

Village Voices February 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 newcomers&visitors to our villages!



An undated photograph of a Women's Institute meeting at Parson Drove. L to R: Mrs Else, Mrs Mews, Mrs Powell, Mrs Vials, Mrs Tansley, Mrs Ida Payne (WI County President), Mrs Bingham, Mrs Grey, Mrs Mason, Mrs Redhead.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW RURAL DEAN

The Reverend Matthew Bradbury takes up his responsibilities as the Rural Dean at a special Commissioning Service to be held in WSM & Guyhirn church on Sunday January 30th at 4.00pm, in the presence of the Archdeacon of Wisbech and Huntingdon, The Ven. Hugh McCurdy. The service, which will take the form of Choral Evensong, will be attended by representatives of all the churches in the Wisbech Lynn Marshland Deanery including, of course, the congregations of our three churches. The Deanery covers the area from Clenchwarton to Thorney and from Tydd St Giles to Upwell

NEW BISHOP OF ELY ARRIVES

The new Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, has confirmed the arrangements for his arrival in the Diocese and his installation at the Cathedral in March. Two days before his installation, he will visit Buckingham Palace to pay homage to Her Majesty the Queen – the final step before he takes up the full responsibilities of a Diocesan Bishop. He will move from Salisbury to Ely on Monday 24th January, and will begin work on the following day. However, his official installation will take place on Saturday 5th March at 12 noon, after which time he will be able to preside at services across the diocese.

Vicar's Verbals

The bird feeder outside my study has attracted an unexpected visitor. The sparrows, and the occasional long tailed tit, have deserted the feeders outside my window, preferring the more secluded ones away from the house, but when I looked up this morning I saw a little grey bottom poking out of the feeder, sporting, instead of feathers, a skinny little tail. I watched in fascination as the cheeky thief scurried up and down the branches of the bush with his swag, balancing precariously on the twigs and trying not to be swept off in the freshening breeze. My initial reaction was irritation – after all we don't spend our hard earned cash on seeds and peanuts to feed the local rodents. Then again, mice have to eat too, and this little fellow is only doing what comes naturally – and (thank heavens) is doing so OUTSIDE the walls of the vicarage. Acts of kindness should not be offered for reward or praise, but as a way of saying thank-you for the blessings we receive ourselves; and Jesus told his disciples not merely to offer hospitality to friends, but also to those who might otherwise be less welcome at their dinner table.

Matthew.

Revd Matthew Bradbury, The Vicarage, Church Rd, Wisbech St Mary, PE134RN. TEL 01945 410814

UNITED CANDLEMAS SERVICE AT PARSON DROVE

Congregations and visitors from our three parish churches will meet in Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove, for a joint Candlemas Communion, on

Sunday January 30th at 10.00am.

Everyone, especially children, very welcome.

Nurse Lisa, a much respected member of St Mary's congregation

Lisa Owen, a much respected member of the congregation at Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church, has died at the age of 42. She was the daughter of Councillor Kit Owen, of March, and the mother of nine-year-old Oliver.

Paying tribute to his daughter Councillor Owen said the former naval nurse had touched many people's lives during her nursing career, which also included time on cruise ships after she left the navy. "There are hundreds of messages on her Facebook account from people she had helped, including many whose lives she saved. I never realised until now just what an important role she had played in helping people," said Councillor Owen, whose wife Beverly died two-and-a-half-years ago.

Lisa became a Petty Officer with the Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service and served in the navy for 18 years, before being medically discharged due to back problems in 2006. Lisa took her skills back to sea by joining cruise ships as a nursing officer and she regularly sailed to Alaska and the Caribbean. Lisa was described as an extremely skilled nurse and regularly ran paramedic training, first aid training, nursing training and also carried out some private nursing looking after people at home."

Lisa's main passion in life was photography and she had built up a huge portfolio of wildlife images captured on her trips to Alaska and elsewhere.

Tributes to Lisa have included one from the Rev Matthew Bradbury, vicar of Wisbech St Mary. He said: "Lisa suffered with chronic ill health because of a serious back injury sustained during her military service as a nurse in the Royal Navy. Every day she faced pain and restricted mobility with fortitude and good humour. She was a fine example to us all of courage and resilience and adversity."

The Rev Bradbury said Lisa was a "valued and much loved" member



of the congregation at St Mary's Church. She was working on a calendar for Wisbech St Mary parish church at the time of her death.

The register

We welcome into the church's family

Jake Kingerley, who was baptised in St Paul's church, Gorefield, on Sunday January 16th.

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

Mary Bailey, whose funeral service was at St Paul's church, Gorefield, on Thursday December 17th, followed by cremation at Mintlyn.

Beryl Burrows, whose funeral service was at WSM & Guyhirn church on Wednesday December 22nd followed by burial in WSM cemetery.

Derrick Edward Windsor, whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Thursday January 6th.

Ronald Plume, whose funeral service was at St Paul's church, Gorefield, on Tuesday January 11th, followed by cremation at Mintlyn.

