

New Services Area proposal continues to divide opinion

Plans for a local service area on the outskirts of Brixworth are back with planners and they have divided village opinion just as they did before.

The new proposal contains a few notable changes from the previous iteration, which was refused by Daventry District Council in the spring of 2021 on the ground that the proposal would undermine Brixworth's village character.

The proposal is for a mixed-use development including a shop, pharmacy, gym or dance school, several takeaways or restaurants, a community hub with meeting rooms, plus spaces for other businesses and offices. The main changes from the previous submission are that the proposed space for a drive-through coffee outlet has gone to make space for the village hub, which would be run by a local company, increased floor space for the gym and dance studio which would get 5,000 square foot of space instead of 3,400 – this is to accommodate predicted demand – and the loss of a proposed retail space. Additionally, the number of electric car charge points has been almost tripled, rising from 12 to 32, and will include 150kw super fast charge points. Much of the size of the scheme has been reduced to single storey buildings, to reduce impact. Lastly, the revised scheme now only has one road access points, instead of two, which will save a tree that would otherwise have had to be removed, and allow more landscaping.

The reaction from villagers has been polarised. Many like the idea of a gym and dance studio in the village. There is also support for a convenience store on the outskirts of Brixworth near the 508, which many think is a better location than the new Co-op on the site of the Red Lion pub (though that project, controversial as it may be, is unaffected by the new plans).



Here comes the new play park!

New play equipment was installed at St Davids in Brixworth. Sean Goodhart's photo above captures the early stages of the work. Turn to page 29 for details and how the play area looks now.

Others are sad at the loss of countryside land that the development would mean, coupled with a further expansion of Brixworth that would further erode its village character. They point out that the village already has several takeaways and that gym facilities are available a short drive away in Moulton. Some have been speculating that if the proposal went ahead but wasn't successful, it would likely be easier to obtain planning permission to redevelop the land for housing than if the land remained a greenfield site.

The developers argue that the service area would bring much-needed facilities to serve the growing southern end of the village, which has been expanding ever further away from the existing shops in the centre. The proposal is just for the outline plans at this stage – if successful, the local community would be invited to give their input in an open consultation to develop the final design.

The new proposal was submitted in late November and is expected to be considered by West Northants District planning in due course.

– Claudia Flavell-White

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The *Brixworth Bulletin* is published
quarterly in March, June, September and
December. The deadline for contributions
and advertising for the June issue is 25
April 2022.

Visit www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk, join us
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Brixworth Velo

Brixworth Velo is five years old! Five years ago, a small group of cyclists met outside Brixworth Library for the first group ride. Since then, a lot has changed, and the number of riders has grown. There are now 60 signed up members of the club.

The one thing that hasn't changed though is the club ethos. Sunday morning rides are a social event, not a race. Depending on numbers there will be different groups going out according to rider capability. For the standard Sunday morning ride, we ask riders to be capable of maintaining an average speed of 14+ mph. For the less capable rider we organise occasional introductory rides.

All rides are advertised on Facebook and Strava. New riders are always welcome. Club rides leave at 8:30 am on a Sunday morning from outside Brixworth library. Please arrive a few minutes beforehand. Bring a helmet, puncture repair kit, food and drink to fuel your ride and importantly money for the Cafe stop! We will provide the warm welcome. — *Jonathon Green*

Email: brixworthvelo@gmail.com
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How the village life

The results of a recent Northamptonshire police survey, published by their Strategic Development Team in January 2022, identified that the number one priority is dealing with road safety and road traffic offences, which includes speeding. I work with around 20 or so parish councils or parish meetings across the Brixworth Ward and combatting speeding through our villages is indeed one of the issues that comes up time and time again.

Changes to the highway code brought in new rules into effect on the 29th January, so what does this have to do with speeding traffic? Well, directly not at all, however, if we all understand how they operate and comply with them, the new rules could positively slow things down for all of us.

The main changes are regarding road hierarchy, ie who gets preference of right of way over other road users. The new rules makes it easier for drivers to be prosecuted over accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists. The key change is that pedestrians have new priority when crossing road junctions, while cyclists have priority when passing a turning car, under this new hierarchy of road users. Children, older adults and disabled people are at the top of the list, followed by other pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motorcyclists.

In summary the new rules are:

Rule H1: New hierarchy of road users

Drivers of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger to others. This principle applies most strongly to drivers of HGVs, LGVs, cars/taxis and motorcycles. Cyclists and horse riders likewise have a responsibility to reduce danger to pedestrians.

Rule H2: New priority for pedestrians at junctions

At a junction, drivers, motorcyclists, horse riders and cyclists should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from which you are turning. You should give way to pedestrians waiting to cross a zebra crossing (currently you only have to give way if they're already on the crossing), and to pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross a parallel crossing.

Rule H3: New priority for cyclists when cars are turning

You should not cut across cyclists, horse riders or horse drawn vehicles going ahead when you are turning into or out of a junction or changing direction or lane. This

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highway code changes impact on local roads

applies whether they are using a cycle lane, a cycle track, or riding ahead on the road and you should give way to them. Do not turn at a junction if to do so would cause the cyclist, horse rider or horse drawn vehicle going straight ahead to stop or swerve. You should stop and wait for a safe gap in the flow of cyclists if necessary.

In practice in our villages, it means that pedestrians have priority not just when they are crossing the road at a junction, but when they are waiting to do so. For these rules to work effectively all of us motor vehicle drivers will need to be more aware of what's going on around us and by definition slow things down and ensure that pedestrians and cyclists are protected.

During the pandemic, most of us have walked more and in many instances cycled more. If we all do our bit, these changes could have a positive impact on active travel and potentially slow traffic in our villages to safer levels.

It's worth noting that this isn't just advice. Contraventions can be backed up with £200 fine and six points adding to the driving licence.

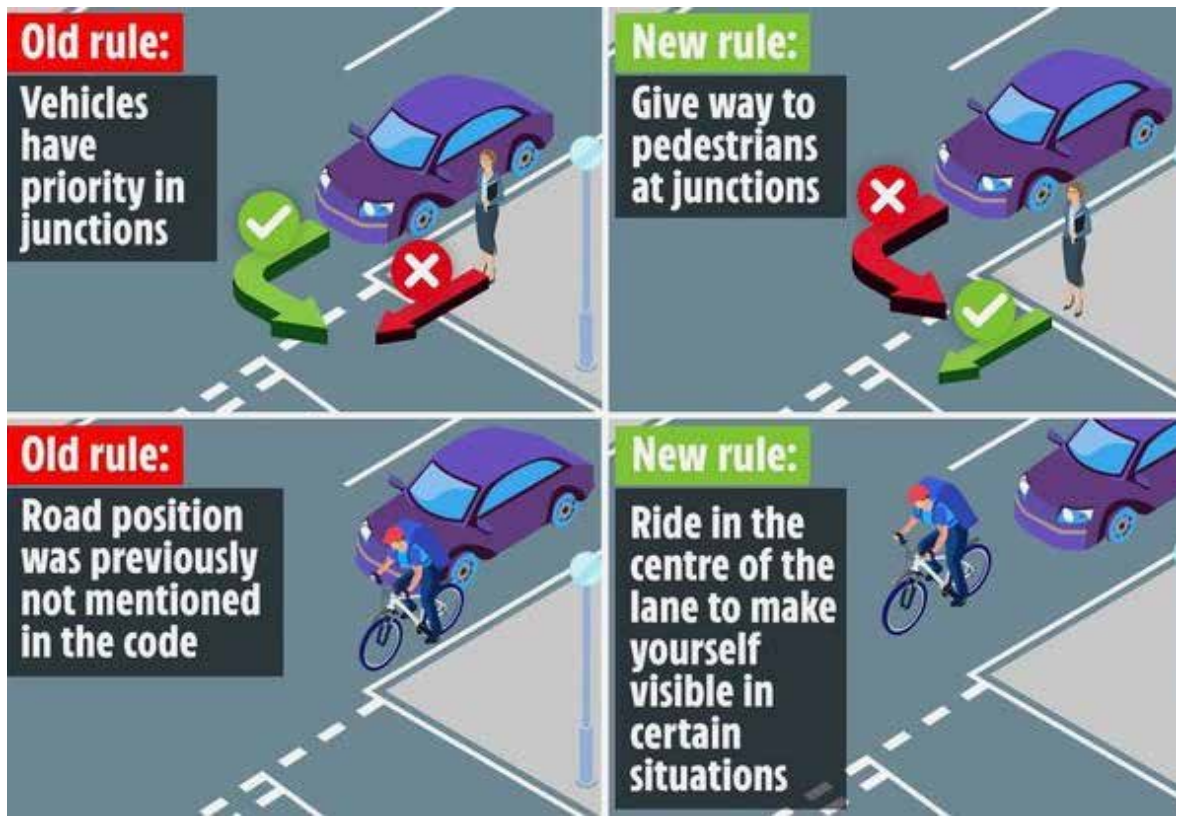
Future developments?

There could be further changes coming down the line. The government are consulting on the thorny issue of pavement parking. Councils in England and Wales could have the power to issue fines for motorists that park on the pavement. The new rules could mean that councils UK wide could issue £70 fines for pavement parkers.

It's already illegal to park on the pavement in London and some other parts of the UK with Scotland likely to follow suit next year. The government is still consulting on the pavement parking ban, but reports say that the decision in England and Wales could be made sometime this year.

Watch this space. – Jonathan Harris

More information is available on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>



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Vicky's Charity Ball

A year in the life of a Womble



Vicki Robins lived in Brixworth for 30 years before sadly losing her life in October 2020 to breast cancer, when she was 53. We would love you to come and join us to celebrate Vicki's life, whilst raising as much money as we

can for Breast Friends Northampton and The Lewis Foundation - two charities that do so much to support individuals in Northampton that are living with cancer.

Our charity ball takes place in the evening of Saturday 16 April at the Park Inn in Northampton. Attire is black tie and ballgowns. We have an amazing band performing, a two-course meal (included in the £55 ticket price), a raffle and entertainment. This is going to be a fun night, and everyone is welcome! We are grateful for any support that we receive.

