

# *Living Villages*

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## *April 2021*

*Water Newton, Thornhaugh,  
Stibbington, Sutton & Wansford*



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# Editorial

Dear readers,

The Quizzers among you will be happy again this month as we present another brain teaser this time care of Brian Parsons from Peterborough Minster Rotary and U3A. I should also mention Don Tebbutt a former resident of Stibbington and now a subscriber from Kent. He sent us a correct set of tree answers but sadly after we went to print. He also remembers the Horticultural Society from the old days on page 36.

I would also like to thank Wansford and Thornhaugh Parish Councils for their much appreciated donations to our funds which together with advertising revenues enable us to keep the magazine going on a monthly basis. The comment in the Stibbington PC minutes about chalk marks on walls reminded me that this worrying event is cropping up on a national scale and is referred to as the Da Vinci Code. This is used by criminals to identify your house as a potential target. One of our readers noticed a circle of small stones approximately 15cm in diameter with a twig ring around the circumference on the grass verge outside their house. Was this your small child at play or something more sinister?

I am sure all readers are very pleased to hear about the litter picking initiative from Thornhaugh residents and this potentially linking up with Wansford. Picking up litter along the A1 and A47 verges must be a thankless task but much appreciated by the community. Our Uncle Bulgaria in Wansford has not been on duty recently on the Yarwell Road due to Covid restrictions but I think we must get him out soon as it looks ready for another clean up.

Stay Safe

Tracy Sortwell

# WORSHIP APRIL 2021

All subject to Government restrictions.

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

St Leonard's, Apethorpe		
2nd	2.00pm	Good Friday Devotions
4th	10.00am	Easter Communion
11th	11.00am	Holy Communion
25th	11.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington		
Every Thursday at 9.30am Holy Communion BCP		
2nd	10.00am	Good Friday Devotions
4th	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Easter Communion
11th	9.30am	Holy Communion
18th	9.30am	Holy Communion
25th	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Andrew's, Thornhaugh		
2nd	2.00pm	Good Friday Devotions
4th	9.30am	Easter Communion
18th	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Mary's, Wansford		
Every Wednesday at 10.00am Morning Prayer		
4th	11.00am	Easter Communion
11th	9.30am	Holy Communion
25th	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Mary's, Woodnewton		
1st	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion
4th	9.30am	Easter Communion
18th	9.30am	Holy Communion
25th	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP

St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell		
2nd	10.00am	Good Friday Devotions
4th	11.00am	Easter Communion
18th	11.00am	Holy Communion

## REFLECTIONS by Rev. Jane Tailby

Our Holy Week and Easter services are on the list – all are welcome at any of our churches, or at our Zoom services. There are new signs of spring around us every day now, perhaps helping us to look to the future with more positive expectations.

Many of us have received our vaccine shot by now, and others join that happy band each day. The new Archbishop of York spoke recently about the vaccine of hope, and it does feel that the vaccination programme has brought hope for so many after a year of lock-down and uncertainty. At Easter we also praise God for that other vaccine of hope, not developed by skilled researchers and scientists, but one that was won for us by our Lord Jesus Christ through his death on the cross. This isn't a vaccine we need to book in for, or wait our turn for; it is freely available to all. All we have to do is turn our eyes and our hearts towards Jesus and let him fill us with his love and compassion. He has understood all that we have gone through this last year, and understands our continuing anxieties, but as we light a new Easter Candle in church on Easter Day, may his light and hope fill our lives and the life of our village and all those we love.

With every blessing,  
Rev. Jane

# Castor Benefice

## Holy Week and Easter Service 2021

We are hoping to mark Easter this year by resuming live services in the three parish churches of our benefice but not the chapels of ease.

The following services are planned

**Monday in Holy Week**  
29<sup>th</sup> March

7.00pm Night Prayer via Zoom

Please e-mail [rector.castor@btconnect.com](mailto:rector.castor@btconnect.com) to receive the Zoom link and access code

**Tuesday in Holy Week**  
30<sup>th</sup> March

7.00pm Night Prayer via Zoom

Please e-mail [rector.castor@btconnect.com](mailto:rector.castor@btconnect.com) to receive the Zoom link and access code

**Wednesday in Holy Week**  
31<sup>st</sup> March

7.00pm Night Prayer via Zoom

Please e-mail [rector.castor@btconnect.com](mailto:rector.castor@btconnect.com) to receive the Zoom link and access code

**Maundy Thursday**  
1<sup>st</sup> April

7.00pm Compline  
at St Kyneburgha's, Castor \*

**Good Friday**  
2<sup>nd</sup> April

2.00pm Liturgy of the Cross and Passion  
at St Kyneburgha's, Castor \*

**Easter Day**  
4<sup>th</sup> April

8.00am Holy Communion  
at St Kyneburgha's, Castor \*

9.00am Holy Communion  
at St Mary's, Marholm \*

10.00am Holy Communion  
at Michael's, Sutton \*

10.15am Holy Communion  
at St Kyneburgha's, Castor \*

11.30am Family Praise  
at St Kyneburgha's, Castor \*

6.00pm Evensong via Zoom

Please e-mail [rh@raymondhemingray.co.uk](mailto:rh@raymondhemingray.co.uk) to receive the Zoom link and access code

**Clearly we will need to follow all COVID rules and guidelines and ensure that appropriate social distancing etc. is maintained.**

\* Booking is required for all live services. For more details and to book, please visit [www.castorchurch.co.uk](http://www.castorchurch.co.uk)





# Augean Community Fund

## May 2021

The **Augean Community Fund** uses monies provided by Augean PLC 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 12th May 2021**  
decision by early August 2021

**Wednesday 3rd November**  
2021 decision by early

### 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 Kings Cliffe landfill sites.

### What can I apply for?

Grants will be available for capital improvement works to public amenity projects. Examples may include:

- Village halls
- Community centres
- Sports fields
- Nature reserves
- Public playgrounds
- Sports facilities
- Village greens
- Cycle paths
- 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 week, or 2 days a week, or 104 days a year.

