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*December 2015*

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*Sutton, Wansford & Thornhaugh*

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# EDITORIAL

Readers will not be surprised to note that Christmas features prominently in our December magazine:

- Our front cover photo of crib and Christmas tree was taken at Stibbington church last December. This year visitors to the church will be greeted by not one but 5 trees, thanks to a competition organised by the Friends of Stibbington church (see p11). Full details of Christmas services in all our local churches, including Carols, Christingles, and Midnight Mass appear on pages 5, 9 and 11.
- Inspired by thoughts of those who work during the festive season, Martin Lewis' special report on p20 and 21 gives us an overview of the daunting logistics of a vicar's life at Christmas time.
- Many of our local organisations alert us to Christmas events to come during December, but the Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's held their Christmas Bazaar just in time for their report on a very successful event to be included in this month's magazine, see p9.

Looking ahead to January, distribution of next month's issue will be a little later than usual due to the Christmas break at our printers. We are expecting to take delivery of the magazine in time for distribution from Thursday 7 January, so events for early January are included in Diary Dates (see p38).

Also in January we look forward to welcoming Sue Kudlinski of Stibbington to our Editorial team. Sue has kindly offered to take over from interim Treasurer, Tracy Sortwell, starting with an overlap handover period.

*Rosie McDonnell*

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

**Editor:** Rosie McDonnell  
**Treasurer:** Tracy Sortwell  
**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  
 Younger Readers: Karina Chappell  
 Photographer: Charles Brown

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



# WORSHIP - DECEMBER 2015

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Service</b>
6 Dec	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Holy Communion
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
13 Dec	9.30 am	St Mary's, Wansford	Sung Holy Communion with choir
	6.00 pm	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Carols round the tree followed by mulled wine and mince pies
18 Dec	7.00 pm	St Remigius, Water Newton	Christmas Carol Service
20 Dec	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Holy Communion
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	St Mary's, Wansford	Community Carol Service, + mulled wine and mince pies
24 Dec	3.00 pm	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Christingle Service
	4.00 pm	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Crib Service
	11.00 pm	St Mary's, Wansford	Sung Communion
	11.30 pm	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Candlelit Midnight Mass
25 Dec	9.00 am	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Christmas Day Communion
	10.00 am	St Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Communion
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Christmas Day Communion
27 Dec	9.30 am	St Mary's, Wansford	Family Worship Service

*No service in Stibbington*

Wansford: Wednesdays, 10.00 am Morning Prayer



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**REFLECTIONS**  
**By Rev David Ridgeway**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO  
WAKE OUT OF SLEEP**

Most of us need an alarm clock if we are to wake up in time for whatever the day has in store. The alarm going off in the morning is not always a sound we wish to hear and many of us find it hard to respond when it goes off. We rouse ourselves just enough to hit the snooze button and give ourselves another five minutes of sleep.

On special days, however, we don't always need an alarm clock. We go to bed so aware of the next day's events that we wake up in good time without any prompting. What child needs to be woken up on Christmas Day? The expectation of presents to unwrap, and of so much fun to be had is all that is needed to ensure an early rising.

Other kinds of alarm alert us to danger. The burglar alarm makes us check the doors and windows; the smoke alarm causes us to check whether the toast is burning or if we need to dash out of the house. Pressing the snooze button in those circumstances could mean the difference between life and death.

In all these cases the alarm is heard and attended to, either gladly or grudgingly. But all of us are aware of those annoying burglar alarms which drone on with everyone ignoring them. If alarms are to be of any use, someone must be able to hear them and be prepared to respond.

By the time you read these words we will have begun the season of Advent. This is a time of preparation leading up to our celebration of Christmas. During Advent we reflect upon the various messages we read about in the bible alerting us to the coming of Christ.

Prophets such as Isaiah wrote about the dawning of the day of the Lord. John the Baptist preached in the wilderness urging people to prepare for the Lord's arrival. St. Paul compelled people to wake up because the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Many of the well know hymns which we sing during Advent pick up on these themes.

In many ways the messages we read in the bible are like alarm bells stirring us into action. It is all too tempting to ignore them and sleep on, but if we rouse ourselves into action and make sure that we are prepared both practically and spiritually then the festival of Christmas will have a deeper meaning and bring greater joy.

I wish you well for the season of Advent and pray that when Christmas comes you will be alert and ready to greet the Christ-child. A Happy and joyful Christmas to you all.



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

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO  
SUPPORTED OUR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**



It was a wonderful success. A lovely pre-Christmas atmosphere. So many beautiful stalls with gifts and tempting delicacies! A great Village Occasion. The Bazaar was opened by Capt. Kathleen Versveld, who has become a true friend over the years that we have been supporting our local Salvation Army Branch in Peterboro'. We were proud and delighted to be able to present her with a cheque for £700, which had been raised at our Harvest Lunch. This money will help to provide needy people in Peterboro' with a Christmas meal. The Friends had also made Christmas parcels for homeless men. These will be shared out at the Salvation Army's Christmas Party. It was such a happy afternoon. Thank you all for supporting us.