In memoriam

Vera Ashton, whose ashes were laid in WSM Garden of Remembrance on Sunday December 26th.

+ Regular Services +	
<p>St Paul's Church, Gorefield: except 3rd Sunday.10.00am: Holy Communion 3rd Sunday.10.00am: Morning Worship</p> <p>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. 5th Sunday:-9.30am Communion or Morning Prayer Feb 6th: Greeters:Pauline and Diane. Coffee: Sandra. Feb 13th: Greeters: Pam. Coffee: Bridget. Feb 20th: Greeters: Sue and Jenny. Coffee: Pam. Flowers throughout February: Mrs P Williams</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Murrow Methodist Church Jan 30th: 2.30pm. United service at Tydd. Feb 6th: 10.30. Local arrangement Feb 13th: 10.30. Holy Comm. Rev N Hannah Feb 20th: 10.30: Rev L Stoker. Feb 27th: 10.30. Mr A Stapleton.</p> <p>St Mark's Methodist Church, Parson Drove Jan 30th: 2.30pm. United service at Tydd. Feb 6th: 10.30. Mrs J Killingback Feb 13th: 9.30. United service at Emmanuel. Rev M Bradbury. Feb 20th: 10.30. Holy Comm. Rev N Hannah Feb 27th: 10.30. Mrs J Killingback</p> <p>Methodist Special Services Feb 16th 2.30pm: Walton, H Comm. Rev D Bulloss. Feb 16th 6.00-7.30pm. Faith & Light. Marshland St James.</p>

MOTHERS' UNION *Bye Buy Childhood* CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Mothers' Union believes children should be valued as children, not consumers. Yet marketers target children's natural inexperience in order to reach the household purse. Giving children the message that they are what they own, rather than being valued for who they are, can negatively affect their wellbeing. Nearly three-fifths of parents believe that advertising seen by children can be harmful to them. Using sex to sell to children is particularly objectionable and 80% of parents are concerned about the impact of sexualised content in television, films, magazines and the internet on their children.

The Bye Buy Childhood campaign aims to empower families to challenge the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood through positive action.

The Mothers' Union has launched this campaign in Britain and Republic of Ireland to:

- ◆ Challenge children, their parents or guardians and wider family to think about their consumer habits
- ◆ Empower families to address the influence of commercialisation within the home
- ◆ Engage with the commercial world and take positive action to challenge instances of inappropriate marketing or selling
- ◆ Hold the UK Government accountable on the pledges made in the coalition's Programme for Government to address the commercialisation and sexualisation of children; and raise awareness amongst other political representatives across the UK and Ireland.

THANK YOU 3

Once again the Gorefield Luncheon Club would like to thank Alison and Phil at the **Woodmans** for another successful lunch of Roast Pork or Sweet and Sour Chicken with rice, followed by a choice of two sweets, plus tea or coffee. Birthday wishes were expressed to those members whose birthday's fell in January. Before the meal members were entertained with a selection of Alison's mobile toy animals. At February's Lunch it is hoped to have a quiz, rounding off with our usual raffle. Always looking for new members who will be assured of a warm welcome, contact Jean on 01945 870549 or Norman on 01945 870387 or 07918122217 **N Carroll.**

CAROL SINGERS SAY THANK YOU

On the Saturday and Sunday before Christmas four brave stalwarts, Wendy, Janet, Jan and Jim, braved the cold and icy weather to go carol singing around the outskirts of Wisbech St Mary. The marvellous sum of £240 was collected and was divided between The Childrens Society and Action for Children.

The singers thank everyone for their generous donations, and extend a special word of thanks for the hospitality received from residents. It is hoped that even more volunteers will be joining the carol singing this year. In the meantime the carollers send their best wishes to everyone for the New Year.

£70 FOR 'HELP FOR HEROES'

Members of the Parson Drove Over 60s Friendship Club, the Luncheon Club, and the Short Mat Bowls Club combined at Christmas to raise funds for 'Help for Heroes'. As a result of savings on Christmas cards between members, a donation of £70 was forwarded to the 'Help for Heroes' fund, which will be used for the benefit of injured service men and women.

THANK YOU 1

Dawn and I would like to thank everyone for a great second Christmas at the *Bell*, Murrow, and also to those who celebrated the New Year with us, in and out of fancy dress! We hope those of you who could not come through ill health get better soon. **Dawn & Andy**

THANK YOU 2

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped in any way with the Emmanuel Church Christmas Fayre, and to all those who came along, despite the winter weather, to support a most successful and enjoyable afternoon.

We were pleased to welcome again a variety of stalls from around the area. Thanks to Father Christmas and his helper for calling in to see us at this busy time of year for him. The sum of £578 was raised for church funds. Thank you all very much. **Trevor Rawlings**

THANK YOU 4

Daphne Twitchett wishes to thank all those who purchased cards, gift tags, wrapping paper, etc. from the catalogue before Christmas. As a result £50 has been raised for Gorefield Parish Church funds.

