

# *Living Villages*



*April 2018*

*Water Newton, Thornhaugh,  
Stibbington, Sutton & Wansford*

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# EDITORIAL

I am delighted to be able to report that we have a new member of our editorial team. Nicky Rogers has joined us as our Special Report Writer, she is already working on a few new articles, but if you have a suggestion or idea for a future feature, then please get in touch with her.



**The A1 on 28th February 2018**

We are once again indebted to our stalwart distributors who we know battled through terrible weather conditions to deliver the magazines last month. It's times like that which makes me realise how lucky we are (in Stibbington and Wansford) to have a local shop and Post Office. They provide a much needed service to many of our residents, including those who do not have transport, throughout the year. However in order for the shop to survive in the years to come, they will need our continuing support.

*Tracy Sortwell*

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St John the Baptist	Helen Facer	01780 782932
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## Other useful contacts

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(Out of hours	111 option 4)	Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	789996
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Communicare	01780 470437	Horticultural Society	01780 782446
H'don District Council	01480 388388	Stibbington Centre	01780 782386

## Website

[www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk](http://www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk)

# WORSHIP APRIL 2018

*Editors Note:- I have tried a different layout for the monthly church services this month as now that we are covering services in both the Watersmete and Castor Benefice's it has become increasingly difficult to fit them all onto one page in a font that is possible to read without a microscope! Thank-you for the various suggestions that I've received in making these changes.*

<b>St Leonard's, Apethorpe</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Easter Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Prayer
15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion

<b>St Kyneburgha, Castor</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	10.15am	Easter Day Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.15am	Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	Holy Communion

<b>St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Easter Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion and Sunday School
	6.00pm	Evensong

<b>St John the Baptist, Stibbington</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	6.00pm	Easter Holy Communion followed by refreshments

<b>St Michael and All Angels, Sutton</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am	Easter Day Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Family Service
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00am	Holy Communion

<b>St Andrew's, Thornhaugh</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Easter Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Benefice Communion

<b>St Mary's, Wansford</b>		
<i>Every Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer</i>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Easter Communion with Choir & Easter Egg hunt
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Morning Praise & APCM

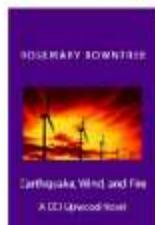
<b>St Remigius, Water Newton</b>		
22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	St Georges Day Service followed by refreshments

<b>St Mary's, Woodnewton</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Easter Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Morning Praise & APCM
22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP

<b>St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Easter Communion by Extension
8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Methodist Service
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion

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If you have not yet read it, the 1<sup>st</sup> DCI Upwood book, **When Good Men Die**, also set in Cambridgeshire, is available on Amazon.

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Death is something that we all fear because it involves the pain and suffering of loss; the loss of our loved ones. It also fills us with doubt and uncertainty because death is totally beyond our understanding. Perhaps this is the reason why we try to push death out of our minds, preferring not to talk about it and inventing euphemisms when referring to it.

John Betjeman ably describes this tendency in one of his poems - "Churchyards" :-

*Oh why do people waste their breath  
inventing dainty names for death?  
On the old tombstones of the past  
We do not read "At peace at last"  
But simply "died" or plain "departed".  
It's no good being chicken hearted.  
We die; that's that; our flesh decays  
or disappears in other ways.*

The poet's words starkly describe the chilling reality of death. However Betjeman goes on to speak of an even greater reality. His poem continues :-

*But since we're Christians, we believe  
that we new bodies will receive  
to clothe our souls for us to meet  
our maker at his Judgement seat.  
And this belief's a gift of faith  
and if it's true no end is death.  
Mid-Lent is passed and Easter's near  
the greatest day in all the year  
when Jesus, who indeed had died,  
rose with his body glorified.*

By the time you read this mid-Lent will have passed and we will have enjoyed the greatest day of the Church's year; Easter Day when we remember Christ's triumph over death. During recent days we have called to mind the last days of Jesus's earthly ministry, his agonising death on the cross and his resurrection. Through these events Christ sanctified the grave to be a seed-bed of hope in which new life is born.

In the first letter that St. Paul wrote to the early Christians in Corinth and used the analogy of a seed to explain something of the mystery of resurrection. Unless a seed first dies, and ceases to be a seed, it cannot grow. But if it dies it becomes something far more wonderful, a new green plant. By using this analogy St. Paul reminds his readers that all of creation follows the great cycle of change which is death and resurrection. John Betjeman also develops this theme in the closing lines of his poem:-

*And if you find believing hard  
the primroses in your churchyard  
and modern science too will show  
that all things change the while they grow,  
and we, who change in Time will be  
still more changed in Eternity.*

In our benefice we are blessed with very beautiful and ancient churchyards in a number of which the primroses are starting to bloom as I write. These little blooms, along with the snowdrops, the other plants and the great cycle of the seasons remind us that "We will not all die, but we will all be changed....For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised....Then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: Death has been swallowed up in victory." (Verses from 1 Corinthians 15)

May our recent Easter celebrations rekindle this hope and keep it alive in your hearts. Happy Easter.

