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Editorial

Dear readers

I begin with a lovely photo of a woodpecker - is it seasonal? I'm not sure, but I know that Dave Johnson is very proud of finally getting a picture of 'Woody', so why not show it off? (And remind us to look after the wildlife that aren't hibernating around the villages as the weather turns chilly).

December is filled with Carol Services and Worship, the usual dates are on page 6, and also the Service at St Remigius is highlighted on page 8.



There is still time (just) to register for the Wansford Advent Windows, details are on page 16. The next Coffee and Cake event in Thornhaugh is on Friday December 6th (see page 19).

Much congratulations to Wansford and Kings Cliffe Medical Practice, who have been voted 'Best Practice in The Area' - see the report on page 25. Also, on pages 27, 28 and 29 respectively, is information on the ongoing NVR's North Pole Adventure, recycling your Christmas Trees with Sue Ryder, and some tips from Safe Local Trades on how to avoid Parcel Theft, including a number to text if you think you've received a scam message -useful advice.

As always, if you have contributions for upcoming editions of this, your local magazine, please get in touch using the contact details on page 30.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year

Best wishes

Craig

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WORSHIP DATES

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

St. Leonard's, Apethorpe		
1 st	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
15 th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
22 nd	6.00 p.m.	Traditional Candlelit Carol Service
25 th	11.00 a.m.	Christmas Communion

St. Mary's and All Saints, Nassington		
Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion BCP		
1 st	8.15 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP
1 st	6.00 p.m.	Advent Songs of Praise
8 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
15 th	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service
24 th	4.00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Crib Service
25 th	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Communion
29 th	10.00 a.m.	BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION

St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh		
1 st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion for St. Andrew
15 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
24 th	3.00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Christingle Making and Service

St. Mary's, Wansford		
Every Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer		
8 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
15 th	6.00 p.m.	Community Carol Service
24 th	11.30 a.m.	Midnight Mass

St. Mary's, Woodnewton		
1 st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
15 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
18 th	7.00 p.m.	Carol Service
22 nd	3.00 p.m.	Christingle Making and Carol Service
25 th	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Communion

St. Mary Magdalene's, Yarwell		
8 th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
15 th	3.00 p.m.	Methodist Service
17 th	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service
22 nd	10.00 a.m.	BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION
25 th	11.00 a.m.	Christmas Communion

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 **Carol Service on Sunday 15th December at 4pm**, see opposite.

David Ridgeway

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST STIBBINGTON

CAROL SERVICE



SUNDAY 15th December
4.00 pm

Do come and join us, you will be assured of a very warm welcome, mulled wine will be served on arrival

The shortest day of the year, the winter solstice is 21st December and then at last the days begin to get longer again and we can look

REFLECTIONS

forward to more and more light each day. However, the growing light in our church calendar, and maybe in your own calendars as well, starts as December begins with the expectation of Christmas, the celebration of Christ's coming as the Light of the World. Advent, the church's season leading up to Christmas is a time of the light becoming brighter each day. In our church buildings, this is symbolised in our Advent wreath: four purple candles surrounding a white candle in the centre. Each week one more candle is lit and then the final white candle is lit on Christmas Day; each week the light on the wreath is brighter. Light can represent hope, and we look towards hope brightening our lives in these dark winter days.

Our services in church also focus on the growing light of the season. We begin Advent with our usual morning service at Thornhaugh when our first Advent candle is lit, and we also celebrate St. Andrew, our patron saint. The St. Andrew's flag will be flying! In addition we have a special evening service at Nassington for all the villages in our group. This will be an informal "Songs of Praise" with lots of favourite seasonal hymns, a choir and a variety of readings from Rowan Williams to Madeleine l'Engle and many in between. All are welcome to join us and if anyone would like to join the choir, do let me know.

