

# *Living Villages*

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*NOVEMBER 2020*

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Stibbington, Sutton & Wansford*

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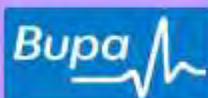
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# Editorial

Support from our village organisations and businesses continues with new advertisers and others taking larger adverts. We are also very grateful for the contribution from the Horticultural Society we received during the last month.

Your November magazine brings you a wealth of information from local contributors including walks, a cycle ride, local primary school admission information and thoughts on Remembrance. We even have some details about how Christmas is hoped to be celebrated in Castor!



Sadly this year most large organised Firework displays have been cancelled due to the pandemic and so families might be tempted to have their own bonfire and firework party at home. If you do, please think about any families who have animals. It's not just the explosions which can cause them

problems, but also the remains of rockets which land some distance away from your home in fields or other gardens. These can cause serious injuries if chewed or swallowed.

Our front cover has been sent to me by local photographer John Measures. A very curious hedgehog indeed! Sadly this summer the British Hedgehog was added to the list of animals that are at risk of extinction by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society website has suggestions on how to help their numbers increase and reminds us that one of their favourite hiding places is under a bonfire.

Stay Safe  
Tracy Sortwell

# WORSHIP NOVEMBER 2020

<b>St Leonard's, Apethorpe</b>		
8th	10.50am	Remembrance Service at Memorial
22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion

<b>St Andrew's, Thornhaugh</b>		
1st	9.30am	Holy Communion
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion

<b>St Kyneburgha, Castor</b>		
1st	10.15am	Holy Communion
8th	10.15am	Holy Communion
15th	10.15am	Holy Communion
22nd	10.15am	Holy Communion
29th	10.15am	Holy Communion

<b>St Mary's, Wansford</b>		
8th	10.50am	Churchyard Remembrance Service
22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion

<b>St Mary's, Woodnewton</b>		
1st	9.30am	Holy Communion
8th	10.50am	Churchyard Remembrance Service
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion
22nd	8.30am	Holy Communion

<b>St Mary's and All Saints, Nassington</b>		
1st	8.15am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Holy Communion
8th	10.50am	Churchyard Remembrance Service
15th	9.30am	Holy Communion
22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
29th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion

<b>St Mary Magdalene, Yarwell</b>		
1st	11.00am	Holy Communion
8th	10.50am	Churchyard Remembrance Service
15th	11.00am	Holy Communion



The beginning of November is focussed around “remembering” of different kinds. The month begins with All Saints Day, when we give thanks for the saints of the church who have inspired us and are an example of faith to us. This is also All Souls-tide, when we remember with thanksgiving those we have known and loved who now rest in God’s eternal care. These are those who have made a difference to our lives, who often have been a wonderful example to us, and so are saints in our lives. Due to the Covid restrictions, we won’t be having our special All Souls’ service this year, but in our Sunday morning services on 1<sup>st</sup> November we will combine All Saints and All Souls with a thanksgiving for all those in whom we have found, and still find, an example and an encouragement for us now. This has not been an easy year thus far in so many ways, and we can lament before God as well as give thanks. He understands and receives all we bring and all we carry.

Remembrance Sunday the following week is always a significant day in church life and in the national calendar. We do not yet know what restrictions there will be on gatherings by then, but the current plan is to have an outdoor gathering in the churchyard, which will make social distancing easier. The Remembrance Day service will therefore be shorter than usual, but will include the Act of Remembrance, the Act of Dedication and prayers. There will be a few chairs for those who need them, or you may bring your own. To mark the day, everyone is invited to bring a poppy to add to a large display of poppies that we have in the churchyard. This could be a Royal British Legion poppy, or you might like to make your own – any style and any material. These will then stay in the church porch through-out the month of November as a sign of our remembrance. If we are not able to gather in groups by then, even outdoors, please do bring your poppy sometime during that week to add to our display. It is important that we mark these significant moments in one way or another!

November ends with the Feast Day of St. Andrew on the 30<sup>th</sup> – an important day for Thornhaugh – and as we will need to have our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday benefice service at Nassington to accommodate everyone within social distancing restrictions, we will remember St. Andrew at Thornhaugh’s service on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Remembering can be an uplifting or a difficult thing; may this coming month of remembering be one of healing for painful memories and an encouragement and commitment in joyful or profound memories. However we are able to keep this month, may it be one of blessing for you and your families.

**Every blessing,  
Rev. Jane**

# Castor Benefice Christmas 2020 arrangements

Due to COVID19 restrictions, Christmas arrangements will be slightly different this December. Listed below are the planned services, most of which will be **ticketed**. A final date for the St. Kyneburgha Service of Lessons and Carols has not yet been set - this information will be available in December.

**Ticket applications** will open in early December and details of how to apply will be published in due course or can be obtained from Castor Parish Office from late November onwards.

## **Sunday 6th December**

Online from 4.00pm - Pre-recorded Christingle Service

## **Sunday 13th December**

Sutton 4.00pm - Christmas Carol Service - **Ticketed Service**

## **Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December**

Castor 2.30pm - 4.30pm - Visit the Crib - An outdoor opportunity for families to visit a nativity tableau hopefully involving some live animals, human characters and small groups of singers /musicians - possibly on the Castor school field or somewhere in the church grounds - **Ticketed Event** with families being allocated 15min time slots.

