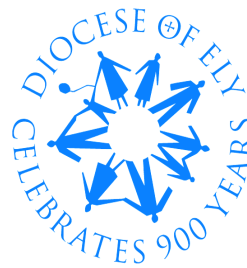


# Village Voices November 2009



Village Voices is produced by the parish churches for the local community providing news and information for:  
**Guyhirn-Gorefield-Murrow-Parson Drove-Rings End-Tholomas Drove-Thorney Toll-Wisbech St Mary**  
A warm welcome to all newcomers & visitors to our villages!

## *VICAR'S VERBAL*

Last night I had a lovely e-mail from a relative of someone whose funeral I had conducted thanking me for the services of the church in their time of sadness. I immediately typed out in reply 'it was a pleasure!.... but then I thought this would be an odd thing to say. After all, how could it be 'a pleasure' to bury someone's nearest and dearest? What I meant to say was that it had been a heartwarming experience and a privilege to share those last painful steps with the family as they said goodbye to a loved one. Bereavement is a long process. Sometimes it starts before the person actually dies, as the impact of a terminal illness spreads like a seismic shock wave through the family. Sometimes people take many years to come to terms with their loss. In one sense of course we never 'get over' a bereavement because the loved one is forever remembered and treasured in our hearts. On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 6pm at St Mary's Church, Wisbech St Mary, we will be holding our yearly All Souls service when anyone who wishes to take some time to remember a departed loved one can come and be still with us in the presence of God. If you have lost someone dear this year, why not come and join us?

*Matthew*

## **All Souls Services**

### **Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Church**

This year's All Souls service will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 6pm in St Mary's Church. All are welcome. The service is a time when we remember in prayer departed loved ones; those who have died recently and those who have departed in former years. The service lasts about forty-five minutes, is quiet and undemanding, and is suitable for those who do not attend church very often as well as for regular worshippers.

### **Guyhirn Chapel of Ease**

A similar, but shorter, service is to be held in the quiet atmosphere of Guyhirn's Chapel of Ease on Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> at 2.30pm.

If you have lost someone dear and would like to remember them with us, then please join us at one of these services

## *Remembrance Services*

*Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>*

All residents, particularly ex-servicemen and women, are invited to attend these services. In this year when the reality of war has impacted upon this country so dramatically, it is appropriate that we honour those who have made the supreme sacrifice in various conflicts during the past hundred years.

St Paul's, Gorefield: 10.00am.  
Emmanuel, Parson Drove: 10.45am.  
Wisbech St Mary United Service: 10.55am  
Murrow War Memorial: 12.00.  
Guyhirn War Memorial: 12.30pm.

Personal wreaths or crosses may be laid at these services.

## **WSM CHURCHYARD TREES**

Following the recent removal of six diseased trees in Wisbech St Mary churchyard, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) resolved that the trees should be replaced so that the wildlife and traditional appearance of the site could be maintained.

The PCC is pleased to have received enquiries from local families concerning sponsorship of a tree in memory of a loved one or a special occasion. Anyone who may be interested in this project is invited to meet the nurserymen at the churchyard between 9.30 and 10.30 on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Further details from Brian Payne, 410755.

The Copy deadline for *Village Voices* is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please email news, etc. to

[paynewsm@btinternet.com](mailto:paynewsm@btinternet.com) or on paper to

Anne Wallis in Guyhirn (450466)

Elaine Harvey in Gorefield (870558)

David Pearce in Parson Drove (700454)

Brian Payne in WSM (410755)

For advertising, e-mail

[ads.villagevoices@btinternet.com](mailto:ads.villagevoices@btinternet.com)

Or phone Terry Brigden on 450481.

## **TEA SERVICES AT W S M**

The next Tea Service at Wisbech St Mary Methodist Church will be October 28<sup>th</sup> when the guest speaker is Rev Matthew Bradbury. On November 25<sup>th</sup> a talk will be given by Mark Clingo.  
The services start at 4.30pm.

## **MOTHERS' UNION MART**

WSM's next Mart will be on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> in the Church House from 9am till 10am. The Mothers' Union are the hosts this month, when all the usual produce will be on sale. And, of course, the cups of tea and biscuits!

## Halloween

Many people celebrate it, but do we really know what it's all about? Here are some weird, wonderful and interesting facts.

