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EDITORIAL

Living Villages marks the start of the 2012 Olympics on the weekend when this magazine will drop through letter boxes by continuing our series of articles that give a local perspective on the Games.

This month our focus is on a silver medal-winning Olympian from the London Olympics of 1948 — yes, that's **1948**! Torchbearer, John Peake of Stibbington is pictured on our front cover enjoying his second "moment to shine", 64 years after he first appeared as a member of Team GB. John's Olympian success is the subject of Viv Thorley's fascinating article on pages 18 and 19. Special thanks to Charlie Brown, Graham Giddings and Gill Fisher who sent their photos, having joined hundreds of other spectators to cheer John on his way. Staying with the Olympic theme, we also feature details of the Cultural Olympiad, thanks to a report from Alan Jones on page 31.

Amongst the many contributions to this month's busy mailbag for the Letters page, three readers comment on Wansford's Jubilee celebrations, and our reports on the celebrations also inspired Nan Alden to reminiscence about times past.

September's Living Villages should be poised for distribution earlier than usual on the bank holiday weekend of 25-26 August. Deliverers who may be on holiday then might like to let Rod know, or make alternative arrangements to ensure that readers in their patch are not left Living Villages-less.

Editorial team and contacts

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Regular features writers:

Reflections: Bishop John Flack
Local history: David Stuart-Mogg
Nature Notes: Graham Blagden
Younger readers: Marcus Arnold
Photographer: Charles Brown

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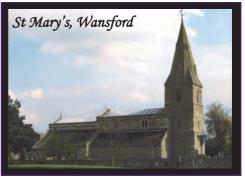
Reporter: Viv Thorley Tel 01780 782616

Email vivienthorley@aol.com









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Date	Time	Location	Service
5 August	10 am	St Andrew's Thornhaugh	Parish Communion
12 August	10 am	St Mary's Wansford	Parish Communion
19 August	10 am	St Andrew's Thornhaugh	Parish Communion
26 August	10 am	St Mary's Wansford	Parish Communion
Every Wednesday	10 am	St Mary's Wansford	Morning Prayer

CHURCH CONTACTS

Acting Priest-in-charge: Bishop John Flack Tel: 782271 Mob: 07810 714056

Email: johnrobertflack@hotmail.com

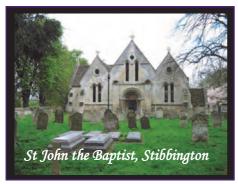
The Vicarage, 34 Station Road, Nassington PE8 6QB

Churchwardens:

Cital Citwal actis.		
Stuart Foreman	6 Russell Hill, Thornhaugh, PE8 6HL	783220
Liz Kemp	Bonemill Pumping Station, Old Oundle Road,	
	Thornhaugh PE8 6NW	782333
Paul Tate	2 Yarwell Road, Wansford, PE8 6JP	782965
Alan Jones	10 Bridge End, Wansford PE8 6JH	783205
PCC Treasurer:		
Judith Rogers	1 Robinswood Wansford PE8 610	783441

AUGUST 2012







Please note that services in Stibbington will take place on the second and fourth Sunday of the month and in Water Newton on the fifth Sunday.

Date	Time	Location Details opposite for Wansford	Service
5 th Aug		or 10.15am Holy Communion at St. Kyneburgha, Castor or 9.30am at All Saints, Elton	
12 th Aug	9.00am	St. John the Baptist, Stibbington	Morning Worship
19 th Aug		As for 5 th Aug	
26 th Aug	9.00am	St. John the Baptist, Stibbington	Holy Communion
2 nd Sept		As for 5 th Aug	

For weddings and baptisms or the arrangement of Holy Communion for the sick or housebound please contact Canon William Burke on 01733 380244 or email wburke@btinternet.com or contact the Parish Office on admin.castor@btconnect.com

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THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S

At our meeting on 18 July we were delighted to welcome Sandra Handley as a new member.

There will be no meetings during August.

In September our meetings will both take place in the Community Hall at 10.30 a.m. after Morning Service at St. Mary's.

See you all back then, - beautifully refreshed to start planning the annual Harvest Lunch, which will take place on 13 October this year. Enjoy your break.

Dora Baker (secretary)

ST MARY'S DIAMOND JUBILEE PROJECT

As Wansford residents will have observed, good progress is being made on the project to create a new north side access to St Mary's Church, together with a disabled toilet.

In spite of the poor weather, work is on schedule to be completed by the end of August. As mentioned in last month's Living Villages, leaflets giving details of our fundraising appeal to help finance this project have been distributed to all villagers. The appeal closes at the end of August and we should be most grateful for further contributions before that date in the form of donations or filled jam jars (Phone the numbers below if you would like them collected). Completion of the gift aid form will enable us to boost your contributions by a further 25%. Additional labels and leaflets are available at the church porch.

These improved amenities will enable us to put the Church to wider community use. We are planning to hold a special musical event in September, open to all villagers to celebrate the opening of these new facilities. Details in next month's Living Villages.

Alan Jones, 01780 783205 or Judith Rogers, Treasurer, 783441

THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY

The winners of the **July 2012** draw are listed here.

