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March 2024

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Image taken by John Measures



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Editorial

Dear readers

This month's focus is on the emergence of spring, with Easter just around the corner the villages come together to give thanks and celebrate. All the benefice services are listed as always on page six onwards.

Also, with the dawn of the new season comes activity from the Horticultural Society, Gary has included details on two upcoming talks on page 24. Plus, how YOU can get involved with this year's **WANSFORD SHOW**, committee members are much needed - it is the strength of the commitment of the volunteers that keeps the show - **YOUR SHOW** - going every year, and this year it is more important than ever, so do please read the list on how you can help on page 21 and get in touch with Gary.

Elsewhere you will see the regular parish notices and council minutes - Wansford are looking for a **new Parish Clerk**. Interested parties are asked to get in touch, full details are on page 17. together with details on the local **Good Neighbours Scheme**, where you can volunteer in a number of ways to help the vulnerable and isolated around us.

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

Best wishes

Craig

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Lady Jane Grey and Her Sisters

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

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Contact Revd. Jane Tailby 01780 782271



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WORSHIP DATES

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

24th March Palm Sunday

10.00 a.m.	BENEFICE PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION (gather at the village green beside the village sign)	Thornhaugh
-------------------	---	-------------------

St. Leonard's, Apethorpe

3 rd	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
17 th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
25 th – 27 th	8.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer for Holy Week – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
31 st	Time tbc	Easter Day Communion

St. Mary's, Wansford

Every Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer		
10 th	9.30 a.m.	Mothering Sunday Communion
29 th	12 noon	Good Friday Reflections with poems and readings
31 st	9.30 a.m.	Easter Day Communion

St. Mary's and All Saints, Nassington

Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion BCP		
3 rd	8.15 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP
3 rd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
10 th	9.30 a.m.	Mothering Sunday Service for All
17 th	3.00 p.m.	Craft Church
28 th	6.00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday "The Passover for Jesus"
31 st	9.30 a.m.	Easter Day Communion

St. Mary's, Woodnewton

3 rd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
17 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
29 th	2.00 p.m.	Good Friday - Final Hour at the Cross
31 st	11.00 a.m.	Easter Day Communion

St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh

3 rd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
17 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
24 th	10.00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Procession and Communion Service
31 st	Easter Day Service to be confirmed - please check church noticeboard	

St. Mary Magdalene's, Yarwell

10 th	11.00 a.m.	Mothering Sunday Communion
17 th	3.00 p.m.	Methodist Service
25 th – 27 th	6.00 p.m.	Holy Week Compline – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
31 st	11.00 a.m.	Easter Day Communion

Easter plans already! As you will see from the service list it's a busy month with different services marking important days in our church's calendar. Lent continues through March with Mothering Sunday on 10th March as a pause for refreshment in the middle of our

Lent disciplines. We all need time to pause and refresh now and again, and Mothering Sunday reminds us of that, as well as giving thanks for all those who care for us and love us, particularly our mothers and those who are like mothers to us. In Wansford we have a Communion Service for all ages, and of course, posies! The following week, on 17th, Nassington is holding a Craft Church with crafts, activities, songs and stories; all are invited from across the benefice.

After that we set off again on our Lent journey, as, in our imaginations, we begin to share Jesus' last week on earth. We begin with a benefice service at Thornhaugh on Palm Sunday with a real journey, albeit a short one, as we process down through the village with our palms. We will gather on the village green – do come and join us!

Each day of Holy Week there are services in our various churches as we journey to the cross together, beginning with Morning Prayer in Apethorpe and Compline at Yarwell in the first three days. Each of these services will give us a time to be still and to reflect. Nassington Church is hosting the Thursday evening "Passover with Jesus" as we share in some of the food and prayers that Jesus would have shared with his disciples at the Last Supper, drawing out its meanings for us now. We are starting at 6 pm so that hopefully families and individuals will be able to join us, from all across the Benefice – all welcome! It would help us to know how many we are expecting so if let me know if you're planning to come, that would be great, but don't worry if you don't – just come

REFLECTIONS

along and be part of something rather different from our usual services.

