

VillageVoices



June 2009

Village Voices is produced by the parish churches for the local community providing news and information for:
Guyhirn-Gorefield-Murrow- Parson Drove-Rings End- Tholomas Drove-Thorney Toll- Wisbech St Mary

A warm welcome to all newcomers & visitors to our villages!

Vicar's Verbals.

The thing about recovering from surgery is that it makes you realise how lucky you are to be getting better. Its like the old joke: "Why on earth are you banging your face against that brick wall?" "Because its so nice when I stop!". I only had a minor op a couple of weeks ago, but the sickness after the anaesthetic, the pain of the wound and the general helplessness afterwards are a timely reminder to me that others have to face much worse, with only the prospect of yet more illness and suffering. Being a short term invalid is a humbling experience and I have had to learn the real meaning of the term 'patient', and to receive the kindness and care of others with graciousness. It reminds me that I am always reliant upon others in sickness or in health. It is one of the mysteries of the Christian way that Jesus was at his most powerful when he made himself completely vulnerable to others. If you are sick or undergoing unpleasant treatment at the moment, then my prayers are with you. I pray that you are blessed by people around you to care for you and love you in your time of difficulty. Be powerful in your weakness by allowing others to be blessed by the kindness and love which your plight is generating in them. You are a centre for their grace and may offer them a glimpse of their own salvation.

Matthew.

A SPLENDID SERVICE AT GOREFIELD

On Sunday May 3rd David Ashton and Nathan Mace were baptized by Reverend Matthew Bradbury during the morning service.

It was a happy occasion as family and friends of David and Nathan joined with the congregation in assisting and celebrating the rite of baptism. This included the giving of a lighted candle to David and Nathan as a sign that they had 'passed from darkness into light'. The candles can be lit on special occasions as a reminder of their baptism.

We ask God's blessing on David as he goes forward for confirmation in July and Nathan as he regularly assists Dawn, Roy and Bill, the churchwardens, at Sunday worship.

Brenda Stamp

WSM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We had a most enjoyable time at our May Spring Social, being well entertained by Doreen Rispin as Mrs Alfred Watt, the Canadian lady who helped begin the Women's Institute in England. Her talk was followed by a fish and chip supper.

Our next meeting, on Thursday June 11th, is the planning meeting for the new year, so please bring your ideas for new speakers.

We will also be selling tickets (at £10) for the visit on July 9th to Moulton Mill, which include coach fare, entrance fee and light refreshments.

Liz Hunt.

QUIET AFTERNOON FOR MOTHER'S UNION

Our Quiet Afternoon for the Wisbech Deanery was held at St Peter & St Paul's church, Wisbech, on Wednesday April 29th. A very thoughtful and peaceful time was conducted by our new Rural Dean, Revd John Penny, who was Licensed at St Augustine's church on Sunday May 10th.

At our meeting on Tuesday May 5th we heard a report from the Spring Council which was held in St Peter's church, March.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday June 2nd at 2.15pm in the Church House, WSM. Everyone most welcome. Love to you all.

Lilian Brigden.

Copy deadline: 15th of every month.

Please e-mail articles to paynewsm@btinternet.com
or on paper to Anne Wallis in Guyhirn (450466)
Elaine Harvey in Gorefield (870558)
David Pearce in PD (700454)
Brian Payne in WSM (410755)

Advertising

Enquiries please email ads.villagevoices@btinternet.com
or phone Terry Brigden 450481

+ Regular Services +

Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Parish Church:

11am. SUNG EUCHARIST Every Sunday exc 1st.
8am Communion, 11am Family Service: 1st Sunday.
Evening Prayer: 6.00pm 3rd Sunday.
Other services as announced.

Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove:

9.30am Family service 1st Sunday in month.
9.30am Communion 2nd & 3rd Sundays
9.30am Communion or Morning Prayer, 5th Sun.
United Service at St Mark's 4th Sunday 10.30am.
Flower Rota: May 3rd, 10th, 17th May. Mrs H Rowell.

St Paul's Church, Gorefield:

10.00am: Holy Communion except 3rd Sunday.
8.00am: Holy Communion 3rd Sunday.

St Mark's Methodist Church, Parson Dr

June 7th: 10.30. Mr A Stapleton
June 14th: 9.30. United service in parish church.
June 21st: 10.30. Mrs A Emmerson with Youth
Worship Team
June 28th: 10.30. CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY. United
service Revd C Gibbs.