Many thanks to **James Ingram**Manager of **The Paper Mills**, **London Road, Wansford**for drawing the tickets.

Mat Free, Administrator

£60	Patricia Shepherd
£50	Mrs P Hull
£40	Juliet Taylor
£30	Mrs C Garner
£20	Alan Jones
£10	Mr K Queenborough







The Haycock Hotel is proud to announce the arrival of their new Executive Head Chef Andrew McCreanor. Andrew is Australian born and has lived in the UK for 15 years, and is living locally to the area. Andrew is passionate about food and using locally sourced produce wherever possible. Andrew's career spans over two decades.

He has consulted on the Australian Master Chef television show, and has cooked for Royalty, celebrities and at many high society events. Andrew says, "I'm so excited to be Executive Head Chef at The Haycock Hotel as it is such a prestigious property in this area and I look forward to meeting many of the local residents and patrons of the hotel"

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, STIBBINGTON & DISTRICT BRANCH

We are very grateful to everyone who attended the Jubilee Band Concert which was held in aid of the Poppy Appeal on 23rd June. We were pleased to see the familiar faces of our

loyal local supporters, but surprised to note that the majority of the 96 tickets sold were purchased by people who are not local residents. However, thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended the concert, we are very pleased to announce that £830 was raised for the Poppy Appeal. This sum includes £242 raised from the sale of raffle tickets and other donations. The Branch Poppy Appeal account for 2011-12 now stands at £9,191.67.

The annual Band Concert has always received favourable comments and it was very evident that the audience thoroughly enjoyed this year's performance. The City of Peterborough Concert Band, under the direction of their conductor Henry Clydesdale, was on excellent form providing a well balanced mix of music suitable for the occasion. As is always the case, the Singers from Hereward Harmony were in very good voice and they also added a touch of humour to the evening. The generous support of the Band and Singers is always much appreciated.

Without the support of the Trustees of the W S Abbott Trust, who allow the Legion to hold the concert in the Sacrewell Barn, the task of organising the event would be made more difficult. We would like to thank them for their continued support and also Mike Rooney and his staff at Sacrewell for setting up and decorating the Barn in readiness for the Concert. Their excellent contribution is invaluable.

The success of these events is heavily dependent on the efforts of our team of volunteers. I would therefore like to express my personal thanks to Brian and Rosemary Skinner, Colin Lloyd, John Peake, Mandy Senior, Sue Arnold, Bryan Shepherd, Olga and Jim Roberts, Rita Kendrew and Pauline Andrews. I must also thank the Singers from Hereward Harmony for giving their performance free of charge, and Gill Bellamy, Brian Skinner and John Peake for donating the raffle prizes.

Brian Andrews

CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

To raise funds for the Poppy Appeal we are holding a Chocolate Tombola at the Annual Show on Saturday 25th August. Donations of chocolate products for prizes are currently being requested.

Please bring your donations to Sue Arnold at Wedgwood Cottage, Wansford.

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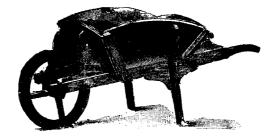
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STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD W.I.

Fifteen members and five guests met at Stamford Shakespeare Theatre, Tolethorpe, on 17July for a picnic. There was an opportunity for a brief meeting while the picnic was enjoyed. Jean Yerbury reported that although we did not achieve one of the top 3 places in the W.I. co-operative competition at The East of England Show we scored a very creditable 120^{1/2} out of 140. Our exhibit depicted the Investiture of The Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle on 1st July 1969:

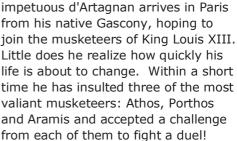
Barra brith, Leek and Welsh cheese muffins, Petit point glasses case, Embroidered and beaded Prince of Wales Feathers cushion and Patchwork handbag were the cookery and craft items. lean invited members to volunteer to be the web editor for the Institute's page on

the NFWI web site. Also, members were encouraged to produce cakes for the W.I. stall at the Wansford Horticultural Show on Saturday 25th August, and to volunteer to help on the stall which would be in one of the marquees this year.

After a delicious bring and share supper in the grounds of the theatre the members and friends took their seats in the theatre for a performance of The Three Musketeers. We could not believe our good fortune in enjoying an evening of better weather

with no rain!

The play opens when the young,



However, he soon becomes their friend, sharing their many richly comic adventures as they meet with larger-than -life characters such as the machiavellian Cardinal Richelieu, the comrades' archenemy and the notorious Milady de Winter, Members particularly enjoyed the performance of d'Artagnan's servant, Planchet! Alexandre

Dumas' famous novel had been adapted for the open-air stage by Linda Alper, Douglas Langworthy and Penny Metropulos, and the director and actors made the most of the beautiful setting at Tolethorpe.

The next meeting will be a Recipe Swop Evening on Tuesday 14th August and this will be held at the home of one of our members. If you would like telephone me on 01780 783441.



more information on this event, please

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COMMUNICARE

The meeting held in early July was attended by only three patients – a very disappointing turnout but this could have been due to the timing coinciding with a certain Scottish tennis player securing his place in the men's semi-finals at Wimbledon!

