

Volunteers:



your village needs YOU!

Brixworth is crying out for more volunteers to fill a raft of roles around the village. Not a month goes by when I don't hear from one organisation or the other which is desperately looking for more volunteers to keep going, and many are struggling as a result.

Meanwhile many of the people who do volunteer do so in several places and different capacities, and become overstretched as a result. Ultimately they all too often burn out and quit, leaving an even bigger gap behind (along with a guilty conscience). *(continued p 2)*

Do you know a deserving cause?

This time last year, the Brixworth Bulletin launched its first Deserving Cause campaign among its readers. Our appeal was heard, and we soon received two submissions: one from the pre-school at the Brixworth Centre, which was looking for help with clearing some outside space and making it safe for the children to play in, and one from the mum of four-year old disabled Connie.

A few weeks later, our letterbox in the Brixworth Community Centre was practically overflowing with voting slips. End result? In the summer, Connie was back at a specialist centre in Oxfordshire to help her improve her walking skills and balance, paid for by the Brixworth Bulletin.

Today, we are once again in the happy situation of being able to support a worthwhile cause. This could be anything – the only stipulation is that it needs to either be in or around the villages of Brixworth, Hanging Houghton, Draughton or Lamport, or benefit the people there. It could be a sports club, it could be a disabled person, a pre-school or help for the aged, it could be funding medical equipment or a gardener to look after an otherwise unkempt public space. Or it could be something entirely different. It's up to you.

Please email your nominations to editor@brixworthbulletin.com; post them in our letterbox in the foyer of Brixworth Community Centre, tweet them to @Brixbulletin; post them to Brixworth Bulletin on Facebook, or phone me on 882567. Deadline is 25 January 2013.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Meanwhile, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



*Heidi
Flavell-White*

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Please note that this is a change of address and the old postal address in Station Road Brixworth is no longer linked to the *Bulletin*.

For further information and an archive of every single issue to date, visit www.brixworthbulletin.com. And while you're online, why not follow @BrixBulletin on Twitter or join our Facebook Group?

The *Brixworth Bulletin* is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The deadline for contributions and advertising for the March 2013 issue is 25 January.

(continued) So many of the organisations that make Brixworth a community rely partly or wholly on volunteers. The library. The Community Centre and Information Point. The Community Panel. Both pre-schools. The village hall. The Brixworth Centre. The Brixworth Bulletin. The primary school. The scouts and guides. The youth club. The U3A. The Parish Council – and no doubt half a dozen more I haven't even thought of.

Perhaps the most chronically understaffed is the Parish Council. Of course, being a Parish Councillor is an elected role. Yet to be elected, one has to volunteer to stand first.

Brixworth's Parish Council nominally has 14 seats. In reality it has not had that many Councillors for years. There have not been enough new councillors to replace those retiring, and not all the new ones were able to stay for the long term. End result? The Parish Council currently has five vacancies.

The remaining nine councillors are quite stretched. Chairman Mike Lacey says:



Hats off to the unknown pumpkin-carver

I've no idea who you are, but if this was your Halloween pumpkin, you have the *Bulletin* team's utmost admiration and respect. Our own measly efforts have long since been consigned to the brown recycling bin of shame. But this prize pumpkin, spotted on Halloween by Brixworth's intrepid photographer Ian Topham, deserves to be commemorated in ink and paper and shared with the rest of the village. Bravo! - cfw

"Fatigue is a potential problem, particularly as regional and national government is unloading more and more responsibility to Parish level."

The Localism Act adds to the problem by creating work that the Parish Council cannot take on. It's a great opportunity for communities to have a say in their own destiny. A properly crafted Neighbourhood Development Plan could enable communities to encourage some types of development and limit others, and if prepared properly could eventually become a standard that planners would be obliged to follow. "But that's a big 'if' because it relies on residents to volunteer to do the work to research and develop the draft plan," Lacey says. "It cannot be left to the Parish Council because it has to be a document of the people for the people. But who will step up and be counted?"

Who, indeed.

And the Parish Council is not alone. Below is just a selection of the organisations in need of volunteers around the village. If you think you can help, pick up the phone and get in touch with the appropriate contacts. - cfw

Parish Council

Role: Councillor
Tasks: Participate in Council meetings, vote on the issues at hand, get involved locally
Time needed: 2-3 meetings a month, plus attending local groups or working parties
Contact: Jane Macken on Clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk or 881243

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Role: Contributor

Tasks: Research and prepare the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan
Time: varies
Contact: Jane Macken on Clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk or 881243

Scouts

Role: Member of the Executive Committee
Tasks: Raise money for scout activities
Time: 3-4 meetings a year plus time to organise, promote and run events
Contact: Kim Phillips on info@armarketing.co.uk or 07815 070878

Brixworth Centre

Roles: Treasurer, Secretary, Committee members
Tasks: Run the Brixworth Centre, which houses most of the village children groups
Time: depending on role 1-3 hours a month
Contact: Graham Cleary on grahamcleary@hotmail.co.uk or 07860 122622

Community Centre

Role: Helping in the Olive Branch
Tasks: serving, clearing tables, cooking, washing dishes
Time: Around three hours / week
Contact: Sue or Vernon on 889030

Library

Role: Rhymetime, clubs, Sunday helper & more
Tasks: depends on role
Time: however much or little you have
Contact: Jill Barber on JBarber@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 882154

Red Lion fire 'started by accident'

Investigations into the fire which gutted the Red Lion pub concluded that the fire was an accident. A 33-year old man had initially be arrested on suspicion of arson but was released on bail – he is still being investigated for some other minor offences.



The fire started early in the morning of Thursday 25 October. It was dealt with by two fire engines, who came from Northampton and Moulton as Brixworth's own fire station is only manned during the day. It took the fire crews 20 minutes to get the blaze under control, but the damage to the inside of the building is thought to be

extensive.

A woman and a three-month old baby, who were living upstairs above the pub, were taken to hospital as a precautionary measure because of the age of the baby but were found to be largely unharmed.

It's not yet clear whether the Red Lion will be re-opened. We tried to speak with the landlord, Garry Booker, but had no luck. However this message on the Red Lion's Facebook page, posted by the Red Lion, seems hopeful: "I will rise again; fear not I'm down but in no way out! The lion will roooooaaaaaarrrrrrrr again!!!" - cfw



Stephen Pointer wins Brixworth by-election

Conservative Stephen Pointer has won the Brixworth by-election for the District Council triggered by the sad loss of Frank Wiig with a 64% share of the vote. He stood against the Green Party's Steve Whiffen, who received 484 votes, or 36%. Turnout was well above average, at 25.56%.

Pointer plans to hold monthly surgeries in Brixworth where residents can voice their issues. He has lived in Brixworth for the last nine years and has served on Brixworth Parish Council for the last six. He currently holds the positions of vice-chairman of the Parish Council and chairman of the recreation committee. He is also chairman of Brixworth Village Hall, serves on the Thomas Roe Charity, is a school governor and a representative on the library and community centre boards.



Pointer says: "It is a real privilege to have been elected to replace the late Frank Wiig who did so much for his local community over the past decade! I will endeavour to work to help improve the quality of life for all residents in the Brixworth Ward, which will include working with the police to reduce crime, the perception of crime and antisocial behaviour. I will also strive to ensure that our villages retain their rural character by campaigning against unnecessary development, particularly in view of recent planning decisions, help protect our environment including fighting against unnecessary and inappropriate wind farms, and work to campaign and support the disabled and elderly in order to maintain their quality of life."

In the race for the Police & Crime Commissioner, as the *Bulletin* went to press the Conservative candidate Adam Simmonds was ahead in the polls but had failed to secure an overall majority, so that the vote was expected to go to a second round of counting. - cfw

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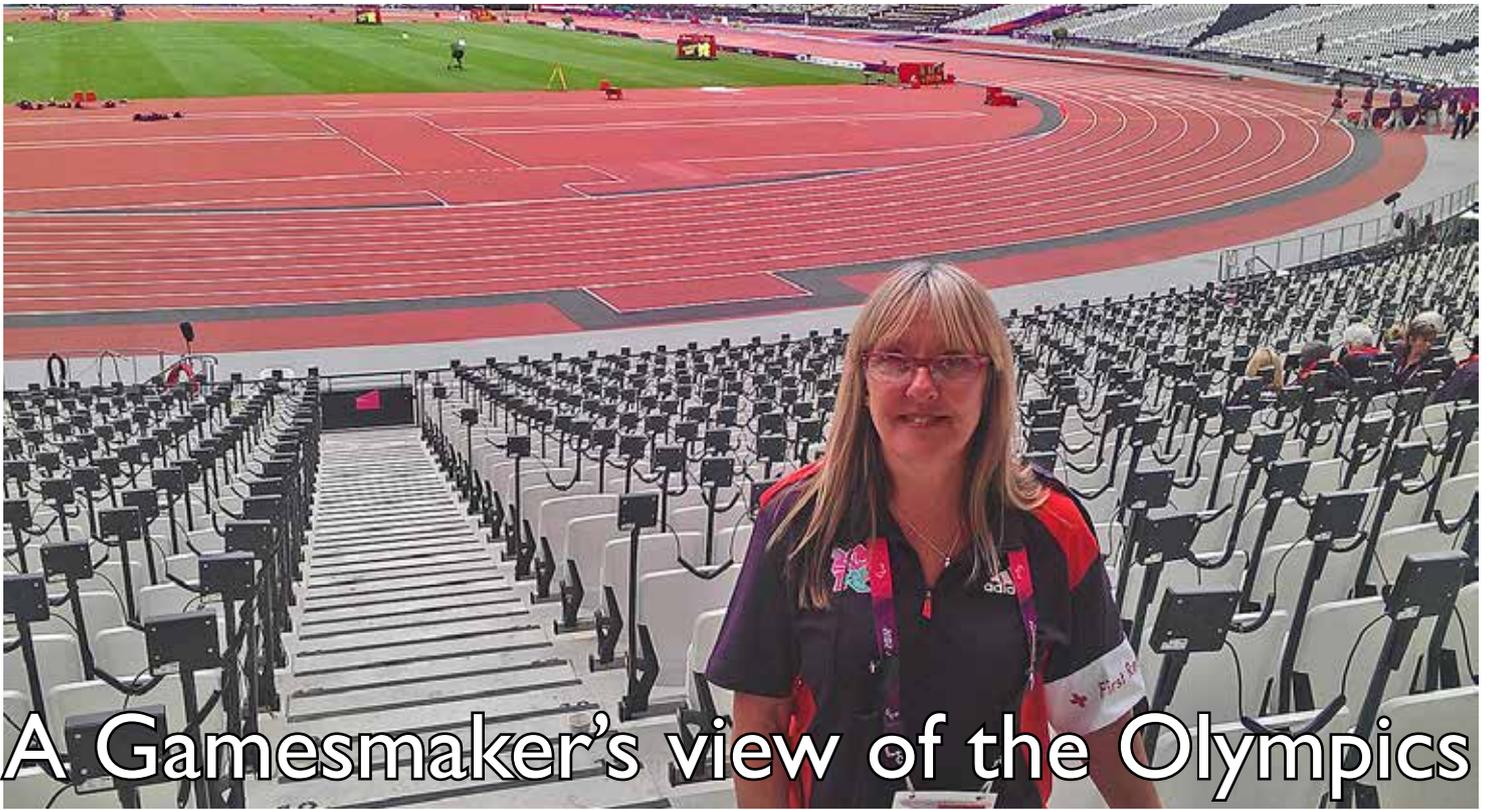
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A Gamesmaker's view of the Olympics

When I applied for the Gamesmaker role in 2010 I wasn't hopeful I would be selected. I applied for several reasons and no doubt not that different from other Gamesmakers' reasons. I have volunteered in the past for various organisations and activities: church-related, school PTA, local festivals and theatre companies and as a victim support worker. There is a great sense of achievement when one volunteers, unlike any satisfaction one gets with paid work. I have a nursing background but not much patient contact in my current role - as a medical Gamesmaker I could combine my interest in volunteering and nursing skills. Of course being part of and contributing to such an amazing important event was an opportunity not to be missed!

The interview was more challenging than I expected but once I was offered the role, what followed was an amazing journey of orientation and training, collecting uniforms, all of which required several trips to London.

I was so lucky- I had a role as first responder at Horse Guards Parade for the beach volleyball during the main Olympics and then had the same role at the Olympic Stadium for the Paralympics. I also spent a shift in the control room as medical dispatcher, co-ordinating activity between the medical personnel.

