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EDITORIAL

I hope our cover photo will not cause as much alarm as the October 2013 close-up of a spider did. Charlie Brown captured this image of a wasp visiting his garden pond in mid-October. Was it taking a drink, or was it admiring itself in the mirror-like surface of the water? With Charlie's photo for inspiration, Graham Blagden takes up the theme of wasps, in his fascinating Nature Notes on page 35.

Martin Lewis' series of reports on "Up close with Wansford Surgery" continues this month with an illuminating and informative insight into the options for making an appointment when you need to see a doctor, see pages 27 and 29.

Following considerable interest in articles on local history, David Stuart-Mogg's report on the testimonies of two venerable Wansford stalwarts (pages 20 and 21) follows on from his article in September's magazine, and Simon Marsden from Kent contributes his recollections on page 32 having spotted last year's December magazine on the internet.

Remembrance weekend will be with us in early November, with Remembrance Services in local churches on Sunday 8th; for details see page 5. In a collaboration between Stibbington Centre and the local branch of the Royal British Legion, the Centre's "Home Front Festival" will raise funds for the Poppy Appeal and for Stibbington Centre's charitable trust; see reports on pages 13 (RBL) and 31 (Stibbington).

Rosie McDonnell

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CONTENTS

Contacts 4
Worship lists . . . 5
Reflections 7

News reports:

Friends of churches:
Wansford &
Thornhaugh . . . 9
Stibbington . . 11
RBL 13
Horticultural . . . 15
Lottery 15
Communicare . . . 16
WI 18

Parish Councils:

Wansford 23
Stibbington 25

Special features:

Local history . 20, 21
Wansford Surgery .
27, 29
Home Front Fest . 31
Younger readers . 31
Recollections . . . 32
Nature Notes . . . 35
Letters to the Editor
36, 37

Diary Dates . . 38



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Stibbington & Water Newton Parish Office		01733 380900 admin.castor@btconnect.com

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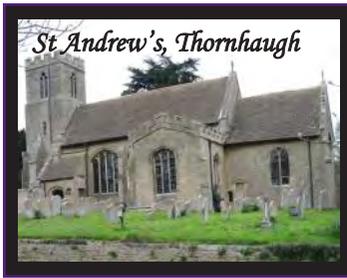
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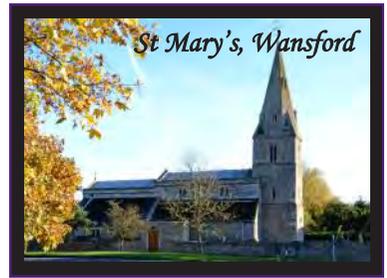
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Wansford Surgery	Royal British Legion	01780 782200
(Out of hours	Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	01733 293838) 782510
Wansford Pharmacy	Cricket Club	01780 782109
Communicare	Horticultural Society	01780 470437 782446
H'don District Council		01480 388388



St Andrew's, Thornhaugh

WORSHIP NOVEMBER 2015



St Mary's, Wansford

Date	Time	Location	Service
1 Nov	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Holy Communion
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
8 Nov	9.30 am	St Mary's, Wansford	Remembrance Service With choir
	10.30 am	St Michael's church, Sutton	RBL Remembrance Service
15 Nov	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Morning Prayer
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
22 Nov	9.00 am	St. John the Baptist, Stibbington	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	St. Mary's, Wansford	Sung Morning Prayer
29 Nov	10.00 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Benefice Service Patronal Festival with Scottish piper
	3.00 pm	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion and Licensing of David Ridgeway, new Rector for the Benefice



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I write these words to introduce myself as I prepare to pack up my home in St Albans and move into the Rectory at Castor.

Moving further north will be quite a change for me as, apart from time spent at college, I have always lived and worked in St Albans Diocese. I was born in Watford and grew up in nearby Rickmansworth where I went to school. Following my school days I went off to St Chad's College in Durham where I studied for my BSc in Botany. After graduating I moved on to Selwyn College in Cambridge for a year of teacher training before spending three years working as a Biology teacher at St Michael's School in Watford where I enjoyed my brief teaching career. After my time working in a school I went back to college for three years to train for ordination at Ripon College.

I began to sense a vocation to ordination to the priesthood when I was a teenager. I was sent to Sunday school as a child and then went on to sing in the church choir and serve at the altar. Having been involved in church activities since childhood, my Christian faith is something that has grown throughout my life. I attended a Church of England primary school and greatly appreciate the way in which the strong links between this school and the local parish church helped to nurture my faith at an early age. I am pleased to see that there are strong links between the church and the school in Castor and I am looking forward to playing my part in helping to ensure that this close relationship continues in the future.

My current parish is based in a suburban setting in St Albans. The church of St Stephen where I have served as vicar for the past 14 years is Saxon in origin and part of the building has been in existence for over 1000 years. Clearly the church of St Kyneburgha in Castor and the other five fine church buildings of the benefice also have a long and interesting history. As such they provide helpful tools for the mission of the Church in communicating the Gospel.

