

Village Voices

September 2011



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

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

NEW EXTENSION PLANNED FOR EMMANUEL CHURCH

A planning application to provide an extension for the Grade II listed Emmanuel Church at Parson Drove has been submitted to Fenland District Council.

The proposal is to take down and convert part of the former boiler house at the west end of the church to provide a toilet, and an extension that will create a link to the main body of the church.

Cambridge architects Purcell Miller Tritton point out that "there is currently no toilet within the church, the nearest convenience being in the church hall which is unsuitable for use. It is also non compliant with current disability discrimination requirements." Emmanuel church has a thriving ministry for baptism, weddings and funerals: a significant local funeral will often fill the church. To sustain worship for church members and to make it inviting to new worshippers modern facilities are essential.

Part demolition of the boiler house will involve reducing its height which is intrusive to the west elevation of the church. A new lobby will be built next to it and the existing Gothic door set in a brick arch with decorative metal hinges and handle will be retained for access.

"The impact of the proposal on the heritage asset is minimal with an aesthetical gain over the existing arrangements," add the architects.

Something Special Not To Be Missed at St John the Baptist

On Sunday 4th September at 5pm an invited choir will lead a festival choral evensong in the ancient church of St John the Baptist, Church End, Parson Drove. This will be a unique and rare opportunity to see the church in use, to sing beautiful hymns, to hear fine canticles and chants ringing around its wonderful acoustics, and to join together in a traditional form of worship which was the standard fare of Sunday evenings for four of the church's six hundred year history. There will be a collection in aid of The Churches Conservation Trust by whose generous and painstaking work the church is preserved. Visitors from all parishes are invited to this remarkable service. Details: Revd Matthew Bradbury on 01945 410814.

STOP PRESS

THORNEY TOLL TROWEL IS ON ITS WAY BACK!

The silver and ivory trowel used at the laying of the foundation stone of the Mission church and school at Thorney Toll in 1872, and featured in our July edition, has been secured and is on its way back to the parish!

The final cost of purchase and UK Custom charges is likely to be nearly £700, and a fund will be opened shortly to defray these costs. There will be a ceremony in Thorney Toll at a later date to celebrate its homecoming.

More details in next month's "Village Voices"

SOCIETY of MARY TO VISIT ST MARY'S

Members of the Cambridge branch of The Society of Mary, an Anglican devotional society dedicated to, and under the patronage, of the Blessed Virgin Mary are visiting Wisbech Saint Mary & Guyhirn church on Saturday September 3rd. The group is expected at 3.45pm for a service of Vespers and Benediction. All parishioners are warmly invited to join the visitors at the service and for refreshments afterwards. The Society is a group of Anglican Christians, formed in 1931, "dedicated to the Glory of God and the Holy Incarnation of Christ under the invocation of Our Lady." The stated objectives of the society are: To love and honour Mary, and to take Mary as a model in purity, personal relationships and family life.

The Anglican Society of Mary is not to be confused with Roman Catholic religious orders of the same name.

HERITAGE SERVICE

IN

CHAPEL OF EASE

Guyhirn's 17th century Chapel of Ease will be open on the Saturday and Sunday, from 10am to 3pm, during the Fenland Heritage Weekend.

A special Heritage Service will be held in the Chapel on Sunday September 11th at 2.30pm. The service will celebrate the rich heritage of Fenland, and everyone from the District and beyond is warmly invited.

Vicar's Verbals

The thing about rhododendrons is you need the right kind of soil. I love them but can't grow them in the garden here so I have to keep them in pots in 'ericaceous' soil – a fancy name for 'lime free' I gather. Without the right kind of soil they become stunted, with blotchy leaves and tatty blooms. Eventually the poor things wilt and die. Children are a bit more complicated than shrubs I know, but raise them in a toxic cocktail of relative deprivation (in which they are constantly bombarded with images of things they 'must have' but can't possibly afford), violence (have a look at some of the PS3/X-Box games they play), hopelessness (try getting a decent job in Tottenham or Toxteth) and a shortage of suitable role models, male or female, to imbue them with sense of worth and kindness, and the result is predictable. With some difficulty and at no small cost I re-potted my rhododendrons last year and they are looking green and sturdy again. The blooms this year were indifferent but the buds are already forming for a lovely display in the spring. We all have a part to play in ensuring all of our young people grow into fine specimens of humanity – let's not abandon those who profoundly disappoint us – Jesus didn't.

Revd Matthew Bradbury, The Vicarage, Church Rd, Wisbech St Mary, PE134RN. TEL 01945 410814
matthew.bradbury@ely.anglican.org

The Register

We welcome into the church's family

Electra-May and Logan-John Harris, who were baptised in St Paul's Church, Gorefield on Sunday July 17th.

Alfie Spriggs, who was baptised in Emmanuel church, Parson Drove, on Saturday July 23rd.

Ella Lynn, who was baptised in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church, on Sunday July 24th.

Max and Robert Howard, who were baptised in Emmanuel church, Parson Drove, on Sunday August 7th.

We wish every happiness to

Callum Summers and Leanne Mohammed, who were married in Emmanuel church, Parson Drove, on Saturday July 30th.

Alex Holmes and Annie Secker, who were married in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church on Saturday July 30th.

Charlie Else and Tammy Kempton, who were married in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church, on Saturday August 13th.

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

Bill Rawlings, whose funeral service was in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church, on Tuesday July 19th, followed by cremation at Mintlyn

Violet Wallis, whose Remembrance Service was held in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church, on Tuesday July 19th.

Doreen Gregory, whose funeral was at Fenland Crematorium on Friday July 22nd.

