

A close-up photograph of a butterfly with orange and black wings perched on a white daisy flower with a yellow center. The background is filled with more daisy flowers, some in focus and some blurred. The overall scene is bright and natural.

# *Living Villages*

*July 2018*

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

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## EDITORIAL

With predictions that this summer could be the hottest for forty years, those of us who enjoy tending to their gardens are going to have a few challenges this year. Therefore if you do want to enter your garden into the new category at the Wansford and District Horticultural show it might be an idea to take your photos now, that is unless you have a Mediterranean themed one - which will of course be loving it!

This month I have included a two page flyer from Highways England relating to the A47 upgrade, which supplements the information included in Wansford Parish Council's report. I have agreed that this magazine will publish some or all of their newsletters on a regular basis, so that residents can be kept informed of their progress.

I would also urge you to read the two notices on the letters page. Nene Valley Tots are looking for a volunteer to run their group and the Thomas Woolsey Charity is looking for eligible people to apply for grants to assist with education courses.

*Tracy Sortwell*

## CONTENTS

Contacts	4
Worship lists	5
Reflections	7

### NEWS REPORTS

Friends of Churches Wansford and Thornhaugh	9
Water Newton	9

Mens Breakfast	8
Stibbington Centre	13
Communicare	14
Hort Society	15
WI	31

### PARISH COUNCILS

Thornhaugh	23/24
Wansford	25

### SPECIAL REPORT

Rotary	20/21/22
A47 upgrade	26/27

### REGULARS

Nature Notes	35
Letters to the Editor	37

### DIARY DATES **38**

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# DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS

## Living Villages Editorial Team

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

## Parish Councils

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

## Churches

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

### Churchwardens:

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

### Friends:

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

## Website

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

# WORSHIP JULY 2018

<b>St Leonard's, Apethorpe</b>		
1st	9.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
8th	6.00pm	Evensong
15th	11.00am	Holy Communion
22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion

<b>St Kyneburgha, Castor</b>		
1st	10.15am	Holy Communion
8th	10.15am	Holy Communion
15th	10.15am	Holy Communion
22nd	10.15am	Holy Communion
29th	10.15am	Holy Communion

<b>St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington</b>		
1st	6.00pm	Benefice Festival Evensong
8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion
22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion and Sunday School
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong

<b>St Michael and All Angels, Sutton</b>		
8th	9.00am	Family Service
22nd	9.00am	Holy Communion

<b>St Andrew's, Thornhaugh</b>		
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion

<b>St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell</b>		
8th	11.00am	Holy Communion
15th	3.00pm	Methodist Service
22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion
29th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion

<b>St Mary's, Wansford</b>		
<i>Every Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer</i>		
8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
22nd	9.30am	Morning Praise

<b>St Mary's, Woodnewton</b>		
8th	9.30am	Holy Communion (Said)
15th	9.30am	Morning Praise
22nd	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP



Sunday 26th August  
12 noon - 7.30pm

# Water Newton Music Fest 2018

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email: [Events@waternewtonvillage.co.uk](mailto:Events@waternewtonvillage.co.uk)

or phone: 01733 237500

In the middle of June, the Church of England calendar remembered one of my favourite saints: Barnabas who we hear about in The Acts of the Apostles, as those first Christians shared the good news of the risen Jesus and the fledgling Church grew. The reason why I find Barnabas so special is his nick-name and what we can learn from that. In chapter 4 of The Acts of the Apostles, we meet Joseph, a native of Cyprus "to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas, which means 'son of encouragement.'" In other words, Barnabas was known as the Encourager. How wonderful to be remembered for all time as someone who encouraged others! There are few better gifts that we can give another than to encourage them – literally to give them courage when things are tough.

Barnabas became a companion of Paul, who was still called Saul for a good while, and introduced him to the Christian community in Antioch; probably no easy task as Saul/Paul may well still have been known as a persecutor of the Church. Saul had sought to destroy the first Church before he encountered Christ on the road to Damascus and became a Christian himself. Barnabas, it seems was someone who reached out to one who was different and viewed with suspicion, maybe encouraging him to meet those he had opposed, and encouraging them to accept the change God had made in Saul's life. Perhaps without Barnabas' encouragement, the Church would not have been blessed by the teaching and preaching of Paul who became so well known.

Unlike, Paul whom he helped so much, the name of Barnabas may not spring to mind as we think about the great characters of the Bible, but if we look for him, he is recorded quite frequently as a missionary and teacher, part of the work of the Church spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. He travelled with Paul and others on their great journeys to new places and new people with the Gospel message, and I rather think that Barnabas must have been a good travelling companion.