Murrow Methodist Church

June 7th: 10.30. H Comm. Revd N Hannah
June 14th: 10.30. Mrs D Bailey
June 21st: 10.30. Mrs S Askew
June 28th: 10.30. Mrs J Whitfield

Emmanuel Church

Flower Rota: June 7th, 14th, 21st: Mrs M Clingo.

A **Solemn Mass**, with incense, is to be held in Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn Church on Monday June 1st to celebrate the Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. The service starts at 7.30pm and residents from all parishes are very welcome.

THE MART AT WISBECH ST MARY

The Mart at Wisbech St Mary seems to get busier each month! The next Mart is Saturday June 13th from 9am to sell-out (usually around 10am).
Come to the Church House, opposite the church gate where you will be tempted by home-made cakes, produce, etc. Whilst there have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or two.
Everyone most welcome.

THANK YOU!

Jayne Richardson would like to thank all those who supported the "Care for a Cuppa" event in Church House, WSM, on Friday May 15th. Jayne writes "We raised £126.75 for Diabetes UK, who are celebrating their 75th anniversary this year. Many thanks for your help".

CHURCH'S GARDEN PARTY

There is to be an afternoon Garden Party in Elgood's Brewery Gardens on Sunday June 7th.
This informal, pleasant Sunday afternoon occasion is for the benefit of parishioners from the three churches and their guests. The Clarkson Singers will be singing for us in the gardens. Tickets £7 inclusive of gardens, concert and refreshments are available from church members.

PARSON DROVE ANNUAL CHARITY FAIR:

Saturday June 13th, 10am to 1pm. Light lunches available.
Offers of participation by local organisations would be warmly welcomed by Chris Coates on 700307.
This important occasion is jointly sponsored by St Mark's and Emmanuel Church. Proceeds are donated to a charity drawn by lots.

COUNTRY COMPANY

A Country and Gospel Evening is to be held at St Mark's, Parson Drove, on Sunday July 24th at 6.30pm.
Tickets £7, inc refreshments, are available from Chris Coates 700307 or Roma Andrew 870602.

IN OUR THOUGHTS

We welcome into the Church's family

Ricky Warren who was baptised in St Paul's Church, Gorefield on Sunday April 26th.

Nathan Mace and **David Ashton** who were each baptised in St Paul's Church, Gorefield on Sunday May 3rd.

Francesca Pitman who was baptised in Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove on Sunday May 10th.

We wish every happiness to

Abigail Wheeler and **Richard Payne** who were married in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Church on Saturday April 18th.

We say goodbye to

Douglas Arthur Watson, of Guyhirn, whose funeral service was in Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn Church followed by cremation on Friday April 17th.

Robert John Wade, of Murrow, whose funeral service was at Peterborough Crematorium on Tuesday April 28th.

Michael Stewart Mace, of Sutton Road, whose funeral service was held in St Paul's Church, Gorefield, on Friday May 15th, followed by burial in the churchyard

We send our love to all the families

GOREFIELD LADIES GROUP

At the April meeting there was a demonstration and talk on the history of powder compacts, old and new, given by Jill Mackey. She explained how her collection started by buying compacts at car boot sales, until it grew to such an extent she is now able to display them. Members were invited to study them in more detail and to ask questions. Thanks were given and refreshments enjoyed at the end of the evening.

The next meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday June 24th will be "Prison or Workhouse", a talk by Brian Payne, describing life in each institution. Entry fee of £2 includes refreshments. Names will be taken for the July outing to Tim Meakin's gardens in Outwell.

ANNUAL GARDEN FETE AT SOUTHEA GRANGE

The annual Garden Fete organised by Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove, takes place on Saturday June 6th, on the lawn of Southea Grange, by kind permission of Dr and Mrs Rosier. The Fete opens at 2pm and visitors will find traditional stalls, including cakes, plants, bottles, bric-a-brac, books, etc. There will be competitions and games for all ages, and teas and refreshments will be available. Everyone is most welcome.

Church members would be pleased to receive any donations for the stalls. All proceeds are for the church funds.

PARSON DROVE VILLAGE PLAYERS' NEW PRODUCTION

Last year the Village Players took their youth group to the Hunstanton Drama Festival. They performed the play "Strawberry Tea" and were very successful with Laura Watson winning the cup for the best youth actress. We presented the play for the village at St Mark's chapel, and laid on a Strawberry Tea afterwards with strawberries and cream, sandwiches, scones and cakes, which everyone enjoyed immensely.