Eddie Davis, whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Wednesday July 27th.

James Loney, whose funeral was at Fenland Crematorium on Tuesday August 2nd.

Baby Alfie, who was laid to rest in Gorefield Churchyard on Wednesday August 3rd.

JOINT SUMMER EUCHARIST SERVICE

St Paul's Church, Gorefield was the venue for the service on Sunday 31st July. Rev Janet Phillips was the celebrant at the service and extended a warm welcome to everyone. During the service she was ably assisted by Elizabeth, Connor and Nathan. Lessons were read by Joy Andrew and Rev. Matthew Bradbury who also delivered the sermon on our sharing with others the gifts we have, no matter how small. Organist was David Stone and the large congregation joined heartily in the singing of the hymns.

After the service about forty people attended a barbeque in the Church grounds, where guests enjoyed burgers and sausages with salad, followed by deserts.

Everyone at St Paul's would like to thank those who took part in, or attended the service, prepared and provided the food, or helped in any way to make the day an enjoyable one. Special thanks to Matthew and Sarah.

Brenda Stamp

THE GARDENS OF REMEMBRANCE

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Ely occasionally, without prior notice, visits local churches. On his last visit the Chancellor particularly looked at the Gardens of Remembrance, the areas reserved for the interment of cremated remains.

The Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn Parochial Church Council (PCC) therefore reminds parishioners of certain guidelines relating to the placing of commemorative stones and flowers in Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn churchyards. All memorial stones in the gardens, whether engraved or otherwise, should be the uniform size of 12 x 12 x 2 inches lying flat on the ground. There should be no raised area on the stone.

The Diocesan faculty giving permission for the garden of remembrance does not permit flower vases. However, the PCC is content for fresh flowers to be placed in one stone vase on the grave, but asks families to provide vases of similar size to others. Under the faculty, no other articles should be left on or near the stone.

The PCC is very appreciative of the respect that is shown to the Gardens of Remembrance. They are indeed special places.

THANK YOU 1

The Wisbech Branch of the Childrens Society would like to thank everyone who helped it to raise £366.70 at the Wisbech St Mary Country Fayre.

THANK YOU 2

Very many thanks to everyone who gave to the Children's Society this year. In Gorefield we raised £210.17. Thanks to Brenda Peckover for helping me collect as usual.
Daphne Twitchett

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING 1

Parson Drove Women's Institute are holding a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer on September 30th at St Mark's church from 10am to 12 noon.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING 2

Bob and Shirley Bell will be holding a coffee morning for the Macmillan Cancer Fund on Friday September 30th in Murrow Village Hall from 10am to 12pm.

Any contributions for tombola or bric a brac stall would be welcome.

Details: shirleymbell@hotmail.com

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING 3

The WSM Mothers' Union Macmillan coffee morning takes place on Friday September 30th in the Church House from 9am to noon. There will be cakes to buy and a raffle. Come along and sign your name, and have coffee and biscuits before you return home.

Lilian Brigden

PATIENTS AND STAFF SAY "THANK YOU" TO DR KHETANI

Staff and patients of the Parson Drove Surgery have met to say farewell to Dr Bharat Khetani who has recently retired.

In making a presentation to Dr Khetani, Trevor Rawlings said "you are joining a long line of illustrious doctors who served in this practice, all of whom gave long and distinguished service to the Fenland communities around, and you rightfully take your place at the end of 28 years service. In that time you have served up to three generations of local families serving them all with the care and skill that is your hallmark".

Mr Rawlings continued "Looking back on those 28 years, we have seen the practice grow to almost 6000 patients, and to keep pace with this, together with your partner Dr Chandler you have built the new surgery in 1997 and last year saw the opening of the new Pharmacy, a great asset to the community.

We thank you gratefully and sincerely, for all you have done for the patients of the practice, for your professionalism, clinical expertise, patience, good humour and friendship".

Dr and Mrs Khetani received gifts and flowers from patients living in Parson Drove and Throckenholt, together with best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Dr Khetani has sent this message

My wife and I would like to thank all the staff of Parson Drove Surgery, all the patients who contributed to our retirement gifts, all those who took time to come to our retirement party and also to those who sent in cards, phone calls and email messages for a happy retirement. We had a wonderful send-off thanks to you all, and we will cherish the gifts which will remind us of our time at Parson Drove for the rest of our lives.
Dr Bharat Khetani

WSM MOTHERS' UNION

Our first meeting after the summer break will be on Tuesday September 6th when we start our meeting at 2.15pm in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church with Holy Communion. This is followed in Church House by a talk from Revd Matthew Bradbury, and refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

Lilian Brigden

Advance Notice

Murrow Methodist Church will be presenting a night of Country Music on Sat October 29th with COUNTRY COMPANY in Murrow Village Hall at 7.00pm Tickets £6 from S. Barnes 700200.

+ Regular Services +	
<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>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. Sept 4th. Greeters: Pauline+Diane. Coffee: Sandra Sept 11th. Greeter: Barbara. Coffee: Pam Sept 18th: Greeters: Sue+Jenny. Coffee:Sheelagh. Flowers for September: Mrs J Blaxill.</p>	<p>Murrow Methodist Church 10.30am Sept 4th : Mrs S Askew Sept 11th: Rev N Hannah. Sept 18th: Local arrangement. Sept 25th: Mr A Stapleton</p> <p>St Mark's Methodist Church, P D Sept 4th 10.30: Holy Comm. Rev N Hannah. Sept 11th 9.30: United service. Parish Church. Sept 18th 10.30: Youth Worship Team Sept 25th 10.30: Harvest Festival. Mr G Clear.</p> <p>St Paul's Church, Gorefield: except 3rd Sunday.10.00am: Holy Comm 3rd Sunday.10.00am: Morning Worship</p>

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**HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND
AT
WISBECH ST MARY CHURCH**

Friday September 30th, 7pm.
****please note change of date****

**BRASS BAND CONCERT
by
MARCH 2000**

Admission £4.

