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March 2018

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EDITORIAL

If the weather forecasters have got it right (this time) and you are reading this at the beginning of the month, then it's likely to be pretty cold. I hope that you are all able to stay warm.

At the beginning of February we visited the lovely island of Iceland. Many of our friends have asked whether we saw the Northern Lights, or if we went to specifically to see them. It was certainly on our 'to-do' list, but so were the waterfalls, glaciers, geyser and fabulous scenery.

If there had been space in this month's magazine I was going to do a short article on the amazing natural phenomena as the conditions required for them to happen are interesting. Perhaps there will be space next month - or maybe someone would like to write about this themselves? I'm sure that space would be available if we found a willing volunteer.

My thanks to all the club and organisation contacts who regularly send articles and information to me for inclusion. Without you there would not be much of a magazine

Tracy Sortwell

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(Out of hours	111 option 4)	Stibbington & Wansford WI . .	789996
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WORSHIP MARCH 2018

There are many Church services this month as we celebrate Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter at the churches in and around our villages. Throughout all this **Morning Prayer** at 10am every Wednesday continues at Wansford

4 Mar	8.15am	St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Morning Praise
	9.30am	St Mary's, Woodnewton	Holy Communion
	10.15am	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Leonard's, Apethorpe	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell	Holy Communion
11 Mar	9.00am	St Michael & All Angels, Sutton	Family Service
	9.30am	St Mary's, Wansford	Mothering Sunday Communion
	9.30am	St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington	Mothering Sunday Service
	9.30am	St Mary's, Woodnewton	Mothering Sunday Communion
	11.00am	St Leonard's, Apethorpe	Mothering Sunday Service
	11.00am	St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell	Mothering Sunday Communion
	18 Mar	9.30am	St Andrew's, Thornhaugh
	9.30am	St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington	Holy Communion and APCM
	9.30am	St Mary's, Woodnewton	Morning Praise
	10.15am	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Leonard's, Apethorpe	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell	Methodist Service
25 Mar	8.30am	St Mary's, Woodnewton	Holy Communion BCP
	9.00am	St Michael & All Angels, Sutton	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Mary's, Wansford	Procession over Wansford Bridge followed by Morning Praise
	9.30am	St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington	Holy Communion & Sunday School
	10.15am	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Procession (meet at Castor School) and Eucharist
	11.00am	St Leonard's, Apethorpe	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington	Evensong



Continued over..

WORSHIP MARCH 2018 Cont.

29 Mar	7.00pm	St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell	Benefice Communion for Maundy Thursday
	8.00pm	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Maundy Thursday Commemoration of the Last Supper
30 Mar	10.00am	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Good Friday Family Activities and Service
	2.00pm	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Good Friday Liturgy
	2.00pm	St Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Good Friday Service
	2.00pm	St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington	Good Friday Service
	2.00pm	St Mary's, Woodnewton	Good Friday Service
	2.00pm	St Leonard's, Apethorpe	Good Friday Service
	2.00pm	St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell	Good Friday Service
31 Mar	8.00pm	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Easter Vigil
1 April	8.15am	St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington	Holy Communion BCP
	9.00am	St Michael & All Angels, Sutton	Easter Day Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Andrew's, Thornhaugh	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Mary's, Woodnewton	Holy Communion
	10.50am	St Kyneburgha, Castor	Easter Day Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Leonard's, Apethorpe	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Mary's Wansford	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell	Holy Communion by Extension
	6.00pm	St John the Baptist, Stibbington	Easter Holy Communion followed by refreshments



Situation Still Vacant

We are still looking for someone who would like to join our small team to support us with our special reports. In the last few months we have been very fortunate to either have articles sent to us or one of us has written what we hope are on interesting subjects.

You could join us for occasional meetings or just send some ideas, it can be just for a couple of months or maybe a bit longer. If you are interested please contact either Tracy, Rod, Kate or Gordon.

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We have just begun the season of Lent in the Church, and this year I have found myself thinking a lot about Jesus' temptations in the wilderness and what they can mean in the world today. Whether we are church people or not, having a time to reflect upon the ways of the world, and where we fit in to all of it, and maybe how we live in the world as well, can be no bad thing.

