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March 2017

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EDITORIAL

This last month has been quite an exciting one for me as editor of this magazine. A couple of the articles in previous editions have generated quite a bit of correspondence, phone calls and conversation. It's lovely to realise that the magazine is read and I've had people comment on how useful they find it because of the varied advertisements and articles it contains.

I have been pleased to be able to forward a couple of emails regarding 'A Splash in Winter' - Wild Water Swimming - who'd have thought there were others who fancied doing that! But it must be great for the participants to know that their small group will be growing.

Also the article last month about walking in Sulehay has raised several questions about the signs of wartime occupation. Pauline Belton tells us she thinks Italian POWs were there while Nan Aldon remembers British Army Units being there prior to D Day. With the help of local experts we will solve the puzzle, but we are assured the US airmen were in Bedford Purlieus Woods. Watch this space.

Our front cover of a Blue Tit collecting pet fur to use as nesting material reminds us that Spring is around the corner. What a wonderful example of recycling!

Tracy Sortwell

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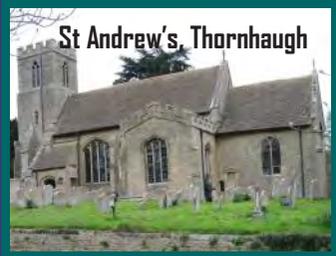
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(Out of hours	111 option 4)	Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	789996
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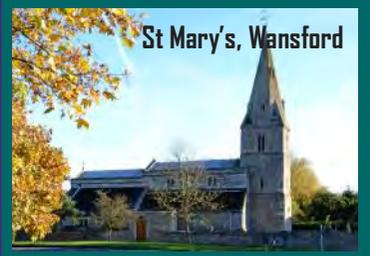
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St Andrew's, Thornhaugh

WORSHIP MARCH 2017



St Mary's, Wansford

Date	Time	Location	Service
1 Mar	10.00 am	St Marys, Wansford	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
	7.00 pm	St Mary's Woodnewton	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
	7.30 pm	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Sung Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
5 Mar	9.30 am	St Andrews, Thornhaugh	Morning Worship
	10.15 am	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
12 Mar	9.00 am	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Morning Worship
	9.30 am	St Marys, Wansford	Holy Communion with choir
19 Mar	9.30 am	St Andrews, Thornhaugh	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
26 Mar	9.00 am	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	St Marys, Wansford	Family Service for Mothering Sunday
2 April	9.30 am	St Andrews, Thornhaugh	Morning Worship
	10.15 am	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion



St John the Baptist, Stibbington

Wednesdays at Wansford

10.00am
Morning Prayer



St Remigius, Water Newton

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One of the great joys of my new vicarage is that the garden runs down to the river, and I love watching the ducks and the swans effortlessly gliding up and down - just watching them can be so relaxing. Of course, that is not the whole story; beneath the surface, each one is paddling away – it's just that we can't see that, everything looks so smooth and calm on the surface! I sometimes think that that is a picture of my life, and probably of yours as well – everything looks calm on the surface, but actually we are all paddling away frantically with all we need to do!

I think that that image can be used for our churches as well; perhaps I'd better explain. When the congregation turns up for the service everything is in order, there is a gentle buzz of conversation, the organ music is easing us into worship; all appears calm. But maybe that isn't the whole story – in the vestry the church warden is preparing the first part of the service as it looks as if the priest will be late, there is a hunt on for the right hymn books and a new bottle of communion wine, someone needs to know the second reading, when the priest does arrive, she (yes, that's definitely me!) wants to make last minute changes, and – Oh yes, where's the Banns book?

