



The Brixworth Community Orchard

"A comely sight it is indeed to see, a world of blossoms on an apple tree."

John Bunyan, writer & Puritan preacher

On a breezy but bright Sunday in spring, the park on Spratton Road is a hive of activity as Phase 2 of planting Brixworth's Community Orchard gets underway. The Spratton Road Park has often lived in the shadow of its larger counterparts at St. David's and The Ashway, but Christine Ware (Brixworth Parish Council) and a group of committed volunteers are determined to change this, starting with the planting of fruit trees.

The orchard at the Spratton Road Park is the second phase of a village wide project to establish a Brixworth Community Orchard. Last November, half a dozen fruit trees were planted on a patch of land along the Holcot Road which are now blossoming and doing very well. There were also Japanese flowering cherry trees previously planted at Spratton Road, as part of The Sakura Cherry Tree Project commemorating 150 years of friendship between the UK and Japan. Sadly, however, some of these trees suffered at the hands of young vandals, although a few survived and their pretty pink blossoms are starting to show.

There will eventually be an orchard of around 20 trees at the Spratton Road Park, funded mostly by the Parish Council as part of its commitment to The Green Framework. The trees being planted are a mixture of apple trees, cooking apple trees, plum trees, fruiting cherry trees and pear trees. Once the trees have matured and started to bear fruit, anyone in the village will be welcome to come along and pick the produce for their own use, with some of it also being used to supply the Community Larder.

For centuries, orchards were widespread throughout the British Isles with every farm, country house and large garden having a collection of fruit trees. The advent of cheap fruit imports from abroad, however, and the pressure on land for house and road building saw a sharp decline in acreage during the latter half of the 20th Century. With the recent increase in community orchard

projects throughout the country, however, it is hoped that this trend may now be reversed and Brixworth will be a part of it.

Bob Cotter of the Brixworth Climate Action Group (made up of a combination of concerned local residents and Parish Councillors) feels the planting of fruit trees at various locations around the village will have numerous benefits: "They are relatively easy to grow and maintain," he says. "They are good for the environment as they will add to the biodiversity of the area by attracting a variety of wildlife and, most importantly, pollinators." When I spoke to Bob, he and his wife were busy threading wooden poles through wire mesh to make protective fencing to go around each sapling. After what happened to the flowering Japanese cherry trees, everyone is concerned about how to prevent such a mindless act of vandalism recurring.

Going forward, the long-term plan for the Spratton Road Park is to develop a Community Wellbeing Park, envisioned as a space where anyone can come to enjoy the outdoors in a natural environment. The numerous health and wellbeing benefits of being outdoors became apparent during the pandemic and remain just as relevant today. As well as the orchard, the vision for the park includes a pathway which will make it accessible for wheelchair users, an outdoor gym, benches for resting a while in nature and a sensory garden.

The Community Wellbeing Park is set to complete the Parish Council's triumvirate of parks in Brixworth:

- St. David's Recreation Ground with its MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) focusing on children and young people.
- The Ashway Playing Fields with the focus on team sports.
- The Spratton Road Park which will focus on wellbeing and access for all in a natural environment.

- Tracey Calnan

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

Library & Community Centre are 25 Years old

It is now 25 years since our Library and Community Centre were opened by Neil Kinnock.

Funded by the Robert Horne Foundation, the building was a gift to the village. The opening was the culmination of extensive negotiations involving the County Council, District Council and the Parish Council together with Brixworth Community Church (or as it was then, BCF). Key to the success of the Project was Sue Varello, our District Councillor at the time.

The Library and Community Centre has become a focal point in the



village with a huge range of activities taking place each week. Indeed, the Community Centre has never had so many hirers with weekly Pilates, Rainbows, Self Defence, Country Dancing, Mums and Tots, Yoga, Children's Dancing, Table Tennis and Art Classes – to name just a few!

The Centre had extensive refurbishment last year, and is still a popular venue for children's parties. The day-

to-day management of the Centre is in the hands of the Community Church, with Mike Nice being the Centre Manager for the past 25 years. As part of the Centre, Community Church volunteers run the Olive Branch Coffee Shop, and they too are celebrating 25 years of service to the village.

– Mike Nice

Northampton Road Allotment Update

On 21st March, Phil Pinder, Secretary of the Northampton Road Allotments Association, presented the petition against the loss of the allotments at a full West Northants Council (WNC) meeting, accompanied by other allotment holders and the Brixworth Ward Councillor, Jonathan Harris. He was given three minutes to address WNC; his speech outlined the history of the allotments, the many benefits to villagers and the negative impact of the prospective loss to the village. He finished by asking for WNC support in finding a solution to keep the allotments for future generations. His presentation was very well received by those present.

The petition ended up with 1,134 signatures! Phil and the rest of the Allotment Association wish to convey their sincere thanks to all those residents who took the time to sign it, both in Brixworth and the surrounding villages. The support is much appreciated as the fight continues to save this important green space from more development.

– Tracey Calnan



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Boughton extension now open!

After 17 years of hard work by a small band of volunteers, The Northampton & Lamport finally opened its half mile extension to Boughton on Saturday 30th March 2024.

With work having begun in early 2007, the extension has involved: restoring a seven arch low viaduct, laying track, restoring and re-erecting a Victorian signal box, installing traditional railway semaphore signalling, erecting fencing, building a new station platform, installing utilities, and many other jobs. It is amazing to think that so much has been achieved with hardly any assistance from mechanical plant. The final results are wonderful and a testament to the commitment and resolve of all those involved.

The extension was formally opened by local MP, Chris Heaton-Harris, as part of an invitation-only special first train on the morning of 30th March. Other guests included the Chair of WNC (and also Chair of Boughton Parish Council), Cllr John Shephard, as well as other local Parish Council representatives, neighbours and supporters of the railway, the press and ITV Anglia News.



Following the formal opening, public services resumed in the afternoon, allowing people to ride the new line for the first time. The new station at Boughton is now part of the railway's standard operation, giving us two stations for the first time ever! The railway is now nearly two miles in length, and preparations are already underway for us starting to push north, towards Spratton.

If you've not been down to visit us yet, or haven't been for some time, please make 2024 the year you come for a ride on our new extended line.

Up-coming special events for your diaries include:

- 1st & 2nd June – Model Weekend (model railways, miniature engineering and train rides)
- 16th June – Father's Day (Dad's ride free when accompanied by fare-paying passenger)
- 28th July – Kids for a Quid
- 24th, 25th, 26th August – Family Fun Weekend
- 8th Sept – Cheese & Cider Train
- Cream Tea Specials – various dates (see website)
- Steam Footplate Rides/Diesel Cab Rides – ride on the actual loco! (see website for details)



Trains will also run every Sunday through until 8th September.

For full information, details of up-coming event and online tickets, please keep an eye on the Railway's website at www.nlr.org.uk or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X.

If you'd like to get involved by volunteering at our friendly local railway then just call in and speak to one of our team. There are roles to suit all interests and capabilities, and no prior experience is needed. You only need give what time you wish, but it's a great way of meeting new people, learning new skills and feeling part of something rewarding.

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Northants Search and Rescue

Search and Rescue is a little known but vital charity serving as the 'Fourth Emergency Service' throughout our county and beyond. I met with Brixworth born and bred Emily Cockerill, a volunteer with Northamptonshire Search and Rescue (NSAR) for the past seven years, to find out more about this amazing organisation and the important work it carries out.

What does NSAR do?

In answer to the above question, Emily says: "Everybody's heard of Mountain Rescue and the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution), but nobody stops to wonder who covers that middle ground between the mountains and the sea – well, that's us." She goes on to explain that Northants Search and Rescue is part of the nationwide organisation Lowland Rescue, and they collaborate closely with the police in helping to find missing persons who are vulnerable or deemed to be at high risk.

Unlike the police and other emergency services, however, Search and Rescue

teams receive no central funding whatsoever and are completely dependent on fundraising and the occasional grant to carry out their important work.

They also participate in extra resilience activities; during this extremely wet winter, for example, NSAR were part of the team who rescued residents from 1200 homes when Billing Aquadrome flooded. Most of their call outs, however, involve people who have gone missing. Before Covid, Emily tells me, "most of these would be people with dementia or Alzheimer's, but since then we've seen an increase in 'despondent' people suffering a mental health crisis."

What happens on a 'call out'?

NSAR's volunteers are on call 24/7 and, within one and half hours of their call handler receiving a missing persons call, they aim to have up to 20 team members on the ground ready to search. Emily is keen to emphasise: "It's a myth that you have to wait 24 hours before calling the police for a missing person. If you're ever worried about someone's who's missing, please, please call the police straight away!"



When a person is reported missing, a search manager from NSAR uses mapping skills and missing persons statistics, plus a system devised by Robert J. Koester, an expert in lost person behaviour, to calculate the search area.

Teams of four or five volunteers will then set off on foot. A search can last anything from a few minutes to weeks and weeks. Sadly, of course, the outcome isn't always what they'd hoped for, but when it does work out, Emily says, "it's so rewarding getting people home and back safe to their families."

Emily points out that there are many skills involved in a Search and Rescue team call out, including

- Map reading and navigation
- Advanced first aid
- Communication
- Lost person behaviour knowledge
- Crime scene management
- Dog handlers

In her day job, Emily is a veterinary nurse, and is hoping to specialise as a dog handler for NSAR. When I met her, she had her handsome four-legged friend Duke with her, who is in the final stages of training to become a search and rescue dog.

What equipment do you use?

In addition to the skills and expertise of the volunteers, a search and rescue operation



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also involves a variety of equipment. In order to keep costs down, volunteers are encouraged to purchase their own personal kit, this should include things such as a compass, first aid kit, whistle, LED head torch, spare batteries, GPS unit, evidence bags, crime scene tape, penknife/multi tool etc. The kit needs to be carried on every search.