Matters discussed included an update on the new car park at Wansford; Dr Takhar confirmed that quotations for the work were now under consideration. He also confirmed that as from next April the practice would be re-aligned to the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Clinical Commissioning Group – a notice has been displayed in the surgeries informing patients of this change and any questions or concerns can be discussed with the practice manager. However as the majority of clinical procedures and in-patient stays are already done at Peterborough or Stamford, there would not be significant changes.

Current funds stand at approximately £6500, although £4000 of this has already been pledged as a donation towards the cost of the new car park when the project commences. It is pleasing to note that the monthly coffee mornings are now generating a small but useful sum, mainly due to the change in transport arrangements not incurring the cost of a coach.

At the moment there are no items of equipment required by the practice – however it was noted that the 24-hour ECG machine is now 10 years old and will in the foreseeable future reach the end of its useful life. Replacement will cost in the region of £3000 – it was agreed that at the relevant time Communicare could consider fund raising as a special project. The new Communicare leaflet

has now been drafted and will be printed shortly - ways of distributing this to patients were discussed and are now being investigated.

Concern had been raised by a patient regarding a regularly prescribed tablet changing colour – Dr. Takhar confirmed that as tablets were often in sealed packets the dispensing staff were not aware of colour changes; also the same formula tablet could be supplied by another manufacturer but in a different format. Patients with concerns about prescribed medicines should check with the pharmacy.

The next meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 5th September at Wansford Surgery at 6.30pm – it is your chance to air any views or concerns. Communicare has been an integral part of the practice for over thirty years but its continuing role now needs better support from a wider range of patients – new ideas and input on how the group will function in future years would be most welcome.

The Social Group enjoyed a very pleasant day out to Cromer and Sheringham in June with the rare bonus this summer of lovely weather. No coffee morning is held in August but the day trip to the National Arboretum at Stafford with a fish & chip lunch takes place on Wednesday 8th August (cost £25 per person) there are still a few spaces remaining. The autumn short break holiday leaves on Thursday 27th September for four nights to the Haddon Hall Hotel, Eastbourne (£239) per person twin/double £259 single). More information and bookings contact Clare Wagstaffe on 01780 470437 or email: superfoauk@ Wendy Spencer aol.com.

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WANSFORD HORTICULTURAL & CRAFTS SOCIETY

Following on from a very enjoyable Summer Party at which our new marquee and tables proved their worth, our evening visit to the Blatherwyke Walled Garden was a great success. Despite the heavy showers during the day, we had a largely dry evening and the 30 people who attended were wisely dressed for the elements. Not only did Joe Whitehead show us round the walled garden and what he has achieved so far, he also told us about the estate and showed us the stables, church, ice house, well, and his own small nursery there. It was a true insight into what is left of a country estate and way of life, much of which is being restored. He is such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide that we none of us left until after nine and it was getting dark! A return visit next year looks certain!

At the time of writing there are still a few seats left for our second **coach trip** of the season to **R.H.S. Garden Wisley** on **Sunday 5 August**, so do contact me if you wish to join us to check if they are still available. The total cost is just £12 and we meet as usual outside the Paper Mills at 8.30.

And finally to the 66th **Annual Show** which takes place as always on Bank Holiday Saturday, August 25th this year. The show schedule, if not already in your possession, will shortly be dropping onto your doormat and for the first time sports a splendid full colour cover to mark this momentous year!

Please do look through it and you will certainly find some category that you



are well qualified to enter, be it photography, cookery, craft or of course growing flowers, fruit and vegetables. Do encourage children and grandchildren to participate as well, so that this valued village tradition continues for another 66 years! Entries are registered in the marquee between 5 and 8 p.m. on Thurs 23 August, or drop your entry before that to Quentin Arnold at Wedgwood Cottage next to the Cross Keys. Please return to me any trophies you won last year, cleaned!

Lunches will be served from 12 noon, teas from 2 p.m. and of course there will be the Fun Dog Show starting at 1 p.m. with registration from 11 a.m. There will be lots of stalls and the Gretton Silver Band playing, so join us in the grounds of the Haycock. Anyone who would like to have a stall, selling or promoting, do get in touch, as there is plenty of space, and the more variety we have to offer visitors and participants the better. Volunteers to help on the day, even if only for an hour, would also be most welcome.

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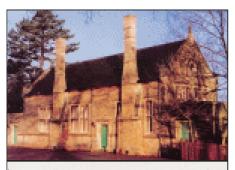
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MEMORIES FROM THE HOME FRONT



4 M. May SIG look M. B. B. middle the school or resonant children men wanted to The broad to School of the broad to School Variage Allo John Landon N. 16.

and the local rehact began to day. 31. Appliformal pupils being necessity.

The head teacher's log book records the arrival of 31 evacuees in 1939.



Inspired by the high level of interest shown by Living Villages readers in memories from times past, an exciting new lottery-funded project aims to gather photos, information, and memorabilia about the local area at the time of the Second World War, and to share the outcomes by means of exhibitions and presentations, as well as on-line and hard copy publications.

