

Village Voices January 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!

Owing to technical difficulties it was not possible to reproduce here the photograph which was on the front of the printed edition.

Vicar's Verbals

The Christmas season is well underway when I write this, although for the more orthodox amongst us Christmas doesn't actually start until Christmas Eve. But I have learnt as a Vicar to 'go with the flow' and to make merry with young and old at carol services and nativity plays even though it is still in the middle of Advent. New Year is about new starts and Anglicans will enthrone a new Bishop of Ely - Stephen Conway - in the early spring. For many people this New Year holds some considerable uncertainty. Many Local Authority and Government employees are facing either redundancy or massive increases in personal workload. Private sector workers are concerned about empty order books and unenthusiastic customers. Retired folk are anxious about rising prices and low returns on meagre savings. But the Christian message for this season is contained in one line of scripture, in St Luke's Gospel, the words of a heavenly messenger to plain folk who were just trying to scratch a living: "*Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people*". After the party was over, Joseph and Mary picked up their new baby and walked off into an uncertain future, but with confidence that God would accompany them. May God walk with you too in 2011.

Matthew.

GUYHIRN CHAPEL OF EASE

A period of refurbishment

and

wanton damage

Guyhirn's seventeenth century Chapel of Ease has recently experienced a period of mixed fortunes. After much agitation from the Friends of the Chapel, work started on the re-rendering of the west wall and the much needed decoration of the interior. The weather-beaten notice board is to be replaced.

As work was progressing inside, a number of youngsters, some, it is alleged, as young as 12 years, attacked the windows of the Chapel with stones, concrete and bricks. A total of 16 panes of glass were broken, resulting in shards of glass being scattered over the floor and the builders' dustsheets. Some of the glass was ancient and will be expensive to replace as it is not always possible to insure this type of building. The Churches Conservation Trust, who has responsibility for the Chapel, is not looking to prosecute the children involved, but would ask for a donation from their families to defray the cost of the replacement glass. Any such offering would be confidential.

The first service in the refurbished Chapel of Ease will be the annual Epiphany Service on Saturday January 8th 2011 at 2.30pm.

Miss Jane Logan, Assistant Secretary to the Diocese of Ely, will be the guest preacher. Seasonal refreshments. Everyone most welcome.

The Village Voices management team wish all out readers a Happy New Year

The Register

We welcome into the Church's family

Jasmine McClagish who was baptised in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Church on Sunday November 21st.

Kari-Ella Bailey who was baptised in St Paul's Church, Gorefield, on Sunday November 28th.

Madelaine and **Joseph Croucher** who were baptised in Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove, on Sunday December 5th.

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

John Arthur Sayers, whose funeral was at Fenland Crematorium on Wednesday December 1st.

Sheila West, whose funeral was at Fenland Crematorium on Friday December 3rd.

Norman Wright, whose funeral service was in Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove, on Wednesday December 8th, followed by cremation at Mintlyn.

NEW RURAL DEAN APPOINTED

The Revd Matthew Bradbury, Vicar of Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn with Ring's End, Gorefield, and Southea with Murrow and Parson Drove, has been appointed Rural Dean of the Wisbech Lynn Marshland Deanery for a period of five years from 1st January 2011. Matthew is taking over this rôle from the Revd John Penny. Matthew will be co-chairman of the Deanery Synod, but he is keen to stress that his new responsibility will not interfere with his work in the Gorefield, Parson Drove and WSM churches. Father Matthew's Commissioning by the Archdeacon of Wisbech will be during Choral Evensong at Wisbech St Mary church on Sunday January 30th at 4pm.

Obituary

BERYL BURROWS

Beryl Burrows, who died recently at the age of 96 years, was one of a generation of residents who played a very active rôle in the social life of Wisbech St Mary, particularly during and after the second World War. In the days before "canned" entertainment the community came together to arrange parties, fetes, shows and dances to provide funds for the war effort, church and other organisations. Until recently, her memory of those halcyon days was remarkable.

Beryl enjoyed reminiscing about her early life, and, in particular, her time in service at the vicarage with Canon Mowbray Smith.

At the end of her long life, the older village residents remember with affection a busy person and a friend to many.

GUYHIRN CHURCH IS SOLD

St Mary Magadene church, Guyhirn, has been sold, subject to contract, etc. Planning applications will now be prepared for the Listed Building's conversion to homes.