Before he began his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness and we are told he was tempted by the devil, as if Jesus was working out how he would show people God's love and compassion in his life and work.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread – a temptation indeed as Jesus had been fasting for those 40 days. This was a selfish temptation; use your power as God's Son for your own comfort. We don't need to look too far to see the selfish use of power, and those who are hungry because of it. Through this month, is there a way, of helping those who are hungry and vulnerable to the selfishness of others? And I know I will be looking out for selfish motives in what I do as well.

In Jesus' second temptation, the devil showed Jesus all the nations of the world, and told him that if he bowed down and worshipped him, he would give him power over all the world. It seems to me that this was a temptation to follow the ways of the world that are so often far from the loving, compassionate ways of God. How do our earthly leaders use their power, where do we see corruption and exploitation? And closer to home, where are we in a position to exert power over others, and how do we do that? We might be surprised when we really think about "power" in our lives.

Finally, the devil took Jesus onto the highest pinnacle of the temple and told him to throw himself down, as the Bible contained the promise that God would send his angels to protect his Son. Jesus had come to tell people about God; doing something like that would certainly draw attention to himself and people would certainly listen, but would they be listening for the right reasons? Who do we listen to, and why? Who draws out attention, and the attention of our young people and children? Are they hearing the right words?

As Jesus turned away from each temptation, he used words from the Bible, demonstrating God's way of compassion and self-giving that Jesus was to show so clearly in his ministry. His was the way of power not for his own ends, but of power used to bring healing and wholeness to those in need. For us, we wonder about power and the ways of the world, and perhaps feel drawn down when we realise the darkness and sadness around us. The journey through Lent ends at the Cross, where the seeming powerlessness of Jesus in the face of worldly authority and corruption, led not to defeat, but to the new life of resurrection that we celebrate at Easter. We have hope and light to bring to the world, that corruption and darkness does not have the last word. Perhaps this month is a time to be aware of the difference we can all make in our world.

With Lent and Easter blessings, Rev. Jane

FRIENDS OF ST. REMIGIUS WATER NEWTON

WATER NEWTON MUSIC FEST 2018

Bank Holiday Sunday 26th August

Once again, the organisers of this ever popular event will be showcasing a great selection of great bands including the return of 'The Gangsters', 'Latino Sound' and 'Pennyless'. The line-up will be completed with 'Nick Corney and The Buzz Rats' and 'The Hounddogs'.

The open air one day event starts at 12 noon and is held on the village green with continuous music through to 7.30pm.

This year there will be delicious 'street' food, wood fired pizzas, burgers and a beer tent serving real ales supplied by Castor Ales and a 'Pimms & Bubbles' bar.

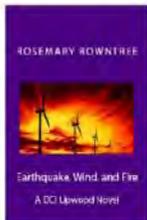
Be sure to note the date in your diaries and let all your friends know of the event. Why not make up a party? Tickets will be on sale from June by visiting: www.waternewtonvillage.co.uk

You can keep up to date by registering to our email comms by sending your details to Events@waternewtonvillage.co.uk

Tony Capon

Earthquake, Wind, and Fire

The 2nd DCI Upwood novel by Rosemary Rowntree recently published.



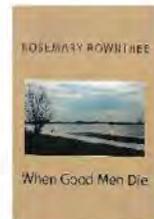
'Another brilliant plot – the detail around the plotting is absolutely flawless. Vivid characters and settings. A compelling and satisfying novel with a powerful and unexpected ending. This is real craft.' Dexter Petley

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If you have not yet read it, the 1st DCI Upwood book, **When Good Men Die**, also set in Cambridgeshire, is available on Amazon.

'Gripping stuff – a classic murder mystery set in a well evoked landscape. A complex and brilliant plot.'

Dexter Petley, author of four critically acclaimed novels



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST ANDREW'S

By the time you read this, The **Lent Lunches** will be in full swing. Only Wednesday, 7th, 14th and 21st to go. As you will see from the poster, they start at 12.15 in the Community Hall. They offer a lovely opportunity to meet friends and old and new neighbours and at the same time help people, who are in desperate need with your donation.