I managed to secure accommodation for the main Olympics but travelled to London from home to the Paralympics with the exception of a two- night stay in a hostel (never to be repeated ...). The shifts

were quite long and often didn't finish until midnight. But it was worth it, albeit exhausting!

The main thing I noticed during the games was how happy everyone was, not just at the Olympic venues but elsewhere in London: people were talking to each other on the trains. Wearing the Gamesmaker uniform encouraged people to engage in discussion. The teams I worked with were fantastic. It was almost as if we had been selected to complement each other. We bonded quickly and supported each other: we were there after all to assist in medical first aid and any emergencies. Although we had fun, there was a serious side to our role too. The public were great and were so respectful to us showing appreciation for our contribution; this was quite humbling because I felt privileged to be there.

There were several moments of great joy. One was watching Usain Bolt in the 100m final on the large screen at the Horse Guards stadium. It was filmed live and shown before one of the volleyball matches. The crowd was roaring. Watching the Paralympics athletics was pretty amazing too. However, the gratitude expressed from people who needed medical attention was overwhelming.

Never mind the long hours, being a Gamesmaker during the London Olympics and Paralympics was an experience I shall never forget, and something I shall treasure all my life. – Elizabeth Gibbons

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Anyone for Tennis?...



Brixworth Tennis Club is looking for tennis players of all ages and abilities to join for its launch in April 2013.

In the beautiful premises of Brixworth Cricket Club there are three newly-surfaced hard courts that we want to see fully utilised by local residents. Families are very welcome and membership fees will be extremely attractive. In time and with sufficient interest, we are also looking to be able to enter both junior and adult teams in local leagues and competitions.

Social events in conjunction with the cricket club will be held regularly and will offer a great opportunity for members to get to know one another over a drink or two!

If you are interested in joining Brixworth Tennis Club, please register your interest with Will Haxby as soon as possible by e-mailing willh@haddonstone.co.uk with your details so that Will can keep you informed of progress. - Will Haxby

Bulletin website revamped



It's been a while in the making but the *Brixworth Bulletin* has a new web presence. On www.brixworthbulletin.com you'll find all the latest news thanks to our handy Twitter ticker of all the Brixworth-related news.

Moreover, there is the *Bulletin's* archive. Ever wondered what story made the cover in the very first edition of the *Brixworth Bulletin*, back in June 2004? Head to the archive and find out (here's a hint: new housing developments and planning issues have always been big news!)

We've also updated the details about ourselves (not that we're convinced that there's anyone who's remotely bothered about what we look like or get up to in the rare moments we're not working on the *Bulletin*...).

More usefully, we've added the handy listing of village organisations and contacts published in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Still sitting on the to-do list is a rolling events calendar which won't just feature the events we currently list in the printed version of the *Bulletin*, but to which anyone else in and around Brixworth can add their own events.

If you've got any ideas and suggestions for what else you'd like to see and find on our website, please get in touch. You can email me on editor@brixworthbulletin.com or call 882567 (evenings and weekends please) - *Claudia Flavell-White*



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Frank Wiig 1945 - 2012

Frank Wiig, long-time district councillor and parish councillor, died on 30th August aged 67 after a long battle with cancer. A larger-than-life character who dedicated several decades of his life to serving Brixworth, he continued to work for the community right until the end.

Frank's political career began when he attended a local Conservative Party New Year's celebration in 1998. He was invited to stand as a district councillor the following year, and following his election he took on the role of deputy leader in May 2000. Different positions Frank held subsequently on the Council included finance, resource, chairman (2004-2005), and chair of planning for five years until he had to resign in 2011 due to his illness.

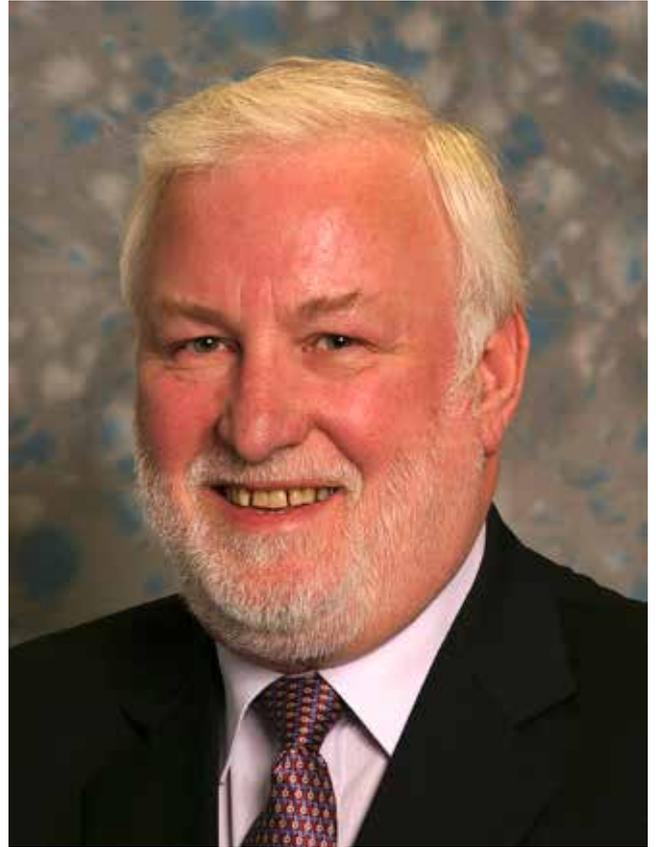
Bob Chattaway, chairman of BRANE, says: "Frank always had the best interests of the community at heart. He recognised that further large-scale development would ruin Brixworth as a village and he fought hard to prevent that happening as long as he was able to. He will be remembered with affection."

Frank's motivation to become active in the community was fired by an event in the mid-1990s. His brother-in-law arrived for a visit and told him about a serious fight

he had just witnessed going on in the village. Frank went straight out to stop it. After that, he would frequently walk around Brixworth's streets in the evenings to ensure there was no trouble. The police, in particular, appreciated Frank's involvement, and for several years, Frank regularly accompanied them on their Friday night rounds wearing a stab vest.

Getting to know the local young people led to Frank setting up the Brixworth Youth Foundation and embarking on a four-year long search for suitable and affordable premises for a youth club.

Councillor Ian Barrett, who served for many years alongside Frank on the Parish Council, says: "He was a doer, totally dedicated to the people of Brixworth. Even when we had strong differences of opinion, he never held a grudge and it never affected



our working relationship or friendship."

If you had wondered about his unusual surname, although born in Leith, Scotland, Frank had a Norwegian father and spent the first seven years of his life in Norway. His affection for his home country never faded, and it will be to a Norwegian forest that his ashes will be taken shortly.

It is a sign of how well regarded Frank was that Liz, his wife of 24 years, received over 150 cards of sympathy. Having followed Frank in becoming both a parish councillor and a district councillor for Brixworth, she says: "He was a wonderful man to live with. He gave me a lot of confidence and I want to continue in his footsteps to do his work." - J Fitzgerald



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Police notes mini-crimewave

Since the latest *Bulletin* was published, Brixworth has suffered a noticeable increase in the number of thefts and burglaries.

Particularly badly affected was the area around Froxhill Crescent, which has been hit by a spate of burglaries. In total seven homes were burgled over a one-week period in early October – two apiece in Honey Holme and Broadlands and one house each in Holcot Road, Northampton Road and Froxhill Crescent. This compares with a single burglary in October 2011.

The police are dealing with the issue and confirmed to the *Bulletin* that they are following up on a number of leads. Meanwhile residents confirm that there has been a noticeably increased police presence in the area.

On top of the burglaries came several thefts from motor vehicles – both theft of number plates and theft of items that had been left on show within the vehicle. Three of the break-ins happened at Brixworth Country Park, and four men have now been arrested and are on police bail.

On a more positive note, the Brixworth police team is pleased to welcome another officer - PC Ross Owen.

Christmas

Bearing in mind the recent series of burglaries and thefts, here are some simple tips you may want to follow over the festive period to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Your home

- Store all gifts out of sight until Christmas arrives – not under the tree
- Keep entry doors locked at all times, even when you are in your home
- Make sure your house looks occupied – use timer switches on lamps in various rooms and always close the curtains at night
- Be a good neighbour, report anything

suspicious

- Keep door and car keys safe at all times; don't leave them in or near windows and doors
- When recycling empty boxes, fold the card inside out so that you don't advertise your new gifts

Your vehicle

- When out shopping, don't leave goods or presents visible inside your vehicle
- When leaving your vehicle, remove your Sat Nav and its mounting but don't leave it in the glove box
- Remove marks left on the windscreen where the Sat Nav has been
- Always lock your vehicle – even when only leaving it for a very short time
- Fit tamper-proof number plate screws

Yourself

With the Christmas party season about to get into full swing, we'd like to share our top ten tips for staying safe while out and about on the town.

- Always go out with a group of friends – and make sure you stay with them
- Do not walk home alone and always avoid areas which are poorly lit and off the beaten track
- Plan how you are going to get home and store the number of a reputable taxi firm in your phone
- Drink sensibly because excess drinking can leave you vulnerable to unwanted attention and you may become a victim of crime. If you are going to drink, know your limit
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return
- Think before you accept a drink from anyone
- Never leave your glass unattended. Use an



'Alcotop' to protect your drink bottle from spiking – available from some bars and police stations

- If you are in a group, nominate someone to watch the drinks
- If you do feel ill or light headed tell someone - a friend/bar staff/doorman - and ask for a taxi to take you home

Community Speed Watch

Northamptonshire Police is re-launching Community Speed Watch as part of its work in tackling the Fatal Four – the four most common offences contributing to serious injuries and road deaths, namely speeding, using a mobile phone, not wearing a seat belt, and drink driving.

The scheme is being re-launched in the villages that have the biggest problems with speeding: Rothersthorpe, Kislingbury, Bugbrooke, Croughton, Kings Sutton, Wilbarston, Rockingham, Middleton, Dingley, Pytchley and Isham.

It will see members of the community getting trained to use a hand-held speed monitoring devices to track the speed of motorists in their parish. The Force will then send out warning letters to the drivers.

Operations Superintendent Sean Bell said he is pleased Community Speed Watch is making a return. He says: "Speeding is one of the issues we receive the most complaints about from people living in our communities and we hope the scheme will have a positive impact in reducing the speed of motorists on our roads.

"Community Speed Watch is so popular that I am sure more villages will want to take part, however at the moment we have funding to be able to run the scheme in a limited number of villages, although we would like to extend it in the future if this scheme is a success and more funding becomes available."



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Putting the **heart** into the community

Jennifer Fitzgerald speaks with Rev Phil Walters, pastor of the Brixworth Christian Fellowship

Brixworth Christian Fellowship, a church without a building, has taken up a crucial position in our community, delivering a range of services that many people have come to rely on. These include the Community Centre, parish nursing, and more recently, the Information Point. Jennifer Fitzgerald caught up with Rev. Phil Walters the pastor of BCF and one of its visionaries.

When did the church start?

We started in 1988, so we shall be celebrating our 25th anniversary next year. At that time, a number of Christians from Brixworth, who had more or less met at the school gates, had to go into Northampton to worship. They decided to set up a local home group which had about 17 members. The minister from the church I used to attend in London was released from Wednesday to Sunday for a while to support setting up a church here. As we had a real mix of backgrounds, we didn't want to affiliate with any particular denomination, so we joined the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. I suppose our style most resembles a Baptist church. In 1991, David Potterton joined us as Minister. I have always been heavily involved in church work and after training became the Minister in 1996.

What is your personal relationship to Brixworth?

I moved up here with my family in 1985 because the Danish food company I was working for then built a factory in Wellingborough.

What changes have you seen over the years?

At the beginning we met in the Village Hall.

We then approached Daventry District Council and asked for land to build a new library and a church. It was going to cost £1.2 million and we only had two dozen members at the time! The Robert Horne Foundation offered to pay for a new library and agreed to include a coffee shop and some rooms as well. The Community Centre was opened in 1999, which BCF runs on behalf of the Parish Council. The new Information Point, which took over from the previous DDC office run on these premises, is a Joint Venture between BCF and the Parish Council and is staffed by about twenty volunteers. BCF is actually happy not to have a physical church, because of the maintenance expense this would incur - we prefer to focus on serving people rather than a building.

