

# Village Voices

October 2022

Covering the areas of Gorefield, Guyhirn, Murrow, Parson Drove, Rings End, Thorney Toll, & Wisbech St Mary

## GOD SAVE THE KING



### CHURCHES AT YOUR SERVICE EACH MONTH

Residents and visitors of all ages are very welcome at any of these services.

#### Emmanuel Church - Parson Drove and Murrow

Weekly Sunday service at 9.00am

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Morning Worship

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Breakfast Church

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion

#### St. Paul's Church - Gorefield.

Weekly Sunday service at 10 am

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October - **Harvest Festival**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Morning Prayer

#### Wisbech St. Mary & Guyhirn Parish Church

Weekly Sunday service at 11.15am

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - **Harvest Festival**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Morning Prayer

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion

23<sup>rd</sup> October - Sung Evensong 6pm at Tydd St Giles.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> October All Saints Sunday

10am - Joint Service at Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Church

And - a special service for us to remember our loved ones that have died. It is a short, reflective service with prayers and hymns as we remember those who have gone before us.

3.00pm – A Service of comfort and hope at Tydd St Giles.



### Parish Register

We welcome in to the church family those recently Baptised:

Nancy Prestidge (Leverington)

Florence Sutton (Leverington)

Harmony Stevens (Leverington)

Poppy Goat (Wisbech St Mary)

Harper Gaunt (Wisbech St Mary)



We congratulate those recently married.

Steven Hartley & Joy Fung  
(Leverington)



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of:

Elizabeth Drysdale (Wisbech St Mary)

Terry Ball (Leverington)

Ann Pentelow (Tydd St Giles)

Rose Mason (Tydd St Giles)



### Ramblings from Rev Sandra

The news of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II came as a shock to us as individuals and as a nation. We had been prepared for the news earlier in the day, but as with the news of this magnitude, it was still a shock.

In the few weeks that have passed, there has been much reflection on her life, both private and public. For us, we only saw her public persona, which reflected a life of duty and dedication, and a determination to carry out her role to the best of her ability.

One of the things that was deeply rooted within her was her Christian faith. She spoke about it often and eloquently, especially in her broadcasts to the nation. On hearing her speak, it was clear that her faith was an integral part of who she was and informed her role and responsibilities. It was not something that she switched on for the cameras.

There is a hymn, based on Psalm 34 written by N Tate and N Brady in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the first verse is:

*Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy,  
The praises of my God shall still  
My heart and tongue employ.*

These words encapsulate so much of the late Queen's life. She saw so much change through her long life and long reign but embraced them all with a faith that God would be with her throughout it all.

May we too, learn to have trust in God to sustain and guide us through the changing scenes of our lives.

Sandra

All bookings for baptisms and wedding are now taken at the vestry mornings held at St Leonard's Leverington.

They run between 10am and 12,

and the next vestry mornings are

on: 1<sup>st</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, and 10<sup>th</sup>

December.



### CONTACT DETAILS

Rev Sandra Gardner 01945 581486

sandra.gardner952@btinternet.com

Rev Janet Phillips 01945 589034

Kate Pateman 01945 870154

Margaret Tanner 07796 172025



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**THANK YOU to CHURCHFIELD WAY RESIDENTS!**



A big thank you to all those people who donated on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August for Amanda Garcia, the lady who has delivered the Standard Newspaper round Churchfield Way for the last ten years.

I collected the grand sum of £143.20p! When I gave it to her on the Friday, she was so surprised and shed a few tears, bless her. Amanda said it had been a pleasure to deliver the paper as everyone was so friendly and kind. So, thank you all from me. Doreen.

PS. She has a job with Webbs Newsagent now.

**Gorefield Ladies Group**



After a summer break, the next meeting will be at Gorefield Village Hall, 7.30pm., on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October when Michael Clayton will talk about The Life and Music of Buddy Holly. New members welcome.



Brenda Stamp.

**JOHN BENDS CHARITY PARISH OF WISBECH ST MARY**

Applications are invited from needy persons who have been resident in the above Parish for six years or more for inclusion on the Dole List. Those already on the list need not apply. Application forms, which must be returned by 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022, can be obtained by applying to:

Clerk to the Trustees  
Mrs Linda Brownlow, The Limes, Harold Bridge,  
Gorefield, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 4PU  
Tel:01945 700323  
email: lbrownlow173@gmail.com

**LEVERINGTON CHARITY FEOFFEEES**  
(Charity Number 232526)

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

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

Application forms can be collected from the Post Offices at Leverington and Gorefield or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

The Clerk Mrs R J Gagen, 78 High Road, Gorefield, WISBECH, Cambs PE13 4NB

Or by e-mail [levfeoffees@aol.com](mailto:levfeoffees@aol.com)

All completed application forms must be returned to the clerk by  
16<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**



**MONTHLY MART**

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Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022 Door opens at 10am

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Also, **THE PARISH TEA**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30**

**A lovely tea with sandwiches, sausage rolls and cake.  
Some entertainment, music and time to chat.  
Everybody is most welcome to come.**

**WISBECH ST MARY WI**

At our last meeting, which was held in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Church, we were entertained by the Peterborough Flute Choir.

