

Co-op takes shape as the loading bay is approved



The new Co-op store on the site of the former Red Lion pub is taking shape. The exterior of the building is complete, and the building does fit in very well with the surrounding areas, residents have noted.

Co-op to use car park for loading

Meanwhile, the long running issue of the shop's loading bay has been resolved, after a Planning Inspector upheld the Co-op's appeal against West Northamptonshire Council's refusal of the proposed delivery management plan. The Co-op now has the green light to proceed with operating the deliveries using a section of the car park for HGVs to unload.

The Co-op will receive between two and four HGVs each day, between 7am and 10am, plus up to two transit vans between 7am and 11am. They will deliver most of the shop's goods, including sandwiches and newspapers. Six spaces of the car park's fourteen spaces will remain cordoned off while deliveries are expected.

In explaining his decision, the inspector acknowledged that using the car park for deliveries means that even fewer parking bays will be available for customers. However, he pointed out that this would only affect the shop for a few hours each day, and not during the busiest times, which would limit the number of customers having to park on the street.

While the number of parking bays is much lower than the 35 that Northamptonshire Parking Standards would call for, the inspector

felt that "14 on-site spaces [are] acceptable when considering such factors as the parking shortfall that would have applied when the site was previously in active use as a public house, anticipated customer dwell times, and the results of parking beat surveys."

Before reaching his decision, the inspector also visited the site both in the afternoon and during morning rush hour to see for himself how traffic is affected by the road layout and parked vehicles near the store. He noted that while traffic was proceeding with caution around the bend, it was nevertheless relatively free flowing.

Pedestrian crossing

Jonathan Harris, ward councillor for Brixworth at West Northants County Council, had been making the case for a pedestrian crossing and a 20 mph zone to be created near the new Co-op, to make it safer for pedestrians to visit the shop. However, this was not upheld in the appeal ruling.

The inspector said that his remit was to rule on the delivery management plan, and establishing a crossing was not a reasonable requirement in order to manage deliveries, especially as he felt that visibility at the site was acceptable. "I will be keeping in contact with highways as the store opens and we get a sense of how things are going," Jonathan told the Bulletin. "They know that if there are problems they will have a responsibility to help address matters." -

- Claudia Flavell-While

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

Brixworth celebrates the Coronation of King Charles III

Up and down the country, people celebrated the coronation of King Charles III, with banquets, barn dances, and of course the British staple: a soggy picnic.

Brixworth and surrounding villages were no exception. With bunting streaming, villagers brought out the picnic benches, sandwiches, sausage rolls, and glasses of bubbly to toast the newly-crowned king. Of course we were at the mercy of the weather. Residents of Froxhill Crescent, Brixworth, got lucky. Their picnic on Sunday 7 May was graced by glorious sunshine, perfect for good cheer and waving flags.

Those living in Hanging Houghton were less fortunate, as the drizzle never seemed to let up. A few hardy souls gathered on the green regardless, but the turnout perhaps wasn't quite as anticipated.



A good thing then that the barn dance the night before was held safely indoors at Lamport Hall and by all accounts a roaring success.

Meanwhile residents of Silver Street in Brixworth went to town on the decorations, with flags, homemade crowns and even a cardboard cut-out of His Majesty.

Thanks to everyone who made it such a memorable weekend, and to Paul Ward and Mike Nice for the fabulous photos of Silver Street and Froxhill Crescent, respectively.

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Brixworth firefighters serve the community for 70 years

As we clock up 70 years of fire cover in Brixworth, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service invite you to be part of the next 70 years.

Most people who become a firefighter want to make a difference in their local community and that's no different to the on-call firefighters in Brixworth who commit to spending much of their spare time on-call and ready to respond to emergency incidents in and around the town.

Brixworth Fire Station opened in 1953 and has provided emergency cover to the town and surrounding area for 70 years. Many residents have served as on-call firefighters at the fire station, not only responding to emergencies but also attending community events and local activities delivering fire safety information, as well as welcoming visits from local groups.



Firefighters have a passion to protect and help their communities, carrying out the same emergency work that fulltime firefighters do. In Northamptonshire, on-call firefighters make up around 45% of the county's operational staff and are essential in ensuring emergency cover right across the county.

Based at the station today are Watch Manager Martin Parsons, Crew Managers Edward Bibb and Paul Warren and Firefighters Lee Mayes, Jon Sharp, Richard Slinn, Jordan Tester and Carla Williams. Each on-call firefighter has a 'day' job but when on duty for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, respond to a pager when the alert sounds.

Here, some of the crew reveal their motivations for joining the Fire Service and explain how the Brixworth community can get involved.

Martin has been a firefighter for 16 years, joining after he left university. He initially worked in the Fire Service Control Room receiving 999 fire

calls from members of the public. He remembers one incident that influenced his decision to become a frontline responder.

"I was talking to someone trapped in a house fire, talking her through what to do and where to go to stay safe as well as feeding vital information to the crew who were on their way to the incident," Martin said. "The phone cut off during the conversation and I had no idea what had happened to that woman."

Martin spoke to the crew who attended the fire to find out whether he had done enough to help the casualty and the firefighters and then asked to join them on a few shifts to see for himself exactly what they do.

"It was brilliant. I was hooked," Martin said. "I knew that this was the right route for me."



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About a year later, Martin was on a shift and had a visit from the woman he had been talking to at the house fire. She had spent much of the year in and out of hospital following the fire, but the advice Martin had given her over the phone and the information he had passed to the attending crew saved her from what could have been a fatal incident.

Firefighter Jon Sharp, who is a full-time paramedic, noticed the recruitment banner outside Brixworth Fire Station and made enquiries. After attending an information evening and visiting the station on drill night he decided to apply and has been with the Brixworth on-call crew for a year now.

Jon explains: *“The selection process involved job-related tests, where I had to carry out activities that simulated things a firefighter might have to do as part of the role. There was also an interview and a fitness test. You need a certain level of fitness to do the job, so I started running and watched my diet to improve my chances of getting in.”*

Community engagement is a key part of being a firefighter. *“I really enjoyed lighting up the drill tower with pumpkins at Halloween and showing cubs and scouts around the fire appliance. I have carried out home fire safety visits in Brixworth and have represented NFRS at events in the county, including Diwali,”*



Jon added.

Also in the crew is Edward Bibb, who has been an on-call firefighter for more than eight years and has recently completed the full-time (whole-time) firefighter training, enabling him to serve the county as his full-time job. He continues to work as an on-call firefighter in Brixworth, saying that joining the fire service was: *“one of the best things I have ever done.”*

Edward attended a recruitment event at

Brixworth Industrial Estate nine years ago, having previously spoken with a family friend who worked for the fire service to find out more about the role.

Edward would encourage anyone considering joining the service as an on-call firefighter to visit Brixworth fire station on drill night and chat to the crew. He said: *“The recruitment process takes a while so be patient because it’s a great career to get into. No two incidents are the same and it’s not just fires. You can go to road traffic collisions, flooding and animal rescues too. You work as a team and build strong and trusted friendships that help us serve the community.”*

Interested in joining?

The Brixworth crew are looking to recruit on-call firefighters to join them. If you are interested in finding out more, pop along to their drill night on a Monday evening between 7.00pm and 9.00pm for a chat.

Or visit Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service’s website www.northantsfire.gov.uk and click on ‘Careers’.

Martin offers some sound advice to anyone interested: *“The commitment to become an on-call firefighter is a unique one and one that will likely impact family and friends too. Find out what that commitment looks like by attending have-a-go days and recruitment events and meet the Brixworth crew at the station. Once you have that understanding, speak to your friends and family about it. They will be the biggest supporters through your career in the fire service and it’s important that everyone understands the role.”*

– Fiona Pearce



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The school year is flying past and we are already in to our final term. The last term was a busy time, with an Ofsted inspection at the end of March. We are still awaiting the final report, but we were very pleased how the inspection went and are very proud of all the pupils and staff.



The children have been very busy, both in class and in terms of visits out of school prior to the Easter holiday. The children in the Early

Years visited West Lodge Farm and despite the weather had a fantastic day.

The children in Year One and Two also went on visits to the Childhood Museum in Sudbury Hall as part of their work on the history of toys.



Also, in the week leading up to Easter our Year Five and Six pupils took part in an Easter Experience at All

Saints Church in the village. A big thank you for all the time and effort that went into the Easter 'Murder Mystery' drama by Rev. David and all the volunteers who helped run the fantastic event that the children loved. Year Three pupils also held an Easter Service in the Church during that week.

Our Year Four pupils came to the end of their Northampton Music Trust 'First Access' course, where every child in the year group learns to play an instrument. To end the unit, they held a Samba Drum concert for the school and parents. Not only very musical but exceptionally loud.



Finally, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all the pupils, staff, governors and families for making me so welcome in these first two terms as the new Headteacher. Time has flown by but it has been an absolute pleasure joining such a great school family.

- Neil Tyler, Headteacher



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Join the Open Farm Sunday

Brixworth Farming Company is holding an Open Farm Sunday on 11 June, at Park Farm in Spratton Road in Brixworth.

Come along and find out how farmers look after their land and the environment, get a close look at modern farming equipment, and – of course – take a selfie in a combine harvester. The event takes place from 10 am to 4pm and is free and open to everyone (not just parents of tractor-obsessed children, though those are obviously very warmly welcome!)



