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# EDITORIAL

At the time of writing our local landscape is not as white as that featured on the front cover, but who knows what January's weather has in store for us? Probably not even the meteorologists. Thank you to Rod Sortwell for sending the photo of Wansford bridge during a snowy January past.

This month's magazine is packed with reports on the many events of the Christmas season, including accompanying photos in several cases. To enjoy the photos in full colour (and enlarged if you wish), simply visit www.liivingvillagesmagazine.co.uk, where Sharron Tonkin of Little Mouse Web Design (see p6) kindly uploads our magazine every month.

Interest in local history continues, with more follow-up to the articles that appeared in November and December's magazines on the former Little Chef site: David Stuart-Mogg provides more background information on pages 20 and 21, and postal subscriber Nan Alden writes of her memories of the New Mermaid Inn on page 36.

It is perhaps a sad reflection on our times that the Letters pages also include two separate contributions on aspects of anti-social behaviour. On a more positive note, at least the good news stories, community events and charitable works dominate the majority of pages in this magazine.

On behalf of the editorial team it remains for me to wish all our readers a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2015.

***Rosie McDonnell***

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Rev Michael Matthews
Local History: David Stuart-Mogg
Nature Notes: Graham Blagden
Health & Fitness: Dan Whiter
Younger Readers: Karina Chappell

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## Parish Councils

| | | |
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| 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

**Ministers:** Thornhaugh & Wansford Rev Michael Matthews 01780 782271
frmichaelmatthews@btinternet.com
Stibbington & Water Newton Canon William Burke 01733 380244
wburke@btinternet.com or Parish Office, admin.castor@btconnect.com

**Churchwardens:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| St Andrew's Thornhaugh: | Stuart Foreman | 01780 783220 |
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**Friends:**

| | | |
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| St Mary's & St Andrew's | Dora Baker | 01780 782519 |
| St John the Baptist | Helen Facer | 01780 782932 |
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## Other useful contacts

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

# WORSHIP JANUARY 2015

| Date | Time | Location | Service |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 Jan | 9.30 am | St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh | Holy Communion |
| | 10.15 am | St. Kyneburgha, Castor | Holy Communion |
| | 4.00 pm | St Mary's, Wansford | New Year Family Service |
| | 6.00 pm | St Remigius, Water Newton | Epiphany Service followed by supper |
| 11 Jan | 9.00 am | St. John the Baptist, Stibbington | Morning Worship |
| | 9.30 am | St. Mary's, Wansford | Holy Communion (with choir) |
| 18 Jan | 9.30 am | St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh | Holy Communion |
| | 10.15 am | St. Kyneburgha, Castor | Holy Communion |
| 25 Jan | 9.30 am | St. Mary's, Wansford | Morning Payer |
| | 6.00 pm | St. John the Baptist, Stibbington | Holy Communion followed by wine and shortbread |

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**REFLECTIONS**
**By Canon William Burke**

# EVEN UNTO BETHLEHEM

New Year's Day has not always been the 1st of January in England. While most countries in Western Europe recognized 1st January as New Year's Day even before they adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1582, in England New Year's Day was always the 25th March, this being the Feast of the Annunciation otherwise known as Lady Day, named thus after the Virgin Mary. The 25th March (being nine months before Christmas Day) was traditionally the day when the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to be the Mother of Jesus. England only adopted 1st January as the start of the New Year in 1752 when England finally came into step with the rest of Europe and also adopted the Gregorian Calendar. Not only did we count our years from 25th March to 25th March, meaning that for the first three months of the year England was still in the previous years as far as Europe was concerned; we were also 11 days behind Europe since Pope Gregory in 1582 introduced the Leap Year to ensure that every four years the year and the earth's orbit round the Sun was re-synchronized. So in England until 1752, the 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation to Mary was not only New Year's Day but also Budget Day when all accounts were rendered and it was a quarter day for paying rents. Budget Day was changed in 1752 when 11 days were added to the date, hence the reason Budget Day is traditionally still 6th April today

You may understandably say "so what?" But for me the fact that England reckoned the years from Lady Day to Lady Day also indicates something of England's traditional veneration of Our Lady Mary the Mother of Jesus. Devotion to Mary used to be so wide spread in England that this country acquired the soubriquet "Our Lady's Dowry". This title was widely used throughout Europe to describe England in the medieval period, as devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary in England was particularly strong. It was believed that England belonged in some special way to Mary, who was seen as the country's special intercessor". The late 14th century famous painting called the Wilton Diptych shows the hapless Richard II kneeling before Mary holding the infant Jesus. In the picture an angel holds the Cross of St George, the staff of which is surmounted by an orb featuring a small map of England.

Living as we do in a world that seems both disturbingly uncertain and in places dangerous, I commend our parishes and all our people at the beginning of this new year to the prayers of Our Lady of England, praying that you may all have a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

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

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas Bazaar. Very special thanks must go to Satish from our Village Shop, who donated several raffle prizes.

The Bazaar was a very lovely community occasion with a warm and happy atmosphere. Tea and mince pies as well as all the gifts and cakes, beautiful Christmas plants and the usual raffle were much enjoyed. This year we hosted a number of outside stalls, most of them for charities. These added variety and cheer. All the stallholders enjoyed the day and asked to be able to come again next year.

The Bazaar was opened by Capt. Kathleen Versveld from the Salvation Army in Peterborough. She has become a friend over the years. This year we were proud to present her with a cheque for £700, which we had raised at our Harvest Lunch. She thanked everyone present most warmly and explained how this money will be spent to provide food, hot showers and clean clothes etc to those in need at Christmas time.

