

Save our Pet Shop!

A petition to stop Northampton Pets in Brixworth from being converted into a fast food take-away has gained huge support in the village, reaching almost 500 signatures by the time the Bulletin went to press.

The building is currently leased to Katie Bland, who took over running the pet shop at 130 Northampton Road in late 2014 on a three-year lease. But the building's owner, Northampton-based businessman Chun Leung, in January applied for planning permission to convert the shop into a takeaway restaurant. Mr Leung also owns the neighbouring 132 Northampton Road, currently leased to Ace Reuse, which received a permission to also be converted into a takeaway in summer 2014.

Villagers have a range of concerns over the proposal, chiefly over the lack of parking, but also because of the impact of smell, noise and waste disposal. Plus there is the fact that the pet shop is much-loved and appreciated, particularly by young families, and Brixworth is already well-served by restaurants and takeaways.

"With three pubs all serving food, two takeaways in the industrial estate, a chip shop, a proposed Indian restaurant at the Old Post House and the Breadline there are plenty of food options already available in Brixworth," noted Dan Lockey, one of the Brixworth residents who signed the petition.

Kevin Lockey, also commenting on the petition, added: "What positive reason is there for more takeaway outlets in this beautiful rural village? The pet shop is a fabulous addition to the village offering education to children and a place for people to walk to for advice from a young lady who is both knowledgeable and a bright addition to the village as a local business woman. The proposed site for a take away



Ace Reuse (132 Northampton Road) has already got planning permission for conversion into a takeaway. Will Northampton Pets next door follow?

has no space for parking, the buses struggle passing this corner and this corner is already part of a hazardous section of road through the village. The introduction of a take-away would only enhance the danger."

There is some speculation among villagers that if both properties were to receive permission for conversion into takeaways, this could lead to the properties being converted into a restaurant, though there is no confirmation of such plans at this stage.

Brixworth Parish Council in early February voted unanimously to reject the application, but ultimately the Parish Council only has an advisory role; the actual decision is made at *(continued on p 2)*

Thank you!

In the December issue of the Brixworth Bulletin, I launched an appeal for help on a matter quite close to home – the Bulletin urgently needed a volunteer or two to help with our advertising sales. The role is a crucial one; while none of the Bulletin Team get any money for our work, we do rely on advertising to pay for the printers (which incidentally isn't cheap).

I need not have worried. Within hours of the Bulletin hitting the doormats, I had an email. A couple of days later, I had two. And a few more tentative enquiries on top. To all of you who volunteered: THANK YOU. It's thanks to people like you that we're able to produce this community newspaper. Equally to all of you who send me stories and updates every month: THANK YOU. Without you, this would just be a collection of blank pages.

So let me welcome to the team two new faces: Neal Brown, who's taken over from Jacquie Hampton as the Bulletin's new advertising manager, and David Peake, who's working with Fiona Kelsall to handle the invoicing.

Thank you both, and welcome to the team.



*Maedie
Flavell-White*

The Brixworth Bulletin are:

Claudia Flavell-While, editor
882567; editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Neal Brown, advertising
882334; ad.manager@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Fiona Kelsall and David Peake, invoicing

George Hammerschmidt, art and design
880212; art.editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Louise Robinson, distribution
883641; dist.manager@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Sheila Jenner, treasurer
881173; treasurer@brixworthbulletin.co.uk

Regular correspondents:

Jennifer Fitzgerald

Mike Philpott

Kate Calnan

Brian Webster

Alex Campbell

Letters to: The Old School, Manor Road,
Hanging Houghton NN6 9ES; or post them in
our letterbox at the Community Centre.

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Facebook or follow @BrixBulletin on Twitter.

(continued from p1) Daventry District Council. DDC's Planning Committee could rule on the proposal as early as 11 March though the final date is yet to be confirmed.

Katie Bland says she has been overwhelmed by the support she's received from villagers and customers, which come from all around the wider area. "The support I've received has been incredible. Everyone seems so shocked by it, and they're very much against it. Many people have commented that it is not what the village wants or needs, and that the convenience of having a pet shop in the village is more important than having another takeaway."

All three Brixworth district councillors – Kevin Parker, Ian Barratt and Liz Wiig – are members of the Planning Committee. Barratt pointed out that planning law is now tilted in favour of development. This means members of the Committee can only object on planning grounds, ie instances where an application violates agreed planning rules. When the application for the conversion of Ace Reuse was debated in August, Barratt spoke against it and noted five issues:

- 1) Crowds gathering outside the takeaway could lead to anti-social behaviour
- 2) Parking would be problematic, particularly at night
- 3) Waste would need to be taken out the front door and bins located in front of the house on the pavement

4) Noise and smell nuisance caused to neighbours

5) The visual impact on the Conservation Area of Brixworth

However, Daventry's Development Control Manager noted that the Highway Authority had not raised any concerns over parking – its comments were that "although the application site is close to a bend at this point the road is relatively wide and has no parking restrictions." The Development Control Manager also pointed out that Environmental Health was happy for rubbish to be taken through the premises, that the planning permission could be made conditional on smell issues being dealt with and that noise nuisance could be dealt with separately. While Barratt had wanted DDC to object anyway over parking and waste, nobody would second the motion. A question whether Highways had considered the parking conditions at night, when the proposed takeaway(s) would operate, went unanswered but in the case of Ace Reuse, the application was approved regardless.

Steve Osborne, chair of the Planning Committee, told the Bulletin that it would be very risky for DDC to object in the face of contrary advice from the expert authorities. He said: "For example, if we rejected the application because we disagreed with the advice received from Highways, the application would go to appeal and we would very likely lose – costing DDC £30,000 in the process." It is therefore vital that the

However, planning committee does take into account the strength of local feelings as measured by the number of letters of objection received and how many people sign petitions on a particular development.

If you would like to add your name to the petition regarding the pet shop, visit www.change.org and search for Brixworth, or sign the paper petition at Northampton Pets. The local MP, Chris Heaton-Harris, is also taking an interest, but he cannot take formal action until he's received requests from at least 100 local residents. To contact him, email chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk

Regardless how the planning application is decided, the pet shop is unlikely to close soon – Katie's lease on the building has another two and a half years to run. – *cfw*

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New surgery on the cards as housing estate extension approved

Brixworth looks set to get a new and improved doctors' surgery, after Daventry District Council approved plans for another 90 houses at the new Saxon Rise development.

DDC's Planning Committee voted unanimously in favour of the proposal by Barratt Homes, which is effectively an extension of the new housing estate currently under construction east of Northampton Road. The plans cover 77 two, three and four-bedroom houses to be sold at market rates and 13 affordable homes which will be built on the piece of land between the existing Saxon Rise housing estate and the roundabout on the A508.

While there are concerns about how these extra homes will affect village infrastructure – particularly the schools, which will likely be pushed over capacity – the fact that the application also includes a much-needed new

doctors' surgery swayed many to support the proposal.

The Planning Committee praised the way in which Barratts engaged with the community to understand and address local needs and concerns, starting with an open day at Brixworth Community Centre and continuing through a series of meetings with a local residents group which was chaired by Chris Millar, leader of Daventry Council and Brixworth resident.

This engagement led to Barratts making two commitments to Brixworth under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act, which allows planners to prescribe the nature of a development or make developers invest in the community to compensate for otherwise negative impact of their development.

In this case, this means that Barratts will fund an expansion of the library car park in the centre of the village, and the construction of a new doctors' surgery within the new housing estate.

The Bulletin understands that the biggest

challenge in making the surgery a reality were negotiations with the NHS. While the current surgery is clearly not big enough and has nowhere near enough parking spaces, the NHS was keen to ensure there would be no increase to the surgery's running costs despite its increased size. Current projections suggest that the new building will be twice the size of the current one and feature 55 parking spaces, a huge improvement on the present site.

At this point in time plans are only in the outline phase and the developers say it may take another six months for the detailed surgery plans to emerge.

Daventry's Planning Committee suggested that the way in which the developers had worked in partnership with the community on this occasion was a refreshing change from how planning applications are usually conducted and a model that should be copied elsewhere. Kevin Parker, Brixworth member of DDC, commented: "This has got to be the first time a planning application is brought to Daventry and no one is speaking to object." - cfw

Neighbourhood Plan update

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have now presented their initial draft to Daventry District Council for screening. To do this, DDC will have to liaise with several national bodies, which will take about six weeks – till early March or thereabouts.

Meanwhile, the Surgery Panel chaired by Chris Millar continues to meet with Ian Young and his colleagues from Barratts with the goal to include the construction of a new surgery in their application for phase 2 of the new housing estate east of Northampton Road. The panel consists of Chris Millar (Chair of DDC and a resident of Brixworth), Mike Parsons for the Patient Participation Group, Bob Chattaway for BRANE and Mike Nice for the Neighbourhood Plan Group. Kathryn Baines, Simon Twigg and Neil Menon attend for the Saxon Spires Practice, together with a DDC Planning Officer and representatives of the NHS and Assura, the leaseholders of the existing surgery.

If all goes to plan, the group's deliberations will give Brixworth a surgery building next to the Northampton Road allotments that is twice the size of the present one, and has over 50 parking spaces. – Bob Chattaway

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An Aladdin's cave of household goods

Jennifer Fitzgerald speaks with Lee Horton of Brixworth Home and Hardware

The hardware store at the parade of shops has become an indispensable local facility, especially in times of sudden household emergencies. An Aladdin's cave, stuffed to the rafters with almost any items you can think of, it always seems busy, whatever the time of day. For me, it is getting to be like an IKEA experience - impossible to visit without buying something I only discover there that I need.

The *Bulletin* decided it would be good to have an interview with the chap behind the till.

When did you take over the shop?

On the 1st of September 2010.

What is your relationship to Brixworth?

I had come to Brixworth to do up a property. I had been running a chip shop in Duston for thirty years - before that I had been a handcrafts teacher, teaching woodwork and metalwork as well as PE, but I hated it. At the same time as my lease on the chip shop was not renewed, the opportunity came up to take over Lovells (as the hardware shop was previously known).



How has business been going?

The business has grown and grown. Growth has come from increasing the stock. If I see something I think will sell, I will stock it. The more I have in stock, the more I can sell. Everything goes!

What changes have you seen over the years?

There haven't been many changes. I am still selling the same things - mainly household goods.

What sells the most?

I sell hundreds of light bulbs. People want the old style ones, they don't like the energy-savers. Cleaning products, stationery items, kitchenware and candles are also very popular.

Why do you think the shop is so popular?

I can deliver a much more personal service than the supermarkets. The shop is handy and convenient for local people, saving them time and fuel costs. Obviously, its location alongside other popular shops is excellent.

Is your business seasonal?

The run-up to Christmas is the busiest period, and then business in January is a little down, but business is quite steady for the rest of the year.

What type of customers do you have?

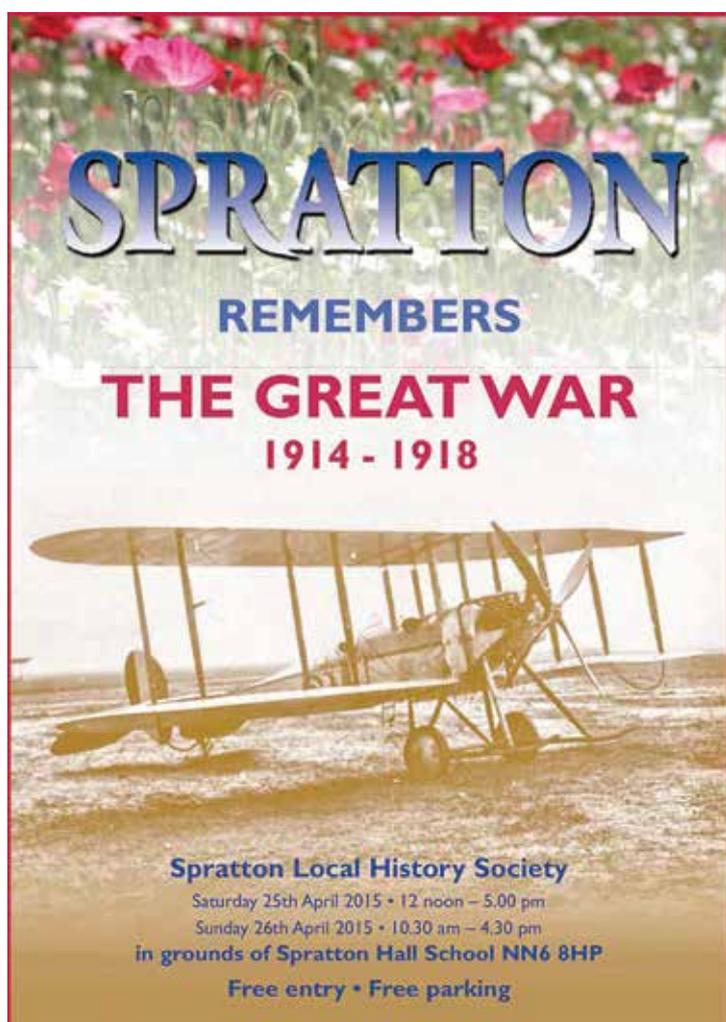
Everybody from schoolchildren to those who have retired.

