

# *Living Villages*

A photograph of two dark birds perched on a bare, light-colored tree branch. The background is a pale, overcast sky. The birds are silhouetted against the light background.

*January 2019*

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

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# EDITORIAL

When we moved to Wansford a few years ago, regular 'At Homes' were held at the Christie Hall. For a small sum, many of us would congregate there, with family and friends on a Friday evening and enjoy a wonderful spread of food and a drink or two.

More recently similar events were held in homes around Wansford, where hosts kindly opened their doors and people would arrive with their own drinks, glasses and snacks.

I thought it would be wonderful to start this up again. It's a fantastic way of getting to know your neighbours or even people from further afield as I am hoping that we could get people involved from all five of our villages.

So with that in mind we would like to invite you to

**An At Home  
On  
Friday 25th January  
7.30 til 10.00pm  
4 Old Leicester Road, Wansford**

No need to let us know if you are attending, just come with your tipples of choice, some glasses and snacks, if you wish. We will provide the space and opportunity for you meet each other

*Tracy Sortwell*

## CONTENTS

Contacts	4
Worship lists	5
Reflections	7

### NEWS REPORTS

Friends of Churches	9
Water Newton	9
Wansford and Thornhaugh	

Stibbington Centre	13
Communicare	15
WI	17
Hort Society	27
Nature Notes	33

### PARISH COUNCILS

Wansford	22
Thornhaugh	23 -25

### SPECIAL REPORTS

Know Your Limits	20-21
------------------	-------

Letters to the Editor	37
-----------------------	----

<b>DIARY DATES</b>	<b>38</b>
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# DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS

## Living Villages Editorial Team

Editor	<b>Tracy Sortwell</b> editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk	07841 382063
Treasurer	<b>Gordon Alleyne</b> gordonalleyne@hotmail.co.uk	01780 784531
Distribution Manager	<b>Rod Sortwell</b> r.sortwell@btinternet.com	01780 783403
Advertising Manager	<b>Kate Hopkins</b> katehopkins5@gmail.com	07580 218792
Special Report Writer	<b>Nicky Rogers</b> nicolajanerogers@icloud.com	01780 781770

## Parish Councils

Sutton	Peter Lee (Chairman)	01780 782703
Wansford	Wendy Gray (Clerk)	01778 441312
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	Wendy Gray (Clerk)	01778 441312
Thornhaugh	Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)	01780 782668
Water Newton (Parish Meeting)	Stephen Went (Chairman)	01733 230628

## Churches

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

### Churchwardens:

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

### Friends:

St Mary's & St Andrew's	Caroline Ashley	01780 782408
St John the Baptist	Carol Lindsey	01780 782338
St Remigius Water Newton	Tony Capon	01733 237500

## Other useful contacts

Neighbourhood Policing 101		P'boro City Council	01733 747474
Wansford Surgery	01780 782342	Royal British Legion	01780 782200
(Out of hours	111 option 4)	Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	789996
Wansford Pharmacy	01780 781616	Cricket Club	07860 278800
Communicare	01780 470437	Horticultural Society	01780 782446
H'don District Council	01480 388388	Stibbington Centre	01780 782386

## Website

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

# WORSHIP JANUARY 2019

<b>St Leonard's, Apethorpe</b>		
6th	11.00am	Holy Communion
20th	11.00am	Holy Communion

<b>St Kyneburgha, Castor</b>		
6th	10.15am	Holy Communion
13th	10.15am	Holy Communion
20th	10.15am	Holy Communion
27th	10.15am	Holy Communion

<b>St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington</b>		
6th	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
6th	9.30am	Holy Communion
13th	9.30am	Morning Praise
20th	9.30am	Holy Communion
27th	9.30am	Holy Communion and Sunday School
	6.00pm	Evensong

<b>St Michael and All Angels, Sutton</b>		
13th	9.00am	Family Service
27th	9.00am	Holy Communion

<b>St Andrew's, Thornhaugh</b>		
6th	9.30am	Morning Praise
20th	9.30am	Holy Communion

<b>St Mary's, Wansford</b>		
<i>Every Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer</i>		
13th	9.30am	Holy Communion
27th	9.30am	Morning Praise

<b>St Mary's, Woodnewton</b>		
6th	9.30am	Holy Communion
13th	9.30am	Holy Communion
20th	9.30am	Holy Communion
27th	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP

<b>St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell</b>		
6th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
13th	11.00am	Holy Communion
20th	3.00pm	Methodist Service
27th	11.00am	Holy Communion

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Welcome 2019! I wonder whether that was your feeling as you put up the new calendar or started the new diary at the beginning of the month? For some there will be something special to look forward to in the coming year – a family celebration, a significant birthday, a long-awaited trip of a life-time. For others, the feeling might simply be “Wait and see” with an expectation and hope that this will be a good year for them and those they love.

