



BRIZE NORTON

November '24 to January '25 • Distributed to over 900 homes & businesses in and around Brize Norton Village

Breeze

Memories of Brize Pies

*Sarah tells of her
memories*

Christmas events,
support & shopping!

Middle Norton

The Public Consultation for a new
village on Kilkenny Lane and
Burford Road has begun

An update on
Nature and Environment
in Brize Village

Autumn Arrivals!

Cotswold Wildlife Park reveal
their summer baby boom and the wonderful
rare animals that made an appearance!

Stories from RAF Brize Norton

A new RAFA kids opens and female referees are taking over!

Issue

182





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1788

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PRODUCTION TEAM

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TO ADVERTISE, SEND AN ARTICLE, RECIPE OR PHOTO FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

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 07810 255 000



LET'S CLEAN OUR VILLAGE



1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
(LAST ONE BEFORE CHRISTMAS - 1ST DECEMBER)



10AM



MEET AT THE RECREATIONAL GROUND OR
BY CO-OP/GREGGS (KIPLING COURT)



Les Goble

Welcome to the Christmas Edition of the Brize Breeze magazine (*I can't believe I'm saying this in October!*).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Wendy Way for all her dedication and time as our chairman over the last four years.

Also, a very special thank you for her hard work in relation to the design and construction of the new Play Park in Brize Meadow. From the initial consultation with school children where they had the opportunity choose what play equipment they would like to see in the play park, obtaining quotations for the play park equipment and landscaping, awarding the contracts to Hags and Hickman Brothers respectively, through to liaising with Bloor Homes for the clearance and hand-over of the site. I would also like to thank Bloor Homes for the provision of

the land and funding of the play park through the S106 process associated with the planning approval for the 700 homes on Brize Meadow.

In this issue, I have written an article about the naming of roads and public open spaces in and around Brize Meadow.

As you will read, many of the road names are dedicated to the memories of the eighteen men and boys (two were only 19 years old!) from Brize Norton who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country during World War I. There are also three more names of men who lost their lives in other conflicts.

If there are any members of our Community who would like to pay their respects to the fallen, you would be very welcome to join us at the Remembrance Service in St Britius Church which starts at 10:00am and the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial which starts at 10:45am on **Remembrance Sunday 10th November**.

“ Not only will you be making our village a better place to live, it's also a chance to have a chat with fellow residents ”

Unfortunately, there seems to be some areas which are prone to litter problems and as there is no one else to pick up litter it falls to us as a community, to take pride in where we live and clear up other people's rubbish! We are still carrying out our monthly litter pick at 10:00am on the first Sunday of the month and we would welcome any members of our community who would like to join us. We meet outside the Pavilion on Station Road and outside the Co-op on Brize Meadow. Not only will you be making our village a better place to live, it's also a chance to have a chat with fellow residents.

I would like to thank the vast majority of responsible dog owners who clear up after their dog, especially those that pick up other people's dog's mess making the footpaths, grassed areas and field footpaths a more enjoyable and safer place to walk.



After effective stream and brook clearance at Astrop Farm... A lake appeared in the balancing ponds on Astrop Farm Fields for the first time... Well done Brian, Heather and team!
PHOTO: Here are Meggy & Doodle very much enjoying the new feature!

It's very disappointing to read on Social Media about the problems of dog fouling in Brize Meadow and there is also a concern about the large amount of dog's mess being left in the country park and footpaths. The Parish Council has worked tirelessly for the last six years with Bloor Homes to create a family friendly environment for our community and visitors to enjoy and engage with our natural environment, we haven't spent this time creating a dog toilet! Not to clear up after your dog is a disgusting, anti-social habit which not only looks awful, but is a serious health risk as it can cause toxocariasis which is a terrible disease for children and

young adults to catch. On behalf of the Parish Council, could I ask the very small number of people who do not clear up after their dogs, to act responsibly, respect our community, especially our children, and the environment, and PLEASE change your habit. Thank you.

I would also like to remind residents that the recreation ground behind the Elder Bank Hall and Sports Pavilion is a 'family safe' area and as such, dogs are not permitted on the grass areas. I did not appreciate having to pick up someone else's dog's mess just where children play!

On a lighter note, very I'm pleased to see that the village pond project has commenced, Cllr. Ady State has written more about this exciting project elsewhere in this magazine, I look forward to seeing it evolve over the coming years.

Finally, may I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year and hopefully, some relaxing days away from work and emails!

Les

To contact Les (Chairman) email clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk

We can't say it clearly enough...

WE NEEDED YOU!

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD plan, shapes OUR VILLAGE...

Do you want a **new park**? Do you want **safer roads**?
Want to know **what's being built**? Want to **really know** what's going on instead of listening to gossip?

BY THE 21st NOVEMBER.. Go to: bit.ly/i-want-my-say



Around Our Village

Brize Meadow Play Park Opening

Cllr Wendy Way

The morning of Saturday, 27 July started off bright and sunny and we had the refreshments for the children, the raffle prizes laid out and the ribbon tied to the entrance ready to open at 11 am.

Whilst we were setting up a man pulled up and asked if his children could come in and have a go as they were heading off to RAF Brize Norton to catch a flight that was taking his family to Cyprus for a year so they wouldn't be able to stay around until the opening. Of course we obliged and his twin boys were delighted and gave us the thumbs up approval before they got back into the car and headed for the base.

Families began arriving at around 10.50 am and a very British thing of a queue began forming along the pavement towards the Co-op and Greggs. At 11 am on the dot the Chairman, Les Goble gathered everyone closer and welcomed

the children having established with them that the play park was for them and not the Mums and

awesome park and that she really loved it. When I asked what was her favourite thing to play



Dads. I gave a brief speech (timed to two minutes as I knew the children would be desperate to get in and play), the ribbon was cut and I just had time to jump out of the way of the now very excited children and (it has to be said), some parents – you know who you are!

The Brize Meadow Play Park was now officially OPEN

I wanted to give a special shout out to two little girls, Bonnie and Willow who, as well as enjoying themselves playing had time to do a litter pick as they were concerned about the amount of litter that was being dropped! Thank you girls.

One of the highlights of the morning for me was another little girl who came up to me at least four times to say it was the most

on she said “All of it!”. A true endorsement that we had got it right 😊

I'd like to take this final opportunity to say a big thank you HAGS and Hickman Brothers Landscaping for the tremendous job they have done and to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle. We raised £100 to be split evenly between the Brize Norton Brownies and the fund for the defibrillator which will be situated in the retail area of Brize Meadow.

This leaves me now to handover what has been my ‘baby’ for the last two years to the children and I hope you enjoy using this play park for many years to come.

To contact Wendy, email w.way@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk

What is the *History behind* Brize Meadow? Road names!

Cllr Les Goble

Many people have asked about the names that have been used to identify the roads in Brize Meadow and their origins. Now that the Parish Council has named the last two roads in phase 3B, I thought now would be a good time to take you through the naming strategy. Also, the naming of the public open spaces around the Brize Meadow development.

In 2018, Bloor Homes asked if Brize Norton Parish Council would like to name the new development because it's within the Parish of Brize Norton. At our Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council put some names forward for consideration as did members of the public. The general consensus was to call the development 'Brize Meadow'.

It was just after this that Bloor Homes asked the Parish Council if they would like to provide names for roads in Brize Meadow. The following information lists the road names and their origin.

TO REMEMBER THE 18 MEN AND BOYS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN WORLD WAR I

Their names appear on the war memorial outside the church and on a plaque in the recreation ground which shows their name, age, and where they lost their lives. These names are used to identify the following roads:

- *Archer Place*
Private (Pvt) Charles Archer
died 16/05/1915 aged 36



- *Bellenger Way*
Lance Corporal Ernest Bellenger
died 05/07/1916 aged 26
- *Blackwell Drive*
Pvt Albert Blackwell
died 25/05/1917 aged 23
- *Castle Mews*
Pvt Harold Castle
died 22/06/1917 aged 29
Pvt John Castle
died 23/03/1918 aged 29
- *Faulkner Place* -
Pvt Albert Faulkner
died 03/05/1917 aged 25
Acting Bombardier
Arthur Faulkner
died 08/08/1917 aged 22
- *Garratt Place*
Pvt William Garratt
died 06/08/1915 aged 22
- *Godwin Row*
Pvt Henry Godwin
died 25/09/1915 aged 19
- *Lock Court*
Pvt Frank Lock
died 07/10/1917 aged 26
- *Miles Drive*
Sergeant Edwin Miles
died 24/05/1918 aged 28
- *Parker Close*
Leading Seaman William Parker
died 15/08/1918 aged 29

- *Powell Lane*
Captain Thomas Powell MC
died 24/11/1918 aged 25
- *Timms Lane*
Lance Corp Marcus Timms
died 25/04/1916 aged 24
Pvt Percival Timms
died 28/05/1918 aged 19
- *Upstone Way*
Pvt John Upstone
died 10/09/1917 aged 23
- *Wilkins Close*
Pvt Albert Wilkins,
died 28/04/1917 aged 24
Edward Wilkins,
died 28/09/1916 aged 29



TO REMEMBER THE MEN THAT GAVE THEIR LIVES IN OTHER CONFLICTS

- *Faulkner Place* - **Roger Faulkner,** died 14/11/1959 aged 22

- *Millis Road* – **Flying Officer John Millis**, died 12/03/1945 aged 24
- *Price Close* – **Corp David Price**, died 23/04/1941 aged 23

“*So many young lives lost.*”

FIELD NAMES

All the fields on which Brize Meadow is constructed had names so we used these to be as close as possible to their original location.