For more information, please email us on: vickischarityball@gmail.com

To book tickets or donate, visit <https://buytickets.at/vickischarityball/499624>



On 18th January 2021 the newly formed Brixworth Wombles started logging the number of bags of rubbish collected in and around our beautiful village.

By January 14th, 2022, they had recorded an incredible 1000 bags.

It is estimated that along with all the larger items such as furniture, car wheels and domestic appliances we have removed in excess of 16 tons of rubbish.

"This is undoubtedly a shocking amount of litter but we are not disheartened", said Peter Duffy from Brixworth Wombles. "We are hopeful that this year we will remove substantially less as there was a huge quantity of historical litter dating back 15 to 20 years. With this now cleared up we are hoping that with regular maintenance picks we will be able to keep our surroundings clean, tidy, safer for our wildlife and more enjoyable for all!"

The Wombles are hoping more people will now be encouraged to join in and take pride in our beautiful surroundings.

On the 18th December, ten keen and willing Wombles were seen scurrying around the village collecting a total of 11 bags of litter from our streets prior to the Community Church's annual nativity play and the Christmas Holidays. Looking suitably festive they were treated to a coffee kindly donated by Infinity Jewellery at the Olive Branch.

It is hoped that a Village Tidy up day in the Spring could see a community wide effort to get the village involved. There are plenty of ideas and plans for the future so come join in! – Peter Duffy

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Fancy Hats and Union Jacks

The word 'unique' is often over-used, but this June Brixworth will celebrate a truly unique event. Never before have we been able to celebrate a monarch's Platinum Jubilee. Nor is anyone alive now likely to see such an event again!

To mark the Jubilee, we will have a programme of community events including a brass band, community choir and local Morris Men performing for residents. The area outside the Library and Community Centre will be the focus of activity with cream teas being served by volunteers from The Olive Branch. These activities will take place on Sunday 5th June from 2 pm and we will be closing part of Spratton Road during the afternoon to enable



all activities to take place safely. We have the support of the Parish Council, Community Church and Primary School.

Of course, the event needs the support of willing volunteers to help with the planning as well as helping on the day. If you, or your Community group, would like to help make this a day to remember, please contact Mike Nice (mike.nice100@googlemail.com).

This is going to be an occasion for fancy hats and Union Jack Waistcoats, so make a note of the date now! – *Mike Nice*

Grants for young people in Brixworth and Scaldwell

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

The Foundation of Thomas Roe provides small cash grants for young people, under 25, who live in the parishes of Brixworth or Scaldwell.

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

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

Please email completed application forms (in Word format, please) to the Clerk by midnight on 9 March 2022. The Foundation will meet to consider all applications on 23 March 2022.

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Brixworth Resident receives County Honour

Kevin Rogers is Chairman of large regional law firm and local employer Wilson Browne Solicitors. A Brixworth resident since 2003, he lives here with his wife and two children. His three-year term as President of the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce came to an end in December 2021.

Kevin received the first ever Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Support from the Northamptonshire Business Awards on 11th November 2021. Held at the Park Inn with over 340 representatives of local businesses in attendance these awards are the county's premier celebration of the success of the region's businesses and their staff.

Kevin's surprise award was met with a standing ovation and was presented by Sunny Singh, Chamber Director of Business Development (who run the awards). Sunny said: "We had to take this opportunity to recognise the outstanding support given to local business, education, charity and equality, not just during the pandemic."

Kevin has played an instrumental part in the Chamber being in the top ten across the entire network. He also represented #ThisIsNorthants at every occasion on both a local and national scale during the pandemic,

and helped to shine a regional light on positive messages and equal opportunity for women in their profession whilst publicly backing the newly created Women with Vision network. He has also helped numerous local charities both through fund raising and helping them raise their profile and was an advocate for education, mentoring students and job seekers from all over the world, giving advice freely and also advising local schools helping them think and act more commercially. On top of that, he helped ex-service personnel into employment and raised £000s for charity as the #singingsolicitor.

The awards were hosted by well known local broadcaster John Griff. Kevin and John released a charity single last February to mark World Cancer Day to support the efforts of The Lewis Foundation, who deliver gifts and essentials to local adults undergoing cancer



treatment. The pair have just received the licence from Sony for next February and will do it all over again with a Bob Dylan song.

Kevin said: "I was shocked to receive this and ever so humbled. It was totally unnecessary but really appreciated. I am fortunate to have a particular platform, and to have the space to use that platform which is only possible by the grace and support of my wife Rachel and my partners at WB who see the value in the extra things that we can get involved in as we try to be #althehelpyouneed. Also... my Dad loved it!!!"

You can follow Kevin on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/in/kevinrogersdisputesolver/ or on Instagram at [wbkevinrogers](https://www.instagram.com/wbkevinrogers) (and learn more about the charity single!).

– Steve Robinson

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History Society

The New Year got off to a cracking start with our AGM followed by a most interesting lecture on the aviator Amy Johnson, by Roy Smart. The old year finished with a socially-distanced Social.

We will need a new Secretary as I am moving back to Norfolk, so if anyone out there can help, please contact the Society Chairwoman.

Our next lecture on the 17th February is by Graham Evans on William Boteler, who was Major General for Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Rutland during the Protectorship of Oliver Cromwell.

March 17th will be on Bletchley Park and April 21st on the Life and times of Richard 111.

All other dates for 2022 are booked and even 3 for 2023, so there is not too much work for the new Secretary. Your Society needs you. – Chris Knowles

Brixworth Music Festival - Revival

After two years of enforced hibernation, we are attempting to revive previously so successful Brixworth Music Festival which came into being in 2014. We had a large festival planned for 2020 but Covid put a stop to this musical event along with most others. Musicians and performers have had a truly hard time of it, particularly those who rely on freelance work to make a living. Now, with a much-depleted committee – some have retired, some have moved away, some ensembles have disbanded – we are going to try and breathe some life into this once very popular event.

The 2022 revival will be on a modest scale and will take place from 6th to 8th May 2022 in our beautiful Church of All Saints.

There will be a programme of music to cater for all tastes, starting on the Friday evening with an ensemble for early music led by Sarah Small. On the Saturday morning we will belatedly celebrate Beethoven's birthday with a lecture / recital (Oksana King and Vivienne Olive), followed by a piano duet recital in the afternoon (Oksana King and Andrew King). In the evening our ever popular "Evening of Poetry and Song" will feature poetry readings by local poets, performances by younger members of the community, and it will be wonderful to

welcome back Gwion Thomas and Chloe Willson Thomas as guest artists.

On Sunday you will be able to hear the U3A Songsters after the morning service as well as a children's choir and group led by local musician and new committee member, Simone Reid. Please also look out for the organ recital which will be given by Ian Clarke and include the long-awaited performance of the prize-winning work of the Women Composers' Competition held two years ago. Composer, Florence Anna Maunders, has to be congratulated for her patience.

And please keep a look-out for any other concerts that might be added to the programme.

If you are interested in joining our committee or making a donation to the festival then please get in touch with Oksana King (oksana.peche@gmail.com) or Vivienne Olive (volivecomp@aol.com).



A highlight from the 2019 Music Festival – David Saint in the chamber opera about the life of Caroline Chisholm

Looking forward to seeing you all in May!
– Vivienne Olive, Artistic Adviser, Brixworth Music Festival

Brixworth Online

Brixworth Online, new community website provides a resource for people and businesses in the Brixworth area by listing businesses, resources and services.

The site, www.brixworthonline.uk, was set up by Mark Dyson, a local website designer. He said: "I have been living in the village for a number of years and wanted to give something back to the community.

The site features information about local services – shops, services like the surgery, library, garages, sports clubs, childminders etc. There are also articles about the village history, from the work house to the railway, the rise and fall of iron ore mining and historic buildings such as the Hall and All Saints Church.

There is also a noticeboard where registered users can post and reply to notices. Whether you're looking for a job, trying to find others to join a local activity, or just want to say hello and chat, all are welcome.

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What is the Swim Cube?

Many of us will have noticed the Swim Cube building down at Brixworth Country Park and wondered what exactly goes on inside? I talked to the owner and manager, Stuart Hacker, to find out.

The minute Stuart opens his mouth to talk about swimming, his passion for the subject is evident; he is a self-confessed 'swimming geek' who has been swimming since he was a young boy growing up in Wellingborough. As a teen, he spent most of his weekends windsurfing at Pitsford Water, so setting up his business there seemed an obvious choice, it "felt like coming home". He loves the countryside location and the footfall of like-minded outdoorsy people, some of whom stop to knock on the window curious to find out more about the Swim Cube.

Stuart says he has always been fascinated by how people swim and set up the Swim Cube three years ago. After twenty years of working in the pharmaceutical industry, it felt like the right time to turn his passion into a way of making a living. The swimming 'pool' itself resembles a giant fish tank with an adjustable current and a large mirror on the floor. There are cameras positioned to capture every angle of the swimmer's body as they move in the water, thus enabling Stuart to analyse their technique in detail.

Eighteen months after setting up the Swim Cube, the fledgling business was doing well when Covid reared its ugly head forcing it to close for ten months. Stuart doesn't like to dwell too much on the difficulties he faced trying to keep afloat financially during the pandemic; since things have opened again, however, the business has bounced back, he has been working flat out and is excited about the future. All coaching sessions at the Swim Cube are on a one-to-one basis and tailor-made to a swimmer's particular needs, with clients ranging from beginners who need to build up confidence in a safe environment to those who compete at a national and international level who wish to improve their efficiency in the water.

"Breathing is the key to swimming," Stuart says, before going on to explain that "the three pillars of swimming are –

breathing, body position and propulsion."