Starting my ministry amongst you on Advent Sunday means that I will be beginning at a time of year when there will be a lot happening as preparations are made to celebrate our Lord's birth at Christmas. Although my first few weeks in Castor will be busy ones it is my hope that the many special services and events in the run-up to Christmas will provide me with an opportunity to meet as many of you as possible. Advent is a time of hope and joyful expectation when we remind ourselves of the ideals of God's kingdom. I look forward to the privilege of serving as your new parish priest and to working with you as we seek to continue Christ's work in the world.



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A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR **HARVEST LUNCH**. It was a great success. A lovely Village Occasion. The Christie Hall was packed with happy people, all enjoying a varied menu of tasty cooked food and also a drink on the house. Our very own member, Miriam Carette, who has recently been made a Senior Soldier of the Salvation Army, gave an excellent and moving account of their work, including the wonderful outreach to the increasing number of homeless men. With your generous help we will be able to present the local branch with £700 towards the Christmas Meal for needy people in Peterborough. In order to support the Christmas Festivities even further Miriam asked for small packs of "Donations for Homeless Men". If you would like to help, please put the following items in the box in St. Mary's Church (marked Salvation Army Christmas gifts), together with a Christmas Card:.... Black socks, chocolate bar, toothbrush, toothpaste, and disposable razor. If you wish to wrap all 5 items as one gift, please do. This would bring Christmas cheer to many homeless men.

Our next meeting, The AGM, will take place on November 4th at 10.30 in the Community Hall after Morning Prayer at St. Mary's at 10 a.m.

Then there is one more meeting on November 18th at 10.30 before we will hold our **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR IN THE CHRISTIE HALL ON SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER FROM 1 TO 4 IN THE AFTERNOON.**

Posters will be displayed all around the villages. There will be a great number of stalls as usual and freshly baked mince pies as well as tea and biscuits. Please, come and support us again. We usually make the presentation of the proceeds from Harvest Lunch to the Salvation Army during the afternoon and send any gifts that have not been sold to their shop.

Please, look out for the posters and PLEASE SUPPORT US AGAIN.
SEE YOU THERE

Dora Baker, Secretary

Photo: A presentation to Rev Michael Matthews at his last service for the Benefice

CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS

I would be very pleased to hear from singers who would like to join our St Mary's, Wansford choir for the Christmas Carol Service which will take place on Sunday 20 December at 6 pm. There will be practices at 19A Old Leicester Road on Wednesday evenings at 7.30, starting on Wednesday 11 November.

Do contact me if you are interested.

Eddie McDonnell 01780 783639



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Harvest Supper thanks

A big thank you to the committee and the wider community for supporting the Stibbington Harvest Festival service and supper on Sunday night. Approximately 50 people in hearty voice joined together to celebrate this year's rich harvest. We made £548 from the delicious supper and raffle and cake auction. The winner of the raffled hamper was Ken Wallace from Stibbington. Thank you to the consortium who paid handsomely for the cake!

Our next event is Carols around the tree on Sunday 13th Dec including a decorated tree competition to win the village shield.

Helen Facer

101 Draw

We did our prize draw at our "churchyard Clear Up" and this month's winner is Coco Story, congratulations and your cheque is on the way.



Stibbington Church yard "clear up"



A big thank you to all those who came along on the 18th of October for yet another of our clear up mornings. The two hours flew by and it was amazing how much we achieved in such a short time. I am always surprised at the difference afterwards. I would like to say a special thank you to Mike and Charlotte Bradshaw for the loan of their huge trailer once again.

We perhaps ought to take the photo at the start rather than the "grubby" end!!

Well done everyone.

Suzy Story

M * R * H

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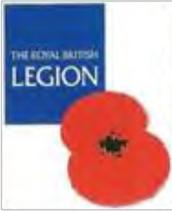
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Refreshments will be available after the Service. Please do come along and support this, the most important event in our Calendar.

POPPY APPEAL at HOME FRONT FESTIVAL

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Proceeds to The Poppy Appeal

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Thank you

AGM & CHRISTMAS PARTY – Thursday 26th November.

Everyone is invited to attend the very short Branch AGM and much longer, much more fun Christmas Party which follows immediately afterwards. A hot buffet and a glass of wine is served. This event is free of charge. Please make a note in your diary to come along and join us.

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WANSFORD HORTICULTURAL & CRAFTS SOCIETY

There has been no talk this month as our speaker, Angela Whiting, regrettably had to cancel due to her husband's illness. We hope to welcome her next year to share her vast knowledge about Alpines and how we can enjoy them in our gardens.

We hope that our imminent talk by Christine Walkden will make up for this absence as she has promised "fireworks" when she speaks on "The Life and Times of a Gardener" on Guy Fawkes Night!

