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December 2019

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Stibbington, Sutton & Wansford*

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Editorial

I have to admit that I've been quite distracted whilst editing the magazine this month. The first distraction was watching Alexander Sims, a past resident of Wansford competing in the Formula E Grand Prix in Saudi, where he races for the BMWi Andretti Motorsport team. He achieved two amazing pole positions and won the second race, his first victory in this series. The Formula E series is an interesting development in motorsport and is now in it's fifth year. The next race is in Chile on Jan 18th.

My second distraction has been practicing seasonal songs for the ukulele concerts I will be playing in the next few weeks. The Seasonal Singalong with Wansford Ukulele Folk has become an established and popular event in the build up to Christmas. This year it will be on Friday 13th December at 7.30 pm in Wansford Christie Hall. The programme consists of a mixture of popular and Christmas songs with audience participation encouraged and song sheets provided. There will be a Bar and Raffle. Last year we raised £830 for Alzheimer's Society and this year all proceeds will go to Peterborough Branch of Parkinson's UK. For ticket details see the Ad on page 11

Last months article on Sulehay Village has generated a number of emails and we have received a number of really interesting photos. I am sure there will be another article soon.

On behalf of the editorial team I would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tracy Sortwell

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Wansford Surgery	01780 782342	Royal British Legion	01780 782200
(Out of hours	111 option 4)	Stibbington & Wansford WI	.789996
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Communicare	01780 470437	Horticultural Society	01780 782446
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Website

www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

WORSHIP DECEMBER 2019

St Leonard's, Apethorpe		
1st	11.00am	Holy Communion
21st	3.00pm	<i>Christingle</i>
25th	10.00am	<i>Christmas Communion</i>
30th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion
6 Jan	11.00am	Holy Communion

St Kyneburgha, Castor		
1st	10.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	<i>Advent Carol Service</i>
8th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	<i>Christingle</i>
15th	10.15am	Holy Communion
22nd	10.15pm	Holy Communion
24th	4.00pm	<i>Crib Service</i>
	11.30pm	<i>Midnight Mass</i>
25th	10.15am	<i>Christmas Holy Communion</i>
29th	10.15am	Holy Communion

St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington		
1st	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	4.00pm	<i>Christingle</i>
8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion
18th	6.00pm	<i>Carol Service</i>
22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
24th	4.00pm	<i>Crib Service</i>
25th	10.00pm	<i>Christmas Communion</i>
6 Jan	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Stibbington		
22nd	4.00pm	<i>Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies</i>

St Michael and All Angels, Sutton		
15th	4.00pm	<i>Carol Service</i>
24th	6.00pm	<i>Holy Communion</i>

St Andrew's, Thornhaugh		
1st	9.30am	Patronal Family Communion
15th	9.30am	<i>Christmas Praise</i>
24th	3.00pm	<i>Christingle</i>
25th	10.00am	<i>Christmas Communion</i>
Jan 6	9.30am	Morning Praise

St Mary's, Wansford		
<i>Every Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer</i>		
8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
15th	6.00pm	<i>Carol Service</i>
22nd	9.30am	Morning Praise
24 th	11.30pm	<i>Benefice Midnight Mass</i>

St Remigius, Water Newton		
13th	7.00pm	<i>Christmas Carols and Festival of Lights</i>

St Mary's, Woodnewton		
1st	9.30am	Holy Communion
8th	11.00am	All-Age Informal Service
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion
19th	7.00pm	<i>Carol Service</i>
22nd	11.00am	<i>Christingle</i>
25th	10.00am	<i>Christmas Communion</i>
Jan 6	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell		
1st	11.00am	Morning Prayer
8th	11.00am	Holy Communion
15th	3.00pm	Methodist Service
22nd	4.00pm	<i>Carol Service</i>
25th	10.00am	<i>Christmas Communion</i>
Jan 6	11.00am	Family Worship for Epiphany

Yarwell Mill		
15th	6.00pm	<i>Carols</i>



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The churches of the Castor Benefice seem to be remarkably free from graffiti. This could be as a result of the type of stone and plaster used in their construction. It could also be because earlier marks on the stonework have been lost as a result of later repairs. Although the carving of graffiti into the structure of churches would be considered by most people to be an act of vandalism, few can deny that graffiti can be quite interesting as its presence tells us about those who visited and used our church buildings in the past.

