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January 2020

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Editorial

HAPPY NEW DECADE AND NEW YEAR

As explained in the December issue the magazine is with you slightly later than normal due to the print factory annual closure. This meant that I didn't actually edit it until 1st January but it meant that I was able to include the Horticultural Society programme of talks.

I think for the first time since I've been editing I didn't receive any letters, so rather than leave that section blank I've written you a letter—I hope I get some replies.

Many of you know that Living Villages is run by a team of volunteers, which includes a great team of distributors who receive bundles of magazines each month and post them through your doors. Rod (and sometimes me) also distribute to the remote homes and businesses within our villages. That is how the 750 magazines land on your door mat.

We have some new advertisers this month and some who are either taking a short break or have changed the size of their advert. We are very grateful for all who continue to support us. Without you we could not exist.

Tracy Sortwell

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Front Cover - John Measures
Printing & Collation - PPS Print



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Other useful contacts

Neighbourhood Policing	101	P'boro City Council	01733 747474
Wansford Surgery	01780 782342	Royal British Legion	01780 782200
(Out of hours	111 option 4)	Stibbington & Wansford WI	.789996
Wansford Pharmacy	01780 781616	Cricket Club	07860 278800
Communicare	01780 470437	Horticultural Society	01780 782446
H'don District Council	01480 388388	Stibbington Centre	01780 782386

Website

www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

WORSHIP JANUARY 2020

St Leonard's, Apethorpe		
5th	11.00am	Holy Communion
19th	11.00am	Matins

St Kyneburgha, Castor		
5th	10.15am	Holy Communion
12th	10.15am	Holy Communion
19th	10.15am	Holy Communion
26th	10.15am	Holy Communion

St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington		
5th	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Holy Communion
12th	9.30am	Morning Praise
19th	9.30am	Holy Communion
26th	9.30am	Holy Communion and Sunday School
	6.00pm	Evensong

St Michael and All Angels, Sutton		
12th	9.00am	Family Service
26th	9.00am	Holy Communion

St Andrew's, Thornhaugh		
5th	9.30am	Morning Praise
19th	9.30am	Holy Communion

St Mary's, Wansford		
<i>Every Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer</i>		
12th	9.30am	Holy Communion
26th	9.30am	Morning Praise

St Mary's, Woodnewton		
5th	9.30am	Holy Communion
12th	11.00am	All Age Informal Service
19th	9.30am	Holy Communion
26th	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP

St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell		
5th	11.00am	Epiphany Family Service
12th	11.00am	Holy Communion
19th	3.00pm	Methodist Service
26th	11.00am	Holy Communion

Thank you!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Christmas celebrations so wonderful! Thank-you to everyone who worked so hard to decorate the church, prepare and take part in services, those who enriched our worship in music, and to all who came and shared the festival with us. May the light of Christ continue to shine for us all as we come to this new year and may 2020 be a year of blessing for all in Thornhaugh and Wansford

Rev Jane

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In some churches "Plough Sunday" is still celebrated on the first Sunday following 6th January, the feast of the Epiphany. The observance of Plough Sunday goes back to Victorian times, but behind it there is a much older observance, associated with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas, hence also 'Plough Monday' in some places, which marked the beginning of the agricultural year for everyone working the land.

In medieval times some ploughs were kept in the parish church, and a 'plough-light' might be kept there, possibly as a prayer for a good harvest. In days when work was scarce in winter, the observance of Plough Sunday and Plough Monday looked forward to the time of ploughing and sowing with the promise of a harvest to come. As the farming year began, ploughs would be brought to church to be blessed for their work during the year. There were, and in some places still are, many traditions associated with these celebrations.

We might feel in our 21st century life, as we begin 2020, that ploughs and the farming year are somewhat removed from our day to day experience, even though we are fortunate to live in beautiful rural communities. However, it is good to remember our reliance still upon the land and good harvests, and we can pray for those engaged in farming of any kind as the new year begins.

Of course, for most people these days, a plough is not the symbol of their working life. These days we might be more inclined to think of a computer, a shop till, a car mechanic's tools, a spreadsheet, a school exercise book, a stethoscope or any number of other things associated with the world of work now. If a plough once represented the work of those on the land, an implement brought to church to be blessed as the working year began, what, I wonder, would represent your working life now? Or if you are no longer, or not at the moment, working, what would best represent the way you interact with those around you? Perhaps you are good at keeping in touch with friends for whom a stamp is still important, or the phone maybe, perhaps you are one of those who is often inviting others for a cup of tea, and a cup or mug might represent that, or are you someone who offers lifts to those in need for whom the car would represent your activity? The possible lists are endless. Maybe you just think of your daily tasks and a washing up bowl, a lawn-mower or vacuum cleaner comes to mind.