The appearance of the building will not change, and it will remain an important feature in the village, as it has been for the past 132 years.

HISTORY AND CAROLS AT MOTHERS' UNION

Our last meeting of 2010 was on December 7th when we were entertained by Brian Payne with local history facts and, after we had finished our tea, rounding off our afternoon by playing Christmas carols for us to sing. A fitting end to our year. Our next meeting is on Tuesday January 4th in Church House, WSM. Everyone is welcome. A Happy and a more Peaceful New Year to all.

Lilian Brigden

+ SOLEMN MASS AT ST. LEONARD'S +

A Solemn Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany is to be held in St Leonard's church, Leverington, on Thursday January 6th at 7.30pm.

Congregations and residents of our parishes will be warmly welcomed.

+ Regular Services +

Murrow Methodist Church

Jan 2nd: 10.30am. Mrs M Durdey
 Jan 9th: 10.30am. Mrs R Buchanan.
 Jan 16th: 10.30am.Covenant Service.Rev Hannah
 Jan 23rd: 10.30am. Rev P Dewdney.
 Jan 30th: 2.30pm. United service at Tydd.

St Mark's Methodist Church, Parson Drove

Jan 2nd: 10.30am. Mrs A Stapleton
 Jan 9th: 9.30am.United Service in Parish Church
 Jan 16th: 10.30am. Local arrangement.
 Jan 23rd:10.30am.Covenant Service, Rev Hannah
 Jan 30th: 2.30pm. United service at Tydd.

Methodist Special Services

Jan 12th: 2.30pm. Walton Fellowship. Holy.Comm.
 Jan 13th: : 6.00pm. Burman House
 Jan 26th. 6-7.30pm. Faith & Light. Marshland St James.

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

St Paul's Church, Gorefield:

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

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

**A MESSAGE FOR THE LADIES
OF PARSON DROVE**

There is an active branch of the Women's Institute in Parson Drove. They meet once a month when they have interesting speakers, demonstrations on a wide variety of subjects and engage in friendly competitions. Over a cup of tea and a biscuit they have the opportunity to make new friends, to meet new neighbours, and to catch up with the local news in the ever expanding village.

The members say, "We offer you a very warm welcome and a chance to taste some of the pleasures at our meetings which take place on the second Tuesday evening of each month starting at 7.30pm in the comfortable surroundings of the St Mark's Methodist church on Main Road.

So, why not come along? More details from 700350 (Dorothy) or 700124 (another Dorothy).

CAROLS, FOOD AND QUIZZES AT WI

Parson Drove Women's Institute held their Christmas meeting in St Mark's church on December 14th. The evening began with a carol, and the business was soon dealt with! Eighteen members attended and enjoyed good food, good company and thought-provoking quizzes. The evening concluded with carols, accompanied on the piano by Sheila.

The next meeting, in January, will be a meal at the *Five Bells*.

WSM LUNCHEON CLUB DATES

Lunches will be served on Tuesdays January 4th and 18th at 12 noon in the *Bridge Inn*, WSM. If members can't make it please ring 410511 or 410555

**FLOWER ARRANGING AT WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP**

I bet there will be a lot of WSM households with pretty floral table decorations this year after our speaker demonstrated a couple of most attractive Christmas flower arrangements at our December meeting. Some of us have the Oasis ring ready - and next week we will be out searching for holly with berries and other greenery.

Next month sees us partaking of our New Year Meal at The Chequers at Tholomas Drove - *seated at 7pm (not 6:30pm as on your programme)*. Please can we have all menu requests by Friday 7th to Liz, and that is also the last date for any changes to your order. Mary will have your menu cards ready on Thursday 13th at The Chequers.

Liz Hunt & Mary McClagish

**A NEW YEAR START
TO St MARY'S MART**

The first Mart of 2011 will be in WSM Church House, opposite the church gate, on Saturday January 8th from 8.45 to sell-out.

If home-made cakes and preserves are for you come along and see what is available, but come early! There will be coffee and biscuits and a chance to catch up on the village news.

