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EDITORIAL

Last month's memorable Royal Diamond Jubilee weekend features prominently in our July magazine. Photo reports on the celebrations in both Thornhaugh (page 28, 29) and Wansford (page 30, 31) clearly show how successful the community parties were, and how well they were supported by our villagers. The reports were submitted by the organisers of the events, who are effusive in their **thanks to all who helped, but it's their** leadership, co-ordination and management that is worthy of special thanks and praise too. How fortunate we are to have local people who are willing to work so hard for the benefit of our community. Thank you also to Danielle Benbow for sending the front cover photo that captures so well the spirit of the celebrations.

Amongst our regular features and news reports this month, we have the first in a series of articles on the Olympics as seen from a local perspective. During the next three months the editorial team is planning to compile reports from a local torch bearer, a spectator at one of the events and a volunteer staff member at the Paralympics. But first, this month, as development of the Olympic Park nears completion, we have a "behind the scenes" story from the site (page 17). We haven't yet found any locals who are actually competing in Olympic events, but would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is.

Rosie McDonnell

Editorial team and contacts

Editor: Rosie McDonnell
 Tel 01780 783639
 Email rosied@globalnet.co.uk

Regular features writers:
 Reflections: Bishop John Flack
 Local history: David Stuart-Mogg
 Nature Notes: Graham Blagden
 Younger readers: Marcus Arnold

Photographer: Charles Brown

Advertising manager: Carole Whincup
 Tel 01780 783055
 Email carole.whincup@googlemail.com

Distribution manager: Rod Sortwell
 Tel 01780 783403
 Email r.sortwell@btinternet.com

Reporter: Viv Thorley
 Tel 01780 782616
 Email vivienthorley@aol.com

CONTENTS

Worship lists . . .	4,5
Bishop John . . .	7

News reports:

Friends	7
Wansford Church . .	7
RBL	9
Lottery	9
WI	11
Cricket tribute . . .	13
Wansford Health .	13
Horticultural Soc. .	15
Thornhaugh party	
	28, 29
Wansford parties	
	30, 31

Parish Councils:

Wansford	21
Sutton	23

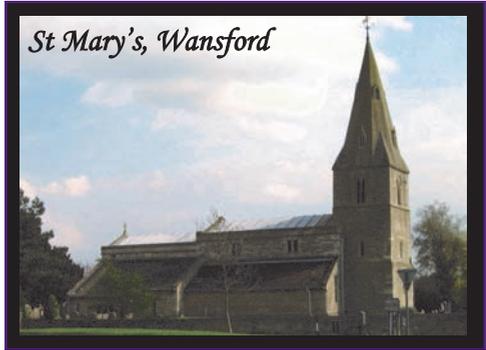
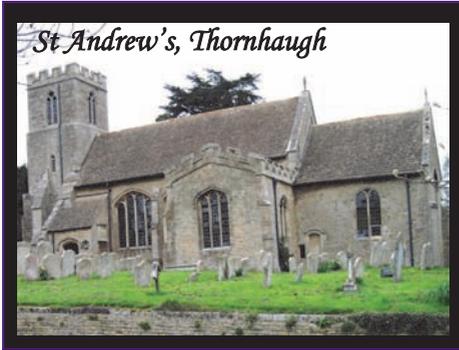
Special features:

Local History . . .	18, 19
Olympic Park	
	countdown 17
Nature Notes . . .	25
Younger readers. .	27
Letters to the Editor	
	32,33

Diary Dates . . .	34
--------------------------	-----------



WORSHIP



Our churches exist to experience the love of God and to share that love with others.

Date	Time	Location	Service
1 July	10 am	St Andrew's Thornhaugh	Parish Communion
8 July	10 am	St Mary's Wansford	Parish Communion
15 July	10 am	St Andrew's Thornhaugh	Parish Communion
22 July	10 am	St Mary's Wansford	Parish Communion
29 July	10 am	St Andrew's Thornhaugh	Benefice Service
Every Wednesday	10 am	St Mary's Wansford	Morning Prayer

CHURCH CONTACTS

Acting Priest-in-charge: Bishop John Flack Tel: 782271 Mob: 07810 714056
 Email: johnrobertflack@hotmail.com
 The Vicarage, 34 Station Road, Nassington PE8 6QB

Churchwardens:

Stuart Foreman	6 Russell Hill, Thornhaugh, PE8 6HL	783220
Liz Kemp	Bonemill Pumping Station, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh PE8 6NW	782333
Paul Tate	2 Yarwell Road, Wansford, PE8 6JP	782965
Alan Jones	10 Bridge End, Wansford PE8 6JH	783205

PCC Treasurer:

Judith Rogers	1 Robinswood, Wansford, PE8 6JQ	783441
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Please note that services in Stibbington will take place on the second and fourth Sunday of the month and in Water Newton on the fifth Sunday.

