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JULY 2020

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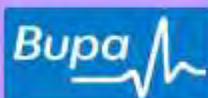
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Editorial

I write this month's editorial feeling somewhat more positive about the future of your magazine. This is all because of you, the readers. I wish to say a very big thank-you to the many supportive emails we have received and the constructive comments suggesting ways forward. I will comment on some of these later. I am also grateful to the many advertisers who have stayed with us during this turbulent time, it is completely understandable why some have decided not to renew, but we hope that when we return to what is starting to be called the 'new normal' they will return.

Your Living Villages Team has made the decision to print this July edition and then go back online until November/December. The main reason is financial, but there is also less to report on. I will continue to produce an online version, for August through to October but we recognise that the website is not the preferred option for many readers. Indeed our website was never intended to be anything other than a place for us to save the magazine and occasionally refer to past editions. Although we do know that it is read by some people including a family in Canada!

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WATSON

I will now comment on a couple of suggestions which have been put forward.

Become a quarterly magazine—whilst this may work for some national periodicals, we usually have a number of regular monthly reports from clubs and societies and there are many church services. The magazine might end up simply being a list of forthcoming dates, which would all be subject to change. It's not an impossibility, but it would probably result in more pages and therefore more cost and it is unlikely that we could raise more revenue from advertisers to match this.

Reduce the number of pages and go black and white which would reduce the cost. To be honest, I wouldn't be interested in producing something like this. It has taken a number of years to get Living Villages to the standard it is, the full colour version was something which our previous editor aspired to achieve.

Who knows what the future holds? Today's news has been all about reducing social distances and increasing the number of people we can socialise with. Our pubs, clubs, shops, hotels, churches, schools and halls may soon be open and life might start to return to a new normal, which will mean there will be things to report on and advertise. There are going to be some amazing celebrations when we can all be together again and I will definitely enjoy sharing those events.

I hope you will enjoy reading the articles in this month's magazine, I am very grateful to all the contributors. As there are no church service lists or diary dates I have moved the list of contacts to the back, I hope that makes it easier to find. I have also included, with Dr Nally's permission an article I read on the surgery's Facebook page about some staff changes as we are aware that a number of people in the villages do not access social media.

In early October the Editorial team will meet to discuss how we are going to proceed. We have sufficient funds to publish a printed copy in November or December. Beyond that it will depend on the new normal and the well being of our local businesses who support us with their advertising. I am feeling more confident as we are gradually relaxing some of the Covid restrictions, but only time will tell if these changes can be sustained. What does encourage me is speaking to and using the services of some of our businesses. They all seem very busy with long waiting times to start new projects. As I said at the beginning, we have seen support and received constructive comments. I sincerely hope that some of these can be turned into contributions of interest for our readers.

Tracy Sortwell



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Re-opening our churches

It hardly seems possible that so many weeks, well months, have passed since we were last able to be in our church buildings. The Church itself, of course, did not, and never will, close; God is always at work, his people pray and worship at home or in the garden or out on a walk, take care of friend and neighbour, do what they can in these strange times to keep in touch with others.

In the Watersmete Benefice, there is a weekly Zoom service, an extended Sunday Link including reflections and ideas for worship by email or post, phone calls from and to church people, care and thought showed by so many. One of the blessings of this time, I think is how those who have not been able to come to church for some time due to ill health or for some other reason have been included in new ways receiving services to follow and even being able to join in online or by phone. There are things we are learning that we will seek to continue, on way or another.

However, there is no doubt that being to pray and worship in our wonderful church buildings is important to many, and thankfully we are gradually being able to open up once again to offer a prayerful, sacred space where we can listen to God in prayer, offer our thanksgivings and intercessions and also find fellowship together. Towards the end of June, we began to open some of our benefice churches, including Wansford and Thornhaugh, for private prayer at certain times. We still have to maintain social distancing and hygiene regulations, and there are stewards around to help with that, but this feels like a real step forward.

