

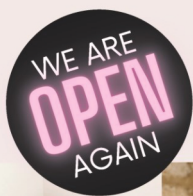
Living Villages

2022
Happy New Year

Image taken by John Measures

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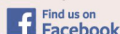


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Editorial

Dear readers

Happy New Year to all.

It has been pointed out to me that in my very first editorial for Living Villages I made a very bad omission (Please forgive me as I am a new boy at this!). I tried to make sure that I had thanked everyone involved past and present in the creation and continuation of your local village magazine, only to have it pointed out that I had failed to thank a vital part – the distributors! Those people who tirelessly take time out of their busy lives to ensure that the magazine is popped through your letterbox in a timely fashion. It was a terrible miss and for this I hope you can forgive me, for without their work behind the scenes, there would be little point compiling, editing and printing the magazine every month. So please accept this as a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to you all.

On this very subject, we have had one of our distributors stand down recently, and I would like to thank them for their help over what I have been told is more than twelve years of service – thank you! We are always looking for holiday cover for distribution, so if you are interested please get in touch to discuss – contact details are on page 22.

On the subject of thanks, I am indebted to John Measures and his continued submissions for cover photographs – last month’s Robin picture and this month’s too.

Living Villages is a magazine with community at the heart, and with this in mind, we are looking for a community project or charity to help in the coming twelve months. We already make a regular donation to the national charity ‘Hearing Dogs for Deaf People’ (see page 18) but we would like to get involved with a local cause so any suggestions would be gratefully received, again please get in touch using the contact details on page 22.

Wishing you a happy 2022

Craig

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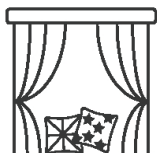
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St Leonard's, Apethorpe		
2 nd	11.00am	Holy Communion
16 th	11.00am	Mattins
30 th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion NASSINGTON

St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington		
Every Thursday at 9.30am Holy Communion BCP		
2 nd	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	All Age Communion
9 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
16 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
23 rd	9.30am	Family Service with Crafts
30 th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion

St Andrew's, Thornhaugh		
2 nd	9.30am	Morning Prayer
16 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
30 th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion NASSINGTON

St Mary's, Wansford		
Every Wednesday at 10.00am Morning Prayer		
9 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
23 rd	9.30am	Holy Communion
30 th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion NASSINGTON

St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell		
9 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
16 th	3.00pm	Methodist Service
23 rd	11.00am	Holy Communion
30 th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion NASSINGTON

St Mary's, Woodnewton		
2 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
16 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
23 rd	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP
30 th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion NASSINGTON

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Firstly, thank you to everyone who worked so hard for our Christmas celebrations in such difficult circumstances. Whether it was decorating, organizing services or events, singing in the choir, providing refreshments, whatever it is all so much appreciated! I am writing this in the middle of December, just as the omicron covid variant is taking hold and there is, once again, much uncertainty about what we can safely do to celebrate Christmas, so I hope that all the hard work has paid off, one way or another!

When you read this, Christmas, however you have been able to spend, it will be past, and we will all be wondering what the new year might bring. All the plans postponed from 2020, that had to be postponed again in 2021, will we be able to do them in 2022? Living with such uncertainty for so long, can be draining and hard to manage.

I am someone who loves languages, and so for me, it raises a small, if somewhat ironic, smile that the covid variants are labelled with Greek letters. Did we know that in the midst of all of this we are learning Greek? I suppose we can be grateful that they didn't go for Egyptian hieroglyphs (fellow fans of the TV quiz programme "Only Connect" will understand the reference here).

I learned New Testament Greek many years ago, and return to it now and again, although it isn't of that much use when trying to order coffee when on holiday in Greece! Omicron is one of two letters in the Greek alphabet for our letter "o". In New Testament Greek, omicron is used in the middle of a word and the other letter for "o" – omega – is used at the end of a word. The two letters are written differently in the Greek alphabet. Omicron, when it comes in the middle of a word is usually spoken with a short "o" sound and omega at the end of the word with a long "o" sound, which for me helps in the pronunciation of omicron with a short "o" at the beginning.

Omega might be a more familiar word to us. It is the last letter of the Greek alphabet (not "z" as in our alphabet) and hence it is sometimes used to indicate the last of something. In the Bible, in the book of Revelation, Alpha and Omega is a name given to the Lord, or to Jesus: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 22 verse 13, and also chapter 1, verse 8.) Alpha, of course, is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, so Alpha and Omega indicate the beginning and the end.

In Revelation, calling God Alpha and Omega is to indicate his eternal nature, and also that all things are held in him.

Thinking of God as Alpha and Omega is perhaps a helpful image as we begin a new year – God holds all things in his hands: the beginning of this new year, whatever we encounter in the middle, and he will be with us at the end of the year, and at all our endings.

