

Plans to house asylum seekers in Creaton scrapped

Controversial plans to temporarily house up to 400 asylum seekers at Highgate House in Creaton have been scrapped by the Home Office. The news, announced on 13 January, was greeted with relief by many local residents.

The Home Office originally decided, just before Christmas, that Highgate House would be one of several similar temporary housing sites in Northamptonshire. The decision was met with widespread concern due to the lack of local services or facilities.

"While I completely understand we need to house these people properly, this was not going to be a suitable location in any way," said Jonathan Harris, Brixworth councillor with West Northamptonshire Council. *"It would have nearly doubled the number of people living in Creaton. The local pub is closed, the village shop is tiny, and the bus service is very intermittent."*

The news emerged shortly before Christmas and was presented as a 'done deal' by the Home Office, despite the objections of West Northamptonshire Council. Asylum seekers could be arriving in the former hotel and business venue as early as January, local residents were told. A meeting in Creaton on 3 January to discuss concerns was overrun, as was Creaton's Parish Council meeting a week later.

Chris Heaton-Harris MP voiced the concerns to Robert Jenrick, the Minister for Immigration, and Home Office officials. Meanwhile, West Northants Council pointed out that housing 400 asylum seekers at Highgate House would have put huge additional strain on public services, given that the area is already housing a significant number of migrants – Highgate House would have been the fourth site for asylum contingency accommodation in West Northants.

"The location of the latest hotel means there are three in very close proximity to each other, creating several issues including:

- *incredible pressure on a single primary care network, which looks after the GP practices already covering two of the hotels,*
- *capacity issues in local schools already struggling to keep up with demand,*
- *additional strain on adult social care which is already struggling with unprecedented demand, and irregular public transport, with the closest*



hospital nine miles away.

The Ibis hotel between Rugby and Crick is also being used for the same purpose. Temporary residents arrived there in September last year, and the site is expected to be used as housing for up to 12 months. While there are also local concerns there about the suitability of the site, villagers, volunteers and the Parish Council are working to identify how they can help meet the needs of the asylum seekers. For example, Crick Church has started running English language lessons, Crick Parish Council have donated spare table-top tennis games, and the vicar's wife has raised £2500 for vital supplies such as winter coats, footballs and shoes.

Jonathan Nunn, leader of West Northamptonshire Council, commented: *"We're incredibly proud that West Northamptonshire has welcomed many families and individuals fleeing persecution and conflict into our area through our resettlement schemes, and residents tell us that they are too. But it's only right that we have sufficient resources in place to meet their essential needs and help make the best of their situation. This latest decision by the Home Office has placed services in our area under unreasonable and unsustainable pressure,"* he added. *"This is not acceptable when there are other areas with nowhere close to same kind of commitment."*

Highgate House went into administration in February 2021. In December 2022, the house was in the process of being sold to Signature Hotel Group. Signature is the owner of Dunchurch Park Conference Centre in Rugby, which is also being used as a contingency hotel.

– Claudia Flavell-While

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and advertising for the June issue is 25 April
2023.

For the latest events and our online
archive, visit www.brixworthbulletin.co.uk.

Operation Christmas Child

This Christmas Brixworth Community Church was able to send 278 shoeboxes full of children's gifts to Ukraine as part of Operation Christmas Child.

After a flight to Poland, the gifts were driven across the war-torn country and given to some of the many children who would not be receiving gifts like many of our local children.

The Ukrainian link was particularly



poignant for the displaced families living here in Brixworth and the surrounding villages. Four

families from the Church are among those who have been hosting Ukrainian families. For some, it is nearly a year since their arrival. As a church, we have been greatly blessed through hosting our visitors.

– Mike Nice

The future of the Brixworth Bulletin – an update

In the autumn, I opened the Bulletin (in somewhat dramatic fashion) to say that after 12 years I really would like to step away from the Bulletin, and that if there was someone in the community who was interested in taking on the task of editing it and laying it out, I would love to hear from them.

While I haven't had any takers yet with regards to the editor job, I'm very happy to report that Michelle Bainbridge has come forward and offered to take on the layout. That halves my job, allowing me to carry on for the moment (though I'd still like to find someone who can take on the remainder!).

We could however still use more help. In particular, we would love to hear from someone who can help us with preparing and sending invoices, plus sending the occasional gentle reminder. With only four issues a year and many repeat advertisers this is a very manageable task that anyone who's reasonably organised could do. In return you'd get the warmest of welcomes to the Bulletin team.

Care to join us? If so, we'd love to hear from you – please email editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk or call Claudia on 07710 679403.

Flavour Trailer nominated for National Burger Awards

The Flavour Trailer is ecstatic to have been nominated for the UK's National Burger Awards 2023.

The Trailer's 'Classic Flavour' is one of 16 finalists who will be competing in the final on 22 February.

Being shortlisted means that the Flavour Trailer's team will head to London on 22 February for a live finale against the other 15 best burger restaurants in the country.

"This is very nerve racking but at the same time we can't wait to be among lots of other passionate burger creators," said Mario Cummings, who co-founded the Flavour Trailer with his wife Charley.

The winner of the competition is judged by celebrity chefs and industry professionals.

Asked what makes the Classic Flavour so special, Mario said: *"Developing Classic Flavour was a culinary expedition in search of a burger nobody had ever tasted before. This wonderful burger does magical things to you. It is captivating. It is indulgent. It is addictive. Classic Flavour is truly greater than the sum of its parts. This burger surprises everyone who eats it. How? Don't be a Flavour virgin, come*



and try one for yourself."

He added: *"Heading to the finals is super exciting and we are exceptionally proud of what we have achieved as a business so far. We are especially proud of our brilliant team as this validates all of the exceptional work they are putting in."*

"We really hope that we will prevail and hold the title for best burger in the UK 2023. If we win, there will certainly be a party at Brixworth HQ and everyone's invited!!!"

– Claudia Flavell-While

So – what do you do?

An irregular series about unusual careers and hobbies

In my three years of writing for the Bulletin, I have met a variety of local people who have had an unusual hobby or interesting job. Past interviewees have included an award-winning sports photographer, a commercial bronze sculptor and someone who makes amazing bags from old sails. The Bulletin team would now like to make this a regular feature where in each issue we profile somebody who has, or has had, a remarkable career, an unusual job or hobby – if any readers out there fit the bill, or would like to nominate somebody who does, please contact the Bulletin editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk – we would love to hear from you!

As reported in 'Meet The Team', the Bulletin staff are volunteers who also have a 'day job'; so I thought I'd kick off this new regular feature with my own job.

We're rolling.... Quiet please.... And Action!

Contrary to popular belief, these are the actual words shouted on a film set these days, not 'Lights, Camera, Action!'. How do I know? Because I work in the film and TV industry.



For many years, when asked the proverbial question '...and what do you do?', I simply answered, 'I'm a teacher' and that was often the end of the conversation – everyone has been to school, everyone knows what a teacher does. Nowadays, however, when I answer that I 'work in film and television', I get a very different response.

People immediately assume my work must be glamorous, but I work at the very unglamorous end of the industry – the film industry is even more hierarchical than the military and I'm at the very bottom of the pyramid, a 'legal necessity'. I am a Tutor/Chaperone for children who work professionally in the entertainment

industry. My role is to ensure that any production where children are employed has appropriate safeguarding measures in place, that the children are not being exploited and that they receive at least 15 hours of tutoring a week during term time. In the film industry we now have strict rules in place to protect children, especially here in the UK, but this wasn't always the case, as anybody who's seen the Judy Garland biopic 'Judy' can confirm.



So, 'glamorous' is the last word that springs to mind when I am spending yet another ten minutes standing outside a public toilet stopping members of the public entering whilst the children are in there or crouching in the corner of a set hardly daring to breathe as the cameras roll. Chaperones should be seen and not heard and must have eyes on the children at all times! The job has its moments though and has taken me to some wonderful places. On my very first feature film, when I found myself standing at the edge of a frozen lake in Norway as part of the crew for one of Britain's biggest and longest running film franchises (I could tell you its name, but then I'd have to kill you!). I literally had to pinch myself 'how had a provincial schoolteacher ended up here?'.

When people find out what I now do for a living, they often say, 'I didn't know such a job existed' and the truth is, neither did I until I fell into it by default. After giving up full

time classroom teaching, I registered with supply and tutor agencies and was fortunate enough to be

contacted by the RSC to teach a group of children for four weeks in Leicester whilst they were rehearsing for a production at the Curve Theatre. That production turned out to be *Matilda the Musical* and I ended up accompanying them on an eighteen-month tour of the UK and Ireland; it was the experience of a lifetime and the start of a new career for me.

Since then, I have worked for Disney, the BBC, Apple TV and Netflix. Each production is a unique experience, I work with interesting people from all walks of life and some very talented children who, on the whole, are not 'brats' (as people often assume) but committed and hard working – although the same cannot always be said of the parents! As I write this, I am preparing to travel to Finland for three weeks filming in the Arctic Circle, I never know when the next job will come up or where it will take me but that's all part of the excitement and 'glamour' of my industry.

