

BRIXWORTH BULLETIN

The quarterly newspaper for Brixworth and surrounding villages

Issue 79, December 2023

Save our allotments!

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow” – Audrey Hepburn, actress, fashion icon and avid gardener.



Credit: Sean Goodhart

On a sunny autumn morning, the Brixworth Allotments on Northampton Road, although sandwiched between two busy main roads and surrounded by housing on three sides, provide four acres of calm – walking down the lane is like entering Narnia through the back of the wardrobe, lush green vegetables growing out of the ground, bushes abundant with seasonal fruit and even a few sunflowers still clinging on to summer. It seems a shame, after already losing 5 of its original 9 acres, the landowners of these allotments now want to take back the remaining 4 acres – the landowners being a family who have already sold off acres and acres of Brixworth’s green spaces for the building of the Ashway and Saxon Rise housing estates.

The benefits of allotment gardens and their important role in a community are now widely recognised. Whilst allotments fell out of favour in the 70’s and 80’s with the advent of cheap supermarkets and many of them were sold off for development, they are now very much back in vogue with long waiting lists throughout the UK; the waiting list in Brixworth currently averages two years. The allotments on Northampton Road have played an important part in our village’s history, and it is hoped that in these health conscious, environmentally aware times, they will continue to have a role to play.

The Past

Allotment gardens (to use the official name) have been an intrinsic part of British life for centuries, their origin can be traced

as far back as the Early Medieval period when the ‘Open Field System’ was introduced - whereby huge fields, belonging to a village or local landowner, were divided into strips for individuals to grow their own crops.

Today’s system of allotment gardens evolved from the Enclosures Act of 1845, when land was given to the ‘labouring poor’ to grow food. The 1908 Small Holdings and Allotments Act further reinforced this concept, stating that local authorities had a ‘duty’ to provide sufficient allotments in each community ‘according to demand’. An amendment to this act in 1925, established ‘statutory allotments’ which local authorities could not sell off without Ministerial consent.

Unfortunately, the Brixworth Allotments are not on council owned land, although their presence in the village goes back to the 19th Century - and probably further - when 9 acres of land along the Northampton Road was made available to villagers for the purpose of growing their own food.

A Parliamentary document dating back to 1822, however, shows that the Brixworth allotments had another role to play that was arguably as important to the community as the growing of food – it states that “...the rent of the land (allotments) was sufficient to pay 2 school masters. Noted payment was sufficient to pay for 10 poor children whose parents did not own freehold of greater than 10s value.” So, the allotments were instrumental in financing the village school and it is believed that rent from the allotments continued to fund it right up until the 1937 Education Act.

There are also historical records showing that the occupants of the Workhouse on Spratton Road (long before it was a coffee shop!) worked on the allotments growing fresh fruit and vegetables to feed themselves and other workhouse residents.

In the 1950’s, however, the land, along with Hill Farm and many more acres around the village, was purchased by the Cross family. Everything continued as usual for the next 70 years and the rent continued to be paid to land agents. Victor Cross was the second generation of the family to own the land, selling much of it (to the left of Northampton Road when travelling into the village) to Dallas Burston; upon his death, he left the remaining acres on the other

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

side of the road to his three sons, Timothy, Peter and William.

The Cross brothers have since set up 3X Investments Ltd and sold off most of the remaining land around the village for the Ashway and Saxon Rise housing developments; they are now coming after the last 4 acres - the Brixworth Allotments.

When Barratts came to build the second phase of the Saxon Rise development, they appeared to build carefully around the allotments and marketed it as a ‘protected Open Space’, a positive advantage to the new homeowners. Councillor Jonathan Harris (Lib Dem) confirmed that on the Neighbourhood Plan for Brixworth, the Northampton Road allotments site is indeed marked as a ‘protected Open Space’.

Part of Barratt’s original development proposal, which was passed by the planning committee, included provision for the allotments – *“The allotments would be retained in their current position, with the provision of an access road through the development, as well as providing more secure boundaries, new plots for additional users and a mains water supply.”*

The Brixworth Allotment holders confirmed that Barratts had kept their word on most of these issues, although the current allotment land was never sold to Barratts and remains in the ownership of the Cross family.

The Present

On 2nd September this year, some of the allotment holders received a “NOTICE TO QUIT” from the Cross brothers – no explanation given, just...

“The Landlords GIVE YOU NOTICE that they require you to give vacant possession of the Premises on 29 September 2024...”

The Bulletin approached each of the Cross brothers for comment and two out of the three replied. From their responses, we understand that in early 2022, they approached representatives of the Brixworth Allotment Association and were *“in discussions ... concerning development of part of the allotments”*. They wanted the allotment holders to give up ‘part’ of the land in return for *“the transfer of the freehold of the other part”* to the Allotment Association. There were certain conditions attached to this offer, however, and the Association did not consider it a viable option; inevitably, an agreement could not be reached and negotiations broke down, resulting in the current eviction notice.

Whilst the allotments have clearly played an important role in Brixworth’s past, the benefits of this ‘protected Open Space’ are still relevant today and go way beyond the growing of fruit and vegetables. In November 2020, the University of Sheffield, Dept. of Animal and Plant Sciences and Institute for Sustainable Food,

published a paper on the social and environmental benefits of allotment gardening. After a year long study, their findings reported, *“At a time when land is subject to multiple pressures for development, ... this study demonstrates that these spaces (allotments) are important sites not only for food production, but also health (mental and physical) social capital and environmental engagement.”*

Food Production & Social Capital

Most allotment gardeners will say that their main reason for wanting an allotment is to grow their own fresh food, which for many is driven by a desire for organic produce.

The Sheffield paper also reported that allotment gardening provides *“...high levels of social and community activities, including sharing of surplus food produce.”*

The Brixworth allotment holders are very proud of their friendly, diverse community, which includes multi-generational families, people from other cultures and children with special needs. They appear to be a very supportive group who often help each other out, especially if someone in their community is ill or away for a while.



Credit Ian Topham

In addition, allotment holder, Ken Nickel, told me that he takes fresh produce from the allotments to the Brixworth Community Larder on a weekly basis and other surplus produce is often left by the gates for anyone to take.

Today, many people don’t have large enough gardens for growing their own food, especially as most new homes are being built on increasingly small plots; so, should we not be seeing more land set aside for allotment gardens rather than selling off existing ones? During the pandemic, (when people suddenly had more free

time and became more health conscious) we saw a resurgence of the ‘dig for victory’ ethos, with many of us turning to growing our own – freshly picked tomatoes and lettuces will not only make your salad more delicious, but probably more nutritious too.

Health Benefits

A Parliamentary paper from the Select Committee on Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs (Fifth Report) also noted that “*The potential role for allotments within the promotion of public health is significant.*”

“*Given the undisputed health benefits of allotments, we strongly recommend that allotment provision be explicitly noted in national public health strategy...*” and “*The mental health benefits for all plot holders should not be underestimated.*”

The physical benefit of tending an allotment may seem obvious, being out in the fresh air, all that digging, weeding and cutting back etc. Brixworth allotment holder Frank Letts and his family have worked their plot for generations, he was also Chair of the Allotment Association for many decades, and whilst he has now handed over those reins, at 85 years old he is still an active member of the allotment community and testament to the health and fitness benefits of gardening and growing your own. Physical activity and a sense of purpose are key elements of allotment gardening which have both been linked to increased longevity in recent scientific studies of the world’s “Blue Zones” – those areas with low incidence of chronic disease and long life expectancy.

There is increasing evidence that exercise and direct engagement with the natural environment also has a positive effect on mental health and wellbeing. Local resident, Melanie Williams, whose home backs onto the “protected Open Space”, said that the allotments were “*the main selling point*” for her, “*I moved here for that, it’s what I always wanted*”. She eagerly put her name down on the allotment waiting list, after finding gardening and growing things a ‘*source of great comfort*’ following the death of her husband. She is now a proud allotment holder and devastated by the recent turn of events.

Environmental Engagement

Allotment gardens, and protected Open Spaces, provide natural habitats for a range of wildlife. Both cultivated and untended plots are known to contribute to maintaining the biodiversity in an area. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners carried out a survey that provided evidence showing that “... *allotment garden plots... have on average an up to 30% cent higher species diversity than urban parks, and hence are ecologically more valuable.*”

The growing of fruit and vegetables attracts more pollinating insects, such as bees, as well as developing habitats for small mammals, birds and amphibians. More and more allotment gardeners are switching to organic methods of growing food, freeing the soil of the pesticides commonly used in commercial farming. Many of the Brixworth allotment holders create compost heaps whose organic matter enriches the soil, provides a vital food source for creatures (such as hedgehogs, beetles, toads and worms) and promotes the recycling of green waste.



In more built-up areas, allotment gardens can be the ‘green lungs’ of a community and improve local air quality. The Brixworth Allotment Association now have a ‘no bonfires’ policy so as not to be a nuisance to nearby homeowners and to further improve air quality.

It has also been proven that giving people access to growing fresh food on allotment gardens not only reduces their personal carbon footprint, but also significantly contributes to a reduction in food miles, food waste and other negative environmental impacts such as packaging.

The Future

To return to Audrey Hepburn’s quote “*To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow;*”, we all need to believe that the allotment gardens have as much of a role to play in the future as they have had in Brixworth’s past. If these last 4 acres of allotments on Northampton Road are lost to more development, then our large village of nearly 6,000 residents will lose another of its ‘Open Spaces’. If these allotments vanish from our landscape, there’ll be gone forever and lost to future generations.

