

# *Living Villages*



*April 2016*

*Water Newton,*

*Thornhaugh,*

*Stibbington,*

*Sutton &*

*Wansford*

# cope

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Domestic Commercial Solar Pv

Andy Cope

Tel : 07905 138846

email : [cope.electricalservices@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cope.electricalservices@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.cope-electricalservices.co.uk](http://www.cope-electricalservices.co.uk)

Station Yard, Nassington, Peterborough PE8 6QB



## INSURANCE THAT'S ON YOUR DOORSTEP



Having a local office means we're accessible, whether you need to make changes to your policy, make a claim or need financial advice.

We can help you with:

- Home & Car Insurance
- Business & Commercial Vehicle Insurance
- Retirement Planning
- Protection

NFU Mutual Financial Advisers advise on NFU Mutual products and selected products from specialist providers. We'll explain the services we offer and our charges.

For a real conversation about your needs call 01832 279090 or pop into our branch

NFU Mutual Office, 7  
& 8 The Old Dairy,  
Elton, Peterborough,  
PE8 6SH



**NFU Mutual**  
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

It's about time\*

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited. For security and training purposes, telephone calls may be recorded and monitored.



## Adventure Trails With Waggy Tails

Friendly and reliable Dog Walker

Doggy Daycare & Pet Visits also available



07706609752

[adventuretrailswithwaggytails@gmail.com](mailto:adventuretrailswithwaggytails@gmail.com)



# SPK Digital

## Aerials & Satellites

- LCD & Plasma TV Installations
- Aerials Upgrades to Digital
  - Extra TV Points
  - Storm Damage
- Swift, Reliable Service

Over 40 years experience

No call out charge

Call



**Steve Kruger**



**Mobile 07949 783266**

**Office 01780 782775**

## S K CONTRACTS

*Award Winning Builders & Carpenters*

*Winner LABC 2009 Awards*

Family run business offering high quality workmanship and customer satisfaction with over 33 years of experience.



- New House Builds
- Commercial Conversions
- Domestic Extensions
- Loft Conversions
- Stone Property Renovations
- On Site Joinery
- Orangeries
- Conservatories

6 Old North Road, Wansford,  
Peterborough PE8 6LB  
Tel: 07970 700767

[info@skbuildersandcarpenters.co.uk](mailto:info@skbuildersandcarpenters.co.uk)

[www.skbuildersandcarpenters.co.uk](http://www.skbuildersandcarpenters.co.uk)

# EDITORIAL

The cover of our April magazine last year featured Wansford's post box proudly wearing a beautiful Easter bonnet. This year the mystery knitter has been at work again. Not only is the post box wearing its bonnet, but the bridge is adorned by a giant daffodil (see front cover). There are at present hosts of golden daffodils to be admired around all our villages, but at more than 3 metres, this one must be the tallest by far. In his Nature Notes this month (p35) Graham Blagden takes up the theme of daffodils in our gardens and in the wild.

I must apologise for an error in my Editorial in the March issue. I wrongly accredited David Brown with sending information about The Christie Hall when it was actually Don Tebbutt who supplied the photos that sparked such interest. So, thank you, Don for the photos, and thank you David for your follow-up note (p37).

The main news story that occupies the centre pages of April's Living Villages (p20 and 21) is the opening of Wansford's impressive new children's play area. Congratulations are due to Wansford Parish Council and the Nene Valley Tots on their completion of this very successful project.

Once again our letters pages (36 and 37) are packed with a variety of contributions from several readers, and as the Summer season approaches there are increasing numbers of events mentioned throughout the magazine, with those of the coming month summarised in Diary Dates (p38).

**Rosie McDonnell**

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

**Editor:** Rosie McDonnell  
**Treasurer:** Tracy Sortwell / Sue Kudlinski  
**Distribution manager:** Rod Sortwell  
**Reporter:** Martin Lewis  
**Advertising Manager:** Kate Hopkins  
**Printing and collation:** PPS/Print

**Regular features writers:**  
Reflections: Rev David Ridgeway  
Local History: David Stuart-Mogg  
Nature Notes: Graham Blagden  
Photographer: Charles Brown

## CONTENTS

Contacts . . . . . 4  
Worship lists . . . 5  
Reflections . . . . 7

### News reports:

Friends of churches:  
Wansford &  
Thornhaugh . . . 9  
Water Newton . . 9  
Stibbington . . 11

Lottery . . . . . 11  
WI . . . . . 13  
Horticultural . . . 15  
Communicare 13, 16

### Parish Councils:

Wansford . . . . . 23  
Thornhaugh . . . 25  
Stibbington . . . 27

### Special features:

A new GP . . . . . 18  
Play area . . . 20, 21  
Bird scarers . . . 29  
The Queen's 90th 31  
Stibbington Centre  
news 32  
Nature Notes . . . 35  
Letters to the Editor  
36, 37

**Diary Dates . . 38**

Read your magazine on-line at [www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk](http://www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk)



# DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS @

## Living Villages Editorial Team

Editor	Rosie McDonnell	01780 783639
	<a href="mailto:editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk">editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk</a>	
Treasurer	Tracy Sortwell	01780 783403
	<a href="mailto:tracy.sortwell@btinternet.com">tracy.sortwell@btinternet.com</a>	
	+ Sue Kudlinski	01780 783324
	<a href="mailto:sue.kudlinski@btinternet.com">sue.kudlinski@btinternet.com</a>	
Distribution Manager	Rod Sortwell	01780 783403
	<a href="mailto:r.sortwell@btinternet.com">r.sortwell@btinternet.com</a>	
Reporter	Martin Lewis	01780 783668
	<a href="mailto:mtlewis00@btinternet.com">mtlewis00@btinternet.com</a>	
Advertising Manager	Kate Hopkins	07580 218792
	<a href="mailto:katehopkins5@gmail.com">katehopkins5@gmail.com</a>	
Website	<a href="http://www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk">www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk</a>	

## Parish Councils

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

## Churches

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

### Churchwardens:

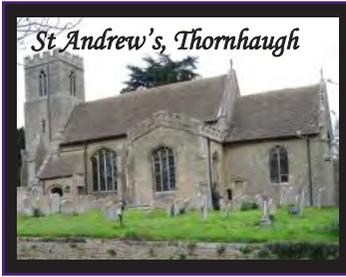
St Andrew's Thornhaugh:	Stuart Foreman	01780 783220
	Liz Kemp	01780 782333
St Mary's Wansford:	Caroline Ashley	01780 782408
	Alan Jones	01780 783205
St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Richard Winfrey	01780 782431
	Carol Lindsay	

### Friends:

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

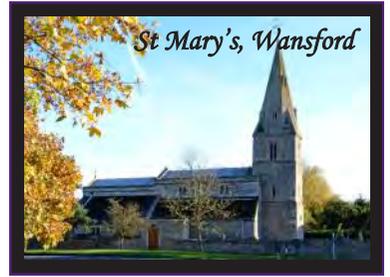
## Other useful contacts

Neighbourhood Policing 101	P'boro City Council	01733 747474
Wansford Surgery	01780 782342 Royal British Legion	01780 782200
(Out of hours	01733 293838) Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	782510
Wansford Pharmacy	01780 781616 Cricket Club	01780 782109
Communicare	01780 470437 Horticultural Society	01780 782446
H'don District Council	01480 388388	



*St Andrew's, Thornhaugh*

# WORSHIP APRIL 2016



*St Mary's, Wansford*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Service</b>
3 April	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Holy Communion
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
10 April	9.00 am	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Morning Worship
	9.30 am	St Mary's, Wansford	Sung Holy Communion with choir
17 April	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Holy Communion
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
24 April	9.00 am	St. John the Baptist, Stibbington	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	St Mary's, Wansford	Morning Prayer



*St John the Baptist,  
Stibbington*

## **Wednesdays at Wansford**

10.00am  
Morning Prayer



*St Remigius,  
Water Newton*

# GRIFFIN

## Solid Fuel Merchant Supplier of Pre Packs

Coal Bunkers Charcoal Compost  
Flo Gas Logs & Sticks Salt

Coal Yard  
Station Road  
Nassington  
01780 782540

Office  
12 Church Hill  
Castor  
01733 380470

# WANSFORD COMMUNITY HALL

Peterborough Road, Wansford

This hall accommodates parties of up to 36 people seated. Ideal for Meetings, Workshops, Aerobics etc

GREAT VALUE AT ONLY £4 per hour  
FOR BOOKINGS TELEPHONE  
John Stannage 07879 485330

## CHOOSE YOGA

Yoga class for all ages & abilities.