Are we, I wonder, those known as Encouragers, are we good travelling companions through life? Is that gift we can give? A word to give courage, a gesture that reminds someone of their value, to help them through a tough time, to face a rather dark day or simply to 'keep on keeping on'.

And maybe there are those we don't think need our encouragement, but most certainly do. Do we think of our political leaders; do we pray that they may be encouraged to follow paths of justice and mercy in their decision making that affects us all; are there other ways we can encourage those who carry great responsibility in our world? Worth reflecting on, I think.

So let's give thanks for those who are Encouragers in our lives, and seek to be Barnabases to those we meet, with whom we share our lives and all who need encouragement.



## FROM NEW YORK TO WANSFORD



A successful Concert of Acapella singing provided a enjoyable evening to a packed house at Wansford Church on 8th June.

It featured two men's groups Fellacapella and Millstone Grit some of whose singers had recently performed in a Total Vocal Concert in the Lincoln Center in New York in front of an audience of 3000 people.



There was a wide variety of music from both groups with an eclectic mix of folk, pop, traditional, contemporary and comedy.

The event raised over £500 for Charities supported by St. Marys Church. Further Concerts are planned for later in the year at both Thornhaugh and Wansford.

### **Mens Breakfast July 28<sup>th</sup> Black Horse Nassington 8.30 – 10.00**

The inaugural meeting for men from our villages at The Queens Head, Nassington on 16<sup>th</sup> June was a great success. 18 men of all ages and backgrounds from across the benefice met for the first time and several new friendships were formed with exciting plans for the future beginning to develop. The next Mens breakfast remains open to all men and is an inclusive event for anyone that would like to come and become part of a wider movement linking our village communities and making new friends. These initial meetings will determine what we together can achieve for our villages and support for men across the benefice. If you would like to be part of that movement then please join us on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July at The Black Horse Nassington at 8.30am until 10.00am for a hearty breakfast and stimulating discussion! Please reply by email [mensbreakfast@btconnect.com](mailto:mensbreakfast@btconnect.com) to Ian Scott, the volunteer Mens breakfast organizer to book your place. A small charge will be requested to cover the cost of the meal. The following meeting will be Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September venue to be confirmed

## FRIENDS OF ST REMIGIUS WATER NEWTON

### STRAWBERRY FAYRE, SUNDAY 1st JULY at 4PM

Our next service and celebration is our annual 'Strawberry Service' followed by an Afternoon Strawberry Tea - 'All Things Strawberry!'. Come and celebrate summer in the sunshine in the idyllic riverside setting of the Church of St. Remigius, Water Newton.

You can be sure of fun, great company and a truly sumptuous strawberry cream afternoon 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.

Tony Capon



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

The Wednesday Coffee Stops are proving very popular again and we are welcoming lots of people who enjoy company and home baking. The next one is Wednesday 27th June and then 11th and 25th July.

The Friends' meetings will take a summer break in August but continue until then, with the July dates being 4th and 18th.

Cotterstock church hosted 12 members for a historical tour on 30th May, with a wonderful tea in the Village Hall afterwards.



St Andrews Cotterstock ([www.robschurches.moonfruit.com](http://www.robschurches.moonfruit.com))



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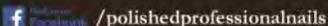


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**Yoga**



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7.30pm KingsCliffe Memorial Hall PE8 6XW

**Tues** 5.45 & 7pm Wansford Christie Hall

**Weds** 7pm Bulwick Village Hall (booking only)

**Thurs** 10am Wansford Christie Hall PE8 6JS  
Easton on Hill 4.30 pm (gentle/chair) & 6.30pm  
(mixed ability) Village Hall PE9 3NN

**Fri** 9.30am YogaMummys + babes/tots KCU  
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ORTON WATERVILLE Village Hall, 1st Tuesday 10 – 12, 2 – 4



For more information and bookings, please contact **MAGGIE**

Tel: **07788 919899** Email: [mightymaggiartycrafty@gmail.com](mailto:mightymaggiartycrafty@gmail.com)

## STIBBINGTON CENTRE NEWS

### Housekeeping and Catering Opportunities

- Would you like to join our small team of friendly and enthusiastic staff?
  - Would you like to work **part time, mainly term time**?
- Can you be flexible in the hours you work, some of which may be at the weekend or in the School holidays?

