are shy creatures; they so quickly fly off, scamper into the undergrowth or simply slip away quietly as people approach. So, you have to be alert to spot them.

But sitting quietly, patiently for a while on one of the dozens of benches reveals all manner of things. As the wildlife regains their composure, they slowly return into view: It is all a patience game.

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Those benches offer pockets of tranquillity, often in places chosen for just that reason. If you are into 'mindfulness', they are the perfect spots in which to sit and contemplate. Vistas from the individual benches present a wide variety of environments. And there are over 90 on the Brampton Valley Way alone. Spots like John's View, which look out onto windows of open spaces, countryside, or small wooded areas: windows full of wildlife for that patient viewer.

But next time you stop a while and take advantage of one, consider that very bench upon which you sit: does it bear an inscription, perhaps, a tribute to someone? There must be about 20 along Brampton Valley Way and another 25 within the country park devoted to the memory of a loved one. So many tell a story – these individual celebrations of a life fire my imagination: small brass plaques memorials with names and dates, through to full blown dedications, some artistically carved into the wood. Others, who have gone before, have thoroughly appreciated that individual spot where you sit: their favourite on a long walk or simply a place to rest and take in the view and the wildlife.

So, what might be the intriguing and personal background tales behind those

tributes? And who were the people behind them? Just a few of the variety of stories are visualised here but you can make up your own picture:

- “Nanna’s Knee” is obviously a memorial to a well-loved lady; maybe a memory of walks when Nan sat with the grandchildren and shared a snack?
- “Amit Bhattachayya - The Storyteller”, for me, conjures up a picture of a ring of children listening to an old grandfather or favourite uncle telling them tales. Maybe they were exciting stories from his long life or traditional yarns, but with all told with panache!
- Wilson, Bubbles and Mat is a bit different: it commemorates a gentleman’s walking his three Greyhounds in the country park. Perhaps, this was a favoured spot?
- “Lover of wine, enemy of salad” – that’s my kind of dinner!

Dedications to loved ones can take many forms and isn’t always engraved on a bench. For example there is an area along Brampton Valley Way where a gentleman has scattered wild Sweet Peas, his wife’s favourites, on her favourite walk.

Families knew their relatives’ favourite spots and celebrated their lives through those dedications. So, remember, next time you sit and soak up the surroundings, look around and give a thought to those who went before. Remember them, while you appreciate that same view and soak in that same tranquillity they had enjoyed long before.



We in Brixworth are so lucky to have such an outstanding leisure resource on our doorstep. Hopefully, you all make the most of it, using it for exercise and relaxation. In my brief time as a volunteer, I have learnt to appreciate there is far more to both Brixworth Country Park and Brampton Valley Way than a simple stroll. I hope you can, too.

And, whether you sit a while on those benches or simply take a walk in either place, please, respect it, make sure you take all your litter home with you. Attributed to John Muir or possibly Wainwright, “Leave nothing but footprints. Take nothing but pictures. Kill nothing but time.”

Regardless of who said it, it’s a great maxim to observe. – *Keith Dobell*

Lockdown Ambitions: Publish a book

Roger Chapman, from The Ashway in Brixworth, has achieved a longstanding ambition during lockdown of writing his first picture book for young children.

Good Night Freddie was inspired by the birth of his first grandson Freddie in September 2019. Roger wrote a simple bedtime rhyming tale of a young boy settling down at night and experiencing a series of dreams about animals that get bigger and bigger each time he falls asleep.

The pandemic and a short spell in hospital in June 2020 provided the time necessary to write the story. An illustrator was then required to bring the words to life. A family member introduced Roger to Amanda, who usually painted pictures of people’s pets. Amanda was excited by the challenge of doing something new and set about producing some amazing drawings to accompany the text.

All done, the only ‘simple’ task remaining was to find an agent or publisher. After a series of rejections or (worse) no replies, finally Austin Macauley of London agreed to publish the book which hit the online virtual shelves on 26th February this year. Copies have already been sent or sold as far afield as The USA, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden (and even Crick!), so it is on its way to becoming an international bestseller!

Copies of the book are available from Amazon, Waterstones, WH Smith or direct from the publisher, Austin Macauley. Roger has been invited to take part in a book signing session at The Olive Branch on Thursday 10th June between 10am and 12 noon.



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Brixworth Music Festival

Cancelled until May 2022

With all the best intentions and full of optimism we had planned to stage a reduced version of the Brixworth Music Festival this coming September. But a number of factors have thwarted our plans and forced us to postpone the festival, once again, until May 2022.

In addition to the ongoing uncertainty regarding public performances and audience numbers, the BMF cannot go ahead with funding applications until various tax issues have been clarified. We have been waiting since February 2020 to hear from HMRC regarding ticket sales. I must stress that any "profits" made by the festival were immediately pumped into the next festival. Everyone worked on a voluntary basis and musicians were paid a fee to cover expenses only.

For a voluntary community organisation to have to put everything on hold for over a year, this is absolutely devastating. Our musicians are ready and waiting to perform – having had to somehow survive for over a year with no engagements – but we cannot go ahead at the moment.

Hopefully we can offer a few concerts between now and next May. This would be under the title of "Music in Brixworth". Please keep a look out to see what we have planned between now and next May.

And please look at our Facebook page so that you can see what a wonderful festival we were able to put on in the past years.



Pictured: Sarah Small and the Early Music Ensemble performing in Brixworth in 2019

If you would like to join the committee or make a donation, please let us know and get in touch with one of the artistic directors, Vivienne Olive at volivecomp@aol.com or Sarah Small at ssmallvdg@gmail.com. We hope that, with everybody's help and goodwill, we can keep the Briworth Music Festival alive! – *Vivienne Olive*

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A life in Bronze

A profile of Brixworth resident Teresa Wells – a multi award winning figurative sculptor and member of The Royal Society of Sculptors.

From early childhood, Teresa Wells has loved the physicality and feel of getting her hands stuck into sand, mud, clay, whatever was available to manipulate into a 3D form. These days, her material of choice is bronze, a far more expensive option but one that lasts forever and is favoured by many artists for its deep rich colouring and ability to achieve detail and consistency.

After gaining a degree in Fine Art at Nottingham Trent University, Teresa started her creative career as an interior designer before completing a MA at Loughborough University. She has since combined teaching jobs with her sculpture work, finally taking a leap of faith four years ago to go out on her own as a commercial sculptor. So far, it appears to have been a wise decision as Teresa's work is now



being exhibited and sold at The Cotswold Sculpture Park, The Devon Sculpture Park and in various galleries.

Teresa also takes on commissions and has pieces on display in gardens at stately homes and country houses across the UK, as well as featuring in TV dramas such as 'Dracula'. She creates pieces from 35cms to life size and beyond. A large bronze can sell for tens of thousands of pounds, which sounds an awful lot until you realise how much work is involved in the long, complex process of creating a bronze from conception to installation, a process which can take months.

As with any creative process, the hardest step is often the first one. When asked where she gets her initial inspiration from, Teresa says that she has always been fascinated by human behaviour, having studied social anthropology as part of her degree. She is particularly drawn to our ability to survive in the face of adversity; the concept of balancing and clinging on to life is evident in many of her pieces. Her mind is always full of ideas constantly germinating and gestating and she says that her creative brain never really switches off.

The second stage of the process is a rough drawing of her ideas

which may be nothing more than stick men, although there is also a lot of maths involved to get all the angles and dimensions correct. Teresa then welds a steel and aluminium armature, a skeleton of the figure, which can be moved into different poses. She then models the muscles onto the skeletal structure using a special foam or clay.

