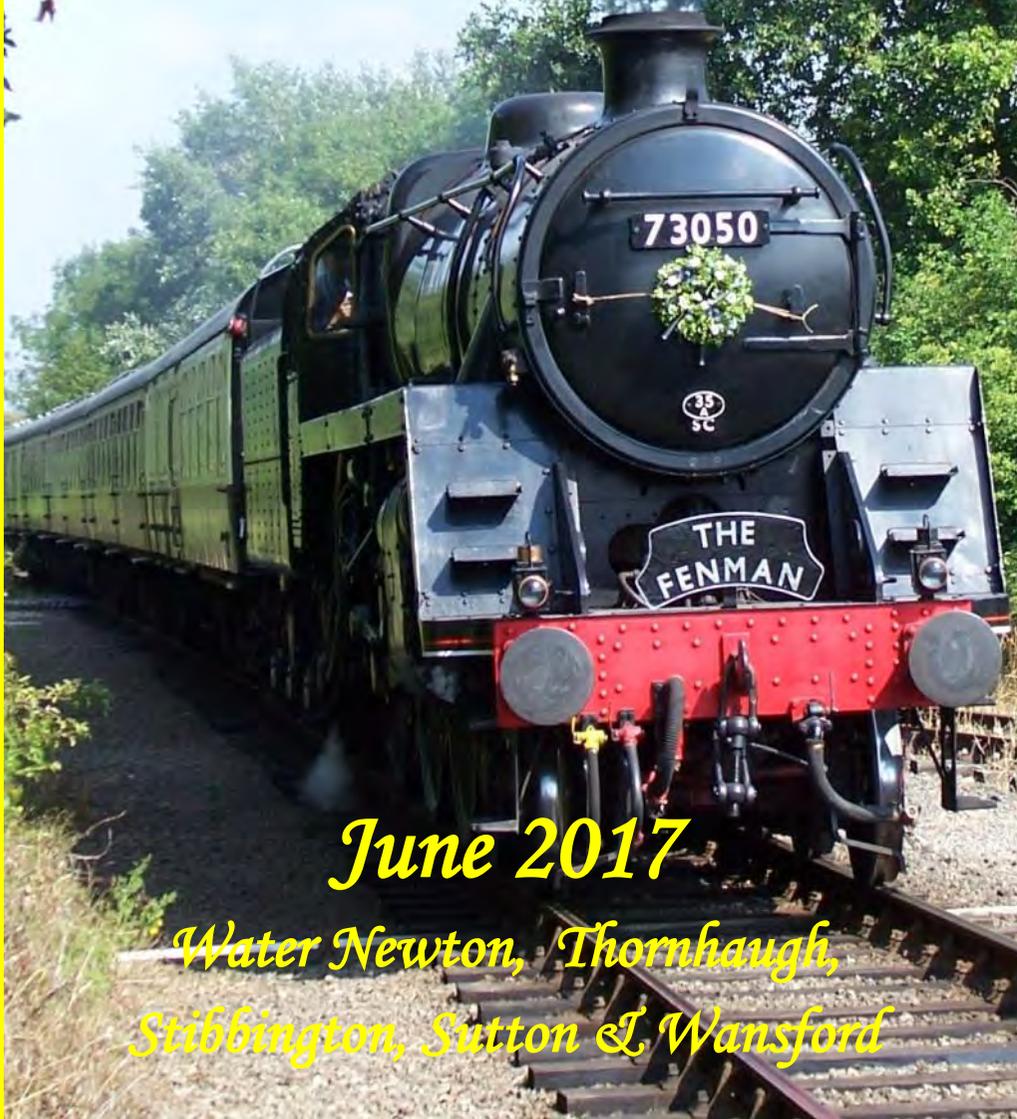


# *Living Villages*



*June 2017*

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



# EDITORIAL

Thank-you to everyone who has sent in fascinating articles and information about events which are happening in and around our five villages. For the first time since becoming editor I have had to delay publishing some non time related items due to a lack of space! I'm not complaining at all, it really is good to know that you value this publication as a place to advertise your events. In the near future you will be reading about the residents of Sulehay Woods, The Kairos Prison Ministry, Home Security when on Holiday and we will also find out who lived in the houses on Church Lane Stibbington when they were first built.

There are a few new advertisers this month as well - please remember that whilst we are not able to endorse any in particular, many are local organisations.

The centre pages celebrate 40 years of Nene Valley Railway. Reading the article reminded me of my schooldays when I took part in a sponsored walk along the railway from Orton to Stibbington shortly before the trains began to run again on the line.

In the last month or so there have been far too many road accidents in the area. Sadly there have been a number of fatalities including Jo Booth from Nassington. Jo was well known in many local villages and was a regular worshiper at St Mary's. Investigations are still continuing into the causes of these sad events, but it will be likely that excessive speed or lack of concentration will be the probable conclusion.