- *Browns Field Way*
Browns Lane
- *Lark Hill Drive*
Lark Hill
- *Lower Ground Close*
Lower Ground
- *Sandpits Drive*
Sandpits

VICARS OF ST BRITIUS CHURCH (BY ERA)

- *Cusson Close*
Philip Cusson (1402 – 1435)
- *Thomas Place*
William Thomas (1435 – 1480)
- *Symonds Lane*
John Symonds (1526 – 1557)
- *Astill Row*
Thomas Astill (1558 – 1584)
- *Heton Avenue*
Martin Heton (1584 – 1588)
- *Middlehurst Lane*
Ralph Middlehurst (1588 – 1621)
- *Wright Place*
John Wright (1621 – 1638)
- *Kipling Court (Commercial area)*
John Kipling (1723 – 1768)
- *Sturges Mead*
Thomas Sturges (1912 – 1924)

OTHER ROAD NAMES

- *Britius Road*
St Britius Church (12th century – present)
- *Rookery End* –
Rookery Farm (note all other farm names have been used elsewhere in the locality)



PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

It was whilst researching the names of the World War I men and boys we found out that Albert Wilkins was the brother of Charles Wilkins who had five children. Charles moved into The Manor House on Manor Road (which is now a Grade II listed property) and farmed the very fields on which Brize Meadow is built. One of Charles’s children was a girl named Mary who was 12 years old when she move to Brize Norton. She eventually married and her name changed to Mary Ellis, who is now famously known as ‘The Spitfire Girl’ after her exploits as an ATA during WWII. An article was written about Mary in the Brize Breeze issue 178, August – October 2023. (link: bit.ly/BrizeBreeze-Issue178)

The Parish Council considered that it was appropriate to name the green spaces around the development as the Mary Ellis Country Park to recognise this truly inspirational lady.

The last remaining natural area within the Brize Meadow sits in the north east corner of the development.

Because it has been untouched,

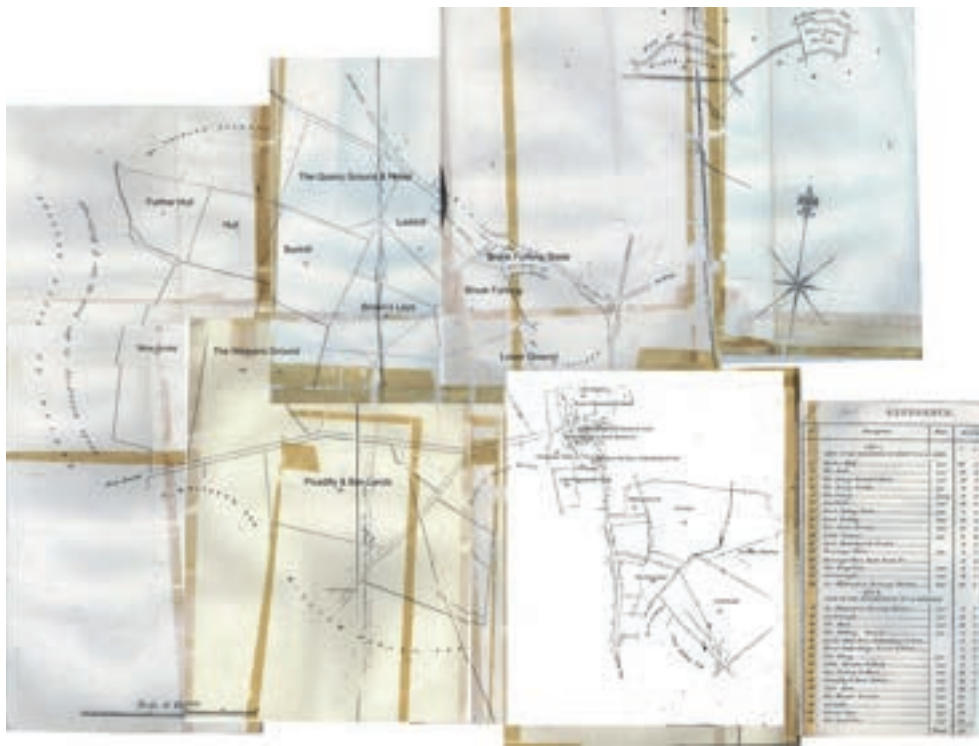
it has retained a good proportion of its native plants and associated mammals. It has dry and wet areas, wooded and grassed areas, and areas that are home to much regenerative scrub. This makes it an extremely good habitat to be an excellent insect and seed bank which can help native species become established in the wider country park to the west. Surveys have taken place to record the plants in this area not to mention all the species of grass, mosses, lichen etc. Other surveys such as birds and mammals have also been carried out over a longer period and show a more accurate picture, although further surveys will be required to increase the list further. Bloor Homes have agreed with the Parish Council that this area should be retained and maintained in its natural state. The Parish Council have named this area Brook Furlong after the adjacent field name.

A historical study into Brize Field Names

Dr Phil Holmes

I was fortunate to find a map dating from 1806 with two auction lists with 31 plots for sale. The numbered plots include named fields for sale with the state and a price, the whole totalling just over £521

The reconstructed map can be found on the community website at www.bncommunity.org/history/. 16 plots were described as belonging to the farm in the occupation of Messrs C & R Lord, and the other 15 as belonging to the farm in occupation of



Along the west side we have Shindler's Hall, The Beany and Little Meadow. Along Carterton Road to the south we have the Parsonage Close and Picadilly & Ban Lands. To the north of The Homestead we have Little Garstons, Little Ground, Brook Furlong and Brook Furlong Slade leading up to Burford Road near the Mason's Arms. Further along Burford Road to the south we have Larkhill and the Quarry Ground. Where the Brize Meadow estate is now, the fields were called Brown's Leys. Further out in the area which is now Shilton Park were Bunhill, Hull, Further Hull, The Weavers Ground and Nine Acres.

Mr H Gardener. The map shows land belonging to the Rector of Brize Norton, William Morley Esq, Mr Charles Gilbert, Mr J W Clinch, F Whitaker Esq, Mr R Gilbert, John Gillett Esq. The land to the West of Brize Norton in the Parish of Black Bourton is shown as belonging to His Grace the Duke of Marlborough.

The map shows the course of the brook running from the village

pond near the Masons Arms down to the Carterton Road and dividing to form a stream running down Station Road on the west side. The existence of the stew or fish pond near Moat Farm (now Church Farm House) is confirmed.

Along what is now Station Road on the east side we find The Milking Ground, The Ham, Burroway Meadow, The Honeyham and Limborough.

The Beany is now the recreation ground, Honeyham Close is named after the old field name. I guess that Shindler's Hall is the site of the Primary School.

I wish I knew the origin of all these field names.

FLOOD

Briefing Note

Following the heavy rain across the county in September and October, we are currently in a position of.

- 7 Flood Warnings
- 20 Flood Alerts

It is forecast that we will see more rain and snow over the coming months and likely more flooding impacts.

Oxfordshire County Council has released a Flood Briefing Note which details useful advice, links and contact numbers for support. To find out more, go to:

brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk/noticeboard





Middle Norton

Consultation on proposal for
a new village
and construction of
up to 350 homes
all 'net zero carbon ready'

Harper Crewe Bloombridge Ltd

invites you to take part in a public consultation on the emerging development proposals for a new village, known as 'Middle Norton'.

Friday 8th November
3-8pm • Elder Bank Hall

The proposed development will include provision for the following:

- Up to 350 high-quality homes including a mixture of market and affordable homes, varying in size and 'net zero-carbon ready'.
- A diverse series of multi-functional and publicly accessible green spaces all connected by new footpaths, and informal recreational opportunities
- A new vehicular access point from Burford Road enhanced pedestrian and cycle links through the site to local services and facilities in Carterton.
- The delivery of enhancements to Kilkenny Lane Country Park and enhancements to ecology on site to secure at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity
- A community benefits package for the Brize Norton and Carterton areas to be secured via a S106 Agreement as part of the planning application



Scan to visit the online consultation website middlenorton.co.uk where you can respond directly with feedback.

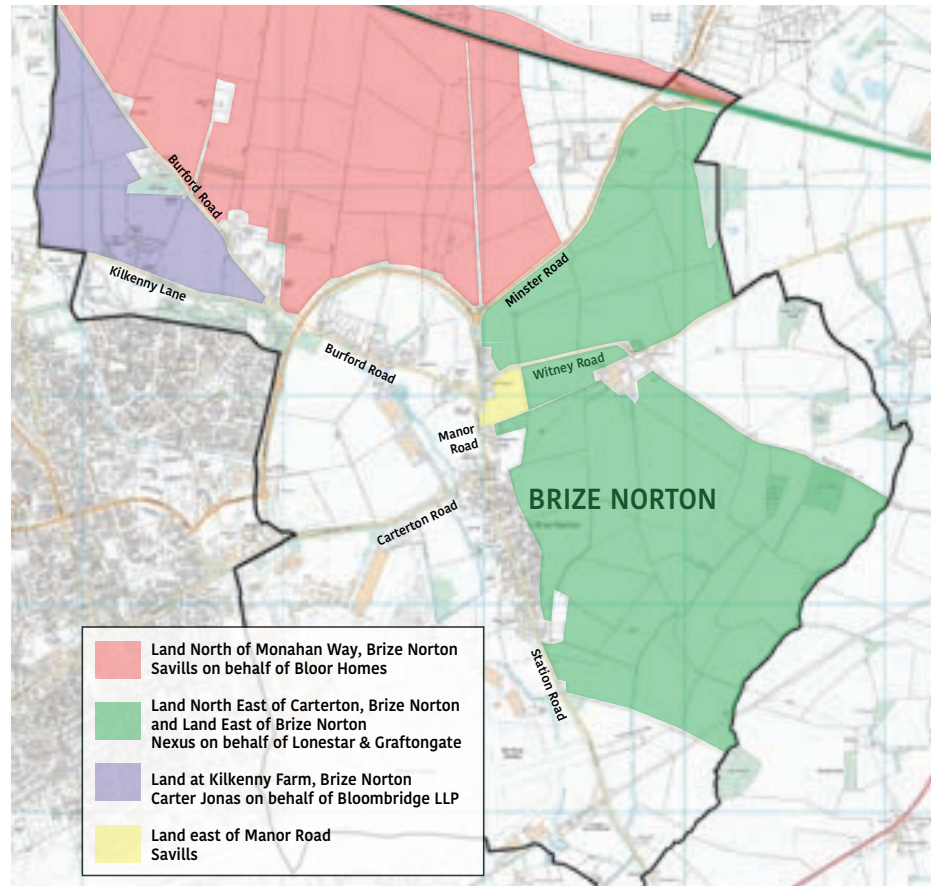
Middle Norton:

A note of previous mention

Cllr Les Goble

In the last edition of the Brize Breeze (181), the Parish Council wrote about various land areas being put forward for consideration for use as housing and employment land in the WODC Local Plan 2041.

