

# *Living Villages*



*June 2015*

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

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# EDITORIAL

References to gardens and gardening abound in our June magazine, so Charlie Brown's stunning cover photo of a dandelion clock reminds us of all those gardening jobs waiting to be tackled now that warmer weather has finally arrived. Rev Michael Matthews uses his garden as the inspiration for his reflections (p7); Graham Blagden writes about birds in the garden (p35); the Horticultural Society's report (p15) highlights their Annual Garden Party; WI members are looking forward to a Royal Garden Party (p16) and there's the village Fete and Feast in the gardens of Stibbington Hall (p11).

Worthy of a special mention is Martin Lewis' report on the truly inspirational story of Seb Goold (p20,21).

With the holiday season upon us, maintaining our production and distribution schedule to ensure that Living Villages arrives through letter boxes by the first of the month is proving a challenge. A delay of a day or two in the distribution of the July magazine may be unavoidable due to the commitments of the Editorial Team. Our distributors work hard to deliver magazines on time every month, but they too may be holidaying. Rod would appreciate hearing from any distributors who will be away around the last few days of any month so that he might make alternative arrangements, or perhaps, distributors, you have a neighbour who could be your nominated substitute?

Following our appeal last month for another member to join our Editorial Team, we are delighted to have successfully recruited a willing volunteer who is aiming to join us next month. More news in July.

**Rosie McDonnell**

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

**Editor:**

Rosie McDonnell

**Advertising manager:**Carole Whincup**Distribution manager:**

Rod Sortwell

**Reporter:**

Martin Lewis

**Photographer:**

Charles Brown

**Printing and collation:**

PPS/ Print

**Regular features writers:**

Fr Haydn Smart

Rev Michael Matthews

David Stuart-Mogg

Graham Blagden

Dan Whiter

Karina Chappell

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## Parish Councils

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

## Churches

<b>Ministers:</b> Thornhaugh & Wansford	Rev Michael Matthews	01780 782271 <a href="mailto:frmichaelmatthews@btinternet.com">frmichaelmatthews@btinternet.com</a>
Stibbington & Water Newton Parish Office		01733 380900 <a href="mailto:admin.castor@btconnect.com">admin.castor@btconnect.com</a>

### Churchwardens:

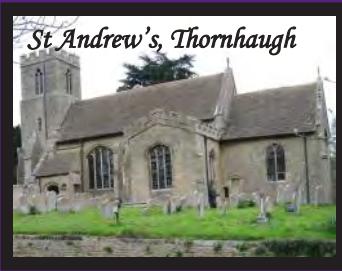
St Andrew's Thornhaugh:	Stuart Foreman	01780 783220
	Liz Kemp	01780 782333
St Mary's Wansford:	Caroline Ashley	01780 782408
	Alan Jones	01780 783205
St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Richard Winfrey	01780 782431
	Carol Lindsay	

### 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

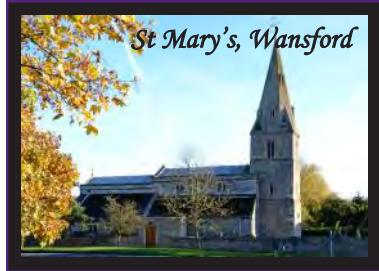
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(Out of hours 01733 293838)	Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	782510
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H'don District Council 01480 388388		
P'boro City Council 01733 747474		



# WORSHIP

## JUNE

### 2015



Date	Time	Location	Service
7 June	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Holy Communion
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	St Mary's, Wansford	Family Service
14 June	9.00 am	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	NO SERVICE
	9.30 am	St Mary's, Wansford	Sung Holy Communion with choir
21 June	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	<b>Patronal Festival</b> Evening Service followed by refreshments
28 June	9.00 am	St. John the Baptist, Stibbington	Holy Communion,
	9.30 am	St. Mary's, Wansford	Morning Prayer



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## REFLECTIONS

By Rev Michael Matthews

## SUMMER THOUGHTS

The good weather is a great joy, and it beckons us to tend our gardens. In my garden there are many brambles and weeds that need cutting back, and the fine wet weather now encourages them. Sometimes it is hard to spot the weeds from the flowers, and some are so difficult to deal with, being so thorny and unruly. Some are so long that I can't see where they have actually taken root. I can tell you that brambles don't make gardening easy and they need dealing with on a regular basis. If they are not completely uprooted, they return with a new vigour to blight the garden for the whole of the year.