Many of his clients compete in triathlons and marathon swims, so they need to focus on the most efficient way to move through the water. Stuart is well placed to advise on this, in 2018 he was swimmer number 1,919 to swim the English Channel, and, in the same year, he also swam the Sea of Galilee – a freshwater lake in Israel – which he describes as 'an amazing experience'. He is a keen advocate of open water swimming. For Stuart, 'wild swimming' with its back-to-nature connotations, is just a recent on trend name for it. He would love to see it introduced in a section of the reservoir, as is the case at Sywell Country Park. The water at Pitsford meets the right standards of cleanliness, but with the reservoir already being used by so many different groups such as sailors and anglers etc it'd be difficult to get a consensus.

As a non-weight bearing form of exercise, the physical benefits of swimming are well-known, but Stuart also emphasises the positive effect swimming can have on mental health, particularly wild swimming. He says, "it's important to be relaxed in the water" and he thinks of swimming as a form of escape and solitude where under the water the noise of the outside world is shut out. Stuart's favourite place for open water swimming in the UK is Lake Windermere and he often organises group swimming trips there. Whilst he welcomes the recent rise in the popularity of wild swimming, he is anxious to point out that people should be aware of what is involved and do it as safely as possible ...



- NEVER attempt open water swimming alone
- Where possible, use official swimming spots, such as at Sywell and the Falcon at Castle Ashby
- If not, swim with someone who has local knowledge of the stretch of water – the level of pollutants, the currents, what's underneath the water etc.
- Make sure there is easy access to the banks for getting out of the water
- ALWAYS be aware of how cold the water is going to be, even on a hot summer's day. For a first wild swim Stuart recommends waiting for warmer weather.
- Make sure you have the right attire for the water conditions and enough warm clothing to put on afterwards
- Never take a hot shower immediately after exiting the water
- Enjoy the experience – but stay aware and stay safe!

For more information or to book a session contact info@theswimcube.com. If you would like to see wild swimming introduced at the reservoir, contact Anglian Water.

– Tracey Calnan



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George Hammerschmidt

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'Georg' Hammerschmidt was born to Aniela and Hans Hammerschmidt on 6th January 1932 in Cottbus, Germany. However, in 1939 his family realised they were in great peril from the growing violence being inflicted upon Jews by the Nazi regime. Determined to protect their children, but unable to leave Germany themselves, George's parents smuggled his sister and him onto the Kindertransport in order to flee Germany and avoid certain death in the concentration camps.

On 3rd May 1939, clutching only a small bag, his travel pass and his 14-year-old sister's hand, George fled to the UK. He was just seven years old and spoke no English. It's difficult to imagine how hard it must have been for his sister and him to come here from a country Britain was at war with; let alone integrate into British society as well as they both did.

Despite this adversity and the painful absence of his parents,

George had a happy schooling and childhood with guardians in the Lake District and he went on to graduate from The University of Manchester, before becoming an officer and pilot in the Royal Air Force during National Service.

George was a deep thinker who had a passion

for classical music and the theatre. He was a philanthropic, kind man who cared deeply about the plight of those less fortunate than he. Perhaps that compassion had been heightened by seeing what happened to those members of his family who didn't escape Germany and who were killed just for being born Jewish. Fitting therefore that in 2017, the German Government reinstated the German passport they had seized from him in 1939 – he was beyond thrilled.

In 1983, George moved to Brixworth with his wife Phyllida. For many years, they ran a successful and highly popular retail business in St Giles Street, Northampton. A keen, self-taught digital designer, George volunteered his services to the Brixworth Bugle – now the Brixworth Bulletin – as their art and design lead and quickly became a popular member of the team, as well as a regular content contributor.

In late November 2021, George had become increasingly unwell and, despite the wonderful care he'd received from Brixworth's Saxon Spires medical centre, he was admitted to Northampton General Hospital. Sadly, on the 14th December 2021, just a few days before his 90th birthday, George passed away peacefully with his family at his bedside.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Phyllida and his two sons, Mark and Simon.



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Celebrating a century of memories

Brixworth resident Jill (Joan) Woods was born on March 6th 1922, so will shortly be celebrating her 100th Birthday. The Bulletin went along to find out more about her long life, her views on the events of the past century and the secret of her longevity!

When we visit, a smiling, smartly dressed sprightly 'old' lady answers the door and invites us in. At the age of 99.9 years, Jill still lives independently (with a little help from friends) in her own home and whizzes around the village on her own four wheels – her mobility scooter. Jill was born in Boston, Lincolnshire but spent most of her childhood and younger adult life in London, moving to Northamptonshire over fifty years ago with her husband's job.

At the outbreak of World War 2, having recently left school, Jill joined the WRAF (Women's Royal Air Force) as a clerk, performing general administrative duties throughout the war years. After basic training in Morecombe, she was posted to the RAF Records Office at RAF Innsworth near Gloucester. Whilst Jill believes you can't compare Covid to her war, she acknowledges some similarities. She says: "During the war period, everybody came together, you were all in the same boat, you know, and people died just the same."

In her long lifetime, Jill has seen four monarchs on the throne and nineteen different Prime Ministers. When asked who her 'hero' of the past century is, without a moment's hesitation, she says, "Winston Churchill, because he got us through it. I don't know where we would've been without him."

Jill was disappointed not to be posted abroad during her time in the service, but she soon made up for it after the war. She recalls the joy of her first post-war trip to Switzerland: "It was like a treasure trove going to Switzerland because they hadn't suffered at all during the war, it was pristine and gorgeous." In her younger years, Jill spent a lot of time travelling across Europe by train as "flying was unheard

of for the likes of me," but she passionately believes that "train travel is so much more fun, people don't get the same excitement from travelling now. There's nothing like rushing through the night, going from one country to another and waking up in a new place." The growth of the cheap airlines and package holidays is only one of the many changes Jill has witnessed in her lifetime and it seems ironic that, as she approaches her hundredth year, train travel may be about to enjoy a resurgence as a greener alternative to flying.



Jill with Ted, her companion of the last 97 years.
Photo by Ian Topham

In the post war years, Jill believes the biggest change of the past century has been "all this IT stuff" – although she has very little use for it herself and doesn't even own a mobile phone. She is amazed how today's generation "don't seem to be able to live without it, we didn't suffer because we didn't have it." She goes on to reflect how, "when I was young nothing much changed for so many years and inflation was unheard of, it was probably the sixties when I first noticed real change ... I remember the fashion changing and Mary Quant in her white boots." Her 'greatest disappointment' of the sixties, however, was the moon landing in 1969. "A man on the moon was always the stuff of fantasy, science fiction" but when it happened in real life, Jill found it all a bit of an anti-climax.

Jill's travelling days are behind her now and, when she's not visiting the hairdresser's or the Co-op, she keeps her mind active by reading, doing Sudoku and playing Scrabble. She also enjoys watching her fellow nonagenarian, David Attenborough, on television. When asked about the secret to living such a long and healthy life, she says categorically, "I don't think there is a secret, it's pure luck, good genes and good luck." She then went on to say, as many centenarians have, that a positive outlook is also important, "I was never a glass half empty or a glass half full person, my glass was always overflowing."

Jill feels very fortunate to have lived such a long and happy life; she is very much looking forward to her week-long birthday celebrations of lunches and dinners with friends, a party hosted by a friend and - most of all – she can't wait for that card from the Queen! The Bulletin team wishes her a very Happy 100th Birthday and hope that she enjoys every minute of it. – Tracey Calnan



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Friends of Brampton Valley Way & Brixworth Country Park launched



Photo by Ian Topham

Brixworth Country Park is more than many may realise. Apart from the extensive main park with its outstanding views of Pitsford Water, it also encompasses a 14-mile-long stretch of the Brampton Valley Way – great for walkers, cyclists and riders alike – as well as the delightful 17-acre Martin Moore Wood (adjacent to The Windhover Pub). These gems of the Northamptonshire countryside have proven immensely popular, especially throughout the Covid crisis and continue to do so.

To support and further enhance all three, the current team of volunteers is launching The Friends of Brampton Valley Way & Brixworth Country Park, with the purpose of promoting, maintaining and improving the combined resource.

The initial needs of the group are to raise funds to buy equipment that will make the maintenance easier, more efficient and help the volunteers in their work. And we are delighted to have financial support from all three of our Brixworth Ward Councillors from their Covid Support Fund and thank them greatly

In the short term, the friends will be collaborating with the park's rangers to implement the current action plan and develop it further: Jobs like keeping the walkways open, clearing overgrown trees and ground vegetation, repairing fences & gates, and, of course, litter-picking. And members will be very welcome to come along and participate in the volunteers' activities.

Longer-term, there will be encouraging youngsters from the local schools to take a greater interest in the local nature, and we

will be organising events both in the park and along Brampton Valley Way.

We look forward to seeing our numbers

swell: for information on the group, please contact FriendsOfBVW@gmail.com.

– Keith Dobell



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Country Eye

Time for a change

I step out of the car, binoculars slung around my neck, and instantly they are airborne. Wings flashing alternately black and white shot with vivid green now and then, they tumble to and fro with anxious 'pee-wit' calls. All is meant to draw my attention away from their precious young hidden somewhere in the grass, their colouring so perfect they are near invisible even at close range. Skylarks too have their nests of well-grown young here, the female busily hunting for food, her mate soaring high overhead with that rich cascade of song that proclaims ownership. Their chosen home will be mown later for hay to feed to the livestock over winter. But they will be long gone by then.

The breeze sets the grasses tossing back and forth like waves across a green sea. Of many species I can see cocksfoot, foxtail, crested dogstail and sweet vernal grass. Among them in profusion are wild



flowers of many hues. Buttercups topped with shallow bowls of shining yellow. Queen Anne's lace and pignut together add a frothy white haze. Yellow and burned orange peaflowers of bird's-foot trefoil, eggs and bacon as they are called by country folk, are framed by their deep green leaves. And there are pink and purple spotted orchids, their spires standing tall in the grass. Together they confirm that this

field has been farmed with a light touch for generations, probably by the same family.

