

BRIZE NORTON

August to October 2024 • Distributed to over 900 homes & businesses in and around Brize Norton Village

Breeze

*Kind, compassionate,
a beautiful person,
& 90 years young*

Vicky interviews Joy, an inspirational villager who dedicates her life to the village of Brize Norton and its community

An Amazing Village Bash!

See all the fab photos

Wendy's final report

and an introduction of the new Chairman of Brize Norton Parish Council

Let's get *Bugging!*

Crocodiles of the World launch their 'Bug Hotel' competition to help our insect buddies and the **WINNER** from the Issue 180 is revealed!

Lisa & her Mam are back...

...and visit all the Gardens for NGS Open Gardens Day

An update on the Public Art Project

an update from our hardworking Council and volunteer working group

Issue

181



Welcome to issue 181 of the BRIZE NORTON Breeze

This community magazine has been written by the people of Brize Norton, for the people of our village (with a little help from a few friends too).

To all of the article writers who have donated their hard-earned free time to help, we thank you. This magazine would be nothing without you!

About Brize Breeze...

The hope is that the magazine can be self-financing via a little advertising. Any money left over goes into a community fund pot to help our charities, associations, schools, clubs and projects in the village.

The Brize Norton Parish Council will subsidise any shortfall.

Thank you to all the advertisers who have supported this issue and for supporting our village.

Editors Note:

Welcome to Issue 181,

I would like to thank everyone who very kindly came up to me asking how I've been during the last few months and also for being very patient in waiting for their article or advert to appear.

Hopefully we are back-on-track and cooking with gas now and I hope you enjoy the slightly later than scheduled Issue 181! ~ Jayne

PRODUCTION TEAM

- Jayne Woodward - Editor & Designer
- Jane Hornsby - Photography
- Vicky Tilley - Journalist

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

- Contact Jayne:
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f @brizenortonbreeze
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Councillors of Brize Norton Parish Council gather for the grand opening of Brize Meadow Play Park

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49TH BRIZE NORTON ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Sunday 25th August 2024



ELDER BANK HALL

Theme: Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the RLNI



Lifeboats

Are you green fingered?
Creative or crafty?
Got a secret recipe for chutney?

Categories for vegetables, flowers,
baking and handicrafts.
And specific classes just for children.

Join the fun and have a go!

*Brize Norton
Horticultural Show*



“That is one good thing about this world... there are always sure to be more springs”

~ L.M. Montgomery
(Anne of Avonlea)



Wendy Way

Welcome to the Summer edition of Brize Norton Breeze.

Firstly I would like to thank readers for their patience waiting for this edition whilst our lovely Editor Jayne had to take some time out due to illness. I'm very pleased to say that she is feeling much better now and back at the helm with this edition.

Much has happened since the last edition; The Brize Meadow Play Park opened on Saturday, 27 July and I'd like to say thank you to HAGS and Tom Hickman Landscaping for making such a fantastic job of it. Poor Tom Hickman and his team were up against it the week after laying

the turf when the weather finally turned, and we had a mini heatwave! Tom pulled all out all the stops and had to have a sprinkler going 24/7 and arranged for a bowser of water to be delivered to basically flood the area to stop the turf from curling and drying out and was coming out early in the morning and late at night to move the sprinkler around. He really went above and beyond to make sure the turf survived and has given us such a beautiful landscaped area in which our children can now play. Thank you Tom.

The Elder Bank Hall extension is also well underway. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pre-school especially for their patience whilst the work is being carried out and to the parents dropping off and collecting their children from school and to all

“ Thank you to HAGS and Hickman Brothers Landscaping for making such a fantastic job of it ”

the visitors to the Pavilion and recreation ground.

The new footpath along Minster Lovell Road has also been completed by OCC and the existing path has been cleared and the overhanging branches and hedge cut back so I hope villagers are finding their walk along to the bus stops on Monahan Way or on to Ting Tang Lane safer. We are still waiting to hear when the bus shelters will be installed but apparently they are imminent. The footpath along Manor Road has also been widened and OCC is due back to flatten out the surface to make it safer as well. The footpath along Burford Road is on the list to be cleared so we hope that this too will be dealt with soon.

The Tennis Court net has now been put up, so the court is now available for a 'real' game of tennis. May I respectfully ask that whilst the net is in place, all other ball games are kept out of the court at this time along with bikes and scooters, to avoid any damage to the net. Plus a reminder that dogs are not allowed on the recreation ground at any time. They are allowed on the patio area around the pavilion but not beyond.



“... to make our village a beautiful place to live and work, we all have a part to play”

Since the last magazine, the Parish Council has begun a regular litter pick that takes place on the first Sunday of the month at 10am. We have two meeting points, one at the Humble Bumble Café and one at Brize Meadow where we hand out litter pickers and bags. We welcome volunteers to come along and join us for a couple of hours, or whatever time you can spare. Even if you just do your road, every little bit and every volunteer counts. Whenever you can, even if you can't make every month, we would be pleased to

see you. There are posters up around the village and reminders are posted on the various village Facebook groups.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Air Tanker for funding a native hedge along the north side of the Tactical Medical Wing to help shield the bottom of the radar tower equipment.

The Parish Council does have a vacancy for a new councillor to be co-opted onto the Council. If you have an interest in your local community and you have a few hours a month free, then

please do consider the role. More details can be found further on.

This is my last Chairman's Report as I have handed over the role to Cllr Les Goble. I'm still a Councillor and will be taking on other roles and responsibilities within the Council.

Thank you for reading.

Wendy

To contact

Wendy, Les (Chairman) or Jo (Clerk)
 w.way@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk
 l.goble@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk
 clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk



Around Our Village

Credit: Garry Griffin

The End of an Era

Joy Douglas

On Monday 5th October 1998, a meeting was arranged in the Elder Bank Hall to discuss starting the 'Brize Norton Over 60's Club'.

That means we've been going for over 26 years and meeting on every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month during this time.

Membership was agreed and with myself as the Chair (for the all of the 26 years), a Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer all nominated, we soon had over 30 members, all from the local community.

The Club was very active; we had 2 or 3 coach day trips per term and many of the places we visited included Leamington, Moreton Market, Worcester, Bicester Grden Centr, Bath, Evesham, a river trip and cream tea in Reading, Windsor, the Black Country Museum and

we also had 2 coach holidays each year to either Weston-Super-Mare, Weymouth or Bournemouth!

When Covid finally hit, we sadly had to stop the club and many of our friends and club members found it very hard not to have this connection, so fortunately we were able to restart on the 5th October 2021. However, after such a long time without our club, we decided to continue with just a 'Tea and Chat' on the first Tuesday and on the 3rd Tuesday, we would have a speaker, a meal out or coffee morning. As our numbers had dwindled a little and we were all getting a little older (or more wiser, as some

regular attendance of many, we decided to finally finish the Brize Norton Over 60's Club, and after 26 years of wonderful memories, laughs and stories to tell, our final meetings will be on the 6th August at the Humble Bumble Cafe with a delightful cream tea and the 17th December at The Masons Arms for a very tasty Christmas Lunch.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout our many years, thank everyone who came on our wonderful trips and holidays and a special thank you to the tea ladies! You all hold a very special place in my heart.



would say), we decided to hold-off doing any more coach trips or holidays or any raffles.. which made the Club just a little calmer than before.

With the membership dropped to just 13 and without a more

Thank you very much to Joy and the Committee for running the Over 60's Club for so many years! Don't forget Joy can still be spotted at the Dance Club, which is held at The Elder Bank Hall most Thursday evenings...

THANK YOU

In recognition of over 5 years voluntary service as Chairman of Brize Norton Parish Council

Wendy Way has spent over 5 years in her voluntary position of Chairman of Brize Norton Parish Council, and although Wendy is remaining on the Council, we could not let her leave her position without the unbelievable recognition she deserves.

Wendy has been amazing in, not only helping us all in the village come through a global pandemic, but for creating our 'Community Centre' when we came out of the pandemic, which is where the Elder Bank Hall, Recreational Ground, Pavilion and Humble Bumble Cafe live. During her Chairmanship, she has led us in welcoming refugees from Ukraine into the village, helping to organise many of our village celebrations alongside more solemn duties such as helping us to mourn HM Queen Elizabeth II by providing condolence books around the village and then, in-turn, helping to ensure funds from sponsors when we later celebrated the Coronation of HM King Charles III.

Wendy has been continually liaising with Bloor Homes, WODC and OCC to ensure Brize Norton benefitted from all of the Section 106 monies available and that these are used to build the Brize Meadow Play Park, Mary Ellis Country Park, the Public Art installation, add an extension to the Elder Bank Hall. It will also be used to fund the design and build of a replacement pavilion building on the recreation ground in the near future.

Wendy also opened Brize Meadow Lodge Care Home in 2023 and co-ordinated the Gentian grant fund to the village where several charities benefitted from a £2000 grant. Wendy also continues to liaise with developers, retailers, commercial and non-commercial fund providers to make sure that all of Brize Norton's residents and families all benefit from ongoing installations which are hoping to include a new multi-use games area where the tennis court on the recreation ground currently is and also a potential redevelopment of the playground behind the Primary School.

Wendy continues her work as a volunteer on many of the village community groups and as founder of the Brize Breeze, we hope to hear from her in the future!

♥ Thank you very much Wendy from the bottom of our hearts. There is no truer 'Community Champion!' ♥



St Britius Church

Carolyn Peach

In an update since Easter, at the Annual Parochial Church meeting in April, Dr Phil Holmes and Rossie Sewell were re-elected as churchwardens for the ensuing year and they have since attended a service at Dorchester Abbey to celebrate their appointment.

We are indebted to them both for their continued service to the church and PCC. Their role is of great importance as we have to report several recent changes to our clergy team.