This year the Adults are taking their play called "Songbird" to the Hunstanton Festival on Saturday June 20th. It is a very amusing little play, and so we will perform it again in the Methodist Chapel, on Sunday July 12th at 4pm. Please come and enjoy the show, and then indulge yourselves afterwards.

Tickets for the Strawberry Tea are £5. They may be obtained from G Frost 870213, Mrs A Watson 450381, or Mrs J Skinner 700565.

WISBECH ST MARY'S ANNUAL GARDEN FETE

The Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Church Garden Fete will be held on Saturday July 11th at 1.30pm. The very popular Dog Show is to take place during the afternoon. (see separate details).

The organisers would be grateful for donations of bottles, cakes, grocery or vegetables, and would like to hear from anyone who would be able to spare some time helping on the stalls, etc.

An added attraction this year will be a display of children's comics from the 1890s to the 1950s.

Further details from David Wheeler 410692, or Terry Brigden 450481.

NOVELTY DOG SHOW AT W S M

A very popular part of the annual Garden Fete in the grounds of Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church is the Novelty Dog Show. This year's Fete, on Saturday July 11th, is no exception. The Dog Show will start at 2.15pm with eight classes, including Best Puppy, Waggiest Tail, Beautiful Bitch, Handsome Dog, Best Junior Handler, etc. Rosettes and prizes will be awarded. Entrance is only £1 per Class.

WAR-TIME FOOD DESCRIBED

Parson Drove Women's Institute meet in St Mark's on the second Tuesday of each month.

At their meeting in May, their speaker described how people managed their food during the war years.

On June 9th, Brian Payne will speak about "The Saint of St Mary's", and on July 14th there will be a demonstration of flower arranging by John Richmond.

MURROW SUNSHINE CLUB

The Club has held meetings on April 22nd, and our AGM on May 6th. Mrs D Cundy chaired the AGM, at which all current committee members were unanimously re-elected.

Birthdays are being celebrated in May by Mrs Taylor, Mrs Nall and Mr England.

We are being joined by Wisbech St Mary Good Companions Club on May 20th for our 50th birthday celebration party. Entertainment will be provided by Sam's Sounds, with catering by Jennie Edwards.

BRITISH LEGION COFFEE AFTERNOON

The Women's Section of the Royal British Legion at Guyhirn invite you to a Coffee Afternoon in Guyhirn Village Hall on Saturday June 27th from 2pm.

Cakes, various stalls, draw, etc. Proceeds in aid of the Section. Please support the Legion's valuable work.

MURROW CAR BOOT SALES

The Friends of Murrow School have announced the dates of their car boot sales: Saturdays May 30th, June 27th, July 25th and September 19th.

Booters from 10am, buyers from 10.30am. Refreshments and toilet facilities available.

A PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN PARSON DROVE

Steve Perry will provide 40s, 50s and 60s songs and music at a Sunday Afternoon Entertainment in Parson Drove Village Hall on Sunday June 7th at 2.30pm.

Tickets £6 each include tea and biscuits, but bring your own drinks. All proceeds go towards the Annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.

To book your place, ring Barbara 700761, or Casey 700276.

GARDENS OPEN IN WISBECH ST MARY

Wisbech St Mary's Garden Open Day 2009 is on Sunday June 29th from 10am to 5pm in aid of MAGPAS.

Tickets £3 and programmes available from Popeley's Stores, WSM, or at all gardens open on the day. There will be a large wooden orange flower outside the gardens taking part.

A DAY OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

The **Gorefield Show** celebrates its 47th year on Saturday June 13th. Always popular with village folk and visitors, the show has become an important date in the early summer diary.

Together with the traditional Heavy Horse and Pony/Light Horse showing, the show boasts a well supported Exemption Dog Show and a host of Country stalls selling local produce and a range of craft goods. There is Carriage Driving again this year, and fun and entertainment for all ages with Side Shows, probably the biggest Giant Slide in the UK, a huge Bouncy Castle and Children's Sports with cash prizes. The Vintage Tractors and farm machinery, Classic Cars and Motor Bikes are always popular and this year's main attraction is an interactive Falconry Display with two demonstrations in the main ring and a chance to meet the birds and talk to the experts.

The show starts with the Light Horse showing beginning at 8.30, the Heavy Horse mid-morning and the main ring entertainment starting at lunch time. Refreshments are served throughout the day. There is a licensed bar.