Bees are already active at this early hour, bumbling their way from flower to flower, their hairy bodies dusted with pollen, leg baskets filling rapidly. The warming sun will awaken the butterflies of many kinds and colours, sulphur yellow brimstones, small and large whites, orange tips, peacocks and small tortoiseshells, small heaths and coppers, the list goes on. Along with them are the hoverflies, solitary bees, wasps and all the other pollinators. An unseen horde meanwhile lives in the ground layer. There are

countless millions of beetles, harvestmen, spiders, grasshoppers, the hunter stalking the hunted in this glorious tangle. It is only lately we have begun to unravel the wonder of the rich life that lives beneath our feet. How it is that using the fine underground threads of fungi that connect them they can communicate one with another. Even to the extent that they warn each other of the presence of hungry caterpillars.

The thick hedges that bound the field almost seem to vibrate with the wall of sound from the birds to which they are home. Among them are whitethroats that explode with scratchy song in a bundle of feathers before gliding gently down again. Dunnocks often host the young of the neighbouring cuckoo. Melodious blackcaps and garden warblers vie with blackbirds and thrushes, each a master songster in their own right. In all over 20 kinds live here.

Sad to say all that was many years ago. Today the hedges are gone, long since grubbed out and the huge tractor ploughs a lonely furrow across a prairie-like landscape. The whirling clouds of hungry gulls, crows and others feasting and following are gone. That's because the continuous drenching cocktail of chemicals sprayed over the years has killed virtually everything there. The soil has become just an anchor to hold the crop in their neat rows.

COP26 is done and dusted and I can sum up my views in just a few sentences. Instead of setting our planet on a path to recovery, our diplomats and politicians have steered us towards the rocks of oblivion, with a temperature increase of over 2 degrees C. Follow this route and the extinction of a million species looks ever more likely, while our own lives will become very much more unpleasant. Any hope of survival now rests in the hands of the millions of young activists, alongside those who live on threatened island nations, not forgetting indigenous races and the legions of the peasantry. Experts tell us we need 3.5% of us to reach a point where change will come, and we will shift towards a convivial future with a benign climate. Despite all I still believe we will act together to turn things around and be so much the better for it. – Brian Webster



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A New Year start with a difference!

We often look to start a new year with a bright mind and an enthusiastic approach. Some of us look for something different to signal this new start.

A couple of us from Brixworth did just that and ventured for an open water swim in the middle of winter!

We are very lucky to have a number of venues for open water swimming in our area. None better than Castle Ashby. Situated in the grounds of Castle Ashby house, lies the Capability Brown-designed lake.

The weather at New Year was doing its best to ignore the norm with mild temperatures and blue skies. The temperature in the lake was 9 degrees. Warmer than it had been (a week earlier it was down to 5 degrees).

The wet suit stayed at home. If you are going to do something different at New Year, then you should do it properly and go in what is described as skins, although modesty does require a swimsuit.

This was my first time in the lake since late October as I am normally averse to water temperatures below 10 degrees, but this was going to be special.

As you walk from the car park to the lake, the view you get is stunning, especially on a blue-sky day. It's almost tranquil.

As we approach the jetty, we are met by Jackie, our trained lifeguard for the session. Castle Ashby open water swimming only started in May 2021 and is thought to be the only life-guarded venue in England. Safety, especially in cold water, is paramount and the team at Castle Ashby take it very seriously indeed. Every swimmer must wear something on their heads. A swim cap is the norm, but winter brings woolly hats to the lake, in all their variety of colours and styles. A tow float is also required, regardless of the time of year.

Although not an experienced open water swimmer, I am an experienced swimmer that swims at least three times a week in a Northampton swimming pool, but as I walked along the jetty to the ladder that takes you into the lake, I was a little nervous.

With words of encouragement from my friend and Jackie, I took my first steps down the ladder into the water.



Emma and Grace enjoying cold swimming at Castle Ashby

One of the important tips you are given before you get in, is to not pause. Simply set in, take a good intake of breath and as you swim away from the jetty breathe out slowly. I did exactly as I was told.

It is not easy to describe the feeling you get all over your body as the impact from the cold water penetrates through your skin and reaches every part of you. I started to feel calm as my temperature dropped.

Swimming is a bit like riding a bike. Once you learn, it becomes a sub-conscious skill. The impact of cold water can make you forget instantly, so you need to concentrate and listen to the words of encouragement from the jetty.

If you can do that, you can relax and swim.

This time of year, the lifeguards watch you like hawks. Looking for signs of distress before you can notice. They will never let anyone get in to danger and will ensure you only stay in the water as long as you are safe. Regular cold-water swimmers will stay in the water for 20 minutes. For me, nine minutes was enough.

As I left the water, my body felt like it was glowing. I had what I can only describe as a tingle all over. This tingle can stay for hours after you leave the water.



A fellow Brixworth resident, Grace Chandler, who swam with her friend, Emma Eccles, said: "As I walked down to the lake, I had thoughts of Grace – you are crazy! But I loved every minute of it. "

The last few years has brought the topic of wellness into many people's thinking. Open water swimming is an amazing experience. Grace said: "Anyone who loves water, nature and mindfulness, should visit the venue ".

If you are thinking of doing something local, different, challenging and in touch with nature, this is worth considering. Each session is limited to just 10 swimmers. Always supported by a trained life guard and easy to book.

The peace, tranquillity and connection to nature that Castle Ashby open water swimming offers you is stunning and I highly recommend you give it a try. – Neal Brown

www.facebook.com/groups/thefalconopenwaterswimming

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The Guilsborough Music and Drama Society promotes and provides drama and live entertainment. We welcome new members from all over whether your interests lie in performing or behind the scenes (backstage, lighting, sound, stage crew, publicity, costumes etc). We are a friendly bunch so do pop along to rehearsals or call our chair Dorothy Whittaker on 01788 510392 or visit our website www.gmads.co.uk to find out more about us.

GMADS is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) and has been nominated or won awards for

several past productions. 2022 marks 50 years since our first-ever production: The Mikado.

Around the World in 80 Days 31 March – 2 April

For our next production Brixworth resident Roger Brandon-Jones has created a musical adaptation of Jules Verne's novel, Around the World in 80 Days. Performances will take place at 7.30 pm at Guilsborough Village Hall from Thursday 31 March to Saturday 2 April. Tickets will be on sale from end February – visit www.gmads.co.uk or call Frances on 01604 740549.

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Brixworth and Scaldwell Scouts

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group finished the year under Covid conditions trying to hold our Christmas celebrations at the centre wearing masks.

We have restarted the winter term with face-to-face sessions back at the centre. We continue to follow the guidance and endeavour to take advantage of the facilities on our doorstep with outdoor activities with a mix of night walks and hikes, and backwoods cooking.

This year, Scouts and Explorers will share some sessions including the firm favourite of a night hike with chips, a visit by Icarus Falconry and backwoods cooking at Overstone. Scouts can look forward to a trip to the village fire station and an opportunity to explore the village on the blue plaque trail. Explorers will participate in a lot of cooking activities with Chinese New Year and Pancake night, and will hold a paper plane competition.

The photo below shows a recent camp site exercise.



Cubs this term will be working towards their science, entertainer and digital maker badges. Another adventure is a hike planned with a view

to the 'Brew' pit stop at Elliots Farm for a well-earned hot chocolate.

As you know we rely totally on volunteers as helpers and leaders and so it is with great sadness that we say farewell to one of our Cub leaders, Hazel who has been with us for five years. Many thanks for all your help, Hazel – we will miss you!

Meanwhile the Beavers all enjoyed an exciting end to 2021. Not only did they complete their first aid badge with help from our local First Responder (pictured, right), they learnt about money for their Money Skills Badge but also were treated to a Pilates session. We also welcomed some new members, and several moved up to Cubs. For 2022, the Beavers will be getting involved in the RSPC Big Garden watch. They will also do a trip to Gallone's (always a favourite for some reason!) learn about space and create something for Mother's Day (shhh don't tell the Mums!)

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: enquiries@brixworthscouts.org.uk



And just to finish a gentle reminder: Brixworth Scouts urgently needs more help with volunteers.

Whilst we have managed to maintain a great schedule of events, we have reached a critical point and desperately need volunteers for a wide range of roles if we are to continue....

Please contact us for more information at gsl@brixworthscouts.org.uk or enquiries@brixworthscouts.org.uk. We'll help you to find a role that you'll enjoy, that will also really make a difference to the young people in our village.

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

– Bob Pickles, Group Scout Leader



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Sunset Stride returns for 2022

It's just a walk for you, but it's a step in the right direction for them.

We are back! The Sunset Stride returns to Brixworth Country Park in 2022, for the first time since 2019. We are pleased to announce this fantastic event will take place on Saturday 7 May starting at 6pm, in aid of Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

The Sunset Stride is a 12km walk around Pitsford Reservoir. We aim to raise £10,000 to support the amazing work carried out by Cynthia Spencer Hospice and enable them to continue to provide vital care to those in our local community when they need it the most.



The pandemic has had a devastating impact on fundraising events which has severely affected the funds raised to continue to support the

services provided by Cynthia Spencer Hospice throughout Northamptonshire.

Sarah Denston, Events Coordinator for Cynthia Spencer Hospice said: "It's wonderful to have the Sunset Stride back, it's a great event and the funds raised really do make a huge difference to the services that Cynthia Spencer are able to provide."



The event is being organised by a group of final year Events Management degree students at the University of Northampton.

Monique Challand from the event team said: "We are so excited to bring this event back. This year's theme will be a neon glow in the dark theme, to light up Brixworth Country Park and the reservoir route during the walk. All bright colours are welcome."

Participants are encouraged to come in fancy dress outfits. There will be a music warmup before the walk begins to get

people ready before they set off around the reservoir.

Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite (search for Sunset Stride)

Participants will be able to get regular updates and information via the Facebook and Instagram pages @SunsetStrideFundraiser sunset_stride

Participants are encouraged to secure personal sponsorship and set up their own JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sunsetstride2022>

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Brixworth Juniors

It has been great to get on with football again, wind, rain and muddy winter matches. It's accompanied by a great sense of achievement that the club sees its U18s reach a county cup.