About 140 people are now involved in the church, with 80-100 attending weekly services at the school, and about 60 members. We have a good mix of ages, about 60% are over 50, and about fifteen teenagers meet on a Friday night, led by our youth worker Phil Houston.

Including the volunteers for the library, the coffee shop and the Information Point, there are now around 50 people working as volunteers in some capacity at the Community Centre. I'd say three-quarters of these are associated with BCF.

Who else is involved in the running of the church?

In addition to myself, we have a full-time community worker, Mark Palmer. A management team of elders and deacons is responsible for the overall running of the



church and spiritual oversight. Mike Nice runs the Community Centre and the coffee shop.

BCF is a registered charity so we have set up two companies – BCF Action which runs the coffee shop, and BCF Care which runs the parish nursing. BCF Care gives us the capacity to expand our range of services in the community if we decide to.

We have quite a few joint activities with All Saints Church including a carol service and an Easter walk. I also support the school class visits to the church once a year.

Describe your typical day

It depends. I tend to do home visits early in the week. I prepare for my Sunday sermon on Thursday and Friday. I'm pretty much on call 24/7 but Saturday is my day off and I try to spend one evening a week at home. I'm a governor of Brixworth Primary School so I often take assemblies there.

Tell us about the run-up to Christmas

It's very busy what with organising the outdoors Christmas Service, which has become a community event, and our Shoe Box appeal which runs through 12-15 schools throughout the county. This campaign gives families the chance to give gifts to children in need – there's information about it on display

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in the Community Centre foyer.

What is the most inspiring thing that has happened to you?

The most amazing event has definitely been building the Community Centre.

I enjoy meeting people and seeing them get a smile back on their face. I believe God can make a difference.

What are your main challenges?

We always need more resources. Even in Brixworth we come across families that don't have enough food due to economic circumstances or family breakdown. If we had more people we could expand the number of services we provide. For example, there's a real need to help elderly people with their gardening.

Obviously, we would like to grow the church both numerically and spiritually, and to reach more young people. In the two weeks running up to the Olympics we ran a lot of fun events for children, and 600-700 people attended. We would like to do more of that.

What message do you have for the people of Brixworth?

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Village Bulb Planting Bonanza

Around 20 people, including parents and children came out to plant the daffodil bulbs to make the village look beautiful next spring.

Six areas of the village were chosen to be brightened up by the displays, from the Northampton Road to the playing fields, from Spratton Road to the Holcot Road and around the stocks outside the Heritage Centre, thousands of bulbs were planted by the willing volunteers.

They should certainly add a splash of colour and help to get rid of the winter's gloom as we await spring in 2013.



Gardeners' Question Time

Calling all "budding" gardeners! On 11 April 2013, Radio Northampton's Gardeners' Question Time will be held in Brixworth. The event will start at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. The organisers will need lots of gardening questions before the day. If you have anything gardening-related you'd like to ask, please get in touch with Bev King on 880951 or Kate Knight on 881810. Alternatively, check the Friends website at www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk

Harvest Supper success

The Friends of All Saints Church were delighted with the turn-out to their recent Harvest Supper and particularly pleased with the young people who entertained everyone during the evening. The "Sax Pistols" (!) consisted of four youngsters from the Northampton School of Music who played a wide range of music on their saxophones to the huge enjoyment of the crowd.

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Tree planting initiative

Brixworth Parish Council will be shortly receiving 100 free Woodland Trust trees and is looking to plant them on council land (ie playing fields, pocket park) or any other land considered appropriate.

The Council would like to hear from anyone who would like to be involved with the planting of the saplings. If anyone has suggestions for where these saplings should be planted, please get in touch too.

Dates have not been agreed yet, but it is hoped that the planting will take place sometime before Christmas. Volunteers will need to provide spades, gloves and supervise any children.

The council is hoping that this will become a community event and it needs the support from local people to make it a success.



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A Christmas Carol

Local actor James Hornsby performs his own adaptation of this wonderful, seasonal, heart-warming tale of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge's ghostly encounters at Brixworth Library on 29 November, starting at 7.30pm.

'A Christmas Carol' is performed as a one man show and has a running time of 75 minutes, including a 15 minute interval, and is suitable for children aged 8 and over

James Hornsby is a Northampton-based professional actor who has regularly appeared on television, the West End stage and in many of the UK's regional theatres. In a career spanning over 30 years, James has worked with some of Britain's leading playwrights including Sir Alan Ayckbourn, John Godber and Kay Mellor.

Tickets cost £6.50 (including refreshments) and are available at Brixworth Library. - *Jill Barber*



Hornsby in a previous production of Oliver Twist. Photo courtesy of James Thorpe Photography (www.jthorpe.net; 07531 490150)

X7 bus extended to Milton Keynes

Stagecoach have revised their service X7 from 15 October and extended the route through to Milton Keynes. Most of the buses run straight through to and from Milton Keynes, though it may be necessary to change on the 16.23 and 17.23 services from Milton Keynes.

Stagecoach 67 leaves Brixworth (Northampton Rd) to Northampton. You can catch a bus from Northampton Road to Northampton on Mondays to Fridays at 7.41, 8.05, 8.18, 8.50, 9.23, and 9.51 then at 23 and 51 minutes past the hour till 18.23; then at 10 & 23 minutes past the hour until 21.10. The buses leaving Brixworth at 23 minutes past the hour terminate in Northampton. Please note the last bus going through to Milton Keynes is at 16.51.

You can catch a bus from Northampton Road to Leicester / Market Harborough on Mondays to Fridays at 5.32, 7.17, 8.39 and then at 39 minutes past the hour until 16.39 with two later buses at 17.51 and 18.51.

The service varies on a Saturday and Sunday, a full timetable showing all the changes is on display with copies to take away from the Information Point in Brixworth Library. We are open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am – 4pm. The Information Point can also provide help with other issues.

Drop in and try us, if we don't know the answer we will find someone who does. - *Chris Norbury*

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DAISY ROOTS



presents by friends and family. Parents often purchase further pairs once they have come to appreciate their value (several members of the *Bulletin's* editorial team swear by them!) While the recession has naturally had a big impact on the gift market, orders from the large retail chains have, fortunately, held up.



Daisy Roots has over 130 different product lines. Given the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, designs with Union Jacks have sold well this year. Fruit and veg are also a popular current trend - a few years ago it was cupcakes. The all-time best-selling design features a tractor and has been on sale since 1995.

The company was started by Victoria Darby, who got the idea from a New Zealand company. The current owners, Sonja and Graham Hodgson, bought the business five years ago and have been bringing it back to its former strength.

Employing eleven staff on site, and a further five machinists who work from home, Daisy Roots has a strong desire to keep manufacturing here, even though they could probably have their shoes made abroad more cheaply. Ironically, they now take large orders from Asia and are exporting to China! - *Jennifer Fitzgerald*

Get your boots at Daisy Roots

Well, actually, it's shoes you're more likely to find - the boots from which the toddlers' shoe shop in the centre of the village takes its rhyming-slang name have over the years made way for shoes in all shapes and sizes.

A thriving survivor of the otherwise decimated Northamptonshire shoe industry, there are machinists cutting and stitching among dozens of rolls of coloured leather behind the Daisy Roots shop front at the former Co-op site on the corner of Northampton Road and Holcot Road.

Nearly all of Daisy Roots' products are targeted at babies and toddlers. Using soft leather that is chrome free and vegetable dyed, their shoes are specially designed for the needs of infants' feet (allowing a baby to grip with their toes but not to pull the shoes off!). Their best-selling size is 6-12 months, but shoes are available in sizes that can fit a child up to the age of four years old.

When I visited the company at the beginning of August, they were in the middle of packing a large new order for Cath Kidson. Other major retail brands they supply include Russell & Bromley, John Lewis, Green Baby, and the Dobbies and Klondyke garden centres. The majority of sales occur through gift shops as many of their shoes are bought as

Brixfest fundraising cheque presented



The Brixfest music festival this summer raised £5495 for charity. Our photo shows host and co-organiser Rosemary Tuckley (right) presenting the cheque. The money will be split between three charities: Help for Heroes, the Warwickshire Air Ambulance, and several local charities.



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Lampport & Hanging Houghton news

Much the same as in Brixworth, there has been some crime in the area recently.

A dog walker from Hanging Houghton who parked her car on the Brampton Valley Way had her windows smashed and her handbag stolen from the boot of the car - the police believe that she must have been watched by the thieves who noticed her hiding her handbag. Also, a visitor to the village who'd parked in Manor Road, Hanging Houghton, had the passenger window of his car broken and computer equipment stolen from the passenger's seat.

So beware - do not leave any valuable items on display within your vehicle. The dog walker had further problems when she tried to claim from her car insurance, only to find that she was not covered for the broken windows. Take the opportunity to check your own policies to make sure you're covered.

On a more cheerful note the villagers attended the recent Harvest Supper, which was held in the Loder Hall at Maidwell. The food was prepared by Sue Wood and was delicious by all accounts. The evening was attended by 40 to 50 locals and a good sum of money was raised for the local churches.

The ongoing building continues at Manor Gardens. Work has now started on No. 1, while No. 3 is nearing completion. The mid-terrace No. 6 has now been sold and is due to be occupied in the near future. - *Mike Philpott*

All set for Draughton Christmas Fayre



It's been an unusually quiet time for Draughton, with a soggy summer and an enormous amount of work going on as the farmers battled with the elements to get the harvest in as well as they could. So this report is more about looking forward as once again we are about to tackle the mountain that is the Draughton Christmas Fayre. And for once the Christmas Edition of the *Bulletin* can look ahead to what is, for our tiny village, a massive fund-raising marathon!

On December 15, Maidwell's Loder Hall becomes the food emporium that is the Draughton Christmas Fayre, where you'll find delectable treats and goodies to give as presents, or to augment the Christmas table, both decoratively and calorific-ally! Pre-ordered puddings and cakes can be collected on the day, when there will also be for sale such delights as:

Preserves, jellies, fruit cheeses, chutneys, and pickles (all made in Draughton, the quality of which has found fame far and wide in the area) and are wonderful for gifts or for eating yourself! Many of the ingredients for making the jams and pickles are grown or gathered in Draughton - so boasting a truly 'village' flavour.

There will be condiments and sauces to complement your Christmas menus; a huge variety of sweetmeats and edible gifts (too many to list here) and even the family dogs will have their foodie counter!

Add to this homemade gifts, hyacinth bowls, wreaths (to order) and the special Draughton refreshments to revive you and here is an event that has justly become an outstanding and 'must -visit' shopping experience.

To enquire about 'last minute' orders call Ann Smeaton on 686480 or email Ann.wall@gmail.com - *Kate Calnan*



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Country Eye *Silent springs and sparse autumns*

Half a century ago, Rachel Carson, through her path-breaking book 'Silent Spring', alerted us to the fact that drenching our countryside with poisonous chemicals was damaging nature's systems, and especially our own environment. Despite the giant petrochemical industry, which made these products, dragging its feet for years (in cahoots with successive governments), the worst of these chemicals were eventually banned. Yet still, decades later, measurable amounts of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, DDT to you and me, still hang around in the ground, and in our bodies. Indeed its persistence was originally touted as one of its advantages.

You would think that one venture along this hazardous route would be enough to teach us a sharp lesson. So why is it that our farmers and commercial growers are hell-bent on travelling the very same route, this time around using a group of very nasty chemical pesticides called the neonicotinoids? These are currently sprayed on our crops in hundreds of tons. Do they control pests? I suppose they must do, but at the same time they are making an excellent job of

controlling the bees and other 'beneficial' insects. Beneficial in inverted commas because I feel the word should be vital. At the same time the target pest species are predictably showing signs of resistance to this new array of chemicals. This deadly merry-go-round will lead to ever-higher blasts of toxins on the tired soil, if past experience is anything to go by.

Without bees and other insects to pollinate the plants we grow, there would be no crops. So we depend upon them absolutely. In China insects to pollinate the flowers of fruit trees in springtime are so thin on the ground that workers go round pollinating them by hand with paintbrushes. If industry and officialdom delay their



withdrawal for years make no mistake we shall be in serious trouble.

Meanwhile, the autumn harvest this year has been the worst of recent times. On our allotment we have grown no crops that have produced in anything like abundance. Potatoes are small and the yield is sparse. Likewise with the cabbages and runner beans. Even the hedgerow harvest has been poor. I have managed a few tubs of 'wilding' apples, which have been cooked down and frozen for the winter. Blackberries were almost non-existent; the sloe harvest was tiny. Only the hawthorn (pictured, above) seems to have managed to produce a decent crop, though patchily distributed. The effects upon wildlife that depends upon the seed and berry crop in winter may only be imagined.

