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# EDITORIAL

This month's front cover photo features the new sign board recently installed opposite St Mary's church by Wansford Parish Council. The imaginatively designed, user-friendly maps provide useful information for villagers and visitors alike; see p23.

Martin Lewis has chosen the 90th birthday celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen as the subject of his special report on p20 and 21. Our local area is certainly marking the occasion in style, with the Royal Garden Party at Stibbington Centre on the afternoon of Saturday 11 June (p28), a special church service followed by a village brunch on the Sunday morning at St Mary's Wansford (p9), and a hog roast at Thornhaugh Rectory (p25) on the Sunday afternoon.

With the summer holiday season upon us, ensuring the uninterrupted production and distribution of Living Villages magazine becomes a little more challenging. Those who distribute the magazine and those who write for it every month, and the editorial team too, may all be taking holidays during the coming weeks. Our copy deadline is generally around the 20th of the month and reminder emails are sent to regular writers during the previous week. Distributors are poised to deliver magazines at the end of the month. In the case of the July issue, we anticipate copies being ready for distribution on Friday 1 and Saturday 2 July. With the help of all our volunteers, we will do all we can to ensure that your Living Villages magazine will continue to include the full range of local news, reports and ads, and arrive through letterboxes promptly during the coming months when many of us may be enjoying a holiday!

*Rosie McDonnell*

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Reflections:	Rev David Ridgeway
Local History:	David Stuart-Mogg
Nature Notes:	Graham Blagden
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## Parish Councils

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

## Churches

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

### Churchwardens:

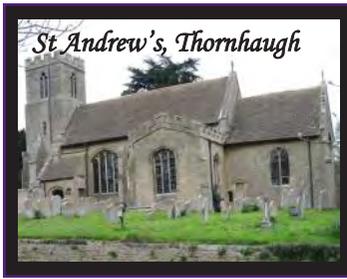
St Andrew's Thornhaugh:	Stuart Foreman	01780 783220
	Liz Kemp	01780 782333
St Mary's Wansford:	Caroline Ashley	01780 782408
	Alan Jones	01780 783205
St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Richard Winfrey	01780 782431
	Carol Lindsay	

### Friends:

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

## Other useful contacts

Neighbourhood Policing 101	P'boro City Council	01733 747474
Wansford Surgery	01780 782342 Royal British Legion	01780 782200
(Out of hours	01733 293838) Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	782510
Wansford Pharmacy	01780 781616 Cricket Club	01780 782109
Communicare	01780 470437 Horticultural Society	01780 782446
H'don District Council	01480 388388 Stibbington Centre	01780 782386



*St Andrew's, Thornhaugh*

# WORSHIP JUNE 2016



*St Mary's, Wansford*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Service</b>
5 June	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Holy Communion
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
12 June	9.00 am	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Morning Worship
	<b>10.30 am</b>	St Mary's, Wansford	Sung Holy Communion with choir Followed by village brunch
19 June	9.30 am	St. Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Sung Holy Communion
	10.15 am	St. Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
26 June	9.30 am	St Mary's, Wansford	Morning Prayer
	6.00 pm	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Patronal Festival, Evening Service followed by light refreshments



*St John the Baptist, Stibbington*

## **Wednesdays at Wansford**

10.00am  
Morning Prayer



*St Remigius, Water Newton*

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As the spring turns to summer many of us start to have thoughts about travelling and the conversations we have with our friends often involve questions about where we may be planning to go on holiday. Today the choice of possible destinations is so vast that it makes it rather difficult to decide where to go. But even after we have made this decision, we face other challenges. One of the greatest of these can be finding our way once we set off on our journey.

We live in an age where navigation is easier than it has ever been. Sat-Nav available on mobile phones and other devices has made it very simple to find our way to specific addresses. Even if we don't have access to such technology, most areas are covered by good maps and the roads around most holiday destinations are generally well signposted. The fact that it is now so easy to find our way around is entirely because other people have been there before. Good maps, clear signposts and modern aids to navigation only exist because other people have worked hard to produce these and make them available to us. Finding our way around is only really possible with the help of others, it isn't something that we can achieve entirely on our own.

The Christian life is often referred to as a journey. In fact at the time of the early Church, believers were referred to as "followers of the way." This familiar metaphor can be very helpful as we seek to work out how we should live as Christian people both as individuals and as a Christian community.

Living as a Christian can often be quite challenging and on our journey of faith there are times when many different paths seem to open up before us and we do not know which way we should turn. When we encounter these sorts of situations it is often helpful to pause, take stock and consider the various pathways which lie ahead. In making these decisions it is helpful if we can seek the help of others who may be able assist us as we weigh up the various options. This is true not just for individuals; Christian communities also need to pause and take stock from time to time and consider the best way forward.

