

Two arrested over burglaries

Hopes rise that spree of break-ins in village has come to an end

Two men have been arrested in Brixworth in connection with a series of burglaries that has swept Brixworth in recent months. The arrests came on 7 February after a crime spree that put villagers – particularly those living in the roads around Froxhill Crescent – in fear of leaving their houses.

Days before the arrests police told the Bulletin that they were investigating new leads. Detective Constable Hayley Reed, investigating the case, told us: “[We are] currently working with the intelligence department in relation to some more up to date information. It will hopefully lead to the identification of suspect/s and I will try to link them to the scenes that have had forensic evidence recovered, to try and bolster the case further.”

Villagers had been increasingly worried after a series of ten burglaries in Brixworth in October restarted around Christmas, with a further eight houses burgled between late December and early February. There are suspicions that further burglaries in Spratton, Moulton and Holcot could also be linked.

All these break-ins share a similar location, method of entry, and the type of property that is stolen.

The burglaries in Brixworth all centre on the area around Froxhill Crescent and the cul de sacs leading off it. “Potentially the neighbouring fields are being used to access the properties and cut through within the estate,” Detective Sergeant Rob Alderson said at a briefing in Brixworth Community Centre. “In the majority of cases



The burglaries have centred on the roads around Froxhill Crescent. Affected roads are marked red.

the burglar(s) come in via the rear doors or windows of the houses.”

DS Alderson added that the thieves have mostly been helping themselves to jewellery, small electrical items and cash. The majority of break-ins have been happening in the late afternoon into the evening, under the cover of darkness.

The crime wave has left people in the area living in fear. “I have lived here for 15 years and it has always been a safe place to live until the
(continued p. 2)

Help the Bulletin help Brixworth

When, this time last year, we launched the first call for our readers to vote for a deserving cause they felt the *Brixworth Bulletin* should support, I thought this might well be a one-off. We had been fortunate enough to enjoy strong support by local businesses, who were kind enough to advertise in the Bulletin, and had struck a good deal with our printers. This allowed us to build up a modest surplus, which we were then able to return to the community and a deserving cause chosen by our readers.

But in these straitened times, could we do it again?

The answer, it turns out, is yes.

No less than four deserving causes in and around Brixworth have been nominated. They are very different, but each is worthy of some financial help and support. Do we help with the upkeep and preservation of All Saints’ Church, one of the oldest churches in the UK and Brixworth’s most recognizable landmark? Do we fund work at the Country Park to help the Rangers teach school kids about wildlife? How about supporting a family fun day in the summer? Or helping Saxon Spires surgery buy a mobile ultrasound unit?

I most definitely don’t want to be the person making that difficult decision, so it’s over to you. You’ll find voting slips on page 13 and at the Community Centre; or you can vote online at www.brixworthbulletin.com.

Deadline is 31 March.



Heidi Flavell-White

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

For the latest news, visit www.brixworthbulletin.com, join us on Facebook or follow @BrixBulletin on Twitter.

Winter's pleasure and pain



No one escapes the vagaries of the weather. Heavy snow made resulted in fantastic snowmen, such as this six-foot specimen built by two-year old Alex Farrow and his dad. Meanwhile equally heavy rain caused a respectable landslide opposite the Coach & Horses.

last 6-12 months," Mariza Horne commented on Brixworth Parish Council's Facebook page. "I'm worried when I leave the house what I may come back and find."

As well as remaining vigilant, villagers may want to consider strengthening the ranks of the Brixworth Neighbourhood Watch, which is coordinated by John Haywood (john.haywood@gmail.com or 880635). Quite a few already joined at a meeting in February.

On top of the burglaries, two cars were stolen from the Brackenborough area (both left unattended in the drive way with the engine running during frosty weather), and there were five cases of theft from cars plus another break-in.

By comparison, in the same period the previous year, five houses were burgled and three cars stolen. - cfw



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Keep your property safe

Some simple measures to deter burglars

With the recent series of burglaries in Brixworth and the surrounding villages, the police have issued some advice on simple measures you can take to make your house safer and less likely to be broken into.

Many burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves who simply enter homes through open windows or unlocked doors.

Implementing home security measures is the best way of reducing the chance of being burgled and, for a relatively low cost, you can make it difficult for a burglar.

Look at your home through a burglar's eyes, and see where opportunities exist for your home to become a target.

Doors

Keeping your doors locked, even when you are at home, is vital for good home security. Keep keys out of sight and reach from cat flaps, letterboxes, and downstairs doors and windows

- Don't be tempted to keep a spare key hidden outside: this is an open invitation.
- Make sure doors and door frames are in a good condition. Wooden doors should be solid and at least 44mm thick.
- Wooden front doors should be fitted with 5-lever mortice deadlocks, and automatic deadlocking rim latches (both to BS3621). Wooden back doors should be fitted with a 5-lever mortice locks (BS3621) and key operated mortice bolts top and bottom (BS3621).
- When replacing doors invest in door-sets certified to British Standard PAS24-1: 1999.

Windows

● An open window may let in more than a cool breeze. If you open a window for air, make sure you close it when you go out. To limit the windows' opening, consider fitting restrictors to downstairs windows.

● Ensure all ground floor windows, and any that are easily accessible from a flat roof, are fitted with window locks.

● When replacing windows invest in ones that are certified to British Standard BS7950.

Lighting

The right lighting can be a real deterrent to a burglar. Lighting allows a property to look occupied, and removes the offender's cover of darkness. Do not light an offender's path, only illuminate areas which are overlooked, and where an offender is likely to be seen.

- A constant level of lighting provided by a dusk-to-dawn sensor light is ideal at the front of the house. By lighting the front doorway it removes the cover of darkness, and allows callers to be identified at night.
- At the rear or to the side of your property, passive infrared (PIR) motion sensor light will draw your or your neighbours' attention to any activity.
- Homes that do not look occupied after dark are targets for burglars, especially in the winter months. Use energy saving lights with timers to make your home look occupied.

Alarms

Burglar alarm systems are effective deterrents, and highly recommended to prevent crime. Offenders avoid anything that may draw attention to them.

If you already have an alarm system, ensure that it is set when you leave the property and when you go to bed.

- If you are considering investing in an alarm system, we recommend that you obtain 3 quotes from at least 3 security companies who are subject to independent inspection by a recognised body, either NSI (The National Security Inspectorate) or SSAIB (Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board).
- There are two types of alarm system:

1) An audible only system, which will sound a bell or siren to attract attention and help deter a potential burglar. This system should comply with the current recognised British or European standards.

2) A monitored system will also alert the police directly via a central monitoring station.

Both systems can be programmed to dial direct to a key holder.

- Having a pet does not prevent you from having an alarm system.
- When investing in an alarm system, ensure that you have bell boxes positioned at both the front and rear of your property.
- The police will attend when they receive notification that a police approved monitored system has been activated. In addition they will attend a 'bells only' audible alarm if additional information is received indicating that an offence is in progress.
- An alarm system is not a replacement for the usual security measures and is not an alternative to good doors, windows and locks. Alarm systems help make your property less inviting to a thief, complementing the other security features.

Your valuables

Essentially it is the items inside your home that you are trying to protect from theft.

- Avoid advertising your valuables to thieves. Items that are attractive to thieves such as televisions, laptops, computer consoles, should be positioned so they are not visible from the outside.
- Mark your property. There are several ways of property marking. Forensic marking is a liquid based solution that has a unique chemical 'code'. Forensic marking providers SelectaDNA, Smartwater and Red Web are all police approved and accredited by Secured by Design.
- Ultra-violet marking using a UV permanent pen can be effective. Mark property with your house number followed by your postcode. It is likely this type of marking will fade after 12-18months; when faded re-mark the property in the same manner. You can register your property for free at www.immobilise.com



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Rubbish? Not likely!

Brixworth wins 'Best of Northants' five times in a row

When it comes to recycling waste, it seems no one does it better than the household waste recycling centre (HWRC) at Brixworth.

'The tip' – hardly a flattering name! – just outside the village has consistently achieved the highest recycling rate in Northamptonshire, hitting 82% in the third quarter of 2012 and 80.25% in the fourth. The latest record made it the fifth quarter in succession that our centre beat the other nine in the region to the coveted badge.

In case you were curious: The recycling percentage is calculated by dividing the number of tonnes of waste that has been diverted from landfill (composting, recycling, reuse and recovery) by the total number of tonnes of waste brought into the recycling centre.

Brixworth's centre takes a huge range of recyclable waste products (see box), including quite a few that cannot be recycled through the blue and red boxes at the kerbside.

There are many factors that have helped make Brixworth the recycling kings. The drive



Photo left to right Stephen Phillips, Waste Operations and Capital Manager, NCC; Stephen Pointer; Elizabeth Wiig; David Owens, EMS operative; Heather Allen, EMS operative; Ben Smith, NCC Cabinet Member for the Environment; Sandra Moxon and Andy Peasnell, EMS operative

and leadership of individual managers play a big role, but so also do the layout of the yard, the types of waste that are recycled, incentive schemes and publicity. "A lot of it is down to the team leader, who has done an exceptional job at ensuring as much waste as possible is sorted into the correct

containers," explains Susan Payne, Waste Operations Team Leader with Northampton County Council. Indeed, Alan Smith, the team leader behind Brixworth's initial success, was moved to Corby in the autumn to spread best practise. His former trainee and successor at Brixworth, Heather Allen, carried on where he left off – Brixworth achieved its most recent "best in the county" award under her leadership.

It's worth noting that the recycling centres operate separately from the red and blue boxes collected at the kerbside – so only because something is recycled at the centre does not mean you can put it in the box!

However, there is a direct link between the recycling centre and the ACE re-use shop in the village. While these re-use shops are run as separate entities, a significant share of their stock comes from the recycling centres; so don't be surprised if the item you disposed of at the centre at the weekend turns up at the ACE shop looking for a new loving home a few days later! - cfw

What to recycle at Brixworth HWRC

- Cardboard and paper
- Soil
- Plasterboard
- Wood & timber
- Hardcore & rubble
- Mixed textiles & clothes
- Car batteries
- Used engine oil
- Food tins and drink cans
- Tin foil
- Scrap metal
- Aerosols
- Garden waste
- Cooking oil
- Tetra-pak cartons
- Plastic bottles
- Glass
- TVs and monitors
- Small appliances
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- Large appliances
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Brixworth's new vicar confirmed

Reverend Chloe Willson-Thomas starts new role on 21st April

The long interregnum while Brixworth awaited the appointment of a new vicar is coming to an end: the new vicar, Reverend Chloe Willson-Thomas, is due to start up her new role on 21st April.

Rev. Chloe was not always a vicar – in fact, she'd built a life and career for herself as a classical singer. She says: "I trained at the Royal Northern College of Music. That's where I met my husband. I trained in singing for quite a number of years and I sang as well – concerts, recitals, opera and the like. I did recital tours with my husband all over the UK, and sang with the Ambrosian Opera Chorus. I also taught singing privately, and at the Northampton Music Service, and at Northampton High School for Girls."

Three children, two girls and a boy, followed in due course.

Later on in life, Rev. Chloe says she felt a calling to join the church and to ordination. Having attended theological college for two years, she was assigned to serve as a curate in south Leicester – near where she grew up. She'd spent three and a half years as a curate (a trainee vicar) in St Mary's Church, Knighton, when she saw the advert for the role of Priest-in-Charge of Brixworth and Holcot.

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a vicar," she says. "I've met the church wardens, of course, and the Archdeacon and both Bishops, who are all very nice, but I've not had an opportunity yet to meet the rest of the village. I had my interview on 9 November and got offered the post on the same day."

Rev. Chloe will be installed as Priest-in-Charge of Brixworth and Holcot on 20 April in a service held at Brixworth church by the Bishop of Peterborough, and she starts the role properly the day after.

"I'm looking forward to this. I really do feel that God has called me and given me an opportunity to achieve something – to make a difference."