Marholm 5.00pm - Christmas Communion - **Ticketed Service**

Sutton 6.30pm - Christmas Communion - **Ticketed Service**

Castor 11.30pm - Midnight Mass - **Ticketed Service**

## **Christmas Day Friday 25th December**

Castor 8.30am - Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.15am - Christmas Communion - **Ticketed Service**

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A further 'drive and walk-through' session for this years' INFLUENZA vaccination programme for all eligible under 65s has now been arranged at the Kings Cliffe Active Site (Kingsmead, Station Rd, King's Cliffe, Peterborough PE8 6YH). The date and times are as follows:

#### **Saturday 7th November 2020:**

If your surname begins with

A or D attend between 9.00 - 10.30

E or J attend between 10.30 - 11.30

K or P attend between 12.00 - 13.00

Q or Z attend between 13.30 - 14.30

Letters of invitation have been sent out - **YOU MUST BRING YOUR LETTER WITH YOU ON THE DAY as this will prove eligibility.**

You will not need to exit your vehicle. You will be asked to switch off your engine and apply the parking break when the nurse is giving the vaccination.

### **PLEASE WEAR A FACE COVERING.**

There will be staff along the route giving you clear directions. There will also be staff on the site to explain where to go.

**Please wear a sleeveless top or a top that can be pushed up right to the very top of the arm (either arm). We can vaccinate up to 4 people in one car.**

## LOCAL CYCLING ROUTES

### By Mark Hopkins

#### Bulwick Loop Bike Ride

This ride is a short 21 miles taking in a circular loop around local villages, many of which host pubs or nearby coffee stops. The route starts and finishes in the parking area South of the bridge in Wansford and heads over the bridge with a left turn towards Kings Cliffe passing the RAF War Memorial on route. Through Kings Cliffe, we head to the picturesque villages of Blatherwycke and then Bulwick, before a short climb and then a long descent to Southwick.

From Southwick we keep St. Mary's church on our left and head to Fotheringhay, famous as the place of

St Mary's Southwick



Blatherwycke

execution of Mary Queen of Scots and the birthplace of King John. From there we climb up towards Elton, dropping down to Nassington, then to Yarwell before arriving back at Wansford.

The countryside is rolling and at this time of year has spectacular autumn colours. There are also large numbers of red kites between Kings Cliffe and Bulwick which are always enthralling to watch. Interesting and beautiful buildings and churches are plentiful in the villages, while the man made Blatherwycke lake and associated old mill offer an insight into a previous age.



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# All about DIYABC

The training centre was born through Stacy's love of building and passion for business, Stacy worked in the trade and ran her own company called My Female Builder, she is qualified in Plumbing and Heating, Wall and Floor Tiling, Carpentry and Plastering. She has been self employed since leaving the Armed Forces in 2014 and has had a number of successful local businesses. She has an immense passion for business and thrives on helping others achieve their goals.

Having a busy lifestyle and being a working mum herself she knows how hard it is to get motivated when you feel you have no time for anything, learning about time management in business for a good work life balance is tremendously important and this is taught on her business course



Stacy's loves her work in construction and loves to teach others 'The Tricks of The Trade'

The Female Builder built up a wealth of happy clients along the way and was very successful as a small building company. Many building company owners struggle at the business side of things even though they are fantastic at their job and so the business courses at DIYABC teach everything you need to know to keep your clients happy so you can get on with what you do best!

Stacy knows that most people given the opportunity to save money, would have a go at doing DIY themselves, after all, doing such things around the home also gives you a sense of achievement! So, the DIY Courses side of the business became an idea brought to life, it has taken a long time to get this far but now it is here it will hopefully grow and help so many people to realise their hidden talents.

The training centre aims to offer more courses as it moves forward growing with the students, keeping the motivation going and the businesses growing!

There will be a wealth of information and sense of community on our forum where students can chat and share experiences, or, if stuck on a project at home, ask questions.

Stacy has created an online blog where she describes the troubles and triumphs of being a female owning a business in the construction industry, check it out, you may find it a riveting read, hopefully ;-)

To stay in the loop with updates about further courses join the mailing list, you will never be hounded with emails, nor will your data be sold or given to third parties, just an email from Stacy every now and then to keep you updated.

We look forward to seeing you at the new training centre!

# Stibbington and Wansford WI



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A big thank you to all the coffee makers, cake bakers, coffee sippers and treat nibblers. Although this was not the usual big coffee morning hosted by our W.I. group, in aid of Macmillan nurses, it proved to be a roaring success. We were able to raise and donate £233, through the fundraising by members of the group.

As well as having smaller coffee mornings that complied with 'the rule of 6', some ladies had got creative. Not only were face masks made with proceeds going towards the fundraiser, but raspberry jam had been produced and sold, using berries supplied from the family allotment.

In these difficult times, it is heart-warming to know that people are willing to come together and support local fundraising, for a very worthwhile charity, thank you.