- Halloween, the night before All Souls, is one of the oldest celebrations in the world, dating back over 2000 years to the time of the Celts who lived in Britain.
- About 99% of pumpkins sold are used as Jack O'Lanterns at Halloween.
- The name Halloween is a combination of the words 'Hallow' which means holy and 'e'en' which means evening, so you get 'Holy Evening'
- The phrase 'Jack O'Lantern' is British and dates back to the 17th century, when it meant 'man with a lantern' - a night watchman.
- In Ireland, the first Jack O'Lanterns were not made from pumpkins, but from potatoes or turnips.
- Bobbing for apples is thought to have originated from a Roman harvest festival that celebrates and honours the goddess of the fruit trees.
- The record for the fastest pumpkin carver in the world is Jerry Ayers of Baltimore, Ohio. He carved a pumpkin in just 37 seconds!

The Police remind people that they should not cause any disturbance or annoyance whilst engaged in "Trick or Treat".

## GOREFIELD LADIES HEAR A FENLAND GHOST STORY!

Margaret Tibbs opened the September meeting of the Gorefield Ladies Group, in the absence of Glenys, who was indisposed. The meeting was well attended and the guest speaker was Bill Thompson, from the Ramsey Story Tellers. He entertained with tales from many countries and a Fenland ghost story! He was thanked by Margaret. A raffle was followed by refreshments. September birthday greetings were announced for Chris Ashton & Brenda Frost.

The next meeting is on October 28th, in Gorefield Village Hall at 7.30pm, when Kevin Rodgers will talk and show slides on life in Wisbech, 50 years ago or more.

New members always welcome.

## A PASSION FOR PRIVIES!

Members of WSM Women's Fellowship were well entertained by June Barton who talked about her passion for 'privies' and her searches for those hidden out-buildings!

The next meeting on Thursday November 12th is in the school hall at 7pm when Eileen Plater and her choir will perform.

New members are always welcome.

Tickets will be on sale for our visit to the Welney Wetland Centre on February 11th 2010 to see the floodlit feeding of the swans. Tickets are £10 and include entrance fee, bus trip and refreshments.

Contacts: Liz Hunt & Mary McClagish

## THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

### Wisbech St Mary's Firework Spectacular!

Wisbech St Mary Church of England School is holding the 2009 BONFIRE and FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>. Gates will open at 5.15pm and the bonfire will be lit 15 minutes later.

Fireworks displays by a professional pyrotechnic company will appear at 6.15pm and 7.30pm.

There are a number of fantastic prizes to be won in the Grand Draw. Tombolas, Fairground rides, Hot food, and Games are among the many attractions which guarantee an exciting evening on the school field.

Children under school age are admitted free.

Adults £4, children £3.

## THANK YOU 1

Bob and Shirley Bell would like to say a huge "Thank-you" to everyone who helped and contributed to their MacMillan Coffee morning in Murrow on Friday 25th September. A total of £398.55 was raised.

## THANK YOU 2

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Mothers' Union MacMillan coffee morning on Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>. The final total of the coffee morning and lunch was £505.

Lilian Brigden.

## THANK YOU 3

Alan Killingworth, Chairman of Parson Drove Amenities '95, wishes to thank John and June Rose for the generous donation raised from their Gymkhana event held on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The support of the community is greatly appreciated. The money will be spent on improvements to the Village Hall.

## FAMILY DISCO IN GOREFIELD

On Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 7pm until 10.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Gote Lane. This is a **family** disco so children must bring mum and/or dad along - Gran and Grandad can come too! The ticket price is £4 and all profits will go to Gorefield Playing Field Association. For further details telephone 870528

## SAUSAGE SUPPER AND AUCTION

The annual Sausage Supper and Auction in aid of the Parson Drove Village Sports Facilities, will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 for 7.30pm. There will be a raffle and Licensed Bar. Tickets, £7.50 per person, are available from Viall's shop, or Jos 700373 and Pat 700135.

## TOMBOLA DATES

There will be Tombola sessions in Gorefield Village Hall on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Everyone is most welcome, including young families, to a warm and friendly atmosphere. Refreshments and a Draw are available. Proceeds are for the Village Hall.

## THE REGISTER

**We welcome into the Church family**

**Marcie Anne Mapleton**, baptised in St Paul's church on Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>.  
**Thomas O'Flynn**, baptised in Emmanuel church, Parson Drove on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**We wish every happiness to**

**Peter and Jennifer Burkhill** who recollected their vows in WSM & Guyhirn church on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>.  
**Sonnett and David Walters** who recollected their vows in Emmanuel church, Parson Drove on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Stephen Whiting** of Gorefield whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Monday September 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**Arthur Hircock** whose funeral service was at WSM & Guyhirn church on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>. followed by cremation at Mintlyn.  
**Frank Sykes** whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>.  
**Keith Bailey**, of Gorefield, whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup>.  
**Edna Waling**, of Wisbech St Mary, whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**In memoriam**

The Ashes of Dr Ian Andrew were laid in the Garden of Rest at St Paul's church, Gorefield, on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>.

