

Village Voices December 2011



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

A warm welcome to all newcomer and visitors to our villages!

HAPPY XMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!

Vicar's Verbals

I sometimes think we don't do ourselves any favours this time of year. Vicar's diaries become overfilled with a mixture of the sublime (delightful playgroup Christingle services) and the ridiculous (attending a committee with a name so long it won't fit on one line). Mums and Dads, Grandparents and Carers work themselves to exhaustion trying to get everything ready for the winter break. Workplaces get into that end-of-year-panic mode; shopworkers have to keep smiling at their tetchy customers. Teachers have to use their finest riot-control skills on over-cooked children while still maintaining a cheery Yule-tide smile. And then when Christmas Eve finally arrives there is that terrible risk that we are already tired of the whole idea. The economic downturn might however contain within its bitter wind some fresh air of honesty. Why not make this Christmas the one when you don't spend more than you can afford - or eat twice as much as you really need to (note to self!). I don't really need to repeat in 'Verbals' what Christmas is 'really about': we all know that it is to celebrate those unfashionable ideas of humility, service and sacrifice, and has nothing at all to do with self-indulgence and excess. But the real joy of Christmas is taking the time to be with the ones you love – just as God sent Jesus to be with the people he loved. Have a good one this year. **Matthew.**

Rev Canon Matthew Bradbury, The Vicarage,
Church Road, Wisbech St Mary, PE13 4RN.
01945 410814.

matthew.bradbury@ely.anglican.org



CAROL SERVICE REVIVAL AT PARSON DROVE

The congregations of St Mark's Methodist church and Emmanuel church, Parson Drove, will join together on Sunday December 18th to revive the village united carol service. The event starts at 3pm at Emmanuel and everyone in the parish, young or older, are warmly invited to help raise the roof with well-known carols and Christmas cheer.

SATURDAY OPENING FOR PARISH CHURCH

Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Parish Church is to be open to residents and visitors on the second Saturday of each month, commencing January 14th 2012. It will be an opportunity for people to spend some quiet moments in a beautiful setting, for private prayer and meditation, or to contact a member of the Ministry Team.

The church will be open from 9 am to noon.

Announcement

The Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, has announced the appointment of Rev Matthew Bradbury as an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral. Canon Bradbury will continue as Vicar of Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn with Ring's End, Gorefield, and Southea with Murrow and Parson Drove, and as Rural Dean of Wisbech Lynn Marshland.

Unto us a child is born!

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

December 11th: 3pm.
United Carol Service Wisbech
St Mary & Guyhirn church.

December 18th: 10.30am
Carol Service .

Murrow Methodist Church
December 18th 3pm
United Carol Service.
Emmanuel church, Parson
Drove.

December 18th: 6.30pm.
Village Carol Service St Paul's
church, Gorefield.

December 24th: 11.30pm
Midnight Mass. Wisbech St
Mary & Guyhirn church.

December 24th: 11.30pm
Midnight Mass. Emmanuel
church, Parson Drove.

CHRISTMAS DAY:

9.00am. Holy Communion, St
Paul's church, Gorefield.

9.30am Holy Communion,
Emmanuel church, Parson
Drove.

11.00am. Family Communion,
Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn
church

*Hark, the herald angels
sing
Glory to the newborn
King!*

+ Regular Services +

Wisbech St Mary&Guyhirn Parish Church:

Every Sunday exc 1st :- 11am. sung eucharist.
1st Sunday:-8am Communion,11am Family Service
3rd Sunday:- Evening Prayer: 6.00pm

Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove:

1st Sunday in month:- 9.30am Family service.
2nd & 3rd Sundays:- 9.30am Communion.
4th Sunday:-United Service at St Mark's 10.30.
Dec 4th: Greeters. Pauline+Diane. Coffee: Sandra
Dec 11th: Greeter. Trevor. Coffee: Shelagh.
Flower Rota: All help, please.

St Paul's Church, Gorefield:

except 3rd Sunday.10.00am: Holy Communion
3rd Sunday.10.00am: Morning Worship

Murrow Methodist Church 10.30am

Dec 4th 10.30: Mr G Beeken
Dec 11th 10.30: Rev N Hannah. Holy Comm.
Dec 18th 10.30: Carol Service. Mrs W Chandler.
Dec 25th: No service.
Jan 1st 10.30: Local arrangements.

St Mark's Methodist Church,P D

Dec 4th 10.30: Rev N Hannah. Holy Comm.
Dec 11th 10.30: United service in Parish Church.
Dec 18th 3.00pm: United Carol Service, Parish Church.
Dec 25th: No service.
Jan 1st: No service.

COME TO THE CHRISTMAS MART!

Roll up, Roll up! Come to the Christmas Mart in Wisbech St Mary's Church House on Saturday December 10th, where you will find Christmas fancies alongside the usual cakes, plants and produce. It starts at 8.45am and continues until sell-out time, usually around 10am.

