

# Brixworth Bulletin

Including Draughton, Hanging Houghton and Lamport

Issue No.8, March 2006

## WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH A DERELICT BUILDING?

*What have Long Buckby, Earls Barton, Naseby and Piddington got that Brixworth hasn't? The answer is: A MUSEUM*



Since 1990 when Brixworth Historical Society was formed, it has been their ambition to have a museum which celebrated the rich history of Brixworth from pre-Roman times to the present day.

For several years the Society has been interested in the old Infant's School in Church Street, now renamed the Uplands Centre, as a possible site for a museum. Now at last the County Council has agreed to open formal negotiations with representatives from the History Society and it is hoped that the Friends of All Saints Church will join with us as partners in this enterprise.

The Uplands Centre is an ideal venue for a museum situated between the Saxon Church and the Heritage Centre both steeped in their own history and receiving hundreds of visitors a year. I suspect it dates from the 1870 Forster Education Act which resulted in over 5000 new schools around the country being built in a matter of a few years. At that time education became compulsory up to the age of 10 although examination of the school registers found such reasons for absence as helping gather in crops right up to the 1940s. Gleaning corn and picking potatoes were considered particularly suitable jobs for women and children.

The History Society has a number of photographs of 20<sup>th</sup> Century school-children, one of the earliest being an Infants class of exactly 100 years ago with their teacher, Miss

M Hamson, and including four Hamson children in the class, as well as other well known Brixworth families. With this sort of background our outline plan naturally includes an area of the building set aside as an early 20th century schoolroom as well as staging demonstrations of children's games from the period in the small playground at the rear. So if any wrinkly readers still have their whip and top, do let us know!

Negotiating terms with the council, obtaining funding for getting the museum set up, ensuring that all safety regulations are complied with, researching other local village museums for ideas, the list of things that will need to be done and the skills and experience we will need to help us get this project off the ground can look a daunting climb from the bottom of the ladder. We have been very encouraged by the support we have received so far and by the offers of future help. If you would like to know more or get actively involved we would love to hear from you. If you went to school in the Uplands Centre and have some stories to tell about the building and its teachers and children we would be especially pleased to hear from you.

You can get in touch with us through our website at [www.brixworthhistory.org](http://www.brixworthhistory.org) or through the Bulletin offices.

*Dennis Coles Brixworth History Society*

## The WiiGs Resign from Parish Council

From the minutes of the P.C. meeting dated 31<sup>st</sup> January, resignations from the Parish Council have been received from Mrs E WiiG & Mr F WiiG. The resignation letters were available for viewing by the councillors only.

However the Chronicle & Echo published this article on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February which goes some way to clarify the reasons. The Bulletin has the Chronicle & Echo's permission to publish the exact words of the article by their reporter Anna Brosnan.

'Long-standing councillors Elizabeth and Frank WiiG have resigned from Brixworth Parish Council after allegations were made against them to a national standards board.

Former chair Elizabeth WiiG and her husband had served on the council for six years but stood down after three accusations were made against them in two months.

Complaints were sent to the Standards Board for England alleging the couple had failed to disclose a personal interest, failed to withdraw from a meeting to which they had a prejudicial interest and tried to improperly influence a decision in which they had the interest. These issues were linked to a meeting in which the finances of the young people's charity the Brixworth Youth Foundation – of which the WiiGs are directors – were discussed.

This allegation came weeks after a separate complaint was made against Mr WiiG regarding an e-mail he sent complaining about a report in the Brixworth Bulletin.

The board did not investigate the first accusation about the e-mail because it was not considered that the code of conduct had been breached.

But the other allegations were referred back to Daventry District Council for investigation. Elizabeth, who with her husband is still a district councillor for the Brixworth ward, said she was saddened by what happened.

She said "I said enough is enough, how much can we take? It ruined our Christmas and made me fall ill because it is like someone is trying to point a finger at you all the time. It makes you feel you are frightened to open your mouth in a meeting for saying the wrong thing."

Frank said he and his wife were not prepared to have "potshots" taken at them.

The District Council has now received a petition signed by 10 people for a by-election to be held to fill the parish council's five vacancies, a step which could cost the parish up to £1000.

Executive director Paul Hammond said if the by-election is held to coincide with the May district elections then this could minimise costs.

Parish Clerk Jane Macken said "At the moment, until the investigation has been completed, it would be unfair to give details of allegations."

*End of article'*

**See also pages 10 and 4**

# DRAMA GROUP PANTOMIME

## Dick Whittington



The Brixworth Drama Group gave a very enjoyable performance of the Christmas Pantomime "Dick Whittington" during the last two weekends of January. It was clearly a blockbuster as all five shows had full houses of around 100 at each performance, which was close to the Village Hall capacity.

The Director, James Skeggs, did a great job bringing together what was a fairly complicated plot into a cohesive whole, assisted by a very well documented synopsis in the programme. Additionally the Director performed in the first act, doing a dance and singing routine with Tony Farrow as Sarah the Cook, when to the hilarious laughter of the audience his trousers fell down. The strong cast contained many of the long standing members of the Drama Group, who again fitted well into their parts. Andy Knight as Alderman Fitzwarren and the very active and enthusiastic Mike Culverhouse as Matey together with Tony Farrow really got the audience going. Another "old timer" was Robin Armstrong as the very sinister King Rat. One wonders which children had nightmares later, as he really entered into the spirit of the part. Hilda, the camel was a very nice touch with two humps allowing Sue McAspurn and Eileen Truby space for their heads so that they could see where they were going. Their synchronised dancing was a real showstopper. Dick Whittington was played by Amanda Pickering. She gave a very confident and well rounded performance with a very nice romantic touch from Emilie Crouch, "the fairest of them all", who was destined at the end, as Alice Fitzwarren, to marry Dick Whittington. Their duets were particularly memorable. Two performers who made a big impact were Heather Pool as Fairy Bowbells, who bounced on the stage at frequent intervals to sort out King Rat and a very nice touch was Goldilocks, played by Jean McDonald, who kept appearing, thinking she was in the "Three Bears"! Also in her first

appearance for the Drama Group was Lesley Corrin, who had a pivotal role as Captain of the ship-wrecked Titanic. She did a great job in bringing the plot together. Two of the younger members of the Drama Group played starring roles with William Bonshor as Tommy the Cat (a clever touch was his liking for lying on his back and having his tummy tickled) and Christopher Monk as both Roger the Cabin Boy and Fighting Rat.

After a very entertaining first act set in London, the second act took us on a voyage to Morocco, where the Sultan's palace was overrun by rats. The Sultan played by Stuart Cooper (also in last year's pantomime) was very finely dressed in a gold tunic and was well supported by Sultana his rather dominating wife, part taken by Sue I'Anson, and his Vizier, Elaine Musgrove. The opportunity was taken for four members of the harem to give a fine dancing act suitably dressed (or undressed!) as handmaidens played by Libby Bowers, Bobbie Race, Caroline Monk and Sue McAspurn, all of whom had other supporting roles. Mention must also be made of Terry Oliver as a guard and, as is usual in a pantomime, as a gorilla, and John Wardell also as a guard.

Once again Leisa Griffiths gave us seven young dancers from her dancing school and they made splendid entertainment in various roles including rats. A nice touch at the end was when they dissipated what must have been their last ounce of energy by running round the perimeter of the seated audience. They were ably led by Sophie Alexander with six younger dancers, Bethany Alexander, Chelsea Brown, Georgie Brown, Emma Johnson, Jessica Meadows and Sophie Meadows.