On Good Friday our travels take us to the foot of the cross at services at Wansford at 12 noon where we will share Bible readings, poems and times of quiet, and at Woodnewton at 2.00 p.m. with a more formal service. before we end our journey in the joyful Garden of Resurrection on Easter morning. The Easter Communion service (a simple and accessible communion service) is at Wansford at 9.30 a.m. A service at Thornhaugh that day is to be confirmed – do check the church noticeboard.

Needless to say all are welcome at our services in any of our churches over this very special month in the church's calendar. There are simple, informal services and more formal services; hopefully something for everyone – do come and join us!

Where-ever your journeys take you in the next few months, may you be blessed and encouraged, and may you have good travelling companions! around us.

With every blessing,

Rev. Jane

A Passover with Jesus

Maundy Thursday – 28th March

6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

A time together sharing some of the food and readings and prayers that Jesus and his disciples would have used at the “Last Supper” leading into a short Communion service.

All welcome.

(Revd Jane – 01780 782271)

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 **Holy Communion on the 31st March at 6pm**, see separate see separate poster.

David Ridgeway

OUR NEXT SERVICE AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST STIBBINGTON WILL BE

HOLY COMMUNION
ON

EASTER DAY 31st MARCH
at 6.00pm

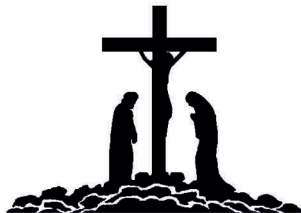


Refreshments will be served after the service, do come and join us, you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Castor Benefice Holy Week and Easter Services 2024

The following services are planned

Monday in Holy Week 25 th March	8.00pm	Sung Compline at St Kyneburgha's, Castor
Tuesday in Holy Week 26 th March	8.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday in Holy Week 27 th March	8.00pm	Night Prayer at St Kyneburgha's, Castor
Maundy Thursday 28 th March	8.00pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper at St Kyneburgha's, Castor
Good Friday 29 th March	10.30am 2.00pm	Good Friday Children's Activities at St Kyneburgha's, Castor Liturgy of the Cross and Passion at St Kyneburgha's, Castor
Easter Eve 30 th March	8.00pm	Easter Vigil at St Kyneburgha's, Castor
Easter Day 31 st March	8.00am 9.00am 9.00am 10.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Kyneburgha's, Castor Holy Communion at St Mary's, Marholm Holy Communion at Michael's, Sutton Festal Sung Holy Communion at St Kyneburgha's, Castor Holy Communion at St John the Baptist's, Stibbington



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

There will be a frugal **Lent lunch** in **St Mary's church at 12.30 on Wednesday 20th March**. We will be raising money for Mary's Meals.

Morning prayer will be at 12 that day for anyone who wishes to join us- all welcome.

Caroline Ashley



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:

14th March 2024

'London's Last Departmental Stores', by Tessa Boase

London's sumptuous Victorian and Edwardian stores changed the capital and changed its women. Find out more of the temptations in these new cathedrals of desire.

11th April 2024

'The Golden Age of Mexican Painting'- Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, by Chloe Sayer.

Chloe surveys the work of both of these iconic artists and chronicles their turbulent marriage and Mexico's history after the 1910 revolution.

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STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD WI

Today's women working for tomorrow's world

Readers of this magazine will know that Stibbington and Wansford WI have been long time supporters of Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall, so we were very pleased to invite Zoe Noyes to talk. We gathered on a wet and wild evening, where we were happy to present Zoe a cheque for £100, from our Christmas card donation, and to hear about Sue Ryder at Thorpe Hall as well as Zoe's role within the organisation.

Thorpe Hall was built in 1600's for the Lord chief Justice - Oliver St John, as a private home. It has gone through a number of owners including Milton estate, with a variety of uses, one of which was a maternity home. In 1980's it was purchased by Sue Ryder foundation, and has been offering palliative care for the people of Peterborough and the surrounding area, ever since. Not only does the hospice provide specialist palliative care with its inpatient unit, the hall provides care and support for people with life-limiting conditions, as well as supporting their families.



