

# BRIXWORTH BULLETIN

The village newspaper of Brixworth, Draughton, Cottesbrooke, Hanging Houghton & Lamport

Issue 41, June 2014



Photo by Graham Billing, Brixworth Photographic Society

## An Accident waiting to happen

The footpath crossing the A508 has been a cause of concern for villagers for years, and rightly so. Cars frequently come down that stretch of the bypass at 60 or 70mph, making the crossing hazardous even for adults, never mind those with young children or dogs, or older children who may want to go to the Country Park by themselves.

Now the relentless growth of housing in that part of the village will add even more pressure – more people living a stone's throw from the crossing who will, obviously, use it to get to the park.

A proper footbridge was considered a few years back but Daventry District Council could not afford it at the time. So all we got was what planners deemed the best affordable solution – a flashing sign warning cars to slow down when there are pedestrians waiting to cross.

That is not good enough.

How long will it be before a motorist fails to see someone crossing?

How long till one car slows down and the one behind overtakes, with disastrous results?

Would you feel comfortable using that crossing as it is?

Would you let your children use it?

Must we really have a fatality before the people of Brixworth get a safe route to the country park?

The current expansion of housing, controversial as it is, is also an opportunity to fix this.

Ask the developers to help us here. Barratt's planners will be in Brixworth Community Centre on Thursday 12 June, consulting on the next phase of their housing plans. Make sure you're there. Ask them to put their hand in their pocket.

If they want planning approval, have them build us a bridge. – cfw

### Deserving Causes – results are in!

As always, the vote for the *Bulletin's* Deserving Causes made March a tense time of year. I found myself constantly checking the votes on the *Bulletin's* webpage. Would the Scouts continue to streak ahead? Would the determined Draughtonians overcome their disadvantage of numbers – just how many votes can a village of 35 households muster? Would the Brixworth Music Festival, which struggled online, win votes elsewhere? My final question at least was answered when I emptied the *Bulletin's* letterbox in the Community Centre and found it overflowing with voting slips for the Music Festival.

With the end of the month, it was time for the final tally – and it was an impressive one! This year, 448 people have come to cast their vote, setting a new record for the turnout. Rather than winner-takes-it-all, we decided to allocate our prize fund, which this year came to £3,000, by percentage of votes.

Coming in at just about half the votes cast, the Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts will therefore get a contribution of £1,500; the Draughton Clubroom receives £855 and the Brixworth Music Festival a very respectable £645.

Bob Pickles, leader of the Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts, says: "Thank you for the news that Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts received 50% of the voting and thank you to everyone in Brixworth who voted for us. Apportioning according to percentage vote is a perfect way for all the groups to benefit from the generous donations from the Brixworth community (continued, p 2).

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## Easter Garden brings a touch of spring to All Saints' Church

This lovely Easter Garden, prepared by Catherine Hole and April Richards, was on show under the High Altar inside All Saints' Church over the Easter period. Just in case you missed it!

(continued from p1) "The money is more than we had hoped for and will be gratefully received as we really need to renew some of our older camping equipment. This will help us to do this. At the end of May we will be holding our Group Camp with all our sections. We were hoping to get a new crew tent for Scouts & Explorers but we now have the opportunity to perform an equipment audit when we set up for Group Camp and we can target the items in most desperate need for replacement. We will report back after our trip on what we will purchase."

Sebastian Calnan, chair of the Draughton

Clubroom Committee, comments: "Draughton residents are thrilled to have been awarded a grant of £855 towards the repair costs of the clubroom. We are looking forward to a damp-free social hub for the village! We have already had the building inspected and have lowered the ground outside the affected walls as a result. Next, the walls have to dry out, which we are told will take several months. We have decided initially to leave the plaster in place, so the place doesn't look too much like a building site for our coffee mornings, club meetings, yoga etc.

"After that we can get more accurate advice as to whether or not the walls should be injected or will require a damp course before the plasterwork commences. Finally, the village redecoration team will go into action before the big party!"

Meanwhile, Vivienne Olive, artistic director of the Brixworth Music Festival, said on behalf of the Festival Committee: "Thank you for the generous donation. This money will go a long way to help with the expenses of the many volunteers taking part. In a music festival such as this – with nine concerts (including orchestras and choirs), a crafts exhibition, and catering planned for each concert there are many "unseen" expenses. There are many people who work quietly in the background, clearing up, selling tickets, making phone calls, going shopping, co-ordinating events, picking up performers etc. Many are happy to volunteer their services, but at the same time it is very important that they should not be out of pocket.

"It will also be good to know that there is a kitty for unexpected expenses – for example, someone suddenly needing a taxi because they have broken down. Even the emergency of someone standing in for a performer who has suddenly fallen ill. We hope, of course, that nothing like this will happen, but it is very comforting to have a sum of money in the background for anything unforeseen that might occur.

"The donation from the Bulletin has given the Brixworth Music Festival a boost which will enable us to breathe a little more freely and ensure that all participants are rewarded for their hard work."

- Claudia Flavell-While

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# Plans for even more housing

Two new housing developments are being considered on the outskirts of Brixworth, which between them would add at least 120 more houses to the village.

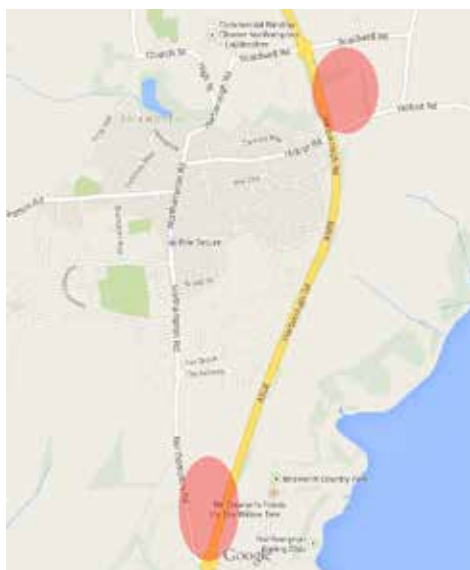
Barratt Homes is due to hold a public consultation on its plans to expand its new housing estate on the southern edge of Brixworth, while Redrow Homes is considering seeking planning permission for a parcel of land between Holcot Road and Scaldwell Road.

The plot Redrow has been sizing up could hold up to 60 houses. If approved, it would be the first development in Brixworth to be built on the far side of the A508 and would set a precedent for expanding Brixworth to the other side of the bypass.

Meanwhile Barratt Housing has confirmed its intention to develop the rest of its land to the east of Northampton Road – a roughly triangular plot between the allotments at the edge of the 150-house plot Barratt is currently developing, and the roundabout on the A508.

The company is holding a public exhibition of its plans at Brixworth Library and Community Centre on Thursday 12 June, 3-7pm. Members of the project team will be on hand to answer all questions that residents may have.

No planning application has so far been received for either of the developments, though there are concerns that both



*Redrow could build up to 60 houses between Scaldwell and Holcot Roads (top circle) while Barratts plan to extend their new estate at the southern end of Brixworth*

developers will try and get their applications through the system before the Neighbourhood Plan, which is currently being worked on, can be signed off.

Responses to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation, which took place this spring, show that Brixworth residents are overwhelmingly concerned about the strain that new housing developments will put on the local infrastructure, including schools and health services, and that most would seek to limit any expansion to 100-150 homes in total over the next 15 years. - cfw

## Huge support for Neighbourhood Plan

Brixworth residents strongly support the proposals set out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, the results of the village questionnaire show.

A total of 584 households – 28.2% of the village total – and 185 individuals responded to the questionnaire, which is a good response. Almost all the Neighbourhood Plan proposals were rated as 5 (strongly agree) by at least 600 of the 759 total respondents.

Presenting the results at Brixworth's Annual Parish Meeting on 6th May, Rick Spurgeon noted that concerns over the schools, surgery, parking and traffic were most evident followed very closely by bus services, local green spaces, landscape and agricultural land.

These concerns continue to fuel resistance to further large scale development, with 58% of respondents wishing to see no more than 100 new houses built over the next 15 years and most of the remainder less than 150.

At the time of writing there are already plans for two new developments in preparation, which between them would add more than 120 houses to the village.

The detailed analysis will be available shortly in PDF form on request by e-mailing [info@brixworth-np.org.uk](mailto:info@brixworth-np.org.uk)

The Group will now convert their proposals into a purposeful piece of planning legislation. This will require further consultation with residents and national and local public bodies, and approval by the Parish and District Councils. Following this, the plan will be examined by a Planning Inspector before the approval of residents is sought by referendum.

The Steering Group is keen to attract new members, especially those who have relevant expertise and are able to give their time on a voluntary basis. If you can help, e-mail [info@brixworth-np.org.uk](mailto:info@brixworth-np.org.uk) or contact a member of the Group. – Bob Chattaway

## New chair for Village Hall

Brixworth Village Hall Management Committee has a new chair. Stephen Pointer stood down at the committee's AGM, and was unanimously replaced by Dennis Coles.

Pointer also did not stand for re-election to as an ordinary committee member, citing lack of time; Sue l'Anson filled that vacancy.

In his report, the new chairman summarised the work carried out over the past year: two ageing and noisy central heating units have been replaced; fortunately grants obtained from County Councillor Boardman and the Northamptonshire Community Foundation covered the majority of the costs.

The other major issue was the perennial problem of water getting into the hall in the areas covered by flat roofs; all attempts so far to fix this issue were only partially successful. "This time we decided to have all the exposed walls capped, flat roof resealed and loose tiles replaced," Coles explains. "Hopefully this will fix the main problem. In line with our normal policy we used local tradesmen for this work."

"We also got help from an organisation called 'Pots and Paints' who repainted the hall for free. Redecorating the hall is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge."

There is still an issue with a tree which may be damaging the foundations at the front of the building – a priority for the new committee. The state of the road directly outside the Village Hall is another matter of concern, particularly for some of the elderly users – however because the road sees only limited use, it is not a high priority for repair.

The Drama Group has offered to repaint the stage area, and everybody is looking forward to seeing the results of Caroline Monk's fund raising efforts, which will culminate in a War Time Show in November.

Coles says: "Thank you to everyone who attend our AGM. We still need more representatives from the regular users of the Hall – at the moment, only the History Society and the Drama Group have representatives."



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# Police Report

## Crime drops by a third

Crime in Brixworth has dropped by 33% in the year to March 2014 – an even heftier drop than the fall across Northamptonshire, which was still a very pleasing 13.1%

The biggest reduction was in violence, which fell from 47 cases in 2012/13 to 19 cases in 2013/14. Burglaries from dwellings was down 70%, with nine cases, as opposed to 30, now that the wave of break-ins around Froxhill Crescent has thankfully come to an end. Theft of cars and theft from cars recorded the next biggest drops in absolute numbers. The only offences on the rise were drug offences, which saw a 25% increase, from eight cases to ten.

These trends are mirrored in the county-wide figures. Across Northamptonshire, violence is down 11.1%, burglary 14.8%, and vehicle crime fell 21.5%. However, drug trafficking rose 15.4%, drug possession 5.7%, and rape 1.1%. While the reductions are very pleasing, still more can be done. Much crime can be prevented, particularly burglaries and thefts, many of which are opportunistic crimes. Approximately one third of all burglaries are committed when a building has been left insecure. Because of this, the Community Panel or the Rural East beat, which includes Brixworth and the surrounding villages, recently agreed to focus on promoting crime prevention.