**Christie Hall, Wansford:**

**Tuesdays 7pm, Thursdays 10am**

**Kings Cliffe: Monday 7.45pm**

£5 for your first session,

"drop in" or buy 4 session pass thereafter

British Wheel of Yoga Teacher

**Contact Penny 07960 267986**



*Anna Forbes*  
Hair and Beauty Specialist

*In the comfort of your own home*

Tel: 07743 087241

Email: [annaforbes@live.co.uk](mailto:annaforbes@live.co.uk)

# Summer of fun at Sacrewell



Explore Sacrewell-it's right on your doorstep.  
Seasonal events, café, gift shop and  
18th Century grade II\* listed watermill.  
No entry fee for shop and café and free parking.

## New for 2016 Summer season pass

Valid until 30 October,  
our new summer season  
pass allows free entry every  
day, including our new  
**Late Night Fridays in  
July and August**  
when we're  
open until 9pm...

  
Sacrewell

Visit our website [www.sacrewell.org.uk](http://www.sacrewell.org.uk) or call 01780 782254

Sacrewell Ltd is the trading name of the William Scott Abbott Trust. Registered charity no: 233603

Since our Prime Minister David Cameron announced Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June as the date of the referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union there has been much media frenzy. Virtually every news bulletin has something to report on the matter as journalists seek to make people aware of what prominent politicians think about the various issues involved. No doubt this reporting will become even more enthusiastic as the June date draws near. One of the problems with all of this is that it tends to leave the average voter so confused that when the day of the vote dawns it becomes all too tempting not to vote at all. The media hype that takes place before a Referendum or General Election can make people feel that their vote won't make any difference.

I feel that this is a great mistake. Surely it is our duty as Christians to play an active and responsible part in the life of the world which God has entrusted to our care. This includes helping to appoint those who have the difficult task of governing our nation and making decisions about our nation's future. One of the major tenets of our society is the concept of democracy and free speech. Democracy can only work properly when the citizens of a nation exercise their responsibility to vote in elections wisely.

The same is true of Church life. Since 1969 the Church of England has adopted a system of Synodical Government which has enabled lay members of our church to play a much more active role in decision making. This is done through the Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods whose members are appointed by election. The bedrock upon which this whole system functions is the Parochial Church Council or PCC.

During the month of April the various Annual Church meetings for the parishes which make up our benefice will take place. At these meetings we will elect new members so serve on our the PCCs, and also our Churchwardens. Anyone who regularly worships at one of our churches, who is a member of one of the parish Electoral Rolls\*, is eligible to vote at the parish annual meeting. I do hope as many people as possible will come along to their parish meeting and play a part in appointing and supporting those who work to run our churches. By doing this we can all play our part in ensuring that we keep up the long tradition of serving the local community by sharing the "Good News" of Christ's Resurrection.

**Your vote counts.**

\* If you are not a member of the Electoral Roll, membership forms are available at all of the churches.

The Annual meetings for the parish of Castor with Stibbington, Upton and Water Newton is on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm

Home heating oil?  
You're in safe hands



We are Rutland Oil - suppliers of heating oil and fuel to homes, farms, and businesses across Rutland, Leicestershire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

**Peterborough 01780 782848**

[www.rutlandoil.com](http://www.rutlandoil.com)



**POLISHED**  
— NAILS & BEAUTY —



Fully qualified and insured professional Nail and Beauty Therapist (MGNT and MGBT) providing affordable luxury in the relaxed setting of The Haycock Hotel, Wansford.

Contact us on:  
07811057715

[www.polished-nailsandbeauty.co.uk](http://www.polished-nailsandbeauty.co.uk) | [polishednailsandbeauty@gmail.com](mailto:polishednailsandbeauty@gmail.com)

 /polishedprofessionalnails

Lash Perfect



Fashions Royal

gelfish

## **A. SEWTER ELECTRICAL LTD**

**Installation • Repairs • Testing**  
Domestic • Industrial • Commercial



For Domestic Electrical  
Installation Work Only



**For all your electrical requirements,  
reliable and quality service**

**Tel: 01832 280333**  
**Mobile: 07774 706651**

e-mail: [asewterelectrical@btinternet.com](mailto:asewterelectrical@btinternet.com)

**Hillview, Greenhill Road, Elton,  
Peterborough PE8 6SA**

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

## **MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR LENT LUNCHESES.**

They have been lovely occasions to meet old and new friends.

We raised the amazing sum of £830!!

This money, which will be sent to Christian Aid, will help to provide food and medicine for desperate people in South Sudan.

Meetings of The Friends in April: on the first and third Wednesday, 6th and 20th at 10.30 in the Community Hall after Morning Prayer at St. Mary's at 10 a.m.

***Dora Baker (secretary)***



# **FRIENDS OF ST REMIGIUS WATER NEWTON**

## **Water Newton Music Fest—Reserve The Date**

Once again, we will be holding The Water Newton Music Fest which will take place on Sunday 28th August. Planning is already well underway with some great acts already booked covering the genres of Folk, Rock and Latin American Jazz. Other acts will be added to the line-up over the coming weeks.

This great day out will include a real ale and wine bar, hog roast and American burgers and hot dogs. For now, mark the date in your diaries for this ever popular event. Tickets will be on sale from mid June. Let your friends know the date and why not make up a party? Further information will be released over the coming months.

We are always looking for willing helpers on the day - serving in the bar or on one of the stalls as well as many other tasks. If you would like to offer your assistance, then please do let me know. It would be greatly appreciated.

***Tony Capon 01733 237500***

**KEITH PIKE ATT, ACIB**  
Personal Taxation Adviser

Are you worried about....

- completing your Annual Tax Return and Self Assessment calculation?
- claiming all of your allowances / reliefs ?
- calculating the capital gain or loss on the sale of shares or property
- paying too much tax?

.... *if so, help is at hand*

For a personal confidential service, contact Keith Pike, a former Technical Director with 30 years' experience in Personal Taxation on

**01832 281086**

or email: [kmpike425@btinternet.com](mailto:kmpike425@btinternet.com)  
19 River Lane, Elton PE8 6RG

# Village Pizzas

Freshly Made &  
Delivered to your Door

View our Menu at  
[www.villagepizzas.co.uk](http://www.villagepizzas.co.uk)

Tue — Sat 6pm till the  
phone stops ringing!

**01780  
784587**

# PETER RIDDINGTON LANDSCAPING

We supply and install Patios & Pathways, Decking, Stone Walls and Fencing, We plant Trees, Shrubs Hedges and Flowers, and offer a complete Garden Maintenance and Improvement Service. Garden design service provided  
Contact Peter Riddington today for a free quotation

4 LOCKS GREEN, YARWELL, PETERBOROUGH PE8 6PY  
Telephone: 01780 783004 Mobile: 07860 962068  
Email: [peter@peterriddington.co.uk](mailto:peter@peterriddington.co.uk)



Freshly Made Indian Curries,  
suited to your needs.  
Delivery and Collection from PE8 6LN.  
To place an order, please contact  
Asma on

01780 591 747 or

07985407959

**ASMA'S KITCHEN**

Experienced Private Tutor and FE Teacher with DBS  
enhanced disclosure offers

## MATHEMATICS TUITION

for  
GCSE and A level

Contact  
John Barratt DipMath BSc

07939 263091  
[jbmaths@gmail.com](mailto:jbmaths@gmail.com)



# FRIENDS OF STIBBINGTON CHURCH

## Stibbington Graveyard "Clear Up"

A big thank you to everyone who came along on the 20th March to help with our pre season "clear up". We were blessed with fantastic weather which always helps, and as always it was amazing how much we all achieved. Thank you once again to Mike and Charlotte Bradshaw for the loan of their trailer.



## Stibbington 101 Draw

The winner this month is Mrs Anne Wass, well done and your cheque is on its way to you.

*Suzy Story*

## Family Feast

Our summer fund raising event for this year will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Stibbington Hall and will be a Family Feast with music and fun for the kids. More details to follow but we hope to build on the best bits of the events we have had over the last 3 years.

*Helen Facer*

---

## THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY

The first draw of 2016 has been completed and the winners for March are shown here. Many thanks to, **Heena** at **The Post Office, Wansford** for drawing the tickets.