Our benefice of three parishes and six churches is still a very new grouping in its current form and this presents us with the challenge of thinking about how we can work together as effectively as possible to continue building God's kingdom in this place. To help us do this I have enlisted the help of Canon Miles Baker the Director of Mission for Peterborough Diocese. Miles has agreed to lead a Benefice **Vision Day on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October**. This event will enable participants to think about our future priorities and formulate a vision for the way ahead. Details have yet to be finalised but please put the date in your diary. In the meantime Miles Baker will be coming along to a preliminary meeting to be held at St. Kyneburgha's on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm..** **Sparkling wine and nibbles** will be served and Miles will speak briefly about what he hopes to help us achieve at our October Vision Day. This gathering should last no longer than an hour. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

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

On the day of the **TEA PARTY AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH THORNHAUGH** the sun was shining brightly and brought out many happy visitors, young and old. We even managed to set up tables outside. There were plenty of delicious sandwiches and cakes. It was a really lovely occasion. People, who had not been inside this beautiful church, were able to meet friends.

At our meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May we discussed our contribution towards the

## **ROYAL GARDEN PARTY ON JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> AT STIBBINGTON.**

**Date of the next Meeting : Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 10.30 after Morning Prayer at 10 a.m.**

**Visit to Gardens at Cotterstock at 1.30, followed by tea at "Brew Babou", Oundle on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

**LADIES BREAKFAST on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June at 09.30 in the Christie Hall, Wansford.** The speaker will be Major Kathleen Versfeld from the Salvation Army, who has become a dear friend and is moving away.

**See you all at some or all of these happy gatherings.**

*Dora Baker (secretary)*

## **NEW VICAR announced by the Diocese of Peterborough**

We are delighted to announce that, following interview, and with the unanimous approval of the parish representatives and the patron, the Reverend Jane Tailby has accepted Bishop Donald's invitation to be vicar of the Parishes of Nassington, Apethorpe, Thornhaugh and Wansford, and Woodnewton and Yarwell (The Watersmete Benefice). Jane will be instituted by the Bishop of Brixworth in St Mary the Virgin & All Saints Nassington on Saturday 24 September at 3.00pm.

Jane is currently serving in the Diocese of Salisbury. Jane was born and brought up in north Warwickshire and trained as a teacher. After ordination she served her curacy in the Bristol Diocese and has been in the Salisbury Diocese for the last six and a half years. She is very much looking forward to her move to the Watersmete Benefice and to getting to know the people here.

*The Venerable Gordon Steele, Archdeacon of Oakham*

## **SPECIAL EVENTS ON SUNDAY 12 JUNE**

A day of celebration to mark the Queen's official 90th birthday on Sunday 12 June will be held at St Mary's church, Wansford. At 10.30am the choir will lead a special service featuring appropriate hymns and anthems. This will be followed by a peal of bells and BRUNCH in the churchyard (inside if wet). Residents are invited to join us for one or both events. There will be no charge for the brunch, but donations to the Church Urban Poverty Trust will be appreciated.

Later in the afternoon a group from Cambridgeshire Historic churches Trust will be visiting both St Andrew's, Thornhaugh and St Mary's, Wansford churches and discussing the history of the churches. All are welcome.

*Alan Jones, Churchwarden*

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# FRIENDS OF STIBBINGTON CHURCH



## Stibbington 101 Draw

The winner of this month's draw is Mrs Sandy Marshall, well done and your cheque is on its way.

*Suzy Story*

## St George's Day

A wonderful St. George's Day celebration took place with a 3 course traditional lunch at Stibbington Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The sun shone and the flag was raised to welcome 21 ladies and our very own St. George (aka Marcus Arnold—right) who bravely



read us a St. George's poem) and Miranda Riddington who, posing as the Queen, drew the raffle. £462 was raised for Stibbington Church and I would like to thank everyone who attended."

## Family Feast

Our next event is the Family Feast and Fun night on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> July where there will be a Ceilidh Band to entertain us and a hog roast and licensed bar to fortify us for the dancing. Children and adults can have fun on the free 54ft inflatable assault course and there will be a tombola and raffle. The fun kicks off at 6pm till late and tickets are now available from Wansford Post Office or by calling Helen on 01780 782932. The more the merrier!

*Helen Facer*

# FRIENDS OF ST REMIGIUS WATER NEWTON

## Water Newton Music Fest Update

For the past three years, The 'Friends of St Remigius Water Newton' have organised the very successful Water Newton Music Fest. After careful consideration we have concluded that we need to take a break for 2016, review, and return bigger and better in 2017. In the meantime we are keen to broaden our membership, so if you share our commitment to conserve our beautiful church, then please contact me and become 'a Friend'.

## Strawberry Fayre and Service – Sunday 3rd July

Come and celebrate summer at our next service in the beautiful and idyllic riverside setting of the Church of St. Remigius, Water Newton. Following the service, enjoy a strawberry and cream afternoon tea with us by the river—Now that's quintessentially English! A small donation of £5 to cover the cost will be requested for your delicious cream tea. Everybody welcome from all of our villages. The service starts at 4 pm with the strawberry tea to follow on the green beside the church

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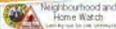
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## STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD WI



At our last meeting we considered two motions for the national conference. The first campaigns for dignified care for dementia patients in hospital, and the second for action to be taken to reduce the huge amount of food that is thrown away by our supermarkets. Both of these were the subject of lively debate and at the end of the evening there was unanimous support for both motions to be forwarded to the national meeting in Brighton. It was good to see that strong opinion from the ladies of the WI is alive and well!!

