

READERS' MEMORIES OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II -1926-2022

Many of us were saddened to hear of The Queen's passing on 8th September and joined the estimated 4 billion people worldwide on 19th September to watch the State Funeral. This event, and many others from her long reign, have been well documented in the mainstream media, so we thought we'd bring it down to a more intimate level by asking readers for any personal memories of The Queen.

My own story comes from 1980 when, as a schoolgirl, I was beyond excited that the pop group *Adam and the Ants* (who'd actually appeared on 'Top of the Pops!') was coming to do a concert in my hometown, Lincoln, and I'd managed to get tickets. A few weeks beforehand, however, the council cancelled the concert citing that it clashed with the Queen's visit to the city, and all their resources (crowd barriers, police etc.) would be needed for that. In typical teenage fashion, I stomped around the house, '...why, why, why? Just because of the stupid Queen!' which resulted in my father, usually such a placid man, getting angry with me for showing such a lack of respect. The irony of this story, however, is that I was then one of the local school children selected to form a guard of honour outside Lincoln Cathedral as The Queen entered, thus making my father very proud. Then, on the day, standing there in my smart black blazer waiting for The Queen to pass by, a pigeon decided to offload on my shoulder – divine retribution? – or, as I like to think, her Majesty having the last laugh?

And from villagers who have lived throughout her entire 70-year reign...

On an autumnal Wednesday, I joined local pensioners for their weekly lunch at the Olive Branch to share their personal reminiscences about the late Queen.

Allan Pope, a self-confessed hoarder, started the lunch by sharing his collection of newspapers commemorating important events as far back as 1961. Amongst his collection, he had newspapers celebrating The Queen's Silver Jubilee (The Daily Express June 8th 1977) and the more recent Platinum Jubilee (The Daily Mail June 6th 2022) - it was fascinating to compare the two occasions and to see that, in spite of massive world changes in the intervening 45 years, the British people's warmth towards The Queen had not diminished.

Sue McAspurn, had the earliest 'memory'; as a child, she'd been told repeatedly that she was 'present at The Queen's Coronation'. In June 1953, Sue's mother, an ardent royalist, had been 7 months pregnant with Sue and, along with a toddler (Sue's older sister), she'd gone down to London and waited with the cheering crowds for the Gold State Coach to pass.

It was one of the highlights of her mother's life and a memory that she often shared with Sue.

On May 6th next year, Sue fully intends to be present on the streets of London at King Charles III's Coronation to honour her mother's memory.

Another 'full circle' story was shared by David and Christine Dawson. David's earliest memory of his mother was '*...being dragged down the lane to watch the Royal Train pass*'; he recalls standing on the embankment being '*made to wave as it sped by*', and although he wasn't old enough to appreciate what all the fuss was about, he sensed his mother's excitement. Decades later, in May 2012, at his mother's funeral in Burnley, David recalled this episode from his childhood in the Eulogy he read out. Imagine his surprise when, at the wake, he was told that The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were about to pass by; '*everybody piled out of the pub to watch as the car slowed down allowing people to look and wave*'. David's family got a close-up view of Her Majesty, who was visiting Burnley as part of her Diamond Jubilee tour, and David felt that there couldn't have been a better tribute to his late mother.

Some of the pensioners had recollections of The Queen visiting the local area with her family when she was still Princess Elizabeth. Her parents, George VI and The Queen Mother often visited friends in the county at one of the neighbouring estates. It is known, for example, that as a girl The Queen used to go pony riding in the grounds of Pitsford Hall when it was the home of the Drummond family.

Peggy Lade, proud to be born the same year as The Queen, remembered a day in the early 80's, when Northampton Road was lined with people waving as The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh passed through Brixworth. She had heard that Her Majesty would always sit on the righthand side of the car, so made sure she was standing on the right side to get the best view!

None of those at the lunch had ever had personal contact with The Queen, but it was clear that she had still been a presence in their long lives and that they associated her with very fond family memories stretching across the generations.

It wouldn't be right to finish this article without thanking the Olive Branch for allowing me to join their lunch. They do a wonderful job every Wednesday allowing our senior citizens to meet and share their memories in such a welcoming and safe environment.

- Tracey Calnan

Remembrance Day parade



Despite a foggy morning, Brixworth turned out in force for Remembrance Sunday.

The parade gathered outside the library and proceeded to the church to lay wreaths at the war memorial.



Rev David Reith and Rev Andy Lloyd-Williams conducted an open air family service outside All Saints Church.



Thank you also to the Wombles who had cleared the fallen leaves and pine needles from the junction of Northampton Road and Spratton Road in advance, to make the area easier and safer to walk on.

Photos courtesy of Sean Goodhart

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For the latest events and our online archive, visit
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Happy 105th birthday, Hilda Brown

Hilda Brown, who celebrated her 105th birthday on 10 November, has spent almost all her life in Brixworth.

Born in Norton on Tees in 1917, she soon moved to the Brixworth area and attended the local primary school. She married Cecil at Brixworth Church in 1939 and went on to have four children.

Over the decades, the couple lived at various addresses in Brixworth – first Spratton Road, then Parkfield Road, followed by Northampton Road and Froxhill Crescent. She is now being looked after at Pytchley Court Care Home.

Among the well-wishers for her very special birthday were nine grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren – as well as the King and Queen Consort.

Congratulations from everyone at the Bulletin too!



Community Larder - thank you

The team at **Brixworth Community Larder** want to offer some heartfelt THANK YOUs for some very generous donations.

Firstly to Mark at Link-It who not only made our beautiful purple larder aprons (see the photo) but didn't charge us for them. It's a very kind gift indeed and the aprons now make it much easier for shoppers to spot our volunteers.



We've also received a fridge and a fridge-freezer from Lisa I'Anson and Lesley Ward respectively. These are going to help us immeasurably with the storage of chilled and ambient products.

We also want to recognise again the fantastic support of Den Coles and the management team at the Village Hall.

Three cheers for them all!

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Bulletin helps deserving causes

Earlier this year, the Brixworth Bulletin invited readers to suggest local initiatives, people or groups that would benefit from some financial support. We've been lucky enough to be supported with loyal advertisers every issue, which enables the Bulletin to periodically give back to the local community.

This year, we're able to help three different organisations or fundraisers.

Firstly, the Bulletin gave £2000 to Little Stars parents and tots group, which is based outside at the Brixworth Centre Preschool and meets every Wednesday from 10-11.30am. So far, the group has used the money to buy some new tuff spots and stands. *"These allow us to set up different areas the children can play in and house a range of different resources on a weekly basis,"* said the group's chairwoman, Victoria Starmer.

"Resources might include sand and diggers, painting, building blocks, potion stations, and corn flour messy fun."



The group also bought new rugs for the playground floor so the children can lay and sit and be comfortable whilst they play, and some rubber matting for the younger children so they can sit or lay and enjoy their time at group.

The group leaders plan to use the rest of the money to buy some more sit on, push along toys, expand the range of cars and trucks, and stock up on items such as lentils, sand, corn flour, shaving foam for the children to experience messy play.