The Trustees of the Stibbington Centre Greener Future Trust have joined forces with Centre staff and the Living Villages team to plan the project which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

A special launch event for the project will be held at Stibbington Centre on **Saturday 22 September**. Local people are invited to come along on the day and enjoy the 1940's style atmosphere of our **HOME FRONT FESTIVAL**. The wide range of resources already held at the Centre will be used to mount an exhibition of memorabilia, there will be a chance to dig for victory and take cover in an Anderson shelter, to try spam sandwiches at Lyon's Corner House, and to sample lessons in the World War II classroom in the old school, but beware — there may be gas mask drill and an

air raid! To round off your visit on a more cheerful note, community singing with wartime songs will be the order of the day.

Readers who would like to help with the project by offering the gift or loan of artefacts or documents, and those who would like to share their memories, are invited to contact Stibbington Centre by email at cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or phone Rosie Edwards at the Centre on 01780 782386.

heritage lottery fund

We have a vacancy for a catering and housekeeping assistant to join our happy team at Stibbington Centre, term time on Tuesday to Friday mornings, from 7.15 to 9.15 am. To find out more, use the above contact details.

OLYMPIAN TALESBy Viv Thorley

It was a grey evening in July but still hundreds of people turned out to line the road outside the Nene Valley Railway Station at Stibbington to await the arrival of the Olympic Flame. Flanked by teams of police outriders, the flame duly arrived, carried by a group of staff runners, albeit perhaps, a slight anticlimax as the famous flame could just be glimpsed in the pouring rain, flickering in a small miner's lamp. It was then quickly transported to Peterborough, the train setting off with a flourish of steam and hooting to the strains of Land of Hope and Glory, magnificently played by the Nassington and Yarwell's Britannia Brass band.

Meanwhile, one distinguished resident of the village was waiting with even greater anticipation a few miles away to play his part in the Olympic Torch relay. At the age of 87, John Peake, of The Old Castle Farmhouse in Stibbington was one of the oldest people chosen to be part of the country-wide team of Torchbearers, and certainly the oldest to have the honour of transporting the Torch in this area.

So how did John come to carry the iconic golden torch for a few minutes along the Oundle Road in Peterborough?

He had been nominated by The British Olympic Association (BOA) because he himself had taken part in the 1948

Olympic Games as a member of the GB Hockey team when they won the Silver medal (losing to India, still one of the world's leading hockey teams). This was the pinnacle of



A RETURN TO OLYMPIAN GLORY

John's hockey career. He had become a very proficient player at his public school, Repton, then going on to play for Cambridge University, where he studied Mechanical Engineering. It was at this time that John met his wife-to-be, Elizabeth, who also played hockey for Cambridge.

After gaining his degree, John went into the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors where he trained for four years to become a naval architect... basically, a designer of ships. Whilst at naval college at Greenwich, he was selected to play hockey both for the Navy and then for the Combined Services team and it was during this time that he was selected to play for the England Hockey Team. One year later, in 1948, he was to represent Britain at the first Olympics after WW11 and this was the last time before the present Games that they were held in London. At the age of 23, John was the youngest member of the team, the average age of players in those days being in their early thirties! He also recalls the rather strange practice of a few British Team members being sent food parcels from Commonwealth countries to help build them up during training as it was impossible to get certain foods under rationing.... no wonder the 1948 games were known as "The Austerity Games"

John remembers well the build up to the Great Event but it was nothing like we see today. "After the team was picked, we had a few practices together: there were none of these exhaustive training schedules that today's participants have to undertake" he said. "During the

Olympic guards, police out-riders and even a BBC News helicopter accompany torchbearer, John Peake.

Games, we were billeted in an RAF camp in Uxbridge, nothing like the glamorous, purpose built Olympic villages we see nowadays. In fact, there was none of the razzamatazz that has become such a feature now that goes on for months during

the build up to the Games". John

explained that the opening ceremony was simply the grand parade of the Olympians walking proudly round the Wembley Arena where most of the events took place. As for the closing ceremony "I don't remember much about it" he said. "but it was certainly relatively low-key".

In 1951, John moved up to Peterborough to work for Baker Perkins and ended up 30 years later as first, the Managing Director and then Chairman of the company, being honoured with a CBE for services to industry in 1984.

It is no wonder, with such an illustrious sporting career that John found himself nominated to be a torchbearer by the BOA as a former Olympian medallist, donning the now familiar white tracksuit on July 3rd, waiting nervously for his second moment of Olympic glory, more than 60 years after his first appearance at The Games.

Shortly before his lap he said he was very excited and honoured to be taking part in the relay and to have his family watching him. "I only hope I don't drop the torch" he joked, " I aim to at least start off at a jog, but this will no doubt



turn into a steady walk after a few minutes but it's only about a quarter of a mile, so it's not too arduous!" John added "When they saw my age, they offered me a wheel-chair but I politely declined. I told them I was sure I could manage without!"

However, the quarter of a mile turned into half a mile as the first runner did not turn up and so John had to complete the first two legs of the relay.

"I became the first torchbearer on the Peterborough leg, running from The Gordon Arms to the traffic lights at Shrewsbury Avenue" he explained. "I paced myself by starting at a jog then walking for a bit and then finishing at a jog again and I didn't even get out of breath. It was all very exciting and I thoroughly enjoyed myself as so many people were waving flags and I was waving back."