But enough about me – it's over to you! Do you have an interesting or unusual job or hobby, or had one in the past? Do you know someone else you'd love to see featured here? We'd love to hear from you for the next issue.

Please contact:
editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk.

– Tracey Calnan



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Spratt, the Brixworth Lurcher

A stray lurcher, later named 'Spratt', held Brixworth residents and visitors to the Country Park in thrall in mid-January. As regular readers of Brixworth Let us Know on Facebook will know, Spratt was running around the Brixworth area for several days. As he was extremely timid and scared, catching him proved to be quite a challenge.



assistance from security, we set out and set up the trap in the hope that he would show for the food.

Sadly shortly after we left, we were made aware that he had left the compound and he was running quite a distance away. We can only presume he left the safety of the compound to head back over the bridge into the village (a route he took often) and he was diverted or chased at the bridge, causing him to run further away. He then showed up in Brixworth Country Park, where he was chased again by well-meaning people believing they were doing the right thing and he was pushed out onto the main road. After a short time, returning to the safety of the fields and park, he was seen running the track alongside Pitsford reservoir, from where he returned to Brixworth. He was then chased again all the way to Spratton. After being last seen heading back towards Brixworth, we prayed he was returning to the safety of the Mercedes compound where the trap was waiting for him.

You never know what will happen in situations like this and we just hoped that he wouldn't run in front of a car or other hazards. So many



people would have been heartbroken as he had racked up quite a large fan club!

However, he didn't return to Brixworth. Instead, having run himself to exhaustion, the Lurcher took refuge in a doorway in Spratton. After moving to another porchway, he came across the porch's owner, Andrew Peel. Andrew was just returning from work, and both gave each other a massive fright when Andrew found the dog in his porch. But quick-thinking Andrew closed the door sharpish and secured him.

In case you missed it, here's the story, as told by Geraldine Guy. Geraldine is the coordinator for the Wellingborough Dog Squad, who specialise in setting up humane traps to capture stray dogs. While it didn't work out quite like that on this occasion, they did help get Spratt to safety.

"We were made aware of a Lurcher-type dog running around Brixworth and despite numerous attempts, no one was able to catch him.

We quickly pieced together his movements with the help from locals so that we could put a plan together for trapping.

We were made aware that he was regularly seen leaving and returning to the Mercedes compound, so we decided that would be a good location for the trap. He had been fed there and he clearly felt safe there as he was seen relaxing and hanging about quite frequently.

So, with permission from the big boss and

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I'm sure he won't mind me mentioning that he then had to pass his daughter through the window so that he didn't open the door and risk him escaping! Awesome work, Andrew! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

We headed over as soon as possible to safely retrieve him and escort him straight to Rugby Pawprints kennels, where under the care of Anita Twigger he will be allowed time to decompress. He will be given lots of love and TLC to help him learn to trust humans again, he was such a terrified little soul and in very poor condition. It's unknown exactly how long he was on the run but we believe he was originally with another sighthound, who was safely caught a week earlier. He had been run into extreme exhaustion and had struggled to find food to feed himself. When we ask that you don't chase or try and catch a dog, it is for a reason, so many things could have gone wrong but thankfully luck was on his side today and he is finally safe.

We would like to thank the locals for making us aware of his situation and being so supportive and following the advice being given, and to Phil and the other security staff at the Mercedes compound for looking out for him and supporting our efforts and allowing us to work on site.



Another big thank you goes to Rugby Pawprints for taking him so late and for spending time with him whilst he decompressed. The huge tray of food ready to restock the trap didn't go to waste either, as the kennel dogs enjoyed it for breakfast. Thank you Louise Brown for being wingman again, and a huge thanks to quick thinking Andrew Peel!

While we didn't catch him, it's another dog safely off the streets and out of harm's way, and that's what matters. We also didn't manage to find a microchip but he will be scanned again by the kennels once he has settled to be sure.

Safe now little Spratt (Louise named him after he was finally secured in Spratton, sorry Mercedes!)

Thank you everyone.

- Wellingborough Dog Squad

Co-op Community Funds for Wombles



The end of 2022 saw Brixworth Wombles receive a stunning contribution from the Co-op Community Funding. The residents of Brixworth very generously donated a grand total of £2525.93 which is "going to greatly help with the purchasing of equipment and materials to both promote our cause and encourage more people to get involved and take pride in their village and surroundings," said Peter Duffy, the Chair of Brixworth Wombles.

2022 saw a phenomenal total of 335 bags of

litter plus many larger items equating to approximately 5.5 tons of rubbish removed from our environment which I think we can all agree is an incredible achievement.

2023 will see some exciting changes and work for the committee, as we look to buy various pieces of equipment and a Wombles Website. The plan for the year's picking includes a regular village clean up designed for as many people to take part as possible.

It's going to be an exciting year to be a Brixworth Womble.

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SALES & LETTINGS

Brixworth & District u3a

As the New Year has started, the u3a is back in full swing with all the groups back in action. Hopefully this will be a good year for all members and their families. The Singing for Pleasure group entertained many local residents when they performed at the Brixworth Library Christmas Fayre in December to raise funds for the Friends of Brixworth Library. They sang a mixture of old and modern carols.

The Christmas Lunch was held again at Northampton Golf Club, Harlestone. Seventy-four members enjoyed two or three course lunch.

After a few drinks, even the corny jokes in the crackers were palatable! The u3a joined many social groups in Brixworth to celebrate all their activities with two decorated Christmas trees at the Church.

Dates for your Diary:

March 1st: "History of Madame Tussauds" with Lucy Swales.

April 5th: "Farmer Barnes Dairy" with Jane Barnes.

May 3rd: "The History of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission".

New members are always welcome so why not come along to one of our meetings for a cup of tea and biscuit and find out what we do. Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at Brixworth Village Hall, starting at 2 p.m.

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



Volunteering for Northampton Sailability

Northampton Sailability is a charity that offers a safe and friendly environment in which people of all abilities can experience the joy of sailing. Our members have physical disabilities, learning difficulties, sensory and hidden disabilities.

We are based at Northampton Sailing Club, Pitsford Reservoir. Our aim is to meet the needs and aspirations of all our members by maintaining a varied fleet of boats and operating a high instructor to sailor ratio. We can tailor experiences to meet individual or group needs, from gentle rides around the reservoir to racing and working towards qualifications. Members and Volunteers can also participate in a wide range of trips, including yachting in the UK and abroad. We meet on Mondays and Fridays and two Saturdays a month, from April to the end of October. Volunteers play a key role in the running of the group and we always need more of them. No experience is necessary. There are a number of roles within the charity, from assisting people to get on the water, teaching people to sail, helping with boat maintenance and more. We are an RYA Training Centre and in return for your time we can offer a full training programme and the opportunity to gain RYA qualifications.

On Friday 31st March, Saturday 1st April and Monday 3rd April, 10am -3pm we hold Pre-Season Briefing days for volunteers. Our first sailing day is Friday 14th April. If you have a few hours to spare, we would welcome you on board.

For more information contact; Barbara Hogg – hoggbc66@gmail.com or phone 01604 880552 www.northamptonsailability.org.uk

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Three Peaks Challenge for Cynthia Spencer Hospice

Cynthia Spencer Hospice has launched its new Three Peaks Challenge for 2023. We're on the lookout for 47 adventurers to take on the three highest peaks in the UK to help us celebrate 47 years of hospice care. This is our first exclusive challenge and every participant taking part on that day will be supporting Cynthia Spencer Hospice Charity - #strongertogether.

Challenge organiser at Cynthia Spencer Hospice Charity, Sarah Denston said: "We need 47 Hospice Heroes to come and join me and take part in the National Three Peaks Challenge starting on 30th September 2023. If we achieve this, we'll have one Hospice Hero for every year of care provided by the hospice since it opened in 1976."

Nina Gandy (pictured right), who took part in the challenge with her Dad, Ian, in 2018 to raise money for the hospice, before becoming an employee of the charity said:

"I chose to support Cynthia Spencer Hospice as my auntie received wellbeing support in a hospice, so I know how important the care is and how vital it is to a community. Now I work for the charity I have first-hand understanding of the difference the funds raised by the people taking on this challenge could make to the people of Northamptonshire."

Sarah continued: "Each participant will raise funds to represent a

specific year of care, from 1976 to 2023. This could be a special year to them and their loved ones or a special year for the hospice. Together we will climb Ben Nevis in Scotland (4,400ft), Scafell Pike in the Lake District (3,200ft) and Snowdon in Wales (3,500ft), climbing a total 9,500 feet and



walking approximately 22 miles. Our fundraising target is a massive £40,420 which could pay for 80 days of hospice care."

