BRIZE NORTON Breeze

Spring/Summer 2026 • Distributed to over 1200 homes & businesses in and around Brize Norton Village



A Brize *Legend*
Retires after 30 years

SUMMER EVENTS!
The Village Summer of Sport Bash and more!

The Parish Council has a new website

Coffee with a Copper!

Elder Bank Hall Launch New Online Booking System

My Journey to Volunteering
- ARCh and Wendy

Little Fledgling's
come to the Brize in State of Nature

Issue 183

THE PARISH OF BRIZE NORTON

BRIZE NORTON VILLAGE

presents a

SUMMER OF SPORT

themed BASH!

1.00pm - 5.00pm

Sunday July 5th 2026

at The Recreation Ground, Brize Norton OX18 3PU

The SCARECROWS Competition

With the generous support of

AKTIMMS BUILDERS MERCHANTS

Chancellors

LIVE MUSIC
ARENA & STATIC DISPLAYS
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Brize Teams Sporting Photos and Memorabilia

fun for all the family



Full information and details of the competitions are available on social media and at www.brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk - and in the latest issue of the Brize Breeze.

REMEMBER NO DOGS ALLOWED ON THE RECREATION GROUND

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BRIZE NORTON *Breeze*
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- Contact the Team:
  design@chapelhillgroup.co.uk
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THE PARISH OF BRIZE NORTON





Welcome to this Spring to Summer edition of the Brize Breeze, how welcome are the warmer, longer days!

Les Goble

Once again, it was wonderful to see the recreation ground being used for junior football throughout the winter months and now we have the cricket season underway. I understand that we are already fully booked for the next football season which now includes some adult teams. Many thanks to Councillor Wendy Way for arranging all these bookings with the football and cricket clubs.

I am delighted to announce that after a year of legal negotiations, the Parish Council can now draw down sufficient funds from the S106 Pavilion Rebuild monies to commence the pre-build works. This consists of engaging with architects, creating design concepts, community engagement, building-cost estimates, and planning applications through to planning approval. The Parish Council looks forward to engaging with the community as well as the relevant sporting bodies to discuss this exciting project.

I'm sure we are all very aware of the very poor state of the roads in Oxfordshire and just how OCC are completely overwhelmed with the number of repairs that are required. Those of us that use Burford Road know just how bad this road was between Monahan Way and the A40, far too many potholes to put on Fix My Street especially as most of it was outside the 20mph speed limit! I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Senior Engagement Officer for Area Maintenance & Operations who responded to our email requests, supported by both our District and County Councillors, for urgent temporary repairs to be carried out. Most of the potholes have been filled so the road is now much easier to navigate, let's hope they last!



Likewise with Station Road, the situation was getting desperate, especially around the buildout by the chicane and one of the speed cushions. Unfortunately, the Fix My Street and potholes being marked up by a 'superuser' (repairs to be carried out within 28 days) methods were not being responded to by OCC. So once again, after some polite emails direct to the Officer explaining the situation, supported by our County Councillor, led to most of the potholes being fixed on a temporary basis. We are aware that some have been missed and others are not 'deep enough' to qualify for repairs, but at least we can now drive through the chicane a lot easier. We will continue to push for more permanent repairs.

> *"...the Parish Council can now draw down sufficient funds from the S106 Pavilion Rebuild monies to commence the pre-build works."*

It is good to see that the two new bus stops have now been installed along Carterton Road opposite The Greenway and are being used by residents. Unfortunately, it's a bit hit and miss if the buses stop so we are chasing both Bloor Homes and OCC to put the signs up on the posts and ensure they are placed on the official bus stop list.



Turning to Brize Meadow, as residents will see, the allotments are now taking shape, and the internal path has now been constructed. The next steps are to set out the plots and grass seed around them, install water taps, construct the car park and access road, and plant the orchard. We are liaising with Bloor Homes about timings, and we hope to gain access later this year. We look forward to arranging a meeting with those residents who have reserved a plot as soon as we have a definite occupation date so we can discuss next steps.

Another feature soon to be added are ten pieces of Trim Trail equipment. There will be six in the area adjacent to the allotments and four along the southern foot/cycle path. I'm sure many of you will enjoy using these whilst on your keep-fit regime.

Unfortunately, once again, I must raise the problem of owners not clearing up after their dogs. Despite previous requests, there is still a minority of people who consider that it is acceptable to use the Country Park and foot/cycle paths as a dog toilet. Your Parish Council, working with Bloor Homes, are creating a family friendly environment for our community and visitors to enjoy and engage with the natural environment. Not to clear up after your dog is a disgusting, anti-social habit which not only looks awful, but is also a serious health risk as it can cause toxocariasis which is a terrible disease for children and young adults to catch. The Parish Council respectfully requests that this minority of people act responsibly, respects our community, especially children, and PLEASE change your habit and clear up after your dog. Thank you.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to offer our congratulations to Rosie Pearson for being elected as our District Councillor for another term and commiserations to the other candidates for their efforts. We look forward to continuing working with Rosie as our District Councillor and Toyah Overton as our County Councillor.

I hope to see many of you around the village and café or at the next **Brize Norton Annual Meeting** which is being held on the **19th May at the Elder Bank Hall at 7pm** where I look forward to meeting as many of you that are able to attend this event.

Les

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



From the Commons to the Cotswolds:

A Community Progress Report



I hope you enjoyed a restful Easter with friends and family. During the parliament recess, I was pleased to be back in Oxfordshire full-time, meeting with residents and knocking on hundreds of doors to discuss the local issues that matter most

Regarding the significant water outage caused by the Thames Water main burst, my priority has been securing fair compensation for those affected. You should have now received a credit or reduction on your bill; however, if you believe your compensation has been calculated incorrectly, please contact my team at charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk. More broadly, I have formally urged the Environment Secretary to place Thames Water into Special Administration. This is a vital step toward overhauling their financial structure and ensuring the investment necessary to fix our infrastructure and prevent sewage spills.

I also visited the Witney Royal Mail delivery office to address the serious postal delays impacting our community. I have raised these concerns in Westminster and questioned senior figures from Royal Mail and Ofcom. A reliable mail service is a necessity for residents and businesses alike, and I will continue to press the regulator for improvements.

Finally, I am advocating for urgent action regarding the spike in heating oil prices. With a quarter of our households off the gas grid, current government support is insufficient. Alongside my colleagues, I am calling for a three-month VAT zero-rating and a price cap on residential heating oil to protect rural homes from volatile price increases.

To stay informed about my work in the constituency and Westminster, please sign up for my newsletter at www.charliemaynard.co.uk.



Brize Norton Parish Council

Find out more about our Parish Council and the work they're doing at brizenortonparishcouncil.gov.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.

Nick Bamber recently re-joined the Parish Council as Vice- Chairman.
Nick and his wife moved into Brize Meadow in 2021 with their young family.
We look forward to telling you more about Nick in the next Autumn/Winter Issue.

Nick Bamber
Vice-Chairman



Chris Woodward
Councillor

I have spent over 15 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.



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.

Wendy Way
Councillor



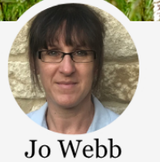
Ady State
Councillor

On retirement in 2020, I moved from Witney to Brize Norton. Much of my life has been spent working in electronics and software fields and this has led to extensive travel around 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 binocular.