Sunday October 2nd

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

11.00am

Saturday October 1st 10am to 4pm

Sunday October 2nd 1pm to 4pm

**DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTEFACTS OF
GUYHIRN AND WISBECH ST MARY**

Exhibition of photographs by Lisa Owen

**ORGAN MUSIC
Refreshments**

**LADIES GROUP VISIT WISBECH CASTLE
AND ARRANGE FLOWERS**

Members of Gorefield Ladies Group visited Wisbech Castle in June. Fortunately it was a sunny, dry evening, and was very well attended. Geoff Wilkinson gave us a warm welcome, and then gave a humorous and interesting speech. He explained how there had been a Norman castle, a Bishop's palace, Thurlow's mansion, and a Regency villa, each building replacing the former on the same site which has been occupied for over 900 years. Members explored the many rooms in the castle and also the grounds and dungeons.

Guest demonstrator at the July meeting in the Village Hall was Ann Purt, a well known local florist, who led a flower arranging workshop. Everyone was able to follow the step-by-step guide on how to make their own table arrangement, which they were able to take home. Refreshments were served by Gillian Smith and Joy Andrew. Margaret Tuck celebrated her birthday in July.

Names were taken for the August visit to Newton Ladies group.

The next meeting at Gorefield will be September 28th at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall, when Sue Stephenson will entertain with Folk Stories.

SEPTEMBER LUNCH DATES

Lunch dates for WSM Luncheon Club are Tuesdays September 13th and 27th at midday. Please would members please contact Marjorie (410511) or the Bridge Inn (410555) if you cannot attend.

NEXT MART: SEPTEMBER 10th

The popular Mart that is held in the Church House, Wisbech St Mary, every month has been running for many years. Although it is held in church house it is open to all residents, and everyone in the village is warmly invited to call in to see the produce on offer. In addition to home-made cakes, etc, there may be vegetables, plants or bric-a-brac, or even a raffle. Most important of all is the opportunity to sit and chat with friends over a cup of cheer. The ladies who organise the Mart would love to see the room packed each month. See you there, on September 10th, it opens at 8.45am for just over an hour.

CHARITY FAIR RAISES £300

The Annual Parson Drove Charity Fair, at St Mark's on June 18th run jointly by St Mark's and Emmanuel churches, raised £300. The money was sent to TEARFUND which was the charity drawn by lot at the event.

TEARFUND is a Christian international development agency, working globally to end poverty and injustice, and to restore dignity and hope in some of the world's poorest communities. They are working in 50 different countries across the world.

Many thanks to all who worked for the running of this event, and to those who came and gave so generously.

Bridget Selway.

**36TH PARSON DROVE
GYMKHANA and DOG SHOW**

The 36th Gymkhana at Parson Drove will be held on the Playing Field on September 25th. Classes include Dressage, Mountain and Moorland, Turnout, Equitation, Condition, Handler, Coloured and First Pony, Fun and Gymkhana. Classes start from 9.00am. Schedules and Enquiries to June 700226 or Gavin 701157.

This year sees the addition of a Dog Show with entries from 11 am and Judging commencing at 12 noon. Enquiries to Jos 700373.

SEPTEMBER BOOT SALES

Gorefield Car Boot Sales will take place on Saturdays 10th and 24th September on the Playing Field, Wolf Lane. Sellers 7.30am, £4 per Pitch. Toilets and refreshments available, Contacts: 870387 or 07918122217.

Another Evening

with

Margaret George

More images from the Vicar's daughter's box camera.

Friday September 9th.

Guyhirn Village Hall, 7pm.

Admission £4. Primary schoolchildren free.

Refreshments

All proceeds for Village Hall funds.

WI HOPING FOR NEW BRANCH

The Isle of Ely Federation of Womens Institute is hoping to open a new branch in Wisbech St Mary. Information about the proposal and the WI will be available at a meeting in WSM Community Centre on Monday September 19th at 7.30pm. Coffee and cakes will be served.

NEWS FROM MURROW'S BOOK CAFÉ

As from Wednesday September 14th the Book Cafe in Murrow will be open from 10.30 to 12 noon. In addition to the usual free book loans, computer access and light refreshments, a new activity has been added: Knitting for Charity. There are a number of charities that welcome simple hand knitted items and the Cafe will begin by supporting SANDS, knitting simple, white baby blankets following a pattern. Don't worry if you have never knitted before, beginners are very welcome and help can be given! Bring your size 8 needles and a ball of white double knitting yarn, or just come and encourage the knitters. The opening time for the second Saturday of each month has changed to 10.30am -12.30pm. A giant book sale will take place outside the Book Cafe, weather permitting, on Saturday September 10th, hundreds of bargains to be had! Coming soon: A new computer course will be offered called Skills for Work. If you are interested in this course, which can be tailored to individual needs, please leave your name and contact details at the Book Cafe or phone Diana on 01945700213. Recently the Book Cafe was successful in obtaining funding from Roddons Housing Association to run another computer course and update our computers. Murrow Book Cafe is situated in the school room of the Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall. Eileen Sattin 700476

WOMENS INSTITUTE DINES AT THE 'CHEQUERS'

Fourteen members of Parson Drove Women's Institute celebrated their August meeting at the *Chequers* in Tholomas Drove. They enjoyed a delicious meal and good company. Many thanks to Connie who organised the evening.