Our meetings during January will take place on the first and third Wednesday, the 7th and 21st at the Community Hall at 10.30 after Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 10am. On January 28th we are planning a belated Christmas Lunch at Sibson Inn. We look forward to another year of shared friendship with existing and new members, who will always be made most welcome.

***Dora Baker, Secretary***

# WANSFORD COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE 2014

For many in Wansford, Christmas begins with the candle lit service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's. This year a totally packed church was treated to something very special as the village choir lifted everyone's spirits with a wonderful programme of music. Caitlin Nally was the opening soloist and set the standard with a beautiful first verse of Once in Royal David's City and the musicality of the service never looked back as both choir and congregation sang out with joy in their hearts.

The choir had worked hard in preparation and earned huge praise for its versions of O Holy Night, Come and Worship and Ave Verum Corpus. The mini children's choir enchanted everyone too with their rendition of Away in a Manger.

As the service closed all were able to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies before strolling home having enjoyed a perfect start to Christmas.

***Paul Tate, Churchwarden***

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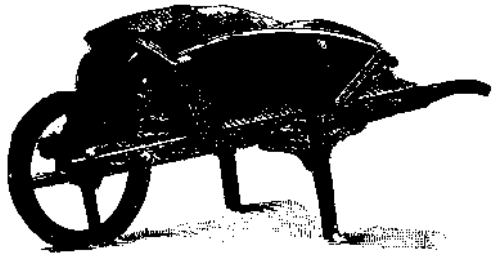

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jan. | '123 ' Ready Steady Go..... | |
| Feb. | 'I am the Light of the World' | 'Candlemass' |
| March | 'Footsteps' | Following in the footsteps of Jesus |
| April | 'Leaves of New Life' | Growing trees from the Palm Leaves of Easter |
| May | 'Well, well, well' | Living Water |
| June | I am the true vine! | Squashing Grapes |
| July | ' Ba ba Black Sheep' | I am the good shepherd |

a shorter, fun Worship time, set around a theme, with activities and refreshments. Do come and join in.

# EXHIBITION OF CREATIVITY at THORNHAUGH CHURCH

The exhibition at St Andrew's church on 6 ad 7 December was a great success thanks to the generous contributions received and the lovely refreshments freely given by the Friends all day. The money raised was £500 which will be used for the maintenance of our church and I would like to thank all those involved for making it such a lovely occasion.

***Liz Kemp***

Thornhaugh church was filled with a variety of artworks, and the beautifully crafted and much admired cake below was created by Jane Hein.

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# FRIENDS OF STIBBINGTON CHURCH

On a cold December evening St John The Baptist Stibbington came alive with the village Carol Service. The church had been decorated and the tree was sparkling ready for the congregation to sing round it.

Everyone was welcomed with a glass of mulled wine to warm their vocal chords. The service was led by Rev William Burke with the help of village children who told the Nativity story.

It was a wonderful service to get the village in the Christmas spirit and they came from 6 months old to ninety years, including two dogs !!

The evening finished with more mulled wine, mince pies and plenty of chat.

***Jo Baines***

**Winner of the 101 Club**

The lucky winners for the December are; Laurence and Gill Barnes
Your £50 cheque will be on it's way. Well done!

***Suzy Story***

**Special service at Stibbington**

A special service of Holy Communion will be held at St John the Baptist Church, Stibbington at 6.00pm on Sunday 25th January 2015.

This will be Canon William Burke's (see photo left) final chance to celebrate the Eucharist in Stibbington prior to his departure from the Parish.

After the service we can all enjoy a glass of wine and some shortbread (it is Burns' Night after all!)

***Carol Lindsay, Churchwarden***

On behalf of the Friends of St John The Baptist Stibbington may we wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2015.

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The A.G.M. and Christmas Party, which took place on Saturday, 13th December with sell-out attendance of 70 members was an enjoyable celebration for us all. With such good company and a splendid supper, thanks to the hard work of the committee, we were able to look back on a successful year. It was also an opportunity to thank not only the committee, both present and retiring, for their industry and unstinting support throughout 2014, but also our members who now number around 220, for attending our various activities with such enthusiasm and appreciation and for helping us out on many occasions. Indeed, when the Annual Show comes around each August, we are immensely proud to receive such support from the village as a whole and we consider ourselves very lucky to be running the society in such an encouraging place as Wansford.

We were delighted that Neil Hoffmann accepted our invitation to join the committee, thereby bringing our numbers back up to 10 again, and know that he will be a great asset, from his past record as a member and his commitment to two other great local institutions: Sacrewell and the Nene Valley Railway.

Our programme for 2015 is not quite finalised yet but we can assure readers that we intend to provide a wide variety of interesting talks and visits. Our visit to an R.H.S. Garden this year will be to Hyde Hall in Essex and this time will be combined with a stop at nearby Cressing Temple which is in fact not a temple at all, but a fascinating medieval moated farmstead dating from the time of the Knights' Templar and boasting the oldest recorded timber-framed barns in the world along with a stunning Tudor walled garden.

We proposed 2 possible alternatives to our guests at the Christmas Party for our second coach trip and asked for their votes. The choice was between a return visit to East Ruston Old Vicarage which we last visited in 2011 or to Water Perry Gardens near Oxford. The result? A dead heat! (Any comments or preferences from those not present to vote will be welcomed!) The committee will very shortly make the decision and membership cards should be out towards the end of the month with full details of our 2015 schedule. Please do join us if you are not already a member at just £2.50 per person subscription.

