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JUNE
2021

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

I don't know about anyone else, but I'm in a real crossed fingers state of mind at the moment. I am so hopeful that we will soon be back to some sort of normal. It's been a tough year and a bit and for some it's been harder than others. Whilst editing the magazine this month I have been listening to Michael Ball on Radio 2 and he reminded us all that there are people and places out there to go to for help, for example the Samaritans www.samaritans.org

Businesses and organisations have had to adapt to new ways of working or have been shut completely for many months. Without a continuous stream of children visiting the Stibbington Centre it has been eerily quiet there. However it has been an opportunity to carry out refurbishments to the buildings and they are looking forward to welcoming schools back for both day and residential visits. They are also hosting an exciting course in August for young people who are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. See page 18 for more details

It's great that our local clubs and societies have started to meet again. Wansford Ukulele Folk are meeting at the Cross Keys each Monday and Tuesday, in socially distanced groups of six and it is great to learn that the Cricket Club are back in action. I look forward to receiving reports from them and other groups who are starting to meet.

A reminder again, if you do use a tradesperson from a advert in this magazine, please let them know where you saw the advert. Your free copy is reliant on their support.

Stay Safe

Tracy Sortwell

WORSHIP JUNE 2021

All subject to Government restrictions.

Every Sunday 5.00pm At Home service on Zoom. Log-in details from Rev. Jane

St Leonard's, Apethorpe

13th	11.00am	Holy Communion
27th	11.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington

Every Thursday at 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

6th	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Holy Communion
13th	9.30am	Holy Communion
20th	9.30am	Holy Communion
27th	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Andrew's, Thornhaugh

6th	9.30am	Holy Communion
20th	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Mary's, Wansford

Every Wednesday at 10.00am Morning Prayer

13th	9.30am	Holy Communion
27th	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell

6th	11.00am	Holy Communion
20th	11.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary's, Woodnewton

6th	9.30am	Holy Communion
20th	9.30am	Holy Communion
27th	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP

Castor Benefice Church Services

Covid permitting we are hoping to maintain the following service pattern every Sunday in each of our Parish churches until further notice; services have not yet re-commenced in our Chapels of Ease.

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

Castor 10.15am - Eucharist

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

The **10.00am Wednesday Holy Communion service at Castor** has now been resurrected.

Unfortunately congregational singing is still not permitted but, where possible, our worship will be enriched by a small group of singers, who will sing hymns.

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

David Ridgeway

REFLECTIONS by Rev. Jane Tailby

It's well over a year ago since we started to learn to live with the restrictions placed upon our lives by the corona-virus. As we come to June, we are hopeful that most of those restrictions will soon be lifted, although as we have learned through these last months, nothing is certain when dealing with something as unpredictable as a pandemic.

In the church we are looking forward to being able accommodate more people for those great celebrations and commemorations of life, as well as being able to sing hymns inside again and to share special events together once more. We can't be certain when that will be, but there will be great joy when it happens!

I wonder how we have each dealt with our lock-down time? Some just got on with it, some found it challenging and even harmful, some felt re-assured, and we must remember those already largely confined to their homes and isolated for whom it felt little different. Some will find the easing of restrictions a great relief and others will be more cautious; we are all different. But we will all be changed in some way, perhaps. We might find we appreciate our freedoms more, or our local surroundings, we might realise how much we rely on others, we might have made new connections that will continue and grow.

In June in the church we begin the "Trinity Season" – a steadier period after the festival times of Christmas and Easter. Now we seek to grow in our faith, understanding more of what we learned and experienced recalling the birth and then the death and resurrection of Jesus. Perhaps this year we will also grow in our understanding of ourselves and our community as we reflect upon our covid-time experiences.

The colour used in church this season is green, the colour of growth and life. We seek to grow in the love of God, more and more understanding his care for us and his purposes for our church. We may be changed by the events and challenges of this last year, but God has walked with and will continue to do so. May this be a time of growth and flourishing - for ourselves, our families, our community and our church, according to his good plans for us.

With every blessing,
Rev. Jane

Using tried and tested professionals is the key to locking out rogue traders

It seems that it is not only driveways, garden clearance and replacement guttering (to name a few) that are target areas for the cowboy builders and scammers. Another trade that has fallen foul of the rogue traders is locksmiths, as highlighted on BBC's *Rip off Britain* on the 10th May 2021.

The trade is unregulated which means that anyone can buy a kit and then advertise themselves as a locksmith. According to experts, the racket has reached an 'industrial scale' due to the pandemic.

According to recent surveys:

More than 800 complaints were made about rogue locksmiths over the past year

In two thirds of cases customers are being overcharged by £200 or more

In one example, a locksmith quoted a price of £49, but the final bill came to £1,604



Sadly, daily cases are being recorded from consumers with stories about unscrupulous activities by people masquerading as locksmiths; overcharging for sub-standard work, displaying threatening behaviour and even withholding key to locks that have fitted.