MURROW SUNSHINE CLUB

Scrooge and Doris Day featured in Murrow Sunshine Club's seasonal activities! The Club enjoyed a Christmas dinner in December; a very nice meal, which was followed by children from Murrow Primary School singing excerpts from "Scrooge". Members thought they were "absolutely exceptional in their presentation". Member Bob Bell gave further entertainment with some songs, and a take-off of Doris Day. At their meeting in January, birthdays were announced for Mrs Robinson and Mr Ralf. The Club is still hoping that its membership will increase during the coming year, as numbers are not as high as they would wish them to be.

D Ralf, Hon Sec.

CHRISTMAS DRAW WINNERS

The Gorefield Playing Field Committee held their Christmas Draw on December 19th. S Fyson won the turkey, M Tuck won the whiskey, D Bullen won the hamper and the meal for four was won by J Daracott..

The other winners were :

J Goult., A Pope, P Pilson,
D Rowell, L Warner, D Humphrey,
C Bullen, S Bowers, J Andrew,
B Hunt, Val Goult and L Spriggs.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINES OUT AT THE CHEQUERS INN

Our January meeting took the form of a New Year Meal at the *Chequers Inn*, Tholomas Drove. Good food and good company ensured that we all had an enjoyable evening.

At our February meeting we will be learning about 'The work of photographer Herbert Coates' and our speaker will be Mr Andrew Ingram. We meet in the school hall and our meetings begin at 7 pm. New members are always welcome.

Liz Hunt and Mary McClagish.

MOTHERS' UNION

The first meeting of 2011 will be on Tuesday February 1st at 2.15pm in the Church House, Wisbech St Mary. Everyone most welcome. **Lilian Brigden**

RUSTY RELICS AT PARSON DROVE

St Mark's Methodist Church is the venue for a concert to be given by local entertainers the Rusty Relics on Saturday March 12th at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 including a light supper.

FULL HOUSE AT GOREFIELD'S POPULAR CAROL SERVICE

The annual service of lessons and carols is a well known and popular tradition at St Paul's Church in the village of Gorefield.

On Sunday December 19th welcoming lights shone from the church, as villagers and visitors made their way to the service. The interior of the Church was beautifully decorated by volunteers and included a lovely Christmas tree, kindly donated by Ashley Baldrey. Rev Matthew Bradbury welcomed everyone to the service, at which lessons were read by David Humphrey, Mary Carter, Emily Richardson, Lilian Brigden and the vicar.

The large choir led the carol singing and also performed 'Rocking', 'Joy to the World' and the premiere of 'Light of Love' which was written by Katrina Mason (and won an extra round of applause). During the service the vicar gathered the children round the crib to bless it and sing 'Away in a Manger'. Michele Larkin and Katrina Mason sang the duet 'The Grasmere Carol.' Following the Blessing everyone united to sing 'Winter Wonderland'. Organist for the service was David Stone.

As the choir sang 'We wish you a merry Christmas', mince pies and sherry were served by Rosemary and her helpers. Churchwarden Bill Peggs thanked everyone for coming, the choir and organist for their contribution, the vicar and those who had conducted services and supported the church during the past year, including those special people who work hard to keep the beautiful churchyard in such immaculate condition!

From mid-November each year, villagers rally round to form a large choir for this service. We are grateful to Katrina and Michele who have us at their homes for practices, and with the help of mum Daphne and organist David, get us singing together harmoniously in time for Gorefield's special event at Christmas!

Brenda Stamp

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE CPS

At the January meeting of Parson Drove Women's Institute the speaker was Rev Matthew Bradbury, who spoke to us about his work with the Crown Prosecution Service before becoming our vicar. He described how the Soham murders enquiry evolved, and answered our many questions before we allowed him to finish!

After our tea-break names were taken for the annual meal at the *Five Bells* in the village. **Ann Payne**

PD STREET PRIDE GROUP AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Parson Drove's Street Pride Group is to be held on February 23rd at 7-30pm in the Pavilion.

New members are welcome to join the group who carry out litter picks and environmental enhancements within the parish of Parson Drove. Contact: Robert Scrimshaw, Chairman.

HAVE A COFFEE AT THE MART!

The next Mart at Wisbech St Mary will be on Saturday February 12th from 8.45am to sell-out (usually around 10am). Choice of home-made produce as usual, followed by a welcome cup of coffee or tea and a chat. All villagers very welcome to drop in.

JUMBLE SALE AT MURROW CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Murrow & District Children's Centre is having a Jumble Sale on Thursday February 24th from 1 to 3.30pm. Children's toys, clothes, books, bedding and other equipment along with adult clothes will be gratefully received. Please drop these into the Children's Centre, behind Murrow Primary School, before February 14th and feel free to come along to the sale on the day! Any profits will be used for an event later in the year for our local families with children 0-5years. Many thanks. Contact: Christina on 01945 701237.

