

## Brixworth Library under threat as NCC consults on broad cuts



The future of Brixworth Library is in question, as Northamptonshire County Council is proposing to close most of the county's libraries in an effort to help close a large budget deficit.

A consultation is currently underway which sets out three options for the future of Northamptonshire's 36 libraries. Two of the three options would cut the 21 small libraries in Northamptonshire but preserve Brixworth library, which is one of the county's seven medium-sized libraries. In the first option, the local community would be given the opportunity to take on the running and staffing of the small libraries, the second option does not make that provision. In the third option all but the eight large libraries would be cut, without the opportunity of the community taking on the libraries slated for closure. The mobile library will be removed in all options and replaced with an extended Library to You programme, which delivers books directly to readers who cannot come to the library due to age or disability. Closures

will also affect Children's Centres services delivered at many of the libraries, which would be closed, along with the library.

The first option would save £290k/y, the second £619k/y and the third £1.2m/y. The savings would help NCC's efforts to plug a £37.3m/y black hole in its finances.

"Whilst we understand the need for NCC to balance its books, we at the Friends of Brixworth Library, and I'm pleased to say, a large part of the Brixworth and surrounding villages, feel closure of Brixworth Library would be a catastrophic blow to the community," said Isobella Spiers, co-chair of the FOBL. "The library is an important social and community hub and used by all, from babies to pensioners and all ages in between, and provides a huge range of community and health services. I would urge everyone to respond to the consultation and sign the petition to support Brixworth library." *(continues on p 2)*

### Your Deserving Cause 2017

It's been a little while since we last ran our Deserving Cause campaign, but I'm happy to say that the wait has finally come to an end – the publication of this issue of the Bulletin marks the start to another round.

In a nutshell, the Brixworth Bulletin is run by a group of volunteers (really a small army, thinking of all our lovely delivery helpers!), none of which take any payment for their hard work. Income generated from advertising pays the cost of printing the Bulletin and any other direct expenses, and if we're lucky, there's a little left over at the end of the year. Whenever that surplus reaches a decent amount, we ask you, our readers, to suggest some local good causes to which we could donate some of this windfall.

Good causes can be groups, clubs, or individuals. The only real rule is that they have to be based in, or primarily serving, one or more of the villages that comprise the Bulletin's distribution area – ie Brixworth, Scaldwell, Maidwell, Lamport, Hanging Houghton and Cottesbrooke.

In the past, the Bulletin has supported all manner of causes in this way – sports clubs, youth groups, Brixworth All Saints Church, the Draughton Club Room, a severely disabled girl in the village, the County Park; the list goes on.

If you know of a local cause, be it a group or an individual, who you think would be a deserving recipient of some funding, please get in touch. You can contact the Bulletin by calling 882 567 (evenings and weekends only) or email [editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk](mailto:editor@brixworthbulletin.co.uk). The deadline is 15 January 2018.

In the next issue we will shortlist the best nominations, and ask you to vote for your favourite. I look forward to hearing from you!

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Northampton County Council plans to reduce winter gritting to save money

The consultation is open until 13 January 2018. It can be accessed at [www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/library-service](http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/library-service).

The proposed library cuts are part of a broader savings effort currently underway by NCC. In all, the council has a black hole in its finances of £37.3m/y. The savings package currently under discussion, which includes the libraries, would save £9.6m. NCC is now trying to find options for further cutbacks to plug the rest of the hole, which it will discuss in December 2018.

The £9.6m identified so far, which assumes the second of the library options, includes many other measures that would be felt in the local community. The options are, among others:

- Reduced weed killing, road marking maintenance, traffic signal maintenance and road safety education on the Northamptonshire highways
- Cutting back the Trading Standards service from 25 to 13 staff
- Reduced children's service
- Reduced winter gritting (reducing the number of roads treated by 11%), and cutting down of salt stocks
- Cutting subsidies for several bus routes, including the 60 (Welford - Northampton), 61 (Coton - Northampton), 62 (Scaldwell - Northampton), 96 (Northampton - Rugby, section Harlestone Manor to West Haddon), as well as services to Milton Keynes and Towcester.
- Less expenditure on consultants and agency staff
- Removing a £100k/y subsidy to the Royal and Derngate theatre in Northampton
- Reducing telephone access to the council and moving more people to access services and make enquiries online

Cecile Irving-Swift, who represents Brixworth and surrounding area on NCC, told the Bulletin: "As a backbencher sitting on the finance committee, I will question [the committee] as robustly as I can. What is important for me is that I work for the electors in my division and represent them as forcefully as possible.

She explained that the main pressure on NCC's budget come from rising costs for Adult Social Care and Looked-after Children. "These are very difficult subjects to address. Until we can all discuss these issues calmly and realistically, all other services of lesser priority will bear the load."

The overall plan for the proposed budget cuts is open for consultation. Feedback must be received by 1 December 2017. For more information see [www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/council-and-democracy/budgets-and-spending/Pages/draft-budget-2018-19.aspx](http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/council-and-democracy/budgets-and-spending/Pages/draft-budget-2018-19.aspx) - *Claudia Flavell-While*



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# No costs awarded in Employment Tribunal

Brixworth Parish Council and the former parish councilor Stephen Pointer will each have to carry their own costs for the long-running employment tribunal, the judge has ruled.

The ruling, announced in September, marks the end of the lengthy court case, which began in 2014 and centered on what kind of 'reasonable adjustment' the Parish Council would need to make to accommodate Pointer, who suffers from a progressive visual impairment.

During this time, over numerous hearings, both sides racked up huge solicitors' bills. Pointer, despite having a pro bono lawyer for part of the work, is believed to have amassed significant legal costs, ranging well into the five figures. The Parish Council from April 2015 to March 2017 spent over £85,000 on the case. Further bills are expected from this summer's hearings, which are likely to push the final bill towards or even over the £100,000 mark.

Last year, the judge in the tribunal found that Brixworth Parish Council had failed in its duty to provide reasonable adjustment and ordered it to pay almost £23,000 in damages. The Parish Council made the payment, but first deducted the money Pointer had been ordered to pay the Council in a previous case. Pointer asked the Bulletin to clarify that the sum deducted exceeded £10,000 (rather than £9,500 as noted in the September issue), though he declined to confirm exactly how much more. – cfw

## Christmas Family Photo-shoot

Brixworth Photographic Society will be having their annual Christmas Family Photo-shoot in the Community Centre on Spratton Road on Saturday 2nd December starting from 4:00 p.m.

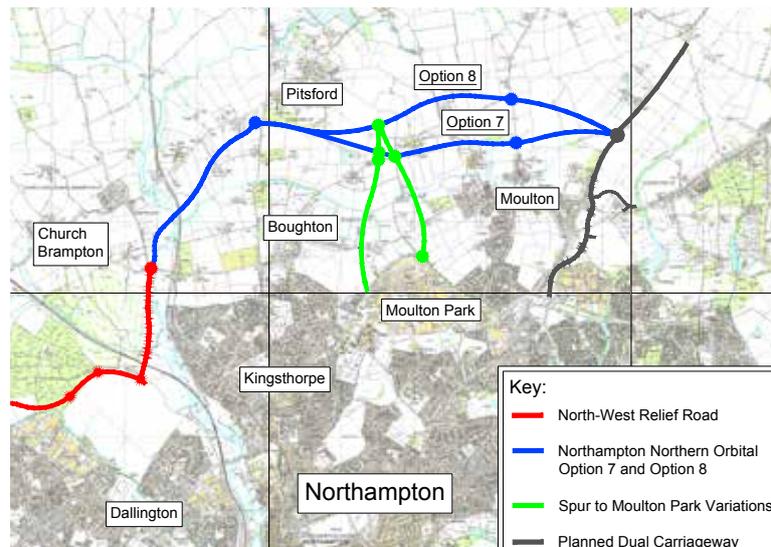
The profits will go to the funds for the Brixworth Centre Pre-School.

If you would like to have photos to send to your loved ones in time for Christmas, please contact Ian Topham [ian@tophams.net](mailto:ian@tophams.net), via Facebook 'Ian G Topham' or on the Brixworth let us know Facebook page.

# Record response to Northern Orbital Road Consultation

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) has delayed next steps on the plans for two controversial major new roads north of Northampton after receiving an unprecedented number of responses to its consultation.

Between them, the Northern Orbital Route and the North-West Relief Road would link the A43 just outside Moulton (which is currently being widened to a double carriageway) with the Harlestone Road south of Chapel Brampton. This would complete Northampton's Ring Road.



After receiving a record-breaking 1200 responses to the consultations on the roads over the summer, the Council announced it would need more time to consider the feedback. The publication of a report on the road schemes, which would set out preferred options for NCC to approve, has been pushed back from November to early 2018.

The roads have attracted significant interest, particularly from the communities that would be directly affected by the proposed new roads. Some have questioned whether the roads would make any material improvements to journey times in the area, while others are concerned that improved transport would increase the likelihood of further housing developments. – cfw

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# Work on new surgery underway

Work has started on construction of the new GP surgery at the second Saxon Rise development at the bottom of Northampton Road. Completion is expected in June 2018.

A short sod-cutting ceremony was held on 6th October to mark this occasion. The many parties who have contributed to progress this far were represented, including Barratt Homes, who agreed to build the surgery as part of its contribution to the local community. Assura, the property management company

said: "This is a real achievement for Brixworth and the local community, when we thought we had no hope at the start of the process. Due to a massive team effort we got there in the end."

The process of getting to this stage required a herculean effort and no fewer than 14 meetings of the above parties. It has also required dealing with many different levels of administration in the NHS, up to Chief Executive of NHS England, Simon Stevens,

late October between Merry Tom Lane and the A508 roundabout. This was to widen the road to accommodate a right hand turn lane, a new two metre wide footpath, improvements to drainage and re-surfacing. The 30mph speed restriction will later be moved to begin close to the entrance to the cricket ground. To some, a right hand for traffic from the south may seem a bit excessive, given the cost and disruption, but if it prevents a few accidents it will have been worth it.

Mike Parsons, Councillor Kevin Parker and Chris Heaton Harris had explored the option of only partially closing the road during off peak times or retaining a single lane controlled by lights. However, this was not possible due to the safety risks of a partial closure, and because this would have extended the closure to ten to twelve weeks.

## Same budget, more space

While the new surgery will provide more space than the current GP premises, it will have to operate within the same budget and number of staff. Practice Manager Kathryn Baines will be launching a fundraising drive in Brixworth to raise the money needed for new furnishings.

The foyer of the new surgery will be enhanced with an interesting exhibition. Mike Nice is arranging for a display of artefacts discovered on the building site during the archeological survey. He hopes the Brixworth History Society will be able to keep them in perpetuity at the Heritage Centre afterwards.

