

Brixworth Bulletin

Including Draughton, Hanging Houghton and Lamport

Issue No.7, December 2005

CO-OP SPENDS £150,000. HAS IT HELPED?

Following the Vicar's letter in the last Bulletin, the Co-op management closed the Brixworth store for five days in late October to carry out a £150,000 refit of the till area and shelving arrangements. The photographs below show the re-opening on Wednesday 19th October by the Store Manager Tammy Dalrymple aided by youngsters from the village. The photograph will enable shoppers to identify the local manager should they need to talk to her. The interior photograph shows the new till arrangement with the potential for three assistants on the tills at peak times. The Co-op management has embarked on a large recruiting drive for this store beginning with a large advertisement on page 4. It will take time to recruit suitable staff and to ensure that they are given adequate training, so all problems will not be solved instantaneously.

However complaints from customers are still being voiced about the iron handling cages being left around the store and the washing of the floors during normal opening hours. The Co-op must address the problem of additional storage space at the rear of the store in order to discontinue storing the handling cages in the walkways near the shelves. It is to be hoped that when the next issue of the Bulletin is published, these current problems will have been addressed. If you think that the situation has improved in December and January, please write to the Bulletin.



The children cutting the ribbon supervised by Tammy Dalrymple at the re-opening of the Brixworth Co-op store



The new till area just after the re-opening of the store

P.C. MEETING WITH CO-OP

These are the notes of a meeting held by the Parish Council with representatives of the Co-op sent to the Bulletin by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Four members of the Parish Council met with the Area Manager and the Brixworth Store Manager on 22nd October 2005.

Agenda items were:-

1. Letter received from Reverend Watkins
 - a) Queues
 - b) Empty shelves
 - c) Surly staff
2. Litter outside shop
3. Selling to under aged
4. Reports of shoplifting
5. Youth problems (including the step outside)
6. Rear access
7. Damage caused to sign in the car park
8. Lack of presence of shop manager on the shop floor & no identity badge.
9. Additional litter bins

All these points were taken on board but one of the main problems is lack of staff (including cleaners). Resolved to launch a huge recruitment campaign (including using the Bulletin)

Refurbishment of shop/continued staff training.

CCTV camera to be erected outside the shop front

Agreed to additional litter bin

All other items being considered and agreed to a further meeting in three months time.

Transcript of notes supplied by Elizabeth WiiG, Chairman Brixworth Parish Council.



THE OFFICIAL REPLY FROM THE CO-OP

Dear Mr Fox,

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the September issue of the Brixworth Bulletin. I have operational responsibility for the store and therefore I am replying to the letter.

Firstly, I should like to deal with the point made about long queues. This store has proved immensely popular with the Brixworth community and is, I am afraid, therefore to a certain extent a victim of its own success, with inevitable queues at busy times. Whilst it would be nice to have a store with elastic walls and innumerable checkouts, this is not usually possible. However we are planning to refit the store and part of the plan is to improve significantly the level of customer service within the constraints of the space available.

With regard to unfilled shelves and the absence of basic commodities, having spoken to the store team we are not aware of the problems to which your correspondent is referring. Like most retailers we do occasionally run out of stock but we are not aware of major problems in this regard. We would be grateful if customers could let the Store Manager or myself know of specific items so that we can investigate further.

The Store Manager and I were particularly concerned with regard to the criticisms made about the store team. Like every other retailer we offer employment opportunities to young people. Some may still be at school but all receive appropriate training. Again if your readers could provide examples of where this has fallen short we will follow it up accordingly. I should like to assure customers that there is always a Duty Manager on the premises who will be happy to listen to any comments – good or bad – about the store.

Members of the store team, most of whom live in the local community, were very upset when they read the article by the vicar. They are trying their hardest to provide good service over long hours, sometimes under trying circumstances, and it is not helpful to see their efforts belittled in the press. It seems gratuitously offensive to imply that somehow they brought the armed robbery upon themselves. Perhaps a little more sympathy and understanding might have been expected from this particular quarter.

I do hope that your readers think twice about boycotting the store as your correspondent suggests but rather offer constructive criticism to the dedicated Store Manager and her hard working team.

At the time of writing this letter I am also writing to the Parish Council to offer to meet with them, in what I hope will be a spirit of constructive engagement, rather than the confrontation suggested by the vicar.

Yours in co-operation,
Peter Rowley

How co-operative is the Co-Op? Brixworth Bugle letter, June 2000

The Co-op is endeavouring to sell its old premises on the corner of Holcot Road but has placed a restriction on the sale excluding any business from purchasing the building which wishes to operate a grocery retail outlet. By this move the Co-op intends to stifle competition and become a virtual monopoly. The Co-op now has long moving queues with a limited range of products, forcing residents to travel out of the village if they require choice.

I find it surprising that residents have not raised objections to this restrictive practice even though it is not illegal in this country. Anti-competition laws in the U.S.A. have forced giants like Microsoft to stop restricting competition.

The option favoured by DDC in allowing a change of use to a veterinary surgery with a retail outlet (pet foods but unlikely to be the cheapest) just smacks of the usual compromise. No doubt pet owners will be grateful but that sort of facility could have been established on the trading estate. I believe the village with a population nearing 5,000 needs another supermarket and the soft option should not be pursued on the grounds that this option would be better than the imagined worse options. If there is a groundswell of public opinion against this restrictive practice, perhaps the Co-op would be forced to co-operate.
Harvey Fox

Dear Sir,

I was interested to read the remarks concerning the Co-operative Stores made by the Reverend Watkins in the recent issue of the Brixworth Bulletin. Whilst comments on his views were requested in the Brixworth Bulletin, I find that I have very little to add to his criticisms of the standard of service and the level of customer care provided by the stores.

Whilst most of the young people behind the counter in the stores try to do their best, what is clearly evident is an absence of supervision and basic managerial competence. I suspect that others may have pursued the course that we have taken and shopped elsewhere wherever possible over the last few years. However, I am sure that most of us would prefer to shop in the village. This is a pity, since a store of this kind, if properly run, could make a major contribution to village life. The sooner that this state of affairs is brought to the attention of senior management in the Co-operative stores, the better.

Yours faithfully,
J D Parnaby

Dear Editor

Further to our recent telephone call, regarding the co-op in Brixworth, here are some of the points raised:-

- Very poor customer service at the till area, and none in the shop itself. If you need any help with anything extra there are no staff available – they appear to be ‘behind the scenes.’
- Till queue lengths get more ridiculous every visit.
- Wet floors – industrial cleaners being used at peak trading times are unacceptable and are a health and safety risk. These jobs should be done before or after closing.
- Filling up shelves – Leaving abandoned cages full of stock. Once again, not only a health and safety issue but also very annoying and difficult for the infirm, disabled, elderly, or mothers with prams to manoeuvre around.
- Newspapers all over the floor.
- Cash machine always broken. Although the co-op may not own it, they could contact the bank for an engineer to repair it.
- Special offers: 2 for 1 etc. Always have ‘run out of stock’ and are not replaced, special offer dump bins full of items that have no price!