In the church we might seem to think only of blessing "Sunday" things, or significant moments of our lives, but that is to forget that God longs to be part of all our lives; our work, our leisure time, our daily chores, our day-to-day lives, just as much as what we would regard as special, or dare I say, "holy"?

Perhaps the beginning of 2020 would be a good time to ask God to bless those symbols of our everyday life as a remembrance that this too, is important to him. It can also be a reminder that we are called to find and follow him in that everyday life; that we do not leave our faith at the church door each Sunday. We are called to celebrate and pray for our task of being God's people where-ever we find ourselves each day. God longs to be as involved in that as to welcome our worship and thanksgiving in church on Sundays. We are called to an "everyday faith" not just a Sunday faith. Plough Sunday this year falls on 12th January; perhaps a day to ask God's blessing upon whatever we find ourselves doing this year, where-ever that may be.



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Community Carol Service—St Mary's Wansford

Representatives from a number of local groups and societies, including Living Villages, took part in the traditional 9 Lessons and Carols. The singing was once again led by the St Mary's Choir under the baton of Eddie McDonnell.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S

The Friends will be resuming their meetings in January, with the first one on Wednesday 15th January at 10.30 in the Community Hall , after Morning Prayer.

We hope to be able to spend time with many of you at our Lent Lunches, and then Coffee Stops, in the spring.

Happy New Year

Caroline



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Top Tips to Boost Your Recycling in 2020

Visit www.recyclenow.com for a feast of information on this topic. You can search by postcode to confirm what you can put in the different bins provided by your Local Authority and what is accepted at your local recycling site. You can also search by item, for suggestions of other organisations you can donate to.

Take a look at some nearby recycling points and some organisations willing to receive items which can be harder to find homes for:

Spectacles -Wansford Doctors Surgery

Used inhalers -Wansford Pharmacy

Clothing and shoes -Collection bin in Wansford Surgery carpark and Christie Hall carpark (**also belts and handbags**).

Blankets, duvets and towels -Animal Helpline Dog Rescue. Call for details to drop off. Tel: 07709 036103

Bras -Collection box for www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk Jobcentre Plus carpark, 84 Broadway, Peterborough PE1 1QZ and some charity shops.

Tools, sewing machines, knitting equipment, manual typewriters and more! -www.workaid.org Tel: 01494 775220 for local drop off point.

Crisp packets, KP snacks packets -Terracycle collection box at Tesco Superstore, Werrington PE4 6NA. (Visit www.Terracycle.com if you are interested in having a collection box for one of a selection of items, at your workplace or home to raise money for charity.)

Printer cartridges - Visit www.therecyclingfactory.com to download a Freepost label and raise money for your chosen charity.

Stamps, medals, currency of all ages and nationalities -Oxfam shops.

Mobile phones - Many charity shops are happy to receive these but **please remember to remove any personal data first.**

Register on www.freecycle.org to find a home for unused items, one man's rubble is another woman's patio base!

Let us know if you have any other tips for recycling or fundraising.

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Celebrating 100 years

For our last meeting of the year, we invited Linda Parkhouse and Sam Sansbury as our speakers.

Linda is an experienced tutor at Denman, specialising in textiles. Linda's talk firstly focussed on the history of knitting, and has surprisingly been around for a very long time, evidence has been dated back to 1,000 B. C.



Knitting has long been seen as a female craft, mainly one for your granny! although it has become a more fashionable pastime. There were a number of gasps from the members that professional hand knitters were around in the 16th century, with King Henry VIII supporting the setting up of the hand knitters guild, with young knitters

undergoing apprenticeships. But this was only for boys and men. It was not until the end of the 18th century that women came to be leaders in the knitting world.

Linda then went onto describe her career and how it was closely entwined with knitting. Linda had worked for a number of years in magazines, mainly in PR and events, before being able to incorporate her knitting passion, to become a knitting pattern designer.

A number of her designs used the yarns made by Colinette yarns, a husband and wife team that specialise in uniquely dyed yarns. The company is now run by their son Sam Sansbury, both online and a pop up shop in Wansford, with Linda still working closely alongside Colinette offering creative advice. An interesting and creative evening.

Upcoming events:-

Tuesday 14th January – First meeting of 2020. Motivation and mobility (Community Hall 7.30pm)

Friday 17th January We have our 3C's regular craft, coffee and chat meeting (Community Hall 10-12am).

Thursday 30th January, Book club meeting (Haycock hotel, 7.30pm), open to members and non members.

More details of events and news can also be found on our Facebook page @sandwwi. If you would like to attend any of the upcoming events, please get in touch.

