

BRIZE NORTON

Autumn to Winter 2025/26 • Distributed to over 1100 homes & businesses in and around Brize Norton Village

Breeze

Off with a **BANG!**

Our neighbours help
host fireworks display

LARGE SCALE

Housing developments
in Brize Norton! Have your say
in upcoming events...

A *New Chapter*

for Elder Bank Hall

RAF Veteran

becomes a Centenarian

A Record BREAKING

Summer

for Cotswold Wildlife Park

Looking back at a
Retro Summer
of FUN!

OPEN Gardens
2025

- A huge success!

Could you give

Nemo a new home?

Christmas
Craft Market

is back in December

Issue

184



SATURDAY
6TH DECEMBER
12-4PM

BRIZE NORTON

CHRISTMAS CRAFT MARKET

LOTS OF BEAUTIFUL CRAFTS,
CHRISTMAS GIFTS, DELICIOUS
TREATS AND MORE!



AT ELDER BANK HALL, STATION ROAD, BRIZE NORTON

START YOUR CHRISTMAS EARLY!

FREE ENTRY • BAR & MULLED WINE • SUPPORT LOCAL
• FOLLOW OUR EVENT ON FACEBOOK AT [HTTPS://FB.ME/E/4YBXWSAGM](https://fb.me/e/4YBXWSAGM)

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BRIZE NORTON Breeze

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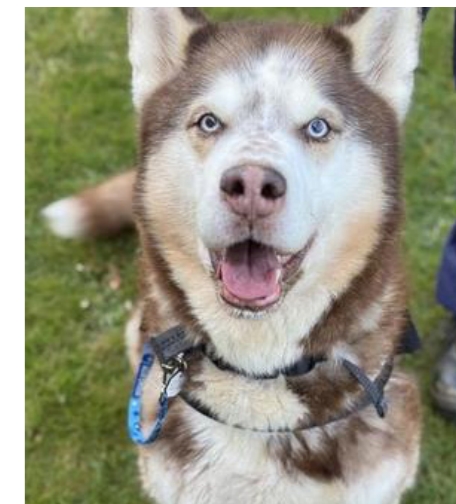


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PRODUCTION TEAM

- Jayne Woodward - Editor & Designer
- Richard Tilley - Deputy Editor
- Mhari Hazell - Designer
- Jane Hornsby - Photography

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

- Contact Jayne:
✉ jayne@chapelhillgroup.co.uk
f @brizenortonbreeze
☎ 07810 255 000





Les Goble

Welcome to this latest edition of the Brize Breeze

Welcome to this winter and Christmas edition of the Brize Breeze. As someone said to me today, just two more pay days to Christmas.

We've had two significant events in our parish since the last edition: the opening of the Elder Bank Hall meeting room and the adoption of the Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan.

The majority of funding for the Elder Bank Hall meeting room came from S106 monies from the Brize Meadow development, with the balance provided by a WODC grant. The room was officially

opened on 16 July by Steve Roberts, director of Bloor Homes.

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to Bloor Homes and WODC for their support. The room is now regularly used by the Parish Council, councillors meeting with various organisations, and members and groups from our community.

We now look forward to the planning stage of the new pavilion, as all funds are in place for its reconstruction.

Thank you to all members of our community who attended the drop-in clinics and voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. This brings numerous benefits, including a greater share of CIL funds from new properties, which will support future community projects.

“ We've had two significant events in our parish since the last edition - exciting times for our growing community! ”

The Neighbourhood Plan also gives the Parish Council a stronger voice in planning matters and helps protect local green spaces.

Plans for two large strategic housing developments in the north and east of the parish are still progressing, along with a proposal for employment land to the north east. The Local Plan Working Group, made up of councillors from Brize Norton and Carterton, is liaising closely and without prejudice with the proposers of these sites.

This is to ensure that if any proposals are approved by WODC, in part or in full, they will mitigate the impact on our

village and deliver real benefits for our communities. Both parties are preparing a community consultation soon, where you can raise questions or concerns.

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot object to strategic developments, as these are designated by WODC and guided by government housing targets. We await news on how many homes will be allocated in Brize Norton, but be prepared for a large number.

It is disappointing that once again I must raise the issue of dog owners not clearing up after their pets. My partner and I recently walked around the northern section of the country park and were appalled by the amount of dog faeces, not just in the undergrowth but on the mown footpaths.

We also have someone allowing their dog to defecate on the grass

area on Station Road, directly in front of the waste bin.

Sadly, I must repeat what I wrote in last year's Brize Breeze. The Parish Council has worked tirelessly with Bloor Homes over the past seven years to create a family-friendly environment for our community and visitors to enjoy.

We did not spend this time creating a dog toilet. Failing to clear up after your dog is a disgusting, anti-social habit that not only looks awful but poses a serious health risk, especially to children.

On behalf of the Parish Council and all responsible dog owners, I ask the small number of people who do not clear up after their dog to act responsibly. Please respect our community, our children and our environment, and change your habit.

On a lighter note, it was lovely to see so many residents enjoying a season of cricket throughout the summer. The Council is now working with various teams to deliver a full programme of football matches to make the most of the recreation ground over winter and spring.

We look forward to bonfire night at the recreation ground on Thursday 6 November and to the Christmas market in December, organised by the Humble Bumble Café.

I hope to see many of you around the village or in the café. May I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year, and hopefully a few relaxing days away from work and emails.

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

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What **supporting infrastructure**
do our communities need?

How do we protect our **natural landscapes?**

How can we create more **local job opportunities?**



Scan me:



West Oxfordshire District Council

Drop-in event for Brize Norton is:

TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2025

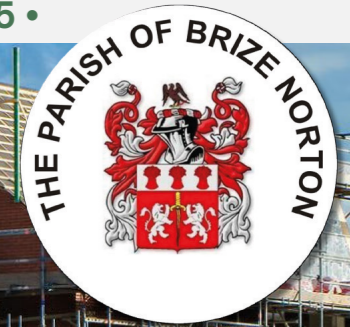
BETWEEN 4.00PM - 7.00PM

Elder Bank Hall, Station Road, Brize Norton, OX18 3PU



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

• Community Meeting 4th December 2025 •



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF BRIZE NORTON



There will be **LARGE SCALE GROWTH...**

...in the Parish of Brize Norton and the surrounding area so your feedback is essential.

Residents can provide their own feedback to WODC using the link <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/localplan2043>. However, your Parish Council also has the opportunity to feedback our collective views on this growth.

To enable us to do this, the Parish Council will be holding a community meeting where the topics to be discussed will include future housing needs, development areas in Brize Norton, avoiding coalescence between areas, landscaping and infrastructure.

LET'S PLAN A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER!



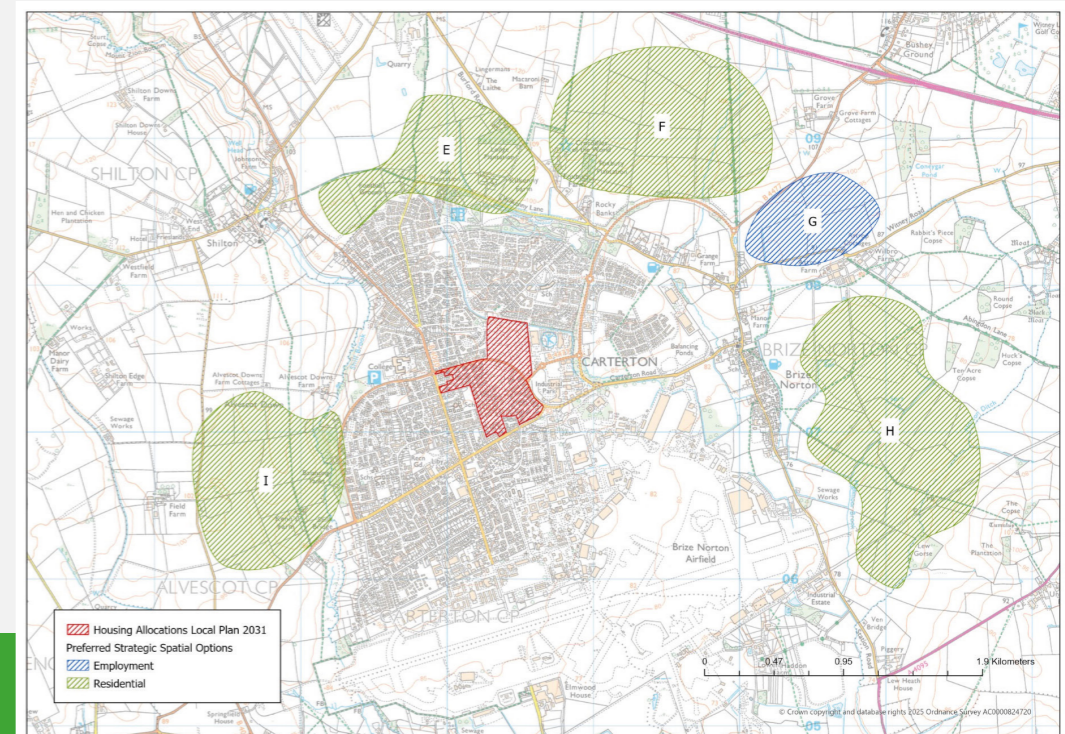
**THURSDAY 4TH
DECEMBER**



7.00PM



**ELDER BANK HALL,
STATION ROAD, BRIZE NORTON
OX18 3PU**





Around
Our Village



A night that
sparkled!

