

BRIXWORTH BULLETIN



Including Lamport, Hanging Houghton and Draughton



ASHWAY CHANGING ROOM SAGA



The History

In the last issue of the Bulletin, we reported that QMP had revised their estimate for the building of the proposed changing rooms from £86,500 (9th Sept 2003) to £124,300 (May 2004). Tenders were received in early June 2004 and the lowest offer was £53,000 above the QMP latest estimate. The offers ranged between £177,300 and £205,350, a 16% spread.

The Parish Council was startled by this new proposed cost and instructed QMP to hold discussions with the lowest tenderer in order to identify reasons for the large difference between QMP's estimate and the tender price.

QMP identified four main areas:
Protection of roof against vandalism.
Electrical work.
Provisional sums.
Substructure.

The above information was presented to a meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Development Committee of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th July 2004.

The options open to the Village were thought to be:

1. Reduce the specification for a purpose built building but retain those features necessary to obtain funding from a Sports Foundation.
2. Consider the use of a pre-fabricated custom built changing room, which could be delivered to site within 3 – 4 months and connected to the mains services.

A presentation by Suresport, part of the Thurston Building Systems was made and

amongst some of the features offered were a tiled pitched roof, brick facing to the galvanized steel external walls, plastic coating to internal walls, lighting, water and space heating, ventilation, anti-vandal shower heads, 2 or 4 changing rooms, 1 or 2 rooms for officials, shower facilities and storage for equipment.

The changing rooms meet Sports Foundations' guidelines and the life expectancy of such a building is approximately 60 years (Internal and external linings 20 – 30 years). The building would be vandal - proof.

The Councillors, after listening to opinions from the public decided to recommend to the full Parish Council that quotations be obtained for 2 changing rooms and 4 changing rooms with appropriate official's facilities. The quotations are to include storage within the building and provision of mains services.

The Suresport representative thought that a standard 2 changing room facility would be about £90,000, which includes a room for officials and some unspecified storage space. His estimate for mains services provision was £12,000. It was confirmed that a precise specification was available and that it would be sent to Suresport.

Potentially the Council has £112,000 at its disposal for this project. This assumes £20,000 from the Football Foundation and a grant of £14,000 from Daventry District Council.

New planning permission will be required for this type of construction which can only

be applied for when the exact specification is agreed. The Parish Council has committed itself to holding extensive consultations with neighbours adjacent to the site and users of the Ashway sports ground. Current possible users are The Red Lion Football Club, The Junior Football Club and The Rugby Club.

The Parish Council applied for a grant from the Football Foundation in May 2004. The grant approval system normally takes 5 months from date of submission and no work of any sort can commence until the grant is approved. However in August the Football Foundation wrote to the Parish Council requesting further information required to progress the grant application.

Current Thinking

At the 16th August meeting of the Recreation and Amenities meeting, the Chairman reported that only an estimate for a two changing room facility had been received from Suresport. A precise specification had not been sent to Suresport.

It was minuted that it was in the public interest on grounds of best value and health and safety for the Council to re-appraise the situation and aim to provide facilities in time for the 2005/2006 season having sought further advice & guidance on applications for grants.

It is understood that consideration is being given to re-siting the changing rooms to be adjacent to the Ashway and re-positioning the car-park and playing pitches.

See report from Bob Chattaway, Chair Recreation & Amenities Comm. - page 2

HAYWARD'S BARN CRICKET FIELD

As reported in the last Bulletin, Dallas Burston Group's planning applications:-
DA/2003/0751 – use of tennis court
DA/2003/0815 – change of use of barn to a clubhouse

DA/2003/1358 – change of use of field to a cricket field

were approved by DDC subject to conditions not approved at that time.

The conditions now agreed for 0815 and 1358 are

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from date of this permission, to comply with section 91 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

2. The cricket field and building known as Hayward's Barn shall be used/occupied only by Brixworth Cricket Club. The proposal to create a recreational facility in the Special Landscape Area in the vicinity of Brixworth is only acceptable on the basis that the facility is genuinely available for use by the local community.

3. Full details of any external alterations to the building, including the proposed materials, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before commencement of any works. The building is in a prominent position in the Special Landscape Area and has previously been subject to unsatisfactory additions, which were subsequently required to be removed. The Local Planning Authority wishes to ensure that any proposed alterations are acceptable in that context.

4. No development shall take place until a plan and elevation indicating the positions, design, materials and type of boundary treatments to be erected has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. The reason given by DDC is in the interests of visual amenity.

5. Adequate space shall be provided within the site for parking of vehicles in accordance with a plan to be approved by the Local Planning Authority and shall be laid out, surfaced, and marked out before the premises are occupied and permanently set aside for that purpose. This condition is in the interests of the safety and convenience of users of the adjoining highway.

6. Full details of any proposed external lighting shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before it is installed.

The condition for 0751 is that within 3 months of the date of this permission suitable fencing to prevent balls entering the neighbouring property shall be erected in accordance with details submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

It was thought that levelling of the ground would have commenced in June when permission was granted, but it is now understood that this work will not commence until September at the earliest. Obviously the groundwork and wicket preparation will cost many tens of thousands of pounds, to say nothing of changing rooms, showers/toilets and bar.

It is perhaps not unreasonable for the provider of the funding to look for a return on capital invested from the users of the facility. Finding a satisfactory financial solution between the parties may be the reason for the delay. The reason given by DDC for condition 2 of the consent was to make sure that this facility is genuinely affordable and available to the local community and therefore the return on capital invested must be affordable.

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THE ASHWAY SPORTS FIELD REPORT FROM BOB CHATTAWAY CHAIR RECREATION & AMENITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Parish Council's plans to convert the Ashway Sports Field into a worthwhile facility for the community have suffered a major setback. The lowest bid, received for the construction of changing rooms came in at over £50,000 higher than the estimated cost. This had already been increased substantially from the original figure due to the distance of the proposed building from the required service connections. Modifications to the design may also be required to qualify for a grant from the Football Foundation towards the cost.

As a result it is highly unlikely that any changing rooms will now be available for use before September 2005.

All this is a major disappointment to those of us keen to provide extra amenities and to relieve the pressure on St David's Recreation Ground, which has been grossly overused in recent years. Inevitably its once excellent surfaces are now deteriorating rapidly.

In the meantime, on a more positive note, preliminary discussions have been held with a specialist supplier of vandal resistant modular changing rooms featuring a tiled pitched roof and brick clad steel walls. Time is of the essence and a small number of local sports clubs and Parish Councillors will be working together to revive the project. Their aim is to provide facilities in time for the 2005/2006 football season. Ideally these would be suitable for both adults and juniors of both sexes. More than one phase of development may be required to achieve this however unless we are prepared to wait even longer or borrow money to do it. If you feel you can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07967 139454 or Jane Macken on 01604 881243.