Rhona Punter 01780 592 514

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Communicare

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

The last general patients' meeting for 2019 was held at the end of November when the subject matter of the guest speakers was 'Social Care' and associated matters. We welcomed Gillian Shadbolt from the Northamptonshire branch of 'Care & Repair', Alison Bourne, Manager of the Integrated Neighbourhood Project and Carol Gill, Practice-based Social Prescriber.

Although 'Care & Repair' is a national organization set up by Government in the 1980s with branches in various locations, Gillian explained that some of these are funded by local authorities, but the Northants branch is independent and entirely self-funding except for occasional charitable donations. With a staff of five technicians they provide qualified help with most home requirements – visiting potential customers to give quotations and make assessments. In some instances clients can be directed to agencies who might provide financial assistance. The staff also work with both the police and fire service where high risk clients have been identified, and with other agencies in respect of the disabled and vulnerable. Although Northants based, work can be carried out cross border if customers are self-financing and there are also opportunities within the county for people to apply for some remedial and renovation work free of charge ie gas central heating if your location is suitable, your property is without such heating and you are on low income or in receipt of benefits. Other services available which Gillian touched on are as follows:

NESS (Northamptonshire Energy Saving Service): Free of charge to those living in Northamptonshire. All ages, all tenures of property. Eligibility is low income or benefits. Service provides home warmth assessment and remedial measures in the home plus access to benefits support and tariff switching

Gas Safety Service: Free of charge to private homeowners living in Northamptonshire. Eligibility is low income/benefits OR having a long term health condition or disability. Provides gas safety check, servicing and repairs

Hardship Fund: Funds cost of small essential repairs for homeowners living in Northamptonshire.

(For the benefit of patients living in Cambridgeshire regarding a "Care and Repair" type service, it is noted that unfortunately Care and Repair doesn't operate in the county except in the East Cambs District Council area. However, Cambridgeshire District Council commissions Age UK to offer a "Handyperson" service which will carry out home safety checks, small works such as putting up grab rails or key safes etc. There is information on: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough/our-services/cambridgeshire-handyperson-service/>

For larger works (ramps, wet rooms etc) there is an organisation called the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency (CHIA). They can support people to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) - this is means tested but if someone has savings above the threshold they can still be supported by CHIA as a private client, where the CHIA will manage the project and then charge a fee for doing so. Information is available on their website: www.cambshia.org

Peterborough City Council runs a care and repair service, including a handy-person service. It's very similar to Northants but is Council run rather than a separate organisation. All the information is on the PCC website, on the Adult Social Care pages.)

Alison then spoke about her new role which has evolved due to Government ruling on the setting up of Primary Care Networks thus resulting in groups of practices caring for up to 50 thousand patients. Wansford is now within a network along with Oundle, Yaxley, Fletton, and Whittlesey which also incorporates Stanground. The aim of this is collaboration and integration of services with particular emphasis on social care, falls prevention and reducing hospitalization - working with a multi-disciplinary team to co-ordinate care and support by all the various agencies both NHS and voluntary.

Carol gave a brief rundown of her role within the community – no referrals are necessary to make arrangements for a consultation with her. She can then give advice on a wide range of matters including social benefits, transport, finances and activities – all these are geared to bring peace of mind to patients who may be suffering anxiety or low levels of mental health problems sometimes brought on by isolation and loneliness.

Dr Takhar spoke about his current 'sabbatical' from normal GP duties to devote time to several on-going research projects with particular emphasis on revolutionary new concepts being trialed in connection with heart monitoring. In some instances the practice gets the opportunity to test out new equipment on actual patients without any financial implication. As new innovations come on stream these will be of enormous benefit to all patients. The Practice has just been awarded the accolade "Research Practice of the Year" by the Royal College of Physicians; over the last 20 years it has been involved in 60 research studies involving 1500 patients. This research also results in a 'spin-off' of improvement in quality for the Practice's patients.

Coffee mornings for the social group commence again in February, but they will be holding their post-Christmas lunch at Yarwell Village Hall on 10th January. If any of our regulars have not yet been contacted and wish to attend, please get in touch with Clare: 01780 470437 or email: super-foguk@aol.com

A New Year and new warning about self-assessment scams

With the New Year comes a clean slate, business goals, resolutions and of course – filling in those self-assessment forms.

The January 31 deadline is approaching fast, and in the run up, HM Revenue and Customs is warning millions of self-assessment customers to be aware of fraudsters.

Worryingly, over the last year, HMRC received nearly 900,000 reports from the public about suspicious HMRC contact either through phone calls, texts or emails.