Doctor David Riley adds at the hospice we aim "to take off as much burden and fear for people and their families so that they can be themselves. They can achieve what they want to do in what is precious time sometimes and for them to then hold their memories afterwards."

By signing up for the National Three Peaks Challenge we are asking people to give up their precious time to help us give precious time to patients and their families, now and in the future.

To find out more and to sign up for the challenge please visit : <https://www.cynthiaspencer.org.uk/get-involved/challenges-2/national-three-peaks-challenge>

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Country Eye - The Lark no longer ascends

It is early on a bright spring morning.

The rising sun chases a few lingering wraiths of mist while glittering jewels of dew reflect its rays. From where I sit I can hear skylarks, several of them, and although the trees prevent me from seeing them I close my eyes and picture them rising on rapidly beating wings to about twenty feet before the first burst of cascading silvery notes that inspired Ralph Vaughan-Williams to write his unforgettable musical tribute. They rise ever higher as they scribe small circles above their territories until a mere dust-like speck against the intense blue of the sky. Then one after another, still singing, they gradually descend to about fifty feet before silently dropping back to earth. How is it that what to them is a hymn of battle, a declaration of ownership of that scrap of space, is to many of us entrancing unforgettable music?



As they leave nature's stage my attention focuses on the tinkling chorus of linnets in the trees nearby. Like fairy bells there they are whenever I listen for them. They seem to like to be near others of their kind but are not what I think of as colonial nesters like the rook for example. Their neat cup of skilfully woven grasses, roots and animal hairs is hidden deep in a crevice. It cradles five tiny white, brown speckled eggs in which new lives are developing.

Nearby there is a large garden that has room enough for untidy shrubby corners and from there I hear blackcap song, not for nothing sometimes dubbed the poor man's nightingale. Its song is hard to tell from the closely related garden warbler, which I have also heard in other years. Whitethroats too have nested here, the males proclaiming ownership by erupting in a bundle of grey feathers from the top of a bush in a burst of scratchy warbling notes, then parachuting in a spiral on spread wings back down again.

Such a wide spectrum of the finest bird music could jar the senses but I know there are many like me who feel privileged and never tire of listening. Indeed I am drawn to it as if mesmerised. And there's more because not far away a male cuckoo is calling, its oft-repeated simple song signalling the summer is near. The bubbling call of the female is quite different and I have heard this too. And at this early morning hour even a tawny owl gets in on the act. Its far carrying mournful hoot tells me it has young to feed and so has carried on hunting into the daylight to feed its ever-hungry brood.

From the fields and hedges still well within earshot the simple ditty of a little bird with plumage bright as a canary can be heard. 'A-little-bit-of-bread-and-no-cheeeese' to country folk it is the yellowhammer. A hundred yards or so of low hedge is his home and a country walk would assure his continuous presence. Taller hedges bring in birds like the greenfinch, chaffinch, dunnoek, robin and wren. But to me the great glory of all these birds is turtle dove. Its soft crooning calls, almost like purring, seem to set the very air

aquiver. Newly arrived from their winter home in Africa they call to proclaim their new home.

All of these and more I have heard sitting in my conservatory on the edge of our village. Sadly though not since the 1990's. All have gone completely or continue to hang on in rapidly diminishing numbers. We could given time and more important, the will, see them return. Not a luxury but a necessity because they are part of the natural jigsaw that means a healthy countryside. And make no mistake like the birds we have no future without it. We cannot continue to poison our environment as we have been.

The alternative is to continue down our present path with more and stronger heat waves, monsoon type rainfall, drought, sea-level rise leading to massive crop failures resulting in famine and starvation even in the so-called rich nations. Think about it. Is that what you want? It's your call.

- Brian Webster



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Drama Group back on stage

The troupes of **Brixworth Drama Group** returned to the stage in November with their first productions since January 2019. The Village Hall was set out in cabaret-style seating and was full for the two performances of *Shakespeare Soup* by Brian E Cook and *Murder in Little Grimley*, the latest in the hilarious season of plays by David Tristram. The Group also met for an informal gathering in December. This was also a chance for potential members to come and meet with the group and share ideas.

Brixworth Drama Group Chair, Alex Coles, said: "We were delighted with the support of the audiences. We were really grateful that so many people came to see us and told us they loved the productions and the cabaret-style seating. 2023 is a huge milestone for the Drama Group which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. And we've raised a glass to the next 40 years! Of course, we're always looking for new members and would love for new and experienced actors of all ages to join us in our future productions. We're also looking for people to work behind the scenes on the set."

The first production in 1983 was *The Rape of the Belt*, a comedy by Benn Levy, a loose retelling of the Classical story of Heracles and Theseus. Hazel Wilson was a member of the first production's cast and is still in touch with members of the group. She said that she had started the group with the wife of the local police officer. "Our first meeting was at *The Firs* in the Coach House in the grounds of



The Firs. *The Rape of the Belt* was a very ambitious piece for a first play for an amateur group. Unfortunately, it didn't appeal to everyone."

The Drama Group will be meeting on Tuesday 7 and 14 March at 7pm-9pm in the Village Hall to discuss the next productions. Anyone interested in joining the Drama Group should contact Eileen Truby on 07934 530220. Information about casting, productions and performances can also be found on our Facebook page.

- Jon Mackley

Anna Foley
Family Celebrant

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*Currently I cannot conduct the legal side of marriage – that will need a quick trip to the registry office. Couples usually do this a few days before their unique celebrant-led ceremony.

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All Saints Church



Brixworth Church is a rare and magnificent survivor from the past and poses many questions. Situated atop a hill on the north edge of the village, it was built in the Dark Ages when Roman Britain was dead and the Anglo-Saxon era had not fully emerged. The church is the largest surviving Anglo-Saxon building in England and has been in continuous use as a centre for Christian worship for over 1300 years.

It is a Grade I Listed Building being of exceptional interest both architecturally and historically. At the east end of the church the remains of a ring-crypt can be seen, while at the west end there is an external stair-turret, one of only four in England.

The church has seen many changes, been altered and partially rebuilt since Anglo-Saxon times, but much of the structure still survives. In the mid-1800s the Victorians were responsible for a great deal of the restoration work in the church, but this helped preserve and sympathetically enhance the appearance of the magnificent building you can see today.

The Friends of All Saints' Church

The Friends of Brixworth Church organisation is a registered charity and was formed in 1983 with the sole purpose to assist in caring for and preserving the ancient parish church at Brixworth by offering financial support through member subscriptions and fundraising. The Friends of Brixworth Church is a secular organisation

with members from the local community and further afield, including some from overseas.

Conservation, restoration and enhancement

Over the years The Friends have supported the Parochial Church Council with sizable donations to meet detailed requests for assistance and have helped with ongoing work of conservation, restoration and enhancement.

This year the Friends have made contributions to the following projects to complete the immediate requirements of the 2021 Quinquennial inspection:

Repairs to the roof

Repairs to the external stonework

Repairs to the Saxon door

Repairs to three windows

The Friends have also financially supported the upgrading of the internal lighting to LEDs to facilitate energy savings going forward. Handrails have been fitted to either side of the steps to the apse to aid safe passage to and from that area.

Annual Brixworth Lecture

The Friends, together with the Medieval Research Department at the University of Leicester, were proud to present the 39th Annual Brixworth Lecture in the church.

Dr. Christine Rauer, of the University of St. Andrews, spoke on the subject: 'Where was Mercian Spoken? Brixworth, its Old English Dialects and the limits of Anglo-Saxon Mercia.'



Dr. Rauer covered this interesting subject in an hour giving examples of Mercian features of the language, the periods in history when it was spoken and areas of England where it extended

to. She quoted several pieces of evidence to show this which included passages taken from documents such as the translation of St Boniface's letter to Eadburga in the 10th Century.

A handout is available with reference to further reading matter on this subject. Please contact us if you would like a copy.

Dr. Rauer completed her talk by answering questions and also spoke in Mercian which was rewarded with a round of applause from the appreciative audience.

Christmas Festival of Light

'Spectacular light display', the posters and flyers proclaimed, and they weren't wrong!

Twenty feet tall elves danced across the south wall of the ancient Saxon stonework as Santa's sleigh dashed past leaving a trail of stardust. The projected images were all part of a pre-Christmas weekend of attractions put on at All Saints' Church on 10th and 11th December. Our thanks go to James North of Pebble Events for organising the wonderful light display.

Two years ago, rather than cancel our Christmas Tree Festival due to Covid restrictions, we moved it outside. All round the church we set up lit trees. Some were brought by members of the congregation, and others by local organisations or businesses. All donations went to charities.

Last year we were able to bring back our Christmas Market by having the stalls in a marquee complementing the trees set on a route round the churchyard.

The festival this Christmas was bigger and better than ever with the church fully open, with floral Christmas displays all around.

