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October 2016

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EDITORIAL

October is the month when our communities will be celebrating the annual harvest. The front cover photo is of Gill Fishers entry in the 'Basket of Flowers including Vegetables and or Fruit with Leaves' taken at the Wansford Horticultural and Crafts 70th Annual Show. It was a lovely event held on a typical English summer afternoon, if you went you know what I mean, otherwise take a look at the photos and report on pages 21 and 22.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind messages regarding last month's edition. I am enjoying learning a new skill.

Would you like to become involved with this magazine? We hold a meeting once a month to discuss ideas for future content, advertising, distribution and finance matters. Currently the meetings are held during the third week of the month at 4pm, although this time can be changed. We are looking for people who might be interested in writing either regular or occasional articles, or simply being interested in discussing the magazine in general. Please contact a member of the current team if you are interested.

At various times members of the LV Editorial team have suggested that readers might be interested to find out what was happening in their villages a few years back. Whilst we have not gone back too many years this time in the article on page 28, there is a photo on page 18 from an edition of the 1967 Wansford Magazine.

I look forward to hearing from some of you during the month.

Tracy Sortwell

Editorial team *For contact details see p 4*

Editor: Tracy Sortwell
Treasurer: Sue Kudlinski
Distribution manager: Rod Sortwell
Advertising Manager: Kate Hopkins
Printing and collation: PPS/Print

Regular features writers:
Reflections: David Ridgeway
Local History: David Stuart-Mogg
Nature Notes: Graham Blagden

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Water Newton (Parish Meeting)	Tony Capon (Chairman)	01733 237500

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	admin.castor@btconnect.com	

Churchwardens:

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

Friends:

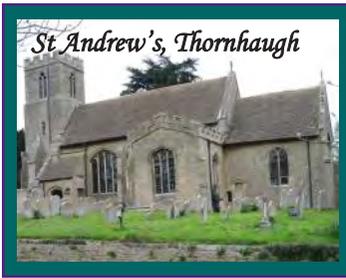
St Mary's & St Andrew's	Dora Baker	01780 782519
St John the Baptist	Helen Facer	01780 782932
St Remigius Water Newton	Tony Capon	01733 237500

Other useful contacts

Neighbourhood Policing 101		P'boro City Council	01733 747474
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(Out of hours)	01733 293838)	Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	782510
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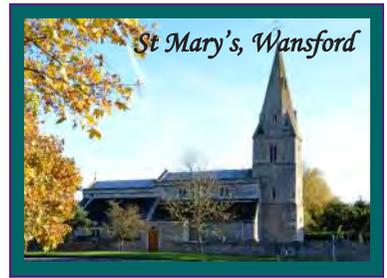
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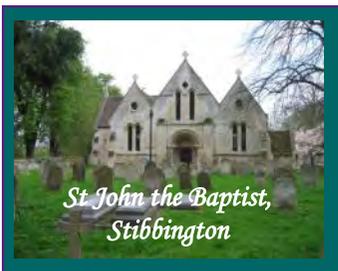
WORSHIP

October

2016



Date	Time	Location	Service
2 Oct	9.30am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Harvest Festival
	10.15am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	St Remigius, Water Newton	Annual Patronal and Harvest Festival Service
9 Oct	9.30am	St. Mary's Wansford	Harvest Festival with Choir
	6.00pm	St. John the Baptist, Stibbington	Harvest Thanksgiving followed by supper in church
16 Oct	9.30am	St. Andrews, Thornhaugh	Holy Communion
	10.15am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Confirmation Service/Holy Communion
23 Oct	9.00am	St. John the Baptist, Stibbington	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Mary's Wansford	Morning Prayer
30 Oct	10.00am	St Leonard, Apethorpe	Benefice Service
	10.15am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion



Wednesdays at Wansford

10.00am
Morning Prayer



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On the 4th October the Church commemorates St. Francis of Assisi.

Francis lived in Italy during the late twelfth and early thirteenth century. He came from a wealthy background, the son of a merchant draper. One day Francis had a deep and vivid religious experience in the church of San Damiano; he seemed to hear an image of Christ in the church speaking to him. What happened on that occasion changed Francis' life. His father disinherited and disowned him and Francis went away penniless to live a life of poverty. He teamed up with some like-minded friends and, three years later in the year 1210, he and his companions were authorised by Pop Innocent III to be roving preachers of Christ. This marked the birth of the Franciscan order and to this day monks and nuns the world over live in communities and seek to live according to the Rule of St. Francis.