We **cleaned** with vim and vigour **for the Queen**. The bus shelter on Old North Road is sparkling, and we just have a bit of telephone box work to complete.

The **3C's club** met and learned how to crochet hanging tea-light holders. Many laughs surrounded mastery of crochet language and instructions, but pleased to report that at least two people successfully completed the challenge.



Our next 3Cs meeting on **June 3<sup>rd</sup>** will be our first trip out to the **Spalding Quilt Show**. Tickets on the door are £6 (£5 concessions). Meet at the Community Hall at 9.30 where lifts will be arranged. We hope to return by 1pm.

The **June 17<sup>th</sup>** meeting of 3C's will be at the community hall as usual.

By the time you read this our **supper club** will have enjoyed the Tastes of Anglia meal at PRC, and the **book club** will have also met. It has been a busy month!

In June we are supporting the **Queen's Birthday celebration** at Stibbington Centre on Saturday 11th and will be helping with cakes and sandwiches. More of that elsewhere in this magazine.

Finally – our June meeting will be a visit to **Sacrewell Mill** for a guided tour followed by tea. If you would like to join us at 7.15 on June 14, please contact me so that we can arrange meeting times and order tea for you.

**Jan Armitage 01780 789996**

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# WANSFORD HORTICULTURAL & CRAFTS SOCIETY

Our annual **Plant Sale** on Saturday 14 May attracted a steady flow of customers and raised £202 for the society's funds. Although the sun didn't blaze down on us as it had the previous Saturday, we nevertheless benefited from quite reasonable weather, and at least all the plant pots didn't blow over this year in strong winds! The revenue enables us to renew equipment, subsidise events where necessary and helps towards the considerable expenditure required to run the Annual Flower Show, more of which later.



We now look forward eagerly to our trip to Ickworth and Helmingham Halls on 19<sup>th</sup> June for which we have a fully booked 57 seater coach and, just 2 weeks later, to the **Summer Social** which will be held this year **on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Sacrewell**. There will be a cold buffet supper catered by Origin 8 in the cafeteria and on the terrace, after which guests will be able to admire the heritage farm buildings and mill and, if desired, commune with the goats, donkeys and poultry! A welcome glass of wine will be served from 6.30 p.m. and tickets will cost £15 a head. There will of course be a quiz, possibly on a rustic theme this year? I already have a list of members wishing to attend, but please do email **by 25<sup>th</sup> June** if you would like to join us as there is plenty of space and we are anticipating a very pleasant, relaxing evening in beautiful surroundings.

The second coach trip to R.H.S. Harlow Carr and Knaresborough Castle follows quickly on 16<sup>th</sup> July, and the **private evening visit to Grimsthorpe** rounds off the month. It is scheduled for **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July** between **6 and 8 p.m.** when, after a welcome glass of wine, the head gardener Jim will show us around the gardens and wider estate including areas not normally accessible to the public. Ray Biggs, who delivered such an inspiring talk on the estate back in March, will also be on hand to take any of our group round the house if they wish to view the interior. The cost of tickets is £15 per person. Please contact me if you would like to be added to the list.

Finally, back to this year's **Annual Flower Show** on **Saturday 27 August**. The schedule is online at [www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk). I mentioned last month the new subjects for photographic entries, but we would also like to encourage more members and village residents to enter the Top Vase and Top Tray classes which seem to get overlooked in recent years. The regulations for these are on the website but, to summarise: for Top Vase, between 5 and 10 mixed flowering stems from a minimum of 2 kinds of plants are required, and, for Top Tray, 3 types of vegetables from a list of 15 are required. Simple!

**Gill Fisher, 01780 782446 [Fisher.gill@yahoo.com](mailto:Fisher.gill@yahoo.com)**

## COMMUNICARE

Details of our next general meeting with a speaker from Age UK are on the right. In addition to this, there is now the opportunity to obtain information and advice from Age UK on the third Monday of each month when a representative is available in Wansford reception from 9am to 12 noon.

It has been decided that in future, with the exception of the AGM in September, a different format will be introduced for other quarterly meetings. The officers feel that

guest speakers could have more time to present their information and answer questions from the audience. It is noticeable that a number of patients do not remain at meetings for the business section – we appreciate that the majority may not be keenly interested in these matters. However a short report on formal and financial matters will now be given and there will always be the opportunity for surgery staff to answer any queries from patients or to provide important information regarding the practice or local healthcare issues. It is hoped that this new format will be welcomed and may encourage more patients to attend meetings.

A campaign is being launched by advertisement and notices in the surgeries to attract more voluntary drivers for our transport scheme. This is an important service provided to patients who do not drive or have any other means of transport, but the demand is such that Wansford reception are finding provision of adequate drivers a severe problem. To alleviate their workload it is now a requirement that requests for transport should be made 3 days in advance – any less notice could result in the request being refused.