NSAR also owns and maintains three support vehicles and a thermal imaging drone. Each of the three vehicles has a specific purpose; one houses the Incident Control Unit which offers a mobile operational command post for searches and other incidents. The other two serve as Operational Support Units which can transport teams and their equipment to anywhere in the county; they also carry medical supplies, stretchers etc. One of them has on board water rescue equipment.

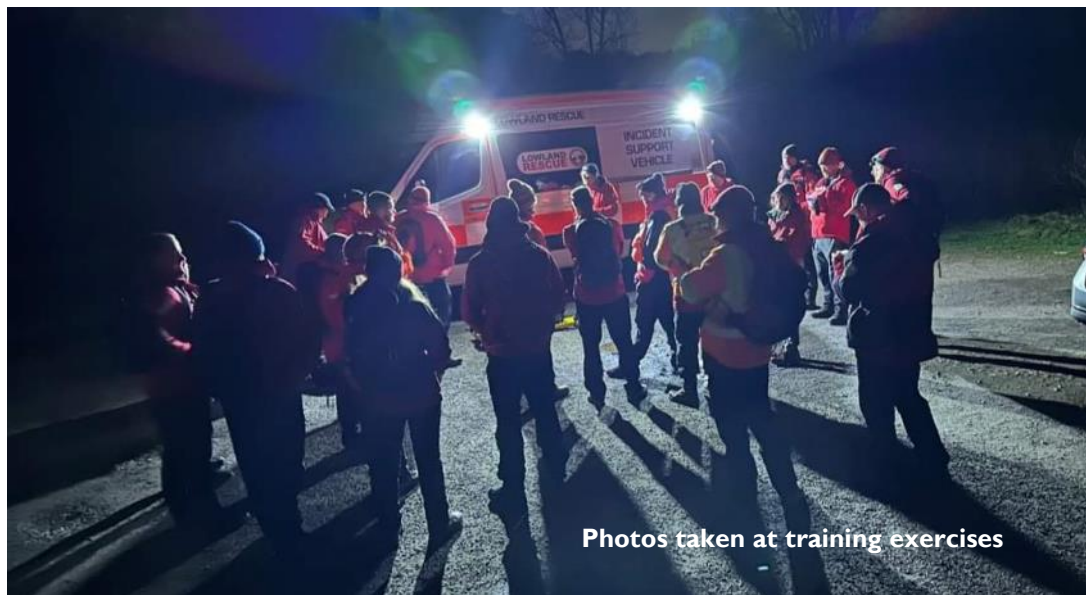


They are all terrain vehicles capable of accessing difficult and remote locations. Northamptonshire may not have coast or mountains, but it has a varied terrain of flood plains, agricultural land, forests, country parks, rivers and lakes.

At the moment, NSAR has no central base, with all its vehicles and specialist equipment being stored in members' homes and garages. Plans are afoot, however, for a team base to be established (very close to Brixworth) with plenty of secure storage, space for training and as Emily says, "somewhere to call home."

How do you become a volunteer?

Emily joined NSAR at the age of 22. After spending her teenage years as an active member of Brixworth Scouts she felt that the different skills she learned there could be put to good use. She passed the initial interview and then had to go through a rigorous training programme.



Photos taken at training exercises

It's a big commitment as, after the initial training, volunteers still need to attend at least six mock exercises a year and ongoing CPD sessions to keep their skills up to date. Emily is passionate about the work though, "I love being outdoors and being part of a team that allows you to develop new skills that can be genuinely beneficial." She goes on to say that NSAR has a "really supportive, family feel to it."

In 2023, there were 71 active members in the NSAR team, they attended 67 call outs in Northamptonshire and neighbouring counties involving 561 hours of 'searching'.

As well as attending call outs, Search and Rescue volunteers also assist with fundraising activities, attending publicity events, marshalling and giving talks. Emily particularly enjoys giving talks to young people in the hope that it will encourage the next generation to acquire the necessary skills for volunteering when they're older. Last year, NSAR volunteers attended 235 different events.

This year, they will have a stand at the Hollowell Steam and Heavy Horse Show on 6th/7th July 2024, if anybody wishes to find out more about the work that NSAR does

or if you're interested in volunteering or fundraising, please go along and chat to team members. Alternatively, for more details visit their website www.northantssar.org.

Brixworth Photographic Society supports NSAR

Every year around Christmas, The Brixworth Photographic Society produce an excellent calendar with a local focus and use the profits from the sales to help a local charity. They sold all 125 copies of the 2024 calendar and have donated £625.00 to the Northants Search and Rescue team.

The NSAR team are extremely appreciative, Emily says, "We are blown away by the amount they raised. These donations make a massive difference to the team, and we are very grateful to be the chosen recipients this year. We rely solely on grants and fundraising. Gifts like this enable us to keep doing the work we do for the Northamptonshire community."

— Tracey Calnan

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A vibrant landscape of a park. In the foreground, there is a lush green grassy field. In the middle ground, a line of trees with varying shades of green and some bare branches stands against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A small wooden bench is visible on the left side of the field. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day in a park.

Country Park:

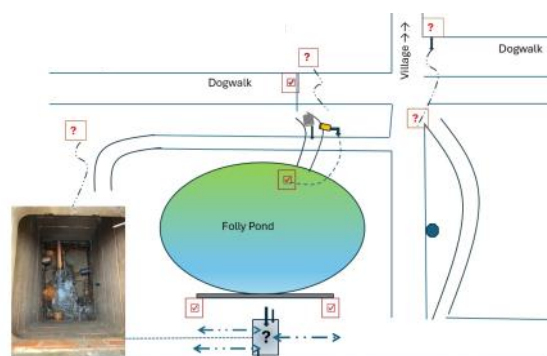
Emerging from its winter cocoon

The park was looking resplendent on a bright sunny Sunday morning when I walked over there. It was hard to believe the terrible rain and winds had had such an impact. As the ground dries up, becomes firmer and safer to walk upon and boots no longer cake up with mud, it makes the area a great pleasure to revisit time and again.

In the country park, the volunteers are largely focused on general maintenance now that tree pruning has been put aside for the summer while the birds are actively nesting.

Wildlife is doing well, with plenty of birds, mammals and reptiles. We even discovered a

Folly Pond's drainage has been a concern as the surrounding fields' run-off feeds into the pond causing a major ingress of water, eroding the ditch banks and flooding the area by the pond's wall. Efforts to improve the drainage revealed that we have limited knowledge of how the drainage was laid out when the park was developed. A leaky dam was added to the ditch to limit the flow and divert the water into an overflow pipe.



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Brampton Valley Way has also suffered from the heavy rain and high winds. Some sections of the path are very water-logged and the volunteers are working to improve the drainage by clearing self-set trees and shrubs from the section of track above Kelmarsh Station: it is an ongoing project. Other wet areas are the focus of further improvement work.

Walls, self-sets and ivy are not compatible, as plants can grow through, push cemented-brickwork apart and weaken structures. We have cleared back along the wall at Kelmarsh Station to reduce the potential damage.

Clearing the banks and walls has the double benefits of improving drainage and opening the canopy, allowing greater sunlight in to encourage wildflowers to grow where previously there were very few.



Annual inspections of the Way and its old railway infrastructure mean we have to open access to the culverts for the survey engineers and clear any drains we identify. And, to our infinite joy, we sometimes unearth unknown drains and culverts.

Routinely we make sure the tunnels drainage gullies are clear. This year we had extra work, as winds had blown down trees onto tunnel tops... a chainsaw did the trick. But getting up and down those muddy slopes requires the agility of a mountain goat at the best of times: with the slopes resembling ski slopes, it has been an even greater challenge at times.

Maintaining the park's three main locations is an ongoing task and the **Friends of Brampton Valley Way & Brixworth Country Park Volunteers** are dedicated to making them one of the best places for miles around.

– Keith Dobell

The hidden stories of Brixworth

Did you know that Brixworth has a Blue Plaques trail leading past many of the historic buildings in Brixworth?

The Brixworth Heritage Trail starts and ends at the green opposite the Coach & Horses pub. Over a short walk around the older parts of Brixworth, you will visit 30 houses seminal to the history and story of Brixworth.

The Blue Plaques video was filmed and photographed by Sean Goodhart with video editing by Vernon Salmon. Their collaboration started several years ago when Vernon asked Sean if he had drone footage of the local area he could use in videos he was making for the Brixworth Christian Fellowship. Their collaboration has developed a YouTube channel of local views called "BrixworthScenes" <https://www.youtube.com/@brixworthscenes> with videos of Brixworth village and Pitsford Reservoir.

The Blue Plaques video covering the Brixworth Heritage Trail was created because Vernon and Sean felt there would be many current and past residents of Brixworth who would enjoy this "armchair traveller" walk around the village – perhaps encouraging people to get out and



see the historic buildings in Brixworth. It has taken a lot of effort to create the video, with the many short video clips being taken over the past two years using a combination of filming on foot, on bicycle and with a drone – and many hours of video editing to pull it all together.

This latest video has had nearly 500 views after just one month on YouTube, with many positive comments from the Brixworth History Society and the Brixworth Let Us Know Facebook pages.

Brixworth residents Vernon Salmon and Sean Goodhart have produced a video of the walk, and the history covered. If you'd like to accompany them on a virtual walk, visit <https://bit.ly/BrixHTrail> or point your phone at this QR code.





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Restored: Lamport Hall's alpine garden

Lamport Hall is to unveil the restoration of its renowned alpine garden and rockery.