Just inside the door of the church in my previous parish of St. Stephen's in St Albans is a rather mysterious inscription carved into one of the pillars. It reads "Adveniat R". Although clearly legible the lettering is rather crude and was scratched into the stone by someone visiting the church at some point in the past. No one knows exactly when the inscription appeared, who carved it or what they meant by it. Like many other marks in the stonework of the church the inscription is a mystery. What was going through the mind of the person who carved it and what did they think the letters meant?

Those people who are familiar with the Latin version of the Lord's Prayer may find the text rather familiar. In Latin the prayer begins as follows :-

*PATER noster, Our Father
qui es in caelis, Who art in heaven
sanctificetur nomen tuum. Hallowed by thy name
Adveniat regnum tuum..... Thy kingdom come.....*

There at the beginning of the fourth line we find the mysterious text which forms the graffiti carved onto the pillar. It appears to be an abbreviation of the phrase "Thy kingdom come". We will never know what motivated someone in the past to carve part of this phrase onto the pillar. Was it someone in distress seeking deliverance? Maybe it was a carved at a time of political uncertainty such as during the English civil war when people were desperate for a return to peace and stability. We just don't know.

What this mysterious piece of graffiti does do, is draw our attention to the familiar phrase from the Lord's Prayer - Thy kingdom come. What do these words mean? This is a question that people have been pondering since Jesus taught his disciples to pray using these words. It is also the very question which lies at the heart of the season of Advent which we begin on the first day of this month of December. The very name Advent is derived from the idea of the coming of God's kingdom.

What this means for us will be very different from what the idea meant to the faithful soul who carved the letters into the pillar at St. Stephen's Church in St Albans many centuries ago. What it means to you will be different from what it means to me. The phrase will have a different meaning at different times and in different cultures. What is clear however is that it is to the Bible that we must turn if we want to get closer to understanding the nature of God's kingdom and what its arrival might herald. May this season of Advent be a time when you may come to know more fully what it truly means to say *Adveniat regnum tuum* Thy kingdom come.

WATER NEWTON'S VERY SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS CAROLS and FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Friday 13th December at 7pm
St Remigius Church

Come with your Lanterns to Light up the Church

You are invited to join us for a relaxed evening of carols and Christmas music with mulled wine and a 'pop up' bar serving wines, ales, soft drinks and seasonal food. The exterior of the church will be brilliantly illuminated with powerful coloured lights from LED lamps and lasers. Be awed by the interior filled with light from hundreds of candles and lanterns. Please bring along as many lanterns and candles to add to those that will light the church within while coloured lighting, fire pits and a brazier will be outside to give warmth. We will serve mulled wine on arrival and sing carols around the tree and celebrate the Christmas story.

There will be Christmas music from the Castor 'Friends' Band.

This is a Christmas Carol event for all - children are especially welcome - so if you have little ones, then bring them along.

Our chosen charity this year is '**The Light Project Peterborough**'

Everybody Welcome from All our Villages, Happy Christmas

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

**All are warmly invited to celebrate
this special time of year with us in our churches!**

In Wansford we have our Carol Service on 15th December when we retell the amazing story of the birth of Christ in familiar carols and readings, enriched with special music from our choir. There will also be a Christmas Praise service at Thornhaugh that morning at 9.30 a.m. with carols and activities to help us start to feel "Christmassy"!

At Thornhaugh on Christmas Eve we celebrate the coming of Christ, the Light of the World, in our wonderful Christingle service at 3.00 p.m. Later that night we have the Midnight Mass for all the villages in our group at Wansford - please note the service begins at 11.30 p.m. so that we can receive Holy Communion at the very beginning of Christmas Day (just after midnight!) Thank you to those at St. Mary's who will be up late, welcoming people from across the area for that service. On Christmas morning we have our Christmas Communion at Thornhaugh at 10.00 a.m. with a service which hopefully everyone will be able to join in with - young or old!

You will see that there are many other services across the churches of our villages during the month, and everyone is welcome to any of them. Just come along to give thanks for the wonderful gift of God's Son who came to share our human life with us, that we may know his love more fully, as we celebrate with family and friends, old and new! Thank you to everyone who is working hard in our churches to make all this possible!

A very happy and blessed Christmas to everyone.

Rev. Jane

ST MARY'S ROOF REPAIRS



As many people will have noticed contractors have been busy working on the Church roof in spite of the recent bad weather. The lead stolen earlier this year from the Chancel roof has been replaced with terne coated stainless steel. This is now completed and will be followed by internal work to make good the damage caused by water ingress. The interior is being re-decorated and new carpet laid. Everything should be completed in time for the Community Carol Service on 15th December.