At this point it would be wrong to forget the enormous amount of work that went on back stage and at the front of the house. The set construction was well done by Mark Sharman

and the 8<sup>th</sup> Northampton Scouts and the costumes were all at a high standard, organised by Eunice Ellis. Other major contributions came from Craig Burgess as Technical Assistant, Dave Templeman as Stage Crew, Andrew Bransby as Pianist, Bobbie Race in Publicity and Jean Templeman as Front of House Manager with her many assistants. Credit must also be given to the programme advertisers and other local organisations, which made the show possible. An enormous amount of work is needed in a production of this sort, never mind the costs involved in putting it on.

Finally, one last word for the Director, James Skeggs, who made this a real pantomime with lots of audience participation, including the usual Ohs and Ahs and "No, you didn't" and "Yes, you did". Best of all for the children, it all finished on a happy note with even Sarah the Cook finding her soul mate and above all, good triumphed over evil with the demise of King Rat by the hand of (wait for it!) Dick Whittington, who also found his bride. All in all it was a most enjoyable entertainment with a performance at the usual high standard we have come to expect from the Brixworth Drama Group. *David Hymas*



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## **BRIXWORTH CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING UPON SUCCESS**

Our local Primary School is one of which we can all be proud particularly after the reports from two recent inspections.

The Ofsted Inspection which took place last term was full of praise for many aspects of the school and the Ofsted report recognised the high expectations and standards set by the school, confirming the school's continuing capacity for improvement and success. To quote the report "Brixworth CE VC Primary is a good school which gives good value for money. The school sees itself this way too. Parents and pupils justifiably hold it in high regard. It has high expectations of the standards the pupils are capable of reaching both academically and in their personal development. Pupils in the Reception classes have a stimulating curriculum. Overall they achieve standards that are above the expected levels.

Teaching is good. Pupils undertake a wide range of interesting work enriched by extra activities beyond the school day. Pupils' attitudes to learning are positive. They and the parents value the good support, care and guidance provided by school staff.

The school has accurately identified its strengths and the areas that need further development, and has adopted the right strategies for improvement. The leadership and management are good. Given the school's track record of improvement in standards since the last inspection, it is well placed to make further progress."

The school was also subject to a Diocesan Inspection on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Being a Church school the focus for the visit varied from that of the earlier Ofsted Inspection.

"Brixworth CE VC Primary School is a good Church of England School, having a

distinctive Christian and Anglican character, yet firmly respecting other denominations and other faiths and their teachings. Through its care of all the pupils at the school, it pervades an atmosphere of total acceptance and understanding, of an all embracing welcome and acceptance of everybody working together."

- Areas for development were given as "use of silent and quiet times" but significantly the established strengths were seen as follows
- Outstanding leadership and management by the Head Teacher.
- Supportive and caring relationships between all members of the school community.
- A widely encompassing yet strongly Christian mission statement that is evidenced within the life of the school.
- The provision of an environment emphasising equal opportunities for all children to experience and enable learning.
- The enthusiasm, commitment and very proficient RE and collective worship co-ordinator.

Credit must be given to David Boucher for the building up of an excellent team spirit since his appointment as Head Teacher which has enabled the school to maintain its high standards as well as move forward and progress.

(These reports may be seen in full on the Ofsted website and The National Society website at [www.natsoc-org.uk/schools/inspection](http://www.natsoc-org.uk/schools/inspection))

*Louise Cramp*

Mrs. S Verallo has been appointed a governor to the Brixworth Primary VE School at a meeting on the 6th February 2006.



## **SCOTTISH NIGHT IS A GREAT SUCCESS**

A Scottish evening held at Mercedes High Performance Engines on 28 January 2006 was a huge success and a most enjoyable evening with a piper, Scottish dancers, table magicians, a cabaret act of magic and a charity auction. It was attended by 102 people.

The whole evening was organised by Frank WiiG, who, not only did a marvellous job as an organiser but also as the Master of Ceremonies and performed the address to the haggis and the Selkirk Grace. This was a fundraising event for the charities, Marie Curie Cancer Care and Brixworth Youth Foundation and raised well over £5,500 on the evening with one remaining auction prize with a reserve of £1,500 to be sold.

Special thanks go to the staff who worked so hard on the night, the piper, Frank WiiG, Marea Roberts (Marie Curie), Liz WiiG and Gail Smith for arranging the table flowers (which raised £340 in the auction), Ellen Parrott and Val Lowden for producing the photographs and to all those who purchased the tickets.

Thanks to the hosts, this is to be an annual fundraising event, I would recommend that you get your tickets early for next year so that you do not miss out on a great night and an opportunity to help these most charitable causes.

*Ellen Parrott & other Youth Club Volunteers*

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**PHILIP HOLLOBONE MP**

Local residents in Brixworth and the surrounding villages have been very active in raising their concerns with me about a wide range of issues and I am always happy to take up issues at Westminster on residents' behalf.

One of the Parliamentary devices that MPs can use to ensure that the voice of their constituents is heard loud and clear at Westminster is the Adjournment Debate, whereby the relevant Government Minister is obliged to attend and respond to the application. These are usually scheduled to last between 30 and 90 minutes and are normally held in the name of the MP who has requested it. To secure an Adjournment Debate, an MP has to apply in writing to the Speaker on a weekly basis and then a ballot is held to determine the successful applicants. As there are 646 MPs and only about 12 Adjournment Debates are held each week when the House is sitting, there aren't enough to go round for everyone to get a go, but I make it a rule to put in an application every week on the basis of the lottery maxim "You have to be in it, to win it!" I am pleased to be able to say that in the last 100 sitting days, there have been four debates held in my name on subjects: family matters, building development in Northamptonshire, local policing and NHS dentistry. In the dentistry debate, I used it to leave no doubt that locally we don't have enough NHS dentists and that urgent steps are needed to be taken to ensure that NHS dental provision in our area is enhanced and not be allowed to deteriorate further. In the police debate, I made it clear that Northamptonshire doesn't have enough police officers.

Residents can keep track of what I am trying to do at Westminster via the independent website [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com) or via Hansard on [www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm/cmhansrd.htm](http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm/cmhansrd.htm).

As always, if any resident feels that I may be able to help with a particular issue, please contact me by any of the following means:

Address: The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
E-mail: [hollobonep@parliament.uk](mailto:hollobonep@parliament.uk)  
Tel: 0207 219 8373/07979 850126

Dear Sir

### A waste of your taxes?

The Parish Council has struggled for many years to get the full number of Parish Councillors to work for the village. The Council already has one vacancy which it had been trying to co-opt someone to, when 4 Councillors resigned. A number of the people of the village wrote to Daventry to demand that there is a by-election for the Parish Council vacancies. This may appear to be democracy BUT did you know that you,, the people of Brixworth, will have to pay for this out of your Council Tax. It is estimated that it will cost at least £1000.

Are the people who demanded a by-election acting for the democratic best interests of the village or are their motives less honourable?

