

Living Villages

Image taken by John Measures

April 2024

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Editorial

Dear readers

It's one of those misconceptions that Robins only appear at Christmas - a myth made popular by the comparison with the red uniformed postman delivering festive cheer, and nothing to do with Snata Claus himself donning a red suit - that was more to do with Coca-Cola! Anyway, I do digress. I only mention it to say that Robins can be seen all year round, hence why we see one in true spring splendour on the cover of this month's magazine - yet another wonderful photograph from John Measures.

Inside this month we turn our attention to bees - one page 8 the national charity Buglife encourage invertebrates into our garden this spring, and also show you how to make a bee hotel. Plus on page 11 the WI begin their Poppy Appeal to mark the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings.

As the local elections loom, please remember that you will need photo ID at the polling stations, information about that is on page 17. Also, if you live in Thornhaugh make sure Fridays 5th April is in your diary - Their monthly Coffee, Cake and community meet is at the village church in the morning, and then in the evening there is a Cheese & Wine evening in aid of the WellChild Charity. All the details are on page 20. No need to cook in Thornhaugh on that day!

Please send your contributions for future magazines to the email address listed on page 26, we look forward to receiving them.

Best wishes

Craig

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Lady Jane Grey and Her Sisters

A talk by Anne Feather
about the "Nine Day Queen" and her sisters.

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WORSHIP DATES

Every Sunday 5.00pm - Zoom 'At Home' Service. Log in and phone details from Rev. Jane jdtailby@aol.com 01780 782271

St. Leonard's, Apethorpe

7 th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
21 st	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

St. Mary's and All Saints, Nassington

Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion BCP		
7 th	8.15 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP
7 th	9.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise
14 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion <i>followed by Annual Meeting</i>
21 st	3.00 p.m.	Craft Church and Activities
28 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh

7 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
21 st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

St. Mary's, Wansford

Every Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer		
14 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
28 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion <i>followed by Annual Meeting</i>

St. Mary's, Woodnewton

7 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
21 st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
28 th	8.30 a.m.	Holy communion BCP

St. Mary Magdalene's, Yarwell

14 th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
21 st	3.00 p.m.	Methodist Service
28 th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

In our churches' calendar, April and May are the months of our Annual meetings when we elect our Church Wardens, church officers and PCC members as well as looking back at the year past and considering what God might have in store for us in the year to come. In the report I write, one of my main tasks (and the most important!) is to thank all those who enable our church to be a place of welcome for the whole community, a place where people can feel they belong, either for worship or just to visit, and a place that can be used by everyone. As we consider our building we know that the "church" is the people as well as the building and there are many to thank in my annual report!

I was reminded of a poem by John Betjeman that includes these lines:

***Let's praise the man who goes to light
The church stove on an icy night
Let's praise the hard-worked he or she
The Treasurer of the PCC
Let's praise the cleaner of the aisles
The nave and candlesticks and tiles....***

We might not have boilers in our churches that need lighting any more, but some of our heating systems do require an early morning visit to make sure the church is warm enough later in the day! After describing other often overlooked roles in the church the poem concludes with the lines:

***These like a fire of glowing coals
Strike warmth into each other's souls,
And though they be but two or three
They keep the church for you and me.***

The point of the poem, of course, is to notice those who so often go unnoticed – all those whose unseen work and attention to detail keeps our churches running, for which we are all most grateful! I guess that is true in our wider life as well, there are so many whose work so often goes unnoticed, but without which our communities could not function. Equally in our personal lives, how easy it is not to appreciate the people around us whose care we all too often take for granted. Who "strikes warmth into our souls" I wonder?

I know I've said it before, but it is always good to be reminded of those who need to be noticed – and to say thank you, whatever the time of year.

May this springtime be blessed for all of us and be full of thankfulness!

With every blessing,

Rev. Jane (01780 782271)

REFLECTIONS

CASTOR BENEFICE

We are still maintaining the following service pattern every Sunday in each of our **Parish churches** until further notice.

Marholm 9.00am - Holy Communion (Morning Prayer on 4th Sunday)

Castor 8.00am Holy Communion (said service)
10.15am - Sung Eucharist

Sutton 9.00am on 4th Sunday of the month - Holy Communion

Every **Wednesday** morning at **10am** there is a service of Holy Communion at **Castor**.

We still continue to celebrate **Evensong via Zoom at 6pm every Sunday**, if you wish to join us please contact the Benefice office for the Zoom link and access code. admin.castor@btconnect.com

The next service at **St. John the Baptist, Stibbington** will be **Patronal Festival, on Sunday 30th June at 4pm**, please see separate see separate poster.