The Village spectacular fireworks & bonfire

Thursday 6th November was the village bonfire event and several 100 spectators came to the Recreation Ground to join in the free community event put on by the village charities committee. We are indebted to the Pearson family for 'hosting' the bonfire and fireworks that were safely viewed from the Recreation Ground. The bonfire topped by the 'Guy' burnt well and the clear skies meant a good viewing of the fireworks. The event benefitted the fundraising

of the church who sold out of hotdogs and soup and the BNSA selling glow sticks, and the Humble Bumble café did a brisk trade of hot drinks and traybakes. The profits of the bar manned by BNSA committee members and friends contributed towards the expenses of the evening. Thanks also to the Parish Council for their sponsorship of the event and the use of the Recreation Ground

facilities; to Greene King for allowing us to use The Chequers carpark and to volunteers who helped out marshalling, as first aiders and in setting up and tidying away. The event was an enjoyable evening and one we would like to repeat again. Thanks to all who came along and supported the event and also for the kind donations we received.



Sunshine, scarecrows & seaside spirit at Brize Norton's Bash

Despite gusty winds forecast for Sunday morning, organisers of Brize Norton's summer celebration were undeterred, securing gazebos and relocating the bouncy castle indoors.

Their efforts paid off, as the afternoon brought sunshine and just a brief two-minute shower, while darker clouds passed the village by.

Visitors were welcomed by a cheerful display of "Scarecrows by the Sea" and a beach-themed soundtrack from Saxophony, followed by a lively performance from the school choir, featuring songs from their club sessions and the upper school's summer

production of Pirates of the Curry Bean.

Bampton Morris added a traditional flourish with their energetic dancing, while Tony Payne's puppet troupe, including Charlie the Chimp and Grandad Nigel, entertained families with a show and walkabout appearances.

Children took part in a beach-themed obstacle course, complete with hobby donkeys, ice cream cone egg-and-spoon races and beach ball dribbling.

Musician Connor Brimblecombe performed a set of popular covers, and a display of VW camper vans, spanning 75 years of production, drew plenty of

admirers, thanks to Janey, Neilson, Jack, Richard, Lucy and Derrick.

“ What began with gusty winds ended in sunshine and song – a perfect snapshot of Brize Norton's community spirit. ”

The school hall hosted a special exhibition of photos and memorabilia marking the school's 150th anniversary, while the school association raised over £3,200 through event activities and the Friday night BBQ bar.

Organisers expressed gratitude to sponsors A K Timms, Chancellors and Smith & Sons (Bletchington), as well as the Witney Lions, Carterton Royal British Legion, Wychwood District Vintage Club, Thames Valley Police, Brize Norton PC and RAF Brize Norton for their support.

The organising committee of Ady State, Carol Fothergill, Jo Glenister, Kate Grant, Emma Baughan, Tim Gush, Dawn Humphris, Krystina Reape, Tony Shillingford and Carolyn Peach hailed the event a success and encouraged new volunteers to help shape next year's celebration, provisionally set for Sunday 5 July 2026.

Theme suggestions are welcome by January, ahead of the village quiz fundraiser on Friday 6 February 2026 at The Elder Bank Hall.

For updates and photos from the event, visit the Brize Norton Community page or check village noticeboards.



Brize Norton Open Gardens 2025



Another blooming success for Brize Norton's annual Open Gardens

As you sit down to read this, the open gardens may be a distant memory.

But we had a very successful and enjoyable year.

Nine gardens opened along with a flower festival in the church as part of the National Garden Scheme which Brize Norton has

been part of for over 20 years.

The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,500 exceptional private gardens in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors, the National Garden Scheme has donated over £74 million to some of the UK's best-loved nursing, health and gardening charities since 1927.

These charities include Macmillan,

Marie Curie, the Queen's Institute of Community Nurses, Parkinson's UK and many more.

Along with our support of the NGS charities, we also support local community clubs like the Brownies, the pre-school, Over 60's, the horticultural show, the primary school and the church.

All of these have benefited over our years of opening our gardens.

This summer the nine gardens that opened were Barnstaple House, 17 Chichester Place, Clumber, 2 Elm Grove, 91 Station Road, Orchardene, Painswick House, Rose Cottage and Stone Cottage.

We had a glorious sunny day.

The visitors started arriving at 1.00 and didn't stop for the whole of the afternoon.

We ended up with one of our most visited events to date.

Because we are part of the NGS and listed in their Yellow Book, we had visitors local to Brize but also from further afield.

They all enjoyed some spectacular gardens and wonderful tea and cakes provided by the church in Elder Bank Hall.

We also, as a group of gardens, have a walk around on the Saturday before we open.

This gives us a chance to see each other's gardens and a chance to catch up with everyone.

We pick up new ideas from each other and see what we are all doing in our own gardens.

We had a really good time again this year on the Saturday prior to opening on the Sunday.

Some say it's a good enough reason to open their garden.

The church have always supported our garden openings with a flower festival in the church and this year was no exception.

Wonderful displays were created and gave our visitors a beautiful display to see.

So the summer is over and we are now thinking about our gardens for 2026. You'll see in the next couple of pages, how Lisa and Christine have reported on our gardens and at the moment we have 10 gardens opening for next year.

“ It was one of our most visited events to date – a glorious day filled with sunshine, smiles and cake! ”



We would love to have some more join us.

Give Dawn a call on 07723 718199 and have a chat about joining Brize Norton Open Gardens. Or email us on brizenortonopengardens@gmail.com.

You can follow us on Instagram @brizenorton_opengardens.



BRIZE NORTON OPEN GARDENS

Why not open your garden in 2026?

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.

Why not open your garden in 2026?

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 as soon as you can, you'll maybe even 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





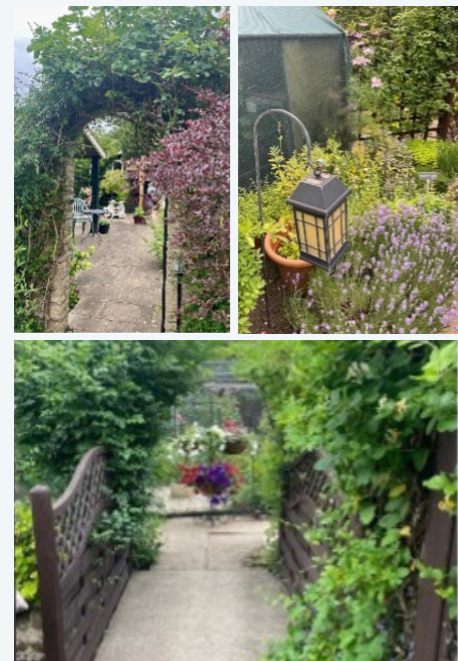
Brize Norton Open Gardens

Lisa & her Mam review the Brize Norton gardens open for charity in NGS Open Gardens 2025

Lisa Hudson

1. Orchardene, 95 Station Road – Phil & Marg Timms

This garden had a lovely colourful entrance in the front garden leading to a shady seating area planted with sweet peas, clematis and black eyed Susan. The bar with its seating area is perfect for the hot sunny days. There were lots of little nooks with thought out planting and seating to enjoy the surroundings. Lots of netted planting areas full of plenty of fruit and vegetables, sweet peas in every colour. A really beautiful garden.



2. Rose Cottage, 100 Station Road – Brian & Brenda Trott

This garden is planted well with beautiful trees, shrubs. The seating here is cosy and could be used all year round, a little visitor thought so too as had made a nest and was sitting cosily watching all the visitor pass through admiring the garden. There is interest all through the garden at different heights and the mirrors added an interesting focal point.



3. Millstone, 91 Station Road – Bev & Phil Tyrell

This garden had been well thought out, with yellow jasmine up the wall, the lower wall had pretty cushions to sit on adding another place to sit taking in the garden. The sound of water in the planted fairy garden was relaxing and the framed planters were so eye catching.



4. 17 Chichester Place – Dave & Tammy Howard

The garden is well presented with separate areas for entertaining, for cooking up BBQ feasts and a covered colourful and cosy seating area, the grandchildren also had a cart to play in which was extremely sweet and looked after very well, a cheeky little garden gnome sat just above the cart door.