**Mat Free, Administrator**  
**Mat.Free@hotmail.co.uk**  
**Tel 07881834054**

<b>£60</b>	<b>Mr A Palenski</b>
<b>£50</b>	<b>Jo Green</b>
<b>£40</b>	<b>Mrs L Sharman</b>
<b>£30</b>	<b>Mrs J Rogers</b>
<b>£20</b>	<b>Jennifer Jackson</b>
<b>£10</b>	<b>Marilyn Gray</b>

# M \* R \* H

## Gardening Services

*Need help with your garden?*

*Grass cutting — Hedge trimming — Tree clearing — Pruning  
Planting — Garden rubbish removal — Fire wood for sale*

**Phone 01780 479125**

**Mobile 07920 515661**



## CONQUER TREE SERVICES

All aspects of tree surgery covered:

**Pruning Re-shaping Felling Topping Hedge trimming**

FREE no obligation quotation — Fully insured

Shaun Burnett (NPTC Fully Qualified Arborist)

**Telephone 01780 749567 Mobile 07905 317315**

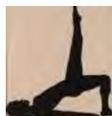
## A. L. PALENSKI

*Builder*

*10 Old Leicester Road  
Wansford*

*Peterborough PE8 6JR*

**01780 782818**



## PILATES

The Christie Hall, Wansford £5.00/class

Monday 6-7pm Wednesday 12:30-1:30pm

Contact Justine (Fully qualified personal  
trainer and Pilates instructor)

Email: justwhim@hotmail.com

Tel:07919 106156

Martin James

## The Village Sweep

Your local chimney sweeping  
service. Open fires, flues  
and appliances cleaned.

Stove repairs.

Fully insured.

Certificates issued.



01780 470275

07749 438567

[mhj1@btinternet.com](mailto:mhj1@btinternet.com)

# STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD WI



Bob Laurie entertained members at our March meeting with an interesting talk and presentation on his trip to Australia, Japan, Singapore and Canada. The talk was titled Cherry Blossom to Tulips.

As promised last month – a foodie review!! The ladies of the supper club went to the Exeter Arms in Easton on the Hill. I think we would all agree that the atmosphere was very convivial but the food was not special. The next supper club meeting will be held in April – venue yet to be decided.

The book club will next meet as this goes to press, so we look forward to hearing their views and the titles of their next good read in April.

We also had the first meeting of the **3C's Club – Coffee, Craft and Community** on Friday February 26th, and as a result of its success met again this week. **We are pleased to say that we will be meeting again on Fridays, April 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 in Wansford Community**

**Hall – please do come and join us.** Both

WI and non-WI members have attended and there has been a fantastic atmosphere of sharing and learning. So if you have a craft project that is unfinished, or would like to learn a new craft – or indeed share a craft, please do come along and enjoy the morning with us.

On Saturday 19th March the WI Bake Sale on the green outside Wansford Church raised more than £160, so a big thank you to all who contributed and also came along to buy. We are supporting the charity MIND this year. Please also note in your diaries that we will be back in May with another bake sale!

Finally, our speaker on April 12 will be talking about Flag Fen, so if you would like to learn a little more about this amazing Bronze Age site, please do come along and join us at 7.15 in the Wansford Community Hall

*Jan Armitage 01780 789996*

## COMMUNICARE

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

**2016 Summer Season Day Trips by Coach**

**Visit to the City of LINCOLN**

**followed by a fish & chip tea**

**Wednesday 13th April**

**Max £25 per person**

**Travel will be by executive coach with pick-ups from local villages**

**For more information/booking – contact Clare Wagstaffe**

**Tel: 01780 470437 – email: [superfoguk@aol.com](mailto:superfoguk@aol.com)**

# PPS|Print

Peterborough Printing Services

Delivering high quality traditional litho  
and state-of-the-art digital colour print

Your local FSC certified colour print specialist

- business stationery
- leaflets & brochures
- reports & manuals
- posters & banners
- variable data
- marketing support
- promotional products –  
*pens, mugs, keyrings,  
calendars, diaries,  
luggage, umbrellas,  
golfing, leisurewear etc*
- exhibition support –  
*banners, pull-up displays*

## 01733 349881

[info@pps-print.com](mailto:info@pps-print.com)

[www.pps-print.com](http://www.pps-print.com)

[www.pps-promotions.com](http://www.pps-promotions.com)

Ainsley House . Fengate . Peterborough . PE1 5XG

## ***THE CHRISTIE HALL***

Elton Road, Wansford, (Registered Charity No 1033998)

The recently refurbished Hall is available for Parties, Receptions, Meetings  
and most types of private function

For bookings at £10 per hour or £8 per hour residents of  
Wansford, Stibbington and Thornhaugh  
contact the bookings clerk on Tel: **01780 782446 Gill Fisher**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE** [www.christiehall.co.uk](http://www.christiehall.co.uk) for further information

We look forward to hearing from you.

## ***PAWS and CLAWS***

**Delightful Country Setting : Individually Heated Chalets**  
**Spacious Accommodation With Outside Runs**  
**Personal Care & Attention : Innoculated Cats Only**  
**Rescued Cats & Kittens usually available**  
**and wanting good homes (& hearths by which to purrrr!)**

**The Pump House, Old Leicester Road, Wansford 782174**



## **HANDYMAN**

For All Your Household Repairs

Joinery, Painting, Decorating,  
Shelves, Skirtings, Covings,  
Light Fittings Etc.  
No Job Too Small



**01780 591313 / 07847922844**

## **BARKLEYS GARDEN SERVICES**

**Grass cutting, weeding,  
hedge trimming**

**Lady gardener  
available**

**Bev & Peter  
Ailsworth  
(01733) 380480 or  
07593721144**



# WANSFORD HORTICULTURAL & CRAFTS SOCIETY

Everyone was greatly impressed by the March talk on Grimsthorpe Castle and its estate, presented by the manager Ray Biggs. His presentation was lavishly illustrated and gave an entertaining and in-depth overview of the development of both the gardens and buildings spanning the centuries since the reign of King John. For me it "joined the dots", giving an insight into the ambitions, expectations and challenges which faced the nobility and upper classes in managing their estates through royal visits, civil wars and changing fashions.

Since the talk we have been able to arrange the hoped for **private evening visit to Grimsthorpe** in the summer. It will take place on **Monday 23rd July** between **6 and 8 p.m.** when, after a welcome glass of wine, the head gardener Jim will show us around the gardens and wider estate including areas not normally accessible to the public. Ray would also be on hand to take any of our group around the house if they wished to view the interior.

Our third and final Spring talk will take place on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April**. Entitled **"A Year in the Life of a Cottage Garden"**, it will be presented by Andrew



Sankey. As well as running courses and giving talks throughout the U.K, Andrew has written three books and he tours the U.S.A every year giving lectures. To fill any spare time he also works as a plantsman, garden designer/landscaper and specialises in cottage gardens and borders where he creates harmonious drifts of colour. Ever since joining our committee Liz Harris has been urging me to get Andrew along to speak to us, as

she so enjoyed one of his talks, and at last we have been able to pin him down. The talk will start at **7.30 p.m.** and be held in **the Christie Hall**. Please do come along and join us. Entry is free.

As I write, our **coach trip on Sunday 19 June to Helmingham Hall and Ickworth Hall** is virtually full, with only one or two seats left. There may be cancellations nearer the time however, so please do get in touch if you were hoping to attend. (£32 to non National Trust members and £22 to N.T. members.) The second trip on Saturday 16 July to **R.H.S. Harlow Carr** with a stop at **Knaresborough Castle** en route will cost £17 per person and there are still half a dozen seats left on the coach. Again, please contact me if you would like to join us.

**Gill Fisher** [fisher.gill@yahoo.com](mailto:fisher.gill@yahoo.com) 782446  
[www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

# COMMUNICARE

Our meeting last month was exceptionally well attended by over 30 patients – seats were in short supply - it was very gratifying to see many 'new faces' who we hope will now make our quarterly get-togethers a regular event.

The guest speaker, Rebekah Conway, a specialist dietitian from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Foundation Trust gave a brief outline of her role within the local health sector. She then, with the aid of power point diagrams, described various types of food, their positive and negative effects on health, with optimum portion size. She particularly emphasized the benefits of certain items in relation to prevention of common illnesses, such as diabetes, heart disease, weight management, and she also stressed the importance of maintaining recommended alcohol levels. There were several questions including how medications can affect weight, recommendations on the consumption of 'ready meals' and suggested cooking methods. Patients worried about weight issues can be referred to a dietitian through their GP.