There are many LEA’s across the country who now actively encourage schools to take on an allotment for educational and health purposes – indeed, we understand that Brixworth Primary School has made enquiries about taking on one of the plots. Tending an allotment, or similar gardening projects, not only teaches children about the environment, where food comes from and future sustainability, but helps schools tackle physical and mental health issues, thus promoting the general wellbeing of their pupils.

Phil Pinder, the current Chair of the Brixworth Allotments Association, is determined to fight to save the allotments, not only for the forty plus families who tend plots at present, but for the countless families of the future who have yet to reap the benefits.

The allotment holders have the full support of Councillor Jonathan Harris, who is also passionate about saving this ‘Protected Open Space’. *He says the Lib Dems*

“...are aiming to work in co-operation with the Allotment Holders and their association as well as the Parish Council and West Northants Council” to get the matter resolved.

As a starting point, he has set up a ‘Save Our Allotments’ petition which can be signed by following this link: [Save Our Allotments \(typeform.com\)](https://www.saveourallotments.typeform.com) or by contacting Phil Pinder who is circulating a paper copy.

– Tracey Calnan

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Deserving causes

In the last issue, we asked the community to come forward if they had any suggestions for local causes that the Bulletin might support. It is perhaps a sign of the straitened times we find ourselves in that we had a particularly strong response this year, with no fewer than six requests for support.

As the Bulletin's funds are limited to whatever surplus we've been lucky enough to raise from advertising, our contributions this year were just that – contributions, rather than fully funding any of the causes. But, as the saying goes, every little helps. We sincerely hope that the financial contribution provided will go some way to helping each of the cases that came forward.

Some of this year's Causes

Loder Hall, Maidwell

After many years of hosting villages events, craft fairs, dog training and numerous council meetings, the Loder Hall floor was in dire need of re-varnishing. Loder Hall was built as a 'Gentlemen's reading room' with money bequeathed by Sir Reginald

Loder, who lived in Maidwell Hall. Like many village halls, it is used for everything ranging from children's parties, dog training and dance classes to parish council meetings and as a polling station. The income from hiring the hall out covers its annual running costs but not major repairs or improvements – making the trustees of Loder Hall very grateful to the contribution by the Brixworth Bulletin.

SEN Support Group, Brixworth

The SEN Support Group in Brixworth started up in September this year as an initiative by local parents. Recognising that there was no local support network for parents whose children have special educational needs, a group of parents took matters in their own hands and organised a drop in session at Brixworth Community Centre. The parents were keen to make the support group free of charge, and provide teas and coffees – the Bulletin is happy to enable them to do this without having to dig into their own pockets.

Mile a Day Track, Brixworth Primary School

The Parents Teachers Association for Brixworth Primary School is raising funds



for a Mile A Day Track, which would provide a safe and even pathway around the playing field currently used by the school. The PTA hopes that between their PTA's fundraising efforts and a contribution from the school they will be able to raise the necessary investment before too long, providing a welcome all-weather track to help pupils exercise.

Outdoor Area, Brixworth Primary School (pictured above)

Staying with the Primary School, the Bulletin was asked to help with updating and improving the outdoor area used by the reception classes. The school's outdoor classroom is used in all weathers, every day, come rain or shine. The Bulletin's contribution will help the school invest in some new equipment as well carry out maintenance on existing facilities.

Memorial Bench at St David's Park

Perhaps the saddest application we've had was from a local resident who is looking to install a memorial bench on St David's Playing Field, in memory to Alex Smith. Alex was struggling with his mental health and sadly took his own life in May, leaving behind his partner and two-year-old daughter.

In his letter to the Bulletin, Alex' friend and chief fundraiser Jimmy Garrod said:

"Alex and his sister were born and bred in the village, attending the village school and then on to Moulton Secondary. They spent their childhood living in St David's Close. Alex would be in the park every day either playing in the play area riding his bike or kicking a football about. Alex was a much loved and valued member of Brixworth Juniors football club and played for them all through his childhood.

As a friendship group, we spent many a happy time at the park, watching the various Brixworth football teams play as we went into early adulthood. The memorial bench installed at St Davids Park will allow us to visit to remember a much-loved friend."

- Claudia Flavell-While

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Remembrance Day



Brixworth residents, young and old, braved the November rain to remember and and honour the contribution of military and civilian servicemen and women in World Wars One and Two, and other more recent conflicts.


Photos courtesy of Sean Goodhart



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The Brixworth Postie



Who is that?


Red top, blue cap with a ponytail, yes it's a Brixworth Postie.

But Who is that?

It's the old thing, if you saw her close up would you recognise her without the red top and blue cap?

But Who is that?

It is Charlotte. She has been a Brixworth postie for quite a few years now, but most people would not recognise her close up.



So here she is close up!

So now if you see her close up you can all say: "Hi Charlotte!"

Contemporary art...that Marmite factor

It will have been hard not to have noticed the set of contemporary artworks in Brixworth Country Park that arrived late August. "Ways of Knowing" will be in the park for three months. Now, whether, or not, you appreciate them, they do stimulate the mind. They have a presence and a theme... **Xylophobia.**

Personally, I am not a fan of Marmite: whereas my wife loved it. However, maybe I could acquire a taste for it: the same goes for contemporary art. My initial reaction was 'Marmite' but appreciation of the pieces grew once I had an understanding of the thinking that lay behind the theme.

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art planned and gathered the exhibits and carefully chose their locations. Assisted by the Friends of Brampton Valley Way & Brixworth Country Park for the physical installation, they went in during August. Arts Council England funded the project with the help of National Lottery and supported by West Northants Council. However, the physical installation of the collection got off to a faltering start with a staff shortage after Yasmin, the organiser, had an accident a couple of days before... then Andy, the installations engineer managed to fall from a ladder. James had to step in and roll his sleeves up and get stuck in, even donning a wetsuit to put pieces in Follypond.





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Xylophobia – the fear of trees – is perhaps an odd theme to adopt for a country park. Xylophobia and overcoming it were the remits given to the artists. They developed pieces that progressively focused on aspects of defusing that fear by highlighting the positives of a visit to the woods. There are seven pieces located around the park and each is an interpretation of how to make the visitor learn to enjoy the woods and overcome their fears.

The mile and a quarter walk to see the whole exhibition and arrive back at the car park takes the visitor down the hill to Follypond, up through the woods and to the corner above Barn Owl Meadow, with its magnificent view of Pitsford Water.

A **video** is on display in the café. It is on a 10-minute loop and will go down well while sat enjoying a coffee.



At the upper pond a canvas '**Glovebox**' is hung within the thatched gazebo. The gloved arms represent a shield and barrier from the forest, enabling the visitor to break the ice with the woods.

At the horseshoe bench, along by the Sensory Garden, is '**Counterpoint**'. It is an audio presentation listened to through earphones. A standard earphones lead will plug into the jack point – or there are spares available to borrow at the café. The listener can then choose to listen to eight individual sounds...each an interpretation of an aspect of the forest, e.g., mycelia growing beneath the ground.



The Oak is the large tree standing in the meadow. A life-size replica of a tree trunk, its heartbeat ticks constantly and chimes when informed of trees being felled by tree surgeons across the country. This one proved particularly popular and a few visitors were heard to argue exactly how long it had been there. Always, according to some: it is very realistic in that location.



On Follypond float 'Before Monet'. These are giant colourful microbial aquatic organisms, risen up from the bottom of the pond.

Within the wood, just off to the West of the path sits 'Reflective Mimicry'.

It is a photographic panel of a green person within green leaves: an intriguing piece that blurs the boundaries.



'Ears with Chair' (below) - listening posts invites the visitor to experience the changes in the wind by sitting quietly with the pipes against their ears.



Yes, a few expressed displeasures at the Country Park being turned into a gallery for contemporary art; however, they were greatly outnumbered by many dozens more who have found the event very enjoyable and stimulating - and who have congratulated the park for presenting it. Who knows, it may be the start of further displays?

It gave the park good publicity with both Radio Northampton and ITV News getting interested. The positive publicity and the recognition of forward thinking benefitted the park. James Steventon, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's Director said "I'd like to think that it encourages people to spend more time in nature and to develop more affinity with and care for the environment, although I think you could say the same for the work your team does. Ultimately I think it's all a boost for wellbeing."

However, whilst I have enjoyed the showing, my dislike of Marmite remains unchanged!

– Keith Dobell

Brixworth History Society

Over the autumn months The History Society has had some very interesting talks. In September we heard about the Culworth Gang, a local group of 18th century Highwaymen. In October local historian Ruth Thomas spoke about the Growth and Prosperity of Northampton from the 11th to 13th centuries and in November we will be having a visit from The Northampton Film Archive Trust. Our Christmas Social will be held on Thursday 21st December.

Our first meeting of 2024 will be on Thursday January 18th when Roy Smart will be giving a talk entitled 'Out of Africa'. Roy has visited us several times and his talks are always both informative and entertaining. The talk will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting.

New members and visitors are always welcome at our meetings. If you would like more Information contact our Secretary at jandrhardiel@gmail.com.

Grants for young people in Brixworth and Scaldwell

Money is tight for many, many families at the moment. A small cash grant could make a big difference for a young person in education.

The Foundation of Thomas Roe has been supporting young people in education since 1665. It provides small cash grants for young people, under 25, who live in the parishes of Brixworth or Scaldwell.

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

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

Completed application forms must be returned to the Clerk, preferably by email and in Word format, by midnight on **Friday, 13 March 2024** for consideration at the charity's next meeting.