Date	Time	Location	Service
1 st July		Details opposite for Wansford or 10.15am Holy Communion at St. Kyneburgha, Castor or 9.30am at All Saints, Elton	
8 th July	9.00am	St. John the Baptist, Stibbington	Morning Worship
15 th July		As for 1 st July	
22 nd July	9.00am	St. John the Baptist, Stibbington	Holy Communion
29 th July	9.00am	St. Remigius, Water Newton	Holy Communion

**5th
August**

As for 1st July

For weddings and baptisms or the arrangement of Holy Communion for the sick or housebound please contact Canon William Burke on 01733 380244 or email wburke@btinternet.com or contact the Parish Office on admin.castor@btconnect.com

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HOLIDAY SEASON?

Dear Everyone

We are now in the holiday season despite the unseasonal weather! If you are away on holiday do try to sample the local church.

I am always interested to receive parish magazines and newsletters from other churches including those in other countries.

It is all part of discovering what a vast family we belong to. In our rural churches it is easy to imagine that we are part of a very small enterprise. Discovering other churches shows us how big the world-wide church is - a family of two billion people. So be encouraged!

With every good wish.

+ John

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S

On Wednesday 20 June **THE FRIENDS OF ST.MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S** enjoyed their **Summer Lunch** at Normanton Park Hotel in very fine weather. It was lovely to have our friend Miriam back with us again and to be able to welcome Audrey Christie as our guest.

Our meetings during July will both take place at 10.30 a.m. in the **Community Hall**. **The first one, on 4 July, will be a " Social " and the second one, on 18 July, will be the official meeting.** Both will be preceded by **Morning Prayer at St. Mary's.**

Dora Baker (secretary)

ST MARY'S DIAMOND JUBILEE PROJECT

After several years of discussion, negotiation and battling through to get all **relevant consents, our works at St Mary's Church, Wansford are at last** underway. By the end of August there will be a new entrance on the north side of the church, along with a disabled toilet just inside the new porch. This will make the church much easier to access (no awkward steps), and extend the range of uses. Churches are intended to provide a resource for community use and we are keen to develop the range of activities at St Mary's. The new facilities will help, and they will also help those coming for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

We have delivered a leaflet to every household asking for help to finish off our fundraising for the project. With the leaflet was a label to attach to an empty jam jar with a view to collecting in spare change from residents. I hope you will feel able to help us with that. It costs a great deal to run the church and to maintain the building. So, if the amenity of the church at the heart of the community matters to you, please support our appeal.

For donations or information contact

Paul Tate 01780782965 or Judith Rogers 01780 783441



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The Haycock Hotel is proud to announce the arrival of their new Executive Head Chef Andrew McCreanor. Andrew is Australian born and has lived in the UK for 15 years, and is living locally to the area. Andrew is passionate about food and using locally sourced produce wherever possible. Andrew's career spans over two decades.

He has consulted on the Australian Master Chef television show, and has cooked for Royalty, celebrities and at many high society events. Andrew says,

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

THE CHRISTIE HALL COMMUNITY LOTTERY



The winners of the **June 2012**

draw are listed here.

Many thanks to

Harry & Gwen Hull

for doing the draw at their

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Mat Free, Administrator

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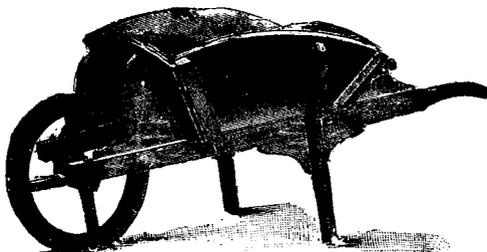
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STIBBINGTON & WANSFORD W.I.



Jean Yerbury welcomed the members to the meeting at the Community Hall on 12th June. The books to be discussed at the next Book Group on Thursday 26th July to be held at The Haycock Hotel will be The Kashmir Shawl by Rosie Thomas and The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford. Work was progressing on the exhibit for the East of England Show, and it had been decided to depict the Investiture of the Prince of Wales at Caernarvon Castle with a variety of craft and cookery items.

George Bicknell introduced Jill Wadsworth, a member of the H&PFWI Executive Committee. Jill had been involved in the W.I. campaign **Women reaching Women** which was launched in 2008. The campaign offered increased opportunities for W.I. members to work on international projects and broaden awareness of world poverty and gender inequality. Jill had attended a meeting in Northampton where they met Wangari Cecilia Karushi. Wangari needed money and resources to provide a secondary education for children in Kahuru which is in the Nyandarua district of Kenya. Wangari had already bought the land but needed funds to build the school. The Trustees for the school were recruited, and in 2010 charity status was obtained.



Wangari's dream started to become a reality when in 2008 the building of the school started. A local man provided the wood for the project, and four classrooms were completed in **2010. Wangari's next task was to find the pupils, many of which are orphans.** The Sacred Heart School opened in

January 2011 with 40 pupils.