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S

We would like to thank all who supported our **Lent Lunches**. They have been a great success again. To make up for the one we had to cancel because of heavy snow on that day, we managed to fill the Hall at our last one today. In the next issue of "Living Villages", when we have counted all the money, ! we will be able to tell you how much you raised with your generous donations towards our 2 Charities.

I would like to add a very special word of thanks to Martin Bolderston and Steve Ashley, who helped with the setting up and clearing away of all the tables and chairs.

### **On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April the Welcome Coffee Stops at St.Mary's Church will start again.**

Make a note in your diary. They will take place on every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10.30 after Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. There will be home made cakes and sausage rolls etc with your coffee, and enough to buy some to take home with you. So, come along and meet friends and neighbours old and new.

Our **Meetings during April** will take place on every first and third Wednesday of the month, this month the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10.30 in the Community Hall after Morning Prayer at 10 a.m.

The same pattern will follow during May.

Thank you again for your loyal support.

A very blessed Easter to you all.

***Dora Baker (secretary)***

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## FRIENDS OF ST REMIGIUS WATER NEWTON

Our next service is to be held on Sunday 22nd April at 6pm. This is \*St. George's Day and we will be dedicating the service to our country patron saint. Our usual fellowship will follow the service where we will serve real 'English' sausages and mash accompanied by liquid refreshments. All are welcome to join us and celebrate the life of our patron saint but please leave your swords, armour and helmets at the door!

A small donation of £5 per head will be requested towards your 'bangers and mash' supper.

\*St George is the patron saint of England and among the most famous of Christian figures. But of the man himself, nothing is certainly known. Our earliest source, Eusebius of Caesarea, writing c.322, tells of a soldier of noble birth who was put to death under Diocletian at Nicomedia on 23 April, 303, but makes no mention of his name, his country or his place of burial. According to the apocryphal Acts of St George current in various versions in the Eastern Church from the fifth century, George held the rank of tribune in the Roman army and was beheaded by Diocletian for protesting against the Emperor's persecution of Christians. George rapidly became venerated throughout Christendom as an example of bravery in defence of the poor and the defenceless and of the Christian faith.

## FRIENDS OF STIBBINGTON CHURCH

A new much improved notice board has been erected at St. John the Baptist Church Stibbington which even stood out in the recent snow! The signage was kindly donated by Rick at Peterborough Engraving & City Signs.

A new external light is due to go up soon too so thanks to all those involved in these small changes.



Marina Kruger's sudden recent death can't pass without an acknowledgement of how wonderful and supportive she has been over the last 6 years as a member of the Friends of Stibbington Church.

Although she moved to Thornhaugh some years ago she remained 100% involved in the fund raising events & every day life of Stibbington Church and it's community.

Her laughter, amazing flower arrangements and always being in the background doing her bit will be sadly missed. I truly hope she knew how much we valued her friendship and will miss her.



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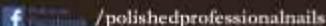


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Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May

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...and many more

## Stibbington Community Classes

In March we spent a relaxed afternoon trying to counteract the stubborn Winter weather, creating Spring themed decorations. It obviously worked because the following week featured much sunshine and everyone left having learnt something new, even the tutor!



**STOP PRESS:** Plans are being made for workshops in the Summer term. If you are a fan of the beautiful harmonies of Simon and Garfunkel, you will be glad to hear that we intend to have a half-day workshop focussing on singing some of their memorable songs. Further details to follow as soon as possible.

**Do you have a skill you would like to share in a workshop?** If so, we would love to hear from you. Do get in contact using the contact details for the Centre (higher up this page) or via the Stibbington Community Classes Facebook page.



