

Judge awards Pointer £23k in damages – cost bill still not in

Brixworth Parish Council has been ordered by the Employment Tribunal to pay former Councillor Stephen Pointer almost £23,000 in damages in a long-running legal dispute over discrimination. The award consists of £15,000 for injury to feeling, £3,000 exemplary damages and £4,723 interest, bringing the total to £22,723.

The payment has already been made, though Pointer says that the PC deducted over £10,000 which Pointer owed the Parish Council from a previous case brought in the County Court. The PC is funding the payments from its Reserves.

The dispute first emerged in 2013 and revolves around whether and how the PC



Judge Michael Ord: "This case is the legal equivalent of the Somme"

was obliged to provide Pointer with 'reasonable adjustment' for his visual impairment – specifically, Pointer had asked for an electronic device to help him read Council paperwork, and an iPad was deemed to be the most cost-effective solution.

The case is still ongoing: at *Bulletin* press time, both parties were awaiting a decision on who pays the costs, which amount to many tens of thousands.

Judge Michael Ord criticised on the length and difficulty of the tribunal: "The aim of an employment tribunal is for all parties to cooperate and to help resolve cases quickly and avoid wasting costs. This case on the other hand has been conducted disproportionately all the way. Every step has been trench warfare, it's the legal equivalent of the Somme." The hearings to settle the costs of the case took place in June 2017 but a final ruling is not expected to be made public until the autumn.

– Claudia Flavell-White

New home for Northampton Pets

Many animal lovers were saddened to learn that the popular pet shop, Northampton Pets, was due to close after the landlord declined to renew the shop's lease. Northampton Pets, which shut down in the middle of August, not only provided pet supplies, but also advice and support to residents when needed.

Happily, the shop will be relocating to the Woodmeadow Garden Centre on the A43 to Kettering at the beginning of October, where it will enjoy bigger and better premises. Located a little way before Hannington, it will still be the nearest pet shop for Brixworth residents at just 10 minutes away.

It was run by Katie Bland, whose warm and friendly manner and her enthusiasm for community involvement made Brixworth residents take Katie and the shop to their hearts when it opened back in October 2014. "I have made so many good friends in the village over the years", says Katie.

More than just a pet shop, Katie has offered puppy parties, nail clipping services, boarding for small animals and birds, as well as educational visits for groups of young children. Katie has also regularly taken in distressed strays and lost animals that have been found by local residents.

"It's with a truly heavy heart that I have to close my little shop," says Katie. "I shall really miss being part of this friendly community, but as much as I wish I could stay, there's nothing I can do!" Katie's passion for the village is the reason why she has been so keen to stay as close as she can, and Katie hopes to retain as much of her current customer base as possible.

Despite the competition from the larger stores, Katie has

succeeded in growing her business year on year. "I think I was lucky to open the shop on the back of the previous owners", Katie says modestly, referring to the previous owners, and Katie's good friends, Audrey and Roger Miller, who started the shop, and Shane Davison, who followed them.



Katie says her experience of running her own business in Brixworth has been fantastic. "Since day one, the support I've had from the locals has been amazing. But the support I've had over the past couple of months has been nothing short of overwhelming!!" says a visibly emotional Katie.

We wish her well.

– Jennifer Fitzgerald

The Brixworth Bulletin are:

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

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

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

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

The *Brixworth Bulletin* is published
quarterly in March, June, September and
December.

The deadline for contributions and
advertising for the December 2017 issue is
25 October 2017.

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Tennis Club joins the LTA

Having now been running for just over four years, and with a steady membership of more than 100 members, Brixworth Tennis Club has taken the step in developing the club by joining the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).

LTA membership affords the Club access to many benefits including grants/loan applications, support with LTA programmes such as junior coaching, and free British Tennis membership for members of the Club. It is probably the latter that will be of immediate interest as any Brixworth Tennis Club member who signs up as a BTM member, will be entered into the Wimbledon Ticket Ballot. The more BTM members affiliated to the club, the more pairs of tickets the club will be allocated! – *Peter Saxton*

Junior Tennis Tournament – Another great success

July saw the second Junior Tournament at Brixworth Tennis Club with even more competitors this year than last. Children competing ranged from aged 5 to 17 and came from as far as Mawsley and Olney.

Again, the weather was kind and alongside the tournament there was a T20 cricket match and BBQ – a great day out for all the family!

Due to numbers, this year we had five categories where each winner was presented with a plated trophy; so, a huge well done to all of Brixworth Tennis Club's Junior competitors, and congratulations go to the following winners:

Mini Reds – James Staniforth
Mini Oranges – Mitchell Wilkinson
Mini Greens – Toby Haxby
Mini Yellows – Tom Moxon
Yellows – Austin Wilkinson

2017 Adult Tournament

Following on from the last two years' successful tournaments Brixworth Tennis Club is holding the 2017 Adults High Tea Tournament on Sunday 24th September.

The tournament is open to both members and non-members and will consist of each player playing mixed doubles with various different partners and earning points for each game won. The player with the highest number of points at the end of the tournament wins the 2017 title and trophy.

Spectators are welcome, the bar will be open and a delicious tea will be laid on after.

The tournament starts at 2pm and prices are £10 for non-members, £5 for members and £5 for spectators.

Interested in becoming a member?
Contact Jonathan Martin on 07970 100196,
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Educational cash grants - apply now

Did you know that there is a local charity that supports people aged up to 25 years who live in Brixworth and Scaldwell?

The Thomas Roe Foundation provides cash grants to any qualifying person for use for educational purposes. Grants have been made to assist in the purchase of school uniform, books and course materials, musical instruments, computer equipment, and educational travelling expenses including school trips.

To apply, pick up an application form from the library in Brixworth or the Information Point on Spratton Road, or contact the Clerk to the Trustees, Ursula Morris, on 505554 or email her on ursula@ursulamorris.co.uk.

Meetings of the Trustees are held twice yearly to consider applications. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th September 2017.

Christmas Charity Portrait Sessions

Brixworth Photographic Society will be holding the annual Christmas Charity Portrait Sessions in the Community Centre on Spratton Road on the weekend 1st/2nd/3rd December 2017. To book a timeslot please contact Ian Topham, email ian@tophams.net, or on Social Media @lan G Topham or via the Brixworth Let Us Know page.

2018 Brixworth Calendar

Brixworth Photographic Society will be producing, in conjunction with Brixworth Parish Council, the 2018 Brixworth Calendar. It will be available from the beginning of November, look out for it in the Library, Olive Branch, Information Point (all in the Community Centre) K. Troops, Brixworth Hardware Stores and Blason's Garage.

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Saxon Rise continues to top Speedwatch Concerns



The new Barratts housing development of Saxon Rise continues to be Brixworth's speeding hotspot for the second year running.

Two thirds of the cars found to be speeding during the 2017 annual Speedwatch campaign were caught at Saxon Rise. In total, this year's campaign, which took place in June and July, clocked 342 cars exceeding the 30mph limit, 214 of which at Saxon Rise on Northampton Road. A further 77 were over the speed limit a little further down the same road, at Saxon Heights. The other six sites part of the campaign, on Spratton Road, Holcot Road, Station Cottages and Harborough Road between them only had 51 speeding vehicles.

The number of speeding vehicles caught is sharply higher than in 2016, when a total of 233 cars were caught, 134 of which at Saxon Rise and 54 on Saxon Heights. This is an overall increase of 47%.

"The two sites on Northampton Road are a major concern; something really must be done to address the speeds at which people drive in that part of the village," says Howard Reader, the coordinator of the Speedwatch campaign.

Speedwatch relies entirely on volunteers who dedicate a few hours on a morning or evening in the summer to running the campaign; if there aren't sufficient volunteers the campaign cannot run. If you would like to help out in the 2018 Speedwatch, please contact Howard Reader on 882238. – *cfw*

SSPG Health Talks

Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group will be continuing our series of Health Education Talks with a talk on Keeping your Joints Healthy by Dr Simon Twigg.

The talks take place at Guilsborough Surgery on Tuesday 3rd October at 7pm

and at Brixworth Surgery on Tuesday 24th October at 7pm.

For more information on the above events, please feel free to contact Barbara Hogg on 01604 880552 or email her on barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk

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Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

We hope you have all had a great summer with lots of adventures! We have lots planned for our young people this autumn. Meanwhile here are just some of the things they got up to before the break.

The **Beavers** like to make the most of the light nights and fine weather in the summer term with many outside activities. They walked through the very dark Brampton Valley Tunnels and took part in a Scavenger Hunt. In two trips to the Overstone Scout campsite, they first tackled Roy's Challenge obstacle course and built a campfire to cook sausages and toast marshmallows. The second was to have a go at the climbing wall and try their hand at grass sledging – or should that be mud sledging? The Beavers also improved their cycling skills and learnt about the Green Cross code on special tracks the leaders set up at St David's park. The term was finished off with the obligatory water games at The Ashway Park and a party in Scaldwell Park.

The Beavers also said goodbye to some leaders, some have retired and some have moved to different sections within the group. We thank them for their time and wish them well. The Beavers have been lucky in recruiting a number of new leaders and will continue to be able to offer a range of activities to the young people in the section.

At the same time **Cubs** learned to tie useful knots and, to earn the pioneering badge, built a frame from wooden poles and rope to carry other Cubs across the schoolyard. We enjoyed outdoor activities including a cycle ride round Pitsford Reservoir, hiking round Sywell country park, a visit to Sywell Aerodrome and a number of Cubs took part in the District camp near Kettering which involved rock climbing, orienteering, an obstacle course and the campfire sing song. The Cubs earned over 300 badges this term showing how they continue to learn new skills and they are looking forward to the Autumn term which will include rock climbing and a trip to Gallones.

Meanwhile, the **Scouts** have been busy working with the Parish Council and Troops to put flower boxes at the entrances to the village. They have also been raft building, bell boating and pioneering and have had many other adventures besides. They competed against each other with the help of family members on the dads and lads evening. The Scouts finished off this term with a camp where they took part in many new and exciting activities with other Scouts from the County.

The **Explorers** have also been out and about. They walked from Harlestone Firs back to Brixworth, planned a route for the Daventry District walk in the Peaks later in the term and took part in Fathers' Day crafts at the centre. The Explorers had a go at bell boating over at the reservoir, played ultimate Frisbee in St David's Park and rounders in the grounds of Pitsford School. They have also had BBQs and games in Brixworth Country Park and spent a couple of evenings camping at Wells Next the Sea in August.

The **AGM** was held on the 18th May 2017 at the Brixworth centre, with district DCommissioner, Marcus Thorneycroft. The Group Chair stepped down, so nominations for a replacement would be appreciated.

As always, we 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 too can join in all the fun.

To find out more about Scouts visit scouts.org.uk/. To find out about Brixworth and Scaldwell Scout Group contact Lisa Irons, Group Scout Leader on brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com.

To put your young person (boy or girl) on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers email their name, date of birth, your name, address and telephone numbers to brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk

– Kim Philips

Dynamites celebrate



The Children's group "Dynamites", run by volunteers from Brixworth Community Church, held a celebration in early July for the children and their families.

We got to hear from the children why they enjoy the group so much; some said they enjoyed the craft, others said it's just fun and then others enjoy the fun with water nights and others the end of term parties. We chose this time to debut this year's holiday club song "Be Happy" by Dougie Dug Dug which really got everyone moving.