Then there is the Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group (SSPPG), which is raising money to buy two blood pressure monitors for Brixworth and Guilsborough surgery. Patients will be

able to use the monitors themselves at the surgery, saving time for patients and freeing up surgery staff to deal with other appointments. The Bulletin donated £1500 towards this, bringing SSPPG a lot further towards their £5000 fundraising goal.



They have not yet reached their target, so if you are able to help too, please contact ssppg2022@gmail.com for details. See p12 of this Bulletin for more information on the role of the SSPPG and the contribution they make to our village surgery.

Lastly, the Bulletin gave £460 towards the caretakers of Loder Hall in Maidwell. Loder Hall is a much-loved small village hall, run by a charitable trust, which is used for village events and groups. Its gravelled car park was in need of an overhaul.

"It's been at least six years since we last resurfaced it and the gravel had slowly but surely disappeared and given way to potholes," said local resident Colin Rabjon, who maintains the carpark. *"The Bulletin's donation paid for new gravel to be laid which makes a huge improvement."*



The Bulletin is delighted to be able to help these local organisations and fundraisers. We look forward to supporting more good causes in future.

- Claudia Flavell-White

Photos by Ian Topham

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SALES & LETTINGS

Co-op still considers loading bay options

Operators of the Co-op store currently being built on the site of the Red Lion pub are still considering options for where deliveries to the shop might be unloaded.

Planners acting for the Co-op have twice applied for planning permission for an unloading bay on Northampton Road, outside the row of shops next to the new Co-op; both applications were refused.

A new application now due to be considered by West Northants Planning Committee would instead use the car park as an unloading area. Delivery lorries would enter the car park using the normal car park entrance, unload, and then leave the car park to the north, crossing the car parking bays there. Collapsible bollards would block the northern entry to the car park when not in use.

Local residents have raised a concern that if deliveries take place during times when the shop is open, this would have a huge detrimental impact on the already-limited parking on the site. *"The lorries would be coming up Northampton Road from the south, crossing the road into the main Co-op entrance and then unloading in the parking area,"* said a concerned resident, who lives near the site. *"All movement in and out of the car park would have to stop and the five spaces at the northern end of the car park would have to be emptied before the arrival of the lorries. What a mess and what a nightmare for traffic and pedestrians."*

Brixworth Parish Council's Planning Committee, which discussed the proposal in October, shared many of the concerns raised. They further questioned how frequent the deliveries would be – the Co-op's application refers to 'infrequent' deliveries, but local residents fear that could mean anywhere between four and seven

deliveries per day.

Whilst the Planning Committee ultimately agreed to accept the proposal in principle, it asked for the application to be dealt with by committee at West Northants Council, and for the committee to


consider whether deliveries could be restricted to being made out of hours.

The councillors also considered carefully the impact the proposed unloading scheme might have on road safety and asked for Northants County Council to reassess visibility at the site, as the current assessment is over four years old. If the proposal goes ahead, proposed tree planting around the site




would need to be re-evaluated. The Parish Council Planning Committee further asked that parking restrictions along the southern edge of Northampton Road should be considered, to ensure vehicles leaving the site have a clear line of sight and don't endanger other vehicles or pedestrians.

– CFW


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Brixworth & District u3a

A good time was had by all on Wednesday 3rd August at Pitsford Sailing Club.

Seventy six members attended the clubhouse at midday for a buffet lunch and the chance to sail on the longboats on the reservoir courtesy of the very kind volunteers from Sailability. Unfortunately one group of sailors managed to get caught in a squall of rain pre-lunch – when no rain had been forecast for the day!

A lovely buffet lunch was served by Martin and his team who delivered variations of four hot courses together with salads and new potatoes followed by gateau and apple pie.

The afternoon was handed over to the Dixielanders Jazz Band who kept us entertained with their bouncy music which many members were able to dance along to.

On 21st September members from twelve Northants u3as took over Chester House Estate to celebrate their 40th anniversary with a 'u3a day'. With their motto 'Learn, Laugh, Live' members of the u3a have engaged in dozens of interests and activities over the years, not with the aim of acquiring qualifications but for the sheer pleasure of trying and learning something new, whether this be an academic subject, music or an intricate craft.

With numerous activities, picnic and shopping facilities the day was certainly a 'Grand Day Out' for the whole family.

Dates for your diary

- **December 7th:**

"Boss in Boots" with Steve Pateman. The inspiration for Charlie Price in the movie "Kinky Boots".

- **January 4th 2023:**

"True Tales of a Tour Guide" with Jo Golby.

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

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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This year's event saw a huge turn out from Brixworth cubs, together with their parents and leaders, alongside the regular volunteers from Brixworth Community Church.



Photo by Ian Topham

We were able to replace the bulbs damaged by Gigaclear workings along St. David's Field opposite the school entrance and add a few more too! Watch out next spring!

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— Mike Nice

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Impressive sporting success for 3 of our readers

The London Marathon: 2022

Duncan Collins

After several unsuccessful applications to the marathon ballot, Duncan was delighted to be offered the opportunity to take part this year through his work. He drew up a 16 week training plan involving 4 runs a week of varying lengths, mostly around Brixworth, along the Brampton Valley and many circuits of Pitsford Reservoir. He found the extreme heat this summer a bit challenging but was fortunate enough to stay injury free. Duncan describes himself as “quite driven and competitive”



and set himself the ambitious target of finishing the course in less than four hours!

On the day, Duncan found the first half of the course “a breeze... the crowds and atmosphere were amazing and I felt good,” but then, at

around the 17 mile mark, “I started to feel it... doubting I could finish in my target time – questioning if I’d run too quickly early on...” and at 20 miles, he had to walk for a minute “just to

reset”. Luckily, not long after this, he spotted his wife and eldest daughter in the crowd and recalls “this gave me the lift I needed to get through the last five miles or so to the finish line.”

In the end, Duncan completed the course with an official time of 3h 56m and although “...feeling hugely fatigued and having the worst cramp I’ve ever experienced,” he was so pleased and relieved to have achieved his target. He was also grateful to his wife and family who supported and encouraged him from day one. He is still running and eager to have another go, but was unsuccessful in the 2023 London Marathon ballot.

Duncan’s efforts have so far raised in excess of £2000 for the Crimestoppers charity and his Just Giving page will be up and running till mid-December:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Duncan-Collins-01>

Claire Lockers

This year was Claire’s third attempt at the London Marathon; having not quite completed the course on previous occasions, she was determined to make it third time lucky. She describes the lead up to this year’s marathon as being, “the longest marathon training ever as it was rolled over from lockdown for two years”.

It obviously paid off, however, as Claire succeeded this time and says that the race “...was possibly the hardest thing I’ve ever done, but it was amazing!”.

She was also delighted that she managed to raise nearly £3000 for a very worthy cause – the Clic Sargeant charity: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lockers>



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Golfing accolade for local 12 year old

Ollie Penberthy

When Ollie got the call to say that he had been selected as the 2023 Junior Captain at Northamptonshire County Golf Club and would he accept, it was a no brainer.

He says he *"was thrilled as it's such an honour"* and gave his acceptance speech in front of 100 team-mates and family.

Ollie has been playing golf since he was five and entered his first competition at ten years old. His recent title is by no means his first taste of golfing success; in 2021-2022 he won titles at Club, County and regional levels and played in the County team for U14, U16 and U18. Ollie says that *"...golf lets you learn a lot of life lessons. It's a very challenging game and requires patience and mental fortitude... that has certainly been tested at times!"* He has clearly risen to these challenges and says he has learned a lot about himself along the way.