Whilst there, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits,, and catch up with the local news.

The Mart is always held on the second Saturday of each month, and the next one will be on January 14th 2012.

CHRISTMAS FAIRS AT EMMANUEL AND ST MARK'S

Emmanuel and St Mark's churches in Parson Drove are holding Christmas Fairs. There will be the usual stalls and attractions, and a visit by Santa Claus. Contributions of cakes, bottles and quality bric-a-brac will be greatly received. Emmanuel's Fair is on Saturday December 3rd from 2 to 4pm in the village hall.

St Mark's follows on Saturday December 10th from 10am to 1pm in St Mark's church

£474 FOR MACMILLAN

Bob & Shirley would like to thank everyone who supported them and helped raise £474.20 for Macmillan Cancer Support at the coffee morning in Murrow Village Hall on September 30th. There was a raffle prize unclaimed on ticket no. 424.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC EVENT AT GUYHIRN

The annual Christmas Community Event will be held in Guyhirn Village Hall on Sunday December 18th at 2.30pm. All residents are invited to join in the carol singing and listen to a selection of musical items performed by local people. Refreshments will be served.

JOIN THE CAROL SINGERS!

Each year an intrepid band of residents tour Wisbech St Mary singing carols and having fun. This year they will meet at the Church House at 5pm on Sunday December 18, and are looking for additional singers of all ages. The tour usually finishes with mince pies and refreshments! Contact 410755 if you are interested.

The Register

We welcome into the Church family

Grace Constant Maureen Doggett, Kia Liam Andrew John Smith and Lexi Louise Priscilla Smith, who were baptised in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church on Sunday November 6th.

We say farewell to our friends and send love to their families

Nancy Newman (nee Winter), whose funeral was at Fenland Crematorium on Wednesday October 26th.

Edna May Fowler, whose funeral was at Mintlyn Crematorium on Monday October 31st.

Hilda Mary Clarke, whose funeral service was held at Emmanuel church, Parson Drove, followed by burial in the churchyard, on Tuesday November 1st.

Sandra Mary Lydia Kenworthy, whose funeral service was held at Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church, followed by burial in Guyhirn churchyard, on Monday November 7th.

Marjorie Hunter-Rowe, whose funeral service was held at Emmanuel church, Parson Drove, followed by burial in the churchyard, on Thursday November 10th.

In memoriam

Reginald Gautrey, whose ashes were laid in Gorefield churchyard on Friday November 4th.

CUP CAKE DELIGHTS AT THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our November meeting was led by Cheryl Ridley who demonstrated the art of Cup Cake decoration. This was followed by a rather messy but enjoyable session where we attempted to make the icing bag produce wonderful swirls and curls. We then topped these with lots of different icing embellishments made by Cheryl.

Thursday December 1st is our next meeting when the professional singer and guitarist Patsy Rose will be entertaining us with songs and Christmas Carols. Ladies, don't forget your Christmas gift - no more than £2. We will also have available the menu for the New Year Meal to be held at the Oliver Twist in Guyhirn.

Our meetings usually take place in WSM school hall on the second Thursday of the month and new members are always welcome. Our annual subscription is only £2, and the evening fee £1:50 per session for those you attend - if you miss a meeting, you don't have to pay for it. **Liz Hunt and Mary McClagish**

MOTHERS' UNION MEMBERS HEAR ABOUT POLAR BEARS

It was lovely to meet at Marjorie Palmer's home on November 1st to hear her friend Rachel talk about the polar bears she had seen on her travels. Our last meeting for 2011 will be on Tuesday December 6th at Church House, WSM, when we will have our Christmas meeting, which will start at 2.15pm and end with refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

We wish you all a Blessed Christmas.
Lilian Bridgen

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ENJOYS A SAUSAGE SUPPER

Members of Parson Drove Women's Institute held their annual Sausage Supper on November 8th. Everyone at the meeting enjoyed the meal, which was prepared and served by the committee, and then held their AGM. The business part of the evening reflected on an interesting and successful year. The whole committee was re-elected, and everyone looks forward to another enjoyable year. **Ann Payne**

MASSAGE AND REFLEXOLOGY AT LADIES GROUP MEETING

The Gorefield Ladies Group met on October 26th, and the meeting was very well attended. The guest speaker was David Grimes who spoke about the history of King's Lynn, dating back to the 14th century. The very interesting, informative and amusing talk was illustrated with slides. Glenys thanked David. The raffle was drawn, and refreshments were served by Margaret Tuck and Brenda Pehl. Members celebrating birthdays in October were Marion Fisher and Audrey Jolly.

The next meeting is Wednesday November 23rd, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, when the speaker will be Patricia Harris giving a talk on alternative medicine and a demonstration of massage and reflexology.

