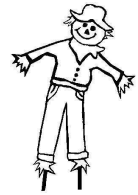


Village Voices

September 2010



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!

ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY Rings End 150

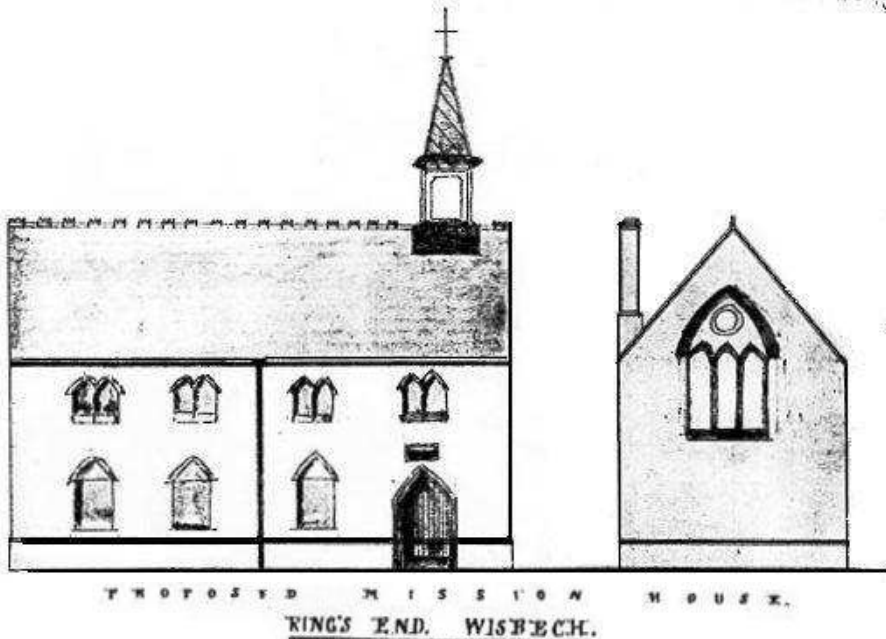


Image courtesy of Wisbech & Fenland Museum

Having recently drawn attention to the building of Guyhirn Chapel of Ease 350 years ago, there is another local anniversary which should not be overlooked. Just over the river from the Chapel is the former Mission House and School in Rings End, which opened in October 1860.

The vicar of Wisbech, Rev W B Hoskins, had just raised £5000 for the restoration of St Peter & St Paul's church, Wisbech, and was worried as to how he would raise a further £300 to build a Mission House at Rings End, which was at the very edge of his parish. In a note which accompanied the plans for the new building, he wrote

"The parish of Wisbech St Peter and St Paul is about eleven miles in length, and contains a population of about 11,000. The bulk of this population resides in the town, which is at the northern extremity; but the narrow strip of fenland which extends in a south-westerly direction for nine miles, contains a scattered population of about 500 souls. Rings End, six miles from the parish church, is a little hamlet, and the inhabitants have long been most anxious that the services of the Church of England might be brought to them since they are so far

from their own church, five miles from Elm, five from March, and four from Wisbech St Mary's church. The nearest Church of England place of worship being Guyhirne Chapel, from which they are separated by the tidal river Nene, which can only be crossed by a ferry boat. Accordingly, for nearly three years a service has been held by the vicar of Wisbech, or his curates, every Sunday morning in a barn in summer, and a house in winter. A school, too, is very much needed. It is therefore proposed to build a Mission House on a site given by one of the landowners, which shall be used as a schoolroom on weekdays, and a church on Sundays. The downstairs floor providing a residence for a schoolmistress, and a private room for the clergyman.

The estimated expense is £300".

The foundation stone of the Mission Church and School was laid on July 7th, and the building was opened on October 19th 1860. Mr Hoskins would have been pleased to know that over £500 was subscribed, which met the contractor's final charge of £503!

More on this anniversary in next month's Village Voices.