We have vacancies for a Catering and Housekeeping Assistant (9 hours per week, annualised, based on working 38 weeks per year) and Relief Cleaner (approx. 10 hours per week as required) with salaries starting at £8.50 per hour. Experience of this work, particularly involving children, is desirable but not essential.

For further details and an application form contact Rebecca Goff on the telephone number at the bottom of the page. Informal visits are welcomed.

For more information about Stibbington Centre go to [www.cees.org.uk](http://www.cees.org.uk)

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

### Seasonal Stibbington Suggestion:



Our visitors will know that we love to upcycle items rather than throw them away. Milk containers can be useful for crafts since the plastic is soft enough to cut (with adult assistance if needed) to make butterfly, flower or snake shapes for mobiles. An alternative use is to cut down the sides and position them over

ripening cherries to protect your crop. You heard it here first!

### CONTACT DETAILS:

**Tel: 01780 782386 Email: [cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)**

You can also use the following links:

Private hire: [www.groupaccommodation.com/properties/stibbington-centre-peterborough-cambridgeshire](http://www.groupaccommodation.com/properties/stibbington-centre-peterborough-cambridgeshire)

Community classes: [www.facebook.com/stibbingtoncommunityclasses](http://www.facebook.com/stibbingtoncommunityclasses)



# Communicare

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

A general patients meeting was held last month when we welcomed guest speakers Joe Bailey (Healthy & Active Lifestyles Officer East Northants Council) Simon Fairhall (Kings Cliffe Active Site) and Robert Phipps (Volunteer Walk Leader) The theme of their presentation was healthy activity promoted by ENC, one of these activities being 'Walking for Health' - recently introduced voluntary led walks from various locations throughout the area. Each Tuesday evening and Friday morning a walk now takes place from the 'Black Horse' in Nassington for approximately an hour. Numbers attending are gradually increasing as notices are published and by word of mouth from those who are enjoying the benefits and social side of this weekly activity. Simon Fairhall also gave details of further expansion planned at the KC Active Site with the addition of a gym, café and meeting/consulting rooms – gaining financial support is in hand and he hoped work will commence in the next couple of years. He stressed the importance of making people aware of the facilities available – the site was never intended to be solely for KC residents, but to include a much wider catchment area. There were various questions from the floor and suggestions of several groups around the locality which might benefit from a similar presentation.

Dr Takhar informed the meeting that unfortunately due to the financial problems with Northamptonshire County Council the proposed project at Kings Cliffe had not made any significant progress over the last few weeks and this situation was unlikely to change until the future of NCC had been resolved. However he was pleased to report that the practice was in close negotiation with both the CEO of Peterborough Hospital and other high level NHS representatives with regard to the site at Wansford surgery. Plans were well advanced on the type of accommodation – a 60 bed unit with a staff of 40 providing post hospitalization after care – this would be short stay and costs would be covered by the NHS.

On the recommendation of the officials, it was agreed to provide funds for a new portable ECG machine – as this will be sited and used for at the KC surgery this will be part funded by a donation from the late Terry Smith who wished the money to be used for the benefit of KC patients.

The next meeting will be the AGM on 12th September – the officials are concerned about the continuing lack of interest shown by patients to put themselves forward to take an active role in the running of the PPG – they want to make people aware that serving on the committee could only entail attending a quarterly meeting, although involvement with additional activities such as fund raising, organising special events would naturally be very welcomed. In the light of recent closures of several other PPGs in the Peterborough area, they want to generate more interest to avoid the same fate for our own group.

The social group were away in Scarborough in May with unfortunately very inclement weather – it is hoped that the next holiday to Devon in September will coincide with an 'Indian summer'. There is also another day trip planned for next month. For further details on any of these activities, please contact Clare on 01780 470437 email: [superfoguk@aol.com](mailto:superfoguk@aol.com). The next coffee morning will be on Friday 20th July at the Kings Cliffe Active Sports Hall at 10am.

# HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We have an exciting new venture to report this month. In memory of our sorely missed committee member, Marina Kruger, who died in January, her husband Steve has told us he will be presenting a trophy. We already have awards covering all aspects of the annual show entries, but realise that other societies also have a



class for entire gardens. Having consulted with Nick Warliker, who judges for us in the marquee each year, we have decided to invite residents of Wansford, Stibbington, Thornhaugh and Sutton as well as our Horticultural Society membership to enter a new class for gardens.