What can be likened to brambles in your life?

They are probably the things that have taken root, (maybe years ago... ) and maybe they are being dealt with frequently, but the roots are still there, so there is the opportunity for them to grow, and strangle, and overshadow other new life and new opportunities that are flourishing.

I would like to encourage you to take a look at your life this early summer, and to think about what needs cutting back, what needs digging up and getting rid of completely, and what needs attention so that it continues to grow and blossom to produce fruit. A Faith or belief can help in de-weeding the garden for good, or at least keeping 'on top of them.'

I'm going to do that, so that I can have a fuller Summer, of great joy, blossom and of sitting back later in the year to really enjoy the garden, and enjoy life more fully. Do join me.

May the garden of your life also blossom more fully this summer!

### **St Mary's, Wansford Churchwardens — farewell Paul**

We were saddened to receive Paul Tate's resignation as Churchwarden at Wansford, and send Jane and Paul all our very best wishes in their forthcoming move. We thank Paul especially for his time, energy and sense of fun, and for the professional service we have benefitted from in Wansford in recent years.

We are delighted to welcome Caroline Ashley as our new Churchwarden, to work alongside Alan, and wish her well. We look forward to working with them both in the years to come.

### **Thank you Paul and Jane**

*It's not just Paul's work as churchwarden that is worthy of thanks. Paul and Jane's contribution to the wider community in our villages deserves acknowledgement too. Together, Paul and Jane have played a leading role over several years in bringing together villagers of all faiths and none, organising community occasions and special events, and welcoming newcomers. So, on behalf of the many villagers who have appreciated your contribution to our community, thank you Paul and Jane.*

Rosie



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

At our recent meeting we were delighted to welcome Chris Wild, the Regional Co-ordinator for Christian Aid. He thanked us most warmly for our generous donation to help the orphans and widows after the Ebola Crisis in Sierra Leone. It was rewarding to be able to present him with our cheque in person and have the present situation in Sierra Leone explained more fully.

On Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June we are planning a trip on the "Rutland Belle" with Afternoon Tea at the Harbour Cafe. All members, who wish to partake, are to arrive at Whitwell by 1.45 p.m. for the trip at 2 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month as usual, the 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 in the Community Hall after Morning Prayer at St. Mary's at 10 a.m.

At that meeting we will discuss further when we can best arrange a Summer Cream Tea Party in the grounds of St. Mary's church. We find that at the date we had planned this, a wedding is taking place at the church. So, please LOOK OUT FOR THIS EVENT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF LIVING VILLAGES. It should be such fun and easily accessible for everyone.

See you there.

*Dora Baker, Secretary*

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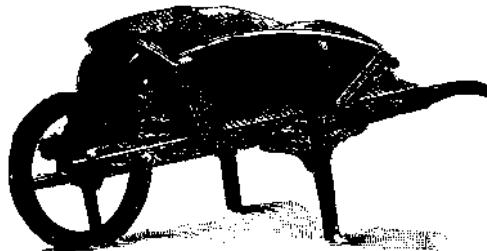
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*Tony Capon*

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# WANSFORD HORTICULTURAL & CRAFTS SOCIETY



The Plant Sale on 9 May was a great success, raising a record £238 for the society's funds. This money enables us to subsidise talks and visits and to upgrade or renew our equipment so that we can continue to offer a full and varied programme to our members. As is so often the case on Plant Sale day, the weather could have been kinder. It was pretty windy, but at least it didn't rain this year and it certainly didn't deter our many customers. We were very grateful to the members and villagers who turned up during the week before the sale bearing offerings from their gardens for us to sell. This undoubtedly widened our range and contributed to the success of the day. Very many thanks to all donors, helpers and customers alike!

The summer programme seems quite busy starting with our coach trip to Cressing Temple and Hyde Hall which takes place on Sunday 14 June. We meet up in the centre of the village at 8.30 a.m. and have a full coach, so all we need now is a glorious summer's day!

This is followed by our Summer Party on Saturday 27 June at Stone & Willow, commencing at 7 p.m. and for which we are now taking bookings. As usual there will be a generous and delicious buffet supper, a quiz and excellent company culminating in the toasting of marshmallows over the fire pits. As my lawn has just about recovered from last year's roasting, another bout of heat might even deter the moles which are creating havoc in it at present!