Vicar's Verbals

Isn't technology a wonderful thing? Several years ago, while Sarah and I were on a city-break in Brussels, our oldest son, then a student, rang Sarah's mobile phone to tell us 'its alright now, I'm out of hospital'. I won't bore you with the details (one beer too many it seems) but you can imagine it took a while for our pulses to stop racing. The same son suddenly appeared 'on line' on Sarah's Facebook page last week to tell us that he had safely arrived in Doha airport en route to Kenya - but disaster! - he couldn't take a picture out of the hotel window because his camera kept steaming up! What he failed to tell us was that his plane had to make an emergency abort on landing because of windshear and that everyone on board had to grip their seats while the engines roared and the pilot took the plane around for another try. News from abroad reaches us so quickly these days. Dr Karen Woo's fiancée received news of her murder, in the remotest corner of Afghanistan, within a matter of hours. The disaster in Pakistan seems so remote, and yet we can see live footage of people like us drowning in sewage every evening on our TV screens. The world is a very small place; worrying messages from abroad are sometimes from loved ones, but always from our neighbours, and deserve our keenest attention. **Matthew**

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

Please email news, etc.

to paynewsm@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

ads.villagevoices@btinternet.com

Or phone Terry Brigden on 450481.

£1800 RAISED AT A GRAND SUMMER LUNCHEON AT TRAFFORD FARM

Over a hundred guests enjoyed a marvellous summer luncheon in a beautiful marquee at Trafford Farm, Wisbech St Mary, the home of Ann and Colin Desborough. A superb buffet was served by volunteers, many of whom had prepared and donated items for the occasion.

The marquee had been used the previous day on the occasion of Ann and Colin's daughter's wedding. Ann explained that whilst the marquee was there, the family wished to share it with their friends to raise money for Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn parish church. She said "The 900-year-old church is our heritage, and we must ensure it can be passed on to others in good order".

Ann and Colin were thanked by Father Matthew Bradbury for their generosity in arranging the lunch in such a "magical setting". Ticket sales, a raffle and donations raised a total of £1800 for church funds.

BELL RINGERS MAKE A JOYFUL SOUND!

Tower captain, David Appleby, is still looking for people to join the bell-ringers at Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church. David offers full training to young and older persons who would like the opportunity of being part of a team ringing one of the finest peal of bells in the district. You do not need to be a member of the church to take part. Contact David on 871308.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES 2010 Advance Notices

The Harvest Festival Service at Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church will be held on Sunday October 3rd at 11am followed by the Harvest Lunch. Harvest celebrations on Sunday October 10th at St Paul's church, Gorefield, will include a Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR CHAPEL!"

Nearly 90 children, teachers, assistants, and friends were present at a special event in Guyhirn's Chapel of Ease on July 17th to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the building of the chapel. The children, from Guyhirn C of E School, had previously visited the chapel to draw pictures of the building and its features. A selection of drawings, models, and written work were on display.

A short service was conducted by Rev Janet Phillips, during which two hymns were beautifully sung. After the service the candles on a giant birthday cake, kindly made by Mrs Barnes, a school governor, were lit and everyone sang "Happy Birthday" as loudly as they could! Everyone then blew out the candles and enjoyed a piece of the cake.

**Earlier in the same weekend the annual Thanksgiving Service was held in the presence of the president of the Friends of the Chapel, Mrs Janet Dickinson, the wife of the Rev Donald Dickinson, who fought so hard for the restoration of the chapel in the mid-1970s. The service was followed by the annual meeting of the Friends.

CONFIRMATIONS 2010: CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 8th

The Vicar is now finalising the list of those who will be joining us for confirmation this year. Confirmation classes will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning September 8th, and culminating in a Deanery Confirmation service at St Peter and St Paul Wisbech at 6.30pm on Sunday October 31st. If you, or someone you know, would like to join our (delightfully) mixed age class preparing for confirmation this year, or would like to find out more about confirmation, please contact the Vicar on 01945 410814 - or you can e-mail him at matthew.bradbury@ely.anglican.org

SOLEMN MASS AT ST MARY'S

A Solemn Mass will be held in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church on Tuesday September 14th, to celebrate the Festival of Holy Cross Day. Everyone is most welcome to this service which starts at 7pm.