O.K. – maybe there's a little exaggeration there, but it does remind us that there is a lot that happens in our churches that is largely unseen. There is a lot of paddling going on to allow our worship to glide along smoothly. There are the church wardens, the sidespeople, the verger and the sacristan who make sure that everything is in place for services and that people are welcomed and provided for, those who read and those who lead our prayers, those who work with our young people, the bell-ringers who call people to worship, and of course those who provide the vital ministry of hospitality with refreshments after the service. But that's only Sunday – there is much that needs to happen during the week as well. Have you thought about those who keep an eye on the fabric of our lovely church buildings, those who serve on our PCCs, those who clean, those who polish the brasses, wind the clock, cut the churchyard grass, arrange flowers, wash and iron the linen...? The list could be almost endless. Those are the tasks that are often unnoticed, but we would certainly notice if they *didn't* happen!

March and April are the months of our churches' annual meetings and they provide an opportunity, as we look back on the year that has passed, to say "Thank you" to ALL those who contribute to life and well-being of our church communities.

So back to my duck-like church – thank you to all the paddlers who build up the Body of Christ in our churches and our villages, and if you think you could help out with a bit of paddling yourself, get in touch!

With my thoughts and prayers,
(and a special thank you to those undertaking the tasks I have missed!)

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At St. John the Baptist church Stibbington we currently hold Sunday services twice a month, Morning Worship on the second Sunday of each month and Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday, our start time is 9 am.

We enjoy special evening events-our Patronal Festival in June when we serve refreshments, Harvest Thanksgiving in October, this includes supper and Carols around the tree at Christmas when mulled wine and mince pies are on offer.

At present our regular faithful worshipping church community in Stibbington is small; because of this we have, for the time being, decided to alter our worshipping pattern. We will continue the current pattern i.e. second and fourth Sundays until Easter Day, when there will be a special service at 6 pm, followed by refreshments. After Easter, from time to time, additional services and church gatherings will be planned in Stibbington...so far for 2017 we have the following planned:

Sunday 25th June	6 pm Patronal Festival, followed by refreshments
Sunday 8th October	6 pm Harvest Festival and supper
Sunday 10th December	6 pm Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies

It is also hoped that some form of house group/house Communion services will be planned to take place in the village.....***watch this space for more details...***

If you have any comments or ideas please contact one the Church Wardens either by phone or email

Carol Lindsay, 01780 782338
carollindsay13@gmail.com

Richard Winfrey, 01780 782431
richardwinfrey@btinternet.com

The Friends of Stibbington Church (FOSC) will continue with their fund raising efforts and plans to refurbish and equip the building with modern facilities.

Stibbington 101 Club

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Suzy Story

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There will be a Service on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's, Wansford, followed by coffee and a short meeting of The Friends.

The Lent Lunches are starting on March 8th at 12.15 in the Christie Hall. They will run for 5 weeks and will be held every Wednesday. Please, come and support these. No Entrance fee. Donations can be made to Christian Aid or the Charity, which will be on the Poster on the day.

The Lunches are a lovely way to meet friends and neighbours and help in a small way to bring some comfort to people most needy.

On April 5th the last of the Lent Lunches will take place at 12.15. Our next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19th at 10.30 in The Community Hall after Morning Prayer at St. Mary's at 10 a.m.

I look forward to meeting you all at our Lent Lunches.

Dora Baker (secretary).



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More information will be released over the coming months but for now be sure to note the date in your diaries and let all your friends know of the event. Why not make up a party?

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We look forward to hearing from

STIBBINGTON CENTRE NEWS



“The Courgette Hunters” proved to be pick of the crop as the winning team at the Stibbington quiz. They were followed by last year’s winners, “Len’s Seven!”, with the charmingly named “Quizterfer Robins” coming a close third. All agreed that it was a very

pleasant evening with just the right balance of fun and competition, although some found the cold tea identification round fiendish.



Stibbington Community Classes



There was definitely a touch of “messy play for adults “ at our Chocolate Workshop in early February. 156 truffles left the building, how many survived the evening can only be guessed at!

Our “Willow Bird Workshop in March is now fully booked and a further date for those people on the waiting list is currently being identified. This additional date together with details of our Summer sessions will be released as soon as possible.



CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01780 782386

Email: ees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

You can also use the following links:

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COMMUNICARE

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

A general meeting open to all patients will be held on

**Wednesday 8th March 2017
at Wansford Surgery – 1.00 pm**

Following the cessation of our own voluntary transport scheme, we are delighted to report that the Oundle Volunteer Action Group have been providing a limited service to our patients over the past couple of months.

A representative from OVA will be speaking at the meeting – detailing how their service operates and hopefully promoting interest from additional new drivers in our area.

OVA provide a high level of support to their volunteers, both administratively and financial, and there is good flexibility in their working arrangements.

If you want more information about the service on offer you feel you could commit just a few voluntary driving hours a month why not come along and hear what they have to say – no obligation at all!

There will also be an update from the practice on future healthcare plans and developments

As always, the meeting will give patients the opportunity to gain up to date information and to ask questions





SURGERY NEWS

Wansford and Kings Cliffe Practice to remain independent

After almost a year of due diligence we are excited to report that the practice at Wansford and Kings Cliffe will not be merging with the Lakeside Super Practice at Corby.

Despite the government agenda of extended Primary Care requiring access to normal 'Primary Care' at evenings and weekends, we at Wansford and Kings Cliffe have concluded, in consultation with our Patient Participation Group, that the benefits of maintaining continuity of care - the central value of being able to access a doctor you know and trust - is the most important consideration. We have concluded that the services required to provide care in inner city Corby are not the same as those required in rural Wansford and Kings Cliffe.

We already provide same day access to appointments if clinically required - requests received are sorted by our emergency care practitioners and allocated according to assessed need. We will extend evening and weekend availability by aligning ourselves with the Greater Peterborough Network where our patients will be able to access a doctor (at another practice) from 6.30-8pm in the evenings and 9am-5pm at the weekends when Wansford surgery is closed (from 1st April 2017). Patients may see a doctor from Wansford Surgery or another doctor from the Peterborough Network. Furthermore we will continue to provide a Saturday morning surgery at Wansford for emergencies and patients who are unable to be seen during normal working hours because of work commitments.

Lakeside are developing interesting new models of care and we will continue to work collaboratively with them. We will also continue to work with Lakeside practices in medical research projects such as new treatments for psoriasis and COPD.

The surgery works alongside a dental practice and a pharmacy and we have exciting plans for future expansion. Further details will follow in the coming months.



In the November 2012 issue of *Living Villages* I wrote of Mass or scratch dials (crude sun dials) that Peter Lee had kindly drawn to my notice incised on the outer eastern and southern walls of St. Michael's church, Sutton. As far as was known, these examples at Sutton were a unique feature amongst the ancient churches we are fortunate to enjoy within the compass of *Living Villages'* local circulation. Certainly, local historian John Gilbert never mentions any in his numerous publications and for sure his research work was ever meticulous and most painstaking.

I was therefore understandably intrigued when I recently found reference to a pre-war publication entitled '*Origin And Use Of Church Scratch-Dials*' containing an appendix identifying over 1,300 churches on which such dials were to be found. The cover price was fourpence – less than 2p in today's money. I managed to secure a copy and, apart from extending my understanding of these primitive sundials, I found two of our local churches listed in the appendix: **St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh** and **St.**

John the Baptist, Upton. There are also other nearby examples cited at Wittering, Elton and Ufford

I have made cursory examinations of the south walls of both St. Andrew's and St. John's, but without success. The dials may have since been eroded beyond identification or perhaps obliterated during restoration or repair work. Admittedly, it is not possible to access Upton's southern wall with any proximity due to vigorous bramble growth along its entire length. Hopefully, someone with younger, keener eyes may succeed where I have so far failed? Please share any findings.