**Tracy Sortwell**

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**Editorial team** *For contact details see p 4*

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Read your magazine on-line at [www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk](http://www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk)

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## Other useful contacts

Neighbourhood Policing 101		P'boro City Council	01733 747474
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(Out of hours	111 option 4)	Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	789996
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## Website

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

# WORSHIP JUNE 2017



<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Service</b>
4 June	9.30am	St Andrews, Thornhaugh	Morning Prayer
	10.15am	St Kyneburgh, Castor	Holy Communion
11 June	9.00am	St Michael & All Angels, Sutton	Morning Worship
	9.30am	St Marys, Wansford	Holy Communion with Choir
18 June	9.30am	St Andrews, Thornhaugh	Holy Communion
	10.15am	St Kyneburgh, Castor	Holy Communion
25 June	9.00am	St Michael & All Angels, Sutton	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Marys, Wansford	Morning Praise - Family Service
	6.00pm	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Patronal Festival, Choral Evensong, followed by refreshments
2 July	4.00pm	St Remigius, Water Newton	Strawberry Service and Fayre



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Despite the rather cold and dismal weather of recent weeks the welcome rain has made the plants in our gardens start to grow. It is clear that the growing season is now well under way and those interested in gardening find it hard to keep up with all the tasks that need to be done. The yearly cycle of the seasons is a vivid reminder that not all time is the same. Some parts of the year involve active growth whilst others are characterised by dormancy and decay.

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes knew this well. *"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."* Ecclesiastes Ch 3 Vs 1. These familiar words remind us that different times are appropriate for different things. Despite our attempts to manipulate the natural world somehow things grow better in the appropriate season. Strawberries that have been forced in hot houses or flown across the globe to be served in the depths of winter just don't seem to taste the same as the succulent fruits we can enjoy amidst the abundance of high summer.

These insights about time don't just apply to the natural world, the same is true of our own lives and also the life of communities such as the Church. There are times when growth takes place more quickly and other periods when growth slows down and even stops. This is a reality which reflects the way the world is.

In recent years there has been a steady decline in the membership church communities throughout our land. The busy pace of life means that many people find it increasingly hard to find the time to attend church services and events. In response to this challenge the Church of England through its bishops has encouraged each parish to develop a strategy for growth and to formulate plans for action that will help church communities to grow. Our benefice began working on a Growth Action Plan last autumn and this plan is helping us to prioritise and focus out future planning. As I write these words we are in the midst of a review of our worship. In addition a small working group has recently been convened to consider how we can improve communication and enable us to become more effective at staying in touch with the many people who visit our churches each year. As well as this we have plans to set up working groups to consider how we might support the mission of the Church in other parts of the world and also enable us to provide more effective support and pastoral care for the members of our village communities. Clearly we will not be able to achieve all of these goals immediately but we hope to have made some tangible progress by the end of this year.

In many ways what we are trying to achieve is nothing new. Just as each spring is very similar, and marks the time in the year when growth begins once again after the winter, so are the plans we make in response to the timeless treasure of the Gospel. But as each spring is slightly different so each generation has its own opportunity to respond to the Gospel message in a new way.

The growing season is upon us, it is time to grow.

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

May has been a month of joy and sadness for The Friends. Joy, because after a very successful series of Lent Lunches we were able to welcome some new members in our group.

Our new venture, The Wednesday Welcome COFFEE STOP, has taken off (see separate report) and has been enjoyed by many already. Look out for these in a separate report. They take place every second and fourth Wednesday of the month between 10.30 and 12 noon after the morning service at St. Mary's. Posters are always displayed outside the church.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> a large number of Friends took part in a "Quiet Day" at Launde Abbey with Rev. Jane Tailby. Here we were able to remember again our friend Jo Booth, who had been killed so tragically in a road accident very recently.

**Our Meetings in June** will take place as always on the first and third Wednesday of the month, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.30 in the Community Hall after Morning Prayer at St. Mary's at 10 a.m.

*Dora Baker*

## WANSFORD WEDNESDAY COFFEE STOP

This is a new venture from the Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's which started on 26th April, supporting the churches and the Mazwi village project.

The first two have been very successful and blessed by sunshine. Everyone enjoyed home baking and company and "take -alongs" were popular.

All are welcome to call in between 10.30 and 12 for coffee, tea, scones, cakes, sausage rolls and more. Passers-by, cyclists and walkers – please come in!

The next dates are 14th June when the W.I. will be in charge, and 28th June.



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# FRIENDS OF STIBBINGTON CHURCH

I would like to update readers that I have decided to step down as chairman of the Friends after five and a half years and hand over to David Ridgeway, I will remain on the committee. The Friends have been very supportive of the church and our role is to raise funds to improve the fabric and create a community facility. We have been able to gain planning permission from the local authority to install a kitchen and toilets and have the plans to carry out these works. However to date we have been unable to gain permission from the church's 'planning' committee over the last 3 years (which frustratingly has prevented the work being started).