More than 100,000 of these were phone scams, while over 620,000 reports from the public were about bogus tax rebates. Fraudsters use a range of techniques to scam cash from hard working individuals, with some of the most common including phoning taxpayers offering a fake tax refund, or pretending to be HMRC by texting or emailing a link which will take customers to a false page, where their bank details and money will be stolen. Fraudsters are also known to threaten victims with arrest or imprisonment if a bogus tax bill is not paid immediately.

However, help is at hand. HMRC operates a dedicated Customer Protection team to identify and close down scams but is advising customers to recognise the signs to avoid becoming victims themselves. It is worth remembering that genuine organisations like HMRC and banks will never contact customers asking for their PIN, password or bank details. Customers should NEVER give out private information, reply to text messages, download attachments or click on links in texts or emails which they are not expecting.

Customers are urged to take action by forwarding details of suspicious calls or emails claiming to be from HMRC to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk and texts to 60599. Customers who have suffered financial loss should contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or use their online fraud reporting tool.

Tax is automatically deducted from most UK taxpayers' wages, pensions or savings. Where tax is not automatically deducted, or when people or businesses have earned additional untaxed income, they are required to complete a Self-Assessment tax return each year.

People need to complete a tax return if they:

- Earned more than £2,500 from renting out property
- Their partner received Child Benefit and either of them had an annual income of more than £50,000
- Received more than £2,500 in other untaxed income, for example from tips or commission
- Are self-employed sole traders
- Are employees claiming expenses in excess of £2,500
- Have an annual income over £100,000
- Earned income from abroad that they need to pay tax on

Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/check-if-you-need-tax-return>



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Thur 10.00am Wansford Christie Hall, PE8 6JS
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Wansford Horticultural Society to thank you for your appreciative and enthusiastic support in 2019 and to let you know our Spring programme for 2020.

Our final coach trip of the year to Christmas at Kew was a great success and hugely enjoyable for all our 50 participants. After what felt like days of rain prior to the visit, we were incredibly lucky to pick a dry evening which was not too cold, and were rewarded with a dazzling winter trail, glittering lights and dynamic laser projections, a wonderful start to the Christmas festivities.



These continued at our A.G.M. and Christmas party held on Saturday 7th December in the Christie Hall. After the official business was concluded, almost 60 members enjoyed a delicious 3 course meal served with wine, followed by the quiz and raffle. My thanks as usual to the hard working committee, who made all this possible.



Since the AGM we have been busy planning your Spring Programme.

Membership cards should be available at the first meeting listing the full years programme.

A reminder that it is just £2.50 per person to join us, so please do contact me if you would like to become a member.

AGM and the 2020 Spring Programme



2020 Spring Programme

I hope you have your new diaries poised (or I guess your smartphone!) and will make a point of joining us for the following talks all of which will take place at **7.30 in the Christie Hall**:

Thursday 30 January - Clive Ward of Swines Meadow Farm Nurseries in Market Deeping: "New Zealand and its Gardens"

Thursday 27 February - Paul Herrington: "Gardening for Health"

Paul from near Cambridge has agreed to come and talk to us about his important work. In 2014 he founded Grow Places (and nurture people), and his background is as both a garden designer (bronze at Chelsea in 2004) and a psychiatric nurse, so he creates outdoor spaces to help people enjoy the social and health benefits of gardening. Very different from our other talks and invaluable in this day and age. (growplaces.org.uk)



**Grow
Places**

Thursday 26 March - Patsy Rayner: "The History of the Japanese Garden"

Thursday 23 April - Diana Boston: "The Manor and Moated Gardens at Hemingford Grey"

Gill Fisher: fisher.gill@yahoo.com

THORNTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 18th November 2019. It was chaired by Chris Smith, present were Ashleigh Kewney, Martin Lewis, Louise Molesworth, Adrian Rodgers, 2 Members of the Public and the Clerk. There were apologies for absence from Diane Lamb.

Declarations of Interest

Martin Lewis declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Planning Applications 19/01604 & 19/01605 (LBC) Erection of a Shed in garden to south of dwelling at Croft Farm, Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh as he lives next door. He left the room and took no part in the discussion of the Planning Application. The Clerk to the Parish Council withdrew from the meeting while the matter of her remuneration was discussed.

Public Forum

The Members of the Public had no issues that they wished to raise.

Police Matters

There were no police representatives present. It was noted that there have been a number of thefts reported locally in the past month. Residents are encouraged to be vigilant at all times.

Village Social Event

The Chairman reported that this had been a successful event with 20 residents attending. Thanks were expressed to Alan and Joan Bolton Frost for hosting the event.

