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EDITORIAL

It's not every day that you find empty beer bottles and cans tastefully arranged in a church beside a beautiful flower arrangement. The front cover photo shows just one of a stunning array of exhibits that filled St John the Baptist church, Stibbington at its Flower Festival on 22 June; see page 13. The floral displays had been sponsored by local organisations, and this one, entitled "Mine's a pint" was provided courtesy of The Paper Mills.

The Flower Festival was one of many events that packed our diaries during the month of June, and there are reports on several of them in this magazine along with details of more events for July, ranging from a theatre trip (p16), a barbecue (p9) and visits (p15, 18 and 36) to an Old Time Music Hall. (p35)

We also feature this month controversial and topical issues that may be of interest to readers: Canon William Burke discusses Christian values in a multicultural society on pages 7 to 9; Martin Lewis gives us an update on the still derelict former Litte Chef site at Wansford (p32); PCSO Mary Webber tells us about crime and its prevention in our area (p36); and three of our Parish Councils report on the planning applications and other local issues that have been filling their agenda (p23, 25 and 27).

With a spectacular Norman chancel arch (Local history p 20,21), tips for taking care of our feet (Health and fitness p29) and our bountiful countryside (Nature Notes p31) too, there's a wide range of topics to interest readers, so take time out to sit back, relax and read on . . . ,

Rosie McDonnell

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Editorial team *For contact details see p 4*

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Editor: | Rosie McDonnell |
| Advertising manager: | Carole Whincup |
| Distribution manager: | Rod Sortwell |
| Reporter: | Martin Lewis |
| Photographer: | Charles Brown |
| Printing and collation: | PPS/ Print |

Regular features writers:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Reflections: | Canon William Burke |
| | Rev Michael Matthews |
| Local History: | David Stuart-Mogg |
| Nature Notes: | Graham Blagden |
| Health & Fitness: | Dan Whiter |
| Younger Readers: | Karina Chappell |

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DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS @

Living Villages Editorial Team

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Editor | Rosie McDonnell | 01780 783639 rosied@globalnet.co.uk |
| Advertising Manager | Carole Whincup | 01780 783055 carole.whincup@gmail.com |
| Distribution Manager | Rod Sortwell | 01780 783403 r.sortwell@btinternet.com |
| Reporter | Martin Lewis | 01780 783668 mtlewis00@btinternet.com |
| Website: | www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk | |

Parish Councils

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Sutton | Peter Lee (Vice Chair) | 01780 782703 |
| Wansford | Wendy Grey (Clerk) | 01778 441312 |
| Sibson-cum-Stibbington | Wendy Grey (Clerk) | 01778 441312 |
| Thornhaugh | Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk) | 01780 782668 |
| Water Newton (Parish Meeting) | Tony Capon (Chairman) | 01733 237500 |

Churches

| | | |
|---|----------------------|---|
| Ministers: Thornhaugh & Wansford | Rev Michael Matthews | 01780 782271 frmichaelmatthews@btinternet.com |
| Stibbington & Water Newton | Canon William Burke | 01733 380244 wburke@btinternet.com or Parish Office, admin.castor@btconnect.com |

Churchwardens:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| St Andrew's Thornhaugh: | Stuart Foreman | 01780 783220 |
| | Liz Kemp | 01780 782333 |
| St Mary's Wansford: | Paul Tate | 01780 782965 |
| | Alan Jones | 01780 783205 |
| St John the Baptist, Stibbington | Richard Winfrey | 01780 782431 |
| | Carol Lindsay | |

Friends:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| St Mary's & St Andrew's | Dora Baker | 01780 782519 |
| St John the Baptist | Helen Facer | 01780 782932 |
| St Remigius Water Newton | Tony Capon | 01733 237500 |

Other useful contacts

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Neighbourhood Policing 101 | Horticultural Society | 01780 782446 |
| Wansford Surgery | Royal British Legion | 01780 782200 |
| (Out of hours | Stibbington & Wansford WI .. | 01733 293838) 782510 |
| Wansford Pharmacy | Cricket Club | 01780 781616 782109 |
| Communicare | | 01780 470437 |
| H'don District Council | | 01480 388388 |
| P'boro City Council | | 01733 747474 |



St Andrew's, Thornhaugh



WORSHIP
JULY 2014



St Mary's, Wansford

| Date | Time | Location | Service |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6 July | 9.30 am | St Andrew's, Thornhaugh | Holy Communion |
| | 10.15 am | St. Kyneburgha, Castor | Holy Communion |
| | 4.00 pm | St. Mary's Wansford | Family Service |
| | 4.30 pm | St Remigius, Water Newton | Mid Summer Strawberry Service |
| 13 July | 9.00 am | St. John the Baptist, Stibbington | Morning worship |
| | 9.30 am | St Mary's, Wansford | Sung Communion |
| 20 July | 9.30 am | St Andrew's, Thornhaugh | Morning Prayer |
| | 10.15 am | St. Kyneburgha, Castor | Holy Communion |
| 27 July | 9.00 am | St. John the Baptist, Stibbington | Holy Communion |
| | 9.30 am | St Mary's Wansford | Morning Prayer |

Wansford:

