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May 2018

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EDITORIAL

This month I must start by thanking John Measures for sending me yet another fabulous photo to use on our front cover.

Sunday 22nd April was 'Drive it Day' when classic car owners and their clubs are encouraged to organise events so that their members can take their cars out for perhaps their first journey of the year. If you were not aware of this it would explain why there were so many classic cars on the road that day. Rod and I met with some fellow TR owners outside the Haycock and whilst there noticed that the bridge weight restriction notice had disappeared from that side. I have subsequently learnt that on nights when the A1 has been closed many large and heavy vehicles have used the this route as a diversion. This must be a great concern to us all - I hope that something is done soon to stop this happening and protect the bridge.

On a more positive note I have been sent many emails about events which are happening in and around our villages. They are all for a variety of good causes, some are happening during May with others later in the summer. I hope that you are able to support a few of these.

Tracy Sortwell

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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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H'don District Council	01480 388388	Stibbington Centre	01780 782386

Website

www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

WORSHIP MAY 2018

St Leonard's, Apethorpe		
6th	11.00am	Holy Communion
13th	11.00am	Holy Communion
20th	11.00am	Holy Communion
27th	11.00am	Morning Prayer

St Andrew's, Thornhaugh		
6th	9.30am	Morning Praise
20th	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Kyneburgha, Castor		
6th	10.15am	Holy Communion
13th	10.15am	Holy Communion
20th	10.15am	Holy Communion
27th	10.15am	Holy Communion

St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell		
6th	11.00am	Holy Communion
13th	11.00am	Holy Communion
20th	3.00pm	Methodist Service
27th	11.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington		
6th	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Holy Communion
10th	9.30am	Ascension Day Holy Communion BCP
13th	9.30am	Holy Communion
20th	9.30am	Holy Communion
27th	9.30am	Holy Communion and Sunday School
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong

St Mary's, Wansford		
<i>Every Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer</i>		
13th	9.30am	Holy Communion With Choir
27th	9.30am	Morning Praise

St Michael and All Angels, Sutton		
13th	9.00am	Family Service
27th	9.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary's, Woodnewton		
6th	9.30am	Holy Communion
10th	7.00pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion
13th	9.30am	Holy Communion (Said)
20th	9.30am	Morning Praise
27th	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP



ACAPELLA FEST

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Proceeds to Charities supported by St Mary's Church.

"Thy Kingdom Come" Many will recognise that phrase from the Lord's Prayer, and some, maybe, as a call to prayer in our churches. For the last three years there has been an invitation from many Christian denominations to join a global wave of prayer in the days between Ascension Day and Pentecost – this year from 10th to 20th May. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

There will be ways to take part held in our churches, and for those who like the internet, have a look at www.thykingdomcome.global/about There will be leaflets and booklets available as well, to help in personal prayer, as well as the things happening in church. ***"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."*** (Archbishop Justin Welby)

Perhaps at this time of increased international tension, divided communities and fears in our own country, and quite possibly uncertainty in our own lives or in the lives we love, so many are looking for a fairer, more open way of being, and whether we engage with prayer or not, is this an opportunity for all of us in our villages to think about how we in our own small corners can bring about transformation and renewal, one gesture or word at a time? What difference will you make to another today, and will that difference be positive? For those who feel called to pray, we have a chance to think about what it means to use the words "Thy Kingdom Come" – what sort of world can reflect God's Kingdom, what are his purposes for the world he created and loves, and how can we be part of that transformation?

Peace, justice, righteousness – it all sounds so daunting; can we, in this corner of rural England really make a difference? When I feel rather overwhelmed by the needs and anguish of the world, I find myself recalling the Starfish Story – you may know it, or have even heard me use it. A child and their parent were walking along a beach after a fierce storm. The high winds and rough tide had washed up hundreds of starfish onto the beach, now struggling to get back to life-giving sea. The child picked up a starfish and threw it back into the ocean. "Why did you do that?" asked the parent, "that's not going to make much difference; there are hundreds of starfish here! Why bother?" "But it made a difference to that starfish, though," the child responded quietly.

Bringing in God's Kingdom, one small action at a time, empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit whose great gifts we will celebrate at Pentecost. Time for a bit of starfish throwing, maybe?

***With every blessing,
Rev Jane***

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S

Lent Lunches. I am now able to tell all our kind and generous friends that with your help we managed to raise £726 (plus gift aid forms) at our Lent Lunches, although we had to cancel one of those due to heavy snow fall on that day. We were able to split the proceeds between our two chosen charities.