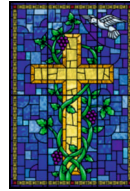
David Ridgeway

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NEWS FROM WANSFORD AND KINGS CLIFFE PRACTICE

This month we would like to tell you about our Medicines Management Team here at Wansford Health Campus.

Medicines Management Team?? Who are they and what do they do...you ask. Let me tell you.

The team comprises of 2 clinical pharmacists (Dipak and Arvind), 2 pharmacy technician (Lewis and Steph) and two repeat medication clerks (Lindsey and Kim). We are a different team to our colleagues in Wansford Pharmacy, but we do work very closely together.

In a nutshell we deal with all medication queries and issues within the practice.

This includes;

- Medication reviews
- Hypertension (blood pressure) reviews and medication changes
- Sorting out hospital letters and issuing appropriate medication
- We answer medication queries from patients
- We provide medication and prescribing guidance to the practice team i.e. the Drs and nurses
- Sort out blood tests for medications that need regular monitoring
- Update patient's record with blood pressure and weight etc, to ensure your medication continues to be safely prescribed.
-

If you have a medication query then contact the reception, who will then add you to our daily list. We will do our best to sort the query out on the day and may call you to discuss further.



WANSFORD HEALTH CAMPUS

Spring invertebrates in the Garden



Spring sees the garden come to life and with the first shoots, buds and flowers also come the first awakening invertebrates, reviving from their winter hibernation. Body clocks speeding up they emerge from sheds, tree hollows, larval stages or egg and bring with them the regular buzz of life.

Some of our first returning insects are queen bumble bees (they are larger than the workers seen later in the year), gathering food and materials to start their nests often found as early as March. As we move into April/May it is the solitary bees which you can spot if you have any spring flowering plants

in your garden. There are over 250 species of solitary bee some have specific plant food sources such as the Sea aster mining bee, some live in sand dunes or walls such as the masonry bees and some such as the Tawny mining bee can be found burrowing into your lawn.

Lifting slabs and rocks will uncover many other invertebrates that are still essentially at rest and nocturnal by nature such as millipedes, centipedes, woodlice and beetles. To encourage our early bees into your garden it is essential to have a good show of flowers preferably year round. Solitary bees can also be encouraged by creating your very own bee nest boxes, either buy an approved bespoke nest box see <https://www.buglife.org.uk/shop-categories/bug-houses> for examples or make you own:

You will need:

- Hollow plant stems or bamboo canes
- Garden twine or string
- Saw or knife to cut the canes
- A nail or hook to attach the bee hotel to

Method:

- Cut the hollow plant stems into 10-20cm sections. The diameter of the holes should not exceed 10mm and ideally be closer to 6mm.
- Tie a bundle of 15-20 tubes together with garden twine or string.
- Hang the bee hotel in a sunny but sheltered area about 5 feet about the ground. The side of a shed or on a trellis is ideal. (Preferably south facing).
-

You will know if a solitary bee such as a mason bee or leaf-cutter bee is using your bee hotel if the hollow tubes are blocked with a leaf or mud. A female solitary bee will usually use one hollow tube, she will create a series of cells each containing a food parcel of pollen and nectar for the grub. Only a single egg is laid in each cell. The adult solitary bee eventually seals the entrance to the tube with mud or a perfectly sized section of leaf. You may notice some of your garden plants have half-moon or full-circle shaped cuttings. These are made by leafcutter bees which cut them using their scissor-like mandibles.



Paul Hetherington (a Director of the charity Buglife)



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The Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's

After Easter, there will be a Coffee Stop on **Wednesday 17th April**, at 10.30 in St Mary's church.

We hope spring will have arrived by then.
Happy Easter.

Caroline Ashley

NEWS FROM WANSFORD PHARMACY

Spring has finally arrived. With a mix of warmer weather and April showers, this time of year can be rather changeable. The pharmacy world is no different.

Major changes started across the NHS, this spring, with the establishing of a brand new "Pharmacy First" service. Wansford pharmacy is working closely with Wansford & Kings Cliffe Practice so this works as seamlessly as possible. The following conditions are now going to be the remit of community pharmacy, without the need for referral from your GP:

- New urinary tract infections (strictly females and 16 to 64 year olds only)
- Shingles (18+ year olds)
- Impetigo (1+ year olds)
- Infected insect bites (1+ year olds)
- Acute sore throat (5+ year olds)
- Acute sinusitis (12+ year olds)
- Acute ear infection of the middle ear (1 to 17 year olds only)

As spring progresses, coughs and colds start to wane. This is when the hay-fever season gets started, with tree pollen the major culprit.