### Where Can I 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:

**Phone: 01908 247630**

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



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



# The Happy News Page

(Fun, uplifting or just a bit quirky!)

How fortunate we are to have so many cheery clusters of daffodils scattered around the area.

Time for some flower facts:

In China, the daffodil symbolizes good fortune and they are the official New Year symbol. In Japan, the daffodil means joy and in France they are a sign of hope. They are sometimes known as "Lent Lillies" and are the official flower for celebration of 10th wedding anniversaries. The bulbs and plants are toxic to humans and many animals when consumed and the sap will be harmful to other cut flowers if placed in the same vase. However their valuable Galantamine content means that large crops are grown for medication for Alzheimer's Disease.



Those of you who heard football legend Ian Wright MBE being interviewed on "Desert Island Discs" in February last year are likely to agree that it was impossible not to be moved by his description of his upbringing and the subsequent importance of his teacher Mr Pigden, who became a strong positive influence in his adolescent years. (You can catch up with this episode and many others available on the Radio 4 website.)

Ian has now started a podcast to celebrate incredible stories highlighting how ordinary people have changed the world for the better. If you would like to be inspired by tales of bravery, resilience or transformation then listen to **"Ian Wright's Everyday People"**

There is just time to catch the last few days of the **#EarthOptimism** celebration, an online series of films, presentations and Q&As with world experts including Sir David Attenborough and Chris Packham. Led by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, the aim is to shift from an attitude of doom and gloom to focussing on solutions and success.

The event ends on 4th April.

[www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org](http://www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org)



To end with the sweetest of smiles, this chap is an **Australian Quokka**. Like Kangaroos, these cute marsupials carry their babies in a pouch. Are they cheerier than our native, smiley otter though? (Shown to the left.)



## Feel New in 2021



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# Standen's Pasture

Standen's Pasture is a Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve consisting of a small flower rich meadow on the outskirts of Wansford. It sits on the opposite side of a small stream to Wansford Pasture SSSI, another Trust Reserve. The Wildlife Trust care for local wildlife and more than 100 nature reserves across Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, working to make our three counties a place where nature can flourish and enrich the lives of the people who live here. <https://www.wildlifebcn.org>

Standen's Pasture was kindly donated to the Trust in 2007 by Mr Eric Standen of Yarwell, a lifelong supporter of the Wildlife Trust. Eric was very familiar with the local countryside and used to enjoy walking and looking for wildlife and was delighted that the Wildlife Trust would care for the meadow to benefit wildlife and local people going forwards.

As well as being an important wildlife habitat in its own right the site provides an important link between our Wansford Pasture and Old Sulehay reserves.

Standen's Pasture is accessed through a kissing gate from opposite the Doctors' surgery, and over the years has been visited and enjoyed by local people and Trust members. However, over the last couple of years we have had issues with people using the site as a private dog running site (i.e. tying the gate closed and letting their (often aggressive) dogs run off lead) which culminated in one of our staff being attacked by one of the dogs early last year. Since then we have kept the site locked to protect staff who work on the site and livestock which graze through the winter.

We are now hoping to re-open the site in the spring so it can again be enjoyed by the local residents (the orchid displays are stunning) and we hope the local community can help ensure that the minority don't spoil the enjoyment of the site for others.



## The Retirement Effect 3

### Managing the Personal Retirement Transition - Endings

In the first two articles on the Retirement Effect, I have highlighted some of the reasons that this change can have so much impact on us. In this article I start to explore what we can do to manage this impact to our advantage.

To begin with we have to remember that retirement is the *change* which is just a fact, but that it is the *transition* that affects us greatly. This very special transition is *the gradual reorientation process that happens inside us as we adapt to the retirement change*<sup>1</sup>.

The retirement change was once described to me as:

'One minute you are at the top of your game, then follows the "Thanks a lot for your service and goodbye" with very little regard for the value you have been to the firm/community or what the future might hold for you'.

It is understandable that people take a while to come to terms with this instant and abrupt change in their lives. Many people feel that they have been side-lined and have lost control over their life and future – a very uncomfortable feeling indeed!

The good news is that help in managing the personal retirement *transition* is at hand. An important first step is to identify and deal with what has ended as a result of the retirement change. This process, though sometimes painful and time consuming, is essential if you are to move on to whatever comes next in your life<sup>2</sup>.

Listing what has ended enables you to keep in touch with reality. Being in denial about what is ending can hold you back from moving into a new, post-retirement reality.

Some people never address what has ended and they can remain stuck in the past. Tied to their pre-retirement ways and memories, and the out-of-date structure of their lives, they are hindered from making progress into the new future. It's like trying to walk forward with one foot stuck to the ground - lots of effort but no forward movement.

Making endings may provoke some form of grieving. This is good. It can be healthy to mourn for the losses you experience when retirement looms<sup>3</sup>. Making endings does, however, clear the space for you to entertain new opportunities.

I have found that the following questions are helpful when dealing with endings:

- What has really ended?
- What am I losing?
- What is it time to let go of?

Write down the answers to these questions. Some may overlap or be repeated. The idea is to come up with a list that describes the detailed reality of the impact of the retirement change. Often it can be very helpful to think through these questions with someone who will not interrupt the flow of your thoughts<sup>4</sup>.

Include everything that comes to mind, big, medium or tiny. Sometimes it's the small ones that have the most impact. Remember to add those in the mind and in your thinking.



