

Councillor sues Parish Council

Stephen Pointer seeks up to £25,000 in recompense over leaking of information

Brixworth Parish Council is being sued by one of its own Councillors for up to £25,000 due to discrimination and harassment over his disability and over claims they leaked information that found its way to the newspapers and social media.

Cllr Stephen Pointer, who has been serving on the council and a range of village bodies for over six years, brought the claim in connection with an ongoing dispute over the Parish Council's obligations to make 'reasonable adjustment' for his progressive loss of vision, which means he needs equipment to help him read paperwork. He says that some Council members leaked information that, once it had been picked up on Twitter and in the press, served to incite the public, stopping him from getting the equipment he was seeking.

Mike Lacey, chair of Brixworth Parish Council, said that the Parish Council would defend itself against the claim. "We have offered to make reasonable adjustment but both our attempts were rejected by Cllr Pointer's actions. We will now ask the mediators to suggest a way forward." Cllr Pointer strongly disagrees. He says: "They were rejected because they were not feasible offers."

The disagreement between Cllr Pointer and the Parish Council relates to a request in May for the Council to provide him with equipment to help him do his work. Having sought professional advice, it was concluded that an iPad would best serve his needs and he asked the Parish Council to provide one. In a lengthy and passionate debate several options were explored. Sharing equipment already provided by Daventry District Council (where Cllr Pointer also has a seat) was deemed not to be practical due to its weight and bulk.

As a result, the Parish Council agreed to his request and voted to grant him £514 to pay for a 64MB iPad with 3G. This iPad would be owned by Cllr Pointer, who would also pay all the on-costs such as internet connection and software himself.

In the days that followed, the Parish Council was advised that it that any equipment provided as a reasonable adjustment had to remain in its ownership. However, when it sought to re-open ownership question, there was a dispute over who would pay the on-cost. The iPad, only just delivered, was promptly returned to the shop.



Cllr Pointer is incensed that leaked information was discussed on Twitter

A new solution was sought. In July the Parish Council agreed to seek funding for a new iPad from the government's Access to Work scheme and split the difference with Daventry District Council. This time the iPad would be owned by Daventry, and its use subject to DDC's policies.

Cllr Pointer stated that this would not be suitable because his failing eyesight would not allow him to type in the password DDC would insist on. Instead, he bought his own iPad, which he is seeking to have partially paid for by Access to Work. Alas, Cllr Pointer claims that to qualify for the funding, he can only use the new iPad for paid employment – this means that he is allowed to use it at DDC but not in Brixworth, as he says the unpaid role of Parish Councillor is effectively a hobby. As a result, he is still asking Parish Council to provide him with separate equipment for use in Brixworth.

Meanwhile, the delays, together with a number of critical comments made on Facebook, Twitter and the *Northampton Chronicle and Echo*, prompted Cllr Pointer to seek recompense through the courts.

Some Parish Councillors were furious. "That's disgusting. I cannot believe that he would sue his own Parish Council," said Cllr Bob Chattaway. Cllr Pointer countered: "It's not their reputation that's been slurred, it's mine."

Cllr Pointer, who says he is unable take part in Council business until he is provided with adequate equipment, confirms he plans to return to the Parish Council once the issue has been settled.

Meanwhile, the question of the Parish Council iPad remains open. At its latest meeting in August, the Parish Council decided not to seek a new solution itself, but to refer the matter to the mediator, who will attempt to settle the ongoing legal dispute. – *Claudia Flavell-White*

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Plans for Barratt's 150

Detailed plans agreed for land east of Northampton



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new houses get final go-ahead

Road despite concern over changes to 'buffer zone' to David Wilson estate



Plans to build 150 new houses on land east of Northampton Road have been given the final go-ahead after Daventry District Council approved the detailed planning proposal for the site. Barratt Homes now plans to start work on the site this September, with the first houses completed in early 2014.

Ian Young, Development Director for Barratt Homes Northampton, told the *Bulletin*: "The project is expected to take approximately four years to complete and will bring many benefits to the community including 44 affordable homes, new jobs, financial contributions to public transport, health care, fire and ambulance services and education facilities."

"Moreover, additional car parking spaces in the village centre, extensions to existing allotments and on-site open space and play facilities will also be provided."

The detailed plans (pictured, left) set out the location and design of the 142 new houses and eight bungalows, including 44 affordable houses. Most the houses will have three or

four bedrooms, though the plans include several two-bedroom and five-bedroom houses plus a few one-bed bungalows.

Brixworth Parish Council raised a number of issues and passed on local concerns about the plans, particularly from residents living in the David Wilson Estate whose gardens will back on to the new development. Their key concern was a buffer strip of shrubs and trees between their houses and the new development. The strip had been clearly marked in the outline application, on the basis of which the development was approved in 2012. But in the detailed plans this buffer was to be incorporated into the gardens of the new housing, so that the gardens of the new houses would directly adjoin the existing ones.

Barratt Housing argued that leaving the buffer strip to sit in-between the rear gardens would have presented a security risk, as burglars could potentially use the strip to access houses through their rear gardens. They pointed out that during the

recent spate of burglaries, the vast majority of houses were broken into from the rear of the building. Barratt suggested placing a restrictive covenant on all tenants of the new properties along the boundary that would oblige them to maintain and retain the trees, and that the affected gardens were planned to be bigger than average to allow this. However, this will mean that the unofficial footpath along the buffer strip will disappear once building work on the new houses begins.

Barratt Housing assured the Parish Council that the water pump currently servicing the area would be upgraded to ensure it would cope with the additional demand.

Other concerns related to the location of the planned children's play area on the fringes of the development, close to the A508 and the allotments. Some residents expressed a concern about child safety and suggested establishing a play area for young children in the centre of the development on what's currently proposed as a village green. Barratt Housing pointed out that the location of the play area was already fixed during the outline planning application. Putting play equipment on the village green would not be possible as some residents may not appreciate the noise or intrusion.

Daventry District Councillors, led by Brixworth councillor Liz Wiig, voted unanimously in favour of the plans. Councillors told the *Bulletin* that while they are well aware of the level of local opposition to the development, the proposal was already approved in principle a year ago and any rejection would have been certain to be over-ruled on appeal, at significant cost to the council. — *Claudia Flavell-White*



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Brixworth Speed Watch – the results!



A three-week speed watch campaign, which took place in Brixworth in April and May 2013, caught 215 speeding cars.

The worst site was Northampton Road, where a total of 98 cars were caught above the speed limit. Around half that, 57 in all, were above the limit on Holcot Road,

with another 39 in Station Road, 14 on Spratton Road and seven on Harborough Road.

Far more cars were found to be speeding in the evening than in the morning, the evening checks coming up with 134 offenders versus 81 in the morning.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who participated in the period of checks and hopefully see you all again next year.

If any one would like to be a volunteer, come along to Brixworth Information Point on a Thursday or Friday between 10am and 4pm, and put your name forward for training.

- Howard Reader, Brixworth Speed Watch Coordinator

Neighbourhood Watch

Brixworth Neighbourhood Watch has been in existence for many years now and was set up to help prevent crime by improving home, vehicle and personal security. It is also a popular way for people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved.

People who live in Neighbourhood Watch areas are less likely to be burgled, and some insurance companies will reduce the price of home insurance by up to 20% for homes in schemes registered with the police.

The recent spate of burglaries in the village has spurred on new membership and the Neighbourhood Watch has joined in with the police on their mobile vehicle visits to the village.

Andy Crisp of Hollowell gave a very good and informative presentation about Neighbourhood Watch at our March Meeting – even though it was disappointing that not many of our members attended.

Information about the Neighbourhood Watch and joining up can be found on the police noticeboard on the left hand side of the library foyer. We meet three times a year in March, July and November. - John Haywood

Community Panel meeting

Anti-social behaviour and noisy exhausts were agreed as the next quarter's priority for Brixworth Police by the Community Panel.

The next panel meeting is at 8pm on 10 October at the Brixworth Community Centre, Spratton Road.

All residents are welcome to attend, so please come along and express any concerns you have.

Neighbourhood Plan Group needs **YOUR** help

The Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has the task of producing a plan to help shape the future of Brixworth for years to come. With a Neighbourhood Plan specifying in which areas new homes and offices could be built and what they should look like, we will have some powers to build the shape of our village - so it is vital we get it right.

We have received a grant from the government for over £5000 for this work, but the plan needs to have a significant input of the residents of the village. The group is not a Parish Council group, though they set it up to get the ball rolling, nor is it party political or crammed full of experts (sometimes we wish it was!)

The core group has done much preparation, but now it's the detail we are looking at - and this is where you may come in.

We need to use the expertise of residents to tell us about their hopes for the village and what is important to them. Maybe you are an historian wanting to preserve some aspects, or an architect with enlightening ideas for developing a community. Maybe you're a town planner, an educationalist, a number cruncher who can make sense of census returns, an expert in utilities supply, a health worker, a librarian, a business owner – the list is endless! We are not necessarily asking for a long-term commitment – just attending one meeting of the group at the right time could be invaluable. Contact Mike Parsons squarefoot@btinternet.com or David Parnaby dparnaby@brixworthpc.org.uk if you'd like more details.

What could be more satisfying than to say you had a part in shaping the future of your village? - Ian Barratt

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Police Report

Watch your catalyts!

In the early part of June there was a series of catalytic convertor thefts in several villages in the area including Spratton, Brixworth, Moulton and Overstone. Across Northamptonshire there were some 40 offences, mostly in south Northamptonshire but eight occurred in the wider Brixworth area. The thieves were targeting Mitsubishi L200s, Ford Rangers, Daihatsu Four tracks and Mercedes Sprinters.

In Brixworth, the Safer Community Team distributed catalytic marking kits to the owners of these vehicles. You can also deter thieves by

- parking vehicles in a garage, or a place overlooked by others
- marking your catalytic converter (see www.securedbydesign.com)
- reporting any suspicious behaviour around vehicles
- fitting other devices such as converter locks or cages
- defensive parking at businesses, using low clearance vehicle to block those with high clearance
- perimeter fencing, CCTV and lighting.

crime statistics

Brixworth has suffered 39 crimes over the last four months compared with 39 over the same period in 2012.

We have had an increase of criminal damage, where we had 17 compared with last year's seven. This was due to a spate of damage to vehicles on Broad Street, Brixworth around 1am on 5 May.

Happily, given the spate of burglaries from homes at the turn of the year, there were no incidents in the last period, compared with two last year.

Even though it was agreed as the next focus for the police (see Community Panel, left), anti-social behaviour continues to be low in Brixworth, as is the case in most villages. The team has distributed information to the local off-licences to ensure they ask for ID for age-restricted sales. Parents should be vigilant with alcohol that might be easily accessible in the home.

PCSO Matt Taylor, the school liaison officer for Guilsborough School, has done an assembly on the consequences of anti-social behaviour. This also includes neighbour nuisance, such as loud parties, and we ask everybody to be respectful of their surroundings.