**Rhona Punter 01780 592 514**

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## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Regrettably there is little to report this month, as the current Covid situation has prevented us from engaging in any group activities. Enforced time spent at home has encouraged one of our members to produce a video by editing what was originally a V.H.S. tape recording of the Horticultural Society's activities in the year 1996. He stresses that the quality is not brilliant but it is nonetheless very acceptable viewing. Members and those who have lived in the area for some time may like to be reminded of past events and how things have changed – not least what people wore to Horticultural Society events at the time! It may also bring back memories of many people who lived in the village when I moved here in April 1997, quite a number of whom are regrettably no longer with us. My grateful thanks to Brian Andrews for all his work producing this window on the past - You can view the video via this link <https://youtu.be/i2DFpoXFijA>

Our A.G.M., scheduled for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December will most certainly not follow the usual format with around 60 people, pulling crackers and wearing paper hats as they enjoy a dinner of roast pork with all the trimmings and festive mince pies. We have a committee meeting very shortly to decide on an alternative format and I will be able to give full details in the next magazine.

Meanwhile stay safe everyone, wear a mask rather than a paper hat, and enjoy the autumn colours which are splendid this year!

Gill Fisher. [fisher.gill@yahoo.com](mailto:fisher.gill@yahoo.com)

## Light Project, Peterborough

"A big 'thank you' to all those who have been donating money and food for the homeless through Light Project Peterborough. Your help has been received by over 140 in hotels during the lockdown and many more already living in hostels but trying to get by on reduced benefits or without proper cooking facilities. We still have one hotel open and trying to support many people who wish to turn their lives around, get well and get jobs in order to be independent and to regain their dignity and respect. This winter is going to be hard for the most vulnerable as the government restrictions mean we cannot run a night shelter as in the previous 5 years. Also donations of food and money have drastically fallen as people resume their busy lives and may wrongly believe that the government are funding us. So again I ask for your help and to continue it through the cold winter months. Food collection points remain at Wansford shop and in the church porch. The collection box has moved from Nassington shop to Nassington Church porch. A big thank you to Nassington and Wansford shops for hosting the collection for the last 6 months. To get involved or donate money please see our web site [www.lightprojectpeterborough.co.uk](http://www.lightprojectpeterborough.co.uk) or ring Maureen Woodd on 0178 789908 or [maureenwoodd@gmail.com](mailto:maureenwoodd@gmail.com).

## Health Walks get a Re-boot!

After a break of six months owing to the Coronavirus crisis, the local area's health walks resumed in September, with two additional regular walks joining the more established locations. The walks are classed as *outdoor physical activity events* and are therefore exempt from the latest restrictions introduced on 14 September.

The newest additions to the programme are Barnwell Country Park and Fermyn Woods Country Park. At around 40 minutes, these walks are perfect for those recovering from illness or simply wanting to get back into regular exercise.

Full details of all our local health walks are as follows:

**Kings Cliffe, Tuesday at 11am.** Meet at the Ex-Serviceman's Club, Wood Road. Duration 1 hour. Refreshments available afterwards. Contact Barry Hurcombe – 01780 471070.

**Barnwell, Wednesday at 1.30pm (term time only).** Meet at the park café. Duration 40 mins. Refreshments available afterwards. Contact Amber McNaughton by email: [educationrangers@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:educationrangers@northamptonshire.gov.uk).

**Warmington, second Wednesday of the month, 11am.** Meet at the Red Lion. Duration 1 hour. Bring your own refreshments. Contact Gill Coffey - 01832 280491.

**Fermyn Woods, Thursday at 1.30pm (term time only).** Meet at the park café. Duration 40 mins. Refreshments available afterwards. Contact Amber McNaughton by email: [educationrangers@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:educationrangers@northamptonshire.gov.uk).

**Nassington, Friday at 11am.** Meet at the Black Horse. Duration 1 hour (shorter options available). Refreshments available afterwards. Contact Robert Phipps - 01780 782558.

Walkers are encouraged to go at a pace that suits them, and all the walks are planned to avoid difficult terrain and obstacles such as stiles and thick mud. The emphasis is very much on enjoyment rather than endurance!

For more information about the *Walking for Health* scheme and details of other walks (there are 2,500 across the UK!), check out the Walking for Health website.

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# COMMUNICARE

## Wansford & Kings Cliffe Patient Participation Group 2020 Annual General Meeting

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is with regret that the Officials have no alternative but to postpone this year's Annual General Meeting.

Normally held in September this would have been the 39th AGM – it is hoped easing of restrictions will allow this to take place sometime in the early part of 2021.

In order that the role of the PPG may continue, the current elected Officials have agreed to continue until such time as they can seek re-election at the next AGM.

Regular quarterly meetings of the Officials are being successfully achieved via the Internet 'Zoom' facility together with discussions with Practice staff on any relevant matters.

Any information of interest to patients will be included on the Surgery's website or by notice in local village newsletters.

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## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - Sun 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

How you can still honour fallen heroes from your doorstep. Remembrance Sunday will look very different this year, as social distancing means many parades and memorials have been called off.

While the annual service at the Cenotaph will go ahead, it will be closed to members of the public for the first time in its 100-year history. Politicians, representatives for the Armed Forces, members of the Royal Family, and other dignitaries will still be able to attend.

However, in true British style; there is still a way for the general public to honour our fallen heroes this Remembrance Sunday. Many have campaigned for a doorstep two-minute silence that will pay tribute to veterans, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Royal British Legion, at national level, has backed the public campaign **for a doorstep two-minute silence, giving**

### How will it work?

At 11am on Remembrance Sunday, everyone around the country is encouraged to stand on their doorstep for a two-minute silence. Veterans, members of the armed forces and volunteers will be allowed to attend Remembrance events, as long as organisers put "reasonable measures" in place to lower the risk of transmission.

