

BRIXWORTH BULLETIN

The quarterly newspaper for Brixworth and surrounding villages

Issue 74, September 2022

Marking the Platinum Jubilee



Photo by Philip Earl



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in every village up and down the country, including every village the Brixworth Bulletin is read. The celebratory lighting of the beacon signalled the start of the celebrations, and many came to Brixworth in the evening of 2 June to witness the event. Pageants, parties and picnics marked the rest of the four day weekend. Of course the British weather lived up to form, with an unseasonable burst of cold drizzle forcing many of the Sunday events indoors. That did not stop any of the good cheer – indeed in Hanging Houghton practically the whole village turned out to celebrate the jubilee with a banquet truly fit for the occasion. – cfw

The future of the Brixworth Bulletin

It's roughly 12 years since I responded to a plea for help by the then-editor of the Brixworth Bulletin, Harvey Fox, and started editing this quarterly newsletter. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time – and in many ways I still do! – however change is a good thing.

The demands of the day job have increased drastically and for the sake of my own sanity, I need to cut back on a few things.

So it's with great sadness that I am telling you that there is a vacancy for an editor on the Brixworth Bulletin. I will stay around for long enough to find and hand over to a successor, and I'll obviously be on hand in the background with advice if needed, but it's time for someone else to take on the role.

The Bulletin is run by a team of volunteers so I'm afraid if you're looking for something to pay the bills, this is not it. However, it's an incredibly rewarding way of getting involved in the community. You find out so many things that are going on, get to speak with a lot of people, and the satisfaction of contributing to something as well loved as the Bulletin is incredible.

The editor's main role is one of organizing things – planning content with the Bulletin's own writers, making sure you keep in touch with the regular contributors and reminding them of copy deadlines, ensuring you don't miss any of their contributions or any adverts, and that everything is laid out in time to be sent to the printers. You might choose to do some of the writing yourself, that's up to you.

If you think that this is something you'd like to get involved with, please email me at editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk so we can arrange a call.

In addition to the editorship, there are a few other roles for which the Bulletin needs help.

Firstly, we could use someone to do the layout. It's something that I've done for the past 12 years but there's no particular reason why this has to be the editor's job, it's just something I happened to have the tools for and enjoyed doing. You don't have to be a graphic designer to do the job, you just need to be able to understand the basics of the design software. I'd be happy to pass on my own (limited, but allegedly sufficient) skills.

Secondly, we could use someone who can take over the advertising sales and/or invoicing. The Bulletin has a well-established base of regular advertisers and gets a steady stream of fresh enquiries so don't worry, you won't be cold calling would-be advertisers chasing sales! You just need to maintain the quarterly contact with the regulars, respond to new enquiries, keep track of booked advertising, and – after the issue's gone to press – send out the invoices.

Again, if you think that you're able to help with any of the above roles, please get in touch.

The Bulletin gets so much love from everyone in the community, that I'm sure that there will be people out there who are happy to help keep it going. I look forward to hearing from you.

The Brixworth Bulletin are:

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

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

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

Louise Robinson, distribution
883641

dist.manager@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Sheila Jenner, treasurer
881173

treasurer@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Regular correspondent: Tracey Calnan

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

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and advertising for the December issue is
25 October 2022.

Visit www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk, join us
on Facebook or follow @BrixBulletin on
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Sharing food to build a community

An interview with Miranda Wixon, founder of TowFood

"TowFood has been operating since April 2020. Before then I was involved with the Towcester Foodbank, through which I not only got to understand how many people rely on food banks to make ends meet, but also how much surplus food goes to waste.

Community Larders are designed to build a community hub, sharing food saved from waste where everyone is equal.

Towcester Community Food (TowFood) in Towcester and Roade was the first. Castle Ashby and Denton followed in April 2022. Brixworth, Daventry and Woodford Halse made up the third wave, opening in time for the summer holidays 2022.

We work with many others including South Northants Volunteers Bureau, Food for Thought Daventry and the Hope Centre. This gives us many more options for supporting the community.

Food is sourced from FareShare Leicester and Milton Keynes which often



Opening the larder were High Sheriff Crispin Holbrow DL, Cllr Jonathan Harris and Miranda Wixon, assisted by two Brixworth children

has reasonable "use by" dates but we also get food from local shops, supermarkets, restaurants which is often close to their date and may have been frozen. Plus we always have free fresh fruit and veg.

FareShare charges for the food it distributes, which is why we need a subscription model to ensure a supply of good food every week to members. Volunteers go out every night to collect the food to save it from ending up in landfill. Eating food that would otherwise be wasted saves our planet. Growing and processing food produces CO2 through the energy used in everything from making fertiliser to operating farm machinery, so that should not be wasted. On top of that, when food rots it gives off CO2 and methane and produces masses of water contributing to flooding.

We fund raise and members often pay forward for others so that anyone in hardship is fully supported by their own community.

The response from the community has been absolutely incredible. The pandemic has fostered so much goodwill which has been a springboard for initiatives like this, and there have been so many examples of people's responses shared on our Facebook page. It's incredible. From the elderly widow who has been afraid to go out who is now always the first volunteer to open up, to the single Dad who cannot get his teenage sons out of the bedroom but now the boys prepare the food for them all to eat together, to the Duke of Edinburgh students who bag up fruit and veg to share with members.

My role with the Brixworth Community Larder is to make links with other organisations to ensure that they have the food, safe and effective systems and policies, and provide oversight and ensure compliance. But above all to have fun. We are all volunteers together, sharing and caring for each other."

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Stop food waste (and save some pennies)

Some 3.6 million tonnes of food are wasted by the food industry every year in the UK. At the same time, the cost of living crisis will really start to hit people in the autumn, when the second huge rise in heating bills will come on top of already skyrocketing fuel bills.

The Brixworth Community Larder (BCL), launched on 27 July, aims to address both challenges at the same time. The Larder seeks to resell surplus groceries that would otherwise be wasted, at below supermarket prices. BCL works with FareShare, a national network of food redistributors, who take good quality surplus food and redistribute it to charities and community groups.



The larder has been a great success, as the queue proves

BCL is not a food bank, nor is it restricted to people in need – it is available to everybody who wants to use it. Membership is open to everybody in Brixworth and surrounds.

Councillor Jonathan Harris, who helped to set up the Larder, says: “We want to do our bit to reduce the mountain of food waste whilst helping with the cost-of-living crisis. Everything you buy helps to reduce the risk of good food going to waste and therefore help the environment.”

The concept is modelled on TowFood, the Towcester Food Larder, which has been operating since 2020 and blazed a trail for similar projects in Northamptonshire. Through TowFood, the infrastructure is already in place to buy or accept donations of food, distribute to the villages, and enable local people to buy food at below supermarket prices. In future, the Brixworth Community Larder plans to supplement supplies with surplus goods from local businesses.

“We are currently taking around 500kg of food each week, not including tinned and store cupboard produce. While some produce is extremely popular and we have to work on a first come first served basis, people have been very respectful,” Harris says. “Any food remaining goes on to the next larder. Any fresh produce that really is at the end of its life is sent to farms for animal fodder. We have been told that there is a larder opening in Moulton in September and they will be running their service on a Wednesday



Fruit and veg is available free of charge. Photos by Ian Topham

after ours – so any food left over from the Brixworth larder will not be going very far.”

BCL operates as a club, with an annual membership fee of £10. Members then either pay as they go - £5 for up to 10 items, or £10 for up to 22 items. For regular shoppers, subscribing for a full calendar month at £17.50 for 10 items per week or £35 for 22.

Extra free items may be available depending on what's in season. BCL will be cashless, with payment taken through a debit or credit card, or online in advance.

Harris anticipates that typically a £5 contribution will buy food worth £20 or more,

though this cannot be guaranteed.

Products stocked will vary from week to week, but will include fresh produce, bread, etc as well as store-cupboard ingredients and long shelf-life products.

The larder is open every Wednesday from 16.30 to 17.15 at Brixworth Village Hall, Holcot Road. People who are less mobile and unable to attend in person can have a bag delivered through a volunteer.

To join, visit shorturl.at/KTY04 to register.

If you'd like to help the BCL team directly by volunteering, please contact Brixworth Community Larder on Facebook.



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Open air theatre at Chester House Estate



Chester House Estate near Irchester is one of Northamptonshire's newest visitor attractions, having opened to the public in October 2021 after extensive redevelopment.

The estate is proud to provide the

backdrop to two theatre productions in late summer, when Chapterhouse Theatre Company, a critically acclaimed touring theatre, has something for everyone with productions of Cinderella and Romeo and Juliet.

Cinderella

Tuesday 30 August promises to be an evening of fun for all the family with Chapterhouse's production of Cinderella. In an enchanted kingdom in a faraway land, magical creatures and fairy godmothers come together to tell the best loved of all fairytales. Full of song, mirth, and joy, join us on Cinderella's journey of a lifetime to a magical ball where nearly anything is possible especially if it's before midnight. Children old and young alike are invited to dress in their favourite fairy tale characters and join the midsummer ball dance.

Romeo and Juliet

Then, on Thursday 1 September, it's the bard's turn. Dressed in beautiful Elizabethan costume and performed by a fine troupe of Shakespearean players, join Chapterhouse for the greatest love story ever told in magical surroundings. This best loved story of star-crossed lovers and feuding families is expected to be a highlight for the open-air theatre season.

All the shows will take place beside the 17th century farmhouse with plenty of room to set up picnic blankets and low-backed chairs. Visitors cannot bring their own alcohol, but Chester House has a fully licenced bar along with hot and cold food available on the night. Performances start at 6pm each evening.