Francis is revered to this day as one of the most popular of the saints. Virtually everyone has heard of him and he is remembered as a person who had a great love of animals. Much of the way in which Francis is portrayed in popular folklore is based more upon legend than historical fact. He has acquired a somewhat spurious romantic image and many pictures have been painted showing him surrounded by birds and animals. Although there is very little evidence to suggest that Francis fed the birds or had a special love of animals it is quite clear that he had a deep respect for God's creation.

Sadly throughout its history the Christian Church has not always shared Francis' respect for the world in which we live. The story of Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis and the doctrine of the Fall has led many Christians to see the world as a wicked and evil place. For many the spiritual aspects of life are seen as the only really important thing to bother about. Francis had other ideas; for him Jesus Christ redeemed the whole of creation, not just human beings. Francis believed strongly that followers of Christ should show a deep respect for the world God created; Christians should care for the earth and set an example of making the best use of its rich resources. They should also strive to ensure that there is a fairer distribution of what the fruitful earth provides.

All of us are wasteful and we tend to take for granted the fact that we have more than enough food and we enjoy a super-abundance of the other things necessary for a healthy and fulfilled life. The example of St. Francis reminds us that Christians have a duty to respect the earth and to treat it as if they really do believe that it belongs to God its creator.

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FRIENDS OF STIBBINGTON CHURCH

It's hard to believe that summer has past and we are now into Autumn but that means we have our annual Harvest Service and Supper to look forward to on Sunday 9th October in Stibbington Church. It is a 6pm start with harvest hymns being sung followed by a hearty 2 course hot meal with wine. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children and should be reserved by telephoning 01780 782932. We look forward to seeing everyone including children.

HARVEST SUPPER STIBBINGTON CHURCH



9th October 6pm

Thank you to everyone who came to the Choral evening on 17th September which was a beautiful evening. The Church looked magical & Divers Voyces performed a superb programme of Seafarers renaissance music. I haven't seen the Church so fully celebrated in a long time, it was wonderful.

Helen Facer



Stibbington 101 Draw

August draw winner

Judith Rogers

September draw winner

Gill Barnes

Well done, your cheques are on the way

THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY

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

With many thanks to,
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Mat Free, Administrator,
Mat.Free@hotmail.co.uk

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£40	Mr K Parrot
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ST. MARY'S AND ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH NEWS

Our new Benefice Vicar Rev. Jane Tailby was officially licenced on 24th September and is now resident in the Nassington Vicarage. Jane who hails from Rugby was ordained in 2004 after an early career in teaching. She was previously a Team Vicar in Wiltshire and is experienced in rural ministry of multiple parishes. She will be covering the parishes of Wansford and Thornhaugh as well as Nassington, Yarwell, Woodnewton and Apethorpe.

Janes first service in Wansford will be on Sunday 9th October at 9.30am which is Harvest Festival. Instead of the traditional gifts of produce we are requesting items suitable for taking to the local Food Banks. In addition at the Service there will be a Special Collection to support the work of Calais Kitchens seeking to ease the plight of refugees in various parts of the World. Jane's first Service in Thornhaugh will be on Sunday 16th October.

Jane is very much looking forward to meeting everyone soon.

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

Our meeting on 21st September was a very busy one indeed. The main topic was **THE HARVEST LUNCH on 15 October** (see poster). As this is a very lovely and popular village event, and we can only seat 80 guests, please get your tickets early. We have had to disappoint some people in the past. You can reserve tickets from me at 01780 782519 or any member of The Friends. You will get a delicious lunch and will be able to meet with old and new friends and neighbours. We will make it a very special date for you. Please, don't miss it. All proceeds will go to the local Salvation Army as in previous years. The new Salvation Officer at the Peterborough Citadel and family are invited.



At our meeting we also decided to support the **Peterborough Night Shelter** as last year, and the **Samaritans Purse – Shoe Box appeal for Christmas**. Our Treasurer is attending a meeting at Oundle tonight to hear more about the Barnabas or Tear Fund for children in Syria. At our next meeting we will then decide, how we can support this. I will report more about this in next month's Living Villages.

We also talked about The **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR on 19 NOVEMBER IN THE CHRISTIE HALL**.

Dora Baker (Secretary).