Quite simply we would like you to submit up to a maximum of 3 photos of your garden, maximum size A4, or alternatively invite us to come round and photograph your garden. These will then be displayed (anonymously) in the marquee at the annual show on 25 August and those attending will be invited to vote for their favourite garden. This idea of having a "People's Choice", which is a popular element of the Chelsea Flower Show each year, will enable the visiting public to participate actively in the judging. Votes will be counted and the winner announced at the end of the day when the other awards are presented.

Please do consider entering this new class, whether your garden is large or small, traditional or individual. We don't expect Show Garden perfection, but would love to see a variety of personal tastes in gardening, and I know that Steve will be happy to witness our local enthusiasm for gardens, which were so dear to Marina's heart. Take your photos at any time from now until the Thursday before the show, when they will be collected in. You can choose when it is looking at its best! Let me know if you want a photographer to call round.

Our summer social for members is to be held **at 7 p.m. on Saturday 14 July** in the garden of **59, Elton Road**, Christie Hall if wet. As it is Bastille Day, there will be a French theme this year. As usual we will be serving a full buffet supper at a cost of £15 per person to include wine and soft drinks. I have started my list of attendees so please contact me if you would like to come along.

Seats also remain for the trip on **Saturday 28 July to Little Morton Hall and Biddulph Grange** on the borders of Cheshire and Staffordshire. The cost of this trip is £16 for people who are National Trust members and £34 for those who are not.

Full details of the rest of our 2018 programme can be found on the website: [www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk). Please contact me if you would like to join the society (£2.50 per person) or have any other queries.

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Most of our readers will be aware of Rotary but how many actually know where it originated, what are its aims and what has it achieved. This month I have tried to answer these questions for the international organisation, as well as giving an insight into local charitable activities.

In 1905 a number of professional and businessmen in Chicago, led by attorney Paul Harris, formed a working group whose aim was to support needy sections of the community through fundraising or direct help in their daily lives. The idea of service above self quickly spread through the USA and a number of clubs were established serving cities or districts. The name Rotary came about by the early practice of rotating their weekly meeting around the offices of its members. However, voluntary service was the key factor - donate your time not your money - and this is still true today.

The organisation grew rapidly and after two decades there were clubs on 6 continents and today it can claim a membership of 1.2 million from around 35,000 clubs worldwide. They have a mission to promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water and sanitation, save mothers and children, support education and form local economies. So how are these ideals seen through the activities of local clubs, three each in Stamford and Peterborough? A couple of weeks ago the local press carried features about the donation of £5000 for equipment to Rutland Sailability and the gaining of the Queens Award for Voluntary Service by Peterborough Sailability.



Both these groups provide life enhancing opportunities to local people with wide ranging physical or mental disabilities to enjoy fresh air and freedom away from their lives often restricted by wheel chairs or constant daily care. It provides respite to carers who can see their charges gain a small amount of independence. Peterborough Sailability was established in 2006

# - Service Above Self

by the local clubs and started out with two borrowed trimarans and a handful of volunteers and sailors. Today it has a fleet of 12 boats and from April to October has around 200 customers a week all mentored by qualified instructors and supported by volunteers and donations from Rotary. Rutland Sailability is supported by the Stamford Clubs in a similar way.



The press also carried the news that Railworld Wild Life Haven in Peterborough, supported in the early days by Rotary, had also received a similar Queens award while its founder Brian Pearce has received an MBE.

Turning to International activities, these are many and varied. In 1979 Rotary International embarked on a programme of vaccination against Polio in the Philippines where 6 million children were treated. During the last 40 years this fight against Polio has been extended successfully throughout the world so that only a small number of cases are now reported in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria. So far Rotary has donated \$65m to the eradication with more recent substantial contributions from Bill Gates Foundation. Sadly several members of vaccination teams have lost their lives due to local ignorance and hostility but the programme has not faltered. For the future Rotary has set its sights on targets such as malaria eradication, HIV and tropical diseases.

Every time there is a natural disaster such as earthquake, flood or famine in a third world country Rotary International responds immediately with Shelter Boxes, Water Purification equipment or tents funded by annual donations from individual clubs and hastily arranged local street collections, you may have donated.

A banner for Railworld Wildlife Haven. On the left is a circular logo with a stylized landscape: a blue sky with a yellow sun, a blue bird in flight, green reeds, a green field, and a blue body of water with a yellow animal. To the right of the logo, the text reads "Railworld" in red, "wildlife" in green, and "HAVEN" in large blue letters. Below the logo is a QR code and the text "ENTERTAIN AND EDUCATE ABOUT OUR WORLD" and "Volunteers Creating Habitat for Nature - Plus Model Railways". At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, the website "WWW.RAILWORLD.ORG.UK", and "Registered Charity No. 291515".