Crop failure seems to have been a global problem this year. The great 'breadbaskets' of the United States, Canada, and Russia that we rely on have yielded up to 40% less this year than average. Needless to say these shortages will be reflected in prices in the shops over the coming months. I learn that in those poor countries where billions have to get by on just one meal a day, people are 'budgeting' for a foodless day every week!

The problem in the USA is made worse by the fact that 40% of the corn crop is by law destined to feed not hungry mouths, but the biofuels industry. So people will starve while our vehicles guzzle the fuel produced at the filling stations. In my daily haze of blariness in the small hours, I recall two recent radio reports. One to the effect that scientists have developed a machine that will 'print' items of food to order; the other is a device that will produce petrol out of nothing more than fresh air and water. Sounds like they had better get a move on, or is this yet more 'pie in the sky'? – Brian Webster



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Updates from Brixworth Library

Bus Passes

Bus passes can be processed at the library. At this point in time, anyone born before 5 August 1951 is eligible for a free bus pass. That eligible age is now going up in line with new government pensionable ages for men and women.

To apply you'll have to bring in proof of age and proof of address; or proof of address and a Doctor's certificate for bus pass for disability. We take the photograph in the library, please do not bring your own! Bus passes are then sent out to you within ten working days.

Careers Advice

Adult Learning Services are now offering free career information, advice and guidance to anyone between 19 and 90 seeking new directions in life, employment and/or training opportunities on a 1:1 basis and also group sessions.

Careers advisors are at Brixworth library Thursdays 10am-12 and 5-6pm. There is an appointment system in place for one-hour slots, so pre-booking at the library is essential.

Book Clubs

We now have two book clubs at Brixworth

library. Brixworth Readers Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm; the next meeting on Tuesday 4 December and open to all. Brixworth Book Club meets Thursday evenings 8-9pm on every six weeks; the next meeting is on 20 December though do ask at Brixworth library to confirm.

Scrapbooking Workshop

This small friendly group meets one Saturday a month from 10am to 12 in the library. The costs are about £4 per person to include materials, refreshments and hire of space. The next meeting is planned for Saturday 15 December – but do check ahead.

Rhymetimes

Rhymetimes now take place 9.45- 10.20am Friday mornings during term-time and are free to all parents and carers plus their under 5s. If any one would like to volunteer to help with Rhymetimes, we would be most grateful as this would enable us to keep sessions going through the holidays as well.

Discovery Club

Previously known as the Homework Club, the Discovery Club is scheduled for every Wednesday during term-time from 3.30-5pm. It's open to all school-age children – we offer themed topics for fun learning and crafts.

Holiday Crafts

During school holidays we usually run some craft events for children, please ask at Brixworth library, or check online at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk.

Friends of Brixworth Library

Once again the actor James Hornsby is presenting his one man production of a Dickens Classic – this time it's A Christmas Carol. The big event is on Thursday 29 November from 7.30pm at Brixworth Library. Tickets are available from the library and cost £6.50 to include refreshments, with proceeds going to Friends of Brixworth Library.

Friends of Brixworth Library regularly hold events – ask at the library for details or to be put on the email list, as Quiz Nights in particular are always popular.

But we do need more Friends please! Either joining up to the Friends scheme, or participating in events or helping out at events or joining the committee: Brixworth library needs your help!

Art Exhibitions

During November there was an exhibition by Windsor Morris and through December there will be an Inspire All art exhibition. These are upstairs in the library and are free to all.

CarrieAnn Cards

We now stock a range of cards by CarrieAnn – beautiful handmade cards at reasonable prices for all occasions by a local lady, with a donation to Brixworth library for every card sold!

Opening Hours

We are now open 7 days a week: Mondays to Fridays 10am – 6pm, Saturdays 9am to 1pm and Sundays 1-4pm, with activities on every Sunday. Over Christmas and New Year we shall be closed Tuesday 25 December and Wednesday 26 December as well as Tuesday 1 January. On all other days we're open as usual. – Jill Barber

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Points of View

Development's not all bad

In April of this year my wife Sharon and I were blessed with the arrival of the beautiful Florence May who came into the world at our home on Northampton Road. Like any father I am sure, once you get over the worry that both mother and baby will come through labour and that your bundle of joy has all their fingers and toes, it seems like only hours until you start worrying about the next thing ... will she feed, when will she sleep, when will she walk, what school will she go to?

It is the latter of those issues, local services for local families, which have rightly been a big issue for many local residents over the last year when considering the growth of our beautiful village and the proposals for new homes.

The Brixworth Bulletin has done a great job in keeping us all informed of developments. While the work of groups such as BRANE has opposed all development, it is important to recognise there is a growing but quiet minority of residents that don't see it that way.

The population of Brixworth, of Northamptonshire and of the UK is growing. Unless we pass laws similar to China to limit how many children we are allowed to have it is surely a given that therefore we have to build more homes.

There is of course a strong argument to say that Brixworth is 'full up' – but what village, hamlet or town wouldn't say that? Name me a village that is saying 'come and build as you like here?' Of course those living on one side of Froxhill Crescent don't want their idyllic back garden view changing the same as those on Northampton Road didn't before Froxhill was developed. Let's also not kid ourselves that those living in town centres and urban sprawls are crying out for new neighbours or have acres of land next to high rises ripe for development.

My point is that if we accept as part of a larger community we have to share the burden of new homes, and indeed show some leadership on this, then the impact is less for everyone.

Therefore Brixworth should stand up, take a pro-active role and say, yes, we will accept our fair share of new homes – but there has to be real and committed investment from developers to ensure the village is sustainable. If they want the land that badly then they will make the investment.

It also means we have to see some new leadership from our elected representatives. The biggest disappointment I have experienced is when the planning decision to give permission to Barratt's went ahead, one local councillor's first action was to threaten to resign! That is not leadership. That is not representation. We need politicians to be banging on the doors of local and national government to ensure we get the investment we need to build new schools for children like Florence and to have infrastructure that supports a modern thriving village such as Brixworth.

You don't have to oppose development in Brixworth to mean that you care for the village, its values and its neighbours. – Ashley Riley

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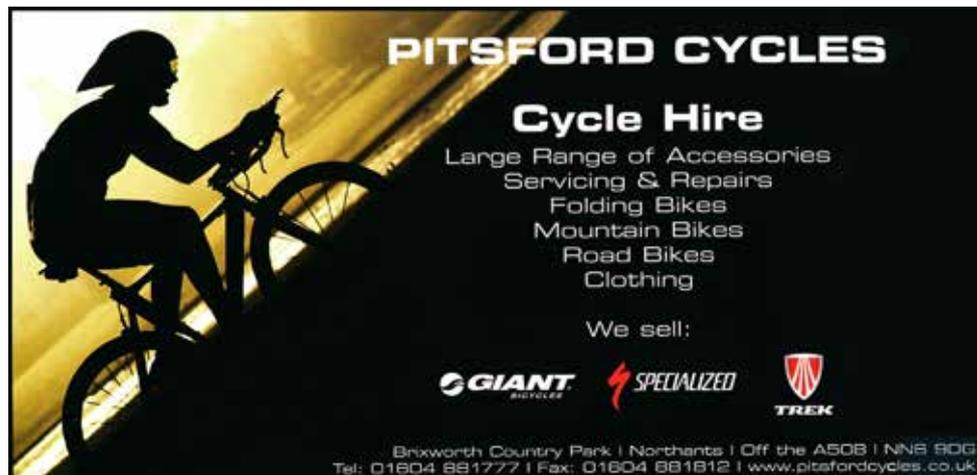
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Monday	Circuits	Village Hall	8.00 - 9.00
Weds.	Pilates	The Centre	6.15 - 7.00

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Village Organisations - what, where, who?

Type	Name	Contact	Telephone	Email	Venue
Youth	Cubs & Beavers	Kim Phillips	07815070878	info@armarketing.co.uk	Brixworth Centre
Youth	Scouts & Explorers	Kim Phillips	07815070878	info@armarketing.co.uk	Brixworth Centre
Youth	Brownies	Michelle Coles	880024		Brixworth Centre
Youth	Guides	Jill Gunnett	880929		Brixworth Centre
Youth	Little Acorns Pre-School	Supervisor	07534 426594		Village Hall
Youth	Olive Shoots (Mums & Tots)	Margaret Lawes	646300	johnmargs321@gmail.com	Community Centre
Youth	Surestart	Janice Layton	880246		Children's Centre
Youth	Rhymetime (under 5s)	Jill Barber	0300 126 1000	Jbarber@northamptonshire.gov.uk	Library
Youth	Dynamites	Rev. Phil Walter	882040	philwalter@btinternet.com	Community Centre
Youth	Brixworth Primary School	David Boucher	883900	head@brixworth.northants-ecl.gov.uk	School
Youth	Brixworth Centre Pre-School	Emma Hinde	07791 906305		Brixworth Centre
Youth	Tots In Motion	Polly Major	07793 141143		Community Centre
Youth	Mighty Oaks (After School)	Jo Bailey	07508 659017	mightyoaksbrixworth@aol.co.uk	School
Youth	Brixworth Youth Club	Jane Ames	889150	brixworthyouthfoundation@theashway.freereserve.co.uk	Ironstone Close
Youth	Helen O'Grady Drama Ac.	Gemma Knight	459739		Community Centre
Youth	Sunnysocks Nursery	Lesley Eaton	882155		Sunnysocks Nursery
Youth	Street Dance Academy	Tracey Gray	882240		Community Centre
Sport	Brixworth Juniors Football	Jon Howarth	880148	jon@thewigwamcompany.com	St. Davids/Ashway
Sport	Brixworth All Saints Football	Ian Bandey	07812 609095		St. Davids Field
Sport	Brixworth Cricket Club	Chris Timm	882591	christimm24@hotmail.com	Cricket Ground
Sport	Angling Club	Adrian Rose	881873		
Sport	Mixed Hockey Club	Jon Davies	07500 633921	BrixworthMHC@gmail.com	
Sport	Badminton Club	Jonathan Tame	881179		Guilsborough Sch.
Sport	Golf Society	John Wilson	880490		
Sport	Indoor Short Mat Bowls	Les Dawkins	880343		Brixworth Centre
Sport	Circuit Training	Alison Cooper	077321 65546	info@act-ive.com	Village Hall
Sport	Aerobics	Jessica Baker	07515 058854		Community Centre
Sport	Pilates	Louise Grumi	07766 807184		Community Centre
Sport	Yoga	Anne Widdup	07729 099206	change4good@annewiddup.com	Community Centre
Adult	All Saints Bellringers	David Hamson	881089		Church
Adult	Friends of All Saints' Church	Caroline Monk	882982	brixworthfriends1@btinternet.com	Church
Adult	All Saints' Flower Guild	Margaret Oliver	881012		Church
Adult	Brixworth Drama Club	Sue l'Anson	07990 624713	sueianson89@googlemail.com	Village Hall
Adult	First Responders (Non-Emerg.)	Phil	07989 267071		
Adult	Art Class for Beginners	Ray Coles	494160		Community Centre
Adult	Bridge Club	Andy Heaver	880721		Heritage Centre