There are a number of **red flags** for spotting the scammers when hiring a locksmith, and here are a few tell-tale signs that the so-called locksmith may be far from reputable:

- * Calls are answered by a call centre which makes it difficult to obtain details for the locksmith doing the job. This can also mean you don't know who is doing the work as jobs are often subcontracted.
- * The company is ranked at or towards the top of online advertising listings. As they have paid to be there, this isn't an indication about the quality of their work.
- * The locksmith is vague about their experience and they may be reluctant to provide feedback about previous jobs or recommendations.
- * Drilling is a method of destructive entry and is only used as a last resort when all other methods haven't worked with cylinders. Many rogues start with the drill and this should ring alarm bells.

The advice on '*Rip off Britain*' is that when faced with being locked out of your home, you will no doubt panic. Be wary of just using the internet as some of these rogues pay to be promoted at the top of advertising listings. They recommend that, even though you may not need a locksmith at the moment, store a number in your phone; that way if anything happens in the future, you've got a number of a reputable locksmith you can use.



Free Falls Prevention Service in Wansford:

The Healthy You Falls Prevention Service is a free service funded by Public Health at Cambridgeshire County Council. Our aim is to help prevent falls and falls related injuries.

We offer falls assessments which help identify falls risks before they become a problem. If falls risks are identified, a falls action plan will be created and onward referrals to other falls prevention services can be completed if required.

We are also offering a free, weekly strength and balance exercise class in Wansford. FaME is the name of the exercise programme which has been proven to improve strength, stability and confidence in balance. It is a national programme, delivered by specialist qualified instructors who understand the age-related changes that occur in the body and the medical concerns you may have. The exercises are specifically developed to help keep you strong, steady, and doing the things you enjoy for longer. The classes are a great way to meet other people, receive support and build motivation.

Before accessing the class, you will be required to have a one-to-one appointment with the instructor to find out about your health and medications. You will also be asked to complete some simple functional tests to identify your starting point for exercise.

One-to-one sessions will be held every Monday from Monday 17th May onwards at Wansford Community Hall on Peterborough Road in Wansford. The classes themselves will take place at The Christie Hall [on Elton Road](#) in Wansford and will begin in June on a date TBC.

If you have fallen or have felt unsteady during the last year, please contact us on **0333 005 0093** to book an appointment. You can also contact us via email healthyyou@everyonehealth.co.uk

'In aging, maintaining balance and core stability is the single biggest thing patients can do for themselves to prevent falls.'

Dr Nally, Wansford Surgery GP

Stibbington and Wansford WI

Today's women working for tomorrow's world



Pom poms abound.

As you drove into the village at the end of April and approach St Mary's Church, you will have seen many pom poms displayed on the green in many colours and sizes suspended between waving gently in the spring breeze. In fact there were 100 pom poms. This is not an art installation but the result of Stibbington and Wansford WI.

Friday 30th April would have been Captain Tom's 101st birthday and a year since the extraordinary celebrations following the conclusion of his famous 100 laps of his garden that raised an incredible £38.9 million for the NHS. This year the occasion was marked by inviting people to join **Captain Tom 100. The money raised will go to** support charities including Place2Be, Young Minds and The Mix who are doing incredible work to support young people's mental health.

The Captain Tom 100 was launched on 6th April, straightway SWWI members were inspired and wanted to join this remarkable feat.



They promptly put their virtual heads together to work out what our group challenge could be. After a cuppa or two, the answer was clear, with many creatives within our group, we have made 100 pom poms, which are all displayed outside St Mary's Church on the green from Captain Tom's birthday on 30th April until Monday 3rd May. The group raised £53 so far.



We hope that this had brought a smile to your face as you walked or drove past. If it did and wish to donate simply go to www2.captaintom.org

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And so we remind them time and again.
Our beloved "Neen" is right for us
But is how it's pronounced really worth the fuss?
It flows serenely through the Shires
'neath golden bridges, past towering spires
Be it "Neen", "Nen", or "Nyn" (now that one's tosh!)
It all in the end comes out in The Wash.

M Lewis

Editors' Note: Many thanks to Marie for this delightful poem. I understand that a croquet match was played to determine its name recently. Not wishing to extend the debate any further, but does anyone else's Sat Nav call it 'Nen nee'? I only hear this when driving home along the Nene Parkway, but does make me smile :-)

Walking Group Update

The local area's free guided walks got underway once again in April, with numbers of participants increasing steadily through May, unlike the temperature!

As well as our regular Tuesday and Friday outings from Kings Cliffe and Nassington respectively, the Group has also recently enjoyed a couple of extra walks, the first to see the fabulous display of bluebells in Old Sulehay Forest, followed by a longer leg-stretch along the Nene from Castor, with refreshments provided at the beautifully restored Overton station on the Nene Valley Railway.