As a community fundraiser at Thorpe hall, Zoe works with individuals and corporations, supporting them in their fundraising. In addition she works alongside her fundraising colleagues putting together the events held locally, some of which can take a year to plan. With the money raised used to provide the much needed care of their patients and the maintenance of the buildings. Zoe was able to give an insight into the problems of looking after the grade 1 listed building.

Thorpe Hall has a large staff and volunteers that carry out all aspects of running the hall, if you would like to volunteer, or find out more information about volunteering at Thorpe Hall, please contact Zoe on 07971 181592, or email: zoe.noyes@sueryder.org.

Next month is our AGM, and we are introducing poppy making, in preparation for a local Remembrance display.

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

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

Tuesday 5th & 19th March 2024, 2-4pm Coffee & Craft club, at Wansford Community Hall

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

Thursday 21st March 2024, 7.30pm Book Club meeting, at The Cross Keys Wansford.

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

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NEWS FROM WANSFORD PHARMACY

February is a reminder for us to prioritize the health of our hearts, which is essential for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Lifestyle is just one way to take care of this vital organ, for example by reducing our intake of caffeine, alcohol, and salt. These substances can put a strain on the heart and increase the risk of heart disease. Additionally, we should focus on incorporating exercise into our daily routine, even if it's just activities like housework or gardening. Being active helps to keep our hearts strong and improves overall cardiovascular health.

Another important step in maintaining a healthy heart is quitting smoking. Smoking is one of the leading causes of heart disease and quitting is the best decision you can make for your heart health. If you need assistance in quitting, don't hesitate to ask our pharmacy staff for help. They can provide you with valuable resources and support to make the process easier.

In addition to making lifestyle changes, it's important to monitor your blood pressure regularly. High blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease. We offer free blood pressure checks, so take advantage of this service to stay informed about your heart health. If you want to go a step further, you can consider purchasing a Heart Health Home Blood Test Kit. This kit allows you to monitor your cholesterol levels and other important markers of heart health from the comfort of your own home.

Managing your weight is another crucial aspect of heart health. Excess weight puts added strain on the heart and increases the risk of developing heart disease. By maintaining a healthy weight through a balanced diet and regular exercise, you can reduce the burden on your heart and improve overall cardiovascular function.

Lastly, it's important to always take your prescribed anti-hypertensive medications as directed. These medications are specifically chosen to support your heart health and should not be skipped or taken inconsistently. Following your doctor's instructions will ensure that you are getting the full benefit of your medication regimen.

Remember, taking care of your heart is a lifelong commitment. By making these lifestyle changes and following these tips, you can improve your heart health and reduce the risk of heart disease. Let's prioritize our hearts this February and beyond. Embrace a heart-healthy lifestyle.



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WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL



The detailed minutes for February's meeting will be available on the Parish Council Website: <https://wansford-pc.gov.uk>

As many of you know, Councillor John Stannage is unwell at the moment and unable to chair meetings at the present time. With this in mind and with the Vice Chair, Councillor Richard Clarke being on an extended holiday, the Council voted Councillor Tim Pearson in to chair the meetings for February and March. Very best wishes were extended to both Councillor John Stannage and former clerk Marie Lewis.

A member of the public from Nene Close was present and voiced concern over the garden waste that had been left behind the garages, Ward Councillor Gavin Elsey is chasing this up. They also asked for an update on the parking situation in Nene Close and was assured that efforts are still underway to secure funding to improve the situation.

The Council are still in the process of seeking a new clerk and all applications are welcomed.

We were very happy to host two Police Officers this month who came to listen to residents' concerns. A number of concerns were raised including the misuse of the river and trespassing onto private land at the side of the river as well as anti-social behaviour towards residents, the damage caused to the wood at the riverbank last summer, speeding around the village particularly by the zebra crossing and around the bridge, misuse of the path through Cross Keys Farm woodland area, poaching and fly tipping. The Police had not seen any reported crimes and urged residents to report incidents as they see them and gave advice on security cameras and other agencies that could help with issues such as illegal parking.