The future of the existing surgery is not yet known. – Jennifer Fitzgerald & Bob Chattaway



which acts as the landlord on behalf of the NHS, Brixworth Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Planning Group, Daventry District Council, the Saxon Series practice and its Patients Group, as well as our local MP, Chris Heaton-Harris.

Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council, who set up, chaired and guided a "Surgery Panel" through the incredibly complex task of driving forward this initiative,

who the local MP Chris Heaton-Harris successfully negotiated with on behalf of the Surgery Panel. There have also been legal complications relating to the ownership of the various properties involved.

## Northampton Road Closure

In the short term, the project unfortunately caused some traffic disruption. Northampton Road had to be closed for five weeks starting



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## Dispensary says thank you for your patience

Saxon Spires Practice wants to acknowledge that it has had difficulties in dispensing recently at both Guilsborough and Brixworth. This has been due to staff shortages and problems with the computer system. Staff have been working very hard to fix the problems, even working at weekends. The practice hopes that its dispensing service will be back to normal shortly and thanks patients for their patience and understanding.

## SSPG Coffee Morning

A Christmas Coffee Morning will be held at Guilsborough Surgery on Friday 1st December, 10am-12noon. All proceeds will go towards purchasing equipment for the practice.

Look out for more health talks in the spring. For more information contact Barbara Hogg on 880552 or email [barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk).

# DDC confirms changes to bin rota

## Black bins to move to 3-week schedule, garden waste costs extra

Black bins in Brixworth and surrounding villages will only be emptied every three weeks from June 2018 onwards, Daventry District Council (DDC) has confirmed.

Existing brown bins will be repurposed to collect mixed recycling, replacing the separate blue and red recycling boxes currently in use. They will be collected fortnightly. Anyone who still wants their garden waste collected will have to acquire a new green bin and pay a surcharge for the collection. Food waste will continue to be collected weekly.

DDC says that it could not afford to maintain the current bin rota due to rising costs, which were projected to rise to £2m per year. The new arrangements are much cheaper, at £1.25m per year.

The reaction from villagers, as posted on the local Facebook page, was mostly negative. The main concern was the move to three-weekly emptying of the black bin, particularly among parents of babies and toddlers, who pointed out that lengthening the collection times would cause smell issues and encourage vermin.

### Hanging Houghton & Lamport: Volunteers Wanted!

Hanging Houghton and Lamport's Parish Council is seeking volunteers to help draw up a Neighbourhood Plan for the community.

Neighbourhood Plans are important tools to shape the future of a village, including advising where development should and should not take place. Villages without a Neighbourhood Plan leave themselves more open to future development, with less option for the community to get involved in shaping the size, location and nature of future housing.

If you would like to hear more, please contact Frances Allbury on [clerk@lhnpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@lhnpc.org.uk) or 01536 790870.

Existing service	Proposed 1-2-3 service
 <p><b>Large black bin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubbish which cannot be recycled</li> <li>Collected two-weekly</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Large black bin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubbish which cannot be recycled</li> <li>Collected three-weekly</li> <li>Considering weekly disposable nappy service</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Blue recycling box</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic, glass, aluminium cans and foil</li> <li>Collected weekly</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Large recycling bin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All recycling, including large cardboard, with insert for glass</li> <li>Collected two-weekly</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Red recycling box</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper, small cardboard</li> <li>Collected weekly</li> </ul> <p> Large cardboard cut up and placed in red box</p>	
 <p><b>Brown food caddy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food waste</li> <li>collected weekly</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Brown food caddy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food waste</li> <li>collected weekly</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Large brown bin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Garden waste</li> <li>Collected two-weekly</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Garden waste options</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put in black bin</li> <li>Home compost</li> <li>Pay for additional large bin (equivalent of 69p per week)</li> <li>Collected two-weekly</li> </ul>
Around £2million per year from 2018	Around £1.25million per year from 2018

Others were concerned that charging for removing garden waste could lead to more people disposing of this in the black bin. However replacing the open blue and red bins with a large closed recycling bin was broadly welcomed, as this will cut down on windblown waste during the autumn gales.

DDC first consulted on these changes in 2016 when the cost impact of maintaining the current rotas first became known. The council has now signed a new ten-year contract for bin collections and other environmental services with Norse Commercial Services, which comes into effect on 4 June 2018. DDC and Norse will also be jointly responsible for a range of other services, such as street cleaning, grass cutting and clearing fly-tipping.

Councillor Jo Gilford, Environment Portfolio Holder at Daventry District Council: said: "The new 1-2-3 waste and recycling service will mean households adjusting to some significant changes to their collections. However preparations for the new service are already under way to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible for all our residents." - *Claudia Flavell-White*



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# Improving the Brampton Valley Way

One of our District Councillors is looking for help. Cecile Irving-Swift, like many local residents, is a keen user of the Brampton Valley Way, which winds its way to Market Harborough through many of the villages she represents. She would like to make it more user-friendly.



“Because it is so flat, it is a wonderful facility for young families, the elderly and especially for children learning to ride a bike”, she says. “However the tunnels (such as Oxenden Tunnel, pictured above) are rather dark and muddy and the floors are uneven. There are also places where hedges and verges are encroaching on the path.”

Cecile would like to raise funds, perhaps through the lottery, to pay for improvements. A survey of users would be the first step.

Several parish councils have expressed support for such an initiative but Cecile would like to establish what appetite exists in the wider population to provide easier access, for example, for cyclists and buggies. If this is of interest to you, too, please contact Cecile directly at [cirving-swift@daventrydc.gov.uk](mailto:cirving-swift@daventrydc.gov.uk) or on 01858 525202.

– Jennifer Fitzgerald

# Brixworth History Society

The September meeting of the Brixworth History Society concerned an illustrated talk by Peter Perkins about the industrial heritage of Northamptonshire, particularly those with links to Brixworth.

In particular we heard about the ironstone excavations, their transportation from Brixworth Station and the brick kilns near Spratton Station. This was supplemented by a display from our archives of the ironstone labourers and workings.

Susan Copperwheat gave a lighthearted talk in October about the origins of names. As the archives did not have anything to illustrate this, we displayed recently acquired information regarding Brixworth's Slum Clearance orders of 1935 and 36 when several families had to vacate their homes in Newland Square, Hel Yard (neither existed after that!) and some properties in Newlands and Church Street.

November's talk is about Nineteenth Century Magistrates, and December sees our annual social which includes ex-residents Mike Hermann and Dave Blake entertaining us with anecdotes of life in the village.

BHS meets in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month.

Annual Membership is £12 and guests are £3 per meeting.

– Pauline Kirton



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# Introducing Brixworth Velo

The health benefits of cycling are very well documented and today we see many people whizzing through our village on bikes. More than two million people across the country now cycle at least once a week, an all-time high according to British Cycling, the sport's governing body in the UK.

For some cyclists the freedom of the open road is satisfying enough but for others cycling can provide a great social experience, the chance to meet new friends, talk about bikes and of course turn the pedals.

In March this year our village gained its very own cycling group. After recently taking up road cycling Simon Fowler made best use of the village's very popular Facebook notice board by posting an enquiry to see if there were any cyclists in Brixworth looking to meet up occasionally for a group ride.

The response was quite staggering! A flurry of replies came back from a number of local residents who were very keen to get together and ride.

Fowler said: "The problem locally is that most other cycling groups are some considerable distance away meaning that to attend a group ride it would mean riding a lot of miles to get to the starting point or having to bundle the bike into the car."

The first meet was back in March when eight riders tentatively arrived at the library, on cycling's version of a blind date. The rest was history. After a great first ride new friendships were made and plans for the next trip were quickly under way.

The original plan was to meet monthly, but demand soon forced weekly rides with new faces arriving as regularly as the rides. Every Sunday now sees 10+ cyclists, some regular and some ad hoc meeting for rides of various distances whilst enjoying the cycle chatter and obligatory coffee stop.

"We aim for the group to appeal to everyone who loves cycling



and the social buzz group riding can provide. We have a huge variety of riders, from experienced riders to novices. This provides lots of support and comradery that has helped some of our riders make huge improvements," Fowler explained. "It hasn't been easy catering for such a variety but we are slowly evolving to ensure there is something for everyone. Our plans in the future are to provide both slower and faster group rides as numbers grow so that we can specifically cater for beginner riders and get more local people on a bike."



Another huge milestone was seeing village cyclist and former British Champion Maxine Johnson joining the group for regular rides. "This is a wonderful step forward for the group as we would love to increase the amount of women taking part. Having an iconic cyclist like Maxine will hopefully inspire other women to get on a bike to enjoy the health and social benefits it can provide," Fowler said.

To top off what has been an amazing summer, 20 Brixworth Velo riders entered en-masse the Cycle4Cynthia event at Lamport Hall (pictured, below). They joined over 1,000 other riders all raising money for the local charity, The Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

Fowler noted: "For some of our riders it was their first ever cycling event, for others it was their first ever 50 miles, for the rest it was an opportunity to show off our wonderful new jerseys and celebrate our first summer together. We had a wonderful reception from the organisers and managed to be on the front row with Olympic cyclist Becky James for the start."

The group's plans are to keep steadily growing and continue riding throughout the winter. If you love riding and would like to join Brixworth Velo out one Sunday please search

for our pages on Facebook and Strava where you will find lots more information on rides and much more. Alternatively drop an email to [simonfowler81@gmail.com](mailto:simonfowler81@gmail.com)

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# Bedding down for winter

September heralds the beginning of the winter work programme for rangers. As nature gets ready for her annual slumber, the focus shifts from looking after the park for its human visitors to managing habitats for the creatures that call the park their home.

However, the wet August caused all the vegetation to put on a growth spurt and by mid-October it was still showing no sign of stopping. This extended our normal mowing season quite considerably and put back some of our winter work.

'Winter work' covers a broad range of tasks that aim to make the most of the habitats around the park. This may include coppicing, pollarding, canopy raising (or crown lifting), hedge-laying, dead hedging and thinning out. Many, if not all, of these tasks will take place over the months up until the end of March, or until the trees begin to leaf up. At this point, the sap is rising, nature is reawakening after her slumber and it is time to put down the tools and start mowing again.

## Brixworth Country Park

### Sensory Garden

Preparations for the improvement works to the Sensory Garden began with help from a corporate volunteer group from Barclays in



Volunteers from Barclays and Barclaycard dismantling the old pond dipping platform

October. They gave all the vegetation a hard prune and cut back lots of shrubs and self-set growth to make way for the bigger works that will soon take place. The group did an excellent job and even managed to uncover a hitherto unknown apple tree. Two members of the group worked with Ranger Andy to finish some sleeper edging to one of the paths in the garden, a task that was new to them when they started. They did an excellent job and we hope they enjoyed learning some new skills. The garden looks much better after its "haircut" and the rangers are excited about

the developments that will unfold over the next few months.