There was no running water, but rain water was collected in a tank and this was used for the pupils to wash their hands. A toilet block has now been built. The next stage was to build some dormitories, and in January this year it was completed and there are now 14 boarders and 65 day students at the school. Jill encouraged members to visit www.karurisch.org to find out more about the school.

Jill concluded her talk by saying that as a trustee for the school she has discovered that fund raising is



not such a hard task when you know that you are helping a special lady like Wangari to fulfil her dream. Through the sale of the handbags, a selection of which Jill had brought with her for members to buy that evening, and various other activities such as sponsored walks money was being raised to support this project.

Jill illustrated her talk with many photographs of the school together with Wangari with her pupils, and these showed the progress that had been made so far.

Jean presented Jill with some red v-neck sweaters which members and friends had knitted for the pupils.

Members were reminded that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th July at Stamford Shakespeare Theatre, Toilethorpe when we will enjoy a picnic before a performance of The Three Musketeers.

Judith Rogers, Secretary

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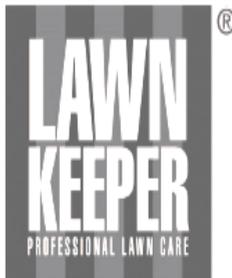
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WANSFORD IN ENGLAND CRICKET CLUB

Tribute to David Beard

It was with deep sadness that the Cricket Club heard of the death of one of its former stalwarts.

David Beard, who passed peacefully away in April and whose ashes were interred at Thornhaugh in June, was a past player, captain, Chairman and eventually President of Wansford Cricket Club. He was an excellent all-rounder who bowled medium pace (accurately), scored rapidly with the bat (nearly all his runs coming from boundaries) and regularly fielded in the slips.

He was a paragon of the virtues of village cricket and worked tirelessly to ensure Wansford maintained a successful team and local venue (Haycock Field). He played with a competitive spirit, a friendly nature, hard but fair and enjoyed replaying every game in the local bar afterwards.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him but remembered with fondness and admiration

John Stones, President

WANSFORD HEALTH

Our reporter Viv Thorley asked for information from the Wansford Health surgery about the doctors' approach to the industrial action on 21 June, and they kindly supplied the following points:

- Wansford Surgery remained open on 21st June 2012.
- Whilst the Doctors believe that changes to NHS pensions are not just, we believe that striking is not the most helpful way to get our views heard.
- We will not compromise patient care.
- We do believe however that the Government has to listen to the Profession as the NHS will not function if Doctors choose to leave in significant numbers.
- Doctors are not happy with the pension changes as a comprehensive review of the pensions was previously carried out where we agreed to increased contributions and an increase in retirement age from 60 to 65.
- The government has now said the retirement age has to rise to 68 and insists on even further pension contribution rises which would result in doctors paying twice as much as civil servants on the same pension.

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WANSFORD HORTICULTURAL & CRAFTS SOCIETY

Our coach trip to BBC Gardeners' World Live at the NEC Birmingham on Saturday 16th June was well supported by 45 members and their guests and greatly enjoyed by all. As has so often been the case this "summer", the weather was pretty terrible, cold wet and windy, but fortunately most of the show is undercover so we were not greatly affected. The floral marquee was a delight as were many of the show gardens which were nevertheless being battered by strong winds.

The next event in the calendar is an "extra". Following our talk in April on walled kitchen gardens, we are joining the speaker, Joe Whitehead, at the **Blatherwyke Walled Garden** that he is restoring in the evening on **Thursday 26th July** to view his progress. Please do come along, even if you missed the talk, as it promises to be most interesting. Please contact me for full details.

Our second coach trip of the season to **R.H.S. Garden Wisley** on **Sunday 5 August**, is filling up fast. Always a delight to visit, Wisley does have huge glasshouses which provide shelter if the weather has not improved by then. As an affiliated society we do not have to pay entry to the garden, so this trip is cheaper. A seat on the coach will be just £12 all inclusive. We meet as usual outside the Paper Mills at 8.30 a.m. so please contact me soon if you wish to join us.

By the time this is published, our **Summer Party on Saturday 30 June** will have taken place in, we hope, glorious sunshine and we shall be thinking ahead to the **Annual Show** which takes place as always on Bank Holiday Saturday, **August 25th** this year.

A reminder that our show schedule is online at : -www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk so that you can see the new categories including entries celebrating the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. Lunches will be served from 12 noon and of course there will be the Fun Dog Show starting at 1 p.m. with registration from 11 a.m.

We would be delighted for anyone who would like to have a stall, selling or promoting, to get in touch as there is plenty of space, and the more variety we have to offer the better. Volunteers to help on the day, even if only for an hour, would also be most welcome.