This level of success at such a young age does not come without practice and commitment. Ollie plays on a course two or three times a week but does

"some kind of practice" virtually every day. He has reluctantly had to give up other sports, such as cricket and sailing, due to demands on his time but assures me that his schoolwork *"...has and always will take priority"*; a juggling act which will only



intensify as he starts his GCSE courses.

Ollie says his school, Pitsford School, has been very supportive of his ambition to be a professional golfer and allows him to spend Games afternoons practising golf.

For any aspiring young golfers out there, Ollie advises that *"the most important part is to have fun - sport can be hard whichever you choose- but you can meet new friends and it's healthy and challenging"*.

He feels lucky to have had so much support with his golf and is happy to help anyone who is interested in taking it up; he can be contacted through:

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Country Eye

Crash, Bang, Wallop

To say that this government has got itself in something of a pickle is a gross understatement. Yet order could be restored by changing just one word in the prime ministers initial address. Growth, growth, growth should have been renewables, renewables. renewables. Had this country gone all out for harnessing the power of the sun, through wind, sun, tidal, and hydro, instead of signing up to David Cameron's "cut the green crap", we could be well on the way to the 1.5°C of warming target climate scientists tell us is the maximum, if we are to have any chance of moving along a path towards a climate-friendly future.

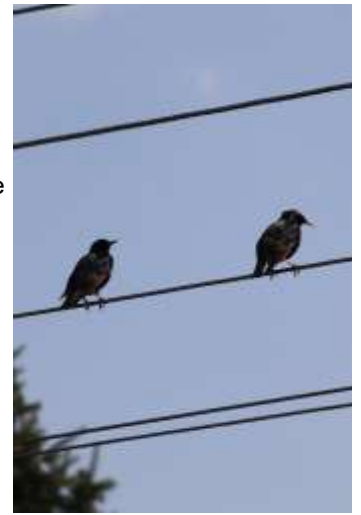
In past articles I have tried to remind you of the former wildlife



riches that we took for granted in my early years in the 1940s to 1950s. When butterflies bees and myriad other insects jostled each other in their quest for nectar in flower-filled meadows.

Birds and small creatures galore made our hedgerows seem

to vibrate with the sounds of their daily lives. Even a short car drive would have us getting out to clear kamikaze insects from the windscreens. But scientists now tell us the decline in our wildlife populations was already well under way. Long before global warming was even suspected by most of us our daily activities were causing changes. It is widely accepted that Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring", published in 1962, marked a profound shift in understanding how our actions could affect the wider environment, could in fact cause profound changes. We ought to have heeded those changes but we didn't, and now with catastrophic climate meltdown staring us in the face we are beginning to pay the price.



Yet the lesson we need to re-learn is out there in what's left of the natural world that we haven't already trashed. Take the blackbirds that still squabble over who owns what in my own garden, and in your garden and the local parks. First off they settle their disputes with sham fighting, and no serious harm results. There is a lesson here for the evil Putin and his warmongering like, I think. When spring comes around they seek a mate and settle down to breed and raise as many young as possible. With the blackbird they are known to nest up to four times in a good year, so that if all the young survived there would be maybe 15 birds where there were but two. Before we knew where we were we would be waist deep in blackbirds!

In reality, to maintain a stable population only two birds need to survive to breed the following year. Stability is key here and it is achieved without conscious thought being given to it by a parliament of blackbirds sitting in high places. Natural regulation of animal numbers is built in to the system. We are still part of that system, whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, and so must learn to set our lives to it. This does not mean returning to the Stone Age, as many detractors would have you believe.

What it does mean is learning to live within the limits set by the finite size of this fragile speck of cosmic dust we call Earth. Sounds simple yet it does require rapid changes to our current lifestyles. A way must be found to redistribute wealth so that we all may have a roof over our heads, keep warm, have enough to eat; a convivial life for all. Many would call this pie in the sky, but I am far from alone in believing that given the collective will, it is there for us to work towards. A universal basic income would allow this and work towards a stable, benign climate would be vital.

To be clear what I am suggesting is that we do not abandon technology rather that we aim for a combination of the best of the traditional with the best of the new. Surely that is not beyond our grasp? All it takes is the collective will. Are you up for it?

- Brian Webster

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Foodshare **half-term update**

Volunteers from the Foodshare delivered essential supplies to seventeen local families at half-term.

The scheme, founded and run by the Community Church, has gone from strength to strength over the past year with donations



from the Central Sports Club and Olive Branch customers.

To add to funds, last month, Foodshare gratefully accepted a cheque for £400 from the organisers of Hollowell Steam and Vintage Rally.

The donation will be used to add to the Christmas Foodshare gifts.



Enhanced access to GP Appointments



From the 1st October the NHS require Primary Care Networks (PCN's) to provide Enhanced Access to appointments between the hours of 6.30pm – 8pm Mondays to Fridays and between 1pm to 5pm on

Saturdays. Saxon Spires is one of a group of five Practices in the Northamptonshire Rural PCN.

The Practice has had to look at achieving the increase of appointments whilst also protecting staff from burnout. The PCN has engaged the services of a firm called LIVI.

They employ fully qualified GP's to offer telephone and video link appointments during the extra hours. If a prescription was needed, they can be sent directly to a local chemist of the patient's choice. The appointments can be made in the usual way, by contacting the surgery reception.

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Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group Receives a Huge Contribution from Brixworth Bulletin

Blood Pressure Monitor Appeal: A huge thank you goes to the Brixworth Bulletin...it

became a very unexpected donor to the recently launched SSPPG fundraising appeal. A whopping donation of £1500 towards the fund has been very gratefully received from the Brixworth Bulletin. Brixworth Surgery will soon be the happy recipient of a new blood pressure monitor. Patients will be able to take their own blood pressure readings in the waiting room and simply pass the printed slips to Reception for inclusion in their records and examination by the medical staff.

To contribute to the Blood Pressure Monitor appeal, contact us for details on ssppg2022@gmail.com - all donations gratefully received.

Health Walks: Taking place on the 2nd Monday of the month, details of the walks can be seen on the surgery noticeboards or on the SSPPG Facebook Page. The next is on Monday 12th December at 11am; Brixworth to Pitsford Water. Meeting at The George pub and led by Mick Wright. Burn off a few calories before a lunch at the pub.

Christmas Raffle Launch: Every year, Saxon Spires Practice runs a raffle for some fabulous Christmas hampers,

and this year is no exception. The prize hampers will be on display in both Brixworth & Guilsborough surgeries from early December. The funds raised will go to a suitable charity chosen by the Practice and SSPPG will be holding coffee mornings to launch the raffle. Come along to the surgeries and enjoy a coffee, a natter and support the event.

Dates:

Friday 2nd December 10am until 12noon at Guilsborough Surgery

Friday 9th December 10am until 12noon at Brixworth Surgery

SSPPG Meetings: New members are always welcome to join us at our meetings...our next is at Brixworth Surgery; Tuesday 13th December, at 18:30. The Group meets regularly to hear the latest updates and discuss ways to support the Practice. For details contact us on ssppg2022@gmail.com.