+ Regular Services +	
<p>Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove: 1st Sunday in month:- 9.30am Family service. 2nd & 3rd Sundays:- 9.30am Communion. 5th Sunday:-9.30am Communion or Morning Prayer 4th Sunday:-United Service at St Mark's 10.30. Flower Rota Sept 5,12, & 19. Mrs F Flowers.</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>St Paul's Church, Gorefield: except 3rd Sunday.10.00am: Holy Communion 3rd Sunday.10.00am: Morning Worship</p>	<p>St Mark's Methodist Church Sept 5: 10.30. Mrs G Dewdney Sept 12: 9.30. United service in Parish Church. Sept 19: 10.30. Holy Comm. Revd N Hannah. Sept 26: 10.30. United Harvest Thanksgiving.</p> <p>Murrow Methodist Church Sept 5: 10.30. Revd P Dewdney. Sept 12: 10.30. Holy Comm. Revd N Hannah. Sept 19: 10.30. Miss E Middleton Sept 26: 10.30. Mr N Thompson.</p>

The Register

We welcome into the church's family

Grace and Harry Bligh, who were baptised in Emmanuel church, Parson Drove on Sunday July 18th.

James Ian Spencer, who was baptised in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church on Sunday July 25th.

Morgan Peter Sutherill, who was baptised in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church on Sunday August 8th.

Lincon Chance Douglas, who was baptised in St Paul's church, Gorefield on Sunday August 15th

We wish every happiness to

Thomas Smithee and Rebekah Desborough, who were married in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church on Saturday July 31st.

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

bbb

xxx

Jean Brownlow, whose funeral service was in St Paul's church, Gorefield, followed by burial in the churchyard, on Thursday July 22nd.

Megan Ann Embling, whose funeral service was in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church on Friday July 30th, followed by cremation at Peterborough.

Jacqueline Ann Brighton, whose funeral was at Peterborough crematorium on Monday August 2nd.

Mireille Dejong Daly, who was interred in Parson Drove churchyard on Monday August 9th, after a service at Our Lady & St Charles R C church, Wisbech.

Colin Bunn, whose funeral service was held in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church on Tuesday August 10th, followed by burial in Guyhirn churchyard.

Xxxxxxxxxx whose memorial service was held in St Paul's church, Gorefield, on Sunday August 8th.

In memoriam

Pam Ward, whose ashes were interred in Gorefield churchyard on Wednesday August 11th.

WSM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We look forward to meeting you all again at our first meeting of our 'New Year' on Thursday 9th September in the School Hall at 7pm. Our Speaker for the evening will be "?".

New members are always welcome; just come along to the school for 7pm on the second Thursday of the month.

Liz Hunt & Mary McClagish

THORNEY TOLL HARVEST FESTIVAL

The annual Harvest Festival and Auction will be held in Thorney Toll Village Hall on Saturday October 9th, starting at 7.30pm.

The organisers would be pleased to accept goods or donations for the evening. Details from Tony Coleman on 07961957878. All proceeds for the Hall upkeep fund.

WSM MOTHER'S UNION RETURNS

We return after our summer break on Tuesday September 7th when we meet in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church at 2.15pm for Holy Communion. We then move across to the Church House to hear the memories of "A Tiller Girl". Everyone most welcome to join us. **Lilian Brigden**

Obituary

COLIN BUNN

The village of Guyhirn has lost one of its most respected residents with the recent death of Colin Bunn. Colin enjoyed the friendship of countless people, not only in his home village but in the wider world of sport and local governance. His prowess on the football and cricket fields was legendary. His work for local authorities was punctuated by an unassuming professionalism second to none, always seeking to help those caught up in the tangle of rules and regulations. Colin played an important role in the civic life of the district. He was a justice of the peace and his court service was recognised when his colleagues elected him Chairman of the Bench. He also served as a parish councillor.

Never one to push himself forward, Colin Bunn quietly contributed to the life of his village with his lovely wife Rita by his side. His was a life of service for which he will long be remembered and held in great regard.

ALL ABOARD FOR THE BOATHOUSE!