### CASTLE AND FLOWERS AT THE MOTHERS UNION.

At our meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>, we had a very interesting talk by Brian Payne about the history of the Wisbech Castle and the recent archaeological dig.

At the Wisbech Deanery Mothers' Union Tea on Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup>, we had a very enjoyable afternoon. John Richmond produced four wonderful flower arrangements "before our very eyes". It was so nice to have time to talk to friends.

The next meeting at WSM is on Tues Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2.15pm. Everyone is most welcome.

**Lilian Brigden**

### HARVEST CELEBRATIONS AT ST. PAUL'S

The annual Harvest Festival was held at St Paul's Church, Gorefield on Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Matthew Bradbury conducted the morning service and thanked everyone who had prepared and decorated the church so beautifully. The sermon was delivered by Lilian Brigden. During the service both she and Matthew were ably assisted by our new server Nathan, with Elizabeth and Amy our new acolytes.

At 6.30pm, in the Church Hall, approximately 70 guests were welcomed with a glass of wine and enjoyed a harvest supper of chicken and broccoli bake followed by apple crumble, which were prepared and served by Rosemary Peggs and her helpers.

After supper Bill Peggs led a very entertaining auction of produce, which had been generously donated, to raise funds for the church. Bill thanked everyone for their support especially Kitty and Brian Hall for doing the washing up! Matthew thanked Rosemary, Bill and all helpers, on behalf of everyone present for a very enjoyable evening.

**Brenda Stamp**

#### + Regular Services +

<p><b><u>Wisbech St Mary &amp; Guyhirn Parish Church:</u></b>                  Every Sunday exc 1<sup>st</sup> :- 11am. SUNG EUCHARIST.                  1<sup>st</sup> Sunday:- 8am Communion, 11am Family Service                  3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday:- Evening Prayer: 6.00pm</p> <p><b><u>Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove:</u></b>                  1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month:- 9.30am Family service.                  2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays:- 9.30am Communion.                  5<sup>th</sup> Sunday:- 9.30am Communion or Morning Prayer                  4<sup>th</sup> Sunday:- United Service at St Mark's 10.30am.  <b>Emmanuel Flower Rota:</b> Nov 1, 8 &amp; 15. Mrs F Flowers  <b>Coffee Rota:</b> Nov 1. Mrs B Brown.                  Nov 15: Mrs P Williams.</p> <p><b><u>St Paul's Church, Gorefield:</u></b>                  except 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. 10.00am: Holy Communion                  3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. 8.00am: Holy Communion</p>	<p><b><u>St Mark's Methodist Church, Parson Drove</u></b>                  Nov 1: 10.30. Mrs S Askew                  Nov 8: 10.45. United Service                  Nov 15: 10.30. Local arrangement.                  Nov 22: 10.30. Rev Jacqueline Goddard                  Nov 29: 10.30. Rev N Hannah.</p> <p><b><u>Murrow Methodist Church</u></b>                  Nov 1: 10.30. Holy Comm. Rev N Hannah.                  Nov 8: 10.30. Mr G Beeken                  Nov 15 10.30. Rev Jacqueline Goddard.                  Nov 22 10.30. Mr A Stapleton                  Nov 29: 10.30. United Service at PD.</p> <p><b>Special Services</b>  <b>Circuit Service</b>, Nov 1: 6.30 H C. St Jame's  <b>"Shalom"</b>: Nov 15: 7.30. Trinity, March.</p>
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**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.

## CHRISTINGLE

Christingle is a symbolic object used in advent services in churches of many Christian denominations. It has its origins in the Moravian Church, with the first recorded use, in Germany, in 1747.

At Christmas 1747 in the estate of Marienborn near Eckhartshausen in Germany, Pastor Johannes de Watteville sat at home thinking how he could explain the love of Jesus, and what Christmas really meant to the children in the church. He decided to prepare a simple symbol to help make the message of Christmas fresh and lively for them. Pastor Johannes gave each child a lighted candle wrapped in a red ribbon, with a prayer that said "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these dear children's hearts". It is understood that this was the first ever Christingle service.