# Communicare

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

At the general patients meeting last month we welcomed Dr Sundeep Odedra who spoke about all aspects of diabetes, and 'chaired' a lively discussion amongst the attendees. Many in fact suffered from the condition and questions were raised relating to symptoms, diet and self-management. With the ever increasing numbers of people developing this condition, some partially due to genetics but also as a result of lifestyle choices, Dr Odedra stressed the importance of maintaining one's own good health. Exercise and diet were key to this and it has been acknowledged that starting a better regime in younger life can contribute to allaying the onset of diabetes. He was hopeful that research would in time present better solutions, but as yet there was no sign of an actual cure for the disease. He gave many interesting facts – 10% of the nation's health budget is spent as a result of diabetes, with 10% of this cost going on relevant drugs with the remaining 90% covering the cost of associated complications. Currently there are 3.5 million people affected in this country with an estimated onward increase of 200,000 per year. However the ratio of Type 1 and 2 diabetes is vastly different – Type 1 tends to affect younger people, very often genetic and the numbers are fairly static – Type 2 is usually found in the older age groups, in particular where obesity is prevalent and this number is increasing at an alarming rate – obesity in children is also resulting in them developing Type 2 diabetes. Dr Odedra encouraged all patients to seek early advice if they showed any symptoms as it was often possible to halt the onset of the disease by some simple changes to diet and life routines. He was warmly thanked for his very interesting and informative talk.

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary read out his financial statement – this shows a current 'open' balance of £1952.18, although additional funds are being held as 'ring fenced' to be spent as specifically requested by the donors as and when appropriate purposes are identified.

Dr Takhar gave an update on the new project at Kings Cliffe – unfortunately news had just been received that due to their dire financial situation Northamptonshire County Council had decided that the KC site would have to be placed on the open market. Negotiations had been ongoing with the Council, but although all parties were strongly in favour of the project, no preferential treatment could be given and transparency was paramount in the outcome. Drs Takhar and Nally have been attending various local village parish council meetings to give presentations on the project – the PPG are keen to register their support and will be informed as and when the time is deemed right for letters to be sent to both the County and District Councils.

A question was asked regarding the proposed development at Wansford surgery – Dr Takhar confirmed that discussions were taking place with Peterborough City Hospital to identify the type of service the unit would provide – this was likely to be post-operative recovery.

Other matters discussed included future fund raising and possible special events at the surgeries as part of national PPG Awareness Week during the first week of June when the next general patients meeting will also take place.

The summer programme of day trips commences this month on Wednesday 18th with a visit to Ely followed by a fish & chip tea at March. For further details and pick-up locations, please contact Clare as soon as possible on 01780 470437 email: [superfoguik@aol.com](mailto:superfoguik@aol.com). The next coffee morning will be on Friday 20th April at the Kings Cliffe Active Sports Hall at 10am.

# HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

At a demonstration and talk on Thursday, 22 February 40 members were able to admire the beautifully crafted baskets, obelisks, besoms and tools produced by the Nene Coppicing and Crafts Woodland Conservation group. As well as watching demonstrations of their production, we heard about the weekly activities of the group and the history of how our ancestors used the woodlands. We were also able to assist Claudine, Steph and Andrea and try out several of the skills in a Christie Hall transformed by wood shavings, logs, twigs, branches and ancient woodworking tools!



One of the most thought provoking moments was when we were reminded that the shopping container of choice used to be the wicker basket. A return to using basket-ware could save us from the scourge of 21st century plastic.

The final Spring talk, on Thursday 22 March, when Steffie Shields will speak on the Gardens and Landscapes of Lincolnshire, takes place after the deadline for this article so will be reported next month.

There are still a few places on our private group visit to **Easton Walled Gardens** to view the late Spring flowers. It is on **Sunday 22 April**. Using our own transport, we will meet up at **11 a.m.** for a 20 minute introductory talk, given by the owner Lady Ursula Cholmeley who will tell us about the history of the gardens and the family, the collapse of the house and gardens and its revival. This will be accompanied by refreshments, tea, coffee and biscuits in the Coach House before we are free to wander the gardens at our own pace, where Lady Cholmeley will be on hand to answer any questions. The cost of the visit is £10. Please contact me if you would like to join us, also if you need a lift or can offer one to a participant living nearby.

Our **plant sale** is on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May between 10 and 1 p.m.** and any donations of plants you might be splitting up or discarding to change your borders will be gratefully received along with any spare garden equipment or seedlings you have propagated. We hope to offer a good selection of plants - flowering, vegetable and indoor - suitable for our local gardening conditions as well as some accessories and tools at very reasonable prices. Proceeds will go to subsidise the activities of the society. Please do come along.

There are still seats available on the coach trip on **Sunday 24 June to Beth Chatto's Gardens and R.H.S. Hyde Hall** and the trip on **Saturday 28 July to Little Morton Hall and Biddulph Grange** on the borders of Cheshire and Staffordshire. Full details of the rest of our 2018 programme can be found on the website: [www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk). Please contact me if you would like to join the society (£2.50 per person) or have any other queries.

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## Residents must drive on the right

Many readers will have heard of William Russell, the first Baron Russell of Thornhaugh. He was born in 1553, or perhaps 1563, no-one can quite remember, but no matter, he was a man unafraid of opposing the general and accepted views.