For tickets please visit chesterhouseestate.org, and for further details about Chapterhouse's events visit www.chapterhouse.org.

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SALES & LETTINGS

SSPPG launches fundraiser for blood pressure monitors

A lot of people know about the SSPPG but an awful lot more, especially newcomers to the area, may be less aware of what it is and what it does. Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group (SSPPG) was set up several years ago to support the local surgeries at Brixworth and Guilsborough.

It has a dual function: firstly, to act as an auditing group for the surgery and its effectiveness; secondly, to promote available services, link with other welfare groups, provide feedback and raise funds for additional equipment that would benefit the patients of the combined practices.

Membership of SSPPG is open to all patients of the Saxon Spires practice and we are always

on the lookout for new recruits to bring fresh ideas. Our Chairperson, Sue Brady, can be contacted on ssppg2022@gmail.com for more information.

You are welcome to join us. Meetings are bi-monthly, alternating between the two surgeries. For details on future meetings visit our Facebook page.

Fundraising appeal

SSPG is currently on a mission to raise funds to equip the two surgeries with useful additional equipment. Our first target is to raise £5,000 to buy two free-standing blood pressure monitors (pictured, right).

Similar units previously stood in the surgeries but, thanks to disuse during Covid, could not be restarted. These stand-alone blood pressure monitors would enable patients to take their own blood pressure, without medical supervision, and then simply hand over the machine's report to reception for the nurse/doctor to review. This would save considerable time for the patient and



free up appointments for staff to handle more critical issues. We all know how 'white coat syndrome' inflates BP results and these machines allow the patient to be more relaxed about taking measurements.

To donate, contact us at ssppg2022@gmail.com. We hope local businesses can find some cash to contribute from their Corporate Social Responsibility budgets. - Keith Dobell

Northants Carers drop in sessions

Do you look after someone? Are you an unpaid carer? If so, come join the Saxon Spires and Long Buckby Carers drop in session on 6 September, at Brixworth GP Surgery.

Carers and cared-for are equally welcome. Join us for a chat and a catchup. We're happy to offer advice and support. Also remember to look out for us at your local Saxon Spires flu clinic, every Saturday from late September.

For more information, email kayg@northamptonshire-carers.org or phone 01933 677 907 (Option 1).

The life of a wildlife photographer

Spratton Photography Club is proud to be hosting Michael Leach, renowned BBC wildlife photographer, in an open evening where he'll be talking about his varied career.

He will speak about his varied career as a wildlife photographer, which has taken him to every continent and seen him photograph a huge variety of animals. As well as a photographer, Leach is a successful author and science communicator, who has published 39 books to date. The talk, which is co-hosted by Inspire Photography and West Haddon Photography Club, will take place at Spratton Hall School on 21 October, starting at 7pm. For tickets, please email nphotocollaborative@gmail.com.



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Parish Council grant saves Country Park volunteers' backs

The Friends of Brampton Valley & Brixworth Country Park are delighted to have received a generous grant from Brixworth Parish Council, enabling it to buy a motorised auger and other equipment.

Currently fencepost holes (however wide they need to be) must be dug out by hand... and back-breaking work it can be, especially for our ageing, aching muscles, as you can see from the image on the right. The new kit, pictured bottom right, will alleviate a great deal of work and achieve significantly faster progress with renewing bollards and fences. The extra funds augment those already received from Councillors Irvine-Swift, Parker, Harris and Rumens. Our sincere thanks go to Brixworth Parish Council and their outstanding support.

Maintenance work in the park's areas is an enjoyable and rewarding pastime, with plenty of time to socialise with the other volunteers over a cuppa. It is highly rewarding when something is built, repaired or a task completed – and there is a non-stop list of seasonal or one-off jobs to be done.

There is also the chance to witness nature going about its business. Areas that need careful treatment include Triangular Meadow, a little-known spot half a mile south of the Oxendon car park. Walkers probably do not even notice it and pass by without a look. However, it is an area that has not been ploughed for very many decades and quite unique for that - wildflowers grow and the only disturbance of the soil is occasional introduction of sheep to graze the grass and keep it under control.

Apart from controlling the vegetation, there is plenty to keep the Friends busy: memorial benches must be installed or given needed upkeep; signs must be replaced and noticeboards kept up to date – all regular jobs. However, one of our major problems is the policing of Brampton Valley Way. The path is 14 miles long, which is too much to watch it all constantly: only in this last couple of weeks we have



had incidents of major vandalism on the Way and that is where the public's contribution is so helpful. If you spot any issues, please let us know and we will endeavour to put things right. Better still, become a 'Friend'.

You can get an idea of what we get up to by subscribing to our Facebook page Friends of Brampton Valley Way & Brixworth Country Park, where Doug regularly posts a brief weekly report of our activities.



Joining the Friends of Brampton Valley & Brixworth Country Park is easy: simply email us at friendsofbvw@gmail.com. Membership can be in a variety of ways – simply supporting, donating & sponsorship or physically taking part in the maintenance of Brixworth Country Park, Brampton Valley Way, Triangular Meadow and Martin Moore Wood. – Keith Dobell

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Planting Hedgerow Highways

Last November, as a trustee of the countryside charity CPRE Northamptonshire, I was looking for partners to help us invest in the county's hedgerows – regenerating existing hedges and planting new ones to create hedgerow highways for the county's wildlife.

I was delighted to discover from a previous issue of Brixworth Bulletin that the village already had a Climate Action Group. Councillor Christine Ware, representing both the Parish Council and Action Group, responded enthusiastically to my approach and she and colleagues quickly identified three locations for new hedges – St David's Playing Field, Ashway Park and the Pocket Park off Eaglehurst.

There was competition nationally for the CPRE funding needed and, after a nervous wait, we were thrilled to learn in March that Brixworth had been awarded the £2,750 it had applied for. It sounds simple, but it involved considerable volunteer effort to make our case.

At the time of writing, we seem surrounded by so many crises – a spiralling cost of living, fuel bills hitting regular new highs, a war in Ukraine and so on – that it is easy to forget the elephant in the room, the global climate crisis. Sadly, this one won't go away any time soon. It's why Brixworth has a Climate Action Group and why CPRE rallied the troops to apply for the funding. In our own small way, we are doing what we can locally to help achieve the government's net zero by 2050 objective.

The hedgerow project dovetails nicely with the Parish Council's existing tree planting plans to support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The new hedges will soften the hard fence borders at all three of the proposed locations and provide a natural habitat for wildlife. England has reputedly lost around half of its hedgerows since 1945, a loss that will only be reversed by many small steps such as those the Parish Council and CPRE are planning.

The hedgerow planting will be carried out early next year by a



local contractor, but we hope to involve the local community in the project as well. It would be a wasted opportunity to just quietly plant hedges and trees and leave it at that. We will be getting in touch with the Primary School, youth groups and other village organisations to involve them in what will be a valuable and interesting learning experience. We regard the project as a springboard for similar projects in the future. Gaining the interest and support of the community, especially the young, is a way of ensuring this will happen. If you would like to know more about the project or help in any way, please contact christine.ware@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk. – Robin Jones

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Country Eye

A Tall Story that just happens to be true

I had long since given up any hope of fairies in my garden. If you could see the tangled, deliberately created wilderness at the end, you would understand why no self-respecting winged sprite would want to live there. For the two years since I abandoned it to nature it has been dominated by weeds that thrive in the shade cast by the lime tree. It is obviously going to take some time for a settled community to develop. Definitely a work in progress!

But this year I had an eight-foot giant appear elsewhere in my garden. Well, to be truthful, not quite as tall as that, but only three inches shorter. I know the origin of this giant because I brought it here. It came from Harlestone Firs over 30 years ago. Attracted by a foxglove's showy flowers I snipped off a few seed pods and sowed them in my garden, where they did well. When I came to live here in Brixworth in 1991, of course I had to bring them with me.

To say they flourished in the local soil is a bit of an under-statement. Usually foxgloves are no more than a yard or so in height, but as the years passed I noticed mine were getting taller; not only that but a number of different colours were starting to appear among them. From the normal deep carmine pink to a range of darker forms of which the one in the picture is an example. At the other extreme were a dusky white with all the interior dark spots still present, and a purer white with grey ghostly throat markings.

I find all of them stunningly beautiful but need to remind myself that their ethereal beauty is not for my benefit. As with birdsong there is one overriding driving force – the urge to reproduce. With many plants, the allure of nectar is not enough. Over aeons of evolution

they have found ever more complex ways of ensuring pollination. At its simplest, many plants rely on the wind to carry their pollen from flower to flower. A ring of petals gives us daisy-type flowers, while flowers bunched together give us the flat heads of yarrow, or spikes of Buddleia, much loved by butterflies.

The deep bell-shaped foxglove flowers came much later in evolutionary time. They have the black guide markings to lead long-tongued bees to the source of the nectar, literally a flight path for their use. Needless to say, there are always going to be the renegades with an eye to the main chance, and so there are short-tongued bees that chew a hole at the top of the flower and steal the nectar. Luckily, the cheats are in a minority and an average foxglove will produce many thousands of seeds. Surprisingly, these look like no more than specks of dust and I find it mind-boggling to think that packed within it is all the information necessary to grow my giant. All that is needed is soil, sunlight, rain and the alchemy of photosynthesis.

Another tall plant in my garden that has flowered well is moth mullein. I have taken it with me on my travels for a half century, since a friend gave me seed from plants found on a Gloucestershire roadside. It usually has yellow flowers but mine are a simple milk-white, each with a patch of colour at its centre that I can only describe as burnt crimson. This comes into its own in the hours of darkness when it seems to glow, a beacon irresistible to night-flying moths.