MURROW 200 CLUB WINNERS

C Pope - Murrow	Mrs Flowers - Parson Drove	K Eatton - Guyhirn
S Rust - Murrow	J Vaughan - Parson Drove	S E Laws - Guyhirn
J Barnes - Murrow	P Woodward - Wisbech	G Chapman - Murrow
Mrs Pike - Murrow	M Bingham - Parson Drove	M Hunter - Wisbech
	D Page - Parson Drove	M England - Murrow

“EXCUSE THE BEARD, MA’AM”

Norman Carroll recounts the day he met the Queen at a Windsor Castle Reception

The excitement begins about two months before the reception when you receive a stiff envelope postmarked BUCKINGHAM PALACE. With the official invitation is a yellow card which is your proof of identity. You are instructed to arrive from 5.20pm. After your identity is checked at the main gate by an armed policeman you are guided up the drive to the main square of the castle. Going through the door you enter a large hall at the end of which is a wide stone staircase which leads to the Waterloo Room, with large paintings of Kings and Generals involved in Waterloo. This is where everybody assembles, no one knows what is happening, so you wander around introducing yourself and meeting people that have also been invited. There was such a diverse selection of people from all over. At six o'clock the large doors open at the end of the room and everybody makes their way towards them. As you go through the doors you are told to have your yellow card ready. You then enter the magnificent Queen's Reception Room where Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Phillip are waiting to receive you. You hand your card to a courtier who then hands it onto the Queen's Secretary who announces your name when you step in front of the Queen, you bow and shake her hand and say "Good evening Ma'am" (no one tells you what you should do or say). Meanwhile your card is passed behind the Queen's back to the Duke's Secretary who then announces you to the Duke of Edinburgh, I shook his hand (as an ex-naval man I resisted the urge to salute), wished him 'Good evening' to which he replied "which part of the country are you from?" I replied "Gorefield, North Cambridgeshire, sir". You then pass through another pair of large doors into the newly renovated St. George's Hall, where everybody was milling about introducing themselves to each other. While I was talking to gentlemen from the Sandringham estate I heard a voice behind me that I recognised. Turning round, I was standing back to back with Princess Anne. Her Secretary was bringing people to talk to her who, I think, were something to do with her countless charities. I spoke to the Queen's private secretary for a while until he had to wander off to 'circulate'. While talking to a fellow from the Real Ale Society we were approached by another of the secretaries and asked if we would like to speak to Her Majesty. We were asked to form a gangway for the Queen to exit the room, as she walked out she continued to stop and talk to people, when she got to me she asked "Where are you from?" I said "Gorefield, North Cambridgeshire, Ma'am". She then asked "Why are you here?" I said "I raised a lot of money for play equipment for the children in our village, Ma'am". I then said "I must apologise for my beard, but I grow it this long to do Father Christmas for the children, Ma'am". The Queen replied "You have the physique for it!" and then with a chuckle, walked on, talking to others along the line.

The only disappointment was that there were no photographs allowed, so there is no visual record, only in my head.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all those who have tirelessly raised money or collected for the maintenance of the churchyard surrounding the Chapel of Ease at Guyhirn over the past eighteen years. I would also like to thank Marjorie Cotterell, the secretary and Dave Pitcher, the gardener, for their hard work. The churchyard grounds look a picture, and are a credit to you all.

Sam Bliss

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

From an article in "The Guardian".

There is a new, false distinction between "believers" and "rationalists". Millions of people think that faith is ignorant and childish, with atheism the smart and logical position. The comedian Miranda Hart in discussion recently, said she believes in God but was nervous of being quoted on it. "It's scary to say you're pro-God," she said. "those clever atheists are terrifying." "Oh, nonsense," said her colleague, "Let them tell you it's stupid to believe in something you can't explain. Then ask them how an iPad works."

THANK YOU

The **Gorefield Luncheon Club** Committee and its members would like to thank Phil and Alison of the *Woodmans Cottage* for the splendid Christmas lunch and the party atmosphere. There are vacancies on the list of members of the Luncheon Club, come and join us, as long as you reside in the Gorefield area and are over 55, we would be happy to see you on the first Tuesday of the month at the *Woodmans Cottage*, 1200 for 1230. Price £6 for a meal, sweet, Tea or Coffee. If you are interested in joining our happy band, please contact Jean Mill on 01945 870549 or Norman Carroll on 01945 870387

THE CHURCHYARD AT GUYHIRN

Standing in the churchyard that surrounds the ancient Chapel of Ease at Guyhirn, one gets an overwhelming sense of peace and quietness. All around are memorials from many decades marking, since 1860, the last resting places of villagers.