THE PARISH COUNCIL 2000 – 2004



John Ruch, Steve Mabbutt, Frank WiiG, Mike Nice, John Blason, Richard Monk,
Bob Chattaway, Liz WiiG, Les Tyrer, Jane Macken, Harvey Fox.
Photograph absentees: Peter Oliver, Louise Cramp, Ian Chadwick, Frances Peacock.

The following retired in June 2004

John Blason 1980 – 2004
Chairman Recreation 1981 – 2003.
Ian Chadwick 1996 – 2004
ACRE Representative.
Louise Cramp 1998 – 2004
School Governor Representative.

Harvey Fox 1994 – 2004
PC Vice – Chairman 1996 – 2001
Chairman Finance 1995 – 2001.
Mike Nice 1996 – 2004
Chairman Amenities 1998 – 2004.
Peter Oliver 1996-2004

PC Vice Chairman 2001 – 2004
Chairman Highways 2000 – 2004.
John Ruch 1998 – 2004
Chairman Finance 2001 – 2004
Chairman Planning 2001 – 2004.
Les Tyrer 1996-2004
PC Chairman 2001 – 2004
Chairman Planning 1998 – 2001.



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SYWELL AERODROME

PLANNING APPLICATION

Will this affect Brixworth?

Sywell Aerodrome Ltd has submitted a new application to construct an all-weather surface to existing runway 03/21 with associated taxiways, apron areas and earth works.

The application was accompanied by a full environmental statement, which looked into present aircraft operation and the proposed operation restricted by proposed Planning Conditions and Obligations.

Currently no authority, other than the CAA, has any control on aircraft operation at the aerodrome and no restrictions have ever existed in the past.

The environmental statement identified 12 areas to be assessed including noise, road traffic and air quality. The results of the assessment are set out in the environmental statement,

Sywell Aerodrome have offered restrictions in the form of proposed planning conditions to ensure that

1. Peak day movements will be reduced by up to 30%, up to 200 movements per day.
2. There will be no fixed wing night flights between 11.00pm and 7.00am, apart from 5 per week between 5.00am and 7.00am of aircraft under 5,700kgs.
3. There will be no freighters flying at night.
4. There will be no jet (turbo fan) airliners
5. Helicopters become restricted for the first time.
6. Environmental assessment of the restrictions offered found that noise may increase by 1Db and air quality will remain well within Government targets.

In contrast to the above STARE (Stop the aerodrome runway expansion) claim

1. 65% increase in fixed wing and 35% increase in helicopter flights
2. 550 flight movements per day
3. Jet flights/turbo fan 7.00am – 11.00pm
4. Night flights all year round
5. Aircraft noise and aviation fuel smell
6. Fuel deposits either direction of flight paths.
7. Roads congested with heavy lorries?
8. Pollution of Sywell reservoir and effect on wildlife?
9. Further expansion likely.

At a planning meeting on 25th August, STARE made a presentation to Brixworth PC. The Council had been asked to submit any comments in connection with application WP/2004/0426/F.

Councillors were given a copy of the environmental statement, which accompanied the application and it was decided to delay any comment until Councillors had time to read the statement. Brixworth Parish Council will be asked alongside other local Councils to request a public enquiry. Harvey Fox

BRIXWORTH SCHOOL FÊTE



Marc Warren, a well-known TV actor performed the opening ceremony at the Brixworth Primary School fete on Saturday 26th June 2004. He is pictured here with his niece Brooke Stephens who is a pupil at the School.

Despite the inclement weather, the fete had takings of £3,700, which was close to the takings of previous events.

TEXACO SITE DA/2004/0403

First London Group had their planning application to build 12 residential properties on the former Texaco site approved by DDC subject to the condition that if the Ideal Motors site receives approval for residential development, 29% will have to be deemed affordable housing.

INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE

As its name would suggest this increasingly popular form of massage originates from India. It was first performed in Indian barbershops in order to keep hair strong and healthy and is, I am reliably informed by a friend who recently visited the Bombay area, still very much part of the routine visit for a haircut, although he was a little disappointed to discover that his rapidly thinning hairline remained unchanged!

In this country it has become a regular part of any self-respecting beauty salon or health spa treatment list. It is usually a half-hour experience where the scalp primarily, but also the neck, shoulders and upper arms receive a deep massage to relieve stress, migraine, anxiety and also to focus the mind. A tall order but apparently the nature of the massage combined in some cases with the use of holistic oils works on the seven main 'chakras' in the body to combat negative energy and create harmony for a peaceful and healing result. It can also be performed on the client without oils by your travelling therapist whilst seated fully clothed at the office desk, presumably a boon to high flying business men and women with little time to spare, even provided as a free service by some firms and in first class luxury air travel.

My own experience after a £39.50 half hour session at Ragdale Hall recently was amazingly relaxing followed by a sense of complete well being and the shiniest hair I have ever had. Certainly worth it!

Louise Cramp

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

Firstly, I would love to know why, out of a population of over 5000, only 12 people bothered to attend the Brixworth Parish Council AGM in May. Is everyone totally happy with what goes on in the village (I don't think so), are people today too busy, lazy or despondent to attend or was it just that the AGM was poorly advertised?

Anyway, one of the topics raised at the meeting was the very real possibility of nearly 200 additional new houses being squeezed into our already crowded village. It would appear that there are at least three Planning Applications, either being considered or about to be considered, for building significant numbers of houses on small plots of land between existing houses. I refer to the "Texaco Garage" sites and the "Rigiflex" site

If all these applications are successful, the implications for our already stretched facilities are immense. I understand that the DDC Planning Committee, in its wisdom, normally considers these applications individually. In which case it would not necessarily consider the combined effects of 200 houses on our school, health service, retail facilities and obviously increased traffic problems that would ensue, especially since there are parking concerns with at least one of the applications.

If you are as concerned, as I am, about these applications, I would urge you to write to Daventry District Council. Surely, the village of Brixworth has had more than its fair share of houses over the last few years. What we really need is another supermarket to relieve some of the pressure on Spratton Road shops, not more housing to compound it.

Jane Neill

Dear Sir

I feel I have to write to the Brixworth Bulletin to alert everyone, not to hurt only my feelings, but also many other people's feelings, regarding the state of the burial site at the rear of our church.

I visit the grave of my daughter almost every weekend, and I am alarmed at the state of the whole burial site. It is quite sad that this has been allowed to become nothing more than an overgrown mess and in some cases a dumping ground for old pots, water containers and dead flowers for those who cannot be bothered to take their rubbish to the bin which is situated in the small car park.