Others, though, will approach the new year with feelings of anxiety or grief. Perhaps this is the first year without a loved one, or a change in health anticipates a difficult time to come, with an uncertain conclusion. For many financial worries loom large, and some simply do not have a safe and secure place to call home. All this alongside the uncertainties in our national life as we consider our future as a country. Not everyone will have welcomed the new year with joy and anticipation.

The season we have just celebrated centres around the coming of God into his world, to be with us. In doing so, he demonstrated the infinite value humankind and human life have in his eyes and in his heart. As we continue through this new year, may that thought shape our lives and our dealings with each other. May we be aware of those made vulnerable by our political situation as their finances become more precarious, or vital services are reduced. May we be alert for those who struggle emotionally or physically. May we seek ways of sharing the good things of life with those in need, with generosity and even self-sacrifice. May we be ready to accept help when it is offered. May we each, in our own ways, make 2019 a year of hope for all.

Before we leave 2018 behind entirely, could I please thank everyone involved in the many Christmas-tide services in our churches. Much goes on behind the scenes that people don't realise, and all that seems so right on the day needs so much practice and preparation. Thank you all for your commitment, time and energy that enabled us to welcome so many to celebrate the coming of the infant Christ to be with us in our humanity.

With every blessing for 2019.

Rev. Jane

# Garden House

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## FRIENDS OF ST MARYS AND ST ANDREWS

A brief update

The Friends enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch and Carol service at Launde Abbey on December 12th, and following the Community Carol Service in St Mary's on 16th December, we'll be having a bit of a break over Christmas. With only one meeting in January on Wednesday 16th in the Community Hall at 10.30 after Morning Prayer.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

*Caroline Ashley*

## FRIENDS OF ST REMIGIUS WATER NEWTON

### **Candlemas Service and Supper - 3rd February 2019 at 6pm**

Christmas and New Year is only just behind us but we are already planning our next service and social gathering at St. Remigius. On Sunday 3rd February 2019, we will be holding a 'Candlemas' service at 6pm followed by a delicious hot supper of warming chilli con carne and jacket potato. Everybody from all our villages are welcome so make it a date in your diary - come along and enjoy some great company. A small contribution of £5 will be requested towards your supper and refreshments. Rest assured that we will have the heaters on early!

Tony Capon





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## WANSFORD AND THORNHAUGH COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

The Annual Community Carol Service for the Joint Parishes of Thornhaugh and Wansford was held in St. Marys Church On 16th December. As usual the singing was lead by St. Marys Choir under the direction of Eddie Mc Donnell with Nathan Binmore playing the organ.

The choir performed various pieces including *A Christmas Lullaby* by John Rutter and a short extract from Handel's *Messiah And the Glory of the Lord*. Representatives of various local organisations including Wansford Surgery, Thornhaugh Parish Council, Wansford Parish Council, The Horticulture Society, Living Villages Magazine and Stibbington and Wansford Women's Institute carried out the readings.

This years service included some Advent hymns as well as the traditional Christmas favourites. A packed congregation enjoyed seasonal refreshments after the service provided by the Friends of St, Mary's and St. Andrews.



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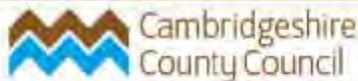
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# Job Vacancies



## @ Stibbington Centre



Would you like to work as part of a friendly and dedicated team, delivering treasured experiences to children and young people?

We have the following exciting new positions available:

- **Site Coordinator**-To oversee the maintenance and security of the buildings and grounds. 12 hours per week
- **Catering and Housekeeping Assistant**-To help look after our young visitors at meal times and provide additional support to the Catering and Housekeeping team. 14 hours per week

These posts are mainly term time with possible opportunities for some work at weekends and in the school holidays. Working times will be discussed at interview and flexibility may be considered to accommodate preferred candidates as appropriate to the role. This includes combining the posts.

Full details and application route can be found online from early January via [www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk](http://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk) (Search: Organisation—Cambridgeshire County Council > Job location—Stibbington Centre)

For more information contact: **Helen Johnston, Centre Manager**  
Tel: 01780 782386 Email [cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

The Stibbington Centre is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be required to undertake a DBS check.

### Stibbington Community Classes **\*\*NEW DATES FOR 2019\*\***

**Saturday, February 2nd, 10:30**—Lucia from ShooSo, will bring machines and materials to teach you how to make a nifty fold away shopping bag and produce bags for loose fruit and vegetables. **£25**

**Sunday, March 3rd, 13:30** -Nicola from Madder Cutch & Co, will be here to teach you the basics of screen printing on fabric, from initial design to a choice of 2 finished items. **£50**

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# Communicare

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

The general patients' meeting which took place at the end of November dealt with a number of matters. Following the guest presentation at the June meeting, the number of people registered for the 'Walking for Health' weekly activities in Nassington has now reached 60 with a regular attendance in excess of 20.

Dr Nally reported that negotiations with Northamptonshire CC regarding the proposed development at Kings Cliffe were on hold due to the council's financial situation but it was now believed that the chosen site would be inadequate in size for the potential layout; investigations are in hand to locate other suitable locations. Arrangements for the convalescing/step-down unit development at Wansford are ongoing with planning permission being sought as well as continuing discussions with Peterborough hospital.

