

Living Villages



March 2020

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Stibbington, Sutton & Wansford*

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Editorial

Welcome to the March edition of our village magazine. I have been delighted with the response to my request for ideas and articles. Thank-you to Bill Watkins and David Brown who whilst no-longer live in one of our villages still receive the magazine as regular subscribers. I look forward to hopefully receiving some more article in the future.

We are so lucky to still have many groups and classes offering us all a wide variety of opportunities to either improve our health and fitness or find out about something new. I did just that last month when I visited the WI and heard the story of Fotheringhay Gin (and discovered how tasty it is!) I do include events from outside our area, but only if space permits and complement those held locally.

I have receive further communication from Jim Boulton this month regarding dog fouling on the cricket field. He reports that while many supported his plea for certain owners to be responsible for clearing up after their dogs the situation has not improved. This is a big concern with the start of the cricket season fast approaching.

Tracy Sortwell

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DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS

Living Villages Editorial Team

Editor	Tracy Sortwell editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk	07841 382063
Treasurer	Gordon Alleyne gordonalleyne@hotmail.co.uk	01780 784531
Distribution Manager	Rod Sortwell r.sortwell@btinternet.com	01780 783403
Advertising Manager	Kate Hopkins katehopkins5@gmail.com	07580 218792

Parish Councils

Sutton	Peter Lee (Chairman)	01780 782703
Wansford	Wendy Gray (Clerk)	01778 441312
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	Wendy Gray (Clerk)	01778 441312
Thornhaugh	Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)	01780 782668
Water Newton (Parish Meeting)	Caroline Nathan (Chairman)	07989 362514

Churches

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

Churchwardens:

St Andrew's Thornhaugh:	Stuart Foreman	01780 783220
	Liz Kemp	01780 782333
St Mary's Wansford:	Caroline Ashley	01780 782408
	Alan Jones	01780 783205
St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Richard Winfrey	01780 782431
	Carol Lindsay	01780 782338

Friends:

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

Other useful contacts

Neighbourhood Policing	101	P'boro City Council	01733 747474
Wansford Surgery	01780 782342	Royal British Legion	01780 782200
(Out of hours	111 option 4)	Stibbington & Wansford WI	. 781733
Wansford Pharmacy	01780 781616	Cricket Club	07860 278800
Communicare	01780 470437	Horticultural Society	01780 782446
H'don District Council	01480 388388	Stibbington Centre	01780 782386

Website

www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

WORSHIP MARCH 2020

St Leonard's, Apethorpe		
1st	11.00am	Holy Communion
22nd	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Family Service

St Andrew's, Thornhaugh		
1st	9.30am	Morning Praise
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Kyneburgha, Castor		
1st	10.15am	Holy Communion
8th	10.15am	Holy Communion
15th	10.15am	Holy Communion
22nd	10.15am	Holy Communion
29th	10.15am	Holy Communion

St Mary's, Wansford		
<i>Every Wednesday 11.30am Morning Prayer</i>		
8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
22nd	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service

St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington		
1st	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Holy Communion
8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion
22nd	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service
	6.00pm	Evensong

St Mary's, Woodnewton		
1st	9.30am	Holy Communion
8th	11.00am	All Age Informal Service
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion
29th	10.00am	BENEFICE Holy Communion

St Michael and All Angels, Sutton		
8th	9.00am	Family Service
22nd	9.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell		
1st	11.00am	Morning Prayer
8th	11.00am	Holy Communion
15th	3.00pm	Methodist Service
22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion



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It seems hardly possible that Lent is here already – each year seems to rush past so quickly! It is sometimes so easy to get caught up in the rush and bustle and not stop to think about what we are doing – or to think about the impact we are having. The Church of England's Lent project this year is about just that; stopping to think about the impact we are having upon our environment, and also reflecting upon our care for God's creation. Very relevant themes, given current concerns about climate change and the future of our planet. I am always struck by the slogan "There is no 'Planet B'." Worth thinking about!

The Church of England's material for Lent this year is called #Live Lent: Care for God's Creation – the first ever "Green Lent" campaign, and there is information about how the Watersmete Benefice is taking part in this initiative elsewhere in Living Villages this month. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written: *This Lent, we hope both adults and children might engage in God's plea for us to "Care for Creation". It is an opportunity for us to rebuild our relationship with our planet, and in turn with the God who is Lord of everything.* Quite a challenge, but one worth taking up, perhaps?

The Church of England itself is seeking to set an example. At the recent General Synod (the C. of E's "governing body") a motion was passed that set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030. That's only 10 years away! The Lent project, which is only one small part of the Church of England's campaign; there is also, for example, a new energy foot-printing tool for parishes to calculate their carbon footprint. Something we will have to have a go at!

