

# *Living Villages*

A large, light-colored mushroom with a wide, flared cap and a thick stem, growing in a forest setting with green foliage and fallen leaves. The mushroom is the central focus, with its cap showing fine, radial gills. The background is a soft-focus forest scene with green leaves and brown fallen leaves.

Image taken by John Measures

*November 2023*

*Water Newton Thornhaugh  
Stibbington Sutton Wansford*

# Augean Community Fund

## January 2023

The **Augean Community Fund** uses monies provided by Augean under the Landfill Communities Fund.

The company's donations relate to its two landfill operations located at Thornhaugh near Peterborough, and King's Cliffe in Northamptonshire.

Recommendations on all grants from the Fund are made by King's Cliffe Environmental Association (KCEA) and Thornhaugh Environmental Association (TEA).

These two committees comprise volunteers from the villages of King's Cliffe, Thornhaugh and nearby, who are best able to represent local community priorities.



### Application Closing Dates

There are usually two funding rounds each year, the next two closing dates are:

**Wednesday 31 May 2023**  
decisions by Early August 2023

**Wednesday 15 November 2023**  
decisions by End January 2024

### Who can apply?

Groups with projects that are located within 10 miles of the King's Cliffe landfill site or the Thornhaugh landfill site may apply for grants. Priority will be given to applications received for projects located within 5 miles of Augean's Thornhaugh and King's Cliffe landfill sites.

### What can you apply for?

Grants are available for capital improvement works to public amenity projects.

Examples may include:

- Village halls
- Nature reserves
- Village greens
- Community centres
- Public playgrounds
- Cycle paths
- Sports fields
- Sports facilities
- Country parks

You can apply for grants of between £5,000 and £50,000.

Projects must be available and open to the general public as defined by ENTRUST (the Landfill Communities Fund regulator), as a minimum, for 4 evenings a weeks, or 2 days a week, or 104 days a year.

### Where can you find out more?

For more information about the Fund and how to apply, please visit GrantScape's website.

If you have a project idea that you would like to discuss before you apply, please contact the GrantScape team on:

**Telephone: 01908 247630**

**Email: [info@grantscape.org.uk](mailto:info@grantscape.org.uk)**

**[www.grantscape.org.uk](http://www.grantscape.org.uk)**

## Editorial

Dear readers

The end of the year is still a few weeks away, but many societies are holding their final events for 2023. The final **Game On!** of the year will be on Friday 24th November at Nassington Village Hall between 2-5pm. It's always a fun afternoon of games such as Scrabble, Rumikub and Dominoes - you can play one of their games or bring your own! Admission is £2 including tea and biscuits and everyone is welcome.

Opposite you will see that the **Augean Community Fund** is open for applicants. The **'Who Let The Men Out'** men's breakfast club is now in its fifth year and goes from strength to strength. Details of their November meeting at The Queen's Head, Nassington is on page 13, as is a call for those interested in getting involved with the **Wansford Church Choir** over the Christmas period.

Also, as you leaf through this month's edition, you'll see important information regarding the **A1 Closure** and detour between Wansford and Stibbington happening right through until January (P14), plus news of the **'Stay Steady On Your Feet Campaign'** from Cambridge County Council (P17).

Finally, look after the bugs in your garden at this time of year - there's ten top tips from **Buglife** on page 23. And with the usual Parish notices and regular groups - it's a busy old time!

Best wishes

Craig

### Contents

6	Worship & Benefices
10	Stibbington and Wansford W.I.
16	Parish Council Notices and Minutes
20	Wansford Horticultural & Craft Society
26	Contacts

### Studying for a course?- Did you know you can apply for a grant?

Since the early 1990s the **Reverend Thomas Woolsey's Charity** has been giving for equipment to all students from Thornhaugh and Wansford for further education, apprenticeship or skills.

The Trustees of the charity will be meeting in September to allocate the grants, so there is plenty of time for any student to apply. Go to the website [thewoolseycharity.co.uk](http://thewoolseycharity.co.uk) to for more information and complete the application form.