Our members will be holding a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer on Friday September 30th from 10am to 12noon in St Mark's Methodist Church. Please come and support this worthwhile charity. As well as tea and coffee, there will be a cake stall and a raffle.

Ann Payne

POOCH MOOCH

The Walk is at RSPCA Animal Rehoming Centre, Block Fen, Wimblington, and you can start anytime between 11am and 2pm. There is a Fun competition and correct entries will be entered into a prize draw. All pooches who mooch will receive a certificate and doggy bag!

Registration and entries on the day. A nominal entry fee of £5 per family and dog is payable on registration

If you would like to raise sponsorship for the Centre please request a sponsorship form. All monies raised go towards the much needed funding required to continue the high standard of animal care provided in the centre. Contact:RSPCA Block Fen Animal Centre Tel:0300 123 0726

GUYHIRN'S FIRST GIANT YARD AND GARAGE SALE

Looking for bargains? Then come to Guyhirn's giant yard and garage sale on Saturday September 17th between 10am and 2pm. Many residents will be selling unwanted items, crafts and produce. Just look for the balloons and then hunt for the bargains. Everyone welcome as sellers or buyers!

THORNEY TOLL AUCTION NIGHT

The annual Auction Night at Thorney Toll village hall takes place on Saturday October 1st at 7.30 for 8.00pm. Residents and visitors are invited to bring produce and other items for sale. All proceeds will be for hall funds. The committee will gratefully receive any donations. Their battle cry is "you bring it, we'll sell it!" ,

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING

The local branch of The Children's Society is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday September 10th at Trafford Farm, Station Road, Wisbech St Mary, the home of Ann and Colin Desborough. The event, which runs from 10am to 12noon, will feature fresh fruit, vegetable, cake and bric-a-brac stalls. Everyone welcome to call in.

FUNDRAISING STARTS FOR NEW SWIMMING POOL

The Gorefield School Fundraising Team have pointed out that the school's swimming pool, which has stood in the school grounds for the past 50 years, has come to the end of its life, and is need of urgent replacement. Initial estimates indicate it could cost £20,000 to replace. They have started to raise funds to achieve this target and will be holding various fundraising activities in the coming months. They already have a date for a Sponsored Silence that Anya Goodale has kindly offered to participate in on Friday 16th September at 9am at the school. Apparently this is quite some task for Anya to undertake! Anyone interested in sponsoring Anya, please contact Lucy or Liz on the below numbers. Other fundraising events are planned for the autumn and winter. Details in next month's "Village Voices". Letters have been sent to all the parents/carers and to all villagers asking for donations to get the fundraising off to a good start. If you would like to make a donation, then please contact Lucy Turner on 871355 or Liz Rowell on 870054.

BOWLS CLUB SUCCESSES

Members of Gorefield Bowls Club have again had a very successful season in the County Competitions.

The team reached the final of the North Cambs Knockout competition, but unfortunately lost to March Town in the final at March. At the County Competition Finals weekend held at March Town Bowls Club in July, Debra Wright won the 2 bowl singles and the Secretary Singles. June Warren, Debra Wright and Margaret Hunt won the 3 bowl Triples, and Chris Wright, Debra Wright and Margaret Hunt won the Mixed Triples. They will all now compete at the National EBF Finals at Skegness from 23rd to 27th August representing North Cambridgeshire.

Obituary

George William Rawlings

Bill Rawlings was a true fenman who spent his life working on the land. At the end of his long life, he enjoyed reminiscing and sharing his memories of farming days gone by.

At Bill's funeral in Wisbech St Mary church his nephew, Trevor Rawlings, delivered an interesting eulogy which touched upon various aspects of Bill's work and quiet philosophy. We reproduce, with Trevor's kind permission, extracts from his address.

George William Rawlings, known to all as Bill, died on 7th July within eight weeks of his 96th birthday.

He was born in 1915, the elder son of George and Ethel Rawlings, of New Drove, North Brink, Wisbech. He was named after his father in spite of Rev Mowbray Smith suggesting he be christened Partridge as he was born on the first day of the partridge season. There was a delay in registering his birth as it was not done for 4 weeks, but more than likely his father was busy getting the harvest in. Work always came first in New Drove. It seems the vicar, Mowbray Smith, had a positive effect on Bill as a youngster, as he grew up and didn't drink, smoke or swear, but he did use the words "Bluffing Thing" throughout his life when things didn't go right!

Bill grew up in New Drove on the farm which was to be the centre of his world throughout his life with his two sisters Kate and Mary and younger brother Jack, who was my father. He lived all his life there in five different houses. He attended the village school in Wisbech St Mary and was a good pupil leaving school at 12 or 13, to work fulltime on the farm for his grandfather, and with his father and uncles, who were farmers and fruit growers. He used to help out at weekends and school holidays, and in Wisbech St Mary the summer school holidays were fixed to coincide with the strawberry picking season. Bill always worked very hard, he was more interested in the arable crops and throughout his life he always had a good vegetable garden, growing far more than the family needed and the rest were given away, and right up to his death every square yard was still cropped.

Bill's work entailed a lot of heavy manual tasks day in and day out. It was no easy job; he was the opposite of a gentleman farmer. Hard heavy work was the order of every day, with morale boosting quotes from his elders such as "A hard day's work didn't hurt anyone". "It isn't work if you enjoy it". Bill took a pride in his work and became expert in all farm work, but he was a particularly expert ploughman, drawing very straight furrows with horse or tractor. Through his labours he earned enough money to buy his own field, and after a day's work for his father on the farm, he would turn to doing work for himself on his field.