In 1968, Christingle services were introduced to the Anglican Church in Britain by John Pensom of The Children's Society, and the custom spread quickly; each year there are more and more Christingle services in England and Wales, although today's Christingles are a little different. The Christingle consists of an orange representing the world with a red ribbon around it representing the blood of Jesus (i.e. his death on the cross for our sins), fruits and sweets (commonly dolly mixtures) are skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons, a lighted candle is pushed into the centre of the orange representing Jesus Christ. Jesus describes himself in the Bible, in John chapter 8 v.12, by saying "I am the Light of the World"

There will be  
**CHRISTINGLE SERVICES**

in each church on

**Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Emmanuel, Parson Drove: 9.30am.

St Paul's, Gorefield: 10.00am.

WSM & Guyhirn church: 11.00am.

Children are particularly invited to bring their Christingles to these special family occasions.

## RSPCA CHRISTMAS FAIR

The local Supporters Fund Raising Group of the RSPCA are holding a Christmas Fair at the Re-homing Centre, Block Fen, Wimblington, on Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>. There are to be stalls and activities, and the café will be open for tea and cakes. Everyone most welcome.

## CASEY & BARBARA'S BINGO

The next sessions will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> in Parson Drove Village Hall. Proceeds for the annual Christmas Party.

## LUNCHEON CLUB

The Lunch dates for the WSM Luncheon Club are Tuesdays November 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at midday. Please let Marjorie, 410511, or the Bridge Inn, 410555, know if you can not attend.

## CALLING ALL SCRABBLERS!

Caroline Dobson continues to organise Scrabble sessions on some Tuesday afternoons at her home in Wisbech St Mary, but would like *Village Voices* readers to know that a weekly Scrabble meeting has started at the Octavia Hill Birthplace House on Mondays from 2 till 4pm.

Everyone welcome, £2 including a cup of tea.

Details from Caroline on 410342.

## THORNEY TOLL FAYRE

Thorney Toll's Christmas Fayre will be held in the Village Hall on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2009, starting at 7pm. "You bring it, we'll sell it," All funds to Village Hall, Come along and have a great night, everyone welcome.

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL DATE

**Cantus making return visit**

The popular annual Christmas Festival evening will be held in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church on Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The outstanding Cantus choir will be making a return visit following a delightful evening last year.

\*\*The **WSM United Carol Service** is to be held on Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> in the church at 3pm.

\*\*The annual **Carol Service at Gorefield** church will take place on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>.

More details of these events in next month's V. V.

## POPULAR CAROL CONCERT DATE

The Annual Carol Concert in Parson Drove Village Hall is to be held on Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>. at 7pm for 7.30pm. The concert, featuring the Peterborough Salvation Army Band, is in aid of Emmanuel Church funds.

## CALLING ALL CAROL SINGERS!

The organisers of the annual carol singing around Wisbech St Mary village are looking for volunteers. They will be starting from the Church House at 5pm on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please come and join them, its great fun!

Details from Wendy on 410451.

## BUSY DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>

### AT PARSON DROVE

A **Band Concert** will be given in the Village Hall on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm by the Hilgay Silver Band. Proceeds for St Mark's church.

The Parish Church's annual **Christmas Fair** will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> from 2 till 4pm.

## CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

Those members of Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church who have Children's Society collecting boxes are asked to return them to Wendy Foster at the church as soon as possible. Last year £230 was raised, and it would be nice if that total could be beaten!

Any donations in addition to the boxes would be gratefully received by Wendy.

## **JULIE'S PATCH**

**Pc Julie Coales, Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

Just recently there have been a number of purse and handbag thefts within the district. The victims of these crimes have been completely unaware at the time of the offence, and have only realised when it is too late, finding their purse or handbag is missing. The police are advising the public to be extra vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour to them, a member of staff in a shop, or if in the Horsefair, to their security officer.

If you are a victim of a purse or handbag theft, then please follow these steps below;

- Cancel any debit, credit or store cards immediately.
- Contact the Police, either by coming to the station in person or calling 0345 456 456 4, (in an emergency always dial 999).
- If a bag is stolen which contains vehicle/house keys, then ensure you make the Police aware of this, and then consider changing your locks.
- To help prevent becoming a victim of purse or handbag theft, please follow this advice;
- Do not carry your PIN numbers in your purse.
- Do not leave your bag unattended.
- Keep your bag closed and close to the front of your body at all times.
- If possible, try not to carry large amounts of cash around with you.
- Keep only the bare essentials in your handbag, and try not to have anything with your home address on it within your bag.