Following the debate, the Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop on Environmental Affairs said: *"Synod has set an ambitious target for the whole Church of England to respond to the urgency of the Climate Crisis. To reach Synod's target of 2030 will not be easy, and requires each of us to hear this as an urgent call to action. But this is a clear statement of intent across the Church and to wider society about our determination to safeguard God's creation. This is a social justice issue, which affects the world's poorest soonest and most severely, and if the Church is to hold others to account, we have to get our own house in order. There is no serious doubt that climate change is happening, and that people are causing it, so it is very encouraging that Synod is grappling with one of the most urgent issues of our time. We will now need to work out a plan to ensure we do everything possible to meet this target."*

It is not always well-known, but the Church of England has been in the forefront of ethical investing for some time. For example, the Church Commissioners use their share-holding powers to hold large companies to account with regards to climate change issues, including Exxon and BP, and those who read the financial press may have come across items relating to their influence. They don't just make headlines in the Church Times! Most recently, at the end of January, the Church of England Pension Board invested £600 million in global new stock index backing the Paris Climate Agreement.

In a related area, the Church of England has been influential in campaigning against "tailing dams" which are related to mining activities in many countries, following a disaster at the beginning of 2019 when a community in Brumadinho in Brazil was swept away when one of these dams failed. "The Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative", a group that has over US \$14 trillion in assets under management is co-led by the Church of England Pensions Board and the Council of Ethics of the Swedish National Pension Funds.

These are just a few examples of the bigger picture and I think it is important that we know about how the Church of England isn't just telling others what to do, but is trying to set an example of care for God's creation. But in our villages and our own lives, we look more at the smaller picture, which is just as important. What sort of an example do we set in our use of God's gifts in creation. what causes do we stand up for and what changes can we make this Lent that will make a difference? To borrow a well-known phrase, "Every little helps"!

With every blessing for a Green Lent.

Rev Jane

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S



Everyone Welcome

Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.
at The Christie Hall, Wansford

Service at St. Mary's at 11.30 a.m.

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March & 1st April



The Friends are busy getting ready for Lent Lunches

We are supporting the Leprosy Mission this year and hoping to have a speaker.

It would be lovely to see anyone who would like to come along to join us for a sociable lunch and support our chosen charity as well. There will be no Friends' meetings in March ; they will resume after Easter.

Caroline

FRIENDS OF ST. REMIGIUS WATER NEWTON

Our next service and get-together will be 'A St. Patrick's Day Service' on 15th March at 1 pm followed by food and 'liquid refreshments' with an Irish theme.
(Note the earlier time than usual)

The most observant readers will spot that St. Patrick's Day is 17th March - well we have selected the closest Sunday to celebrate the Irish's great day! Enjoy great company amongst friends.

All Welcome from all of our villages

A Date for Diaries

We will be holding our Annual Water Newton Music Fest on Bank Holiday Sunday 30th August from 12 noon.

**Put the date in your diary
Expect some great bands throughout the day.**

Lent 2020 in the Watersmete Benefice

This year we are joining with the Church of England Lent campaign "Caring for God's Creation". Daily reading booklets are now available in our churches, including one for families and children. You can also receive the notes online by signing up at www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/lent-2020-church-resources.

#Live Lent: Care for God's Creation will help broaden our view of Christ's redeeming mission - a mission Christians are called to share. With weekly themes and prayers shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created.

The **Adults' Edition** offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and an action to help you live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature.

The **Kids' edition** provides a daily challenge to honour and treasure the earth, weekly short prayers and Bible readings on creation themes.

Perhaps this year, instead of giving up chocolate or wine, we could think about giving up, or taking up, something that will make a difference to the environment and help protect our planet.

Lent Groups will take place on Thursdays, starting on Thursday 5th March at 2.30p.m. and 7.00 p.m. We will use the material from the Live Lent booklets in our discussions and ideas from the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent Book, Saying Yes to Life by Ruth Valerio (SPCK) which inspired and informed the campaign this year. Do join us as we become part of something that is so relevant to our life in 2020.

Mothering Sunday falls on 22nd March. There will be a Family Service with posies given out at Wansford at 9.30 a.m. All Welcome!

Mens Breakfast Saturday March 14th Queens Head Nassington 8.30 – 10.00

The popular Men's Breakfast meeting group has been running for just under 2 years meeting every 2 months. Our men's breakfast community is open to all men and is an inclusive event for anyone that would like to come and become part of a wider movement linking our village communities and making new friends. If you would like to be part of that movement then please join us on 14th March 8.30am until 10.00am for a hearty breakfast and stimulating discussion! Our guest speaker is Rev Peter Morrell on 'The trials and tribulations of a published novelist' Please reply by email mensbreakfast@btconnect.com to Ian Scott, the volunteer Men's breakfast organizer to book your place. A charge of £10 per head covers the breakfast and donation to the speakers nominated charity

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, STIBBINGTON, FLOWER FESTIVAL SAVE THE DATE

Castor Benefice, to which we now belong will be holding a Flower Festival over the weekend of **26th and 27th September**. Look forward to seeing decorated churches and the opportunity to attend special events and services. Plans are well underway for the festival and further details will be published in due course. In the meantime **SAVE THE DATE** so that you don't miss out.

Carol Lindsay



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Stibbington Centre News



Quiz Night proved to be highly entertaining and unusually sticky this year, due to the jam identification round! The winning team was "The Cul de Sackers", closely followed by "Eddie the Eagles" and "No Brians". We really should have a prize for team names next year!



