

Village Voices August 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 Verbals'

What is it about lawns! No matter how hard I try I always seem to end up with a lawn full of weeds. There is obviously a knack to it. As I cycle around the villages I see such perfect examples of beautifully manicured lawns; emerald green with not a single weed, and every blade of grass identical, cut to a perfect height. I'm afraid the vicarage lawn is rampant with bindweed and clover, couch grass and even nettles (try taking in the washing in bare feet!). I mow it and feed it, spike it and seed it, but all to no avail. And yet....and yet there is something very soothing about the peculiar mix of plants underfoot, and even the bindweed puts out a pretty little pink flower, almost by way of an apology for its presence..... and the bees certainly love the clover. Perhaps people are like lawns. The perfect ones are a fine example to us all butcan be rather daunting, even a little off-putting; 'please, don't step on my smart stripes!' The rest of us are full of imperfections, but are soft with moss, and even God's innocent creatures find us more welcoming. The same sun shines on all lawns and the rain falls in every garden too.

Matthew

FULL HOUSE AT THE NORTH NENE EUCHARIST

St Paul's Church, Gorefield was the venue for the North Nene Joint Eucharist Service on Sunday 12th July.

Rev. Matthew Bradbury officiated and extended a warm welcome to everyone. The sermon was delivered by Rev Sandra Gardener. The Rev Ryk Parkinson, Joy Andrew, Mike Brown, Brian Payne also assisted with the service; the organist was David Stone. The large congregation joined heartily in the singing of the hymns.

After the service about forty people went to the B.B.Q. in the Church grounds, fortunately the weather was warm and the sun shone! Rev Matthew cooked the sausages and burgers which guests enjoyed with salad followed by deserts: the bring and share table was loaded with cakes, trifles etc. Lots of volunteers helped with the tables and washing up afterwards.

Everyone from St Paul's would like to thank those who took part in or attended the service and those who provided food and helped at the B.B.Q. (especially the chief cook!)

Brenda Stamp and Roy Cott

EVENSONG AND CAKE AT FRIENDS' ANNIVERSARY

The 34th Thanksgiving Service of the Friends of Guyhirn Chapel of Ease was held on Saturday July 18th. The service, which was well attended, was led by Brian Payne supported by Lilian Brigden, Wendy Neale and the Tydd St Giles church choir. The preacher was the Revd Matthew Bradbury.

Once again the Chapel came alive, demonstrating its unique atmosphere as the congregation joined in singing hymns and psalms.

After the service, the annual meeting of the Friends was held. Advance notice was given of celebrations, hopefully starting in the autumn, to mark the 350th anniversary of the building of the Chapel. Cake, juice and elderberry wine were enjoyed after the meeting.

Recently over forty children from Guyhirn Church of England School visited the Chapel to learn about its history, and to draw pictures of the ancient building.

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 Drove (700454)

Brian Payne in WSM (410755)

For advertising, e-mail

ads.villagevoices@btinternet.com

Or phone Terry Brigden on 450481.

AN INSPIRATIONAL VISIT TO THE "LOGOS HOPE"

At the end of June I was lucky to be offered a spare seat on a coach hired by the Baptist Church in Wisbech. They were going to visit a Christian Ship the "Logos Hope" docked at Canary Wharf, London. It is a ship (previously an ocean going passenger and vehicle ferry) bought, refurbished and run by Operation Mobilisation (OM) a charity which brings 'knowledge, help and hope' to the world's nations, in partnership with churches worldwide. Volunteer crew and staff serve on board as a practical expression of their Christian faith. It is a large vessel nine decks high, but we were only allowed up as far as Deck 5 where the Captain's bridge is. We were not allowed into the kitchens or the engine room. I hadn't climbed up and down so many stairs for ages!!

We were taken round by members of staff in groups of 10. The ship was so crowded with visitors we often had to wait in a queue to see the next point of interest! There are over 300 members of crew and staff from the Captain, engineers, chefs and kitchen staff, doctors, nurses, dentists, teachers, restaurant staff cleaners etc. They can come from over 50 nations. English is the language spoken throughout the ship. Couples with children can volunteer their services and the Captain and his wife have 2 small children.