Our own carol service takes place on the evening of Sunday, 15th December in Wansford, at 6.00 p.m. – all the traditional carols and readings with our choir to lead us! Do come and join us to sing your favourite carols! By then we will have three of our Advent candles lit. The light will grow even brighter at our Christingle service at 3.00 p.m.) at Thornhaugh on Christmas Eve at 3.00 p.m. when we will be making Christingles and sharing in a short all age service. All are welcome, you can make a Christingle whatever your age! Later that evening, at 11.30 p.m. we have our traditional Midnight Mass at Wansford – the late hour and the being in church as Christmas Day begins representing so clearly the coming of Christ, the Light of the World into the darkness of whatever we might encounter. The final candle of our Advent ring is lit, of course, on Christmas Day at our Christmas Communion service at Thornhaugh at 9.30 a.m. Do come and join us for this simple service of Holy Communion suitable for all as we celebrate the Light that has fully dawned once more in our Christmas celebrations.

May this month be full of light for us all, may the light of hope shine ever brighter in our lives and in the dark places of our world. May Christ, the Light of the World illuminate our path as we look to a new year to come.

With every blessing,
Revd. Jane

A Celebration of Christmas at St. Remigius Church Water Newton

Friday 13th December at 6.30pm



A Perfect start to Christmas!
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The Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's

There will be a Christmas Coffee Stop on **Wednesday 18th December** from 10.30am in St Mary's Church.

There will be a short carol service at 10am , followed by festive refreshments. Join us for a relaxing pre Christmas interlude- all welcome.

Caroline Ashley

NEWS FROM WANSFORD PHARMACY

Staying healthy over Christmas can be a challenge, given the abundance of festive foods, drinks, and late-night celebrations. However, with a little planning and mindfulness, it's possible to enjoy the season while maintaining balance and well-being.

One of the key aspects of staying healthy during Christmas is being mindful of your food choices. While indulgence is a natural part of the season, moderation is crucial, especially if you are already struggling with excess weight or obesity. You can still enjoy the classic Christmas treats, but perhaps in smaller portions or by making healthier versions at home—think lower-sugar desserts, swapping high fat roastsies for more vegetables, etc.

Exercise is another important factor. With busy schedules and colder weather, it can be tempting to skip workouts. However, staying active helps manage weight, improve mood, and reduce stress. Consider activities that incorporate family and friends, like a walk after Christmas dinner, a winter hike, or a game of football in the backyard. Even a short daily walk can help maintain energy levels, aid mental health and offset some of the holiday indulgence.

Hydration is often overlooked during the festive season, but it plays a crucial role in overall health. Alcohol and sugary drinks can dehydrate you, so balance them with water or herbal teas. Drinking plenty of water also helps with digestion and energy levels, keeping you feeling better throughout the festivities.

Mental health is another vital aspect of holiday wellness. The season can be stressful, with expectations around gift-giving, cooking, and hosting. To manage stress, prioritize self-care by setting boundaries, practicing mindfulness, and ensuring you get enough sleep. Taking time for yourself, even if it's just for a few quiet minutes each day, can make a big difference in how you feel overall.

Incorporating these healthy habits into your Christmas celebrations can help you enjoy the season fully, without compromising your health. Balance, moderation, and self-care are the keys to a festive but mindful holiday.

Lastly, if you are suffering from such issues our staff are on hand. Please book an appointment now for 2025 if you suffer from sleep issues, excess weight or if the holidays prompted a need to check your heart health.

Thank you for your custom in 2024. We are looking forward to supporting your health positively and proactively in 2025.

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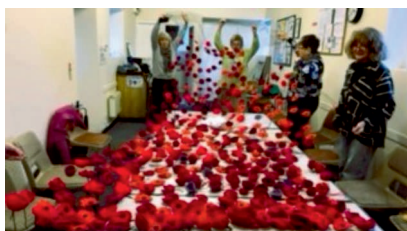


Operation Poppy.



In the spring our president Chris suggested that we make a wall of poppies display as this year marks the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings, it will be our way to honour those, along with all that have been involved in conflicts past and present.