My friend and I have tried to tidy things up a bit by clearing out some of the flowerbeds and borders and planting perennial plants that need very little looking after, which we had hoped would improve 'the look' of the site. However, on our last visit we were quite annoyed to find that someone had decided to put their rubbish in one of the flowerbeds. I have to say that this is by no means the first time that this has occurred. I myself used to mow the area around my daughter's grave, but unfortunately I am no longer able to do this, and as a result, the whole area has again been allowed to become completely overgrown. It is obvious that people just can't be bothered or don't care! If this offends you then I apologise.

Many of the graves are so overgrown that you cannot read the headstone, - a total mess! This in itself is a contradiction to the inscription on the headstone, which in many cases reads 'Never Forgotten' Graves need to be tended and not forgotten about. It often occurs to me what the person who has been buried would have thought if they could see it now!

There surely must be something that can be done to tidy up this shambles of a graveyard. We have a beautiful Church and one we can be so proud of, after all our church is the oldest Saxon church in the country. It is listed in many tourist guides as a local attraction to visit. We can be proud of our church, but what of the grounds?

I have taken the trouble to enquire from a number of local gardening facilities as to the cost of ensuring the site is maintained throughout the growing season and I am advised that it would require approximately 12 cuts per year to maintain a respectable looking graveyard at a cost of between £1500 & £2000 per year. If the church is unable to provide the funds for

this, or local maintenance companies unable to provide either a free service or one at a reduced rate, then why don't we, as a parish, form a committee of volunteers to work together and transform this mess into something to be proud of.

Perhaps if more of the surviving and able-bodied relatives of those who have been buried in the churchyard took more responsibility for the upkeep of their own area, I would not need to write this letter. Wouldn't it be so nice if we could be acknowledged for not only having the oldest Saxon Church in the country, but also the best-kept churchyard, at least in our local area?

Local Resident

Name and address supplied.

Dear Sir

Some time ago, the Bugle published a letter of mine, which generated quite a lot of indignation.

In it I pointed out that, by sowing the seeds of teaching the mechanical basis of sex and drugs and ignoring morality, we were reaping the whirlwind of promiscuous experimentation in both.

Events since then have borne this out and we now have a pandemic of teenage and younger single mothers; and drug taking goes down to primary schools.

Yet still the educationists and the atheistic parents bleat for more sex and drug education.

The only solution, which both refute, lies in religious education.

The common theme in Christianity, in Judaism and in Buddhism is that the only sure path to freedom and joy is by self-control, the practice of selfless love, the pursuit of truth, compassion for the unfortunate and avoidance of indulgence in pride, anger, lust, envy, gluttony, avarice and sloth.

Teach these truths and there is no need for sex education, drugs education, dietary education, environmentalism, social awareness, anti-bullying policy and all the other marginal subjects that clutter up curricula to the detriment of the essentials of learning to read, write, and calculate and to think logically.

Ken Crooks

Views expressed in these letters are not necessarily shared by members of the Brixworth Bulletin team.

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Local Councillor falls foul of Code of Conduct rules.

Following a complaint by a member of the public, a hearing of the Parish Ethical Standards Sub Committee was recently convened at Daventry District Council offices to determine allegations claiming that Cllr. W.R. Wood, Chairman of Lamport Parish Council failed to declare personal and prejudicial interests in two planning applications, at two parish council meetings held in 2002 and failed to withdraw from the meetings when the applications were discussed.

The applications related to the development of Clint Hill Farm, a property owned by Lamport Hall Endowment Estates (LHEE) and tenanted by 'Mr. X.' It was submitted that the development of the property and the decision of any planning application would arguably affect LHEE's business and the amount of rent that it charges its tenants. Cllr. Wood is also a tenant farmer of LHEE.

At the hearing, it was considered that the decision regarding an application submitted by Cllr. Wood's landlord could reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being and financial situation of Cllr. Wood to a greater extent than any other council taxpayer, rate payer or inhabitant of the authority's area.

The Parish Standards sub-committee Committee found that Cllr. Wood had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct and suspended him from membership of the Parish Council for three months. DDC Monitoring officer, Mr. Simon Bovey commented '*this is the first case we've had to determine in the district and I hope that it will act as a strong signal to parishes that any failure to comply with the code of conduct will be taken extremely seriously*'.

At the hearing Cllr. Wood stated that as he had not admitted any guilt in respect of the allegations the need for an apology did not arise, "*In a small community such as this parish, it is difficult to find people willing to act on the Parish Council, all members of the village are known to each other and therefore everybody can be construed as having Personal and Prejudicial Interest in any development. Accusations of this sort will merely dissuade people and myself in particular from standing for office*".

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BRIXWORTH



LIONS

The Lions meet monthly and have been busy during the summer with fund raising events, service and social activities. From money raised, the Lions have contributed to local causes including purchasing a training pack to be used to increase the awareness of drug and alcohol abuse amongst secondary pupils, sponsorship of Arts week at Brixworth Primary School, contributing towards new scout equipment and costs associated with Naomi Gunnet, a local guide, attending an international guide convention. In addition The Lions have helped with local projects such as painting the railings at the Brixworth Centre. Service is a key part of Lionism and we will consider requests for help particularly for local needs.

New members are very welcome. Please contact Peter Saxton on 01604 882289 or Shirley Dann on 01604 882877.

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COUNTRY EYE

From the brink of death
by Brian Webster

I have been a privileged observer of wildlife for almost seven decades. You would think that by now I had seen it all. Yet all the time I see new things that just leave me open – mouthed in awe.

In August, during that spell of hot sultry weather when I longed for the lashing rain and lightning to cool things down, my son and daughter, and my son's wife sat with me in the conservatory in late afternoon, talking of this and that – 'setting the world to rights' as my wife would have said.

Suddenly there came a loud bang on the translucent roof, and I looked up to see that a bird had crashed on to it. Dimly I was aware of a dark shape that flew rapidly away from it. It seemed that what proved to be a young blackbird, not long out of the nest, had flown headlong into the bedroom window above, to elude a predator, and plummeted downwards.

The youngster lay there, on its side, its beak slightly open, panting as it visibly shook. It was clear to me that it was near to death. As it gradually arched its back, pointing its beak away from the body, in an attitude that I had seen so many times before, I was convinced that it would die at any second.

For what seemed ages but was probably about ten minutes it remained there, and then it twitched and somehow righted itself. It was still very poorly, panting, and with head and neck stretched out. Almost immediately the dark shape revealed itself as the male parent. It hopped around the youngster, pecking gently at its head and eyes, even once or twice standing astride it. Clearly it was trying to encourage it to fly from its exposed position to the safety of nearby bushes and trees.

Then it began to rain. Fearful that a soaking might be too much for it, I intervened, breaking one of my unwritten rules, that nature is best left to itself. From the stepladder, with a broom, I gently dragged it to where I could reach out for it.