Due to changes in planning rules (NPPF) made by the new government, the WODC Local Plan 2041 consultation has been delayed from October 2024 to potentially March 2025 and as such, the number of houses required to be built in our area and their location will not be known until that time



However, ahead of this, and as part of the normal planning process, Bloombridge has announced a public consultation regarding Phase 1 at Kilkenny Farm, the details of which are detailed on the previous page.

This relates to the area shaded purple in the north west of the Parish on the north side of Kilkenny Lane Country Park.

Future Developments:



Andrew Winstone

Bloor Homes values the constructive relationship that has developed with Brize Norton Parish Council in relation to our current development Brize Meadow.

With regards to the potential future development of land to

the north of Brize Norton village and Carterton, in the Parish of Brize Norton, we will be starting discussions with Brize Norton Parish Council and other key stakeholders in the coming months to discuss what a future development might comprise, such as employment, housing, community facilities and enhanced transport infrastructure. We saw that the recent article in the Oxford Mail used outdated information

and quotes from more than eight years ago. The Oxford Mail did not approach Bloor Homes before the article was published.

To contact Andrew Winstone, visit www.bloorhomes.com



Brize Norton Parish Council

Find out more about our Parish Council and the work they're doing at brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk or FB @brizenortonvillage



Les Goble
Chairman

I moved to Brize Norton from Worthing, West Sussex, in 1997. I'm semi-retired and joined the Parish Council in 2018. It was at this time, I was asked to form a Steering Group to write our developing Neighbourhood Plan. My main hobby lies in motor sport and I'm very fortunate to race in historic endurance events both here in the UK and Europe. I can often be seen walking our Cockapoo, Maude, around the village or in the Humble Bumble café having a welcome cup of coffee.

I have spent over 12 years on Local Councils, including both Witney Town Council and Brize Norton. With many years of experience under my belt, I am hopeful it will be of benefit to the village. I moved to the village in 2016 and live with my beautiful wife Jayne, our daughter Mackenzie, and our labs, Meg & Doodle.



Chris Woodward
Vice-Chairman



Wendy Way
Councillor

I moved to Brize Norton in the late 1980s and joined the Parish Council in 2016 after taking the decision to move to part-time working. My hobbies are gardening and the allotment, and I enjoy supporting my partner who races an Aston Martin DB4 which takes us to various motor racing circuits around the UK and Europe. You will also see me out walking our Cockapoo, Maude.

On retirement in 2020 I moved from Witney to Brize Norton. Much of my life has been spent working in the electronics and software fields and this has led to extensive travel throughout the world. I have a BSc in Environmental Biology which reflects my lifelong interest in the natural world. I am also a very keen birdwatcher and can often be found walking the local lanes and footpaths with my trusty binoculars.



Ady State
Councillor



Adam Bennett
Councillor

I moved to Brize Norton in 2021 with my wife and two children. I enjoy being part of a small village and the community spirit that comes with it, I enjoy going to the gym, spending time with my family and going on long dog walks in the countryside. Feel free to say hello if you see me with my very energetic fox red lab, Louie ...

I moved to Brize Norton in 2019. My childhood was in a military family, my working life as military and civilian nurse which took me to many places and countries until I retired. I enjoy volunteering, the outdoors, gardening and am passionate about wildlife, hedgehogs especially.



Carol Fothergill
Councillor



Jo Webb
Clerk

I moved to the village in 2000 and live with my husband and three sons. We enjoy village life and the community spirit within Brize Norton. This is my second stint as Parish Clerk, I liked it so much I came back to do it all again! Please feel free to say hello if you see me walking my large, rather bouncy dog.



Village
Living



Villager's Voice

“*Brize Pies...Apparently were so famous that they once featured in an episode of the long running radio show - BBC “The Archers”!*”

By Sarah Scanlon (nee Thomson)

Thinking back, I think I always was a “foodie”.

My memories always seem to return to the food I ate and where I was at the time enriching lifelong experiences.

Brize Norton is high up on the list of how food has shaped my life.

My family moved to Brize Norton when I was 3 years old in 1961 and we soon settled down to a wonderful, peaceful existence, being able to walk freely around the village and ramble across footpaths.

One of our family outings was to walk from our house in Squires close and go up to the Mason's Arms at the top of the village.

As a small girl I used to think the walk was very long and liked walking on the raised path leading up to the chapel feeling like I was being very daring on a high wire.

As a reward for walking so far, my parents would stop at the gable end of the public house and tap on a side window.

The landlady would push up the sash window and we were met with the most delicious aroma of freshly baked pies.

Our eyes would be treated to a display of many pies piled up in the background.

My sister and I were allowed one pie each and the hard decision had to be made. Would it be Steak or Chicken and mushroom?

When we had made our minds up, the pies were presented steaming hot in brown paper bags and the smell was so good.

It was difficult not to burn our mouths as we couldn't wait to get stuck into our very special treats.

Brize Pies (As we called them) apparently were so famous that they once featured in an episode of the long running BBC “The Archers”!

At 16 years, I went on to study Hotel and Catering and in the course of my career served many

famous people including royalty. I went on to teach Catering until my retirement and now live in Devon

You can take the girl out of Brize Norton but you can't take Brize pies out of the memory!

I now regularly make my own steaming hot pies for the village sustainable market and on Baking day the kitchen is filled with that comforting aroma that takes me straight back to my childhood in Brize Norton.

Happy memories.

Note from the Editor: Since I was once talking to my lovely neighbour... I've always been intrigued about Brize Pies and their 'Secret Ingredients'... If you are prepared to reveal more - let me know! Thank you so much Sarah

If you'd like to nominate someone from the Village to be our next 'Villagers Voice', email jayne@chapelhillgroup.co.uk



My Vision

Sammy Musani

The New Social Group in Carterton: A Beacon of Support for the Visually Impaired Community

MyVision Oxfordshire, originally founded in 1877, is a name known to many and has a long-standing tradition of supporting individuals with visual impairments across the county.

Over the years, the organisation has evolved to meet the changing needs of the visually impaired community, expanding its services from basic support to include comprehensive advice, mobility training, assistive technology, and emotional wellbeing services.

In 2021, the organisation rebranded as MyVision Oxfordshire to better reflect its modern approach and inclusive mission, while continuing to honour its rich history of dedication and advocacy for those living with sight loss. Today, MyVision remains committed to empowering individuals with

visual impairments, ensuring they lead fulfilling, independent lives.

Part of what MyVision does, and does so well, is community engagement. It is no secret that visual impairment and sight loss can be accompanied by a loss of independence, a feeling of loneliness and some reluctance to engage with the outside world. Which is why as an organisation, MyVision emphasizes on community engagement via the organisation of social groups and walking groups across Oxfordshire. To that end, MyVision is excited to announce the launch of a new social group in Carterton designed to support and bring together individuals with partial or total sight loss.

The social group – organised by Sammy Musani as the Community Engagement Officer for West Oxfordshire and Cherwell – aims to create a warm and welcoming space for our visually impaired community

Living with sight loss can often feel isolating, but it doesn't have to be. Our new Carterton social group (affectionately called the Carterton VIPs) is a monthly gathering where members can meet others facing similar challenges, share experiences, and participate in enjoyable activities. Whether it's a relaxed coffee morning, a creative

workshop, or a shared picnic lunch, the goal is to foster connections and build a supportive network within the community.

The group held its first meeting on the 23rd of August at the ASDA Café which was well attended and it's second one on the 24th of September at the same venue.

With a strong start, the group aims to grow and expand its reach to more people with a visual impairment in the Carterton area build a lively, supportive community centered around helping everyone with sight impairment of any kind.

We encourage anyone living with sight loss in Carterton and the surrounding areas to join us. Just give us a call at MyVision Oxfordshire and ask for Sammy Musani or ask to be informed of our group activities. Whether you're looking to make new friends, learn new skills, or simply find a supportive community, this group is here for you. And if you know someone who might benefit from our services, please spread the word. Together, we can help improve the quality of life for those with visual impairments and ensure that no one has to face these challenges alone!

To contact Sammy, email Sammy.musani@myvision.org.uk or call 07-501-687-587



Jackie Hampson

The new academic year is well underway and all our new children have settled into preschool life.

This September we welcomed 20 new children at preschool after 25 left us last July to move on to primary school. We look forward to welcoming 3 more children in January.