You may be aware that there are various crime prevention products on the market. However, crime prevention is also about common sense, and the easiest way to think about it is in layers.

Firstly, you take a look at the approach to your property. Are you giving burglars the opportunity to hide, with planting and fencing? You can put would-be burglars off by ensuring your neighbours can see your property from the front. To that end, we

would suggest that if you have a fence, it doesn't exceed a height of one metre. At the rear this can be raised to 1.8 metres, or 2 metres if you're using garden trellis. Trellis makes an ideal privacy screen as it is not strong enough to support a person's weight. It can also be used to train a climbing plant such as a Firethorn or Pyracantha.

Ensure items are removed from the garden at night, and that any ladders are securely stored, especially if you have flat roofs. Keep items locked in a shed, and use a good quality British Standard closed-shackle padlock to secure it. Consider replacing hinge screws with coach bolts for added security. At the front of your property, consider low level ambient dusk-till-dawn lighting with a

turn the key to ensure the door is locked, so you might want to consider a night latch, or a door bar. Avoid placing high-value ornaments on shelves: you could be advertising your items to thieves.

Fit a good quality alarm. Thieves are less likely to break into a house if it is alarmed; if you have pets, there are pet friendly detectors available. If you live in a larger property with extensive grounds, there are infrared detectors available that can be fitted into posts on the driveway that will trigger the alarm once the invisible beam is activated.

Consider marking items inside the property, such as laptops, computers, and televisions with a forensic marking solution such as SelectaDNA. Each kit is simple to use and contains stickers that you can place on windows advertising that the product is in use. Even simply engraving your property with your postcode and door numbers means it is traceable and it is less likely to get stolen.

HO Group	Apr 13 - Mar 14	Apr 12 - Mar 13	+/- Crime	% Change
Burglary Dwelling	9	30	-21	-70%
Burglary Other	18	18	0	0%
Criminal Damage	24	29	-5	-17%
Deception/Fraud	0	3	-3	-100%
Drug Offences	10	8	2	25%
Other Offences	1	1	0	0%
Robbery	2	3	-1	-33%
Sexual Offences	3	3	0	0%
Theft from Motor Vehicles	26	33	-7	-21%
Theft/Handling	36	37	-1	-3%
Theft of Motor Vehicles	3	13	-10	-77%
Violence Offences	19	47	-28	-60%
Sum (all Crime)	151	225	-74	-33%

photovoltaic sensor. High-powered security flood lights can increase the fear of crime as they come on with movement, even the neighbour's cat. They are good for back gardens, but they need to be angled with care.

Doors and windows need to be secure. Modern uPVC doors often require you to

CCTV is an option but it needs to be justified. Many systems available off the shelf lack good evidential quality. Look for the National Security Industry accreditation logo when considering any CCTV or alarm system.

In summary, most crime prevention is about making sure things are locked away and secure when not in use. For any information about products that have been mentioned, look at [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com). Secured by Design is an accreditation site that works closely with the police and is a directory of crime prevention companies and the products they offer.

Remember, the key message is if you see anything suspicious please call 999 or 101. If you would like to discuss crime prevention with any member of the team, please email us or leave us a message on 101.

Officers will be on hand to deliver crime prevention advice at a pop-up event in Spratton Road, Brixworth, on 21 June between 9.30am and 1pm.

- PCSO Jo Hillery, Brixworth Police



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# Dramatic arrest on Blason's roof

On 26th April, the police received a call from one of our proactive Neighbourhood Watch Team who was just driving past Swansnest when she saw a suspicious male climbing a fence. The man turned out to be wanted by the Metropolitan Police for three offences.

After a short chase, which took the man from Swansnest to Lesson Road, he was eventually confined to the roof of Blason's garage. After a short negotiation, the man was talked down and arrested.

## Can you help the Speed Watch?

As the Bulletin goes to press, Brixworth Speed Watch is preparing for this year's sessions, which are due to start at the end of May and continue in June. If you can help, contact Howard Reader on Thursdays at the Information Point at the Community Centre and Library, or call 882622.

"A big thank you to the current volunteers for giving up their time in this second year of Speed Watch," says Howard. "We rely on volunteers to make the Speed Watch work, and the more we have the easier it is for everybody."

"So, if you are concerned about speeding in the village and you can spare two to three hours per week for three weeks of the year, please put your name forward to train on how to use a speed gun by the police." – Howard Reader, Speed Watch co-ordinator

## Crime prevention day

Your local policing team will be outside Brixworth Community Centre on 21st June 2014, 9.30am – 1pm. We'll be on hand with advice and handing out leaflets and balloons to children etc.

Please all come along to say hello, meet the local team and discuss any concerns you have.

## Did you hear or see anything unusual?

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 **(NEW NUMBER!)** 07557 778882 or jo.hillery@northants.police.uk

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

# Help the community – join the Neighbourhood Watch!

Brixworth Neighbourhood Watch is in danger of disappearing because of lack of interest. But without a Brixworth member of the Watch, a known criminal would still be roaming the streets of our village.

In recent times Brixworth has been the victim of relentless break-ins, but despite this, local interest in the Neighbourhood Watch has dwindled. However, we have an example close to home of how it can bring neighbours together to create strong, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen.

## Harborough Be Safe

Market Harborough's Neighbourhood Watch scheme covers nearly 2,600 homes and has been credited with driving down distraction burglaries year-on-year. The scheme was nominated as one of the top three groups caring for victims in the national Inside Justice Awards.

## What is the Neighbourhood Watch?

It is a voluntary network of schemes where neighbours come together, along with the police and local partners, to build safe and friendly communities.

## The Watch's Mission

The vision is that of a caring society that is focused on trust and respect in which people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life. Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that no one has to feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live. It's about people looking out for each other, crossing barriers of age, race and class to create real communities that benefit everyone.

## Back to 26 April

A Neighbourhood Watch member spotted something and telephoned the

police. The end result was that an arrest was made. **Do you feel you could make that difference too?** If you are interested in joining, and perhaps even becoming a street co-ordinator, email [sandra.cottrell@care4free.net](mailto:sandra.cottrell@care4free.net) with your details and help make a difference to Brixworth.



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# Church to host five days of music

## First Brixworth Music Festival planned for September

In September, the first Brixworth Music Festival will be taking place. Over five days, from 17th to 21st September, we will be staging a total of eight concerts which cover a whole range of classical to lighter music.

All performing musicians come from Brixworth and Northamptonshire which boasts an extremely lively and gifted classical music scene. The Church of All Saints will be the main venue for this event where you will have the choice between smaller, more intimate concerts such as the Nene Ensemble (early music), an Evening of Poetry and Song (with Revd. Chloe and her husband, and Kay Soteriou of "Muse and Music") and the John Clare Wind Quintet, and concerts involving larger forces such as the Northampton Chamber Orchestra, the County Youth Choir (both conducted by Graham Tear) and the prize-winning Youth Brass 2000.

Vocal music will be an important aspect of the festival, with the Northampton Musical Theatre Company's "Concert Group" and the village's own U3A Brixworth Songsters. The latter will be performing during the morning service on the 21st September, followed by an opportunity to hear young and gifted musicians from Brixworth. The Brixworth Music Festival will then be brought to a close with a concert of sacred choral



The prize-winning Youth Brass 2000 are looking forward to performing at All Saint's Church

music performed by the renowned Swarbrick Singers, conducted by Ian Clarke.

The whole idea comes from composer, Vivienne Olive, who lives and works partly in Germany and partly in Brixworth. She is being supported by a very dedicated and capable committee of Brixworth residents. She says: "The wonderful venue of All Saints' is the

perfect setting for a festival of this kind".

The Brixworth Music Festival will also be accompanied by a crafts and flower show. Tickets (incl refreshments) will be on sale from July at the Brixworth Information Centre, and will be very reasonably priced. We look forward to seeing you all at this exciting new event. - Vivienne Olive, Artistic Director

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## Date set for Pointer Tribunal

The date for the employment tribunal brought by the Brixworth Parish Councillor Stephen Pointer against the rest of the Parish Council and specifically its chairman, Mike Lacey, has been confirmed for 8-12 September. Meanwhile the Parish Council says it is looking to negotiate a settlement and reasonable adjustment.

The case was brought by Cllr Pointer over the Parish Council's alleged failure of to supply him with an iPad or other suitable equipment to read Council minutes.

The Parish Council has so far spent £5,200 in legal fees connected to the case. As the costs are not covered by insurance and it is unclear how high the final bill will be, the Parish Council has ceased all financial support to local organisations this year.

In the previous financial year, this support has come to around £5,300, benefitting organisations including the Brixworth Juniors football club, the Friends of All Saints Church and Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group.

## District Council election updates: go online!

By the time you read this, the elections for a District Councillor in Daventry (held together with the elections for the European Parliament on 22 May) will have taken place and we'll know the results.

Alas, the *Brixworth Bulletin* had to go to press before the voting took place. So if you're looking for any information on who won, and any further information, you'll have to go online. Follow @BrixBulletin on Twitter, or like the Brixworth Bulletin's Facebook page.

Just as a recap, here are the five candidates who stood for the one vacant seat for Brixworth:

Conservatives: Kevin Parker  
Labour: Marie McNally  
UKIP: Stephen Pointer  
Greens: Steve Whiffen  
Liberal Democrats: Simon Hall

The seat up for re-election had previously been held by Frank Wiig and was won in a by-election by Stephen Pointer for the Conservatives a little over a year ago, following Frank Wiig's death.

The successful candidate joins Ian Barratt (Con) and Liz Wiig (UKIP) as the third councillor representing Brixworth and the surrounding villages at Daventry.

# Alex Coles joins Parish Council

Brixworth Parish Council has gained a new member: Alex Coles.

Alex grew up in Brixworth and returned to the village in 2002. He is married with two children, both of whom attend Brixworth CEVC Primary School. He has a long history of helping out in the village. He was a marshal during the 2010 Carnival, and he designed the Village Design Statement.

"For several years, I ran the Brixworth Online website which published Parish Council meeting dates and minutes," he adds. He also created websites for the Centre Preschool and the Neighbourhood Plan group, as well as maintaining and updating the Village Hall website.

He explains: "Most recently, I have been updating the Parish Council website, which has given me a greater understanding of the work the Parish Council does. I wanted to become a Parish Councillor in order to contribute to the community and to help shape the village as it grows. Also, I feel that the work of the Parish Council often goes unreported, and in applying for the position I hope to support the existing Parish Councillors in their endeavours."

Congratulations Alex – it is great to see that true community spirit is alive and well in Brixworth. There are more remaining vacancies on the Parish Council, waiting for more volunteers to join Alex. - cfw

## Wanted: Your Pub Reviews

We – that is the Bulletin Team – thought it would be a great idea to review some of the pubs and eateries in and around the Bulletin's area. But rather than us giving our verdict we thought it would be great if you, our readers, could send us your reviews instead.

So, to get you started – let's have your verdict on The Brampton Halt. Been there lately? Had a good afternoon or evening? Enjoyed the food, had a great pint? Or maybe not so?