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Community Foodshare

Brixworth Community Foodshare is now in its third year and continues to support village families during school holidays and on other occasions when there is a particular need. Organised by Brixworth Community Church, volunteers were able to deliver Easter eggs to children as well as welcome groceries to families.

Recently we have received welcome donations from the Central Sports Club, Olive Branch customers and Troops the greengrocers.

– Mike Nice



Easter at Brixworth Church

A big ‘thank you’ and congratulations to the Brixworth Church Flower Guild who created the most wonderful Easter display in the church.



The Easter garden was just amazing and the whole church looked so special with all the other flower displays.

– Kate Knight

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Community Centre News

Following the recent redecoration and improvements to the storage area, Brixworth Community Centre (alongside the Library) will soon have an air conditioning system installed.

This will enable the hall to be cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter months.

The Art Classes have met every week for more than a decade, but now the leader, Ray Coles, has decided to retire. However, the members have so enjoyed these sessions on a Monday morning that from September they will meet as an Art Club to continue to paint and have a social time. New members will be very welcome. For more details, contact Jocelyn Parsons (squarefoot@btinternet.co).

Last autumn saw the start of the new Table Tennis Monday evening sessions which are open to all.

Sweaty Mammias has recently re-started on Wednesday mornings. Both Yoga and Pilates groups are well attended and the Get Up and Go classes are now running on Mondays as well as Wednesdays.

A new regular meeting for Carers in the county takes place on the first Tuesday of each month. The full programme of regular activities at the Centre is published in the foyer and is on the Parish Council website.

The Centre will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary soon and continues to be run by volunteers from Brixworth Community Church.

– Mike Nice

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Country Eye - On a Stormy Night

It was about this time of year when I sat in my conservatory as darkness was hastened by black clouds heavy with rain gathering overhead. Before I knew it, the rain was lashing down, stair-rods as country folk have it. Just as well I was alone as in my conservatory as it would have been impossible to talk, so loud was the drumming above me. After about an hour it rapidly eased, the sky cleared and a brilliant silvery moon cast a light so bright I could see the still sodden garden clearly.

The next day, the patio was still wet as I stepped out to feed the birds. There I spotted an object lying on the slabs that appeared to be moving slightly. It was a large oval-shaped beetle. When I turned it over I could see that all but two of its legs were reduced to mere stumps, pathetically it was still trying to walk. As it was clearly in some distress, I poured some boiling water into a bowl and dropped it in, the quickest way to kill it humanely. I recognised the beetle immediately as a great diving beetle (*Dytiscus marginalis*). At over an inch long, it is one of our larger species of beetle.

Dytiscus has a fascinating life story. Starting off as an egg laid by the female in the tissues of a water plant, the hatchling sets out on life as an ever-hungry carnivore. Armed with curved jaws, once they are locked into the soft body of its prey they cannot be dislodged. Fond of water snails, later it moves on to tadpoles and small fish. It grows rapidly, shedding its skin several times, until almost two inches long with a slender curved body. When ready to enter the next stage it climbs out of the water, sheds its skin one last time to reveal the chrysalis. Eventually the adult beetle emerges to begin the cycle all over again. As an air breather both larva and adult must come to the surface to take on air. They do this by



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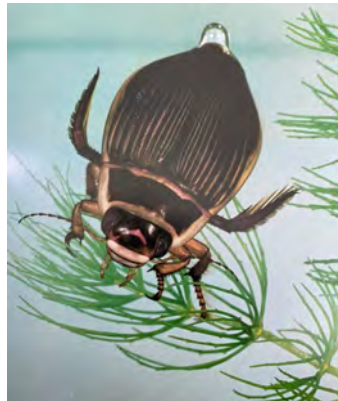


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poking their hinder end through the surface film. The adult stores air under its wing cases and an air bubble can be seen at its hinder end as it descends. Often living into a second year, they mate and produce eggs.



As a night hunter it is not often seen, but even so is a common insect with a wide distribution across Europe and Asia. It often turns up in garden ponds, where I have seen both larvae and adults come to the surface to top up their air supply, while more than once I have watched the adults climb out and take flight in search of a new home.

As for the stump-legged individual I found in my garden, having worked in the schools education service of the Northampton Museum, I knew how I could make it live on. I pinned it to a cork setting board. Using a fine needle set in a wooden handle, I eased open the hard wing cases to reveal the neatly folded wings. Then ever so gently I spread them to their fullest extent. Mounted in this position in a small glass case it went to many schools across the county as part of the loan service.

It's unthinkable in today's world, but I well remember as a schoolboy during the war years being left to wander at will in the long school holidays. Harlestone Firs was only a mile from my then home in Kingsthorpe. Bisected by the railway line was a small copse we knew as bluebell wood, and at its edge stood a large, galvanised steel water tank, kept filled for obvious reasons. It was here I made my first observations of the remarkable *Dytiscus*. I waited patiently as one after the other they surfaced and turned hind end upwards to take on air. I could see how they opened their wing cases slightly as they did so.

Looking back, I realise how lucky I was, and how starved of contact with nature too many of today's youngsters are. How on earth are we to inspire them to care without encouraging them to look and find out? The question needs to be asked if we are to stem nature's losses and as a vitally necessary part of safeguarding our own future.

- Brian Webster

New Brass Players needed!

Nene Valley Community Band (NVCB) is a non-auditioning concert band that currently meets at Brixworth Village Hall on Monday evenings. Doors open at 6:45pm and we are seated and ready to play by 7pm, playing until 9pm with a 15 minute break. The music we play is around grade 2-3 standard, sometimes higher, arranged for wind ensemble. We are very friendly and inclusive and have a number of performances coming up over the next few months.

The instruments currently represented are flute, clarinet, oboe, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, trumpet, French horn, euphonium, trombone, tuba and drum kit. We are particularly looking for new brass players to swell our ranks. If you are interested or have any questions then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Contact Andy Dickson on 07928 389326 or use the contact page on our website at nvcb.org.uk

Wombles Website

Brixworth Wombles are proud to announce that we now have a website.

Funded by Co-op Community Funding (essentially the lovely residents of Brixworth who kindly chose us as their worthy cause) the website, BrixworthWombles.co.uk, will provide better access to information about our aims and events.

We now have a planner for the year to help people get involved and see what we are doing. Also it makes it easier to contact the wombles via our new email address: Info@brixworthwombles.co.uk. From the planner you will see that we are undertaking a monthly village litter pick that we hope to encourage more residents to take part in. These picks will take place from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm on the third Saturday of the month (except August) with all age groups very welcome to join in.

It's not hard work but is a great social activity and provides a relatively gentle workout and gives a warm fuzzy feeling inside that you've done something good for the community.

Also, we now have a fleet of six Litter Picking Trolleys. These are proving to greatly lighten the load carried, enabling a greater bag fill and cover a greater area.

We also hope you'll all see our new gazebo outside the library and at various other events. Again, this will promote our aims and raise our profile within the community.

If you see us, please come over and chat to us.

We are very proud of our incredibly friendly village group. Looking forward to meeting as many of as possible this year.

- Peter Duffy



Northants after the Roman conquest

Friends of All Saints Church presents a talk by Michael Curtis, the chair of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society, on how Northamptonshire changed under Roman governance.

Michael will explain how, in the aftermath of the Roman conquest of Britain, the Catuvellauni, a tribe that had originally established its heartland in Hertfordshire and Essex, became more prominent and expanded its territory to encompass most of Northamptonshire.

The expansion was linked to the establishment of an administrative region, with its centre at Verulamium. This talk explores the impact of this in this northern part of the region and the changes that took place in the tribal landscape of the late Iron Age as the impact of Roman governance began to take hold.

The talk will take place on Saturday 3 June at Brixworth Church, starting at 11.30 am. Tickets cost £10 (to include a buffet lunch). To order yours, phone 01604 880941 or email brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com.

- Kate Knight



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When is a village a town?

“...you could do a lot worse than Brixworth.” – a recent quote from a survey by Muddy Stilettos (the digital lifestyle magazine) on ‘Best Places to Live in Northamptonshire’ – where Brixworth came in 9th place.

Interestingly, in this survey, the number one and number three spots went to Towcester (population 11,542 Census 2021) and Daventry (pop 28,000) respectively, with Long Buckby taking second place (pop 4,511). The survey clearly favours our county’s smaller towns and larger villages, the question is why?

In a post pandemic world, we are told that everybody wishes to move to the countryside; but perhaps smaller villages, with no amenities and a carbon-heavy

reliance on the car, are out of favour or just a step too far for former city dwellers? Whatever the reason, living in an ever-expanding village like Brixworth, gives us cause to consider the differences between villages and towns and what makes somewhere ‘a good place to live’.

Village

It’s difficult to find a clear definition of a village, but National Geographic says it is – “a small settlement usually found in a rural

setting. It is generally larger than a ‘hamlet’ but smaller than a ‘town’. Some geographers specifically define a village as having between 500 and 2,500 inhabitants.”

In the 2021 Census, Brixworth’s population was recorded as 5,766 (up from 5,228 in 2011) which puts us way beyond this definition of a ‘village’ – although the largest ‘village’ in England Lancing, East Sussex, with a population of 19,000! This is not, however, a rant about the current policy to cloak our countryside with a patchwork quilt of housing estates. But given Brixworth’s ongoing growth, let’s reflect on what makes a village a village and a town a town.