On Wednesday December 14th the Annual Christmas meal will be held at 7pm. Details can be obtained by phoning Glenys on 870276.

Our first meeting of the New Year is to be held on Wednesday January 25th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Maralyn Clarke will give us an insight into the concept of Chinese medicine and Accupuncture. A good healthy start to look after your health in the winter!! **Glenys Grimm**

SANTA IS CALLING AT THE RSPCA

The RSPCA Animal Rehoming Centre, in Block Block, Fen Drove, Wimblington, have announced their Christmas event on December 3rd and 4th, 11.00 – 3.30pm.

Santa will be in his grotto for children and pets. There will be carol singing, craft and gift stalls. As well as food stalls, you can enjoy home made cakes in the coffee shop. Prize raffle.

If you would like to have more information on any of the events please contact the office which is open daily, except Wednesdays, times 11:00am till 3:30pm, or phone 0300 123 0726

All monies raised go towards the much needed funding required to continue the high standard of animal care the RSPCA provide in the centre.



FATHER CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO THE BOOK CAFÉ

On Saturday December 10th a special visitor will be in the Book Café in Murrow. Even at this busy time of year he has kindly agreed to chat to children and parents and may even read a few good stories.

If you have any questions that you would like him to answer please call in that morning between 10.30 and 12.30. There will be refreshments and a puzzle as well as some Christmas goodies to buy.

Useful contacts

Churches

Revd Canon M Bradbury	410814
Revd Ryk Parkinson	465818.
Lilian Brigden (Reader)	450481
Revd Nigel Hannah [Methodist]	466426

Village Halls (bookings)

Gorefield	870829
Guyhirn	450835
Murrow 700673	700212
Parson Drove	700729
Thorney Toll 07887754869	07961957878
WSM Community Centre	01945410473

Parish Council Clerks

Gorefield	870454
Parson Drove	700501
Wisbech St Mary	474191

Schools

Gorefield School	870321
Gorefield Pre-school	871042
Guyhirn School	450247
Murrow School	700357
Murrow Pre School	07754758332
Payne School Parson Drove	700275
Parson Drove Pre-School	07503165432
WSM School	410312
WSM Play Group	411864
WSM Little Saint's Toddlers	410503
Murrow Children's Centre	701237.

Post Offices

Parson Drove	700511
Gorefield	870273
Wisbech St Mary	410288

Health & Security

Home-Start	582552
Parson Drove Surgery	700223
Parson Drove Pharmacy	701778
North Cambs Hospital	585781
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	01553613613
Social Services	481100
P. Dr Surgery Car Service	07766534280
WSM Com Car Scheme	07592407283
Gorefield Com. Car Scheme	07500479444
Childline	0800 1111
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Dog control/Animal welfare	01354622442
Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
Fenland District Council	01354654321
CCC Highways Maintenance	03450455212
Samaritans	08457909090
Victim supportline	08453030900

Websites:

www.gorefield.com

www.guyhirn-online.org.uk

www.murrow-village.com

www.parsondroveamenities95.org

www.wisbechstmary.org.uk

Police (non-emergency) 0345 456 4564

New operation will tackle rural crime

Cambridgeshire police have launched a new county-wide crackdown on rural crime including theft of metal, fuel and machinery. Operation Gandalf will see a dedicated team of detectives taking a hard line on thieves who are targeting isolated and vulnerable locations. They will work with officers from HM Revenue and Customs to target people stealing or using stolen diesel or heating oil, and with BT Openreach to reduce theft of underground cable.

Cambridgeshire officers are working with colleagues nationally and regionally to tackle metal theft. They are sharing tactics and intelligence with local forces including Essex, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and Kent and working with scrap metal dealers in the county. Churches can be particularly vulnerable with offenders targeting lead on their roofs and officers are working with them to improve security. Theft of farm and plant machinery, tractors, trailers, horseboxes and batteries, as well as stack fires, will also be within the team's remit.

The team, headed by Detective Inspector Donna Wass, will work closely with the force's Rural Community Action Team (RCAT) and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) team. DI Wass said thieves and also the people handling and selling on the goods would be targeted. She said: "We will be using covert and overt tactics to tackle thieves and those handling stolen goods and one of our aims will be to deny them use of the county's roads. Those involved in metal theft range from people taking small amounts of metal to scrap yards by bicycle to those taking large amounts of mixed metals by lorry. Thieves often appear to be legitimate workmen so we would urge anyone who has any suspicions to contact police. They will often target isolated locations under cover of darkness so we would urge anyone who lives near a vulnerable site, such as a church, to be vigilant."

In the 12 months from September last year to the end of August this year, there were 2,144 metal thefts (excluding cable theft) in the county compared 1867 for the preceding 12 months. The rise in metal theft is believed to be caused by an increase in its value, driven by demand for raw materials from China. Over the same periods heating oil fell from 163 to 138 crimes, while theft of red diesel fell from 166 to 163 crimes. DI Wass added: "This type of crime is not victimless. We treat it very seriously because it costs victims in rural areas a lot of money and can cause severe disruption. We are determined to catch those responsible and bring them to justice but we need the help and support of the public."