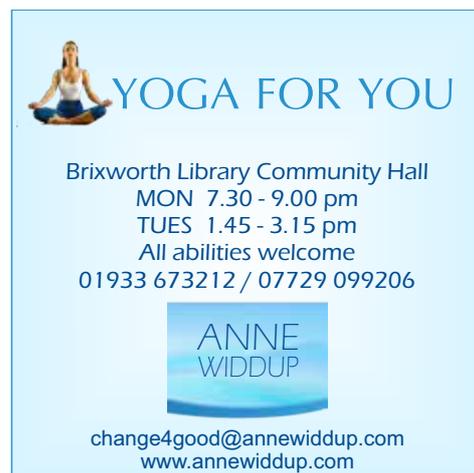


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Adult	University of the 3rd Age	Peter Davies	880401	peter.davies@waitrose.com	Village Hall
Adult	Women's Institute	Sue Poole	881221	s.poole221@btinternet.com	Village Hall
Adult	Photographic Society	Ian Topham	880780	ian@tophams.net	Community Centre
Adult	Neighbourhood Watch	John Haywood	880635	john@elsaforde.plus.com	Community Centre
Adult	BRANE	Bob Chattaway	881281	brane@talktalk.net	Community Centre
Adult	Brixworth History Society	Heather Parr	07817 006364		Village Hall
Community	Brixworth Information Point	Mike Nice	882622	brixworthinformationpoint@btconnect.com	Community Centre
Community	Community Centre	Mike Nice	880086	mike.nice100@googlemail.com	Community Centre
Community	Village Hall	Hayley Wincott	880654	administrator@brixworthvillagehall.co.uk	Village Hall
Community	Brixworth Centre	Julie Tear	882818	julie@brixsecure.co.uk	
Community	Heritage Centre	Tony Brunton	880941		Heritage Centre
Community	Central Sports Pavilion	John Noble	7789515346		St. David's Field
Community	Brixworth Bulletin	Claudia Flavell-White	882567	editor@brixworthbulletin.com	
Community	Parish Nurses	Margaret Lawes	646300	johnmargs321@gmail.com	Community Centre
Community	Brixworth Christian Fellowship	Rev. Phil Walter	882040	philwalter@btinternet.com	School/Com.Centre
Community	Bromford Support	Bromford S'port	01327 707500		Community Centre
Community	All Saints' Church Warden	Michael Lewis	881836		
Community	All Saints' Church Warden	Woodhead	880158		
Community	Brixworth Parish Council	Jane Macken	881243	clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk	Community Centre
Community	Olive Branch Coffee Shop	Mike Nice	889030	mike.nice100@googlemail.com	Community Centre
Community	Saxon Spires Patient Part.Gp.	Barbara Hogg	880552	barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk	
Community	Brixworth Library	Jill Barber	0300 126 1000	Jbarber@northamptonshire.gov.uk	Library
Community	Foundation of Thomas Roe	Ursula Morris	505554	ursula@ursalamorris.co.uk	

Information supplied by the Brixworth Information Point. Please contact the Information Point if you would like your group/organisation added to the Brixworth contact list. You can call the Information Point on 882622 or email brixworthinformationpoint@btconnect.com



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stuart.little@horts.co.uk

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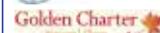
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The Brixworth Calendar 2013



David Phillips

A Photographer's Dozen

The 2013 Brixworth Calendar is now available from Blason's Garage, K Troops, the Community Centre Information Point and the Library.

The price is £4 and this includes a mailing envelope: there are 13 lovely images of the local area for you to enjoy throughout the next year.

The calendar has been produced by the Brixworth Photographic Society, sponsored by the Brixworth Parish Council and all profits will go toward the work of the Brixworth Parish Nurses.

Brixworth boy in charity drive

I am Luke Fleming-Jones, and I am twelve years old. I am carrying out challenges to try and raise money and awareness for The Alzheimer's Society. This is part of my RS project in my final year at Spratton Hall.

I am part of a group of ten friends and we are all coming up with ideas to raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's. A few of these are: completing a 2.5 mile memory walk around Daventry country park with other like-minded people, climbing Mount Snowdon (at our first attempt we had to turn back due to 80 mph winds – we will try again in the spring), cake sale at school and a bucket shake at the Saints on 27th October. We are going to go into an old people's home and sing Christmas carols in December and meet sufferers of Alzheimer's to get a better understanding of what it does to people.

Alzheimer's is a disease that affects the brain and results in loss of memory. If you would like to sponsor my friends and me, please go to www.justgiving.com/memoryteam and donate what you can.

Thank you.

Luke



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Vicar: A new appointment awaited

Churchwardens: Mrs S.Woodhead, 8 Brackenborough 01604 880158

Mr M. Lewis, 8 Breach Close 01604 881836

CALENDAR Dec, Jan, Feb. & Mar. 2012-3 Services & Principal Events

DEC	2	Sunday	Advent Sunday	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Advent Procession 'From Darkness to Light' 6.00 p.m.
	9	Sunday	Advent II	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.*
	16	Sunday	Advent III	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
	20	Thursday	A Carol Service for Brixworth 7.30 p.m.	
	23	Sunday	Advent IV	Holy Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
	24	Monday	Christmas Eve Crib Service for the Young 2.00 p.m. Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m. with Rt Revd John Holbrook, Bishop of Brixworth	
	25	Tuesday	Christmas Day	Holy Eucharist 9.00 a.m.
	30	Sunday	Christmas I	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
JAN	6	Sunday	Feast of the Epiphany	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m. Evensong 4.30 p.m.
	13	Sunday	The Baptism of Our Lord	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m. Evensong 4.30 p.m.
	20	Sunday	Epiphany III	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
	27	Sunday	Septuagesima	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
FEB	3	Sunday	Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
	10	Sunday	Quinquagesima	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
	13	Weds.	Ash Wednesday	Sung Eucharist 7.30 p.m.
	17	Sunday	Lent I	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
	24	Sunday	Lent II	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
MAR	3	Sunday	Lent III	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.
	10	Sunday	Mothering Sunday	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.; Evensong 4.30 p.m.

* Note that the time of Evensong on Sundays is now at 4.30 p.m. until Easter Sunday

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BURIAL	18 July	John Myles Cliffe	Ravensthorpe, formerly Brixworth
	30 July	Terence Arthur Williamson	5 Horshoe Close, Brixworth (cremation)
	17 Aug	Lesley James Hawkins	12A Pytchley Way, Brixworth
	31 Aug	Anne Elizabeth Johnson (nee Anderson)	Rothwell, formerly Brixworth (cremation)
	11 Sept	Geraldine Beatrice Wright	Pytchley Court Nursing Home
	22 Sept	Audrey Annie Elizabeth Dennet	Saxon House (cremation)
	2 Oct	Peter Andrew Flower	12 Woodsfield, Brixworth
	10 Oct	Eleanor Hilda Cockerill	Boniface House, Brixworth
HOLY MATRIMONY	1 Sept	Hannah Brunton & Richard Chapple	
	29 Sept	Helen Ringer & Mark Baugh	
HOLY BAPTISM	23 Sept	Amelia Lily Rex	
	21 Oct	Lauren Eloise Digby	
	21 Oct	Holly Louise Jennifer Powell	

UPDATE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICAR

Unfortunately, the deadline for submitting news to this edition of the Brixworth Bulletin comes before the interviews for a new vicar which will have been held on the 9th November. We had a very good response to the advertisement for a new priest which was placed in the Church Times on the 14th and 21st September which translated into 7 applicants. God willing, by the time you are reading this article, we will know the name of our new vicar and when he or she will be moving in to the vicarage and beginning their ministry amongst us.

On behalf of the congregation at All Saints', we would like to wish all the people of Brixworth a joyful Christmastide.

Michael Lewis & Sylvia Woodhead, Churchwardens

Parish News



News and views from Brixworth Parish Council Winter 2012 edition edited by Ian Barratt

St David's gets make-over!

Your Parish Council has been hard at work to improve St David's Recreation Ground.

A lot of the children's equipment is looking jaded and is ready for replacement or at least temporary repair and a lick of paint.

Our grounds-staff must be congratulated on how well they look after the area. But now the time has really come when we must move on and make improvements. And make it less of an eyesore! We asked the Village what you wanted and we have listened.



We are working to decide what can be repaired and what must be replaced, keeping safety, of course, at the front of our thoughts.

And of course there are the nearby residents to consider. But at the end of the day we are a growing village and we must have decent facilities for our young people.

We're nearly there in our final planning so, as they say, watch this space for further updates!

- The work so far.....**
- Exhibition of possibilities
 - Village-wide questionnaire
 - Discussions with village clubs and groups
 - Establishing a residents working group to help us plan

Ancient Monument to be replaced!

Would you *enjoy* waiting for a bus in this? It's time to encourage more bus users and a decent shelter is part of this. Some of ours need improvement or extensive repair.

We are reviewing the usability of all of our bus shelters so expect to see some improvements soon!



Have you hit us yet?

You might not judge a book by its cover, but people often judge a Parish Council by its web site. Jane, our Clerk, has been busily organising our new site. Visit www.brixworthpc.org.uk to see the work in progress. We are sure you will agree that this has a much more professional appearance than the old one

A Good Job Too!

A Free and Friendly course will take place in the Community Room (over the Library) on 17th November from 10 till noon.

It's a chance to brush up those cv writing skills. And how to produce a good covering letter.

If this is a success, it may be possible to put on more, regular courses aimed at helping you get a job.

Support this course and let them support you!

Come and join us!

Want to try and make our world a better place? Got some enthusiasm to put it into action?

So - **Why aren't you a Parish Councillor?**

Think you can do better than us?

Want to really make things happen around the Village?

So - **Why aren't you a Parish Councillor?**

We are able to co-opt some new Parish Councillors at present. No election, no lengthy application forms - just a willingness to roll your sleeves up and make a difference.

Don't just think about it! give our Clerk, Jane a ring - NOW - on 881243

Or email clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk.

Or email or speak to any Parish Councillor.

Haven't much time? You give what time you can spare. You'll be really welcome!

Go on, You Know It Makes Sense

BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR!

Your wish is Granted?

Does your organisation need money for that project that never seems quite affordable no matter how much you try and save?

Do you need some equipment which would benefit your organisation?

Do you want to start up a new Village club or group and just need start-up cash to get you started?

If so, the Parish Council may be able to help!

Each year we put aside some money for Grants to such clubs or groups. We ask you to fill in a simple form telling us what you want it for and a little bit about your organisation. You can even come and talk to us about it as well, though it's not compulsory!

Then you sit back and wait. If the Parish Council agrees, a cheque pops through your letter box!

Simples! But it must be for a group, not an individual. The next deadline is 31st March 2013 so get planning now so **your** group does not miss out! Forms from Jane, our Clerk or website

Frank Wiig



So much has already been said and written about the sad passing of Frank and when you read this, some weeks will have passed by.

But the PC wants to place on record a tribute to Frank and his, might we say, incomparable contribution to the quality of life in Brixworth.

He saw a need and when others watched or discussed it, Frank was in there sorting it, sometimes with others, sometimes by himself. We needed youth facilities - he helped form the Youth Foundation and Youth Club. He saw unsightly graffiti so he rolled up his sleeves one weekend and scrubbed it off himself. Sheer dedication.

Passionately caring for our Village, Frank was highly respected by the Parish Council and will be sorely missed.

Parish Council Meetings

December 2012

**Parish Council Surgery
Highways Committee
Planning Committee
Full Council**

**Saturday December 1st
Tuesday December 4th
Monday December 17th
Tuesday December 18th**

Dates for 2013 meetings will be shortly announced.

Most meetings start at 7.30pm. General Meetings are 7pm or 7.15pm. All meeting dates and Agendas are published on our notice boards at least four days before the meeting. All take place in the Community Centre, Spratton Rd

Parish Councillor Surgeries are held from 10am to noon in the library foyer with a private room available for confidential matters.

A View from the Chair



As I wonder what I might write, I am aware that the last time I was in this position I was lamenting the resignation of a Councillor. This time I must recognise the passing of another; Frank Wiig, who faithfully served this village as both a Parish and a District Councillor simply for as long as he could.

The Village certainly benefited as a result and we now need to find someone to take his place. That might be reasonably easy for the District Council, although they are big boots to fill, but it is far from easy for the Parish of Brixworth.

Clearly, these are not easy times, and many of us have to concentrate on keeping our families fed, warm and secure. And some tell us there is no guarantee things will get better any time soon. But the Parish Council is hurting. We are supposed to have fourteen members working together on behalf of our community to consult on Planning Applications, fight unwanted developments, take decisions on various recreation issues that confront us and also agree on Highways issues, among other things.

One of these 'other things' could well be the development of a Neighbourhood Plan by the people of Brixworth to carefully manage the future development of our Village. To create a Neighbourhood Plan we have to consider many things that include the expectations of Government as well as the needs and expectations of residents. Current indications are that development of some sort will be required. The challenge is finding a way to satisfy all and to do so we will be asking to hear from you. Once a Plan is agreed and passes inspection, it will be presented to the Parish for a Referendum and provided it passes it will become law.