### Folly Pond

Barclays, and Barclaycard, have been very supportive of the park, and two additional groups of corporate volunteers came in September and October to work on Folly Pond. Both groups applied to their Communities Team for grants to help pay for the materials, and we are very grateful for their support.

The first group of thirty people was split into two teams. One small team set to work on replacing the old pond dipping platform, which was rotting and becoming dangerous. The rangers took the decision to replace the old structure with recycled plastic made to mimic the appearance of wood. The plastic is very durable and will last much longer than any wooden structure. Although it may look like wood, the plastic doesn't behave like wood and is quite a unique material to use. It has provided both a challenge and a learning curve, but shows promise and may be used again in the park.

When the old platform was removed, the team from Barclaycard found a time capsule beneath it. It contained hand written notes from a group of volunteers from Toc H who helped to install the original platform back in August 1996. It took them a week to build, and the replacement platform has proven to be just as lengthy a project.

The larger team cut back the overhanging vegetation along a stretch of the dog walk, widening the path and making it look a lot tidier. They were so good we couldn't keep up with the disposal of the cuttings!

A second group from Barclays came in October and finished the fencing around Folly Pond, and an excellent job they did of it too. The fence is to deter dog owners from allowing their pets into the pond. The water may be very inviting, but the dogs do cause quite a bit of damage to the pond in



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several ways. They erode the banks as they scramble in and out of the pond, and as well as disturbing the wildlife they kick up the silt at the bottom of the pond. This clouds the water and the pond plants are not able to photosynthesise efficiently, reducing the amount of oxygen in the water and having a detrimental effect on the creatures living in the pond.

## Paint Means Poo campaign

Following on from our 'Bag It and Bin It' campaign earlier in the year, we joined Daventry District Council with their 'Paint Means Poo' initiative. The aim of the campaign was for local communities to highlight the issue of dog fouling in a particular area, so you may well have noticed the strange practice of spraying dog mess orange in Brixworth village too. By spraying incidents of dog fouling with orange paint, the campaign hoped to embarrass irresponsible dog owners and encourage people to pick up after their dogs.

The rangers will continue to highlight the issue of dog fouling in the park as initial results suggest that it is having a positive impact on the problem.

## Brampton Valley Way

The autumn colours along the Brampton Valley Way have been beautiful, and the uncharacteristic warm spell meant late sightings of butterflies and caterpillars well into October. The strange weather patterns also brought in a couple of storms, which – at time of writing – thankfully hadn't caused a lot of damage.

Should you spot any wind-fallen trees along the Brampton Valley Way we would be very grateful if you could report them to us, and we will do our best to get them cleared as soon as possible.

## Railway Tunnels

Our regular team of Thursday volunteers had a busy few weeks clearing vegetation from the entrances to the railway tunnels at Kelmarsh and Oxenden. This was to prevent roots and climbing plants from damaging the mortar, which would ultimately have a detrimental effect on the structural integrity of the tunnels. The works involved long ladders to reach the buddleia that was growing in some very unusual places, spades to clear the drainage channels along the tops of the tunnels, and a lot of hard work, as well as negotiating the steep and slippery slopes either side of both tunnels. Not only did they clear the tunnel entrances, but they also cut back a lot of vegetation from the overpasses. These are sign-posted at each end of both tunnels and provide an above ground alternative to walking through the tunnels.

## Triangular Meadow

Another labour-intensive task is the annual hay cut of Triangular Meadow, which is situated between Kelmarsh Station and the Oxenden car park. The wildflower meadow is a fantastic resource for pollinators and each



Ranger Andy digging post holes for the Folly Pond fence

year it needs cutting and raking to ensure it remains in good condition. The cut grass is raked off to prevent the soil from becoming nutrient-rich, and to allow the sunlight to reach the seeds of the wildflowers. If you visit Triangular Meadow look in one of the three corners, where the grass cuttings were deposited. Those areas are full of nettles which thrive in the nutrient-rich environment. If we didn't do the annual cut then the meadow would gradually become overgrown with nettles and scrub, which would outcompete the wildflowers.

## Bramble Bashing

An enthusiastic group of volunteers from Nationwide gave an afternoon of their time

to cut back brambles along the Brampton Valley Way between Boughton Crossing and Brampton Halt. The brambles were encroaching onto the path and the volunteers did a great job of bashing them back and reclaiming the path.

## Events

Our half-term programme of events proved quite popular, despite some autumnal weather, and dozens of pumpkins were carved displaying a great deal of creativity. With the days growing ever-shorter and the Winter Solstice fast-approaching it is time to look ahead to our Christmas holidays events.

**Christmas Crafts** – join the rangers in the Woodpecker Room and craft some Christmas-themed decorations out of natural materials. The event will run between 2pm and 4pm. No booking necessary, just drop in, latest recommended admission 3.30pm. £2 per child.

**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 report back to the rangers to collect your certificate and a gift. Suggested donation of £1 per child.

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Barclays volunteers after putting up the fence around Folly Pond

**S'more Xplorer Christmas Special** – the ever-popular Xplorer event, but with added s'more! Find the markers using the map, then head back to the rangers to collect your certificate, gift and to toast a marshmallow and make a s'more. £1.50 per child.

**New Year S'mores** – a slimmed-down version of our summer event, and no booking necessary! Just turn up and toast a marshmallow, then squish it between a couple of chocolate biscuits for a deliciously tasty treat. 50p per s'more.

**Winter Bird Care** – join Ranger Helen and learn about different ways to look after your garden birds throughout the winter. £TBC

**Love Birds Activity** – make and take a bird box with the rangers to give birds somewhere to nest in your garden. £5 per bird box.

For more information about any of the events, please contact us on 0300 126 5932 or email [brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixworth@firstforwellbeing.co.uk). All events are subject to change and weather-dependent. - *Vikki Austin*

## Dates for the diary

- Volunteer work day – Saturday 16th December, 10am to 1pm
- Christmas Crafts – Saturday 16th December, 2pm to 4pm
- Nature Tots – Weds 20th December, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Xplorer Orienteering - Thursday 21st December, 11am – 3pm
- S'more Xplorer Christmas Special – Wednesday 27th December, 11am – 3pm
- Winter Bird Care – Friday 29th December, 11am – 3pm
- New Year S'mores – Tuesday 2nd January, 11am – 2pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 17th January, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 20th January, 10am to 4pm
- Xplorer Orienteering - Tuesday 13th February, 11am to 3pm
- Love Birds Activity – Weds 14th February, 11am to 3pm
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 17th February, 10am to 4pm
- Nature Tots – Weds 21st February, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Volunteer work day – Saturday 17th March, 10am to 4pm
- Nature Tots – Wednesday 21st March, 10.30am to 12.30pm



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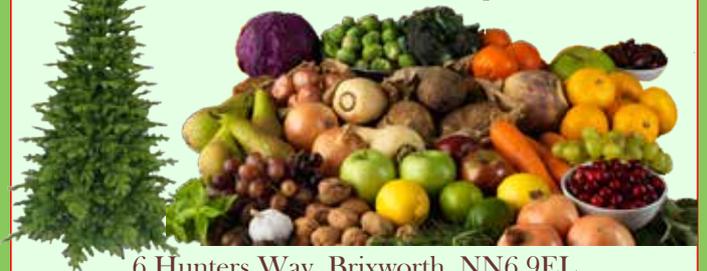


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# Country Eye

## Gold in Your Treetops

There it lay, a tiny bundle of feathers, on my doorstep. As I bent to look at it, the slightest of movements caught my eye. Whatever it was, it was still alive, if only just so. As soon as I took it into my hand I saw from its stripe of orange and gold, lined black, across the top of the head, that it was a male goldcrest. At a mere three inches or so it shares with its much rarer cousin the firecrest the distinction of being Europe's smallest bird. It even beats Jenny Wren by 1/8 of an inch!

As too often seems to happen it had crashed into a window, and was stunned by the impact. I find the best thing to do when this happens is to put it down in a safe place and leave it alone. Sometimes they do die, but mostly after a period of rest they recover and fly, as this little bird did.

Although seldom seen, the goldcrest is not a rare bird. The population of these islands may be around a million birds. Mainly confined to conifers, look for it wherever pines, larches and similar needle-bearing trees are found. It only takes a few of these trees and shrubs to attract a pair.

There are quite a few around the Pytchley Court Medical Centre, but being so small they are hard to spot high up in the trees. Near my home there is a row of tall Lawson's Cypress, and this is where my little visitor will have come from.

When I first came to live here in 1991 I used to hear their high-pitched songs and calls pitched right at the upper limit of our hearing, but sadly I no longer do so. Most folk over the age of 55 will fail to hear them without a sensitive hearing aid.

In past years when our winters were much colder than now goldcrest numbers would crash after a spell of severe cold weather. Such a tiny bird needs to find and eat very nearly its own weight of food every day to ensure survival. After the blisteringly cold 1963 winter I recall only one or two were calling in Harlestone Firs, where previously I used to hear dozens. Despite these setbacks numbers quickly bounce back. They may lay ten or more eggs in a single brood, and then will go on to produce another clutch in a good season. The nest is a neat ball of closely woven moss and lichens bound with spider silk and slung hammock-style beneath the tip of a branch.

"Where do flies go in the wintertime" was the frequent preamble to many a music hall sketch in past times. It's a good job goldcrests know the answer since its diet is spiders and insects. Every daylight hour is spent in a never-ending search for enough of them to keep it going through to long winter nights. Even more remarkable is that goldcrests from Scandinavia regularly make the hazardous North Sea crossing to spend the winter with us. Here they join the roving parties of tits, treecreepers, etc that swarm through the treetops, many pairs of eyes looking for their next meal.

As I gently cupped that tiny creature in my hand, I could see it was watching me through those orbs of velvety black. What was going on in its mind, I wonder? Fear of this great lumbering beast must surely have been there because it had feebly attempted escape as I picked it up. Its head was no bigger than my thumbnail, and yet that scrap of a brain knew enough to guide it through the day, enough for it to find its way across the waves, enough I hope for it to live to breed next year. Many, most indeed, will succumb in the cold days and nights to come, even though the goldcrest's potential lifespan is thought to be seven years.