The actual method of making a bronze is known as 'lost-wax casting'. Teresa uses the original figure to make a rubber mould, which she then encases in a rigid shell before pouring liquid wax into it and slushing it around to form a skin. Depending on the size of the sculpture, she may have to make these moulds in sections and maths is again needed to ensure that they will fit together with millimetre precision. When baked in a kiln, the intense heat causes the wax to melt, so it is then poured out and 'lost', leaving behind the mould into which the molten bronze is poured at a temperature of 1,100 degrees. This takes place in a foundry, where Teresa has also spent time working, both on her own pieces and those of others. After it's cooled, the outer shell is cracked open and 'chased' away to reveal the beautiful bronze beneath; at this point, Teresa then begins the labour-intensive process of applying the patina, which gives the bronze its tone and texture and allows her to emphasise the details.

Teresa's bronzes have wonderfully evocative names such as 'I Spirit', 'Loss', 'Liberty', 'Leap of Faith' and 'Weight of the World' – a piece inspired by raising awareness of men's mental health, featuring a male figure bowed down by the pressures of life. Some of these pieces will be on display at the Blenheim Flower Show 27th -29th June and the Fresh Art Fair in Cheltenham in August (Covid permitting).

Clearly passionate about her work, Teresa feels incredibly privileged to be able to earn a living doing something that she loves and is already buzzing with ideas for future projects. More information about her work and where you can see her bronzes in situ, can be found on her website www.teresawells.co.uk or follow her on Instagram @teresawells_sculptor. –Tracey Calnan



Primary school: What a year!

We are now into the final term of the academic year 2020/2021 and again in a school year which has been anything but normal!

All optimism in September of a gradual return to normality was sadly dashed with the rise in the infection rate and absences of both children and adults, as they were required to self-isolate due to contact with Covid, or worse still with the actual virus. The first term was far from normal but we were extremely proud of our children demonstrating resilience and determination despite everything that was going on in the world. Children remained in class bubbles with one-way systems, ventilated classrooms and constant hand washing becoming the norm. We had to limit visitors onto the premises and therefore after-school clubs and music lessons did not take place. Prospective parents were unable to tour the school so we produced a video to give everyone a 'feel of the school'. If you would like a brief insight into our school, you will find the video on our website Brixworth CEVC Primary School - Home (brixworthprimary.org.uk).

Parents evening and church services took place via Zoom. After careful consideration and seeking the views of the community, our Year 6 pupils did do some socially-distanced doorstep deliveries of Harvest Boxes to the elderly around the village (pictured, right). We did not want Christmas to be 'cancelled' so each of the four different phases produced a virtual Christmas performance for their family and friends to watch. The children rose to the challenge and adapted incredibly well to performing without a live audience (pictured, below).

January 2021 brought disappointment when staff returned for a day to prepare the classrooms only for Boris to declare that same evening that schools had to close. Once again, the country was in lockdown. Overnight, we were back to remote learning and the school open to keyworkers and vulnerable pupils only. Google classrooms and a daily catch up with teachers and classmates on Zoom were once again the new normal.

Three weeks before the Easter holidays, we were able to reopen our doors and welcome all children back. This gave us an opportunity to adapt back to classroom learning and recap on our attainment levels ready for the Summer term. Year 5 and 6 pupils greeted an Anglo-Saxon visitor to learn about their homes, jewellery and weaponry.



Foundation Stage children had a visit from Farmer Ian and some of his animals.

This term we are beginning to see a glimpse of normality. Since reopening we have resumed NMPAT music lessons and are delighted to welcome a selection of after school clubs, including football and dance, onto the school site. Year 4 pupils are currently enjoying weekly Samba drumming lessons delivered by qualified musicians. This involves energetic and traditional rhythms from the Latin American culture. On the 30th April the whole school took part in 'England Does the Daily Mile' as we felt that in light of the events in the past year, children's mental health, and its relation to physical activity, is more important than ever. On this note we are also delighted to have received a Silver Award from the Targeted Mental Health in Schools Team.

The Summer term events for 2021 have been planned as in previous years, although the formats have yet to be finalized. Sports Day will take place for the children although sadly without any spectators.

I am looking forward to finishing this academic year with the children being happy and confident in the school environment and with the belief that next year our children will be able to enjoy a full school year with a relaxation in many of the current restrictions.

— Kathryn Young, Headteacher



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u3a to get back face to face

Brixworth & District u3a continue to support its members as much as is possible in these strange and difficult times.

With freedom, hopefully, beckoning in a couple of months' time, let us hope that this will allow us to once again meet together face to face.

Meanwhile we continue to hold our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month via Zoom and have included some very interesting presentations. We have enjoyed :

- Great British Eccentrics
- Literary Tour of Nottingham
- 78 Derngate
- Ghosts at Hampton Court
- History of Magic

And the programme coming up:

- Dark Night (Theatre Presentation)
- Sex & Scandal in the Royal Court
- Stories by Roger Brown

Our Garden Group, Art Appreciation, Local History and Science and Technology Groups meet regularly on Zoom, again with many interesting subjects being discussed. Our Garden Group has even begun to plan garden visits in August and September and have planned a winter programme for when we start to meet again at Scaldwell Village Hall.

The two French Groups, Book Group, Craft Group and Weekly Quiz Group are in regular contact with their members and while our Choir Group has been unable to raise their voices, they have met for a chat on Zoom once a week. So, lots of interesting things have been happening.

If you would like more information, please visit our website on u3asites.org.uk/brixworth where you can browse our Newsletters and will find lots of information on membership and all the various Groups that are available. – *Judy Smith*

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Scouts to restart meetings

It has been over 12 months since our last meeting but we are now able to restart face-to-face scout meetings.

Safety is paramount and we will be following the guidance from Scouting nationally, consequently we will restart with outdoor activities from the middle of May to take advantage of the lighter evenings. The activities will include hikes, cycle rides, campfire/backwoods cooking and wide games. The programme will be flexible and very dependent on the weather. We will pause for half term, then resume for the remainder of summer term. The last session will be in the week commencing the 5th July.



We look forward to welcoming our scout back after such a long break.

Scouts still needs you!

In order to resume sessions we need your support more than ever. We need parent helpers & leaders to run the sessions and and exec members help run the group. If you would like to be involved as a leader, assistant, parent helper or admin support then please get in touch and we'll help you to find a role that you'll enjoy, and that will really make a difference to the young people in our village. Commitment is flexible around the amount of time that each volunteer is willing to give.

To see more about what we're getting up to, follow [BrixworthScalwellScouts](https://www.facebook.com/BrixworthScalwellScouts) on Facebook or contact the Group Scout Leader at gsl@brixworthscouts.org.uk. To find out more about Scouting in general, visit <http://scouts.org.uk>.

If you would like to put your young person (boy or girl) on the waiting list for Beaver, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please send their details to gsl@brixworthscouts.org.uk. – *Brixworth Scout Leaders*

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You play what? Croquet?

But isn't it a game for old people?

Certainly not, more youngsters are taking it up all the time. But it is a game that you can play well into your 90s – our former chairman was still playing at 97! And none of us are posh! It's great to play with the family and one of the few sporting activities we compete with the children/grandchildren as equals.

I know it was once an Olympic sport, but surely few people play now?

No, it's really popular in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Egypt and the States. Over the last ten years, it's taken off in Europe – Spain, Portugal, Austria, Germany, Russia, Latvia, and Scandinavia. You can even take a Greek island holiday and play in Corfu. There are now over 200 clubs in the UK.

So can I play in Northampton?

Yes, we've had a club here since 1984, first in Becketts Park and later until June last year in the grounds of St Andrews Hospital. We are now in the process of developing a new site, with up to eight courts in Sywell.

Can I play it now in the current lockdown?

Yes like golf and tennis, being a non-team sport it usable to continue. You play with a mallet and your own two balls, you don't have to go near your opponent and we provide the necessary Covid safety measures.

Isn't it a bit slow and boring?

The great thing about croquet is that it exercises both the mind and the body. Like other activities such as snooker or bowls, it is a game of strategy and when it's your turn to play there are usually several



different options to choose and you need to work out what your opponent might do next. It also gets you out into the fresh air and exercises the body. Games can take from half an hour, for a simple game, to up to three hours.