As part of the Centre's participation in the **#ShowTheLove** project for February 2020, quiz-goers were invited to take home flower seeds at the end of the evening to increase planting for pollinating insects in the area. We are looking forward to seeing some photos of fabulous flowers and happy bees later in the year! **#ShowTheLove** was started by the Climate Coalition in 2015 to encourage people to make a pledge to reduce their contribution to climate change.

THINK ABOUT WHAT POWERS YOUR HOME



You could switch to a renewable energy provider, buy energy-efficient appliances when older ones need replacing, or insulate your home so it loses less heat.

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU GET AROUND

You could commit to walking or cycling more instead of driving, making your next car electric, or using public transport more.



THINK ABOUT WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE



You could commit to cooking at least one more plant-based meal every week, buying more seasonal, local fruit and veg or reducing the food you waste.

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU LOOK AFTER NATURE

You could commit to planting a tree or wildflower area in your garden to capture carbon, or buying only peat-free compost.



Take a look at what you can do.

To find out more visit
www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for VE Day celebrations on 8th May with further events throughout the weekend at Nene Valley Railway and Sacrewell. More details in the next issue.

Stibbington Community Classes

Storm Ciara led to a delay in running our Tree of Life workshop but resulted in two sessions held to replace the original date even with Storm Dennis following afterwards! Our **Felted Woodland Picture workshop** on 15th March (10:00-16:30) still has a few places remaining if you are interested in learning wet and needle felting techniques. **£45**

Future sessions currently being planned include more willow weaving for summer and autumn together with a "singing surprise"!

Stibbington Community Classes



For further details or to book places call **07580 218792** or email: **s.c.classes@protonmail.com**. Alternatively you can send a message via our Facebook page.



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Cheers everyone!

Our February meeting guest speaker was Philip Amps, who gave a talk on the inspiration and set up of Fotheringhay gin along with a tasting to accompany the evening's talk.

The gin was the brainchild of Lady Victoria Leatham, who was looking for a fundraising project to support Fotheringhay Church restoration. Once a local gin distillery was on board – Warner Edwards, it was go-ahead to produce 3,000 bottles. Amps joined to assist with distribution. All profits from the sales go straight to the ongoing restoration of the church.

Lady Victoria and her committee wanted this to be a very local gin, with botanicals inspired by plants found in local gardens. For those that have already sampled the gin you maybe be able to pick up Lime Tree, White Rose, Quince, Incense, Gorse and Orris root. All plants which would be found in Plantagenet times.

So how about a new Gin cocktail? one measure of Fotheringhay gin over ice, equal amount of tonic and accompanied with crushed, fresh basil.

Bake sale

Saturday 21st March, 10 – 12 am outside St Mary's Church

Many homemade bakes, both sweet and savoury.

Purchase a treat or two for your lunch or tea over the weekend



Upcoming events:-

Tuesday 10th March – Easter Craft (Community Hall 7.30pm)

Friday 6th & 20th March We have our 3C's regular craft, coffee and chat meeting (Community Hall 10-12am).

Thursday 26th March, Book club meeting (Haycock hotel, 7.30pm). Current books are My name is Eva, Grandmothers and Missing presumed. The meeting is open to members and non members, so if you have enjoyed reading any of these books, please join us.

More details of events and news can also be found on our Facebook page @sandwwi. If you would like to attend any of the upcoming events, please get in touch.

Rhona Punter 01780 592 514

**20 MARCH -
13 APRIL 2020**

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Communicare

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

The End of An Era (or is it?)

In 1988 Clare Wagstaffe decided that it would be beneficial for those patients who did not get the opportunity to spend time away from home, to have the chance of a short holiday. She started what became a 'life-line' for many – a fully organized trip by coach to various places in the UK (and in the early days Ireland and France as well). People enjoyed these holidays because they felt safe in the company of other village friends with the added advantage of all the arrangements being made for them – they could just sit back and relax.

Over the last thirty years or more, regulars have dwindled but newcomers have taken their places and the holidays have continued to attract numbers which have made them viable at an affordable level.

That is until this year! It seems ironic that the two holidays in 2019 were perhaps some of the best in recent years – marvellous weather, good hotels and locations. Unfortunately the proposed destinations for this year have not attracted the minimum number of travellers – for various albeit understandable reasons – and it has been with great regret that Clare has had to cancel the provisional bookings with the proposed two hotels in Torquay and Lytham -St.Annes.

It is very sad that these longstanding and much appreciated events seem to have now met their demise – ***UNLESS!!*** If after reading this anyone feels they (perhaps together with friends and family) might be interested in taking advantage of a fully organized short break holiday later this year, please get in touch with Clare (01780 470437 or email: superfoguk@aol.com). If enough people express interest she may be able to come up with a suitable destination – the luxury coach with our regular much loved driver, Phil, will pick up from all local villages – the holiday includes hotel accommodation, all travel including daily trips and insurance.

Coach holidays are popular with local firms providing a variety of destinations, but would it not be nicer to travel in the company of friends and people you know, not a load of strangers? Worth a thought hopefully!

The general patients meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 31st March (see separate notice) and our regular Social Group coffee mornings continue on Friday 20th March at the Kings Cliffe Active hall at 10am – future get-togethers will be on 17th April, 22nd May, 12th June (ongoing dates will be published later in the year). These morning events are a good opportunity to come along and find out what is happening – again if enough interest is forthcoming Clare might be able to organise a couple of day trips during the summer months.