Lisa Chambers, Secretary, Rev. Thomas Woolsey's Charity



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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](mailto:jdtailby@aol.com) 01780 782271

## St. Leonard's, Apethorpe

5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday Service
19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

## St. Mary's, Wansford

Every Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer		
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday Service
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

## St. Mary's and All Saints, Nassington

Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion BCP		
5 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP
5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday Service
19 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 p.m.	Family Service and Crafts
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
26 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 p.m.	BENEFICE EVENSONG

## St. Mary's, Woodnewton

5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday Service
26 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP

## St. Mary Magdalene's, Yarwell

12 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 p.m.	Remembrance Sunday Service
19 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 p.m.	Methodist Service
26 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

## St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh

5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer

## 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](mailto:admin.castor@btconnect.com)

Advance Notice - The next service at St. John the Baptist, Stibbington will be our **Carol Service on Sunday the 17th of December at 4pm**, when mulled wine will be served on arrival, please see separate poster.

**David Ridgeway**

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST STIBBINGTON

### CAROL SERVICE



**SUNDAY 17th December**  
**4.00 pm**

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

It is perhaps no wonder that many major religions have a festival related to light in the darkest months of the year. For example, Hindus celebrate Diwali and Jews keep Hanukkah. There

seems to be a need in all of us to keep the dark at bay and to be reminded of the light. At the end of November, the Church begins the celebration of the Advent period when we await the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus.

## REFLECTIONS

In the preceding weeks of November, we reflect upon the light that, by the grace of God, is brought to us through the companionship and example of others. We begin with All Saints Day and All Souls Day when we remember those who have been great examples of faith, often in great adversity, and those who have been close to us and have brought light to us, who now rest in God's eternal, glorious light. The following week we keep Remembrance Sunday, recalling those who fought for their country to maintain the light of goodness in the face of the darkness of tyranny.

These weeks help us prepare for the season of light in the darkness by reminding us of where we might find light in our lives. Perhaps this is a reflection we might all consider as we move into the darker months of the year. Of course, the darkness we experience around us is due to the season of the year when the days shorten and the hours of night-time darkness increase. However, many find these months difficult as they draw the curtains earlier and earlier and feel themselves disconnected from others. There are also those many places of darkness in our world where we long for the light of peace and reconciliation to shine and where people long for the light of welcome and freedom from hunger or fear.

So where can find light within this darkness? Maybe by remembering those we love and following the example of all those who have been and are now, examples of how to bring light to others in their love and care. We can look around for signs of light in the darkness where we see unexpected hope in places of seeming hopelessness, we can be encouraged by the companionship of others. And of course, we can seek to bring light and comfort to those around us who experience darkness in so many ways.

We look, also, to the light of Christ that shines in the dark places of the world and people's lives. That light is always present; as we will read again quite soon "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it". May there be light for all of us in as the nights get longer, and of course we look forward to the coming of spring!

With every blessing  
*Rev. Jane*

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

**Breaking news-** our Harvest Lunch on 18th October was amazingly well supported and we will be able to donate at least £100 to the Peterborough Soup Kitchen, as well as a huge amount of food items that people generously donated - Thanks to everyone who was involved.

There will be one Coffee Stop in November on **Wednesday 15th from 10.30** in St Mary's Church.

**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. 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](http://www.the-arts-society-peterborough.org.uk) Our next two talks are:.

#### 9 NOVEMBER 2023

##### **The state of British Crafts by Dr Jonathan Foyle**

Dr Jonathan Foyle has written over 100,000 words in the Financial Times Weekend on craftspeople: their passions, skills and materials. Some of them believe they are the last practitioners of their craft. How and why do people transform raw materials into works of art?

#### 14th DECEMBER 2023

##### **'Berthe Morisot and her life and art' by Dr Lois Oliver**

Impressionist Berthe Morisot is known for her light-filled canvasses of modern life: afternoons boating, women in ballgowns, children playing. Lois reviews the artist's work and highlights what set her apart from her predecessors and contemporaries.

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## STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD WI

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This month we decided to channel our more creative sides to produce floral arrangements in a pumpkin. We all brought along a pumpkin, along with flowers and equipment supplied by our local florist Tanya. Due to illness she was unable to be there in person, but her tips and the time she kindly spent with me, talking me through the process, so I was able to pass on her words of wisdom to the team. We spent a couple of hours making our arrangements and helping each other.

We all left with our own arrangements, and now add colour as the autumn turns colder and greyer

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 note, our November meeting has Sasha Olsen from The Wick and Wax company attending. As well as speaking, she'll have some of her products for sale – a chance to pick up an early Christmas present or stocking filler.