Our opening times are as follows:

Wansford Church - Wednesday from 10 am until noon.

Thornhaugh Church – Fridays 10am until 2pm (*please phone Stuart Foreman - 01780 783220/07802245601 or Liz Kemp - 01780 782333/07719400467 for access*)

Nassington Church – Monday 2 – 3 pm and Thursday 9.30 – 10.30 am

Yarwell Church – Tuesday 4-6pm

We do hope that these times in church will be helpful and we look forward to having services in church quite soon. It may be that by the time you read this, things will have moved on even further!

With every blessing,
Rev. Jane

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At the time of writing the church of St Remigius Water Newton remains closed to the public due to covid19. However, the churchyard in our wonderful riverside setting remains open. It appears that more and more people are taking to walking across the fields and into the village, so do drop by and relax in this lovely reflective setting.

Water Newton Music Fest 2020

Sadly, the planned Music Fest 2020 has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

This is a great disappointment but the organisers felt that even if such gatherings are allowed by the August Bank Holiday, it would be impossible to follow social distancing requirements.

We are very appreciative of the support in the past and we will be back in 2021 with a bigger and even better Music Fest.

Edward Colston was probably not a name familiar to many readers of Living Villages until the beginning of June when his statue ended up in Bristol Harbour. Maybe a few music lovers had come across concerts from the Colston Hall, maybe not realising that the venue was named after a person at all.

However, I know the name well, having taught at Colston's School for a number of years. I took history groups on local walks to the statue, sat under the Colston window in Bristol Cathedral for Charter Day services (sort of Founder's Day) and taught about the slave trade in history lessons. As many more now know, Edward Colston made his fortune largely through that abhorrent and brutal trade in human beings that involved capturing people from their homelands and transporting them across the Atlantic in dreadful conditions and selling them as commodities for work on plantations through-out the Americas.

The story of the slave trade in the 17th and 18th centuries is a complex and distressing one, and its legacy just as much so. Being part of the "Colston family" I have really done some thinking in these last few weeks, hence this rather personal reflection. As I thought about recent events in Bristol and elsewhere I was reminded of a saying of Edward Colston that I used to use in my lessons about the founding of the school where I taught: "Every orphan is my child, every widow is my wife." If you didn't know the background of the trade engaged in by the person who said that, it would sound very commendable. He did indeed live by that phrase in his own situation; he was regarded as a philanthropist in Bristol – amongst other things using his fortune to establish almshouses for his retired sailors and in 1710 to found a school for 100 poor boys that eventually became the Colston's School where I taught.

How could someone who seemed so philanthropic be making his money from the buying and selling of other human beings? It is a question that I shared with my pupils as we worked through this "history topic", and to my shame I don't think I reflected enough upon the impact of those particular lessons upon my pupils who were from non-white backgrounds, particularly of African descent. We talked about the horror of it all, as much as you could with junior-aged children, but I am not sure I really thought it all through from their point of view. I was very proud of the school, was I also being proud of its founder in a way? It has certainly made me think very deeply about all this once again.

So back to that question – how does anyone treat another human being with such brutality, buying and selling them as commodities, whilst being known a great philanthropist – literally a 'lover of mankind'? Perhaps that is it – those used and abused become commodities, less than human. Edward Colston was limiting his philanthropy, *every orphan is my child, every widow is my wife* to those who were like him, those in whom, perhaps he recognised some similarity, whilst treating other human beings as less than human.

We know that that still happens too often now; people are dehumanised in so many different ways, be it because of their race, background, gender, or even just being in the wrong place at the wrong time. If only we could all truly live out the phrase of Colston's and really regard all in need as our family. To seek what unites instead of what divides. That surely is God's will for us? What a difference that could make!