The group's funds now stand at £3647 having increased by £241 over the past three months – thanks were expressed for the generous donation given in memory of the late T. Cunnington. It was noted that the total still includes agreed ring fencing of £2000 but the balance of the amount given in memory of the late T. Smith has been used in part payment for new ECG machine sited at the Kings Cliffe surgery.

The practice is now using the services of newly appointed health care assistants employed by the Greater Peterborough Network of surgeries – these personnel attend patients who are for many reasons housebound to carry out various tasks such as taking blood, blood pressure checks, urine screening, pulse rates, but are not qualified to issue prescriptions.

Although there are notices visible in the surgery's reception area, local knowledge regarding the availability of appointments at the 'Hub' in Peterborough appear to be sketchy. The 'Hub' is operated by the Greater Peterborough Network and sited at the Boroughbury practice in the Lincoln Road area of the city. Appointments can be booked through various routes – by calling '111', on a website, or through the patient's own practice – it is not a 'walk-in' centre and appointments can only be booked for the following 24 hours. The facility is open 7 days a week – weekdays 6.30am to 8.30pm, Saturday 9am to 5pm and Sunday 9am to 12.30pm – it is staffed by local GPs, nurses, and Citizens Advice volunteers. Any patient attending must agree to their online records being shared. Services at the 'Hub' are continuously being monitored and expanded.

It was queried whether the surgery and pharmacy were taking steps to 'stock pile' supplies and drugs to allay any shortfall in deliveries as a result of the Brexit negotiations or lack of a trade deal with EU countries. However the practice had looked into this matter but unfortunately were prevented from taking any action by the NHS who had issued strict guidelines which prohibited such precautions.

The social group's coffee mornings are now suspended until February but their post-Christmas lunch will take place on Friday 11th January at the Cross Keys Inn at Kings Cliffe. Places are limited and will be allocated on first-come-first-served basis – further details can be obtained from Clare on 01780 470437 email: [superfoguk@aol.com](mailto:superfoguk@aol.com).



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## STIBBINGTON AND WANSFORD WI

### Care of our Environment (2005)

"This meeting calls on WI members to take further action to reduce waste and conserve resources in their own homes and communities; to lobby manufacturers, retailers and decision makers to reduce waste in the production, packaging and transportation of public and consumer goods".

*Editors Note: A few years back I was a Trustee of the NFWI and had the honour of presenting the above resolution on behalf of the Board of Trustees at the Royal Albert Hall. It was passed by an overwhelming majority and as become a mainstay of the WI's campaigning themes over the past decade. I am delighted to find out that our local WI are hosting this important event—which I am sure will be an informative and educational opportunity for all that attend.*

**Want to know what happens to the  
plastics you throw into your wheelie bin?**

**Stibbington & Wansford Women's Institute  
invite all people within their community to a  
presentation to be given by  
Amey of Waterbeach  
on the subject of  
'Plastics Recycling'**

**to be held in  
The Christie Hall, Elton Road, Wansford  
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**Everyone welcome!**





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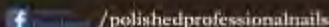
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Tear out page and keep

If I were to draw a six mile radius circle from where I live, I can find virtually every type of road and all of the speed limits that occur on our national road network except for, I think, 40mph.

So what is a Speed Limit? I did ask 'Alexa' that very question and she gave a very long answer as it does of course depend on the type of road and the vehicle being driven. What does need to be remembered though is that these limits are the maximum speed permitted.

Getting caught exceeding these can lead to all sorts of problems, especially if it is an exceptionally high speed or you fail to notify correctly the driver of the vehicle. Unless you have been caught speeding you may not be aware of the number of penalty points or days disqualification that may be imposed. The table below is taken from the Sentencing

Council Guidelines which can be accessed at

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

On top of the points there will be a fine, which will be based on take home pay and how far over the limit you are.

If your speeding falls within the lowest band (lightest green) then a Fixed Penalty Notice is usually issued, which will result in three penalty points and £100 fine. If it's your first offence and the speed is towards the lower end of the band then you can opt to go on a Speed Awareness Course, this will mean that you will maintain a clean licence, although some Insurance Companies do ask if you have been on one.

Having points on your licence will be an expensive additional cost to your insurance, but something which must be declared or your insurance will be invalid. Once your points are there

Speed Limit	Recorded speed		
20	41 and above	31 - 40	21- 30
30	51 and above	41 - 50	31- 40
40	66 and above	56 - 65	41- 55
50	76 and above	66 -75	51– 65
60	91 and above	81 - 90	61- 80
70	101 and above	91 –100	71- 90
Points/ Disqualification	Disqualify 7 –56 days OR 6 points	Disqualify 7 –28 days OR 4 –6 points	3 points

they will stay active for three years and visible for four. If you incur 12 or more points you will be disqualified for a minimum of six months, unless you are able to argue 'Exceptional Hardship.'