The Panthers, under Rob Jones, are set to play the U18s Youth Cup Final in May, after



beating Flore 4-1 on the 6th Feb in the semi-final. The team has a real opportunity to reach further finals, with a semi-final in the Pinner Cup on the 20th Feb v Harpole, followed later in the month by a chance to reach a semi-final in the league cup. So it's a massive cheer to this team as they stride forwards to success.

I must make mention of the u18s Pumas who are run by myself and Mark Truman. The Pumas are still in a cup Quarter Final, but whilst they won't reach the heights of the Panthers, they are a group of lads who any coach would be proud to have, with their excellent manners, good spirit and a desire to do their best. They now sit mid-table in the A league, but we have had some incredibly exciting games losing and winning by margins such 8-6/6-2/6-4. It's grassroots football at its best, as boys turn up on a Sunday to play with their mates and do their best, credit to them. As we know there a lot of teams in this position, so well done.

Elsewhere, the U17s Jaguars were unbeaten until they met a very strong Moulton team a week ago and they were defeated 3-0 but still top their division by ten points. Other notable achievements are the U15s Pumas who reached a county cup quarter final only to be beaten by a strong team from Gretton near Corby. This team sits mid-table in the A-league and has three games in hand on the leaders, so still time to catch them. We have a u14s A-league team who consistently play good football, and an u13s team fighting to gain promotion to that A league. Hats off to all the players who play for this great club as they turn up week in and week out to play with their friends and do their best for the club and mates. As a grassroots village club we are about development and improving children and allowing them to play with freedom and expression in a safe and friendly environment in all ages, from the Minis/u7s to

u18s, in the hope that when they reach adult 11v11 football they may achieve something. We still have teams at all ages except u9s this season, and one less team at an older age group. This has helped reduce the number of matches played at the Ashway this season. However, council fees will be increased for the club into 2022-23 season, which will have an effect on its members.

Finally, the Brixworth u14s Girls continue to go from strength to strength as they remain unbeaten and sit top of the table in their league. They recently defeated Rushden and Diamonds Blues in a thrilling penalty shootout following a 2-2 draw in normal time (pictured, left). That takes them into the county cup semi-final where they will meet Crick on the 19th Feb at Brixworth Ashway playing field. They will also meet the same Rushden team in the quarter final of the league cup in March, so fingers crossed that they come through that.

The club continues to always search out new coaches and more importantly some land to call their own as they strive to achieve greater things. Thanks to all the players and parents, as well as the coaches and committee of this great club.

– Simon Compton, Club Secretary

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Northamptonshire (www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northants) has hundreds of walks to download and print free of charge. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris, the custodian of the website, said: "There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northamptonshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you."

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking! – John Harris

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Library looks ahead to a busy 2022

Since the last edition we have been getting back into the swing of things at Brixworth Library. We relaunched our children's events and the library is once again filled with the sound of rattles and rhymes. Our partners are also back in the library offering face to face appointments.

The Friends of Brixworth Library hosted another successful Christmas fayre. We enjoyed carols from the U3A choir, story time from the Christmas elf, delicious breakfasts from the Olive Branch, not to mention all the stalls selling beautiful gifts made by local crafters and businesses. We had a wonderful time and welcomed nearly 800 people through our doors. Thank you to everyone who supported us and a massive thank you to the Friends for their amazing work.

Looking ahead

Spring will see us celebrate World Book Day (and Night!), British Science Week, Autism and Dementia Awareness Weeks, and National Reading Group Day. The Friends will be back with a Quiz Night and another shopping event. Subscribe to our Facebook pages: @BrixworthLibrary and @FOBXL for more details as 2022 continues!



Jubilee Art Gallery – submissions needed!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is fast approaching and with a street party happening right on our doorstep on Sunday 5th June we had to get involved. The library isn't open on Sundays, but we've come up with a plan to create a beautiful backdrop to the main celebrations by turning our windows into an art gallery.

Inspired by the Queen's Green Canopy

initiative we plan to 'plant a tree' in every window, filling the library with beautiful leaf artworks created by the community. We have a daunting 70 square metres of glass to decorate so we need all

the help we can get!

We will be offering a series of creative workshops in the library, but anyone is welcome to submit an artwork of their own to the Jubilee Art Gallery. As long as your work is leaf-shaped and can be stuck or hung in a window, we would love to have it. Painted, printed, collaged, or crocheted... it's entirely up to you. We will be accepting submissions until the end of May ready for the grand unveiling in the first week of June.

We are also especially keen to hear from local groups and organisations. Please get in touch if your group would like to be involved or if you would like more information.

Kick Start your Business with BIPC Northamptonshire

As part of our "Kick Start Your Business" initiative, the IP Centre at Brixworth Library has a packed programme of free workshops for new and existing businesses:

- Friday 4th March (9:30am – 3pm) Digital Marketing Masterclass
- Monday 7th March (10am - 12noon) Starting a New Business
- Monday 14th March (10am - 11am) Market Research Database Resources & Tools for Business
- Monday 28th March (10am – 12noon) Business Planning
- Monday 4th April (10am – 11:30am) Cash Flow & Forecasting

For further information and to book our Digital Marketing Masterclass please email: bipc@westnorthants.gov.uk. For all our other workshops please visit: www.bipcnorthamptonshire.co.uk.

You can also pop into the library on Monday mornings to discuss your business idea with a member of the BIPC team.



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Supporting Independence Programme (SIP)

The Supporting Independence Programme is a free service provided by Public Health Northamptonshire. It is tailored to prevent, support, and manage the health and wellbeing of anyone who may be showing signs of reduced independence. With up to 12 weeks of one-to-one support, our team of dedicated Wellbeing Advisors are committed to providing you with the knowledge and resources needed to make your wellbeing a priority. Examples of support include:

- Opportunities to meet with your Advisor to 'Walk and Talk'.
- Help to access social activities in your local community.
- Referrals to specialist housing support and money advice.
- Support for low-level mental health and emotional difficulties.
- Advice and information about lifestyle, nutrition, smoking and alcohol use.

We hold appointments every Wednesday at Brixworth Library. These are arranged once a referral has been submitted. To access this service complete the eligibility assessment at: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/sip or contact us to arrange an initial appointment:

- Phone: 0300 126 3000
- Email: sipinfo.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk

Strong Start

Strong Start are a team of Early Years Workers offering free support to families with children under 5 on a range of universal health and wellbeing topics. We run face to face programmes such as Developmental Baby Massage and Chatty Child and Me at venues around the county. For full details, including how to book, visit our Eventbrite page: www.strong_start_team.eventbrite.co.uk.

You can also visit our website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/strongstart, and follow us on Facebook: @StrongStartTeam and Instagram: @Strongstartteam4.

Children's Events

Free, term-time activities for under 5s. All sessions are drop-in but numbers are limited. Please arrive in good time to secure your place.

- Rhyme Time - Wednesdays 10:00-10:30 and 11:00-11:30 – singing with scarves, puppets, and instruments.
- Under Ones Fun - Thursdays 10:00-11:00 – chat and play for families with babies under one.
- Pre-School Play - Fridays 10:00-11:00 – child-led play with toys for all ages.

During weekends and school holidays we also run activities for children.

- Saturday Club – Saturdays 11:00-13:00 – crafts, games, quizzes, scavenger hunts... different activities every week.

Keep up to date with everything going on at the library via our Facebook page: @BrixworthLibrary or our events calendar: www.northampton.gov.uk/eventscalendar.

Library to You

If you struggle to visit us because of age or disability we can bring the library to you. We have volunteers who will hand-pick items and deliver them to you in your own home all for free! If you are interested in this service, please give us a call.

IT Buddy

Our friendly volunteer Ian offers free, one-to-one help with your IT issues. Want to learn to email, shop online or listen to music on your phone? Ian can help. Bring your own device or use one of our computers or Hublet tablets. Pop in to make an appointment.




Opening Times

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


Contact Details

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



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Your waste and recycling 2022 collection calendar

A2 area Daventry



West Northamptonshire Council

West Northants recycles

Your collection day has not changed - please look up your usual collection day on the calendar below.



Recycling
Collected every two weeks



Garden waste
Collected every two weeks



Food waste
Collected every week



General waste
Collected every three weeks

Garden waste collections

You will only receive garden waste collections if you are subscribed to the chargeable service.

There will be a short break for garden waste collections from 27 December 2021 to 7 January 2022.

December 2021

	M	T	W	T	F
GF	29	30	1	2	3
RF	6	7	8	9	10
WGF	13	14	15	16	17
RF	20	21	22	23	24
F	27	28	29	30	31

January 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
WR	3	4	5	6	7
GF	10	11	12	13	14
RF	17	18	19	20	21
WGF	24	25	26	27	28
RF	31	1	2	3	4

February 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
RF	31	1	2	3	4
GF	7	8	9	10	11
WR	14	15	16	17	18
GF	21	22	23	24	25
RF	28	1	2	3	4

March 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
RF	28	1	2	3	4
WGF	7	8	9	10	11
RF	14	15	16	17	18
GF	21	22	23	24	25
WR	28	29	30	31	1

April 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
WR	29	30	31	1	2
GF	4	5	6	7	8
RF	11	12	13	14	15
WGF	18	19	20	21	22
RF	25	26	27	28	29

May 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
GF	2	3	4	5	6
WR	9	10	11	12	13
GF	16	17	18	19	20
RF	23	24	25	26	27
WGF	30	31	1	2	3

June 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
WGF	30	31	1	2	3
RF	6	7	8	9	10
GF	13	14	15	16	17
WR	20	21	22	23	24
GF	27	28	29	30	1

July 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
GF	27	28	29	30	1
RF	4	5	6	7	8
WGF	11	12	13	14	15
RF	18	19	20	21	22
GF	25	26	27	28	29

August 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
WR	1	2	3	4	5
GF	8	9	10	11	12
RF	15	16	17	18	19
WGF	22	23	24	25	26
RF	29	30	31	1	2

September 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
RF	29	30	31	1	2
GF	5	6	7	8	9
WR	12	13	14	15	16
GF	19	20	21	22	23
RF	26	27	28	29	30

October 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
WGF	3	4	5	6	7
RF	10	11	12	13	14
GF	17	18	19	20	21
WR	24	25	26	27	28
GF	31	1	2	3	4

November 2022

	M	T	W	T	F
GF	31	1	2	3	4
RF	7	8	9	10	11
WGF	14	15	16	17	18
RF	21	22	23	24	25
GF	28	29	30	1	2



Please ensure your bins are out by 6:30am on your collection day.