The Benefice is now in interregnum following the recent retirements of Rev Drew and Billie Tweedy and Rev Ian and Carol Howard. There was a Benefice service at St Johns on 28 July followed by a lunch to celebrate and thank them all for their ministry and to wish them well for their retirement. Drew and Billie will only be moving to Bampton, but Ian and Carol

will be leaving the area to retire to Horsham. The Diocese have arranged that Rev Barry Hanson who has been associate priest on a part time basis for the past year will stay on full time for a further year – if the right candidate applies for the position then a new incumbent may be in post early next year.

Also in May we said farewell to Reverend Katie Welborn van Santen as she moved to Devon following the appointment of her husband Reverend Miles as vicar to the Lyn Valley Mission Community in North Devon. Currently, Gary Long is taking a break for personal reasons but Wendy Smith, benefice assistant youth minister is covering the role of children and family worker and has been awarded her certification in this area.

Members of the Brize Norton church community have been busy in the past few months; in May we served refreshments at the Annual Village meeting; in June we were pleased to support the Brize Norton NGS group by serving refreshments and making ticket sales from the Elder Bank Hall as well as welcoming visitors to the church for the flower

festival and in July we had a stall at the Village Bash raising funds for the church as well as taking an active involvement in the organisation of the event.

Looking forward the annual Oxford Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' event is **Saturday 14 September**. If you would like to get involved by either

getting sponsored to take part and visit a number of churches in the area, sponsoring individuals, or by welcoming visitors to the church on the day please contact Jacque Griffin (841616).

On **Sunday 6 October** we have our festival service of Harvest. A collection of non-perishable produce will be donated to The Besom project helping local people with food parcels.



Prior to this we have a Harvest Tea on **Saturday 5 October** at the Humble Bumble café. Please contact Rossie (843418) if you would like to come.

Weather permitting we will be having a tidy of the churchyards on **Saturday 14 September**.



We have recently been advised by the Parish Council

that from the new grass cutting season in 2025 they will no longer assist in maintaining the churchyards by arranging and paying for the grass cutting. Without any assistance from the community the PCC will be unable to maintain the current good standard of upkeep. If you think you may be able to help practically or by a financial donation we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Carolyn (07786 405341).

We have been pleased to welcome the family and friends

of Melody, Freddie, Gus and Harry at their baptisms in the last few months. If you would like to arrange a baptism please contact Rossie Sewell, rossie.sewell@googlemail.com (01993 843418) or to plan another special ceremony at St Britius please contact Rev Barry Hanson associatepriest@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk (07949 654988).

We welcome you to our weekly services – 9.15am on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Holy Communion service at 7pm, to our weekly fellowship Pilgrim's Lunch each Tuesday lunchtime from noon to 1pm (contact Phil 01993 843856) or to visit the church for quiet reflection on Sundays when it is open until dusk or 6pm. With reduced clergy numbers we may have to make

some changes going forward, so please do check for details of the church services on notices on the church door or log onto the website - www.bncommunity.org

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

For any further details of the church services refer to the notices on the church door or log onto the website www.bncommunity.org



Lunch for those alone at Christmas

Ady State

I am looking to set up a group of volunteers who would be willing to serve a Christmas lunch to those in the village who may be on their own at that time of year. This will be in the Elder Bank Hall.

I am looking for those who can help with cooking and serving

the meals. I know it is a big ask to give up part of your Christmas day, but it will be so worthwhile and I think it will be a lot of fun too.

If you feel you would like to be involved please contact me on my email, adystate@gmail.com

Plant a TREE for FREE



The Woodland Trust wants to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree.

So they're giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities.

NOTE: It is important you legally own the land to plant a tree. To find out more: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/

“Together, we'll get millions more trees in the ground.”

RAISING MONEY FOR BRIZE NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

BIKE SALE

VARIOUS SIZES

Mark Hicks who's family go to and work at the school, has very kindly brought a lot of older bikes and done them all up to sell. Some went earlier in the year, but many are still available.

If you would like to find out more, contact Mark on Hicks752@hotmail.co.uk



Jackie Hampson

It's been a busy year at pre-school and I would like to thank all of our wonderful team for their hardwork, commitment and dedication throughout the year!

This year 20 families have left us to move onto Primary School. We have 19 families joining our pre-school in September and we're very much looking forward to welcoming them to our pre-school community.

In July, we took part in the Village Bash, where we raised lots of pennies with our Pimms, Prosecco and games! Thank you so, so much to everyone for supporting us, it was a wonderful day!

One of our favourite curriculum topics at pre-school is learning about life cycles. This year, we had an incubator and ten eggs arrive at pre-school for the children to learn all about the life cycle of a chicken. We

were delighted that all ten of our eggs hatched and the children had the opportunity to handle and care for the chicks for the two weeks they were with us.

They headed off to live with one of our children's grandparents and will continue to return to pre-school for a visits as well which the children loved.

We continue to collect eggs from the chickens we hatched last year and we use them to cook and bake with at pre-school.

This year, we also learned about the life cycle of a frog and added some frogs spawn to the pond on our allotment before Easter and we loved watching them grow and turn into frogs.

Just before Easter, Chloe's Mobile Farm returned to visit us. This time Norman the donkey came



along with a little lamb and some bunnies. It really was the perfect springtime visit, despite the weather. With the recent introduction of the new, 15

hours of funding for 2 year olds, demand for places has soared.

From September 2025 working parents of 2, 3 and 4 year olds will be entitled to 30 hours of funded Early Education subject to T&C's.

After some last minutes changes, we have a few places available from September 2024. If you are interested in a place for your child we'd ask you complete a waiting list application which can be found on our website brizenortonpre-school.co.uk and return it to us asap. If you are entitled to government funding from September 2024, this must be applied for before the deadline of 31st August.

Pre-school is now closed for the summer holidays, so we are contactable by email: brizenortonpre-school@hotmail.co.uk

Pre-school reopens on Tuesday 3rd September 2024

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

Brize Norton Primary School

Robyn Jones

What a year it has been! It is lovely to end with so many things to celebrate, one of which being our Ofsted report.

You may have seen within this report that Reading has been a high priority for us, one of many, which was not only commended in the report but also by the KS2 results which saw 85% of our children meeting or exceeding Age-Related Expectations: this far exceeds the national average! Well done to both the teaching team and to our amazing children who have embraced our dedication to reading!

This term we were also awarded the **PLATINUM Games Mark** where before we held Gold. This is the highest accolade you can be awarded for Sporting provision within a school and is not awarded easily.

As well as many things to smile about though, we are also very sad to be saying goodbye to some valued members of our team. Mrs Johnson, Mrs Lawton, Miss Cobb and Miss Rathkey will be leaving us to pastures new. Mrs Johnson to lead a team within a nursery setting, Mrs Lawton to start her own floristry business, Mrs Rathkey to embark on her Masters and sadly Miss Cobb was with us in a temporary post.



We wish to thank them for all that they have done for the children and the school these past years as well as wish them luck on their new challenges.

We also want to say a big thank you to Christine Eaglestone who has been a Governor at the school for over 20 years and has sadly decided it is now time to step down.

The role of governor, although voluntary, is an incredibly important and big commitment involving working with the headteacher to develop its strategic direction. Your time and input Christine has been invaluable. Thank you.

I am at a loss for words when I realised how much we have achieved as a school this year! These are just a few things we've been upto:

- Our Young Voices Choir being filmed for ITV Meridian News, then heading to Birmingham to join 4000 other children for a performance
- Our children represented the School in the Oxfordshire Cross-Country Finals and also the local partnership Cricket Competition
- We developed our anti-bullying agenda with the School Council and started a Maths Cafe with parents
- We took part in 'Big Science Week', a WW2 week, concerts with Burford School, went on numerous field and day trips and even hosted Crocodiles of the World for a day!

- We also developed and re-established our outdoor areas for our Positive Playtime Plan and our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) plan.
- We also joined the moo-vement by sponsoring our very own ox in the OxTrail around Oxford and raising money by another school fun run

I can't finish off the year without offering my huge and sincere thank you to the BNSA, who raised over £4500 for the school again this year, to Asda who donated £800 and to the Bampton Charity shop who donated £2000 again this year. All of the money raised is actively helping to develop our school, resources available, as well as paying for extra-curricular activities, so everyone can take part!

The BNSA have had very few active members this year and yet still manage to pull-off miracles to raise money for the school. Please, if you have the time to help (and this doesn't need to be very much time), please contact Emma Baughan vial email bnsa_fundraising@outlook.com. Finally I would like to wish you all a wonderful and relaxing summer and with many things to look forward to in September (including a new skateboarding club), I look forward to seeing you all back in September!

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



Minster Lovell Cricket Club at Brize Rec

Chris Jones

The season is now in full flow, but the wet weather has made it a real challenge to get some matches on. We were not able to play fixtures at Wash Meadow in Minster Lovell until the second week of June. This meant that our wickets on the

faster drying Recreation Ground at Brize Norton were heavily utilised to keep our season on track. It's first hand evidence that the impact of the changing environment is real and how it's challenging our summer sport

Our club is flourishing; we have good levels of participation across all age groups and the number of members rises each week, including players who are residents of the new Brize Meadow Development and the RAF. For the first time this year we have entered an under 17 team into a Oxfordshire tournament. We observe that

it's common for some young players to stop playing after the recognised Youth age groups finish at under 15 and we are hopeful that this will keep their interest in the sport as they become young adults. We plan to play some of these matches at Brize and as usual welcome all spectators to come along and support us for the home fixtures on the Rec in Brize. We are expecting some of Oxfordshire Youth Teams to use this wicket over the summer, which will provide trade for local businesses around the village.

Minster Lovell Cricket Club welcomes all players and if you are interested in playing, then please get in touch

To contact the Minster Lovell Cricket Club, contact Chris Jones via chrissarahj@yahoo.co.uk

Brize Norton Netball Team



We had an amazing season for our Brize Netball Club (Civilian) which ended in April. We had the Brize Jets, Southern Region Squad promoted to Division 1 (), Brize Hercs ONL promoted to Division 1 (unbeaten all season!) and our Brize Voyagers were only 1 point shy of promotion to Division 4!