Please come along and bring family and friends.

It is in that way that The Friends try and help a little where they can. They also managed to send £500 to Medecin sans Frontieres in aid of mothers and children to try and help Rohingya refugees.



Lent Lunches

Everyone Welcome

Wednesdays at 12:15 Christie Hall
Service at St. Mary's at 11.30 a.m.

21 & 28 February; 7, 14 and 21 March

Please join the friends of St Mary's and St Andrews to celebrate Lent with our very popular lunches to raise funds for the "Make a Difference Schools Mombasa" and the "Mazwi Village Project"

We will also start the **Welcome Coffee Stops again after Easter**. These proved popular last summer and have helped to raise funds for our churches and the missionaries supported by them. More about these in the next "Living Villages".

The next meeting of The Friends after the Lent Lunches will take place on Wednesday 4th April at 10.30 in the Community Hall after Morning Prayer at St. Mary's at 10 a.m.

Before that I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our Lent Lunches.

Dora Baker.

{ Beaux Amis }

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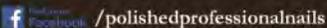


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Tues 5.45 & 7pm Wansford Christie Hall

Weds 7pm Bulwick Village Hall (booking only)

Thurs 10am Wansford Christie Hall PE8 6JS
Easton on Hill 4.30 pm (gentle/chair) & 6.30pm
(mixed ability) Village Hall PE9 3NN

Fri 9.30am YogaMummys + babes/tots KCU
11.45 Yoga Lunch hour - Christie Hall



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Around the day to day running of the Centre, staff and our very important volunteers are planning for **StibbFest on May 12th**. Take a look at the poster and make sure you let us know on the contact details at the bottom of this page if you want to be kept up to date. It is likely that workshop places will need to be booked in advance to avoid disappointment.



We need your owl pellets..... yes really!

One of the activities pupils staying at the centre particularly enjoy is dissection of owl pellets. We sterilise the pellets, provide the children with tweezers and magnifying glass, then guide them in a hunt for such delights as shrew jawbones and mouse femurs. If you have an owl roosting nearby and are able to collect any pellets for us (without disturbing the owl), we would be very grateful. Unfortunately pellets from captive owls are not of use to us since they do not demonstrate a natural diet and how the owl fits into the ecosystem.

Stibbington Community Classes

March 10th –Time Out Day with Gently Be

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What about a
workshop token as a
gift for
Mothering Sunday?

NEW DATE March 18th 14:00-16:30 –Spring Decorations Workshop £10

Join us making birds, blossom, leaves and yes, maybe even eggs , to decorate an “Easter branch” or to hang separately. Contact the centre on number below to book.



Contact details:

Tel: 01780 782386

Email: cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Communicare

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

COMMUNICARE

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

A general meeting open to all patients will be held on

Wednesday 7th March 2018

at Wansford Surgery – 12.30pm

Guest Speaker: Dr Sundeep Odedra

Dr Odedra is one of our surgery's GPs and will be speaking about Type 2 Diabetes and the National Diabetes Prevention Programme

Other items on the agenda include surgery news and finance

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HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

As expected our first meeting at which Bunny Guinness presented her illustrated talk on Highgrove proved very popular with around 70 members attending. Bunny gave us a fascinating insight into the careful planning and deep personal involvement that Prince Charles showed in designing and indeed working on the establishment of the gardens at his private residence. It was an exciting start to our programme for the year.



The second illustrated talk/demonstration on Thursday, 22 February takes place just after my report has to be submitted. Our visit from the Nene Coppicing and Crafts Woodland Conservation group will therefore feature in next month's magazine. The final Spring talk, on **Thursday 22 March**, will be given by **Steffie Shields**, a professional garden photographer and writer and is on **the gardens and landscapes of Lincolnshire**. As always the talk will be held in the Christie Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. and all are welcome.