During these youthful years Bill did find time for sport, especially cricket. He played for the church or village cricket teams and thus came in further contact with Mowbray Smith, who used to encourage all the boys, taking the team around in his car, one of the few around in those days. They were keen to win and do their best for Rev Mowbray.

His love of motor cycles and motor cycling in his early years allowed him to go to the Isle of Man with Math Wilson and others in the 1930's to watch the TT races. That was the furthest he travelled from home, and the only holiday he ever really had.

In his youth Bill became a good shot with a 12 bore, shooting game and rabbits for the pot, pigeons and other vermin and he remained interested in shooting, taking the Shooting Times and reading it from cover to cover up until his death. His last use of his gun was to frighten a fox that was becoming too audacious and eating the cat food. He had to prop himself up by the back door and wait to be ready for the shot! Ice skating was another of Bill's sports. He was a good fast skater and could out-distance us boys quite easily. In the big freeze of 1963, Bill took us skating all over, from Boxing Day through to the first week of March.

Life for Bill carried on virtually unchanged until the outbreak of the Second World War. Being the elder son in the reserved occupation of farming, he was not called up but went into the auxiliary fire service. In July 1945 Bill married Gert Freeman. After the war Bill's father decided to farm on his own account, taking into partnership his two sons Bill and Jack. This meant more hard work. Mechanisation was slow to arrive in New Drove, the family preferring horses rather than tractors.

My first memory of Uncle Bill was when I was about 3 years old and walking down New Drove with my Mum. The men and horses were returning from a day's work on the land. Uncle Bill was leading one

favourite horse a Suffolk punch cross called Old Farmer, and he stopped and lifted me up on Old Farmer's back telling me to hold on to the harness, and Bill led us back to the farmyard. Bill encouraged me to do the things he did in his younger days. Common sense, not health and safety, was Bill's watchword!

His was the first shotgun I used. He wanted me to keep the hares off the young sugar beet. He encouraged me to catch the moles in the beet field, make an eel hive to catch eels, and many other interesting projects.

Bill lived a long and full life mainly doing the things he wanted to do, his world was the farm in New Drove. When his daughters were attending the village school he and Aunt Gert supported the village fetes and other events. He often won Stepping the Chain, and one year won bowling for the pig. In later years he only went to the village to collect the Sunday papers. He rarely went to Wisbech. We think the last time he went to town to shop was probably 40 years ago. The solicitor, accountant and bank manager really began to wonder if there was a Mr Bill Rawlings as my father did the paperwork for the farm partnership, and Bill never visited their offices.

Bill had an incredible memory. He remembered the miners coming into the Wisbech St Mary area during the General Strike of 1926 to earn money fruit picking, and then playing cricket against a local village team.

He remembers the flying legend and record breaking pilot Alex Henshaw landing a plane in New Drove some time in 1930's to visit his friend Les Dann who lived in a house nearby at that time which was later to become Bill's home.

Conversations with Bill could be like living past local history.

He remembered the family doctor, Dr Meacock arriving on horseback one day, when he was still quite young, and removing Bill's tonsils on the kitchen table, with a whiff of ether for anaesthetic, no wonder he always had a reluctance to visit doctors, and dentists after that, although he did have his cataracts removed when he was over 90, so that he could continue reading which had become a major part of his life as he became more house bound.

Bill remained interested in what the younger generation were doing particularly in the area of agriculture, and he was pleased to know there was still a Rawlings in farming. He regularly checked on the prices of farm produce in the Farmers Weekly. He would know the price of a ton of wheat but had no idea of the cost of a loaf of bread. Two years ago he went to look at a mobile pea viner working locally. He wanted to know how they podded the peas so quickly without damaging them. He was interested to see the machine in action and talked about it for weeks.

A kind and thoughtful man, he remained strong willed through out his life, he was very focussed on what he wanted to do, single minded, determined, some might say stubborn, and he was nearly always right; others would say he was never wrong!

He was the only man I have seen mowing out a dyke with a scythe in one hand and a crutch in the other, with a ladder down the side to get in and out.

He also devised a method of using a wheelbarrow one handed leaving the other for the crutch.

Bill's lack of mobility eventually confined him to the house and immediate garden. He watered his runner beans from a wheelchair with a hose pipe. Bill never gave up. He even suggested to Sandra, after his recent fall, that she should find a sack lift so she could use it to get him up instead of having to call out the paramedics!

Sadly during the later years of his long life Bill was to see close family members thirty and more years his junior predeceasing him, followed by his beloved wife Gert after 54 years of marriage and then his dear daughter Janet. Bill was able to remain in his own home, apart from the odd stay in hospital in recent years, as age took its toll. This was his life's wish and everyone helped him to achieve it, and the family are most grateful for this. Sadly about 4 weeks before his passing, his family and carers noticed a deterioration in his condition. He refused any thought of going into hospital as he became less well.

He remained at home in his favourite chair with his cap on, looking out at the orchard, which he had refused to have grubbed up, as it was a haven for wild life, and he loved to watch the woodpeckers and the small Birds.

At six in the morning on the day he died, he asked Sandra what the weather was like, still thinking about the garden and the farming to the very end. Just over an hour later he slipped away peace fully.

Life's journey well run to the end.