The Gorefield Ladies Group visited the Wisbech Boathouse on Wednesday July 28th. It was the first wet evening for a while but it did not dampen their spirits. They were greeted by Justin Wingfield (business premises manager) who took the group to a very nice meeting room where refreshments were provided before enjoying a presentation by Clinton Dorrington, the Harbour Master. The ladies learnt about the History of the Port, the recent diversification into leisure facilities, and the Nene waterfront development.

Justin then took them on a guided tour of the boathouse, after which a question and answer session was held, Glenys Grimm thanked both Justin and Clinton and birthday wishes were extended to Margaret Tuck for July & Jean Mill for August.

The next meeting will be held on September 22nd at 7.30pm, The speaker will be Mrs J Balls with tales from her work as a Registrar of Births Deaths and marriages

COFFEE, BISCUITS AND A CHAT AT THE MART!

Don't forget the WSM Mart on Saturday September 11th (8.30-10am approx.) Home made cakes and produce and bric-a-brac will be on sale. There is time for coffee, tea, biscuits and a chat before you continue on your way. Everyone welcome!

WSM LUNCHEON CLUB

The dates for September are Tuesdays 14th and 28th. Members meet at the *Bridge Inn* at midday. If you can't attend please contact Marjorie on 410511 or the Bridge on 510555.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNINGS

Shirley & Bob Bell are holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Murrow Book Café on Friday September 17th, from 10am to 1pm. They hope that as many people as possible will go along and support them. There will be a Tombola, Raffle, home-made cakes etc, tea, and, of course, that cup of coffee!

A Macmillan Coffee morning is to be held in St Mark's church, Parson Drove, on Friday September 24th from 10am to 12 noon.

The event is hosted by Women's Institute ladies and will feature book, plants and cake stalls, together with refreshments, a raffle and, of course, that cup of coffee!

Wisbech St Mary Mother's Union will be hosting their annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Church House, opposite the church gate, on Friday September 24th from 9am to 12noon. Members hope that everyone in the village will pop in to sign their name, take part in the raffle, purchase a cake, and, of course, that cup of coffee!

THANK YOU 1

Jos Markillie and family of Parson Drove, would like to thank everyone who gave prizes and supported the fishing match in memory of Chris. Jos is pleased to announce that £900 was raised for the East Anglian Air Ambulance

THANK YOU 2

Thank you to everyone who helped to organise, or attended, Tholomas Drove Fête in July. We raised just shy of £500 pounds towards the recreation facilities on George's Field. We hope to see you again next year!

Caroline Hyden

THANK YOU 3

Many thanks again to everyone who generously donated, via boxes etc. to "The Children's Society" this year. We collected the great amount of £212.87. Thanks again to all, and also to Brenda for helping me as usual.

Daphne Twitchett

INSTITUTE LADIES DINE OUT

On Tuesday August 10th, 14 members of Parson Drove Women's Institute enjoyed an evening meal at the *Five Bells* in the village. It was a very pleasant evening with good company and delicious food.

We now embarking on our Autumn/Winter schedule with our meeting on Tuesday September 14th in St Mark's church. **Ann Payne**

THANK YOU 4

Parson Drove Amenities 95 would like to thank Roger Reader and his hard-working committee for the generous donation they made to Amenities' funds from the money raised at their annual Classic Car and Bike Show held in July.

Thankfully the weather was good, and once again the show was a great success. **Alan Killingworth, Chairman**

MURROW'S AUTUMN FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

The autumn open flower and vegetable show will be held in Murrow Village Hall on Saturday September 4th.

Schedules available now from:- Mrs M Woollard - Roseacre, Front Road, Murrow. 700673.

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING CLASSES

Anyone who has often thought they would like to paint in watercolour has an opportunity to acquire those skills when watercolour painting classes recommence in Gorefield Village Hall on Tuesday September 14th.

Call Mike or Diana on 870411 to book your place, or to get more details of this friendly class and excellent tuition.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2010

Historic buildings across Fenland will be open to the public at the weekend of 10th to 12th September, as part of a scheme which celebrates our architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Included in the list of local buildings which is obtainable from the Town Hall, Wisbech, (583263), is Guyhirn's Chapel of Ease.