Some examples might be

- 1) Those elements of the old *Framework* (mentioned in my earlier article) eg attending important meetings, using your qualifications and experience in a productive way for the organisation, knowing the 'rules of the game'.
- 2) The title that came with the job and the status this gave.
- 3) The structure and routine that the job required in life, like going to and from work.
- 4) The need to dress appropriately.
- 5) The social interaction that being in work brought into your life and the energy and buzz of these interactions
- 6) The exercise that being in a job gave you,
- 7) The travelling and meeting new people that was necessary to do the job

These are just some suggestions of the things that are ending or need to be let go of.

Many people find that making a real or symbolic actual ending is very helpful in this process. For example, having a retirement party or putting their season ticket in for a refund (or burning it!). The more creative the actual ending action is, the more we tend to benefit from the process.

Making endings is not an easy course of action because, when we are in transition we are in '*The Neutral Zone*'<sup>5</sup>. This sounds a bit 'management speak', but it simply means a place of uncertainty and quandary – neither in the past state nor sure of what the future holds. It's a feeling that we are in a no-man's or woman's land. Being in the neutral zone is the most unsettling and unnerving place to be and it's this that brings about the negative retirement effect.

The thing about most changes is that we can see the end result. In other words, the outcome of the change is known. You change your car/house, you change your job etc.

With the retirement change the outcome is not very clear and the future can look bleak. That is why the retirement neutral zone feels like a depressing and energy-draining place to be. It's like stepping onto a boat at a well-known port and setting sail into the ocean with no chart and no land in view on the horizon. Even worse, there can be a feeling that "the boat: does not have a rudder!!

Some of the people I have discussed retirement with are still in the neutral zone even some years after retirement day. They remain tied to their pre-retirement ways and situation which means they cannot move into a positive future because their mind is locked into the no longer relevant and restraining past.

So, it is worth exploring the routes we can take out of this.

The next article addresses getting out of the Retirement Neutral Zone and the creativity that comes from working through this phase.

Notes: 1. *Transitions, Making Sense of life's Changes* by William Bridges Published by Perseus Books

2. *ibid*

3. *ibid*

4. *The Promise That Changes Everything, I Won't Interrupt You* by Nancy Klien Published by Penguin Random House

5. *Transitions, Making Sense of life's Changes* by William Bridges Published by Perseus Books

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## Do you want to get fitter and healthier for free?



Your doctors at Wansford, Kingscliffe and Oundle would like to invite you to FREE exercise sessions provided by Active performance at Kingscliffe.

The "Get Active Challenge" is a 10-week online plan provided to you using Zoom whilst we are in lockdown. Our aim is to provide fitness and nutrition information to people that:

- Have high blood pressure.
- Will benefit from weight loss (with a body mass index (BMI) over 30)
- People who are pre-diabetic.
- And people who are diabetic.

If you are not sure what your BMI is, you can calculate it here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator/>

We have contacted all people eligible in our area by text message, however if you are a patient of Wansford, Kingscliffe or Oundle surgery and you know that you could benefit from the service please refer yourself for the sessions using the information below.

If you do not have a device or find it difficult to get online, please still get in touch because we may be able to help you access these sessions.

For more information please contact Neal Lattimore in the following ways:

Email: [info@activeperformancekingscliffe.com](mailto:info@activeperformancekingscliffe.com)

Mobile: 07843259294

Website on [www.activeperformancekingscliffe.com](http://www.activeperformancekingscliffe.com) please select "Get Active Challenge"

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/activeperformanceck/>

If you want to know what the sessions are like, please go to YouTube and enter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnYwYfN1148>

Some feedback from attendees include:

- **"In 3 weeks they have lost 8lb and their resting heart rate has dropped from 87bpm to 75bpm"**
- **"Hi Neal, Really enjoyed the two sessions this week. This course from the dr. with your help is just what I need!"**
- **"Hi Neal, Just wanted to say thank you for the class tonight. Part of me was really dreading it as I am so unfit but I really enjoyed it (thanks to your motivation) and feel so much better for it!"**



# COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

We are receiving a number of calls from patients concerned about their COVID-19 vaccination following the recent news that vaccine supply will be significantly constrained for the next few weeks.

We would therefore like to confirm the following to all of our patients

- If you have an appointment for your first dose vaccination at one of our vaccination centres, this is not affected and you should still attend
- We are assured by NHSE England that the supply issues **will not** affect 2<sup>nd</sup> dose vaccinations, therefore we do not expect any disruption to 2<sup>nd</sup> dose clinics
- 2<sup>nd</sup> dose clinics will take place between 11 and 12 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> dose clinics. You will automatically receive an invite for your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose no more than a week prior to your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose clinic. Please do not call the practice unless asked to do so
- If you are in one of the top 9 cohorts and are waiting for your first dose vaccination, we will contact you to arrange your appointment as soon as we have available vaccine and confirmed clinic dates. In line with national guidance we continue to work through our patient lists in cohort order. Please do not call the practice unless you have been asked to do so.
- As soon as we have confirmation of vaccine deliveries for first doses we will arrange clinics and send out invites. Please respond to invites as quickly as you can after receiving them.

•

If you receive an invite but do not wish to be vaccinated, please 'decline' the invitation so we can offer an appointment to another patient

We would like to thank those patients who continue to treat our staff and volunteers with patience, kindness, and respect at a time when our teams are working under increased pressure to keep you safe and well. It is very much appreciated.

**WANSFORD SURGERY**



## Wansford ` My favourite spot'

As we wait with much anticipation for the end of lockdown and a return to whatever normal life may be many of us are preparing for a summer of staycations. In doing so we often look outside of our local area instead of appreciating what we have in front of our eyes.