Defibrillator

The Chairman reported that although the Rev J Tailby is supportive of the siting of the Defibrillator in the church porch, approval has to be given by the Diocese for fitting a permanent fixture on church property and require a formal application from the Parish Council. The Chairman had circulated a draft application and will finalise it and send it off. As the Diocese Committee only meets every 2 months, a decision is not expected until the New Year.

Christmas Tree Event 2019

This will take place at 6.00 pm on 8th December 2019. Thanks were expressed to Nicki Rogers for producing and delivering the flyers. The Chairman will order the Christmas Tree. Louise Molesworth will purchase the mulled wine and mince pies. The Chairman will liaise with Caroline to organise the carol singing.

Thornhaugh Heritage Project

Martin Lewis reported that Xanthe Pitt had sent him a number of old photographs and other documents. She would like to fund something in the village in her family's memory. Martin Lewis will produce a flyer informing residents of the project and will distribute it in the New Year.

Augean Community Fund

Liam Higgins had sent an e-mail giving information about the Augean Community Fund. It was thought possible that amalgamated projects may be acceptable and that once a potential list of projects is drawn up, that Grantscape can be approached informally to discuss possible eligibility.

Autumn/Winter Hanging Baskets

The Chairman had collected the autumn/winter hanging baskets and had erected them with the help of Penny Lewin-Watts. Thanks were expressed to all who maintain these throughout the year.

Planning Applications

Planning Application 19/01090 Variation of condition C8 (Ecological management plan) of Planning Permission 13/01374/WCMM at Cooks Hole, Leicester Road, Thornhaugh – Withdrawn by the Applicant; Planning Application 19/01300 Demolition and redevelopment of land for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station providing 20 electric car charging points at Abbotts Wood Service Station, Great North Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision; Planning Application 19/01195 Removal of 5 existing portacabins, leaving 3 remaining portacabins for ongoing security purposes at Leeds Gate Farm, Kings Cliffe Road, Wansford – Awaiting Decision; Planning Applications 19/01604 & 19/01605 (LBC) Erection of a Shed in garden to south of dwelling at Croft Farm, Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh – After discussion, the Parish Council will submit an objection based on the impact this structure has being situated adjacent to three listed buildings and being very much on view in the conservation area.

Thornhaugh & Wansford Parish Council's Burial Ground Committee

The Clerk will circulate a copy of the Committee's Constitution to the Parish Councillors. She will also circulate a copy of the Financial Statement at 31st March 2020 when it is available.

Projects 2020

The following items were agreed as potential projects in 2020:- refurbishment of the Telephone Box, refurbishment of the noticeboard at Home Farm, tree/bulb planting, updating the website (the Clerk will invite John Allsopp, Website Designer to the next meeting) and first aid training.

Clerk's Salary Review

After discussion it was agreed to uplift the Clerk's salary by around 2.5%. This is the first increase in five years and it was thought appropriate to add an increase roughly in line with inflation. Thanks were expressed for the service and support that the Clerk provides to the Parish Council, which is invaluable.

Budget and Precept 2020

Adrian Rodgers went through the Draft Budget. It was provisionally agreed that the Precept will need to be increased by approximately 2% next year (depending on potential grant applications) but the final decision will be made at the January 2020 Meeting.

Diary Dates for Village Events 2020

It was agreed that a Summer Event will be held in early June 2020 and the Christmas Tree Event will take place in early December 2020.

Augean Community Liaison Committee

The Clerk will ask Martin Witherington to forward the Agendas and Minutes of any future meetings of the Augean Liaison Committee to the Parish Councillors.

Date of Next Meeting

The Next Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 20th January 2020 in St Andrew's Church



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Stibbington Centre Quiz

February 7th, 19:30-21:30

Stibbington Community Classes

Tree of Life Mobiles Feb 9th, 13:30-16:00

For workshops
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07580 218792

Felted Forest Landscapes
March 15th, 10:00-16:00

SIBSON-CUM-STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council meet again on Wednesday 8th January 2020.

Dog Waste Bin near Haycock Hotel - please note Blue Bags from HDC have been found in said bin - we would be grateful if properties using these bags would refrain from putting these bags in the Dog Bins - thankyou.



WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Wansford Parish Council (WPC) held two meetings in December, the second being a presentation by Highways England (HE) with it's latest update on the A47 Dualling.

Minutes of both meetings can be found on the WPC website.

At the meeting on 9th December, which was attended by all Councillors, the Clerk and one member of the public, a Matter Arising was raised from the November minutes regarding a proposed development at 23 Old North Road, insofar revised plans had not been received by WPC.

A note would be sent to PCC Planning, together with no objections to two applications from 7 Nene Close and 19 Robins Field.