Standing at 24ft tall, the imposing garden, constructed in 1847 by Sir Charles Isham, is a unique horticultural feature originally 'clothed' in dwarf conifers, alpine plants and flowering perennials. It is probably best known for its population of gnomes, believed to be the first ones in the country, some of which are planned for reintroduction later in 2024.



Jake Croft, Lamport Head Gardener, said: "The Alpine Garden had been closed to the public for a long time due to concerns over its structural stability and had become overgrown, with the loss of much of the original planting scheme. Work began in early 2023 to clear unwanted vegetation whilst preserving plants of value. Contemporary fencing and concrete slabs were removed, and the original path was reinstated". Jake undertook diligent research to find out as much as possible about the original planting and to get the sense of place just right. Planting subsequently began at the top of the rockery with over 200 plants being planted in the top section alone. The Lilliput Pond was recreated, fed by a restored gentle cascade.

A number of the original dwarf conifers remain, along with some of the original Japanese Maples. Many lost dwarf

Chamaecyparis, Thuja, Pinus and Abies have been replaced. These are modern and interesting cultivars of the original planting scheme. The Rockery has been restocked with Utah Agaves and many different sedums, saxifrages, sempervivums and Ivies, in line with the original planting scheme.



The restoration has been made possible by a generous grant from The Finnis Scott Foundation as well as hard work from the estate's team of staff and volunteers, led by Head Gardener Jake Croft. The Rockery will be open to visitors from May 2024. The Lamport Hall gardens are open on Wednesdays and Thursdays until the end of October and for the National Open Gardens Scheme on Saturday 08 June.

Executive Director of Lamport, Mark Herrod, said "The alpine garden at Lamport is well-known on an international level as it was one of the first of its kind to exist in England. Sir Charles Isham, 10th Bt, had the alpine garden built to house his collection of gnomes purchased in Nuremburg. This prompted the beginning of the enduring fashion for garden gnomes. We are grateful to the Finnis Scott Foundation for its generous help in restoring this notable and rare piece of horticultural history."

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Summer at Lamport Hall

Summer has arrived at Lamport and we can't wait to welcome you! The gardens are a riot of colour and look spectacular, the 50th Anniversary Exhibition in the Hall is proving popular with visitors, and we have a wonderful programme of events for all.

We are delighted to be opening our gardens on Saturday 8th June from 10am-4pm for the **National Garden Scheme Open Day**. The café will also be open so enjoy this rare opportunity to visit the gardens on a weekend date.

Our popular Study Days also make a welcome return on Tuesday 18th June. We will welcome local historian and author Neil Lyon to talk about Lamport and the wider county during WWII. Dr

Laura Engel is a professor based at a university in Pittsburgh, USA, and she will be exploring the culture of celebrity including Sir Gyles Isham's Hollywood acting career. Dr Megan Leyland, a Senior Historian at English Heritage, will look at the 19th century architectural changes made to the Hall. Finally, Dr Jane Eade from the National Trust will look at the career and paintings of 17th century artist Joan Carlile. Tickets include lunch and refreshments.



On Friday 28th June we welcome Sardinian harpist Laura Crobu to perform the harp at Lamport. The recital includes works by Michail Glinka, Parish Alvars and Alphonse Hasselman. Laura won the international competition 'Citta di Cagliari' and the award for best Sardinian harpist. She has also undertaken more contemporary work including performing on albums and at the MTV Awards with Eminem.



Our popular outdoor theatre also returns on Friday 12th July with a family orientated performance of *Wind in the Willows*. Join Boxtree Productions on the riverbank this summer, as they celebrate their 10 year anniversary with a performance of Kenneth Grahame's beloved story! Featuring hilarious comedy, magic and fantastic toe-tapping songs, come along for an evening of wonderful open-air theatre that the whole family will enjoy.

Jazz in the Gardens will see the return of The Tame Valley Stompers on Sunday 14th July so bring along a picnic and relish the opportunity to spend an afternoon soaking up the atmosphere of the Walled Garden on a summer's afternoon.

We are also looking forward to the King West Country Club Cocktail Party on Saturday 27th July which will take Lamport back to its short-lived iteration as a country club. The evening will include themed cocktails and canapes, dancing demonstrations, a gramophone DJ and live jazz vocals. 1930s outfits are encouraged!



The Realm of Enchantment will continue to host their themed stay and play sessions for children aged 2-11 throughout the school holidays. Check the website for dates and themes. A must for all little ones who enjoy being outside in nature.

The Hall and Gardens are also open every Wednesday and Thursday alongside the café selling locally sourced cakes, sausage rolls, artisan coffee, paninis, soup and quiche as well as children's lunch boxes.

Our revamped gift shop sells a hand-selected and carefully curated selection of gifts, branded items, books and pocket money toys.



No ticket is required to visit the café and shop. We also have a small exhibition of local art inspired by Lamport open until the end of August.

— Eleanor Carter-Smith

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Exhibitions at Lamport Hall

An exhibition to celebrate Lamport Hall and its 50th anniversary of being a charitable trust brings together work by 19 local artists produced for and inspired by the Hall and gardens itself.

Organised by Northants and Rutland Open Studios (NROS), the exhibition in the historic stableyard (which recently featured in Netflix's The Crown series) runs until 22 August and gives visitors a chance to explore what Lamport means for local artists and the impact the Hall has had on the local arts scene in recent years. There is a varied display of paintings, textiles, glass and mixed media on the theme of Inspired by Lamport, and the exhibition is free to enter and open on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week.

Katie Boyce, director of NROS, said: "Lamport Hall has been a huge supporter of NROS for the last few years and we are proud to help them celebrate their 50th anniversary with this exhibition which showcases a few of our 300+ members. It's a little teaser for our September festival when we'll be taking over and filling the stableyard with hundreds of beautiful works from our local artists!" The exhibition is open 10am-3pm every Wednesday and Thursday until 22 August in the stable yard. Entry is free, although there is a charge for entry to the house and gardens. Lamport Hall are hosting a series of event this year as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations, more information is available on their website www.lamporthall.co.uk

Open studios returns in September

The hugely successful Open Studios event returns to Lamport Hall this September for the annual takeover of the stable block. This year it's even bigger as artists from Rutland are joining the fray! NROS invites local people to visit the artists, potters, sculptors, printmakers and craftspeople in their local area, to see where they work and explore the art that people are creating near to you. And to kick things all off, each artist taking part produces up to 2 pieces for the annual Central Exhibition at Lamport Hall which fills the historic stable block with a vibrant showcase of the artistic talent across Northamptonshire and Rutland.

The Central Exhibition opens on 1 September at 10am and is open Wednesday to Sunday every week of September 10am-4pm. Entry is free for the exhibition and

there is a café and parking on site.

Katie Boyce, director of NROS said: "The Central Exhibition is a great introduction for visitors to the Open Studios event, and if you see someone whose work you really like, you can then visit them at their studio to see more."

More information about all the artists and events is available on the NROS website at www.NROS.co.uk or you can pick up brochures in loads of places across the county for more information.



OPEN STUDIOS CENTRAL EXHIBITION showing Katie Boyce NROS director hanging the Inspired by Lamport exhibition.

About Northants and Rutland Open Studios:

Formerly Northants Open Studios (NOS), Northants and Rutland Open Studios (NROS) is an organisation dedicated to promoting visual arts in Northamptonshire

and Rutland. The annual festival provides a platform for artists to showcase their work, connect with the public, and generate sales. NROS strives to foster a vibrant arts scene and make art accessible to all.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Katie Boyce

Director and festival organiser

katie@nros.co.uk



ARTISTS AT LAMPORT HALL: all the artists who took part in 2023 outside Lamport Hall and the exhibition space in the coach house.



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History Society Update

Our meetings so far this year have been both varied and interesting.

In February we were given an insight into the various residents of Kelmash Hall. This was followed in March by a talk about the History of the church and village of Fotheringhay with its royal connections. At our April meeting we were treated to a very interesting talk about the Midland Enclosure Riots which took place in Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire in 1607. One of the largest riots took place in the village of Newton, near Geddington, following which several rioters were sentenced to death.

We have trips planned over the summer months. In June we will be having a day trip

to Harvington Hall in Worcestershire and the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter. In July the Long Buckby History Society are providing us with a history tour around their village. In August we will be visiting Geddington for a short tour of the village and its historic church and cross.

Our autumn programme restarts on September 19th with a talk entitled 'The Cooper Collection – Three generations of Photographers'.

Visitors are welcome at our meetings. For more information email helloBHS1990@gmail.com.

– Rosemary Hardie

Brixworth Bridge Club

Brixworth Bridge Club welcomes new members. The club meets Monday evenings starts at the Heritage Centre, from 7pm till 10pm.

For more information, contact belinda.collett@gmail.com

Ravensthorpe Craft & Gift Fair

Get ready to explore handcrafted art by local artisans. The Craft & Gift Fair will be held at Ravensthorpe Village Hall on Saturday 8th June 11am to 4pm.

Save the date – this is an event you don't want to miss!

Litter-ally good news

It's been a busy start to the year as we attempt to clear our road verges of litter prior to the grass cutters turning one piece of litter into a hundred pieces.

We have already finished the whole length of the bypass within 36 working hours, removing 30 bags of litter - this was incredibly quick. This is still a lot of litter, but significantly less than collected in the same area last year which is very pleasing.

March saw us join forces with Brixworth Primary School's Eco Council. With 35 excited and eager pupils we visited a couple of housing estates and cleared the approaches to the school. It was an education for all of us that was very enjoyable.

There are plenty of families picking up litter around the village, making a huge difference. Bernadette and her three children decided that rather than give up something for lent, they would collect litter for 40 days. They cleared 12 bags of litter which made a stunning difference over the Easter period. We really can't thank them enough for their dedication.