Anyone with information should contact police on 0345-4564564, or alternately, if there is a crime in progress, 999.

Quarter

page

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CASEY AND BARBARA'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The party is fully booked!

If anyone would like to go on the waiting list, in case of any cancellations, please ring Barbara on 700761.

Those people who are attending are reminded to bring a drinking glass and drink, and a small present wrapped in Christmas paper (no more than £2 in value). Time is 5.00 for 5.30pm.

Barbara and Casey would like to say how grateful they are to Helen and Ted Sanderson, John and Beryl Kearney, St Mark's, and everyone who donated prizes and helped with the Party. They wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year.

NEWS FROM MURROW VILLAGE HALL

Unfortunately our bid for Big Lottery Funding for a new village hall was unsuccessful, partly because, with only two regular lettings, it was not viewed as a sustainable project. At a Committee meeting held on November 1st it was decided to replace the steps from the road and to resurface the kitchen floor. We intend to re-apply to the Big Lottery Fund in about a year, by which time we are hoping to have more regular bookings and all the necessary business plans, budgets and outcomes available to support the application. To help us achieve this the committee has co-opted Mr Steve Skinner who has project management experience. We also need to increase the number of regular bookings at the hall, so if anyone would like to set up a group or organisation please contact Julia Barnes on 700212 for availability and prices.

The Committee would like to thank all residents who have supported us so far by attending meetings and giving practical help, and we hope you will continue to do so. The next meeting of the Murrow Village Hall Committee is on Tuesday 6th December at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. All welcome. Please send any apologies to the Secretary on 701776 or by email: murrowvh@aol.com **Mary Lane**

MURROW BOWLERS' SUCCESS

Congratulations to the Murrow Triples Bowls team of Mr I Gover, Miss L Gover and Mr B Wilshaw on winning the March & District Triples Final at Christchurch Bowls Club on September 10th.

Murrow Bowls team were beaten by Christchurch in the final of the March & District Knockout Cup held on the same day. Well done to the team for reaching the final

STATION ROAD RACE TRACK!

In a recent Speedwatch in Station Road, Wisbech St Mary, 40% of the vehicles checked were exceeding the speed limit.

The results were:

Gorefield (High Road) - 81 Checked, 11 Speeding
Guyhirn (High Road) - 131 Checked, 0 Speeding
Leverington (Church Road) - 127 Checked, 2 Speeding
Murrow (Murrow Bank) - 58 Checked, 14 Speeding
Parson Drove (Main Road) - 74 Checked, 10 Speeding
Wisbech St Mary (Station Road) - 46 Checked, 18 Speeding

If you wish to get involved with the scheme please contact 0345 456 456 4 ext 3799.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF GOREFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

"It is with great joy that I report that Paddington the Playground Bear Bin has returned to the village's playing field; indeed he never really left if truth be known unless you consider a short trip up Leverington common leaving the village. He was found by a passer by in the dyke and the police then found him enjoying the benefits of a back garden in the High Road.

Our thanks go those who have given him food and shelter over the past few weeks and once he is restored to his former glory he will take his rightful place in the small children section of the play area. Let's hope this time the thoughtless person who took him originally has second thoughts having read of his heroic efforts to return".

CABARET NIGHT AT PARSON DROVE

A Cabaret Night is to be held in Parson Drove Village Hall on Saturday December 10th. Doors open at 6.30pm. A four-course meal is included and *The Business* will provide the music. Proceeds from the event will support Parson Drove Amenities 95. Tickets £22 from Louise Hayes on 701312 or 07587179082

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF CHILDREN'S WARD

A Coffee Morning is to be held in the Sidings Room at the Wisbech St Mary Community Centre on Saturday December 10th from 10am to 2pm. Among the attractions are a cake stall, craft stall, jewellery, plants, bottle stall and a Beauty Demonstration.

All proceeds will go to the Rudham Children's Ward at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn.

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2. Persons conducting business with those who advertise in this magazine do so at their own risk and the editors and management committee of Village Voices can accept no liability for any losses that customers may sustain by responding to adverts published in these pages.