“WOLFIE” RAISES £800 FOR NEWTON CHURCH REPAIRS

The Darts Evening in support of Newton Parish Church's emergency repair fund was extremely successful. The atmosphere was great and Wolfie and the MC Ian Tilley did a fantastic job. They were very friendly and sociable - signed lots of pictures and played 26 games of 501 so none of the men and women who put their names in the hat missed out on a chance to play against him. Over 100 people turned up and the dartboard was auctioned off at the end of play and made an outstanding sum of £210 against fierce bidding. All the children that came really enjoyed themselves and Wolfie and Ian were great with them and he played against many of them including my nieces two boys Connor (9) and Kieran (8) and even their sister Caitlin (6) had a go in the interval.

We made a profit of £803.31 and would like to thank “Village Voices” and everyone who turned up for their support in making the evening a great success.

Sandy

MURROW VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Firstly, we would like to thank all residents who have attended meetings and returned the questionnaires and survey forms. However, a separate survey form was sent to all children in Murrow Primary school and only 4 replies were received. This was very disappointing especially as one of the points raised by parents on more than one occasion was the lack of activities in the village for the 11 and under age group.


We have been led to believe that funding up to £500,000 is available for a new hall but when making application for grants evidence of attendance at meetings by residents is an important part of the process. There are over 400 households in Murrow so the village hall should be packed but unfortunately this was not the case. So, residents of Murrow, please support your Management Committee by attending any future meetings. The next meeting will be on Monday 19th September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. If you are unable to attend but would like to be involved please email murrowvh@aol.com **Mary Lane, secretary**

MURROW VILLAGE HALL MEETING Andy Kedziora writes from ‘The Bell Inn’


People of Murrow, are you interested in what happens in your village? If so, there is a meeting concerning the village hall on Monday September 19th at 7pm. Your support, ideas, and help is urgently needed, preferably in person and not via emails, notes or any other non-attendance ways. With around 400 properties in Murrow, the attendance should be over whelming! The last meeting was very under attended, but a lot of people sent in ideas and suggestions, which were appreciated, but when these meetings are attended by the grants people, council and any other governing bodies, they need to see visually the support from Murrow residents. So please, Murrow, take time to come and attend these meetings that involve your village"

USE AN ENERGY METER AND SAVE MONEY

Got better things to spend your money on than electricity bills? Borrow an energy meter from any Cambridgeshire library free of charge and find out how you could cut your electricity bills by as much as 15%. The meters are easy and safe to use and show how much electricity is being used in your home at any one time. Using a meter can help you see just how much energy is used, for example, by lights in empty rooms, appliances on stand-by or boiling a full kettle. Armed with this information, studies show that households can reduce their bills by 5 -15% by making small changes to use less electricity. Ask to borrow a meter at your local library and start planning what to do with your savings!

The College of West Anglia 

Adult & Community Learning Leisure Courses 11-12



A wide range of Courses available at a centre near you.

- Isle Campus
- Oasis Community & Children's Centre
- Empress Swimming Pool
- Elm Community Centre
- Elm Road Primary School
- Gorefield Village Hall
- Sir Harry Smith Community College

Ring now on 01945 466302 to book onto a course or ask for your 'FREE' brochure !!!

ZUMBA COMES TO GUYHIRN

Zumba, a fitness programme inspired by Latin dance, is the newest, hottest way to keep fit. You can attend zumba classes run by Dawn at Guyhirn Village Hall from Monday August 1st from 11am to 12 noon. The cost is £4 per session.

ACTIVITIES AT PARSON DROVE

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

The copy deadline for *Village Voices* is the 15th of each month. Please email news, etc. to paynews@btinternet.com or on paper to Anne Wallis in Guyhirn (450466) Elaine Harvey in Gorefield (870558) David Pearce in Parson Dr (700454)
For advertising, e-mail jennie.atads.villagevoices@btinternet.com Or phone Terry Brigden on 450481.

**MURROW AUTUMN OPEN
FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW
VILLAGE HALL SAT 10TH SEPTEMBER**

Exhibits accepted between 9am & 11:30am

Show opens at 2pm

Presentation of awards at 3pm

followed by auction

Schedules available from:- Mrs M Woollard,

Roseacre, Front Road, Murrow.

Tel. 01945 700673

GUYHIRN LADY IN GREAT NORTH RUN

Guyhirn resident Rachel Lynn is running in the Great North Run this year and her chosen charity is The Family Holiday Association. A prize bingo has also been arranged by Mrs Lynn for the same charity. It will be held in Murrow Village Hall on Thursday 15th September. Doors open 6.45, eyes down 7.30. Excellent prizes. Raffle and refreshments.

For details contact Rachel on 07786737015.

RURAL ROAD SAFETY GROUP

FRRSAN is the fenland rural road safety action network; a group of interested people trying to make roads safer in the villages. They are campaigning for 20 mph speed restrictions outside village schools. The group is seeking other residents to sign a petition, or contact them to make their views known, via e-mail to csuckling@fenland.gov.uk

Members of the group attended a meeting at Fenland Hall, March, last month and presented a petition to the committee to reduce the speed limit along High Road, Guyhirn, to 30mph, and another to move the 40mph zone in Gull Road further north. The county council has said it has no money to make these changes but agreed in principal if the residents arranged to pay for the changes.

As a group they need money to continue their meetings and campaigning, and have arranged a Quiz Night, details on right.

GOREFIELD STREET PRIDE GROUP

We have positioned our two half-barrels of flowers on the corner of the church grass at Gote Lane. We have canvassed over three quarters of the residents in the new estate for their views regarding the usage of the large parcel of land beside the play area currently unused and unsightly. Everyone would like to see it turned into some form of recreational area or some other form of use. Originally on the builders plans this area was designated a (POS) or Public Open Space but clearly there has been no development of this as such since the building finished. Our Secretary is endeavouring to acquire permission for us to do something with it in the long term.