In my hand it just lay there, motionless, not a good sign in my experience. I carried it to the roof of the garden shed, under the big lime tree, and out of the rain. My reward was a large watery white dropping, which it deposited, out of fear, in the palm of my hand.

Soon the adult male reappeared on the roof above us, with a beakful of food. For some time it hopped up and down, puzzled, searching for its lost offspring. The youngster must have called, faintly, because we did not hear it. The old bird began hopping along the garden fence towards the shed. Having found the baby, and given it the beakful of food, it began flying up to the lower branches of the tree, enticing it to safety. Suddenly the youngster stood up, hopped rapidly to the apex of the roof, and flew off, never to be seen again.

A happy ending to a golden, memorable experience for all of us.



THE BUGLE Ten Years Ago



SEDGEBROOK

THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER

Hot foot from the Public Enquiry, BRAVE Chairman, Mike Nice joyously phoned the Bugle with the wonderful news that the Robinsons (would-be Sedgbrook developers) have accepted the advice of their advocates, and have withdrawn all their objections to the Local Plan!

The Robinsons had tabled 15 objections to the Plan in an effort to promote Sedgbrook – ranging from a proposal to exclude Sedgbrook from 'special landscape area' status to objections to nominated sites for the 1000 extra houses to accommodate Northampton's overspill.

We hear that Colin Wooton, DDC Head of Planning Policy counter-argued the Robinson's 'proof of evidence' so effectively that all 15 objections have now been withdrawn. If the Inspector presiding over the Public Enquiry confirms the Local Plan at the end of December, we should in theory be safe from another Sedgbrook-type proposal till the year 2006!

WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN....

After three long years of hard and sustained effort, the Church Restoration Appeal has finally reached its target of over £130,000! Pictured here at the July Barn Dance, the last but one fund raising event, is the triumphant Appeal Committee, looking remarkably good considering all their heroic efforts. L to r: Rodney Smith, Anne Vickers, The Vicar, Joyce Roberts, Jack Mayes, Paul Morgan (Appeal Committee Chairman, generous benefactor and troop rallier, 'when energies flagged, Paul was always there to comfort and encourage') and Sheila (what would we do without her?) Jowers. Committee members not present on this occasion were Chris Hart and Sue Sandford. The hosts for the evening's event were Mr. & Mrs. Richard Turney.

The very last Appeal event, held the following day, was the 'Village Open Gardens' scheme which again proved so popular that it may well become an annual event. These two final events raised over £1500.

A little bird reminds us that additional funds for the fabric of the Church will *always* be needed...for instance the Choir Vestry is in urgent need of complete refurbishment... the little bird? No prizes for guessing.

10 years later, the Friends Council of All Saints' Church is still discussing this project! Perhaps in 10 years time it may be completed.

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NEW P. C. CHAIRMAN



I feel very honoured to have been elected as the new Chairman of Brixworth Parish Council.

Together with the new Parish Council, I hope to see the Ashway Development come to fruition as soon as possible with as little cost to our parishioners as is practically possible whilst maintaining quality and best value.

I also hope that we can achieve more involvement with other organizations so we can form an infrastructure to provide more facilities within the village, particularly for the youth. By achieving this, I am convinced that we can get more residents interested in the Parish Council and feel that they would like to become involved.

To sum up:

Aims and objectives for Brixworth Parish Council

- To democratically represent all residents of Brixworth.
- To provide the best possible services and amenities to meet the needs of all our residents and use our best endeavours to manage these within the most economical budget available.
- To use Best Practice in all areas of its activities.
- To forge partnerships with all other agencies to ensure that the well being of our residents is enhanced.
- To allow each and every voice in our community to be heard.

Liz WiiG

PARISH COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Planning - Steve Mabbutt
Recreation & Amenities Development - Bob Chattaway
Highways & Environment - Frances Peacock
Finance - Frank WiiG
General Purposes - Richard Monk

REPRESENTATIVES

Risk Assessment - Ian Barratt
School Governor - Louise Cramp
Thomas Roe Charity - Harvey Fox
DACT - Peter Oliver
Parish Warden - Shaun Macken

BLOKE IN THE KITCHEN

ONION and CIDER SOUP with a cheese toastie floater

This dish is great as a warmer for chilly evenings or as a starter. Serves 4

Ingredients

A good knob of butter
4 large onions (sliced thinly)
? of a pint of dry cider
1 ? of a pint of chicken stock
4 slices of day old baguette
Grated mature cheddar cheese
Freshly ground black pepper
Sea salt

Method

Heat the butter in a large pan until it has all melted, add the onions, salt and black pepper and cook until the onions are soft. Pour the cider into the pan and bring to the boil to reduce by half its amount (normally about 10 minutes), add the stock and simmer for another thirty minutes adding plenty of black pepper. Lightly toast the thin slices of baguette and place the grated cheese on top and place under the grill or in the oven until melted. Serve the soup with the cheese toastie floating on the top.

RE-ELECTION OF FRANK WIIG AS DAVENTRY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the residents of Brixworth Ward for affording me the honour of continuing to represent them as their District Councillor. I will use my best endeavours to serve our community in the manner they deserve and expect and in line with my manifesto:-

- Work to help improve the quality of life for all our residents
- Work with the Police to reduce crime, perception of crime and antisocial behaviour
- Work to help create facilities for our younger citizens
- Work to help prevent unnecessary development
- Work to help protect our environment

Hopefully all our residents will have received a copy of Daventry Calling and have observed that I have been elected Chairman of Daventry District Council for the year July 2004 to May 2005. This is only the second time during the 30year history of Daventry District Council that the chair has come to Brixworth and it is a great honour to me. It is my intention to hold my Civic service in Brixworth during December 2004. I also hope to hold a competition for the pupils of Brixworth Primary School to design the Chairman's Christmas card.

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DRAUGHTON NEWS

The Trustees of Draughton Club Room have been working hard to collate all the information they have on the use of the room over the past 100 years. They need to establish title to the property before they can apply for grants towards work on the extension. The solicitor, working on their behalf has now submitted the application to the Land Registry in Leicester and we all await the result.

The Spring Fayre to raise money for the Club Room funds made £630. Thanks to all involved. There are only 30 houses in Draughton so we do well to raise this amount and we thank all who come to support our events.

The Church Fete in July made £578. Our Harvest Festival Service this year is to be on Sunday Sept 26th at 4pm, followed by the auction of produce.

It is very disheartening to see that, so soon, after our litter pick, black sacks of rubbish have been dumped on the verges when Brixworth recycling centre is not far away.

LAMPORNT NEWS

The summer barbeque was a very pleasant evening. The sausages and burgers were excellent, as was the tasty Australian wine. Many thanks to the organizers.

I only found out recently that we have a local vineyard at Marston Trussell. The excellent wine costs £6 per bottle from the vineyard, but much more expensive when bought from wine merchants.