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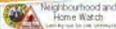
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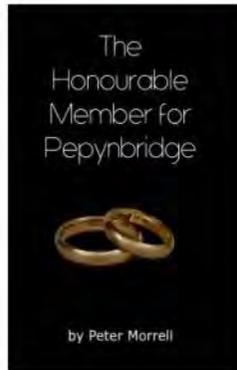
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Saturday

24th

September

10 until 4

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Tutor:

Louise Denney

Sunday

30th October

1 until 4

£20

Craft Medley-Wrap with Care!

Come to this afternoon session to try printing or maybe Batik, with a little needle felting thrown in to create unique gift wrappings. You will be shown how to use Furoshiki (traditional Japanese wrapping cloths) and also how to create and embellish those expensive gift bags. Your gift wrapping can now be unique, showing your care for the gift, the recipient and the environment.



Tutor:

Kate Hopkins

Saturday 26th

November

1 until 4

£25

Felted Pictures

In this half day workshop you will use the techniques of wet and needle felting to produce a beautiful picture of an animal, bird or landscape. You will leave with a picture approximately 6" x 6" and a wooden frame to set it off to advantage.ideal for a unique present or seasonal decoration.



Tutor:

Eve Marshall

Sunday

4th December

1- 4

£25

Christmas Willow

Sue Kirk is returning for a half day workshop in which you can free-weave willow to create a globe and make stars, reindeer, simple heart and circle wreathes. Willow looks lovely with Christmas lights threaded through but just as good in the new year. Christmas cake and hot chocolate will be available as well as our trademark flapjack for this last workshop of the term!



Prices include all materials, drinks and flapjack! Please bring a packed lunch if required.

Location: Stibbington Centre, Church Lane, Stibbington, Peterborough, PE8 6LP

We are just off the A1 near Wansford, with ample free parking.

To reserve places:

Tel: 01780 782386 or email: cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



All profits to go to Stibbington Centre Greener Future Trust (Charity No. 1097019) which raises funds to improve the Centre's facilities and provides bursaries for disadvantaged children

Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgeries

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Kings Cliffe Surgery

**Tuesday 4th and 18th October
9am to 11.30am**

For Appointments Bookable in Advance:

Wansford Surgery

Tuesday 8th and 22nd November 4pm to 6pm

Kings Cliffe Surgery

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CHURCH BELLS

By Michael Lee

On a sunny day in 1981 I was walking around Thornhaugh churchyard. At the west end two men Stanley Chambers and Alf Waller were repairing the boiler house roof. It was not long before we were in conversation and the outcome was to change my life. The subject came round to the ringing of church bells the art of which I was struggling at Nassington. Alf asked would I like to come to Wansford bellringing practice. My friendship with this gentleman lasted until he died in 1993. His death was a great loss to us and to proved the end of a Wansford, Wittering and Thornhaugh band of ringers who missed him so much. My wife Ann and I carried on until Wansford PCC decided to withdraw our key to the ringing chamber. We were thanked for our work and wished a happy retirement. We had not retired so we just carried on ringing at Fotheringhay where we continue teaching ringing to this day.

Wansford Church Bells are one of the lightest rings of six bells in the country. The following details give some idea of their history.

Thomas North's book "CHURCH BELLS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE" 1878 gives this account of Wansford bells. Wansford. St. Mary Two bells.

Inscriptions

1. J WARNER & SONS LONDON
1868. Diameter 18 "

2. IHS NASARENVS REX
IVDEORM. Diameter 21 1/2".

In 1552 there were; "It. ij belle in ye steeple wt a sans bell." "It ij hand belle wt a sacryng bell." The Gleaning bell is ring during harvest".

A few years ago whilst painting the bellframe at Wansford, notebook and camera in my tool bag I decided to solve the mystery of how the bells came to be. Starting with the first

clue given by Thomas North. Other clues were on the inscriptions which I extracted from the existing bells. So in 1552 there was one bell in the steeple. This same pre-reformation bell may have remained until 1868 when a second bell was added by John Warner and Sons of London. A third bell was added in 1887 also cast by J Warner of London.

Part of an ancient bell frame is still in position about twelve feet above the modern installation. It is made of oak and consists of two frame sides north and south of the tower. Each side is supported with two angular props from corbels protruding from the stonework. The centre part of the frame is missing but would have been of a similar construction the whole then being the frame for the ancient bell with room to take a second or third bell.