"Logos Hope" is the fourth ship owned by OM since the 1970's. These ships are well-known for the BOOKFAIRS on board. There are over 5,000 books on offer at reasonable prices at any given time. I was told that the Bible is the best selling one. Over the years, five million people in more than 100 countries have visited, and academic texts and educational literature are regularly donated to communities in particular need. Crew and staff often give practical help in third world countries. There is huge storage space for books in many languages in the hold. The area where the vehicles used to stand on the ferry has been turned into a theatre with 450 seats, so a wide range of activities can take place there.

I saw two restaurants on board; we all had a good lunch in pleasant surroundings. They reckoned to cater for 1,200 people that day! There was also a coffee/tea and cake bar, and a small cinema showing the poverty encountered in various countries.

All the staff were kind and caring and there was an aura of consideration and love everywhere. An experience not to be forgotten.

Jean Mill

MEET AT THE MART

The next Wisbech St Mary Mart will be in Church House, opposite the church gate, on Saturday August 8th from 9am to sell-out (usually about 10am).

All the usual home-made produce will be available, so come and buy, and catch up with the village news over coffee/tea and biscuits!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CLIMBS TO THE TOP OF THE MILL

26 members of the WSM Women's Fellowship enjoyed an outing to Moulton Mill, near Spalding, on Thursday 9th July. The weather turned sunny as we arrived, and the view from the top of the mill was fantastic - we could even see Boston Stump in the distance. The three guides were most entertaining and encouraging as we climbed the 7 flights of stairs!

Our first meeting of the new 'year' will be a talk by Tim Dent of the Woodland Trust on Thursday September 10th at 7pm in the school hall.

Liz Hunt & Mary McClagish

Obituaries

JOHN YOUNG

The funeral of John Young, of Guyhirn, took place quietly at the beginning of July, exactly, one suspects, as he would have wanted it. However, the occasion should not pass without an expression of gratitude for the tireless work John and his late wife Iris did to raise money for St Mary Magdalene church at Guyhirn. For many years they battled to provide funds for the church in an attempt to keep the building open. We thank God for their work and witness in the church that they loved.

GORDON BEHARRELL

Gordon died of a heart attack at his home in Bayston Hill, Shropshire on June 2nd at the age of 71. I suspect very few people in our parishes knew him, but he played a significant part in the restoration of Guyhirn's Chapel of Ease, through his research into the Huguenots at Thorney.

He was the first to trace his ancestors from Lille in Northern France, through Canterbury to Thorney, his research painstakingly backed up by reference to wills, etc. He actively participated in the Thorney Settler pageants of 1990 and 1992.

A close family man, caring for others around him too, he personally collected about £100,000 for cancer charities. He spent much of his retirement walking enormous distances, following, for instance, the trail of some Mormon ancestors across America, despite serious illness. He walked from Epworth to Lands End, and from Sandtoft to Thorney in Puritan costume.

In the early days after the Chapel's restoration he attended the annual Thanksgiving services and was always very interested in the building. We thank God for Gordon's life, and for his love of the Fens.

[Adapted by BP from Margaret Fletcher's tribute in the "Thorney Society Newsletter"]

"The Register"

We welcome into the Church family

Erin Grace Ablett who was baptised in St Paul's church, Gorefield on Sunday July 5th.
Ollie Zak Hodson, who was baptised in WSM & Guyhirn church on Sunday July 5th.

We welcome those who have received Confirmation. We offer them our love as they travel with God on their spiritual journey.

David Appleby, David Ashden, Stephanie Hamilton, Elizabeth Mace, Jean Mill and Emily Richardson, who were Confirmed by the Bishop of Ely, Dr Anthony Russell on Wednesday July 1st at St Leonard's church, Leverington.

We wish every happiness to

Ashleigh Dodd and Walter Boswell who were married in St Paul's church, Gorefield, on Saturday June 27th.

Suzanne Mackley and Thomas Orr who were married in Emmanuel church, Parson Drove, on Saturday July 11th.

We say Goodbye to

Irene Dorner, of Parson Drove, whose funeral took place at Peterborough Crematorium on Tuesday June 16th.

Anthony Roches, of Wisbech St Mary, whose funeral took place at Mintlyn on Wednesday June 17th.