This meeting is scheduled for 27 March 2024, where grant applications will be considered.

Afternoon Delights NORTHAMPTON



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u3a report

The **u3a Craft Group** have been busy making brooches for the Christmas Fair at the Church. They have also been making poppies for the Church Remembrance display and some of the poppies are in the remembrance displays in The Pound. These include some purple ones which are in memory of all the animals lost in both wars.

A new **“English Country Dancing Group”** started in October on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The group meets at the Community Centre in the Library. Instructions will be given for each dance every time, and the dance moves will be explained and demonstrated. It doesn't matter if you have two left feet or no dance partner – everyone is welcome.

The **Lunch Club** is a popular monthly group. They meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month with members taking a turn in choosing a venue. In October we went to The Royal Oak, Walgrave. There was a wide variety of choices, and the food was delicious, as our photo (above right) demonstrates.

In July, the **Science and Technology Group** visited Ravensthorpe engineering company Torquemeters Ltd, a hidden gem of British Engineering which was founded and remains in a very pretty Northamptonshire village. The company is run by brothers Benjamin and James Van-Millingen. who have followed in their father's footsteps to design, develop, calibrate and manufacture, all under one roof, an almost unique tool for measuring transmitted shaft horsepower that is in demand by many industries.

The u3a meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Brixworth Village Hall, starting at 2 pm. New members are always welcome so



why not come along to one of our meetings for a cup of tea and biscuit and find out what we do.

Dates for your Diary:

- Wednesday 6 December: Singing Duo Zing
- Wednesday 3 January: More Tales of a Tour Guide with Jo Golby (Carter)
- Wednesday 7 February: Would you Adam & Eve it - Tales from the Met with Colin Hill
- Wednesday 6 March: Alan Turing and Bletchley Park with Michael Koshner

If you would like more information please visit our website on u3asites.org.uk/brixworth where you can browse our Newsletters and will find lots of information on membership and all the various groups that are available.

– Judy Smith

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Brixworth Drama Group - Comedy double bill

The group presented two evenings of comedy, performing a double bill of plays on 22–23 September.

Playing to a full house of cabaret-style seating, the first play ‘Money, Money, Money’, pictured below, written by Ian Ashcroft and directed by Sue l’Anson, tells the story of a local W.I. group who realise they need to modernise to raise funds (and to compete with the neighbouring W.I. group who regard the efforts of the Warden-cum-Wooding village group as “disappointing”).



Each of the actresses was perfectly cast for the parts: Elaine Coe led the group, supported by Sally Courtney (legal), Sue McAspurn (pub landlady), Sue l’Anson (fashion) and Heather Pool (fitness). Of course, the ladies can’t come up with an idea between them and it falls to the cleaner (Eileen Truby) to suggest that the group, with all their experience, could set up a premium rate phone line to offer advice. Comedy ensues when some of the phone callers misinterpret what information is given on the “advice line”. Some of the callers begin asking some very personal questions, and one wonders how an inmate of Brixton Prison obtained a copy of The Lady.

The second play, ‘Zoo’, was written by Terry Adlam and directed by Ann King and Eileen Truby. The zoo manager, Richard Blount, is having a stressful day: an animal supplier has provided a mouse instead of a moose, the owner of the zoo is coming for a site visit, and Blount has to fire his secretary. This is before the chimps steal a car and drive its passengers into Croc Lake having watched too many Top Gear DVDs, two children are cohabiting with a family of lemurs in a tree, and an escaped tiger corners its trainer in a cafe.

This was a very clever play. For most of the time, Blount, played by newcomer Carl Gardner, was alone on the stage and the action was conveyed through Blount talking to the other actors through telephones, radios and intercoms which allowed for the menagerie of animals to run wild. This was no easy feat and Carl owned the stage, channelling his inner Basil Fawlty, as Blount’s day gets progressively worse. Various props, including a door, are thrown into his office, and there are some visually surreal moments, including a six-foot penguin with no arms being equipped with a rifle.



Above: Richard Blount, the actors and backstage actors who lend their voices to the comedy

On Saturday evening, the author of “Money, Money, Money”, Ian Ashcroft, came to the performances and described it as a thoroughly enjoyable evening, adding “The cast of both plays clearly enjoyed themselves and so we, the audience, shared that enjoyment.” Ian had generously asked that instead of paying a performance licence, the Drama Group donate to Bedford Samaritans. The Group matched the fee for “Zoo” and a further donation was raised through a charity box at the bar.

Brixworth Drama Group Chair, Jon Mackley, said “It was wonderful to play to such large audiences and seeing them enjoying a terrific evening. We’re very grateful for everyone’s support and that we, in turn, could support Bedford Samaritans.”

Brixworth Drama Group will have readthroughs of their next productions on Tuesday 16th and 23rd January 2024 at 7pm in Brixworth Village Hall.

Anyone interested in performing or joining the Drama Group in any other capacity (directing, costumes, backstage, front of house or any other roles) please come along to the meeting, contact us through Facebook, or contact Eileen Truby on 07934 530220.

– Jon Mackley

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Podiatry puts a spring in your step

Green Podiatry and Chiropody Clinic, which has been providing podiatric services in Brixworth for several years now, is expanding. The business is owned and led by Jade Warren, a Senior Podiatrist with over ten years Podiatry experience and a member of the Royal College of Podiatry.

Meet the owner

After graduating from university, my podiatry career began in the NHS in London, where the volume and complexity of patients formed a strong base for my podiatry experience. However, the pressures and challenges of the NHS meant that I couldn't offer patients what I wanted to, and so in 2017, I left London and split my time between two roles as an associate podiatrist for two wonderful private clinics in Corby and in Milton Keynes. I also worked for several other reputable private podiatry clinics within the East Midlands within this time.

As my experience and aspirations grew, I started to visualise having a podiatry service of my own and felt it would be a great addition to the wonderful local businesses and services we have here in Brixworth. I started by taking the step of renting a room in the local osteopathic clinic, offering my services to Brixworth just one day a week,

where the first day I saw only one patient! But I distributed some leaflets locally, and put an ad in the paper, and mostly through word of mouth, I soon built up a steady patient base. Green Podiatry and Chiropody was born!

In March 2020, I moved to my own independent space behind Chambers Butchers and turned it into my dream workspace, your local podiatry clinic. Despite COVID-19 striking only days after Green Podiatry opened their doors, the business weathered the storm and we continued to move forwards with even more drive and determination to be the best podiatry service in the area.

Growing the Business

Three years have passed, and we are proud of how we have developed our services and

equipment. This includes a new service to test for fungal nails in under five minutes, and a state-of-the-art foot scanner and technology that collects data on your foot pressure, posture, movement and function



to help prevent and treat foot injuries.

With the increase in our patients and services, we have expanded our team, and are now a core team of three: a senior podiatrist, a foot health practitioner, and an electrolysis specialist. With this, we have also needed to grow and increase our clinic space. On the 17th of October this year we have expanded into the neighbouring unit to double our podiatry clinic space. As we speak, this space is undergoing transformation to become a second large clinic room. The expansion means we can offer more appointments, more flexibility and less waiting. We plan for both rooms to be in use by late November, in the meantime all services will continue as normal.

What is the difference between a Podiatrist and a Chiropodist?

In the 1990's, Marathon bar changed its name to Snickers: same ingredients, same taste, but a different name. Similarly in the same year, chiropodists changed their name to podiatrists, although the profession remained much the same.

The name was modernised to help people understand its meaning and to have more international recognition ('Podo' being the Greek word for foot). Podiatry students now complete a three-to-four-year degree in podiatric medicine, and along with treating common foot problems, they learn the mechanics of the foot and carry out minor surgical procedures under local anaesthetic.



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What is a Foot Health Practitioner?

A Foot Health Practitioner (FHP) is a professional who is qualified to carry out routine foot care treatments to improve and maintain foot health. Hannah, our FHP, offers advice to clients and treats common ailments such as corns, calluses, and painful or problematic nails. Hannah has received a high level of training in this field and is also fully insured.

Some of Our Top Tips for Happy and Healthy Feet

- Patients with diabetes should get their feet assessed by a professional at least once a year, or more dependent on their 'risk status'. Ask your podiatrist or diabetic nurse for more info.
- Corns on the outside of your toe are usually caused by your shoe pressing and rubbing. Corns and hard skin arise to protect our skin from shearing stress and prolonged pressure.
- Fungal nails often arise from untreated and chronic athlete's foot. Don't leave it, start treatment straight away as fungal nails can spread and lead to more difficult-to-treat nail problems.
- There is no magical cure for a verruca unfortunately, and they are difficult to treat. If they are not painful you can leave them alone and they will eventually disappear by themselves. If they are painful, then it is worth talking to our podiatrist to discuss your options.
- Podiatrists treat anyone of any age. If babies have problems with their toenails, first check the size of the babygrow, as a babygrow that is too short can round the toes & cause ingrown nails.
- Did you know your feet following pregnancy can go up to two sizes, thanks to a hormone called Relaxin. If your shoes are feeling too tight, this could be why. Time to go shoe shopping.
- For our older patients, we usually recommend checking your feet daily. If you can't see your feet, then ask someone to check them for you. At Green Podiatry and Chiropractic, we offer a simple nail trimming service for those with non-problematic nails that you just cannot reach.