As we always love a challenge, we picked up our knitting needles, crotcher hooks, and in some cases the sewing machine, to produce our poppies. Within our display, as well as the traditional red poppies, we have included some white poppies, representing remembrance of all victims of wars, including both those in the armed forces and civilians. Also there are purple poppies, produced to remember and honour the many animals that have been victims of wars.



Thanks goes to all those that made and gifted over 1,000 poppies for our display outside St Mary's, also to Gary Punter, who was able to assist with the setting up of our cascade of poppies.

Autumn is here, so our monthly meeting will take place in Wansford Community Hall, other meetings, please check each individual event. 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 10th December 2024, 7pm WI meeting, Christmas social.

Tuesday 3rd December 2024, 2-4pm Coffee, Cake & Craft club, at Wansford Community Hall.

Book Club meeting, at The Cross Keys Wansford, **30th January 2025.**

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



Men's Breakfast Meeting

An informal bi-monthly social gathering for men from local villages to meet for breakfast and hear from an invited speaker. Interested? Contact mensbreakfast@sulehay.co.uk

New members welcome




30th November 2024
1st February 2025
5th April 2025

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WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL



Seven councillors were in attendance. Apologies were received from Peterborough City Councillor Gavin Elsey.

The public forum highlighted concerns relating to insufficient notification regarding recent City Fibre cable installation road works, and recent PCC Highways repairs to Wansford Old Bridge.

The Parish Council confirmed its unease over City Fibre's laxity in providing timely prior notification. The Council noted that one of the old, protective cart-wheel stones abutting a parapet on Wansford Old Bridge had been damaged when huge volumes of unsuitable traffic (both in size and weight) were being directed over the bridge earlier this month due to an accident on the A1. It has therefore requested temporary signage be installed at the London Road junction to mitigate traffic flow on similar future occasions.

Peterborough City Council is consulting on its proposed Local Plan and had asked the Parish Council for comment on a location within the 'Call for Sites'. It was noted Site 5001 (Seed's Field) had been submitted. The Parish Council agreed to lodge a response opposing this application.

Last year's highly successful Advent Window project is being launched again this year. All villagers are strongly encouraged to become involved. For more details, please contact Cllr Jane Taylor-Pitt on jane.taylor-pitt@wansford-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council discussed and agreed its 2025-26 Budget which requires an uplift in the Precept of 4.1%.

Next Parish Council Meeting – **Monday 9th December at 7.30pm** in the Community Hall

Patricia Stuart-Mogg
Wansford Parish Council

**Wansford Living
Advent Windows**

Following last year's success, if you would like to decorate a window this year, please reach out to me as I would like to publish a list for the month ahead by the 1st December.

Your window can be as detailed or simple as you like; feel free to ask if you have any questions.

Contact me at 1 Bridge End, or email me at jane.taylor-pitt@wansford-pc.gov.uk

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SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council met on the 7th November, 2024.

All Councillors were in attendance together with 15 members of the public. Declarations of interest in matters to be discussed were accepted by Councillor Wright regarding Item 4 Sibson Airfield. Councillor Wright left the meeting.

HDC Local Plan Engagement together with the call for a Site at Sibson Airfield were duly discussed. It was confirmed that no sites have been allocated, and the Engagement will be the first of several to be undertaken by HDC Planning.

Cllr. Beuttell gave an introduction and overview of the purpose of the Call for Sites process carried out by Councils. Huntingdonshire District Council had a call for 369 sites in total with 235 being for residential development of all sizes. Sibson site is the only site with mixed Commercial and Residential development proposal of 4500+ houses, which would have a huge impact on Sibson-cum-Stibbington and surrounding villages.

There followed a general discussion about the various issues that any development could bring.

The Chairman urged all residents to make their objections known, and to provide any historical, environmental, and infrastructure concerns.