The local clubs also have their own individual projects and one very worthy cause is The David School Trust in Sierra Leone, established by David Wallwork a Rotarian from Ramsey. This school has been constructed in a poor rural area and provides a sound education in purpose built facilities which are self-sufficient in clean water and sanitation. Peterborough Clubs have given their time freely to support this project and even fully funded the further education of a talented blind student.

All the initiatives I have mentioned of course need fundraising to provide money for both local and international good causes. You may not be aware, but Peterborough Firework Fiesta organised by Rotary and Round Table in the city has raised more than £560,000 over the years for local charities. Peterborough Minster Golf Day supported by a number of local businesses divides its proceeds of around £8000 equally between East Anglian Air Ambulance and local

charities. Smaller charities which do not attract lottery or local government funding also receive support from individual clubs.

If you would like to be involved with these activities you would be very welcome to join one of the clubs, or be a volunteer at Sailability. There are already several such people living here in the 5 village community who would be pleased with some support. Clubs normally meet weekly for a meal, discussion and planning of activity and to hear guest speakers present on a wide range of topics. Your easiest point of contact is through the magazine, my details are always on page 4.



# THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018. It was chaired by Chris Smith, present were Liam Higgins, Ashleigh Kewney, Louise Molesworth, Adrian Rodgers, Lucy Sharpley, Penny Lewin-Watts and the Clerk.

There were apologies for absence from Martin Lewis and Diane Lamb.

**Declarations of Interest** There were no Declarations of Interest.

## **Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Representatives**

**Chairman** Christine Smith

**Vice Chairman** Louise Molesworth

## **Thornhaugh & Wansford Parish Burial Ground Committee**

Robert Reeve and Ian Molesworth (subject to his agreement)

**Representative - Thornhaugh Environmental Association** Liam Higgins

**Representative - Augean Community Liaison** Martin Witherington

**Representative - Christie Hall Management Committee** Penny Lewin-Watts

**Police Matters** There were no police representatives present. A Rural Crime Report had been received in April 2018.

## **Parish Council Elections 2018/Co-Option of two Parish Councillors**

Chris Smith, Martin Lewis and Louise Molesworth have been elected as Parish Councillors following an Uncontested Election. Ashleigh Kewney and Adrian Rodgers were co-opted as Parish Councillors with voting rights. Liam Higgins Lucy Sharpley and Penny Lewin-Watts were co-opted as Parish Councillors with no voting rights. Penny Lewin-Watts also acting as a representative of Christie Hall.

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

Diane Lamb has verbally confirmed that Peterborough City Council has no objections to the Community Facilities Fund grant being used to repair the stone wall, even if it is not owned by the Parish Council. The Clerk will ask her to put this in writing. Prior to the confirmation from Diane Lamb, the Chairman had written to Mr N Bailey, MD of Joice & Hill seeking confirmation of ownership of the wall which has now been superseded by Diane's confirmation. Mr Bailey was also asked to effect repairs to the entrance to the Chicken Farm to help keep the roads mud-free. The Chairman also approached Mick George regarding a donation of stone and we are still awaiting his response. The Chairman will follow this up.

## **Summer Tea Party**

It was agreed that a Sub Committee will be formed to arrange a Summer Tea Party for the w/e of 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Louise Molesworth will send out an e-mail asking for volunteers for the Sub Committee.

## **Speeding Motorists on Russell Hill**

Adrian Rodgers reported that the post is covered with foliage and so a 20-mph sign would not be seen. He will review the possibility of removing some of the foliage before erecting the sign or seek an alternative site.

## **Planning Consultation Notification 18/00295 (9 x various signs) – Super Service Station, Great North Road, Thornhaugh PE8 6HA**

The Planning Department had not replied to the suggestion if some sort of fence or bushes/trees screen might be a viable option to prevent light pollution (if this is not too late). This would also stop any headlights from pointing towards the village. The Clerk will chase up with the Planning Department

## **Telephone Box (Library)**

Penny Lewin-Watts is in the process of trying to find a painter/handyman to paint the Telephone Box (Library).

### **East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility Order 2013**

Liam Higgins has read the the document regarding East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility Order 2013 and had no observations that he wishes to be put forward but agreed to review in more detail and make comment if necessary on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **Annual Audit 2017-2018**

The Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 have been audited by Karen Jones of Thornhaugh and the Annual Return was signed by the by the Clerk and the Chairman.