In April we will be making a private group visit to Easton Walled Gardens to view the late Spring flowers. We will meet up at 11 a.m. for a 20 minute introductory talk, given by the owner Lady Ursula Cholmeley who will tell us about the history of the gardens and the family, the collapse of the house and gardens and its revival. This will be accompanied by refreshments, tea, coffee and biscuits in the Coach House before we are free to wander the gardens at our own pace, where Lady Cholmeley will be on hand to answer any questions. The cost of the visit is £10.

With the plant sale on 12th May and coach trips in June to Beth Chatto's Gardens and R.H.S. Hyde Hall and in July to Little Morton Hall and Biddulph Grange on the borders of Cheshire and Staffordshire we can look forward to a busy and enjoyable summer, Full details of the rest of our 2018 programme can be found on the website: www.wansfordhorticulturalsociety.org.uk. Please contact me if you would like to join the society (£2.50 per person) or have any other queries.

Bernice Hardwick

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Circular Village Walk by Rod Sortwell

With Spring approaching my thoughts turn to describing a walk some of our readers may be familiar with while others have never tried any of it. For clarity I have assumed it starts and finishes at the bridge over the River Nene at Wansford, but it can be accessed in many places and can be walked in either direction allowing of course for changes to left and right.



Starting on the north side of the river follow the Nene Way signs through the meadows to Yarwell. On the way you will see on your left the rapidly growing cricket bat willow plantation ready for harvest in about 15 years. Also you may wish to divert to Wansford lock where a steady stream of narrow boats pass through in both directions during the summer. On one walk I witnessed the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue group practicing their skills by throwing a suitably clothed colleague from the weir and then retrieving him before he was swept away. All being filmed and analysed I might add.

The Nene Way emerges in Yarwell at the bottom of Main Street and

continues straight along Mill Rd, but if you are thirsty, a few yards to your right you will find the Angel Inn which makes a very agreeable watering hole for walkers and is very dog friendly. Meals are also available. If it is too early to drink, or you have already found sustenance at the various hostelries and café's in Wansford and Stibbington, follow the Nene Way past the Veterinary Surgery and turn sharp left following the Nene Way sign and the path emerges at Yarwell Mill Leisure Park which has both residential and leisure facilities. After crossing the river and mill stream follow the Nene Way and Nene Valley Railway signs and you will pass a lovely small Riverside Café open most days, so if you missed the pub here is another opportunity to get refreshment.



Moving on you follow the signs to Yarwell Junction a country station from a bygone age which is a terminal for Nene Valley Railway where on steam days you could catch a train to Wansford or Peterborough, but be careful you know the timetable in advance or you could be in for a long wait.

After crossing the old track originally part of the Thrapston branch, skirt to the left around the far side of the fishing lake back towards the railway and follow the bridleway uphill until you reach the Elton road. At this point turn left and walk on the wide verge as far as New Lane which you then follow to the A1 flyover. Crossing the flyover turn left which brings you into Stibbington Village and the Environmental Centre. Now turn right into Church Road and continue until it makes a right turn towards the church. At this point carry straight on for a short way until you can make a sharp left turn along a well used track which runs behind the houses on Old North Road and eventually into open fields. The track brings you back towards the A1 and finishes just behind the scrap yard where you make a right turn onto a well made driveway leading down to the fishing lakes, which are accessed by a gate to the left.



These lakes are private property but have a well signed footpath and track running inside their very secure boundary fence. Dogs must be kept on a lead for this section. By following the signs you will reach the River Nene again and need to turn

left back along by the river through a gate and underneath the A1. This emerges onto the Haycock Cricket field and by following the riverside you will pass under the old stone bridge to emerge on the south side and officially be in Stibbington Parish.



Hopefully you will have covered about 5 miles and seen lots of wild life depending on the season and if you time it right, a working steam railway in the countryside. If you were not lucky at Yarwell for a train you can always divert after the A1 flyover turning right to see Wansford Nene Valley Railway and its busy station, particularly during the last weekend of September when the Flying Scotsman will be in residence. This diversion will add about a mile to your walk.

Most of this walk is on good paths and roads but will be muddy in winter months from Wansford to Yarwell village and again from Yarwell Mill to Yarwell Junction.