There was general agreement the 20 mph restricted zone in the village needed further strengthening to address the speed of traffic especially evident during the 'rat run' hours causing unsafe situations in the areas of the bus stop and pedestrian crossing.

A solar powered flashing speed sign is to be purchased, installed and it's effectiveness monitored.

Lorries continue to use the village from the Kings Cliffe Industrial Site with Kings Cliffe Parish Council due to discuss WPC's request at their next meeting.

Various projects are ongoing within the village and it is hoped some will be completed soon.



The HE presentation on 16th December, in the church, was certainly much improved on past experiences with Jon Donlevy and his team giving a full and transparent overview on where HE is in the process.



The Statutory Public Consultation undertaken in 2018 identified HE to review it's proposals and that review is in progress, with planned completion early 2020.

With Historic England unlikely to support any encroachment on the field that is identified as a Scheduled Monument, archaeological digs are to be undertaken, with approx. 100 trenches planned for early 2020.

A meeting is to be held with Historic England and WPC in January or early February 2020.

Many questions were raised at the presentation, where 25 residents attended, and HE is to come back with it's answers....we await this with keen interest.

The next WPC meeting is on 13th January 2020, in the Community Hall at 7.30pm and residents are most welcome.

I close by wishing you all a Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous 2020.

John Stannage

The Arts Society Peterborough
Lectures
January - May 2020

9th January 2020 - Modigliani: Passion, Paris and Paintings

This lecture looks at the life of Modigliani. When he arrived in Paris in 1906, at the age of 20, he was ready for life in Europe's most exciting city. Not only did he meet the leading artists of the day, including Picasso and Diego Rivera and the sculptor Brancusi, but also the writers, philosophers and leaders of avant-garde society, Max Jacob, and Jean Cocteau. He was known as the last Bohemian, a gentleman and a true aristocrat. Plagued by illness and the inevitability of an early death, he did everything in excess, from his treatment of women, to his drinking and drug habits. Despite that, he left a legacy of original portraits, graceful nudes and sculptures of haunting beauty, which speak to us movingly of the passion and energy of his short, eventful life.

13th February 2020 - The Bayeux Tapestry: The World's Oldest Comic Strip

This lecture will present in detail the historical, cultural and artistic aspects of that unique masterpiece, the Bayeux Tapestry, which provides posterity with such a startling testimonial of peoples' lives in the late Viking age. Everyone is aware about "1066 and all that" without, necessarily, knowing the exact facts about this momentous event.

12th March 2020 - Contemporary Art and the English Stately Home

This lecture discusses the recent proliferation of contemporary art on display in Britain's stately homes and parklands. Focusing on works at notable estates, such as Blenheim Palace, Chatsworth House and Houghton Hall, it explores the fascinating dialogue between landscape, architecture and the vibrant art of today.

Among the major international artists it looks at are Ai Weiwei, Barbara Kruger and James Turrell, as well as Turner Prize winners, Antony Gormley, Damien Hirst and Richard Long.

9th April 2020 - Through a Glass Darkly

This lecture explores the way in which artists over the centuries have included transparent glass objects in their paintings, taking huge delight in capturing the shadows and reflections seen within the glass, as well as displaying their skill in portraying what lies behind and beyond. It will include the remarkable depiction of glass objects in Roman wall-paintings; works by artists such as Titian, Veronese and Caravaggio - where both the Gods of Olympus and the disciples are seen drinking out of fragile Venetian cristallo - and the proliferation of glass drinking vessels in Dutch still-life paintings.

14th May 2020 - Roaring Twenties: Art, Design and High Society

This lecture looks at this period of enormous vitality in art and design, which followed the dark days of the Great War. Fashionable society was immortalised by portraitists like John Lavery and Cecil Beaton who brilliantly

captured the glamour of the age. Leisure, pleasure and the excitement of jazz were portrayed in paintings by Burra and Roberts, while the speed of the city and travel were explored in work by McKnight Kauffer and Nevinson. Furniture and decoration showed the influence of Cubism, Vorticism and other styles associated with the avant-garde, while events like the discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb ushered in an obsession with all things Egyptian and Oriental.

Women wore fur coats and cloche hats, donned new boyish fashions and had short, cropped hair. Men drove fast cars, mixed cocktails and smoked American cigarettes. Society ate in new restaurants like The Trocadero, danced the Charleston in ballrooms like the Savoy, and drank in clubs like the Embassy and the Café de Paris. Valentino, Tallulah Bankhead, and Noel Coward emerged as major celebrities through the growing popularity of cinema and the stage.

This lecture aims to conjure up the energy and originality of the decade and to explore the lives of its leading figures and examples of its most innovative art and design.