Wednesday Welcome Coffee Stop

These will run all through the summer again, starting at 10.30 after Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Church **on every second and fourth Wednesday of the month.** They were great fun last year. We were able to meet new neighbours and old friends over a cup of coffee and lovely home-baked cakes. Some people were able to buy a cake or some delicious sausage rolls and take them home with them. The proceeds of the Coffee Stops will help our 2 churches and our missionaries.

The first Coffee Stop will have taken place by the time you read this.

Friends' Meetings always take place on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10.30 after Morning Prayer at 10 a.m.

The next one will be held on 2nd May.

A Spring Outing of The Friends is planned for 30th May. The exact time and venue will be decided at the next meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our next Coffee Stop.

Dora

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Water Newton Music Fest

WATER NEWTON MUSIC FEST 2018
26th August

The full line up for the 2018 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', 'Pennyless', Nick Corney & The Buzz Rats, and 'The Hound Dogs'.

The open air one day event to be held on Bank Holiday Sunday 26th August starts at 12 noon and is held on the beautifully located village green by the River Nene with continuous music through to 7.30pm.

There will be delicious 'street food', wood fired pizzas, gourmet burgers and a wine and beer tent serving real ales supplied by Castor Ales.

Be sure to note the date in your diaries. Why not make up a party? Tickets will be on sale from late June by visiting : www.waternewtonvillage.co.uk

Further information:

This is a charity gig with all profits going to 'The Friends of St Remigius' to help maintain and improve the ancient church in this delightful hamlet on the banks of the River Nene. Water Newton is just 6 miles outside the city of Peterborough and just off the A1



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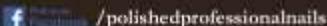


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7.30pm KingsCliffe Memorial Hall PE8 6XW

Tues 5.45 & 7pm Wansford Christie Hall

Weds 7pm Bulwick Village Hall (booking only)

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

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



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

Tel: **07788 919899** Email: mightymaggiartycrafty@gmail.com

STIBBfest UPDATE

Remember: Saturday 12th May, 10am-4pm

We can now confirm that there will be trips to the nearby nature reserve from the Stibbington Centre. This tranquil area is not usually open to the public so this is an ideal opportunity!

A visiting pizza stand will tickle your taste buds together with drinks, savoury snacks and cakes from our own Crunchy Carrot Café.

We will have some beautiful pieces of artwork together with artists in various media including ceramics, mosaic, felt, silk and willow.

If you would like to be part of our crack team to set an Origami butterfly linked world record later in the year, this is where you start!

We apologise in advance to any local residents who are inconvenienced by a higher number of cars in the area.

Stibbington Community Classes Update

Flower arranging with Barbara Collins–16/6/18

Simon & Garfunkel Harmony Singing with Lewis Hall - 1/7/18

Sketching and watercolour with Karen Neale –June/July date TBC.



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HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The final Spring talk, on Thursday 22 March, wove together themes and people who have been the subjects of earlier talks to our society. Our speaker, Steffie Shields, introduced us to gardens and landscapes of Lincolnshire unfamiliar to many of us, but in which she had worked as a photographer with several of our past speakers such as Bunny Guinness and Adam Frost. An example of one such location and a "must see", are



the newly designed International Bomber Command Peace Gardens by Shona Hatton created in Lincoln to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force.

Our private group visit to Easton Walled Gardens takes place in two days' time, and the 34 participants all have their fingers crossed hoping that today's glorious "summer" weather will continue until Sunday.

A reminder of our **plant sale on Saturday 12th May between 10 and 1 p.m.** at **Stone & Willow, 59, Elton Road.** Having noticed the high price of plants in the garden centres around here this year, can I encourage you to come along to pick up some real bargains? We hope to offer a good selection of plants - flowering, vegetable and indoor - suitable for our local gardening conditions as well as some accessories and tools at very reasonable prices. Any donations of plants you might be splitting up or discarding to change your borders will be gratefully received along with any spare garden equipment or seedlings you have propagated. Please just leave them in the drive if we are not at home. Should you need them, there are numerous plant pots stacked under the hedge to the right of the house - please help yourself. Proceeds will go to subsidise the activities of the society.