MURROW 200 CLUB WINNERS

N Boor - Parson Drove
T Jarvis - Parson Drove
D Andrew - Gorefield
E Andrew – Murrow

£100 winners: D Grosspiezth - Parson Drove
J Almey- Wisbech

Wk1 - No. 61 - Roger & Janet Parrin
No. 111 - William Dolman
Wk2 - No. 216 - Lorraine Rayner
No. 54 - Harry Wiseman

SWIMMING POOL UPDATE

The Headteacher of Gorefield Primary School reports:
We have had a very successful few months for fundraising for our pool. The children had a school disco which was enjoyed by all and raised £145. Two of the boys sold conkers and raised £44.20. The sponsored walk, a yearly event that takes place during October, raised over £800, and a recent Jamie Oliver evening raised £200. The collection of scrap metal raised another £448. We are extremely grateful to D Humphrey and Son's who have offered to remove our pool for free, saving the school a significant amount. To date parents, villagers and children have raised £5920, but we still have some way to go to get to our goal of £18,000! Our next event is the Auction of Promises taking place at the Woodman's Pub on Friday 25th November from 7.30pm all welcome. We are also doing a sponsored swim the following day (Saturday) when we are hoping to 'swim the channel' at the Hudson Leisure centre. This will be taking place from 4.30-6.30pm. Any support would be really appreciated!

COMMUNITY WARMTH CHAMPION SOUGHT

A project to reduce levels of fuel poverty has been launched by Cambridgeshire Acre, in partnership with others, targeting those rural areas with households who need to spend 10% or more of their annual income to maintain a warm and healthy home.

Acre says "We believe the most effective way to deliver the project will be to identify and work with Community Warmth Champions, who are volunteer members of a local community who know it best. We have limited funding and we have identified Wisbech St Mary as a village off gas and therefore potentially amongst the most affected by fuel poverty, and in which we would like to focus our activity. Community Warmth Champions are not expected to be experts on energy efficiency issues, but rather people with enthusiasm for saving energy who are willing to commit some time to promote simple energy messages within their own communities".

Acre are keen to point out that contact with local residents would be in community settings, and Champions would not be expected to cold call or visit householders at home. For further information contact Lynda Bubb at Cambridgeshire Acre on 01353 865037.

HAVE A GO AT MARIE'S QUIZ!

Marie Humphrey is running another of her popular quizzes in and around Gorefield. They are held to raise money for Gorefield's Playing Field, and the cost is £1 per entry. There is a long list of questions or clues (as in crossword clues) and the answers are all connected with the Zoo. The answers are written on the question sheet and should be returned to Marie by January 7th 2012, and the most correct answers wins. In the event of a tie one completed entry is drawn at random. There is £50 in prize money.

Quiz sheets available from Marie on 410436, or Committee members,

I'm Happy with the Little Things *by Celina*

When I'm asked about my future, this is what I'll say:
I don't want to be prime minister, or get richer by next May.
I'm happy with the little things that life has given me.
The beauty of a flower, or a big old acorn tree.
I don't need fame or fortune, or a place in the World Cup squad.
I'll just be sitting by a lake, catching dinner with my rod.
I'm not one for swimming pools, I like real water more.
And can't we just have peace on Earth, and never have a war?
I don't want to be on a TV show.
I don't want a private jet.
And a rat or a mouse will do for me; I don't need a horse for a pet.
I'm happy with the little things, that life has given me
...but about the World Cup - let me know if there's an injury.

RE-ABLEMENT PROGRAMMES

If you or someone you care for requires social care support following an illness or operation, this would traditionally have been provided by a care assistant providing direct care to the person in need.

Since September 2010 a new service, re-ablement, has been providing support to enable older people who have poor physical or mental health following illness or an operation to live in their own homes.

Re-ablement programmes can last for as little as a few days and generally don't exceed six weeks. The ethos of re-ablement is to encourage people to do things for themselves rather than having things done for them. There is no charge to the individual as long as they are participating in the programme.

Re-ablement is now being offered to a wider client group including new service users with a physical disability and new occupational therapy referrals. Future development of the service will look at assisting older people who already have a care package but due to illness or physical issues may now require a higher level of support.

You can find out more about re-ablement at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social

MURROW BOOK CAFÉ

Computer course

An evening computer course will be held in the Book Café starting after Christmas. It has been sponsored by Roddons Housing Association and will use new laptops and up to the minute software to extend and update skills, draw up CVs and help access websites. If you are interested please contact Diana Thrower on 01945 700213 to book a place and receive details.

Knitting for Charity morning

3 blankets are nearly complete for SANDS (featured in last month's "Village Voices") and others are being knitted by volunteers following the basic blanket pattern reproduced below. If you would like to come along to knit, or just collect a pattern the activity takes place each Wednesday between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Many thanks to all our volunteers for their support.

Eileen Sattin 01945 700476

ACTIVITIES AT PARSON DROVE

Over 60s Club meets on alternate Thursdays at 2pm in St Mark's. New members welcome, Contact: M Shelly 700729.

Short Mat Bowls Club meets in the Village Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays, 2pm to 4.30pm.

Luncheon Club meets at the *Butcher's Arms* alternate Thursdays at midday, Details from M Shelley 700729.

Whist Drives are held on the third Tuesday of each month at St Mark's.