July sees our second coach trip which will be visiting Wroxham Barns and East Ruston Old Vicarage on Saturday 18 July, followed by the private evening tour of the gardens at the Milton Estate on Wednesday 29 at 6.30 p.m. Both of these events are fully subscribed.

Preparations for the Annual Flower Show in the Haycock Park will be well under-way by then, and I hope that our talented knitters, embroiderers, photographers, sculptors and artists are busy preparing for it too, not forgetting the winemakers! This year the Tom Guy Trophy will be awarded for the best decorated hat, with fond memories of Tom's highly appropriate headgear at all village functions! Plenty of time then to experiment and create a millinery masterpiece! (Entries will be taken on 27 Aug and the show is on Saturday 29.) Please encourage your children and grandchildren to get busy sculpting from recycled materials, painting stones or just speaking nicely to their sun-flower plants so that they grow tall and strong. For details, see the schedule at

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

**Gill Fisher** [fisher.gill@yahoo.com](mailto:fisher.gill@yahoo.com) 782446

## STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD WI



We are pleased to report that Jean, our president, is now making steady progress after her recent hip operation – doing what the professionals advise and already reaping the benefit of pain-free living. We are looking forward to welcoming her back to our monthly meeting on Wednesday 9th June – unfortunately the planned guest speaker, Josette Kermath, a past president of our Federation, was due to talk about card making, but is now unable to attend. We understand that she is arranging a replacement – possibly an employee of Royal Caribbean Cruise Line – let's hope they hand out some free samples!

Only nine members were able to attend the May meeting when the national resolution due to be presented to the Centenary Annual Meeting was discussed – Kate Brumfield will be attending the event at the Royal Albert Hall as our representative.

Three members joined the Spring Group Meeting hosted by Orton Waterville last month where they enjoyed a very entertaining talk by David Palmer, the illustrious auctioneer who presides at the Bateman auction rooms in Stamford – he is often seen on daytime television antiques shows and is well known for his witty repartee as well as his flamboyant waistcoats!

Following a ballot for the chance to attend the WI Royal Garden Party we were lucky to then be offered two extra tickets – Sue Joyner, Judith Rogers and Rita Kendrew will be enjoying a special day out at the palace on Tuesday 2nd June.

It is hoped to organise a visit to Houghton Mill (right) for a tour followed by afternoon tea – either at a weekend or during the week.

Tours are limited to twelve people, but if there is



enough interest two parties will be arranged. If members have not already expressed interest, please get in touch with either Rita or Wendy – full details will be available at this month's meeting.

***Wendy Spencer***



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# THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY

The winners of the **May 2015** draw are listed here.

Many thanks to **Wansford Horticultural Society** at their **Annual Plant Sale at Elton Road, Wansford** for drawing the tickets.

**Mat Free, Administrator**  
**Mat.Free@hotmail.co.uk**

**Tel 07881834054**

<b>£60</b>	<b>Anne Allsebrook</b>
<b>£50</b>	<b>Paul Rudd</b>
<b>£40</b>	<b>Jane Howland</b>
<b>£30</b>	<b>T Caucutt</b>
<b>£20</b>	<b>Mrs A Hollis</b>
<b>£10</b>	<b>Mrs M Chattell</b>

## COMMUNICARE

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

The next meeting will be held on

**Thursday 4th June 2015  
at Wansford Surgery - 6.30 pm**

**Guest Speaker:  
Maggie Fay - Practice Educator,  
Sue Ryder – Thorpe Hall Hospice**

**This will be an opportunity to hear about how Thorpe Hall currently operates, future plans and the progress of their major new building project**

**All patients are invited to attend the meeting and take an active part in the proceedings and discussions.  
Regular agenda items include finance, transport, healthcare matters, equipment purchase and AOB**

## SOCIAL GROUP SUMMER DAY TRIPS

Unfortunately the planned coach day trip this month to Wroxham and the Norfolk Broads has had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

The next trip is scheduled for Wednesday 5th August to the Peak District – Buxton & Ashbourne – we would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in joining us

**Please contact Clare on 01780 470437 or  
email: [superfoguk@aol.com](mailto:superfoguk@aol.com) for further details**

## SPECIAL REPORT

By Martin Lewis

It was Eastertime 2014 when Sebastian Goold, already a talented sportsman at the age of 9, was traveling back from a successful mini rugby tournament in Holt, Norfolk. In a coach with the rest of the Stamford U9's team, Seb needed the toilet. Whilst waiting patiently in a queue at the bottom of the stairs suddenly the main exit door flew open and Seb was sucked out of the coach and under its rear wheels.