***Gill Fisher*** *fisher.gill@yahoo.com 782446*

# STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD WI

The December meeting of members took the form of a festive get-together with a quiz and seasonal refreshments. Unfortunately attendance was low and good wishes were sent to those members unable to be there due to sickness – also congratulations were extended to our youngest member, Stephanie, on the birth of her new baby daughter, Ada Louise, a sister for her twin boys.

Jean Yerbury continues in her role as president with Gail Ward as her deputy. The treasurer's duties have been taken over by Judith Rogers and Sue Joyner has moved over to deal with future programme planning. Correspondence will continue to be dealt with by Kate Brumfield and Wendy Spencer is now Minute Secretary as well as producing newsletter reports. Two other members of the committee, Christine Turner and Rita Kendrew make up the full complement.

We held our annual Christmas lunch on Saturday 13th December at one of our favourite haunts – The Red Lion at Warmington – where Tim, Richard and their team made us very welcome and served a delicious menu in warm and cosy surroundings. Only three members were unable to attend so it was good to get almost the entire group together for our end of year celebration.

Reminders: The next members' meeting will be at the Community Hall on Tuesday 13th January when we shall be welcoming Hannah Longlands from the Peterborough Stroke Association. We will be presenting her with a donation from funds collected over the past year from the generosity of both members and the public who have supported our various cake sales. The book club will be meeting on Thursday 29th January – the chosen read is 'The Guest Cat' by Takashi Hiraide - and the next supper club will be at the Peterborough Regional College restaurant on Thursday 12th February.

***Wendy Spencer***

## COMMUNICARE

**(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)**

**The next meeting will be held on**

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## STIBBINGTON & DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE

We would like to thank the Church Wardens and congregation of St John The Baptist Church Stibbington for their very warm welcome to the annual Remembrance Sunday Church Service which was led by our Chaplain Canon Hayden Smart. A Collection was taken in aid of The Poppy Appeal and this raised £126.00. Our total annual Branch collection for The Poppy Appeal was £4915.30. A very heartfelt thank you goes to all the collectors and donors, on behalf of the recipients of this fund, for another job very well done. **THANK YOU**

BAND CONCERT – NASSINGTON CHURCH

We were very fortunate to be selected by Yarwell and Nassington Britannia Brass Band as their nominated charity this year. We had the pleasure and privilege of attending the Concert and parading our Standard. The Band played a selection of WW1 music interspersed with extracts from letters from the time. It was a very moving event. The second half took the form of the now traditional Last Night of the Proms. A very generous audience of almost 200 people ensured the Concert was a total success and raised an amazing £2000.00 for the Poppy Appeal. Y&N Band Chairman Quentin Arnold and his daughter, Harriet aged 13, who plays tenor horn in the Band presented the cheque to RBL Chairman Brian Skinner at the Annual General Meeting. Photo: D Housden

POPPY APPEAL COLLECTOR AWARDS

The Royal British Legion depends upon people giving up their time and energy in many different roles to ensure the funds are in place to help injured servicemen and their families in the times of deepest need. To this end we have a team of Poppy Appeal Collectors who have worked tirelessly for many years. At the AGM we were able to offer formal thanks to Jane Milton for 25 years of service, Meg Lee for 20 years of service and Pauline Andrews for 15 years of service. Sue Lock, who was unable to attend the AGM has also given 15 year of service to the Poppy Appeal. These photographs, also kindly supplied by David Housden show RBL Chairman Brian Skinner presenting an award to Pauline Andrews; Meg Lee and Jane Milton proudly showing their Badges of Thanks.

Presently, we are looking for a vice-chairman and a Standard Bearer. Anyone wishing to join our team will be made most welcome and is invited to contact Sue Arnold on 01780 78220 for further details.

## LOCAL HISTORY
## By David Stuart-Mogg

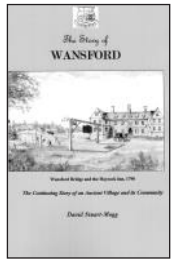
It was gratifying to witness the level of interest expressed by *Living Villages* contributors in the history of the former Little Chef complex. Before commenting further upon this, I believe it important to remind established villagers, and to inform the large number of incomers that our local villages have welcomed in recent years, of the huge debt owed to the late John Gilbert by everyone who has more than a passing curiosity in local history. A member of the remarkable Gilbert family which was at the very heart of local commercial life in Stibbington and Wansford for several generations, John Gilbert's absolute dedication to unravelling the story of our local village histories – ecclesiastical, secular, architectural and social – may be said to have bordered on the obsessional. In days long before the advent of the internet, John Gilbert, an educated man with good interpretive skills, clearly spent many hundreds of hours trawling the archives and libraries at Kew, Northampton, Huntingdon and Peterborough. Although it is fair to say his numerous local publications may tend in many cases more towards fact sheets rather than any attempt at interpretive narrative, nevertheless as raw resources their content remains, and I believe will always remain, invaluable to local historians.

It was also cheering indeed to see a letter from his sister Mary Gilbert in December's *Living Villages.* Mary provided valuable assistance when I was researching *Wansford at the Millennium* (published Stamford, Peter Spiegel. 2000) and *The Story of Wansford* (Stamford, Peter Spiegel. 2007. Illus. 59 pages).