Line Dancing at the Village Hall on Tuesdays 1.30pm to 4pm, and Wednesdays 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Michelle 701239.

Yoga Classes are held each Monday evening in St Mark's from 7.30 to 9.00pm. Contact 700415 for details.

MORE GOOD COMMUNITY WORK BY STREET PRIDE VOLUNTEERS

George Ridley, chairman of Gorefield Street pride writes: At the October meeting of Street Pride we split into small working groups. One went around the village and planted various bulbs and plants, and one went litter picking. We dug up the roses that have stood in the entrance to the School for many years to enable them to get on with the work of covering in the gap between the main entrance and the sports hall building. We again looked at pocket park and have decided maybe next month to cut down the fir trees on the roadside that block out any light and are dangerously close to power lines. We were donated a 6ft Oak Tree which was planted. Whilst on Pocket Park, any suggestions as to what we do with it would be welcome. We have over the year spent some time on this and the weeds and bramble only grow back with a vengeance, so what should, or could, we do with it please?

Items identified for the next few months include Pocket Park tree felling and removal, Park bench to be cleaned and made fit for use, Chapel graveyard spruced up as best we can, litter picking as always, and further work on bushes and shrubs to be removed from the School entrance area if possible, and graffiti removal, if we can, to assist the council (any info on who is doing this to the police please).

To help us ring me on 07929518291 or email georgeridley@fsmail.net

"SANDS" BASIC BLANKET PATTERN

SANDS: (Stillbirth & Neonatal death charity)

You will need about 200gm of White Double Knit Wool and 4mm (size 8 UK) needles.

There are three options: 1. Basic Blanket measuring 24 inches square without a lace border;
2 Basic Blanket measuring 22 inches square with a lace border to one edge;
3 Basic Blanket measuring 20 inches square with a lace border to all 4 edges.

Blanket

Cast on one stitch.

Next row: Make the one stitch into two stitches.

Next row: Knit 1, into the next stitch make another, 3 stitches on needle.

Continue to knit. ALWAYS knit the first stitch and into the 2nd stitch make another stitch. Only increase this way at the BEGINNING of a row.

Continue until the side of the blanket from the cast-on corner to the needle, measures either 20 inches, 22 inches or 24 inches, depending on which of the 3 options you have chosen to knit.

Next row: Knit 1 row plain.

Next row: Knit 1, Knit 2 together, knit to end of row.

Continue this way, always knit the 1st stitch then decrease into the next stitch by knitting 2 together until 1 stitch remains.

You should now have a neat square with each side measuring either 20 inches, 22 inches or 24 inches.

When blankets are finished, please contact Eileen Sattin on 01945 700476.

Optional Lace Border/Edging.

Using same Double Knit wool and same needles 4.5mm (size 8 UK).

Cast on 8 stitches.

Row 1 (Wrong side) Slip 1, knit 1 (Yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd knit 2 (9 stitches).

Rows 2,4 and 6: Slip 1 knit to the end.

Row 3: Slip 1, knit 2 (yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd knit 2 (10sts).

Row 5: Slip 1, knit 3 (yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd knit 2 (11sts).

Row 7: Slip 1, knit 4 (yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd knit 2 (12sts).

Row 8: Slip 1, knit 11 stitches.

Row 9: Cast off 4 sts. Knit to the end (8sts).

Row 10: Slip 1, knit to the end (8sts).

These 10 rows form the pattern. Continue in pattern until it is long enough to fit one edge, or all around, as you wish.

Sew on to blanket.

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION LOOKS BACK ON DIFFICULT YEAR

The Churchfield Residents' Association held their Annual Meeting in Wisbech St Mary school on November 11th.

The executive committee reported on their work during recent months. They had been involved in a lot of difficult, but ultimately successful, negotiations with their contractors and Anglia Water concerning the new sewage disposal unit in Mowbray Close. The committee had also been involved with the financial arrangements for the payment of the unit and the associated costs. The residents, in thanking the committee members for their work and commitment, expressed their disappointment and concern that the committee's work had been seriously hampered by one or two households not paying their contributions to the overall cost of the project.

It was reported that, upon completion of the wall around the new unit, Anglia Water would take over the project, and when the outstanding contributions had been received the involvement of the Association in the maintenance of the plant would cease. To facilitate that, the Association members and their committee are expecting the outstanding monies to be paid in full by the end of this year.