The Treasurer reported that funds remain fairly steady at just over two and a half thousand pounds and at present there were no requests from the practice for donations towards additional equipment. Reports were given by the PPG representatives who attend all meetings of the Borderline Patient Forum, the Local Commissioning Board, the Central Commissioning Group Patient Reference Group and the PMCF (Prime Minister's Challenge Fund) Transformation Board. Particular reference was made to recent developments within the OPAC (Older People's & Adult Community) services, following the termination of the contract with Uniting Care Partnership in December, including a workshop in February where detailed plans and projects were presented and discussed. All proceedings for public dissemination at these meetings are recorded on various websites and if any patient has a matter which they would like the PPG's representatives to promote, details can be emailed to Reception Manager ([annette.johnson3@nhs.net](mailto:annette.johnson3@nhs.net)) who will forward appropriately.

Following a decision at the December meeting, some patients will have been contacted by email seeking their agreement to receive direct notification of Communicare matters. However this project has been temporarily halted as the ongoing data input work was becoming too onerous. The matter will be discussed by the officers and practice staff to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

Patients visiting the Wansford surgery will be aware that the 'booking in' screen is now sited in the atrium - the area of wall between the two reception windows is now devoted to Communicare matters – look out for future notices and information on display. The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th June when it is hoped to have a guest speaker from 'Age UK'. The social group's monthly coffee morning is on Friday 15th at 10am in the Kings Cliffe Sports Active hall, and there is still very limited space on our spring holiday to Melrose, Scotland on Monday 16th May (4 nights DBB). If you require further information please contact Clare Wagstaffe on 01780 470437 or email: [superfoguk@aol.com](mailto:superfoguk@aol.com). See also page 13 for a day trip opportunity.

**Wendy Spencer**

*Vow*  
BRIDAL  
GALLERY

**Designer Wedding Dresses**

**Menswear hire including  
Morning, Lounge  
& Dinner Suits**

**Vow Bridal Gallery**

26 – 30 London Road,  
Wansford, Peterborough,  
Cambridgeshire PE8 6JE

thegallery@vowbridal.co.uk  
www.vowbridal.co.uk  
01780 783607

**New premises & new bridal collection**

THE HAYCOCK HOTEL  
**YOUR PERFECT VENUE**



The Haycock Hotel is nestled in the heart of the Cambridgeshire countryside, featuring magnificent views of Wansford – a magical setting for your wedding celebrations.

- Bespoke weddings and tailormade packages • Picture perfect setting
- Registered for civil ceremonies • Dedicated wedding co-ordinator • And so much more

Contact our wedding co-ordinator on **01780 782223**  
or email **weddings.haycock@macdonald-hotels.co.uk**

The Haycock Hotel, London Road, Wansford, Peterborough, PE8 6JA



[WWW.MACDONALDHOTELS.CO.UK/HAYCOCK](http://WWW.MACDONALDHOTELS.CO.UK/HAYCOCK)

## **Up Close with Wansford Surgery**

### **A NEW GP JOINS THE TEAM**

*Continuing the series of occasional articles about events at our local surgery*

From an early age, after she decided that being an astronaut might not be possible, Dr Emma Hamilton has wanted to be involved in the medical sciences. At first, it was the field of forensic pathology that attracted her and then for a while she toyed with becoming a surgeon. But as she matured, she realised that more than anything, she is a people person and enjoyed longer term human interaction, rather than the fleeting glimpse of a patient that a surgeon experiences. It's a cliché, she knows, but Emma likes to care for people and see them get well. And so she trained to become a General Practitioner and joined the ranks of the NHS's primary care team.

Dr Hamilton, who is 32 and lives with her husband Neil at Norman's Cross, joined the Wansford Practice in March as a salaried GP. Originally from Sandbach in Cheshire, Emma first met Neil, who is also a GP and hails from Peterborough, whilst at University at Imperial College, London. They married in 2012 and have a daughter, Amelia, who has just celebrated her first birthday. It was whilst on maternity leave that Emma started a blog about her experiences of becoming a first time Mum. Although there is lots of information, guidance and advice out there on the web, Emma found that mostly it was either too 'happy clappy' and rose-tinted, or too frantic and gloomy, so she decided to put the record straight. I suspect that this is one of Emma's great strengths as a doctor, a gentle, kindly realism.

Before Amelia came along, Neil and Emma indulged their shared passion of travelling; Tanzania, the Galapagos, Costa Rica, USA and Canada are just a few of the places they have visited. This is all kind of handy, since Emma's other great interest is photography.

Emma knows that the NHS is going through a tough time right now, struggling to cope with funding issues, rising patient numbers, and an older society with higher expectations. But she is determined to do her best to make the care she provides personal and long term, despite the constraints placed upon her. She, like most patients, I suspect, likes continuity.

There is a kind of synchronicity to her arrival here, because when Emma was training as a GP, she did two four month stints at Wansford as a trainee, and so at the end of her maternity leave, when a vacancy at Wansford arose, she already knew the tight knit, supportive team and loved the practice. It was a no brainer. And Emma is very keen to give back to the system and pass on her experience to future trainee GPs at the surgery, so the cycle can continue. In addition to her GP training, Dr Hamilton has diplomas in reproductive and sexual health and dermatology, which I know she intends to put to good use. She is also the doctor responsible for Tixover Nursing Home.

We wish Dr Hamilton all the very best in her new role, but hope that she understands if we all hope that we don't see her too often!



Organised by



Principal sponsor



PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL PRESENTS

# PERKINS GREAT EASTERN RUN



**2016 Perkins Great Eastern Run**

**SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER 2016**

-  **One of the UK's top half marathons**
-  **Fantastic spectator support**
-  **Flat and fast historic city centre route**
-  **Family entertainment and more!**



## ENTER TODAY!

 @PERKINSGER  PERKINS GREAT EASTERN RUN

[www.perkinsgreasternrun.co.uk](http://www.perkinsgreasternrun.co.uk)



**Anna's Hope Fun Run**  
10am

Title charity



**Half Marathon**  
10:30am

UKA 2016 - 14702



## OPEN AT LAST YOUNGSTERS



The Easter bunny visited Wansford on Saturday 26 March to help the children of the village celebrate the opening of their playground. This superb new facility has been long awaited, and is now open, thanks to the work of Wansford Parish Council, Nene Valley Tots (a village community group) and the Augean Community Fund.



More than 20 children, along with parents, grandparents and carers, converged on the play area for the opening ceremony, performed by Wansford Parish Council Chairman, John Stannage at 2pm. The weather might have been kinder on the day, but it didn't deter the young visitors from having a wonderful time hunting for Easter eggs and trying out the attractively designed and very well constructed new play equipment.



John Stannage admitted that at times, "It has been a labour of love over more than three years to get this playground open. We negotiated leasing the land from Peterborough City Council, we were well supported in our bid for funds through the Grantscape route, and we had a great community group working alongside us. I'd also like to thank our PCC Councillor, Diane Lamb for continuing to support us with this village amenity."

## — WANSFORD'S NEW PLAY AREA GIVES LOCAL SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Becky Eames, of Nene Valley Tots, which runs a weekly session in the village hall, said 'we were the only village locally with no play equipment, and it's fantastic that we no longer need to travel to a play park – it's important to the tots, and also parents and carers, to have somewhere local to walk to, and meet neighbours. We're really pleased that the play area has been designed with the input of local residents and we are thrilled with the results.'

Matt Young of Grantscape was unable to join in the fun on the opening day, but sent "Best wishes for the opening on Saturday and we hope the children of the village enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt as well as playing on the new equipment." Our pictures certainly show they did!

There are plans to continue to raise funds for more seating, and the local Horticultural Society has offered to help with planting on the site.

The playground is situated on the green in Nene Close, Wansford, PE8 6JJ and can also be accessed by foot from Peterborough Road (where on street parking for visitors to the village is also available).

Pictured at the opening of the play area, anticlockwise from top left:

- Wansford Parish Council chairman, John Stannage prepares to cut the ribbon, as excited children gather round, poised to explore and enjoy their new play area.
- Train driver, Jake Tonkin
- Climber, Finlay Raven
- Explorer, Charlotte Stannage
- and James Bridgeman is clearly enjoying the swing.