Wansford Diamond Jubilee Bells.

Henry Horrocks Slater Rector 1893-1906 had three bells cast by John Taylor of Loughborough this can be seen from the inscriptions.

This was for the occasion and celebration of the sixty years reign of Queen Victoria. 1837-1897.

At this time the ancient bell may have been cracked and was used with the old second bell for metal. Bell metal is bronze (30% tin 70% copper). The inscription of the

ancient bell was placed upon the then second bell, these three new bells and the John Warner of London bell made a ring of four. The four bells remained until 1960 when the new treble bell was added to make a ring of five bells and were rehung in a new metal frame. In 1967 the Tenor bell was added to bring the bells into a ring of six as they are to this day.

Dates and number of bells.

1552 one bell-1868 two bells-1887 three bells-1897 four bells-1960 five bells-1967 six bells.

BARNABYS BELL of 1967 came to life partly from fund raising by Sally Potter then manager of the Haycock Hotel.

Over the years fund raising was done by the bell ringers and the late Alf Waller who did so much maintenance work at Wansford, Thornhaugh and Wittering.

The photograph is of Alf Waller taken from a 1967 edition of the Wansford Magazine.

The complete inscriptions on the Wansford bells.

No. 1 The Treble.

JOHN TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS
LOUGHBOROUGH.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD THIS BELL
WAS GIVEN BY THE BARRON BELL
TRUST 1960

Weight 1 Cwt 2 Qrs

No. 2.

VICTORIA D + G 1837-1897

H H S RECTOR

T H CHURCHWARDEN

Diameter 20" Weight 1 Cwt 3 Qrs

No. 3

Ihs NASARENVS REX IVDEORM

Jesus of Nazareth King Of The Jews
CAST BY JOHN TAYLOR 1897.

Diameter 21" Weight 2 Cwt 1 Qrs

NO. 4

WARNER AND SONS LONDON 1887

J JENKINS RECTOR C G FIRMAN C
W

OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIA DIE

Let all be due to the glory of God.

Diameter 23" Weight 2 Cwt 3 Qrs

No. 5

VICTORIA + D + G + 1837-
1897

H H S RECTOR

T H CHURCHWARDEN

JOHN TAYLOR FACIT

Henry Horrocks Slater Rector

Diameter 24" Weight 3 Cwt

No. 6 Tenor.

JOHN TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS

BARNABYS BELL 1967

Diameter 26" -Weight 3 Cwt 3 Qrs.

Nassington Bells

A reminder that Nassington Bells are being refurbished and their bell-ringers are continuing their regular Monday evening practice visiting local churches. They will be in Wansford on November 7th. If you would like further details please contact Brian Hardie, the Nassington Tower Captain 01780 783855 brian.hardie@talk21.com

WANSFORD HORTICULTURAL

Well, the thunder crashed, the lightning flashed and the rain poured down, not once, but twice during the afternoon of our 70th Annual Flower Show on 29th August. Numbers were unsurprisingly down on last year's record attendance in blazing sunshine, but nevertheless, with true British grit around 350 people came through the gates to support us and enjoy the wonderful display of flowers, fruit, vegetables, art, craft, cookery and photography which awaited them in the marquee. The Yarwell and Nassington Britannia Brass Band lifted our spirits with rousing music, and between the showers there were classic cars, a variety of stalls and the Fun Dog Show to view.



Huge thanks are due to the committee who worked tirelessly, not only on the day but in the weeks preceding the show as well as to our member supporters who help us man stalls, serve teas, erect and dismantle marquees, distribute schedules and collect bottles for the tombola. All are greatly valued. Thanks too to those residents who generously donated around 300 bottles for our stall which helps us to cover some of the considerable cost of running such an event. Last but not least, our thanks go to Sue Arnold of In Step Foot Clinic for her support as our sponsor and help in presenting the cups and trophies at the end of the show. The results follow on pages 22 and 23

& CRAFTS SOCIETY

A reminder to members and guests alike of our next talk, which takes place on **Thursday 6th October at 7.30 in the Christie Hall. Dr Twigs Way**, a professional garden historian, will be talking about **"Virgins, Weeders and Queens: Women Gardeners"**. All are welcome.