I have lived locally since 2005, where my husband and I raised our four children. My career has been in education, initially in Early Years and now teaching in secondary and further education. I am an avid rugby and football fan. When not following a match, I love spending time with family and friends. As a councillor, I focus on high-quality education, green spaces, and local sport in Brize Norton.

Emma Jackson
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.

Around Our Village



St Britius Church

Photo: February - Pancake Supper

At our recent Annual Parochial Church meeting we re-elected our churchwardens Dr Phil Holmes and Rossie Sewell for the ensuing year. We are indebted to their ongoing service and commitment to the parish. The Benefice (Brize Norton, Carterton and Black Bourton) has a Team Rector in Rev Barry Hanson but the Team Vicar post has not been filled, and this job will be readvertised in the next few months.

We have had further correspondence with the Parish Council regarding the maintenance of the churchyards. West Oxfordshire District Council have now taken on the responsibility to cut the grass of the closed churchyard and assist the PCC in its maintenance. In line with the parish council change of contractor the PCC have appointed R J Groundcare to cut the open churchyard, and we are seeking grant support from the Parish Council to help maintain this village asset. Could we remind those tending graves that you please adhere to the signage on the waste recycling bins when disposing of green garden waste and other wrappings and waste to assist in keeping the area tidy and facilitate the disposal of rubbish.

We are trialling technology to facilitate easier access to giving in churches that have no wi-fi. Alongside our contactless card reader, we now have an online card reader that harnesses the power from your mobile phone. We have placed card readers inside and outside of the building - tap your phone on the symbol on the reader and after a couple of seconds you'll be given the option to open our online donation page on your phone's web browser - if you are passing have a look and we would be pleased if you could support us in our work in the community by a small donation.

We are again supporting the village

National Garden Scheme

Open Day on **Sunday 14 June from 1pm to 6pm.** Whilst on your tour of the gardens please call in at our beautiful Norman church for the flower festival. In the Elder Bank Hall we are serving refreshments of tea and cakes sold to raise money for our general funds – you are very welcome to come for afternoon tea even if you are unable to visit the gardens.

We have a further fundraiser with our stall at the **Village Bash on Sunday 5 July** – we look forward to seeing you there.



Looking further ahead please save the following dates to support the church:

- **Saturday 12 September –** the church will be open for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Ride and Stride event. On that day we will also be joined by members of West Ox Arts who will be sketching and painting in and around the church.
- **Saturday 17 October** – Guitar ensemble concert – this will be held at St John's, Carterton to allow room for the 15 performers but all proceeds will go to St Britius.
- **Sunday 15 November –** Patronal Evensong – we have secured funding from the Choral Evensong Trust who support parish churches in celebrating the feast day of their patron saint – we have a visiting choir leading us in the service.

We were pleased to welcome the family and friends of Alfie and Lucy who were married in April and look forward to the ceremony for Oliver and Christie in July. We also have a number of baptism ceremonies booked for the summer and autumn. If you would like to arrange a baptism please contact Rossie Sewell, our churchwarden **(01993 843418)** or to plan another special ceremony at St Britius please contact Rev Barry Hanson **(07949 654988, rector@bncbb.org.uk).**

As well as our 9.15am Sunday service, there is a weekly Wednesday evening Holy Communion service at 7pm. The Church is open until dusk on Sundays following the morning service. Please do visit to take the time for quiet reflection.

For any further details of the church services refer to the notices on the church door or log onto the new Benefice website – www.bncbb.org.uk where you can also gain information of services at St John's, Carterton and St Mary's, Black Bourton.

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

Rector: Rev Barry Hanson
07949 654988 rector@bncbb.org.uk
(Friday day off)

Churchwarden: Dr Phil Holmes
01993 843856 · p.holmes@brizenorton.org

Churchwarden: Rosalind Sewell
01993 843418 · rossie.sewell@googlemail.com

The Humble Bumble

Spring has brought a new wave of energy into our little café and it has been wonderful to see the space buzzing again! As the weather has warmed up, more of you have been enjoying your coffees outside with that familiar view of the Recreation Ground. Families have been gathering, little ones have been running about, and the whole place has felt alive with the sound of neighbours catching up.

This season has been full of community moments... We have welcomed local author Lauren Grace for an evening celebrating her latest novel. The café was filled with readers and neighbours who came together for a chapter reading, a signing and a chance to support a local creator. It was one of those nights that reminded us how special it is to bring people together.





Our craft community has been shining too. Jean from our Thursday Craft Club raised an incredible £310 at the Craft Fayre through her beautiful handmade pieces and donated every penny to Cancer Research UK. Her generosity and spirit capture everything the café stands for. And Mandy recently created a huge batches of handmade hedgehogs over Easter, which sold out almost instantly and raised a staggering £413.30 for Help for Heroes. The kindness behind these efforts has been inspiring.

This month we are also saying a heartfelt farewell to Busy Bee Sophie and her family as they prepare for their posting to Cyprus. Sophie has brought so much laughter, hard work and



community spirit to the café. She has been part of the heartbeat of our hive and we know many of you will miss her warm welcome. Please join us in thanking her for everything she has given to the café and in wishing her and her family every happiness as they begin their next chapter.

Our Busy Bees continue to work hard behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. We are lucky to have a team who care deeply about the café and the people who walk through the door. We are equally grateful to the volunteers who help run community groups and support events. Their time and kindness make a real difference.



We continue to work with brilliant local suppliers who share our values, including local eggs from Mayfield Farm and locally roasted coffee beans from The Oxford Coffee Company. Choosing local helps us keep quality high while supporting the businesses around us. In a time when many are feeling the pinch, every choice to shop local has real impact. Your support keeps our doors open and helps us continue offering a welcoming space for everyone.

As we move further into the season, we look forward to more sunny mornings, more community gatherings and more of the small everyday moments that make this café special. Thank you for being part of this hive and keeping our community alive.



Brize Norton Primary School





Robyn Jones - Headteacher

Brize Norton Primary School has had a vibrant and purposeful few months, with staff and pupils continuing to prioritise a broad, ambitious curriculum that nurtures curiosity, confidence and community spirit. This commitment has shaped everything from classroom learning to whole-school enrichment, ensuring children experience a rich blend of academic challenge, creativity and personal development.

A major highlight earlier this year was our older pupils taking part in **Young Voices**, an unforgettable opportunity to perform as part of one of the largest school choirs. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and sheer joy in singing together made it a standout moment of the year. Alongside this, **Science Week** brought the whole school together under an environmental theme, encouraging pupils to explore sustainability, biodiversity and the small actions we can all take to protect our planet. Hands-on investigations, outdoor learning and eco-inspired challenges helped bring science to life in meaningful ways.

We were also proud to see our **Anti-Bullying Champions** attend training with the Princess Diana Award. Their role in promoting kindness, inclusion and peer support continues to strengthen our school culture, and the training has equipped them with new strategies to help ensure every child feels safe and valued

Looking ahead, the coming term promises to be just as exciting. Our older children are preparing for the incredible challenge of **climbing Snowdon** - a chance to build resilience, teamwork and a sense of achievement they will carry with them for years. **Sports Week** will also return, featuring a fantastic line-up of visiting athletes and sports professionals. Pupils will have the chance to try everything from athletics to basketball and even parkour, broadening their horizons and encouraging active, healthy lifestyles.

A continuing priority for the school is our **Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) provision**. Staff and pupils alike are committed to maintaining the high standards that earned us our platinum status, and with re-accreditation approaching, the school is working hard to sustain the creativity, freedom and joy that OPAL brings to daily playtimes. This focus reflects our belief that outdoor learning is not an add-on but an essential part of children's development - supporting social skills, problem-solving and wellbeing.