Seb would probably have lost his life that day on the A47 had it not been for the fact that a surgeon and nurse, also traveling back from Norfolk, were amongst the first to arrive on the scene to provide vital help. He was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital where his right leg had to be amputated at mid thigh. That was the first of more than 30 visits to the operating theatre that Seb had to endure during his six month's stay at the hospital, followed by a further three gruelling months of rehabilitation at a centre in Surrey.

In January this year, a still frail Seb finally returned to his home in Wansford with his parents, Nick and Tracey and twin brother Ben, to start rebuilding his life. Throughout all this time, Nick and Tracey found themselves overwhelmed with offers of help, support and love. People wanted to help, and in any way they could.

After much heart searching about the best way to both support Seb and allow others to help, The Seb Goold Trust ([www.sebgooldtrust.co.uk](http://www.sebgooldtrust.co.uk)) was established with independent trustees to fundraise for the specialist equipment Seb will need

## SEBASTIAN GOOLD –

as he recovers and returns to an active life. In the future, it is planned to convert the trust into a charity to help other children who suffer similar injuries.

The Trust has already been supported by a variety of fundraising events, arranged by a wide range of organisations and individuals including the Matt Hampson Foundation, Stamford Junior School, Stamford Rugby Club, One Touch Football, Greetham Valley Golf Club and Wansford Horticultural Society to name but a few. At the time of writing, the next event takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> May when Seb's 9 year old friend Joseph and his sister Amelia will walk to the top of Mount Snowdon to raise money. Nick and Tracey, through these pages, want to thank each and every person who has offered their help, support, love and prayers. They, and Seb, will always be grateful.

Seb has made amazing progress. At first he could only get around in a standard, clunky wheelchair and his initial lack of upper body strength made this difficult. The motto of The Seb Goold Trust is "Work hard, aim high", and that's just what Seb's done.



# PARALYMPIAN IN THE MAKING



immediately fitted with a state of the art prosthetic leg with hydraulic joints (costing £50,000). He will have to wait until he is nearly fully grown for that. There are a number of stages he will need to go through before he gets there. But Seb remains at heart a sportsman. He is not focused on what he can't do, but what he can. And he knows he can do more than doctors tell him he can – he's already proved that. He wants to be a blade runner and compete in the Paralympics. Working hard and aiming high.

Seb is without doubt a brave, resilient and remarkable boy. He will achieve astonishing things in his life. But the courage and fortitude of Nick, Tracey and Ben in caring for him is equally inspirational. They have already achieved so much together.

If you wish to help the Seb Goold Trust in any way, no matter how small, please contact them via their website ([www.sebgooldtrust.co.uk](http://www.sebgooldtrust.co.uk)).

#### Photos:

*Below left, Seb saying thanks after the "POSH Legends" Football match organised for the Seb Goold Trust.*

*Above left: Climbing a rock wall*

*Below: After a wheelchair basketball event, left to Right Nick, Seb, Tracey, Ben*



Despite numerous setbacks, he now zips around in a much lighter, sportier wheelchair, can move remarkably quickly on crutches and in March received his first prosthetic leg (see the video on the website) which he is slowly getting used to.

But Seb's challenges have not been limited to the physical. After missing so much school time, he has had to study hard to catch up so that he can move up into Year 6 in September with his brother Ben and all his friends. On the first day of his next academic year, Seb has set himself the target to walk unaided into his classroom. I would love to be there to see this courageous young man do that.

There are many challenges still to overcome. The fact that Seb is young and growing means that he can't be



# WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

We had 3 meetings on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May:

**Parish Meeting** – Since Wansford Parish Council Chairman cannot serve for a term of more than three years , John Stannage was presenting his final Annual Report. He was pleased that we had been able to be closely involved with planning issues, especially those involving local quarrying activities and hoped for an early resolution of issues concerning the A1/A47 junction, leasing of land in Nene Close and faster fibre optic broadband for the village. Co-operation with Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council had led to the engagement of a Litter Warden and with Peterborough City Council had resolved, with their financial support, problems with the underpass. He was grateful for the vibrancy of the Parish Council members and their no-nonsense, can-do philosophy and welcomed Martyn Handley and Graham Garner who had been co-opted during the year, whilst thanking Graham Stevens for his time with us. John reflected on a most enjoyable year and whole-heartily thanked our Parish Clerk, Wendy Gray for her support.