JULIE'S PATCH

Pc Julie Coales, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Recently a number of search warrants have been executed in the Wisbech Sector which have been reported by the media. The Police have also executed between 15-20 search warrants in the Wisbech area in the last 2-3 months which haven't been in the news. Most of the search warrants have been in relation to drugs or stolen property. So how do we consider a search warrant?

The Police consider the information or intelligence they have about a person or location. How much do we have? What is the quality or reliability of it?

We apply to a magistrate for a warrant using the intelligence/information we have. The magistrate has to be satisfied about a number of criteria before granting a warrant. Sometimes the gathering of information can take weeks or months.

The Police rely upon the public to report suspicious activity etc. You know what is happening in your neighbourhood. Sometimes people don't report things because they believe their details will be revealed. Information given to the Police is confidential and the informant details are never divulged. Another excuse is that "it doesn't seem important enough" or "others have done it"

There are many ways of providing the Police with information....a phone call, a visit to the Police Station, a letter, a note stuck on my windscreen, an e-mail or contact Crimestoppers.(0800 555 111)

Another way is by signing up to ecops www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops

Keep reporting and don't forget to visit the Crimebuster bus when it is in your area.

You can contact me by phone 0345 456 4564x3799 or e-mail me at julie.coales@cambs.pnn.police.uk

IS THERE ANYBODY THERE?

After an unplanned break of nearly 5 years Gorefield Theatre Group are back in action again. Rehearsals are moving on a pace in preparation for the staging of *IS THERE ANYBODY THERE?* a comedy by Anne Knight. The group will be performing from the 13th to 16th October inclusive at Wisbech St Mary Sports and Community Centre. Tickets will be on sale in September and will be priced at £6 with concessions for group bookings. For more details and ticket sales please contact Marie on 01945 410436.

STREET PRIDE DATES

The next Street Pride Litter Pick in Parson Drove will take place on Saturday September 18th, meeting at the Cage at 10am. On Monday September 27th a meeting of the Parson Drove Group will be held at the Cage at 7.30pm. Gorefield's first Litter Pick is Saturday September 25th, meeting at the Playing Field car park at 10am. Volunteers in each village very welcome.

SUNSHINE CLUB HEARS ABOUT COMPUTER LEARNING

Murrow Sunshine Club has held meetings in July and August. Mr and Mrs Wykes were congratulated on the occasion of their 62nd wedding anniversary. At the August meeting we welcomed our new member Mrs Margaret Best. A representative from Cambridgeshire County Council gave a talk on computer learning, and offered local facilities at the Murrow Book Café on laptops. Birthdays being celebrated in August were announced for Mr Skinner and Mrs D Benstead.

The club is looking forward to its outing to Skegness shortly.

D Ralf. Hon Secretary.

CITIZENS ADVICE AT PARSON DROVE

The Citizens Advice Bureau are resuming monthly sessions at Parson Drove pavilion on Tuesday afternoons at 1.30pm. However, advisers will only attend if it is known in advance that there will be clients for them to see.

Sessions are planned for September 28th, October 26th and November 23rd. Anyone wishing to arrange a consultation should telephone 01945 474926 not later than the Monday before each session.

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

A FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA!

A fashion show is being held at Gorefield Village Hall on Friday September 17th. It is a Chainstore clothing clearance sale and fashion show extravaganza! Bargain clothes for all seasons will be available, clothes will range from smart to casual, prices will range from £1.99 to £29.99, with many garments only £4.99 and £7.99. Ages range from 16-60+, sizes range from 8-24.

Doors will open at 7pm and the show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £2 in advance or £2.50 on the door. For tickets and details contact Liz Rowell on 07787 917252. All proceeds are in aid of Gorefield Pre-School.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF VEHICLES BREAKING THE SPEED LIMITS?