We are most grateful to the Augean Community Fund for providing financial support for this project and for the installation of a roof alarm system at St. Andrews Church Thornhaugh.

Alan Jones

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S

The Friends will have a quieter month in December after the Christmas Afternoon Tea on 30th November. There will be a meeting at 10.30 in the Community Hall on Wednesday 4th December and the Friends will be serving seasonal refreshments after the Community Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 15th December.

We send good wishes and thanks to everyone who has supported our various activities throughout the year.

Happy Christmas!

Caroline

▲▲ ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, STIBBINGTON ▲▲

Do come along to our next gathering on Sunday 22 December 2019 when we will be holding our Christmas Carol Service at 4pm** (please note that the original time of 6pm** has been changed)

Refreshments will be served on arrival and you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Carol Lindsay



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Seasonal Singalong
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Friday 13th December 7.30pm

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Wansford Horticultural Society

At our final talk of the year on Thursday, 24th October we were delighted to welcome both Jim and Joel Ashton of the award winning Butterfly Brothers. They explained their philosophy of introducing wild life friendly areas into all types of gardens, even the most formal, and described many of their past successes. Many in the audience were inspired to go away and make changes to their gardens based on new ideas they had gleaned from the talk. Questions at the end of the talk came from our youngest as well as our older members, which is encouraging for the future of gardening in our village.

We now look forward to our coach trip to Christmas at Kew which should be a memorable if chilly occasion with a dazzling winter trail, glittering lights and dynamic laser projections, hopefully the perfect start to Christmas celebrations.

The final event of the 2019 calendar, our A.G.M. and Christmas party will take place on Saturday 7th December starting at 7 p.m. in the Christie Hall. By then we should have our plans for next year's programme in place including, for example, a talk on Japanese Gardens and another on the Manor and Gardens at Hemingford Grey. A reminder that it is just £2.50 per person to join us, a sum which has not increased since 2005!

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Communicare

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

To Patients of Local Medical Practices NHS – ‘The Big Conversation’

The Clinical Commissioning Group for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which holds an annual budget of more than £100 million, commissions services provided through General Practices, Hospitals, Mental Health and Community Services. That is an enormous sum of money, yet even so they are having to make hard decisions on our behalf about where that money is spent.

To help them in this, they are engaging with patients and Practices through “The Big Conversation” about people’s preferences using 10 questions plus free text. If you put either of these addresses into your browser you will find a versions of The Big Conversation questionnaire; one is a summary of the issues, the full document goes into more detail.

Summary:

www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alId=19071

FullDocument:

www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alId=19075

You can also access these documents using:

www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/the-big-conversation/

This will then give you direct access to the survey on-line. Alternatively, you can print off and fill in a paper copy of the questionnaire and send it FREEPOST to: ‘Freepost plus RSCR-GSGK-XSHK, BIG conversation, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG, Lockton House, Clarendon Road, Cambridge, CB2 8FH’. You do not need a stamp.

There is also a public event being held at The Fleet, Fleet Way, High Street, Fletton, Peterborough PE2 8DL on 21st November from 6pm to 7.30pm

The Big Conversation itself ends on 20th December 2019.

May I encourage you to take part in this Big (and very important) Conversation.

With kind regards.

David Parkes

Chair: Communicare - Wansford and Kings Cliffe Patient Participation Group

**BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS
AND THE NEW YEAR FROM ALL
AT STIBBINGTON CENTRE**



HOLD THE DATE....

QUIZ NIGHT 7th FEBRUARY 2020

Stibbington Community Classes

Many thanks to those of you who have attended sessions this year. You will hopefully already know that the funds we raise contribute to the Stibbington Appeal Fund. The aim being to improve facilities at the Centre and provide bursaries to enable disadvantaged children to visit. You can feel doubly good about attending a workshop!

If you have not yet come to a workshop, we would love to see you here so perhaps a good New Year's resolution would be to come and learn something new in the old school!

Our **Christmas Craft Workshop (13:30-16:30 on 8th December)** has booked up nicely but it may still be worth getting in contact to see if any spaces remain, if you are interested.



STIBBINGTON CENTRE CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01780 782386 Email: cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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www.groupaccommodation.com/properties/stibbington-centre-peterborough-cambridgeshire

STIBBINGTON COMMUNITY CLASSES:

Tel: 07580 218792 Email: s.c.classes@protonmail.com

Stibbington Community Centre



For our November meeting, our guest speaker was our own member, Maureen Woodd. She gave an insightful and thought-provoking speech on her work for 'The Light Project, Peterborough'.