Carers' Meetings: Organised by Northamptonshire Carers, the Practice and SSPPG, these meetings provide a chance for carers to relax over a coffee, chat with other carers and get advice. Dates and venues will be shown on our Facebook page. *Watch our Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group Facebook page for regular announcements on all activities or drop us an email on ssppg2022@gmail.com.*



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'MEET THE DRAMA GROUP' SOCIAL EVENING

Brixworth Drama Group, who recently returned to the stage with two productions, are organising a social meeting in Brixworth Village Hall on Tuesday 6th December at 8pm.

Drama Group Chair, Alex Coles said "The casts have really enjoyed returning to the stage after so long. During Lockdown we read through plays over Zoom.

"The Drama Group celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2023, and we're looking forward to an exciting new programme of productions next year. However, we need new members to be part of new productions."



The Social meeting on 6th December is a chance to meet current members of the group and find out what the group are about.

In addition to actors the group need others to get involved in a variety of roles including backstage, costumes, make-up, sound and lighting.

The Drama Group needs your help.

Come and see what we're about at the Village Hall or contact Eileen at eileenmtruby@gmail.com.

We hope to see you soon.

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What a year for Northampton Sailing Club!

Northampton Sailing Club has bounced back after the pandemic with a phenomenal year in 2022. Based at Pitsford reservoir, the club has welcomed many new members. They range from novices to those experienced in watersports, people of all ages and social members.



The year started with the return of the Steve Nicholson Trophy open meeting in January. A popular event for boats of all classes, it raised over £2,000 for Asthma UK. Olympic Champion, Dylan Fletcher returned to the club where he'd learnt to sail, took part in the event and chatted to members.

A successful open day in May was followed by a glorious summer. Sailors raced on Sundays and Thursday evenings with adult coaching on Wednesday evenings. Friday night

paddle club offered some wonderful evenings for paddling, socialising and camping at the club.

The Pirates (8 – 16 year-olds) had a fantastic time learning to sail or windsurf and develop their skills. September saw them smash their fundraising target and raise £2,500 to buy new equipment. In their Channel Challenge, 37 sailors and windsurfers collectively sailed the distance to France (34km) and beyond. They sailed around two marks on the reservoir, clocking up as many km as they could in 60 minutes.

There was also a varied social calendar where members could get to know each other off the water. Thanks go to all the club members and volunteers who have made 2022 such a success. Plus the wonderful Sarah and Martin Knight of Knights Catering who run the galley and have kept everyone well-fed.

The Perfect Christmas Present

Are you struggling for ideas for gifts for those people in your life who already have everything? Give them a gift voucher to get them on the water – buy a taster session for two hours of sailing, windsurfing or paddleboarding or go the whole hog and get them onto a full RYA-accredited course in windsurfing, sailing or power boating. The vouchers are valid for two years and you'll receive a voucher to pop in their card!

Find out more at <https://northamptonsailingclub.org/gift-vouchers/>

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

It is wonderful to welcome Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group back after the summer break.

The autumn term allows an opportunity to continue traditional scouting activities as the evenings draw in and we return to indoor events at the centre.

Beavers started their term with nature walks and a hike through Kelmarsh Tunnels – very brave. They have welcomed guide dogs at the centre and learned how they help their owners.

Before half term they visited Lazergeddon in Northampton. I get the feeling that they ganged up on our leaders. They had a joint evening with cubs over at Overstone for campfire, wide games and sparkles – just in time for Bonfire Night.



They have also explored Global Issues, and very traditional paracord crafts and knots.

Cubs also filled their term with outdoor activities and hikes. They walked along the Brampton Valley Way, planted bulbs

in the village, and just before half term took part in an evening carving pumpkins.

After the break they enjoyed an evening bowling at the centre, a roller disco, a village treasure hunt, and two evenings of astronomy. We like to keep everyone occupied.



great time on the water despite the rain.

Food and drink plays a big part in our activities, whether that is explorers enjoying the ever popular chip or scouts hiking to Brew at Moulton.

Scouts also took part in emergency aid and enjoyed an evening at the village community centre above the library playing table tennis. They undertook some home skills activities, cooking and craft, as well as revisiting their astronomy skills.



Scouts and explorers started the term with a trip to the Nene Whitewater Centre in Northampton. This activity was unfortunately postponed from the summer because of the extreme weather but everyone had a

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Explorers enjoyed an evening at Overstone for campfire and backwoods cooking. They organised their menu and thankfully no upset tummies. They finished the first half of the term with wide games at Brixworth Country park.

After the break the Explorers also had an evening of scouting skills and knots. They explored (no pun) Origami and Japanese cooking, held

a cinema evening and enjoyed mocktails... the leaders checked the ingredients, just to be sure.

Everyone is looking forward to the group trip to the panto... "Oh! Yes! We Are...!" when we visit the Castle in Wellingborough to see *Jack & The Beanstalk*.

Explorers have one extra event to finish the term with a repeat of the *District Karting Challenge* at Teamworks Karting in Northampton. I hope that our Explorers do as well as they did last year.

Brixworth Scout Leaders

Once again we put out the appeal for **volunteers** to replace our leaders. Our leaders continue to run multiple sections or cover executive/admin activities, & 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>.



Brampton Heath Golf Centre are able to cater for all your conferencing needs. we have two smaller modern conference rooms which hold 12 or 16 people, or our bigger function room which can be adapted for your meetings. We have flip charts and projectors available. Room Hire starts from £50 for half a day with hot/cold food and beverages to suit everyone.

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Brixworth Braced for Broadband Boost with Build Underway

Work currently taking place in Brixworth to connect 2,800 homes and businesses to ultrafast broadband is set to be a 'game-changer' for residents living in the village - according to the UK's leading rural, ultrafast broadband provider - Gigaclear.

Brixworth resident, Helen Snell, said:

"As a family of four, with one parent running a business from home and the other still working from home, we decided to switch to Gigaclear to improve our internet service. Before switching, we often had issues streaming television online, and sending and receiving big files for work often took ages. Overall, we have been really happy with the whole service and product that Gigaclear offers. From initial interest right through to the friendly team's installation."

Gigaclear is expanding its commercial build, taking its full-fibre network to underserved market towns and communities in Northamptonshire.

Tony Smith, Regional General Manager at Gigaclear, comments: *"This is going to be a game-changer for people living in Brixworth. Having access to reliable and fast broadband speeds is no longer a luxury but is necessary in order for many people to live their lives fully, whether it's working from home, streaming or accessing other online entertainment."*

Gigaclear's full-fibre upgrade will bring speeds of up to 900Mbps to the village. With this speed, it will take just four seconds to download a film in its entirety.



Gigaclear has frozen its full-fibre broadband rates for 18 months, meaning both new and existing customers will not see a rise in prices until October 2023 at the earliest.

For more information or to find if your property can connect to the Gigaclear network, visit www.gigaclear.com and use the postcode checker.

About Gigaclear:

Gigaclear designs, builds and operates a full fibre, ultrafast broadband network in rural areas across central and southern England.