If you are interested in joining us please come along to one of our organised picks which are advertised on our website

www.brixworthwombles.co.uk or on our Facebook page Brixworth Wombles.

– Peter Duffy

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Easter Holiday Club

We at Brixworth Community Church decided to do things a little differently this year and try running a holiday club at Easter. After discussions with our friends from Madison First Baptist Church in Mississippi we knew it was going to be special. It's incredible to me that this group of eleven Americans would want to fly 4,000 or so miles just to help us here in little old Brixworth to run our holiday club, but they did – and what a fantastic time we had.

Thanks once again to the parents who trusted their children to us. They had a wonderful time in the various different activities that were on offer. Amongst the favourites were the arts and crafts (as always), King Ball, which if you can imagine the biggest beach ball ever with two teams of children laughing and screaming as they tried to control the ball into the goal nets. Then we had Human Hungry Hippos (courtesy of Jon from Northamptonshire

Association of Youth Clubs) and various amazing relays, not to mention song and dance, drama and balloon memory verses.



Thanks again to all who helped make it happen, especially to Northants Community Foundation for supporting us financially through a successful grant that we put together, thanks to our friends from Madison, to all the volunteers and those who hosted the Americans over the week, and once again to the children and their parents. To God be the glory!

– Vernon Salmon

Allotments available in Spratton

The allotments in Spratton are owned and run by Spratton Town and Charity Land which is a charity that was set up in 1676 for the benefit of the villagers. The charity is managed by trustees, most of whom have plots of their own. We have 54 plots in total including full and half plots and, at the moment, we have 1 full and 4 half plots available. Our new rental year begins in September and the rents from September '24 will be £20 half plot and £40 full plot per annum.

We are aware that the tenants of Brixworth allotments,



Northampton Road will not know their situation until September and we hope they achieve the outcome they wish for.

However, if any tenants would like to see what the STCL has to offer then our Trustees would be happy to show them around.

For more information contact Pat Parish
on: Parishpat79@gmail.com, 07951 221398 or 01604 847734.

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Brixworth Drama Group

By the time this edition of the **Bulletin** is published, Brixworth Drama Group will have performed their latest play, a hilarious farce called *Reading Between the Lines* by Geoff Bamber, in association with Lazy Bee Scripts. The premise of the play is that Rachel Stokes has organised a literary festival in their small village, inviting the local romance author, Lydia Bray, to promote her new books. Lydia has moved away from romance to something more “steamy” to the horror of the local mild-mannered vicar, Jonty Fullelove, who is terrified of what the bishop will say when he finds out. Rachel’s plans for a smoothly-running festival are derailed by the arrival of Rievers Fenn, her husband’s long-time friend. Rievers is a gambler, ladies’ man, and all-round liability. Hilarity ensues as Rievers discovers that not one, but two of his previous amorous relations appear at the literary festival: Rievers owe a significant amount of money to one of them, who also has Mafiosi contacts and is ready to engage them in order to recover the debt.

Director Mark Sharman said “It’s been fantastic for this cast to get their teeth into a full-length play and we’re sure the audience will love it. Certainly, there have been a lot of laughs during the rehearsals as the characters come to life. We are very grateful to the audiences for their support: without them we couldn’t put on these plays.”

Looking forward, Brixworth Drama Group are planning an evening of comedy plays in September, and mark your calendars for January 2025, when a pantomime is scheduled. However, to do this, the group need new members, particularly actors, but also to help behind the scenes and front of house. Previous acting experience is not necessary.

The author of the pantomime, Ian Ashcroft, who also wrote *Money, Money* which members of the group performed last year, recently teased some of the plot:



Members of the cast of ‘Reading Between the Lines’, in rehearsal.

“Who of us knows the connection between a disgraced Admiral, lost treasure, murder and mayhem, a beguiling wench, pirates, a ghost, and Brixworth Hall? I suspect no-one. However, all will be revealed in our 2025 Pantomime currently being written uniquely for the Brixworth Drama Group. We understand that audience participation is compulsory!”

Anyone interested in joining the drama group should contact Eileen Truby on 07934 530220. Information about casting, productions and performances can also be found on our Facebook page.

– Jon Mackley



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Brixworth And Scaldwell Scouts

As we move towards summer, the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers are all looking forward to the sunny evenings and the chance to get out and about more.

The Beavers have continued to work towards gaining many of the badges available in the scouting movement, including the book reader badge. They have been learning about the topic of health and wellbeing and planned the route for a walk around the village, ending with a well-deserved visit to the chip shop. Ice cream has also been enjoyed with a visit to Gallone's in Kingsthorpe, an



especially favourite activity. The Beavers ended the term with an evening at Overstone Scout Centre where they took part in air rifle shooting.

The Cubs are as busy as ever and have recently visited the fire station as part of the fire safety badge. They have spent an evening ten pin bowling and for Shrove Tuesday participated in pancake races. A bug and insect night was a particularly favourite activity. The Cubs also completed the community activity badge with a second evening spent cleaning the church. St George's day was recently marked with a visit from a fully armoured knight who battled with a dragon that looked suspiciously Scout-sized.



The Scouts, with some of the older Cubs, took part in the yearly Brass Monkeys challenge, camping overnight at Overstone in temperatures below 4 degrees. Campfires and hot chocolate ensured hypothermia was avoided. The Scouts have also been busy with activities focused on recycling, and completing their personal challenges as they work towards the Gold Scouting Award. Activities for the term ahead include climbing, orienteering and litter picking.

The Scouts Need You

Brixworth And Scaldwell scouting group continues to be very popular with our young people with healthy numbers attending every week. We have moved leaders around sections to ensure we can continue to provide the activities and experiences that the young people enjoy. Leaders do however step down due to other commitments and we will need new blood following the summer break.

The scouting movement has changed its requirements for becoming a leader to try and encourage and support more people to become involved. To become a regular leader in any of the sections involves a few hours simple online training, first aid training and undergoing a DBS check – and of course being willing to support the delivery of the programme and activities for the young people.

For anyone interested in this role then simply talk to one of the leaders on the night, or if you don't currently have a child in the Scouts but would be keen to get involved then email enquiries@brixworthscouts.org.uk It really is a rewarding activity and supports the young people of Brixworth and Scaldwell to engage in new experiences and learn new skills.

– Sandy Dixon



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What is the University of the 3rd age?

Well, despite the title we are not an academic institution, but we are group of people who come together to “Learn, Laugh and Live”. It is open to all who are no longer in full time work, so if you are recently retired and looking to get involved in something locally, this could be for you.

B&D u3a is part of the national u3a movement, which comprises over 1,000 local member groups with in excess of 430,000 people already participating in activities.

Why join? What can I do? As a new member, you will have access to a variety of events, interest groups and resources that cater to your interests and needs. Whether you want to learn a new language, explore a new hobby, join a book club, or explore your community, u3a has something for you. You will also be part of a network of like-minded people who share your passion for learning and living well. Our u3a is run by its members, for its members, so you can also contribute your skills and knowledge to the organisation, by starting a new interest group, help organise an existing group, or just help out at monthly meetings, depending on your availability and preferences. The u3a is not just about education, but also about friendship, fun and fulfilment. We hope you enjoy your membership and make the most of the opportunities that u3a offers.



The u3a in Brixworth

Here in Brixworth, the u3a members meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2 pm in the village hall. There usually is a guest speaker, who talks about a subject of a local nature or perhaps with a more national/international aspect.

Looking ahead to some of the 2024 programme of talks still to come, we have:

- **3rd July** - Fools Gold – a new collection of tales and songs from the Durham duo
- **4th Sept** – The story of Grace Darling
- **2nd Oct** – The story of Punch & Judy

It is a very varied programme with something for everyone.

In addition to the monthly meetings, we have some 30 interest groups covering a wide range of activities – Badminton, Bridge, Cycling, Local History, Gardening, Science & Technology, Walking & Strolling,



Photography and Singing for Pleasure (pictured above) are just some of the things our members are involved with. New groups are formed where there is sufficient interest. Recently we've started Country Dancing and Conversational Greek (great for all those holidays). These all meet on a monthly or weekly basis and are opportunities for new members to get to know others with a shared interest or hobby. The groups meeting times and dates don't generally overlap (with perhaps a couple of exceptions), so it is perfectly possible to belong to several groups and be able to go to them all.

So why not come along to our next monthly meeting, held on the first Wednesday of the month in Brixworth village hall at 2pm. We will introduce you to some of the group leaders and volunteers who run the u3a, and we will explain how the organisation works and how you can get involved. We will also give you a chance to meet other new members and ask any questions that you may have. We hope that you will enjoy the meeting and that you will feel welcome and supported by the u3a community.

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

– Clive Tyrrell



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dinghies and the larger ones (with the red sails) Drascombe Devon Longboats. And getting the disabled onboard is easily handled with the aid of our hydraulic hoists.

Some sail single-handed but the majority have a qualified sailing volunteer alongside them in the boat. The larger, Devon Longboats carry several passengers and

provide a very enjoyable trip around Pitsford Water to those less able to handle a boat for themselves.

Northampton Sailability is a registered charity: it depends heavily on donations and membership fees to keep it going. Sailing boats can be expensive to upkeep, you know? And our Royal Yacht Association affiliation ensures we maintain the highest level of safety standards and that their demanding operational practices are observed. Each year the RYA carries out an audit. We got flying colours from the assessors last time round. You can see us at and what we get up to on <https://www.northamptonsailability.org.uk>.

Northampton Sailability has been operating since the 90s. While it has been a struggle at times, the members have managed to keep it going. Thank goodness, as it does so much good for the visitors.

Our visitors love their day and leave very happy with their trip, with their spirits lifted and their confidence built, regardless of which craft they are in. Individuals or



groups from care homes, support groups come along either on

Mondays or Fridays or the first and third Saturday of the month.