With every blessing, Rev. Jane

This lockdown has been fantastic time for doing lots of litter picking independently. With the change in social distancing rules recently we were able to litter pick in pairs and about 8 of us cleared a huge area from Thornhaugh to the A47 and both directions along the A47, as well as from Wansford to just north of Thornhaugh on the A1.

Being at home means I have seen the litter collect even days after we've cleared the whole area. It really saddens me; the attitude of so many. The gay abandon of eating a pack of wrapped sweets and tossing the wrapper every 200 yards, or the bags of dog or human faeces, or the pile of rubbish emptied from the footwell of a stationary car, lottery ticks ripped into a hundred pieces and slowly released from the car window!

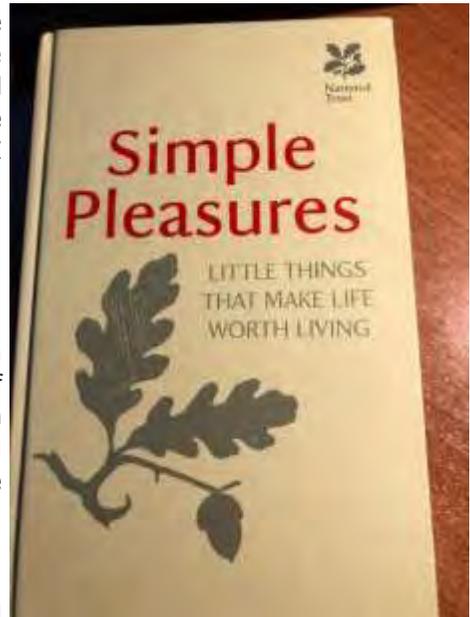
However, I have spent a lot of time recently looking at books that were gathering dust on my bookshelf. One of my favourites is a book called *Simple Pleasures*, produced by the National Trust. The first chapter I happened to turn to was titled :-

"The pleasure of litter picking".

I realised the book could have been published for lockdown for many of the little pleasures that are written about the things that a lot of us will have done in this time. For example here are some ;

Chapter headings: The joy of walking. Painting the landscape. A soothing recipe. Growing your own food. Baking with the children. Walking the dogs. Grooming the dog. On cleaning. Life and knitting. A nice hot bath. Reading aloud. Meditation. The gratitude diaries and so it goes on.

I would recommend this book at any time but , but it was particularly poignant during lockdown ,where I think a lot of us have realised that it is the little things that make life worth living.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S

Greetings from the Friends to everyone.

We are so looking forward to being able to get together when allowed. In the meantime, we are all so fortunate to have stayed healthy and some of us have found time to grow even more plants and produce than usual. It's just a shame we won't be winning any prizes at the Horticultural Show, but maybe there'll be more jam and chutney (beetroot please Kate!) to enjoy before winter.

We'll be back baking and fundraising as soon as we can.

Stay safe everyone

Caroline

LIGHT PROJECT, PETERBOROUGH UPDATE

A BIG thank you to all those who have given food to Light Project Peterborough for our homeless project. We have been amazed at your generosity, which shows that the publicity on TV and elsewhere is truly getting over the message that there are more people in dire need than ever before.

Food is such a basic need highlighted by national discussions on Free School Meals and summer holiday vouchers. Many parents go without food trying to feed their children.

Fortunately, any families reporting to be homeless are given bed and breakfast accommodation. This means there is a roof over their heads but they still need food on a regular basis.

As grants to pay for hotel accommodation will stop soon we will see the homeless back on our streets, outside supermarkets and shops. We are trying to help all those who are eligible, but hostel accommodation is very tight. We also help with mental health issues, getting back into the workplace and referrals to specialist services.

So your help continues to be needed. Dry food, tins and long-life packets are so important in the care of the vulnerable. Please use the boxes provided at Wansford church and shop, and outside Nassington Stores. And THANK YOU once again.

Maureen Woodd

MAESTROS OF ZOOM?



Wansford
Ukulele
Folk

Have you ever noticed how a word can suddenly change meaning and find its way into the language almost overnight?