Who else is involved in the business?

Marilyn Roberts works here every morning apart from Saturday. Sometimes my granddaughter comes in to help out on Saturday.

Describe your typical day

I get into the shop about twenty to nine and make myself a cup of tea. I then put out the outside stock. During the day I will get visits



from reps and can do some purchasing online. I close up at 5.30pm and do my paperwork in the evenings. I'll go to the wholesalers once a week.

Have you had any problem with thefts?

I had a break-in last year. The thieves smashed the window and took tools which they used to break into seven other shops the same night.

What is the strangest thing that has happened to you?

The incident when someone drove into the shop window a few months ago. It was just so lucky nobody got seriously hurt.

It was caused by an elderly gentleman, a regular customer, who put his foot on the accelerator instead of the brake. He crossed the car park, mounted the kerb and crashed into the shop. At the time I was standing at the till with another customer. It was quite a shock – the car wheels were still spinning and there was a lot of smoke. The customer called the ambulance and fire brigade – the Air Ambulance landed in the park up the road because they were worried somebody might have been trapped under the car. The fire brigade were only able to get the driver out once the shop window was removed. It seemed that everyone in Brixworth was out with their cameras – the incident was on Facebook in minutes. The driver was fined. I have put bollards in front of the shop now.

It took us six and a half weeks to get the shop sorted after the incident but fortunately we only lost about one and a half hours' trade



Lee Horton presiding over his Aladdin's cave. "If I see something I think will sell, I will stock it," he says.

What message do you have for the people of Brixworth?

Thank you very much for your support, especially when the accident happened – so many people came in to express sympathy and bring gifts. I was given lots of chocolates and biscuits!



and didn't lose too much stock. It happened at about 4 o'clock on a Monday but we were open for business the next day as normal. When the new window was installed I took the opportunity to re-brand to Brixworth Home & Hardware – new Brixworth residents won't know the Lovells name.

What are your top challenges?

The business is on my mind the whole time. It's more complex than the chip shop because of the range of stock. My main concerns are always how to increase trade and turnover further – the new housing developments in Brixworth will bring more customers. Staying healthy is a top priority!

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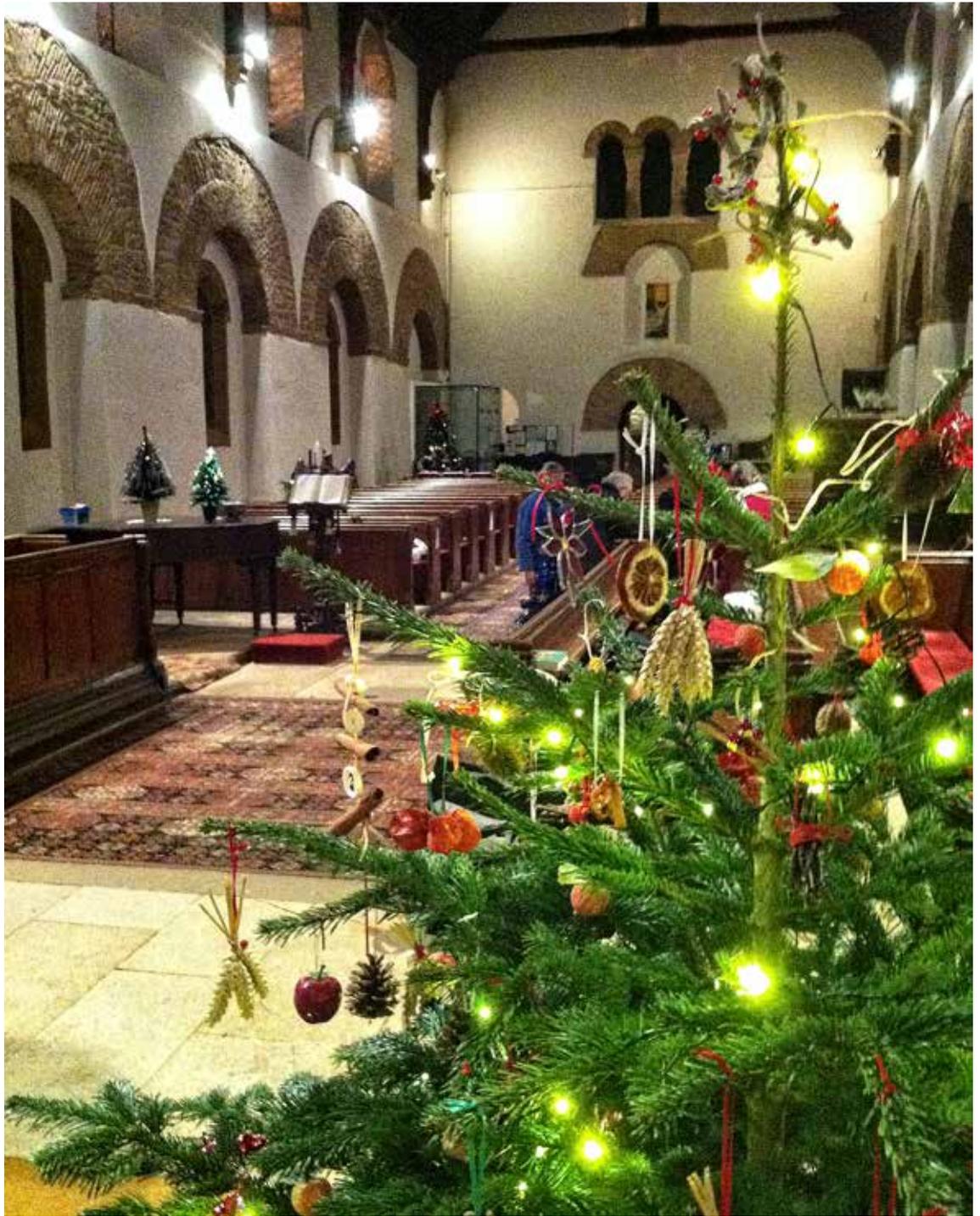
Christmas trees light up the church

At 4pm on Saturday 6th December 2014, just as it was getting dark, children, parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends gathered in Brixworth Church to watch as all the decorated Christmas trees were lit up. It was a magical moment to start the Christmas celebrations in Brixworth Church. Johnnie Amos, BBC Radio Northampton gardening and horticultural presenter, was pleased to turn on the lights for us. His account of his visit can be found overleaf.

The Christmas trees of varying sizes were sponsored and decorated by different local organisations. There was even one on top of the Church turret with its lights twinkling away, which could be seen for miles around. Coloured filters were fitted to the floodlights so when the Church was lit up it was shown in Christmas shades of red, green and yellow. There were also two reindeer at the base of the Church tower all lit up which excited a lot of the children.

Also on the same afternoon there was a Christmas Market in a marquee in the grounds of the Church. Mulled wine and mince pies, homemade cakes, gifts, Christmas decorations and a raffle were all on offer and there was a very warm, Christmassy atmosphere inside the marquee.

– Kate Knight, Chair, Friends of Brixworth Church



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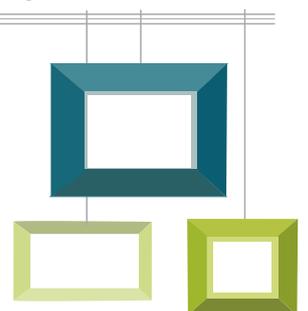
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A short reflection of the Christmas Tree Festival

During the course of my busy year I have many requests to visit societies, clubs and organisations in villages and towns throughout the County and beyond... On such visits I am truly astounded by the immense effort, community spirit and warmth of the people I meet. My invitation by the Friends of Brixworth Church on 6th December to switch on the Christmas lights was no exception!

The invitation was preceded by another visit I made to the Church only a few weeks earlier to attend yet another fabulous event held in All Saints' – a baroque opera evening of musical splendour sung by Ensemble Marquise – a selection of many of the well known Arias that made the church soar with the most splendid sound! I noted too, that there were many music lovers who came from far and wide to be part of this special evening. It was a perfect relaxing Sunday evening after a busy week.

But I would like to go back to the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints. Many communities seek the 'holy grail' – a unique event to mark them out from others I know, as I too have been involved with brainstorming for this elusive golden egg for the past 25 years in Flore.

As I drove across the Northamptonshire countryside that afternoon towards Brixworth, the Spire reminded me of another famous building – the Pharos Lighthouse, both of which were built for similar reasons – safety, comfort and the protection of those that see it.

On arrival I was met by Kate, Reverend Chloe and Chloe's husband Gwion, and taken on a tour of the church to see the many trees that had been so wonderfully decorated by the members of the village organisations. So, well done to the Scouts, Beavers, the Primary School, Church toddlers group, Singing Saints, U3A, BCF, WI and the Friends of Brixworth Church – your efforts gave that warm Christmas welcome to all who visited the Church over Christmas, made even more poignant with All Saints' link with St Boniface who was the first Christian Saint to use the Christmas tree during his ministry.

So how apt is it, that I am able to use a familiar horticultural analogy: 'From little acorns great oaks grow'! I hope that this event will also grow year on year to become a huge Brixworth Church 'Christmas Tree Festival' tradition long into the future.

I wish you well in your new venture and look forward to seeing many more Christmas trees appearing in the Church next year and even greater participation from more organisations and the local businesses of which there are many. – *Johnnie Amos, BBC Radio Northampton gardening & horticultural presenter*



BB Society book fair

The BB Society are holding a book fair at Brixworth Village Hall on Sunday 10th May.

All the usual book fair interests will be represented including flora/fauna, birds, animals, countryside pursuits, maps and prints. Most importantly there will be plenty of books by BB and further information about the BB Society and merchandise. It would also be a good opportunity to visit the trail which is nearby.

The fair is open from 10am until 4pm; admission is free and refreshments are available at reasonable prices.

Denys Watkins-Pitchford, known as BB, was one of Northamptonshire's most important authors and illustrators. He was born in 1905 at Lamport, where his father was the Rector. In 1942, BB was the winner of the Carnegie Medal for children's literature with 'The Little Grey Men', a story about the last four gnomes left in Britain. – *Bryce Hanlon, BB Society*

Village Hall AGM

The committee that runs Brixworth Village Hall has its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday March 4 at 7:45 pm (in the Village Hall, of course...).

This is a chance to find out what we have been doing in the last year and give your views on what we should be doing in the next twelve months. Everybody welcome!

– *Dennis Coles*

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June 6th: **Gala Evening with live entertainment**, bar and BBQ in the Church grounds

June 7th: **Summer Fete** 2.00pm in the Church Grounds

September 5th: **Medieval Banquet**, 7.00 pm in the Church grounds

September 19th, 20th, 23rd, 26th & 27th: **Brixworth Music Festival**

November 7th: **Brixworth Lecture** in the Church, 5.00pm (tea at 3.30pm in the Heritage Centre)

December 5th: **Christmas Tree Festival** and Christmas Market at the Church

Further details will be supplied near to the dates. - *Kate Knight*

Police Report

It has been a tremendously busy few months for us at the Brixworth office. It continues to amaze me how many different types of situations that we deal with; as a rural team this appears to be especially true. We are out every day speaking to members of the local community and listening to their concerns.