The Friends' next meeting will take place on 2 December at 10.30 in the Community Hall after Morning Prayer at St. Mary's at 10am. This will be our last meeting this year. But The Friends will of course help with decorating the churches for Christmas and serving refreshments at the Carol Service.

**THE FOOD BANK:** Please bring all donations to St. Mary's before 7 Dec.

There only remains to wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and peace and joy in 2016. *Dora Baker, Secretary*

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

As usual this year there are a number of special services over the Christmas period in Thornhaugh and Wansford churches.

On **Sunday 20 December** at Wansford at 6pm there will be the popular **Community Carol Service** of Nine Lessons and Carols. Lessons will be read by representatives of local organisations, and Wansford church choir will be singing some specially prepared items. Mince pies and mulled wine will follow.

On **Christmas Eve** there are two contrasting services. At 3pm we expect Thornhaugh church to be full of families with young children for the atmospheric **Christingle Service** when all the children will be presented with symbolic oranges. The 11pm **Midnight Mass** with communion and carols at St Mary's, Wansford, is a peaceful way to welcome Christmas and all that it represents.

Then on **Christmas Day** at 10am there is a **Communion Service** with Carols at St Andrew's, Thornhaugh.

All are invited to come along to Wansford Church, on **27 December** at 9.30am, and bring along their Christmas presents for a seasonal blessing. We will sing Carols, share community worship and enjoy refreshments after the service. It will be a joyful, fun occasion for young and old, as we give thanks for all we have received. So bring along your family, your children, Grannies, Grandads etc., and everyone will be made very welcome.

We hope that you will join us at these special services.

*Alan Jones, Churchwarden*

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## FRIENDS OF STIBBINGTON CHURCH

As a thank you to everyone in the community who has supported our events this year we are looking forward to offering mulled wine and mince pies after our "Christmas Carols around the Tree" service at 6pm on Sunday 13 December in Stibbington Church. The more, the merrier, and this year local groups are competing to decorate trees and win the Village Shield, so there will be plenty of wonderful decorations to see. If anyone can't make it and would like to view the trees, the Church will be open from 10am to 3pm on Thurs 10 to Sat 12 Dec.

A Christmas night out for the committee is also planned in early December to get the festive season off to a good start!

*Helen Facer*

### 101 Draw

The winner of the 101 draw this month is Mr Robert Dalgliesh. Well done, and your cheque is on it's way.

*Suzu Story*

## FRIENDS OF ST REMIGIUS WATER NEWTON

Our Annual Christmas Carol Service will be held on Friday 18 December at 7pm. Following the service, we will be serving mulled cider and wine, mince pies and other seasonal delights. This is a wonderful time of the year and we welcome all to come along to both the carol service and the 'after the carols' fellowship.

Whilst we enjoy our wine and food, we will be able to give an update on our fundraising efforts and share our vision for the future of our lovely church. We would also welcome your input and suggestions for fundraising and social events.

In the New Year, we will be holding an 'Epiphanytide' Sunday Service on 10th January at 6pm, again followed by great fellowship to include a hot supper in the church. The service will be led by our new priest - David Ridgeway. We plan to heat up the church so we'll all be warm as toast. A small donation will be requested to cover the cost of the supper. All are invited, so please come along, meet David and enjoy 'legendary' Water Newton fellowship.

*Tony Capon*



**DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**please do pop into church to view and vote**

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- wansford horticultural and crafts society
- Friends of stibbington church
- stibbington enviroment centre

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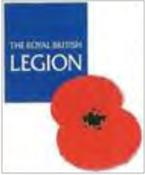
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## BLACK MARKET TOMBOLA – A HUGE THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for all their very generous donations given for our Black Market Tombola. This was held as part of the Home Front Festival at the Stibbington Centre. We raised over £100 for The Poppy Appeal. THANK YOU

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: Please VOTE Royal British Legion!

The Royal British Legion will be decorating a Christmas tree as part of the Christmas Tree Festival. This will be held in Stibbington Church from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December. The Carol Concert will start at 6.00pm; see page 11. We hope that our tree, which will feature poppies, and the names of all our fallen handwritten on to gold baubles, will be a commemoration of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Visitors will be able to vote for their favourite tree. We hope we can count on your support – thank you.