Either way, we'd love to have your reviews, in 400 words or less please. Do keep it civilised – we want to publish your reviews, after all. - cfw





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A valued possession is my copy of Philips' "Handy Gazetteer of the British Isles." Somewhat the worse for wear in its shabby red cloth binding, I have lost count of the number of times I have referred to it over the years. Well worth the 10p I paid for it from a charity stall. Dating from 1924, the entry for Brixworth is scant two lines long, yet it tells us a great deal. The population was given as 1184, which makes it for that time quite a large village. Compare it with Holcot, for example, which comes in at a mere 278 souls.

Of course Brixworth had its thriving railway station at that time; although quite a walk to get to it, it was possible to board a train to either Northampton or Market Harborough, and from there to anywhere in the land. One of my uncles was a porter on the old Spratton station, which was a mile to the south. Not that many ordinary folk did travel very far; they were far too poor and too busy earning a crust to go any distance. If you needed to go anywhere it was 'on yer bike' or shank's pony, or into town on the carrier's wagon, a bumpy ride sitting on plank seats put in the back of the cart. At this time there were a good number of motor lorries and buses beginning to appear, but hardly



An early service bus parked outside the former Langham Arms pub in Walgrave

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anyone owned a car, apart from the well off.

To return to my trusty Philips': the village not only boasted a post office, but also a telegraph office. Long passed into the mists of time, from these at modest cost, you could send a telegram (a short typed message) to any address. It was traditional to receive several of them on the occasion of a wedding, as I did in 1958. Before the widespread use of telephones they were a valuable method of communication, especially for business users, and those with urgent family messages to send.

The book appeared a mere six years after the end of the Great War. Just a decade before many men had left the village to fight in that dreadful conflict; sadly many never returned. Yet it turns out that Brixworth had no fewer than nine public houses. That works out at a pub for about every 120 head of the population as it was then. Once again the terse entry 'iron ore' gives us a clue to why this should be so. The extraction of iron ore from the Northamptonshire sands ironstone rocks was in full swing then, for this part of the county bore rich deposits. Despite the use of steam driven shovels and the new diesel excavators that were appearing, to aid in the work, a great deal was still dug out by men using picks and shovels, by the sweat of their brows.

It was at this time newcomers from far

away came to earn their living as quarrymen. I know of at least one family, still in the village, who came from the tin and china clay quarries of Cornwall to settle here. Many would have lodged at the inns. Needless to say all that hard labour was thirsty work, and at day's end these tired workers would call in at their local for a pint or two to quench their raging thirst, and maybe ease aching limbs a little. Come Saturday night, with the week's toil behind them, a drink and a game of skittles or cribbage would set them up for the Sabbath and a fresh start on Monday. Come closing time it was not unknown for fisticuffs to take place as all these brawny fellows made their way home. Indeed I have heard that the point where Church Street and Silver Street merge was dubbed 'Hell's Corner' because of this.

What evocative names these watering holes had! The Vine, Hare & Hounds, Crown, Peacock, Fox & Pheasant, Fox & Hounds, all these pubs have gone, leaving just The Coach & Horses (1726), George (1766), and Red Lion (1822) today. The latter was demolished and built again from new when the former narrow road was widened, and the sharp bend eased, in the 1920s.

For his invaluable help in writing this article I am very grateful to my grandson David Webster, who has made a special study of village and family history. - Brian Webster

# Fresh beginnings at Brixworth Country Park and Brampton Valley Way

## staff update

Since the last update, there have been many changes to the team at Brixworth Country Park and Brampton Valley Way. The previous Senior Ranger, Chris Howe, and Countryside Ranger, Matt Harrel, have moved onto pastures new. Chris has left the service, but Matt has moved to another of Northamptonshire County Council's country parks, Fermyn Woods near Kettering.

Brixworth has a new full-time Countryside Ranger in Morgan Ravine, who just completed a BSc in countryside conservation, while I have moved from Delapre Abbey to join as the new Senior Countryside Ranger. We are both thrilled to be a part of the team, and we are looking forward to making the park a brighter, more welcoming park for all to enjoy. Dan Hurst has also moved into permanent role as Countryside Ranger on the Brampton Valley Way, a linear countryside site stretching 14 miles from Northampton to Market Harborough.

ran a mini-beast safari, taking groups of families to the classroom to look in the mini-habitats; we found everything from woodlice to ladybirds, bumble-bees to millipedes.

As previously suggested, we bought a wildlife camera to capture images of wildlife in their natural habitats along the Brampton Valley Way. These images, as well as others sent to us by a local amateur wildlife photographer have been displayed on the picture viewer in our Visitor Information Booth.



environment to play and learn about nature at the country park. Refreshments are included for just £3 if booked in advance, or £3.50 on the day. Call 07703 160878 to speak to Jo for more information.

## seasonal activities

During the May Half Term we will be running two public conservation task days on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th May at Martin Moore Wood, which is situated at the southern most end of the Brampton Valley Way. We would like to provide an opportunity for young people to join our rangers in two conservation days to see what we do and learn some new skills. These sessions will be open to volunteers aged 14 plus, but anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a participating parent or guardian.

## volunteering

In May we will work with Greenfields School and two Nationwide groups to continue to improve the sensory garden with new planting. In the next few months we also hope to renew some of the planters as they have fallen into disrepair with the help of a Barclaycard volunteer group.

We are regularly supported by students from Moulton College, who volunteer weekly to help with the ongoing maintenance. We are also very lucky to have a small group regularly volunteering on a Thursday on the Way, and would love for new volunteers to join us. If you are interested or would like more information, email us at [brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk) or call 889478.

## children's activities

In addition to the volunteering and seasonal activities, the Countryside Service also operates Nature Tots, a parents and tots group with a difference. Held on the third Wednesday of each month, parents with toddlers can meet in a relaxed and friendly

## fundraising

A local fundraiser, Corey Haseley, is working on our behalf to raise money to buy a new accessibility vehicle for park users to hire. On site we currently have one operational "Tramper" which can be hired to provide visitors with a safe accessible vehicle to traverse the park and reservoir. A second Tramper has been out of order for some time and Corey hopes to raise just over £6,000 for



a new vehicle. So far we have received £1,500 from Carefree Northants, a local charitable organisation ([www.carefreenorthants.co.uk](http://www.carefreenorthants.co.uk)), and we have received a pledge of a further £1,500 from Brixworth Nursery Farm who hope to be able to use the Tramper to bring their clients to the park throughout the year. Corey is also trying to raise funds via his Just Giving page, and will be organising a fundraising event around Pitsford Water in August to meet the £6,000 total. If anyone would like more information please contact Corey on 07565 943595 or email him at [corey.haseley@virginmedia.com](mailto:corey.haseley@virginmedia.com).  
– Debbie Samwell, Senior Countryside Ranger

## park update

Since starting in December 2013, I have seen the park come alive as spring has transformed the parks from their grey and barren form. The trees are in full leaf and the parks are now full of colour and scent. The seasonal changes have allowed us to see what is working well, and what areas need sprucing up.

One area which has come into its own is the Nature Classroom which was developed with the financial assistance we received from the Brixworth Bulletin's Deserving Cause fund in 2013. I share Chris Howe's enthusiasm for the area, as it provides us with a safe space to entertain school groups, environmental education groups and public activity groups. On Wednesday 16th April, we used the classroom for a public activity during the Easter holidays: 'Bugs & Butterflies'. We



# An excursion to the Lake District



Brixworth Photographic Society recently went to the Lake District to capture some of the magic of the area and sent us this selection. If you would like to find out more about photography, please contact the Society by emailing Ian Topham at [ian@thetophams.net](mailto:ian@thetophams.net). Or you could simply drop in at the George on a Wednesday from 8pm – you'll typically find them there!

Photos, clockwise: Mossy Crossing by David Phillips, Water's Edge by Graham Billing, Wooden Window by Ian Topham, and Ripples by Sean Goodheart.



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# Major expansion for Brixworth Village Dental Practice

Brixworth Village Dental Practice is planning a major expansion of its practice in order to take on more patients. The private practice on Spratton Road is moving into the Brixworth Clinic next door in early June.

The move, which will give the practice three times more space, will mean that for the first time the practice will be able to offer a full dental implant service in Brixworth. It will also be able to expand its orthodontic service, as well as the range of facial aesthetic treatments it can offer in-house.

In addition, the expanded practice will have the space to invite other health practitioners to offer regular clinics, giving patients and people in the area access to a wider range of services locally. The practice has already arranged for Caroline Strawson,

of Northampton Footcare Services, to give weekly clinics. Caroline, a podiatrist/chiroprapist with more than 20 years' experience, will also be offering reflexology sessions from Brixworth House. The practice is hoping to bring in more professionals from other disciplines to offer a range of healthcare services under the same roof.

The new practice building, to be called Brixworth House, will include three surgeries, a larger reception area, dedicated room for patient consultations, and separate decontamination suite.

Clinical director Dr Tom Donnelly said: "The whole team is so excited about our expansion and what it will mean we can offer our patients. The extra space will make such a difference to the way we work, and the new surgeries are being custom-designed and built to ensure they meet our needs, as well as dental best-practice recommendations."

Helen Hutchings, co-owner of the business since 2012, added: "This is a great opportunity for our practice to grow and further develop our services. We are also really looking forward to being able to bring

in other disciplines to Brixworth House to give people in the village and surrounding area local and easy access to other healthcare services."

The practice, which last year was named as a finalist in the Best Team category at the 2013 Private Dentistry Awards, encourages any potential patients to come in to meet the team and have a look round the practice.

Some of its services, including orthodontic treatments and hygienist appointments, are also open to people not registered as patients. The practice is also offering a quick and easy way for people to find out how its dental team could improve their smile. People just need to send a picture of their smile to [enquiries@bvdental.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bvdental.co.uk) with a message saying what they don't like about it and what they would like to change, and the practice's expert team will take a careful look and make their suggestions.

For more information about the practice and the services it offers see [www.bvdental.co.uk](http://www.bvdental.co.uk), email [enquiries@bvdental.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bvdental.co.uk) or call 880293

## Village groups: we want your photos!

The Brixworth Photographic Society invites all village groups to submit at least one photograph, which they feel encompasses the group's activities, for inclusion in to the 2015 Calendar.

"Anything will be considered," says Ian Topham, chair of the Photographic Society. "If you feel that you need assistance in getting any shot just right, please contact us and we will help you through the process, even down to taking the image for you."

## Welcome Pack hits the streets

With new residents now moving into the homes on the Barratts Estate, the Brixworth Welcome Pack is starting to be delivered, with a personal welcome from volunteers from the Information Point. The Project Co-ordinator, Mike Nice, said: "We are grateful for a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to finance the production of the packs, which have been compiled by Information Point volunteers. Inside the pack is an up-to-date village map, bus timetable, Brixworth Directory and – of course – the latest *Brixworth Bulletin*!"

The Brixworth Basics folder contains information submitted by over 30 different village organisations together with essential information on local services and places to visit. It will be regularly updated. New residents can also claim their pack by visiting the Information Point at the Library and Community Centre.



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# 30 years of Brixworth Centre Pre-School

Brixworth Centre Pre-School celebrates its 30th birthday this year with a tea and cake party on Thursday 10th July, 1-3pm.

Kerry Ferrier, the pre-school's chairwoman, says: "We expect a big turnout for that and would like to welcome anyone else who would like to join us and reminisce over the past 30 successful years with past and present members of staff, and of course all the parents who have sent their children to the pre-school and supported us over the years."