Sergeant Pat Anstead, who took over from Mike Grady, has taken a leave of absence. Sergeant Scott Renwick (see box) is temporarily replacing her.

If anything is causing you problems or distress, please call in on 101. We would also like to remind you that Brixworth is an ALCOHOL FREE ZONE and therefore no open alcohol containers are allowed in public within the village.

graffiti

In the last issue, we reported that a large amount of graffiti was appearing around Brixworth, particularly on the Ash Way playing field on Saturday evenings. I am pleased to report that since it has been highlighted we have not had any graffiti in the village.

If you have any information to who was committing the offences please contact the police on any of the numbers below.

Did you hear or see anything unusual or suspicious? Ring Northampton Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Your local PCSO is Jo Hillery (07584 281098 or jo.hillery@northants.police.uk)

Sgt Scott Renwick

Hello, I'm Sergeant Scott Renwick and have recently taken over as the Supervisor of the Daventry Rural North. This is the first time that I have taken on a community role and look forward to the new challenge. I have previously worked as a PC and Sergeant on the Local Response team covering Northampton and Daventry District.



I have joined a hard-working team of Constables and PCSOs that is working hard to keep reducing crime and anti-social behaviour across the area.

Since I have been in post we have been meeting and greeting residents in Moulton to see what their priorities are, and conducted two misuse of drugs warrants. One male was arrested for possession of illegal substances with intent to supply.

I hope to do more proactive intelligence-led policing by working with our partners and village residents.

I look forward to meeting you and discussing your policing priorities in the coming months, and please take the opportunities to visit your local community panel meetings to let us know what you think – the next is on 10 October at Brixworth Community Centre (8pm).

- Sgt Scott Renwick



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Friends of All Saints celebrate 30 years

On June 1, the Friends of All Saints celebrated their thirtieth anniversary with a service led jointly by the Bishop of Brixworth and by the new Priest in Charge, Revd. Chloe Willson-Thomas. The service was followed by the launch of a book that has been over forty years in gestation.

The service was a special pleasure for its music, including the anthem, Howard Goodall's setting of Psalm 23 "The Lord's my Shepherd" well-known as the signature music for the TV series *The Vicar of Dibley* (was this just a coincidence?) and a joyous performance by Revd. Chloe and her husband Gwion of Purcell's 'Sound the Trumpet' from his Ode for Queen Mary's birthday, 'Come Ye Sons of Art'.

During the service, the Brixworth relic (believed to be a throat bone of St Boniface), normally kept under lock and key, was on display on the altar.

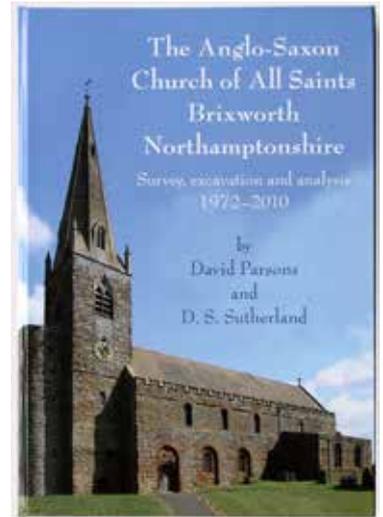
The book launch which followed the service was led by Dr David Parsons who, with the petrologist DS Sutherland, had co-authored this 336 page, lavishly illustrated work "The Anglo-Saxon Church of All Saints, Brixworth, Northamptonshire - Survey, Excavation and Analysis 1972-2010".

The length of the title perhaps echoes just how long it took to produce this magnum opus but all seemed to agree that the result justified the long wait.

To mark the official launch, Professor Dame Rosemary Cramp presented Rev'd Chloe with the Parish copy of the book.

The Service of Thanksgiving followed the Friends Annual General Meeting which was attended by many Friends including two past Chairmen.

- George Hammerschmidt and Kate Knight



Members of the Brixworth Archaeological Research Committee at the launch of the book in Brixworth Church

Country Park update

The Second Merry Tom Folk Festival, which took place in mid-July, was a great success. We had a hot but brilliant weekend with great bands, stalls and entertainment.

Works will soon start on the new nature classroom, which was kindly funded by the *Bulletin*. We will be using it for school children to get up close to wildlife and for mini beast hunting.

In September we are starting our monthly volunteer days. We will be starting with grassland day where all the long meadow grass is cut and piled up to make snake habitats. If you would like to help the ranger with this or like to know about the other volunteer days at the park, please call Matt on 889478 or email brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Meanwhile, visit our website for our Halloween and volunteer events or like Brixworth Country Park on Facebook.

- Matt Harrel, Countryside Ranger

Draughton News

We have had a very quiet spring and, as with most villages, have hibernated during the very hot weather, only re-emerging in the cooler wetter stuff! Before the heatwave we did manage the Draughton Spring Fair, with most interest centring on the two things that Draughton does best - food and flowers. Over £600 was raised for the clubroom, which is a remarkable sum for such a small population - and we must also say particular thanks to the children who did such great work with the games which they devised and ran.

The little club room is an important hub of our village, and we now have a proper oven installed, so I hope this means that by the time it comes to contribute to the next Brixworth Bulletin, we will have put that oven to good use and started on our next round of events, either social or fundraising-or both! In the meantime we happily welcome all to enjoy a coffee with us on the first Saturday of the month, or yoga classes on a Monday evening.

Many Draughtonians convened outside the club room at the beginning of July to enjoy a village barbecue. As ever with Draughton, the catering was fantastic. The array of dips, salads and puddings was spectacular, and the village chat flowed until the weather got just a little too chilly.

We are embarking on a wildlife management trial of the churchyard, and although some find the long grass rather against their ideas of what a properly run churchyard should look like, the buzz of insect activity will hopefully win everyone round, and with the electricity switched off in the church because it has apparently become unsafe, there may be more activity outside the church than within for the winter. Watch this space! - Kate Calnan

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Duchess visits Nursery Farm

At the start of the summer, Sarah, Duchess of York, visited Brixworth Nursery Farm, a centre for adults with learning disabilities, to meet some of the people who attend the centre.

She said: "I had the honour of visiting Brixworth Nursery Farm as one of the projects supported by Carefree Northants. Christian, Rachael and their team provide a service of excellence, love and nurturing to adults with learning disabilities. I admire their work and believe they should act as a blueprint for further projects."



The Duchess was accompanied by Laura Goedhuis, trustee of the Carefree Northants charity, which was established in 2011 specifically to enhance the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families in Northampton.

Laura said: "We were deeply touched that the Duchess took the time to visit us. She was very interested in what we offer at Brixworth Nursery Farm and spent over an hour talking to our clients, staff team and parents."



Come to the Community Fayre!

Saturday 28 September at Brixworth Library

If you ever wanted to find out more about village organisations, were interested in joining a new club or wished to be more informed about your community – then this free event is the one for you!

Over 30 local organisations are expected to be represented with displays in the hall, committee room, library, foyer and even outside where there will be the Mobile Police Station and the Army Cadets pitching their tents. You will be able to take up new interests like the Bowls Club or have your say in the future of the village by getting involved with the Neighbourhood Plan

Group. You can even come and chat with some of the people who put together the Brixworth Bulletin, as we plan to take a stand. Charities, sports clubs and interest groups can still book a few remaining display pitches by contacting the organisers, Jill Barber at the Library or Mike Nice at the Olive Branch.

Opening at 9am and closing at 1pm, the event will be a unique opportunity for a host of organisations to show what they offer the village. Refreshments will be available from the Olive Branch Coffee Shop – another organisation run by volunteers!

News Flash: Mabbutt's woodyard redevelopment agreed

Plans to redevelop the former woodyard at the bottom of Station Road in Brixworth into an industrial estate have been approved by Daventry District Council. This clears the way for the construction of six light industrial units and several new houses to fill in the gaps between the existing houses along the roadside.

Brixworth Parish Council had strongly objected to the plans, which are expected to cause a significant increase in traffic through the conservation part of Brixworth. However Daventry District Council, which is already under pressure for rejecting too many planning proposals, told the *Bulletin* they did not believe they had sufficiently strong grounds for rejecting the plans. More details to follow in the next issue... -

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Country Eye

Leafy invaders

You may recall that last time I wrote about the avenue of hybrid lime trees lining the farm road running from the Spratton Road to Park Farm and beyond. I guessed that they were maybe sixty years old. How wrong I was. From Mr and Mrs Richard Turney I learn that they were planted as long ago as the 1880's, when the land belonged to the extensive Wantage estates. It was Lady Wantage who gave the land around Abington Manor House to the townfolk of Northampton in 1900 to form the present-day Abington Park, while the house now contains the much-loved museum. So the lime trees are twice the age that I estimated. I am very grateful to Mr and Mrs Turney for pointing this out to me.

Still on the subject of trees, I was dismayed, but not unduly surprised, to realise there is a complete dearth of ancient trees in our parishes. As defined by the Woodland Trust, ancient woodland will have existed since at least AD 1600, sometimes for centuries before that. Venerable and vintage individual trees may be younger than this, but will contribute something culturally, historically, or aesthetically to the local landscape area. So do some of the trees within the grounds of the former Brixworth Hall qualify on this basis? And what about those within Maidwell Hall grounds and the surrounding village area? Certainly there are many spectacular trees in the landscaped parkland of Moulton Grange, which is close to Pitsford village and to the reservoir. There are some fine old trees at Harlestone, part of the Earls Spencer estate.

Salcey Forest, at 1200 acres the largest single block of woodland remaining in our county, is mentioned in Domesday Book. King Henry II had a hunting lodge there, but the site of it is long forgotten. Some ancient oak trees still remain scattered around the lawn, which is a 300-acre clearing at its centre. A very few survive in the forested area, but the gnarled remnants of the famed Duke of Grafton's oak toppled over a few years ago. A few of its sapling descendants have been planted on the site. Most of the older trees were planted after the Napoleonic Wars, when the forest was virtually clear-felled.

All these trees have one thing in common. They were planted by humankind. Indeed many fine specimens are of exotic species, some of them quite rare. At the time of their introduction no thought was given to importing the wildlife associated with these trees in their native lands. A few species will have been brought in by chance, but it means that non-native trees support only a token of their dependent flora and fauna.

Especially is this so when compared to the wildlife that make their homes in our native trees and shrubs. Top of the list has to come the oak, with perhaps as many as five hundred plants and animals that feed, make their homes on and in or otherwise rely on this iconic species. Next in importance comes the hawthorn, with willows and others not so far behind.

So what would be your list of the top five trees native to our island? It's likely you would plump for oak and ash, sycamore and horse chestnut, with perhaps hawthorn in fifth place. Two of these are not native at all. They were introduced, admittedly several centuries ago, to grace the new parklands around the homes of the wealthy. Both the sycamore and the horse chestnut came originally from the Middle East; indeed the former is now not very common in its native land.