We still have some seats available on the coach trip on **Sunday 24 June to Beth Chatto's Gardens and R.H.S. Hyde Hall** (£23 to members and £25 to non members) Seats also remain for the trip on **Saturday 28 July to Little Morton Hall and Biddulph Grange** on the borders of Cheshire and Staffordshire. The cost of this trip is £16 for people who are National Trust members and £34 for those who are not.

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

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Drystone Walling

by Rod Sortwell

Living as we do in the five villages covered by the magazine, we take as normal the numerous drystone walls which enclose our gardens and fields as well as forming the boundary between farmland and highway. The latter can still be seen on all old parts of the A1 from Stibbington to Waternewton and what tales it could tell from Stage Coaches to Highwaymen and motorists dashing to Edinburgh. We take all these walls for granted, but we are a lowland area bordering the Fens. The flat lands of East Anglia at a similar elevation are the home to hedges and ditches. For our walls we must thank geology and the presence of plentiful rock from the margin of the Oolitic limestone band running from Portland Bill in Dorset to Lincolnshire. Drystone walling originated in upland Britain in the Iron Age when it was used to separate fields in Wales, the Pennines and Scotland. It

enclosed fields of poor farming land but of course lowland Britain was largely forested. In the Dark Ages Anglo Saxon farmers began clearing and settling lowland areas where their agricultural techniques were more successful. Drystone walling was not possible or needed and it fell out of favour.

During the Medieval period settlement of highland areas increased and so too did the use of drystone walls. Indeed many monasteries were constructed in this way. At this time we also saw landowners move away from arable farming and specialize in sheep and cattle and much of East Anglian wealth was gained from the wool market. A visit to the great wool churches of Lavenham and Long Melford illustrates this.

In the post medieval period vast tracts of common land were enclosed for grazing and arable



farming and where material was available, drystone walling was employed because of plentiful stone and cheap labour. Highland Britain was further enclosed by walls to accommodate sheep grazing.

But this is a far cry from the lowland territory where we all live. Here we have the remains of countless walls originally used as field boundaries, some still are. In Old Leicester Road and Old North Road in Wansford walls form the front of virtually all properties, but of course these were field and roadside boundaries 100 years ago. We also see this within the villages of Thornhaugh and Sutton and very attractive it is too. Providing Ivy is kept in check, they will last indefinitely with little need for repair. Water accumulation resulting from Ivy growth and neglect eventually causes delamination of stone by winter freeze and thaw action and eventual collapse. Currently we are seeing a major renovation of the wall at the south end of Old North Road in Wansford which involves complete removal of the existing structure followed by reconstruction to match the original design. This became necessary after the original developer an alarming lean towards the road. The hazard was well illustrated when Alex removed the Cock and Hen stones from the top of one section which then immediately collapsed onto the pavement.

Your drystone wall is of course a haven for both flora and fauna. It offers differing micro climates, an exposed wet side, a dryer warmer side, a windswept top and a snug

dry inside. You may find a field mouse, shrew or hedgehog at the base. Higher up you can find a robin, a redstart and possibly even an owl deep inside the wall. Drystone walls are a wild life garden. Lichens favour an exposed pollution free area while on the damp shaded area you will find mosses and algae which create a tilth but these create compost for ivy and ferns which in the long term are detrimental. When I first moved to the village the local youth population were hiding clandestine cigarettes and alcohol in recesses of my wall.

In terms of your garden the wall provides shelter for plants throughout the year. It provides protection against bitter winds, a degree of warmth from the stone heated in the sun, and of course it never needs trimming or pruning. In addition soil nutrients and water can be fully available for crops and not used to grow the hedge which leaves you with a non-productive strip in its shadow.



WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

3RD May 2018

There will be a contested Parish Council election for Wansford on the 3rd May 2018. The polling station will be at the Community Hall, Peterborough Road and is open from 7 am to 10pm. Of the 11 Parish Councils due for re-election in the Peterborough area, Wansford is the only one having a contested election. There are 7 seats on Wansford Parish Council and 8 candidates:-

Richard Clarke	Kieran Nally
Graham Garner	Tim Pearson
Martyn Handley	John Stannage
Dave Johnson	Vivien Thorley

Please note that Peterborough is taking part in a pilot scheme to monitor postal and proxy votes. If you are casting a proxy vote for someone, you will be required to produce photographic ID.