Will there be enough insects to feed the spiders they rely on in years to come? The news comes that 75% of the weight of insect living mass, the biomass as its called, has disappeared from our countryside, according to new research. That includes butterflies, bees and moths, the great host of pollinators that we rely on for one in three of every mouthful of food we eat. - Brian Webster



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# Village Voices perform Messiah for Silver Anniversary

Village Voices, the choir of local voices, which grew out of a casual conversation between two mothers in the Walgrave Primary school playground 25 years ago, will be celebrating its Silver Anniversary with a performance of Handel's Messiah at All Saints Church, Brixworth on Friday 22nd December. The performance starts at 7.30pm, under the baton of their director of all of those 25 years, Ian Clarke.

Over the quarter century, the choir has grown to over 40 voices, and they will be singing this iconic work with stunning soloists, including husband and wife mezzo soprano and tenor Amanda O'Brien and Philip O'Brien, Brixworth's own Gwion Thomas singing bass, and instrumentalists including trumpeter Nick Bunker and internationally acclaimed organist Catherine Ennis.

This promises to be a true highlight of the choir's celebrations and a wonderful way to invite everyone to celebrate with them at the start of the Christmas festivities.

Tickets: £12 for adults and £6 for children on the door or [www.wegotickets.com/event/419692](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/419692)

# Save our Library!



As you will have read elsewhere in the Brixworth Bulletin, our local library is threatened with closure. The County Council has put forward different proposals of how they would like to shape the future of libraries in Northamptonshire and their services. Obviously, the Friends of Brixworth Library (FOBL) do not want to see Brixworth Library close, as the modern day library is now so much more than a lender of books. Our library provides services for children and their families with Rhymetime, play sessions and health visitor drop-in clinics. The library provides computers, printing and copying services as well as access to the internet. It also provides a courier service via My Hermes. It's a valuable community space which welcomes young and old to come together.

You can have your say by choosing the proposal that will save our library from closure by visiting the NCC website, writing to your local County Council, your MP or signing a petition. There are online petitions circulating and FOBL will soon make available a paper version in the village for local people to sign. Please don't think that your voice won't count or that your opinion doesn't matter, as the more of us that can contribute, the better chance our library has to stay open. So spread the word.....SAVE BRIXWORTH LIBRARY!

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/council-and-democracy/budgets-and-spending/Pages/review-of-library-services-in-northamptonshire.aspx>

## Forthcoming Events

There will be a performance of A Christmas Carol by James Hornsby on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd December, 7:30pm. Tickets are available from the library or via the Friends of Brixworth Library Facebook page.

The next Friends Quiz Nights will take place on Friday 19th January.

Visit our Facebook Page for details for future meetings and events. Please also contact us via Facebook if you would like to join us and help support the library through fundraising and events.

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# Chris Heaton-Harris MP's WESTMINSTER REPORT

## Make a difference – talk to your MP

It would be naïve of me to not acknowledge that there is a disconnect between Members of Parliament and a decent chunk of society. For whatever reason, many people do not want to engage in politics or don't feel that it is worth their while. "MPs are all the same - nothing ever changes" is a phrase I hear too often.

So in my time as your MP I've done my best to prove this simply isn't true and I hope the following story underlines this and shows that anyone can make a real difference in this country.

One area I have worked on which I am particularly proud of is trying to combat online VAT evasion. Anyone who follows me on social media or reads my 'Westminster Report' will be familiar with my ongoing campaign for policy changes to help combat online VAT fraud. New figures suggest this costs the Exchequer £1.5 billion a year in lost tax receipts and is the second biggest fraud of its kind in HMRC's history.

Whilst this is a great reason to eradicate this flagrant disregard of British law, I care most about this because all started as a result of a meeting I had with a constituent who lives just down the road from me.

A small online retailer of goods like mobile phone and iPad cases, he'd built his business to a good size over the years, only to see his turnover massively shrink almost overnight, as people were finding the same product on the same internet shopping sites he used at a big discount. He suspected the lower price was down to his competitor, mainly Chinese companies, not paying VAT. Off the back of this get-together and subsequently working closely with my constituent the following happened: I raised the subject in Parliament and led a debate on the issue, it was then mentioned twice by the Chancellor in consecutive Budgets, the National Audit Office investigated the issue and produced a report, which was then scrutinised in a Public Accounts Hearing to see whether we can close this issue down completely.

All down to a member of the public raising an issue with their MP.

Obviously I am only one of 650 MPs so there are some limitations to what I can do in Westminster but I will always bang the drum for common sense and for my constituents.

Politics touches nearly every aspect of our lives: from the amount of tax people pay, to how we deal with litter on our streets, from the quality of our schools and hospitals to street lighting and so much else, decisions made by people you elect make a difference to everyone in your community and I have always tried to encourage people to understand they can change things they feel are not right.

This is why I try and get the younger generations interested as early as possible and I actively go out into schools across my constituency and beyond to try and engage them at a young age. I also hold regular political "curry evenings" and have also hosted 14 people for a week's programme of work experience here in my office at Westminster this year alone. I've visited dozens of businesses and Parish Councils and other organisations too.

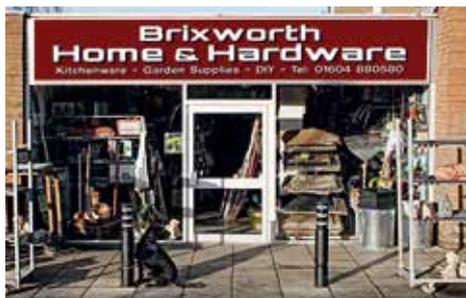
I guess the purpose of this article is that I need your help to be a better MP and in turn, help you make the bit of the world we can influence a better place. I do read your letters, emails, social media posts and listen to your concerns when I meet you in person. I like to think I have a good reputation in responding and getting things done.

So, as always please do not hesitate to get in touch, whether it is to give me your opinion, share your concerns or generally give or ask for advice; I really am here to help.

*Chris*

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# Brixworth & Scaldwell Scouts

Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group has had lots of fun since returning from the summer holidays.

The **Beavers** have had many adventures so far. They've helped our community by weeding the centre and it has made it look much tidier. They've had fun learning how to make water filters and have spent an evening collecting conkers and leaves to do leaf printing and conker crafts. They've learnt some first aid and have spent an evening learning about disabilities, they even now know some sign language! Later on this term, they will get to learn all about endangered animals, they'll get to try lots of international foods on international food night and they'll have lots of fun with Christmas crafts and at the Christmas party.

The **Cubs** have also been busy. They spent an activity filled weekend camping with hundreds of other Cubs from the County before the summer. They've been on adventures down the Brampton Valley Way and visited Brixworth Fire Station. They've created some wacky racer cars and they've even been to an ice cream factory, where, of course, they had to make sure that all of the flavours tasted good.

The **Scouts** have been staying out of doors as much as they can this term. They spent a weekend camping with other Scouts

from all across the County where they took part in shooting, archery, caving, rock climbing and plenty more besides. They've learnt about campfires, how to light them, and how to be sensible in managing them. They've cooked corn beef hash and bananas and chocolate in the great outdoors which proved to be delicious. They've also been practising their knots which will come in handy for the annual raft race next year, hopefully this year, they won't fall in. Two of our scouts also had the amazing opportunity to attend the Youth Aviation Day at Sywell where they got to fly in planes, see gliders up close and learn all about how aviation works.

The **Explorers** have been refining their cooking skills in a cooking contest for a three course student meal. They've also been backwards cooking, out in the woods at Overstone with a very big camp fire. They've been inventing

new challenges for each other and have spent an evening learning about drink and drugs, and coming up with their own mocktails. They also had a fantastic time on a group trip down at Wells next to the Sea back in August.

We are very lucky to have adult volunteers from all sorts of backgrounds that help to run the group for our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts



and Explorers. The roles range from helping with administration to running fun filled and adventurous activities and are flexible around the amount of time that each volunteer is willing to give. If you would like to get involved in the adventure, get in touch and we'll help you to find a role that you'll enjoy, that will also really make a difference to the young people in our village.

To see more about what we're getting up to, follow us on Facebook. To find out more about Brixworth & Scaldwell Scout Group, contact the Group Scout Leader at [brixworth\\_gsl@btopenworld.com](mailto:brixworth_gsl@btopenworld.com)

To put your young person (boy or girl) on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers please contact [brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:brixworthbeavers@btinternet.co.uk). To find out more about Scouting in general, visit <http://scouts.org.uk/>.

– Lisa Irons

## Social Centre

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# Brixworth & District U3A

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

The garden group's coach trip destination was Old Wollerton Hall Garden and Hodnet Hall Garden in Shropshire. We arrived at Old Wollerton Hall Garden to be greeted by the Head Gardener who gave us a brief history of the garden and the hall. We toured the wonderful gardens before enjoying a delicious homemade lunch in one of the lovely old buildings in the grounds. We travelled on in the early afternoon to Hodnet Hall Garden which was only a couple of miles away. On arrival at the very grand estate we were given a guided tour by their Head Gardener including landscaped gardens, walled kitchen garden and the history of Hodnet Hall where the Percy family still live today.

On the 3rd October the Brixworth U3A celebrated their tenth anniversary with a Tea Party at Brampton Heath golf club, where 110 members enjoyed an afternoon to remember.

Mike Nice, started off proceedings with his energetic and comical introduction, leading into a musical performance from Nene Consort, and following on from this the members were entertained at tables by an amusing and polished magician who managed to maintain a very light hearted atmosphere all through the afternoon.

A presentation was made to our ongoing chairperson, Annie Curtis in recognition of the amazing influence she has had in creating such a caring and friendly organisation, and the Craft Group also presented a banner that they had been working on for the past six months.

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

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## 1st Scaldwell Guides visit to Warwick Castle

On Saturday 30th September, the Guides visited Warwick Castle to explore its 1,000 year history. They solved the Horrible Histories maze and encountered six different time periods including life as a Viking and a Tudor monarch. They also climbed over 500 steps to explore the medieval towers and ramparts to experience what it would have been like for those defending the castle during this period. Two Guides had their promise ceremony at the top of Guys Tower, at 39 metres high, and received their badges overlooking the central courtyard of the castle. They saw the firing of the mighty trebuchet and the spectacular birds of prey display. The day finished in the adventure playground where the guides let off steam before returning to the coach! – Jill Gunnett

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[thevenue.moulton.ac.uk](http://thevenue.moulton.ac.uk)

Search for us on: [www.venuefinder.com](http://www.venuefinder.com)



# Scaldwell News

## Changes to the park recreational facilities

Following a safety review in the park at Scaldwell we have had to make a number of changes to equipment. Regrettably, due to cat fouling concerns, this included the decision to remove the main sand pit surrounding the fort. This area has been replaced with a smaller soft surface area. Some ageing wooden features also had to be removed and the Parish Council is considering options for replacements. The works were completed in early September the park is now once again fully open for use by the public.