5. Stone Cottage – Keith & Dawn Humphris

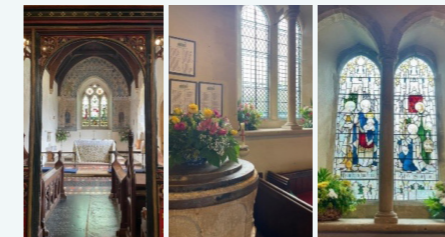
This delightful garden has lots of seating in just the right places to enjoy its surroundings. Esplanade fruit trees separate the garden making great use of the space and looks pretty, this takes some skill to do so well. The blues, purples and whites together are calming, and The arch of pink and white roses is a pretty sight to see and makes a relaxing space. What a wonderful view to have from the stable door down the length of the garden.



6. St Britius Church

This church is peaceful and calming giving a space to think and reflect.

The flower displays are colourful and must have taken a lot of time to create, they looked so delicate, traditional and cheery. We enjoyed the beautiful easter, harvest festival and last supper tapestry along with the VE 80-year display of Poppies.



7. Painswick House – Tim & Judy Gush

This large garden had subtle shades of pink, white and blues. The grand pergola which had tiny pink rose buds growing up it. The garden is planted with a variety of shrubs. There is a relaxing space on the patio overlooking the field beyond, with table and chairs and flowerpots full of orange and yellow flowers.



8. Barnstaple House – Phil & Jean Butcher

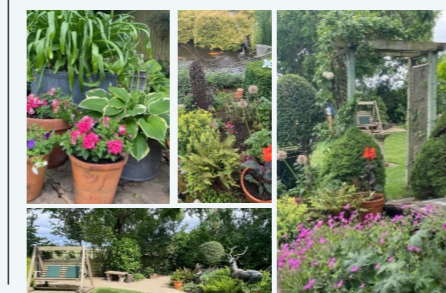
A very impressive colourful entrance with the classic car on the driveway along with the very well-dressed rabbit sat in the driver's seat. The colourful king and queen thrones displaying hand made cushions with scenes of this very garden. The Mediterranean courtyard would make you feel warm on the

coldest days with a Muriel on the wall, shutters, yellow and orange shades of flowers planted in terracotta pots, earns, the tallest earn being a cleverly disguised water butt! There was a secret garden room which homed a magnificent Alice in wonderland-mad hatters tea party, what a treat this was. All hand made which showed incredible thought, lots of time and effort had gone into this, there was so much detail in each piece of work. There were lots of treats around the garden which kept us there looking that little bit longer and the smell of the Grandiflora Magnolia was sweet and lemony.



9. Clumber – Steve & Karon Hawkins

This garden is so green and inviting! Plenty of hostas and ferns planted in the shade under a large tree, With a walk over the bridge gives you a view of a Koi Pond, with all the planting surrounding it, it feels natural, and it really softens the lines between the pond and lawn. The stag stood proudly at the end of the garden is a sight and a real feature.

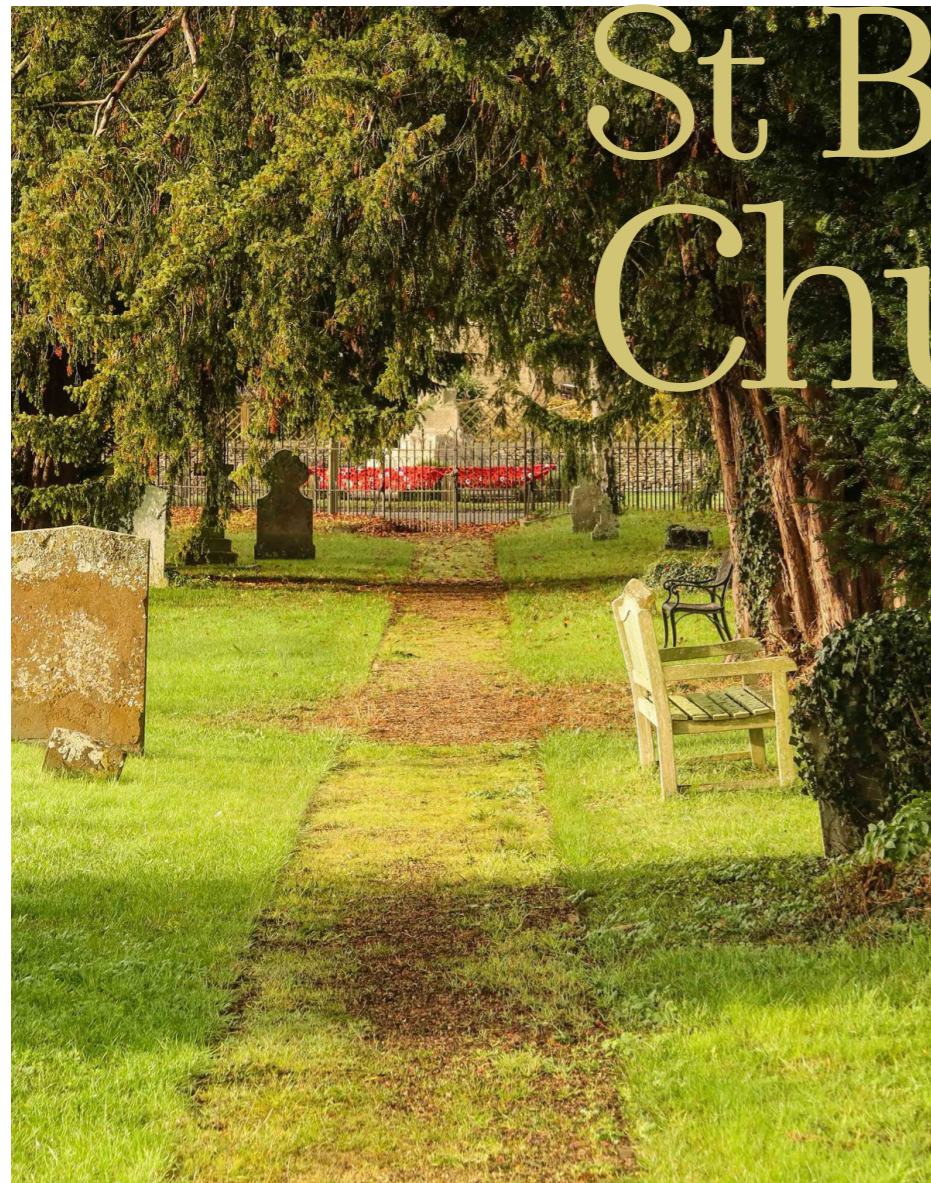


10. 2 Elm Grove – Rod & Sonja Coles

The garden out the front is so well kept despite losing its beautiful pineapple tree due to the British weather/seasons changing so dramatically. Walking through to the back garden, it's clear to see this garden doesn't only look incredible pretty, it's been very well thought out to encourage wildlife into the garden, to encourage wildlife to thrive. There are lots of pollinating plants. A beautiful pale pink rose grew over an arch way which isn't only a treat for our senses, but it was covered in bees doing their thing.

Rod shared is ingenious way to fill up the watering, a restored old toilet cistern which was plumbed up to the outside water supply, timed to perfection to fill and flush out enough water to fill up a watering can, we loved this, well done to Rod!





St Britius Church

produce to support the local Besom project.

Thank you to everyone in the community for your continued support. It truly makes a difference.

We are supporting the annual T4U shoebox collection.

This annual appeal has been running for over 30 years but the current need is still extraordinary.

The power of the shoebox has never faded. The dreams of children whose greatest wish is to receive a Christmas gift will be granted by the generosity of a stranger.

That stranger 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.

Shoebox gifts are once again being sent to vulnerable children or families through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.

T4U worked with in-country partners like the Red Cross to help find children and families who are most in need.

Donations of complete shoeboxes or items that could be made up into boxes are welcome.

There is a collection point at St Britius Church and Brize Norton Primary School.

The PCCs are working together as we advertise the post of vicar to join our clergy team of the rector Reverend Barry Hanson, licensed lay minister Lyndsay Baker and Wend Smith our children and family minister.

Since June we have welcomed families and friends of Tillie, Lily, Florence, Arabella, Leonard and Albert at their baptisms.

We are pleased to be the venue for two weddings in 2026.

Please contact us to discuss a special service for you and your family.

We really enjoyed our Harvest Festival on Sunday 5th October, when we made a collection of

Since our last report we have provided teas for the NGS visitors in June.

We had a stall and took an active part in the organisation of the village bash in July.

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising initiatives.

We welcomed walkers, cyclists and two tractor drivers to the Oxfordshire Ride and Stride initiative earlier in September.

On Sunday 31st August we held the Benefice Holy Communion service, inviting the congregations of the three churches – St Britius, St John's Carterton and St Mary's Black Bourton.

For more information on how to take part in 2026, go to <https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/> or contact Carolyn on 01993 844102.

Give love in a box at Christmas.



Sunday 2nd November was the service to celebrate All Saints, and was also our Patronal Festival when we specifically remembered St Britius.



The Remembrance Sunday service was on Sunday 9th November, followed by the laying of wreaths and a silence at the War Memorial.