Like many of us during the pandemic I found myself sifting through paperwork and trying to condense the family archive ready for the next generation. During said exercise I came across a postcard simply titled 'River and Boats in Wansford'. Written during May 1966 by my Father who was convalescing after a serious car accident and sent to my Grandmother, the card read "Just thinking of you. A friend has kindly run me out here to my favorite spot for a few hours, love Stanley".

'My favorite spot' turned out to be Peaks Boatyard and the view looking North West towards the church, the bridge and the meadow below the doctor's surgery. The foreground shows some of the legendary pleasure boats that brought hours of fun to their owners. 'Bridget' on the left was built by Arthur Peaks for Margaret Bryan who lived at Waters Edge Cottage.

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The boat moored alongside had been built by Charlie Kemp a well-known Stamford photographer. The sailing dinghy on the bank was our family boat and the reason Dad loved this spot so much, he would launch the mighty 'Stenka Razin' every Wednesday afternoon and disappear into the peace and tranquility of the slowly meandering River Nene. As Arthur used to say 'I never knew if you had gone upstream or downstream but I always kept a look out to make sure you had made it back'.

From the late 50's to the late 70's the boating community thrived in Wansford. There were around 30 boats moored along the stretch and the river was a hive of activity as people holidayed at home. The Peaks family continued to run the boatyard and a very successful 'marine trimmers' well into the 1990's with David and Sally keeping a watchful eye over the Nene, it's boaters and the village in general! There are enough stories, tales and anecdotes to fill a book and yes, they are all true!

So as we wonder what to do with our new found freedom this year we should perhaps remember to look no further than what is on our doorstep. We have a village to be proud of and one to be cherished, nurtured, respected and enjoyed. For me, like my Father all those years ago, Wansford remains 'my favorite spot'.

Jim Boulton  
Elton Road  
Wansford

## Another Quiz!

As we had such a good response to the last quiz about trees, I am publishing another. There will be a small prize once again for the winning entry and the closing date will be 20th April. This month all the answers are either London Tube Stations or stations on the Dockland Light Railway.

So find your London Transport Maps and Good luck!

1.	Rabbits would feel at home here	
2.	A capital card game	
3.	Close to forehead and eye	
4.	Grant may be old fashioned	
5.	Wellies, hat and duffle coat	
6.	To the top of the cathedral	
7.	A Mediterranean island	
8.	Several siblings	
9.	Chalet	
10.	Girl's toy with a tin	
11.	Where 007 might live	
12.	Deduce an elementary stop	
13.	Pachyderm and Fortress	
14.	Environmentally friendly crossing	
15.	This would make them feel sick	
16.	Fowl lager	
17.	A large house where one might hold a tea party	
18.	Backcombed hairstyle	
19.	This happened to a dead hedgehog	
20.	Round that's stretching it	
21.	A power cut in a chip shop	
22.	Aristocrats seized	
23.	The gilded raptor lives here	
24.	Mucky place for little boys to play in	



25.	Boy snapped the trees	
26.	Doris is unwell	
27.	Miners will	
28.	Liquid John	
29.	Where the cat could play his sport	
30.	Elphaba	
31.	Pronoun and professor with a gallic wood	
32.	This setter is a beginner	
33.	Place joint on span	
34.	In The Archers a constant worry to his mother	
35.	Well liked tree	
36.	Beatles album	
37.	Difficult access to a field	
38.	Did you need a passport for here in 1949	
39.	Could be when Peter Kaye enters stage	
40.	I'm sorry I haven' t a clue where this is	
41.	Gins with water rather than tonic	
42.	Ancient road	
43.	Value of portrayer of Severus	
44.	Low down joint twice	
45.	Brass religious establishment	
46.	It didn't take 4 minutes for Roger to reach it	
47.	Where Othello played on the swings	
48.	A reasonable chop off the top	
49.	I've finished my headdress	
50.	Only station that has none of the letters in the word mackerel	

## Wansford Horticultural & Crafts Society

The soil is warming and our hopes for Spring are increasing as, with our NHS, we all fight back against the virus.

Welcome to many new members, which have swelled out **Society numbers to almost 200**. A very healthy sign for all things to do with gardening and crafts in our village and surrounding areas.

We are looking forward to an increasingly sociable year. Our Spring Series of five ZOOM talks continues:

- 25<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm **Nene Wetlands and Wildlife Friendly Gardens**  
- Toni Costello, Wildlife Trust.
- 15<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm **Exploring Traditional Wildflower Names**  
- Dr Twigs Way, Garden Historian
- 27<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm **A beautiful tale of Japanese Gardens**  
- Patsy Rayner

Our '**Free plants stall at Goss Cottage**' will run again on 24<sup>th</sup> April. We aim to giveaway surplus seedlings and small plants (veg & flowers) to gardeners young and old. If you are able, please make voluntary £ donations (post into bird box) as we will be raising vital monies for Alzheimer's Society. If you have surplus seedlings please drop off at Goss Cottage or I can arrange to collect.



## Garden Notes: A view from Burghley Gardens

*I have the privilege of volunteering as a gardener at Burghley House and learn a lot from the Head Gardener, Joe Whitehead, who has kindly allowed me to copy his blog regards lawn maintenance.*

### "HEAD GARDENER'S BLOG: REPAIRING WINTER DAMAGES IN THE GARDENS

As the Garden continues to dry up, the soil begins to warm along with the milder weather, we are at a perfect time for sowing the large drifts of wildflowers which feature heavily in the Gardens and placing grass seed repairing winter damages.

For this, we lightly cultivate the ground (I must confess we have a tractor mounted rotavator which makes the job a little quicker...) Then rake level, tread down the soil to consolidate and rake again. Sow the seed at 5g/m<sup>2</sup> using a little sand to bulk the seed out which helps when broadcasting. To finish off, a final rake and that is that.