So you do not know what the special offer is. This store needs a good, hard working, mature manager who can keep on top of the extremely young staff and painfully low standards and continue the work of the co-op brand – especially as so much good is being done with regards to fair trade products, the reduction of ‘e’ numbers and additives, the excellent array of vegetarian options, the hilarious tv adverts, and yet the Brixworth branch is letting this down – or is it that they don’t care, as they have the monopoly in the village?

Yours, a disgruntled customer
Mrs Melanie Dobson

Dear Sir,

I have read with interest the comments made by Revd. Watkins regarding the village co-op store and would like to say how much I agree with them.

I’ll happily boycott the store and hope that others do likewise. Just name the month! This village does deserve much better than the current badly managed, understaffed store selling overpriced items (sometimes out-of-date stock) to a captive audience.

Let’s do it!

Yours sincerely,
Martin Anderson

Members of the Bulletin team have been stopped in the street and outside shops on numerous occasions by residents voicing their support for the Vicar’s letter. We have received telephone calls expressing support for the views expressed in that letter. In short, there has been an almost unanimous feeling that the problems existing in the local Co-op store must be resolved. The Bulletin cannot publish all these comments, but we hope that the management of the Co-op are now taking the situation seriously.

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In spite of a somewhat blustery and wet evening on Friday October 21st 2005, the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, the Millennium Beacon lighting was well attended, particularly by those attending the children's party at the Brixworth Church Street community centre. The beacon was first lit just after 7pm and refreshments were served by David and Margaret Hymas and Sara and Andrew Brookes. As a result £89.22 was collected, including £18.16 from the Commemoration Service held in All Saints' Church at 6.30pm, all of which has been donated to the Red Cross in aid of the Pakistan Earthquake Fund.

At 7.15pm the beacon was lit again by John Dalton aged 8, who won the privilege at the children's party, as part of the National Lighting of all the beacons in the UK commencing with the Queen lighting the first beacon by the side of HMS Victory in Portsmouth. David Hamson and his fellow bell ringers rang the Church bells from 7.30pm until 8.30pm. On Sunday October 23rd 2005, at the All Saints' Church and the Brixworth Christian Fellowship morning services, specific mention was made of this great event in our history.

The lighting of the Millennium Beacon at important anniversaries and national events has, since its first lighting on New Year's Eve 1999, become a regular feature in village events. We have tried to make this more interesting and a means of raising money for specific world disasters. We could do even better if we had some additional volunteers of any age, including teenagers. The beacon has only been lit once or twice a year, so any commitment by residents would be minimal, but would provide an opportunity to make the whole event more memorable. Please telephone me on 881755 if you are interested in being involved.
David Hymas

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

It was reported in the last issue that the Parish Council had agreed to Cllr Steve Mabbutt's leave of absence for approximately six months. Cllr Mabbutt has resigned and there is now a vacancy on the Parish Council. Candidates for this vacancy should contact the Parish Council Clerk.



At the annual gathering of our distributors held at Louise Cramp's house in June, Paddy Fox, former editor of the Brixworth Bugle presented David Hymas with a model of the Brixworth Beacon to mark his retirement from his post of treasurer to the Bulletin and previously to the Bugle. A tribute to his services was made in the last issue of the Bulletin. David was the moving force behind the installation of the Millennium Beacon in the car park of All Saints' Church and it was thought appropriate to have this model constructed as a parting gift. The Bulletin team wish him well for the future and many years of lighting the real beacon.

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THE VILLAGE HALL
HOLCOT ROAD
BRIXWORTH

In the 5th issue of the Bulletin, Paddy Fox reported that the Youth Club was up and running and she praised the Management Committee for their enthusiasm in setting up this initiative.

However, she pointed out that 'regrettably there does not appear to be much semblance of a business plan which is essential for the viability of a club that needs to find £14,000 annually for the rent alone.'

She concluded her article by highlighting that 'Daventry District Council has provided a grant to cover the cost of the first six months' rent and Brixworth Parish Council had donated just over £5,000 to help associated costs. The Club expects to become self funding by the end of June.'

Frank WüG, Director of the Brixworth Youth Foundation wrote to the Parish Council on the 18th October 2005 to this effect

'As I am sure you are aware, the first few years of a charity are extremely precarious until a sustainable fund raising programme can be organised. Brixworth Youth Foundation is no exception to this rule and although annual fund raising projects are being set in motion, it will be three to four years before these can produce the revenue amounts for the sustainability of the Youth Club.

Brixworth Youth Foundation is applying to Daventry District Council for a three year rolling revenue grant of £7,000 per annum.

Could I, with all due respect, make a bid for matched funding of £7,000 from Brixworth Parish Council to take effect from 1st April 2006. I can re-assure the Council that every effort is being made to become self-sufficient from our fund raising initiatives but, as previously mentioned, this does take time to become sustainable.'

Is it not time that the Directors of this Foundation published a business plan showing anticipated income and all costs including rates, utilities? The rates alone must be in the order of £2,500 per annum.

Harvey Fox

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the **Co-operative Group**



NEW CHAIRMAN OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS



Caroline Monk was elected as Chairman of Brixworth C.E.V.C. School Governors in September 2005. She has been a governor for six years and has acted as vice-chairman last year. She held the chair of personnel for 4 years. Her term of office as a parent governor ends in 2007 and as her two children have moved on from the school, she will have to be retained in another capacity if she is to remain on the Board.

Currently there are 15 governors drawn from staff, parents, LEA, community and the foundation. Caroline sees the main task of the governors to be a critical friend to the Headmaster by monitoring the functions of finance, personnel, curriculum, community and health and safety.

There are 490 children attending the school, but it has a capacity to accommodate anticipated future village housing developments. A new learning centre incorporating the latest technology in I.T. has been recently built, provided from budgeted funds. However the school is fortunate in having a thriving P.T.A. which raised over £8,000 last year. The chairman looks forward to seeing the Governing body playing an even more integral part in helping the school's development and achieving its aims.

Caroline pays tribute to her predecessor, Dr Paula Jones, who remains a governor and to the Headmaster, David Boucher, with whom the governors have established a very good relationship.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH PORCH

Following the article in the last issue of the Bulletin regarding the debate on a possible interior or exterior porch, an eminent archaeological expert has suggested that when considering the external porch possibility, the archaeological concerns could be eased by constructing the porch on a raft foundation that could cover all the archaeologically sensitive features: this was the solution adopted for the Cathedral Visitors' Centre in Leicester two or three years ago. This solution might also allow for a more practical design for a new porch as the original one demolished in the 1860's was very narrow.