National Geographic goes on to say that “In most parts of the world, villages are settlements of people clustered around a central point.” In the UK the ‘central point’ of a village has historically been a church; this is apparent in the older part of Brixworth where buildings are clustered around All Saints’ church. That said, the more recent linear expansion of the village has mostly been to the south, meaning that the church is no longer at its geographic heart. Spratton, on the other hand, with a population of 1,287 (C. 2021) and a church in the middle, would appear to be the perfect definition of a village.

Hamlet

The presence of a church is usually what separates a ‘village’ from a ‘hamlet’ – defined by National Geographic as “a very small settlement without a church and belonging to the parish of another town or village.”

This would mean that, strictly speaking, Hanging Houghton, with its population of

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Sean Goodhart

84 (C. 2021), is not a village but a ‘hamlet’ which falls under the parish of Lamport.

Town

National Geographic defines a town as “generally larger than a village, but smaller than a city... a small town having between 2,500-20,000 residents. Towns usually have local self-government, and they may have grown around economic activities such as mining.”

So, by population alone, Brixworth could fall into the ‘small town’ category.

Traditionally, villages became towns when awarded a royal charter to hold a market, but today it’s more likely to be down to “population growth or the addition of small industry providing employment.” – wait a minute, doesn’t that sound like Brixworth?

Northampton is an example of a market town; although with its population of 245,899 (C. 2021), up from 215,273 in 2011, it’s considered to be one of the largest towns in the UK. Which leads to another question ‘when is a town a city?’

City

Britain’s smallest city, St. David’s in Pembrokeshire, has a population of under 2,000, so clearly city status cannot be determined by population alone.

According to the House of Commons library, several factors come into play to confer city status. This includes having a cathedral (which explains St David’s city status), a particular form of local government, or having a large population.

That said, it still comes down to a royal charter – city status is granted by the monarch, on the advice of ministers.

What about Brixworth?

So going strictly by population size,

Brixworth might have become a small town some time ago. But should population be the only thing that determines ‘village’ or ‘town’ status?

Villages and towns are usually very different in character. In the Muddy Stilettos survey, the positives for living in Brixworth were listed as “Just a stone’s throw from the county town, Brixworth Village has got it all: the location, the character, the community vibe and the bustling amenities ...” So, let’s examine the criteria more closely.

Location: Brixworth is indeed close to town and, Kingsthorpe traffic and roadworks permitting, it’s possible to get to Northampton station in 20 minutes and commute to London - but then, Long Buckby has its own railway station!

The survey goes on to point out, however, the many advantages of living next to the reservoir and the Brampton Valley Way – which few residents would dispute. It also mentions ‘nearby attractions’ and the beauty of the surrounding countryside.

Character: Brixworth may not be first choice on any film location scout’s list looking for a quintessential English village, but the sandstone buildings in the old part of the village are arguably as cinematic as anything in the Cotswolds. Panning south to

the Hunter’s Way shops and successive tacked on housing developments, however, any similarity with the Cotswolds is soon dispelled.

Bustling amenities: for ‘bustling’ read ‘busy’ – if around the shops on a Saturday morning, the adjective ‘chaotic’ may even spring to mind. With the population of a small town, is our one restaurant, two pubs, three cafes and a single supermarket enough? Second place Long Buckby boasts two supermarkets, four pubs and numerous restaurants and take aways.

Community Vibe: This is where Brixworth is still very much a village! We proved this during the pandemic when every street was covered by a volunteer ‘street rep’ and the community came together to care for the elderly and vulnerable – this wasn’t the case in many towns and cities. The library noticeboards or a flick through the Bulletin show just how many groups, clubs and activities are available in the community for every age range.

So, does it really matter if a place is defined as a ‘town’ or ‘village’, as long as it’s a good place to live? On reflection, perhaps it’s true that “...you could do a lot worse than Brixworth!”

– Tracey Calnan

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Royal British Legion, BR4042 Brixworth and District Branch News

Brixworth Branch of the Royal British Legion was raised in February 2023, with the election of the officers; these being Chairman Eddie Edmunds, Vice Chairman Mark Valentine, Secretary Elizia Gathercole and Treasurer Ian Topham.



The first item to be sorted has to be the standard, without which, no branch can exist. By the time you read this, the standard will have been dedicated at

Brixworth Church by the Revd. David Reith and the Rt. Revd. John Holbrook, Bishop of Brixworth, on 14th May at 1:30 p.m. Various branches and standards attended to honour the new standard.

The first social event was organised at the Brixworth Cricket Club on Friday 24th March, with music supplied by Gary Beckwith. An excellent evening's entertainment was enjoyed and a small profit towards Legion funds was made. Once the cricket season finishes in September, we will be doing it again by popular demand.

On 10th June, the motorcycle riders from the South Atlantic Medals Association (SAMA) will arrive in Brixworth, for a non-religious service and dedication to the memory of Gerald Bull. The standard will be used for its rightful purpose for the first time at this gathering. All are welcome to this service. There will be no parading through the village, but you are all more than welcome to attend this service in the churchyard, which will be a very special day for Brixworth and all involved.

The branch are hoping to arrange a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) at Alrewas in Staffordshire at some point in the summer, before the schools break up for their summer recess (first or second Sunday in July). Cost will be approx. £18.00 for the coach trip, entry to the NMA is free, leaving around 10:00 from the Library, leaving the NMA at 16:30. This is a wonderful place to visit, there are over 400 memorials to ensure that the unique contribution of those who have served and sacrificed is never forgotten. Contact Eddie for details.

For anyone who is serving, has served or is associated with anyone who is or was in the military, the Legion has a Contact Centre. The number is 0808 802 8080. The contact centre can arrange specialist support if necessary and it is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If anyone needs any help or support, this is an important number to remember. You do not have to have been a member of the Armed Forces to join the Royal British Legion; in fact, the majority of the members in the branches were all civilians, and they are the lifeline which keeps the Legion going. So anyone wanting to become a member, contact one of the officers or the Contact Centre, and quote Brixworth and District.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month, the next meeting will be on 19th June 2023 in the George PH, Brixworth. All members and non-members, or anyone interested in joining, are more than welcome to attend. As you will imagine, we are planning the 2023 Poppy Appeal to match and surpass the previous efforts of our Chairman. Don't forget that he did this mostly unaided, but now we're organised, watch out! Last year, with your donations and contributions, the Brixworth Poppy Appeal raised £9,417.25, an outstanding amount, and we're expecting to exceed that.

We will be parading through the village as usual on Remembrance Sunday, 12th November, with a wreath laying ceremony at the memorial in Brixworth Churchyard at 11:00. Anyone who has plans to lay a wreath, uniformed groups (Cubs, Brownies, etc.) please let Eddie or the other officers know.

Dates for the Diary:

- 79th Anniversary of D-Day 6th June
- SAMA Riders in Brixworth to pay tribute to Gerald Bull 10th June
- Armed Forces Day 24th June
- 73rd Anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War 25th June
- 78th Anniversary of VJ Day 15th August
- Remembrance Day 12th November

Brixworth & District RBL Contact details: Eddie Edmunds, Chairman. Mobile Phone 07979 258659. Email: razoreddie@live.co.uk. Elizia Gathercole, Secretary. Mobile Phone 07715 231550. Email: eliziag22@gmail.com. Ian Topham, Treasurer. Mobile Phone 07724 900675. Email: ian@tophams.net.

Ian Topham, Treasurer



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Drama Group celebrates with two comedies



Brixworth Drama Group are currently rehearsing two one-act comedies as part of their 40th anniversary celebration. These will be performed at the Village Hall on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd September.

“Zoo” by Terry Adlam is directed by Anne King and Eileen Truby. In this play a Zoo Manager is having a bad day which gets progressively worse as he tries to deal with a catalogue of mishaps.

“Money, Money, Money” by Ian Ashcroft and directed by Sue l’Anson tells the story of a local WI group who are looking for innovative ways of raising more money than their rival group; one of their ideas is to offer a telephone service...

Brixworth Drama Group Chair, Alex Coles said “We were delighted that our last performances were so well-attended. The group have chosen two fantastic plays that we’re sure the audience will enjoy. They are laugh-out-loud comedies. During the read-throughs, some of the cast had difficulty finishing their lines!”

The Drama Group are always looking for new members, either as actors in future productions, or in ‘behind the scenes’ and ‘front of house’ roles. 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

Brixworth u3a Report



The village u3a group continues to be very active. A new addition to the monthly meetings is a Book Swap Table. This has really taken off and jigsaw puzzles have now been added. Members can either swap a book/jigsaw puzzle for another or can just take one.

Bridge is still very popular on either a Thursday evening or Friday afternoon. A new canasta group has started up on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. After ten years of fun and laughter Kay and Phil have hung up their Ceili dancing shoes. Everyone had so much fun and the sessions will be really missed.

Dates for the Diary:


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

June 7th: “A Musical Presentation with “Fool’s Gold” Acoustic Music Duo”.

July 5th: “Presenting the Past on Film with the Northamptonshire Film & Archive Trust”.

New members are always welcome so why not come along to one of our meetings for a cup of tea and a 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.



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The Mr. Benn of Brixworth!



Another feature on a local resident with an interesting ‘job’...

For those of you too young to remember the animated BBC series ‘Mr. Benn’ – based on a character created by author David McKee – he was an ordinary man who visited his local fancy dress shop and tried on different costumes. Whilst in the changing room, he discovered a magic doorway which led him into a world of adventure based on the costume he was wearing that day - including a knight, a cowboy, a spaceman, a wizard and many more. Well, it turns out that here in Brixworth we have our very own version of Mr. Benn, aka Mr Ian Topham, a man who wears many different hats and has made a second career out of volunteering.