So what is John going to do with his beautiful golden torch? "I have decided to give it to my old prep school in Cambridge as they nurtured my love of sport in my early years" he said.

No doubt, little did his school know all those years ago that they were, in fact, nurturing an Olympic star twice over.





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WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Our Police Community Support Officer, Aimee Hunter, was appointed in April and is based in Bretton to cover 9 villages. At our July meeting she clarified that emergency 999 calls go to Thorpe Wood Police Station whereas nonemergency calls, e.g. reporting suspicious circumstances, should be dialled 101. She reported that there had been no crimes reported in Wansford last month but asked that she should be contacted if a suspicious red van with white writing on it touting for scrap metal were sighted. We discussed problems with the old bridge and she agreed to pursue those responsible for signage on the south side with a view for improvements and a reduction of heavy vehicle traffic over the bridge, whilst we liaise with Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council to try to resolve these matters. She was aware of the need for policing of the bridge when there is a blockage of the A1 northbound. We also made her aware of our concerns about vehicles speeding through the village. We appreciated that Aimee had given up her time to come to the meeting. Her email address is

aimee.hunter@cambs.pnn.police.uk.

30mph wheelie bin stickers: A few have appeared in the village and it was agreed that we should ask for more with the words "Slow Down Please" and that councillors should visit residents on Old Leicester Road and Old North Road on a Monday evening, to hand stickers out and ask them to put them on their bins.

Peterborough City Council Landscape Officer: John Wilkinson will visit the village on Thursday 5th
September to see and discuss any

issues with parishioners concerning trees etc. Those who are interested in being included in the visit please contact our Parish Clerk (wendy7wansford@hotmail.co.uk).

Roundabout [A47/Old North Road intersection]: We will request that Atkins, the company responsible for the roundabout, clean it up and install gravel and rocks whilst retaining the current trees. We will also contact PCC to seek improvement in general verge maintenance

Village Map/Information Board: It is proposed that an A1 size, vertical, GRC facia (plastic-like wood) notice board with a map, photographs and text will be sited on the north side of the green near the bench.

A Toddlers Play Area: Contact has been established with the person responsible at PCC and a meeting held with her, Parish Councillors Stannage, Burrows and Forward, PCSO Hunter, City Councillor Lamb and two representatives from the Nene Valley Tots group. A further meeting is proposed with representatives of the Nene Valley Tots who have expressed interest and support for a play area, for toddlers, to be established in the village. Plans need to be drawn up and submitted for us and others to seek support and finance. PCC would be expected to maintain and insure a play area once it had been established. Consideration of the availability of an area will be on our next agenda.

Our next meeting in the Community Hall is at 7:30pm on Monday 13th August 2012 – we hope to see you there and be able to profit from your contributions to discussion.

Councillor Tim Pearson



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SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Environment Centre, Stibbington on Wednesday, 4th July 2012 at 7.30pm.

Present: All Councillors were in attendance. 2 members of the public were also in attendance.

It transpired via the Public Forum that the new Street Light recently erected opposite the Christie Hall was not the street light which BT had removed some time ago. Cllr. Beuttell will investigate as a matter of some urgency how this error occurred, and discuss with HDC as soon as possible. The Annual Accounts for 2011/2012 were signed off and approved by the Parish Council.

Planning Application 1200901FUL – erection of single storey courtyard extensions, rebuild of summer room to courtyard, erection of replacement porch and replacement of dormer window to western elevation at 6 London Road, Wansford PE8 6JB: The Parish Council reported they had no objections to the proposed structural changes to the house, and felt the changes would enhance the property. The Parish Council understands that plans are to be submitted by the vendor for a fence around the said property and would like to look at these as a matter of urgency (i.e. Public Right of Way) issues.

The Parish Council Website has been built and is looking very professional. The Parish Clerk will undergo training to be able to keep the website up to date. The website will be up and running by the next Parish Council Meeting in September.

Correspondence was received from a resident of Chapel Court concerning parking at the entrance to Chapel Court and the state of the road. The Parish Council reported that as the entrance road is on private land the Parish Council cannot assist with either the state of the driveway or the parking issues.

Following the recent torrential downpours we have been experiencing, causing flooding in some areas, we have made a request for Highways to clean all the drains in the village.

The Parish Council has received and installed three "Dog Foul" bins, and would encourage all Dog Owners to use them.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th September 2012.

Councillor Marge Beuttell

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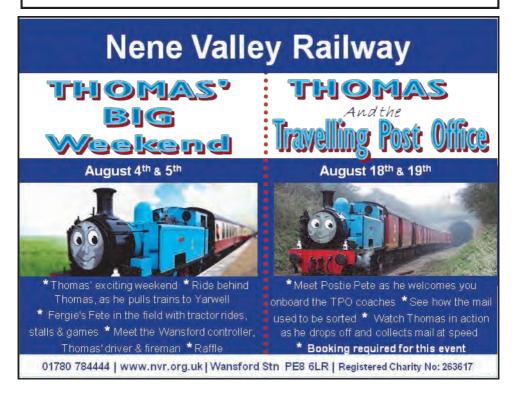


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THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Inaugural Meeting of the 2012/13 Parish Council was held on 17th July 2012. It was chaired by William Rogers, present were Liam Higgins, Ian Molesworth, Brian Watts and Martin Witherington and in attendance were four members of the public and the Clerk. There were apologies for absence from Cllrs John Holdich and Diane Lamb (Ward Councillors).