Tickets have sold well, but if you would like to join us on Thursday 5th November in the Haycock Ballroom, there is still space. Christine is a huge personality and is often seen on our television screens and heard on our radios. She is The One Show's resident gardening expert, has had regular slots on the Paul O'Grady Show, is a regular Gardeners Question Time panellist, reports on the Chelsea Flower Show, and has even appeared on Shooting Stars. A reminder of the details: the talk starts at 7.30 p.m., but as we are offering a complimentary glass of wine or juice before proceedings commence, please arrive in plenty of time. Tickets are £7.50 for members, £10 for non members and £12 to everyone on the door. Anyone joining as a member for this event will benefit from 2016 membership as well as the remainder of this year. The subscription is just £2.50 per person.

Finally to our A.G.M. and Christmas Party which this year take place at 7 p.m. on Saturday 5th December. We promise to keep the former brief and to endeavour to make the latter as enjoyable as ever! We will be serving the usual generous 3 course supper with wine and have already started a list of members keen to attend, so please get in touch if you would like to join us.

Gill Fisher fisher.gill@yahoo.com 782446
www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY

The winners of the
October 2015
draw are listed here.

Many thanks to
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COMMUNICARE

The 35th annual general meeting was held in September with the poorest attendance ever seen – very disheartening for both officials and surgery staff, all of whom give time and effort to preserve the existence of this patient participation group. Having survived for thirty five years it would be a great shame to see the group become just a paper formality – fund raising and generous donations have helped to provide valuable equipment over the years, and regular exchange of views also benefits both patients and the practice. The main reason for non-attendance at meetings is hopefully general satisfaction with the service provided by the surgery, but keeping up to date with the ever changing healthcare scene and ongoing additional services offered by the practice is always advisable. During the next twelve months we will continue to provide interesting speakers and discussion on national and local topics – many of you will have seen the recent changes in the pharmacy with the installation of a robotic stocking and issuing system. At our next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 2nd December 12.30pm at Wansford surgery it is hoped to provide a demonstration of this new robot – come along and be 'wowed' by the amazing and futuristic addition to the pharmacy.

Other matters discussed at the AGM included problems encountered with breast screening location – efforts are being made to resolve this but a satisfactory conclusion could take time. In April the 'Older Peoples & Adult Services' were taken over by Uniting Care Partnership – it is important their progress is monitored carefully and any feedback from patients would be valuable. If you have any comments, good or bad, please either come along to the December meeting, or put them in writing to the Practice Manager, Mrs Kirstie Lawes, who will pass them to the relevant persons.

Replying to a question raised regarding the future of the surgery at Kings Cliffe, Dr Nally reported that no changes were envisaged at this stage with no imminent plans to close or resite it. However she could not rule out possible restructuring within primary care at some point in the future.

With our funds being fairly healthy and with two generous patient donations, we have been able to provide a mobile ECG machine for the practice which is proving invaluable to both staff and patients. Wansford surgery is now open until 8pm on Tuesday evenings and there is also a 'duty doctor' available during normal opening hours 8am-6.30pm who can be seen without appointment. Patients arriving are triaged by healthcare assistants and then referred to the doctor if necessary.

The Social Group continues to meet for coffee mornings – this month on Friday 13th at 10am in the Kings Cliffe Sports Hall. For any information on social activities please contact Clare – superfoguk@aol.com or 01780 470437

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STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD WI



Our speaker at the October meeting was Ron Bateman from Bateman Auctioneers in Stamford. He kept us very entertained with amusing tales of his life and career path which culminated in his involvement with antiques, firstly a shop in Oundle and then progressing to the auction house in Stamford. He also spoke about his passion for paintings and the enjoyment he gets from handling both valuable works of art and more mundane but interesting artefacts. Several members had brought along items which he obviously took great pleasure in examining and discussing their history with the owners. He was warmly thanked for providing us with a very enjoyable evening.

Following local debate regarding the location of breast screening for ladies registered with the Wansford surgery, a letter has been sent to the local MP who has responded with a promise to take up this issue with NHS England, who authorise hospital cover and boundaries relating to this service. It is also now proposed to submit a letter from the group to our Federation requesting that this matter is taken up nationally by the WI as an issue which may affect women throughout the country.

Having received a request from Stibbington Church, it is hoped that we shall be participating in their forthcoming Christmas displays.

Our next meeting is the AGM and all members have been asked to consider volunteering to join the committee – at present one existing member is resigning and others may follow, but the President stressed that newcomers to the committee could inject new ideas for the benefit of all – it will only be necessary to hold a ballot at the AGM if there are more than eight nominees.

Reminders:

Book Club: Next meeting Thursday 26th November – Haycock 7.30pm – timing of meetings will be reviewed for winter months. Suggested books for reading: 'The Sunrise' by Victoria Hislop and 'My Brilliant Friend' by Elena Ferranti.

The Xmas Lunch will be held on Saturday 12th December at The Red Lion, Warmington – menu choice and payment will be required at the November meeting.

Next Meeting: AGM – Tuesday 10th November – Community Hall 7.15pm

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TESTIMONIES OF TWO VENERABLE WANSFORD STALWARTS II:

Firstly, I would like to thank Peterborough historian Mr Peter Waszak who, having read my lament in September's Local History contribution in *Living Villages* regarding the part illegibility of sections of the original 1911 *Peterborough Advertiser* newspaper print, kindly passed on to me a typed transcription of the whole article that he had been given a number of years ago.