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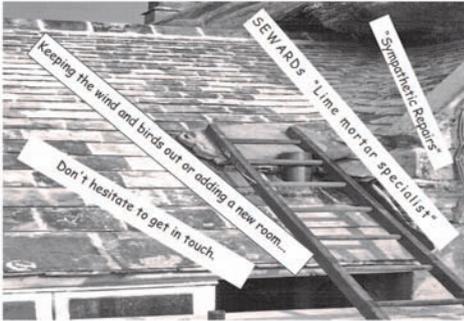


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OLYMPIC PARK COUNTDOWN

The journey from Wansford to the Olympic Park is one that some readers might be making during the coming weeks if they have been lucky enough to have tickets for events. For local resident, Tom Whincup the journey has been his daily commute since March when he was called in to project manage the **development of the Olympics site. On arrival at Kings Cross, Tom's discovery of the high speed train from St Pancras International to Stratford International was a bonus, reducing the travel time across London from 50 minutes by tube to just 6 minutes.** On arrival at Stratford, a walk through the bustling, vibrant Westfield **Shopping Centre (Tom's last project – the biggest shopping centre in Europe – six Queensgates would fit into it!)** leads to the bridge into the Park. Before you can take your walk in the park though, the next hurdle is the very tight airport-style security that all those who work on the site, as well as visitors, have to go **through every day: There's photo ID to be shown; a photo badge to be printed;** bag scanner; and body scanner. Once on site, the huge scale of the development means that it could still be some time before you arrive at your destination which may be a walk or a minibus ride away.

The scene that greets visitors, although still under development, is hugely impressive and recognisable from news coverage. The iconic venues: the main stadium, the aquatics centre, the velodrome and of course the Orbit tower are familiar sights. Their construction has been completed, trial events have been held, and lessons have been learned, for example the importance of indicating gate numbers on tickets in order to avoid lengthy queues.

Whilst each of the main venues has its own project manager and team, Tom has the role of lead project manager. Tom has managed, for example, the installation of 10 mobile phone masts around the site which should ensure that communications systems can cope with thousands of spectators phoning, texting and sending photos during the events. So it was up to Tom to resolve a major issue that arose in early June: a huge communications gantry, whose location had been carefully planned, was in the way of camera shots for TV coverage. **The easy option might have been to move the TV cameras, but no, that wasn't acceptable.** Instead it was down to Tom to plan and manage the dismantling and re-location of the whole gantry – a task that will take at least three weeks and cost ££££££!

Will the project be delivered on time? Of course it will, Tom says. And when all the events are over and the competitors and spectators gone, Tom will still be there. His responsibilities extend for months after the games because of the Olympic legacy. Some of the infrastructure that has been installed for the games will be dismantled, and some of the temporary buildings will be removed. This will be a huge project to manage in itself. But other features will remain as the **Olympics' legacy to London: some of the main venues will provide top quality sports facilities; the extensive Olympic village of competitors' accommodation will be converted into apartments for local people;** and the major improvements to the beautiful Lea Valley Park will remain for all to enjoy for many years to come.

Let's hope that by July 27th Tom will be able to relax and enjoy the Opening Ceremony, secure in the knowledge of a mission successfully accomplished!

Rosie McDonnell

LOCAL HISTORY

By David Stuart-Mogg

PAGEANTS,

The colourful photograph on the cover of the last edition of *Living Villages* (June) is one of a number of photos recording The Wansford Coronation Pageant of 1953. To mark the occasion the headmaster of Stibbington School, Tom Stafford, wrote an imaginative playlet, acted by villagers, based on a visit to Wansford by Queen Elizabeth 1st during a journey from Fotheringhay, when she exchanged river transport for the more questionable comfort of a coach and horses. The cover photograph depicts the 'royal party', led by Sir Walter Raleigh, processing up the footpath from the river bank to The Haycock. The part of Queen Elizabeth 1st was played by the late Peggy Stafford and the part of Sir Walter Raleigh, resplendent in a black, bushy beard was played by her husband the late Douglas (Doug) Stafford, the well-known local engineer and son of Stibbington School headmaster Tom Stafford. The playlet was performed in London Road with the frontage of The Haycock as the backdrop. As part of the general festivities a Maypole was also erected in the middle of the road **opposite The Haycock's main entrance**, a photo of which is reproduced on p. 28 of my booklet *Wansford at the Millennium*.

Around the same period, Doug Stafford built a landing stage at the bottom of the above-mentioned footpath from which he **raised money for St. John's Church**, Stibbington after church on Sundays, during summer months, by taking villagers and visitors on trips to Water Newton and back in his river boat 'Ruston' (any pun intended, I wonder?).