This month, two defibrillators have been purchased by the Parish Council and have been installed in Thacker's Close and Robins Wood. There is still some work to be done to ensure these are fully operational but I'm sure you will agree, these will be a welcome addition to the village, and we are very grateful to the residents who have agreed to have these installed outside their properties. As soon as they are both connected to the electricity supply and the emergency network, we will notify every one of their exact locations.

The bus route from Peterborough to Stamford via Castor, Ailsworth, Wansford & Wittering has now been approved and we are waiting to see the timetable, as soon as we have this, we will share it with the community.

If you would like to become more involved in the village, please do get in touch with any of the councillors, we would love to see some new faces on the Parish Council and a vacancy will be opening in April. If you have any concerns you would like to raise, please do come along to our **next meeting** at the **Community Hall** on the **11th of March at 7:30pm**

A final note to keep an eye out for all the extra flowers the Youth Council planted last year to bring a bit of colour to our lovely village as we look towards Spring.

Councillor Jane Taylor-Pitt

Would you like to be our Parish Clerk?

Wansford Parish comprises some 211 dwellings north of the River Nene in the Peterborough City Council area. Our Clerk attends monthly meetings in the Community Hall, Peterborough Rd, Wansford starting at 7:30pm, the second Monday of the month, and spends about 5 hours a week, working from home, preparing the Agenda, taking and writing up Minutes, and sending letters and emails. The Clerk is the Responsible Financial Officer and as such is responsible for all financial records of the Parish Council and the careful administration of its finances. You will be issued with a computer and be required to update the Parish Council's web site regularly. There are seven elected Parish Councillors, who work voluntarily and the Clerk's role is a paid position which is available immediately. The prospective Clerk would serve 6 months' probation and preferably be CILCA qualified. The Parish Council can provide training for a person who does not hold this qualification but is willing to work towards it.

If you are interested in becoming our Clerk or would like to find out more, please contact me anytime and when applying for the position, please send your CV and a covering letter via email

to clerk@wansford-pc.gov

WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Contact Jane Taylor-Pitt

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SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council met on the 1st February, 2024.

Ten members of the public were in attendance. Apologies were sent from Cllr. Wright.

It was requested that two further bins were ordered to be placed near the gate to the Sewage plant, and the additional Warning signs regarding being fined for non collection of dog fouling.

Residents were concerned regarding speeding along the Elton Road and New Lane, together with observations regarding speeding through the village in general. Residents were encouraged to attend a meeting to be held in Wansford Village Hall on the 8th February, where our local Police would be in attendance, to receive concerns.

Issues were again raised regarding Pure Fuels, and the odours and noise that is created emanating from the site. Residents also wished to document their appreciation for the installation of double yellow lines along Old Great North Road, however it was observed that the lorries arriving and leaving the Stibbington Diner were covering the lines. A Road sweep will be requested.

A resident followed up the request for a children's play area, however it was pointed out that it would be extremely expensive to implement.

The minutes of the previous meeting were duly signed.

Cllr. Bradshaw again raised the request for committee members for the Christie Hall, together with volunteers. It will be put to the public to see if we can attract any interest. The narrowing of the entrance to the bridge will be discussed at a meeting to be held In March, together with Wansford Parish Council and other partners.

Several payments were authorised.

Stibbington Outdoor Centre is to be sold by CCC, and the Parish Council were asked if they would be interested in acquiring it. After discussion, it was decided we would not pursue this and we do not have the funds, and the continuing upkeep would be disadvantageous.

A request for signs to be erected regarding parachutists landing outside the perimeter of the Airfield. This to be investigated. Several lights were reported as not working.

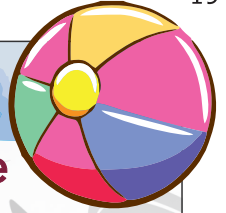
The signal Box at Nene Valley Railway which was burnt down has been rebuilt and there will be an Opening Ceremony on Sunday 9th March. This will cost £5 per person should residents wish to attend.