Finally, tickets are now on sale for our **celebrity talk** in the **ballroom of the Haycock Hotel on Thursday 3rd November at 7.30 p.m.** We are delighted this year to welcome **Matthew Wilson** whose stellar career includes the curatorship of the R.H.S Gardens at Hyde Hall and Harlow Carr, and more recently as Head of Creative Garden Development at all four R.H.S. gardens. Winner of **The Peoples' Choice Award at R.H.S. Chelsea Flower Show 2016**, his talk is entitled **"A Tale of Two Gardens"**.

His columns on [wildlife in the garden](#) and features on practical planting tips reflect his interest in gardening with nature - which in part earned him his nickname, Heathcliff of the Hedgerows! He writes extensively in the media, has been a regular panellist on Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time since 2009, television appearances include his acclaimed series "The Landscape Man" for Channel 4 and he has designed two award winning Show Gardens for the Chelsea Flower Show. Prices which include a glass of wine on arrival are £7.50 for members, and groups of 10+ people and £10 for non members.

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



Just a small rain storm!



Peter Robinson receiving the Elcombe Trophy

70th ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

Cup Name	Description	Winner
Skevington Cup	Best exhibit in the Members Vegetable Section	Philip Wiles
Christie Memorial Cup	Best exhibit in the Open Vegetable Section	Jose Chappell
The George Moisey Trophy	Best exhibit in classes 5 & 6	Philip Wiles
Dalgety Produce Potato Cup	Best exhibit in classes 1 & 2	Philip Wiles
The Garden News Challenge Shield	Best exhibit in classes 26 & 27	Jean Hillier
The Benton-Jones Dahlia Cup	Best exhibit in the Dahlia Section	Tom Dykes
The President's Cup for Flowers	Best exhibit in the Flowers (except Dahlias)	Gill Fisher
Philip Wiles Cup	Best hanging basket	Colette Ledger
The Elborne Cup	Best exhibit in the Floral Art Section (adults)	Lisa Chambers
The Gilbert Cup	Best exhibit in the Children's Floral Art Section	<i>Not awarded</i>
The Coronation Cup	Best exhibit in the Adult Cookery Section	David Thorold
The Thompson Cup	Best exhibit in the Children's Cookery Section	Ava Wallington
The Elcombe Trophy	Best exhibit in the Drinks Section	Peter Robinson
Tom Guy Trophy	Best exhibit in class 66	Ellis Molesworth
The Rosie McDonnell Award	Best exhibit in class 67	Janice Lea Rosemary Balcer
The Craft Cup	Best exhibit in Adult the Craft Section	Sally Peaks
The A.R.C. Shield	Best exhibit in the Children's craft Section	Jose Chappell
The President's Cup for Adult Art	Best exhibit in the Adult Art Section	Adrian Duffin
The Andrew Walton Cup	Best exhibit in the Children's Art (under 8)	Elise Meredith

Cup Name	Description	Winner
The Challenge Cup	Best exhibit in the Children's Art Section	Fergus Munro
The President's Cup for Photography	Best exhibit in the Photograph Section	Rosemary Balcer
The Peter Cottrell Cup	Gentleman with the most points classes 1-37	Philip Wiles
The Joan Spencer Trophy	Lady with the most points classes 1-37	Jean Hillier
The Family Challenge Cup	The most points gained by a family	Chappell Family
The Evergreen Cup	Highest points by a Member Senior Citizen	Jean Hillier
Yendall Children's Cup	Most points by an exhibitor under 8 years old	Ava Wallington
The Haycock Cup	Most points by an exhibitor aged 8-16 years	Jose Chappell
The Sponsor's Cup	Newcomer Adult with the highest points	John Jakeman
The Banksian Medal	Winner of highest prize money in classes 1-64	Jean Hillier
The Cracknell Cup	Best Child's Exhibit in Show	Karina Chappell
The Len Hall Trophy	Best Exhibit in Show	Jean Hillier
The Chairman's Cup	Person with the highest number of entries	Elaine Elliot
Top Tray 1st		Ian Long
Top Vase 1st		Mary Long
Top Vase 2nd		Gill Fisher
Top Vase 3rd		Liz Harris
Merit Cup 1		Harriet Arnold
Merit Cup 2		Libby Wallington
Merit Cup 3		Maia Meredith



WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Report of meeting held on Monday September 12th

Present: all Parish Councillors except Graham Garner, Cllr Diane Lamb, four police officers, two representatives from Highways England and a representative of a sexual health charity.