## RUMOURS ABOUT THE CHRISTIE HALL

We are aware that there a number of rumours circulating round the villages about the future of The Christie Hall. There is no truth in any of the rumours. The Hall is NOT closing, it has NOT been sold etc. The fact is that the Christie Hall Management Committee is currently in negotiations with HQ RBL to extend the lease for another 10 years. That will mean that The Christie Hall will be 'business as usual' until at least February 2026. We would be grateful if you will ensure that this information reaches the widest possible audience. Thank you. For further details contact **Sue Arnold** on **01780 782200**.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/Stibbington](http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/Stibbington)

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## WANSFORD HORTICULTURAL & CRAFTS SOCIETY

The Christine Walkden talk "The Life and Times of a Gardener" on 5 November was a great success with 130 people attending. Christine was certainly a very different speaker from our previous celebrity gardeners as she used no illustrations – no PowerPoint presentation – and she scarcely mentioned a plant throughout her talk! She did however give a fascinating account of the struggle and single minded determination it took a Lancashire lass to come to the forefront of horticulture, confronting all the prejudices against women in gardening in the nineteen seventies and eighties in order to get the training and experience she so craved. The story of her progress from being a child living in a back-to-back, growing cress and carrot tops on her bedroom window sill, to filling their backyard with containers, then looking after her neighbours' tiny front gardens (she ended up at the age of 11 caring for 53 of them and being paid for it!) to recently winning a top TV award, was impressive. Her passion for plants shone through everything she said and was infectious to all those listening to her – no need for anything pretentious.



We end the year with our A.G.M. and Christmas Party which will take place at 7 p.m. on Saturday 5 December in the Christie Hall. As I write, numbers of members wishing to attend are approaching the maximum but do please get in touch if you had hoped to join us and have not yet reserved a place, as we may still be able to accommodate you. We will be revealing our plans for speakers and visits in 2016 including a return to the R.H.S. Garden at Harlow Carr, this time combined with a visit to a nearby attraction and a further coach trip to Helmingham Hall and Ickworth Hall in Suffolk. Watch this space!

As always, a reminder that membership of the society is only £2.50 per annum and is not restricted to those living in Wansford. (We have active members as far away as Leighton Buzzed!)

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



# COMMUNICARE

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

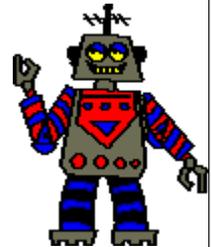
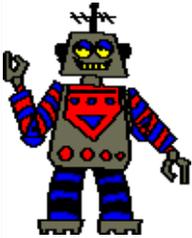


The next meeting will be held on  
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at  
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## DO YOU WANT TO GAIN CONFIDENCE WITH FIRST AID?

Two new sessions for the community at Stibbington Centre are designed to increase your awareness and ability to help an injured child or adult. Accredited first aid trainer Stephen Everett will lead the sessions on Saturday 30 January. Places at £15 per session should be booked on 01780 782386.

### **9.00—10.30 First Aid for Babies and Children**

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***Kate Hopkins***

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# STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD WI



Our members' meeting in November was well attended and was followed by the AGM. The president, Jean Yerbury, in her report reflected on the theme of 'inspirational women' – not just those in public life, but all those who devoted their efforts and abilities to their families and communities. She also cited those in emerging countries whose lives were hard and unrewarding, but where inspiration was making a difference to large numbers of women, helping them to achieve personal ambitions and consolidate change.

Wendy Spencer stepped down from her role as minute secretary (and, following this report, as contributor of future WI news to this magazine) due to other commitments and was thanked for her work over the past year. All other members of the committee were re-elected and were joined by new member, Jan Armitage. Jean agreed to continue in her position as president for the next year and other officials will be appointed at the next committee meeting. It was acknowledged that urgent consideration must now be given to the promotion of the institute by means of social media, and the committee will be looking into this matter in the coming months.

## Reminders:

The next members' meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 December in the Community Hall at 7.15pm when we will be welcoming a representative from Samaritans Purse UK who will give a presentation on 'Operation Christmas Child – The Shoe Box Campaign'. Samaritan's Purse is an international relief and development organisation that works amongst communities in need in countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia and arranges for specially packed boxes to be distributed to children in these areas at Christmas time. It is hoped that members will then be able to donate their own contributions in 2016.

The Xmas Lunch will be held on Saturday 12th December 12.30 for 1.00pm at The Red Lion, Warmington.

*Wendy Spencer*

---

## THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY

The winners of the **November 2015** draw are listed here.

Many thanks to **Steve Kruger** of **SPK Digital, Thornhaugh** for drawing the tickets.

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## SPECIAL REPORT by Martin Lewis

# WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A VICAR AT CHRISTMAS?

At this time of year my thoughts often drift to those people who have a Christmas that is very different to my own - people who have to work through the festive period. Workers out on the oil rigs, doctors and nurses, the police and firefighters, the folks that keep the electricity and water supplies going and of course members of the clergy, all of whom provide vital services and support to us at Christmas.