Lampport Estate has put in a planning application to build a small house in the garden of 8 Manor Road. From the plans it looks as if Colin will be left with no garden at all. It will have vehicular access onto Clint Hill Farm drive, so please let us have vehicular access for all Manor Walk residents to park in their front gardens. A contractor has advised that if a very short section of Manor Farm hedge is removed in order to improve visibility, then an eight foot wide drive could be made as far as No. 4 Manor Walk. Funding for this has been pledged.

Tom Saunders has trimmed the lower branches from the Hanging Houghton lime trees, which improves the visibility.

I am sad to report the death of Mrs Nora Gleeson aged 90. Mrs Gleeson cooked for a period for Sir Gyles Isham and in later years worked at the Lampport Swan.

OMBUDSMAN CONDEMNS LOCAL COUNCIL ...LOCAL TAXPAYERS TO PICK UP TAB

On 13th August 2004, the Local Government Ombudsman, Mr. Jerry White, issued a report on his investigation into a planning complaint lodged against Daventry District Council in 2002 by a tenant farmer living in Hanging Houghton. The ombudsman found the Council guilty of maladministration causing injustice, and recommended that the complainant be compensated to the tune of £10,000.

The tenant farmer (who cannot be named for legal reasons) claimed that the Council should not have granted planning consent for a residential development of four large houses on the farmyard he rents as the application was contrary to the Local Plan and development policies as it lies outside the village envelope. As a consequence of the Council's approval of the application, he will lose his livelihood because, without the use of the farmyard, he will no longer be able to farm. He further claimed that the applicant effectively bought permission by offering to withdraw an earlier planning consent on another piece of land. He said that this was not necessary or relevant to the granting of permission for the residential development and that the application would have been judged unacceptable had it not been for the offered 'trade off'. He also claimed that, when considering the application, the Council had regard to derogatory comments made by the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee and that these comments unfairly swayed the decision.

In the opinion of the ombudsman, the key to the complaint was the perceived linkage between the outline approval for a golf course and hotel in one site; the application for the erection of four dwellings on a second site, (the complainant's farmyard) and a barn conversion on a third site. The applicant's agent persuaded Council officers that there was a link between the three sites which amounted to a material consideration of sufficient weight to justify a decision contrary to the provisions of the Local Plan. The applicant offered to trade the financial advantage of planning permission for the golf course for two developments of equivalent value to the applicant.

The ombudsman said, 'It seems to me that in linking the three applications by the owner of all three sites, officers misdirected themselves and Members. Approval of the applications for residential development in the complainant's farmyard did not necessitate securing an agreement not to proceed with the approval of the golf course. The sites were not contiguous and in itself the existence or otherwise of the golf course had no effect whatever on the practicability or desirability of development of the farmyard. Although officers also saw an opportunity to abandon a now unacceptable approval, it seems to me that the opportunity here was related to ownership and not planning needs. In these circumstances, I conclude that the linkage with the offer to abandon the golf course application was not a material planning consideration in respect of the farmyard. To give significant, indeed over-riding, weight to an irrelevant consideration was maladministration'.

'At the time of these applications, the

complainant had a life tenancy, his business was doing well and he intended continuing farming as long as he was able. Without the flawed planning permission granted by the Council, his landlord would not have been able to use this ground to serve notice. The consequence of the Council's decision is that the complainant has lost his security of tenure. The loss of security is unfavourable to him and not of his own making'.

The Ombudsman found maladministration by the Council that caused injustice to the complainant because of his lost security of tenure. The ombudsman further recommended that the Council pays the complainant £10,000 and that it reviews its planning arrangements to satisfy itself that the maladministration identified does not recur.

DDC calls report misguided

Daventry District Council believes that the Ombudsman's report is fundamentally flawed because it is based on a misunderstanding of planning law. Chief Executive Steve Atkinson said 'I am very disappointed that the Ombudsman seems not to have used factually robust information in reaching his conclusions. He has agreed to an early meeting to explore our differences. Nevertheless, there is a requirement for the report to be published tomorrow (i.e. 13th August) which is most unfortunate as it places challenging (in our view) conclusions into the public domain. Unless we can be persuaded otherwise, my recommendation to the Council when considering the report in September, will be that its conclusions should not be accepted and no payment made to the complainant'.

Interestingly, a major feature of this case and one clearly identified by the Ombudsman is enshrined in his concluding remarks 'There were extensive pre-application discussions between officers of the landowners (who cannot be named for legal reasons) and the Council prior to the submission of the application to extend the life of the unimplemented approval for the golf course and hotel. It seems that during these discussions, the Council's officers were persuaded to accept the view of the landowners that it was possible to extend the time limit for implementing the approval and that if the landowners agreed not to implement the approval, it would need to be traded for approvals of 'equal value'.

The planning case officer, who was not party to these discussions, was aware of them but had seen no file notes recording them'. When interviewed by the ombudsman, the case officer said there were no records of discussions on the application file where he would have expected to find them. The ombudsman said: 'This poor record keeping on such an important matter is maladministration'.

If, as the Ombudsman states, pre-application discussions did take place, then Daventry's Chief Executive will need to provide sound reasons as to why these records were not placed on file for all to see.

Reporter: Paddy Fox.

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BRIXWORTH CENTRE CHURCH ST.

Negotiations for the lease between N.C.C. and the Trustees of Brixworth Centre have been going on since 1993 and at last a new lease has been signed giving control of the Centre to the Trustees.

To celebrate the lease and the refurbishment mainly funded by SITA, the Management Committee is holding an

Open Afternoon on Saturday 18th September from 2-4pm.

There will be a number of children's activities and entertainments, as well as various stalls and refreshments, and everyone is invited to come and see the new bright and cheerful interior of the Centre.

PARISH COUNCIL CO-OPTEEES



PADDY FOX

Paddy Fox has lived in the village for 25 years and runs the Fox in the Pound Bookshop in The Harbour Road. She recently retired as Editor of 'The Brixworth Bugle' community newspaper. She writes:

"I am delighted to have been accepted on to the Parish Council as a co-optee member and look forward to contributing to the work of a newly invigorated council which will undoubtedly be facing some difficult challenges over the next four years. In particular the implications surrounding the prospect of small-time infill developments which if we are not careful will result in big time misery for local residents, in terms of increasing traffic congestion and a falling behind in much needed infrastructure.

I share the fears of many residents nowadays that Brixworth will, if we are not careful, lose its village identity to become another dormitory outpost for London and the southern counties. I hope that residents both within and outside the council will work together to provide the necessary vision and expertise to prevent that happening. Unquestionably, the work of the Council would be enhanced by an increased attendance of local residents at its monthly meetings to offer councillors advice, and when appropriate, information and encouragement in their deliberations".