Who could have thought that the staple of comic books and Super Heroes would be something we would all be doing, instead of going out for dinner or heading to the pub to meet friends?

This is certainly true of Wansford Ukulele Folk (WUF). Rather than rehearsing each Monday or Tuesday night in the back room of the Cross Keys, and being hosted by the wonderful Collette, we sit with our ukuleles in front of our individual screens looking at our disembodied heads. This, of course, is called Zooming.

So, before it gets lost in the mists of time and through lack of usage, I looked up the original meaning of the word “zoom” in the thesaurus and dictionary; Mr Roget tells me it means “to ascend, to rise, to get up or to aspire”; whilst Collins Dictionary says it means “To turn suddenly upwards at a sharp angle”.

Aa ha! I thought, that is why the creators called it “Zoom” – have you noticed how we are all virtually getting up each other’s noses?

Those camera angles from our smart phones, iPads and apps enable us to see parts of our anatomy we didn’t recognise before Covid came along? Probably parts we would rather not see!

We Wuffers do not give up easily.

We are bravely continuing to practice by Zooming every week. This means that when VP Day (Victory over Pandemic) finally arrives we can burst forth with our latest songs and get you foot-tapping and singing along with us again.

There are, of course, other interesting aspects to life with Ukulele-Zoom. A major one is the time lag between the ‘host’ and the participants. At our first session we tried to ignore this; it was only when the man from the Noise Abatement Society rang the doorbell that we realised it wouldn’t work!

As a result, our ever-patient musical director, Lin Griffin, now takes us through the new songs, then mutes us all. Happily, this means that we each hear just Lin and ourself playing and singing. Even more happily, *Lin can’t hear me or anyone else!* She just has to trust that we’re playing all the right notes in all the right order – no comment!

It also means, of course, that we have much interesting banter when we are “unmuted”, and that we get to peer into each other’s houses. Don’t some people have strange pictures on their walls and weird ornaments?

It also means that because we can only see each other’s heads, it doesn’t matter what we are wearing. Those who have their PJ’s on may have been like that all day, or they may be ready for bed once we finish at 10pm? Who am I to judge?

Rumour has it of course, that hairdressers will be open in a couple of weeks, what a shame. It has been wonderful to watch the follicles taking over during

the weeks and months of our house arrest, hasn't it?

Regardless of all this, your very own Ukulele Band has been hard at work practicing and polishing up our technique in order to entertain and delight you as soon as possible.

This may initially be in a field, tent or large hall, but we are raring to go at the first opportunity. As we have all found out during this very strange time, there is simply nothing like the real thing – face to face and live, even if it has to be socially distant to start with.

Our musical repertoire covers 1920 – 2020, so don't be afraid to make enquiries whatever the event or timing. WUF has done family gathering, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and many occasions that require music, singing and fun.

We look forward to seeing you very soon for music and laughter.
I had better ZOOM off for a practice now.



JOAN BOLTON-FROST



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What were you doing at 2243 on the 20th June 2020?

The answer is that you should have been celebrating because that time was the Summer Solstice and the official start of the UK summer.

Technically the solstice is the moment when the earth's axis is tilted most towards the sun and it gives the longest hours of daylight in the northern hemisphere. Of course, the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere is the winter solstice, or shortest day, in the southern hemisphere.

In the UK we no longer celebrate the four traditional milestones in the year except for a few stalwarts who still gather (but not this year) to greet the sunrise on the morning of the solstice at Stonehenge. Although these milestones are often referred to as pagan festivals, in reality they just mark the natural progression of the year. It has been argued that the Christian church borrowed the time of the winter solstice (originally the 25th December under the Julian calendar) when they chose the time of year to celebrate Christmas.

In the Nordic countries, where the contrast in daylight between the winter and the summer is much greater than in the UK, everyone celebrates the great festivals of the year. The picture below was taken at mid-summer in Finland where the tradition is to light a beacon at midnight. Yes, that really is midnight!