Please see below for our upcoming events:

**Tuesday 14th November** W.I. meeting, The Wick & Wax company... the story so far. Speaker Sasha Olsen – at Wansford Community Hall

**Tuesday 7th & 21st November 2023, 2-4pm** Coffee & Craft club, at Wansford Community Hall

**Thursday 30th November 2023, 7.30pm** Book Club meeting, at The Cross Keys Wansford,

**Tuesday 12th Christmas social W.I. meeting**, Make a Christmas gonk, with Joan Rae & Julie Chilcott. At Wansford Community Hall



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

Rhona Punter, email - [rhonapunter@aol.com](mailto:rhonapunter@aol.com)

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## WHO LET THE MEN OUT?



A chance for all men from our local villages (Apethorpe, Woodnewton, Nassington, Yarwell, Wansford and Thornhaugh) to meet and socialise over a tasty breakfast

**Saturday 18th November**

**8.30am – 10.00am**

Queens Head, Nassington PE8 6QB

Full English breakfast followed by a guest speaker on the intriguing "Kidnap for Ransom - A Dirty Business"

New members are welcome. RSVP to help cater with approximate numbers or for any queries please contact Peter Morrell

[mensbreakfast@sulehay.co.uk](mailto:mensbreakfast@sulehay.co.uk)

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## INTERESTED IN SINGING AT CHRISTMAS?

Wansford Church Choir will shortly begin rehearsals for Christmas Events and would warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us.

We sing 3 part harmony Soprano Alto and Bass and meet on Thursday Evenings 7.30/9pm at Choir Master Eddie McDonnell's house in Wansford.

If you are interested please contact Eddie on 01780 783639 for more details.

**The events are:**

**Sunday 26th November** at 6pm Advent Evensong at Nassington Church

**Sunday 17th December** 6pm Community Carol Service at Wansford Church

**Saturday 23rd** December 7pm

Special Carol Service for Guests of The Haycock Manor Hotel at Wansford Church.



## Visit The Artisan Courtyard At Sacrewell Farm



There's a lot going on in The Artisan Courtyard at Sacrewell Farm. Take a peek around and you'll find, amongst other delights, a Chocolatier with a fully equipped workshop, and your very own Treasure Island! Because what you see isn't what it appears to be, and so when you enter Djiboart Island take a breath and let your senses loose. Let artist Roland welcome you to a world of colour, form and perpetual motion, that will enhance your home or your person.

At Djiboart Island, art is showcased - it's a vision of life with memories of the past entwined. Leave the outside

world at the door and bathe in the ambiance of the Afro Caribbean vibes.

To visit this island paradise set in an old English setting, ask for a free red wristband at Sacrewell Reception and your journey begins.



## Roadwork information: A1 Wansford to Stibbington – bridge surveys and maintenance

The Highways Agency plan to carry out essential survey work to assess the condition of a bridge and other maintenance activities on the A1 between Wansford and Stibbington. They plan to complete this work over 15 weeks between **Saturday 21 October and January 2024** and will work between 8pm and 6am, weather conditions permitting.

Closures and diversions. To carry out the work safely, they will occasionally need to close the A1 southbound between Wansford and Stibbington, and divert traffic as detailed below:

- Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October
- Monday 30 October to Friday 17 November
- Wednesday 4 December to Saturday 16 December
- Monday 8 January to Friday 22 January 2024

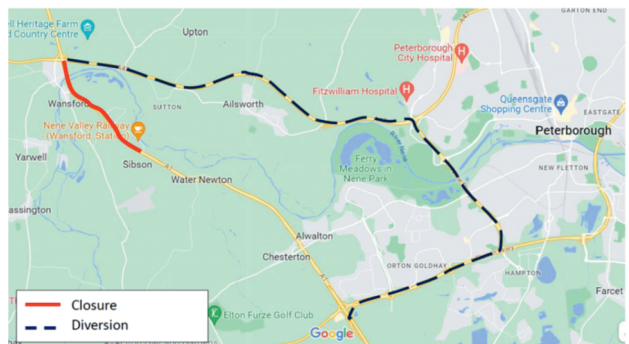
Whilst the A1 is closed, southbound traffic will be diverted from the A1 at Wansford and directed to follow the A47, A1260 Nene Parkway and A1139 Fletton Parkway, before re-joining the A1(M) southbound at junction 17, Fletton Parkway Interchange.