With an average of 24 ladies training at each session, our rebuild is going well and we have 4 Summer League Squads of 12 for 2024 for Divisions Prem 1 / Prem 2 / Div 3 / Div 4...



In July, we WON the Elite netball at the Cheltenham 7's Festival. Honestly!! What a feeling and super proud of all the girls! We pushed till the end and it all came down to the final golden goal which Naomi smashed

We are now on the search for a specialist GK or circle defender... could that be you?

Brize Jets who will be playing in South Region Division 1 are on the hunt for a GK who currently plays regional standard.

If that's you, then please get in touch!



We are always on the look out for more players, so if you used to play netball or have never played, get in touch! We'd love to hear from you

To contact the Brize Norton Netball Club, contact Bonnie Brookes via bonniebrookes80@icloud.com

The Humble Bumble



Krystina Reape

Summer is finally here! Despite the tumultuous weather, our little village cafe has been providing a steady supply of coffee, cake and chat. We have seen out the last of the dreary winter & spring weather with some fabulous birthday celebrations, ranging from 1yr (Holly) to Ben from Witney Warriors Walking Football Club, then all the way to 90yrs (Joy)! There have been lots of others between these, and it has been an absolute privilege to be a part of all your festivities; witnessing members of our community come together and fill the village pavilion with laughter, love and some very dubious singing!

The Scam Awareness Talk from Age UK Oxfordshire was very informative, and we are looking at inviting other speakers into the café, that our community could benefit from. If you have any suggestions of who you might like to come and listen to, pop in and tell us!



TWO exams recently! Cerys is now a Black Belt in Mixed Martial

Arts and has passed her driving test! We are all incredibly proud of her, so if you see her around the village or working in the café, please congratulate her on this amazing achievement.

Over the Easter break, we saw lots of families take on the Easter Trail Challenge around the village, to raise money for our Primary School. The trail was organised by the Brize Norton School Association and was a great success. A huge well done to everyone that took part, our team had a lot of fun giving out maps and prizes.

Another local charity that we support is Healing Military Minds. Together with other local businesses, and a huge fundraising effort from the HMM team, we have helped to raise £100,000. This will be being presented to the charity Combat Stress at RAF Brize Norton.

Did you come to the fabulous Brize Bash on 14th July? What a day! It was filled with joy, laughter, and an incredible sense of togetherness that truly showcased the spirit of our village. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all involved.

From all the local vendors, displays and organisations who gave up their time to come and be with us, to the fantastic Brize Bash Committee and other volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and who brought so much life and energy to the event... your contributions

were invaluable and deeply appreciated. Your hard work is what makes these events happen.

Our Busy Bees were absolutely delighted to win 3rd place in the Scarecrow Competition with our Gruffalo, and we will be donating the prize money back into the village fund to help with future community events.

Most importantly, thank you to every single one of you who came out to support and celebrate with us. Your presence and enthusiasm made the Brize Bash an unforgettable success. Here's to many more wonderful community events in the future!

Looking ahead, there are some new dates for your diary:

- **The No Pressure Book Club.** This will be held at the cafe on the third Saturday of every month at 13:30 (keep an eye on our social media for reminders of dates). There is no set monthly read; just turn up and talk about your current read with fellow book lovers! The next meet up is on Saturday 17th August. This is a friendly and welcoming group, so please do come along and say Hi!
- **Chatty Café.** Every Tuesday 10am to 12pm
- **Craft Club.** Every Thursday 10am to 12pm

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



Brize Norton Village Bash

Carolyn Peach

After the experience of last year's bash event which was a 'wash out', the event this year was moved to Sunday 14 July and we were blessed with a sun drenched Recreation Ground!

The low cloud cover cleared 20 minutes before the RAF Falcon Parachute display team were due to launch allowing them to put on their spectacular display. Crowds watched the red, white and blue canopies perform their high level aerial skills and stunts of snaking, stacking, the Heart and Criss Cross Carousel before landing on the Recreation Ground. We are grateful for the team's performance and their engagement with the spectators answering questions and giving out freebies.

Back on the ground, Saxophony entertained with a medley of tunes finishing in support of the England Lions with a rendition of 'Sweet Caroline' while Bampton Morris had us up on our feet in a dance. Our literary element, in a nod to our theme of 'Children's Book Characters,' was provided by Anne O'Hara who (at very

short notice) read from poetry written by local children's poet Julie Frances Taylor. To round off the afternoon the Alice in Wonderland themed obstacle race saw four teams of four dribble balls with 'flamingos', scrabble 'down a rabbit hole' under a cargo net and have messy water play at the Mad Hatter's tea party!

To our competition entrants – thank you all who took part:

- Scarecrow winners: 'Worzel Gummidge' (Carol Fothergill), 'The Cat in the Hat' (Carolyn Peach) and 'The Gruffalo' (Krystina Reape)
- Adult photography: 1st - Jacquie Griffin Runner up - Garry Griffin
- Children's photography: 1st Oliver Hicks Runner-up - Grace Park
- Special Prize: The Woodbridge's

We are indebted for the financial support of our sponsors Bloor Homes, Brize Meadow Lodge, Chancellors, A K Timms and Grey Gables Garage and to the organisations and individuals who manned stalls and static displays.

A special thanks to Mark and Karen, the de Bere household, Oxfordshire Guide Dogs, Faringdon Branch of RNLI, Annie and Rod and TVP.

To Jayne Woodward for promotion of the event, Tim Gush for artwork and thanks to RAF Brize Norton for allowing us to use the car park facility on Carterton Road. The Brize Norton School Association were the main beneficiary of the event and raised in excess of £2,600.

Thank you to the organisers, Tony Shillingford, Ady State, Carol Fothergill, Jo Glenister, Kate Grant, Emma Baughan, Dawn Humphris, Krystina Reape and Carolyn Peach.

It was a big achievement for our small informal committee and we need volunteers to come forward with ideas and offers of help in order to organise next year's event.

We have a meeting on **Wednesday 9 October 2024, 7.30pm** at the Humble Bumble Café – you would be very welcome or contact Carolyn (07786 405341) in advance.



To take a look at all the photos from the Village Bash and download them, go to: https://bit.ly/Brize_Breeze_Village_Photos. Credit: Jane Hornsby Photography



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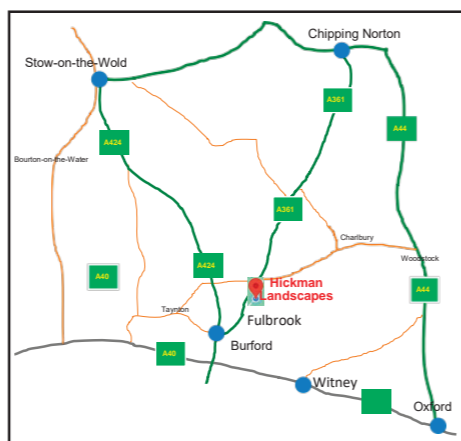
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Brize Norton Village Pond

Ady State

Many of you will know of the village pond on the Burford road just before the Masons Arms car park.

It has been a feature of the village for many years, but it is in a rather sorry state at the moment.

The parish council would like to turn it back into something special, so we are arranging for the silt which has been built

up in the pond to be removed along with the willows which are choking it at present, then turn it back into something that the village can be proud of. This should take place sometime after September.

Do you have any ideas for what can be done with the pond?

We would like it to benefit people and wildlife.

So far we are considering; seating, explanatory signage and some new plantings of suitable trees.

What else can we use it for?

Can it be a resource for the village school? Perhaps a pond dipping area?

We would also like to form a group to assist with the conservation and maintenance of the pond going forward, would you be interested in that?

Let us know on the email below.

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

LET'S CLEAN OUR VILLAGE

1st Sunday of every month

10am

Meet at the recreational ground or by Co-op/Greggs (Kipling Court)



Brize Norton's Public Art Projects

UPDATE SUMMER 2024

Public Art Committee

Over this long-wet winter, we have finalised a couple of art projects, while also discussing other ideas which may aspire and benefit all of us who live in the village.

The first project is the 'Spitfire sculptors' which will be situated in the northern part of the Mary Ellis Country Park.

For those who don't know, Mary Ellis became famous for flying Spitfires (along with many other aeroplanes) during the 2nd World war and became known as the Spitfire Lady!

She lived in the Manor House during her early years, and her

father farm the land which now accommodates Brize Meadow.

Therefore, the spitfire theme seem a very appropriate way of commemorating this village hero.

It is hoped that the finished project, which will be three or four sculptors depicting the wonderful spitfire as it 'takes off' out of the wild flower meadow in the Mary Ellis Country Park..

The second project is an

amphitheatre, again situated in the Mary Ellis Country Park. This 40/50 seat, two-tiered amphitheatre, with a stage/platform, and hopefully an artistic mosaic interpretation running around inside the seating area, explaining the history of our village.

The construction, which has yet to be decided, but where possible will be built using local natural material, for example Cotswold stone.

It is hoped, that once completed it can be used by village clubs, organisations and of course the school to hold readings, or storytelling, or craft/art demonstrations, mid-night concerts! (If allowed).