- If you suffer from hay-fever, prevention is the key word, rather than treatment. You should start using an antihistamine tablet, preferably a once daily, non-drowsy option, a couple of weeks before the expected onset of symptoms.
- Alternatively, or in addition for those particularly affected, a steroid nasal spray can be used. These take around 10 days to reach their full potential. Perseverance and regular daily use is key to success.

What we can be sure of is that our pharmacy team is highly trained and ready for these changes, whether seasonal or NHS driven. Think pharmacy first, because we can always signpost or refer onwards where needed.

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Poppy Appeal

At our AGM, Chris Turner (president) and Judith Rogers (treasurer), set us a challenge, to make enough poppies, so that we can produce a display outside St Mary's church, in readiness for Remembrance Day, on Monday 11th November 2024.



This year marks the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings, and we would like to honour those, along with all that have been involved in conflicts past and present by producing a wall of poppies display.

Some of us have already made a start, making poppies by knitting or crochet. The more adventurous of us have made fabric or felt poppies.

Within our display, as well as the traditional red poppies, we hope to include some white poppies, representing remembrance of all victims of wars, including both those in the armed forces and civilians. Also there will be purple poppies, produced to remember and honour the many animals that have been victims of wars.

To achieve this we will need to have at least 1,000 poppies, and this is where we would like your help. You may wish to make a poppy in remembrance of a loved one, a family member, or in remembrance of others. If you can make a poppy or two your contributions will be gratefully received. If you wish to have inspiration/ patterns for the knitted or crochet poppies, please email me: rhonapunter@aol.com

Over Autumn and winter we will be meeting in Wansford Community Hall, if you wish to attend one of our upcoming meetings to hear one of our visiting speakers, please get in touch. Please see below for our upcoming events:



Tuesday 12th March 2024 W.I. meeting 7pm, AGM and introducing poppy making for a local Remembrance display, at Wansford Community Hall.

Tuesday 2nd & 16th April 2024, 2-4pm Coffee & Craft club, at Wansford Community Hall

Tuesday 7th & 21st May 2024, 2-4pm Coffee & Craft club, at Wansford Community Hall

Tuesday 4th & 18th June 2024, 2-4pm Coffee & Craft club, at Wansford Community Hall

Thursday 30th May 2024, 7.30pm Book Club meeting, at The Cross Keys Wansford,

Both the Coffee & Craft club, and Book Club are open to all, (not just for WI members) and we look forward to others joining us.

Rhona Punter, email - rhonapunter@aol.com





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In addition to the live talks, annual members also receive other benefits. If you wish to find out more about our Society or about becoming a member, please visit our website, www.the-arts-society-peterborough.org.uk Our next two talks are:.

11th April 2024
'The Golden Age of Mexican Painting'- Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, by Chloe Sayer.
Chloe surveys the work of both of these iconic artists and chronicles their turbulent marriage and Mexico's history after the 1910 revolution.

9th May 2024
'Standing between darkness and light- Shadows in Western Paintings', by Valerie Shrimplin
Shadows are everywhere but not always depicted in art. Their origins in art and their uses, whether mysterious, ethereal or even divine from early times to present day will be explored.



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WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL



As those of you who read the Wansford Parish Council report every month will know, I was co-opted back on to the council in January and then elected Temporary Chairman until the Vice-Chairman, Richard Clarke, returns from his southern hemisphere tour. Again, we extend our best wishes to Cllr John Stannage for a speedy recovery from illness. Each month we ask a different Parish Councillor to produce this report in their own style and I volunteered to do this one.

We have been without a clerk since December, but have been very fortunate to have Charlie Newman and then Elinor Beesely standing in to take minutes for us and give us the benefit of their experience as Parish Clerks. Elinor has kindly agreed to take the minutes for us at April's meeting. If anyone is interested in being our clerk, please contact Jane Taylor-Pitt (jane.taylor-pitt@wansford-pc.gov.uk) (for details – see January's edition of Living Villages).