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Steam to Green – The Brampton Valley Way

All those decades ago, when the Victorians laid the railway through, little could they have even guessed what a lovely place it would become. No doubt, the trains would have looked good in their magnificent individual liveries when passing through: LNWR, Midland Railway and Great Western Railway travelled the line. But (and with apologies to railway enthusiasts) a railway line itself is a pretty bleak place; however, Brampton Valley Way's verdant corridor makes it a completely different kettle of fish. There is such a stark difference between the openness of the original railway and today's beauty of the greenery along Brampton Valley Way. The views enjoyed by those rail passengers of old are still there but can be taken in at a far more leisurely pace by sitting on one of the many benches. Walking along an active railway line would have been a risky business; whereas, today, the only threat is of being attacked by a blackthorn bush.



Overall, roughly 5,000 miles of track were closed and more than 2,300 stations were axed across the country in the 1960s, mainly in rural areas, following the Beeching Report. Although the line from Northampton to Market Harborough closed after Dr. Beeching's axe fell, it carried freight traffic until 1981 and then fell into disrepair before being stripped of its

rails and fittings. But then nature took over and 50 years on we have a fabulous local resource bordered by shrubs and trees.

There are plenty of railway features to be

seen among the vegetation along the 14 miles of BVW. A walk along the whole of the Brampton Valley Way reveals remnants of the former infrastructure...buildings, tunnels, bridges and the like. Originally, stations opened in 1859 were built at Pitsford & Brampton, Brixworth and Lamport. The additional

stops of Spratton, Kelmarsh and Clipston & Oxendon were added later. All closed in 1960 for passenger services but freight traffic continued for a few years.

Pitsford & Brampton Station, by Brampton Halt, opened 1859 closed in 1950 but sees new life thanks to the efforts and dedication of the Northampton & Lamport Railway.



Spratton Station, opened 1864 closed in 1949. Its Signal Box, long since relocated to Lamport & Northampton

Railway's yard at Brampton Halt, is still intact. One enterprising signaller based at Spratton is said to have been a part-time barber: train crews would get their haircut from him while the signals were held on red...one explanation for delays and makes a pleasant change from the hackneyed 'a cow on the line' or 'wrong kind of leaves'.

Brixworth Station, located on Creaton Road, opened 1859 closed 1964: its ruins are barely visible today. Pictured here is as it was and contrast that to today's green scene...no comparison!



Lamport Station, opened 1859 closed 1960, is said to have played host to The Royal Train when it stopped overnight in the siding there on its journey North. Apparently, The Duke of


Edinburgh, no less, was the passenger. The train was heavily guarded overnight and it is said one of the sentries almost shot a coughing cow, thinking it was a dangerous intruder preparing to attack.



Nature has managed to claw back this man-made structure and the overgrown vegetation has transformed its appearance from a stark open area to a rich leisure resource. Repossessed by greenery, Brampton Valley Way provides a place of relaxation, tranquillity and exercise for us to enjoy. Park Rangers and the team of Volunteers endeavour to keep it all under control and maintain the paths.

However, despite all the good intentions, the spectre of reopening the official line remains over it. Contradictory opinions and comments abound about the future of Brampton Valley Way. The threat of reinstating the Northampton to Market Harborough line remains and there are conflicting inclusions with Northampton's Strategic Plan and that of West Northampton Council. Fortunately, there is a great deal of effort going into trying to preserve Brampton Valley Way and gaining a protected status for it as, for instance, a formal linear park. But that is an ongoing debate, at local government levels and, hopefully, a proposal has been tabled. Personally, I sincerely hope that protected status can be secured enabling generations to come to enjoy it to the full.

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Experience in a changing market

With all the recent cost of living news, utility and interest rate rises, there will be many of you thinking that the property market will come to a grinding halt. But, as someone who has been in this industry for over 30 years, I can assure you that this will not be the case and people will still move. Yes, there will be those still wanting to get on the property ladder for the first time, there will be those needing that extra bedroom or two, and there will be those downsizing from a house that is now far too big for them.

A good estate agent

The difference when selling and buying in uncertain times is that people go to experienced estate agents for help and advice. Sellers will no longer expect their home to just sell as soon as it appears on Rightmove or Zoopla and buyers will expect to get some money off the asking price. A good estate agent may work for the seller, as they are the fee payer, but

they will also appreciate that you can't sell a house without a buyer. Tying up a sale that makes both the seller and buyer feel they have achieved fair and right money requires good negotiation and good negotiation needs handling by someone who knows what they are talking about.

A tailored service

So, if you are looking to move, your estate agents' years served in the industry are paramount. But don't just go for experience, choose an agent you like and trust, that you understand the service offered and are happy with their contract terms and fees. In fact, the ideal estate agent is not always the one with the most sales under their belt, but often the one who listens to you, is easy to get along with, is interested in your requirements and has the tools and skills to address your unique situation. Good estate agents understand that every home seller is unique and brings a

different set of circumstances to the table.

They pride themselves on service that is tailored to their client's needs.

If you are looking to sell your home to buy another one, then you will also need to assess your financial situation. With the current uncertainty of interest rates, expert advice has never been so important.

Access to solid financial advice

Remember, good people know good people. Therefore, good estate agents should have access to good mortgage professionals. Working together, experienced estate agents and mortgage experts should ensure that their clients are fully briefed on all the costs involved in moving home and, as importantly, any ongoing expenses.

All the facts

And finally, don't worry if you think you are wasting an estate agents time by having them out to your home for a valuation when unsure of whether you are moving. You can't know whether you can move until you have all the facts. All good agents will be only too happy to come and spend time sharing their advice for free.

- Stuart Little



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What's on

25-31/12	The Night Before Christmas	The Underground
02/12	Surgery Christmas Raffle	Guildsborough Surgery
3-4/12	Christmas Market	Lampport Hall
3-4/12	Santas Grotto	Lampport Hall
3-4/12	Santa Special	N'ton & Lampport Rail
06/12	Brixworth Drama Group open evening	Brixworth Village Hall
09/12	Garth Marenghis	Royal
09/12	Surgery Christmas Raffle	Brixworth Surgery
9/12 - 2/1	Jack and the Beanstalk	Derngate
10/12	Nancy Campbell: Christmas lecture	Lampport Hall
10/12	Winter Shopping Fair	Brixworth Library
10-11/12	Santa Special	N'ton & Lampport Rail
12/12	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
13/12	SSPPG Meeting	Brixworth Surgery
15/12	History Society - Christmas Social	Brixworth Village Hall
16/12	Danny Tompkins Christmas Feast	Lampport Hall
16/12	Village Voices: Mozart & V Williams	St Peters Church, Walgrave
17-18/12	Santa Special	N'ton & Lampport Rail
22/12	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
01/01	Mince Pie Special	N'ton & Lampport Rail
03/01	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
17/01	Paul Chowdhry - Family Friendly Comedian	Derngate
18/01	Sounds of the 60s	Derngate
18/01	Lampport & HH PC Meeting	Lampport Hall
19/01	One Night of Elvis	Derngate