Our Thanks

We would like to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone that supports us at Green



Podiatry. Our patients have been the cheerleaders of our business, and we are delighted that over 70% of our new business comes from word of mouth. We hugely appreciate people sharing their experiences, especially as the topic of feet can be taboo... please keep sharing your experiences, and we will do our best to keep developing and moving forward to

give you the best services possible. We have a room available to rent part-time to other medical professionals or beauty specialists. You can contact us on **07568948080** or visit www.greenpodiatry.co.uk.

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*Based on comparison of Juke Hybrid Tekna+ with Juke Petrol DCT Tekna+ grade **80% figure for electric mode driving quoted based on internal testing data in City driving conditions. Library image for illustration purposes only. Bristol Street Motors Nissan is a trading name of Bristol Street Fourth Investments Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Company registration number 00522856. VAT Registration number 902737238. Registered office: Vertu House, Fifth Avenue Business Park, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0XA

Awards for local heroes

Volunteers from the Northampton-based charities The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation and The Lewis Foundation received Rose of Northamptonshire Awards, for their tireless work and dedication to their local communities.



Northamptonshire's Lord-Lieutenant presents volunteers Liz and Graham Chapman from The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation with their Rose of Northamptonshire Awards. Credit: Kirsty Edmonds

At The Lewis Foundation, Founders Lee and Lorraine Lewis source, package and hand deliver free gifts and support packs to adult cancer patients in 17 different hospitals. Supporting The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation, volunteers Liz and Graham Chapman, Mick Donnelly, Marie Ryan, Kathleen Soper and Andy Leeming work to alleviate hunger and provide for the most vulnerable in Northampton.

The Rose of Northamptonshire Awards recognise and celebrate unsung heroes across the county. They were relaunched earlier this year by the Northamptonshire Community Foundation and the North and West Northamptonshire Unitary Authorities.

Awards are being presented by representatives from each organisation, including the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire and the Chairs of North and West Northamptonshire Councils.

James Saunders Watson Esq, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and one of the presenters of the Rose of Northamptonshire Awards, said: "In a world that often moves at a fast pace, the Rose of Northamptonshire Awards serves as a touching reminder of the incredible acts of kindness and dedication that transpire within our own neighbourhoods.

"The outpouring of nominations for the Rose of Northamptonshire Awards reflects the deep appreciation and respect that residents have for those who contribute their time, energy, and resources to uplift the lives of others.

Northamptonshire Community Foundation CEO, Rachel McGrath, said: "Northamptonshire Community Foundation is absolutely delighted to be working in partnership alongside our respective local councils to re-launch the Rose of Northamptonshire awards.

"In doing so we wish that so many more community groups, charities, social enterprises and volunteers get well deserved recognition for the incredible good so many do on the doorstep of our county and to celebrate civic pride in our local communities,"



Northamptonshire's Lord-Lieutenant presents Founders of The Lewis Foundation with their Rose of Northamptonshire Awards, at The Lewis Foundation Coffee Shop in Upton. Credit: Hazel Munn



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Issue 79, December 2023

Meet Santa on the Northampton and Lamport Railway

Tickets for our ever-popular Santa Specials are now on sale!

What better way to get in the Christmas spirit than a great family Santa experience?!

Santa Specials run on Saturdays and Sundays from **26th Nov to 23rd Dec.**



All tickets include a meet with Santa, a present for children and complementary on-train refreshments.

For the ultimate VIP experience, why not chose our Breakfast with Santa package? This is an intimate experience for small groups, which includes a personal meet and greet with Santa during breakfast and a special festive good bag for each child, plus a train ride, present and **second** meet with Santa in his Grotto.

*****Prior booking is essential for all tickets*****

All trains will be hauled by one of our steam locos, subject to its availability. Alternatively, trains will be hauled by one of our heritage diesel locos.

Our 'Platform 3 Buffet' will be open throughout, serving hot and cold drinks, snacks and freshly prepared hot food.

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

It's a wonderful Christmas!

A classic Christmas story is coming to Northampton's Royal Theatre stage.

It's a Wonderful Life has become a festive favourite since the film was first released in 1946.

One of Hollywood's greatest stars James Stewart played George Bailey. As he contemplates suicide on Christmas Eve, the prayers of his friends and family reach heaven where guardian angel (second class) Clarence Odbody is assigned to save George and earn his wings.

In this special stage version, the actors of US Radio station WBFR gather to tell the story, as Clarence bids to change George's mind and understand the true spirit of Christmas.

It's a glorious Christmas treat, and a chance to enjoy a unique version of a true movie classic.

It's a Wonderful Life is being performed on November 30th, December 1st/2nd at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Tickets on sale from The Royal & Derngate Box Office, www.royalandderngate.co.uk or call 01604 624811.



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COUNTRY EYE: Back from the brink

Much of our wildlife is decreasing, there is no denying that. This is due to our continued onslaught on this fragile planet. But there are some welcome gains being made out there, one example being our birds of prey. Persecuted to near extinction they disappeared from large parts of our countryside for more than a century. This was down to the game shooting interests of the landed gentry.

Their recovery began when the Second World War led to most gamekeepers being called up for military service. After the war, a lighter touch was adopted on many estates although ruthless and illegal persecution still happens on many grouse shoots. Especially at risk are the harriers. Their mesmerising flight has led to their being known as the 'Skydancers'.

Locally, the sparrowhawk was the first to return. They are small but efficient hunters none the less. In my garden, collared dove seems a particular favourite. More than once I have seen one snatched from the bird table. In one instance, I watched as the hawk disappeared through the narrow gap between my garden shed and the fence. It was precision flying at its impressive best. These hunting skills come at a price and many young hawks fail to make it. I remember watching a young male as it made endless futile attempts to catch one of a flock of sparrows. So desperate did it become, it followed them deep into the shrubbery, floundering around to no avail. Gradually it became more and more emaciated, its plumage dulled, until I saw it for what turned out to be the last time.

We have red kites soaring in our skies once more, in this case as a result of sustained re-introductions costing millions of pounds, mostly by the RSPB. The return of the sea eagle is similarly financed. Incidentally, one of these magnificent broad-winged birds, like a flying barn door, turned up over Park Farm. I managed to spot it a couple of times. This was believed to have strayed from the Isle of Wight population.

To me most impressive is the return of the buzzard, under its own steam like the sparrowhawk. In the mid 1950's one was watched by an excited bird watcher as it sailed over Salcey Forest. It turned out to be the only sighting for the county that year. The following years saw a slow build-up of reported birds, until breeding was first suspected, then confirmed a few years later. Now I hear its



mewing calls constantly from the pair that have set up their territory locally. I have watched their impressive display where both fly together, the male carrying an item of food which he drops for the female to catch in mid-air. Even more spectacular, I once saw them lock talons and spin round and round in mid-flight. There is a big flat-topped pine tree about a hundred yards away where they have nested.

All this shows that, given the chance, our wildlife can bounce back, although it will be a long haul given our sad status as one of the most nature depleted countries on earth.

Finally, my tired old brain tells me the time has come for me to lay down my pen, and so this will be the last Country Eye from me. I wrote my first piece in 1996 for the Bugle, the Bulletin's predecessor, and my scribblings have appeared in all but two issues since. Once when I was declared dead by dear Harvey Fox of the Bugle. Thankfully it proved to be a mistake. The other 'missed issue' was with our present editor, who was faced with an avalanche of available material at that time. I must especially thank her for allowing me space in these pages, and my son-in-law Dave Pope who checks my work and sends it safely on its way to her. Last but not least I must thank you dear reader. I hope my scribblings have brought a glimpse of the real world.

– Brian Webster

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Scaldwell Village News

The Village Hall Committee needs you!

Scaldwell Village Hall Committee is looking for two new volunteers, to take on the roles of treasurer and secretary.

The committee meets quarterly to discuss the running and operations of Scaldwell Village Hall. We also consider how to promote it as a community resource to benefit everyone.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, please email kellytbooth@gmail.com or call 07886 257752.



Parish Council

Scaldwell Parish Council comprises of seven councillors and generally meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Scaldwell Village Hall. Minutes of previous meetings and an agenda for following meetings are displayed in the Notice Board on the village bus shelter. If further information is required, please contact our Clerk, Katrina Jones, at scaldwellpc@gmail.com

Sports Club

Scaldwell Sports Club has two tennis courts and welcomes new

members. One of the members is a professional coach. For further enquires, or if you would like to join, please contact d.doddsmith@me.com. Annual Membership fees are as follows: Village Resident Couple - £30, Village Resident Family - £40, Non-villagers - £50, Youth tuition membership - £25

Scaldwell Church Services (Dec 2023 to Feb 2024)

Sunday December 3rd
10.00 Family Communion
Sunday December 24th
4.00 Carol Service
Sunday December 31st
10.00 Family Communion
Sunday January 7th
10.00 Family Communion
Sunday February 4th
10.00 Family Communion

Further information can be found on the church website www.walgravebenefice.org

Receiving the Chaplain's Scarf



After receiving his Royal British Legion Chaplain's scarf on Sunday 1st October 2023, the Revd. David Reith, Rector of All Saints Church Brixworth, is pictured with members of the Brixworth Branch of the Royal British Legion.

From left to right, they are Martin Jones (Standard Bearer), Joan Jones, Eddie Edmunds (Chairman), Revd. David Reith, Eliza Gathercole (Secretary), Dave Harris (Standard Bearer) and Raechel Palmer Charles.

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group

After a well-earned summer break for our volunteer leaders, the Beavers, Cub Scouts and Scouts have all started back again for the Autumn Term. As mentioned previously in the Bulletin, sadly our Explorer Scouts have been unable to continue this term due to a lack of leaders.