These ancient dials, additionally called canonical dials, are generally believed to have ceased having any practical application after the introduction of mechanical clocks in Britain from around the year 1370. The purpose of such Mass, scratch or canonical dials was to indicate the prescribed hours when members of the community were required to perform certain religious ritual. Unlike sundials generally, their purpose was emphatically not to indicate the time of day. It is surely the essentially informal, ephemeral nature of these dials used over a relatively short time-span that make them unique to their particular environment. In design, the principle was simple. A vertical nail or pointer was wedged or bored into the masonry to point due south and a first hour cut to mark sunrise and a twelfth hour cut to mark sunset. As the mornings and evenings lengthened and shortened seasonally, the dial times were calculated and incised on the wall accordingly, viz:

Canonical Hours in the Mediaeval System

	1 st	3 rd	6 th	9 th	12 th
	Matins Prime	Terce	Sext	None	Nocturns Compline
Summer	5 a.m.	8 a.m.	noon	4 p.m.	8 p.m.
Autumn	7 a.m.	9 a.m.	noon	3 p.m.	6 p.m.
Winter	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.

KEEPING, CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND HOLY RELICS

These marked the special "offices" to be completed at the third, sixth and ninth hours connected with events of singular religious significance (*vide*: Mark xv, 25, 33, 34 and Acts ii, 15 in the Bible). These incised lines appear on most dials. Other lines might differ numerically in simplicity or complexity to suit local needs or priorities. It surely illustrates one of the earliest examples of the concept of 'daylight saving': a means of adjusting the hours to suit the seasons. In theory, anyone could make a scratch dial by driving a nail or peg into the masonry or mortar to face due south, the surely tedious business of calculating through observation and then incising the required segmentations. Not a job for those of limited patience I would have thought, but then the church of yesteryear held far more influence and authority over everyday life than is probably generally comprehended today.

As a later illustration of this, the 1667 Assize Rolls of Huntingdonshire contain the High Constable's declaration that the local Parish Constables had duly confirmed that there were no Popish recusants (Roman Catholics who refused to attend Church of England services and consequently committed a statutory offence) resident in their parishes nor, to their knowledge, others who had absented themselves from Divine service and sermons.

Amongst those appearing at the Assizes at that date was Thomas Tonnington of St. Ives for the offence of *not attending church and keeping company in his house in drinking during the time of Divine service on Sundays*. Two Parish Constables from Yaxley were themselves arraigned for neglecting to arrest others known to keep greyhounds which were used *publicly to course hares on a Sunday*.

Indeed, it is recorded that crossing Peterborough market square on a personal errand on a Sunday could earn a fine if the offender was spotted by the Constable or church wardens and was unable to justify their absence from church.

Notwithstanding 'captive congregations', religious establishments vied with each other to establish centres of local veneration and indeed pilgrimage by means of providing buildings, furnishings and relics of exceptional merit to attract notice and thereby potential revenue generating opportunities – as well as demonstrating a true depth of Faith. Amongst the treasured relics of the Saxon Monastery of Medehamstede (Peterborough) were the remains of the holy princesses Saints Kyneburgh and Kyneswith, the daughters of the Mercian warlord King Penda, which had originally been buried at Castor before being disinterred in about the year 1000 and brought for reburial at Peterborough, along with the remains of St. Tibba who until then had been buried at Ryall. A more spectacular acquisition occurred when Abbot Aelfsi was in Normandy as a guest of Queen Emma, the wife of King Aethelred the Unready (c968 – 1016). Due to dire famine the monks of Chartres had nothing of value left to trade other than the entire remains of their patron saint and protector, St. Florent. Clearly, Abbott Aelfsi considered it a bargain when he secured the purchase in exchange for 500lbs (227kg) of silver. When conditions improved sufficiently for the monks of Chartres to be in a position to purchase back their patron saint's remains, the monks of Peterborough steadfastly refused to cooperate. Divisive activity within the church is nothing new, it seems.

david@stuartmogg.com

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our first talk of the year was well attended by over 50 members despite being arranged too late to be publicised in Living Villages. 2017 is the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death and local garden historian, Michael Brown, enlightened us about the garden styles prevalent at the time when she was setting her characters in the landscapes of Pemberley and Mansfield Park.