Pc JULIE SAYS FAREWELL

One of Cambridgeshire Constabulary's most respected and hard-working officers is retiring after 35 years service with the Force. Northamptonshire born Pc Julie Coales began her police career as a cadet in Cambridge in the mid 1970s, when the infamous Cambridge rapist was at large. After three years at Ely, Julie moved to Wisbech where the next few years were spent on foot patrol or Panda car duties. For eleven years she was a member of the Traffic division, based either at Wisbech or March. After Traffic cars came rural patrols. Pc Coales' innovative work in the communities she served was recognised by the prestigious award of Community Officer of the Year. Many things have changed since Julie was presented with her warrant. One of her concerns is that the public no longer want to get involved with incidents and are very reluctant to make a statement. Asked what she will miss most, she mentioned all the friends she has made in the police force and beyond. Julie intends to take some time out to relax before she decides on her future. She intends to stay in the Wisbech area, and hopes to continue to work with people in that field which has become synonymous with Police Officer Coales.....the Community.

We will miss Pc Julie, but wish her well in whatever she chooses to do in the future. She will be a hard act to follow, and we will expect nothing less from her successor.

Julie Coales leaves her "patch" with the thanks and appreciation of the vast majority of residents of the thirteen villages she regularly served. The enormous area she was asked to patrol did not prevent Julie from making very valuable contacts in the schools, churches, shops, organisations, and, not least, the parish councils. Julie said she hoped that she has treated everyone fairly;---that undoubtedly is the case. Working on her own, often without any visible support from the wider constabulary, she created a bond with villagers, understood their worries and was sympathetic to their concerns. She was a regular contributor to "VillageVoices".

A BOUQUET FOR GLENYS

Gorefield Ladies Group and their guests enjoyed their annual Christmas meal, on Wednesday December 15th, when 20 people enjoyed a very delicious meal, after which coffee and mince pies were served. On behalf of all members Marge Gudgin presented Glenys Grimm with a beautiful bouquet and thanked her for organising the meetings and outings throughout the year. Glenys thanked all members for their support they had given her and hoped all members were looking forward to the new varied programme for 2011. She also thanked the restaurant and those who had prepared the meal. Celebrating December birthdays were Margaret Burras and Valerie Walpole.

The next meeting is January 26th at Gorefield Village Hall, at 7.30pm, with a make up and beauty demonstration by Mary Tynne Cosmetics. Everyone welcome to help chase away the winter "blues".

Advance notice in respect of the February meeting, for Wednesday February 23rd, which will be a talk by Betty Turner on the East Anglian Childrens' Hospice and their work and experiences.

GOREFIELD BOWLS CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Gorefield Bowls Club will be held in the Bowls Pavilion, Wolf Lane on Sunday February 6th at 10.30am. New members welcome

NO SHOP AT "THE BELL"

Village Voices is sorry to hear that the proposal to open a shop in the "The Bell" public house, Murrow, has been shelved. Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had sent a message of support to landlord Andy Kedziora for his new venture.

Mr Kedziora writes: "I have to inform you all that I will not be going ahead with the proposed shop which was planned to be located in the 'Bell Inn'. This is in response to a telephone conversation with a gentleman who has lived in Murrow all his life, and has put in an application to the District council to open a shop in Murrow. I therefore wished him well and assured him, that since I did not wish to upset the apple cart, and having only been in the village a short time, I would stand down from my project. I would, however, like to say a big thank you to many people, for the support that they gave me with my idea".

CITIZENS ADVICE AT PARSON DROVE

The Citizens Advice Bureau will be at Parson Drove pavilion on **February 22nd** at 1.30pm. Anyone wishing to arrange a consultation should telephone 01945 474926 not later than Friday **February 18th**.

Advice can also be obtained by calling 01945 464367, Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 1.00pm.

CLEARING THE BRAMBLES AT GOREFIELD

On Saturday January 8th Gorefield Street Pride met for the third time and the Pocket Park was the challenge of the day. Over the years the brambles had took hold and I was surprised to see how some of them had grown to an enormous size. I was pleased to see twelve people turn up considering the miserable weather at the start of the morning. However as the morning progressed the sun came out and everyone was in good spirits. I would like to thank all the helpers, especially the ladies for making the tea and coffee. While we were all having a break we were visited by three waxwings, apparently they migrate from Scandinavia to Britain in the winter. It is the first time I've seen them in Gorefield.

After the break we had a mountain of brambles to dispose of. Luckily for us a friendly local farmer came to our rescue with a tractor and trailer. It's marvellous what can be done when people all pull together.

We have another Street Pride meeting on January 29th at 10.am on the Pocket Park. If you feel you would like to help make Gorefield a tidier and more pleasant place, please come along, you will be most welcome.

Thank you all once again.

Alan Holt

FRIENDSHIP CLUB MEETINGS

Parson Drove Friendship Club meets at St Mark's Methodist church at 2.00pm on alternate Thursdays to the Luncheon Club. Contact Dorothy Hopkins 700350 for details.

MURROW 200 CLUB WINNERS

D Woollard - Murrow
M Wadsley - Guyhirn
D Kennelly - Murrow
S Bell - Murrow

SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Parson Drove Short Mat Bowls Club meets in the Village Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays 2.00 to 4.30pm. Details from Mike Shelley on 700729.