The collection taken at the service will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

During Advent we invite you to join us in the following initiatives and services.

The Posada (Spanish for 'inn') is where small figures of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night before being returned to the church on Christmas Eve.

It is a great way to make room for Jesus at Christmas time.

Monday 8th December, meeting at the Elder Bank Hall car park at 6pm to 7.30pm, we will sing carols in the village.

Contact Carolyn for timings and the route (01993 844102).

'Longest Night' service is on Wednesday 17th December at 7pm.

This is a special service of reflection to honour feelings of sadness, grief and loss in a time we view as celebration.

Candlelit Carol Service is on Sunday 21st December at 6pm.

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 for children who would like to take part in our Nativity

tableau.

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December, service is at 8pm.

Please note there will be no Christmas Day service at St Britius.

Everyone is welcome to celebrate at a family communion service at St John the Evangelist Carterton at 10am.

Looking ahead to the new year we celebrate Candlemas with our Christingle service on Sunday 1st February 2026.

We also plan to hold our Pancake Supper on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Look out for details on noticeboards and social media.

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

- **Rector:**
Rev Barry Hanson
rector@bncbb.org.uk
07949 654988
- **Churchwarden:**
Dr Phil Holmes
p.holmes@brizenorton.org
01993 843856
- **Churchwarden:**
Rosalind Sewell (contact for baptisms)
rossie.sewell@googlemail.com
01993 843418

We wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

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

The Humble Bumble

Krystina Reape

There's a rhythm to village life that's hard to describe but easy to feel. It hums in the laughter of old friends reunited, in the quiet kindness of strangers sharing a table, and in the way Brize Norton always seems to wrap its arms around you when you need it most.

At Humble Bumble Café, we've been lucky enough to witness that rhythm in full swing this season. It's been beautiful.

This summer, our Hive has been buzzing with life. We've welcomed cycling groups, biker crews and our ever faithful walking football team, each bringing their own energy and stories through our doors.

We hosted a joyful Summer Book Club, where stories sparked conversation and new friendships bloomed over coffee and cake. We also celebrated birthdays across the generations, from 1st to 90th, including one particularly fabulous 40th that filled the café with laughter, singing and a whole lot of cake.

We've welcomed many new families and fresh faces. Time and time again, they tell us the same thing: "We've just moved to the area, and someone told us we had to come here."

Whether it's young families settling into their first home,

retired folks looking for a warm cuppa and conversation, or service personnel newly posted to RAF Brize Norton, it's heartwarming to know Humble Bumble is being recommended as a place to meet, greet and feel part of something.

We are warm. We are friendly. And we welcome everyone who walks through our doors – no exceptions, no expectations, just open arms and open hearts.

We were honoured once again to support RAFA Rides this year, donating over 300 of our homemade sausage rolls to fuel their incredible efforts. **They raised a staggering £19,231.73.**



It's a reminder that even a humble sausage roll can go the distance when backed by a generous community and a very busy oven. We're proud to have played a small, flour-dusted part in something so meaningful.

We've also said goodbye to two of our beloved Busy Bees, Eira and Aby. Though it's always a little sad when a Bee leaves the Hive, they've left behind laughter, kindness and a whole lot of memories.

We've now welcomed Amy, Izzie and Corey. Three bright sparks already buzzing with warmth, good humour and increasingly excellent baking and barista skills.

If you spot them behind the counter or darting between tables, please give them a big Brize Hive hello.



Our Craft Club continues to be one of the beating hearts of our café, with equal parts talent, coffee and chat. At this year's Brize Norton Horticultural Show, Christine's Footballer Boy won 2nd prize, Audrey's Allotment Patchwork took 1st and George's Embroidered Allotment earned 3rd.

We couldn't be prouder. While their winning pieces aren't for sale, our café gift shop is full of beautiful handmade items created by Craft Club members and other local artists and makers.

From stitched gifts to hand drawn cards, it's a celebration of Brize Norton's creative soul. If you're looking for a gift with local heart, or some local honey, pop in and take a look.

And if you've ever thought "I wish I could make something like that," **come join the Craft Club on Thursdays from 10am to 12pm.** All abilities welcome – just bring whatever project you're working on and enjoy the company of other local crafters.

If crafting's not your thing but chatting is, we've got you covered.

Chatty Café runs every Tuesday from 10am to 12pm, hosted by the delightful Fiona on her yellow table.

There's no charge, no pressure and absolutely no judgement. It's a space to sip, smile and share stories, because sometimes a good natter is the best medicine.

And if you're really lucky, you might even leave with a new friend or a few sweet treats. We've been known to use the Chatty Café crew as taste testers for new bakes.

As the days grow shorter and the heating bills grow taller, we're reminded how vital community truly is. Autumn and winter can be beautiful, but they can also be terribly isolating.

So let's keep showing up for one another. Let's battle loneliness together with conversation, creativity and kindness.

Whether it's a chat over coffee, a shared laugh at a quiz night or simply sitting beside someone who needs company, every moment of connection helps keep the cold at bay. And if all else fails, we have blankets. And cake. Lots of cake.

Looking ahead, the Hive is buzzing with some exciting festive plans:

- **Humble Bumble Christmas Quiz Night – Friday 5 December**
- **Humble Bumble Christmas Craft Market – Saturday 6 December**

Both events will span Humble Bumble Café and The Elderbank Hall, giving us room to gather, celebrate and make merry. Expect twinkling lights, handmade gifts, mulled drinks and the kind of laughter that warms you from the inside out.

And yes, there will be mince pies. Probably too many. Definitely not enough.

For more details, see the posters in this issue of Brize Breeze. And if you haven't already, come find us on Instagram and Facebook [@humblebumblecafe](https://www.instagram.com/humblebumblecafe) to join our growing community of Humble Bumpers.

We wouldn't be able to do what we do without your support. Every visit, every recommendation, every kind word keeps the Hive alive.

Thank you for choosing us, for cheering us on and for making Humble Bumble a place where community isn't just a word, it's a way of life.

So whether you're a regular, a newcomer or just passing by, know this: you are welcome. You are valued. And you are part of something beautiful.

With love, laughter and a whole lot of gratitude,

Krystina & the Busy Bees





Brize Norton Primary School

Robyn Jones - Headteacher

As we begin our new year here at Brize, the team and I are full of optimism for what the year has in store..

As a school, we are committed to ensuring our children and community strive, help, inspire, nurture and excel, and this year is no exception.

Our motto is woven throughout the fabric of our school, through the curriculum, our interactions with one another, and it is at the forefront of all strategic decisions that the governing body make.

This year we have two main priorities as a school.

Firstly, our commitment to delivering academic excellence is at the forefront of our school offer to ensure our children continue to excel from their starting points.

The team and I have reflected on our approach to teaching and learning, and we are striving to further develop this based on research on cognitive load theory.

We have reviewed our learning environments and, over the course of the year, we will be applying the research-based theories to our practice – in how

we deliver learning, when we deliver and revisit learning, as well as feedback approaches to best support individuals to take ownership of their own learning.

This is an exciting journey we are embarking on which will see the children flourish further in their learning journeys.

Secondly, with our commitment to ensuring we nurture the personal growth of all our children, we are in the final stages of implementing our restorative and relational practice here at school.

This approach is based on building strong relationships as well as supporting children to become tolerant, empathetic and kind individuals.

It is an approach that supports children with their emotional literacy, being able to articulate their feelings, and understand the impact of their choices.

Over the last two years, the pupils' voice tells us that they feel listened to, they understand one another better and that the school feels like a family.

Our end goal is for children to leave us here at Brize Norton Primary School equipped

with the tools for secondary

school – to be considerate and compassionate individuals who can manage a variety of social situations with emotional maturity.

Finally, we are committed to ensuring that children have enriching and inspiring experiences whilst with us.

This summer, our upper school children have the opportunity to climb Mount Snowdon. This will certainly challenge the children not only physically but mentally, ultimately giving them a huge sense of achievement at the end.

In January, the children also have the opportunity to join a choir of 8,000 children from primary schools across the UK in Birmingham to sing with the Young Voices choir.

Again, another opportunity for our young people to shine and have a memorable experience of their time here with us at Brize.

From all the team here at Brize Norton Primary School.

Best wishes,

Mrs R. Jones

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



The new academic year has got off to a great start. This year we welcomed 15 new children and their families to our preschool community.

Everyone has settled really well and is enjoying all that preschool offers.

Once again we are at capacity for the next year and we only have a couple of places available, at the time of writing this article, from September 2026.

We've been harvesting all our fruit and vegetables on the allotment and making all sorts of yummy things for snack.

With Halloween not too far off our pumpkins are doing really well and the children are excited to pick and decorate them over the next term.

Our allotment and outdoor learning area is a favourite with both our children and staff.

We continue to look for ways to improve and enhance this area

to further extend the learning experiences of our children.

Our ducklings that hatched last year are fully grown and enjoying life in Brize Norton.