Last week, we mowed the whole Garden as the grass is certainly starting to get going and this also quickly smartens things up. Towards the end of March, we will lightly scarify the formal lawns and spike them for drainage. All helping to combat moss build up which seems particularly prevalent this year.



A common shrub but one I look forward to at this time of the year – *Ribes sanguineum*, the flowering current. Its long, abundant clusters of flowers are bright and jolly. You can also cut branches in tight bud for them to open quickly once indoors. A good variety to look out for is *R. 'Pulborough Scarlett'*."

#HeadGardenersBlog  
#BurghleyGardens

**Gary Punter**

Chair, Wansford Horticultural & Craft Society

[garypunter@aol.com](mailto:garypunter@aol.com)

## New season, new hope – let's get spring cleaning!

**Eileen Le Voi**  
**Safe Local Trades**

The Easter weekend and school break is traditionally a time when DIY-ers and spring cleaners emerge from winter to tackle all those jobs around the home. But as the route out of lockdown brings renewed hope for many of us, there is even more to look forward to when we talk about new beginnings.

This may include plans to move house, dreaming of a home or garden makeover, or just a renewed enthusiasm to get your house in order – in the meantime however, there is nothing more satisfying than a spring clean – whether you have five minutes or a whole weekend. Here are a few tips if you are making a start:

- Take one room at a time – this way you won't get overwhelmed by the task; and be ruthless with your decluttering. Ask yourself, does the item make me happy, does it serve a purpose, when was the last time I used it?
- In the kitchen – start with the cupboards and then move on to cutlery drawer (tip: soak tea-stained teaspoons in a mug of water with a few drops of vinegar) and then finish with the microwave, kettle and toaster.





- When it comes to the bedroom, the wardrobe is usually the biggest issue. Take everything out and discard anything you haven't worn on the past year or if doesn't fit. Sell good condition clothes and bag up others for the charity shops.
- If you are still working from home, think about how you can improve your working area. Re-assess your space and how you can maintain a clutter-free environment. Go through paperwork, refiling or shredding as you go along. A minimal look will help clear your mind for each working day. Have a digital de-clutter too.
- In the kids' bedrooms, encourage them to go through their belonging and donate any unwanted items to charity (as and when non-essential shops re-open). In return, treat them to some new bed linen and if you want to keep the space as clutter free as possible – some funky storage boxes or containers will give them a reason to keep their room tidy!
- If you have taken down numerous paintings, pieces of artwork or photo frames from newly decorated walls, try and get used to living in the space without them for a while, and only put back up what you really want to. Less is more – and besides, you want to show off your fab new walls don't you?

• If you don't have the time, skill or confidence to give your home the makeover it deserves then Safe Local Trades can put you in contact with many reputable and reliable professionals to help make your home sparkle this spring. Whether it's cleaning or decluttering, odd jobs around the home, decorating, bringing new life to your upholstery, installing a new kitchen or bathroom, getting the windows professionally cleaned or your garden landscaped – they have tried, tested and reliable tradespeople for the job; however big or small. For more information on our members, to view their profiles, photo portfolios and reviews, visit [www.safelocaltrades.com](http://www.safelocaltrades.com)

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## THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council took place via Zoom on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. It was chaired by Chris Smith and present were Louise Molesworth, Ashleigh Kewney, Martin Lewis and Adrian Rodgers. In attendance were two Members of the Public, Peter Slinger, Prospective Green Party Candidate for the Ward Elections and Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk.

**Public Forum** It was noted that bird scarers are very loud and are in close proximity to Russell Hill towards the A47. Peter Sharpley has taken remedial action and looked at the relative sites for the bird scarers. He has confirmed that they should not be there much longer as the oilseed rape is almost beyond the point when the bird scarers are needed. Under NFU recommendations, the bird scarers should be managed appropriately in terms of disturbance to residents and other sensitive areas, and should not go off before sunrise or after sunset.

**Police Matters** There were no police representatives present. No-one present had heard of any reported crimes but it was reported that chalk marks had been seen outside houses in Stibbington indicated that a dog lives at the house presumably indicating the potential for dog theft.

**Shell Garage** Light Pollution and Planting - the Chairman reported that 60 m of Leylandii have been planted between the village and Shell Garage on the A1 (planted w/c 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021) so hopefully there will be some benefit within a couple of years at the longest, based upon the rate that Leylandii grow. Instructions have been given to the Shell Garage Manager to ensure they thrive this time, unlike the previous planting that was undertaken in 2019.

**Footpaths** Near the exit from Wansford Underpass - the Chairman confirmed that Public Access was via a "set-aside" arrangement normally agreed between the landowner and Natural England. Once the set-aside period has come to an end, the arrangement ends and the land reverts to private access. This particular set-aside ended in 2012. Therefore, this is not a designated Footpath and (2) Alongside the Chicken Farm - now that all consultation and appeal periods have passed, this is now awaiting a final opening and signage which is being co-ordinated by the Footpaths Officer. Thanks were expressed to Martin Witherington and others involved for his persistence in getting this re-opened.

**Defibrillator** The Chairman reported that confirmation has been received that the Parish Council can install the unit into the Church Porch. Updated quotes have been received and the installation will be arranged this is hopefully by May 2021. It was noted that signage will have to be considered and erected. Thank you to all those residents who generously donated to enable the Parish Council to obtain this life-saving piece of equipment for Thornhaugh.