If you need to contact me Tele 0345 456 4564 x3799 or e-mail me at [julie.coales@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:julie.coales@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

## **FENLAND TANG SOO DO'S SUCCESS IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Members of the Fenland Tang Soo Do have enjoyed success at the bi-annual European Championships held in Cambridge. Britain was chosen as the host country to celebrate the 25 years the GB TSD has been with the World Tang Soo Do Association.

Fenland members were successful in several categories securing nine trophies. Nik Watson gained a bronze in weapons and forms, Liz Watson, bronze in forms and silver in sparring, Alex Watson bronze in weapons, Harry Pratt, bronze in forms, Paul Schofield, bronze in sparring, and Trevor Dewey, silver in sparring and gold in forms.

Mr Schofield paid tribute to the dedication and commitment of his students who had worked extremely hard preparing for the Europeans and representing their country. He remarked "They are a credit to their club and the Association".

Everyone is now looking forward to being selected for the Great Britain team for the World Championships to be held next year in the USA.

The Fenland Tang Soo Do Karate Club train each Monday from 6.30pm to 8pm at Wisbech St Mary school, and on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Leverington school. Details from Mr Jack Schofield, 01354 694061 or visit [www.fenlandtangsoodo.org.uk](http://www.fenlandtangsoodo.org.uk)

## **GOREFIELD PRE-SCHOOL GETS NEW BUILDING**

Gorefield Pre-School is to have a new building. They have secured a grant to enable them to have a new Portakabin Lilliput Nursery built on the current site. The present sessions will be run as normal from the Village Hall and Bowls Club until the building work is completed in February 2010.

Lucy Turner, chairperson of the pre-school commented "We would like to thank everyone in the village for their support over the years, and especially the Village Hall and Bowls Club for kindly allowing us to use their facilities. All the fundraising that has been done over the years is going to help with furnishing the new building and also to give the children a fantastic new outdoor play area".

## **ATTENTION ALL DOG OWNERS**

### **A statement from Parson Drove Amenities '95**

"The Amenities Committee have recently received reports from local residents that some dog owners are throwing their dog waste into the hedges around the sides of the playing field, and in one instance placed a bag on the metal fence surrounding the oil tank. We do not wish to stop dog owners exercising their dogs, but, if this practice persists, we shall have no alternative but to ban all dog owners from using the playing field, in the interests of health and safety.

Alan Killingworth, Chairman."

## **COLLECTORS' BOOT SALE**

Collectors' Table Top/Car Boot Sales are to be held on Saturdays 7th and 21st of November at The Woodmans Cottage Pub, Gorefield.

Stallholders 10.00am; Public entry 11.00am. Undercover £5 per table, Cars £4 per pitch. Tables and Pitches MUST be booked in advance on 01945 870387 or 07918122217. Toilets and refreshments available. No outside food or drink allowed. Money raised will go to the Gorefield Playing Field Association

## **PARSON DROVE LITTER PICK**

The Street Pride Group at Parson Drove invites their supporters to join them for a Litter Pick on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>, meeting at the Cage at 10am. New volunteers always welcome.

## **NEW VICAR FOR ST PETER'S**

The Bishop of Ely is pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Paul West as Priest-in-Charge of St Peter and St Paul's church, Wisbech.

Paul is currently Assistant Curate at St John's Dee Why in the Diocese of Sydney, Australia, and will take up his ministry in Wisbech in the New Year.

He is married to Sally and they have two children Jessica (14) and Dylan (8).

## GOREFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

### A trip to see Jacqueline Wilson

We went to Boston Stump and saw one of the most successful children's authors, Jacqueline Wilson. She created the cheeky crazy girl, Tracy Beaker. Tracy is very successful and is on T.V. There have been many series made up about Tracy and they have been a big hit. Jacqueline Wilson arrived at the Stump at approx 2pm when she made a long speech about her life. She has sold over 25,000 books but has written 96. We all gathered together to hear what she had to say about her latest book *Hetty Feather*. It was set in the Victorian times but is about true life like many of her books. We waited till she had finished what she had to say and then we queued up to get our books signed. She asked us our name and then we had a chance to ask her a question too. We all had a smashing time and really enjoyed seeing Jacqueline Wilson.

**Imogen Bell Yr 6**

### SCHOOL SPONSORED WALK

#### A report by Kate Goy aged 7

"On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September the children of Gorefield Primary School did a sponsored walk to raise money for the school, pool and library. We had to dress up as something sporty. Key stage 2 had to walk round the field 30 times! But Key stage 1 only went round 15 times! Half way through you got a ticket so we could get a drink. At the end of the walk you got another ticket so you could get a biscuit. We raised lots of money, over £600, and we all had lots of fun and got fit too!"