Stibbington & District Branch of the Royal British Legion is taking the lead, at local level, and asking everyone to join in and to Commemorate with the Nation in the following way:

- Display poppies in your front window, (either make your own or use the one on the page opposite).
- Observe the 2-minute silence at 11.00am from the end of your drive/path.
- A video of the Branch Wreath being laid and the names of our fallen being read will be posted on the Wansford Community Facebook page on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Please also remember to buy a poppy and wear it with pride, particularly for the families of the 66 service personnel who have died in the last year. Your donations go towards providing a helpline used by 187,328 callers, helping over 34,000 veterans and their family to receive dementia care, recuperate at a Legion Break Centre, live independently at home, compete at the Invictus Games and many more projects and schemes. Thank you for your continued support.

**Sue Arnold.**

**Chairman RBL Stibbington & District Branch 07740 865685**

## Give doorstep traders the cold shoulder as winter sets in

### Consumer advice

### By Eileen Le Voi

### Safe Local Trades

As the colder weather sets in – winter proofing your property can be kinder to the environment and your pocket.

At this time of year, the elements can take their toll on the home; we can expect gusty winds and heavy rain to play havoc when it comes to guttering, roof tiles, fences and even trees. Your driveway may have also lost its summer sparkle and be in need of a deep clean.

But the changing of the seasons is a popular time for rogue doorstep traders to avoid hibernation and inflict their own kind of winter misery on unsuspecting homeowners.

Trading Standards always advise to never accept an offer of work from cold callers who 'happen to be in your area'. They will ask for cash up front, and more often than not, it will be for work which is unnecessary.



Don't be fooled by business cards with websites and telephone numbers which look genuine. Politely take the card – if you begin to feel vulnerable or intimidated - and say you will contact them at your convenience should you need their services.

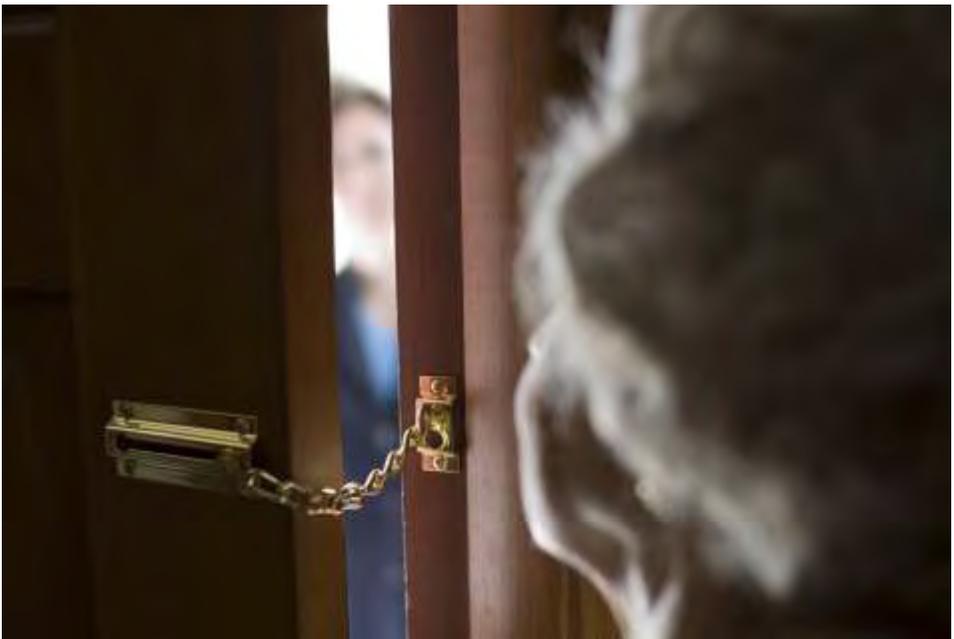
You can then check their contact details or ask a family member or friend to do so on your behalf.

However, there are some simple but effective ways you take steps to winter proof your home and garden, and avoid a November nightmare:

- Check all external pipes for breaks, leaks, and blockages. Blocked or leaking pipes can freeze during the cold months, then expand and burst – causing potentially expensive water damage.

- Think about insulation. A properly insulated property is an absolute must. Make sure that you check the basics, starting with obvious draft points. Invest in some draft excluder to keep doors and windows secure. Check the cladding around your boiler and pipes, and make sure that taps and faucets don't leak.
- Bleed your radiators. A great way to warm up your property is to bleed the radiators. This releases any trapped air, allowing hot water to fill every part of your radiator and warm the property more efficiently.
- Get a boiler service. Arrange for a professional to service your boiler each year. As everyone starts to switch on or boost their central heating, the surge in gas consumption can lead to a big increase in boiler breakdowns.
- Clear out your gutters. In autumn, leaves can collect in gutters and drains, leading to blocks and overflows - so it's best to clean them regularly. Consider investing in gutter leaf guards to help prevent your gutters becoming blocked in future.
- Sweep your chimney. If your chimneys are in use, make sure that they get swept every year. This will remove the build-up of dirt and grime from your chimney walls.