It was agreed and commented on the fact that the website for comment at HDC was "clunky" and not simple to access. Further support can be accessed on the Local Plans team on local.plan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk, or go to "lets Talk Huntingdonshire. The Parish Council can also be contacted should residents have difficulties.

The minutes of the previous meeting were duly signed, and several payments were authorised.

It was announced that commencement of the repair at the Bridge wall at the Haycock hotel will be commenced on the 11th November.

2 Planning application in retrospect were commented on and comments will be sent to HDC Planning.

Notice of the Christmas Bin Collections will be attached to bins shortly, letting residents know which days will affect them.

It was commented that the Boatyard at Sibson has been burning materials on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th causing noxious smoke. Cllr Beuttell to inform Environmental Health.

It was mentioned that the hedges around the village have been trimmed but some areas were missed including the Church Lane passageway to the play area, together with the Hedge outside Gardeners Cottage is very overgrown. It was also commented that the trees are overhanging the pedestrian walkway outside Stibbington Hall. Comments were also made regarding the number of vehicles at 5 Church Lane overflowing onto the road and also the metal grinding that appears to be taking place. Cllr. Beuttell to report this to Planning Enforcement Team at HDC. Night flying from Sibson aerodrome over the village was also witnessed by residents.

The meeting ended at 7.40 and the date of the next meeting was announced to be held on the **9th January, 2025.**

THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting Thornton Parish Council was held on 11th November 2024 in St Andrew's Church. It was chaired by Louise Molesworth and present were Yana Clipsham, Nicky Rogers and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk).

There were apologies for absence from Chris Smith and Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor)

Highway Issues - Chris Smith had nothing to report on layby, etc, despite having chased this on 3rd November 2024.

Social Events - the next social events are at 6.00 pm on 8th December (Christmas Tree) and on 20th December (Cheese & Wine Party in the church). Nicky Rogers will organise some posters/fliers for the events. It is likely that she will put a poster on the noticeboard, website and Facebook and only deliver the fliers to Home Farm. Yana Clipsham volunteered to help Nicky with the events.

Defibrillator Training - Louise Molesworth suggested that this could be scheduled for the first weekend after Christmas and she will ascertain her colleague's availability. The training will include basic life support, using a defibrillator, dealing with choking and first aid.

Peterborough City Council Local Plan Review - the call for sites was held between 9th September and 4th October 2024. There were no new site submissions within the parish.

Planning Applications - 24/00721/WCPP - Variation of condition C2 (drawings and documents) of planning permission 23/00852/FUL at Land Adjacent To Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, ; Thornton - Permitted; 24/00741/FUL - Erection of a replacement stable block at Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornton - Permitted; 24/00210/MMFUL - Continuation of landfilling operations and the importation of clean naturally occurring materials to create an integrated restoration landform with nature conservation habitats at Cooks Hole Quarry and Thornton Landfill Site, Leicester Road, Thornton - Permitted; 24/01392/WCPP - Variation of condition C2 (drawings and documents) pursuant to Planning Permission 23/00852/FUL at Land Adjacent To Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornton - No Objections and Planning Appeal for Manor Farm Russell Hill (Ref: 24/00669/LBC) - Noted. No action required by the Parish Council as it did not object to the original application.

Budget and Precept 2024-2025 - Chris Smith had suggested a 3.5% increase in line with inflation as at the end of August 2024. This was agreed by all present.

Meeting Dates 2025 - 13th January, 10th March, 12th May (APM & AGM), 14th July, 8th September and 10th November 2025 (all the second Monday of alternative months).

Thornton & Wansford Parish Councils' Burial Ground Committee Meeting Report - Louise Molesworth gave a report on the meeting that took place on 16th October 2024. She said that the Committee would like to install a concrete path from the church gate to the church entrance as well as installing lighting along the path. The cost of this is beyond the current finances of the Committee so grant funding will have to be sought. She pointed out some of the upkeep and the purchase of some items for the churchyard is paid for by a supportive local resident because the Committee does not have the necessary funds.