*To see these and all images in the magazine in full colour, visit [www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk](http://www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk).*





# The Paper Mills



The Paper Mills, London Road, Wansford, PE8 6JB  
Just off the A1

01780 782328 [www.thepapermills.co.uk](http://www.thepapermills.co.uk)  
[thepapermills@gmail.com](mailto:thepapermills@gmail.com)

At the Paper Mills we serve seasonal and locally sourced produce wherever possible. Good food, however, doesn't need to be complicated. Simplicity and freshness - that's what you will find in our pub.

## Now open after refurbishment!

Drinks served from 11.30am 7 days a week!  
Food served:  
Monday-Saturday  
Lunch 12-2.30pm  
Dinner from 5.30pm  
Sunday Food served 12-5pm



Like us on Facebook to receive special offers and be entered in our competitions!



The bar features a great choice of real ales and wines. We provide a selection of local ales from local suppliers such as Digfield and Nene Valley and have two resident ales: London Pride and Tribute.

Fresh food, sourced locally, prepared with passion and served with a smile!



# {Beaux Amis}

## Hair Salon

Colouring, Cutting, Styling & Occasion hair

01780 781102

The Haycock Hotel, Wansford.

[www.beaux-amis.co.uk](http://www.beaux-amis.co.uk)





## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The last meeting of the full council was held on 14 March. General planning applications, including tree reductions, were passed.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 8 February were read and signed.

**Payments** were authorised for: Living Villages; "no cold calling" signs; and Christie Hall.

The **WI's Centenary Donation**, the fitting of a handrail to the Community Hall, has been put out to tender and some solar powered lights are to be tried.

**Toddlers Play Area:** The Official Opening was confirmed as Saturday 26 March at 2.00 p.m. Nene Valley Tots will arrange for press coverage, including Stamford Mercury and Peterborough Telegraph, and reporters are to be invited along. Cllr Stannage will check that this has been done. Nene Valley Tots representatives with Cllr Stannage will cut the (yellow) tape to mark the official opening.

The **notice board** is completed and is due to be installed on the village green.

The **NO COLD CALLING** signs are completed and are being fitted around the village.

The **A47** is due to be upgraded to dual carriageway from Wansford to the Sutton roundabout in 2020. The council will check whether a cycle path is to be included in this section to complete the link with the green wheel and cycle access to Peterborough.

There was **discussion** on:

The Queens 90th birthday. No conclusion was reached on whether the village would be arranging a celebration.

Noise from aeroplanes taking sky divers up from Sibson Airfield. It was suggested that rather than circling over the village all the time to gain height, planes might go in differing directions.

The growing traffic problem around the Paws and Claws junction.

The **next meeting**, which will include the AGM will be on Monday 11 April at 7.30pm.

**Cllr Graham Garner**

Can you fly an airliner?  
**Ideal Birthday/  
Anniversary Gift**  
Sibson Airfield  
Tel: 01832 578738  
[www.jetsimschool.co.uk](http://www.jetsimschool.co.uk)

# Jeeves Catering

Specialists in Wedding, Corporate & Event Catering



We are passionate about food and use top quality seasonal produce from local suppliers wherever possible. We have an established and enviable reputation, the number of venues where we have exclusivity is testament to this.

We have long standing relationships with companies from the wedding industry – florists, photographers, wedding cake suppliers and entertainment. We are happy to supply their details.

Visit our website for menus and prices.  
[www.jeevescatering.com](http://www.jeevescatering.com)

**01778 349512**

[info@jeevescatering.com](mailto:info@jeevescatering.com)

Jeeves Catering  
 41 High Street, Maxey  
 Peterborough, PE6 9EE

**www.castorcoffee.co.uk**

Light Lunches - Delicious Cakes - Tasty Sandwiches - Eat In or Take-Away - Teas  
 Fantastic Coffee - Free WIFI - Relaxed Setting - Cards And Gifts  
 Open 7 Days - Quentin Marks Estate Agents  
 107a Peterborough Road, Ailsworth PE5 7AJ

# THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Fifth Meeting of the 2015/16 Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016. It was chaired by Brian Watts, present were Liam Higgins, Ashleigh Kewney, Louise Molesworth and Chris Smith, and in attendance were four members of the public and the Clerk. There were apologies for absence from John Holdich and Diane Lamb.

**Public Participation** The members of the public had no issues to raise.

**Police Matters** There were no police representatives present. One of the members of the public stated that her garage had been burgled recently and although the police were helpful, the thieves had not been caught.

**Home Farm Matters** Ashleigh Kewney stated that the pot hole at the entrance to Home Farm has not been repaired yet. He stated that the new dog foul bin had not been delivered yet. Brian Watts stated that he had not been able to repair the broken post that supports the Noticeboard due to the recent wet weather.

**Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** It was agreed to hold this village event during the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at The Rectory (courtesy of Karen Rutter). A marquee is available and attendees will have access to the kitchen and toilet. It was agreed to have a hog roast and barbecue. It was agreed to have a 'Village Bake Off' competition for the cakes for the pudding. Louise Molesworth agreed to chair a committee to organise the event.

**Finance** It was agreed to donate £80.00 to Living Villages and £190.00 to Thornhaugh & Wansford PCC (for the use of St Andrew's Church for the Parish Council Meetings).

**Bus Stop** Liam Higgins reported that the bus company had decided that it was too dangerous to use the bus stop on the A1 north. It was agreed to contact the Highways Division to see if it would be possible to use the lay-by before the bus stop as a bus stop or re-route the bus through the village.

**Blocked Drains in Meadow Lane** Brian Watts showed some photographs of flooding caused by blocked drains in Meadow Lane. It is believed that the drains are full of silt. It was agreed to contact the Highways Division/Anglian Water to request that the drains are cleared out.

**Speeding in the Village** Brian Watts reported on a recent incident of speeding in the village. He has produced some fliers to ask residents to take care when driving through the village. The leaflets will be distributed to all residents.

**Date of Next Meeting** The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the 2016/2017 Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in St Andrew's Church.

*Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk*

# LD



## HAIR DESIGN

TELEPHONE: 01780 789997

24 Station Road, Nassington PE8 6QB

ldhairdesign@btconnect.com

- ❖ Free parking
- ❖ Senior discount every Wednesday
- ❖ Gents welcome
- ❖ Student discount
- ❖ Pamper Parties available
- ❖ 20% off selected services with this advert



## Hunts ●●●● Hypnotherapy

## Dealing with life's challenges

Do you want to get your life back, look forward and be happy without the need to revisit the past? Solution Focused Hypnotherapy may be for you. Why not book a Free Initial Consultation to discuss the issue and see how hypnotherapy can help.

### Issues which can be treated:

- Stress at work or social stress, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder
- Low self-esteem, confidence, sleep difficulties
- Phobias such as spider phobia, exam nerves, fear of flying
- Substance abuse. Pain management. Sport performance. Smoking.

To discuss how hypnotherapy can help you, book a free initial consultation.

Contact Jane Clark 07958 757076

[jane.clark@virgin.net](mailto:jane.clark@virgin.net)

[www.huntshypnotherapy.co.uk](http://www.huntshypnotherapy.co.uk)

## Classie Cars for Business and Private Travel

### Professional Chauffeurs

We offer:

- Wedding Service
- Corporate Service
- Special Occasions
- Airport Chauffeur Service
- Sporting event

Our aim is to make your journey as enjoyable as possible.



Contact Tel  
01780 784484  
Mobile 07843 226510  
Email [info@classiecars.co.uk](mailto:info@classiecars.co.uk)  
More information on [www.classiecars.co.uk](http://www.classiecars.co.uk)



### ... reliable couriers you can trust

Rapid response...  
0800 97 553 97

- Same day deliveries
- 1hr collections
- National network
- Simple booking process
- Friendly Staff



[www.jccouriers.com](http://www.jccouriers.com)

# SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met at The Environment Centre, Stibbington on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. All Councillors were in attendance and four members of the public were also present. Cllr Beuttell welcomed everyone to the meeting

Following the resignation of Cllr Cawood, and after advertising, HDC advised that we could now co-opt. It was unanimously agreed that resident Helen Facer be co-opted on to the Parish Council with immediate effect.

## **Highway Issues:**

A1 max speed sign 50 mph no end date to it (just before mermaid slip road) – could we request this is removed.