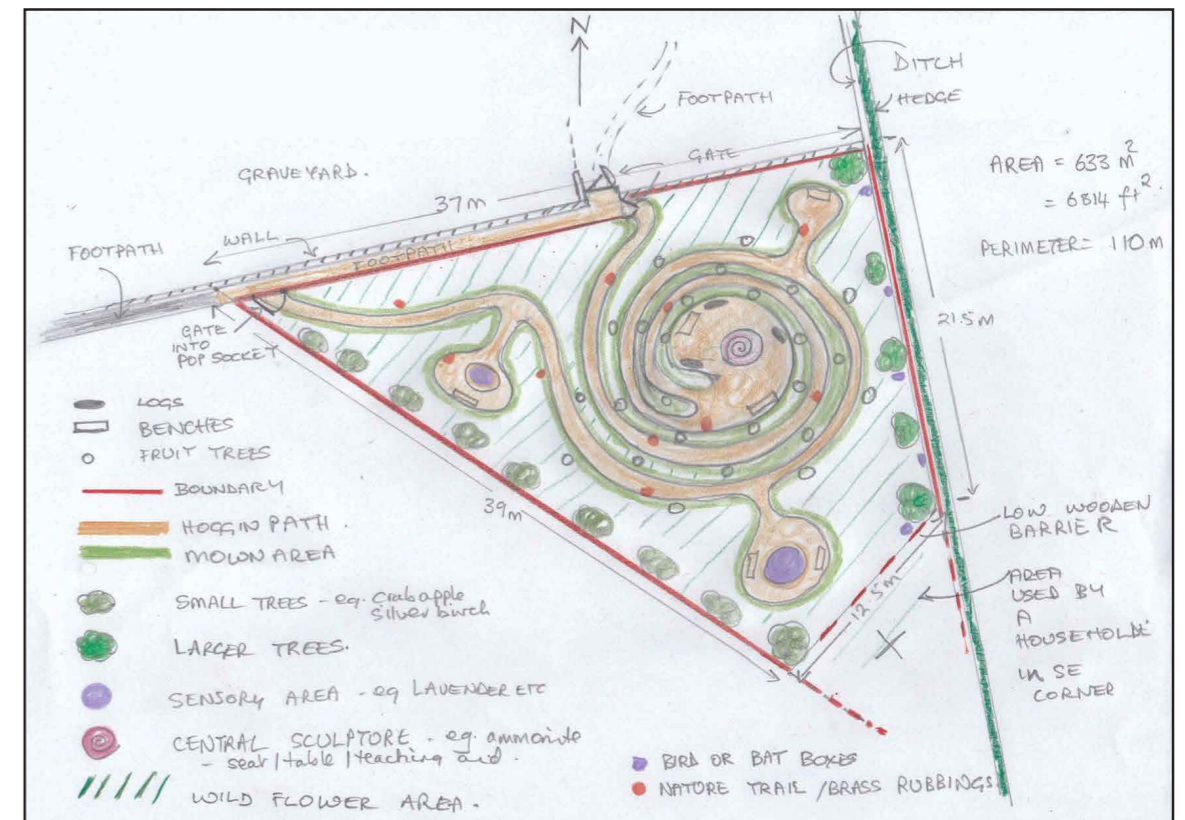
Or it could be just a place to sit and talk with family and friends.

It is now time to obtain costs and engage the professionals in to see the most efficient way of constructing these projects.

The other projects we have been exploring are, information boards, which could show footpaths connections, boards that show the local wildlife, flora, and historical sites. It was thought that these boards would connect visually and be positioned strategically as to form a 'treasure hunt' feel.

If anyone has been on the Windrush Path Mosaic Trail, you will know the fresh creative ideas which we could emulate.

Another firm favourite is the



“... If you are creative, organised, enjoy problem solving and eager to improve the village wellbeing, then you are just the person we are looking for.”

use of a spare 'green space' to create a community orchard, with spiralling paths, quiet, relaxing corners and just a lovely tranquil space to be in.

With bee loving wildflowers, perhaps some old variety fruit trees, such as a greengage, or even a Mulberry bush we can all dance around!

All these ideas have been born out of lots of creative thinking, talking to villagers, holding open sessions, so that everyone can comment and express their ideas.

We are a small committee of five - and would welcome anyone from the village to join us.

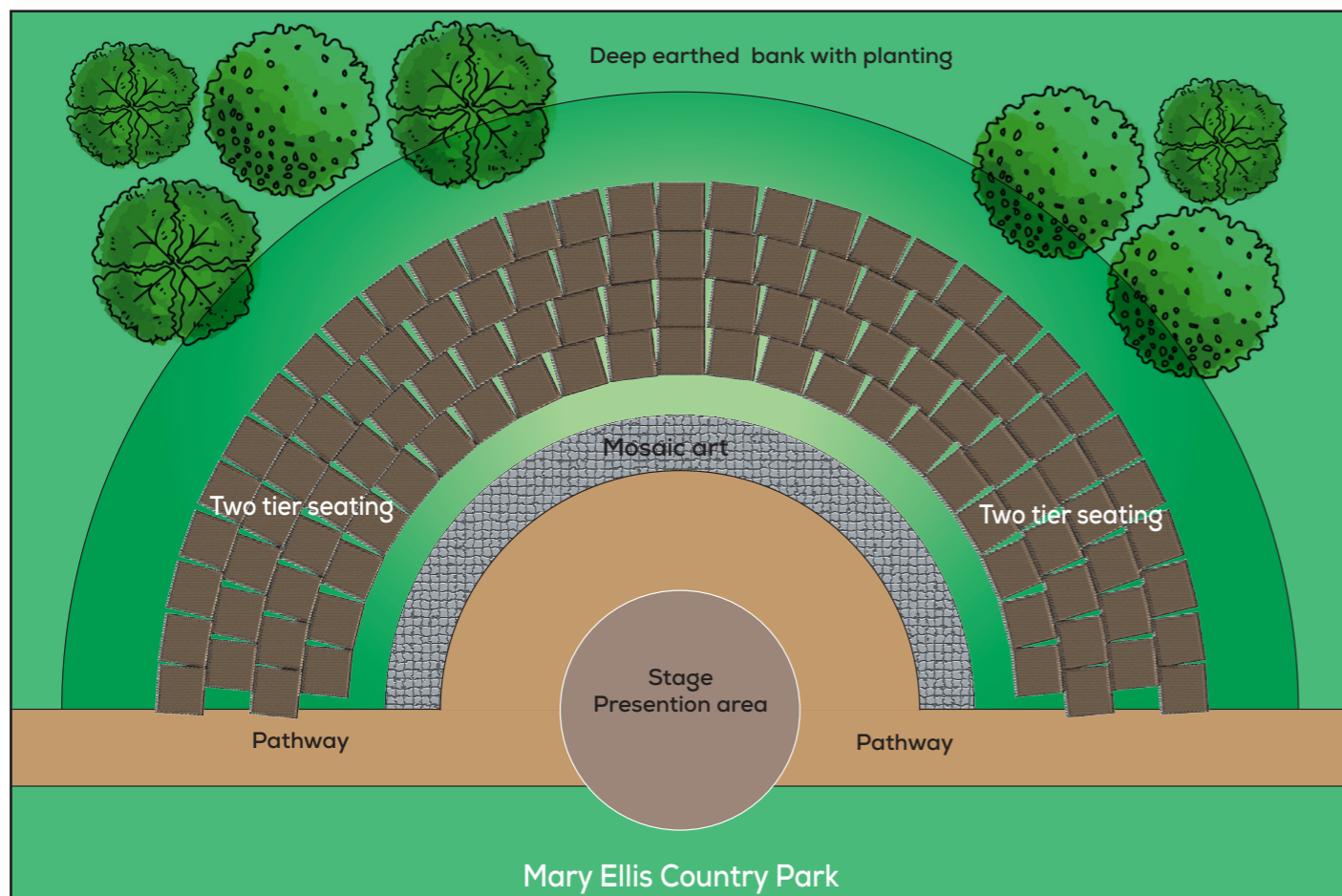
If you are creative, organised, enjoy problem solving and eager to improve the village wellbeing, then you are just the person we are looking for. In fact, if you fit anyone of these categories

you fit the bill.... Please do get in contact.

As there is a limited budget, some of the proposed projects will not progress because of their cost.

However, now is the time to start to formulate these final designs, to plan and to obtain those important costs. This will take some time and a lot of work, so again if there is anyone wishing to help and join the committee please do get in contact, we are a friendly bunch.

Why not get involved?
To contact the committee managing the Public Art project, email: public.art@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk





A Summer of Gardening & Horticulture



Brize Norton Open Gardens

Lisa & her Mam review the Brize Norton gardens open for charity, in NGS Open Gardens 2024

Lisa Hudson

Firstly, we would like to thank the Open Gardens Committee for providing us with complimentary tickets for the day and allowing us to enjoy their beautiful gardens! We had a wonderful time, managed to grow our knowledge and even meet people from our home town, who we didn't even know lived in the village! We hope you enjoy our article!

Grange Farm

• LUCY & MARK



These little geese always make us laugh as we walk by. Delilah waddles over curiously to say hello closely followed by her bodyguard Samson, who flies over hissing protecting his lady friend. These geese are the gate keepers to this lovely home. What a nostalgic and warm feeling setting foot into the garden, with a very cosy

courtyard feel out the front which lead on to a peaceful garden with many different trees for shade, privacy and homes for wildlife. There was also a little nook in the corner for resting in the sun, and the croquet crying out to be played. The veggie patch led on to the pond which I'm sure the ducks enjoy on sunny days.

Lucy said the beautiful dovecote was used to home birds for food, but this dovecote is now Samson and Delilah's dwelling, too cute! These photos capture it all, enjoy...

2 Elm Grove

• ROD & SONJA



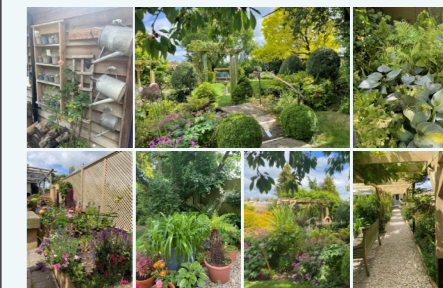
Stood at the gate, this pretty front garden looks like a traditional country garden with so many colours and an incredibly fragrant sweet smell which came from the pretty pineapple tree. Smelling the cluster of flowers closely you really do get a strong smell of pineapple, it's incredible!