Our new and updated webpage, which you can find at www.police.uk/northamptonshire/SCT142, now shows our local priorities. We are still seeking local residents to become involved in Neighbourhood Watch or Speed Watch. If you are interested in either of these, please get in touch with us on SCT-DaventryRural@northants.pnn.police.uk.

Over the last month we have been busy preparing a number of drugs warrants, something that, for obvious reasons, we have not been able to publicise before now.

In late January, officers from across the district were joined by housing officers, Daventry District Council and SmartWater staff to carry out warrants at specific addresses in Brixworth.

Historically, Brixworth has not produced any Walter Whites. One warrant executed in 2014 led to the discovery of some limp cannabis shoots being grown under an energy saving light bulb. The most recent warrants have recovered some small amounts of cannabis that were for personal use. At



Fans of the TV hit Breaking Bad will know that Brixworth isn't home to any Walter Whites, much less Heisenbergs.

two addresses we have found evidence of drug use and Class B drugs, resulting in the caution of one person for possession and the issue of a cannabis warning for the other.

The use of drugs is not just an urban issue and can affect the rural village communities just as much as large towns and cities. If you are concerned about drug use in your area, or if you want to report a crime, but you do not want to be identified to the police, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Draughton News

2015 is going to be quite a year! We have three main fund-raising groups and only 50-ish people, so it's not tricky to do the maths and to see that the 'Water is Wide', as the song goes. Rather than look back, this is a plea to watch for signs of Draughton Events, and to come and see us for one or all of them, as there will surely be something for everyone!

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH is one focus of the village efforts and events planned include:

Flicks in the Sticks

Saturday 14th March, 7.30pm in St Catherine's Church Draughton

We'll be showing *The Book Thief*, starring Geoffrey Rush, and Emily Watson. The cost is £10 per ticket to include a bowl of chilli (meat or vegetarian), a glass of wine and the film.

For tickets contact Fabienne Fraser-Allen on 686696

Spring into Summer: Draughton's Parish Bazaar

Saturday 9th of May, 10am - 4pm at Spratton Hall School, Smith Street, Spratton.

Join us for face painting, ice cream, a selection of tea, coffee and cakes, and lots of fabulous traders. Donation upon entry please.

If you are interested in taking a stall, please contact Fabienne Fraser-Allen on 686696

Draughton's Great British Produce Competition

Saturday 5th of September, 1 - 4pm.

After the success of last year's event we will be hosting this wonderful event in St Catherine's Church. Categories to include flower arranging, baking, jams, chutney and preserves, breads, photography, and home brew to mention a few.... So, if you haven't been glued to the Big Allotment Challenge, dig out the books and the gardening gloves and get sowing, planting, preserving etc. We look forward to seeing (and tasting?) the results in September.

The CLUBROOM is our other fund-raising focus.

The first thing to say is that on the first Saturday of every month we have a **Coffee Morning** in the Clubroom. It is a time to chat and chew the fat (or the cud) – or the delicious brownies. All are welcome.

Also, keep an eye out for signs for our occasional **Pop Up Pub!**

The Draughton Spring Fayre returns on Sunday 14th of June with games, stalls and the best cream teas this side of Exeter!

Notices of other planned events for Draughton will appear in the next edition of the Bulletin. - *Kate Calnan*

Sailing and Volunteering at Pitsford Reservoir

Northampton Sailability offers facilities for disabled people to enjoy a wide variety of sailing activities, ranging from joy-rides around Pitsford Reservoir to teaching Royal Yachting Association (RYA) standards in dinghy and keelboat sailing.

Our aim is to enable people of all abilities to experience the joys of sailing in a safe, friendly environment. Help is always on hand to get you sailing. There are hoists available to help sailors get in and out of the boat. We are an RYA Training Centre, so you can learn to sail in one of our wide variety of boats. We sail from April to October on Mondays and Fridays (excluding Bank Holidays) and two Saturdays of each month.

We welcome new members and always need new volunteers to help, both on and off the water. No experience is necessary, we can offer you training. You can find more information on our website at www.northamptonssailability.org.uk, phone 461674 or email us at sec@northamptonssailability.org.uk.



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Country Eye

Friendly rivalry? Not for one minute!

Sixty, seventy, eighty and more years ago, villages were much more isolated than we are used to today. Even the tiniest village boasted at least a shop and post office, butcher, baker, and of course a pub. Most ordinary folk never moved very far away, and a majority worked locally, either as servants to the local rich or middle-class, or on the land. Work for the labouring classes was invariably hard and unrelenting, so entertainment was often organised within or between local communities. In the village of these times the Saturday football match was a highlight of the week.

Imagine the scene. The village likely lads are gearing themselves up to take on their rivals from the next village. They and their considerable body of supporters are looking forward to a friendly contest, where all is scrupulously fair and sporting to a fault. If you believe that, you'll believe anything. A couple of events dredged from my own past will soon persuade you otherwise. In Pitsford, the village of my birth, folk were rightly proud of their team. Out of a population of a few hundred, a crowd of a hundred or more would turn up whatever the weather to cheer the lads on.

One player in particular was much feared, but not for his aggressive style. His most ardent supporter was his mother, a large lady, survivor of many an encounter with the other village ladies, and not a few men who had the misfortune to cross swords with her. Her habit was to run along the touchline, keeping pace with the game. Always she carried a furled umbrella. Her bellows of encouragement could be heard above the crowd. If she ever thought her son was being roughly tackled she would rush on to field and set about the offender with her umbrella. She was known and feared throughout the area!

A very good friend of mine grew up in Spratton. Let's just call him Big John, for he was indeed a big lad, well over six feet tall, raw boned as they say, and more than capable of taking care of himself. Hard work on the land had seen to that. He was a very good footballer and a mainstay for his team. He had courted and married a girl from Brixworth. They rented a small cottage here; needless to say it was not long before he was approached to play for his new village team. As soon as his teammates from his former village got wind of this, he was condemned as a turncoat, a traitor indeed. So you may be sure that, the next time the two teams met each other he was a marked man. One guy in particular was determined to make sure he paid for his 'treachery.'

It was many years later I learned this story from Big John himself. Now an old man nearing the end of his days I can recall every word as we sat together on a bench in his garden of a warm summer's evening. As Big John put it, "It had been a hard game from the start. Not long after the kick-off, there was a goalmouth scramble as the ball came in, and as I went up for it, he was in front of me. We both went up for the ball, but I jumped much higher than he did. As we came down, I am not sure how it happened, but my elbows were

either side of his shoulder, close to his neck. My full weight bore down on him. He went down as if he had been poleaxed, and didn't get up for a long time. By the time they got him to his feet, I could see he had had enough. He never came near me after that, and his fellow players gave me a wide berth too." Off the field, the two of them were keen gardeners, and tended adjacent plots on the allotments. They were, and remained, lifelong friends!

Even in those far-off days, change was well under way. New estates had been tacked on to the village. Many folk of all ages were bussing into Northampton to work in factories, offices, and shops. Sadly the trend continues today, so that Brixworth is in danger of losing its identity to become just another small town dormitory.

— Brian Webster



Photo kindly supplied by John Blason

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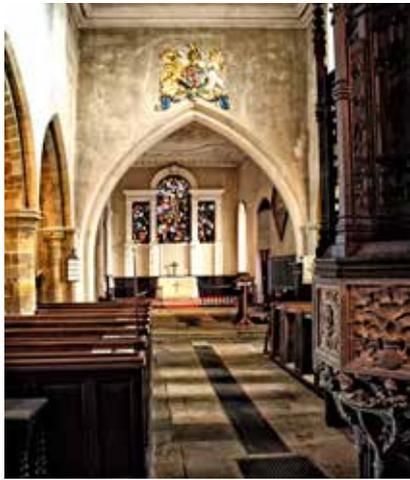
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All Hallow's Church, Lamport

Brixworth residents are fond of our famous and much visited parish church of All Saints'. Less well-known and within walking distance for the energetic and a very short drive for those a little less robust, is another All Saints': Lamport's village church, also known as All Hallows'. Although the church was never part of Lamport Hall, the home of the Isham family between 1568 and 1976, in that it was never a country house chapel, the lords of the manor (including briefly Sir William Cecil of Burghley) were always the patrons of the Lamport living.

The village is mentioned in the Domesday book as Langeporte and the church, a Grade I listed building, stands on a mound overlooking the Brampton branch of the River Nene; it is thought that the site may well have been used for pre-Christian worship. Like so many of our English churches, Lamport is a mixture of architectural styles, reflecting the changes brought about by dilapidation, repairs and enthusiastic additions.

The oldest, 12th century, part of All Hallows', is the lower section of the tower. The rest of the church (the tower arch, nave arcades and the upper part of the tower) was rebuilt in the 13th century. Things did not look good by 1570, however, when the church received an episcopal visit and was subjected to a report (reminiscent of an OFSTED inspection of a failing school) which stated "the church wall is in decay and the chancel". Further criticism in 1594 reported "Things amiss and wanting in the Church of



Lamport". Both the Bible and Prayer Book were "rent and torne in many places", the communion table was out of repair and "wangting both convenient cloth and comely cloths for it" while the font was "unrepared and will not hold water".

The chancel was rebuilt by the second Baronet, Sir Justinian Isham, shortly after he succeeded to the property in 1651 and in 1673 he added an extension to the north of the nave to serve as a memorial chapel (with a burial vault below) for the Isham family. This contains a splendid monument to Sir Justinian (who died in 1737) which records that he left £500 for the "rebuilding and beautifying of the church". This legacy, a considerable sum for the time, was used for major rebuilding of much of the church; the



fine ceiling plasterwork and the Venetian east window date from this period. The only structural addition since then is the vestry (1878) to the south of the chancel.

I am indebted to Mary Parker, churchwarden, who showed me round the church on a windy Saturday morning. She drew my attention to the striking stained glass east window (made in 1847 by William Warrington who worked for A.W. N. Pugin in St Chad's R. C. Cathedral, Birmingham). It depicts the resurrection and, in a suitable light, it is possible to perceive a tiny hole, 0.18 inch diameter, just to the right of the burial tomb. This was made by a shotgun pellet fired by Denys Watkins-Pitchford, the local author of children's books better known by his pseudonym BB. He was the second son of the Rev. Walter Watkins-Pitchford, Rector of All Hallows' 1903-1944. Denys adopted the pseudonym 'BB' because that was the size of the pellets he used in his shotgun! Sadly, what his father said of the damage is not on record.

Lamport church is not spectacular but has a pleasant and friendly atmosphere. The Italianate and 18th century interior with its imposing Isham memorial may seem to some a little out of place in a small English country village church but others will feel that this makes it all the more unusual and interesting. Spectacular – well, no. Worth a visit? Certainly.

Sadly these days most churches are kept locked and this one is no exception. However, a key can be borrowed from Lamport Hall during normal weekday working hours. Go to the side gate of the Hall (opposite the church) and find the door to the left of steps to the main Hall entrance. Ring the bell marked 'Office' and wait.

- George Hammerschmidt



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Santa Sunday at Brixworth Central Sports Club

Once again Father Christmas came to the sports club on Sunday 21st December. He arrived in the red vintage Singer car – he's grown quite fond of that one! – and when asked where the reindeer were and if the car could fly Mr Blason reliably informed the children that the reindeer were eating lunch and resting ready for the big day and of course the car can fly but only with Santa in it and at night.

Father Christmas gave each child a present of a Christmas cracker and we served hot dogs to everyone. The balloon art man was there again making swords for the boys and flowers and puppies for the girls. All this was free provided by the club. With a raffle for the adults and music for everyone it was once again a very successful and fun day.

Our next big event – unfortunately already past by the time this issue of the Bulletin reaches you – was on Valentines evening February 14th. We had live music from the Duo, Disco and Karaoke inbetween sets, a raffle and hot dogs were available. If you were there we hope you had a good time – and if not, where were you? – Jackie Bird



2015 Calendar raises cash for pre-school

Brixworth Centre pre-school was presented with a cheque for £500 raised from sales of the Brixworth 2015 calendar. The money will be put towards new equipment and learning resources for the children, pre-schools staff say.