The pre-school is situated beside the 7th century All Saints' Saxon Church and caters for children from Brixworth and the surrounding villages. The Centre Pre-School first opened its doors in 1984 and since then has continued to grow and push forward in its pursuit of excellence for local children. Today, it is a well-established part of the local community which, over the years, has earned an excellent reputation for high-quality childcare.

The pre-school is open Monday – Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm. On a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday it also offers a lunch club until 1pm. "We take children from the age of two years and nine months," says Kerry. "The pre-school has a very healthy waiting list and some parents have been known to put their child's

name down when they are born to try and secure a place as soon as possible."

Children are looked after by a team of highly-qualified, experienced staff, all of whom are mothers themselves. Emma Hinde, the pre-school supervisor and Jayne Bandey, deputy supervisor have been



Emma Hinde (on the left) and Jayne Bandey (right) love welcoming new kids to the pre-school

## Brixworth Centre Summer Fete

Saturday 21st June  
Come along from 1pm



Brixworth old school building, a long-time venue for many village groups with members of all ages, is badly in need of rejuvenation.

A planning application is being submitted to DDC for an extension to increase our activity and storage space and user groups are working hard to raise funds for this much needed face-lift, starting with a summer fête.

Please help us by supporting this event and joining in the fun.

Cake      Face Painting      Tombola  
Refreshments      RAFFLE      Bouncy Castle  
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Further information from:



@brixworthcentre

acpurnell@hotmail.co.uk; [www.thebrixworthcentre.org.uk](http://www.thebrixworthcentre.org.uk)



working at the pre-school for 10 years.

Both Emma and Jayne are very proud to work for such a successful pre-school which has kept its high reputation for so many years. Achieving this has taken a lot of work.

Emma Hinde, pre-school supervisor, says: "We constantly reflect upon our practice in order to continually find ways to extend and improve it."

Jayne Bandey, deputy supervisor, adds: "The best part of my job comes in two parts; firstly being a part of the learning journey that each child takes during their time at pre-school. Watching them learn new skills and grow in confidence and independence is a real privilege. Secondly, working with such a great dedicated team who genuinely care about each child who attends pre-school."

The children learn through planned purposeful play activities and experiences. These activities are led by the children's current interests as this makes the learning interesting and pertinent to them.

During a recent visit by Ofsted, inspectors commented: "There are very good opportunities for children to be independent, self-regulate and lead their own learning. This effectively supports children to prepare for further independent challenges that they will encounter when they move onto school."

"The staff team are committed to strengthening the opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning and offer very useful information for parents on how they can support learning at home."

The pre-school is run by a parent committee which organises fundraisers to pay for new equipment and learning resources. Kerry says: "We hold several events during the year and as this is our 30th anniversary, we will be holding a special celebration on 10 July."

More information, application forms, a child's view of pre-school and a gallery can be found at [www.brixworthcentrepreschool.co.uk](http://www.brixworthcentrepreschool.co.uk)

- Kerry Ferrier

# A pillar of the community

## Jennifer Fitzgerald interviews John Blason

John Blason has been a pillar of our community for decades, and has made a very significant contribution to Brixworth's strong sporting history. He is a Life Member of the Cricket Club, which he chaired for twenty years. He has been a Committee member of the Central Sports Club on St David's Pavilion since 1980 (and remembers the fundraising for every penny needed to build Central Sports in 1969). He was the Sports Editor of the Brixworth Bugle for ten years, and served as a Parish Councillor for twenty-four.

John's family run the garage on Northampton Road – the oldest established business still existing in Brixworth.

### How did the business start?

My grandfather started the business in the 1920s. He had moved to Brixworth – I don't know much about his family before him.

He started by renting bikes out for 6p a day. In the late 1920s, he opened the garage. There were very few cars around at that time, so his work was mainly repairs to horse-drawn agricultural vehicles.

He was one of the few people to own a car so it was used for all kinds of occasions – weddings and funerals. It even doubled up as an ambulance once.

### What is your relationship to Brixworth?

We have always had the family business here. My mother came from Wales to live here when she got married. My son will be the fourth generation of our family to invest in this business.

### What changes have you seen over the years?

Obviously, there has been a huge increase in the number of cars on the roads. Cars have also become increasingly sophisticated and nowadays are very "hi-tech".

About five years ago we took on looking after classic and vintage vehicles. We were able to do this because we have been in the business such a long time and have knowledge and experience of older vehicles. I have three classic cars myself, all pre-war Singers.

### Who is currently involved?

My son Sam works here full time and is dedicated to doing the MOTs. My wife Valerie helps out on the forecourt.

Most of our staff have been with us a long

time. Carol, who runs the office, has been with us twenty years. Tom is our longest-serving mechanic who has been with us fifteen years.

### What are your customers like?

A complete cross-section of the whole community. We not only serve Brixworth but also the surrounding area.

### Describe your typical day

I arrive about 8.30 in the morning. We do our admin in the mornings and set the work pattern for the day. For the rest of the day we are booking in customers and talking to them. At the end of the day we prepare our bills.

### Is your business seasonal at all?

Business is pretty constant throughout the year. Of course, we have more breakdowns in winter when batteries and starter motors are affected by the cold, so there is a bit more pressure then and a bit bigger workload.

### What is the strangest thing that has happened to you?

People tend to drop off their lost property here, because we are so central to the village. This has even included people dropping off lost dogs – and a lost child was left with us once!



### What are your top challenges?

Keeping up with how cars are developing. We have to invest in some pretty sophisticated equipment. Maybe rural garages like ours are eventually going to lose out to the main dealers because we can't keep up with the technology.

Another challenge is keeping the forecourt running and retailing of fuel because there are such small margins. 90% of the price of fuel goes to the government. We provide fuel more for service than for profit.

### What message do you have for your customers?

Thanks for your support for so many years, which has enabled us to keep our family business running.

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# Not the 1300th Anniversary after all!

At the end of the article “A trip down memory lane” that appeared in the March issue of the *Bulletin*, we asked for anybody who had a first-hand account of the church’s 1300th anniversary in 1980 to come forward with some personal anecdotes.

Tony and Gill Brunton have kindly supplied us with some photographs of this special celebration which are reproduced here.



All Saints Church was redated last year by the The Brixworth Archaeological Research Committee headed up by Dr David Parsons. The Committee has established that the church was built in 720 AD not 680 AD, meaning that the 1300th anniversary was actually held in error! The church’s real 1300th anniversary will now fall in 2020. Which prompts the question... How are we going to celebrate it then? Can we better the 1980 festivities?

Left: Both HRH the Duke of Gloucester and the Archbishop Donald Coggan attended the ceremony in the church. The reception after the service was held in the village hall. The photo on the left shows the Duke of Gloucester arriving.

The celebrations were very much for the whole village of Brixworth and not just for the church. Among the many events organised for the celebration (including a street market and a pageant), it was decided to hold a Carnival.

On the morning of the Carnival, a radio roadshow was held on St David’s playing field, followed by the Carnival itself – you can see one of the floats overleaf, top right. A fête was organised for the

## Correction

The article in the March issue of the *Bulletin* said that the workhouse on Spratton Road housed 2,281 residents in 1894. One reader has helpfully pointed out that the workhouse, opened in 1837, was built to accommodate 265 people – the 2,281 people mentioned in our article did not all stay at the same time but were in fact the number of people passing through over the course of the year. Of the total, some 2,000 were ‘casuals, tramps and vagrants’ who stayed a night or two.



afternoon, followed by a full pig roast on Richard Turvey's farm in the evening, provided by Chris Saul. 320 paying guests attended the fête so two policemen had to be hired – and paid for! – to keep order!

Of course, in those days, a carnival had to have a Carnival Queen. The Bulletin will offer a prize to any reader who can name correctly all seventeen contestants for Carnival Queen photographed below!

Further glamour was added to the event by the Formula Ford racing driver Jim Walsh seen kissing the Carnival Queen Julie Stradling in the photo on the right. Julie had a hairdressing salon in Brixworth and still lives in the village.



# Brixworth Drama Group: Murdered to Death



Brixworth Drama Group (patron Bernard Cribbins) is to perform an amateur production of 'Murdered to Death' by Peter Gordon on Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th June at Brixworth Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The action takes place in an old country manor house in the 1930s where unfortunately, Mildred, the owner of the house is 'murdered to death'. In true Agatha Christie style, a hapless Inspector and an interfering local busybody, a close friend of a certain famous Belgian gentleman, try to solve the mystery. Even more unfortunately, before they manage to do so, there is another murder.

Who is the killer? There are several possibilities. Is the Inspector up to the job? Who is having an affair with whom? And what did the butler see...?

Come along and enjoy this hilarious Agatha Christie spoof, but be warned: there are one or two loud bangs during the performance!

Tickets are £6 and can be purchased at Lovell Hardware Store or from Libby Bowers (880672). A warm welcome and a licensed bar await you.

For further information contact Sue l'Anson on 880238 or 07990 624713, or email [sueianson89@gmail.com](mailto:sueianson89@gmail.com)

## Hanging Houghton News

We wish a fond farewell to Greg, Joanne and Wilko who have recently moved to Northampton from 1 Manor Road, and wish a warm welcome to the village to Eleanor Buckmaster and Ray Evans who have moved into No.1.

We welcome two new families who have recently moved into Manor Gardens, which means all the eight properties are now occupied. They are Matthew and Sylvia Stilp, 1 Manor Gardens, and their family: Max, who attends UTC Silverstone School and their daughter Ellise, who is in the final year of Rothersthorpe Primary School. Ellise has just been accepted by Guilsborough School, which she will be attending from September. Matthew and Sylvia have moved to Hanging Houghton from Hunsbury.

Next door in number 3 are Annette and Derek Mills and their family. Oliver has completed a law degree and is currently working locally, prior to taking up a permanent position in London in September with Deloitte. Annette and Derek also have a daughter Jodie who is in her final year at Canterbury University. The Mills have moved to Hanging Houghton from Buckinghamshire.

Meanwhile, Jason Perkes and his rather impressive hound have moved to 17 Manor Road. Jason is an engineer specialising in 3D printing.

I would like to give a big vote of thanks to Mrs Fran Saunders' workers who helped clear up a large branch which fell from one of the lime trees at the front of the Grange on Manor Road, delaying their departure and totally blocking the only entrance/exit to the village from the A508. They enlisted the help of John Saunders who wielded his chainsaw to good effect so that it could be removed to the roadside. Also thanks to Tom who removed all the brash that was left over. A good effort all round from the Saunders family.

Apparently a few of the villagers seemed put out by the delay, however they seemed unable/unwilling to get out of their cars to help. Unfortunately I don't know the villagers involved, otherwise I would have been able to name and shame.

Another piece of news that I found out the other day also involved Fran and Tom Saunders. They sneaked off to the USA last year to get married, about time!

- Mike Philpott



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## World War I Exhibition



Brixworth History Society has put together an exhibition of Brixworth in World War I. It includes photographs and artefacts of the time, and information about the men who died in the war, and also those who returned to Brixworth.

If anyone has any information about Brixworth residents during this period, please let us know.

The Heritage Centre in Church Street, Brixworth, will be open every Saturday and Sunday afternoon from May to September from 2.30pm - 5pm.

Entry is free.