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SIBSON - CUM - STIBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council met at the Environment Centre, Stibbington on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 7 p.m.

All Councillors were in attendance together with County Cllr Bywater and 5 members of the public.

Issues still causing problems - Drain still blocked outside no. 22 Elton Road and Potholes on slip road leading onto A1 (by Haycock). Parish Clerk will report again to relevant departments.

Wi-fi – new residents struggling with speeds (very slow) – Parish Council advised them to contact BT as they appear to have better package (speed).

Stibbington Church donation – the Parish Council raised the donation last year to £750.00. Tree came down in Churchyard, PCC felt was dangerous so arranged for works to be done to make safe. Rather a large bill, requested a further donation from PC. Parish Council will consider at next meeting.

Defibrillator(s) – would residents please remove books etc by the 20th March so that the work can be carried out to install the defibrillators? Once work completed some books can be returned once defibrillators have been fitted and establish what space is available.

Planning - 18/00207/HHFUL – proposed single storey rear extension, internal alterations and adaptations to accommodate the needs of a disabled individual. Associated external works to create level access into the dwelling and the construction of a detached double garage at Valley View, 87A Elton Road, Stibbington PE8 6JX – no objections raised.

Land at back of cottages on Elton Road – residents concerned about the works going on - despite questions being asked of owner by Councillors requesting what is going on no feedback has been given. It was agreed that a formal request would be made by letter asking questions and response.

General Correspondence:

HDC - Guidance regarding open fires and wood burning stoves.

Planning Inspectorate re Highways England.

Highways England – Maintenance and Improvement Programme.

New Issues –

To resolve parking issue of lorries along road to Nene Valley Railway could we request Double Yellow Lines all way along the road, who do we put in request to? - Highways. Bins for waste (help to resolve rat issue) – Stibbington Diner to be advised on what planning to do.

Flooding issue around the bridge – why do highways just not repair?

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th March 2018 commencing at 7 p.m.

WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL



In attendance: John Stannage Chair, Cllr T Pearson –, Cllr Richard Clark, Cllr M Handley , Cllr Graham Garner, Cllr V Thorley, Cllr David Johnson, , In Attendance: Wendy Gray Parish Clerk and three members of the public.

The Council dealt with the following matters:

Friends of the River Nene

Brian Buckle and Ray Brackpool came to explain that "FOTRN" [<http://friendsoftherivernene.co.uk>] have a membership of 400+. FOTRN have arrangements for 6 mooring sights upstream from Wansford and are seeking landowners for a suitable site around Wansford. They organize everything and hold public liability insurance. Councilors' made a number of suggestions for them to investigate.

Picnic Site

There has been no progress to resolve matters, with conflicting advice from Highways England. The police need to be informed of any illegal activities.

A1 Noise

A member of the public expressed concern over road noise from potholes and vehicles near Black Swan Spinney, WPC to contact Highways England.

Planning

A further application to fell another tree at 3 Old North Road, councilors expressed concern about the loss of more trees. WPC to request advice from Tree Preservation Officer and to request for a replacement tree planting scheme.

Defibrillator

The purchase of a defibrillator was approved for the telephone box in Old North Road.

20 MPH Speed limit village Centre

There has been one objection and two requests for it to be expanded. PCC is continuing with the legal process.

A47 Dualling

An extensive discussion was held, it is believed the proposals will include a design keeping it well south of the Sacrewell land towards the river because of perceived Archeology, Sutton Action Group have funded a report that should dispute Highways England's incomplete information and hopefully redirect the design. WPC are waiting for the release of the details so it can respond. The information should be formally released at the beginning of March. WPC expect to have significant concerns over the current planned route.

WPC Website (Wansfordvillage.com)

This is undergoing modernization and updating.

The next meeting of the Wansford Parish Council will be on Monday 12 March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate.

Cllr Martyn Handley.



PUBLIC MEETING Wansford to Sutton A47 Upgrade

A Public Meeting is arranged for
Monday 19th March 2018 at 7.00pm
St Mary's Church, Wansford.