Reference to pages 24-26 of this latter publication, which may be now downloaded, free, via www.wansfordvillage.com will share the story of the road-widening scheme which required the demolition of the Mermaid Inn and its reincarnation as the New Mermaid Inn on the premises of the Wansford Knight. As we know the New Mermaid Inn latterly became the Little Chef. More can be read on the village website about the Little Chef site on page 18 of Wansford's *Village Design Statement* (originally adopted by Peterborough City Council on 22nd August 2003) which I chaired and authored. I fought hard to have the building listed; however, Peterborough City Council declined due to certain structural modifications that the building had undergone to comply with Little Chef corporate identity requirements. At the time, Wansford Parish Council held a majority view that the building was an eyesore, past saving and best demolished. Having lost that battle I am, needless to say, delighted that this uncommon form of *Bauhaus* inspired structure will now remain and should, at least in part, retain architectural clues as to its interesting origins.

Our villages, however delightful and pleasing to the eye, cannot be preserved as if in aspic. They must evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of its residents and reflect the best that new technologies may offer. However, such changes must be measured and sensitive to the common heritage inherited and held in trust. This most assuredly has not been, and still is not always, the case. How can any village attract new families, especially those with young children, when the existing housing stock is placed further and further out of reach through the transition of two and three bedroom properties into four or five bedroom properties? Also bungalows – which

# PROTECTING THE FUTURE THROUGH CARE OF OUR PAST




would equally suit mature 'empty nest' couples who wish to downsize yet remain within their community – which are demolished to create two-storey, multi-bed / bathroom units? Anyone who has studied planning applications and attended planning meetings at both local and unitary levels will be familiar with the supposedly long-term 'special personal reasons' ever offered to justify such planning permissions being given when, as is frequently the case, it is quite often only a year or two before that property is back on the market at an appropriately inflated price. People ostensibly attracted to our villages by their ancient charm often leave it after a short period of residence personally the richer but leaving the village socially and architecturally the poorer. We allow the decimation of our existing 'affordable' housing stock and simultaneously bleat about the need for 'social housing' in our villages and counter -intuitively seek the inclusion of 'low cost' housing as a condition of planning permission being given to developers of Greenfield sites on village peripheries. I remember some years ago being deeply incensed when a member of the Peterborough planning committee stated that Wansford deserved no special conservation consideration as it was "nowt but a suburb of Peterborough". In hindsight, perhaps he was more prescient than I allowed him credit.

In conclusion, I quote from my foreword to *The Story of Wansford*: "Today's Wansford resident is most likely to have forsaken the stress and pollution of an urban environment by choice. The attractions of family life, or indeed retirement, enjoying relatively unpolluted country air within a relatively low-density and largely crime-free [still true in 2015?] environment adjacent to fields and wood-land are abundantly clear. Not that life in any village at the start of the twenty-first century should be painted as one of uninterrupted bucolic bliss. Increasingly, villages everywhere are threatened with the prospect of becoming mere dormitories for commuters who work, shop and often socialise away from the village. This potential is arguably encouraged by so-called "brown-field development", where gardens are lost to new housing and properties demolished for profitable re-builds at higher density levels; often at the cost of irreparable damage to long-term village ambiance...growth must surely be both sensitive and organic. In the wake of continuing losses of amenity, all manner of local enterprise comes under threat as Wansford and surrounding villages gradually morph into little more than suburbs of Peterborough – perhaps eventually with their own Tesco Metro supplanting the traditional village post offices and stores. That said, Wansford is fortunate in still having a community that welcomes, indeed embraces the new whilst, on occasion at least, minding a duty of care as custodian of the past."

In addition to the free website access (above), I have about a dozen hard copies of the *Story of Wansford* still sculling about at £4.95 a copy. All proceeds to St. Mary the Virgin Church, Wansford - which I notice has recently dropped the designatory suffix 'the Virgin' from its new notice board. Why, I wonder? If nothing else it differentiated it from Yarwell's parish church of St. Mary Magdalene; said titular differential surely offering food for thought to enquiring minds.


david@stuartmogg.com

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# WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Extension of the Parish boundary –** An open meeting, which preceded our December meeting, was well attended by Yarwell residents wishing to discuss our proposal that the Wansford Parish boundary should be extended to include the 5 properties and the Surgery which are at the Wansford end of the Yarwell Road. We had contacted Yarwell Parish Council to inform them of our suggestion and request their agreement that we could proceed by contacting the residents involved and the Surgery to seek their response to the proposal. Our Chairman apologised that contact had been made in the absence of any agreement from Yarwell Parish Council and we would be sending them a formal letter regretting that this had happened and offering our sincerest apology. Our reasoning for the extension of the boundary is that the residents would be better served by being in Peterborough since it would be a short and relatively simple extension of their responsibility and, Peterborough, being a Unitary Authority, represents only one layer of government.

At present, East Northants is a layer below Northamptonshire County Council who seem to have little interest in servicing a handful of properties at the easternmost boundary of the county. For example, as one of the Yarwell residents pointed out at our meeting, why should they have any interest in putting better lighting on the stretch of Yarwell Road leading up to the Surgery from the present boundary along which only Wansford residents would ever be walking. As the East Northants Councillor present explained to us, contacting Northants C.C. or East Northants is of no avail and the only route for getting anything done was through her. We welcomed this clarification and looked forward to closer cooperation between our parishes as well as between Peterborough City Council and East Northants through Northamptonshire County Council. It was agreed that the whole idea would be dropped if the residents and the Surgery expressed the wish to stay on the other side of the present border. A farmer whose land might be dissected by any proposed boundary line stated that he, certainly, would want all his land to remain part of Yarwell Parish.

**Oil thefts** – A number of residents from Nene Close had come to the meeting to hear the response of the police to concerns over at least 6 thefts of heating oil in Wansford over a period of 3 weeks in November, but, unfortunately, despite agreeing to come to our meeting, they did not attend. They had been alerted to a suspicious van containing large plastic containers parked in Nene Close, but no action had resulted. The oil thefts have left residents throughout Wansford feeling vulnerable and unprotected and the Parish Council agreed to write to the PCSO, (with copies to all levels of the police hierarchy, including the Police Commissioner) expressing, in the strongest possible terms, our dismay at the lack of response and action over this matter.