Like the letter omicron, we may feel very small in face of so many challenges, whether it is the omicron variant or whatever else the year has in store for us, but we are held in the hands of the great Alpha and Omega, the Lord who loves us, cares for us and will be there for us at all times; the beginning, the middle, and the end.

May the Lord bless you and keep you through the year to come.

With every blessing,
Rev. Jane

CASTOR BENEFICE

Castor Benefice Services

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 will be 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

Please see poster (right) for our next service, to be held on Pancake Sunday, in Stibbington.

David Ridgeway

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST STIBBINGTON

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SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY AT 6.00 pm

PANCAKE SUNDAY



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

A November Coffee Stop was very popular and enabled us to send a further donation of £75 to Thorpe Hall.

All being well, we are hoping to have a Friends' meeting on Wednesday 19th January after morning prayer, with a view to another Coffee Stop on Wednesday 26th January.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Christmas.

Caroline

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On Tuesday 14th December, we met for our final meeting of the year. This was a thank you to the members of our group, through what many would agree to be a difficult year. For the continued support and friendship that they give, a glass or two of mulled wine was raised in toast for a merry Christmas and a healthy 2022.

Looking forward, our first meeting will be Tuesday 11th January, held in St Mary's Church at 7pm. Our speaker for the evening will be Claudine Garner. She is a member of Nene Coppicing and crafts group. This is a local organisation dedicated to promoting heritage woodland skills, conservation and crafts. Visitors are welcome.

As promised in our article last month, this is the first reading list put forward by the book club for 2022:

The City of tears by Kate Mosse - the second in the The Burning Chambers series

The last green valley by Mark Sullivan – the author of Beneath a scarlet sky

The distance between us & The hand that first held mine by Maggie O'Farrell, for those that enjoyed Hamnet and wished to explore the author further.

The mothers by Sarah J. Naughton

The tea planter's club by Ann Bennett

Mrs England by Stacey Halls

Happy reading to all and we will be sharing our thoughts on 20th January 2022, at 7.30pm The Cross Keys Wansford.

Future events:

Tuesday 4th January, 2-4pm coffee and craft club, at St Mary's church.

Tuesday 11th January, 7pm W.I. meeting St Mary's Church – Claudine Garner

Thursday 20th January, 7.30pm Book Club meeting, at The Cross Keys Wansford

Tuesday 8th February, 7pm WI meeting St Mary's Church – Mae's Blueberries

Both the Coffee & Craft club, and Book Club are open, not just for WI members only, and we look forward to others joining us. Now that we are meeting in St Mary's Church visitors are welcome to our monthly meetings to hear our visiting speakers.

Rhona Punter 01780 592514

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On the 13th of December, all 7 councillors and 2 members of the public attended a General meeting of the Parish Council.

After the meeting, an apology for absence was received from our Peterborough City Councillor, Gavin Elsey, who had been held up in traffic on the A47 coming from Norwich. We are all going to have to get used to the idea of being held up by traffic on the A47, since we seem to be no nearer receiving answers from National Highways (formerly Highways England) to questions raised about the dualling of the A47 and the Western Roundabout at Wansford.

Those of you who had seen the Agenda might well be put off coming to a meeting by its length and formalised presentation, but we do try to cover all the items as quickly as possible. The five items of Planning Proposals were dealt with first, so that the members of the public who had an interest in a particular item could leave afterwards (unusually, we had no objections to any of the five).

Separately, on December 17th we held an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss Finance and the Budget for 2022/23.

The Village Street Scene:

The telephone kiosk is to be repainted in the Spring and we are again requesting leaflets to inform residents about the defibrillator within it. Many of the road signs in the village are to be replaced with more appropriate finger posts next month.

There is a proposal to plant a single "Platinum Jubilee" Oak tree on the green in Nene Close. but this requires further consultation with the residents.

We are to purchase another mobile vehicle activate speed sign to supplement the one which has just been moved from the Old North Road to Peterborough Road. Data from the VAS sign shows that it does have an effect in slowing traffic through the village and it is also providing data to help with our A47 discussions.

All residents are invited to contact us about any matters of concern. We always try to communicate with residents as efficiently as possible and are planning the revitalisation and update of our website to provide more general news for the village.

We hope that everybody can be fit, healthy and safe and enjoy 2022.

Tim Pearson

Vacancy - Wansford Parish Council: A vacancy has arisen for the co-option of a Parish Councillor on our Council. If you live or work within Wansford Parish, are interested in your community and have a skill or specialist knowledge that you believe could help with the work of your parish council, then we would like to hear from you. There are specific qualifying criteria for applicants; this is a voluntary role and the council meets once each month. There will be full elections for councillors in May 2022 and so any co-option will be short-term. Further details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk by emailing clerk@wansford-pc.gov.uk
Closing date for applications is **Friday, 7 January 2022.**

SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council met on Thursday the 4th November.