So, for all those winter maintenance jobs that still need planning in before the festive season, [www.safelocaltrades.com](http://www.safelocaltrades.com) should be your first port of call. We have a range of professional, recommended and reliable trades from chimney sweeps, boiler maintenance, electricians, roofing specialists, plumbers, tree surgeons – and just about anyone who can provide a service for your seasonal maintenance needs, and all in line with Covid-19 safety guidelines.



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## THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council took place via Zoom on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020. It was chaired by Chris Smith and present were Louise Molesworth, Ashleigh Kewney and Martin Lewis. In attendance were three Members of the Public, Peter Slinger, Prospective Green Party Candidate for the Ward Elections and Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk. Apologies were given from Adrian Rodgers and Alan Frost.

Wendy Joyce raised the issue of on-going problems with speeding motorists (some whom are residents) through the village. She felt the issue was getting worse. Various options of how to deal with speeding motorists were discussed including stripes on the road, 'slow' on the road and a flashing speed indicator. The Parish Council has tried to deal with this issue in the past by putting information in the Minutes, Living Villages and delivering flyers. The Chairman agreed to speak to Peterborough City Council about putting signage on the road. The Chairman also confirmed that electronic signage had been explored before and that Peterborough City Council would not pay for these signs and the Parish Council do not have funds to cover that option. She would explore costs and report back to the next meeting on whether or not this could be something the village may wish to explore via fund raising. This issue will be included in the Minutes and Living Villages and another flyer will be produced. Peter Slinger offered to look into what help that Peterborough City Council is able to offer to deter motorists from speeding through the village.

There were no police representatives present. No-one present had heard of any reported crimes.

### **Hedges and Grass Verges**

The Chairman reported that she had been in contact with Peterborough City Council who use a contractor (Aragon) to cut the hedge and grass verges. It was noted that the contractor cuts the hedge from the A1 to the first corner of Russell Hill once a year and the grass verges from the A1 to the A47 four times per year. The contractor takes account of when birds are nesting and cuts the grass verges as close to the bottom of the hedgerow as their equipment allows. If there are any areas that the Parish Council does not want cutting, the contractor needs to be shown a definitive map highlighting the relevant areas.

On a related issue, Richard Astle of the Langdyke Trust has asked if Thornhaugh Parish Council would like to become a supporter of the John Clare Countryside Project and get involved in the work of delivering its vision. The concept was launched last year and the idea is to create a heritage landscape with nature at its heart across the countryside between Peterborough and Stamford. Whilst no Parish Councillors are able to commit time to the project, information had been sent to Alan and Joan Frost who had been the residents concerned about the hedgerow cutting. Any other residents interested in being involved should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

### **Footpaths on Meadow Lane and Russell Hill**

The temporary footpath at the bottom of Meadow Lane has been made passable in good weather by the builder who will re-establish it once the building work has finished. The footpath on Russell Hill is still impassable. The Chairman has been in contact with the landowner who feels he has done what is necessary. Contact has been made with the Footpaths Officer and a definitive description of what footpath maintenance involves for the land owner has been asked for and a request for the Footpaths Officer to speak to the landowner about making the footpath passable and clearly defined. It was noted that Mr & Mrs King, as the new owners of Thornhaugh Hall, are currently looking at their land management plans which includes ensuring the footpaths are accessible and clearly defined.

They have already responded by grass cutting and hedge management. The Chairman will write to Mr & Mrs King thanking them for the positive response.

### **Defibrillator**

The Chairman had asked Rev J Tailby for an update but had not received a response. The Parish Councillors expressed their disappointment with the lack of progress particularly as donations have been received to purchase the Defibrillator. It was mooted whether to consider an alternative site to locate the Defibrillator in the event of continued lack of progress. The Parish Council decided that efforts should be concentrated on getting support for installing it in the church. The Chairman will again contact Rev Tailby. Peter Slinger stated he has contacts at the Diocesan Officer and would be willing to liaise with the Diocesan Architect if that would help progress the matter.

### **Thornhaugh Heritage Project**

Martin Lewis has been sent a lot of information about the village including maps, photos and deeds. A meeting will be arranged once it is possible to meet again.

### **Light Pollution**

It was noted that this issue has now been resolved. Although the lights are still on all through the night the direction and luminosity have been changed by the home owner and therefore there is much less impact on other residents now.

### **Planning Applications**

Planning Application 20/00040 Replacement of 4 existing front and 3 existing rear windows and 1 Set of French Doors at Apple Acre Cottage, Russell Hill, Thornhaugh – Permitted, Planning Application 20/00277 Removal of large single Conifer at back of house due to concerns of damaging house in high winds at St Medard House, Russell Hill, Thornhaugh – Permitted, Planning Application 19/01889 Change of use from an agricultural field and woodland to form an adventure play scheme including erection of indoor play and visitor amenity barn, a supporting toilet and changing block, staff welfare facilities, outdoor play equipment and car park at Land off Sutton Heath Road, Southorpe – Objections – Awaiting Decision, Planning Application 20/00691 Discharge of conditions C1 (3 years), C3 (Stoneworks), C4 (Written scheme), C5 (Ventilation gap), C6 (Timber Permission), C7 (Ventilation details), C8 (Building regulations) and C11 (Plans) of Listed Building Consent 18/01779/LBC at The Old Dairy, Home Farm, Thornhaugh – Withdrawn, Planning Application 20/00733 Erection of new play area within existing leisure site at Sacrewell Farm, Thornhaugh – No Objections – Awaiting Decision, Planning Application 20/00388 One dwelling at 16 Meadow Lane – Permitted and Planning Application 20/01178 Fell 4x Leylandii trees, 2x Cherry trees, 2x Fir trees, 1x Willow tree (All tree adjacent to dry stone wall) & Fell 6x Leylandii trees (Rear right side of garden/corner bordering Manor Farm) at 21 Russell Hill, Thornhaugh – It was noted that the 2x Cherry trees will not be felled – it was agreed to take the Tree Officer’s advice.