On the Saturday, visitors were greeted by a team serving mulled wine, hot chocolate and

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mince pies. Stalls selling all sorts of Christmas goodies, clothes, and crafts made by church members were spread on tables over the pews. There were games for grownups, many more for children, and Elves led the little ones to meet Father Christmas in his beautifully decorated grotto, built in the vicar's Vestry behind the organ.

On the Sunday, a day of rest for Santa, his hard-working elves and church members who had run the stalls, a large table set up in the Chancel became the centre for a Christingle Workshop. This proved so popular that the Churchwarden had to rush out for more oranges!

From four until six on both evenings, a steady stream of people from Brixworth and beyond followed a circular route enjoying the enormous variety of Christmas trees, real, artificial, or home made, and the lit trees growing all around the churchyard. One favourite was created by the Brixworth Wombles from their litter-picking sticks, imaginatively decorated with items the Wombles had tidied up! Another had entirely knitted decorations. Children from the school, the Rainbows, and the nearby pre-school came to show their parents the trees they had decorated. The weather too played a wonderful role this year, adding a magical addition of frost to the trees on a cold winter's night.

It's a lot of work for everyone, but seeing the faces and hearing the appreciation of those who came makes it more than worthwhile.

Ancient Font repaired

Long-awaited repairs to our ancient font



(date unknown), were finally completed in December. The drainage system at the base of the font has been out of order for some considerable time and though Christenings have still taken place, we have been unable to drain the water from it. Specialist lifting equipment was required to haul the ancient stone font up to enable the repairs to be made.

History talks for Primary Schools

The 'Anglo-Saxons' is part of the History curriculum for Key Stage 2 in Primary Schools. The Friends of

Brixworth Church welcome parties of school children to Brixworth church to learn about how the church was built in Anglo-Saxon times and the features which still remain today. They can meet 'Delwyn', the monk

who lives in the monastery and works in the church. He is prepared to answer questions from the children about what it was possibly like to live in those times.

Curry & Quiz Evening

Once again, our Quiz Master, Keith Farey, will be setting the questions for a fundraising event organised by the Friends of Brixworth Church.

Teams of up to six people are invited to pit their wits against others for prizes on Saturday 25th March 2023 for a 'Curry & Quiz Evening' from 7pm onwards in the Brixworth Centre. Three types of curry will be served; beef, chicken and vegetarian. An alternative meal is available on request. You are welcome to bring your own drinks. There will also be a raffle. Tickets are £15 each, please email us to reserve yours.

To contact us on any of the above, email brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com.

All funds go to the Friends of Brixworth Church to assist with maintaining the fabric of the Church.

See our website for further information: www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk

– Kate Knight

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Grants for young people in Brixworth and Scaldwell

In the current cost of living crisis many families may find things challenging. 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 8 March 2023 for consideration at the charity's next meeting. This meeting is scheduled for 22 March 2023, where grant applications will be considered.

Walgrave Open Gardens 2023

After a very successful event in 2022, Walgrave Open Gardens will be even bigger and better this year. We already have over ten gardeners wishing to 'Open', and we hope there will be more joining us. We will also be running a seed exchange – if you have any spare seeds please bring them with you.

Gardens will be open on the weekend of 29 and 30 April, from 12 noon till 5pm. Tickets cost £5 per adult, children are free. There will be teas and coffees, and we also have parking and toilet facilities.

We will also have Open Gardens heritage tomato plants available. These popular plants were successful last year. To order and to get a list of the varieties available, please contact Peter Timlin on Petertimlinarchitect@btinternet.com or phone the number below. To ensure you get your preferred variety, please contact him early. All funds raised from the Open Gardens will be shared with the Walgrave Village Hall and the Walgrave Relief in

Need Charity. If you have any queries, please contact Meg and Peter Timlin on 01604 781045 or Rose Knight on 01604 781559.

Carers drop in sessions



Do you look after someone?
Are you an unpaid carer?

Carers are people who look after someone who may have a physical or learning disability, mental health problem, drug or alcohol addiction, or are elderly or frail.

Northamptonshire Carers is holding drop in sessions for carers in Brixworth. We're upstairs at Brixworth Library on the first Tuesday of every month, from 1.30 till 3pm. There is a lift to reach the upstairs. Carers and non-carers are welcome.

For further information, contact admin@northamptonshire-carers.org or phone 019336 77907 (Option 1)

Time to get walking again!



With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Northamptonshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northants>

has loads of walks to download and print, free of charge. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

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

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

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

– John Harris

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Meet the Harborough Singers

Based just over the border in Market Harborough, the Harborough Singers is one of the East Midlands' foremost amateur choirs.

Unique in their practice arrangements, the choir meets for a weekend of intensive singing just once a month and includes members living as far afield as Shropshire, Oxford, London and, yes, Northamptonshire! The singers are of all ages and represent many interests, musical backgrounds and walks of life, and have



The Singers in Tuscany

performed extensively both in the UK and abroad alongside notable professionals such as Dames Felicity Lott and Patricia Routledge, baking celebrity Mary Berry, and actors Sam West and Martin Jarvis.

Particular highlights for the choir include singing weekend services at St Paul's Cathedral, a prestigious 250th anniversary performance of Handel's Messiah in Church Langton, and singing in a salt mine in Poland. The choir's repertoire includes sacred music representing the core of the choral tradition, along with new works, madrigals, spirituals and folk songs.

At its core, the choir is a group of individuals who come together, bringing only their voices, to take part in that most human of activities: making music together. The singers rehearse on a Friday night then continue all day Saturday, usually at Church Langton Community Hall, where the coffee and cake break is just as important as the singing. New members tend to have some choral experience and a blending voice, and there are free places for those aged under 23.

So, if you love to sing, fancy airing your vocal chords but can't commit to weekly rehearsals, check out the choir on their website www.harboroughsingers.com to see if this might be the group for you.

If you'd like to hear them live, the choir is currently rehearsing for 'I got me flowers', a concert of music by English composers centred around Vaughan Williams 'Five Mystical Songs' – one of which gives the gig its unusual name. '

HARBOROUGH SINGERS

I GOT ME FLOWERS

A Journey to
Vaughan Williams
via Tallis, Byrd, Wesley, Parry & Stanford

Baritone: Angus McPhee
Conductor: Charlie Penn
Piano & Organ: Andrew King

Saturday 18th March 7.30 pm
All Saints Brixworth

Tickets: £12.50 from:
harboroughsingers.com
julia@unna.co.uk or 07761 729558
Lovell Hardware, Brixworth



'I got me flowers' is at All Saints Church, Brixworth on Saturday 18th March 2023, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12.50 from Lovell's Hardware, Brixworth or from www.harboroughsingers.com, where you can also join the mailing list or ask about membership.

The choir would love to hear from you!

– Gill Guest

Cricket Club – looking forward to the 2023 season

The Cricket Club is in great shape going into the 2023 season. A lot of hard work at the Northampton Road ground has taken place over the winter months with the perimeter fence being painted, the bar area having a makeover and new, more energy efficient doors and lighting being fitted in the clubhouse, as we like everyone else struggle with huge increases in energy costs.

When the season starts in April there will be just over 170 boys and girls under the age of 15 registered, learning to and playing cricket on a regular basis. It's the highest number of registered juniors in our club's history, which is great to see. Brixworth Cricket Club is very proud indeed to have the largest and most successful Ladies Cricket Section in the County, despite only being formed a few years ago. There is also a large pool of senior players who will be representing the Club's four senior teams each Saturday. In 2022 nearly 100 players represented us, with our second and third teams both gaining promotion and winning their respective cup competitions.

Pleasingly, there are some very talented teenagers playing at a good level, which bodes well for the future success of the club. Volunteer numbers at the club have also increased, however we could always do with more adult helpers and adult players (male and female). If you have an interest in playing, coaching, scoring, helping behind the bar or helping with the BBQ or umpiring, please contact Will Haxby on 07912 267988.

The clubhouse at the Northampton Road ground is now open every Saturday afternoon throughout the whole year from 1pm - 7pm.

Everybody, adults and kids from the village and

surrounding areas are

welcome to come down on Saturday afternoons. The adults can enjoy a drink from the bar and the kids can run around in a safe and friendly setting.



A junior section "Introduction evening" will be held on Friday 7th April, 6pm – 8pm at the ground on the Northampton Road. Coaches will be on hand to meet and talk to parents of children already in the junior section or those parents of children wishing to join the club and the bar will be open. Membership fees for the 2023 season for new members are among the lowest in the county and are great value at only £85 per child and £75 for siblings of new members. New Members joining the club will be extremely welcome.

The Friday evening Junior cricket training sessions will start again on Friday 14th April and run until early September. These Friday evenings from 6pm at the ground on Northampton Road are always popular and great fun. With over 100 children being coached

on the outfield, parents enjoying a beer/wine/prosecco or two from the clubhouse bar and food available from the BBQ, it really is a good, fun night and everyone from the village is welcome. If you have not visited the ground before please do come down to the club, enjoy a drink from the bar and a burger and see for yourself what an enjoyable evening it is at a beautiful venue.