Reluctantly leaving the natural world, I write this just as we are hopefully emerging from the ravages of a record-breaking heat wave. Since 1884 we in the United Kingdom have suffered only four such episodes. All four have been in the last four years. We must turn things around, fast. All of you, find out what you can do, and get on and do it. We cannot wait for the 600-odd Neros in parliament fiddling away to no purpose. Left to them, we fry. – Brian Webster



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Brixworth Country Park Update

The Queen's Green Canopy

A wander along the edge of the outer parts of the park by the boundary hedge with Pitsford Water will take you through the newly planted 'Oak Avenue', planted as part of The Queen's Green Canopy Initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Iain Welters (owner of Orange and Black Coffee) supplied the trees and, assisted by his son Anton and some helping hands, planted this avenue of 100 oaks. The avenue will become quite a feature as the decades progress: a feature that will become increasingly appreciated as the trees grow tall, spread their boughs and their beauty shows.

Iain's long-standing interest in the environment and tree-planting started when a youngster in Scotland. His work with The Forestry Commission and, more recently, at Irchester Country Park and now Brixworth Country Park has continued his involvement. So far, over 1000 indigenous hardwood trees have been planted within Brixworth Country Park (350) and Martin Moore Wood (860).

Incidentally, trees have also been planted within Northamptonshire Cricket's County Ground with the help of cricket team members. And the idea that one day the willows about to be planted in the park could maybe be used to make the cricket bats of tomorrow gives the trees an appealing potential dual purpose.



This community tree planting project is also found to have a worthwhile social element to it as well, giving a mental lift to those participating either as sponsors or planters.

Funded by Orange and Black Coffee, the project is co-sponsored in a sustainable way with donations from several local businesses being matched on a like-for-like funding basis.

Donations to the project are very welcome and can be made through www.orangeandblackcoffee.co.uk, where you will find the 'Plant A Tree' page. Future plantings are planned and details can be found on the website, too. Many thanks to Iain and Anton (pictured, bottom left) for their contribution to the park's greenery.

Country Park Open Day..... 17th August

The Meadow was home for the day to several displays and activities at the Brixworth Country Park Open Day - a fund-raising day to pay for woodland bulbs for planting around the park and plants for the Sensory Garden. Various organisations were present with stalls. Activities included 'Name That Skeleton' when skulls of animals were on show and youngsters could guess the creature.

A Crop of Wildflowers

Since May, both Country Park and Brampton Valley Way have bloomed continuously with wildflowers popping up in meadows, on the banks and in woodland, where we have recorded among others: Meadow Salsify (aka, Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon); Red & White Campions (produces a heady scent at night, attracting many feeding moths); many species of Vetch; Oxeye Daisies; plus, over 7 grasses at Brixworth. On Brampton Valley Way, in a quietly tucked away corner, over 100 Common Spotted Orchid were recorded.

Our work throughout summer and autumn in the Country Park and along Brampton Valley Way is being focused on making more space to encourage even greater flora next summer, keeping pathways accessible and opening up the views from many of the memorial benches.

Our hope is that all will continue to enjoy and respect this fabulous local resource throughout the seasons. – Keith Dobell



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Volunteers - the beating heart of our communities

During the lockdowns Brixworth rose to the challenge with the Covid 19 volunteer network. At the peak of activity, we had more than 100 people giving their time and support to those who needed it. People collecting shopping, cooking pies and soups, making phone calls to reach out to those who were isolating alone were just some of the ways that our volunteers made a difference.

Volunteering goes on all the time though – it's not just a pandemic thing. There is the team at The Olive Branch, The Scout Leaders, The Rainbow leaders, the folk who organise the U3A to name just a few.

The benefits of volunteering are many and different for different people. Many people describe a sense of purpose or making a difference, for some it's a sense of community and a way to make new friends and contacts, some gain new skills, some want to give something back to their community. There is research from the London School of Economics which has examined the relationship between volunteering and measures of happiness. Compared with those who never volunteered, the chance of being 'very happy' rose by 7% amongst those who volunteer monthly, by 12% for people who volunteer every two to four weeks and by 16% for people who help out on a weekly basis.

Of course, there are challenges, such as lack of transport or time constraints, but there are ways around that. Some volunteering roles can be undertaken via the phone or email. Writing and graphic design skills are always valued. The more volunteers the easier the work. You don't have to give huge amounts of time unless you want to!

There are so many ways you can volunteer. In this issue of the



Volunteers in action, left to right: Anna Hughes, passenger assist; Jonathan Harris, Shopper Hopper organiser, and Ka Chun Li, owner and operator of CommMiniBus

Bulletin alone, groups offering new volunteers an opportunity to get involved include the Scouts, the Country Park, Brixworth Community Larder, Brixworth Central Sports, the Spratton Girlguiding groups, and of course the Bulletin itself.

I would like to talk about a couple in more detail.

FareShare Volunteer Drivers

FareShare need volunteer drivers to help transfer donated food from one larder to the next over the summer.

Donated food from FareShare is currently being stored centrally at Daventry Community Centre and is then distributed to the other larders in Brixworth and Towcester at the right time. To make this work, organisers need volunteer drivers with a largish vehicle (expenses will be paid).

Volunteer help would be needed as follows:

- Monday afternoon 2.30 pm at Woodford Halse to drive provisions to Daventry
- Wednesday afternoon 2.15 pm at Daventry to drive provisions to Brixworth
- Wednesday afternoon 5.15 pm at Brixworth to drive provisions to Towcester

If you are able to help, please contact Miranda Wixon by email at: miranda.wixon@gmail.com

More information about local Community Food Larders can be found at: <https://localgiving.org/charity/TowFood/>



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The Shopper Hopper

Thanks to a fantastic response to our pilot scheme we are delighted that phase 2 of the Shopper Hopper started in September.

CommMiniBus is a new social enterprise seeking to improve the mobility of villagers by introducing a demand responsive minibus service. A pilot scheme launched in May this year and following this successful trial we are delighted to confirm we are moving to a weekly service. We are also stretching out to Pitsford from September too.

From September onwards the Shopper Hopper will operate on a Monday and rotate around four different locations. Each week will be a different supermarket location, Aldi at Moulton, Weston Favell Centre where there is Tesco, Morrisons at Spinney Hill and Sixfields where there is Sainsbury's, M&S Food, Lidl. All these stops include a visit to Brixworth so the Shopper Hoppers can take advantage of our fabulous shops and services in Brixworth.

There will also be trips every second Wednesday to places like Rushden Lakes and Beckworth Emporium.

The Shopper Hopper is another fantastic service supported by volunteers. All the CommMiniBus drivers are volunteers, the administration again done by volunteers. This is how the funds from



the Social Enterprise Fund Northamptonshire can go to where they are needed - the passengers' service linking our rural community up to supermarkets and Brixworth. If you are a bus pass holder then the service is free to use. You can learn more about CommMiniBus at www.cmbus.org/shopper-hopper.

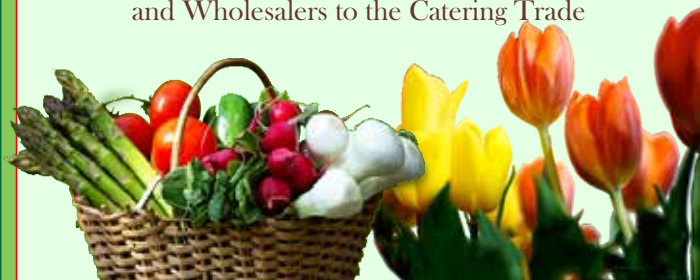
If you want to get involved, either as a passenger or as a volunteer then please call me on 07759 977981.

In a society that sadly in some ways seems increasingly broken, it is the volunteering network and sector that work hard to make a difference to people in their lives; we thank them for it.

- Cllr Jonathan Harris, Brixworth Ward

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Introducing Little Stars Parents and Tots



Little Stars began during lockdown. As parents we saw first-hand how hard it had been for children unable to have those vital social interactions during the pandemic. With such a big outside space available we knew that The Brixworth Centre Preschool would be the perfect place to start our parents and tots group with lots of ventilation during the pandemic.

Since then, we have carried on meeting every Wednesday from 10-11:30 during term time. We have lots of different activities available including sensory play, role play

and small world. We love to utilise the outside space with lots of water play which has been lots of fun during the warm weather. Even in the autumn and winter months we've been painting with leaves and pinecones and wearing puddle suits to keep our clothes clean and dry.

Each session costs £1.50 per family, including tea and biscuits. Come and join us! - Victoria Starmor

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Grow Green Together conference

Want to learn how to make your community greener and more sustainable? Want to connect with other inspiring green organisations and charities in your neighbourhood?

We're delighted to invite you to our Grow Green Together conference on Monday, September 12th, 10am-4pm.

Northamptonshire ACRE, in partnership with Climate Action West Northants and the University of Northampton, will be hosting an eco-symposium to give you the tools to make your community more biodiverse, green and sustainable.

As well as delicious lunch provided by Fruitful Abundance, there will be inspirational guest speakers, including environmental writer and campaigner Dr Mark Avery, to guide you through some of the steps to green-up your area, from planting trees to creating sustainable food networks.

You can learn from West and North Northants Unitary Authorities about what they are doing to achieve climate targets and how you can engage with them. And meet local community groups, showcasing their environmental projects.

The conference will take place at the Hunsbury Hill Centre in Northampton NN4 9QX. Tickets are £25 each (which includes lunch and refreshments).