The meeting was duly closed and it was announced that the **next meeting** will be on **Thursday 7th March, 2024**.

THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The next Thornhaugh Parish Council Meeting will take place at **7.00 pm on 5th March 2024** in **St Andrew's Church**. A report will appear in a future edition of Living Villages.

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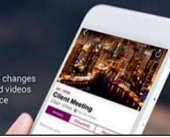
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Eternity? What is your view?

People were living here in local villages before the Romans came marching up the A1, the main arterial south/north road in the kingdom. In some of the villages, close to the main route north and beneath the tarmac road surface, you can almost feel the cobble stones that broke the wooden wheel and wore out the shoes of priest and tinker on their rounds in the reign of King Charles 1st. The oldest building still in use are the parish churches where perhaps some of Cromwell's troops would have posted lookouts on the church towers. Much later, and during WW11, "Give Me A Beer Honey" would be heard from the blue suited airmen in the village pubs around the USAF Bomber base near Kings Cliffe . Then as now, men and women argued and prayed to a God outside of time. Lord, may the warmth and laughter and hope that I have known in my life, be handed down in trust to my children and children to come. And may they live to know that whilst all things fade and die, love lives on.

I don't know about you, but I cannot think of a single thing which does not have a beginning or indeed an end. In all things there is a birth and at last a completion or a death. From a single leaf, to the planet on which we live, all things are progressing towards an ending. Begin a new project and it will come to a conclusion. There's no other way. Another constant fact is that the beginnings and endings are always planned. Build a new house and you must have a plan. Redesign your garden. You need a plan. 'But what' I hear you say about the leaf or even our world? Well, even there, somebody has a plan but perhaps that is an issue which we may look at in a later edition of this magazine. It is also true, that everything in nature regenerates itself. The leaf will fall and in due course turn to dust which will feed new life. This planet on which we live will eventually be consumed by the sun's mass and return to the cosmic dust state which it was before its formation, as our sun, old and burnt out becomes a red giant. Indeed, the cell structure of all of our bodies will contain something of former generations because we too, become ashes and dust and return to the earth from which we came. and we also will form the structure of a future being, human or animal or maybe even vegetable (perish the thought that you or I might finish up as a carrot or a Brussel sprout.)

So, what then of eternity? Even the universe had its big bang beginning. Or did it? Has anyone ever thought what might have been there before it. That really is of no consequence in the light of what is to come.....

Father God, my day is very brief and my sight is short. A thousand years in your sight is like the twinkling of an eye. To you there is no past or future, all is one. The saints who have gone before and those who are yet to come are all part of your kingdom where everything that is good and true and lovely is gathered into eternity.

Lord. Each day that I live is another opportunity to do something beautiful for your eternal world. Help me to see that an act of love or kindness however small or simple. Will never rust or decay or be covered by the weeds of time.

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.
John Ch 10. vs 27, 28

David B. Johnson

Wansford Village Show, 24th August??

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

Calling all Villagers!!

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

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

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

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

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



Just ask

Making the right decisions can be stressful at the best of times, but we are here to help. Whatever's on your mind, just ask.

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NEWS FROM WANSFORD AND KINGS CLIFFE PRACTICE

This month we are featuring our reception team. They play a crucial role in the smooth functioning of a GP practice, serving as the first point of contact for patients and contributing significantly to the overall patient experience. Their responsibilities extend beyond traditional reception duties, encompassing a blend of administrative, interpersonal, and organisational tasks.

One of the primary responsibilities of GP receptionists is to greet patients and visitors, both in person and over the phone. They are often the first point of contact for patients seeking medical assistance. The team manage the scheduling of appointments, ensuring efficient use of the doctor and nurse's time and minimising patient waiting periods. They will sign-post to other services if appropriate.

They perform initial triage by assessing the urgency of a patient's condition. This involves gathering basic information about symptoms and working to a protocol designed by the doctors to ascertain if a condition is urgent for an 'on-the-day' slot. They handle various other appointment types (e.g. blood tests, cervical screening, dressings, injections, health checks, routine GP appointments, and routine follow-ups. Additionally, they coordinate with other healthcare professionals for consultations and referrals (e.g. they can book appointments with podiatry, physio and nurses who are based at the City Care Centre in Peterborough who offer times more suitable to the working population).