**February Newsletter** Response to Communication Methods - the Chairman reported that three residents had stated they prefer to retain hard copy and the Clerk reported that four residents had stated they prefer to receive e-mails. It was noted that e-mail lists would be subject to GDPR requirements. The Thornhaugh Parish Council policy is on the website and would always be adhered to. It was felt that there was not a large enough response to make a change and residents are encouraged to contact the Clerk to the Parish Council to confirm their preference.

**Planning Applications** 19/01889 Change of use from an agricultural field and woodland to form an adventure play scheme including erection of indoor play and visitor amenity barn, a supporting toilet and changing block, staff welfare facilities, outdoor play equipment and car park at Land off Sutton Heath Road, Southorpe - Objections - Awaiting Decision;

20/00733 Erection of new play area within existing leisure site at Sacrewell Farm, Thornhaugh - No Objections - Awaiting Decision;

20/01547 Proposed loft conversion with front and rear dormers, a new front porch and ground floor alterations at Alkenray, Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh - No Objections - Permitted;

20/01680 Variation of condition C1 and C2 (to revise the order of approved phasing and allow the storage of Hi-pod containers) pursuant to planning permission 17/00726/WCMM at Thornhaugh Landfill Site, Leicester Road, Thornhaugh - No Objections - Awaiting Decision;

20/01688 Discharge of conditions C1 (3 years), C2 (Cross section drawings), C3 (Stoneworks), C5 (Ventilation gap), C6 (Timber Permission), C7 (Ventilation details), C8 (Building regulations), C9 (Re-used Ironmongery), C10 (Removal method) and C11 (Plans) of Listed Building Consent 18/01779/LBC at The Old Dairy, Home Farm, Leicester Road, Thornhaugh – No Objections - Awaiting Decision  
21/00109 Proposed extension to the existing warehouse to form office facilities at Riverford Organic Vegetables, Sacrewell Lodge Farm, Great North Road – No Objections

**NALC Land Ownership Survey** The Chairman had completed this with a blank response as the Parish Council does not own land in the village.

**Census 2021** Nicola Warnock, Census Engagement Manager, Census 2021 – the information contained in the e-mail has been put onto the Website and was referred to in the February issue of Living Villages.

**Florence Kingaby** Various e-mails re Florence Kingaby nee Blenkiron – this lady who had completed a pioneering trans-Africa bike ride in 1935, had lived in a cottage at Sacrewell Farm. Sacrewell Farm has agreed to look into their archives to see what information they hold on her.

**Motorbikes in Mick George's Quarry** Complaint regarding young people who are riding motorbikes in Mick George's quarry – the Clerk has requested that the security of the site is checked over and she will chase this up.

**Annual Donations** It was agreed to keep donations to the same value as last year, in line with the decision to not seek and increase in the precept. Therefore, donations of £190 to Thornhaugh with Wansford PCC and £85 to Living Villages will be made

It was noted that Government Guidelines (Covid Roadmap) confirm that indoor meetings of more than six people will not be permitted. The guidance allows for meetings outdoors to take place with thirty or less people. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and the May meetings will comprise of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting, therefore unless the weather is good, the meeting will have to be held via Zoom.

### **John Clare Nature Recovery Plan**

Alan Frost gave the following Report:- Thornhaugh Parish has been warmly welcomed by the Richard Astle, (Chair Langdyke Countryside Trust) and who is the leader of the John Clare Nature Recovery Plan. Many of the 'experts' and other people involved have also expressed their pleasure in our attendance and have offered their help and support. We had a Zoom Meeting on with Richard Astle and two of these 'experts' (namely, Tony Cook - PECT, Laura Osbourne - Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northants Wildlife Trust) and as a result: We have been made aware of the importance and significance of Thornhaugh Parish as a nature corridor between the John Clare Countryside landscape and the wider Rockingham Forest, and that we have a key part to play in the geographic link between the two; we have heard how valuable Thornhaugh Parish is in terms of the rich landscape and the diversity of sites and wildlife; we have been put in touch with Suzie Hall of Bainton Parish who has offered to explain how they involved residents which we feel would be helpful in our putting together a recovery plan; Laura has supplied a map showing the SSI's in Thornhaugh Parish and the area around, and has agreed to have a walk around the Parish to point out potential projects, etc.; at the last Thornhaugh Parish Council Meeting, I mentioned the idea that Richard Astle raised of a couple of projects to get things moving and to encourage villagers to become involved, and at the Zoom Meeting several ideas were put forward and we are working with Richard Astle et al to define a couple and present them to the Parish Council; we were put in touch with other interested parties (for example, Justin Tilley of Natural England) who are keen to help out and advise on the TPC Nature Recovery Plan and one interesting fact that we discovered is that some of the ponds in Bedford Purlieus (which, as you know falls within the Thornhaugh Parish boundary) contain great crested newts! Richard Astle was very pleased to hear that Peter Sharpley was interested in the project and had already confirmed some work being done on re-planting and setting aside land for conservations purposes. Peter will be talking with Joan and Alan to put meat on the bones in terms of what has been done and what is planned and how it might relate to the project.

**Next Meeting** The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Venue to be confirmed, although highly likely to be via Zoom once again.



## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.

The March meeting was held remotely using Skype . Councilor Mick Grange from Sutton Parish Council joined us for the Cycle West discussion.

The Cycle West Scheme is to link Sutton, at the south end of Lovers Lane, with the Nene Valley Railway Station at Stibbington. This will enable Wansford cyclists to visit Sutton and onwards to Castor and Peterborough without using the main A47 road. Cllr Mick Grange discussed the issues Sutton had with the scheme which centered on the feeling that cattle grids were not in the interest of horse riders and people walking with dogs and so much of route would be covered in tarmac that it would remove the feel of a countryside outing.