In the past I have often criticised modern factory farming methods. Along with the greedy developers who seek insensitively to build upon and despoil whole swathes of our remaining countryside. The number twenty-nine meant nothing to me, until I learned this is the horrifying total of workers on the nation's farms, who met their deaths over the past year. A shocking statistic by any standards. I feel sure that farming must be near the top of the list of the most dangerous professions. Yet it is, in my opinion, a figure that must be taken into account when reckoning the true cost of the food on our plates. One that should surely give us all, and especially the supermarket robber barons, pause for thought. - *Brian Webster*

It's all happening at Brixworth Stores!

Brixworth is lucky in that it not only has three pubs and four take-aways, but also two general stores: the Co-op opposite the library, and Brixworth Stores in Northampton Road. Following the tragic death of the then-owner in 2006, the Stores has seen some changes under its new owner, Mukesh Patel.

How did the business start?

I took over the business in April 2006, after the previous owner, Bachu Patel, died. He had been running it for twenty years.

What is your relationship with Brixworth?

I had been living in Wellingborough for 32 years, working as a forklift truck driver for Homebase. I wanted a change. My family didn't want to move away from this area. As my brother-in-law runs seven shops in London, I contacted him and he found out there was a shop here going for sale. Now my family live in the flat over the shop.

What changes have you seen over the years?

The business grew the first four years we had it, but now it has slowed down a bit because of the recession. The business grew mainly because we installed new fridges which meant we could offer a larger range of food. And, of course, because we were offering a good service!

What we have seen is that people have cut down on buying newspapers. For example, we used to sell 150 copies of the Sunday Times, now we only sell about 80. We used to sell 600 copies of the Chronicle & Echo every week but we are now down to 70 a week. People now read newspapers online instead and the scandal hitting newspapers has meant that numbers have really dropped over the past 7-8 months. We used to sell 110 copies of the News of the World at £1 each - now we only sell 40 copies of the Sunday Sun instead, even though it only costs 60p. However, magazines are still continuing to sell well.



We deliver about 85% of the papers we sell - to five villages, Pitsford, Maidwell, Droughton, Lamport and Scaldwell.

People also smoke less every time the prices go up. They are now trying electronic cigarettes instead.

Who is currently involved in the business?

My wife, Prafulla, also helps out. We have two drivers, Andy and Graham, who were here with the business before I arrived, and nine young people who deliver the papers.

Tell us about your customers

Our main business is the papers and children's sweets. But we also have groceries and frozen food, bill paying services, the lottery and phone tops-ups bring us in footfall.



What's your typical day?

We put in an average 14-15 hours a day, and we don't get any real holidays. We are open from 6 in the morning to 7.30 in the evening from Monday to Friday. On Saturday we open a bit later, at 6.30 am, and on Sunday we are open from 6.30 and close at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

I wake up at 3.30 and am in the shop by 4.30. The milkman is already waiting for me by then. The papers are delivered shortly afterwards and I have to sort them out. The deliveries start at 6.30, and the young people who do the deliveries have to be here by 7.30 at the latest. Each paper round takes about 20 minutes. We then start filling the shelves - this continues all day. Our peak times for customers are between 6 and 10 am and between 3 and 6 pm. Towards the end of the day we do our day's takings.

What are the seasonal variations, e.g. the run up to Christmas?

Business is pretty steady all year round. Christmas is usually the busiest period, but the last two years it has been slow. Business also picks up in the hot weather as a lot of people come in for drinks. We don't really change the stock during different seasons, we just have different quantities. We don't do any "specials". We tried a special display once for Halloween but it was a flop.

What are the funniest and strangest things that have happened to you?

Once a man came in drunk and wandered round the shop. A dog came in once all by himself, took a look round the shop then left. Once a group of people came in looking for alcoholic drinks at six in the morning! We've never really had any trouble, we've never had to call the police. We have a dog who is a very effective guard dog!

What is your biggest challenge?

We'd like to improve the shop design, but money is tight while business is down, so we will wait to see how business picks up before investing in this.

What message do you have for your customers?

Come and see us! People don't know it, but we usually stock most of the things you need. And, unlike at the Co-op, you don't have to queue! - Jennifer Fitzgerald

Brixworth Farming Company

Sowing the seeds of progress



Technology has changed farming beyond recognition: harvesting today (top) and just a generation ago (bottom)

One of the aspects most of us appreciate about living in and around Brixworth is our ease of access to some beautiful countryside. Yet most of us know very little about what goes on there. You may be surprised to find out!

First of all, size matters. Most of our local farmers have joined forces to farm their arable land together. The Brixworth Farming Company was set up in 2000 to achieve greater efficiencies, given the rising costs of production. Its key players are Richard Turney of Park Farm, who farms most of the fields directly around the village, Tom Saunders of Manor Farm in Hanging Houghton and Charles Matts of Creaton. BFC has since doubled in size and now manages a total of 6000 acres, sharing staff, machinery and expertise with farms in Cottesbrooke, Guilsborough and Althorp.

Crops grown are mainly wheat, oil seed rape and high-protein field beans (used for both human and animal consumption). BFC has experimented with linseed, poppies (grown on contract for pharmaceutical companies) and the biofuel elephant grass, but these have not been so successful.

Cattle are not popular these days. According to Turney, at least twelve farms in this area used to be dairy farms. The Turneys used to keep 150 cows, and the Saunders had about 200 cattle and 500 breeding ewes. Both farms have now stopped livestock farming as much bigger herds are needed to be economically viable. They are also aware that their village neighbours may not appreciate the noise and smell. Saunders says: "Livestock numbers throughout the country are going down all the time, it is very physical work, you have to work long hours and get no holidays".

Nevertheless, some farm animals are still kept locally. Turney uses his spare buildings and grassland to raise several hundred young calves for a relative's dairy farm in Dorset. John Smith keeps sheep in the fields behind

Mercedes AMG and Justin Hulme looks after a few Galloways cattle and sheep on his grassland down by the reservoir.

The nature of farming has changed beyond recognition since Richard Turney's grandfather arrived here in 1920 and even since Saunder's father started farming here thirty years later. Today, farmers are highly reliant on technology, which demands a higher level of skills – particularly in IT. For example, satellite systems are used to direct the application of fertilisers and plant nutrients by indicating the different amounts of substances needed in different parts of the fields. This means very expensive chemicals are used much more cost effectively. Another example of new technology introduced in recent years is the



use of sexed semen for artificial insemination. Now it is possible to produce only female calves for dairy herds.

Increasing mechanisation has resulted in far fewer staff. Turney's father used to employ 32 people at Park Farm. Now there are only two full-time employees supported by temporary workers. This has severed a natural connection with the local community; once upon a time many Brixworth youngsters used to help out on Park Farm at some point. Today, most people in the village have lost their understanding and appreciation of the agricultural way of life.

Since the economic crisis of 2008, when traders turned their attention to "soft" commodities, the market for foodstuffs has become global. Prices can fluctuate wildly and even if there is a poor local harvest, they can still fall. Turney says: "Sometimes it is only because of the EU support we receive that we can provide a consistent supply of food and keep food prices low."

Indeed, while we have been enjoying much better weather this summer, our local farmers are still suffering from the consequences of last year's difficult autumn and hard winter, which produced a lot of slugs and waterlogging. Ten percent of this year's crop had to be



Livestock has largely disappeared, but a few sheep and cows remain

planted in the spring, which has meant a delayed harvest.

Environmental protection is also high on the list of concerns of farmers today. BFC subscribes to various government schemes, and deliberately leaves grass margins of up to six metres around the fields to benefit wildlife. Farmers are expected to provide access for the general public – this gives us the "permissive path" to the south of Froxhill Crescent. We can help maintain this by keeping to the footpaths, keeping dogs under control, and disposing of our litter correctly.

Farmers have one request for all of us: be patient with them when they are driving their impressive machinery around the local roads. They know that they hold drivers up so they try to move their equipment as early in the morning as possible. As Saunders says: "Please understand - we want to get to our destination as quickly as you do!"

Like everybody else, Brixworth's farmers have to make a living. And they are involved in the essential task of producing food for us all. Unlike the rest of us, their working hours, and the times they move their machinery around, are dependent upon the weather! - Jennifer Fitzgerald

Brixworth wine? Really?

There cannot be many English villages that can boast of not one, but two, vineyards. The vineyard marked on the Brixworth bypass next to the Country Park belongs to Justin Hulme, who also owns the neighbouring wood yard.

Justin's father owns Fleur Fields vineyard at the south of Northampton Road, which explains why Justin has taken up this unusual type of farming for the past four years. Apparently, the soil by Pitsford Reservoir is perfect for vines and the south-facing slope ideal, as it gets the sun all day. The grape varieties used have all been specially adapted to the UK climate.

Justin produces a wine called Ashwood Valley from 4800 vines, which in a good year can produce two bottles each. The grapes are not processed on site but are sold on to other vineyards.

However, Justin's main business is tree surgery and forestry. He is employed across seven counties, and, among others, by the Althorp estate. The piles of wood chip he brings back to his yard go to power the National Grid. He reckons the waste from his tree surgery provides about three days worth of electricity for half a million houses!

- Jennifer Fitzgerald



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by kind permission of Brixworth Farming Company

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For further details contact

Michael Alcock on 01604 881948 or 07946 568052

Len Austin on 01604 781146 or 07710 912797

Your Letters

RIP Mixed Hockey Club

Dear Editor

What a shame Brixworth Mixed Hockey Club is no more! I was a founder member of the Club all those years ago and by modern standards our equipment was woeful! Goal nets were an unaffordable luxury, leading to some "interesting" umpiring decisions. One team member had the old fashioned English style stick his mum had used when she was at school and a broken stick was dreaded as no-one was wealthy enough to own a spare! The team shirt was any garment you had as long as it was vaguely red in places. But pity the poor goalie – third hand cricket pads regularly shedding their stuffing week by week and for a "box" (ladies look away now) the poor incumbent used a folded copy of the previous weeks Sunday Express magazine! It was said it took him till Wednesday each week to scrub the ink off which had transferred itself to his body in copious amounts. As clubs changed and nets were needed the club nearly went out of existence – nets are expensive. But a player had a relative in Scotland who sent down some well used fishing nets for us to use – but the smell was awful, especially for the poor goalie who had to take them home each week.

Yet the team thrived on adversity, lasting friendships were made, bones were occasionally broken but morale was high – if only the results in my time had been! And a second and third team was set up. Yet we never played a single game in the village in all those years! Daventry, Wellingborough, Northampton but never Brixworth. And that's a pity when facilities were developed and pitch space found for Rugby and Ladies Football clubs both of which never came to fruition. Yet the club retained the name "Brixworth" till the bitter end.