We like to visit them and our chicks regularly to collect eggs for our baking.

Before the summer break we were lucky enough to receive a donation from Annington Homes.

We used the money to purchase a new water tray for the children which has proved a huge success.

Once again, a huge thank you to Annington Homes for their kindness and generosity.

We will be planning open afternoons for the new year, but in the meantime, if you'd like to join us, please give us a call or email us.

Waiting list applications are available from preschool or on the registration page of our website where you'll also find lots of information and photos.

And finally.

Great staff can be hard to find, so we're always interested to hear from anyone who is enthusiastic, dedicated, hardworking and qualified at level 2 or level 3 in early years to join our existing team.

We are proud to be able to invest in our staff rather than huge overheads, making all the difference to the learning and development of the children in our preschool.

Have a read through our job/person specification on the vacancies page of our website and if you think that's you, why not give us a call on [07769 617696](tel:07769617696).

You'd be welcome to come along and have a look around and meet our team before submitting your application.

To contact Brize Norton Pre-School about places, open days or registration,
Text/WhatsApp: 07769 617696
brizenortonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.brizenortonpreschool.co.uk



A BIG THANK YOU!

The BNSA and Village Association are delighted and very grateful that a grant has been made available to us once again from the Bampton Community Shop.

Over recent years we have been very privileged to get some form of grant which has been towards much-needed projects – mainly for the school.

The Bampton charity shop now have more than 80 volunteers who work in the shop as well as an out-of-hours team who ensure that everything is tidy and that all donations are sorted as soon as possible. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Nick Thorpe or Jenny Chaundy at jenny.chaundy@btinternet.com or on 01993 850918.

With these latest grants they have awarded over £360,000 to local clubs, charities and societies since November 2016.

Thank you to Nick and his team for all their hard work, it is very much appreciated.

Celebrating a Centenarian!

RAF veteran Denis Bishop has celebrated his 100th birthday surrounded by family, friends and members of the local community at the Corn Exchange in Witney.

Denis, who served as a ground radio operator during the Second World War, was joined by personnel from RAF Brize Norton.

They delivered a birthday card from the Station Commander and Commander Air Wing, along with a specially baked cake from RAF Chef Corporal Bowers.

A well-known and respected



figure in West Oxfordshire, Denis was also joined by the Mayor of Witney, Andrew Bailey.

The Mayor described Denis as central to the community, often seen at the Corn Exchange playing the piano and chatting with visitors.

He said Denis had played a key role in recent VE and VJ Day commemorations, and that his reflections on wartime and post-war life revealed a remarkable depth of knowledge and passion for the RAF.

Denis's wartime service took him to France, Belgium, Germany and Africa.

His contributions and continued presence in the community were warmly celebrated throughout the afternoon.

The event marked a significant milestone for a man whose legacy continues to inspire across generations.



RAF Brize Norton donates recycling for London Fashion Week

A local eco fashion design team have been working with RAF Brize Norton's Conservation Club to reuse hard to recycle waste and plastics from the Station, to be turned into

garments for London Fashion Week.

VIN + OMI specialise in design from waste materials and having local offices to RAF Brize Norton in the Cotswolds, a collaboration was formed to utilise the recyclable materials generated by the Station.

Lorna Nunn, Station Environmental Protection Officer said:

"RAF Brize Norton have collaborated with award winning Eco designers VIN + OMI by contributing a non-serviceable parachute and 3 bags of plastic bottles to be turned into garments for London Fashion Week. VIN

OMI are recognised for their designs made from waste materials, their focus on eco innovation, social impact and much more. We are excited to see the finished creation and look forward to working with them in the future."

Lorna Nunn
Station Environmental
Protection Office

Widows Money Fund

The Trustees of the Widows Money Fuel Allotment (charity number 204046) was formed in 1970 as 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 Poores 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 but now qualify and would like to be a beneficiary, please contact the Trust Secretary **before Monday 1st December 2025** to be included on this year's distribution list.



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

David's Poetry Corner

Defying Gravity

How does the furry bumble bee
stay flying in the air
With its body that's big and fat
it weighs too much up there

It flaps its wings so hard and fast
it surely gets puffed out
And yet it stays aloft up there
when it does fly about

It's big and round and fat as well
but doesn't mind at all
It simply flaps its wings and goes
yet they're so very small

It somehow stays up in the sky
as it just flies about
I don't know how, I don't know why
it should crash to the ground



In this issue, David shares a delightful poem about a flying bumblebee.

You may remember some of his earlier pieces from past editions, and we're excited to say he's now working on his very own poetry book. Once it's ready, you'll be able to find it for sale in the Humble Bumble Café

*Thank you
David!*

David has lived in the village for a number of years and enjoys walking around the circular walk every day. He takes part in the Chatty Café and loves going into the Humble Bumble where he shows his most recent poetry.



MyVision Oxfordshire

Time really does fly when you're having fun. And the visually impaired community in Carterton and Witney has certainly been having fun with MyVision Oxfordshire this past year.

In addition to hosting a social group in Carterton once every month as well as a walking group in Witney every fortnight, we have expanded our services to Chipping Norton, Kidlington and more.

Over the past year we have organised days out, touch tours, visually impaired sporting events and coffee mornings, all in an effort to bring together people living with sight loss in the local community.

Living with sight loss can be one of the most isolating feelings in the world.

And when one lives such an insular existence, getting out is even harder.

We at MyVision Oxfordshire understand this and do our best to provide services that bridge the gap between loneliness and an independent, fulfilling lifestyle for all those who live with visual impairment of any degree.

All our services can be explored at <https://www.myvision.org.uk/> and we welcome anyone to give us a ring at 01865 725595 to enquire further.

Whether you require technology training, home visits or befriending services or would just like to chat about the kinds of tools and services available to you, our friendly team is always happy to clarify what is out there.

If you are looking for more localised support, please reach out to Sammy Musani, our community engagement officer for West Oxfordshire and Cherwell, to find out what is happening in your village or town.

Sammy can be reached via email at sammy.musani@myvision.org.uk or via telephone at 07501 687587.

Here is a glimpse of just a few of the activities Sammy is organising for the upcoming autumn and winter seasons:

- Accessible kitchen demonstration/expo
- Archaeology workshop at the Museum of Natural History
- The annual Chipping Norton pantomime
- Trip to Warner Brothers Studios for the magical Harry Potter touch tour
- Chocolate tasting tour in Chipping Norton
- Touch tour and Christmas market at Blenheim Palace
- MyVision Carterton and Witney Christmas meal
- #MyVision New Year meal in Oxford

All these events have been made accessible for people with impaired vision and we highly encourage you to give Sammy a ring or drop her an email to ask for more details.

An introduction to RAF Brize Norton

At the end of August, Witney MP Charlie Maynard joined Group Captain Louise Henton, Station Commander of RAF Brize Norton, on a formal visit to the station in his role as the local Member of Parliament for the base.

Charlie's visit to the RAF station on the edge of Carterton provided an opportunity for constructive meetings with Group Captain Louise Henton, Commander Air Wing Group Captain Andy McIntyre, and Air Mobility Force Commander Air Commodore Dan James.

The discussions covered current and future issues both on the station and in defence, recent events at the base, and how it can be supported over the coming years through various upcoming projects.

Charlie also explored the potential revival of the rail link between Carterton, Witney and Oxford, highlighting how a strong, reliable, and modern transport connection could be a vital asset to the base and strategically important for the station's operational effectiveness.

In addition to being hosted for lunch in the Officers' Mess with Station Executive Officers, Charlie met key personnel from 24, 30, LXX (70), and 99 Squadrons, including tours of the C-17 Globemaster and A400M Atlas aircraft.



He also met personnel from the Air Movements Wing and was given a tour and walkthrough of the Passenger Air Terminal, often regarded as the global gateway to Defence operations.

Speaking after the visit, Charlie said: "I was delighted to visit RAF Brize Norton to learn more about the station's operational output and the significant work carried out around the clock in support of global operations.

"I look forward to continuing to support all personnel at RAF Brize Norton in my capacity as their local Member of Parliament, and I am honoured to represent the station and its people in Parliament.

“ I am very grateful to the Station Commander for hosting me, and I thank everyone across the station for their continued hard work in all areas. ”



Village Living

A stronger community

Giants Live athletes join forces with personnel for strength showcase in Carterton

Athletes from Giants Live, the official qualifying tour for World's Strongest Man, teamed up with the UK Armed Forces Strongman and Strongwoman Association for a day of strength and community engagement in Carterton.

The event brought elite competitors face-to-face with military personnel, offering demonstrations and hands-on training in physical performance and technique.

The day began with a visit to Carterton Community College,



where students met some of the world's strongest athletes and learned about the discipline and dedication behind the sport.

Giants Live, known for its arena shows across the UK, features competitors who lift logs, pull trucks and carry cars in front of thousands of spectators. Their appearance in Carterton

offered a rare chance for young people to engage with the sport up close.