Jill Rowland, formerly of Gorefield, whose funeral service was at St Paul's church, Gorefield, on Friday June 26th, followed by burial in the churchyard.

Edna Herapath, formerly of Gorefield, whose cremated remains were laid in the Garden of Remembrance on Sunday June 28th.

Gladys Smart, formerly of WSM, whose funeral service was in WSM & Guyhirn church on Monday June 29th, followed by burial in WSM Cemetery.

Esther Skeels, formerly of Guyhirn, whose funeral service was at WSM & Guyhirn church on Tuesday July 7th, followed by burial in Guyhirn Cemetery.

John Young, of Guyhirn, whose funeral took place at Peterborough Crematorium on Thursday July 9th.

Mary Anderson, of Gorefield, whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Tuesday July 14th.

We send our love to all the families.

+ Regular Services +

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
 Other services as announced.

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 10.30am.
Emmanuel Flower Rota: Aug 2, 9, 16: Mrs B Selway.

St Paul's Church, Gorefield:

except 3rd Sunday. 10.00am: Holy Communion
 3rd Sunday. 8.00am: Holy Communion

St Mark's Methodist Church, Parson Drove

Aug 2: 10.30. Local arrangement.
 Aug 9: 9.30. United service in Parish church
 Aug 16: 10.30. Holy Comm. Rev N Hannah
 Aug 23: 10.30. United service, Mrs E Bennett
 Aug 30: 10.30. at Murrow.

Murrow Methodist Church

Aug 2: 10.30. Mrs J Killingback
 Aug 9: 10.30. Mr T Simpson
 Aug 16: 10.30. Local arrangement
 Aug 23: 10.30. Rev Jacqueline Goddard.
 Aug 30: 10.30. United service. Rev N Hannah

Aug 28: 7.30. "Shalom" venue to be advised.

LADIES GROUP HEARS ABOUT LIFE IN THE WORKHOUSE

At the June meeting of the Gorefield Ladies Group, Glenys welcomed members and two visitors.

A report was made on the previous meeting & details of the next meeting, were given. This is a visit, on Wed 22nd-July, to NGS gardens at Outwell. 15 people had so far indicated they would attend.

An introduction was given to Brian Payne, the evening's speaker. A very descriptive and interesting talk was enjoyed on the Prison and Workhouse systems which operated in Wisbech and the surrounding villages. Thanks were given to Brian, and the raffle took place, after which refreshments were served.

There will be the usual holiday break in August but suggestions for Speakers for the 2010 programme would be welcomed, so that contacts could be made in good time. Suggestions please to Glenys Grimm on 870276

LOTS OF FUN AT MURROW'S FUN DAY!

The Murrow Fun Day is to be held on Saturday 22nd August. There promises to be lots of entertainment for all the family.

There will be children's rides and inflatables including a bouncy castle and gladiator joust. There will be stalls and competitions and face painting. Around the field there will be a variety of static displays including vintage motor bikes. HMP Whitemoor's dog team will be giving a display and there will be other arena events. Traditional 'sports' such as welly wanging and egg throwing and a lorry pull will take place throughout the afternoon.

A 5-a-side football competition will run throughout the day with the final(s) taking place during the event. There will also be live music with local band *The Brink* making an appearance. Refreshments will include a hog roast and burgers. Soft drinks will be available alongside a beer tent.

The fun day is due to start at 1pm and the organisers hope that people from all the local villages will come along to the Playing Field and support them in their quest to improve the field's facilities. **Details from Val on 700843**

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Emmanuel Church Garden Fete at Parson Drove, to Dr and Mrs Rosier for kindly allowing us to use their premises, and to all who attended the event held in warm sunshine in a beautiful garden setting. It was lovely to see visitors from our sister parishes supporting us. The sum of £867 was raised for church funds.

Trevor Rawlings

Thanks to everyone who came to the Gorefield After-Show party, I hope you all had a very enjoyable evening.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped, both on the night and in the days before... it wouldn't have happened without ALL of you!!

Sorry to all of you who couldn't get tickets. We had to have a cut off date so that we could order and prepare the food, I would have loved to have been able to sell tickets to everyone!