### ANGLIA ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS LTD & the SWAN INN, Parson Drove

#### An apology

Unfortunately an error occurred during the production of the October issue of *Village Voices* which caused the advertisement of Anglia Electrical Installations Ltd to be replaced by one for the Swan Inn, Parson Drove.

We apologise to the two companies for any inconvenience they may have experienced.

On Saturday October 3rd, I and another 24 children went to see Jacqueline Wilson, a famous author who specialises in children's books. We got off the coach at Boston Stump to collect our wristbands. We had to arrive early, as only the first one hundred and fifty people who went through the door would get their books signed. Once we got in, there was a shop selling Jacqueline Wilson books. Around 400 people came to the event. When Jacqueline Wilson came in, the air was filled with whooping and cheering. After that she gave us an interesting speech about her lifestyle, of growing up and how she got to be a famous author. The speech lasted for ¾ of an hour then she signed our books, it was a very long queue and it took quite a bit of time. Finally it was my turn. I asked Jacqueline Wilson a couple of questions like what gave you inspiration to write your books? I told her about my story I had written while she was signing my books. Everybody in my class who went thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Overall I thought I had a good day.

**Rohan Rastogi Yr 5**

*Village Voices* is always pleased to receive news from our village schools, particularly when reported by children themselves. Please send news of events or outings, etc to [paynewsm@btinternet.com](mailto:paynewsm@btinternet.com)

### ACTIVITIES AT PARSON DROVE

**Short Mat Bowls Club** meets in the Village Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays, 2pm to 4.30pm. Each 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 9.45am to 10.45am 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.

### CONTENTMENT

I'm the richest man in Murrow  
In case you haven't heard  
To those of you who know me  
well

This may sound quite absurd  
I don't have to own a fortune  
To show that I'm well off  
So weigh up all your assets  
Before you start to scoff.

My home is in the countryside  
Where the air is fresh and  
clean

I can look out of my windows  
And see a world of green.  
I can walk out in my garden  
And hear the birds all sing  
And watch the trees and  
flowers  
Burst into life each Spring.

I can see the sunrise, if I'm up  
Then at the close of day  
I can watch the glorious sunset  
As it gently fades away  
I've got friends I can depend  
on  
And kids of which I am proud  
And a wife I love to pieces  
Well, as much as I'm allowed!

Its true I have my worries  
And yes, I have my fears  
But I'm blessed with health  
and humour  
In the twilight of my years  
I don't have to win the lottery  
To satisfy my greed  
I'm the richest man in Murrow  
Because I've got all I need.

Colin Gedney.

### MURROW 200 CLUB WINNERS

Justin Randall - Downham Market  
G Lewton - Murrow  
B Bennington - Wisbech St Mary  
J Barnes - Murrow  
G Clear - Murrow  
D Almey - Wisbech  
N Court - Wisbech St Mary  
R Patrick - Parson Drove  
M Hunter - Wisbech  
T Barnes - Wisbech  
P Barnes - Murrow  
E Southwood - Murrow  
**The £100 winners** were :-  
G Chapman - Murrow  
J Boor - Parson Drove

## NEWS FROM THE PUBS

### Woodman's Cottage

After the last couple of years of uncertainty most people will join in welcoming Adam to Gorefield and wish him well in his endeavours to make the Woodman's Cottage Pub and Restaurant one of the best in the area.

Maggie is back on a part-time basis, although she is supervising all the cooking, including her "Specials."

Adam has welcomed the members of the Over 60's Lunch Club back to resume their monthly meal and get-together. He is preparing the Stable Bar to be used as a Youth Club, and has other schemes to bring the community together.

### The Swan Inn

The Swan Inn at Parson Drove is under new management. As the kitchen is currently being refurbished no food is available, but the Inn is open Monday to Thursdays 5 till 11, Friday 12 – 2 and 4 – 11, Saturday 12 – 12 and Sunday 12 – 10.

Real Ales are served, and the friendly atmosphere is enhanced by monthly live music sessions.

*Village Voices* welcomes news from pubs and restaurants in our villages. Please contact [paynewsm@btinternet.com](mailto:paynewsm@btinternet.com)

## PRIZE BINGO AT MURROW

Murrow Primary School are holding a Prize Bingo evening, with excellent prizes, in the school on Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Doors will open at 6.30 and "eyes down" at 7.30pm.