Wansford Parish is north of the River Nene and we come under Peterborough City Council, a Unitary Authority. The village south of the river is part of Sibson-cum-Stibington Parish which comes under Huntingdon, which is part of Cambridge County Council. We are very fortunate to own Wansford Community Hall - (www.wansfordcommunityhall.co.uk) - which can accommodate up to 36 people and is available for hire at only £4 per hire (contact me on 07597 794862 or at tim.pearson@wansford-pc.gov.uk). We meet on the second Monday of each month in the Community Hall at a new time of 7:00pm, and try not to take more than 2 hours. Members of the public are invited to attend our meetings, raise matters in Public Time and contribute to discussion when invited. You are welcome to leave the meetings at any time. The Agenda has to be posted on the Notice Board on the church wall at least 3 working days before each meeting, our next being on Monday 8th April.

Some items from the last meeting:

Peterborough Local Plan: The next Local Plan meeting will be held in Summer 2024. Wansford has limited need for its own Neighbourhood Plan, but is well aware that proposals in adjoining areas can have a significant impact on Wansford. Creating a Neighbourhood Plan would be advantageous, but an enormous amount of work for a small Parish like ours. It was agreed that Cllr Taylor-Pitt and Cllr Clarke would ask to meet with other parishes, prior to the next PCC Local Plan meeting, to discuss the possibility of creating a joint Neighbourhood Plan.

The Wildlife Trust website - Wansford Nature Reserve: Currently, access for the public is restricted by one padlocked gate and a 'no unauthorised access' sign on another gate. We are to write to The Wildlife Trust to ask for the permissive path to be re-opened.

Proposed bus route linking Peterborough, Castor, Ailsworth, Wansford, Wittering and Stamford: The Bus Campaign Group is continuing to fight for this service, and for it to run hourly.

Agenda and Minutes of meetings can be found on our web site (<https://wansford-pc.gov.uk>). Please raise with Councillors any concerns that you may have over any issue, and come to our meetings to express your views – it's how local democracy is supposed to work.

Cllr Tim Pearson

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SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sibson-cum Stibbington Parish Council met on **7th March** where the following matters were discussed.

The Future of Christie Hall Management Committee.

Lisa Chambers representing the committee spoke to those in attendance about the history and legacy of the Christie Hall which has been a pivotal space for the three villages (Stibbington, Wansford & Thornhaugh). The building and land is currently leased from the Royal British Legion (RBL) and The Christie Hall Management Committee is made up of a small number of people who between them cover a range of key duties. Whilst they have been happy to undertake these tasks for a substantial period of time they are now reaching a point where they would each like to start planning and implementing succession plans. The hall is well utilised by fitness and well being groups as well as private events e.g. parties. Lisa's reason for attending the Parish Council meeting was to highlight to Parishioners and Councillors that their support in finding people who would be interested in any role on the Christie Hall Management Committee they should get in touch.

Speeding on Elton Road.

Parishioners are extremely concerned about the volume of speeding vehicles passing this stretch of road. It was explained that there had recently been a near miss whereby an older resident who was putting their bins out was nearly pulled over after the drag that rushed passed her from a speeding vehicle. The concerns over speeding were also extended to the 30mph zone on Elton Road. The resident plans to escalate these concerns to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The Parish is happy to support these efforts where possible, including the option of a traffic survey.

Swim-Run event.

After careful review Councillors agreed and are happy for the event to pass through the parish under the circumstances explained to them. It was deemed that there will be minimal to no impact on the village if the event is delivered as per the information received.

Various payments were approved & planning applications were discussed. The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for **2nd May 2024**.

Charlie Newman

THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council was held on 5th March 2024 in St Andrew's Church. It was chaired by Chris Smith and present were Louise Molesworth, Nicky Rogers, two members of the public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk).

There were apologies for absence from Yana Clipsham, Camilla Plumb and Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor).

Police Matters - Rural Parish Police Surgery –The next meeting will be held 4.00 – 6.00 pm on 21st March 2024 in Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion.

The members of the public present asked if it would be possible to plant some flowers/bulbs at the entrance to the village off the A1 as they felt it would smarten up the corner and make the entrance to the village more attractive. They offered to help with a maintenance plan. The Chair said she would check whether this needed PCC permission.

Highways Issues - the Chair had no further updates on layby or entrance/exit despite chasing emails.

Social Events – Nicky Rogers suggested that a Harvest Festival event could be held in late September/early October. Nicky Rogers suggested we could ask Peter Sharpley if he would consider letting the residents use the paddock on Meadow Lane. Alan Frost and Joan Bolton Frost offered the use of their garden as an alternative and/or their gazebo for the event. The Chair will ask Peter Sharpley. Appreciation was expressed to Nicki Higgins for arranging two community events in the church in April 2024.