Important note: Any patient who has made an appointment to see a doctor or nurse and then finds they cannot attend for whatever reason MUST cancel as soon as possible by phone, thereby allowing the slot to be allocated to someone else. In the last two months there have been 95 missed appointments which is wholly unacceptable – culprits should reflect that one day they may need an urgent appointment which could have been provided if others had taken the trouble to cancel.

The social group: Coffee morning Friday 17th June at 10am in the Kings Cliffe Sports Active hall. Our next day trip is a visit to Wells on Sea, North Norfolk on Wednesday 15th June, with coffee stop at Sandringham estate - circa £20 per person. To reserve a place, or for further information please contact Clare Wagstaffe on 01780 470437 or email: [superfoguk@aol.com](mailto:superfoguk@aol.com)

**Wendy Spencer**

Our next Communicare meeting is on

**Wednesday 8th June 2016**

**Wansford Surgery at 6.30 pm**

Guest Speaker:

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# STIBBINGTON CENTRE NEWS

## Community Classes Stop Press News

At the time of writing, the first of two **ukulele classes** has just taken place. Judging by the photographic evidence, it looks like a great time was had by all.



Perhaps audible evidence will come wafting through local open windows if the weather remains fine! You may also be able to spot a willow animal sculpture or two in local gardens after the workshops on 4th and 5th June. Bookings for the one day option of the **willow sculpture workshop** (making a pheasant, goose, chicken duck or small pig) can be taken until the 1st June.

On Sunday, 26th June we are lucky enough to have Iain Hodgkinson returning to the old school with a repeat of his recent **printmaking** workshop for those who were unable to fit in on the first one in March. Attendees will be using woodblocks, and linocut techniques with a touch of Chinese collage thrown in! The great comments we had following Iain's first visit included

***"Excellent. Put across in a very understandable manner but inspiring and encouraging. Great to progress through all processes and be able to go home with finished item. Just the right number of participants."***

We have only two places remaining available on this session.

This will be followed by a repeat visit from another talented tutor, Eve Marshall. In her workshop on Saturday, 9th July, Eve will once more show attendees the techniques of **wet and needle felting**, this time to produce landscape and garden pictures. Feedback from Eve's first visit included:

***"Excellent, lots of techniques covered, enthusiastic and approachable teacher. Very friendly atmosphere and a fun day."*** To reserve places:

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

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

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

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

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## SPECIAL REPORT By Martin Lewis

# THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY



Unless you have been living in a cave (in which case you are unlikely to come across this publication) you cannot fail to have noticed that this year we are celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. A remarkable achievement for anyone.

There are a variety of both national and local celebrations up and down the country, including in our own villages (for details see reports on other pages and listings in Diary Dates).

The Queen was born on 21st April 1926 and so is already well into her 91st year. But each year the Queen has an "official" birthday which falls on a Saturday in June, in addition to her actual birthday, which is usually celebrated more privately.

This year the Queen's official birthday will be celebrated on Saturday 11th June. The tradition of the official birthday dates back to 1748 and the reign of George II. It owes its origin to the ageless problem of the British weather.

George II was born in November, a month that was felt to be too cold for his annual birthday parade, so instead the celebration was combined with an annual spring military parade known as Trooping the Colour, and the tradition has continued ever since in Britain and throughout the Commonwealth.

The Queen's first public birthday celebration this year (billed as "a party fit for a Queen") was held at Windsor Castle on 12th - 15th May, and was a celebration of the Queen's life, her love of horses, her dedication to the



## and why Her Majesty has TWO birthdays



Commonwealth and international affairs and her deep involvement with the armed forces.

In June, there are three further events:

On Friday June 10th, there will be a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral. The congregation will be made up of invited guests only but the service will be televised. June 10th is also the Duke of Edinburgh's 95th birthday, but he has stated that he wants no public celebration of the date.

Saturday June 11th is the Queen's Official birthday and it will be celebrated, in time-honoured tradition, by the Trooping of the Colour, which again will be televised.

And lastly, June 12th is the climax of the celebrations. The Mall in London will be transformed into a giant street party for

The Patron's Lunch, with 10,000 guests eating a picnic lunch and being entertained by street performers.

This event is to celebrate the Queen's patronage of over 600 charities and organisations. If you want to take part in the festivities and don't have a ticket, there will be room for 15,000 people to watch the event on giant screens in St James's Park and Green Park in London. You are advised to turn up early and bring your own picnics!

Alternatively, enjoy your local options:

- The Royal Garden Party at Stibbington Centre on the afternoon of Saturday 11th
- The special church service followed by brunch at Wansford church on the Sunday morning, and
- The hog roast at Thornhaugh Rectory gardens on the Sunday afternoon.



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## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Parish meeting held in May the Chairman summarised the Parish Council's activities over the previous year. John Stannage had to stand down as Chairman last May, since no Wansford Parish Council chairperson can remain in office for more than 3 years. I was elected Chairman but John has continued to work tirelessly for the Parish and through him we achieved our most outstanding success, the installation and opening of the Children's Play Area in Nene Close. As always, he and I express our thanks for the excellent support from our fine Parish Clerk and council of competent and dynamic Councillors, none of whom left us this year and with the return of David Johnson, we were augmented to our full complement. As required, the Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Accounts were approved and signed.