After serving in the RAF and a forty-year career in IT, Ian made the decision to retire in 2015 – but as he retired from paid employment, his second ‘career’ as Brixworth’s Mr. Benn was just beginning. Most people take it easy when they retire but Ian finds himself busier than ever. He may not wear colourful costumes or have wild adventures, but his many volunteer roles are certainly varied and valuable to the local community.

Taxi Driver: one of the first jobs Ian signed up for post ‘retirement’, was as a volunteer driver for DACT (Daventry Area Community Transport) providing a door-to-door service for those with mobility issues. Over the years he has been doing this, Ian has driven all over the county and met some wonderful passengers. He played a key role during the pandemic, driving the elderly and vulnerable to Weedon for their vaccinations. DACT are always looking for more drivers, anyone who’s interested should contact Phil Houston 01327 701665.

Chief Cook and Bottle Washer: Ian is also a regular volunteer at the community café, The Olive Branch, where he turns his hand to many different tasks, from washing up and serving customers to giving lifts to pensioners so that they don’t miss their special Wednesday lunch at the café.

IT Consultant: So, Ian hasn’t quite left his main career behind as he now volunteers as Brixworth Library’s IT Buddy, available to help and teach those who may not have the skills or means to access IT facilities at home.

Aviation Engineer: Ian is a member of the British Phantom Aviation Group who volunteer their time to restore Phantom Jets to their former glory, not necessarily for flying purposes he is quick to reassure me, but at least to museum display standard.

Bookkeeper: As if Ian didn’t already have enough different hats to wear, he has recently taken on the role of Treasurer at the newly founded Brixworth branch of the Royal British Legion!

Ian would appear to be living proof that retirement doesn’t have to mean ‘putting your feet up’, his second career may be lacking in remuneration but is rewarding in many other ways. When asked if his wife Lynn minds him being so busy in their ‘retirement’, Ian jokes that “...*she’s probably glad to get me out the house,*” and, in summer, they also enjoy many weekends away together in their caravan. Ian doesn’t seem to be the type of guy who’d be happy to sit at home watching tv anyway, he says he really enjoys “... *doing something different every day; it keeps you young and active and keeps the brain going.*”

You could say it’s volunteers like Ian, regularly contributing so much to support the local community, who make the village of Brixworth such a good place to live!

NB: Anybody over a certain age who might be nostalgic for ‘Mr. Benn’ – Series 1 is currently on Amazon Prime. - Tracey Calnan



Photographer: Ian reinstated the Brixworth Photographic Society, who produce an annual calendar to raise funds for local charities. He is already planning the next one for 2024, which will showcase ‘Brixworth Through the Ages’. Anybody interested in joining the Photographic Society should contact Ian ian@tophams.net as new members are always welcome.

Art Editor: Yes, Ian is also a valued member of the Brixworth Bulletin editorial team (we’re all volunteers!) where he puts his photographic and design skills to good use to produce the free quarterly publication.

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Brixworth History Society

Our talks this year have covered a variety of topics.

In March we were pleased to hear from Neil Lyon about a famous ‘burglar’ in the county; this was Joan Wake who established our County Record Society in the 1920s and saved Delapré Abbey from being demolished. The talk was particularly interesting for Brixworth because the county’s records were stored at Brixworth Hall during the war.

The topic for our April meeting, given by Steve Dimmer, was Ship of Dreams – The Life and Death of the Titanic.

We will be taking a break from meeting indoors over the summer. Instead, in June we will be taking a coach journey to Suffolk, visiting Lavenham and Woodbridge on the way to Sutton Hoo. This was the site of an Anglo Saxon ship burial containing burial treasure discovered in the 1930s.

In July our visit will be to the Prebendal Manor at Nassington and in August some of our members will be visiting Boughton House.

Our meetings will resume on September 21st when Richard Blacklee will give a talk about The Culworth Gang & the County Jail.

New members and visitors are welcome at our meetings which are held on the third Thursday of the month in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. More information can be obtained from our Secretary, Rosemary Hardie (jandrhardie1@gmail.com).

– Rosemary Hardie

History Society presents: Brixworth under Queen Elizabeth

Brixworth History Society has put together a photographic display, showing the village during the 70 years of the reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Also on display are Roman artifacts from an excavation in the 1970s of a Roman Villa located just north of Brixworth Church. The display can be viewed at All Saints Heritage Centre on Saturday and Sunday afternoons until 24 September. Doors will be open from 2.30pm to 5pm, with light refreshments available.

Bowls Club celebrates Founder Member’s 90th birthday

At 90, Betty Howell is the second oldest member of the bowls club. She was presented with some flowers in celebration of her birthday during a social event. Congratulations Betty!



The club has recommenced playing friendly matches against other clubs in Northamptonshire, namely Yelvertoft (we won) and Roade (draw). We look forward to the return matches. We continue to have inter-club competitions, the most recent being a doubles competition which was won by Steve Austin and Mike Nice. We have been delighted to welcome two young players to the club who have entertained us with their humour and enthusiasm for the game, which is lovely.



We continue to warmly welcome any 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 or email brixworthbowlsclub@hotmail.com.

- Chrissie Collins, Jenny Chapman and Bernadette Byrne



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A Park Volunteer's Year

Those dark days of winter are behind us and mother nature waking up: amazing how another year has slipped by so quickly at Brixworth Country Park.

Volunteering at Brixworth Country Park & Brampton Valley



Way may seem to some a rather masochistic pastime, especially if you follow Doug's regular reports on our Friends of Brampton Valley Way Facebook page. Working in -12°C only a couple of months after almost 40° can be a challenge. But we managed to cope by finding suitable jobs wherever possible!! The

volunteers are a great bunch and enjoy the company, banter, fresh air, exercise, tea & biscuits.

And we have very much enjoyed all the tremendous support given

by members, Facebook followers and the financial help from BCP & WNC: reinforced by all the goodwill expressed to us by users of the park and way.

What drives a volunteer? That is a very hard thing to define, especially with the mud, thorns and many other hazards making our day such fun! But it is all thoroughly enjoyable, though...in the end, we get a tremendous satisfaction from it. And, if you have ever wondered just what we get up to, read on...

Teams, in one form or another, are in at the park on several days of the week and one set concentrates on the Way on Thursdays to support the Park Rangers, Debbie and John. Tasks range from simple horticulture through to low-end civil engineering projects and, over the year, a wide spectrum of jobs is undertaken. Brixworth Country Park and Brampton Valley Way have common needs but also differ in many respects. Manual tools are augmented by power kit: the Park can use 2-stroke equipment but, for the Way, battery-powered is lighter to handle and far more suitable. Within the park the Kawasaki Mule is used to move kit and materials to the project site; whereas, for the Way we need a roadworthy vehicle to get up and down the A508.

Loading Roger the Ranger (park's pickup truck), that is my 1st job on Thursdays - checking kit suitability, selecting tools for the jobs in hand, but the tea/coffee, biscuits & chairs take priority. Sadly,



I always forget something and am often late to reach the rendezvous point. To make matters worse, frustratingly, access to the Way can often be obstructed by badly parked vehicles. We decide on the specific tasks in consultation with the park rangers and plan with their guidance. Priorities can change suddenly as nature is unpredictable and urgent attention called for.

Seasonality plays a big part – March until August is 'nesting time' and we avoid cutting back to avoid disturbing the birds and mammals. Weather can get in the way with flooded areas needing attention or wild winds tearing down vulnerable trees, all delaying the routine work. That is especially a problem at the wooded sections of BVW, such as tunnel approaches' banks. Hanging Houghton is a section prone to having fallen trees (big or small) across the pathway. Trees may be rooted on private land but the fallen timber is on the Way and dealing with them means getting the owner's permission before taking proactive action. Cutting them up





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and clearing the way can be quite a task needing special cutting equipment – and only fully licenced operators can use the chainsaws. That spectrum of jobs ranges from simply controlling vegetation, planting, through to repairing fences, steps and paths... even recently building the new 'Pagan Circle'.

Hedge-laying is a fascinating countryside skill and plenty more of that is planned for a number of locations. Crown-lifting opens the wood's floors to shed more light on the ground encouraging wildflowers and making walking through easier. Scalping is clearing sectors of self-sets and thinning out areas along the Way, again opening the floor to light.

Bench areas are also thinned out opening new vistas by benches or simply reinstating previous excellent views. The tunnels, top drainage channels and tunnel

approaches, as well as the culverts along the Way need to be kept clear for access and ready for the annual official infrastructure safety inspection. And, if you follow Doug's frequent reports, finding a new drain is an extremely exciting time for us: we are very easily amused, you know.

Pathways and Steps repairs,

such as trying to improve the deteriorating pathway at Oxendon need us to find suitable timber. Materials are re-used and recycled, wherever possible; for example, step risers need replacing - old signposts uprights are ideal for the job.

Follow our Friends of Brampton Valley Way Facebook page to read about our latest activities, please. And, better still, also send an email to hellobvww@gmail.com to become a member of the community group – don't worry, it's free to join. There is no need to participate in the work but you might fancy trying it out or simply provide your support.

– Keith Dobell



Brixworth Central Sports Club

Brixworth Central Sports Club (BCSC) has had another good year with over 200 members.

