



We will remember

Remembrance Sunday

10 November 2013

Photo by Graham Billing, Brixworth Photographic Society

Teenage heroes

Teenagers get a bad name. Often undeservedly so. Only a few years ago, there were people in Brixworth who were uncomfortable going to the Co-op after dark, because groups of teenagers had started congregating outside the shop, smoking and drinking and getting up to all sorts of mischief, or so people assumed. Parents taking young children to the playgrounds had to stop their toddlers playing with discarded cigarette butts under the swings.

More recently, there were complaints about graffiti at the sports club, young drivers with noisy cars causing a nuisance speeding around the estates, and unruly children bouncing balls off their neighbours' cars.

What goes much less reported and celebrated are the many teenagers who channel their energy into helping their communities and selflessly help others. The group of youngsters from who for the past two summers have teamed up with Brixworth Christian Fellowship to spend part of their summer holidays working to improve our primary school – first by painting fences and walls, then by clearing up and rejuvenating the Foundation Stage area of the school (see Brixworth Bulletin 38, September 2013).

And then, most recently, the six teens from Brixworth and Scaldwell who have organised a fun day with stalls and talks to take place at Brixworth Village Hall on Sunday 24 November (see also p 22).

“We only had a few weeks to organise and advertise this event so we really hope as many people as possible will come,” says Abigail Willis, who organised the event with five of her friends. “Since people started hearing about this we received so much support, especially from the school - it’s been incredible.”

These kinds of actions should be celebrated and supported in every way. It does not really matter what age the organisers are, but it’s doubly hard when you’re in your teens because it’s not something anybody has any experience with at that age.

Hats off and well done. I hope lots of people in the village will receive their Bulletin and read this in time to make their way to the Village Hall and support what you’re doing. You’re setting an example, and showing everybody that most teenagers really don’t deserve the bad name they’re given.

Name your good cause

It’s that time of year again where we’re looking for deserving causes in and around Brixworth that the Bulletin could support. The Bulletin has had a good year (thank you to all our lovely advertisers!) and, being a not for profit venture, we are looking for individuals and organisations that we could help.

Do you know of someone local who is struggling to make do? A village organization in need of a (modest) injection of cash to spruce up facilities? A local event that may not get off the ground for lack of funds?

Then please let us know if, and how, we can help. As long as it supports the local community, we’re happy to lend a hand. Phone Claudia on 882 567 (evenings and weekends please) or email editor@brixworthbulletin.com. The deadline is 25 January 2014.



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For the latest news, visit www.brixworthbulletin.com, join us on
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Twitter.

World's biggest coffee morning

A big thank you to everybody who supported the MacMillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning in the library foyer on 5th October and helped us raise £165.26. Thank you to everyone who bought cakes, coffee, raffle tickets and tried their luck in the lucky dip bran tub. Also a big thank you to the Olive Branch for their support and the management of Daisy Roots for so kindly donating some beautiful raffle prizes. - Chris, Simon & Eileen Truby

Sara Elizabeth Brookes

11th December 1956 - 29th September 2013

It was with great sadness that I attended a packed church on Friday 18th October for the funeral of Sara Brookes.

Although not a close friend, I had known Sara for nearly 30 years. We were introduced by a mutual friend when our sons were babies and have kept in touch intermittently ever since. Sara was always a quiet, unassuming person. Despite any problems in her own life, she was always interested in yours. She led a busy, family-orientated life but would make time for friends or the community. She could be relied on to provide the most delicious food for village events and was a Bulletin distributor from its beginnings as the "Bugle" many years ago.

She will be greatly missed by so many and my thoughts and prayers go out to her husband John and their three boys, Michael, Andrew and Oliver.

- Jane Neill



Remembering World War I

Brixworth in 1914 – 1918 will be the theme of an exhibition, which Brixworth History Society is hoping to stage at Brixworth Heritage Centre next year.

To mark the centenary since the start of the war, the Society's chairperson Heather Parr is researching the names on the war memorial. We also wish to include details of those men from Brixworth who returned after the hostilities to carry on their lives, or any relation of a Brixworth person.

If you have any information on your family in World War One, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Deni Willis on 880612 or Pauline Kirton on 880033. We are especially looking for memorabilia or photographs (that we would copy and return to the lender) or any service records.

The posters around the village have already had some response, for which we are most grateful.

In addition the Society is planning a visit to northern France next year which will include attending the evening service at the Menin Gate and some of the battle sites. – Pauline Kirton



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Central Sports in a muddle over lease

Confusion reigns supreme around Brixworth Central Sports, the body administering the St David's playing field and facilities for the football and cricket clubs – especially when it comes to the terms under which it leases the land for its facilities.

Brixworth Parish Council owns the land on which the Central Sports Pavilion was built in 1972. Seven years on, when Central Sports wanted to extend the Pavilion, the lease was amended to include the land that would be used, with a specific clause asking Central Sports “not to erect any other buildings on the land without the prior consent in writing of the Council”.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened – two more extensions have since



been added, on Council land, without amending the lease. Central Sports thought it was in the clear because it sought and obtained planning permission, but according to the Parish Council's lawyers, that is not the case – technically speaking Central Sports is in breach of the lease.

While the Parish Council and Central Sports work out the terms of a new lease, the bills have started coming in. Mike Lacey, chair of Brixworth Parish Council, says that in between property surveys and solicitors' fees, the Council has racked up bills of over £1,000 and that by the time a new lease is agreed and signed, this could well rise to over £3,000.

The wrangling remains, who should pay the cost? BPC thinks that since it was ultimately Central Sports who failed to stick to the terms of their lease, that they should be responsible, though Lacey did offer for the Parish Council to shoulder part the cost. Central Sports meanwhile says that since the organisation is entirely run by volunteers



for the benefit of the village community, the Parish Council should support them.

Chairman John Blason (pictured, left) told the *Bulletin*: “We have been informed that our current lease requires amending due to previous expansion of the club. In the past we have always received full support from both Daventry District Council and the Parish Council, furthermore, they have always been notified of any building developments which have occurred. We are first and foremost a sporting facility that has served the community for the past 45 years. We are an entirely self funding organisation run by a dedicated committee of volunteers. We receive no outside financial support and are extremely proud of our achievements in providing this facility for the village and its residents.” - cfw

Dogs make a mess of St David's

Many dog owners seem quite content to leave their animals' faeces on St. David's playing field.

Some of you may not be aware, but St. David's playing field is not a designated defecation zone. It is actually a playing field where many children play and Toxicariasis is a very real hazard.

A dog harbouring the small round worm will have large numbers of worm eggs in its faeces, which can then contaminate the soil. Children who then play with an infested dog or with soil contaminated with its faeces can then inadvertently put their fingers in their mouths and can swallow some of the worm eggs. The swallowed eggs hatch in the intestine of the child to release larvae, which then travel towards the liver, lungs, brain and eyes.

Here they can trigger allergic reactions such as asthma, and they also have more serious affects such as partial loss of vision. Please think carefully about this before letting your dog defecate on the children's playing field. – Robert Kelly



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Police Report

Big drop in crime

The police is happy to report a huge drop in crime committed in Brixworth over the past three months compared with the same period in 2012. In total, Brixworth has suffered 31 crimes in that time, compared with 106 the year before. Burglaries were down, with three recorded compared with seven last year. Theft from motor vehicles also saw a big drop, with six cases as opposed to 18 last year.

anti-social behaviour

There are also few cases of anti-social behaviour, a trend that is expected to continue over the coming months as there are generally far fewer cases over the winter months, simply because of the weather.

preventing burglaries

The long dark winter nights approaching provide thieves with the opportunity to commit crime. We would like to remind residents to be vigilant of any suspicious activity and ensure their property and valuables are secured and marked. You can help the police by reducing the opportunity for people to commit crimes in our community, so that it remains a safe idyllic village.

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

protect your property

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

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

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

Hiding spare keys outside is an open invitation to thieves, as are open windows and dilapidated or flimsy doors.

Do take the time to fit front doors with a 5-lever mortice deadlock and an automatic deadlocking rim latch; back doors should have a 5-lever mortice lock and key-operated mortice bolts top and bottom. Ground-floor windows and those accessible via a flat roof should be fitted with window locks.

Light, used correctly, can be an effective deterrent – especially if you illuminate areas where an offender can easily be seen by neighbours. Use sensor-activated lights at front and back doors to draw attention to activity and allow you to identify any late night visitors, and put some indoor lights on a timer

when you're away to make the house look occupied.

Consider investing in an alarm. They are an effective deterrent and will also save you money on your home insurance. You will need to decide whether to get a bell-only system or one that is centrally monitored. Get at least three quotes from reputable installers.

Lastly, keep your valuables out of sight as much as possible. That means positioning high-value items such as televisions, laptops and PCs so that they cannot be seen from the outside. Mark your property so that you can identify it – preferably either with forensic markers or UV markers. – *Jo Hillery*

Did you hear or see anything unusual or suspicious?

Contact Northampton Police on 101 or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Your local officer is Jo Hillery, PCSO 7145

You can contact her on 101; mobile 07584281098 or jo.hillery@northants.police.uk

Daventry Rural, St Catherine House, Harborough Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BX

Community Panel meeting

At the Community Panel meeting on 10th October, anti-social behaviour, noisy exhausts and drug use were agreed as a priority for the police to tackle this quarter.

The priorities will be reviewed at the next panel meeting, which will take place on 23rd January 2014 at 8pm at the Brixworth Community Centre.

Please come along and express any concerns you have.

Developing a Neighbourhood Plan

No, the gazebo you may have seen outside the Community Centre lately is not for BRANE members campaigning against yet more housing. This time it is the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group engaging the community to ensure the eventual plan is based on a proper understanding of the views, aspirations, wants and needs of all.

The plan may deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues such as housing, heritage and transport; or it could just focus on one or two issues only. If successful at referendum, it will be part of the statutory development plan for the area.

The recent traffic survey in Church Street is an example of how the group has already reacted to residents' concerns. The information will help us measure the increase in traffic when the houses and commercial units on the old woodyard in Station Road are built.

The group is also lobbying to draw attention to the impact it is feared construction traffic may have on Station Road, Church Street and High Street. It is clear already that the Neighbourhood Plan must strengthen policies seeking to protect and preserve buildings and the character of the conservation area.

We hope to have a new website up and running within the next few weeks. In the meantime if you would like to know any more or feel you could make a worthwhile contribution to the work of the Group please contact the secretary Mike Parsons at squarefoot@btinternet.com. – *Bob Chattaway*



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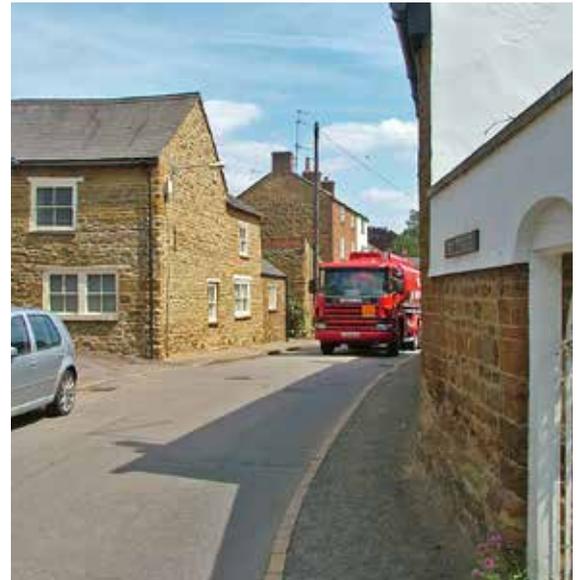
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Traffic worry for Church Street residents

Residents in High Street, Church Street and Station Road in Brixworth are getting increasingly concerned over the amount of traffic that will result from the decision this summer to grant planning permission for a new light industrial estate to be built on what used to be Mabbut's Woodyard in Station Road.