The calendar sales were produced by the Brixworth Photographic Society, made available from Blason's Garage and K. Troop Greengrocers, and a grant from the Parish Council made the production possible. – Ian Topham

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

As we say goodbye to 2014, 2015 looks as though it will be another exciting year for the Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group.

After the October half term and with the darker nights, the Beavers moved to more indoor activities. They had a very interesting evening learning to march, courtesy of one of the Beaver dads and also learnt something about the World Wars in the build up to parade of Remembrance Day. As part of the Adventure Activity Badge the Beavers were going to go climbing – but the cost was prohibitive so they went to Lazer Zone instead which was incredible fun. They also made some model boats and learnt the story of Captain Jack's T Shirt! Then the Beavers made lots of Christmas goodies and had a great Christmas party.

A second Beaver group started meeting on Mondays at the beginning of January, taking a considerable number of young people off the waiting list. We have been able to do this because a number of parents have volunteered to take part – many thanks to them. With a new group starting we have had the theme of friendship this term and been looking at emergency aid, looking after animals and finding out more about people in other countries.

Over in Cubs they have also been up to all sorts of different things. The Cubs made some really marvellous poppies, in the style of the Tower of London display for Remembrance Day which some of the Cubs left as a tribute at the end of the Remembrance Day Service. They also had a couple of extremely interesting and very different visits to Gallone's Ice Cream Factory and the Buddhist Centre. They finished off before Christmas with some crafts and of course a party which bizarrely had a beach theme!

So far in 2015 the Cubs have been working toward their Astronomy badge, and as part of their global challenge badge have been celebrating Burns Night and Chinese New Year.

Sadly the good news about Beavers cannot be reflected in Cubs. A number of Cub Leaders have decided to step down or move on to other sections. This has put the leadership team under extreme pressure and could jeopardise the further development of the group going forward. Cubs desperately need more leaders, people willing to undertake the training that the Scouting organisation offers free of charge to all volunteers. If you are interested in finding out more please contact the Group Scout Leader, details below.

The Scouts have also been involved in lots of different things. After the October half term they also took part in Remembrance Day activities, made some really tasty food in the Great Brixworth Cook Off, which was very quickly eaten by all involved. They also had a Christmas Craft evening and their Christmas

party had an international theme. An evening skating at Beckworth followed by hot chocolate and cake rounded off the autumn term.

So far this year the Scouts have been undertaking team building challenges, doing a spot of stargazing and will also be celebrating Chinese New Year.

As always the Explorers have been living up to their name – getting out and about and trying different things. Last term they took part in Bonfires, the Remembrance Parade, a night bike ride complete with head lamps to see where they were going! The Explorers enjoyed a night of messy games, making Christmas wreaths and took part in a little shooting.

This term they practice, a little early, making pancakes and took part in an inter unit quiz.

As always we continue to look for new leaders in all sections, particularly Cubs and



Scouts. If you would like to find out more about becoming involved please come and talk to us and find out how you can join in all the fun – and find out where all that mud actually comes from!

To find out more about Scouts in general please visit <http://scouts.org.uk/>. To find out more about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group contact Pete Lennon, Group Scout Leader 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. - Kim Phillips

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A look back on a year in the Brixworth property market

2014 was a great year for the Brixworth property market. It was the year that saw prices hit their highest level ever and it was also the year that saw stamp duty reformed to make it fairer for first time buyers and families purchasing homes in the lower-to-mid-price ranges.

According to Rightmove, the majority of sales in Brixworth during the last year were detached properties, selling for an average price of £271,144. Semi-detached properties sold for an average of £185,349, with terraced properties fetching £201,750. Brixworth, with an overall average price of £223,677, was better value for money than nearby Pitsford (£312,288), Spratton (£266,139) and Chapel Brampton (£300,334).

Overall sold prices in Brixworth over the last year were 3% up on the 2007 level of £217,654.

Predictions this year point to more people looking for property than last year and more sellers putting their property up for sale. Activity levels for January are as busy as I can ever remember them and new seller asking prices have increased this month at a time of year when there are usually price falls. However, sellers will not have it all their own way in the year ahead, in spite of the bullish tone set by these early indicators. So if you are thinking of placing your property up for sale make sure you use the right estate agent.

Here are a few things to think about when

choosing an estate agent;

- Ask family, friends and neighbours – there is nothing better than a personal recommendation
- For most properties, it is best to stay local – local agents know the area, and can be close to meet prospective buyers
- Make sure the agent has experience of selling property like yours
- Contact a number of estate agents and pretend to be looking to buy a house similar to yours – are they professional? Do they seem competent? Are you impressed?
- Look at the agent's website – are the pictures well taken, and the descriptions clear and relevant?
- The "sold" boards outside properties are good indicators of which agents are doing well
- A good agent will invest in marketing to ensure they get the best price, while a poor one will just wait for customers to come to them
- Do not feel pressured to hire the estate agent you bought your house from. Obviously, if you were impressed how they sold your house to you, you might decide to go with them again
- What is their viewing policy – check they will accompany potential buyers when you are out. Do they phone and send around potential buyers straight away?
- Narrow your choices down to a shortlist of about three and invite them to do a valuation

A final thought when choosing an estate agent. Do you get on with them and trust them? You will have to spend lots of time with them, and trust them with your most valuable asset. Remember to read the contract carefully and check your sole agency tie-in period and required notice period. If you don't understand something, ask. If you are not happy in any way do not sign the contract.

– Stuart Little, Horts Property Consultant

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Remembering the Great War



The village of Spratton is to commemorate all those from their community who served in the Great War of 1914-1918.

Spratton's Local History Society, which is organising the event, chose the weekend of 25 and 26 April as it marks 100 years since Spratton resident Lt William Rhodes-Moorhouse RFC (pictured, left) made the daring but fatal flight that earned him a Victoria Cross.

Over the weekend, the Society will take over the grounds of Spratton Hall School to remember the brave

young men and find out more about the impact the conflict had on this small country village and its people.

There will be replica WWI aircraft on display – a BE2b from Old Sarum Aerodrome (the type flown by our local VC hero).

Soldiers and VAD nurses at the Great War Society's living history encampment will be on hand to show visitors how the men and women lived and dressed during the period. There will also be

authentic military vehicles from the period, thanks to the RAF Museum and an opportunity to talk to the motor cycle despatch riders.

In addition there are talks about the early years of the war, Lt W B Rhodes-Moorhouse VC and the stunning fashion talk and display entitled Women and the Great War.

The full programme

Saturday 25th April 2015 • 12 noon – 5pm

2pm Launch of SLHS book and talk on Lt William Rhodes-Moorhouse VC RFC

2.45 pm Keynote talk on the Great War by Vernon Creek of the RAF Museum

Sunday 26th April 2015 • 10.30 am – 4.30 pm

11.30 am – 1.00 pm Women and the Great War

An amusing and moving talk with a unique display of original costumes by History Wardrobe

2.00 – 2.30 pm Talk on Lt William Rhodes-Moorhouse VC RFC

3.05 pm Flypast of BE2b from Sywell Aerodrome (weather permitting)

For more details, call 821438 or 821260 or visit www.sprattonhistory.com



A replica of a BE2b, the type of plane flown by Lt Rhodes-Moorhouse, will be on display at Spratton Hall School

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Gold, Goblins and

Brixworth Drama Group presents:



For nearly 30 years Brixworth drama group has served up a New Year Pantomime to provide much needed entertainment for the village in the dog days at the end of January. After such a long time it becomes hard to find a popular theme that has not been done before, which led new director Ben Richards away from the safety of the traditional scripts and into slightly darker territory, which brings us to the Goblin Rumpelstiltskin.

Like many tales from the Middle Ages it has a very sinister plot. In a drunken stupor, Carbuncle, uncle to young Ruby, confides in the King Jade of Strawville that his niece Ruby can turn straw into gold. Being hard-up, as all Kings were in the Middle Ages, the King summons Ruby to the castle and threatens her with death if she cannot perform the simple task. Ruby is distraught. Enter the Goblin, who offers to spin some gold, but Ruby having no means of payment, offers an heirloom ring instead. The King is pleased to see some gold, but simply demands more, and Ruby is in the same position again. This time the Goblin demands more; if Ruby should have a baby, she must give it to him.

Pleased with all the gold, the King then marries Ruby to his nephew Opal. A forced marriage, but they fall in love, so when the Goblin returns to claim his due, the fortunate appearance of the genie



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... Knick-Knack?

Rumpelstiltskin – the Panto

of the ring helps Opal to follow the Goblin to his forest hideout and overhear him give his name away. The Goblin is thwarted and despatched as all pantomime villains are, into a convenient wishing well. And all live happily ever after.

But wait a minute, where's the dame? There is none in the plot, so being a Panto, one is introduced as the lady of the tavern where Uncle Carbuncle gets lubricated, as a continuity between scenes. So enter Dame Knick-Knack, owner of a sardine tree (that's right, fish grow on trees) that attracts all the cats for miles around. Now this role (the dame not the tree) is a challenge and Will Brown plays it just right as a more camp version than is typical. Will gets his own number, too, which he delivers with panache.

The plot was straightforward but this Panto had a longer cast than the Dame's knickers, featuring an assortment of idiots, where John Wardell and Sue McAspurn as Sergeant Shinybrass and Captain Copper get to entertain as the King's Army. Sue looked particularly thick as the recruitment officer, while John got his own number which he murdered gleefully, being unable to sing or keep in time. Heather Pool and Jo Runiewicz were equally entertaining in a series of brief cameos. Eileen Truby as maidservant Coral had a nice baby-throwing scene with Spangle, who also got covered in nappy cream.

In the main roles, Allan Pope's Goblin was one role with a clear character – he's bad, likes to play with his victims, and looks like a goblin. In real life! He played his character with aplomb and the ad-libs went down well with the audience. To avoid competing for the title of number one baddie, Mike Culverhouse as the King plays him as an old duffer losing his marbles, who mercifully decides to marry his nephew Prince Opal off to Ruby, instead of taking her for himself. Ryan Meakins who is new to the group was excellent as Opal, and he and Sophie Cardwell as Ruby showed real feeling in their acting together and their singing was exceptional, both separately and together. Some of the credit for that must go to the band, Andy, Dave and Les, who entertained before, during, and in the interval. Poor Dennis Coles



as Carbuncle had to contend with being drunk and sober, as well as pursuing the dame!

Also new to the group were Caitlin Nicoll as the genie Turquoise, and Flora Willows as the King's gopher, Spangle. We hope we will see more of them, and the group is really lucky to have seen so many new faces come in and do so well. Not quite new, but Elizabeth Moxon as the talking cat Tinsel gave an extremely confident and effective performance, as a de facto MC.

After that there were many minor roles and while I can't mention everyone, it was clear that the younger and older cast members that played cows, cats, mice, demons, milkmaids, and danced, all thoroughly enjoyed entertaining an audience that gave them great support.

Ben Richards assisted by Gemma Broadhead took on the mission of direction together, and it is a mission. Their hard work has borne fruit and I hope they are not too exhausted never to do it again, as it will be easier next time, honest.

Mark and Karen Sharman ran the stage and effects as usual with help from their crew, where we also welcome Gerard Brannigan. Eunice Ellis did her customary great job with costumery and prompting, and Ruth Cardwell took care of the choreography. Caroline Monk as almost the only group member not in the production ran front of house efficiently, and our thanks go to the volunteers that help us with these vital tasks.

The group's next production is the Stage version of 'Allo Allo and it will be staged from 2-4 July.

– Robin Pool



Success at the Indoor Athletics Competition

On the 15th January, 19 Year 6 pupils accompanied Miss Fyfe and Mrs Pinches to the Daventry Schools Indoor Athletics Competition. The team consisted of: Tom Compton, Shelby Beattie, Ben Nelson, Alex Cattell, Owen Hutchinson, Louisa Henry, Alex Bunce, Chloe Gillett, Caitlin Hanna, Jake Wellington, Eloise Perry, Rhys Seabrook, Bethany Coulton, Georgia Bailey, Sophie Reyland, Jamie Barton, Poppy Lile, Sam Miller and Thomas Glenn.