We are in an orderly place. The grass is short and manicured, rose trees bring colour to compliment the flowers placed by loved ones on the family graves, the trees carefully pruned each year. Apart from an occasional bottle or can, thrown into the churchyard by some unthinking individual, there is not a piece of rubbish to be seen.

The villagers of Guyhirn, and their neighbours, are justly proud of their churchyard, and often celebrate the way that Charlie Skeels, Winston Betts and Gerald Grange worked in past years to make the burial ground one of the neatest and most cared for in the whole diocese.

Sadly, the volunteer gardeners are no longer with us. They have each been called to higher service, and they have taken with them our appreciation of their devotion to their task. Take a look around Guyhirn's churchyard and you will see a beautiful living memorial to these gentlemen.

For the past 30 years or so the work in the churchyard was coordinated by a number of volunteers on behalf of St Mary Magdalene, the former parish church of Guyhirn with Rings End. Generously supported by the residents and others, the maintenance of the grounds has been rewarding. Various former incumbents of St Mary Magdalene were content to leave the status quo.

However, when St Mary Magdalen was closed and declared redundant in 2002, the Ely Diocese decided that the parish of Guyhirn with Rings End should be joined with the parish of Wisbech St Mary, and in 2003 the legal formalities were enacted. One aspect of this amalgamation was that the ownership and formal responsibility for the Guyhirn churchyard was placed in the hands of the Vicar of the new larger parish and the newly constituted Parochial Church Council (PCC). The PCC comprises of church members from Guyhirn as well as Wisbech St Mary. The vicar, churchwardens and PCC members are very appreciative of the work and enthusiasm of so many people over many years who have contributed to the well-being of the grounds. In particular they wish to express their gratitude to Sam Bliss and Margery Cotterell who have recently retired from their administrative roles. The PCC has resolved that the traditional income to the churchyard, particularly fees or collections, will be strictly ring-fenced for Guyhirn use only.

In this age of health and safety rules, risk assessments and endless litigation, the PCC is obliged to look at its properties. In respect of the Guyhirn churchyard, the PCC has resolved to secure the consecrated burial ground to prevent the very regrettable and unlawful practice of dog-walking and children causing vandalism, and to take such measures as are necessary to prevent personal accidents. The PCC will do all it can to preserve the grounds for burials and comfortable access to loved ones' graves, and, of course, to the Chapel of Ease itself.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting of the WSM Local History Group is on Tuesday January 18th at 3.00pm at the Community Centre. Everyone welcome, admission is free. One of the items will be using old documents to see what was happening in the village and surrounding area during the early Victorian era.

If anyone would prefer an evening meeting, please contact Brian on 410755.

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.

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

GOREFIELD LADIES GO CRACKERS!

Glenys Grimm welcomed a very good attendance of members and guests to the November meeting. Thank goodness that it took place just before the bad weather set-in!!

Details of the Christmas meal were discussed, which took place on December 15th.

Ali Newman was then introduced, giving a demonstration of hand made Christmas Crackers. All members then followed her very detailed instructions to make one for themselves. Glenys thanked Ali and then refreshments were then served by Wendy Gaultry and Jenny Blackwell, together with a buffet kindly supplied by members. The draw took place and details of the January meeting were announced, which takes place on Wednesday January 26th, and is a beauty demonstration by Mary Tynne Cosmetics.

Birthday congratulations were extended to Barbara Mitchell, for November birthday, and Margaret Burrow for December.

MURROW - BRIC A BRAC STALL

The popular Bric-a-Brac stall will be outside Murrow Methodist Chapel on Saturday January 8th from 11am - 2pm.

Homemade cakes, jams and marmalades available.

"Come & browse & support your local village!"

Maureen Woollard

CITIZENS ADVICE AT PARSON DROVE

The Citizens Advice Bureau will be at Parson Drove pavilion on January 25th at 1.30pm. Anyone wishing to arrange a consultation should telephone 01945 474926 not later than Friday January 21st. Advice can also be obtained by calling 01945 464367, Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 1.00pm.

SORRY, COLIN

The seasonal poem "Togetherness" featured in the December issue of *Village Voices* was written by Colin Gedney, and not Colin Barnes. Our apologies to the two Colins.