To find out more visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk/waste

Brixworth & District u3a

After holding the monthly meeting as normal in October/ November and December because of the increase in covid infections we went back to zoom in January. From February the meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month in Brixworth Village Hall commencing at 2 pm.

Thirty-two members of the history group met in November and had a guided tour of Brixworth Church. The tour was led by one of the "Friends", Kate Knight. It was followed by refreshments at the Heritage Centre.

The weekend group enjoyed two outings in November. The first was to the Black Country Museum and the second to see the Christmas decorations at Chatsworth House. The day was mild and sunny enough to enjoy the gardens and Christmas stalls.

The craft group were busy at the end of 2021 producing gifts and Christmas decorations. They had stalls at the Beehive Christmas Fair and Scaldwell Church Christmas Fair, with the proceeds going to both venues.

The choir sang at the Brixworth Library's winter shopping fair on



the 4th December. They sang a selection of carols and Christmas songs (see photo).

The Christmas lunch went ahead on 8th December after missing 2020 due to covid. We returned to Northampton Golf Club, Harlestone and enjoyed a delicious meal and good company.

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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Northampton and Lampport Railway



The Northampton and Lampport Railway re-opened to the public on Sunday 27th March (Mother's Day), with train rides where Mums go free! Trains run every hour from 11am to 3pm.

Also, for that extra special Mother's Day treat, we're offering 'Cream Tea Specials' on the 11am, 1pm and 3pm services. Travel First Class and enjoy a delicious cream tea as

you gently roll through the beautiful Northamptonshire countryside. Prior booking for the Cream Teas is essential and tickets must be purchased via our website before midnight on Thursday 24th March.

Other up-coming events for your diaries include:

- 3rd Apr – Kids for a Quid
- 16th-18th Apr – Easter Egg Specials
- 30th Apr and 1st/2nd May – Teddy Bear Weekend
- 29th May – Kids for a Quid
- 4th & 5th June – Best of British Weekend (Jubilee weekend)

For full information, details of up-coming event and online tickets, please visit the Railway's website at www.nlr.org.uk or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@nlrrailway)

If you've not been down to sample our refurbished Buffet and the improved food offer, why not come and give it a try? You don't have to pay to ride on the train, just call in any Sunday (10am-3:30pm) for a quick bite to eat or a relaxing drink and snack while you watch the trains go by. You could combine a visit with a pleasant walk along the Brampton Valley Way.

If you'd like to get involved by volunteering at our friendly local railway then just call in and speak to one of our team. There are roles to suit all interests and capabilities, and no prior experience is needed. You only need give what time you wish, but it's a great way of meeting new people, learning new skills and feeling part of something rewarding. More information available on our website.

Planning update

WND/2021/0728 Old Hare And Hounds, Brixworth Work to trees within a conservation area	BPC supported WNC approved
WND/2021/0662 Eastfield Road, Brixworth Alterations to roof including hip to gable extension and construction of rear	BPC supported WNC approved

Photographic Society supports Sailability



Brixworth Photographic society was pleased to be able to support Northamptonshire Sailability, offering sailing to disabled people and those with specific requirements, with the proceeds from the sale of the Brixworth 2022 Calendar. Northamptonshire Sailability, which operates on Pitsford Reservoir, received a cheque for £450.

Seen here, left to right, are Priscilla Davies, Treasurer of Northamptonshire Sailability, Ian Topham of Brixworth Photographic Society and Frank Morgan, Chair of Northamptonshire Sailability. – Ian Topham

Flavour Trailer extends opening times

The Flavour Trailer, which has become a popular weekly takeaway service in Brixworth, has extended its opening times with a lunchtime slot. The Flavour Trailer will now be open for service at 3 Steaveley Way in Brixworth industrial area between 12 noon and 2.30pm every Friday. This is on top of the regular Brixworth residency from 4.30pm to 9pm every Friday and Saturday evening.



The Flavour Trailer also has a new menu, offering Chicken Tenders, Mac'n Cheese, Korean Chicken and much more.

For the full menu and to order, visit www.theflavourtrailer.com to select you meal and chosen collection time, before heading to the trailer to pick up your food. – Charley Cummings



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What's on?

7 Mar	Natural Minds	Country Park
8 Mar	Midge Ure	Derngate
13 Mar	NMPAT - Wind Band Spectacular	Derngate
14 Mar	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
14 Mar	Harris and Bakers Backstage Pass	Derngate
15 Mar	Calling Planet Earth	Derngate
16 Mar	Lampport & HH Parish Council	Lampport Hall
17/3	Dr Hook	Derngate
17-Mar	History Society: Bletchley Park	Brixworth Village Hall
17 Mar	Hansons Valuation Days	Kelmarsh Hall
17/3	Nature Tots	Country Park
18/3	Firedance	Derngate
19/3	Johannes Radebe -	Derngate
19 Mar	Dr Conny Bailey Cabinet Lecture	Lampport Hall
20/3	Ed Gamble	Derngate
20/3	Wedding Fair	Kelmarsh Hall
26/3	Open Day	Pitsford School
27/3	Stewart Lee:	Derngate
27 Mar	Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea	Lampport Hall
27 Mar	Mothers Day Cream Tea Specials	N'pton & Lampport Rail
31 Mar	Brixworth PC Meeting	Community Centre
31/3 - 2 Apr	Around the World in 80 Days	Guilsborough Village Hall
3 Apr	Kids for a Quid	N'pton & Lampport Rail
3 Apr	Jason Manford	Derngate
4 Apr	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
4 Apr	Tommy Tiernan	Derngate

7&8 Apr	Gaudi Mosaic Masterclass	Lampport Hall
8 Apr	Village Voices Brahms Requiem	All Saints, Brixworth
10/4	The Guilty Feminist	Derngate
11 Apr	Craig Revel Horwood	Derngate
13/4	That'll Be The Day	Derngate
14 Apr	The ELO Experience	Derngate
15Apr	Fastlove	Derngate
16-18 Apr	Easter Egg Specials	N'pton & Lampport Rail
16 Apr	Remembering The Oscars	Derngate
17-18 Apr	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Lampport Hall
17Apr	Justin Live!	Derngate
21 Apr	History Society - Richard 3rd	Brixworth Village Hall
21Apr	The Unthanks	Royal
21Apr	The Sensational 60s	Derngate
22 Apr	Danny Tompkins Spring Dining	Lampport Hall
22 Apr	Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac	Derngate
23Apr	Omid Djalili	Derngate
24 Apr	National Garden Scheme Open Day	Kelmarsh Hall
25 Apr	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
25Apr	Rob Brydon	Derngate
26Apr	Ed Byrne	Derngate
27Apr	Giovanni Pernice	Derngate
28 Apr	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
29Apr	Dylan Moran	Derngate
1-2 May	Art,Craft and Design Fair	Lampport Hall
5 May	Foil Arms & Hogg	Royal
6-8 May	Brixworth Music Festival	All Saints Church
7 May	The Thinking Drinkers Pub Quiz	Royal

7 May	The Sunset Stride	Country Park
8 May	Scott Bradlees Post-modern Jukebox	Derngate
12-13 May	Alan Carr: Regional Trinket	Derngate
14/5	Gary Numan	Derngate
15/5	Dara O Brian	Derngate
16 May	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
17/5	Mark Watson	Royal
17/5	BalletBoyz	Derngate
18 May	Lampport & HH Parish Council AGM	Lampport Hall
18/5	Tony Hadley	Derngate
19/5	Hansons Valuations	Kelmarsh Hall
19 May	Brixworth PC Annual Meeting	Community Centre
19 May	History Society - To the Manor Born	Brixworth Village Hall
19/5	Paul Chowdhry	Derngate
20/5	UB40	Derngate
21/5	John Barrowman	Derngate
22/5	Joe Lycett	Derngate
23/5	The Illegal Eagles	Derngate
24/5	Motown Greatest Hits	Derngate
25 May	Lampport & HH PC Annual Meeting	Lampport Hall
25 May	Banff Mountain Film Festival	Derngate
26 May	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
26/5	Jason Manford	Derngate
27/5	Shalamar	Derngate
28/5	Jack Dee	Derngate
29/5	Graeme Hall	Derngate
3-4/6	Jubilee Fair	Lampport Hall
5 Jun	Platinum Jubilee in Brixworth	Community Centre
11 Jun	Danny Tompkins Summer Festival	Lampport Hall
13 Jun	Whats Love Got To Do With It?	Derngate



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BRIXWORTH MATTERS

 YouTube Brixworth Community Church

As I write this article, the integrity of different leaders of positions of power and influence has been recently called into question. I won't name names as I am thinking more widely than politics and garden parties. Plus the fact the Bible says, 'judge not and you will not be judged' (Matthew 7:1) and 'He who has not sinned, cast the first stone' (John 8:4).

However, when leaders of nations or world organisations let you down, it can sometimes make you think, 'is there anything or anyone out there that can be fully trusted?'

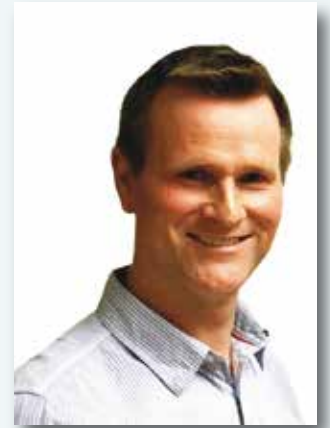
Well, I want to tell you there is. When you place your trust in Jesus Christ and his leadership over your life, he will never let you down. He has 100 percent integrity. Why not check out His teaching and life in the Bible. The gospel of Mark is only 16 short chapters long. You could read it in 45 minutes!