Strolling in casually, we noticed that we were up against 6 of the most competitive schools. At first we were all nervous as we did not know what we were up against. After a while we got to have a go at our events and after 10 minutes it all kicked off! First the boys did their track events; the girls did their field events. Nearly winning all their track events, the boys did the best they could. Also the girls did extremely well breaking two records, Eloise Perry in the standing long jump (1m 74cm) and Chloe Gillett in the chest push (8m 3cm).

After that the boys switched to field events and the girls to track events. Ben Nelson was the next to break a record with a whopping 9m 4cm with his chest push. After all the events the javelin was last to be taken. Rhys Seabrook stepped up to the challenge and tried his best alongside Jake Wellington and Alex Bunce. Announcing the places, in 7th place was Boughton, joint 5th place were taken by Guilsborough and the Abbey, 4th place was Crick, 3rd place The Grange, 2nd place was Badby... As you may have guessed, Brixworth came First! - *Thomas Compton, Alex Cattell, Shelby Beattie and Sam Miller*



Brixworth Primary School PTA News

Defibrillator now in school!

The PTA would like to thank everyone for their kind generosity in raising enough funds to enable us to purchase a defibrillator available in our school, for our own pupils, staff and local community.

As we go to press, arrangements are being put in place for the staff to be trained to use the defibrillator and this should be 'operational' soon.



We hope we never need to use this essential piece of equipment, but it is very reassuring to know it is available should the need ever arise. Thank you to everyone who has made this purchase possible.

Summer Fair

Whilst writing, our annual Christmas Bazaar was once again a huge success with some very positive feedback. Plans are already taking shape for our Summer Fair which is to take place on Saturday 27th June 2015. If anyone would like to hold a stall at this event then please do not hesitate to contact us.

The PTA continue to raise funds for our children at the local school and are always looking for new ideas and support, if you would like to get involved, no matter how big or small then please get in touch.
- Heather Gardener & Julie Macdonnell,
brixworthprimarypta@gmail.com



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Dear Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance,

On June 20th 2013 I broke my femur badly in an accident on the school playing field. In my head I knew something bad had happened as my leg was stuck behind my neck and I also heard two loud snaps. As I lay on the ground, I was very frightened and did not want anyone to come near me. Mr Langford and his teaching assistants were so kind to me but I was still really scared and when the ambulance requested the Air Ambulance I did get very worried. However, once the helicopter landed the crew were amazing and I felt really calm. I was given some strong painkillers and was taken to hospital in a land ambulance with Adam from the helicopter looking after me all the way.

I had to have five operations on my leg and it took me many months to get better but I am now almost fully recovered. I won a bronze medal at Sports Day in the triple jump; I am back playing tennis and netball and recently represented the school at football. This was the first time I had ever been asked to represent the school at sport. If I had not had such brilliant care from the Air Ambulance none of this would have been possible.

Christmas is a lovely time of year at our school. Excited, we all took part in a Christmas performance in our age groups. We always have a raffle for the school and a collection for charity as the audience leaves after the performance. At our performances in December our kind head, Mr Boucher, let us collect money for the Air Ambulance. Four Year Sixes stood by the doors where people gave lots of money.

As you may know, the Air Ambulance has made two journeys to the school in the last two years, which was not expected at all. All of us at Brixworth Primary School are so grateful for your fantastic service and amazing care. Overall, we raised a massive £500 so you can spend it to rescue more people or get medical equipment you need.

I know that you rely on charity donations to keep flying so later in the year I am going to be cycling or walking around Pitsford reservoir to raise more money for you. I never imagined I would have to be helped by the Air Ambulance and I have seen how important it is to have such an amazing service to help those who are really badly injured.

I hope that the £500 my school can donate now is helpful to you and once again I thank you all so much for helping me, my family and school friends after my accident.

Yours sincerely,
*Anna
Gouldstone*



Athletics Daventry District Tournament

Travelling by minibus, the athletics team, Tom Compton, Bethany Coulton, Louisa Henry, Owen Hutchinson, Jamie Barton, Thomas Glenn, Alex Cattell, Ben Nelson, Sam Miller, Rhys Seabrook, Jake Wellington, Alex Bunce, Shelby Beattie, Eloise Perry, Poppy Lile, Georgia Bailey, Chloe Gillett, Caitlin Hanna and Sophie Reyland, as well as the teachers which consisted of: Miss Fyfe, Mrs Pinches and Mr Boucher enjoyed with excitement the 30 minute journey. Arriving at Daventry Leisure Centre, we started practising with the apparatus before the event began. Excited, our team spilt into two sections (boys: track, and girls: field) and started our events.

Sprinting, jumping, throwing and more, all of our team tried their hardest to win their events. Amazingly, in javelin, Rhys threw an incredible distance of 23m, breaking our school record and the District's record. Vice versa (switching track and field events) the girls did their races whilst the boys did their jumping and throwing. We knew the results would be close but we were all happy with our performances regardless of the outcome. Scoring a total of 256 points, our team came 4th overall out of the nine schools. We were all very happy! - *Tom Compton, Bethany Coulton and Louisa Henry*

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Brixworth & District U3A

Our group meets in Brixworth Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm. We have a variety of interesting speakers and time afterwards for tea and a look at all the information on interest groups and sign up.

The Christmas lunch in December at Brampton Heath Golf Centre was enjoyed by 72 members and they were entertained afterwards by the Ceilidh dancing group. Whether this attracted more members to join the group remains to be seen!

34 intrepid walkers all dressed up warmly for the first walk of 2015 from the White Swan, Holcot. The walk started out in bright sunshine, with the rain returning for the last ten minutes.

The rain, which had been continuous over the previous two days, made for a somewhat muddier ramble than normal.

However, the feedback from the members was good, as was the meal at the White Swan afterwards, which was also enjoyed by the smaller Strollers group.

The November evening meal at Highgate House was enjoyed by 25 members. Evening meals are held quarterly.



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

Winter Woolies put to good use

Many thanks to the many villagers who supported the appeal for warm winter clothing in the last edition of the *Bulletin*.

With your help, our volunteers at the Brixworth Information Point collected and transported five car loads of donations from Brixworth to the Hope Centre in Northampton where they have been put to very good use.

Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group

SSPG will continue its education talks in the Spring. Dr Julia Boon and Judith Crook will talk about 'Getting Old Gracefully' - conventional and complimentary approaches to women's issues. The talks are on 17th March at Guilsborough and 24th March at Brixworth Surgery, 7-8pm. For more information contact Barbara Hogg on 880552 or email barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk.

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Friday	9am to 6pm
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We are glad to announce Julia's return after her enforced break and welcome Kirstie our new Creative Stylist who along with Katy and Julia complete our creative team. All existing and new clients are welcome to call in for a coffee and consultation.

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SATURDAY, 11 APRIL 5 - 7 pm
Pub Quiz & Barbecue* at The George Inn

 Tickets available from the George and from Emily Ames on 07952 905091: £5 for the pub quiz, £3 for the barbecue.

SATURDAY, 27 JUNE 10 am - 4 pm
Craft Fair in the Village Hall

Admission: over 12s, £2; under 12s free entry
(Potential stallholders: please contact Emily Ames on 07952 905091 - stall fee only £15)

* Barbecue generously donated by The George Inn

This advertisement is generously sponsored by Ashley Riley Communications

Supporting Village Growth

The 2014/15 financial year has been a challenging year for Brixworth Parish Council. Whilst providing the facilities and amenities needed by the village, we have absorbed costs in connection with proceedings at the County Court and Employment Tribunal as well as costs in setting up a new lease for Brixworth Central Sports Club.

The Parish Council have requested from Daventry District Council, an increase of 2.41% for the portion of Council Tax used to maintain the facilities and amenities in the village. This increase takes the Band D contribution (other Bands will vary) from the 2014/15 value of £54.53 to a 2015/16 value of £55.86. The increase equates to £0.03 per dwelling per week.

During the 2015/16 financial year, which runs from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, the Parish Council will continue to meet the needs of a growing community. Our agenda contains many elements that contribute to a fiscally responsible and progressive year for the village. Too many to list here, but we would like to mention just a few of the highlights.

We will be re-introducing a Community Grant scheme for the village, with a fund of £2,500 set up. A working group of Parish Councillors are busy putting the finishing touches to new criteria for awarding these grants, so if you are a member of a village group and would like more information, please talk to a Parish Councillor and they will be happy to assist you.

Looking at the village as a whole, we have thought about how we can improve the area we live in. We have had the idea to introduce a Village Project. This will be a single project, focused on improving the village as a whole. We have allocated £2,500 for this project and have already started to think about ideas. If you have an idea, on a village scale, please tell us by speaking to a Parish Councillor.

Maintaining our village is not an easy task, from grass cutting (more

on this later!) to keeping the village free of litter. It requires a small team of hard working and dedicated people who work for the Parish Council. We feel it is important to recognise these employees and have decided to join the growing band of companies and Councils up and down the country in introducing The Living Wage to our team. The Living Wage is widely acknowledged as a socially responsible approach to employees as it is an independently calculated hourly rate of pay linked to the cost of living in the UK and set annually. It is a voluntary thing, but the Parish Council felt it is right for our team, and right for our village. You can find out more about The Living Wage at www.livingwage.org.uk.

We all enjoy living in a beautiful village. Our grass areas and verges are very much a part of this beauty. We know from conversations with residents that keeping our village looking good is very important, however, keeping them looking good on a regular basis is becoming ever more expensive. The Parish Council have looked at ways we can find the right balance between regular maintenance and cost to the village. The equipment we use has been in place for some time, and the Parish Council has over a number of years, maintained a fund so the cost of replacing worn out equipment is spread over a number of years. Rather than simply replace equipment like for like, the Parish Council has looked at not only new equipment, but also at how we actually operate. We still have a little work to do to finalise our plans, but if successful, we will be investing in some different types of equipment during 2015/16 to deliver a more frequent and efficient grass cutting programme for the village. We hope to not only have an improved environment, but also a more efficient and cost effective operation.

Meeting every resident's wants and desires is impossible, but as a Parish Council we have plans in the coming financial year that we hope will get close to many of these and we look forward to implementing them with you. - Brixworth Parish Council Finance Working Group

Surviving cancer

We all know someone who has been touched by cancer or even had it ourselves like me, so I wanted to tell you about the cancer support group which I help to run in Brixworth. We hold our meetings on the last Thursday of the month in the communal rooms of Saxon House at 2pm. We just have a cuppa and a chat and of course cakes but the main thing is knowing you can have some support at this difficult time in your lives.

Some of us are veterans who have survived for many years and others have only just finished treatment. But we all have one thing in common, and that is the need to be able to be normal and around other people who have suffered.

If you would like to come for a cuppa, there is no charge but we put a few pence in the pot to cover tea, sugar and milk. Just turn up – our next meeting is on Thursday 26th March and you will be most welcome.

If you don't want to come alone, you can bring a friend – or call me on 07779 382848 and I will arrange to meet you outside. – Sue Deery (susan.deery1@btinternet.com)



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WESTMINSTER REPORT

Filling the skills pipeline

One of the perks of my job is being invited to visit businesses big and small across my constituency. It is fascinating talking to these local entrepreneurs, as they take me back to when I managed my own business.

Before politics I use to run my family business - a wholesale fruit and veg company set up by my Dad when Covent Garden Market moved from its old site to its current location in Nine Elms, Vauxhall. For eleven years I worked nights, normally getting into work around 1am and staying there until the produce sold or packed away and all the bookwork was completed.

I can remember the trouble that came with hiring and (alas on one occasion) firing people, ensuring the equipment we used was safe and people knew what to do with it, being nice to customers who were a right royal pain, being nice to suppliers to ensure we had product for the next day.