The Beavers launched into the Autumn Term with some den building and also built bug hotels. They have also had a visit from the local PCSO, Kev Lumbis, as they learned about what the police do and got to sit in a police car – without having to get arrested first! Later this term the Beavers will be learning how to make fires and all about fire

safety. They will also be learning about healthy eating and completing their money skills badge. Many of the Beavers are working towards their Bronze Scout award.

The Cubs have returned full of enthusiasm and have continued to work towards putting the out in scouting. They have completed the always popular Railway Chippy Walk, taken part in a cycling activity and engaged in backwoods cooking at Overstone Scout site. They have completed the initial stages of the First Aid badge and have also contributed to the community by helping with the cleaning rota at the Church and have bulb planting arranged for later this term.

The Scouts have increased in numbers this term with 20 young people now regularly attending. They have completed backwoods cooking and wide games in the



dark at Overstone, and displayed their competitive side in a quiz night. A scavenger hunt was completed around the village despite torrential rain with thunder and lighting. They had a successful map reading activity at Harlestone Firs in the dark (no Scouts were lost!). Naj Mistry (one of our parents) ran a paracording activity where the scouts were able to learn a new skill and make a new woggle for themselves.

Upcoming scout activities include helping with the Church cleaning and air rifle shooting. All sections of the Scout group will again be attending a pantomime in December which was one of the highlights of last year (oh no it wasn't, oh yes it was ...). We will also be attending and supporting the Remembrance Day Parade and service on 12th November.

Brixworth Scouts Needs You

We have a wonderful team of adult volunteers who are from all backgrounds and ages and help to run the group for our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts. The role is very rewarding, and all would agree highly enjoyable. We do however have a natural turnover in leaders, and as can be seen with the closing of the Explorer section a lack of volunteers can lead to our sections being unable to continue. You do not need any previous experience in scouting or other young persons organisations to become a leader or helper.

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, and allow our group and sections to continue running.

If you would like to put your young person (boy or girl) on the interest list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers, please send their details to:

enquiries@brixworthscouts.org.uk

To find out more about Scouting in general, visit

<http://scouts.org.uk>.



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Pitsford Year 9s join Flagship Australian Programme

Pupils at Pitsford School in Northamptonshire are among the first in the UK to take part in a flagship personal development programme from Australia. The Rite Journey was founded in 1997 to help Year 9 pupils navigate their journey towards becoming young adults. Since then, it's been run in hundreds of schools across the world.

The programme covers four themes, which help students explore their self-identity, relationships with others, beliefs and personal strengths. It aims to celebrate the transition to adulthood, offer a safe space for important conversations, and



enable pupils to build self-awareness.

Pippa Smith, Head of KS4 at Pitsford School, said: "We are proud to be one of three flagship schools in the UK launching the programme this year. We really believe in this type of holistic education and the opportunities it affords our young people. Pitsford is the ideal setting to take the students out of their traditional classroom structure and help them both challenge themselves and reflect upon the people they are and want to become. This program is designed to help them achieve this."

The first session of the year-long programme saw pupils reflecting on their hopes for the future by writing letters to their 24-year-old selves. These were then handed to parents and guardians to pass to the children on their birthdays in 2034.

Andrew Lines, founder and director of The Rite Journey, said: "Learning to



Year 9 pupils at Pitsford School taking part in a heartbeat activity at the start of their Rite Journey

be an adult in any society typically involves guidance, mentoring and a great many conversations. However, in our society today we very often see young people turning to peers, the media and the internet to source this knowledge. There has been a loss of human connection and nurturing as screens dominate adolescents lives in our technologically saturated world. During The Rite Journey, students will have numerous conversations around what it is to be a respectful and responsible adult in our society. As these children journey through the year, we hope that the discussions they are having at school may also stimulate conversations in their own homes."

Dr Craig Walker, Headmaster at Pitsford School, said: "Ultimately Pitsford's mission is to help to create happy, engaged and confident students, with the expertise and determination to become the citizens that we need for the future; the Rite Journey will help to equip them with the intangible depth and repertoire of skills that they will use and I am delighted to help Mrs Smith to deliver this exciting and pioneering programme."

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Boniface House to close

Boniface House Care Home in Brixworth is set to close, because the building required refurbishment that was deemed to be not viable by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC).

When the news broke, the 46-room home had 13 residents. All remaining residents are expected to be moved to other care homes in due course. Boniface House is run by West Northants Council, along with a small number of other care homes in the area – the one closest to Brixworth is Obelisk House in Kingsthorpe.

Among the issues besetting the building was a leaking roof, door frames that are too narrow for modern beds to be wheeled through, and difficulty bringing wheelchairs and hoists into the building. On top of that the home's 46 single rooms do not have en-suite facilities. The Care Quality Commission's most recent inspection took place shortly after these issues emerged and found the home to require improvements in several categories.

A consultation by WNC about what should happen with the care home found that the overwhelming majority of stakeholders, including residents and their families, were happy with the quality of care and support received at the home. While there was overall support for redeveloping the home, provided that residents could remain in the home while the work was taking place, less than half of the residents and their families who responded supported this option.

Having reviewed the options and the costs involved, WNC concluded that the work required to improve the home was so extensive that refurbishing the 40 year old home was not a viable option.

Matt Golby, cabinet member for adult care on West Northamptonshire Council, said:



"We have exhausted all options and the proposal to close this care home has not been easy to make. I understand that this proposal may cause concern and worry for residents, relatives, and our staff and we will work with them closely through the closure process."

Speaking at the WNC cabinet meeting that decided the future of the care home, Jonathan Harris – councillor for Brixworth ward at WNC – asked for reassurance that full consideration would be given to the safe relocation of existing residents to other homes, with the full

input of the resident and their families. That assurance was given. Harris also asked that those working at Boniface House to be given thanks for their service and that the council should help them find alternative employment where possible.

The future of the building remains unclear at the moment. Harris is pushing for the building to be used to create extra community spaces for Brixworth, but the future of the building will ultimately be decided by WNC.

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Brix & Mortar

Ready to Sell Your House? Top Tips to Ensure a Quick and Successful Sale

Selling a house can be a daunting task, but with the right preparation and a strategic approach, you can ensure a swift and successful sale. Whether you're a first-time seller or a seasoned pro, here are some top tips to get your house ready for the market.

1. Clean and Declutter

Before you list your home, it's crucial to give it a thorough cleaning. This includes everything from scrubbing floors to washing windows and making sure the house smells fresh. Decluttering is equally important – a tidy and clutter-free space can make rooms appear larger and more appealing to potential buyers.

2. Make Necessary Repairs

A house with minor issues can raise concerns for buyers. Consider fixing any noticeable problems, like leaky taps, squeaky doors, or chipped paint. These small repairs can make a significant difference in the perceived value of your property.

3. Enhance Curb Appeal

First impressions matter, and the exterior of your home is the first thing buyers see. Invest time in landscaping, cleaning up the garden, and maintaining the curb appeal. A well-kept exterior can draw more potential buyers to your door.

4. Paint and Update

A fresh coat of paint can give your home a

new lease on life. Consider painting walls in neutral tones to appeal to a wider range of buyers. If your budget allows, make updates to key areas like the kitchen and bathrooms, as these can significantly increase your home's value.

5. Stage Your Home

Stage your home effectively by arranging furniture in a way that maximises space and highlights the best features of each room.

6. Price It Right

One of the most critical factors in selling your home quickly is setting the right price. Work with a knowledgeable estate agent who can provide a comparative market analysis to determine a competitive and attractive listing price.

7. Photography

High-quality photos are crucial for your online listing.

8. Market Strategically

Work with your local estate agent to create a comprehensive marketing plan. Utilise both online and offline strategies, such as social media, open houses, and traditional advertising, to ensure maximum exposure.

9. Be Flexible and Accessible

Making your home available for viewings. Be flexible with scheduling.

Conclusion

Selling a house can be a complex process, but these tips can help streamline the experience and increase your chances of a successful sale. By preparing your home meticulously, pricing it accurately, and working with a skilled local estate agent, you can make the selling process as smooth as possible and increase the likelihood of achieving your desired outcome.

- Stuart Little

Brixworth Property Expert for Horts



Thinking of buying or selling in Brixworth?