There have been several Planning Applications to fell trees this year. The Parish Councillors would encourage the re-planting of trees which will enhance the attractiveness of the village. Ashleigh Kewney stated that he had purchased a large number of trees at a reasonable price from the Woodland Trust (a charitable organisation). It was agreed that information about the Woodland Trust will be put onto the Website.

*There was an update from Lisa Chambers, Chairman of the Christie Hall, which is on page (Editors note)*

### **Donation**

Xanthe Pitt, whose family had lived in Thornhaugh in the past, has given a generous donation of £400 to the village and it was agreed that this will be spent on purchasing the spring and autumn hanging baskets. The Chairman had sent a thank-you card to Ms Pitts and will send photographs of the hanging baskets in due course

### **Drains on Russell Hill**

The Chairman reported that, after a period of heavy rain, the roads on Russell Hill were covered with mud due to problems with the drains. She had taken photographs and submitted them to 'Fix Our Street' at Peterborough City Council. The drains will be repaired in due course.

### **Flu Jabs**

Louise Molesworth reported that flu jabs will start soon for the over-65s who will receive a letter explaining the process this year. The flu jabs will be given at a drive through session at the Kings Cliffe Active site. Flu jabs for other groups of patients will take place in October/November.

### **Christmas Tree**

The Chairman will ask Nicki Rogers if she is happy to purchase a Christmas Tree from the Bill Rogers Memorial Fund. If so, it will be erected w/c 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, there will be no carol singing and refreshments. Residents will be encouraged to put their own decorations onto the tree.

### **Covid 19**

It was noted that there may be further rules and regulations put in place to deal with the increase in numbers of people who are testing positive to Coronavirus. The Chairman asked that everyone helps their neighbours.

### **Book Exchange**

The Chairman reported that the Book Exchange has re-opened following the installation of a hand sanitisation station. Thanks were expressed to Ian Molesworth's employers who had kindly provided the hand sanitiser.

### **Hedge Cutting at 6B Meadow Lane**

After being approached by a concerned resident regarding hedge/tree removal, the Chairman reported that it had been confirmed by the Tree Officer that the hedge in question was not in the Conservation Area and it is therefore not an issue that the Parish Council is able to become involved with.

### **Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting**

The Parish Council has not held the Annual Parish Meeting or Annual General Meeting this year. The Clerk will ascertain the position on this under Covid 19 restrictions. NB The Clerk subsequently established that under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the Parish Council does not have to hold an APM or AGM and it allows that current arrangements may remain in place until May 2021. The Clerk will contact all the representatives/committee members to check that they are happy to remain in position until May 2021.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Next Meeting of Thornhaugh Parish Council will take place **at 7.00 pm on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**



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## WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Our October meeting was held remotely via Skype, all members being present with visual contact and we had phone contact with our Clerk. We are grateful to Cllr Richard Clarke for setting it up.

Should you need to make a Planning Application for tree work, we are usually happy to be guided by PCC's Tree Officer's recommendations.

The **Community Leadership Fund** grant of £150 has been spent on a screen for the Community Hall and a spare projector bulb for our projector. We hope to use **Community Infrastructure Levy** money to reinstate the footpath along the Old Leicester Road up to Old Pump House (Paws and Claws) corner and have support from PCC for this. PCC has agreed also to provide a litter bin by the seat adjacent to the church. PCC has accepted also the urgent need for modifications to the junction of Old Leicester Road and the A47 identified a potential scheme in this area as part of a provisional 3 year programme.

You will have recently received a communication from Highways England about the proposed **A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling**. Cllr Clarke has submitted an Article for this month's edition of Living Villages, giving suggestions for your response. You may note on the front of the HE leaflet that there is a photo of a sign showing a left turn off the western roundabout to Wansford and the A6118. In September 2017 the A6118 was declassified and became the C340 (rather more suitable for a single track road over our Grade 1 listed bridge). Peterborough City Council deleted A6118 from its signs, including the one in the photo. Highways England has been very slow to modify its signs and still hasn't managed to alter those on the slip roads up from the A1; both northbound and southbound ! Clearly its A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling team still doesn't know that the A6118 no longer exists !

Our next meeting on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> November is almost certainly to be held remotely again. The agenda will be posted on the notice board on the church wall and should you wish to submit any views or observations please contact Wendy Gray, our Clerk, [wendy7wansford@gmail.com](mailto:wendy7wansford@gmail.com) or on 01778 441312.