The woodyard, which is half a mile outside Brixworth on the way towards Creaton, was closed down some 20 years ago and the buildings have been getting increasingly dilapidated in recent years. Most of the buildings are now due to be demolished to make way for six light industrial units, as well as a limited amount of housing. In total, the site will have parking for over 200 cars and an access road suitable for articulated lorries. The first resident on the estate will be a print business, which is linked to the pension trust that now owns the land.



The roads in the conservation part of Brixworth are not wide enough for an increase in heavy traffic, residents say

Most the concern to local residents stems from the amount of traffic this will send through the conservation part of Brixworth, not just of the employees' cars but of the lorries that will visit the site both during construction and afterwards.

Parish Councillor David Parnaby, who lives on Church Street, says: "It's already very difficult with the few large lorries we get coming through – when you get two passing both have to mount the pavement. We fear it will be much worse once the new development gets underway."

However, as the site did receive heavy

Lorries have to mount the pavement on both sides to pass goods vehicles when it was still a woodyard, he says it is unlikely that the development will get stopped on those grounds now. "Northamptonshire County Council don't seem to think it is an issue, and it doesn't look as if there will be any restrictions on traffic under section 106 [which allows local planners to impose restrictions on already-agreed projects]."

As the site has already received planning permission, the options now are limited. Volunteers working on the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan have started monitoring the level of traffic so they can accurately measure the increase the new site will bring.

- Claudia Flavell-White

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Pointer and Wiig join UKIP

Two Brixworth Parish and District Councillors, Stephen Pointer and Liz Wiig, have resigned from the Conservative Party and joined the UK Independence Party.

Cllr Pointer told the *Northampton Chronicle & Echo* that he has been growing increasingly disenchanted with the Conservatives. He will continue to represent Brixworth Ward at Daventry District Council (DDC) as the local leader of UKIP with Cllr Wiig as a party member. Their position on Brixworth Parish Council remains unchanged, though Cllr Pointer has not been attending any Parish Council meetings since bringing a lawsuit against the Parish Council earlier this year following a row over an iPad.

Cllr Wiig has been a Conservative member of DDC since 2003, while Cllr Pointer joined her last year after winning the by-election triggered by the death of Liz's husband, Frank. The seat is up for re-election in May 2014.

Cllr Pointer had initially been in the running to be selected for re-election as a Conservative candidate. However, both existing and potential new councillors have to pass through an interview process to ensure they are considered suitable candidates before they are allowed to stand for the party in local elections.

Conservative Party sources told the *Bulletin* that Cllr Pointer had gone through this process but had not been successful, and that he received confirmation of this on 18 October. Cllrs Pointer and Wiig resigned from the Conservatives later the same day, and formally confirmed their move to UKIP the following Monday. - cfw

I look out of my window across a small but characteristic segment of the valley of the Brampton Nene. It is an ever-changing view that I hope will continue to delight, to fascinate, and yes, to enchant me day by day, as long as I live. It is what most of us would call a fragment of typical countryside. And so it is, but only so far, since it has been completely reshaped by we humans. I cast my imagination adrift to envisage this view, as it could have been two millennia ago. Where I sit I may well have my back resting against some venerable oak tree. Trees would be all around me, and dense tangled undergrowth, part of the wildwood that many think covered most of our lowlands, having sprung up as the ice retreated northwards in the wake of the great ice age that ended some 12,000 years ago.

Have you ever wondered how it is that this valley came into being? It seems very broad indeed for the puny little stream that it carries to the south. In Northampton it is joined by the Weedon arm of the river that rises near Staverton, and also by the brook that rises near Horton. This improbably flows westwards, before making a U-turn, to become the last of the three main tributaries that make up the upper reaches of our river. So how were these broad valleys flanked by low hills formed?

They may appear as a gentle landscape today, but like so many other features of our countryside, they were produced by brute force. The cause was the great ice sheets, many hundreds of feet thick that extended down from the Arctic north, and persisted for thousands of years. This was the age of the mammoth, great lumbering beasts, some of them bigger than any modern elephant, and clad in thick fur to insulate them from the intense cold. Giant elk related to our modern-day red deer, but much larger, some of the bucks were fearsome creatures with a twelve-foot wide antler span. They browsed in great herds on the open grasslands of the valleys.

Even at its height the apparently immovable ice was in fact on the march. Imperceptibly, inch by inch, it moved, and at its base it carried a solid layer of rock that it had gouged out in its passing. Acting like a giant sheet of sandpaper, coupled with its immense weight, it is this that shaped our wide valleys, and gave us the landscape so many of us love today. How do we know all this, I hear you ask? For the answer you need look no further than our local geology (rocks and minerals), and palaeontology (fossils) collections. In particular we have to thank those larger than life experts from the Victorian era. Among them are Lord Northampton, Beeby Thompson, Samuel Sharp, and the splendidly named Walter Drawbridge Crick, who was related to the famous Francis Crick, co-discoverer of DNA.

I was privileged to have charge of their priceless collections during my time working at Northampton Museums, and I have handled fossil



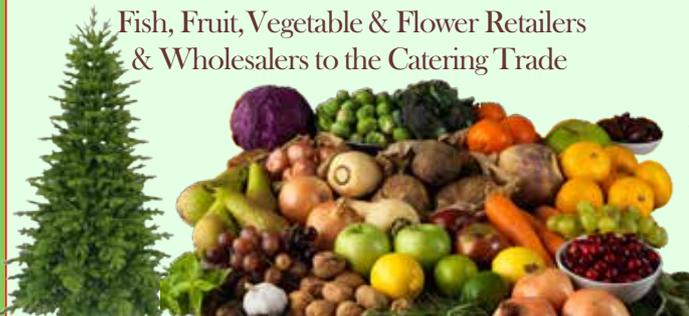
remains that prove the existence of the landscape I have described. Even today a huge mammoth tusk occasionally weathers out of a gravel bank. I went to see one some years ago at a gravel quarry near Kislingbury. A range of important fossils came out of the stone quarries and ironstone workings here at Brixworth. They take us back much further, perhaps to around 150 million years ago. They are of sea creatures, especially seashells, which proves that the land where you are sitting would then have been beneath the sea.

Some of these are type specimens, the highest and most important category of fossils. They represent the actual specimen from which a new, that is previously unrecorded, species of animal was described, illustrated, and published. In other words, any scientist working today with that group of creatures would need to refer to them in their researches.

Looking up as I scribble I note that the sky has become threatening overhead. The forecast is for winds from the north, and bitterly cold conditions outdoors. No surprises there, then, as winter closes in. A beautiful sweep of countryside out there assumes another of its myriad faces. – *Brian Webster*

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Village Dental up for award...

Brixworth Village Dental Practice has been shortlisted for a prestigious dentistry award.

The practice has made the finals for the best team with fewer than 20 employees at the 2013 Private Dentistry Awards.

It is the first time the practice has entered the awards, which are now in their 12th year. The practice impressed the judges with its commitment to improving its service through team-building and the personal development of staff, as well as the importance placed on being at the heart of the local community.

Initiatives highlighted included monthly lunch-and-learn sessions, team training and a mentoring structure for new employees.

Examples of staff dedication were also cited, including colleagues coming in to work on days off to cover for members of staff who were off sick, or helping out at community or charity events at weekends.

Dr. Rob Smith, dentist at the practice, said: "We are all thrilled to bits to have been shortlisted for this award. We believe we can achieve more and provide the best service to our patients by working together, and this is really nice recognition that we are doing a good job."



... strides out for charity

Brixworth Village Dental Practice has raised more than £2,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support after a team from the practice took part in a 26-mile sponsored walk.

Receptionist Maxine Lewis, hygienist Lesley Brazier and dental nurse Nikki Gammage walked from Winchester Cathedral to Salisbury Cathedral as part of the Spire to Spire challenge on 7 September.

They were joined on their trekathon by Helen Hutchings and Steve Cooling, also from the practice.

In total, the team raised £2,123 for Macmillan Cancer Support, which works to improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

Maxine said: "It was a long, hard day, walking up and down lots of hills, and even through a thunderstorm. But we had a great time and are all really delighted to have raised so much money for such an excellent cause."

Portrait sessions

Brixworth Photographic Society would like to invite you to our 2013 Christmas Portrait Sessions.

Following on from last year's success, we will be holding them for children, individuals, family groups, etc. once more at the Community Centre; times and dates by prior arrangement.

As with last year, all proceeds will be going to a local village charity.

If you would like a unique Christmas present, then please contact Ian Topham, ian@tophams.net, 07724 900675, Graham Billing, gbilling@gbilling.plus.com, 07796 931741 or Sean Goodhart, seangoodhart@hotmail.com, 07778 616655, to book your place. - Ian Topham



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Keeping Brixworth moving

Did you know that Brixworth is home to the largest highways depot in Northamptonshire?

Unless you happen to live near Silver Street, probably not.

MGWSP, a specialist service provider and engineering consultancy, provides the full range of transport and highways services for Northamptonshire County Council. The Brixworth depot is one of three in Northamptonshire, along with depots at Towcester and Wellingborough. It is home to a wide variety of work, including - among other things! - road and footway maintenance, highway and structures design services, highway inspections and winter maintenance, as well as many back-office functions.

Using the latest technologies helps the team secure best value for money, and much of this happens at the Brixworth depot.

Brixworth depot mainly serves Northampton, Daventry and Kettering although resources can and are moved around to accommodate work programmes. When the teams are gritting roads in winter they also work with neighbouring counties to ensure there is coverage across the borders. The Highways Agency is responsible for gritting the trunk roads and motorways.

However, gritting, while important, is not the only thing MGWSP gets up to; after all the winter season only runs from mid-October to mid-April. The same crews who drive the gritters and work as plough mates in winters also mend the roads during the rest of the year, as part of Northamptonshire highways' maintenance gangs.

Preparation is key

Even before winter weather sets in, Northamptonshire County Council and MGWSP send out the 27 vehicles based at Brixworth

to follow prescribed gritting routes around the county, to make sure the drivers know the road and can check on-board equipment. The fleet will have been on standby since the start of October to begin gritting as soon as frost is forecast. "After the particularly severe winter weather over the last few years it's absolutely essential we are prepared for adverse road conditions," says Richard Woodhouse, interim operations manager.

Which roads?

The order in which areas are cleared is of key importance. The gritters will prioritise the main routes, such as A roads and other routes carrying lots of traffic. For Brixworth, this includes the A508 and routes out of the village towards Holcot, Creaton and Spratton. In addition, certain local roads such as those around shops and the busier locations in villages will also be covered. These areas, known as 'priority one and two', make up 43 percent of the county's routes. The quieter roads, for example within housing estates, will not usually be covered unless there is a prolonged period of sub zero conditions.