20/01	Joe Stilgoe & Orchestra	Derngate
21/01	CBeebies - Ocean Adventure	Derngate
21/01	The Burlesque Show	Derngate
23/01	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
23/01	Stewart Lee - Basic Lee	Derngate
24/01	Lloyd Griffith - One Tonne of Fun	Derngate
25/01	Steve Steinman's Vampires Rock	Derngate
26/01	David O Doherty - Whoa is me	Derngate
27/01	The Alan Barnes Octet	Derngate
27/01	The Greatest Hits Of Motown	Derngate
28/01	The 80s Show	Derngate
28/01	Gary Delaney	Derngate
29/01	Fastlove	Derngate
03/02	Fish & Chip Quiz	Brixworth Library
03/02	Tom Stade	Derngate
05/02	Giovanni Pernice	Derngate
06/02	Tim Rice & His Band	Derngate
08/02	Prue Leith	Derngate
09/02	John Barrowman	Derngate
10/02	Royal Philharmonic - Film Spectacular	Derngate
11/02	Queen Extravaganza	Derngate
11-25/02	Unexpected Twist	Royal

12/02	Jon Richardson: The Knitwit	Derngate
13/02	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
13/02	Chris de Burgh	Derngate
15/02	Suzanne Vega	Derngate
18/02	Squidge	Underground
21-25/02	Rambert Dance: Peak Blinders	Derngate
27/2-4/3	Strictly Ballroom the musical	Derngate
03-4/04	The Terrible, Terrible Past	Royal
05/03	NMPAT Festival of Music	Derngate
06/03	NMPAT School Of Rock	Derngate
06/03	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
07/03	The Levellers	Derngate
7-8/3	Henry V	Royal
09/03	Sara Pascoe	Derngate
11/03	Nathan Carter	Derngate
12/03	NMPAT Festival Wind Band	Derngate
14/03	Lost in Music	Derngate
15/03	The Classic Rock Show	Derngate
15/03	Lampport & HH PC Meeting	Lampport Hall
16/03	The Meat Loaf Story	Derngate
17/03	The ELO Show	Derngate
18/03	The Bootleg Beatles	Derngate
27/03	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre

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Library Update

Opening Times

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Christmas and New Year Bank Holiday Closures

- Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th December
- Monday 2nd January

Contact Details

Email: brixworth.libraryplus@westnorthants.gov.uk, Phone: 0300 126 7000 (option 6; then option 3; and ask for Brixworth Library), Website: westnorthants.gov.uk/libraries, Facebook: facebook.com/BrixworthLibrary, Friends of Brixworth Library Facebook: facebook.com/FOBXL, Events Calendar: northampton.gov.uk/eventscalendar

Activities

It's been all go with library activities and displays over the past few months; we've had Banned Books week, Fun Palace weekend, Libraries Week, Get

Online Week, Recycling Week, Black History Month, World Mental Health Day, October Half-Term activities and Movember!

The Needle Crafters (Thursdays 13:30-15:30) are in each week, chatting and crafting. Experts or novice; all are welcome to join in with your own projects. As we write they're feverishly crafting Christmas decorations ready for our Christmas Fair.

Children's Events

Free activities for under 5s. Drop-in, but spaces are limited and offered on a first come, first served basis.

NEW Explore A Story – Tuesdays 14:00-14:30 – story time with toys and crafts.

Rhyme Time - Wednesdays 10:00-10:30 and 11:00-11:30 – singing with scarves, puppets, and instruments.



Under Ones Fun - Thursdays 10:30-12:00 – meet other families with babies under one.

Pre-School Play - Fridays 10:00-11:00 – child-led play with toys for all ages.

We also run activities for older children.

Construction Club – Saturdays 11:00-13:00 – make creations with Lego, Duplo, mega blocks.

Board Game Café – Mondays 15:30-16:30 – play a variety of games, from Dobble to chess

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

Friends of Brixworth Library

Eileen was worn out after wrangling teddies at the Friend's Soft Toy Sleep Over (pictured), and fancy cheese, wine and chat was enjoyed at their Social Evening in September. Their Wonderful Winter Shopping Fair will take place on Saturday 10th December,



11:00-14:00, with lots of amazing stalls.

Keep an eye out for ticket sales for the return of their popular Fish and Chip Quiz on Friday 3rd February.

Website - www.claysonwindows.co.uk
Email - info@claysonwindows.co.uk
Call - 01604 372378 / 07852 257 873

Based in Brixworth



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Follow us on



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.

Library to You

If you struggle to visit us because of age or disability, we can bring the library to you. We have volunteers who will hand-pick items and deliver them to you in your own home all for free. You may even be lucky enough to get a visit from Bernard in full motorcycling gear! 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.

BIPC Northamptonshire

Don't forget that the Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire offers free business support through libraries. The BIPC area is on the mezzanine of the library and has quiet space to work with lots of business books. There is free access to a range of specialised business databases on the library computers too. For example, GrantFinder is the leading funding database in the UK. Search for funding for business, local communities, and charitable organisations for free!

You can pop into the library on Monday mornings between 9.30am and midday to talk to a member of the BIPC team. For further information about all workshops, webinars and 1:1s please 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@westnorthants.gov.uk.

Supporting Independence Programme (SIP)

The Supporting Independence Programme is a free Public Health service tailored to prevent, support and manage the health and wellbeing needs of anyone eligible over the age of 18, who may be showing signs of reduced independence.

With up to 12 weeks of one-to-one support, our team of dedicated Wellbeing Advisors are committed to providing you with the interventions, knowledge and resources needed to make your wellbeing a priority, helping you to increase and maintain healthy living. This service can include the option of face-to-face appointments in a local community setting and walk and talk sessions with your allocated Wellbeing Advisor.

If you or someone you know would like to refer into the service, or you would just like some more information, please visit our website

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/supporting-independence-service, or call us on 01604 361533.

Strong Start Team Strong Start

The Strong Start team offer support to expectant families and those with children under 5 through face to face sessions. To find out more or to book a place please visit our Eventbrite page https://strong_start_team.eventbrite.co.uk We also offer virtual support to families

through our website: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/strongstart

Ukraine Community Support Hub



Drop in to meet a representative from the Resettlement Team for support and a friendly chat – Fridays 13:00-15:00

For more information, call 0300 126 7000, or email: resettlement@westnorthants.gov.uk

Social Prescribers

Social Prescribers are now here at Brixworth Library – come along on the first Thursday each month between 3pm – 4pm to talk to a Community Connector.

Meet WNC Customer Service Team



Did you know West Northamptonshire Council's Customer Service Centre has a pop-up shop at Brixworth Library?

Their next visit is between 10am-12pm on Tuesday 20th December. Feel free to drop in if you have any WNC related queries.

Winter Shopping Fair at the Library

If you're stuck for a Christmas present, and would like to support your local community at the same time, the Wonderful Winter Shopping Fair at Brixworth Library might be just what you need.

Organised by the Friends of Brixworth Library, the fair brings together local crafters and businesses. Come and enjoy some fresh cake and a glass of prosecco, while browsing a range of gifts and crafts including candles, wine and cheese, pottery, jewelry, ice cream, beauty products and much more. On top of that there'll be a Christmas Elf telling stories, and the u3a choir to keep you entertained.

The fair takes place on Saturday 10 December, 11am to 2pm, at Brixworth Library.



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All Saints'

BRIXWORTH

We are a church family seeking to nurture fellowship and faith in Jesus Christ...

...and to share the good news of His saving love with Brixworth and beyond.