This proactive charity supports the homeless people within Peterborough and the surrounding area. The support has three main arms, firstly charity workers go out to meet with the homeless on the street; offering the chance of a chat, practical support which may be through distribution of new blankets or for example putting the person in touch with medical support, the chance to pray alongside a charity worker. This is where the charity started its work.

The night shelter is the second arm of the charity, with 8 beds for homeless people who want to sleep within the shelter. Each person is given the chance to sleep in a clean bed, offered the chance to use the washing machine to clean their belongings, a shower and hot food. This is led by 12 churches, each taking a night to host the guests, with a view to expand the hosts.

The newest arm is 'The Garden room'. Based in the grounds of the Cathedral, this house puts on daytime activities which help homeless people move forward, supporting them in job applications, interviews and move towards their new life. Most importantly no one is judged as to the reasons that they are on the street but supported in their new direction with dignity and respect. This local charity works tirelessly to improve the lives of those that are currently living on the streets of Peterborough, as well as those in its wider community.

Upcoming events:-

Friday 6th December 3C's regular craft, coffee and chat meeting (Community Hall 10-12am).

Tuesday 10th December – Textiles through the ages (Community Hall 7.30pm)

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

Rhona Punter 01780 592 514

NHS launches exciting new website for local Children's Occupational Therapy Service

In celebration of the National Occupational Therapy Week, Cambridgeshire Children's Occupational Therapy Service is proud to announce the launch of a new website which offers more support for parents across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Cambridgeshire Children's Occupational Therapy Service helps children who are struggling with everyday tasks to gain independence and reach their full potential.

The brand-new website is a perfect starting point for parents who are looking to learn new strategies when it comes to improving their child's development and is accessible 24-hours a day.

The OT website was designed to focus on children and young adult's progression stages rather than their age group. The four progression stages include starting point, next steps, getting there and feeling confident, and each one of the stages offers video training and resources needed to help your child to increase their independence and feel confident in undertaking any tasks at hand.

What's more, the website has been created using 'Recite' software, to help enhance user experience and ensure that the audience of the website can find all the information they need quickly and easily. Thanks to Recite, those who are struggling to navigate through the website due to their disability or a language barrier can now use tools such as text to speech functionality, dyslexia software, an interactive dictionary and a translation tool with over 100 languages.

Children's Occupational Therapy Lead, Nicola Foreman says: "It has been great working with children, young people and families who use our services to create a website which I hope will be helpful to many. The biggest impact will be that families will now have instant access to strategies and ideas to help their child at the most convenient time for them.

"As individuals, we all learn differently and by listening to the feedback from our parents, carers and young people, we have used a variety of different ways to communicate. This ranges from video clips of our children, cartoon clips and written information. All written information can be translated in many different languages. We will continue to build our website to make it the best that we can."

For further information or to find out more, please visit: <https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/cambridgeshire-children-s-occupational-therapy>

You can also follow our service on Twitter [@CambsPboroCYP](https://twitter.com/CambsPboroCYP) or 'Like us' on Facebook facebook.com/CambsPboroCYP

For further information contact Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust's Communications Team on 0300 555 6655 or email ccs.communications@nhs.net



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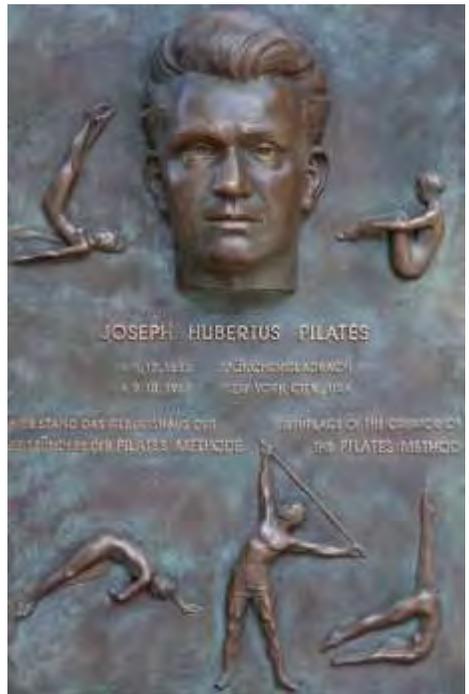
The History of Pilates by Justine Bromage

Pilates was developed by Joseph Pilates. (1883—1967) He invented a series of exercises to strengthen the mind and the body. His father was a gymnast and obsessed with health. Joseph was a frail, sickly child and was told he would have a short life. In fact he died aged 87 due to a house fire.