With the longest day rapidly approaching, there will once again be some evening walks for those unable to make the Friday morning walk. The first of these will be on Wednesday 2 June at 7.30pm starting from Yarwell Village Hall, with refreshments available afterwards at the Angel Inn. The walk will be about 3 miles and, as always, the emphasis will be on enjoyment rather than endurance: we tend to avoid obstacles and difficult terrain, such as stiles and thick mud!

For more information about these walks and others in the area, please do get in touch: Robert@parkway9.plus.com.

Robert Phipps

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Update from the Surgery

Hello everybody,

As we finally emerge from this most recent Lockdown and COVID restrictions emerge – we thought we'd give you a bit of an update about Services at the Surgery.

As for many of us it's been the toughest of years – we've had to transform the way we deliver care to our population in the midst of a global pandemic that has seen workload rise to unprecedented levels at times. In addition to this we have (as a Primary Care Network of Practices) vaccinated our entire adult population above 40 and managed to take part in a cutting edge COVID Vaccine Study called Novovax. You will be delighted to hear, I'm sure that despite the fact that Kings Cliffe Surgery has not been used for face to face consultations for a year it is now NOT going to close in the foreseeable future in order to accommodate an ever increasing Practice list size!

We have continued to see Patients face to face throughout the Pandemic at Wansford in a safe and socially distanced way. We will of course continue to offer this service and access will be by means of an initial phone call to one of our Clinicians who will arrange to see you at the Surgery if this is what's needed. It is true though that we are able to manage much of our patient contacts by phone or using online video link - this is proving very popular with patients who would otherwise have to leave work or young children for an appointment and many problems can be dealt with safely this way . Also please remember about our on line consultation facility – Engage Consult which can be accessed via the Practice Website and provides access 24 hours per day . We aim to respond to Online consultation requests within 48hours.

So our news to you is that we are still here – still working away on your behalf. We are aware however that COVID has not disappeared as variant strains continue to emerge. We will not therefore change our working practices in the immediate term until it is really safe to do so. We are likely to continue with phone consultations to some degree as they have been so effective .

Please note that we will now close for Staff training for a half day every month. The first half day closure will be the afternoon of Tuesday June 1st. On this afternoon we will offer an emergency service only .

So stay safe all. Let's hope we can look forward to longer warmer days as we enjoy a little more freedom .

Dr Rhiannon Nally
Partner, Wansford Surgery

The Retirement Effect 5

What's the purpose of it all?

At the end of my previous article I talked about laying down some plans and options for your future and starting to define what your new purpose (indeed, purposes) are to be.

The defining of one's purpose is important and valuable, especially when facing the major life change and transition represented by retirement. As quoted by Daniel Goleman in *Yes to Life in Spite of Everything*, "how purpose matters has been borne out by a large body of research. For instance, having a sense of purpose in life offers a buffer against poor [mental and physical] health. People with a life purpose, data shows, tend to live longer..... and having a purpose numbers among the pillars of well-being"¹

In my second article, I spoke of the Framework that you had learned as being specifically built up and followed in order to pursue your purpose. The workplace framework was developed to enable you to provide for your wellbeing and that of your dependants. It was also there to support your ambitions and to enable you to satisfy your own self-actualisation². When you retire you stepped out of this framework as your purpose changed in character. Defining your retirement purpose(s) goes hand in hand with building your new framework. Such a framework provides the basis for getting on in retirement and gives you the necessary sense of security and structure essential for this transition.

The concept of a purpose in life is, for some people, a bit vague and elusive. It's like trying to get your mind round infinity – you know what it is but it is difficult to define and adopt.

In such circumstances I always break the big issue down into small manageable and understandable parts. In this case, I will start with "What do I mean by purpose?".

Many thinkers and philosophers have come up with complicated and long-winded definitions. I want to simplify without losing the practical meaning of the concept.

To do this I want to break down the concept of "Purpose" into "Seeing life as having meaning and being worthwhile".

This can be a bit problematical for some people, who then break this definition down into understanding the "meaning of life". I am not intending to go down this rabbit hole for the purposes of this discussion.

What I will say is that, as Frankl points out, what is meaningful for a person depends on the circumstances of that person and the timing of the question³. In the case of retirement, the influence of the timing of the question is where the

person is in their personal retirement transition (as I discussed in my article "The Retirement Effect 3").

The same applies to the consideration of what makes life worthwhile. The measure of "worthwhile" will be different for each person and will, as before, depend on the circumstances of the individual.

At the beginning of the 20th century Joshua Royce explored "why simply existing, (that is being merely housed and fed and safe and alive) can seem empty and meaningless to us.