Despite the rise in the cost of living and wholesale costs the club has managed to keep control of prices representing great value for the membership, whilst maintaining an ongoing programme of maintenance and up-grading of the club's facilities.

Annual membership has been held at £5 for new adult members and £1 per adult for renewal. Children under 18 years are free. Membership runs from January to December every year.

This year the club has supported local charities by holding monthly quizzes on a Friday evening with Chris Gathercole as the quiz master and the presenter of the well-known card game of 'Higher or Lower' which has proved very successful. Also, several bands have played at the club providing more regular entertainment for the members.

All the money raised from these evenings goes to local charities. This year BCSC has raised over £3,000 for Brixworth Food Share, the Poppy Appeal, and the Air Ambulance. It also paid for the defibrillator box for St. David's playing fields and, together with the Parish Council, supported local sports clubs in providing internet access to the new CCTV cameras, electricity for the groundsman's shed, and the costs of maintaining and cleaning the changing rooms.

BCSC is a not-for-profit private sports and social club managed by a committee of volunteers who look forward to another successful year in 2023 and welcome new members.

– Jackie Bird



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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group

The spring & summer terms with lighter evenings and better weather give the perfect opportunity for all our scouts sections to enjoy the wonderful countryside and facilities around our village.



A big thanks to everyone for joining the St George's Day assembly at the library on Sunday the 23rd of April.

Beavers finished the spring term with an Easter Egg Hunt around the church and resumed their summer term with an evening of motorcycles & road safety – a big thank you to Annabel 'Abbz' Thomas from Abbz Thomas Racing.



They continued the term with an evening learning about gardening & growing plants, a treasure hunt around the village, and an evening assembling tents at Brixworth Country Park. Lookout for them later this term when they will be tidying our village with a litter pick. They will hopefully get to see the birds of prey from Icarus Falconry before they end the term with a party.

Cubs finished their spring term with an evening of cooking at the centre and restarted the summer term with a games night. They participated in Park Run at the Brixworth Country Park along with scouts and our leaders. They refreshed their first aid training and cycled round the reservoir.

Scouts enjoyed another visit from Raptoric and scavenger hunts around the village. They are looking forward to a cycle ride from Market Harborough to Brixworth and parents versus scouts/explorers rounders match on the Ashway fields – look out for that and come and provide your support.

Scouts will end their summer term with a water fight on the Ashway fields...it will be messy!

Scouts & explorers shared several activities this term, including their annual Brass Monkey camp at Overstone in March. It was our first cold camp since 2020, it was chilly but at least it stayed dry.

Explorers ended the spring term with an evening of fire building and tent assembly at Overstone. They started the summer term with a games night at the centre and are looking forward to a cycle ride along the Brampton Valley Way to Brixworth Fish Bar, thank you to the staff. There will be a wide games evening at Brixworth Country Park and an evening of air rifle shooting at Overstone.

Explorers will also refresh their first aid training, enjoy an evening of backwoods cooking at Overstone, and will join scouts for the parents versus scouts/explorers rounders. They will end the term with a BBQ – an excuse for more food.

Everyone is looking forward to returning to Overstone for another group camp in June.



Let's hope the weather is as good as last year.

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 have been running sections long after their own children have left the organisation and will be stepping down this summer.

Our wonderful team of adult volunteers are from all backgrounds and help to run the group for our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers. We are still at a critical point, without leaders to organise and run sessions week-on-week or trustee members to help with admin activities, Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts will not be able to operate. We must meet "leaders to

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young person" ratios for each section. If we do not have leaders, we cannot run the weekly sessions and will have to close some sections. More leaders, parent helpers and trustees 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 trustee team members we would not be able to function. If you would like to join our leadership and trustee 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 interest list for Beaver, Cubs, Scouts, or Explorers please send their details to: enquiries@brixworthscouts.org.uk
To find out more about Scouting in general, visit <http://scouts.org.uk>.

– Brixworth Group Scout Leader

A summer of events at Lamport Hall

Our summer events are always a key part of our annual programme and we're looking forward to hosting the classics again this year, with a couple of newer events as well.

We will be opening on Saturday 10th June as part of the National Gardens Open Scheme. Last year it was a gloriously hot day so we're hoping the weather is kind again. The gardens will be open 10am-4pm with our café also open offering artisan coffee, delicious cakes and light lunches. Entry is £10 for adults and free for under 16s with all proceeds going to charities including Marie Curie, Macmillan Cancer Support and Parkinson's UK.

Our Walled Garden Theatre returns with a wonderful production by Chapterhouse Theatre of Oscar Wilde's popular play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The theatre will be on Saturday 15th July with doors open at 4:30pm for a 6pm start. With a cast of unforgettably larger than life characters, the delightful Cecily, the roguish Algernon and the



formidable Lady Bracknell are sure to keep you wildly entertained! Picnic with friends and family and enjoy this exquisite new production of Wilde's hilarious tale of double lives and mistaken identities presented in full period costume.


On Sunday 16th July, enjoy traditional New Orleans Jazz with The Tame Valley Stompers Allstars with music from the '20s and '30s to get your feet tapping and your ears tingling. Bring along a picnic, relax in the beautiful surroundings of the Walled Garden and soak up the music – the perfect way to spend a summer's afternoon! Gates open at 1pm for a 2pm start.

Have you ever foraged for delicious wild foods before? Would you like to learn what is in season that can be foraged safely with a little care, to supplement your diet? Come along to Lamport this year to be guided around the beautiful estate by Lizzy and Steve of Tellus Mater who will take you on a wander to seek hedgerow and woodland edibles that are full of surprising flavours! There will be a two hour taster session at 10:30am on Thursday 15th June or a full day foraging experience on Saturday 1st July.

Our programme of Lamport Lunchtime Recitals continues on Wednesday 21st June. Jem Lowther – pianist, organist and Director of Music at the Parish Church, Northampton – will play piano solos and introduce a guest singer. Doors open at 12:30pm with tea and biscuits for a 1pm start. Recital tickets include entry to the gardens after the concert.

The Hall and Gardens are open every Wednesday and Thursday, 10am-4pm. Check the website for more details.


– Eleanor Carter,
Lamport Hall Preservation Trust



BRIXWORTH WILLS


For professional advice in the comfort of your own home, contact Rosie Wright for a free initial appointment.

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STEP

Rosie Wright is a member of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners and of the Society of Will Writers



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01604 973373

42 Froxhill Crescent Brixworth Northampton NN6 9LN

Brix & Mortar

How important is it to have Zoopla and Rightmove?

As almost 95% of property searches begin with an online property site, so it just makes sense to advertise with both of the two most popular property portals available.

Many clients ask me how important it is to have their home marketed on Zoopla in addition Rightmove when Rightmove is so recognised. My answer is simple. Some people, according to Zoopla's own research, only look on Zoopla? They call these 'unique visitors'. So, if your property is only on Rightmove and not Zoopla, then you could be missing out.

With a brand awareness score of 95%, Zoopla may not be the original property website in the UK, but it still pulls in a whopping 55 million visits a month. The history of Zoopla is quite interesting too. It started life as Primelocation.com. We all know that one! Primelocation was the

major property portal used by house hunters in London. Outside of London it got its reputation as the portal for more up-market homes. The website is alive and well today. It still attracts a huge following. So, if you are not on Zoopla.com, then you are not on Primelocation.com either.

What else does Zoopla offer in terms of exposure for your property? Zoopla also partners with sites such as MailOnline, The Times, and The Telegraph. These all display Zoopla's property search tool on each of their websites. So, if you are not on Zoopla.com, then you are not on MailOnline, The Times, and The Telegraph.

Being on the right property portals is only

half the battle though. It is no good creating lots of leads if there are not experienced property consultants available to process the activity. An agent may not need a local office in this modern era but, with more and more people working from home and visiting property portals throughout the day, they do need to ensure the leads are dealt with quickly and efficiently.

With all of the above in mind, this is how I would choose the best estate agent to represent me and my home.

Firstly, I would look on Rightmove and Zoopla for properties in my price range.

I suggest going 10% either side of the asking price you expect your home to be. First impressions count so see what the main photo is like. If there are some additional ones, are they attractive? If you like the look of the primary photos, then click into the main particulars. Is there a floorplan? This is now one of the first things people look for. Now the description. Has the agent done a full description of the individual rooms or just a summary. Many people like the full descriptions still.

Once you have narrowed down two or three agents you think represent homes in the way you would like yours represented, email them for more information. See how long they take to come back to you as a potential buyer and, when they do, how knowledgeable they are about that particular property.

The theory being that when estate agents come out to value your property you are seeing them at their best. You need to know how they treat potential buyers!