The work of the committee will continue with David trying to gain the necessary permissions from the church. I would like to thank the committee and everyone who has supported us over the last five and a half years, we have had some great fun. Looking forward the committee will continue with its work - Thank you

**Rob Facer**

Enormous thanks are due to Rob and Helen Facer for all of the work that they have done to help set up the Friends of Stibbington Church and a great deal has been achieved under Rob's chairmanship. I am very grateful to him for all of the work he has put into the church refurbishment project.

Although the delays in gaining all of the required permissions are immensely frustrating I am hopeful that we will continue to move forward. We are currently working on submitting a grant application to seek funding for the first stage of the project which is to carry out urgent repairs to the guttering and deal with the serious damp problems in the building.

**David Ridgeway**

*St. John the Baptist Church, Stibbington*

*On Sunday 25 June at 6 pm we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival. The service will be Choral Evensong and we will be joined and aided in our worship by members from St. Mary's church, Wansford. The service will be followed by refreshments. Do come along and join us, you will be assured of a warm welcome.*

*Carol Lindsay and Richard Winfrey  
Church Wardens*



## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STIBBINGTON

Our present cleaner has had to retire. We are looking for someone who has a couple of hours once a month to take her place. The job comprises general cleaning, and equipment is provided. We are not a wealthy organisation but there is a modest cash payment.

If you feel that you are able to help and would like more information, please ring Carol Lindsay (01780 782338) or Richard Winfrey (01780 782431)



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## FRIENDS OF ST REMIGUIS - WATER NEWTON STRAWBERRY FAYRE

Our next service and celebration on **Sunday 2nd July at 4pm** is our annual 'Strawberry Service' followed by an Afternoon Strawberry Tea. 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*

## WATER NEWTON MUSIC FEST 2017

**Bank Holiday Sunday 27th August**

The full line up for this year's Water Newton Music Fest has now been released.

The organisers of this ever popular event will be showcasing a great selection of popular local bands including:

'The Gangsters', 'Latino Sound', 'Wansford Ukulele Folk', 'Pennyless' and 'Gone to The Dogs'.

The open air one day event starts at 12 noon and is held on the village green with continuous music through to 7.30pm.

This year there will be delicious 'street' food, wood fired pizzas, a beer tent serving real ales supplied by Castor Ales and a 'Pimms & Bubbles' bar.

Be sure to note the date in your diaries and let all your friends know of the event. Why not make up a party?

Tickets will be on sale from late June by visiting :-  
[www.waternewtonvillage.co.uk](http://www.waternewtonvillage.co.uk)

This is a charity gig with all profits going to 'The Friends of St Remigius Water Newton' to help maintain and improve the ancient church in this delightful hamlet on the banks of the River Nene.

*Tony Capon Chair - Friends of St. Remigius Water Newton.*

## THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY

The April Monthly draw has been completed and the winners for the draw are shown here.

With many thanks to,  
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## STIBBINGTON CENTRE NEWS



We are now in the busiest season for the Centre, with back-to-back school visits and many weekends booked for private hire parties. The most recent of these users were members of a large choir from Cambridge who used the facilities for a mixture of singing practice, skill-sharing and as a base for walking. This may explain any particularly musical Ramblers you have encountered recently!

**TEAM VACANCY** We still have a vacancy for a cleaner to work regularly during term time (Tuesday late afternoon/early evening) and additional times as required to cover holiday periods. We are a very friendly team. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Rebecca Goff on the number at the bottom of the page or drop in and speak to us during the daytime.

**ECO-CRAFT IDEA:** We like this idea of “re-purposing” a plastic pop bottle to create a self-watering planter. (\*Adult assistance required)

1. Carefully cut a plastic pop bottle in half.\*
2. Pierce lid \* and thread 15cm wetted, cotton string / cotton fabric through hole.
3. Invert top half of bottle and fill with compost, making sure that 5cm of the string will hang below the lid and the rest is bedded into the compost.
4. Use to pot up a previously grown plant or sow seeds on surface. The base of another bottle can be used as a propagator lid.
5. Fill base of bottle with 2-3cm water keeping a gap between lid and surface of water.
6. Lower plant to rest on the base section so string dangles into the water to act as a wick.



Stibbington Community  
Classes Update.....

**Willow Birds** (2/6/17) and **Silk Painting** 11/6/17 - Fully booked. **Stone Carving** (1/7/17) - 3 spaces available

### CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01780 782386

Email: [cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

You can also use the following links:

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

# HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We were not blessed with warm sunshine on Saturday 6 May for our Plant Sale, but at least it remained dry and our customers were not deterred. I am really grateful to all those who heeded our request for the donation of plants and equipment to add variety to what was on offer, and a good selection was available. Our customers seemed pleased with their purchases and I have received several emails commenting on the quality of the plants and the reasonable prices.



A record £238 was raised for the society's funds which will be used to subsidise other events on our calendar.



The coach trip to R.H.S. Garden Wisley the following Saturday was greatly enjoyed by our 41 participants. Although we did have a heavy shower around lunchtime the sun soon broke through and the afternoon was set fair. As always the gardens were magnificent, the plant shop very tempting and the Camellia, Rhododendron and Azalea Show an added bonus.