**AGM** – Tim Pearson was elected Chairman for the year and Martyn Handley Vice-Chairman

## General Meeting –

### Planning:

Wansford Service Station, Leicester Road – no objection was raised to the conversion of the car wash facility to further retail use with an ATM machine. The Yard, Yarwell Mill – There are significant developments proposed for the site. We are asking to see the submission of Yarwell Parish Council with their response, with a view to supporting them.

**Extra Litter bin on the green** – from PCC; The bins are on order and we are expecting delivery within the next 4 weeks and installation as soon as possible following delivery.

**Wansford Picnic Area Toilet Block** – from the Peterborough City Council Asset Development Team -

*"About the progress being made to fix the Wansford Picnic Area Toilet block, I am in the process of making a case for this scheme to be considered for re-inclusion into the delivery programme for this year."*

**Potholes on the A47** – Some work has been done. We have requested information about the timetable for the work to be completed.

**Community Infrastructure Meeting** - to be held at 2:00 pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June in the Community Hall.

**The A47/A1junction at Wansford** – from Martin Oliver at Highways England - *"To address the problem of queuing on the A47 westbound that has arisen following the switch on of the traffic signals, we are taking the following actions: Switching the signals from full time operation to part time in the morning peak period only. Reconfiguring the signal staging to include an*

*additional stage that will allow the A1 southbound exit and the A47 west-bound to run green time simultaneously when the signals are operating. The switch to part time signals is our priority, but will need additional detection equipment to be installed, changes to reconfigure the signal controller, as well as additional road markings and signs, and so could take up to 2 weeks to implement. We have already started work on reprogramming the control system in preparation, and work on site to implement these changes is planned for week commencing 25 May 2015."*

Parish Councillor Richard Clarke has disseminated the following response –  
*"The Parish Council and and the Peterborough City Council Highways Department have raised a complaint with HE. Shailesh Vara, our MP, and our two city councillors have also been involved. The proposed changes will help to sort out the A47 westbound problem, but it is hard to see how the A47 east-bound issue can be resolved while still allowing as much traffic as possible off the A1 southbound. The real solution to all this is the dualling of the A47 Sutton to the A1 and the complete reconfiguration of the A47/A1 junction. The funding for this has been approved and the alignment plans are due for consultation in 2016. Construction is planned to start in 2019."*  
By the time you read this in Living Villages the initial problems should have been resolved. We live in hope if we die in despair !

The meeting closed at 9:30pm. Next meeting - 7:30pm on Monday, 8 June.

***Tim Pearson***

## **THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the 2015/2016 Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015. It was chaired by William Rogers, present were Ashleigh Kewney, Louise Molesworth and Brian Watts. In attendance were John Holdich, three members of the public and the Clerk. There were apologies for absence from Liam Higgins, Diane Lamb.

### **Presentation of cheque by Stephen Duffy, partner of Buckles Solicitors**

Stephen Duffy presented a cheque from the Aidan Patrick Fogarty Deceased Will Trust which the Parish Councillors agreed to put towards the purchase of the new village seat and lectern.

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

Chairman - William Rogers (no change)

Vice Chairman - Brian Watts (replacing Ian Molesworth)

Thornhaugh & Wansford Parish Burial Ground Committee - Robert Reeve (no change) and Ian Molesworth (no change)

Thornhaugh Environmental Association - Liam Higgins (no change)

Augean Community Liaison - Martin Witherington (no change)

Christie Hall Management Committee - Brian Watts (no change)

*Continued on p25*

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## **Public Participation**

The Members of the Public raised the following issues:-

Request for green rather than yellow grit bin (John Holdich will find out if this is possible)

Lorries being parked illegally overnight at the café next to the Shell Petrol Station (the Clerk will try and establish who owns the land as it is the land owner's responsibility to deal with this).

**Police Matters** There were no police representatives present.

**Home Farm Matters** Ashleigh Kewney stated that the dog foul bin had not yet arrived. He requested a hanging basket to be put up at Home Farm and he will determine the best location for it.

**Hedge Trimming** It was noted that disappointingly Amey had not trimmed the hedges as promised. It was agreed to take no action on this until later in the year when the birds have stopped nesting.

**Seat and Lectern** Brian Watts confirmed that the seat would be delivered on 14th May and would be sited next to the Telephone Box. He confirmed that he was awaiting the final graphic proof for the lectern.