Are you concerned with speeding motorists in your neighbourhood? Do you want to help reduce the amount of vehicles breaking the speed limits? Wisbech neighbourhood policing team are continuing to combat the issue of speeding on rural roads with the Speedwatch scheme. They will be in our local neighbourhoods over the coming weeks and months with their radar equipment, focusing on areas that have been subject to repeated and ongoing problems with speeding. If you would like to assist during the Speedwatch event in any village, volunteers who can donate a couple of hours of spare time are very welcome. If you wish to play an active part in helping to make your streets safer and would like to volunteer, please contact PCSO Martin Bogunovic at Wisbech police station on 0345 456 4564.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BELL

Dawn and I would like to say a big thank you to every one who made our first year's anniversary celebration and charity event a success on Saturday 31st August. This event brought a grand total of £1,450, which we raised during the past twelve months for Macmillan nurses. A big thank you must go to Keith and friends, Neil, the two Steves for doing the BBQ, Sid & Roger for going round with the raffle tickets, Dave Pile, Dave Read, Lorraine for doing the Bowls competition, Fay & Alice, and to all our customers, whom we regard as friends.

Andy Kedziora, *The Bell*, Murrow.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SWAN

Angie and Mark have written from the "Swan Inn" Parson Drove to say that they have now been at the public house for a year. They celebrated on August 4th with a fun day with music at night. Angie and Mark wish to thank everyone who attended and made their day so enjoyable. Food is now being served from Monday to Friday 7pm to 9pm; Saturday 12noon to 2pm and 7pm to 9pm; Wednesday 6pm to 9pm is steak night with all the trimmings for £8.95. No food on Sundays at present. Customers old and new will be made very welcome. Angie and Mark will be pleased to accommodate special occasions and functions, such as birthdays, retirements or funerals. They can be contacted on 700291.

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS AT HUNSTANTON ARTS FESTIVAL

George Frost explains all

Our little group took a play that was written by Jemma Matten who lives and works in Wisbech. The play was called Sebastian. As this was an original play, written but never performed before an audience prior to the Hunstanton Festival, we were hoping that we could win something in that category. Unfortunately we did not win any silver but we were commended as a group for our presentation and one young lady, Bethany Amps, was nominated for best youth actress.

This was the first time that Bethany had been on a professional stage: she did very well to be nominated. Competition was very strong within the youth section and there were some outstanding presentations. Unfortunately, we are unable to enter the youth section as we are unable to raise interest in forming a youth group. We would love to have a youth group, anyone interested? Anyway we had a lovely weekend the weather was brilliant and the whole festival was very exciting. Well worth all the effort!

I have been going to The Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts for over twenty years and find that the Drama Part of this festival is the best part for me. I started with The Wilburton Players and then went with the Gorefield Players. In the last ten years I have been associated with the Parson Drove Players. The group then changed their name to The Village Players. It was as this group that we finally managed to gain an award for the Best Youth Actress. This was awarded to Laura Watson for her part in the play "The Strawberry Tea".

So what is this all about? In the drama section, amateur groups from anywhere can enter with an adult group or a youth group or with a mixture of adults and youth. The plays can be well known plays from established authors or an original play, which has not been performed in front of an audience before.

It is also possible to perform part of a play as an entry as well.

The plays are restricted to 50 minutes. This includes the setting up of the scene and the striking of the scenery. What actually happens is, the curtains are opened onto an empty stage. The curtains are then closed and the time starts. The group presenting the play now set the scenery and the play commences. At the end of the play the curtains are closed and the stage is emptied, when the curtains open again on an empty stage the time stops.

Other rules are that there should be at least three actors in each play and each play must run for at least 25 minutes. There are other restrictions but the groups will be told them when they enter.

Is it all worth it for 50 minutes? A lot of groups think so. We get a lot of fun out of it all plus the chance of picking up a trophy. Yes there is usually three months before, when we start rehearsing seriously and then the technical side of things to consider; the costumes, make up, music and other special effects. It is liken to putting on a full production that only has the one performance, although in our case we do like to do another performance for the villagers around us giving them a tea afterwards. Sadly this year we were unable to do that. Never mind there is always next year.

Does the idea of amateur dramatics appeal to you? As a group we are always trying to put on plays or pantomimes. Our biggest problem is getting people to join us. At the moment we are aiming to get an adult group together to see if we can put on a play in one of the village halls. Do you have time for this activity? Please let me know on 01945 870213.