If anyone ever writes the Art of Coarse Hockey, Brixworth was the archetype! Good luck and thanks to all those who played over the years - the world is a richer place for having clubs like Brixworth Mixed Hockey Club - *Ian Barratt*



WI replants Pound Garden

Brixworth Women's Institute has completed the replanting of the Pound Garden. Several Brixworth residents have enquired about the rose we have used. It is called "Tickled Pink" and is looking particularly lovely at the moment with the lavender border. Special thanks go to Betty Howell, Betty Wiles, Audrey Hawkins, Sue Mallard and to local gardener Linda Howitt for all their work and expertise.

Our Michaelmas Term starts at 7.30pm on September 10 at Brixworth Village Hall with a talk on "Recycle and Renew". New members welcome.



BRAMPTON HEATH
GOLF CENTRE

SANDY LANE, CHURCH BRAMPTON, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 8AX
WWW.BHGC.CO.UK INFO@BHGC.CO.UK 01604 84 39 39



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Call 01604 84 39 39 option 1 for more details.

Brixworth Landscaping

For personal service & creation of your ideal garden, contact **Matthew Cox**:

Phone: 01604 882390
Email: cox9ln@btinternet.com
Mobile: 07702317828

82 Froxhill Crescent
Brixworth
Northampton NN6 9LN



Join the Army Cadets!

Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland Army Cadet Force (LNR ACF) is part of one of the UK's oldest, largest and most successful youth organisations. We have approximately 1,200 cadets based in 44 local detachments throughout the three counties.

The ACF helps young people between the ages of 12 (and in year 8 at school) and 18, to develop personally and physically by providing a range of exciting and stimulating opportunities, challenges and activities in a safe and controlled, yet action packed learning environment.

Our cadets are trained in skills such as fieldcraft, expedition and map-reading, first aid, skill-at-arms, drill and turnout. We also offer the chance to participate in the Duke Of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the BTEC diploma scheme and adventurous training activities such as canoeing and skiing.



Our young people are encouraged to fully explore their potential and see where the boundaries lie whilst being carefully supervised by appropriately trained adult instructors.

Your local Brixworth detachment is based at the Youth Club in Ironstone Way, NN6 9PD and parades every Tuesday evening from 7.30 -9.30pm.

For further information contact the Brixworth detachment commander on 07817 887104, or visit www.lnracf.co.uk

Forty teenagers descend on Brixworth – to serve

On the 7th August a group of teenagers were staying at Maidwell Hall under the Banner of CPAS – the Church Pastoral Aid Society, who as CYFA Ventures organise venture holidays for young people from around the country.

For the second year running, through the Brixworth Christian Fellowship, they wished to be involved in some local community project. Having made a huge difference to Brixworth School outdoor environment last year, with a huge amount of painting of fences, walls, doors and such like, they were encouraged to be more involved, this time in the Foundation Stage area of the school which has now been totally transformed by their efforts!

“To see such positive enthusiasm and the desire to serve that these young people showed was a heart-warming experience,” said Phil Walter, the minister of BCF.

Ventures and Falcon Camps provide a unique holiday experience to thousands of children and young people each year. Their aim is to provide children and young people aged 8-18 with a potentially life-changing holiday.

Ventures and Falcon Camps are led by committed Christian leaders who have a passion for sharing the good news of Jesus with young people through the environment of a fun, activity holiday. Falcon Camps are significantly subsidised to open up the opportunity of going on a holiday to as many children and young people as possible who might not otherwise be able to enjoy a holiday. Well done! - *Phil Walter*



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BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.bcfchurch.co.uk



We live in a very fast changing society that often brings good things with it, but somehow at times seems to leave people on their own often in a dark place. Loneliness, fear, unhappiness, desperation and depression surround us in so many areas of our lives. I was struck recently by the incredible joy that children exhibit, when 100+ children attended our Children's Club at the school. As they sang and danced, played games, listened to stories from the Bible, and had a great time I reflected on what life will be like for these children as they grow into adulthood?

Can you remember when you went to Sunday School or a church youth club as a child? I am convinced that the teachings of Jesus learned at such times are a good and positive ante-dote to the world's values which often are very self-centred.

As a church we are looking to do two things in September which we hope will appeal to all ages. Firstly we are running an "Alpha Course" – a well established, tried and tested course that explores what life is about and explores openly, together with lots of discussion, aspects of the Christian faith. Secondly, we offer at our Sunday Services at 11.15a.m. at the school a "Junior Church" which reflects much of the activity they enjoyed at the Children's Club recently.

I hope that you are able to join us at these activities.

God bless you

Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on 882040



A SUMMER OF FUN

Family Fun Day

What a wonderful day! Bouncy Castles, face painting, BBQ, craft, children's races, badge making and much more on a hot, sunny afternoon overlooking the reservoir. This free afternoon was an opportunity for us as a church to bless the community of which we are a part and we trust that those who attended will have enjoyed their time with us.



Open Air Songs of Praise

On a bright sunny Sunday afternoon (well it did rain for 2 mins before we started!) we were joined by the Salvation Army Band for an hour of Hymn Singing, personal testimony of what Jesus had done for those who shared, singing by our Mississippi friends and a thought or two on Jesus question to the blind man, "what would you like me to do for you?" (still relevant today).



Childrens' Holiday Club A fantastic three mornings with our friends from Mississippi (Fairview Baptist Church) and NAYC who helped us give the 100+ children a time to remember. You may very well have heard the children as they sang, shouted and screamed with delight as they did what children should do – enjoy themselves! We hope to run it again next year!



Parent's Evening Imagine 400 burgers and sausages ready to be eaten! (which were all consumed) Imagine 100 children raring to show their parents what they did at Children's Club! Imagine lots of Mums and Dads and Grandparents in the area at the back of the Olive Branch. The smell of BBQ, the noise of the children, the fun and laughter of the relatives and the sharing of songs learned, stories told and fun had. Top that with gold medals for the winning team and silver for all the runners up and the result was a fantastic night!

Alpha Course in Brixworth

What's so great about the Alpha Course?

Ever wanted to explore the meaning of life, or ask challenging questions about the Christian faith? Sometimes it's easier not to ask questions, but on the Alpha Course ...we think life is worth exploring.

The course is fun, relaxed and totally non pressured (that's probably why over 18 million people world wide have already done it!)

How does it work?

It's a course with small groups of about 12 people with hosts and helpers. There are usually around 10 sessions. Each session begins with food, snacks that sort of thing, followed by a short talk looking at different aspects of the Christian faith and a time of discussion.

When? Wednesday 18th September
7-9:30pm

Where? Brixworth Library and Community Centre Spratton Road NN6 9DS

For further info' contact
Mark on 07922 644673

Alpha

Junior Church If you would like to know more or indeed just turn up at the school on a Sunday (you can come with your children who depart from the service after 20 mins to go to Junior Church) then phone Phil on 882040 or Mark on 07922644673.

BCF Weekly events

Sunday:	09:45 – 10:30	Informal gathering
	11:15 – 12:30	Main Service of Worship (Brixworth school) (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)

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

All Saints' Church, Brixworth

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Chloe Willson-Thomas

t: 01604 882014

e: chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com

Churchwardens: Mrs S. Woodhead, 8 Brackenborough
Mr M. Lewis, 8 Beech Close

t: 01604 880158

t: 01604 881836



Dear friends,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer, and are beginning the autumn months renewed and refreshed.

It has been a good summer. The sun shone on our weekend at the beginning of June to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Friends of All Saints. They do a great deal to preserve the building of the church and promote it as an important ancient site. We gave thanks for our church in a special service, and a new book was launched about the history of the church. And we had a wonderful response to our other events that weekend—including a packed family fun afternoon.

This time of the year has a lot to do with new beginnings. New school and university terms are starting, and we begin to think of growth and creation with harvest approaching at the beginning of October.

This autumn All Saints will see a new approach and some new beginnings. Of course we will be valuing the tradition and history of the church, but also combining the old with the new, the traditional with the more up-to-date and informal. Our new pattern of services can be seen on the opposite page. We're also putting fellowship at the heart of our services, taking time when we can to enjoy refreshments and chat together after services. This is such an important aspect of the Christian faith, and one which reflects the relationships of the three persons of the Trinity. I look forward to sharing that fellowship with you all.

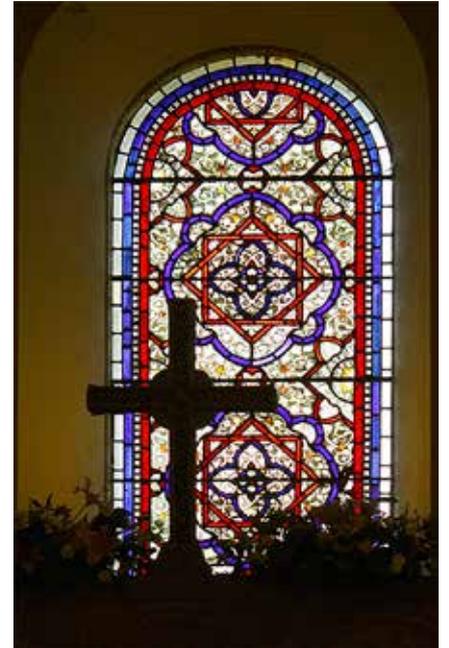
Reverend Chloe



All Saints' Church, Brixworth

Services starting from October:

1 st Sunday of the month	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
	6.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong
2 nd Sunday	7.45 a.m.	Said Eucharist
	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
3 rd Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	4.00 p.m.	Candlelit Taizé Service
4 th Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
5 th Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist



WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Tuesday	9.30 a.m.	“Coffee Pot” — short communion service followed by coffee
Thursday	9.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist

Every Wednesday at 1.30pm — “Little Steps” a baby and toddler group which begins with stories and songs in the church, and then moves over to the Brixworth Centre or Millennium Garden for refreshments and play.

Why not try our new Family Service—a lively, short informal service of about 50 mins without a Eucharist. Our first family service will be our Harvest Festival Service on 6th October.

Or if you prefer something more tranquil, come to Choral Evensong, and listen to choral music sung in a beautiful setting.

If you seek something a little different, get away from it all by coming to one of our reflective candlelit Taizé services (structured around the music of the Taizé community in France) where the focus will be on stillness, prayerfulness, and beautiful music.

Or come and enjoy our toddler group for fun and friendship.

Parish News



Brixworth Parish Council News & Views - Summer 2013 edition
 Visit us at <http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/>

edited by Ian Barratt

What a Load of Rubbish!

Councillors and volunteers act on Ashway eyesore litter



Together we made a difference..!

Who did it?
 6 Parish Councillors
 Brixworth Scouts,
 Parents
 Marc and Jane, our
 Parish Council employees
 All volunteered!



"..a wonderful morning with us all working together to make Brixworth a better place.."
 Cllr Ian Barratt, organiser

Getting to know you.....!

Hello. My name is Anthony Hockenhill known to most as Tony H. I am a member of Brixworth Parish Council. I have been in Brixworth for just over a year having lived in Liverpool for most of my life. Married to what you may call a local girl from Benefield. My reason for moving to Brixworth was to be close to our daughter who has been here with our grandchildren for over 10 years. I joined the Parish Council in November as a co-opted member and this year as an elected member.