State of Russell Hill to A47 – the Chair said that as yet, there had been no response from Peterborough Highways despite support from Gavin Elsey.

Local Plan - PCC sent out a request for comment to Parish Councils to inform the draft Local Plan relating to Housing Development (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment - SHELAA). This was an early consultation on land that has been offered to PCC as potential for development to meet the next Local Plan (2023 to 2044). The land offered in the plan is at a very early stage and none of the land offers have, as yet been assessed for suitability for inclusion in the final Local Plan. PCC have been given a Government target of c22,000 dwellings over the life of the plan and this stage of consultation was to get first thoughts from Parish Councils on the land offered. Inclusion of the land at this stage does not mean automatic inclusion in the final Plan. The land offered will be considered for inclusion in the Draft Local Plan which will be sent out, hopefully in August 2024 for further consultation. The land will be assessed for suitability against a range of criteria, including comments from Parish Councils. The discussions at an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council were also informed by consultation with other PCs and from attendance at a City Planning meeting held on 11th January. Thornhaugh Parish Council submitted their thoughts on 18th January. Our response covered the following issues: Village envelopes, Conservation area, ancient woodlands, road network infrastructure, environmental impact, loss of agricultural land, emergency services impact, education, public transport, residents' quality of life, and property values.

State of Pavements on Russell – Louise Molesworth had not yet sent the photographs to Gavin Elsey, but the Clerk will ask him for an update.

Planning Applications - 23/00852/FUL - Proposed Cattery, temporary mobile home and small pet crematorium at Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – No Objections/Support – Awaiting Decision and 24/00017/CTR - Remove all 4no. conifer trees at 14 Russell Hill, Thornhaugh - Neutral to accept the decision of the Tree Officer but to request replacement trees are planted at the site – Permitted

Annual Donations Agreed – Living Villages £100 and Wansford & Thornhaugh PCC £190 which are both same as in 2023.

Karen Jones had once again agreed to undertake the internal audit of the accounts. The Parish Council is no longer required to have an external audit of the accounts.

The Chair had received enquiry about insurance for litter pickers being covered for working alongside major highways. It was confirmed that there are no restrictions on this, but an appropriate Safety Assessment must be done, and a sample was provided. This was sent to Nikki Higgins for information.

Reported water leak on Russell Hill on 29th February. Following checking by Anglian Water, they have confirmed that this is not their equipment and is not water from them. A further enquiry has been submitted seeking assistance to trace which services are provided from that manhole.

Thanks were expressed to Lee Ward for clearing leaves from drain on Russell Hill opposite The Rectory. This is always a bad drain in rainy weather because leaves and detritus coming down the road and off the fields collect and stop the water running away. Please can anyone passing it do the same to keep the water flowing?

Thanks were expressed to Adrian Rodgers for checking the defibrillator on a weekly basis. Louise Molesworth will explore the possibility of a refresher course to include the basics of using the defibrillator and also basic first aid.

The next Thornhaugh Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7.00 pm on **7th May 2024** in **St Andrew's Church**. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to announce.

Coffee + Cake + Community

Venue: **Thornhaugh Village church**

Date: **First Friday of the month**

Time: **10.30am- midday or anything in between**

A chance to meet neighbours, old and new, for cafeiere coffee and delicious cakes.

First date is **Friday April 5th** when everything is **free** so there's nothing to lose!

The aim is to run CCC from April to September with the possibility of activities such as crafts, board games, puzzles, but essentially, it's a space to catch up with your community. The church has wheelchair access and toilets. We will set up small tables and chairs in a café style and **ALL are welcome**.

Future dates will cost of £3 for coffee and cake. We hope you can drop in and use our beautiful church building. ☺ Any questions or if you enjoy baking, please email nikki@4stonecottage.co.uk



Thornhaugh Village Candlelit
Cheese and Wine

Friday 5th April 7.30pm

Thornhaugh



Please bring one bottle of wine each.
(and cheese if you like)

Opportunity to donate to this great
charity WellChild on the night.

All welcome.

RSVP

nikki@4stonecottage.co.uk

Wansford Village Show, 24th August??

Perhaps the most endearing feature of our **Wansford Show** has been the number of volunteers (70) that have come together on the day to make it a friendly and fun reality. We now are seeking a few generous souls to get more involved and to join the organisation team. Please read below, we would love your further help. In fact we need more support to further develop such a fun day.

Calling all Villagers!!