TEN MORE 200 CLUB WINNERS AT MURROW

T Brown - Parson Drove
D Johnson - Peterborough
I Harrison - Murrow
P Fryett - Murrow
N Boor - Parson Drove

G Chapman - Murrow
Mrs Bell - Murrow
Mrs J Barnes - Murrow
Mr Collins - Murrow
Mrs Searle - Murrow

SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

A diverse range of selected work by talented artists will be exhibited at the Wisbech and Fenland Museum from August 7th until September 18th. The exhibition is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

An Opening Reception was held on August 6th from 7pm to 9pm, with live music, a raffle and a buffet supper. For information visit www.atelier-east.co.uk

APPLE DAY AGAIN AT WILLOCK

Apple Day at Willock Farm, Rummers Lane, Wisbech St Mary, is on September 18th from 10am to 4pm. Everyone is invited to take a guided walk around the 22 acre organic orchard. Apple identification, apples and juice for sale.

GARDEN SHOW AND BEER FESTIVAL

A Garden Show and Craft Fair will be held at Elgoods Brewery Gardens on Sunday September 5th from 10am to 4pm. From September 30th to October 3rd Elgoods are holding a Beer Festival at the North Brink Brewery from 10am to 4pm each day. Details: 583160.

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.

COME AND MAKE A BUG HOTEL FOR YOUR GARDEN

If you have ever wanted to find out how you can save money on your energy bills, make your own compost or buy fresh local food, this could be your chance. Parson Drove residents, Fenland District Council and the Energy Saving Trust are working together to make Parson Drove the first Green Community in Fenland.

The village is hosting a Greener Living Fair on Saturday September 11th at the village hall from 11am-2pm. Everyone is invited to attend and use pedal power to make your own smoothie or make a bug hotel for your garden. There will be something for all ages and a chance to buy ethical and fair trade products.

Green Communities is a national programme from the Energy Saving Trust that aims to support, facilitate and promote community action. It exists to help you make a success of your ideas. So if you are as keen to be green as they are this could be your opportunity to speak about the environmental issues that are important to you and what actions you would like to take to make a difference in Parson Drove or your village.

If you require further information please contact Isabel Edgington on 01354 602167 or iedgington@fenland.gov.uk

NEW SEASON OF BINGO! AT PARSON DROVE

There will be Bingo sessions in Parson Drove Village Hall on September 2nd, October 21st, and November 4th.

Doors open 6.30pm for 7.30pm start. Proceeds for Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.

SEPTEMBER CAR BOOT SALES

There are to be Car Boot Sales on the Wolf Lane playing field, Gorefield on Saturdays 4th and 25th September. Booters 0730am. Toilets and refreshments available, Contact numbers: 01945 870387 or 07918122217.

Voices Past

AN UNCOMFORTABLE NIGHT IN THE FENS

In September 1663 Samuel Pepys, the diarist, was in Cambridgeshire over a dispute about his uncle Robert's will. At the same time, and not a man given to wasting an opportunity, he went to Wisbech to investigate the chances of benefiting from the estate of another relative who had died in 1649. After a days ride in the fens, Pepys wrote "....we got by night, with a great deal of stir and hard riding to Parsons drove, a heathen place, where I found my uncle and aunt Perkins and their daughters, poor wretches, in a sad poor thatched cottage,, like a poor barne or stable, peeling of Hemp (in which I did give myself good content to see their manner of preparing the hemp) and in a poor condition of habitt; took them to our miserable home"

Later that evening they were told that one of their horses had been stolen "which proves my uncles, at which I was inwardly glad; I mean, that it was not mine"

After a dispiriting evening, enlivened only by a brief interlude with an "indifferent handsome maid", Pepys retired to be woken with the news that the horse was found. During the night he "was bit cruelly....by the gnatts".

This short entry encapsulates so much of the fascination of Pepys' diary which he wrote between 1660 and 1669. In Parson Drove he would have been aware of the thirteenth century church of St John the Baptist. If he were to venture inside today, he would be adequately protected from *the gnatts* by a large colony of long-eared bats now resident in the church!