What about the social side?

We have regular club days when anyone can turn up and play, meet other members and usually share a cuppa (and if you're lucky a cake) afterwards.

Can I have a go?

Definitely – you can come along a couple of times for free and use club equipment and mallets. All newcomers will have a 'buddy' to help them learn the ropes.



And is it an expensive sport?

All you need to start is a pair of flat shoes – the grass is similar to a bowling green. Until you get the Croquet bug and think about buying your own mallet you can use a club mallet, and all the other playing equipment for free. Membership is about £100 a year, and there are no joining, game or lawn fees and members can normally play as many times as they like, all year round.

How can I find out more?

Whether you want to just have a go, or join with friends for some group fun.

You can contact the Secretary of the Northampton Club, Mike Hills, give him a ring on 01604 467780 or email him at mike7hills45@gmail.com. – Glynis Davies

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Walking back to happiness

An update on veteran Gareth Humphrey's – aka Endeavour Achieve – mammoth challenge to complete 25 marathons during lockdown!

Under clear blue skies on a beautiful spring day, Gareth Humphrey went for a walk. But this was no ordinary walk. It was 10kms carrying a 60kg rucksack on his back, representing the weight of a person who has died as a result of mental health problems. It was also the final walk of an enormous challenge Gareth had set himself, to walk 10kms every day during the third lockdown come rain or shine (or snow!), with a 30kg rucksack on his back, in the hope of improving his mental health and raising money for SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association).

Having reached rock bottom in his own life, SSAFA came to Gareth's aid and he doesn't hesitate to admit that without them he 'wouldn't be here today'. After 17 years in both the Army and Fire and Rescue Service, in February 2020 he had a full mental breakdown and was diagnosed with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). The breakdown came after years of overwhelming anxiety, stress and confusion that reached an intolerable level and left Gareth feeling suicidal. PTSD is now a recognisable, and somewhat manageable, condition that not only affects the sufferer but all those around them. Many people, especially men, still find it difficult to admit to having mental health problems and asking for help. So, as well as raising money for this charity, Gareth is also hoping to raise awareness of men's mental health.

When Gareth started walking in January, he had no idea how long the lockdown would last; so, the weeks went by and the miles clocked up. By 23rd February he'd completed an amazing 500 km (310 miles). He recalls hitting a wall at the end of the first month, plagued by muscle cramps and permanently bloodied and blistered feet, but reading encouraging comments on his social media and Brixworth Let Us Know helped to keep his morale up and he's very grateful for the support the village has given him throughout.

Gareth chose April 17th for his final walk, calculating that, if he got in a few 15km walks beforehand, he would've completed the equivalent of 25 marathons by then – 650 miles/1,055kms! As it turned out, April 17th was also the date for the funeral of a fellow military man, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the two minutes silence held before Gareth set off seemed very fitting. Two hours later, as he crossed the finish line at The George Inn to cheers from family, friends and fellow villagers, he said he felt 'elated and relieved'. The pints lined up waiting for him were very welcome and well deserved. In spite of his incredible achievement, however, Gareth doesn't want it to stop there ...

The links between walking and good mental health are well documented and 'going for a walk' has certainly changed Gareth's life. Once his legs and feet have recovered, he is planning to organise Wellbeing Walks every other Sunday morning (from 9th May) starting from 9am outside The George. Gareth is concerned that Covid and



continuous lockdowns may have seriously affected people, especially those who had to shelter or live alone. These walks will offer a chance to walk safely in a supportive group with a social aspect to it – The George has offered to serve coffee and bacon butties afterwards! Everyone is welcome (carrying a 30kg rucksack is optional!). If you are interested in joining the walks, you can simply turn up on the day or contact Gareth at end2achieve@gmail.com or on 07754068184.

Anyone inspired by Gareth's story can still donate via his [Just Giving crowdfunding page](#). – Tracey Calnan

Brixworth History Society

Although the History Society's lectures for the first half of the year had to be cancelled due to Covid 19, we are hoping to make three outdoor trips during the summer, including Cottesbrooke village and Sywell Airfield.

In addition, we have a full programme of indoor lectures from September to November and a series of interesting lectures booked for 2022.

Past May dates in history

May 1169: the first Anglo-Norman landing in Ireland

May 1588: the Spanish Armada set sail. It numbered 130 ships, 600,00 lbs of salt pork and 14,000 barrels of wine. What could possibly go wrong?

– Chris Knowles, secretary, Brixworth History Society



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A memorable trip to the reservoir

The squat bulk of the church tower stood prominent on the horizon, highlighted by the deep red glow of the rising sun. A four hour seven mile walk lay before me as I eagerly pulled on my wellies and slung my much used binoculars around my neck. By my return I would have ticked off 63 bird species, my highest ever total for a single day in our county.

Already the air was vibrant with bird song, a wall of sound that a lifetime of listening had taught me to decipher. From a densely planted pine and larch plantation close by I could hear the buzzing of lesser redpoll song as this tiny finch, about the size of a blue tit, darted to and fro, barely skimming the treetops. I was reminded of the many hours it had taken me to find their nest. When at length I found it, it was in a peripheral beech sapling, and not in a conifer as the books confidently said it would be. Its perhaps a good thing the birds don't heed the books we write about them!

Skylarks, some mere specks against the blue sky, others rising from adjacent fields, filled the air with their glorious sound. There must have been dozens along the course of my walk, and every one would have a mate below patiently sitting on eggs or tending to hatchling young. Very soon I was busily

scribbling in my notebook as a whole hatful of species came to my notice. Cuckoos of course constantly called, while the entirely different bubbling sound made by the female indicated courtship and mating. All those kinds I had come to expect were there; finches, buntings, tits, warblers, and of course the crows, my tally climbed steadily with several kinds of each. Swallows and martins and the swift sought airborne insect and spider prey, flying low over the water or between the cattle herds grazing in the fields. They all blended seamlessly, their essential presence contributing to a rich tapestry of bird and other wildlife.

Scanning back over my listings, certain birds stand out as highlights, as being special for this part of the country. Whinchats are summer residents, coming here to lay their eggs and rear their broods, before migrating south for the winter. They have never been common so to find up to four pairs in one area was for me exceptional. Perched prominently on the swaying tip of a thistle or dock stem the males scolded me with alarm calls that sounded like two pebbles being dashed together. Convinced from this they were breeding it was not long before I was able to watch the female feeding her well-grown young

Redshanks are named from their prominent bright red legs. In earlier times they were often to be found where there was suitable low-lying marshy ground where they could probe with their long beaks for worms and other soft bodied creatures. As these areas were drained and fell to the plough their numbers began to dwindle. So to find a nest with four olive-brown eggs beautifully marked with black was a red-letter occasion for me. Pausing only to marvel at how their pear shape with pointed ends together fitted them into the smallest possible space, I left to hide nearby to watch the adult bird slowly



return to resume patiently incubating. Much later I was able to confirm that all had safely hatched. On the nearby water great crested grebes were carrying their stripey young on their backs. From distant creeks came the whinnying calls of dabchick and they too had downy young. Spaced out in the shallows were herons, standing silently as if in deep contemplation or stalking stealthily ready to seize prey in their dagger beaks, Bobbing in the wind-driven wavelets were broods of mallard, moorhen, coot, and Canada geese, with parent birds in close attendance.

Along my route I needed to ford several brooks and there were kingfishers, flashing luminous blue and burnt orange as they passed me. Fringing reedbeds sheltered reed warblers, their nests skilfully attached to the tall stems while the males sang above them. There were sedge warblers also, skulking deep within cover, their presence betrayed by their garbled notes, often including scraps of other birds songs and calls. Handsome male reed buntings sang from prominent perches, while their broods were carefully hidden in willow scrub or sedge clumps.