[scaldwellvillage.org/village](http://scaldwellvillage.org/village) for details of other such fun events

The annual Pensioners Christmas Dinner will be held in the village hall on December the 7th.

The Christmas Starters - our official start of the festive season - will take place in the Village Hall on Sunday 17th December.

Finally if you want to buy that unforgettable present this Christmas, don't forget you can now get your hands on a copy of the 2018 Scaldwell calendar. Further details can be found on the village website, [www.scaldwellvillage.org](http://www.scaldwellvillage.org), under the news section. - Phil Purcell

## BT Phone Box

The process of adopting the phone box in the village has been completed, and the box has now been transferred from BT to the Parish Council. Arrangements are now underway to perform some minor maintenance prior to this space being converted to allow the installation of a defibrillator. Please note there is now no BT phone box service available in the village

## Scaldwell Club news

The recent snail race proved to be a well attended and very fun evening. Please keep an eye out on our parish website, [www](http://www).

## Lampport & Hanging Houghton News

I am happy to welcome some new residents to the village, they are Valerie (Val) and Andrew Fussey. They have moved to Nuriz at 3a Manor Road, the house has been renamed The Nook. They moved to Australia eight years ago and have returned to the UK to be nearer ageing parents. I am sure they will fit into the village well.

On a less pleasant note Mrs Pat King fell over while walking her dog on the entrance to the village and she was unable to get up.

A number of cars passed her and didn't stop to offer assistance; two of these cars were police vehicles and the rest included a number of residents' cars - where have all the good Samaritans gone?

Eventually she was helped by a villager and Stuart Archer took her to Kettering A&E where it was found that she had broken her wrist.

It is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of John Colton who died at the beginning of October at the age of 89, he died at home. I will miss him as we were neighbours for some 20 years.

He was often seen walking his beloved dogs around the area and was always willing to stop for a chat, usually about his favourite rugby team, the Leicester Tigers.

This year we have had a large amount of leaves falling in the village. It is noticeable that some of us take a pride in the appearance of our own area by regularly cleaning up the leaves.

It would be good if all residents did the same and thus improved the look of our village. Council cleanup vehicles do call occasionally but find it very difficult with all the cars that are parked on Manor Road. If more residents used their drives that would be a great help. - Mike Philpott

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<b>Moulton</b> THE VENUE	Contact us by email at: <a href="mailto:thevenue@moulton.ac.uk">thevenue@moulton.ac.uk</a> Tel: 01604 491131 ext 5010 Gate 1, Moulton College, Pitsford Road, Moulton, Northampton NN3 7SY	

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# 1st Scaldwell Guides complete Swimarathon



Once again we are to congratulate the 1st Scaldwell Guides for their magnificent efforts in this year's Swimarathon. Their team of six swimmers completed 88 lengths of the 25 metre pool in one hour and raised £164 in individual sponsorship. Their total swim was equivalent to 1.4 miles, that is nearly as far as from Brixworth to Scaldwell – very well done!

The picture shows the members of the 1st Scaldwell Guides swimming team with their certificates and medals, from left to right, Janine, Emily, Sophie, Jill (the Guide Leader), Jennie, Mollie and Jill's husband Barry, who was an honorary Guide for the day. Teams participating in this event are able to nominate a charity or good cause to receive 50% of the sponsorship money they have raised. Mollie received the cheque on behalf of the 1st Scaldwell Guides who have

chosen to use their £82 to go towards the running of their company.

Our Swimarathon used the pool at the magnificent Chris Moody Centre at Moulton College. In all we had twenty-one teams participating with just over 100 swimmers, of all ages and abilities. The youngest was under five and the oldest over 75. We had some very young swimmers in a couple of teams, who needed swimming supports to compete but they all finished with over 50 lengths. There were other remarkable achievements, with a total of 1,660 lengths completed. That works out to be nearly 26 miles.

This year we raised £1,450 in Business Sponsorships, with donations from a number of local companies including Cave and Sons (stockbrokers), Jones Wholesale (Business Store), Moulton College, the Poplars Hotel in Moulton, MHM MacIntyre Hudson and Wilson Browne (Solicitors). We thank them all for this vital support.

This year's event raised well over £5,500, which is a new record. Last year we were delighted when our Swimarathon received a Community Service Award from the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians. This prestigious International Award is for promoting service to Youth through Scouting and Guiding.

The Swimarathon is an annual event organised by the four Rotary Clubs in Northampton. Our next event is scheduled for Saturday 10th February 2018, at the Chris Moody Centre. Visit [www.swimarathon.com](http://www.swimarathon.com) for further information.

– Stan Evans, on behalf of the Swimarathon Committee



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**Saturday 10th February 2018**

Held at the Chris Moody Centre, Moulton College, Pitsford Road,  
Moulton, Northampton NN3 7QL

**We need YOU**

Our Swimarathon is brought to you by the four Rotary Clubs of Northampton and is an exciting fund raising event. It will be enjoyed by all the participants. Half the money you raise in Sponsorship will go to the charity, club or good cause of your choice.

All ages and swimming abilities are welcome to participate. This is not a race or a competition. It is a fun event for your participation and enjoyment.

Can you put together a team (or teams) of 6 swimmers to swim, relay style, for one hour and join this major local fund raiser.

[www.swimarathon.com](http://www.swimarathon.com)  
or contact Rotarian Malcolm Ablett Tel. 01604-863409 or  
Mobile 0776 447 6046  
Email [malcolm.ablett@nutecsecurity.co.uk](mailto:malcolm.ablett@nutecsecurity.co.uk)

# Book ahead for Purple Ivy

“Purple Ivy”, the Indian restaurant in Kennel Terrace, is finally open and already proving popular. It is a smart new asset to the village, offering popular traditional Indian dishes in a contemporary setting that is also warm and intimate.

Sultana Parul, who owns the business along with her husband, Rob, and business partner, Nur Uddin says, ‘We want to cater for anybody in Brixworth and the surrounding villages, from experienced curry eaters to children who want plain meals.’ So as well as offering options not always found in an Indian restaurant, such as grilled salmon for customers who like fish, and asparagus among the vegetarian dishes, they have included some typical British dishes on the menu, such as chicken nuggets, omelettes, and chips.

The restaurant opened properly on 4th September, having offered take-away meals for some weeks before. It had taken a great deal of time to get it built and fitted - over a year to process the planning applications for the property which is situated in the conservation area, and another twelve months for the building works, which required knocking down an existing garage.

Sultana and her partners moved their business to Brixworth after selling their



previous restaurant “Wild Ginger” in Duston. They had first considered acquiring the building as an investment property, then decided to open a restaurant as a number of their Brixworth customers had expressed an interest in having a similar restaurant closer to home.

At weekends the restaurant is frequently fully booked, and they have already had to

turn people away. Even on the midweek evening the Bulletin visited, the phone was ringing constantly and people were popping in regularly to collect their orders, while half a dozen tables were served. Indeed, the main challenge Sultana says the business faces is that their capacity is already stretched.

A number of new initiatives are planned to cater for the growing demand. In the new year, “Purple Ivy” will begin to offer an “all you can eat” buffet from 12 to 4pm on Sundays. There will also be a monthly “Thali night”, not offered anywhere else in Northampton, allowing customers to try dishes they would not normally order. The restaurant will even be open on Christmas Day, offering traditional Christmas fare alongside spicy Indian roast chicken.

Sultana says to the Bulletin’s readers, ‘Come in and give us a try. Even if you think curry won’t agree with you – talk to us and we can fix something to suit your palette. Curry doesn’t always have to be spicy!’

– Jennifer Fitzgerald

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# Planning update

<b>DA/2017/0491</b> <b>15, Lesson Road</b> Demolition of existing outhouse and construction of single storey extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/0403</b> <b>31, Blackthorn Crescent</b> Construction of conservatory to rear	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>PD/2017/0033</b> <b>The Woodyard A508 Brixworth Bypass</b> Prior approval for change of use of barn to dwelling	Prior Approval Approved
<b>DA/2017/0689</b> <b>Land At Foxlea, Holcot Road, Brixworth</b> Construction of access track	PC No Objection Withdrawn
<b>PD/2017/0030</b> <b>Barn At Hill Farm House, Northampton Road</b> Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to residential	Prior Approval Approved
<b>DA/2017/0611</b> <b>Charter House 35, Spratton Road</b> Change of use from office to apartment to include new external openings	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/0661</b> <b>2, Newlands</b> Construction of front porch	BPC Objection DDC Refused
<b>DA/2017/0569</b> <b>The Manor, Harborough Road</b> Listed Building Consent for construction of bay window, roof and porch	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/0736</b> <b>18, Parkfield Road</b> Demolition of existing single storey extension. Construction of two storey side	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/0654</b> <b>60, Froxhill Crescent</b> Two storey side extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

<b>DA/2017/0619</b> <b>Barn Lea, Holcot Road</b> Construction of two storey side extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/0721</b> <b>4, Station Road</b> Demolition of existing conservatory & construction of two storey rear extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>DA/2017/0677</b> <b>33, Tantree Way</b> Infill extension to provide hallway/landing/staircase to access converted roof space over study and store over garage	BPC No Objection DDC Approved
<b>NMA/2017/0067</b> <b>Brixworth Library, Spratton Road</b> Non material amendment to application DA/2015/0911 (Demolition and reconstruction) car park extension	BPC No Objection DDC Approved

## Car park extension almost complete

The extension of the car park at the Library and Community Centre is almost complete. At Bulletin press time, the community centres manager Mike Nice estimated that the car park work could be finished before the end of November.

The work will result in an extra five car parking spaces, which will help somewhat to alleviate the chronic car parking problems around the shops in Brixworth. The extension has been financed by Barratt Housing, who as part of the conditions for getting planning approval for the Saxon Rise housing development had to contribute funds to improve village facilities (such payments are commonly known as 'Section 106 payments').

While the work was going on, the existing car park had to be completely closed, as did the footpath to Brixworth's primary school which runs through the library car park. Once the work is complete, the footpath will re-open, Nice says. – cfw



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# Library events

## MyHermes Parcelshop

Don't forget, Brixworth Library is now a myHermes Parcelshop - you can collect, send & return your parcels from Brixworth Library via myHermes - to find out more visit [www.myhermes.co.uk/parcelshop](http://www.myhermes.co.uk/parcelshop)

## Get involved

Our new "Friends of Brixworth Library Group" is up and running and we are just starting to plan Events for next year, so check out the Friends of Brixworth Library Facebook page for dates of next meetings, the latest news and any upcoming events. We are a friendly group and new members are always needed and welcome.