As for specific plans, Rev. Chloe is keen to feel her way into the village and the congregation before drawing up anything firm. "I would like to make the church the heart of the village as much as I can – to build on existing events such as the summer fete. I was surprised that there were never any concerts in the church. You need to get people doing things and coming to the church as much as possible."

"The church of All Saints, Brixworth is a wonderful building, sat high up on the hill there, and an ancient site of worship, which makes it very special. It fills me with excitement to be the custodian of such an important and ancient Christian site. I feel as if I want to bring the whole world to it! Holcot Church, too, is a beautiful and fascinating building with its own unique history. I would like to make the services in both churches a little more family-friendly – I have not yet decided exactly how, but one possibility would be to have a more informal family service once a month. I think it's good to get a broad spread of age groups involved."

Rev. Chloe and her family are due to move into the Vicarage in Brixworth at the beginning of April, giving them a little bit of time to settle into the village before starting her new role. "I'll go round the village, and make myself known to people as much as I can," she says.

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She's hoping to work with some of the village organizations, especially the schools.

Covering both Holcot and Brixworth will make for busy Sundays as Rev. Chloe will be holding services in both villages.

Apart from her obvious visible interaction with her congregations during Sunday services, Rev. Chloe's days will be taken up by visiting people in the Parish, taking the sacraments to people who are ill, taking weekday services, meetings between clergy, funerals, weddings, preparing for the Sunday Services etc. "People think the vicar just works on a Sunday – they could not be more wrong!" she says.

The process of appointing a new vicar has become much more transparent in recent years. In years gone by, the Bishop would simply make his appointment and that was that. Today, the process begins by drawing up a profile of the parish and characterizing its needs, after which the post is advertised and candidates are invited for interview – much like in the ordinary workspace.

Rev. Chloe may have been in a strong position because the church she served as a curate was in a similar position to Brixworth, in that the previous vicar had been there for many years, and when he left, Rev. Chloe was left in charge during their interregnum. "I have seen what changes the new vicar introduced here in Knighton, and how he went about making these changes," she says. "This gives me a little bit of insight into how to manage such change, what to do and what not to do. I do have a lot of ideas on how to get families to come in and how to relate to people; I think I've learned a lot from being in that situation."

- cfw

Pensioners Christmas Dinner

On 19th December more than sixty pensioners gathered in the Library and Community Centre upper hall to enjoy their annual Christmas Meal. This was organised by Brixworth Christian Fellowship and created and staffed by volunteers from The Olive Branch Coffee Shop.

The three-course meal was enjoyed by all, who thoroughly entered into the Christmas spirit. They were entertained by children from Brixworth School before the meal started, sang carols and were entertained by a very jolly Father Christmas and his little helper - alias PCSO Jo Hillary. Last but not least they each received a small Christmas present.



Many thanks go to all those who donated in whatever way to this event – they know who they are and it is much appreciated.

The Olive Branch holds a Pensioners Lunch consisting of two courses plus tea or coffee every Wednesday from 12 noon to 1.30.

Due to the popularity of this event, it is necessary to book a seat. For further information come to the Olive Branch during opening hours and speak to one of the staff who will help you, or take a note of contact details, and someone will contact you. You could also telephone on 889030.



Meet our new Police and Crime Commissioner

Were you one of the few who voted for a new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) last November? Commentators put down the low turnout (only 20% compared to 65% for the general election) to a lack of understanding among voters about this new role.

Adam Simmonds, the new Northamptonshire PCC, explains that his role is about visibility and transparency. "The problem was that people didn't know who the Police Authority was, so the government suggested the PCC as a solution when people didn't know they had a problem. People now have a champion working on their behalf."

At 35, our PCC is the youngest in the country. Responsible for setting local policing strategy, he brims with energy and new ideas.

Currently working out of a portacabin at the police headquarters at Wootton Hall, Simmonds is very familiar with local issues. He spent the past 12 years at Northamptonshire County Council, where he worked his way up to Acting Chief Executive.

He plans to concentrate on the issues that affect people and society the most: anti-social behaviour, drugs and violent crime, which he aims to cut by 40%. These problems are interlinked and easily measured.

While he has no operational responsibility for policing or other agencies, Simmonds wants the police, social services and the probation service to work better together to prevent crime.

Surprisingly, Northamptonshire has as big a drugs problem as London, Manchester and Merseyside, because our central location makes this an ideal distribution hub. At the moment the five police forces in the East Midlands work together to chase drug pushers. Simmonds wants to set up a local team to fill in the gaps.

He also wants to make policing more visible. He is going to maintain police numbers at the same levels, increase the power of PCSOs and recruit 200 reservists. The reservists will not be volunteers like the Specials but will work on a contract and receive full training and equipment. No other region has such a force at present, although the Metropolitan Police Service is considering it.

Simmonds also wants to improve the way victims of crime are treated as he does not believe they are the central focus of the justice system at present.

He admits it is not likely that Brixworth will receive much of his attention, as his priority is to get the problems in Northampton "under control". However, he believes his reservist force will enable police to respond much more quickly in future in rural areas such as our own.

– Jennifer Fitzgerald



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Decision time for carpark expansion at the shops

Plans to expand the car parking spaces at the shops have hit delays after a second proposal received planning permission.

This means there are now two different proposals to create more parking spaces, and the district and parish councils along with residents and developers need to negotiate to decide how to proceed.

The first proposal received permission at the same time as the plans for Barratt's new 150-house estate east of Northampton Road.



Proposal 1 – additional parking for 11 vehicles, accessed through the existing carpark



Proposal 2 – additional parking for 11 vehicles, accessed through a separate entrance, but three fewer spaces in the parking bays along Spratton Road

It seeks to demolish the two houses nearest to the shops, next to Troops, and turn that space into an extra eleven car parking bays which would be accessed through the existing car park.

However, the Parish Council is worried that cars will find it difficult to turn and exit the carpark, especially if they have entered the extension but not found any spaces.

The alternative would create a separate road access for the new carpark, resulting in two separate car parks. This would make it easier for cars to negotiate the carpark but would force the existing pedestrian crossing to be moved nearer the shops and away from the most direct route to the school. Overall there would be eight more parking bays – eleven more in the new area but three fewer in the lay-by.

“The ideal option really would be a single car park with the way in where is currently is and the way out at the top, as proposed in the second scheme,” says Daventry District Council’s leader Chris Millar, who lives in Brixworth. “Whether this is possible is down to negotiations between Barratt’s – the developers – and the local shopkeepers. But I do hope that common sense will prevail.” - cfw



Village Calendar raises £1,000

The 2013 Brixworth Calendar, produced by members of the Brixworth Photographic Society, turned out to be a popular item.

As a result, the Photographic Society was able to present the parish nurses with a cheque for £1,000, which will help fund their work in the village. Present to witness the cheque being presented were (from back left to right) Bob Chattaway; Liz Wiig; Rev Phil Walter; Elaine Musgrove, parish nurse; Ian Topham, Brixworth Photographic Society; and Margaret Lawes, parish nurse.

The calendar was sponsored by the Brixworth Parish Council and was sold at Blasons Garage, Troop’s Fruit and Veg Shop, the Community Centre Information point, the Olive Branch and the library. - Ian Topham

The NHS is changing – but how?

Do you know what the changes coming to the NHS this April are and how they may affect your care?

The Saxon Spires Patients Participation Group has arranged two meetings in Guilsborough and Brixworth, where Dr Simon Twigg will explain what is changing and how it might affect you. He’ll speak on Tuesday 12 May at Guilsborough Surgery and on Wednesday 20 March at Brixworth Surgery, both starting at 7.30pm.

To find out more about SSPPG, contact Barbara Hogg on 880552 or barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk - Barbara Hogg

Ladies Pamper Evening

Friends of Brixworth Church will be holding a ladies pamper evening featuring cookery, make up, beauty, hair and much more. The event takes place on Friday 1 March at the Community Centre in Spratton Road, starting at 7.30 pm. There will be lots of exciting stalls including beauty treatments, gifts, make-up and jewellery.

Tickets cost £5 each and include a drink. They are available from Bev King 01604 880951 or Lovells Hardware, Spratton Road, Brixworth. For more information, check the Friends website: www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk

All proceeds from this event will go into Friends funds for the continuing preservation and improvement of our beautiful village church. - Jane Neill

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Another History of Brixworth

The Brixworth History Society has published a new book about the village which is now available.

'Another History of Brixworth' tells more of the story of Brixworth from photographs and the memories of those who have lived here. Spanning the late nineteenth century to the beginning of the twenty-first, it looks at the schools, school sports and village celebrations; the pubs and inns; clubs, groups and some village industry and businesses.

Find out how the expansion of the village in the late nineteenth century forced the school to move from what is now the Heritage Centre to the 'new' school site in Church Street while PE classes had to be held in Mallard's paddock – there are a few amusing memories about this. Learn about the traditions associated with the May Queen celebrations, and remember how the village celebrated royal occasions, such as the coronation in 1953.

During the research we found out that Brixworth had at least ten pubs during the 1840s, despite having a population of only about 1200!

A lot of villagers helped with information gathering, for which we are extremely grateful; in addition, we were very pleased to be given many more photographs (which we copy and return) for the archives.

Below are some excerpts of the book. The full book costs £10 and is available from Opal Picture Framers, Brixworth library, Blason's Garage, Hamson's Garage or the History Society members listed at the end of this article.

Blason's

John Blason's grandfather, Alfred Henry Blason, always known as Harry, set up as a cycle agent around 1918; by about 1920 he had become a motor engineer as well, and it is this business that is still going today. The first premises, since demolished, were in Newlands, opposite The George. They moved to Northampton Road, next to Brixworth Stores and then in the late 1950s or early 60s, moved to the present site.

The main part of the early business was selling, maintaining and hiring cycles. As motor transport became more important, the garage kept pace with developments. When they moved to the premises on the main road the petrol pumps were hand operated.



This picture shows Mr. Blason standing on the left; he is outside his premises on Northampton Road, sometime in the 1920s.

Without an inspection pit, car repairs were carried out by using trolley jacks to jack up the cars and working underneath to expedite the repairs.

The present premises contain lifts that allow vehicles to be brought up to a comfortable working height.

Mr. Blason's son, Henry, joined him after the war and John, the third generation, joined the business after he had left school, as did his son Sam on his leaving school, making him the fourth generation; thereby ensuring that Blason's Garage will be here for many years to come.



December 2011. The old petrol tanks are removed from the forecourt of the former premises in Northampton Road.

The garage was requisitioned during the war and afterwards the fire station was actually in the garage complete with a siren on the roof which was deafening to anyone nearby, but at least the retained firemen could hear from wherever they were in the village!

It was to the garage that villagers would go to have their radio accumulators recharged in the days before mains electricity. These were acid filled batteries that had to be recharged weekly for 1/-.

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Hamson's (formerly Lathbury's)



Bill Lathbury and his dog in about 1928.

All photos courtesy of the Hamson family.

This garage was previously known as Lathbury's. William Lathbury came from Leicester and was the chauffeur to Lady Frederick of Hanging Houghton. Later on he became the first taxi proprietor for Brixworth and owned a cycle repair shop in the village. By 1920 he had become a motor engineer and in 1927 decided to rent land from George Hamson, farmer and coal merchant, of Pitt Farm for £1 per year on a fifty year lease.

John Leatherland, builder, was employed to build a garage on the corner of Scaldwell Lane for £141 2s 6d.

The bill shows that a bag of cement cost 8/6d and three were used to build the garage.

His two sons, Eric and Cyril, succeeded him and WH Lathbury and Sons became a successful village motor and cycle repair shop.

George Hamson, the landowner, passed his business to his son Eustace, who in turn passed it to his son George in 1961. This George extended the lease and in 1984 his son, David bought the garage building from the then 71-year old Eric and 69-year old Cyril.

David continued to build on the business; his father's farming and coal merchant business was closed in 1987. The 1920s building became too small and a new garage was built. It was completed in 1997, 70 years after the original building, and is the garage you can see today.