The children were awarded with certificates and a prize. Afterwards we all met up at the Country Park for a picnic and to relax after all that celebrating. Dynamites starts back after the Summer holidays on the 8th September. We hope you have a fantastic summer! – Mark Palmer

Bowls Club warms up for next season

Following on from the success of finishing runners up in the Northants Friendly Bowling League, the Brixworth Short Mat Bowls Club's pre-season friendly practice games have gone well with new players taking part in the matches. An away loss to Old started the summer, followed by home and away wins against Guilsborough, a home win against Old and more matches arranged before the new league season starts.

On 2nd June, 18 members took part in the annual target night with a fish and chip supper. This event is always fun. Dave Templeman won with a score of 16, runner up was Christine Warrington on 14 followed by Helen Nice on 11.

Short Mat Bowling is great fun and can be played by a person of any age, if you fancy having a try come to the Brixworth Center any Friday at 2.30 or 7.30pm (equipment provided).

For more information contact the chairperson on 07762 211721, visit brixworthbowlsclub.com and like us on Facebook. – Martin Carnell



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District Council consults on Conservation Area Extension

Daventry District Council is consulting on proposed changes to Brixworth's conservation area.

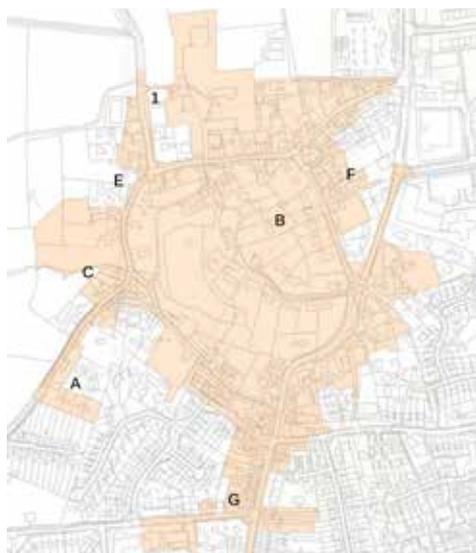
DDC would like to extend the boundaries of the area to include the whole of Brixworth Hall Park (the existing area only includes half the park) and the Swedish Cottages on Froghall.

"This would give added protection to the former Hall's kitchen garden, the Gardener's Cottage in the north-east corner of the park, and several sections of the wall that were not previously protected," explains Rhian Morgan, Heritage Policy Officer at DDC. "It will also protect the general shape of the area, landscape and trees, and help preserve the remains of the hall for future archaeology."

The four Swedish Houses meanwhile were part of a gift of the King of Sweden during the 1940s to alleviate the housing crisis at the time. Morgan says: "There are quite a few of them in Northamptonshire and we feel they ought to be protected; they are a very specific piece of modern history."

Buildings and trees inside the conservation areas are subject to stricter planning controls, designed to protect local heritage. These controls can prevent the demolition of buildings and walls, restrict the construction of extensions, dormer windows and other roof alterations, and may affect the installation of satellite dishes and certain types of cladding. Owners also need to seek permission for any work to trees inside a conservation area.

On top of the boundary changes, DDC wants to establish a Local List which gives further protection to specific historic buildings, on top of any Listed status they might already enjoy. Proposed are 33 buildings inside the conservation area, on Church Street, Harborough Road, Holcot Road, Kennel Terrace, Newlands,



The proposed new conservation area. The letters denote changes from the current borders.

Map courtesy of Ordnance Survey

Northampton Road, Saneco Lane, Spratton Road, Station Road and Froghall.

For full details visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk and search for conservation areas.

The consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 4 September. Send comments to Rhian Morgan, at heritage@daventrydc.gov.uk. – cfw

Queen's Award for DACT

Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT) has received a prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Award, also known as the MBE for Volunteer Groups, recognizes excellence in voluntary activities carried out in the community. Writing to DACT, the assessors for the Queen's Award say: "The work your group does for the community was very much admired by the independent Assessment Committee."

DACT provides door-to-door transport for people to attend medical appointments, for example by driving elderly and infirm patients to doctor's appointments and hospitals.

The organisation is funded by grants and donations. It currently has 112 volunteer car drivers, who use their own cars for the scheme, and 31 volunteer minibuses who use DACT's seven minibuses to take community groups on a variety of trips.

Rob Kinning, chief executive of DACT, told volunteers and staff: "Take a bow everyone, you all deserve this massive thank you from the Queen. This is also testament to all of the previous Volunteers & Staff who have given their time to get DACT to the level that has led to this award." – cfw



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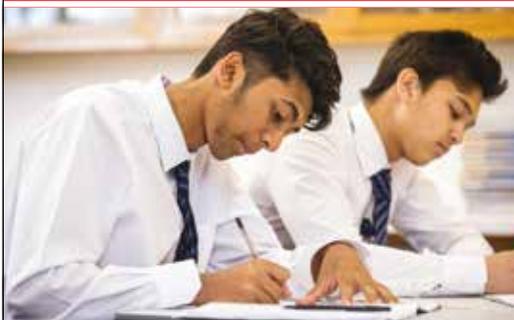
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Fresh start for Friends of Brixworth Library

The Friends of Brixworth Library was recently reformed this year after the group had been dormant for a while. The group in the past has been able to fundraise and purchase equipment for use exclusively within the library. Some of the children's area equipment and furniture was purchased by the former Friends Group.

Jill Barber, one of the library managers, was keen to revive the group, and so put out an appeal in the library to see if she could gather some fresh blood in volunteers. She was pleasantly surprised that a band of merry men and women came forward to help, including a few individuals who were part of the original Friends Group.

Brixworth library is a very central service to Brixworth and surrounding villages and is used by the community, young and old. It is more than just a place to read or borrow books. It is used to hold weekly Rhymetime sessions and baby clinics. There are always craft activities set out for local children to pop in and take part in and areas for parents and children to wait and chat whilst their siblings are taking part in Rainbows or ballet. In the summer holidays there is the Reading Agency Summer Reading Challenge to encourage summer reading plus other holiday activity sessions. The existence of a Friends Group is vital in helping the sustainability of the library.

The new group now meets approximately every two months to discuss the group's structure and future fundraising plans. It has two chairpersons, a secretary and a treasurer plus a small group of volunteers. The new group has moved into the modern age with a Facebook page "Friends of Brixworth Library" to publicise their events and connect with the local community.

So far the group has managed to organise a quiz night which was very well attended. We also held a book sale recently, selling donated books. More quizzes are to be planned at regular intervals throughout

2017/2018. We also have a Vintage and Craft Fayre planned for the Saturday 4th November, with vintage and crafts stalls, plus traditional tea and cakes.

The Friends Group has also purchased a coffee machine. This is available to all users of the library at just £1.20 per cup of coffee. They have provided safety cups for parents wishing to have a cuppa in the children's area, and mugs for everyone else. We are considering offering a takeaway service in the future.

The Friends Group are always looking for new volunteers to join their group. They are a really friendly bunch and are keen to brainstorm new and exciting ideas for the library.

Dates of future events

Monday 11th September 8:00pm - Next **Friends Meeting** at Brixworth Library - all welcome

Fri 13th October 7:30pm - **Friends Quiz Night**. Tickets £6 including fish and chip supper. Tickets need to be pre-booked to reserve food orders. Tickets available via our Facebook page "Friends of Brixworth Library"

Fri 20th October 9:30am - **Friends Meeting** at Brixworth Library - all welcome

Sat 4th November 12-2pm - **Vintage and Craft Fayre**. Stallholders to Contact Issy for details and to book a stall on 07764 802114 or chairbrixlib@hotmail.com.

Date to be confirmed - Production of "A Christmas Carol" by James Hornsby

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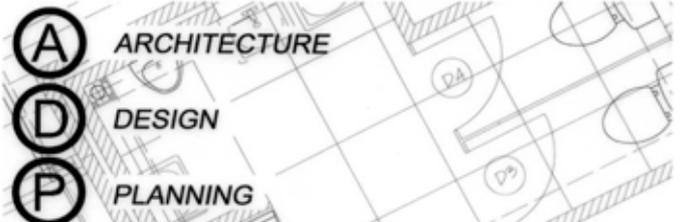
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Draughton's Classic Cars & Village Fair

We are a tiny village but we surely punched well above our weight this year with our third Classic Car Show and Village Fair which is gaining a real following.

We had a wonderful day (with only the smallest shower). The gleaming cars were superb, some dating back to early 20th century, and Draughton villagers, friends and families worked their collective socks off to provide the best plants, games, stalls and teas ever! We even tried to outdo the Ritz this year, and complemented the elegant cars with bone china and cream teas.

The cars were duly admired and lusted after. We thank all who brought their beautiful machines to glimmer in the sun; and the stalls were just buzzing all afternoon. From the flowers on the tables in the tea marquee to the glorious array of cars on the field, it was a truly lovely occasion. Notwithstanding those hardworking Draughtonians and friends could barely speak with tiredness at the end of it all, there was enough goodwill remaining to lift a glass in the (otherwise well-drained!) pop-up-pub to toast a super day.

Visitors remarked on how much they'd enjoyed simply everything and so we look ahead to Sunday June 24th 2018, when we hope to do it all over again.

If you have a super car please let us know. We have limited space and so the "Car Monitor" needs to know what you may be able to bring to fill our field next year.

Contact him at: sebastian.calnan@yahoo.co.uk – *Kate Calnan*

Kelmarsh Hall wins £15k Council grant

The Kelmarsh Trust is delighted to have been awarded a grant of £15,000 from Daventry District Council to support the Heritage Lottery Funded Tunnelling Through the Past project.



The grant has been awarded through Daventry District Council's Capital Grants scheme which is available for organisations needing assistance with capital investment. Work is now well under way at Kelmarsh Hall to open up the 'below stairs' servants' quarters and old laundry to visitors (due to open in late summer 2017).

The grant from Daventry District Council will specifically support the completion of Kelmarsh Hall & Gardens' new Learning Space. Kelmarsh currently runs an award winning school visit programme to the Gardens as well as family trails and craft activities, but these are largely weather dependent and constrained by a lack of dedicated facilities.

The Tunnelling Through the Past project will open up hidden areas of the Hall and provide dedicated learning facilities and an exciting programme of events and activities for families and schools.

Carla Cooper, Manager for Fundraising and Visitor Services said: "This support from Daventry District Council will help to provide much needed improvements to lighting, storage and enable us to install magnetic walls and sinks inside the Learning Space to enhance the way we use it."

The Learning Space will be housed in the former stables and will be a central location for the busy activity programme for families and schools which Kelmarsh is currently developing.

General Manager, Lesley Denton, added: "We want to become one of the few historic houses in the country to offer a real family and education experience. In addition to the exciting technology which will be there for visitors to enjoy in the Hall, the Learning Space will mean we can offer a great day out for families and schools with lots of hands-on activities with a space dedicated for that purpose."

The project at Kelmarsh supports Daventry District Council's vision to 'Develop a Better District.' The families and school programme will enable Kelmarsh to target specific under-represented audiences by offering free or subsidised visits through partnership organisations and schools as well as breaking down barriers and encouraging access and equality through improved disabled access and extending opening times for the Hall (including offering after-hours events).

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Country Eye

No-go in the countryside

'Are the badgers still there?' The question came from my daughter, and referred to the long-standing badger sett just 300 yards from my home. Indeed it is likely that this sett had been home to a badger family much longer than the house I live in, which was built in 1977. Diane knew that I had kept an eye on the comings and goings of my grey haired black-and-white faced neighbours.