All too soon my walk was over, but as I was on the point of leaving a last scan with the binoculars revealed a flotilla of tiny ducklings with the parent watching closely over them. Speckled in brown and grey the large white patch on the wing confirmed a gadwall. Fitting end to my day. So where did I go to enjoy such an occasion? The year was 1969 and the place – Pitsford Reservoir, the nature reserve half. – *Brian Webster*

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7 Home-Selling Myths...Busted

When it comes to selling your home in Brixworth, there's a lot of advice – often from well-meaning friends or family members, but they are not property experts!

Here are seven home-selling myths you're likely to hear and why they're not to be believed.

1. Overpricing your home will lead to better offers

Unfortunately, many sellers believe that by overpricing their house to start with, it leaves more room for negotiation and ultimately a better offer. That's why we often see sellers marketing their properties with the agent who has simply come in with the highest valuation.

However, this is entirely false.

When buyers are looking at properties, they'll search within their price range. If your property price has been inflated, then it's going to be competing against other properties that appear to be far better value for money, rather than sitting in the price bracket it should be in! This potentially means it will sit on the market for longer.

Buyers whose budget doesn't stretch to the higher price range will miss out on seeing your property altogether as they're not even looking in that price bracket.

You'll attract more offers and sell your property more quickly if it's been priced fairly. It gives it a chance to stand out among other properties in its price range, rather than being a poor relation in the higher price category. And you're more likely to see interested parties competing upwards rather than knocking you down.

2. Getting an immediate offer means it's priced too low

If you've resisted the urge to overprice your home and an offer comes in straight away, it's tempting to think that you've missed a trick by not marketing it at a higher price. Again,

this is false. Most buyers scour the market for a couple of months, waiting for the perfect property to come up, and there's a good chance that they've jumped in immediately to avoid missing out.

Remember too that if you'd overpriced it, there's a chance they wouldn't have found it in the first place.

3. A better offer will come along if you wait

This is another all too familiar trap that sellers fall into. After all, if you've had an offer on the very same day your home has gone on sale, then surely there's likely to be a whole queue of buyers lining up for it?

No, not necessarily. You might just have been lucky enough to have the right buyer come along at the right time. If you receive a fair offer, then it's usually best to accept it whether your property has been on the market for hours, days, weeks or months.

4. The estate agent with the lowest commission is the best

While you'll naturally want to earn as much money from your sale as possible, it doesn't mean you should sign a contract with the estate agent who offers the cheapest fees.

Selling a property can be a very stressful process. A good estate agent will help make it run as smoothly as possible while communicating effectively and providing outstanding service, so it's crucial you weigh up what's included in their fee.

Although it's tempting to cut costs as much as possible, you might come to regret it, especially if your property isn't selling.

5. Major renovations will give you the biggest return

Many homeowners are under the impression that if they spend a few thousand pounds on a conservatory, a swimming pool or a

landscaped garden, they'll just be able to add the cost of it to the house when they come to sell.

Sadly, it's not quite as simple as this. Not all buyers will want to maintain a pool or require the space that a conservatory ultimately takes away from their garden, for example. Many buyers prefer to start with a blank canvas too, so they can add their own renovations.

That's not to say that a major renovation is a bad idea, but if you're only doing it to see a return when you come to sell, then it might be worth considering the type of renovation or extension that will bring you the best returns.

6. It's not worth fixing the house up at all

If you've decided to sell your property, it's understandable that you won't be thinking about spending even more money on it. After all, you won't be seeing much of the benefits.

This logic could cost you when it comes to getting the full asking price. A property that's well maintained and looked after is far more appealing. Fixing broken fences and gates, tidying the garden, replacing broken windows or doors and giving any tired rooms a fresh lick of paint will go a long way towards selling your property for its true value.

7. Online valuations are 100% Accurate

Online valuations are a fantastic tool. However, a quick online valuation of your property should be used as a guide. Online tools don't always take into account the condition of a property or the extra value you may have added. They're simply using other similar sized and types of properties in your area as a guideline.

The best way to get your property valued is always to contact an experienced, local estate agent who will come and value your property in person. – *Stuart Little for Horts Estate Agents*



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The Experiment

I'm at a packed meeting in Brixworth Village hall supposedly reporting live for the Bulletin. This is my big chance. People are going mad. Outside are more people who are even crosser if that's possible, but that's mainly because they can't get in.

A bad-tempered government minister has been trying to reassure us for the last fifteen minutes although he's looking far more at the TV cameras pointed at him than at us.

Occasionally when the cameras pan round for a reaction shot, I nod wisely hoping to see myself later on the evening news.

And when the Minister asks for questions, I eagerly take my shot; going out to a worldwide audience so far, we've been painted unfairly as the village obsessed with house prices who lack a bigger picture.

"Minister, how will this affect house prices?" I blurt out. This is precisely what I hadn't meant to say and doesn't play well. I hear tuts before a BBC professional seamlessly cuts in.

The meeting is, oddly, concerning Pitsford Water and the fact that the wreck of a frigate listed as missing in World War Two when it had been part of a North Atlantic convoy has recently been found in its depths. A salvage company wants it raised for its sizeable scrap value; the water company worries about attendant contaminants such as diesel oil while others think the issue is more should it remain in-situ as a war grave.

The Frigate's unexpected finding has led to the world's press alighting on an unsuspecting Brixworth en masse. For the last week you can't get in or out of the butchers, the Co-op, or indeed anywhere near the reservoir itself for dozens of news film crews all busily vox-popping anyone they can get their hands on. My house overlooks the ressy so I have become a bit of an authority. (Unkinder souls say I merely back onto a noisy bypass and the toots of passing lorries make more sense.)

The BBC man asks: "How has a ship last seen in the North Atlantic in 1942 ended up here? And how has it got into a reservoir that did not even exist prior to its 1955 flooding?"

Both good questions, and possibly ones I should have asked when I got the chance. Happily for all concerned, the minister prefers my question and filibusters past the Beeb's.

All kinds of scientific experts have vied to give credible explanations to this astounding turn of events without success. The frigate's prow had simply appeared one morning poking out of the water startling walkers and fishermen alike. The minister had no more clue about it than I did.

Then as the meeting was closing it was announced that the government was slapping a D notice on the incident, meaning that reporting was to be heavily restricted. So I never did get to see myself on TV after all.

In the weeks following, military personnel controlled all movements in and out of Brixworth so that those of us who lived here, or had legitimate business, could come and go, but others, such as the press, could not.

It happened that a renowned astrophysicist lived in the village. By coincidence I heard him saying that the captain had been a member of his family. He also had a hush hush project in Oxford on something called an oscillator verbitron. The machine didn't work because they couldn't calibrate it properly. My old friend Victor – you remember, the one with the

Brixworth Chalice that gave anyone drinking from it amazing insight? – had plenty to say on this and, if you were rounding up the usual suspects, he'd be the first one bound for the village stocks. Was this one of his schemes?

I remembered Victor had gotten chummy with the physicist, even offering to help him, which of course had been laughed at. Now I wondered.

"How's it got anything to do with me?" he asked innocently when I confronted him, before pointing out what a fool I had made of myself at the meeting.

"What made you ask about house prices?"

After he had finished laughing at his own joke I simply said.

"What have you been up to now?"

He kept stum, but I could see from his look of guilt he wasn't exactly Victor the virtuous, so I told him I might have to report my suspicions to the authorities. He may have had many talents but being a good liar wasn't one of them. Eventually I got this from him.

"It was an experiment. I didn't expect any of this to happen."

"What kind of experiment?"

"The professor had been looking up his family tree on ancestry dot com and found out about his family connection with the frigate. He said his zapper thing could retrieve the ship from its last known position. Except they didn't have anyone clever enough to figure out the calibration. That's when I remembered the Chalice."

"The Brixworth Chalice? But you got rid of that. Buried it with your father?"