Cyril and Eric Lathbury in 1984



The new garage being built



Hamson's garage flying the flag to celebrate the Royal Wedding in April 2011

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A view looking north down The Turnpike at the beginning of the twentieth century. The house to the north of the lamp post is thought to be The Nelson Inn.

“The Nelson has a kitchen or house-place, and then a passage leads to a parlour. The house-place is where the guests assemble. The parlour is used for plaintiff’s private friends, and people do not go there unless specially invited....”

According to the census, Mr. Bates’ address is given as The Nelson; and he is a farmer.

In the enumerator’s route in 1841 The Nelson appeared to be opposite The George on the Turnpike Road:-

“starting from The Nelson Inn proceed down the Turnpike about 40 yards, here turn short to your left hand having the George Inn on your right proceed down Newland Street....”

The farm house on the corner of Northampton/Holcot Road, could have been the inn, especially as Samuel Bates was a farmer.

The Admiral Nelson

The Admiral Nelson, or simply The Nelson, was an inn that appears to have functioned for a few years in the early nineteenth century. There is a record in the Northampton Mercury of auctions being held here in May and June 1812 and in December 1822 the landlord, Samuel Bates, was advertising his ‘most comfortable accommodation.’

We have little other information about it, apart from the 1841 census details and a newspaper article in The Northampton Mercury of July 1836 about an assault on Samuel Bates. The description of the pub in the newspaper gives us some idea of what it was like:

The History Society is planning to commemorate the First World War in some way in 2014. If anyone has any family memories, stories or pictures (which will be returned) we would be pleased to receive them before then so we are able to plan our activities.

Details to Pauline Kirton 880033, Heather Parr 07817 006364, Deni Willis 880612, or any committee member.

The History Society has a display from the archives in the Brixworth Library during February. It covers Brixworth in the 1950’s and Coronation Day June 1953.



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Princess Anne unveils memorial

Princess Anne has unveiled a memorial to Northamptonshire's firefighters at Brixworth Country Park.

The nine-foot tall memorial is made from black granite and stands on the edge of the reservoir. It commemorates Northamptonshire's firefighters and was commissioned by the fire service. The Right Reverend John Holbrooke, Bishop of Brixworth, dedicated the memorial.

The Princess Royal was greeted by children from Brixworth and Walsgrave primary schools, and a child from each presented her with a posy

Northamptonshire's chief fire officer, Martyn Emberson, said: "It means a lot to us [that Princess Anne could unveil the memorial] because she is the patron of the Firefighters' Memorial Trust, so for her to come and personally unveil it means a lot, both to us as a service and I hope to the community of Northamptonshire."

Andre Gonzalez de Savage, the member of Northampton County Council who had suggested erecting a memorial to local firefighters, welcomed the memorial's "spectacular" location on the edge of the reservoir. He said: "The rural surroundings of Brixworth Country Park are a very appropriate home for this memorial, giving all people affected by fire a quiet and naturally impressive place to reflect and remember."



Big school with a small-school feel

September 2003 saw the end of one chapter and the beginning of the next in my journey in teaching and headship. In the summer I had left Yelvertoft Primary where I had been headteacher for six years to take the equivalent position at Brixworth. During my term of office, Yelvertoft had grown from a school of 85 pupils, to over 120 children. However, this was still a small school compared to the size of Brixworth with almost 500 pupils.

There were a number of challenges in taking over a school that was already regarded as successful in many aspects and which offered a good education. Despite its size, with all the advantages economy scale brings, I hoped we could create a small-school feel where very child felt valued and was treated as an individual, and where parents felt they were welcomed and listened to. The school a parent chooses for their child is one of the most important decisions they make. I wanted Brixworth to be the first choice for all the parents in the village.

In recent years, demographic changes have seen pupil numbers fall to the present roll of 453. Clearly, this means that there is some space to accommodate a certain increase of pupils now that we are expecting new houses to be built. The school's position on this is that the Governing Body remains neutral on the subject, although individual governors are free to express their own personal opinion. My professional commitment to the school and the community is deeply held; however, living as I do in Kingsthorpe, I believe the questions raised by the development are for local residents to resolve.

Although the 'national curriculum' remained relatively unchanged for decades, since the Sixties there has been an ever-increasing number of initiatives in education. The spread and influence of information technology has impacted enormously on homes and schools; technology which can, at times, seem to run ahead of own grasp of its potential application. Bearing in mind the nature of a rapidly changing world, the school has developed its own skills based curriculum to run alongside the subject focused core curriculum.

The key values of Inclusion, Excellence, Aspiration and Respect are at the centre of the culture and ethos of the school. Successive Ofsted inspections have judged the school as being Good with Outstanding features – the aspiration is that the school will be outstanding in every area of education, care and provision for our children. I believe our aspiration is achievable given the quality and commitment of our staff. It is an immense pleasure and privilege to work with such

dedicated people. Every school is a community and Brixworth Primary is no exception. I work with a highly supportive and yet challenging governing body. The school has a very active Parent Teacher Association which raises money to improve resources for classes while arranging social and recreational events for the village.

As members of a Church of England school we seek to reflect the Christian ethos, while respecting all faiths. Finally, I am optimistic about the future – I have confidence in our children; I see them grow every day in their journey towards being responsible, caring and creative adults and valuable members of the wider community.

– David Boucher



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Country Eye *Enjoy nature while it lasts...*

From my window everything seems to be disgustingly normal. A few days of above average temperatures have seen the grass greening up, promising a spurt of spring growth. Yet this veneer masks the truth that all is very far from right with the natural world. Careful counts show that almost across the board our bird populations are in serious, some species even in terminal decline. Wild flower communities become yearly more impoverished, composed of those few generalists that are robust enough to withstand environmental pressures. Where diverse populations do still occur they are squeezed into just a few pockets on steep slopes or in undrained corners that have escaped the plough. Some butterflies and bees, indeed insects in general, are threatened to the extent that they may never recover from the onslaught. Their vital role in pollinating much of the food that we eat should never be forgotten.

We continue to usurp our precious land resource, using destructive practices to wreak irreversible changes to ever-greater swathes of landscape. In minutes we can destroy plant and animal communities that have taken centuries to evolve. We pour concrete and bricks and steel onto the gaping wounds left behind and we blithely call it progress. Our whole misguided system is geared to producing more and more stuff. Yet we become more and more disenchanted with what we have.

When did you last stand still in what's left of our embattled countryside and watch the sun sink below the horizon? Have you walked in our fields and woods in the past few weeks, months, the past year even? How about taking the kids, on a warm summer's day, down to a streamside and just letting them splash around getting good and muddy? Or bearing net and time-honoured jamjar in quest of mini-beasts?

On the domestic front it is heartening news that more and more of you are

rediscovering the joys of growing and eating some of your own vegetables. So easy and cheap to do, even the tiniest of modern gardens is capable of producing something. And it is surprising what may be grown in a window box or on a balcony. Just try a pot of cherry tomatoes or even of potatoes, and once you have tasted the results of your own efforts, aided and abetted by nature of course, I promise you will be inspired to even greater efforts.

Of course a few mild days early in the year are not a guarantee that spring is just around the corner. It is still possible that we have to endure weeks of bone-jarring cold before an improvement occurs. These weeks when all is apparently on hold in the countryside are in effect a time of renewal, of cleansing. The early high winds scour out dead wood from the trees; they overthrow those trees that are past their prime, to rot and provide another valuable habitat as they do so. Floods are a means by which our watercourses are flushed out, creating new spaces for wildlife to flourish in warmer times.

In my garden these past few warmer days have led to a pair of great tits inspecting the nesting box on my garden shed. One will disappear within for a while before reappearing at the entrance to sit looking out with obvious ownership in mind. Robins sing strongly, indicating that pair formation has already taken place. Wood pigeons and



Yes, that's a very much younger Brian messing about in a stream!

collared doves sing their simple ditties, while rival males are already wing-buffeting one another in the bare branches as they seek the favours of a nearby female. Every now and then a male wood pigeon will take off to fly around rising steeply and falling in his display flight meant to impress.

Much cawing and wing-fidgeting amongst the carrion crows shows that they too have nesting and breeding very much in mind. Watch them and you quickly realise that these birds are constantly fidgeting, almost as if their coat of all black is ill fitting, and in need of continuous adjustment. In a few days their large stick-built nests will be appearing like so many clothes baskets in the treetops.

After the past few years of topsy-turvy weather, with long-term records being repeatedly beaten, I wonder what the year 2013 has in store for us? Another one like 2012? Or are we in for a baking-hot summer? Who can tell? My forecast is that somewhere in the days to come another long-standing record will be broken. - Brian Webster

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Help the Bulletin help Brixworth!

It's that time of year again when the *Brixworth Bulletin* is looking for a worthy cause to support- not just with publicity and goodwill, but also a moderate injection of cash.

The call for nominations in the December issue of the *Bulletin* did not fall on deaf ears, and this year we received four separate nominations for a worthwhile local cause that we might help out.

1) A mobile ultrasound scanner

Saxon Spires surgery is currently raising funds for a portable ultrasound scanner to replace the surgery's old and outdated one.

"Saxons Spires surgery serves a total of 15,000 patients, many of whom are elderly or infirm and find it difficult to get to Northampton General Hospital," explains Diana Hart, part of the surgery's secretarial and admin team. "We want a new scanner that we can move between sites, to enable all our patients to benefit."

"The scanner will be used for non-invasive ultra sound scans and can be used to detect many conditions such as: deep vein thromboses (blood clots), gall stones, fibroids, kidney stones, harmless lumps causing pain in joints and bones, and much more."

Thanks to concerted fundraising efforts, Saxon Spires have so far raised around £16,000 of the £21,000 the scanner costs. While the *Brixworth Bulletin* could not close the gap alone, it would get the team significantly closer to their goal.

2) Nature classroom for Education Rangers

Brixworth Country Park plays many roles, one of which is environmental education. The park's Education Rangers work with over 5,000 school children a year, during visits to the country parks and schools.

"The activities support the children's classroom learning and allows them to experience wildlife and landscapes up close," explains Chris Howe, Senior Countryside Ranger.

To achieve this, the rangers need to create fenced refuge areas where the wildlife is not disturbed by everyday activities in the park, and where they can set up mini habitats for invertebrates and help with activities such as mini-beast hunts.

Chris explains: "We need to create a refuge by fencing off a small area that could be used by visiting school groups. To do this we'll erect a chestnut paling fence and install a hand gate. We would like to ask the *Brixworth Bulletin* to help create the refuge by funding some of the fence and gate materials."

3) New gutters and pipes for All Saints Church

Many of the water downpipes and the guttering at All Saints Church in Brixworth is in a poor state of repair, with obvious corrosion and even the odd hole letting water seep through. After the most recent inspection, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) was advised that this ought to be fixed within the next five years – and this was two years ago. Unfortunately, the church has a lot of pipes in need of fixing, and because it's a Grade I listed building, the work has to be done by specialists. The total bill is likely to come in at well in excess of £10,000.

The PCC is looking for any kind of help from the community to assist in this – both private donations and, if the villagers vote for it, help from the *Brixworth Bulletin*.

4) Christian Fellowship Fun Day

In 2012, the Brixworth Christian Fellowship organised a "Fun Day" for families in the village. Held at the field near the Country Park roundabout, it attracted some 200 people to a day of family activities with a bouncy castle, face painting, races and games for the children, and a BBQ. The event was free and funded entirely by the Christian Fellowship.

This year, the Fellowship hopes to expand even further on the idea, with a free three-day Children's Club during the summer holidays and some community help, such as gardening and painting for a few local families in need. The *Bulletin* could help fund this.

As you can see, there are many deserving causes in and around our villages. Unfortunately we cannot support them all – this means that once again we'll need someone to make a decision – and that's a task we'll gladly pass to you, the people of Brixworth, Draughton, Hanging Houghton and Lamport.

There are several ways to vote.

- 1) Fill in the voting slip below, cut it out and post it in the Brixworth Bulletin's post box in the foyer of Brixworth Community Centre & Library (extra voting slips are available in the Information Point and at the library)
- 2) Vote online at www.brixworthbulletin.com
- 3) Post your voting slip to Brixworth Bulletin, The Old School, Hanging Houghton NN6 9ES

One vote per person, please. Voting is restricted to residents of Brixworth, Draughton, Hanging Houghton and Lamport. Deadline for votes is 31 March 2013.