Community Appreciation - thanks are expressed to a whole variety of residents - Nikki, Liam, Joy and Tammi who undertook the brilliant refurbishment and groundworks on the

bench area on Russell Hill; the residents who planted 20 kg of bulbs around the village; Tracey Parker for keeping the triangle looking great and Liam Higgins for keeping the grass looking good. Community at Work!

Noticeboard at Home Farm - it was mooted whether to replace the noticeboard at Home Farm as the residents there have not had access to a noticeboard for a couple of years at least and no-one there has asked about it. In the meantime, Yana Clipsham's husband will collect it and store it for the time being.

Request for Parish Council to Purchase Flags - it was agreed by all present that the Parish Council will purchase a good quality Union Jack flag for the flagpole. It was agreed that any future financial requests will be discussed, voted upon and decided by a majority decision.

The Christie Hall - Yana Clipsham had recently attended a meeting of the Christie Hall Committee and gave a report on the meeting. She said that Lisa Chambers, the current Chair, has been in post for many years and would like someone else to take over the post.

Leaflet about City Fibre in the Village - Nicky Rogers brought along a letter she had received regarding City Fibre in the village – no action needs to be taken by the Parish Council.

The next Thornhaugh Parish Council Meeting will take place at **7.00 pm on 13th January 2025** in St Andrew's Church, Thornhaugh.

COFFEE+ CAKE + COMMUNITY

WHEN

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

**10.30 - midday or anything in between
Friday 6th Dec**

WHERE

Thornhaugh Church

COST

£3

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In future we aim to have crafts, puzzles and games if there is interest.

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Talk and Social LET'S TALK ABOUT BEES

Friday, January 24th
7pm

St Andrew's Church,
Thornhaugh

Social from 7pm -7.45pm followed by talk

FEATURING

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What's in a word?

Today, just as it was for past generations long gone, once again, there is excitement in the air. Holly and mistletoe, Christmas trees to decorate, fairy lights, and maybe even a carol service at our local Parish church. It's lovely once a year to get that Christmassy feeling isn't it? There will be presents to wrap and cards will be received from forgotten friends. What can I buy for Aunt Mary? How about Cousin Pam, she's got everything. She's always difficult to buy presents for. That magical and evocative word 'Christmas' will be on everyone's lips, many times over in the next month or two. Making plans and arrangements with friends and family. When to order the turkey from the butcher and eventually the last minute shop at the supermarket to ensure that we have everything needed for a happy occasion.

Of the millions who will include this lovely descriptive word, Christmas (Christ Mass) in conversations, few will remember that it contains a name. The most famous name in the history of the world. **Jesus Christ.** The cataclysmic event which took place 2000 or so years ago, when that small baby was born, changed the world for ever. Jesus came into this world vulnerable and unprotected except by his mother and father. He survived the threats to destroy him and prevent him from having an influence and as we now know, he fulfilled God's plan for the saving of humanity from its own, self destructive influences. Today, Jesus Christ is as alive as ever as he was back then and he invites all those who are willing to listen to his Gospel (the good news), to ask him to *forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others who trespass against us*. He is our one route to God, our Father. The only route and the prospect of a life beyond this life which ends at some time for us all.

In St John's Gospel we read about Jesus trying to explain to his disciples that he must die and return to heaven to his Father.

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

That fact, sadly, will pass un-noticed by the masses of people who will talk excitedly about their plans for Christmas. And when the festival arrives, how many, I wonder, will know of its significance and respond by devoted worship and thanksgiving to the Redeemer and Saviour of the World on who we rely for everything we have in our lives.

In his book and BBC podcasts, 'Living with the Gods', Neil MacGregor, a past director of the British Museum says. *"Religion provides a narrative that explains our place in the world, and its decline is a striking phenomenon across western Europe. But nowhere more so than Britain, where Christianity has been in decline for decades". "One of the purposes of religion is to engender a sense of community, MacGregor said, and the one communal ritual to survive in modern Britain, is Christmas. Christmas still does work extraordinarily well as a great religious festival. However, for most people the story behind it has evaporated."*

As a child I wished that it could be Christmas every day, and the grown-ups laughed at me. But the love that came into the world at Christmas is with each and every one of us today and every day in our lives to come.