AUDREY CHARLTON

I have lived in Brixworth for over 30 years and am now retired. Over the years I have taken part in various projects in the community here and I have seen the village grow from a small, active community to its present substantial size. Whilst I have been interested in the work of the Parish Council for many years I now hope to contribute to this more directly.


The speed and size of the growth of Brixworth mean that community cohesion and integration now require time, a period of stability and a broadening of aims to meet additional interests, ideas and needs. As well as the more formal duties of the Council, I feel it has an important role as a facilitator for residents, young and old, who wish to contribute to the life of the community or to take the initiative in establishing activities of interest to themselves and other like-minded people.



DUNCAN KENNEDY

I have lived in Brixworth since 1996 and I work in the motor trade as a finance manager.

I have joined the Parish Council to have an active role in the future of the village. There are many challenges in using available resources to best effect, and I am looking forward to being part of that decision making process. There are also problems in our community, problems that do not have a simple solution, but that with time and a concerted effort, I believe we will be able to tackle effectively. I have a lot to learn about all aspects of my new role, but I am keen to make a positive contribution over the next few years.



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RIGID ROOF TAX

I spoke to John Wilcox of John Wilcox Land about the status of the planning application for the 40 housing units, which his company propose to build on the Rigidflex site on Northampton Road. He expects his architect to have completed the drawings by the end of August and a detailed application would be submitted to Daventry District Council at the beginning of September.

Discussions have been held involving the developer, DDC and the Local Education Authority regarding payment of what is commonly known as a 'fixed formula roof tax' under the Supplementary Planning Guidelines New Directive. As the housing units application predominately consists of flats, the roof tax will be lower than the tax applicable to houses, and I am told by Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council, that the total amount of roof tax will be in the region of £11,000-£12,000. The L.E.A. are insisting that this payment must be used for the benefit of Moulton Secondary School, because that school is short of capacity whereas Brixworth School, at the moment, does not have that problem.

Councillor Millar told me that he is working with the Chairman of Brixworth School governors to obtain an additional community benefit from the Developer in order to compensate for the undoubted problems that will arise from the proposed siting of the access to the new development from Froxhill Crescent. . Certainly some method of providing a safe pick-up/drop-off area for the school children is needed. Councillor Millar commented that if access from Northampton Road is preferred, then only 5 executive houses could be built . Mr Wilcox hoped that a decision on the planning application for 40 housing units could be made by November 2004. Harvey Fox

NEW APPROACH TO PLANNING OBLIGATIONS

The Bulletin obtained a copy of the Statement by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister issued 30 January 2004. There are 27 clauses, which do not make for easy reading.

The Statement begins by announcing that ODPM had received 340 responses to its consultative document on the reform of the planning obligations policy. Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enables a person interested in land to enter into a planning obligation requiring land to be used in a specified way, requiring operations or activities to be carried out on that land; restricting the use of the land; or requiring the payment of financial sums. The obligation is enforceable by the local planning authority.

Planning obligations are one route by which affordable housing objectives are currently achieved. Agreement made under section 106 may secure either in-kind or cash contributions from applicants in fulfillment of an affordable need.

It concludes that it is clear from the consultative process that consultees are almost unanimous in their criticism of the existing system of planning obligations. The Government is not prepared to continue with a system variously described as opaque, slow, unfair, complex and reactive. Planning obligations will need to remain flexible. But the Government also wants more transparency, speed and certainty.

Whilst the fixed rate roof tariff is not directly referred to in this statement, the guidelines contained in this statement have led to fixed tariffs being instituted. This is some of the background to the Supplementary Planning Guidelines New Directive.

DENTIST CROWNING HIS LIFE'S AMBITION



On 15th September, Brixworth Dentist, Matthew Nuttall, together with friends Jon Saunders and Kim Tempest will set out on an epic, not to mention gruelling, bike ride from Lands End to John O'Groats raising funds for Cancer Research and Motor Neurone Disease. For Matthew, it will be the fulfilment of a long held youthful ambition prompted into action by what he suspects is part of a mid-life crisis!

Because of their work commitments, team members will be riding flat out to meet a two week deadline. We join Matthew's patients, many of whom have generously sponsored the ride, in wishing him a successful trip and a safe return to the day job.

There is still time to sponsor Matthew's ride - he would be delighted to receive donations or promises, large or small. His work 'phone number is 880293.

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Presentation to the Editor of

THE BRIXWORTH BUGLE



At a party given to the distributors of the Bugle and now the Bulletin, David Hymas presented Paddy Fox with a leather bound copy of all the issues of the Brixworth Bugle. A similar bound copy will be given to the Northampton Records Office where it can be viewed on request.

HOLCOT ROAD BLACK SPOT

If you have ever walked, cycled or ridden along the Holcot road between Brixworth and the causeway of the reservoir at the country park, you will know of the dangers to which you will have been subjected by the ceaseless speeding traffic. When you reach the entrance to the car-park at the reservoir, try indicating a right turn, even though you have checked for traffic. Vehicles travelling down the hill at speeds up to 90mph are behind you in seconds, tyres squealing as they try to slow down. We have managed to obtain some traffic figures from Holcot Parish Council taken in April of this year, which indicate about 4800 vehicles travel on this stretch of road in 12 hours. At peak times the rate per hour is much higher than the average. Highways Dept. does not have any figures but invited the Bulletin to pay for a survey. The cost was beyond our resources.

The road is very narrow and needs a foot-path/cycle-path. Highways of course have no money but it is noted that Greens Norton faced with a similar problem raised funds and built their own footpath to Towcester.

There have been several fatalities on this stretch of road, so at least there should be some action taken to catch speeding drivers and a lower speed limit introduced at the entrance to the causeway car-park. Harvey Fox

Adult Learning opportunities


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Watercolour Painting Year 3	Wednesdays	10-12pm	22 nd Sept.	£68.50
Painting and Drawing	Wednesdays	7.15-9pm	22 nd Sept.	£60.43
Spanish for Holidays (Beginners)	Thursdays	10.30-12pm	30 th Sept.	£52.37
Spanish for Holidays (Some experience)	Thursdays	7.30-9pm	30 th Sept.	£52.37
Ladies Keep Fit (Guilsboro' Village Hall)	Wednesdays	6.30-7.30pm	29 th Sept.	£36.25
Pilates (Spratton W.I. Hall)	Tuesdays	1.45-2.45pm	28 th Sept.	£36.25

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 Thursday 16th September 'Food through the Ages'.
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 Thursday 18th November 'Old Cures and Remedies'.

Brixworth Gardening Club
 Friday 24th September 'Great Gardens' with slides by John Cornwall.
 Friday 29th November AGM and party.

Village Design Statement
 In the last issue special thanks were given to the major contributors to the Design Statement. We offer our apologies to Michael Lewis who should have been included in this list particularly for his work in connection with the maps in the statement.