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*Continued from page 23*

**Planning –** Amongst the several planning applications received, the demolition of the existing bungalow and the building of a new dwelling at 3 Robins Field was discussed. This was a revision of a previous application and addressed all our concerns with the original submission. The owner of the property was thanked for his excellent cooperation.

**A1/A47 Interchange –** During the morning rush hour there is an extremely dangerous build-up of traffic on the A1 southbound, trying to access the A47. The building of a filter slip road is to begin soon, with traffic lights being installed at the eastern roundabout. Our concern is that interrupting the flow of traffic towards Peterborough along the A47 will exacerbate the rush hour jam that forms at the western A47/A1 roundabout. To get round this, vehicles come off the A47 at the junction with the Old Leicester Road, drive through Wansford and up the Old North Road to re-join the A47. We are hoping that someone from the Highways Agency will attend our next meeting to reveal that they are aware of this problem and convince us that the phasing of the traffic lights can avoid this problem. (The dualling of the A47 between Wansford and the Sutton roundabout is part of a later scheme to be implemented at some time in the future).

**Gigaclear –** Representatives from the Parish Council had attended a meeting with Gigaclear, a company which provides high speed fibre optic broadband to villages. They intend to run a cable through Wansford and on through Yarwell and Nassington to Kings Cliffe. Spurs from this would service all Wansford with a constant internet connection speed of at least 50Mb/s. They will be contacting residents with details and connection costs and if 30% or more of us sign up, they will proceed with laying cable – full details from Gigaclear via a leaflet drop soon.

***Parish Councillor Tim Pearson, Chairman WPC***

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**Bernice Hardwick tells us about her new business in Wansford:**

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# SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

**A scheduled Parish Council meeting took place on 27th November.** Cllrs Dan Rose (chair), Peter Lee, Craig Kidd, and Keith Yerbury were present as were Clerk Patricia Stuart-Mogg, City Councillor Diane Lamb and 3 residents.

**Footpath No 4** It was reported that the landowner of this path (from the southern end of Manor Road to Ailsworth) had apologised for the delay in carrying our remedial work following the ploughing of this path. He also requested that the environmental strips be avoided and that walkers and their dogs keep to the formal route of the path.

**Church Electrical Inspections** A comprehensive inspection of all the church's electrical circuits was now due. A quotation had been received and the Parish Council's contribution (in accordance with the Licence agreement) would be £270. This was agreed.

**Neighbourhood Plan** Two residents from Sutton and two from Upton would be meeting City Council officers in January to discuss feasibility of a Neighbourhood Plan.

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**An Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held on 18th December.** Cllrs Peter Lee (in the chair due to the absence of the Chairman), Dr Mike Caskey and Keith Yerbury and Patricia Stuart Mogg (clerk) were present with 25 residents.

**Planning application for 5 houses (ref 14/02024/FUL) on part of Manor Farm Yard, Nene Way.**

This application followed the pre-application proposal for 7 dwellings on which the Parish Council was consulted in May. The terrace of 3 in the original scheme had been replaced by one house but in other respects the application was not fundamentally different. Following discussion by residents present the Council resolved to oppose the application. Reasons included:

- a sizeable proportion of the development site was outside the Village Envelope,
- the need for an access outside the Envelope to service development in depth demonstrated that the site was only capable of frontage development,
- Access roadway appears oversized and amounting to precedent for further development,
- Cul-de-sac form of development out of character with the village,
- Design and height of houses inappropriate
- Overlooking and proximity to noise and smell sources.

**Security**

A letter had been delivered to all 48 houses within the core village of Sutton seeking their views on the possible installation of public CCTV. 26 replies had been received with 22 in favour. It was resolved to continue to explore the issue and urge non-returners to also return their forms.

**Next Parish Council meeting: Thurs 22 January, 7.45pm in Sutton Church.**

***Peter Lee***
*Tel: 01780 782703*

# THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Fourth Meeting of the 2014/2015 Thornhaugh Parish Council was held on 8th December 2014. It was chaired by William Rogers; present were Liam Higgins, Ashleigh Kewney, Ian Molesworth and Brian Watts and in attendance were one member of the public, Diane Lamb and the Clerk. There were no apologies for absence.

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

**Police Matters** There were no police representatives present. It was noted that there had been a number of thefts of oil from oil tanks in the area.

**Home Farm Matters** It was agreed that it would be useful for a Dog Foul Bin to be placed near to the noticeboard at Home Farm. Diane Lamb will speak to Amey to request this. The Parish Councillors agreed to fund the cost of the purchase of a Dog Foul Bin.

**Hedge Trimming** It was noted the hedges on the right-hand side of Russell Hill, just past the 30 mph sign, have still not been trimmed. Diane Lamb will speak to Amey to request this.

**RAF Wittering – Christmas Lunch** It was agreed to send a thank you letter to RAF Wittering for once again providing an enjoyable Christmas Lunch for six Senior Citizens of the village

**PCC – 20 mph Speed Limit in Thornhaugh** Peterborough City Council plan to introduce a 20 mph speed limit through the village in early 2015. The Parish Councillors were supportive of this but will request the already agreed 40 mph speed limit at the end of Russell Hill towards the A47 is also included in the proposals.

**Grass Verges** It was noted that traffic cones have been placed on the grass verge outside St Andrew's Church which has deterred motorists from parking their vehicles at this location.