Details were printed in December's Living Villages magazine and are available online.

The date of the next PC meeting will be held on the 6th January, 2022 in the Christie Hall.

THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 15th November 2021 in St Andrew's Church.

Details were printed in December's Living Villages magazine and are available online.

Meeting Dates for 2022

17th January, 21st March, 16th May, 18th July, 19th September, 21st November 2022.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 17th January 2022 in St Andrew's Church.

WANSFORD AND THORNHAUGH JOINT LITTER PICK 4/12/21

We had a very successful litter pick on 4th December, a smaller group enjoying blue skies and sunshine.

It was lovely having both villages out together. Thank you Jane Hunt for rallying the Wansford group and organising collection of the litter - 10 bags easily picked with the verges recently cut back. Aragon (Peterborough Council) really help with prompt collections.

The plan is to meet again on 29/1 but do look out on Wansford Community Facebook page for more details.

We would love to see you.

Nikki Higgins





Time For a Break

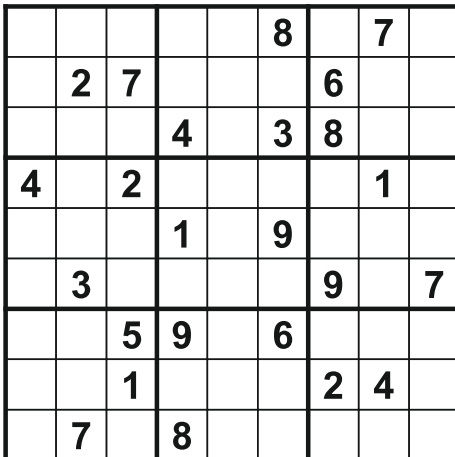
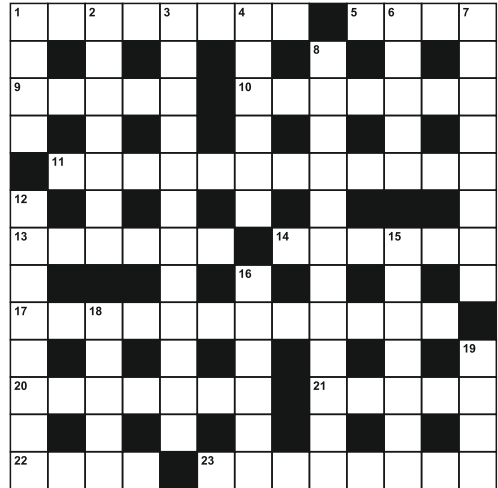
Quick Crossword

Across

- 1 - On a higher floor (8)
- 5 - Smoke passage (4)
- 9 - First appearance (5)
- 10 - Deliver by parachute (3-4)
- 11 - Preliminary (12)
- 13 - Easily remembered (6)
- 14 - Concept (6)
- 17 - Very eager; keen (12)
- 20 - Harden (7)
- 21 - Avoid (5)
- 22 - Go out with (4)
- 23 - Shape of the waxing moon (8)

Down

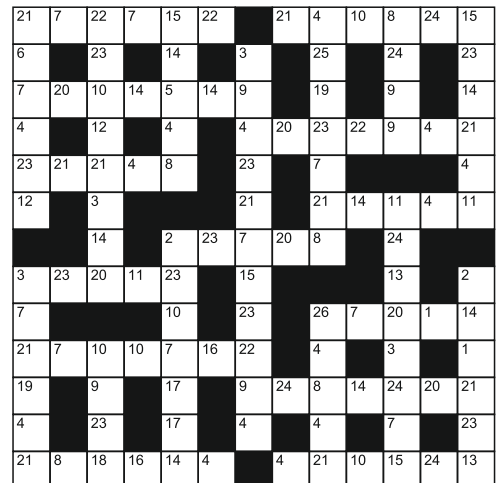
- 1 - Unwrap or untie (4)
- 2 - Fractional part (7)
- 3 - Reconsideration; item added later (12)
- 4 - Country in central Africa (6)
- 6 - In a slow tempo (of music) (5)
- 7 - Evacuating (8)
- 8 - Courtesy (12)
- 12 - Stressed (8)
- 15 - Copy; mimic (7)
- 16 - Wrongdoer (6)
- 18 - Have faith in (5)
- 19 - Spiciness (4)



Sudoku

Solutions on Page 21

Codeword



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Wansford Community Carol Service

A modified version of the Wansford Community Carol Service took place in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church on Sunday 19th December. This is now the second year an outside venue has been used in COVID conditions.

St. Mary's Choir re-enforced with some guest singers lead local villagers in the singing of Carols and performed two specialist pieces: O Holy Night a popular originality French Carol and In Dulce Jubilo a macaronic Carol with words alternating between Latin and English.

Choir Master Eddie McDonnell conducted with Nathan Binmore providing background music on an electric piano.