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NORTHAMPTON & LAMPORT RAILWAY

The railway will be staging a special event under the heading of "The Fabulous 40's Weekend" on September 25th & 26th. Among the many exhibits will be in excess of 60 vintage military & civilian vehicles of the period together with ration books and typical week's rations! The railway platform and train will be transformed to reflect the era complete with suitably attired personnel plus a few other items that are being kept as a surprise!

Music gives so much pleasure

Do you wish you could play a musical instrument? It's never too late to start and the electronic keyboard with a variety of exciting sounds is a perfect choice to learn on, enabling many people to make rapid progress from the first lesson. Pupils aged 7 – 70 are achieving fantastic results. Why not explore your musical potential and contact Victoria Hings on 01604 881009 for some local friendly advice.

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RECORDER ENSEMBLE AT SOUTH BANK



On Saturday July 10th, The Brixworth School Recorder Ensemble, made up of 21 players, myself as director and around 45 supporters, travelled to the South Bank Centre in London to take part in the week long National Festival of Music for Youth. This Festival is the largest of its kind in Europe and celebrates the achievements of some of the nation's most talented young musicians and singers.

To get this far the Ensemble had entered, for the first time, one of the 59 Regional Festivals, which take place around Britain in the spring. The Ensemble performed extremely well and received two very good adjudications. The big surprise came at the end of April when we had been selected to be one of up to 300 groups from around Britain to perform at the National Festival.

This now meant that we needed to put together a 10 minute programme to perform and the whole Ensemble worked with tremendous commitment to perfect our chosen pieces, whilst fitting in the Northampton Music Festival and a school concert

On the day we spent a nervous hour in the Green Room at the Queen Elizabeth Hall before going on stage to perform. The Ensemble performed brilliantly and had an excellent adjudication. It was a thrilling day and one that all of us will remember for years to come.

Vivienne Drouet
 Music Director

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THE MATURING MILLENNIUM GARDEN



In the 8th July 2004 issue of *Country Life*, an appeal was made on behalf of *Peter Fane, 22 Cheyne Road London SW3 5HL* to hear from anyone who has completed a private project designed to celebrate the last Millennium.

These projects include privately funded buildings and/or gardens, estate

projects, community enterprises where local people used their time and skills to create, often ambitious, undertakings.

Peter Fane hopes to complete a comprehensive list of all these projects together with photographs and any one who knows of such projects, even though they were not involved, should contact

him.

The *Brixworth Bulletin* has submitted details of our Millennium garden for inclusion in this list, together with relevant articles from the *Brixworth Bugle* at the time of fund raising, construction and commemoration by the Bishop of Peterborough.

† DICK WATKINS 1923 - 2004 †



The above photograph was taken in 1997 when a membrane had been laid over the entire area of The Millennium Garden as demanded by the Northants Archaeology Department and 210 cubic m. of topsoil had

been imported. The photograph shows Dorothy Watkins (3rd from left) designer of the garden and the team of constructors. Very sadly Dick Watkins (2nd from right) died at the end of July 2004. He and his wife

Dorothy devoted many hours each week developing and maintaining the garden until 2002. The village is indebted to them for helping to create this celebration of the Millennium.

PLANNING STATUS REPORT

BRIXWORTH YOUTH CLUB

As mentioned in previous editions of The Brixworth Bugle and Bulletin, there exists a small band of people who have worked towards the aim of creating a Youth Club facility in Brixworth. This group consists of Phil Walter, Mike Nice, representatives of Life Long Learning, two parents and Liz WiiG and myself.

Progress has been made as follows:-

- Brixworth Youth Club is a member of the Nestle MakeSpace campaign
- Brixworth Youth Foundation, although not registered through lack of people willing to act as charity trustees, does have a constitution.
- The Youth Club DOES have premises (Planning application for 10/11 Ironstone Way is pending for change of use)

Once D.D.C. has approved the planning application, a lease will be signed and Brixworth Youth Club will be allowed to occupy the premises but, and this is the big BUT, the lease will initially be just six months to ascertain whether there is enough interest amongst the residents of Brixworth to maintain the running of Brixworth Youth Club. As many volunteers as possible are required to assist in all aspects of the activity. Remember the more volunteers there are, the less work for each individual volunteer.

The question I have to ask is – Do the residents of Brixworth want a Youth Facility? – The answer that we have received so far from the lack of response is a resounding NO. Please prove me wrong and give your support to this project by donating something – materials, money, skills but most of all time, no matter how small, and help this community provide a much-needed facility for our younger citizens.

Frank WiiG

COUNTRY MANOR HOUSE

DA/2004/0520

Daventry District Council refused this planning application to build a substantial country manor on the Special Landscape Area to the south of Brixworth.

PROPAX SITE

Tony Haden has indicated to the Bulletin that his company is considering applying for planning permission for change of use to residential from industrial.

F & S HARPER ENGINEERING NORTHAMPTON ROAD

DA/2004/0887

An outline planning application has been submitted for residential development on this factory site of 0.12 hectares. The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