### **GDPR**

The Chairman reported the GDPR legislation specifically includes public bodies such as parish councils but the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which is our parent body have been lobbying government to exclude small parishes. This is going through parliament at the moment so we have to wait until 25th May 2018 to see the outcome of what the government agrees.

### **Circular Footpath**

Liam Higgins stated that the circular footpath is overgrown and impassible for buggies, etc, but suggest that this is not pursued at present pending the outcome of Martin Witherington's work on the footpath down the land adjacent to the Chicken Farm.

### **Flag Poles at Shell Garage on A1 North**

Penny Lewin-Watts is concerned that the flag poles (advertising Cornish Pasties) at the Shell Garage are causing problems with visibility when exiting back onto the A1. The Clerk will contact the Planning Department to establish who would deal with this issue.

**Planning Application 18/00416** - proposed timber garage, felling of 1 Cherry tree and cutting back of laurels at 1 Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh  
No Objections

### **Hanging Baskets**

Louise Molesworth stated that the new hanging baskets will be ready in early June. She will liaise with Hillfield Nurseries regarding the delivery and erection of the hanging baskets. She will prepare a written note of how the baskets should be cared for and given these to the residents who have agreed to maintain a basket near their properties.

### **Conservation Officers**

The Clerk will contact Daniel Worley and Sam Falco, the PCC Conservation Officers who attended the March Meeting for an update on the progress of the Draft Appraisal and request the return of the book lent to them by Penny Lewin-Watts.

### **Tree Officer**

The PCC Tree Officer has agreed to attend the November Meeting.

### **Spraying off Verges**

Liam Higgins expressed concern about the use of weed killer on the entrance verges on the A47. General discussion concluded that this was not a Parish Council matter since this seems to have been a decision made by the Highways Agency presumably on health and safety grounds.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Next Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in St Andrew's Church.



## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

***The main item on the agenda for the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June was a report from Cllr Richard Clarke on A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling***

Another 7 hour round of meetings was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June between Highways England and representatives of Wansford and Sutton Parish Councils. The afternoon session was joined by a number of representatives of local cycling groups.

Highways England are expecting to start the formal public consultation on the project in early September 2018. The consultation responses have to be in written form addressed to the Planning Inspectorate. Those who wish to take part in this process will have to register as interested parties. The procedure will be fully explained in Living Villages once the timetable is known.

Highways England showed sketches of their proposed alignment of the new road where it goes close to the river. They have managed to get it further away from the river bank but the road is now shown perched at the top of a slope which is known to be unstable. You will probably see drilling rigs working in the area shortly to determine the actual properties of the ground. Please be careful around these drilling rigs as there are some significant safety issues.

The parish councils have been denied access to a series of meetings between Historic England and Highways England to discuss the status of the scheduled monument at Toll Bar Field. The parish councils have now organised their own meeting with Historic England to discuss a route through the monument that does not damage any of the features of the site. The significance of these meetings is that the monument is the only thing stopping the road following a route north of the existing A47. Using a northern alignment would save £6 million and avoid destroying two County Wildlife sites, a stand of protected ancient trees and the landscape setting of the Nene valley.

Highways England claims that the £6 million price difference between the routes has reduced but they have refused to release the cost estimates as they consider them confidential. In a similar way they have given information from new archaeological investigations to PCC and Historic England but declined to show them to the parish councils. There are serious concerns about Highways England's internal procedures and this will be raised with HE's senior management.

Study of the changes to the A1/A47 junction roundabouts is still ongoing but the designers say that the western roundabout will stay the same size at present.

Highways England expect to close the Wansford truck stop and picnic area next month as part of the road scheme development.

**Other WPC agenda items** included the following about highways:

20 mph speed restriction – Peter Tebb of PCC had confirmed that the signs are too high and most of the signs will be lowered. The Old Leicester signs are to be relocated.

Reclassification (road signs) – A note will be sent to Peter Tebb asking for the plans for road signs to be changed to be consistent with the re-classification of the A6118

Road Markings in the Centre of the Village – Cllr Clarke agreed to contact Peter Tebb concerning the parlous state of the road markings in the village.

The next meeting of WPC is in the Community Hall at 7:30 on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

***Cllr Tim Pearson***

# A47 Wansford to Sutton

## Newsletter – June 2018



### Better and safer journeys

We are proposing a new dual carriageway on the A47 between the A1 junction and the roundabout at Nene Way.

Our proposals will reduce congestion at the junction with the A1, which is particularly busy at peak times on the southbound slip road. There is also a history of fatal and serious collisions along this stretch of road. This is associated with right turns and access at the junction.