**Escort through the works.** It is recognised that there are a number of properties which will need access maintained during the work. If your only access to and from your property is via the A1, we will maintain this at all times whilst the road is closed. Please keep a copy of this information in your vehicle and you will be escorted through the closure. Please be patient as you may have to wait until it is safe to escort you.

**Access arrangements.** To mitigate rat-running of A1 traffic through Wansford, The Highway Agency will

be closing the Old North Road, between the A47 roundabout and Black Swan Spinney. Residents of Black Swan Spinney and Swanhill will be able to turn onto Old North Road. All traffic from Wansford village will be able to use the exit from Old North Road onto the A47. Whilst Old North Road is closed, it is kindly asked that you use Old Leicester Road to access to Wansford and Stibbington.

**How to find out more.** To find out more about road improvements we're carrying out across the East of England, please visit our website at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/east/>. If you would like more information, please contact us on 0300 123 5000, or by email at [info@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalhighways.co.uk).





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## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL



Wansford Parish Council(WPC) held it's 9th October 2023 Meeting in the Community Hall, and in attendance were five Parish Councillors, representatives from Wittering, Thornhaugh and Sutton Parish Councils, two members of the public and the Clerk.

A full report of the Meeting can be found in the Minutes at [www.wansford-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wansford-pc.gov.uk)

To assist the Peterborough City Council (PCC) Budget Challenge 2024/25, a presentation was given on the PCC Budget Simulator by Ms Jill Evans, PCC Service Director for Corporate Finance.

A lively discussion took place and all residents within Wansford and the surrounding area were invited to participate in the challenge of Council Tax spend and thoughts on balancing the 2024/25 budget.

WPC representatives attended a recent meeting with Galliford Try (the main contractors for the Wansford to Sutton Dualling of the A47) on the traffic management proposals during construction work. Ensuring A47 traffic is not diverted through Wansford village is our priority and that was taken on board.

And talking traffic, we are still experiencing A47 'rat run' early in the mornings with associated speeding and some poor driver behaviour. It is proven that the Vehicle Activated Speed signs do work, especially when locations are changed with some frequency, so, WPC has purchased an additional speed sign allowing greater coverage of the village roads. Also, associated Designated Funds are available through this A47 Project and Wansford PC is making a bid to these funds for Environmental and Social improvements to our Parish.

The Old Bridge repairs have been completed, with the road re-opened to traffic on 29th September at 11.00 hrs, and within an hour two HGV's and four overweight vans had crossed! WPC and Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council will rigorously pursue a solution to this 'just plain wrong' use of our Grade 1 Listed Ancient Monument which was strongly discussed at the Multi Agency Meeting in September.

Some time ago, you may remember a survey regarding bus services, or rather lack of them. The Wansford, Wittering, Castor and Ailsworth Bus Campaign Group is making some headway on securing a reliable, regular bus service for the villages, and we now have our MP Shailesh Vara backing us!

There have been meet-ups with our Community Policing Team and the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss recent Cold Calling concerns and gatherings of large groups in the vicinity of the river causing distress to local residents.

We've had some good advice from the PCC Wildlife Officer, Rowan Rumball, over improving the Wild Flower area near the Nene Close Play Area, planting bulbs and wild grass mixtures being two ideas.



The Youth Council members, under guidance from Cllr Taylor-Pitt and parents, are to go forward with this, alongside growing saplings from acorns, beech nuts and conkers to plant out in a year or so on designated farmland within the Parish.

Litter continues to accumulate within the A47/ A1 road verges and the Village Litter Pick Group, kindly encouraged by Jane Hunt, tackles this on a regular basis. If you want to help, have a look on Wansford Facebook page for times and dates.

And to close, the next Parish Council Meeting is in the Community Hall, Peterborough Rd, on **Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.30pm** and you are assured of a warm welcome.

Cllr John Stannage

## SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The date of the next Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council meeting is set for **Thursday 2nd November 2023** and will take place at Christie Hall commencing at 7pm. A report will appear in a future edition of Living Villages.