Out with the gritters

Each time the lorries are sent out, they between them spread about 255 tonnes of salt, costing the council £32,000. During the season, teams can expect to go out as many as 75 times with up to 30 gritters.

If the weather is bad, gritters can treat the roads several times in a single night if. Morning and evening teams go out along set routes across the county for up to three hours, but the timings of these excursions depend on the data filtered through to the snow desk.

Sensors on several roads dotted around the county tell the team how cold certain areas have become. They also monitor cloud covering, air temperature and the temperatures of bridge decks, which can be much colder than roads.

The team must also make sure that the 1,800 grit bins around the county - each filled with three quarters of a tonne of salt or salt/ sand mix- are kept full. Remember, they are for highway use and not for people's drives!

Preparation is a year-round job; as soon as one season finishes we look at how we can improve and optimise routes. We also order in our salt so that each depot is full and ready to go should the snow and ice come.

In 2011 we launched our Gritter Twitter and you can follow us @nnhighways.

Quick facts

- Annual cost of gritting one mile of road: £1,595
- Household contribution to gritting: £14
- Cost to keep a grit bin full: £73
- 27 routes in the area are Priority 1, a further 13 are Priority 2
- Seven weather stations
- Thirty gritting vehicles and associated snow ploughs
- 45 farmers supply JCB/similar with ploughs for snow conditions
- 10,000 litre fuel tanks in each of the depots.
- 110,000 m² of P1 footways treated with ice blast, a liquid de-icing agent, by our weed spraying contractor
- For the latest winter maintenance updates, follow @nnhighways

Forecasts

MeteoGroup provides us with detailed 24 hour forecasts, two- to five day forecasts, together with 15 and 30 day forecasts. In severe weather conditions, the control hub operates 24/7. We use patrollers

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and CCTV cameras to monitor conditions. After the snow has melted, we inspect all A and B roads for damage.

When the decision is made to go out we have 30 minutes to mobilise. The crews then have three hours to cover their entire route. We are often not seen as we are out at night making sure that roads key routes and are clear and safe for the morning rush hour. We ask that people drive with care and, if they see a gritter, give it space so that it can grit the roads safely.

At the start of the winter season, our grit levels are at maximum, with 6000t at Brixworth, 5000t at Towcester and 3500t at Wellingborough. This will be replaced over the course of the season as we use it.

Requests to road users

1. Let gritters by. We are there to help.
2. Don't abandon cars and, if you need to, please pull off the carriageway so that we can get past.

A
D
P

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3. Grit bins are for highway use only. Every year people take large amounts of salt for private use. This means areas can be without until we get a chance to replenish. We do and will take down details and report thefts to the police.

4. We are often out at night so you may not think a road has been gritted but it could have been.

5. When driving, never assume a road has been gritted and drive carefully and safely.

Check

- That your tyre pressures are at the recommended level and that the tread depth is correct. Don't forget your spare!
- That your lights are clean and in working order
- That the wiper system is working effectively
- That the washer-bottles are full and contain a suitable additive to prevent freezing
- That your battery is in good condition, topped up and fully charged
- Your anti-freeze is at the correct level. (Your garage can do this for you)

Before driving off

- Consider whether your journey is essential
- Make sure that all your windows and mirrors are completely clear of ice and condensation
- Carry a can of de-icer and a scraper in the car
- Cars left outside overnight will benefit from their windscreen being covered over



Also, ensure you have "outside" clothing with you in case you have to get out of your vehicle, and watch out for vulnerable road users - you share responsibility for their safety. Do not travel too fast or too close to the vehicle in front. When ice and snow are present drive smoothly, avoiding harsh braking and sudden changes in direction, and keep in as high a gear as possible.

Always use dipped headlights when visibility is poor due to rain or snow and when driving in fog. Allow yourself more time for a journey and in severe conditions only travel when it is absolutely necessary. It is better to travel a little further on a main road that has been treated than to use untreated minor roads.

Finally, even the most carefully organised procedures can suffer setbacks or mechanical breakdowns and as a result, very occasionally, some roads may not be salted.

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Street lighting

MGWSP used to also be responsible for street lighting, a service that is now managed by Balfour Beatty. By 2016, every one of the Northamptonshire's street lights will be removed, replaced or upgraded to a more energy-efficient, cost effective and whiter lighting system. If you have any questions relating to lights, contact Balfour Beatty on enquiries@lightingnorthamptonshire.com. To report a fault, ring 0800 0850 257.

You have probably noticed that some streetlights in Northamptonshire have been switched off. This is part of a programme to cut the cost of street lighting in half and save the county council £2m as part of a broader plan to save £73m a year. Reduced lighting not only saves money, it also cuts energy use and carbon emissions.

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Winter Service – A Day in the life

They brave the freezing cold to make the streets safe for us. So as the winter starts to set in and we wait to see if snow comes, read on to find out how Jack feels about his important role of keeping Northamptonshire moving.

I work out of Brixworth for MGWSP and, for much of the year, I am part of a gang maintaining and improving roads and footpaths around the county. However, when the air chills and the white stuff appears I wait for my first call of the year to grit the roads.

When on call I am either on early shift or late shift all week, which means I am available either earlies, midnight to midday, or lates, which are midday to midnight. The week is from Friday to Friday including weekends, bank and national holidays, I am on call two weeks out of three.

The call comes in after the governors decide if it is necessary to grit. I make my way into the depot, most drivers are already there or get there as fast as they can. The first thing I do is start my gritter up to get it warmed up and check it over to make sure that everything is working correctly and then fill it up with salt. I then pop in to talk to the guys on the Snow Desk to check my route. We all know our routes and are kept up to date with any roadworks or issues we need to bear in mind. When we are out they can radio us all the time too.

I work as part of a team of 54 who keep the county moving when ice and snow sets in. We are a really close-knit team who work together and are on call from the start of October to the end of April. Generally we work when roads are quieter and, as we often are out at night while you sleep, people do not realise just how much of the county we cover.

Northamptonshire has a network of 2,400 miles of road and we grit 1,128 miles which takes three hours to complete with 27 gritters. The trucks can move at a reasonable speed when the roads are quieter at night, but there was so much ice and snow last time, we were out day and night.

With the weather so bad earlier this year I was driving the same prioritised routes over and over. You can't just do a road once when the snow keeps coming, we are often continuously ploughing as well

as gritting. This year we are using a new product called "Safecote". This is covered in a sugar based solution called molasses which means it sticks better and we use less. Going to work has a whole new feel now as the grit barns smell sweet, in fact I smell sweet when I go home!

Every time we go out we don't know what we may have to deal with. Sometimes we get a straight run and grit the whole route without too many issues. On other days we may have to deal with cars stuck in the snow or abandoned as some drivers just give up. I wish they wouldn't though, as it can delay us and makes it difficult to get past.

The long hours can take their toll but it is the stick we get from the public that drives me mad sometimes. People seem to think we can go anywhere, grit everything and that roads are all safe and clear, but we just can't. Most of the estates are impossible to get in and out of and we simply cannot do them. We work really hard to keep routes open and also work with the Borough Council to keep paths clear. You can help us too though by using the grit in one of the 1780 grit bins. - A Brixworth Gritter



hard to keep routes open and also work with the Borough Council to keep paths clear. You can help us too though by using the grit in one of the 1780 grit bins.

- A Brixworth Gritter



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Brixworth Village Hall needs YOU!

Brixworth is lucky enough to boast a very central Village Hall with room to accommodate several groups and organisations.

There has been a hall standing on the site since 1928; before that it was a rickyard used to thresh corn for the village poor. The green, which can still be seen in front of the hall, is referred to in the vicar's diary of 1887 as The Maltings, and the Jubilee beech tree that stands outside was planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Before 1928 the site was the location of a girl's club and scout room which was removed to make way for the present village hall.

In 1998 the hall received a lottery grant to fund expansion and refurbishment to accommodate the growing number of Brixworth villagers wanting to use it. Between grants from Daventry District Council and the Parish Council, as well as enthusiastic fundraising from regular users, the hall's administrators raised an impressive £192,000 to fund the work.

While the new hall has served us well, it is now looking rather tired round the edges. The committee has already replaced chairs and tables, damp-proofed the kitchen, updated the fire plan and equipment and cut back trees, but we have a big problem with the heating and air conditioning, as well as a damp problem at the back of the hall. We have applied for grants to help with these costs but what we really need are many more volunteers to regularly help with maintenance

tasks and more importantly to sit on the committee.

So, if you use the hall or feel you could spend a short time volunteering please contact the administrator at administrator@brixworthvillagehall.co.uk or 07531 873471. The Village Hall can only keep operating with input from the village! – *Amanda Pilgrim*

Charges

1 Community groups (must have a constitution and serve the village of Brixworth): Small hall £8/hour; main hall £9/hour, whole hall £12/hour.

2 Regular users – non-community (groups or individuals that don't meet the requirements above): Small hall £10.50/hour; main hall £12.50/hour, whole hall £18/hour.

3 Single hire – non-community group or individuals: Small hall £14/hour; main hall £17/hour, whole hall £20/hour.

4 Weddings: 8am – midnight £250.00

Minimum hire 1 hour. Hire of crockery, heating, lighting, water etc, is included in the hire charge. A returnable minimum deposit of £50 (actual amount dependent upon event) will be charged against possible damage to hall or contents.

Bluebird reaches Care Awards finals



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Three members of the local home and live-in care company Bluebird Care have reached the finals of the Great British Care Awards.