## Upcoming Friends Events

James Hornsby is returning to Brixworth Library with 2 productions of "A Christmas Carol"

Friday 1st December and Saturday 2nd December at 7.30pm - tickets £9 each on sale now in the library or online (see Friends Facebook page), refreshments available to buy on the night.

## 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 couple 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 any young adults 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](http://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 - please ask at library or email [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk)

## Activities for Under 5s

**Rhymetime**  
Mondays 2.30pm

**Play & Learn for Under 5s**  
Tuesdays 1.30 - 3pm

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

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

**Rhymetime for the Under 5s**  
Fridays 10.30am

**IAIM Infant Massage with Leveta Lawson**  
Wednesday mornings 11am - 12 noon term-time only booked in advance.  
These are 5 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 - lift available in foyer. The Children's Centre area is closed to other users when Under 5s sessions are taking place.

## Activities for children up to 12

**Crafts**  
Saturdays 9am - 1pm, Sundays 11am - 2pm - free drop-in sessions

**Messy Crafts**  
Wednesdays 2.30pm every school holiday - next session Wednesday 27th December 2017 (check our Facebook page nearer the time).

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](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk)

## Other Services

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

## Opening Hours

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

Christmas & New Year holiday closures:  
Sunday 24th December  
Monday 25th December  
Tuesday 26th December  
Monday 1st January 2018  
Open all other days as usual Contact us at [brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:brixlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk)

Keep up to date with all the latest activities at [www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/brixworthlibrary)

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# Draughton News

It's been a quiet summer in Draughton, with little to report except we said "Farewell" to the Duke Family and 'Hello' to Claire and Tim. But, like a lot of country creatures, Draughtonians beaver away through the winter. As I write this, we are preparing for a Quiz and then, at the end of November, a Christmas Tree Festival and sale. This will take place on the 25th of November in the church, with teas and delicious bites to enjoy alongside.

The highlight of Draughton Christmas festivities is the Carol service on December 24th at 4pm. It's a proper candlelit start to the 12 days and has become an important milestone to residents and friends.

Around Christmas we'll open the pop-up-pub in the Clubroom. The first date in the New Year is the haggis-filled joys of Burns Night, after which it's preparations leading up to the Classic Car Show and Fair in June.

It's such a tiny village – there are only 26 houses - but with a big heart. If you haven't been to see us before, we have a coffee morning in our little Clubroom on the first Saturday of every month to which everyone is invited to munch biscuits, drink coffee and read papers or chat. We often play host to passing walkers (dogs welcome!) or cyclists. So, if you are passing between 10.30 and 12 please drop in and warm yourself by our new wood burning stove and with a cup of coffee or tea. – *Kate Calnan*



## Good turnout makes light work of bulbs

Nearly thirty residents attended the annual village bulb planting in October. It was decided that mass planting in one location, as last time, was the best plan.

With adults digging holes and children planting the daffodils, the job was done in an hour. Watch out for the results in the spring by the Northampton Road entrance to the village.

Thanks, once again to the Parish Council for financial support. – *Mike Nice*

## Save your used postage stamps!

Library volunteer Judi Beaudoin would like to ask the kind people of Brixworth and District to once again save their used postage stamps. These are sold to raise funds Canine Partners, a charity that trains puppies to assist people with disabilities.

A collection box will be available in the foyer of Brixworth Library from the beginning of December.

## Brixworth Landscaping

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*Give "yourself" at Christmas!*

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

**Churchwarden:**  
 Mrs Vanessa Crooks  
 5 Waddon Field; t: 01604 882058



December has come upon us very quickly, and Christmas will be here before we know it. I ask you all, before the glitter and tinsel and commercialisation of Christmas take over, to think about the real meaning of Christmas: the love of God coming alongside us in the person of Jesus Christ.

God gave Jesus to us as a gift---as an example of how we should live our lives. Let us all see the importance of giving—not only presents, but our time, our energy, our hospitality, and our love. At Christmas, let's choose generosity of heart over greed.

Here at All Saints, many people are giving their time and gifts to prepare our Christmas services, as listed on the opposite page. We are also busy preparing for other events as well. Our Christmas Tree Festival starts on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. There is an Advent Carol Service on the Sunday by candlelight. And the Friends of the Church are organising a concert "Rock around the Christmas Tree" on 9<sup>th</sup> December, featuring, amongst others, the Dergate Gospel Choir, which promises to be a fun evening.



I do hope you all enjoy the festive season, a season of giving, and look forward to seeing you here in amongst us.

*Rev. Chloe*



## Summer Fete

**Pattern of Services:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 10.30am All-Age Service  
 11.45am Said Eucharist  
 6.00pm Choral Evensong
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 7.45am Said Eucharist  
 10.30am Sung Eucharist
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10.30am Sung Eucharist  
 with Junior Church  
 6.00pm Taizé Service
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10.30am Sung Eucharist
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10.30am Sung Eucharist

**Weekday services:** Tuesday at 9.30am  
 Holy Communion and 'Coffee Pot'



## Harvest Supper



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### ADVENT CAROLS

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.30pm  
"From Darkness to Light". Carols by candlelight

### CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.  
Informal service with communion.  
Join the celebration and support the work of the Children's Society. To include our Junior Church and Singing Saints Youth choir.

### CAROLS ROUND THE BEACON

December 19th at 7pm (jointly with the BCC)  
Mince pies, mulled wine and lighting of the Millennium Beacon.

### CRIB SERVICE

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.  
An 'instant nativity', and a chance to dress up as a character in the Christmas story.

### MIDNIGHT MASS

December 24<sup>th</sup> 11.30pm  
Traditional Communion Service

### ALL-AGE COMMUNION

Christmas Day at 10.30am  
An informal communion service for all the family.

## SINGING SAINTS Youth Choir

We meet at 5pm on Wednesdays at the church

## "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

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> December

2-4pm in

Brixworth Church

Father Christmas will turn  
on the tree lights at 3.30pm

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

2<sup>nd</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

### GROWING SAINTS

Our Junior Church meets monthly every  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in church at the 10.30  
service.

Join us to learn more about Jesus while  
having fun in a friendly and caring

## JELLYBEANS

## TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays at 1.30 in the church

Christianity  
EXPLORED

A course for those wanting to learn  
more about the Christian faith

Starts February 2018  
See website for details

### From the Registers:

#### Baptisms:

Jacob Beames; Jack Bernard

#### Marriages:

Carl Clarke & Natasha Hornby  
Eamon Murphy & Sarah Featley

#### Burials:

Amanda Whittaker  
Robin Bradford  
Helen Sylvia Astle



## Planning matters

Since the last issue the application for a large 'Arts and Crafts' dwelling on the junction of Merry Tom Lane and Brampton Valley Way has been refused by Daventry, however this has now gone to appeal, at the time of writing no decision has yet been made.



Elsewhere we have received a number of applications for extensions plus an application for 28 bungalows adjacent to Victors Farm and an application for four dwellings off Holcot Road and two dwellings off Tantree Way, all of these applications are still with Daventry for a final decision.



## Sports council progression

The Sports Council Working Group of the Parish Council was delighted with the turnout and the positive comments at a recent meeting with both clubs and individuals. As a result of the outcomes of the meeting, and the feedback received subsequently, it is now the aim to bring sports and community representatives together sooner than previously anticipated. This will enable Brixworth Sports Clubs to have greater input into the preliminary stages of the formation of the Sports Council.

Organisations have been since been invited to

nominate a representative to join the Working Group, in order to participate in defining the various aspects of the Sports Council such as its structure, governance, assets, powers and responsibilities. The Working Group will recommend to the Parish Council the best way to move the Sports Council forward in order to achieve its aims.

It is expected that the Sports Council will be autonomous once it is fully established. The work is now actively underway and the Sports Council should be in place during 2018.

## Work underway on new doctors surgery

Brixworth Parish Council is delighted to see construction works begin on the new Brixworth Doctor's Surgery on the Saxon Rise Estate.



This Surgery building is the result of collaboration between Barratt Homes, Brixworth Parish Council, represented by the

Neighbourhood Plan Group, Daventry District Council, the NHS and Saxon Spires Practice and

will be funded solely through developer community contributions rather than tax payer's contribution. Brixworth Parish Council look forward to the Surgery building opening in early 2018 and thank everyone involved in making this achievement possible.

Councillor Alex Coles, Chairman of the Parish Council said, 'Securing such a significant and much-needed improvement to Brixworth's amenities is a fantastic achievement, and testament to the excellent working relationship forged between all parties involved. I would particularly like to thank the members of the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group whose tireless dedication drove this project forward on behalf of Brixworth Parish Council'.

## Library and Community Centre car parking

As a result of further collaboration with Barratt Homes it has been possible to deliver a further 5 car parking spaces for users of the Library and Community Centre.

This was a ten-week project and involved the demolition and reconstruction of a retaining wall to enable the extension to the car park. All of the materials used in the construction matched those used in the existing car park and retaining wall.

## Welcome, Frances Peacock!



Frances has lived in Brixworth since 1995 and both of her two grown-up sons have attended local schools.

Frances already has experience with local councils having represented the neighbouring village of

Spratton on Daventry District Council and previously serving on the Parish Council from 2003 to 2008. She

was also Vice-Chair of the Parish Council Planning Committee throughout this time.

Frances has always had an interest in the local community and has welcomed the opportunity to be in a position where she can again make a positive contribution.

In her professional life Frances runs her own architectural practice. Frances said "It is good to be back and I am looking forward to getting involved on the planning side, which given my professional background is of particular interest to me."

## Budgeting for 2018-19

It's time for your council to start the process of preparing a budget to set the precept for 2018-2019. The Finance Working Group have started the process by meeting to oversee how the current budget is progressing. The Group meets monthly to compile draft proposals, which will be submitted to the full council in December. Final sign-off will take place in January to enable submission to Daventry before the

end of January 2018. The good news is that current expenditure is in line with our existing budget.

At present there is money available from the Community Grant, but applications in accordance with the guidelines are required before consideration. Applications can be downloaded from the council's website [www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk)

# Frequently asked questions from the Parish Council's monthly surgeries

For the past three years the Parish Council has been keeping a list of queries raised by the residents of Brixworth.

Here are some of the main questions raised, and a full list is available on the Parish Council website at [www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk)

**Parking problems** – especially around the school during term time, around the shops on Spratton Rd and Northampton Rd.



There is an allocated traffic warden who attends the village once a week at different times and on different days. A number of parking tickets have been issued. The Parish Council are investigating the possibility of an increase in visits to deter poor, illegal and dangerous parking.

**Double yellow lines** – requests for yellow lines near the Red Lion, on the corner of Northampton Rd and Brampton Way near the school and in Silver Street.