As this route follows the line of an old railway line which still has ballast on it the feeling at the meeting was that gravel surfacing is more in keeping and gates could be used for stock control instead of the cattle grids proposed. The other advantage of a gravel surface is that it will discourage the high speed riders as this is intended as a family route. The cycle lane which will be provided as part of the A47 upgrades and this will be more suitable for the high speed riders.

There will also be a link to Sutton Heath Road under the A47 linking up to Southorpe and to connect to other cycle routes allowing safer cycling around the Wansford area.

Wansford Parish Council is opposed to the application as it stands and has asked Peterborough City Council to request modifications to the Cycle West scheme in line with the above.

Other planning applications considered were:

- Tree work at Lion Cottage, 4 Riverside Spinney – no objection but we will be guided by tree officers' recommendations,
- Extension of existing warehouse to form offices for Riverford Organics – No objection
- Single storey rear extension at 5 Black Swan Spinney - no objection

Community Infrastructure Levy money is to be used to reinstate the Old Leicester Road footpath

Subject to PCC approval, the Parish Council intends to remove the large old signs from when Old North Road and Bridge End was an A road and replace them with direction finger posts more in keeping with village situation.

A letter has been received regarding litter along the A47. This has been forwarded to Peterborough City Council for their action.



There is a group of villagers who go out on a Sunday morning collecting litter and we all appreciate this action. If everyone picked up any litter that they saw, it would improve the roads and footpaths around the village tremendously.

The wall next to the telephone exchange on Old North Road is in a state of disrepair. A letter has been sent to BT but no response yet.

The Standing Orders of the Parish Council were discussed and no changes were envisaged at this point in time.

Normally the Parish Council holds its Annual Meeting shortly after the elections in early May. It remains to be seen whether this will be possible.

Draft minutes covering all items will appear on the website [www.wansfordvillage.com](http://www.wansfordvillage.com) in due course.

Meeting Closed at 9.41 pm.

Graham Garner

## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Tim Pearson

16 Robinswood, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6JQ

Phone 01780 782039

Email: [timbopearson@hotmail.com](mailto:timbopearson@hotmail.com)



### *Would you like to be our Parish Clerk ?*

Wansford Parish comprises some 200 dwellings north of the River Nene in the Peterborough City Council area. Our Clerk attends meetings in the Community Hall, (but currently online), starting at 7:30pm, on the second Monday in the month, and spends about 5 hours a week preparing the agenda, 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 Council and the careful administration of its finances. You will be required to be able to store Parish Council records and documents securely and update the Parish Council's web site regularly. There are seven elected Parish Councilors, who work voluntarily and our Clerk's pay scale is typically SCP 15 (£12.24/hr from April 2020). Any complete beginner would serve 6 months' probation and would have to become a CILCA qualified Parish Clerk. The Parish Council can provide training for a person willing to work towards this qualification.

If you are interested in becoming our Clerk and would like to find out more, please contact me or our current Clerk, Wendy Gray, at [wendy7wansford@gmail.com](mailto:wendy7wansford@gmail.com) [01778 441312] ASAP. To apply for the position, you will need to send your CV and a covering letter via email.

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## SIBSON-cum-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council** met remotely on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, 6 Parish Councillors were in attendance and 3 members of the public was also present.

**Litter/Rubbish** issues raised by residents - a collection has been requested on a monthly basis. Unfortunately, with recent flooding and other pressures in the Operations Department at HDC this may not be possible every month.

The discussion around the **HGV's** on the road, did not come to any firm conclusion. They included High Kerbs along the road, which would have cost around £40,000. Cones on the road were also discussed, however that could easily be moved and disrupted. We have, as you are aware, as a Parish Council, applied for funding to place Double Yellow lines along the road. This of course would be issues with enforcement, but we are hoping that it could act as a deterrent together with extra signage. Again, enforcement would be an issue. Discussions with Stibbington Cafe have been ongoing for some time, but with little positive outcome.

The poor state of the verge on the road, together with erosion of the footpath running from the Diner to NVR, has been noted, and action will be taken to restore this in the spring.

The **Planning Application** from Pure Fuels, for change of use of buildings (in retrospect), was scheduled to be heard by Huntingdonshire District Council on the 15th March, but has been delayed to allow for further information to be considered.

**Dog Fouling** around the village continues to be a major problem. Would all residents who walk their dog(s) around the village please be vigilant and ensure that they pick up after their pooch(s) and please use the bins provided.

Road sign outside village has been knocked down and this has been reported to Cambridge Highways.

**Speeding** in village, getting worse, and is hazardous.

The Parish Council will meet again on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (subject to Coronavirus restrictions) – please check website for details.

Inclusion within the Living Villages Magazine does not represent endorsement of particular products or tradespeople. It is important that our readers make their own checks on tradespeople before deciding to use them. Organisations such as The Home Owners Alliance ([www.hoa.org.uk](http://www.hoa.org.uk)) provide useful information on accreditations, trade associations and other things you should consider before having work carried out. If you are unable to use online resources then you can phone the Citizen Advice Consumer Helpline (tel: 03454 040506) for advice.

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## THE ARTS SOCIETY PETERBOROUGH

The Arts Society is a leading art education charity, bringing people together through a shared curiosity for the arts. Each year The Arts Society Peterborough holds nine illustrated talks on many interesting, informative and entertaining art-related topics. This year's programme includes talks

about how glass is depicted in paintings, a history of England's cathedrals, the nomadic works of woven art, an armchair tour of street art, David Lean's art of cinema, the symbolism of the fan, the art collector Peggy Guggenheim, graffiti around the world, and Dickens' portrayal of Christmas. The talks are given by professional lecturers, each expert in their subject, and are held at The Fleet in Fletton on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month (excluding June, July and August) and start at 10.45am. They are friendly, informal meetings where members can enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat before the talk commences.