Richard Monk (personal capacity only-15 Feb)

Dear Sir

On New Year's Eve at 11.30pm, I lit the Millennium Beacon in the All Saints' Church car park for the seventh time since the first lighting on December 31<sup>st</sup> 1999. During the hour that it was lit, the Brookes family of Grange Court and I served mulled wine and other refreshments and received donations for the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Although the weather for the time of year was mild and virtually dry, the turn out was very disappointing at around 40 people. We only managed to raise £19.70 compared with £71.06 on Trafalgar Day last October, and slightly less amounts in previous years, in spite of much worse weather. Because the refreshments were donated and the gas for the Beacon paid for by the Parish Council, we will be able to give the total amount donated at £19.70 to the two charities. Nevertheless the work that has to be done to put on this event, both before and after, makes me wonder whether we should continue to do this in the future. I think, if this finished, it would be a great pity, as the Beacon is a facility that provides a meeting point for residents to celebrate national events and public anniversaries, such as New Year's Eve.

It would be helpful if I could receive some feedback as to how we can make this Beacon lighting a more attractive event. Any comments, no matter how adverse or critical would be much appreciated. It would be a pity to have this unique facility no longer used due to lack of support. Please contact me or leave a message on telephone number 881755

David Hymas, Woodlawn, Grange Court  
Brixworth. NN6 9NN

Dear Editor

I am becoming increasingly concerned and depressed about the number of Parish Councillors who, it would appear, are prepared to resign from the Council with no real justification. These individuals are presumably elected in good faith by the village to represent us on the Parish Council for the required four year term. However, it seems that if something upsets them or if they don't get their own way, then it is fine to just hand in their resignation. This can result in considerable expense for the village if an election is then held. It can also give rise to a Parish Council that is worryingly short on members, which is the position with the current Council. I served on the Parish Council many years ago for two whole terms and I can hardly remember one member resigning before his allotted time. Now it would appear to be a monthly occurrence. Come on, Parish Council, show some maturity and loyalty to the people who voted for you – stick it out even when the going gets tough!

Yours sincerely

Jane Neill

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# AUDREY CHARLTON 1929 - 2006

## *A Personal Tribute*



AUDREY CHARLTON, whose funeral took place on 25th January at Milton Crematorium, did not just live in Brixworth for around thirty years, but was actively involved in the well-being of the village and its residents for most of that time.

As a co-opted member of the Parish Council, she attended countless meetings and in her late seventies and in poor health managed to keep abreast of every event and Council plan, becoming something of an expert in planning matters. She was highly intelligent, very astute, understood local politics, and had a very clear idea of what was right for Brixworth. She was saddened by the increase in crime within the village, but never seriously considered moving away.

As one Brixworth resident said to me after Audrey's unexpected death, "everyone knew Audrey Charlton, but no-one knew her." She was intensely private – mostly, I suspect, because she

genuinely believed that other people were much more interesting than she herself was! She was one of those caring souls to whom one automatically opened up one's heart, poured out one's concerns, and she never disappointed, always asking the right questions, always offering helpful advice. Instead of receiving Meals on Wheels in her old age. Audrey was delivering Meals right up to her final illness, and indeed was worrying about letting the organisers down while she was in hospital in Epsom just before she died.

Audrey's way of helping the community was always to be the helper in the background – not the leader or "boss" – despite her formidable intelligence and her administrative skills. The piles of papers all round her house were witness to all the work in which she was involved. When asked why she did not stand in Council Elections, her answer was a genuinely self-effacing "no-one knows who I am".

Audrey spoke in a slow, quiet, deep voice, every word carefully considered, and I certainly never heard her say anything silly or flippant. But this does not imply that she lacked humour! On the contrary, I will always remember her deep chuckle when she was amused by some item on the news.

Brixworth Village will be a poorer place without Audrey Charlton, and many people will feel her loss. I know that I am not the only one who is grieving for this wonderful friend, whose distinguished career as a Clinical Psychologist made her a most understanding and non-judgemental neighbour and confidante.

She leaves a daughter, Judith, and two step-children, Jane and Jeremy.

*Audrey Hannan, High Peak, Derbyshire*

# YOGA AT BRIXWORTH



Di Ferraro started her privately operated yoga class at the Community Centre, Spratton Road, in the autumn of last year. She has practised yoga for over 10 years and has completed a course at the British Wheel of Yoga. Currently she is part way through her teaching diploma course in Leicester.

Her class mainly comprises of beginners at the moment, but students of intermediate standard can join. The sessions which take place on a Wednesday morning from 9.30 – 11.00am cost £4 per session, but students can enrol for six weeks and get an additional session for free. Yoga re-energises participants by correct movement, posture and breathing exercises interspaced with periods of relaxation. The current course finishes on the 29th March and the next session begins on the 19th April 2006.

Di, who lives in Upper Harlestone with her husband and two sons, says that Yoga in general will improve a person's strength, suppleness, balance, stamina, concentration and relaxation.

Di can be contacted on **01604 757658** or e-mail [d.ferraro@btconnect.com](mailto:d.ferraro@btconnect.com)

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# ARE YOU BEING ADDRESSED CORRECTLY?



The Bulletin team hopes that our readers had an enjoyable Christmas and wish everyone a happy New Year. A little late is probably your reaction – a bit like letter and parcel deliveries. Did you get all the Christmas cards and letters which you have expected? Do you know of correspondence and bills despatched but not received? If you do, perhaps we can give you a clue as to the reason. It may not be the fault of the local postman for mail being delivered to the wrong address. Our regular postman is brilliant – helpful, cheerful and he delivers mail early in the day. The problem of wrongly directed mail begins further back.

The Royal Mail has an address management team on the Doxford International Business Park in Sunderland. This team has produced a data base of supposedly all the addresses in the UK and it is possible to log-on to their web-site and search for any post code by typing in the address. However, until recently, it was possible to type in The Pound House, Brixworth and to be supplied with a completely wrong post code in Harrington. We were alerted to this problem at Christmas, by the residents of The Pound House, Harrington who had received several items of mail. All the mail had the same computer generated same address which included School Lane, Brixworth, Harrington, Northampton and their postcode. All these

items of mail came from different parts of the country and had our name on the label.

Royal Mail was easily contacted and whilst they could not explain why a house over 400 years old was not listed on their system, they corrected the error within 24 hours. However the remedy was only partial, because they informed us that there were private companies who operated mail labelling systems which used Royal Mail information. One such company is **gsa** Ltd which has 10,000 customers who use their system. The system is operated by sending out discs to all customers with the latest address information and from these discs, a quick address can be generated direct onto a label. These discs are updated every 3 months. When **gsa** were contacted, they advised us that no correction could be made before April 2006. Only customers of **gsa** have access to the information held on the discs and therefore we could not make any checks.

No doubt there are countless lists of information circulated by private companies to which private individuals have no means of access so that the veracity of the information can be checked. Under the freedom of information act, citizens of the UK are entitled to know what information is held on any list. The problem is to know if a list exists.

Harvey Fox

Preschool Learning Alliance requires a volunteer to carry out payroll duties for a few hours per week at their office based in Moulton. For details contact the PLA office on 01604 494200.

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### Corrections and Clarifications

Apologies to Mr Steve Millar, Managing Director of Ilmor for naming him as Steve Davis. We were snookered!

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# BULLETIN BOARD

## BRIXWORTH CENTRE ANNUAL QUIZ

Brixworth Centre hosted its annual quiz on November 25th 2005, once again kindly run by Les Tyrer.

The winners were the 'Beauty and the Beast' team – congratulations – and the evening raised £147 for Centre funds.

The Management Committee would like to thank all who attended, and also Les for giving up his valuable time.

Watch for details of this year's events.