For information about forthcoming events and meetings of the society, visit our website, [www.brixworthhistory.org](http://www.brixworthhistory.org). Keep an eye out for information posters around the village, or contact Heather Parr on 07817 006364, Deni Willis on 220612 or Pauline Kirton on 880033. – Heather Parr

# Are you a Friend of Brixworth Church?

The majority of Brixworth residents know that the majestic church which stands on the hill on the north edge of the village is a Grade One listed building dating from Anglo-Saxon times. Visitors come from all over the world to see the church, and most of them write very appreciative comments in the visitors' book.

However, did you know that the Friends of Brixworth Church is a non-religious organisation made up of members who wish to preserve the building for future generations and promote its heritage? Our 'council' of elected volunteers is responsible for the business of raising funds in whatever way we can to ensure that the building is maintained. The appointed trustees are there to oversee the activities of the council and ensure the appropriate use of funds.

We are committed to ensuring that All Saints' Brixworth is preserved for future generations and that it will continue to welcome members of the community, and those from farther away, for generations to come.

Over the last two years, several members of the council have retired, and we are now seeking volunteers to join us to help with the important task of raising funds for the maintenance of the church.

I fear that if we do not get some more help, the Friends will no longer exist as an active organisation. This would be a great shame. We have over the past few months compiled a plan for the maintenance and development of the church over the next three to five years, and we are committed to putting the plan into action. What is more, fundraising events are a worthwhile effort that are a lot of fun, and provide entertainment for the community.

If you are interested in helping to ensure that our church is preserved for the future and can spend some time working with others as a team to organise events, please ring me on 881810 and I will be pleased to tell you about the exciting things we have planned for the future.

- Kate Knight, Chair, Friends of Brixworth Church

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Heart disease is a major health problem. For advice on how your lifestyle can prevent or manage this condition, come to Dr Neil Menon's talk on Healthy Hearts, on Tuesday 3rd June at Brixworth Surgery, 7-8pm.

Are you a carer? Northamptonshire Carers will be at Guilsborough Surgery on Friday 13th June, 10am-12noon, with advice and support for those who care.

For more information contact Secretary Barbara Hogg on 880552 or email [barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk)

### Friends of All Saints Church Brixworth Annual Art Exhibition

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
11.00 - 5.00**

**The Heritage Centre  
Church Street, Brixworth**

**With over 20 local artists exhibiting a range of watercolours, acrylic and pastel art, greetings cards and textiles all available for purchase**

## Afternoon Tea in Lamport Hall Gardens



The Lamport & Hanging Houghton Church fund raising group will be holding an afternoon tea in a marquee at Lamport Hall, with an opportunity to explore Lamport Hall's magnificent gardens, on Friday 4 July, 2-4.30pm.

Tickets cost £10 and are available – both in advance and on the day – from Hilary (883512) and Margaret (880259).

There will also be a raffle, with a first prize of £200 cash.

All proceeds to Lamport and Hanging Houghton church fabric fund.

## Draughton News

Spring has sprung in Draughton – and how! We would like to express our thanks to the Brixworth Bulletin and to everyone who voted for our little Clubroom in the Deserving Causes vote. We are so grateful and the award will make all the difference in refurbishment plans. Thank you everybody, and to the BB team for all the work they put into the magazine to make it such a thriving enterprise.

This summer we are looking forward to two weddings and a christening in the church, which will finally have some electricity (thus some heating and a little lighting – and even an organ). We also have a whole new organisation, The Friends of St Catherine's, which has been created to raise funds to continue this work and help keep the building in good repair. The church path has been weeded and the gravel excavated and re-laid over a weed-suppressing membrane, and looks stunning. I know this seems a little thing, but it's a big deal in Draughton, especially as we can't use any weed killer or chemical in order to qualify for a Wildlife Conservation Medal for management of the churchyard. Thank you to everyone who has helped with that!

A lovely spring gave us the confidence to raise the roof (well a marquee) to host the Easter Egg Hunt. As usual, the children produced wonderful hats, bonnets, miniature gardens and eggs, and then set off to find the eggs hidden round the village. They returned to set about the important task of decorating cupcakes (also known as cramming as much on the top of a bun as possible!). Super weather and bags of enthusiasm made for a fun couple of hours – and very little appetite for lunch!

Fingers crossed for a wonderful summer to aid our various projects. Do come and visit us, and to see what we do. The coffee morning on the first Saturday of each month is open to all, and you would be very welcome. – Kate Calnan



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# Brixworth & District U3A

Our group meets in Brixworth Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm and always features a variety of interesting speakers and time afterwards for tea.

The garden group meet on the third Wednesday of the month. From May to September there are outdoor visits, which this year amongst others include Evenley Wood and Beth Chatto's Garden. The rest of the meetings are held in Scaldwell Village Hall, starting at 2pm. April's meeting talk was by Mike Brown (who dressed for the occasion) on 'Many a Sundry Flower' (picture below).

Two new groups have just been formed. The first, on 'London Studies' – led by Irene Neil – got off to a resounding start, looking at the events which have shaped this great metropolis from Romans to present day. Many of the group too have their roots in London be it North or "Sarf" of the water.



The other group, 'Art Appreciation', is led by Elaine Nunn and hopes to cover all types of art. Members talk about their favourite pictures and sculptors etc. There has been a talk and watercolour demonstration by the

artist Colin Bradbury MBE, and talks about Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. Future talks planned are about John Singer Sargeant, the Impressionists, Monet, the Dutch Masters and Scottish Colourists. Planning is under way for a visit to the Walsall Art Gallery combined with a visit to Wightwick Manor, a National Trust property.

Further information on the U3A and interest groups can be found on our website [www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/brixworth). - Judy Smith

## Darren's 92 mile challenges

Brixworth man Darren Edwards has committed to three major challenges in 2014, all on behalf of the Beating Bowel Cancer charity. He ran the London Marathon (pictured, below) on 13th April, and is now preparing for the Brecon 54 miles Trek Fest on 7th & 8th June and the Tough Mudder (12 miles) on 13th July. Trekking buddy Paul Simpson will be joining Darren for the Trek Fest and Darren's son Ben for the Tough Mudder.



The Beating Bowel Cancer charity focuses on early detection of bowel cancer, encouraging everyone to get any changes or concerns checked without being embarrassed. Darren had first-hand experience of bowel cancer, following the sad loss of his stepmother Celia in August.

Darren has set a target of £5,000, so watch out for his events over the coming months, which include supermarket collection days, Quiz Night and Golf Day in the summer.

Please support Darren, Paul & Ben at [www.justgiving.com/Darren-Edwards002](http://www.justgiving.com/Darren-Edwards002) - Darren Edwards

## Therapy Bee

Reiki & Reflexology treatments

*Student member of the Association of Reflexology seeks volunteers for practice treatments on Saturdays at the Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic.*

*Donations towards costs most welcome but treatments are free.*

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# Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

## What does it take to be a leader?

I thought I would start this article in a slightly different way this time. As you know, Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group is flourishing, with a large number of young people involved in the groups, and many more waiting to join in all the fun. Brixworth is also expanding as we speak, and the new houses are flying up at the end of the village, which no doubt will mean many more boys and girls wanting to become part of the Scouts. To make this happen, we need more adults so we can expand our Group and get all these children involved.

People often wonder what it takes to be a Scout Leader, so I thought I would share with you why and how I became a Scout Leader. My youngest had a few health issues early in life and was unable to partake in many activities. We discovered Beavers by accident and there was no looking back. Sadly a few months into the fun and games the leader announced she was standing down and there was no one else to step up to the mark. I was desperate for Beavers to continue because it had had such a great affect on my youngest; that was when I and another mum became Beaver leaders.

I had never been involved in Scouts, or Guides for that matter, in my life. I had no



idea what I was letting myself in for. I have never been sporty, never taken part in any particular activity; I preferred reading, knitting and sewing – not really the sort of things the Beavers like to get up to! Yet for all that, I have become, I believe, an effective leader in the Scouting movement and what's more, I have enjoyed it, learnt lots of new things, and had some great experiences – some of which would never have been possible if I had not been a leader.

Ask any leader, and most will tell you they got into Scouts because of their kids. Many, like me, had no experience of the organisation beforehand; many did not feel

that they had anything to bring to the pot. Like me, they probably failed to realise the most precious thing we have to give to our young people is time to make fun.

So when people ask me what it takes to be a leader, my answer is: all you need is a few hours to spare. The rewards you get for seeing young people take part in a new activity and enjoy it is second to none.

Now back to keeping you updated with what we have all been up to. January, February and March are dark, cold nights and force us indoors more than we like. Still, each section has strived to make the most of getting out wherever they can, even camping!

## Beavers

The Beavers visited the Fire Station, made dragons to celebrate Chinese New Year, and visited the Library for National Libraries Day. The young people decorated fairy cakes and heart shaped biscuits, as well as making some wonderful Valentines cards for their loved ones. They also made and enjoyed eating pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, albeit a couple of days late! For science night, we made 'elephants' toothpaste, amongst other thing and also did a few experiments with M&M's and jelly beans – the last experiment being seeing how easy they were to eat! Beavers also explored the five senses, learnt about

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emergency aid, made some lovely plant pots and cards for Mothering Sunday and finished off the term with a great time roller skating at Benham.

## Cubs

Meanwhile, the Cubs were getting up to all sorts, as they tested their fitness and tried to see how they could improve it, and by how much. They had a go at Tai Chi, undertook a walk in the dark honing their navigation skills, and worked on their communicators' activity badge by learning sign language and code breaking. The Cubs visited Benham to take part in a spot of volleyball, celebrated St Patrick's Day in style by learning some Irish dancing, and made some lovely candles for their mums for Mothers Day. They finished the term by turning their creative skills to a spot of junk modelling.

## Scouts

On Wednesday nights, the Scouts have also been busy. They have been building fires and learning how to use them to cook. They have been erecting impressive structures, while learning pioneering skills and how to work more effectively as a team. They managed to get a night hike in, and a treasure hunt around the village, despite the weather. Torches and coats were a must for both activities. They too got busy for Mothering Sunday, planting a small pot with marigolds and making lovely cards. (My marigold was called Norman!) The Scouts visited Mereway fire station and had a go through the 'rat run', where fire fighters train to work in small, confined, dark spaces. They were very disappointed that it was not filled with smoke and the lights were left on, so I understand! They have also visited Benham and started work on their guide, IT and mechanics badges and finished the term with a much-enjoyed visit to Lazer Maze.

## Explorers

The Explorers have been busy as usual with a diverse range of activities and events designed not only for fun, but also to develop teamwork, communications and skills for life. Highlights of the term included cooking a full Chinese meal, including fortune cookies, and surviving the atrocious weather at the annual winter camp, where several tents were blown away (but not ours!). They have learnt how to stay safe, with a drug and alcohol awareness session, and conquered fears by diving from the 5m platform at Corby pool. Other challenges have involved apple bobbing in ice cold water, designing and constructing protective cases to protect eggs dropped from a great height, learning to drive (thanks to Learn2Drive Brixworth), and the usual running around in the dark in forests!

Both the Scouts and Explorers took part in the Brass Monkey Camp in January (hence the name!). Last year, they camped in about two feet of snow, this year it was

# 1st Scaldwell Guides



With the Active Kids vouchers we collected, we enjoyed a cheerleading evening in which the girls learnt and performed a routine, complete with pompoms!