You may have seen me around doing some of my duties possibly carrying the Gambia standard at Remembrance Day and St George's Day parades with the Scouts, possibly at the planting of the hundred trees. You even may have seen me with the speed gun I know some of you didn't that's why you got letters of warning from the police! You may also have seen me at the cleaning of the Ashway playing field. Recently you may have seen me in support of our grandchildren at Brixworth Primary school sports days. My reason for joining the Parish Council was that I hoped that the experience I have had, may be some use

to the Parish. I had been informed at the time that they were short of Parish Council members and it has always been my opinion never to sit back and hope for things to be done but to give a hand to make sure it's done. I have always believed that if you are not happy with things in the Parish it is no use just moaning about it but getting off my bottom and seeing why it hasn't been done. And giving a hand where needed to get them done.



Tony H - a real "doer"!

I believe the Parish Council would like to hear more from our residents so that we where possible can put right the wrong so do not be scared to either write or phone our clerk or members of the Council or even come to our Parish Surgery. Even though we are not paid to do this Job it is great satisfaction to see smiling faces and people happy in our Parish but you don't have to be a member of the council to keep this parish clean and tidy and a wonderful place to live in.

Recreation Committee



We continue to seek grants and funds for the proposed new play equipment for the Ashway

Steve Pointer, Recreation and Amenities Chair



Chair's Chat

The last time I sat down to write a few words to you, for inclusion in the Brixworth Bulletin, I thought it would probably be my last time addressing you as Chairman of Brixworth Parish Council. It turns out that I was wrong!

Since then, I have been elected by the members of the Council to my third term as Chairman and I can assure you it is a responsibility that I take very seriously.

But, others were also elected to offices of the council, and because I have always wanted to be an inclusive Chairman, it seems right that I mention them, rather than talk about myself:

David Parnaby is elected as Vice Chairman of the council. David brings immense experience to the Council and is also Chairman of the Planning Committee, where he is assisted by Bob Chattaway as Vice Chairman. Bob is known to many as Chairman of BRANE.

Stephen Pointer is re-elected as Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee with the Vice Chairman to be elected at the next Committee meeting. The community likely owes a vote of thanks to Stephen for his single-minded efforts to replace ageing play equipment on St David's playing field.

Sandra Moxon is elected as Chairman of the Highways Committee, replacing Colin Bament who has retired to concentrate on the Parochial Church Council. Sandra is assisted by Jackie Bird as Vice Chairman.

I am pleased to say that Ian Barratt is, again, elected as Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee. Ian also agreed to continue as Editor of the Parish Council Newsletter. For those of you who might not know, Ian recently stood as a Conservative candidate and was elected to serve on Daventry District Council, representing Brixworth as well as Cottesbrook, Creaton and Draughton, Lamport, Maidwell and Scaldwell.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is an independent body sponsored by the Parish Council. Its job is to gather views and opinions as to the direction a Neighbourhood Plan should take the village in the next thirteen years and condense those views into a draft plan. The Chairman of

Contact us.....

Until we have a new Clerk appointed your contact will be Mike Lacey, Chairman at mlacey@brixworthpc.org.uk or on 882438

We hope normal service will be resumed as soon as possible!

Parish Councillors

Mike Lacey (Chair)
Ian Barratt
Bob Chattaway
Liz Wiig
Tony Hockenhill
Sandra Moxon
Paul Williamson

and a welcome to new Councillor Malcom Rous
Full contact details on <http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/council-contacts/>

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Surgery Sat August 3rd, Sat Sept 7th
Highways Committee Tues August 6th
Planning Committee Mon Aug 19th, Mon 16th Sept 29
Full Council Tues 20th August, Tues 17th Sept
Recreation Committee Tues 24th Sept

Meetings are held in the Community Centre. Full Agendas are available a few days before the meeting on line at <http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/> or on the notice boards in the library entrance or by Troops the Greengrocers. Press and Public welcome.

this important group is David Parnaby with Bob Chattaway as Vice Chairman and Mike Parsons as Secretary. If you were wondering Mike Parsons was a member of the Council, the answer is no, I'm afraid not, although we did try! The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group consists of Brixworth Parish residents and Mike falls into that category along with others. It is true that there are some members who happen to be members of the Parish Council, but the goal is for representation of the whole village and its diverse interests, as a plan is developed to serve all of us.

These, then, are the members of our community who are freely giving of their time and expertise to serve you in 2013/14. Many seem to think that they pay for their Parish Council representatives, as they do for MPs, but Councillors are not paid anything; they are all volunteers and, as such, deserve our thanks for putting their shoulder to the wheel; selflessly serving each of us and our community.

Cllr Mike Lacey, Chairman

Speedwatch update

Early indications are that the campaign did much to reduce speed and involve the Community. But now the speedgun part is completed, speed is creeping up again. Expect further action once the results are fully analysed.

Cllr Ian Barratt

Finance Committee

We are incredibly busy reviewing all our Standing Orders, Codes of Conduct and Committees' Terms of Reference to ensure they remain compliant and fit for purpose in a changing world. Full Council will consider our findings when complete *Ian Barratt, Chairman Finance Committee*

Stop press! Stop press! Stop press!

Jane Machen, our clerk, is leaving to further her career. She has been a superb Clerk, supportive, discrete, diplomatic and above all, knowledgable. The village owes a lot to Jane for keeping things running smoothly over many years and she will be hard to replace. Our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes for the future from us all to Jane and her family.

The Highways Committee has provided no report for this issue.

WESTMINSTER REPORT

An introduction to Parliament

Few people realise what goes on in the Palace of Westminster today, let alone understand how much history has taken place in the Houses of Parliament over the years. Indeed, I'm no expert on the place and its history and I work there, but I do learn something new every day.

There are some basic things that are easy to grasp.

There are two distinct parts to the Houses of Parliament: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The House of Commons' colour is green. Pretty much everything in the Commons' side of the building is green; the benches in the chamber are green, the carpets are green, the curtains are green...

It is all green to symbolise that, as your Member of Parliament, I'm a "Commoner" and I represent you, the constituents of Daventry, in the House of Commons. In days of old when all Commoners were poor, the only colour dye that was easy to find and use came from the bushes, grasses and woods – and so if you were going to have any colour in your clothes, it would have been green. Green was the colour of common people.

At the other end of the Houses of Parliament, is the House of Lords. Historically linked closely with the Monarchy, they have their own colour; the royal colour of red no less. Yes, that does mean their benches are red, the furniture is red etc. etc.

To be one of the 650 people who can sit as a member of the House of Commons, you need to be elected and your term in office lasts up to five years from the date of the previous election. To sit as a member of the House of Lords, you are, in the main, appointed and you are appointed as a "Life Peer" – meaning you are there for life and no election can kick you out. There was a time when the majority of Members of the House of Lords were actually not appointed, but were hereditary. So the title (and the job) was passed down from father to son. However, there are just 92 hereditary Peers remaining now.

In fact, a lot of our (relatively) recent history has been all about the struggle of the people and their elected representatives in the House of Commons, wrestling powers of taxation and gaining freedoms from the Monarchy and its representatives. Indeed, it was only about one hundred years ago that "the Commons" wrestled significant powers away from "the Lords" meaning that the view of the elected chamber could trump the views of the unelected one.

The people of Britain had been struggling to have a "Parliamentary Democracy" for hundreds of years, which meant that they would have a direct say in not just who made decisions for them, but the decisions themselves. Over the years, thousands died to achieve this; many in battles that took place just a few miles away from where you are reading this, in Bosworth and Naseby.

No one will argue that the system we have now is perfect. In fact, it is constantly changing and evolving, and will probably do so forever; but the version of democracy we practice here in the UK is much coveted in other countries around the world. We might look at our system and see flaws galore, but others from outside tend to see the basis of freedom, liberty and stable government.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, this summer, as we all go about our business, take our holidays and hopefully enjoy the wonderful English sunshine, there are people across North Africa, in Syria and other places, who are fighting for the freedoms and liberty we take for granted. They are fighting for the things your forefathers sought to wrestle from the Monarchy for you. Indeed, your grandparents and great-grandparents fought to protect them in two awful wars in the last century.

So, when you turn on the news and see people fighting overseas, just ask yourself: "what are they fighting for?" You'll find that you already have the rights these people are demanding – and you've had them for ages.

We live in a great country, at a great time in our history. We are luckier than we sometimes realise.

Chris

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Brix and Mortar

Local housing market ready for upswing

Brixworth's housing market could be getting very busy over the next few years. Whether you were for or against it, the new homes that are to be built off the Northampton Road side of our village are going to have a ripple effect with some people selling their second-hand homes in order to buy a new one. This is already evident from the effect of the small Charles Church development Maple View off Eaglehurst Drive. This chain of events will need first-time buyers to enter the market again, and although they have not been able to be there in large numbers recently (due to lack of substantial deposits), that is all about to change next year.

The government's planned £3.5bn investment in government loans to financially stretched homebuyers and a £12bn scheme to increase the availability of mortgages to people who cannot afford a large deposit is

set "to support a new generation in realising the dream of home ownership".

The two measures were the centrepiece of a package of financial support for the housing market, and aim to provide assistance to first-time buyers and those "trapped" in their existing homes and unable to take the next step up the property ladder.

The Help to Buy scheme is an expansion of two existing initiatives. Under the loans scheme, a buyer will be able to take out a mortgage for just 75% of the cost of the property, provided they can stump up a 5% deposit.

Already open to those buying a new home from many of the national house builders, the scheme will be open to those moving within the second-hand market from January 2014. Over three years, it will see the government give lenders who offer mortgages to people

with a deposit of between 5% and 20% the chance to buy a guarantee on the high loan-to-value portion of the mortgage. That means if a borrower's property were repossessed, the government would cover a chunk of the losses suffered by the lender.

The loans scheme is an expansion of the existing First Buy scheme, but not restricted to first-time buyers. It also has fewer restrictions than First Buy: houses worth up to £600,000 will qualify, and it does not matter how much someone earns.

However, buyers need to be aware that after the first five years, an annual fee of 1.75% will be levied on the government loan, and this fee will then rise annually by retail prices index (RPI) inflation plus 1% after that. The government says the equity loan can be repaid at any time, or on the sale of the property. - *Stuart Little*

First Aid Training

Would you know what to do in a Medical Emergency?

The British Red Cross, are offering Everyday First Aid, that is easy to learn and simple to remember. Two free courses will be running on:

- Saturday 14 September, 10am - 12noon at the Village Hall, School Road, Spratton NN6 8HY
- Saturday 28 September 10am - 12noon at the Methodist Church, Church Street, Naseby NN6 6DA

Places are limited. To book a place, contact SSPPG Secretary Barbara Hogg on 01604 880552 or email barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk

Preventing Diabetes

Dr Catti Moss has kindly agreed to speak about "Preventing Diabetes and living longer and healthier" at two meetings on Tuesday 8 October at Guilsborough Surgery (7-8pm) and Thursday 10 October at Brixworth Surgery, 7-8pm

Why not put a date in your diary now? Come along to learn more about this condition and how it can be prevented.