They played a selection of tunes, from classical to more modern show tunes, some were new and some familiar to us. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Jan supplied a selection of cakes which we enjoyed with the usual cuppa.

Next month we shall be back in the school. Anyone who is interested in joining us, please ring 01945 479764.

**Let's celebrate Harvest at St Pauls  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October**



Join us for worship at 10am  
The windows will be especially decorated with produce and flowers

**All donations of fruit, vegetables, or other produce to be auctioned at our Supper raising funds for the upkeep of St Paul's church  
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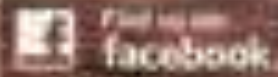
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## Murrow Primary Academy

During the first week back in September we held a sponsored 'Doggy Waddle' where the children along with their parents and dogs walked laps around the school field. A fun afternoon was enjoyed by all.

### Zebra class

Welcome to your new school Zebra Class! We've had a great first week getting to know each other and exploring the learning environment. We have played pirates, been to a 'restaurant', made chocolate cake in the mud kitchen and built cars with invisible powers! Well done everyone!



### Italy class

All children have settled into term well and have been enjoying the new activities. They have been sorting fruit and vegetables, looking at the structure of sentences and had great fun at the school doggy waddle to raise money for the school.

### Canada class

In Canada class we have started learning about the Stone age and have found out about where they lived and the food they ate. Within Science we have been finding out about systems of our body including the muscular system and skeletal system.

### Spain class

Children in years five and six have been writing letters to apply for leadership roles within the school to be 'eco warriors', 'digital experts', 'sports leaders', to name a few. The children are excited and looking forward to having more responsibility.

We are deeply saddened to hear about the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and join the nation in mourning her loss. Our immediate thoughts are with her family, and we join those across the Nation and Commonwealth in remembering her with the deepest affection and love. We remember too, the commitment she has shown to all of us throughout her remarkable reign.

### PARSON DROVE WI

Our meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> will be a Talk and Demonstration on Hand Quilting, our Annual General Meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> November, all are welcome, we meet at Emmanuel Church at 7.30pm.  
tel no.01945 700124.



### Big Update coming to Windows 11

The Windows 11 2022 Update (also known as version 22H2) will apparently start rolling out to compatible devices from September 20th, I thought we'd take a look at some of its upcoming new features and as well as some that were due to be released with the original version, but which, for various reasons, are still pending release.

**Folders in the Start Menu:** Why we couldn't have had folders in the Start Menu on release day seems like a massive oversight, however over the next few months this should arrive and make managing our apps and shortcuts a little easier.

**Improved Account Management:** If you want to check on subscriptions for Xbox, Office etc or change a password, you currently have to open the settings page in Windows 11, which opens a web browser page on Microsoft's web site where you have to log on once more in order to make amendments etc. This is going to change, allowing you to be able to do it in settings, without taking you to a website.

**Drag and Drop Support for the Windows 11 Taskbar:** You'll be able to drag files straight to apps on the taskbar, such as Outlook for adding attachments or image editors like paint or photos to make amendments, which should make working on multiple things at once easier.

**User interface improvements:** Currently, the pop out section for audio, brightness, Wi-Fi etc in the bottom right-hand corner is a hot mess, so thankfully it looks like this is going to be improved.

**Android Apps:** These, have been available in beta from Amazon App store in the USA for a while now. This will bring the Kindle App and over a 1,000 games and utilities with it.

**Mail, Calendar and People:** This update is long overdue! In Windows 8, the in-built Windows Mail app was awful, it got a minor tweak in Windows 10 and is still the same on Windows 11 (we've been pushing either Mozilla Thunderbird (Free) Outlook (not Free) for years). Apparently, this update is going to be a replacement and will be offered to both Windows 10, 11 and Apple macOS users. Hopefully this update will provide a way to back up settings and contact details (i.e., email addresses etc) so that you can transfer them from one machine to another, like Thunderbird or Outlook. For this and many other of our bi-weekly blogs and hints and tips please visit our website at [www.diamondbyte.co.uk](http://www.diamondbyte.co.uk).



### PARSON DROVE STREET PRIDE

22nd October 10 till 12. Meet at The Cage.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with litter picking/planting/ weeding etc. Equipment/bags supplied.