The Rev David Ridgeway began his new role amongst us on Advent Sunday this year (29th November), moving up from his last parish in St Albans; he wrote an introduction about himself in last month's edition of Living Villages. David, as he prefers to be called, is the new vicar for the recently created United Benefice of Castor, which includes the churches in Water Newton, Stibbington and Sutton (as well as Castor, Marholm and Upton). He kindly agreed to talk to me back in mid November, amongst the half unpacked boxes of his possessions in The Rectory at Castor, about what his life is like at Christmas time.

Whilst it is a very busy period, David insists it is overwhelmingly fun and enjoyable, but very different from any other time of year. There will probably be lots of lunches and dinners to fit in before the big day. And David wonders if the materialistic side of Christmas has become rather too important to many of us. The emphasis seems to be on the build up to Christmas: the decorations, buying and wrapping of presents, cooking, parties and so on are all great fun, but it can mean that Christmas Day is almost an anti climax. But actually for

a Christian it's all about Christmas Day; the celebration of the birth of Christ.

As David put it, "The twelve days of Christmas do not start until Christmas Day."

David sees it as part of his job to keep telling the story of the Nativity throughout the Christmas period, to remind everyone of why we celebrate.

The logistics of Christmas can be quite daunting, though. In the 24 hours before lunchtime on Christmas Day, David expects he will have presided over at least six Church services. The last service on Christmas Eve probably won't end until 1.00am and the first service Christmas Day will start at 8.00am. And of course there are all the wonderful Carol Services in each parish in addition to the usual Church services that take place as normal during Advent.

It's the planning of everything that can be very time consuming. Advent wreaths need to be ordered, Christmas trees have to be bought, services must be planned - readings, hymns, prayers, music, choirs, decoration of the Church. David is very quick to point out he cannot possibly do everything himself - it's a team game. He is ably assisted by other Priests, a Lay Reader, Church Wardens, Volunteers, Organists and Choirmasters and an Administrator. "It's a real family", he explained, "it's not hierarchical, but the Vicar should provide some guidance and try to accommodate the needs and preferences of all parishioners as far as



*Above, St Kyneburgha's Parish Church, Castor and the Rev David Ridgeway, the new vicar for Stibbington, Sutton and Water Newton*

possible. Some people prefer traditional services and others a more modern approach"

Sadly, the general excitement of Christmas just serves to make some people feel more lonely, especially the sick and elderly. David provides Communion for those who are housebound or in hospital and gives comfort to those who feel isolated and dejected.

David is particularly keen to work with young people, and is delighted that he has been appointed a Governor of Castor Church of England Primary School. In the weeks before Christmas he expects he will attend several school events with the children; Nativity plays are always a joy to watch.

"It's wonderful working with children because they involve their parents, and Church events then become much more about families, and families are central to the Christmas story", David pointed out. He expects that there will be other Church groups he will be able to get

involved with in his new job, all with their own Christmas festivities. For example, in St Albans there was a very active Church toddlers group that he supported.

People sometimes take advantage of the fact that all the family are together at Christmas time and arrange a baptism or wedding. Usually these take place in the days after Christmas and David is happy to accommodate them if at all possible.

If all this does not sound busy enough, Vicars have to be very aware of the day of the week Christmas Day falls on. After all those services to preside over, if Christmas Day falls on a Saturday, the very next day is . . . a Sunday!

*Rev David Ridgeway spoke to me at his new home in Castor before his official appointment, and before he was fully aware of the details of his new role. I'm indebted to him.*



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## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

I attended the City Council Planning Committee at the end of October to voice our objections to the proposal that the old **Little Chef** building should become a Ducati motorcycle dealership on the ground floor, with a workshop to be built in front. The Parish Council opposed the plan because we were concerned at the noise that would be generated both by work in the workshop and motorcyclists visiting the site. I also stressed how the dangerous the junction between the A1 and Peterborough road is. The elected members of the Planning Committee voted unanimously to accept the planning proposal.

At our November meeting we discussed our use of a speed gun to monitor the speeds of vehicles within the village. Mr Brian Robins, the Coordinator of **Speedwatch**, explained that in Cambridgeshire we were advised not to use equipment other than a Speed Indicator Display, to avoid the possibility of confrontation with drivers who objected to having the speed gun aimed at their vehicles. We reported that the only reaction we have had so far has been approval of our attempts to assess the situation, with a view to implementing some means of reducing the speeding of cars in the village.

Emily Gutteridge, **Outreach Worker** for the Peterborough and Fenland Office of the Cambridge Police and Crime Commissioner, also came to the meeting to introduce herself and her role. She is in the front line for meeting people and getting feedback about issues affecting the community

and is keen to attend any events where this might be possible.