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call **Stuart**, your local property specialist, on
01604 616886
stuart.little@horts.co.uk
view all our properties online www.horts.co.uk



Your local property consultant **stuart little**

Planning decisions

2023/5958/FULL The Old Hay Barn, Froghall Installation of a new pond	BPC supported WNC approved
2023/5562/FULL Spring Cottage, 26 Newlands Proposed replacement windows, front door and French doors	BPC supported WNC pending
2023/5594/FULL 8 Vineyard Gardens Proposed single storey rear sun-lounge extension (retrospective)	BPC supported WNC approved
2023/6169/FULL The Flavour Trailer, 3 Staveley Way Change of use of industrial unit to restaurant with ancillary takeaway.	BPC supported WNC approved
2023/6464/FULL Fox Hill Grange, Holcot Road Full Planning Application for the Partial Demolition, Change of Use, Conversion and Extension of an Agricultural Building to form Office Building (Use Class E).	BPC not supported WNC approved
2023/6018/FULL 1 Hornbeam Row Erection of single storey wrap around extension	BPC not supported WNC approved

2023/6286/FULL Brixworth Country Park Northampton Road Hybrid application for change of use from agricultural land for the purposes of a tourist accommodation site comprising of 50 no. "safari tents" including accompanying hard and soft surfacing, installation of private foul water treatment facility including secondary water drainage field and outline permission for erection of reception/office/security accommodation	PC not supported WNC pending
2023/6277/MAR Victors Barn Northampton Road Layout, scale and external appearance for the 60 bed care home	PC not supported WNC pending
2023/6722/FULL 9 Windmill Glade New dwelling on land at 9 Windmill Glade, Brixworth	PC not supported WNC pending
2023/6472/TCA Willowmere, Brixworth Hall Park Works to 2x Willow trees in the conservation area	BPC supported WNC approved
2023/6425/TPO Brixworth Hall Archway, Harborough Road Yew (T1) – Remove to ground level. Yew (T2) – Reduce by 2 – 2.5 metres.	BPC Comments - deferred to WNC WNC approved
2023/5990/TPO 2 Lone Pine Court T7 – Robinia – Fell to ground level due to recent stem failure	BPC supported WNC approved
2023/6124/TCA 25 Church Street To fell 12 Beech Trees that border 23 and 25 Church Street Brixworth	BPC not supported WNC approved
2023/6131/TCA The Logans, Holcot Road 1x Willow – reduce by 20%, 1x Bay tree – Fell, 1x Holly – Fell 1x Cherry – Fell	BPC not supported WNC approved
2023/6130/TCA Hill House Cottage, Harborough Road Magnolia – Reduce & reshape by 30%	BPC supported WNC approved



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Library News

Opening Times

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 10am-2pm

Closed:

Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th December

Monday 1st January 2024

Library News

This autumn has been chock-full of activities in the library! In October alone our Green Libraries Week included recycling themed activities in our under-5s' sessions, a #ThrowbackThursday junk robot craft, and ended with a plant swap and the brilliant Brixworth Wombles litter picking outside the library. We celebrated Harry Potter Book Day, our Banned Books display got a lot of attention, disbelief, and discussion; then we had a fantastic October half-term week of villainous crafts, "CSI Forensics", and the awesome Brixworth Drama Group brought not one, not two, but three stories to life in their spectacular performance! In November some super senior lunch-ers from the Olive Branch café joined us for a special Rhyme Time for all ages. They did an amazing job teaching us rhymes from times gone by...

Keep an eye out for plenty of wonderful winter crafts and activities in the Christmas holidays, as well as the Reading Agency's Ready, Set, Read! Winter Mini Challenge. Plus, we are going to fill the February half term with magical Harry Potter themed fun.

Friends of Brixworth Library

The Friends of Brixworth Library had a great turn out at their latest Quiz and Chips event and are really looking forward to their Christmas Shopping Fair on Saturday 9th December (11am-2pm). If you want to be the first to know about future exciting events from the Friends, follow them on Facebook: @FOBXL or get in touch: friendsofbrixworthlibrary@gmail.com.

NEW Chatty Café

We have signed up to the Chatty Café Scheme, and you are warmly invited to come and sit at our 'Chatter & Natter' table for a chat with a stranger, Tuesdays 10-11am. Stay for five minutes while you have a cuppa or longer if you're enjoying the conversation!

Welcoming Warm Spaces

Everyone is welcome to spend as much time as they like at the library, completely free, with no questions asked. Whether you are looking for somewhere to; work, study, play, keep warm, or even read a book, we are here for you. And, as part of the Welcoming Spaces initiative, you can even help yourself to free tea and coffee too.



Community Cabinets [Community Cabinets Photo]

Are you part of a local group, organisation, or cause? Are you looking for new members or just want to let people know what you do? We have two glass cabinets available to host mini-exhibitions in the library. Hire is on a monthly basis and is completely free. If you are interested, please email: brixworth.libraryplus@westnorthants.gov.uk or pop in and see us.

Library to You

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

IT Buddy

Our friendly volunteer Ian offers free, 1-to-1 help with IT issues. Want to learn to email, shop online or listen to music on your phone? Ian can help. Bring your own device or use one of our computers or tablets. Pop in to make an appointment.

Ukraine Community Support Hub

Drop in to meet a representative from the Resettlement Team for support and a friendly chat – Fridays 13:00-15:00 For more information, call 0300 126 7000, or email: resettlement@westnorthants.gov.uk

Saxon Spires Social Prescribers

The Saxon Spires Social Prescribing Team hold a drop-in; 3-4pm on the first Thursday of the month. Come along to meet others, discuss any help you may be looking for and find out about local groups, activities, or services.

They are also keen to hear about and encourage local groups to attend if they would like to promote themselves.



This page is sponsored by

your local property consultant

stuart little

Tel: 01604 616886 Fax: 01604 639955 Mobile: 07970 251814 Web: www.horts.co.uk



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)

Is 2024 the year you start your own business? The Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire (BIPC) are delivering a programme of business support in Northamptonshire through your local library.

“Build Your Business” is a programme to support established small businesses, entrepreneurs as well as anyone who may be thinking of starting their own business for the first time. The programme is fully funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The programme will consist of personalised one to one advice sessions, webinars, workshops, access to specialist business databases, and start-up grants of up to £2,000.

Business drop-in sessions are run at Brixworth library each Monday morning between 9.30 to 12.00, and other bookable appointments can be arranged with a member of the team. To find out more about the Business & IP Centre visit www.bipcnorthamptonshire.co.uk or visit Brixworth Library.

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 telephone and face-to-face appointments in a local community setting, as well as walk and talk sessions with your allocated Wellbeing Advisor. If you or someone you know would like to refer into the service, or you would just like some more information, please visit our website www.westnorthants.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/supporting-independence-service, or call us on 01604 361533.

Strong Start

Strong Start provide free universal support for pregnant families and families with under 5s.



We run face to face programmes in community venues throughout the county. To book a place please search Strong Start team on Eventbrite or use this QR code.

You can also complete a referral form to get advice and support on universal topics such as early communication, behaviour, safety, healthy eating. For more information or to access the referral form please visit our website www.westnorthants.gov.uk/strong-start

Other Services

- bus pass applications and renewals (drop-in)
- blue badge applications and renewals (by appointment)
- free Wi-Fi
- free computer and tablet use (some charges apply)
- printing, photocopying, and scanning
- 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



Chair's Chat

Looking forward with Councillor Jackie Bird

Community

Bt kiosk adoption to give the iconic red telephone box a new community purpose

West Northants and Brixworth Parish Council Housing Needs Survey

Help us understand the future housing requirements of Brixworth

Welcoming New Councillors

Introducing Councillor Gaurang Mehta and Councillor Alan Aisbett

Winter Safety

Top tips to enjoy the Winter season

Climate Literacy Action Day

Empowering our community to tackle climate change

Chair's Chat

Hello and welcome. It has been a busy few months with the Clerk and Councillors working on the business plan alongside the budget for 24/25. A number of outstanding historical projects have now been completed including the long awaited replacement litter bins installed in our public open spaces.

The new business plan outlines the Council's short and longer term plans and projects, many of which have been suggested by residents at the Council surgeries and meetings. We are changing the Saturday surgeries slightly so that more of you have the opportunity to meet with councillors. We are now moving the surgeries to other venues around the village at meetings and groups, including the school, as we want to make it more accessible for you to put forward your views and ideas.

Look out for the housing needs survey which will be dropping through your letter boxes shortly. Please take a moment to complete the survey. Your input is crucial to help us understand local housing needs and create a better community for everyone.

New trees and lights will replace the old Christmas trees around the village in December ready for the festive season.

We hope you enjoy the festivities. All of us at Brixworth Parish council wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Brixworth Parish Council is in the final stages of confirming arrangements to adopt the K6 telephone box on Church Street through the BT Adopt a Kiosk scheme. It is our hope that we are able to give the iconic red phone box a new lease of life, turning it into something that brings more value and enjoyment to local people whilst preserving a historically important asset within the village.

Have your say! What do you think we should use the phone box for?

Whether it's something that would bring heritage and culture, a practical solution or just joy and inspiration to the community, please email your ideas to us at admin@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



K6 Telephone Box Adoption



@brixworthPC



West Northants Council and Brixworth Parish Council Housing Needs Survey

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) in partnership with Brixworth Parish Council are conducting a study of the housing needs and requirements of all residents who have a close connection to Brixworth through current or past residency, work or close family.

The housing needs survey is an essential part of planning for future housing requirements and will help to ascertain what kind of housing may be needed in the area. The survey is an independently produced document which gives an unbiased report on the type, size and tenure of dwellings that are needed in the community.



We would be grateful if you would take the time to complete this survey which will be coming through your door shortly. Please complete it even if you are registered for a move through the Council's housing register, not currently thinking of moving, or do not require alternative housing. The information you provide is vital in giving a balanced picture of housing circumstances as well as informing future housing and planning policies.

We would prefer if you filled in the survey online, however if you would like to complete a paper copy, please return this in the envelope provided or drop it into the Brixworth library.

The online survey is available at <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/housing-needs-survey/Brixworth/> or by using the QR code below.



If you know anyone with a close connection to Brixworth parish, or who would like to return to live in the parish, please encourage them to complete the survey. They can access the online survey or request a paper questionnaire by emailing housingstrategy.ddc@westnorthants.gov.uk or by phoning the Housing Strategy team on 0300 126 7000.

There will be a drop-in session on Monday 11 December from 9am to 2pm at the Brixworth Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth, Northampton, NN6 9DS. Questionnaires will be available for residents to complete, and Council and Parish Council staff will be available to answer any queries.

The survey will start on Monday 11 December, and close on Sunday 14 January 2024.