Mondays 3.00 pm

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Wednesdays 10.00 am

Morning Prayer



*St John the Baptist,
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*St Remigius,
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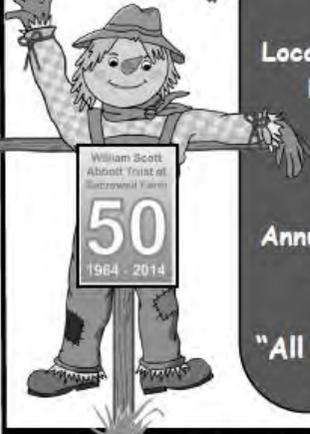
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REFLECTIONS

By Canon William Burke

CHRISTIAN VALUES IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Earlier this year the Prime Minister suggested Britons should be “more confident about our status as a Christian country”. He was attacked on a number of fronts for that statement. Some people said it was just plainly inaccurate; that statistically it might have been true once but no longer was. Others accused him of fostering division within our communities. Others felt that the matter of religion should be kept in the private domain and not be raised as a matter of public policy. The Sunday Times responded with the following headline:

Q. Where in the world do you find Christmas banned, Arabic compulsory and boys and girls forced to sit apart?

A. A school in Birmingham.

My response is like it or not religion is clearly in the public sphere if that sort of thing is happening in state schools. The reporters in the Sunday Times went on to write: *Islamist ideology has jeopardized learning and may have put children at risk of radicalization.*

Mr Cameron apparently felt the need to raise the issue of Britain as a Christian country in the light of such news. The plain fact is that religion is rightly or wrongly very much in the public domain and the question in part is about an appropriate response on behalf of the church to such news. What for example do we mean when we describe Britain as a Christian country today? Do we mean simply that most people are practising or worshipping Christians or define themselves as Christians? The statistics are not straightforward. When the 2011 census was taken, 59 per cent of those in England and Wales described themselves as Christian. But the 2001 census found 72 per cent were nominally Christian. *“The net loss of 4.1 million Christians would have been much worse had it not been for an influx of 1.2 million foreign-born believers.”*

I suspect, although of course I do not know, that actually Mr Cameron was not referring to the statistics; he was possibly referring to our cultural and spiritual heritage. In a sense the spiritual geography of the country is still Christian. Most cities have a large cathedral. Most towns have churches near the centre; in most villages the church is still the most significant building. Thousands of war memorials and village crosses are “Christian” in style. Mosques of course in many places are also becoming dominating features. But I sense that Mr Cameron was not referring to the spiritual geography either but to a much more intangible inheritance, that of shared values that are perceived by most people to be vital to our well-being and important to most people. These include certain rights and obligations as members of our society, the importance (sacredness even) of the individual in the eyes of God and neighbour, and the scriptural duty to treat others with dignity and respect. Clearly there have been many occasions when Christians have behaved as badly as anybody else and when churches have abused their power and authority; but this does not diminish the essential values which are central to Christianity and by which its adherents should be judged.

But I would go one stage further. I believe the church has to have the courage to say some values are not merely cultural but should be universal, that they are not negotiable. The church and its members have to say in the public forum of debate that the form of expressions of some faiths and religions in practice is not acceptable. If for example the Sunday Times report is true then we need to have the courage to say that it is not acceptable in this country and that such things should not be allowed in a school funded by the public purse. But even more I believe we have to find the courage to give space for moderate Muslims to speak out.



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Reflections continued

We have to encourage them for example to condemn publically the behaviour of the militant Muslims who abducted the Nigerian school girls, for if the moderates do not condemn such actions the assumption will be that they do not object. One of the Christian values that has been intrinsic to the faith since the foundation of the church is the moral courage to stand up and state unequivocally that the treatment of some people, especially the vulnerable and oppressed might be plain wrong, not just a matter of cultural difference. At the end for me, it is the values represented by Jesus' teaching about the wellbeing of individuals and communities that are matter of public concern and part of our heritage still today.

When he (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

If the behaviour of some Muslims at schools in Birmingham or in Northern Nigeria contradicts this statement of Jesus we have to have the courage to challenge their behaviour and beliefs as unacceptable. This is not racist or religious hatred. It is something central to our inheritance that I suspect Mr Cameron might have been trying to express. But then we have to challenge behaviour that oppresses human beings wherever we see it, whether it be in the life of neighbouring religions and cultures or in the life of our own church or our own nation too. The Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury, who has said that Christians might soon become "strangers in our own land", told The Independent: "Christianity is the single most important element in England's history. From our legal system to our constitution, it is at the very foundations of national identity." It is this heritage, I think, that Mr Cameron meant we should be more confident about; for it is a goodly heritage.

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

On June 11th The Friends of St. Mary's and St. Andrew's enjoyed an interesting visit to John Clare's Cottage and lovely garden at Helpston followed by a delicious cream tea.

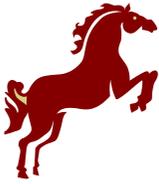
The next official meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 2nd at 10.30 in the Community Hall after Morning Prayer at St. Mary's at 10 a.m.

The Summer Lunch for members is booked at "The Red Lion" in Warmington on Wednesday, July 16th at 12.30 for 1p.m.