It is a sad but far from untypical fact that I am no longer able to wander the short distance along the lane at the end of my garden, for the informal permission to do so has been withdrawn. Similarly the tiny field corner where wild flowers and the priceless bees, beetles, and butterflies they supported, is out of bounds. Yet I can be reasonably certain they are all still there. The badgers still visit the garden of my daughter and son-in-law just a few doors along the street. Only a day or so ago they heard them in the small hours noisily hoovering up the nuts and seeds scattered around below the bird feeders. Bees and butterflies of several different species are regular visitors to my garden, so I know they continue to exist.

This erosion of our 'right to roam' in the countryside has continued for centuries. Many would say that it started with the rise of the sheep barons, who with their private armies rode into our countryside, evicted all who stood in their way, and built the great stone walls around them that shout KEEP OUT at us. But the pace quickened in succeeding centuries when the hundreds of Enclosure Acts of Parliament led to the parcelling up of huge swathes of our countryside, which have since been for sale only to the highest bidder.



So for many years past real access to open countryside here in the lowlands has been confined to those narrow ribbons that are our footpaths and bridleways.

It would be nice to say that these trackways at least are well trodden, and some of them are. But all too often these days they are neglected and overgrown, in far too many cases impassable. We owe a huge debt to those rambling clubs and associations whose members strive heroically to keep them open. Even those dog walkers who are daily taken walkies by their dogs, in all weathers, are to be praised if they encompass a public footpath.

We have entered an era when fewer of us visit the countryside. I know a child, now a teenager, who had an irrational fear of trees, simply because he had never been close to one. It was a simple pleasure for me to gently lead him to a big lime tree; to get him to run his small hands over its bark; to notice the bright greens of the lichens; to put his arms around the trunk; and finally to put his ear close to it and listen to it as it talked to him. Is it possible that you have never done this? If not I urge you to do so. If you listen hard enough you will find the tree does indeed talk to you, of unfathomable truths.

If our wider countryside continues to be neglected in this way then perhaps we deserve to lose it. I hope that in years to come, when these open spaces are managed more sensitively than they are today, folk will again seek out the trackways, where whitethroats and yellowhammers demand that you listen to their songs, and where the beloved skylark pours out its liquid cascade of notes while just a speck in the blue sky. All these are in danger of being lost to us.

So how do we imbue a sense of these things into the rising generation? Perhaps it begins at home. We need to light the spark that will encourage us to look around us once more. To lift our eyes from our phones and just look at what's going on out there, in the real world. – Brian Webster



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Country Park rangers enjoy a busy summer

It has been a very busy summer for the rangers, full of highs and lows. Summer is the time of year when we can see the results of the conservation work that has been done over the winter, and there have been a variety of wildflowers blooming both in Brixworth Country Park and along the Brampton Valley Way. We were extremely pleased to spot several different species of orchids in various locations, including pyramidal (*pictured, below*), common spotted and bee orchids. Orchids are a protected species, so if you do spot any while out for a walk, please do not to pick them. Remember, take only photos, leave only footprints.



We have spotted a number of interesting birds in the park, including Redstart and Pied Flycatchers, as well as a nesting pair of Spotted Flycatchers with three chicks.

Summer is our busiest time of year, with thousands of people taking advantage of the nice weather to enjoy the park, whether it be for a walk, a picnic or a barbecue. The rangers also led a busy calendar of events throughout the summer holidays, from making s'mores to pond dipping and searching for minibeasts.

Green Flag Award

We are delighted to announce that Pitsford Water has once again been recognised as a quality park by the Green Flag Award Scheme. The international award, run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, recognises the collaborative efforts of the rangers, staff and volunteers of the three organisations that manage the green spaces surrounding Pitsford Water. Those organisations and spaces are First for Wellbeing (Brixworth Country Park), Anglian Water (Pitsford Reservoir) and the Wildlife Trust BCN (Pitsford Water Nature Reserve). A record-breaking 1,797 UK parks and green spaces received the award this year and we are very proud to be one of them. Keep Britain

Tidy describes the Green Flag Award as 'a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.' Thank you very much, we certainly try our best!

Rutland Cycles

On 1st June, as well as hosting the Green Flag Award judges and showing off our beautiful park, we also welcomed Rutland Cycles to our family. The acquisition of Pitsford Cycles at Brixworth Country Park brings Rutland Cycles number of stores up to eleven in the region and has already caused some mild confusion to some of our visitors



('Hello, I'm here. I'm standing outside Rutland Cycles.' 'Good grief! You're at the wrong park!') We bid a fond farewell to Pitsford Cycles and its owner Jeff Webb, and wish Jeff

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a very happy retirement. It may be under new management but the cycle shop still offers cycle hire for visitors wanting to explore the seven mile reservoir track on two wheels, so why not hire a bike and see for yourself why we were awarded a Green Flag!

Vandalism & Litter

The rangers and volunteers work very hard to keep the park safe and clean for everyone to enjoy, although unfortunately sometimes it does feel like an uphill struggle.

There has been a noticeable increase in litter and vandalism in recent months, with one incident of arson severely damaging the top of one of our memorial picnic benches. The bench, paid for by a member of the public to honour the memory of his late wife, was only installed in February this year. Thankfully our team of seasoned volunteers, who helped install the bench, was on hand to replace the bench top.

If you witness any suspicious or anti-social behaviour in the park, we would greatly appreciate it if you could report the activity. Speak to the duty ranger onsite, or if it is out of hours email the rangers at brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk. If a crime is in progress then call the police. Under no circumstances should you put yourself in danger by approaching or confronting the miscreants.

We want Brixworth Country Park to remain a green space that everyone can enjoy, and would like to remind our visitors to follow the Countryside Code. The Countryside Code



Students from Northampton College worked with the Rangers to tidy up Baldmoney's Wood

applies to all areas of England and Wales and gives advice on how everyone can act responsibly to protect the countryside. It focusses on three main principles: respect, protect, and enjoy.

There are no litter bins at Brixworth Country Park, the wider Pitsford Water area or the Brampton Valley Way. There are several reasons for this.

- Much of the litter dropped in the park can be recycled, please take it home and recycle it.
- Barbecue waste can be especially dangerous to wildlife, and other visitors' pets.
- Litter bins attract can attract wasps, vermin and more litter, collecting around the bin rather than in it.
- Bins are not attractive countryside

features, they look unsightly and smell bad.

- Bins need emptying regularly, when more constructive work could be completed.

If you do have a barbecue, or a picnic, in the park we would strongly urge you not to bag up your rubbish and leave it on a bench, or next to a dog bin for us to collect in the morning. This is just as bad as leaving it strewn all over the meadow as wildlife (usually crows, but often foxes as well) will open up the bags in search of food, undoing your efforts to tidy up. Food waste, such as small bones, can be fatal to dogs, and we are sure you would not want to be responsible for causing harm to someone's dog.

Sensory Garden

In the last issue of the Brixworth Bulletin we reported that we had submitted a bid to the Mick George Community Fund for funding to improve the Sensory Garden. We are absolutely delighted to announce that our bid was successful and we have been awarded £28,000 to contribute to the works which will include the addition of sensory play equipment, sand play and sculptures. A further consultation will now take place with the local community to choose the pieces of sensory play equipment. We will be engaging with local schools and community groups. We welcome your input and would like to share your views on the types of play equipment you would like to see installed in the Sensory Garden.

Working with the Community

The rangers work with various individuals and local community groups throughout the year. These range from students completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award, work experience placements, and students with additional learning needs. This year, from Moulton College, we have had two hard-working work experience students helping us out every Wednesday, and a small group of students every Friday during term time as part of their Rural Skills module. Over the course of the year they have all helped with many tasks, from essential maintenance work, to important conservation tasks and the day-to-day upkeep of the park. As well as gaining work experience and practical skills the placements aim to help the students to

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The College Social Centre is a state-of-the-art, fully licensed facility, comprising the Barn Bar, the Chris Alderson-Smith Dining Suite and the Loft Bar.

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The Loft	£100 per day Friday to Sunday





improve their confidence and develop social skills that they can carry forward into the world of work. We are very grateful for their hard work over the past few months and hope they have benefitted from their time with us.

The rangers also worked with a group of students from Northampton College. About a dozen students joined us for a series of six days to carry out conservation tasks. Much of their work focussed on improving our new outdoor education area, which is used by our Education Rangers with school groups. The students also worked to tidy up the den building area in Baldmoney's Wood. Torrential rain caused their final session to be cancelled, so the rangers went to Northampton College for a morning to run a special event where the students cooked S'mores and made nettle tea.

Corporate Volunteers

Managing a country park, and a rail trail, involves a lot of work and the rangers cannot do it alone. As well as the invaluable support we receive from our regular volunteers we also welcome corporate volunteer groups who want to contribute to the park. So far this year we have had groups in from Barclays, IHS Markit and Coca Cola. In May, a team of 22 people from Barclays gave the Sensory Garden some much needed TLC, cutting back vegetation, weeding the raised beds, repainting the leaf seats and benches and transforming the old water feature into a lavender bed. June saw five enthusiastic people from IHS Markit braving some inclement weather to move 16 bulk bags of play bark into the play area, as well as shifting over two tonnes of sand into the sand pits in the main play area and the toddlers' play area. Also in June, a team of seven from Coca Cola spent an afternoon in one of our pine plantations raising the canopy to make the area more suitable for our Education Rangers and their school groups. We thank them all for their fantastic efforts and look forward to welcoming more corporate groups in the autumn.

If you would like to arrange a corporate volunteer day for your team please contact the rangers at brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk.

www.firstforwellbeing.co.uk. The best time of year is between September and March when the majority of the conservation work takes place, and we can offer a variety of tasks at Brixworth Country Park or along the Brampton Valley Way to suit all abilities and skills.

Brampton Valley Way update

The Brampton Valley Way has been blooming lovely this summer. The rangers have spotted an array of wildflowers on their patrols, including a small patch of bee orchids. It has also been a good summer for butterflies, with a variety spotted along the rail trail throughout the summer months. Brimstones, Red Admirals, Meadow Browns,

Gatekeepers, blues, whites and skippers have all been seen on the wing, as well as a good selection of dragonflies and damselflies.

The rangers and volunteers have had their hands full trying to keep on top of the mowing, strimming and cutting back of over-hanging vegetation. Added to this has been the long, dry spells followed by heavy rain which has brought down small trees over the track and caused many branches to droop and create obstructions. We are, as always, very grateful to the vigilant members of the public who report any obstructions to the path, and we do our best to get it cleared as soon as possible.

Martin Moore Wood

Many of you will have heard about Chalara, or ash dieback, which has made the headlines over the past five years. Some parts of the country have been severely hit by this fungal disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) which causes leaf loss, bark lesions and crown dieback in affected ash trees. Northamptonshire had been lucky so far, but alas the disease has recently been found in Martin Moore Wood on the Brampton Valley Way.

There is currently no cure for Chalara, and it is usually fatal to the infected tree. It is not harmful to people or animals. The disease is spread by spores from fruiting bodies of the fungus found on fallen ash leaves. Once airborne, these spores can carry the disease over several miles. There are, however, things you can do to help minimise the spread of the disease. The most obvious one is to avoid



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affected areas. Regular users of Martin Moore Wood will have noticed that we have not been mowing the rides this summer. This is in part to deter visitors, but also to avoid disturbing affected leaf piles and reducing the likelihood of spores becoming airborne. Please see the inset box for how the Forestry Commission's advice on how you can help.