Vote Now!

Name

Address.....

.....

.....

All Saints Church

Brixworth Country Park

Saxon Spires Surgery

Fellowship Fun Day

Please either:

- ♦ use the voting buttons on www.brixworthbulletin.com
- ♦ post this form in the Brixworth Bulletin postbox in the Community Centre & Library, or
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Deadline: 31 March 2013



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.bcfchurch.co.uk

2013 is an exciting year for Brixworth Christian Fellowship as it was twenty-five years ago, in March 1988, that the church was formed. We look back on those years with thanksgiving to God for His goodness and faithfulness to us.

Originally meeting in the Village Hall we moved into the Library & Community Centre having played a large part in it's planning. The Community Hall became too small for us on a Sunday so we moved three years ago to the Primary School where we now meet.

We are greatly blessed to be part of the Community of Brixworth and seek to be involved in as many aspects of village life as we are able. We run the Olive Branch Coffee Shop including Pensioners Lunch on a Wednesday, Olive Shoots for young mums and their children, Dynamites and TNT weekly children's clubs, visit the Care Homes in the Village each month to take a short Service with the residents, employ two Parish Nurses who work in the Community offering advice, care, exercise and much more (referrals from the hospital, doctors and word of mouth). Of course our Services on a Sunday reveal a more relaxed style of worship, classes for the children and young people, all within a friendly atmosphere. (Messy Church for families are a plus every other month on a Sunday afternoon!)

After twenty-five years much has changed in Brixworth and indeed in our world, however what we stand for a church has not changed, for we believe that Jesus Christ the Son of God came to this world to bring us life to the full and He still does!

May God richly bless you

Phil Walter (Revd)
Contact: Phil on 882040



25 Years of BCF

Youth and Children's work



Of youth and Children's work with clubs for Primary and Junior ages as well as teens.

Open Air Nativity



Of our Open Air Nativity at Christmas with the introduction of live animals at a slightly later date! We have never had to cancel!!

Parish Nursing



Of Parish Nursing – Margaret and then Elaine responded to the need of the village as they continued their Nursing experience beyond their retirement.

Olive Branch



Of the Olive Branch! – the Coffee Shop of 1999 is very different to today! We served "filter" coffee or "instant" coffee and that was the choice – today our fresh bean machine can do anything you request from Latte to Mocha, Americano to Hot Chocolate using fresh coffee beans and fresh milk.

The one thing that has remained is the desire of the volunteers to make your visit a good and friendly experience with a chat and concern thrown in!

Sunday Services



Of Sunday Services in the Village Hall – 11 years in the Library & Community Centre and 3 years at the school – all because of growth in numbers!

Community Worker



Of having a Community Worker full time – Mark, whose previous life was as a Youth Worker, was appointed to be involved in Community action seeking to reveal the face of the church in a positive and helpful way. I am sure you will have seen him around!

Olive Shoots



Of Olive Shoots – providing a safe place once a week for mums and tots to meet and play in the hall of the Library & Community Centre.

Information Point



Of the Information Point – working with the Parish Council volunteers from around the village help folk with a variety of different queries concerning their welfare and community information.



What next?



Well we are constantly thinking of ways in which we can show God's love to our Community so watch this space!

Other activities have been going for the 25 years and have expanded during that time.



Fun, Food & Celebration



It's fun, it's FREE and it's fantastic! 4pm - 6pm

Sunday 3rd March 2013
Sunday 12th May 2013

Brixworth Library & Community Centre

Book your place as a family by contacting Mark our Community Worker on:- 07917 573784



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.

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

Wed 10-11 & 1.45-3.00

Pensioners lunch Wed 12 noon*
(*need to book on 889030 or in person)

The Olive Branch, Brixworth Library,
Spratton Road, Tel 889030

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

The Americans are coming....again!

From 25th July to 2nd August

- Children's Holiday Club at the School

- Fun Day on Saturday 28th July

- Songs of Praise in the Open Air on 29th

We will keep you informed of all the events nearer the time.



BCF 25th Anniversary Celebrations

You are warmly invited

to share with us on Saturday 23rd March 2013 at the School at 2.30 p.m. for a Celebration of 25 years. We hope very much that you will come along and then stay for the refreshments served afterwards. We continue the Celebrations the following day.

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:	10:00 - 11:30	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

Parish News



News and views from Brixworth Parish Council - Spring 2013 edition **edited by Ian Barratt**
 Visit us at <http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/>

What are we playing at?

Committee's work bears fruit after two years work!

It's taken two years but finally the work of the Recreation Committee has paid off!

The first of the new play equipment on St Davids Recreation Ground is being installed as we go to print.

Chaired by Cllr Steve Pointer, the Committee involved local residents, sports clubs and some Parish Councillors who all worked long and hard to ensure the new equipment would serve Brixworth's new generation as well as the old equipment did which had served previous generations

Sentiment

We know how sentimental play equipment can become, and some of the removed equipment was paid for

by public subscription. However, you can rest assured that only time expired equipment will be removed and many of the "old favourites" will stay.



Marc and Donald take a well earned break

There is more to come so, to coin a cliché, "Watch this Space"!

Value for Money

To squeeze the last drop of value from this project we asked our staff if they could install it themselves

Never ducking a challenge, Marc and Donald immediately agreed though no-one realised just how solid the ground would be! They should both be commended for their hard work which would normally take three to do.

So that's what we've been playing at, with more to come! And the tennis court to sort out! Although we have to juggle the interests of the sports clubs, adjoining residents and children needing play facilities we hope, when it is all finished, you will agree we got it right..... and the young people as well will have a lot more to play at!

Parish Council Branching Out!

Vandals Smash Community Project



Cllr Mike Lacey shows children from the Primary School how it's done!

Over 85 people were involved in planting 100 trees in the Parish in a project co-ordinated by Cllr Ian Barratt.

Our three recreation grounds received the trees provided free from the Woodland Trust

The Scouts, the U13 football club and the Primary School all volunteered to help, also parents, friends and some Parish Councillors and our Staff. You will know by now a large number of trees were systematically vandalised within days.

In a new venture to inform and involve the community, Cllr Barratt designed and delivered a newsletter to almost 200 houses about this and collected comments from these homes the next day. The response was far greater than expected and the comments most heartening and very encouraging.

New Councillors

A warm welcome to three new Parish Councillors, Cllrs Tony Hockenhill, Joe Hodgson and Jackie Bird.

Jackie tells us she was born in Northampton and has lived in Brixworth 10 years. By profession she is a fully qualified and registered Social Worker with long experience in Mental Health services.

Her interests are wide ranging from reading to theatre and cinema. And watch out! She also has a background in Martial Arts (*might make a good Chairman sometime in the future! Ed.*) And she has recently bought a bike, though she will need something faster to visit some of her family who are in Australia! Read about the others next issue.

STOP PRESS! We have just learned that the Planning Inspectorate has awarded the Parish Council its costs incurred in fighting the appeal aborted by the Society of Merchant Venturers

Highways Committee

Highways and Environment Committee

Speed watch Programme, We need up to **20 volunteers** and a coordinator to be trained to use a speed gun! The police will send a warning letter to those you catch speeding. Been caught speeding yourself? See what it's like from the "other side"! Information from Jane, our Clerk.

And on the same subject, a **speed check** has been carried out in Newlands over a number of days. Results are awaited.

Does Northampton Road smell? Near South View it does! The PC is in contact with the owners of the Highfields development and Environmental Health at DDC over this problem. And it's not been helped by the vandalism of the pumping system!

Your Highways and Environment Committee Chair is Cllr Colin Bament

Chair's Chat



I am pleased to report that since I last wrote we have accepted three volunteers who have been co-opted onto the Council. I thank

Antony Hockenhull, Joe Hodgson and Jackie Bird for accepting the challenge and offering to serve our community as Parish Councillors.

You may have read about the attempts of the Council, led by Cllr Ian Barratt, to plant 100 trees in and around our village recreation grounds. You may also have heard about these trees having been vandalised, but I doubt Cllr Barratt is about to give up!

Potential

When I was first elected to Chair the Parish Council I saw considerable potential for Brixworth to take advantage of the Localism Act which was then in its formative stages. Under this legislation, villages such as ours have a right to greater self-determination. Although a blanket NO is not an option, we can, if we wish, set our own conditions on how possible development might be managed.

Shortly after I became Chairman, The Parish Council set up a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to investigate the possibilities. As I have written previously,

Contact us.....

Clerk to the Council: Jane Macken MILCM, clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk tel. (01604) 881243 and at <http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/>

Parish Councillors

Mike Lacey (Chair)
Ian Barratt (Finance)
David Parnaby (Planning)
Liz WiiG
Tony Hockenhull
Sandra Moxon

we could still have a simple Neighbourhood Plan that manages the mandated growth that could be imposed, like it or not, by higher authority. We might also find ways to protect the countryside that surrounds us. But as time passes what had seemed obvious two years ago has become less clear as others tinker with their own political agendas.

Meanwhile, Parish Council has applied for official recognition as a Parish with the intent of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. But the Council cannot develop a plan; the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan has to be the plan of the people of Brixworth. Therefore, I would encourage your support and ask for your input, remembering that it is an opportunity that is available to us now, but opportunity can pass.

Growth

The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, of which Daventry is a part, will determine housing growth numbers for the area and Daventry will determine how they deal with their share of that growth, as is their prerogative. Brixworth, no doubt, will be expected to shoulder their share, but how we do that, and when, could be up to us, rather than some unknown and unknowing bureaucrat, somewhere else; ticking boxes. What do you think?

"it is an opportunity that is available to us now, but opportunity can pass"

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Surgery	Sat 2nd Mar, 6th Apr, 4th May 2013
Highways Committee	Tues 26th Mar, 9th Apr 2013
Planning Committee	Mon 11th Mar, 8th Apr, 20th May 2013
Full Council	Tues 19th Mar, 23rd Apr, 21st May 2013
Finance & Grants	Tues 16th Apr 2013
Annual Parish Meeting	Tue 30th Apr 2013
AGM	Tues 7th May 2013
Recreation Cottee	Tues 14th May 2013

All meetings are open to the Press and public and you can have your say! And speaking of meetings

Money, money, money.....

Last call for Village Organisations seeking Grant Applications from the Parish Council. The sands of time run out this time round on 31st March 2013. Call Jane, our Clerk, for details.



Lastly, I would like to applaud the efforts of many, led by Cllr. Steve Pointer and assisted by members of the Council, and the Community, to upgrade the children's play area on St David's Recreation Field. I thank all concerned for their time, their concern and commitment.

Planning

On 8 August 2012 Daventry District Council approved BDW Trading (Barratt's) application for outline planning permission to build 150 homes east of Northampton Road. With this, a parking scheme was approved for parking off Spratton Road in the village centre to serve Hunters Way shops. This scheme would involve purchasing an additional strip of land, an alternative which would effectively create two separate car parks, one with vehicle entry and exit from Hunters Way and the other with vehicle entry and exit from Spratton Road, and recently the subject of a planning application.