### Stay Steady on your feet

Cambridgeshire County Council have launched an online fall-risk checking tool to help you understand the risks and simple steps you can take to stay active and independent. From the age of 65, the risk of having a fall increases but many are avoidable. The new tool, **Steady on your Feet**, is aimed at those who haven't previously had a fall but would like to understand what they can do to prevent this happening. It's easy to use, asking a short series of questions to help understand any individual risks you might have and providing an action plan to keep you active and independent while increasing your confidence and reducing the risk of falling. You can fill it in yourself, or ask a family member or friend if you need extra help. Suggested steps to prevent a fall might include arranging an eye or hearing test, increasing your activity levels and eating a balanced diet, or even looking after your feet and making sure you wear supportive footwear with non-slip soles. For more information and to use the risk checker go to [www.steadyonyourfeet.org/cambridgeshire](http://www.steadyonyourfeet.org/cambridgeshire) or scan the QR code opposite.

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## THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council was held on 26th September 2023 in St Andrew's Church. It was chaired by Chris Smith and present were Yana Clipsham, Louise Molesworth, Camilla Plumb, Nicola Rogers and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)

There were apologies for absence from Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councilor)

Parish Councillor Vacancy - there had only been one applicant for the vacancy and the Parish Councillors were pleased to welcome Nicola (Nicky) Rogers to be co-opted the Parish Council

Police Matters - there were no police representatives present and nothing formally recorded. It was noted that some local farmers have had their equipment tampered with recently.

Highways Issues - the Chairman spoken with Sean Sharp of National Highways who is responsible for the maintenance, etc. of the laybys on the A1. He confirmed that he has been trying to get the layby closed and work done on the bus stop but is not getting support (he was refused a closure on 20th August 2023). He suggested the Chairman writes to Mark Lambert directly who is responsible for safety issues so that his and our request is being reviewed in tandem. An email has been sent (22nd September 2023) explaining, yet again, the situation and our concerns. The main request is to close the layby completely and to adjust the grass area leading to the bus stop so that we can at least be adjacent to the carriageway when pulling out of Thornhaugh. An acknowledgement has been received from Mark Lambert who has suggested a meeting. Proposed dates have been given and we await confirmation. The Chairman will keep everyone updated when she gets a response.

Social Events - the next event will be the Christmas Carols at 6.00 pm on 10th December 2023 at the Village Sign at the end of Meadow Lane. The Ukulele Band has been booked.

Update on the Village Sign - the Village Sign has been refurbished and put back in situ. A plaque stating King Charles III Coronation is due to be added.

Planning Applications:- 23/00569/FUL - Redevelopment of land for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station providing electric car charging points at Abbots Wood Service Station, Great North Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision; 23/00647/LBC - Proposal: Replace rear door, proposed new doors, replacement of windows and reinstate the overgrown loose gravel at Avebury Cottage, 8-12 Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh – Permitted; 23/00852/FUL - Proposed Cattery, temporary mobile home and small pet crematorium at Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – No Objections/Support; 23/00954/HHFUL - Proposed swimming pool and solarium, works to outbuilding, external works & planting scheme at The Hall, Thornhaugh Hall Estate, Russell Hill, Thornhaugh – No Objections; 23/00867/WCPP - Variation of condition C2 (change of northern range – 2 no units from Gin Rectifier to Bar use), pursuant to planning permission reference 19/01795/FUL at Sacrewell Farm And Country Centre, Great North Road, Thornhaugh – No Objections; 23/01208/CTR - T1. Walnut - Removal of dead wood and restoration of crown height, as previously approved, to 4m at Browetts Cottage, 6 Russell Hill, Thornhaugh – No Objections and

23/01178/FUL - Change of use of agricultural land to dog walking paddocks including creation of associated parking areas – retrospective at Grange Farm Equestrian Centre, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – Neutral, support if there is a caveat stating no development rights.

Augean Liaison Committee - the Augean Liaison Committee Meeting was held on 31st August 2023 at Augean's Kings Cliffe Site. We have not heard back from Martin Witherington on whether he is happy to continue being the Parish Council representative. The meetings have been very few and far between in the recent past – the last one 2019. Hally Hardie has been attending past meetings to stand in for Martin Withering. It is proposed that Chris Smith now takes this role on since Hally Hardie is likely to be relocating in the not-too-distant future. The meeting, also attended by a PCC Planning representative, was extremely informative and minutes will be circulated which the Chairman will send round to Councillors and put on the website. We were given an Augean corporate update to explain some of the changes since the last meeting, including the acquisition of Augean. They have been bought out by two financial investors who have left the running of the operations much the same. They are supportive of the Augean ethos and business style, which includes community support and sustainability. Augean went on to explain the next work-phases for the site including continuing remedial work on areas not appropriately filled by their predecessors. They are looking to use on-site material for capping off to keep carbon footprint to a minimum, whilst ensuring appropriate and compliant finishing. Sites that have been completed and appropriately capped will return to "public amenity" sites. Part of the planning requirements is that the completed sites will be fully maintained by Augean for 30 years. Work at the Kings Cliffe site is due to cease at the end of 2026, with Thornhaugh finishing at the end of 2036. The Cooks Hole area previously being worked by Mick George is now back in the hands of Augean and they are preparing this area to be included in the Thornhaugh site.