There will be a raffle and refreshments Everyone welcome

### **CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU**

CAB personnel will be in attendance at the Pavilion, Parson Drove Sports Field, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm on Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **LEVERINGTON CHARITY FEOFFEEES**

(Charity Number 232526)

(Help for those in the Parishes of Leverington & Gorefield who are in need, hardship or distress)

The Trustees of the Leverington Charity Feoffees invite applications from senior citizens, widows and widowers who have been resident in the Parishes for the last 4 years.

Application forms can be collected from the Post Offices at Leverington and Gorefield or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Clerk: Mrs R J Gagen, 78 High Road, Gorefield, Wisbech, PE13 4NB. All completed application forms must be returned to the clerk by 20th November 2009

### **JOHN BEND'S UNITED CHARITIES PARSON DROVE**

Parishioners of Parson Drove, who are over 65 and have lived in the parish for 5 years or more, are invited to apply for the annual grant. Grants are available for anyone not working and who are experiencing problems with living costs, etc.

Because in the fall in interest rates, money is limited this year, and the above criteria will be adhered to. Proof of income may be required.

Everyone must apply for an application form, which must be returned by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009, from the Clerk, Mrs T Jarvis, Swan Bridge Farm, Fen Road, Parson Drove, PE13 4JP. Telephone 01945 700697.

### **THE CrimeBUSTer IS COMING!**

The Safer Fenland Partnership CrimeBUSTer is in the area in the next three weeks. Residents are invited to drop in to discuss crime and disorder concerns.

The dates are: WSM Station Road: October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Parson Drove Village Hall: October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Thorney Toll: November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The bus will be open from 3pm to 6.30pm at each venue.

### **JOHN BEND'S CHARITY Wisbech St Mary**

Applications are invited from needy persons who have been resident in the parish of Wisbech St Mary for six years for inclusion on the Dole List. Those people already on the List need not apply.

Application Forms, which must be returned **by October 30<sup>th</sup>**, can be obtained by applying to the Clerk, Mrs D Prescott, 15 Hillside Road, March, Cambs., PE15 8EX.

### **MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE**

The locations, stops and arrival times are:

Alternate Tuesdays:- <b>Nov 3th 17th Dec 1st</b>	Alternate Wednesdays:- <b>Nov 4th 18th Dec 2nd</b>	Alternate Fridays:- <b>Oct 30th Nov 13th 27th</b>
Murrow Station Ave 10.30	Gorefield 15.15	Rings End March Road, 10.00
Murrow Front Rd Paddocks 10.55	School 15.40	Guyhirn Selwyn Corner 10.25
Parson Drove The Bank 11.15	Post Office 15.55	Bunkers Hill Lay-bye 10.45
Parson Drove Newlands Corner 11.40	Mill Height 15.55	WSM Cannon Close 11.05
Parson Drove Henlow Farm 12.10		WSM Church Road 11.30
		WSM Blundell Terr 11.55
		Lev Common Pear Tree Cres 12.15
		Guyhirn Chapelfield Av 15.20
Enquiries: at <a href="http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library">www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library</a> or 0345 045 5225		

Useful contacts			
<b>Churches</b>		<b>Schools</b>	<b>Health &amp; Security</b>
Revd Matthew Bradbury	410814	Gorefield School	870321
Lilian Brigden (Reader)	450481	Gorefield Pre-school	870439
Revd Nigel Hannah [Methodist]	466426	Guyhirn School	450247
<b>Village Halls (bookings)</b>		Murrow School	700357
Gorefield	870829	Murrow Pre School	07754758332
Guyhirn	450835	Payne School Parson Drove	700275
Murrow	700212	Parson Drove Pre-School	07880 606450
Parson Drove	700729	WSM School	410312
Thorney Toll	07887754869	WSM Play Group	07944 719586
	or 07961957878		
WSM Village Hall	410539	<b>Police (non-emergency)</b>	<b>0345 456 4564</b>
			Parson Drove Surgery
			700223
			North Cambs Hospital
			585781
			Queen Elizabeth Hospital
			01553 613613
			P. Drove Surgery Car Service
			07766534280
			WSM Community Car Scheme
			07592407283
			Gorefield Social Car Scheme
			01945 870539
			Childline
			0800 1111
			Drugs Helpline
			0800 776600
			Fenland District Council
			11101354654321
			Samaritans
			08457909090
			Victim supportline
			08453030900