REF NO. & DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	P.C. RECOMMENDATION & D.D.C. DECISION
DA/2004/0139 GWJ Contractors, Land at Clearview Farm Stn Rd	PC 29/4 DDC Refused. Contrary to County Structure Plan & DDC local plan
DA/2004/0205 Hamsons Garage mobile home for security night watchman.	PC 29/4 DDC Approved subject to conditions.
DA/2004/0279 19 Kennel Terrace. New Bungalow.	PC31/3 Objection – cramped & access problems.
DA/2004/0291 Chester House, Church St Two storey rear extension.	PC 27/6 DDC Refused
DA/2004/0317 The Grange, Kennel Terrace. Swimming pool.	PC 27/6 DDC refused but applicant has lodged appeal.
DA/2004/0318 1. N'ton Rd. Extension.	PC 28/5 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/0330 The Red Lion Extension.	PC 28/5 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/0337 Rosemary Cottage, Froghall Double garage	PC 28/5 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/0354 Adjoining 1, New Street. Two 2-bed flats.	PC 27/6 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/0329 88a, N'ton Rd. Sign	PC 28/5 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/0328 88a, N'ton Rd. Change of use.	PC 28/5 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/0397 1 Pebble Cottage Cross Hill. Rear extension.	PC 27/6 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/0444 29 Windmill Glade. Single storey side extension.	PC 27/6 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/0435 27 Stonehill Way Two storey side extension.	PC 27/6 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/0492 1 Stone Cott. Newlands. Two storey and single storey extensions to side of dwelling.	PC 27/6 DDC Approved
DA/2004/0493 32 The Ashway, First floor extension and detached single garage.	PC 27/6 DDC Approved
DA/2004/0516 22 Broadlands. First floor extension over existing garage and utility room	PC 27/6 DDC Approved
DA/2004/0520 Merry Tom Farm, Country Manor Home	PC 27/6 DDC Refused
DA/2004/0541 41 Knightons Way. Construction of single storey extension to rear of dwelling & rooms in roof.	PC 27/6 DDC Approved
DA/2004/0599 11 Pytchley Close. Single storey extension to front of dwelling.	PC 2/6 PC Objection. PC7/7 DDC Approved
DA/2004/0615 Bambino Mio U12 Staveley Way Removal of existing roller shutter loading doors – block up and insert new window	PC 31/7 DDC Approved
DA/2004/0625 Fish & Chip Shop Hunters Way. Single storey ext. to preparation & storage areas.	PC2/6 No objection. PC 30/6 DDC Refused.
DA/2004/0661 Barns to rear of the Lodge, Harborough Rd. Addition of conservatory to east face of dwelling and a garage.	PC2/6 No Objection PC 5/7 DDC Refused.
DA/2004/0662LB Barns to rear of the Lodge, Harborough Rd. Conversion of existing barns and outbuildings to one dwelling (amended scheme to include conservatory extension to rear)	PC2/6 No Objection PC 14/7 DDC Refused
DA/2003/1173 Land adjacent to Lodge Brixworth Hall Park. Outline application for detached dwelling with new vehicular access.	PC29/10 PC Objection PC 25/11 DDC Refused. 9/8/04 Planning Inspectorate dismissed appeal.
DA/2004/0657 Bus Shelter Scaldwell Rd.	PC 27/7 DDC Approved.
DA/2004/1002 & 1005 Land adjacent to 10 Kennel Ter. Demolition of existing workshop and construction of three new dwellings	PC31/8 PC Objection.
DA/2004/0997 54 Stonehill Way. Conservatory to rear of property	PC/31/8 PC No Objection.
DA/2004/0640 Lamport Hall Replace doors in stable yard and workshop, replace roof in brewers yard.	PC Support
DA/2004/0656 Restoration of first floor room and a flat on ground floor.	PC Support
DA/2004/0673 4 Manor Walk Hanging Houghton. Single storey kitchen extension to rear of dwelling (retrospective)	PC Support

BRIXWORTH CRICKET UNDER 15 XI TEAM

BRIXWORTH CRICKET CLUB



LtoR Back row: A. Bransby Manager, Richard Slinn, Sam McCellum, Joe Frost Capt., Ben Dewey, Tom Chapman, Jason Cockerill Coach.
Front row: Elliot Phillips, Nick Herridge, Fraser Bennett, Matthew Mould, Ashley Hammond, Adam Shulver

The Under 15 XI, pictured above, recently completed its league programme with a comprehensive home win over Great Houghton – this secured a final mid-table position. Under Joe Frost's inspirational leadership, the team has had an enjoyable season and with most

boys available again next season, hopes will be high in 2005.

Thanks go to sponsors, Avondale Honda and Merry's Bros; Bob Bell and Jason Cockerill for their coaching and organizing and finally to the parents for their support. Roll on 2005!

CAITLIN McCLATCHEY – OLYMPIC SWIMMER

Following our report in the last Bulletin, we are delighted to record that Caitlin and her relay team won their heat in the 4x200 m freestyle race with Caitlin swimming the second fastest leg. Caitlin who is a member of Northampton Swimming Club, was British senior champion for the 200m and 400m freestyle events last year and has been training 3 hours per day as well as studying for her A-levels. The Brixworth girl and her team mates were fifth in the Olympic final, just behind the Australians. It augurs well for 2008 and we send her our congratulations.

BRIXWORTH ANGLING CLUB

The lake has been fishing reasonably well considering the unseasonable weather. A recent catch of tench and bream from peg 14 weighed in at 70 lbs. Several carp weighing up to 20lbs each have been caught, and tench weighing up to 6lbs 8oz each. Plenty of roach and perch have also been showing. Membership is still available from A. Rose (01604 881873); A. Wright (01604 810779) and N. Barlow (01604 881601).

MERCEDES-ILMOR

It was encouraging to watch Kimi Raikkonen, the McLaren motor racing driver win the Belgian Spa Grand Prix on Sunday 29th August, at last beating Ferrari this season. It is hoped that now McLaren/Mercedes-Ilmor have a new combination, the Brixworth based engine company will post future successes.



Liam Dolman

Liam Dolman, 16, from Stannard Way is fulfilling a childhood dream as he has been awarded a 2 year scholarship with the Cobblers Football team.

Liam has been playing football almost since he could walk! He was first with Brixworth Juniors and then, when he was 9, with the Cobblers' School of Excellence.

The Cobblers were obviously impressed with his skills and offered him a 2 year scholarship to study for a Sports, Science and Football National Diploma. At the end of this time, he will have the opportunity to become a professional footballer.

Liam started his diploma at Moulton College in July and we wish him every success in his future with the Cobblers.

Jane Neill.

With six matches remaining, the 1st XI is 8th in the premier division of the Northants League. A tough season, affected by injuries and poor weather, is finally beginning to take on a more positive note. Recent performances have been encouraging, under Andy Roper's leadership, with winning draws in the last 3 games and everyone chipping in with useful contributions with bat and ball. Paul Blakemore's batting has once again been a highlight, in spite of a mid season hand injury, his 490 runs to date, at an average of 45, have helped the team post competitive scores in the last few weeks. Russell Parsons has also hit a good run of form with 3 half centuries. On the bowling front, it is pleasing to see one of our most promising youngsters coming to the fore. Phil Perryman heads the bowling averages and has taken 20 league wickets so far this season. Dave Marlow's contribution has also been significant, though sadly now lost to the lure of football for the rest of the season.

Highlight of the season to date has to be the league record last wicket stand between Graham Bott and Phil Perryman. Coming together with the score on 137 for 9, these two added 123 undefeated runs (of which Bott scored 107 not out, batting at number 11!).

The 2nd XI briefly headed the table in their first season in division 3. Since a run of fine victories early in the season, form and luck have deserted the team. Consolidation and ensuring we remain in this league are now the targets for the rest of the season. The bowling has lacked penetration – too often allowing teams to post decent totals, or unable to bowl sides out when the opportunity presents itself.

Despite some early successes, especially from Fred Newborough and consistent scores from Richard Forster, there's been a lack of regular support.

A serious recruitment campaign is required over the winter to provide a broader base of playing resource to improve our strength in depth and overall quality.

Plans for the new ground continue behind the scenes to ensure that the new facility meets the needs of all interested parties and to ensure the club is set up in the right way. A start date for cricket of 2006 is still on the cards, with tennis, potentially being able to start before then. Anyone interested in tennis and getting involved in launching a new club should contact Chris Timm on 882591.