Walking down the path to the garden there is a pretty patio area surrounded by tall planting which are at eye level while seated. The path is inviting and leads to other seating areas which are placed thoughtfully to

enjoy looking at the garden. The borders have that wild English country garden look with alpine strawberries growing low down, and mint growing in the flower beds along with the flowers. It's pretty and very enjoyable.

Clumber

• STEVE & KARON



As we walked into the garden, the display of watering cans and the potted wooden shelf caught our eyes. The shaded boarder, with both blue and green shades of hostas and ferns. The smell from the honeysuckle was wonderful.

The bridge invited us to walk through the garden and lead us to the bottom of the garden which was incredibly green with tall trees which gave shade and privacy. There were a pair of striking stag statues placed in the boarder which looked so naturally placed and really showed off the planting.

The seating area was next to the koi pond which was very well looked after and in a natural setting. This is one very beautiful and well cared for garden.

Pilgrims Cottage

• PAUL & PAMELA



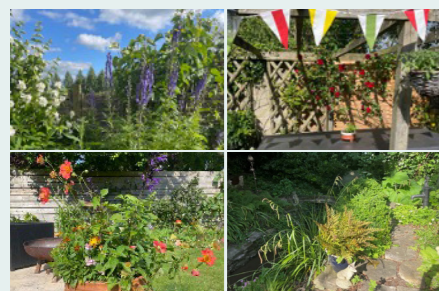
Walking in the garden the colour was dazzling! The cottage garden planting of cornflower blues, creams, purples and pinks were so pretty together and very well thought out, with a bench perfectly placed to rest and admire.

The 'well' border was planted beautifully, and led to a cosy little nook which homes a shaded seating area with a chimenea and lighting for those warm summer evenings.

The wildlife pond looked as though it had always been there but was created with blood, sweat and tears by Pamela and Paul. The veranda has been planted to give dappled shade with pink roses which smelt sweet, and the tree ferns looked impressive. We could have easily sat here for many hours.

Painswick House

• TIM & JUDY



The stream at the front of the garden was a hidden treasure which was surrounded by ferns and grasses. The sweet little bridge will help the wildlife make use of the water and the shaded planting. Walking through to the

back garden, a pergola homed a family eating area with crimson roses and a boarder at back of the garden with pretty cottage garden planting for privacy.

Church Farm House

• PHIL & MARY



The little owl greeted us along with sweet peas smelling their best. The courtyard was so very well planted, such a pretty calm usable space. The pots on the steps, which were planted with pansies, gave some height to the garden. A little water feature ran through the garden with little boats and a duck left for children to race. At the end of this path was a traditional metal bench set amongst the plants which was very pretty. There was a secret archway cut out of the hedge which led to a statue, a very nice feature.

St Britius Church



The church is a wonderful peaceful place to be. They leave their door open on Sundays inviting everyone in to reflect, pray or just sit and gather your thoughts. We often stop by on Sunday when walking, my children enjoy the little corner set out for them.

The flower displays were incredible and made locally, each display was unique and beautiful in their own way. When looking at them, it led the eye to look at the stained-glass windows that little bit longer than usual. The D-Day display was glorious and a fitting reminder of the anniversary.

Stone Cottage

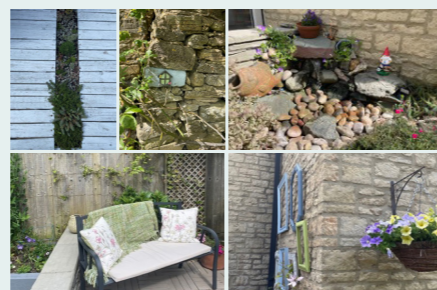
• KEITH & DAWN



Pinocchio was stood at the gate smiling and welcoming everyone. The pots were so very well planted. The colours complimented each other well and the archway leading us through the garden were looking their best, smelling so lovely and packed with white and pink flowers. The borders were full and so incredibly green, providing plenty of shade for wildlife. The seating area at the back of the garden was quiet and made good use out of old kettles and the ladder which was used for planting.

Millstone

• BEV & PHIL



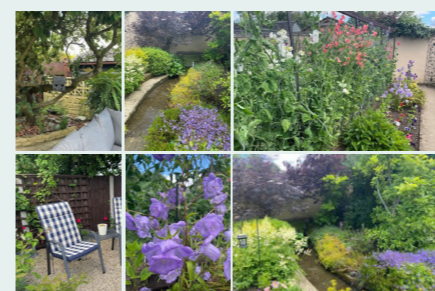
The front garden showed great creativity as the use of up-cycling a pallet made a low table/planter which was full of alpines. This

was so effective and made a great centrepiece. Alpines were also planted well down the path leading to the back garden.

This garden had so much interest and character hidden amongst the planting. The pastel-coloured frames hanging next to the pastel colours in the hanging basket complimented each other so well. It really made us smile. Bev with her imagination has wonderful ideas, and Phil brings it to life.

Orchardene

• PHIL & MARGARET



A traditional and beautiful garden with lots of interest, there was so much colour in the borders with a large range of plants and shrubs. The stream running through the

garden offers a wonderful feature. It was clear that Phil and Marg were keen and confident growers of all kinds of fruit and vegetables. The sweet peas smelt incredible and were planted in blocks of colour. The Canterbury bells were enormous and brightly coloured. There was seating throughout all the gardens, with lots to see wherever you sat.

At the back of this well-loved garden, was a secret garden which contained a bench. It was so peaceful with the sound of birds singing.

Rose Cottage

• BRIAN & BRENDA



This was a delightful, enclosed garden. The little corner, which housed a mirror, reflected all its

surroundings. This made the garden appear much bigger and as though it was leading somewhere. Brian was explaining to us that he learnt this trick from his dad!

There was a wooden gazebo which provided lots of shade for those hot, sunny days, and a table and chairs for alfresco dining. We loved the well-stocked man-cave, which occupied a perfect view position over the garden and protecting you from the elements all year round.

November Issue of Brize Breeze...

We are really looking forward to getting stuck in with our tips and tricks for helping to hibernate (and maybe even flourish) you garden over the winter. However, if you have any tips and tricks you'd like to send me and my Mam to include..... Send us an email via jayne!

To send your tips and tricks to Lisa and her Mam (Christine), email jayne@chapelhilldesign.co.uk



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





Villager's Voice

“If I hadn't have (joined in), I would not have done so many lovely things and met so many wonderful people.”

Interview by Vicky Tilley,
Photography by Jane Hornsby

Joy Douglas (remembered by many as Joy Bull) has been a devoted servant to the Brize Norton community for most of her 90 years and has no plans to step back from village life any time soon!

After spending a couple of hours with Joy, listening to her talk about her life, passions, and achievements, it is hard to imagine meeting anyone more committed to making a difference locally.

A former teacher and governor of the village primary school, youth club leader and parish councillor, Joy also started up a ballroom dance club in the village and was instrumental in getting Elder Bank Hall built.

When I ask how she has managed

to do much, she said: “I like to keep busy.”

Joy was born in Shilton in April 1934 but her family soon moved to Grove Farm in Brize Norton. Her dad was a shepherd, and she remembers her and younger sister Daphne helping to look after the lambs.

“It was quite basic,” she recalled. “We kept chicken and hens as well, and had an oil lamp as there was no electricity or gas.

“We didn't have much money but had a very happy childhood.”

When she was eight or nine they moved to Manor Farm Cottages when her dad got a job as a tractor driver on Mr Wilkins's farm.

Mr Wilkins's daughter was the future Mary Ellis, who went on to become a famous Spitfire pilot, and Joy clearly remembers watching her practising landing her plane in the neighbouring field.

Joy attended Brize Norton School and was then awarded

a scholarship to go to Burford Grammar School. On leaving school at 16 she worked to earn enough money to go to St Mary's Teacher Training College in Cheltenham when she was 18.

She then taught at Brize Norton School for several years and, after a break to have sons Stephen and Kevin, taught at Clanfield School for 30 years, going on to be deputy head.

“I always knew that's what I wanted to do. I loved teaching and being in a classroom.”



Outside work, she ran a youth club in the village for many years, served on Brize Norton church PCC and helped run the Sunday Club, as well as being a member of the WI, the Village Association and the School Association.

She served as a Brize Norton parish councillor for 23 years, including 17 as chairman, but it was her involvement in helping to get Elder Bank Hall built, to replace the old Victory Hut, of which she is most proud.

Joy and her first husband, the late Norman Bull, were actively involved in fundraising for the new hall, and Joy was on the steering committee in charge of the project.

“The village really needed a bigger hall, and everyone was so supportive in making it happen. I am so pleased we were able to do it - it really is the hub of the village.”

The other thing that has brought her pride and joy in equal measures has been the ballroom dancing club, which she founded and still helps out each week.

Joy took up dancing as a hobby but it soon became her real passion, and it was through dancing she met Norman, with whom she danced competitively.

She would go on to qualify as a dance teacher and looks back on her time doing this as a source of pride.

“You really can bring so much joy through dancing. It brings so many people together and allows friendships to be made.”

Talking of friendships, Joy is equally as proud to have met so many people through the over 60's Club which she has been running for 26 years. Every other week there is something going on from tea and cake, to organ performances, to speakers who talk about their hobbies, passions or work. They also find time to head to the pub every now and again to have a nice meal and chat as well as heading for cream tea to the Humble Bumble!

In 2013, Joy was one of 87 men and 87 women pensioners – one for each of The Queen's 87 years - to be presented with Maundy money in recognition of her contribution to the community. She described meeting the late monarch as a “wonderful experience”.

Joy, who went on to find happiness with her second husband, the late Eric Douglas, celebrated her 90th birthday with a tea dance which she used to enjoy with both Norman and Eric. Surrounded by cards, flowers, balloons and sporting a very warm smile, Joy went on to say how there were 50-60 people there for her birthday at the Village Hall and even included a couple who had dancing lessons in there 35 years ago!