The Parish Council are asked annually by Highways at NCC if they would like to apply for more parking restrictions using double yellow lines. NCC have a very limited budget available and Brixworth is not always the priority or it may be considered that double yellow lines may cause a hazard.

## **Dog Poo**

In conjunction with DDC the Parish Council have supported the dog poo campaigns. Residents may have seen yellow paint (environmentally friendly) sprayed on dog poo around the streets and parks. Over the three campaigns the amount of dog poo not picked up has decreased considerably and the Parish Council will continue to support future campaigns.

## **Litter and litter bins**

The Parish Council employ a part time litter picker and includes a sum of money annually in the rolling budget for replacement and extra bins. Some bins are emptied by the Parish Council grounds men on Parish Council land and some bins are emptied by DDC.

## **Overhanging trees**

If the branches of a neighbour's tree start to grow over to your side, you can cut them back to the boundary point

between you and your neighbour's property, as long as the tree is not under a tree preservation order. If it is, you'll need to seek further clarification. However, the branches and any fruit on them which you may have cut down on your side still belong to the tree owner so they can ask you to return them. Where an overhanging hedge interferes with safe use of a public path or highway, it is the landowner's responsibility to cut it back. If the Parish Council agrees that the hedge or tree is causing a problem then the County Council as Highway Authority will write to the owner and ask them to cut it back. In most situations a friendly word with owner of the hedge is sufficient to get it sorted out.

## **Foul smelling drains**

There has been an ongoing issue with smells from the drains especially in and around Frog Hall. This was eventually managed through a meeting between the residents concerned a nominated parish councillor and Anglia Water. For future issues Anglia Water will need to be the first contact. For bills and general enquiries, tel 03457 91 91 55 and for water supply and sewerage tel 03457 145 145.

## **State of the paths and alleys**

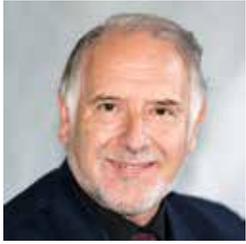
There are a number of areas and alleys or walk ways that have not yet been adopted by the County Council so some are dealt with by the original building company, some through DDC and others may be cared for by the Parish Council. All issues relating to the roads and streets in your area can be reported directly to NCC Street Doctor and there is a link on the Parish Council web site at [www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk)

## **Speeding in the village**

The Parish Council shares camera equipment with a number of other villages and monitors speeding through the village three times a year. This is managed and supported by volunteers and is reported in the *Brixworth Bulletin*. The volunteers together with the police choose a number of different places and times in the village and over the period of the campaign speeding has decreased.



# Brixworth Parish Council



Ian Barratt



Jackie Bird



Neal Brown  
*Chairman, Media & Communications*



Elaine Coe



Stuart Coe



Alex Coles  
*Chairman*



James Collyer



Stephen James  
*Vice Chairman*



Sandra Moxon



Caitlin Braham  
Nicoll



Kevin Parker



Frances Peacock



Justyna Pittam



Peter Saxton



Peter Rowbotham  
*Parish Clerk*

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Leicestershire LE16 7XU

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

Parish Council photos by  
Brixworth Photographic Society

## Parish Council meetings December 2017 to February 2018

### Full Council

Thu 21st Dec 2017 ..... 7.15pm  
Thu 25th Jan 2018..... 7.15pm  
Tues 22nd Feb 2018 ..... 7.15pm

### Planning

Mon 11th Dec 2017 ..... 7.30pm  
Mon 8th Jan 2018..... 7.30pm  
Mon 29th Jan 2018..... 7.30pm  
Mon 19th Feb 2018 ..... 7.30pm

### Media & Communications

Weds 13th Dec 2017 ..... 7.30pm  
Weds 17th Jan 2018..... 7.30pm  
Weds 21st Feb 2018 ..... 7.30pm



**BRIXWORTH**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
*Following Jesus Together*

# BRIXWORTH MATTERS

[www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org](http://www.brixworthcommunitychurch.org)

Christmas is nearly upon us already. This year has no doubt been so positive in all sorts of ways for many. However, as we begin to reflect more generally, the year has also been marked by events we all wish would never have happened. Terrorism or gun shootings have become a stain on our time haven't they? At one point, after what happened on the Westminster Bridge and then a night club shooting in America you would wonder what was going to happen next?

Clearly, from time to time, deranged individuals do things most would never dream of and it leaves us asking the question. "Why"? Sometimes there is no answer.

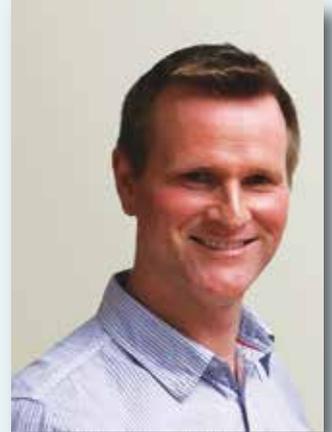
However, what we can painfully observe, is that humanity of which we are a part, has gone so dreadfully wrong. In the beginning God made the earth and saw that it was 'good'. He then created mankind and said they were 'very good' (Genesis 1). Yet since the sin of Adam and Eve that followed, humanity has shown it is capable of great evil.

What can we say to all of this? Simply, the world needs Jesus Christ. The world has gone wrong but God sent Jesus into this world to put things right.

Some people need more than just faith to stop them doing evil (in terms of psychological factors) but faith in Jesus puts one back into a right relationship with God who is completely opposed to all evil. Jesus gives us a new love for God and the world around us and as we follow Him, He changes us to be the people God always intended us to be. People like Jesus Christ, being light in a dark world.

The world has become very dark at times this year, but Jesus gives us His light to shine through our lives. May we all do that over Christmas and throughout the new year to come.

Best wishes *Andy*



Contact Andy Lloyd-Williams on  
07958 604961



## Outdoor Christmas Nativity

**Sunday 17th December 2017 at 4 p.m.**

Come and join us as we celebrate and act out the Christmas Story. If you have children they may like to take part! Dress them up as an angel or a shepherd or a king and we will include them in the Nativity (great photo opportunity!)

We hold it outside the Library and Community Centre and Jacko the donkey will be part of the entertainment! also Brixworth primary school choir will be singing. Last year over 400 folk Attended. Look forward to seeing YOU this year. Hot mince pies and hot chocolate served FREE after the Nativity.

P.S If the weather is inclement we will be holding the Nativity at the School at the same time (possibly without Jacko!)





## Church Day Away

September this year we as a Church spent a day away at Hothorpe Hall. What a great day we had! While all the children were having fun getting stuck into the various activities on offer, the rest of us spent some time in worship, studying God's word together and then in discussion groups. After a sumptuous dinner, we took opportunity to explore the beautiful grounds. The children had great fun in the Japanese gardens trying to find all the sweets that had been hidden. Some took time out to chat with others and build on relationships, while others took part in a scavenger hunt.

As one person put it "altogether an excellent venue and a great day away!"



## Welcome to Residents at Saxon Rise

On the 16th of September, Brixworth Community Church welcomed residents of the Saxon Rise estate. The Church wanted to share helpful information about the village. Many people turned out and enjoyed coffee and cakes and there was also face painting, hair braiding, fun and games. What a great community we live in! A big THANKS to all who took part and made this totally FREE event such a success.



## Brixworth Shoe Box Appeal 2017

Has got off to a good start and by the time you receive this publication we will hopefully be well on the way to beating last years figure! of over 1600 boxes which will go to children in Eastern Europe - for many the only gift they will have.



## Christmas Day at Brixworth Community Church

You can be sure of getting your Christmas Day off to the best start! Meeting in the school from 10:30-11:15 we celebrate together the birth of Jesus in Carols, Readings and much more. A warm welcome awaits.



## 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.



## Brixworth Community Church Weekly Events

<b>Sunday:</b>	10:30 – 11:45	Main Service of Worship (Brixworth School) (including Junior Church and Creche)
<b>Monday:</b>	19:30 – 21:00	Prayer Meeting in the Olive Branch
<b>Tuesday:</b>	19:30 – 21:00	TNT – for Teenagers*
<b>Wednesday:</b>	13:30 – 15:00 19:30 – 21:00	Home study Group Home study Groups
<b>Thursday:</b>	10:00 – 11:30 19:45 – 21:30	Olive Shoots – a Mums & Tots group* Home study Group
<b>Friday:</b>	17:00 – 18:00 18:15 – 19:15	Dynamites Children's Club – age 5-7 years* Dynamites Children's Club – age 8-11* (*held at the Library & Community Centre)

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

## Jaguars clinch a summer double



Brixworth Jaguars set themselves up nicely for the 2017/18 season having scooped a dramatic double during the summer.

The Jaguars, coached by Chris Levett, David Smart and Michael Parkes, made many dads proud on Father's Day when they contested the Kingsthorpe Under 10s 6-a-side tournament. On a sweltering summer's day, the team progressed through the stages of the 12-side tournament to clinch a final spot against Polish 303. The thrilling finale went all the way to a penalty shootout, with keeper Rome taking hero honours after keeping the ball out of the net at 2-4 down, helping the Jaguars to a 6-5 victory and winning the plate.

The Jaguars repeated their feat just a week later at the Long Buckby 6-a-side Under 10s Tournament, beating Crick in the final thanks to a fabulous free kick from just inside the opposition's half with just two minutes left on the clock scored by Harry Swingler.

This group have been developing and playing together since the under 7 age group and I am immensely proud of the massive progress they have made, which was on show at these summer tournaments.

They've bonded well, worked hard, played some great games and have been rewarded with two plate winners trophies. To add to the county shield trophy that they won during the 2015/2016 season.

## Halloween Fundraiser First for Brixworth Juniors Football Club

Brixworth Juniors Football Club Juniors held two Halloween parties at Brixworth Central Social Club on Saturday 28th October, one for under 8s and the other for under 14s. Over 70 children attended the parties, the younger children enjoyed party games and dancing, whilst the older children took part in the club's first ever glow-in-the-dark football games and doughnut eating competitions.



The clubhouse bar was busy all evening and the outside BBQ proved a hit. The event raised over £1200 for the BJFC. The money raised will go towards further training for our wonderful team of volunteer coaches and assistants, football equipment for all age groups from the minis up to under 18s and will help towards the BJFC annual tour for our under 14 teams.

We would like to say a huge thank you to EG Swingler & Sons, The Red Lion, Cani Dog & Pet Services and Gary Cattell who all helped to fill our 'Witches Cauldron' with alcohol as our first prize in the raffle drawn on the night. The second prize, weekend tickets to the Walter Hayes event at Silverstone, was kindly donated by Silverstone Circuit.