Carol Service

18th Dec. 7pm



*With the Queen Eleanor Choir...
...and Bishop Donald speaking*

Christmas Services

15th (7pm)

18th (7pm)

24th (2pm)

24th (11:15pm)

25th (10:30am)

Carol Singing around the Beacon

Christmas Carol Service

- with the Queen Eleanor Choir...

- ...and Bishop Donald speaking

Interactive Nativity (Crib) Service

Midnight Communion

Christmas Morning Celebration



Special thanks to S.W.Scaffolding for their recent help with the upkeep of our building!



All Saints'
BRIXWORTH

Christmas Festival
SPECTACULAR LIGHT DISPLAY

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 4 - 6PM

Lit trees all around the Church. A Christmas Market with stalls, games, drinks and Father Christmas.

SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER 4 - 6PM

See all the trees lit up again! Come inside, have a drink and make a Christingle.

Free Entry All Weekend

To display a tree please contact
Roger on 01604 536610





BRIXWORTH MATTERS

 [YouTube @brixworthcommunitychurch](https://www.youtube.com/@brixworthcommunitychurch)

Well I don't think globally or nationally anyone could have predicted how it would have all panned out this year. No sooner did it feel like we were coming out of Covid, when the war in the Ukraine began, with all the financial knock on effects that we are now in the midst of as a nation.

With this back drop of uncertainty and anxiety, folk are being forced to think about their futures, not just about the rate of inflation or how much their mortgage will be, but also what they believe, what are we building our lives upon, and is there anything or anyone out there that can provide real certainty or be trusted?

This makes Christmas this year very timely, as, along with all the usual festivities, celebrating Jesus coming into this world is our nations annual reminder that God is in fact real and wants to make a difference in all of our lives.

Following Jesus may not resolve the cost of living crisis but a relationship with God through Christ will provide real certainty and real strength, with access to God's wisdom and power and of course the opportunity to pray for our political leaders and prime minister whoever he or she may be when you read this article!!

Jesus said (speaking about his teaching) "everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practise is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall because it had its foundations on the rock." (Matthew 7: v24, 25)

Right everything feels very fragile. However, the certainties or 'rock' that Jesus provides through faith is knowing that God is with us in this life, no matter what personal or national 'storm of life' comes our way and he will be with us for all eternity, working all things for His Glory! In Jesus our future with God is guaranteed.

Andy



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on
07958 604961



Harvest Service

Just recently we held our harvest service up at the school and then a joint service with Rev David at All-Saints for the children from Brixworth Primary School. All was going well, and then who should turn up, but Farmer Palmer. Now obviously a harvest is a very busy time for farmers, so we never really know whether Farmer Palmer will turn up. That being said he did arrive both times and shared a harvest thought. This year he brought some vegetables freshly picked from his field and asked the children if they could identify what they were. Farmer Palmer's message was to thank God for all good things, not forgetting the food we eat **ARRMEN!**



Christmas Day at Brixworth Community Church

Be sure of getting your Christmas Day off to the best start! Service starts at 10:30am, and finishes at 11:15am. We celebrate together the birth of Jesus with carols, readings and an opportunity for the children (and one or two parents no doubt!) to show off their presents. A warm welcome awaits.

New Years Day 2023 Service

Meeting in the Main Hall, Brixworth Library and Community Centre, Spratton Road, 6pm. All welcome.



Annual Outdoor Christmas Nativity 2022

Sunday 11th December at 4 p.m.

Come and join us as we celebrate and act out the Christmas Story. We hold it outside the Library and Community Centre,

If the weather is inclement we will be holding the Nativity at the School at the same time.



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

YouTube @brixworthcommunitychurch

www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1188556)



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

Chilling for Winter.

Community Sport

A new use for the Community Centre.

Hedgerows and Hedgehogs

An update from BCAG.

Verges and Visibility

Maintaining our wildflowers.

Youth Consultation

Could you get your voice heard in the village?

Community Safety

Safety at Christmas.

The Proclamation

The Parish Council's announcement of our new monarch.

Chairman's Chat

As we lead up to Christmas and 2023 I think that we can agree that it has been an eventful year – war in Europe, three prime ministers, a Platinum Jubilee, the death of Queen Elizabeth, the Proclamation of a new king, extreme weather, financial crisis, energy crisis – we are living in a period that will be in the history books!



But closer to home the Parish Council continues to work hard to make Brixworth a pleasant village to live in. Our plans include making Brixworth a greener place with the introduction of new trees and hedging and a healthier place, both physically and mentally, with the launch of table tennis at the Community Centre. On the same theme the MUGA is expected to be finished by Christmas thereby facilitating sports such as netball, basketball, tennis, and like the new play area the MUGA, has been created to be inclusive for differently abled people.

As always the Council looks forward to setting up the Christmas trees in and around the village and with that in mind I, along with my fellow Councillors and staff, wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Table Tennis Makes a Difference

Not all care homes have the funding or provision to offer residents a wide scope of activities which engage them mentally and physically. Helen, 84, has Vascular Dementia but when she plays table tennis, she 'comes alive and has a zest for life'. Her daughter said, 'it's like new connections are forming in her brain when she plays, Mum will play anyone and she's really good!' Helen had also previously suffered from Sciatica which disappeared through playing table tennis. She knows how to play an ace shot across the table too.

Table tennis is a truly social sport and has allowed Helen the opportunity to mix with fellow enthusiasts of all ages, coupled with the mental and physical benefits of playing. Helen's family would love to see future studies into the health benefits table tennis can offer and more provision for the sport in care homes and day centres.

Brixworth Parish Council have provided table tennis facilities at Brixworth Community Centre. Join us on Monday evenings, 7:30pm – 9pm. Everyone is welcome.





Hedgerows and Hedgehogs

According to the CPRE - the Countryside Charity- "Hedgerows are the vital stitching in the patchwork of our countryside." The CPRE wants to see more hedgerows planted and restored because they support existing wildlife and help to combat climate change. To help with their campaign to extend the hedgerow network by 40% by 2050, we are using a grant to improve the hedgerows in various places in the village including The Ashway Playing Field and St David's Playing Field. The current hedgerows on The Ashway will be trimmed to improve their quality and security for existing properties while hopefully allowing for fewer lost footballs in the brambles. This will promote biodiversity within the hedgerow.



The Brixworth Climate Action Group is hoping to get involved with many other local groups over the winter months, to support wildlife in the village. This could be making bird feeders, or building hedgehog shelters, or perhaps your group would like to help with planting. If you would like to get involved please contact the Clerk. Contact details overleaf.

Verges and Visibility

We are sure that everyone had the opportunity to appreciate the wildflower verges in the village. BCAG has been in discussion with contractors and the Parish Council to make sure that these are maintained to look their best every year without interfering with visibility for traffic.

BCAG is made up of residents and three Parish Councillors and you will always be welcome if you want to get involved, share ideas or even just find out what's going on.



Youth Speaks

Are you under 21?

Would you like your voice to be heard in the Parish?

Have you got some brilliant ideas for facilities in the village?

Are you working towards your Gold Duke of Edinburgh, Queen's Guide or Scout Award?

Your Council needs you.

Brixworth Parish Council would like to speak to anyone 21 and under to hear their views about what is needed in Brixworth.