— Stuart Little,

Brixworth Property Expert for Horts



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HORTS

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Planning decisions

WND/2022/1032 Land off Harborough Road Retention of hard surfacing to existing access track	BPC not supported WNC pending
WND/2022/1034 Lake House, Brixworth Hall Park Work to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order	BPC observ WNC pending
WND/2023/0066 Beech Hill 25, Church St Work to and removal of trees in conservation area	BPC observ WNC approved
WND/2022/0863 (Amend) Grange Farm, Holcot Rd Change of use and partial rebuilding of former Coach House to holiday let	BPC supported WNC pending
WND/2022/0891 (Amend) Grange Farm, Holcot Rd Conversion of agricultural barns to 2 dwellings.	BPC supported WNC pending
WND/2022/1120 10, Wheatens Close Lawful development certificate (proposed) single storey rear extension and garage conversion	BPC not considered WPC approved
WND/2022/0943 (Amend) 22, Dairy Close Removal of existing conservatory. Construction of single storey and two storey rear extension. Conversion of part of utility to store	BPC not considered WPC approved
WND/2023/0091 The Granary, Cross Hill Work to trees in a conservation area	BPC supported WNC approved

WND/2022/1116 6, Woodsfield Construction of new dwelling attached to existing dwelling	BPC not supported WNC pending
WND/2022/0996 19, Parkfield Road Construction of detached dwelling	BPC not supported WNC pending
WND/2023/0064 Victors Barn, Northampton Road Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DA/2017/0919 to allow alterations to ridge heights, elevation details, siting and materials (retrospective)	BPC supported WNC pending
WND/2022/1049 39, Blackthorn Crescent Construction of detached garage	BPC supported WNC approved
WND/2023/0149 The Old Hay Barn, Froghall Demolition of pole barn. Construction of garage and workshop	BPC supported WNC pending
WND/2022/1115 Isham Charity Farm, Holcot Road Conversion of barns to form two dwellings	BPC supported WNC pending
WND/2023/0193 1A, Froghall Work to tree within a conservation area	BPC supported WNC pending
WND/2023/0194 16, Newlands Work to tree within a conservation area	BPC supported WNC pending
WND/2023/0237 Tulip Tree House, Brixworth Hall Park Work to tree within a conservation area	BPC supported WNC pending

Free Gas Boiler or Air Source Heat Pump for Low Income Households

Low income households in Northamptonshire are being offered a free energy-efficient gas boiler or a central heating system powered by an air source heat pump, thanks to the government's ECO4 schemes: First Time Central Heating and Connected for Warmth.



Households who have an income of less than £31,000 per year or claim certain benefits and whose homes have an Energy Performance Rating of D, E, F or G may be entitled to new lower-carbon heating measures. These schemes are available to people who own their own homes or live in privately-rented properties.

Plumb-Line Contracting Limited in Moulton Park, Northampton, is approved to install the heating measures as part of the government's drive to alleviate fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions. Plumb-Line is certified to have all the skills and experience to complete the installation work to a high standard.

Adrian Brown, Managing Director of Plumb-Line says: "This is an excellent opportunity for people on low incomes to heat their homes in a much more affordable way. The heating measures really are free of charge to households who meet the qualifying criteria. If you have a gas boiler than was installed before 2005, have a household income of less than £31,000 or receive certain benefits, and your home has an energy performance rating of D, E, F or G, then you're likely to qualify for a brand new high efficiency condensing gas combi boiler".

"If you don't have mains gas and you use electric heaters or warm air units, have an income of less than £31,000 or claim certain benefits and have an energy performance rating of E, F or G, then you could be eligible for a brand new heating system powered by an air source heat pump," Adrian adds.

As well as installing the heating measures, Plumb-Line can also install insulation measures free of charge under the same scheme, if applicable.

Anyone who thinks they may qualify can go to www.plumb-line.co.uk for more information or call 01604 644500.

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Library update

Opening Times

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 10am-2pm

Library News

We have just enjoyed another hectic school holiday in the library. During the Easter break we made bunnies, bees, bouquets, and baskets, and got busy solving another puzzle trail around the shelves. We also loved seeing Lynn and her menagerie from Animals in Mind. Check out these photos of some of her critters. These sessions were fully funded by the fantastic fundraising efforts of the Friends of Brixworth Library. Thank you so much to them for making them possible.

Whilst the weather is beginning to warm

up, don't forget we are still a Warm Space and have tea, coffee, and soup available to anyone who wants it; completely free; no questions asked. Since the initiative began at the end of last year, we have served over 100 hot drinks to visitors and been a warm, safe, comfortable space

to many more.

With the warm weather also come thoughts of the upcoming Bank holiday. To celebrate the King's Coronation on 6th May we hosted another window art exhibition. We invited all the schools and groups in the village to design giant postage stamps to display in our windows. By the

time the Bulletin comes out our Coronation Art Gallery will already be in position, so why not pop down and take a look?

Summer Reading Challenge



2023: Ready, Set, Read!

This year the Reading Agency is teaming up with children's charity, the Youth Sport Trust, for 'Ready, Set, Read!', a Summer Reading Challenge focused on reading, sport and play.

The Summer Reading Challenge invites children (aged 4-12) to read six library books of their choice over the summer holidays. Children will join a superstar sporting team and their marvellous mascots as they navigate a fictional summer obstacle course. There are special reward stickers to collect and even a certificate for anyone who manages to complete the challenge!

The challenge launches on Saturday 8th July but you can join at any time during the summer - the sooner you do, the longer your child will have to read their six books. The best bit? It is all completely free! Visit the official challenge website to find out more, and discover amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for keeping little minds and bodies active over the summer break:

www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk.

We are running lots of sporty activities to go along with the challenge. Check out our Facebook page: @BrixworthLibrary to see all the exciting stuff we have planned.

Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for young people (age 14+) to help make this year's Summer Reading Challenge a success. Volunteer throughout the summer and make friends, have fun, gain valuable employability skills, whilst empowering children in your community to unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading. Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers register children to the challenge; give out rewards, certificates, and medals; talk to children about books; and support library staff in delivering exciting and fun packed activities throughout the holidays. You can even put



MOULTON
LEISURE CENTRE

TWO
MONTHS

FREE

WHEN YOU JOIN ON AN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Visit everyoneactive.com/join

A photograph of several people exercising on treadmills in a modern, well-lit leisure centre. The people are wearing athletic wear and appear to be in motion. The background shows large windows and modern interior design.

*Applies to full fitness annual memberships, 16 years+. 1-year annual fitness membership, full cost must be paid in advance. A joining fee applies. No refunds if membership cancelled early. See www.everyoneactive.com/terms for full terms. Everyone Active manages this facility in partnership with West Northamptonshire Council



your volunteering hours towards your Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Under 5s Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for volunteers to help deliver our weekly events for pre-school children and their families. We currently offer five sessions a week; but are particularly looking for help with Explore a Story on Tuesday afternoons. During this session we choose a picture book to share with the children followed by a simple craft and a game, or activity, inspired by the book.

We are hoping to build up a small bank of volunteers who could work alongside staff to help prepare, run, and clear up after these sessions, and who might also be willing to lead them during staff absences or even on a more regular basis (although you would not need to commit to volunteering every week). Full training and support will be given. Please get in touch to find out more.

To apply for either of these roles please just ask for an application form.



Study Happy

If you are a student looking for somewhere to revise this exam season, we have space available in the main library and on our mezzanine floor. Our quieter times tend to be afternoons, but we always have free Wi-Fi available, charging points, as well as Study Happy kits filled with paper, pens, and games to play when you need a little break.

Children’s and Family Events

Free, term-time activities for under 5s

- Explore a Story -walk-in - Tuesdays 14:00-14:30 - interactive story session with craft.
- 9:30 Rhyme Time -online booking only - Wednesdays 9:30-10:00 - singing with scarves, puppets, and instruments. (Space MUST be booked in advance via Eventbrite website or app)
- 10:30 Rhyme Time -walk-in only (1st-

come, 1st served) - 10:30-11:00 - singing with scarves, puppets, and instruments. (Paper tickets can be collected, in person, on the day)

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

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

Activities for primary school aged children

- Construction Club - Saturdays 10:00-13:00 - LEGO, DUPLO, K’nex and more...
- Board Games Café - Mondays 15:30-16:30 - traditional family fun.

School Holiday Events - crafts, scavenger trails and entertainers. Special events are advertised in the library and online here:

- Facebook Events: www.facebook.com/BrixworthLibrary/events
- Events Calendar: www.tockify.com/nccevents (search for ‘Brixworth Library’)
- Event Booking: www.eventbrite.co.uk (search for ‘Brixworth Library’)

Business & IP Centre (BIPC)

Don’t forget that the Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire offers free business support

through libraries. The BIPC area is on the mezzanine of the library and has quiet space to work with lots of business books. There is free access to a range of specialised business databases on the library computers too. For example, GrantFinder is the leading funding database in the UK. Search for funding for business, local communities, and charitable organisations for free!

You can pop into the library on Monday mornings between 9.30am and midday to

talk to a member of the BIPC team. For further information about all workshops, webinars and 1:1s please visit: www.bipcnorthamptonshire.co.uk/events or search BIPC Northamptonshire on Eventbrite. You can book to speak to a member of the BIPC team on Zoom, in person at Brixworth Library, or on the phone. To book and for further information please email: bipc@westnorthants.gov.uk.

Supporting Independence Programme (SIP)

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

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

If you or someone you know would like to refer into the service, or you would just like some more information, please visit our website www.westnorthants.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/supporting-independence-service, or call us on 01604 361533.