We met every month of the last year, with an additional Special Meeting in January to consider our response to the **Peterborough Local Plan** Consultation through which we sought to obtain protection for the green areas in Nene Close and in the centre of the village. The main planning application considered was for the **Little Chef site** with the construction of nine two storey dwellings and five flats, the erection of a new Ducati motorbike dealership and workshop. Peterborough City Council chose to reject our concerns over the lack of adequate parking and the noise potential. In November we met with a representative from **Peterborough Highways**, and walked round the village to draw his attention to poor drainage, the poor condition of roads and paths and road signs and inadequate road markings.

At the AGM **John Stannage was elected Chairman**, (in his absence but with his approval) and Martyn Handley continues as Vice-Chairman. In the General Meeting which followed, arrangements were made to install the **Village Sign/Map** which you can now see on the green opposite the church. We hope that this will be useful for villagers and visitors alike. The Parishes of Wansford, Sibson-cum-Stibbington (south of the river) and Thornhaugh currently pay an annual rent of £2,315 to the **Royal British Legion** for the **Christie Hall** in proportion to their populations but the RBL have decided that this should be increased to £5,000. It has been agreed that the increase could be met by an increase of £1,000p.a. shared between the Parish Councils and £1,685 from the Christie Hall Management Committee. The CHMC do an excellent job, working tirelessly to maintain and improve the Christie Hall and parishioners overwhelmingly support them by taking part in the Christie Hall Lottery. We are somewhat dismayed by the decision of the RBL and would welcome the views of parishioners on this matter. If you could email me at [timbopearson@hotmail.com](mailto:timbopearson@hotmail.com) with your reactions ASAP it would help us to assess the general feeling in the village.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us over the past year. If you have views you wish to express, please come to our meetings. Our next meeting is in the Community Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 7:30p.m. and the agenda will be posted on the notice board on the church wall. **Tim Pearson**

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# THORNTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting of the 2016/17 Thornhaugh Parish Council took place on 9<sup>th</sup> May. It was chaired by Brian Watts, present were Liam Higgins, Ashleigh Kewney and Louise Molesworth and in attendance were one member of the public and the Clerk. There were apologies for absence from Chris Smith and Diane Lamb.

**Elections:** **Chairman** Brian Watts (no change)

**Vice Chairman** To be discussed at the next meeting

**Thornhaugh & Wansford Parish Burial Ground Committee**

Robert Reeve (no change) and Ian Molesworth (no change)

**Thornhaugh Environmental Association rep.** Liam Higgins (no change)

**Augean Community Liaison rep.** Martin Witherington (no change)

**Christie Hall Management Committee rep.** Brian Watts (no change)

**Public Participation** The member of the public raised the following issue:- Current and future relationship between church and village residents

**Home Farm Matters** Ashleigh Kewney stated that the pot hole at the entrance to Home Farm has not been repaired yet and the new dog foul bin had not been delivered yet. The Clerk will chase up these two issues with the relevant departments. Brian Watts stated he had decided to delay repair of the broken post that supports the Noticeboard until the daffodils had died off.

**Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** Louise Molesworth confirmed that the arrangements for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration were going well. Brian Watts had asked Diane Lamb if she could make a contribution from the Community Leadership Fund and she had responded positively. The Clerk will contact Diane Lamb with Council bank details and a suggestion of a £250 grant. It was agreed that the Parish Council will make a contribution as well; the amount dependent on the grant from the Community Leadership Fund.

**Path alongside the A1** Brian Watts had established that the path beside the A1 is a joint path for use by both pedestrians and cyclists. He had arranged an inspection of the path as there are pot holes to be repaired.

**Lights from Mick George Quarry** Brian Watts reported that following a meeting, bright lights have been dipped and are no longer causing a problem.

**Peterborough Woods Plan** This had been circulated to Parish Councilors who agreed that they would not wish to see all the woods become 'tourist sites' such as at Fineshade. They agreed on the urgent need to clear the rubbish that has been dumped at the entrances and exits in various places.

**Christie Hall Rent** Brian Watts spoke about the proposed increase in rent paid by the Stibbington, Thornhaugh and Wansford Parish Councils which would mean that Thornhaugh would pay £566.87, an increase of £171.00. As Chairman of the Christie Hall Management Committee, he declared an interest and took no further part of the discussion about the rent increase which was agreed as proposed by Ashleigh Kewney and seconded by Louise Molesworth.

The first meeting of the 2016/2017 Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in St Andrew's Church.

**Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk**

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

The AGM of Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council took place on 4 May and was followed by the election of officers and the Parish Council meeting.