It's been a busy first half term with visits from the Fireman, Police and Bonnie the Paramedics. Chloe returned with her mobile farm and everyone's favourite, Norman the donkey. We've been for snack at Humble

Bumble and the children have started Karate during their PE sessions taken by Tom from Oxford Sports and Martial Arts. During our 'Vets and pets' week Charlotte, a veterinary nurse visited us with guinea pigs, rabbits and a tortoise.

We'll be getting ready for Christmas immediately after the half term break as we begin to make preparations for our annual Nativity Play, letters to Santa and the return of 'Outside the Box Productions' for our travelling pantomime, which this year is Dick Whittington.

With the introduction of funding for working parents of 2 year olds along with the existing funding for 3 and 4 year olds places have been snapped up quickly.

Once our 3 new children join us in January preschool is full this

year. Government Funding is being increased to 30hours for working parents from September 2025 so all spaces have now been allocated leaving us full for the next academic year.

We're already half full from September 2026 so if you'd like to add your little one to our waiting list, be quick. An application can be found on the preschool website, registration page.

You are most welcome to contact us to arrange a visit or we'll be holding open afternoons in June 2025.

To contact Brize Norton Pre-School about places, open days or registration,
Text/WhatsApp: 07769 617697
brizenortonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.brizenortonpreschool.co.uk



New Opens at RAF Brize Norton

Bev Masters

A new pre-school building has opened at RAF Brize Norton, run by the RAFA Kidz network of nurseries.

RAFA Kidz opened a nursery at RAF Brize Norton in 2022, providing childcare for personnel of the Station. The nursery has been popular, and it became clear the need to expand services to cater for children of pre-school age was necessary.

A suitable building was found, which had once been a pre-school for the Station, and refurbished to bring it new life. The new facility means RAFA Kidz at RAF Brize Norton can provide early learning opportunities for children right up until they start school.

The new pre-school was officially opened by the Station Commander of RAF Brize Norton, Group Captain Louise Henton

Group Captain Henton said:

“It has been a privilege to formally open the RAFA Kidz Pre-School today as an expansion of their Early Years delivery at RAF Brize Norton. The dedicated RAFA Kidz nursery team have developed the existing pre-school facility and it’s a joy to see the youngest members of our community learning, and developing in such a positive environment.”

Sarah Rathbone is the manager of RAFA Kidz at Brize Norton. Sarah has worked in childcare for over 17 years, and has supported the families of serving personnel both in the UK and abroad.

Sarah said:

“The opening of our RAFA Kidz Pre-School is incredibly exciting. Expanding the RAFA Kidz provision here and providing quality, affordable childcare is our passion and we are looking forward to sharing what we do and the services we provide with even more families.”

The opening of the new Pre-School was also attended by

members of the RAF Brize Norton Community Support Team who worked closely with RAFA Kidz to make the project a reality.

For more information, please contact Alex Gill, Deputy Media and Communications Officer, RAF Brize Norton on 01993 897779.



Brize Norton Primary School

*Robyn Jones -
Headteacher*

As we start the new academic year, we have welcomed many new faces to our school community.

Mrs Woodham-Davies and Mrs Lyon have joined our team as teachers and Mrs Bowhill has joined us as a Teaching Partner. Not only have we welcomed staff members, but also the new Buccaneers and their families who are beginning their journey with us here at Brize Norton Primary. We warmly welcome them and endeavour to support them to SHINE with kindness during their time with us.

We are starting the year full of optimism and hope for the coming year. Following our visit from Ofsted in June, we were thrilled that the culture and ethos we have created was felt by our visitors. 'Brize Norton is a welcoming and inclusive primary school. The strong ethos of, 'We SHINE for ourselves and each other with kindness,' underpins the work of the school.' Over the past 2 years, we have implemented many new initiatives and reviewed the school's curriculum to ensure the children receive the very best learning opportunities

here. This too was recognised and now is the time as a school we will continue to embed the implementation of these, to ensure that what we intend the children to receive is fully realised having a positive impact on their outcomes.

As the headteacher, I work closely with the school's leadership team and the wider leadership team of the school's Governing Body. It is through this teamwork that the school continues to grow and thrive. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Ian Griffiths and David Golding for their hard work and dedication to the school as Governors, both of whose term of office has come to an end. David has not only been a parent governor, but also the Vice Chair of Governors who has focused on our commitment to children with Special Educational Needs. Ian has worn many hats and has championed the Service Community and our offer as a school to those within the community who are from Service families. I am truly thankful for the dedication, time and support these past few years.

That being said, we currently have two Governor vacancies

here at the school. Governors make up an important part of the school's wider leadership team each having focus roles and responsibilities. They work closely with the headteacher with the strategic direction of the school. If you would like to find out more about the role of either parent or community governor, please do contact the school office to arrange a meeting with me. We would love to welcome more members to our team. This is a fantastic time to join us as we continue on our journey.

To contact
Brize Norton Primary School,
visit their new website at
www.brizeprimary.org

Vicky's After School & Holiday Club Ltd

Our Holiday Club

Dancing & yoga | Indoor play | Baking & music | Arts & crafts | Outdoor play | Sport & activities

Held at Aston & Cote Primary School

Hours are from 8.30am - 5.00pm

Bring packed lunch & water bottle. Snacks will be provided

For further information, dates and prices, please go to our website, or contact us via:

vickyafterschoolclub.co.uk | 07887 711454

info@vickyafterschoolclub.co.uk

St Britius Church

Carolyn Peach

At the end of July we said farewell to Rev Drew and Billie and Rev Ian and Carol as both couples took their retirement. .

We have been fortunate to retain the service of Rev Barry Hanson who remains with us and acts as priest in charge during the period of interregnum

The PCCs of the three parishes, Brize Norton, Carterton and Black Bourton together with assistance from the Diocese are now working to write a 'job specification' to be advertised in December with interviews being held in February. We have a PCC away day at Church House, Kidlington to help with this and also for the members of the three PCCs to meet up and discuss the joint vision of the Benefice.

At the end of September at a benefice service we welcomed the congregations of Carterton and Black Bourton and the first Sunday in October we held an all age family service Harvest Festival. A collection of produce was taken to support the local Besom project. Once again the church was beautifully decorated with flowers, foliage, fruits, wheat sheaves and hedgerow berries.

We also had a 'harvest tea' at the Humble Bumble cafe.

We will be serving homemade soup and hotdogs at the village bonfire to raise funds. Come and join us on **Tuesday 5th November** on the Recreation ground for this free entry event at which we view our neighbours fireworks. Food will be served from 5.30pm, the bonfire lit at 6pm and fireworks at 6.30pm – weather permitting.

We are supporting the annual T4U shoebox collection. Please drop off donations of completed boxes or items to make up the gifts by **Sunday 3rd November**. For more information speak with Carolyn (01993 844102)

Sunday 3rd November is the service to celebrate All Saints and is also our Patronal Festival when we specifically remember St Britius.

The Remembrance Sunday service is on Sunday 10th November starting at 10am followed by the laying of wreaths and silence at the War Memorial from 10.50am. The collection taken at the service will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

In the run up to Christmas we invite you to join us on **Monday**



16th December (meeting at the Elder Bank Hall carpark at 6pm to 7.30pm) to sing carols in the village – contact Carolyn for timings and the route (01993 844102).

We look forward to welcoming you to the following Advent and Christmas services:

- **'Longest night' service Wednesday 18 December at 7.00pm** – a special service of reflection to honour feelings of sadness, grief and loss in a time we view as celebration.
- **Candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 22 December at 6.00pm** – there will be a series of readings and carols – we invite all children attending to come dressed as shepherds, angels, wise men and people of Bethlehem (we also have some costumes) to take part in our Nativity tableau
- **Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December Midnight service at 11.30pm**
- Please note there will be **no Christmas Day service** at St Britius but everyone is welcome to celebrate at a family communion service



at St John the Evangelist, Carterton at 10am

- There is no service at St Britius on **Sunday 29th December** as the 5th Sunday we have a Benefice service at St John's, Carterton at 10.30am.
- Looking ahead to the New Year we celebrate Candlemass with our

Christingle service, **Sunday 2 February 2025**

You are invited to the church each Tuesday lunchtime, 12 noon to 1pm, for fellowship and a chat. Bring your own lunch to eat and share. Please contact Phil Holmes (01993 843856) for more information.

If you have any queries or need help and support, then please do contact a member of the team:

- Associate Priest: Rev Barry Hanson 07949 654988
- Churchwarden: Dr Phil Holmes 01993 843856
- Churchwarden: Rosalind Sewell 01993 843418

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

For any further details of the church services refer to notices on the church door or go to bncommunity.org

Elder Bank Hall

PRE-SCHOOL

(Term-time only)

Mon - Thu • 9am - 3pm

Fri • 9am - 12 midday

BROWNIES (TERM-TIME ONLY)

Mon • 6pm - 7.30pm

WOODTURNING (WOWA)

1st Tues (monthly) • 8pm - 10pm

YOU CAN FITNESS

Tue • 6pm - 7pm

(1st Tuesday at 5.30pm)

NERF CLUB FROM ACTIVE FUTURES

Wed • 4.15pm - 5.45pm

KARATE

Wed • 6.30pm - 7.30pm

20:20:20 FITNESS CLASS

Wed • 7.45pm - 8.45pm

EYEKANDI FITNESS

Thu & Fri • 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Sat • 8.30am - 9.30am

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCING

Thu • 7.30pm - 9.30pm

YOUNG FARMERS

Every other Fri • 7.00pm - 9.00pm

JUDO CLUB

Sat • 9.30am-11.30am

PENTHWELL DOG TRAINING

Sat mornings • starting 31st Aug

TOTALLY SHREDDED FITNESS

Sun • 6.00pm - 7.00pm

STARTING 13TH JANUARY 2025

Yogalina - Weekly Yoga classes

Monday • 8.00pm - 9.00pm

Sunday • 9.00am - 10.00am

Jayne Woodward

We, like many of you, are eagerly waiting on the end of the building works to Elder Bank Hall. Unfortunately, there had been a delay to the work while the Council and the builders resolved an issue identified bridging the old and new roofs.