*You only have to bend your back
And bowl the bowl to find the Jack
If you think you'd like to try
Please call in when passing by.
We share our bowls if you have none
Why not come and have some fun
Tea and biscuits half-way through
Gives you the time to make friends new.*

Thanks to Carole for the poetry.

FAMILY RACE NIGHT AT MURROW

There is to be a Family Race Night in Murrow Village Hall on Saturday February 5th, starting at 7.30pm. A Raffle and Licensed Bar will be available. The event is ticket only; Adults £3, children £1.50, including snacks. Tickets available from Donna Barnes on 07917765881, GB Autos Murrow, or JB Bikes, Wisbech.

POLICE WARNING

A message from Cambridgeshire Constabulary says:

*"We have been informed about a telephone scam which has occurred recently in the Fenland area. The caller states that they are from the local council and that you are entitled to a tax rebate which is an amount over £100. They then ask for your bank details so that the money can be paid direct into your bank account. This is a **SCAM**. **Never give out your bank details over the telephone unless you are sure that the company you are dealing with are legitimate. The council will NEVER ask for your details over the telephone, and any tax rebate information will always be sent to you through the post from HMRC.** If you have any further information regarding this scam, or would like some more information, please call Cambridgeshire Constabulary on 0345 456 456 4"*

Who was Saint Valentine?

The first representation of Saint Valentine appeared in the Nuremberg Chronicle (1493); alongside the woodcut portrait of Valentine the text states that he was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. He was imprisoned after aiding Christians who were at the time being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Helping Christians at this time was considered a crime. Since no detailed information about sentimental love is available, appropriate lore has been embroidered in modern times to portray Valentine as the priest who refused an unattested law attributed to Claudius allegedly ordering that young men remain single. The Emperor supposedly did this to grow his army, believing that married men did not make for good soldiers. The priest Valentine, however, secretly performed marriage ceremonies for young men. When Claudius found out about this, he had Valentine arrested and thrown in jail. Claudius, however, took a liking to his prisoner – until Valentine tried to convert him – whereupon the priest was condemned to death. He was beaten with clubs and stoned; when that failed to kill him, he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate, around about the year 270 AD.

There is an additional modern embellishment to this legend, widely repeated despite having no historical basis whatsoever. On the evening before Valentine was to be executed, he wrote the first "valentine" card himself, addressed to a young girl identified as the jailer's daughter whom he had befriended and healed, or both. It was a note that ended "From your Valentine."

WSM LUNCHEON CLUB DATES

Wisbech St Mary Lunch Club dates for February are Tuesdays 1st and 15th at the *Bridge Inn* at noon. If any member can not attend, please contact Marjorie on 410511 or the *Bridge* on 410555.

GOREFIELD 200 CLUB WINNERS

P Woods	Michael Tibbs
Heidi Edwards	Yvonne Goodwin
Barry Bothamley	Zoe Fagen
Mrs P Brownlow	L Kimber
Greg Walsh	

Week 10: £250 Alan Holt. £50 Lucy Stanford £10 Barry Bothamley

A CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER

This poem, cut from a newspaper many years ago, was recently discovered between the pages of an old family Bible.

Now the sun has gone away
And the sky is turning grey
I must go to bed and rest
Like a robin in its nest.
So, Lord Jesus, in Thy sight
Keep me safely through the night.

Bless the sheep and cows and goats
Horses, too, with shining coats
Bless the birds that sing all day
Tell them not to go away.
Bless the fishes in the sea
And Lord Jesus, please bless me!

ACTIVITIES AT PARSON DROVE

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

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.

The Fitness League meets Thursdays 9.15am to 10.15am at St Mark's. Contact Helen 01406 330565.

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

ROBOT CHAMPION SON BEATS FATHER

A local Robot wars team, *Iron-Awe*, have just completed an action packed year. Taking first and second places in the 'Robots of destruction' competition in Dublin, also first and second at 'Robots Live' in Kidderminster, and first and third in the UK Championships! *Iron-Awe 5*, driven by Robert Grimm, of Gorefield, became United Kingdom Champion, Robots of Destruction Champion, and Robots Live Champion. *Iron-Awe 6*, driven by father Gilbert, took the runner up places.

As well as taking part in numerous other robot events around the country, the Grimms hosted the first 'Team Championships' in May at the Sportspark, U.E.A. Norwich. The event was very successful and raised over £3,000 for Macmillan cancer support

CAMBRIDGESHIRE LIBRARIES

Wisbech Library Learning Centre 01354 750173

The Learning Centre now offers a Level 1 qualification ECDL Essentials which covers the basics of using a computer, electronic communication as well as safe use of the internet and is FREE for those who do not have a level 2 qualification and over the age of 20.

They also offer an Entry Level 2/3 Everyday IT qualification covering Internet, Email and some Word Processing which is Free for enrolment in January – usual price £77.00! - conditions apply.