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THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Sixth Meeting of the 2017/2018 Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 19th March 2018. It was chaired by Chris Smith, present were Liam Higgins, Martin Lewis, Louise Molesworth, Adrian Rodgers, Lucy Sharpley and Penny Lewin-Watts (Christie Hall Representative) and in attendance were Daniel Worley and Sam Falco, Conservation Officers, PCC and the Clerk.

There were apologies for absence from Ashley Kewney.

The Chairman welcomed Daniel Worley and Sam Falco, Conservation Officers, Peterborough City Council to the meeting. Thornhaugh has been designated a conservation area since 1979 and there are 11 listed buildings in the village including St Andrew's Church. An appraisal of the conservation area is due to take place and will comprise of (1) an Appraisal Document specifying what is important/what makes it special/what are its characteristics and (2) a Management Plan specifying how to move forward/identifying other things that can be done, for example altering the boundary of the conservation area. These can be used in the planning process. More information about the history of the village is required and Lucy Sharpley will pass on the contact details of Andrew Sharpley who has this knowledge. Penny Lewin-Watts will also see if she can find any historical data in Brian Watts' files from when he was organising the Village Sign. Daniel Worley will prepare a Draft Appraisal which will be sent initially to the Parish Council for its comments/additions after which a letter with links to the Draft Appraisal will be sent to all village residents/interest parties.

Declarations of Interest

Lucy Sharpley declared an interest in Planning Application 18/00281 Single Storey Rear Extension at 16 Russell Hill, Thornhaugh, Peterborough PE8 6HL

Public Forum

There were no Members of the Public present.

Police Matters

There were no police representatives present. A Crime Report had been received for February 2018.

Dog Foul Bin

The Dog Foul Bin has been removed by Amey as requested.

Repair of the stone wall at the top of Russell Hill

The Parish Council has already received a Community Leadership Fund Grant towards the cost of repair of the stone wall but in order for Diane Lamb to confirm that this was permissible, she had requested photographs of the stone wall. Martin Lewis had taken some photographs and these had been sent but no confirmation had been received from Diane Lamb yet. The Chairman has not heard back from Mick George regarding donating the stone. No further action will be taken at present. Item to be added to the next meeting agenda.

40 mph Repeater Signs

Wittering Parish Council is not interested in purchasing 40 mph repeater signs as it believes it is the responsibility of the Highways Division. The Highways

Division has been asked to supply 40 mph repeater signs but have not agreed to this. No further action will be taken at present.

Peterborough Local Consultation

No further correspondence has been received about this.

Parish Council Elections 2018

It was noted that the Notice advertising the Parish Council Elections 2018 is due to be published on 27th March 2018. The Clerk has already sent the link regarding this to the Parish Councillors. All current Parish Councillors (with voting rights) are aware that they will need to complete the necessary form and hand-delivered it to Peterborough City Council by 6th April 2018. The Clerk is willing to take the anyone's form to Peterborough City Council on 5th April 2018 but she must be in receipt of the form by the evening of 4th April 2018.

Summer Tea Party

It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Street Lighting

It was noted that Peterborough City Council is upgrading 17,000 street lights to energy-efficient LEDs on a three-year cycle across the authority area. Despite a request from the Parish Council for lights more in keeping with the village and conservation area, they have confirmed that a "standard" style has been chosen across the area and they will not provide any different form of street light.

Blocked Drains

It was noted that a contractor had been seen investigating the blocked drain. Martin Lewis will monitor the situation.

Noticeboard at Home Farm

It was noted that the post has been replaced and the noticeboard has been re-erected.

Annual Donations to Living Villages and T&W PCC

It was agreed to donate £80.00 to Living Villages and £190.00 to T&W PCC.

Speeding Motorists on Russell Hill

Penny Lewin-Watts and Adrian Rodgers will organise the purchase and erection of a 20-mph sign near to St Medard House, Russell Hill.

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

It was felt that the site needs to be planted with trees to screen the light pollution across the village and this was submitted to the Planning Department. Nothing further has been heard. The Clerk will chase this up with the Planning Department at Peterborough City Council.

East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility Order 2013

This was noted but no further action is required.

Planning Application 18/00416 - Proposed Timber Framed Garage at 1 Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh, Peterborough PE8 6HN

No Objections.

Planning Application 18/00281 Single Storey Rear Extension at 16 Russell Hill, Thornhaugh, Peterborough PE8 6HL

No Objections.

Telephone Box (Library)

The Telephone Box (Library) needs repainting, particularly the roof. Penny Lewin-Watts agreed to organise this.