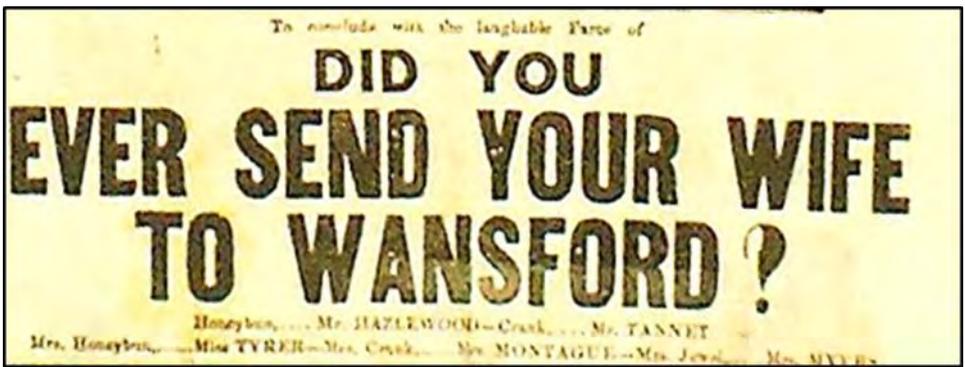
'When I grew older I [Hazeldine] went into my father's business, that of a shoemaker, and I learned my trade in my father's workshop. After his death I carried on the business right away until 1872, when I returned to the Post Office work and became Postmaster of Wansford, which position I held for thirty years, and during the whole of that time I never had a day's holiday. When I resigned a few years ago my grateful country did not think well to give me a pension. I thought at the time and still think that that was an omission.

BEHEADING THORNHAUGH HILL

I was only four years of age when Thornhaugh Hill was cut through on the [Great] North Road. It had been an extremely steep hill for coach traffic, and the crown of the hill was cut through so as to make the coaching traffic easier. It was a great work, but who bore the expense I cannot say. The necessity for it, however, was obvious, for at that time twenty-four stage coaches alone passed over Wansford Bridge every twenty four hours, let alone the stream of chaises, stage wagons, with their teams of eight horses each, and a mass of other traffic. Why, the 'Haycock' at Wansford had as many as thirty pairs of horses

out on the road at a time, independently of the horses required for changing the horses of the stage coaches, which would require as many more. That large number, however, was not an everyday occurrence – but it was so at especially busy times. Election times, for instance, made a great demand in this way on the horses of the 'Haycock' stables. This gives some idea of what the coaching industry was to Wansford and the 'Haycock'. You can imagine from what I have said what a large establishment the 'Haycock' was. Besides all the men required in looking after such extensive stables, there were a number of post boys and others employed there. Coaches changed horses both at the 'Haycock' and at Sibson, and would then go on to other stages.

I know I was under four when the Thornhaugh Hill was cut through because I remember taking hold of my Grandfather's hand and walking there to see the work commenced. He died when I was only four years old, so it must have been shortly before his death that the work was undertaken. Years after I tested this date by saying to an old resident of Wansford who remembered the work being done that it was in the year 1830 or 1831 when the work was commenced, and I remembered the spot where I stood with my Grandfather when the great body of men started on the stupendous undertaking. He confirmed me on both particulars. Mr. [Stainforth?] of Nassington was the [contractor] and the workmen employed on the [hill] were quite a hundred. You can see by the



sides of the road now what an undertaking it was at the bottom of the Thornhaugh side of the hill. There was a deep grip, and a stream of water ran across the crown of the road, through which all the traffic had to pass. This brook was bridged over at the time, and a great deal of the stone and material from the crown of the hill was carried down there to fill up the grip, and that is why the road at the bottom of the hill is now so much higher than the surrounding land. And all this work had to be carried on while this enormous stream of stage coaches, mail coaches, stage wagons, chaises, etc. passed along the road.

THE POACHER'S GUN

At that time there was a great deal of poaching going on and affrays between poachers and keepers in the woods around Wansford were not infrequent. On one occasion an extraordinary incident occurred. John Pinder, a keeper and a son of the elder keeper of the same name suddenly came one night upon a band of poachers in the Purlieu. Pinder was not alone, and a fierce conflict took place. One of the poachers seizing his gun by the barrel raised it aloft to strike down young Pinder with a crashing blow from the butt end, but while swinging the weapon over his head the gun went off, a twig in a tree having probably touched the trigger. The whole charge

*The concluding act - 'a laughable farce' - which appeared on stage at the Stamford Theatre on 21st August 1846. Some 60 years later Wansford's 'gypsy poet', Edward Barclay, published *The Merry Wives of Wansford*. Perhaps it's something in the local water?*

Acknowledgement to the Stamford Town Hall archives.

entered the poacher's thigh, and drove into the flesh money and other things that had been in his pocket. He was fearfully injured, but recovered, lived a quiet law abiding life afterwards, entered the service of the magistrates of the district, lived in the Hall lodge, and was much respected by the family for his faithful and loyal service.'