In summary they offer:

- **FREE** taster courses for those new to computers and the Internet – GO FOR IT! – using the MyGuide course.
- **FREE** taster courses such as using Facebook, online shopping and using a mobile phone to name but a few!
- **FREE** skills for life courses in Maths & English – leading to a National Certificate (eligibility criteria applies) from Entry Level 3 to Level 2
- Information Technology courses from beginners to more advanced in Microsoft software packages. As well as IT qualifications such as ECDL Essentials & ECDL Extra (charges may apply)
- NVQ's in Customer Service & Business Administration (charges may apply)
- Paid for 3 hour workshops in Digital Photography throughout the year

Please contact the Centre for further details.

EYES DOWN FOR VILLAGE BINGO

Murrow Village Hall Funds will benefit from a Prize Bingo session in the Hall on Friday January 28th. Doors open at 6.30; eyes down at 7.30pm. Excellent prizes, raffle and refreshments.

2011 BOOT SALES AT GOREFIELD

The dates for Gorefield's Car Boot Sales during 2011 have been announced as follows: Saturdays March 12th and 26th; April 9th and 30th; May 7th and 21st; June 4th and 25th; July 9th and 23rd; August 6th and 20th; September 10th and 24th, and October 8th. Reminders will be published in "*Village Voices*".

TOMBOLA TIME IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Tombolas in Gorefield Village Hall will take place on Jan 28th, February 11th and February 25th.

These family fun evenings were well supported before Christmas and raised funds to enable the hall to be maintained for village use.

They start at 7.30pm .

Refreshments are available and a draw takes place during the evening.

All are welcome to join in the fun – particularly families.

Disclaimers.1. *The editors of "Village Voices" rely on news from parishioners or organisations being factually correct, and therefore can accept no liability for any late changes in the details of any event*

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.*

crimeBUSTER IN YOUR LOCALITY

Fenland's Crimebuster is visiting local villages in the next three months to offer advice and guidance to residents "to help your community feel even safer".

The dates are

Leverington Perry Road, February 3rd.

Parson Drove Main Road, February 10th.

Murrow Station Avenue, March 22nd.

Guyhirn High Road, March 24th.

Newton Goodens Lane, March 30th.

At each location the bus will be available from 8.30am till 12.30pm.

Buses between MURROW AND WISBECH

A reminder that the times of the Murrow to Wisbech bus service on Mondays to Fridays are:

Murrow Chapel dep 10.40am,
Wisbech St Mary Post Office 10.48am,
arriving at the Horsefair 10.58am

Returning: Horsefair dep 1.45pm,
Wisbech St Mary PO 1.55pm,
Murrow Chapel 2.03pm

Mobile Library Stops

<u>1st +3rd Thursday: Feb 3rd + 17th</u>	<u>Arr</u>	<u>Dep</u>	<u>2nd +4th Friday: Jan 28th +Feb 11th + 25th</u>	<u>Arr</u>	<u>Dep</u>
Murrow School	10:00	10:40	Rings End, March Rd	09:45	10:05
Murrow Station Ave	10:45	11:00	Bunkers Hill Lay-by	10:15	10:35
Murrow Front Rd Paddocks	11:05	11:20	Wisbech St Mary Church Rd	10:55	11:25
Parson Drove The Bank	11:30	12:00	Wisbech St Mary Cannon Close	14:40	15:30
Parson Drove Newlands Corner	12:10	12:25	Guyhirn Chapelfield	15:45	16:05
Parson Drove Henlow Farm	12:30	12:45			
<u>4th Thursday: Jan 27th + Feb24th</u>	<u>Arr</u>	<u>Dep</u>	<u>3rd Wednesday: February 16th</u>	<u>Arr</u>	
Wisbech St Mary Blundell Terr	10:00	10:15	Gorefield School	15.00	
			Gorefield Post Office	15.45	
			Gorefield Mill Height	16.05	

Useful contacts

Churches	Schools	Health & Security
Revd Matthew Bradbury 410814	Gorefield School 870321	Home-Start 582552
Lilian Brigden (Reader) 450481	Gorefield Pre-school 871042	Parson Drove Surgery 700223
Revd Nigel Hannah [Methodist] 466426	Guyhirn School 450247	Parson Drove Pharmacy 701778
Village Halls (bookings)	Murrow School 700357	North Cambs Hospital 585781
Gorefield 870829	Murrow Pre School 07754758332	Queen Elizabeth Hospital 01553 613613
Guyhirn 450835	Payne School Parson Drove 700275	Social Services 481100
Murrow 700212/700200	Parson Drove Pre-School 07503165432	P. Drove Surgery Car Service 07766534280
Parson Drove 700729	WSM School 410312	WSM Community Car Scheme 07592407283
Thorney Toll 07887754869	WSM Play Group 411864	Gorefield Com. Car Scheme 07500479444
or 07961957878	WSM Little Saint's Toddlers 410503	Childline 0800 1111
WSM Community Centre 01945410473	Murrow Children's Centre 701237.	Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
Parish Council Clerks	Post Offices	Dog control/Animal welfare 01354 622442
Gorefield 870454	Parson Drove 700511	Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Parson Drove 700501	Gorefield 870273	Fenland District Council 01354654321
Wisbech St Mary 474191	Wisbech St Mary 410288	CCC Highways Maintenance 03450455212
	Police (non-emergency) 0345 456 4564	Samaritans 08457909090
Websites: www.gorefield.com	www.guyhirn-online.org.uk	Victim supportline 08453030900
		www.wisbechstmary.org.uk

Voices Past.