Public Participation

The Members of the Public raised the following issues:-

Lack of general maintenance work undertaken in the village, including grass cutting, gulley cleaning, tidying up around street light and road signs by the Fix-It Team (the Clerk will obtain a list of what the Fix-It Team should be undertaking)
Blocked gulley on A47. Mr P Tebb, PCC had already been contacted about this and had agreed to inspect it (the Clerk will request that it is monitored and cleaned out on a regular basis)

Home Farm Matters

Martin Witherington stated that he was submitting a Planning Application for the re-building of his late mother's cottage at Home Farm and the Parish Council will be sent details by the Planning Department later .

Report on Royal Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Brian Watts report that despite the inclement weather conditions, the day had been very successful and thanks were expressed to everyone who contributed. It was noted that £350 had been raised for the Downs'

Syndrome Association, Peterborough. It was agreed to put an article and photographs onto the Website.

Speeding in the Village

Ms C George, Road Safety Officer had confirmed that members from the road safety team had undertaken random speed surveys in Thornhaugh at different times of the day w/c 2nd July 2012. Vehicle speeds were monitored in the 30 mph zone as they entered and exited the village. On each occasion only a few vehicles' speeds were recorded, for example during one morning between 8.30 am and 9.00 am only five vehicles were recorded and the speed of vehicles ranged from 22 mph to the highest speed recorded of 37 mph. Ms George had also raised the question with Highways again regarding a "SLOW" marking and moving the national speed limit sign to behind the bend and is currently awaiting a response from the Network Manager.

It was agreed to request a decision from the Network Manager as a matter of urgency and to request that Ms George attends the next Parish Council Meeting. Liam Higgins stated that he wished to record his objection to the proposed 20 mph due to the number of signs already in the village.

Double White Lines on A47

It was noted that although funding has been agreed, there has been a delay in the painting of Double White Lines on the A47 due to awaiting permission from the Department of Transport. Continued on page 27

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Continued from page 25

Peterborough Planning Policies Planning Development Plan Document

Martin Witherington had raised concerns that Home Farm was not included in the village envelope and would be attending a meeting regarding this in July. A Planning Inspector will be visiting Home Farm to consider the issue.

Village Sign

A discussion took place regarding the supply and erection of a Village Sign. One of the members of the public had undertaken some research and had brought along a leaflet from a local wood-carver. It was agreed Brian Watts would meet with the local wood-carver to discuss possible design and cost. It was noted that the Parish Council would not fund the cost of a Village Sign but would look at applying for grants for the cost.

Footpaths Around Cooks Hole

Brian Watts reported that Footpath Number 3 is open but Footpath No 4 is not in operation yet and incorrect signage is currently displayed. He will put a map showing the current route of Footpath No 4 onto the Village Noticeboard and request that he is informed when Footpath No 4 is open.

Bell Ringing

It was noted that there had been bell ringing practice at St Andrew's Church until 9.00 pm on 16th July 2012. This issue will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The Second Meeting of the 2012/2013 Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 9th October 2012 in St Andrew's Church.

Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk to the Council

ALL CHANGE AT WANSFORD POST OFFICE

For as long as any resident of Wansford can remember, the Post Office in the village has been the sorting office for all the mail which arrives early in the morning for the daily house to house delivery. However, we have now come to the end of an era.

Since mid July, all mail is now being sorted at the main Peterborough Sorting office in Orton Southgate. Our regular, stalwart postie, Martha Powell, will still continue her village round on her trusty bike, but she is now having to do the initial sorting at the central office: she is picked up every morning in a PO van and ferried back and forth to Orton Southgate!

The village Post Office, of course, still remains open for business, and people will still be able to collect any packages or mail at the PO counter which could not be delivered to their house. However, any "postage due" items now have to be collected from the central sorting office in Orton.

Viv Thorley

Nene Tolles

NENE VALLEY TOTS

Nene Valley Tots continues to meet every Monday in the Christie Hall at 10.00 to 11.30 am for play, crafts, a snack and a sing-song.

All children aged 0-5 and their parents/carers are welcome..

To cover costs we charge £1.50 for adult and 1 child, plus 50p per

additional child (which includes a well earned cup of tea or coffee for adults too!). As usual, we will be open during school summer holidays.

This year we are also looking into the ongoing need for a children's play area in Wansford – if you have ideas on what you would like to see provided, possible locations, or would like to volunteer to help us promote the project

or raise funds, please do get in touch by phone or email!

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YOUNGER READERS' BLOG By Marcus Arnold

MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD

I have been looking forward to today for a few weeks now because school is out for the summer. But I think tomorrow might be even better. The weather forecast says that the rain is going to stop at last and the sun is going to start shining. It seems that everything I have done since my last blog has been covered in mud.