BE PREPARED! OUR SCOUT GROUP NEEDS LEADERS

The 15th Wisbech Scout Group which meets at Barton Crofts Scout Centre, the former Church Hall adjacent to the Old Vicarage, Barton Road, Wisbech St Mary, has been operating in the village since 1971. Currently the Group operates a **Beaver Scout Colony** for 6-8 year olds, a **Cub Pack** for 9-10+ year olds, a **Scout Troop** for young people up to the age of 14+, additionally there is a small **Explorer Scout Unit** for older boys and girls.

At the moment, the principal concern is a serious shortage of leaders and helpers and the group is looking for volunteers to fill roles in all the sections. This will enable the Group to actively accommodate more young people into the exciting modern world of Scouting. Training and uniform is provided and all the support necessary will be in place. Leaders need no previous scout experience. Meetings are held weekly during term time with additional weekend activities from time to time.

Anyone interested in working as part of the world's largest youth organisation should contact Geoff Wilkinson on 01945 870271 or e-mail p.gwilkinson@btinternet.com

THE ENGLISH PARISH EXPLORED

The local branch of the WEA is organising a course of ten lectures by David Bond on "The Story of the English Parish" to be held in the St. John Ambulance Hall, William Road, Wisbech. The course begins on Wednesday January 12th from 10.30am to 12 noon, and costs £44. Contact: 464860.

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.

Voices Past

BURGLARY AT WISBECH ST MARY

from the "Wisbech Telegraph"
Saturday June 12th 1869

Some time in the night of Thursday some burglars entered the vicarage of Wisbech St Mary and stole several articles of plate, the property of the Rev Hugh Pigot. The thieves effected an entrance by the door of the drawing-room, having broken a very thick pane of plate glass. There was a bell on the door, but the noise did not wake any of the inmates. They took several articles out of the room, and made a careful inspection of the other rooms on the same floor. They broke open several drawers in the library table; in the kitchen there were a few pence, which they took away, as well as some tea out of a caddy.

The rogues were rather particular, as they were careful not to take away any plated articles; they left, however, a silver cruet frame, doubtless suspecting it of not being the true metal.

The following is a list of the articles missing: A silver fox's head with a crest and the motto "All Friends round the Wrekin"; a silver cup and paten, part of a pocket communion service; a pair of sugar tongs with a crest; a man's hand with a sword rising out of a coronet; two small sugar spoons; and a small salt spoon.

A tall man in dark clothes, and a short man in light clothes were seen hovering about the premises the day before. The police are making an active search for the thieves.

The copy deadline for *Village Voices* is the 15th of each month.

Please email news, etc.

topaynewsm@btinternet.com

or on paper to

Anne Wallis in Guyhirn (450466)

Elaine Harvey in Gorefield (870558)

David Pearce in Parson Dr (700454)

Brian Payne in WSM (410755)

For advertising, e-mail Jennie at

ads.villagevoices@btinternet.com

Or phone Terry Brigden on 450481.

JULIE'S PATCH

Pc Julie Coales, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Winter is well and truly with us, so here are a few ideas to try and keep you safe.

Motorists: is the journey necessary and have you allowed enough time if it is? Have you cleaned your windows and lights? Are your lights working? Are your tyres at the correct pressure and tread? Drive according to the conditions. Allow more time and distance from the car in front. Have you a blanket or shovel etc just in case?

Pedestrians: we all wrap up against the cold, but make sure you can see when you cross the road. Take that extra look both ways.

Cyclists: Are all your lights working and reflectors clean? Are you wearing a reflective jacket?

Children and Adults: Stay away from frozen ponds/drains/rivers etc, you don't know how deep the water is underneath...or what is there.

Do you have a neighbour that may be elderly or vulnerable? Pop in and see them and make sure they are OK particularly in the cold weather.

As always, you can contact me
by phone 0345 456 4564 x3799
or e mail me Julie.coales@cambs.pnn.police.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL CUTBACKS

Information taken from Cambridgeshire County Council website

Cambridgeshire County Council is considering changes which will transform the way they work and deliver services. The Council needs to save £160 million over the next five years, and £50 million in the coming financial year 2011-12, as Government spending cuts and the twin pressures of increased demand and inflation begin to take effect. Under the proposals the Council says it will become slimmer, more efficient, enabling communities to step up and help themselves, leaving the Council to focus its resources on supporting the most vulnerable and providing essential universal services.