## *Voices Past* "WINFREY" WESTON OF GUYHIRN

In the misty light of a November morning in 1919 a large Ford van eased its way into the Old Market at Wisbech and came to a halt. The twenty people who scrambled out of the back were the first bus passengers into the town. Ninety years later, it is difficult to realise that there was no such thing as a bus service. If you wanted to travel anywhere in rural areas it usually meant plenty of walking, a ride on horseback, or a journey in a pony and trap. The owner of the chocolate-coloured van was Mr HERBERT WESTON

Born at Guyhirn in 1879, Herbert started life as a farm worker, but soon found this irksome. He saved carefully and put aside every half-crown he could until he had thirty pounds, quite a considerable sum for a young man earning only thirteen shillings a week. This he spent on a horse and van and set himself up as a carrier in 1915. By more thrift, Mr Weston was able to invest in a motor van a few years later. Communication between Guyhirn and Wisbech was difficult and many people had to walk the six miles along the river bank into the town and then walk back. Mr Weston discovered there was plenty of room in his van after he had loaded the goods to be carried, so he installed some wooden seats along the sides and charged one shilling and six pence for the return journey which he made on Thursdays and Saturdays. There was room for twenty people but often the van bulged with many more, in addition to crates of farm produce and live poultry stacked on the roof.

Mr Weston did more than drive the vehicle, he did the shopping for most people in Guyhirn. They gave him lists of their requirements and he would purchase them in Wisbech. He charged twopence a parcel, a price present-day housewives would jump at. His heavy moustache and leather gaiters became a familiar sight in almost every food shop in the town, and he was no stranger to the drapers, where he would have to order yards of material for new dresses or curtains for villagers. Very often he would go to a bank and draw as much as one hundred pounds for a fruit grower to pay wages during the fruit-picking season. Punctually at a quarter to three his van would move out of the Market Place to begin the slow journey back to Guyhirn. At Christmas time the seven miles road trip often took more than five hours as deliveries had to

be made to almost every house along the route.

Early in 1920 Mr Weston started the first bus service into Peterborough from Guyhirn. This ran every Wednesday and passengers paid two shillings and sixpence for the twenty-eight miles return journey. By this time the appearance of the Ford van had changed. Windows had been put in the sides, and it bore some resemblance to a bus, although its oil lamps chain-driven back wheels with solid tyres belonged to an age when horse-drawn vehicles were still regarded with favour by those who insisted upon reliability. Business prospered and Mr Weston started a coal-merchants round. He bought a new vehicle, which he used to cart coal and passengers! This may sound a strange combination but he simply removed the back of the lorry after he had finished the coal round and replaced it with a coach body. Even so, the old Ford was not pensioned off. It was turned into a travelling fish and chip shop and soon became a welcome sight in the surrounding villages.

During this time, Herbert still made a point of saving his half-crowns; he wanted to build a house. One of his bills to a timber merchant was for one hundred pounds, so he took along a sack containing what he thought was 800 half-crowns in payment. These were taken to a nearby bank and weighed, and it was discovered that there was a slight discrepancy. A count revealed that the bag contained one half-crown too many, and this was returned to Mr Weston.

But Mr Weston no longer had the road to himself. Other bus operators came into being and there was fierce competition on the routes. It soon got to the stage where buses were racing one another to villages to pick up all the passengers and, consequently, all the business. For this

reason Mr Weston gradually withdrew from the scene and in 1928 he moved north to Leeds where he remained for more than six years. He then returned to Guyhirn and became a market-gardener, and remained so until his retirement in 1945.

His father William, another well-known figure in Guyhirn until his death in 1912, was a small-holder. A staunch Liberal, he had the distinction of being the second councillor for Wisbech St Mary on the Isle of Ely County Council, which came into being only three years before his election. In the closing years of the last century, his young son Herbert was already establishing himself in Guyhirn as the seller of the "Peterborough Echo" which was published every Friday. It was owned by Sir Richard Winfrey, founder of the East Midland Allied Press, and the broadsheet was popularly known as "Winfrey's Echo".

Sir Richard's surname soon replaced Herbert as Mr Weston's first name. To one and all he was known as "Winfrey" Weston, and had some difficulty in convincing the local parson otherwise at his first marriage to Fanny Peach Balding in 1901.

Fanny died in 1923. Herbert later married another local girl, Ivy Newton, and settled down for the rest of his working life in his small bungalow in the centre of the village. When he retired they moved to Wisbech where he had made such an impact twenty six years before. During the remaining eight years of his life he enjoyed recounting his adventures with his vehicles and playing bowls. He died peacefully on 10th July 1953.

"Winfrey" was always surrounded by people; he was one of fifteen children born to William and Hannah Weston of Guyhirn. He was the great-uncle of the author of this article.