A group in Brixworth has offered to stage an event to raise funds for a porch on condition the Friends of All Saints' Church ear-mark the proceedings for such a purpose.

The Bulletin would be happy to pass on any views expressed by readers on this subject to the Church Council.

GOVERNMENT'S SMOKE-FREE PROPOSALS

Daventry District Council vows to continue to fight for transparency in the Government's recent proposals to ban smoking only in pubs selling food.

'These proposals do nothing to help protect workers or visitors from the detrimental effects of second-hand smoke in more than a hundred pubs and clubs in our district', said Councillor Kevin Perry. 'Inequality will be promoted for those that work in pubs and clubs as opposed to those that are employed in other workplaces across the district. Linking smoking to food consumption is itself illogical in public health terms.'

NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

Issue date will be 1st March 2006, however copy is required by 7th February. It would be appreciated if advertisers could notify their intentions before that date although the finished ad. would be accepted up to 15th February.

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Adrian Kimbell, Sub Officer of Brixworth Retained Fire Station died peacefully in Cynthia Spencer Hospice on August 23rd 2005 aged 37 years.

Adrian grew up on the family farm in Guilsborough and attended Guilsborough School. He joined the retained fire crew in Guilsborough in 1987, before transferring to Brixworth in 1991, giving 18 years service to the brigade.

He worked for the Leicester branch of Howard Smith Paper Group as a sales executive for 14 years and led a full and active life prior to being diagnosed with cancer in November last year.

Adrian will be greatly missed by his family, friends and colleagues. He leaves his wife Alison and 3 year old son George. His funeral took place at Brixworth All Saints' Church on September 1st and was given a guard of honour by Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Rev Mary Garbutt was licensed by the Bishop of Brixworth in a packed Lamport Church on Monday 10th October. The proof of her popularity was shown by the number of people who came from the Desborough group of parishes where she was previously curate and we welcome her to our group. Mary preached her first Service in Draughton on 30th October. The Harvest Thanksgiving was successful and well attended and the sum of £78 was raised from The Collection, sale of produce and donations.

There is to be a Carol Service in St Catherine's on Sunday 18th December at 4 pm. All are welcome

The wheels still grind slowly on towards the Club Room extension. The Architect from Daventry has been to give advice to the Trustees and the advisory panel of N.C.C. Capital Funding Programme has earmarked £14,000, subject to the outcome of outstanding applications.

A Harvest Supper was held in the Club Room on 11th November.

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Some of the leaves that fell from the trees in October and November have already started to rot, to become part of the rich humus from which next year's plants will draw some nutrition. Worms drag plant matter into their burrows to eat.

Some leaves take longer to decay than others. Pine needles for example can take up to seven years to break down completely and they help to turn the soil beneath the trees very acid. Craft workers know that poplar leaves have soft tissues that go quickly, leaving behind the hard veins to make a pretty leaf skeleton.

Moles are carnivores so even in winter they must find worms and grubs underground to keep going. If the soil freezes hard they simply follow their prey by burrowing to deeper levels. This has its dangers, though, for a snowfall, followed by a rapid thaw can flood their burrows and then they have no choice but to come to the surface.

Above ground they are defenceless against the many predators, like the fox and the carrion crow; the latter dines well on the unfortunates of the animal world, like the mole and the small birds that fail to make it through the long bitter December nights.

The bare, bony twigs of alder and silver birch provide no hiding place for the parties of tits and other small birds that crowd into them. Many pairs of sharp eyes are on the lookout for food. Alders especially are visited by the charming siskin, a tiny finch that is as acrobatic as a tit as it hangs beneath an alder 'cone' to extract the seeds. Siskins come from the north, and are much commoner in some winters than in others.

December and holly are inseparable in many people's minds, but not every year yields a good crop of berries. The old country belief that a heavy berry crop precedes a hard winter is not true. It means that last spring the weather was good when the trees were flowering, so most were pollinated, and this has been followed by a good growing season for the fruits. But the birds certainly welcome them in midwinter and thrushes feed greedily on them.



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STORM DRAINS IN BRIXWORTH AVIAN INFLUENZA



A Brixworth resident living on the Harborough Road has for some time suffered flooding in his garden each time after a heavy downfall of rain. A man-hole cover just outside his property would be lifted by a considerable force of water (the column of water could be as high as two feet) because the outlet of the culvert beneath the man-hole had been blocked. Anglian Water and W.S.Atkins (Acting on behalf of Highways) had no idea of the route of the culvert. After some time rods were put into the culvert and a blockage was detected some 100 yards away. Finally some weeks later W.S.Atkins sent their largest water tanker and with high pressure water cleared the blockage.

There are many drains in Brixworth where the authorities have no information about the routes of the drains. It makes one wonder what possible damage high pressure clearing of unknown drains is doing to the walls of the drainage system. One thing is sure, the weakest point always gives way first.

For several years, airlines have re-circulated the air within the cabins of aircraft in order to save fuel. Whilst it is more expensive on fuel to pump lower pressure clean air from outside the aircraft into the cabin which is kept at atmospheric pressure, this recirculation procedure has a downside - namely that any airborne viruses can be transmitted amongst the passengers, whereas the more expensive system would at least minimise this risk.

In view of the apparently impending pandemic of avian influenza which is predicted by Dr David Nabarro (United Nations' Co-ordinator for this threat) to kill between 5 and 150 million people in the world, I wrote to Mr Phillip Hollobone M.P. to suggest that it might be the time to place a moratorium on this practice of recycling cabin air in aircraft. He has replied that I have raised an important point and has sent a copy of my letter to the Ministry of Aviation and the Ministry of Health.

I am surprised that more air passengers have not complained in the past about this practice as many passengers suffer from chest infections after long-haul flights.

P.S. Mr Hollobone has recently received one reply from the Ministry of Transport which makes the following statements

'The House of Lords' Select Committee on Science and Technology's report on Air Travel and Health (November 2000) looked into this issue and concluded that the filtration and ventilation arrangements in passenger aircraft were satisfactory.

All large, modern aircraft prevent re-circulation of infectious disease by using High Energy Particulate Air filters. These were developed for use in hospitals to prevent cross-infection and air contamination, and are designed to remove bacteria and virus particles with an efficiency of over 99%. The Civil Aviation Authority requires airlines to implement reliability monitoring programmes which ensure that the filters are used in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.

There is a series of studies underway both in Europe and in the United States looking into different aspects of cabin air quality which the Government will continue to monitor closely via the CAA's Avian Health Unit.'