Andrew Buffham

MURROW 200 CLUB WINNERS

J Houlihann - Parson Drove
M Skeels - Murrow
G Lewton - Murrow
J Dade - March
M Humphrey - Gorefield
S Bernhardt - Parson Drove
M Coates - Parson Drove
D Barnes - Murrow

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING CLASSES

Mike and Diana Stuart will commence their new term of Watercolour Painting Classes in Gorefield Village Hall on Tuesday September 8th. There will be the option to paint either Landscapes or Flowers, and beginners to watercolour are especially welcome.
Details: 870411.

THOLOMAS DROVE FUN DAY

Tholomas Drove is holding its annual Fete and Family Fun Day on Saturday August 1st from 2pm to 5pm. Attractions include BBQ, Air Rifle Range, Plant Sale, various stalls and children's games. There will also be the opportunity to soak your neighbour (and the committee members?) in the Stocks.

All proceeds will help to raise money for recreation facilities on George's Field.

SCARECROWS IN GOREFIELD

Gorefield will be holding its second annual Scarecrow Competition in August with the theme "Occupations". The organisers are hoping to build on the success of last year when 35 wonderful exhibits were displayed around the village and parish. Judging will take place during the week of 22nd to 29th August, and the results and presentation of trophies will be at the annual Show which is to be held on September 5th.

Details: Marie 410436 or David 870059.

THANK YOU!

Six gardens were open to the public in Wisbech St Mary on Sunday June 28th. John Crocker, of Chris Barber's Jazz Band, played with the MUDDY BOOTS JAZZ at *Clear View* and £461 was raised by the gardeners for the charity MAGPAS, the local Medical Emergency Service.

Although the Village Gala had the monopoly on members of the public, a big thank you to all the visitors who came along to support this most worthy of Charities.

Margaret Rickard

W.S.M. GOOD COMPANIONS

The Good Companions meet on alternate Thursdays in WSM Village Hall from 2.30 to 4.30pm. Tombola is played and outings arranged. The next outing is planned for September. **All ages are welcome.** For details ring Betty on 410708

Advance Notice
MURROW AUTUMN SHOW

The Murrow Open Flower and Vegetable Show will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday Sept 5th. Schedules now available from Mrs M Woollard, 'Roseacre', Front Road, Murrow. 01945 700673.

QUIZ NIGHT AT GOREFIELD

Gorefield Pre-school are holding a Quiz Night at the village hall on Friday August 14th beginning at 7.30pm. Maximum of 6 people per team. Tickets are £6 per person, which includes a fish and chip supper. Tickets: Liz Rowell on 07787917252.

LUNCH DATES

The **Wisbech St Mary** Luncheon Club will meet on Tuesdays August 4th and 18th at the Bridge Inn at 12 noon. If you can't attend please ring Marjorie on 410511 or the Inn on 410555.

INVITATION TO LEARN BASIC I.T. IN PARSON DROVE

Adult Basic IT classes run by Dan and David, volunteer tutors, are re-starting at Payne School Parson Drove on Monday evenings 4.00-5.30pm in September. Alternatively we are also running sessions at Parson Drove Community Access Point at the Pavilion on Thursday mornings. Get help with your Basic PC skills or even your digital photographs. For details of either class ring David on 700935 or Dan on 700787.

Keep the news coming!

The policy of "Village Voices" is to share news and activities of organisations and people, as well as being a vehicle for diary dates. Please let us know what is happening in your locality. We need more news each month from Wisbech St Mary, Guyhirn and Thorney Toll. You can contact anyone listed on the front page

WSM SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Short Mat Bowls Club meets in Wisbech St Mary Village Hall each Monday evening from 7pm to 9.30pm. New members welcome. Contact 01945 410452 for details.

SHORT MAT BOWLS AT PD

Parson Drove Short Mat Bowls Club meets in the Village Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays 2.00 to 4.30pm. Each session £2. New members very welcome.

CAR BOOT SALES AT GOREFIELD

Car Boot Sales will be held on the Playing Field, Wolf Lane, Gorefield on Saturday 8th August and Saturday 22nd August - Booters 07.30am. Refreshments and toilets available Contact: Norman Carroll 870387.