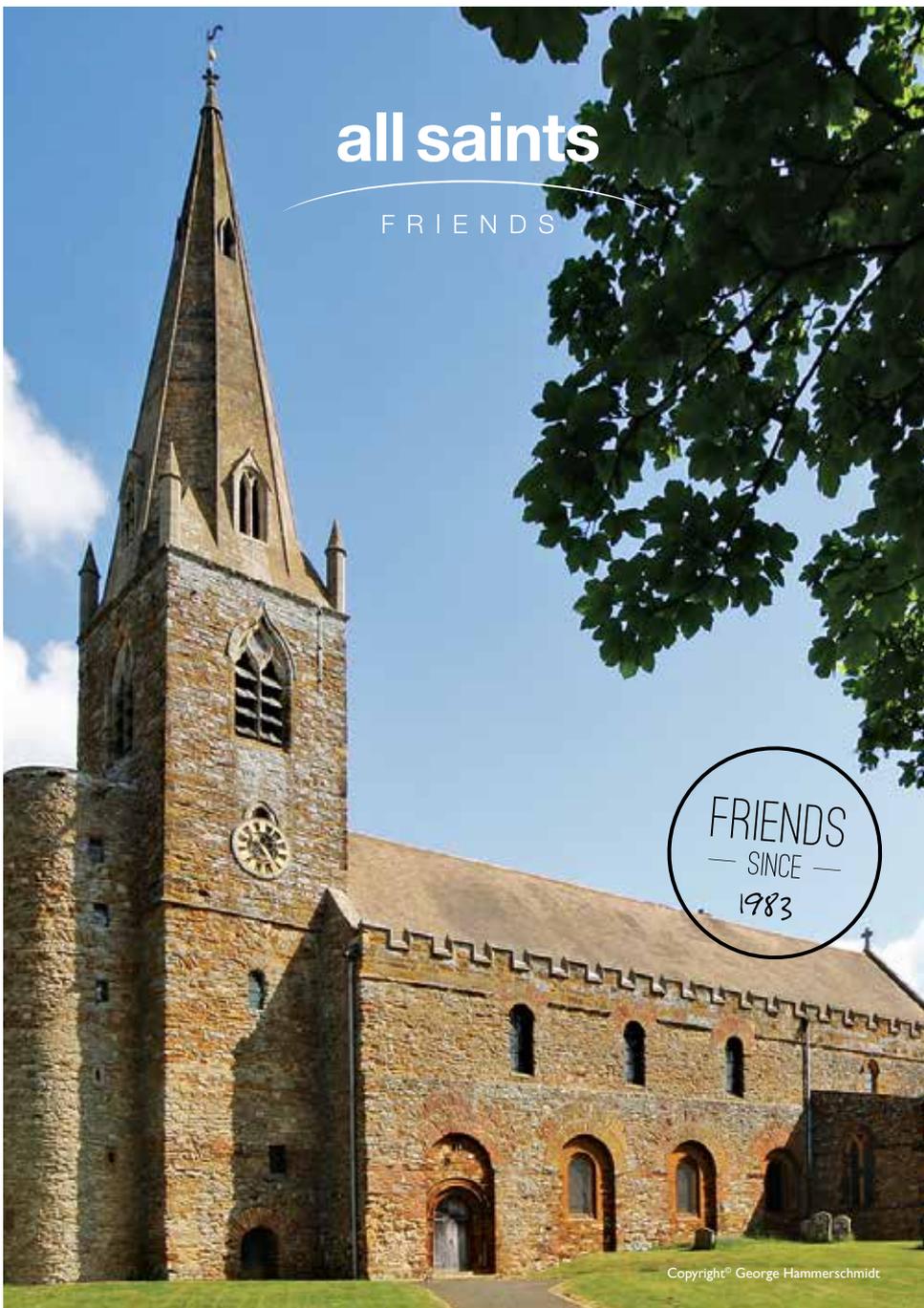
Tracey Claxton was shortlisted as a finalist in the Home Care Worker of the Year Award category for the East Midlands, Victoria Kingham reached the final of the New Care Worker of the Year Award category for the East of England, and the company director Amirali Sayani was shortlisted as Care Innovator of the Year for the East of England.

"We aim to recruit the best people who share similar values and ethics as ourselves. Being named as finalists in the Great British Care Awards is very exciting for all of us. If we win, that would be the icing on the cake!" says Amirali. "We have a great team here and the better we can be, the more it will ultimately lead to a greater provision of quality care for our customers as well as helping to grow and develop the business."

Bluebird Care, which celebrated its second birthday in October 2013, was recently accredited by the Investors in People programme. Sayani explains: "We were delighted to have achieved recognition at our first attempt."

Investors in People Specialist Lesley Ling said: "This is a great little business that has utilised the principles of Investors in People to make a real difference to the business, its people, its clients and the public perception of the care sector. I was really impressed with the passion everyone in this organisation has for the work they do, the people they care for and their genuine desire to make the lives of their clients better in any way they can."

The company is also recruiting carers in the local community. Benefits include excellent pay rates, paid training, paid driving time, excellent personal development, good rates of mileage, company uniform, and 28 days paid holiday. Please enquire for more details.



all saints

FRIENDS

FRIENDS
— SINCE —
1983

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Support All Saints' Church

All Saints' Church Brixworth is the largest surviving Anglo-Saxon building in this country. It stands majestically on its hilltop, a fascinating study for archaeologists, geologists and historians alike. The church has a unique appeal to the thousands of people worldwide who visit it every year. More importantly, it is a central part of the community of Brixworth village.

The Friends of All Saints' organisation was formed in 1983 with the sole aim of caring for and preserving the fabric of the building and fostering an interest in All Saints' Church. To continue to do this, we need your help. If you are interested in preserving this Grade One Listed building you can help by making a donation, or:

- 1) joining the Friends organisation (annual subscription or one-off life membership)
- 2) support our fundraising events, which are advertised locally or on our website
- 3) become a member of the Friends' Council.

For more information, visit www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk. To join the Friends help in any way, please contact Kate Knight on 881810 or email brixworthfriends1@yahoo.com.

It's Panto time

Brixworth Drama Group will stage this year's pantomime, Cinderella, in the village hall in January/February 2014. This traditional production written by Ben Crocker is being directed by Sue l'Anson.

So welcome to Hardup Hall where you will meet the penniless Baron and his scheming wife, two stunningly Ugly Sisters, the kindly Buttons, the gallant Prince Charming and Dandini and of course the beautiful Cinderella who is watched over by her magical Fairy Godmother. You will enjoy the antics of a really intelligent panto horse, "The Brixworth Bullet", and a great supporting cast and chorus. As in previous years live music will be provided by our own group of talented musicians.

This will be the first production in the village hall since the installation of a new quieter air conditioning system which should be a welcome improvement. So come along and enjoy the "he's behind you" and "oh yes he is" etc. and cheer the goodies and boo the bad guys.

The performances are on Saturday 25th January (2pm and 7.30pm), Friday 31st January (7.30pm) and Saturday 1st February (2pm and 7.30pm). A licensed bar will be available at all performances. Tickets are £6 for adults; a variety of family tickets will also be available. These can be obtained from Lovell's Hardware (880580) or Libby Bowers (880672). Maybe they would make a great Christmas present! - *Bobbie Race*



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Letters to the Editor

Two different responses to the same act of vandalism

Madam,

My wife and I live in a normally quiet cul de sac in Brixworth. But recently our car window screen was damaged by two young boys who live on our street.

Whilst the mother of one of the boys was mortified when I told her what had happened, she and her husband quickly offered without a hint of prompting from me to pay for half of the damage to our vehicle.

The response, however, from the other boys father was deeply unsettling to me.

Because not only did he defend his son's actions (even though seconds earlier he had told him he and the other lad had did it), he castigated me for even daring to come to his door and bringing such trivial matters to his attention. Which prompted me to say as I turned away from the dad, I would leave it to the police to sort out.

And with an inane grin upon his face he practically said "Whatever."

Whilst some young people have a solid head on their shoulders and still have the good old fashion values that their own parents taught them to use throughout their own life.

There are others, which I would like to call 'children bringing up children' who have that Grand Theft Auto mentality.

It's all about them, nothing or nobody else matters to them anymore.

They block the rest of the world out like the welfare of any of their neighbours or have any real sense of community spirit, like the vast majority of other people have.

So it would fall on deaf ears if I tried to tell him that our next door neighbour has taken to living at the back of her house because she is so frightened of what his 10 to 12 year old son along with his friends would do to her if she asked them to keep the noise down outside her own home.

name and address supplied

Plastic bag nightmare

Madam,

I am delighted to hear of the forthcoming charge of 5p on plastic bags in larger shops. As it only applies to outlets employing over 200 staff, what a pity if our Co-Op is exempt. I get upset at the quantity of discarded plastic carrier bags I see on my daily walks. I have a large number of gathered discarded bags to use as pedal bin liners.

Judith Davidson

The return of the Brixworth Produce and Craft Show?



Do you remember the Brixworth Produce and Craft Show? The one year it was held, in 2010, it was a great success. Many enjoyed it, and many more thought it was a shame that it was not to become an annual event. If the feedback we are receiving now is correct, there would be plenty of support if someone was to put it back on the agenda – so here goes.

We want as many groups, businesses and individuals from all ages to be involved as possible. This should be village show for everyone, run by the village for the village.

Do you want a particular competition class?

Could you be a judge?

Would you like to volunteer? There are lots of ways to help.

Would you be prepared to be a sponsor?

Any other help or suggestions?

We plan to release schedules in Spring 2014, but in the meantime start planting, pickling and preserving.

Contact Sarah Priestley, 21 Broad Street, Brixworth; email johnharlequin@hotmail.co.uk or phone 881751.

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At the heart of the village (with a cuppa and a scone)

Whilst many traders have a challenge thinking up a 'unique selling proposition' for their business, for the Olive Branch Coffee Shop this has never been a problem. The Olive Branch is simply in the heart of the village to serve the village. It is run by volunteers, not to make a profit but to answer a need. An average week sees 19 volunteers helping out for some of the time behind the counter.



Many years before it was set up, residents spoke to the church of a

need for somewhere to meet to chat, to provide company and to find out what was going on in the village and such like. Now, approaching its 15th year, the Olive Branch opens six days a week and thrives as a hub of village life. It is the venue for the Knitting Circle and a collecting point for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.



The majority of volunteers are members of the Brixworth Christian Fellowship. Others attend other local churches and some attend none. A group of directors from BCF oversee the accounts, health and safety issues and training.

It has always been the wish to provide our own cooked food, and freshly baked cakes and scones are more popular than ever. Our Wednesday Pensioner's Lunch Club has a waiting list for new members and is a highlight in the week for many seniors. A recent 'Cooking for Men Class' has been very successful and was quickly over-subscribed (see also p 20). The Olive Branch Recipe Books are regularly re-printed.

This Christmas, as always, we shall be cooking for around 60 pensioners at their lunch – on a cooker not much bigger than most in Brixworth homes!

– Mike Nice

Lampport and Hanging Houghton

Macmillan Care were the beneficiaries of a fund-raiser held by Sue and Nigel Cole of Townsend Close in Hanging Houghton on 21st September. In-between consuming home-made donations of coffee and cake and a fantastic cake raffle, the people of the village and some of their invited friends raised over £350 for a very worthy cause.

Staying with the topic of fine eating in aid of a good cause, Susie Wood deserves the praise for preparing a very fine supper for this year's Harvest Supper, held on 12th October at the Loder Hall in Maidwell. Over 40 villagers turned out for the event. All funds that were raised from the raffle will go to support Lampport Church.

Meanwhile, Hanging Houghton has gained another resident in form of a new baby, born to Joanne and Gregg Cave of 1 Manor Road on the 1st October. He is to be named Wilco (after a well known rock guitarist).

The new baby was born in the village as the proud couple opted for a home birth.

– Mike Philpott

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U3A Report



Our group meets in Brixworth Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm. 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.

A large mixed group of ramblers and strollers met on the October walk at The Stag's Head, Maidwell and enjoyed a pleasant walk in fine weather before returning for refreshment and a well-deserved lunch.

Twenty members of the Theatre Group are going to see the matinee performance of 'Mansfield Park' at the Royal & Derngate on the 31st October.

The U3A Songsters have just completed their second concert of the month at Pitsford church. The Songsters choir consists of twenty three members and during concerts amalgamate with Hunsbury Voices choir creating a unit of forty massed voices. New members are constantly joining the choir and weekly rehearsals which take place on a Tuesday morning will now be focused on a new repertoire of songs in preparation of the Christmas concerts at Brixworth Village Hall on 4th December and the Abbey Centre on 14th December.

There are plans to set up two new groups, one on 'Social History' and the other on 'Art Appreciation'.

Further information on the U3A and interest groups can be found on our website www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth.

– Judy Smith

Not just for

Jennifer Fitzgerald interviews Jill

If it has been a while since you took a book out of the library, you may be surprised to find out how much the local library has changed. Brixworth Library is not a quiet and sedate place run by strict librarians, but a bustling centre offering lots besides books - children's activities, office services, a little shop for stationery and gift items, and computer facilities. It is now open every day including Sunday.

How did the library start?