Events

The Country Park has hosted various external events, many raising funds for charities. In June, Walk for a Cause returned for the 4th year to raise money for local causes and community groups and the first CoppaFeel was held in aid of breast cancer. In July, Jog for James raised £2300 for Always a Chance, a charity who supports families who have lost a relative to violent crime.

By far the busiest event was Go Beyond's Pitsford Triathlon. Held on Sunday 16th July, 200 triathletes swam, cycled and ran their way to victory in aid of Teach Africa. This event has increased in popularity year after year, and we would like to thank regular park users for their patience and understanding on the day when the car park was full.

At the time of writing, the rangers were preparing to lead a number of events throughout the summer holidays, designed to be fun but educational, teaching children, and their parents, about the wildlife in the park and how to enjoy the park safely and responsibly. The ranger-led walks that took place in the early part of the summer were a success, and we hope to repeat these next year, as well as other seasonal ranger-led

walks throughout the year.

Pumpkin Carving

Join us in the Woodpecker Room to carve your own Halloween pumpkin. 10.30am to 12.00pm and 1.30pm to 3pm; £4 per pumpkin. Children must be supervised.

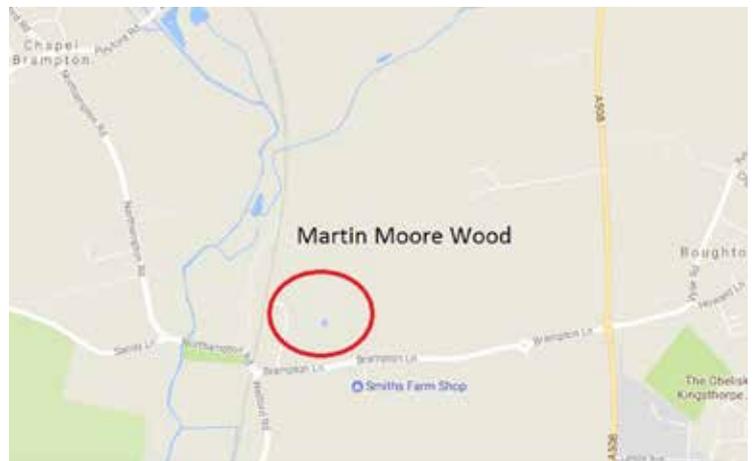
Nature Tots offers

a nature themed walk with a ranger followed by a craft activity for pre-school children. £3.50 per child per session, includes refreshments. Booking essential. Brixworth Nature Tots meet at 10am on the third Wednesday each month during term time.

Our Xplorer

events provide an excellent introduction to orienteering and are a fun way for families to spend an hour or so exploring the park. Follow the map to find the markers and collect your certificate and a gift. Suggested donation of £1 per child.

Hibernaculums – join the rangers and build a home for wildlife over the winter. A selection



Preventing Ash Dieback spread

To help stop the disease spreading, the Forestry Commission advises

- Scrape any mud and leaves from footwear, pushchairs, bikes, cars, dogs and horses before leaving woodlands.
- Before visiting other places, clean mud and leaves from footwear, pushchairs, bikes, cars, dogs and horses.
- Do not remove leaves, plants or wood from this area.

For more information on Chalara, visit www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara.

of hibernaculums (somewhere for creatures to hibernate over winter) will be available to build. £3 per child. 11am to 2pm.

For more information about any of events, and to book a place, please contact us on 0300 126 5932 or email brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk. All events are subject to change and weather-dependent.

– Vikki Austin

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Dates for the diary

- Volunteer work day – Saturday 16th September 2017 – 10am to 4pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 20th September 2017 – 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 18th October 2017 – 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 21st October 2017 – 10am to 4pm
- Hibernaculums – Tuesday 24th October 2017 – 11am to 2pm
- Xplorer – Wednesday 25th October 2017 – 11am to 3pm
- Pumpkin Carving – Wednesday 25th October 2017 – 10.30am to 2pm
- Pumpkin Carving – Thursday 26th October 2017 – 10.30am to 2pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 15th November 2017 – 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 18th November 2017 – 10am to 4pm
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 16th December 2017 – 10am to 4pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 20th December 2017 – 10.30am to 12.30pm

Letters to the Editor

Dear Madam,

I was dismayed to read your editorial on the front page of the June Brixworth Bulletin (Counting the benefits of expansion). How is expansion benefitting the people of Brixworth? Our green fields are being covered with concrete our wildlife is being destroyed. Pollution. It seems that money is more important. The only people benefitting is Barratt Homes.

£242,000 for sports facilities within the village? We all managed within the village without these "sports facilities". Children within the village played in green fields climbing trees, catching tadpoles, picking blackberries, collecting conkers. Very sad I say.

M Rose, Brixworth

Organ Refurbishment to start in January

Good news – the refurbishment of the organ at All Saints' Church in Brixworth will commence in January 2018!

We have managed to persuade the Peterborough Diocese to let us use our preferred supplier and as a result we only need to raise £10,800 (plus another £1,000 for contingencies). This is the equivalent of a £5,000 donation and has enabled us to start the work far sooner than we imagined.

We have raised nearly £8,000 and will continue to raise money until the end of the year. If we don't make the total by then, the Friends of Brixworth Church will underwrite the balance. So, as things stand, we are financially secure.

We are still looking people who are able to sponsor a pipe. In addition, we shall be seeking Business sponsorship to try and make our target before Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. It has been so heartening to receive such warmth and appreciation from all our donors. We are now planning our Inaugural Recital which hopefully will be after Easter 2018. Look out for details in future editions.

Finally, our special thanks must go to the Bulletin, which has given us such a boost by allowing us to contact so many people through their pages and whose generous sponsorship gave us a huge lift over the summer. To obtain private or business sponsorship, or Business sponsorship, please contact Roger Brown on 880410 or xias@xiassociates.co.uk and he will set things up for you).

– Roger Brown, Organ Fund Coordinator



1st Scaldwell Guides



The Guides thoroughly enjoyed an evening of bingo with family and friends raising money for the Hope Centre, Northampton via Gareth who took part in the Ride for Hope 2017. They presented a cheque to Gareth of £188.60 after enjoying a bike ride around Pitsford Reservoir. – Jill Gunnett

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Chris Heaton-Harris

MP, ROYAL HOSTAGE AND PURVEYOR OF COMMONS GOSSIP

Well, it has been a little while since I last wrote in the *Brixworth Bulletin* and I think it is fair to say quite a lot has happened in that time!

Our country has faced some of the most cowardly terrorist attacks anyone could contemplate and the Grenfell House fire shocked the world. British sportswomen have provided some brighter moments, with Johanna Konta making it to the semi-finals of the Women's Singles at Wimbledon and the England Women's Cricket team winning the World Cup in style.

Oh, and there was a General Election, the outcome of which few could have predicted. Locally, my result was amazing and I would like to thank all of you who voted for me to be your Member of Parliament. It really is a great honour and privilege to be your MP.

As a politician, I could talk about what went right (very little for my party) and what went wrong (I think that is more for a discussion in a pub somewhere at some time in the future); but the result is a matter of fact and the United Kingdom now is being governed by a minority administration.

After the election a lot of things changed and whilst the key players remain the same, we are now locked in for a period of two party politics, very long hours in the House of Commons and many many tight votes.

My role in Parliament changed shortly after the election too. I was very pleased to be asked to do a more senior role in the government Whips' Office. The new role means I'm politically responsible for running the business in the Chamber of the House of Commons. Should we ever lose a vote and people are looking for a scalp, they will have to look no further than mine!

I didn't really understand what it meant when I took on the role, but I was told it came with a title: I am the "Vice Chamberlain of the Household" and with this title come a host of responsibilities connected to the Royal Household - and a "wand of office."

Within a few days of becoming "Vice Chamberlain" I was playing my part in the Queen's Speech, detailing the new government's political programme going forward. I wasn't part of the politics though; in fact, I wasn't in the Houses of Parliament at all.

Since 1649 when Charles I was executed by the English Parliament, the Monarch has always been wary of visiting the Houses of Parliament. Over the years a tradition has established itself where the Monarch would visit Parliament, but only if Parliament sent one of its own to Buckingham Palace to be held hostage until the King or Queen returned safely.

That hostage is the "Vice Chamberlain of the Household" and so on the day of the Queen's Speech, before Her Majesty left for the Houses of Parliament, I had to be at Buckingham Palace. On this occasion I met The Queen as she was leaving. Afterwards one of the Royal Household joked with me that Her Majesty likes to 'eyeball' the hostage before she departs...

My main task is to write a message to Her Majesty, The Queen,

every day that the House of Commons is sitting.

I was told by a previous incumbent of the job that Her Majesty doesn't just want facts, she likes anecdotes, perhaps even occasionally the tiniest snippet of gossip, to add a bit of flavour to what would otherwise be a fairly dry letter.

So every day, about 4pm, I become distracted, as I know I need to get writing. Those of you who know me will know that I'm really not one for nerves, but I have to say writing this message each day is one of the most exciting and nerve-wracking things I have ever had to do. The message must be with Her Majesty by 6pm and yes, she reads them assiduously every day.

I know this not just from being told, but every six to eight weeks, I have an audience with Her Majesty. I have only just experienced my first such audience and whilst I am not allowed to reveal the content of any conversation I have had, I can guarantee to you our Queen is probably more up to speed with everyday political issues affecting her subjects than most people I regularly talk to and that includes elected Members of the House of Commons!

What I can say is that Her Majesty has very fond memories of spending time around here, in Pitsford and Maidwell. Yes, it turns out that some of those old folk tales are true after all...

Chris

Post The House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

Phone 0207-219-7048 or
01604-859721

e-mail chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk

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Brix & Mortar

How to sell your property this Autumn

What wonderful weather we are having so far this summer. During the summer months most of us think about spending our free time doing nothing more than turning the sausages on the BBQ and checking the beers/Prosecco are cold enough in the fridge. But, for those of you who are thinking about moving home this autumn you may need to put those tongs down on the occasional weekend and do a bit of 'homework'. September and October are great months for selling, and normally guarantee a pre-Christmas move, but you need to get your home market ready.

Here are a few tips that will ensure you get the best price and in the shortest timescale;

Outside decoration

You only get one chance to make a first impression. Most people will see your house first on the internet and then do a drive-by viewing before ringing the estate agent and arranging to look inside. If your home is rendered give it a fresh lick of paint. If it has timber on the outside, give it another coat of varnish. Ensure the front garden looks its best. Mow that lawn regularly and trim those hedges.

Inside decoration

Grubby, marked, faded walls can really bring down the look of a property – and its selling price. A fresh paint job is reasonably cheap, but can make a house much easier to sell for a higher price. You can also cover up that feature wall that seemed like a good idea three years ago, but looks dated now.

Declutter

Cleaning your house from top to bottom until it sparkles and getting rid of the mess, is one of the best things you can do to improve the aesthetics of your home. Consider hiring a professional cleaner to whip through the main areas, including the kitchen, bathrooms, living room and master bedroom. The cost is minimal compared to the potential gain.