The show is held on the Wolf Lane playing field, by kind permission of the committee. Admission is £3 for adults, Children and Senior Citizens £2. Plenty of free parking is available around the area; a charge of £6 per car (in addition to admission charges) is made for the limited parking on the field.

GOREFIELD SHOW PARTY NIGHT!

This year there will be a party night on the playing field after the Gorefield Show on Saturday June 13th from 7pm to late. Live band. Spit Roast or vegetarian option. Licensed Bar.

Strictly tickets only. Adults £5, children under 12 years £2. On sale at Gorefield Post Office, or call Andy on 07941 173781.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR MURROW BOOK CAFÉ

The annual meeting was held on March 10th. Another successful year for the Book Café was reported with over 160 members. More volunteers are needed to help on Tuesday evenings, and an extra morning session is planned if we can recruit some volunteers. Anyone interested please ring Diana Thrower on 700213.

A happy atmosphere made the Quiz Night a great success with 11 teams participating. The questions were varied and ranged from easy to very hard, but fun was had by all, and the refreshments were great! Another Quiz Night will be held later in the year.

Part of the remit for the Book Café is to arrange IT courses for a small fee. Currently we are seeking a tutor, and may have some funding available. This is addition to the computer drop-in on Tuesday evenings with Andrew. The next Tuesdays are June 9th and 23rd, and 14th and 28th July.

GUYHIRN VILLAGE HALL

The trustees and committee of Guyhirn Village Hall are seeking practical support and encouragement to keep the Hall open and available for the village.

A number of events have been planned, details of some follow.

There is to be an Open Evening on Wednesday June 24th at 7pm. Everyone is invited to go along and take ideas to get a greater involvement from the community.

LINE DANCING

Friday morning 10.30am to 12.30pm, admission £3. Beginners will be made very welcome, so don't be shy, come along and join in for a very entertaining and social morning.

TABLE TOP SALE

Sunday June 14th, 2pm to 5pm. Book your table now, £5 per table. Buy or just browse, no admission charge. Light refreshments available.

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT OF GUYHIRN PRE-SCHOOL

It has been announced that Guyhirn Church of England Primary School will be taking over the management of the Pre-School from September 2009.

The headteacher, Mrs Justine Sands, said, "The Governors and whole school community look forward to working with our pre-school children and parents, and moving the pre-school forward at this exciting time"

Anyone requiring further details should contact Mrs Sands on 450247.

THE START FOR NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

The work on the new Community Centre building in Wisbech St Mary is intended to start on June 1st. The build period is planned for 28 weeks, which, hopefully, will see completion around mid-December.

There has been a change to the advertised date for the sale of the old Hall, which will now be held on September 9th at 7pm in the Hall. This is to allow prospective purchasers time to obtain their own planning consent, thus obtaining the maximum potential funding towards the new building.

PARSON DROVE STREET PRIDE GROUP'S SUCCESSFUL PICK

The chairman of Parson Drove's Street Pride Group has expressed his thanks to all volunteers, especially those with families, who turned up on Saturday May 9th to help with the litter pick at Sealey's Lane. Robert Scrimshaw said "Your efforts were much appreciated. Thank you for your support".

The next two litter picks are scheduled for Wednesday June 24th at 7pm (Clough Bridge), and Saturday July 11th at 10am (Murrow public footpath). Anyone interested in joining please meet at the Village Hall at the scheduled time. All volunteers will be made most welcome.

JULIE'S PATCH

Recently there have been crimes committed in our parishes where there have been witnesses who have been reluctant to come forward. They have seen the people committing the crime and not informed the police. I appreciate that people do not always want to get involved, but it is important that they inform the police immediately. I don't mind an anonymous phone call or a note on my windscreen. There is always CRIMESTOPPERS where you can pass on information confidentially on 0800 555 111.

How would you feel if it was your property being stolen, damaged or vandalized, and your neighbour saw it and didn't bother to say anything? Tackling crime is not just down to the police. It is a partnership that includes YOU, the community. We need to work together to create a safer environment.

The next Panel Meeting for villages in the Wisbech Sector is to be held at Elm School on Wednesday June 24th at 7.30pm.

Call me on 0845 456 4564, or e-mail julie.coales@cambs.pnn.police.uk

PLANS FOR SURGERY EXTENSION

A planning application has been received by Fenland District Council for the erection of an extension to the existing surgery at Parson Drove to form pharmacy and consulting rooms, with 2 x 2-bed flats above, and associated parking and highway access.