He organised the defence of western England against the threatened Spanish invasion and was active in several military campaigns, including those in the Netherlands and Ireland. But after a spat with his superior, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, he was recalled to England in July 1588. History doesn't record the actual course of events, but shortly after his return to England, he began to rationalise his estates and concentrate on improving efficiencies. Centuries ahead of his time, he realised that by adopting strict ways of working, he could improve yield and health and safety to boot.

Part of this strategy was to insist that his estate workers, farmers and drovers only used the right hand side of roads, byways, field tracks and lanes. Now this flies in the face of the 'keep to the left' rule. Archaeologists have discovered evidence suggesting that the Romans drove carts and wagons on the left, and it is known that Roman soldiers always marched on the left. This 'rule of the road' was officially sanctioned in 1300 AD when Pope Boniface VIII declared that all pilgrims travelling to Rome should keep to the left.

Readers should bear in mind that academics now think that Baron Russell was in fact left handed, so naturally, when travelling, he needed to keep his sword hand, his left hand, free, just in case.

Restless after his years at war, and like many people these days, he thrived on a 'project'. It soon became apparent to him as he surveyed his estates that many of his workers were ignoring his 'keep right' directive. Always a reasonable man, he presented his Keep Right Bill to Parliament in 1589, and it became law the following year – enforceable on his lands only.

Growing traffic congestion in 18th century London led to a law being passed to make all traffic on London Bridge keep to the left in order to reduce collisions. This rule was incorporated into the Highway Act of 1835 and was adopted throughout the British Empire. But, the Highway Act 1835 neglected to take into account or make provision for Baron Russell's previous Keep Right law.



Research by the recently incorporated Traffic Wellness Integration Testing committee has shown that in fact, Barron Russell's law was never repealed. It is still on the Statute books. This means that until his law can be changed, all people passing through land that formed any part of Baron Russell's estates when his Bill became law, must comply. In other words, pedestrians and vehicles must stay to the right hand side of the roads or paths.

To this end and with safety in mind, all road signs will be re-located to opposite sides of the roads at the beginning of April. All villagers of Thornhaugh (in particular) and Wansford must comply. Residents of Sutton, Water Newton and Stibbington may get away with it, as according to a historical highways expert, these villages were so frequently flooded in 16<sup>th</sup> century that Baron Russell felt it unreasonable to enforce his law here. A spokesperson from Traffic Wellness Integration Testing (TWIT) said: "I've read this law from cover to cover and there's simply no getting away from it.

"Your villagers will be flouting the law if they choose to ignore it and no-one wants points on their licence – a distinct possibility if they are caught driving through the villages on the left hand side of the public highway.

"The cost of monitoring compliance would be prohibitive as it would involve a 24 hour staffing requirement, so we will be installing

CCTV at critical pinch-points. This will be monitored remotely and warning letters will be issued where necessary. "Residents should not worry unduly, we are working hard to get this law changed to bring your villages into line with the rest of the UK. This is well underway now and shouldn't take much longer."

This is very good news for all of us, and please be reassured that Living Villages has been advised that the monitoring will work on the basis of three strikes and you're out, so your first two offences will be overlooked, it will only be the third offence that triggers the warning letter.

Less easy to repeal is the 'ploughing from west to east' addendum to the Keep Right law, so for this season at least, all lawn owners must ensure that lawns are only mowed from west to east. Non-compliance by lawn owners (or their gardeners who weren't correctly briefed) that will be evidenced by obvious north to south 'striping', will be taken very seriously and lawnmowers could be taken into safe-keeping until either the law is repealed or fines have been paid. Fines will be in line with Baron Russell's original draft of his law – half a side of bacon or a bushel of wheat. Think on...



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# SIBSON - CUM - STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council met at the Environment Centre, Stibbington on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7 p.m. 5 Councillors were in attendance together with 4 members of the public.

Blocked Drain outside no. 22 Elton Road – Anglian Water attended site and reported initially to Peterborough City Council – on checking for update by Parish Clerk error noted wrong council – AW have now reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Potholes on slip road leading onto A1 (by Haycock) – not Highways England, reported to Highways Cambridgeshire County Council.

Flooding slip road – Highways Cambridgeshire County Council advised this comes under Highways England.

Rat infestation – causing an issue at Cafe, Cafe have been advised, highways looked at gully by Hutchinson's yard.

Yellow Lines (by Cafe) near flyover – Cllr Beuttell will speak with Andi Caddie (Highways) to obtain further advice, information.

Defibrillator(s): Once ordered and date agreed for installation, Parish Clerk will arrange for books etc to be removed from both kiosks – these will be returned once all works associated with installing defibrillators has been completed.