**Co-option of Parish Councillor** Louise Molesworth was welcomed to the meeting as the newly co-opted Parish Councillor and completed the necessary paperwork.

**20 mph Stickers** John Holdich confirmed that 20mph stickers for Wheelie Bins had been ordered and he will drop them off shortly.

**Hanging Baskets** Brian Watts confirmed that the winter hanging baskets would be replaced by summer hanging baskets at the beginning of June. It was agreed to put up an additional hanging basket near St Andrew's Church.

**Diverted Footpath** Brian Watts asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the diverted footpath around the Quarry. The Clerk will contact Mr P Garnham, the Footpaths Officer.

**Barbeque and Quiz Night** It was agreed to hold a Barbeque and Quiz Night to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the Magna Carta on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015. A flier will be produced and distributed to the residents.

**Date of Next Meeting** The First Meeting of the 2015/2016 Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at St Andrew's Church, Thornhaugh.

***Deirdre McCumiskey, Parish Clerk***

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# **SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Annual Parish and Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Environment Centre, Stibbington on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.00 p.m. 5 Councillors were in attendance. 1 member of the public and County Cllr M McGuire were also in attendance.

## **The Chairman's report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 was as follows:**

During the last year we accepted the resignation of Nick Cook who had served the council well during his time with us.

During the year we have had 13 planning applications. Although comments and observations were made on nearly all of these we understand that none were rejected by HDC. We have again received planning applications in retrospect. One for a house, which had been erected for two years before a formal application was received by HDC. We again commented that planning in retrospect is something that this parish council discourages.

After much haggling with the County Council and the Highways Authority the new bollards were finally erected to protect the footpath on the outskirts of Chapel Court. During the year yellow lines were suggested for part of Church Lane and outside Chapel Court. We would like to thank members of our parish who actively sought signatures for objection to both of these schemes. The Highways Authority duly cancelled any yellow lines planned for our parish.

Recently a new traffic system has been created on the A47 roundabout, which is causing more hold ups than enhancing the flow of traffic. We have written to both CCC and the Highways Agency expressing our concern.

Once again i would like to thank all our parishioners who regularly attend our meetings and give us much valued input.

Finally, again thank you to all my fellow councillors and especially to Wendy for her hard work and tolerance.

**Election of Officers:** Cllr Margery Beuttell was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Mike Bradshaw re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

**Annual Accounts for 2014/2015:** The annual accounts were approved and signed off by the Parish Council.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 commencing at 7.00 p.m.**

***Wendy Gray***

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## **YOUNGER READER'S BLOG**

### **By Karina Chappell, 11**

## **Junior Cadet Weekend On Board**

On the 17th of April 2015, I went on a 'weekend on board' at my sea cadet unit, (a big sleep over). We were there for the whole weekend!

We congregated at the Old Customs House near the Key Theatre. On arriving at the unit at 7pm on Friday, we unpacked our belongings, the girls were sleeping upstairs and the boys downstairs. On the first night I had barely any sleep because everybody was talking. Some of the adults didn't get any sleep at all as they had to make sure the noisy boys were asleep before they went to bed.

We woke up at 7am and had a breakfast of bacon and eggs. After breakfast we went on the boats which we all enjoyed despite getting stuck under a bridge.

One of the adults even brought doughnuts for us in one of the speed boats.

After a long and tiring day we all sat down for tea, fish and chips from BJs.

When we had finished we all sat down and watched Earth To Echo.

I had an amazing time and really enjoyed myself. If you would like to know more about the sea cadets, you can go to;

[www.sea-cadets.org](http://www.sea-cadets.org).

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Elton Park CC	Away	Sunday 03/05/15	14:00
Kings Cross Hookers CC	Home	Sunday 10/05/15	13:00
Deeping CC 2nds	Home	Sunday 17/05/15	13:30
Old Eastonians C	Home	Sunday 24/05/15	13:30
Castor CC	Away	Sunday 31/05/15	13:30
Pytchley CC	Home	Sunday 07/06/15	13:30
Kings Cross Hookers CC	Home	Sunday 14/06/15	13:30
Uppingham CC	Away	Sunday 21/06/15	14:00
Deeping CC 2nds	Home	Sunday 28/06/15	14:00
Witham CC	Away	Sunday 05/07/15	14:00
Motley Crew CC	Away	Sunday 12/07/15	13:00
CAMRA CC	Home	Sunday 19/07/15	13:30
Pytchley CC	Away	Sunday 26/07/15	14:00
Old Eastonians CC	Away	Sunday 02/08/15	14:00
Motley Crew CC	Home	Sunday 09/08/15	13:30
Witham CC	Home	Sunday 16/08/15	13:30
Presidents X1	Home	Sunday 23/08/15	14:00
Ryhall/Elton CC	Home	Sunday 30/08/15	13:30
TBA	Home	Sunday 06/09/15	13:00
Islip CC	Home	Sunday 13/09/15	13:00
TBA	Away	Sunday 20/09/15	13:00
CAMRA CC	Home	Sunday 27/09/15	13:00