Later, the athletes joined Forces personnel at the RAF Brize Norton Gym for a skills session focused on lifting technique, strength conditioning and mental resilience.

Participants were invited to try their hand at weightlifting challenges under the guidance of professional strongmen and women, many of whom have competed in events like Europe's Strongest Man and the World Tour Finals.

The collaboration highlighted the shared values of strength, endurance and teamwork between elite sport and military service.

With Giants Live continuing its UK tour into 2026, including stops in Birmingham, Sheffield and London's Royal Albert Hall, the Carterton event offered a powerful reminder of how sport can inspire and connect communities.



Sport around our Village

Wendy Way

After nine games played on the recreation ground, the final cricket match of the 2025 season for Minster Lovell 3rd team took place on 30th August.

The football season has now well under way, with the first match held on Saturday 20th September, with a new men's team, Seige FC, having established Brize as their home base.

They are participating in Division 1 of the Witney & District League, and opened with a 1-1 draw against Uffington United.

On Sunday morning, 21st September, the Aston youth teams returned. The club's youth teams will be using Brize for a second full season.



Minster Lovell Cricket Club

Cherwell CRICKET LEAGUE

Sign up now for the new season!

Why Join Minster Lovell Cricket Club?

- All Stars Cricket (Ages 5-8) – A fun introduction to cricket for young boys and girls.
- Dynamos Cricket (Ages 8-11) – Exciting, game-based sessions for young cricketers.
- Youth Cricket, both friendly and competitive options for boys and girls (u11s, u13s, u15s, u17s, u19s).
- Lions – Inclusive Disability Cricket – Our welcoming, supportive team (all ages welcome!).
- Senior Teams – Competitive and social cricket for all abilities.
- Three senior teams and a Sunday friendly team

Be part of a welcoming community with a strong social scene.

Senior Cricket contact – Olly Mersh
info@minsterlovellicricket.co.uk
Youth Cricket contact – Chris Jones
youth@minsterlovellicricket.co.uk

Playing at Minster Lovell and Brize Norton

WALKING NETBALL

CARTERTON LEISURE CENTRE

BOOK NOW

Walking netball is a low impact version of netball perfect for those returning to the sport after a long break, coming back to activity after injury or those wanting something slower paced.

Sessions are led by our fantastic host Gill who will get you warmed up, into a few practice drills and playing the sport. Open to anyone regardless of age, ability or fitness level who want to enjoy a fun and social sport.

When: Thursday, 12pm - 1pm
Cost: £4

Scan the QR code to book.

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EN ENGLAND NETBALL

BETTER

Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Government Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 277938. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no. 1061398

NEW Chapter for the Elder Bank Hall

The Elder Bank Hall extension was officially opened over the summer.

The new facility features a meeting room available for Brize Norton Parish Council meetings and general hire through the Elder Bank Hall Committee.

In addition, the upper floor now accommodates a dedicated office space for the Parish Clerk, addressing the growing needs of the community.

Among the invitees were representatives from Bloor Homes and WODC, both of whom financed the extension through Section 106 contributions and grant funding, as well as Councillors Rosie Pearson (WODC) and Toyah Overton (OCC).

Also present were Pip Squire, a former councillor who played a pivotal role in the initial planning stage, current councillors and members of the Elder Bank Hall Committee.

“Andrew and I are delighted to be invited here today to be a part of the formal opening of this fantastic new extension to the Elder Bank Hall.”



Steve Roberts, divisional chairman of Bloor Homes, and chairman Les Goble delivered brief remarks before jointly cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the building. They were joined at the event by Andrew Winstone, planning manager for Bloor Homes' Western region.

Mr Roberts said: “The strong, proactive working relationship that has developed between the parish council and Bloor Homes has been a great success, enabling us to support the hard work behind

their delivery of new community infrastructure, including this extension, and in the longer term the new community hub.

“We would like to wish the Parish Council every success with these community projects.”



Photographs courtesy of Garry Griffin. If you would like more info on the Elder Bank Hall, email : elderbankhall@gmail.com or call 01993 622714

Elder Bank Hall - Timetable



Elder Bank Hall • Brize Norton

- BRIZE NORTON PRE-SCHOOL** (Term-time only)
 - Mon - Thu • 9am - 3pm
 - Fri • 9am - 12 midday
- BROWNIES (TERM-TIME ONLY)**
 - Mon • 6pm - 7.30pm
- WOODTURNING (WOWA)**
 - 1st Tue (monthly) • 8pm - 10pm

YOU CAN FITNESS

- Tue • 6pm - 7pm (1st Tuesday at 5.30pm)

SSKA 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

- (Winter months)
- Every other Fri • 7.00pm - 9.00pm

PENTHWELL DOG TRAINING

- Sat & Sun mornings • 6 week sessions

TOTALLY SHREDDED FITNESS

- Sun • 6.00pm - 7.00pm

EBH Class focus... 202020: The All-In-One Fitness Class for Every Body

In today's world of boutique fitness trends and specialized workouts, finding a class that combines variety, effectiveness, and inclusivity can feel like an impossible task. Enter 202020 — a dynamic, full-body fitness experience that blends multiple disciplines into one accessible, powerful workout designed for everyone, from beginners to seasoned athletes.

What Is 202020?

Created by Steph Hill, 202020 is a unique 60-minute class broken into three 20-minute segments, each focused on different disciplines.

For example:

- 20 minutes of Barre: Improve posture, core strength, and flexibility through low-impact, ballet-inspired movements.
- 20 minutes of Pilates: Engage your deep stabilizing muscles with controlled, precise exercises that enhance alignment and mobility.



- 20 minutes of Circuit Training: Elevate your heart rate and build strength with high-energy intervals, tailored to individual fitness levels.

By combining these three approaches, 202020 delivers a full-body workout that strengthens, tones, and energizes — without the monotony of a single-discipline class.

A Class for All Levels

One of the standout features of 202020 is its accessibility. Whether you're new to fitness, returning from injury, or looking to push your limits, the class is structured to support every body. Modifications and progressions are offered throughout, ensuring everyone feels challenged but never overwhelmed.

“Fitness should never feel exclusive or intimidating,” says Steph Hill. “202020 was born out of my belief that movement should be empowering, enjoyable,

and sustainable for all stages of life.”

Meet the Instructor: Steph Hill

With 27 years of experience in the fitness industry, Steph Hill is no stranger to evolving trends and the needs of diverse clients. Her career spans personal training, group fitness, rehabilitation, and wellness coaching. She's known for her warm, motivational style and deep knowledge of human movement.

“This is the most inclusive exercise class I have ever done. All fitness levels are welcomed and supported... Exercise shouldn't be this much fun!” Allie

Ready to Try 202020?

Whether you're recovering from a sedentary spell, craving a new challenge, or just looking for a class that truly does it all, 202020 might be your perfect fit. You'll gain strength, flexibility, endurance, and confidence — all in one empowering session.

Move better. Feel stronger. Stay inspired. Welcome to 202020! Wednesday 19:45 at Elderbank Hall, Brize Norton.

Local Mortgage and Protection Adviser, Resident at Brize Meadow

Simone Riley,
Elite Force Mortgages



Thank you to Brize Breeze for the opportunity to contribute to this edition. I live at Brize Meadow and work with many families in the Brize Norton and Carterton area, providing regulated mortgage and protection advice. I support a wide range of clients including those transitioning out of the Armed Forces, as well as civilians. This article is intended to provide general information about the Government Help to Buy Equity Loan and the process of repayment. It is not personal advice. If you are considering your options, I recommend speaking with a qualified mortgage adviser

Help to Buy – What Changes After Year Five?

Many local residents purchased homes between 2016 and 2021 using the Government's Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme. The loan is interest free for the first five years. From year six, interest is charged starting at 1.75 percent and increasing each year in line

with the Consumer Price Index plus 2 percent.

It is important to note that interest charges do not reduce the balance of the loan. The amount repayable is based on

a percentage of your property's market value at the time of repayment, not the original loan amount.

Reviewing Your Mortgage

If you took out a five-year fixed rate mortgage alongside your Help to Buy loan, both the fixed rate and the interest free period may be ending around the same time. This can be a suitable time to review your mortgage and consider whether repaying part or all the equity loan is right for you.

Whether repayment is possible or appropriate will depend on your individual financial situation. You should assess your affordability, current mortgage balance, credit position and long-term goals before deciding.

The Process of Repaying a Help to Buy Equity Loan

The typical steps are:

1. Notify Target HCA – They administer the scheme on behalf of Homes England and must be informed if you plan to redeem the loan.
2. Arrange a RICS Valuation – A RICS qualified surveyor must assess your property's market value. The cost varies depending on property value.
3. Submit Forms and Admin Fee – You will need to complete the relevant paperwork and pay an administration fee of £200 (subject to change).
4. Apply for a Remortgage – You may apply for a new mortgage

with a lender who allows equity loan repayment. Your eligibility will be assessed by the lender. Some lenders charge arrangement fees which may be added to the loan.