Christie Hall Treasurer

Penny Lewin-Watts, as Secretary of the Christie Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council's Christie Hall Representative, confirmed that a new Treasurer is required for the Christie Hall Management Committee due to the retirement of the current Treasurer. Anyone who is interested should please make contact with Penny or any other member of the Christie Hall Management Committee.

Thomas Wolsey Charity

Any resident who will be/is undertaking a Further Education Course is encouraged to apply for a financial grant from the Thomas Wolsey Charity.

Date of Next Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the 2018/2019 Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 21st May 2018 in St Andrew's Church.

Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk



WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Council Meeting 9th April 2018

The meeting was attended by 6 parish councillors, 6 members of the public and city councillor Diane Lamb.

The members of the public raised the following issues:

1. Property details letters received from the Highways Agency.

Residents close to the A47 have received letters asking for details of the ownership of their properties. These caused some distress to residents as the letters appeared to be part of a compulsory purchase process. Checks made by the Parish Council with Highways England show that they are just gathering information in case they need access to properties to improve boundaries and noise shielding. This will be clarified when Highways England finally publish their proposals for the full A1/A47 junction.

2. Noise from the A1.

Several people complained about increasing noise levels from the A1 as a result of increased traffic, poor road surfacing and recent clearing of vegetation. These issues were raised by the Parish Council with Highways England. This stretch of the A1 is due to be re-surfaced this year which will reduce the noise. HE is willing to discuss improved noise screening but they have to cut back roadside vegetation regularly. Residents may want to consider joint schemes to reduce noise at their properties either by noise barriers or planting.

Following the public meeting last month, Highways England has invited Wansford and Sutton Parish Councils to a series of meetings to consider in detail the environmental impact of the re-aligned A47, the layout and impacts of changes to the A1/A47 junction and routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. We will report back on the outcome of these meetings.

Richard Clarke

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What's the Problem?

Microplastic fibres are small plastic fragments 5mm or smaller that are shed from synthetic clothes when laundered and end up in the sea and wider environment. The scale of the problem is large; millions of people wash their clothes every week, shedding these tiny particles that are too small to be caught by the machine filters, so they flow into the sewage system and eventually into the ocean.

Due to their small size microplastic fibres are readily ingested by aquatic life, filling up their stomachs which can eventually cause death. We also know that the plastic fibres attract toxins and harmful chemical pollutants which then end up in the food we eat, the long term effects of which are not yet clear.

How can you help?

Raising awareness of the issue amongst your community is an important step to encourage people to take action and understand the impact microplastic fibres are having on the environment. Consumers can make a difference by altering clothes purchasing and washing habits.

Wash well

The EU Mermaids Project and Ocean Clean Wash have developed a range of actions that you can take to reduce the release of fibres from washing clothes.

Checklist:

- ⇒ Wash less – only wash clothes when they need it. Items that are not worn close to the skin often do not need washing after just one wear. This will also prolong the life of our clothes.
- ⇒ Fill up your washing machine to the max: washing a full load results in less friction between clothes and therefore less fibres are released.
- ⇒ Use washing liquid instead of powder: the scrub function of the grains of powder result in loosening the fibres of clothes more than with liquid
- ⇒ Wash at low temperature: when clothes are washed at a higher temperature some fabrics are damaged, leading to the release of fibres
- ⇒ When cleaning the dryer, do not flush the lint down the drain, throw it in the bin.
- ⇒ Avoid long wash cycles: long periods of washing cause more friction between fabrics which can result in more tearing of the fabrics
- ⇒ Avoid using detergents with a high ph and oxidising agents

Wear well – shop smarter and buy less

Before buying yourself a new item of clothing ask yourself these questions:

- ⇒ Do you love it? Be choosy, don't compromise for designs you don't really like just because they are in style
- ⇒ Does it fit well? Does it go with the rest of the wardrobe?



Members of our group attended the Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation Day where there were interesting speeches by Charlotte Edwards (former captain of the England women's cricket team), Mrs Julie Spence (Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire) and Dr Geoff Brighty who gave a very informative speech about the dangers that plastics pose to our environment.



Members of the federation had been invited to make a banner to help celebrate 100 years of the federation and we were pleased to be part of the procession of banners that took place in the afternoon. Our WI will be 100 years old next year, and we shall be thinking up some good ways to celebrate and share our anniversary with the community.