P D LUNCHEON CLUB

Luncheon Club meets at the "Butchers Arms" alternate Thursdays at midday. For details, contact M Shelley, 01945 700729

OUTINGS AND A BIRTHDAY AT MURROW SUNSHINE CLUB

Murrow Sunshine Club has held meetings on the 1st and 15th July. During the month Mrs Dorothy Britton celebrated her 80th birthday; congratulations to her! Our second summer outing took us to Boston and Skegness on the 8th July; a bit breezy, but dry. We are looking forward to our next outing to Sheringham and Wroxham on Thursday August 6th.

D Ralf, Sec

GOREFIELD PARISH PLAN

In 2006 Gorefield produced a Parish Plan. The comprehensive questionnaire that informed the final plan included an opportunity for residents to register their interest as a volunteer to deal with issues affecting the village. The environment was one area that was highlighted in the Plan and the Parish Council is now looking to take this issue forward. To this end the Council is keen for anyone who is interested to make contact. It may be that you were not living in Gorefield at the time of the Plan or maybe you are now in a position to volunteer some time you did not have available in 2006. Contact; The Clerk, Gorefield Parish Council, 78 High Road, Gorefield. Tel:870454. Details of the plan are on line at www.gorefield.com

WSM YOUTH CLUB

Meets in the Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 7 till 9pm. All 10-16 year old youngsters very welcome to join in and to bring some new ideas. Contact: 01945 410986.

ACTIVITIES AT PARSON DROVE

At St Mark's:

Whist Drives: Third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

The Fitness League: Thursdays 9.45 to 10.45am. Movement to music for all ages, young or mature. Contact: Helen 01406 330565.

At the village hall

Come line-dancing to keep fit and have fun at Parson Drove Village Hall on Tuesdays 1.30 to 4.00pm., and Wednesdays 7.30 to 9.30pm. If you are interested, ring Michelle on 701239

THE CAGE'S FRIENDS

The historic Cage on the Green at Parson Drove is open on Sundays and Wednesdays 2 to 5pm. If you are interested in helping, please ring Roger on 700501 or Anita on 701220.

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR EDUCATION GRANTS

The Leverington Charity Feoffees are inviting applications from residents of Gorefield, Parson Drove and Leverington for grants to students, aged 16 or over, who are attending a college or university for further education.

For an application form send a SAE to the Clerk, Mrs R Gagen, 78 High Road, Gorefield, PE13 4NB. The closing date for completed application forms is Friday September 4th 2009.

JULIE'S PATCH

Pc Julie Coales, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

At the last Village Panel meeting, priorities were set as Inconsiderate parking outside schools, and Anti Social Behaviour. These Panel meetings are one way for you the public to air your concerns etc about issues that concern you and your neighbourhood. You can contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team by

E-COPS: The team send out E-mails to subscribers updating you about local issues

E-MAIL: contact us directly if you want to bring something to our attention

PHONE: leave a message on the answer machine and we will get back to you.

MESSAGES: drop a note in at the Police station when you are passing.

TALK: to us when we are out and about.

If you see something unusual happening, or have something that needs our attention, please contact us, and don't rely on someone else.

If you need to contact me, ring 0345 456 4564 Ext 3799, or email at julie.coales@cambs.pnn.police.uk

WIDE RANGE OF COURSES AT COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA

The College of West Anglia is offering a wide range of Adult & Community Learning and Leisure Courses during 2009-10. The courses will be held in various centres in the District, including the Isle Campus, Wisbech, March Youth & Community Centre, Elm Community Centre and the Oasis Community & Children's Centre.

Ring 01945 582561 to ask for the FREE brochure, or to enrol on a course.

THE crimeBUSTer IS COMING!

The Crimebuster Community Safety bus will be in the area at the end of July and beginning of August.

It will be at the following venues:

Parson Drove V Hall. Tues July 21, 10.00 to 12.30.

Murrow V Hall. Tuesday July 21, 1.30 to 4.00pm.

WSM V Hall. Thursday July 23, 10.00 to 12.30pm.

Gorefield V Hall. Tues August 4, 10.00 to 12.30pm.