We have plenty more to look forward to this summer. As well as our two day coach trip to Great Dixter and Sissinghurst in July there is the Summer Social on 15<sup>th</sup> July followed by our private evening visit to the Walled Garden at Blatherwycke on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Of course we are gearing up for the Annual Show on Bank Holiday Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> August, and the schedule for this year's show will shortly be online with a few changes since last year, such as to the subjects of photographic entries. Advance warning: keen photographers should focus their lenses on Architecture, sporting events, birds and the river!

We are still gaining new members – five this month! - and with membership of the society at only £2.50 per annum and not restricted to those living in Wansford, it is a great way to meet others and enjoy a variety of activities at very little cost, so please do consider joining us.

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**A general meeting open to all patients will be held on**

**Wednesday 14th June 2017  
at Wansford Surgery – 6.30 pm**

**Guest Speaker: Sarah-Jane Turner  
Surgery Emergency Care Practitioner**

**Sarah-Jane will be talking about her role within the practice giving advice and guidance to patients by phone and when necessary arranging appointments. She will also be giving details of her independent basic life support training service**

**Following the partners' decision to remain an independent practice it is hoped that this meeting will give patients an opportunity to learn more about the forward planning for availability of services and any potential future expansion and development**

**Visit to CROMER, Norfolk**

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# 40 years of Nene Valley Railway

Steam trains at the bottom of your garden, that's something you might imagine in the middle of rural Wales but it's not the sort of thing you'd expect in Peterborough, but for the last 40 years that's exactly what has been happening.

When it came to setting up Greater Peterborough as a new town it was decided that people needed hobbies and diversions and with a strong steam railway club the Peterborough Railway Society led by the Revd Richard Payton lobbying it didn't take long for the Development Corporation to decide that this great idea would tick all the boxes and in 1974 the line between Yarwell Junction and Peterborough which was once a branch of the London to Birmingham Railway was bought as the foundation of a the countries newest preserved railway. As this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year it doesn't take a genius to work out that the first trains ran along the line in 1977.

Thomas, named by the Rev Awdry 1971 (while the engine was still working at the Peterborough Sugar-beet plant) had been bought by the Peterborough Railway Society in 1973 and by 1979 was running on the NVR and continues to do so, as perhaps its most famous resident.

In four decades the NVR's infrastructure has grown from a motley collection of sheds and porta-cabins to a purpose build station building with engine overhaul facilities and smart new stations have sprung up along the line.

Securing the railway's link with the East Coast mainline a couple of years ago was a major step in guaranteeing the railways place as a leading contender in the preserved railway stakes.

The latest major development has been the purchase of the Original 1845 Station building which following the closure of the line had been hived off along with the station yard. While finally owning the original building is amazing and a bit of a dream come true nobody is under any illusions about the massive size undertaking, the purchase price being only a drop in the ocean when compared to the costs of restoration.



**Inside the station building**

The year-long 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations have seen and will continue to see some of the most impressive Steam and diesel Locomotives within the steam movement arriving at the railway to delight both enthusiasts and the general public alike.

The Locomotive Royal Scot makes an appearance for three days of the 'main' 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of June, and from this the railway rushes headlong into the next Thomas event only a few days later on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June.

With barely a pause to fling a few more shovels of coal onto the fire it's onto the open weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of June. The railway can take a little time to oil the bearings and fill the boiler again before Thomas' summer holiday on 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> August.



The 40th year rounds out with two huge events only a week apart the first being the Steam gala on 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> September followed by the appearance of the magnificent streamlined A4 Main-line express locomotive Union of South Africa for the 'Pacifics' weekend five days later (16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Sept).

much our wonderful volunteers mean to us, without them the Railway simply wouldn't function. On the other hand, we know that in return many really enjoy the camaraderie and unique challenges of being part of such a special undertaking. The fact that some who were present right at the very start 40 years ago still come along today surely says something.



**Union of South Africa**

But it's far from a closed shop, new volunteers come along every day and if anybody reading this would like to take part and enjoy this too, we'd be thrilled to see them.

It's certain that the NVR will change over the years but the one thing that people should be confident of is that no matter what lies in store there will still be trains running at the bottom of the garden in 2057.

The amazing volunteers who have facilitated this year's incredible celebration events don't get a rest either, they are soon back in duty for the Santa Specials dealing with some 20,000 delighted visitors in only a month, little wonder that January 2018 has very few days steaming planned, everybody will need a rest.



**Santa Special Volunteers**

On the subject of volunteers, it cannot be stressed enough just how

# THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017. It was chaired by Brian Watts, present were Liam Higgins, Ashleigh Kewney and Louise Molesworth and in attendance were five Members of the Public and the Clerk. There were apologies for absence from Chris Smith.

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

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

There was no change in the elected positions

## **Public Participation**

The Members of the Public raised the following issues:-

The potential difficulty of getting on/off onto the A1 from the properties on the A1 Southbound when the planned dualling of the A47 from Wansford to Sutton is completed. The resident has expressed her concerns to the Highways Division. It was noted that a meeting regarding the plans is due to take place in the autumn.