Across all these activities runs a clear thread: a school community determined to offer every child a rich, varied and inspiring education.

> *"...a school community determined to offer every child a rich, varied and inspiring education."*

Whether through music, science, outdoor adventure or leadership opportunities, pupils are encouraged to discover their strengths, challenge themselves and take pride in their achievements. It has been a term full of energy and purpose, and with so much still to come, the school looks forward to building on this momentum as we move further into the year.



Brize Norton Village Pre- School

There's been lots of exciting things happening at preschool over the past few months.

In January Anna brought her 'Little City' to preschool.



In February JPL Peking Express treated us all to a yummy Chinese lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year and we looked at Ramadan Celebrations.



In March our older children headed to Carterton Library on the bus for **World Book Day.** We hatched 7 little chicks, Chloe's Mobile farm visited, and celebrated **World Down Syndrome Day** with everyone wearing ODD SOCKS for the day.





April brought a transformation to our garden with a new fence being fitted and opening our doors for 'Come on in Week' to allow parents to come in to see what we get up to at preschool.

May sees us hatching more little ducklings, a visit from Crazy Colin and the 'Big Lunch' with chef Mike.



June brings our open afternoons, yoga and rugby as we prepare our older children for the transition to various primary schools.

July will bring our annual day trip out and our leaver's picnic along with us bidding a sad **farewell to Barbie as she retires after an incredible 32 years.** She's had such a huge impact on so many children and families passing through our preschool doors. She will be sorely missed by all of us at preschool.

Preschool operated from the Elder bank Hall Monday-Friday, term time only providing early education for 2-4 year olds.

Our open afternoons are 5th and 19th June from 1pm-2.30pm. Please call or WhatsApp us on 07769617696 if you'd like to come along.



Our Pre-school

We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment for all preschool-aged children.

We recognise the significant benefits of outdoor learning for children's wellbeing and mental health.

Play and Learn Activities at the Open Afternoon

High quality early education experiences that inspire curiosity and support each child's development as a confident, lifelong learner

FRIDAY 5TH & FRIDAY 19TH JUNE

1PM - 2:30PM

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

https://brizenortonpreschool.co.uk

07769617696

brizenortonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk



1AMW 20th ANNIVERSARY

Number 1 Air Mobility Wing (1AMW) has marked its 20th Anniversary with the dedication of a plaque at Saint Clement Danes Church in London.

Saint Clement Danes is the Central Church of the Royal Air Force and saw members of the Wing, past and present, come together to witness the dedication of the plaque.

Number 1 Air Mobility Wing specialise in passenger and cargo handling, and the safe loading and unloading of Air Mobility Force aircraft on global operations and exercises.

Wing Commander Turnbull, Officer Commanding 1AMW said:

"Today is a momentous occasion for the Wing, marking the 20th anniversary of 1 Air Mobility Wing and the 60th anniversary of the UK Mobile Air Movements Squadron. To be Officer Commanding during this time is a huge honour for me. For the members of the Wing who've joined us here at the Church today, this unit will be their home in the RAF for many years to come. I've encouraged them to reflect on what it means to be here to be part of this milestone. Today we've taken the opportunity during the service to talk about the history of the Wing and look towards the future of movements within the RAF."



Wing Commander Turnbull
Officer Commanding 1AMW

Saint Clement Danes Church is the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. Re-consecrated in 1958 as a perpetual shrine of remembrance to those who have died in service in the RAF. As well as holding the Books of Remembrance the church also contains over a thousand slate squadron and unit badge plaques in the floor, of which 1 Air Mobility Wing now join.



Group Captain Smith, Commander of the Support Force said: "I was a Flight Commander on 1AMW very close to when the unit started, so to be here today as the commander of the Support Force whom the Wing now sit under, it's really special for me. 1AMW is a unit that throughout its 20-year span, has been consistently at the heart of defence operations. When you look at the sheer number of contributions to operations the unit has made over the last 20 years it's incredibly impressive. For the people serving on 1AMW today they should be really proud for wearing that badge on their arm."

Group Captain Smith
Commander of the Support Force





RAF FALCONS

JUMP INTO THE 2026 DISPLAY SEASON ON HOME TURF



The RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team officially launched their 2026 display season today with a spectacular launch day on home turf at RAF Brize Norton, marking the start of another exciting year showcasing precision military parachuting

Taking to the skies above their home station, the RAF Falcons delivered a dynamic parachute display in front of an audience that included children from local schools, invited guests, and members of the Station's whole force. The launch event provided the first public opportunity to see the team in action ahead of a busy 2026 display season across the UK and overseas.



Launching the season at RAF Brize Norton holds particular significance for the team, with the Station serving as the Falcons' home base and training hub. The display highlighted the high levels of skill, teamwork and professionalism required to deliver military parachuting demonstrations safely and to the highest standard.

Officer Commanding RAF Falcons said:

"Launch Day is always a special moment for the team, but jumping into our season here on home turf at RAF Brize Norton makes it even more meaningful. This display marks the culmination of months of preparation and training, and it's fantastic to share that moment with our local community, colleagues and supporters as we step into the 2026 season."

Flight Lieutenant Dominic
Officer Commanding RAF Falcons

As ambassadors for the Royal Air Force, the RAF Falcons play a key role in inspiring future generations, engaging with communities and representing the Service at public events.

Throughout the 2026 season, the team will perform at airshows, public engagements and community events, both in the UK and overseas.





The Launch Day marks the beginning of what is expected to be a demanding and rewarding season for the RAF Falcons as they continue to promote the Royal Air Force through world class parachute displays.

To keep up to date with the RAF Falcons throughout the 2026 display season, follow them on social media across Facebook, Instagram and X.

Visit the website of the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team: https://www.raf.mod.uk/display-teams/falcons/



The recreation ground on Station Road has hosted a full football season, accommodating teams ranging from U7s to the U18 girls' youth squads representing Aston FC together with Seige FC men's team, who compete in Division One of the Witney and District League, and secured the league title this season. Additionally, Deer Park Rangers, also participants in Division One, played a number of fixtures at our venue when their regular pitch was unavailable. January presented challenging weather conditions, resulting in one weekend being cancelled due to frost and the following weekend affected by waterlogging. Despite these interruptions, the full-size pitch has largely maintained its quality and resilience throughout the season. During the summer, the centre circle will undergo targeted maintenance by Gary, our grounds specialist.

Having demonstrated that the pitch can sustain usage by multiple teams, we are pleased to confirm Seige FC will continue playing home games at our facility next season, and Deer Park Rangers has also committed to a full season. Aston FC Youth teams will also continue to play games at Brize. Here are a couple of testimonials:

"The 25/26 season for Aston FC was another successful one, with several 'home' games played at Brize Norton Recreation Ground. The move proved a real hit with coaches and players.
"The Rec's pitches held up brilliantly through the season, despite the wet weather we had! There was a great community atmosphere on match days; this was aided by having one of the best cafes on site providing refreshments throughout the morning. The Humble Bumble team were fantastic with supporters. A huge thank you to them for keeping everyone fuelled and smiling.



> *"The Rec's pitches held up brilliantly through the season, despite the wet weather we had! There was a great community atmosphere on match days; this was aided by having one of the best cafes on site"*

"Aston FC would like to thank Brize Norton Parish Council and all the volunteers who helped make the season run smoothly.