It opened in July 1999, having been purpose-built as part of the Community Centre.

What is your relationship to Brixworth?

I live in Kingsthorpe and applied for this job in 2001. I had previously worked in the Central library and also Far Cotton.

What changes have you seen over the years?

The main change has been the opening hours. At the start, we were only open part-time, 23 hours a week, which suited me at the time. The opening hours have kept changing and since 2008, we have had "memorable" opening hours. We are now open in line with the Community Centre and coffee shop from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday, from 9pm to 1pm on Saturday and from 1pm to 4pm on Sunday.

The self-service began in 2008. The reason for introducing this was to extend opening hours by freeing up staff, not to get rid of staff, as some people thought. At Brixworth, we haven't had any problems with theft as a result.

Other changes have included the introduction of computers and internet



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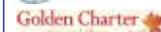
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the bookish sorts

Barber, manager of Brixworth Library



services, a new library management service and some internal restructuring due to cutbacks. E-books are now also available centrally.

Who is currently involved apart from yourself?

Marie, who is a full-time customer adviser, and Gemma, a part-time customer adviser.

The library also depends upon volunteers to run certain activities, such as Rhyme Time for the under-fives. We have ten volunteers at the moment but can always do with more – you can apply online or come and see me for more information. The hours are flexible.

The Friends of Brixworth Library is a really important group that holds fundraising events for the library to pay for events and extras that the budget doesn't cover.

How many visitors do you have? What are they like?

We had 55,565 visitors last year and this year we are seeing an increase in visitor numbers.

Our customers are all ages. Through Sure Start we are in touch with mums and their young children. We are well situated for both the school and the Boniface and Saxon House care homes. We also have a core of young people who are keen users. So, our customers start as under-fives and continue until they are elderly. We are at the heart of the community with a nice building and a good community feel.

Describe your typical day

Every day is different which makes the job interesting.

I open up, then look at the email that has arrived with customer queries. We handle queries of all sorts, particularly about local directions and local history. The job requires communications with people all the time.

Some days I am working at the counter, or helping customers at the self-service and at the computers, and with photocopying and printing.

There is a lot of paperwork – everything has to be accounted for.

As the building was donated to the County Council and I am a representative of the County Council, I am also responsible for the upkeep of the building. Mike Nice is the bookings manager.

It's not a 9-to-5 job. I'm often here until late, there is so much organising to do.

Any seasonal variations?

There is a big difference in our activities during the school holidays. Summer is pretty "full on" with a lot of activities.

June to September is our busiest period. There has been a Summer Reading Challenge for the past 14 years. This is a nation-wide programme to keep children reading through the summer holidays, with a different theme every year. We send promotional materials to the local schools and speak about it at school assemblies. The aim is for children to read six books through the summer and they are awarded a certificate and a medal if they complete this.

Christmas is a pretty quiet period for us, which allows us to tidy up.

What are your main challenges?

To always be thinking of activities that will

How the library works

Joining the library is free. You can borrow books for up to three weeks, and order and renew books online as well as in person. E-books are also available for downloading on computers and mobile devices, but not on Kindle. Late fees are 35p per day for adults and 5p per day for children, per book.

Because all the library books in Northamptonshire's 36 libraries are held in a single catalogue, you can take a book out in Brixworth and return it to another library, eg Kingsthorpe.

Despite cuts that have been made recently to other County Council services, the book fund has remained the same. Most libraries will get a copy of the books of the most popular authors. Books held at other libraries in the County can be ordered in at a cost of £1.30, or for £12 from the British Library (Jill was able to obtain some academic papers from Canada for a customer once). Apparently, slightly more fiction than non fiction books are taken out at Brixworth.

Other library services offered at Brixworth Library include photocopying, laminating, DVDs (music CDs are no longer financially viable), a library shop, eight computers for adults and two for children (costing £1 per 20 minutes), free wifi, and free internet access from the library computers on Fridays.

bring people in and show our relevance to the community.

Generating income is also a challenge. Only eighteen months ago, the library was able to pay for things which must now be funded. It is therefore essential to have a good "Friends" group to help us raise money. Our income target for this year is £16,425.

What message do you have for the Bulletin's readers?

Come and visit us, we have a lot to offer. It's free to join! - Jennifer Fitzgerald

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Wanted: Parish warden

Northamptonshire Highways recently launched the new Highway Warden Scheme. A volunteer Parish Warden will be appointed in each parish to be eyes and ears on the roads and the key contact between the community and Northamptonshire Highways.

There will be support from the Parish Council and Northamptonshire Highways and induction training will be given.

If you are interested in performing this important role for Lampport and Hanging Houghton please contact R.Fairfield,, chairman of Lampport and Hanging Houghton Parish council, on 686320, the clerk Frances Allbury on 01536 790870, or email lhpcouncil@btinternet.com.



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Cadet of the Year



Brixworth teenager Cory Robertson, 15, has won the Cadet of the Year Award, presented by the Army Cadet Force.

Cory, who is part of the Talivera Detachment, Brixworth, is the first Cadet in ten years in this area to win this award.

He was awarded the plaque during the detachment's Annual Camp at Otterburn for rifle shooting, scoring 20 out of 20. "His father bought him an air rifle a while ago and they're often out at weekends, shooting at tin cans," said his proud mother, Amanda. "He's scarily good."

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Living with the radon risk

Living in Northamptonshire has many advantages – beautiful countryside, commutable to London, for example – but also one downside that many are not aware of. The area is a radon hotspot.

What is radon?

Radon is a colourless, odourless, radioactive gas. It is formed by the breakdown of uranium, which occurs naturally in small quantities in the ground. A seam of uranium-rich rock runs right across England, from Bristol to Lincoln, taking it through the middle of Northamptonshire. The area to the north-east of Northampton is most seriously affected, and that includes Brixworth and the surrounding villages.

At the average level of radon in the UK home, radon is responsible for around half the radiation each of us is likely to be exposed to over our lifetime. In itself that's not a worry – humans have evolved to deal with the levels of background radiation on Earth. The problem is that living where we do, we're exposed to rather more radiation than average.

High levels of radon are known to cause cancer, particularly lung cancer, and in Brixworth and surrounds that risk is real. The risk is particularly great in smokers. Radon-induced cancer kills between 1000 and 2000 people a year, with smokers markedly more prone than non-smokers.

Get it checked

Fortunately, it's relatively easy to reduce the radon levels in your house should you find it is above recommended limits.

The first and obvious step is to find out to what extent your house is affected by radon. Not all houses will suffer the same exposure, even if they're in the same village, so it is worth checking each house individually. To get it checked, visit www.ukradon.org and order a domestic measurement pack (cost: around £50). This consists of two detectors, which need to be placed in different rooms in your house for a period of three months. After that time, you send the detectors back to the lab for analysis, and wait for the news.

While the average level in UK homes is 20 becquerels per cubic metre of air ($Bq\ m^{-3}$), levels below $100\ Bq\ m^{-3}$ are not thought to be any cause for concern. Higher levels mean greater risk, and if radon levels in your house break the $200\ Bq\ m^{-3}$ limit you definitely need to do something about it.

Reducing your exposure

As radon is emitted from the ground and is also heavier than air, it tends to concentrate at ground floor levels or below it. There are different methods for reducing radon, depending on the concentration.

If the concentration is fairly low (below

$500\ Bq\ m^{-3}$), it may be enough to simply install a fan in the roof of the house to blow fresh air in from higher up. At higher levels, you may need to install a radon sump with a fan under your house. These work particularly well under solid or suspended floors if the ground is covered with concrete or a membrane. In houses with a suspended ground floor, good ventilation of the under-floor area (with or without a fan) can be an effective remedy too.

The cost of these measures varies, depending on the remedy and the size and complexity of the house, coming in at anywhere between £200 and £2,000.

Buying and selling

The question of radon may also come up if you're buying or selling a house in the area. Expect buyers to ask the question and request a copy of the radon report, if you've had one done. If not, the potential cost of remediation could become a part of the negotiation.

New builds

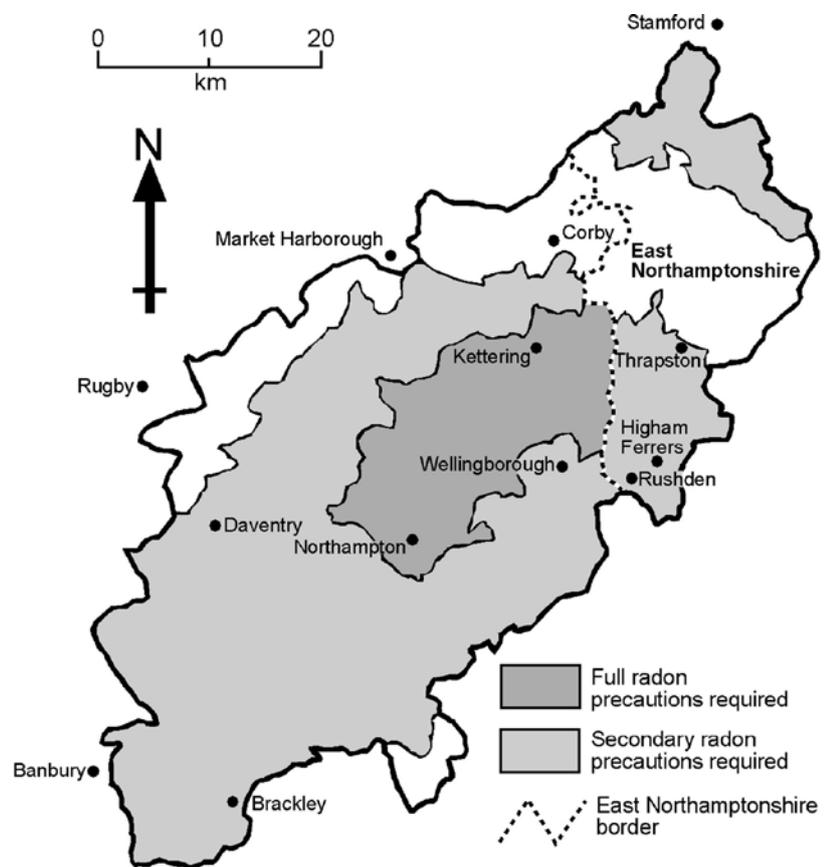
All houses built in and around Brixworth since 1992 will have been built with a membrane designed to reduce radon levels to acceptable levels. However, these may

not work as advertised: a 2005 study in Northamptonshire found that even with membranes in place, 11% of recently-built houses tested registered worryingly high radon levels – compared with 17% of houses without a radon barrier. In other words, for two thirds of the houses surveyed, the barrier did not work.

The moral of the story: if you live in Northamptonshire and haven't had the radon levels in your house checked, do so now.

– Claudia Flavell-White

www.ukradon.org



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1st Scaldwell Guides

If you can't stand the heat...



Together with the Brixworth Brownies, Moulton Brownies and Moulton Guides, the 1st Scaldwell Guides enjoyed a weekend at the John Lowther Centre. Over the weekend we took part in fire lighting, go karting, robot wars, a challenge course and the traditional camp fire. For some of the girls it was the first time they had camped outside. The weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who part - roll on the next one!

- Jill Gunnett, Guide Leader

For over a decade, a feature of the Olive Branch Coffee Shop has been the Senior Citizen's Lunch each Wednesday.