New Lane, sign on its face on slip road just before going down onto the A1. Could we request this is removed.

Light outside Christie Hall not working – to be reported.

**Dog Bin** on London Road, near the bridge – letter to be sent to resident advising that bin will be removed.

## **Planning Applications:**

16/00261/LBC – 1 Elton Road, Wansford. The building is to be renovated with no extensions or structural alterations. The ground floor bathroom is to be moved to bedroom 3 on the first floor. All other internal work is refurbishing and updating the property – no objections raised.

15/02014/FUL – comments to East Northants. Who owns the quarry. Wansford Parish Council are due to respond – Stibbington would like to respond along same lines. Parish Clerk to sent copy of Wansford Parish Council's draft response to Cllr Beuttell.

16/00288/HHFUL - Construct first floor dormer to rear elevation, rebuild single storey extension to rear with pitched roof. Alterations as shown on drawings and scope of work at 36 and 38 London Road, Wansford – no objections raised.

The chairman had been advised by a resident that they are not now able to pick up parcels from the Post Office – instead parcels must be collected from town. The chairman has written a letter to Royal Mail but has now been advised that we must write to the Post Office; a letter will be sent to the Post Office with our concerns.

**Drains:** Still a major issue – letter and photos to be forwarded to our MP Shailesh Vara.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Annual Parish Meeting followed by AGM on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

**Wendy Grey**

Say  
Goodbye  
to...

Weeds  
Moss  
Lawn Pests  
Diseases  
Compaction

With prices from **£15 per quarter** for providing a great service, is it any wonder that 40% of our customers come to us through recommendation.

Call us today for your **FREE** lawn analysis and no obligation quote:

**01733 755028**

[peterborough@greenthumb.co.uk](mailto:peterborough@greenthumb.co.uk)

Say Hello  
to a  
beautiful  
lawn with

**GreenThumb**  
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
**By Martin Lewis**

## **The Boom of Farmers' Bird Scarers - CONSIGNED TO HISTORY?**

With the welcome arrival of Spring comes the familiar thudding of the bird scarers that surround our villages. To some the sound is a reminder of the season of renewal and to others it is an irritation. But soon the noise may be consigned to the past.

A local farmer (who wishes to remain anonymous) is trialling a new technology, low impact solution to the problem of keeping birds away from newly sown and germinating crops.

The new device is a small drone, packed with optical and sonar sensors, a small but powerful on-board computer and miniaturised but effective speakers. The drone is calibrated to patrol a designated area (usually a field) at a height of approximately 50 feet. According to the manufacturer's website, the drone can detect any bird which strays into its area, and using its sensing devices can determine both the species and sex of the bird, using markers such as shape, colour, size and flight patterns.



If the bird is male, the drone emits the call of a rival male of the same species defending its territory. This immediately puts the bird into a defensive mode and it will not land.

If the offending bird is female, the drone repeatedly emits the sound of the relevant male mating call. This has a fascinating effect on the female. In common with many mammalian species, the repetition of a mating call interferes with certain neurological pathways in the female's brain resulting in the sudden onset of tiredness and a headache, and the shutdown of usual bodily appetites.

Thus both sexes are effectively prevented from disturbing the crop, but the only sounds used are bird calls, which to our ears would be largely indistinguishable from the normal background noise of the countryside. The drone itself is remarkably quiet.

The RSPB have raised concerns about the possible effect of these drones on the breeding patterns of some species. Early research suggests that male birds tend to compensate by congregating together at watering places and forming strong male only social groups which behave somewhat erratically. This in turn has resulted in odd nesting behaviours, with nests taking two to three times longer to build and the male spending lengthy periods of time simply watching sky. The overall effect of these behaviours is not yet fully understood.

We await the results of the trial.



THE SPECIALISTS IN  
PODIATRIC MEDICINE

- ◇ New Patients Always Welcome - no referral necessary
- ◇ Early Morning & Late Evening Appointments
- ◇ Coms, Calluses, Cracked Heels and Dry, Hard Skin
- ◇ Thick, Yellow, Fungal Nails
- ◇ Nail Surgery For Permanent Solution to Ingrown Nails
- ◇ Podiatric Acupuncture for Pain Relief
- ◇ Verrucae Treatments for All Ages, including Dry Needling
- ◇ Sports Injuries, Insoles & Orthotics Prescribed

Home Visits  
Available

**Healthy feet  
don't hurt.....**

**We can help!**

Open: Monday - Friday 8.00am - 8.00pm



Sue Arnold BSc(Hons) MChS & Associates  
19 Elton Road, Wansford PE8 6JD  
Tel: 01780 783982



GHR

BERNICE HARDWICK



*www.seechanges.co.uk*

**HYPNOSIS & THERAPY**

*For help with:*

**Anxiety ~ Depression ~ Loss ~ Pain ~ Phobias ~ Trauma  
Addiction ~ Smoking ~ Fear ~ Weight ~ Confidence ~ Sleep  
Motivation ~ Anger ~ or whatever else may trouble you**

Ms S, relationship problems, *"What a relief it is not to feel the way I did, and I can't thank you enough"*

Mrs T, fear of flying, *"I have to say that from here on I will not be dreading any flights, and that is down to you"*

Mr A, anger issues, *"Your hypnotherapy had excellent results - I feel I am a much better person"*

**email: [bernice@seechanges.co.uk](mailto:bernice@seechanges.co.uk) tel: 01780 678565  
33 Elton Road, Wansford, PE8 6JD**

# THE QUEEN AT 90

Two opportunities to celebrate a significant birthday:



*Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016*

*In Celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of  
Her Majesty the Queen,*

*The Christie Hall Committee*

*warmly invites you to join them in the hall for*

*Afternoon Tea at 2p.m. to 4 p.m.*

*Memorabilia, music and tea provided.*

*Please bring cake or sandwiches*

*Missed out on your ticket for Buckingham Palace?*

*Instead, don't miss out on your very own local*

## *ROYAL GARDEN PARTY*



*to be held at  
Stibbington Centre*



*on the afternoon of Saturday 11 June  
to celebrate the official 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.*

*Our celebratory afternoon for 90 guests will involve afternoon tea and entertainment in the grounds of Stibbington Centre (under cover if wet), with a play area and games for the children.*

*Full details will appear in next month's Living Villages  
and tickets will be available from 1 May.*

*This event is being organised by an informal group of locals.*

*Volunteers are very welcome to join in to help plan the celebration. Whether your speciality is catering, decoration, entertainment or children's games., just contact*

*Rosie McDonnell on [rosied@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:rosied@globalnet.co.uk) or tel 01780 783639.*

# STIBBINGTON CENTRE NEWS

## Stibbington Community Classes

Learn a new skill in the old school ~Summertime Sessions

**Saturday**  
**14th May**  
10 until 4  
**£45**

### Enchanting Embroidery

Whether you are an experienced stitcher or just beginning, join us for a day to learn some new embroidery stitches or practice some old favourites and make this beautiful panel. Everything you need is provided but feel free to bring along your own sewing kit and any extra threads/buttons/beads you may like for additional embellishment of your piece. (Panel shown here as the front of a needle case but also suitable to front a bag or cushion.)

Tutor:  
Paula Smith

**Saturday**  
**21st May**  
1:30—4:30  
**£25**

### Lampshades & Lovehearts

Make your own 30cm drum lampshade suitable for either a lamp base or ceiling fitting. Bring your own lightweight material or wallpaper. Alternatively, some suitable fabrics will be available at an additional cost as will extra lampshade making items to enable you to continue at home. Finish the afternoon by learning how to make a charming heart created by "book folding". Two new crafts in one workshop!

Tutor:  
Kate Hopkins

**Saturday &**  
**Sunday 4th &**  
**5th June**  
10 until 4  
**£120**  
Tutor: Sue Kirk

### Willow Animal Sculptures

Spend two days learning willow sculpture techniques to create a large animal, choosing from a doe, stag, sheep, goat or dog. Starting with a metal framework, you will be shown how to fill out the body and develop the surface finish to produce an artistic addition to your garden or patio. Overnight accommodation may be available.

**Sunday**  
**26th June**  
10 until 4  
**£55**  
Tutor:  
Iain Hodgkinson

### Printmaking

Learn how to create prints using two different methods. You will use the woodcuts on mixed media backgrounds and explore the technique of chine colle (Chinese collage) using Lino cuts and handmade papers. As with the other workshops, you will gain the skill to continue the techniques at home since a press is not required.