### **The history**

The first speed limits were introduced via legislation between 1865 and 1896 and vehicles were limited to 2mph in built up areas and 4mph elsewhere. They also had to follow a pedestrian waving a red flag. In 1896 the pedestrian requirement was removed and the speed increased to 14mph. In 1903 a further increase to 20mph came in, but in 1930 all speed limits were abolished.



In 1934 the current 30mph limit in built up areas was imposed, but no other restrictions were in place until 1965, when the 70mph upper limit for all roads was introduced. Further changes came in 1977 with the 60mph maximum for single carriageways. The 20mph limit was introduced in 1999 and gave local authorities the power to impose this without permission from the Secretary of State.

### **Why do we have speed limits?**

They were originally imposed because people were scared of the power of the motor vehicles and the damage they could potentially cause. There was also great concern that horses would be unnecessarily frightened. The cynics amongst us will say it's a way of HM Government raising revenue. It could also be said that lowering speeds is good for the environment, but this isn't the case for the lowest speed limits. If you've recently taken your Driving Test, then you'll know all the stopping distances and it's pretty obvious that the slower the speed the shorter the stopping distance will be and therefore less likelihood of causing damage and injuries should a crash or accident occur.



Two of our villages, Wansford and Thornhaugh, have 20mph zones, I live within the boundaries of one of them. So far it has not reduced the general speed of traffic past the bottom of our drive. Hopefully something will be done soon to improve the signage and perhaps there might be some enforcement. If there is and you're caught — you've been warned what might happen.



## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

An interesting Wansford Parish Council meeting was held on Monday, the 10th of December

For **starters** we had a presentation about Peterborough Cycle West scheme by Andrew Nash who was talking about having a link from Sutton to Wansford Station. This would enable families to cycle and walk a circular route from Wansford and surrounding villages. The upgraded A47 should have its own cycle track for the fast road cyclist.

Cycle West needs funding to finish the studies for the final planning application. The route goes along the old rail track, underneath the Nene Valley Railway and then up some steps, with a cycle ramp, to link across to Wansford station and then to Stibbington, Elton or Wansford

The members of the public at the meeting felt this was a good idea, finally providing a safe cycle route to Peterborough.

The **main course** was a presentation from John Dadge about Seeds Field, between Old Leicester Road and the A47. This development would mean increasing the village envelope to allow 14 more properties to be built. These would be 4 self-build plots, 2 bungalows, 4 smaller high quality houses for downsizing and 4 prestige homes with possible paddocks at the rear. The developers are saying at this stage there might be space for a community hall and playing fields but this did not seem that definite.

Most people believe that Seeds Field will be developed one day although the usable area is constrained by the high pressure gas main across the site. The idea of looking at this scheme outside the village planning envelope is that it gives the village more control of the development.

We had 17 members of the public present with the dialogue being dominated by three people who were very much against the scheme, claiming that it would inevitably lead to the rest of the field be developed.

Extending the village into Seeds Field is the only way of increasing the size of the village as the other three sides are constrained by the A1, A47 and the river Nene. Some people feel that the village is big enough and does not need all these extra houses causing extra traffic (calculated as a 1.5% increase).

There was some basic agreement for parts of this scheme from the back of the hall but it seemed to get shouted down from the front rows. Three people later sent emails saying that they felt intimidated by the louder members of the public. Was this representative of the village feelings or mainly the attendees who in general lived near the proposed scheme?

The **dessert** was some discussion about Delaine Buses. From the 5<sup>th</sup> January they will be reducing their 205 service through the villages, with the hourly service becoming every 2 hours and cutting the Saturday service completely. A meeting with their Managing Director has been arranged for Councillors to discuss this issue.

Other items on agenda were pushed back to January as it was 10.00 pm when meeting closed.

**Cllr Graham Garner**

# THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Fourth Meeting of the 2018/19 Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018. It was chaired by Chris Smith, present were Liam Higgins, Ashleigh Kewney, Martin Lewis, Louise Molesworth, Lucy Sharpley, Adrian Rodgers, Penny Lewin-Watts and one Member of the Public, Bryan Clary, Tree Officer at Peterborough City Council, Diane Lamb, Ward Councillor and the Clerk.

Prior to the start of the formal agenda, the Chairman welcomed Bryan Clary, Tree Officer, Peterborough City Council. Bryan took the Parish Councillors through the role of the Tree Officer, its powers and influence. He confirmed that they operate both on an advisory and a regulatory role. Tree Officers are more than happy to help and advise resident on what they can and can't do with existing trees – both in terms of felling and pruning. He explained the application of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and also explained their role in the Planning Application process.

The Chairman thanked Bryan for taking the time to come and talk to the Parish Councillors and to help us better understand his role.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Lucy Sharpley declared an interest in Planning Re-Consultation 18/01358/FUL – Conversion of farm barns to provide two holiday lets and erection of cart shed at Croft Farm, Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh.