*Pat James*

## NEW PARISH COUNCIL INITIATIVE

Brixworth Parish Council wants the people of Brixworth to let it know what things are important to them - to give the village a say in what should be done in and for the village. To help this, the Parish Council has agreed to put together a Parish Plan based on a questionnaire that will be sent to every home in the village in the Spring.

The Parish Plan will build on the already available Housing Demand Study and the Village Design Statement to provide the basis for planning and prioritising for the future. It should be completed before the end of the year.

People are asked to take a little time to complete the questionnaire and return it when it arrives. This is an important opportunity for the village to tell the Parish Council what it wants in order to help the Council use its resources to meet the needs of the village.

Richard Monk, Parish Plan Co-ordinator.

## Brixworth Centre Pre School

### Red Nose Day

The children at Brixworth Centre Pre School raised £35.00 for Children in Need by decorating Pudsey cakes and completing a Pudsey Bear Colourthon. Well done to all those who took part.

### Christmas Fayre 2005

The Christmas Fayre was a great success and raised £405.18 for school funds. A big thank you to all that attended and a special thank you to those who provided prizes for the raffle and the Tombola.

### Spring Fayre 2006

Brixworth Centre Pre School will be holding a Spring Fayre on the 6th May 2006 between 2 and 4pm at the Centre Pre School, Church Street, Brixworth.

Many stalls and children's activities including a Bouncy Castle, Tombola, raffle, refreshments and other games/activities will be available. If you would like to sponsor this event, hold a stall or would like further details, please contact J Richards on 07970072139.

## Creaton in Bloom

Sunday 4th June 2006

Village Gardens open from 1.00p.m.

BBQ on Village Green from 12 noon

Art Exhibition courtesy of

Network Art

Teas & stalls

In aid of St. Michael

& All Angels, Creaton

## The day Mary arrived with a Shetland pony



Around three hundred people gathered outside the Library & Community Centre to witness the enactment of the Nativity. Children and adults alike, sung Carols, listened to a choir singing and watched and listened as the Christmas story unfolded. Mary and Joseph, whilst unconventional as they arrived with a Shetland pony, (our thanks to David Hamson who tried his hardest to get a donkey to walk onto his trailer), depicted the birth of Jesus in a very helpful way.

Amidst the glitter and commercialism of Christmas, it was a delight to see so many sparing the time to share in the reason for Christmas – the birth of Jesus, Immanuel which means God with us.

*Phil Walter*



Recent damage to Buttercross in Church Street

## 2127 Shoeboxes sent from Brixworth

What a fantastic achievement by the village! It is heart-warming to see so many people from every walk of life filling shoeboxes with gifts for needy children in Eastern Europe. Some boxes went to Ukraine where this report came back: "*The dismal and poor living conditions inside homes, hospitals and orphanages caring for these children were certainly better than those of the street children we met, yet almost without exception, fleeting moments of joy and pleasure lit the faces of the children as they received their shoeboxes*"

The Christian Fellowship would like to thank all who participated this year on behalf of all those children whose life was transformed for a few moments because of your kindness.

*Phil Walter*

## GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME BBC RADIO NORTHAMPTON

Members of Brixworth Gardening Club will be questioning the gardening panel of experts at BBC Radio Northampton to be broadcast on Friday 28th April at 7.30p.m.

Admission to the studio is £3.00 including light refreshments. Tickets from the Fox in the Pound Bookshop (Opening hours 10-5 Tues.-Sat.) or from Pam Pettitt 880666.

## Food, entertainment and lots of laughs!

Over sixty senior citizens enjoyed a hearty Christmas meal with lots of extras at the annual Christmas lunch put on by the Olive Branch. In a real team effort, using locally supplied produce, it was a culinary experience not to be missed. With entertainment from a local musician, carol singing and much more, a good time was had by all.

Many of the senior citizens meet every Wednesday for lunch at the Olive Branch when it is closed for regular custom to accommodate them. If you would like to join them, please phone 889030 for more details.

*Phil Walter*

# YOUTH OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

## **BRIXWORTH RULED BY HOOLIGANS? LOCAL PAPER EXTRACT 29th MARCH 1934**

Brixworth has had to close its village institute because the rowdiness of a section of its members made it impossible to carry on.

In that news, to hand this week, is matter for regret to those who appreciate all that a flourishing institution of this type may mean to a rural community. But in far greater measure is one moved to surprise that this village of 1200 inhabitants was unable to find means of purging its institute of these individuals who are now, one imagines finding considerable satisfaction in the effect of their exploits.

Are there no MEN in Brixworth strong enough to deal with this situation in the way it should be handled? Is there no one who, desiring to see this institute continued, has sufficient backbone to reorganise it forthwith, to reopen its doors tomorrow and thereafter to deal with hooliganism in the manner it merits?

May we suggest that the man for this job should be sought among the ranks of local ex-soldiers. If the war involved many evils it did, at least, teach the men it employed how to create and maintain discipline under any circumstances.

One hesitates to imagine the effect such hooliganism would have produced upon the committee of the average Service recreation room. Still more does one hesitate to contemplate the repressive measures it would have inspired! *Supplied by Gordon Stokoe*

## **YOUTH OF BRIXWORTH ON STREETS**

I find that the above organisation seems to be included in 80% of all local conversations and generally to their detriment. These groups of boys and girls are looked upon with very obvious distain and will of course feel hurt and resentful of this general attitude. Should we not stop and think?

In a group of 10 youths we may safely assume that 9 of them will be (if sometimes a bit noisy) good decent people, but our opinion will invariably be based upon the odd one out. Our most efficient control of this bad apple will be by decent companions, BUT HOW do we obtain their help? Not by treating them as idiots, but as friendly and co-operative young adults.

It may pay if we older people would occasionally look back to our own teenage activities in this village (I can look back 60 years), our playground was a radius of 5 miles of beautiful countryside which included brooks, ponds, sledging fields, disused ironstone works, trees and many other gifts of nature. We were not perfect and we had a similar percentage of bad apples (that we didn't find on our occasional scrumping expeditions). Think now of today's (pampered) youth. They are now actually deprived of these activities.

We gathered often on street corners, with care we carefully returned any brickbats cast in our direction. The local bobby knew us all and on occasion would discover that his gauntlet gloves had a use other than keeping his hands warm. We were far from perfect then and still in maturity fail to achieve that utopian state. (Of course with some exceptions, myself not included).

We had the advantage of being free of the temptation of drugs (except cigarettes). We had knowledge of the existence of such instruments as the 'birch and the 'cat o nine tails' even if we didn't know exactly what they were, we were not about to find out. I really hope a percentage of your readers may read this and look upon our young friends with a more sympathetic attitude.

*R Beaumont*

## **Brixworth Youth Club**

Brixworth Youth Club was re-established at 10 Ironstone Way on 9th March 2005 under the umbrella of the Brixworth Youth Foundation.

As we fast approach the first anniversary it is a time for reflection and taking stock. A recent survey of members, carried out independently, identified that the biggest priority was that the back yard needed to be laid with tarmac as the members cannot play games on the loose gravel and get covered in mud which then is trailed all over the club.

The club now has 137 registered members and has operated successfully from its present location. Since opening we have held pool and darts competitions and football tournaments. There is a regular craft activity on Monday nights and we have plans to continue to develop as members would like.

We are however saddened at the disrespectful and loutish behaviour of some members who insist on overly boisterous rough and tumble which results in damage to the fabric of the club and the equipment. Litter is a constant problem despite having plentiful bins and recycling points.