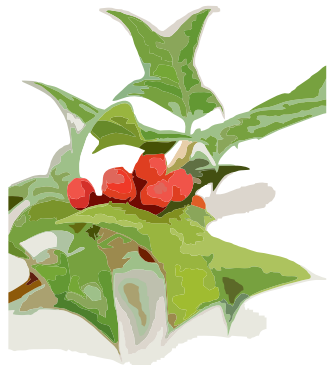
*Lord, at this time help me to spread my generosity a little further,
Not necessarily with money, but with time and love.*

You gave yourself to the world for eternity, help me to give a little of myself, If only for an hour or so, to a neighbour who is alone, or a child that is in need

And help me to let the love that is in my family, overflow wherever it can

A very happy and rewarding Christmas to all.

David B Johnson





THE ARTS SOCIETY PETERBOROUGH

The Arts Society is a leading arts education organisation that brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts. Each year The Arts Society Peterborough (TASP) holds nine illustrated talks given by experts in their field on subjects ranging widely, including old Masters, modern sculpture, silver jewellery, the work of David Hockney and music in art. The talks are held at

The Fleet in Fletton Peterborough on the second Thursday of each month except June, July and August. The talks start at 10.45 am but you are welcome to come earlier and meet like-minded people for a chat over a cup of coffee, doors open at 10.15am. Non-members are always welcome, so come and join us!

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:

12th DECEMBER 2024

‘What is an original print?’ with Dr Susan Owens, Curator of Paintings at the V&A Museum.

Using examples by the greatest masters, this talk demystifies the idea of the ‘original print’, and offers clear explanations of the processes involved in printmaking techniques.

9th JANUARY 2025

‘Sir Henry Wood, founder of the Proms and Master Musician’ with Professor Raymond Holden.

Using rare film clips, recorded sound examples and other performance artefacts, this talk will examine the life and times of Sir Henry Wood and the impact that he continues to have on today's musical life.

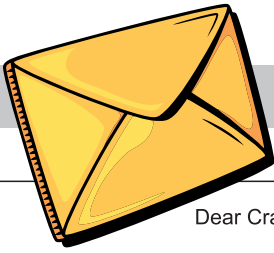
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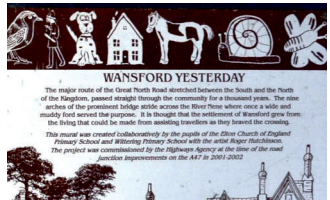
Dear Craig,

I attach three images together with information of a film made about Wansford - entitled '**A Trilogy Wansford, Northamptonshire Boston Museum and the Poem High Tide on the coast of Lincoln**'. At the moment as you know 'Global Warming' is on most minds and I think that the readers will find the complete film interesting. This is just one of a number of films made at Chapel House Wansford. I understand the URL would be difficult for readers to type out but key words such as 'Wansford'- 'High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire' typed into 'YouTube search' would bring the film up.

The Sun, the introduction I use was photographed from the entrance of the Wansford A47 underpass. Three files attached. I found this work most interesting they are just part of the other artwork on enamel in the underpass completed 22 years ago. I inserted them just for you to see.

Regards

Michael Lee



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SJP12026 V1 (04/20)

NEWS FROM WANSFORD AND KINGS CLIFFE PRACTICE

We've done it! We have been voted best practice in the area!!

Almost 700,000 patients in England completed a 2024 survey which gathers information on how practices feel about their local GP. It reveals the best and worst surgeries in Peterborough and beyond.