In recent years, the Wansford Village Show has quickly established itself as a highly entertaining and successful event, with great potential to develop further. However, we now find ourselves in an urgent position of having too few organisers. For 2024 we are seeking to expand our team & rebuild our finances. If you can bring new energy and ideas, we are very interested in talking to you.

We would like to strengthen the team in the following areas:

- Treasurer
- 1st Aid lead
- Health & Safety co-ordinator
- Classic car organiser
- Stalls organiser
- Music organiser
- Food & drink organiser
- Fundraising coordinator

The commitment will be 6 meetings (at The Cross Keys) and time to organise your part of the Show. Your reward is being part of making a lovely day in our village.

If you are interested, please contact myself to discuss further - Gary Punter (garypunter@aol.com) or ring 07789 651414



Just ask

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Principal

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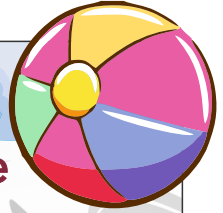



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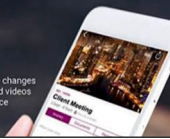
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Wansford Horticultural & Craft Society

Having fun with crafts & gardening

Spring Newsletter

We wish you a lovely Spring with your garden and crafting. This Newsletter in 5 - **Great Turnout; Beasties; Molesworth Visit; Plant Donations** and **100 friends**

1. We had a **great turnout** for our 1st Talk of the year 'Plant Hunting in China' by David Ridgeway. It was great to see our lovely church totally full. David gave a very engaging talk, interspersed with entertaining glimpses of China, about plants to be found, especially orchids, in the foothills of the Mekong & Yangtze rivers. Thank you all.



2. **Beasties.** Our next talk is at 19.30hrs on Thursday 11th April at Christie Hall (This replaces the postponed Tulip Festival at Burghley). Instead and by popular recommendation we have a talk by Geoff Hodge (freelance gardening and horticultural writer, author, editor and radio broadcaster) about Bugs & Garden Plagues – Pest & Disease Control, which is expected to be both entertaining and educational. Please let Rhona know if you wish to come along.

3. **Molesworth Visit.** Our visit at 2pm on April 14th is filling up fast. Molesworth House (PE28 0QD), a local NGS garden and we are lucky to get a personal tour by the owners. We are looking forward to seeing the 3 acre rectory garden, lots of spring bulbs, plus tea & cake. £5pp limited to 25 persons.

4. **Seedlings and plant donations.** In preparation for our Plant Sale in May, if you can please plant a few extra seedlings and look into your garden at what you can divide and donate. The plant sale will be held 1000-1230 on 4th May at Castor House. Plant donations can be delivered to Goss Cottage or bring on the day to Castor House. Tea and cake will be available and we thank Claire & Ian Winfrey for their hospitality.

5. **Membership for 2024 has just passed 100.** If you have paid - marvellous. If you do not wish to renew - no problem & let Rhona or I know. The biggest complaint is that £5 is too little.

As always, we continue to strive to offer good value & fun with friends. Fingers crossed for a lovely Spring.

Gary Punter
garypunter@aol.com



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Parish Councils

Sutton	Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)	01780 782668
Wansford	Marie Lewis (Clerk)	07899 732049
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	Charlotte Newman - sibson.cum.stibbington@gmail.com	
Thornhaugh	Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)	01780 782668
Water Newton (Parish Meeting)	Caroline Nathan (Chairman)	07989 362514

City Councillor (Wittering Ward) - Gavin Elsey **07738930599**

Churches

Ministers: Thornhaugh & Wansford		01780 782271
Stibbington, Sutton, Castor & Water Newton		01733 380900
	admin.castor@btconnect.com	

Churchwardens:

St Andrew's Thornhaugh:	Stuart Foreman	01780 783220
	Liz Kemp	01780 782333
St Mary's Wansford:	Caroline Ashley	01780 782408
	Alan Jones	01780 783205
St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Charlotte Bradshaw	01780 781805

Friends:

St Mary's & St Andrew's	Caroline Ashley	01780 782408
St Remigius Water Newton	Jack Ward	01733 394646

Other useful contacts

Neighbourhood Policing 101	P'boro City Council	01733 747474
Wansford Surgery	01780 782342	Royal British Legion 01780 782200
(Out of hours	111 option 4)	Stibbington & Wansford WI . .781733
Wansford Pharmacy	01780 781616	Cricket Club 07860 278800
Communicare	01780 470437	Horticultural Society 01780 592514
H'don District Council	01480 388388	Stibbington Centre 01780 782386

Website www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

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