The club really enjoyed calling the Rec home this year and hopes to build on these strong local links next season. Many thanks." Nick Angus, Aston FC.

"We've really enjoyed playing at Brize and hope to become a permanent fixture. We were made to feel welcome from the start and that continues to this day so thanks to everyone involved! And while results this season haven't been great, becoming part of the Brize family is a real highlight."

Ethan Phillips-Richardson, Chairman, Deer Park Rangers

There's another sports facility at the recreation ground—our tennis court! The net is in place, and the court is available for everyone to use without charge.

Finally, a reminder to all dog owners. This area is a dog-free area – even around the perimeter. Dogs are welcome at the Humble Bumble café on their patio area but not beyond.

If you're looking for places to walk your dog, check out Kilkenny Country Park or Mary Ellis Country Park.

Cllr Wendy Way

Siege FC 1st season at Brize

In its 10th anniversary year as a football club, Siege FC found itself without a home ground. After a few discussions with the parish council it became clear this would be a great home for the team.

The warm welcome continued on the pitch as no opposition team were able to beat Siege FC in the league this season resulting in them winning Division 1 unbeaten!

Alongside reaching the Fred Ford Cup Final including beating Premier Division Champions Stonesfield in the semi finals.

Well supported at each home game with a mix of loyal fans and new Brize Norton followers, each game has been entertaining.

We look forward to playing at the ground next season and encourage more spectators to come and watch the games



Brize Jets (Brize Netball)

Hola!! We did it!

Brize Jets Promoted to highest division in the England Netball's South Region after a season full of injuries, pregnancies and pure grit and determination!!



Injuries after the first 7 matches which seen us unbeaten included an Achilles rupture, tibial plateaux fracture as well as a talus fracture along with not one but TWO pregnancy announcements!! We turned up to games all over the south coast with just 8 players and we're still able to pull off wins!

Two of those games we won by just 1 goal which shows true commitment and incredible will power especially when up against such massive clubs with huge squads and many of their players on national youth pathways!!

Bonnie Brookes
Brize Jets (Brize Netball)





-Thank you to Steve Weeks at The Masons Arms
for providing all 'Ye Olde Photographs'

The Oxford Journal
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1765.

Hidden Treasure

- By Julie Thorn -

"They write from Brize Norton, near Bampton in this County, that on Tuesday last, an elderly Widow Woman of that Place, who for about five Years past has been maintained by the Parish, had the Misfortune to slip down in her House and dislocate a Limb," the Oxford Journal reported in 1765, "upon the Alarm of which, the Neighbours having hastened to her Assistance, judged it most expedient to remove her Bed down Stairs, that she might be waited on with less Inconvenience; when upon taking it away, they discovered a Hoard of Five Pounds, all in Silver, which the sordid Wretch little thought of having laid up to defray the Expenses of this accidental Calamity.

"The Money was claimed by, and put into the Hands of the Overseer of Brize Norton, towards reimbursing the Parish: And we have only to observe, that Instances of this Kind of Imposition upon Parishes happening now and then to be discovered, naturally create Suspicions, and have often augmented the Distress of the really Indigent."



So was the *"sordid Wretch"* just a benefits scrounger? Or was she a frightened old lady with no family nearby to look after her? It is difficult for us to imagine the terror of the workhouse among the elderly and infirm in those days. Once her savings were gone, they were gone, with no means ever of replenishing them. How to provide proper care is a problem we still grapple with today.



Julie Ann Godson
Facebook: @julieanngodson
Julie's Oxfordshire history
books are available on Amazon



My Journey to *Volunteering*

So, last summer I got this urge to do some volunteer work, and just as I was thinking about it, what do you know? An advert for ARCh (that's Assisted Reading for Children) pops up on my Facebook feed! They're this lovely charity working with primary schools all over Oxfordshire, helping children with their reading.

A little while later, looking on the notice board in the Humble Bumble Café and there was a poster for ARCh staring right at me from the wall, so I thought, okay, this is clearly meant to be so, without overthinking it, I grabbed my phone and made the call. And that's how my volunteering adventure began!

After training, I was assigned a Field Worker, received my placement at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Witney and began my volunteering in February, after a brief delay getting started because I broke my arm!

I recently met up with a fellow ARCh volunteer, Kath Monkhouse, who volunteers at our own primary school for a cup of coffee and a chat.

Kath has been an ARCh reader for a year and a half and supports children in Years 3 and 4, whereas I support three children in Year 2. We both agreed that we took on the challenge as we both enjoy working which children



and it gives us an enthusiastic sense of achievement that we are able to encourage reading and conversation with these youngsters and aide their confidence.

> *"this is clearly meant to be so, without overthinking it, I grabbed my phone and made the call. And that's how my volunteering adventure began!"*

Each week, we dedicate three hours to volunteering, ensuring that every child receives a full hour of individual attention. This one-to-one time enables us to tailor our sessions by selecting books and games that align with the child's personal interests. By doing so, we create an engaging environment where conversation flows naturally, and the child is encouraged to practise their communication skills through playful interaction.

When we read together, we make a point of discussing the book, which often sparks further conversation and sometimes leads us to explore entirely new topics. We believe that anything capable of capturing a child's curiosity—whether it's a story or a game—is a genuine joy and an important opportunity for them to think and express themselves.

Kath agreed with me that very often we learn new things ourselves along the way and sometimes get caught out by a question posed to us. I was once asked when reading a story about a doll how she could say something silently! That took me a moment or two to come up with an explanation.

If this is something you may be interested in doing, ARCh is always looking for new volunteers as they have many schools on their waiting list asking for support.

"Our volunteers say how rewarding it is knowing they're making a genuine difference to children's lives," says Emma Orton, ARCh Recruitment Officer.

Please email info@archoxfordshire.org.uk for information or visit www.archoxfordshire.org.uk

Cllr Wendy Way

Coffee *with a* Copper

P4144 Alexander DICKINS
Police Constable Carterton Police Station

On Tuesday 19th May 2026, I held a community engagement event titled 'Coffee With a Copper' at the Humble Bumble Café in Brize Norton.

The name of the venue alone made it worth a visit, but more importantly, this session was designed to give local residents an informal opportunity to speak with me face to face. Whether you had concerns you wanted to raise, questions about policing in the area, or simply an interest in how we work within the community, you were very welcome to come along.

My aim is to make this a regular, monthly event so that residents have a consistent and approachable way to engage with their local policing team. However, the frequency will depend on public interest and the operational demands of my role, so your participation in future sessions genuinely helps shape how often these can take place. Over recent months, we continued our work with young people through Operation JUST. This initiative focused on early intervention and positive engagement, and we collaborated closely with youth services, local organisations, and businesses to find creative and effective ways to address the root causes of antisocial behaviour. These partnerships already showed promising results, and we are committed to building on this progress. By working together, we can help ensure that young people in Brize Norton feel supported, included, and encouraged to make positive choices.

We experienced a number of burglaries in the area over the past six months. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all residents to review their home security. Simple measures such as ensuring doors and windows are locked, using timers for lights when are away, keeping valuables out of sight can make a significant difference. If you would like advice on crime prevention or home security, please feel free to raise this during a future Coffee With a Copper session, and I will be happy to discuss it with you.



We were also aware that antisocial behaviour was being under-reported in the community. To address issues effectively, we rely on accurate information from residents. If you witness antisocial behaviour—including antisocial driving—please report it to us. Even if the incident seems minor, your report helps us build a clearer picture of what is happening and allows us to allocate resources where they are most needed. Reporting also ensures that patterns and repeat issues are identified early.