From time to time we are in receipt of sums of money to be used for projects for the **enhancement of our village**. We would welcome any suggestions which you could forward to our clerk at [wendy7wansford@gmail.com](mailto:wendy7wansford@gmail.com). One improvement we would welcome, would be for residents to cut back any trees or hedges that overhang or obstruct pathways or street lights. Trees have grown during the summer and now hang low, especially in wet weather.

The Parish Council recently received a notification from Peterborough City Council (PCC) that the **Wansford and Thornhaugh War Memorial** has been included in a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and is therefore officially protected.



PCC have also asked us to pass on the following: **Save Money by Switching to Peterborough Energy** - Peterborough Energy is the new local initiative set up by Peterborough City Council in conjunction with award winning energy supplier OVO Energy. They aim to offer a no-nonsense, competitively priced energy service to residents in the city. Over 800 local residents have already made the switch with an average saving of £230. To find out how much you can save visit [www.peterboroughenergy.co.uk](http://www.peterboroughenergy.co.uk) or call 0800 408 6706 (pay monthly customers) or 0800 408 6710 (pay as you go). *Continued*

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*Waansford Parish Council continued*

We have also been informed by Superintendent Melanie Dales of Cambridgeshire Constabulary that **Cambridgeshire police** have been fortunate in that the cuts they have made with regard to balancing the budget, have not affected front line officers at PC and PCSO level. Instead they have collaborated with other forces to make savings and in addition have significantly reduced management numbers. She is also implementing changes to the structure of Policing within

Peterborough to improve efficiency.

Peter Tebb, the Network and Traffic Manager for Peterborough Highway Services, Growth and Regeneration Directorate, has agreed to meet up with us for **a walk round the village** at the end of November so that we can draw his attention to various issues.

Our next meeting is in the Community Hall at 7:30 on Monday, 14 December and you are very welcome to come along and participate in our discussions.

**Tim Pearson, Chairman**

## **SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Environment Centre, Stibbington on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

All Cllrs and one member of the public were present.

Sign on entrance to village – Parish Clerk to contact highways again, Parish Council agreed to pay for sign.

Lighting Bridge End – established reason taken so long to repair, Balfour Beatty had not received contract from CCC, they have now. PC2 outside Barnaby House not working to be reported.

Report from External Auditor on 2014/2015 accounts – “on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met”.

Precept 2016-2017: Draft Budget was approved. It was further agreed that the Precept for 2016-2017 should remain the same as last year £11,000.

15/01601/FUL – Demolition of existing dwelling/guesthouse and erection of replacement dwelling at Stoneacre, Elton Road, Wansford, PE8 6JT – no objections raised.

15/01755/FUL – Erection of replacement dwelling at 95 Elton Road, Stibbington PE8 6JX – no objections raised.

White Fence on Elton Road – Parish Council noted.

Trees – Chapel Court (trees planted by person who owns land).

Drains – Letter sent to District Cllr Mathews and County Cllr McGuire.

Dog Bin on Bridge – it was agreed that this would be included as an agenda item at January meeting to enable the PC to explore further options.

Date of next meeting: Wed 6 January, 7.00 p.m. **Wendy Gray, Parish Clerk**

# LD



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# THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Third Meeting of the 2015/16 Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015. It was chaired by Brian Watts, present were Liam Higgins, Ashleigh Kewney and Louise Molesworth, and in attendance was the Clerk. There were apologies for absence from John Holdich and Diane Lamb.

The recent death of William Rogers, past Chairman, was noted with great sadness and the Parish Councillors acknowledged his hard work and outstanding commitment to the village. It was agreed to put up a small plaque stating "Bill's Bench" on the first bench that he helped to install on the footpath in his memory. It was agreed that the remaining money raised from the Barbeque and Quiz Night will be donated to the fund being set up in his memory for projects within the village.

**Police Matters** There were no police representatives present. The police had sent a report stating that there had been two reported crimes in the village since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015:- on 9<sup>th</sup> November – making off without payment from service station on Leicester Road and on 15<sup>th</sup> November - rowdy behaviour (quad bikes and off road bikes) at the quarry site on Leicester Road. The police were able to attend around an hour later than reported (reported 1.30pm) but there was no-one on site. The caller had stated that a lorry with bikes regularly attends most weekends – any details if this vehicle if seen would be useful including a registration number. The Clerk will write to Mr M George to check whether he has given permission for people to ride quad bikes and off road bikes in the quarry.

**Home Farm Matters** It was noted that the Dog Foul Bin has not yet been delivered because it is out of stock at the suppliers. It was agreed to strengthen the notice-board post fitting as it is in poor condition.