## **Public Participation**

Peter Sharpley raised the following issues:-

He had attended the Remembrance Day Service in Wansford and no poppy wreath had been laid on behalf of Thornhaugh Residents. There did not seem to be any knowledge of who did this in the past, and it was assumed that this was done by the Royal British Legion (RBL) but the local RBL Branch has been disbanded. The Clerk will ask the Wansford Parish Council who organises/pays for its wreath so we can manage this appropriately next year.

He also mentioned that no response had been sent to Andrew Sharpley in relation to his query about parking in Meadow Lane adjacent to the entrance to his field. A response was sent via e-mail to Andrew and Peter will check that this was received and will also pass on the point that the Parish Council feel that parking issues are a matter for Peterborough City Council

## **Repair of the stone wall at the top of Russell Hill**

It was noted that work to repair the stone wall should be completed soon. The Chairman is awaiting an update from the stonemason.

## **Telephone Box (Library)**

Louise Molesworth's decorator had indicated that the cost for repainting the Telephone Box should be about £500. She will ask him for a quotation as his company may be able to undertake the work in the spring.

## **A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling**

Thanks were expressed to Martin Lewis for raising the issue of the new planned slip road severely affecting access for the residents of the four houses on the A1 southbound carriageway onto the A1. He had been in contact with Highways England (HE), Crosskeys (who own three of the four houses) and Lindsay Searle who owns the fourth house. Crosskeys has now put in an objection to the plans and HE has arranged a meeting has been arranged with Crosskeys and Lindsay Searle on 26/11/18. The Parish Council have offered to attend in support it either Crosskeys or Lindsay think that would be useful.

## **Speeding Motorists in the Village**

Nicki Rogers has designed a flyer discouraging speeding in the village which will be distributed along with the Christmas Tree Lights flyer. Diane Lamb will try to obtain some 20-mph stickers for the rubbish bins. She will also pursue the possibility of Peterborough City Council installing a flashing speed sign in the village.

### **Provision of a Defibrillator in the Village**

Louise Molesworth had established that the British Heart Foundation may give a grant to partially support the cost of purchasing a Public Access Defibrillator but not a Locked Defibrillator, with the balance of the costs and the ongoing maintenance paid by the Parish Council. The alternative is to buy a Locked Defibrillator outright. In the case of a Locked Defibrillator the purchase price is likely to be too high to be fully funded by Parish funds and would therefore require fund raising by village residents. She will liaise with Wansford Parish Council as to the costs of purchasing and maintaining a Locked Defibrillator so that an informed discussion can take place in relation to actual costs. If any resident has any objections or comments relating to the provision of a Defibrillator in the village, please can they inform the Clerk.

### **Hanging Baskets**

Thanks were expressed to Louise Molesworth for organising the winter hanging baskets. The owners of Hillfield Nurseries, who have supplied the hanging baskets for several years, are retiring at the end of the year and so a new supplier will have to be found. Martin Lewis will find out the costs of using a Wisbech wholesaler.

### **GDPR Statement**

It was agreed to upload the GDPR Statement (previously circulated by the Chairman) onto the Thornhaugh Parish Council Website.

### **A1 Access and Exit Signage and Layby**

Disappointingly, after a positive meeting attended by the Chairman, Liam Higgins and the Highways Agency (HA) held on 18/09/18, the layby has now been re-opened which is contrary to what was agreed. The HA confirmed that they were unable to make this happen during the existing roadworks and that a separate application for temporary closure has had to be made. This is an on-going issue which will be followed up with the HA.

### **Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on**

Nicki Rogers is kindly funding the cost of the Christmas Tree from the Bill Rogers Fund. Louise Molesworth will purchase the mulled wine and mince pies which is funded by the Parish Council. The Christmas Tree lights will be switched on at 6.00 pm on 09/12/18 followed by carol singing around the tree with a collection on the night for donations to the Children's Society.

### **Footpath Committee**

Lindsey Freeman was looking into this on behalf of the Parish Council and will report back when she can on the progress of forming the Footpath Committee.

### **Planning Re-Consultation 18/01358/FUL – Conversion of farm barns to provide two holiday lets and erection of cart shed at Croft Farm, Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh**

It was agreed that there were No Objections to the Planning Re-Consultation and the Clerk will put this response onto the Planning Website. Individuals directly affected by the Planning Application will have had the chance to respond personally.

### **Draft Procedure for Managing Business Between Meetings**

The Chairman will circulate this when she has completed it ready for discussion at the next meeting.

### **Draft Policy on Declaring Conflicts of Interest**

The Chairman had circulated this prior to the meeting. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Elected and Co-Opted Parish Councillors**

The Chairman expressed her concerns regarding the different roles of Elected Councillors and Co-opted Volunteer members in terms of their roles and responsibilities. The current format has been in place for just over a year now and it is perhaps time to review how this is working. It is quite clear that voting is restricted to Elected Councillors but some other matters such as debating finances, formally responding to Peterborough City Council business, etc, can be unclear. There is also the matter of accountability and how residents would deal with any conflicts they might have. They can formally request an Elected Councillor be removed, but would not have any powers over Non-elected Volunteer Members. The Chairman agreed to put some thoughts into a discussion document for the next meeting.