I would like to remind all residents of the correct ways to contact the police. In an emergency, always call 999. For non-emergency matters, you can contact us via 101. You can also report incidents, concerns, or provide information through the reporting feature on the Thames Valley Police website. Every report, no matter how small it may seem, contributes to keeping Brize Norton safe.

I look forward to meeting many of you at future sessions at the Humble Bumble and continuing to work together to support our community.



MyVision Oxfordshire

Still going strong in Carterton & Witney

It's been nearly two years since MyVision Oxfordshire first ran its inaugural Carterton Social group at ASDA. Since then, we have gone from strength to strength, organising social groups, green walks, day trips, activities and so much more. Living with sight loss can be socially isolating. However, being unable to see does not mean you have to suffer alone. That's where we can help.

We at MyVision Oxfordshire make sure to not only offer services local to those we support, but we can also assist with the challenges of attending these meetings. Whether its by providing a sighted guide to walk with you, meeting you at a location you already know how to get to or holding events in your own local areas, we make sure that all our activities are accessible to those who need them the most. We also offer home visits and volunteer befriending services for those who are unable to leave their homes.

But don't take our word for it, here are some quotes from our service users in the local area:

I'm so pleased that a friend told me about MyVision. I have met some lovely people on the Witney walks which include a get-together at a café afterwards.
Sue - Carterton

Lovely company, lots of fun and good cheer,
Of course, another MyVision Green Walks Day is here!
It's about meeting new people, making friends and talk,
And the added bonus, a nice and healthy Green Walk
Elke - Witney

There is so much to do in the area since Sammy took over, my social colander has never been this busy and I love it!
Clare - Charlbury

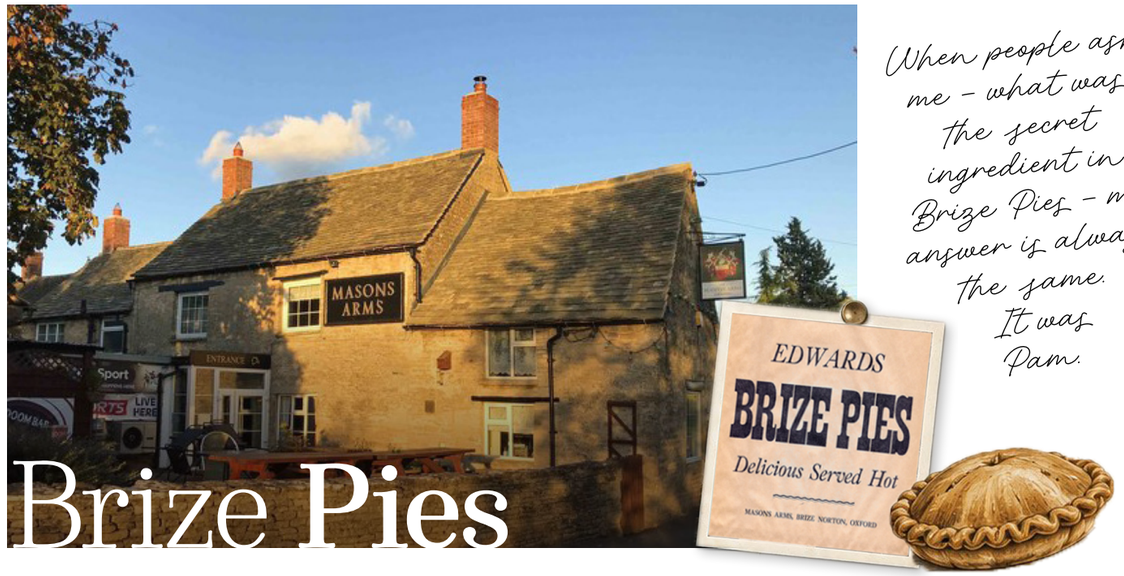
Sammy's visits just make my day, it's so kind of her to come and see me and arrange transport for me to meet people. I'm 95 and she gives me a reason to go out.
Dorothy - Eynsham

MyVision is a fantastic, top tier service. Sammy provided me with more information about Bonnet Syndrome than my doctors ever did and MyVision continues to keep in touch with me at my Care Home. Sammy also regularly communicates with my care team personally to involve me in any socializing opportunities that come up.
Ann - Curbridge

All our services can be easily explored at www.myvision.org.uk and we welcome anyone to give us a ring at 01865 725595 to inquire 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 easily reached via email at sammy.musani@myvision.org.uk or via telephone at 07501 687 587.



Brize Pies

When people ask me – what was the secret ingredient in Brize Pies – my answer is always the same. It was Pam.

Marion Edwards

My parents, Pamela and Neville, took over the Masons Arms in 1961, at which point it was a traditional locals' pub at the quiet end of the village. Trade was slow – very slow – which was worrying as they had a young family to support. Wracking her brains as to what could be done to drum up more customers, Pam decided to bake a few Cornish pasties for sale over the counter. She insisted that the pies be carried – fresh out of the oven – from the kitchen through the pub to the bar. Of course, the smell was irresistible, and they sold out in minutes. The idea for Brize Pies was born.



professional cook – she joined the WRNS on leaving school and catered for huge formal events during her naval career, so cooking in large quantities didn't daunt her. Pam and Neville took their idea to the brewery who agreed to extend and re-fit the kitchen. A specialist pie oven was purchased, and they were in business.

There were three varieties of Brize Pies: Cornish pasties, chicken & mushroom pies and steak & kidney pies. All ingredients were sourced locally, and herbs were grown in the garden – chopped parsley in the chicken & mushroom pies was a memorable extra touch. Demand was such that other pubs across Oxfordshire and the colleges in Oxford made enquiries and a delivery service was set up – Neville somehow fitting in the deliveries between helping in the kitchen, dropping my brothers off at school and opening the bar up.

A trip to the Mason's Arms was an "event" – the squadron leader of the Red Arrows announced to his pilots one day that he was taking them on a 'team-building exercise' - to the Mason's Arms to sample Brize Pies! There was much excitement the year the pub was mentioned in Egon Ronay's Good Food Guide and racegoers from Cheltenham descended on the pub in their top hats and tails!

But it was hard work, relentlessly hard, day in and day out. Especially with two young children – and then an accidental third – me! I remember Pam telling me she baked 12 dozen mince pies a week before giving birth to me. And so, after 10 years, the decision was made to leave the pub and Brize Pies behind. Throughout my childhood, people would stop Pam and ask her for the recipe for Brize Pies and she would just smile and say "Oh, it's all in my head, I never wrote it down!". She always said she used the best quality ingredients; everything was fresh and everything was made by hand. And so, when people ask me – what was the secret ingredient in Brize Pies – my answer is always the same. It was Pam.

David's **Poetry** Corner

The Sadness of The Ancient Ghost



Dreams of circles made of stone
and monoliths all weathered and worn
Beneath the starry moonlit night
where pagan rituals were acted out

And ancient Stone Age man lives on
who's dancing round in circles strong
As primitive thoughts once floated by
and burning embers touched the sky

And henges made of stone and wood
marked the place where people stood
Where ghostly apparitions come
to tell the lives of ancient man

For in these places late at night
you'll notice that their souls take flight
And once again transparently
you'll see the wisps of energy

For ghosts are souls that have left the body
but linger here for all eternity
And feeling pulled to earthly spaces
they cannot find their resting places

In this issue David shares this poem due to the close proximity of the Spring Equinox which occurred in the Northern Hemisphere on March 20, 2026. It marks the astronomical start of spring, featuring roughly equal day and night lengths (12 hours) worldwide, signalling longer days, warmer weather, and themes of renewal.

