

Wansford childhood inspires book

A former Wansford resident has written a children's book loosely based in and around his home village.

Matt Shaw's book, *Blanks*, which is aimed at children aged nine years and over, is based in Swanford and tells the story of an action-packed week in the school holidays for the main character, Sam, and a mysterious girl who lives in the old vicarage. Some names will be familiar

to Wansford residents, with Mrs Hearn at the post office, Mr Pick, the farmer, and a character named Mr Muller being woven into the storyline.

Matt lived in Wansford for about 13 years, moving in when his parents, Margaret and Laurie Hearn, took on the village shop and post office at The Haven.

The family moved to Driffield in about 1990 and a year or two later



Matt Shaw—new author.

Matt, who now lives with his own family in Sheffield, left the town to go to university.

However, his parents and brother, Jason, still live in Driffield.

To buy *Blanks* visit Amazon, e-mail mattshaw100@yahoo.co.uk or search for *Blanks* by Matt Shaw on Facebook or Instagram.

Spring cleaning days

Both villages had a spring clean in April and May with residents turning out to pick up litter, sweep and generally spruce up a little.

The event at Wansford was well-supported but less so at Skerne. Many thanks go to all those who helped in any way to keep the villages tidy.



Andrew Robson at the spring clean day

Right to inspect the books

Any person has the right to inspect and make copies of the parish council's annual return, the accounting records including all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records. For the year ended March 31 2019 these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to Mrs Jill Pick, Church Cottage, Wansford, tel 01377 254741, e-mail Sandwpclerk@yahoo.co.uk, until Monday August 5.

Summer road safety

Drivers are asked to take care when driving through either village now that summer is here.

Children will be taking advantage of the school holidays and the long evenings to play outside much more, riding bikes, scooters, etc as well as playing ball games.

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Pie and pea supper success

A spring pie and pea supper at the Trout was well supported with a bumper attendance.

Keith Robinson served up pie, peas and chips to

about 60 people at the Friday night event.

Thanks go to organiser Caroline Harrison and to Keith, Marie and the Trout Inn staff.

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S&W NEWS

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New face on your parish council

At the May local election eight parish councillors were returned to the Skerne and Wansford Parish Council unopposed. They were Ian Lamble, chairman, Jackie Dobson, vice chairman, Catherine Bristow, Gill Grassam, Caroline Harrison, Ann Kitching, Neil Robson and Lynn Stockwell. At the subsequent May meeting,

Skerne resident John Warden was co-opted onto the council to fill the vacancy. John moved to Skerne in 2016 after he retired and has since set up the Skerne Neighbourhood Watch. John would like to ensure that Skerne retains its character as much as possible and work to maintain the tranquil environment.

Consultation re Skerne community land planned

A consultation with Skerne villagers regarding the land to be given to the village for a community space will take place later in the summer.

The Skerne and Wansford Parish Council needs to know to what use villagers would prefer the land be put, the support for the concept and what can be offered in the way of voluntary hours, fund raising, men and machinery to get the scheme off the ground.

The consultation will either take the form of a survey, a public meeting or both - the format to be decided at the July 16 meeting of the parish council, which will take place in Wansford Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Change of use will need to be applied for and before anything comes to fruition the footpath on Main Street will need to be extended to allow safe access. The parish council has been advised that this work will probably have to be grant-funded.

Already people have come forward to offer their expertise, with Gemma Foster,

manager of Williamsons solicitors' Driffield branch, dealing with the land transfer.

Others have indicated they will assist in applying for grants and the planning permission.

The paperwork concerning the sale of the land from JSR Farms to Warrendale Farms is currently being concluded but the actual land handover will not take place until September/October only after JSR has taken off the crops.

However, it is hoped that access to the proposed community land will be allowed after harvesting but ahead of the transfer so as not to miss the sowing window for grass seed and enable fencing of the site to take place.

More details about the consultation will be circulated following the July parish council meeting.

Meanwhile if you can help in any way please contact parish councillor Catherine Bristow on 01377 250190.

The ongoing poop scooping problem

Inconsiderate dog owners continue to be a problem in both villages with dog dirt being routinely left for others to clean up.

It's not only unpleasant on shoes and pram wheels but also hazardous to health, especially to children who can be unaware of its threat to their wellbeing.

It is only a few irresponsible dog owners who spoil it for the many who do pick up after their animals. The main concentration in Skerne is on Main Street. In Wansford it is in the centre of the village in Nafferton Road. In some cases the culprits are known. Instances of irresponsible dog owners can be

reported, in confidence, to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council dog warden service at www.eastriding.gov.uk/dogs or by e-mailing dog.warden@eastriding.gov.uk.

The location and time and date of the offence is needed as well as the name, address and description of the owner.

Village maintenance work



Sue Foster, Kath Robson and Shirley Botterill try out the replacement bench.

The millennium bench in Nafferton Road, Wansford, has been replaced as it was in a dilapidated condition.

The work was done by Jim Stockwell, pictured right, with help from Keith Pick, Andrew Robson and advice from passing residents.

The Skerne noticeboard, which has



been in a state of disrepair, was cleaned and re-varnished by Keith Pick in the spring.

Pot luck at village hall

Following a long search, finally new plates, cups and saucers have been purchased by Wansford Village Hall committee as part of its ongoing refurbishment and upgrade of the hall, which is to be decorated during the summer.

Hall users include the Makari Morris Dancers, Monday's Crafty Fingers group, the Wednesday coffee morning, the parish council and Val Wiley for her regular bingo sessions. The hall is available to hire privately at £5 per hour by contacting secretary Mary Hudson, 2 Nafferton Road, Wansford, telephone 01377 254760.



Committee members Mary Hudson and Susan Smith with the new crockery.

Cancellation

The Wansford Village Hall-hosted production of My Brilliant Divorce in September has had to be cancelled as one of the cast of the Leeds-based Library Theatre Touring Company has died.



Hostess Susanne Hardcastle, second from right, with a few of the helpers at the event. Below, Terry Hardcastle at the Mires Beck Nursery stand.

More than £4,000 raised at Tythe Farm open day

Almost 600 people attended the Open Garden Day at Tythe Farm House, Wansford, hosted by Terry and Susanne Hardcastle when more than £4,000 was raised for the National Garden Scheme which distributes money raised between charities such as the Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and Carers Trust among others.

The Mires Beck Nursery, which operates as a charity to help people with a disability become involved with horticulture, had a large selection

of plants on sale and people gave generously to this admirable cause in addition to supporting the National Garden Scheme.

For those who missed the event it is still possible to view the gardens as part of a group by logging on to the NGS website.

Terry and Susanne thanked everyone who attended and gave so generously, and offered special thanks to Richard and Roger Thornhill for providing a large nearby field for parking, which only just proved adequate as more than 100 cars were



present at any one time. They also thanked all those who gave up their Sunday to help in the cafe and the car park, adding that their assistance had been invaluable.

Latest oil co-operative price

The Humber & Wolds Community Council oil-buying co-op achieved an ex-VAT price 43.45p per litre in June For details con-

tact Billy Waites, Broadmead House, Skerne, email wiliam.waites@btinternet.com or telephone 256520.

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