For more information and tickets go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grow-green-together-conference-tickets-361995928567>

History Society News

Over the summer months the History Society has enjoyed some very interesting and varied museum visits to the Sywell Aviation Museum, the Chester House Estate with its 10,000 years of history, the Silverstone Interactive Motor Museum and the refurbished Northampton Museum and Art Gallery.

The History Society was among all the local societies invited to attend the official opening of the Chester House Estate by HRH The Princess Royal, and our Chairman, Pauline Kirton and I attended. It was a great event and we also had the opportunity to see briefly the Archaeological Archives Centre which is bringing together all the Northamptonshire archives currently stored around the county and beyond.

Meetings in the Village Hall will restart on September 15th with a talk on Northampton Underground & Holy Sepulchre Church, by John Knightly. On October 20th Ruth Watson will be talking about Northampton Castle and on Nov 17th Graham Evans will give a talk on Northamptonshire Country House sieges in the Civil War.

Visitors are welcome to come to meetings. – Rosemary Hardie, Secretary, Brixworth History Society

Ride and stride to support our churches

People around Northamptonshire are raising money to support Northamptonshire's beautiful churches with a Ride and Stride event on Saturday 10 September.

It is an excellent opportunity to spend a day in the open air, walking or cycling along a route of your own choosing, and visit one or more of Northamptonshire's 350+ stunning churches and chapels. Many of the churches will be open on the day, including All Saints Church at Lamport (pictured, above).

Participants should use the opportunity to raise sponsorship money to support the churches. All sponsorship money received will be divided equally between the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and the church or chapel chosen by the participant.

Sponsorship forms and a list of participating churches are available at http://www.nhct.org.uk/index.php/bicycle_ride



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Where was Mercian spoken?

The Friends of Brixworth Church annual lecture will delve into the history of Brixworth, the Old English dialect and the Limits of Anglo-Saxon Mercia.

Join Dr Christine Rauer, specialist in Old English literature and language at the University of St Andrews, on Saturday 29 October at 5pm at Brixworth Church. Tea and cake will be served starting from 3.30pm. The lecture is organised by The Friends of Brixworth Church in collaboration with the Medieval Research Centre, University of Leicester.

Tickets are £10 and can be reserved by phoning 01604 881810 or emailing brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com

Bank Holiday Railway Gala



Northampton and Lamport Railway's August Bank Holiday Family Gala event is expected to be a very special event this year. Taking place across all three days over the bank holiday weekend (Sat 27th-Mon 29th), it will feature steam train rides, demonstration goods trains, children's rides, fete games, BBQ, ice cream van, model railway and vintage vehicles, including our resident traction engine.

Entry is FREE and open to all (the volunteers always love to see the local community come to visit). Tickets for train rides can be purchased on the day, or in advance via our website (www.nlr.org.uk).

This year's star guest is GVR Prairie 2-6-2T No.5553 (pictured above), which is possibly the largest working steam loco Northampton and Lamport Railway have ever had. No.5553 will only be with the team for a couple of weeks, so the Gala is the best time to see it.

The event will also see the first public appearance of some of the Ironstone Train Project wagons (exact number depends on progress with restorations).

Train rides on the Saturday are 'Kids for a Quid', where all under 18s ride for just £1 when accompanied by a full fare-paying adult! (Sunday and Monday are normal fares).

Other up-coming events:

- Sun 2nd Oct – BIG Kids for a Quid - to celebrate Grandparents Day, adults ride for just £1 when accompanied by a full fare-paying child!
- 29th & 30th Oct – Halloween 'Trick or Treat Trains' (details to be confirmed soon)
- 27th Nov – 18th Dec – Santa Specials (details to be confirmed soon)

Trains run every Sunday until 11th Sept, so you don't need to wait for a special event to come and visit.

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

Grants for young people in Brixworth and Scaldwell

Many families have found things challenging during the Covid 19 pandemic and with the current increasing cost of living. A small cash grant for educational purposes may help those in need during this difficult time.

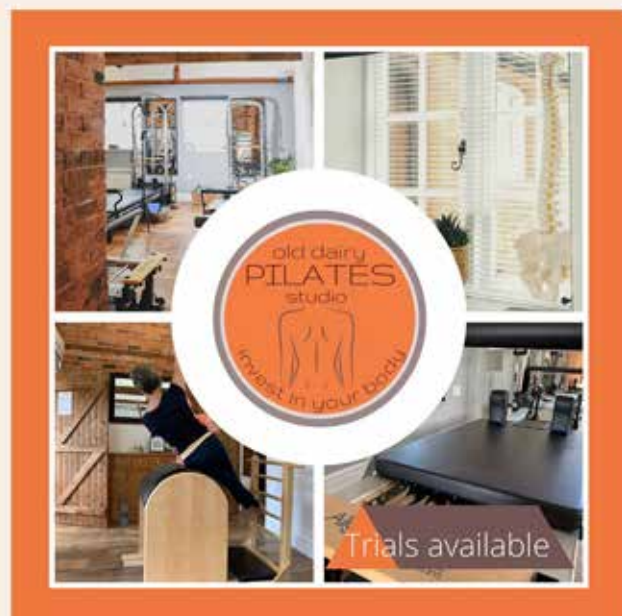


The Foundation of Thomas Roe provides small cash grants for young people under 25, who live in the parishes of Brixworth or Scaldwell.

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

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

Completed application forms must be returned to the Clerk, preferably by email and in Word format, by midnight on 22 September 2022 for consideration at the charity's next meeting. This meeting is scheduled for 12 October 2022, where grant applications will be considered.



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Try paddleboarding at Northampton Sailing Club

Northampton Sailing Club has grown its membership 30% year on year, thanks to a recent campaign and the increasing popularity of watersports. There's been an explosion in interest in paddleboarding in recent years and Pitsford Water is a beautiful place to paddle around. What's more, there are all the facilities available at the club house – changing rooms with hot showers, plus the bar and galley along with safety cover at specified times.

If you're new to paddleboarding or would like to have a go, taster sessions are available to non-members and equipment hire is available to members.

Stand-up Paddleboarding Tips

Here are some tips to get you started and keep you safe on the water.

1. Be wind aware – check the wind conditions before leaving the shore. Ideally, try to set off into the wind so that you drift back when you're tired.
2. Use a leash – falling off is part of the fun so make sure that you're attached to your board and don't have to go swimming after it.
3. Wear a buoyancy aid – these are required at all times on the water at Northampton Sailing Club.
4. Make sure the board is the right way round – it's not always obvious which end is the front/nose, especially when using a beginners' board. You can find out by checking where the fin is – it should be at the back to help keep the board straight while you paddle.
5. Look at the horizon – if you keep your head up, back straight and look at the horizon, it gives you much more stability than looking down at the board or the water around it. Also by engaging your core and relaxing your feet, you'll find it easier.
6. Be mindful of other water users. Sailors and Windsurfers will try to avoid you if they can see you, but do be aware of any racing or activities that are taking place and avoid these areas.

For more information go to www.northamptonssailingclub.org or email info@northamptonssailingclub.org

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Brixworth Central Sports Club

Brixworth Central Sports Club (BCSC) has deep roots within the village, and was founded in 1969. The building itself was built in 1972, at no cost to the parish, by local volunteers for the village football and cricket clubs. The ground was leased to the club by Brixworth Parish Council on a peppercorn rent of £1 per year for a period of 50 years.

Today, the club remains at the heart of the community and its membership is made up from both long-standing residents and newer arrivals. It is managed on behalf of its 240+ strong members by a committee of unpaid volunteers who oversee its on-going operation and maintenance.

As a 'not for profit' organisation, it has always been the ethos of BCSC to reinvest 'in the community, for the community'. All revenue generated is either ploughed back into club facilities or used to support local sports, good causes and charities.

In recent years there has been plenty of work on the club building: the roof has been replaced and the interior has been completely renovated with new furniture and flooring. New patio furniture enables members to enjoy a drink in the sunshine whilst watching their children play in the park.

The club continues to support local sports teams by providing use of changing, showering and toilet facilities free of charge, even though it has to cover the cost of cleaning these facilities. BCSC has funded kits for Brixworth football junior and senior teams, paid pitch fees, and refurbished the skittle table for Brixworth skittles team, who use the club as their home base.

BCSC has always supported local and national charities. Some of the more recent causes BCSC has supported include the Anthony Nolan Trust, Brixworth Food Share, Brixworth Surgery, and the Christmas Hampers run by Paris Robinson.

The support and local commitment to the



ongoing sustainability of BCSC was never in more need than during the Covid pandemic, which not only affected club activity through lockdowns and restrictions, but during which time the club also suffered a mindless break-in resulting in thousands of pounds worth of damage.

The club is open four days a week for members. Membership is £5 for the first year and £1 for renewals. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to join and is encouraged to bring along family members of any age.

The current committee are merely the latest custodians of what is essentially a village sporting and social hub operated by the community, for the community.

The 50-year ground lease comes to an end later this year and the committee are currently working with the Parish Council to retain their fantastic support and ensure this invaluable community asset thrives long into

the future.

The BCSC Committee and members will continue all of this tremendous work, with further exciting plans for BCSC already in the pipeline. Here's to the next 50 years!

— Jackie Bird

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Drama Group returns with two new plays

Brixworth Drama Group are now back rehearsing after lockdown. They will be performing two new plays in November: 'Murder in Little Grimley' by David Tristram, and 'Shakespeare Soup' by Brian E. Cook.

'Murder in Little Grimley' is the latest in Tristram's series of highly successful plays featuring the Little Grimley Drama Group, many of which have been performed by Brixworth Drama Group. In this latest play, the hapless drama group plan to stage a murder mystery production. However, as tensions rise between the characters it seems that art is imitating life in this wonderful comedy. 'Shakespeare Soup' is an entertaining blend of poetry, plays, sonnets and lyrics with pinches of additional herbs and a little bacon for flavouring delivered by four 'readers' who will take on a variety of roles as they deliver the various 'spices and vices' of Shakespeare and his world.