Volunteering at Sailability is an extremely rewarding experience. Some jobs (but certainly not all) can be quite physical. It is as part of a very happy crew, bolstered by tea and biscuits which help keep us going throughout the day. We prepare the boats, man the pontoon, sail the craft with the visitors on boats and train them, crew the safety boat RIB and many more tasks, including putting the boats to bed again safely for the next session.

We always need new volunteers. New volunteers do not need to have any sailing experience as training is part of the package. There are onshore roles as well, so no need to even get into a boat. Sailing experience would obviously be helpful but not a prerequisite for volunteering, and you can get trained up to participate at every level from sailing qualifications through to First Aid. So, come along and get involved and if you fancy joining in as a volunteer? Contact: sec@northamptonsailability.org.uk.



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What's on



26-27/05	Rural Life at Lampport Hall	Lampport Hall
28/05	Ruby Wax	Royal
29/05	Emmanuel Sonubi	Royal
30/05	Fiona Allen	Royal
31/05	NC Jazz: The Edison Herbert Quartet	Royal
1-2/06	Model Weekend	N'ton and Lampport Rail
02/06	Harry Redknapp	Derngate
03/06	Keith Brymer-Jones	Derngate
04/06	Peppa Pigs Fun Day Out	Derngate
06/06	Jazz on the Tea Terrace	Kelmarsh Hall
6-8/6	Maggie and Me	Royal
06/06	Posy Pop Up	Kelmarsh Hall
08/06	National Garden Scheme Open Day	Lampport Hall
08/06	Northampton Male Voice Choir Concert	All Saints Brixworth
09/06	National Garden Scheme Open Day	Kelmarsh Hall
09/06	Summer Floral Arrangements	Kelmarsh Hall
10/06	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
12/06	Mark Simmons	Royal
14/06	Hejira: A Celebration of Joni Mitchell	Royal
15/06	Aurie Styla	Royal
16/06	Fathers Day & Cream Tea Special	N'ton and Lampport Rail
18/06	50th Anniversary Study Day	Lampport Hall
18-19/06	NMPAT: The Festival	Derngate
20/06	Glenn Moore and Pierre Novellie	Royal
20-22/06	James Acaster: Hecklers Welcome	Derngate
21/06	Sophie Duker and Susan Riddell	Royal
23/06	Dancing Schools UK 2024	Derngate
25/06	Anton Du Beke and Giovanni Pernice	Derngate
27/06	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
28/06	Laura Crobu Harp Recital	Lampport Hall
28-29/06	Another Bloody Murder	Royal

28/06	UK Pink Floyd	Derngate
29-30/06	Cirque: The Greatest Show	Derngate
01/07	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
01/07	Miriam Margolyes	Derngate
3-4/7	Peppa Pigs Fun Day Out	Derngate
05/07	Ali Cook: Principles of Deception	Royal
6-7/7	Hollowell Steam	Hollowell
06/07	Ali Cook	Royal
06/07	The Glam Rock Show	Derngate
07/07	NMPAT: Generations	Derngate
9-10/7	James Acaster: Hecklers Welcome	Derngate
12/07	Wind in the Willows	Lampport Hall
14/07	Jazz in the Gardens	Lampport Hall
14/07	Screaming Blue Murder Comedy Club	Royal
14/07	Limelight Theatre: Showstoppers	Derngate
15-16/07	Mayhew School of Dance	Derngate
17/07	Lampport and HH Parish Council Meeting	Lampport Hall
21/07	Cream Tea Specials	N'ton and Lampport Rail
22/07	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
22/07	Uncanny: I Know What I Saw	Derngate
25/07	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
27/07	King West Country Club Cocktail Party	Lampport Hall
28/07	Kids for a Quid	N'ton and Lampport Rail

31/07	The Realm of Enchantment	Lampport Hall
31/07	Fairy Picnic in the Woods	Kelmarsh Hall
03/08	Pretty Woman Outdoor Cinema	Lampport Hall
04/08	Cream Tea Specials	N'ton and Lampport Rail
07/08	The Realm of Enchantment	Lampport Hall
12/08	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
17/08	Marston Steam and Vintage Show	LE16 9TU
24-26/08	Family Fun Weekend	N'ton and Lampport Rail
25-26/08	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Lampport Hall
29/08	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
02/09	Brixworth PC Planning	Community Centre
08/09	Cheese and Cider Train	N'ton and Lampport Rail
13/09	Oxford University Drama: Dr Faustus	Lampport Hall
14/09	Heritage Open Days	Lampport Hall
15/09	Screaming Blue Murder Comedy Club	Royal
15/09	Milton Jones: Ha!milton	Derngate
16-17/09	Dear Zoo	Royal
16/09	Illegal Eagles	Derngate
18/09	Will Young	Royal
18/09	Sarah Millican	Derngate

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Celebrate with a Celebrant

In another feature in our *Unusual Jobs & Hobbies* series, Brixworth resident Ann Foley discusses her new career as a Celebrant.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a Celebrant is a person who leads a ceremony such as a marriage or funeral.

Leeds-born Ann has lived in Brixworth for the past seventeen years and may be known to some readers for her successful massage business Ann Foley Holistic Therapies, but she now has a second string to her bow after training to become a celebrant.

Before moving to Brixworth, Ann had had a variety of jobs, until 14 years ago, an ice-skating accident left her with serious whiplash and head injuries. During her long recovery in the months following the accident, Ann found herself fascinated by how the human body heals. Her curiosity aroused, she asked her physiotherapists lots of questions which led her down the road to retraining and becoming a massage therapist.

Over the years, in a cabin in her garden, Ann has built up a regular clientele in

Brixworth and was busier than ever when the first Covid lockdown came in March 2020. After attending a wedding in 2019, however, the presiding registrar, “*who was so lively and amazing*”, made such an impression on Ann that she started thinking about becoming a celebrant. It’s not a requirement for a celebrant to be qualified, but Ann found the perfect distance learning course which she completed during the three months of lockdown, followed by a five-day residential at Highgate House.

Initially, Ann trained for ‘Couples and Naming Ceremonies’ and became a member of The Association of Independent Celebrants. Then, during the second lockdown, she extended her qualification to become a Funeral Celebrant as well. Sadly, the first job she undertook was at a friend’s funeral; knowing that she was dying, the friend specifically requested that Ann conducted her funeral service. Although she was nervous about doing it at the time, afterwards, Ann felt “*If I can cope with that, I can cope with anything!*”



Unlike registrars, celebrants have no legal jurisdiction to marry people. They cannot say the words ‘I now pronounce you man and wife’ as this is a legal term; so, some couples will attend a registry office for a quick 20-minute legal ceremony before the main event. In an increasingly secular world, many couples and families are now choosing a celebrant to conduct their wedding/naming ceremonies, vow renewals or to say goodbye to their loved ones.

A celebrant is also far less restricted than a registrar and can conduct a ceremony almost anywhere. Many choose a place that is special to them as it doesn’t have to be somewhere that holds a licence. The service can be semi-religious, completely secular or spiritual, and include almost anything. Before conducting a ceremony, Ann explains “*I will spend three hours or more getting to know the couple or family so I can make the ceremony as personal and unique as possible. I then go away to work on the first draft of the script for the ceremony, before further discussion with the clients.*”

When asked what qualities a celebrant needs, Ann said “*You need to be very organised, have good interpersonal skills, be aware of social and religious differences and of course, have a great speaking voice.*” Most of Ann’s work to date has been local and she says that there are some lovely venues around. She was particularly impressed by Plum Park Manor near Towcester and a ceremony that she conducted by the canal in Leicestershire.

Last year was a very busy year for celebrants, but Ann says that this year has seen a nationwide slump in the number of people getting married and many in the wedding industry are experiencing a lack of bookings. This has been put down to a knock-on effect from the Covid lockdowns

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New Nissan Juke Hybrid Fuel figures (WLTP) - CO₂ mass emission - Combined (g/km) 114, Fuel Consumption - Combined (mpg) 48. WLTP figure is 67% (pending final homologation in 2022) for electric mode driving based on WLTP standard testing conditions. Figures shown are indicative and for comparability purposes. Actual real-world driving results may vary depending on factors including the starting charge of the battery, accessories fitted after registration, weather conditions, driving styles and vehicle load.
*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.

when people couldn't socialise and form new relationships – on average couples know each other for about four years before marrying.



Going forward, although it sounds morbid, Ann would like to conduct more funeral/memorial services. She says: "I find it so interesting to learn about people's life histories, some people have had fascinating lives." For a funeral, she will spend time with the family discussing their loved one and listening to their stories and reminiscences in the hope that she can do them justice on the day.

For more information about the role of a celebrant and the services they can offer, please visit Ann's website: www.foleycelebrant.co.uk or email: afcelebrant@gmail.com

– Tracey Calnan

Girlguiding in Spratton

1st Spratton Brownies first met in 1974 and so 2024 marks our 50th anniversary. We look forward to celebrating this milestone later in the year and thinking about the opportunities that have been given to generations of Brownies over these 50 years.



As part of this, we reflect on our current unit: 'I love going to brownies each week and making new friends. We also do loads of crafts and fun activities which I love' – Ava

'I love going to Brownies as everyone is very kind and welcoming. I have had lots of fun since joining recently and can't wait for many more adventures with the group' - Bronwyn

'I joined Girlguiding as a volunteer as my daughter was a keen Girl Guider and thoroughly enjoyed her time at Spratton. I wanted to give something back and I'm now on my pathway with the leadership training, to support the girls through their Girlguiding journeys. We have lots of fun adventures learning about the world around us' – Victoria, Leader-in-Training

The Brownies have recently enjoyed a day out to Willows Activity Farm hosted by Girlguiding Northamptonshire, sharing the adventure with Rainbows and Brownies from across the county. We also visited a local farm to meet the new lambs.