Wendy Spencer

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COMMUNICARE

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Participation Group)

Poor Mental Health – an epidemic of our time?

***This is now widely accepted as a major issue affecting all age groups
and is the subject of much everyday media coverage***

Dr Rhiannon Nally

**has kindly agreed to give a talk on this matter
at the next general patients' meeting
on**

**Tuesday 31st March 2020
at Wansford Surgery – 6.30 pm**

*The meeting will commence with the talk and any questions from the floor.
The usual agenda items, including finance and practice update, will then
follow - those wishing to remain will be most welcome to stay.*

Yarwell & District Photographic Society

Following February's edition of this newsletter and the 'Call to Arms' to those people interested in Photography; we are now in a position to have organised an inaugural meeting. The meeting will be at Yarwell Village Hall on Tuesday 10th March at 7 – 7.30pm until 9pm (ish).

Anyone who has an interest in all things photographic are extended a warm & welcoming invitation to attend, especially to anybody that is new in the area, and it would be especially pleasing to see interest expressed from our new 'Yarwellian' friends at Yarwell Mill.

If you did not respond/or missed the February call out then please feel free to just turn up and see what's going on.

It is the intention to form a 'society/club' committee from those people who attend i.e. Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Webmaster and all the roles needed to run the group, if this sounds right up your street then please come along.

Great interest has been shown by Wansford surgery via the Social Prescribing Link Worker who has expressed an interest in getting involved – great news!

I would like to ask those who are 15 – 18 yrs old that are interested to drag a parent or responsible adult along (it gets you a free lift !)

Many Thanks and we are looking forward to meeting with you.

Group Organiser

Our first talk on New Zealand and its Gardens by Colin Ward of Swines Meadow Farm was well attended and enjoyed by all. Colin's descriptions and anecdotes were entertaining and his memory for plant names impressive. Equally appreciated were the plants, many of which are extremely uncommon here, which he and his wife Karen brought along to tempt our members into buying something unusual and noteworthy for their gardens.



Once again our talk this month takes place after the deadline for articles to be submitted, so a report on Paul Herrington's "Gardening for Health" will appear in next month's magazine.

The final two Spring talks will follow: Patsy Rayner will be speaking about Japanese Gardens on 26th March and Diana Boston will introduce us to the Manor and Gardens at Hemingford Grey on 23rd April. We will make a private visit there on Friday 29th May when the 4 acre moated garden should be at its best with the famous irises in full bloom hopefully. There will also be a guided tour of the manor and a chance to view the amazing collection of Lucy Boston's patchwork quilts housed there.

People are already signing up for our coach trips planned for June and July. The first will take us to R.H.S. Wisley on Sunday 28th June. Unfortunately there has had to be a change to our Gloucestershire visit. I received an unexpected email from Charlecote Manor and Park a couple of days ago telling me that they could not now have us visit on Saturday 25th July as they have decided to ban coaches at weekends, especially during the summer holidays, and also because they are going to be undertaking major building work on a new visitors' centre near the car park. They were profusely apologetic and offered endless weekday alternatives, but needless to say I was not well pleased!

Fortunately Hidcote Manor Gardens have not implemented the same rule and will be happy to have us on that date - and it is literally just up the road from Kiftsgate Court Gardens which we are booked to visit that afternoon. Of course Hidcote is a fabulous garden, one of the best-known and most influential Arts and Crafts gardens in Britain, with its linked "rooms" of hedges, rare trees, shrubs and herbaceous borders. Apparently the contrast with Kiftsgate is dramatic, but I hope that the enforced change will suit our participants.

A reminder that our subscription is just £2.50 per person, so please do contact me if you would like to join us.

Gill Fisher: fisher.gill@yahoo.com

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My Early Memories of Our Villages by Bill Watkins

When the editor asked recently for contributions from readers I thought I would it would give me the opportunity to describe village scenes and life in the 1940's and 50's because there are now very few who of us with first hand knowledge. My mother and father George and Elizabeth were married at St Kyneburgha Church in Castor in December 1928 and afterwards went to live in the Keepers Cottage, long since demolished, at the main entrance to Thorpe Hall where my brother Dennys was born. In the 1930's my father purchased two cottages, numbers 3 and 5 Old North Rd and a smallholding beside the A1 at Thornhaugh from a Mr Hensman who lived in the village in Meadow Lane and shortly after my brother Clifford came along. In 1941 I arrived to join my two older brothers and was baptised at St Andrews on 3 March 1941 by the Rev Duke.



There was no electricity or running water which had to be collected from a pump on the opposite side of the A1. Lighting was by candles and paraffin lamps and the radio was powered by an accumulator recharged at Colliers Garage in Peterborough Road Wansford, but we did have a telephone and a tenant in the other cottage.

During WW11 austerity was a way of life unless you had the means to supplement your income and rations. In having the small holding we were able to keep chickens, pigs and goats, and grow vegetables which enabled us to live better than most. American airmen from Wittering came for fresh eggs for the officers and in return we received their surplus tinned fruit and ham unobtainable in the shops. My father was also able to collect waste food from the camp and turn it into swill to feed the two pigs. These were then butchered for us by Charles Wingrove at his Wansford shop, one being sold and the other salted for later. The proceeds enabled us to buy two more piglets and repeat the cycle. The goat milk was sold to the Lincoln Creamery in Stamford for ice cream making.