[There is another local poaching story in Rector the Rev. W. Stangers's leaflet (1961) *The Ancient Churches of All Saints, Wittering, St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh and St. Mary's, Wansford*: "In the Churchyard (St. Andrew's) are some very old tombs and near the South wall is a rectangular tomb which is said to have been used in earlier days by poachers who kept their equipment inside it as a safe hiding place. They were caught by the discovery of their footprints in the snow."]

To be continued.

david@stuartmogg.com



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WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

It has been a busy month for Wansford Parish Council with a meeting on the 12th October and a number of other events following that meeting.

Planning

The Parish Council had no objection to the felling of a hazel tree within the village conservation area at 1 Riverside Spinney.

There was a further discussion about the proposed Ducati motorcycle dealership on the ground floor of the Little Chef building and in a separate workshop. WPC has objected to this plan and it is going to a hearing in front of the City Council Planning Committee on the 27th October.

Detailed planning permission has been granted for the nine new houses on the land to the north of the Little Chef. While the styling of these houses is rather controversial they will be a welcome increase to the stock of small houses in Wansford.

There is an application to rebuild and extend the distribution storage building at the Oil Depot on Kings Cliffe Road. This development is in Northamptonshire but will put extra traffic through the village. WPC is in contact with both Northants County Council and Peterborough City Council to try to reduce the cumulative effects of traffic from the various developments along the Kings Cliffe road.

Children's Play Area

Planning permission for the new children's play area on the land opposite Nene Close has been granted. With the issues over the lease resolved and the funding from

the Augean Landfill Fund in place, it is expected that installation work will start at the end of the year or in early 2016.

Speeding in the Village

As some residents will have noticed, the Parish Council has been running random checks on traffic speeds at various points in the village. Everyone talks about excessive speeds but it is useful to find out what the real speeds are. The work is still ongoing but so far the indication is that speeding on Old North Road and Old Leicester Road is in line with the statistical data for the whole country. Speeds on Yarwell Road at the entrance to the village are well above the average, probably as a result of the speed limit signs being obscured by vegetation. This has been raised with Northants County Council several times but nothing has been done.

The survey has shown that the most effective way to reduce speeding is by leaving cars parked at the side of the road. Measurements with and without parked cars clearly show that they are an excellent form of traffic calming.

Once all the data has been collected, WPC will look at installing speed indicating signs similar to the one on Elton Road.

Continued on p25

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Waansford Parich Council continued

Ivy on the Village Green

WPC has been in touch with Peterboro' City Council about removing the overgrown ivy on the north side of the Village Green. The exact approach to the problem is being discussed but it is likely to take some time.

Dog Poop Bin

The good news is that PCC have

supplied a new dog poop bin for the Village Green and it is a new design that helps to keep the smell in. The bad news is that it is bright red. WPC have asked if a less obtrusive colour is available.

The **next meeting** of Wansford Parish Council will be in the Community Hall at 7:30pm on the 9th November. All are welcome. **Cllr Richard Clarke**

SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Environment Centre, Stibbington on Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at 7.00 p.m. Cllrs were in attendance from 7 p.m. 4 members of the public and Rebecca Avery from Police & Crime Commissioners Office were also present

Public Forum The sign on the Elton Road into Wansford – when rebuilt no WANSFORD sign was put back. Parish Clerk will contact HDC.

Lights at Bridge End Still not working so further report to be made.

Flooding Highways England are scheduled to clear the drains.

Guest Speaker Rebecca Avery, Police Commissioners Office

Rebecca introduced herself and gave an insight into the role she carries out. Since January appointed by Sir Graham Bright to look after outreach areas. SGB arrive in office December 2012, managing Police Budget responsibility of setting council tax precepts etc. Setting policing strategy idea behind them add democratic element to the Government i.e. voice of the public. Her role is to assist his role working with volunteer groups, parish councils. SGB isn't able to interfere how police work, can look at trends and make recommendations. More about saving money than spending look at 5% cut in next year, look at ways we can move on, need to prioritise things which harm general public and support general community. Working with different areas 101 and policing team how we work together and making things better.

Planning Applications received and considered 15/01374/HHFUL - First floor extension over existing garage. Garage conversion at ground floor level at Squirrel Corner, 17A Old Great North Road, Stibbington PE8 6LN 15/01071/NMA - External and Internal alterations:- Fenestration alterations. Materials selected to reflect the schemes constructed on the surrounding site. Revisions to internal layout with no increase to the gross external footprint of the properties. Changes to existing ground levels to reflect those approved for Plot 3 and to the existing ground levels at Waters Edge.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th November 2015 at 7.00p.m.