What more is it that we need in order to feel that our life is worthwhile?

The answer, he believed, is that we all seek a cause beyond ourselves, This was, to him, an intrinsic human need. The cause could be large (family, country, principle, the nation) or small (a building project, the care of a pet). The important thing is that in ascribing value to a cause and seeing it as worth making sacrifices for, we give our life meaning"⁴.

This approach to purpose has the dual benefits that, not only do we feel of service outside ourselves, but have the delight inside ourselves, as Royce puts it, "to do this service which is enriched and expressed in such service"⁵.

It takes courage to confront the reality of retirement and the endings that need to be made. It takes courage to face up to the fears and anticipate the hopes when going through the retirement transition.

It also takes courage to act on the outcomes of the transition and to plan for and achieve the future in retirement.

In my next article I address the two crucial questions:

- ◆ What can you do in order to discover your purpose(s)?
and
- ◆ How to formulate an actual plan, unique to you, that you will want to action?

Note 1: *Introduction to Yes to Life in Spite of Everything* by Viktor Frankl Pub:Penguin Random House 2020

Note 2 *Toward the Psychology of Being* by Abraham H Maslow pub, John Wiley

Note 3: *ibid*

Note 4: *The Philosophy of Loyalty* by Joshua Royce. Pub. Macmillan 1908 extract from *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande Pub: Profile Books in association with Wellcome Collection

Note 5: *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande Pub: Profile Books in association with Wellcome Collection

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For further information contact Lisa Adams / Becky Aston:

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Email: cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Website: cees.org.uk

Twitter: [@stibbington_camb](https://twitter.com/stibbington_camb)

The Happy News Page

(Fun, uplifting or just a bit quirky!)

This verge of verdant cow parsley on the road passing Burghley Park Golf Club turned out to also feature five other types of wild flowers. Whether this is a continuation of "**No Mow May**" encouraged by the charity **Plantlife**, I don't know but it certainly demonstrates the benefits of the concept. Incidentally, cow parsley is also known as "Queen Annes's Lace". As an early source of pollen, it is important for a variety of insects, including bees and hoverflies. It is also a food plant for moths and a nectar source for orange-tip butterflies. The froth of white flowers can look lovely next to neatly mown grass, truly the best of both worlds!



A joke for June:

"What's the best thing about Switzerland?"

"I don't know but the flag is a big plus!"



JUST ONE THING

WITH MICHAEL MOSLEY

This is a great podcast to listen to if you are interested in encouragement to make small changes which could have a positive impact on your health and wellbeing. A bit of science, mixed with anecdotal evidence and Dr. Mosley's gentle enthusiasm are a good background to a range of topics. Tune in if you are intrigued as to how standing on one leg on a regular basis may help you live longer!

The competition for cutest small brown furry creature continues: We've had quokkas and otters and puggles, now beavers! (If you know the very start of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", just try that sentence to the tune, it works surprisingly well!) Anyway, I am sure you will agree that this trio of "kits" (baby beavers) is guaranteed to raise a smile. Such mischievous expressions!



Wansford Horticultural & Crafts Society and Wansford Show

The weather is now warming nicely and it has been great to plant flowers and vegetables into gardens now that the threat of late frost has eventually passed. With the cold and dryness of April our plants are a good 3-4 weeks behind.

On the positive side – After planting into garden, it is now good to have some space in our greenhouse and on window sills. Plus our bush peony is flowering so splendidly !

Our club has completed the Spring Series of five ZOOM talks, with a lively 50-70 attendees on-line at each. We recently enjoyed exploring '**A beautiful tale of Japanese Gardens**' by Patsy Rayner.

Our '**Free plants stall at Goss Cottage**' (by the time of printing) would have come to an end. Up to 14th May (with 15 days left) we have had 500 plants donated and rehomed. Thank You. In the next issue we will declare the final amount of donations for Alzheimer's Society.

In the month ahead, our members get the chance, on 12th June, to **Visit Gardens** within our Society and we hold our traditional summer social **Garden Party** on 10th July.



Preparations for the **75th Wansford Show** on 28th August are proceeding well. We have now booked over 75% of the events and are excited to have recently signed up: Herbie Lamb (Jazz) Quartet (www.herbielamb.co.uk/); Stibbington Centre; Women's Institute; Triumph classic car club (Camb Followers) and Burghley Head Gardener (Joe Whitehead) for Gardeners Question Time.

Wansford Show Activity	Please contact
Volunteer to help out on the day e.g. Children's activities, teas, classic car stewards....	Gary Punter garypunter@aol.com
Book a pitch for selling Local Produce, Crafts & plants	Julie McNally juliemcanally66@gmail.com
To find out more about entering exhibits into the Show marquee	Rhona Punter rhonapunter@aol.com
Registration classic cars or motor bikes is now open	Gary Punter garypunter@aol.com
Show Sponsorship or advertisement	Quentin Arnold garnold@eastofengland.org.uk

Since last issue, a big Thank you to those who have volunteered to help out on the day. We have now filled half of the 40 roles identified. If you want to put your name forward you will be very welcome. Tickets will go on sale after lockdown is finally released late in June.