And yes, it did teach me lots, especially about markets. When you are wholesaling fruit and vegetables it is all about supply, demand, information and getting the price right whilst working with a perishable good. So, I'm a Tory who does "get" markets, but I don't worship them - I respect them.

A growing trait I've been experiencing recently whilst visiting businesses is actually a concern - that it is difficult to find the right people with the right skills for the jobs on offer.

So a lot is being done to ensure we have the skills we need locally developed locally; but there is still more to be done. Since becoming your MP I've visited a number of Brixworth businesses, big and small and they all ask the question as to how we can improve the skills base locally allowing them to employ local people and grow. My answer been that we need to (and are) investing heavily in apprenticeships; but it has needed a little time for people to see this investment paying off. Now a couple of years have passed and I believe the numbers demonstrate how much effort and money is being put into funding apprenticeships locally and nationally.

Indeed, I think you'd be surprised to find out how many people have started apprenticeships in my constituency over the past two years. The number is 1,700.

Nationally the numbers are exceptional - 943,570 have started apprenticeships in the past two years. 575,290 Intermediate, 350,690 Advanced and 17,590 Higher.

Obviously this is excellent news for everyone, be it those individuals being trained to improve their skills, the businesses investing in these apprenticeships or the rest of us, as improving the skills of the workforce normally improves the economy as a whole.

I recently visited a local small business who would very much like to take on an apprentice to help them both grow their business and train that person for a well paid full-time role within the specialist sector they operate in. Alas that business found it very difficult to fulfil all the current requirements needed to allow them to take on an apprentice - and I know that their experience is being replicated a lot in other small businesses up and down the country.

Thus I'm hoping and pushing government to make it slightly easier for small businesses to take on an apprentice and encourage local colleges to help with the sponsorship and education parts of the administration involved.

I know we have low unemployment in my constituency, the latest figures saying only 1% of the working population were on job-seekers allowance - but wouldn't it be wonderful if it was easier for them to be able to be trained whilst on the job, working for a local small business in an apprenticeship that leads to a sustainable local job?

Yours,

Chris

Snail-mail The House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

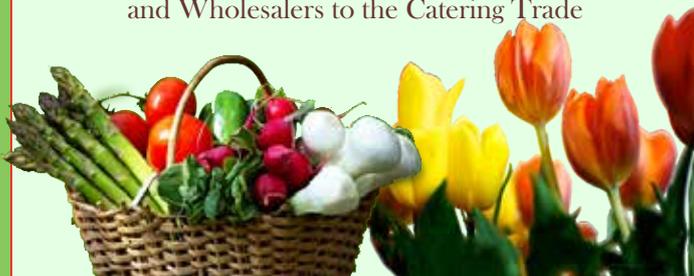
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Latest news from Hanging Houghton

The Christmas Carol service held at Lamport church in mid-December was very well attended. Some of the readings were read by local residents and some by their grandchildren. There was also a solo performance of one of the carols by one of the Thomas' grandsons which was very good. The children who attended were encouraged to build the Nativity tableau as the service progressed, it was encouraging to see that the children were involved in the service.

This was followed at the end of the service by mulled wine and mince pies, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

The second carol service on the village green at Hanging Houghton took place on Christmas Eve. The organisers were Colin and Judith, Nigel and Sue, and Bob and Hilary. The event was a great success with over 30 local residents and their friends and family attending. Some of the carols were sung by the children and the rest with all participating.

Mulled wine, soft drinks and other seasonal fare was provided by all those attending. It is expected that this popular get-together will be organised again for 2015.

On a less pleasant note the subject of "dog fouling" was raised at the parish council meeting in early Jan, 2015. The number of dogs in Hanging Houghton has increased substantially with the influx of new residents to the village. As a consequence of this, the problem of fouling has increased, particularly in the field to the north, between the village and Lamport. The PCC will be contacting the local dog warden to see what can be done to solve this problem. There are a number of notices around the village reminding dog owners of the penalty if they/their dogs are identified as the culprit. - *Mike Philpott*

Cash grants for educational expenses

Did you know that there is a local charity with funds available to persons aged up to 25 years and resident within the parishes of Brixworth and Scaldwell?

The Thomas Roe Foundation give cash grants to any qualifying person for use for educational purposes. Grants can be made to assist in the purchase of school uniform, books, course materials, musical instruments and computer equipment and may also be available towards the costs of travelling expenses linked to an educational venture including school trips.

Any person who wishes to apply can either download an application from the Scaldwell PC website or pick up an application form from the Library in Brixworth. For an application form and further information, contact Ursula Morris on 505554 or email Ursula@ursulamorris.co.uk

Meetings of the Trustees are held twice yearly to consider applications. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19h March 2015. - *Ursula Morris*

Planning update

DA/2014/0830 – Tantree Way Two Storey Front Extension at 29	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2014/0793 – Breach Close Front Porch Extension Including WC	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2014/0872 – Ironstone Court Construction of two new industrial units	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2014/0875 – The Knoll Two storey side extension and car port	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2014/0792 – Lodge Barns, Harborough Road Remove sycamore subject of Tree Preservation Order	BPC – More information required DDC Refused
DA/2014/0910 – Victors Barn, Northampton Road Conversion of Offices to form five dwellings	BPC No Objection NCC Approved



Kim Russell
HAIR STUDIO

Ladies' and Men's Hairstyling

Damp Trim	10.00
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Parish News



Brixworth Parish Council News & Views – Winter 2014 edition

www.brixworthpc.org.uk



Chair's Chat

How time flies!

At least, it seems that way. Of course, having spent the greater part of my life in aviation, I would say that wouldn't I?

Even so, it seems only yesterday that I was looking forward to Christmas and wondering if it was really too soon to be talking and writing about it.

Today, I am looking forward to the next Parish Meeting, but before I talk about that, there is a group in our Community that I want to salute and who really do deserve our thanks. I am not talking about the Parish Council. I refer instead to those who together make up the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. They have done a sterling job for our Parish in preparing the first of a Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan that is to be submitted to Daventry District Council for their required initial consultation process and review. Without the Steering Group there would have been little hope of Brixworth ever having a Neighbourhood Plan and instead of providing a plan controlling our own environment, we would have been subject to the will of others. Now, because of these committed volunteers the people of Brixworth have a chance to help shape the future.

It is, however, only the first of several steps in an approval process that ends with you. You will be asked to approve the Brixworth Neighbourhood Development Plan in a referendum once all the formal bridges have been crossed. I know I have written about Neighbourhood Plans before, but that was when it was more a dream; somewhere in the future. That dream started, for me, about four years ago and because of it, I agreed to become Chairman of the Parish Council, although I had no idea how I might help it become reality – I just knew I had to try to persuade the Council to grasp the opportunity. Today there is a completed Draft Plan and following the work of four years by some, thankfully, rather persistent people it is taking another step towards reality. At the same time, because of the effort and commitment of our volunteers, the Brixworth Neighbourhood Development Plan has, to date, cost only a fraction of that spent by other Neighbourhoods – a job very well done indeed, for which we owe a vote of thanks!

The Parish Council holds a Parish Meeting every year, this year it will be on Tuesday 28th April, in the Library/Community Centre at 7:30 PM and I would like to personally invite you to come along and say hello.

It is important because in May 2016 you will be asked to elect a new Parish Council, and Brixworth has not had the opportunity to actually vote for and elect a Parish Council for a very long time. Perhaps more than 12 years? The Council consists of 14 members, each elected to represent and take decisions on behalf of the community, but if there are only 14 residents standing for election, or less, as is usually the case, there is no vote and those standing for election are deemed "elected" by default. Although this is perfectly legal, it is hardly democracy in action.

Therefore, we need more than 14 committed members of the community to stand up and ask you to vote for them to be elected to the Parish Council and represent you. It is not a particularly daunting task, but the Council needs all the help it can get. So, if you think you might be able to contribute, perhaps because of past experience, or perhaps because you want to influence the future, please do consider standing for election.

The Parish Council is not politically aligned nor does it matter how old you are, or how young, to a point. But if you think the Parish Council is a short-cut to personal prestige, don't bother! We are fortunate to have had a Council that is largely made up of people who believe they have an obligation to serve their neighbours and the community in which we live and they have largely taken this responsibility seriously since the last election, which is why I can talk about the success of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which is not made up solely of Councillors, but is dominated by those who share an enthusiasm for our village and give freely of their time, for our benefit.

Perhaps, if you come along to the meeting on April 28th I will be able to introduce the Council Members to you, and if I am lucky, perhaps persuade the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group members to allow me to introduce them too – so that you might be able to join me in thanking them for the job they have done, so far. There is still a way to go! No, it is not finished yet. The next step is formal approval by Daventry that the Plan meets minimum legislative requirements, no doubt there will be recommended changes that will bring us to the pre-submission stage when every household in the Parish of Brixworth will get at least a summary of the Plan and you will also be able to obtain a full version, should you so wish, you see the whole idea is that it will be a plan for the future of Brixworth designed by the people of Brixworth for the people of Brixworth to enable us to better manage future development in Brixworth.

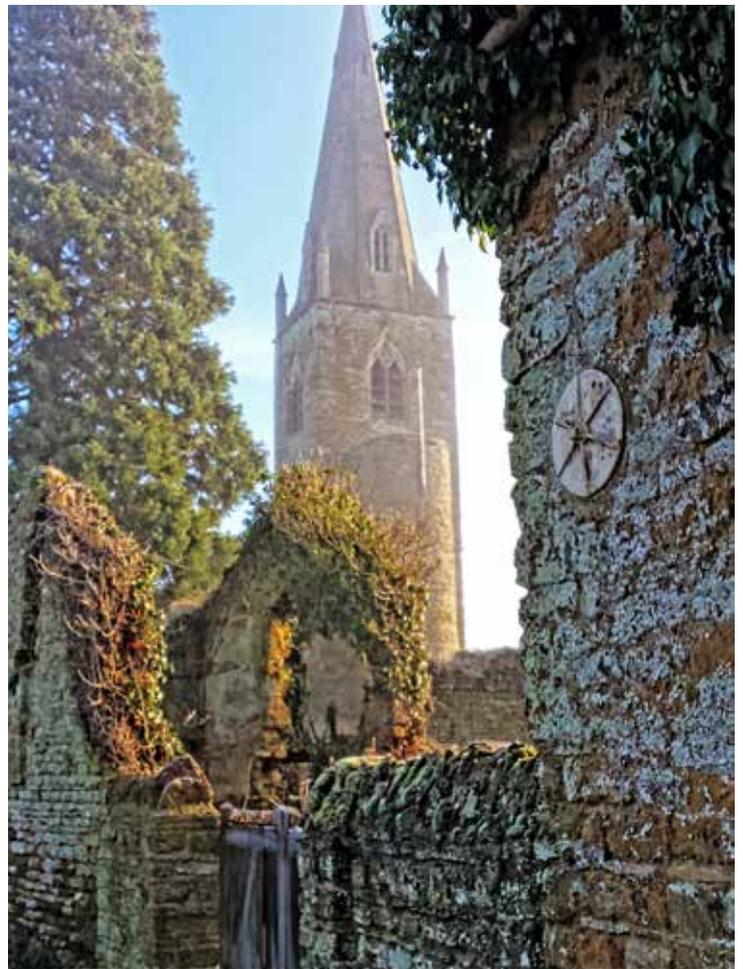
Planning

There have been no major planning applications since the publication of the last issue of the Brixworth Bulletin.

Application DA/2014/0900 for outline planning permission for up to 90 homes submitted by BDW Trading Ltd (Barratt Homes) on land to the east of Northampton Road on the southern border of their existing, current, development has been approved by the Parish Council subject to the developers providing an entirely new surgery for the village. Negotiations with the National Health Service relating to the proposed new surgery which Barratt Homes intend to provide are currently ongoing. The application, whilst approved by the Parish Council, has yet to be heard by Daventry District Council Planning Committee. Negotiations with Barratt Homes and other interested parties are also ongoing relating to the extension of the public parking area adjacent to the library.