Joseph designed his exercises during World War One while being held in a prisoner of war camp. He was interned on the Isle of Man, along with other German citizens, by the British authorities. He worked on the exercises for four years practicing on his fellow inmates, whilst also teaching wrestling and self defence.

He believed mental and physical health worked together and developed a series of exercises (Pilates) and sculptured his body so well he posed for anatomical charts. All the exercises work on perfect balance, stretching, strengthening the muscles, body alignment, core strength and breathing. Breathing is an integral part of Pilates, he taught that breathing cleanses the body and improves the circulation of oxygenated blood to the whole of the body. It clears the mind and body and leaves you feeling invigorated.

The correct posture and precision of the exercises optimises coordination and balance and becomes second nature flowing over into every day life. As flexibility improves motion becomes more efficient and the exercises and everyday life is more comfortable. Pilates classes were introduced to the UK in 1970 by trained dancer, Alan Herdman. The



first Pilates studio opened and it grows more and more popular every year. Today Pilates is practiced all over the world.

It is low impact and suitable for all ages. Regular Pilates can improve posture, muscle tone, lung capacity, balance and joint mobility as well as stress and tension. Pilates concentrate on the abdominals, back, hips, buttocks and inner thighs. Referring as the powerhouse .. the centre of the body.

I have been a personal trainer and Pilates instructor since I left school. I believe it is like having a service or MOT every week for your body and mind. It's a brilliant complement to all sports. These days many professional sports people practice Pilates. Most of all it's an exercise class that all people of all ages can enjoy and benefit from.

Robert Walks Away with Award!

Nassington resident Robert Phipps has won Community Champion / Volunteer of the Year Award at the East Northamptonshire Sports and Physical Activity Awards for his work running and promoting the Nassington Health Walk, and in doing so, "creating a welcoming and sociable group based around engagement in physical activity".

On receiving his award at the ceremony in Rushden in October, Robert said, "I am absolutely thrilled to have won this award. I was chuffed just to have been nominated, but to win it when there are so many other people doing equally valuable work in the community is very special."

Since the walks started in March 2018, the group has gone from strength to strength with over 100 people now registered, drawing in people from a number of villages across East Northants. The award not only recognises the work Robert has done leading and promoting the walks, but also the support he has given other walkers to become volunteers to assist him in managing the group. Thanks to him, a fellow walker was inspired to undertake the walk leader training and has now set up a weekly walk in Kings Cliffe.

Robert continued "The award is as much about the social benefits of being part of a group like this as the physical ones. Many older people can feel terribly isolated, and it can be very daunting to get involved in community activities. The walks provide an easy means for them to get out and meet people, and it boosts their confidence. It's been great seeing walkers forming new friendships, and I am just pleased to be able to make a difference to people's lives."

The Nassington walk takes place every Friday at 11am, starting at the Black Horse and lasts about an hour. The routes are over easy terrain with no stiles, and they are completely free of charge.

For more information, Robert can be contacted on 782558, or just go along on a Friday morning.

Gill Rowe

Photo: Karen Burrell, Sales and Marketing Manager for Freedom Leisure presenting Robert with his award.





Wansford Cricket Club's Successful 2019 Season

The cricket season is well and truly over which is sad for us all! But it never stops with Wansford CC – plans are already in motion for making the 2020 season the best one yet.

2019 was one of the better years in recent times for the cricket club. A reinvigorated pavilion really set the season off on good footing and a successful season followed – not just on the field, but off it too. Work will be continuing on the pavilion in the lead up to 2020 where we will hopefully restore the rear of the clubhouse to its former glory as well as the front!

As the season wraps up, it was time to dish out the awards for some fantastic contributions and performances throughout the year. Here is the list of our award winners:

Batsman Of The Year – Mo Zubair

Highest Run Scorer – Darren Sweary

Bowler Of The Year – Matt Mitchell & Harrison Dyehouse

All Rounder Of The Year – Steve Taylor

Young Player Of The Year – Max

T20 Player Of The Year – Kelsey Brace

"Spirit Of Cricket" Award – Elliot Brewer & Gareth Hill

Well done to everyone who claimed an award this year. There was plenty of top performances and lots of competition for each award, but a winner had to be chosen!

In what could be one of the most significant developments for Wansford CC this year, the cricket club introduced what will now become an annual cricket tournament to Wansford village: The Wansford '100 Ball Blast', which occurs the day after The Wansford Village Horticultural Show each year. Much like the show, the cricket club will be running a bar and BBQ for everyone who wants to pop down and watch an exciting diluted form of the game full of lots of big hitting and lots of 6's!