Once again, this season, Brixworth Cricket Club is hugely grateful to all its sponsors, coaches, volunteers and parents for their continued support of our Junior Section. It is invaluable and massively appreciated.

Annual Beer/Music Festival Weekender

Brixworth Cricket Club is also excited and looking forward to hosting its sixth annual **Beer/Music Festival Weekender from Saturday 24th June – Sunday 25th June.** The event proves really popular every year with 500 people from the village and surrounding area attending. There will once again be live music acts, with Nightshift & Reggae Ray performing, cricket matches and a choice of over 20 beers and ciders with exotic names to choose from. There will also be prosecco, wine and 'Pims' available for the non beer/cider drinkers and of course soft drinks for juniors and any drivers.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES – EVERYBODY IS

WELCOME, the more the merrier. It guarantees to be once again a terrific weekend, please note that tickets are limited to 500 and will go on sale towards the end of April.

- Will Haxby

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Royal British Legion



On Monday 16th January 2023, the Brixworth Branch of the Royal British Legion was formed.

The Chairman and Committee members were duly elected and the Branch came into being.

Mr. Eddie Edmunds was (unsurprisingly) elected as Chairman.

The first social function will be at the Cricket Club on 24th March. Tickets will cost £7.50, limited to 80 tickets. All profits to the Royal British Legion, Brixworth Branch BR4042. Gary Beckwith will be performing.

For information about membership or any other matters, please contact Eddie on 07979 258659



– Ian Topham

Brixworth History Society

Our first meeting of the year, in January, was the AGM followed by a very lively and interesting talk by Roy Smart about 'Wallis Simpson and the Abdication Crisis'. This was followed in February by 'The Life and Times of the Wife of a Canal Boatman'.

On 16th March Neil Lyon will be giving a talk entitled 'Joan Wake – the Best Burglar in the County'. Joan retrieved and saved many valuable documents from manor houses around Northamptonshire during and after WWII. During the first part of the war these archives were stored at Brixworth Hall. Subsequently they formed the basis of several collections at the Northamptonshire Records office at Delapre Abbey, which she also campaigned to save from decline after the war.

On 20th April Steve Dimmer will be talking on 'The Ship of Dreams – the Life and Death of the Titanic'.

On 18th May Rob Kendall will be giving a talk on Tom Osborne Robinson, who was the theatrical designer at the Royal Theatre in Northampton.

We will be taking a break from meeting indoors for the summer months and are in the process of planning some visits to places of interest.

New members and visitors are welcome at our meetings which are held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm each Thursday.

More information can be obtained from our secretary, Rosemary Hardie (jandrhardie1@gmail.com)



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two weeks



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week



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Collected every
three weeks

Garden waste collections

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

There will be a short break for garden waste collections
from 24 December 2022 to 6 January 2023.

Batteries and small electrical items:

Please place your old small electrical items and batteries in a bag on top of your general waste bin for collection
on your usual general waste collection day.

December 2022

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| W R F | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| G F | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| R F | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| W F | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

* Monday collection changed to Saturday, 24 December

January 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| R F | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| G F | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| W R F | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| G F | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| R F | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

February 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| R F | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| W G F | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| R F | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| G F | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| W R F | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

March 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| W R F | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| G F | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| R F | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| W G F | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| R F | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

April 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| G F | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| W R F | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| G F | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| R F | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

May 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| W G F | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| R F | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| G F | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| W R F | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| G F | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |

June 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| G F | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |
| R F | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| W G F | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| R F | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| G F | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

July 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| W R F | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| G F | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| R F | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| W G F | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| R F | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

August 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| R F | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| G F | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| W R F | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| G F | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| R F | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |

September 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| R F | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| W G F | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| R F | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| G F | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| W R F | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

October 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| G F | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| R F | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| W G F | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| R F | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| G F | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

November 2023

| | M | T | W | T | F |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| G F | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| W R F | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| G F | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| R F | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| W G F | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 |



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*For Station Rdk, Brixworth collections please see p17

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group

It was wonderful to end our autumn term with the group trip to the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough to see *Jack & The Beanstalk*. A huge thank you to our leaders for organising a great evening. The winter/spring term allows an opportunity for more evening hikes and trips to Overstone as well as indoor activities at the centre.



Beavers started their term with an evening with Cubs at Laser Zone in Northampton – another opportunity to gang up on the leaders. Evening activities included space, first aid, the importance of wellbeing and mental health, and beaver scouts around the world.

After half-term they can look forward

to an Escape Room evening, science experiments, an evening walk, and an Easter egg hunt at the church. As well as their trip to Laser Zone, cubs made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, reprised the astronomy from the autumn term, and had an Escape Room evening.

Cubs also look forward to an evening hike to Brew at Moulton with the reward of hot chocolate, a science night, backwoods cooking at Overstone, and an evening of scout camping skills & knots.

Scouts started their term looking at fund-raising opportunities that will support an activity later in the year. While some ideas were extremely ambitious... the final fund-raising activity should be achievable and will successfully support a trip or activity. They will also enjoy backwoods cooking at Overstone, an evening hike with the reward of chips from Brixworth Fish Bar, use pioneering skills to build a bridge, and cover conservation issues.

Food plays a big part in our activities, especially for the older sections. **Explorers** started their term with Chinese cooking to celebrate Chinese New Year followed by haggis for Burns night. They also visited Overstone for an evening constructing



shelters and wide games. After half-term they will make pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, enjoy a *taster* session of table tennis at the library, go on an evening hike, and will return to Overstone for backwoods cooking – more food.

Brixworth Scouts needs you

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 must 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, parent helpers and exec member 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 can 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, or support as an occasional helper 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>

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Lampport Hall gets ready for 2023 season

Here at Lampport Hall we are eagerly looking forward to our re-opening in April. After a very busy Christmas Market, the Hall has been closed to the public but staff have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the 2023 season is as successful as ever.

There have been a number of restoration projects undertaken including work on curtains, furniture and paintings. The layers of paint in the library have been carefully analysed to find out the previous colours of both walls and bookcases and a mammoth task is currently underway to restore this magnificent room to a more authentic glory, which includes cleaning and conserving the collection of 4,000 books.

In the gardens, snowdrops are beginning to show their heads in preparation for our snowdrop weekend in February – the dates for which depend on the snowdrops!

We have great plans for the gardens in the coming years including some restoration to the rockery.

We are also looking to add to our wonderful team of volunteers. If you have a passion for history, meeting new people or gardening, please get in touch with Sarah on engagement@lamporthall.co.uk to discuss how you might be able to give some of your valuable time to our wonderful Grade I listed country house.

The Hall and Gardens will be open every Wednesday and Thursday from the 5th April to the end of October from 10am to 4pm.



Tours of the Hall will be by guided tour only at 11am and

1pm. The café will be also be open 11am-3pm offering light refreshments and delicious homemade cakes.

All full price tickets to the house and/or gardens automatically receive a 12 month annual pass, meaning you can enjoy the changing seasons with just one entry cost.

Please check our website for more details on our Hall and Gardens opening and exciting calendar of events in 2023:

www.lamporthall.co.uk



LAMPOR T

Lampport Hall & Gardens opens for the 2023 season on Wednesday 5 April, at 10am.
The Gardens are open from 10am-4pm.

The Hall is accessible by guided tour only, and the tour times are 11am and 1pm.

Visit the website for more information on admission prices.

The Stableyard Café is usually open from 10am-3pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays, for tea/coffee, light snacks, and home-made cakes.

All full priced tickets are a 12 month annual pass at no extra cost.

Also

Antiques and Collectors Fair, 10am-4pm, Sunday 9th & Monday 10th April.

Art, Craft and Design Fair, 10am-4pm, Sunday 30th April, Monday 1st May.

<http://www.lamporthall.co.uk/> 01604 686272 <mailto:engagement@lamporthall.co.uk>



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Market thoughts for 2023

Since estate agents re-opened at the end of May 2020, after the two-month Covid lockdown, many house prices have increased by over a quarter and activity levels have been incredible. We have benefitted from stamp duty holidays and the lowest interest rates on record. However, like other periods of high price increases and high demand, these periods are always followed by a cooling off which allows us all to reassess what the market is doing. It's a sort of realignment. How the housing market performs in 2023 will depend on many factors but the main one is confidence. So, what are the factors that allow us to be confident in moving house, buying for the first time or buying an investment?

Mortgage rates

Kwasi Kwarteng's disastrous mini-budget in

September last year sent mortgage rates rocketing to above 6%, a level last seen in 2008. Mortgage rates have since fallen back but are still much higher than a year ago. At the time of writing this article, rates have begun to fall and the consensus of opinion, from friends of mine in the mortgage sector, is that mortgage rates will gradually decline throughout the year, even if interest rates go up. Some predict that fixed rates could fall below 4 per cent by early 2024.