This week we learnt a lot about the Blue Plaque scheme in Peterborough. Toby Wood from the Peterborough Civic Society gave an entertaining talk about the 20 new plaques that have been installed in the City Centre, and that make an interesting walking trail – and showed us why it was time to renew the previous versions. One interesting fact to emerge was that the plaques are made with a % of plastic mixed into the metal which gives them no “melt down” value and therefore less likely to be stolen!

Next month is traditionally “resolution month” where we consider the resolutions that will be going forward to the national conference in June. This year the resolution will be supporting mental health issues. The meeting takes place on May 8th at 7.15 in the Wansford Community Hall.

3C's will take place on 4th and 18th May in the community hall, 10 til 12 noon. Book Club is on 31st May at 7.30pm in the Haycock.

More details and news can also be found on our Facebook page @sandwwi .

Jan Armitage 01780 789996

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Wansford In England Cricket Club 2018 Fixtures



Opponents	Venue	Date	Time
Motley Crew	Home	Sunday 29 April	13.00
Old East CC	Away	Sunday 6 May	13.00
Digby CC (Scopwick)	Home	Sunday 13 May	14.00
<i>Ploughman</i>	<i>T20 Home</i>	<i>Tuesday 15 May</i>	<i>18.00</i>
Howitzers CC	Home	Sunday 20 May	13.00
Uppingham CC	Away	Sunday 27 May	13.00
CAMRA	<i>T20 Home</i>	<i>Tuesday 29 May</i>	<i>18.00</i>
Islip CC	Home	Sunday 3 June	13.30
CAMRA	TBC	Sunday 10 June	13.30
CAMRA	<i>T20 Home</i>	<i>Tuesday 12 June</i>	<i>18.00</i>
Fixture TBC	TBC	Sunday 17 June	13.30
Uppingham	Away	Sunday 24 June	13.30
Fixture TBC	TBC	Sunday 1 July	13.30
Motley Crew	Home	Sunday 8 July	14.00
Knossington CC	Home	Sunday 15 July	14.00
Digby CC	Away	Sunday 22 July	13.00
<i>Ploughman</i>	<i>T20 Home</i>	<i>Tuesday 24 July</i>	<i>18.00</i>
Fixture TBC	TBC	Sunday 29 July	13.30
Woodford CC	Away	Sunday 5 August	14.00
Islip CC	Away	Sunday 12 August	14.00
Howitzers CC	Home	Sunday 19 August	13.30
Presidents T20 Bash	Home	Sunday 26 August	12.00
Fixture TBC	TBC	Sunday 2 September	13.00
Woodford CC	Home	Sunday 9 September	13.30
Old East CC	Away	Sunday 16 September	13.00
Fixture TBC	TBC	Sunday 23 September	13.00
CAMRA	Home	Sunday 30 September	13.00

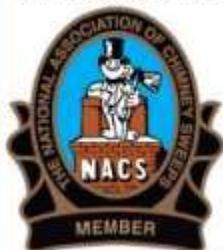
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Winter is finally over. It even seems that spring is over too. Where did it go? In March we suffered freezing conditions and blizzards and in early April we were inundated by floods. Most of the caravans at our local site had to be towed off to higher ground, at risk of the rising flood waters. Yet today has been the hottest April day for 69 years. The temperatures have been moving that way for a week. And what a delightful change.

Apart from the warmth there are two sounds that signify the change from spring to summer. The buzzing of insects and birdsong; and the calls of the song thrush in particular. Every afternoon this week has been a joy, working and sitting in the garden listening to the loud but glorious song of the song thrush. It perches high up in a tree and serenades the world, masking the sound of any other bird. It is a powerful and tuneful song and keeps going for minutes on end, stops and starts again.

The song thrush is slightly smaller than a blackbird, its darker cousin, more the size of a starling. However its silhouette shows a shorter body and longer tail than the starling. Its upper parts are light brown while its breast is pale with streaks of brown spots. The bird's other cousin, the mistle thrush, is larger and more grey in colour. In the past these two birds with spotted breasts have often been considered under the same name. To separate them the larger bird



was known as the thrush and the smaller song thrush was known as a Throstle, particularly in the Midlands. The bird appears on the badge of West Bromwich Albion Football Club and for many years they were known as The Throstles, however The Baggies is their more popular title now. In the north of England and Scotland the bird is known as a Mavis. There has been many an argument between southerners and northerners about the 'identification' of this bird; the northerners never having heard of a song thrush.