The Parish Council has objected to application DA/2014/0937, for the demolition of an existing single storey house at Church End, Brixworth Hall Park and its replacement by a two storey dwelling house. There were numerous grounds quoted for the objection, chief amongst which was the adverse impact which a building of the type planned would have on the Village Conservation Area to which it was immediately adjacent. Its construction would also involve the removal of some trees which would also impact adversely on the Conservation Area and the views from it. The application has yet to be heard at Daventry District Council.

After many months of hard work and application by its members, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has now completed the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Brixworth and this has been forwarded to Daventry District Council for scrutiny. It will then be returned to the Steering Group for any necessary amendments.



Parish Councillors

Mike Lacey	Jackie Bird	Neal Brown
Alex Coles	Joe Hodgson	Stephen Pointer
David Parnaby	Malcolm Rous	Daniel Bennett
Kevin Parker	Ian Barratt	
Sandra Moxon	Stephen James	

Councillor contact details can be found on the Parish Council website www.brixworthpc.org.uk/council-contacts

Parish Council Meetings

Full Council Meeting

Tuesday 24th February
 Tuesday 24th March
 Tuesday 21st April
 Tuesday 19th May
 Meeting starts at 7.15pm

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 28th April
 Meeting Starts at 7.30pm

Contact Us

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Emma Baker Email: brixworthpc@gmail.com Telephone: 01933 682447

Planning Meeting

Monday 9th March
 Monday 13th April
 Monday 11th May
 Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 12th May
 Meeting Starts at 7.30pm

All meetings take place at the Community Centre, Spratton Road.

All Saints' Church, Brixworth

Where is your life heading?

With the beginning of March comes a feeling of relief that we have got rid of the really cold weather, and we sense a change of heart as the evenings get longer and we look forward to the spring.

We are now well into the season of Lent, and with a change of weather comes a change of season and focus in the Church year.

The season of Lent should also be bringing about a change in us. We joyfully welcomed Christ into our world at Christmas, and learnt all about his importance throughout Epiphany, but now we begin to look towards Easter and his death on the cross.

Priest-in-Charge:

Rev. Chloe Willson-Thomas
The Vicarage, Station Road
t: 01604 882014
chloe.thomas5@btinternet.com

Churchwardens:

Mrs Vanessa Crooks
5 Whaddon Field t: 01604 882058

Mr Michael Lewis
8 Breach Close t: 01604 881836



To many, Lent means a time when we give up things—but there is more to it than that. Lent is a time when we reflect on ourselves and our direction in life. It asks us to stop and consider turning around and starting down another path. Our lives are so busy that sometimes it's healthy to stop and step back and ask ourselves where our lives are heading.

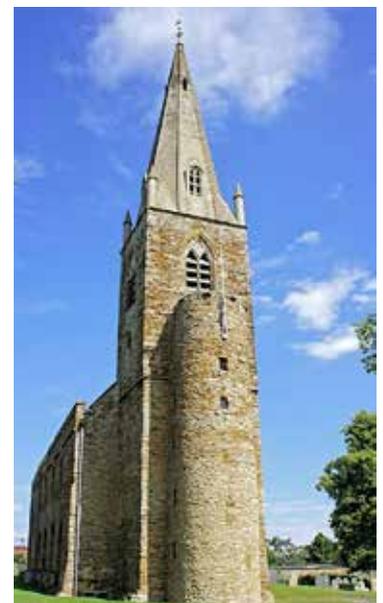
What is really important to you? Is it success and money, or do family, friends and relationships figure strongly? And what is your attitude to others you don't know?

Lent is also a time when we should reflect upon the brokenness of our world—poverty, hunger, homelessness, terrorism and conflict, to name but a few. Where do we stand in amongst all this? Is there something we can do, no matter how small, to improve the world?

Jesus Christ was and is a figure of love, compassion and integrity and a force for good in our world. He has set us a pattern to follow—a new path to tread. To live by his example or “Way” means to turn our own lives around, and face the world full of expectation and hope.

I look forward to welcoming you in amongst our community here at All Saints to find out more about Jesus, to be inspired by him, and to follow in his footsteps together.

Rev. Chloe



Special Services for Lent & Easter

Sunday, 1 st March		10.30 am	Family Service (St David's Day)
Mothering Sunday, 15 th March		10.30 am	Family Service (Mothering Sunday)
Wednesdays, 25 th February; 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th March		7.00 pm	Lent course
HOLY WEEK	Palm Sunday, 29 th March	10.30 am	Joint Family Communion (with Holcot)
	Tuesday, 31 st March	9.30 am	Eucharist; 6.00 pm Evening Prayer
	Wednesday, 1 st April	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
	Maundy Thursday, 2 nd April	7.30 pm	The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday
	Good Friday, 3 rd April	10.00 am	Ecumenical Walk of Witness with the BCF
		2.00 pm	Meditation on the Cross
	Easter Sunday, 5 th April	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
6.00 pm		Easter Evensong	

Tuesdays at 10.00 am
Coffee Pot
 A time of fellowship
 and relaxation



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Albert Lucas Petrie
 Tate William Bailey
 Aurora Elizabeth Monk
 Emma Eliza Digby

Burials

Joyce Elizabeth Granger
 Doreen May Tite
 William Ronald Austin
 Peter Martin Bailey
 MacFarlan John Fulton
 William Frederick Cooter

Normal Weekday & Sunday Services

1 st Sunday of the month	10.30 am	Family Service
	11.45 am	Said Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
2 nd Sunday	7.45 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
3 rd Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Candlelit service of meditation
4 th Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
5 th Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday & Thursday	9.30 am	Said Eucharist



BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.bcfchurch.co.uk

Change is inevitable

Someone once remarked "Change is inevitable – except from a Vending Machine" The recipe for Kelloggs Cornflakes for over one hundred years has remained the same, but the packaging has changed numerous times to reflect a changing consumer profile. In a changing world it is important that the central message of the Christian Faith remains the same and we as a church seek to maintain that.

As a Church in the Community however, we are aware of the busyness of life nowadays, and have made changes in our Services to reflect that, which we believe will give you more choices regarding family worship. (you will see below what they are) The change of times and a new family time "BreaCFast@9" will give opportunity for eating together, sharing together and informally learning together. We invite you to come and join us whatever your age, situation or belief.

We are thankful to be part of the Community here and it is our desire to be useful, to reach out where there is need and help maintain the community feel in whatever we do. In this respect you will be most welcome at any activity we organise from children and young people's work, to the Olive Branch, Olive Shoots (Mums & Tots), Sunday services and much more.

I look forward to seeing you round and about.

Every blessing
Phil Walter (Revd)

Contact: Phil on
882040



What's New?

Our Sunday Service

Our Sunday Service is now from 10:30 to 11:45 on a Sunday and includes Junior Church for children and young people. Refreshments are served after the Service to which you are warmly welcome.

BreaCFast@9

BreaCFast@9 – a new and exciting informal Service for all the family which launches on Sunday April 19th from 09:00 – 10:00. This will include Breakfast, kids craft and quizzes and games, Bible stories and relevant adult thought for the day. To be held in the Lower Hall at Brixworth School. Do come along and meet others from the village.

Easter Holiday Club

A new venture before the launch of BreaCFast@9

As we do for the Summer Club we will be putting out through the school details of how to register, dates, times and relevant information. We are aware that there is a limit on the number of places available (around 100) and we will do our very best to be fair in this allocation. It is open to children of Primary & Junior School age (5-11) and will be held on 9th & 10th of April.

If your child is not at Brixworth School then please drop in at the Olive Branch where a form can be collected. These will be available from w/c 16th March.



Outdoor Christmas Nativity Sunday 21st December

What an amazing afternoon was had on Sunday December 21st when our Outdoor Carol Service reached new heights! Between three and four hundred people gathered to watch a nativity play where the actors and children excelled. The Christmas story of the birth of Jesus was central to the afternoon, and we thank all who came along to support it and make it such a worthwhile occasion. Don't miss next years.

Would you like us to pray for you?



Maybe facing a difficulty or loss? You can do this in three ways – firstly to write the need down using the box in the Olive Branch, secondly to use (text or phone) our prayer line on 07917 573784 or to contact our minister Phil on 882040 or Mark our Community Worker on 882832 who will be very willing to chat and pray with you.

Mother's Day Family Celebration

March 15th 10.30a.m.

At the school

share the joy of Mothers Day in this Family Service designed for young and old



The Olive Branch

Our thanks to all who volunteer for a few hours each week. They enjoy serving the community in this way.

EASTER

Good Friday- come and join the BCF Community Church & All Saints on Good Friday for a short service outside the Library, a walk following a Cross and then Hot Cross Buns and a hot drink at the Olive Branch. Beginning at 11.00 come as a family and share this special occasion.

Easter Sunday-



All are most welcome



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 Community Church Weekly events

- Sunday:** 09:00 – 10:00 BreCFast@9 (from April 16th.)
10:30 – 11:45 Main Service of Worship (Brixworth school) (including Junior Church and Creche)
- Monday:** 20:00 – 21:30 Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
- Tuesday:** 19:30 – 21:00 TNT – for Teenagers*
- Wednesday:** 20:00 – 21:30 Home study Groups
- Thursday:** 10:00 – 11:30 Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group*
- Friday:** 17:00 – 18:00 Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years*
18:15 – 19:15 Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11*

(*held at the Library & Community Centre)

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

Library events

Activities for children

Stories & Rhymes for the Under 5s and their parents/carers – Mondays 2.30pm

Rhymetime for the Under 5s and their parents/carers – Fridays 10.15am

Family Activities – Sundays 1-4pm

Check for all the latest activities at www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary

Easter holiday activities

Messy Crafts – Wednesday 1st & Wednesday 8th April 2.30pm

Free fun for all children 2-11 years & parents/carers – please book in advance in the library or email brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Other events

The Northamptonshire Family History Society: Getting Started in Family History

Friday 27th February 11am

A free talk, but please book tickets in advance from Brixworth Library (or email brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk) There will be a display in the foyer from Saturday 14th February until Friday 27th February.

James Hornsby in a one-man production version of Bram Stoker's "Dracula"

Friday 6th March 7.30pm

Tickets £7.50 each to include a drink & refreshments will be available. Please feel free to dress in Gothic attire to add to the atmosphere of the production (not compulsory!). Tickets available from Brixworth Library.

NAB Mobile Unit

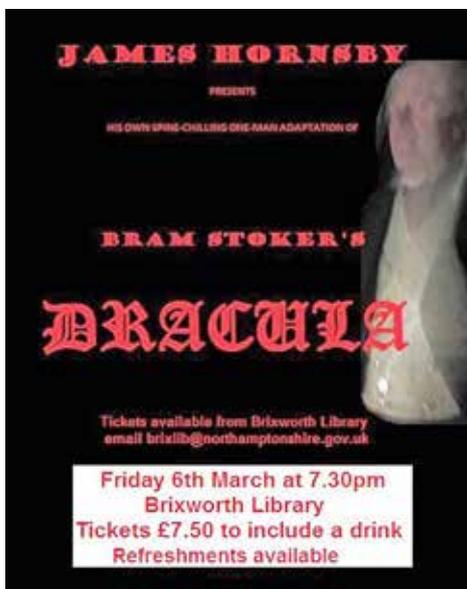
Wednesday 23rd March 11:30 to 12:45pm

Visit us on the Library & Community Centre forecourt for help and advice.

Exhibition: Lamport, Scaldwell & Brixworth Ironstone Quarries & Railways

6th-28th June

The organisers would like anyone who has



any information, photographs, letter heads or memories of the Brixworth Ironstone Co. 1880-1948, or Attenborough & Timms 1899, or the subsidiary company Claycross Co. 1928, please get in touch via Brixworth Library (brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

Scrapbooking Club – Saturday 28th February 10am – 12pm

Informal friendly group meets one Saturday a month – small charge involved towards cost materials. Come along & find out more.

Brixworth Library Morning Readers Group – Book Club meets first Tuesday of the month 10.30am Open to all – please ask us or email brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk

New to Brixworth Library!

Meet, Greet & Move Your Feet! – Sundays 1.15 to 2.15pm starting February/March - dates to be confirmed

Gentle exercise session for all ages, seated or non-seated, with Jane Simons, £4 per session. Ask in the Library or check our Facebook page for more details.