GOREFIELD PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Gorefield Pre-school will be holding their annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday December 3rd, at Gorefield village hall, from 10am until 1pm. There will be many stalls ranging from homemade cakes and jewellery to Christmas trinkets, including fun activities for the children too! Stalls are £6 each or 10% of profits made on the day. Anyone interested in having a stall please contact Rebecca on 07826927918

Mobile Library Stops

<u>1st +3rd Thursday: Dec 1st + 15th</u>	<u>Arr</u>	<u>Dep</u>
Murrow School	10:00	10:40
Murrow Station Ave	10:45	11:00
Murrow Front Rd Paddocks	11:05	11:20
Parson Drove The Bank	11:30	12:00
Parson Drove Newlands Corner	12:10	12:25
Parson Drove Henlow Farm	12:30	12:45
<u>4th Thursday: Dec 22nd.</u>	<u>Arr</u>	<u>Dep</u>
Wisbech St Mary Blundell Terr	10:00	10:15
<u>2nd +4th Friday: Dec 9th + 23rd</u>	<u>Arr</u>	<u>Dep</u>
Rings End, March Rd	09:45	10:05
Bunkers Hill Lay-by	10:15	10:35
Wisbech St Mary Church Rd	10:55	11:25
Wisbech St Mary Cannon Close	14:40	15:30
Guyhirn Chapelfield	15:45	16:05
<u>3rd Wednesday: Dec 21st</u>	<u>Arr</u>	
Gorefield School	15:00	
Gorefield Post Office	15:45	
Gorefield Mill Height	16:05	

LUNCHEON CLUB'S CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Wisbech St Mary Luncheon Club will have their Christmas Lunch at the Bridge Inn on Tuesday December 6th. at midday. The first lunch of the New Year will be on Tuesday January 3rd. If any member cannot attend please contact Marjorie on 410511 or the Bridge Inn on 410555.

Christmas in the Workhouse

The following entry is contained in the diaries of the Revd Jeremiah Jackson, curate of St Leonard's church, Leverington, and former headmaster of the Wisbech Grammar School.

The Wisbech Workhouse, opened in 1722, stood in Albion Place which is now the Horsefair car park.

"Dec 24 1822

Mary Ann sent out her usual donations; three or four pounds of mutton each to 8 poor families, and ½ an ounce of tea and 2 ounces of sugar to 16 old women in the workhouse. Saw a poor child surnamed Walter, now in the workhouse under the care of one of the poor inmates, of 3½ years, a fine, healthy, handsome girl, without, apparently, one grain of intellect. They cannot leave go of it [the child] for a moment without its running into the fire, or tumbling down stairs and the like. I offered the child an apple, but it had no notion of taking it from me. I laid the apple down before it, and caused the child to be sat down. It stooped to the ground, but paying no attention to the apple, quickly rose up again and was running off. I next offered it a little wine. It smelled the wine repeatedly, but showed no wish to taste it till its nurse held the glass near its mouth. It then, after again smelling of it, suffered a few drops to be poured into its mouth, and afterwards manifested something of a desire of it, but then only for a few drops at a time, frequently smelling of it. The child has a dark, animated and seemingly intelligent eye, but so great a want of intellect I never witnessed. Its own mother could do nothing with it, and therefore put it under the care of the Keeper of the Workhouse. The child repeatedly spits, but the nurse says not nearly so much as it did at first. When I caught the child by the arm on its running off, it cried, as the poor creature frequently does. Its nurse is very gentle and kind in her manner to it, perhaps a little occasional severity, or the appearance of it, might have some effect. The nurse evidently could manage her most pitiable charge far better than us who were strangers, which seems to imply, at least, a faint glimmering of reason".

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR WANTED

There is a vacancy for a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the Churchfield estate in Wisbech St Mary. Anyone interested in this important community role is invited to contact PCSO Martin Bogunovic at Wisbech Police Station.

CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

A Christmas Prize Bingo Session will be held in Murrow Village Hall on Thursday December 8th. Doors open at 6.45, with eyes down at 7.30pm. Excellent prizes, raffle and refreshments.

All proceeds for Village Hall funds.

VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of Guyhirn Village Hall is to be held on Thursday January 19th 2012, at 7pm. This is an opportunity for residents to learn of the committee's work during the past year, and to be involved in the management of this important asset in the village.

CITIZENS ADVICE AT PARSON DROVE

The Citizens Advice Bureau will be at Parson Drove pavilion on **December 20th at 2.00pm**. Anyone wishing to arrange a consultation should telephone 01945 474926 not later than **December 16th**.

Advice can also be obtained by calling 01945 464367, Monday to **Thursday** between 9.30am and 1pm

LAST DATE FOR JANUARY COPY

The last date for copy for the January issue of "Village Voices" is **Monday December 12th**. This is to hopefully enable the copies to be delivered before Christmas. Thank you for your co-operation.

"CANTUS" SINGING AT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Sunday 11th December local ladies choir 'Cantus' formally known as 'Fentasia' will be performing a concert in Gorefield School Hall. Doors open at 1.30 pm and the concert will start at 2pm. The choir will sing many well known songs, with some Christmas songs to get everyone in the festive spirit! Everyone is welcome, tickets are £3 adults, £1.50 children. For tickets please contact either Lucy Turner on 871355 or Liz Rowell on 870054.