The Parish Council opposed this scheme on the grounds (amongst others) of road safety. It was considered it created a danger to pedestrians, particularly to children. It relied on a puffin crossing over Spratton Road sited towards the centre of the present Hunters Way car park. The Parish Council considered that children coming from the neighbouring school would prefer a more direct route to the shops and would avoid using this crossing, tending to cross the road elsewhere. Four of the parking bays at the side of Spratton Road would be removed so the net gain of parking spaces in the two proposed separate areas would amount to five, which the Parish Council did not consider worthwhile in the circumstances. At the 9th January District Council Planning Committee, both of our District Councillors spoke in favour and the scheme was approved, despite opposition from Ian Barratt, the Parish Council representative. **Cllr David Parnaby is P Council Planning Chair**



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Vicar: A new appointment announced below

Churchwardens: Mrs S. Woodhead, 8 Brackenborough 01604 88015£

Mr M. Lewis, 8 Breach Close 01604 88183£

CALENDAR March, April, May & June 2013 Services & Principal Events

MAR	3	Sunday	Lent III	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	10	Sunday	Mothering Sunday	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	17	Sunday	Lent IV - Passion Sunday	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	24	Sunday	Palm Sunday	Procession of Palms & Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	28	Thursday	Maundy Thursday	Liturgy of the Last Supper followed by Watch of the Passion 7.30 p.m.
	29	Friday	Good Friday	Liturgy of the Passion & Death of the Lord 2.00 p.m.
	30	Saturday	Holy Saturday	The Easter Vigil & Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.
	31	Sunday	Easter Sunday	Festival Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
APR	7	Sunday	Easter II (Low Sunday)	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	14	Sunday	Easter III	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	20	Saturday	Service of Institution of Chloe Willson-Thomas, priest-in-charge for Brixworth & Holcot 3.00 p.m.	
	21	Sunday	Easter IV	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	28	Sunday	Easter V	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
MAY	5	Sunday	Easter VI (Rogation Sunday)	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	9	Thursday	Ascension Day	Solemn Eucharist 7.30 p.m. (time to be confirmed)
	12	Sunday	Easter VII	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	19	Sunday	Pentecost (Whit Sunday)	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	26	Sunday	Feast of the Holy Trinity	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
JUN	2	Sunday	Corpus Christi (transferred from 30th May)	Solemn Eucharist 10.15 a.m.
	9	Sunday	Trinity II	Sung Eucharist 10.15 a.m.

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BURIAL	20 Nov.	Arthur William Robert Dickens (internment of cremated remains)	Formerly of Brixworth
	21 Dec.	John Henry Lewis	47 Brampton Way, Brixworth
	16 Jan.	Richard Beaumont Walker	50 Lesson Road, Brixworth
	28 Jan.	Evelyn May Pryer	Boniface House, Brixworth
HOLY BAPTISM	18 Nov.	Makayla Imogen Sarah Stanley	

UPDATE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICAR

Chloe Willson-Thomas has been appointed the new priest-in-charge for Brixworth and Holcot. Chloe and her family will be moving into the vicarage around Easter and will be licensed at a service in Church on Saturday 20th April. We anticipate Chloe celebrating her first Eucharist the following Sunday. Chloe is presently servicing as an assistant curate at a parish in Leicestershire.

Before her calling to the priesthood, Chloe was a professional singer and music teacher, and we look forward to her utilising these skills to re-energise our choir and the musical side of our services. She will no doubt make it one of her priorities to get to know the parish, and so we can expect to see much of her around the village. Chloe is married with three children.

Meet your MEPs

Do you understand how the European Parliament works?

Do you know who your MEP is?

Do you know how to reach them?

If your answer to any of the above questions is "No", you are in good company! I have been embarrassed to admit I didn't have a clue about how I was represented in Europe, so I thought I might find out.

It turns out that there are no fewer than five MEPs who all represent the East Midlands region equally. I spoke to the two



Derek Clark in conversation with Jennifer Fitzgerald

who live closest to Brixworth – Emma McClarkin, Conservative, based in Market Harborough, and Derek Clark, UKIP, based in Northampton. We are represented by the UK's youngest MEP – Emma McClarkin is 34,

and by one of the eldest – Derek Clark is 79.

There are several reasons we know so little about them. It's been said that the primary function of MEPs is to legislate, rather than represent their constituents. However, both our MEPs were at pains to tell me that they take the issue of supporting the public very seriously.

Derek assured me: "I try to help my constituents as much as possible", and Emma said: "Please tell your readers - I am your voice in the East Midlands."

Both of them receive a huge amount of correspondence and seek to use their positions to help individuals and their causes.

Another reason they are not very visible is that the detailed matters of legislation they work on do not usually generate exciting headlines. MEPs sit on parliamentary Committees according to their interests and experience. Derek works on the Committee for Employment and Social Affairs; Emma on the Committees for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, Culture and Education,



Emma McClarkin in the European Parliament

International Trade, and a temporary Committee on Organised Crime. Among other things, Derek has been reviewing the regulations for exposure to ionising radiation – he said the first proposals would have prevented the use of MRI scans because the danger levels for operators were set too low. Emma McClarkin has been promoting grassroots sport, and is passionate about tackling online child crime and cybercrime. She is also pushing for the implementation of fast broadband everywhere – of particular relevance to rural areas such as ours.

The issues they work on affect everybody in Brixworth in the same way they affect everybody in the UK. I discovered that nearly 80% of all UK legislation comes from Brussels, touching every area of our lives. MEPs don't create legislation but they have the power to amend it before it's issued, after which European Directives have to be enacted into UK law within 20 days.

UKIP is the only political party in Europe asking for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. As a result, Derek generally votes against all legislation submitted to the European Parliament.

Emma has a more nuanced view. "There are areas we can tackle together. However, there is a danger in "One Size Fits All" – decisions should be made as close to the people affected as possible."

Both of them describe having to tackle layers upon layers of bureaucracy. Since European legislation is enacted through UK legislation, it is difficult to know when it is appropriate to approach our MEPs. Our first points of call are our District Councillors and MP. However, given the prospect of the UK's renegotiations with the EU and a promised referendum on our membership, perhaps it is time to become better informed. You can contact our MEPs directly through the websites TheyWorkForYou.com and WriteToThem.com. - Jennifer Fitzgerald



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Great Wall of China trek raises over £6,000 for charities

As reported back in September, two Brixworth men took on the challenge of trekking the Great Wall of China in aid of two charities.

Darren Edwards and Paul Simpson raised over £6,000 for the Help for Heroes and Prostate Cancer charities following their trek in early November. The trek itself ended a full year of fundraising and events that included a quiz night, golf day, running the Loughborough Half Marathon and London 10k, a football fun day and Brixworth school fete

The Great Wall of China trek was described as a trip of a lifetime and certainly lived up to all expectations. Truly challenging, both physically and mentally – especially when you see how some people live in the remote areas of China. The incredible landscapes take your breath away with photographs struggling to capture the sheer scale, enormity and remoteness. You can't imagine how such a wall was ever built.

Greeted with snow on arrival, the worst for many years, we were quickly introduced to the joys of a "Rickshaw" ride (basically a buggy on the back of a bike!) through the old streets of Beijing to dine in a traditional Chinese home. Just what was needed as the jet lag kicked in. Thankfully the snow didn't affect us when we reached the wall; in fact the clear blue skies were fantastic compared with the smog and cloud of Beijing.

As we trekked along the remote areas of the wall, the deterioration and crumbling rocks were a constant reminder of the Wall's history and degradation over the ages. This made the trek pretty scary in places, though thankfully no one needed the help of the group doctor (and yes he really was called Dr No!). As the week went on we saw where the wall had been renovated over the years with the history of China and its leaders clearly visible for all to see.

We were part of a group of 30, all with different reasons for taking on such a challenge for their chosen charity. There were some lovely people who supported each other all the way and achieved things they never believed they could.

There are so many thank yous to say to so many people for helping us along the way. In particular the long-suffering wives and families who had to cope with Dad being away training or doing something crazy, as well as being dragged into helping out. Huge thanks also to everyone who donated with every penny greatly appreciated. Thank you all for supporting us and our charities. A special mention as well to the local sportsman and businesses that supported us for events such as the quiz night and school fete, including: Courtney Lawes, Nobby's Brewery, Daisy Roots, Coach & Horses, Aspect Landscapes, Stars Sport Therapy, Mr Troop and Chambers Butchers.

We've certainly got the "Trekkling Challenge Bug", so who knows where next. Darren's next running challenge will be the London Marathon in April! - Darren & Paul



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London Marathon challenge

Darren Edwards has set his next charity challenge by running the London Marathon on 21 April.

Darren is running on behalf of the Beating Bowel Cancer charity and is in full training following his Great Wall of China trek.

Beating Bowel Cancer focuses on early detection of bowel cancer, encouraging everyone to get any changes or concerns checked without being embarrassed. Darren had first-hand experience of the worry and then relief when tests gave him the all-clear last year.

Bowel cancer affects around one in 20 women and one in 16 men in the UK every year, and is the second biggest cause of cancer deaths. Despite this, at least one in four people know nothing about this disease or its symptoms. The reasons for this are not always clear, but we do know that we often shy away from talking openly about bowels and bottoms, even to our doctor. DON'T!!

Darren wants to raise £2,000 so watch out for his fundraising events over the coming months. The first one is a golf day at Kingsthorpe Golf Club on 21 March. Individuals and teams welcome, email darren.edwards25@o2.co.uk if you are interested.

If you want to support Darren, visit www.justgiving.com/Darren-Edwards29

Thank you! - Darren



Hundreds gather for Outdoor Nativity

Brixworth Christian Fellowship's Annual Outdoor Nativity took place on a cold but not freezing afternoon in December, just as darkness began to fall. Hundreds of families joined the celebration of the birth of Jesus, as together we sung well-known carols, listened to the Christmas story as it was portrayed in its simplicity in front of our eyes.

Children enjoying being angels, shepherds and wise men, the arrival of Mary and Joseph with two donkeys (courtesy of David Hamson & friends) the brightness of the scene as it developed above us, and the angel Gabriel who seemed to fill the stage, all made for a great afternoon. Even the rain which arrived late would not dampen the mood.

The day started with a great deal of preparation – setting up of all the staging, ensuring the safety of all involved, and then on to the technical area which Vernon Salmon oversees, ensuring cables and wires are where they should be, power is sufficient for all the equipment and fully working.

We are always looking for something a bit different, but without losing the simplicity and wonder of the Christmas story.

The day ended with a hot drink and a mince pie at the Community Centre as we watched the dismantling of the staging, lights, straw bales and much more, which will be lovingly stored until Christmas 2013.

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WESTMINSTER REPORT

Reasons to be cheerful

I always think that January and February are the hardest months of the year to be overly positive: cold weather and Christmas credit card bill landing on your doormat don't exactly help people feel buoyant – however I thought I try and give you some positive news.

There is actually quite a bit of decent news around about the economy! Yes, honestly!

Did you know that the UK's deficit has fallen by a quarter in the past two years and is forecast to continue to fall?

Had you heard that exports to emerging markets from the UK have doubled and more than one million private sector jobs have been created since 2010?

Indeed we are doing better than most of our international competitors and have lower unemployment than the Eurozone or the United States.

Locally, there is a well kept secret that you should hear about: there are currently more jobs available at the Job Centre Plus in my constituency than there are people on Job Seekers Allowance. The unemployment rate

in my constituency is 2.6%.

There's more interesting news: the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce's latest report to MPs told us that despite some concerns (relating to the cost of raw materials, competition and cash flow) Northamptonshire businesses, both in manufacturing and services, were increasingly confident about their expected turnover and profitability in the coming twelve months.

Lots of international businesses are now looking to site themselves in the UK as we have one of the lowest rates of corporation tax around. It already is the lowest in the G7 and the fourth-lowest in the G20, and it's set to fall further.

If you are working and on the average salary in Brixworth you'll almost certainly be one of the 24 million people up and down the country who will be £267 better off in cash from April because of the increase in the amount of money you can earn before you pay any tax at all. Indeed from April the first £9,440 you earn will not be taxed and 3,560 people will have been taken out of paying tax across my constituency since May 2010.

Yes, there is a very long way to go before anyone can claim that the economy is healthy, after all we are dealing with a legacy of debt, recession in the Eurozone, a general lack of business confidence globally and commodity price inflation - but the economy is healing and we are lucky that here in Northamptonshire the signs are that it is healing quicker than other places across the country.

So, there is still a lot to do, but I am hopeful that the Northamptonshire local economy will actually have a Happy New Year.