As the normal post service refreshments could not be provided all attendees were given a mince pie and chocolate treat to take home.



Alan Jones





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Wansford Horticultural & Craft Society

Happy New Year to all local gardeners & crafters !

What an eventful year 2021 turned out to be. Our gardens and crafts have certainly been a sanctuary for many of us and despite the pandemic we ran a full calendar of 14 events:

- The 75th Wansford Show
- 6 great talks on pottery, Japanese gardens, Wildlife Trust, naming of plants etc
- 3 visits to local gardens (Deene Park, Castor House & Belton)
- Our summer social garden party
- Wansford open gardens
- Plant sale on the wall at Goss Cottage
- Drinks evening for Show volunteers

The memory of the rope snapping at the tug of war is likely to be a favourite for many years !! We now have a new rope for the 76th Wansford Show on Saturday 27th August (Save the Date).



AGM/winter party

Our traditional winter social is on 22nd Jan and after a short AGM we plan a home cooked feast (& wine) as normal. Lateral flow tests (negative) required beforehand. Tickets available from rhonapunter@aol.com

Our calendar for 2022 is being finalised and we are hoping to bring some celebrity speakers to Wansford.

Our Charity giving

We have raised £2,300 for Alzheimer's Society over the last 2 years. We wish to move to a more local charity. The committee have had great personal support from Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall and we hope to get AGM permission to support them for the next period.

Thank you to our committee (Quentin, Mandy, Liz, Keith, Julie, Ian & Rhona) and the many volunteers who helped out during the year – a real team & local community effort – Well done !

New members always welcome or just contact us to volunteer at 1 of our events. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Gary Punter (Chair) garypunter@aol.com

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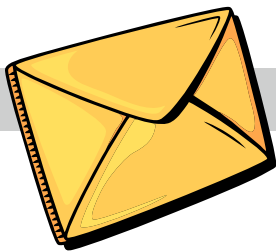
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

email craig@ascotgraphics.co.uk

Dear Craig,

From the residents of Thornhaugh who attended the "Christmas Songs and Carols by the Green" on Sunday 12 December, I would like to send a big thank-you to the organisers of the event and refreshments (Thornhaugh Parish Council), the Bill Rogers Memorial Fund (for once again sponsoring the Christmas tree) and, most especially, to the Ukulele Folk who provided the outstanding musical entertainment and led the community singing. A collection of £100 was raised to support the work of The Children's Society.

Stuart Foreman.

Solutions



Sudoku

6	7	3	8	4	2	1	9	5
9	8	1	3	5	7	2	4	6
2	4	5	9	1	6	7	8	3
1	3	6	2	8	4	9	5	7
7	5	8	1	3	9	4	6	2
4	9	2	7	6	5	3	1	8
5	6	9	4	7	3	8	2	1
8	2	7	5	9	1	6	3	4
3	1	4	6	2	8	5	7	9

Codeword

S	T	A	M	E	E	S	C	R	O	W
E	A	Z	E	E	U	A				
H	L	Z	L	O	T	I	O	N	S	
S	U	C	C	M	B	E	P	G		
U	F	U	N	G	I					
P	A	N	D	A	R					
I	J	A	U	N	T	O				
K										
A	S	S	E	T	A	U				
E	K	E	E	N	A	B	L	E	S	
U	N	C	I	V	I	L				
Q	A	I	P	X	O	A				
S	U	B	U	R	B	S	E	C	T	O

Quick Crossword

D	A	T	E	C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T
E	S	S	E	T	E	S	T	S			
T	O	U	G	H	E	N	E	V	A	D	E
N											
E	N	T	H	U	S	I	A	S	T	I	C
C	A	T	C	H	Y	N	O	T	I	O	N
A	I	T	A	I							
O	I	N	T	R	O	D	U	C	T	O	R
O											
D	E	B	U	T	A	I	R	D	R	O	P
N	U	U	F	W	G	A	M				
U	P	S	T	A	I	R	S	F	L	U	E

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Parish Councils

Sutton	Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)	01780 782668
Wansford	Marie Lewis (Clerk)	07899 732049
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	Wendy Gray (Clerk)	01778 441312
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	Richard Winfrey	01780 782431
	Carol Lindsay	01780 782338

Friends:

St Mary's & St Andrew's	Caroline Ashley	01780 782408
St Remigius Water Newton	Tony Capon	01733 237500

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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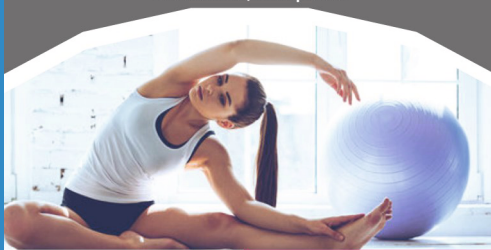
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