From the diaries of Reverend Jeremiah Jackson, Head Master of Wisbech Grammar School and curate of Leverington,

June 22nd 1826 "...visited Gorefield Fair and Cricket Match"

60'S MEMORIES AT GOREFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Come on March 5th and be entertained by Tony G with sixties music. Tickets are £8. The evening starts at 7pm with a meal served at 7.30pm (please bring your own drinks). Proceeds are in aid of the Village Hall funds. Contact committee members for further details.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH YARD SHED

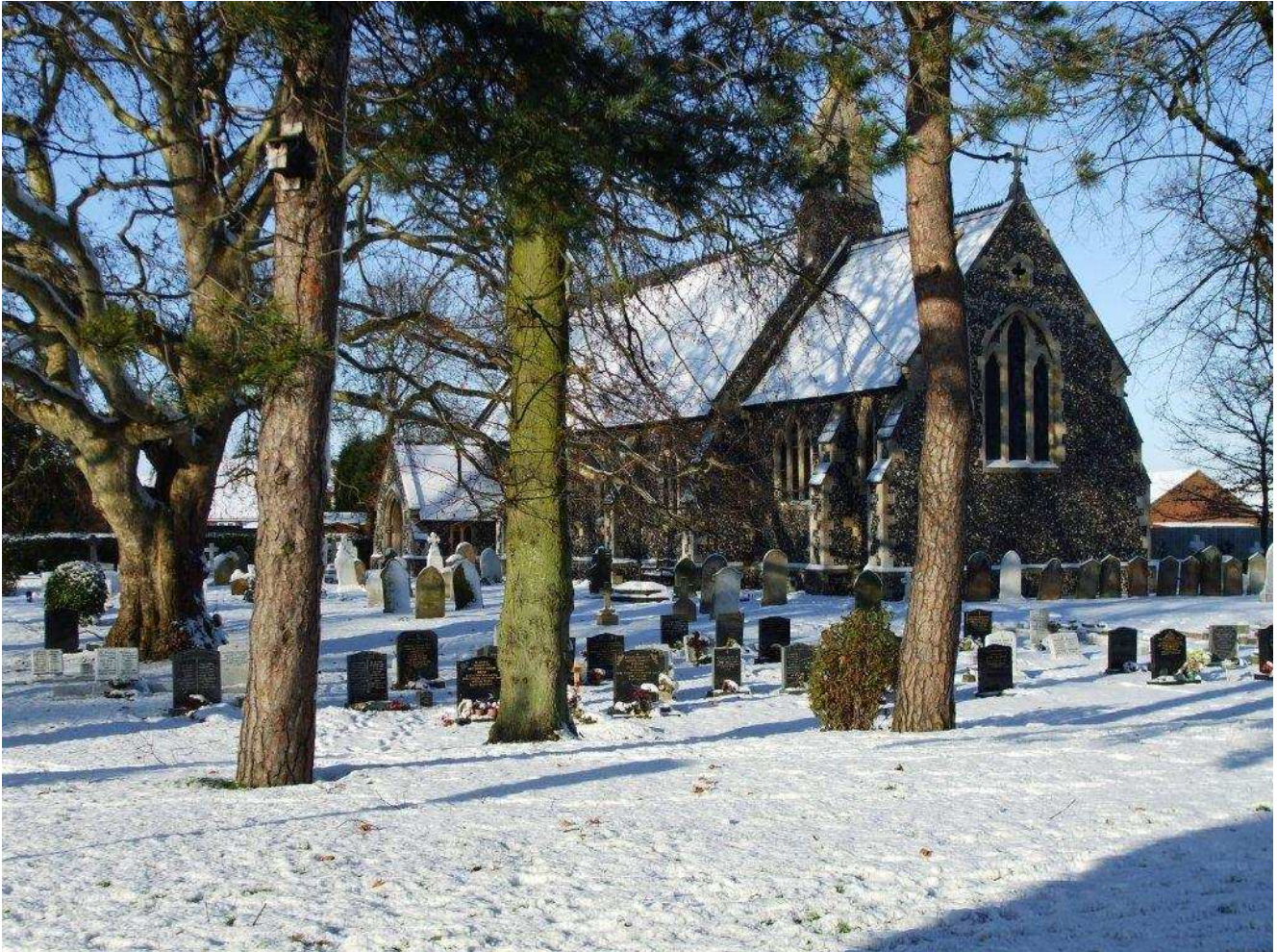
This winter's earlier than usual snow fall has delayed the clearing away of the fallen leaves from our church yard here at Gorefield. This job has only just been completed in the middle of January. The church members and many friends are grateful to the considerable group of helpers and benefactors for the time and equipment that is freely given, or loaned to us, in order to complete the year long task of keeping the church yard and surrounding verges in the good condition. Without your help we would struggle to keep it all going..