ANY 'BODY' CAN DO IT!

A new Quiz Sheet entitled "*Our body and its works*" is now available in Gorefield. Test your wits against this latest teaser!

Contact Marie on 410436 or any member of the Playing Field Committee. £1 per entry. Cash prizes!

WATCH OUT! THE SCARECROWS ARE ABOUT!

Scarecrows are aiming to increase their numbers !

In **WSM Village** the week before the & Country Fayre, Scarecrows will be appearing throughout the village. Celebrity judges will be touring the village on the afternoon of Thursday June 25th viewing entries in the Best Scarecrow competition.

Gorefield will be holding its second annual Scarecrow Competition in August. The organisers are hoping to build on the success of last year when 35 wonderful exhibits were displayed around the village and parish. Judging will take place during the week of 22nd to 29th August, and the results and presentation of trophies will be at the annual Show which is to be held on September 5th.

Details: Marie 410436 or David 870059.

WISBECH ST MARY VILLAGE & COUNTRY FAYRE

Sunday June 28th is the date of this year's Village and Country Fayre at Wisbech St Mary's sports field. Following on from last year's successful event, even more activities, amusements and interests are planned.

Among the attractions there will be Craft Stalls, Trade Stands, Vintage /Classic Vehicles and Equipment, Fire Engines, Reptiles and Animals, Falconry, Dog Handling Display, Live Music, Model Aircraft Display, Laser Clay Pigeons, Aerobatic Displays, 'Ted Devils!' Johnny Dee, Dog Show, Children's Activities and Amusements. Dog Agility, Food Stalls, Licensed Bar.

Exhibitions include Vintage & Classic vehicles, farm machinery, country crafts.

There will be a large car boot.

A fun-packed day is promised.

Admission is just £2 and £1 for children.

Volunteers are needed prior to, and on the day. If you can help, please contact 410610, or pop into a meeting on Thursday June 11th in WSM Social Club meeting room.

Come and Enjoy a Fun Packed Day's Activities:

Admission - Only £2 & Children £1

Main Ring Events plus, etc.

JOHN BEND UNITED CHARITIES

Grants are available for children leaving primary school for secondary school in September this year. Anyone in Parson Drove parish is eligible. Grants are also available for college or university students. For either grant please apply, before July 18th, to the Clerk. Mrs T Jarvis, 5 Swan Bridge Farm, Fen Road, Parson Drove, PE13 4JP. 01945 700697.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED AT PLAYING FIELD AGM

On Monday May 11th the **Gorefield** Playing Field Association held its annual meeting with 19 people in attendance. During the year the Association had seen an increase in income, but the Chairman remarked that the field was still under used.

The good turnout and willingness to get involved, meant that the meeting was able to fill all the available vacancies, and bring the committee up to full strength again. At the committee meeting following the AGM, John Hunt was re-elected Chairman for the year and Andrew Humphrey was elected Vice Chairman. The other main positions remained unchanged with Colin Tibbs as secretary, and Margaret Tibbs treasurer.

Other encouraging discussions related to the possible formation of a new Gorefield football club, the possible revival of the once popular Gala Day for 2010, and the potential for additional income from events previously run by the Sport and Amenity fundraising group.

GOREFIELD 200 CLUB WINNERS

Week 1: No 160 J Andrew; Wk 2: 37 S Pooley; Wk 3: 4 J Rowell; Wk 4: 49 L Stockdale; Wk 5: 79 S Smart; Wk 6: 105 T A Bailey; Wk 7: 14 E Goult; Wk 8: 157 D Bullen; Wk 9: 45 M J Cole.
Week 10: £250 61 R Tuck; £50 13 M Evans; £10 169 F Harris.

FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW

The Murrow Autumn Open Flower & Vegetable Show is to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday September 5th. Schedules are now available from Mrs M Woollard, Roseacre, Front Road, Murrow. 01945 700673.

WSM SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Short Mat Bowls Club meets in Wisbech St Mary Village Hall each Monday evening from 7pm to 9.30pm. New members welcome. Contact 01945 410452 for details.

THE CAGE'S FRIENDS

The historic Cage on the Green at Parson Drove is open on Sundays and Wednesdays 2 to 5pm. If you are interested in helping, please ring Roger on 700501 or Anita on 701220.

WSM YOUTH CLUB

Meets in the Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 7 till 9pm. All 10-16 year old youngsters very welcome to join in and to bring some new ideas.
Contact: 01945 410986.