Later in the term, the patrol leaders and seconds had a trip to London. They saw the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, took in the sights of Trafalgar Square and visited Pax Lodge, the London World Guiding Centre (pictured, above).

We have lots planned for the summer term, including a bike ride round Pitsford Reservoir.

- Jill Gunnett & Vicki Howlett

torrential rain! I understand they came to the conclusion that snow was definitely better than rain, over a weekend of activities that had a strong Highland Games feel.

## Website

We are still working on the website. More and more is being added as the weeks go by so do check it out at [brixworth.daventryscouts.co.uk](http://brixworth.daventryscouts.co.uk).

If you would like to find out more about becoming involved, come and talk to us.

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit [scouts.org.uk](http://scouts.org.uk). To find out more about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group, contact Pete Lennon, Group Scout Leader, at [brixworth\\_gsl@btopenworld.com](mailto:brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com).

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](mailto:brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk) - Kim Phillips



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# WESTMINSTER REPORT

## My amazing Mailbag

I've been the MP for Daventry for just about four years now and like every job, there are a few tricks to my particular trade. One of the most common questions I get asked is how I know about all the different things that are going on in my constituency. The answer is quite simple - you all tell me!

In an average week, my office will receive about 1,500 emails (on some exceptional weeks I am sent over 2,000!) and I'll also get between 30 and 50 letters each day. About half of these are not from constituents, but are from businesses or lobbying groups that are pressing for the government to do (or to not do) something. However, that leaves a huge amount of information coming into my office each week from people who know what is actually happening on the ground across Daventry.

My inbox and mailbag have become really important to me, as it is from all this correspondence that I am able to pick up themes behind issues that people are concerned about and then I try to act on these issues.

Some are easy to detect.

Most MPs don't get involved in local planning issues, as this is actually a matter for local, not national, government. I do choose to get involved when the plans are industrial or involve more than ten houses in a new development.

Indeed, I would suggest that getting involved in these larger planning issues has helped me build links within all the various communities affected - and I've seen firsthand where national planning policies are not working, have been slow to work, or have had unforeseen consequences, allowing me to raise these issues at the highest level of government. Indeed, I'd like to think that I have had some influence in some of the changes we are seeing in planning policy development and for those in the know, the implementation of the "National Planning Policy Framework" (NPPF).

Other issues are harder to spot, perhaps because they stem from a number of individual constituents raising similar points with me.

The best example of this was almost immediately after my election as MP in 2010. Within a few weeks, I had noticed that I was getting a number of complaints from parents who were having issues with how the county council were dealing with various aspects of children's

social care. Be it those with children in the social care system, or people just trying to get their child "statemented"; I was concerned that I was seeing a large number of such cases.

Initially I checked with other new MPs to see if they were having similar experiences; most were not.

I then started asking questions in the House of Commons - first written ones, then oral questions - that flagged up the matter to Ministers. Eventually, the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, came up to Long Buckby for a private meeting with concerned parents.

A couple of weeks after that, children's social services were inspected at the county council and serious weaknesses were found that are now in the process of being put right.

I'm not trying to claim any credit here, but I do believe that my amazing mailbag helped me see that there were issues to address.

And so, I leave you with a serious point: I really do rely on you! I need you to tell me when things are going wrong (and when things are working), where there are issues that you feel I can help with, or those that I should just be aware of. It helps me represent you better and gives me the evidence and knowledge to raise concerns nationally and push for changes in policy.

So don't be shy!

*Chris*

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# Planning update

<b>DA/2013/0922 – 54 Northampton Road</b> Single Storey rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2103/0066 – Old Station Yard, Station Road</b> Erection of B1 industrial units, access and 9 dwellings	BPC Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2013/0831 – 12 Eastfield Road</b> Construction of detached bungalow including parking and access	BPC Objection DDC Refused
<b>DA/2013/0993 – Land at The Old Barn, Merry Tom Lane</b> Construction of country house and conversion of existing building to annex and storage	BPC Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2014/0081 – 3 Northampton Road</b> Construction of detached double garage	Withdrawn by Applicant
<b>DA/2014/0106 – 1A St Davids Close</b> Construction of front porch, new bedroom, access from existing bedroom to terrace and new obscure glazed balustrade to terrace	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2014/0108 – 75 Froxhill Crescent</b> Construction of double garage	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2014/0126 – 17 Northampton Road</b> Side extensions, single storey front extension and new vehicular access	BPC No Objection DDC Refused
<b>DA/2014/0185 – 3 The Pickerings</b> Single Storey Front Extension	BPC No Comment DDC Approved
<b>DA/2014/0172 – 2 Shelleycotes Road</b> Two storey side and single storey rear extension	BPC No Comment DDC Approved

# Get involved at your library!

Brixworth library needs your help! If you have a little time to spare and would like to get involved in your local community, or develop your skills as part of your CV, why not consider volunteering at the library?

We need volunteers to help us in a number of roles at the moment:

**Library to You** – choosing, delivering & returning books to a housebound person, usually on a monthly basis.

**Rhymetime** – if you enjoy working with children, we currently have vacancies for volunteers to help deliver Rhymetimes Friday mornings and/or weekends. If you could help on a regular basis, but not necessarily every week, this is a great fun role.

**Storytime** – if you prefer reading stories to children rather than singing, we would love to hear from you! Preferably Saturday mornings, again on a regular basis but not necessarily every week.

**Summer Reading Challenge** – Are you between 14 and 17 years old? If yes, can you help us administer the annual reading challenge over the summer holiday?

For any of the above roles, or for more information on volunteering at the library, come in and speak to Jill, or view the volunteering roles and apply online at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved).

## Upcoming events

**Community Day** - Saturday 21st June 9.30am-1pm  
The Police Mobile Unit will be on the forecourt. Inside you'll find local community group stalls, plus refreshments at the Olive Branch! Come along and see what's going on in your local area.

**NAB Mobile Unit** - Wednesday 23rd July 11.30am-12.45pm  
The Unit will be on the forecourt for anyone wanting more details about this service.

**Scaldwell Art Group** – 2-29 August

**Art Exhibition** upstairs in the library – free to all to view.

**Creative Stitchers** – 3-31 October

**Exhibition** upstairs in the library.

## For our younger members

**Rhymetime** Friday mornings 10.10-10.40am

**Crafts & Activities** – Sundays 1-4pm (drop in) and Wednesdays during school holidays 2.30pm-3.30pm (book in advance)

This year's **Summer Reading Challenge** for children aged 4-12 years runs from 12th July to 13th September.

Check our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary)) to find out what's going on at the library.  
– Jill Barber

## PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Development proposals for Phase 2, land off Northampton Road, Brixworth  
All are welcome to attend

A public exhibition is being held by Barratt Northampton, who are consulting on development proposals for Phase 2 of their residential development on land off Northampton Road, Brixworth. Members of the project team will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Thursday 12th June 2014  
3pm - 7pm

Brixworth Library, Spratton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DS



[barratthomes.co.uk](http://barratthomes.co.uk)



## Seeking Miss McKeown!

We do get some unusual requests sometimes at the Bulletin – but if it helps the community to come together we're always game. A prime example is the below message, which reached us around Easter time.

"I have received a beautiful hand made Easter card all the way from Canada addressed to a Miss M McKeown. It has a senders address but I'd like to try and deliver it, as there is a chance they might not have another contact method for her. If you are Miss McKeown or know who she might be, please call me on 07747136969. – Lenette Warren"



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# Parish News



**Brixworth Parish Council News & Views – Spring 2014 edition**

**[www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk)**



## Chair's Chat

At the – pleasingly well-attended! – Annual Parish Meeting in early May, I tried to tell everyone there that in another life I flew aircraft and as a professional pilot I was subjected to six-monthly check rides, just to make sure I still knew what I was doing. I did not enjoy it, in fact things I did

normally without hardly thinking became awkward and difficult with an examiner looking over my shoulder. But there was no choice, I either suffered the re-examination or I lost my licence. So I always managed to tough it out.

At the same time, there is nothing quite as satisfying as breaking out from the clouds on a dark night and finding the airport in front of you, just where it is supposed to be.

So perhaps those check rides are not so bad after all.

You would think that a legal organisation like a Parish Council would also have ongoing performance checks. There are some, but not all really consider how well you are following proper procedures. So it was news to me when it became apparent, recently, that some of the things we were doing were potentially too “streamlined”!

There is no school for Parish Councillors, nor is there a school for the Chairman of a Parish Council who, by the way, has no more authority than the others. So one tends to do the same things our predecessors did. We are, however, encouraged to learn.

When I learned that some of our procedures were not in compliance with the law, there were those who said “so what?” To me that is a bit like saying it is OK to break out of the clouds and discover that the airport you thought you were going to land at is not there. And then, because you made the mistake once, it is OK to keep making it again.

The council agreed that we should not only correct our errors, but also that we should conduct an Audit to see if there was anything less obvious that also needed attention. Those checks are completed now. Yes, there were additional errors, but fortunately we know about it now and can adjust accordingly.

I thank all those who took part in this year's Parish Council Meeting and especially thank all of you who took the time to come and hear what we had to say about the recent Neighbourhood Plan survey, highways and volunteers.

I should also thank all who have served our community as Parish Councillors and have supported me in this last year.

Chairman, Brixworth Parish Council

## Highways and Environment Committee

If you were to straighten out all of the Northamptonshire roads and pavements and put them end to end you would be able to travel all the way across the Atlantic Ocean and then a bit further.

Brixworth Parish Council has truly embraced Northamptonshire County Council's Highways Street Doctor as an effective way of reporting problems with the highways. Since October, the scheme has become a fixed item on this committee's agenda, and we monitor what issues have been 'dealt with', 'pending' or are 'awaiting response'. To date, 92% of reports have been either dealt with, no intervention required or have been instructed. A working list is updated regularly to ensure that jobs do not get forgotten which results in drains being unblocked, hedges cut back, road signs being repainted and bollards being replaced in a timely fashion.

However it is not just the Parish Council that can use this system; anyone can.

### Street Doctor

Indeed, it frequently is members of the public who spot faults like potholes, blocked drains and broken streetlights first. By reporting them through Street Doctor, you can feed straight into Northamptonshire Highways' log of problems, allowing them to prioritise the faults that need fixing based upon the safety criteria. While the budget isn't unlimited, they will always aim to make best use of the money available

### How to report a fault

**Online at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk)**

By far the quickest and easiest method. When you report the fault you will be asked to fill in a few details to help locate your problem. You will then receive a unique reference number which you can then use to check the progress of your report.

### Telephone at 0300 126 1000

Trained staff will take down your details and will let you know what you can expect to happen next. You can use this local rate number for all general highways enquiries. This is also the best number for highways emergencies.

Chair, Highways and Environment Committee

## Planning Committee

### Barratts housing developments

While the problem of mud on the road at the new Barratts housing development on Northampton Road is easing - possibly as a result of drier weather - the company is considering applying for planning permission to extend their current development to the south of the allotments. Meanwhile, Redrow Homes have been seen surveying land east of the village and to the north of Holcot Road, clearly with the intention of creating a housing scheme there.