The Wansford Picnic Site

The Parish Council invited police and Highways England for a discussion about the use of the Wansford picnic site just off the A47. For many years the picnic site has been a well known focus for homosexual activity. The toilets have recently been repaired and WPC are keen for them to be re-opened for the benefit of families and walkers using the picnic site. The police are concerned that this would encourage homosexual activity. The charity worker present said that sexual activities were taking place on the site on a large scale.

There was a discussion over how this problem could best be resolved. Ideas included:

- The use of CCTV in the area.
- Cutting back all the bushes and undergrowth to discourage furtive activity.
- Cleaning up the whole area to set a different tone to the site and encourage the proper use of the facilities.
- Encourage regular use of the site by the public, particularly dog walkers.
- More frequent visits from different police units and other emergency vehicles to observe, monitor and deter.
- Encourage the public to report any indecent behaviour they may witness. The police can only act if they receive complaints. Inspector Hall said they had received no complaints from the public in the past two years.
- Close the site.

Another meeting will be held once it has been established who owns the land and further options have been explored. WPC would be interested to hear feedback about the site from local residents.

Sibson Garden Village

Following a government initiative, Huntingdon District Council has submitted an Expression of Interest to build a garden village of 2500 houses on Sibson airfield, with a school, shops, a surgery, playing fields and a new dedicated access onto the A1. Following a meeting of representatives from the local parish councils, it was decided that the proposal document should be studied and that each Parish Council should submit their particular viewpoints to produce a joint response.

20 mph Zone

The Parish Council is investigating a 20mph zone in the centre of the village. This is being costed with PCC and a decision will be made at the next PC meeting to which residents are invited to come and put forward their views.

A47 dualling A1-Sutton

WPC attended a meeting where the scheme was presented by Highways England. The project is at alignment planning stage but it is not the intention to upgrade the A1/A47 junction. WPC will work with PCC to ensure that a more holistic view of the development is taken. We do not want a repeat of the fiasco when traffic lights were installed on the east roundabout.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Hall on Monday October 10th at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend and participate.

Viv Thorley, Councillor



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STIBBINGTON AND WANSFORD WI

The WI members were shocked and sad to hear of Rosie's sudden death, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Rosie had been a member for a short time, and was a great encourager for our activities.

The summer months were busy: the August meeting was hosted by Rita Kendrew. It was great fun as members came in headscarves and tiaras in celebration of the Queen's 90 years.

The Supper Club met at the Black Horse in Nassington for a curry night. Food, fun and the WI will always go together!

In July we visited Tolethorpe for picnic and Wind in the Willows, which was much enjoyed by everyone.

Our September meeting focussed on how to preserve our memories and photos in traditional and digital albums, and has inspired us to deal with the WI archive in preparation for 100 years of the WI in Wansford and Stibbington. Watch this space!

We also completed our Clean for the Queen challenge with the cleaning of the Stibbington phone box – many thanks to those ladies who kindly gave of their time and enthusiasm.



Our 3C's Craft Group will meet again on 7th and 21st October at 10.00 til 12.00 in the Community Hall. We shall be packing boxes for the Shoebox Appeal, so if you would like to join us please do come along – either to help with the shoeboxes or to work on craft projects – you will be very welcome.

The 11th October meeting will take place in St Mary's Church and is a celebration of Autumn by the Shoestring Theatre Company. We would be delighted if you would like to join us – man or woman – for this fun evening. Please do join us at the church at 7.15.

Jan Armitage

Publishing a magazine the month after the events of 9/11 meant that many of the articles had some mention of those atrocities. Canon Thomas Christie, the Priest in Charge of Thornhaugh and Wansford, began his column with 'the truth that none of us can live in isolation was brought brutally home on 11th September.' Thornhaugh Parish Council meeting began with a two minutes silence in memory of the victims.

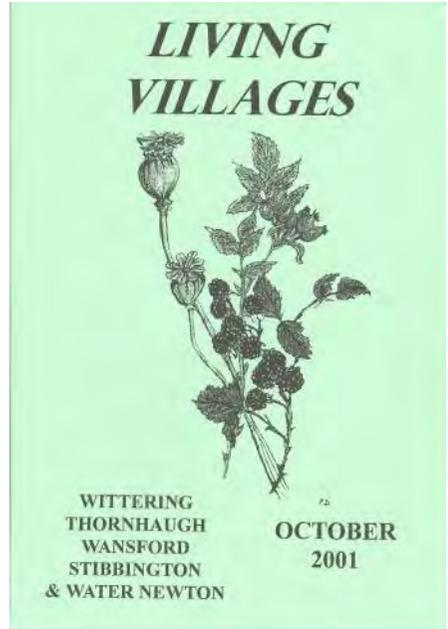
In other news, it was reported that 'Dr Stanley Vann is moving north.' Stanley had moved to Wansford after retiring from his position as Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral and he was moving to Yorkshire to be closer to his son. He had patiently led and directed the Wansford Church Choir and was thanked for all that he had contributed.