Time: 10.45am - 11.45am (coffee from 10.15am) **Cost:** Try it for free

Location: The Fleet, Old Fletton, Peterborough, PE2 8DL

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E-mail: committee@the-arts-society-peterborough.org.uk

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NATURE NOTES by Graham Blagden

At a recent village social event Pam Low told me she had seen a goosander on the river. She had not seen one on the Nene before and was surprised but delighted to see it. For the non-bird watchers among you a goosander is a large freshwater duck more commonly seen in the north of England and Scotland. As winter arrives some birds spread south into the warmer climes of the Midlands and Wales and that is when the goosander and its mate can turn up anywhere. I have seen them on the Nene in the centre of Peterborough. They tend to stay in the middle of the river and dive for fish, taking eels and fish up to 30 centimetres in length.

They are large ducks but sit low in the water, thereby appearing longer and stream-lined. The male has a large head, dark green in colour with a long, slim unduck-like red beak downturned at the end with serrated edges. This gives the name to its group, sawbills, shared by its cousins the merganser and smew. The male's body plumage is a pinky-white with a black back - a most striking bird. The



female is a duller grey with a reddish brown head. This gives rise to the general name for female sawbills, redheads, shared with mergansers and smew. Mergansers, very common in the north, exhibit plumage not too dissimilar to the goosander. They are less common locally but can be often be seen on local gravel pits and lakes in the winter months. Smew are quite rare and to see a drake smew resplendent in his black and white plumage is a sight to behold. One or two turn up on lakes and pits during the winter in our area.

Numbers of these birds are gradually rising. In 1871 the only breeding birds in Britain were one or two pairs in Argyll and Perthshire. Numbers of both goosander and merganser have steadily increased to two to three thousand pairs. This increase is somewhat surprising as over the years sawbills have been regarded as a nuisance to fishing interests. Although they take fish smaller than those targeted by anglers it is argued they take out a large percentage of young stock. Commercial fisheries in the north have the most concern and in the past have been issued licenses to shoot the birds.

These sawbills are only occasional winter visitors to our rivers and can have limited affect on our coarse fisheries. Their grace and beauty can give so much pleasure to those fortunate enough to find one or more in a group that anglers can hardly begrudge the loss of a few fish before they fly back north. When walking by the river do keep an eye out for such delights. A goosander or two will brighten your day.

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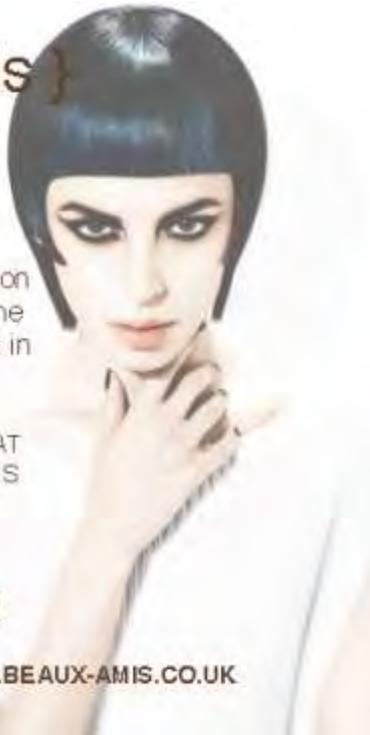
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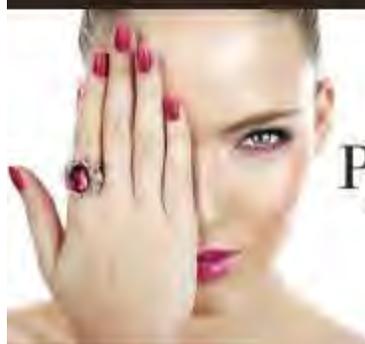
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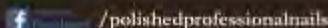


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MEN UNITED IN SONG 2020: SUPPORTING PROSTATE CANCER UK

New Year, new you? Looking for a fresh challenge, new skills and a great social scene to boot? Then look no further...

Following its phenomenal success over the last few years, *Men United in Song* is back for 2020, once again raising money for Prostate Cancer UK. Launching in February, the project will sign up 40 local men with a range of previous singing experience (including none) to rehearse over 10 weeks for a charity concert at the Cresset Theatre on Saturday 9th May. To date the project has engaged hundreds of local men, raising many thousands of pounds for the charity, as well as inspiring similar projects across the country – a fantastic result!