WSM SOCIAL CLUB

Tuesdays: Line Dancing tuition 7.30-9.00pm.
Thursdays: Slimming World from 7.30pm
Saturday June 9th: Tea Dance 2.00 -4.30

CAR BOOT SALES AT WSM

In aid of the Parent Teacher Association at Wisbech St Mary Church of England School, will be held on the following Saturdays: June 20, July 18 and September 12

MURROW 200 CLUB WINNERS

The latest winners of Murrow's 200 Club are
G Brown, Murrow; D Ralf, WSM; C Bellamy, Parson Drove; E Dalsveen, Murrow; A Kelly, Murrow; N Court, Parson Drove; J Randall, Downham Market and J Markillie, Parson Drove.

KEEP FIT AND HAVE FUN AT PD!

Come line-dancing to keep fit and have fun at Parson Drove Village Hall on Tuesdays 1.30 to 4.00pm., and Wednesdays 7.30 to 9.30pm. If you are interested, ring Michelle on 701239

SHORT MAT BOWLS AT PD

Parson Drove Short Mat Bowls Club meet in the Village Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays 2.00 to 4.30pm. Each session £2. New members very welcome.

ACTIVITIES AT ST MARK'S

Whist Drives: Third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.
The Fitness League: Thursdays 9.45 to 10.45am. Movement to music for all ages, young or mature. Contact: Helen 01406 330565.

WSM LUNCHEON CLUB

The Lunch dates for June are Tuesday 9th and Tuesday 23rd. We meet at midday at the Bridge Inn. If anyone can not attend, please contact Marjorie on 410511 of the Bridge Inn on 410555.

P D LUNCHEON CLUB

Luncheon Club meets at the "Butchers Arms" alternate Thursdays at midday. For details, contact M Shelley, 01945 700729

Village Voices is keen to report the activities of community organisations within its area. It is important that a newsletter of this kind, covering such a wide area, shares experiences and is not just a list of diary dates.

Contact paynews@btinternet.com or those listed on the front page.

In the light of recent concerns in their village, Guyhirn readers may be interested in the following extract from the "Cambridge Chronicle" published 155 years ago. The Wesleyan chapel stood near the village hall until it was demolished some twenty years ago.

"VICE AND IMMORALITY LEAVE GUYHIRN

(as reported in the
"Cambridge Chronicle" 17
June 1854)

"The anniversary in connection with the Wesleyan chapel at Guyhirn was celebrated on Sunday last, when sermons were preached to overflowing congregations and liberal collections made.

"On Monday the children of the Sabbath School were regaled with tea, after which the teachers, parents and friends partook of the friendly cup, the little chapel being beautifully decorated with flowers for the occasion.

"The evening was most agreeably and profitably spent in listening to the recital of pieces of prose and verse by some of the children, and to the addresses of the friends of religious instruction, who had assembled to encourage the teachers in their work of faith and labour of love.

"To those who knew the locality a few years since, the moral and social improvement is most striking. Formerly proverbial for vice and immorality, the inhabitants are now distinguished for sobriety and piety, and afford a gratifying example of what, by the Divine blessing, men may do towards working out their own reformation".

PILLOWFIGHT PRACTICE FOR PARSON DROVE SHOW

The Annual Custom & Classic Car and Bike Show will be held on the playing field at Parson Drove on Saturday July 25th.

Included in the many popular attractions is the World Pillowfight Championship. A practice session for this competition is to be held at the Swan Inn on Sunday June 28th. Contact Roger for details on 700501.

Full details of the Show will appear in next month's Village Voices.

NEW SCHOOL BUS SERVICE TO SPALDING

A privately run school bus service is planned to operate between Parson Drove and Spalding Grammar, High School and Glead.

The service calls at the Swan Inn, Parson Drove, the Bell Inn, Murrow, Gull Road, Guyhirn, Thorney, and Crowland and Cowbit if required.

Costs are anticipated to be between £25 and £29.50 per week. These will be confirmed once student numbers have been determined. Details: Michael Shuster on 01733 270190.