18/00401/HHFUL – Rear two storey extension to existing dwelling to form additional living accommodation at Leys House, Elton Road, Sibson – have concerns as not "incongruous" not in harmony or keeping with the surroundings.

18/00402/FUL – One detached dwelling (revised application 16/01320/FUL address was previously No. 10) Building East of 10 Waters Edge, Wansford-concern re Otters, Cllr Beuttell will forward information to Nigel Swaby, Planning.

Peterborough City Council draft Supplementary Documents – copy to be forwarded to all Cllrs.

Peterborough City Council, A47 Peterborough, Junction 15-16 survey works

Huntingdon District Council – Operations Division Satisfaction Survey 17/18

Huntingdon District Council – Changes to the Councils Scheme of Delegation

A1 Junction 17 – Upcoming works news release

Anglian Water – Stop tap Replacements work 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Broadband – information from Cllr S Bywater – please see below:

We know many of you have been experiencing problems with connectivity and have been asking how to get clear information about current coverage and future plans for both broadband and mobile in this area. To explore some of the issues affecting residents in parishes in North Huntingdonshire, your County and District Councillors Simon Bywater and Tim Alban have arranged a Broadband Information Evening on Wednesday 21 March, from 7pm to 8.30pm, to be held in the hall at Stilton Primary School, Church Street, Stilton. This is an opportunity to find out about current and planned broadband coverage for the parishes of Alwalton, Chesterton, Conington, Denton & Caldecote, Elton, Folksworth & Washingley, Glatton, Haddon, Holme, Morborne, Sawtry, Sibson-cum-Stibbington, Stilton, Denton & Caldecote and Water Newton. It will also be useful to highlight where there is poor mobile coverage in these areas, which we can feedback to mobile operators. Representatives from the Connecting Cambridgeshire Programme, led by Cambridgeshire County Council, and BT Openreach, who are rolling out superfast broadband across the county, will be on hand to discuss broadband coverage for these areas and explain the challenges involved in connecting rural communities. Places are limited and we want to ensure that all parishes are represented, so please confirm if you wish to attend by emailing [tim.alban@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.alban@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or [Simon.Bywater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Bywater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) with your name, parish and area of concern.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 commencing at 7 p.m Annual Parish Meeting/AGM/Parish Council Meeting.



## WANSEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council (WPC) has met twice since early February, on 27<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the complete minutes of both can be found on the WPC website.

February was an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the A47 Upgrade and the forthcoming meeting with Highways England (HE)

It can be said there is confusion reigning supreme on the plans for this project, with very little information available on how the upgrade to the road will affect Wansford at the A1/A47 interface and a determination by HE to push through a route which neither residents, WPC or Sutton PC (SPC) support.

The major effect on the River Nene wildlife corridor and no apparent plan for non-motorised traffic seems to be looming with HE's proposal. The Peterborough City Council has responded to the Planning Inspectorate, as have WPC and SPC, with extensive criticism of HE and their Environmental Scoping Report. Add this to the lack of the Scheme Appraisal Report (SAR) which was to be available last December, and you can see there will be massive questions asked at the Public Meeting in St Mary's Church on the 19<sup>th</sup> March.

The Parish Council Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> March saw a few apologies from councillors and one resident in attendance.

There was some concern of a planning application in Bridge End, with the views of the PCC Conservation Officer sought.

An Acoustic Report was presented to the meeting identifying unacceptable noise intrusion from the A1 towards the Swan Hill area of the village, questions will be asked of HE over this matter and a remedy to resolve. We will need to be mindful of any similar impact the upgrade to the A47 may have, especially to the northern part of the village.

The 20mph speed restriction within the village is progressing, and once in place, we can look to determine if any other measures are required to make the village roads as safe as possible. There will be noticeable road signage changes within the village, especially the removal of the large 'motorway' type signs and replacing with more suitable 'finger post' directional signs.

There has been surveying work carried out on the old bridge with extensive repairs require to it's crumbling stonework. We MUST prevent HGV's and heavy vehicles illegally crossing it.

There is a streetlight replacement programme in place for the village, with some lights already changed to the LED type, more efficient and environmentally friendly we are told.

Parish Council elections are on the cards for May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018, so if you have aspirations to be part of WPC, please contact PCC or our Parish Clerk, Wendy Gray, for an Application Pack.

The next WPC meeting is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018, at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall, all are most welcome.

***Cllr John Stannage***

## **Report of Public Meeting to Discuss the A47 Wansford – Sutton Upgrade**

The meeting was held in St Mary's Church, Wansford on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.00pm and well attended by residents and Parish Councillors from Wansford and Sutton and the wider local area, all were welcomed by the Chairman.

St Mary's Churchwardens were thanked for making the church available, a most suitable venue for the meeting. Also present were representatives from Peterborough City Council (PCC) and our MP's representative, along with members of the A47 Community Consultation Team.