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Dora Baker (Secretary)

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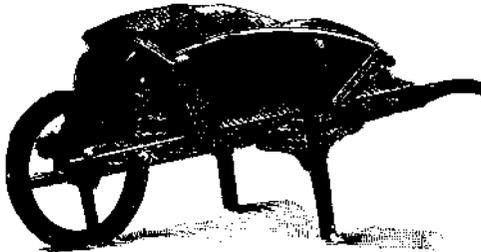
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Mid Summer Strawberry Service, Sunday 6 July, 4.30pm

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Following the service, enjoy a strawberry cream early evening tea with us by the river - Now that's quintessentially English!. A small charge of £5 to cover the cost will be requested for your delicious cream tea.

Everybody welcome.

Music Fest

Planning is well under way for the Water Newton Music Festival; see details, right. Tickets will be going on sale soon, but meanwhile they can be pre-booked by email to events@waternewtonvillage.co.uk

Tony Capon

WATER NEWTON MUSIC FEST

SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST

Water Newton Village will be holding their annual Music Fest with Non Stop Folk, Jazz and Rock on The Village Green from 1pm – 7 pm

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The winners of the **June 2014** draw are listed here.

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Mat.Free@hotmail.co.uk

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FRIENDS OF STIBBINGTON CHURCH

The Patronal Flower Festival and barbecue organised by the Friends of Stibbington Church proved to be a resounding success. The church was resplendent with more than 20 beautiful and creative arrangements, many of them kindly sponsored by local firms. Visitors were invited to vote for their favourites and the winning entry was from the WI (see photo page 16). During the afternoon many visitors came along to admire the flowers and enjoy tea and cakes, and at the end of the afternoon the church was packed for the Patronal service led by Canon William Burke.

To round off the day Rob and Helen Facer very kindly hosted a barbecue for more than 80 people in the grounds of Stibbington Hall. In addition to a delicious barbecue, the evening also included a raffle and the 101 club draw, and a shield for the winning flower arrangement was presented to WI representative, Val Reeves.

The success of the event owes much to the hard work of the FOSC Committee members who should be proud of their achievements. They certainly succeeded in their twin aims: raising funds for the church — well in excess of £500; and bringing the village community together.



Above: Second place flower arrangement, Wild and Wacky sponsored by Boheme

Above centre: Open all hours sponsored by Stibbington Diner.

Above right: Abide with me by Artist Garth Bayley

Right: The barbecue for more than 80 people in the beautiful grounds of Stibbington Hall



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WANSFORD HORTICULTURAL & CRAFTS SOCIETY

Our prayers for good weather were answered for the coach trip to R.H.S. Garden Wisley on 31 May. Whilst Wansford remained overcast all day we are told, the sun burst forth just after our arrival in the parking area and the day remained gloriously sunny until about quarter of an hour before our departure! All participants agreed that it was a splendid day out and it is only a pity that the coach was not full.

Our second trip to Hidcote Manor Garden and Baddesley Clinton on 22 June has yet to take place as I write, but this time we will have a packed coach and so far, fingers crossed, the forecast is encouraging for another lovely day. Our final event of this busy month, the annual summer party on 28 June is similarly dependent on good weather, but preparations are well in hand for a delicious buffet supper whatever the skies throw at us and tickets are sold out.

A reminder of our return visit to **the Walled Garden at Blatherwycke** on **Tuesday, 22 July at 6.30 p.m.** for which we are now taking numbers. We first toured Joe Whitehead's ambitious restoration of this atmospheric garden two years ago. Those attending were so enthusiastic about the project that they asked to go back and see the great strides that Joe has made since then. I am confident that there will once again be the opportunity to look around the rest of the estate such as the private chapel, the lake and the stables as well as admiring his flourishing fruit and vegetables. There will be a charge of £2 for this event, as Joe will be offering tea or coffee, so please let me know if you intend to come along. That way we can give him an idea of how many people he is catering for.



Suddenly **the Annual Show** in the **Haycock Park** is fast approaching and we are gearing up for another day of traditional displays of locally and lovingly produced fruit, flowers and vegetables as well as local craft, cookery and photography skills. In addition there will be the fun dog show, a band playing and a variety of stalls and sideshows to entertain you **on Bank Holiday Saturday, 23 August.**

If you would like to run a stall this year, please contact me. The pitch is only £10, payable in advance, with plenty of space for your own gazebo, tent and tables. The gates open to the public at 12 noon but there will be plenty of activity in the field before then with stalls and displays being set up. Please do make as many entries as possible – the schedule with all the classifications is on our website: www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk – and join us on the day. We shall be making our usual collection of bottles for the bottle tombola just before the show and hope that the village will be as generous as usual to help us fund the event. Finally, if you have a cup or trophy from last year, please return it to me by 1st August at the latest! Thank you.

Gill Fisher 782446
fisher.gill@yahoo.com

STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD WI



Members enjoyed a visit to Deene Park last month – after lunch they toured the house at their leisure where volunteer guides in each room gave information and history of the décor, paintings and furniture.

At our meeting in June we had the pleasure of hearing our president, Jean Yerbury, talking about her visit to the WI Denman College to learn the art of picture framing – a course she wanted to take to compliment her husband's talented hobby of water colour painting – some fine examples displayed her achievements.

We were delighted to take part in the Stibbington Flower Festival last month. Our exhibit (see photo) encompassed the theme of the WI with flowers depicting afternoon tea, jam-making, knitting etc.



We have also held another of our cake stalls and as usual, we did a brisk trade soon clearing all the stock, for which we are very grateful, both to our members for their efforts and the local community for their support. Our next stall will be at the Wansford Horticultural Show at the end of August.