Our tenant in the other cottage was Mr William Coles who operated the Traction Engine and threshing tackle for Mr Gibbons of Castor and his rent was very welcome. Towards the end of the war we had two POW's from the Sibson camp working for us which we fed, along with Mr Coles, before they returned to the camp. Like many POW's they collected wood, wire and HP sauce bottles to make Ships in Bottles and toys for us children.



In 1945 I started at the village school in Thornhaugh where the headmistress was Mrs E Carter. She cycled past our house on her way to school so my mother knew I had to get moving. My father had a car and one of his jobs was to collect children from outlying houses and farms along the A47 and get them to school and back. He also had a lorry which was used during the week to collect coal from Nassington station and deliver it to members of the local coal club. On Saturdays he would fit a canopy and transport members of Wansford Football club to away matches.

The A1 played an important part of our lives and I remember in the Artic Winter of 1947 many lorries were stranded in the snow and my mother provided the lorry drivers with a bed and meals until the A1 was cleared. A large scale map of the Thornhaugh stretch shows our cottages numbers 3 and 5 while north of us was number 1 which was The Roma Café and petrol pump and now the Shell filling station. Opposite the Thornhaugh turning were the two semi-detached cottages seen today. In my time the one nearest Wansford was a police house and next door was Mr Smith who worked as coalman out of Wansford Station. On the opposite side of the road was cottage converted from a smithy where Mr Baldwin lived. I am told he had a VW Beetle parked

outside which was vandalised because he was thought to be Nazi sympathiser. The conversion of the A1 to dual carriageway resulted in road re-alignment and demolition of a lot of properties. Our cottages which had been there since the mid 1700's were removed and the site is now occupied by the PGRO centre. The wide road leading to their entrance is the only original stretch of A1 remaining. The old smithy cottage was also demolished for the A1



In 1952 I joined my older brother at Arthur Mellows School in Glinton which had only recently opened. This meant a long bus journey round the villages. During my school days, summers were spent helping with the harvest at Sacrewell Farm and one duty was to walk the horses to the blacksmith at Castor. In 1954 my father sold the cottages to the owner of the Regent Petrol Station opposite the Wittering turning. We moved to no 12 Railway cottages next to Wansford Station as my father by then was working for the railway, and this is the beginning of another story coming shortly.

THORHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 20th January 2020. It was chaired by Chris Smith, present were Ashleigh Kewney, Louise Molesworth, Adrian Rodgers, 4 Members of the Public, Gavin Eley, Peterborough City Council, John Allsopp, Website Designer and the Clerk. There were apologies for absence from Martin Lewis.

John Allsopp, Website Designer explained the different ways in which he could update the Website which is now over 10 years old. It was agreed that the Chairman will be the contact liaison person if this project goes ahead. He agreed he will re-submit a quotation for the update and is aware that the update is dependent on obtaining grant funding.

The Members of the Public raised the following issues:-

- Augean Community Liaison Committee – Martin Witherington gave a report on the Committee Meeting which had taken place in December 2019 and an update on recent environmental issues at the Augean Site. It was noted that planning permission has been granted to expand use of the site.
- Footpath at Home Farm – Martin Witherington gave an update on the progress of this. He submitted the original file containing many personal statements 18 months ago. Peterborough City Council now has a maximum of 2.5 months to make a final decision.
- Outside Lighting – please can all residents show consideration to their neighbours when installing outside lighting.

Defibrillator

The Chairman reported that approval for the siting of the Defibrillator in the church porch by the Diocese has passed the first stage but a formal decision from the Diocese Committee will not be made for another two months. It was agreed that donations for the Defibrillator will now be accepted and paid into a ring-fenced bank account. The Clerk will send Louise Molesworth the bank account details and Louise will write to those who have pledged donations. Residents can either make their donations by internet banking or by cheque (cheques to be made payable to Thornhaugh Parish Council).

Christmas Tree Event 2019

This successful event took place on 8th December 2019. Thanks were expressed to Martin and Kay Lewis for erecting the tree, Peter Sharpley for disposing the tree and Penny Lewis-Watts for helping to make the event happen on the night. It was agreed that in future, 7 boxes of mince pies and 15 bottles of mulled wine would be sufficient.

Thornhaugh Heritage Project

Martin Lewis had circulated a report on the progress of this so far to the Parish Councillors. He had also had discussions with some residents who are keen to become involved with it. Upon return from his holiday, he will produce and distribute a flyer informing residents of the project. It was noted that Kings Cliffe and Collyweston have interesting Heritage Projects.

Augean Community Fund

Once a potential list of projects is drawn up, Grantscape will be approached informally to discuss possible eligibility.