In addition a small number of older members leave the club early and we have been notified of complaints from local businesses and local residents who blame the BYC. We have written to notify parents of this as the club has little control over this without parental support.

It would be helpful if parents would try to encourage more responsible behaviour and ask their children to help make the club better.

Finally we still need volunteers to run club nights, raise funds or help with periodic events. Anyone interested please phone John on 889135.

### **Club opening times**

**Monday- 11-14 years of age from 18:30-21:00**

**Wednesday 11-17 years of age from 18:30-21:00**

John McFadyen

## **Brixworth Youth Club Moves from strength to strength**

Recent doubts over future funding of the Brixworth Youth Club (BYC) have abated, albeit on a temporary basis. Until recently the Club, a registered charity was paying the full commercial rate for 10 Ironstone Close. On top of this the club needed to raise funds for equipment, improvements to the premises and activities.

Although the club has received funding from both the Parish and District Councils and has raised money through fundraising activities, longer term funding was in question. The committee was considering options, including seeking an alternative site and the future viability of the club altogether.

Committee members gave serious consideration to the idea of moving to the village hall but after careful thought have decided against this for the time being. 'The Village Hall is a splendid community facility but it would not be possible for the club and its main activities to be run there safely and securely with minimal disturbance and disruption to local residents' said Chair of the BYC Committee, Gail Smith.

The present venue is seen to be ideally located, allows the club independence and flexibility, is easier to manage and can facilitate more active sports than can be accommodated at the village hall. Ironstone Close has also allowed the club to further develop its youth activities by encouraging local bands to use the club for practice sessions at weekends.

A major factor in the decision has been the negotiation by the outgoing Director of Brixworth Youth Foundation, Frank Wiig, of a period of six months rent free hire from the landlord Dallas Burston. In addition to which the success of recent fund raising organised by Frank and Liz Wiig in conjunction with Marie Currie Cancer Care and Mercedes High Performance Engines has given the club some breathing space. 'This will allow BYC to get its house in order, put itself onto a sounder financial footing and help it to be less dependent on public funding.' commented committee member John McFadyen.

This development is good news for the Brixworth Youth Club, its members, Daventry District Council, Brixworth Parish Council and the residents of Brixworth.

*The BYC is still seeking volunteers, committee members and fundraisers, anyone interested please contact Gail Smith on 883627 or John McFadyen on 889135 or by email to [brixworthyc@hotmail.com](mailto:brixworthyc@hotmail.com)*

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Dear Sir

I notice the Co-op has invested heavily in a shop refit but isn't it time they invested in the areas which matter.

Their Operation Manager could spend some time finding out what the Brixworth customers want and I am sure their top 3 priorities may be found below;

According to the latest industry surveys via the CTP (Convenience Tracking Programme) the 3 most important criteria for shopping at a particular retail outlet are:

Speed of Service

Availability

Friendly Service

Despite the recent refit the speed of service at the Co-op is disappointing and possibly worse than ever. How often do customers walk in the door and then walk out again when they see the length of the queue.

Availability of key items like bread has historically been poor, especially at weekends, even though around 17% of customers would like to put a loaf in their basket. Even since the refit, tobacco availability has been hit and miss, yet around 16% of customers buy tobacco products.

As for friendly service, well I am still waiting, most of the staff are very scruffy and hardly manage to break into a smile, let alone polite conversation.

Get these things right and I am sure the store will see a growth in footfall as a few old familiar faces might be tempted back

*Rupert Hindle*

Dear Sir

Although my wife and I are not regular customers of the Co-op, we would like to put on record that since the refurbishment, there has been for us a big improvement in the service provided. We are particularly referring to the personnel side, rather than the better availability and store lay out.

We have found the queues less lengthy and the check out staff now more motivated and customer orientated and even smile! What's more, if necessary, they will put the sold items in the plastic bags. On one occasion due to getting sticky fingers due to handling mince pie boxes, they allowed me to go out back and wash my hands in the staff cloakroom. On another occasion they cheerfully gave me change for a ten pound note, as opposed to prior to the refurbishment when I was refused.

Unfortunately praise is often swamped by complaints, so we thought this letter might just convey perhaps a better perception of the Co-op's efforts to improve their service.

*David Hymas*

Dear Sir

With reference to the Brixworth Bulletin – issue 7, December 2005 and the coverage of the problems local residents were apparently experiencing in our local Co-op, I would like to express my support to the staff of the shop.

I am writing this just one day after issue 7 was distributed. I have just returned from my usual Saturday trip to the shops. I regularly go there, and have never had to queue for more than two or three minutes. Today, as I queued, there was a tense atmosphere. The staff obviously felt on trial, their every move being scrutinised. A copy of the Brixworth Bulletin lay on the counter, and a young chap behind the counter, heart brokenly flipped through the front two pages whilst he waited to use the lottery machine to get my ticket for me. It was at that moment I decided to say something in their support.

The reporting of this problem was grossly disproportionate to the issue. The first two pages were dedicated to the story, followed by the advert for more staff, and then an article regarding the recent burglary. That is almost a fifth of the whole newsletter dedicated to one theme. It was biased with no representation of alternative opinions. Where were the opinions of those that didn't agree with the Vicar? There must have been some, based on the wording from page two of the onslaught: "In short, there has been an almost unanimous support of the views expressed in that letter." Only almost – not totally.

This type of reporting shows an amateurish bias towards the writer's own opinions, and blatant abuse of the power bestowed upon him to have the forum to so publicly get his point across. In fact, I doubt very much that this letter will be published at all; and just in case it doesn't I shall be taking a copy of this e-mail to the Manager at the Co-op this afternoon.

People want too much these days. Patience and tolerance are rare. I challenge the moaners to put themselves in the shoes of the people that work there for the pittance they are offered for their efforts and with the risks that are so apparent, and see if they would be prepared to do a better job. I doubt it. The challenge to the Manager to motivate her team is huge. I wish her the very best of luck in achieving this, and perhaps this letter will help her get there.

In the meantime, the moaners are welcome to keep away from the shop. Then the rest of us can enjoy a far more pleasurable shopping experience!

*Debbie Carless*

Dear Sir

I do not know how many Blue Badge Holders live in or visit Brixworth, but I am one!!! There are far too few designated disabled parking spaces, the church car park and the village hall would seem obvious sites. The two spaces outside the library are frequently misused; I rarely challenge drivers for obvious reasons and also because disability is often hidden, but when I do I usually get – 'I'm just dropping off a book, I won't be long'. Sorry but you can have my parking space when you have my disability too.

Yours sincerely

*Lynn Aitken*

P.S. On one occasion, I was told disabled badge holders don't come out at night. I may not be Dracula but I can assure you we do and it's far more difficult to walk around in the dark.

## Take Two gives their all



In the late 1950's John Wilson and Jeff Jones formed a pop group with three other boys at the Brixworth Youth Club, and called themselves the Cossacks. The group became a very popular local band, winning competitions and supporting many famous groups which were around in the 1960's.

The group disbanded in 1967 when John decided to marry Anne. Jeff was his best man at their wedding but soon afterwards Jeff travelled extensively with his job and the two lost touch for 30 years and didn't meet again until the mid 1990s when Jeff moved back to Northamptonshire. The two friends performed again on John's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and they enjoyed themselves so much they decided it would be a great idea to play 50s and 60s songs again but this time to raise money for charity.