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

**8th April 2021**

### FROM BRONZES TO BANKSIE

an armchair tour of public and street art by Ian Swankie



London not only has a world-class reputation for art in its many galleries, but also a remarkable range of art outside in the streets. We tour around the capital discovering some of the most interesting works from across the centuries. They range from huge and expensive commissions to unofficial graffiti, which is sometimes audacious and often playful, but they all have a place in our society. We look at why art is there, how it has developed over the years and discover many hidden gems.

**13th May 2021**

### THE FAN IS A CURIOUS THING by Jacob Moss



The fan is a curious and complicated article combining utility with artistry. It is a weapon of seduction; it is portable art; it is a fashion statement. From a historical and cultural perspective, its significance cannot be underestimated. In East Asia, for example, where both men and women continue to use fans, they function in all sorts of ways beyond practical: given as celebratory gifts at weddings and births; used in Noh Theatre and Chinese Opera; even Samurai warriors and Sumo officials used fans. The story of how The Fan Museum came to fruition dovetails into the multifaceted history of the handheld fan.

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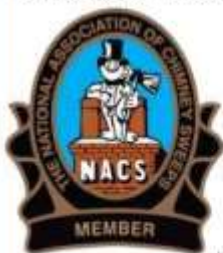
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR!

[editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk)

Dear Editor

I am the son of H Brown listed in the 'Class Winners' for the 1950-60 eras of the Flower Show. I hope the following recollections provide an outline, from the exhibitors perspective, to what was at the time one of the main local annual events

*My father was a railway man, who like many others had a traditional recognised pastime of gardening. He cultivated 2 allotments forming the show arena and a second for the basic day to day production.*

*Springtime would see the planning for layout of cultivation, crop rotations and seed planting. As the season progressed to show time more effort and time would be spent on the plot, with family and animals with weeds being banned and out of bounds. Hedges and paths would be trimmed and garden furniture attended to.*

*After judging of the plot for 'Best Kept and Cropped Garden' upon the eve of the show the garden would be decimated for the best, even size and shaped vegetables, plump fruits and spectacular flowers to be shown.*

*Fellow competitors would meet at the show to discuss outcome, results and intentions for next year debated.*

*At the end of the season trophies would be put away, winter digging would be carried out ready for the process to start all over again*

*Regrettably fathers age and ill health blunted his activities and eventually upon moving home the allotments were incorporated into the adjacent farmers field. Did the area ever produce the field quality reflecting the husbandry attention given to the allotment plots?*

**David Brown**

*Editors note; Rod received the following message with payment for a Living Villages subscription*

As promised I am enclosing a cheque for this years magazine. Despite the passage of time since I left the village (1955) they always have something of interest that jars the memory. For example, the piece about the Wansford Horticultural Society in the February edition. My father was the British Legion treasurer for many years and to get the small change to make up the prizes for what was then the British legion Flower Show, I remember on one occasion my mother, myself and my younger brother taking a suitcase to a bank in Peterborough on the bus and collecting the necessary silver. Once home we empties it out on the kitchen table and made up prizes for Dad to put into envelopes. That was all a long time ago but thanks for the pleasure I still get in reading about things past and present in Living Villages.

**Don Tebbutt**

Sidcup



### **Food collection for the Light Project**

Since taking over collection of food from the boxes at Wansford, Nassington and Water Newton churches from Maureen Woodd, we have been delighted with your continued donations. Since the Light Project is currently in the process of moving from the Garden House to Archdeaconry House (still within the Cathedral precincts), we will not be able to drop off any food collected from the boxes until April 19th so please pause donations until then. (Boxes will still be checked so it doesn't matter if you forget!). We will take the opportunity to clean the boxes and give the pigeons who roost above them a good talking to!

Many thanks for continuing to support homeless people in this way.

**Kate Hopkins** and **Kate Ward** on behalf of The Light Project

[www.lightprojectpeterborough.org.uk](http://www.lightprojectpeterborough.org.uk)

The end of January litter pick fell on day of foul weather so I ended up alone . We had a bigger turnout a week later when we covered the foot path from Thornhaugh to the A47 near the roundabout and big worked both ways along the A47.

A couple of us have spent a long time doing the Russell Hill exit onto the A47 both ways as well, as well as the Hall loop and the Russell Hill exit onto the A1 to the layby. .

It's a never ending task but I take solace in the fact that things would look a lot worse if we didn't collect .

I have taken hope from the fact I have met 2 litter picking enthusiasts from Wansford and I hope we can coordinate a group from Wansford on or around the day we next litter pick from Thornhaugh towards Wansford. That will be **22/5/21** .**Do get in touch if you are interested to help out on that day, or nearby, so we coordinate efforts.**

We can provide hoops, pickers and bags, so just a willingness to help is all you need.

I have found it very difficult to get a response to fly-tipping or just simple litter picking from the council, as it seems we fall between the council and highway's responsibility. No one ever seems to know and the buck gets passed so many times often tipping and litter doesn't get removed. If anyone has any further information on who is a good contact with regards to the above on the A47 and A1 please do let me know. They often respond by saying it is the land owners responsibility. I have never witnessed fly tipping which surprises me as it is happening all the time .

Thank you again for any rubbish you do pick up, and also for all the dog owners that use a stick to flick their dog's mess or who take the dog poo bags home, as I collect so many of these abandoned both full and empty ! Thank you also to everyone that calls the council when they see a pile of fly tipped rubbish.

I look forward to a good turn out on 22/5/21. The Thornhaugh group meet at 10.30 am by the phone box book exchange.

**Nikki Higgins**

[nikki@4stonecottage.co.uk](mailto:nikki@4stonecottage.co.uk)

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