I have been on quite a few trips. The first one was to the East of England Show which was an adventure from the beginning. I had to get a different bus from Queensgate out to Lynchwood. I have really got used to buses this year since I have been going to school in Peterborough. It has a down side though because if I want to go somewhere and ask for a lift Mum just says -

"Well you could go on the bus." The Show was brilliant. We looked round at everything from the animals to the traction engines, made pizzas and sampled everything in the food hall a few times. The best part was when we were looking round the country sports area. My sister and I found a chef giving cookery demonstrations using game. The dish we saw and liked best was pan fried partridge in a porcini mushroom sauce. It was delicious and because we were the only ones there, we got to eat the lot for free. The African village was brilliant but like everywhere it was very muddy. We didn't mind though because we knew it would be so we were dressed for it.



Then I went on a school trip to Gilwell Park for a couple of days. We went as part of the school's activity week. Once we were there, we were shown our rooms. I was in with Benjamin, Oliver and David. We had to sleep in bunk beds in sleeping bags which seemed a bit strange. During the days we took part in archery, grass sledging, rock climbing and Jacob's ladder. My favourite was grass sledging because it was new to me and it was brilliant fun. It is like a normal sledge but has tracks instead of runners. Your partner has to push you to get going but once you are off you go really fast. The first few times we stopped ourselves by rolling off into the mud. Then we got more confident and stayed on right to the end of the run.

I am on a tennis course next week, so bring on the sunshine.

NATURE NOTES By Graham Blagden

ALLOTMENT ATTRACTIONS

Working an allotment has a number of advantages and not just enjoyment of the resultant crops. The plot itself is a couple of hundred yards from my cottage and this offers an attractive walk, offering numerous opportunities for noting wildlife. The plot is on high ground and this also affords good views over the surrounding countryside.

Just this week I was attracted by considerable insect activity on a patch of wild marjoram beside the footpath. The small downy leaves of this herb exude the scent and produce an oil known as oil of thyme which can be used as a painkiller. Amongst the buzzing bumble bees, the zigzagging of the hover flies and the fluttering common white butterflies was something different. A dark, medium sized butterfly, but one I had not seen before. The dark colour was chocolate brown marked by six or seven bright yellow spots on the open front wings; the rear wings had a single yellow spot. It was a Speckled Wood. This beauty is common in our local woodlands, spreading through the East Midland forests, but is now to be seen more often along our hedgerows.

Moving on to my plot my eyes, and ears, were drawn to the sound of swifts screaming across the sky. There is a breeding colony in the village and the numbers increase during July and August as the young ones fledge and learn to fly. These hooligans of the sky insist on making themselves known to all in the village with their screams and are an indelible memory of summer. Their parents will already be thinking of leaving and by next month the youngsters will have followed them on their long journey to Africa.

Another sight caught my eye. Starling numbers are reducing across the country but our village flock is healthy and increasing in size year by year. This flock swirled across the playing field, dispersed and got together again before settling on the electricity wires and the church tower. One day it may be large enough to really produce magic patterns in the sky.

My final sighting was not as pleasing. My once neat rows of broad beans and peas were flattened and the tops of lettuces had been eaten. The culprit(s) were clear: large cloven hoof prints and droppings much larger than those of rabbits were obvious on the soil. Deer! They had first visited during the February snows when the tops of broccoli had been eaten. I thought that was a one-off occurrence but the recent wet conditions may, surprisingly, have encouraged the animals out of the forest to find more appetising food. Several plots have been affected. It is gratifying to be honoured by their presence but will I feel the same if this becomes regular? One must accept that the wonderful, natural balance of nature can take many forms.

A CULTURAL OLYMPIAD EXPERIENCE

I recently had the privilege of being involved, as a member of a choir, in a project which is part of the celebration of the Cultural Olympiad, "Golden Fables 2012" was funded by the Arts Council and Legacy Trust UK.

It was described as a poetic drama inspired by Lincolnshire myths and legends, celebrating Lincolnshire yesterday, today and tomorrow. It was all original material created for this project with the fables written by well known poets including the Poet Laureates of Scotland and Wales. These were then set to original music by international composers Gabriel Prokoviev, Tim Darling and Luke Carver Goss. The writers and composers creativity was brought to life as the pieces were sung a cappella by a 70 strong choir before a backdrop of images on a big screen, and supplemented by the words of actors on stage.

The Choir Invisible which is also known as The Desmond and Leah Peace Choir, sang in up to seven part harmony with special arrangements written by Choir Director Sally Brown.

The initial performance as part of the So Festival was performed at the Embassy Theatre Skegness. This was followed by an appearance on the BAFTA Stage at the well known Latitude Music and Arts Festival in Southwold Suffolk. The stage performance was made into a film which was shown in theatres and art centres throughout Lincolnshire. A documentary film showing the development of the project has also been made and it is planned that this will feature on the Olympic website and be shown on a big screen at the Olympic Park.

It was quite a challenge learning seven new songs in a short time frame, but overall this project was an interesting and exciting experience.

Alan Jones

For information:

The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Since 2008, the Cultural Olympiad has featured programmes and projects inspired by London 2012. As part of the Cultural Olympiad:

- More than 16 million people across the UK have taken part in or attended performances.
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- More than 3.7 million took part in nearly 3,700 Open Weekend events. The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad is the London 2012 Festival, providing over 10 million chances to see free world-class events throughout the UK. To find out more about what's been happening in the Cultural Olympiad, visit http://www.london2012.com/about-us/cultural-olympiad.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Rosie,

Thanks for the July news - what a social life you lot lead!