Other Services

- Library to You – home delivery service for housebound customers
- IT Buddy – 1:1 computer support with our volunteer
- 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
- Evri ParcelShop with Print in Store labels

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

What's on



26/5	The Proclaimers	Derngate
28-29/5	Rural Life	Lampport Hall
28/5	Streets Ahead - Cheers to 20 Years	Derngate
29/5	The Simon and Garfunkel Story	Derngate
2/6	NC Jazz Present Quintet Blue	Royal
3/6	The King of Reggae - The Man, The Music	Royal
3/6	Friends of All Saints: Michael Curtis	All Saints, Brixworth
4/6	Stacey Dooley	Royal
5/6	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
8/6	British Flowers Week - Posy Pop Up	Kelmarsh Hall
10/6	National Garden Scheme Open Day	Lampport Hall
11/6	Open Farm Sunday	Park Farm, Brixworth
14-15/6	Dragons and Mythical Beasts	Derngate
15/6	Foraging Taster Session	Lampport Hall
17/6	The McCartney Songbook	Derngate
17/6	Summer Fete	All Saints Church
18/6	Fathers Day Cream Tea Specials	N'ton & Lampport Railway
20-21/6	NMPAT Festival	Derngate
21/6	Lampport Lunchtime Recital: Jem Lowther	Lampport Hall
23/6	Calling Planet Earth	Derngate
24-25/6	Annual Beer and Music Festival	Brixworth Cricket Club
26/6	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
29/6	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
30/6	Tom Houghton - Absolute Shambles	Royal
1-2 Jul	Steam and Heavy Horse Show 2023	Hollowell

2/7	Limelight Theatre - Groovy Baby	Derngate
5/7	David Ross Ed. Trust: The Lost Words	Derngate
7/7	Sinfonia Viva: Beethoven's Symphony No: 3 Eroica	Derngate
8/7	UK Pink Floyd Experience	Derngate
9/7	NMPAT - Generations 2023	Derngate
10/7	Caitlin Moran - What About Men?	Derngate
15/7	The Importance of Being Earnest	Lampport Hall
15/7	Open Stage: Any Way We Want It!	Derngate
16/7	Jazz in the Gardens	Lampport Hall
16/7	Cream Tea Specials	N'ton & Lampport Railway
16/7	Dancing Schools UK - The Final	Derngate
17/7	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
19/7	Lampport and Hanging Houghton PC	Lampport Hall
20/7	Hansons Valuation Day	Kelmarsh Hall
23/7	Kids for a Quid	N'ton & Lampport Railway
26/7	Family Picnic in the Woods	Kelmarsh Hall
27/7	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
5/8	Sophia Rahman and Andres Kaljuste - Scandinavian Music	Lampport Hall
6/8	Cream Tea Specials	N'ton & Lampport Railway
26-28/8	Bank Holiday Family Gala	N'ton & Lampport Railway
27-28/8	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Lampport Hall
31/8	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
3/9	Open Studios Exhibition	Lampport Hall

9/9	Heritage Open Days	Lampport Hall
17/9	Cycle4Cynthia	Holdenby House
17/9	National Garden Scheme Open Day	Kelmarsh Hall
17/9	Jordan Gray - Is It a Bird	Royal
17/9	An Evening with The Hollies	Derngate
18/9	The Wonder of Stevie	Derngate
19/9	Yippee Ki Yay	Royal
20/9	Lampport and Hanging Houghton PC	Lampport Hall
20/9	Cube Love 2023	Derngate
21/9	Hansons Valuation Day	Kelmarsh Hall
21/9	History Society - The Culworth and County Jail	Brixworth Village Hall
21/9	Much Ado About Nothing	Royal
21/9	Tim Vine - Breeeeep!	Derngate
22/9	NC Jazz: Art Themes and New Directions	Royal
22/9	Fascinating Aida: 40th Anniversary Show	Derngate
22-23/9	Drama Group: Zoo & Money Money Money	Brixworth Village Hall
23/9	Seann Walsh: Back from the Bed	Royal
23/9	Gyles Brandreth: Cant Stop Talking	Derngate
24/9	Morgan and Wests Massive Magic Show for Kids	Royal
26/9	Miriam Margolyes - Oh Miriam! Live	Derngate
28/9	Ivo Graham: Organised Fun	Royal
28/9	Phil Wang - Wang in There Baby	Derngate
29/9	Royal Liverpool Philharmonic	Derngate
30/9	John Robins - Howl	Derngate



This page is sponsored by

your local property consultant

stuart little

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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



"Long Live the King" - All Saints' celebrated King Charles' Coronation with flowers!



Sat 17th
June
2-4:30pm

Steam-powered roller

FREE ENTRY

Summer Fête

Crazy Golf

Games & lots more

Homemade cakes & teas

Join us for a jolly afternoon at our Summer Fete



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

YouTube @Brixworthcommunitychurch

Did you enjoy the bank holiday weekend of the King's Coronation? Lots of events took place such as street parties up and down the country plus a star studied concert after the Coronation service at Westminster Abbey.

I always enjoy these occasions and if there is one thing we do well as a nation it is pomp and ceremony.

It is not everyone's cup of tea mind. There are those who shout 'not my king' about King Charles and perhaps such sentiments reflect your own opinion. Whatever the case, it got me thinking about Jesus Christ who is, as the Bible puts it, 'the King of kings and Lord of lords'.

There is no doubt Jesus came as a King. Perhaps not obvious as he was born into poverty and grew up inconspicuously. However, when he began to preach he spoke about 'his kingdom that will never end.' At the end of his ministry, on the first Palm Sunday, he was welcomed into Jerusalem like a King with the crowd waving palm branches and cheering just like the King's coronation.

However, most kings in our society have huge security around them with strict protocol in how one should go about approaching them. Jesus is very different.

Yes, he still needs to be respected as King but everyone is able to come close to him and relate to him as their friend. His death and resurrection has made that possible. By trusting in him he brings us into God's royal family!!

I guess there are two groups when it comes to King Jesus. There are those who praise him and accept his loving rule over their lives and there are those who think or even say, 'no not my King'. Which group are you in? *Andy*



Contact Andy-Lloyd Williams on 07958 604961



We are holding a free men's breakfast at the Olive Branch Coffee shop on Saturday 17th June (8:30am) for any men in the village who might be interested. We only have 30 places on offer so places will be given on a first come first served basis. Please add your name and contact number on the list at the Olive Branch.

SUMMER 2023 HOLIDAY CLUB July 26th - 28th

We are happy to announce the dates for this summer's Holiday Club and Family Fun Day. The Holiday Club will be starting on Wednesday 26th July and running till Friday 28th July with a Celebration Service at the school on Sunday 30th July.



FAMILY FUN DAY Sat July 29th



The Family Fun Day will be on Saturday 29th July, with lots of attractions including Bouncy Castle, sumo suits, various side stalls for all the family and a FREE BBQ. We have applied to Northamptonshire Community Foundation for funding and if this becomes available to us we will be able to offer both events as free.





EASTER Walk of Witness

As you can probably imagine, Easter is a really busy time for the Church. This year we invested in the Life magazine which we posted through every door in the village. A colourful magazine with some great articles inside, it even had a puzzle page. We hope you enjoyed reading it.

We joined together with Rev. David Reith and his congregation on Good Friday for the Walk of Witness from the community centre up to All Saints Church carrying the cross and remembering what happened on that first Good Friday 2000yrs ago. It was a beautiful day and many joined us on the walk, and more joined us at the Church.

We had lots of people join us on Easter Sunday for our service at the School where we had an easter quiz which helped to draw out the evidence for the resurrection. An Easter egg hunt for the children and a great message from Pastor Andy.

Big thanks to all those who made it happen!



BAPTISM SERVICE

How good it was to add to the Easter Celebrations with the Baptism of two young people from the Church. Molly Donoghue and Scarlett Valentine. So great to hear their personal stories before they took the plunge.



Last month hopefully you would have received a free "Life" magazine through your door from all at Brixworth Community Church. Great articles, recipes, puzzle page and even picnic ideas for the coming sunny weather. We hope you enjoyed reading it. We as a Church continue to meet at the school every Sunday at 10:30am and would love to welcome you. We have separate activities for children and young people and refreshments for all after the service. We hope you will join us soon. God's blessings

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* (*held at the Library & Community Centre)

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

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

 [YouTube @brixworthcommunitychurch](#)

www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org (Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1188559)




Brixworth Community Church Coffee Shop

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

Mon - Thur 10-3.00, Fri 9.30-2.30, Saturday 9.30-1.00
Pensioners Luncheon Club Wed 12 noon*
*(membership currently full ask to be added to waiting list)

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

this non-profit making venture has a welcoming atmosphere



Home of the All Day Brixworth Breakfast and much more!



Chairman's Chat

Making coronation memories

Community

Brixworth & District British Legion Grant

MUGA

Grand opening of the new MUGA at St David's Playing Field

Coronation Bookmarks

Commemorating the King's Coronation

Public Spaces Protection Order

New rules protecting our public spaces

Hedgerow Heroes

Planting a new hedgerow in The Pocket Park

Our Commitments

Signing the Armed Forces Covenant and becoming a Civility & Respect Pledge

Chairman's Chat

In 12 months we have celebrated the Queen's 70 year reign, then just three months later mourned her death and now we put out the bunting again to commemorate the coronation of the King.

Brixworth Parish Council involved itself in all three events and the Council marked the Coronation of King Charles III with bookmarks which were distributed to the four nursery schools, the primary school and the village's three nursing homes as well as all residents who receive one of the 3000 Brixworth Bulletins distributed by volunteers.

It was a great honour and privilege to distribute these mementos with my colleague Gavin and it will be a special memory of the coronation that I will treasure forever.



Brixworth Parish Council has approved a grant application for £1,256 to the newly formed Brixworth & District British Legion.

This group aims to raise funds and support local servicemen and women, veterans and their families. The support provided includes financial help, dealing with mental health issues and alcohol misuse.

The grant will be used to purchase parts of the ceremonial uniform, a standard and flagpole which will be used during ceremonies and services.