Please bring your family to join us in celebrating life in our village(s).
Gary Punter



75th Wansford Show

Celebrating the best of our village life
1200-1730 Saturday 28th August 2021
Bradshaw's Field, Elton Road, Wansford



Cricket Club Beer tent,
Haycock Cocktail's bar,
Cream teas & cakes,
Haycock BBQ
Vegetarian food,
local food produce
Ice creams

Horticulture & Craft Marquee
Yarwell & Nassington Britannia Brass Band.
Wansford Ukulele Folk
The Herbie Lamb Jazz Quartet
Tug of War Competition
Haycock Cookery demonstrations
Garden Question Time
Children's Activity Area
75th Commemoration & national anthem
Evening Entertainment at village establishments

Bottle Tombola,
Craft stalls.
Specialist plants,
Traditional games
Modern games,
Toddler area
Wildlife stalls
Classic Car Meet



Raising money for a wide range of village organisations
and The Alzheimer's Society.



Chairman's Annual Report for the year April 2020 to April 2021

During the past year the Parish Council meetings have continued, albeit very differently. We have been unable to have face to face meetings and have therefore resorted to technology to keep us connected to village activity. In my last report I wrote about the strangeness of lockdown and the devastation that has hit the world in the form of Covid, not anticipating that a year later we would still be in the grips of the pandemic, although hopefully with the great strides in the vaccination programme and everyone playing their part in abiding by the recommended rules, we are seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, even being able to hold our first face to face meeting, even if we do risk hypothermia by having to hold it outside. Let's hope this is the start of getting back to some form of normality. Work for the Parish Council has of course continued, and good things have been happening, as well as "business as normal".

Planning Applications

Planning applications have continued, albeit less than last year. These have covered finishing of building projects, new applications for building alterations, tree surgery and removal, etc. All of these have been reviewed by the Parish Council and comments submitted as appropriate.

Footpaths

Thanks go to Martin Witherington whose persistence I am delighted to say, has successfully got the footpath alongside the chicken farm opened and available for use by the public. He and other Home Farm residents have worked tirelessly to make this happen and we can now all benefit. Not only is it now available for the public to enjoy the walk, there is now a better physical connection between the centre of the village and Home Farm – certainly easier access when delivering leaflets!

Out thanks also go to Peter Sharpley, Mr & Mrs King and other local landowners for keeping footpaths across their land accessible and clear. Thanks also go to Augean and Mick George who have been very responsive in dealing with footpath issues adjacent to their sites.

Finances

We continue to be vigilant in managing Parish funds and bear in mind at all times that this money comes from your Council Tax so needs to be spent and accounted for appropriately. Although we are not required to have a formal (and very expensive) external audit, the expenditure and income is audited by Karen Jones as an independent review and transparency check of the PC finances, thank you Karen. The accounts are always reviewed at every meeting. Copies of the accounts can be obtained at any time from the Clerk to the Parish Council. The financial year-end accounts are posted on the PC Website.

We have not requested an increase to the precept this year, bearing in mind the financial difficulties all Councils are experiencing. Having received donations to cover the majority of the costs for refurbishing the notice board and Book Exchange, and also to cover the Autumn hanging baskets, plus of course the continuing support from Nicky Rogers for the Christmas Tree, the finances are looking good at the end of the year. We will hopefully be able to spend some on a village "get-together" this year, regulations permitting, and see our neighbours face to face for the first time in what seems an age and get a chance to welcome new residents properly.

This year, we have had a suggestion of jointly funding new footpath signs, and we may wish to look at repairing or replacing the Home Farm notice board. Residents are encouraged to let the Council have any ideas for projects during the year that would benefit the community.

Other Matters

We are still pursuing Highways England to make the A1 entrance/exit into and out of the village safer for all. Sad to say we have received information once again that they do not view this as a priority since the number of serious or fatal incidents does not warrant the cost of making changes. We will continue to persist with this and with trying to get the layby just before the turning closed to at least make visibility better

Peterborough City Council have responded to a number of issues with storm drains this year, helping to alleviate local flooding. They, and the police, have also been very supportive in trying to get illegal scramble bike riding in the Aggregate Industries Quarry stopped. Aggregate Industries are working closely with the City Council and have now installed more secure gates at the A47 entrance and 24/7 CCTV. They are continuing to work on other access areas to the quarry

The Autumn hanging baskets this year were paid for by a donation from Xanthe Pitt, whose family used to live in the village. The summer baskets will also come out of that donation, with grateful thanks. Thanks also to all those who help to keep the baskets alive and looking beautiful.