A highlight for our Guides and Rangers has been staying at Pax Lodge in London, one of the Girlguiding World Centres. They met other Girlguiding members and saw many of the sights of London, including a visit to the Tower of London where they chatted to ghosts of previous nobility!

Are you passionate about empowering young girls, fostering their leadership skills and creating meaningful experiences? Our units are seeking enthusiastic individuals who would like to join our volunteer leadership team. As a Girlguiding leader, you'll have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of girls in our community. Whether you're a seasoned leader or new to volunteering, we welcome individuals who are dedicated to supporting girls' growth, building confidence and having fun! Join us in shaping the next generation of leaders and adventurers. Together, we can inspire and empower girls to reach their full potential!

We all meet on Monday evenings in Spratton Village Hall:

Brownies – girls aged 7-10 years, 6pm – 7pm

Guides – girls aged 10-14 years, 7pm – 8.30pm

Rangers – girls aged 14-18 years, 7pm – 8.30pm

Contact us to learn more about becoming part of our dynamic Girlguiding leadership team:

Brownies:

1stsprattonbrownies@gmail.com

Guides and Rangers:

sprattonguidesandrangers@gmail.com

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

– Katherine Rose and Linda Fletcher

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

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Navigating UK Housing Market Uncertainty: Insights for Sellers

Spring brings not only blooming flowers but also a season of speculation within the UK housing market. With economic shifts and political decisions on the horizon, homeowners considering selling find themselves at a crossroads of opportunity and uncertainty. Here's a concise look at key factors and how independent local property consultants can assist sellers in this dynamic landscape.

Bank of England Base Rate Reduction

Rumours of a Bank of England base rate reduction are stirring anticipation in the housing market. Analysts anticipate a potential cut in the latter half of the year to stimulate economic activity amidst global uncertainties. While this could encourage mortgage lending and affordability, concerns about inflationary pressures linger. Sellers, especially those with variable-rate mortgages, are monitoring developments closely, weighing potential benefits against economic risks.

Stamp Duty Policy Changes

Attention turns to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's August budget for potential

adjustments to stamp duty policy.

Speculation abounds regarding reforms aimed at stimulating market activity. Talks include changes to thresholds or exemptions to incentivise homebuyers and invigorate transactions. These measures could reshape property dynamics and influence buyer behaviour significantly.

Political Tumult and Market Impact

The looming general election adds another layer of complexity. Political parties promise housing affordability reforms, supply solutions, and rental regulations. The election outcome could reshape the market trajectory, impacting homeownership aspirations and investment strategies.

The Role of an Independent Local Property Consultant

In navigating these uncertainties, an Independent Local Property Consultant can offer invaluable support to sellers. With intimate knowledge of neighbourhood dynamics and market trends, they can provide personalised insights and strategic guidance. Their impartial advice helps sellers' price, market, and time their listings effectively, optimising outcomes amidst uncertainty. As spring unfolds and market landscapes evolve, sellers can find reassurance in the expertise of using an Independent Local Property Consultant.

– Stuart Little



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stuart.little@horts.co.uk

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stuart little

Friends of Brixworth Library

Once again the Friends of Brixworth Library have had a busy and successful Spring. Following the success of our Winter Fair, we have been able to provide funds for the library to offer a number of children's activities through the holidays.

At our Annual General Meeting we said a huge thank you to Lynne Compton for her leadership over the last year and elected Julie Barnard to chair the group for the next year.

Look out for our activities over the next few months and find us on Facebook if you want to get involved.

The Retro Vocals

The Retro Vocals will be performing hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s at Ravensthorpe Village Hall on 22 June 24. Get your dancing shoes on, get a drink from the bar, and dance the night away!

Tickets are on sale at www.rvhall.online

Scaldwell Village News

Church Services

Sunday May 26th
10.00 am - Family Communion at Scaldwell

Sunday June 23rd
10.00 am - Family Communion at Scaldwell

Details of other services in Walgrave Benefice can be found on the church website www.walgravebenefice.org

Parish Council

Scaldwell Parish Council now produces a village newsletter delivered to every Scaldwell household to inform them of the considerations, work and decisions taken by the Council on various consultation papers received from West Northants Council. The Parish Council also considers the budget and sets the precept.

All are welcome to monthly Parish Council meetings, usually held on the first Wednesday, when members of the public can make a short address at the start of each meeting.

Tennis

Scaldwell has two tennis courts and membership is open to all.



Memberships runs from the 1st May, and costs £50 per year for pairs and £60 for family membership. If you are interested and would like more details, please contact scaldwellsportsclub@icloud.com. A warm welcome awaits.

Village Hall for Hire

Scaldwell Village Hall is a fantastic venue for many events and activities – whether it's exercise classes, club meetings, birthday parties or family gatherings.

To find out more, contact Kelly on 07886 257752.

Bowls Club update

The club continues to meet each Friday for roll ups and internal competitions.

In March we had a doubles game with a fish and chip supper, always a success!

We hosted Welford bowls club in March and overall Brixworth won 37 Welford 32.

We were pleased to welcome another two new members who play in the evening.

Kislingbury invited us to a match in April and we will host them when a suitable date is arranged.

Our AGM is June 14th which will be followed by Boys v Girls bowls game and supper.

For more information, contact Jenny on 07522559673 or email brixworthbowlsclub@hotmail.com



Planning decisions

2024/0384/FULL Haddonstone Ltd, Harborough Road One & two storey office	BPC supported WNC approved
---	-------------------------------

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BBQ Time
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Brixworth
Northampton, NN6 9DX
01604 880226

2024/0682/FULL 19 Staveley Way Change of use from an industrial unit to a restaurant with ancillary takeaway	BPC supported WNC pending
2024/0244/FULL Climbing High Nurseries, Northampton Road Loft conversion to provide additional nursery accommodation. Flat roof canopy on posts to provide covered waiting area for parents.	BPC supported WNC pending
2024/1162/FULL & 2024/1126/LBC The Manor, Harborough Rd Proposed single storey extension for ground floor accessible bedroom and ancillary accommodation. Internal and external alterations to an existing listed residential dwelling in a conservation area.	BPC not supported WNC pending
2024/0245/MAR Victors Barn Northampton Road Provision of 25 Close Care Cottages – approved outline permission DA/2018/1046 [for the provision of 60 bed nursing home, 25 Close Care Cottages]	BPC not supported WNC pending

2024/1455/FULL Lakeside Cross Hill Construction of single storey extension at side; Porch extension at front; alterations	BPC supported WNC approved
2024/1535/HRN Land between Draughton and Brixworth Removal of five 6m sections of hedgerow	BPC comments WNC pending
2024/1763/LBC The Firs Saneco Lane Replace 7 x uPVC casement double-glazed windows, 2 x timber casement double-glazed windows and 1 x half-glazed uPVC rear casement double-glazed door with new Heritage Window.	BPC supported WNC pending
2024/1906/FULL 8 Water Pike Single storey rear extension	BPC supported WNC pending
2024/1818/PA Foxlea Holcot Road Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling (Prior Approval Application)	BPC supported WNC pending
2024/0580/FULL Victors Barn, Northampton Road Erection of 2 chalet bungalows (Class C3) – subject to an age occupancy condition	BPC not supported WNC pending

Brixworth Library News

During the Easter break we crafted frogs and flowers, completed Easter quizzes, and welcomed STEM ambassadors who ran exciting workshops on forensics and colour. Just Karen also offered a brilliant Bubble Making Workshop. This session was fully funded by the fantastic fundraising efforts of the Friends of Brixworth Library. Thank you so much to all of them for making it possible.

We end May with another hectic school holiday full of activities in the library. Barring any emergencies, on Saturday 1st June we have an Emergency Services Day with the amazing teams from the fire service, police, and Rural Northants Community First Responders; then we'll be readying ourselves for...



Summer Reading Challenge 2024, Marvellous Makers

This year The Reading Agency have partnered with leading arts charity Create to develop Marvellous Makers: a challenge that's all about creativity! From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone. The Summer Reading Challenge invites children (aged 4-12) to read six library books of their choice over the summer holidays. There are special reward stickers to collect and even a certificate and medal for anyone who manages to complete the challenge!

The challenge launches across the UK on Saturday 6th July and all the fun will begin in Northamptonshire libraries on Saturday 20th July but you can join at any time during the summer - the sooner you do, the longer your child will have to read their six books. The best bit? It is all completely free!

Visit the official challenge website to find out more, and discover amazing books, awesome rewards, and explore your creativity: www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

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

Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers Wanted

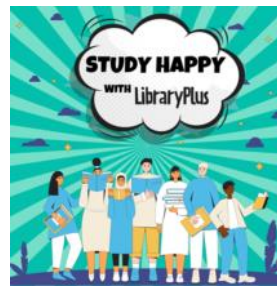
We are looking for young people (age 14+) to help make this

year's Summer Reading Challenge a success.

Volunteer throughout the summer and make friends, have fun, gain valuable employability skills, whilst empowering children in your community to unleash their creativity and gain a passion for reading. Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers register children to the challenge; give out rewards, certificates, and medals; talk to children about books; and support library staff in delivering exciting and fun packed activities throughout the holidays. You can even put your volunteering hours towards your Duke of Edinburgh Award.

To apply please just ask for an application form or visit: www.communityactionnorthants.org.uk

Study Happy



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

Quieter Hour

We have recently launched our Quieter Hour on Monday mornings between 10 and 11am. Quieter hour aims to help our customers with sensory needs and their families enjoy the library. There will be no events during this time, staff will aim to keep noise levels to a minimum and we will encourage other library users to do the same.