Still as busy as ever, she is absolutely determined to continue to live life to the full.

“I think it's important to make an effort to join in and get involved with things. If I hadn't have done that I would not have done so many lovely things and met so many wonderful people.”

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



Citizens Advice at 50

As Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire turns 50, we celebrate two outstanding people who have each given 20 years of service to the Charity

Judy Anders

Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire (CAWO) first began to help the people of West Oxfordshire in 1974 and the charity is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Two of the team members have not been with the charity for quite this long! but both have worked for the charity for an incredible 20 years.

Julie Rogers, staff member for over 20 years said:

“Things have changed enormously since I first joined as a volunteer in Sept 2003. CAWO was located opposite the Methodist Church in Witney. With two interview rooms and one office, we all bunked in together. One wall of the office was taken up by advice files. There was no internet then!. Cases were written up on blank templates and stored on paper. I was one of the “new” generation who could word process so I worked out how to format my write ups so that they would print onto the template – get me and my cutting edge technology!

Clients would arrive and wait in the tiny little corridor to be interviewed by a volunteer. Everyone got a full appointment, but some people had to wait all day, or might wait all day and then be asked to return again first thing the next day to be guaranteed an appointment.”

“I am enormously proud to be



part of an amazing, professional, compassionate team at CAWO who do so much to help our fellow travelers on this path that we call life, to find a way forward at difficult times. I believe it’s essential to look out for each other in and around our communities. As the MP who officially opened the current CAWO office in Witney said, the way a community treats its most vulnerable members is a measure of its worth. On a personal level, I benefit immensely from helping people through my work. Doing good does you good – I highly recommend it.”

Mary Williams, volunteer for over 20 years said:

“In 2003 I saw an ad in the Steeple Aston newspaper and I’ve been volunteering ever since! What changes I’ve seen. I had semi-retired but decided

to volunteer one day a week as my parents always said Citizens Advice was a great organisation. My volunteer roles have varied over the years but what I most enjoyed was always using my brain. My initial training was so comprehensive it took over 6 months!

I also benefited from the Financial Capability training funded by Nationwide. In this advice role, I helped with army redundancies, sessions with young offenders and families in need. I attended court with a disabled client who had to declare she was bankrupt - that was my first time in court.

All advice we delivered face-to-face but since the pandemic when Citizens Advice made rapid changes to our advice support, I’ve helped with telephone advice and more recently Web chat.

“I’ve learnt a huge amount by volunteering at Citizens Advice. Over many years I’ve enjoyed the challenges brought by doing a wide variety of different roles which have enabled me to empower our clients to hopefully solve some of their problems.”

Teresa Archer, Chief Officer at Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire said:

“We are indebted to Julie (as a staff member) and Mary (as a volunteer) for the 20 years of amazing service they have given. Thank you. Of course we are grateful to all our incredible staff and volunteers for all of their dedicated support over the years, but this marks a special milestone.

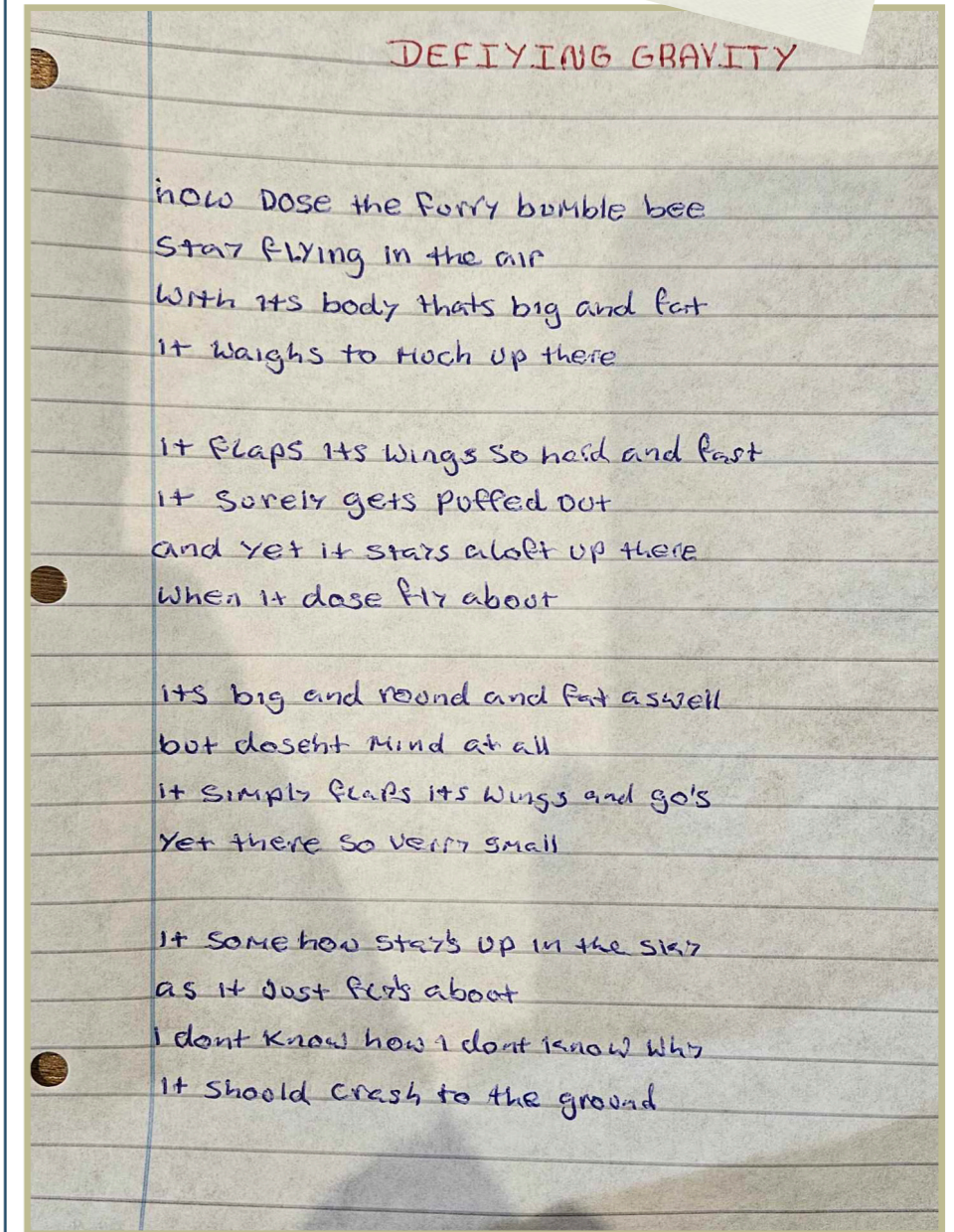
We are always looking for new volunteers and with demand for advice as high as it has ever been, joining now is as important as ever. “

To find out more and apply, visit citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk or contact: recruitment@cawo.org.uk

“Helping people find a way forward, whoever they are and wherever they are”



David's Poetry Corner



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.

Life before RAF Brize Norton by Gordon Giles

Sent by Dr Phil Holmes

Before RAF Brize Norton was an air base it might be difficult to imagine that most of the land that makes up the Brize base was very good farm land, supporting all types of interesting features and wild life.

A farm track (Bourton Track) ran from the Brize Norton village northern end (close to the present base hangar) meandering through the fields and coming out at Black Bourton by the Mushroom Farm. About halfway along the track stood a large cotswold-type barn (Field Barn) and this housed several pairs of white barn owls (to be seen no more). Nearby where the No 4 Hangar is now was a quarry supplying stone to patch up farm tracks.

Along where the main runway now goes was a long winding hedge called Snake Hedge and this and adjoining fields were home to all forms of wildlife – rabbits, hares, pheasants and a covey of partridges. About seven types of birds would take off filling the air all day, including crows, wood pigeons and sky larks. Around September time mushrooms, blackberries, crab apples, rosehips, haws and sloes for wine making could be picked. Foxes lived in the kale patches, all in harmony and left alone.

In the north east corner, by the present fuel dump, was our swimming pool – the Cuckoo



Pen – a big pond fed by the Brize Brook, quite murky but cool! In the summer Brize Brook was filled with minnows, sticklebacks, redbreasts, crayfish and watercress etc.

Further down stream, by the end of the present runway, Farmer Jim and Mrs Hoskins owned a lovely cotswold farm house (Marsh Haddon Farm) approached by a bridge over a stream where large brown trout swam in crystal clear unpolluted water, all now gone under concrete.

Along the south side ran the Great Western Railway from Oxford to Fairford, carrying passengers and freight to villages along the line – AND the train ran on time! On the western side boundary were the poultry farms, small holdings and market garden nurseries of Carterton, now housing estates. It really was a tranquil and peaceful part of West Oxfordshire.

Memories of Brize Norton by Dora Woodley



In the thirties there were still a few horse drawn vehicles.

The coalman, the milkman, one of the bakers, Benny the rag & bone man from Carterton and a man who sold greengrocery & fish, but of course the one we liked was the horse drawn fish & chip van on a Saturday night. A pennyworth of chips in a paper bag with vinegar. Children used to love vinegar.

Sometimes there was fun and it was on those occasions when we experienced joy of being a small happy community. There were concerts in our village hall, the Hut. We used to have our local comedian who came from Asthall and brought a few other entertainers with him. Whatever, the humour we enjoyed it especially if he spoke in the very old fashioned and extreme form of the local dialect. We would sing, laugh and stamp our feet and get redder and redder.

Then there was a saying going round that there was going to be an aerodrome at Brize Norton. Some people understood but many of us thought it wasn't possible. We were not important enough. They felt it was a mistake and it was Witney aerodrome that was meant.