The newly re-furnished Thornhaugh Book Exchange is still doing well, with thanks to Penny Lewin Watts for keeping this not only tidy but also managing the replenishment of the books in a covid-safe way. Although the Book Exchange was closed during lockdown, it was opened as soon as it was safe to do so and a hand-sanitiser station was installed outside to promote continued safe usage.

The Defibrillator Project is almost complete. The very generous donations from a number of residents have made it possible to install this life-saving piece of kit. My thanks also to Louise Molesworth who has made this happen.

The "Litter Pick" initiative, started by Nikki Higgins, still continues. Thank you Nikiki who has continued this through lockdown and whatever the weather.

The Heritage Project, whilst obviously being affected by COVID restrictions, has still seen information collection taking place and a lot of interest from residents. Hopefully this can resume more actively once restrictions are lifted.

Thanks to Joan and Alan Frost for leading the John Claire conservation project for us. Our involvement in this is still in its early stages but will no doubt be widely supported by many residents who are passionate about the environment, locally, nationally and world-wide. We can all play a part. Peter Sharpley has already offered to discuss what he is doing in terms of wild-flower meadows and re-planting.

The City Council elections have just taken place and we have a new representative on the Council – Gavin Elsey has now replaced Diane Lamb as our representative. Parish Council elections are scheduled for May 2022 when all positions on the parish council come up for election. If there are any resignations prior to then these can either be left vacant or filled by co-option.

Finally, but not least, my thanks as always go to our long-suffering Parish Clerk, Deirdre who works hard to keep the Parish Council running efficiently and effectively.

If we have gained anything from the last year, it is that we are a pretty resilient bunch and have managed to stay contacted with humour and innovative ways of communicating. I hope we can spend more normal time together as a community this year.

Your Parish Council is here for you, as always. Please don't hesitate to contact if you have any issues or suggestions.

Christine Smith
Chair, Thornhaugh Parish Council

Sing for Life 2021, supporting Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice

After a long and uncertain year there's finally light at the end of the tunnel and life is slowly but surely returning to normal, whatever that is! And that's the point, now we get to reinvent 'normal' and make it better than before – it's time to grab life with both hands, get stuck in to everything we missed out on over the last year, and much more! What better reason to jump in, try something new and get involved in *Sing for Life*?

Launching in September, *Sing for Life* will sign up around 40 local women - women just like YOU - to take part in a ten-week pop-up singing project, working towards a fantastic live performance event at The Cresset in November supporting charity partner Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice. You'll learn to sing, meet new people, challenge yourself, perform live on stage AND raise money for this much-loved local charity – what's not to like?!

Absolutely no previous singing experience is needed, just a willingness to step outside your comfort zone, get stuck in and give it a go... it's all about the journey! "*Sing for Life* is not about finding the next Adele; it's about helping ordinary women find their voice" says William Prideaux, the project's director. "So many people lack confidence or genuinely believe they can't sing, but deep down just about everyone secretly has a favourite karaoke number... we promise we'll have you singing, and loving it, in no time!"



"It never really crossed my mind that *Sing for Life* was for someone like me, until a friend suggested I go along, and I'm so pleased I did!" says Rachel from Orton Waterville "I would walk out of every rehearsal in a fabulous frame of mind, and the progress we made each week was incredible – it was so exciting to be part of it! Standing on stage and performing in front of my friends and family was amazing, I will never forget that feeling! Add to that the fact you're raising money for a brilliant cause, why wouldn't you want to be part of it?"

"I kept seeing banners on my way into work - I was tempted to have a go and I'm so glad I signed up, it was the best thing I ever did!" says Sarah from Yaxley. "The first session was a bit daunting because I didn't know anyone but by the end

of the night, I'd made new friends and already felt part something much bigger! You get such a buzz from singing in a group and performing live on stage in front of friends and family was the highlight of the project!"



Joely Garner, Community Fundraising Manager at Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice, says "A resounding thank you to everyone involved with *Sing for Life* 2021 for choosing to raise vital funds for our hospice. Your valued ongoing support is music to our ears – it helps us to continue providing our compassionate palliative care and bereavement support and be there for people with life-limiting conditions and their loved ones. We remain reliant on voluntary income from big-hearted supporters such those from the *Sing for Life* project. After a difficult year for us all, we are sure *Sing for Life* 2021 will hit the high notes and bring plenty of cheer and positivity. We want to wish everyone taking part lots of luck – we can't wait to hear the end result."

This year, for the second time, the project has a corporate sponsor – Hunt & Coombs Solicitors. "We're really thrilled to be able to support this exciting project" says Anna Spriggs, Senior Partner at Hunt & Coombs "not only is it raising money for Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice, a very special local charity which is already close to our hearts – it is also giving the women involved the opportunity to take on a new challenge. A number of our staff are planning to take part in the project, and we can't wait to get started!"