I am always intrigued when you include a photo taken inside the Christie Hall and always search for a possible sighting of the clock! You will see from the attached picture of my wedding reception on February 5, 1955 (!) that the clock featured on it appears to be the very same one still ticking away on page 31 of the July magazine - can this be true?

I watched BBC and ITV closely on the day "The Torch" came to Wansford Station but they didn't go there! The Orton station was not in existence when I travelled that line every day - we went straight through to Peterborough East.

"The Torch" came right past my flat last Thursday so we saw everything from our balcony - all the huge wagons and buses they were running late so it was all over in a second! Good to see though....

Nan Alden

Hi Rosie I thought readers might be interested in a very small piece of Wansford History.

The workmen excavating by the Church on what is now village green, but was the road until 50 years ago have found a 24mm diameter Policeman's Button that has had its loop broken off from the back. Readers will note the legend Liberty Police. It would be interesting to know if the policeman lost his button in a brawl, possibly with

Living Villages postal subscriber, Nan Alden moved away from the local area some years ago but likes to keep in touch with our news, and to contribute her fascinating memories from times past too!



some drunken customers from the Mermaid pub that used to be opposite.

David Stuart-Mogg tells me The Liberty of Peterborough police were formed in 1857. The button bears a Queen's crown, so it could date from anytime between 1857 and whenever they ran out of buttons after 1901 and had to order anew with a King's crown. David is trying to track down the location of the village police house of this period (not the more recent one in Peterborough Road), please let him know if you have any idea.

Regards, Martyn Handley

rosied@globalnet.co.uk

In the three notes below, readers offer their comments about Wansford's Jubilee celebration and our coverage of it in July's Living Villages.

Hi Rosie

I have just received my bundle of Living Villages for delivery and to my amazement, there's my cake on the front page. There's fame for you.

I thought I would thank you personally for the kind words in your editorial. As I am certain you know, it can be thankless when you get involved in village life, and your sentiment will be much appreciated by all of us I'm sure. It certainly is by me!

Elin Styles

Dear Rosie,

Would it be possible to add a personal comment from me thanking Gerry Wilding and Archie Bennett, for taking time to erect the bunting throughout the Village, for the Jubilee Celebrations. Also all property owners who allowed their homes to "host" the erection of flags and bunting.

Kind regards, Marge Beuttell

Hi Rosie

It certainly was a shame about the Jubilee weekend and that awful weather, but we all seemed to manage and ended up having a lovely time anyway.

Your Editiorial was lovely but.......I would like to say that there was no mention about how lovely Wansford-in-England looked with all the bunting which was put up by Gerry Wild at his own expense. Donations of flags were given by Gerry Wild, Archie Bennett, George Hearty and Maggie Cracknall. I and many other Wansford residents would have liked to say a BIG THANKYOU for all his time and effort in making the Village look so festive.

Kind regards, Dagmar Price



Dear Rosie

This record breaking wet summer has at least kept our wonderful village green and full of attractive flowers and shrubs. Apart from the occasional fast food discard, it has been very tidy thanks to our spring litter picking volunteers.

However, has anyone glanced up at the forest of outdated flyposting which is a constant eyesore on our trees, posts, shelters and traffic signs?

It consists of event notices, lost pets, planning notifications (2 or 3 years out of date), taxi numbers, directions for runs, cycle rides, housing developments and many others. And nobody takes them down when they are past their sell by date. Well I do and I encourage other residents to do the same while out walking, to reduce this unsightly clutter.

Wansford Womble

DIARY DATES - AUGUST 2012

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Contact	Phone	р
Sat 4	Pet Show		Sacrewell	Sacrewell	782254	8
Sun 5	Horticultural Society visit to RHS Wisley	8.30am	Meet at Paper Mills	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Mon 6, 13, 20, 27	Nene Valley Tots	10.00am	The Christie Hall	Jane Hunt	782438	28
Wed 8	Communicare day trip to National Arboretum			Clare Wagstaffe	470437	13
Mon 13	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Wansford Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 341496	21
Tue 14	Stibbington & Wansford WI recipe swap evening	7.15pm		Judith Rogers	783441	11
Sun 19	Teddy bears' adventure picnic		Sacrewell	Sacrewell	782254	8
Thur 23	Horticultural Show registration	5.00 — 8.oopm	Haycock Park marquee	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Sat 26	Horticultural Society Annual Show	From midday	Haycock Park marquee	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Fri 31	Closing date for Thomas Woolsey Charity grants			Sue Meacock	783381	
Fri 31	Closing date for St Mary's church, Wansford Diamond Jubilee project fund raising appeal.			Alan Jones Judith Rogers	783205 783441	7

Looking ahead: SEPTEMBER 2012

Wed 5	Communicare AGM
Wed 5	Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council
Wed 12	Sutton Neighbourhood Policing Panel
Sat 22	Home Front Festival at Stibbington Centre
Thur 27	Communicare short break to Eastbourne



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