“While I’d sung karaoke before I knew that this would be very different!” says James from Market Deeping. “I learned so much in just a few weeks and made some really great friendships too. The time flew by and I didn’t think much at first about our performance but as the weeks went past the nervousness started to build! It was great to see my family in the audience and I know they enjoyed it just as much as I did...they knew most of the songs by heart as I was consciously and unconsciously singing all the time! A fantastic experience, thoroughly recommended!”

“The whole experience was extremely rewarding and exciting” says Stuart from Bourne. “You get to see what your voice is really capable of and to share a few pints with a great bunch of guys from all walks of life, who you might not normally meet. The sense of achievement when you finally get to perform in front of an audience in the concert is amazing. I couldn’t recommend it highly enough.”

Patrick, from Peterborough says “I was handed a leaflet outside the train station and decided I would give it a go - something different from the day to day! It was an amazing journey and the progress we made in such a short amount of time was way beyond my expectations! Doing something good for a fantastic charity while also learning to sing some really great pieces of music was a brilliant experience! Don’t hesitate, sign up today!”

Men United In Song is not all about the singing or even about the fundraising, there’s a fantastic social scene too! Ultimately, it’s about a group of men getting together in a shared enterprise, which of course is the idea behind Prostate Cancer UK’s Men United campaign, and why the charity seemed such a good fit for the project.

William Prideaux, director of *Men United in Song*, says “Year on year, we see men of all ages from all walks of life get stuck into this project, producing fantastic results over a relatively short period of time both in terms of the progress they make and the sound they produce in the final concert and in terms of raising money for this very important charity. It’s always a real pleasure to work with them, and great fun too!”

Men United In Song kicks off with introduction sessions on 27th and 29th February at the John Mansfield Campus in Peterborough. Absolutely no previous experience is required to join, just a willingness to get involved and give it your best shot! “We’re not looking for 100 percent in musicality, but 100 percent in enthusiasm” says William. “Why not give it a go, it just might be the best thing you’ve done in a very long time!”

For further information contact Jo on 01733 425194 or email menunited@peterboroughsings.org.uk

Introduction sessions will be at the John Mansfield Campus PE1 4HX on Thursday 27th February (6-10pm) and Saturday 29th February (2-6pm).

Please call/email to register.

Rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings from 7.45pm-9.45pm at the John Mansfield Campus, Western Avenue, Peterborough PE1 4HX.

The *Men United In Song* concert will be at Peterborough’s Cresset Theatre at 7.30pm on Saturday 9th May 2020.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR!

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

Dear Reader

Every month when I sit down to compile the magazine I have worries about having sufficient copy to fill the 40 pages you are used to receiving. We have an amazing set of regular contributors and society reporters but we also rely on occasional interesting contributions from other sources. Even my other half Rod is running out of ideas. During the past year we have had additional articles about Durobrivae, May Day celebrations, Loneliness, Home and Personal Security, Employment, Pilates and the River Nene. I have been really grateful for these contributions, but I currently have no articles in the pipeline for the coming year.

By way of this letter I am asking if some of our talented professional residents, and recently retired ones, could spare the time for a 500-1000 words on an area of their expertise or recreational interest. You could use your own name or a pen name if you wish so long as I know who you are. It really doesn't take that long (Rod says) once you sit down with a few ideas.

If you have some suggestions, but don't know if they are suitable, please send me an email and perhaps we can meet up to chat things through.

Tracy

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DIARY DATES – JANUARY 2020

Wed 8	Sibson– cum Stibbington Parish	7.00pm	Stibbington Centre	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24
Thurs 9	Arts Society Lecture Madigliani	10.15– 11.45am	The Fleet		01733 767539	26
Fri 10	Communicare Lunch			Wendy Spencer		17
Mon 13	Wansford Parish Council	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24
Tues 14	WI Meeting – Motivation and Mobility	7.30pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	13
Wed 15	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrews	10.30am	Community Hall	Caroline Ashley	782408	9
Fri 17	WI 3 C's Chat, Coffee and	10.30am	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	13
Mon 20	Thornhaugh Parish Council	7.00pm	St Andrews	Deidre McCuminsky	782668	22
Thurs 30	Horticultural Society - NewZealand and its Gardens	7.30pm	Christie Hall	Gill Fisher	782446	20
	WI Book Club	7.30pm	Haycock	Jan Armitage	789996	13
Feb						
Wed 5	Friends of St Mary's and St Andrews	10.30am	Community Hall	Caroline Ashley	782408	9
Mon10	Wansford Parish Council	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24
Tues 11	WI Meeting	7.30pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	13
Thurs 13	Arts Society Lecture The Bayeux Tapestry	10.15– 11.45am	The Fleet		01733 767539	26

Copy deadline next month: 20th January 2020

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

This magazine is available online at **www.livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk**

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