The project kicks off with introduction sessions on Wednesday 1st September (7-10pm), Thursday 2nd September (7-10pm) and Saturday 4th September (2-5pm) when you can meet the team and some of the other women who'll be taking part. Don't worry, this is NOT an audition and there's no big red buzzer, it's just an opportunity to find out more and get involved – get in touch TODAY to book your time slot!



Whatever your starting point, *Sing for Life* will improve your singing and your confidence in leaps and bounds and - while you might not end up winning the X Factor or perform at Covent Garden - that's a huge confidence boost and very liberating!

So, if you're looking for a fresh challenge after a long year of lockdown and you'd like to know more, get in touch NOW, we'd love to hear from you so you can start YOUR singing journey... there's a whole new world waiting!

- For more information about *Sing for Life* visit www.peterboroughsings.org.uk, email info@peterboroughsings.org.uk or call 01733 425194.
- Introduction sessions will be on Wednesday 1st September (7-10pm), Thursday 2nd September (7-10pm) and Saturday 4th September (2-5pm) at The John Mansfield Campus Dogsthorpe PE1 4HX. **Please call/email first to register.**
- The *Sing for Life* concert will be at Peterborough's Cresset Theatre at 7.30pm on Friday 12th November.
- *Sing for Life* is sponsored by Hunt & Coombs Solicitors, an established local law firm offering a full range of company and personal legal services from their offices in Peterborough, Oundle, Huntingdon and St Neots.

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wansfordpc@gmail.com



A Wansford Parish Council chairman cannot remain in office for more than 3 years, so two years ago John Stannage had to stand down as Chairman. I was elected Chairman for the fourth time, and then in May 2020, due to the virus, the government decided that the usual Annual Parish Meeting and AGM had to be postponed for a year because they had to be open, publicly, for all members of the Parish. Since then, all but one of our General Parish Meetings have been held remotely and we are indebted to Councillor Clarke for setting us up on Skype each month. I am now handing the Chairmanship back to John and thank the other Councillors for their continued guidance and support.

We have achieved quite a lot over the last two years. Our successes include:

- Installing a defibrillator in the old phone box,
- Restoring the Nene Close Water Pump,
- Creating a 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village (supported by a flashing speed sign which we can move around the village),
- Refurbishing the Community Hall,
- Removing most of the A6118 signage. We are well underway with replacing the large "A road" sized signs with finger posts which are more appropriate for a village).
- Getting the road markings in the centre of the village repainted,
- Maintaining the Wansford Play Area in Nene Close,
- Installing a new litter bin adjacent to the church,
- Contributing to the maintenance of the Burial Ground at St Andrew's Church in Thornhaugh (a responsibility shared with Thornhaugh PC and financed by PCC).

There are outstanding issues which continue to frustrate our efforts:

- ⇒ The dualling of the A47: Despite the replacement of the initial Highways England team undertaking this, Historic England still resolutely oppose passage of the new road through the Scheduled Monument, whilst refusing to investigate whether there is anything of value there. This incurs an additional cost estimated at ~£10million and increased disruption during construction. The Western Roundabout on the A47 junction with A1 will certainly be a serious problem unless it is replaced with traffic lights as we propose.
- ⇒ Old Leicester Road/A47 Junction: For over a year we have been trying to get PCC to do something about the parlous state of this, and the ever-increasing amount of HGV traffic from the Kings Cliffe Industrial Site, Mick George's quarry and the Rutland Oil site.

- ⇒ Footpaths: PCC accepts that the footpath from Old Leicester Road to Old Pump House Corner needs relaying but has yet to do it, and the status of the footpath from Nene Close through to Peterborough Road needs to be established.
- ⇒ Clear road signs needed south of the river (not in Wansford Parish) This is to prevent HGVs heading north from the A1, crossing the ancient, Grade 1 bridge (which is in WPC).

Wendy Gray has been our Clerk for 13 years and has earned her retirement. We will miss her and her support, thank her for all her work and wish her all the very best. We hope that Jill Sardeson, our new, and very experienced Clerk, will find us all amiable and amenable, and enjoy working with us in the future.

We continue to deal with many Planning Applications and represent the interests of residents in Wansford. I feel that we have resolutely observed the democratic obligations of a Parish Council and will continue to do so.

Tim Pearson

A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling – May 2021

On the 18th May Wansford Parish Council held an online meeting with Highways England and their contractor Galliford Try. The meeting was held to update the Parish Council on progress with the scheme.

At the Wansford western roundabout, the contractor has carried out modelling of the roundabout and they have stated that installing a traffic light controlled junction does not improve the traffic flows compared with the existing roundabout. They were however unable to give us any modelling results for the present situation or at the 2040 target date. Highways England has promised to send the modelling report to WPC and then hold a meeting to review it.