There is an open day at the Kingscliffe site on 14th October 2023 and a Thornhaugh site visit was offered if there is enough interest. Please let Deirdre McCumiskey know if you would be interested in a tour of the Thornhaugh site.

State of Russell Hill - the Chairman has again reported the state of the road going to the A47. Previously Peterborough Highways deemed the road in reasonable condition. However, there is now grass growing through the tarmac in the centre of the road in several places. The Chairman has therefore reported this (18th September 2023) once again for inspection.

Dog Foul Bin – the dog foul bin on Russell Hill has, for some reason, been removed. This has been reported to the City Council for urgent replacement (chased again 18th September 2023).

Asbestos waste was reported as being dumped on Old Oundle Road. This has been cleared away.

The next Thornhaugh Parish Council Meeting will take place at **7.00 pm on 6th November 2023** in St Andrew's Church.

# Wansford Horticultural & Craft Society

We are pleased to give you 1st sight of our draft events schedule for 2024, which will be confirmed in next weeks. During 2023 many of our events were very popular and sold out quickly, especially crochet & flower arranging workshops with Elin and Tanya respectively and local visits where we got privileged access to Burghley Gardens, Sacrewell & Blatherwycke plus our charity fundraising talk from Bunny Guinness and our popular plant & bulb sales.

Month	Event	Venue
February	Talk: Getting Your garden ready for 2024	7.30pm Christie Hall
March	Talk: English Cottage Garden	7.30pm Christie Hall
April	Our popular Plant sale on the wall at Goss Cottage	Goss Cottage
20/21 April	Tulip Festival at Burghley (volunteers to help at festival)	Free entry for our volunteers
Early May	Visit & tour of Barnsdale Gardens	Self drive £20pp
late June	Summer Extravaganza: BBQ and early evening musical entertainment	Mandy Garden, Stibbington House £15- 20 pp
late July	Visit to Easton Walled Garden sweet pea festival	£10 pp self drive
August	The Wansford Show (new organisation being formed)	Bradshaw's Field
September	Bulb Sale	Goss Cottage
September	Visit to Cambridge Botanical Gardens 1.5 hour guided tour	£15 pp Self drive
October	Talk/Demo e.g Nene Coppicing & Weaving	7.30pm Christie Hall
November	'Flowers for Christmas' Workshop	7.30pm Christie Hall £10
1 <sup>st</sup> December	AGM & Christmas social Sunday Lunch & all trimmings	Christie Hall 7pm

**If you are interested in joining our society please contact [rhonapunter@aol.com](mailto:rhonapunter@aol.com), the subscription is very good value at £5 per person per year**

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## New Wansford Show Group to be formed - Notice of meeting

Following a recommendation from the Show sub-group, the Horticultural Committee have unanimously agreed to the formation of a new and separate Wansford Show Group to organise the Show for 2024 and beyond.

This recognises the successful growth of the Show and allows for even more wider involvement of villagers in organising this great community event. The Horticultural Society will continue to be a strong partner for the Show.

We are now looking to build a strong team of organisers from both North and South of the river to put in place the new organisation and funding of our Show. If you want to get involved, now is your time. We plan to have an open event on 13th November (7.30pm Cross Keys) to get this off the ground.

If you want to be part of something from the very start, then please contact myself at [garypunter@aol.com](mailto:garypunter@aol.com).

*Best Wishes, Gary Punter.*

**Chairman of Wansford Horticultural & Craft Society**



# Just ask

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## Enjoy Mee Blueberries Pop Up Shop at Nassington

Found on the outskirts of Nassington, Mee Blueberries is a family-run agricultural venture, driven by the husband-and-wife team of Peter and Zoe Mee. Their children, Charlie and Emily, and future daughter-in-law Charlotte, have played significant roles in its development. After Charlie's return from agricultural college, he took charge of the farm's arable operations, his fiancé running the packhouse operations and bookkeeping. Meanwhile, Emily, who completed her Chartered Accountancy in London, returned home to focus on the development of blueberry products from the fruit that would not last the shelf-life for fresh fruit retailers.