Members please note that the next Book Group will be at the Haycock on Thursday 31st July at 7.30pm, when titles discussed will be 'Six Years' by Harlan Coben & 'Life after Life' by Kate Atkinson.

Our next meeting is the annual visit to Tolethorpe to see Alice in Wonderland on Tuesday 8th July – all tickets have now been taken but a reminder to those attending - bring a plate of finger food and a glass – weather permitting we shall be assembling on the lawn for supper at 6.45pm.

As our WI has a quantity of photos and memorabilia which need to be permanently archived in appropriate albums, etc, we are looking for a couple of members to undertake this task – any volunteers will be gratefully welcomed.

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COMMUNICARE

Following a request by patients living at Kings Cliffe our next meeting will be at the

Kings Cliffe Active Sports Complex Hall

on **Wednesday 2nd July 2014 at 12.30pm.**

This will hopefully enable a wider cross section of patients to attend, but depending on the result, a decision will be made at that meeting on future locations – either returning to our normal venue of Wansford surgery at an early evening time or possibly alternating the two places.

Please note that the next Social Group's coffee morning at the Kings Cliffe Active Hall has been changed from 18th July to Friday 11th July.

Information on the destination of our late summer holiday is now available – this will be departing on Sunday 14th September to Hythe in Kent where we will be staying at the 3-star Best Western Stade Court hotel for four nights. The hotel which has excellent facilities including lift, is situated in a prime location on the front promenade overlooking the sea and the surrounding area of the south coast will be ideal for interesting days out. Prices – double/twin en suite £260 per person – single en suite £300 – this includes all coach travel, dinner, bed & breakfast, day trips out and insurance. If you require any further details or for booking please contact Clare on 01780 470437 or email: superfoquk@aol.com

Wendy Spencer

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LOCAL HISTORY

By David Stuart-Mogg

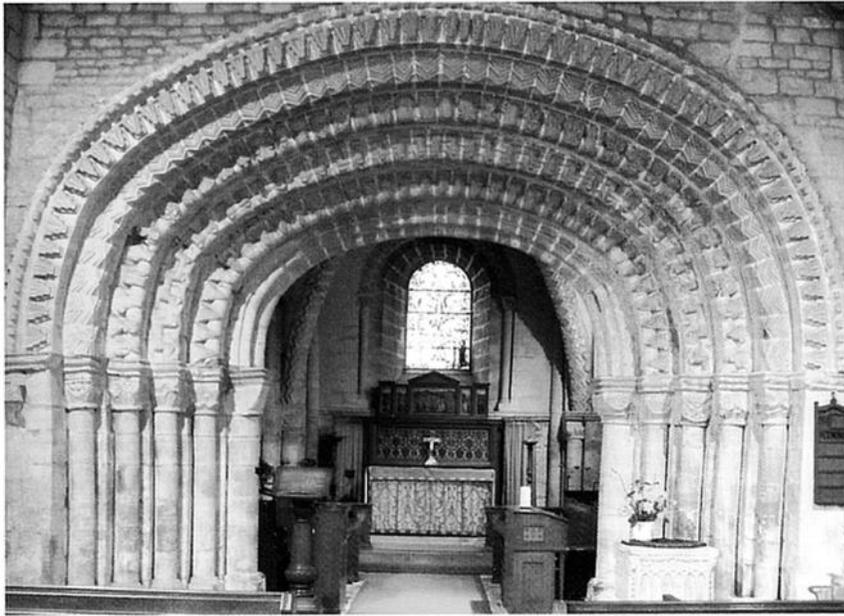
The charming village of Tickencote is situated a few hundred yards west of Ermine Street, later known as the Great North Road, just after it passes under both A1 carriageways south of Stamford. I first visited Tickencote over 30 years ago when I was familiarising myself with the district and house-hunting and have since remembered the overwhelming sense of amazement when, merely out of mild curiosity, I entered the church and was unexpectedly confronted with one of the most vividly dramatic, awe-inspiring Norman chancel arches I had ever seen. It was the recent gift of an eighty-year-old booklet on St. Peter's Church, Tickencote that brought that first encounter back to mind and prompted me to return on a more informed visit.

It was probably the exterior of the church that first stimulated my curiosity as I approached. As I entered the churchyard the architecture puzzled me, something about it wasn't adding up. This was soon resolved by a plaque over the south door which explained that the church had been substantially restored and rebuilt in 1792 thanks to a generous benefaction by Eliza Wingfield, a member of the principal local family. Although Samuel Pepys Cockerell, the architect and a descendant of the famous diarist, apparently sought to follow the original Norman style, there are fanciful interpretations that are clearly his own. Fortunately, the Norman chancel arch remained untouched and remains a true *tour de force* (see photo). The arch was built in the mid-12th century and comprises six consecutive orders of carved bands standing on five pillars. Working from the outer to the inner of these bands they are variously described architecturally as beakheads, embattled or crenellated, grotesques, zig-zag,

A SPECTACULAR NORMAN CHANCEL ARCH AND DEVIL'S DOORS.

stepped abstract and billet hoodmould. The 'grotesques' band includes a male and a female head, both crowned, looking away from each other. It is speculated that these represent contemporary rival claimants to the English throne: King Stephen and Queen Maud. Maud was also known as Matilda. Matilda is the Latin equivalent of the Saxon name Maud and was commonly used in place of Maud in official documents, especially those of Norman origin. The other figures display a wide palette of stylistic interpretations including perhaps Roman, Viking and Saxon influences.