As we raked away the remaining leaves the task became a reminder of life itself, as we found the first snowdrop and primrose of Spring in bloom. The previous week end had revealed four winter migrant birds taking refuge around the village outskirts. I will only list three of them which were Egret, Fieldfare and Plover. Another group of colourful Scandinavian refugees turned up in the Pocket Park. You will have to read that item to find out what they were.

In the Church Yard and in the surrounding gardens in the centre of the village there is an absolute wealth of healthy wildlife as is evidenced by the presence of predators like the Sparrow Hawk, Kestrel, and Owl and on the ground fox and weasel. Squirrels are also here, a nuisance perhaps rather than a predator, none the less they are all a good sign for the future and a legacy that we must hang on to. Whilst I have been writing this item I have been totting up in my head how many different species of bird I have spotted whilst working in the grounds and the few hundred yards around it. I reached thirty five.

The church yard is private property but maintained for the benefit of all. Please come and sit a while, share the quiet, count the birds and be thankful to the folks of the late nineteen century who were instrumental in it all being here to the glory of God.

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LABOURER NEGLECTED TO WORK

as reported in the "Wisbech Advertiser"
Wednesday May 24th 1881

At the Isle of Ely Police Court on Saturday, William White, labourer, was summoned by Francis Wilson, farmer of Wisbech St Mary, under the provisions of the Employers and Workmen Act, to answer a claim of one pound ten shillings damages alleged to have been sustained through neglect of work. Mr Arthur Ollard appeared for the defendant who denied his liability.

The complainant stated: I hired the defendant from January till Michaelmas at eight pounds ten shillings wages, and to board in the house. On the 12th May I asked him if he got the rolling done on the previous day, and he said "No". I then said "You ought to have done". He said "If I don't do enough for you, work your horses yourself. If I go to work with them any more, I'll give them hold of it". I said "You must not; if you do you will find yourself wrong". He said "I'll give you a month's notice from today" I said "That's no use to me" We then got to high words, and he asked for his wages. I said "How much do you want? You don't expect to have harvest wages" He said "Yes, I do. I mean to have every farthing".

The complainant was proceeding to state that the defendant made use of bad language to him, when he was interrupted by the Chairman, (Mr R C Catling), who remarked that all that had nothing to do with the claim before them, and it was wasting the time of the Bench. The Clerk asked the complainant "What damages did you sustain?" The Complainant replied "He left me on that day and has not been back since. I estimate my loss at ten shillings a day. I have not worked the horses since he left".

The Clerk said the complainant could not claim for any time after the summons was taken out. Cross-examined by Mr Ollard, the complainant stated: We were grinding some hoes at the time the conversation took place. The defendant did not say "If I am not able to give you satisfaction the sooner we part the better" He did say "I shall give you a month's notice". I did not say "If that's your game, I'll pay you". I did not go to the house door to fetch the money. My first thoughts were to pay him and let him go, and on second thoughts I determined that I would not. I did say to him "How much do you want; you don't expect as much as you would have in harvest time". I did not swear at him. I went nearly up to the door after I told him that I would pay him, and when I went back I said "I won't pay you anything". My son was milking the cows about ten yards off.

The complainant denied that he had had any conversation with his son or that he had spoken to him at all about coming up as a witness, but afterwards admitted that they had had some conversation about the case. The Chairman said "Then why don't you answer the questions straightforwardly; we shall not place any reliance upon your evidence if you go on like that. You first say that you had no conversation with your son, then you say that you had".

Matthew Wilson, son of the complainant stated: I heard White say to my father "I won't work them any more; you may work with them and be *****". He meant the horses. My father said "I'll see if I can make you". White said "If I do work them any more I'll give them hold of it". My father said "I shall look out to that". I heard White say to my father "You are a liar". I also heard him say "Give me my money" I said to my father "Don't give him his money. If he don't go on right, summons him". White said he should not do any more. I went about my work then, and took no more notice.

The defendant was sworn and stated: On the 11th of May the complainant told me to do some rolling, and I did so. On the 12th of May he said to me "Did you finish that rolling?". I said "No, I did not". He said "Then you ought to have done". I said "If I can't give satisfaction I'll give you a month's notice and leave". He said "I'll not take a month's notice. You can have your money and go now. How much does it come to?". I said "I don't know exactly". He then went into the house and came back again directly, and said "I won't pay you". I asked him two or three times for my money. I left about half-past seven in the morning. It was about half-past six when he asked me about the rolling. I did not take my clothes away; they are there now. In reply to the Clerk, the defendant said: I did not say that I would give the horses "hold of it". I said: I'll shove them on". I meant by that I would make them do more than a fair day's work. The complainant was recalled and denied that he told White to leave.

In reply to further questions, his answers were so unsatisfactory that the Chairman told him that he did not believe him. After considerable deliberation the Bench said they had come to the determination to dissolve the contract, and they awarded the complainant 16s damages, which would have to be deducted out of the defendant's wages, and each party would have to pay his own costs.