Set the stage

It's no coincidence that all New Homes companies build and furnish a show house. If you show people how your property can

best be lived in, you'll create an emotional connection – making it easier to sell for a premium. Think about how you set out the furniture in the living room, master bedroom and on the patio. Many vendors overlook the fact that the first glimpse the eventual purchaser takes of your property is a photograph – usually on a website. Staging can convince time poor buyers to put your property on their must view list. In other words, it allows your property to make the cut and get added to the viewing shortlist.

Pet smells

We love our furry friend but, I can assure you, one of the biggest factors that impact negatively on a potential buyer, are pet smells. Many property owners work very hard on

removing all smells and evidence of pets. however it is difficult to completely eradicate when you are accustomed to the smell on a daily basis. Ideally you need to get a friend who does not own pets to inspect your property and be brutally honest with you!

Bright and airy

Heavy window coverage can turn buyers off. Leaving heavy window coverings in place can make a room feel dark and cluttered. I often see older homes with multiple heavy drapes that contribute directly to making the room feel small, dark and cold. If the window condition and outlook permit, get rid. Getting the balance right between privacy, style, mood and light is so important. – *Stuart Little*



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Scooter rally raises funds for hospital



The Northamptonshire Vespa and Lambretta Scooter Club held one of its meetings at the Red Lion on 4th June, where they enjoyed a barbecue as well as their weekly rideout.

The club is raising money for a PlayStation for the Disney Ward at Northampton General Hospital and have raised about £100 so far, including a donation from Martin Black at the Red Lion of the profits from the barbecue. They are holding a raffle in November.

If anyone would like to donate a prize, please contact Eddie Edmonds on 07979 258659. As well as

the presentation of the PlayStation, the club will make sure that other toys are given to younger children as Christmas gifts.

– Jennifer Fitzgerald

Brixworth History Society

The History Society does not meet in the summer months, but we have had several well-supported outings to places of interest.

They included a visit to Northampton's nuclear bunker, a canal trip from Market Harborough to Foxton Locks, and a day visit to Portsmouth's Historic Boatyard.

Later in the summer we plan visits to Chester Farm, Irchester – an old Roman walled town with evidence of much earlier settlements – and Stanford Hall.

Our autumn programme begins at the Village Hall in September with a talk on 'Our Industrial Heritage' by Peter Perkins; in October, Susan Copperwheat is speaking about 'The History of Christian Names' and November sees Drew Gray with '19th Century Magistrates'. All meetings take place in the Village Hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month, starting at 7.30pm.

Don't forget to visit our summer exhibition in the Heritage Centre which is this year entitled 'Down Memory Lane'. We have used people's memories of the village to illustrate, together with pictures, what life was like in the past. The exhibition is open every weekend, 2.30 to 5pm, and closes on September 24th. – Pauline Kirton

Panto Auditions

Brixworth Drama Group are inviting people to audition for their next panto which is due to take place at the end of January 2018. Auditions will take place at the Village Hall Thursday 7 September 2017 at 19:00 til 21:00 and Sunday 10 September 2017 at 16:00 til 18:00. All are welcome - young and old alike!

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A fond Farewell and the next Phase in Learning



After fourteen happy and rewarding years I am leaving Brixworth CEVC Primary School to embark on the next phase of my education – which I hope will be a long and healthy retirement. I have shared with pupils and colleagues my plan to be the oldest person to climb Mount Everest. The last time I looked the eldest person to achieve the feat was in their 80s; I take it that when I reach that kind of age the oldest person to have stood on top of the planet will be in their 90s. I remain confident that this is a realistic ambition – provided mobility scooters are allowed access!

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been the headteacher of Brixworth Primary and working as part of this very special village community. I have enjoyed headship to the extent that my Monday mornings were many people's Friday evenings – this is how much I have looked forward to coming into work. For me teaching has never been about striking a work/life balance it has been a question of enjoying and finding personal and professional fulfilment in a life/life balance where the two have been one and the same.

I have had the good fortune, over the years, to work with governors who have managed challenge with support and through providing good counsel, have been instrumental in arriving at sound decisions in moving the school forward.

Brixworth is blessed in its church communities at All Saints and in the Brixworth Christian Fellowship – working together has been a core element in the faith and values of the school.

The saying rings true – 'It is not where you work, it is who you work with' that makes the difference. At Brixworth Primary we have an immensely talented staff – and I include every single member of a wonderful team. Together they have made a difference to children's lives and have been central to their learning, experiences and achievements.

Life is a learning journey and I am reminded of this every day. I have learned how generous, kind and forgiving parents can be, especially when one reflects on how they entrust the school to look after and provide for the most precious part of their lives – their children.

I shall miss a great deal as I move on to a new chapter in my life's journey. The PTA meetings at The George – although I have forgone the late departures – have grown to be the meetings to which I look cheerfully forward. The PTA is a massive part of the school – the fund raising and contribution to the school funds are huge – however, more than this the PTA contributes to the social life of the wider community.

Schools are about children – and although I will admit to a little bias – our pupils give me hope and optimism for the future. They remain a credit to the school, their parents (and grandparents) and themselves.

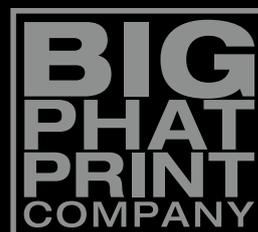
I would like to thank the governors for their gift of a photography opportunity – one of my retirement schemes is to photograph a tiger in its natural habitat; and I am grateful to staff, parents and pupils for their gift of life membership to the National Trust (another clue as to how I will spend some of my leisure time).

My final day was made exceptionally special, starting with a whole school assembly which was full of pleasant surprises including the hall being decorated with bunting on which each pupil had prepared their own individual 'leaf'. In addition to this I was presented with a book in which every pupil had written a farewell message on a cow template! The morning of happy surprises ended with over five hundred children and staff taking part in a surprise (to me) Flash Mob dance on the playground. The day culminated with an open invitation to parents and governors, past and present, for refreshments and a goodbye. All in all colleagues and pupils gave me a wonderfully memorable send off.

I wish Mrs Young every success in the future as she leads the school in its aspirational journey.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone in the wider community who have been such a wonderful and constant support over the years and wish the Bulletin every success in the future as it continues to be a splendid voice of, and perceptive window on, Brixworth.

– David Boucher



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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.

Although a bit overcast, it was thankfully dry for our 100th walk, which took place at Lowick near Thrapston on 9th May 2017 (pictured).



Taking part in the 'just over 4-mile walk' were 30 members who enjoyed the view of a spectacular forest floor covered in the white flowers of wild garlic and a visit to Sudborough, plus the ever present company overhead of a Red Kite or two.

Afterwards, the walkers then enjoyed a good lunch at The Snooty Fox, where they were joined by 24 strollers, on their 63rd outing, having had a conducted tour of Lowick church. In August, agreement has been reached with the new manager at The Swan for our first visit to the pub in Lamport. That is followed in September with another first time visit, on that occasion, to Silverstone.

On 5th May members of the London Studies Group set off from sunny Brixworth on a trip to Three Mills Island and a chilly breeze from the River Lea. On the way they saw the site of the famous Match Girls strike where 2,000 young women stood up to Bryant and May. There have been mills here since medieval times. Ownership has reflected the changing politics of the era. A wonderful day out to a hidden part of London.

In October Brixworth U3A will be celebrating their 10th anniversary with a "Ten Year Tea Party" to be held at Brampton Heath Golf Club.

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

- Judy Smith

Programme for 2018 Music Festival revealed

Plans for the next Brixworth Music Festival are going very well and the programme promises to be an exciting mix of events that will appeal to all tastes and ages.

The Festival, which previously always took place in September, has been moved to April to resolve scheduling issues. The next one will take place 20 - 29 April 2018, directly after Easter and, as ever, in our beautiful Church of All Saints. The six month delay will give all those involved in education, choirs and ensembles more time to prepare.

Although the emphasis is on classical music, the idea of the Festival is to get everyone involved, and will include music of all styles and tastes.

The opening concert on 20th April will feature the pop-band Memphis Blue which specialises in music of the 50s and 60s, so you will have a chance to dance in the church!

In contrast this will be followed the next day (21st April) with an afternoon piano recital by resident pianist, Oksana King, and a concert by the Northamptonshire County Youth Brass Band in the evening. On Sunday 22nd April you will have the opportunity of hearing once more the wonderful ensemble "Fiori Musicali" in an evening of sacred choral music.

On Wednesday 25th April there will be our regular feature, an Evening of Poetry and Song which has proved so popular in recent years. Local musicians, composers and actors will treat you to a varied programme, ranging from opera to contemporary classical music, interspersed with poetry readings and lighter entertainment. The John Clare Wind Quintet will also be playing.

On the following Friday, 27th April, we have invited back the prestigious Tedesca String Quartet. For those of you who enjoy exquisite chamber music this is a must.

On 28th April Peter Dunkley will be conducting the Kettering Chamber Orchestra in a concert of well-loved classical works by Mozart and Beethoven, including Mozart's Concerto for harp and flute.

The Festival will be brought to a close on 29 April with a Community Event involving schools, choirs and musicians of all ages.

One special feature of the next Festival will be a Competition for Women Composers who have been so shamefully neglected in the past. The winning work will be performed by the John Clare Wind Quintet on the 25th April. Please look out for the announcement of this competition on our home page: www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk.

We hope to see a full church for all of these events, so please make a note of the dates in your diary for next year.

- Vivienne Olive and Gwion Thomas, Artistic Directors, Brixworth Music Festival

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The Friends of All Saints' Church

Living in times of great change and uncertainties many of us identify with things around us like our wonderful Church and countryside which is a constant in our village and a reason why many of us choose to live in Brixworth.

With the help The Friends of Brixworth Church, through donations, subscriptions and support we manage to keep the Church in good repair. We are fortunate that we have so many people like Tony Brunton who have helped to repair the Church over many decades, saving valuable amounts of money. We are also very grateful to people who give up countless hours of their time to help us raise money and maintain a fund for the fabric of the Church but of course, there is never enough money to do everything.

In 2016 we faced a challenge and that was to bring ourselves in line with Charity Law as dictated by the Charity Commission. We have now formed a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, known as a CIO. The Friends and Trustees now operate as one Committee not two and I think it's true to say that with our limited resources we operate very well as one Committee. We have also adopted a Code of Practice which is best practice as advised by the Charity Commission.

In 2016, with the help of a grant from Daventry District Council, we were able to refurbish the Heritage Centre, a very valuable amenity to the community as well as the Church. The revenue from the Heritage Centre provides a valuable source of income. In March we attended a film evening at the Errol Flynn Film Theatre and this event raised over £1000. In May 2016 Peacocks of Bedford hosted a Valuation Day for us in The Church. The Lecture Day in October was very well supported and our Family Christmas Music Evening raised over £400.

The Trustees join me in offering our very special thanks to Roger Brown who has almost single-handedly raised over £4k for refurbishment of the organ. The Trustees have also transferred

£1200 to the PCC towards the cost of providing toilets and a servery. This year Gildings of Market Harborough organised an Antiques Quiz for us in February and this raised £1100, followed by a Car Boot Sale in the Churchyard raising £180.

Thank you all for your continued support and especially your attendance at our events. Without your continued help we couldn't preserve our beautiful historic Church to the standard it is today.