### Scheme design update

#### Junction design

We are currently developing the preliminary design for public consultation later this year. We have identified the preferred junction layout which aims to reduce congestion at the Wansford eastern roundabout, while further testing is taking place to the proposed A1 southbound to A47 slip road and the Wansford western roundabout.

Following feedback from stakeholders, we are looking to further reduce the impact on the River Nene by improving the preferred route so it runs closer to the scheduled monument site.

#### Walking, cycling and equestrian design

Surveys of walkers, cyclists and equestrians started on 26 May 2018. The results will give us a better understanding of how people use existing routes at different times and locations. The results will enable us to tailor the scheme for the everyone.

In addition, we have applied for extra funds (through the Designated Funds scheme) to improve the Nene Way and the Wansford picnic area. If approved, the initiative will improve the path through the picnic area, enhance the appeal of the route, improve safety and security, and discourage antisocial behaviour.

## Environment and archaeology

Making sure we take care to protect the environment is an important part of what we do. Surveys help us to understand the local area.

During May the following surveys took place:

- Dusk and dawn bat surveys in wooded areas along the route and along the disused railway
- Static bat detectors and camera traps were used at Sacrewell Farm and under the A1 bridge
- Mapping of archaeological features at Sacrewell Farm fields and on other private land
- Noise surveys at key locations adjacent to the A1 / A47 junction
- Surveys regarding aquatic invertebrates such as dragonfly larvae and molluscs along the River Nene and the nearby brooks
- Habitat surveys for protected species across the route
- Vegetation surveys across the Site of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife sites
- Otter inspections along the River Nene and the Wittering Brook. Camera traps were also placed at certain locations to provide evidence of activity
- Badger camera trap placements were placed at the identified badger setts along the route

## Stakeholder meetings

### Meetings taken place this month

The first set of working group meetings took place on 4 May 2018 in Wansford. This meeting updated representatives of Parish Council and other local groups on the scheme. The groups focused on 3 main aspects: (1) walking, cycling and equestrians, (2) environment and archaeology and (3) junction design and modelling.

Following concerns raised in these meetings, Highways England met with Historic England on 16 May 2018 and Environment Agency on 24 May 2018.

On 29 May, we met with Sacrewell Farm to update them on the progress of the scheme.

### Upcoming meetings

Following our meeting with Historic England on 16 May 2018, we are meeting with Working Group members on Monday 11 June 2018 to focus on how Historic England's requirements will impact the design of the scheme.

## Current challenges

### Land Interest questionnaires

Wansford and Sutton Parish Council raised that the recent Land Interest questionnaires created concerns in the area, as some residents thought that their homes were at risk of being compulsory purchased. This is not the case and we would like to apologise for any Confusion caused.

In a reminder letter sent out on 18 March 2018, a paragraph we explained why we were contacting residents. We are also investigating how we can improve our letters to reduce the risk of this happening again in the future.

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The ladies of the WI have had a very busy June. Nine of us went to the national conference in Cardiff and were entertained by very informative speakers – Dame Stella Rimington (former head of MI5) and Huw Edwards (BBC news at 10 anchor man).

The main business of the conference was to consider the mental health resolution which I described last month. I am pleased to say that it was passed with 98% approval. We also had an update on the Plastic Soup resolution that we passed last year, and were pleased to hear that public awareness has been heightened and that alternatives are beginning to be found.

We had time to explore Cardiff Bay and the Welsh Senate building. A great time was had by all!

Our June group meeting was a visit to Prebendal Manor where we learnt about King Cnut, the ownership by the Diocese of Lincoln, and the more recent loving renovations by the current owners. We were then able to enjoy the gardens and refreshments in the tithe barn. The weather was dry, so we were indeed blessed!

If you would like to come along to any of these events, please contact me as below.

More details and news can also be found on our Facebook page @sandwwi .  
Jan Armitage 01780 789996

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I have recently read a report of the Mammal Society of Great Britain stating that a ten kilometre square of Dorset countryside near Corfe Castle is the most species-rich area for mammals in Britain. Some 44 of our 58 recorded mammals in this country can be found there. Perhaps you had no idea that the whole of Great Britain could harbour such a wide variety of 'animals' but when you consider the many species of voles and mice, bats and deer that inhabit our countryside those numbers add up.