**Seat and Lectern** Brian Watts had obtained details of a supplier for the proposed seat which will be installed next to the old Telephone Kiosk and the proposed lectern with a map (not OS) illustrating the footpaths and including information about the history of the village. It was agreed that he should go ahead and order both these items. Diane Lamb stated funding for this could be applied for from the Community Leadership Fund.

**Dog Walkers** It was noted that dog walkers need to be more visible during the winter evenings and should be encouraged to wear high visibility jackets and carry a torch.

**Resignation of Parish Councillor** Ian Molesworth stated that, due to other commitments, he intended to resign as a Parish Councillor at the end of March 2015. His wife has expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**Date of Next Meeting** The Fifth Meeting of the 2014/2015 Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on Monday 19th January 2015 at St Andrew's Church, Thornhaugh.

***Deirdre McCumiskey, Parish Clerk***

# THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY

The winners of the **December 2014** draw are listed here. Many thanks to **Charlotte** at **SW31 Hair & Beauty London Road, Wansford** for drawing the tickets.

| | |
|---|---|
| **£60** | **R Nally** |
| **£50** | **Leonard du Pisanie** |
| **£40** | **T Parker** |
| **£30** | **M Veni** |
| **£20** | **J Gatheral** |
| **£10** | **C Richards** |

It has been a successful year with over £2000 given out in prizes and has provided much needed help in the ongoing maintenance of the Community Hall. Many thanks are due to the team of volunteer distributors for their help in 2014, particularly to those who have decided it is time to retire after many years of stalwart help and support.

For a small donation of £10 per year you could be in line to win one of the 60 prizes in 2014 and our distributors will be calling round all the houses in January and February to see if you would like to join in and support this valuable village community asset.

Thank you to our volunteers for 2015, David Lewis, Mary Marleau, Dawn Cox, Jo Green, Mike Bradshaw, John Peake, Anne Alderson, Louise Bradshaw, Kate Hopkins, Lynn Lenton, Richard Broughton, Tim Pearson, Jo Baines, Victoria Shaw, Gill Fisher, Sue Graves, Brian and Penny Watts for their help.

***Mat Free, Administrator*** ***mat.free@hotmail.co.uk***
***Tel 0788 1834054***

# LIFE ON THE HOME FRONT, CHRISTMAS 1914

Many thanks to all who supported Stibbington Centre's recent Christmas Fayre, 1914, and to all who contributed to the Centre's fascinating research into life in the local area during the early days of World War I. Outcomes of the research, including details about selected local families in the early 1900s are currently being finalised for posting on the Centre's website at www.cees.org.uk.

***Rosie Edwards, 01780 782386***

# STIBBINGTON CENTRE QUIZ NIGHT

## Friday 6 February at 7.30pm

Bookings are now being taken for teams of up to six at this popular quiz night. Our light-hearted, themed quiz will include a hot supper which will be served during the interval. Bring your own drinks. To reserve places at £8 per person contact Stibbington Centre on tel 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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**NATURE NOTES**
**By Graham Blagden**

# ROBIN REDBREAST

Christmas is our winter festival celebrating the birth of Christ over two thousand years ago. The Robin has been around for much longer but in recent centuries the bird has also become associated with winter, Christmas and goodwill to man. It is one of our most widespread of birds; perhaps the fact that it always seems close to humans makes it more obvious and numerous than others. Its bright red breast contrasts with its rich olive brown back and is one of our most well known, and loved, birds. In cold weather it puffs up its feathers and becomes a delightful, singing ball of fluff. The Robin sings beautifully and is even known to sing its song in the middle of the night in summer. It is believed by some that it was the robin that 'sang in Berkeley Square' rather than its more drab cousin the nightingale.

All gardens will be visited by robins at some time. Many gardeners love the visitations as a sign of friendship. Maybe; but a spade means digging and digging means worms and robins have learnt that active gardeners mean dinner time. It does however make its nest in a wide variety of places close to man, from old flower pots and kettles to the pocket of an old jacket hanging in a shed. Many a door has had to be left open to allow a Robin to feed its brood after flying indoors to find its ideal nest site and liking what it found.

It is a very popular bird on the continent but I have to say for all the wrong reasons. In Germany in autumn robins were trapped in houses and released in the spring after acting as a very efficient natural pesticide. Unfortunately large numbers of migrating robins are still trapped in Mediterranean countries for food.

The bird used to be known as a Ruddock, an Old English term, and gained its alliterative name of Robin after other favourites of history; Robin Hood, Robin Goodfellow and Christopher Robin. In the nineteenth century it was first depicted on Christmas cards with an envelope in its bill and this gave rise to the name Robin for the Victorian Postman who sported a bright red coat. However the Robin Redbreast has been depicted in Yuletide images for a century or more before this date and there may even be a dash of paganism in our Christmas choice of bird. Whatever your thoughts, like the holly wreath, it brings a dash of colour to our grey winter world.

Perkins Great Eastern Run 2015

# Set yourself a half marathon challenge in 2015!

If one of your New Year resolutions is to make healthy lifestyle changes then have you thought about entering the Perkins Great Eastern Run?

Peterborough's excellent half marathon doesn't take place until October, so there's plenty of time to train for the big day.

Organisers Peterborough City Council host one of the best half marathons in the country and in 2014 the Perkins Great Eastern Run was another stunning success.

More than 7,000 people took part in the event, which became the highest attended Perkins Great Eastern Run since its return to the city's sporting calendar in 2006. Entries came in from all over the UK and overseas and it was Kenyans who dominated.