**Saturday**  
**9th July**  
10- 4  
**£45**  
Tutor:  
Eve Marshall

### Felted Landscapes

Those who came to our previous felting session know just how magical the felting process is. This time you will use the techniques of wet and needle felting to produce a beautiful landscape panel. You will leave with a picture approximately 12" x 12" and a wooden frame to set it off to advantage.

**Don't miss our new  
Come-and-learn-at-Stibbington  
Ukelele sessions for beginners on  
Saturday mornings, 21 & 28 May**



## Little Acorns

Our monthly activities morning for 3 to 5-year olds and their parent/carer continues on Thursday 14 April at 10 till midday. These friendly, informal sessions, offer a morning of engaging activities, including story, song and craft, all with an environmental theme, in the inspirational grounds of Stibbington Centre.

Nearly 3s are very welcome.

## Planning a special event/celebration/family gathering? Need a venue with overnight accommodation?

Stibbington Centre is available for hire at weekends and school holidays. With 13 separate hostel-style bedrooms, ranging from singles to bunk bedded rooms for four, the Centre can offer overnight accommodation for groups of up to 40. Exclusive use of all Centre facilities includes well equipped kitchens, dining room, TV lounge and craft room, as well as the Centre grounds with parking, garden, picnicking and play areas. The hire charge of £350 per night offers a cost effective solution for those in need of a local venue with overnight accommodation for that special occasion.

**Stibbington Centre tel: 01780 782386 Website: [www.cees.org.uk](http://www.cees.org.uk)**

**Email: [cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)**

**Community Classes: [www.facebook.com/stibbingtoncommunityclasses](http://www.facebook.com/stibbingtoncommunityclasses)**

**Weekend/holiday hire: [www.groupaccommodation.com/properties/stibbington-centre-peterborough-cambridgeshire](http://www.groupaccommodation.com/properties/stibbington-centre-peterborough-cambridgeshire)**

Independent *Estate Agents*

Experts in the sale of Town, Country and Equestrian property

01780 782 999

**NR**  
NORTON RICKETT

## Buying or Selling a Property ?

Visit our website for further information on all our properties, or call us if you would like to arrange a free market valuation of your home.



### Wansford Guide Price £595,000

A charming detached Grade II listed 3/4 bedroom cottage with good-sized store/workshop and garden. 2 Receptions, kitchen, utility, garden room. Library/bedroom 4, ground floor shower room. Principal bedroom with dressing room and en suite. 2 Further bedrooms, bathroom. Workshop/store. Energy rating exempt.

rightmove  
zoopla.co.uk

nortonrickett.co.uk  
Wittring Grange Cottage, Old Oundle Road, Wansford, PE8 6NR



Paul Norton



Nick Rickett

# Land Rover Sales & Service

Land Rover vehicle specialists since 1988, Nene Overland are one of the largest independent Land Rover companies in the UK. Dedication to our customers makes certain we always go that extra mile to help and give caring advice, ensuring peace of mind.



Telephone: 01733 380687  
Service: [service@neneoverland.co.uk](mailto:service@neneoverland.co.uk)  
Sales: [sales@neneoverland.co.uk](mailto:sales@neneoverland.co.uk)

Manor Farm, Peterborough Road, Ailsworth, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE5 7DL

  
**NENE OVERLAND**  
[www.neneoverland.co.uk](http://www.neneoverland.co.uk)

# effeljay

## Bespoke picture framing

Oils, watercolour, textiles, etc.  
Large or small.

Contact:

FELICITY THISTLETHWAITE

m: 07943 127979  
t: 01780 470275

e: [ftistlethwaite@  
rocketmail.com](mailto:ftistlethwaite@rocketmail.com)

As a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons accredited small animal veterinary hospital, every pet we see is guaranteed outstanding care

Are you looking for a **friendly** and **compassionate** team who are **truly dedicated** to looking after your pet's health?

*Here at the Youngs Veterinary Partnership that is exactly what you will find.*

- Small animal Veterinary Hospital - Dogsthorpe
- Yarwell Veterinary Surgery
- Luxury FAB Boarding Cattery
- 24-hour Emergency Service
- Home Visits
- Grooming Room

**YOUNGS**  
VETERINARY PARTNERSHIP

Tel 01733 310584  
Tel 01733 552932

[www.youngsveterinaryhospital.co.uk](http://www.youngsveterinaryhospital.co.uk)



## Not sure who to trust? Need a recommendation?

...see our recommended list, with local feedback

### The award-winning

[www.safelocaltrades.com](http://www.safelocaltrades.com)

is your trusted local website, providing you with a register of highly recommended tried and tested tradesmen in your area. All members are interviewed, criminal record checked, vetted and approved, have agreed to abide by a Service Charter and are monitored on an on-going basis, giving you complete peace of mind.

WINNER  
of  
Best New  
Business Idea  
2008



Our aim is to protect YOU from  
cowboy and rogue traders.

in association with ...



Cambridgeshire & Peterborough  
Distraction Burglary &  
Rogue Trader Task Force

Peterborough  
**ageUK**



Peterborough Neighbourhood  
and Home Watch  
Looking out for the community

Just go to ...

[www.safelocaltrades.com](http://www.safelocaltrades.com)  
or phone **01733 530019**

The safest way to source a local tradesman

## NATURE NOTES

By Graham Blagden

What an odd four months we have enjoyed. The mildest winter on record and it is not just the meteorologists telling us this as we can see it with our own eyes. On Christmas Day my quince (*Chaenomeles*) bush greeted me with a bud burst of glorious pink flowers; my winter flowering cherry was flowering for the second time, (it is flowering again as I write); and dwarf iris were in flower as if to tell their neighbouring budding snowdrops 'Come on you're late'.

We should have known it couldn't last. March 1st brought us a hail storm and we seem to have suffered with a cold north-easterly wind ever since. Interestingly this 'spring' will probably provide us with the longest period of flowering daffodils for many a year. Countless established plantings were well out in flower in early February but many more are still only just bursting through the soil, held back by the cold March ground.

The Nassington and Yarwell Garden Society has been planting daffodils along the road between the two villages for the last three years. It is easy to see where the first year planting began: the few hundred metres closer to Nassington are flowering well. Later plantings are only just bursting through. A clear sign that established plantings get going earlier - a similar habit of most plants. The daffodils that were planted at Wansford's roadsides a few years ago are also flowering well.



## A HOST OF GOLDEN DAFFODILS

The daffodils we grow in our gardens and roadsides are all cultivated varieties, bred mainly from our native daffodil, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, or Lenten Lily as some call it. There are a few other species of *Narcissus* such as *N. jonquilla*, the multi-headed Jonquil which can grace our gardens. The native daffodil is still found in Britain in shaded hedgerows and wet woodlands but is no longer present in well populated areas. It is, though, common in the Lake District, an area I often visit in April, and I enjoy its sensitive beauty in the valley woodlands and roadsides, often growing at quite a height on the fells. It can be recognised by its small yellow trumpet and much paler yellow outer petals. It stands not much more than 30 cm high; a more delicate plant than our bold and gaudy garden daffodil.

The flower gets its Latin name from the Greek fable about the handsome youth, *Narcissus*, who pined away because he fell in love with his 'beautiful' image reflected in a brook and realised that he could never see anyone else more perfect. The Gods were angry at his 'narcissicism' and when he died of unrequited love they marked the spot by the brook with a daffodil to remind the world of the dangers of such self-arrogance. In modern times our botanists chose the scientific name, *Narcissus*, for this lovely plant.

*graham.blagden@btinternet.com*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Rosie,

### **Elton Chapel Library**

For some months now Elton Chapel has had a well regarded library for the use of the community. Although most people who use the library are from Elton there have been 'book borrowers' from surrounding villages too ...and why not!

The library is a non-religious project with around 1800 books (all in first-class condition) along with DVDs and jigsaws, and is open from 10am to 12noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday morning of each month. The majority of books are novels, but there are also plenty of travel books, biographies, and more. You can borrow up to 4 items for 4 weeks at a time; just give your name and a contact number/address. The library is at the corner of Chapel Lane and Middle Street in the centre of the village.

**David Strowbridge**

I was fascinated by Rod Sortwell's most informative article 'Willows at Wansford' published in the March issue of *Living Villages (LV)*. I had no idea the recently planted willows represented the embryonic beginnings of a traditional, rural marginal wetlands industry.