During the summer, several of the gentlemen who are regular clients voiced an interest in learning to cook more adventurous dishes than the frying pan basics they were already competent in.

Vernon Salmon, our regular cook, agreed to put on a series of cooking evenings and ten men came to join him. Since September, the men's cooking club has run once or twice a month on Thursday evenings. Following each session, the participants consume their fresh, (almost) fast food with a difference.

In the first three months the menu has comprised spaghetti bolognese, cottage pie, baked salmon with cheesy potatoes, liver and bacon and chicken in mushroom sauce. At the beginning of December, we have the challenge of preparing a Christmas roast.

We have all been completely satisfied with the results and surprised at what can be prepared and cooked in little over an hour.

Many thanks to Vernon for his time and patience - we now have the confidence to prepare our own meals at home without resort to the "Chippy" or the Chinese and Indian takeaways.

- Peter Oliver



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Gifts now at Daisy Roots

Seaton Gifts have started a new outlet in the Daisy Roots shop in Brixworth.

Vanessa Berry from Lamport founded Seaton Gifts some eight years ago with a designated gifts display area in the Seaton Stores Shop in Guilsborough. In the last two years she has diversified into a number of outlets across Northamptonshire.

Vanessa specialises in good value products from "pocket money toys" through to quality scarves, handbags and other leather goods which you can find at a variety of outlets such as Kelmarsh Hall, Coton Manor Gardens, Weltons in Great Bowden and now at Daisy Roots.

Vanessa is a great supporter of fair trade products and is always keen to promote and support local trade. Contact her on seatongifts@hotmail.co.uk

Pre-school Christmas Fair

The Brixworth Centre Pre-School is holding its Christmas Fair on Saturday 7 December. Come to the Brixworth Centre between 2 and 4pm for craft activities, raffle, tombola and meet Father Christmas.

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts



After a fantastic summer all our scouting boys and girls are back this Autumn term for another series of fun packed activities with Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group.

The Beavers have been trying to make the most of the late warm weather by getting out and about as much as possible. The Colony welcomed more than ten new Beavers this term and they are all settling in well. Beavers particularly enjoyed the Potato Night where we played lots of games (with potatoes). Conker collecting was a big favourite too as was getting out all the Lego, K'nex, Hama Beads and Magnetix and seeing what the Beavers could make. Beavers had a very special visitor from an animal rescue charity called Sam's Species who brought with her lots of large insects, snakes and lizards (pictured). And just before half term they had a campfire and some sparklers.

Meanwhile the Cubs have been designing and building rafts, taking part in campfires and cooking. They went walking down the Brampton Valley way one dark night in search of bats and had a fantastic fancy dress Halloween party. I saw some very scary sights that night – it looked like they were drinking blood, and eating some very horrible things!!

Scouts have been pioneering – making things like towers or bridges, and practicing some map reading, as well as cooking – the pizzas looked and smelled fantastic. The map reading came in handy when an intrepid foursome took part in the Daventry Star Trek on possibly one of the wettest nights of the year. They set off at 9pm and followed their map to the different bases and challenges managing to get back to base about 3.30am,

soaking wet! They didn't do too bad either coming a respectable 12th out of 16 teams with possibly some of the youngest scouts taking part in the whole activity.

The Explorers have been doing just that – exploring lots of different things. First a bat walk near Scaldell, then designing a sleigh which

we plan to use around the village raising money for good causes over Christmas. They cooked rabbits, pigeons and fish that they had skinned and gutted on campfires, undertook a bike ride from Market Harborough, played skittle and organised a Halloween party to

raise money for the Jamboree trip to Sweden planned for next year and for the pre-school.

Beaver scout leader and local photographer Andy Nickerson has been busy and we hope to be producing a fantastic calendar to help raise funds, and our planned stalls at the Brixworth Primary Christmas Fayre should add to the coffers. Please support them generously in their ventures.

There have also been some leadership changes. Jane Macken, Cub Leader; Pete Lennon, Akela; Rose Leach, Chil and Bev Astle, Ka all stepped down. I am pleased to say that we have not lost them – Pete has taken over as Group Scout Leader and Jane is assisting him. Rose has move on to Explorers and Bev to the executive committee. They have been wonderful leaders for over ten years – a big thank you too them all.

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 Pete Lennon, Group Scout Leader. 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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Brix and Mortar

Lack of homes drives prices up

As I write this article, on October the 30th, the property website Rightmove shows 12 properties for sale in Brixworth. With around 2,000 rooftops, Brixworth has traditionally had around 60 homes for sale at any one time.

The property industry, like all others, is a business of supply and demand, so this lack of supply has had an obvious effect on prices. Over the last few months these have been increasing and some vendors are reporting selling their homes for the full asking price, something that has not been happening since the middle of 2007.

Brixworth is not unique to this change in market conditions and a lack of properties is not the only reason things are improving. There is a clear sign of pent up housing

demand in core markets around the UK. I believe the current upturn in the housing market has been facilitated by an improvement in lending conditions and the bringing forward of the Government's second phase of the 'Help to Buy' scheme aimed at the second-hand market.

As a result of Help to Buy, low interest rates, general improvements in the mortgage markets and a growing economy, I expect a real pick up in house prices and transactions next year. This should continue as our economy improves and consumer confidence returns.

Will this growth continue unabated? Well, I would expect interest rates to increase at some stage. This, coupled with rising prices will squeeze affordability, naturally curtailing

house price growth. There could be risks from 'Help to Buy' if it is too successful and over-stimulates the market.

However, the Bank of England and Treasury have said they will carefully monitor the market and will effectively pull the plug if it identifies signs of overheating. On the downside, risks could come from affordability constraints; a strengthening pound and a further stagnation, or an absence of growth in real incomes, could suppress affordability and temper wider optimism.

With the end of 2013 now in sight I do not expect many more properties to become available in Brixworth until the New Year but I do hope to see numbers returning to normal after the Christmas break.

– Stuart Little

Teenagers organise Charity Fun Day for 24 November

Seven teenagers from around Brixworth have organised a Charity Fun Day in aid of the Stroke Association for 24 November.

The Fun Day will take place in Brixworth Village Hall from noon to 4pm. Visitors can expect a range of stalls, and are hoping to arrange for a representative of the Stroke Association to give a talk on how the money raised will be used, and about the work of the association.

The organisers - Abigail Willis, Megan Hornsby, Joseph Loveday, Brandon Cleasby, Holly Turner, Dillon Hedges and Joshua Whiffen – are all aged between 16 and 17 and are running the event with no external funding support.

Abigail explains: "The Stroke Association is a charity very much close to all of our hearts due to family members being personally affected. Due to the care and consideration our loved ones have received we want to give back and show the stroke association just how much we value their hard work."



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WESTMINSTER REPORT

Battling the blight of cancer

So the hullabaloo of conference season is over and the House is now back in full swing.

Party conferences, whether they be Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, SNP, UKIP etc, tend to be packed full of policy announcements, in the hope of capturing the attention of voters.

One announcement made recently, however, received little attention, but in my opinion is perhaps the most significant of all to families up and down the UK.

I have written before about the devastating impacts of cancer, but in the last few weeks, the Prime Minister made a big announcement on the Cancer Drugs Fund. To ensure that people get better access to the life-saving treatment they need, this Government introduced a £650m fund. To date, the fund has helped over 34,000 people to receive additional cancer drugs that can improve or extend their life and the Government has recently announced a further £400m of funding which will extend the fund to March 2016.

This in itself is great news, including for many local families tormented by this devastating disease. The goal is that by 2014, UK cancer survival rates will match the European average, which means saving an extra 5,000 lives every year.

In 2011, the Government published 'Improving Outcomes: a strategy for cancer', which set out how it will raise awareness of the symptoms of cancer and invest £750m over five years to support early diagnosis and improve access to testing and treatment.

To ensure that people recognise the symptoms and know when to go see their GP, the Government launched the Be Clear on Cancer campaign which makes people aware of the signs of cancer. This year, national and regional campaigns have been run for bowel, kidney, bladder, breast and ovarian cancer. Another campaign will inform people about the signs of rarer types of cancer.

In addition to this, the Government is running screening programmes to help people get earlier diagnoses, so that treatment is more likely to work. This includes spending £60m on testing the Bowel Scope Screening Programme (which uses a camera to look for signs of cancer inside people's bowels) and expanding it across the country by 2016 to save 3,000 lives a year.

The Government is also taking steps to improve the use of radiotherapy, spending £250m on developing proton beam therapy (a form of radiotherapy that targets cancer cells more effectively) and has committed £23m to a Radiotherapy Innovation Fund to increase the number of patients who could access Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (a type of radiotherapy with fewer side effects).

So, although this was not one of the headline-grabbing announcements of the last few weeks - and unjustly so - I believe it is really important that people are aware of what is happening to try and tackle this devastating disease.

Chris

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Parish News



Brixworth Parish Council News & Views

Winter 2013 edition

edited by Ian Barratt

visit us at <http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk>

Sign Up!

A patch of the Millennium Garden which is cared for by the Parish Council and is near the Church, has been planted with wild flowers.

We are looking forward to seeing them in the spring, but we know how tempting it will be to pick them!

So your Parish Council Recreation Committee asked Brixworth Centre Preschool to help us make a sign to politely remind us to leave the flowers alone so we can all enjoy them!

The children had each drawn a flower and a copy of every flower was professionally printed around the edge of the sign.

But your Parish Council loves an excuse for a celebration so a ceremonial grand planting of the sign was arranged! To make it a treat for the children Cllrs Tony Hockenhull, Liz Wiig and Steve Pointer generously donated enough sweets for every child and the adults to have some. As Cllr Ian Barratt remarked, amongst the fun, this was an early lesson in conservation for all!



Centre Preschool show they care



.....a big thank you to all involved - even the rain stopped for us!

Chair's Blog



I expect that most residents of Brixworth have heard that an elected member of Brixworth Parish Council has chosen to sue the Council of which he is a member.

Unfortunately, because legal proceedings are under way, I have to exercise proper pre-trial discretion and not say anything at all that might jeopardise the Council's position.

What I can say, however, is that the Council is defending the Claim, but we are also seeking to achieve a positive, speedy and proportionate resolution to the proceedings.

The Council's comments or views on this matter are, and will be, limited to those contained in the full minutes of Parish Council meetings, and future editions of Parish News or the Brixworth Bulletin. Any views expressed through Social Media will not be the official views of the Parish Council.

On a brighter note, I would like to welcome our new Parish Council Clerk, Emma Baker, who will also be the Responsible Financial Officer for the Council.

Emma is from Finedon where she has been the Parish Clerk for several years. She will be available by telephone (01604 881243), but check on website as this may change, or by email (brixworthpc@gmail.com) should you need to contact the Clerk. Emma joins as a result of our long time Clerk, Jane Macken, taking a step up the career ladder and although she may be joining at a difficult time for the Council, I hope you will join me in making her welcome!

Then, although I am writing this in late-October I know that you will not be reading it until much later in the year and so, I must remember to wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.



Speedwatch

Once again Howard Reader and his team are watching out for speeding traffic in the village. Early indications are that the problem is improved since last time but by no means eliminated especially in Station Road.

And there may be new hot-spots we need to tackle.

Howard has asked that we remain in Speedwatch for a further year and his team will keep on doing their bit towards making Brixworth a safer place.