Employment

According to the job site Indeed, as of 9th December 2022, UK job postings were 50% above the 1st February 2020, pre-pandemic baseline, seasonally adjusted – a new post-pandemic high. They say that postings have shown resilience to economic headwinds amid the cost of living crisis this year, with many organisations still looking to hire.

Inflation

Inflation has been one of the biggest stories of last year having grown from 2% at the start of 2022 to an eye-watering 11.1% peak in October. This year most forecasters agree that inflation will come down, albeit they don't all agree on the same figures.

Utility Costs and Fuel

Wholesale gas prices have fallen sharply, but this could take months to filter through to household bills, as energy companies snap up supplies in advance. However, predictions from analysts at Cornwall Insight, which regularly puts out estimates for the default tariff cap, suggest energy bills for typical households have fallen to £3,208 from April, decreasing further to approximately £2,200 for July-August (Q3 2023) and September-December (Q4 2023). This is £399 lower than previous forecasts, reflecting the recent slide in wholesale gas prices.

2022 saw prices pushed to record levels as the restrictions placed on Russian oil, following the invasion of Ukraine, led to a shortage of fuel entering the market. In December, the G7 imposed a \$60 per barrel price cap. However, as Russia has issued a decree banning sales to any country imposing this cap, we'll hold our breath on how much impact this cap actually has. A key point to note here is that prices have now returned to the same levels seen prior to the invasion.

Conclusion

Our Rightmove stats for December, a typically quieter month, showed we listed 12 new properties. These were viewed over 181,000 times and generated 170 solid leads. My conclusion is therefore that the appetite is still strong and, even with all the curve balls of 2022, many of us are still confident in the housing market and still see property as a great investment.

– Stuart Little,

Brixworth Property Expert for Horts



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What's on

| | | |
|--------|--|--------------------------|
| 05-Mar | NMPAT - Spring Festival of Music | Derngate |
| 06-Mar | NMPAT Big Sing: School Of Rock | Derngate |
| 06-Mar | Brixworth PC Planning | Community Centre |
| 07/3 | The Levellers | Derngate |
| 09-Mar | Sara Pascoe - Success Story | Derngate |
| 11/3 | Nathan Carter | Derngate |
| 12-Mar | NMPAT Wind Band Spectacular | Derngate |
| 14-Mar | Lost in Music | Derngate |
| 15-Mar | The Classic Rock Show | Derngate |
| 15-Mar | Lampport and Hanging Houghton PC | Lampport Hall |
| 16-Mar | The Meat Loaf Story | Derngate |
| 16-Mar | Hansons Valuation Days | Kelmarsh Hall |
| 16-Mar | History Society: Joan Wake, the Best Burglar in the County | Brixworth Village Hall |
| 17-Mar | The ELO Show | Derngate |
| 18-Mar | The Bootleg Beatles | Derngate |
| 18-Mar | Harborough Singers: I got me flowers | All Saints Church |
| 19-Mar | Mothers Day Cream Tea Specials | N'ton & Lampport Railway |
| 25-Mar | Friends of All Saints Curry and Quiz | Brixworth Centre |
| 27-Mar | Brixworth PC Planning | Community Centre |
| 30-Mar | Brixworth Parish Council Meeting | Community Centre |
| 02-Apr | Artisan Fair and Spring Walk | Kelmarsh Hall |

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------------|
| 03-Apr | Brixworth PC Planning | Community Centre |
| 03-Apr | National Youth Jazz Orchestra & Tommy Blaize Perform Ray Charles | Derngate |
| 04-Apr | Gordon Buchanan - 30 Years in The Wild | Derngate |
| 05-Apr | Kate Mosse: Warrior Queens And Quiet Revolutionaries | Derngate |
| 8-10 Apr | Easter Egg Specials | N'ton & Lampport Railway |
| 9-10 Apr | Antiques and Vintage Fair | Lampport Hall |
| 16-Apr | Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac | Derngate |
| 17-Apr | Test Match Special Live - The Ashes | Derngate |
| 18/4 | Fran Lebowitz | Derngate |
| 20-Apr | The Sensational 60s Experience | Derngate |
| 20-Apr | History Society - The Life and Death of the Titanic | Brixworth Village Hall |
| 21-Apr | Anton Du Beke And Friends | Derngate |
| 22-Apr | Nadiya and Kai - Once Upon A Time | Derngate |
| 24-Apr | Brixworth PC Planning | Community Centre |
| 25-Apr | Birmingham Royal Ballet | Derngate |
| 27-Apr | Brixworth Parish Council Meeting | Community Centre |
| 28/4 | Dick and Dom Live | Derngate |
| 29-Apr - 1 May | Brampton Bear Specials | N'ton & Lampport Railway |
| 29-30 Apr | Walgrave Open Gardens 2023 | Walgrave village |
| 29-Apr | Mythos - Ragnarok | Derngate |
| 30/4-1/5 | Art, Craft and Design Fair | Lampport Hall |

| | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------|
| 30-Apr | Mike and The Mechanics | Derngate |
| 7/5 | High Performance | Derngate |
| 09-May | Joe Tracini: 10 Things I Hate About Me | Royal |
| 10-May | Lampport and HH Parish Meeting | Lampport Hall |
| 10/5 | Hal Cruttenden | Royal |
| 11-May | Simon Brodwin - Screwed Up | Royal |
| 15-May | Jasper Carrott and Alister McGowan | Derngate |
| 17-May | Lampport and HH PC AGM | Lampport Hall |
| 17/5 | Ben Fogle - Wild | Derngate |
| 18-May | Hansons Valuation Day | Kelmarsh Hall |
| 18-May | That'll Be The Day | Derngate |
| 18-May | History Society: Tom Osborne Robinson | Brixworth Village Hall |
| 19-May | Jimmy Carr - Terribly Funny 2.0 | Derngate |
| 20-May | Whitney Queen of The Night | Derngate |
| 21-May | Tracy Borman: How to be a Good Monarch | Derngate |
| 22-May | Johannes Radebe - Freedom Unleashed | Derngate |
| 23-May | Midge Ure - Voice and Visions | Derngate |
| 25/5 | Boyzlife | Derngate |
| 26/5 | The Proclaimers | Derngate |
| 28-29 May | Rural Life at Lampport Hall | Lampport Hall |
| 28-May | Streets Ahead - Cheers to 20 Years | Derngate |
| 28-May | Streets Ahead - Cheers to 20 Years | Derngate |
| 29-May | The Simon and Garfunkel Story | Derngate |
| 02-Jun | NC Jazz Present Quintet Blue | Royal |
| 03-Jun | The King of Reggae - The Man, The Music | Royal |
| 04-Jun | Stacey Dooley | Royal |
| 10-Jun | National Garden Scheme Open Day | Lampport Hall |
| 23-Jun | Calling Planet Earth | Derngate |
| 24-25 Jun | Annual Beer and Music Festival | Brixworth Cricket Club |
| 30-Jun | Tom Houghton - Absolute Shambles | Royal |
| 1-2/7 | Hollowell Steam and Heavy Horse Show 2023 | Hollowell |
| 17-Sep | Cycle4Cynthia | Holdenby House |

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Planning decisions

| | |
|---|---------------|
| WND/2022/1048 I, Pytchley Way, Brixworth, NN6 9EF Removal of existing garage. Construction of two storey side and rear extensions, single storey rear extensions, porch and covered area to front of utility room. | BPC supported |
| WND/2022/1019 Hearth House 6, Pytchley Close, Brixworth, NN6 9EW Work to tree subject of tree preservation order DA 8 | BPC supported |
| WND/2022/1024 Reidon Cottage 16, Newlands, Brixworth, NN6 9DN Removal of tree in a conservation area | BPC supported |
| WND/2022/0943 22, Dairy Close, Brixworth, NN6 9DR Removal of existing conservatory. Construction of single storey and two storey rear extension. Conversion of part of utility to store. | BPC supported |
| WND/2022/0896 Lake House, Brixworth Hall Park, Brixworth, NN6 9DE Construction of single storey extension to form orangery. | BPC supported |
| WND/2022/0699 C P L Group Ltd, Quarry Road, Brixworth, NN6 9UB Installation of GRP electrical housing unit. | BPC Supported |
| WND/2022/0903 The Logans, Holcot Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BS Two storey rear extension and conversion of an outbuilding to habitable space | BPC supported |

| | |
|--|---|
| WND/2022/0891 Grange Farm, Holcot Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BN Conversion of agricultural barns to 2 no. dwellings | BPC objected |
| WND/2022/0863 Grange Farm, Holcot Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BN Change of use and partial rebuilding of former Coach House to holiday let. | BPC objected |
| WND/2022/0909 Climbing High Nurseries Ltd 5, Northampton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DX Single storey extension to provide additional nursery accommodation, decking area and canopy over extended. | BPC supported |
| WND/2022/0958 Yew Tree Cottage, Brixworth Hall Park, Brixworth. NN6 9DE Work to tree and removal of tree within a conservation area. | BPC Referred due to lack of information |
| WNDHA/2022/0001 CPL Aromas Ltd, Quarry Road, Brixworth, Northamptonshire, NN6 9UB Hazardous substance consent | BPC comment only |
| WND/2022/0890 Co-op Stores, Harborough Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BU Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DA/2021/0292 to re-instate former secondary access/egress for store deliveries (S73 application) | BPC accepted in principal |
| WND/2022/0876 Lake House, Brixworth Hall Park, Brixworth, NN6 9DE Works to trees and removal of tree in a conservation area | BPC no comment – insufficient info |

Co-op loading bay: the wait continues...