The editor at the time asked readers for their opinions of showing times in the 24 hour format. He thought we should 'move with the times,' as this never happened it is presumed there was a strong feeling to stay with 'anti-meridian and post-meridian.'

The WI had won a national competition to raise awareness of the Red Ribbon International ASK campaign and their support for the National AIDS Trust. Carol Lindsay had liaised with Nene Valley Railway and they agreed to let them place a very large red ribbon on the front and around one of their steam locomotives. They had also won the use of a Wallace Arnold coach for the day and were planning a visit to Chatsworth House and their speaker had given a fascinating talk on the History of Lace.

The Thornhaugh with Wansford Fish and Chips Appreciation Society saw '14 folks from the two villages set off to Oakham for their annual outing.' Their trip also took them to Cold Overton, Long Eaton and Matlock, they passed Chatsworth House and the last stop was in South Witham.

It was reported that the Old Sulehay Wood and Quarry was now owned by the Northampton Naturalist Trust and whilst on a guided walk 'Wild Service Tree, Small-leaved Lime and Vipers Bugloss' were found. The 'invasion by species such as Sycamore and Silver birch and the smothering effect of Old Man's Beard, if allowed to run riot' was also explained.





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A musical event with a difference will be held on Friday 14th October at 7.30pm in Wansford Church.

The well known Palmerston Ukulele Band will provide the major entertainment with a range of popular songs from the 50s to the 80s and beyond. Singing along is encouraged. Also a Men's Acapella Group will perform some fine and frivolous harmonies.

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The Palmerston Ukulele Band

"The Palmerston Ukulele Band (or P.U.B. for short; geddit?) are an eclectic mix of music and performers attracting a huge range of audiences at a wide variety of venues! However, we do seem to gravitate towards watering holes. Notably, the Peterborough Beer Festival. Other Beer/Music Festivals are available and we enjoy playing at those too. And fetes & Charity events; in fact anywhere that people like to gather to have a jolly good time! We make it our business to share Ukulele love, joy and happiness where ever we go by putting our spin on popular sing along, foot stomping tunes, many from the 60's, 70's & 80's; Johnny Cash and The Beatles to The Kinks, Neil Diamond, Tom Jones, The Undertones, and many, many more. As one of our members commented "Ukes crash into the 60s via punk!"

The Palmy Ukulele Band was the brainchild of Ian "Bertie" Benton, former landlord of The Palmerston Arms, a true community pub. Meeting there most Thursday evenings, we started out in February 2013 with just 7 members. The last 3 years have seen a few changes in our line up but our ranks have now swelled to 19 performing members plus a number of friends who regularly join us on Thursdays for a strum and for the Craic!

Inquiries to mandy.ukes@gmail.com or

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NATURE NOTES

By Graham Blagden

One of the pleasures of living in a village is waking up in the morning, or being woken up, by the sounds of the countryside. It may be the general birdsong of a dawn chorus; blackbirds, robins, other thrushes or even a rare catch of the nightingale's song: a tawny owl twitting to its mate at the end of a successful night's hunting: or maybe a rattling tractor being driven to an early start in the fields. More commonly we may hear the local farm cockerel greeting the dawn or, in our case, chickens cackling away celebrating the laying of the morning's egg.



This morning I stirred to the strident call of a bird, not unlike an excited, proud Lohmann Brown chicken pronouncing its morning success, but this was repeated and, I realised, was flying over the house. Geese of course. Almost certainly Greylag Geese although there are a number of the larger Canada Geese in a flock down by the river.

Fifty years ago there were probably as many farm geese as wild geese in Britain. The farmer didn't particularly like geese, they produced a prodigious amount of droppings which fouled his pasture and traditionally any income from eggs or Christmas birds were kept by the wife. It used to be said that if a farm stocked geese the farmer's wife wore the trousers. At the same time wild geese numbers were being kept low by a combination of shooting, both as sport and for the table, drainage of the marshes and a disease that affected eel-grass, a goose's staple marshland food.