IS IT A PLANE? IS IT A TREE? ...OR BOTH?

asks Chris Harvey

Whilst staring up into the large tree in the centre of Gorefield churchyard, a visitor enquired as to what sort of tree it was. My answer was only partly correct. The Victorians introduced the Plane Tree into the parks that they were creating in the industrial cities in the mid 1800's. They apparently were best able to withstand the smog and industrial fall out. I had surmised that it was a relatively fast growing tree, and that may have been the reason for it in the churchyard. We are also guessing that the tree may have been planted at the time the church was completed in 1878. It is just young enough for somebody still living here to have had great grandparents who may have passed on first hand knowledge of its planting Can somebody fill us in with details about the tree? The churchyard gardeners would like to know about it. They are usually in the church yard on Thursday mornings, or if you feel more daring perhaps a few lines in *Village Voices* for us all to share?

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

Will be in attendance at the Pavilion, Parson Drove sports field, from 1.30 to 3.30pm on Tuesday June 23rd.

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

Mobile libraries do not visit on Bank Holidays. The locations, stops and arrival times are:

The mobile Library will be calling on June 12th and 26th.

Rings End	March Road,	10.00	Mobile library in Gorefield	
Guyhirn	Selwyn Corner	10.25	Alternate Wednesdays: June 3 rd and 17 th	
Bunkers Hill.	Lay-bye	10.45		
WSM	Cannon Close	11.05	The stops and arrival times are	
WSM	Church Road	11.30	School	15.15
WSM	Blundell Terr	11.55	Post Office	15.40
Lev Common	Pear Tree Cres	12.15	Mill Height	15.55
Guyhirn	Chapelfield Av	15.20		

Enquiries: 0345 045 5225, or online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Useful contacts

Churches		Schools		Health & Security	
Revd Matthew Bradbury	410814	Gorefield School	870321	Parson Drove Surgery	700223
Lilian Brigden (Reader)	450481	Gorefield Pre-school	870439	North Cambs Hospital	585781
Revd Nigel Hannah [Methodist]	466426	Guyhirn School	450247	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	01553 613613
Village Halls (bookings)		Murrow School	700357	Social Services	481100
Gorefield	870829	Murrow Pre School	07952573973	P. Drove Surgery Car Service	07766534280
Guyhirn	450835	Payne School Parson Drove	700275	WSM Community Car Scheme	07592407283
Murrow	700212	Parson Drove Pre-School	07880 606450	Gorefield Social Car Scheme	01945 870539
Parson Drove	700729	WSM School	410312	Childline	0800 1111
Thorney Toll	07887754869 or 07961957878	WSM Play Group	07944 719586	Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
WSM Village Hall	410539	Websites: www.guyhirn-online.org.uk		Dog control/Animal welfare	01354 622442
Parish Council Clerks		www.gorefield.com		Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
Gorefield	870454	www.wisbechstmary.org.uk		Fenland District Council	111101354654321
Parson Drove	700501			Samaritans	08457909090
Wisbech St Mary	474191			Victim supportline	08453030900
				Police (non-emergency)	0845 456 4564

Revd Matthew Bradbury, The Vicarage, Church Road, Wisbech St Mary, PE13 4RN Tel:01945410814

LATE NEWS

1. Murrow Pre-school requires an Assistant from September. Ring 07960081896 before May 31st for details and Application Form.
2. Mrs Diana Thrower elected Chairman of WSM Parish Council at annual meeting at Thorney Toll.

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council –

Annual Report presented to the Parish Assembly at Thorney Toll Village Hall on 18th May 2009

During the year vacancies occurred on the Parish Council and the District Council Mr Barry Britain was elected as a Parish Councillor and Mr Robert Scrimshaw as a District Councillor. These vacancies were brought about by the resignation of Mr P Wait.

List of Councillors

Name	Address	Telephone Nos.
Mr K Bagg	The Orchards, Gull Road, Guyhirn, Nr Wisbech PE13 4ER	01945 450713 resigned May 2009
Mr P Barnes	Westview, 38 Murrow Bank, Murrow, PE13 4HB	01945 700200
Mr B Britain	Fort Farm, Gull Drove, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4BH	01733 849262
Mr P Davies	Riverside, Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4ED	01945 450234
Mr J Fish	17 Lindens Close, Thorney Toll, Wisbech PE13 4AR	07887754869
Mr T Fowler	Bramble Corner, Splash Drove, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SP	01945 410425
Mr C Fryett	Llanberis, Gull Road, Guyhirn PE13 4ER	01945 450340
Mr J Parrin	Paradene, Church Road, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4RN	01945 410539
Mr B Payne	7 Churchfield Way, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SY	01945 410755
Mrs D Thrower	The Village Store, Murrow PE13 4JQ	01945 700213

In the 12 months leading up to this Parish Assembly there have been 15 meetings and all councillors have attended on a regular basis, together with County Councillor Jill Tuck, District Councillors Cyril Bellamy and Robert Scrimshaw and Pc J Coales (Community Beat Police Constable). A number of parishioners have attended to take advantage of the Open Forum item which appears on each meeting's agenda.