Highways England (HE) were present at the invitation of Wansford Parish Council (WPC) to update us on the Project's progress to date, and were led by Aaron Douglas, HE Project Manager, supported by a team including Jackie Foulkes, the Environmental Co-ordinator for the Project.

A brief summary of the present situation was given, by the Chairman and HE were invited to give an overview of the project to date. Aaron Douglas proceeded with slides and narrative to illustrate the reasoning behind the decision to proceed with the Preferred Route Decision (PRD) which would take the A47 close to the River Nene.

The Scheme Assessment Report (SAR) was published a week ago, and was a result of work done by Amey and HE. It was originally to be published last December and the appendices are still not available. It was stated the SAR to be already out of date although HE is progressing the preferred alignment from that report despite the damage to the County Wildlife Site and the visual amenity of the Nene Valley!

The Chairman stated that there were serious concerns about exiting Wansford via Old North Road into a high speed two lane carriageway converging at the western roundabout. It was agreed that the detailed design of the roundabout needs more work. Wansford and Sutton PCs have responded to a consultation over the Environmental Scoping by requesting the expansion of the Development Consent Order (DCO) to enable sufficient investigation for the route to be north of the present A47.

This northern route has been discarded by HE because of the presence of the Scheduled Monument (SM) and the SSSI even though it is likely to cost at least £6m less than the PRD. HE admitted that the SSSI was not in itself a problem. It was argued from the floor that the SM should be looked at in more detail, as there is doubt as to the actual importance of the most southern part, and there could in fact be far more historical evidence between the south of the present A47 and the river, an area that would be destroyed by the PRD. The PRD would drive straight through the middle of this area. It was stated by HE that the work on the A47 dualling was programmed to commence in September 2020.

The meeting expressed the view that the PRD was being rushed through without due consideration of public opinion and that information that had been used to determine the PRD was biased. It was agreed more dialogue has to be pursued with Historic England over the SM and that we should further involve our MP. It was also requested that HE look to expand the DCO and Aaron Douglas agreed to take this back to his Committee.

In summary, local opinion is not at one with HE, and more work is required to have an A47 that is fit for purpose, is safe to access from Wansford, is not environmentally destructive to the landscape, does not harm air quality or cause noise pollution.

***John Stannage, Chairman of the Meeting.***

# REIKI - AN EXPLANATION

When I am asked what I do for a living most people, nod sagely at the answer ' Railway Enhancement Projects ' and tell me their tales of woe on the British rail network. When I then go on the say, but when I am not in the office I am a Yoga Teacher, Intuitive Life Coach and Reiki Master the reaction is somewhat perplex and the first question is often ' What's Reiki?'



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The word Reiki is made of two Japanese words - Rei which means "God's Wisdom or the Higher Power" and Ki which is "life force energy". Reiki can be translated as "spiritually guided life force energy."

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# STIBBINGTON AND WANSFORD WI

It has been a very busy month for the WI. Our bake sale and coffee morning at St Mary's Church raised £200 and was well received by the many people who attended. A big thank you to all of you who support our bake sales!

The success of that event was followed very closely by our monthly meeting and a talk about kilt making by the owners of House of Tartans, a traditional kilt making business based in Peterborough. We were intrigued to see how a kilt is constructed, and learn that one kilt takes 4 days of hand sewing to complete. We probably all had our suspicions about what a Scot wears under his kilt, and these were confirmed to us during the course of the very enjoyable evening!!

We were delighted to add another 2 new members to our group, and continue to extend the hand of friendship to anyone who may be interested.

We have a busy April planned, not least our Prosecco, Pudding and Quiz night – more details below. Do join us for what looks like being a fun evening, and of course, being the WI, the food will be great too!

Our **3C's coffee, craft and chat** will meet on **April 6th** and **27th** – do join us if only for coffee and chat!

**Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup>** – our regular monthly meeting and talk about the blue plaques in Peterborough that commemorate its famous sons and daughters

**Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> – Prosecco, pudding and quiz night** at the Christie Hall – tickets £10 each to include a glass of prosecco and a trio of desserts. Whether you want to come as part of a team or on your own and be matched up with a team, you are very welcome. Tickets are on sale soon from committee members (see our advert).