Highways England have been invited by Wansford Parish Council to update us on the progress with the plan for the upgrade to the Wansford to Sutton A47.

Sutton Parish Council will attend, alongside ACCT from Sutton.

There will be opportunity to ask questions.

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ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENTS

Reading back through past editorials of this magazine I've noticed that accidents on our local roads have featured with more frequency than anyone would wish. This has prompted one of our postal subscribers, John Peake, to write a letter. He included the article below in his email, which is now over 10 years old but still provides relevant advice for safer driving.

I was also prompted by this communication to visit the Institute of Advanced Motorists website www.iamroadsmart.com and discovered several more interesting and informative articles.

Don't be a fashion victim

News that film star Brooke Shields crashed her car because her high shoes got stuck sounds a bit far fetched.

But even here in the UK, apparently women are risking losing control of the car because they are insisting on driving while wearing high-heeled shoes. A survey by an insurance company showed that apparently 65 per cent of women want "better guidelines" about what to wear in the car.

Like many things, the Highway Code (the new version is out now) is a source of good advice and includes this:

* ensure that clothing and footwear do not prevent you using the controls in the correct manner. But I think it's fair to say that not every female driver has a copy of the Highway Code in her handbag.

The footwear issue though is just one of the possible hazards at our heels. For example, a loose tin of drink, or an apple rolling around in the driver's footwell might be something we ignore to start with. But either of those could potentially end up lodged under the clutch pedal, or worse still, the brake pedal. Then when the driver needs the controls, they are not available.

But also on the footwear theme, flip flops are popular in summer, but again, not really very pedal friendly for drivers: they may not have the high heel problem, but they are looser than our usual footwear and are more inclined to slip off the pedal. A patch of petrol or diesel on the ground can get picked up when we get back in the car after paying for fuel – potentially making soles slippery.

Older vehicles quite often have worn rubbers on the pedals which are worth a look. If you can see metal showing through, that's too shiny for comfort and the rubbers should be replaced. A combination of damp shoes from an autumnal downpour, and "shiny" pedals are putting you and other road users at risk.

The IAM offers two main advanced driving courses: DriveCheck, an assessment with feedback from an IAM expert, and the full Skill for Life advanced driving course that prepares you for the IAM advanced driving test. Details available at the IAM website, iam.org.uk

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STIBBINGTON AND WANSFORD WI

We had a very entertaining quiz at our February meeting, one round of which involved tasting and identifying 7 brands of chocolate, all of which seemed appropriate as it was also Shrove Tuesday, hence the need to eat up all of the rich goodies before we started giving things up for Lent!

Before the fun started however, we did spend a few moments in quiet reflection for the sad loss of our friend and member, Marina Kruger. She was a great asset to our group, always smiling and helpful, and she will be sorely missed. It did give us cause to remember the importance of community and the joint responsibility that we have for each other. The WI have always taken a strong lead in this area, and last year for example our national conference voted to support a campaign to reduce loneliness. Without being flippant, it is true to say that the WI have always been good at a cup of tea and piece of cake – but we also need to be really good at listening to and identifying people who are in need.

We have been delighted to welcome 2 new members in the last 2 months, both of whom have commented that we are a lively and welcoming bunch, so if you are hesitating about joining – come and give us a try – always sure of a warm welcome!

We have many good things on the agenda:

Our **3C's coffee, craft and chat** will meet on **March 2nd** and **23rd** – do join us if only for coffee and chat! We have been working on a banner to take with us in April to the 100th birthday celebrations of the Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation of WIs of which we are a member. **Lunch Club** will be checking out The Falcon, Fotheringhay on **March 20th** at 12.30. Please call me if you would like to join us for that.

Book Club takes place on **March 29th** at 7.30pm at the Haycock. The books for consideration are *The Dry* by Jane Harper and *Golden Hill* by Francis Spattford.

Saturday March 10th – bake sale on the green at St Mary's, Wansford, 10 til 12 noon. As always there will be delicious savoury and sweet items for sale, but also the chance to enjoy a coffee and social time in a relaxed setting as the Church will also be open.