Unfortunately, like much of our wildlife, song thrush numbers have plummeted over the last forty years, partly due to changes in agricultural practices in our farmland. But another significant reason has been the increased use of pesticides in our gardens. A common sight used to be a song thrush bashing a snail against a stone to release its meal. Now gardeners are keen users of slug pellets and other molluscicides, resulting in less food available and possible harm to the thrush as well. My mother didn't want slugs in her garden so every evening she went round with a pair of scissors to chop them in half, simultaneously providing bite-size portions for the thrushes and blackbirds.

The effort was a small price to pay for maintaining a bird friendly garden - and a useful evening stroll.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

Dear Tracy,

Thornhaugh litter picking sponsored by McDonalds

We had our second litter pick and were blessed again with good weather. McDonalds in Stamford has sponsored us ,and we got to use our 8 bag hoops and litter grabbers. We are yet to receive our fluorescent tabards, which are on order. I was pleasantly surprised at how helpful McDonalds were, and how



they sponsor other litter picking groups along with employing some close to the store.

This month 5 of us collected 9 bags of litter , mostly from the path running along the A47 towards Home Farm . Most litter, it seems, is thrown from car windows, and again mostly plastic or bottles filled with urine !! I was glad we had the litter grabber poles !!

Looking facts up I found that about 50% of the population admit to littering (frightening!) and that drivers are the worst litterers. Research shows that people feel un-accountable in a car .However, people who throw litter from vehicles can be prosecuted .If vehicle registration details are taken, the authorities can trace the owner through the DVLA.

Something to bear in mind. Next time we meet on 14th July, I hope we will do the full walk around the woods and will have much less to collect, making it more of a social walk. Please feel free to join us . Thank you to everyone that continues to pick up on their daily walks keeping our village relatively litter free.

Nikki Higgins



WANSFORD SURGERY ARE TAKING THE PLUNGE!

Wansford Surgery and Wansford Pharmacy are being very brave and entering two teams in this years Peterborough Dragon Boat Race on 9th June 2018!

The teams are made up of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and admin staff. We are a bunch of (mainly) novices but are willing and enthusiastic and are raising funds in support of Thorpe Hall Hospice.

You can make a donation via our Virgin Just Giving page, just search Wansford..... alternatively there are collection boxes in surgery



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DIARY DATES – MAY 2018

Wed 2	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's	10.30am	Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	8
Thurs 3	Wansford PC Elections		Community Hall			22
Fri 4	WI 3C's Craft Coffee and Community	10.00am	Community hall	Jan Armitage	789996	29
Sun 6	Cricket v Motley Crew	1.00pm	Haycock Field	Paul Styles	07860 278800	33
Mon 7	Wansford Parish Council meeting & AGM	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24
Tues 8	WI Resulotion meeting	7.15pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	29
Wed 9	Welcome Coffee Stop	10.30am	Wansford Church	Dora Baker	782519	8
Sat 12	STIBBFEST	10.00am - 4pm	Environment Centre		782386	13
Sat 12	Hort Society - Plant Sale	10.00am - 1.00pm		Gill Fisher	782446	15
Sun 13	Cricket v Old East CC	1.00pm	Away	Paul Styles	07860 278800	33
Tues 15	T20 Cricket v Ploughman	6.00pm	Haycock Field	Paul Styles	07860 278800	33
Wed 16	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's	10.30am	Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	8
Wed 16	Sibson cum Stibbington PC meeting and AGM	7.00pm	Environmental Centre	Wendy Gray	01778	24
Fri 18	WI 3C's Craft Coffee and Community	10.00am	Community hall	Jan Armitage	789996	29
Sun 20	Cricket v Howitzers CC	1.00pm	Haycock Field	Paul Styles	07860 278800	33
Mon 21	Thornhaugh PC Meeting and AGM	7.00pm	St Andrews	Deidre McCumisky	782668	25
Wed 23	Welcome Coffee Stop	10.30am	Wansford Church	Dora Baker	782519	8
Sun 27	Cricket v Uppingham	1.00pm	Away	Paul Styles	07860 278800	33
Tues 29	T20 Cricket v CAMRA	6.00pm	Haycock Field	Paul Styles	07860 278800	33
Wed 30	Friends Spring Outing			Dora Baker	782519	8
Thurs 31	WI Book Club		Haycock	Jan Armitage	789996	29

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