Dorset achieves this record largely through being blessed with poor soils which have not encouraged expansive agriculture to 'improve' the land. There are large stretches of heathland contiguous with one another which, together with steep topography and a mild climate, have allowed species to develop relatively undisturbed. The report made me think about our own county, the area surrounding our village and, indeed, my own garden. What would my list contain?

During the first winter after we moved into our cottage we soon realised that it was such a cosy home that a number of mice moved in to keep us company. But what a noise they made! In the end I had to trap them. Yellow-necked mice were the noisiest, but these were followed by harvest, or long-tailed field mice and field voles. Strangely no house mice but there were plenty in the garage. My wife and I were also visited by a bat one bedtime, a common pipistrelle which flew around the bedroom for half an hour before being released.

A less welcome rodent, the common rat, is a very occasional visitor to our chicken coop. More welcome is the occasional mole, provided it doesn't come as far as my lawn. The hedgehog used to visit but not for a few years now. I often see a live, or usually dead, common shrew in the garden; left over by prowling cats I suspect. One year I had a couple of baby rabbits dashing out from the borders to feed on the lawn. Remarkably, with the option of bird feeders to challenge them I have only twice seen grey squirrels in the garden - I don't think there are any oak trees nearby to attract them. Finally the fox pays the occasional visit, particularly three Christmases ago when he took home three chickens for his dinner. Muntjac deer are seen and heard all round the village, particularly the last few days, and I am pretty sure one has laid up in the back of my garden - and nipped the flowers of my tulips one night.

In the wider area of the village badgers are a common site on the roads, dead or alive, and small parties of fallow deer wander the fields. I know otters have been seen in our local stretch of the Nene and there have been sightings of Roe deer nearby. Further afield stoats, weasels and brown hares are common but I haven't seen them locally.

Perhaps you can improve on my local list of sixteen. There are many more about. A few years ago a common seal swam up the Nene as far as Peterborough!

I would be grateful for any of your mammal sightings. Do let me know at [grahamblagden7@gmail.com](mailto:grahamblagden7@gmail.com).

Martin James

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Application forms available online to be returned by 31st August for consideration (Grants not means tested)

### Volunteer needed to run community group....



Nene Valley Tots is a fantastic baby and toddler group in Wansford, which has been run on a volunteer basis by local mums for the past 13 years. Unfortunately, it may have to close from the end of July, as none of the current members are in a position to take over the organisation of the group.

Is there anyone who would be interested in taking on the group? It runs every Monday morning (except Bank Holidays) from 10-11.30. It would be a real shame for the local villages to lose this community group.

For more information, please contact **Becky Eames** on **07519 666515**, or by email [nenevalleytots@googlemail.com](mailto:nenevalleytots@googlemail.com)

## DIARY DATES – JULY 2018

Sun 1	Churches in Bloom	12.00 - 5.00pm	Local churches			
Sun 1	Harmony Singing Workshop	2.00 - 5.30pm	Stibbington Centre		782386	23
Sun 1	Strawberry Fayre	4.00pm	St Remigius	Tony Capon	01733 237500	9
Wed 4	<b>Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's</b>	10.30am	Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Mon 9	Wansford Parish Council	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	25
Tues 10	WI meeting	7.15pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	31
Wed 11	Welcome Coffee Stop	10.30am	Wansford Church	Dora Baker	782519	8
Fri 13	<b>WI 3C's Craft Coffee and Community</b>	10.00am	Community hall	Jan Armitage	789996	29
Sat 14	Thornhaugh Litter Pick	10.30am	Village Green	Nikki Higiins	07773 287312	
Sat 14	Hort Society Summer Social	7.00pm	59 Elton Road	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Mon 16	Thornhaugh Parish Council	7.00pm	St Andrews	Deirdre McCumiskey		24
Wed 18	<b>Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's</b>	10.30am	Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Fri 20	Communicare Coffee Morning	10.00am	Kings Cliffe Active Sports Hall	Clare Wagstaff	470437	14
Wed 25	Welcome Coffee Stop	10.30am	Wansford Church	Dora Baker	782519	8
Sat 28	<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	8.30am	Queens Head	Ian Scott		8
Sat 28	Hort Society Trip to Little Morton Hall and Biddulph Grange			Gill Fisher	782446	15
AUG Sat 25	Horticultural Show		Haycock Field	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Sun 26	Water Newton Music Fest				01733 237500	6
SEPT 8/9	Thornhaugh Summer Tea Party			Deirdre McCumiskey		24
Wed 12	Communicare AGM		Wansford Surgery	Clare Wagstaff	470437	14

**Copy deadline next month: 20th July 2018**

**editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk**

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