Thinking of buying or selling in Brixworth?

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

The young people of the Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group have been making good use of all the fine weather we have been so lucky to experience so far this summer with lots of fun outdoor activities.

The Beavers have visited the Air Museum at Sywell, explored the church in Brixworth, as well as carrying out some scientific experiments, tried some healthy eating and some backwoods cooking. Beavers invited dads, mums, granddads, brothers and sisters to the 'Dads and Lads' night, where we played all sorts of games outside, laughed a lot and generally had great fun. Another evening the Beavers made paper boats and rafts and then tested them to see which sailed the best. Everyone, leaders included got soaked when we played water games in St David's Park (Thanks to Mr Blason for letting us use the Sports Club Facilities), then there was the scavenger hunt along the Brampton Valley Way and a great picnic party in the park at Scaldwell.

The Cubs also visited Sywell, took part in the District's 'SunTrek' and practised putting up tents, which came in useful when they

1st Scaldwell Guides

We have enjoyed an action packed term. As part of the Sainsburys Active Kids scheme we completed the David Beckham Challenge which involved different challenges over six weeks covering skills, games and healthy eating. We also joined up with the Welford Guides for an afternoon of cooking outside on altar fires. Towards the end of term we went on a bike ride along the Brampton Valley Way and celebrated the Queen's Coronation with a tea party complete with jelly and ice cream to combat the hot weather!

- Jill Gunnet, Guide Leader



went to the County Cub Camp. They had a great time there taking part in all sorts of different activities and meeting other Cubs from all over Northamptonshire. This was followed by some tracking practice, then some orienteering, a visit from the Red Cross, bell boating over at the reservoir and some 'It's A Knockout' style games.

It has also been a time of change for the leaders in the Cubs section. A fond farewell was said to Cub Leader, Jane Macken, Akela, Pete Lenons, Chil, Rose Leach and Ka, Bev Astle. We would all like to say a big thank you for all the help they have given to the group over the years, they will be sadly missed in Cubs, but they are all looking to their new roles in Scouts. The new leaders have all settled in, and are all looking forward to planning some fun times for the Cubs.

Scouts have also been out and about taking part in various activities. They have been practising survival skills and cooking outdoors, as well as creating a shared code of conduct, gaining some fitness knowledge and helping out in the community. Orienteering took them outdoors, as did learning all about bicycle maintenance and riding them safely.

Then it was over to the reservoir for a spot of bell boating finishing off the term with learning how to make a fire and a BBQ.

Cramming a lot into a small space of time is a skill the Explorers have in abundance. Their activities have included orienteering, night riding, circus skills and raft building. They also played tennis, enjoyed some water games, bell boating and at the end of July took part in the Kernow Jamboree down in Cornwall. Activities at this week long camp included bush craft, and coasteering. Also at the camp were other explorers and scouts from Canada, Ghana and The Gambia as well as, a little closer to home, Scotland.

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit <http://scouts.org.uk/>. To find out more about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group contact Kim Phillips, Group Scout Leader on 07815 070878 or info@armarketing.co.uk. To put your young person (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


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Obituary



left to right: Elsie Hammond, Dolly Bray, Mrs Hensman, Aunty Dick, May Pryer, Mrs Kelk, Clara Smith

We're sad to report that earlier this year, Brixworth resident May Pryer passed away peacefully. Having lived in the village most of her life, May became a huge part of the community. Together with her friends (pictured above), she worked very hard in supporting the local charity Merry Conraids. She will be remembered for her huge support in the village Maydays, which May and her friends enjoyed for many years. A devoted Wife to the late Charlie Pryer, mother to Malcolm, Jennifer, Paul and Sandra also grandmother to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren. May will be sorely missed by Sandra and also Adam who remained and supported her in her later life. May will be greatly missed by all her family and all that knew her.

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Brixworth & District

U3A

Our group meets in Brixworth Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month. We have a variety of interesting speakers and time afterwards for tea and a look at all the information on interest groups and sign up.

The Theatre Group made their annual trip to Rutland Open Air Theatre in August to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream". They enjoyed a lunchtime picnic in the ground of Tolethorpe Hall before the performance.



We also formed a new group in May learning Irish Ceile dancing. Not for the faint-hearted, especially with the recent hot weather!

Nineteen members of the U3A Songsters were very proud and pleased to join with three other choirs in a concert at Hunsbury Abbey Centre on 6 July (pictured, above). On a very warm evening nearly two hundred people attended the two-hour concert to listen to the combined eighty choristers. The U3A were particularly pleased with their solo rendition of 'You Raise Me Up'.

The U3A Songsters meet once a week for rehearsals and already have further bookings for St Giles Church on 5th October and Pitsford Church on 12th October.

Further information can be found on our website www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth.
- Judy Smith



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Looking for a new interest? Join Brixworth Drama Group

Have you ever thought about joining the drama group and then thought, 'No, I can't act, I'm too shy'? Well, the drama group is not just about the acting, it has something for everyone. There are many important roles to play, and without them Brixworth Drama Group would be unable to bring you the wonderful plays and hugely entertaining pantomimes you all so enjoy.

lights and sound

A performance is enhanced by lights and sound. Lights and sound give atmosphere and ambience to a show adding another dimension to the complete experience. We are always looking for people to get involved on this side of things. No experience is needed just enthusiasm.

the prompt

The prompt is someone who stands in the wings with script in hand, following the action on stage and ensuring that if anyone forgets their lines, they are seamlessly provided. It is a key role and requires concentration and an in depth knowledge of the script.

backstage

Working backstage on a production requires excellent timing and organisation with some nimble footwork thrown in. These are the people who make the transition between scenes smooth and effortless. They make props magically appear, backdrops float down, and curtains open and shut on time (well, sometimes).

costumes and makeup

And where do all those amazing costumes come from? How do we transform the young to look old and the old to look young(er)? Answer – wardrobe and make-up. Could you help to change an old blazer into a sea captain's uniform or a faded yellow dress into a Snow White costume? Face painting? If so, makeup is for you.

front of house

Front of House is another important job. With a welcoming smile and a persuasive tone, the front of house team not only makes sure you have tickets and have paid for them, they also provide you with a programme and raffle tickets and ensure you are comfortably seated. They man the bar, serve tea and coffee and wash up before ensuring the hall is ready for the next performance.

publicity

Innovative publicity ensures that there is an audience to appreciate all the hard work of the actors and backstage teams. Posters have to be designed and displayed, newspaper articles written, radio interviews given and, most importantly, tickets sold. The ability to be persuasive is key to this role.

the director

None of the above happens if there isn't a director, so what do they do? It is the job of the director to cast and rehearse the actors, share their vision with the rest of the crew, direct, manage, persevere, continue to smile and encourage when everything seems to be collapsing, and brim over with pride when it all comes together on the night.

So now when you think about joining the drama group I hope you think, 'Yes, I could do that.' We are always looking for new members and full training is given in whatever role you take on. There is no membership fee. All that is required is that you have fun and, above all, want to entertain and make others happy. We have been entertaining others for 30 years. It's for all ages (current members range from 10 to 80 years). The group has an active social side and it is a great way to meet people and make friends. If you are interested in joining us contact Sue on 07990 624713 or sueianson89@gmail.com or come along to the village hall on a Tuesday night at 8pm from September onwards. - Sue and Caroline



Our next production: Cinderella – The pantomime

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What's on at the library

Summer Reading Challenge

The "Creepy House"-themed Summer Reading Challenge aimed at children aged 4-12 years is still in full swing at the library! It finishes on Saturday 14 September – so don't forget to finish reading your six books and get to the library for your certificate and medal entitling you to a free swim at participating leisure centres. If you haven't already signed up for the challenge, you have nearly two weeks left to do so and read six books.

We have had lots of activities for children this summer, but we still have a final messy crafts session on Wednesday 4 September from 2.30-3.30pm – please book in advance.

A big thank you to our young Summer Reading Challenge volunteers, Josh, Daniel, Rebekah, Eva, Ella, Jessica and James, for all their help this Summer – you have all been great and we have enjoyed your company and enthusiasm.

Other upcoming events

Rhymetime for the under 5s and their parents/carers - Friday mornings 10.10 – 10.45am

Art Exhibition upstairs at Brixworth Library –2-30 September

K'Nex - Saturday 21 September 10am –12.30pm and Sunday 22 September 1.15– 3.45pm (no need to book)

Brixworth Community Fayre Saturday 28 September 9am–1pm

October half-term

Horrid Henry's Hallowe'en presented by Act-Out Theatre, Tuesday 29 October 12 noon–12.45pm. Attendance is free but please book in advance.

Messy Crafts for 4 -12 year olds – Wednesday 30 October 2.30–3.30pm. Please book in advance.

NAB Mobile in the forecourt - Wednesday 27 November 11.30am–12.45pm

Brixworth Library is open Sundays 1-4pm and we aim to have activities in the Library every Sunday.

careers advice

Our local Adult Learning Advisor offers help with job search, CV building, completing job application forms, information and guidance available to anyone aged 19 – 90 on a one to one basis. Sessions are free but please book in advance. If you feel you would

benefit from a Group Session, please register your interest with library staff.

bus passes

You can now renew or apply for a new bus pass at the library. Check your current Bus Pass is still valid as many expired on 31 March this year.

get involved!

We want to expand our Friends of Brixworth Library group, as they make an invaluable contribution both socially – arranging Quiz Nights, Dickens productions etc – and by raising funds to enable the library to put on children's activities and events and to provide extras such as furniture for the children's library.

Without the Friends group, the library would not be able to provide many of the current services, so we really do appreciate their time and input. But we need more helpers: people to suggest, organise and help at events, people to be part of the committee



– however much or little time you can give, we need you!

If you feel this is something you would like to get involved in, please come and talk to the staff at Brixworth Library.

Another way to get involved is become a volunteer – we are currently looking especially for Sunday volunteers and a Rhymetime leader. For more information, go to www.northamptonshire.gov.uk and click on V for Volunteering at the top of the Homepage – you can view all volunteering roles there and apply online.

Don't forget to visit us on Facebook too – www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary - for up to date info on what's going on in the library.

Brixworth Library is now open seven days a week: 10am to 6pm Mondays to Fridays, 9am-1pm Saturdays and 1-4pm Sundays.

- Jill Barber

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Chancel repairs: Wake up to your liabilities

Have you heard of Chancel Repair Liability? If you haven't bought or sold your house recently, the chances are that you will be as ignorant of this tangled topic as I was until it was casually mentioned to me by the *Bulletin* editor's husband. And just before you yawn, switch off and turn over, let me suggest that such insouciance is akin to saying 'because I've never seen a house fire or flood I don't worry about them'. So here's the warning: it's a complicated subject and it could cost you mightily.