The gate via the path by the chicken farm (which connects Home Farm to the village) is still locked despite the end of the avian flu risk. The Parish Councillors gave their support for the residents of Home Farm to make an application to Peterborough City Council for the path to be registered as a footpath. [Brian Watts will produce a flyer about the issue and distribute it to the village residents.](#)

Overgrown vegetation causing difficulty accessing the footpath along the A47. The Clerk will report to Peterborough City Council and request that it is strimmed back.

**Annual Audit** The Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 had been audited by Karen Jones of Thornhaugh and the Annual Return will be signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.

## **Home Farm Matters including Dog Foul Bin**

The Dog Foul Bin has not yet been sited next to the yellow grit bin at the entrance to Home Farm. Ashleigh Kewney had partially dismantled the Noticeboard but needs help with dismantling the back. Martin Witherington will arrange the help required and then hopefully it can be repaired rather than replaced.

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

The quotation of £1,100 obtained by Brian Watts to repair the stone wall at the top of Russell Hill was accepted.

## **Crossleys Garden Village**

The Parish Councillors expressed their grave concerns about this potential development. Nolan Tucker, Director of WYG had not been able to attend the meeting as requested but had offered to attend a meeting in early July 2017. The Clerk will confirm that the Parish Councillors would like to meet with him. The Clerk will inform Peterborough City Council that Thornhaugh Parish Council has not been consulted about the potential development and are strongly opposed to it. Brian Watts will produce a flyer about the issue and distribute it to the village residents.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The Second Meeting of the 2017/2018 Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in St Andrew's Church.

***Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk***

# SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors from Sibson-cum-Stibbington met on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 in the Stibbington Centre for their Annual Parish Meeting, Annual General Meeting which was followed by normal meeting. All Councillors were in attendance together with 3 members of the public.

Cllr Beuttell reported on the events of the last 12 months.

*During the year we welcomed Miranda Riddington to our Council, and she was warmly welcomed. This year has been particularly active regarding planning applications. There were 18 applications in total with 10 comments of objection and 8 with no comments or objections*

*There was an Expression of Interest and proposal for the creation of a Garden Village of some 2500 houses to be built on the area of Sibson Airfield and surrounding land received by HDC. This saw, for the first time that I can remember, several of our surrounding Parish Councils collectively and actively objecting to this proposal. I would especially like to thank Mark Holman of Elton Parish Council and his Councillors for their help and contribution.*

*Your councillors together with other Parishes attended several meetings and promotions regarding this EOI. The Government issued its list of approved sites for such developments at the beginning of the year, and, to our relief this Site was not included. During the process we attended a meeting with Huntingdon DC Councillors who assured us that HDC were not leading this EOI and that this site was not on their preferred list of proposed future housing. Three of your councillors including myself met with our MP Shailesh Vara together with the HDC planners and Councillors at Pathfinder House in Huntingdon on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. We were given absolute assurance that this scheme was not in their Plan for future housing, as they had already earmarked areas for erection of 21,000 homes included in their plan through to 2036. They also commented that they felt misrepresented in the promotion of this proposed site. This gave us great comfort.*

*Another planning application, which has been approved by HDC, is the building of a Marina at Manor Farm. Mick George has applied to build and keep on site a mineral processing plant. Concerns were raised by us, as in the application it was stated that this would be temporary. On further investigation and response from HDC we are told that the current planning consent requires the construction activities to be completed with 18 months of commencement and the proposals to install the mineral processing plant facility will not extend the time limit.*

*During the year we signed a new lighting Contract with K & M Lighting Maintenance, having been severely let down by Balfour Beatty on several occasions.*

*Once again I would like to thank all of my fellow Councillors for their continued support and effort during quite a difficult year. I would also, again, thank Wendy Gray for her unstinting support, knowledge and help.*

Cllrs Beuttell and Bradshaw were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

The Parish Clerk reported that we were still awaiting the installation of new road signs for the Environment Centre requested some time ago but it is understood these will be installed by our next meeting.

The Parish Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 were duly signed in readiness for our External Auditors.

Finally, we are also in the process of assessing street lights in the village, do any need upgrading/replacing.

Our next Parish Council Meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July in the Stibbington Centre commencing at 7 p.m. The Parish Council would be delighted to see you.



## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Six out of seven councillors in attendance. No members of the public attended this month.

Items discussed:

**Picnic site:** Ongoing dialogue with Police commissioner Jason Ablewhite and Highways England as to who is responsible for the maintenance and monitoring of the site and dealing with the activities therein. We are awaiting their responses.

**Planning:** An "expression of interest" has been submitted by the Church Commissioners to build a garden village at Wittering, at the junction of the A47/Old Oundle Road. WPC will seek the views of the neighbouring parishes of Wittering and Thornhaugh as this does not actually lie within Wansford Parish.