'Murder in Little Grimley' director, Sue l'Anson said: "This is a brilliant and funny play featuring some fantastic characters. We'll be setting out the Village Hall in a cabaret-style seating for a relaxed and enjoyable evening."



'Shakespeare Soup' director, Stuart Cooper, said: "It is a perfect companion piece to 'Murder in Little Grimley'. The audience can sit back, relax and just let the genius of Shakespeare flow through them without worrying about whether they 'know' Shakespeare or not; but by the end of the evening, they'll be surprised by what they already DO know of Shakespeare."

Brixworth Drama Group Chair, Alex

Coles, added: "The group have been keen to get back together. Over the last year we have had to make do with play readings over Zoom."

"The Drama Group was first established in 1983 so we are delighted that we will be celebrating its 40th anniversary next year and we plan a series of exciting performances over the 2023 season, including comedies, a thriller and, of course, a pantomime. However, we are always looking for new members and would love for new and experienced actors to join us in our future productions. We're also looking for people to work behind the scenes on the set."

Anyone interested in joining the Drama Group should contact Eileen Truby on 07934 530220.

'Murder at Little Grimley' and 'Shakespeare Soup' will be performed at the Village Hall in Brixworth on 11 and 12 November at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from October from Brixworth Hardware Store, 5 Hunters Way, Brixworth, and from Libby Bowers on 01604 880672. – Jon Mackley

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Girlguiding in Spratton

We are proud to be a part of Girlguiding, the biggest female youth organisation in the UK and also worldwide.

Across our Brownie, Guide and Ranger units in Spratton, weekly meeting activities include crafts, cooking, games and earning a wide variety of badges, along with making friends and learning new skills. Recently, the Brownies have practiced putting up tents and have been working on their Grow Your Own and Local History badges, whilst the Guides and Rangers enjoyed a weekend away on Tuptonia – Girlguiding Birmingham and Northamptonshire's narrowboat – where they were busy opening and closing locks.



We recently held a joint meeting where the Guides and Rangers taught the Brownies how to light campfires. These were then used for cooking hotdogs and creating smores, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Joint events such as this are great for girls of different ages to get to know each other, and for the younger girls to see where their Girlguiding journey could take them.

We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by attending the local Division event, along with lots of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and leaders. This was held on a sunny evening at Guilsborough Academy, where we did crafts, games and sang campfire songs. It was great to attend this celebratory event with units from across our local Division, after the restrictions caused by Covid.

Two of our Guides will be representing Girlguiding Northamptonshire on an upcoming international camp.

We have spaces available for Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

We all meet on Monday evenings in Spratton Village Hall:

- Brownies – girls aged 7-10 years, 6pm – 7pm
- Guides – girls aged 10-14 years, 7pm – 8.30pm
- Rangers – girls aged 14-18 years, 7pm – 8.30pm

We also have opportunities available to volunteer with us and help run the units. You don't need to have been in Girlguiding before, you just need to be 18+ (17 to help as a young leader). Enthusiasm is the main requirement and be happy to get involved in a range of activities. Girlguiding is a great way to be involved in your local community, gain skills and meet new people.

Check out the main Girlguiding website for more information: www.Girlguiding.org.uk



We would love to hear from you:

Brownies: 1stsprattonbrownies@gmail.com

Guides and Rangers: sprattonguidesandrangers@gmail.com

– Katherine Rose & Linda Fletcher

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Summer has seen Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group return to more traditional scouting activities, taking full advantage of the beautiful countryside that surrounds our village with hikes, outdoor games, and the highlight of this term - a group camp at Overstone Scout Camp.

We have not been able to hold a camp since Brass Monkeys 2020, so we opted to get beavers, cubs, scouts and explorers together at the same time for an all-sections camp. We had 20 beaver scouts in the Knights Lodge and 44 cubs, scouts, and explorers in tents in the surrounding area.

We were blessed with a weekend of excellent weather, and everyone had a wonderful time. It was perfect the opportunity for leaders and scouts across all sections to work together in the true spirit of scouting. We have really missed this.

We noticed that Lily, one of our explorers, faithfully kept a diary. It was her first scout camp with us, so we asked her to provide a first hand account of her experience:

Camping is always a brilliant excursion for explorers, scouts, cubs and beavers alike. But this camp was particularly fabulous! The days were warm and filled with delicious food, brand new tents, wide games, shooting range, sunny warm weather, a multitude of different activities and a



LOT of s'mores and toasty marshmallows.

Everyone arrived early in the evening on Friday and we each set ourselves up for the weekend, stuffing heavy bags and pillows into tents. That was then followed up by some hotdogs for dinner and a warm vat of hot chocolate for everyone to sit around in their pyjamas with shining torches and playing games.

The second day was lots of fun! We assembled fires, participated in group wide activities like a hilariously chaotic game of 'manhunt' and even had the chance to fire a few pellets in a shooting range on site. The leaders were amazing all camp and made the best hot chocolate I have ever had the pleasure of drinking, along with a bacon butty every morning (not something I should start getting used to perhaps) and lovely warming meals in the evening, fit for a campsite. That evening we were all given glow sticks and sat under the stars around a roaring campfire the explorers assembled and sang Disney songs and hysterically giggled whilst the cubs and beavers had exuberant singing competitions.

It was a lovely weekend and wonderful to see the forest come to life with scouting again. Thank you, leaders and the whole group, for a good rustic camping adventure and I cannot wait to do it again.

I would like to thank all the leaders and parent helpers for making the weekend such a success. We could not do it without their help and support. I also want to thank the explorers for helping the younger children, they really stepped up and showed how mature they are becoming.

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts have also been able to support other village activities over the summer.

- We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fete with each section providing hand painted leaves for the woodland walk display at the library. Plus, despite the bad weather, we had a strong turnout for Sunday's jubilee parade along Spratton Road with the commemorative union flag and the Scottish piper. Well done to everyone involved.

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark blue V-neck shirt, is smiling and standing in a modern dental office. The office has large windows, a potted plant, and a white reception desk. The advertisement text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

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- Our burger stall returned to the Brixworth Primary School fete! It has been many years since we were able to support the school and it seems that the village's appetite for burgers and hotdogs has not diminished. We were a little rusty getting our burger flipping up to speed, but everyone was patient and the stand was as popular as ever. Once again, a huge thank you to leaders and parent helpers for your hard work and the school PTA for their support.

Brixworth Scout Leaders

We have some goodbyes with Tom, Greg and Ady stepping down as Beaver, Scout and Explorer leaders respectively. We would like to thank them again for all their hard work.

We have one new leader, Martin, who joins us in cubs. Welcome to Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group.

We need volunteers to replace the leaders who recently stepped down. We have lost more leaders than we have gained, and our leaders continue to run multiple sections or cover executive/admin activities, and several leaders are running sections long after their own children have left the organisation and would like to step down.

Our wonderful team of adult volunteers are from all backgrounds and help to run the group for our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. But we are still at a critical point. Without leaders to organise and run sessions week-on-week or executive members to help with admin activities, Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts will not be able to operate. We have to meet specific "leaders to scout" ratios for each section. If we do not have enough leaders we will not be able to run the sessions each week and potentially we may have to close a section.

More leaders and exec members help to spread the load - we need leaders to run the sessions, a treasurer, people with social media skills to help communicate our activities and to run our Facebook page.

Commitment is flexible to fit around the amount of time that each volunteer is able to give, but without leaders, parent helpers and executive team members we would not be able to function. If you would like to join our leadership and exec team please contact: gsl@brixworthscouts.org.uk or enquiries@brixworthscouts.org.uk. We will help you to find a role that you'll enjoy and that will really make a difference to the young people in our village.

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

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

— Brixworth Group Scout Leader

Brixworth & District u3a

The Garden Group met on Wednesday 20th July on Annie Curtis's allotments in Scaldwell. Twenty-four members enjoyed a cream tea in pleasant surroundings. Thankfully the weather had cooled down by several degrees after the previous two days. It was a lovely afternoon and enjoyed by all (see photo).



The Craft Group for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Brixworth Library Art Gallery made leaves from different materials. Some were crocheted, some made from felt and some embroidered.

The London Studies group in May visited Bentley Priory Museum in Stanmore which is home of the Battle of Britain Museum. It was the headquarters of RAF Fighter Command from 1936 to 2008. After a guided tour they had lunch overlooking the museum's beautiful Italian garden.

The Armchair Travel Group hope to be up and running again in September.

Members of the Local History Group visited Harrington Aviation Museum where they had an interesting talk by Betty West on the resistance heroine Nancy Wake who flew missions from Harrington.

Dates for your diary

October 5th: Ian Addis speaking about Wicksteed Park's history.

November 5th: Chris Rowe – Remember, Remember the 5th of November, Gunpowder Treason and Plot.

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at Brixworth Village Hall, starting at 2 pm.

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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Finance: Pensions vs Property

Whether you want to invest in property or save for retirement, there are pros and cons for each. If you're unsure what's best for you, this guide should help to give you a few handy tips to fit your circumstances.

Property – The Pros

If you find the right property, then you could have a fixed income for life. Rental yields can be around 5% in Brixworth and the North Northamptonshire villages. With demand often outstripping supply, there's no reason why your property can't remain permanently occupied if it's in the right location.

Another advantage of a property vs a pension is that you can cash in at any time.

Of course, a property sale can take many months, and if you need the money by a certain point then you'll need to plan ahead, but a property can essentially free up a large amount of cash relatively quickly.