– Sue Verallo, Chairman, the Friends of All Saints Brixworth



~The George~

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Planning update

DA/2017/0333 Mackintosh Centre, Country Park Variation of Condition 3 (Use Classes) of Planning Permission 15/00083/CCDCOU	BPC No Objection DDC No Objection
DA/2017/0232 Land At Ironstone Way Construction of classic car storage garage (revised)	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2017/0157 9 The Slip Demolition of conservatory. Construction of single storey rear extension.	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2017/0148 31, Stonehill Way Single storey front extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2017/0132 Police House, Stannard Way Single storey side extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2017/0144 2 Kennel Terrace Illuminated and non illuminated signs	BPC Object DDC Approved

PD/2017/0011 Manor Farm, Northampton Road Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwelling	DDC Approved
DA/2017/0271 35, Shelleycotes Road Raise ridge height to allow conversion of roof space to habitable accommodation	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2017/0167 Land off Merry Tom Lane Construction of single dwelling with access road and formation of access	BPC Objection DDC Refused
DA/2017/0131 Land At Paddock Lodge, Tantree Way Outline application for construction of two dwellings and replacement double garage	BPC notified withdrawn DDC withdrawn
PD/2017/0021 16, Eastfield Road Prior approval for single storey rear extension (Removal of existing conservatory)	DDC Prior Approval Granted
DA/2017/0421 27, Brackenborough Demolition of existing utility room. Construction of two storey side extension.	BPC Objection DDC Approved
DA/2017/0392 16, Eastfield Road Single storey side extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2017/0139 Grange Cottage 11, Newlands New railings on wall at front of house	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

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Lampton and Hanging Houghton

I am pleased to inform you of the arrival of a new baby boy to Sarah of 8 The Croft, on 30th June, 2017. Mother and baby are doing well as is new grandmother Kerry! He has been named James Roy after his grandfathers – congratulations to them all.

There have been a number of complaints of speeding through Hanging Houghton by visitors, residents and locally employed drivers. This matter has been reported to the local Police Safety Officers and they are planning to make surprise visits to hopefully apprehend the culprits.

Please take more care and consideration when driving through the village, particularly as the number of young children in the village has risen sharply recently.

At the recent Parish Council meeting our newly appointed Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Tony Boulemier announced that he was disappointed with the response to his letter requesting residents to join in with the local scheme. Please sign up to be members of the NHW and make our villages safer places to live.

Date for your diary - Harvest Supper with Bangers and Mash and plonk, etc. on the 14th October at the Loder Hall in Maidwell. See the parish magazine for more details. – Mike Philpott



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Library events

Introducing Heather Williams

Heather Williams and Jill Barber are now joint managers of Brixworth Library, both working part-time hours, with Sam, Gemma and Daniel completing the team.

Get involved

Our new "Friends of Brixworth Library Group" is up and running, with the next meeting on Monday 11th September at 8pm, followed by Friday 20th October at 9.30am, so why not come along for a cuppa and find out more? We are a friendly group and new members are always needed and welcome.

Upcoming Friends Events

- Quiz Night Friday 13th October at 7.30pm
- Teams of up to 4 people, £5 per team member to include a fish & chip supper-tickets available from the library.
- Vintage Fair Saturday 4th November from 12-2pm in the Library.
- Plus – James Hornsby's production of "A Christmas Carol" – date TBC.

Check out the Friends of Brixworth Library Facebook page for all the latest updates and news.

Gain experience

Thinking of a career working with children, but need some experience first? We have volunteering roles for **Under 5s Activities Helpers/ Leaders** and **Children's Crafts Activities Helpers/Leaders** and can offer you training, work experience and a reference. There are activities most days of the week, so hours can be flexible (eg

a couple of hours a week or fortnightly, term-time or school holidays only) but you must be available to help on a regular basis. We would particularly like **Rhymetime Helpers** (no singing required!) and **Rhymetime Leaders**.

We would like to recruit more **IT Buddies** – we need volunteers to help customers with IT queries, getting to grips with new lap-tops, iPads, tablets etc and also help with Blue Badge online applications.

We also welcome anyone volunteering for their Duke of Edinburgh award.

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

Book Club

The **Brixworth Library Morning Readers Group** usually meets first Tuesday of every month 10.30am. Open to all – for information please ask at library or email brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk

Activities for Under 5s

Rhymetime for the Under 5s
Mondays 2.30pm

Play & Learn for Under 5s
Tuesdays 1.30 – 3pm

Play & Learn for Under 1s
Thursdays 10am – 12noon

Baby weigh-in clinic
Thursdays 10am – 12noon, followed by developmental checks.
Now fortnightly, check our Facebook page for clinic weeks.

Rhymetime for the Under 5s

Fridays 10.20am for 10.30am start

IAIM Infant Massage with Leveta Lawson

Wednesday mornings 11am – 12 noon term-time only, must be booked in advance.

These are five-week courses for parent/ carer and baby (from age six weeks). Price is £60 per course to include all materials, payable in advance to Leveta Lawson (see Facebook page infant massage by Leveta Lawson) or see staff at library.

All Under 5s activities are in the Children's Centre Area on the mezzanine; if you need it there is a lift available in foyer. The Children's Centre area is closed to other users during Under 5s sessions.

Activities for children up to 12

Crafts

Saturdays 9am – 1pm, Sundays 11am – 2pm

Messy Crafts

Wednesdays 2.30pm every school holiday – next session Wednesday 31st May, and every Wednesday throughout the summer holidays.

Under 8s must be accompanied by their parent or carer. Free, but please book in advance either at the library or email brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk

Other Services

New Service! "myHermes Parcelshop"

You can now collect, send & return your parcels from Brixworth Library via myHermes – to find out more visit www.myhermes.co.uk/parcelshop

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- DVD hire
- Checking service for online Blue Badge Applications
- Computer use – free on Fridays (charge for printing)
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- Laminating
- Library shop
- Pod hire: For more information, please speak to library staff.

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Monday – Friday 10am to 6pm
Saturdays 9am to 1pm
Sundays 11am to 2pm

Christmas & New Year Holiday Closures:

24th - 26th December 2017 and 1st January 2018. Open all other days as usual

For more information on upcoming events and all the latest updates, please contact us at brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk and visit us on www.firstforwellbeing.co.uk or www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary

– Jill Barber



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News & Views – Autumn 2017 edition
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At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May, Stephen James stepped down as chairman of the Planning Committee and was elected as vice chairman of the Parish Council. Some of our newest Parish Councillors also took on additional roles.

Elaine Coe joined the Media and Communications Committee and was elected as its vice chairman, and James Collyer was selected to join the Personnel Working Group. Justyna Pittam agreed to join the Finance Working Group, where her financial expertise has already proven invaluable.

James Collyer also subsequently joined Sandra Moxon to lay the groundwork for the proposed Brixworth Sports Council.

For the first time in several years, Brixworth Parish Council briefly had its full quota of 14 council members, after Caitlin Braham-Nicoll was co-opted at our meeting in June.

However, Anthony Jennings has unfortunately stepped down due to time constraints, leaving us with a vacancy once again. If you are interested in learning more about what's involved in being a parish councillor, pop into the Information Point in the Community Centre on Spratton Road for an informal chat with the Clerk, Peter Rowbotham, on Mondays or Wednesdays from 9.30am to 1.30pm. Alternatively, you can email him on clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk.

Strong support for Sports Council



As reported in the last edition of the *Bulletin*, Brixworth Parish Council is looking to form a Sports Council.

The aim of the Sports Council is to work across multiple sports and recreational organisations to encourage and promote sport for all within Brixworth. It will be responsible for assessing the sporting needs of the village and assist with any strategic development of facilities. It will also have autonomy to manage the

Section 106 funding - the approximately £242k made available from the Barratts housing development that must be allocated to sports and recreation within the village.

Sports clubs, organisations and stakeholders were recently asked to attend a discussion meeting about the formation of the Brixworth Sports Council with the purpose of the meeting to gauge support for such a council and discuss at a high level how it may operate. Thirteen clubs attended alongside venue management and a healthy, robust discussion was had about how this funding could and should be spent to benefit the village as a whole. In attendance to answer the questions were Cllrs Collyer, Jennings and Moxon, alongside Nick Hughes, Chair of the Mawsley Sports Council and sports consultant Liz Behnke of Syzygy Leisure.

The next step is for all interested parties to feedback in order to ascertain the next step in formulating a successful and progressive Sports Council for the residents of Brixworth.

For further information please contact clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk

Planning matters

Following our article in the last issue of the *Bulletin*, Daventry District Council have now published their consultation for the Conservation Area in Brixworth. The main points of the document are to include Hall Park and the Swedish Cottages off Frog Hall, within the Conservation Area. Full details of the appraisal can be inspected at the Library, Daventry District Councils Offices or on Daventry's website.

The period of consultation runs until 5pm on Monday 4th September. Surveys can be completed online at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/ConservationAreas.

Also following on from our last piece, Daventry have once again rejected an application for a large 'Arts and Crafts' dwelling on the junction of Merry Tom Lane and Brampton Valley Way.

This decision is now subject to an appeal. Should anyone wish to comment or refer to the appeal documents DA/2017/0167 on the planning portal. Any comments on the appeal should be addressed to The



Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/09 Kite wing, temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN in triplicate and quoting reference APP/Y2810/W/17/3177301 to arrive no later than 1st September 2017.

Welcome, Caitlin Braham-Nicoll

I am Caitlin, and I moved to the Village in 2014 with my parents and partner, 3 dogs, 2 rabbits and two tortoises!

I grew up in St. Albans, Hertfordshire and Stockholm, Sweden. I did my undergraduate course in Essex,

and my masters at Moulton College, and I now own my own dog training and walking business in the village.

I play football for Earls Barton and netball for the Brixworth netball team. I am also an active member of the Brixworth drama group and have performed in *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Allo Allo* and *Jack and the Bean Stalk*.

I joined the Parish Council to get more involved in the local community, and I feel that there's an underrepresentation of my age group.



Blooming marvellous!

This year's annual project was to create a window box at each of the village's seven welcome signs. This project was done with the Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts, who were working on their World Challenge Award badge.

This badge is about working with the community, in this case Steve Troop, K F Troop & Son and the Brixworth Parish Council.

The Council's groundsman and several Scouts installed the window boxes at the four entrances to Brixworth, where they give a colourful welcome to residents and visitors to the village.



Best Village: Highly Commended

In the spring, Brixworth was entered into the Best Village of the Year 2017 competition; a competition sponsored by Hollowell Funeral Services and organised by ACRE, an organisation which helps support rural communities in Northamptonshire. This is a competition open to all villages in Northamptonshire with populations of up to 6,000, with three different categories based on village size.

Mike Nice kindly volunteered to spearhead Brixworth's entry with the support of the Brixworth Parish Council members, Peter Rowbotham, the Clerk and Councillor Sandra Moxon. The judges came to Brixworth on 17 May and were given a tour of some of the organisations in the village, as well as a presentation of what our village offers. The presentation was put together with the support of many of the village's organisations using photographs to illustrate what the organisations do for the community, eg help in community projects such as litter picking, looking after children either through pre-school clubs or youth clubs, or offering sports facilities to young and old.