@brixworthPC



MUGA - Grand Opening

The grey clouds and thunderstorms did not dampen spirits at the grand opening of the MUGA at St David's Recreational Grounds in early May. Brixworth Parish Council welcomed the chairman of Basketball Northants, Martin Spencer and professional basketball player Andre Arissol to officially open the MUGA alongside members of the public and students from Brixworth Primary School.



Thank you to everyone that joined us at the event, to Brixworth Central Sports for providing a space to enjoy refreshments and to our VIP guests for sharing their positive campaign message to 'Carry A Basketball Not A Blade'.

If you are interested in hiring this facility for your sports club, please contact the Clerk for more information. All supported activities are team sports that promote social inclusion and play for all, including spectator space and wheeled access.





DID YOU KNOW?

Planning Applications

BPC does not make a final decision on any planning application put before it, it is an advisory body to West Northamptonshire Council (Daventry District).

Our Planning Committee meet publically every three weeks to review any applications sent to us by West Northants Council. The agenda and planning decisions can be found on our website.

<https://www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning-committee/>



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

Coronation Bookmarks - A Thank You

Brixworth Parish Council would like to thank the Brixworth Bulletin for enabling the purchase of 4,500 bookmarks and for the distribution to more than 3,000 households.

This would not have been possible without the financial support of the Brixworth Bulletin and without the help of the volunteers who distribute the Bulletin to households in Brixworth and the surrounding villages.

The bookmark was designed using the coronation colour, burgundy, of King Charles III. Together with the Brixworth Parish logo all embossed in silver which we hope will make a charming and attractive memento of this historic occasion.



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

Public Spaces Protection Order

West Northants Council approved the introduction of a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in November 2022 to promote responsible dog ownership and prohibit smoking across the Daventry and South areas of West Northamptonshire, including Brixworth.

Anyone who is in control of a dog in a public place must:

- Pick up after the dog immediately;
- Have the appropriate means to pick up after that dog;
- Prohibit dogs from entering the following: children’s play areas; schools when open and in use by pupils; skateparks; tennis courts; multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and bowling greens;
- Keep the dog on a lead when in: cemeteries; graveyards; memorial gardens; allotments; car parks; sports grounds, fields and pitches, when in use for authorised sporting activity and near schools when open and in use by pupils;
- Put the dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised person;
- Restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person to a maximum of four dogs at any one time.



A £100 fixed penalty notice may be issued if you fail to comply with any of the requirements within the PSPO.
The PSPO can be viewed here: <https://www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/public-spaces-protection-order-pspo/>



Pocket Park CPRE Hedgerow Project

The community really came together in The Pocket Park off Eaglehurst this Spring to clear the land and plant a brand new section of hedgerow. This section of hedgerow joins two new hedgerows planted at St David's and The Ashway playing fields, completing the project funded by a generous grant from the CPRE.



"Hedgerows are the vital stitching in the patchwork of our countryside. Not only are they beautiful to look at, with shifting seasonal colours, but they also provide homes and corridors for wildlife. And all the while they help tackle the climate crisis by capturing carbon" - CPRE

Our thanks to CPRE Northamptonshire, The Brixworth Wombles, Friends of Brampton Valley Way & Brixworth Country Park, Pocket Watch! and all of the other volunteers who gave up their time to help.



In celebration, we would love to inspire some of our own saplings and create a colourful gallery of pictures inspired by this project. We are asking children in Brixworth to think about nature all around them to produce a piece of artwork which captures the theme of 'Hedgerows and Wildlife'.

This could feature the hedgerows themselves and how they might look in a year or two, the animals that might use them for food and shelter, prints from leaves, or the colours you might see through the seasons. You can use paints, crayons, pens, pencils... anything you like to create your artwork.

Take a picture of your creations and email them to admin@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk or drop them into the Info Point just inside the Library & Community Centre building.



@brixworthPC

Proudly Supporting...

Brixworth Parish Council has renewed its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant in partnership with various other organisations including other local councils, police, members of the voluntary sector and the civilian community of Northamptonshire.

The Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local armed forces community. Its purpose is to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by the members of the armed forces living in the local community, particularly those who have given the most. This applies to current and ex-members of the Armed Forces, families and widow(er)s living in Northamptonshire.



**PROUDLY
SUPPORTING
THOSE WHO
SERVE.**



Civility & Respect

We have become A Civility & Respect Council, signing a pledge agreeing that BPC will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect.



**A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council**



**HOW TO
REPORT**



DOG FOULING

- Dog fouling is both unpleasant and a danger to health, and West Northants Council is committed to tackling it in all public places across the district.
- The assistance of the public is crucial to the Council's efforts to tackle dog fouling. It is helpful to our officers if when reporting dog fouling you are able to include the following information:
 - The time, date and location of incident
 - The frequency of the offence, if it happens regularly
 - A description/breed of the dog
 - Any other descriptions to help identify the offender, including their name and address if known.



<https://selfserve.daventrydc.gov.uk/forms/DogFouling.aspx>
Email - environmentalimprovement.DDC@westnorthants.gov.uk
By phone - 0300 128 7000



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

Contact the Parish Clerk:

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

Full Council (Thursdays): 29 June, 27 July, 31 August
Planning (Mondays): 5 June, 26 June, 17 July
Surgery (Saturdays): 3 June, 1 July, 5 August

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

 <p>Chairman Cllr. Sandra Moxon</p>	 <p>Vice Chairman Cllr. Jackie Bird</p>	 <p>Councillor Lynne Compton</p>	 <p>Councillor Kevin Parker</p>	 <p>Councillor Elaine Coe</p>	 <p>Councillor Tom Mitchell</p>	 <p>Councillor Ian Barratt</p>	 <p>Councillor Neal Brown</p>
 <p>Councillor Barbara Lannon</p>	 <p>Councillor James Collyer</p>	 <p>Councillor Christine Ware</p>	 <p>Councillor Gary Spratt</p>	 <p>Councillor Frances Peacock</p>	 <p>Councillor Tony Nixon</p>	 <p>Admin Assistant Gavin Kirkup</p>	 <p>Parish Clerk Josie Flavell</p>



brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Brixworth Football Club 2022-23 Update

It's been another eventful season here in Brixworth.

The season draws to a close on the 31st May and we would like to thank the Parish Council and Central Sports, who together with the Football Club added another defib to the village. Through collaboration and football funding we have added the newest defib to the St David's ground; we now have a defib at both venues in the village for football, cricket and public use.

I'd also like to mention the Brixworth All Saints (1st Team) who recently played in a Division 2 League Cup final where they brought home the trophy by beating Stanwick Rovers 1-0. They were unfortunate to lose in the same final this time last year, so great commitment was shown to get there again and win it. Well done to all those players and we wish them well for the new season which will start in August. We must also applaud the U15s Girls this season who continue to go from strength to strength in the county. Last season they won the league cup final at u14s and now defend that title, with two finals to compete in – the U15s Girls League Cup, where they played the final against Rushden & Diamonds on



14 May, and Northampton Town Football Club on 20 May. And with just five games left to play,

they also lead the league table. It's just fantastic to see the improvements with these 18 girls, 11 of whom have been there pretty much from the outset.

We had other close encounters this season as the U15s boys went to a County Cup final at Cogenhoe where they took on Santos Panthers –

effectively an academy. A great game was played and the Brixworth boys did themselves proud as they drew 1-1 in the 80 minutes of play. There



was some terrific football played but no extra time meant the game went immediately to the dreaded penalties. Sadly, Santos took the trophy, but the future looks bright for the team going forward.

Elsewhere we have a really strong minis section in the 4 to 6 year olds, who train every Saturday morning. We will be looking for new volunteers next season as some of this age become U7s. Next year,

we are likely to have two new teams: the current U7s to U11s where we have seven teams. This includes the newly formed U9s Girls team, who were recently spotted celebrating the end of their first season with brunch at the Olive Branch (pictured). These teams all play in non-competitive leagues to help with the development of the players. We endeavour to produce footballers who can play without fear and play through the thirds to produce highly technical footballers, along with parents who can watch and enjoy without fixating on the score.

In the 12s-18s groups, we say goodbye this season to the U18s Jaguars who make it to their final season. Once again, a group of players who have all stayed together virtually from the age of seven. Hats off to the coaches and thank you for your commitment over the years. Any players who are 17 and 18 can also register to become involved in the Seniors 1st team set up and we would welcome hearing from ex-players and players who will stay in the village to come and join them next year.



It's great to see teams in the village now have more girls playing for them in age groups where we cannot set up a girls only team; U11s/ U12s/U14s are all mixed teams. How far we have come from when I joined the club ten years ago – back then we had two girls playing, now it is over 50. A special mention must also go to Rachel Clipston, who used to play for our current u16s team and has now signed for Aston Villa Ladies.

Well done to the U13s team who gain promotion, the U15s who should finish in the top three, the new U14s girls who are playing together for the first time this season in competitive matches and the U16s boys who went to the semi-finals of the League Cup.

I hope you've been able to support the U15 Girls in their finals in May. Anyone wishing to get involved in being on the footballing committee can touch base with the club at our annual Brixworth Fun Club Day on 11th June by locating a committee member, or email secretary@brixworthjuniors.co.uk to express an interest and find out more about becoming involved in a great club.

11th June Brixworth Fun Club Day

– Simon Compton, Secretary Brixworth FC