As always, we are grateful to everyone who helps with the running of the club by volunteering their time or money to keep it going. A few players are always around to lend a hand, but we are also receiving more and more support from local villagers that we simply could not appreciate more. So, a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in any capacity, or who has popped down to any of our fixtures or open events and lent their support in the 2019 season.



Chairman's Note:

This year we have been busy fund raising to enable us to continue to repair and improve our pavilion. In March we held a race night at the Christie Hall which was great fun and enjoyed by all. The majority of attendees were local to the surrounding villages and we are extremely grateful for all our local support. In August we ran the bar for the Horticultural Society at their Annual Show and the following day held our Presidents day at which we beat three local teams in limited over cricket and ran a bar and bbq. It is intended that these events will be repeated next year.

We are also very grateful to BGL GROUP who supported the club with a generous donation.

Whilst club funds are in a far better state than at the beginning of the year we still need to raise more money to replace the changing room at the rear of the pavilion, continue our program of maintenance and purchase new sight screens. As a result in addition to a repeat of last year's events we have plans for new fund raisers which we hope will appeal to all. Watch this space!

Paul Styles

SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council met on Wednesday 6th November 2019 – all Councillors, Parish Clerk and 4 members of the public were in attendance. Issues raised: Pot holes corner of Roman Drive and Church Lane, slip road out onto A1.

Update from resident on Bio Fuels Site – have still not received definitive planning

Wansford Sign and Elton Road Sign – time has elapsed and despite requests from highways to replace the signs the Parish Council will now obtain quotes from sign companies.

Planning Application 19/02117/HHFUL Single Storey Extension at 21 Roman Drive, Stibbington PE8 6LL. The Parish Council had No observations to make on this application.

Cllr Beuttell updated on HDC report and informed the Parish Council that Sibson-cum-Stibbington had a high percentage of contamination in Recycling blue bins, during the month of September. – HDC will be producing leaflets to be sent to all residents (help requested re leaflet drop around the village) when available. Requested that residents be diligent regarding what is placed in the Blue recycling bin.

Precept for 2020/2021 – it was agreed to ask for an extension of time to put in our request by 9th January 2020. Consider upgrading Street Lights!!

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 8th January 2020 commencing at 7 p.m.

Stay Merry, not miserable in the run up to Christmas **By Eileen Le Voi, Safe Local Trades**

'TIS the season to be jolly – but as we prepare for the season of goodwill, not everyone shares the Christmas spirit. With many of us starting the Christmas shopping earlier, there is a fair chance that many of our shop purchases and online orders are beginning to pile up. So, with gifts galore adding to the decorations, tree, food and drink - December is a time when many of us let our guard down, among the excitement leading up to the big day.

For opportunist thieves, visible presents under the tree, open car boots full of shopping while loads are being taken into the house and even the possibility of an unlocked garage or parcels left behind bins are rich pickings which can turn your Christmas from being Merry into Miserable!

Pick pockets and purse dippers will also be out in force, looking for easy pickings whilst we are out shopping for gifts. Remember, pickpockets are very skilled at what they do. They know all the tricks and are extremely light-fingered with most of their thefts only taking a second or two. And let's not forget the increasing number of online scams – with retail fraudsters using the festive season as prime crime time.



Equally, flaws in home security

while out and about visiting friends and family are a beacon to thieves – so always remember to check your alarm and never leave doors, windows or garages unlocked.

Some tips for a safe and happy festive season:

- Don't leave presents in full view – either in the home or in the back seat of the car.
- Shorter days mean longer time for thieves to be in operation – always lock your car and front door when entering your home.
- Keep a light on indoors and outdoors if you are out visiting friends or family.
- It may be an idea to fit some motion detector security lighting – it won't just be carol singers who come calling.
- If you are expecting parcels or deliveries whilst you are away from home, try and arrange for them to be delivered to an alternative address instead of them being hidden by the bins!
- If buying bikes and / or electronic equipment for Christmas – mark them with your postcode.
- If using outdoor festive lighting, ensure cables aren't passed through windows, leaving enough gap for burglars to make use of.
- Away over Christmas – plan ahead. If you're going away arrange for a neighbour to park on the driveway to help create the impression someone is home. Do not post your plans on social media.



WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

11 November 2019

In attendance: Tim Pearson, Chairman, Cllr Richard Clarke, Cllr Martyn Handley, Cllr Graham Garner, Cllr David Johnson, and Wendy Gray, Parish Clerk. Two members of the public.