It all comes down to the fact that the Church of England owns in its many parishes large areas of land. Historically, the vicar or rector of each parish earned an income, or tithe, by charging parishioners for the use of the so-called glebe land. This, among other things, paid for repairs to the chancel (the area at the east end where the altar stood and the choir sang) of his church. Even though Parliament eventually abolished tithes, parishioners living on glebe land may yet, quite legally, be called upon by the church to pay for any repairs to the chancel of their parish church. While the law on this topic is fiercely complex, there are a few basic points I can tell you about.

First, you could be called upon to pay up in this manner. Visit the internet, look up www.chancelrepair.org/2 and learn how Andrew and Gail Wallbank and his wife were presented with a chancel repairs bill for £186,000. They took the case to court and in the end, with VAT and legal costs, ended up owing nearly half a million. By this time, the house was not even saleable because any future charges would still attach to the property and who would buy such a white elephant? It's



an archaic law and an unjust law but the government has no intention of changing it.

Second, all churches intending at some date in the future to exercise their Chancel Repair Liability rights must register their intentions with the land registry by 13 October 2013.

Third, would you be able to find out whether or not your house sits on glebe land? Perhaps: searches can be made but these are uncertain, shaky and expensive.

Fourth, and this is the good news, you can do something preventive about it. Look again at the first paragraph of this article where there is mention of fire and flood. You have probably insured against those and you can do likewise against the church's potential predation. The cost is quite modest: I paid a single (one-off) premium of less than £200 for indemnity of £1,000,000 to last 'in perpetuity'. Such policies are usually initiated by your solicitor when you buy a house, so if you bought quite recently, check your documents or ask your solicitor – you may already be covered. If, like me, you have been living in your house for many years, the matter is up to you. You can arrange it through your solicitor or take the cheaper option and buy a single payment indemnity insurance from an insurance broker. I bought mine on-line and it took only a few minutes.

One word of caution though: it is much cheaper and easier to get this insurance if you don't know whether you're on glebe land or not. If you initiate a search and find out that you are, things get much more expensive (if you can get insurance at all). So ignorance may not be an excuse, but a measure of it can be bliss! – *George Hammerschmidt*

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Planning update

DA/2012/0370 Land to East of Northampton Road Outline application for residential development of 150 houses and bungalows, play area, associated public open space, landscaping, car park for retained allotments, extension to allotments and new vehicular and pedestrian accesses	11.6.12 PC strongly objects 8.5.13 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0966 44 Northampton Road Variation of condition 4 of planning permission DA/2012/0553 (for single and two storey rear extension) to install window to south elevation of bedroom extension	28.1.13 PC No objection 13.2.13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0054 3 Portwey Close Single storey rear extension	18.2.13 No objection 20.3.13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0080 75 The Ashway Single storey rear extension to form annexe	11.3.13 PC No objection 28.3.13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0146 37 Stonehill Way Single storey side /rear extension	8.4.13 PC no objection 25.4.13 DDC Approved

DA/2013/0153 Brownslade 8A, High Street Work to tree subject of a tree preservation order DA312.	8.4.13 PC no objection 10.4.13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0196 17 The Ridings Two storey front extension	8.4.13 PC no objections 23.4.13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0151 Land at 20 Stannard Way Outline application for one dwelling and garage	8.4.13 PC expressed concerns 26.4.13 DDC refused
DA/2013/0138 12 Woodsfield Demolition of existing garage and side extension to No. 12 construction of detached dwelling and single storey extension to No. 12.	8.4.13 PC Raised Concerns 16.5.13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0231 55 The Ashway Installation of front dormer over garage	29.4.13 PC no objection 3.6.13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0240 2 Stone Cottages, Newlands Single storey side extension	29.4.13 PC no objection 31.5.13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0288 19 Kennel Terrace Construction of car port	20.5.13 PC no objection 8.7.13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0291 Mercedes-Benz Variation of conditions 1 & 2 of planning permission DA/2011/0376 (for the retention of the temporary buildings and associated works until 31 December 2016)	20.5.13 PC no objection 12.6.13 DDC Approved
DA/2012/0399 Rosemary Cottage, Froghall Construction of detached garage with storage above (revised scheme).	2.7.12 PC No objection 16.5.13 DDC Refused



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Brixworth firefighter makes literary debut

Iain Hughes, a born and bred Brixworth man who for many years served the village as one of the local team of fire fighters station at Holcot Road Fire Station, is celebrating the release of his first book.

Gem of a Lie is a story of murder and intrigue, mixing deception, lust and revenge.

Iain will be at Brixworth Library on 3 September from 6pm onwards to talk about the book, and of course to sign copies.

Come along and support the local writing talent.

New life for St David tennis court

The tennis court at St David's playing field has been cleaned up is waiting for keen tennis players to bring it back into use.

For some time, the court has had a sorry existence, covered in broken glass and other debris. But over the past few weeks, the surface has been cleaned and any rubbish removed. Now the addition of a new (well, new to the Brixworth tennis court) net means the tennis court can once again be played on.

Best still, there is no charge for using the court. A big thank you to Pete Anscombe and his boys for taking matters into their own hands and making this happen!

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Lampport & Hanging Houghton

A Safari supper was held on Saturday 15 June in the homes of villagers in Hanging Houghton, and attended by some 40 villagers.

Grateful thanks to the people in Lampport and Hanging Houghton for their generosity in buying so many raffle tickets, which meant the raffle raised in excess of £600 for Lampport Church.

The First prize, a meal voucher from the Lampport Swan, was won by a couple in Lampport, while the second prize, a hanging flower basket donated by Troops in Brixworth, was won by a couple from Hanging Houghton. Many thanks also to Covey Nursery of Chapel Brampton, Waterloo Cottage Farm of Great Oxendon, Sainsbury's, Tesco, and Morrisons who all donated gift vouchers, to Waitrose for wine and chocolates and to the many donations of chocolates, wine etc from the villagers. – Hilary Cox

Another village get-together in Hanging Houghton was arranged for the 20th July in form of a village BBQ. The occasion (not that we need much of an excuse at the best of times) was that seven villagers are or will be 70 this year, so it was decided to hold a party to celebrate this. It was held in Tom's barn in Hanging Houghton and attended by 70-plus local residents who all had a very enjoyable time - from what I remember! Our thanks go to Tom Saunders for the use of the barn and for helping to transport chairs and tables to and from Lampport Hall, also thanks to the Hall for the use of their furniture, and for the volunteers who helped with the loan of BBQs and the decoration and set up of the barn.

In other news, we have a new resident in Hanging Houghton: James and Paula Moore of 4 Manor Road have a beautiful new baby girl called Mia, born in June. Congratulations go to the happy parents.

On a rather less pleasant note, two cars were stolen from outside a house in Lampport in early August. The owner had unfortunately left the keys within sight of the window, allowing some – apparently opportunistic – thieves to 'fish' for the keys and retrieve them through the letterbox. Thankfully, one car was recovered nearby the following day but the other remains missing at the time of writing.

Lastly, while hot air balloons are a common sight around the village (a spot just outside Hanging Houghton is a regular take-off point), we did have a close call in July when one came in just a little bit close on the landing! Having narrowly avoided several houses (at one stage I thought it was going to land on my garage roof!) – it eventually came down in a field just behind several houses and fences. - Mike Philpott



Fancy maintaining a website?

Brixworth Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to help maintain its website.

At the moment the site holds all the basic information plus the council's agendas and minutes, but the vision is to make it a community website with lots more information and details of events.

The website is produced using word press and can be seen at www.brixworthpc.org.uk. Anyone interested please contact mlacey@brixworthpc.org.uk

Welcome Pack

Brixworth's Information Point is compiling a welcome pack for residents moving into the new housing developments. The pack, which is partially sponsored by the Brixworth Bulletin, will include information on village organisations and activities. It will hopefully make new arrivals feel welcome and encourage them to take part in village activities.

There is still time for organisations that would like their details included to provide material. Please contact Mike Nice via the Information Point or Olive Branch or on 880086. – Mike Nice

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Tennis Club continues to prosper

With over 100 members, Brixworth Tennis Club continues to go from strength to strength.

Buoyed by Andy Murray's thrilling success at Wimbledon, junior members in particular have been using the courts a huge amount which is extremely encouraging and has been terrific to see. The tennis club's first junior coaching programme that ran between April and July was great fun and very well attended. Another junior coaching programme will be running on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings between September and December. Anyone interested in their children attending these sessions can find further details in the coaching section of the club's website www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk.

The tennis club has invested in additional fencing, seats and signage that have further enhanced the wonderful premises that the club's members enjoy. Brixworth Tennis Club is still actively seeking more members and it would be great to have many more members joining in the coming months. Membership fees have been set at an incredibly low level deliberately, to be inclusive, to attract members of all ages and to add to the family atmosphere that the club promotes.

Friday evenings at the cricket and tennis club over the summer months have been very well attended and proved to be really good sociable evenings. The barbeque has been going, the bar has been open and all members and their families have had the opportunity to enjoy a drink or two, a burger and mix with other members and their families from the village and surrounding areas.

Anyone interested in joining or knowing more about the tennis club should contact Will Haxby on 880715 or visit the club's website www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk

Celebrity cricket offers a Chance to Shine



The highlight of the season so far was our annual charity match to support the Chance to Shine charity.

Devon Malcolm, president of the Brixworth Cricket Club, gathered together a celebrity XI that took on a Brixworth XI to help raise funds for Chance to Shine, a charity promoting cricket in state schools, which in a short time has been remarkably successful.

Whilst the weather prevented the match being finished, the auction and raffle raised over £25,000. Chris Tarrant's auction techniques will live long in the memory of those who were there, as will the Q&A session with Phil Tufnell and Paul Nixon hosted by Channel 5's Mark Nicholas.

The highlight of the day, however, was seeing the outfield covered with local primary school children, during a beautiful morning where the sun shone and the ground looked superb. Eighty children from Brixworth, Spratton, Boughton, Overstone and Moulton enjoyed coaching from Chance to Shine players, including Alex Tudor and current England ladies player, Tammy Beaumont. A kwik cricket tournament followed (won by one of the Brixworth teams, of course!), after which Paul Nixon presented the children with their medals. The attending parents and teachers had nothing but praise, and we have subsequently seen several of the children join our junior section.

Many thanks to Mandy and Martin Batchelor and Jim Wells for all their hard work in making the morning such a great success.

senior cricket

After the first half of the season all three teams are well-placed to achieve the objectives we set at the start of the summer. The first XI are sixth in the Premier division of the Northants Cricket League, the second XI currently heads Division 5 and the third XI are well-placed for promotion from Division 12. The weather this summer has been outstanding for cricket, availability has been good and the new players we've recruited have blended in well to their respective teams.

Congratulations must also go to our T20 squad who have reached finals day at the county ground for the second year in succession.

junior cricket

Junior cricket at Brixworth continues to thrive, with over 100 boys and girls registered following the successful recent introduction of a new 'minis' section for children aged four and over. They, along with all the other age groups and an ever-increasing number of parents, have been gathering every Friday evening throughout the summer on what is becoming an increasingly popular event for all concerned.