### **Light Pollution from the Shell Garage/Starbucks**

It was noted that two flood lights have been situated next to the generator at the Shell Garage and these lights are extremely bright and are highly visible across the fields to the village. Adrian Rodgers will check the contents of previous e-mails regarding this issue. The Chairman will contact the owners of the Shell Garage. If no satisfactory response is received, contact will be made with Environmental Health Department at Peterborough City Council. No further action will be taken with Starbucks.

The Next Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place **at 7.00 pm on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 in St Andrew's Church.** The subsequent Meetings will be held on:- 18<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 16<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (subject to Diane Lamb being available to attend on these dates).

***Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk***

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## Arts Society Peterborough Lectures

### January - May 2019 - Living Villages

#### 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 - Cartoonery: English Attitudes

This lecture covers the history of cartoonery in British public life, as a means of observing and commenting upon society and the politics of the day. Many artists have discovered that humour is the key to winning the hearts of the English. Caricature, satire and the cartoon have given pleasure, satisfaction, amusement and relief, whilst drawing down censure and puncturing pomposity across class divides since the Eighteenth Century. From the witty and genteel to the vicious and scurrilous, these pithy encapsulations of the recognisable, continue to have relevance today. They are miniature masterpieces, ephemeral, yet, enduring through time. From the Georgians, Gillray & Rowlandson, to Punch and Strand cartoonists, Tenniel, Sambourne, Leach and Dickie Doyle, and from Thelwell to Scarfe these visual drolleries have lost none of their appeal.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 - Hogarth: Harlots, Rakes and Crashing China

This lecture, by **Lars Tharp, of Antiques Roadshow fame**, looks at what William Hogarth brings onto his stage as bit-part players in his social dramas - pots, crocks and all types of chinaware - from the harlot's dingy garret to milord's swanky mantelpiece, ceramics teeter, tumble, or merely stand helplessly by, symbolic commentators on the goings-on around them.

He delves into the stories, reveals and identifies particular ceramics and shows how Hogarth's images became sources for the ceramic workshops of Europe and China. A unique and stimulating talk, colliding material culture and moral commentary. He promises that you will look at Hogarth and ceramics with new eyes.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 - Sacred Art of China

This lecture will take you on a tour of the religious art and architecture of China. You will see examples of work of the great faiths that dominated the history of that great civilisation. They will include the ancient, indigenous Confucian and Taoist traditions, the image-rich Mahayana version of Buddhism and the distinctive Chinese responses to Christianity and Islam.

At the heart of this rich culture, lay a series of concerns of truly ancient origin: the maintenance of harmonious relations between men and Heaven; respect for one's family, including the spirits of one's ancestors; the role of the Emperor, as the fulcrum of life in the 'central Kingdom', a role as much spiritual, as secular.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - Plants in Art and Culture

This lecture will look at the concept of 'plant blindness', a phrase that has been coined, in recent years, to identify our tendency to overlook plants. Plants are the dominant aspect of the natural world around us but few residents and visitors to London notice the plane trees on their way to work or social engagements. However, we often talk of our own cultural identities in terms framed by plant language e.g. the 'English' oak is a symbol of national endurance and steadfastness.

It will explain how the plants we place around us denote our emotional state of being - white lilies for mourning or laurel for celebrations of victory. We are plants.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - Leonardo's Women

This lecture is designed to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death. It will study his revolutionary rendering of the female figure and how he harnessed the interplay of light and shadow to produce images that combine the spiritual with the sensual, the mythical with the mysterious. His images of women, whether Madonnas, mistresses or wealthy members of society, are among the most renowned works of art of the Italian Renaissance.

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

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## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our private guided visit to Rockingham Castle's Victorian Christmas festivities on 29<sup>th</sup> November was hugely enjoyable. 25 of us were shown around by the "butler" from 1849 and given an insight into how the Watson family celebrated. The tea and mince pies in the restaurant afterwards were equally appreciated.

The A.G.M./Christmas party on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December was well attended by around 60 of our very congenial and appreciative members who enjoyed a magnificent meal, thanks to the culinary skills of our MasterChef Quentin ably assisted by Anna, Lisa and Mandy. The whole



committee and our active members worked hard to make the evening go smoothly, and Mat's quiz was won impressively by the L.V. editor's team.

The first talk of 2019 will take place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m. in the Christie Hall. Dr Twigs Way,, who back in 2016 spoke to us about "Virgins, Weeders and Queens" will this time be talking about "Aryists and their Gardens – not just Monet's Giverny!" Do join us.

The rest of our programme for 2019 is almost finalised and will appear in the New Year on our website: [www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk). Please contact me if you would like to join (£2.50 per person) or if have any other queries.

And now for a new feature! **IAN'S ANNUAL SHOW TIPS!** Expert advice for show success!

The days are getting longer but **keep off the garden!** Admire its dormant beauty from the windows of your house!

If you **haven't** completed preliminary tasks for 2019 vegetable growing before Christmas, don't panic, you can catch up in the Spring. From the comfort of indoors you can plan what you will grow by looking up the schedule on our website.