"Not exactly. You recall I got you those spring water bottles because they were at such a good price?"

"Free in fact, which is a great price. I keep one by the side of my bed and sip from it. How does that fit in?"

"Because I decanted them from the chalice and then gave them to various people in the village to see what would happen. Like I said, an experiment."

That would explain the bolts of lightning that would startle me and the sound of

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a heavenly choir I could sometimes hear singing. I thought I was going mad.

"You did what? You warned me never to go near that wretched thing. Said it was dangerous. That it wrecked your parents lives. You swore you'd laid it alongside your father in his grave. Gone forever you said. And you've had me drinking from it without even knowing the whole time!"

"Not just you," he said as if that made the whole thing acceptable. "And you are not about to throw my father's funeral in my face, are you? We all say things we don't mean when we're emotional."

It gets worse; he'd been meddling not just in my life but in those of lots of Brixonians. He was even proud of what he'd done, presenting it as a social experiment.

"I've had fantastic results! My sister's boys? You know them, Ricky and Mike?"

"Yes," I said. I could guess where this was going. The boys had been in the paper recently for winning scholarships. One could draw anything, the other played violin like Stravinsky.

"Thick as bricks, tone deaf, and couldn't tag a decent graffiti between them. It was like feeding spinach to Popeye. With my help those two donkeys became the smartest savants in the county. Besides I had to trial it before I gave it to the professor. But how was I to know things would turn out like this?"

"A mess you mean."

"Right. Well that's what I've got you for. I was hoping you could help?"

As usual I had to sort things out. What sort of savant was I? With trepidation I took a slug of his 'spinach' and got the lightning bolt and the heavenly choir except now I knew why: then I went to work.

I took a few of the spring water bottles round to the professor who was getting ready to flee the country and told him to pull himself together and reverse his zapper machine and put the frigate back where it had come from.

I got the bad-tempered government minister to agree to say it had all been a mock MOD simulation exercise – the reason he agreed was that the government would have looked foolish if it hadn't and the Americans were now chasing tech the UK wanted kept secret.

The water company were very happy because their car park revenue was through the roof.

The hoax effect caused house prices in the village to jump which wasn't entirely unpopular.

The professor defected, not to Russia but to Creton, but without supplies of the special water was unable to reproduce his results.

And Victor has currently shelved plans he had to market Brixworth Spinach as a health drink. – *Clive McDonald*



Calendar sales support First Responders

Lynne Saxton of the Rural Northants Community First Responders seen here receiving a cheque for £557.80 from Ian Topham of Brixworth Photographic Society.

This was from the sale of the 2021 Brixworth Calendar, thanks to the Brixworth Parish Council for the assistance in production costs, etc.

Join the Village Hall AGM

The annual general meeting of Brixworth Village Hall will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 23 June, starting at 7.45pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

"If you are interested in how the Village Hall is managed this is an ideal opportunity to be involved," said Dennis Coles, chair of the Village Hall Management Committee. "We have six vacancies for volunteers to join the committee and help improving the facilities on offer."

For more information about what is involved, please contact Hayley the Village Hall Manager on 07531 873471. For more information about the village hall in general, visit www.brixworthvillagehall.co.uk.



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News from the library

Our Contact Details Have Changed!

Following the county's transition to two new unitary authorities, Brixworth Library now falls under West Northamptonshire Council. Please make a note of our new contact details:

- Email: brixworth.libraryplus@westnorthants.gov.uk
- Phone: 0300 126 7000 [ask for Brixworth Library]
- Facebook: @BrixworthLibrary
- Website: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/libraries

Although the council is now split in two, LibraryPlus remains a county-wide service. This means that your existing library card continues to give you access to all 15 Northamptonshire Libraries, the 21 new Community Managed Libraries (CMLs), and all our online services, including free eBooks and subscriptions. You do not need to update your membership and you can continue to borrow items from (and return them to) any branch.

CMLs have different opening hours to Northamptonshire Libraries. You can find more information on each library's webpage. Follow the links here: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/libraries.

Covid Updates

Please note that the following information is correct at time of writing but due to local Covid restrictions could change at short notice. The best way to keep up to date with our current services and opening hours is to follow us on Facebook: @BrixworthLibrary.

Opening Times

Our opening hours have been restricted over the past year and may still be subject to change:

- Tuesdays 10am-4pm
- Thursdays 10am-4pm
- Saturdays 10am-2pm

We are aiming to get back to our pre-Covid opening times as soon as we can:

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

Please check the library service website ahead of your visit: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/library-service.

You can renew your books online: www.librarycatalogue.northamptonshire.gov.uk, via our app "Northamptonshire Libraries, or you can get in touch.

Library Online

The library is open 24/7 online. You can renew your books via the catalogue: www.librarycatalogue.northamptonshire.gov.uk or on our app Northamptonshire Libraries.

You can also borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks from BorrowBox or "Libby," or read newspapers and magazines via PressReader, all for free. Just download the apps and use your library card and PIN to sign-in. For more information (including how to access these resources in a browser) visit: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/libraries/e-reads-and-audio.

Become a Member

You can sign up to become a virtual member via www.westnorthants.gov.uk/libraries/join-library. Once you receive your member number and PIN you can get started right away. If you would like to become a full member, just get in touch. We will set up your account and let you know when your new card is ready for collection. We can also reset your PIN if you have forgotten it.

Hublets

Hublets are a new way to get online. Just use your library card to unlock a tablet from the docking station and get free internet access inside the library. The first time you use a Hublet you will need to show staff a proof of address along with your library card, so please bring this with you.

Library to You

If you, or someone you know, struggles to visit us because of age or disability we can bring the library to you. We have volunteers who will hand-pick items based on your tastes, deliver them to you in your own home and all for free! If you are interested in this service or would like more information, please call us on 0300 126 7000 and ask for Brixworth Library.



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The easiest way to apply for or renew Blue Badge or Bus Pass is online. Visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk and search for "Blue Badge" or "Bus Pass." If you cannot apply online call the Customer Service Centre who will help you apply over the phone: 0300 126 7000.

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Check if collections and returns are currently available or find your nearest alternative Parcel Shop, visit: www.myhermes.co.uk/find-a-parcel-shop

Business and IP Centre

You may have noticed an exciting new development up on the mezzanine. The Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire is expanding into Brixworth Library!

As part of the British Library National Network, the Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire is leading a

revolution by inspiring a thriving community of new and existing business owners. It is free to join and open to everyone; and it is transforming the way ideas grow into successful businesses.

Whether you are just starting out, need advice on protecting your intellectual property, or are ready to take the next step in your business journey, they are here to help. The Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire supports entrepreneurs, inventors, and small businesses from that first spark of inspiration to successfully launching and developing a business. They do this by running free workshops and providing information and advice sessions on self-employment and intellectual property.