Paralympian Jonah Chesum stormed to victory in 63:36, finishing 20 seconds clear of Loitarakwai Lengurisi. Ugandan Ben Siwa claimed third with a time of 64:14.

The first Peterborough runner to cross the finish line was Steve Robinson from Peterborough Athletic Club, who finished 10th in 70:04. Philippa Taylor of Nene Valley Harriers was first female finisher from Peterborough in 81:36. For the second successive year the wheelchair race was won by 59 year-old Gary Donald from London in a time of 77:56.

Novice runners can get all the running support and training advice they need for this year's race. Free weekly training sessions take place at the Peterborough Embankment Athletics Track from July and on race day pacers lead runners around the course at different target times from start to finish.

Race day is Sunday 11 October 2015, on The Embankment . You can enter online www.perkinsgreateasternrun.co.uk or at the Visitor Information Centre on Bridge Street, Peterborough.

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# LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

There can be few people living among us who have lived the glamorous lifestyle like the delightful Annie Bradshaw. Constantly jetting off to the world's most dazzling destinations (Monaco, Brazil, Japan, USA, Australia to name but a few), hob-nobbing with multi-millionaires, sporting legends and media stars, dealing with cutting edge, space age technology, split second timings, deadlines and life and death situations that capture the attention of millions of people around the world, you could be forgiven for thinking it's all been a bit of a blur for Annie. But she remembers every detail.

Annie has worked for most of her professional career in the world of motorsport and Formula 1 in particular. She lists amongst her friends people like Damon Hill (with whom she is pictured here), David Coulthard and Eddie Jordan (now both pundits for the BBC), Nigel Mansell ("a bit downbeat"), Jacques Villeneuve, Frank Williams, Ron Dennis ("ruthless, but I first knew him when he was just a mechanic") and her favourite driver ("such a nice guy") four times F1 World Champion, Sebastian Vettel. (For anyone who does not follow the sport, these are all F1 legends – just Google them!).

A local girl now living in Wansford, Annie was born in Stamford. Her grandfather was Charles Wingrove and her uncles the well-known Wansford butchers, George and Harold Wingrove. After school Annie took a course in secretarial skills and journalism and after a brief time as a secretary in London, she landed a job as a journalist with the Stamford Mercury before moving on to pastures new. Following a spell with Autosport Magazine, Annie got her first break into the world of PR with the RAC Motor Sport Association and it was only a matter of time before the Williams F1 team came knocking and appointed her Team Press Officer.

This was the period (she worked there from 1985 to 1996) when Williams were in their heyday, employing the legendary designer Adrian Newey and producing a string of World Champions. She traveled to all the famous Grand Prix circuits around the world (many times over!), carefully directing the PR for the team and the drivers and managing the worldwide press and media. And if you know anything about F1, you know how tricky this can be! Of course, she took an active part in the famous F1 social scene but she draws a discrete veil over this subject.

Without doubt her darkest period was when the great, three times F1 World Champion Aryton Senna, often voted the most influential driver of all time, then driving for Williams, died at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix after his car left the circuit at the Tamburello turn traveling at 191mph and hit a concrete wall. Not only did Annie lose a friend and colleague, but the media furore following his death was probably the most intense ever seen in Formula 1.

These days Annie is still jetting around working in motorsport PR, working freelance, although in a less all-consuming way than before. Most of her work is for BMW in the United Sports Car Championship which involves eleven races a year in the USA and Canada, but she also does work for Porche and Sauber F1. She certainly shows no signs of wanting to retire from a sport and profession she loves.

If you bump into Annie, I have a suspicion that a glass or two of wine might be rewarded with some rather fascinating stories.

**Martin Lewis**

*Annie Bradshaw was interviewed by Martin Lewis on 15th December 2014 at her home in Wansford.*

**YOUNG READER'S BLOG**
**By Karina Chappell, 11**

# MATILDA THE MUSICAL PART TWO

This play is about a little girl called Matilda. She goes to a new school where the head teacher Miss Trunchball is horrible. Matilda and her friends drive the horrible teacher out of the school forever and her favourite teacher Miss Honey becomes head teacher and they all live happily ever after.

The story begins when Matilda is telling a story to the librarian. One day she tells a particularly interesting story about a gymnast and her husband. Her parents hate her so a few days after she told the story they decide to tell her that it is time for her to start going to school. She has the most amazing new teacher called Miss Honey. But the head teacher Miss Trunchball at her new school is horrible and locks Matilda in a cupboard called the chockey. One day after school when she is round Miss Honey's house the teacher tells Matilda about her past and her parents and it turns out to be exactly the same story Matilda told the librarian. One thing leads to another and the children end up driving the horrible head teacher Miss Trunchball out of the school forever.

The things I liked most about the musical were the sound effects, the characters, personalities and the songs; they made things that were potentially horrible seem funny. I could find no faults with the play. It was definitely one of the best plays I have ever been to. It will make you laugh and cry all at the same time and is appropriate for all of the family.
I would give it a 5 out of 5 star rating.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Rosie

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Wansford–In–England Cricket Club to thank everyone involved in the 'Special Event' held at the Christie Hall on Saturday 8th November and in particular to Ann Bradshaw and Elin Styles.
At the event, arranged to say a fond farewell to our 'Postie' Martha Powell, a fundraising 'Table Sale' was organised and the proceeds, amounting to a princely sum of £307, generously donated to the Cricket Club.
The Cricket Club is not only extremely grateful to receive such a magnificent donation but also very much appreciates the kind thought and consideration given to the Club.
Once again, many thanks to all concerned,
John Stones, President

Dear Martin (forwarded to Rosie),

I really enjoyed reading your research on Wansford's New Mermaid Inn (Nov).
I was born in 1930 (!) in Stibbington and have many many fond memories of this place (not until I was over 18, I must add!). It was a very popular place and on Sundays was absolutely packed with cars across the road by the AA Kiosk with folks inside just sitting there watching the traffic go by!
My brother in law (Alan Curtis, 92+) and my nephew (Alan Ward, 65+) also enjoyed your efforts!
I have often wondered what the original "Mermaid Inn" looked like - it stood opposite Wansford church and all I can remember is a large patch of rough waste ground where we would wait for the bus from Nassington. Have you any photos of this old pub?