Property is also generally considered to be a solid long-term investment. Although the market can fluctuate, house prices tend to

go up long-term, so unless you need to sell quickly, you can ride out any storms in the housing market to ensure that you sell for a tidy profit if and when you need to.

Property – The Cons

Owning a buy-to-let property isn't as simple as buying a place, renting it out and watching the money roll in.

Although rental income can be lucrative, there are often lots of additional factors to consider, such as maintenance costs, letting agent fees, and landlord insurance, which can all eat away at your profit.

Void periods are another consideration you'll need to think about, particularly if you've got a mortgage on the property, as a few months without tenants can quickly lead to significant extra costs.

Changes in government legislation in recent years have also made owning a second property far less profitable than it once was, with increased taxes affecting profit margins for landlords.

You should also bear in mind that being a landlord can be quite a hands-on role, unless you get a good rental agent to take the pressure away.

Pensions – The Pros

Compared with property, a pension is usually a far more hands-off way to grow an investment. In many cases it's as simple as putting money into a pension pot each month and watching it grow, and especially if you have a financial adviser that you can trust to manage your affairs.

After all, there are no tenants or repairs to think about when you compare it to a buy-to-let property for example.

Another major plus point for pensions is the fact they attract tax relief. So instead of seeing lots of your investment go into the government's pocket, you'll be benefiting personally, with pensions being the most efficient investments from a tax perspective.

Pensions – The Cons

The main downside to a pension is that you can't access any of the money until you're at least 55. However, as it's an investment for your retirement, this shouldn't be an issue, and in some ways, this can be a blessing, as it stops you from pulling the money out on a whim.

Another possible downside to a pension is the fact it's invested in stocks and shares, meaning it could fluctuate. However, as with property, it tends to go up over time, and you have the option to decrease your risk if you wish to.

The Verdict

Ultimately, it comes down to circumstances to determine what's right for you.

When it comes to tax benefits, pensions are the clear winner as they attract tax relief, whereas landlords have been hit with ever-increasing tax bills in recent years.

However, when it comes to growth, property fares better than pensions, with house prices reaching record highs recently.

Have questions about investing in property or becoming a landlord?

Horts are your local property experts for the Northampton area. Call us on 01604 616886 or email stuart.little@horts.co.uk to find out more about investing in Northampton.

- Stuart Little

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Planning decisions

WND/2022/0332 The Little Workhouse, 105B, Northampton Road Installation of air conditioning including fitting of external wall mounted condenser to rear elevation.	BPC supported
WND/2022/0341 Stonecourt, 10, Church Street Conversion of outbuilding to provide study room and garden room. Porch and cover to first floor access.	BPC supported
WND/2022/0356 14, Newlands Single storey rear extension	BPC supported
WND/2022/0364 47, The Ashway Work to tree subject of Tree Preservation Order DA 29747	BPC insufficient data
WND/2022/0367 23, Grass Slade Construction of single storey rear extension and detached garage	BPC supported
WND/2022/0393 Land to North & South of Station Road & West of Brampton Valley Way Engineering works to create a natural flood management scheme, including reprofiling of riverbanks, creating scrapes, ponds and a bund, 0.4m in height, depositing materials on fields, 100m in depth	BPC objected
WND/2022/0375 8, Windmill Glade Conversion of garage to habitable space and construction of single storey rear extension	BPC supported
WND/2021/0586 114, Northampton Road Replacement of front door (resubmission)	BPC supported
WND/2022/0391 Carreg House, Silver Street Replacement of existing front door	BPC supported

Wombles win Council Grant

Brixworth Wombles are delighted to have been awarded a community grant from West Northamptonshire Council at the beginning of the year.

"We now have all of the equipment that we applied for," said Peter Duffy from Brixworth Wombles.

"We now have an array of personal protection and safety equipment ranging from hi-viz vests to first aid and sharps kits to deal with needles. We also have educational equipment such as an information board and children's litter grabbers, along with adult grabbers and two litter picking trolleys to make cleaning our streets a little easier."

This will not only help current volunteers but will enable others to easily join in and help to keep the streets of our lovely village clean and tidy.

The first six months of this year have seen 206 bags of litter removed from our environment. This is less than this time last year, but this was predicted due to the vast amount of historical litter that was found in the first year of operation. But it still is a huge amount that should not have been dropped in the first place.

The funding for this project was awarded by West Northamptonshire Council. Community Funding Grants are available to eligible organisations located within West Northamptonshire Council. For more information on applying for Community Funding Grants please visit: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/community-funding-grants>



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Library update

Summer Reading Challenge

We've had a fantastic summer full of Gadgeteers inspired fun. Hundreds of children took part in the challenge to read six books during the holidays and lots of them joined us for our exciting activities too. We experimented with kitchen chemistry, crash tested eggs and built dancing wiggle-bots. Thanks to funding from the Friends of Brixworth Library we were also able to host three extra special events this summer. We loved meeting the animals from Animals in Mind, learning circus skills with Just Karen, and marvelling at Crazy Colin's magic show.

If you're reading this at the beginning of September, there is still time to get involved. The Summer Reading Challenge ends on 10th September. If your child has read six books over the summer holidays, then put them to good use: earn stickers, a certificate, and a medal. Just drop into the library and tell us what you've been reading. Adults who complete the Summer Six challenge can enter a prize draw too.

Jubilee Art Gallery

Back in June we were so pleased that our Jubilee Art Gallery had such an amazing response. We lost count of the contributions, but we think we had a thousand artworks donated to the exhibition which was fantastic. Staff are still discovering stray glue-dots

on the windows (which is less fantastic). Thank you so much if you were involved. If you didn't get a chance to visit, we've included a few photos so you can see it in all its glory.

If this project has inspired you to give crafting a go, Brixworth Workbox can help. They are a small group of crafters who meet every Thursday 1:30-3pm. They would love to welcome new members. Work on your own craft projects (anything goes) whilst you enjoy a chat and a coffee.

Ukrainian Resettlement

We have been lucky enough to welcome several Ukrainian families and their hosts to the library over the past few months. Help has been offered by various volunteer and council agencies to help our guests settle into their



Even Freddie the cat has been getting in on the Summer Reading Challenge.

new lives. English conversation lessons, job hunting workshops and other resettlement support is all available. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this support, you can contact: resettlement@westnorthants.gov.uk.

Fun Palaces

On Saturday 1st October Brixworth Library will join venues all over the country in hosting our first Fun Palace (www.funpalaces.co.uk). Fun Palaces are a chance for communities to share their interests and enthusiasms, try something new, make new friends, and most of all have fun.

We are looking for people who can share their skills and hobbies with others. You don't need to be an expert, just passionate. So, if you are nutty about knitting, giddy about gardening, or dotty about dancing, we want to hear from you. Please pop in or email us at brixworth.libraryplus@westnorthants.gov.uk to register your interest.

BIPC Northamptonshire

The Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire is offering free business support workshops at Brixworth Library in November:

- Becoming your own boss on Monday 7 November, 10am-12pm
- How to research my market on Monday 14 November, 10-11am
- How to write an effective business plan on Monday 21 November, 10am-12pm

There are also lots of webinars to access for free. For further information about all workshops and webinars visit: www.bipcnorthamptonshire.co.uk/events or search BIPC Northamptonshire on Eventbrite.

You can book to speak to a member of the BIPC team on Zoom, in person at Brixworth Library, or on the phone. To book and for further information please email: bipc@

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Paul Chant
Branch Director





westnorthants.gov.uk or pop into the library on Monday mornings between 9.30am and midday. The BIPC area on the mezzanine of the library has quiet space to work with lots of business books and there is free access to a range of specialised business databases on the library computers too.

Supporting Independence (SIP)

The Supporting Independence Programme offers twelve weeks of free one-to-one support. If you have been slowing down or are feeling a little less confident, our dedicated wellbeing advisors can help. They offer:

- The opportunity to 'Walk and Talk' (or just talk) with your advisor.
- Help to access social activities in your local community.
- Referrals to specialist housing support and money advice.
- Support with low-level mental health and emotional difficulties.
- Information about lifestyle, nutrition, smoking and alcohol use.

To access this service please complete the eligibility assessment at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/sip, phone 0300 126 3000, or email sipinfo.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk to make an initial appointment.

Strong Start Team

Strong Start are a team of Early Years professionals who offer support to families from antenatal to starting school. The universal topics we cover include introducing solids, healthy eating, communication, behaviour ages and stage, behaviour, toileting and school readiness. We support families through our consultation process and our virtual support videos which can be found on our website www.westnorthants.gov.uk/strong-start. Our face-to-face programmes include Bumps and Babies, Developmental Baby Massage, Baby and Me, Sing and Story, Active Child and Pre-School Learners. Scan our QR code for our latest programme information and to book a place.

Children's Events

Our free, term-time activities for under 5s are always popular. Just drop in, but spaces are limited and offered on a first come, first served basis.

- Rhyme Time: singing with scarves, puppets, and instruments. Wednesdays 10-10.30 am and 11-11.30am
- Under Ones Fun – meet other families with babies under one. Thursdays 10.30 am to 12 noon
- Pre-School Play: child-led play with toys for all ages. Fridays 10-11am

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

- Saturday Club: crafts, games, quizzes. Different activities every week. Saturdays 11am – 1pm
- Holiday events. Times and activities vary. Keep up to date with everything going on at the library via our Facebook page: @BrixworthLibrary or our events calendar: 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 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.