While the construction of the new Co-op has made huge progress, the question about how, where and when the supermarket will receive deliveries has been slow.

In December, West Northants Council's Planning Committee approved the Co-op's application to use the car park as an unloading area, as detailed in the December issue of the Brixworth Bulletin. However, the approval was subject to an approved delivery management plan, which would set out at what time of day the Co-op can receive deliveries.

The Co-op expects 2-4 HGVs per day, delivering most of the shop's goods, plus two transit van sized light goods vehicles with sandwiches and newspapers. The delivery management plan sets out that these deliveries would arrive between 7am and 11am each day. Since the delivery vehicles will use the regular car park area to unload, six spaces will remain cordoned off while deliveries are expected, cutting



the available parking space roughly in half.

However, this delivery management plan remains in dispute, following the decision by West Northants Council last year to reject the plan. The Co-op is appealing against that decision, and the appeal is currently being dealt with by the planning inspectorate. It is unclear when a decision will be made.

While the construction of the shop can (and is) going ahead regardless, the shop cannot actually start trading until the delivery management plan has been approved.

- CFW

Library update

It's been another exciting few months at Brixworth Library. We had great fun making all sorts of festive crafts during the Christmas holidays, then had a fairy-tale themed February half-term with a bubble-tastic event from Just Karen, funded by our Friends group.

We also need to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Brixworth Library for organising another fantastic Christmas Shopping Fair. We had over 20 stall holders and 900 visitors, and even had a visit from the Story Telling Elf!

We are looking forward to an action-packed Easter holiday of crafts and special events, generously funded by the Friends of Brixworth Library. Make sure you follow us on Facebook to be the first to hear.

In the coming months we are looking forward to celebrating LGBT+ History Month, World Book Day, and Mental Health Awareness Week. After the success of our Jubilee Art Gallery last year, we are also planning another community project to celebrate the King's Coronation on 6th May. If you are a local school, nursery or community group interested in getting involved. Please get in touch.

Friends of Brixworth Library

The brilliant Friends have been back on a roll with the events they host, including their Quiz and Chips night that took place in February, which once again proved extremely popular.

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.

Children's Events

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

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.



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.

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

Needle Crafters

The Brixworth Needle Crafters meet every Thursday between 1:30pm and 3:30pm. They are a small, friendly group who meet up each week to work on their own projects. Knitting, crochet, quilting... expert or novice...anything goes. They would love for you to join them.

Just drop in.

Warm Spaces

Everyone deserves to be warm. If you are looking for somewhere to keep cosy during the colder months, you can be sure of a warm welcome at Brixworth Library. We have free Wi-Fi and spaces to work, a secure children's area with toys to play with, and tables to do homework, and of course, plenty of books to get stuck into. You can even help yourself to free tea, coffee, and soup. You can stay for as long as you like, completely free.



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No questions asked. To find other Warm Space locations visit: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support/looking-warm-spaces>.

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, and achieve a better quality of life.

This service can include the option of telephone appointments, face-to-face meetings 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

The Strong Start team offer support to expectant families and those with children under five 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 1:30pm-3pm.

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 of each month 3pm-4pm to talk to a Community Connector.

Other Services

- Bus pass applications and renewals (drop-in)
- Blue badge applications and renewals (by appointment)
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free computer and tablet use (some charges apply)
- Printing, photocopying, and scanning

Monday-Friday 9:00-17:00

Saturday 10:00-14:00

Bank Holiday Closures

Friday 7 April
Saturday 8 April
Monday 10 April
Monday 1 May
Monday 8 May
Monday 29 May

Brixworth Library 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



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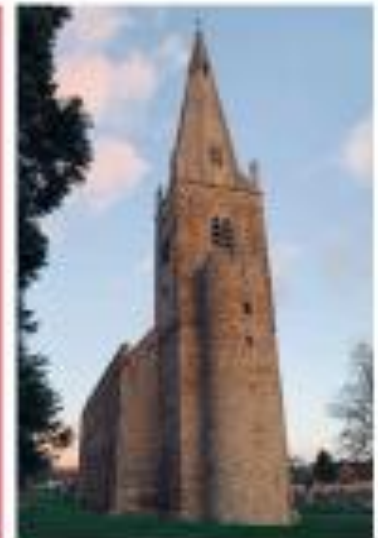
All Saints'

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.

www.brixworthchurch.org



FAMILY, FAITH & 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 started a new monthly family-friendly group on Sunday afternoons.

There are games, crafts, songs, bible teaching, quizzes, competitions, and snacks!...and we'd love you to come along.

If you'd like to come, please let us know - revdavidreith@gmail.com

EASTER 2023

Christianity isn't blind faith, it's based on an historic event - the resurrection of Jesus from the dead - something we remember at Easter every year.

We'd love to tell you why we think Jesus is such good news!



Palm Sunday
April 2nd
10:30am



Maundy Thursday
April 6th
6pm / 7:30pm



Good Friday
April 7th
10:30am



Easter Sunday
April 9th
10:30am

**"If Jesus really died and rose again,
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Contact, David
Reith

01604 880 139

revdavidreith@gmail.com





BRIXWORTH MATTERS

YouTube @brixworthcommunitychurch

Hazel and I have been living in Brixworth for nearly 7 years now. Soon after we moved in we got a nice surprise as to what was growing up a wall.

We didn't see it when we looked around before buying the house because it wasn't evident at the time, but in our first Summer and into the Autumn a beautiful grape vine appeared before our very eyes that goes right across the back of the house.

It has to be pruned annually as it produces new branches and grapes each year, which is a bit of work, but the grapes it produces taste and look beautiful. I even use them as part of the display for our annual Harvest Festival service.

So why am I telling you this?

Well if like me you are always setting yourself new goals for a new year and wanting a bit of help to achieve them (perhaps by the time you read this, one or two new years resolutions have now gone by the wayside)? Did you know that God wants to help us develop and grow and will work in our lives if we allow him to, just like a vine (John 15:5)?

As goodness from the soil travels up through the roots, the trunk and then the branches of a vine producing grapes, so God's Spirit works in a similar way in our lives.

Once we place our trust in Jesus and begin to follow him and feed upon the nourishment of his word the bible, his goodness will flow in and through our lives constantly growing and developing us.

Granted, we might not grow in ways we had planned and we will always be a work in progress. However, the fruit of the Spirit (the way in which God develops us) is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control and wouldn't it be fair to say we could all do with developing at least some of these areas in our lives? I know I could.

Want to explore developing in the things of God this year? Please get in touch. I would be happy to chat anytime. See you about.

Andy



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on 07958 604961

Christmas 2022

Christmas Day seems so far away now but we hope you had a fantastic time. The Community Church certainly did. Even though the football world cup took up a lot of people's time, it was still really good to see the Christmas events well attended.

The Church had a lovely time visiting residential homes sharing Christmas carol services with the residents (and carers). The pensioners at the Olive Branch enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas roast and we helped the food share team pack and deliver 20 Christmas food hampers to needy village families.

We were really pleased with how the outdoor nativity went with some great feedback from those who came. One person said, "For me the outdoor nativity is the start of Christmas, and I look forward to it every year!" The Christmas Day service at the school was great fun again as the children showed us their Christmas presents, we sang joyful carols and Pastor Andy shared a short Christmas message allowing us all to arrive home before the turkey was burnt! It was also wonderful to see some new faces joining the Celebration with us.



EASTER

Good Friday

Friday 7th April, Easter Walk and Reflection
Walk begins 10.30am. at the Library Community Centre
and ends at All Saints Brixworth,
where there will be a joint service at 11 am.
Hot cross buns and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Easter Sunday

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

International Students



At the time of writing, Brixworth Community Church are looking forward to welcoming some international students from Capemurray Bible College near the Lake District. They will be joining us at the end of February for a week, to experience serving in various activities. By the time you read this, they may well have been and gone. We hope they enjoyed their time here and many of you had the pleasure of meeting them!

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

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

www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1186009)

Olive Branch NEWS



January 16th was a special day at The Olive Branch for Hedy Binks. It was her 85th birthday and her retirement day from working as a volunteer every Monday morning since April 2009.

Thank you so much for all your hard work and effort Hedy! We will miss you. God Bless.



Olive Branch Knitting Club

Founded in 2003, the Olive Branch Knitting Club is still going strong!