How will the Council spend your money? They will continue to protect the vulnerable and the needy. Inevitably, they will not be able to provide services for everyone as they have done in the past. They will target their resources so they make sure that they are getting the best outcomes for people. The Council says it will help people to help themselves, through helping communities to step up where they can't provide services any more. The County Council says it will change the way they work so that (for example) when an older person needs support they will intervene early and prevent the need for more costly, intrusive care at a later stage. And we will make sure that the safety net is still there.

The Council will also commission more services – looking at where the need is, and choosing the best provider of services to meet that need. They say they will spend every £1 of taxpayer's money on better outcomes for individuals and communities. "We'll protect frontline services and keep the "back office" streamlined. We'll share services and make sure we offer uniform standards".

County Council leaders want to understand what matters most to your community, rather than think they know best. They want to help everyone to help yourselves, so you don't need the Council any more. They want to become a genuinely local council. "This means working more closely with you, so we will be devolving decision making, commissioning and directly provided services to localities where appropriate".

Before the County Council takes final decisions, it says it needs to talk to local communities about local priorities.

POLICE SERVICES TO MERGE

Specialist police services in Cambridgeshire are to be merged with those in neighbouring forces in a bid to save millions of pounds. In a bold step to cut down on spending, Cambridgeshire Police Authority has agreed that Cambridgeshire police will share back office functions and specialist 'protective services' with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary. Protective services include murder squad detectives, riot police, officers who deal with serious organised crime, counter terrorism and firearms.

A member of Cambridgeshire Police Authority said, "We are going to team up with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police and share services. They are very specialised and expensive and, in many cases, might not be needed for months at a time."

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.

Voices Past

This advertisement was placed in the "CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE & JOURNAL" on Saturday May 22nd 1841 after the death of the Master John Burman. The Charity School was built at Tholomas Drove by Francis Hardy c1700.

WISBECH ST MARY'S CHARITY SCHOOL

A MASTER is Wanted for the above School. Candidates for the Mastership must be married men, Members of the Church of England and qualified to instruct Children in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

The income of the late Master, derived from the Charity Lands on an average for the last seven years, was £33 per annum.

The Master will have the use of a House and Garden rent free, and will be allowed to take 10 Boarders and 30 Day Scholars besides the Charity Children.

Further particulars may be obtained by personal applications only to Messrs. JACKSON and COLLINS, solicitors, Wisbech, to whom testimonials may be sent.

The election will take place in the Vestry room of Wisbech Saint Mary's church on FRIDAY the fourth day of JUNE next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

COMMUNITY SPORTS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Are you interested in community development work, a career in sport and leadership, and working with the public? If you are 16+ years old, self-motivated and enthusiastic, then this free qualification is available for you.

This qualification teaches generic leadership skills through the medium of sport. It enables successful candidates to independently lead small groups of people in sport and recreational activities within a community setting.

For details contact Louise Smith on 01354 654321 or lasmith@fenland.gov.uk

2010 POPPY APPEAL RESULT FROM PARSON DROVE & MURROW

Snips £21.57	<i>Butchers' Arms</i> £19.87
<i>Bell Inn</i> £47.61	Murrow School £66.17
S Vialls £22.63	PD Post Office £14.61
P Judge £42.84	ABC Meats £17.38
J Clarke £29.36	GB Autos £25.33
B Hunt £147.22;	P Spriggs £81.20
<i>Swan Inn</i> £30.34	Mrs Thrower £98.49
<i>Five Bells</i> £62.86	H Sanderson £60.25
Mr Booth £225.9	Mr Wright £75.60
Total: £1089.26.	Poppy Appeal Tombola £371.37.
Church Collection £94.55.	Wreaths £80.00

Grand Total: £1635.18

My grateful thanks to all collectors. Once again a very good effort. **S C Hunt, Hon Organiser.**

STRICTLY DANCE DATES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The next **Tea Dance** in the Wisbech St Mary Community Centre is on Tuesday January 25th from 2.00 - 4.30pm

Dance classes start again on Tuesday January 4th **Line dancing** at 7.30pm, and **Ballroom** at 9.00pm in the main hall of the Centre.