If you would like to get involved, please come to a meeting in the Community Centre and Library building on December 12th 2022 at 16:00.

You are very welcome to bring a friend, parent or older sibling with you, especially if you are under 11. No one is going to expect you to speak in front of a group unless you want to, we are just keen to hear your views.



Happy Christmas?



Last year, 359 individuals were arrested for domestic abuse related offences in December in Northamptonshire.

Northants Police Force has reported that there is typically a spike in domestic abuse incidents over the festive season, and last year police officers worked proactively to target known abusers and safeguard high risk victims.

This is supported by information from the Domestic Violence Assessment Consultancy and Training says that "Financial pressures, alcohol on tap, trying to create the 'perfect' Christmas and being cooped up together for long periods all contribute to a regular rise in domestic abuse."

In 2021, a number of protection notices were issued over the Christmas period to help safeguard victims.

If you're a victim of domestic abuse, or know someone who is and there's an emergency that's ongoing or life is in danger, call [999](tel:999) now. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use the textphone service 18000.

You can also call the national 24-hour domestic abuse helpline on [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247).

Highways

HOW TO REPORT

FAULTY STREET LIGHTS

- West Northants Council are responsible for the majority of the street lighting in Brixworth.
- If you have a fault with a streetlight near you, please report it using one of the links below. Please make sure you provide as much detail as possible to help identify the fault.

REPORT IT <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and-paths/street-lighting>
 Non-Emergency Number: 0800 0850257
 Emergency Contact Number: 0800 0850284

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?

BINS

Brixworth Parish Council provides general litter bins in our pocket parks, Ashway and St David's playing field. All other bins in the village are owned and maintained by West Northants Council.

You can request a bin be emptied, including dog waste bins, by contacting West Northants, or completing the online request form. (Link below).

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

<https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/online/>

The Proclamation

Following the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II the Parish Council put into action the plans as set out by central government in Operation London Bridge. A wreath was laid by the flag pole at the Community Centre and then another later at the All Saints' Church.

At 1500 hours on Sunday the 11th of September, the Proclamation was read out to a crowd of residents by the Chairman Sandra Moxon and Vice- Chairman Jackie Bird proclaiming King Charles III the new Sovereign of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. This is the traditional way in which the people would have been informed going back many centuries. prior to modern media coverage.

The Accession Council met at St James's Palace to formally announce the death of The Queen and proclaim the new Sovereign. The order requires the High Sheriffs to arrange for the Proclamation to be read in their areas of jurisdiction. The flag, which



was flying at half mast, was briefly raised to announce the new King and then lowered again as a mark of respect for the death of the Queen.

This is an historic moment in Brixworth which provided an opportunity to come together and reflect on the moment in our history when the reign of our longest serving Monarch came to an end and our new Sovereign succeeded.



Full Council (Thursdays): 22 December, 26 January, 23 February

Planning (Mondays): 12 December, 2 January, 23 January, 13 February

Surgery (Saturdays): 3 December, 7 January, 4 February

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
 Telephone: 07983 141786



facebook.com/brixworthpc



brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



[brixworthpc](https://www.instagram.com/brixworthpc)



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Sandra Moxon
Chairman



Jackie Bird
Vice-Chairman



Tom Mitchell
Chairman, Planning



Elaine Coe
Chairman, Media & Communications



Barbara Lunn



Christine Ware



Frances Peacock



Gary Spratt



Ian Barratt



James Collyer



Kevin Parker



Lynne Compton



Neal Brown



Tony Nixon



Gavin Kirkup
Administration Assistant



“This Girl Can”

At Brixworth Juniors Football Club, we have always offered



mixed gender football teams for all ages right from our Minis Football at four years old, right up to our

Under Eighteen team. In particular, our Under Twelve Team has four girl players included within the squad, and it's been fantastic to see them play together, all seeing beyond gender, and just viewing one another as teammates. This is all testament to the great work of their supportive coach, and the attitude of the players themselves.

Although fully inclusive, we find that not all children feel comfortable to play within a mixed team and up until recently we only had our girls Under Fifteen team available. This team was set up by our Club Secretary, Simon Compton, who is a very experienced and qualified coach, when the girls were u8s and this team has gone from strength to strength, often winning both league and cup titles.

Following on from both the success of our Under 15 Girls and the England Lionesses at the delayed Euro 2021 Championships, we have been keen to continue to promote women's and girls' football within the Club. This has also been the aim of Northamptonshire Women's and Girls' Macron Football League. At the start of the 2022/2023 league we successfully registered a brand new Under Fourteen girls' team, which now has thirteen players. They are all working

really hard at training with their coaches and coming together as a team, forming strong friendship bonds in the process. Although it is very early days, we can already see the progress they are making from match to match, and are so proud of their sportsmanship and positivity. They are currently excitedly planning their team Christmas party!

We would like to thank Cummins UK for coming forward as the team sponsor for the Under Fourteens, and as a result we were able to provide the girls with a brand new match kit and training tops. We decided that it would be fitting to use the #HerGameToo logo on their kit, which is a national campaign tackling sexism and championing women in sport. More information about the campaign can be found via www.hergametoo.co.uk

This season we are also taking great pleasure in forming a new Under Nines Girls Team and currently looking for more girls to join this age group. Massive thanks go to Polly Major-Howard for advertising and finding the girls we currently have training with us. They train on a Wednesday night, 6-7pm. Our long term aim of the Club is to eventually have a girls team for every age group and possibly a ladies open age team, but we need more volunteers to become coaches, to help us achieve this goal.

We are currently looking for new coaches to join our club, both male and female. No experience or qualifications are necessary, as all training will be given, as well as an enhanced DBS check. Of course we also welcome any experienced/qualified coaches who are looking to either help with an established team or potentially set up a new one within the Club.

New players and coaches can contact Brixworth Football Club via secretary@brixworthfootballclub.co.uk Or via our Facebook page.

Lisa Raynes - Welfare Officer

Bowls Club Going from Strength to Strength

Brixworth Bowls Club continues to meet weekly on a Friday at the Community Centre opposite the church. There are two groups, one in the afternoon meeting from 2.30 – 4.30 and the other in the evening between 7.30 – 9.30. New visitors are very welcome.

The club not only plays bowls together but also with other local teams. A league is not in operation at the moment but is hoped to be rejuvenated in the very near future.

The club enjoys not only meeting for a game of bowls but also having social events. At the end of September, a “mystery” bowls game was thoroughly enjoyed by 18 members who attempted to get 1 bowl near to the Jack on a square piece of carpet. After much laughter (and also frustration) the game ended with a win by Steve Austin. Fish and chips from Brixworth Fish Bar then arrived and as always were delicious.

Following this Roger and Allan produced a quiz which created

much entertainment, especially the section on “Do you know Brixworth?”. Such questions as “on the sign above the shop, what word follows The Co-Operative?” How many times have we visited the Co-op and never noticed?!

Mike, Helen and Tatiana won the quiz and were presented with a box of Celebrations.

The club warmly welcomes new members and we have bowls available for anyone wanting to give this lovely game a try. We are a very friendly club and all abilities from starting from scratch to playing well are very welcome.

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

Jenny Chapman - Chair



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