### Retirement Community

The planning application for the building of a Continuing Care Retirement Community, comprising a 60-bed nursing home, with care hub, 30 close-care apartments and 10 close-care cottages at Victor's Barn at the southern edge of the village, which was referred to in the previous edition of the Bulletin, is still yet to be heard at Daventry District Council (DDC). While the applicant has reduced the number of close-care apartments to 25 and the number of close-care cottages to seven, the Parish Council remains concerned about the increased pressure which the approval of this application would place on the existing infrastructure.

### Houses at Victor's Barns

There has been a further application for planning permission in the area to the south of Northampton Road for the conversion of and extensions to offices at Victor's Barns, Northampton Road, Brixworth, to form seven dwellings. The Parish Council also objected to this application. DDC has since heard this application, but for legal reasons was unable to support our objection. It has therefore now been approved. We believe that, if all the proposed developments south of the village were carried out, the amount of additional traffic would be unacceptable.

### Country House

DDC also overruled our opposition to the plans for a country house at the The Old Barn, Merry Tom Lane, which also involves the conversion of an existing building to a storage annex. Since 2010 there have been no less than seven planning applications on land to the south of the village, of which five have so far been approved. We remain deeply concerned about the continuing pressure on this part of the village.

### Local Plan

In March, we discussed the main modifications to the West Northamptonshire Local plan with the inspector, and passed on the concerns of local residents. We pointed to the unique cultural and historic heritage of Brixworth, and how development in and around the village was affecting the landscape and our already overloaded infrastructure. We stressed the cumulative effect of all these developments and the inspector appeared to lend a sympathetic ear.

Finally, the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continues apace and work is currently in hand to analyse the responses to its recently-issued questionnaire.

Chair, Planning Committee

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has been busy making sure our regulations are fit for purpose, and a working group is looking at new financial regulations for the Parish Council. Doing things more smartly will undoubtedly increase our efficiency and keep our administration costs to the absolute minimum.

To help our staff clearly understand the Parish Council's priorities, we are seeking to introduce new key performance indicators. At performance appraisal time this will make the whole process more transparent and simpler. This will not be simple but with the cooperative involvement of all, it will be a great benefit towards monitoring the attainment of targets.

My thanks to those who have positively engaged in Finance Committee work this year, some even turning up for breakfast-time meetings!

Chair, Finance Committee

## Recreation Committee

Unfortunately there was not enough attendance for a quorum for the last Recreation Committee meeting so this was unable to take place.

## Parish Council Meetings

### Meeting Dates 2014

Full Council	15th July, 19th August, 16th September
Highways C'ttee	5th August, 7th October
Planning C'ttee	2nd June, 23rd June, 14th July, 18th August, 15th September
Recreation C'ttee	29th July, 23rd September.

Most meetings start at 7.30pm. General Meetings are normally 7.15pm.

All meeting dates, times and Agendas are published on our notice boards at least three clear days before the meeting and confirm times. All regular meetings take place in the Community Centre, Spratton Rd.

Parish Councillor Surgeries are held from 10am to noon on the 1st Saturday of the every month. They are held in the library foyer with a private room available for confidential matters.

## Contact Us

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Emma Baker Email: [clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk) Telephone: 01604 881243

# All Saints' Church, Brixworth



*Priest-in-Charge:*

*Rev. Chloe Willson-Thomas  
The Vicarage, Station Road  
t: 01604 882014*

*Churchwardens:*

*Mrs Vanessa Crooks  
5 Whaddon Field t 01604 882058*

*Mr Michael Lewis  
8 Breach Close. t: 01604 881836*

Dear Friends,

Here at All Saints we saw a busy Easter period, with services well attended. We had a beautiful morning for our Palm Sunday family service, and after gathering at the bottom of the hill, we walked up into the church, with a young 'Jesus' riding a donkey. Our Good Friday service was a moving account of the Stations of the Cross with readings and reflections. That night, we also had a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion, with soloists and the joint choirs of Brixworth and Rothwell, which was very well received.

As we move into June, our Friends' Day celebrations are almost upon us. Do look out for the details of our weekend on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Friends of All Saints do much good work in promoting the heritage of the church, and preserving the building. The church has a connection with St. Boniface, and our relic is thought be part of his throat bone. St. Boniface was born in England, but is remembered for his missionary activity in Germany, where he converted and baptised many people. His qualities were determination, courage and loyalty, and his determination to spread the gospel is inspiring. He reminds us of St. Paul, who travelled extensively to tell people about the good news of Jesus Christ, often putting his own life at risk. Both saints were, of course, martyred in the name of Christ.

Such stories can be a real inspiration to us all in our daily lives, and certainly inspire me to bring our wonderful and unique Saxon church here at Brixworth to life. September will see the launch of the new Brixworth Music Festival. Choirs and instrumentalist from all over Northamptonshire and beyond will be coming to the church to make music together. I hope that there will be something taking place of interest to everybody. We are also planning more activities for children from the autumn, with a Sunday School also beginning in September. I hope to welcome you in amongst us very soon.

*Rev. Chloe*

**St Boniface baptises a new convert**



## Pattern of Services

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

Weekday services: Tuesday at 9.30am "Coffee Pot"

Thursday at 9.30am Holy Eucharist

Friends' Day Service and Speaker on 7<sup>th</sup> June

Brixworth Music Festival 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September



## From the Registers

	Holy Burial
<b>February</b>	Paul Charles Gubbins
<b>March</b>	Elizabeth Lily Masters Raymond Gordon Masters
<b>April</b>	Gwendoline Mabel Hill Frederick John Hill

## Our Palm Sunday Celebrations





# BRIXWORTH MATTERS

[www.bcfchurch.co.uk](http://www.bcfchurch.co.uk)

## What is valuable to you?

What is valuable to you? What would you miss most if it was to vanish overnight? This Winter was devastating for many in our world and in our own country too – homes flooded, valuables lost or ruined, hard work brought to nothing and in some cases loss of life.

We can soon forget the footage of flooded homes, the elderly being rescued and pictures of devastation, as we enjoy a Spring and Summer in this lovely part of the world we live in. It seems to me that we all need to be reminded of what is important, what is valuable in our lives. I was struck by the answers children gave at a school assembly recently to this question of what is valuable – care, love, compassion, inclusion, friendship and other things that speak of what I can give rather than what I can get.

People are valuable to God and that is why He sent Jesus into the world to ensure that we might have a relationship with God our Father through Him. The Christian message is clear – we are to love God (possible through Jesus Christ) and love one another.

In this issue we want to re-iterate the value that God places on people of all ages, by highlighting various activities and events which will take place in the Summer (or are already in place) which we hope will bless our Community.

May your Summer be full of joy as you enjoy what is valuable to you and maybe spare some time to bring the same to others who maybe have lost what was most valuable to them.

Every blessing

Contact: Phil on 882040

## Alpha Course in Brixworth

For those who just wish to explore the Christian faith with no strings attached in the comfort of the Olive Branch, enjoying a meal and then discussion. This nationwide course has a track record of people finding what they seek – the truth.

For further info' contact

Mark on 07922  
644673

Alpha

## Parish Nursing

Was introduced some eight years ago to provide support, advice and care from a qualified Nurse employed by BCF. Whilst it is limited in hours available, this has been and is a great help to elderly folk particularly and provides a friendship and support, prayer and practical help to many.



**Parish Nursing**  
Ministries UK

## Sunday Services

### 11.15a.m. Brixworth School

Enjoy the family feel of the Services where you will find friendship, acceptance, love and care.

Also you can enjoy tea and coffee after the Service, and a place for your children to have a great time at Junior Church. Why not try it?



## Open Air Songs of Praise – Sunday July 27th 4 p.m.

Join us as we enjoy the singing of hymns and other things outside the Library and Community Centre. All are welcome.



## Childrens' Holiday Club at the School 28th – 30th July 09.00 – 13.00

This free event provides a wonderful time for the children of Primary School age with games, craft, singing, Bible stories and so much more. Finishing with a BBQ for all the family on the Weds evening at the rear of the Library and Community Centre the children take the opportunity to show parents and others what a great time they have had.

**Booking is essential as there has to be a limit on numbers – this will be done through the school at the end of June for Brixworth school children and through the Olive Branch for others.**



Meets on a Friday in School Term time from 5.00 – 6.00p.m for Key Stage 1 children and 6.15 – 7.15 p.m for Key Stage 2. .

### Junior Church

For children and young people of all ages as we meet on a Sunday from 11.15 a.m. It's like the Children's club but every week! A warm welcome is waiting for you.



### Senior Citizen Luncheon Club

Every week on a Wednesday at the Olive Branch sees some thirty Pensioners enjoy a meal, a sweet and a hot drink, prepared by Vernon our Chef and assisted by volunteers. There is a waiting list but we hope to be able to accommodate you in the days to come. Just call in and ask.

**or**

Use the Olive Branch at any time and enjoy the company of the very friendly people who spend time over a coffee chatting and putting the world to rights.

A great way to meet people.i

In an increasingly isolating world, where loneliness is thrust upon us, we believe as a church that you matter. You matter to God and to us and we would like to help in any way that we are able in being a blessing to you. Apart from the activities mentioned in this edition there are other ways in which you may find help and care.



### 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 10-11.30

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

<b>Sunday:</b>	09:45 – 10:30	Informal gathering
	11:15 – 12:30	Main Service of Worship (Brixworth school) (including Junior Church and Creche)
<b>Monday:</b>	20:00 – 21:30	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
<b>Tuesday:</b>	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
<b>Wednesday:</b>	20:00 – 21:30	Home study Groups
<b>Thursday:</b>	10:00 – 11:30	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group*
<b>Friday:</b>	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](http://www.bcfchurch.co.uk)

# What's on

22 May	Stars of Strictly	Corby Cube
23 May	Jackson in Concert	Lighthouse, Kettering
24-26 May	Cream Tea Specials	N'pton & Lamp-ort Railway
25-26/5	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
25 May	New France Old England	Kelmarsh Hall
26 May	Grumpy Old Women	Lighthouse
26-31/5	Let it Be	Derngate
27-31 May	Killed	Looking Glass Theatre, N'pton
28-31/5	Cats Footloose	Corby Cube
28 May	Omid Djalili	The Castle, Wellingborough
28 May	The Little Mermaid - Ballet	Lighthouse Theatre
30 May	Ultimate Girls Night Out	Lighthouse
30 May	Worby & Farrell - Deviations on the Piano	Masque Theatre, Kettering
31 May	Fawlty Towers Dinner Show	The Castle
1 June	Northants Ultra	Lampport Hall
4 June	Tim Brooke-Taylor	The Castle
5-7 June	Richard III	Holy Sepulchre, Northampton
5-7 June	Macbeth	Underground, Northampton
7 June	A Disney Party	Lighthouse
7 June	Grumpy Old Women	Corby Cube
7-8 June	Friends of All Saints Annual Art Exhibition	Brixworth Heritage Centre
8 June, 2pm	Dog Show & Terrier Races	Pythley Hunt Kennels,
8 June	John Williams Performs	Derngate
8 June	The Searchers	Lighthouse
10 June	Incompetent Architects - Northants Country Houses	Lampport Hall
10 June	The Enemy	Roadmender
11 June	Wyrd Sisters	The Castle
12 June	Swing's the Thing	Lighthouse
12 June	Tad Newtons Jazzfriends	The Castle
12-13/6	Althorp Literary Festival	Althorp House
13 June	Silver Arm	Roadmender