The judges looked at all aspects of village life: community and social activities; local communication; the village website; the provision for young people and more senior residents; the involvement of local businesses; sustainability; general tidiness; and the welcome given to visitors. They also looked for villages



that demonstrated enterprise, initiative and community spirit in how a village cares for its inhabitants and how a village is looked after. They wanted to know not only what has been done in the past few years to help the community, but also about plans for this year. In the end Brixworth won third place with Highly Commended in its category of 'large villages' – coming in second and first respectively were Moulton and Irchester. What the judges particularly liked was that Brixworth has a strong sense of community with a large range of activities available to all and in particular that these activities are maintained by a core of very dedicated people.

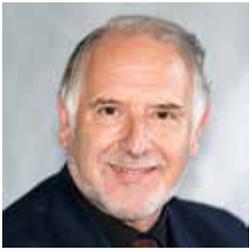
Brixworth Parish Council and Mike Nice would like to thank the following organisations for helping Brixworth achieve this success:

1st Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts
 1st Brixworth Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
 Ali Cooper Fitness
 All Saints Bell Ringers
 All Saints Church
 BCF
 BRANE
 Brixworth & District U3A
 Brixworth Angling Club
 Brixworth Belles
 Brixworth Bulletin
 Brixworth Cares
 Brixworth Centre Pre-School
 Brixworth Community Centre
 Brixworth Community First Responders

Brixworth Cricket Club
 Brixworth Drama Group
 Brixworth Gardening Club
 Brixworth Heritage Bridge Club
 Brixworth Heritage Group
 Brixworth History Society
 Brixworth Juniors Football Club
 Brixworth Parish Council
 Brixworth Photographic Society
 Brixworth Primary School
 Brixworth Tennis Club
 Brixworth Village Hall
 Friends of All Saints' Church
 Friends of Brixworth Library
 Information Point Volunteers
 Brixworth Library

Little Acorns Pre-School
 Northampton Pet Shop
 Olive Branch Coffee Shop
 Olive Branch Volunteers
 Our Rural Police
 Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group
 Sunny Socks Pre-School

Brixworth Parish Council



Ian Barratt



Jackie Bird



Neal Brown
Chairman, Media & Communications



Elaine Coe



Stuart Coe



Alex Coles
Chairman



James Collyer



Stephen James
Chairman, Planning



Peter Saxton



Sandra Moxon



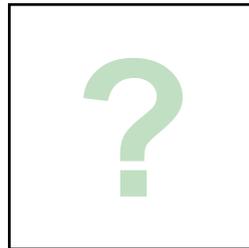
Caitlin Braham-Nicoll



Kevin Parker



Justyna Pittam



You?



Peter Rowbotham
Parish Clerk

10 Shelland Close
Market Harborough
Leicestershire LE16 7XU
Email: clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk
Telephone: 07983 141 786
Facebook: [facebook.com/brixworthpc](https://www.facebook.com/brixworthpc)
Twitter: [@brixworthpc](https://twitter.com/brixworthpc)
Web: www.brixworthpc.org.uk

Parish Council photos by
Brixworth Photographic Society

Parish Council meetings September to November

Full Council

Tues 26th Sept 2017 7.15pm
Tues 31st Oct 2017 7.15pm
Tues 28th Nov 2017 7.15pm

Planning

Mon 4th Sept 2017 7.30pm
Mon 18th Sept 2017 7.30pm
Mon 9th Oct 2017 7.30pm
Mon 30th Oct 2017 7.30pm
Mon 20th Nov 2017 7.30pm

Media & Communications

Weds 20th Sept 2017 7.30pm
Weds 18th Oct 2017 7.30pm
Weds 15th Nov 2017 7.30pm



BRIXWORTH
COMMUNITY CHURCH
Following Jesus Together

BRIXWORTH MATTERS

www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org

Some of you may be already aware that we have recently adjusted our Church name. We have wondered if some in the village and further afield may have been unaware of what the initials 'BCF' stood for (Brixworth Christian Fellowship). To avoid possible misunderstanding and to simplify things we are now 'Brixworth Community Church'.

It is important that any organisation updates itself from time to time. With that in mind, some Church members have also worked on updating our logo and have created a new website.

Check us out on: www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org

Our website helpfully explains who we are and what we are about and leads anyone through the kind of activities and events we put on throughout the week and the year. It has also started a database of sermons of those that speak regularly. We are very thankful to those who have helped in these projects. It has taken many hours of work from gifted individuals and involved many conversations and prayers. We wanted to be both relevant and faithful to what we are about, so with the help of a large and very striking cross and a strap line under the name that says 'Following Jesus Together', we feel we have done what we set out to achieve.

At the end of July, our Holiday Club for the community, it's Celebration Service and BBQ were a huge success. With thanks to God and the help of many willing volunteers and partners, over 90 children have had loads of fun as well as learning more of what it means to follow Jesus and become friends with God forever.

May I take this opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to all those who have made this great event possible. It has taken a massive effort from many people but the results will have been felt in heaven and will ripple into eternity.

Best wishes *Andy*



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on 07958 604961



Summer Holiday Children's Club

Be happy... Wednesday 26th-28th July Brixworth Community Church held their now annual Holiday Club in Brixworth CEVC Primary School, and what fun we had! 90 children and 36 volunteers! We kicked off the day with a great warm up session as we sang and danced to Doug Horleys "Jump up and down (be happy)" song. Then straight off to our various activities. This year we had fun sports/relays space hopper/sack racing etc. Fun with water, which included various water chase games and the now legendary Mop Hockey followed up by some amazing arts and crafts. Great fun for everyone.

We held the celebration and award ceremony on Sunday morning at the Brixworth Community Church main service at the school, where we invited all the children, parents and carers to come along and find out what their children had been doing at the holiday club. We danced, sang songs, listened to the children speak out the memory verse, heard what the children thought and then we found out which team had won...and this year it was the green team with a ka-zillion points, with yellow and red in joint second. A family BBQ was held after the service in the school grounds.

Big thanks to all the volunteers and young leaders who helped make it happen, to the School and NAYC for their continued support and to Northamptonshire Community Foundation who helped us with funding, and to all you children, without you holiday club wouldn't happen! To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen





Welcome to Brixworth

Dynamites Service

For the first time this year, Brixworth Community Church held a Sunday morning celebration service to mark the end of another 'season' of 'Dynamites'. 'Dynamites' is our weekly Friday evening fun hour for kids held at the Community Centre. Many children and families came down to the school where the Church meets to show their appreciation, receive awards and hear from the kids why they enjoy Dynamites so much. In the afternoon, many folk headed down to the country park to enjoy a picnic in the sun.



Brixworth Community Church welcomes residents of Saxon Rise

Where: Village Green
(Saxon Rise Barratt Estate)
When: Saturday 16th September
What time: 2-4pm



Brixworth Shoe Box Appeal 2017

Brixworth Community Church will be working with Samaritans Purse again this year to manage the Shoe Box appeal. The campaign dates are the first 2 weeks of November. If you would be interested in helping to process the boxes then please look out for a training date early October.



The Alpha Course

Alpha really is for anyone who's curious. The DVD talks are designed to encourage debate and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment. 10 weekly sessions to include a FREE 2 course meal.

Starts: 20th September 2017 7-9pm

Where: The Olive Branch Coffee Shop, Brixworth Library and Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DS

For further 'info' contact Andy on 07958 604961 or Mark on 07917 573784 - Facebook BCF Community Church



The Olive Branch

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 9.30-2.30,
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,
Library & Community Centre,
Spratton Road, Tel 889030

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



BCF Community Church Weekly Events

Sunday:	10:30 – 11:45	Main Service of Worship (Brixworth School) (including Junior Church and Creche)
Monday:	19:30 – 21:00	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
Tuesday:	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
Wednesday:	19:30 – 21:00	Home study Groups
Thursday:	10:00 – 11:30	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group*
Friday:	17:00 – 18:00 18:15 – 19:15	Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years* Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11* <small>(*held at the Library & Community Centre)</small>

You will always receive a very warm welcome at any of our Services on a Sunday at 10:30, at the school. As we share together in worship, we also provide a Junior Church for children of all ages. Come and join us!

If you would like to know more about anything in Brixworth Matters or to know more about the Christian Faith, then phone Andy on 07958 604961

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

www.brixworthchurch.com

Where can God be found in our lives?

Do you often sense that you are looking for something else in your life? Do you feel unfulfilled, restless? Are you wrestling with the bigger questions of life?

Our world in recent months has been so full of unexpected twists and turns, shocks and tragedies, that there are times when we question what life is all about. We seek something that we can put our trust in. A positive force for good.

Jesus made a promise to us. His words were simple, but compelling: "I will be with you until the very end of the age." He is that force for good.

And I believe that we can find God in Jesus in all aspects of our lives. He may be in the beauty we see in nature, in the kindness of a friend, in the innocence of a child. He can also be found in the more difficult times of our lives, suffering alongside us, as he himself did on the cross, and giving us strength.

We need to learn to look for him, and to give thanks when we can detect his presence.

Here at All Saints this autumn there is a lot going on, but in particular, we are running two courses, one on how we experience prayer, and the other—***Christianity Explored***—which covers the basics of the Christian faith, and also asks important questions. All are welcome. Why not come along, and spend some time reflecting on life with us? You may find more than you ever imagined...

Rev. Chloe

JELLYBEANS TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 1.30-3pm in the church

JUNIOR CHURCH

Meets every 3rd Sunday at 10.30 in church



FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptism: Murray Campbell
Amelia Stephenson

Marriages:
Graham Smith and Catherine Lockhart
John Moore and Katie Holmes

Burials: Jean Jones
Christine Wills
Roy Billingham
Maddison West
Ann Nottmeier

Christianity EXPLORED

What's life all about??

A course for those wanting to learn more about the Christian faith. Starts October 2017

See website for details

EXPERIENCING PRAYER

In the Lady Chapel of All Saints on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.

Starting on September 5th for six weeks.

We will explore different ways of praying and spend time trying them out. All are welcome.

Come and see what God offers us.

HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday September 30th at 7-30pm in the Brixworth Centre.

Tickets £12 per person from the Hardware Store or April on 882230.

There will be soft drinks for sale - bring your own alcohol. As well as the delicious food we will be joining in a lively sing song, so come along and have fun.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

2nd - 17th December

with Christmas Market from 2-4pm on 2nd December. Father Christmas will be switching on the lights at 3-30pm.

Come and join the fun!

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS

35th ANNUAL LECTURE

“Pleasures of the Pulpit: Preaching as a Guide to Life in the community”

By Prof. Jonathan Wilcox- University of Iowa

Saturday 28th October 2017 at 5pm (Tea at 3.30pm)

Tickets from Kate Knight 01604 881810

“ROCK AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE”

A Christmas Concert with the Derngate Gospel Choir

Come and sing along to your favourite Christmas numbers

Mince pies and mulled wine

December 9th at 7.30pm

Tickets—Kate Knight 01604 881810

GETTING MARRIED?

Why not do it here in the beautiful surroundings of All Saints?

See our website for details



GARDENERS!

If you can spare some time to help keep down the grass in the churchyard, please contact Vanessa Crooks on 01604 882058.

Mower and strimmer available for use.