Brixworth residents are well aware of poor maintenance of filters no matter what the regulations are. The record of hospitals with regard to cross-infection is not a good example to quote.

Harvey Fox

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GOALS AND PRIORITIES 2006 - 7

Northamptonshire County Council agreed at a meeting on the 10th October 2005 a list of goals and priorities which they will bear in mind when they set their budget for the coming year beginning 6th April 2006. Should any resident have any views on this list or any other strategic goal which is not included in the list, they are encouraged to write to the N.C.C. or to their councillor (In the case of Brixworth - Councillor Chris Millar). The state of roads and pavements in the County and Brixworth is very poor. In fact visitors to the County often claim that they know they are in Northamptonshire by the state of the roads. Local motorists complain that the tracking of their car wheels is damaged by the pot-holes in the roads, necessitating frequent re-alignment at garages. Last year Highways spent a lot of money creating new, very underused, pavements near the County's contractor W.S. Atkins leaving pavements scheduled for repair uncompleted, due to cable damage near the Coach and Horses. This incident was reported in the December 2004 issue of the Bulletin. The Bulletin is pleased to see that it is a priority that roads and footpaths are to be better maintained. However, they are starting from a very low base and N.C.C must be more specific. Brixworth residents please respond to this opportunity to express your opinion on these goals.

NCC STRATEGIC GOALS	NCC PRIORITIES 2006-07	LEAD COUNCILLOR
A safer, freer and more prosperous County	▪ Anti social behaviour and fear of crime is reduced by more visible policing	Tavener
	▪ Roads and footpaths are better maintained and a modernised strategic road network is developed	Seery
A cleaner and greener County	▪ The built, natural and public environment is better developed and maintained	Smith
A secure and independent future for our children	▪ More children and young people get wider opportunities for development especially through extra curricular activities provided by the statutory and voluntary sectors	Kirkbride
	▪ More children living in stable and supported families	
A healthier, more active and independent life for adults	▪ More adults are able to live independently in their own homes through services that prevent ill health	Bromwich
Maximising influence and resources	▪ The County's reputation and the Council's performance are acknowledged as high quality by customers, communities, visitors, businesses and regulators	Harker, Gonzalez De Savage
Sustaining an excellent organisation		
A smaller and more enabling Council	▪ The Council lives within its means, providing services at a cost to the local taxpayer that increases by no more than the rate of inflation, provided that changes in central government funding do not prevent this	Binley, Brown, Parker

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ARMED ROBBERIES IN BRIXWORTH

The Co-op has suffered its second armed robbery within a short period. On Saturday morning at 5.30am a hooded black man almost 6 ft. in height held up a female Co-op employee who was opening up the store. The employee was forced at gun point to open up the shop safe and a quantity of cash was stolen. Currently the assailant, who was wearing a dark green hooded top and dark trousers, has not been apprehended.

A week previously, burglars broke into the upstairs apartment of the manager of The George public house and stole the previous day's takings whilst the manager was asleep. A neighbour, woken at 6.00am saw a ladder against the wall of The George and a car across the road near the shops with a man inside. He shone a powerful torch on the scene and the driver started the car whilst two men scrambled down the ladder, jumped into the car, which sped away leaving the ladder behind. The police were called but to date the burglars have not been caught.

ORGANISATIONS FESTIVAL

Report by Mike Nice

Over 30 different village organisations turned out for the Festival at the Library/Community Centre in September. The Festival was well attended and many clubs were able to recruit new members. With the hall, foyer and community room overflowing, two mobile exhibitions were set up at the front of the building. Probably the prize for the most attractive display was down to the Gardening Club, but the most esoteric souvenirs available came from the Northampton and Lamport Railway stand where tea towels featuring the daily steam train timetable from Brixworth Station from May 1949 could be purchased.

Organiser, Mike Nice said, 'It was a wonderful opportunity to see the range of clubs and activities available for all ages in the village. There really is no excuse not to get involved.'



We appeal to young people when cycling at night to switch on your lights. You can see cars but they cannot see you.



Mercedes Benz High Performance Engines Ltd. and Ilmor Engineering Ltd. are now two separate businesses. Mercedes Benz design and manufacture the Formula One Grand Prix for the Maclaren team. They employ 450 people in Brixworth and currently occupy the old site at the bottom of Quarry Road, the site on the corner of Scaldwell Road and Harborough Road and half of the Woodpark site. Ilmor occupy the other half of the Woodpark site.

Steve Davis, Managing Director of Ilmor told the Bulletin that from the middle of next year, Ilmor will occupy the old site but will share the canteen facilities with Mercedes Benz. Woodpark and the Scaldwell Road sites will be the future domain of Mercedes Benz.

Mario Illien and Roger Penske are the new owners of Ilmor Engineering Ltd although these two together with Paul Morgan set up Ilmor in the late 1980's.

Ilmor has contracts with leading car manufacturers for design of special engines and limited manufacture.

Helen West
Jeweller
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made
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The normal calm of the Community Centre was shattered for a week over the summer by a horde of invading pirates who used the hall to stash treasure. Huge heaps of doubloons were amassed (by both fair means and foul), while several unfortunate crew members were made to walk the plank for insubordination to the captain. At the end of the week, they sailed away and were gone.

The week's piratical adventures were organised by Brixworth Christian Fellowship as a holiday club for children aged 8 – 11 and it was a huge success. Members of the church, assisted by youth workers from the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs (based at King's Park in Northampton) organised wild games, fun and adventure each morning of the week, and one outing to the Rushden splash pool. The mornings followed a similar format, with small group games or challenges, followed by Bible teaching on what the most important treasure to have in life is. Each morning always ended with a team challenge, such as "dress your leader up as the wildest pirate you can make".

About 25 junior pirates were present each morning, although the noise levels might have suggested twice that number, as participation was lively and loud at times. Leaders felt it was perhaps a good thing that we only ran in the mornings as the energy required to do more would not have been available!

Plans are already being made for next year – same wild format, but a different theme. Phil Walter, who was overall leader, said he would like to dress up as Darth Vader, so it may just have a science fiction theme. Watch out for Star Wars in 2006!

Ian Rees Associate Minister B.C.F.



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BRIXWORTH TRAVEL CLUB

Since 2000, a regular Thursday afternoon service has operated, initially between Brixworth, Old, Walgrave and Hannington, to allow villagers from these areas to visit the facilities of Brixworth. The service was expanded to include Spratton and Creaton at the request of people living in these villages. On occasion, the minibus also calls at Hollowell.

Although the service was initially intended to enhance trading opportunities for Brixworth shops, the Library and Daventry District Council Office have also benefited with patronage from the users. It is also possible for Brixworth residents to use the minibus to visit the villages covered by the routes, although this facility has only been taken up on two or three occasions in the past five years!