The generous donor of those riverside fields, the late Eric Standen (1919 – 2012), undoubtedly would have greatly applauded this initiative. A tribute to the remarkable life of Eric Standen appeared in the December 2012 edition of *LV*. As a 'lest we forget' reminder of Eric's singular generosity in donating those valuable meadows, I think it highly appropriate to remind ourselves via a paragraph from that tribute:

"In recent years, Eric donated the 9½ acre field (now known as Standen's Pasture) situated on the opposite side of the road to Wansford Surgery to the Wildlife Trust. These and similar acts of remarkable generosity, some yet to be shared in the public domain and which include the bequest of a significant acreage of meadows abutting the river, were a key feature of Eric's character. It also exemplified his native English countryman's love for his natural environment and his resolute determination to do his bit to conserve a shrinking natural asset from speculative greed which, he fervently believed, has done so much to destroy the environmental and architectural integrity of our rural landscape and ancient villages."

The full tribute to Eric Standen's noteworthy life can be accessed on the Living Villages and the Wansford Village websites.

**David Stuart-Mogg**

***Castor and Ailsworth preschool are holding a Wine and Gin tasting fund-raising evening on Friday 22 April at Castor village hall.***

***Hosted by James Ingram wines it's a great opportunity to find a new tippie and raise funds for the preschool at the same time!***

***Tickets cost £15 and include a platter of cheeses, ham and breads.***

***For more info or to buy tickets tel 01733 380190 or email [june@castorpreschool.org.uk](mailto:june@castorpreschool.org.uk)***



**rosied@globalnet.co.uk**



*Last month's feature on the history of The Christie Hall has prompted further correspondence from David Brown, below, and further reflections on the past from Nan Alden, right, inspired by reference to Mothering Sunday. Nan may be pleased to know that Old Sulehay Forest is indeed still there, and it still has carpets of primroses and bluebells, though as it is now a nature reserve managed by the Wildlife Trust, the picking of flowers is no longer encouraged, even for Mothering Sunday!*

Rosie,

Following Nan Alden's letter (March Edition) 'Jimmy' was Mr James Harris who lived in the bungalow adjacent to his business empire, carried out in the worked out quarry at Stibbington.

He was the principal director of The Nene Barge & Lighter Company which operated in and produced minerals widely used for building and industrial processes.

The company also operated quarrying in the Kings Cliffe area for stone and sand aggregates. For a period of time stone was transported to a small quay on the River Nene, adjacent to Nene Valley Railway station, transferred to barges operated by the Company and used to reinforce the tidal section of the Nene down stream of the Dog & Doublet sluice at Peterborough.

I trust that the above will be of interest.

Yours sincerely, **David Brown**

(Not to be confused with Don Tebutt !)

PS As also featured in last month's magazine, I have contacted my cousin, Ivan Ward to update our lives.

Dear Rosie  
Nigel Hill, son of the founder of "Harpur's of Oundle" has very kindly agreed to do a talk about the history of Harpur's on Sat 21 May in Cotterstock village hall at 7.30p.m. to raise funds for the

refurbishment of our Church bells. Tickets are £8 including wine and canapés on arrival and they are available from "Harpur's of Oundle" at 5A West Street.  
Yours sincerely,  
**Dawn Davis**

Dear Rosie,

Just browsing through March issue of "Living Villages" and came across the services for "Mothering Sunday"! That was a big day in our calendar (not like today's "Mothers Day").

Before the war we would be invited by Mrs Dunkley to go to her wood up the Yarwell Road (entry by a lovely wooden house) to pick flowers for our mother on Mothering Sunday.

Armed with a wood chip basket and a ball of wool, I and my two sisters, Josie and Vera, would walk to the wood on a Saturday (from Stibbington), pick primroses, tie them in bunches and give them to our mother in church on Sunday! We never picked bluebells or anemones as they collapsed before we got home!  
Must look on Google to see if it is all still there!

**Nan Alden**

## DIARY DATES – APRIL 2016

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Contact	Phone	p
Fri 1	WI 3Cs — Coffee, Community and Craft	9.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Jean Yerbury	782510	13
Wed 6	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's meeting	10.30am	The Christie Hall, Wansford	Dora Baker	782519	9
Thur 7	Horticultural Society talk on cottage gardens	7.30pm	The Christie Hall, Wansford	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Mon 11	Wansford Parish Council meeting and AGM	7.30pm	Wansford Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	23
Tues 12	WI meeting with talk on Flag Fen	7.15pm	Wansford Community Hall	Jean Yerbury	782510	13
Wed 13	Communicare visit to Lincoln			Clare Wagstaffe	470437	13
Thur 14	Little Acorns for 3 to 5 year olds & parent/carer	10.00—midday	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Stibbington Centre	782386	32
Fri 15	WI 3Cs — Coffee, Community and Craft	9.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Jean Yerbury	782510	13
Fri 15	Communicare Social Group Coffee Morning	10.00am	Kings Cliffe Active Sports Hall			16
Sun 17	Community Class — Willow weaving	10.00—4.00pm	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Stibbington Centre	782386	32
Wed 20	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's meeting	10.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Thurs 21	Gardening topical tips for the season	12.30-1.30pm	Rose Landscapes	Rose Landscapes		39
Thurs 21	Birthday tea for the Queen's 90th	2.00—4.00pm	The Christie Hall, Wansford	Gill Fisher	782446	31
Fri 22	Wine and gin tasting evening		Castor Village Hall		01733 380190	36
MAY Wed 4	Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council & AGM	7.00pm	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Stibbington Centre	782386	27
Mon 9	Thornhaugh Parish Council meeting & AGM	7.00pm	St Andrew's church, Thornhaugh			25

**Copy deadline next month: Wednesday 20 April**

**[rosied@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:rosied@globalnet.co.uk)**

This magazine is available online at **[www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk](http://www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk)**

# Thinking of replacing your boiler?

## IT'S YOUR CALL

### Boiler Replacement & Breakdown Service

Free 10 year manufacturer's warranty on selected boilers  
(Terms & Conditions apply)

**HELPS  
YOU SAVE  
ON FUEL  
BILLS**



## PlumbCall

Plumbing & heating

Call us on: 01733 243 047

E: [advice@plumb-call.co.uk](mailto:advice@plumb-call.co.uk)

W: [www.plumb-call.co.uk](http://www.plumb-call.co.uk)



Gas Safe Register No.8494 LPG Registered



Anglian Water



## THE PATIO, PAVING & DECKING SUPERSTORE

[www.roselandscapes.co.uk](http://www.roselandscapes.co.uk)

Padholme Road East, Peterborough  
PE1 5XL (opp JTF)

## Garden Talks

Come along to our **FREE** monthly lunchtime talks about everything garden related.

Enjoy a complimentary cup of tea or coffee in store, while you listen to some of the UK's leading garden experts.

Book online: [roselandscapes.eventbrite.co.uk](http://roselandscapes.eventbrite.co.uk)

**PLACES ARE LIMITED,  
SO BOOK TODAY!**

**Thursday lunchtimes  
12:30 - 1:30pm**

- 21 Apr** Topical tips for the season
- 5 May** Gardening for wildlife
- 9 Jun** Garden history - Shakespeare's garden
- 7 Jul** Unexpected tales of plants and gardens



Registered  
Business



**OIL and Gas boiler servicing, fault diagnosis and repairs.**

**Heating system repairs, Installation and upgrades.  
LPG Gas, Fires, boilers and cookers**

8 Black Swan Spinney, Wansford    Tel : **01780 781778**

Email: [jo.childs@jc-heatingservices.co.uk](mailto:jo.childs@jc-heatingservices.co.uk)    Mob : **07729036942**

**[www.jc-heatingservices.co.uk](http://www.jc-heatingservices.co.uk)**

# HOMEWORX

**IMPROVEMENTS  
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS**

**INCLUDING:**

- Bathrooms
- Electrical and Plumbing Work
- Painting and Decorating
- Wall and Floor Tiling
- Decking and Patios
- Kitchens
- Partition Walls
- Telephone Extensions/TV Points
- General Woodwork
- CCTV Installation

ALL ASPECTS OF HOME IMPROVEMENTS FROM  
A TAP WASHER TO TOTAL RENOVATION



**FREEPHONE: 0800 292 2368 MOBILE: 07711 452227**  
**[www.home-worx.co.uk](http://www.home-worx.co.uk)**