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.

Villager's Voice



A Warm Farewell to a Village Legend:
A Heartfelt Thank You from all of us, Barbie!

Colleagues were recently asked to describe Barbie Thorne in a single word or phrase. Their answers came quickly:

> "Wonder Woman, a legend, admired, one of a kind, super strong, a great mentor, dependable, knowledgeable, compassionate, hardworking, caring, funny and definitely young at heart."

It is a fitting collection of tributes for someone who has given so much to our community. Brize Norton is saying a fond and heartfelt thank you this year as Barbie retires from the village pre-school after more than three decades of dedicated service.





A Generational Legacy

For many, Barbie hasn't just been a teacher; she has been a constant, nurturing presence across generations. Families like the Baughans have seen this firsthand. Barbie taught Emma Baughan years ago, and then went on to care for Emma's daughters, Gracie and Ada. To this day, the girls still affectionately call her "my Barbie." It's a sentiment echoed across the village—she has a unique gift for making every child feel special.

Many will remember the magic of childhood visits to Barbie's garden to feed her chickens, or the excitement of gathering at her house for the annual fete day parade. These are the kind of golden village memories that stay with you long after "big school" begins.

At the Heart of the Village

A familiar and much-loved figure, Barbie has shaped the early years of countless children. Many will remember her roles beyond the classroom, too; she led the village Brownies for many years, giving local girls their first taste of adventure, and has been an active member of the Brize Norton Women's Institute.

But it is at the pre-school—where she has worked since its establishment in 1994—that Barbie's influence has been felt most deeply. As Language Lead, she guided the Wellcomm Communication Assessment Programme with expertise and kindness, helping children find confidence in their very first words.



The pre-school's own tribute captures her impact beautifully:

> *"She brings not only deep knowledge of early years education but also a genuine warmth that children and families instantly connect with. Her passion for nurturing children shines through in everything she does."*



A Deserved Send-Off

Pre-school manager Jackie Hampson added: "All of us at pre-school are going to miss her more than we can say. She has always been such a constant part of our days, and it's hard to imagine returning in September without her there."

As Barbie steps back from daily life at the pre-school, Brize Norton offers its warmest thanks for her years of dedication, care, and community spirit. Her legacy isn't just in the classroom—it's in the confidence and happy memories of the generations of children who grew up with "their Barbie" cheering them on.

Her legacy will truly be felt for many years to come.

If you or your child attended Pre-school or Brownies, why not

SCAN THE QR CODE...









The State of Nature



Fledglings

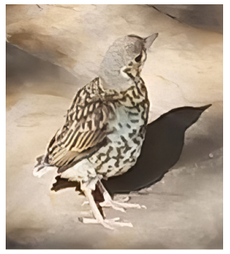
Ady State

On a Sunday morning a few weeks ago I was walking across to the Humble Bumble café for my morning coffee when I noticed something moving beneath one the shrubs in front of Elder Bank Hall. Concerned as to what it could be I ducked down to identify it and was surprised to find a freshly fledged Mistle Thrush. Worried that it might become prey to a cat or other predator I carefully lifted it and placed it in the large tree near the end of the hall.

Whilst in the café sipping my coffee some 30 minutes later I get a call from a fellow councillor, Chris Woodward and stepping out of the café I find him near the hall entrance looking down in front of the main door. There on the ground was another young Mistle Thrush. Chris pointed to the tree beside him where there was yet another fledgling Mistle Thrush. We waited a little while, until both had safely dispersed and I had ascertained that the original bird was still in the tree.

I returned to the café finished my coffee and then went home, returning with my camera.

After an hour I had located a total of five of these fledglings and eventually they all ended up in the tree where I watched their mother fly down from the hall roof and feed them one by one.



In front of the hall

On a bench





Safely in the tree

I left with a set of photos and the feeling that mum was taking very good care of them.

I have often seen Mistle Thrush on our sports field especially in the mornings but never had the opportunity to see them close before, so this was a magical experience for me.

My photographs are not the best but, in my defence, I was keeping well away from the fledglings so as not to disturb them!

Mistle Thrush are one of our earlier birds to nest often laying eggs as early as February but since I found those fledglings, more of our native birds have fledged.

I have seen Blackbird and Robin chicks in my garden. The Great Tits and Sparrows in my nest boxes will soon be leaving their nests.

If you do find fledglings on the ground, please leave them be, unless there is an imminent risk of them being predated by cats or other predators. The mother bird will be observing them and will come down and feed them once you move away.

One final plea, if you have a cat, please ensure it has a bell on its collar to alert birds to its presence, especially over the next few months.

In my other role working for owl conservation, I have already found many Barn, Tawny and Little owls breeding along with Kestrels so it appears the awful crash in numbers we had last year is now behind us and I will have plenty of owls to monitor this year.

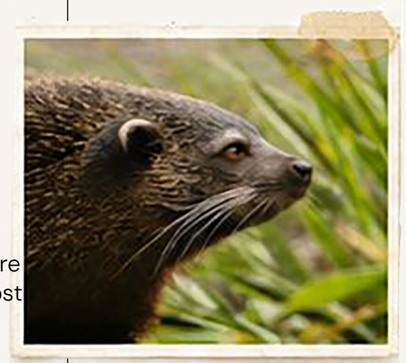
Get in touch with Ady via
adystate@gmail.com



Cotswold Wildlife Park, home to one of biggest Binturong group in the UK, proudly hosts World Binturong Day to save one of nature's most unusual mammals.



The Park is home to more than 1,500 animals from 250 different species but one more than any other sparks the most curiosity from visitors due to its bizarre appearance and unmistakable sweet-smelling aroma - the Binturong. Also known as Bearcats, this secretive mammal originates from the rainforests of south-east Asia and are related to small forest predators like Fossas, Civets and Genets. They are also the only creature to emit a completely unique scent which smells like buttered popcorn. Another striking feature is their prehensile tail. Strong enough to support their full body weight, it acts like an extra limb which can be used to navigate the canopy, grip branches and help it climb. Binturong (Arctictis binturong) are one of only two carnivores that possess such a tail - the other is a Kinkajou.



Fundraising to save this threatened species in the wild.

Cotswold Wildlife Park is dedicated to the conservation of these rare mammals and proudly supports World Binturong Day. Now in its twelfth year, the worldwide event aims to highlight the plight these relatively unknown animals face in the wild. Population numbers have declined by 30% in the last 20 years. They are listed as "Vulnerable" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Main threats to their survival include deforestation to make way for palm oil, rubber and teak plantations. They are also sold as pets or used for their fur and meat in the illegal wildlife trade. To raise awareness and funds for their conservation programme, on Saturday 9 May 2026, there will be a dedicated World Binturong Day stand at the Park where visitors can learn more about these fascinating creatures and take part in fundraising activities, including the chance to win a Binturong Encounter. All funds raised will go to ABConservation www.abconservation.org/en/).



There will also be a special World Binturong Day talk and feed at midday by their keeper.