**Grit Bin** It was noted that the new Grit Bin has been installed opposite St Andrew's Church.

**A1 Footpath** The Highways Division had not yet clarified whether the A1 Footpath from Wansford to Carpenter's Lodge was a designated cycle route. Brian Watts will mention this when he completes the Footpath Questionnaire sent out by Peterborough City Council

**Parish Councillor Vacancy and Chairman Vacancy** The Clerk had contacted Peterborough City Council who had produced the necessary formal notice of the Parish Councillor vacancy which will be put up on the village notice-boards. If an election is not requested by a minimum of 10 residents, the Parish Council will be able to co-opt a Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy. The Clerk will also put up a notice asking for anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to contact her. It was agreed to discuss the Chairman vacancy at the next meeting when, hopefully, the new Parish Councillor will have been appointed.

*Continued on p29*

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Thornhaugh Parish Council continued

**Dates for Meetings in 2016** It was agreed that the dates for meetings next year will be as follows:- 11 January, 14 March, 9 May, 11 July, 12 September and 14 November 2016.

**Christie Hall** Brian Watts reported that the Christie Hall Lease is due for renewal shortly. Apparently, there have been rumours that the RBL are considering selling the Christie Hall and the surrounding land. The Parish Councillors were concerned to hear this because the Christie Hall is a well used facility for people of all ages in the area. (*Editor's note: see p13*)

**Finance** If any resident has any ideas of items that can be purchased to enhance the village, please contact the Clerk or a Parish Councillor?

**RAF Wittering Christmas Meal** It was noted that RAF Wittering are organising a Christmas Meal for Senior Citizens of the village on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015. There are six places for residents of Thornhaugh.

**Access into Thornhaugh from the A47** A resident had raised concerns about the poor signage at the potentially dangerous right hand turn from the A47 (towards Leicester) into the village. The Clerk will contact the Highways Division to see if coloured cats' eyes/signage stating "Caution – Queue Ahead" could be installed. She will also request a site visit to discuss this issue with Parish Councillors.

**Date of Next Meeting** The Fourth Meeting of the 2015/ 2016 Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 11th January in St Andrew's Church.

**Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk**



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## YOUNGER READERS' BLOG

By Karina Chappell (12)

## "REMEMBERING THE FALLEN"

I don't know if you know or not, but I am a sea cadet, I joined two years ago and I was going every Friday to the unit in Peterborough. I recently got promoted to a regular cadet and got a uniform and I love it. I now go most Tuesdays and Fridays.

We do a variety of things such as rowing, marching and knot tying. We also have opportunities to learn new skills such as cooking, first aid, health and safety and receive badges and certificates. There are also weekend training courses, charity events and group parties during the year.

But at the weekend of Remembrance Sunday this year we did a special parade through Peterborough town centre to the cathedral. They held a ceremony for all the people who died in all the wars, from World War 1 to this very day. It was a moving service and you could really empathise with the loved ones of the soldiers that fought in wars across the world and those who survived, remembering their fallen comrades.

After the parade we went back to the unit and had a traditional bread and soup. But it didn't end there, a smaller number of us, were asked to attend another ceremonial march in Yaxley too. Finishing the day with food and drinks in the British Legion Club. I felt honoured and it was a good experience even though it was a bit cold and I was very tired.

I hope they all rest in peace. Thank you for reading.

---

## REMEMBERING THE 1940S AT HOME FRONT FESTIVAL

Thank you to those who braved the elements to join us at our Home Front Festival at Stibbington Centre on the Saturday of Remembrance weekend. The relentless rain and wild winds that continued until well into the afternoon kept many away, but those who did attend agreed that the stay-at-homes had missed a treat.

Special congratulations to those local residents who won top awards in our Great Wartime Bake-off competition: First and second prizes for chocolate cake went to Caroline Ashley and Claudine Garner, and first and second for biscuits to Deb Laurie and Eddie McDonnell. Barely recognisable in their 1940s outfits, the photo, courtesy of Charlie Brown, shows judges, Lesley Williams, Stibbington Centre's Catering Manager, and Sue Arnold from RBL, embarking on their challenging task.



**Rosie Edwards**

# Stibbington Community Classes

## Learn a new skill in the old school ~Springtime Sessions

**Saturday**  
**30th January**  
2 until 5

**£30**

### **Japanese Notebooks** with Andrea Togher

Learn how to make simple notebooks using different Japanese stitching techniques to create unusual spines. These books could display your favourite poem, a story in separate chapters, sketches, ideas or to do lists!



**Saturday**  
**27 February**

**Silver**

9:30 until 1

**£55**

or

**Copper/bronze**

2:00 until 5:30

**£35**

**Both classes £80**

### **Metal Clay** with Vanessa Peck

This novel material comprises very small particles of precious metals mixed with an organic binder and water. Once moulded or shaped it is dried and fired to leave the pure metal remaining at 99.9% - the silver product is of sufficient quality to hallmark!