Our second talk on **Thursday 9th March** was to be George Stevenson, county organiser, speaking to us about the National Gardens Scheme. Unfortunately we heard just a few days ago that he is ill in hospital and will be unable to present his talk. The N.G.S. has kindly arranged for another of their volunteers, Robert Marshall, to come along in his place and to talk to us about Snowdrops. There are so many varieties and unusual facts to learn about this delightful little flower, which is cheering us all up in our gardens and local woods heralding the arrival of Spring, so please do come along **at 7.30 to the Christie Hall**. All are welcome. This is followed on Thursday 6th April by Ann Bird, a rose expert and R.H.S. judge who will speak on "The World of Roses".

I am already taking names for our coach trip on **Saturday 13th May to R.H.S. Garden Wisley** which will enable us to see the Camellia, Rhododendron and Azalea Show taking place there on that weekend as well as admiring the wonderful gardens and glass houses. Please contact me if you wish to be added to the list as there are only 49 seats on the coach. As associate R.H.S. members we do not have to pay entry, so it will just be the cost of the coach, around £15.

Bookings are now being made for our new venture for 2017: a 2 day coach trip which will take place on the weekend of 1st and 2nd July with visits to the late Christopher Lloyd's wonderful gardens and house at Great Dixter and to Sissinghurst Castle and Gardens near the south coast with an overnight stop in a nearby hotel between visits. If you are interested, there are still places on the coach so please contact me for the costing, which will depend whether you are a National Trust member or not, and whether you need a single, double or triple room.

As always, a reminder that membership of the society is only £2.50 per annum and is not restricted to those living in Wansford, so please do consider joining us.

Gill Fisher, 01780 782446 fisher.gill@yahoo.com



Transition Kings Cliffe

Working for a Sustainable Community

Transition Minibus

For some time now the villagers of Kings Cliffe have been able to make use of a community minibus, provided by Transition Kings Cliffe via a grant from East Northants District Council. This facility is available to any non profit organisation to use for group outings, children's parties etc. The vehicle is kept in Kings Cliffe, at the Ex Servicemen's Club and the current tariff for use is 60p a mile and the user provides fuel. We do not provide drivers but our insurance covers any driver between 25 and 70 years old.

For further details and to make a booking, call or text Mike Henchy on 07712 442774 or email mikehenchy19@gmail.com.

SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

NOTIFICATION OF 2017 MEETINGS

Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council hold their meetings at the Environment Centre, Stibbington. The meetings commence at 7 p.m.

The dates of our next meetings are:

Wednesday 1st March 2017
Wednesday 3rd May 2017
Wednesday 5th July 2017
Wednesday 6th September 2017
Wednesday 1st November 2017

I will keep you advised should there be any change.

Many thanks

Wendy Gray



WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Wansford Parish Council (WPC) meeting was held at the Community Hall on Monday 13th February 2017 at 7.30pm.

There was concern expressed by a resident of Peterborough Road over the increased amount of surface water flowing from the recent housing development on the Old Little Chef field area site.

This was causing flooding to the resident's property, and WPC agreed to contact the Peterborough Planning Dept. to determine if planning conditions had been met on site.

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting with Simon Machen, the Peterborough City Council (PCC) Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration.

The WPC have been increasingly concerned over poor communication, consultation and support from PCC, over cross county planning matters, lack of PCC planning enforcement, maintenance of the local roads infrastructure, the proposed 20 mph restriction within the centre of Wansford, which PCC support, and the A47 dualling. All were discussed at length.

There was agreement for improved communications in the spirit of the Parish Charter, a new point of contact for highway inspections, and remedy, and the reasoning for not enforcing the re-instatement of the Picnic site, which could be understood to a point but WPC will press to have this area returned to its former landscaped condition.

There was agreement to support WPC request for some joined up thinking from Highways England over the upgrading of the A47 and an incorporated cycleway.

Also agreed was for a letter to be sent from PCC to East Northants Council (ENC), to lay down a marker objecting to the effect planning permissions within ENC parishes have on Wansford.

It was agreed to request the Police attend the next WPC meeting, especially to update on the Picnic site and policing matters in Wansford.