Further east there have been some detailed improvements to the layout around the filling station and more importantly there has been an agreement with Historic England for the road to impinge slightly (by 9m) into the south-east corner of the Scheduled Monument. This slight change in alignment has kept the road away from the area north of the river which is most prone to flooding, reducing the need for flood area compensation.

Following lengthy discussions with Peterborough City Council and the residents of Upton, there will be improvements to the northern access into Upton.

Galliford Try have again declined to tell us how much it is costing to avoid the road going through the Scheduled Monument and therefore Highways England are unable to comment on this. Galliford Try have agreed that avoiding the Scheduled Monument will require the road to be built on the face of a slope that has a recent history of land slips. This must have a substantial cost attached to it. It looks as if this whole issue will have to be played out in front of the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State.

The latest plan is that the Development Consent Order (the equivalent of the planning application) will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in late June. The public's opportunity to comment will probably start in September.

Richard Clarke
Wansford Parish Council

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Due to the current Covid19 restrictions, meetings at The Fleet have been temporarily suspended, but the talks are now available live online, for members and non-members, to enjoy in the comfort of their homes. Members will automatically be sent the link and instructions for each talk by email. Non-members are also welcome to join us – just email the society's secretary, peter.g.lee@btinternet.com to receive the link, for which a donation of £5 for each talk is appreciated. For more information about The Arts Society Peterborough and the benefits of becoming a member please visit: www.the-arts-society-peterborough.org.uk.

SPECIAL EVENT

Although there are no lectures during the Society's summer break (June-August) the TASP Committee has organised a special event for Members only on 11th June at 11.00 am. This will be a **Live Virtual Tour of Venice**, courtesy of Italian tour guide Luisella Romeo. There is no charge to Members for this exciting chance to 'visit' Venice from the comfort of your armchair! Further information will be sent out just prior to the tour.



THE ARTS SOCIETY PETERBOROUGH SPECIAL OFFER FOR NON-MEMBERS!

Non-members are invited to become members of the Society for the remaining lectures, commencing in September, at a discounted membership fee of £20. In addition to the benefits of receiving The Arts Society's quarterly magazine, access to the Arts Society website and its many articles, lectures and films, you will also be able to enjoy the **Live Virtual Tour of Venice**, so join now to take advantage of this event. Please go to the Membership page on our website and download the discounted membership form.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR!

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

Dear Tracy

Residents of Thornhaugh was re-cycling the green or blue plastic milk bottle tops from supermarket containers. They were all collected by a Thornhaugh, resident who recently moved, and passed on to somebody in Wansford. Anybody know who that is so re-cycling can continue.

Stuart Foreman

Dear Readers

Food Collection Boxes-Many thanks for your generous donations to date. We are now suspending food collection from the boxes at Nassington, Wansford and Water Newton churches and hope to provide details soon as to how you can continue to support Light Project's valuable work in other ways.

Kate H and Kate W.

Thornhaugh Facebook Page

Wansford already has a very active Facebook page and I have decided to drag Thornhaugh into the digital world of communication by forming a local Facebook group. Unlike Wansford, we don't have a pub, shop, hotel, hairdressers etc. where we might meet and share local knowledge/information so for us I think the Facebook page will be really useful.

If you are not on Facebook and it feels very daunting entering this mystic world, then please get in contact and I can help you join. It's very easy and with the right privacy settings can be very private.

The Facebook group is called THORNHAUGH COMMUNITY. Link is

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/816042816007555/>

Look forward to welcoming more members from the village.
Nikki Higgins (nikki@4stonecottage.co.uk)

Cycle With a Purpose

Sustrans, Cycling UK, the British Pilgrimage Trust and the Association of English Cathedrals have joined together to create a **2,000 mile Cathedrals Cycle Route** in a bid to promote greener travel along with better mental and physical wellbeing. Visitors to any of the 42 Church of England cathedrals will be able to arrive by bike via the cycle route, officially launched this month. Each cathedral aims to improve the cycle-readiness of their buildings, ensure a warm welcome for visiting cyclists and increase the number arriving on two wheels. Visit www.cyclinguk.org/cathedrals-cycle-route-challenge to find out more about this new trail.

Cycle With a Purpose is a relay event will launch the route in Newcastle on 30th May, with a specially commissioned baton to be handed from team to team as the 2000-mile journey progresses.

On Wednesday 9th June 2021 staff and volunteers (myself included) at Peterborough Cathedral have a team cycling the Peterborough to Ely leg (35 miles). I am helping to raise funds for The **Light Project Peterborough**. If you would like to sponsor me visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gary-punter3 or contact me by email.

Many thanks,
Gary Punter (email: Garypunter@aol.com)

~~~~~

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