Friday April 13th – Prosecco, pudding and quiz night at the Christie Hall – tickets £10 each to include a glass of prosecco and a trio of desserts. Whether you want to come as part of a team or on your own and be matched up with a team, you are very welcome. Tickets will be on sale soon from committee members. See the ad in this magazine.

More details and news can also be found on our blog www.swwiblog.com, or our Facebook page @sandwwi.

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It's been a little while since I updated readers on the progress of the current puppy which we are part sponsoring to become a Hearing Dog. Jade is doing extremely well, she walks well to heel, something which is very important as deaf people can often suffer from balance problems. She is also curious about everything, so watches and listens to all commands and instructions.

She is soon to start the 'soundwork' programme, where she is taught to touch a cooker timer with her nose which then slowly teaches her the association between sound and objects. When this is mastered she will start to proudly wear her first burgundy jacket 'I'm learning to be a hearing dog'.



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During this cold, wintry weather we are always being advised to keep warm and look after our neighbours and elderly relatives. Nor is this just a January or February responsibility as it is human nature to care for our families throughout the year. I was thinking how much this is replicated in nature and immediately thought of lion prides, meerkat families and the extreme communities of social insects; ants, bees and wasps.

What about birds I thought? Those huge sea cliff colonies of guillemots and razorbills seem to get on but really they are fighting for every metre of space.



Just then I noticed some activity on my bird table as a long-tailed tit settled on a feeder, closely followed by another. Suddenly the garden seemed full of little birds flitting between the trees. It was a party of long-tailed tits dropping in on one of their regular winter foraging trips. I could even hear the soft bubbly notes of their song. They characteristically hang upside down on the thinnest of twigs like acrobats before one bird flies away and the others follow. Gone almost before you were aware they were there.

They are a most beautiful bird with a body the smallest of any British bird but with an abnormally long tail. Their colours are a mix of pastel colours - a fluffy ball of pink with a black and white head. But no other bird has such a proportionately long black and white tail.

They are a very social bird, particularly in winter when family parties of up to 20 birds can turn the tree canopy alive with activity. In cold weather they, like other very small birds, huddle together to keep warm - a ball of fluff with their long tails poking out at all angles.

Before spring arrives this family flock will break down into breeding pairs and such couples may receive assistance in feeding their young from a close relative. Where such a family relationship has been determined this helper has proved to be the brother of the breeding male. Other helpers have been recorded supporting a brood, greatly enhancing the chances of breeding success. It is this closeness of 'aunts' and 'uncles' that continues after fledging which leads to the tribal habits of these wandering woodland flocks.

The bird's other interesting feature is its nest, the most elaborate built by any of our birds. It is an oval shaped dome wedged in the crook of a tree branch, made difficult to see by its covering of moss and lichen. It was a prize find for children a century ago and often adorned the Victorian drawing room. The nest's shape gave the bird many vernacular names - hedge jug, feather poke and bum barrel. All rarely heard now but indicative of the love given to the bird by country folk.

What are you going to call your next sighting of this beautiful little bird?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

Dear Tracy Sortwell,

I have attached an article from the Institute of Advanced Motorists on the off chance that it - or your edited part of it - is of interest for inclusion in Living Villages. You referred to road accidents in the June 2017 and February 2018 editions.

Elizabeth and I can hardly believe that we have now been in Wimbledon for two and a half years - to be near our daughter and son in law. We have happily settled into a separate apartment which is attached to a retirement home.

We enjoy receiving Living Villages having spent over forty years in Church Lane, Stibbington,

We send our best wishes to you all,

John Peake

Editors Note

Lovely to hear from you. I have found room for the IAM article on page 26

Subject: Lost Property

I am wondering if you would be willing to put a very small notice in the next village magazine? We found a gold/diamond ring in the dental studio on 19th January and it has not been claimed.

Regards

Annette Johnson
Assistant Practice Manager
Wansford Surgery
Direct Dial: 01780 783240



Nassington Cricket Club have contacted the magazine inviting interested players to join them. Their season starts on Saturday 14th April, but nets are happening now.