The majority of users are Senior Citizens, but it is stressed that anyone can avail themselves of the minibus. The fare for a return journey is only £1.25.

We also operate on three Tuesdays in the month services to Daventry (2nd Tuesday), Rugby (3rd Tuesday) and Kettering/ Market Harborough (last Tuesday) at a cost of £5 return, leaving at 10.00am and returning at 3.00pm.

Please help to keep the Travel Club active by using the minibus so that the revenue can be increased. Anyone able to offer their services as a volunteer driver would be welcomed with open arms (and given the appropriate training) All enquiries should be directed to **Peter Oliver 01604 881012**

FOR SALE COLUMN

The Bulletin is considering having a regular for sale column which will have items which residents can offer for sale at a cost of £1 per line of advertising. The Bulletin will not accept any responsibility for the condition of the items for sale.

These items are for sale this issue

Reebok RT 1000 Treadmill (cost when new £750) - £350 - 01604 880337

Tchibo rechargeable battery operated hard vacuum cleaner - £5 - 01604 880212

Full-sized Table-tennis table (folding & on wheels) - £50 - 01604 880337

MICRO WIND TURBINES

In the last issue of the Bulletin, we published an article on micro wind turbines. On the 9th November, the Energy Minister, Malcolm Wicks officially launched a micro-turbine system installed on the Daventry Country Park Visitors' Centre as an initiative to demonstrate micro-generation.

He said 'Micro generation has an important role to play in our efforts to cut carbon emissions in the UK. The fight against climate change is not just about big organisations looking for global solutions. It is also about individuals and the community producing their own renewable energy at a local level

Having wind turbines and solar panels in our schools and homes could provide visible evidence of the value of these technologies and give tangible proof that they do work'

Daventry District Council have advised the Bulletin 'that costs of micro wind turbines are not yet fully known (they will come from British Gas working with the manufacturer Windsave) but probably cost in the region of £1,500. However central government funding from the Clear Skies programme may be forthcoming which could reduce the cost further.'

D.D.C.'s home energy conservation officer is taking names and telephone numbers from people interested. You can call for free on 0800731 8976.

DDC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Frank WiiG and Councillor Elizabeth WiiG informed the Parish Council at the end of August 2005 that they had resigned from the DDC planning committee. Despite having three DDC councillors, Brixworth, the largest village outside Daventry in the district is now without a member on this very important committee. The Councillors WiiG stated 'We will, of course, still represent any contentious issues which may arise within our ward and will also take a more active role in the PC planning meetings.'

VANDALISM

The Bulletin has been informed that at 10.30pm on 11th November, the window of K.F. Troop & Son was smashed. The perpetrators were allegedly a gang of youngsters, clearly identified running away from the scene of the crime. On the same night an incendiary device was thrown into the telephone box adjacent to the library. The telephone was put out of action, though the glass remained intact. Whilst the local police later visited the scene, at the time of going to print, no arrests have been made.

EXPRESSIONS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HELEN WEST JEWELLER

Dear Brixworth Bulletin,

As you will have heard, I sold my business to Gordon Davies Pharmacies at the end of September.

I have enjoyed providing the Brixworth Community with a service, and feel privileged to have brought a pharmaceutical service to the village in February 1991. I shall always be appreciative of the residents who encouraged me to do so.

I felt a responsibility to pass the business on to owners who will give a high class service and I know from the excellent reputation of the Gordon Davis Group in Leicester that they will certainly continue to do that. The staff will remain the same.

Best wishes to the village community in the future.

Roger Powdrill

On 1st October, Brixworth Pharmacy was sold by Roger Powdrill to the Gordon Davis Pharmacy chain.

Gordon Davis is a family run company which was established in Leicester in 1961 and has grown through the years to become a medium sized chain with 30 branches spread throughout the East Midlands. The purchase of the Brixworth business is the group's first foray into Northamptonshire.

Initially very little will change in Brixworth, with Gordon Davis fortunate enough to be able to retain all the existing staff under the supervision of the two pharmacists Nicola Illingworth and Susan Elmore.

Gordon Davis are committed to providing a high quality pharmaceutical service to the population of Brixworth and keen to further develop the role of the pharmacy in the village and the range of products it supplies. *Simon Davis*

Dear Brixworth Bulletin,

I have read Elizabeth Wiig's letter in the last Bulletin and I have experienced vandalism for years ever since the football posts were put up. They always play near the end of my garden because the ones near the swings have been taken away. The balls come over into my shrubbery all the time and have smashed 3 panels in my fence which I have had to replace costing me £200 to date. They make camps in my shrubbery and I caught 2 teenagers having sex in it and when I told them to clear off, they said to me 'Get back to your hovel you old bag' and the next night set it on fire. It never stops.

Yours sincerely

Peggy Sharp P.S. Thank you for putting replacement stronger rails up on to Spratton Road (4th time). They will need sledgehammers to remove them now, but I am not holding my breath.

To the Editor,

The purpose of the Baha'i Faith is to promote understanding and tolerance between people from different religious and cultural backgrounds. This is particularly pertinent in today's world in which international events put a strain on relations between different religions and cultures. Throughout the world Baha'is work to bring harmony between people and peace to inner lives. This is equally important at the local level as it is at the international level. As the Baha'is say, 'uniting the world one heart at a time.' It is sad that this message of peace and reconciliation can no longer be publicly promoted in the village as the Baha'is stand, put there for this purpose, has after repeated vandalism, been completely removed by a person or persons unknown.

In the past, small scale attacks seemed to be part of the general pattern of petty vandalism in the village, but recently the stand seems to have been singled out for attack and its theft can only imply that the thief objected to its message of peace and harmony. This will not deter Baha'is from offering to the people of the village, the opportunity to discuss these important issues and share devotional times together. Forthcoming devotional meetings will be on Sunday 11th December all starting at 7pm. For further details of these and other meetings, or information about the Baha'i Faith please contact 01604 881547.

Kevin Beint Secretary Brixworth Baha'is

A Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning in the World was held at Brixworth Village Hall on Saturday 1st October. The event raised £224.97 which goes to Macmillan Cancer Research.

Apart from the opportunity to enjoy a freshly brewed cup of tea or coffee/biscuit, there was also the chance to win a prize on the tombola, the drawing competition and the Macmillan 'win a car' competition. In addition there was face painting (highly recommended by Eileen after having a beautiful butterfly painted by the very talented Juno) the opportunity to purchase greeting cards and rummage through the bric-a-brac and bargain books stalls.

Tina and Eileen would like to thank Chrissy, Maggie, Jenny, Sue, Carol, (not forgetting Mick, who did a fantastic job in blowing up all the balloons plus all the heavy lifting work) for all their help. You were a great team.