The Street Pride Group meets at the Pavilion field at 10am on the third Saturday in the month. We are open to any suggestions as to what we can do to make our village a prettier and better place to live and our work is not always about litter picking, although the younger members quite enjoy this aspect of the group and benefits us all.

If any member of the village has any suggestions as to how we can deploy our time during this very short period then please contact the Secretary on "john@thisisour.co.uk"

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

**MURROW VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER
7pm for 7.30pm start**

Teams of 4 or 5; 4 adults maximum
£10 per team
includes light refreshments

No bar, but you may bring your own.
Proceeds to FRRSAN

Limited room, so please book your table on
01945 700212

Mobile Library Stops

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

FENLAND HERITAGE WEEKEND

A large number of buildings will be open to the public at various times during the Fenland Heritage Weekend from September 8th to 11th. Admission to each property is free. Local properties include

March: March Railway Station, March Museum, St Wendreda's Church, The Ship Inn. Waste Transfer Station tours.

Wisbech: St Peter's church, Angles Theatre, All Saints Walsoken, Council Chamber, Wisbech Institute, Peckover House, Friends Meeting House.

Full details of dates and times are contained in a leaflet obtainable from the Town Council Chamber or www.heritageopendays.org.uk.

Useful contacts

Churches

Revd Matthew Bradbury	410814
Lilian Brigden (Reader)	450481
Revd Nigel Hannah [Methodist]	466426

Village Halls (bookings)

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

Parish Council Clerks

Gorefield	870454
Parson Drove	700501
Wisbech St Mary	474191

Schools

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

Post Offices

Parson Drove	700511
Gorefield	870273
Wisbech St Mary	410288

Health & Security

Home-Start	582552
Parson Drove Surgery	700223
Parson Drove Pharmacy	701778
North Cambs Hospital	585781
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	01553 613613
Social Services	481100
P. Drove Surgery Car Service	07766534280
WSM Com Car Scheme	07592407283
Gorefield Com. Car Scheme	07500479444
Childline	0800 1111
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Dog control/Animal welfare	01354 622442
Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
Fenland District Council	01354654321
CCC Highways Maintenance	03450455212
Samaritans	08457909090
Victim supportline	08453030900

Websites:

www.gorefield.com
www.guyhirn-online.org.uk
www.wisbechstmary.org.uk

Police (non-emergency) 0345 456 4564

POSTCARD VIEWS OF PARSON DROVE

in Spring and Summer are available from the Post Office.

BACK TO THE 'WOODMANS' FOR THE LUNCH CLUB

Gorefield Lunch Club enjoyed a meal provided by caterers on August 3rd, plus a quiz and raffle. Members were also reminded of the village scarecrow competition, and the village meeting called by the Parish Council in the Church Hall at 7.00pm on September 1st to debate and suggest ideas on what the village would like to do for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Members voted to return to the 'Woodmans' as a venue for the Luncheon Club, the first meal there being on Tuesday October 4th.

Most members were given a Lions Clubs International container under the 'Message in a bottle' scheme, the idea being if someone collapses and is unconscious in their home, the paramedics see the green sticker on the front door and on the fridge and from the form that is in the container know what medication the person is on and their name and next of kin. By knowing what drugs it is safe to give the patient, they save time and in some cases their life.

Norman Carroll

CITIZENS ADVICE AT PARSON DROVE

The Citizens Advice Bureau will be at Parson Drove pavilion on **September 27th** at 1.30pm. Anyone wishing to arrange a consultation should telephone 01945 474926 not later than **September 18th**.

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

MURROW 200 CLUB WINNERS

J Markillie - Parson Drove
R Patrick - Parson Drove
M Pike - Murrow
S Kennely - Murrow
K Brown - Murrow
V Jepson - Murrow
J Morley - Murrow
C Claxton - Murrow

RESTAURANT GOLFERS RAISE £500 FOR ADDENBROOKES

The third Chillout Restaurant Golf Cup was held on Sunday 24th July at the Tydd St Giles Golf Club. The format of the day included meeting for coffee and baps at the golf club before playing 18 holes as both teams and individuals. We then retired to the Chillout Restaurant for a 2 course meal followed by a prize giving. Dan, Rita and John would like to thank all the golfers, sponsors and the golf club, who made the day such a resounding success. A total of 11 teams took part with a team representing Zorelli as the winners. Stuart Hyde claimed the individual honours. A total of £500 was raised for the C3 childrens ward at Addenbrookes hospital.

Sponsorship is being sought for future events. Anyone wishing to sponsor a hole for £50 gets the opportunity to publicise their company or organisation.

The Chillout Cup golf day is a twice yearly event and gives everyone the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. The next events will take place in late November or early December, and again in July 2012. Therefore if any golfing teams of 4, or any individuals, would like to take on this day please contact Dan on 01945 450996 or e-mail dchillingworth1@googlemail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Chillout restaurant has been established since Easter 2009 and is gaining a great reputation both locally and with regular holiday makers. Located on the A47 with ample parking, the warmest of welcomes awaits guests. On Monday to Thursday a senior's 2-course meal is offered from only £6.95, Sunday Roasts also from £6.95 or 3 courses only £13.95. Chillout is open every day from 7am to 4pm for all-day breakfast and delicious home cooked meals. Fridays open from 7am -8pm.

WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Councillors

Mr C Allen, Halls Farm, Wisbech Road, Guyhirn, Wisbech 01733 849300
Mr P Barnes, Westview, 38 Murrow Bank, Murrow PE13 4HB 01945 700200
Mr B Britain, Fort Farm, Gull Drove, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4HB 01733 849262
Mr M Clarke, 4 Railway Cottages, Long Drove, Murrow, Wisbech PE13 4HG 01945 701032
Mr P Davies, Riverside, Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4ED 01945 450234
Mr J Fish, 17 Lindens Close, Thorney Toll, Wisbech PE13 4AR 07887754869
Mr T Fowler, Bramble Corner, Plash Drove, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SP 01945 410425
Mr B Payne, 7 Churchfield Way, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SY Chairman. 01945 410755
Ms B Reay, Holly Farm, High Road, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 43ED 01945 450814
Mr R Scrimshaw, The Rambles, Hooks Drove, Murrow, Wisbech PE13 4HH 01945 700202
Mrs D Thrower, Acquest, Front Road, Murrow PE13 4JQ. Vice-chairman. 01945 700213

Parish Council Meetings for 2011 and 2012

Notices and Agendas of meetings together with Council minutes are displayed on all the parish notice boards and the Wisbech St Mary website at www.wisbechstmary.org.uk. Meetings are held at different venues throughout the year. The dates and venues for the Parish Council meetings are

Monday, 5th September 2011 at Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday, 3rd October 2011 at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday, 7th November 2011 at Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday, 28th November 2011 at Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 19th December 2011 at Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday, 16th January 2012 at Thorney Toll Village Hall

Parishioners are invited to attend any of the above meetings and have the opportunity to voice your opinion on any subject relevant to the parish during the Open Forum at the beginning of every meeting.

Annual Parish Assembly

The Parish Assembly took place Monday, 16th May at the Wisbech St Mary Community Centre. There were 11 Councillors, 4 parishioners, and District Councillor G Booth present. At this meeting the Parish Council accounts, together with those of the Pools Allotment Charity, and John Bend's Charity. Details of these accounts are:

Pools Allotment Charity Accounts for the year ending the 31st March 2011

The income was £2409.22, expenditure £1387.64 and the balance carried forward to the next financial year was £421,896.96. The meeting was advised that the Trustees were making every effort to get the Charity Scheme changed in order that the Capital could be used to build affordable housing on exception sites in Guyhirn.

John Bend's Charity Accounts, year ending the 5th April 2010 and 2011.

The Income for 2010 was £7,744.95 and the dole payout was £4,280 and balance carried forward was £2,962.95. The income for 2011 was £5,406.86 and the dole payout was £4,080.00 and balance carried forward was £3,101.86.

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council Accounts, year ending the 31st Mar 2011

The income was £53,604.28 and expenditure was £37,798.49. Included in the expenditure figure were grants of £17,966.90 given to the following organisations within the Parish.

Royal British Legion	£49.50
Wisbech St Mary Playing Field	£2500.00
Murrow Village Hall	£1000.00
Thorney Toll Village Hall	£1250.00
Guyhirn Playing Field	£2500.00
Murrow Playing Field	£2500.00
Guyhirn Cemetery	£350.00
Citizens Advice	£1000.00
Guyhirn Village Hall	£1000.00
Guyhirn Playing Field Play Equipment	£1817.40 Paid out of grants from FDC

Also included in the expenditure was £2,550 spent on Section 137. Section 137 of the LGA Act 1972, as amended, enables Parish Councils to spend up to the product of £6.44 per head of electorate for the benefit

of people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. The limit for this Council in the year ended 31st March 2011 was £18,418.40 (2860 x £6.44). The following organisations benefited.

Cambs Shievalry Police Charity £500.00
Murrow Pre School £500.00
Wisbech St Mary Play Group £350.00
Guyhirn Friendship Club £100.00
Murrow Sunshine Club £100.00
Murrow Book Café £1000.00

The following items were discussed and the clerk was requested to report them to the appropriate authorities.

1. Footpath, Hollycroft House Front Road, Murrow needs resurfacing.
2. Trees overhanging road along Seadyke, Murrow.
3. Trees overhanging road along Sandbank, Wisbech St Mary.
4. 40 mph sign have fallen down at Murrow Bank towards Guyhirn and the chevrons on the corners are also missing.
5. The 30mph signs on the bus shelters have been removed by the Cambridgeshire County Council Highways. The question was asked will the 30 mph signs erected by the Fenland Transport Campaign also be removed. It was stated that this would not be the case as they will only be in place for three weeks.
6. Guyhirn roundabout vegetation needs cutting and the height also reducing as it was very dangerous and was a matter of health and Safety.
7. Some concern was voiced that the Guyhirn river bank cut by Cambridgeshire Highways, and the top by the Environment Agency, is not carried out at the same time so looks very untidy. It was thought that this would not be possible as the Environment Department only cuts their part once a year.
8. Trees and bushes are again growing and blocking the footpath in Guyhirn at Shereden House, the old Police House and Glebelands, Trees are covering the 40 mph and school signs. The hedges at the Guyhirn Playing Field also need cutting.

The Annual General Meeting followed the Parish Assembly and Coun B Payne was elected Chairman, and Coun Mrs D Thrower Vice Chairman for the ensuing twelve months. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Thrower for her work as chairman during the past two years.

Notices and Agendas of meetings together with Council minutes are displayed on all the parish notice boards and on the Wisbech St Mary website at www.wisbechstmary.org.uk.

Mrs C Jobson
Clerk to the Council
30 Les Baux Place, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2SU Tel. No. 01945 474364