However, one weekend in our walks we found pegs in the ground marking the extent of the 'drome. After that things happened because of the aerodrome. Electricity was for us as well. Also we had a main water supply for the first time. Standing water pipes were placed outside to cover 3 or 4 houses. Trees were felled and hedges pulled up. Every weekend on our walks to see how things were going we noticed the changes. The spectacle drew in the crowd.

It was a time when there was unemployment in the industrial areas. There was work here and men came from all parts of the UK bringing with them unfamiliar

dialects and a kind of presence not familiar to us in our quiet agricultural lifestyle. There always seemed plenty of people walking about the village and of course the pubs were very lively. They worked Saturday mornings and in the afternoon crowds of them walked down the road to catch the 2.30 train. Some went home for the weekend.

Then at last it was finished and there was a celebratory Opening one fine summer afternoon in 1937. All the schools closed down that afternoon. We loved it.

It began as a flying training school. They had planes called Harvards. You had to stop talking when they went over, the noise was colossal. It's a thought that those pilots being trained would have taken part in the Battle of Britain.

To contact the Dr Phil Holmes
email: p.holmes@brizenorton.org
or call 01993 943856



Hedgehogs in the garden

Ady State 

Do you have hedgehogs in your garden? Some of you may be well aware of them in your gardens, others may have them and be quite unaware of them.

Some gardens may not have hedgehogs because there is no access for them (more on that later).

For many years now hedgehogs have been in decline due to many reasons although the widespread use of slug pellets was a major factor. They now appear to be making a minor comeback (in this area at least) and we should welcome this because they are rather good at dealing with a lot of our garden pests without causing any problems for us.

ABOUT HEDGEHOGS

Adult hedgehogs will reach over a kilo in weight if there is a good food supply and on average live just over three years. They produce their young (hoglets) usually between June and August and normally produce 4 to 6 young, these will be weaned after around six weeks. In the winter they will usually

hibernate although in our recent mild winters this has been for a shorter period,

The hedgehogs main means of defence is to roll itself up, which presents a predator with a ball completely covered with needle sharp spines (around 6000 of them).

However some predators such as badgers can unroll them and will eat them.

Some dogs can be a problem for hedgehogs, though most cats tend to ignore them

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR HEDGEHOGS?

Firstly, we can ensure there is access to our gardens. Where they can move freely between gardens they are less likely to need to cross roads. This brings in the concept of hedgehog highways where a group of houses make access holes in the base of their fences to allow them free movement.

We can provide homes for them to overwinter in the form of 'hog houses' these are also sometimes used to raise young. These can be purchased or built if you have DIY skills.



Providing a supplement to their found food is beneficial, using dry kitten food or specialist hedgehog food. Don't be tempted to give them bread and milk, this will give them diarrhoea. Water should also always be available. Bowls should be cleaned thoroughly each day to avoid the

spread of disease.

A feeding station may be required to stop cats gaining access to their food.

Where they are being fed they will become regular visitors and it can be very entertaining to watch their antics.



They will squabble sometimes over food, but they do not seem to be inclined to harm each other I have noticed that the ones that visit my garden have a regular routine and appear at around the same time each evening.

If you would like to create a hedgehog highway I do have some nice surrounds for the holes. These are free, first come, first served.

Sites of interest:
RSPCA | St Tiggywinkles
Hedgehog Preservation Society

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

Croc's Corner

Becky Mansfield

Help our native bugs to thrive, build a bug hotel and maybe WIN a free family ticket to Crocodiles of the World


Crocodiles of the World is dedicated to the conservation of crocodiles and other endangered animals at the zoo. This now extends to helping our native bugs to thrive by planting wildflower seeds and building a new bug hotel in small unused spaces at the zoo. Now we want to encourage others to do the same, with the chance to win a free family ticket to the zoo.

Clare Wilkie, Researcher, Crocodiles of the World said,

“Conservation is always better together and so we'd love the help of our local community...”


...By creating bug houses in your own garden spaces, together we can create a much larger network that is dedicated to helping insects as they go about their pollination duties, helping them to find stop off points to feed, breed and succeed.”

UK insects are in serious decline. This is bad news for both wildlife and people. Insects pollinate around a third of food crops and most plant life. They form

BUG HOTEL 

Our bug hotel has been lovingly created to provide shelter, feeding and breeding spaces for our local insects, whether just passing through, or staying longer term!

- The leafy, and cork bark penthouses help insulate the hotel and provide great hibernation accommodation for many insects.
- Even the hotel roof hasn't gone to waste. Wildflower seeds have been planted to provide a great feeding and pollinating station for butterflies and bees.
- Hollow bamboo and logs with holes provide ready-made burrow spaces for bees.
- External butterfly breeding houses have been added to ensure these beautiful critters have a suitable safe place also.
- Some bugs such as ladybirds and beetles prefer a pinecone room.
- Rotting wood and dry sticks... this floor can encourage lichen and fungi that will feed beetles and wood-boring larvae
- The ground floor provides a choice of moss habitat or smooth flat rocks, perfect for the amphibians we regularly see around the zoo.
- A pebble moat allows safe passage in and out of the hotel.
- Wildflower seeds have been planted in the surrounding area to add to the bug haven.



a basis for a healthy food chain that supports much of our native wildlife, so without our hard-working bugs, we risk the breakdown of our natural world. Ideas for 'rooms' of your bug hotel include rotting wood and sticks, hollow bamboo canes, pinecones, and smooth flat rocks.

HOW TO ENTER

Create your own bug hotel (can be large, small, specific to certain bugs, more general... anything will work wonders) and email the photo of your creation into us at: info@crocodiles-of-the-world.co.uk with the subject line Bug Hotel.

For all entries, please provide the name and age of the bug house creator. We'll be picking the best bug houses from different age categories with winners picked based on creativity and contents of the bug buildings.

Chosen winners will receive a free family ticket to the zoo!

(Two adults and two children).

Very important note: We recognise that any and all creations will be hugely beneficial to our local insect populations. Even the smallest and simplest bug houses are doing their huge part in helping us boost the space we can dedicate to insect conservation as a whole. With this, all participants will have their bug house photos on display for all to see on one of our zoo's notice boards.

Closing date for the competition is **30th September** so there's plenty of time to get creative. We'll provide updates of participation along the way also to help keep inspiring ideas.

Good luck

To find out more about Crocodiles of the World, go to Please visit our facebook page or go online at crocodiles-of-the-world.co.uk

"They love cuddles and spending time with their human friends. They would make an lovely family addition"

BLUE FOR PETS CROSS

Long Term Residents need your help!

ADOPT DON'T SHOP



Introducing Delilah and Barnaby, this gorgeous pair are sweet natured and enjoy their walks and play time.

They both are social when meeting other dogs on their walks, Delilah wants to go in to meet first, she may bark though anticipation and once she has sniffed will want to move on, Barnaby will approach sniff and greet but will then want not much more from them.

They can build to play with dogs that they know. They will bark at cats so would not be able to live with cats in their new home.

They are both currently living with a young child and could live with children again pending introductions at the centre. They do enjoy quiet time through the day where they can rest and relax. Delilah has a more energetic nature and will like to play with toys whereas Barnaby would prefer to snuggle up on the sofa chilling.

Long-term resident profile:
Barnaby + Delilah, Burford

If they sound like the duo for you then please do apply at [bluecross.org.uk](https://www.bluecross.org.uk)

To find out more about them, go to: <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet/barnaby-and-delilah-1162026>

BRIZE NORTON Breeze

Competition RESULTS FROM ISSUE 180

...The winner is...

Sam Dyer (Age 10)

We've sent your details (your Mum's) to Cotswold Wildlife Park and they will be in touch with you soon!

Congratulations!

In Issue 180, we were very kindly offered this competition from Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens! Thank you guys very much!

Now after waiting quite some time...




Brize Norton Ballroom Dance Club

****For all ages****

We are a club meeting 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.

Currently we have a membership of 40 and we would welcome any new members.

New members of all ages would be most welcome.

Please contact Joy on 01993 842373 for further details.

****Note from Joy****

I would like to thank the club who arranged a 'Tea dance' to celebrate my 90th birthday on 25 March.

It was very well supported by past and present members of the club – some were couples who had come for lessons 32 years ago and now friends of mine. We enjoyed home made scones with jam and cream and cake. It was a very happy afternoon and enjoyed by many people – thank you again to the club members.

LIFE BEGINS AT 90
THE LAST 89 YEARS HAVE JUST BEEN A PRACTICE

Brownies



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

Contact Barbie Thorne on 842013

Chatty Cafe Scheme



Where: Humble Bumble Cafe
Station Rd, Brize Norton, OX18 3PU
www.humblebumblecafe.com
[/humblebumblecafe](https://www.facebook.com/humblebumblecafe)
[/humblebumblecafe](https://www.instagram.com/humblebumblecafe)

When: Tuesdays 10am - 12 midday

Humble Bumble CRAFT CLUB

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

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

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 (Not 1st Tuesday)

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 & Sun • 8.30am - 9.30am

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCING
Thu • 7.30pm - 9.30pm

YOUNG FARMERS
In the EBH from September
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



Elder Bank Hall Calendar

Elder Bank Hall is great for private hire events, but our calendar is booking up!
Call 01993 622714 or email elderbankhall@gmail.com to hire



WhatsApp Alert

For those of you who are a little unsure:

- **WhatsApp is a free, multi-platform messaging app that lets you make video and voice calls, send text messages, and more – all with just a Wi-Fi connection**
- **With over 2 billion active users, WhatsApp is especially popular among friends and family who live in different countries and want to stay in touch**
- **WhatsApp's global popularity is due in large part to its accessibility, cross-platform functionality, and simple, straightforward features**