Thanks also to Juno, Elaine, Angela and Jane and all those generous people who donated tombola prizes and money gifts. Finally a special big thanks to everybody who came to this very worthwhile event. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Tina and Eileen



The Bulletin would like to extend a warm welcome to Helen West who has recently opened a jewellers shop at 1a Kennel Terrace. Helen has been making jewellery since graduating from Loughborough College of Art in 1978. She initially worked in Brackley and then from home in Naseby before going on the road doing trade fairs around the country. She found the latter rather exhausting and often the rewards unpredictable. Helen primarily works with silver, finding it a more pliable metal to work with, although she has some gold items on display. She is happy to have a go at most commissions, providing it is possible, and if she can't then she often knows someone who can!

We wish Helen every success in Brixworth and hope that she finds us a friendly and hospitable place from which to run her business.

Jane Neill

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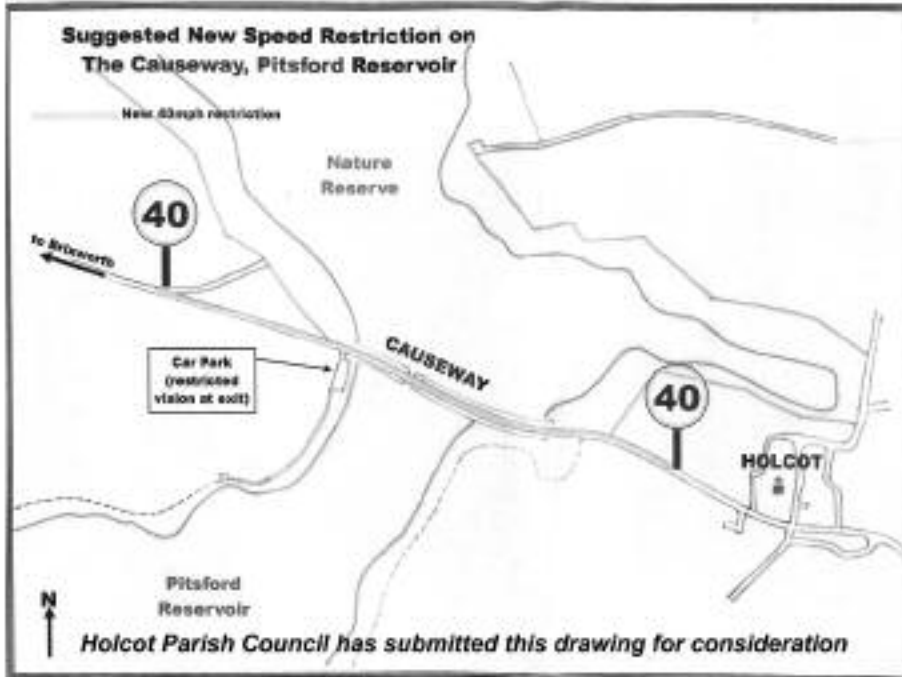
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THE CAUSEWAY — PITSFORD RESERVOIR

Holcot Parish Council have written to Brixworth Parish Council to elicit Brixworth's support for a 40mph limit to be imposed on part of the causeway in order to lessen the danger of speeding motorists near the entrances to the Country Park, the Fishing Lodge and the Nature Reserve.

In September 2004, The Bulletin raised this issue in an article entitled Holcot Road Black Spot and quoted traffic volumes and speeds particularly at the entrance to the Country Park. Holcot has the Bulletin's support and we hope Brixworth PC will support them.



DRAMA GROUP'S PANTOMIME 'DICK WHITTINGTON'

The Brixworth Drama Group is presenting the pantomime 'Dick Whittington' adapted by James Skeggs on Friday 20th January 7.30pm, Saturday 21st January 2.00pm, Friday 27th January 7.30pm and Saturday 28th January 2.00pm and 7.30pm. (Please note that there is no evening performance on Saturday 21st January.)

Tickets will go on sale on the 17th December from Lovell's Hardware 880580, Fox in the Pound Bookshop 880337 and from Heather Pool 881166.

As last year's performances were very popular, tickets should be bought a.s.a.p.

HANGING HOUGHTON AND LAMPORT NEWS

We celebrated the 400th anniversary of the arrest of Guy Fawkes, who as we all know attempted to blow-up Parliament in the year 1605, in the traditional way with a large bonfire and a fine display of fireworks. The weather was very kind to us and the rain which was forecast held off until the event was over.

After the fireworks we retired to Tom's Barn for the now traditional fish & chip supper, which was supplied by the Brixworth Chippie, and which was excellent.

The bar did very good business selling both beer and wine. We also tried something new this year - Jan Fossey and Ann Larkan provided home-made soup for those not partaking in the fish & chips, this proved to be a great success and quickly sold out - they may well have to do the same again next year!!!!

The event managed to 'wash it's face' - break even, and was attended by 150 local residents, friends and their children. I imagine we will be repeating the event next year.

The Parish Council has offered to buy a seat for the Lamport Church. This has been agreed by the church council and the Diocese and the seat will hopefully be installed before the end of this year. The seat will be similar to the other seats in the villages.

In conjunction with the local police and ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England) some local councillors and residents were trained in the use of a speeding device for use mainly in the village of Lamport to monitor the speed of vehicles passing through. It was obvious to those using the devices that vehicles were speeding, and we will be seeking to utilise these devices again in the future, noting the details of persistent offenders, and reporting these to the police, who may take action and write to those concerned. *Mike Philpott.*

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BULLETIN BOARD

MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

'A Festival of Readings and Carols for Christmas' is being presented by the Northampton Branch of Macmillan Cancer Relief at All Saints' Church Brixworth on Thursday December 8th, at 7.30pm.

The music will be supported by a hand-picked choir from various churches and societies in different parts of the county, and they will be singing with the congregation, as well as some more unusual seasonal numbers, often unaccompanied. The readings will be mainly secular verse and prose, with an obvious Christmas flavour.

All Saints' Brixworth will be a wonderful setting for this joyous occasion but seating (random) will be limited to 200. **Tickets (£10) can be ordered from Macmillan Cancer Relief—Telephone 01604 647532.**

Cancer has probably touched all families in one form or another, so if you are unable to join us, you may like to consider a special cheque to 'Macmillan Cancer Relief', Unit 1A Tithe Farm, Moulton Road, Holcot. NN6 9SH (Charity Number 261017)

BRIXWORTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Members meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Brixworth Village Hall. Their programme for the first six months of 2006 is as follows:-

- January** Mr Steven Troop
Naughty and exotic fruit
- February** Mr Maurice Billing
Talk about Shrubs
- March** Mrs Anne Fountain
Talk on 'Keeping Fit'
- April** Mrs Jane Courtney
Old Time Musicals
- May** Resolutions
- June** Mrs Mary Wallwark
Wartime Stories on the Railway

The second half of the year will also be interesting. If you would like to know more about us please call:

President 01604 883615
Secretary 01604 880317

Wednesday 21st December Pensioners' Lunch at the Centre

Around sixty pensioners will be sharing a few hours of eating and entertainment at the Olive Branch which excels in its catering skills. You will need to book on 889030 as numbers may have to be limited.