5. Legal Work – A solicitor is required at your cost to manage the legal aspects including removing the second charge from the property.
6. Loan Redemption – Once the remortgage completes, the Help to Buy loan is repaid from the new funds and the second charge is removed

Considerations When Repaying the Loan

Benefits may include:

- Full legal ownership without a second charge
- Avoiding rising interest charges
- Reduced risk if property values increase
- A simpler process if you sell your home in the future

Risks and limitations may include:

- Higher monthly mortgage payments if borrowing more
- Affordability assessments may be stricter than when you purchased

If the property has decreased in value, repayment may be less financially advantageous

If You Choose Not to Repay

If you do not repay the equity loan now, interest will begin to accrue from year six. The outstanding amount will remain a percentage of your property's value and will need to be repaid when you sell, remortgage or reach the end of the loan period.

Next Steps

Everyone's circumstances are different. This article does not constitute financial advice. If you are coming to the end of your fixed rate mortgage and have a Help to Buy loan in place, I recommend discussing your options with a qualified adviser who can assess your individual needs and objectives.

For more information or to arrange a review, you can contact me using the details below. Thank you again to Brize Breeze for the opportunity to contribute to this edition.

Simone

www.eliteforcemortgages.co.uk
simone@eliteforcemortgages.co.uk

Elite Force Mortgages is a trading name of Premier Choice Mortgages Ltd who are an appointed representative of PRIMIS Mortgage Network, a trading name of First Complete Ltd. First Complete Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

Witney Framing

Witney's only Picture framing shop, offers a high-quality bespoke & standard framing service; We also have a large stock of quality British readymade frames.

We frame original artworks, prints, certificates, medals, sporting memorabilia, family photos and keepsakes. Hundreds of frames to choose from, as well as a wide selection of mounts and glass. Read Our reviews & see why we are Witney's best.



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Full Framing Service • Readymade Frames Glass
Repairs • Replacement Mounts • Fitting service
• Military Items • Sporting Items • Mirrors

Tel 01993 862 799
11 Langdale Court, Witney,
Oxon OX28 6FG

Rob's Winter DIY Tips

TOP 5 Plumbing & Heating Tips to Prepare for Winter

Service your gas boiler

Regular boiler maintenance is essential to ensure that it functions efficiently. Schedule a boiler service with a registered Gas Safe heating engineer to detect any problems and to keep your heating system running smoothly and efficiently.

Set your thermostat

Check your room thermostat and lower the temperature when you are away from home to save energy. Programmable thermostats are available and can help you maintain a temperature which you are comfortable with and save energy when you are out.

Bleed radiators

If your heating system is radiator based, bleed your radiators to remove trapped air –this will ensure that they heat your home efficiently. Top-up the heating system to 1 Bar, if the pressure is low.

Insulate pipes

Check your pipes to ensure that any exposed pipes in unheated areas such as lofts, outhouses and cellars are insulated. This can help to prevent freezing and burst pipes in the winter.

Drain outdoor taps

Check that you have disconnected and drained any garden hoses and shut off the supply to outdoor taps before the cold weather sets in. This will prevent damage to taps and pipes from frozen water. Remove, drain and protect from frost any garden irrigation devices.



The State of Nature



A Decline in our Owl Population...

Ady State

As many of you know I monitor the barn owl population in West Oxfordshire and this year has been an absolute disaster for them regarding breeding.

At this time of year I would expect to be reporting 80 to 100 barn owl chicks rung and I am actually reporting THREE!

Many boxes that I have checked have had no adult birds present, and those that do are not breeding.

The two boxes where I rang young had both only had two eggs laid, which is far smaller than the usual average clutch of four to six eggs.

Barn owls swallow their prey whole and after the digestion of the prey they eject from the beak a pellet containing all the indigestible parts of their meal.

Out of curiosity I collected fresh pellets from the occupied boxes and analysed them at home.

There were hardly any field vole bones, which is surprising as these usually account for 80-90% of their prey. Instead there were shrews, wood mice, baby rats, house mice and even frogs! One pellet contained what appears to be bones from a pipistrelle bat with another containing the remains of a small (probably juvenile) indeterminate bird.

This shows that the field vole population has suffered a crash, leading the barn owls to search for alternative sources of food.

These crashes are not unusual but this one is particularly heavy. Speaking to those who have done this for a lot longer than me, they cannot recall a previous breeding season as bad as this one.

Why has it happened? Well, in the absence of meaningful data we can only speculate, but as the barn owls had a very good year last year, there were lots of young owls searching for food throughout the winter. The winter was followed by a very wet spring which didn't help the field voles to breed successfully.

Interestingly, our other breeding raptors that I get to monitor such as tawny owls, little owls and kestrels all appear to have had a reasonably successful year.

All of these birds, however, have a much more varied diet than the barn owl and this undoubtedly helped them.

In early spring I was told by many that they had seen barn owls flying in the daytime which is atypical for them. I assumed they were breeding early and thus needing to hunt longer. Sadly, as I now know, they were out in the day because they were hungry.

This year's crash was not limited to Oxfordshire. I have spoken to many others in the south of the UK with a similar story. Those further north, however, say that it was business as usual.

So, is this all bad news?

In the short term yes, because numbers of barn owls will have dropped.

They are, however, a resilient bird and, as the field vole numbers rise back up next season as they inevitably will, the remaining barn owls will start to breed vigorously again, having large and numerous broods once more.

Crashes in vole numbers is a natural process and it will happen again, but recovery always follows.

Get in touch with Ady via adystate@gmail.com

It's a Record-BREAKER!

By Debbie Ryan



Cotswold Wildlife Park is celebrating a record-breaking breeding season, becoming the only zoological collection in the UK to breed the critically endangered greater bamboo lemur this year.

Not only has 2025 seen a record number of visitors, but it has also marked the most successful breeding season ever for one of the collection's rarest species - the greater bamboo lemur.

Recently, the primate team welcomed four greater bamboo lemur babies, a remarkable achievement given how rare births in captivity are.

The park is the only zoological collection in the UK and one of just three worldwide to have bred these rare primates this year.

With a population now at 13, Cotswold Wildlife Park hosts the largest breeding group of greater bamboo lemurs in the world.

In the wild, fewer greater bamboo lemurs remain than some higher-profile species such as the black rhino, tiger, and giant panda.

The new youngsters made their debut ahead of World Lemur Day on 31st October.

This year's greater bamboo lemur births add to an impressive baby boom at the park, with over 523 births so far in 2025.



Other notable arrivals include four great grey owl chicks, the first brood from the park's breeding pair.



The park also welcomed four rare Humboldt penguin chicks, classified as "vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List.

This year marks the park's most successful penguin breeding season in a decade.



Credit: Lauren Crow

One chick, Pippin, captured visitors' hearts after being hand-reared by keeper Laura following abandonment by its parents.

Additionally, four yellow mongoose pups were born to the new pair, Chip and Nutmeg.

This marks their best breeding season since joining the collection.

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

I adore saying hello to everyone I meet!

Help us find Nemo the home he truly deserves

I'm happiest snoozing by your feet

BLUE FOR PETS CROSS

To find out more, go to: <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet/nemo-1171842>

Brave and beloved Nemo is on the hunt for new owners, could that be you?

This handsome boy loves nothing more than mooching around saying hello to anyone that is passing by, however be warned, his most animated greetings are saved for his favourite people - they often involve prancing, maybe a toy or two in his mouth, and a sweet 'awwoo'!

Despite his age and being a bit arthritic, Nemo loves being out and about on walks, sniffing the hedgerows and exploring his surroundings. In his mind, age is just a number and with a bit of pain relief he acts like a 2-year-old! He very much enjoys using his brain too, scent games, snuffle mats, puzzle feeders, you name it, Nemo has tried and loved it.