WPC had no issues with planning applications for 19 Old North Road and the Heron Service Station, Wansford, but had strong objections to the Andrews Quarry, Yarwell application for a Certificate of Lawful Development.

Various invoices were submitted, approved and payment agreed

A quotation for the installation of a handrail alongside the footway to the Community Hall was received and the meeting agreed to proceed.

The new Christie Hall lease has been signed by WPC, Thornhaugh PC and S cum S PC.

It was agreed WPC will contact Highways England for further update/ meeting re the A47 proposals, and further clarification from PCC Highways of how the fiasco of the 'No Access to Fotheringhay' road signs came upon us, clearly this was not well thought out and the explanation will be received with interest!

The next WPC meeting is at the Community Hall on **Monday 13th March 2017**, all are most welcome.

John Stannage. Chairman WPC



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STIBBINGTON AND WANSFORD WI

What better way to celebrate St Valentine's Day than with chocolate! Fifteen of our members had a fun evening at Stamford Heavenly Chocolates, making a hot chocolate spoon wrapped in a heart transfer. While we were waiting for them to set, we had a chance to try a delicious range of the chocolates offered by the owner, Barbara Farrow – I think one or two members may have gone home with an over indulgent tummy ache!! We also learnt of Barbara's inspirational journey from kitchen table cupcake maker to the business that she runs today.



Our 3 C's craft morning continued with the knitting and crocheting of tea cosies for the big Tea Cosy event and which will be available for sale at our bake sale on March 25th on the green by St Mary's Church. We followed that with lunch at Willowbrook Farm café where members enjoyed a vast range of home cooked foods from game pie to jam roly-poly. This was the first outing this year for our supper club – more to follow.

By the time you read this we will also have been to see snowdrops and hellebores at Anglesey Abbey – a sure sign that spring is just around the corner. We have many outings and events planned, some of which are mentioned below. If you would like to attend any of them, please do get in touch. 3C's will next meet on 3rd and 17th March at 10.00 a.m. in the Wansford Community hall.

The book club will next meet on 30th March at 7.30 in the Haycock Hotel. They will be considering *Nomad* by Jane Swallow and *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep* by Joanna Canon. The club always welcomes new members and often has visitors who are not members of the WI.

A new group is also starting up – our walking group will meet for the first time at 10.30 on Tuesday 7th March in the car park at Burghley House. Our next group meeting will be held on 14th March in the Wansford Community Hall at 7.15p.m. We shall be having a talk and demonstration of Easter cake decorations and cake toppers. Please do join us for what looks like a very interesting evening.

More details of all our meetings and events, and more news can now be found on our blog www.swwiblog.com

Jan Armitage 01780 789996



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Have you ever considered running or jogging a half marathon, or even a full marathon? Perhaps you have already completed one or are in training for one soon. Alternatively you may have sponsored someone. It's some years since I took part in the London Marathon and I was fortunate to have an excellent coaching and mentoring programme which supported my training, however not everyone is as lucky.

So if suddenly you were gripped with the urge to go running what could - would - should you do? The first thing that you need to consider is your physical health and if you have any doubts at all then you must seek professional help. The next thing to do is to purchase good trainers – your flat casual sneakers are not going to provide the correct support. The next stage will depend on your general fitness, but if you haven't taken part in any sport since leaving school, then you'll need to take it very slowly and be really patient. The saying 'Rome wasn't built in a day' definitely applies.

There are many programmes available on line through the 'App Store' and 'Google play' to follow which will take you from a beginner to a runner and some of them are free (search Couch to 5K). The website www.runningforbeginners.com will also point you in the right direction.

I consider the most important factor in all of this is personal motivation and the setting of a tangible goal that you want to achieve. It could be weight loss, improved body shape, general health improvements through to actually completing 'that race.' On the way it's also good to set yourself intermediate goals. Free 5K fun runs such as the Parkrun which is held in Ferry Meadows on Saturday mornings at 9am are a great way for you to check your progress and meet other like-minded enthusiasts.