There is expert view that the church was once a single cell comprising solely of what is now the chancel and that the chancel arch seen in the photograph was originally an external feature. If such was indeed the case, then we must be grateful that the subsequent construction of a nave has saved the arch from weather degradation over subsequent centuries. The impressive vaulted roof of the chancel has six decorated rib-arches meeting at a rare form of a central Norman boss. This is carved with a monk's head and two muzzled bears. In a niche to the right of the altar is the dilapidated wooden form of a recumbent knight dating from the days of Henry III, King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitaine (1207-1272). It is probably a representation of Sir Roland de Daneys who fought with King Henry against the French. It is thought that formerly this figure may well have been covered in brass, or perhaps plaster, and once lay upon a tomb. Above the chancel roof was a resident monk's or priest's cell; however, the access stair was removed during the 18th century restoration. The sturdy, intricately carved



rapidly averting his gaze.

These north doors were often known as the Devil's Door.

Frequently, this door was left open during baptisms to enable the Devil to leave after having been com-

manded to depart by the officiating priest during the baptismal rite. The door was then rapidly closed to prevent the Devil returning! Leaving church by a north door was also treated with trepidation by some as it was a belief that the Devil waited outside to ensnare the souls of the incautious. In many churches north doors can be seen to have been blocked up although, pragmatically, I view this as having had more than a little to do with excluding draughts from cold northerly winds. That said, the land on the north side of many churches was for centuries traditionally reserved for the burial of unfortunates such as unchristened babies, suicides and those who had been subjected to the full rigour of the law. Locally, the main entrance to St. Michael and All Angels church in Sutton is situated on its northern aspect....and St. Mary's, Wansford has only recently had a new north door inserted where none existed previously. Possible food for thought?

email: david@stuartmogg.com

font is dated some half-century later than the chancel arch. According to a notice in the church porch, the electoral roll of St. Peter's comprises just six names. A generous donation upon leaving appears entirely appropriate.

With the advent of Christianity, age-old Pagan temples were often destroyed and churches built where they once stood. With arguably healthy scepticism, our ancestors were sometimes given to ensure that there was a north door available in churches, a traditional direction of pagan approach, to enable them to continue paying homage to their old gods whilst testing the water of the new religion. This latter is a phenomenon I encountered many times while living and working overseas. Once, on a mountain trek, I was bemused to notice one of our number, a senior Anglican cleric, carrying a dried elephant's turd he had found and was in a surreptitious process of embedding with porcupine quills he was picking up along our path. 'What on earth is he doing?' I asked an army officer. 'Muti' (magic) he whispered,

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WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

THE AGM of the Parish Council was held on 9th June 2014, at 7.30 pm, in the Community Hall. Present were Cllr's R Clarke, L Fox-Clipsham, T Pearson, V Thorley, G Stevens and 2 members of the public. Cllr John Stannage was duly elected Chairman, Cllr Tim Pearson Vice Chairman. Members of the Council were duly appointed to committees.

THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING was held on 9th June 2014, at 7.45pm, in the Community Hall. Present were Cllr's R Clarke, L Fox-Clipsham, T Pearson, V Thorley, G Stevens and J Stannage, Cllr John Holdich, PCSO M Courtney-Hunt and 2 members of the public. In the absence of the Clerk, Cllr Pearson agreed to take the minutes.

PCSO REPORT: Since the last report, there have been 25 calls to the service, the majority being traffic related, one suspicious 'cold caller' and one neighbourhood dispute. 3 crimes were reported, of which one traffic related, one domestic and one unsuccessful burglary attempt. There are now 5 volunteers for speedwatch, which will soon be activated, with signage awareness.

A47 UNDERPASS: There was extensive discussion, which highlighted issues with this facility. It was agreed to progress a remedy.

BUS STOP: it was agreed to progress a request for an additional bus stop on Old North Road.

PLANNING: 14/00918HHFUL for demolition of an existing garage, replacing with new double garage, a single storey extension, and rear garden room, at 13, Old Leicester Road. All agreed no objection to this proposal.

MINUTES OF MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of 12th May 2014 were agreed and duly signed.

MATTERS ARISING: No matters arising other than those on the agenda.

FINANCE: 2 invoices were received, and approved for payment.

LEASING OF LAND: This is now progressing to a satisfactory conclusion

TODDLERS PLAY AREA: This project is looking very positive, and the Parish Council to resume contact with Nene Valley Tots, with completion of the play area now looking very likely.

VILLAGE NOTICE BOARD: It was agreed to approach all Secondary schools in the Peterborough area, to initiate pupil designs.

CORRESPONDENCE: A quotation has been received for the work to install a hand-rail alongside the steps on the pathway to Nene Close. Peterborough Highways, dismissed the idea of a new footpath to the new church entrance. The Parish Council will still progress this with highways.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY: It was agreed to contact Peterborough City Council regarding co-option for the vacancy of one Councillor. At least 2 parishioners are interested. A notice for this vacancy is to be displayed on the Village Notice Board. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk, or any Parish Councillor.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION: A note will be sent to Peterborough Highways, regarding repairs required to the footpath alongside the church wall. Cllr Clarke volunteered to pursue the possibility of moving the Parish and County boundary to beyond the Doctor's Surgery.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meetings of the council will be Mondays 14 July and 11 August 2014, both at 7.30pm, in the Community Hall.