Here are the top 10 for our area:

1. Wansford and Kings Cliffe Practice
2. Yaxley Group Practice, Yaxley
3. Trinity Surgery, Wisbech
4. Merchford House, March
5. Boroughbury Medical Centre, Peterborough
6. Fenland Group Practice
7. Cornerstone Practice, March
8. Westwood Clinic, Peterborough
9. Central Medical Centre, Peterborough
10. Thistlemoor Medical Centre, Peterborough



Congratulations to all our staff who work tirelessly to provide a good service. Well deserved.

Castor & Ailsworth Scouts AGM - 4th December

The 63rd Peterborough (St Kyneburgha) Scout Group, which meets in Castor, has its Annual General Meeting on 4th December. This is our annual opportunity to appoint new trustees to the board, who help make sure the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers continue to have brilliant experiences with the group.

The trustee board would welcome anyone with energy, enthusiasm and a little time to help the group run smoothly. No prior experience of scouting or being a trustee is required, and no specific skills or knowledge are needed. We would, however, be particularly keen to hear from anyone with legal, public relations, human resources or general professional skills.

The board meets every couple of months, usually in the evening. If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please contact Nathan Binmore on gsl@63rdpeterborough.org.uk for an invite to the AGM.



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Nene Valley Railway - Christmas at the Railway: A North Pole Adventure

This year Nene Valley Railway have launched an all new, never seen before Christmas experience, Christmas at the Railway: The North Pole Adventure.



We are very excited to share this experience with our visitors, whether they have been coming for generations or for the very first time. This is our biggest family event of the year and has been put together with Darling Princess Parties.

This is a fully immersive festive experience with 14 professional actors, as well as our wonderful volunteers and will see visitors journey through our autumn forest, snow frosted portal and Santa's workshop where the children will help the elves make toys before meeting Santa and Mrs Claus to receive their gift. Tickets will include a round trip on the train with on train performers and the whole event will last approximately one and a half to two hours.

This new experience will not include our usual food service, however our on-site café franchise, Origin8 have put together a food offering that people can pre-order from their website and collect prior to boarding the train.

For many years Nene Valley Railway ran the Santa Specials, which were very popular. This has raised the question with some as to why the change? The Santa Specials require a lot of volunteers to run to the standard that people expect. Unfortunately, last year was a real struggle to get the volunteer numbers required for each running day and unexpected sickness leaves us having to find replacements for key people, sometimes at cost. Our new experience will allow volunteers to take part in the event while removing some of the stress and pressure from them and ensuring high standards are maintained. Response to Christmas at the Railway has been largely positive and tickets sales are performing very well. We are confident this will become a firm favourite with our visitors. After all, the Santa Specials were new once too!

Christmas at the Railway will run on selected dates between **30th November and 24th December**. We have an accessibility coach available on some of those dates, for which people who have mobility issues are encouraged to phone us in order to book their seats as these cannot be booked online. We also have our Festive Lounge, which seats up to 16 people in their own private carriage with a dedicated Elf to entertain them. These are nearly all sold out!



Adult Standard Ticket £35.00
 Child Standard Ticket (1 to 15 years old) £35.00
 Child Standard Ticket (Under 1 years old) £5.00
 Compartment (Up to 8 people) £225.00
 Festive Lounge (Up to 16 people) £640.00

For the accessibility coach, our contact number is 01780 784444 and for all other bookings, the web address is: <https://nvr.org.uk/product.php/510/the-north-pole-adventure>

Recycle your real Christmas tree and support Sue Ryder's vital work

National healthcare charity Sue Ryder is inviting residents to participate in their Christmas Treecycling scheme to help raise essential funds for families in need of palliative and bereavement care.

For a suggested optional donation, the charity will collect real Christmas trees directly from your front door, garden, or driveway and recycle them.



As part of Christmas Treecycling, Peterborough residents in the **PE1, PE2, PE3, PE4, PE5, PE6, PE7, PE8, and PE9** postcodes can have their trees collected between **9-12 January 2025**.