Tim Pearson, Chairman

**The next meeting of the  
Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council  
is scheduled for Wednesday 4th November**

## Christie Hall update — re Covid

The hall opened again from 1<sup>st</sup> August for use. This was after a full risk assessment was prepared and the necessary adjustments in the hall were in place. Hand sanitisers have been fitted in all areas, signage etc for in and out and distancing. Bins provided for waste and we have received risk assessments personal to regular groups to ensure they are compliant.

It has been ascertained that the size of the hall allows for 12 people to take part in activities with the necessary ventilation which we have at present. Groups have been coming back slowly starting with one initially for the first month and currently we have running

Fencing

Dog training

Zumba gold only so no high impact

Keep fit with limited movement around the hall

Lindyhop

Yoga

No hiring of hall for any events such as parties allowed.

The heating system is air circulated so following guidelines the doors and windows have to remain open. The committee is looking at ways of improving ventilation as it is felt currently the heating system should not be turned on which will cause a problem come the colder months. We have had an estimate for controlled ventilation of £6,000 for a basic system. As yet this has not been taken to the committee until we find alternatives if we can, bearing in mind this could be a short-term problem. The heating system still works and is adequate in normal circumstances, so it is just the added ventilation that is required.

We have received a grant of £10,000 from Huntingdon Council to be able to continue during Covid. This will be needed for rent, insurance and other expenses in 2021 as income has been non-existent.

We will let the parish councils know once we have found a solution to the heating problem, which seems to be our only stumbling block.

It has been quite stressful for the committee bearing in mind the changing rules and regulations and how they impact on hiring of a village hall, but I believe that we have been very thorough in our consideration of all risks and solutions.

**Lisa Cambers**

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# A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling

## Highways England Project Update Autumn 2020

Many readers of Living Villages will have received an eight page leaflet setting out the current plans for the A47 upgrade.

Wansford Parish Council and Sutton Parish Council have worked together throughout the development of this scheme and we have always tried to be constructive in our approach.

The resulting scheme to the east of the A1 is a great improvement on the layout shown at the statutory consultation stage and it certainly has a reduced environmental impact and cost. Both of these factors could be improved further by running the new road through the Scheduled Monument using a route that avoids the identified archaeological features but it is unlikely that this will be possible.

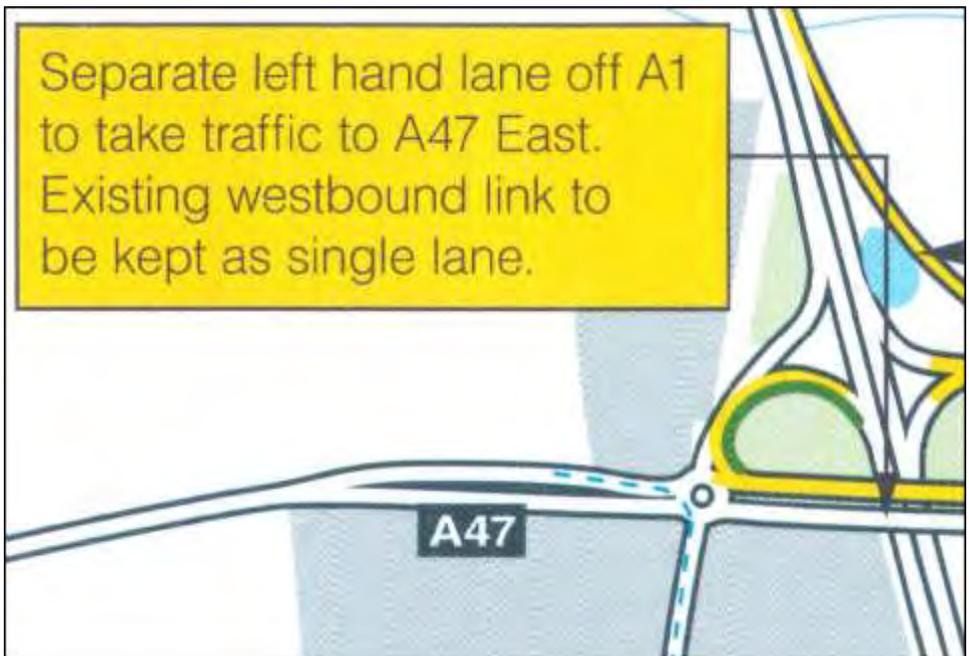
The big problem with the layout as drawn is the Wansford western roundabout at the top of Old North Road.

When Highways England launched this project on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016, they stated that the western roundabout was not part of the A47 improvement scheme. Wansford Parish Council pointed out that it was crazy to upgrade a road corridor without making sure that it had adequate connections at either end. In the 4 years since that meeting, Highways England has included the roundabout in the scheme but the scale of investment is completely different to the rest of the project.

Highways England carried out a traffic modelling exercise for the A1/A47 junction in 2018 and they have repeated it earlier this year. Unfortunately, they have declined to share the results of the latest modelling work but it does not seem to have brought about any significant change from the 2018 study.

The 2018 traffic modelling showed most of the traffic increasing by 50-60% over a 15 year period, as you would expect. The two exceptions were Old North Road, where the traffic was predicted to reduce by 40%, and the A1 northbound off slip where the traffic was forecast to increase by 140%. When you examined the figures carefully, the model was showing traffic avoiding Old North Road and instead using Peterborough Road to join the A1 northbound, only to exit again 350 metres later on the northbound off slip. This is an unsafe use of a trunk road and goes against all guidelines for highways design. It is on the basis of this modelling that Highways England have come up with the layout shown in their leaflet. This has an extra lane on the A1 northbound off slip and minor adjustments to the A47 eastbound entry onto the western roundabout.