John Stannage, Chairman, WPC



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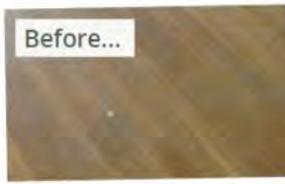
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SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council took place on 29th May. Cllrs Dan Rose, Peter Lee, Craig Kidd, and Keith Yerbury were present as were Clerk Patricia Stuart-Mogg and some 25 residents. Apologies were received from Cllr Michael Caskey. Retiring councillor Melvyn Hill was present also.

Formalities

Following the retirement of Cllrs Rob Hilton and Melvyn Hill (Finance Officer) the newly co-opted councillors, Craig Kidd and Keith Yerbury were confirmed. Cllr Dan Rose was confirmed as chair and Cllr Peter Lee as Vice-chair. It was agreed that the clerk would also assume finance duties for the time being. Representatives on outside bodies were confirmed with thanks to Marilyn Gardner and Anne Bodily for their work as Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and Ann Grange as Internal Auditor. The Chairman read his annual report and a Financial Report was presented by Melvyn Hill.

Planning proposal

Richard Dunnett from Marrons Planning presented a proposed 7-house scheme for the Manor Farm yard land on Nene Way (see plan).

Following a lively question and answer session a letter was sent to Marrons, covering the points summarised below:



No objection in principle to houses on that part of the farm yard within the village envelope but opposition to that part of the scheme, including the access road, outside.

Seven plots is overdevelopment. The proposed terrace of three is an alien form in Sutton and poorly related to surrounding development. The number of houses must be reduced significantly, perhaps to three, all within the village envelope. Plot sizes should be closer to the large house plots that characterise Sutton.

Concern about overlooking.

House designs should be more in keeping with the Conservation Area setting and the Manor Farm House buildings.

Concern as to where root crops would be stacked in future and that the future exit route of farm vehicles should not be via Manor Road.

(The last point was subsequently answered. Root crops would be stacked further east and a new access would be created onto Nene Way)

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr David Shaw from Ailsworth Parish Council appraised the meeting on the subject of Neighbourhood Plans especially in the light of the expectation that the Homes and Communities Agency would be reviving plans for major residential development on their Castor/Ailsworth/Sutton land.

Next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 31st July at 7.45pm in Sutton Church.
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SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Environment Centre, Stibbington on Wednesday, 4th June 2014 at 7.30 p.m. Apologies received from Cllrs Cawood and Price. Five members of the public and PCSO Barry Chamberlain were also in attendance.

Cllr Margery Beuttell was unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Mike Bradshaw was elected as Vice Chairman.

Election of other officers/representatives were as follows:

Street Light Representative – *Ian Turner*

Cambs & P'boro Association of Local Councils Representative – *Ricky Cawood*

Christie Hall Management Committee Representative – *Mike Bradshaw*

Tree Warden – *Ian Turner*

Parochial Church Council Representative – *Dagmar Price*

Parish Footpaths and Bridleways Representative – *Ian Turner*

Police Liaison Representative – *Nick Cook*

Road Safety Representative – *John Wright*

Planning & Development and Land Issues Representative(s) – *All Councillors*

Parish Maintenance Representative – *Nick Cook*

Finance Representative – *Margery Beuttell*

Health & Safety Representative – *Mike Bradshaw*

Line Manager for Clerk – *Margery Beuttell*

Thornhaugh Development Action Group – *Nick Cook*

Any Other Representations:

Sibson – *Margery Beuttell and Ian Turner*

A revised Code of Conduct was agreed and signed off.

The Annual Accounts for 2013/2014 were approved and signed off.

Allotment area (seat) – area has been cleared of weeds but seat is unsafe, the Parish Council agreed seat would be replaced.

Bus Shelter – it has been established that the bus shelter in question belongs to the Parish Council, The Parish Council are quite happy for resident to dismantle provided area is left clean and tidy. Parish Council will confirm in writing to resident.

Bollards – proforma invoice received, all cllrs agreed for works to commence and agreed cost.

Cllr Beuttell reported HDC proposing to put in yellow lines on church lane to deter parking, Cllr Beuttell proposing to do letter drop within next 2/3 weeks, area from Environment Centre down to obtain feedback from residents – all cllrs were in agreement for this to be done.

Report from PCSO: reported everything very quiet, would continue to send us monthly crime reports for our information. Resident reported that motor cycle season appears to be upon us with more motor cycles using Elton Road at speed, PCSO advised he would send in request of traffic to carry out checks.

1400636FUL – Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new garden room at 10 Elton Road, Wansford PE8 6JD – no objections were raised on this planning application.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th July 2014 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Wendy Gray

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A good pair of shoes will do several things. They will support your foot in the right places, they'll cushion you, they'll encourage you to run in the right way, and they will protect your feet. Different shoes have different construction to allow for different feet, and one person may feel like they're running on marbles, while another is totally comfortable.