- Find out more: <https://www.bipcnorthamptonshire.co.uk/>
- Email: bipc@westnorthants.gov.uk
- Phone: 01604 361447

Summer Reading Challenge

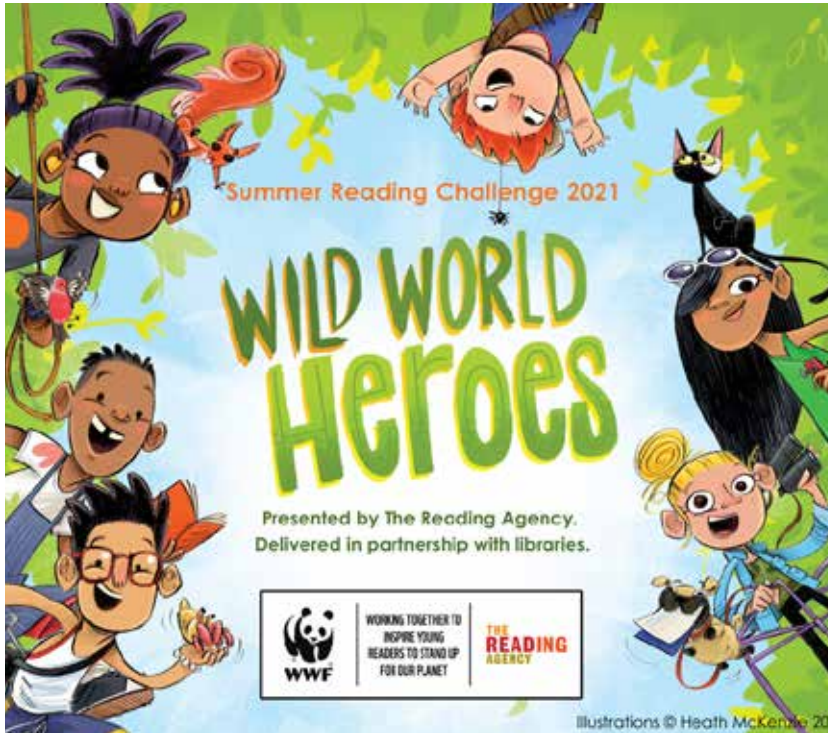
Pack your bags, we are headed for Wilderville!

Join the Wild World Heroes as they work together to make their town even better for the people and animals that live there. This year the Reading Agency is teaming up with WWF for a very special nature-themed Challenge that will inspire children (aged 4-11) to stand up for the future of our planet.

The Summer Reading Challenge invites children to read six library books of their choice over the summer holidays. Each book read helps them explore Wilderville and help the Wild World Heroes solve the environmental problems they spot along the way. There are special rewards to collect and even a certificate for anyone who manages to complete the Challenge!

The Challenge launches on Saturday 10th July but you can join at any time during the summer - the sooner you do, the longer your child will have to read their six books. The best bit? It is all completely free! Visit the official Challenge website to find out more, and discover amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for taking care of our environment: www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk.

We are running lots of wild activities to go along with the Challenge. Check out our Facebook page: @BrixworthLibrary to see all the exciting stuff we have planned.



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Planning update

DA/2020/101 The Grange, Kennel Terrace, Brixworth Removal of trees in a conservation area	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/0945 The Firs, Saneco Lane, Brixworth Removal of existing roof covering and structure on former stable. Raise roof level, install new roof structure. Loft conversion with new access to main house through gable wall. Replace rear conservatory with new stone and slate garden room extension. Replace windows and doors.	BPC supported Withdrawn
DA/2020/0857 The Firs, Saneco Lane, Brixworth Demolition of existing conservatory. Construction of garden room, loft conversion including raising roof height, alterations and replacement windows and detached garden summerhouse.	BPC supported Withdrawn
DA/2020/0652 Land Adjacent Brixworth Country Park, Northampton Road Change of use from agricultural land to a touring caravan site, construction of amenities building, car parking and roadways (revised scheme).	BPC objected Withdrawn
DA/2020/0422 Cherrybank, Brixworth Hall Park Construction of single storey front and rear extensions and internal alterations	BPC objected DDC approved
DA/2020/1107 19, Broadlands, Brixworth Single storey rear extension	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/1105 Sunnybank, Station Road, Brixworth Alterations to existing vehicular access and parking area and new pedestrian access	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/1037 Haddonstone Ltd, Harborough Road Extension to existing tec-stone building	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/1005 103, Northampton Road, Brixworth Non illuminated fascia sign	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/0948 42, Knightons Way, Brixworth Change of use of land to garden land	BPC objected DDC approved
DA/2020/0923 Willow Tree Farm, Merry Tom Lane Siting of temporary farm workers log cabin	BPC supported DDC approved
DA/2020/0747 Land North of Cricket Ground, Northampton Road, Brixworth Outline application for mixed use development comprising commercial, business and service uses within Class E; mixed use restaurant and takeaway use; pub/drinking establishment; hot food takeaway	BPC objected DDC Refused



Happy to have the trophy back - Clive Mason. Photo by Charlie Mason

Clive Mason crowned Sports Photographer of the Year (again)

Brixworth-based professional photographer Clive Mason has been named the Sports Photographer of the Year at the British Sports Journalism Awards.

The title is the top accolade for a sports photographer. It's the second time Clive won the trophy, 19 years after his first victory in 2002.

Clive told the *Bulletin*: "The British Sports Journalism Awards are a big deal, and the most prestigious awards in the industry in the UK. There's nothing quite like it, and we all want to win it. Of course it's a subjective decision who gets chosen as the winner but it matters, a lot. I was chuffed to bits to win Sports Photographer of the Year in 2002 and I'm over the moon now to have won it again."

Competition for the prize is huge, with hundreds of entries in each of the five photography categories. This year, Clive won in two categories – Sports Picture and Specialist Portfolio – and was highly commended in others, as well as winning the top accolade for the overall best entry. Only a handful of people have won it more than once in the prize's 44-year history. "Huge thanks to my wife Katie, who stays at home to look after the family while I'm away. Not only that, even when I'm home she still has to run all the errands while I'm in quarantine after I come back.

Clive is now enjoying a well-deserved break from Formula 1, spending quality time at home, before packing his bags again for Japan in the summer to cover the Olympics.

For more details of Clive's work and career, check the December 2020 Bulletin (issue 67). – *Claudia Flavell-White*

Ace furniture shop reopened

Ace in Brixworth has reopened at the end of April, following extensive updates and renovations to the shop.

Ace continues to sell second hand furniture and recycled items. The company also offers house clearance services.

The Brixworth shop is one of three operated by Kettering-based Ace House Clearances; the other outlets are in Kettering and Wellingborough.

What's on?

27/5	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting
30-31/5	Animals at Lamport	Lamport Hall
31/5	Brixworth PC Planning	Virtual Meeting
6/6	National Garden Scheme Open Day	Kelmarsh Hall
6/6	Kids for a Quid	N'pton and Lamport Railway
7/6	Natural Minds	Brixworth Country Park
7/6	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
7/6	Natural Minds	Country Park
10/6	Walking for Health	Country Park
16/6	Royal Philharmonic: Spotlight on Strings	Derngate
17/6	Nature Tots	Country Park
17/6	Walking for Health	Country Park
17/6	Here Come The Boys	Derngate
18 & 19/6	Fiori Musicali: Vivaldi's Venice	Lamport Hall
20/6	Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey: Guitar to Alhambra	Lamport Hall
20/6	Fathers Day Special	N'pton and Lamport Railway
23/6	Royal Philharmonic: The Music of Bond	Derngate
24/6	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
24/6	Walking for Health	Country Park
26/6	University College London Chamber Club Concert	Lamport Hall
28 & 29/6	Russell Howard: Respite	Derngate

1/7	Gardening for Wildlife Tours	Lamport Hall
1/7	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
3/7	Sailing Open Day	Hollowell Sailing Club
3/7	A History of Food and Class in Britain	Lamport Hall
5/7	Natural Minds	Country Park
7/7	Garden Tours	Lamport Hall
8/7	Walking for Health	Country Park
14/7	Frank Skinner: Showbiz	Derngate
15/7	Nature Tots	Country Park
15/7	Walking for Health	Country Park
17/7	Theatre in the Garden - Much Ado About Nothing	Lamport Hall
17-18/7	Hollowell Fete and Flower Festival	Hollowell Village
18/7	Jazz in the Gardens	Lamport Hall
19/7	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
21/7	Jimmy Carr: Terribly Funny	Derngate
25/7	Kids for a Quid	N'pton and Lamport Railway
25/7	And In The End - 50 Years Of Abbey Road And Let It Be	Derngate
29/7	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
30/7	Rudyard Kiplings The Jungle Book	Lamport Hall
4/8	Garden Tours	Lamport Hall
7/8	Unmarried Women of the Country Estate	Lamport Hall
9/8	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
14-15/8	Art, Craft and Design Fair	Lamport Hall