CHRISTMAS WHEELIE BINS

Daventry District Council will empty wheelie bins in Brixworth over the Christmas and New Year festive period on the dates shown below.

If you wish to have your Christmas tree collected, please place them either in your brown bin or beside the bin on the 12th January 2006.

7th December 2005	Brown bin
14th December 2005	Grey bin
21st December 2005	Grey bin
4th January 2006	Grey bin
12th January 2006	Brown bin

(Christmas trees)

BRIXWORTH TODDLER GROUP VILLAGE HALL

Monday 5th December: Pots of Fun
Have a keepsake of your child's hand or foot prints on plates, mugs etc. or let them design their own creations.

Monday 19th December: Christmas Party
Lots of fun and games plus a visit from Father Christmas.

Brixworth Toddler Group meets every Monday during term time from 1.45 - 3.00pm. at Brixworth Village Hall. Come along and join the fun!

Operation Christmas Child

2000 shoeboxes filled with gifts for needy children is our aim this year!

The shoebox appeal is well under way, and we hope that you have been able to be involved by filling a box with gifts, covering it in Christmas paper and delivering it to the collection point in the Centre, Spratton Road. On Christmas morning, before your festivities begin, it would be so good to remember the one child that you have made smile, as they receive the only present they will have, in what will be a miserable, lonely and sad Christmas for them.

For more details call in to the centre and pick up a leaflet – you'll be glad you did – and so will that child!

Phil Walter

CHRISTMAS @ BRIXWORTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Saturday 3rd December 7.30-9.30pm

The Xmas Factor

An evening of food, fun and music to show that God does not reject failures! Tickets £2.50 from the Olive Branch Coffee Shop.

Sunday 18th December 4.00pm

Carol Service & Nativity in the Open Air

Again this year we will be taking our Carol Service outside and include and work with the very things we are told not to – animals and children! A celebration to include the acting out of the Nativity, hot drinks during and after. This year following the launch of the film 'Narnia', we shall use this theme alongside the Christmas story. A real family affair not to be missed!

Sunday 25th December Christmas

Morning Family Service @ 10.30am.

Come and join us for this very popular service of the year as we rejoice together in the coming of Jesus. For around forty five minutes the family can begin their Christmas by remembering just why we celebrate the season. Brixworth Christian Fellowship wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and pray that God's Peace may be ours in 2006. Be assured of a warm welcome at any of the events listed.

BRIXWORTH LIONS Santa is coming!

As we come to the end of another busy year for Brixworth Lions, preparations are well under way for Santa's annual visit. Santa will be touring Brixworth and the surrounding villages between Wednesday 14th and Thursday 22nd December and he is looking forward to seeing as many people as possible. Santa's helpers will be collecting donations for local charities. New members are very welcome. Please contact Peter (882289) or Shirley (882877) for more details.

Cannon gas cooker with double oven and over head grill in excellent condition. Offered as a gift but it must be collected from 21 Church Street Brixworth Tel: 01604 880 212

PLANNING STATUS REPORT

REF NO. & DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	P.C RECOMMENDATION & D.D.C. DECISION
DA/2004/0707 29 Burrows Vale. First floor extension and single storey rear extension.	Subject to Appeal. Appeal granted.
DA/2005/0121 Rigiflex, Northampton Rd. Demolition of existing factory and construction of 34 residential units.	PC 29/3 Objection. DDC Approved subject to a 106 agreement. Subject to appeal.
DA/2005/0140 Land at Holcot Rd, Brixworth 14 dwellings, estate road, highway alterations and ancillary works.	PC 26/7 No Objection. Awaiting 106 agreement.
DA/2005/0171 The Grange, Kennel Terrace. Convert existing office building into leisure facilities and build new indoor swimming pool.	PC 26/4 DDC Refused. Subject to Appeal.
DA/2005/0539 Land adjoining 1 New Street. Form pair of 2-bed semi detached low cost affordable housing (revised scheme)	PC 25/5 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/0574 6 Horseshoe Close. First floor extension to dwelling.	PC 28/6 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/0580 36 The Ashway. Relocation of existing fence and wall on side of dwelling.	PC 28/6 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/0583 24 Froxhill Crescent. Revised plans for conservatory.	PC 28/6 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/0652 33 Shelleycoates Road. Relocation of boundary fence.	PC 26/7 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/0659 The Old Bakery, 112 Northampton Road. Change of use to residential and single storey extension.	PC 26/7 No Objection subject to conditions. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/0704 2 Knights Way. Single storey side extension to form breakfast room and utility.	PC 26/7 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/0719 Haywards Barn, Northampton Road. Extension to club house	PC 26/7 No Objection but with recommendations. DDC Refused. Subject to appeal.
DA/2005/0803 45 Stannard Way. Two storey extension to provide larger bathroom and utility room.	PC 15/8 No Objection. DDC Refused.
DA/2005/0886 2 Burrows Vale. Extension at first floor over garage.	PC 5/9 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/0893 Rosemount, 22 Northampton Rd. Outline application for three dwellings	PC 5/9 Objections. DDC approved subject to conditions.
DA/2005/0934 82 Froxhill Crescent Additional information re a single storey extension to rear of dwelling and window to existing garage.	PC 17/10 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/1010 29 Froxhill Crescent. Single storey extension to front of building.	PC 17/10 Objection. DDC Officials recommend approval.
DA/2005/1014 10 Pytchley Close. Detached double garage with storage space over at front of dwelling. Integral garage converted to living space.	PC17/10 Approved with observations.
DA/2005/1016 43 The Ashway Conservatory to rear.	PC 17/10 No Objection.
DA/2005/1026 Holmleigh, Silver St. Replacement of flat roof with new pitched roof	PC 17/10 No Objection.
D/2005/1133 4 Eastfield Road. Loft conversion and small extension to rear lounge.	PC 7/11 No Objection.
DA/2005/0271/0272 The Lamport Swan. Lounge ext. dining and stores (incorp. adj. vacant cottage)	Approved by both PC and DDC
DA/2005/0297 Jasmine House Manor Rd. Hanging Houghton. Single storey ext. detached garage/store.	Approved by both PC and DDC
DA/2005/0500/ Lamport Farm. Change of use from storage to B1 use.	Approved by DDC with changes to driveway access.
DA/2005/0906 Conservatory at rear - 2 Townsend Close, Hanging Houghton	Approved by PC. Approved by DDC

RIGIFLEX SITE

(Planning Application DA/2005/0121)
Haddon Developments Ltd has made an appeal against the failure of the Local Planning Authority to give notice of its decision within the appropriate period on his application for approval i.e.