But when Jesus lived, there is no doubt he spoke a good game. The sermon on the mount (Matthew 6) is generally regarded as the greatest sermon ever spoken. Many of the things he said have become the bed-rock of our society. Some truths he uttered are behind many of the laws (Good ones!) that we live by.

However, Jesus walked the walk as well as talked the talk. Even after his death, resurrection and ascension, not one person was able to point the finger in criticism at something he said or did. The life he lived matched up to the words that he spoke, and all at great cost to himself! Yes, he even died on a cross in order to keep his promises. I don't know any other leader who would do that. Do you?

Jesus is now alive and offers his leadership and loving care to all those who trust in him. If you would like to know a little more about any of this, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I'd be very happy to help in anyway.

Andy



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on
07958 604961



Brixworth Community Church Outdoor Nativity 2021

It was really hard to organise our annual Outdoor Nativity with all the uncertainty this year. However, praise God we managed to do it and it was a great blessing to all. Indeed, many folk commented afterwards as to how much they enjoyed the production.

The cast of the nativity did a wonderful job with a few ad hock lol moments. As always, the children's choir from the school stole the show with beautiful singing bringing a tear to the eye. Pastor Andy shared a short message reminding us of Gods great love for us and why Jesus came into the world. After the last carol, we enjoyed hot chocolate and mince pies that were brought out to folk in a safe socially distanced way.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the outdoor nativity happen again.

Thank you to Brixworth Primary School Choir for being willing to take part. Thank you to the Pope (Allan Pope-that is) for managing the cast. And a big thank you to you for joining us and for being such a big part of the Brixworth Outdoor Nativity 2021.

EASTER

Come and join us
Good Friday

Friday 15th April
Easter Walk and Reflection
Walk begins 10.30am.
at the Library Community Centre
and ends at All Saints Brixworth, where
there will be a joint service at 11am.
Hot cross buns and refreshments will be
served afterwards.

Easter Sunday

Family Celebration
Brixworth Primary School
Froxhill Crescent
Starting at 10.30am.
Everyone is welcome.
Join us for refreshments afterwards.





SOCCER & NETBALL SCHOOLS

13th-17th April 2022
BRIXWORTH



WHO IS IT FOR?

Soccer School is for anyone aged 7-14
Netball School is for anyone aged 8-12

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The Price: £29/child*
£25 for additional siblings and anyone
on income support.

(*All places subsidised from £60)

WHEN & WHERE?

At Brixworth Primary School,
Wednesday 13th.-Saturday 16th. April
Time: 10am - 4pm (5pm Sat)
Saturday 16th. Family BBQ -
from 4:30pm approx
Sunday 17th. 10:30 Awards Service

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andy Lloyd-Williams / Mark Palmer

TEL: 07954 604961/07917 573784

EMAIL: andylloydwilliams@gmail.com

brixworthcommunitychurch@gmail.com

WEB: www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org

Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

Brixworth Community Church Weekly Events

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

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

If you would like to know more about anything in Brixworth Matters or to know more about the Christian Faith, then phone Andy on 07958 604961

Brixworth Community Church

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1188559)

Community Foodshare

Many thanks to all who donated for the Christmas Family Foodshare, Nine car loads of Food and gifts were delivered before Christmas to village families. The project was supported by the Parish Council and Troops the Greengrocers.

We will continue with the project in the weeks ahead with our next distribution timed for the school Easter holidays. Donations of money or groceries can be left at the Olive Branch Community Coffee Shop.



The Olive Branch

Brixworth Community Church Coffee Shop.

Our village Community Coffee Shop and the place to meet, be kept informed of village life and be sure of a warm welcome.

Home of the All Day Brixworth Breakfast!

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

Pensioners Luncheon Club Wed 12 noon*

(*membership currently full ask to be added to waiting list)

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

Run by volunteers

this non-profit making venture has a welcoming atmosphere.



Chairman's Chat

A look forward to coming months.

Brixworth Climate Action Group

What the group has been doing.

Community Orchards

A tasty way to increase biodiversity.

Improvement work to facilities

An update on work in the Library and Community Centre and the MUGA.

Meet our Local Police Officer

Find out about the work of the Daventry Rural Team.

St David's Play Area

The new village play park.



Chairman's Chat

Welcome to 2022 and a year in which the Parish Council hopes to make a big impact!



Hopefully by the time you are reading this the new St David's play area will be finished and the new planting scheme that accompanies it will start to take shape in the Summer. Once the play area has been finished then the battered, old tennis court will be transformed into a multi-use games area (MUGA) which will enable the community to dip its toes into sports such as basketball. Alongside these projects the council will be upgrading the upper hall of the Community Centre and Library in order to make it more comfortable for users and to also encourage new sports such as table tennis – all of this has been made possible with Section 106 monies given to the council for the specific use of enhancing and providing indoor and outdoor sports to residents.

The other project that takes up a considerable amount of time is setting the precept every year. This is the element of council tax paid by Brixworth's residents to Brixworth Parish Council and we have managed to keep this increase to a minimum at 0.96% which in pounds and pence translates to an annual increase of just 76p per household. The Parish Council hopes this goes some way to alleviate the stresses and strains caused by the pandemic of the last two years.

So, onwards and upwards and here's to a better year.

Community Grants

A council grant helped Brixworth Community Food Share to provide food boxes for some residents this Christmas and February half term. Donations were received from many other residents and also Troops, Brixworth Cricket Club, Brixworth Central Sports Club, The Co-op, Brixworth Community Church and All Saints' Church.

If your voluntary organisation would like to apply for a grant to help with its community activities and projects to bring direct benefit to the parish and its residents please download the "Grant Application Form" from the Parish Council website.





Brixworth Climate Action Group Update

As part of our support for the Queen's Green Canopy for the Jubilee celebrations, Michael Venton from West Northants Council helped the group with practical ideas and advice about appropriate native species for planting a number of trees and hedgerows within the village. We have also applied for funding for three hedgerows from the Countryside Charity (CPRE).

Our aim is to plant 'Saxon Mix' hedgerows which will include native species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, dog wood, holly and hazel which will also add habitats for wildlife as a way to support biodiversity within our village and help in our drive towards the UK's Net Zero Carbon target. We are currently working on the planting plan.

Our aim is to plant 70 trees in line with her Majesty's Jubilee in addition to the three cherry trees already planted on the Spratton Road Park donated by the Sakura Project. Planting will open for the whole community to join in and will happen throughout the year, depending on the individual species. Keep an eye on our social media to find out when to get involved.

We are also exploring funding opportunities to develop a Green Roof project for the village bus stops. We are investigating which of our bus stops may be suitable to have a sedum and wildflower roof - again another way for us to support the biodiversity of our village.

Community Orchards

As part of our biodiversity and tree plan, Bob Cotter from the BCAG presented a plan to develop a 'community orchard'. This would be a long term project to plant a number of fruit trees in various accessible locations around the village for the benefit of our residents -



you will be welcome to pick fruit as it becomes available. There will be opportunities to get involved if you wish. The trees will enhance our environment, we will have blossom in the spring and fruit in the autumn and they will help our drive towards net zero carbon.

What is the Brixworth Climate Action Group?

The Brixworth Climate Action Group (BCAG) has had several meetings and has started to develop ideas for the "Green Plan" for Brixworth.

This is a long term initiative and we know the plan will take time to develop and implement. We have made a start.

BCAG is made up of residents and three Parish Councillors and you will always be welcome if you want to get involved, share ideas or even just find out what's going on. Contact Cllr Christine Ware christine.ware@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Whilst we have made a start on the green plan, net zero carbon requires many other areas that we are looking to develop including:

- Rubbish and Recycling
- Travel and Transport
- Communication and Education
- Refill and Repair shops
- Residential and Power

If you have any other ideas for the group, please get in touch.

Community Centre Hall



Renovation works have started in the hall in the Community Centre Building which is expected to finish in mid-March. Work will include improvements to the flooring, lighting and storage facilities.



MUGA

The second project at St David's playing fields is a multi-use games area called MUGA; which will upgrade the existing fenced hard-court tennis area and will take place later in the year.

This project uses funds that BPC has received via West Northants Council as part of Section 106 funds. Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allocates money donated by developers for the provision and enhancement of sport. This is given to mitigate the impact for the village of significant development projects such as the Saxon Rise development.

Rural Policing in Brixworth

We speak to PC Joshua Tyers and ask about his role in the police and in Brixworth.

I am sure everyone in the village will be glad to meet you. Can you tell us something about your duties in the village?

I am one of the Neighbourhood Constables; we are dealing with issues in the local community, not necessarily emergencies. We will be speaking to people and working long-term on long-term issues such as drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. It should be a bit more of a considered approach, we are finding out what we can do to support people.

Will we see a police presence in the village?

Yes you should see more of a police presence; there are two vehicles and another police officer starting soon. We hope to be out and about a bit more during the daytime as well. There are five of us covering from Long Buckby to East Farndon, Kingsthorpe to Sywell.

How should people get in touch with you?

If it's an emergency, always call 999, if not then 101. You can leave a message for me on 101 even if I am not on duty. We do now have a base in the village at Catherine House, this is the base for the Neighbourhood team at Daventry. Unfortunately there is no facility for the public to visit.

Is there a way people can come and talk to the police face to face and ask questions?

Yes, there is the "Beat Bus" which we are hoping to bring to Brixworth Library and Community Centre. We might be able to tie it in to Parish Council Surgeries, but we will make sure we publicise that.

What is the focus of the Neighbourhood Policing team?

We are rural, but there is a separate Rural Crime Team which is very active. We try and engage with the hard to reach areas, to deal with farm equipment burglaries and hare coursing for example. We are looking to increase the amount of awareness and engagement with that but we want people to call us if they see unusual incidents of people in the fields with dogs running around for example. It means that we want some of the smaller villages to get as much time and attention as the larger communities.

What do you want to hear about from the people of Brixworth?

I'd like people to get in touch with us, let us know what they need to know and leave a message for the Brixworth Rural Team – we are there to provide a level of service. It's a New Year and we are a new team.