26/8	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
28-30/8	Summer Gala	N'pton and Lamport Railway
29-30/8	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Lamport Hall
1/9	Garden Tours	Lamport Hall
5/9	Upfront Comedy	Royal
6/9	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
7/9	The Improvised Jane Austen Novel	Royal
8/9	Stephen K.Amos: Before and Laughter	Royal
9/9	RUSH - A Joyous Jamaican Journey	Royal
10/9	Tom Stade: You Aint Seen Nothing Yet	Royal
11/9	Phil Wang: Philly Philly Wang Wang	Royal
16/9	History Society - The Great Fire of Northampton	Village Hall
21/9	Milton Jones - Milton: Impossible	Derngate
22/9	Scott Bradlees Post-modern Jukebox	Derngate
23/9	AJ and Curtis: Big Night Out	Derngate
24/9	Simon Amstell - Spirit Hole	Derngate
25/9	Chris Ramsey: 20/20	Derngate
27/9	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
27/9	David Baddiel - Trolls: Not The Dolls	Derngate
28/9	Geoff Norcott	Derngate
30/9	Gardening for Wildlife Tours	Lamport Hall

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Lockdown life - and beyond



We asked you to send in your photos that sum up the past year and your hopes for the summer to come. We're overwhelmed at the fantastic photos you sent in. There's no space to print them all. With apologies to anyone we had to leave out, here is a selection that sum up the incredible spirit and resilience of this village. Thank you all. – cfw

Clockwise, from top left: Sean Goodhart: Promises of Renewal; Laura Bestwick: Pitsford Poppy; Lauren Summers: Where there's a will; Lauren Blackshaw: Lockdown Life; Yvonne Keller: Freedom at the Country Park





Gary Jennings, landlord of the George Inn, in the cab that he uses for food deliveries. This photo epitomizes the last year, how much we've had to change in hospitality, how hard it's been, but the fact that Gary is looking happy with his thumb in the air represents the easing of restrictions from the 17th May. It's a hopeful picture. We've had a hard year of restrictions and closures and we have worked so hard to be covid secure. We're looking forward to the future and we hope we can actually stay open this time. - Amy Showers, *The George Inn*



Clockwise, from top left: Emma Poole: Covid-safe Snowman; Amy Showers: Hope for Hospitality; Nick Metaxas: Brixworth First Responders, Flat Cap Cabs and Holcot Cars doing their bit for the vaccination drive; Amy Oakes: Light and Hope through the Darkness; Rory Peck: Night over All Saints; Iain Welters: Refreshments for Moonwalkers; Caroline Dow: Sunset over the Reservoir





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I was struck a few weeks ago (as I write this) to see the case of the Post Office workers, and such a huge miscarriage of justice that had gone on for so many years.

39 sub postmasters and sub postmistresses in one hearing had their convictions quashed in the Court of Appeal. However, between 2000 and 2014, 736 workers were wrongly convicted of stealing against the Post Office. The PO had implemented a faulty computer accounting system causing a short fall in the monthly accounts up and down the country. Many ordinary folk went to prison for a crime they had not committed and had their lives ruined. They then had to fight tooth and nail to clear their name.

The joy on the faces of those workers outside the Court of Appeal after they were exonerated made me feel emotional for them and it got me thinking.....

Because of Jesus's death and resurrection, God has made it possible for every single one of us to be made not guilty and innocent before him in his law court so to speak. Those PO workers were innocent of the charges laid against them but the reality is every single one of us are guilty of some things that offend a holy and perfect God and this makes us subject to his judgment and ruling.

However, when we place our trust in Jesus Christ, a transaction that happened on the cross is credited to our lives. On the cross, Jesus took on our guilt and we take on His innocence. Following Jesus clears our name in and outside God's lawcourt so to speak, and before God, we are completely exonerated.

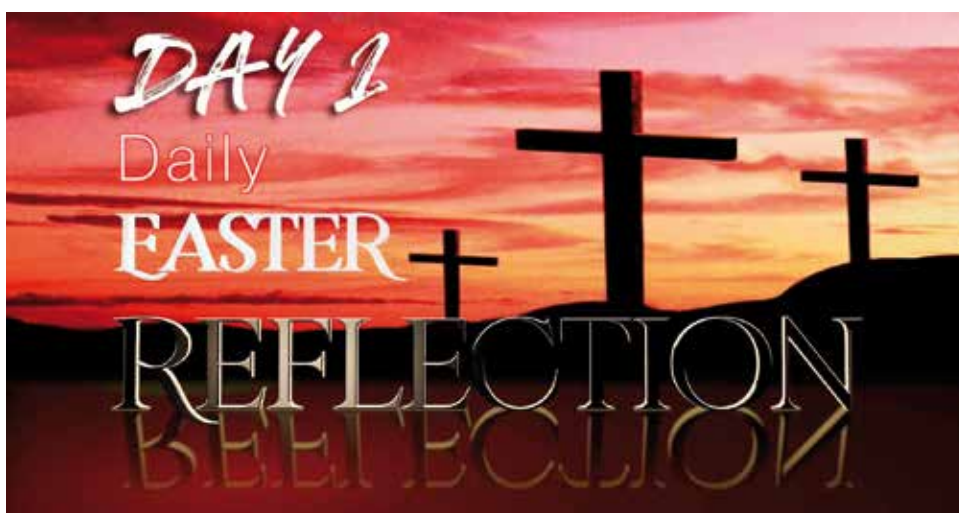
Such joy as was expressed by the PO workers outside the court of appeal is one that can be experienced every single day in the Christian life. As one worker said, 'I just want to thank the judge for his ruling today.' Well, the Christian life is lived out daily in joy and thankfulness to God for his ruling. Because of Jesus, he has ruled in our favour!!

Want to know more? Please do get in touch. Otherwise, see you about.

Andy



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on 07958 604961



In addition to the two Easter Services Brixworth Community Church introduced a series of 6 x 5 minute vignettes on Youtube under the Church's logo. Each day of the week an episode showcasing a prominent individual from the Easter story alongside a 21st century individual in sharing their thoughts concerning Jesus thus revealing that, even after 2000+ years, the life of Jesus continues to challenge and provoke. Viewing figures for these vignettes (which are still online) proved to be encouraging and it is hoped that many people will have been inspired to consider afresh the Christian faith..

The Olive Branch

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Mon - Thur 10-3.00, Fri 9.30-2.30,
Saturday 9.30-1.00

Pensioners Lunch currently postponed until September.

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

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



Welcome Back

Welcome back to The Olive Branch (in the Library & Community Centre)
 Due to the pandemic the Olive Branch Community Coffee Shop has been closed for much of the past year. It was therefore with some anxiety that we re-opened, initially for service to customers seated in our garden, but more recently to resume a full service. We have been very thankful for our delightful garden area which has been maintained by a loyal volunteer.

We should not have doubted our loyal customers however. We have been delighted to welcome them back and also some trying us for the first time. We have taken the opportunity of the break to review and enhance our menu but the Brixworth Breakfast remains a firm favourite and is still great value. Run by volunteers, we always welcome new helpers who would like to give something back to their community. Several of our staff have served for over 20 years. Please pop in and leave your details if you would like to join the team.



YouTube Channel
Brixworth Community Church
 Every Sunday
 Online Short Service.
 Every Sunday
 Kids Church Online.
 Every Wednesday
 Midweek Message.

KIDS CHURCH ↔ **ONLINE**

Every Sunday



Ursula Dickens receiving Easter biscuits for Saxon House residents.

Biscuits made by Brixworth Community Church and delivered to all Brixworth Care Homes, Saxon House, Olive Branch Pensioners, and local shops as a thank you.

Back to Church

Meeting again soon at the Primary School

Family Service 10:30 Start

First Sunday back to be announced soon!