You might have low arches (halfway along the foot, on the inside, where the sole of the foot comes off the ground), and this can mean you are less able to take lots of impact exercise (running or aerobics) and are better off with low or no-impact work (cycling, swimming, using a step machine). You might be a pronator (when the foot rolls to the inside) or a supinator (when the foot rolls to the outside). This means different shoes with different cushioning. The wrong shoe can correct your gait, or make it worse. Go somewhere that can assess your gait (lots of good running shops do this now - Up and Running, Sweatshop, and Advance Performance all have running machines in store with cameras to record you and show you the right shoe), and don't be afraid to spend an extra few pounds for something that not only fits, but suits your style.

After years of not looking after myself, and buying shoes because they looked good (although I will admit there is still a time and place for everything), I had constant, severe pain in my hips. After toughing it out, asking advice and finally, stopping running, I eventually saw a physio (the smartest move I had made in 10 years). She traced the problem down into my feet, which changed the way I ran, which placed too much stress through my hips. After 3 months of exercises, I was almost pain free for the first time in almost 10 years. And I have never bought a pair of trainers based on their looks since then.

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Having recently returned from a few week's holiday I have been struck by two changes to the village since I have been away. Everything is so green! The second half of May was pretty wet - I could tell from the sports news which informed me that a recent Northamptonshire cricket match had been abandoned due to rain. But June has started well with a sunny fortnight brightening everything up. Rain and sun provide excellent growing conditions; lawns are growing in front of our eyes and flower beds are rampant and thick with lush foliage - a perfect foil for the early summer flowers that seem taller and bigger this year. The hedgerows are the same - I can't remember the hedge parsley so tall at this time of the year. These are generally excellent conditions for wildlife, not just for the plants but animals too.

This brings me to the second obvious change, particularly in my garden. There seem to be far more birds about. Obviously our regular migrants are here in force; the cuckoos and swifts were here before I went away; but the difference is the addition of all the youngsters. A wet winter was also a mild winter but whereas I couldn't get on the allotment until April, birds were ready to breed at the first signs of spring and we are now seeing the first broods. I noticed both adult blackbirds and mistle thrushes with worms in their mouths before I left but now the young are out and skulking around the edge of the lawn calling for a meal from mum and dad. Parties of tits are flitting through the trees, the youngsters following their parents in their search for little caterpillars.

I returned home from a car trip to find three baby sparrows sitting on the gravel drive cheeping for all they were worth. They had only recently 'dropped' out of their nest in the eaves and were reluctant to move away until the incessant calling of the parent encouraged its tailless brood to hop away into the plants bordering the drive. At that moment a pair of swifts screamed overhead reminding me that they had young in the cottage up the road. And these 'hooligans' would soon be joining them in their evening flights. There should be plenty of insect life this year for the swallows and martins too.

I am writing this at dusk and have just seen a couple of bats flitting about in the clear evening sky. These are the common pipistrelles and will be catching insects to take back to their roosts where they look after their young. It's a very busy time for all wildlife. If the summer continues to be warm, leading on to a calm autumn, plants will flourish providing masses of flowers and nectar for insects and eventually large crops of seeds and fruits. This will help all animals, from the myriads of mice and voles, to the rabbits and smaller birds, and the raptors, the hawks and falcons that head the food chain. All should gain, leaving us with healthy wildlife communities to survive the winter. If farmers are worried about this I would expect they will also be harvesting good yields of their crops and won't begrudge any increased losses of produce. We should all rejoice in the bountiful countryside.

LITTLE CHEF AT WANSFORD – UPDATE

In last December's issue, I wrote that the Stamford firm Harris McCormack Architects (HMA) had purchased the Little Chef, were going to sensitively develop it into an office space and occupy it themselves come springtime 2014.

Well, that time has come and gone, and although some work has clearly been done, the building is still in a state of disrepair. So I contacted Lisa Skingsley of HMA for an update.

It seems that the building was in a far worse state than had been realised and most of the work to date has been structural and making it watertight. There have also been some delays related to planning permission for some external changes to the building and the small housing development to the rear of the property, all of which are expected to be resolved imminently. Lisa mentioned that Wansford Parish Council has been very helpful and supportive.

Now the fine weather has arrived, work is expected to progress quickly and we should begin to see marked progress within the next month. HMA is now expecting to move in around October/November time.

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Come along and join us for lunch to see what is on offer at the discounted members price of only £17.

Lunches last approximately 3 to 3.5 hours and start 12 for 12.30 and include both a two course meal and a speaker.

Bi monthly coffee mornings are also held at the William Cecil in Stamford.

To see what is on the menu for the year ahead contact Mary or Hazel.

For more information contact Mary Smith 01476 552329 • Hazel Wood 01780 753441

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Have you joined up to e-cops yet?

This is a web site where you can receive crime alerts, witness appeals, community updates and details of policing events from your local officers.

It is very easy to join. Just register at www.eCops.org.uk

Do you have Neighbourhood Watch in your area? To see if there is one already set up in your area that you can join or to set one up contact

www.peterboroughnhw.co.uk

Once a scheme is set up you will have access to on-line Neighbourhood Alert, you will receive messages from the Police and neighbourhood watch organisations. You will be able to send messages back to the police too to help them keep your area safe.

Concerned about speeding motorists in your village? Volunteer for Speedwatch and get involved.

Further details contact PCSO Mary Webber on 101 To contact the police in a non-emergency situation ring 101.

If life or property is at risk then ring 999.