All three of our junior teams have enjoyed varying degrees of success this season but the overriding priority has been to give as many players match experience and this has been achieved. Congratulations to our u14s team who have played some outstanding cricket at times this summer which has resulted in them reaching the end of season playoffs. Sadly they lost their league semi final against Overstone, but well done for finishing second in their league!

Once the season ends, as previously reported, work is due to begin on the clubhouse refurbishment project. Detailed plans were on show at the recent Chance to Shine charity game and everyone at the club is looking forward to benefitting from the new facilities which will be available for the start of next season.

- Chris Timm, Chairman, Brixworth CC (Christimm_24@hotmail.com)

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What's on

6 Sep	ELO Experience	Derngate
6-28 Sep	To Sir, with Love	Royal
7 Sep	Acker Bilk	Derngate
10 Sep	Study:Van Dyck	Lampport Hall
9-11 Sep	Ballet: Romeo and Juliet	Derngate
11 Sep	Talk:Van Gogh	Kelmarsh Hall
12 Sep	Plant Propagation	Lampport Hall
12-14 Sep	Ballet: Swan Lake	Derngate
13-Sep	Secret Affair	Guildhall, N'pton
13-15 Sep	Booqfest 2013	Underground
16 Sep	The Flower School	Kelmarsh Hall
18 Sep	Jack Dee	Derngate
19 Sep	Hats off to Led Zep	Corby Cube
20 Sep	Strictly Sixties	Corby Cube
21 Sep	How to Catch a Star	Corby Cube
21 Sep	Hitchhiker's Guide	Derngate
22 Sep	UK Pink Floyd	Derngate
21-22 Sep	Kettering Vintage & Steam Fayre	Kettering
23 Sep	Fashion Show	Park Inn Hotel
24 Sep	Live Transmission	Derngate
26 Sep	Othello	E. F. Filmhouse
26 Sep	Nina Conti	Corby Cube
26 Sep	Johnny Cash show	Derngate
27 Sep	Sing-a-long-a-Grease	Derngate
27 Sep	Victoria Wood & Me	Underground
27 Sep	Alex Horne	Corby Cube
28 Sep	Brixworth Community Fayre	Brixworth Library
28 Sep	Stewart Lee	Derngate
28-29 Sep	Railway At War	Northampton & Lampport Railway
3/9-5/10	Cats	Derngate
1 Oct	Tying Bouquets	Kelmarsh Hall
2 Oct	Garden Walk	Lampport Hall
2 Oct	Living Roofs in Town	Lampport Hall
2-3 Oct	Stick Man	Royal
3 Oct	The Smoking Hearts & Idiom	Roadmender
3 Oct	Translunar Paradise	Corby Cube

4 Oct	Nadine Shah	Roadmender
4 Oct	Formby	Royal
4 Oct	Winter Pruning	Lampport Hall
4 Oct	IndoJazz Sextet	Corby Cube
5 Oct	Whole Lotta Red	Roadmender
5 Oct	The Proclaimers	Corby Cube
5 Oct	Gilbert & Sullivan	Royal
8 Oct	Howard Marks	Royal
8-9 Oct	Richard Alston	Derngate
9 Oct	Mary Coughlan	Royal
10 Oct	Petula Clark	Derngate
10 Oct	Nina Conti	Royal
11 Oct	Reduced Shakespeare Company	Corby Cube
11 Oct	Neville Staple	Royal
12 Oct	Alison Moyet	Derngate
12 Oct	Brixworth Barn Dance	Village Hall
12 Oct	Bobby Davro	Royal
13 Oct	Dinosaur Zoo	Derngate
12-13 Oct	Gift & Craft Fair	Lampport Hall
14 Oct	The Lumberjacks	Royal
18 Oct	Sean Lock	Derngate
19 Oct	Paul Foot	Corby Cube
19 Oct	Once in a Blue Moon	Corby Cube
19-20 Oct	M Arnold Festival	Royal & Derngate
20 Oct	Northampton Youth Orchestra	Derngate
20 Oct	Bolshoi Spartacus	E. F. Filmhouse
21 Oct	Learn to Knit	Kelmarsh Hall
21 Oct	Ray Mears	Derngate
21 Oct	That'll be the Day	Corby Cube
21-26 Oct	Go Back for Murder	Royal
22 Oct	Vampires Rock	Derngate
23 Oct	Lee Nelson	Derngate
24 Oct	80s Nostalgia	Derngate
25 Oct	Sixties Gold	Derngate
25 Oct	Ten of the Best 2	Corby Cube
27 Oct	Halloween Ghost Train	Northampton & Lampport Railway
26 Oct	Black Dyke Band	Derngate
28-30 Oct	Once in a Blue Moon	Underground
28/10-2/11	Thriller	Derngate

28/10-2/11	Mansfield Park	Royal
31 Oct	Halloween Party	Kelmarsh Hall
31 Oct	Caribbean Spook Tales	Holy Sepulchre Sheep Street
31 Oct	The Wedding Present	Roadmender
31 Oct	Foster & Allen	Corby Cube
4 Nov	Garden History	Lampport Hall
4 Nov	Martha Tilston	Royal
5 Nov	Paul Merton	Derngate
5-6 Nov	Shakespeare Schools	Royal
7 Nov	One Night of Elvis	Derngate
8 Nov	Paul Carrack	Derngate
8 Nov	Lyric Lounge	Corby Cube
9 Nov	The Billy Fury Years	Corby Cube
9 Nov	Puppetry of the Penis	Derngate
9 Nov	Ralph McTell	Royal
11-12 Nov	Aliens love Underpants	Royal
11-16 Nov	Buddy Holly Show	Derngate
13 Nov	RSC Live: Richard II	E. F. Filmhouse
13 Nov	Ardal O'Hanlon	Derngate
14 Nov	Dickie Bird	Royal
15 Nov	36 Crazy Fists	Roadmender
15 Nov	Sandy Toksvig	Royal
17 Nov	Tchaikovsky Gala	Derngate
17 Nov	T'sky Family Day	Underground
18 Nov	Saxon	Roadmender
19 Nov	Nabucco	Derngate
20 Nov	Mad Dog McRea	Roadmender
20 Nov	Aida	Derngate
21 Nov	Limehouse Lizzy	Roadmender
21 Nov	Ed Byrne	Derngate
22-Nov	Al Murray	Derngate
23-Nov	Strictly N'pton	Derngate
23-Nov	Junior Strictly	Derngate
26-Nov	Fascinating Aida:	Derngate
27/11-5/1	Wind in the Willows	Royal
27 Nov	Ready Steady Cook	Derngate
28-Nov	Big Sing	Derngate
29 Nov	Half Man Half Biscuit	Roadmender
29 Nov	Adrian Edmondson	Corby Cube
29 Nov	Steeleye Span	Derngate

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Under 11s win league

The under 11 football team had an exceptional 2012/13 season under the guidance of their manager 'Big' Ron Little.

They played 20 games to win the 'C' league, with 17 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss. They reached the semi-final of the League cup, going out in traditional English style by losing a penalty shoot-out. They also took part in a penalty shoot-out competition at The Cobblers. They made it to the final but glory eluded them again...!

Four of the boys were new to playing football for a team but they coped with the challenge and took all games in their stride along with the seasoned players. They will have a tougher time next season when they move up to the 'B' league, but if they play with the same spirit and determination they will have no problem keeping the other teams on their toes. Good luck to all the boys.

The squad, *below*: Finlay Little, Ted O'Leary, Alex Rust, Harley Edwards, Daniel Bell, Ferdie Flannery, Sam Wood, Edward Hillard, Jack Gray, Caelan Jackson, Ben Sturman, Will Spinks and Frank Knowles.

Brixworth Under 9s likened to Manchester City!

New manager Simon Compton and Rob Jones of the Brixworth Pumas under 9s football club took their team into the Cobblers Cup on the weekend of 25 May.

This was following the recent departure of Jim Nelson, who took this team to the runners-up spot both in the premier league and the Northampton and District Youth Alliance League Cup final, where they unfortunately lost to Grange Park. Only a week later they were back at Sixfields Stadium looking to regain their confidence.

Dean Hall, Director of local gardening and landscaping company Hodson and Hall, was on hand to unveil the players in their new kit which his company had kindly sponsored.

The tournament took place at Sixfields Stadium and included many under 9s and 10s team from around the county. They played six-a-side with ten minutes per game, so games were over before you knew it!

The Pumas, although playing some good football, found themselves losing their first couple of games and drawing their final group game but fortunately found their confident passing game and made it through to the quarter finals of the Cobblers Plate Tournament.

Following the draw things were looking up and Simon and Rob took to the tactical dugout to try and work out ways to improve the team. Tactics in a six-a-side tournament are always difficult but we decided to change from the normal 1, 2, 2, 1 with a lone striker to a 1, 1, 3, 1 - for all you tacticians out there that means the two wingers had to do a sterling job in both defence and attack.

In the quarter finals Brixworth beat Higham 4-0, the wingers tracking back and forward worked a treat and the boys were

playing some really nice passing football. The semi-final was a rematch vs Wilby Youth who beat us in the first game. This time we were hitting our form and took the lead and maybe should have added more. Then a late break-away goal saw the Wilby boys draw level, and it was straight to a penalty shoot out!

Four boys volunteered to take three nerve-racking penalties, but the boys stepped up proudly and confidently and all penalties were converted. With Wilby putting one wide this saw us through into the final against FFA who had also come through in a semi-final shoot out against Mawsley.

In the final, our lads played the ball around and had much the better of the play with two goals from Joe Small and Owen Hutchinson. We did have some other excitement in the game as Cameron, our keeper, made a terrific save but got injured in the process. A confident Justin Murphy replaced him, and got us through to the end to win the Cobblers Plate 2-0.

Many thanks to our new sponsor Hodson and Hall and a very well done to all the boys in the Brixworth Pumas U9's (*above*), listed in no particular order: Joe Small, Marcus Aldridge, Noah Heasman Owen Hutchinson, Thomas Glenn, Pearce Jones, Marcus Aldridge, Justin Murphy, Thomas Compton and Cameron Hall.

So what's this all got to do with Manchester City, you ask? Well, runners up in the cup and runners up in the league, just like the Manchester City of 2013, despite Jim Nelson being a nasty Reds fan!

— Simon Compton



Boost for Bowls Club

Brixworth Short Mat Bowls Club have received a grant of £700 towards the purchase of new bowls mats.

Daventry District Council have awarded the club a Community Grant to enable the new mats to be in use before the new season starts in September.

Club treasurer Mike Nice told the *Bulletin*: "This is great news for the club and means we can approach the new league season with better playing surfaces. We hope to recruit new players at our stand at the Community Fayre on Saturday 28th at the Library & Community Centre."