Wendy Gray, Parish Clerk

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One day you wake up and feel unwell, or something is definitely hurting. You try ignoring it for a while. The next day it's worse. Hmmm. You take time off work. The day after it's still there. Is it worse? Not sure, probably. But it's annoying and now a bit worrying. The thought crosses your mind, maybe you should see a doctor? Nah. It'll be alright. Anyway, doctors are busy with people who are really ill. The next day you've lost your sense of humour about the whole thing and begin to properly worry. It's not getting better, you think it's worse, although you're beginning to doubt your ability to make any kind of objective judgement. And your boss has emailed asking you when you'll be back at work. What is wrong with me? Maybe it's serious? So you decide you had better get a doctor's appointment. You phone the surgery, only to discover that the first available slot with your favourite doctor is in two weeks time. Aaaarrgh!

Access to primary healthcare (first port of call when poorly, usually your local surgery) is an immensely complicated issue, and the team at Wansford Surgery are constantly striving to improve their systems to better meet rising demand. Patient expectations are ever increasing and many of us lack a more experienced family member close by who can give us advice when we are feeling ill, so we, not unreasonably, just go to the doctor. But the biggest single factor is our ageing population - the majority of over 65's have at least one long term medical condition to manage (eg asthma, diabetes, heart disease), making them more complex cases. This is one of the reasons why at Wansford Surgery the average length of patient appointments have been increased from the 7 to 10 minutes you will find in most of the country, although of course doctors usually spend the time each patient's condition requires. Quality time with your doctor, whatever your age, is important.

Longer appointments are good, but it means that fewer are available. So it can be helpful to understand that, in seeking medical attention, there are a range of options available to you. If you engage proactively and positively with the surgery, you may be surprised how quickly you can get exactly what you need.

Continued on page 29

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Continued from page 27

There is a hierarchy of healthcare professionals at the surgery and any or all of them can potentially help you, depending on your condition. Besides the doctors themselves, there are Community Practitioners (these are highly trained former para-medics, with years of medical experience), Practice Nurses (who can treat a variety of injuries and minor infections) and Healthcare Assistants (who can perform all manner of tests for you). And of course it is always possible to speak to the Pharmacist at any time if you need any advice quickly.

So how should you go about getting the assistance you need?

When you phone the surgery the first person you will usually speak to is one of the receptionists, who perform an important role in getting you the right attention. If you are prepared to share a little, in general terms, about what ails you, they can refer you quickly to the right healthcare professional. If it isn't advisable to wait two weeks to see your favourite doctor, the receptionist may place you in the triage system (def: the act of sorting according to need and/or potential benefit). This involves one of the Community Practitioners, who has access to your patient records, phoning you to discuss your condition with you in detail. They may be able to give you some valuable advice over the phone or they may decide it is important you see a doctor that day. There is always a doctor "on call" and most of their appointments are reserved for patients to be booked on the day via the triage system. So it should always be possible to see a doctor quickly if you need to. Alternatively it may be more expeditious if the doctor whom you usually see rings you - this is also possible, if appropriate. But remember that the Community Practitioners themselves are experienced, highly trained people, and have appointments available on the day.

If you really want to get a doctor's appointment, but don't fit into the "urgent" category, it may also be helpful to know that some doctor's appointments are held back and released each day for one week ahead. And also of interest, if you like cyberspace, is that the appointments you can make online (www.wansfordsurgery.co.uk) are ONLY available online - the receptionists do not have access to them.

In one of my other roles in life, I volunteer in a very minor way at Peterborough City Hospital. It brings me into contact with many patients each week. Last week, I was chatting with an American lady who had remarried and moved over here. "I can't believe you guys", she told me. "So many people over here don't seem to appreciate how amazing the NHS is. You should try being sick in the US...."

Wise words.

Thanks are due to Drs Nally and Takhar for their kind assistance in the production of this article.



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REMEMBERING THE 1940S AT HOME FRONT FESTIVAL

Visitors are invited to come along to a special event at Stibbington Centre to mark 75 years since the small village primary school's population suddenly doubled. In the Autumn of 1940 more than 60 evacuees from London were taken in by local families and joined the 60 village children on the school roll. Marking Remembrance weekend, Stibbington's World War II themed HOME FRONT FESTIVAL will be held on **Saturday 7 November**.

Visitors young and old will be able to sample life in wartime Stibbington with lots of attractions, activities and entertainment for all the family. For those who would like to test their baking skills there's even a "Great Wartime Bake -off" competition to enter, with wartime recipes to follow. For details see the leaflet enclosed with this magazine, or visit www.cees.org.uk/news/images/Home_Front_Festival_2015.pdf or tel 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

The Home Front Festival is a fund raising event for Stibbington Centre's Charitable Trust (registered charity number 1097019), and the Poppy Appeal for the Stibbington and District branch of the Royal British Legion.

Rosie Edwards

YOUNGER READERS' BLOG By Karina Chappell (12)

BOOK REVIEW: Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

The Hunger Games is a dystopian novel about a girl called Katniss Everdeen who lives in district 12. She volunteers for her sister to be district twelve's female tribute to go to the hunger games. There she will be involved in a barbaric and brutal tournament between twenty three other children to the death in an arena with the whole of the known world watching. There can be only one survivor. However Katniss and her friend Peeter Mellark devise a way to get them both out alive.