Flower power!

Mike Nice and his team of volunteers have once again been busy planting daffodils to give that gorgeous splash of colour in the spring!



Cllrs Parker, Parnaby and Chattaway hard at work

Mike writes "Thanks to the Parish Council for their financial support for the purchase of the daffodil bulbs. Many thanks to those families and members of Brixworth and Scaldwell Girl Guides that turned out on the day.

Seven areas were planted this year. We look forward to the Spring

Highways Committee

The Highways Committee have been very busy over the past five months addressing issues raised by the residents of Brixworth. These include treatment of Japanese Knotweed, clearing drains, parking and speeding issues.

Other activities in the village have included Northamptonshire Highway's Community Enhancement Gang which, in June, set about cleaning road signs, getting rid of graffiti and cutting back unruly shrubbery.

Brixworth Parish Council is working closely with Northamptonshire County Council's Street Doctor. This is an on-line complaints system which enables residents to log a Highways Complaint so that problems can be identified and dealt with effectively and efficiently, and you can view its progress. Simply log onto www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

There is also a link on the Parish's website www.brixworthpc.org.uk

The Committee were asked by DDC for ideas for eight new street names for the new Barratts' estate and the favoured suggestion are names of hedgerow plants - giving a nod to the existing hedgerow.

Other issues that have been raised and resolved are the supply of more litter bins at bus stops, the ownership and responsibility of footpaths and their maintenance, and the long-term underground leak at Froghall

Anyone for tennis?

Pete Anscombe fancied a game of tennis this summer and decided the old Parish Council tennis court was just the place - except it was covered in broken glass and there was no net.

Enough to put most people off, you would have thought. But public-spirited Pete got to work with his family and swept the court and bought a new net out of his own pocket so anyone who wanted to could play.

The court was well used during the hot weather, so well done, Pete, for your marvellous community gesture

Contact us.....

Clerk to the Council - Mrs Emma Baker
Clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk
Tel (01604) 881243 and at
<http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk/>

Emma does not work 24/7!! If she is not available just leave your number and she will get back to you asap.

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Surgery	Sat 7th December, 4th January
Highways Committee	Tues 3rd December
Planning Committee	Mon 16th December
Full Council	Tues 17th December, 21st Jan
Recreation Committee	January date tbc

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.

Planning Committee

There have been some important Planning applications over the last few months which are likely to have major effects on the Village.

In September Daventry District Council's Planning Committee approved a development of 9 houses and 6 Industrial Buildings at Station Yard, Station Road, Brixworth, (known locally as "Mabbutt's Yard"). This development was vigorously opposed by Brixworth Parish Council chiefly on the grounds of the additional traffic which it is likely to generate. The commercial units alone will provide 195 parking spaces for staff and visitors. Most of this extra traffic is likely to pass through the heart of the Brixworth Conservation Area where old buildings and the pavements are already suffering from damage caused by heavy traffic.

Residents have approached the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council for support over the long term problem whilst lobbying the District Council, our MP and Northamptonshire County Council Highways Authority for action to deal with the imminent problem of construction traffic. To date, Northamptonshire County Council refuse to recognise that the Brixworth Conservation Area will suffer either because of construction traffic in the short term or as a result of traffic engendered by the new development in the longer term. Efforts to persuade them otherwise will continue.

The development of 150 houses by Barratts, east of Northampton Road to the south of the village, is proceeding. Currently, the Parish Council is seeking clarification over the "buffer strip" between the existing housing and the new development and the installation of a right hand turn lane into the estate. A complaint has been made over the absence of signs directing construction vehicles.

The scheme for a new, separate, car park on the site of a pair of semi-detached houses adjacent to the shops looks likely to proceed with a net gain of 8 new spaces.

An application for a Continuing Care Retirement Community south of Brixworth with 100 units of accommodation, rooms, apartments and cottages, to be situated behind the Cricket ground is also causing some concern over the pressure it may place on the Saxon Spires Surgery. The site itself, although partially developed previously, will add new buildings in a rural setting and generate even more traffic on the busy Northampton Road and the A508.

££££££££££ Finance Committee ££££££££££

The Committee had a number of meetings to select a new Clerk to the Council. After much careful deliberation we appointed Mrs Emma Baker who we thought was an excellent candidate. We welcome Emma on board and all look forward to working with her and helping her to get to know the village.

It's that time of year again when we have to decide how much to spend next year. For many years we've had little or no increase in our quest to give you good value for money. In fact the average household pays just over a pound a week to us, and we hope you share our view that this represents excellent value.

Whatever the budget will be, you can be sure we will squeeze every last drop of value from the money we spend.

Recreation

Have you heard of Pocket Parks? Did you know Brixworth has one? (off Eaglehurst)

The Recreation Committee is setting up a new Committee with residents to run the Pocket Park. The first meeting has taken place. Watch this space!



Cllrs Barratt, Pointer & Bird meeting residents



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.bcfchurch.co.uk



Church in the Community

What role does a Christian Church play in a Community? There are of course the obvious "Christian" things such as Christenings / Thanksgiving for a new life, Marriage Ceremonies, Funerals and providing Services that folk can attend, but at the heart of the Christian message is that the church is and should be part of the Community it ministers to. We at BCF believe that the example given to us by Jesus of wholehearted involvement in "blessing" people in various ways, is a worthwhile example to follow.

Have you seen and read the "Where's Wally" books – hidden in the large crowd of people is Wally who is distinctive in his bobble hat and red and white striped shirt. He is often half hidden behind someone else and hours of fun are spent trying to spot him. With Christmas around the corner, we might ask the question "Where's Jesus" – difficult to find on cards, or in shops or on TV and yet He is the reason for the season! We hope that as a Church in the Community you might meet Jesus through us, that He won't be hard to find but will be easily seen and encountered.

We hope that as we meet you in "our" community in the coming days we may be able to bless you in some small way. This issue focuses on a number of ways in which we would like to do just that.

God bless you

Contact: Phil on 882040



Outdoor Christmas Nativity Sunday December 15th at 4p.m.

Once again we invite you to share with us in a Celebration of Christmas with Carols and Nativity scene outside the Library and Community Centre. This year we are inviting any children from the village that wish to be either a shepherd or an angel in the Nativity, to let us know by entering your name on the list to be found in the Olive Branch Coffee Shop. We ask that you provide a costume for your child(ren) and on the day they will simply follow the other children as they form a Nativity scene alongside the donkeys, kings, the angel Gabriel, and of course not forgetting Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus!

If your child wishes to take part we would ask that they arrive suitably dressed by 3.40p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there!





Christmas Lunch for Senior Citizens

On Wednesday 11th December around 70 folk will be meeting to enjoy a delicious Christmas meal with entertainment from the Key Stage 1 Choir, some Carols and a few laughs with Father Christmas along the way. Booking is required and those who belong to the weekly Wednesday Luncheon Club at the Olive Branch will have first option. Tel 889030 for clarification or to book.

Text a Prayer 07597 186151

Would you like us to pray for you in confidence?



Maybe you are struggling with something and you would like people to pray for your situation. We have a small team of people who will promise to pray for you – just leave a message on 07597186151 or fill in a short form leaving it in the box in the OB and we will pray for you – we believe that nothing is too difficult for God and He loves to hear us pray and we would be honoured to do that for you.

Junior Church 11.15a.m. each Sunday

A very warm welcome to all children of whatever age to our Sunday Services which includes a special time together. Bible Stories, games, quizzes, craft and much more. For more information why not ring Phil on 882040

Christmas Day Morning

10.30-11.15 in the school

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

The profound mystery of Christmas is revealed in one short Bible verse – “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3 v 16)



COFFEE SHOP

More than just a Coffee Shop, the Olive Branch is the place to meet, be kept informed of Village life and receive a warm welcome. If you have never tasted the fine coffee and food – why not try it!

Mon, Tue, Thur 10-3.00, Fri 9.30-3.00,
Saturday 9.30-1.00
Wed 10-11 & 1.45-3.00

Pensioners Luncheon Club Wed 12 noon*
*(membership currently full ask to be added to waiting list)

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

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

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,

We are now in the season of Advent, a time of waiting for the arrival of Christ coming into our world, and light coming into our darkness. Advent is also a time when we look forward not only to Christ's first coming, but also his second coming at the end of time. And Advent is meant to be a time of anticipation, expectancy and reflection. But Advent for many of us can mean a time of busy preparation-- of frantic shopping and frayed tempers. We search the shops endlessly for gifts and for Christmas food, and get our houses ready for parties and visits from friends and family. And of course we begin to think about buying the all-important Christmas tree to stand in our living rooms.

For me, as a child, this was one of the highlights of Christmas. It was my job to decorate the tree. And I wanted it to be perfect, colour-coordinated, with not a thing out of place-- right down to the star on top. Once I had done that, Christmas had arrived. When you decorate yours, I ask you, as you finally put that star on top, to pause for a second and think what the Christmas star actually symbolises. It brings us right back to the heart of what Christmas is all about: the arrival of the tiny baby, Jesus Christ--a new star rising as a light in the darkness—a star that asks us to follow him and to embrace a new way of being in the world. A way of being that has love at its centre.

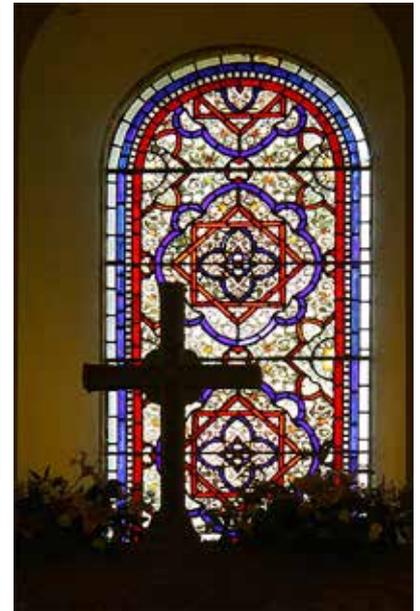
This Advent, why not take time to reflect on what star you are following, and what you want out of life. Where is that star leading, and what is important to you?

I wish you all a wonderful Advent, and a glorious Christmas, and warmly welcome you amongst us during the Christmas season.