Planning Applications

Planning Application 19/01300 Demolition and redevelopment of land for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station providing 20 electric car charging points at Abbotts Wood Service Station, Great North Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision; Planning Application 19/01195 Removal of 5 existing portacabins, leaving 3 remaining portacabins for ongoing security purposes at Leeds Gate Farm, Kings Cliffe Road, Wansford – Awaiting Decision; Planning Applications 19/01604 & 19/01605 (LBC) Erection of a Shed in garden to south of dwelling at Croft Farm, Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision (Revised plans have been submitted); Planning Applications 19/01795 & 19/01796 (LBC) Change of use of ground floor to A3 (Restaurant). first floor to C1 (Residential Guest Accommodation). The conversion and change of use of vacant stable building to A1 (Shops) and minor alterations to the stable courtyard buildings. Change 2 windows to doors (reinstatement on west elevation of Farmhouse and east elevation of stables west range) at Sacrewell Farm & Country Centre, Great North Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision and Planning Application 19/01804 Fell 6 no. conifers at Croft Farm, Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh – Permitted

A resident had drawn the Parish Council's attention to a possible breach of Planning Permission at a development within the village. Although the resident was informed he should report this to Peterborough City Council's Planning Department, he declined to do this although this can be done anonymously. In light of the resident's approach, the Parish Council felt they had an obligation to raise the matter with the Planning Department. It was agreed that the Chairman will report this which she subsequently did and also informed the developers as a matter of courtesy.

Projects 2020

The following items were agreed as potential projects in 2020:- refurbishment of the Telephone Box, refurbishment of the noticeboard, updating of the Website, running a First Aid Training Course and planting bulbs.

Budget and Precept 2020

Adrian Rodgers went through the Draft Budget which had already been circulated to the Parish Councillors. After discussion, it was agreed to apply for a 2% increase in the Precept for 2020-2021. A draft Financial Procedures Document had been circulated for consideration. Parish Councillors will review and make comment ready for the next meeting.

Dog Fouling in the Village

Disappointingly, this continues to be a problem within the village. It was noted that some villages provide free dog foul bags for dog walkers. Gavin Elsey stated that Peterborough City Council provides a stencil and chalk to be used on the ground to deter dog fouling. The Clerk will look into this. In the meantime, please can all dog walkers clear up after their dogs.

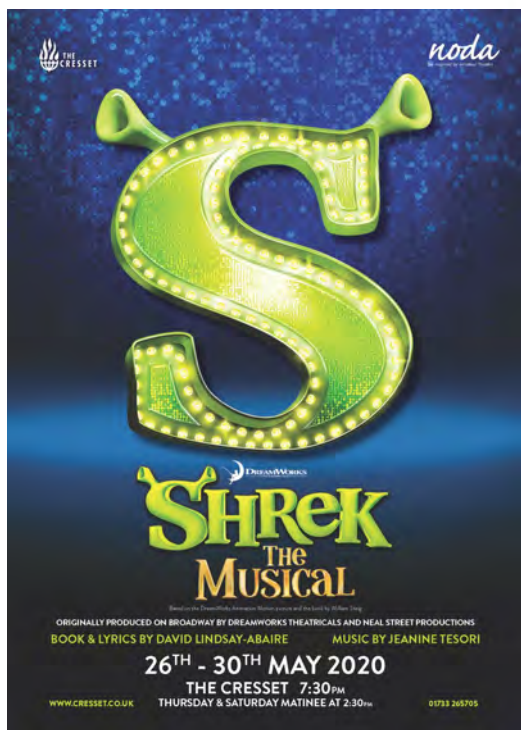
20 mph Signs for Bins

Gavin Elsey agreed to obtain some 20 mph signs for the bins.

Date of Next Meeting

The Next Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 16th March 2020 in St Andrew's Church.

Deirdre McCumiskey, Parish Clerk



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WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Report of Wansford Parish Council Meeting held on Monday February 10th 2020 Five councillors were present and one member of the public. Apologies for her absence were received from the Clerk and two councillors.

Main points from the meeting:

Updates

Flashing 20mph speed signs: costings for the chosen type of sign are being pursued.

PCC Highways: The Chairman will write to remind PCC Highways of the official declassification of the former A6118 road more than two years ago. It is still appearing on current maps and plans drawn up both nationally and locally.

Old Leicester Road/A47 junction: There is ongoing correspondence between WPC and PCC Highways to highlight this dangerous junction with its poor accident record and push for major improvements.

Kings Cliffe Industrial site: East Northants planning department has been approached to request that the "turn right" signage at the exit to the site be replaced with "HGVs turn left" to reduce the large number of lorries coming through Wansford. Since WPC has received no response, the Chairman will now draw up an official planning application. It was reported that there are now so many lorries using the site, there is now overspill parking off the site.

A47 dualling: Cllr Clarke had attended two meetings. The first with Historic England where, he said, they had presented a report which was full of errors and inaccuracies which they then persistently refused to acknowledge during further discussion. He is pursuing this further through contact with top levels of the executive.

The second meeting was with the project's contractors, Galliford Try, where progress was made during discussion to improve the design of the western roundabout at Wansford following a new traffic count. It was also noted that Sacrewell own the land south of the A47, opposite the Scheduled Monument, right down to the river.

Other points

Wansford Community Hall: An application is being made through City Cllr Diane Lamb for release of money from a discretionary fund to pay for a projector screen for use in the Community Hall.

Play area: It was noted that some of the play equipment is needing maintenance and repair. This will be followed up by WPC. One of the trees to the south of the site has been tidied well but others also need attention -PCC will be notified.