Real Christmas trees are fully recyclable and can be transformed into compost or wood chippings for use in parks, gardens, and landscaping. By choosing to Treecycle, you'll not only support Sue Ryder but also help reduce landfill waste.



**Because no one
should face death
or grief alone**

To learn more about this eco-friendly fundraising initiative in Peterborough, sponsored by Cultra Place and supported by JSB Building Services and Hire or Buy Group LTD Huntingdon, and to book a collection by midnight on 5 January 2025, visit

www.sueryder.org/treepeterborough

For any queries, contact the fundraising team at Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice at **01733 225 999** or email **thorpe.fundraising@sueryder.org**

Parcel theft and fraud – here's the know-how all wrapped up!

With almost 9 in 10 of us making at least one purchase online last year, online shopping has never been more popular. But with delivery delays, varying standards of service and a rise in doorstep parcel thefts, shopping from the comfort of your own home isn't always trouble-free.

Parcel piracy (at it has become known) looks set to peak over the next few weeks, as many of us prefer to do our Christmas shopping online as a convenient and seemingly stress-free alternative to battling the queues and the crowds. Recent figures from Cambridgeshire Constabulary show some 189 porch thefts were reported to them over a 12 month period. The total reported value of the stolen items amounted to **£33,729.74** and the average value of the items stolen was **£178.46**.

Opportunistic thieves are making off with goods potentially worth hundreds of pounds at a time after spotting boxes dropped off at homes by couriers during the day when their recipients are not in. Here are some things you could do to reduce the risk of doorstep theft:

- Track your parcel to ensure you or someone else is at home for the delivery.
- Install a video doorbell; this can be connected to your mobile, so you are notified immediately of any delivery, and is easier to install than a full CCTV system.
- Arrange for your parcel to be delivered to a trusted neighbour, or other family members who will be at home; if you live in a flat, is there a concierge who could accept the parcel for you?
- Opt for your parcel to be delivered to a secure off-site locker (Amazon and In Post are among the most popular) or arrange for your parcel to be couriered to a supermarket or post office.
- If you agreed for your parcel to be left in a safe place and it's then stolen, it's your responsibility. But if the courier left the parcel somewhere you didn't authorise, it's the retailer's responsibility to sort it out.

However, for some unsuspecting shoppers, the potential for misery can start even before the parcel is delivered.

How to spot a parcel delivery scam

- Check the number. A scam text message will often arrive as a mobile number, rather than from an official source.
- Delivery scams are often vague and won't be specific about where the parcel is coming from – or what's inside.
- A common way to spot a scam is spelling errors – check for mistakes or broken English. You may also see exclamation marks or strange capitalisation on fraudulent messages.
- Royal Mail will never use text or email to collect fees. If your message is from Royal Mail and it's asking you to pay a fee, you can be sure it's a scam.

If you receive a 'missed parcel' message that looks suspicious, you can report it to your mobile operator. This costs nothing and can reduce the amount of scam texts you receive - whilst helping to protect others from cybercrime.

Reporting a scam is easy – don't open the message, just forward it to **7726**, a free spam-reporting service provided by phone operators. Once reported, you can simply delete the message.

Have a very safe shopping period and wishing you a wonderful Christmas.

Eileen Le Voi - Safe Local Trades



DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS

For all enquiries, contributions and adverts

Craig Bunday	craig@ascotgraphics.co.uk	07771 538661
Ascot accounts	accounts@ascotgraphics.co.uk	01487 801301

Parish Councils

Sutton	Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)	01780 782668
Wansford	clerk@wansford-pc.gov.uk	
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	Margery Beuttell (Clerk@stibbington.org.uk)	
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
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

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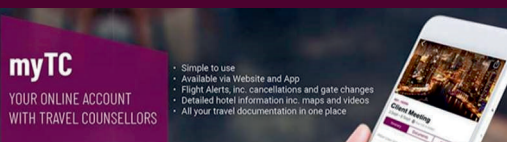
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