The personnel on the converted single-decker bus will be providing advice and guidance to help you feel safe in your community.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

For many years the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, supported by the police and other bodies, have been used to report suspicious persons and crime being committed in local areas.

The Wisbech and District N W Association is looking for people to become co-ordinators in their area to help maintain and improve the current systems.

Anyone interested in becoming a co-ordinator should contact the secretary on 07767 862445, or Mr M Shelly 01945 700729.

GET YOUR VILLAGE ON THE TELLY!

The Big Lottery Fund is challenging villages, large or small, across the UK to come up with brilliant ideas for brand new enterprises to benefit local people.

Six successful villages will share £3 million and work closely with a Village Champion to get their project up and running. The BBC will document their journeys for a major prime time BBC One series in 2010.

For details visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/villagesos or www.bbc.co.uk/villagesos

The time of year for summer holidays is here again, and many of you may have already booked your time away. Those who haven't are probably scanning those holiday brochures or travel agents windows for that much needed break!! Before you head off though, please remember these few security tips;

- ✓ Make sure your home looks occupied. Ideally ask a family member or trusted friend or neighbour to look after your home while you are away
- ✓ Use timer switches to turn your lamps on and off at set times. You can also use them to switch a radio on/off
- ✓ Don't leave your curtains or blinds closed during the daytime. This shows that the house is empty.
- ✓ Remember to cancel any regular deliveries, like newspaper & milk.
- ✓ Lastly, don't forget to lock all windows and doors. If you have a house alarm, make sure you have set it.

Enjoy your holidays!

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.

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

The locations, stops and arrival times are:

Alternate Tuesdays:- Aug 11th and 25th		Alternate Wednesdays:- Aug 12th and 26th		Alternate Fridays:- Aug 7th and 21st.	
Murrow Station Ave	10.30	Gorefield		Rings End March Road,	10.00
Murrow FrontRd Paddocks	10.55	School	15.15	Guyhirn Selwyn Corner	10.25
Parson Drove The Bank	11.15	Post Office	15.40	Bunkers Hill Lay-bye	10.45
Parson Drove Springfield Rd	11.35	Mill Height	15.55	WSM Cannon Close	11.05
Parson Drove Newlands Corner	11.50			WSM Church Road	11.30
Parson Drove Henlow Farm	12.10			WSM Blundell Terr	11.55
				Lev Common Pear Tree Cres	12.15
				Guyhirn Chapelfield Av	15.20

Enquiries: at or 0345 045 5225

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

THE STORY OF THE APRON

I don't think our kids know, what a full-length apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warm oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried

out the hulls. In the autumn the apron was used to bring in apples and pears that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw. Nowadays they would go crazy trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron, and how to tie a knot behind the back!

Useful contacts

Churches		Schools		Health & Security	
Revd Matthew Bradbury	410814	Gorefield School	870321	Parson Drove Surgery	700223
Lilian Brigden (Reader)	450481	Gorefield Pre-school	870439	North Cambs Hospital	585781
Revd Nigel Hannah [Methodist]	466426	Guyhirn School	450247	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	01553 613613
Village Halls (bookings)		Murrow School	700357	Social Services	481100
Gorefield	870829	Murrow Pre School	07754758332	P. Drove Surgery Car Service	07766534280
Guyhirn	450835	Payne School Parson Drove	700275	WSM Community Car Scheme	07592407283
Murrow	700212	Parson Drove Pre-School	07880 606450	Gorefield Social Car Scheme	01945 870539
Parson Drove	700729	WSM School	410312	Childline	0800 1111
Thorney Toll	07887754869 or 07961957878	WSM Play Group	07944 719586	Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
WSM Village Hall	410539	Websites: www.guyhirn-online.org.uk		Dog control/Animal welfare	01354 622442
Parish Council Clerks		www.gorefield.com		Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
Gorefield	870454	www.wisbechstmmary.org.uk		Fenland District Council	111101354654321
Parson Drove	700501			Samaritans	08457909090
Wisbech St Mary	474191			Victim supportline	08453030900
				Police (non-emergency)	0345 456 4564

DEATH OF A CHILD AT MOUTH LANE, WISBECH St MARY

as reported in the "Wisbech Telegraph" 8 May 1875

"An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the Chequers Inn, Tholomas Drove, before Mr W Pratt, coroner, and a respectable jury, (the Reverend W Carpenter, of Guyhim, being the foreman), on the body of a new-born female child.