Over the years domestic goose numbers have dropped and wild geese populations have risen. Many coastal habitats have been protected and wet meadow areas have increased as part of flood prevention measures along our river systems. Autumn is the time that wild geese return from their summer breeding grounds. Barnacle geese have already started returning to Caerlavarock on the Scottish shore of the Solway Firth from their Icelandic summer pastures. Pink-footed geese will be flying in to the Norfolk coast from the same location over the next few weeks. There is nothing like the sound and sight of long skeins of pink-foots flying in from the sea to eventually settle on the sugar beet fields just inland from the coast.

Greylag geese numbers have rapidly increased over this time and, together with a programme of introductions, are now present throughout the year. Numbers are also accentuated by visitors from northern Europe and greater numbers of semi-wild feral geese. Most park lakes will host a pair of greylags throughout the year now and ponds on golf courses will often carry a breeding pair or two during the summer.

There are large flocks of Greylags down by the river at Yarwell Mill and it was to there my morning callers were heading. They are much more welcome in the evening when parties of ten or twenty leave the riverside meadows, circle and then follow their leader in a noisy skein to find a safe field in which to roost overnight.

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22 October 2016 Cathedral Square 11am to 5pm

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

Dear Tracy,

Congratulations to you and your team for this month's magazine in colour! I have read it several times over as there is so much of interest! A town at Sibson! I can remember my dad showing me stocks at Sibson as we rode on his cart to his fields in Alwalton.

I really liked your cover. I worked in the summers of '47 and '48 at Sacrewell Farm and when harvest came it was binders cutting the corn and many slaves helping Billy Coles and his threshing tackle do the rest! THEN at the end of my spell at Sacrewell a combine harvester appeared in the most enormous cloud of dust - you could see it for miles away and know just what field was being cut! Memories!

Nan Alden (nee Death)

Brittain Bob.

The family of Bob would like to thank everyone for their sympathy and support at this very sad time, also for their kind donations to "Bloodwise"

Benny (wife) Kim, Robert, Elizabeth, Abigail, Alan, Sally and Nick.

Dear readers

" Just a reminder that the popular Hospital at Home Country Fair is being held once again at the Hatcock Hotel over 2 days on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th October with all proceeds going to this excellent local charity"

Margaret Warrener

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DIARY DATES – OCTOBER 2016

Sun 2	Annual Patronal and Harvest Festival	6.00pm	St Reiguis church, Water Newton	Tony Capon		5
Wed 5	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's meeting	10.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	11
Thur 6	Horticultural Society talk: Virgins Weeders & Queens	7.30pm	Christie Hall	Gill Fisher	782446	21
Fri 7	WI 3C's - Coffee, Community and Craft	9.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	28
Sun 9	Great Eastern Run	10.30am	Peterborough City Centre			
Sun 9	Harvest Thanksgiving followed by Supper	6.00pm	St John the Baptist church, Stibbington	Helen Facer	782932	9
Mon 10	Wansford parish Council	7.30pm	Wansford Community Hall	Wendy Grey	01778 441312	24
Tues 11	WI meeting - Celebration of Autumn	7.15pm	St Mary's church, Wansford	Jan Armitage	789996	28
Tues 11	Hospital @ Home		The Haycock Hotel			
Wed 12	Country Fair					
Fri 14	An Evening of Musical Entertainment	7.30pm	St Mary's church, Wansford	Alan Jones	783205	30, 31
Sat 15	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's Harvest Lunch	12.30pm	Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Wed 19	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's meeting	10.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Fri 21	WI 3C's - Coffee, Community and Craft	9.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	28
Sat 21	Diwali Festival	11am - 5.00pm	Peterborough Cathedral Square			27
Thur 27	Garden Talk - Death in the Garden	12.30pm	Rose Landscapes			39
Sun 30	Craft Medley - Wrap with Care	1.00pm	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Stibbington Centre	782386	15
NOV						
Thur 3	Horticultural Talk: A Tale of Two Gardens	7.30pm	The Haycock Hotel	Gill Fisher	782446	21
Mon 7	Nassington Bell Ringers	7.30pm	St Mary's church, Wansford	Brian Hardie	783855	19
Sat 19	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's Christmas Bazaar		Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	11

Copy deadline next month: Thursday 20th October
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