What's on

3 Sep	Dahlia Festival	Kelmarsh Hall
5 Sep	New Techniques in Watercolours	Lampport Hall
7 Sep	Bonhams Valuation Day	Kelmarsh Hall
9 Sep	Guitar Mosaics	Lampport Hall
10 Sep	Portrait Photography	Lampport Hall
10 Sep	Charity Dog Show	St Davids Playing Field
11 Sep	Friends of Brixworth Library	Library
12 Sep	Brixworth Belles Bingo evening	Brixworth Village Hall
14 Sep	Discovering MacDonald Gill	Kelmarsh Hall
14 Sep	Rip it Up	Derngate
16 Sep	Volunteer Day	Brixworth Country Park
16 Sep	John Bishop	Derngate
16 Sep	Painting and Drawing	Lampport Hall
17 Sep	Des O'Connor and Jimmy Tarbuck	Derngate
17 Sep	Open Gardens	Lampport Hall
17 Sep	Dahlia Festival	Kelmarsh Hall
19-24 Sep	The Railway Children	Derngate
20 Sep	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
21 Sep	History Society; Our Industrial Heritage	Brixworth Village Hall
22 Sep	The Tiger who came to Tea	Derngate
23-24 Sep	Postman Pat Visit	N'ton & Lampport Railway
24 Sep	Adult Tennis Tournament	Brixworth Tennis Club
24 Sep	Cycle4Cynthia	Lampport Hall
26 Sep	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
26 Sep	History of the Country House Library	Lampport Hall
28 Sep	Brixworth Cancer Support Group	Saxon House, Brixworth
30 Sep	Harvest Supper	Brix Centre
1 Oct	Arias	Royal
3 Oct	SSPG - Keeping Joints Healthy	Guilsborough Surgery

3 Oct	Shane Fien	Derngate
5-8/10	Literary Festival	Althorp Estate
5-6 Oct	Richard Alston Dance Company	Derngate
7 Oct	Miller plays the Musicals	Derngate
9 Oct	Beverley Knight	Derngate
10 Oct	Sean Kelly and Storage Hunters	Derngate
11 Oct	Brixworth Belles Reflexology Evening	Brixworth Village Hall
11 Oct	Solid Gold Rock n Roll	Derngate
12 Oct	Stewart Lee	Derngate
13 Oct	Quiz Night	Library
13 Oct	One Night of Elvis	Derngate
14-15/10	Autumn Gift and Craft Fair	Lampport Hall
14 Oct	Killer Queen	Derngate
15 Oct	Malcolm Arnold Festival	Derngate
16-21/10	Legally Blonde	Derngate
18 Oct	Nature Tots	Country Park
19 Oct	History Society: The History of Christian Names	Brixworth Village Hall
20 Oct	Friends of Brix Library	Library
21 Oct	Volunteer Work Day	Country Park
24 Oct	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
24 Oct	SSPG - Keeping Joints Healthy	Brixworth Surgery
24 Oct	Hibernaculum	Country Park
24-28/10	NMTC The Wizard of Oz	Derngate
25 Oct	Xplorer	Country Park
25-26/10	Pumpkin Carving	Country Park
26 Oct	Brixworth Cancer Support Group	Saxon House, Brixworth
28 Oct	Friend of All Saints Annual Lecture	All Saints Brixworth
28-29 Oct	Halloween Special Trains	N'ton & Lampport Railway
29 Oct	Amy Macdonald	Derngate
31 Oct	Collabro - Home	Derngate
1 Nov	Lee Nelson	Derngate
2 Nov	Bonhams Valuation Day	Kelmarsh Hall
2 Nov	Milton Jones is out there	Derngate
3 Nov	Lulu	Derngate
4 Nov	Vintage and Craft Fair	Brix Library
4 Nov	Jason Manford	Derngate

6-11/11	Blood Brothers	Derngate
8 Nov	Brix Belles Cake Decorating/Gluten Free Baking	Brixworth Village Hall
11 Nov	Ghost Hunt	Derngate
12 Nov	Silverlinings Wedding Fair	Kelmarsh Hall
12 Nov	Youth in Concert	Derngate
15 Nov	Nature Tots	Country Park
16 Nov	History Society: 19th Century Magistrates	Brixworth Village Hall
16 Nov	Ray Mears	Derngate
17 Nov	Jools Holland	Derngate
18 Nov	Volunteer Work Day	Country Park
18 Nov	Strictly Northampton	Derngate
19 Nov	Four Seasons by Candlelight	Derngate
21 Nov	Ruby Wax	Derngate
22 Nov	Jasper Carrot	Derngate
23 Nov	Rob Brydon	Derngate
24 Nov	Joe Brown	Derngate
25 Nov	That'll be the Day	Derngate
26 Nov	Santas Special Trains	N'ton & Lampport Railway
26 Nov	RPO Francesco DeGo performs Bruch	Derngate
28 Nov	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
28/11 - 2/12	Heddo Gabler	Derngate
30 Nov	Brixworth Cancer Support Group	Saxon House, Brixworth
2 Dec	Christmas Market	All Saints Brixworth
2 Dec	Batik Portraits	Lampport Hall
2-3 Dec	Santas Special Trains	N'ton & Lampport Railway
8-31/12	Aladdin	Derngate
9 Dec	Rock around the Christmas Tree	All Saints Brixworth
9-10 Dec	Santas Special Trains	N'ton & Lampport Railway
13 Dec	Brixworth Belles Christmas Party	Brixworth Village Hall
14 Dec	History Society Christmas Party	Brixworth Village Hall
16 Dec	Volunteer Work Day	Country Park
16-17 Dec	Santas Special Trains	N'ton & Lampport Railway

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Weds.	Pilates	The Centre	6.15 - 7.00

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Brixworth Juniors - Club of the Year

Brixworth Juniors were awarded the coveted title of Northants FA Charter Standard Club of the year by the Northants FA.

There are currently over 1300 affiliated clubs which make up the membership of Northamptonshire County FA but thanks to information they received, the FA were impressed enough to send out a film crew of volunteers from Tresham College to speak to the club. They interviewed some of the committee members and also filmed a training evening where one of the younger girls was asked a few questions and she even showed off a few tricks for the camera!

As a club, Brixworth have really promoted girls' football in the past two years and it is something that club secretary Simon Compton believes is one of the main reasons that the club received the award.

Simon said: "Thanks to the committee and the coaches over the season for their hard work and commitment. They give up their spare time and promote excellent learning and good sportsmanship values within the club, allowing players to play and show off their skills in a friendly and easy going environment."

Some of the things the FA looked at to make their decision:

- Brixworth are a grassroots club promoting inclusion for all
- As a club, Brixworth try to inspire the children to learn and play football but also to give them life skills along the way
- We insist on referees to be treated with respect at all times
- All coaches are fully trained and have safeguarding qualifications; several have further youth and level 2 qualifications. We expect all helpers to be DBS checked and encourage them to take the safeguarding certification.
- Half of all coaches are also FA licensed and actively seek out further professional development
- Brixworth has two pitches, St. David's and The Ashway



From left to right: Amber Wildgust, Rob Kelly, Simon Compton and Stuart Smith

- There are currently 17 boys teams and over the last two years the club has re-introduced girls football to the village
- There is an under 12s girls teams and a weekly girls session for u10s and below
- The club is really proud of the numbers of teams registered, particularly the growing number of girls – at present there are around 210 boys and 25 girls

The club would also like to thank all the parents who kindly took the time and effort to nominate specific coaches or the club in general for its high values.

Good luck to all age groups for the season ahead!



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Brixworth Juniors U18 retain the cup!

On Sunday 14th May, at 10am the Brixworth Juniors FC U18 squad and their three managers met up to begin the journey from their home ground at St David's to the Final at Sixfields Stadium, with the aim to retain the much coveted NDYAL Under 18 cup.

The squad, all neat in their presentation ties (a personal gift from their long term sponsor Dodson & Horrell), enjoyed the coach provided by the club, the highlight being an emotional team talk by manager Jonesy to ensure the lads had the right mental attitude for their biggest game in their playing time to date.

The ground staff kept the boys in the stand for what seemed like ages but eventually, in true cup style the squad were allowed to walk on the pitch, soak up the atmosphere and importantly try and relax.

Soon enough, with the final warm-up completed and following a special pre-match team talk from Eldean, the squad and its mascot "Harriot" we were ready for the off.

The game got off to a physical and energetic start, with the Lions setting up in their customary 3-4-1-2 to ensure a packed midfield with attacking options wide. But it was only minutes in, when after customary physical battling from Jordan King and Matty Ivins, that Joe Cayton drew the defence short and bent his run to stay on side, Rhys Sweeney played an amazing through ball, and Joe could power ahead of the defence and then calmly drive in his shot wide of the keeper... one-nil and team, coaches, subs and supporters went crazy.

Despite a good quarter of dominance where Jets keeper had to make three very good saves, it was Jets who then equalised very much against the run of play. However, when it seemed that the tide was changing, the



Lions created good interplay in midfield with Harry Jones, Kieren Stockwell and Jordan King creating havoc which earned a corner. Jonesy swung it in, and as the defence hesitated, Rhys Sweeney rose majestically above to power in a header. 2 – 1 and crowd again celebrated with much noise. However, the Jets would not give up easily and Jack Pryor in goal had to be sharp to save and also brave blocks, strong tackles from Jude Hillier, Ellis Russel, Alex McGehin and Matthew Downes kept us ahead until half time.

Second half saw Jets throw everything at Brixworth and Jack Pryor made an amazing save from a well-taken free kick, while Connor Harper and Jake Telford had to work incredibly hard to help keep us in the match. Brixworth, who were playing the better football, created a great chance for Jake Telford, but their keeper again just managed to deflect the ball wide.

However, the momentum had turned and Jets were beginning to dominate, so a change was needed. The managers brought on Henry Reid up front; almost immediately Ivins

clipped an amazing through ball which Reid ran on to completely outpacing the defence and scored the Lions' third goal. The crowd went mad and the whole squad celebrated in dramatic pile on, knowing the match was in their grasp.

As the opposition lost composure, Regan Haynes and Matt Donnelly had to take a number of punishing hits in defense. From resulting free kicks Jones and Harry Chick went close and Reid and Haynes made some useful time-saving runs. The crowning glory came via Morgan Webb, who after a great defence by Jude Hillier slotted a through ball for Chick, who drove at the defence to unselfishly cross to Joe Cayton who finished coolly with his second of the game. 4 – 1, job done.

Once the managers of Rob Jones, Andy King and Andrew Reid had been presented with their medals, it was time for the Lions to collect the Trophy, the honour going to Jordan King the Captain.

The celebrations went on for ages but eventually it was time to leave and a chance for Kieren, Jude and Henry, who had spent the past ten years – from under 8 to under 18 – in the team, and for whom this would be their last game together.

The coaches agreed that it was fantastic to see all the efforts the 18 lads had put in, this season and for years before, was finally rewarded.

Andrew, Rob and would like to thank Ron Little, Gary Lloyd, Ian Bandey and especially Rob Gross for their support, involvement and encouragement over the seasons and also Tony and Simon and of course their sponsors D&H.

A massive thanks also goes to Becky Reid and Darren Hillier, but the biggest thanks to all the lads who put it in this year and made the 10 years such a great experience.

A day to remember! – Andrew Reid



Brixworth wins local golf derby

The annual Brixworth vs Spratton golf tournament – now in its sixth year! – has seen the Brixworth team win in comprehensive fashion, 6-3. A total of 36 players participated this year, captained as usual by Wayne Brown for Brixworth and Richard Martin - better known as Chub – for Spratton.

In the six years the competition has been going, Spratton won four times, so this was a great result for Brixworth as we don't want to let Spratton run away with it (much to their pleasure, it must be said). – Matt Cox



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