GOOD NEWS FOR WILLOCK FARM WOODLAND, WISBECH ST MARY

Willock Farm wood is a 3ha woodland and part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Farms Estate. It is accessed from Rummors Lane and is surrounded by orchards. The wood was planted about 15 years ago with funding through the Forestry Commission. The good news is we have now been able to secure further funding through a Woodland Improvement Grant from the Forestry Commission. This will allow us to carry out vital works to improve the wood for public access and wildlife.

The works have been recommended by the Forestry Commission with the main aim of replicating the natural structure of a mature wood, with a canopy of taller trees, a shrubby layer and ground flora. We will also improve access for the public to the wood.

When planted, trees are positioned close together with the aim that thinning will occur at a later date. The trees at Willock Farm have not been thinned for a long time and as a result they are beginning to grow tall and spindly with a dense canopy that blocks out the light to the woodland floor. The canopy can be dominated by certain species, blocking out the light to other species such as oaks, which suffer as a result. We will be carrying out thinning in the woodlands to allow the other species to grow taller and stronger, forming more substantial trunks. Some of the timber will be left in stacks known as ecopiles. This will help create deadwood habitat which is important for many species of invertebrates.

Alongside the thinning we will be coppicing some of the trees. This involves cutting the trees down to leave stumps known as coppice stools which will open up the canopy, letting light in to the woodland floor. The coppices will grow back creating a more diverse woodland structure with vegetation of differing heights and benefiting a greater variety of wildlife. Coppicing is a traditional woodland management technique which is repeated periodically.

Along the existing paths we will coppice along both sides to open up the routes. This will improve access and create a more diverse woodland structure. We are also planning other improvements such as way-mark posts and a new interpretation board.

We are sure that the long term benefits will be worth any short term disruption. Please take care around any machinery or works, and follow any instructions from the contractors.

For more information contact Sarah Shepherd, Assistant Management Surveyor (Rural) at sarah.shepherd@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or 01223 699671

WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

December 2011

Councillors

Mr C Allen, Halls Farm, Fen Road, Guyhirn, Wisbech 01733 849300
Mr P Barnes, Westview, 38 Murrow Bank, Murrow PE13 4HB 01945 700200
Mr B Britain, Fort Farm, Gull Drove, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4HB 01733 849262
Mr M Clarke, 4 Railway Cottages, Long Drove, Murrow, Wisbech PE13 4HG 01945 701032
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 B Payne, 7 Churchfield Way, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SY **Chairman** 01945 410755
Ms B Reay, Holly Farm, High Road, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 43ED 01945 450814
Mr R Scrimshaw, The Rambles, Hooks Drove, Murrow, Wisbech PE13 4HH 01945 700202
Mrs D Thrower, Acquest, Front Road, Murrow PE13 4JQ 01945 700213

Parish Council Meetings for 2011 and 2012

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 different venues throughout the year.

Please note below the dates and venues for the Parish Council meetings which start at 7pm.

Monday, 28th November 2011; Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 19th December 2011; Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday, 16th January 2012; Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday, 13th February 2012; Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday, 12th March 2011; Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday, 16th April 2011; Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 21st May 2012; Annual Assembly & AGM Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 18th June 2012; Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday, 16th July 2012; Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday 13th August 2012; Murrow Village hall
Monday, 10th September 2012; Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday, 8th October 2012; Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday, 5th November 2012; Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday, 3rd December 2012; Murrow Village hall
Monday, 7th January 2013; Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

Parishioners are invited to attend any of the above meetings. Please do attend and voice your opinion on any subject relevant to the Parish during the Open Forum at the beginning of every meeting. The Parish Council is very pleased that at least four Parishioners are attending the Parish Council meetings on a regular basis, together with representatives from the Police, Mr Gavin Booth our District Councillor and Mrs Jill Tuck our County Councillor.

- The Parish Council continues to identify areas that are in need of streetlights and if you know of an area where a streetlight is needed, please contact one of the Councillors or the clerk.

- The Parish Council continues to identify roads and footpaths that are in need of repair and continue to lobby the Highways Department to ensure that this work is carried out as soon as possible.

- The Parish Council has recently erected a bus shelter at Bunkers Hill and continues to carry out maintenance work on all bus shelters owned by the Council.

- The Action Group set up in Guyhirn to try to renovate the Village Pond, which is owned by the Parish Council, continues to carry out work to improve this area. We have recently obtained permission from Fenland District Council to reduce the size of the Pond

to make a larger bank area on which to install seats to make it more accessible and therefore, enable the people of Guyhirn to enjoy the wildlife and plants.

- The Parish Council are in the process of purchasing land from the Ely Diocese to make a footpath from the Chapelfield estate through to the play area and the Playing Field. The Parish Council has also funded a basketball area on the play area for the youth of Guyhirn.

Mrs C Jobson
Clerk to the Council
30 Les Baux Place, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2SU
Tel: 01945 4743