This quiet moment follows many hours of feasting and drinking which then go on late into the night. Being Finns of course they also sauna and jump in the sea.

The next celebration is the autumn equinox when the daylight hours are the same in both northern and southern hemispheres. This year it is on the 23rd September and traditionally it marks the end of harvest and the beginning of preparations for winter. The Norse saying is rather darker, welcoming the cleansing cold of winter. Whichever version you celebrate, it is a good excuse for a party when there are no public holidays close by.

The winter solstice will be on the 21st of December and is the shortest day of the year with just 8 hours sunrise to sunset in the UK. It provides a good excuse to get people together to celebrate just before the Christmas rush of festivities and to drink the traditional dark ales of winter. It is also the day to light the Yule log for warmth and in readiness for the lengthening days ahead.

The spring equinox will be on the 20th March 2021 and heralds the return of warmth and the start of the fertility of the new growing season. Certainly it is a good time to plan for the summer ahead. The tradition is to drink dandelion and burdock to cleanse the body but I find that good ale works just as well.

And so the year comes around again to the summer solstice and the warmth of summer.

Richard Clarke



Wansford Village Post Card—Does anyone know the date?



A kind neighbour showed me this post card as he knows I am interested in finding out more of the history of our house, Goss Cottage This picture looks south along Elton Road and is part of a series of our village published in the early 1900's by TUCK'S, a London publisher. The exact date of the photo is evading me.

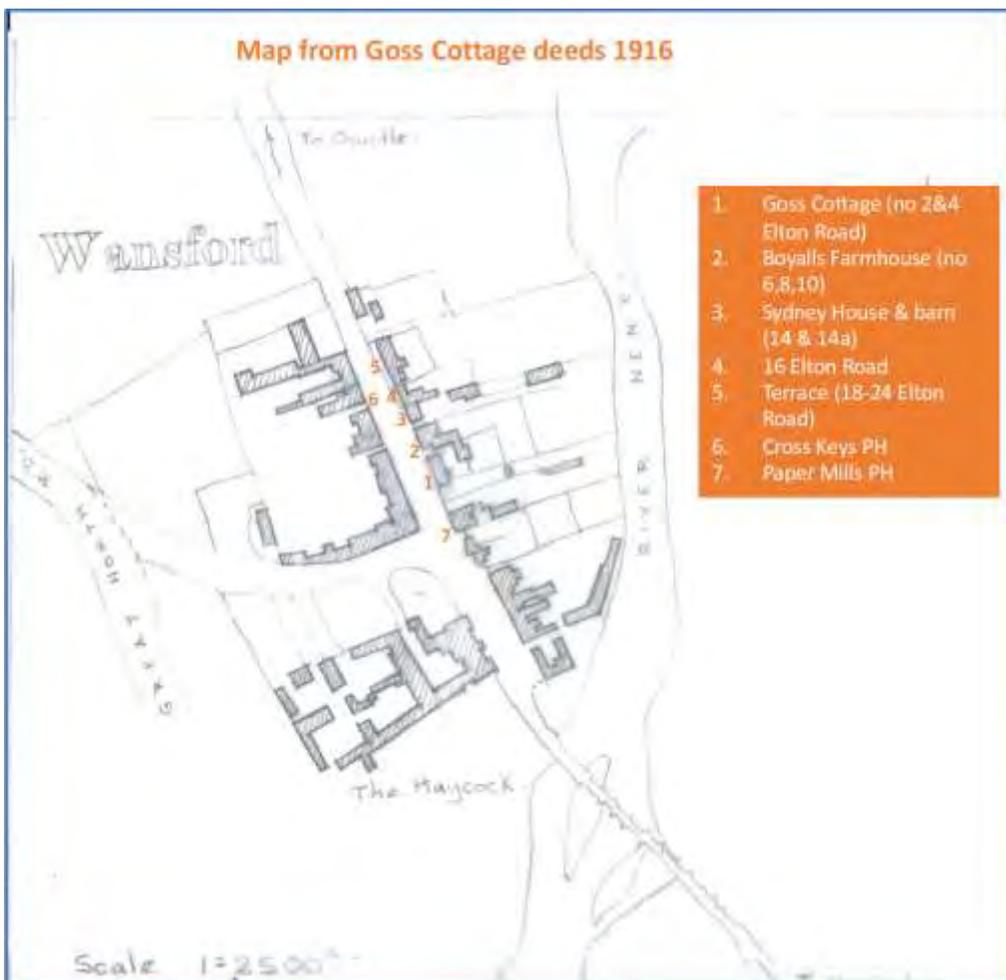
The houses in the picture are still pleasingly recognisable today, with the absence of cars and gardens. Post card From right to left and numbered on the map, we have:

No's 2 & 4 Elton Road, two farmhouses (c 1830's) now combined as Goss Cottage, named after WH Goss China Cottages which were the favourite of Mrs Nancy Day who sold them in her Antiques Shop ^[1,2]. Goss Cottage and no's 1-11 (over the road) were designed by the same architect, SS Teulon, and his designs have been termed the 'Wansford Look' ^[3]. Teulon was also the architect of Duke of Bedford's Thorney Estate.

Next in line are No's 6,8 and 10, previously a single Jacobean building, built in early 17th century, named Boyall's Farmhouse. Then we have No 14 (now Sydney House) with its barn (now 14a Christmas Cottage), probably built around 1690. No 16 erected in the late 18th century and the row of terrace cottages erected in 1820's ^[2].

Very lucky (!?) to be living in the most modern house in the picture !

Gary Punter



References

1. Private communication, relative of Nancy Day, 2019
2. Stibbington Church and Parish, J.L.Gilbert, 1978
3. The Story of Wansford, David Stuart Mogg, 2007

Editors note:-

We are so lucky to live in villages with such interesting houses and history. Do you know the answer to Gary's question, or are you willing to share the story/history about your own home?

We have some good news this month despite all the cancellations from our 2020 programme. We have been able to arrange the hoped for ZOOM talk with Joe Whitehead, Head Gardener at Burghley The talk entitled "wild corners and summer's final fling" is scheduled for 7.30 on 25th June and I will be able to report on this exciting new virtual experience in the next magazine, as I am writing before the event. We are hoping that many of our members will watch and join in, bringing the society together again for the first time since February.

Equally pleasing is the final total of donations from Gary and Rhona Punter's "Plants on the Wall" venture. The Alzheimer's Society was delighted to receive the sum of £520 from us to support their valuable work. Our thanks to all the members and villagers who donated plants and money making it such a success.



We have had to cancel our second coach trip which was to be to Kiftsgate and Hidcote towards the end of July, as both venues have notified us that they cannot accommodate coach parties, but the trip has been provisionally re-booked for the same weekend in 2021 by which time we hope it will be viable.

Finally , as we have sadly felt compelled to cancel our traditional Annual Flower Show, scheduled for 29th August, a sub committee has been formed and is making good progress to hold a "Village Show (on your doorstep) on the same date starting at 3 p.m. This sub-committee is sanctioned to organise a village tea event which celebrates our village traditions, provides fun, is safe and is feasible to organise in the current exceptional circumstances. It will hopefully include tea or picnic table on your doorstep, at individuals' discretion the decorating of their houses with bunting to celebrate our village, a Horticultural Society plant stall at Goss Cottage, takeaway or pre-ordered food and drink (or outdoor food/drink at the individual's discretion) with assistance from the pubs, businesses and other organisations in the village such as the Haycock, Cross Keys, Paper Mills, Coffee Lounge, cricket club and shop. The sub committee also hopes to have music in a few gardens.