Everyone who uses the roundabout will know that the main problems are caused by traffic coming from Peterborough along the A47 and turning right



to go north towards Stamford. This right turn traffic blocks the flow from Leicester towards Peterborough on the A47. The Highways England proposals do nothing to address this problem.

Wansford Parish Council have taken expert advice on this and have suggested to Highways England that they should look at scrapping the existing roundabout and installing a junction with traffic lights. While roundabouts are good at handling balanced flows, traffic lights are much better when there is a large right turn flow. Traffic lights will also give a safe exit from Old North Road both north and south of the roundabout. Highways England has not done this work in the 6 months since it was suggested but have promised that they will do it before the DCO process starts.

Of course, the real solution to the problem is to realign the A1 further east, as was proposed in 1994, and build a completely new junction with the A47. The government has announced a review of the A1 in this area but no time-scale has been given.

Wansford Parish Council would encourage all residents to send their views on the development to Highways England by email or post. The addresses are on the back page of the leaflet. Responses should be with them by the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

If you want any more information please contact me on [rclarke9999@btinternet.com](mailto:rclarke9999@btinternet.com).

Richard Clarke

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR! [editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@livingvillagesmagazine.co.uk)

### CHANGING TIMES

Hi! I'm Dr Rhiannon Nally from the Wansford and Kings Cliffe General Practice and with my colleague, Dr Amrit Takhar, we are writing to ask you to help us, please.

In addition to the extensive clinical and consultation facilities at Wansford Surgery, we are committed to continuing a viable healthcare facility at Kings Cliffe, and to do this we are already working with Kings Cliffe Parish Council, Kings Cliffe Active and the Practice's Patient Participation Group – all local people. In time, we'd like to seek your reactions to our ideas as they develop further.

We want to enable innovative, creative and long term yet uninterrupted healthcare provision to continue to be based in Kings Cliffe in line with local wishes and within the confines of national policy and Practice plans.

All over Britain, the Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically and changed forever the way we deliver primary care services. Though clinicians still see patients directly face-to-face when this is needed, much is now being done remotely, through telephone, skype, email and video. Our Practice is also increasingly using the skills and expertise of other healthcare professionals such as specialist nurses, paramedics, pharmacists and others to continue to deliver a safe and comprehensive service to all the patients in our care wherever they may live.

We will continue the Prescription Pick-up Service in Kings Cliffe and we also see opportunities to extend and expand the services we provide such as a remote access point for video consultations which will serve those who cannot access internet services from home, as well as providing health coaches, social prescribers and various classes for patients aimed at improving their health. We hope to illustrate these and other ideas at an open session for people from Kings Cliffe and the surrounding villages at Kings Cliffe Active and also through the magazines of the villages whose residents we care for.

We believe that working with the local community, the Kings Cliffe Active site can provide an ideal base for this, as we have already seen in a small way with the very successful 'drive-by or walk-in' flu jabs there.

All of this is for consultation until the end of the year after which we hope to be able to announce specific plans and timescales for the future. We hope that you will feel able to help us in this, please.

**Rhiannon Nally**

Dear Editor,

I'm Rhys Thrower and I am proud to be the headteacher of Wittering Primary School. I thought your readers would be interested to know about how the return to school has been like since September as we have several families at our school from Wansford and the surrounding villages.

When we opened our gates on 7<sup>th</sup> September I could not have been happier. We had remained open during lockdown providing cover for key worker families, then welcomed back our reception, year 1 and year 6 cohorts before summer holiday. Lots of preparation went into fully reopening in September, and it went brilliantly. We may have one way systems in place around the grounds, children sitting differently how they would normally in the classroom and play zones around the school but the atmosphere and buzz around school was brilliant to be a part of.

We always focus on wellbeing, and prioritised ensuring the children were ok and comfortable being back in school and getting to know new class teachers. By the end of the first week we had very tired but very happy pupils. Since then we have been identifying gaps in the children's education caused by not being in school and looking at the best ways to help fill those gaps as we progress through the year. We work closely with our other trust schools to ensure we are using the best practice for our pupils. We also have a families centre attached to the school, and any children that were finding school hard were giving a chance to talk with our family support worker about what their worries or challenges were to see how we can help more.

School isn't quite back to normal, (we are immensely proud of the strength of our choir and sports teams and at the time of writing we are restricted to what we can do with those) but each week we edge a step closer to where we want to be with the range of things we can offer.

I am also very mindful that some parents are choosing a primary for their child and may be concerned about being able to visit and see what we have to offer. We welcome children from any area, subject to spaces available, and if readers would like to know more about our friendly school please get in touch with us through [office@wittering.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:office@wittering.peterborough.sch.uk) and I can arrange to have a chat with you about what we have to offer and arrange a look around our wonderful school. I am immensely proud of the resilience, attitude and kindness of our school community, including our local parents, and especially our pupils and seeing them with smiles, learning and laughing while at school makes all of the hard work worthwhile.

**Rhys Thrower BA (Hons) QTS NPQH**  
**[www.wittering.peterborough.sch.uk](http://www.wittering.peterborough.sch.uk)**

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