In these workshops you will learn all the basic skills necessary to continue to successfully work with the metal clay you choose, making a pendant and charms. The techniques required are slightly different so you can choose between the morning or afternoon class or even take both workshops and benefit from a discounted price.



**Saturday**  
**12th March**  
10 until 4

**£70**

### **Printmaking** with Iain Hodgkinson

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.



**Sunday**  
**17th April**  
10 until 4

**£55**

### **Willow Weaving** with Sue Kirk

A workshop focussing on items for the garden, timed nicely for when you start planting out annuals and preparing to prop up your perennials! You will make an obelisk in the morning and in the afternoon either try a different design or choose between a support for shorter herbaceous plants and lanterns. There may be time to start a third object.



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## NATURE NOTES

By Graham Blagden

## LONG LIVE LATIN

I am going to begin this month with a short explanation of the scientific naming, or nomenclature, of our wild animals and plants. You will understand why later.

Centuries ago, when human communication over long distances and between nations and even continents was pretty non-existent, the people of individual countries had their own names for their local animals and plants. As travel and communications improved people realised that there was a great deal of confusion over these names with apparently similar plants and animals being called all sorts of alternative names and, worse, in different languages.

In the eighteenth century a Swedish botanist, Karl von Linne, proposed a more scientific classification of all organisms, comprising two names, not unlike our own forename and a surname. The difference was that these names were in Latin. This worked very well and was adopted by the biological science community as the Linnaean classification and has been used throughout the world ever since.

The first part was the genus, grouping a number of similar organisms together. The second was the species which described each individual organism. You will have heard the name for Man: *Homo sapiens*. The genus *Homo* refers to the upright walking people and *sapiens* is the specific name for us. Some of our ancestors belonged to other species such as *Homo australopithecenes* with a notably smaller head and brain.

In 2011 scientists had identified over 8.6 million distinct species, all with different names. No two organisms are named the same. Many specific names are the same, i.e. 'major', meaning large or 'vulgaris' meaning common, but always with a different generic name.

However I want now to comment on two of our common countryside species, the Hedge Sparrow, or Dunnock, and the wildflower, Selfheal: The first is a common bird of our gardens often seen skulking around beneath shrubs and braving the edges of lawns. It is another of those little brown birds but has patches of grey on its head and breast and has a much thinner bill than the more common House Sparrow. Selfheal is an attractive wildflower found at the base of hedgerows and is also a weed in lawns. It spreads across the ground and sends up purple flower spikes to about 150mm. The hedge sparrow will no doubt hop about near the plant.

The point of interest here is that both have the same generic name: *Prunella*. *Prunella modularis* for the hedge sparrow and *Prunella vulgaris* for Selfheal. The names were no doubt originated by botanists and ornithologists in ignorance of each other but have been left the same as long as the specific names remain different.

I wonder how many other generic names cross the animal/plant divide. Even if you have no interest in the subject it would make an interesting Trivial Pursuit question at Christmas!



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Rosie

I was recently looking at some competition entries of wildlife photographs in a national newspaper and the thought struck me that Charlie Brown's amazing photo of the wasp at the water's edge (November LV cover) was as good, or even better, than some of the published photos. Despite having a wasp phobia and having no pretences of being a competent photographer myself, I am mesmerised by this picture with the close up detail showing such technical mastery and urge him to submit it to a photographic competition or exhibition where I'm pretty sure it would be met with critical acclaim.

Well done Charlie!

Kind regards, Viv Thorley

Dear readers

I am a member of PODs – Peterborough Operatic and Dramatic Society, a local charity who stage award-winning musicals and plays at both the Cresset and Key Theatre.

For many years we have been storing our sets and props in a decommissioned chicken shed in the depths of Lincolnshire. Unfortunately we have been asked to vacate the building asap. We are therefore in urgent need to find either a similar type of building or some space on a large property or farm where we could place a container. The absolute minimum space we need is 4 x15 metres. If you think you could help us, or know someone who might, please contact me.

Many thanks,

Tracy Sortwell, PODs Secretary

[peterborough-operatic@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterborough-operatic@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Safe Local Trades — Raising funds for Age UK**

Team 'Safe Local Trades' has raised over £6,000 for Age UK Peterborough - a total of over £31,000 since 2009! Each year, Peterborough-based Safe Local Trades organise fund-raising events for their chosen charity, Age UK Peterborough. This year, they had volunteers getting muddy and wet in the Insane Terrain obstacle course; some hauled themselves out of a plane at 13,000 feet; and many others kept their feet firmly on the ground by taking part in the Great Eastern Run. All events were an overall success and the organiser, Eileen Le Voi, owner of Safe Local Trades, said "we would like to thank each and every volunteer who took part, and to everyone who sponsored them in their events, all of which helped to raise an amazing £6,045 for this very worthy local charity". David Bache, Chief Executive of Age UK Peterborough, said "once again Eileen and her team of dedicated volunteers have exceeded our expectations by presenting us with this huge cheque. £6,045 is a huge sum of money and will help us to make a big difference to the quality of life for many older people in Peterborough. On behalf of the Age UK Peterborough team, I pass on our most sincere thanks to Eileen and everyone who took part in the events." [www.safelocaltrades.com](http://www.safelocaltrades.com) provides free access to highly recommended, vetted and approved local tradesmen. Tel: 0800 014 1832