If you are interested in participating in this event in any capacity, please do contact Gary for more information or with your ideas: garypunter@aol.com

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WANSFORD AND KINGS CLIFFE PRACTICE

We are saying goodbye to two of our doctors in July – Dr Odedra and Dr Hamilton. They wish to pass on the following messages:

Dr Odedra:

"I have enjoyed my time at Wansford and Kings Cliffe practice. I joined the surgery as a trainee and have developed my skills as a fully qualified GP here. I will miss the practice but I look forward to my future career with fond memories. Over the summer months I will be providing locum services to practices, whilst the coronavirus pandemic is ongoing, before moving into a partnership role"

Dr Hamilton:

"I spent some time during my GP training at Wansford and King Cliffe practice so I was excited to return after having my first child. I have loved my time here and I am now moving on to explore other areas of primary care and teaching and training. Thank you to everyone- you have made my time at Wansford a pleasant and memorable experience"



As we say goodbye to them we are very pleased to announce that **Dr Helen Eastwood** will be joining us as a salaried doctor. Most of you will know that Dr Eastwood has spent the last couple of years at the practice as a GP trainee. She graduated in medicine from Barts and the London in 2010 after doing a previous degree in biomedical sciences at Newcastle university. She has spent time training in London, the East Midlands and Peterborough. Prior to her GP training, Dr Eastwood spent time training in acute and emergency medicine. Thus she comes with a great medical knowledge and experience. She lives locally with her husband and two children and is excited to be joining us permanently.

STAFF UPDATE



We also have **Dr Chris Schramm** who has been working with us since earlier this year in a locum capacity.

He lived in Northampton in 1975 (Skiddaw Walk!) but otherwise was born and bred in Australia and did his undergraduate medical degree in Tasmania. After graduating, he moved to Cambridge with his wife who is now a Professor in Literature and Law.

He is an experienced GP who trained on the Cambridge GP Training programme and worked in Great Shelford for 20years. Along the way he has done Medical Student Teaching, GP Training, Appraising, Commissioning and recently developed an interest in Research. Within surgery hours he particularly enjoys Minor Surgery, Musculoskeletal Medicine and Cardiology. Having directed the Research Team at Shelford he is now working with the well established Research Unit at Wansford Surgery and also working with the NIRH to promote research activity across East Anglia



WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

8 June 2020

In attendance: Cllr T Pearson - Chair, Cllr Richard Clarke, Cllr M Handley, Cllr Graham Garner, Cllr V Thorley, Cllr David Johnson, and Wendy Gray Parish Clerk

The Council met by Video link and dealt with the following matters:-

Planning

Stone Hill Quarry (East Northants) WPC have received no response from ENDC or Copy of any report by Peterborough CC.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Finance The Council approved the budget and reviews the salary of the Parish Clerk.

Wansford Play Area The Council are waiting for a report on some defects to the play apparatus.

Old Leicester Road / A47 Junction The council are still pressing for improvements to this junction.



Flashing Moveable Speed Sign The Supplier has just returned to work, so it is anticipated that progress will now be made on minor outstanding matters relating to design.

Pothole Repairs on Old North Road PCC have done extensive repairs to the potholes on Old North Road and they have reinstated the road markings. It is a great improvement, reducing traffic noise significantly.

Alteration to village highway signs Nothing further heard from PCC

Request to Sibson-cum-Stibbington for a "no HGV" sign south of the bridge: waiting a decision.

Nene Close water pump Completed. See photo.

A47 Dualling No further update but it is noted Archeological excavations are in progress.