Buy your seeds and look forward to sowing onions, carrots and parsnips as weather permits, from end of Feb onwards. (Monthly top up sowings are on the agenda later.)

Younger members of our families, while the darker nights commit them to TV, mobile phones and games, could also experiment in the craft section. Practice makes perfect, they may be too busy outside in the summer, so prepare now to win first prizes in August. This year there will be a children's vegetable section which we will talk about later..

## **MEN UNITED IN SONG 2019: SUPPORTING PROSTATE CANCER UK**

New Year, new you? Looking for a fresh challenge, new skills and a great social scene to boot? Then look no further...

Following its phenomenal success over the last few years, *Men United in Song* is back for 2019, once again raising money for Prostate Cancer UK. Launching in March, the project will sign up a minimum of 40 local men with a range of previous singing experience (including none) to rehearse over 10 weeks for a charity concert at the Cresset Theatre on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May. To date the project has engaged hundreds of local men, raising many thousands of pounds for the charity, as well as inspiring similar projects across the country – a fantastic result!

John, from Moulton Chapel, says "I was looking for something new to do and *Men United in Song* seemed like a great way of meeting new people and supporting a good cause. I wasn't sure what to expect and it was quite a steep learning curve! I didn't realise before that not everyone in a choir sang all the same thing together, there are harmonies too, and when it all comes together it sounds absolutely amazing! The whole experience was fantastic and performing in the concert was the icing on the cake!"

"Having seen *Men United in Song* advertised in previous years and been tempted to get involved, I finally got the impetus to go for it when my father was diagnosed" says Martin from Bourne. "Although the idea initially filled me with some trepidation, the experience proved to be extremely enjoyable and fulfilling. It's a very rewarding opportunity whilst raising vital awareness and funds for the continuing fight against prostate cancer."

"I wanted to improve my singing and *Men United in Song* seemed like a great opportunity!" says Adam from Thorney. "Turning up for the first rehearsal was daunting, but I immediately felt comfortable singing in such a relaxed environment. The highlight for me was knowing that we were creating something amazing for such a great cause. I've met all sorts of people, from farmers to accountants to new dads - without this project we would never have had the chance to meet and discover how we can really sing. I would highly recommend the experience!"

*Men United In Song* is not all about the singing, or even about the fundraising, there's a fantastic social scene, too! Ultimately, it's about a group of men getting together in a shared enterprise, which of course is the idea behind Prostate Cancer UK's Men United campaign, and why the charity seemed such a good fit for the project.

William Prideaux, director of *Men United in Song*, says "Year on year, we see men of all ages from all different walks of life get stuck into this project and give it their all, producing fantastic results over a relatively short period of time both in terms of the progress they make and the sound they produce in the final concert and in terms of raising money for this very important charity. It's always a pleasure and a privilege to work with them."

*Men United In Song* kicks off with introduction sessions on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the John Mansfield Campus in Peterborough. Absolutely no previous experience is required to join, just a willingness to get involved and give it your best shot! "We're not looking for 100 percent in musicality, but 100 percent in enthusiasm" says William. "Why not give it a go, it just might be the best thing you've done in a very long time!"

For further information contact Jo on 01733 425194 or email [menunited@peterboroughsings.org.uk](mailto:menunited@peterboroughsings.org.uk)

Introduction sessions will be at the John Mansfield Campus PE1 4HX on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February (7.30-9.30pm), Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February (7.30-9.30pm) and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (2-4pm). **Please call/email to register.**

Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings from 7.45pm-9.45pm at the John Mansfield Campus, Western Avenue, Peterborough PE1 4HX.

The *Men United In Song* concert will be at Peterborough's Cresset Theatre at 7.30pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

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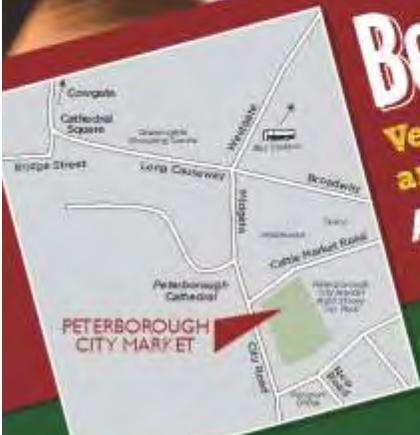
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Most people would agree we are now in the middle of winter. However, over the years people have had different ideas of when winter starts or, indeed, ends. Not so long ago, say the middle of the twentieth century, climatologists used to divide the year into five seasons. Spring, summer and autumn were followed by early winter and late winter. Early winter started on 20th November and lasted to 19th January and was typified by strong westerly winds and night frosts. This was followed by late winter from 20th January until 31st March where severe conditions were common together with icy easterly winds. Snow can appear at any time but will last longer in the earlier months of the new year. Last year's 'Beast from the East' was typical in that respect.