Until sometime around the early 1960s, village fêtes and sports days were held in the field that is now known as the Wansford Picnic Site. I understand this field belonged to Miss Stokes, of an old **Wansford family, who had a butcher's** shop and slaughter-yard on the corner of Stamford Road (now Old North Road) and Peterborough Road. The business closed when its old thatched premises were demolished at the same time as the Mermaid Inn during the road-widening scheme that gave the cross-roads its present layout. Miss Stokes used the field to graze livestock bought at market while awaiting slaughter at her shop.

The mention of my dowsing exercise and the possibility of pre-Christian ritual at **the site of St. Mary's, Wansford in the** May issue of *Living Villages* stimulated interesting discussions and I thank those who made contact. A common thread was pre-Christian influences and activities. We are lucky to see evidence of such beliefs in two churches in this area, in the form of the effigy of a Green Man at Castor and of a *Sheela na gig* at Etton. Both effigies essentially relate to fecundity and regeneration. As may be seen throughout the world today, Christianity is sometimes an uneasy bedfellow with pagan practices that over time have become insinuated into local liturgy. It would have been the same in early Britain as converts adopted a **pragmatic 'belt and braces' approach to** the new religion, being understandably loath to relinquish entirely the ancient beliefs and practices of their forefathers. Essentially, a hybrid religion emerged.

BUTCHERS, GREEN MEN AND NAKED LADIES.



The *sheela na gig* (generally regarded as a pagan female fertility icon) at **St. Stephen's** Church, Etton (left), is unusual in that it presents horizontally rather than in the more frequent squatting posture and is also less sexually explicit as regards detail than other examples I have

noted elsewhere. The flat head suggests that once there was either some form of headdress or hat, or that the figure was formerly presented

vertically and formed a support to some unknown structure above it. There appear to be two holes visible to the right of the rather sturdy, elongated neck which, if present, suggest that a now long-lost neckband or torque once added decoration or actually identified the figure. The figure can be found on the south side of the tower at the left extremity of the corbel table below the spire.

The Green Man, or very rarely a Green Woman, is depicted most often in architecture and decorative carvings as a **grotesque man's face peering out of** dense foliage with vigorous shoots, often vines, sprouting from the eyes, nose and mouth representing new life and regeneration. Celtic and Roman deities representing the male spirit of Spring and farming and have been closely linked



to Green Man theology, although similar cult beliefs doubtless pre-date recorded history. The rather natural-looking human hands of the Green Man in St.

Kyneburgha's, Castor, (left) only serve to emphasise the monstrous, other-worldly and mystic nature of his face. Doubtless once he served as a handy bogey-man with which to threaten recalcitrant children.

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WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

www.wansfordvillage.com

Wansford Parish Council met on the evening of June 11th 2012 and was chaired by John Stannage with Cllrs J. Burrows, S. Forward, T. Pearson and G. Stevens present with Cllr Lamb joining later in the meeting. Apologies received for Cllrs R. Clarke, T. Sortwell, J. Holditch and the Parish Clerk, W.Grey. Minutes were kindly taken by Cllr J. Burrows.

Planning: 3 matters for planning were discussed, The application for a house at 2 Yarwell Road which was approved by WPC was rejected by PCC for several planning reasons. An application was considered for the installation of an additional gate to the field on old Leicester road, east of the old pump house. It was agreed the need for a second gate had not been identified clearly and as such WPC rejected the application and the PCC informed accordingly. The last matter was an approval from PCC for some small alterations at 49 Old North Road which was previously approved by WPC.

Special projects: WPC has several special projects on the go, some will come to fruition very swiftly and some will take a little time to organise and arrange, however one project which we would urge everyone to consider is the use of the "30MPH" wheelie bin stickers. These are available free of charge from the Village Post Office and are an excellent visual reminder to deter speeding in the village especially on Old Leicester Road, Old North Road and Peterborough Road.

Peterborough Tree Officer Visit: We are trying to arrange a date in July for the tree officer to make a visit to Wansford and to attend the properties of any residents who have questions or concerns over trees, whether in or out of the conservation area. The tree officer attended a WPC meeting a little while ago and he is a wealth of information and serves well in explaining the **do's and don't's of tree management**. **If you have a need or a query for the tree officer please contact the parish clerk, Wendy Grey on 01778 341496 or e mail wendy7@hotmail.co.uk**

Resident request: WPC received a request from a resident in the North Section of the village to see if an additional Post box could be situated either in the North section or just south of the underpass. Royal mail have outlined that it is highly unlikely as the usage would not be high enough. WPC will consider other alternatives at future meetings. It was also brought to our attention that the condition of the underpass has deteriorated and some lights are not working, PCC has been informed and have planned that the lights are to be fixed prior to WC 26th July 2012.

Thank You: It was agreed by all that that the Diamond Jubilee celebrations were a roaring success, thanks are forwarded to all of the organisers for such a great amount of effort, especially due to the last minute move to The Christie Hall where a "full house" created a fantastic atmosphere, Well Done.