Take Two (as John and Jeff now call themselves) have so far raised £400 for Brixworth Youth Club, £400 for the Stroke Association, £242 for the Brixworth under 11s Football Club and £220 towards a porch for Brixworth All Saints' Church.



# ELECTION INFORMATION

## NEW PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

### ELECTION REQUEST BY 10 RESIDENTS (shown below) FOR 5 VACANT POSITIONS ON BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

NAME	ADDRESS	
Norman Frank <b>WiiG</b>	9 Pytchley Close	NN6 9EW
Elizabeth Mary <b>WiiG</b>	9 Pytchley Close	NN6 9EW
Donald John <b>Green</b>	11 Pytchley Close	NN6 9EW
Ann Judith <b>Green</b>	11 Pytchley Close	NN6 9EW
Kathleen <b>Redley</b>	32 Lesson Road	NN6 9EE
Michael <b>Redley</b>	32 Lesson Road	NN6 9EE
Pam <b>Pettitt</b>	42 Lesson Road	NN6 9EE
John <b>Pettitt</b>	42 Lesson Road	NN6 9EE
Patricia <b>Done</b>	42 Stonehill Way	
John Christopher <b>Millar</b>	23 Grasslade	NN6 9HZ

### ELECTIONS AD INFINITUM

At 4.00pm. 24<sup>th</sup> February 2006, the closing date set for applications, the following names of candidates for election on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 were received.

**Mr J McFadyen and Mrs J Stubble**

**Both these candidates are elected unopposed.**

Next week another notice of election will be published calling for nominations for the three remaining vacancies and the six week electoral cycle will begin again until all the vacancies are filled, but this may take several electoral periods, if insufficient candidates come forward. The Parish Council may not co-opt for the vacancies because as the law stands, once 10 residents have started this process, it cannot be stopped by anyone and has to be resolved by the electoral process. There can be an election at any stage where the number of candidates exceeds the remaining vacancies. This situation is confirmed by the Electoral Commission in London and David Parry, Elections & Governance Manager at D.D.C.

**tray**  
telephone sales

Items in last issue were all sold!  
All numbers are 01604 (£1 per line)

A Virginia Organ, circa late 19th - early 20th century in working order **£100 880337**  
1995 Nissan Micra L 33-door hatchback, full service history, 110,000 miles **£350 880618**

### BRIXWORTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month in Brixworth Village Hall at 7.30pm  
March 14th Talk on Keeping Fit  
April 11th Talk on Musicals/Shows  
May 9th Resolutions  
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Following the resignations of Mrs E WiiG, Mr F WiiG, Mr C Timm and Mrs K Redley, only 4 of the councillors who stood for election in 2004 and 4 co-opted councillors remain on the Council. There is a vacancy for a co-opted councillor following the resignation of Mr S Mabbutt in November 2005, which will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006. Cllr Mrs A Charlton died recently (see obituary), thus leaving an additional 5 vacancies. 10 residents have called for a by-election to fill these vacancies, starting a potentially long process of several elections.

Cllr Ian Barratt took over the Chair of the Parish Council on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006. Cllr. Paul Savage was elected Vice-Chairman.

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The Carol Service on December 18th was well attended and the church looked lovely. Thanks to everyone who was involved in the service. Special thanks to Holly Duke, who must be the youngest ever reader in Draughton church and she read her passage beautifully.

About 20 of us enjoyed the Garden Group's Christmas meal at the Stag's Head in Maidwell. Good food and excellent company.

Joyce has been busy organising the next few meetings of the Gardening Group and they will be on the first Monday of the months of February, March and April. She has invited some interesting speakers.

We are sorry to hear that Hazel and George will be leaving the village. They have been stalwarts of the group and the village, and we shall miss them. We wish them well in their new home in Rugby.

For the last few months, we have been treated to a wonderful display by a huge flock of starlings that roost in the hedge along the Lamport Road. They give a flying display at dusk before they drop into bed. *Anne Block*

Another mild winter draws to a close with just a couple of sharp spells to remind us what every winter used to be like. Scientists continue to remind us that human-induced climate change must be addressed, and urgently. Walking around the village and the surrounding countryside, it is all too easy to think that it is business as usual so far as farming and wildlife locally is concerned, and that the claims have been exaggerated.

But even within the last five years, in my diary, I have recorded changes that are worrying to say the least. The corn bunting is a good example. Not too many years ago I remember stopping in the lay-by, just off the main road, that overlooks the reservoir. With my binoculars trained upon them, five tiny specks on the overhead wires, spaced out around me, resolved themselves into corn buntings. A dull-brown bird, related to and slightly bulkier than the familiar yellowhammer, this part of Northampton-shire could be thought of as one of its strongholds. I wound my window down, and could pick up two of them singing their apology for a song, which sounds like someone jangling a bunch of keys.

Although its nest, usually on the ground in growing crops, is hard to find, there is no doubt that it was formerly a fairly common breeding resident hereabouts. No longer is this the case, and national figures, from the British Trust for Ornithology, show that its decline has been in excess of 80%, earning it a place on the Red Data List of birds of conservation concern. These figures are collated for the government as one of a series of indications of the state of our environment.

The corn bunting is not alone by any means. Familiar birds like the starling, house sparrow, the linnets to name just a few have all suffered serious declines, to be admitted to this list in a lower category. Yesterday, along the Brampton Valley Way, I saw a male bullfinch, a gem in his brightest red, velvety black and grey plumage. He was accompanied by a female, more muted in her plumage, but still beautiful, and together they kept up a quiet piping conversation of call-notes. I used to be able to imitate these sounds, and more than once I have had a bird come close to me to find out what all the fuss was about. But it didn't

take them long to suss out that I was an impostor, of no consequence. The bullfinch is yet another species to find a place on the list due to a major decline in its numbers. Ironically my son, whose garden is close to the pocket park, occasionally has one appear on his bird table.

There is a temptation to say 'so what? What's so special about a few birds disappearing from our countryside?' The answer is that these birds may be thought of as being like the canary to the coal miner. If they are in such dire straits, then what about us? After all we share their environment, whether we like it or not. Increasingly the experts are saying that if we do not heed these and many other signs, it will be too late. Unfortunately it will be our children and grandchildren who will have to live with the consequences.

On a different note, the impossible has happened. Old stick-in-the-mud Country Eye, aka Brian Webster has been dragged, kicking and screaming into the 21st century, without ever having come to terms with the 20th. I have a website. Or rather my daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Dave Pope, have made my collection of 8000 pictures of wildlife, the countryside, old buildings, etc. available through the internet. Find us (as they say) at [www.country-eye.co.uk](http://www.country-eye.co.uk). *Brian Webster*

## HANGING HOUGHTON AND LAMPORT NEWS

The new church seat has now been installed outside the front entrance of the Lamport church. It has been funded by the Parish Council. It is looking very inviting and will hopefully be used when the warmer weather arrives.

The Church Council is planning a fund-raising 'Valentine's Day Dinner' at the village hall in Maidwell on the 11th February. Tickets are £10 per person. As well as a three course meal, a bar will be serving wine, beer and soft drinks. It is hoped that this get together will become a regular feature in the social calendar of our villages.

The Parish Council is keeping a watching brief on the traffic speeding problems through our two villages, and is pursuing possible remedies with the County Council and the Highway Authorities – watch this space for further information.