Notices and Agendas of meetings together with Council minutes are displayed on all the parish notice boards and the Wisbech St Mary website at www.wisbechstmary.org.uk. Meetings have been held at Tholomas Drove, but for the rest of this year we are holding meetings in the village halls. Please note below the dates and venues for the Parish Council meetings.

Monday, 15th June 2009 at Murrow Village Hall

Monday, 13th July 2009 at W St Mary Playing Field Pavillion.

Monday 17th August 2009 at The Chequers Tholomas Drove

Monday, 14th September 2009 at Guyhirn Village Hall

Monday, 12th October 2009 at Murrow Village Hall

Monday 9th Nov 2009 at W St Mary Playing Field Pavillion

Monday, 7th Dec 2009 at The Chequers Tholomas Drove

The members of the Parish Council all live within the Parish and several also work within the area. They represent a cross section of the community and therefore are on hand to recognise and deal with the needs and concerns of the parishioners they serve. Several of the councillors represent the parish on committees and organisations within Fenland and by doing so the voice of the parish is heard.

Mr J Parrin is on the committee of the Fenland Links Board, Fenland Association of Local Councils and Treasurer of the Parson Drove Car Scheme and the Wisbech St Mary Car Scheme. Mr B Payne is a Parish Council Representative on the Standards Committee of Fenland District Council and Fenland Association of Local Councils.

Several Councillors are members of the Pools Allotment Charity, Village Hall Committees, Playing Field Committees and are School Governors and other community based organisations.

Parish Plans

The Parish Plan was completed in 2005 and this now being updated. The Action Plans for each of the villages, Guyhirn, Murrow and Wisbech St Mary, with the help of Fenland Links and Cambridgeshire Acre are already being considered. The Parish Council will support these Action Groups to enable them to bring as many items as possible to fruition within financial constraints. The Public Consultation meetings in all three villages and Thorney Toll have taken place.

Village Property

During the past 12 months the Council has continued to maintain the bus shelters. After consultation with CCC Highways Dept and a local builder the Parish Council is in the process of carrying out work on the bus shelter at Chapelfield Road, Guyhirn to make it more user friendly for the disabled.

The Parish Council from the Capital Fund have purchased additional land from the Fenland District Council to increase the size of the Guyhirn Playing Field and made a grant to the Wisbech St Mary Community Centre of £45,000 towards the new Community Centre.

During this financial year grants have been given to various organisations within the Parish. (Details from the Clerk)

Highways

Councillors continue to identify areas that are in need of repair and continue to lobby the County Highways Department to ensure that this work is carried out as soon as possible. This year we put in two bids for jointly funded minor highway improvements. These were a for a new footpath in Bunkers Hill from Rat Row to Bridge Inn and High Road, Wisbech St Mary. We have been informed that neither of these bids was successful. We will try again next year.

The Council are continuing to work towards reducing speed limits within the Parish and therefore creating a safer environment for us all.

Councillors have continually corresponded with the Police to try and increase the safety outside our schools. In previous years we were successful in initiating parking restrictions outside Wisbech St Mary School and traffic calming near Murrow School in Murrow Bank. This year we have installed from Parish Council funds road markings in Guyhirn warning of a school. We will continue to work towards improving road safety outside all of our schools.

After numerous serious accidents at Bellamy Bridge, the Parish Council continue to lobby Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department to improve this junction. To date the road markings and signage have been improved, but we will continue to request the Police and the Highways Dept to make this area as safe as possible.

Parish Precept

The Precept in the 2005/2006 financial year was £28,000, 2006/2007 £29,400, 2007/2008 £30870, 2008/2009 £43732 and in 2009/2010 we have made no increase and it remains at £43732.

Finally, if you wish to make your voice heard on any aspect of village life, please feel free to attend any of the Parish Council meetings.

J Parrin Chairman of the Parish Council.

C Jobson, Clerk to the Council. Tel. No. 01945 474364.

E mail carolyn.jobson@btpopenworld.com

[Because of limited space, this is an edited version of the Newsletter. Copies of the original are available from the Clerk