Graham Stevens - Councillor WPC



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SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

The AGM of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting both took place on 17th May. The Parish Councillors and nine residents were present:

Parish Councillors. Dan Rose continues as chairman, Melvyn Hill as finance officer, Peter Lee, vice-chair and Rob Hilton, Dr Mike Caskey, councillors.

Conservation Appraisal of Sutton

Jim Daley, the City Council's Conservation Officer attended to explain that a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan was shortly to be prepared for Sutton. Most other villages had already been through this process, Sutton being low on the list due to its size and lack of development pressure. The appraisal will be a short document summarising the history and character of the village and the elements which are important to its value as a Conservation Area. It will be a guide for planners dealing with planning applications. Although it is possible that amendments to the Conservation Area boundary may be proposed, this is quite separate from the Village Envelope boundary which defines the extent of built development. That is not to be reviewed. The draft report will be available for comment in September.

A bus shelter?

The Council sought the opinion of the meeting as to whether it should go ahead and install a base for a bus-shelter at the cross-roads. A lively discussion took place as to whether a bus-shelter, given its cost at over £5000, was an unnecessary luxury, and if not, how it might be funded. There were differing views as to the appropriate location (the cross roads, serving school bus passengers and Call Collect, vs. the public service location on the old A47). It was decided to carry out a survey of village opinion before incurring any spending.

Rabbits

The Council had incurred some expenditure in tackling the amount of rabbit disturbance on the recreation ground, but the allotments are also adversely affected. Accordingly the Council were investigating other means of reducing the rabbit population without incurring major ongoing expenditure.

Neighbourhood Policing

The Neighbourhood Policing Panel meeting on 16th May was concerned that the 101 number, launched a year ago for non-emergency (i.e. non-999) calls to the police, was not being used as much as it could be. Residents should use it, for instance, to report suspicious behaviour. It had already proved its worth in Castor and Ailsworth. The next NPP meeting, open to residents, will be in Sutton on Wednesday 12th Sept at 7p.m.

Parish Council meeting date

Next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 26th July 2012 at 7.45pm in the Church.

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A couple of centuries ago Britain was blessed with the presence of many large mammals and birds. Many of the larger European birds have been lost to our countryside simply through the land being too intensively managed to allow their continual survival. They have either been hunted or culled to extinction or the increasing pressure of human activity has driven them away.

We know locally that the red kite represents perhaps the most successful re-introduction programme, with hundreds of birds spreading from the Rockingham Forest area across Northamptonshire and adjacent counties. Ospreys, fish eating 'eagles', have been successfully breeding at Rutland Water for a number of years. This represents a natural process after a pair of birds first returned to Scotland in the 1960s and have gradually spread to a number of locations in England.

Other large birds are gradually spreading into our region or are more regularly seen passing through. Ravens can often be seen by the Morborne Mast and have recently been observed above Sulehay Forest. The Mast also attracts many of the larger hawks and falcons; peregrines for instance. Morborne is the first hill in England if you are flying in from the east and is an excellent stopping off point with a view!

Buzzards are raptors that suffered badly in the fifties and sixties from the introduction of organochloride pesticides. These chemicals built up in the bodies of their prey which, in turn, affected the buzzards, either directly killing them or causing infertility. Even ten years ago you were unlikely to see a buzzard in our local skies. Now their 'kee kee' call can often be heard high in our skies. We have come to a point where some farmers and landowners believe buzzards have reached levels where they are taking young lambs and game birds, and are calling for a cull. Hopefully negotiations between the interested parties can succeed in retaining appropriate numbers of these marvellous birds.

My final large bird to return is the crane, certainly our tallest bird and dwarfing the common grey heron of our riverside meadows. Cranes used to be common in Britain and particularly on Whittlesey Mere several hundred years ago. But then the Fens were drained and rivers canalised and with their habitat gone they also disappeared. However they are quite common in Holland and northern Europe, and twenty years or so ago a small group returned to breed on the Norfolk Broads. A couple of years ago the new bird reserve at Lakenheath attracted another small group to breed, and since then a number have been seen on the Nene Washes to the east of Peterborough. But they are coming nearer! A month ago I was fortunate to find a group of three cranes feeding in the flooded fields near Elton, but by morning they were gone.

Our weather and more general climate is changing and we must not forget that we will also lose other mammals and birds because of this. Let us hope that 21st century man can adapt to birds returning from an earlier age so that all can live in harmony and we and our children can enjoy these wonderful birds.

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YOUNGER READERS' BLOG

By Marcus Arnold

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE— AGAIN



Welcome to this month's blog. This month I will be talking about the jubilee and all the rain that we have been having. This month and last month there has been an enormous amount of rain which could have spoilt the Jubilee spirit but the village ploughed on through and still had a great time anyway.