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.*

CONCERNS RAISED AT WSM PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Among items raised by parishioners at the Annual Assembly of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council were

- Trees being cut back by a person unknown along the footpath near Murrow Church between Back Road and Front Road.
- Concerns regarding plans to build 12 houses, 6 in Back Road and 6 in Front Road, Murrow, and that this would increase traffic on to already congested roads.
- Information requested concerning recycling credits distributed to the three schools.
- Trees overhanging footpaths in High Road, Guyhirn.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council followed the Parish Assembly and Coun Mrs D Thrower was elected as Chairman and Coun B Payne as Vice Chairman for the ensuing twelve months.

People ask...

What is a Gote?

A Gote, as in Tydd Gote or Four Gotes, is an ancient word for a channel of water. It is thought to be a corruption of "go out". Four Gotes was where the Wisbech Drain, Leverington High Lode, Newton Lode, and Tydd Main Drain originally discharged into the river Nene.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE OLDER PEOPLE'S FORUM (COPE)

COPE is a self-help Forum and registered Charity run by a small team of volunteers, that speaks up on issues affecting the over 50's. COPE currently has a registered individual membership of over 2,566 living in Cambridgeshire. Membership is free. COPE informs members with regular free Newsletters, and Forums with keynote speakers and a "Question Time" sessions. COPE aims to alleviate loneliness, promote active ageing and encourages isolated members to attend social events.

COPE's research team have produced easy to read leaflets with local information on Benefits, Bereavement, Elder Abuse, Homecare, Housing, Medication, Pensions, Personal Safety, Public Transport, and Useful Local Telephone Numbers.

People join COPE to meet like minded people with similar interests; to go on organised trips to theatre, shows and other places of interest for educational or just fun to attend local venues for scrabble, quiz, pub lunch and walks. Also available are monthly newsletters full of information and interesting articles, in simple language and no jargon – a good easy read – with recipes, jokes – a very informative 'Did you know' corner and general interaction with membership through the snippets page

For more details contact COPE on 01223 364303.

OPEN CAMBRIDGE WEEKEND 2010

Open Cambridge Weekend (Friday 10th to Sunday 12th September) is a weekend of free tours, talks and open access in which visitors are encouraged to explore the city's spectacular architecture, fantastic art collections and beautiful gardens. Take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to push open the doors to some of Cambridge's most historic and often mysterious buildings, and find out about what goes on behind the University and College walls. Amongst the many free tours, talks and open access events on offer this year, Open Cambridge is pleased to welcome a number of new City venues to the programme, which offers people the chance to discover the history of the city. For more information, to book tours or to order a programme, call: 01223 766766 or visit: www.cam.ac.uk/opencambridge

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
Websites: www.gorefield.com	Police (non-emergency) 0345 456 4564	Samaritans 08457909090
www.wisbechstmary.org.uk	www.guyhirn-online.org.uk	Victim supportline 08453030900

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

The locations, stops and arrival times are:

<p>Alternate Tuesdays:-September 7th and 21st.</p> <p>Murrow Station Ave 10.30</p> <p>Murrow Front Rd Paddocks 10.55</p> <p>Parson Drove The Bank 11.15</p> <p>Parson Drove Newlands Corner 11.40</p> <p>Parson Drove Henlow Farm 12.10</p>	<p>Alternate Wednesdays:-September 8th and 22nd.</p> <p><u>Gorefield</u></p> <p>School 15.15</p> <p>Post Office 15.40</p> <p>Mill Height 15.55</p>	<p>Alternate Fridays:- September 3rd and 17th</p> <p>Rings End March Road, 10.00</p> <p>Guyhirn Selwyn Corner 10.25</p> <p>Bunkers Hill Lay-bye 10.45</p> <p>WSM Cannon Close 11.05</p> <p>WSM Church Road 11.30</p> <p>WSM Blundell Terr 11.55</p> <p>Lev Common Pear Tree Cres 12.15</p> <p>Guyhirn Chapelfield Av 15.20</p>
<p>Enquiries: at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library Or Tel. 0345 045 5225</p>		