1. Failure by Daventry District Council to issue a Planning Committee resolution to the applicant
2. Failure by Daventry District Council to give notice of its decision within the appropriate period viz. by 25th March 2005.

The Inspectorate has this appeal in its in-tray and John Wilcox hopes to obtain a decision by early 2006.

A D.D.C. Planning Official confirmed this time-scale and believed the matter could be resolved. The appeal was necessary for contractual reasons and both sides believe that the issue of the footpath through the site has been resolved.



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Brixworth Juniors Under 13 Football Team

The Brixworth Juniors Under 13 squad line up for a pre-season photo with their sponsor Frank Campanaro of FK Designs.



Pictured: Back row: Elliot Walker, Ryan Pietrangelo, Aiden Pearce, Josh Robins, Richard Dunham, Tom Jones, Dougie O'Ware, Antonio Campanero & Sam Bingham. Front row: Matthew Smorfitt, Chad Hughes, Anthony Hamlyn, Sam Willis, Connor Pearce & Callum Cleasby. Missing from picture are Chris Anderson & Biagio Sereno.

Brixworth Juniors Under 15's



After last season, winning the C League, the team has been promoted straight into the A division, which will be a much greater challenge. After five league games, we are eighth in the league out of twelve with five points, but now playing much better football starting to score goals. The last two matches have brought victories in the 1st round of both cup competitions, winning 6-4 and 5 nil. Recent new signings are also helping to strengthen the small squad.

Thanks again to Mercedes Benz High Powered Engines for their sponsorship.

Brixworth Red Lion F.C.


After last season's League and Cup success, we have been promoted to Division One of the Northants Sunday Combination.

After seven league games, we top the table having won six and drawn one. Craig Spraggons is once again our top scorer with eleven goals and a further nine players have also found the onion bag.

In the NFA Sunday cup we bowed out in the second round, going down 3-1 to last year's beaten finalists from Peterborough. Better news in the NTFA Goodliffe cup where we beat a premier side to progress on in the competition.

Thanks to some hard work by Nigel Toseland and Andy Roe we are now playing our home matches at the Ashway. Also thanks to the Parish Council for supplying the pitch and goalposts.

Our main sponsor remains the Red Lion and we are grateful to Toseland and Jones Plumbing and Heating Services for the new away kit. *Ian Bandey 882215*



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BRIXWORTH STARS IN THE MAKING

ENGLAND KNOCKING ON
NATALIE'S DOOR



Brixworth girl Natalie Reay was delighted recently to receive a call from the England F.A. in London, informing her of her selection for the England Women's Under 15 Soccer squad. Natalie attended the three-day residential training camp at Lilleshall in Shropshire during the October half-term.

Now playing for Leicester City F.C. Centre of Excellence Under 16's, Natalie started her football with Brixworth Juniors as a seven year old until FA rules dictated that she had to leave and move to girls' football at Under 12 level. Brixworth Juniors did not have an all-girls team when Natalie was seven but such was her promise that the club sought to nurture and develop her talent for as long as possible. In the following years, Natalie was one of a handful of girls playing regular organised football in a predominantly boys' sport and her skills were soon noted.

Her dad Trevor recognises that it was undoubtedly Natalie's well-grounded development in a good quality junior team for four years that helped take her to the level she has reached today. Trevor was also keen to acknowledge the efforts of Pete Baker and Ian Taylor, both formerly with Brixworth Juniors FC and the great support received from Paul Curtis.

Natalie follows in the footsteps of another ex-Brixworth Juniors player Liam Dolman, who is now making quite an impact at Northampton Town FC.

Warmest congratulations go to Natalie who, in her modest way, has achieved so much in a relatively short space of time. Brixworth Juniors FC is proud of Natalie and sends her their sincerest wishes for the future.

LIAM DOLMAN



Liam Dolman, 17 years old from Brixworth, made his first start for the Cobblers against Notts County in the LDV Vans Trophy game on Tuesday 18th October. He had a great game at the heart of the Cobblers' defence and his team won 5-2. He was rated strong and effective and we wish him every success in the future.

Brixworth Badminton Club

The new season has started with slightly fewer members than last year but we still have 7 teams in the Northants League. We would love to have a few more lady members. If anyone out there plays badminton, particularly potential players who met us at the Festival of Organisations on 3rd September, please telephone our membership secretary, Geoff Dawson on 882369.

We have a number of social events coming up from the end of November onwards. The annual disco is on the 26th November. Please phone 882369 for details and tickets. Philip Imison 01536 723182

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B F C Senior Football

Results have been mixed from the start of the season for both first and reserve teams. The club have signed a few new players which have been quite positive adding to the depth of the squad. Team spirit and camaraderie amongst the players is good. However, managers are still looking for strikers as this is something we are lacking and anyone wishing to join the club is welcome. Training is on Wednesday nights at St. David's playing field - 7pm until 9pm.

Upcoming events include the Christmas disco on 17th December, more details to follow nearer the time.

Once again thank you to all the committee for their hard work. Special thanks to Steve Woods of S W Scaffolding Services, Brixworth for the sponsorship of a full strip for the first team. This is greatly appreciated.

Brixworth sporting fraternity send their good wishes to Bob Bell and hope he makes a speedy recovery from his illness.

Northampton Boys Gymnastics Club

Northampton Boys Gymnastics' Club was established in 1982 and is based at the Benham Arena. We are the only dedicated boys' facility in the county and as such, we have the necessary experience to offer specialist gymnastics training to boys from around Northamptonshire. The club is run by a team of qualified and experienced coaches.

The club has a competitive but friendly atmosphere. The gymnasts are coached in groups of similar ability and are encouraged to work hard whilst maintaining their enjoyment of the sport. Parents are encouraged to become involved in the club and we welcome support at any of the displays or competitions we attend. We also hold parents' evenings and Club Championships when every boy in the club is given the chance to demonstrate his skills.

We are now planning to expand our club to village locations around Northampton and will be running a number of courses at local village halls and community centres. Our first course will be held at The Brixworth Centre on Wednesday evenings (4.00 - 5.00pm) and will run for 6 weeks beginning January 2006

Anyone interested in either the Brixworth course or our Northampton based club should contact Karen 01604 469334 or 07811120965.
e-mail kazrate@hotmail.com

Brixworth Junior Football Club

We are currently looking for a Club Treasurer and Secretary. If anyone is interested in taking up either of these positions, please contact D.Coleman on telephone number 07803259409.