Friends of Brixworth Library

A new committee is in place at the Friends of Brixworth Library and they have lots of exciting ideas including a Soft Toy Sleep Over and their ever popular Christmas Fair. You can see what they have coming up on their Facebook page: @FOBXL and if you would like to help, please get in touch with them: friendsofbrixworthlibrary@gmail.com.

Opening Times & Contact

The library is open 9am-5pm Mondays to Fridays and 10am-2pm on Saturdays. Email brixworth.libraryplus@westnorthants.gov.uk; phone 0300 126 7000 (option 6; then option 3; and ask for Brixworth Library), visit westnorthants.gov.uk/libraries, follow us on Facebook (BrixworthLibrary, or FOBXL for the Friends of Brixworth Library, or see our events calendar at northampton.gov.uk/eventscalendar

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What's on

28 - 29/08	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Lampport Hall
30/08	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
30/08	Cinderella	Chester House Estate
01/09	Romeo and Juliet	Chester House Estate
10/09	Russell Kane - The Essex Variant	Derngate
11/09	Free Fun For All	All Saints, Brixworth
14/09	Friendsical	Derngate
15/09	Hansons Valuation Days	Kelmarsh Hall
15/09	Friendsical	Derngate
15/09	History Society: Northampton Tunnels	Brixworth Village Hall
18/09	Kim Wilde Greatest Hits Tour	Derngate
19/09	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
21/09	Ed Gamble	Derngate
21/09	Lampport and HH Parish Council	Lampport Hall
22/09	Justin Hayward - the Voice of the Moody Blues	Derngate
23/09	The Night Sky Show	Derngate
24/09	The Cube Disability Arts Academy	Derngate
26/09	Dawn French	Derngate
27/09	Essential 80s with Paul Young - T Pau - Hue and Cry	Derngate
28/09	Steve Hackett Genesis Revisited - Foxtrot At Fifty	Derngate
29/09	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre

30/09	Martin Bayfields Rugby Legends	Derngate
01/10	Dave Gorman - Powerpoint To The People	Derngate
01/10	Fun Palace	Brixworth Library
02/10	BIG KIDS for a Quid	N'ton & Lampport Railway
08/10	Hollowell Steam - Collective Auction	The Rally Field, Hollowell
10/10	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
14/10	Danny Tompkins Game Night	Lampport Hall
15/10	Lucy Worsley	Derngate
16/10	10cc	Derngate
17/10	Al Stewart & The Empty Pockets	Derngate
18/10	The Pundits	Derngate
19/10	Jon Richardson: The Knitwit	Derngate
20/10	History Society: Northampton Castle	Brixworth Village Hall
21/10	Al Murray - Gig For Victory	Derngate
22/10	Strike A Pose!	Derngate
23/10	Sir Bryn Terfel - Songs And Arias	Derngate
23/10	Upfront Comedy	Royal
24/10	Toni Kofi Quintet: A Tribute To Cannonball	Royal
25/10	Maisie Adam - Buzzed	Royal
26/10	Rich Hall	Royal
27/10	Chris McCausland - Speaky Blinder	Royal
27/10	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
28/10	Ralph McTell	Royal
29/10	Sh*t Faced Shakespeare - Macbeth	Royal

29- 30/10	Halloween Weekend	Northampton & Lampport Railway
31/10	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
06/11	An Evening With Noel Fitzpatrick	Derngate
07/11	That'll Be The Day - Christmas Show	Derngate
08/11	Level 42 - Lessons In Live	Derngate
09/11	Jools Holland	Derngate
10/11	Roy Wood Rock & Roll Band	Derngate
10/11	Paul Chowdhry - Family Friendly Comedian	Derngate
11/11	Brixworth Drama Group: Murder at Little Grimley	Brixworth Village Hall
12/11	Strictly Northampton	Derngate
12/11	Jamali Maddix - King Crud	Royal
12/11	Brixworth Drama Group: Shakespeare Soup	Brixworth Village Hall
13/11	Flo and Joan - Sweet Release	Royal
16/11	Lampport and Hanging Houghton Parish Council	Lampport Hall
17/11	Hansons Valuation Days	Kelmarsh Hall
17/11	History Society - Country House Sieges in the Civil War	Brixworth Village Hall
18/11	Harry Hill - Pedigree Fun!	Derngate
19/11	Women To Women	Derngate
20/11	Christmas with Aled Jones and Russell Watson	Derngate
21/11	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
24/11	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
3-4/12	Christmas Market	Lampport Hall
10/12	Christmas lecture Nancy Campbell	Lampport Hall
12/12	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
15/12	History Society - Christmas Social Gathering	Village Hall
16/12	Danny Tompkins Christmas Feast	Lampport Hall
22/12	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre



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2-4PM**

FREE Admission.

FREE Games for all.

FREE Teas, Coffees
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Come along and join in.
It's all **FREE!** (and there might
even be some prizes!)

**FREE
FUN
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FAITH FAMILY FUN

At **All Saints'**, we are aware that there are lots of things happening on Sunday mornings that might make it hard for you to come along to church. That's why we are starting a new monthly family-friendly group on a Sunday afternoons.

We will have games, crafts, songs, bible teaching, competitions, quizzes and food! ...and we'd love you to come along.

We'll start on **Sunday 18th Sept (4pm)** - the week after our FREE FUN afternoon!

FOR MORE INFO

Contact, David Reith

01604 880 139

revdavidreith@gmail.com



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

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



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

 **YouTube** Brixworth Community Church

It does appear that we, as a nation, may be over the worst of the pandemic. Well, as more things open up in attempts to return to normality, let us not forget the important lessons we have learnt through the difficult time of the virus.

For example, we mustn't get too busy again. In some ways, the intense times of lockdown stopped all the rushing around. For us as a family, the frantic ferrying around of kids stopped because the clubs had stopped and it meant we could actually breathe and reconnect and enjoy each other. Surly we must remain better connected now! What a shame if we all became tired and disconnected 'ships in the night' once again.

We were also, if you remember, led to appreciate others outside of the family more. The neighbour who needed some shopping, the key workers that fought the virus in the hospitals and care homes as well as those who filled the shelves in the shops and kept us all in the supply of tooth paste and toilet rolls! May this deeper appreciation of others remain too.

There was also the appreciation of nature while keeping fit at the same time. I don't know about you, but after being told we could only do one form of exercise a day, I am sure I saw more people out walking than I have ever done! Ironically, in the midst of such a contagious illness, perhaps some who avoided the virus were getting fitter than ever before.

However, if physical exercise is of some benefit, the bible says spiritual exercise is of greater benefit (1 Timothy 4:8) and many took their new found time to explore God and Church and exercise spiritually in this way too.

The viewing figures on our youtube channel which allowed people to watch services during lockdowns suggest that was the case.

Well, don't stop this exercise now. Infact, now would be a better time to start or get even fitter, spiritually speaking, as we are back running our Church services live and in person at the school on Sunday mornings 10.30am and you can't beat the real thing!

Why not pop in to explore a vibrant relationship with God. You would be most welcome and I would say it would be the most healthy thing you could ever do!

Andy



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on
07958 604961

SUMMER 2022 HOLIDAY CLUB

In 2019 we ran our last Free Holiday Club and now here we are August 2022 and Holiday Club is now over and done with.

And what a fantastic time we had, with arts and crafts, fun sports relays, mop hockey and also the craziness of the custard balloon memory games! Messy but great fun! One parent said that "her son grew in confidence once he knew what to expect". Another parent said "Holiday club gave my daughter lots of opportunities and it gave me time to be me". One volunteer said it was a wonderful experience where she grew in confidence in her role and would definitely volunteer again"! Big thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen, you have helped make a lot of people very happy!



2022

FAMILY FUN DAY



A great opportunity for all the family.

On Saturday 30th August we ran our first free family fun day since covid, and what a great response we had from this wonderful community of Brixworth. Big thank you to the First Responders who were able to take part and also the village Fire Service who even came back after tending to an emergency.

Not forgetting Marios Ice cream, Chambers Butchers for giving us a good deal on the burgers and the sausages. When giving feedback on the event families spoke of the great "community spirit and the kindness of free activities", one parent said "it was nice not to worry about the cost and let children have a go on everything, even the bouncy castle". Big thanks to all those volunteers who came together to make it happen, again you made a lot of people very happy!



CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Want to know more about Christianity?
Do you have questions about faith, the Bible,
life's struggles?

Come along and join us for Christianity
Explored, an informal and relaxed course
Starting Tuesday 20th September at The Olive Branch,
Brixworth Library Community Centre, Spratton Road.

For further details contact
Andy Lloyd-Williams on 07958 604961

Pensioners Lunch Club

The Olive Branch, Brixworth Community Church, has been running a Pensioners Lunch Club every Wednesday for many years based in the Library and Community Centre building on Spratton Road in Brixworth.

The organisers have been running the club with less members since coming out of the Covid Pandemic in order to allow more space between tables.

Now they feel able to increase the numbers slightly again and there are a few spaces available.

If you have or know of an elderly relative or friend who would benefit from a two course hot meal, companionship and a Christian "thought for the day" short talk then please contact Sue Salmon at the Olive Branch or leave contact details there. Should there be too many people we will start a waiting list and contact you when there is a place available.


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)



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

Hoping for a relaxing Summer.

Community Grants

Looking after the local environment.

Table Tennis

The new way to keep fit in the village.

Brixworth Wombles

A lovely reminder to keep Brixworth tidy.

Community Safety

Be safe with fire this season.

Trees and TPOs

When can you cut down a tree on your own property.

Chairman's Chat

By the time you read this, hopefully some rain will have fallen to rectify the blistering heat which has taken its toll on all of our green areas.

The upside of such good weather is the fact that the new play area has been extensively used. Other projects soon to open include the eagerly awaited Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA) including floodlights and table tennis at the Community Centre.