More details and news can also be found on our blog [www.swwiblog.com](http://www.swwiblog.com) , or our Facebook page @sandwwi . Jan Armitage 01780 789996

<p>PROSECCO,</p>	<p>PUDDING</p>	<p>&amp; QUIZ NIGHT</p>
		
<p>FRIDAY 13th APRIL, 2018</p>		
<p>CHRISTIE HALL, WANSFORD</p>		
<p>7.30P.M.</p>		
<p>Tickets £10 per person</p>		
<p>(includes complimentary glass of prosecco and puddings)</p>		
<p>Stibbington &amp; Wansford WI are supporting Macmillan Cancer Care in 2018</p>		
<p>Available from :</p>		
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## Wansford In England Cricket Club

We are getting ready and looking forward to Season 2018. Our AGM was held on 25th February at which we planned ahead for the forthcoming season and recognised the hard efforts and good work of last year.

We received sad news that long standing President John Stones has decided to retire from club duties after membership of over 40yrs. His affection for the club remains strong and he wished to pass thanks on to all the members of the club for their support over the years. John extended sincerely the hope that the tradition of playing cricket on the Haycock Field will continue for many more years to come.

Chairman Jim Boulton also relinquished his position due to work commitments. His outward report summarised the last 12 years including his guidance in achieving numerous pavilion repairs, a new wicket and boundary fence, sponsored shirts and new playing equipment. And of course there have been some great fundraising events along the way. His contribution has helped to ensure cricket continues in the village and both he and John will remain friends of the club and may receive the odd call to still turn out in their whites if short! Thank you for your help.

During the AGM the following were elected as committee members:

President – Collette Ledger

Chairman – Paul Styles

Vice Chairman – Peter Robinson

Treasurer - Matt Mitchell

Club Secretary – Lester Millbank

Fixtures secretary – Kev Botley

Captain – Phil Roberts

Vice Captain – Lester Millbank and Harrison Dyehouse

Groundsmen - Pete Lucas and Geoff Church

Cricket has been played on our field, located between the Haycock and the river, for over a hundred years and if it is to continue for at least another century then village support with players new and old, more spectators and help to refurbish and maintain facilities, will be necessary.

Many of you will have noticed that the pavilion and sight screens have deteriorated badly and this season we will be hoping to attract sponsorship and raise funds to improve facilities, replace equipment and undertake essential repairs.

Fixtures are planned throughout the Summer, through April to September with a mixture of home and away matches. When finalised these will be published within the Village Magazine. It is always great to see our local support down at the pitch when playing at home so please come and join us.

The first working party was held in March to get ready for the season. Work will be ongoing to raise funds to replace the roof and can then move towards maintaining the inside of the pavilion. Anyone interested in helping the club with their labour, skill or wallet please lend a hand.

Net practices commence on Tuesday the 3rd April at 6:00pm and continue through the season on Tuesday evenings. Whether you are a seasoned cricketer or have never played in your life the club welcomes you to attend.

Finally, a Big Thank you for all your ongoing support of the club and we hope to see you all in season 2018.

Matt Mitchell (Treasurer) Tel: 07947 136134

Paul Styles Tel: 07860 278800



## **Net Practice Tuesday Evenings from 6pm Commencing Tuesday 3rd April 2018**

**Interested in being involved with or playing Cricket?**

**Come along to nets and join in at the back of the Haycock Hotel**

**Just off the A1 Northbound @ Wansford.**

**All Welcome.**

**For more information speak to:**

**Phil Roberts Tel: 07925 720195**

**Matt Mitchell (Treasurer) Tel: 07947 136134**

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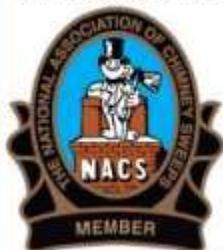
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What would you say are the commonest birds in the rural or suburban environments? Blackbird, house sparrow, blue tit or robin? Probably. What about the commonest water bird? Mallard duck, coot or moorhen perhaps. This would assume water is present; a river, pond or lake. Not perhaps Main Street in Yarwell on a snowy, frozen Saturday night. But looking out of my window to see how deep the snow had reached and whether any cars were braving the conditions I noticed a dark shape waddling down the street.

My daughter had just that moment texted me an image of a young fox in the snowy road outside her house near the Peterborough Showground. But this was no fox searching for food in suburbia. Gradually the image became clearer to show what appeared to be a moorhen making its unsteady way down the snow compacted street. I was unsure of this identification at first but raising my binoculars I confirmed the moorhen further downhill passing the village pub. It looked a bit groggy and, no doubt suffering from hunger and/ or thirst, was making its way down to the river hoping for salvation. I wished it luck.

Moorhens, sometimes known as Water Hens or Moggyhens, are nervous, chicken-sized birds exhibiting black and dark slate-blue plumage. Their distinguishing features are the two white flashes in their tail feathers when seen from behind and their bright red bill tipped with yellow.