Mobile Library Stops

<u>1st +3rd Thursday: Jan 6th +20th</u>			<u>2nd +4th Friday: Jan 14th + 28th</u>		
	<u>Arr</u>	<u>Dep</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</u>			<u>3rd Wednesday: Jan 19th</u>		
	<u>Arr</u>	<u>Dep</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	

WISBECH NORTHSIDE DRAINAGE

At the General Annual Meeting of the Commissioners appointed by and under certain Acts of Parliament made and passed in the fifteenth and forty-ninth years of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Third, "for draining and preserving certain lands and grounds in the parishes of Wisbech St Peter and Wisbech St Mary, and in the hamlets of Wisbech Murrow, and Wisbech Guyhirn, in the Isle of Ely, and County of Cambridge", holden at the Rose and Crown Inn, in Wisbech, on Tuesday the 13th day of May 1879,

IT WAS (amongst other things) ORDERED that a rate or acre tax of Three Shillings an acre should be, and the same was assessed, rated, taxed, and charged upon all and every the Owners and Occupiers of all and singular the Lands and Grounds in the said Acts mentioned and described.

AND it was also ORDERED that the said rates, taxes, and charges so laid as above mentioned, should be payable and paid to the Collector, or to me the Receiver appointed under the said Acts, at my office in Wisbech aforesaid, before or on the 3rd day of November then next; and that in case the said rates, taxes, and charges, or any of them, should not be paid to the said Collector or Receiver, before or on the 15th day of December then next, then that a penalty of One Penny for every Shilling of the said rates, taxes, and charges which should be so in arrear and unpaid, should attach upon and be payable and paid by the Owners or Occupiers so omitting or neglecting payment of the same.

Dated 25th November 1879
Wm GODDARD JACKSON,
Clerk to the Commissioners.

WHAT A STAR! by Stuart Smith

Would you believe it? If the star named Betelgeux was our Sun, it is so gigantic that it would not just swallow the Earth, but it would reach beyond the orbit of Jupiter. Fortunately, it is a long way from Earth, the latest estimate is that its light might take as much as 643 (+/- 147) years to reach us, these are called 'light-years', (light travels at 186,000 miles a second!!), whereas the light from the Sun only takes 8.3 minutes.

Betelgeux (an Arabic word meaning 'armpit') is found in the constellation of Orion, the Hunter, which is one of the most distinctive winter constellations.



This huge star is the top left of four forming a square, which has a string of three stars across the middle forming the hunter's belt. With binoculars it is seen to be orange-red, though it is called a red super-giant, with a Spectrum of M2 and surface temperature of 3,800+/-C. Our Sun is 5-6,000C.

The bottom right star of the box of four is Rigel, spectrum B8, bluish-white, just over 11,000C, and 773 +/- light years distant.

With binoculars (lean on or against a wall to help to steady them), look below Orion's belt at the Hunter's sword and see if you can see the misty gas and dust cloud of the Orion Nebula, listed as M42 in the French astronomer Messier's catalogue of deep-sky objects, where new stars are being formed, 1,500 light years away!!!

Following the line of Orion's belt sloping down to the left brings you to Sirius in the constellation of Canis Major, the Big Dog, hence Sirius is known as the Dog Star. It is the brightest star in the sky, whose brightness or apparent magnitude is -1.6, a star with a minus number is at the bright end of the scale, and the greater the plus number, the fainter the star, e.g. +1.6 is fainter than -1.6, and magnitude 5.0 is very dim. Its spectrum is A1, white, 8-10,000C, nearly 9 light years away.

Do look at bright Jupiter with its four moons changing position every night. Providing you are not plagued by light pollution from street lights or neighbours, enjoy gazing at the heavens, but wrap up warm, the colder it is, the clearer the viewing, i.e. the 'transparency', which is dependant upon how much vapour and dust is in the air, and the 'seeing', the steadiness of the air, affected by radiated heat, mainly from buildings.

Anyone interested in viewing with a Meade 8 inch 'Go-To' or a 10 inch Dobsonian telescope, also a Solarscope, contact Stuart Smith at Newton on 01945-870819.