Repair Cafes

West Northamptonshire Council will host a programme of pop-up repair cafés during June and July and Brixworth Library will be hosting ours on Saturday 8th June 10am-1pm. The idea is that members of the public can bring along their small broken electrical items such as: soup makers or hairdryers, to see if they can be repaired.

Volunteers with suitable skills are currently being recruited to assess and, where possible, repair electrical items brought in by members of the public. Whilst these events are currently one-offs, we hope to stimulate interest within local communities for running repair cafés on a regular basis which will help reduce waste and build local community resilience. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page for more details coming soon.

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



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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 Calendar: www.tockify.com/ncccevents (search for 'Brixworth Library')
- Event Booking: www.eventbrite.co.uk (search for 'Brixworth Library')

Strong Start

Strong Start have a range of videos focused on School Readiness, including advice on being away from your parent, explaining the Early Years Foundation Stage, Learning New Things and Following Instructions. To watch these and other videos please visit: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/strong-start/strong-start-virtual-support.



We also run Pre-School Learner sessions in the summer months. These are aimed at families with pre-school age children to explore activities linked to school readiness skills and also gives the adults the opportunity to ask questions about how they can support their child with the transition to pre-school or school. To book a place on any Strong Start session please visit: www.strong_start_team.eventbrite.co.uk or scan this QR code

Business & IP Centre (BIPC)

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. It is fully funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and 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 9.30-12.00, 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 the 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 face-to-face appointments in a local community setting and walk and talk sessions with your allocated Wellbeing Advisor. If you or someone you know would like to refer into the service, or you would just like some more information, please visit our website www.westnorthants.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/supporting-independence-service, or call us on 01604 361533.

Other Services

- Library to You – home delivery service for housebound customers
- IT Buddy – 1:1 computer support with our volunteer
- bus pass applications and renewals (drop-in)
- blue badge applications and renewals (by appointment)
- free Wi-Fi
- free computer and tablet use (some charges apply)
- printing, photocopying, and scanning
- Evri ParcelShop with Print in Store labels

Opening Times

- Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
- Saturday 10am-2pm

Contact Details

- Email: brixworth.libraryplus@westnorthants.gov.uk
- Phone: 0300 126 7000 (option 11; then option 1; and ask for Brixworth Library)
- Facebook: @BrixworthLibrary
- Friends of Brixworth Library Facebook: @FOBXL
- Website: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/libraries

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BRIXWORTH MATTERS

 **YouTube** @Brixworthcommunitychurch

It was so good to see all the children come along to our Easter Holiday Club a few weeks ago. In doing so, you see all the potential of youth, the fun and energy, you hear the laughter, the excitement, the joy. We have some amazing youngsters in this village, and, as such, when you commit to helping at such an event, you always get back so much more than what you put in.

At the time of when Jesus came to earth, children were really looked down upon in society.

On one occasion when children were being stopped and hindered from coming to Jesus and spending time with him, Jesus said, 'let the children come to me' (Matthew 19: 14) .

This verse always amazes me about Jesus. Even though he was so busy, with so many important commitments, so many people wanting a slice of him, he would not be hurried and rushed when it came to the kids. Quite the opposite in fact. When the children turned up, Jesus slowed down and spent quality time with them. This showed a counter cultural attitude towards the younger generation. Jesus really valued them and we must always do the same.

At Brixworth Community Church whether it be in the week to week activities, Sunday morning services, or one off events, it is our desire that children and young people really are valued. They are, and will always be, a really important part of church life, just as important as anyone else.

When Jesus said 'let the children come to me', he was also, however, about to give all adults including ourselves a lesson in what it means to truly believe. He does this by using 'childlikeness' as a metaphor. That is, just as small children depend so much on their parents/carer's for nourishment, guidance and life itself. So too each one of us must depend completely on our heavenly Father for spiritual nourishment, guidance and life itself. Do so, and he will provide it all, and so much more, forever.

Many blessings

Andy

Contact Andy-Lloyd Williams on - 07958 604961



Contact Andy-Lloyd Williams on
07958 604961

FAMILY FUN DAY



27th
July 24



On the first Saturday of the summer holidays we will be holding our FREE Family Fun Day on 27th July. There will be the normal favourites such as the bouncy castle sumo or gladiators challenge, various fun stalls, FREE BBQ and hopefully a few extras. We're also hoping for the Police, Fire and Rescue and First Responders to be able to join us again. As always this will be held on the school field (Brixworth CEVC Primary School NN6 9BG) 1-4pm. We hope to see you there.



The Olive Branch 25th Anniversary

This May saw the Olive Branch Coffee Shop celebrate its 25th Anniversary. Open 6 days a week in the Library and Community Centre, it is run by volunteers in order to serve the community - not to make a profit. It also hosts Parish Council meetings, the weekly Pensioner's Lunch, runs the Chatty Cafe Scheme and is the co-ordinating point for the Community Foodshare Project. Several of the original volunteers still serve every week.



We had great fun again at the Easter Holiday Club. In recent years we have spent time helping the children to get to know the leaders, and as always we had a real laugh doing this. We not only found out something interesting about each leader, but also gave them a challenge. The picture to the left of this, is one of those challenges...they had to eat a bowl of cereal using somebody else's hands. It was so funny, big thanks to Pastor Andy for his brilliant idea. The photos above show outdoor and indoor fun activities. Thanks again to all involved.




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

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

All Saints'

BRIXWORTH

We are a church family seeking to nurture fellowship and faith in Jesus Christ...and to share the good news of His saving love with Brixworth and beyond.

What we've been up to...

Family, Faith and Fun - Once a month we run Family, Faith and Fun. This is our Sunday afternoon group for families with primary-school-aged children.

In April we thought about Good Friday and why we call it 'good'. The temple curtain was like a big keep out sign, showing how our sin stops us coming close to God. But when Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. This means that Jesus died so that we could draw close to God.

If you're interested in coming along, do get in touch!



All Saints' Belles - Ladies Fellowship

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month, usually starting at 2pm. We've made Easter cards, Tree decorations for the Christmas tree festival at the church, singing in the church and wreath making to name but a few.

We have also had talks from the Friends of Brixworth Church and from Ruth Walter about her work with Christians in Asia.

If you're interested, we'd love to see you!



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What we've got coming up...



80th Anniversary of D-Day Landings

On Thursday 6th June, we will commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Normandy landings and remember the sacrifices paid by the members of our nation's Armed Forces on June 6th 1944.

There will be a short service of remembrance before the beacon is lit in the All Saints' carpark at 9:15pm.

Check our website for details.



All-Age Sunday Morning Worship, 16th June, 10:30am

On Sunday 16th June, we'll be having an all-age service to Thank God for our Dads. This will be in collaboration with our Family, Faith and Fun team, so it will be suitable for all-ages.

We're delighted that the Parish Council have agreed to help us maintain our Churchyard, by mowing the grass in front of the church.



Churchyard Working Party - 1st Sat each month (10am-1pm)

Our small but willing team of volunteers work hard to keep the Churchyard looking tidy. If you would like to join the team, whether regularly or as a one-off, you'd be very welcome. Tools and cake provided!



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 lasts 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 monthly 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 advance.
- **Men's Fellowship (2nd Wednesday of each month) and "All Saints' Belles" Ladies 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!
- **Monthly Men's Breakfast (last Saturday each month) 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 PA

Working towards a

Chair's Chat

Projects, planting and plans for the future

Community

£3000 grant awarded to Brixworth Community Larder

Northampton Road Bus Stop

The benefits of a living roof

All Aboard!

Unveiling the successful restoration of our iconic railway benches

Co-op Planters

Improving our shared spaces

Spratton Road Wellbeing Park

Exciting plans to develop this underutilised space for the future

Community Defibrillator Training

Hands on community training

Host A Councillor

Opportunities for local businesses to engage with the Parish Council

Chair's Chat

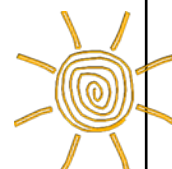
The Parish Council has been working hard since the beginning of this year to make the village more attractive for residents. We started with maintenance and repainting the old railway benches. There was an interesting article about the refurbishment of the benches in the Chronicle and Echo both on line and in print.

New planters (purchased by the Co-op) have been installed on the verge outside with plants provided and planted by the Parish Council. The box planters signifying entering and leaving the village are next in line for replanting for the summer.

Spratton Road Park is undergoing the process of some updating with the planting of fruit trees for the Community Orchard. Thanks go to the Brixworth Climate Action Group for their hard work in planting a selection of apple, cherry, pear and plum trees. Villagers will be able to pick the fruit for their own use once the trees are established.

The Parish Council are also exploring exciting plans to redevelop Spratton Road Park into an energising wellbeing park complete with herb gardens, wildlife habitats, accessible pathways and an outdoor gym. We will keep you posted as these ambitious plans unfold.

These are all ongoing projects and our thanks go to the residents, friends and councillors who frequently give up their time to help maintain the village. Wishing you a bright Summer.



Brixworth Parish Council has awarded a generous grant of £3,000 to the Brixworth Community Larder. The Community Larder aims to support local people to access good quality food, including fresh fruit and veg, at prices well below those in the supermarkets. Brixworth Community Larder is a not-for-profit, community driven, and community-based organisation and the grant funding will be used to buy stock for the larder for the rest of the year.

You can find out more by visiting the Community Larder's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083431836976>

If you would like to apply for a community grant, visit

<https://www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/grants/parish-council-community-grants/>



Brixworth Community Larder



@brixworthPC

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

for a better Brixworth



Northampton Road Bus Stop - Living Roof

We're excited to share the completion of another transformative project at the bus stop on Northampton Road. As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and community well-being, a living roof has been installed, featuring lush vegetation that offers many benefits.