**Play area:** This has been up and running for a year now and is due for its annual safety inspection which will be carried out shortly by PCC.

**Community Hall handrail:** Local builder Steve Kaye is now in the process of coordinating the erection and illumination of the rail.

**Christie Hall:** The roof has now been repaired and quotes are currently being sought for redecoration. The tots play group has asked for a working garden outside the hall to grow plants. The idea of a fundraising lottery for the hall is stalling somewhat owing to problems finding people to do the leg work round the villages.

**BT phone box:** it was agreed to pay the £1 and keep the box on the Old North Road. All thought it would be a good idea to house a defibrillator in it.

**20 mph speed signs:** Still awaiting further communication from PCC Highways - it is hoped that WPC and Stibbington PC can coordinate signs on both sides of the bridge.

**Thornhaugh burial ground:** The wall had recently fallen down but prompt action was taken and it's now back up again!

Next meeting is on Monday June 12th in the Community Hall. Members of the public are very welcome to attend and participate.

**Viv Thorley      Wansford PC**

### **Summary of Chairman's report to Annual Parish Meeting**

*The past year has seen three difficult issues come to the fore...the picnic site, improving working relations with Peterborough City Council, and the A47 upgrade.*

*Many applications have been considered, with only occasional concerns raised and after some compromise, most objections have been satisfied.*

*We will continue to progress the 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village and the Community Hall work will be completed. The RBL caused the Council some consternation with their rent review for the Christie Hall but the CHMC mitigated this large increase by contributing to the rent paid by the local Parish Councils. Nevertheless, we found the need to increase the 2017/18 precept by £500 to cover our increased rent contribution.*

*The old bridge took a battering from a car, and needed considerable repair. This work led to a major survey and extensive work on the fabric of the bridge is needed.*

*The year has seen considerable input from residents at our meetings and this involvement is greatly valued. We are also looking to work closely with neighbouring parish councils and hopefully ENC, to resolve issues that impact on Wansford.*

*Concluding, it has been an eventful year, and I have enjoyed working with fellow councillors, especially Martyn, my vice chairman and Wendy for her invaluable support as Clerk to the Council.*

**John Stannage**

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SUNDAY: 11.30-7.30PM

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## STIBBINGTON AND WANSFORD WI

Plastic soup and loneliness were the order of the day for our May meeting. Members were asked to consider the resolutions which will be taken forward to the national WI meeting next month in Liverpool.

Did you know that microplastic fibres are shed from synthetic clothing every time they are washed and are a major contributor to microplastic contamination of the oceans? The WI are calling on government and industry to design a filter which would catch these from our washing machines, but there are very positive steps that we can take ourselves such as washing at 30° rather than higher temperatures, and of course reverting to natural fibres such as wool, cotton and silk where possible.

The microfibers – and they could be anything from 140,000 to 730,000 per machine wash – are ingested by marine life and eventually they find their way into the food chain. There is insufficient evidence at the moment as to how much damage this causes to all life forms, but it seems sensible that we should be tackling this sooner rather than later. There was unanimous support for this resolution.

The discussion around loneliness was also discussed, but the feeling was that it is a much more local issue and we can all (WI members and the whole community) help to identify and reduce loneliness – even just saying hello on the street, inviting someone for coffee or to share a meal with our families. Therefore we felt that we can all take local action rather than relying on other agencies to pick up the load.

The meeting also celebrated Pat's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday - It feels as if it has been a very busy year with birthdays, joiners and leavers, and that is just a reflection of us being like any other part of society. There will be more to come!

By the time you read this we will have had another bake sale (hopefully the weather will be kind). The **supper club** will be sampling Turkish cuisine on **June 28<sup>th</sup>** in Stamford (if you would like to join us, please contact me).

On **June 14<sup>th</sup>, 10.30 til 12** at St Marys, Wansford, we will be offering coffee and cake in partnership with the friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's as our contribution the **The Great Get Together** in celebration of the life of Jo Cox MP. Finally, our meeting on **June 13<sup>th</sup>** will hear about **ACWW** (Associated Country Women of the World), which is our international charity. We will also be bringing a posy in a pot as a small competition. Please contact me if you would like to join us for any of our events, and more details and news can now be found on our blog [www.swwiblog.com](http://www.swwiblog.com)