Finally, thank you to everybody that turned out supported the club at the parties to make it a fun and successful evening.

– Georgina Swingler, BJFC Fundraising Chairperson

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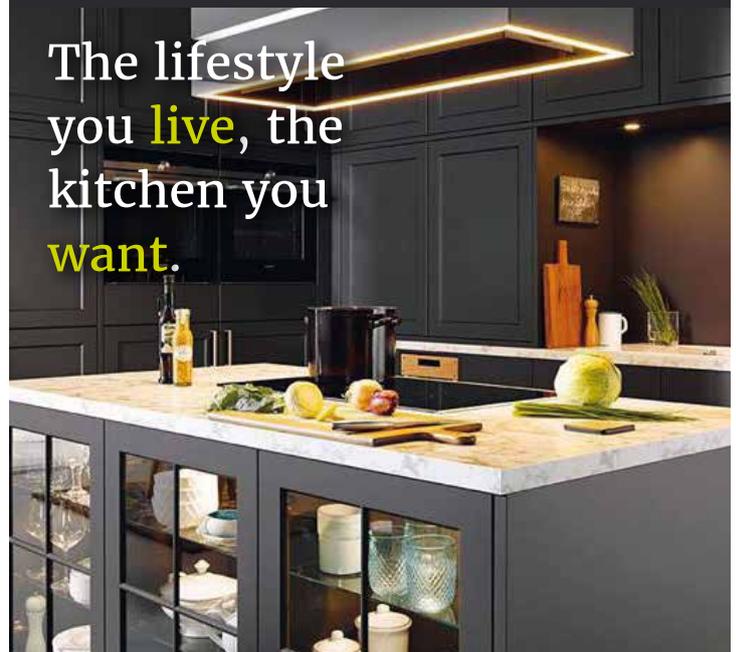
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# What's On

24-Nov	Joe Brown	Derngate
25-Nov	That'll be the Day	Derngate
26-Nov	Santas Special Trains	N'pton and Lampport Railway
26-Nov	RPO Francesco DeGo performs Bruch	Derngate
28-Nov	Brixworth Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre
28-Nov	Heddo Gabler	Derngate
28 Nov - 31 Dec	The Jungle Book	Royal & Derngate
28 Nov - 2 Dec	Hedda Gabler	Royal & Derngate
30-Nov	Brixworth Cancer Support Group	Saxon House, Brixworth
1-Dec	Christmas Wreath Workshop	Brixworth Village Hall
1-Dec	A Christmas Carol	Brixworth Library
2-Dec	Christmas Market	All Saints Church Brixworth
2-Dec	Batik Portraits	Lampport Hall
2-Dec	Santas Special Trains	N'pton and Lampport Railway
2-Dec	A Christmas Carol	Brixworth Library
2-Dec	Christmas Market	All Saints Church Brixworth
2 Dec - 13 Jan	The Singing Mermaid	Royal & Derngate
3-Dec	Santas Special Trains	N'pton and Lampport Railway
3-Dec	Advent Carols	All Saints Church Brixworth
8-31 Dec	Aladdin	Derngate
9-Dec	Rock around the Christmas Tree	All Saints Church Brixworth
9-10 Dec	Santas Special Trains	N'pton and 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'pton and Lampport Railway
16-Dec	Christmas Crafts	Brixworth Country Park
17-Dec	Brixworth Outdoor Nativity	Brixworth Community Ctre
17-Dec	Christingle Service	All Saints Church Brixworth
18-Dec	Parish Council Meeting	Brixworth Village Hall
19-Dec	Carols Round the Beacon	All Saints Church Brixworth
20-Dec	Nature Tots	Country Park
20-Dec	Brixworth Senior Citizen Christmas Lunch	Olive Branch, Brixworth

21-Dec	Xplorer Orienteering	Brixworth Country Park
22-Dec	Village Voices: The Messiah	All Saints Church Brixworth
23-Dec	Santas Special Trains	N'pton and Lampport Railway
24-Dec	Crib Service	All Saints Church Brixworth
24-Dec	Midnight Mass	All Saints Church Brixworth
25-Dec	Christmas Day Family Service	Brixworth School
25-Dec	All Age Communion	All Saints Church Brixworth
25-Dec	BCC Christmas Service	Brixworth School
27-Dec	Smores Christmas Special	Brixworth Country Park
28-Dec	Brixworth Cancer Support Group	Saxon House, Brixworth
29-Dec	Winter Bird Care	Brixworth Country Park
4-7 Jan	The Play that goes Wrong	Royal & Derngate
2-Jan	New Year Smores	Brixworth Country Park
11-20/1	A Passage to India	Royal & Derngate
13-Jan	Motowns Greatest Hits	Royal & Derngate
14-Jan	The Nutcracker (East Haddon School of Dance)	Royal and Derngate
17-Jan	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
19-Jan	Quiz Night	B'worth Library
19-Jan	Anton and Erin - Broadway to Hollywood	Royal and Derngate
20-Jan	Volunteer Work Day	Brixworth Country Park
20-Jan	Birmingham Royal Ballet	Royal & Derngate
22-Jan	Parish Council Meeting	Brixworth Village Hall
23 Jan - 3 Feb	Mamma Mia	Royal & Derngate
26-Jan	The Burlesque Show	Royal & Derngate
27-Jan	John Robins	Royal & Derngate
1-Feb	Richard Herring	Royal & Derngate
2-Feb	Sofie Hagen	Royal & Derngate
5-10 Feb	Of Mice and Men	Royal & Derngate
7-Feb	Jason Manford	Royal & Derngate
8-Feb	The Classic Rock Show	Royal & Derngate

12-Feb	Russian State Ballet: Romeo and Juliet	Royal & Derngate
13-Feb	Xplorer Orienteering	Brixworth Country Park
13-14 Feb	Russian State Ballet: Swan Lake	Royal & Derngate
13-Feb	Cara Dillon	Royal & Derngate
14-Feb	Love Birds Activity	Brixworth Country Park
14-Feb	Magnificent Music Hall	Royal & Derngate
15-Feb	Brendan Cole	Royal & Derngate
15-Feb	Daliso Chavonda	Royal & Derngate
16-Feb	Fishermans Friends	Royal & Derngate
16-Feb	Joe Stilgoe	Royal & Derngate
17-Feb	Volunteer Work Day	Brixworth Country Park
17-Feb	Vampires Rock	Royal & Derngate
17-Feb	Ant Middleton	Royal & Derngate
18-Feb	RPO: Michael Petrov performs Tchaikovsky	Royal & Derngate
19-Feb	Parish Council Meeting	Brixworth Village Hall
21-Feb	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
25-Feb	Purple Rain	Royal & Derngate
5-Mar	Paul Chowdhry	Royal & Derngate
7-Mar	Suggs	Royal & Derngate
9-Mar	Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox	Royal & Derngate
10-Mar	Reginald D Hunter	Royal & Derngate
14-25/3	Shrek	Royal & Derngate
16-Mar	Larry Dean	Royal & Derngate
17-Mar	Volunteer Work Day	Brixworth Country Park
17 Mar	Springtime Concert with Swarbrick Singers	All Saints Church Brixworth
19-Mar	Parish Council Meeting	Brixworth Village Hall
21-Mar	Nature Tots	Brixworth Country Park
23-Mar	Iain Stirling	Royal & Derngate
26-Mar	Madame Butterfly	Royal & Derngate
26-Mar	Jess Robinson	Royal & Derngate
28-Mar	Jonathan Pie	Royal & Derngate
28-Mar	Mark Steel	Royal & Derngate
29-Mar	David Baddiel	Royal & Derngate
30-Mar	The Sensational 60s	Royal & Derngate

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# Brixworth Panthers start Season on Fire



After securing their place in the top flight on the final day of last season, Brixworth Panthers (nicknamed the Pandas due to an old teddy owned by one of them) have started their third season in the A league on fire.

The team has won four out of four matches in September, and in some style: the Panthers conceded only five goals but scored an impressive 35. This comes despite the coaches changing many players positions, taking players out of their comfort zones to help give some variety to their long term game and stop other children getting too disheartened.

All 17 players have played a big part in this tremendous run. We had ten different goal scorers, which made the decision for man of the match tougher than ever. The coaches are struggling every week to select the side and take players off, as they're all doing so very well.

The most amazing thing about this group is however not the results, but the tremendous togetherness, bond, team morale, discipline, hard work and fun ethic shared by everyone, which shine through in their football.

So no matter if the wins dry up or continue, this is a group to be admired by not just football lovers, but fans of moral standards and great enjoyment.

They represent Brixworth Juniors FC with all the best attributes and hopefully will for years to come. – Rob Jones, proud team coach, Brixworth Panthers U14

## Sun shines (mostly) on High Tea Tennis

The sun shone down (for most of the day) on all 18 players plus over a dozen spectators who descended on Brixworth Tennis Club on Sunday 24th September for the third annual High Tea Tennis Tournament. The few spots of rain were described by one participant as “dry rain” and did not dampening anyone’s spirits.

To celebrate the Club recently joining the LTA, the tournament followed the rules of the FAST4 tennis system designed by the LTA to facilitate fast and existing tennis. It certainly didn’t disappoint and the “no net cord” rule on serve whereby play just continues certainly “court” a few players out!

The tournament was played in two groups, with the top two players from each group combining to play in a thrilling final. The finalists were Gordon Heron, Hayley Wincott, Will Haxby and Anthony Armstrong and was won by Will and Anthony by four games to two – the final again, following the FAST4 tennis rules.

The tennis was followed by what is now the Club’s traditional and excellent high tea with sandwiches, crisps, cakes and other goodies which were certainly all polished off by a hungry group of players and spectators.

If you’re interested in becoming a member of Brixworth Tennis Club, please visit the website at [www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk](http://www.brixworthtennisclub.org.uk) or contact Jonathan Martin on 07970 100196 or email [secretary@brixworthtennisclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@brixworthtennisclub.org.uk). – Will Haxby

## Brixworth Short Mat Bowls Club

Our pre-season friendly matches continued through July and August with home wins against Loddington and Long Buckby. October 5th was the first league game of the season away to Creaton with a win on one mat and a loss on the other. Unfortunately the game ended in an overall loss but we still collected two points. On 13th October the home game against Guilsborough was much better with wins on both mats and we collected a maximum six points. The league now continues until March 2018.

Short Mat Bowling is good fun; come and have a go and make new friends. New members are always welcome and equipment is provided.

We meet at the Brixworth Centre in Church Street every Friday at 2.30 or 7.30pm and is open to a person of any age.

For more information contact the chairperson on 07762 211721 or visit [brixworthbowls.com](http://brixworthbowls.com) and like us on Facebook. – Martin Carnell



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