- It was reported that the Street light at the Christie Hall was still not working and this has been reported for repair.
- Questions were raised regarding Yarwell Mill, as there have been several posters around the area announcing an Open Day.
- Several payments were authorised and approved.
- There was one Planning Application for demolition of a bungalow at 95 Elton Road and construction of a new dwelling. There were no objections.
- HDC had suggested that the litter bins within the village should be emptied and paid for by the PC, but on investigation it appeared that the bins are in fact owned by Hunts. DC and will therefore continue to be emptied by them.
- Cllr. Bradshaw gave an update of the rent situation regarding Christie Hall. He will continue to keep the Council advised of proceedings.
- There was a report from our District Councillor Rita Mathews - whom we welcomed back after illness - announcing that HDC have kept community tax to Zero, mainly through strong leadership. Plans are in hand for more sharing of services which could improve efficiency and cut costs.
- Our new PCSO has been named as Emily Bryant, and her contact details were given to the Parish Council. It was announced that she is keen to get to know rural villages, so we look forward to seeing her more regularly.
- The Parcel problem at the Post Office has now been solved, and parcels are again being left for collection.

## **Chairman's Annual Report to AGM—Marge Beuttell**

- During the year we received the resignation of Ricky Cawood who has moved home. Ricky was thanked for the time and effort he put into the Parish Council. We were delighted to co-opt our new Councillor, Helen Facer, who was warmly welcomed.
- There were several planning application during this year, two have been withdrawn and all others received permission to proceed with their plans.
- The White lines finally arrived after much chasing, the street lights, also after much reminding, all appear to be functioning properly.
- It is a matter of great concern that we would appear to be continually ignored on the matter of the flooding on our roads.
- Despite numerous letters from the Parish Council, there are still several outstanding areas that need to be dealt with. It has become frustrating to say the least. We were especially irritated at the response to our complaint about the sewer system and pumping machinery at Waters Edge. This is on going and we will pursue this through all channels available to us.
- The dog foul bins have been the subject of complaints during the year, and we are in the process of relocating the bin at Bridge end. We are also in the process of changing the contractor as the current situation and complaints are totally unacceptable.
- This just leaves me once again to thank my fellow Councillors and our extremely dedicated Clerk for all their hard work during the year.





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## WANSFORD-IN-ENGLAND CRICKET CLUB

Season 2016 is well underway and Wansford Cricket Club (WCC) squeezed four matches in through to the 1st May. The first unofficial fixture being a dusting off the whites, inter-club match on April 10th seeing a good turn out from WCC and local clubs to make a 12 against 12 warm up.

### **April 17th Wansford Vs Camra (Home)**

The club's first official fixture was on April 17th vs Camra at home. Camra elected to bat first and Nick Bradberry scored an impressive century being retired at 102 not out by his club captain for making his team mates all look a bit rusty. Camra scored 195 for 6 wickets at the end of their 40 overs and we then headed in for Collette from the Cross Keys welcoming sandwiches. Pick of the bowling for Wansford were Biscuits with 2 wickets for 42 runs off 7 overs with economical bowling from Vidit Matta with 1 wicket for 13 runs off 8 overs, and Matt Mitchell 1 wicket for 22 runs off 8 overs. Pete Lucas and Liam Boome opened the batting for Wansford to start the chase. Vidit then joined the crease at no. 3 in the 7th over and went on to score an aggressive 117 not out to snatch the game from Camra with a big 6 off the final 2 balls of the innings. Other pick of the batting was Captain Darren Sweary who scored 28 runs. With our first victory under our belts it was hoped form will continue and that the club will thrive over the coming season.

### **April 24th Wansford Vs. Pytchley (Home)**

WCC were then at home again Vs Pytchley on April 24th and fielded first. Opening bowler Matt Mitchell took 3 wickets for 36 runs off 8 overs and youngster Harrison (Hazza) collected an impressive 2 wickets for 27 runs off his 7 overs. Pytchley were all out for 166 and we headed in for teas. Pick of batting today was Paul Ingram scoring 46 not out and Vidit Matta with 37, but unfortunately Wansford fell short of the target scoring 136 all out to lose by 30 runs.

### **May 1st Wansford Vs. Scopwick (Away)**

WCC picked themselves up from the previous loss and travelled away to RAF Digby to play Scopwick. Fielding first again, opening bowlers Biscuits and Matt Mitchell set the tone early dismissing half the Scopwick team in the first 10 overs. Biscuits took 3 wickets for 11 runs off 5 overs, Hazza 3 wickets for 11 runs off 2 overs and Matt Mitchell 2 wickets for 6 runs off 5 overs. Scopwick were all out for 51 runs. Wansford chased down the total in the 14th over after losing 5 wickets to Scopwick's bowling line up including an ex-professional footballer. Ali hit an impressive 6 on request to win the match. Due to finishing earlier than expected a T20 followed at Scopwick with WCC winning again.

The club so far has won 2 out of 3, performing well as a team with some impressive individual performances. The club is due to play at home most of May with some away fixtures in June and the next match reports will follow in future issues of Living Villages.

We welcome anyone who is interested in joining, playing or spectating. Practice Nets continue on Tuesday evenings from 6pm behind the Haycock for those interested in having a go, or please feel free to join us and watch the games. Who knows you might even get a cup of tea or one of Collette's famous sandwiches if you time things right!

### Fixtures

It appears that the original fixture list submitted to me by the Fixture Secretary and published in the May edition of 'Living Villages' was incorrect. Our apologies for this error and trust that you will find the time to adjust your calendar accordingly

Fixtures for the season 2016 are **now** as follows :

It is hoped that as many locals as possible will support the Club and we look forward to new members who would either like to play or maybe take an active part behind the scenes.