Contact Mallie Bandaranaike 07753825591
Or by email mallieba@gmail.com

Dear Tracy

Last month you featured the commendable efforts of Thornhaugh residents who had a very satisfying litter pick recently, as well as an article about the excessive use of plastics in the packaging and food industries. These prompted my own observations for the Wansford locality which has not had an organised litter pick for at least 3 years. While the centre of the village remains relatively tidy thanks to the Parish Council initiative and vigilance of local residents and dog walkers, the access roads and verges are another matter. One particularly unsightly stretch is the road leading to Yarwell and beyond which is a main artery into Nassington and all villages to Oundle and surrounds. It seems those who drive into Northants for work, rest or play find it urgent to throw as much rubbish as possible from their vehicle windows immediately after leaving Wansford. Now officially the Wansford and Cambridgeshire border is the stream before the surgery so why should we be concerned. Well since it a main road into and out of the villages it creates a bad impression on us, and not least of all the childish amateur sign about Wansford land grab.

Some of the items seen or recovered indicate the scale of the problem and mentality of the perpetrators. Very frequently we see energy drink cans and bottles together with cans of the well known Belgian lager and numerous crisp packets. Also there are many coffee cups from well known outlets and the remains of takeaway meals. Empty wine and beer bottles represent a serious danger to walkers particularly if the smash on impact. This trail of garbage is mainly confined to the wooded area past the surgery or the parking place for the Sulehay woods, but tends to reduce markedly in open country. However, not to be outdone by Thornhaugh, we have recently seen around 10 bin bags, carefully double wrapped, containing the root balls and stem of around 40 cannabis plants. These were neatly stacked in a gateway near Yarwell after the likely successful harvest by an urban grower. Subsequently these were investigated as illegal waste by Northants County Council and removed. At one time we were blighted by a tabloid reader who discarded his daily paper along the road one sheet at a time after he had looked at the pictures. Our most recent roadside find is an item of ladies underwear size 32F (Hmm, must have been some Friday night).

We would also like to mention flyposting which many organisations do to advertise events within the 5 villages and our neighbouring area. Some of these are removed after the event date, but sadly many are left for months or even years. The worst culprits are the planning notices which do not seem to be removed systematically by either the planning dept or the owners of the properties to which they relate. We regularly remove these out dated notices when we remember to carry scissors

So come on Wansford (and Yarwell), my family from Wimbledon can't do it all, we need an organised litter pick and more responsibility from fly posters.

Uncle Bulgaria

DIARY DATES – MARCH 2018

Fri 2	WI 3C's Craft Coffee and Community	10.00am	Community hall	Jan Armitage	789996	29
Wed 7	Lent Lunch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Wed 7	Communicare Meeting	12.30pm	Wansford Surgery	Clare Wagstaff	470437	14
Wed 7	Sibson-cum Stibbington Parish Council	7.00pm	Environmental Centre	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	23
Sat10	Time Out Day	10 - 4.00pm	Environmental Centre		782386	13
Sat 10	WI Bake Sale	10-12noon	Outside St Mary's	Jan Armitage	789996	29
Mon 12	Wansford Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Community Hall	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	24
Tues 13	WI meeting	7.30pm	Community Hall	Jan Armitage	789996	29
Wed 14	Lent Lunch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Sun 18	Spring Decorations Workshop	10 - 4.00pm	Environmental Centre		782386	13
Mon 19	A47 Upgrade Meeting	7.30pm	St Mary's Church Wansford	Wendy Gray	01778 441312	25
Tues 20	WI Lunch Club	12.30pm	Falcon , Fotheringhay	Jan Armitage	789996	29
Wed 21	Lent Lunch	12.15pm	Christie Hall	Dora Baker	782519	9
Thurs 22	Hort Society	7.30pm	Christie Hall	Gill Fisher	782446	15
Fri 23	WI 3C's Craft Coffee and Community	10.00am	Community hall	Jan Armitage	789996	29
Thurs 29	WI Book Club	7.30pm	Haycock	Jan Armitage	789996	29

Copy deadline next month: 20th March 2018

editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk

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