I realise, too that although I am writing this in October, you will likely not be reading it until we are much more focused on the Christmas season. I would hope there are residents in the Village who would volunteer to serve the community as a member of the Parish Council - we have plenty of room - there are 5 vacancies in fact and we need help. But representing the Parish Council I would also like to wish all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Mike Lacey, Chairman. Brixworth Parish Council

Contact us..... Clerk to the Council: Jane Macken clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk tel. 881243

Parish Councillors

Mike Lacey (Chairman) mlacey@brixworthpc.org.uk
Steve Pointer (Vice Chairman) spointer@brixworthpc.org.uk
Ian Barratt ibarratt@brixworthpc.org.uk
Colin Bament cbament@brixworthpc.org.uk
Sandra Moxon smoxon@brixworthpc.org.uk

Liz Wiig ewiig@daventry.gov.uk
Kevin Parker kparker@brixworthpc.org.uk
David Parnaby dparnaby@brixworthpc.org.uk
Bob Chattaway bchattaway@brixworthpc.org.uk



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.bcfchurch.co.uk

Having answered the question correctly as to who Jesus' mother was, the child was then asked who the father was – "Verge" he answered explaining that his parents were "Verge and Mary"!

This reminded me of how far "Christmas" has moved from its roots, and how misunderstood the Christmas message often is. Jesus the Son of God – born into this world to a virgin – God Himself stooping down to earth to be scorned, ill-treated and hung on a cross – Jesus, born to be the Saviour of the world restoring people to a right relationship with their creator. The story of Christmas is one of hope, of cheer, of reconciliation, in a world that seems bereft of such things.

Research on the subject of purpose in life concludes with these words "What seems to be important, is living your life in a way that emphasises the importance of being involved in your community and caring for people, and Christmas is a reminder to us all of this message" .

We at BCF would love to share the message of Christmas with you this year through the Open Air Nativity on Sunday 16th December at 4 p.m. Christmas Morning at 10.30a.m. Pensioners Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 19th December and as we meet at other times.

I wish you all a very blessed and happy Christmas period and one in which you find true purpose, joy and peace.

May God richly bless you

Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on 882040

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil".

Christmas at BCF

You are warmly invited (as long as you wrap up well!) to our Open Air Nativity and Carol Service on Sunday 16th December at 4 p.m. outside the Library & Community Centre. The Nativity will form the centrepiece with children and animals (plus some adults) involved in building the scene of Mary & Joseph and the baby Jesus in Bethlehem before your eyes.

It is a real community event ending with hot drinks and mince pies in the Centre afterwards.



Pensioners Christmas Lunch



**Wednesday 19th December
from 12 noon.**

Food, fun, friendship, entertainment and laughter at the hands of the Olive Branch staff.

To book phone
The Olive Branch on 889030.

Lonely this Christmas?

Do you know of anyone who will be on their own this Christmas who would value a meal or some company? If so please let us know by dropping a note into the Olive Branch with the details, or speaking to one of us on the numbers provided on this page, and we will do our best to link them with a family.



COFFEE SHOP

More than just a Coffee Shop, the Olive Branch is the place to meet, be kept informed of Village life and receive a warm welcome.

Pensioners lunch on a Wednesday at 12 noon

(need to book on 889030 or in person)

If you have never tasted the fine coffee and food – why not try it!

Mon - Thur 10-3.00, Fri 9.30-3.00,
Saturday 9.30-1.00

For more information phone The Olive Branch on 889030

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



Operation Christmas Child Shoebbox Appeal



By the time this is published we will have completed another "Operation Christmas Child Shoebbox Campaign". Our thanks to all those who helped in any way from the giving of the boxes, to the checking and packing to the delivery to the warehouse for onward transmission. We hope that in excess of 1500 boxes will be on their way to Serbia where children will receive a box of love.



A Christmas Poem (Anonymous)

It's Christmas time at our house and we're putting up a tree.
I wish I could find some simple way to remember God's gift to me.
Some little sign or symbol to show friends stopping by,
The little babe was born one day but He really came to die!

Some symbol of His nail pierced hands, the blood He shed for me,
What if I hung a nail upon my Christmas tree?
I know it was His love for us that held him to a tree,
But when I see this simple nail, I'll know He died for me.

It may seem strange at Christmas time to think of nails and wood,
But both were used in Jesus' life to bring us something good.
From manger bed to crown of thorns, to death on Calvary
God used the wood and nails of men to set all people free.

Christmas Morning

10.30-11.15 in the school

A great way to begin your Christmas festivities as we celebrate together with Carols, children showing their presents, and much more.

BCF Weekly events

Sunday:	09:45 – 10:30	Informal gathering
	11:15 – 12:30	Main Service of Worship (including Junior Church and Creche)
Monday:	20:00 – 21:30	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
Tuesday:	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
Wednesday:	20:00 – 21:30	Home study Groups
Thursday:	10:30 – 12:00	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group*
Friday:	17:00 – 18:00	Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years*
	18:15 – 19:15	Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11*
		(*held at the Library & Community Centre)

Well that's a bit about us.

If you would like to know more about anything in this leaflet or to know more about the Christian faith, then phone Phil on 882040 or go online at www.bcfchurch.co.uk

WESTMINSTER REPORT

East Midlands Ambulance Service

As a former Member of the European Parliament I used to try to represent a whole region, the East Midlands, to the best of my ability. That said, it was an impossible task to get around such a diverse and vast area. As I looked around at the last Government's attempts to regionalise everything, I became very aware that the temptation was that all services get sucked into the area of "highest demand" – the "Golden triangle" between Nottingham, Derby and Leicester. This meant those living in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire received less, even though in tax terms they contributed more.

Mammoth grandiose projects like the regionalisation of fire control failed terribly and cost the taxpayer millions. When the coalition came in I thought we killed much of this regionalisation and all the failures attached with it and I was truly delighted to see them all go.

However, one regionalisation project still went ahead. The ambulance service went from "Two Shires" (two counties) to "EMAS" – the East Midlands Ambulance Service. Since then, all the horrible old qualities of a regionalised service have been on display.

Lots of money has been spent, supposedly to save money in the long term, at the centre in Nottingham. Personnel has been "centralised" at a cost of over £1m, but still a huge amount of the work is done within each ambulance station. At the same time, the service is struggling to meet its targets.

Now, I am no fan of targets set from the centre, and if you ask anyone who works in the ambulance service and you'll know that they are completely arbitrary anyway. There doesn't seem to be much science between whether you have to attend a call within eight or fourteen minutes – but this is currently what the service is measured on and if you live in my constituency then, to be quite frank, you're lucky to get an ambulance arrive within the targeted time.

This is not the service's fault – it is simply because of the huge area that they have to service.

So, why am I telling you this? Well, right now the East Midlands Ambulance Service is consulting on proposals for re-structuring its services. The aim is to reduce costs by reducing stations and is based on some very sophisticated modelling of demand.

I have looked at these plans and I've spent a day with the ambulance service. I've talked with various people who work for the

service and even had the head of EMAS at my constituency to talk through the plans with me and local paramedics. I have concluded that unless you live very close to Northampton in my constituency, these plans do not work in the interest of the majority of my constituents.

A couple of people are campaigning about the retention of ambulance stations. I believe there is a need to keep at least one open, in Daventry, if the needs of my mainly rural constituency are to be served properly and the quality of working conditions maintained for those who work for EMAS. However, I'm not overly exercised about bricks and mortar. In this case I'm much more concerned about maintaining a quality of service for my constituents and this means how quickly and safely an ambulance can get to you.

Actually, following my day with EMAS, I did think there were a number of areas in which the service could be improved that would both save money and make the paramedics' and their colleagues' jobs a tiny bit easier and their conditions a bit more tolerable. As you would expect, the staff have excellent ideas on this too. Alas, I'm not convinced the regionalised EMAS is over-worried about the views of those on the periphery of its region.

Thus I was hoping you might take part in the ongoing consultation EMAS is running. You can access it here: www.emas.nhs.uk/get-involved/being-the-best-consultation/ or if you contact me at the House of Commons, I will happily send you hard copies of it.

Perhaps you disagree with me and believe that Labour's regionalisation policies were best for the emergency services. Whatever your views, it is worth taking part in the consultation and reminding EMAS that they have to serve the whole of the East Midlands, not just the parts it is easy to reach; and that if it does not do this, then perhaps we should be pushing for a Northamptonshire Ambulance Trust to take over the service for our county...

Chris

Snail-mail: The House of Commons
Westminster, London. SW1A 0AA.
Tel: 0207-219-7048 or 01604-859721
e-mail: chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk
Twitter: @chhcalling

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Letters to the Editor

Too irreverent?

Madam,

It is with regret that I feel myself having to make a complaint about the style of editing in the *Brixworth Bulletin*. I was saddened on the occasion of Father Anthony's retirement to encounter a headline in the Bulletin that was rather irreverently entitled 'Watkins retires'. I did let this pass at the time believing this to be an unfortunate, but one-off, piece of bad editorial style. However, I was again appalled by a headline in the recent *Bulletin* which read 'Southcott's retirement sparks staff changes...'.
Father Watkins and Dr Southcott are two individuals who have served their communities for over 25 years, but they are addressed in the *Bulletin* as if they were little more than naughty public schoolboys. Whatever happened to the correct forms of public address such as Reverend or Doctor, or given that we are a village community, use of their proper/Christian names? When individuals retire after such long service they deserve our admiration, respect and gratitude certainly not denegated like renegade footballers in the tabloid press.

The articles which followed these headlines lacked any kind of admiration or praise for the commitment which either had shown towards the village community, rather they were rather pedestrian articles that paid no respect to their legacy. The *Brixworth Bulletin* is meant to be a community newspaper, so please do away with the 'tabloid' headlines and start treating our long-serving community leaders with some courtesy, if not respect.

It appears to me that the only occasion when an article appears in the *Bulletin* in recognition of someone's achievements, it has to be written by the individual themselves. We may be growing in population close to that of a town, but please let's not start losing the respect for our fellow neighbours.

Michael Lewis

[Dear Michael, thank you very much for the feedback. After some discussion among the Bulletin's team, we've come to the conclusion that you've got a fair point with regards to the use of titles such as Dr and Rvd / Father and we'll try and do better in future; though I might point out that omitting such titles is common practice right across most forms of media.

I am not convinced the Bulletin does all that badly at shining a light on those people in our community who've done something that was outstanding or praiseworthy, though perhaps we've been prone to do this more for those whose status and title don't automatically catapult them into the spotlight.

If others have a view on this debate, I'd be keen to hear them. Email me at editor@brixworthbulletin.com or drop a letter into the letterbox in the Community Centre. – Ed.]

Affordable Housing

Madam,

I realise that a lot of people who have campaigned against this development are disappointed by the approval to build 150 new homes in the village, but what the article in the September issue of the Bulletin failed to celebrate is that 44 of these 150 houses will be affordable. There may be debate about the strength of the housing market in the village at the moment, but what is beyond doubt is that these affordable homes are desperately needed. I hope many of these will be for affordable rent, rather than properties for sale, and so will provide security and shelter for village residents for many years. Well done Daventry DC for approving this application and negotiating a high percentage of affordable homes.

Rosemarie Anderson

Speeding nuisance

Madam,

I would like to raise the issue of speeding in The Ashway. I live at the northern end of The Ashway and speeding is a real concern. I have conducted a few trials by one of us driving by at 20 and 30mph to gauge the speed of other drivers passing our house. I would estimate up to 5% of drivers are exceeding 30mph and a reckless few are approaching 40mph. Speeding is at its worst between 7-9am and 5-8pm. The speed limit on this type of residential road should be 20mph as is the case in other areas of Northamptonshire. The only problem with any speed limit is that it's useless unless enforced, which in this area seems to be limited to the causeway across the reservoir. Therefore, the only alternative left to solve this problem is traffic calming as is used in Knightons Way.

I'd like to know what other local residents and people or organizations responsible for speed enforcement/traffic calming in this area think of this issue.

Simon Frankland

Portraits taken

Stuck for an idea for a Christmas gift? On Saturday 8 December, Brixworth Photographic Society invites you to a portrait session in the Community Centre (10am-4pm). We'll take individual or group portraits and print them on sizes ranging from 6" x 4" to 13" x 19". Full colour or black and white prints will be printed and ready in time for Christmas.

Individual prices £1 for 6" x 4", £3 for A4, £6 for A3 and £10 for 13" x 19". All profits to go to the Brixworth Parish Nurses.

Frames can be arranged at additional cost, but not guaranteed for Christmas. To book a sitting, please phone Ian on 07918 617499.