This took a little more time than anticipated, but we are pleased that the roof is on and looks like it has always been there - we look forward to their continued progress.

In other news, as many of you

maybe unaware, Elder Bank Hall has never been registered as a charity, so our committee has worked with the Parish Council to become a charity where we can then apply for grants and funding to update the original parts of the hall. This includes long overdue updating of the flooring, the toilets and kitchen, as well as a fresh coat of paint. We are so excited that this is now moving forward!

We are pleased to announce that we have created a **new 'friendly for all' regular hirer rate of only £9 per hour**. Which means whether you live in or away from Brize Norton, you will pay the

same. Although as you will see our diary is filling up fast!

Our **weekend rate is now £20 per hour** (*the lowest in the area, so we've heard*) during the day and £25 per hour after 6pm. For daytime bookings, we now don't ask for a deposit, only a portion of the total hire fee at the time of booking.

We really look forward to welcoming you into the hall on Bonfire Night on Tuesday 5th November!

To find out about Elder Bank Hall or to book, email elderbankhall@gmail.com or go to our facebook page: [@elderbankhall](https://www.facebook.com/elderbankhall)

The Humble Bumble



Krystina Reape

As the leaves change and the crisp air settles in, we've been reflecting on the delightful summer we've shared with all of you. Our bustling cafe has been a hub of activity, filled with laughter, joy, and the sweet aroma of freshly brewed coffee. From birthday parties to baby showers, and even Harvest Tea with our friends at St Britius Church, it's been a season to remember. We were thrilled to witness the accomplishments of our Craft Club members at this year's Brize Norton Horticultural Show. A special shout out to George who bagged the first prize in the "Any Handicraft" category—bravo, George!

Amidst our celebrations, we faced some heart-wrenching moments. It is with great sadness that we share our sorrow over the loss of our cherished cafe cat, Bumble. This gentle ginger soul, who found her way into our hearts and lives, was tragically

lost to a car accident in early October. Bumble was more than a little stray cat; she was a symbol of community love and warmth. We extend our deepest gratitude to Carol Fothergill, whose unwavering patience and kindness showed Bumble the love she deserved. Carol, your daily care was a testament to the compassion that defines our community.

In another sad note, we also bid farewell to Peanut, the happy Pomeranian who brought smiles to all who met him. Peanut's daily visits with Lilian and Mick, were a highlight for us all, and we send them our deepest condolences.

Now, looking ahead to brighter days, we're thrilled to announce our festive plans! This festive season, Humble Bumble Craft Club is hosting a series of pop-up markets every **Sunday from 24th November to 22nd December**.

Our patio will transform into a marketplace of handmade treasures, perfect for your Christmas shopping.

We invite you to support local

crafters and discover unique gifts, created with love right here in our community.

Our Chatty Cafe table continues to be a beloved weekly fixture. Join us **every Tuesday between 10 am and 12 pm** for a cup of coffee, a friendly chat, and the chance to make new friends. Fiona, our wonderful host, ensures everyone feels welcome and included.

For the bookworms among us, the No Pressure Book Club meets on the **third Saturday of each month**. The next gathering is on **November 16th at 1 pm**. Whether you've read a book or just want to enjoy some literary conversation, we'd love to see you there.

Stay connected with us for all the latest updates by following us on Facebook and Instagram [@humblebumblecafe](https://www.facebook.com/humblebumblecafe).

We look forward to seeing you, sharing stories, and making memories together.



To find out more about what's going on at the Humble Bumble Cafe, visit their facebook page @humblebumblecafe



Aston Football Club Youth Teams

Wendy Way and Nick Angus

We are proud to announce that Aston Football

Club Youth Teams have chosen to play their 'Home' games at Brize Norton this season and we will be hosting teams from the U7s up to U17s, both boys and girls.

The early evening of the last week of September and first week of October saw a flurry of activity as a number of teams took to our recreation field for some training sessions in preparation for the start of their season and we hosted the first weekend of

matches on the Saturday with no less than three teams playing with a further game played on the Sunday.

We wish all the teams a very successful season

To contact Aston Football Club, contact Nick Angus via nickangus@hotmail.co.uk

Rugby Tots



Join us at Rugbytots for a free taster class!

Rugbytots South & West Oxfordshire is run by Sean who has worked in education for the past 18 years. Rugbytots fun, activity classes provide children aged 18months to 7 the opportunity to discover and experience physical play and games through activities and games.

Rugbytots reimagines rugby as a fun, inclusive, and engaging activity that focuses

on fundamental motor skills like running, jumping, and coordination. By incorporating rugby's basic principles—such as teamwork, respect, and communication—into each session, Rugbytots offers young children a safe and structured environment to explore these skills while having fun.

The focus is on fun and participation rather than performance, which allows children to feel included regardless of their skill level. From the very first session, children are encouraged to develop their confidence through small successes—whether it's kicking the ball, making a pass, or simply interacting with their peers. This fosters a sense of achievement that is integral to developing a positive self-image and a love of learning.

By teaching children how to work with others, develop resilience, and stay active in a

fun, supportive environment, Rugbytots is helping to shape well-rounded individuals who will carry these skills into adulthood.

The programme's commitment to inclusivity, play, and early development offers a model for how sport can be a powerful tool for promoting emotional and social growth, not just athletic prowess.

Classes are run locally at Cokethorpe School every Sunday morning, for more information go to rugbytots.co.uk or contact Sean on 0345 313 0782,



Quote Brize Breeze for 10% off your first booking!



RAF Brize Norton Congratulates New Female Referees

Bev Masters

RAF Brize Norton proudly announces and congratulates the latest cohort of female referees who have successfully completed their training and certification.

These trailblazing women represent a significant milestone in advancing gender quality and diversity within the world of sporting officiating.

As the demand for skilled and qualified referees continues to grow, these remarkable women have demonstrated exceptional dedication, skill and passion proving that the world of officiating is open to all, regardless of gender. Their

presence not only reflects progress but also serves as an inspiration for future generations of women aspiring to break barriers in the sporting world.

Group Captain Jon Smith, Chair Royal Air Force Football Association said:

“The potential of women’s game in the Service is significant, noting the exponential growth of the female game across the UK. To realise this potential, the RAF Football Association is determined to provide equitable opportunities for women in the Service to play, coach and get involved in the sport. A cornerstone of that growth is a vibrant female officials’ community, which the team at RAF Brize Norton are trailblazing in impressive style. My congratulations and thanks to all those involved – I hope their stories inspire more women to follow in your footsteps.”

The new referees have undergone vigorous training, demonstrating proficiency in all areas of officiating, from rule interpretation to maintaining

fairness. With their certification, they are now prepared to officiate in a variety of local, regional, and national sporting events, bringing their unique perspectives and expertise to the field.

Newly qualified referee Squadron Leader Danielle Burgess said:

“It is a huge honour to be part of the wider referee community. Out of 10 female referees in the Royal Air Force, four are now based at RAF Brize Norton. We’ve worked hard and we are all extremely excited to represent not only ourselves and the Royal Air Force but also all the women who aspire to follow in our footsteps.”

The Royal Air Force is committed to fostering an inclusive environment and will continue to champion initiatives that promote gender equality within the organisation.

For more information, please contact Alex Gill, Deputy Media and Communications Officer, RAF Brize Norton on 01993 897779.



Annual village cricket festival and horticultural show, 2003.
Picture courtesy of bncommunity.org

The rise and demise of sport in Brize...

Fred Bellinger

Proper organised sport was played by Brize around the start of the 20th Century when the football team played in the Shilton League winning a couple of cups therein.

The First World War took its toll among the players and village, but the club carried on the best it could during the interwar years in various farmers fields.

After the second world war, both cricket and football were played on Gassons (the large field opposite Manor Farm) with very basic changing facilities. In the early 1950's the recreation ground became available and both cricket and football moved there, but still with very basic facilities, which were in fact provided in Chequers stables (not there now).

Unfortunately, both teams folded after a few years, due to players getting old and lack of young players coming through.

In 1963, the football club was reformed and joined the Witney and District FA. Early results were average but gradually the

club grew in stature and with the building of the pavilion with modern facilities, more players joined enabling a reserve team to be added.

New housing estates were built in Brize, bringing in more players and the club then extended its 'golden' period and became one of the leading clubs in the county over a period of around 20 years in the late 20th century and early 21st. Winning the prestigious Oxfordshire Junior Shield four times, the Oxfordshire charity cup and most Witney and District Leagues and Cups. Alas, these squads of players wouldn't go on forever and gradually the results and members declining and the club folded this year after a 60 year run, which is some achievement.

The Cricket Club reformed in 1968 playing friendly matches against local opposition and also midweek games. The Sunday friendlies were a family affair with picnics in the tea intervals with the evening ending in the local pub.

Home team provided teas for the opposition players and their own team, and teams were judged not only by their on-field performance but how good their teas were! From these early days, the Clubs stature gradually improved and the influx of players due mainly

to new estates; the club became more competitive, joined the Oxford League and became fairly successful therein winning their league and several cups.