Like many other Parishes, our celebration of the Queen's Jubilee will extend into the Autumn, with a celebratory tree planting event in recognition of the Queen's reign.

I hope that following the lifting travel restrictions of the last couple of years you have been able to visit our great local attractions—some of which the Council has been pleased to support with grants.



Community Grants

Grants have been approved to the Friends of the Brampton Valley Way and Brixworth Country Park as well as to Northampton and Lampport Steam Railway.

£500 was awarded to Northampton and Lampport Steam Railway towards the Ironstone Train Project, working to restore a train of 6 ironstone 'tippler' wagons.

The Friends of the Brampton Valley Way and Brixworth Country Park is a newly formed community group set up to promote the use of and support improvements to the Brampton Valley Way and Brixworth Country Park. The group has received £1500 for an auger drill and the training to use it which will be used to help the group dig holes for bollards and fence posts.

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





Table Tennis in the Library and Community Centre

Brixworth Parish Council is pleased (and excited) to announce the upcoming addition of two competition level, high quality table tennis tables to our Community Centre, thanks to section 106 funding to improve our recreational facilities. Table tennis is one of the most popular sports in the world and there are many benefits to playing!



Table tennis is good for your health – it's great for getting up a sweat and getting the heart rate up. It's easy on the body. You can play ping-pong according to your own capabilities and limitations, and still be competitive. Being a non-contact sport, you don't have to worry about those bruises or even broken bones that you can get in contact sports.

There are no age or gender barriers – it's common for 60-year-old veterans to be playing 15-year-old juniors, or men playing against women, and with everyone having a great time. Families can all play each other without having to worry about the bigger or stronger members dominating the game. In fact, many athletes with disabilities can compete on equal terms with able-bodied athletes at table tennis since there is much more to the game than sheer power or strength.

As you get older, ping-pong is good for the brain. There is an awful lot of thinking, planning and strategising on the court, all of which helps keep the grey matter active.

Follow us on our social media channels for more information on how you can book and play, or get in touch if you would like to offer some time to help support this new sport for the village.



"Table Tennis England are delighted to be working with Brixworth Parish Council to bring table tennis to the area. The sport is such a great addition to any community and we hope that many local residents will thoroughly enjoy the new opportunity our Ping in the Community project will provide."

Table Tennis England

Brixworth Wombles

The Council was pleased to support Brixworth Wombles litter pickers in displaying 40 posters sponsored by Haddonstone around the village to promote a cleaner Brixworth.

The poster was designed by a Brixworth Primary School pupil and has been reproduced in colour.



Apology

In the Summer issue of the Bulletin we said that we received a grant from ACRE to plant new hedgerows in the village. In fact this grant is from CPRE Northamptonshire —The countryside charity. We would like to apologise to both organisations for any confusion caused.

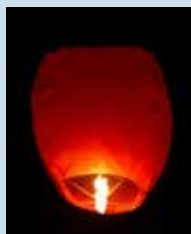
Fire Risks



There are always risks with lighting fires in open areas and outdoors. In Summer, barbecues can cause problems especially if the surrounding grass is very dry as was seen in Duston Mill at the start of July when a large wildfire - roughly the size of a football pitch - was caused by the careless disposal of a barbecue.

Later in the year, gardeners start to burn their waste and in November bonfires help to satisfy our more primitive urges for fire. Biologist Richard Wrangham believes that fire was essential for developing human society, but Northamptonshire Fire Service ask us to be careful. In 2019 they were called to 13 incidents when candles had got out of control. They advise people not to light bonfires at home at all.

The same advice goes for floating "sky lanterns" which pose enormous dangers to crops and wildlife.



The main advice seems to be to resist the urge to set things on fire and keep yourself and environment protected.

Highways

HOW TO REPORT HIGHWAY ISSUES

- West Northants Council - Highways team are responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and repair of our highways. They cover Bus Stops, Crash Barriers, Damaged or Missing Drain Covers, Footpaths, Highway Bridges, Damaged or Unsafe Kerbs, Pedestrian Barriers, Rights of Way, Road Markings, Roads, Safety Bollards, Road Signs, Street Lighting, Traffic Signals and Crossings, Vegetation, Verges - Damaged by Vehicles, Potholes & Winter Maintenance.
- Local highway related issues or defects should be reported via Street Doctor, including potholes.
- Street Doctor is the council's online highway defect reporting system which allows you to report a problem with our roads.
- Street Doctor is managed by the council's Highways Service Provider. Any information provided to us about a highway defect will be assessed and prioritised accordingly.

REPORT IT

<https://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/>
 Emergency Contact Number: 0300 126 7000
 Non-Emergency Number: 01604 651074

This Information has been brought to you by Brixworth Parish Council. All Incidents of this nature are reportable to and investigated by West Northants Council using any of the contact links above.

DID YOU KNOW?

GRASS CUTTING

The Council maintains the grass on its own land and works on a two weekly cycle. It also cuts the highway verges on the 30 mph roads only on behalf of West Northamptonshire Council.

To report grass cutting outside of the village area please use the West Northamptonshire Council's Self Service Reporting Form.

This Information has been brought to you by Brixworth Parish Council.

<https://www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/about/council-services/>
<https://selfserve.daventrydc.gov.uk/forms/locationreporting.aspx?filter=grounds>

Tree and TPOs

Many of us are lucky enough to have gardens with trees, but when it comes to maintenance what can we do? And when do we need permission?

Can I prune a tree outside my property if it blocks my light?

No. If you think a council tree may need maintenance, get in touch with the clerk and let them know.

Can I prune my neighbour's tree if it's overhanging my garden?

There is a right which permits a person to prune back any growth of tree or shrub to the line of their boundary, from their property, as long you dispose responsibly of any cuttings, and first offer them to the owner of the tree.

What is a Tree Preservation Order?

A TPO is made by a local planning authority to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands. Trees that have a TPO are protected from work and destruction, which cannot happen without the local planning authority's written consent.

Permission is also required for work on any tree in a conservation area - whether it has a TPO or not.

You can find lots of useful tree information on the West Northamptonshire Council website.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/trees-and-hedges>



Full Council (Thursdays): 29 September, 27 October, 24 November

Media & Comms (Wednesdays): 12 October, 16 November

Planning (Mondays): 19 September, 10 October, 31 October, 21 November

Surgery (Saturdays): 3 September, 1 October, 5 November

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.

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



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brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



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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 Barratt



James Collyer



Kevin Parker



Lynne Compton



Neal Brown



Tony Nixon



Gavin Kirkup
Administration Assistant



Brixworth Juniors welcome Georgina Swingler as chair

Brixworth Juniors FC has been at the heart of our village for the last 30 years. I'm delighted to have been voted in as the new Chair for the club at the recent AGM. I would like to thank Rob Kelly for his dedication as Club Chair over the last nine years. He has been instrumental in making the club what it is today, and is supporting me as I take over this role from him.

I have been coaching with Brixworth Juniors for the past eight years and been Vice Chair for the past two. I am really looking forward to leading the club in the years to come. I have lived with my family in the village for the past twelve years and all my children have been members of the club; one of them continues to play for Brixworth. I am passionate about this being an inclusive football club. With the recent success of England Lionesses in the Euros, I am hoping this will also encourage more girls and women to get involved in football with their local village club – who knows where this might lead them to? Our U15s Girls team is thriving. We have recently formed new teams for u14s and u8s/9s Girls. It would be great if we could encourage more local Brixworth girls to get involved.

We were pleased to resume our annual fun day in the village in June, having sadly been unable to run the event for the last two years due to the pandemic. Over 200 local children attended this year and a fantastic day was had by all the children and the people running the stalls. Thank you also to Brixworth Central Sports for your support.

BJFC is run by a fantastic team of volunteers. For our village club to continue being a success, we rely on new volunteers to step forward and become coaches each year. Without coaches many children and young people will miss out on the opportunity to keep fit and develop skills. If you have an interest in sport (no experience



necessary!) and would like to get involved, I'd love to hear from you!

Team kit sponsorship is also very important as it helps us as a club keep the annual membership fee as low as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors who have helped us to date, including but not limited to CPL Aromas, Kip Mcgrath, Midland Machinery, Cranehill Engineering, Stribbons, Franklin Covey, Wilson Browne, Watson Fuels and Ewe Move. If you or your business would like to sponsor a team, please contact me via chair@brixworthjuniors.co.uk.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of our teams a fantastic season for 2022/23. – Georgina Swingler, BJFC Club Chair

Bowls Club resumes competitive matches

The Bowls Club continues enjoying both competitive games and social events along with weekly "roll ups" on a Friday afternoon and evening.

Earlier this year, the Brixworth Club welcomed Roade Club for a friendly match – the first competitive match at Brixworth since we returned post Covid. The result was a draw, which was a fitting way to end a very enjoyable evening.

On 17 June, 22 members enjoyed "Target Bowls" which involves getting the bowl onto a high score on a special mat. This was a fun evening and was won by Jenny Chapman on 22 points; runner up Betty Wiles scoring 14 points.



Target night winner Jenny Chapman (right) and runner up Betty Wiles.

We also had our first summer social event of the season, at Farndon Fields Garden Centre on 9 July. Fifteen club members came for an afternoon tea, enjoying sandwiches, scones and cakes but also the opportunity to buy plants and food from the shop.

New members are now very much a part of the club and there is still plenty of room for more to join us, so do come along and try this enjoyable and sociable sport.

For more information, contact Jenny Chapman on 07522 559673 or email brixworthbowlsclub@hotmail.com
– Bernadette Byrne

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