Council Chat

A new start for the County and the Parish

Parish Clerk's retirement

Peter is retiring this summer, further information is detailed below.

Children's park at St David's Playing Fields

KOMPAN have been chosen to create an inclusive children's play park.

Re-introducing your "new" Parish Council

A short summary about the nine councillors and detailed of how you can fill the four vacancies on the Council.



Image courtesy of Sean Goodhart

Council Chat

Welcome to our brave new world!

By the time you read this we hope that some Covid restrictions will have been lifted, many of us have had our vaccinations and life in Brixworth will be readjusting to a new, healthy normal.



Brixworth Parish Council is also starting anew following unopposed elections. The Parish Council would like to say a farewell to Frances Peacock, Stephen James and Stuart Coe who all decided

not to run in the recent election. We want to thank each of them for their hard work and commitment over the years. You can find out more about our Councillors and how to get involved yourself by visiting our website www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.

As mentioned previously we are also now a part of the new West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority and look forward to working with our new Unitary Councillors.

Happy Retirement To Our Parish Clerk!

Our Parish Clerk, Peter Rowbotham, after four years of dedicated service to Brixworth has decided to take retirement. Peter will be leaving us on 31 July 2021, after starting work in local government in 1974, and we wish him all the best for the future. Peter has been instrumental in delivering our services including ensuring a business as usual approach throughout the recent COVID-19 pandemic (Brixworth being the first Parish Council in the county to move to video conferencing). He has also worked on a number of community projects including entrance planters, the Sakura tree planting at Spratton Road, wildflowers on Northampton Road and the regeneration of St David's play area. Peter said:



'I have thoroughly enjoyed my four years working at Brixworth. I was very fortunate to have such an active and committed community and I am sure that Brixworth will continue to prosper.'

PARISH COUNCIL



Brixworth Parish Council Chooses KOMPAN To Install The New Children's Play Park At St David's Playing Field

KOMPAN has been developing high quality, fun and engaging playground and fitness equipment creating happier and healthier communities for over 40 years.

The Council is delighted to have chosen the world's foremost company in supplying playground equipment. Kompan has a 40 year history of developing high quality and fun equipment, and when their proposed designs were shared on the Council's website and other platforms the reaction from residents, young and old, included 'I've just shown my son and he said "WOW!"'. The Working Group considered all the feedback, both positive and negative, and met with the supplier who has taken on board all concerns and will adjust the proposal in order to negate any concerns and issues.

In the meantime, the Council will re-issue the tender for the MUGA as what had been proposed by suppliers did not meet the needs of the Council or the residents.



Artist's impression

Introducing Brixworth Parish Council As Of 10th May 2021



Image courtesy of Sean Goodhart

Brixworth Parish Council is made up of up to 14 councillors who volunteer their time to serve their village. With only nine councillors running in the May elections, the result was an uncontested election. As of 10th May 2021, the previous Parish Council stood down and the current Parish Council took over. At the next Annual Parish Council on 19th May 2021, a Chair and Vice-Chair will be voted in by the councillors along with other positions such as Chair of Planning and Village Hall representative. Please meet the councillors who have set out a small summary about themselves below.



Elaine Coe - a member of the Council for over four years. Elaine sits on the Media and Communications, Legal Assets and Sports Liaison Working Groups. She is interested in supporting the needs of young people.



Ian Barratt - the longest serving councillor at present. He is interested in Planning and Finance. Ian is active in Council projects including sport development, tree planting and proposed heritage projects and is passionate about helping



Jackie Bird - a council member for eight years, Jackie sits on the Media Committee, Personnel Working Group and the St David's Play Park and MUGA Working Group. She has been involved with a number of village projects including the Christmas Trees.



James Collyer - a council member for over four years and was previously Chair of the Sports Working Group. James is keen to see green spaces maintained and fully utilised in the village to encourage physical and mental health.



Kevin Parker - a parish councillor since 2011 as he wished to give something back to Brixworth. Kevin sits on numerous committees but takes a real interest in Finance and Planning which are important matters for the residents of the village.



Lynne Compton - a Council member for one year, sitting on the Finance, Personnel, Legal and St David's Play Park and MUGA Working Groups. Lynne is passionate about increasing amenities for all age groups.



Neal Brown - a returning councillor. Having lived in Brixworth for seven years his passion for the village has not diminished. He looks forward to working closely with his fellow councillors especially in finance and sports.



Sandra Moxon - a Councillor for over nine years. Sandra believes that community projects are vital to the village and has championed causes such as Christmas Trees, regeneration of St David's playing field, litter picks and ensuring the village is in bloom year round.



Tom Mitchell - a Council member for over three years and Chair of the Planning Committee for the past year. Tom is keen to play an active part in development of the village whilst protecting its status and historical significance.



Could this be you?

For further details please contact the Parish Clerk

Thank You

The Parish Council would like to extend sincere thanks to Adedapo Segun, Graham Billing and Sean Goodhart who gave up their time to take new Parish Council headshots. Trying to co-ordinate so many diaries meant they gave up their time for three separate photoshoots and the Parish Council are very grateful to them.

The village photographs included in this edition are also courtesy of Sean Goodhart <https://www.instagram.com/seangoodhart/>

Full Council (Thursdays): 27 May, 24 June, 29 July
Media & Comms (Wednesdays): 12 May 9 June, 14 July
Planning (Mondays): 7 June, 28 June, 19 July
Saturday Surgery: will be returning on 3 July

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.

Peter Rowbotham
Parish Clerk



Ciara Wanstall
Assistant Clerk



Contact the Parish Clerk:

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

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 brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

brixworthpc
 @brixworthpc

Try sailing at Hollowell



If you are looking for a fun outdoor activity that you can pursue on your own, or with family and friends then look no further than Hollowell Reservoir.

On-the-water activities offered by Hollowell Sailing Club include dinghy sailing, windsurfing and stand up paddle boarding, while two affiliated clubs offer model yachting and rowing.

Set in the stunning countryside of Northamptonshire, the Royal Yachting

Association award winning club is fully equipped to follow the roadmap for the return to boating activity in England. Over the course of

last year, members of the club have trained in bubbles and self-managed racing. Now everything is set to welcome newcomers and get out on the water.

Join us on our Open Day on Saturday 3rd July between 11am and 4pm. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to take part in guided club tours or taster sailing sessions throughout the day. Sailing demonstrations will be provided on shore showing examples of the training boats used to deliver courses for beginners to intermediate and advanced sailors.

No booking is required although we advise everyone to wear warm clothes and a waterproof jacket if they want to take up a sailing taster session. Refreshments will be



available during the day including ice cream, teas and cakes and a BBQ (always subject to the current guidelines).

Club membership packages range from junior to single and full family memberships, entitling newcomers to discounted rates on training courses. A full range of club boats are available so there is no need to splash out while you are learning the ropes. Social membership allows access to the beautiful grounds and social events.

Please get in touch with Ruth Cross email: membership@hollowellsc.org.uk and ask all about what we have to offer or visit our website www.hollowellsc.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls on a roll once more

Brixworth Short Mat Bowls will be restarting Friday 4th June. We meet at the refurbished Brixworth Centre in Church Street, starting at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Entrance is from the church car park.

This highly successful club has won three championships, the latest being Northamptonshire Independent Friendly Bowls League 2019/20.

We recently took delivery of an Electric Winding Machine for the bowls mats. This was paid for with a grant from Daventry District Council of just over £5000, funded by Section 106 monies from the developments on the land East of Northampton Road, and supported by the Parish Council. The mat winding machine will make the laying and storing of the bowls mats easier for the club members. It also prolongs the life of the mats.

Short Mat bowling is great fun, and we have members of all levels playing. So come along and have a go, equipment and tuition is provided.

For more information, contact the Club Chairperson Jenny on 07522 559673 or email brixworthbowlsclub@hotmail.com. You can be sure of a warm welcome. – *Chrissie Collins*