The family's efforts were recognized when they received the Family Farming Business of the Year award at the 2022 British Farming Awards. Their commitment has also been acknowledged through various awards for their products, including two Great Taste Award stars for their 100% blueberry juice. Their pop-up shop offers frozen blueberries year-round and their product line including sparkling wine, fruit juice, liqueurs, jam, and chutney, which make perfect Christmas presents if you want something local!

You can learn more about the family, products and the farm's sustainability efforts and accolades on their website: [www.meeblueberries.co.uk](http://www.meeblueberries.co.uk)



*Enjoy locally grown frozen blueberries and artisan products*

Visit our pop-up farm shop - open on the following dates:

Saturday 4th November – 10am – 12 noon

Saturday 18th November - 10am – 12 noon

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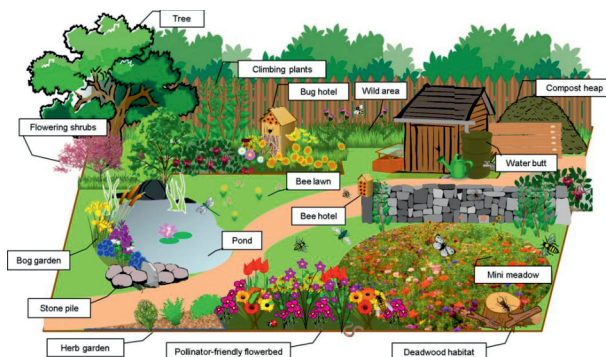
Future dates available at:

[www.meeblueberries.co.uk](http://www.meeblueberries.co.uk)

## Autumn planning for the bugs in your garden

We help take care of the birds and hedgehogs in our gardens during the winter by putting out food, or creating places for them to hibernate, so why not take care of the bugs they depend on for food as well! Here are ten things you can do to keep your wildlife happy this autumn.

1. Wooden pallets make brilliant Bug Hotels. Fill with natural materials such as straw, twigs or pine cones and cover with plastic sheeting.
2. Bamboo canes can be wedged into plastic plant pots. Great for hibernating in but also for nesting bees in the spring.
3. Nectar is important food for insects and usually scarce in the winter. Plant late blooming flowers such as Michaelmas daisies, Sedums, Ivy or Asters.
4. Compost heaps attract woodlice, worms and millipedes which break down your garden waste, and also make great nest sites for bumblebees.
5. Leaf piles are a perfect shelter for invertebrates but if you want to keep it tidy you can hide them behind the garden shed.
6. Winter is the best time to start tree planting. Trees such as oak, willow, hawthorn, beech and gorse are great as many bugs are dependent on these



7. Create piles of dead wood in shaded areas to attract earwigs, centipedes and wood-boring beetles.
8. Masonry bees often nest in old walls and ensure pollination of your garden plants. Avoid re-pointing walls until spring when the bees have woken up.

9. Butterflies and ladybirds can be found hibernating in your home. If you find them, gently move them into an outside building to stay safe until spring.
10. Autumn is the perfect time to plan what to with your garden next year. How about a small pond or a wildflower patch?

The possibilities are endless!

Visit Buglife at [www.buglife.org.uk/](http://www.buglife.org.uk/) for more inspiration and information.





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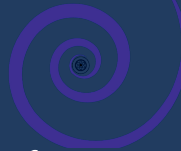
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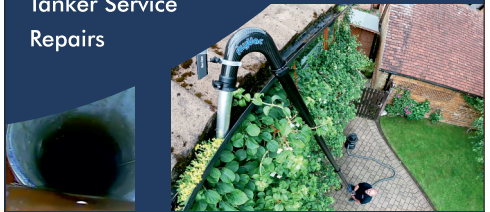
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<b>Ascot accounts</b>	accounts@ascotgraphics.co.uk	01487 801301

## Parish Councils

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

## City Councillor ( Wittering Ward) - Gavin Elsey

**07738930599**

## Churches

<b>Ministers:</b> Thornhaugh & Wansford		01780 782271
Stibbington, Sutton, Castor & Water Newton		01733 380900
	<a href="mailto:admin.castor@btconnect.com">admin.castor@btconnect.com</a>	

## 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](http://www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk)

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