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Some bird songs are very obvious:

A cuckoo has greeted the dawn on a number of mornings this week quite close to the centre of the village.

A pair of greylag geese honk honk as they fly over back to their feeding grounds down by the Mill. Collared doves serenade each other from the rooftops with their soft cooing. But what stirs me more is the song of the blackbird.

A pair of blackbirds is nesting on the other side of my bedroom wall, right above an external door within the burgeoning shoots of a grape vine. The female, brown with a dull yellow bill, can be seen in classic pose sitting on the nest with tail pointing up at the back and her bill pointing forward. She has been incubating her eggs for a week or two now and they have now hatched. I have been working in the garden quite close by but she, and her mate, have not been bothered by my presence. Every five minutes my attention is drawn to the nest by the rapid cheeping of the nestlings as one or other of the parents arrives with a beakful of grubs and worms for their offspring.

It seems no time at all since I first noticed them but now they are gone, taken to the shrubby borders of the garden to be fed by their parents until they are stronger and can follow mum and dad out onto the lawn to be fed and then learn to feed for themselves.

Three hundred years ago the blackbird was a bird of the wildwood that covered much of our country. It loved the edge of woodland and the glades within the forest. Its near relative the song thrush was far more common in Britain but gradually, with the creeping spread of suburbia, the blackbird became accustomed to the mixture of grass and shrubs in our gardens and there are now thought to be some six million pairs in the British Isles, outnumbering its cousin by five to one.

The song thrush is known to have a wonderful voice; from the top of a tree it will sing its heart out, particularly in spring and summer evenings.

But my blackbird has an equally penetrating song, at five o'clock in the morning, whose strident tones encourage me to get out of bed, particularly if the sun is shining.

Fortunately on dull mornings it is quiet. The bird world is obviously having a lie in.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Unhappy with the A47 traffic lights?** Martin Lewis comments on the situation and provides information on how to ensure your voice is heard, and Viv Thorley offers her observations. See Parish Council notes for more news.

The new traffic lights on the A47/A1 roundabout have been operating for about 6 weeks now. Are you happy with the result?

I have been stuck for lengthy periods of time in huge traffic tailbacks both eastbound and westbound approaching the new roundabout, bristling with its uncaring "intelligent" traffic lights (yes, this is what the Highways Agency calls them!). I complained, probably along with many others, to the Highways Agency suggesting a number of very obvious measures they could take to alleviate the situation. I received an apology and was told that they are in the process of "optimizing" the operation of the lights.

There was a report in the Peterborough Evening Telegraph on 20<sup>th</sup> May stating that the Highways Agency are now intending to make the lights operate only during the morning rush hour, and that the light sequencing will be dramatically altered, apparently to make them even more intelligent. Work to implement these changes is scheduled to begin on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, according to the Telegraph report. We will wait to see the impact these changes make, although thankfully they do make sense. I'm not sure why it took this long to figure out what seems to be pretty obvious.

If anyone is unhappy with the way these works have been carried out, or if the traffic lights continue to disrupt

traffic flows and your travel plans, you can complain to the Highways Agency by emailing them at [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk).

Your email will be passed to someone in the team responsible for the works (I received a reply from Chris Bould who works for the contractor, Amey, email [Chris.Bould@amey.co.uk](mailto:Chris.Bould@amey.co.uk)). They have a service level target to respond within 15 days.

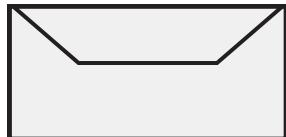
If email isn't your thing, you can call them on 0300 123 5000, or write to them at: Highways England, National Traffic Operations Centre, 3 Ridgeway, Quinton Business Park, Birmingham, B32 1AF.