Rubbish clearance: Highways England will be contacted to request clearance of the unsightly amount of rubbish piling up beside the bin on the junction of the A47 and the picnic site entrance.

Flooding: the blocked drains in Yarwell Road, which have resulted in flooding across the road, will be reported to PCC.

Financial Contributions: it was agreed to continue the annual payments of £120 towards Living Villages magazine and St Mary's Church floodlighting.

Bus Service: now that the local villages are without any timetabled bus service, the idea was mooted that the X4 service which passes through Elton on its route to Peterborough could be re-routed along Elton Road to pick up passengers in the area of the village shop. Also, we should keep abreast of the Government's plans to improve public services in poorly served rural areas.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in Wansford Community Hall on Monday March 9th at 7.30pm

Members of the public are invited to attend and participate.

The Arts Society Peterborough -Lectures

12th March 2020 – Contemporary Art and the English Stately Home

This lecture discusses the recent proliferation of contemporary art on display in Britain's stately homes and parklands. Focusing on works at notable estates, such as Blenheim Palace, Chatsworth House and Houghton Hall, it explores the fascinating dialogue between landscape, architecture and the vibrant art of today. Among the major international artists it looks at are Ai Weiwei, Barbara Kruger and James Turrell, as well as Turner Prize winners, Antony Gormley, Damien Hirst and Richard Long.

9th April 2020 – Through a Glass Darkly

This lecture explores the way in which artists over the centuries have included transparent glass objects in their paintings, taking huge delight in capturing the shadows and reflections seen within the glass, as well as displaying their skill in portraying what lies behind and beyond. It will include the remarkable depiction of glass objects in Roman wall-paintings; works by artists such as Titian, Veronese and Caravaggio - where both the Gods of Olympus and the disciples are seen drinking out of fragile Venetian cristallo - and the proliferation of glass drinking vessels in Dutch still-life paintings.

14th May 2020 – Roaring Twenties: Art, Design and High Society

This lecture looks at this period of enormous vitality in art and design, which followed the dark days of the Great War. Fashionable society was immortalised by portraitists like John Lavery and Cecil Beaton who brilliantly captured the glamour of the age. Leisure, pleasure and the excitement of jazz were portrayed in paintings by Burra and Roberts, while the speed of the city and travel were explored in work by McKnight Kauffer and Nevinson. Furniture and decoration showed the influence of Cubism, Vorticism and other styles associated with the avant-garde, while events like the discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb ushered in an obsession with all things Egyptian and Oriental. Women wore fur coats and cloche hats, donned new boyish fashions and had short, cropped hair. Men drove fast cars, mixed cocktails and smoked American cigarettes. Society ate in new restaurants like The Trocadero, danced the Charleston in ballrooms like the Savoy, and drank in clubs like the Embassy and the Café de Paris. Valentino, Tallulah Bankhead, and Noel Coward emerged as major celebrities through the growing popularity of cinema and the stage.

This lecture aims to conjure up the energy and originality of the decade and to explore the lives of its leading figures and examples of its most innovative art and design.

Time: 10.45am – 11.45am (coffee from 10.15am) Cost: Try it for free

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E-mail: committee@the-arts-society-peterborough.org.uk

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You may have heard recently of the Big Garden Birdwatch; I have written about it in the past. People all over the country are asked to list the birds they saw in their garden, or other space, in a one hour period on either the last Saturday or Sunday in January each year. Whether you live in the country or town the species seen, and the number of each species at one time, may differ widely but the counts for each location will not vary much from year to year. However, it is this variation in finite areas, considered over some thirty years, that gives valuable information as to how healthy are the populations of specific garden birds.

Throughout the year I always monitor the birds on my feeders and have noticed distinct trends over the last five years. Interestingly these are being replicated in my own Birdwatch results. On the plus side I noted a flock of eight goldfinches on my nyger seed feeder, more than I have seen before. Other finches, however, are no longer as plentiful and this year I recorded no greenfinches or chaffinches. I haven't seen a greenfinch for a couple of years and I understand they have been affected by disease, possibly linked to mouldy peanuts in old dirty feeders. These should always be thoroughly cleaned out each year. Chaffinches are more of a mystery as I have only seen a few singletons during the year.

Someone has mentioned recently to me that he no longer sees house sparrows in his garden in Stamford and is at a loss to know why. Although house sparrows are still the commonest bird to be seen in gardens their numbers have massively fallen from even seventy years ago when horses, and their nosebags, were still a common sight in our streets. In contrast I noted twelve house sparrows on my feeders last week. I still have them nesting in my roof and the village is



close to farms and stables. With regard to the Stamford birds it is probable they have lost a local nest or roost site, possibly due to house improvement or redevelopment, or have simply found an alternative or more reliable food source. Or just possibly a sparrowhawk has taken up residence nearby

Another major change over the last few years is the appearance of quite large birds on my bird feeders. Firstly collared doves learnt to grip the peanut feeder mesh. Then woodpigeons managed to fly up to the small water dish and sit there whilst struggling to free peanuts. However the most surprising change in behaviour was exhibited by jackdaws. From strutting about beneath the feeders I now regularly see up to three jackdaws on the feeder managing to extricate peanuts through the mesh.