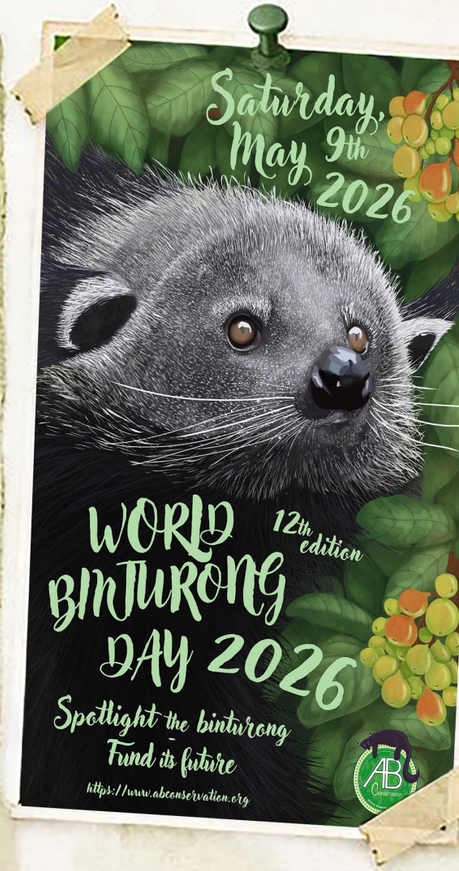
Since their arrival at the Park eight years ago, keepers have achieved remarkable breeding success with this species, so much so that the Park is now home to one of the biggest groups of Binturong in the country. Assistant Animal Manager at Cotswold Wildlife Park, Chris Kibbey, explains: "Since introducing our Binturong pair in 2018, they have been doing a fantastic job of contributing to the captive breeding programme. In 2023, they produced their 8th and 9th kits here at the Park. Young from previous years have already gone to other zoological collections which helps to maintain the captive 'safety net' for this vulnerable civet species. We are proud to boast that with six individuals, we currently have one the largest groups of Binturongs in the UK". Only one other zoological collection in the UK has a group this large on show. The Park's adult Binturong pair, Dobby and Himala, were introduced to each other in 2018 and soon formed a strong bond. In late 2019, Himala gave birth to her first cub (named Coconut).

Since then, Dobby and Himala have successfully produced eight more cubs together, four of which are currently on show to visitors in the Binturong exhibit opposite the Insect and Invertebrate House. They include breeding successes from 2022 – Billie and Bobbie along with twins Barry and his sister Bennie, born in 2023. They share their exhibit with parents Dobby and Himala.

Did you know?

Additional information:

- Normal admission price applies for World Binturong Day.
- The Binturong plays a remarkable role in its rainforest ecosystem; it has the ability to aid the regeneration of the forest. It does this by swallowing the seeds from fruits whole and then spreading them across the forest in their faecal matter. Seeds germinate faster after travelling through the Binturong's gut.
- Binturong are also a vital seed disperser of the Strangler Fig tree. Strangler Fig trees are very important as they provide sleeping and nesting sites for many rainforest birds, mammals and insects.
- Binturong are very little known or studied by scientists. Arctictis Binturong Conservation is the only association in the world dedicated to the study and protection of the Binturong. They work in Europe and in the field in Asia to promote, inform, educate, share, study and protect this wonderfully unique animal."



For further information, please contact Debbie Ryan, Media Relations, Cotswold Wildlife Park on 07787 133837 or email pr@cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk.

Summer opening times: Cotswold Wildlife Park is open every day from 10.00 am - 6.00 pm (last admission at 4.00 pm).

WWW.COTSWOLDWILDLIFEPARK.CO.UK
@CotsWildTweets
www.facebook comcotswoldwildlifepark

What's on...

Looking back at the 2022 Sports and Games during the Brize Platinum Jubilee Bash

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.

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

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

When: **Tuesdays 10am - 12 midday**

How can I find a Chatter & Natter table?

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

Brize Norton Village
Summer of Sport Bash



As you read this article the World Cup will be starting soon, you may have booked tickets for the Commonwealth Games, Wimbledon or 100 Cricket tournaments or perhaps just looking forward to spectating or taking part in local sports or clubs.

Our theme celebrates a 'Summer of Sport' and we are planning a free, fun for all the family, community event run by volunteers from the village charities with the proceeds primarily going to Brize Norton Primary School but also supporting other local charities and businesses.

We would like for everyone to get involved prior to the day by making a sporting scarecrow and to display it in your garden from Sunday 14th June (the NGS weekend) to advertise the event. Then bring your scarecrows on 5th July to be judged and possibly win a prize. This newsletter has some rules and guidelines.

The Recreation Ground has seen success (and failure) of Brize football and cricket teams and we plan a display of Brize teams photos and memorabilia – we would welcome photos and items for display – **please contact Carolyn – 07786 405341 or email** cpeach.uk@btinternet.com **if you can help.**

The fun starts at 1pm. We will have the usual stalls; raffles, tombolas, bric-a-brac, plants, cakes, bar, barbecue, year 6 games, bouncy castles and tea and cakes at the Humble Bumble cafe. Have you tried archery? Adventure+ are helping us run this attraction – come and have a go or perhaps aim at another target – the Aunt Sally dolly! Better, who manage Carterton Leisure Centre will promote activity with gym equipment and circuits. Everyone can have a go at seated exercise or join in with Bampton Morris. We hope to have other displays from local clubs that use the Elder Bank Hall. We are pleased that Connor Brimblecombe, Saxophony and children from the Primary School will once again be our musical entertainment. We are indebted to our current sponsors A K Timms and Chancellors for their financial support and assistance in putting on the event. We would welcome sponsorship from other local businesses to support us financially or by donations of raffle or competition prizes – please get in touch. Also we hope to have a small number of local craft stalls – if you would like a pitch please contact Jayne, Elder Bank Hall.

Look out for posters on the village noticeboards and for more information and updates on the village social media. We would always welcome more volunteers to help before and on the day – please contact us by social media or contact Carolyn on **07786 405341.**

Make a date in your diary, Sunday 5 July, 1pm - 5pm the Recreation Ground, Brize Norton. Parking on Carterton Road (with thanks to RAF Brize Norton).

SCARECROW COMPETITION RULES

The organising committee of the Brize Norton Village Summer of Sport Bash 2026 welcomes entries from residents and those living outside the parish to make and display a 'Sporting scarecrow'.

Families may enter more than one scarecrow. Ideally the scarecrow should be displayed in their garden location from Sunday 14 June to advertise the Village Bash. We ask that they are then brought to the event on Sunday 5 July by 1pm for judging and the chance to win a prize. Judges' decisions are absolutely final. Prize winners will be announced and presentations made at the Village Bash about 4.30pm. Competitors are responsible for displaying their scarecrows at the event and are responsible for clearing away their own scarecrow by 5.30pm.

The scarecrow can be smaller but should not be larger than 2.0m wide x 2.0m high. All scarecrows should be constructed to consider the prospect of inclement weather. Entrants are reminded that this is a public event and all scarecrows must be made and displayed in good taste. The Committee reserve the right to withdraw any scarecrows that they deem unsuitable. An entrant designing their scarecrow to cause deliberate offence will be disqualified.

Scarecrows should be placed in a safe location and should be clearly visible from the road. They should be secured so that they will not blow away, and in a position that will not cause a danger, injury, or annoyance to others. The organising Committee will not be held responsible for any damage to Third Party property caused by the creation or insecurity of scarecrows. Owners are held solely responsible for the safety and security of their scarecrow.

Photographs will be taken of the scarecrows and may be published on the Brize Norton Parish website to advertise the Village Day or used for other purposes after the event.