Police constable Charles Butcher, stationed at Guyhim, said that in consequence of information received on Sunday evening the 2nd of May, he went with the parish constable, Abraham Tegerdine, on Monday, to the house of Thomas Jackson, the father of Jane Jackson, who lived with him and kept his house in Mouth Lane, Wisbech St Mary.

In reply to his questions, the girl Jackson denied certain reports respecting her, but after making further investigation he went to Wisbech to report the matter to Supt. Redding. In consequence of the information he gave, Mr Nicholl, surgeon, of Wisbech, Superintendent Redding, and witness went to the girl's house. Supt. Redding went in and after about ten minutes, came out and directed witness to get a spade. He found one in the garden and Jane Jackson then came out of the house and pointed to a spot six or seven yards from the door, saying that it was down there. About two and a half feet below the surface, he found a black rag, apparently part of an old dress, and took it to a small barn at the Chequers Inn, Tholomas Drove. Mr Nicholl that afternoon opened the bundle, which was in the shape of a pillow, and contained the dead body of a new-born infant.

Supt. Redding stated that in consequence of a report made to him on Monday by Pc Butcher, he procured the assistance of Mr Nicholl and drove down to the cottage at the end of Mouth Lane. He found the woman Jane Jackson, and on being questioned she denied having been confined. Being informed that Mr Nicholl was a medical man and that her denial of it would be very much against her if found to be incorrect, she admitted that she had been confined a month ago, and she had buried the child in the garden. She pointed out the place about ten yards from the cottage door and, having sent her away, he directed Pc Butcher to dig there. He saw the bundle taken out and was present when it was examined by Mr Nicholl. The outside was a piece of coarse black material and the inner wrapping was of linen. In it was the body of a full grown and well-developed child, and in his opinion, it had not been dead more than a week.

Mr David Charles Nicholl, surgeon, confirmed the evidence of Supt. Redding as to the interview with the girl, the finding of the body in the garden, and its subsequent removal to the barn at the Chequers Inn. The body was that of a newly born female child fully developed, and weighing about seven pounds. From subsequent examination and from what she told him, he came to the conclusion that the birth had taken place a week before, and the girl admitted that the child was born on the previous Monday. When he made his examination on Tuesday he found the deceased child to be perfectly healthy. The stomach contained no nutriment. He was of the opinion that it was quite impossible to state whether death was caused by violence or not.

Jane Jackson, having been cautioned, was asked if she wished to make any statement as to the cause of the death of the deceased, but declined to do so.

The jury then returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Jane Jackson, the mother of the deceased child, and the inquest was adjourned for a week to complete the proceedings".

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ASSIZES:

as reported in the "Wisbech Telegraph" 31 July 1875

"At these Assizes yesterday, Jane Jackson, 22, singlewoman, pleaded guilty to concealing the birth of her female child at Mouth Lane, Wisbech St Mary. She was sentenced to six months imprisonment, having already been in prison for two months. The Grand Jury found no true bill against her for manslaughter, on which charge she had been committed by the coroner".

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Wisbech & Fenland Museum

The Wisbech Prison Book (Register) describes Jane Jackson as five feet two inches tall, of fresh complexion with brown hair and hazel eyes. She had a cut on her left forefinger. She was unmarried and worked as a field labourer. She also looked after her father "a poor labourer" at Mouth Lane, Wisbech St Mary.

She was sentenced to six months hard labour for concealing the birth of her child. She was released from prison on the 28th January 1876.

The Governor of Wisbech Prison, Edward Fleming Burrows, added an ominous note to the entry: "It is feared this is the third infant disposed of".

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mary Jane Jackson was born in 1853 the daughter of Thomas and Caroline Jackson of Mouth Lane. She was baptised in Wisbech St Mary church on the 24th April 1853.

On the 1st August 1876, after her release from prison, she married John Grange, an agricultural labourer who lived nearby in Mouth Lane. Mary Jane and John settled down to family life and had three boys and five girls.