Besides being a formidable force in the Cirencester mid-week league and the Ernie Clack cup, all of this during the late 20th Century Period. As with the football club, players got older and slowly lack of enthusiasm and players caused the club to fold.

At its sporting peak, Brize had a first and reserve team, Sunday team and the Chequers had a Sunday team and a ladies team. The Cricket Club had two Saturday sides, a youth team and mid-week team. All ran by volunteer secretaries, treasurers and managers; too many to mention!

I think Brize can be proud of its sporting heritage and both Football and Cricket teams were held in high-regard by all. Nowadays, youngsters have other interests and both Senior Cricket and football teams are declining in most villages and towns, so Brize is not alone.

Have you been effected by Fred's article?

Would you like to form a

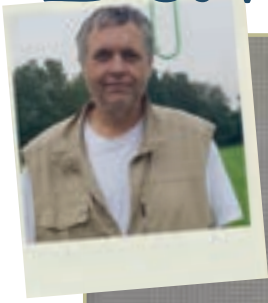
Brize Norton Football Team or

Cricket Team (Men's, Women's, Mixed or Youth Teams) and play on Brize Rec?

Contact Brize Norton PC via

clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk

David's Poetry Corner



Men can cry. Men can love.
Men can do all this stuff.
Men have feelings too as well.
Men love women, this you know.

Men are vulnerable this is true.
Men just don't like to tell.
Men can be both course and blunt.
Men tend to put up a front.

Men have ways different from you.
Men don't mean to upset though.
Men can love and play and work.
Men can sometimes be a jerk.

Men like you when you're vulnerable.
Men then feel macho for you.
Men then get a buzz deep inside.
Men can then feel really alive.

You possibly remember, that David gave us poems titled *The Sycamore Tree* and *'Wuthering Heights'* in the previous *Brize Breeze*.

This one titled *'Men Can'* was a really big favourite when he first brought it into the *Humble Bumble*, and hopefully when you read it, you can see why.

Thanks David

David has lived in the village for a number of years and takes part in the *Chatty Café* and loves going into the *Humble Bumble* where he shows his most recent poetry.



Barbie Thorne

Could you become a Brown Owl?

Brize Norton Brownies are a friendly bunch of girls who meet in Elder Bank Hall on a Monday evening during term time.

We follow the Brownie program which is full of fun activities and games that promote new skills, leadership and teamwork that help the girls grow in confidence. We also join in with Brownie

events and other village events.

In the coming weeks we will be laying crosses during the Remembrance Service, carol singing with the church and, hopefully, a Christmas cinema trip with the District.

Back to wanted - after over 30 years as a Guider, I have now made the decision to step back from Guiding at the end of this school year - July 2025.

Katie, my helper, is very happy to continue but we will need a new Brown Owl; full training and support will be given by Katie and myself, as well as other Guiders in the District... we all help each other. This will take time as training is ongoing during our

Brownie meetings, so we would like someone to come forwards sooner rather than later.

If no-one comes forward it may mean the unit will have to close (or join in with a Carterton unit.

That would be a shame because we have had a Brownie Unit in Brize Norton for as long as I can remember, so please, think about it.

Come and meet the girls, have a chat with Katie and I to see if this is something you would like to do. (The fact I've been doing it for 30 years shows how much fun it is!)

Please contact me, Barbie Thorne on 842013 or via email on barbara.thorne534@btinternet.com



BRIZE NORTON OPEN GARDENS

Why not open your garden in 2025?

We had a wonderful Brize Norton NGS open gardens in June, so many lovely people wandering around our village visiting the gardens that were open.

We sold over 200+ tickets to our visitors and 1 couple came from as far away as High Wycombe, which means we raised lots of money for our local charities in the village & also the NGS chosen charities.

We had a new garden open this year, Pilgrims Cottage & what a gorgeous hidden oasis it is!

Why not open your garden in 2025?

We are always looking for new gardens to join, it is a great way to meet your fellow villagers & the lovely enthusiastic gardeners that the yellow book brings! If you let us know by September 1st, you'll have your garden mentioned in the NGS Annual Garden Guide, but we'll be happy to welcome you with open arms whatever the time of year! (As long as you let us know a couple of months in advance)...

To find out more contact Dawn Humphris on 07723 718199



Planting, Propogating & Pruning



Winter Gardening FROM LISA-MARIE & HER MAM



By Lisa Hudson

And finally... for the last time this year, here are Lisa and her Mam, Christine with a few tips and tricks for winter gardening!

NOVEMBER

- 🌻 It's that time of year to tidy up your borders and pots, replacing those annuals with winter bedding plants and bulbs.
- 🌻 Prune back salvias, roses and shrubs, mulching semi-hardy plants and the more tender plants need to be

- 🌻 moved into greenhouses or conservatories. After pruning, you can take cuttings for new plants!
- 🌻 Check your trellises are secure and tie up any new growth.
- 🌻 When lifting dahlias and begonias, put them in a frost-free place and store them in a cardboard box or wrap them in old newspaper.
- 🌻 Each year we add more evergreens to our pots which look beautiful such as gaultheria procumbens (partridge berry), skimmia japonica or heuchera.

- 🌻 For the veggie-growers, it's now time to harvest parsnips and sprouts. Beans and peas can be sowed outdoors but cover with a cloche.
- 🌻 Prune back and train apple and pear trees, also gooseberries and redcurrants.
- 🌻 Some heating may be needed in greenhouses for the tender plants. Keep the air ventilated.
- 🌻 Clean any pots and trays in readiness for the spring.
- 🌻 If you are planning a bonfire in your garden, check for hedgehogs before you light it, and if tidying leaves, be sure

to leave some near hedges for hedgehogs to use for nesting.

- 🌻 Clean out bird boxes after this year's chicks as the birds will use them as hideouts from the cold weather. Wash your bird feeders and keep them topped up with food².

DECEMBER

- 🌻 It might be bitterly cold outside this month, but it can also look beautiful in the garden, with beautiful, coloured plants and frosted spider webs³.
- 🌻 As the temperature dips, it may be worth considering any ferns or palms with horticultural fleece or straw wrapped in hessian.
- 🌻 If there is snowfall go and check your hedges and trees. Although they look pretty covered in snow, the weight can break branches off. It happened to my lovely mimosa (god rest its soul, it was a beauty!)
- 🌻 Hedgehogs are vulnerable in colder months of the winter, so don't lift all of your fallen leaves as hedgies use them to keep warm.
- 🌻 If you find the weather is too cold to go out, you can sit at your window all toastie inside and plot any changes that you want to make in your garden, such as moving plans or adding new ones.

- 🌻 Keep feeding our feathered friends with plenty of fat balls, nuts and mealy worms and give them fresh water in the morning – especially if there has been a hard frost.
- 🌻 It's a good time to give your garden tools a clean, oil and sharpen and also do some maintenance on your lawnmowers and strimmer's.

JANUARY

- 🌻 Get ahead of yourself as you can now start sowing sweet peas, snap dragons plus many others as long as there are on the inside of your windowsills.
- 🌻 Any leaves sitting on the grass need to be raked up as they can cause damage by preventing sunlight getting to your lawns.
- 🌻 Check your trellises, stakes etc in case strong winds have loosened them.
- 🌻 Wisterias can be pruned once the leaves have dropped between January and February. Trim back the same new shoots that the trimmed in the summer to two or three buds from the main stem. This will encourage the plants growth for larger buds.⁴
- 🌻 Continue to check your tubers which were stored away for the winter, looking out for rot. Any damage should be discarded.

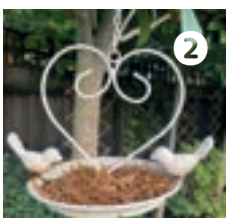
- 🌻 After last year's very wet winter, it may be a good idea to make aerate your lawns. Use a fork to make holes six inches deep and spread horticultural sand over the lawn, brushing the sand into the holes. The sand will keep the holes open and improve drainage⁵.
- 🌻 If you have a greenhouse or conservatory, wash inside and out, doing this now will remove pests and fungus before your green fingers get busy again.

TIPS FOR THE GARDEN

- 🌻 Banana skins are full of potassium, therefore place them at the bottom of your roses.
- 🌻 Used coffee grounds are high in nitrogen, so can be used to maintain hydrangea colour. Also it's great as compost and feeds the worms.
- 🌻 Citrus fruit skins are good for putting in your borders to deter cats from answering the call of nature. Also slugs, aphids and ants don't like the smell of citrus fruits.

Have fun and we both wish you a great Christmas!

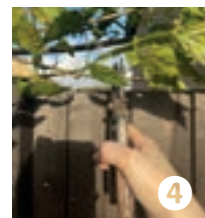
To contact *Lisa or her Mam*, please email jayne@chapelhillgroup.co.uk



2



3



4



5

🌻 Starling-proof bird feeder



Issue burglary prevention tips in the run up to Christmas

PCSO Richard Connor

As nights draw in and Christmas gets closer, it is important for everyone to protect their house so they're not an attractive target for burglars.

A Thames Valley Police statement said: "We know that the period following the clocks going back and in the run up to Christmas often sees the number of burglaries start to rise.

"I will of course be out on patrol, targeting offenders and locations across the neighbourhood.

"You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary by taking a few simple steps."

If you're getting items delivered please make sure you:

- Track your parcels and make sure items are delivered when you are at home to receive them, or have them delivered to a trusted alternative address.
- Cut up packaging for any expensive items so that it will fit inside your refuse bin, never leave boxes next to the bin where they can be seen.
- Install a video doorbell; this can be connected to your mobile so you are notified immediately of any delivery, and is easier to install than a full CCTV system
- Remove any address labels as they can give away what you've had delivered as well as increase the chances of you becoming a victim of identity fraud.
- As many people are likely to be celebrating at home this Christmas see the following prevention tips:
- Don't leave presents on view under the Christmas tree.
- Refrain from posting photos of high value presents, such as jewellery or electronics, on social media.
- Remember to mark your new presents using a UV pen and register them on the national property register at immobilise.com.