All entry forms must be submitted to Carolyn Peach before the day by e-mail cpeach.uk@btinternet.com or 52a Station Road, Brize Norton OX18 3QA.

SCARECROW COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Entrant name

Address for display of scarecrow

Contact telephone number

I agree to the terms and conditions of the competition –

Signed

Guide Dogs

Guide Dog Ambassador Meet & Greet

Saturday 2nd May
10am to 12pm | Carterton Library

Meet a Guide Dog Ambassador!
Drop by to learn more about Guide Dogs and how they help people with sight loss. Visit www.guidedogs.org.uk to learn more.

The Library Carterton



The History of Carterton with Martin Way

Join local historian Martin Way at Carterton Library as he explores 120 years of Carterton's history. Spanning from the town's founding in the 1900's, to the construction of RAF Brize Norton and the present day, this informative talk is not one to miss!

Tuesday 21nd July | 6 - 7pm | £2 per person
Contact Carterton Library to book your place at 01865 815125

The Library Carterton

The Library Oxfordshire

READ to the BEAT

...with a FREE children's reading challenge at your local Oxfordshire library!

4 July to 5 September 2026

The Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat celebrates the joy of reading with a theme inspired by music. Children can discover how books spark creativity and imagination.



Finish the challenge and get your own medal and certificate!

Look out for fantastic new books and activities at your library!

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Read to the Beat illustrations by Harry Woodgate. Illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2026

The Reading Agency | Universal | Oxfordshire County Council



Why do People Play *Bridge?*



Why do people play Bridge? Well, it's fun, a challenge, addictive, stimulates the brain, helps stave off dementia and its socially acceptable.

All you need is a pack of cards, a table, and some like-minded people. Br**idge players love the mental challenge because every deal is different, every deal poses new problems and finding the solution is a great deal of enjoyment** –even more so if you find the answer.

It keeps you healthy and research has shown that undertaking some form of mental agility daily **helps to protect against Dementia and Alzheimer's.** The best way to save our brain, as we get older, is to use it. That is why so many seniors are taking college classes. A less expensive way is to join your local club and play bridge.

Then there is the social interaction between people which is just as important as playing the game. Starting with your very first lessons, you will meet some very nice likeminded people, who I am sure will become your friends.

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)

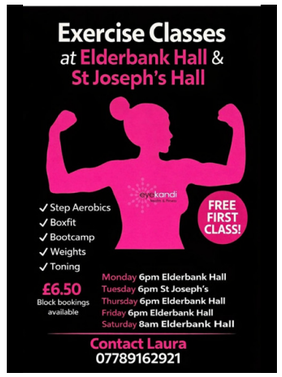
9.30am to 12.30pm (play starts at 10 am)

• First session free • Refreshments available

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

Exciting News for our *little hall..*





A **BIG THANK YOU** to every member of the EBH Committee. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers, especially after what has been a challenging couple of years keeping the hall affordable for all. *You are all amazing, thank you!*

We have brilliant news, we are now a Charity! We are still finding our way, but will share updates on Facebook and in the next issue.

We have kindly received a Parish Council grant which will fund a new website and automatic access system, making booking much easier. We also hope to receive S106 funding to renovate the main hall, inside and out similar to the new extension!

Thank you for your patience and continued support. Please watch out for links to our new booking site and we look forward to hosting this summer's events and seeing you all there!

Elevate *Your* Strength

Mastering Your Body

In a world full of flashy gym equipment, there is profound power in returning to basics. At You Can Fitness, we believe the most sophisticated training equipment is already in your possession: your own body. My philosophy is simple: fitness shouldn't be an exclusive club or an intimidating hurdle. No matter your starting point, I believe anybody can do fitness.

Nine Years of Movement Mastery

With over nine years of professional teaching experience, I have worked with diverse body types and fitness levels. This journey taught me that fitness isn't a "one size fits all" formula. My coaching blends seasoned expertise with an inclusive approach, ensuring every participant moves safely while breaking through perceived plateaus.

Relentless Ambition

I don't just teach movement; I live it. My personal philosophy is rooted in "venturing further," from competitive running and ultra-marathons to high-intensity obstacle course competitions and water sports. I am constantly challenging myself to get stronger, bringing that same "never-settle" energy to every class to help you find a gear you didn't know you had.

The Power of Callisthenics

Our sessions are built around bodyweight workouts and the art of callisthenics. By utilising gravity and leverage, we focus on compound strength, joint longevity, core stability, and skill acquisition. We move beyond simple repetitions to help you master your body through pull-ups, dips, and balance work.



Why Choose You Can Fitness?

We don't just "do a workout"; we practice a craft. When you join a class, you are a student of movement led by a coach who is right there in the trenches with you. We strip away the excuses and prove that your goals are within reach. Fitness is about being better than you were yesterday. We provide the roadmap; you provide the heart.

Join the Movement

Are you ready to see what your body is truly capable of? No heavy weights required just your presence and a willingness to work.

Elder Bank Hall • Every Tuesday • 6-7 pm
Gareth is on Facebook or Instagram

You Can Fitness • Master Your Movement. Own Your Strength.

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
  To contact the Chair of Governors please go through the school office
  BNPS School Association
  Emma Baughan
  bnsa_fundraising@outlook.com
- **Brize Norton Pre-School**
  Jackie Hampson • 07769 617 696
  brizenortonpreschool@hotmail.co.uk
- **Football Booking •**
  Wendy Way
  w.way@brizenortonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- **Elder Bank Hall • 622714**
  Jayne Woodward
  elderbankhall@gmail.com
- **Ballroom, Latin Dancing •**
  Contact the EBH Team
- **Open Gardens**
  Dawn Humphris & Brian Trott
  dawnhumphris@btinternet.com
  brian.trott3@btinternet.com

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Heavenly Tarts
Catering Services
info@heavenlytarts.co.uk
01993 665156

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Ben Stevens
All aspects of plastering undertaken
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Fully Qualified
benstevens704@gmail.com

Childcare Spaces Available September 2025
BUTTERFLY CHILDCARE
Nature-Inspired Childcare for Little Explorers
www.butterflychildcare.co.uk

USEFUL INFO

- **Post Office at the Sports Pavilion**
  Tuesdays
  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

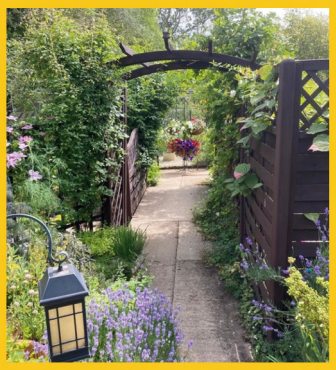
  County Councillor for Brize Norton and Carterton East Division -
  Councillor Toyah Overton
  Toyah.Overton@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

  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

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GAS safe REGISTER

BRIZE NORTON OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE FROM 1PM - 6PM











We have 8 beautiful gardens open & a flower festival in the village church.

There will be tea, coffee & lots of lovely cakes available in the Elder Bank hall.



Parking will be signposted to the Elder Bank Hall & off Manor Road.

Please come along & enjoy an afternoon wondering around the village.

Adult admission £7.50, Children's admission free

WHY NOT OPEN YOUR GARDEN IN 2027?

Each year, many want to join our Open Gardens trail, but worry their space is too small or "not good enough." Please don't worry - no garden is too small! We are a friendly, social group focused on community, not perfection. Whether your garden is a tiny courtyard or a work-in-progress, we're here to help you along the way.

To learn more, contact Dawn Humphris at 07723 718199.