Chris

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Letters to the Editor

Madam

By now your readers will know of the wonderful community effort in planting 100 trees around Brixworth. The trees were obtained by the Parish Council free of charge from the Woodland Trust. Over 85 people were actively involved in planting the saplings on the three recreation grounds and a further 170 homes received newsletters and were invited to comment. It was heartening to see how well people came together to help make this village a better place. There were parents, friends, Brixworth U13 football club, Brixworth Scouts and the primary school, not to forget the fine support given by Parish Council staff and some Parish Councillors. I thank each and every one of these caring people.

The subsequent vandalism was heartbreaking. A large number of trees were systematically destroyed in a matter of days, including the oak planted to mark the work of the late councillor Frank Wiig. For these young people who helped plant the trees, their first experience in doing something for the community ended in sad disappointment.

Once word got out, I received wonderful letters, emails and telephone calls of support. They show that our village really does have a caring heart and so we mustn't give up.

So where do we go from here? It would be unaffordable and not reasonable at this time, I believe, for me to ask the Parish Council to replace 100 trees. Trees don't come cheap, and the same result may occur. Instead, I will be seeking to raise money, initially through charitable grants, to purchase a smaller number of large trees with anti-vandal sleeves. We will not give in to mindless morons. The community must fight back by replanting, and I am determined with their support we shall!

Councillor Ian Barratt, Project Co-ordinator

[Note: Since these events have unfolded, the Parish Council has voted to fund two replacement trees, which will be planted in the coming weeks. The Brixworth Bulletin team agreed to fund a third tree, which will replace the oak planted in memory of Frank Wiig.]

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Draughton News



Little Acorns celebrates Outstanding report

Little Acorns, the pre-school operating in Brixworth Village Hall, has received a coveted 'Outstanding' rating at its latest Ofsted inspection.

At present, the team of ten staff at Little Acorns look after 47 children between the ages of two and four. The Ofsted inspector noted the children's enthusiasm for learning and the level of support they were given, particularly with regards to developing language skills. The report also praises the confidence of the children, and how the pre-school works with parents.

Jo Bailey and Rebecca Burnage, the pre-school's joint owners, say: "All the staff are so pleased with this grade, which is a great achievement. We only opened the pre-school in March 2009 and we are all amazed at how much it has grown since, and continues to grow. We could not have done this without our hard-working staff and the amazing support we receive from parents."

Much village effort was focused to the Christmas Fayre in December which (again!) was a super event with wonderful products to buy and consume. There were stunning cakes, delicious preserves and proper Christmassy table decorations. Doggy delights ('Reindeer Poo' is a particular favourite!), handmade, miniature one-bite Christmas puddings and stunning chutneys added to the 'exclusive' feel that this event has justifiably earned.

Loyal friends and those new to the event came and, crucially, spent their hard-earned cash with us so that St Catherine's duly benefitted to the tune of around £2000.

We are so grateful to all who came and supported us, particularly to all Draughtonians who interrupted their own Christmas celebrations to manufacture products and man the stalls on the day. From the mulled wine to the delicious teas and homemade soups it was a stunning effort – and again, quite extraordinary for this little community.

Future events will include the Spring Fair (date still to be announced – probably in the next Bulletin). Meanwhile bear in mind that on the first Saturday of every month we hold a coffee morning in the little clubroom. Come in, enjoy our tea, coffee, and the best brownies in the county, and browse the newspapers or the bookshelf. – *Kate Calnan*

A chance to get fit

A running course for beginners will be starting in Brixworth to help people get fit. The adult course starts in April as one of fifty in Northamptonshire as part Jog Northants, a countywide programme aimed at helping beginners start jogging.

The jogging group is looking for new beginners who would like to get fit, train for a 5K or just start running in a social and friendly environment. The group meet at 10am every Sunday from Sunday 7th April and is just £2 per session. We meet at St David's Field in Froxhill Crescent. The group will be led by a qualified and insured leader, Beverley Simms, who will help people progress from running for 30 seconds at a time to running 5K.

For more information on the group, please contact beverley.simms@hotmail.co.uk or 07809 123463 or find us on Facebook - BrixworthBeginnersJogForFun.

Annual Art Exhibition

Are you a local artist or crafts person? The Friends of All Saints Church will again be hosting the annual village Art Exhibition on 1-2 June and are looking for new artists and crafts people to exhibit. If you would be interested in exhibiting or for more information please contact Hannah (Hannah.brunton@sky.com)



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What's 'Lasting Power of Attorney'?



After a really fantastic response to my Wills article last year I thought I would follow it up with one focusing on Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA), as this was a huge concern to many living within our community. All too often I am contacted when a person has already lost capacity and can no longer enter into an LPA to allow family members to help them with their finances. This article will hopefully provide some guidance in these areas and please do not hesitate to contact me for further advice!

What is an LPA?

There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). One deals with property and financial affairs and the other with health and welfare decisions.

When should they be put in place?

There is no age limit, in fact more and more younger couples are putting them in place at the same time as doing their Wills. Older

people often use them if they are becoming less mobile and increasingly relying on relatives and friends to help them. The most important factor is that they need to be in place while the person (donor) still has capacity and is able to make decisions for themselves.

What is the difference between the two types?

A Property and Finances LPA will allow the appointed attorney to deal with all financial institutions where the person has dealings with (unless there are restrictions placed on the LPA). In practice this generally means being able to access their bank accounts, arrange for payment of bills, discuss accounts in relation to utilities at the property; deal with the pension issues and sell the persons property if this is necessary.

A Health and Welfare LPA deals with other aspects of the persons life such as medication and treatments, being able to discuss the donor's medical and welfare situation with the GP, social workers and other health care professionals.

Who can be my attorney?

The donor can appoint anyone to be their attorney as long as they are over 18. They should be someone who's trusted and who can fulfil their role practically (ie it helps if they live nearby). It is possible to appoint multiple LPAs.

How do I put an LPA in place?

Being a solicitor I would of course always advise asking a solicitor to do this for you. The Donor creating the LPA must have full capacity and understand the nature and effect of what they are signing and a certificate needs to be completed and signed (usually by a solicitor) to confirm that the person has sufficient capacity and understands the powers they are creating. It is possible to apply directly to the Office of The Public Guardian (www.justice.gov.uk) to put an LPA in place although you will still need to have a certificate provider.

When can I use the LPA?

No. Once signed, the LPA needs to be registered at the Office of The Public Guardian before it can be used. Some donors will register straight away, others store the LPA safely until they feel it's needed. The court will charge a registration fee (currently £130).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want some further advice on wills, trust deeds and probate matters. I am also able to put you in touch with a local matrimonial solicitor who would be able to answer any queries you have in this area. As I live in Brixworth, I am also able to attend for any home visits if this is convenient to you or a loved one.

You can contact me on CRedshaw@wtsolicitors.co.uk; 01327 31 21 21



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Photos by Ian Topham

Brixworth Remembers

In glorious sunshine, the village of Brixworth came together to remember the fallen on Remembrance Sunday 2012.

The Anglican Church and the Brixworth Christian Fellowship met to commemorate the dead of 2 World Wars and all conflicts before and since. In a joint service held at the church, the ministers from both congregations led the moving service accompanied by the uniformed groups from the village.

Meanwhile, the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal raised over £1,800 in Brixworth alone. Rod King, the Brixworth Poppy Appeal Organiser, says: "Thank you to the people of Brixworth and the support of the local school, pubs, churches, shops, and commercial organisations who support us."

Planning update

DA/2012/0449 Land North of Eagle Hurst Residential development comprising 15 dwellings, estate road and associated works	24.9.12 PC objects 25.10.12 DDC Approved	DA/2012/0684 50 Stonehill Way Detached double garage	24.9.12 PC No objection 22.10.12 DDC Refused
DA/2012/0477 3 Spratton Road Single storey extension	23.7.12 No objection 31.8.12 DDC Approved	DA/2012/0713 54 Stonehill Way Construction of summer house (retrospective)	15.10.12 PC No objection 12.11.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0537 The Lodge, Harborough Road Alterations to outbuilding to form garage	14.8.12 No objection 2.11.12 DDC Approved	DA/2012/0811 14 Knightons Way Single storey side and rear extension including demolition of existing conservatory	27.11.12 PC No objection 11.12.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0630 The Lodge, Harborough Rd Listed building consent for alterations to outbuilding to form garage	3.9.12 No objection 2.11.12 DDC Approved	DA/2012/0371 10-12 Spratton Road Demolition of two dwellings, formation of car park, cycle parking, seating area and associated landscaping. Creation of vehicular access from Spratton Road and associated highway works	26.11.12 PC Objects 19.12.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0613 Pitsford Cycle Hire, Brixworth Country Park Extension to form additional cycle storage area	3.9.12 PC no objection 9.10.12 DDC Approved	DA/2012/0613 Pitsford Cycle Hire, Brixworth Country Park Extension to form additional cycle storage	3.9.12 PC No objection 14.11.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0672 43 Stonehill Way First floor side extension (Resubmission)	24.9.12 PC no objection 26.10.12 DDC Approved	DA/2012/0774 3 Church Street Single storey rear extension	5.11.12 PC no objection 13.12.13 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0712 56 Stonehill Way First floor side extension	15.10.12 PC No objection 8.11.12 DDC Approved	DA/2012/0805 Victors Barn, Northampton Road Construction of cricket scoreboard and equipment store	27.11.12 PC Objection 19.12.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0724 10 Horeshoe Close Demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension	15.10.12 PC No objection 22.10.12 DDC Approved	DA/2012/0811 14 Knightons Way Single storey side and rear extension and demolition of existing conservatory	27.11.12 PC No objection 11.12.12 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0732 Orchard Lodge First floor side extension including a rear balcony	15.10.12 PC No objection 7.11.12 DDC Approved	DA/2012/0837 6 Highslade Single storey rear extension	27.11.12 PC no objection 24.12.12 DDC Approved



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Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Heigh-Ho, Heigh-Ho, yes, in spite of ice and snow, Brixworth Drama Group was ready and willing to go!

This was a heartwarming production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – with a lot of artistic licence. It was a very encouraging and appreciative audience who braved the weather on the first two performances with excited children, many in costume. This panto was a wonderful debut for several youngsters who were new to the group and performing for proud parents and friends for the first time (Millie Wincott, Olivia Simpson, Ben Leach and George Kimbell)

Newcomer Tamsin Green fitted the role of Snow White perfectly and used her singing and acting abilities extremely well; her duet with Rose (Sophie Cardwell) "You have a friend" was touching and sweet.

Everyone is familiar with the popular fairy story and this version more or less followed tradition. There was of course the wicked Queen Drucilla played superbly by James Skeggs who was hissed and booed in all the right places with great enthusiasm. Her rendering of "I could have killed all night" was a gem. Her husband the King, suitably played by Robin Pool, seemed quite unaware that his wife was such an evil person and did little to help the situation except to look quite regal. Hannah Saxton was a very convincing palace sneak and tried to stir up trouble among the staff.

The wicked stepmother's jealousy of Snow White was fuelled by the clever talking magic mirror (played with an Irish accent by Mike Culverhouse) and was operated by Neville the Chamberlain (Stuart Cooper) – resplendent in kilt and sporran.

Ruth Cardwell played a short-sighted Harriet Trotter in her magic laboratory, as well as taking responsibility for some brilliant choreography.

Panto is not complete without a frenzied kitchen scene and this one was sheer mayhem. Microwave cooking by Pushup – a keep-fit fanatic played by Eileen Truby, who got everything wrong on the instructions of Senna Pod, played outrageously by Alan Pope – was a fiasco (what else?), ending with a mighty explosion and flour everywhere! In a delightful cameo, directors Sue l'Anson and Heather Pool appeared as two old charladies to clean up and banter with the musicians.

This being pantomime, our wonderful musicians provided some rousing and foot-tapping favourites – a big thank you to Andy Knight,

Andy Bransby, Les Evans, Linda Twohey and Dave Warring.

The group is also indebted to Eunice Ellis for the fantastic costumes, as well as Mark Sharman (lighting) and his backstage crew.

Now back to the plot, which gets thicker. On the pretext of sending Snow White to school, the Queen ignores her choice of Moulton College and sends her off through the woods to a Madame Roulade. But no ordinary woods these!