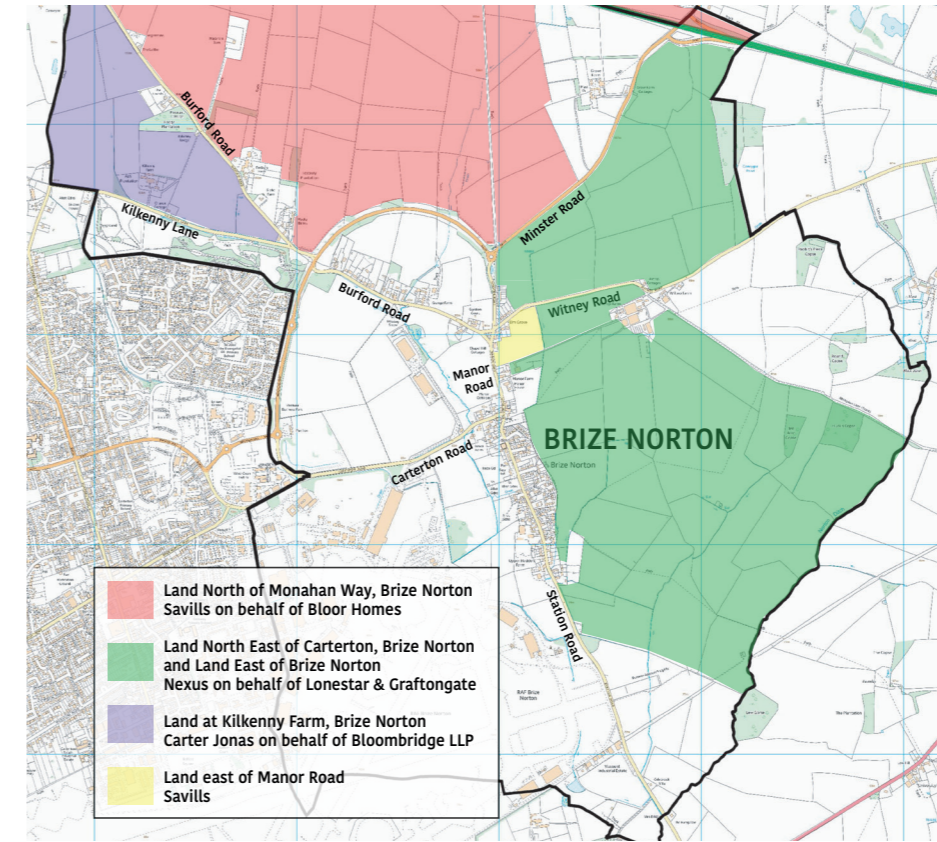
A note was sent to pupils by Robyn Jones, Headteacher, Brize Norton Primary School which had been brought to their attention by an Oxfordshire Head: 'I wanted to give you all a head's up about an online message group I was made aware of yesterday by some of my year 6 pupils. It is a very concerning WhatsApp group where some of my pupils have been added by friends without their permission. The aim of the group is apparently to try and become the biggest WhatsApp group in the UK and I believe at one point it was called 'Everybody in the UK' but the pupils tell me the group name changes. At one point it may have been called 'Ronaldo'

My pupils have mentioned pupils from (other Oxfordshire schools) are also inviting friends into the group. I sent a letter to my parents yesterday and one parent got back to me to say they have discovered that their child was in the group and has now removed herself but described the group as 'toxic'. Approximate numbers of people in the group vary between the children I have spoken to, ranging from 70 to 500.'

If you are concerned about how your child maybe using WhatsApp or any other Social Media Platforms, please contact the Education Safeguarding Advisory Team on 01865 810603, or go to <http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/safeguarding>

BRIZE NORTON AREAS for consideration in the local plan 2041

“One of these topics relates to housing needs and where housing should be **BUILT**”



By Brize Norton Parish Council

West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041

In the August – October 2023 edition of the Brize Breeze Magazine, we wrote about WODC updating their 2031 Local Plan to extend it to 2041. One of the functions of a Local Plan is to set out how development, including housing, business construction, and infrastructure can best benefit the area that they are responsible for

In this article, we illustrated on a map, the four areas that landowners had put forward for consideration for future development in Brize Norton.

These were:

- Land at Kilkenny Farm, Brize Norton (highlighted in purple)
- Land north of Monahan Way, Brize Norton (highlighted in red)
- Land north east of Brize Norton (highlighted in green)
- Land east of Manor Road (highlighted in yellow)

We have now had the opportunity to take the Planning Policy Manager around these sites so he could see first-hand, the influence any one of them would have on our Landscape Character and Key Views. At this meeting it was discussed that the WODC Consultation Document had omitted one very large area of land which had been put forward by the landowner! This is all the land to the east of the

village from Witney Road down to the RAF Brize Norton runway approach lights and eastwards to the Parish Boundary.

We have highlighted this area in green because it is represented by the same land agent as the land to the north east of the Parish.

The Parish Council has received a presentation from each of the land agents (except land to the east of Manor Road) to show us their vision for their respective areas. We made it very clear to them that this was a presentation only and not a consultation. We advised them that if they wished to consult on their proposals, for transparency, it must be held in the Elder Bank Hall with members of our Community present.

We now await to hear from WODC as to how many houses and how much business construction will be required in the Carterton sub-area and in particular, in the Parish of Brize Norton. The new Labour Government could also have an influence on these numbers as they develop their own policy on housing numbers.

Please remember, all these proposals are speculative at the moment, but we will keep you informed of any updates regarding these land areas as and when we are made aware of any change in their status.

To contact Brize Norton Parish Council, email Jo Webb via clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk



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



A letter from our new MP

Charlie Maynard MP

Dear All,

Thank you so much for electing me to represent you in Parliament. I am so proud to be your Liberal Democrat MP and

look forward to working with you to make our wonderful part of Oxfordshire even better. You have put your trust in me and I will do my best to repay that trust.

It's been a bit of a whirlwind since the results of the election came in early on Friday morning (July 5th). On Monday (July 8th), it was straight down to Westminster to start the induction process. Given that there are 335 new MPs—apparently the biggest number in at least a century—the House of Commons staff had their work cut out getting each of us up and running and explaining what's involved. There is lots to get up to speed on quickly.

On Wednesday (July 10th), I was sworn in, taking an oath declaring my allegiance to King Charles. Being part of the Commons with all its history and its role in shaping our country is head spinning. However, the

counterweight to that is always to remember who elected me to serve them, why I was elected, and to do my best to deliver for everyone in the constituency. I take that responsibility seriously.

I am working as fast as possible to get a constituency office and team set up to support you on individual concerns and challenges. As soon as I have an office and weekly surgery times, I will let you know. My new email address has just been set up and is available below. Please bear with me while we get our systems in place to reply to inbound emails

Please do get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you!

To contact Charlie Maynard
charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk
or go to www.charliemaynard.org/

FixMyStreet.com

IMPROVEMENTS FOR QUICKER AND MORE EFFICIENT RESPONSE

Cllr Nick Field-Johnson

Oxfordshire's FixMyStreet app, which allows residents to report potholes, faulty street lights and a host of other street defects and queries, has been updated.

The number of categories has been streamlined but they have now been split up into sub-categories to make it easier for people to find the section they are looking for.

In some cases, more information and illustrations have been

provided to help users choose the most appropriate category.

The changes are aimed at reducing the number of reports sent to the wrong department or council, which can delay the problem being resolved.

The updated version also includes an aerial map of the county, as well as a regular map, to help people pinpoint the location of the problem.

The changes will be monitored over the next few months to see what impact they have, and the views of users will be sought.

More than 1,000 reports are regularly made to Fix My Street every week, with users encouraged to include photographs of the defect to help the inspectors.

To contact
OCC Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson,
Burford & Carterton North
nick.fieldjohnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk
and nfjuk3@gmail.com

**TIRED OF
POTHoles
FLY-TIPPING
LOOSE PAVING
DOG POOP VANDALISM
BROKEN STREET LIGHTING?**

**REPORT THEM TO
THE COUNCIL WITH
FixMyStreet.com**

another project from the lovely people at [mysociety](http://mysociety.org)

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



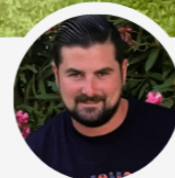
Wendy Way
Councillor

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.

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
bnsa_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
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brian.trott3@btinternet.com

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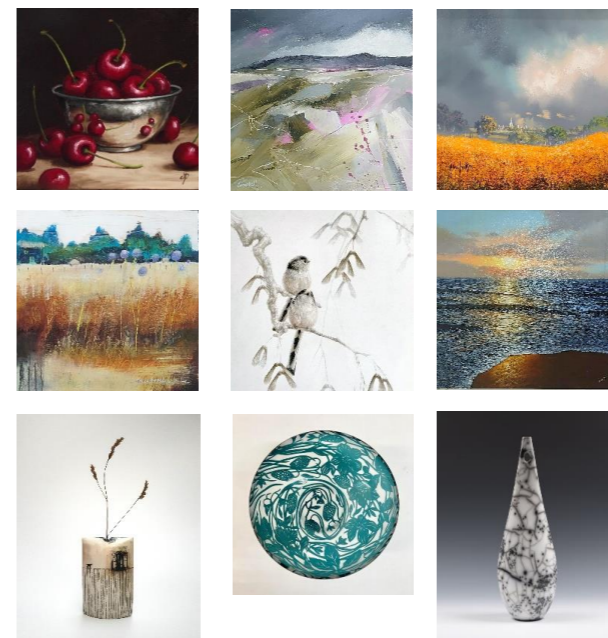
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USEFUL INFO

- **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



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WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

98%* of UK post offices are privately owned with postmasters being self-employed investors in their own small business.

#LOVEYOUR LOCAL POSTOFFICE

Our local post office is in:

Sports Pavilion, Station Road, Brize Norton

Open Tuesday & Thursday
From 9.30am – 12.30pm

Drop and Collect at:

Co-op Food Store, Kipling Court, Brize Meadow, Brize Norton

Open Monday - Sunday
From 7am to 10pm

#SUPPORTLOCALFIRST



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

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