The village jubilee celebrations were meant to be held down by the river. Because of the heavy rain, it was forced to re-camp at the Christie Hall. I was sent up to find out what was happening after we had been tipped off that it might be in the village hall. When I got there I saw straight away that the party was still going to be great if not better so I came back and helped get the picnic ready. When we returned to the hall the Christie Hall looked even better as it kept filling up with more and more people. Some of the other children and I went out in the rain and had a great time playing swing ball and other games. **We didn't care that we were getting drenched and even the grownups didn't mind that we were getting drenched either.**

Over the jubilee half term, my family and I went caravanning in Wing. It is not very far because it was our first time and it suited us perfectly. As soon as we arrived it began to rain and rain and rain. But it did not bother us as we were in a nice dry caravan. It was rather funny to see other people trying to put up tents in the rain and the wind. But then we went to help. The caravanning was great fun and I am looking forward to going a bit further in the summer holidays. Over the years we have been off to many countries all over but **this year we are having a lot of fun staying in the UK. It proves that you don't have to travel to far off countries to have a good time.** There is so much happening in this country this year.

We are really looking forward to the Olympics and to tie in with this month's theme are going to see the water polo just in case we haven't seen enough water this year.

That's all I have got time for this month. I hope that next month is a little dryer.

THORNHAUGH'S 'DO' OF THE DECADE



Brian and Penny Lewin-Watts threw open their beautiful Meadow Lane gardens and barn for the Thornhaugh Jubilee celebrations. Planning of the party had taken weeks and the committee was confident that the sun would shine all day long; after all, it was June . . .

Our event took place on the Sunday of Jubilee weekend - you must remember it; it was the day when it rained solidly for 24 hours. Undeterred, villagers from Thornhaugh and Home Farm trudged to the party laden with brollies, wellies, chairs and indomitable spirits for the 'do' of the decade.

Around 30 expert bakers brought their cakes, scones and biscuits to be judged in the Great Thornhaugh Bake Off. (Feast your eyes on the picture.) Completely independent judges were unanimous in their praise of Emma Harris' celebration cake, Tee Irwin's biscuits and Diane Foreman's scones. Each winner waltzed off with a beautiful jubilee tea tray, as after lunch, villagers tucked in to all the delicious entries - those with particularly sharp elbows fought their way to THAT chocolate cake.



Three BBQ chefs manfully and expertly cooked enough burgers and sausages to feed all 120 hungry villagers, their families and friends. The salad committee came up trumps and provided the healthy part of the lunch. Throughout lunch, villagers were treated to a virtuoso jazz performance by five piece band, Jazz Pidgins.



Despite a howling gale and pouring rain, villagers huddled together for a village photo then dashed back into the barn to watch the flotilla on the Thames on a fab wide screen TV, courtesy of Steve Kruger. Genius. Evening entertainment comprised more food (including a magnificent whole Stilton) and a devilishly tricky royal-themed quiz compiled by Karen Jones - Who knew that there were 775 rooms in Buckingham Palace? A charity collection during

the quiz raised a whopping £350 which has been given to the Downs Syndrome Association of Peterborough.



What a party! Every child in the village was given a china Jubilee egg cup as a souvenir, almost every single house in the village was decorated with bunting, villagers were in great spirit and we loved every second of the day. The organising committee worked tirelessly under the direction of Chairman, Bill Rogers, but greatest thanks and love must go to Penny and Brian for their generosity and faultless hospitality.

Roll on the next 'do' - we are starting to form a cunning plan already.

Reminder for the next outdoor event – you can NEVER have enough gazebos.

Nicky Rogers

WANSFORD'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

A few days before the Diamond Jubilee weekend, bunting and flags started to go up around the village - and with a magnificent overhead display on the Sibson side of the bridge. The weather was not looking too promising but rain held



off for the Open Party on Friday 1st June. Richard and Janet Clarke kindly hosted a BBQ in their garden and the animated chit chat of many friends and neighbours getting together lasted until well after sunset. It was good to see new faces along enjoying the celebration.

With more than one eye on the weather, preparations for a riverside party on the Sunday pressed on through Saturday, but were more in hope than expectation. By first thing on Sunday, the marquee had given way to the wind and rain and the chances of achieving more than a test of stoicism were slight. With help from Gill Fisher a decision was taken to relocate to the Christie Hall. Thanks are due to those who then got stuck in to decorate the hall and relocate the party infra-structure in the short time available.

By the time the Jubilee Service at St Mary's had finished everything was ready. By 1pm there was hardly a seat left in the hall! There followed a wonderful afternoon of friendship and fun. More and more people kept arriving and eventually they were even occupying the cupboard space. Jim Boulton (who was the mainstay of the event) kept things moving and came up with a fine mix of music and games. The crowded room even cleared the way for a politely vigorous round of musical chairs, and the fancy dress competitions saw a parade of shy children and not so shy adults strutt their stuff. We had professional entertainment too from the Gershwin Gang who were just right for the mood of the occasion.