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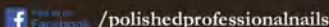


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

Around 10 years ago some of the pews at the rear of St Marys Church were removed and replaced with comfortable stacking chairs in order to create greater space for activities like the very popular Coffee Stops.

We are shortly expecting to receive formal confirmation of approval for the removal of the remaining pews. This will bring St Marys in line with other churches in the Watersmede Benefice and give us much more flexibility in holding church and other community events.



As a consequence we are seeking new homes for the pews which were very much in demand after the original project. The pews come in various sizes ranging from 5 feet to 13 feet long. (see photos). They can be viewed in the church which is open during day-light hours.

We are inviting donations to our Fabric Fund from purchasers and an indication of price levels can be obtained by ringing 01780 783205.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

A TRAINING SESSION HAS BEEN ARRANGED ON HOW TO ACCESS AND USE THE DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE OLD PHONE BOX ON OLD NORTH ROAD

THIS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY MARCH 16th AT THE WANSFORD COMMUNITY HALL AT 5.30pm.

IT IS HOPED THAT MANY LOCAL RESIDENTS WILL COME ALONG SO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE WILL FEEL CONFIDENT IN USING THE EQUIPMENT IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. SO THAT WE GET AN IDEA OF NUMBERS, PLEASE BOOK A PLACE WITH WENDY GRAY ON wendy7wansford@gmail.com

This month there was only 4 of us but we managed to do north and south of A1 entrance to Thornhaugh, the whole of Russell Hill, the A47 exit from Russell Hill plus 3 bags of rubbish from the lay-by. I have asked the council to step in as it's a public health issue being full of human faeces, nappies, bottles of urine(I picked up 23) and soiled tissues and rags. That area is not for the faint hearted. We may have been few in number but we were very effective.

Sadly I have not heard from anyone in Wansford but I would love to team up to do the A47 roundabout and road near it plus the slip road on A1 up to lay-by. Please get in touch if you would like to help. Next official event 6th June.



Stibbington in the 1940's

Dear Tracy.

Your request for readers contributions made me think about my early life in Stibbington and how much has changed since I was growing up in the village. I was born there in the late 1930's and remember with pride all the facilities available to us until the 1950's and find it sad that so many have disappeared. I refer of course to all places south of the river which these days are generally called Wansford but are still in Stibbington parish and Huntingdon District Council. We had butcher, baker, tailor, cobbler, post office, blacksmith, Chandler, bicycle repair, coalman, leathercraft and two grocery shops. There was a garage and filling station on the A1 as well as two builders and two farms, one with a dairy.

With regard to social and public facilities, there were two pubs and of course the Haycock Hotel as well as a Church and Chapel. The School was next to the A1 and a little further north was the police house. There was a doctor and of course a busy railway station complete with level crossing gates on the A1. The village supported football and cricket teams while the British Legion and Horticultural Society provided a busy social life.

While a number of these entities still exist many have disappeared due to lack of demand, lack of family continuity and availability of city facilities via the motor car and improved roads. I wonder if this is progress especially when we are adding to the global carbon footprint. All of the above were a short walk or bicycle ride away. There must be a balance in the future.

David Brown

DIARY DATES – MARCH 2020

Wed 4	Lent Vnch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Caroline Ashley	782408	8
Thurs 5	Lent Groups	2.30 pm & 7.00pm				9
Fri 6	WI 3C's Craft, Coffee and Chat	10.00– Noon	Community Hall	Christine Turner	781733	13
Mon 9	Wansford Parish Council	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	25
Tues 11	WI Meeting— Easter Craft	7.15pm	Community Hall	Christine Turner	781733	13
	Yarwell & Dist Photography Society	7.00— 9.00pm	Yarwell Village Hall			17
Wed 11	Lent Vnch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Caroline Ashley	782408	8
Thurs 12	Arts Society Lecture Contemporary Art	10.15– 11.45am	The Fleet		01733 767539	26
Sat 14	Men's Breakfast	8.30— 10.00am	Queens Head Nassington	Ian Scott		9
Sun 15	Large Felted Woodland Picture Workshop	10.00– 4.30pm	Stibbington Centre		07580 218792	23
	A St Patrick's day Service	1.00pm	St Remigius			
Mon 16	Thornhaugh Parish Council	7.00pm	St Andrew's	Deirdre McCuminsky	782668	23
Wed 18	Lent Vnch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Caroline Ashley	782408	9
Fri 20	WI 3C's Craft, Coffee and Chat	10.00 – Noon	Community Hall	Christine Turner	781733	13
Sat 21	WI Bake Sale	10.00— Noon	Outside St Mary's	Christine Turner	781733	13
Wed 25	Lent Vnch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Caroline Ashley	782408	9
Thurs 26	Horticultural Society - Patsy Rayner, Japanese gardens	7.30pm	Christie Hall	Gill Fisher	782446	18
	WI Book Club	7.30pm	Haycock	Christine Turner	781733	13
Sat 28	Nassington Quis	7.30pm	Nassington Village Hall		435084	24
Tues 31	Communcare General Meeting	6.30pm	Wansford Surgery	Wendy Spencer		17

Copy deadline next month: 20th March 2020

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