Support grant for Information Point

The Information Point has recently obtained a £500 grant from the Cooperative Community Fund to support its services. These include helping direct people with enquiries to the relevant agencies. There have been so many requests for help with debt issues that Bromford Support is now offering appointments all day on Tuesday. The Parish Nurses are available for consultations on Wednesday, when prayer and counselling support is also available. A local solicitor has also proposed to offer a couple of hours a week to give advice.



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Get the asking price right!

Sellers are being warned not to risk over-pricing during the autumn market, new research suggests. A survey by the property website Rightmove finds that 62% of home-hunters would not view a property they consider to be over-priced, even if the property ticks all the boxes on their wish-list.

Rightmove's research, carried out as part of its Market Intelligence campaign, finds that only 38% of home-movers would actually go and view a property they consider to be over-priced before deciding whether to put in a lower offer, even though sellers often price with a view to negotiating downwards.

Rightmove director Miles Shipside says:

"It can be tempting for sellers to price high on the assumption that they are giving themselves room for negotiation. However, our findings indicate that this can be a risky business and is likely to deter some six in ten potential buyers who might otherwise have visited the property without hesitation. Price is obviously a critical issue for both buyers and sellers in the current market, but it's much harder for a potential buyer to fall in love with a property if the asking price deters them from even setting foot through the front door."

Among the 62% of respondents who would not go and view a property they felt was over-priced, 20% stated they would make

an enquiry to the estate agent to find out if the vendor would accept offers under. This suggests that sellers should discuss with their agents how far they are prepared to negotiate.

The internet is playing an ever bigger part in the marketing of your property. In many cases your home is being seen thousands of times a week online. It is vital to use an estate agent that understands the power of this medium and how to use it in order to get the best results, and whose properties are displayed on all the main property portals - Zoopla, Rightmove, Findaproerty and Primelocation.
- Stuart Little

Planning update

DA/2012/0350 Land North of Eaglehurst One hoarding sign on fence	11.6.12 PC No objection 4.7.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0372 10-12, Spratton Road Demolition of two dwellings, formation of car park, cycle parking, seating area and associated landscaping. Creation of new access from existing car park (Scheme B)	11.6.12 PC strongly objects 8.8.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0378 3 Waterlee Furlong Single storey side and rear extension	11.6.12 PC No objection 1.8.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0430 7 Olde Forde Close Single storey front extension	2.7.12 PC No objection 7.8.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0455 103 Northampton Road Remove tree within a conservation area	23.7.12 No objection 7.8.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0470 1A Froghall Work to and removal of trees subject of a tree preservation order	23.7.12 No objection 17.8.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0508 3 Spratton Road Single storey extension	23.7.12 No objection 31.8.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0515 4 Manor Orchard Extension to existing garage	13.8.12 PC no objection 4.9.12 DDC Approved

DA/2012/0536 8 Froxhill Walk Garage conversion	13.8.12 PC no objection 23.8.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0553 44 Northampton Road Single and two storey rear extension	13.8.12 PC no objection 3.10.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0561 8 High Street Construction of detached dwelling (revised scheme)	3.9.12 PC no objection 24.9.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0398 43 Stonehill Way First floor side extension	2.7.12 PC No objection 23.7.12 DDC Refused

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In memory of Brian Waller

Brixworth's cricketers mourn the tragic and sudden loss of Brian Waller in early September.

Brian's contribution to Brixworth Cricket over the years was immense. He joined the club over 25 years ago when he and his wife, Issy, moved to the village from Flitwick in Bedfordshire. He was a clever, determined and thoroughly consistent swing bowler and he continued to turn out for the club, in 'emergencies' as recently as four or five years ago. He couldn't bear to see it if a team was short and if he could help, he would.

In short, that philosophy summed him up. If something needed doing, Brian would be there - sometimes we would ask (probably too often) and he would willingly oblige, but more often than not, he would simply volunteer.

When Roy Blakemore had to give up as 1st team scorer, Brian took over for several seasons and then did the same job for the 2nd XI until a couple of summers ago.

When our first ever overseas player needed transport to get him to various coaching commitments around the county, Brian sorted out all the insurance details for the car that had been purchased and even put it in his name. And not just for one summer but for two - when we decided to have him back for a second season!

Brian and Issy agreed to put up another overseas player, for an entire summer, and at extremely short notice, when all other avenues for accommodation were exhausted. What transpired is that a young Australian lad had a wonderful, caring home for the summer, he ate like a king, he wanted for nothing and, of course, this helped his performances on the field every Saturday.

It was during the last five years in particular, following our move to the new ground, that

Brian's contribution became almost super-human. None of us really knew then what we were taking on when we moved down the road from St David's. To start with we didn't have much. Loans from club members to help purchase ground equipment, furniture acquired from the Brixworth tip(!) the height of luxury was a selection of Brian and Issy's own ex-conservatory furniture! From those humble beginnings, we have created a very pleasant, comfortable clubhouse, and the one constant throughout it all and the person who made the biggest contribution was Brian.

He realised very early on that refreshments would need to be bought, that stock would need to be checked, glasses procured, that toilets needed cleaning, changing rooms had to be swept out, bins emptied, cans and bottles re-cycled. The list goes on...

And this happened week after week, summer after summer and each season as we got bigger and more successful, the stakes were raised and expectations increased - from our own players, club members, junior parents and visiting teams and supporters. Whether it was a Saturday afternoon, a Friday night or a Monday night it didn't really matter - thirsts required quenching and Brian would nearly always be there to oblige.

Brian has left a deep and lasting impression on everyone at the club and on all those who were fortunate enough to know him. The number of current and ex-players, spanning all ages, who attended the very moving service in his memory at Brixworth church, bear testimony to that. There were moving comments in the book of condolence left in the clubhouse for the last two Saturdays of the season. In return for his great service, we want to create a fitting memorial. One idea is an annual game against Flitwick (his previous club) and there have been discussions too about a more permanent memorial within the



new clubhouse once it is completed. One thing is for sure - Brian will be watching over us and, no doubt, passing on some helpful tips on how to make the perfect pot of tea and how to get the optimum number of cans and bottles into a fridge!

We were so fortunate to have Brian at Brixworth and we will miss him terribly, in so many ways. But most of all we will remember him for his wonderful qualities - for his sense of humour, his selfless generosity, his standards, his passion and his tremendous and total dedication to the cause. He was a true gentleman and an inspiration to us all. - *Chris Timm*

the george

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

At the start of this Autumn term all sections of the Scout Group have been making the most of the light nights before the clocks change at half term. The big plus is that the weather has been relatively kind to us – in comparison to the summer that is! We have been fortunate with all the new leaders that have joined us and they are settling in and joining in all the fun.

Beavers

The Beavers have been out and about. The term kicked off with a 'log chew' where all the Beavers shared their summer activities, discussed the sorts of things they would like to do in the coming months, and played some games. Since then they have taken part in outdoor games, a music night, visited a local stable to find out about looking after horses, been on a torch walk and done some cooking. In the run up to Christmas they have a bonfire night, Diwali, a visit to a pet store to find out more about looking after animals, Christmas crafts and of course a Christmas party. Exciting times for all!

Cubs

Our Cub section has also been very busy. We have lots of fabulous new leaders, who are currently working with the existing ones to learn the ropes. The term kicked off with a quiz, always a good way for the new cubs to start to get to know the others. Then the next few weeks they looked at Emergency Aid and learnt how to manage cuts and grazes, burns and scalds, use a sling, and what the recovery position is. Then they moved to some stargazing, using telescopes to do a little extra-terrestrial exploration. They finished the half term with a spooky Halloween party. After half term they will be building guys, finding out about Diwali, roller-skating and an Australian themed Christmas party to look forward to. They also have visitors from the police with a police dog and from the Buddhist centre to look forward to.

Scouts

There have been a lot of changes in the Scout section. Not only have we got some great new leaders, but a lot of our older scouts have moved up to Explorers. The Scouts bounced back after the summer with a walk through the country park and a barbeque. They have been working on a number of badges including the communicator and hobbies ones. Two teams entered into the annual 'Star Trek', a late night walk with a host of challenges at various stations that have to be completed. Team A came third overall and Team B a respectable 14th out of 21 teams. Well done to all who took part. Just before the half term break the Scouts also had a scary evening Halloween party. After half term they have a bonfire party to look forward to, a visit to a climbing wall, a games night and a visit to Laser Zone.

Explorers

With lots of new Explorers, the section is now over twenty strong. We have some new leaders too! Their activities have included rabbit gutting and cooking, off road driving, night navigation, a mountain bike expedition, which included a camp over night, and some first aid training. They will be joining the Scouts for the bonfire and laser zone after half term, and will also be fitting in some diving and working out ways to raise some money for their section.

Remembrance Day

After half term it will also be Remembrance Day. I am hoping that, as many young people from the Scout Group will be taking part in a march through the village and a service at the church to mark this Memorial Day with the Reverend Phil Walters.

Executive Committee

We still desperately need to recruit more

members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee aims to meet three or four times a year, where plans for fund raising can be discussed and any other matters as they arise. Members then meet in smaller groups to plan and deliver any activities they have agreed to take part in. You may not be able to commit to becoming a leader but being on the Executive is just as important..

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit scouts.org.uk. To find out more about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group Kim Phillips, Group Scout Leader on 07815 070878 or info@armarketing.co.uk

- Kim Phillips

1st Scaldwell Guides



The Guides enjoyed a day at the campsite in Castle Ashby. One of the highlights was cooking marshmallows on an open fire which they lit themselves. - Jill Gunnett

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Feeding hungry mouths at Sunny Socks

Early childhood is something that we all have to go through, our parents more than ourselves, and as all who read this probably know; this can be quite a stressful business. If, as is now common, both parents work, the children usually either go to a nursery or a childminder. One can therefore expect that, one way or another, many of our readers will be familiar with the staff and facilities at Sunny Socks nursery in Brixworth. One of the longest-serving members of the team at Sunny Socks is Carole Mills, who retired as the nursery's cook this summer after nearly 20 years of service. **Alex Campbell** spoke with her.

When did you join the nursery?

I joined in 1993, just working as a dinner lady, but then after three years the previous cook left, and I was offered the job, so I became the nursery cook in 1996.

How long were you at the nursery?

Well, I was there for nineteen years, and a colleague worked out that I must have cooked around 102,000 lunches in the nineteen years I worked there!

Did you have to take any specialised courses?

Not really, you had to take hygiene

certificates, but apart from that you learned on the job. The hardest part was figuring out the quantities of each ingredient!

How many children would sit down for lunch?

We'd do two sittings for lunch, but the average number would be about 25 across both the sittings. I think the most we had was 36 at one time, but that doesn't happen very often.

Did your find working with children fulfilling?

Yes, because you got to see the changes in the children as they grew up, and all the things they used to do as well. Also, the children used to always come in the kitchen, talk to us and and take an interest in what we were doing. If I ever felt down, they'd always say something to lift me back up again!

Do you have kids yourself?

Yes, but my daughter was 14 at the time I joined, and so I had to get used to dealing with younger children again.

Do you have any plans now?

No, not really, as the circumstances for my retirement mean that I will have to undergo surgery, which also means that it will be quite a long time before I can relax.



This season's panto: Snow White

Brixworth Drama Group have always produced a pantomime for their Christmas presentation, and have done for a number of years. The group has used the traditional format, often adapting old screenplays for their nefarious ends. The next production, scheduled for early 2013, will be Snow White – something they have presented twice before but the script is a different one and in any case, few are likely to recall details of the 1998 production.

Fortunately, even fewer are likely to recall the original story, which like many old folk tales published by the Brothers Grimm, was so gruesome as to be unsuitable for anyone under 18. However this version is completely friendly and features such un-horrible elements as a talking mirror with a dodgy Irish accent, a cook called Sennapod, and, oh yes, a few "Dwarves".

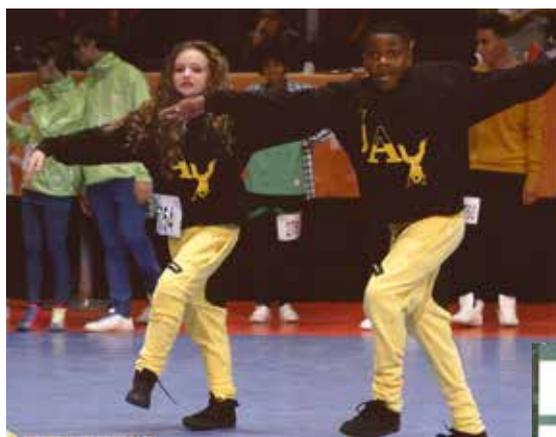
The production will be presented on Saturday 26 January 2013 at 2pm and 7.30pm, Friday 1 February 2013 at 7.30 pm, and Saturday 2 February at 2pm and 7.30 pm. Regulars please note the earlier matinee starts, our exhausted thespians are getting an extra half hour's rest between performances.