What I also noticed on the bird's street strut were its chicken legs with enormous greeny-yellow feet. These allow the bird to walk easily on mud or semi-submerged vegetation but on this occasion it was making good progress on the hard packed snow. They are always to be found on lakes and ponds, usually in the company of its cousin the coot, that larger all black bird with an obvious white beak and forehead; this giving rise to the descriptive term 'bald as a coot'.

The moorhen's large numbers in this country are due to its successful breeding habits but its many waterside nests are prone to predation by other birds and animals. Recent research shows that nearly 50% of eggs are lost to its predators. In Victorian times water hen eggs were sought by young boys whose favourite breakfasts were bacon and these eggs. I wonder if they scrumpled the pigs too. More recently the birds are still treated as a delicacy in some European countries. In fact there are also records of a Greek Cypriot immigrant in North London being pleasantly surprised to see moorhens hanging in a local butcher's shop alongside the rabbits and wild duck.

I don't think there would be much meat to be found on my recent friend.





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk)



Dear Editor

A watch was found in Wansford beginning of March. Any enquiries please phone 01780782656 and leave a message. Thank-you

### How the light gets in

Many residents will have seen the results of tree felling in Old North Road pictured here with a tree surgeon from Sam Trimmer hard at work. This will be followed from the beginning of April by reconstruction of the dangerously leaning dry stone wall. For 13 weeks initially, the adjacent footpath will be closed for safety reasons with pedestrians advised to use the opposite side. We look forward to seeing the skills of dry stone expert Alex Rippon at work. The trees were forcing the existing wall to the stage of imminent collapse. Planned replacement of the trees will follow.



*Editors note:- following on from the meeting to discuss the A47 upgrade I have been sent the following by Sutton's ACCT*

"To receive email updates and to post your comments and questions on the community consultation with Highways England, please register at [a47cct@hotmail.com](mailto:a47cct@hotmail.com)

## Wansford 20 mph Notice of Making

The legal process to provide the 20 mph speed limit within the centre of Wansford has been finalised by Peterborough City Council with the Sealing of the Order.

Therefore, the Order as previously published is now in force and signage installation will commence from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018.



Dear Villagers

Are you aware that the Christie Hall in Wansford Village is run by a small voluntary committee on behalf of Stibbington, Wansford and Thornhaugh Parish Councils? Over the last 15 years the committee has raised over £100,000 on improvements. Our long standing Treasurer is shortly leaving the village, so we are looking for a replacement. Any new faces or old faces are more than welcome!! Please ring me on the number below.

The hall is there for all to use and although not the prettiest from the outside, is very functional inside. If you want to come and look round before booking it for an occasion then Gill Fisher will be pleased to hear from you. (01780 782446)

The committee are keen for the hall to be used to its full potential particularly by village residents, with classes and events that may interest you. Look at our website [www.christiehall.co.uk](http://www.christiehall.co.uk) to see what is currently available. Is there an activity, not already listed, which would tempt you to use the excellent facilities provided by the Hall?

Now is the time to have your say. I look forward to any of your comments.  
Lisa Chambers, Chairman, Christie Hall Committee  
01780 782656

## DIARY DATES – APRIL 2018

Tues 3	Cricket Club Nets	6.00pm	Haycock Field	Paul Roberts	<b>07925 720195</b>	33
Wed 4	<b>Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's</b>	10.30am	Community Hall	Dora Baker	<b>782519</b>	8
Fri 6	<b>WI 3C's Craft Coffee and Community</b>	10.00am	Community hall	Jan Armitage	<b>789996</b>	29
Mon 9	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	<b>01778 441312</b>	24
Tues 10	WI meeting	7.30pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	<b>789996</b>	29
Fri 13	WI Quiz	7.30pm	Christie Hall	Jan Armitage	<b>789996</b>	29
Wed 18	<b>Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's</b>	10.30am	Community Hall	Dora Baker	<b>782519</b>	9
Fri 20	Communicare Coffee Morning	10.00am	Kings Cliffe	Clare Wagstaff	<b>470437</b>	14
Fri 20	St Georges Day Concert	7.45pm	Nassington Church		<b>782200</b>	37
Sun 22	Hort Society Trip	11.00am	Easton Walled Gardens	Gill Fisher	<b>782446</b>	15
Wed 25	Welcome Coffee Stop	10.30am	Wansford Church	Dora Baker	<b>782519</b>	8
Fri 27	<b>WI 3C's Craft Coffee and Community</b>	10.00am	Community hall	Jan Armitage	<b>789996</b>	29
MAY						
Tues 1	20mph limit in Wansford					37
Sat 12	Hort Society	10.00am - 1.00pm		Gill Fisher	<b>782446</b>	15
Sat 12	STIBBfest	10.00am - 4.00pm	Stibbington Environment Centre		<b>782386</b>	13

**Copy deadline next month: 20th April 2018**

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