**Thornhaugh book club grows up!**

Thornhaugh book club has been in existence for about 12 years. We meet six-weekly and use it as a social gathering of mostly local ladies (approx. 12). We choose two books and after eating and drinking, we discuss the books. To be honest, we do more chatting and drinking than serious discussion. However, this month we grew up! Six weeks ago one of the books we chose was "The Rector of Pepynbridge" by Peter Morrell. Peter is our local priest who ministers in various local churches.

We invited Peter to a book club meeting, as our guest author, along with his wife Mary. The meeting was hosted on November 12 by Karen Rutter, most appropriately in The Rectory, Thornhaugh. It really was the perfect setting. It was equally lovely to hear about Peter's background. He was interested to hear how we found the characters and we had plenty of opportunity to ask lots of questions. The book is loosely based on Nassington and Peterborough, so it makes the book even more interesting to us as locals. I spent a lot of time trying to work out who the characters might be based on!

It certainly wasn't all about flower arranging and quiet Sunday services! The front cover and title can be very misleading. The book covers some challenging topics and is a real page turner full of lust, love, anger and revenge all in the framework of local village life. The characters are very real, and complex, and one feels you might meet them out and about in the local environs.

The subject matter stimulated some interesting conversation and brought home how the law has changed considerably in the last few years, and how this change could easily destroy someone's life. I can't give any more details as it will spoil your read!

I would recommend buying this book, which is easy and enjoyable to read.

Finally, Peter introduced us to his most recent book "The Islamist of Pepynbridge", which has just been published (see right). This is also set in the same village, but covers another hot topic. We bought signed copies and we will now have to invite him back for our next meeting!

Nikki Higgins

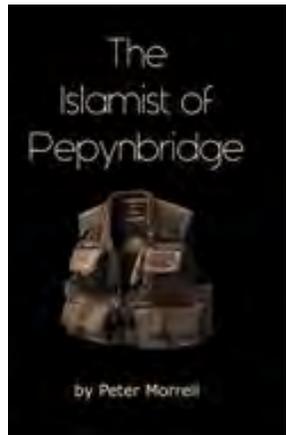
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## DIARY DATES – DECEMBER 2015

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Contact	Phone	p
Wed 2	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's meeting	10.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Wed 2	Communicare "meet the robot" meeting	12.30pm	Wansford Surgery	Wansford Surgery	782342	16
Sat 5	Horticultural Society AGM & Christmas Party	7.00pm	The Christie Hall, Wansford	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Sat 5	Wreath making workshop	7.30pm	Nassington Village Hall	Rebecca Downey	782465	
Sun 6	Re-purposed Paper Craft workshop	1.00pm	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Stibbington Centre	782386	
Mon 7	Deadline for Christmas donations to Food Bank		St Mary's church, Wansford	Dora Baker	782519	9
Tue 8	WI meeting: Samaritans	7.15pm	Wansford Community Hall	Jean Yerbury	782510	18
Thur 10	Little Acorns	10—12	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Stibbington Centre	782386	
Sat 12	WI Christmas lunch	12.30pm	The Red Lion, Warmington	Jean Yerbury	782510	18
Sun 13	Carols around the Christmas Tree Service	6.00pm	St John the Baptist church, Stibbington	Church-wardens		5, 11
Mon 14	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Wansford Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	23
Fri 18	Christmas Carol Service	7.00pm	St Remigius church Water Newton	Tony Capon	01733 237500	5, 11
Sun 20	Community Carol Service	6.00pm	St Mary's church, Wansford	Church-wardens		5, 9
Thur 24	Christingle Service	3.00pm	St Andrew's church, Thornhaugh	Church-wardens		5, 9
Thu 24	Midnight Mass	11.00pm	St Mary's church, Wansford	Church-wardens		5, 9
JAN 6	Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council meeting	7.00pm	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	25
Sun 10	Epiphanytide Service and Supper	6.00pm	St Remigius church Water Newton	Tony Capon	01733 237500	5, 11
Mon 11	Thornhaugh Parish Council meeting	7.00pm	St Andrew's church, Thornhaugh	Deirdre McCumiskey		27
Tue 12	WEA agriculture course begins	2.00pm	Nassington Village Hall	Sue	782747	27

**Copy deadline next month: Sunday 20 December**  
**rosied@globalnet.co.uk**

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