**Jan Armitage 01780 789996**



### JUNE



**Nene Valley Railway  
40th Anniversary**  
Nene Valley Railway 2 to 4 June

### Tour of Cambridgeshire Gran Fondo

Peterborough Arena 2 to 4 June



### Peterborough Cherry Fair

Riverside Embankment 5 to 26 June

### Heritage Festival

Cathedral Square 17 to 18 June



### Polish Festival

Cathedral Square 25 June

### Armed Forces Day

Cathedral Square 24 June



### JULY



### Portuguese Festival

Peterborough Rugby Club  
22 to 23 July

### Mask Theatre

Central Park 10 to 15 July

### AUGUST

### Peterborough Lions Centenary Celebration

Cathedral Square 19 August



### CAMRA 40th Peterborough Beer Festival

Riverside Embankment  
22 to 26 August

### Itter Park Fun Day

Itter Park 6 August

### SEPTEMBER



### KeyFest

Key Theatre / Riverside  
Embankment  
2 to 3 September

### Classic and Vintage Vehicle Show

Riverside Embankment  
2 to 3 September



### Italian Festival

Cathedral Square  
9 to 10 September

### Peterborough Bridge Fair

Riverside Embankment 28 September to 8 October

### OCTOBER

### Civic Opening of Bridge Fair and Sausage Supper

Town Hall 3 October

### Perkins Great Eastern Run

Riverside Embankment  
8 October



### Diwali Festival

Cathedral Square 14 October

### Mr Fips Circus

Riverside Embankment  
23 October to 5 November



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### Christmas Lights Switch-on

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<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>4.30pm to 10pm</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>4.30pm to 10pm</b>
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## Nassington Open Gardens Weekend June 24th & 25th 2017 1-5pm

<p><i>Enjoy one of Northamptonshire's Finest Rural Villages</i></p> <p><i>20 Open Gardens</i></p>	<p><i>Prebendal Manor Medieval Garden</i></p> <p><i>Northamptonshire's Oldest Remaining Dwelling</i></p>	
<p><i>Plant Stall</i></p> <p><i>Allotments</i></p> <p><i>Proceeds to Nassington Church</i></p>		<p><i>Church open for Tea and Home Made Cakes</i></p>
<p><i>Admission</i></p> <p><i>Adults (16+)</i> £5.00 Daily</p> <p><i>Accompanied children 16yrs and Under Free</i></p>		

**Free Parking**

Hundreds of visitors are expected to descend on Nassington the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June to wander through this lovely Northamptonshire village and take a look into the 20 plus gardens open to visitors.

The event is part of the National Open Gardens initiative and for weeks has had many of the village's 800 residents planting, pruning and planning for the big event. Visitors will be able to draw ideas from a wide spectrum of gardens – from courtyard to new build, from modern through to the Prebendal Manor. The Manor's garden is understood to be Europe's largest recreated medieval garden and has been featured on BBC2, Radio 4 and in top magazines including Country Life.

Tea, cakes and other refreshments at the village hall will keep everyone going and the day will also feature a craft fair and promises something for all the family.

Entry is £5 for each day for all over 16 years of age and the proceeds will be for the support of St Mary's Church Nassington – itself expected to attract many visitors over the weekend. The gardens will be open from 1pm to 5pm each day and special car parking provision has been arranged.

Nassington will soon be laying out the chairs, putting up its parasols and throwing open its gardens.

For more information contact:- Paul Tate  
[paul.tate53@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paul.tate53@hotmail.co.uk)/07432833519 or  
Hilary Hardie:[hilary.hardie@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.hardie@btinternet.com).

We are fortunate in our part of England to benefit from the sight of Red Kites in our skies since they were introduced into the Rockingham Forest area. If I am in the garden, or travelling through the countryside, never a day goes by without the sight of a kite twisting and turning in the sky. We are also fortunate to have buzzards back in the sky since their near complete demise in the 1950s as a result of pesticides in the food chain. Many raptors, the name given to birds of prey, i.e. Hawks, Falcons and Owls, are more common now than at any time in most people's lifetime.

Kites, buzzards, sparrowhawks and kestrels are our common raptors but we only have to visit Rutland Water this summer and we can enjoy ospreys flying over the lake, catching fish and feeding their young. If we visit the coast or local marshes we can see marsh harriers and even Hen harriers if we are lucky. In winter these marshy wastes and sea shores are also frequented by short-eared Owls and peregrine falcons. All these birds frequent the wilder countryside using tall trees and rocky cliffs for their nest sites. Towns and cities have been 'no go' areas.

However two hundred years ago Red Kites were common birds in the big cities, feeding on the detritus in the streets of a world without refuse collectors and road sweepers. The cities were cleaned up and the kites persecuted to urban extinction. But the birds are coming back.

I remember working in a Peterborough City office block and seeing a kestrel regularly fly past my window to its roost on the cathedral towers. Kites are not back in our streets yet but another raptor is finding our cathedrals a welcome substitute to seaside and inland cliffs. The peregrine falcon.

A few years ago I marvelled at a pair of falcons swooping above the cliffs of Beachy Head - plenty of birds to be found for dinner there. Since then they have made their home on top of a Brighton office block!

However the birds have also taken to a religious life, their nests being found atop a number of cathedrals, replicating the stone cliffs of the coast. Derby, Norwich and Lincoln cathedrals boast pairs and I was in Chichester last week where a pair have nested in the cathedral towers for some fifteen years. They are back again and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has rigged up a camera enabling the public to see these wonderful birds on their nest. They have four healthy youngsters fed by both parents. The female is a third larger than the male and dominates the nest.