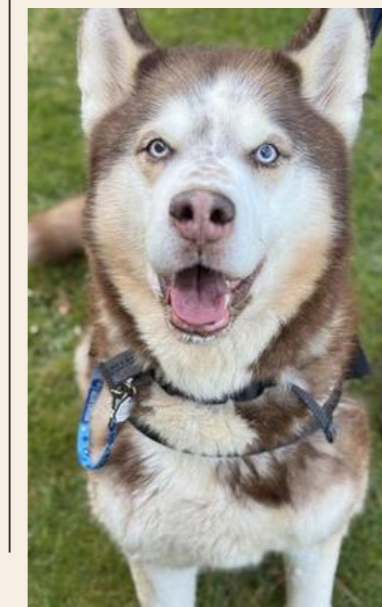
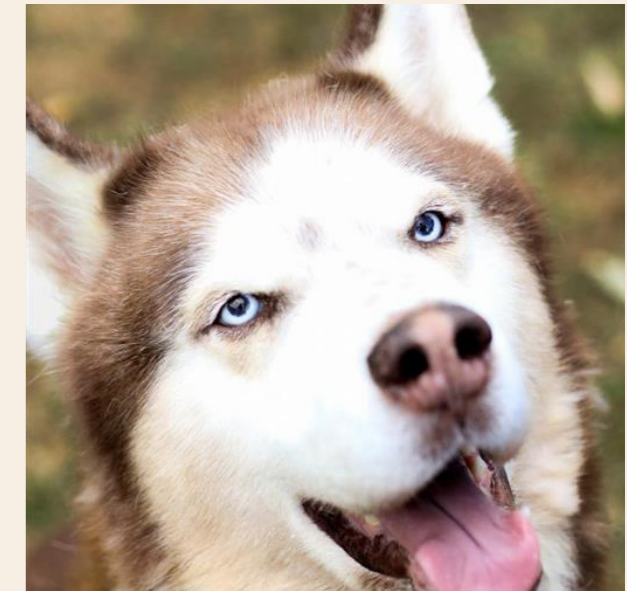
Travelling isn't an issue for this explorer, so if his new owners want to go on dog friendly holidays or do a lot of driving, he would be more

than happy to join them as he loves nothing more than the wind in his fur and having a nosey through the windows.

Nemo will be able to give with school age children. He is social with other dogs when out on walks regardless of their size, age, or behaviour, so is happy to make walking friends, so he could share his home with a well matched dog of similar age or lifestyle.

Nemo has previously been left for up to an hour and a half, but will need some help building back up to this after his stay in kennels.

If you have space in your heart and home for the most deserving of dogs, please get in touch today!





What's on over the festive season...

THE HUMBLE BUMBLE
Christmas QUIZ NIGHT
 £15 PER PERSON
 QUIZ - FOOD - DRINKS
 FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
 ARRIVE 7PM
 The Elder Bank Hall, Brize Norton
BEE JOLLY AND JOIN THE FESTIVE FUN
 TICKET PRICE INCLUDES ALL FOOD AND ENTRY TO THE QUIZ. DRINKS SOLD SEPERATELY

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 12-4PM
BRIZE NORTON CHRISTMAS CRAFT MARKET
 LOTS OF BEAUTIFUL CRAFTS, CHRISTMAS GIFTS, DELICIOUS TREATS AND MORE!
 AT ELDER BANK HALL, STATION ROAD, BRIZE NORTON
START YOUR CHRISTMAS EARLY!
 FREE ENTRY • BAR & MULLED WINE • SUPPORT LOCAL
 FOLLOW OUR EVENT ON FACEBOOK AT [HTTPS://FB.ME/E/4YBXWSAGM](https://fb.me/e/4ybxwsagm)

Christmas AT THE FARM
 A SEN - FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
 DECEMBER 20
 10AM - 12PM
 PENTHWELL FARM, FILKINS

- MEET SANTA'S WOOLLY HELPERS
- JOIN OUR CRISTMAS CRAFT FUN
- ENJOY FESTIVE CHRISTMAS TREATS
- FOLLOW SANTA'S SECRET NATURE TRAIL
- SPEND SOME TIME WITH OUR FEEL-GOOD FARM DOGS
- TAKE HOME ONE OF ELF'S LITTLE GIFT BAGS

FIND MORE DETAIL AND BOOKING OPTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.PENTHWELLDGTRAINING.CO.UK

UNDER 18S DISCO
 AGES 11 - 17YEARS
 8 - 10PM
 THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
~~JUL 25TH~~, ~~AUG 22ND~~, ~~SEPT 26TH~~, ~~OCT 31ST~~,
NOV 28TH, DEC 19TH
 AT THE MAC, STANMORE CRESCENT
 CARTERTON
£5 ENTRY INCLUDES A DRINK AND A HOTDOG
 Extra refreshments for sale.

Parent/youth group leaders - volunteers are very welcome to help keep our young people safe - please contact cartertonyouthfund@gmail.com

airplay
 Carterton Youth Fund

Brize Norton Village
Bash Committee
present

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 6th February
2026

Elder Bank Hall,
Brize Norton

Doors 7.15pm for 7.30pm
start

£5 a head

Up to 6 per team

Bring your own drinks and
snacks

Raffle and prizes


Booking required- please contact
Emma, to book a table
07532 131296

BRIZE NORTON AIRPLAY

BEN CLUB MONDAYS 4PM-5PM AGE 5 - SCHOOL YEAR 2	JUNIORS MONDAYS 5.45PM - 7.45PM SCHOOL YEARS 3 - 5	INTERS TUESDAYS 5PM - 6.30PM & 6.30PM - 8PM SCHOOL YEARS 6 & 7
SENIORS THURSDAYS 6PM-8PM SCHOOL YEAR 8+	YOUTH FORUM TUESDAYS 7PM-8PM THIS IS AN INVITE ONLY GROUP.	UNDER 18'S DISCO LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AGE 11+ £5 PER CHILD, INCS DRINK AND SNACK.

ALL SESSIONS ARE HELD AT THE MAC ON
STANMORE CRESCENT.
ALL SESSIONS ARE £1.50 PER CHILD.
BEN CLUB INCLUDES A SNACK AND ALL OTHER
SESSIONS HAVE TUCK SHOP AVAILABLE FOR
£1.50.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
AYLEILA.PARRY@ONEYMCA.ORG



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

Join Our Crafting
Community

Every Thursday from 10am to 12pm
at the Humble Bumble Cafe

For a joyful crafting experience!
Meet new friends, explore your creativity, bring and
enjoy crafting projects that inspire.
All skill levels are welcome, so come and have fun!





Chatty Cafe Scheme

The Chatty
Cafe Scheme

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

When: Tuesdays 10am - 12 midday

The 'Chatter & Natter table' is a wonderful way of encouraging people
of all ages to talk to others.



You are welcome to the café anytime when the venue is open.
But on the day and time shown below our table will be hosted by a
friendly volunteer along with complimentary tea and coffee. Do come
along for a chat and a cuppa

Look for this sticker in the window of venues in your local area.
Venues displaying this sticker will have a Chatter & Natter table set
aside with a yellow table talker sign.

Stay for five minutes while you have your drink or longer if you're
enjoying chatting.

Having a chat can brighten someone's day
The Chatty Cafe Scheme CIC
Community Interest Company Number: 12111574

How can I find a Chatter & Natter table?


West Oxfordshire Bridge Club

(A new friendly club EBU affiliated)

Brownes Hall, Alvescot Road, Carterton, OX18 3JH

Monday mornings

Experienced players, beginners and learners welcome

(Duplicate bridge—18 boards)

9.30am to 12.30pm (play starts at 10 am)

• First session free • Refreshments available

Contact: 01993 213238/ 07813 150912 • www.westoxfordshirebridgeclub.com




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



ELITE FORCE MORTGAGES



Simone Riley CeMAP
Mortgage & Protection Broker
07826 846022
simone@eliteforcemortgages.co.uk



ROD COLES GAS SERVICE

Gas Service and Installation
Heating and Plumbing
Repair and Maintenance

Based in Brize Norton
M: 07887 874 330
T: 01993 860720



BUTTERFLY CHILD CARE

Nature-Inspired Childcare for
Little Explorers
www.butterflychildcare.co.uk

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**
District Councillor for Brize Norton and Shilton Ward -
Councillor Rosie Pearson
rosie.pearson@westoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor for Brize Norton and Carterton East Division -
Councillor Toyah Overton
Toyah.Overton@Oxfordshire.gov.uk
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](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-proposals)

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.



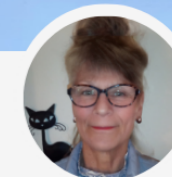
Chris Woodward
Vice-Chairman

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.



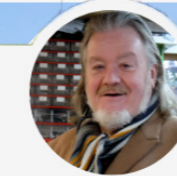
Wendy Way
Councillor

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.



Carol Fothergill
Councillor

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.



Ady State
Councillor

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.



Emma Jackson
Councillor

Introducing Emma Jackson to the Parish Council. We will be bringing you more about Emma in our next Issue of the Breeze



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.



Become a Councillor, Make a Difference!

Brize Norton Parish Council needs you!

Why not make a change to our village and become a Councillor? We meet once a month and you don't need any prior experience.

More information :

✉ clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk

🌐 www.brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk



4 weeks
for the
price of 3*

A Kind, Cosy Home This Autumn

Discover genuinely all-inclusive residential care
at your local HC-One care home this autumn

BRIZE MEADOW LODGE

Miles Drive, Brize Norton, OX18 1NZ



A beautiful residential care home providing
all-inclusive living in Brize Norton.



To find out more or to arrange a visit call our friendly team
on **01993 323 313**, scan the QR code or search for us online.
You can also keep updated by following us on Facebook.

CHAT TO US



*T&Cs apply – visit our Offers and Promotions page on our website. Offer subject to room availability and assessment. All admissions are at the Home Manager's discretion. Only applies to fully self-funded residents.