Meet the new IT Buddies

If you need help with IT basics, or using a laptop, or want to get to grips with a new iPad, or any other IT questions or queries, then Robin and Nick (*pictured*) are here to help. They have years of experience in IT-based jobs and can give you free help and advice at a convenient time for you at Brixworth Library. Just come in and make an appointment.

Nick says: "Whether you want to research your ancestry or just keep up with the grandchildren, computers can help you. If you need help with computers, then we can help you. We promise never to bamboozle you with buzz words, nor drown you in jargon, but to only ever go at your pace. Really, we have the patience of a saint."

Time for tea and a read

The library is open every Sunday 1-4pm. Why not come along for a quiet read of the Sunday newspapers or your favourite magazine, and enjoy tea and biscuits for a £1.

Get involved at your local library

We need 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 a volunteering role at the library?

We have several specific volunteering roles at the moment:

Under 5s Activities Helper/ Leader

If you enjoy working with young children, we currently have vacancies for volunteers to help deliver and/or prepare activities for the Under 5s. This could be an hour or so any weekday or weekends. If you could help on a



regular basis, but not necessarily every week this is a great fun and flexible role.

Homework/Discovery Club Helper

Wednesdays 3.30-5pm, term-time only. If you enjoy working with four- to eleven-year-olds, helping with homework queries or preparing activities etc, this could be the role for you. Can be on an occasional or regular basis.

Children's Library Helpers

Whether you would enjoy helping keep the Children's Library tidy, updating displays, creating displays, helping with or creating children's activities term-time or holidays, or both, this is a flexible role that you can adapt to suit your skills and your time.

Super Sunday Volunteer

On Sundays we are open 1-4pm. If you have some time to spare on a regular basis, this is a varied role, could be greeting customers, making coffees, helping with craft activities, tidying, shelving etc.

Volunteer Fundraiser – organising your own events or helping others to organise fundraising events for the library.

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.

Other services

Bus Passes – new and renewals

DVD hire

Help with online Blue Badge Applications

Computer Use – free on Fridays (charge for printing)

Photocopying

Laminating

Library shop

Room Hire/Exhibition Space Hire - For more information on booking the Mezzanine for an Exhibition, please speak to Library Staff.

Opening hours

Monday – Friday 10am to 6pm

Saturdays 9am to 1pm

Sundays 1pm to 4pm

Closed 3-6 April for Easter.

Contact us at brixlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk and keep up to date with all the latest activities at www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary

What's on

2 Mar	The Circus of Horrors	Derngate
3 Mar	Levellers - a curious life	Derngate
3 Mar	The boy in the striped pyjamas	Royal
4 Mar	Life & Music of Doris Day	Lighthouse Theatre
4 Mar	RSC Live: Love's Labours Won	Errol Flynn Filmhouse
5 Mar	Park	The Castle
5 Mar	Puppetry of the Penis	Derngate
6 Mar	Paul Carrack	Derngate
6 Mar	Only Fools and Boycie	Corby Cube
6 Mar	Moose Blood	Roadmender
6 Mar	Hactivists	Underground
7 Mar	Richard & Adam	Derngate
8 Mar	NMPAT Wind Band	Derngate
8 Mar	Nathan Carter	Corby Cube
10 Mar	Rumours of Fleetwood	Derngate
11 Mar	Brendan Cole	Derngate
11 Mar	New Model Army	Roadmender
11 Mar	ENO Live: La Traviata	Corby Cube
12 Mar	Madame Butterfly	Derngate
12 Mar	NT Live: Behind the Beautiful Forevers	EF Filmhouse
12 Mar	A Clockwork Orange	Royal
12 Mar	Joe McElderry	Corby Cube
13 Mar	Dylan Moran	Derngate
13-15/3	The Last Days of Judas	Royal
13-15/3	Dying for it	Royal
13 Mar	Elvis in Vegas	Corby Cube
14 Mar	Flicks in the Sticks: The Book Thief	St Catherine's, Draughton
14 Mar	Suzanne's Street Dance	Corby Cube
14 Mar	Fascinating Aida	Derngate
14 Mar	Met Opera: La Donna	EF Filmhouse
16-21/3	Jesus Christ Superstar	Derngate
16-21/3	The Mikado	Royal
19-22/3	School Shorts	Underground
21 Mar	Easter Fun Day incl Great Brixworth Bake-Off	Brixworth Centre
24-26/3	Secret Adversary	Royal

24-29 Mar	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime	Derngate
25-28/3	Corby Gang Show	Corby Cube
27 Mar	Stiff Little Fingers	Roadmender
28 Mar	Basil Brush Show	Lighthouse
28 Mar	Funeral For a Friend	Roadmender
29 Mar	Essence of Ireland	Derngate
30 Mar - 2 Apr	Holiday Project: Mr Stink	Underground
30 Mar - 2 Apr	Holiday Project: Mini Mr	Underground
1 Apr	Aled Jones	Derngate
1 Apr	Behind the beautiful Forevers	Corby Cube
2 Apr	The Bohemians	Corby Cube
3-4 Apr	The Tiger who came to Tea	Corby Cube
3-25 Apr	Cyrano de Bergerac	Royal
4-5 Apr	Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom	Derngate
5-6 Apr	Antique and Collectors Fair	Lampport Hall
7 Apr	Hugless Douglas	The Castle
7-10 Apr	Holiday Project: Mr Stink	Underground
7-10 Apr	Holiday Project: Mini Mr	Underground
9 Apr	Simon & Garfunkel	Derngate
9 April, 2-4pm	Easter Activity Afternoon	Brixworth Centre Preschool
10 Apr	Russell Watson	Derngate
10 Apr	Chicago Blues Brothers	Corby Cube
11 Apr	Pub Quiz & Barbecue in aid of Mind	The George Inn, Brixworth
11 Apr	That'll be the Day	Derngate
12 Apr	Christoph Koenig	Derngate
16 Apr	The Supreme Fabulettes	Derngate
16 Apr	NT Live: The Hard Problem	EF Filmhouse
16 Apr	NT Live: The Hard Problem	Corby Cube
17 Apr	Sex in Suburbia	Derngate
18 Apr	Kate Rusby	Derngate
18 Apr	The Fairytale of Naples	Underground
18 Apr	Can the Mountain Love	Underground
19 Apr	Ivan the Terrible	EF Filmhouse
21 Apr	We'll meet again	Derngate
23 Apr	Milton Jones	Derngate
24 Apr	Let's hang on	Corby Cube
24 Apr - 16 May	King John	Holy Sepulchre Church
25 Apr	Al Murray	Derngate
25 Apr	Met Opera: Cavalleria	EF Filmhouse

25 26 April	Spratton remembers The Great War	Spratton Hall School
28 Apr, 7.30pm	Parish Meeting	B'worth Community Centre
29 Apr	Lee Nelson	Derngate
30 Apr	Whitney Queen of the Night	Derngate
1 May	The Kilkennys	Corby Cube
1 May	Stewart Lee	Derngate
2 May	NMVC 300 Boys & Brass	Derngate
3-29 May	Alan Carr	Derngate
3-4 May	Art, Craft & Design Fair	Lampport Hall
7 May	Katherine Ryan	Corby Cube
8 May	The Illegal Eagles	Corby Cube
9 May	Draughton Parish Bazaar	Spratton Hall
9 May	We've only just Begun	Derngate
10 May	Alison Roddy	Derngate
10 May	BB Society Book Fair	Brixworth Village Hall
11-16/5	Anything Goes	Derngate
12 May	Brixworth Parish Council AGM	B'worth Community Centre
12 May	The History of visiting Wren's St Pauls'	Lampport Hall
15 May	Ruby Wax	Royal
15 May	Barb Jungr	Corby Cube
16 May	Shakespeare in Music Workshop	Lampport Hall
16 May	Doc Brown	Royal
17 May	Mary Black - the Last Call	Derngate
18-23/5	Beautiful Thing	Royal
19 May	ENO Live: Pirates of Penzance	Corby Cube
19 May	Tim Vine	Lighthouse
21 May	Reginald D Hunter	Derngate
21 May	The Cavern Beatles	Corby Cube
22-24/5	Café Crescendo	Underground
22 May	The Illegal Eagles	Derngate
23 May	Paul Merton's Impro Chums	Derngate
24-May	Astor Big Band	Derngate
24-25/5	Festival of Country Life	Lampport Hall
27-28/5	Dara O'Briain	Derngate
27-30/5	Cats: The Witches of Eastwick	Corby Cube
30 May	Killer Queen	Derngate
31 May	Natalie Clein performs Dvorak	Derngate

Brixworth Landscaping

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

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

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This year we have been investing in our coaches and I would like to congratulate Darren Hiller on passing his FA Level 2 coaching badge along with Simon Compton who gained the FA Youth Module 1 award. Hopefully more of our coaches will be progressing through the badges and passing the knowledge onto the players and other coaches in the club.

The club has its annual Quiz Night in April and its Club Day in May. Donations of prizes for the raffle would be much appreciated. Last year's prizes were amazing with Pitsford Cycles donating a Specialized child's bike. We had more prizes from Troops Greengrocers, Chambers, Helen West Jewellery, Daisy Roots, Mercedes Benz, The Coach & Horses, The George Inn, Northampton Town FC and John Henry Sports.

U10s

Armistice day this year was commemorated

with the FA asking for team shots before any matches. The U10 Panthers (*pictured, above*) were quite happy to oblige and stood for a photo with their Opponents Bilton Ajax. It was a very close and competitive game played in good spirits. The Panthers running out eventual victors at 1-0. An unusually low score line at this age level.

Minis

The club's youngest group of players, the U6s, are now competing against other teams at Darlington Park every other week. They have got off to a quite remarkable start and are more than just competing but are winning most of their games. We have also gone from two teams to three teams at this age level and all the players seem to be really enjoying themselves.

The minis have also moved their fun training sessions from St. David's to The Ashway playing field. This does give the parents the

opportunity to watch from the comfort of their cars whilst the coaches and children battle the elements at this time of the year.

We are still on the lookout for any parent that would like to join in with the coaching. If your child does take part in the Minis why don't you join in and become a coach as well?

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.

If you would like to read some more about the club please have a look at our website www.brixworthjuniors.co.uk.

If you would like to join any of our teams, become a coach or offer any sponsorship please get in touch by email on chairman@brixworthjuniors.co.uk. - Rob Kelly

Fun, fitness and friendship at the Tennis Club

With Spring just around the corner and the days thankfully getting longer, now is the perfect time for everyone to have fun, keep fit and make new friends to join Brixworth Tennis Club.

Players of all abilities and ages are extremely welcome to join in. It really does not matter if you have never held a racket before, not played for many years or fancy yourself as the next Andy Murray or Heather Watson – why not play tennis, it really is a fun way of keeping fit.

The tennis club has three superb hard courts and is located within the cricket grounds on Northampton Road. The subscriptions are amongst the lowest in the country with adults only £50 per year, under 18s only £20 per year and a family membership (two adults and children) just £120 per year. Adult and junior coaching is also available for those who feel that they would benefit.

There are also social events throughout the year. On Friday nights between April and September, tennis and cricket club members can enjoy a drink from the club bar, catch up with friends or enjoy a BBQ within the beautiful grounds. There are normally circa 150 people at the club every Friday playing or watching the sports and enjoying a glass of wine or a beer, they really are super evenings.

Anybody interested in joining Brixworth Tennis Club should contact Will Haxby on 01604 880715 / 07912 267988 or visit the club website www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk
- Will Haxby

Golfing dates for your diary

Brixworth Amateur Golf Society have arranged the following venues for 2015:

6th March at Kilworth Springs Golf Club - The George Clapton Memorial Trophy

24th April at Lutterworth Golf Club

19th June at Forest Hill Golf Club

7th August at Aspley Guise Golf Club

2nd October at Cosby Golf Club - The Tim Moulds Jug

7th April The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Sports Pavillion; everybody is welcome.

Anybody interested in joining please ring John Wilson on 880490

- John Wilson, Secretary, Brixworth Amateur Golf Society