29 <sup>th</sup> May	Away	Old East
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Home	Stoneygate
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Away	Old Warden
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Away	Uppingham
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Away	Seas End
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Away	Pytchley
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Away	Witham
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Home	Motley
Crew		
24 <sup>st</sup> July	Away	Uppingham
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Home	Islip
7 <sup>th</sup> August	Home	Rushden
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Home	Old East.
21 <sup>st</sup> August	(TBA)	
28 <sup>th</sup> August	Home	Presidents Day
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Home	Scopwick
11 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Home	Old Warden
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Home	Camra
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Home	Islip

**John Stones - President**

## THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY

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

With many thanks to,  
**Wansford Horticultural Society**

for drawing the tickets at  
**Their Annual Plant Sale  
Elton Road Wansford**

<b>£60</b>	<b>Mrs K Eassom</b>
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There is really no alternative to my theme for this month as I was blown away by the displays of wild flowers in Sulehay Forest this week. Some visitors had heard about the bluebells so we took them for a walk in the woods. We really got the best of both worlds. Not only were spring flowers very much in evidence but the tall woodland trees were coming into leaf providing a fresh green and sky blue roof to the floral wonders beneath. There were still broad spreads of bluebells throughout the eastern section of the forest; although they were beginning to pass their best they were still an inspiring sight.

I could smell the ramsons before we reached them. The smell of this wild garlic was almost overpowering as the fresh green leaves appeared topped by masses of starlike white flowers. There was wild garlic everywhere. I had not seen such a display before. Partly I had picked the perfect time to visit, but the weather conditions over the past six months or so have been good for the growth of this plant. A good growing season in 2015 will have filled the underground bulbous stores of each plant and this spring has provided ideal growing conditions to produce this wonderful display. The blooms spread for hundreds of metres at the end of the forest before petering out as we approached the northern end of the central ride.

As we worked our way back we came across a similar large spread of wood anemones. Totally different to the brash green and white of the ramsons the anemone has a more branched and greyer leaf surmounted by a single delicate white bell shaped flower. A place to stop and appreciate the wonders of nature.

But there was more. Bright golden stars betrayed the ground-hugging flowers of the lesser celandine, sparkling in the sunbeams shooting down from the treetops. Each yellow flower can have eight to ten thin petals distinguishing itself from its close cousin the buttercup with its five bright yellow rounded petals. With primroses vying with the bluebells in April what a glorious wood Sulehay is in springtime. This period exhibits the woodland floor at its best.

There is still time to see this floral carpet so beat a trail to Sulehay. Once into June the tree canopy begins to shut out the light and the flowers, closely followed by their leaves, wither and die back into the ground from which they came. From then the forest takes on a different beauty, not so colourful but where the sounds of summer take over the senses.

If you miss this spring display put a note in your diary to visit next year. But not just one date; visits in March, April and May would repay the effort. It's worth it!

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our regular correspondent, Nan Alden, (a former resident of Stibbington and now a postal subscriber to this magazine), demonstrates both her ability to recall details of life in times past, and her very detailed reading of the magazine.

In her letter, Nan comments on:  
> the reference to Martin Lewis' April Fool article in last month's Editorial;  
> a letter from Richard Winfrey about the death of a doctor who had practiced in Wansford from the 1940s; and  
> the celebratory events advertised for the coming month.

Dear Rosie,  
Yes! I fell for Martin's bird scaring account! I could not believe sleepy old Stibbington could be so far advanced in this modern age!

I was interested to read Richard Winfrey's article about Dr Walker - I remember him well as I had an appointment with him in 1948/49 and it was the very first time I had ever met a doctor! His surgery was in "Mrs Palin's house" - next to the archway leading to the abattoir behind London Road. I was 18 then and he could only have been six or seven years older than me! He also had a surgery/home about two doors down from Miss Hazeldine's shop opposite Wansford church (I used to deliver his post when at uni!)

I guess the Richard Winfrey of Church Lane who wrote the article is related to the Winfreys who lived in the lovely house at the bottom of Castor hill. I passed that house daily for 6 years (to school) - the bus used to crawl up the hill so there was time to look into the lovely gardens and see the family pets cemetery at the top of the hill!



## Nassington Ladies Group

### SUMMER CHARITY EVENING FETE

(Proceeds in aid of MIND – Mental Health Charity)

**Wednesday 15th June 2016**

**on Nassington Village Green at 6.30 pm**

**Tombola BBQ Cake Stall Raffle**

**Bric-a-Brac Book Stall Refreshments**

**Free Entry – Come and enjoy**

I often surprise myself with all I can remember from the past and yet cannot remember something I did only yesterday.....

Enjoy all your celebrations,

Kind regards  
Nan Alden

**rosied@globalnet.co.uk**



Dear Rosie,

Few people realise that the annual Gashes tournament, which pits a combined team from Wansford's Cross Keys and Paper Mills against a team from Yarwell's Angel Inn in a traditional game of Crounders, can trace its roots to the end of the first world war. Indeed, today's fun-filled event is a far cry from that original game, explains Jay B. Oulton, a local historian and yacht chandler.