Our receptionists also have administrative responsibilities and include registering new patients, maintaining patient records, updating contact information and managing electronic or paper-based filing systems. They can also handle prescription queries and liaise with other health professionals.

Maintaining patient confidentiality and adhering to healthcare regulations, is paramount for our reception team. They handle sensitive information and must ensure that it is protected and disclosed only as required by law.

Receptionists juggle various tasks simultaneously, such as answering phones, managing appointments, and handling administrative duties. Effective time management is key to ensuring the efficient flow of operations.

Our receptionists often encounter challenging situations, such as dealing with upset or anxious patients and handling emergencies. Quick thinking and effective problem-solving skills are essential for navigating these situations and maintaining a positive atmosphere within the practice. They also take a fair amount of abuse from patients and we remind patients that we have a zero tolerance and ask that you are polite and respectful.


With the integration of electronic health records and digital communication systems in healthcare, GP receptionists need to be technologically proficient. They use computer systems to schedule appointments, update patient records, and communicate with other healthcare professionals. In summary, GP receptionists are integral members of the healthcare team, contributing to the overall patient experience and the efficient functioning of a medical practice. Their diverse skill set, ranging from interpersonal communication to administrative prowess, makes them vital in creating a positive and organized healthcare environment.



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Wansford Horticultural & Craft Society

Learn new things about your gardens

We are pleased to reveal our upcoming talks, highly entertaining speakers and subjects (members free, visitors £2) please let us know if you wish to attend.

1. Plant Hunting in China

**By Rev David Ridgeway (Chairman of RHS Orchid Committee)
7th March, 7.30pm St Marys Church, Wansford**

We are excited to welcome David to Wansford to give us this talk from his personal experiences. David will give us a brief introduction to the geography of China, talk about the early plant hunters who discovered many of the plants which have become common in UK gardens. This will be followed by his own plant hunting trip made to NW China exploring a number of the classic localities in Yunnan and Sichuan. We will be treated with lots of photos.

David has been interested in growing things since childhood. He read Botany at the University of Durham before embarking on a brief teaching career, prior to train for ordination and working as a parish priest for much of his life - thus following the great tradition of clergy who are active horticulturalists. He has an interest in many plant groups, and a particular knowledge and expertise relating to the Orchid family. David has served as a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Orchid Committee for over twenty years and have recently taken on the role of its chairman.

2. Garden Plagues & Pestilence – Pests & Diseases and their control

**By Geoff Hodge
(freelance gardening and horticultural writer, author, editor and radio
broadcaster)
11th April 7.30pm Christie Hall, Wansford**

Pests and diseases are probably responsible for putting more people off gardening than just about anything else, and they can reduce prized plants to sickly specimens that just don't perform in the garden in no time at all.

In this illuminating, interesting and amusing practical talk (at least that's what garden clubs tell me!), garden writer, broadcaster and author Geoff Hodge looks at the various ways of preventing pest and disease attacks in the first place and how to deal with them when they do occur.

You may be surprised at exactly what you can and cannot do!

Geoff Hodge is a freelance garden writer and editor, writing for and working for various national gardening magazines and websites – as well as lots more besides!

Previously, he was the Online Editor for the Royal Horticultural Society, Gardening Editor and Editor of Garden News magazine and Technical Editor of Garden Answers magazine. He is a regular guest on gardening programmes on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire.

He has written 10 gardening books, including five for the RHS, with titles ranging from pruning and propagation to allotments and bulbs and a topic close to his heart – botany for gardeners.

He appears on Q&A panels at flower shows across the country, gives lots of talks and demonstrations at garden centres, garden shows and for gardening clubs and answers hundreds of gardening questions every year for various organisations.

Gary Punter
garypunter@aol.com



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

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

Churches

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

Churchwardens:

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

Friends:

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

Other useful contacts

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

Website www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

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