Living bus stop roofs act as natural air purifiers, filtering out harmful pollutants and releasing fresh oxygen into the surrounding atmosphere. Through the process of photosynthesis, the plants on these roofs absorb carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, helping to mitigate air pollution and combat climate change. Cleaner air benefits not only commuters waiting at the bus stop but also the broader community. Living bus stop roofs can also retain rainwater, reducing runoff and help manage stormwater.

By absorbing sunlight and retaining less heat than traditional roofs, living bus stops can help mitigate the urban heat island effect, which can lead to cooler temperatures.

Living bus stop roofs create new habitats for plants, insects, and birds. The presence of greenery attracts pollinators like bees and butterflies, essential for the reproduction of many plant species and supporting biodiversity.



Are you passionate about making a positive impact in your community? Do you want to be part of a network that supports and strengthens our community during times of need? Do you have skills that could help during an emergency?

Register your interest to become a Brixworth Community Resilience Volunteer today and be part of something meaningful! <https://forms.office.com/e/m6qY7VwmNt>



All Aboard!

Brixworth Parish Council is thrilled to announce the successful restoration of three iconic railway benches

within the village. This initiative, aimed at preserving the rich heritage of Brixworth, underscores the Parish Council's commitment to enhancing community spaces for residents and visitors alike.

The Railway Benches, steeped in history and nostalgia, have been lovingly refurbished to their former glory, breathing new life into their timeless design. Situated strategically across key locations within the village, these benches serve as cherished landmarks, providing a glimpse into Brixworth's storied past.

For more information on Brixworth Parish Council and its ongoing initiatives, please visit www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.



brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Co-op Planters

Josie, the dedicated Clerk to the Parish Council, along with her son Gabriel, has brought new life to the Co-op planters. Despite the unpredictable April showers, they braved the rain and planted a vibrant selection of flowers, including ageratum, verbenas, and senetti, provided by the Parish Council. The planters themselves were purchased by the Co-op.

Their effort is more than just an act of gardening, it is a gesture of community spirit and a commitment to making our shared spaces more beautiful. The addition of these colorful plants brings a touch of vibrancy and freshness to the village, creating a more welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Thank you to all of the residents who stopped and thanked Josie and Gabriel for their hard work.

We are looking forwards to seeing these plants flourish over the next few months and are already planning our next planting project for the numerous entrance planters located around the village.



Developing Spratton Road Wellbeing Park

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who gave up their time and came out back in March to plant 20 fruit trees at Spratton Road Park. Following the success of the Community Orchard planting last year, we hope the community will be able to enjoy apples, pears, plums and cherries from this phase of planting as we begin exploring and developing Spratton Road Park into Brixworth's very own Wellbeing Park. We aim to transform this underutilised space into a vibrant community hub for all ages.

The proposed park will offer a variety of features to promote leisure, exercise, relaxation, and reflection, while supporting biodiversity with wildflowers, fruit bushes, and a community orchard. The space will also be used for village events and provide a safe area for children to play. The project is expected to cost around £25,000, with some funding already allocated by The Parish Council for the three-year redevelopment. Key features of the Wellbeing Park include an accessible walkway with shrub and herb gardens, an outdoor gym, and picnic benches. The park will also attract wildlife, such as butterflies and birds, through the growth of wildflowers and the installation of hedgehog houses, bug hotels, nest boxes, and bat boxes. These features aim to create a relaxing and enjoyable environment for the entire village to enjoy. More details can be found on our website at

<https://www.brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/spratton-road-wellbeing-park/>

To make this vision a reality, we have set up a Just Giving page to raise additional funds. Donations of any size can contribute to the project's success. For instance, smaller donations can help buy wildflower seeds, herb plants, shrubs, and fruit bushes, while larger donations can fund ornamental flowering trees or fruit trees. The group also welcomes volunteers to contribute their time to the project. We invite the community to be part of this initiative by donating through the Just Giving page or by offering volunteer time. Memorial donations, such as planting a tree or installing a memorial bench, are also encouraged. If you're interested in supporting the Wellbeing Park, contact the Parish Clerk for more information or to discuss volunteering opportunities at: parish.clerk@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.



Just Giving

We're raising £3,000 to help fund the redevelopment of Spratton Road Recreation Park into Spratton Road Wellbeing Park

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/brixworthwellbeingpark>

Community Defibrillator Training

Residents recently gathered together to participate in a free training session on defibrillator use. The event, organised by the Parish Council in conjunction with Northants First Responders, aimed to equip attendees with the knowledge and skills needed to potentially save lives during emergency situations.

Under the guidance of knowledgeable instructors, attendees engaged in hands-on exercises and simulations, gaining confidence in their ability to respond effectively in critical situations.

Thank you to everyone who came along and to Northants First Responders for supporting the event.



WNC APP

A new 'Report It' feature has been added to the West Northamptonshire Council app, making it even easier to report littering, fly-tipping and a range of other issues.

The app also contains tools to help you keep on top of your waste and recycling collections, through alerts to remind you to put out your bins, and a handy recycling guide. You can also use the app to connect with your local councillors, find your nearest library or leisure centre, discover local restaurants and their food hygiene ratings, and keep up-to-date with the latest council news.

Download the app for free from Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Host A Councillor - Local Businesses

Are you passionate about engaging with your local community? Would your staff or customers benefit from being able to meet a Parish Councillor to talk about village issues affecting them? We are inviting local businesses and organisations throughout Brixworth to host a councillor.

If you would like more information, or to invite a councillor to your business, organisation or event, contact admin@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.



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): 27 June, 25 July, 29 August
Planning (Mondays): 10 June, 1 July, 22 July, 12 August
Finance & Personnel (Thursdays): 18 July, 17 October

**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 Parish Clerk.

The Brixworth Parish Council Team



Chairman
Cllr Jackie Bird



Vice Chairman
Cllr Lynne Compton



Councillor
Christine Ware



Councillor
Tony Nixon



Councillor
Elaine Coe



Councillor
Tom Mitchell



Councillor
Ian Barratt



Councillor
Neal Brown



Councillor
Alan Aisbett



Councillor
Barbara Lunn



Councillor
James Collyer



Councillor
Frances Peacock



Councillor
Gary Spratt



Councillor
Gaurang Mehta



Parish Clerk & RFO
Josie Flavell



Admin Assistant
Gavin Kirkup



Admin Support
Deb Frampton



Groundsman
Marc Sugden



Brixworth Football Club

Let's start by saying a massive well done to the seniors who have dominated Division 2 this season. Whilst there are a few games left to play, they should win the 2nd Division title. They have also reached a Cup Final for the Lower Junior Cup. On 21 May, they will face Thrapston Venturas at Wellingborough Town FC.



Congratulations also to their manager Ryan, who has won an impressive amount of Manager of the Month awards as the team continue to be unbeaten.

In the Juniors sections we see an impressive League Cup Final ahead for the U16s Jaguars (run by Rob Jones). Once again, his team faced Santos Panthers on Sunday May 18th at Cogenhoe FC – an opportunity for a rematch, having narrowly lost to the team last season.



The u16s Girls have had yet another good season.



They finished fifth in Division 1 of the Bedfordshire Women's & Girls League.

They have also made it to their 3rd consecutive County Cup Final, where yet again they are up against the formidable Northampton Town Football Club. This year's final took place at Sixfields on May 12th.

The u14s have reached the Plate Final this season. They have had a fantastic year competing to win the C league. The promotion did not faze them and they have had an eight match unbeaten run in the league. They now find themselves positioned second in the league and pushing for a title race!

Playing the "Brixworth way" has made them exciting to watch with top performances all over the pitch. In the Plate Final they will face Thorplands at Bugbrooke's ground on 12th May. With the u15s Panthers playing in a Plate semi final, we may finish the season with four teams reaching a final. So – here at the time of writing in late April – we wish you all good luck!

We have more girls than ever before playing which is a great credit to the coaches and the club. We now have three female-only teams at 10s/15s and 16s plus three teams with mixed teams. The u13s have earned a special shout out for going unbeaten in their last five matches as they have had a real tough run over the past year. Also a special mention to the u10s girls who have gone from strength to strength.

The club is also looking to try and introduce an open age women's team. If you are interested in playing, Simon (07985 810817) would like to hear from you.

The minis section (7s to 10s) has a plate final for the u7s Lions who will play against Blisworth on the 11th May at Bugbrooke FC. Good luck to those boys, well done to all these teams and the minis section, which will be growing by one or two teams next



season. At this age it should all be about fun, agility, balance and co-ordination, working together as a team and building relationships.

A final thank you to all of our sponsors.

Brixworth Football Club is fortunate this season as **Gigaclear** have come along and sponsored the club for a two-season deal. Thanks to their generous donation we have been able to purchase some new equipment.

Our other fantastic sponsors include but are not limited to: Wilson Browne Solicitors, Savills, Midland Machinery, Moulton Garage, Ewe Move, M&G Window Systems, Midland Catering, DJH Ravcon, Viking Security, Franklin Covey, MJR Wealth Management, Ryamns Coffee Shop, Park Lane Windows, Meat Link, Harrison Couriers, Kip Mcgrath, Restore-Harrowgreen, CPL Aromas, Milcon, Rosie Golf, Zeus, Watson Fuels, Gas-Tech, Hamilton Builders. We are so lucky here at Brixworth to have such fantastic sponsors who help make this club what it is. Apologies if anyone is missed off this list.

Good luck to all those aforementioned finalists in the run into the season-end. Take a well-earned rest in June and July as you turn your attentions to cricket or other sports to be played.

As always, the club would welcome new sponsors and anyone who might be interested in getting involved from a committee perspective.

– Simon Compton BJFC Secretary

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