**PCSO Mary Webber
Safer Neighbourhood
Team – Thorpe Wood**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMMUNICARE

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)



Following our very successful spring break we are off again to 'see the sea' at
Hythe on the Kent Coast

Sunday 14th September 2014

staying at the

3-star Best Western Stade Court Hotel

Situated on West Parade, Hythe – on the seafront overlooking the English Channel

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All patients, their friends and families are invited to join us

For more information/booking – contact Clare WagstaffeTel: 01780 470437 –
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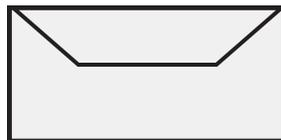


Walk and talk

We are an informal group who meet on Tuesday mornings to enjoy a walk and a chat. All are welcome to join us.

We meet outside Wansford church at 10.30 and walk for an hour or more.





Thank you to the ladies of Stibbington and Wansford WI for sending this month's recipe.

RHUBARB, WHITE CHOCOLATE AND CARDAMON MOUSSE

SERVES 6

INGREDIENTS

454g forced rhubarb (trimmed weight) cut into 2½cm pieces
50g granulated sugar
100ml water
4 green cardamon pods crushed seed extracted
1 bay leaf
100ml milk
125g white chocolate, broken into small pieces
150ml double cream, whipped to soft peaks

METHOD

Stir the sugar and water in a saucepan over a medium heat, until the sugar dissolves then bring to a light boil
Add the rhubarb and cook for a few minutes until it is soft and turning mushy.
Blend into a smooth puree.
Place the cardamon seeds, bay leaf and milk into a clean saucepan and heat gently until nearly boiling.
Place the chocolate pieces into a mixing bowl and strain the infused milk over it. Place the bowl over a pan of hot water until the chocolate has melted. Stir to mix thoroughly. Fold in half the rhubarb puree and leave to cool.
Fold in the whipped cream and divide between 6 wine glasses or glass dishes. Place in the fridge to set.
Just before serving, spoon the remaining puree over the mousse to create a layered effect.

Are you the early bird that catches the worm?

VACANCY at Stibbington Centre

We're looking for someone to join our happy team to prepare and serve breakfasts for our young residential visitors (aged 6 to 11). The post involves working from 7.15 to 10.15 on three mornings a week, Tuesday to Thursday, term time only. No experience is required, but we need someone who will enjoy helping to ensure that children and their teachers have a successful visit. For an informal chat about the post tel Alison Gibson on 01780 782386.

A note for residents in the area of Roman Drive, Stibbington

Overgrown hedge/vegetation on Footpath

I am writing to advise you that the Parish Council will be arranging for the hedge and all overgrown vegetation on the footpath to be cleared to make the footpath safe and usable for residents.

Wendy Gray, Parish Clerk

← Thank you to David Stuart-Mogg for sending this photo. The lapwing's nest with its clutch of eggs was spotted in a local quarry.

DIARY DATES – JULY 2014

| Date | Event | Time | Venue | Contact | Phone | p |
|----------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| Tue 1, 8 15 22 29 | Walk and talk | 10.30am | Outside Wansford Church | | | 36 |
| Wed 2 | Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's meeting | 10.30am | Wansford Community Hall | Dora Baker | 782519 | 9 |
| Th 3, 10, 17, 24 | Wansford Church Choir practice | 7.30pm | 19A Old Leicester Road Wansford | Eddie McDonnell | 783639 | |
| Sat 5/ Sun 6 | Artists Open Studios | 12— 4pm | Stibbington Church | Garth Bayley | 0793030 7180 | |
| Sat 5 | Saturday night at the movies | 7.30pm | The Broadway Theatre | | 0333666 3366 | |
| Sun 6 | Midsummer Strawberry Service | 4.30pm | St Remigius Church Water Newton | Tony Capon | | 11 |
| Tues 8 | WI visit to "Alice" at Tolehorpe | 6.45pm | Tolehorpe Hall | Jean Yerbury | 782510 | 16 |
| Wed 9 | Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council meeting | 7.30pm | Stibbington Environment Centre | Wendy Gray | 01778 441312 | 29 |
| Fri 11 | Communicare Coffee Morning | 10.00am | Kings Cliffe Active Hall | Wendy Spencer | | 18 |
| Sun 13 | Watersmete Benefice B-B-Q | 1.00pm | New Sulehay Lodge | Chruch-wardens | | 9 |
| Mon 14 | Wansford Parish Council meeting | 7.30pm | Wansford Community Hall | Wendy Gray | 01778 441312 | 23 |
| Wed 16 | Friends of St Mary's & St Andrew's summer lunch | 12.30pm | The Red Lion, Warmington | Dora Baker | 782519 | 9 |
| Fri 18 | Pack up your troubles Old Time Music Hall | 7.00pm | St Mary's church, Wansford | Rosie Edwards | 782386 | 35 |
| Tues 22 | Horticultural Society visit to Blatherwycke garden | 6.30pm | Blatherwycke walled garden | Gill Fisher | 782446 | 15 |
| Thur 31 | W I Book Group meeting | 7.30pm | The Haycock, Wansford | Jean Yerbury | 782510 | 16 |
| Thur 31 | Sutton Parish Council meeting | 7.45pm | Sutton Church Hall | Peter Lee | 782703 | 25 |

Copy deadline next month: Wednesday 23 July
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