I absolutely loved this book and it has to have been the best book I have ever read and you literally cannot put it down. I can't wait to read the next in the series ,Hunger Games Catching Fire and I am certain that it will be completely amazing. I would definitely give the Hunger Games a five out of five star rating because it was an amazing read and I totally adored it. I would recommend it to everybody over the age of eleven. I hope to be telling you about the Hunger Games Catching Fire next month.

A READER'S RECOLLECTIONS FROM THE 1940s

Dear Mrs McDonnell,

I happened to come across your December 2014 publication on the internet. What caught my eye was an article by Bill and Dinah Watkins - "The saga of the Former Little Chef". Mention is made in the article of the licensee during the 1940's - Mr Marsden. I am related to that gentleman and thought that you might be interested to know something more about him and the Marsden connection to Wansford.



My family originate from Liverpool so it is not surprising therefore that some members of the family pursued a career at sea. That is the case with Frank Lloyd Marsden. Frank was born in West Derby, Liverpool in 1901

the second youngest of five children born to my great grand parents Charles and Keturah Marsden. Frank's elder brother William being my grandfather. Following school and being too young to enlist for active service in WW1 he took employment in Liverpool docks. In due course he took to sea as a merchant seaman and during the inter war period rose to be a Chief Steward on board liners doing the Atlantic crossings from Liverpool and Southampton to New York. I have attached for your interest a photo of him during that period. That experience more than adequately equipped him for the pub trade and he was offered and accepted the opportunity to manage the Ram Jam Inn, another 'Knight of the Road', which as your readers may know is a few miles further along the A1. By all accounts he made a great success of this and as a consequence was offered The New Mermaid Inn at Wansford.

By this time WW2 had started and Liverpool like many other important cities was subjected to enemy action. At Frank's suggestion my great grandfather Charles, who was by profession a 'Scripture Reader', decided along with Keturah, to re-locate from Liverpool to Wansford where he became the lay preacher assisting the parishes of Wansford and Thornhaugh.

By all accounts Frank was a very shrewd businessman and when war was imminent invested heavily in spirits, whiskey, gin etc forecasting that there would be a shortage. How right he was! I believe that business also thrived with the arrival of the USAAF in nearby Kings Cliffe, Tansor and Polebrook, The Mermaid being a popular venue for other ranks from those bases. My father often recounted the occasion he once saw the Hollywood legend Clarke Gable, who was serving as a part of a film unit with the USAAF, going with a group of other airmen to the pub.

I hope this may be of some interest.

Kind regards,
Simon Marsden,
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Recent news items have referred to the chances of contracting Lyme Disease following bites from ticks which infect the unfortunate 'meal' with bacteria, resulting in a rash and a general feeling of being unwell. More research suggests that the disease can also have a long lasting chronic effect causing general malaise and aching limbs. Sheep can carry ticks and dogs are prone to picking them up in their coats when in pastures. Deer are another host to the tick.

A long recognised peril in our countryside is the common wasp, although one is only likely to be at risk of a sting in the autumn. The wasp starts its lifecycle in the spring when an over-wintered queen wasp searches for an old hole in the ground, perhaps a mouse hole. It then finds a wooden post and scrapes away at the wood surface and makes a pulp. It fills its nest hole with this material which soon hardens to a papery consistency and then lays eggs in cells formed by the paper. The eggs hatch into grubs which are fed the chewed up remains of captured insects. The grubs pupate and in a week or so emerge as worker wasps. The queen continues to lay eggs whilst the workers take over the task of enlarging the nest and finding food for the increasing number of grubs.

Up to this point wasps are entirely beneficial to man as the workers devour large numbers of insect pests to feed the grubs. In return the grubs produce a sweet saliva which feeds the workers. Towards the end of August larger cells are built and eggs which produce new queens are laid. Males are also produced at this time and the new queens leave the nest and mate with them before seeking food and hibernation sites. The males die off and the colony begins to disintegrate. With no new grubs the workers lose the sweet saliva and go in search of other sources of sweetness. It is at this point from late August until the first frosts that the wasps become a nuisance and, in some cases, a danger.

Many people will have been stung by a wasp, feeling a short sharp pain followed by a sore area for a day or two but with no longer term effects. After being stung on a number of separate occasions one runs the risk of suffering an over-reaction to subsequent stings. A sting, particularly on or near the face, can cause swelling and in the worst cases can restrict breathing or cause anaphylactic shock which can be fatal if immediate treatment is not available

Anyone known to suffer from a wasp sting allergy should carry an epipen. This is a device that can speedily deliver an injection of adrenalin to the patient as soon as severe swelling or shock is apparent. I, myself, carry an epipen as I suffered an over-reaction to a wasp sting a few years ago but it was never confirmed whether this was due to the sting or the ibuprofen I was taking at the time - or both! I was tested at an allergy clinic and it was eventually confirmed that I was allergic to ibuprofen. I suspect the two worked together to cause the effect.

It's a dangerous world out there!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Rosie,

After an absence from these pages we wanted to remind readers about our group.