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**



brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



Welcoming New Councillors

We are thrilled to introduce and extend a warm welcome to the newest members of Brixworth Parish Council. As we continue to work towards making our village an even better place to live, the addition of these dedicated individuals will undoubtedly contribute to our shared vision for the community.

Councillor Gaurang Mehta (pictured left) is no stranger to volunteering in Brixworth as he has spent time on the Brixworth Tennis Committee looking after the finances and ensuring that his and his sons' tennis improves! Gaurang also supported the Neighbourhood Watch to help

reduce crime in Brixworth during the Christmas period. He is now looking forwards to utilising his professional skills for the benefit of Brixworth Parish Council and the community.

Councillor Alan Aisbett (pictured right) is a retired solicitor who has lived in Brixworth since 1998. Passionate about football and motivated by his daughter, Alan started volunteering in the girl's and women's game, working with others to establish one of the early girl's football teams in the village. Alan is motivated by helping people with challenging legal issues and has been a Citizens' Advice volunteer for nearly two years, currently with Corby and Kettering Citizens' Advice. Alan hopes to use his experience and skills in contributing to the community in Brixworth.

As they settle into their roles, our new Councillors are eager to engage with the community, listen to your concerns, and work towards addressing the needs of our village. This fresh perspective and enthusiasm will no doubt lead to positive change.

Winter Safety Advice

As the days grow shorter and the temperature drops, Winter's chill is upon us. While this season can bring the beauty of snow-covered landscapes and cozy firesides, it also brings its share of hazards. It's crucial to take the necessary precautions to ensure your safety and that of your loved ones during the winter months.



-  **Bundle Up** - When venturing outdoors, it's important to dress appropriately. Layering is key, as it allows you to adjust your clothing to the changing temperatures. Make sure to wear a hat, gloves, a scarf, and a warm, insulated coat. Be prepared for the cold.
-  **Safe Driving** - Winter roads can be treacherous. Ensure your vehicle is equipped with appropriate tyres and keep an emergency kit in your car. This kit should include items like blankets, non-perishable snacks, a torch, and a first-aid kit. Always check weather and road conditions before heading out and reduce your speed in slippery conditions.
-  **Prevent Slips and Falls** - Slips and falls on icy pavements and driveways can lead to serious injuries. Keep walkways clear of snow and ice, and use salt or sand to improve traction. Make sure to wear proper footwear with non-slip soles, and walk carefully to avoid slipping.
-  **Home Safety** - Winter is a prime time for house fires due to heating equipment. Ensure your heating systems are well-maintained, and always follow safety guidelines for space heaters. Check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, and replace the batteries regularly. Never leave lit candles unattended.
-  **Stay Informed** - Keep an eye on weather forecasts and severe weather warnings. Be prepared for power cuts by having candles, torches, and extra batteries on hand. Make sure you have enough food and water to sustain you and your family in case of an emergency.
-  **Check on Vulnerable Neighbours** - Winter can be particularly challenging for elderly neighbors or those with limited mobility. Take a moment to check on them, and offer assistance if needed. Clearing their drive, bringing them groceries, or simply spending time with them can make a significant difference.
-  **Limit Exposure to the Cold** - Prolonged exposure to extreme cold can be dangerous. Minimise your time outside in frigid temperatures, and take breaks to warm up if you must be outside for an extended period.



In the midst of Winter's challenges, it's essential to find ways to enjoy the season safely. With the right preparations and precautions, you can make the most of the winter months while safeguarding your well-being. Stay safe!



Carbon Literacy Action Day


On 4th December, we are participating in the Carbon Literacy Action Day - the world's largest climate education-and-action training event, coinciding with COP28. The Action Day is a global movement which sees the largest number of people simultaneously complete Carbon Literacy training in a single day.

Our planned activity for the Action Day is to deliver Carbon Literacy training to our Councillors, officers and working group members. Our training will commence on 13th November and culminate on 4th December.


Becoming Carbon Literate means taking actionable steps towards tackling the climate emergency, and Brixworth Parish Council are passionate about doing everything we can to mitigate the effects of climate change. Taking actionable steps towards mitigating climate change is vital because we want to ensure a healthier planet for future generations, preserve biodiversity, and reduce the impact of extreme weather events on our communities and ecosystems.

Follow along with our activities on the day via our social media channels and wider Action Day activities via #CLActionDay.






HOW TO REPORT




FAULTY STREET LIGHTS

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



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



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

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): 21 December, 25 January, 29 February
Planning (Mondays): 18 December, 8 January, 29 January
Finance & Personnel (Thursdays): 14 December, 14 March

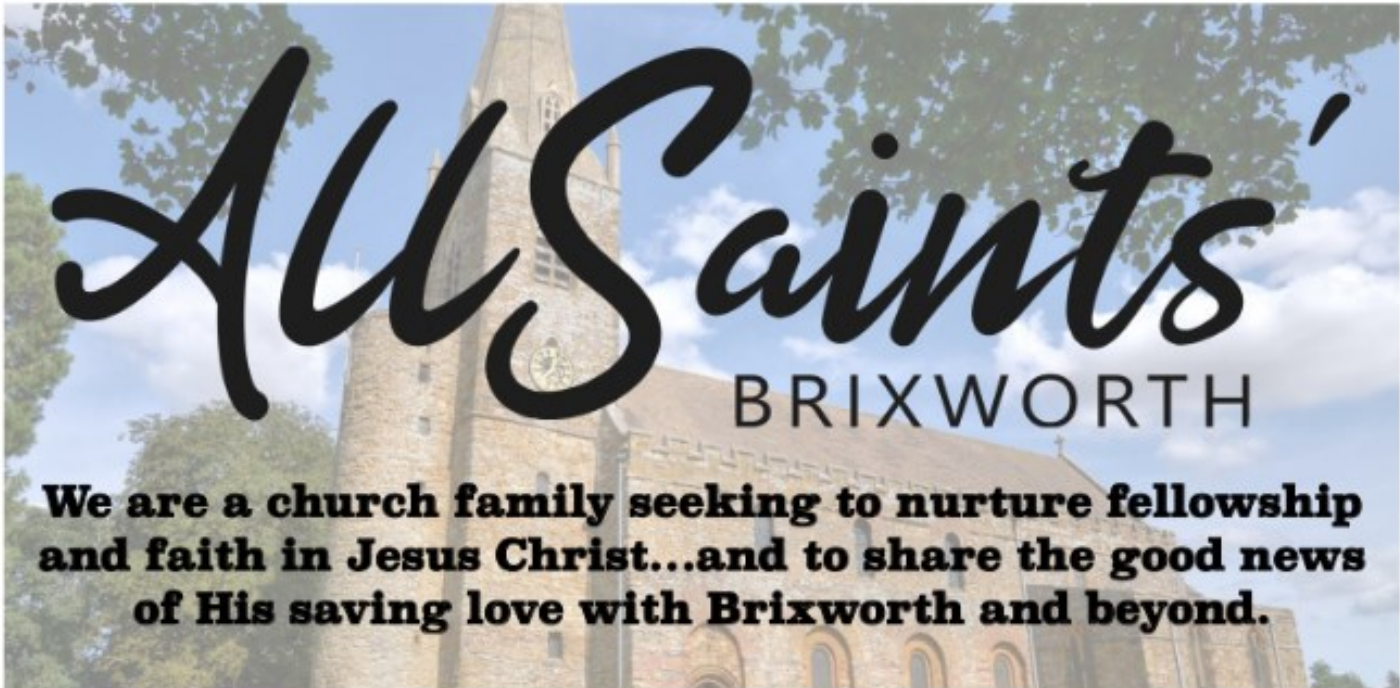
Please check website & noticeboard to confirm dates and times.
All meetings are held in the Library and Community Centre.
For further information please contact the Clerk.

The Brixworth Parish Council Team

 <p>Chairman Cllr Jackie Bed</p>	 <p>Vice Chairman Cllr Lynne Compton</p>	 <p>Councillor Christine Ware</p>	 <p>Councillor Tony Nixon</p>	 <p>Councillor Elaine Coe</p>	 <p>Councillor Tom Mitchell</p>	 <p>Councillor Ian Barrett</p>	 <p>Councillor Neal Brown</p>	 <p>Councillor Marc Sugden</p>
 <p>Councillor Barbara Lunn</p>	 <p>Councillor James Collier</p>	 <p>Councillor Frances Peacock</p>	 <p>Councillor Gary Spratt</p>	 <p>Councillor Gaurang Mehta</p>	 <p>Councillor Alan Aislett</p>	 <p>Parish Clerk & RFO Joze Flavell</p>	 <p>Admin Assistant Gavin Kirkup</p>	 <p>Admin Support Deb Frampton</p>



brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



What we've been up to...



TRIP TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Back in August, a group of us from Brixworth and Holcot visited the British Museum in London. Our tour guide took us to see Mesopotamian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Greek and Roman artefacts. We saw that the archaeological evidence from antiquity backs up many of the historical claims of the bible... and we had a lot of fun!

ALL-AGE HARVEST FESTIVAL

In September, we celebrated God's good provision and care... and the church was decorated beautifully! We thought about seeds and how, when they are planted, it initially seems like nothing happens. But then shoots appear and a plant grows. Jesus' word in our heart is like that.



FAMILY, FAITH & FUN

On October 15th, Families gathered to have Fun together as we thought about Jesus - the great doctor - who said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor. It is the sick who need a doctor. I did not come to invite good people. I came to invite sinners." (Mark 2:17)



What we've got coming up...