Companionship is the key to this group that meets in The Olive Branch every Monday afternoon.

In the beginning this group got together to make hats for fishermen and then moved on to knit for Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes and continue to do so to this day. Gloves, scarves, glove puppets are some of the items that go in the shoeboxes. They have also made poppies and snowmen for village projects and decorated a Christmas tree for All Saints Church grounds.

Anyone is welcome to join them. Just contact The Olive Branch for further information, or call in for further information.



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, Spradon Road, Tel 689030

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



Chairman's Chat

Looking forward.

MUGA

Progress on the multi use games area.

A new clerk

Welcome to our new clerk.

Host A Councillor

A new way to contact your Councillors.

Summer Sports

Sports holiday clubs for children this year.

Pockets and Planting

Get involved in maintaining your local park.

Who to tell

Which organisations to contact when things need fixing.

Chairmans Chat

Spring is upon us with snowdrops and daffodils pushing their heads through the cold soil. As the administrative year comes to an end for Brixworth Parish Council, we can look back at what it has achieved. This includes introducing new sports into the village such as the new and very exciting sport of 3x3 basketball which is the number one urban team sport in the world.



The Council has also been looking forward to the next year in Parish life with aspirations to improve the village Christmas trees and lights, host engaging community events, strengthen our public open spaces and enhance public facilities and amenities. Of course services and enhancing resident's lives cost money and the Council will be increasing household precept by £2.60 per year, which in percentage terms is 3.13%.

This increase follows several months of examining how the budget can be kept at a minimum so as not to have a negative impact but can still provide essential services to the community. We hope that this modest increase will achieve that aim.



Brixworth Parish Council is pleased to bring the old tennis court area at St. David's Playing Fields back into use.

The MUGA project was funded from a developer's financial contribution (Section 106 funding) that was to be used solely for outdoor sport in the village. The fully inclusive Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) provides for a variety of sports including tennis, netball, 3x3 basketball and football. Brand new LED floodlights will allow the MUGA to be used all year round by local residents.



St David's MUGA



@brixworthPC



Welcome to our new clerk

Welcome to our new clerk, Josie.

After leaving a career in engineering, Josie began working as a clerk nine years ago, part-time, to fit around her family. She then decided to take her clerking qualification and has now made it a career and is loving all the challenges and changes that come her way.

Josie and her family of her husband and two growing boys aged 10 and 13 years, love to go on lots of outdoor adventures with their dog Biscuit and their telescope. She also spends a lot of time baking with her youngest and watching space documentaries with her eldest. Another of her passions is her garden in Crick and the wildlife within it.

Having worked for smaller councils, Josie joined Brixworth Parish Council in order to work for a much larger parish which is evolving and has a lot to offer its thriving community. Josie says "I do so hope, in the coming months and years, to make a difference to the Council and the community it serves." She is looking forward to getting to know the parish and the residents within it.




DID YOU KNOW?

ALLOTMENTS

There are two allotment sites in the village. These are run by Committee, not the Parish Council. The contact details for the allotments are:

Allotments adj Saxon Rise: 01604 881229
Allotments by the Church: 01604 881166

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

<https://www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/allotments/>
Saxon Rise Allotments - 01604 881229
Church Allotments - 01604 881166



Host A Councillor

In a new initiative for the New Year, Parish Councillors will be holding additional surgeries at alternative times and venues from the regular monthly Saturday morning slot.

We hope that this will give many of you the opportunity to speak to your Councillors and raise issues, ask questions and discuss situations that interest you and other local groups.

The first surgery will be held at the Brixworth Community Larder at a date to be announced, but if you run a local interest group, especially if you also hold public meetings, and would like to invite a councillor to one of your sessions, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.



[brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](https://www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Kids Summer Sports Holiday Clubs 2023

Brixworth Parish Council is hoping to provide local children with a sports holiday club in the summer holidays 2023. The club will run Monday - Friday, 09:30-15:30 on certain weeks. We're looking to get funding to make these clubs either free of charge or very heavily subsidised. The clubs will be targeted at residents aged between 5 and 12 years old, and see them having fun with friends whilst playing a wide range of sports.

Funding for these clubs depends on demonstrating a demand for the service in the village. We run the risk of not being able to run any of these services if too few people register an interest, so please don't delay. If you would be interested in making use of this facility please contact the Parish Clerk by email at parish.clerk@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.



Pocket Watch Scheme

Are you interested in being part of Pocket Watch? To join a group of residents with a shared passion for The Pocket Park on Eaglehurst?

Brixworth Parish Council would like to foster community involvement in the future development, maintenance programmes and sharing ideas around use of the pocket park. We believe there is huge potential for this underused area of the Village to develop it into an area that we can all be proud of. We are still looking for interested residents! If you are interested please let the Parish Clerk know.



Hedgerow Heroes



Our humble hedgerows are the unsung heroes of the countryside. They've been adding beauty and character to our landscapes for centuries, while providing the food and shelter that sustains our wildlife. They protect the soil, clean the air and absorb carbon emissions.

Brixworth Parish Council has recently been awarded a grant from CPRE, the Countryside Charity, to plant new hedgerows in Brixworth. We have already planted two new hedgerows at St David's and The Ashway. We are excited to watch as these become

established and mature in our public open spaces over the coming months, and contribute to an improvement in the environment over the coming years.



@brixworthPC



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.

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 one of the contact links above.



If there is a problem....

When something goes wrong it is sometimes hard to know who to talk to. Our list below details some of the issues you may face, and which organisation may be best placed to help.

West Northants Council -

Council Tax, benefits, housing bins, recycling, environmental health, planning and building control, schools and education, libraries, parking, roads and transport, births, deaths and marriages.

Police -

Burglary, robbery and criminal damage, drugs, fraud and forgery, sexual offences and violence against the person, theft and handling, anti-social behaviour and suspicious activity.

FixMyStreet -

Abandoned vehicles, car parks, dog fouling, flyposting, fly tipping, public toilets, street lighting, street nameplates, rubbish, street cleaning, shelter damage, blocked ditch, obstruction, potholes, speed humps, flooding, mud on road, spills, safety bollards, traffic signals, sign/pole, crash barriers, fallen tree, restricted visibility, verges, grit bin, icy footpaths and icy roads.

Brixworth Parish Council -

Consultation on planning applications, traffic signing and street names, footway lighting, grass cutting to public open spaces, speed limits, parish facilities (bus shelters, seats, notice boards) provision and maintenance of trees on Council-owned land.

Contact the Parish Clerk:

To contact the Parish Council please write to:
 The Parish Clerk, The Information Point, Brixworth Library and Community Centre, Spratten Road, Brixworth NN6 9DS
 Email: parish.clerk@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
 Telephone: 01604 347993

Full Council (Thursdays): 23 February, 30 March, 27 April
 Planning (Mondays): 13 February, 3 April, 24 April
 Surgery (Saturdays): 4 March, 1 April, 6 May

Please check website & noticeboard to confirm dates and times.

All meetings are held in the Library and Community Centre.

For further information please contact the Clerk.

The Brixworth Parish Council Team



brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



First taste of victory for U14 girls

Our newly formed U14 girls team celebrated their first victory this season. The girls have developed so much since the beginning of the season. They have been an inspiration to their parents and coaches. Coaches Dan O'Toole and Dan Kearns have not only been passionate about developing the girls football skill but also socially as a team which has contributed to their success.

We are currently looking for another coach to help take the team forward next season. If you feel you could be part of the exciting journey please email chair@brixworthjuniors.co.uk.

Brixworth Bridge Club

Brixworth Bridge Club is looking for new members to join us. We meet at 7.45pm on Mondays at the Heritage Centre in Brixworth. Play starts at 7pm and we finish around 9.45pm.

This club has been running for many years. However since lockdown some people are reluctant to mix with others, and some of our older members have sadly become ill or passed away, and our membership numbers have unfortunately halved in the process. We'd love to welcome new bridge players to our club! A good existing knowledge of playing bridge would be much appreciated.

The cost is £2.50 per evening. We are a friendly group and would welcome anyone who would like to come along and join us. We'd be happy for individuals to join us as well as those with partners.

If you're interested, please phone me on 01604 881617 or just pop along to see us on a Monday evening.

- Belinda Collett

Bowls Club continues to thrive

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 - 4.30pm and the other in the evening between 7.30 - 9.30pm.

New visitors are very welcome.

The club enjoys not only meeting for a game of bowls but also having social events. In November a singles competition was held and won by Mike Nice, with runner up Graham Onley. Pictured below



The group enjoyed meeting for a festive Christmas meal at Northampton College. More events are planned for 2023. It is anticipated the friendly league with other village bowls clubs will recommence in the near future, we are all looking forward to it.

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 of all abilities, starting from scratch to playing well, all are very welcome.

For more information contact Jenny Chapman on [07522 559673](tel:07522559673) or email brixworthbowlsclub@hotmail.com

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