Kind regards,
Nan Alden (Nancy Death as was)
(We did not bother much with local history, just the local scandals!)

## The Nassington Ladies Group

**will be holding their annual**

# FASHION SHOW

('high street' clothes, jewellery & accessories at discounted prices)

**on Wednesday 14th January 2015**

**at Nassington Village Hall, 7.30 pm**

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Proceeds in aid of our 2015 appointed charity:
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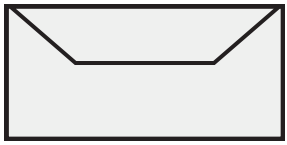

Dear Rosie

I write to you on behalf of a local sight loss charity who are appealing for your help. Northamptonshire Association for the Blind (NAB) are an independent charity providing vital services to blind and partially sighted adults and children. As part of this, they own and operate a care home in Raunds, East Northants known as Darsdale Residential Home.

We desperately need help to tell as many people about this as possible; the charity invests a lot of money into offering first rate care for visually impaired and sighted residents but constantly operates with bed vacancies.

Kind regards
Ray Foster
Volunteer on behalf of NAB

**Northamptonshire Association for the Blind**
37 Harborough Road, Northampton, NN2 7BB.
Helpline: **01604 719193**
Email: **helpline@nab.org.uk**
**www.nab.org.uk**

Hi Rosie,
Last evening a couple parked just a short distance away from my drive and consumed a take away meal together. On finishing their meal they then promptly dumped all the remains, bottles, boxes, uneaten food in the road and promptly sped off.

What sort of people are they? What sort of planet are they on? I just find it totally depressing that such behaviour is not uncommon and blights all of our lives.
Regards,
G Alleyne-Wansford

Dear Rosie,

I have noticed recently that there seem to be more irresponsible dog owners in Wansford who are allowing their dogs to foul on any green spot around, including people's gardens, and not bothering to clear it up. Even when caught and challenged there is reluctance to take responsibility. With the darker evenings and the narrow paths it is inevitable that someone will have the misfortune to spread the mess on the sole of their shoe. A dog will do what a dog has to do and it is not the fault of the animal, plus there are receptacles around, so to leave the mess in sight of the waste bin is just laziness and shows lack of respect for the householder who has to keep the grass mown.

I am not against dogs, as I had the pleasure of owning my last dog for 15 years, but when I took her out (twice a day at least) I always took a bag with me in case it was needed. So a message to the few thoughtless dog walkers, Don't leave it to someone else to clear up your unsightly and illegal mess, BAG IT and BIN IT.

Mat Free

# DIARY DATES – JANUARY 2015

| Date | Event | Time | Venue | Contact | Phone | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sun 4 | Epiphany Service and Supper | 6.00pm | St Remigius Church Water Newton | Church-wardens | | 5 |
| Tues 6 | Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council meeting | 7.00pm | Stibbington Environment Centre | Wendy Gray | 01778 441312 | |
| Wed 7 | Friends of St Mary's & St Andrew's meeting | 10.30am | Wansford Community Hall | Dora Baker | 782519 | 9 |
| Wed 7, 14 21 28 | St Mary's Wansford church choir practice | 7.30pm | 19A Old Leicester Road Wansford | Eddie McDonnell | 783639 | |
| Thurs 8 | Communicare meeting | 6.30pm | Wansford Surgery | Wansford Surgery | 782342 | 16 |
| Tue 13 | WI meeting | 7.15pm | Wansford Community Hall | Jean Yerbury | 782510 | 16 |
| Wed 14 | Nassington Ladies Group Fashion Show | 7.30pm | Nassington Village Hall | | | 36 |
| Mon 19 | Thornhaugh Parish Council meeting | 7.00pm | St Andrew's church, Thornhaugh | Deirdre McCumiskey | | |
| Wed 21 | Friends of St Mary's & St Andrew's meeting | 10.30am | Wansford Community Hall | Dora Baker | 782519 | 9 |
| Thur 22 | Sutton Parish Council meeting | 7.45pm | St Michael's church, Sutton | Peter Lee | | 27 |
| Sat 24 | Open Day | | Sacrewell | | | 6 |
| Sun 25 | Special Service of Holy Communion | 6.00pm | St John the Baptist church, Stibbington | Carol Lindsay | | 13 |
| Wed 28 | Friends of St Mary's & St Andrew's lunch | | Sibson Inn | Dora Baker | 782519 | 9 |
| Thur 29 | WI Book Club | 7.30pm | The Haycock, Wansford | Jean Yerbury | 782510 | 16 |
| Sun 1 FEB | Family Service | 4.00pm | St Mary's church, Wansford | Church-wardens | | 11 |
| Fri 6 | Stibbington Centre Quiz Night | 7.30pm | Stibbington Environment Centre | Rosie Edwards | 782386 | 29 |

**Copy deadline next month: Friday 23 January**

**rosied@globalnet.co.uk**

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