Tickets are available from Libby Bowers on 880672 and Lovells Hardware on 880580. The usual catering will be provided. - Robin Pool

The George Golf Society

The George Golf Society had its weekend playing golf for The George Shield on Saturday 18 August.

The society is now in its 8th year and play at various times throughout the year. New members of any standard are always welcome, ask behind the bar for further information.- Gary and Wendy



Local success at HipHop World Championships

Brixworth teenager Bethany Alexander and her dance partner Kofi Mensah had reason to celebrate recently. Having come second place in the UK street dance championships at the O2 in London earlier in the year, they represented the UK at the 20 IDO World Hip-Hop Championships 2012 in Bochum, Germany in October and came 7th out of 82 entrants. Well done!



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Brixworth & District U3A

Brixworth U3A continues to be very popular – we now have over 170 members and over 80 people attend the meetings in Brixworth Village Hall every month. These feature a guest speaker and the chance to have a cup of tea and a chat with friends. Many of the members choose to attend one of our 21 interest groups. A highlight of the summer and autumn have been the activities which have taken some of these groups outside the village.

The Gardening Group members have been out and about throughout the county. There have been visits to gardens in Finedon, West Haddon and Maidwell. A member commented that you often drive straight through these villages without realising the beauty that lies beyond garden gates. The garden of a U3A member at Maidwell was beautifully manicured and full of gorgeous flowers. With tea and homemade cakes on offer, what more could you ask for on a sunny afternoon? As winter draws in, meetings have returned to the Heritage Centre with a programme of interesting talks and presentations.

The Theatre Group activities usually centre around productions at the Royal and Derrigate but there is one visit outside the county each year to look forward to. For the third consecutive season, the 18-strong group enjoyed a visit to Tolethorpe Open Air Theatre near Stamford. The group was lucky to have a pleasant sunny day including a picnic in the grounds before watching a great performance of "Twelfth Night".

Three years ago, the Village Hall was unavailable for the August monthly meeting and a member suggested holding it at The Sailing Club on Pitsford Water. Members enjoyed this greatly, making the visit now a yearly fixture. The ladies there put on a wonderful lunch and the bar is open for those requiring liquid refreshment! After lunch, there is the opportunity to go sailing. The weather was not good this year

but the showers held off long enough for two boats to take to the water. For those remaining indoors there was a quiz to work on and as if we had

not already eaten enough, afternoon tea was served. Soon it was time for the long journey back to Brixworth but I think all agreed that it had been a great day among friends!

The Holiday Group has again been on the move, visiting Falmouth in Cornwall at the end of September. There was plenty to see with visits to St Ives, Truro and Newquay. There was an interesting trip to the Eden Project (pictured) and three members surprised everyone by bravely taking the longest zip wire in England right over the park. Falmouth itself has an interesting maritime history and this could be traced at the National Maritime Museum. It was an enjoyable holiday but above all it was good to be sharing it with friends.

As 2012 draws to a close we can look forward to many more interesting events in the New Year. – *Christine Pratt*



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What's on?

10 Nov - 3 Feb	If we could be heroes	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
26 Nov	The Vagina Monologues	Derngate
27 Nov	Handel by Candlelight	Derngate
28/11-6/1	A Christmas Carol	Royal
28 Nov	Stewart Francis	Derngate
29 Nov	A Christmas Carol	Brix Library
29 Nov	Alan Davies	Derngate
30 Nov	Christmas Big Sing	Derngate
1 Dec, 2-4pm	Centre Pre-School Christmas Fair	Brixworth Centre
1 Dec	Aladdin	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
1 Dec	The Beat	Roadmender
1 Dec	That'll be the Day	Derngate
2 Dec	Canterbury	Roadmender
4-9 Dec	The Night before Christmas	Corby Cube
6 Dec	The Rifles	Roadmender
6 Dec	Christmas Floral Magic	Lampport Hall
6-7 Dec	Wreath Making	Kelmarsh Hall
7/12-6/1	Cinderella	Derngate
8 Dec	Band of Skulls	Roadmender
8 Dec	Portrait session (Photographic Soc)	B'worth Community Centre
8 Dec 11-4pm	Humbug! - It's a Christmas Fayre	Abington Park Museum
10-11 Dec	Christmas Table Decorations	Kelmarsh Hall
11 Dec	WI Christmas Party	Village Hall
1/12-13/1	Humbug!	Underground
12 Dec	Bonhams Valuations	Kelmarsh Hall
12 Dec, 7-10pm	Christmas Murder Mystery	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
12-16 Dec	Grisly Tales from Tumblewater	Corby Cube
13 Dec	History Soc Social	Brix Village Hall
13 Dec	Midwinter Tales	9 Guildhall Rd
14 Dec	A Celebration of Dickens	Rockingham Castle

15 Dec	Draughton Christmas Fayre	Loder Hall, Maidwell
15 Dec	Subculture	Roadmender
15 Dec-27 Jan	The Seduction of Stitchery	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
15 Dec-27 Jan	Cold Conversation - Art in your Museum	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
15-16 Dec	Afternoon Tea in the Picture Gallery	Althorp House
16 Dec, 4pm	Open Air Nativity & Carol Service	Outside Brixworth Library
20-21 Dec	Aladdin	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
21 Dec	Laughing Boy	Corby Cube
27-30 Dec	Aladdin	Corby Cube
31 Dec	Random Concept & Jungle Concept	Roadmender
10 Jan	Motown's Greatest	Derngate
11 Jan	Beyond the Barricade	Derngate
12 Jan	The Burlesque Show	Royal
12 Jan	Grimethorpe Colliery Band	Derngate
17-18 Jan	Anton & Erin go to Hollywood	Derngate
19-Jan	One Night in Vienna	Derngate
21-26 Jan	Moscow City Ballet	Derngate
21-26 Jan	Iolanthe	Royal
25-Jan	Winter Warmer - Tales & a hot toddy	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
26 Jan 2&7.30pm	Cinderella	Brixworth Village Hall

27 Jan	Janina Fialkowska plays Chopin	Derngate
31 Jan	Peter Firman	Corby Cube
1 Feb 7.30pm	Cinderella	Brixworth Village Hall
2 Feb 2&7.30pm	Cinderella	Brixworth Village Hall
5 Feb	Boogie Nights	Derngate
6 Feb	The Meat Loaf Story	Derngate
7 Feb	The Billy Fury Years	Derngate
12 Feb	Rumours of Fleetwood Mac	Derngate
13 Feb	Valentines Singles Night	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
13-14Feb	The Gruffalo's Child	Derngate
16 Feb	Micky Flanagan	Derngate
16 Feb	Battle of the Bands	Roadmender
19-23 Feb	Joseph and the Amazing Dreamcoat	Derngate
21 Feb	Romeo & Juliet	Corby Cube
22 Feb	Justin Moorhouse	Corby Cube
23-24/2	Snowdrop Weekend	Kelmarsh Hall
26 Feb	Jimmy Carr	Derngate
6 Mar	Bootleg Beatles	Derngate
7 Mar	Harry Hill	Derngate
15 Mar	Al Murray	Derngate
18-23Mar	The Mousetrap	Derngate
11 Apr, 7.30 pm	Gardeners Question Time	Brixworth Village Hall
15-20/4	Derren Brown	Derngate

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Cricket: First XI finishes a credible sixth

Brixworth Cricket Club enjoyed a good season, on balance. The 1st XI finished in sixth position in the Northants Premier League - a very creditable performance considering that two key players were missing throughout the season, and their return next year, will be like welcoming two new players to the club! In fact we had more games rained off (six) than any other club in the league, and the most in our history. Those games could and should have brought us another 100 points, which would have put us in third place. We also reached the final of the County Twenty20 cup, narrowly losing out to Oundle in unfortunate circumstances - beaten once again by the rain!

The second XI just missed out on promotion back to Division 4 - with a full strength side, the team was a match for anyone in the league. However, consistent availability was an issue, as in previous

seasons, and something we need to address next year, if we want to achieve our stated ambition of successive promotions over the next 2 seasons.

The thirds achieved promotion for the second year running and will now play in Division 12. This was a great achievement for a team which combines wisdom and experience with youth and enthusiasm - a potent blend against most teams it faced! One of the most pleasing aspects of third team cricket each year is the way that our most promising junior players get introduced to senior, league cricket and then start to make game changing contributions. This season was no exception.

Next season we want to develop this further - there is talk of a 4th XI or a Sunday friendly team - both of which will give more (young) players the chance to play cricket at a higher level. We ran 3 competitive junior

teams last summer and will do the same next season - one of the highlights being our u13s (who finished 3rd in their league) beating a very strong ONs team in convincing fashion. Friday nights became family nights, when the rain relented, and it was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic young cricketers being introduced to the game.

We enjoyed another successful day against Lashings World XI - despite everything the weather threw at us - we managed to get a game in, and another famous victory, means that the current tally stands at 2-1 in our favour. The annual cricket club ball, which took place the day after the Lashings game, was well attended, as always, with superb music, once again from Ginger Pig. The season ended with our Annual Golf day and Presentation Dinner at Brampton Heath on 12 October.

Indoor nets will begin in January - captains and coaches will be in touch with specific details. New players, scorers and umpires are always welcome - at senior and junior level and please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or any club official (via the website) if you are interested in playing or helping out at the club in any capacity. - Chris Timm (882591; christimm_24@hotmail.com)

All Saints FC going strong



With the new season well under way both teams have enjoyed a decent start. The first team, managed for a second season by Simon Howard, have won three, drawn one and lost one league game, leaving them fourth in the Premier Division. In the NFA Junior Cup they caused an upset by defeating ON (Old Northamptonians) Chenecks, who play in the United Counties League,

and have progressed to the quarter final of their divisional cup. The reserves with new manager Elliot Phillips are unbeaten in the league with four wins and a draw. This has put them second in the Reserve Premier Division and allowed them to reach their divisional cup quarter final.

We have been fortunate enough with sponsorship from NEM Plant Limited and Raybell & Sons Skip Hire to be able to provide new kits for both of our teams. Our thanks also go to all the businesses that have been generous enough to sponsor us via our website. Please visit it at www.brixworthfc.co.uk and if any company would like to discuss sponsorship, then please contact Nigel or Ian.

The club is a non profit-making organization which relies on player contributions, sponsorship, parish council grants and fundraising events. This enables us to provide adult football for two Saturday sides and a veteran's team, which plays on Sunday mornings. As always we are looking to strengthen all of our teams and anyone interested, can join us at training from 7pm at St. David's Playing Field on Wednesdays.

On Boxing Day the club will be holding its annual charity day from 10.30am. There will be a football match between the under and over 35s, followed by fundraising events in the clubhouse. Last year we raised £322, with half of the money being donated to Gosset Ward at Northampton General Hospital and the rest going into club funds. - Ian Bandey (07847 395660 or i-bandey_28@tiscali.co.uk)

Mixed Hockey Club moves to new grounds

After the long Olympic summer September saw the beginning of the NMHA winter season and with it brought a few changes for Brixworth MHC.

The first was the kind offer from Wellingborough Hockey Club to partake in their training. As this was to be administered by Kali, a veteran of the 1996 GB men's Olympic hockey team, this was not to be missed. The training is Wednesdays 7pm - 9pm for ladies, 8pm - 10pm for men at Wellingborough School, Irthlingborough Road, Wellingborough NN8 2BX. Training is free to Wellingborough Hockey Club members, or £5 per session plus £10 annual social membership. There is also a junior (6-13 year old) training session from 6pm - 7pm.

The second change was a home pitch move from Champion School in Bugbrooke to Wrenn School, Wellingborough. This has the double advantage of being significantly cheaper and also has a higher standard of facilities, including an area in which to provide post-match drinks and food.

Sadly the training and pitch change haven't quite compensated for the loss of some key players over the summer, some moving on to play men's hockey and some retiring, and we are currently still looking for our first points of the season. If you, or anyone you know, were inspired by the Olympics and would like to give hockey a go please email BrixworthMHC@gmail.com or find us on Facebook, Twitter or the web. - Jon Davies