St David's Play Area

Work is nearly completed on the new play area at St David's

Work started in January to regenerate the current area and add a new adventure playground.



Play equipment has been upgraded and the landscaping of the area has begun.



Once landscaping is complete the play area will be open. This is part of a wider programme to improve facilities for the village, work on the MUGA starts later this year.

Full Council (Thursdays): 24 February, 31 March, 28 April

Media & Comms (Wednesdays): 9 March, 20 April

Planning (Mondays): 14 March, 4 April, 25 April

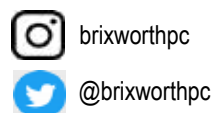
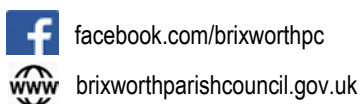
Surgery (Saturdays): 5 March, 2 April

Please check website and noticeboards to confirm dates and times.

Note: All meetings are held in the Library and Community Centre.
For further information please contact the Clerk—please note the new contact details for the Clerk.

Contact the Parish Clerk:

If you want to contact the Parish Council please write to: The Parish Clerk, The Information Point, Brixworth Library and Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth NN6 9DS
 parish.clerk@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
 Telephone: 07983 141786



Sandra Moxon
Chairman



Jackie Bird
Vice-Chairman



Tom Mitchell
Chairman, Planning



Elaine Coe
Chairman, Media & Communications



Barbara Lunnon



Christine Ware



Frances Peacock



Gary Spratt



Ian Barrett



James Collyer



Kevin Parker



Lynne Compton



Neal Brown



Tony Nixon



Parish Clerk





All Saints', Brixworth

"Good News for our Community"

www.brixworthchurch.org



TRY US OUT... ON YOUTUBE

It has never been easier to see what church is like. You might be pleasantly surprised. Why not check us out?

**Search YouTube for 'Brixworth and Holcot Churches'
...or just come along any Sunday, at 10:30am.**

I wonder if you saw the news about the fossilised Ichthyosaur, found at Rutland Water? It was discovered in February 2021, but was in the news recently. The BBC article said, "The 33ft (10m) long ichthyosaur fossil, which is about 180 million years old, was found at Rutland Water Nature Reserve."

Does the existence of dinosaurs, or the dating of fossils disprove Christianity?

There are those who think that science has utterly disproved the biblical creation account, and so can ignore it...and indeed ignore the rest of the bible. Atheists, like Richard Dawkins, would argue this way.

Then there are those at the other end of the spectrum that say that, because the bible describes creation in 6 days, modern science must be wrong. You might have heard of Ken Ham. He'd argue that way.

But there's a third camp and this camp sees Genesis 1 and modern science as complementary. I'm in that camp. In fact so were many great scientists throughout history. You may have heard of Michael Faraday (electricity, 1791-1867), Gregor Mendel (genetics, 1822-1884), Georges Lemaître (cosmology, 1894-1966) and William Phillips (Nobel prize in Physics, 1997). All of these were motivated by their belief in a Creator to investigate creation. Johannes Kepler (astronomy, 1571-1630) spoke of "thinking God's thoughts after him." It was a desire to know *how* God had made the universe that drove these men to great discoveries.

There are many reasons to see science and Christianity as complementary not mutually exclusive; asking and answering different questions about life.

Christianity doesn't require us to 'leave our brains at the door'. Rather, as we understand more about the world around us - from massive cosmology to micro-biology - we are given even more reasons to praise the One who created everything and sustains everything.

**"The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1 (the Bible)**

Agree? Disagree? I'd love to hear from you. Get in touch: revdavidreith@gmail.com or 880139



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

Brixworth Bowls

What has been a difficult year for many with the ongoing Covid situation, Brixworth Short Mat Bowls continued to provide an afternoon and evening of fun, friendly competition and social contact.



We are pleased to have attracted new members this year.

November saw the conclusion of our Championship Competition. The final was between Mike and Helen Nice. After a spirited match, Mike eventually won.

Betty Wiles, a founder member of Brixworth Short Mat Bowls, celebrated her 90th birthday with cake and flowers. Betty has been with the club for 11 years. She continues to be an active member and has taken part in Club League Competitions.

Brixworth Short Mat Bowls was really pleased to continue through to Christmas and meet at Brixworth Centre, Church Street each Friday afternoon at 2.30pm and evening at 7.30 pm.

The club continues to follow Government Covid 19 guidelines and there have to date been no cases of Covid infections linked to the club.

If anyone is interested in trying bowls contact Jenny (Chair) on 07522 559673 or email brixworthbowlsclub@hotmail.com.

You can be sure of a warm welcome.
– *Chrissie Collins and Bernadette Byrne*

Anyone for Tennis?

Friendly, social and fun for all tennis players of all ages and abilities. We have three newly-painted top quality hard courts and a new clubhouse.

There is lots to get involved in this year, for kids and adults, with an active social programme.

We offer kids coaching with a summer programme. Adults have coaching, club ladders, ladies, men's and mixed teams, team leagues and social tennis on Fridays with a BBQ Friday nights.

Please come and join us. All info on Brixworthtennisclub.org.uk
– *Fiona Turberville Smith*



Reduced Membership Prices at Northampton Sailing Club

Northampton Sailing Club has reduced its membership pricing for 2022, with discounts of between 30% and 40% on some membership categories. For example, single adult membership is just £195 per year, and family membership is £275 per year.

Tom Powell, Commodore at the club says: "We feel that the new membership packages offer excellent value for money as the club provides great facilities for sailing, windsurfing, stand-up paddleboarding, wingfoiling and canoeing. We're a family-friendly club with plenty of space so we want to make watersports more accessible to local people."

The membership package includes regular club sessions, racing, free coaching for sailing and windsurfing, social events, boat and board hire. In addition, free powerboat and instructor training is available for members who want to get involved in running club sessions.

Northampton Sailing Club also offers paid-for taster sessions and RYA (Royal Yachting Association) affiliated training course, so if you've ever thought about trying out a new water sport or returning to one you've done before, then now is the perfect time to do it.

In addition, social membership is available for £60 per year, if you just want to take advantage of the excellent catering facilities, licensed bar, beautiful surrounding and friendly environment that the club has to offer – just down the road.

For more information go to www.northamptonsailingclub.org or email info@northamptonsailingclub.org. Discover the water and enjoy it!

**COFFEE,
BAKES,
BRUNCH
& LUNCH**

THE WORKHOUSE

**AT THE HEART
OF BRIXWORTH**

Monday-Friday
8:30am-3:30pm
Saturday 9am-3:30pm
Sunday 9.30am-2pm
Please note we do not take
reservations

35 Spratton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DS

Brixworth Cricket Club

Looking forward to the 2022 season

The cricket club is in great shape going into the 2022 season. A lot of hard work at the Northampton Road ground has taken place over the winter months with the outfield reseeded, the perimeter fence being painted, the drainage improved and heating being installed in the clubhouse. Also, as part of the club's continued commitment to health and safety improvements, we have improved the ventilation of the changing rooms and installed a readily accessible defibrillator at the ground.

When the season starts in April there will be just over 130 boys and girls under the age of 15 registered, learning to and playing cricket on a regular basis, which is great to see. Brixworth Cricket Club is very proud indeed to have the largest and most successful ladies cricket section in the county, despite only being formed a few years ago. There is also a large pool of senior players who will be representing the club's four senior teams each Saturday. In 2021 nearly 100 players represented the four senior Brixworth teams. Pleasingly, there are some very talented teenagers playing at a good level, which bodes well for the future success of the club. Volunteer numbers at the club have also increased. That said, we could always do with more adult helpers and adult players (male and female), so if you have an interest in playing/ coaching/scoring/helping behind the bar/helping with the BBQ or umpiring please contact Will Haxby on 07912 267988.

With the very welcome installation of heating to the clubhouse, this now means that the clubhouse is open every Saturday afternoon throughout the whole year from 1pm -7pm. Everybody, adults and kids from the village and surrounding areas are welcome to come down on Saturday afternoons, the adults can enjoy a drink from the bar and the kids can run around in a safe and friendly setting.

A junior "introduction evening" will be held



on Friday 1st April from 6pm to 8pm at the ground on the Northampton Road. Coaches will be on hand to meet and talk to parents of children already in the junior section or those parents of children wishing to join the club. Our 2022 fees for new members are among the lowest in the County at £75 per child and £65 for siblings of new members. New Members joining the club will be extremely welcome.

The Friday evening junior cricket training sessions will start again on Friday 8th April and run until early September. These Friday evening's from 6pm at the ground on Northampton Road are always popular and great fun. With over 100 children being coached on the outfield, parents enjoying a beer/wine/prosecco or two from the clubhouse bar and food available from the BBQ. It really is a good, fun night and everyone from the village is welcome. If you have not visited the ground before, please do come down to the club, enjoy a drink from the bar and a burger and see for yourself what an enjoyable evening it is at a beautiful venue.

Once again, Brixworth Cricket Club is hugely grateful to all its sponsors, coaches, volunteers and parents for their continued

support of our junior section, it is invaluable and massively appreciated.

On a sombre note, we are very sad to report the passing of long-standing cricket club official Ray Foster. Ray had been the club's umpire for well over 30 years, alongside this he acted as Club Secretary, Treasurer, Fixture Co-ordinator and fundraiser. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the cricket club and will be fondly remembered by all.

After a two-year gap due to Covid, Brixworth Cricket Club is excited and looking forward to be hosting its fifth annual Beer/ Music Festival Weekender from Saturday 25th June – Sunday 26th June, the event proves really popular every year with 500 people from the village and surrounding area attending. There will once again be live music acts, with Pure Genius & Jess Annalee performing, cricket matches and a choice of over 20 beers and ciders with exotic names to choose from. There will also be prosecco, wine and Pimm's available and of course soft drinks for juniors and any drivers. Please save the dates, everybody is welcome, the more the merrier. It guarantees to be once again a terrific weekend, more details will follow in due course. – Will Haxby

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Email: 82matthewc@gmail.com Phone Number 07702 317828