Nene Valley Tots is an informal bunch of tots and parents, grandparents and carers. Based in the Christie Hall every Monday morning (except Bank Holidays) from 10-11.30, tots from 0-5 years can enjoy a play, crafts, a drink and a snack, and songs. We do tea and coffee for grown ups too!

We charge £2 a session to cover our costs, and welcome everybody along – pop in and see us. Some come every week, some every few weeks and visitors are very welcome too.

Becky Eames
01780 784922
becky@nenevalleytots.co.uk

Jane Hunt
07787 517511

FONS
Wreath Making Evening
7.30-10pm Saturday
5th December
Nassington Village Hall
Raffle & Refreshments

Enjoy an evening with friends creating something unique and beautiful for Christmas. Tickets cost £20 and include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Everything you need such as an oasis wreath ring, foliage, ribbons and decorations will be provided. There will be extras such as glittery balls and fairy lights which attendees can purchase on the night or you can bring your own decorative items to customise your wreath. Please bring scissors.

Tickets must be pre-purchased from:
Becca: rebeccadowney@hotmail.com T: 782465
or George: georginaclinker@gmail.com T: 782125

Dear Rosie,

Peter Morrell gave a fascinating and well researched talk, preceded by wine and nibbles, at St Andrew's Thornhaugh on Friday evening, 16 October.

Its object was to throw light on the connections to the local area of the Russell family and the Dukes of Bedford and the tomb in Thornhaugh Church to William Russell, 1st Baron of Thornhaugh

Around 45 attended the talk, which was illustrated by slides, and learnt of the links of the Russells - to Thornhaugh Manor, Woburn Abbey and the Bedford Levels; with monarchs including Henry VII and VIII and William and Mary; to Thomas Wolsey and Oliver Cromwell; and much besides.

The talk raised £320 for Church Funds.

Regards, Stuart Foreman



Dear Rosie,

I am writing concerning an act of faceless and insulting vandalism that has taken place in the village on 8th October.

As most of the country and indeed the world is aware the Rugby World Cup started on 18th September.

The tournament hosted by England is a celebration of Rugby and indeed all that is good about the world of sport. 20 teams have come together from all over the world to compete at the highest level for the coveted Webb Ellis Cup and the dream of becoming world champions.

Rugby is a game steeped in tradition. It is a team sport played with passion, pride, tenacity, good manners and exemplary sporting conduct both on and off the field. A hard game played by focused players, it epitomises the need to work together to a common objective and it encourages respect for your team, your fellow players, your club, your country and your community. Above all the game evokes pride and passion in players and supporters alike.

The village came alive in September with supporters flying their flags in support of their chosen team. England, South Africa, Ireland and Japan are all represented by flags and decorations flying high in the autumn sun, each of them saying I am proud, interested and engaged with my team, my country and this great festival of sport.

With all this in mind I must now admit to being angry and disappointed to find my own England Rugby flag mindlessly defaced by some weak vandal with nothing better to do than show disrespect to his fellow man and his community. England may have been knocked out of the tournament but that is no reason to carry out a mindless act of vandalism that represents such an insult

Perhaps the perpetrator would like to make themselves known to me so that we can address whatever issue they may have. Or perhaps they should consider the things that Rugby teaches you and the way this game can influence your life.

Learn to be open and honest, play to win but show dignity in defeat, always try to do the best that you can do, conduct yourself with manners, be proud of who you are and where you come from. Above all have respect for those around you , your community and yourself.

Regards, Jim Boulton, Elton Road, Wansford

DIARY DATES – NOVEMBER 2015

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Contact	Phone	p
Wed 4	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's meeting	10.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Wed 4	Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council meeting	7.00pm	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	25
Thur 5	Horticultural Society talk by Christine Walkden	7.30pm	The Haycock	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Sat 7	Home Front Festival	10—4	Stibbington Centre	Rosie Edwards	01780 782386	31
Sun 8	Remembrance Services		Local churches	Church wardens		5
Mon 9	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Wansford Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	23
Tue 10	WI AGM	7.15pm	Wansford Community Hall	Jean Yerbury	782510	18
Wed 11, 18, 25	St Mary's Christmas Choir practice	7.30pm	19A Old Leicester Road Wansford	Eddie McDonnell	783639	9
Fri 13	Communicare Coffee Morning	10.00am	Kings Cliffe Sports Hall			14
Wed 18	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's meeting	10.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Sat 21	Friends Christmas Bazaar	1—4pm	The Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Sun 22	Fantastic Felting workshop	11—4	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Stibbington Centre	782386	
Thur 26	WI Book Club	7.30pm	The Haycock	Jean Yerbury	782510	18
Thur 26	RBL AGM and Christmas Party		The Christie Hall, Wansford	Sue Arnold	782200	13
DEC Wed 2	Communicare meeting	6.30pm	Wansford Surgery	Wansford Surgery	782342	14
Sat 5	Wreath making workshop	7.30pm	Nassington Village Hall	Rebecca Downey	782465	36
Thur 10	Little Acorns	10—12	Stibbington Centre	Stibbington Centre	782386	

Copy deadline next month: Friday 20 November
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