Kings Cliffe Industrial site HGV traffic through Wansford No response from ENDC

Nene Way path under the A1 River Bridge. This should be fully open by the time this is published. It is a much upgraded path suitable for cyclists, pedestrians and horses. Well done Highways England. One of the spin offs from the A47 improvements will be a general tidying and change of use of the Wansford picnic site area, possibly including some river bank moorings. (see photos)



LIVING VILLAGES MAGAZINE We are disappointed to hear that the publication of this magazine is in doubt due to lack of advertising, content offered and reading by the Villagers :-on line at <http://livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk> . Wansford Parish Council already provides a small amount of funding to the magazine and this could be increased.

The next meeting of the Wansford Parish Council will be on **Monday 13 July 2020** at 7.30pm in By Video link.

Cllr Martyn Handley .

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At the time of writing this, lock down continues. Although the sun has been out, WI ladies have not formally, so no meetings have taken place.

With the lockdown continuing, there was no physical book club meeting in May. However, there was a virtual meeting where the previous meeting's booklist was discussed as well as looking at the new list.

- *The Strawberry Thief by Joanne Harris*
- *The Dutch House by Ann Patchett*
- *The unexpected return of Josephine Fox by Claire Gradidge*
- *Degrees of guilt by H. S. Chandler*
- *The other half of Augusta Hope by Joanna Glen*
- *Where the crawdads sing by Delia Owens*

A vote for a short list for a short list did not take place, as members are likely to have the chance to read more books as the lockdown in its various format continues

If you read any of these and are interested in meeting with like-minded souls who read for pleasure, please join us when meetings recommence. Of course, I will let you know when meetings have started back up again, along with all the WI activities.

Rhona Punter 01780 592 514

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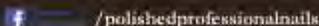
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If I refer to the Chequered Skipper you will possibly think of the country pub in the delightful village of Ashton just east of Oundle. The village is largely owned by the Ashton Estate, purchased by the Rothschild family in the late nineteenth century. Charles Rothschild was a member of the wealthy banking family and a keen nature conservationist. His daughter, Doctor Miriam Rothschild, was a world authority on fleas. Of slightly greater relevance to us now, visitors to the pub may have noticed the pub sign displays an image of a butterfly, the Chequered Skipper.



This small butterfly, only three centimetres across, has yellow spotted markings on a dark brown background and was always very local to the East Midlands and particularly Rockingham Forest where its last English sighting was in the mid 1970s. It is likely that the Rothschilds were so impressed by their local rarity that they were pleased for their local hostelry to take its name. Extinct for nearly fifty years the butterfly's supporters of the 'Back from the Brink' project released 42 adult Chequered Skippers in the Rockingham Forest area in 2018. Although they found no evidence of mating or egg laying they were overjoyed to identify a number of adults on the wing in the early summer of 2019. A success! The Chequered Skipper has returned.

I have been perusing a recently published report on The Butterflies of Northamptonshire 2019. There are generally believed to be about 56 different species in the United Kingdom, 36 of which can be found in the county of Northamptonshire. The report also identifies where they can be found - in diagrammatic form - and 29 can be found in the Yarwell area. Many such as Brimstone, the Whites, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell are common in gardens, Local hedgerows will yield Gatekeeper, Small Heath and Orange Tip, while Sulehay Forest will yield Holly Blue, Ringlet and Speckled Wood.

Bedford Purlieus woodland is just north of the Kings Cliffe Road which forms the county boundary with Peterborough which, of course, used to be part of Northamptonshire. Here you will find Purple Emperor butterflies. These butterflies live in the treetops but will come to ground to feed on disgustingly smelly detritus which they love. In our county you will have to visit Fermyn Woods or Salcey Forest to have a chance of seeing them.

What about the Chequered Skipper? For obvious reasons the release site is being kept secret until the butterflies are established in their new territory. Rockingham Forest is a large area stretching from Corby to Peterborough and many woodlands and forests come under its banner. There are more likely sites than Ashton Wold or Sulehay Forest but you never know what you may see on a rural walk if you keep your eyes skinned. Your best bet is to visit Ashton village and enjoy the pub sign image, whilst enjoying a pint of beer.

After lockdown that is!



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