All went well until Snow White was approached by the woodcutter hired to kill her. John Wardell (Hans) is not new to accents or dastardly deeds and here he was put to the extreme test. Could he actually kill Snow White? Of course not! He suggests killing a wild boar and substituting its heart for that of Snow White. This is a panto remember!

Continuing on her way, Snow White comes across a tiny cottage hidden deep in the woods and wonders who could live in such a small house, but listen... heigh-ho heigh-ho... and here come the seven dwarfs wearing their little caps and shorts carrying a pickaxe (not real)



led by that veteran of the drama group, Dennis Coles. What a lovely sight! Drippy (Jacob Leach) Dozy (Heather Pool) Beaky (Isaac Leach) Merry (Alex Warren) and Titch (Libby Bowers) gave nice cameos but Bigmouth (Dale Matthews) really lived up to his name! These dwarves may not have been very small but the acting was good and they made Snow White very welcome. UNTIL THE DAY she met the old lady selling apples and she foolishly ate one and fell down dead!!

There was great consternation and sadness by everyone until it was suggested that a kiss from Prince Valentine played by Ben Richards would bring her back to life... Ready on cue the Prince and his faithful steed (Sue McAspern) were riding by, and he quickly obliged and restored her to life. Everyone was happy, and the beautiful wedding followed soon after.

In spite of the bad weather for the first performance the group was well supported. The second week was even better - with bigger audiences for each show and every seat taken by really super enthusiastic supporters. This has been one of the most popular and well received pantomimes that Brixworth Drama Group has presented.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact Sue l'Anson on 880238 or email brixworthdrama@googlemail.com

- Jean McDonnell

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What's on at Brixworth Library

For Children

Rhymetime now Friday mornings 10.05–10.35am term-time, sometimes in school holidays if staff available. Free for Under 5s and their parents/carers

Storytime Saturday mornings 10-10.30am. Free for 8 year olds and under and their parent/carers.

Discovery/Homework Club Wednesdays term-time 3.30-5pm. Free to all school-age children, no booking required.

Author visit Erica-Jane Waters, on Tuesday 2 April. Waters, who previously worked at Brixworth Library, is the author of Petticoat Pirates, a new series being launched in March for readers aged 7+. Time tbc.

Messy Crafts for children aged 4-12 years; Wednesdays 3 and 10 April plus 29 May; 2.30-3.30pm. Cost £1.00 per child, book in advance.

For Adults

Daytime Book Club Every first Tuesday of month at 2.30pm.

Evening Book Club Thursday evenings about once every six weeks 8-9pm. Next meeting late March / early April, ask at library.

Free Careers Advice Adult Learning offer help with job search, job applications, interview skills etc for all ages. Every Thursday; pre-booking essential.

Brixworth History Society Exhibition Brixworth in the 1950s & Coronation Day 1953. Free to all upstairs in Library until the end of February.

Art Exhibition by Colin Bradbury MBE throughout March upstairs in the library

Scrapbooking Club Everyone's welcome one Saturday morning a month from 10am – 12pm, small charge of around £3 to cover cost materials etc. Confirm dates at library.

The National Association for Blind Mobile will be on the forecourt of Brixworth Library & Community Centre 11.30am-12.45pm on Wednesday 27 March.

Meet the Manager Grace Kempster OBE, manager of Northamptonshire Library Services, will answer queries and listen to comments about your library service. Saturday 1 June, 10-11am

For further information about any of the above, please pop in to the library or email brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk .

Friends of Brixworth Library

The Friends raise funds to help with all the "extras", such as new children's furniture and toys, laminator etc. We usually meet on the second Tuesday of the month. New members most welcome! Check the notice boards for upcoming events – our Quiz Nights are getting increasingly popular.

Volunteering

There many ways to help your library! Currently we are looking for people to fill the roles below, but do come and talk to us if you feel you have other skills we can use.

Rhymetime Leader Friday mornings 10-10.40am. It doesn't have to be every week, but if you enjoy working with the Under 5s and would be happy leading the singing of Nursery Rhymes, then this could be for you!

Discovery/Homework Club Leader Wednesdays term-time 3.30-5pm. Again, not every week, but to help out when we are short-staffed etc. Involves helping with homework, finding information on internet and providing crafts for children.

Stock Assistant Help with shelving, tidying stock and processing new stock in the adult library.

Meeter/Greeter Welcoming customers in the library, helping them find stock or pointing

them in right direction with queries, helping customers use self-service.

Super Sunday volunteer Meeting/greeting customers, helping with self service, helping with crafts, making teas/coffees, shelving and tidying books – there's lots of things to do on a Sunday!

Other services

Bus Passes If your current bus pass expires on 31 March, get it renewed at the library. It only takes few minutes, and if you need a new photo for it, we do that too! For a new bus pass, anyone born on 6 September 1951 or before can receive a bus pass. You need to bring in one proof of age (driving licence, birth certificate or passport) and one proof of address (utility bill or bank statement).

Laminating service Available at £1 for A4 and £2 for A3 laminating.

Fax service

Jigsaw Exchange Take out your first jigsaw for 50p, then just swap for free.

Library Shop We have all sorts of things in our shop from greetings cards to stationery, gifts and local history books.

Brixworth Library is open Monday – Friday 10am-6pm, Saturdays 9am-1pm and Sundays 1-4pm. Closed over Easter and the May Bank Holidays.

brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk or phone 0300 126 1000

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Brixworth & District U3A

Brixworth U3A is a friendly and welcoming organisation which meets monthly in Brixworth Village Hall. At each meeting there is an interesting speaker, and recent offerings have included a talk on "A Tudor Christmas" delivered by a gentleman in contemporary dress, a lady presenting "Music and Memories from a 1950s Childhood" and a talk on the music of George Gershwin. The subjects on offer are wide-ranging and there is something for everyone. The talk is followed by tea and biscuits and the opportunity for a chat with friends, and, on special occasions, there are cakes on offer!

Brixworth U3A has twenty one subgroups and if you wanted you could attend one almost every day. In fact around 70% of our members attend at least one of these groups. At our March meeting there will be a showcase to promote the groups.

One of the most popular is the rambling and strolling group with up to 40 members attending each month. There is a ramble of around four miles and the less adventurous can opt for the stroll of around one and a half miles. A welcome lunch in a nearby hostelry follows. An old favourite, the Bell at Gumley near Market Harborough, was revisited in January and the February walk was around Brixworth, ending up at the Coach and Horses. Surprisingly, especially in 2012, we have always been blessed with pleasant weather.

The lunch group is equally popular. The Christmas meal at the Three Swans at Market Harborough saw a bumper 66 members attending but regular monthly gatherings see between thirty and forty members seated. Recent venues have been the Waterfront in Market Harborough, followed by lunches at Cogenhoe and Northampton University.



Other groups are smaller but no less enjoyable. You can learn French or bridge, play table games, table tennis or badminton, enjoy poetry or music. You can share your holiday experiences with our armchair travellers or your family history findings with the genealogy group. Our quiz group is great fun and our choir is just getting established. With 21 groups to choose from there is something to suit every taste.

Our days out are always well attended, indeed a recent trip to the palace of Westminster was over-subscribed. Very knowledgeable guides were on hand to take us around in small groups. We were taken through Westminster Hall and St Stephen's Hall to the central lobby which looked very familiar from interviews seen on television. Then it was through the "No" lobby to the Commons chamber. Most agreed that it was much smaller than we had expected, but nevertheless it was awesome to be standing there in such a historic place. Unfortunately, the Lords were sitting so we were unable to go into their chamber but it was fascinating to see the many statues of previous prime ministers displayed around the building.

Another coach trip is scheduled for March with the opportunity to visit Alexandra Palace, affectionately known as "Ally Pally". There will be a talk and a tour of this iconic building, just one of the many things to enjoy with our "U3A friends" in 2013. – *Christine Pratt*

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1st Scaldwell Guides



The Autumn term has been quite busy for the Guides. We had a fun filled weekend at the Sir John Lowther Activity Centre, Kettering which resulted in a public performance of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes as part of the Performing Arts badge. We were also very busy in the run-up to Christmas, crafting handmade decorations, cards and Christmas cakes – plus there was a very enjoyable trip to see 'A Christmas Carol' at the Royal Theatre.

- *Jill Gunnett*

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Well, what a fun-packed time we have been having at Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group. As well as the Bonfires and Christmas parties there has been a very international theme to the more recent activities.

The Beavers completed their Animal Friend badge with a visit to Pets At Home; they also took a look at Diwali and Chinese New Year celebrations. To round it all off, they worked towards their Safety and Air Activity badges.

The Cubs had a Christmas party, with a difference. This year it had an Australian theme! They have also been roller-skating, celebrated Burns Night with haggis and Irn Bru and Chinese New Year tasting lots of different foods. And if that wasn't enough they have also been working on water conservation as part of their Global badge. The Cubs took part in the District Swimming Gala – and won!

The Scouts celebrated Christmas with a trip to Laser Zone, they also visited the climbing wall, played lots of indoor games and practiced cooking army rations. The Scout leaders have decided to take Scouts back to their roots recently with an evening practising knots and rucksack packing. A number of the scouts were planning to camp the weekend the weather was at its worst – sadly the leaders could not get within two miles of the camp site and it had to be cancelled. It is hoped we will be able to reschedule soon.

Explorers have been out and about. Amongst the many things they have been up to was a visit to the Olympic pool in Corby to have a go at diving. They also celebrated Chinese New Year in style with a visit to a Chinese restaurant.

The Remembrance Parade (see also p 25) was a huge success. Lots of young people turned out in their uniform to walk through the village with other members of the community.

On 21 April the Scout Group is planning another parade to mark St George's Day – the patron saint of Scouts. The plan is to meet at Brixworth Centre near the church and march through the village ready for a short service outside the Community Centre at 2.30pm.

If any one would like to find out more about becoming a Cub leader please contact me. A number of the current leaders plan to step down this summer after many years working with this section; we have a lot of regular helpers but we will need a few more leaders come September.

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit <http://scouts.org.uk/>. To find out more about the local group, contact Kim Phillips, Group Scout Leader on 07815 070878 or info@armarketing.co.uk. To put a boy or girl on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please email their name, date of birth, your name, address and telephone numbers to brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk - Kim Phillips



Hanging Houghton News

Annie and David Braviner left Hanging Houghton in December to seek their fortune in Morocco. Claudia and Richard Flavell-While and their daughter Robyn have moved in and we wish them welcome to the village. If the name sounds familiar, Claudia is the editor of the *Bulletin*.

One of our oldest residents, Phyllis Annis, celebrated her 90th Birthday recently. Her friends and neighbours organised a surprise party for her at the Stag's Head in Maidwell which was attended by over a dozen ladies. I am told that Phyllis was so surprised that she was speechless - which is a very rare occurrence according to my wife! A very enjoyable lunch was had by all.

Work on the new houses in Manor Gardens continues apace, and I am told that No. 7 has now been sold.

Daventry District Council have appointed an environment officer and his main topics of concern are the nuisance caused by littering and dog fouling, both areas which have been highlighted by a recent survey. There have been rumblings in HH about dog fouling on the footpath that leads from the north of the village across the fields towards the A508 and Lamport.

This matter will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on the 20th March at the Loder hall in Maidwell, if you have any views on this please try to attend this meeting. - Mike Philpott

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Community Panel News

The Rural East Northamptonshire Community Panel represents the villages of Brixworth, Cottesbrooke, Creton, East Haddon, Hanging Houghton & Lampport, Maidwell and Spratton and operates under the auspices of Northamptonshire Police. We meet on a quarterly basis to discuss and try to resolve our local problems and concerns.

Apart from burglaries, the main problems that arise are of anti-social behaviour and speeding traffic through our villages and on our narrow country roads, which were not built for today's volume and speed.

Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is behaviour that causes "harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household" – ie it excludes domestic incidents. It covers both sub-criminal and minor criminal behaviour. In many cases, anti-social behaviour is aimed at individuals, groups or organisations. A second category is 'environmental ASB', such as noise, nuisance, graffiti or fly-tipping; and a third, 'ASB restricting access to public spaces', including intimidating behaviour by groups on the street, street drinking and open drug use. Whether through a person's direct or indirect involvement we are all aware of these problems that surround us on a day to day basis and by supporting your Community Panel it is hoped that your village will be a



more pleasant place to live in. The above problems are caused only by the few.

Speeding

Speeding through our villages continues to cause much distress. It is a major problem and there are many minor bumps (not all reported), with parked cars that have been damaged beyond repair. There is little doubt that pedestrians are put at great risk in our beautiful old villages with narrow or non-existent footpaths, as are horse riders and runners on our local roads and that we should take all possible steps to avoid a catastrophe.

In Brixworth, the Parish Council is interested in setting up a community speed

watch scheme. This requires at least ten volunteers willing to join the speed watch team and use a hand-held speed gun, and 500 signatures from the community supporting this scheme. If you're interested, please phone 881243 or email clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk

Come join us

ALL are very welcome to our quarterly meetings, either just to listen or to discuss your problem or more general problems. We will do our best to address and rectify them with the support of our local police.

Our next meeting is on 18 April; location to be confirmed - Jay Tindale, chair

Tennis Club gets go-ahead

The proposed Brixworth Tennis Club has been given the go-ahead following Sport England's recent award (see above).

This award will mean that the major redevelopment of the Cricket Clubhouse can take place and that work on the changing facilities and bar area can also proceed this year. We'll still need to raise further funds to buy much-needed floodlights for the three courts.

We plan to formally launch the Tennis Club on 1 April 2013. Membership fees are £50 a year for adults, £20 a year for juniors, and £120 a year for families (two adults plus children).

Players of all abilities are very welcome. Anyone interested who hasn't already done so should contact Will Haxby already on willh@haddonstone.co.uk or 880715 asap.

We are also looking for people to join the Tennis Club Committee – please speak to Will.

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What's on

9 Feb-17 March	Bust - Art Exhibition	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
9 Feb-17 March	Reincarnated Rubbish	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
9 Feb-14 April	Once is an Accident, twice a Revolution	Northampton Museum & Art Gallery
24 Feb	Carmen	Derngate
25 Feb	Tosca	Derngate
25 Feb-2 Mar	The 39 Steps	Royal
26 Feb	Jimmy Carr	Derngate
27 Feb	Guinness World Records	Derngate
28 Feb-2 March	Spring Awakening	Underground
28 Feb	Milton Jones	Derngate
1 March	Shoe Heaven	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
2 March	Music from the Ballet	Royal
2 March	Merry Tom Folk Festival Preview	Brixworth Village Hall
2 March	Funeral for a Friend	Roadmender
3 March	NMPAT Gala Night	Royal
4 March	Circus of Horrors	Derngate
6 March	Bootleg Beatles	Derngate
7 March	Mayor's Charity Event	Corby Cube
7-9 Mar	Romeo and Juliet	Royal
7-9 Mar	Twelfth Night	Royal
7 March	Harry Hill	Derngate
8 March	Propaganda feat. The Enemy	Roadmender
8 March	A celebration of Kate Bush	Derngate
9 March	Animation Festival	Corby Cube
9 March	Pitch Perfect	Corby Cube
10 March	NMPAT Wind Band	Derngate
12 March	WI: Guide Dogs for the Blind	Village Hall
14 March	Solid Silver 60s	Derngate
14 March	Robin Ince	Corby Cube
15 March	The Umbrella Fair	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
15 March	Al Murray	Derngate
15 March	Jo Caulfield	Corby Cube
15 March	Mr Whatnot	Royal
16 March	Cannon, Campbell, Watchorn & O'Connor	Derngate
18-23 March	The Mousetrap	Derngate
23 March - 12 May	All the Presidents	N'pton Museum & Art Gallery
24 Mar	Russian Adventure - Family Workshop	Underground

24 March	Kirill Karabits conducts Russian Masterpieces	Derngate
28 March	From the Odd	Black Bottom Club
29 March	Joe Brown	Derngate
30 March - 1 April	Easter Egg Trains	Northampton & Lampport Railway
31 March - 1 April	Easter Egg Hunt	Kelmarsh Hall
31 March - 1 April	Kelmarsh Country Fair	Kelmarsh Hall
2 April	Herb Gardening	Lampport Hall
3 April	Spring Garden Walk	Lampport Hall
3-7 April	Crazy Hair	Underground
3 April	Chris & Pui	Derngate
6 April	One night with Joan Collins	Derngate
7 April	Limelight Theatre School	Derngate
9 April	WI: Making Hanging Baskets	Village Hall
9-13 April	High Society	Derngate
10 April	Talk: John Fowler	Kelmarsh Hall
11 April	Gardeners Question Time	Village Hall, 7.30 pm
13 April	Herb Gardening	Lampport Hall
14 April	Alexander Shelley conducts Scheherazade	Derngate
15-20 April	Derren Brown	Derngate
19 April - 11 May	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Royal
20 April	Encouraging Wildlife in the Garden	Lampport Hall
24 April	Suggs - My Life Story	Corby Cube
25 April	The Searchers	Corby Cube
26 April	The Illegal Eagles	Derngate
27 April	Enter Shikari	Roadmender
27 April	That'll be the Day	Derngate
28 April	A Mini Midsummer Night's Dream	Derngate
30 April - 4 May	Anything Goes	Lighthouse Th'tre Kettering
30 April - 4 May	Birds of A Feather	Derngate
4-6 May	Teddy Bear Weekend	Northampton & Lampport Railway
5-6 May	Art, Craft & Design Fair	Lampport Hall
5-6 May	Hardy Plant Fair	Kelmarsh Hall
6-11 May	Soul Sister	Derngate
10 May	New Model Army	Roadmender
11 May	Funky Garden Containers	Lampport Hall
13-18 May	Birdsong	Royal
14 May	NGS Open Day	Kelmarsh Hall

14 May	WI: Resolutions	Village Hall
15 May	Talk: Ladies at War	Kelmarsh Hall
17 May	Jack Jones Farewell Tour	Derngate
18 May	Lee Nelson	Derngate
21 May	Painting in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
22 May	Bill Bailey - Qualmepeddler	Derngate
23 May	An Evening with the Stars of Strictly	Corby Cube
23 May	Micky Flanagan	Derngate
24 May - 15 June	Dancing at Lughnasa	Royal
25 May	Chris & Pui	Corby Cube
25-27 May	Cream Tea Trains	Northampton & Lampport Railway
26-27 May	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
30 May	Reginald D Hunter	Derngate
30 May	The Trickster	Black Bottom Club
31 May	Bill Bailey	Derngate
2 June	Northants Ultra 35 Mile Race	Lampport Hall
2 June	Cooking in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
11 June	WI: My Life as a Vicar's Wife	Village Hall
12 June	Plants & Alpines	Kelmarsh Hall
15 June	Drawing & Painting Landscape	Lampport Hall
16 June	Last Night of the Derngate Proms	Derngate
22-28 June	Lampport Arts Week	Lampport Hall
23 June	The Cut Flower Garden	Lampport Hall
28 June	Landscape in Watercolour	Lampport Hall
30 June	Steam and Cream	N'pton & Lampport Railway
30 June	Lampport Hall 100 Bike Ride	Lampport Hall
3 July	Summer Garden Walk	Lampport Hall
5-6 July	Jason Manford	Derngate
7 July	Cooking in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
8-13 July	Midnight Tango	Derngate
9 July	WI: Hypnotherapy	Village Hall
9 July	Lawn Care	Lampport Hall
12-13 July	Merry Tom Folk Festival	Brixworth Country Park
19 Jul	Paul Weller	Delapre Abbey
20-Jul	The Comedy of Errors	Lampport Hall
20-21 July	Festival of History	Kelmarsh Hall
21 Jul	James Morrison	Delapre Abbey
21 Jul	Jazz in the Garden	Lampport Hall

Cricket Club secures £50,000 to redevelop clubhouse

Brixworth Cricket Club has secured Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund.

The Inspired Facilities Fund is part of the £150m Places People Play legacy programme that is bringing the magic of a home Olympics and Paralympic Games into communities across the country.

The Club will receive the maximum of £50,000 available under the scheme to upgrade Haywards Barn (pictured) into a fully functioning pavilion and clubhouse. The improvements will include new changing rooms for cricket and tennis, renovations to the kitchen and bar area and the creation of a function room.

Sport England's Chair, Richard Lewis, said: "This National Lottery investment will create a lasting sporting legacy for Brixworth. This fund has really made an impact with sports clubs in Northamptonshire. It shows we're offering the legacy that people want for their local community. For hundreds of clubs and tens of thousands of people, the London Olympic and Paralympic Games were the

reason their local sports facilities got better."

Brixworth Cricket Club's Chairman, Chris Timm, said: "We are delighted to have secured this investment, which means we can make significant improvements to the quality of our premises to match the quality of the playing area and practice facilities. Once completed, we'll be able to accommodate a range of leisure activities and groups within the renovated clubhouse which will also be the largest indoor function area in the village.

"After five seasons at our new ground, it's exciting to think that within 18 months we will have a wonderful clubhouse facility which will be the envy of other clubs in the County. More importantly we'll be able to offer the



opportunity to play cricket to more juniors, including girls, a better environment for their parents to come and watch and socialise, and we'll now be able to formally launch our tennis club later this year."

Brixworth Cricket Club is one of hundreds of projects across England benefitting from lottery investment through the third round of the Inspired Facilities fund. Many more communities will also be able to benefit from the fund, with two further rounds remaining. Bids will be accepted for the fourth round of Inspired Facilities Funding from 4 March 2013. You can find out more at www.sportengland.org/inspiredfacilities.

Work is scheduled to start this summer, with completion due in spring 2014.

For more details about the project and for any other enquiries about playing, volunteering or sponsorship, please contact Chris Timm on 07718 628985 or christimm_24@hotmail.com

Mixed Hockey Club celebrates upturn

The start of the new year was also the start of a revival in Brixworth MHC's season, as the arrival of new player Lewis Godbolt coincided with a sudden upturn in the results.

First up was Bugbrooke MHC, when Brixworth stalwart Roger Clayton rediscovered his scoring form and along with Lewis provided the goals to earn Brixworth a well-deserved, and somewhat unexpected, first point of the season against very strong opposition.

Before the next match a team of volunteers from Brixworth, along with other teams from Northants Hockey, helped out with the pitch laying for the Maxifuel Super Sixes at the Kettering Arena. That done it was time to renew hostilities with the old foe Fat Cat MHC. This fixture has had mixed success for Brixworth in recent years, the reverse fixture finished 4-2 to Fat Cat, but with spirits high from the draw against Bugbrooke there was a sense of optimism this time. Brixworth were first out the blocks and scored early courtesy of another goal from Lewis Godbolt. Fat Cat then equalised with a goal where the ball appeared to have hit an attacker's foot in the build-up, as well as some doubt whether it actually crossed the line, to leave the score level at the break. It was a similar story in the second half with Brixworth scoring first with another goal from Roger Clayton only to see Fat Cat equalise again. With the clock running down Brixworth seemed to be heading for another draw when Bob Khan went on a surging run to score his first goal for the club and seal Brixworth's first victory of the season. That done it was time reap the rewards for our earlier labours with complimentary tickets to watch the Maxifuel Super Sixes.

If you, or anyone you know would like to give hockey a go please contact us by email BrixworthMHC@gmail.com, facebook: Brixworth Mixed Hockey Club or twitter: BrixworthMHC – Jon Davies

Come and play Badminton!

Brixworth Badminton Club is currently seeking new members. We're a friendly and sociable club, and also have league teams. We play on Wednesday and Friday nights 7.30-9.30pm on four modern courts at Guilsborough School.

Whilst the club should appeal to those social players wanting to improve, it also provides a challenge for those who aspire to play more competitively. For more details visit www.brixworthbadminton.co.uk or contact Trevor Robinson on 843064 or trevitox@hotmail.com