The adults feed by catching birds the size of pigeons. They soar high in the sky, pick out a victim and swoop down in a 'stoop' of up to 200 miles per hour. They are our fastest living member of the animal kingdom. What a wonderful sight! Although the existing cathedral sites have probably been populated by youngsters from nearby sea or inland cliffs, wouldn't it be wonderful to see our own Peregrine Falcons on Peterborough Cathedral?





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Living Villages

With the application for a Licensed Premises/Restaurant at 10-12 London Road in the heart of the village, if successful, the pressure on parking for both Residents and Visitors is going to severely increase.

Could we ask that residents and visitors park with care and not to block any entrances or park either in front of or behind the White lines which protect those entrances.

Thank you.

*Margery Beuttell*

Chairman Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council

Hi, Tracy

Enjoyed this month's magazine, and congratulations on producing it on 1 May! Look forward to reading article on past inhabitants of Sulehay forest.

This weekend we have a display of old vehicles along the promenade at Felixstowe and I was surprised to see an old bus which was just like the one my mum and I travelled in to Peterborough each Saturday, pre-war! We picked it up at the top of our lane outside the school, it came from Kings Cliffe and was owned by Mr Salt. It was always crammed with folks and it was a miracle we always got there! After Stibbington, he picked up at the station, Water Newton, Alwalton and the Ortons! Wonder if anyone else remembers "Old Salt"?

I once told Rosie that when I want to go to sleep I try to remember all the folks who lived in Church Lane before the war, when we were just called Council Houses. Eventually I spent some time writing down all the names and wonder if anyone would be interested to read the list if you printed it sometime?

Kind regards  
Nan ALDEN

*Hi Nan*

*Thank-you for your letter and the list of occupants of Church Lane. Space is very tight this month, so readers will have to wait to find out who lived there. TS*



## Isle of Wight Ultra Challenge.

I completed my 106km ultra marathon around the Isle of Wight in a time of 16hrs 26mins and 02 seconds.

Thank you for all your support and generous donations. With your help I have raised over £1000 for Mind.

*Becky Eames.*

## Picnic on Ailsworth Heath in Castor Hanglands – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2pm – 5pm

Come and explore the Hanglands. The Landgdyke Countryside Trust welcome you to an afternoon of guided walks, pond dipping, story telling and games for children. This extraordinary area is a National Nature Reserve with much to see. Park at Southey Woods and stroll down to the Heath. Bar and food will be available and we've even hired some toilets!

To get involved or more information contact Mike Horne on 07886507208 or on [michael.horne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:michael.horne@hotmail.co.uk)

Dear Tracy

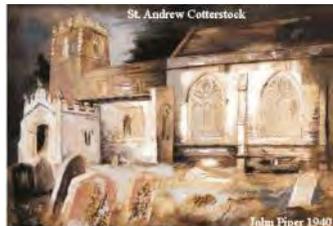
Find attached jpeg file poster of a Film Show on **June 13th** at Cotterstock.

I brought the 5 ancient bells back into order in 1983. Shortly one bell is to be added making a ring of six. I wondered if you could put it into the Wansford Magazine.

The show is free and covers over 30 years of my research.

Thank you

Regards Michael  
Chapel House.



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## DIARY DATES – JUNE 2017

Fri 2	WI 3c's Coffee, Community and Chat	10.00am	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	27
Fri 2	Musical and More	7.30pm	<b>St Andrew's</b>	Stuart Forman	783220	14
Sun 4	Cricket v Digby	1.30pm	Away	John Stones	782109	
Wed 7	Friends of St Marys and St Andrews	10.30am	Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Wed 7	Communcare trip to Cromer			Clare Wagstaffe	470437	18
Sun 11	Cricket v Castor	2.00pm	Away	John Stones	782109	
Mon 12	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24
Tue 13	Stibbington and Wansford WI meeting	7.15pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	27
Wed 14	The Great Get Together - Celebrating the Life of Jo Cox	10.30am	<b>St Mary's</b>	Dora Baker Jan Armitage	782519 789996	9
Wed 14	Communicare General Meeting	6.30pm	Wansford Surgery	Clare Wagstaffe	470437	18
Fri 16	WI 3c's Coffee, Community and Chat	10.00am	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	27
Fri 16	Evening of Musical Entertainment	7.00pm	<b>St Mary's</b>	Alan Jones	783205	14
Sun 18	Cricket v Uppingham	2.00pm	Away	John Stones	782109	
Wed 21	Friends of St Marys and St Andrews,	10.30am	Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Sat 24 Sun25	Nassington Open Gardens Weekend	1-5.00pm		Paul Tate	07432 833519	34
Sun 25	Cricket v Motley Crew	2.00pm	Away	John Stones	782109	
Wed 28	Friends of St Marys & St Andrews, Welcome Coffee Stop	10.30am	<b>St Mary's</b>	Dora Baker	782519	9
Wed 28	Stibbington and Wansford WI Supper Club		Stamford	Jan Armitage	789996	27

**Copy deadline next month: 20th June 2017**

**editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk**

This magazine is available online at **www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk**

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