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 or 07961957878	WSM Play Group	411864	Gorefield Com. Car Scheme	07500479444
WSM Community Centre	01945410473	WSM Little Saint's Toddlers	410503	Childline	0800 1111
Parish Council Clerks		Murrow Children's Centre	701237	Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Gorefield	870454	Post Offices		Dog control/Animal welfare	01354 622442
Parson Drove	700501	Parson Drove	700511	Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
Wisbech St Mary	474191	Gorefield	870273	Fenland District Council	01354654321
		Wisbech St Mary	410288	CCC Highways Maintenance	03450455212
		Police (non-emergency) 0345 456 4564		Samaritans	08457909090
Websites:	www.gorefield.com			Victim supportline	08453030900
		www.guyhirn-online.org.uk		www.wisbechstmary.org.uk	

Gorefield Parish Council Newsletter

January 2011

Clerk

Mrs Rosemary Gagen, Sportsman's Lodge, 78 High Road, Gorefield, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 4MB Tel: 01945 870454
E-mail: gorefieldpc@aol.com

Chairman

Michael Humphrey, Aynsley Lodge, Aliens Drove, Gorefield
Tel: 01945 410436 & 410644
E-mail: mhumphrey@fenland.gov.uk

Gorefield Parish Councillors

Mrs Kitty Hall. Tel: 01945 870132
Alan Holt. Tel: 01945 870457
Norman Carroll. Tel: 01945 870387
Chris Cooke. Tel: 01945 871144
Mrs Jacqueline Hunns. Tel: 01945 870189
George Ridley. Tel: 07545 732908

Fenland District Council Councillors for Roman Bank Ward

Philip Hatton Tel: 01945 465982 Michael Humphrey Tel: 01945 410436 & 410644 Christopher Seaton Tel: 01945 870812 **Website** www.fenland.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire County Council Councillor for Roman Bank & Peckover Division

Steve Tierney Tel: 07831 616127 **Website** www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Gorefield Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of each calendar month. Meetings are held in Gorefield School and start at 7 pm. Members of the public are always welcome to attend these meetings as observers but there are not permitted to be part of the meeting. However the Council is always willing to allow participation and representation from members of the parish prior to the commencement of the formal meeting.

Website www.gorefield.com

The Parish Council, with the help of John Timms, has its own website for you to view Parish Council minutes, Councillor contact details, Parish Plan etc. The website also provides a wealth of information about our village and its community in general.

Notice of meetings and other relevant Council literature can always be found on the Parish Council Notice Board located outside the Shop and Post Office on High Road.

The Council has produced a **Welcome Booklet** for Gorefield that contains useful contact names and numbers. These have been delivered to every household but a replacement copy is available by contacting the Clerk.

Gorefield Parish Council is pleased to be associated with **Village Voices**.

GOOD NEWS STORY

Gorefield Adventure Patch is nearly complete with the addition of several new pieces of equipment for the younger children, including a new swing. A new BMX track has also been installed and is now in use. Funding has also been approved for Phase 3, the adult exercise, and the installation of that equipment will now be in the New Year and when the weather allows. Work to bond markings to the concrete area for a remote car track and other games did start but has had to be postponed due to the weather, but this will be completed in the spring. This is a tremendous achievement considering that this time last year no funding had been secured. Yet now, when completed in the spring, well in excess of £67,000 of external funding will have been spent on that area. Councillor Norman Carroll has led this project from the very beginning and he is to be congratulated on his achievements, well done Norman.

Councillor Carroll was invited to attend a reception with the Queen at Windsor Castle in recognition of his efforts and a separate article appears in Village Voices about that event.

BAD NEWS STORY

Playing Field Earlier this year someone attempted to set fire to the Playing Field Pavilion and as a result it is still out of use. More recently someone has taken to driving on the playing field with a car, damaging the playing surfaces and driving up the new BMX ramps and jumps. **If you see anyone acting in a suspicious manner or using the facilities inappropriately please report it.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Richmond Green Not everyone may be aware that as part of the planning permission to access the new estate, Oxfield Drive, off High Road the developer had to provide parking for residents and visitors of Richmond Green. This was a condition applied by the Inspector at appeal and that parking area is just inside the entrance to the estate on the right hand side. It is there for your use, please use it.

Local Elections May 2011 Are you interested in standing as a Candidate for election to the Parish Council? Then why not come along and sit in on a meeting to observe the work of the Council. Gorefield has seven Councillors, elected every four years, local people working hard to make a difference to the community in which we live. Maybe you already know what the Parish does, either way, if you feel you want to help make a difference and contribute to improving the community in which we live, then May 2011 is your opportunity to get involved.

Street Pride the next Street Pride event is planned for January 8th (See separate article in Village Voices)