All in all, a successful event and the organisers would like to thank all those who came along and those who made it possible. Financial support came with the help of our Ward councillor John Holdich and the Parish Council. Eric Standen so kindly offered his field, the farmer Peter Mead kindly cut the grass and Bradshaws put up posts and tape. Gill Bellamy helped get the bar sorted, Kevin Merriweather arranged electrics and the cricket club were great helpers as were others who are asked to forgive the absence of a specific mention.



The event raised £539 to split between the church and the cricket club - not bad for something that was on the verge of being called off. It just goes to show that the community does respond to this sort of thing and we thank you all.

Jim Boulton, Elin Styles, Alan Jones and Paul Tate





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Within days of sending the image below of a large swarm of bees taking a very close look at his bin, our “official” photographer, Charlie Brown was invited to take a photo by reader, Pauline Belton. The subject? A stunning bee orchid on the grass verge outside her property at New Lane, Stibbington. These two beeguiling photos had to be included together, of course.



Reverend Thomas Woolsey’s Charity Grants

Anyone studying for a course might be interested in applying for a grant from the

Reverend Thomas Woolsey’s Charity. Since the early 1990s the charity has been giving book tokens or money for equipment to all students from Thornhaugh and Wansford attending a higher education course. The charity also gives monetary help to students of any age or situation on other educational courses leading to a qualification. Details are on the leaflet enclosed with this magazine for Wansford and Thornhaugh residents. The Trustees of the charity will be meeting in September to allocate the grants, so there is plenty of time for any student to apply. Just contact Sue Meacock, St Medard’s, Russell Hill, Thornhaugh, PE8 6HI, tel 01780 783381 for an application form. Applications should be returned to her by 31st August.

Lisa Chambers, Secretary, Rev. Thomas Woolsey’s Charity

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Dear Rosie,

Would you let your Living Villages readers know **that we're looking for two** part time catering, housekeeping and cleaning staff to join our happy team at Stibbington Centre in September?

The catering and housekeeping assistant post is for four mornings, 8 hours weekly, generally 7.15 to 9.15am, and the relief cleaner post is for a similar number of hours after 4pm. Both posts are term-time only.

I would be very pleased to hear from local people who are interested.

I can be contacted on tel 01780 782386 or email Alison.gibson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Thank you,
Alison

Hi Rosie,

I thought readers might be interested in an update on our local professional racing driver, Alexander Sims.

Alexander, from Old Leicester Rd. competed in the famous Le Mans 24 hour race in mid June. After several days of testing and qualifying, the team Lola-Judd run by Status GP, started well up the 55 car grid on Saturday afternoon. Sharing the drive with two team mates, Alexander

completed several high speed sessions including night time running at 220 mph. Unfortunately the car stopped suddenly after 18 hours with a major battery failure well away from the pit area so could not be rescued and re-started. Bad luck after all the planning and practice, but Alexander will continue in the team in Europe with several more endurance races, although not of the 24 hour variety

Rod Sortwell

DIARY DATES – JULY 2012

Datee	Event	Time	Venue	Contact	Phone	p
Wed 4	Friends of St Mary's & St Andrew's social meeting	10.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Dora Baker	782519	7
Wed 4	Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Stibbington Environment Centre	Wendy Gr	01778 341496	
Mon 9	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Wansford Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 341496	21
Sun 15	Old Sulehay Nature Reserve Open Day	11am—3pm	Ring Haw, Yarwell Road	Chris Sykes	01733 237278	33
Sun 15	Vintage Bus Rally		Sacrewell	Sacrewell	782254	8
Tue 17	Stibbington & Wansford WI picnic and theatre evening		Tolethorpe	Judith Rogers	783441	11
Tue 17	Thornhaugh Parish Council meeting	7.00pm	St Andrew's Church, Thornhaugh	Deirdre McCumiskey		
Wed 18	Friends of St Mary's & St Andrew's meeting	10.30am	Wansford Community Hall	Doar Baker	782519	7
Wed 18	Nassington Ladies Group Summer Evening fete	6.30pm	Nassington Village Green			33
Sat 12/ Sun 13	Miniature steam engine weekend		Sacrewell	Sacrewell	782254	8
Thur 26	Stibbington & Wansford WI Book Group	7.30pm	The Haycock	Judith Rogers	783441	11
Thur 26	Horticultural Society visit		Blatherwyke Walled Garden	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Thur 26	Sutton Parish Council meeting	7.45pm	St Michael's Church, Sutton	Peter Lee		23

Looking ahead: AUGUST 2012

Sat 4	Pet Show at Sacrewell
Sun 5	Horticultural Society visit to Wisley
Mon 13	Wansford Parish Council meeting
Sat 25	Horticultural Society Annual Show
Fri 31	Closing date for Thomas Woolsey grants



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