The Council dealt with the following matters:-

Planning

19/01466/FUL The Council were presented with revised plans for two houses on the frontage of 23 Old North Road which were considered to have resolved our objections.

19/01319/HHFUL Application to extend 7 Robins Wood. The Council could see no reason to object to this extension

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Accounts The month's accounts were approved.

Noisy Boiler The council are pleased to note a Parishioner's concern over a noisy boiler flue has been resolved.

HGV signs WPC has communicated with Sibson-cum-Stibbington to ask if an additional HGV warning sign could be placed to discourage use of the Bridge.

Wansford Community Hall The refurbishment is completed and a WC plumbing leak has been resolved.

Highways WPC are chasing for the 20MPH signs to be correctly adjusted, and the removal of the A6118 road signs.

20MPH speed limit and flashing speed signs The council are researching the cost of these signs



A47 Dualling

WPC's November public meeting with Highways England was unfortunately cancelled as we understand Civil Servants are barred from public meetings during an election. The meeting has been rescheduled to :-

December 16 at 7.30pm at St.Mary's Church.

Cllr Richard Clarke attended the earlier Sutton Meeting and gave an outline of that presentation. The Dualling is still programmed to start in 2022, and the alignment issues are not resolved but the Sutton end may now be moved north of the existing road. As a separate matter, repairs to the Nene Way footpath under the A1 are to be carried out shortly.

Kings Cliffe Industrial Estate HGV traffic The council have received a response from KC Parish Council in respect of WPC request for stopping the routing of all HGV's through Wansford. KCPC response was considered unhelpful. WPC will respond appropriately.

The next meeting of the Wansford Parish Council will be on **Monday 9th December 2019** at 7.30pm in the Community Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate.

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Tues	5.45pm 7.00pm	Wansford Christie Hall, PE8 6JS Wansford Christie Hall, PE8 6JS
Wed	7.00pm	YOGA CALM Kings Cliffe Memorial Hall, PE8 6XW
Thur	10.00am 4.30pm 6.30pm	Wansford Christie Hall, PE8 6JS GENTLE/CHAIR Easton on the Hill Village Hall PE9 JNN MIXED ABILITY Easton on the Hill Village Hall PE9 JNN

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My daughter has recently spent 4 hours in the centre of Derby. Not shopping or sightseeing but stuck in a traffic jam caused by the floods that hit the town in November. Her trip to a weekend in the Peak District took six hours. It could have been worse. The body of a woman was pulled from the swollen River Derwent north of Matlock Bath not too many miles away. Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham were also hit by flooding; the River Don reached the highest flood level on record at six metres above normal level. Roads, houses, gardens, shops and car parks were inundated with muddy water as over 100mm of rain fell overnight.

Such flooding is a natural phenomenon. In 1606 about 2,000 people were drowned when the Severn estuary overflowed. In August 1952 one days rain on Exmoor, 250mm, caused the East and West Lyn rivers to overflow and overwhelm the Devon holiday town of Lynmouth. The deluge killed 34 people. The following year I was walking with my parents above the town and the destruction of natural features and buildings caused by the torrent was still awe-inspiring.

More locally at Easter about twenty years ago, continual heavy rain in the Midlands caused the River Nene to overflow its banks and totally fill its floodplain. I was due to leave my dog in the kennels just south of Chesterton on the A1 on Easter Saturday. I rang the Kennels and they suggested I brought him that Good Friday as the A1 was about to close. Straight away I drove to Chesterton and enjoyed the surreal experience of walking with my daughter and labrador down the northbound carriageway of the Great North Road in near silence only punctuated by the Police and Fire emergency vehicles travelling up and down the southbound lanes to an inundation north of Alwalton.

I recall that Nene floods occurred approximately every ten years or so but now they are more frequent. Three or four years ago the flood meadow by Wansford Bridge had filled to totally obliterate the adjacent Paddock. Last year the caravans by the river at Yarwell Mill had to be pulled off their pitches to prevent damage. And this year we have flood warnings again.

It is hard to ignore climate change. Whether short term or long term we are suffering weather extremes. Higher temperatures, stronger winds and more intense rain are seemingly with us every year now.

Mid summer extremes can affect nesting birds. Late frosts can damage flowers on our orchard trees. Increased temperatures can gradually move those species north that prefer cooler temperatures. These may be replaced by those that found our conditions too cold.