Rev. Chloe

Normal weekday & Sunday services

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



Weekday services

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

Services for Advent and Christmas

Advent Family Service	10.30 am	Sunday	1 st December
Advent Carol Service	6.00 pm	Sunday	1 st December
Christingle Service	4.00 pm	Sunday	15 th December
Joint Carol Service with Brixworth Christian Fellowship	7.00 pm	Thursday	19 th December
Crib Service	2.00 pm	Tuesday	24 th December
Midnight Mass	11.30 pm	Tuesday	24 th December
Family Communion Service	10.30 am	Wednesday	25 th December

From the Registers

	Holy Baptism	Holy Matrimony	Holy Burial
June	Logan Derek Robinson	Mark Hofford and Kimberley Bull	Kevin Turland
July	Millie Martha Russell Charlotte Katharine Alcock		
August	Alfie Charles Horne Elizabeth Mary Manning		
September	Ava Grace Hammond Emily Florence Pack Harrison Clark Russel Blossom Elizabeth Levett	Daniel Beames and Helen Edney Craig Cosford and Jessica Freeman	Roy Anthony Newton John Ronald Bird



DA/2013/0478 Hill Farm, Northampton Road Proposed utilities campsite building.	29/07/13 PC No Objection 27/06/13 DDC Approved.
DA/2013/0503 The Firs, Saneco Lane Listed Building Consent for conversion and alteration of first floor of outbuilding to provide living accommodation	29/07/13 PC No Objection 05/07/13 DDC Approved 05/07/13 Listed Building Consent
NCC 13/00050/WASVOC The Old Brickworks, Harborough Road Pitsford Variation of Condition 10 of planning permission DA/04/1494 to allow for extended hours of working	08/07/13 No Objections 17/09/13 NCC Approved
DA/2013/0334 Land to East of Northampton Road, Brixworth Reserved matters application for residential development of 15 houses and bungalows, play area, associated public open space, landscaping, car park for retained allotments, extension to allotments and new vehicular and pedestrian access.	10/06/13 PC Objection 24/07/13 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0331 Northampton Road Single storey side extension with new vehicular access	10/06/13 PC No Objection 16/07/2013 DDC Approved
DA/2013/0512 The Ridings Two Storey front extension	29/07/13 - PC No objection. 12/08/13 – DDC Approved
DA/2013/535 Broadlands Work to trees subject to a tree preservation order	29/07/13 – PC Objection 12/09/13 – DDC Approved
DA/2013/0632 Northampton Road Single storey extension to outbuilding	16/09/13 – PC No Objection 25/09/13 – DDC Approved
DA/2013/0666 Shelleycotes Road Two Storey side and rear extension	16/09/13 – PC No Objection 29/08/13 – DDC Approved
13/085p DA/2013/0361 Woodsfield Vehicular access	10/06/13 – No Objection 11/07/13 DDC Refusal

What's on @ Brixworth Library

Book & DVD Sale : Saturday 30th November & Sunday 1st December

Christmas activities: Week beginning 1st December. See Brixworth Library Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BrixworthLibrary) for further details.

Folk Night courtesy of the Friends of Brixworth Library, Friday 6th December 7.30pm. Tickets are £7.50 each, doors open 7.15pm

Rhymetimes for Under 5s: Friday mornings 10.10 – 10.30am

Free computer use: Fridays all day. IT Buddies can help you if you're unsure; ask staff for more details.

Careers Advice: Thursdays 10am – 12 noon (pre-booking required). Adult Learning Advisors are there to help you with your CV, prepare for interviews, write job applications etc. Free of charge.

Discovery Club: Wednesdays term-time 3.30 – 5.00pm. For 4-12 year olds who want to do arts and crafts, or help with homework

Messy Crafts: Wednesdays during school holidays 2.30 – 3.30pm. For 3-12 year olds. Look out for other activities during School Holidays too.

Scrapbooking & Crafts Club: Saturdays once a month 10 am – 12 noon. A small charge for materials applies.

Library Book Club: First Tuesday each month 2.30 – 3.30pm.

Other events: We regularly hold **art exhibitions** upstairs in the library; ask staff for details if you would like to book the space. We can also issue and renew **bus passes**; make sure you bring them in two weeks before the expiry date.

The **Friends of Brixworth Library** regularly hold **Quiz Nights** or other fund-raising events such as the Folk Night (see above) at the Library and we are always looking for more people to join us.

For all the latest information on events at the library, visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary

Opening times

Mondays to Fridays: 10am – 6pm

Saturdays: 9am – 1pm

Sundays: 1pm – 4pm

Draughton: Chilly Church Matters

Notwithstanding that this tiny village has worked so hard to put in a new heating system in the church, the power supply in the church has been shut off - rendering St Catherine's very cold and uncomfortable through the winter. The village has not seen the full electrical report on which this decision was made, but the need for the rather vague sums of £7,000-£10,000 have been mentioned in the Parish Magazine - although for what exactly we have no way of knowing: thus we are in limbo at the moment, but hopeful that something will allow for this situation to be reversed. So - forced to focus our energies on the outside, we have begun management of our churchyard to encourage wildlife, as part of a national scheme, and with our splendid new bug hotel, compost heap and properly managed grass, we are hopeful of attaining our first award (Bronze) in 2014. Watch this space! - *Kate Calnan*



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What's on

23 Nov	Strictly Northampton	Derngate
23 Nov	Juniors Strictly	Derngate
23 Nov	Dreamscape	Roadmender
23 Nov	Doctor Who - The Day of the Doctor	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
23 Nov	RSC Encore - Richard II	EF Filmhouse
23 Nov	Blue Jasmine	Corby Cube
23 Nov	Theatre Uncut	Underground
24 Nov	Charity Fun Day	Village Hall
24 Nov	Casablanca	EF Filmhouse
26 Nov	Fascinating Aida: Charm Offensive	Derngate
26 Nov	Jimeoin	Corby Cube
27 Nov	C Rennie Mackintosh	N'ton Guildhall
27 Nov - 5 Jan	The Wind in the Willows	Royal
28 Nov	Big Sing	Derngate
28 Nov	Doctor Who and the Daleks	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
29 Nov	Half Man Half Biscuit	Roadmender
29 Nov	Steeleye Span	Derngate
29 Nov - 5 Dec	Gravity	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
29 Nov	The Bad Shepherds	Corby Cube
30 Nov - 1 Dec	Christmas at Kelmarsh	Kelmarsh Hall
30 Nov	Subrockez	Roadmender
30 Nov	That'll be the Day	Derngate
30 Nov - 1 Dec	Shape Dance	Corby Cube
1 Dec	Vintage & Retro Flea Market, 10am - 3pm	Brixworth Village Hall
1 Dec	Fabulous Frost Fair	Northampton Market Square
1-22 Dec	Santa's Special Trains (weekends only)	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
4-8 Dec	We're going on a Bear Hunt	Corby Cube
6 Dec - 5 Jan	Sleeping Beauty	Derngate
6 Dec	Folk Night at the Library	Community Centre
7 Dec	Pre-School Christmas Fair	Brixworth Centre

07-Dec	Nortanz 2013	Roadmender
10-Dec	Sing-along Rocky	Corby Cube
10 Dec	Flower School: Christmas Wreaths	Kelmarsh Hall
11 Dec	The Blockheads	Corby Cube
11 Dec - 5 Jan	Along the Riverbank	Underground
12 Dec	Christmas Table Decorations	Kelmarsh Hall
12 Dec	Tales from the Fireside	Holy Sepulchre, Sheep Street
12 Dec	Dave Spikey	Corby Cube
13-14 Dec	Comedy Club 4 Kids	Corby Cube
13 Dec	Christmas Table Decorations	Kelmarsh Hall
13 Dec	Jason Yarde Quartet	Corby Cube
14 Dec	The Darkness	Roadmender
15 Dec	Outdoor Nativity	Community Centre
15 Dec	The Damned	Roadmender
16 Dec	Shed Seven	Roadmender
27-30 Dec	Beauty and the Beast	Corby Cube
29 Dec & 1 Jan	Mince Pie Special Trains	N'ton & Lamp-ort Railway
31 Dec	Random Concept NYE	Roadmender
09 Jan	Motown's Greatest Hits	Derngate
10 Jan	Jason Manford	Derngate
15 Jan	Foggy & Whit	Corby Cube
16 Jan	Anton Du Beke	Derngate
17-18 Jan	Burlesque Show	Royal
19 Jan	Johann Strauss Gala	Derngate
20-25 Jan	Moscow City Ballet	Derngate
20-25Jan	HMS Pinafore	Royal
25 Jan	Cinderella, 2pm & 7.30pm	Brixworth Village Hall
27 Jan - 1 Feb	Dreamboats	Derngate
30 Jan	Trevor Noah	Royal
31 Jan	Cinderella, 7.30pm	Brixworth Village Hall
1 Feb	Cinderella, 2pm & 7.30pm	Brixworth Village Hall
3 Feb	Rent in Concert	Derngate
4 Feb	Circus of Horrors	Derngate

6 Feb	The Drifters	Derngate
7 Feb	Ultimate Rhythm & Blues	Derngate
8 Feb	John Cooper Clarke	Royal
11 Feb	The Straits	Derngate
14 Feb	Russel Howard	Derngate
14 Feb	Andra Sparks Quartet	Corby Cube
16 Feb	Mozart's Requiem	Derngate
16 Feb	Mozart Magic	Royal
18-22 Feb	Chariots of Fire	Derngate
23 Feb	Richard & Adam	Derngate
23Feb	Brixworth Community Panel Meeting	Community Centre
25-26 Feb	Sarah Millican	Derngate
27 Feb	NT live War Horse	EF Filmhouse
28 Feb	La Boheme	Derngate
28 Feb	Broken	Corby Cube
1 Mar	NT Encore War Horse	EF Filmhouse
7-8 Mar	Peppa Pig's Big Splash	Derngate
10-15 Mar	Passionate Woman	Derngate
16 Mar	John Lill	Derngate
16 Mar	Orchestral Explorers	Underground
17 Mar	Rumours of Fleetwood	Derngate
21 Mar	Russell Kane	Derngate
22 Mar	Lee Hurst	Corby Cube
24-29/3	Blood Brothers	Derngate
30 Mar	Vintage & Retro Flea Market, 10am - 3pm	Brixworth Village Hall
30 Mar	The Bolshoi Live - The Golden	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
3-4 Apr	Russell Brand	Derngate
10-11 April	Dinosaur Zoo	Derngate
13 Apr	Bootleg Beatles	Derngate
22-26 April	Fiddler on the Roof	Derngate
27-Apr	Suggs	Derngate
04-May	Classical Masters	Derngate
15 May	Sarah Millican	Derngate
16 May	Fish	Roadmender
16-31 May	Let it Be	Derngate
8 Jun	John Williams Performs	Derngate

Brixworth Fish Bar
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 01604 881767 or
 ward525@btinternet.com



Brixworth Juniors fc



A few changes have taken place at the club over the summer. At the AGM Jon Howarth stepped down as club chairman after many years' hard work and Robert Kelly was voted in as the new chairman. The club would like to thank Jon for saving the club from near extinction and dragging it back to the stable and forward looking position it currently enjoys.

The new season has now started and this year the club has at least one team in every age group, from Under 7's all the way up to Under 18's. Brixworth Juniors have also gone from being mainly a 'C League' club to an 'A-B League' club with the majority of teams gaining promotions in the previous season.

Unlike some teams, the club does not poach players from other clubs and believe that they are here to look after the boys and girls of the immediate area. This is what makes this such a great achievement for the teams and their coaches, as nearly all of players are from Brixworth or very nearby villages.

Training sessions for children in Reception or Year 1 take place at St. David's playing fields from 10-11.15am on Saturdays. For information on training for older age groups, visit the new website, brixworthjuniors.co.uk or contact the club on info@brixworthjuniors.co.uk. – Robert Kelly

Golfing dates 2014

Brixworth Amateur Golf Society have now arranged the following venues for 2014:

- 7th March at Kilworth Springs Golf Club - The George Clapton Memorial Trophy
- 25th April at Kibworth Golf Club
- 13th June at Farthingstone Golf Club
- 8th August at Cosby Golf Club
- 3rd October at Overstone Golf Club - The Tim Moulds Jug

In addition, we'll be holding our Annual General Meeting in The Sports Pavillion on 10th April. Everybody is welcome.

If you are interested in joining please ring the club secretary John Wilson on 880490. – John Wilson



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