The Lamport Trust has applied for planning permission on Clint Hill Farm at Hanging Houghton. Basically they plan to refurbish the farmhouse, convert some of the old stables into a single storey dwelling and to demolish another part of the stable block to allow access to a new two storey – four bedroom house. The house will be built behind Jasmine House which is the neighbouring house to the farmhouse. If you wish to see the plans, they can be viewed at the council office situated in the Public Library at Brixworth. Please note that these plans have yet to be considered by the DDC planning committee. *Mike Phillpot*



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# PLANNING STATUS REPORT

REF NO. & DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	P.C RECOMMENDATION & D.D.C. DECISION
DA/2005/0121 Rigiflex, Northampton Rd. Demolition of existing factory and construction of 34 residential units.	PC 29/3 Objection. DDC Approved subject to a 106 agreement.
DA/2005/0140 Land at Holcot Rd, Brixworth 14 dwellings, estate road, highway alterations and ancillary works.	PC 26/7 No Objection. Awaiting 106 agreement. DDC Approved
DA/2005/0171 The Grange, Kennel Terrace. Convert existing office building into leisure facilities and build new indoor swimming pool.	PC 26/4 DDC Refused.
DA/2005/0719 Haywards Barn, Northampton Road. Extension to club house	PC 26/7 No Objection. DDC Refused. Subject to appeal.
DA/2005/1014 10 Pytchley Close. Detached double garage with storage space over at front of dwelling. Integral garage converted to living space.	PC17/10 Approved with observations.
DA/2005/1016 43 The Ashway Conservatory to rear.	PC 17/10 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/1026 Holmleigh, Silver St. Replacement of flat roof with new pitched roof	PC 17/10 No Objection. DDC Approved
D/2005/1133 4 Eastfield Road. Loft conversion and small extension to rear lounge.	PC 7/11 No Objection. DDC Refused
DA/1005/1080 5 Newlands. Rear – Demolition of workshop to allow construction of 2 new houses	PC 17/10 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/1241 Gat Developments, The Old Farmhouse, Harborough Rd. Additional bedroom and bathroom – 1 Newlands	PC 28/11 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/1253 Brixworth Nursery Farm, Holcot Road. Removal of condition7 of planning permission DA/2003/0337 (Personal to applicant)	PC 28/11 Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/1256 Cartgate, Brixworth Hall Park. Single storey extension.	PC 28/11 No Objection DDC Approved
DA/2005/1268 2 Eastfield Road. Single storey extension to side and rear.	PC 28/11 Conditional approval. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/1280 96 Froxhill Cres. 1 <sup>st</sup> floor extension	PC 19/12 DDC Approved.
DA/2005/1288 23 Eastfield Road Front and rear extensions and replacement garage	PC 9/1 Objection. Does not comply with planning policy.
DA/05/1273C Old Brickworks, Harborough Rd. Pitsford. Canopy over soil storage and treatment area at waste transfer station.	PC 28/11 No Objection. DDC Approved.
DA/2005/1239 Co-op Spratton Rd. Installation of 24 hour ATM machine into existing shop front.	PC 28/11 PC raised concerns. DDC Refused.
DA/2005/1357 5 Shelleycotes Rd. Two storey extension to side of dwelling and detached double garage to front of building.	PC 9/1 No Objection.
DA/2005/1380 27 Burrows Vale. Conservatory to rear of dwelling	PC 9/1 No Objections.
DA/2005/1395 27 Froxhill Cres. Conservatory to rear of building.	PC 9/1 No Objections
DA/2005/1335 Mercedes High Performance Engines Morgan Drive. Provision of new development machine shop and logistic building, new car park and racetrack parking areas and a new section of private site road.	PC 19/12 No Objections..
DA/2006/0048 34 Stonehill Way. First floor extension to side of building	PC 30/1 No Objection.
DA/2006/0071 The Old Vicarage, Church St. Listed building consent for internal alterations, creation of new bathroom and en-suite bathrooms.	PC 30/1 No Objection.

## RIGIFLEX DEVELOPMENT

DA/2005/021 Appeal Decision – Demolition of buildings and new development of 34 residential houses.

The Parish Council was informed that the Inspector had allowed the appeal and granted planning permission subject to 10 conditions.

However the Bulletin spoke to Mr John Wilcox of Haddon Developments Ltd and we were told that the Inspector had quoted outline planning permission by mistake instead of detailed planning permission. It was expected that this error would be corrected by 10<sup>th</sup> February 2006. At that time Mr Wilcox would be able to confirm unconditional acceptance of the contract. The Directors of Rigiflex would then seek alternative premises under the contract and it was hoped that demolition of the whole site would begin in late summer 2006.

## MAIDWELL HOMES SAXON HEIGHTS

Maidwell Homes confirmed that they have only two properties left for sale and the first residents are about to move into those properties which have been completed.

## Two Brixworth Retained Fire fighters to run the London Marathon.

On the 23rd of August, 2005 the Brixworth fire stations Sub Officer Adrian Kimbell lost his fight against cancer aged only 37, leaving behind his wife Alison and 3 year old son George.

Adrian had been a retained fire fighter for 18 years, firstly at Guilsborough and then here at Brixworth.

Adrian spent the last few weeks of his life being cared for in the Cynthia Spencer hospice.

Cynthia Spencer is funded by charity and is reliant on donations and voluntary help to provide the excellent care which Adrian received.

As a mark of respect for their friend and colleague, Brixworth Fire Fighters, Lee Mayes & Andy Stead, are to run the 2006 London Marathon on the 23rd of April to raise money for the “Friends of Cynthia Spencer Hospice” Charity.

This is a huge challenge they have taken on in addition to their fire fighting duties.

Please support their efforts in raising money for this very worthy charity.

If you wish to sponsor them either contact Lee on 07753255343 or Andy on 07860927295 where you can make your pledge.

If you wish to make a donation please post a cheque to the Fire Station on the Holcot Rd.

Lee & Andy wish to thank you in advance for your help in raising money for this very fitting charity.

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EVENINGS: Tuesday - Saturday 6 - 8

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# ALL SAINTS CHURCH A.D. 680

VICAR: The Revd. A. J. Watkins Tel: 880286  
CHURCHWARDENS: Mrs S. Woodhead Tel: 880158  
Miss S. Jowers Tel: 880474



**Sundays**  
7.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist (first Sunday of the month)  
10.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Address  
6.00 p.m. Evensong



**Weekdays**  
Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Fridays 7.45 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
For other days, see weekly sheet in Church

Dear People of Brixworth

The main entrance to All Saints' Church, beyond the two outside doors, is a disgrace to the building and those who use it regularly. It ought not to have been tolerated for so long.

However, finding an alternative is likely to be difficult, costly and controversial. To remove the present internal structure without any kind of replacement would create many problems, especially in the winter with strong winds, heavy rainfall, snow and ice to contend with. Keeping the door shut when it is windy can be very difficult even with the unsightly interior doors. So should the P.C.C. go for an interior porch in glass, as some have suggested or should they consider an outside porch similar to the one that was knocked down about 150 years ago by my illustrious predecessor, the Reverend C.F. Watkins?

A glass internal structure certainly has its attractions. It would expose the arch that the present wooden structure tends to hide, as well as those fine exterior oak doors viewed from inside the church and making it possible for more light to come into the church whenever the exterior doors could be left open. The cost of this would certainly be considerably less than an external porch in stone and the task itself completed much more swiftly.