PCSO Darren Moulding

Good day, from (PCSO) Police community support officer Moulding...

With the season changed and the

nights finally drawing in may I bring you attention to just a few crime prevention tips?

This is the time of year that by the time a lot of us come back from work it's already dark outside, this means your house will be the same until you get back, absolutely perfect for any would-be opportunist to see if anyone is in,

A good and budget buy to avoid a vulnerable looking house is use plug in timers, these are readily available at most DIY or hardware shops, very easy to set up and will give the impression of an occupied home.

As and when the colder mornings get here, please avoid starting your car to warm up the inside and going back in the house, again if this is a routine of yours it will quickly be observed and gives those wanting to steal cars a perfect time to do so,

Equally, we have had a good number of car thefts this year mainly due to new electronic car signal finders, where the car can be started from the signal sent out by your keys, consider purchasing a faraday box and leave them in there.

Just as your house and vehicle are important, please consider your personal safety too, make sure your mobile is fully charged, and your car is winter ready.

Remember though, West Oxfordshire does still have one of the lowest crime rates in the country, most likely due to its vigilant residents, and sound advice from your local officers.

If you need any advice please contact either, C8155 Richard Conner on Richard.Conner@thamesvalley.police.uk or C6599 Darryn Moulding on Darryn.Moulding@thamesvalley.police.uk



Christmas in
Brize Norton



Brize Norton Ballroom Dance Club

****For all ages****

We are a club that
meets **every**
Thursday from 7.30pm
to 9.30pm in the
Elder Bank Hall.

We dance ballroom, latin
american and sequence dances
to music on CDs.

We enjoy a chat with tea and
biscuits during an interval.

Please contact Joy on 01993
842373 for further details.

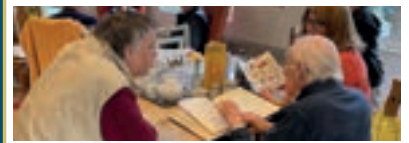
Humble Bumble **CRAFT** CLUB

Meets every Thursday
at Humble Bumble Café
between 10am and 12pm.

CHRISTMAS **CRAFT MARKET**

Will run every
Sunday from 24th November
to
Sunday 22nd December
outside the Humble Bumble

If you run a club, scheme,
association or group in the
village and would like to put it in
the Brize Breeze, contact
jayne@chapelhilldesign.co.uk



Chatty Cafe Scheme

Where: Humble Bumble Cafe
Station Rd, Brize Norton, OX18 3PU
www.humblebumblecafe.com

 /humblebumblecafe
 /humblebumblecafe

When: Tuesdays 10am - 12 midday

Brownies



We meet on Monday
evenings in Elder
Bank Hall.. Why not come
and join us?

Contact Barbie Thorne
on 842013

CHRISTMAS TREES

FRESH CUT & POTTED : 01993 822226

Available For Collection Or Delivery From End Of November

**Nordmann Fir
Premium**



Fresh cut

100 - 125 cm - £34.00*

150 - 180 cm - £45.00*

180 - 210 cm - £58.00*

240 - 270 cm - £78.00*

270 - 300 cm - £105.00*

Various Potted Sizes *

**Nordmann Fir
Premium**



Hickman Brothers Landscapes Ltd, Fulbrook, Shipton Hill, Burford, Oxfordshire, OX18 4BZ

www.hickmanlandscapes.co.uk

All Price include VAT and are based on a collection only Basis — Terms and conditions apply whilst STOCKS last*



As I am sure many of you are aware, we are intending to put on a Christmas meal for those who may be alone at Christmas and would enjoy having a great meal in convivial company.

We have helpers and logistics pretty much worked out but we now need diners!

If you know of someone who would like to join us on Christmas day for a lovely and fun lunch, please let them know about it.

I would like people to contact us before the end of November if possible so that we can get a good idea of the numbers we will be catering for.

Contact Adrian on 07538 700745 or email adystate@gmail.com

See you there

ADRIAN



Widows Money Fuel Allotment Charity

This village charity (charity number 204046) formed in 1970 was the amalgamation of two previous charitable funds – the ‘Fuel Allotment’ fund set up prior to 1885 and the ‘Widows Money’ fund.

From the proceeds of rent of the ‘Poors Plot’ field, small monetary gifts are made at Christmas to Brize Norton residents who are pensioners or widows.

If you haven’t received a gift before and think you now qualify please contact me before **Monday 5th December** to be included on this year’s list.

Carolyn Peach, Secretary of the Trustees of the Widows Money Fuel Allotment charity
cpeach.uk@btinternet.com, 01993 844102



St Britius are promoting and supporting the shoebox appeal that is organised by T4U.

The founder of the charity, Dave Cooke, aims to fulfil the dreams of children whose greatest wish is to receive a Christmas gift. For many this wish will be granted by the generosity of a total stranger who will probably be completely unaware of the impact it will have and the glimmer of hope it will bring, to a child who has nothing.

Shoebbox gifts are made to vulnerable children or families from poorer communities in Eastern Europe – Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania – through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages – there are no strings attached. T4U work with in country partners like the Red Cross to help find children and families that are in most need.

Donations of complete shoeboxes or of items that could be made up into boxes are welcome with a collection point at St Britius church - donations please by **Monday 4 November** – however if you miss this deadline please deliver your donations to Witney Methodist Church, High Street, Witney before Sunday 10th November.

For more information on items to put in your box, and importantly what not to include, go to <https://teams4u.com/shoebbox-appeal/> or contact Carolyn, 01993 844102.

GIVE LOVE IN A BOX THIS CHRISTMAS.



**Poppy
Appeal
2024**
••News••

Barbie Thorne

Ihis would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported this years Poppy Appeal, especially the businesses who had collection boxes, but most especially all of the volunteers who went door to door.

I will let you know the amount raised when it is all collected and counted.

Thank you again
Barbie

WITNEY JUNIOR YOUNG FARMERS

QUIZ NIGHT

★ **FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER** ★

**ELDERBANK
VILLAGE HALL
BRIZE NORTON
OX18 3PS**

DOORS OPEN AT 7.00PM
QUIZ TO START AT APPROX 7.30PM

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE - TEAMS OF &
£5 per adult
£2.50 per child

PURCHASE FROM
witneyjuniorsyfc@hotmail.com

CASH BAR ★ CHEESEBOARDS ★ RAFFLE
ALL IN AID OF THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION!

**Institute of Music
Burford School**

**Come and sing
Christmas**

at Burford School's
Christmas Miscellany
 at
The Sheldonian Theatre

**Wednesday 18 December
2024
7.30pm**

Rehearsals start on
**Tuesday 1 October 2024
at 7.00pm in the hall**
 For more details email
blm@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Look out
*on Village
 Notice Boards
 and Village
 Facebook
 pages for
 other events
 coming up
 over the festive
 season*

● BRIZE NORTON'S ●

BONFIRE

Winter Night

& FIREWORKS COURTESY OF RAF BRIZE NORTON



TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2024 FROM 6 PM

Brize Norton Recreational Ground, Station Road, Brize Norton



Soup, hotdogs, tea and coffee plus outdoor bar. All starting at 5.30pm

No fireworks allowed • Sparklers at your own risk and under adult supervision
NO DOGS ALLOWED ON THE RECREATION GROUND



*The State of
Nature*



Brize Norton Village Pond



Ady State

Many of you will be aware of the village pond which is just across the Burford road from the Masons Arms.

The parish council intend to convert this rather silted up pool into something that reflects the character of our village and accordingly we have made a start on this process.

Much of the pond had become very silted up and its size had been reduced by more than 50%. Combined with a lot of elder and crack willow taking over pond site it was in rather a sorry state.

To bring it back to its former glory a programme of rejuvenation has been started by removing much of the silt and the elders growing on the silted up area.

This was achieved with the generous assistance of our local farmer Brian Barnet who arranged for the use of a digger to carry out this work.

The next stage will be to remove the crack willow on the road side of the pond. These will be replaced with more suitable and less invasive trees perhaps a weeping willow and an alder?

A seed mix suitable for water edges is being seeded on the far bank and other works are being planned to improve the ability of the public to enjoy the pond. This would comprise of at the very least some seating and an information board describing the pond and its flora and fauna. Other suggestions are very welcome.

An initial survey of the invertebrate life in the pond will be carried out so that we have a 'baseline' so that future surveys can be compared to it and should show an improvement as work progresses on enhancing the habitat.

“ To bring it back to its former glory, a programme of rejuvenation has been started... ”

I am hoping that we can start work with the Brize Norton conservation volunteers in the spring of 2025 so if you have contacted me about being part of the group please be patient, and if you haven't please consider contacting me to sign up!

To contact Ady and the Council about any ideas, email a.state@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk



Reptiles & Amphibians in our Parish

Ady State

A strange subject perhaps for our November issue, but I have spent quite a bit of time this year investigating reptiles and amphibians in our village.

Recently I attended a course on surveying for these creatures, where whilst doing the usual round of introductions, I described myself as coming from the parish with the greatest number of different reptiles in the area. The puzzled looks of the other participants were replaced with smiles when I pointed out that Crocodiles of the World is in our parish!

I have found grass snakes (*Natrix Helvetica*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), slowworm (*Anguis fragilis*), common

frog (*Rana temporaria*), toad (*Bufo bufo*) and smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) in the parish but no adders (*Vipera berus*).