"The first game was a grudge match," he says. Wansford publican Rob McPeterson quarrelled with the proprietor of the Angel Inn over who had the best beer. Regulars at each pub were asked to intervene, but after extensive sampling no-one could remember what the argument was about so they decided to settle things through the time-honoured tradition of sporting contest.

Neil Ander, whose father ran the Angel Inn at the time, takes up the story. "My dad literally threw down a gauntlet and challenged McPeterson to raise a team and meet him on the field of cricket. They chose to play Crounders, a game that dates back to Tudor times."

'Freemans' of both villages were duly invited to play and assembled on the Cran Field, which is now the northbound carriageway of the A1.

That first game ended in deadlock, so an annual rematch was arranged. Back then scoring matches was harder because the games were played in black and white. It took until the first colour match in the early 1970s for anyone to work out what was actually going on.

The convention of the winning pub taking home the trophy each year was ended after the original Suttons Cup was stolen just before the 1966 event, during what the press dubbed the "summer of trophy thefts". Since then, the hand crafted Gashes trophy is only ever seen in Yarwell during open top victory bus tours, though all of today's players still enjoy a 'drink from the gash' during post-match celebrations in the Cross Keys.

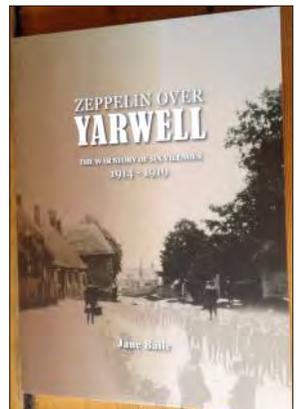
*Gashes IX kicks off at 3pm on Monday, May 30 at Wansford's cricket ground. Beer, BBQ, Music and good old-fashioned competitive village fun. All welcome.*

Elliott Palmer

Dear Rosie

My Book **A Zeppelin Over Yarwell** is now published and tells the stories of six villages. Many stories have not been told before. The villages in this book are Stibbington, Wansford, Nassington, Yarwell, Woodnewton and Apethorpe. There are lots of references to Wansford, it also mentions men from Thornaugh. The book can be purchased in the Nassington Village Shop or directly from me on 01780 782575 price £12.99.

Best wishes,  
Jane Baile



## DIARY DATES – JUNE 2016

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Contact	Phone	p
Wed 1	<b>Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's Tea Party</b>	3.00pm	<b>St Andrew's church,</b> Thornhaugh	Liz Kemp	07719 400467	9
Fri 3	WI 3Cs — Visit ro Spalding Quilt Show	9.30am	Meet Wansford Community Hall	Jean Yerbury	782510	13
Sat 4, Sun 5	Willow Animal Sculptures Craft Classes (1 or 2-day)	10—4	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Stibbington Centre	782386	18
Sun 5 12 19 26	Wansford-in-England Cricket Club mtch	1.30pm	The Haycock Park or away venues	John Stones	782109	31
Wed 8	Communicare meeting— Age UK	6.30pm	Wansford Surgery	Wansford Surgery	782342	16
Thur 9	Garden history — <b>Shakespeare's garden</b>	12.30pm	Rose Landscapes			39
Sat 11	Royal Garden Party	2.00pm	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Rosie McDonnell	783639	28
Sun 12	<b>Queen's birthday church service and village brunch</b>	10.30am	<b>St Mary's church,</b> Wansford	Alan Jones	783205	9
Sun 12	<b>Queen's birthday hog roast and rarbecue</b>		The Rectory, Thornhaugh			25
Mon 13	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Wansford Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	23
Tues 14	WI tour of Sacrewell	7.15pm	Meet at Sacrewell car park	Jean Yerbury	782510	13
Wed 15	Communicare visit to Wells & Sandringham					16
Wed 15	<b>Friends of St Mary's and St Andrew's visit</b>	1.30pm	Cotterstock	Dora Baker	782519	9
Wed 15	Summer Fete Evening	6.30pm	Nassington Village Geen	Nassington Ladies Group		36
Fri 17	WI 3Cs — Coffee, Community and Craft	9.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Jean Yerbury	782510	13
Fri 17	Communicare Social Group Coffee Morning	10.00am	Kings Cliffe Active Sports Hall			16
Sat 18	<b>Friends of St Mary's &amp; St Andrew's ladies breakfast</b>	9.30am	Cotterstock	Dora Baker	782519	9
Sun 19	Horticultural visit to Ickworth & Hemingham			Gill Fisher	782446	15
Sun 26	Community Class: Printmaking	10.00— 4.00pm	Environment Centre, Stibbington	Stibbington Centre	782386	18
Sun 26	Patronal Festival	6.00pm	St John the Baptist church Stibbington	Church wardens		5
JULY Sat 2	Friends of Stibbington church Family Feast	6..00pm	Stibbington Hall	Helen Facer	782932	11
Sat 2	Horticultural Society Summer Party	6.30pm	Sacrewell	Gill Fisher	782446	15

**Copy deadline next month: Wednesday 22 June**

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





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