It has been suggested that the internal structure should extend further than the present one into the nave or even embrace the whole of the back area of the church including the area around the font, separating it from the rest of the church by a glass partition. Personally, I think these two ideas would meet with much opposition and very much intrude upon the architecture and atmosphere of the church whereas a modest glass entrance, only slightly larger than the present wooden structure could be an enhancement and could enable people to see something of the interior of the church while securely locked.

An exterior porch has much to commend it and personally I feel that this solution would be the more exciting and worthwhile path. After all, how many churches have you seen in this country alone without an external porch. And why have so many got these porches? – surely because of the English weather! What happens when people try to get into the church when the wind is blowing and the rain is pouring down upon them as they struggle with the latch – they get very wet. Similarly what happens when there is a queue of people going into the church (as happens frequently at baptisms, weddings and funerals and whenever we have a large visiting party) in inclement weather? – they too get very wet, miserable and grumpy!

An outside, open porch provides a convenient place for all kinds of notices and information that people like to see even if they can't get inside the church. A porch is a favoured place for brides to be have photographs taken before and after the wedding service.

Is all this but an idle dream do you think? Maybe you think of it as some kind of nightmare! Some say they don't want the exterior of the church altered in any way. Yet on the south side of the church (the side we enter) there were a number of porticus protruding from the nave (as well as on the north side), so the church didn't look as it does now, on the outside. And when it did after it ceased to be a monastery, it soon received a porch – the Norman porch that was taken away only in the nineteenth century. As it stands now I find it rather gaunt and eerie – not at all welcoming as a church ought to be.

What if it does cause controversy? It could put Brixworth on the map more. And in any case we need to remember that Brixworth Church is a living place of worship at the heart of a community that still has cause to use it for what it was built – and not just as a museum or an interesting piece of archaeology to be visited occasionally by those interested in that kind of thing.

Do let me hear from you if you have any views on what I have written.

Yours sincerely

A.J. Watkins

## CALENDAR FOR MARCH, APRIL & MAY

### **March**

- 1<sup>st</sup> ASH WEDNESDAY (The first day of Lent) HOLY EUCHARIST at 10.30a.m. & 7.30p.m.  
5<sup>th</sup> FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT. Services at 7.45a.m., 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
12<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT. Services at 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
19<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT. Services at 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
20<sup>th</sup> Monday. St. JOSEPH, HUSBAND of B.V. MARY 12noon HOLY EUCHARIST  
25<sup>th</sup> Saturday. ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD TO THE B.V. MARY 9.30a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST  
26<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (MOTHERING SUNDAY) CLOCKS GO FORWARD  
10.30a.m. FAMILY SERVICE FOR ALL AGES & CONDITIONS (SERVICE OF THE WORD)  
Followed by SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (11.15a.m. approx) 6.00p.m. EVENSONG

### **April**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT Services at 7.45a.m., 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
11.30a.m. EASTER VESTRY & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
9<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY Services at 7.45a.m., 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Monday – Wednesday in HOLY WEEK 12noon HOLY EUCHARIST & ADDRESS  
13<sup>th</sup> MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30p.m. LITURGY OF THE LAST SUPPER & ADDRESS  
14<sup>th</sup> GOOD FRIDAY 2.00p.m. LITURGY OF THE PASSION & DEATH OF THE LORD  
15<sup>th</sup> HOLY SATURDAY 8.00p.m. EASTER VIGIL & EUCHARIST (SUNG)  
16<sup>th</sup> EASTER SUNDAY Services at 7.30a.m., 10.30a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
23<sup>rd</sup> SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE Services at 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
30<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE Services at 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.

### **May**

- 7<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE Services at 7.45a.m., 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
14<sup>th</sup> FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE Services at 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
21<sup>st</sup> SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE Services at 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.  
25<sup>th</sup> Thursday ASCENSION DAY HOLY EUCHARIST at 10.30a.m. & 7.30p.m.(Sung)  
28<sup>th</sup> SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE Services at 10.00a.m. & 6.00p.m.

### **June**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. FRIENDS' DAY 12noon Service of Thanksgiving followed by A.G.M. Buffet Lunch  
4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY: FESTIVAL OF PENTECOST (WHITSUNDAY) Services at 7.45a.m., 10.00a.m. & 5.00p.m.  
ANNUAL FETE & GARDEN PARTY in the Churchyard from 2.00p.m.

### **N.B. FASTING & ABSTINENCE.**

There are two days in the year that are officially designated as days of fasting and abstinence – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (ideally embracing the next day too – until Eastertide begins). These are days for taking a minimum of plain food and drink. But the days of Lent (weekdays not Sundays) and most Fridays in the year are days for making some kind of act of commitment to God through Christ and his Church either by abstaining from something that is very pleasurable but unessential to life or by doing something for others as secretly as possible. These acts of commitment assert for yourself and God that your religion matters to you.

LENT 2006. A full programme of services and meetings during Lent this year should be available inside the church by the end of February.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### HOLY MATRIMONY

Saturday. 21<sup>st</sup> January..... Nigel James SLAUGHTER  
& Jennifer Kate PARSONS

### HOLY BURIAL

Friday. 10<sup>th</sup> February..... Angela Helen WEST

# SPORTS PAGE \*\*\*\*\* SPORTS EDITOR: John Blason

## BRIXWORTH FOOTBALL CLUB RESERVE TEAM

Wearing new kit sponsored by Northampton Travel Services



### BRIXWORTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Brixworth First Team is having a good season with some excellent results and consistent performances by the players. The Reserves are also performing well with a relatively new young team. A very promising start has been made to the season. Thank you to Carl, Chris and Malcolm for all your good work. A race night is to be held in aid of raising funds for the Club on Saturday 25th March. All are welcome.

#### GOLF SOCIETY

2005 proved to be another successful golfing year with high numbers playing at each venue. Presentation evening was held at Kilworth Springs Golf Club. Golfer of the year was Gordon Chiverton, with Phil Porsh as runner up. The Captain's Shield was presented by Colin King to Bob Deeming.

The George Clapton Memorial Trophy was won by Andy Tebbut.

The Tim Moulds Jug was won by Paul Adams

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd March 2005 at 8.00pm at the Sportsfield Pavilion, Brixworth. Everyone, new and existing members is welcome.

Venues for 2006 have been arranged for 7th April at Kibworth, 9th June Cherwell Edge, 11th August at Cosby and 6th October at Kingsthorpe.

Anyone interested in joining please ring John Wilson 880490

Liam Dolman who was featured in Bulletin 7, has been offered a professional contract with the Cobblers. Congratulations to Liam and we wish him every success in his professional career.

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#### BRIXWORTH JUNIORS U13 FOOTBALL TEAM

Brixworth Juniors U13 team is having a difficult season playing in the Milton Keynes and Border Counties League. Long-term injuries have sidelined key players and the team has had to be restructured. Results are close but seemed to favour the opposition. We are scoring plenty of goals but cannot stop conceding more! However, the last couple of games have seen the restructured side improve and register a win against top of the table opposition. With players beginning to get back to match fitness, Steve Hughes (Manager) is hoping for a better second half to the season and to finish in style.

Off the pitch, the team has taken the view that the social aspect of football is equally important with a Social Committee formed from parents to voluntarily arranged events. Whilst fund raising is important to help long term security of the team, having fun, players and parents alike, is the aim.

If you would like to know about joining the U13's, Steve Hughes can be contacted through the Brixworth Juniors Football Club.

Dave Coleman