I had been told by Neil Clenell the head of the Wychwood Forest project a couple of years ago that in his opinion there were no adders in West Oxfordshire, but I was able to counter that with a picture I had taken of one near Stonesfield and since then I have found one in Finstock. However Neil is certainly correct in that there are very few of them about.

I have visited many sites this year, where I once could have guaranteed seeing them, with very little luck.

One of the reasons given for this decline is the enormous increase in released game birds in recent years as it is well known that pheasants will attack adders and even consume small specimens.

However there are still plenty of sites within our parish which have grass snakes and common lizard can be found if one searches carefully.

Slowworms are found throughout and are often well established in old dry stone walls. These legless lizards can live for a surprisingly long time with wild specimens living to over 30 years and captive specimens

being recorded up to 54 years old. Throughout such a long life they will consume a huge variety of invertebrates including a lot of garden pest species.

As for amphibians the common frog is widespread throughout our parish and many of us will have garden ponds that contain their spawn and tadpoles in the spring.

Toads are equally widespread but rather less visible than the frogs.

There are two species of newt found in this area the smooth (or common) newt and the great crested newt. The great crested newt is by far the rarer of the two and you are very lucky indeed if you see these in your garden pond. I do know of some in the village but am sworn to secrecy.

The staff from Crocodiles of the World have been carrying out reptile surveys locally and will soon be surveying more areas in the village so hopefully we can find out more about the species in our parish.

If you have seen any of the aforementioned species in Brize Norton please let me know. I am particularly interested in reports of adder or great crested newt.



Get in touch with Ady via a.state@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk

Autumn Arrivals



Credit: Rebecca Louise



Credit: Rebecca Louise

By Debbie Ryan

Cotswold Wildlife Park welcomes adorable Capybara triplets to the collection.

Cotswold Wildlife Park is celebrating the birth of several new arrivals, including triplets produced by giant rodent species, the Capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*). It is the largest living rodent in the world and the last remnant of a long line of gigantic grass-eating rodents that evolved in South America over millions of years. This exceptional Neotropical herbivore from South America is probably best described by zoologist Desmond Morris as “a cross between a Guinea-pig and a Hippopotamus”

The Park’s new breeding pair, Freya and Frankenstein, were introduced last year and bonded straight away. The triplets have been named Twig, Bracken and Bramble. First-time father Frankenstein was named after the famous fictional horror character as he was born on Halloween. Curator of Cotswold Wildlife Park, Jamie Craig, commented: “Capybara babies are always extremely popular with

the keepers and our visitors. They are born looking like a miniature version of their parents and are soon exploring the enclosure and swimming in their pool. We have had great success with this species over the years and it is reassuring to know that this new pair will continue that tradition”

After a gestation period of 150 days, females give birth to highly precocial young – just as well considering the vulnerable pups are a food source for many large predators in their native homeland. Anacondas, Caimans, Jaguars and humans hunt this species for their meat. Newborns weigh approximately 1.5kg and are able to graze within hours of birth. They will continue to suckle until they are approximately four months old* and will stay with their parents for roughly one year.

In addition to the Capybara pups, the Park is celebrating several new arrivals, including a tiny giant who recently made his debut – a Giant Anteater pup named Anthony. He’s the third breeding success for parents Zorro and Zeta since their arrival at the Burford collection in 2010. He isn’t the only new arrival in the Anteater enclosure. They also share their home with Crested Screamers – a large bird species with one of the most impressive calls in the bird world. The adults have produced the first chicks to ever hatch at the

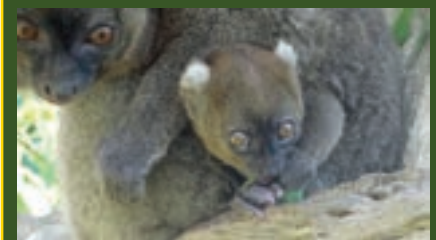


Park. Senior Mammal Keeper and huge Taylor Swift fan, Jenni Maxwell, named the chicks after her favourite singer: “Due to this species having a very impressive powerful call, we have named our chicks after Taylor Swift as we are big fans here at the Park. They’re called Taylor, Alison, Swift and Red, which is the name of her fourth album and also the colour around the Crested Screamer’s eyes and on their legs and feet. These four chicks will have increased the captive UK population by almost 20% so they are very important to the breeding programme.”

Visitors can see the Capybara pups in the enclosure they share with the Tapirs in the African Walkthrough. The Anteaters and Crested Screamers are on show in their exhibit next to the Children’s Farmyard.

STOP-PRESS!

Cotswold Wildlife Park becomes the only collection in the UK this year to breed one of the most critically endangered Lemur species in Madagascar...



To contact the Cotswold Wildlife Park or found out more, email: enquiries@cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk



Kilkenny Country Park Update

Rosie Pearson

Firstly, everybody is pleased that the playground in Kilkenny Lane Country Park has been spruced up.

It's taken a while, but this is partly because of the unusual nature of the play equipment – it was something of a visionary installation when it first went in a few decades ago, with its willow maze, enormous sandpit, boulders, and natural wood play equipment. So fixing it took a bit longer than it would have done had the Council taken a less sensitive approach and replaced everything with plastic.

But what about the park itself? Kilkenny Lane Country Park is one of the most biodiverse green spaces in our district. Many people noted the scarcity of butterflies this summer, but they seemed more abundant in the Country Park than anywhere else. One of my favourite days in the month is the last Wednesday, when I join the group of conservation volunteers, guided by WODC's ecologist, that attends to the needs of the park. What do we do? Well, depending on the time of year, it might be: counting butterflies; clearing ponds; litter-picking; counting newts; sowing

seeds; collecting seeds; counting species of wildflowers. clearing paths...and there is a fair bit of eating chocolate biscuits and setting the world to rights, too. If you are free on a Wednesday morning and would like to be part of this group, email climate.action@westoxon.gov.uk. Also, send in your ideas for further improvements to the park. It would be nice to have some signage telling visitors about the rich diversity of plant and animal life in the park.

Oxfordshire is home to an incredible array of organisations, community groups, and social enterprises all doing amazing work harnessing the power of collective good will. CAGOxfordshire, to which Community Action Groups like Burford BEAGles and One Planet Clanfield belong, recently published their annual report. If you think people are getting more selfish, think again: CAG events attracted 120,000 attendees last year, and clocked in a whopping 200,000 volunteer hours. This is nearly double the outputs of the previous year! Thanks to these efforts, 1,645 tonnes of non-food waste and 678 tonnes of food was diverted from waste. The work of the CAGs shows there is a real appetite for meaningful change in the way we live our lives to restore nature and combat climate change. You can

find out more about CAGs and other environmental groups at a conference in **Burford's Warwick Hall on November 9th.**

eventbrite.co.uk/e/wild-oxfordshires-local-environment-groups-conference-tickets-1028731643037

Business Grants

West Oxfordshire District Council has launched its new Climate Action Fund grant scheme, designed to help small and medium-sized businesses reduce their carbon footprint and become more climate resilient. Grants will range from £10,000 to £20,000 to help businesses to invest in initiatives that will cut their energy use, reduce costs, and deliver lasting environmental benefits, such as making buildings more energy efficient or installing renewable energy systems like solar panels.

<https://yourvoice.westoxon.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/business-carbon-action-support>

If you want to find out more about anything in this article, or something else of concern to you, please email me using the details below

To contact Rosie, email Rosie.pearson@westoxon.gov.uk or head to her social - FB search 'Rosie Pearson Councillor' Twitter: twitter.com/RosiePearson59

THE VILLAGE DIRECTORY

LOCAL INFORMATION

- **Brize Norton Parish Council**
clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk
- **St Britius Church • 846996**
- **Brize Primary School • 842488**
www.brizeprimary.org
School Governors
Alistair Doran • 07788 214 663
adoran@brize-norton.sch.co.uk
BNPS School Association
Emma Baughan
bsna_fundraising@outlook.com
- **Brize Norton Pre-School**
Jackie Hampson • 07769 617 696
brizenortonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk
- **Brize Norton FC • 841096**
Adam Harris • 07415 331645
adam.harris@aplan.co.uk
- **Elder Bank Hall • 622714**
Jayne Woodward
elderbankhall@gmail.com
- **Ballroom, Latin Dancing • 842373**
Joy Douglas
- **Open Gardens**
Dawn Humphris & Brian Trott
dawnhumphris@btinternet.com
brian.trott3@btinternet.com

LOCAL BUSINESSES



USEFUL INFO

- **Post Office at the Sports Pavilion**
Tuesday & Thursday
9.30am – 12.30pm
- **Police (Witney) • Call 101**
10am – 6pm Monday to Friday
(Closed Saturday/Sunday)
- **NHS helpline • Call 111**
(24/7 urgent medical conditions)
- **Council Info**
The Green Party District Councillor for Brize Norton and Shilton Ward - Councillor Rosie Pearson
rosie.pearson@westoxon.gov.uk
Conservative County Councillor for Burford and Carterton North East Division - Councillor Nicholas Field-Johnson (01993) 878309
Member of Parliament for Witney - Charlie Maynard
charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk
- **Planning proposals for Brize Norton and Surrounding area**
www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-proposals



Brize Meadow Lodge

Christmas Events

Christmas Light Switch On & Christmas Party

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER
FROM 4PM

Festive Stay & Play With Santa's Grotto

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER
10.30AM -12PM



Brize Meadow Lodge

01993 323 313

Miles Drive, Brize Norton, OX18 1NZ

brizemeadow.lodge@hc-one.co.uk

Part of the HC-One Family



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