13 June	Marty Wilde & the Wildcats	Lighthouse Theatre
14 June	Jack and the Flumflum Tree	The Castle
14 June	Gloria Fusione	All Saints Church Northampton
14 June	Attitude Dance Academy	Lighthouse
15 June	Summer Vacation	The Castle
15 June	Lampport Hall 100 Sportive	Lampport Hall
15 June	Cream Tea Specials	N'pton & Lamp-ort Railway
16 June	A Night of Community	Derngate
18 June	The Rite of Spring / Romeo & Juliet	The Castle
18-19/6	The Festival	Derngate
18-21/6	Chase me up Farndale	The Castle
19-21/6	High School Musical	Lighthouse
19-21/6	Honk JR	Underground
20 June	Mark Morriss of the Bluetones	Roadmender
20 June	An Evening of Dance	The Castle
21 June, 1pm	Brixworth Centre Summer Fete	Brixworth Centre Pre-school
21-27/6	Art Exhibition	Lampport Hall
21 June	Moreland and Arbuckle	The Castle
24 June	Flower School	Kelmarsh Hall
25 June	Dumbstruck	The Castle
25 June	Andy Jordan	Roadmender
26 June	Painting in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
27-29/6	Story Hunt	Derngate
27 June	Bugle Boy	Lighthouse
27 June	John Bishop	Royal
27-28/6	The Love of Dance	The Castle
28 June	Hewlett & Friends	Lighthouse
28 June	Flash Mob	Derngate
28-29 June	Morris Minor Owners Club	Kelmarsh Hall
29 June	House Tours	Kelmarsh Hall
29 June	Cream Tea Specials	N'pton & Lamp-ort Railway
30 June	Just	The Castle
30/6-6/7	The Life and Works of BB	Lampport Hall
1 July	Twelfth Night	The Castle
1-5 July	Horrible Histories	Derngate
2-July	The Unremarkable Death of Marilyn Monroe	The Castle, Wellingborough

4 July	Hot Air Balloon & Jazz Night	Kelmarsh Hall
4 July	Folk Dance Festival	Corby Cube
4-5 July	Annie Jnr	The Castle
4-5 July	Live the Dream	The Castle
4-6 July	Jack and the Flumflum Tree	Underground
5 July	The Merchant of Venice	Lampport Hall
6 July	Jazz in the Garden	Lampport Hall
11 July	Motown's Greatest Hits	Lighthouse
11 July	Rock'n'Roll Paradise	Derngate
11-12/7	Sweeney Todd	Royal
12 July	Northampton Dance	Derngate
13 July	Cottesbrooke Village Fete	Cottesbrooke Hall
13 July	Derngate Proms	Derngate
15 July	Servicing the Country House	Lampport Hall
15 July	The Time Machine	The Castle
17 July	Laurie Chescoe	The Castle
17 July	Painting in the Garden	Lampport Hall
18 July	Simple Minds	Delapre Abbey
18 July	Propaganda ft Game of Thrones	Roadmender
18-19/7	Antigone	Royal
19 July	The Sorcerer's Apprentice	The Castle
19 July	Best of the 80s	Delapre Abbey
19-20 July	History Live! Re-enactment	Kelmarsh Hall
19-20 July	Dancing through the Decades	Lighthouse Theatre
20-Jul	Boyzone	Delapre Abbey
20-Jul	Monty Python Live (mostly)	E. F. Filmhouse, Corby Cube
22 July	Immortal Chi	The Castle
26 July	Random Concept Summer Gathering	Roadmender
26-27 July	Vintage Gathering	N'pton & Lamp-ort Railway
30 July	Storytelling in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
28-30/7	Pirate Academy	The Castle
31 July	Bad Manners	The Castle
2 Aug	Alice in Wonderland	Lighthouse
13 Aug	Storytelling in the Garden	Kelmarsh Hall
28 Aug	The Sooty Show	Lighthouse
29 Aug-29 Sep	Regeneration	Royal

## WHERE THERE'S A WAY, THERE'S A WILL!

Your plans for the future are at the heart of everything you do. A small investment now can ensure that your assets reach your children, grandchildren and other relatives rather than ending up in the wrong hands.

### BUT IT'S COMPLICATED AND WE ALL NEED EXPERT HELP

Toni Chambers of Grey2Blue will expertly:

- ★ ensure that you have an appropriate, professionally drafted Will;
- ★ help prevent you having to sell your home to pay for care;
- ★ devise strategies for you to protect any inheritance from divorce settlements, creditors, bankruptcy & unnecessary taxation;
- ★ assist you in making sure that your business is protected for your family.



To arrange an appointment in the comfort of your own home call Toni Chambers on 01604 629164 or 07702 059562 or email: [toni@grey2blue.co.uk](mailto:toni@grey2blue.co.uk)



## ACTIVE

Personal Training  
Fitness Consultant, Sports Therapy  
Pilates Instructor

Try a personal trainer or join one of our fitness classes in Brixworth

DAY	CLASS	VENUE	TIME
Mon.	Circuits	Village Hall	7.00 - 8.00
Mon.	Circuits	Village Hall	8.00 - 9.00
Weds.	Pilates	The Centre	6.15 - 7.00

Classes are for all levels of fitness

Tel: 01604 743361 / 07732 165546  
e-mail: [info@act-ive.com](mailto:info@act-ive.com)



Many of our players' parents may well wonder what it was that drove them to stand in the biting wind and driving rain on a Saturday or Sunday morning, but as the final few matches of the season are being played out, these beautiful spring mornings are slowly erasing those chill winter memories from our minds, and we should feel immense pride in the endeavour that all of our players have shown over the course of this season.

With only a couple of games remaining, many of our teams have maintained their league position or are in line for promotion. This has been another great season for Brixworth Juniors and the players should be more than happy with their achievements.

## U7 Panthers

Our youngest team continues to steamroller nearly every team in their path. They are a fantastic group of boys and they certainly make their club and coaches, Tony Ferrier and Dan O'Toole, very proud of them. They lost only three games this season, and kept four clean sheets in the final part – quite astonishing at this level of football, especially considering that their coaches give every player fair playing time, no matter how good the opposition is.

## U9 Pumas and Panthers

Unlike other clubs, we have no A and B team at this age group, but again both teams have excelled themselves. While the league no longer publishes results or league positions for this age, they must be in the top five or six teams out of 40. The Panthers and the Pumas both lost only six games each in the whole season. Pretty impressive.

## U10 Pumas and Panthers

With both teams vying for promotion into the Premier division, it could be a great year for this age group, especially considering this age group also has no A or B team.

## U15s

After another great season, it looks like the U15s are going to be

spending their third year in the Premier division of their league.

I would like to thank all of the coaches and volunteers that give up their time to provide this sporting adventure for our players. It is not always easy to navigate a calm course through the waters of growing pains and frayed emotions, but the rewards are more than worth it. And we should all remember to buy those thermal socks before the start of the season next autumn...

If you would like to read some of our teams' match reports, please have a look at our website [www.brixworthjuniors.co.uk](http://www.brixworthjuniors.co.uk).

If you would like to join any of our teams or offer any sponsorship for any of our teams please get in touch by email on [chairman@brixworthjuniors.co.uk](mailto:chairman@brixworthjuniors.co.uk).

Brixworth Juniors is a well-respected FA Charter Standard Club with excellent training and playing facilities. All of our coaches are FA qualified and have been through the Enhanced CRB check.

*-Rob Kelly, chairman*

## This November: War-time variety show

The village will be holding a war-time variety show to remember the two world wars.

Most of the acts have been decided, but there is still time for groups and individuals to get involved.

If you shudder at the thought of being on stage, there are many other ways of getting involved. These include: back stage; front of house; selling tickets; publicity etc. All of these are vitally important.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Caroline Monk on 882982 or email [cjmonk1@hotmail.com](mailto:cjmonk1@hotmail.com).

Above all, come and support the show!

## Tennis Club maintains success for second season

At the time of writing, over 80 Brixworth residents have renewed their membership of Brixworth Tennis Club for the club's second season.

This is a most encouraging number and once again there is a strong Junior Membership, which is very pleasing.

Brixworth Tennis Club has three terrific hard courts that were resurfaced only two years ago and set in the extremely picturesque grounds of the Cricket Club.

The tennis club holds regular club sessions, as well as junior group coaching sessions run by qualified coaches.

The club promotes a family atmosphere and holds regular social events. Friday evenings throughout the summer are great social occasions at the tennis and cricket club. There are often in excess of 150 people in the grounds, playing tennis, playing cricket, enjoying the use of a licensed bar and enjoying a barbecue. There is a great community feel to the evenings and anybody who has not been to the grounds on a Friday evening really should come down and see for themselves what great fun it is.

Brixworth Tennis Club will be holding an activity/fun weekend on 28-29 June. Adults and children will be able to take part in a series of activities that are planned for that weekend. It promises to be great fun, so keep your diaries free. Further details will be available nearer the time on [www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk](http://www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk).

Brixworth Tennis Club welcomes new members of all ages and abilities. If you have never played before, not played for many years, or play regularly, everybody is welcome to join. Membership fees are the lowest in the county, at £50 a year for adults, £20 a year for under 18s/students and £120 a year for a family. Anybody interested in joining should contact Will Haxby on 880715.

- Will Haxby, chairman, Brixworth Tennis Club



Photo by Ian Topham, Brixworth Photographic Society

## Women's Tour visits Brixworth – twice!

The Residents of Brixworth turned out in force to welcome the first international stage race for women cyclists on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th May. The village was in the unique position of having two stage routes of the race pass through.

On Wednesday, police motorcycle escorts were loudly cheered by hundreds of flag-waving pupils from the Primary School who lined Spratton Road alongside shoppers and amateur cyclists. Around 100 of the world's top female cyclists, including British Olympic Gold Medallists, powered through the village in close formation. The Library and Community Centre was decked with bunting, and cream teas were served at the front by the Olive Branch team.

Thursday saw heavy rain, but the spectators were not deterred, some of whom had travelled from Brighton to view the spectacle. The mud-splattered race leaders were more strung out as they surged up the hill on Station Road to enter the village, wove their way through the conservation area and on to Holcot Road and their ultimate stage finish in Bedford. A memorable event!

- Mike Nice

### Golf club annual report

Brixworth Golf Club celebrates yet another successful golfing year in 2013 with Gordon Chiverton as captain.

The winners of the various trophies are:  
Captain's Shield – Gorgon Clapton  
Golfer of the Year – Andy Green  
Golfer of the Year Runner Up – John Wilson  
George Clapton Trophy – David Dolman  
Scratch Cup – Colin King  
Cup played for at the summer venues – Andy Green (twice) & Steve Marriott

Venues for 2014 have been arranged for Farthingstone (13th June), Cosby (8th August) and Overstone (3rd October).

If you're interested in joining, please ring John Wilson on 880490

### Bowls Club climbs Table

The end of a successful season for Brixworth Indoor Bowls Club saw the club just narrowly miss



out on being Northants League runners up. It took until the last match of the series for Creaton to edge ahead by just two points and take the shield for second place. Club chairman, Jan Hickman, said: "It has been great to see the club perform so well whilst having fun in the friendly matches."

The competition season starts again in September, but the club continues to meet every Friday afternoon and evening at Brixworth Centre. New members are warmly welcomed.