<http://www.parkrun.org.uk/peterborough/>

Many races encourage you to raise money for local and national charities. Please see page 37 for an example of just that.

You could also add swimming and cycling to your training schedule so that Triathlons and even Ironman competitions would be something to consider in the future. It's at this point that I'd like to congratulate Robert Sortwell, one time resident of Wansford now living near Sydney, NSW who has just completed his first Ironman The Husky Long-course, comprising of 2Km Ocean swim, 83Km Cycle and 20Km Run. He did it in 5hr15min33secs!





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Are you organising an event?

Do you have a story you would like to tell?

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**The Living Villages Editorial Team,
Tracy, Rod and Kate would love to hear from you.**

M * R * H

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I have long been interested in natural history but I do have a particular love of birds. I have always considered myself a bit of a birdwatcher but nowadays the American term 'birder' seems to have taken over. You may also have heard the term 'twitcher' in reference to birds but the twitcher is an entirely different 'animal'. When a twitcher hears of a rare bird discovery he or she will drop everything and go, often hundreds of miles. Nowadays they will carry not only telescopes and binoculars but cameras with long lenses. They will want to see the bird to add to their list - another tick - but also to have a digital photographic record of their sighting. Modern technology also provides the knowledge of when and where such rarities appear. Texts, bleeps and websites provide the information instantly. One day I was quietly sitting in a busy birdhide when suddenly the peace was broken by a cacophony of bleeps and within ten seconds everyone had left - except me! I'm not a twitcher of course.

I do enjoy a day of birdwatching with friends and last week we met up for a pre-planned trip and discussed where we should go. It was a calm, sunny day and we thought the conditions were ideal to possibly catch a view of Long-eared Owls at their roost north of the Deepings. Off we went and as luck would have it we could clearly see one bird with a possible second bird nearby. We noted many other less rare birds in the vicinity and then one of my friends phoned up the local birdline to find that a rare bird was showing well north of Spalding. We decided to drive there to see if we could see it. We are not twitchers of course.



The route took us along the River Welland where we were fortunate to see a Great White Egret. This large white Heron is becoming less rare now as global warming encourages the bird to extend its territory out of mainland Europe. This was enjoyable birding. Soon we reached the Willow Fen Reserve, eventually managed to park the car, and joined the throng marching up the track to a crowd in the distance.

And there it was; a Bluethroat. This robin-like member of the Thrush family comes in red or white spotted varieties. However this was a juvenile but with a very clear blue breast and unconcerned by up to forty grey and green clad humans pointing large lenses at it. It was probably grateful we were keeping the buzzards away. A very successful day and another tick for me.



I'm not a twitcher of course!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

Dear Mrs Sortwell,

My name is Olivia Frost and I am an MA Wildlife Filmmaking student currently studying with the BBC Natural History Unit through UWE, in Bristol. When I am not away studying, I live at home with my family in Wansford, where we've resided for over 10 years now.

As part of my course, I am required to make a self-funded short film. As a result, I have chosen to make my film about Beatrix Potter, a woman who has always inspired me.

Rather than focusing on Beatrix's accomplishments as a writer, the film will focus on Beatrix Potter's role amongst nature in the Lake District and the invaluable measures she took to help enable its effective conservation and preservation. Having grown up exploring the beautiful countryside around Wansford, I was inspired to make a conservation-themed film.

I will be filming half of the film in the Lake District and the other half back home in Wansford, where I have kindly been permitted to film in Old Sulehay Woods, the Wansford Pasture, Sacrewell Farm and more. I hope to get some lovely shots of local wildlife that will help me to inspire others to value the beautiful natural landscapes of the UK as I do.

As a result, I am currently trying to raise some funds so that I can afford to make my film, 'The Lady of the Lakes'. As I'm sure you'll understand, raising enough money to support a project as a student is very tricky and I am struggling to raise the funds that I need – so I hope I don't sound rude, but I would please like to ask if you would possibly consider spreading the word about my crowdfunding page?