**Martin Lewis**

Further to the A47/A1 shenanigans, my husband said that at 10.15 this morning, there was a queue heading eastbound, stretching as far as the eye could see on the A47 west of the Old Leicester Road junction (he went on beyond the roundabout out of curiosity) Also at that time, he could see over the bridge that the A1 southbound was still queuing as far as he could see up the road. There was also queue on the Old North Road as far down as the church crossroads. So even if the lights are only part time, it won't alleviate the eastbound hold up...and this was 10.15am!

All grist to the mill for bringing forward the dualling (and a flyover?)

**Viv Thorley**



# Little Acorns



A new opportunity for 3 to 5-year olds and their parent/carer to enjoy a morning of engaging activities, including story, song and craft with an environmental theme, at Stibbington Centre.

Join us for a FREE taster session at  
10am to midday on Thursday 16 July.  
Monthly sessions from September.

Places must be booked in advance on 01780 782386 or  
email [cees.stibbinton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cees.stibbinton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

The website, [www.Peterboroughimages.co.uk](http://www.Peterboroughimages.co.uk) has a collection of amazing old photos of our local villages.

In particular the demolition of the old Mermaid in Wansford is featured. This subject has attracted lots of attention from Living Villages readers in recent months, so the website is well worth a look for those with an interest in local history.

**Rod Sortwell**

## Music for Little People classes in Nassington!

Ruth Filsak has worked for many years with young children in early years settings and has a keen interest in using music to support children's learning. Ruth is running 'Music for Little People' classes in Nassington for children between 0 – 2 yrs.

The exceptional curriculum of songs, instrument time, rhythm exploration and music from many cultural traditions all make the 'Music For Little People' experience unique while developing those all important speech, listening and motor skills for your child building the foundations for future learning.

The classes were developed to make a significant contribution to a child's pre-school education whilst still being fun and exciting. Ruth says: 'Music and singing help children to develop their language skills, socialising with others, self-confidence, counting and much more.' She aims to provide a fun-filled musical time for both children and adults!

Ruth is currently taking bookings and offers a free trial class for parents/carers and children. The classes are held at Nassington village hall on Monday mornings. There are also classes for 3 to 5 year olds during the summer holidays. Contact Ruth on 01733 264172 or [rufsak@musicforlittlepeople.co.uk](mailto:rufsak@musicforlittlepeople.co.uk) for more information and to sign up for a class. [www.Musicforlittlepeople.co.uk](http://www.Musicforlittlepeople.co.uk)



## DIARY DATES – JUNE 2015

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Contact	Phone	p
Tue 2, 9, 16, 23	Cricket Club Nets practice	6.00pm	Haycock Park, Wansford	Jim Boulton	0789451 7173	31
Wed 3	Friends of St Mary's & St Andrew's Rutland Belle boat trip and tea	1.45pm	Whitwell	Dora Baker	782519	9
Wed 3 10 17 24	St Mary's Wansford church choir practice	7.30pm	19A Old Leicester Road Wansford	Eddie McDonnell	783639	
Thu 4	Communicare meeting	6.30pm	Wansford Surgery	Wansford Surgery	782342	19
Sat 6	RBL visit to Bletchley Park		Bletchley Park	Sue Arnold	782200	
Mon 8	Wansford Community Infrastructure meeting	2.00pm	Wansford Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	22
Mon 8	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Wansford Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	23
Tue 10	WI meeting:	7.15pm	Wansford Community Hall	Jean Yerbury	782510	16
Sat 13	Robin Hood: The Musical	5.30pm	Sacrewell	Sacrewell	782254	6
Sun 14	Horticultural Society visit to Gressings Temple	8.45am		Gill Fisher	782446	15
Wed 17	Friends of St Mary's & St Andrew's meeting	10.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Sun 21	St John the Baptist Patronal Festival	6.00pm	St John the Baptist Stibbington	Church wardens		5
Sat 27	Stibbington Village Fete and Feast	2.30pm 5.30pm	Stibbington Hall	Helen Facer	782952	11
Sat 27	Horticultural Society Summer Garden Party	7.00pm	Stone & Willow, Elton Rd Wansford	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Sun 28	Summer Songs of Praise	5.00pm	Rebendal Manor, Nassington			9
Wed 1 July	Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council meeting	7.15pm	Stibbington Environment Centre	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	27
Sun 5	Strawberry Fayre Service	4.00pm	St Remigius Church Water Newton	Tony Capon	01733 237500	13

**Copy deadline next month: Saturday 20 June**

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