Humans, safe in their houses and cars, may think they are safe from these extremes. This week's weather is just one more wake up call

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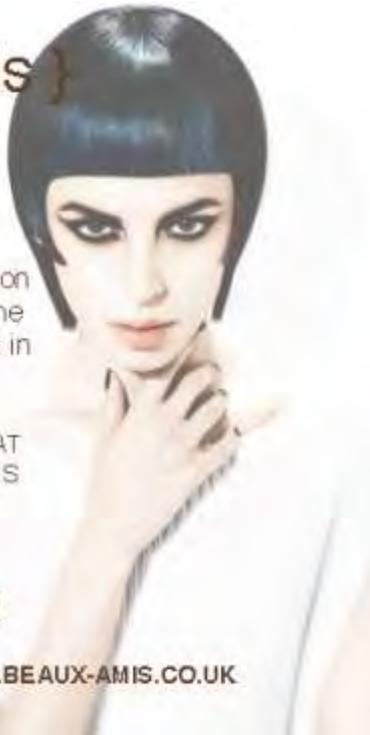
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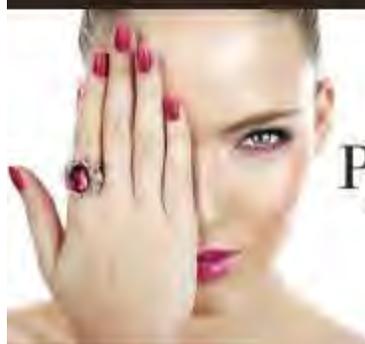
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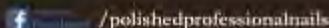


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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George Wingrove

Most of you who have lived locally pre 2009 will know George Wingrove and many of you who have lived locally since then will know him by reputation. George passed away on 28th October aged 93 and his wife Queenie, on 3rd September aged 97. They moved to live with their youngest daughter in South Wales and continued living very active lives. The Wingrove family were Butchers, the shop being where the Vow Bridal Gallery is now.

George served in the Air Force in Egypt as a wireless operator for Wellington Bombers and here he was able to pursue his love of sport. He was a County level 100m runner and after the war played football for Wansford United. Later in life he took up golf and actually played against Mark James in a father/son contest. His real love was Horse Racing and he would cycle to Newmarket with his father just to watch a race - and then cycle home again. He was an active member of the British Legion and The Evergreen Club but his enduring love was for the Church. Stibbington was his mother church and then Wansford and lastly Tiers Cross in Wales.

Community was important to him and he was available to help anybody - his last job for Wansford was Litter Warden, or as he liked to be called, The Road Sweeper. The streets have never been so clean and people have never smiled and chatted as much as when George was amongst us. He and Queenie are survived by a son and 2 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren - and counting. My sister Ann and I went to his funeral and were able to tell his family how important he was to all who knew him.

Mary Marleau, Niece

Dear Tracy

Through your magazine can I please let your readers know about the following event.

**Tolethorpe Actor Michael Harrison
reads and performs
A Christmas Carol
in the candlelit
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Yarwell
Saturday December 7th 6.30 p.m.**

Tickets £12 to include first drink and mince pies

01780 782081/01780 789988

Many thanks

Elli Boroughs

DIARY DATES – DECEMBER 2019

Sun 1	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop	1.00 to 3.30pm	Christie Hall	Stephanie Hibbitt	07739 863542	
Wed 4	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrews	10.30am	Community Hall	Caroline Ashley	782408	9
Fri 6	WI 3 C's Chat, Coffee and	10.30am	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	17
Sat 7	A Christmas Carol	6.30pm	Yarwell Church	Elli Buroughs	782081	37
	Horticultural Society AGM and Christmas Dinner	7.00pm	Christie Hall	Gill Fisher	782446	13
Sun 8	Christmas Angels and Reg Wreaths	1.30—4.30pm	Stibbington Centre		07580 218792	16
Mon 9	Wansford Parish Council	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24
Tues 10	WI Meeting – Textiles through the ages	7.30pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	17
Thurs 12	Arts Society Lecture	10.15am	The Fleet, Old Fletton		01733 767539	
Fri 13	Water Newton's Festival of Lights	7.00pm	St Remigius			8
	Seasonal Singalong with Wansford Ukulele Folk	7.30pm	Christie Hall	Alan Jones	783205	11
Mon16	Highways Agency A47 upgrade meeting	7.30pm	St Mary's, Wansford			25
Jan 2020						
Wed 8	Sibson– cum Stibbington Parish Council	7.00pm	Stibbington Centre	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	
Mon 13	Wansford Parish Council	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24

Copy deadline next month: 20th December 2019

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

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