So far, we have had no real snow, but heavy frosts have been present on a number of days. On a recent morning walk along the road between Yarwell and Nassington the verges were white with frost. A number of tunnels through the hedge became obvious and I realised these were more or less opposite a gateway and other tunnels on the other side of the road. As humans we stick to roads and footpaths but here was clear evidence that our local wild animals criss-cross the countryside on long established routes, often during the day but more commonly at night. The frost was not thick enough to hold clear footprints, but the tunnels were a perfect diameter to take a badger or a fox, maybe even a Muntjac deer. The local fallow deer are too large and would have jumped over the hedge. I have seen all in the area, unfortunately sometimes dead. Not all these animals have yet learned not to stare at oncoming motorcar headlights.

Not all winter white is frost or snow. I was recently intrigued by glimpses of a possible rare bird in the garden. My regular winter fieldfare has already arrived to feed on my fallen apple crop but here was another bird of similar size, dark with a lot of white around its head. Closer inspection showed that this was a male blackbird exhibiting partial albinism. Very rarely birds or animals can be born totally white with pink eyes. Humans too can be affected by this genetic mutation. More commonly partial albinism occurs, and blackbirds are probably the most regular examples of this. This bird, probably a winter visitor from the continent, was being bullied by other blackbirds but it creeps back and still enjoys the apples too. Perhaps smaller birds with the trait don't survive the attention long enough to be noticed.

Can I remind readers that The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is holding its annual Garden Birdwatch on 26th to 28th January 2019. By spending just one hour recording the birds you see in your garden and advising [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) you will assist research into our garden treasures. Happy new year.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
**editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk**

**Family village litter pick walks**  
**in memory of the late Brian Watts**

New dates for 2019

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February, Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>, Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>

Meet on Thornhaugh village green  
10.30 am

I have an email group where I send reminders/ updates etc. If you would like to be part of this please text me your email address.

Nikki Higgins 07773287312

Thankyou to everyone who sent Christmas and New Year Greetings to myself and the Editorial Living Villages Team. We also received many thankyou's for the small gift we distributed to our 21 volunteer distributors.

I have been delighted to have already received some excellent articles and photos for the Water Themed edition from Marie Lewis, Rowena Homan and Graham Blagden. I'd certainly welcome some more! I may consider running this theme over a few editions, if space becomes tight.

I have also received a number of emails about the demise of the Saturday and reduction of the weekday village bus service. I am aware that this was discussed very briefly at the Wansford Parish Council meeting. There has also been some sharing of information about this on the Wansford Community Facebook group, which you may wish to join and contribute your views.

A couple of people were curious about the author of the article on Seeds Field, which was on the centre pages last month, it was forwarded to me by a member of the Wansford Parish Council. I was pleased to see that a number of people who attended their meeting took their copy along to reference during the evening.

Finally, if there's something that you think would make a good article for this magazine, please let me know—if you fancy writing it yourself, even better! And if you enjoy photography or just like taking snaps, I'm always on the look out for Front Cover pictures.

**Tracy Sortwell**

## DIARY DATES – JANUARY 2019

Tues 8	WI meeting	7.15pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	
Wed 9	Sibson-cum Stibbington Parish Council	7.00pm	Stibbington Centre	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	
Thurs 10	Art Society Peterborough Lecture — Cartoony, English Attitudes	10.15am	The Fleet, Old Fletton, PE2 8DL		01733 233022	26
Fri 11	Communicare Social Group Lunch		Cross Keys Kings Cliffe	Clare Wagstaff	470437	15
Mon 14	Wansford Parish Council	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24
Wed 16	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's	10.30am	Community Hall	Caoline Ashley	782408	9
Mon 21	Thornhaugh Parish Council	7.00pm	St Andrew's	Deirdre McCumiskey		23
Thurs 24	Horticultural Society Talk Arysts and their Gardens – not just Monet's Giverny!" .	7.30pm	Christie Hall	Gill Fisher	782446	23
Fri 25	At Home!	7.00pm— 10.00pm	4 Old Leicester Road, Wansford	Tracy Sortwell	07841 382063	3
Feb						
Sat 2	Lucia from ShooSo Workshop (making bags)	10.30am	Stibbington Centre		782386	13
Sun 3	Candlemas	6.00pm	St. Remigius	Tony Capon	01733 237500	9
Wed 6	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's	10.30am	Community Hall	Caoline Ashley	782408	9
Thurs 7	Talk about Plastic Recycling	7.30pm	Christie Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	17
Fri 8	Quiz		Stibbington Centre			
Sat 9	Thornhaugh Litter Pick	10.30am	Village Green	Nicola Higgins	07773 287312	

**Copy deadline next month: 20th January 2019**

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Wed	7.00pm	<b>YOGA CALM</b> Kings Cliffe Memorial Hall PE8 6XW
Thurs	10.00am	Wansford Christie Hall PE8 6JS
	4.30pm	<b>Gentle/Chair</b> Easton on Hill Village Hall PE9 3NN
	6.30pm	<b>Mixed Ability</b> Easton on Hill Village Hall PE9 3NN

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