I would really appreciate your support for my film and the more people who know about it and the more donations I get, the more chance I'll have of raising the funds I need to make it. The money raised will all be used for practical elements, such as affording accommodation, and where possible I would really love to ensure that the money goes straight back into the Lake District community. If I am able to raise any money beyond my target, this will all be donated to the Wildlife Trusts who manage the Wansford nature reserves.

I have set up a crowdfunding page here:
<https://uwe.hubbub.net/p/theladyofthelakes/pitch/>

Thank you so much for your time,
Best wishes,
Olivia Frost

Dear Editor,

Please forgive my formal approach, I am writing to local magazines and media organisations to ask if you would be kind enough to include my Concert poster in your publication.

I am a 15 year old Year 11 pupil at The King's School, Peterborough. I have organised a Concert featuring Yarwell & Nassington Britannia Band to play their very popular St George's Concert in Nassington Church, which will be attended by 250 people, on Friday 21st April 2017. I am also a playing member of the Band. This concert is to raise funds for two causes. The first one is called #hattiegoingtomadeira. In order to take part in a school expedition to Madeira in July, I have had to raise £1750. I have already raised £1,100 by various means of raffles, a soft toy tombola, babysitting, bake sales etc. The balance of £650 will be met by this Concert. It is hoped that this Concert will also raise an additional £1400 which will be donated to **Cancer Research UK**. My Grandad died from cancer in October last year aged 83. It costs £17 to fund one hour of research. My aim is to raise enough money to pay for one hour of research for every year of his life.

Thank you so much for your help.
With kind regards

Hattie Arnold



Dear Editor

Over the next two months you may notice me running around Wansford and the surrounding fields and villages in my new bright blue t-shirt! On the 29th April I will be running my first ultra-marathon – 62 miles around the whole of the Isle of Wight!

I have taken on this massive running challenge to raise money and awareness for Mind, the mental health charity. Every year, one in four of us will experience a mental health problem, but people are still struggling to get the support they need. They are still facing prejudice and misunderstanding.

Please help me to support this fantastic charity. Visit my fundraising page for more information and to donate.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BeckyEames>

I will also have a collection tin on the counter at the Wansford shop within the next couple of weeks if you would like to donate your spare change.

Thank you for your support.

Becky Eames



DIARY DATES – MARCH 2017

Wed 1	Stibbington cum Sibson Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Environment Centre Stibbington	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	23
Thur 2	Watersmete Benefice Lent Group	2.15pm - 4pm	Prebendal Barn, Yarwell	Rev Jane Tailby		
Fri 3	WI 3c's Coffee, Community and Chat	10.00am	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	27
Tue 7	WI Walking group	10.30am	Burghley House Car park	Jan Armitage	789996	27
	Watersmete Benefice Lent Group	7.15pm - 9pm	Nassington Vicarage	Rev Jane Tailby		
Wed 8	Friends of St Marys and St Andrews, Lent Lunch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	11
	Communicare General Meeting	1.00pm	Wansford Surgery	Wendy Spencer		18
Thur 9	Horticultural Society Talk National Garden's Scheme	7.30pm	Christie Hall	Gill Fisher	782446	22
Mon13	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24
Tue 14	Stibbington and Wansford WI Meeting	7.15pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	27
Wed 15	Friends of St Marys and St Andrews, Lent Lunch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	11
Fri 17	WI 3c's Coffee, Community and Chat	10.00am	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	27
Mon 20	Thornhaugh Parish Council meeting	7.00pm	St Andrew's Church Thornhaugh	Deirdre McCumiskey		
Wed 22	Friends of St Marys and St Andrews, Lent Lunch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	11
Sat 25	WI Cake Sale		On the Green outside St Mary's	Jan Armitage	789996	27
Wed 29	Friends of St Marys and St Andrews, Lent Lunch	10 am	Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	11
Thur 30	WI Book Club	7.30pm	Haycock Hotel	Jan Armitage	789996	27

Copy deadline next month: 20th March 2017

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

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