Christmas at All Saints



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

FREE ENTRY

Sat 9th Dec, 4-6pm. Trees lit all around the church; stalls, games, drinks and roast chestnuts; Father Christmas.

Sun 10th Dec, 4-6pm. Christingle Workshop; trees still lit all around the church; drinks and games.



CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 17th Dec, 7pm
Come along for a traditional service of lessons and carols.



INTERACTIVE NATIVITY

Sunday 24th Dec, 2pm
Fun for all ages. Come and take part in the Christmas story. Costumes provided (for children), or come in your own!

What's always going on...



For up-to-date information, check out our new website:

www.allsaintsbrixworth.org



- **We meet every week, in the All Saints' Church Building, at 10:30am.** The service last for about an hour and a quarter. There is a children's area with toys and a craft for Primary-School-aged children. There are also refreshments after the service. Everyone is invited and you will be warmly welcomed.
- **FAMILY FAITH AND FUN. 3rd Sunday every month. 4-5pm.** Aimed at families who find it hard to be with us on a Sunday morning. FFF meets at the Brixworth Centre. We play games, sing songs, and have lots of silly fun, all while learning something about Jesus. Get in touch if you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to come along.
- **Thursday Lunch at The George (1st Thursday each month).** As a church family, we enjoy spending time and eating together. You don't have to come to church to join us for lunch, but you will need to book in with us.
- **Men's Fellowship (2nd Wednesday of each month) and "All Saints' Belles" Women's Fellowship (3rd Thursday of each month).** A great chance for us to get to know each other and invite our friends into a relaxed atmosphere. The men often meet in The George Inn; the ladies in the Heritage Centre. Again, everyone is welcome!
- **NEW Monthly Men's Breakfast (see website for specific dates) 8:30-10am.** We eat, drink and put the world to rights!

FOR MORE INFO


Contact, David Reith

01604 880 139

revdavidreith@gmail.com



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

 **YouTube** @Brixworthcommunitychurch

I have recently had the privilege of visiting the beautiful country of Kenya to help an organisation that we support as a local church. I was based on the East Coast of the country in a town called Utange, near the city of Mombasa. The main work I was involved in was helping in an orphanage, supporting a weekend feeding programme for hundreds of local orphans and teaching young adults in a recently opened bible college as part of a school there.

My experience was a real eye opener, as I had never been to Africa before. The bumpy tracks as roads, mud huts as homes, sea water coming out of the tap instead of treated water, the unfinished buildings all over the place, the very simple meal times not to mention the debilitating heat were all part of a humbling experience. This showed me how easily one can take for granted the simple things we perhaps are more privileged to enjoy in this country.

And yet the Kenyan appeared no less happier than you or I. Their country is underdeveloped and broken in certain ways that is for sure, but then so is ours but just in different ways. What they did have, that perhaps we don't, is a joy within simplicity and a passion in their worship of God within their relationship with God. It challenged me to seek more of these things for myself. But it also made me realise something else.

Yes, I did see obvious physical poverty in front of my eyes but we in the UK, and indeed Brixworth, live within a spiritual poverty that is not so obvious as we go about our comfortable lives. This can make us just as needy than any other human being, no matter what country one lives in or how developed we think it is.

That is, we all need forgiveness from God and a relationship with Him. For only he can bring the healing, wholeness and lasting peace that we are all truly looking for. He then enables us to live out that relationship in the places he has for us. As we look at the news, we realise how broken the entire world really is both physically and spiritually. God's answer to all of this is Jesus and trusting in Him.

Blessings as always.

Andy

Contact Andy-Lloyd Williams on - 07958 604961



Annual Outdoor Christmas Nativity


Sunday 17th December at 4pm

Come and join us as we celebrate and act out the Christmas story.
We hold it outside the Library and Community Centre.
Hot mince pies and hot chocolate served **FREE** after the Nativity.
If the weather is inclement we will be holding the Nativity at the school at the same time.



Light Party

We had a fantastic time at the light party, which offers parents an alternative to Halloween as we celebrate all that is light and good. It was great to see the parents enjoying themselves as well as the kids. Big thanks to all those who helped make it the success it was!



Christmas Day at Brixworth Community Church

Be sure of getting your Christmas Day off to the best start! Service starts at 10:30am. And finishes at 11:15am. We celebrate together the birth of Jesus with carols, short message and an opportunity for the children to show off their presents. All are welcome.



Brixworth Community Foodshare

Many thanks to the individuals who donated to the autumn half-term Foodshare – many of you Olive Branch customers! We also received welcome gifts from Brixworth Primary School, Little Acorns Pre-School, Brixworth Central Sports Club, Troops the Greengrocer, the Co-op and All Saints Church. A real community effort! Our next Foodshare delivery will be on the morning of Thursday 21st December, just in time for Christmas!



For many years now we have collected shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts for children around the world that would otherwise receive nothing. Last year, we were particularly pleased to learn that over 200 boxes from Brixworth were sent to Ukraine. Several church families have been hosting displaced Ukrainians, and it was great for all concerned to see these gifts on their way. Thank you if you have filled and brought us a box this year. They are on their way now and will bring joy to disadvantaged children far from here.



The Olive Branch is Chatty Café

We have always thought of the Olive Branch Coffee Shop as a friendly place- but now it is official. We have been invited to join the national Chatty Café Scheme. This means that every Tuesday morning from 10.00 to 11.00 there will be a volunteer at a designated table ready to welcome you. There you can have a friendly chat about everything and anything that is on your mind. Don't sit at home feeling lonely- come and have a chat!

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
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

 [@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!

Brixworth Football Club Autumn Update

The **Brixworth U16s Girls** have made a fantastic start to the season. They are currently in second place in Division 1 of the Bedfordshire Women's and Girls League, having won four and lost two in September and October. This is a real achievement, as there are some very strong teams in this league with three divisions. It is a real shame that Northampton doesn't have an U16s league, but it is a great opportunity for the girls to test themselves against the teams from Luton, Milton Keynes and the likes.

The Girls also have two quarter final matches to play soon in both the League Cup and County Cup. The new additions Phoebe and Ella, alongside the return of Gracie, make up for the loss of two players who left to play academy football, a great achievement for the club. We're equally proud of Esme in the U15s who currently plays for Aston Villa and former player Rachel who has been selected for the England U17s.



Above: The Brixworth U16s Girls unveil their new CPL Aromas Away Kit alongside the New Restore Harrowgreen Home Kit (below)



Our long time sponsorship partners Kip McGrath and Midland Machinery are still supporting the girls but it's great to add a fourth company to support the team.

Brixworth Football Club is also super pleased to announce that it has a new club sponsor for the new season 23-24 - Gigaclear. This will be a great partnership

for the club who will receive some additional funding for equipment, and this will strengthen relationships with local businesses. Gigaclear stress that they are keen to support local communities in many ways, not just by bringing superfast fibre broadband to rural communities. Gigaclear have set up a Rural Sports Fund with £75,000 of funding to help eligible clubs to purchase sports training equipment, such as cricket bowling machines, rugby training kit, football training goals and more. The company says: "We are happy to welcome Brixworth Juniors on board as part of the Rural Sports Fund and look forward to supporting them through the 23/24 season."

The club would like to say thanks to the Parish Council and R&G Grounds Maintenance teams who have massively improved the St David's Senior pitch. We were fortunate with the weather in the summer but the pitch does look so much better and with the recent addition of new goals on this pitch we hope that the goal mouths survive for a longer period of time than normal in the inclement weather!

Elsewhere, the club has started a new U8s team. Two new parents who wanted to get their sons playing took the initiative, and within two days of an advert being added to Facebook the team had acquired eight more boys from the village and outlying areas. Zane, the new manager, has been extremely supportive by sponsoring the team, with other generous donations received from Dean the new U7s coach. We are so lucky to have such generous sponsors for our teams here in Brixworth, and this comes through hard work and commitment from all the coaches.

The minis have started up now on Saturday mornings from 9 till 10 at St David's. It is a very popular age group, and we already have a full complement of 25-30 children who enjoy learning the ABCs of football. Well done to Laura, Mark and Jamie for undertaking this challenge.

The 7s, 8s, 9s and 10s all continue to be at full capacity and playing Saturday morning football. Thank you to Installation Control Services for sponsoring the new

U8s away kit seen above right

The U12s and above ages who play on Sundays have all got



their seasons underway. **We have high hopes for the U16s** this season, who have got off to a great start in the top division. Keeper Will Bewley has just been signed on by Northampton Town Football Club for the academy – it goes to show that players from small villages can and will be spotted, but only with hard work, concentration and technical ability. Well done!

We're equally excited for the other teams, the boys, girls and coaches all are a great credit to the game. At the moment we often have girls playing alongside the boys, but if more girls come forward, we will consider creating a girls only section to include the current U10s/u15s and u16s girls teams and play in the ladies league. This would of course mean that the village would need more sports facilities, no bad thing of course in our eyes!

I can't leave this edition without saying a massive well done to Ryan, the manager of the 1st Seniors, who have started this season in Division 2 with six wins and a draw. It's a top performance from the players and coaching team – hats off to the players for keeping the yellow and red cards to a minimum for the first two months. Likewise Ian Giles, who manages our Veterans, must be congratulated also unbeaten and in the County Cup quarter finals. Thanks again to all the coaches, committee and sponsors who continue to support the club which started in 1992, you are immense. The Brixworth Juniors website will show you more about the club and who supports us as we move forward. We looking to set up a ladies team in the future. Should any ladies wishing to get involved in playing then please email secretary@brixworthjuniors.co.uk.

– Simon Compton

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