Just a reminder that our Parson Drove Street Pride Fundraising Raffle is being held at the Swan Inn on **Saturday 29th October**. Raffle tickets can be purchased there.

We would also like to thank the following local companies for their kind prize donations - First, thank you again Brad and Evette for kindly holding this raffle as part of their Halloween Fancy Dress Disco.

**The Swan Inn** (meal for two), **The Secret Garden** (breakfast for two), **Mally's Pizzas** (pizza vouchers), **4:44 Reiki Healing** (30 min Reiki session), **Hair at Aka Wisbech**, **Woodlands Walks** (Cakes donated by Hayley), **Tesco Extra Wisbech** (£30 voucher to spend in store).

**Sankie Jones** (pickles and chutney gift box), and to the many other individual people who have donated prizes for the event.

Facebook - Parson Drove Street Pride

NextDoor Parson Drove

Please contact Heather on 01945 701375 for more information

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## GUYHIRN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE SCHOOL

Guyhirn pre-school are pleased to be back in the swing of things after the summer break and welcoming some new faces.

We have been learning about our bodies- all the different parts and how our body changes as we grow also, about different people that help us.

Our pre-school has places available for immediate start so feel free to give us a call on 01945 450247.

Moreton Class children have settled nicely back into school. Reception children will be focussing on the Topic All about me, learning about what makes them unique and special, their families and the local world they live in.

Year 1 will be learning about the Human body and the senses in science. They will also focus on learning about friendships and social relationships in PSHE. The children will be taking part in a Design and Technology Day where they will be developing their textiles skills and making puppets! They will be reading and writing about the story of Hansel and Gretel in English. Finally, in RE we will be focusing on Christianity and discussing what Christians believe, and what God is like?

Marriott class have settled back brilliantly after the summer holidays, and we have welcomed our new Year 2 children with open arms. We have already started our learning journey by thinking about the changes that happen and the emotions we may experience in PSHE, the human body and its systems in Science and Ancient Greece in History. The children are looking forward to using the art skills they have been taught to produce their own artwork based on famous artists such as 'Klee' and 'Hokusai'.



Magdalene Class have had a brilliant start back to the school year, settling in to working really hard. Over the term, the children are indulging in David Almond's Skellig novel, looking at map work and understanding the benefits and consequences of The Industrial Revolution. Magdalene Class are looking forward to starting their Forest School sessions, taking time to explore their world around them, as well as Year 6 preparing for their Tag Rugby festival coming up soon.



### Gorefield Parish Council tree planting for the Queen's Jubilee.

Plans to plant a small copse of native trees as part of the "Plant a tree for the Queen's Jubilee" scheme are progressing well. A site has been chosen ( part of the green area at the entrance to the Oxfield Estate), the trees have been ordered from the Woodland Trust, who provide collections of trees for such schemes, and I have been informed that they will be delivered sometime during October and November. These trees will be small native species such as Rowan, selected for their suitability to provide shelter and food for wildlife and to further enhance the trees already planted in this area. If there are any people interested in participating with the planting and care of these trees would they please contact the Parish Council.



Friends For Needs Ltd (FFN) announced the upcoming relaunch of their mobile dental service; a first for the Fenland area. This service, providing access to regular

dental clinics and tailored oral-health plans, will be made available to residents of local care homes and nursing homes.

Having prepared to start operating in 2020, plans were stalled by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, with the nationwide shortage of dentists reaching a crisis point, many are left struggling to access the dental care they so desperately need, making this service more vital than ever.

Based in March, Cambridgeshire, Friends For Needs Ltd are already well established in the community, as a provider of companionship and domestic support services for the elderly. Their mobile dental service is provided in partnership with The Priors Green Dental Hive.

Here is what Sam Awolesi, Director of FFN Mobile Services, had to say:


"Those living in care are often faced with additional limitations in mobility, affecting their ability to attend 'off-site' dental-practice appointments. Cognitive impairments, which so often heighten the anxiety associated with a visit to the dentist, are another common difficulty. With our team being able to visit them 'at home' we hope to not only reduce the challenges they face and bring them the oral care they need, but to also ease some of the pressure already felt by our hard-working care providers, who would, otherwise, need to facilitate these dental appointments in external locations."

For further information, please contact:  
FFN Mobile Services, 3 Station Approach, March,  
Cambridgeshire, PE15 8SJ Tel: +44 (0) 1354 655 030  
Email: [enquiries@friendsforneeds.com](mailto:enquiries@friendsforneeds.com)

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## October Update from the Friends of Saint Johns Church in Parson Drove

It's been a very busy year at the Church of St John the Baptist here in Parson Drove. Our Friends Group is now fully set up, we have an active committee and are now starting to recruit members of the group. We have been helped by Parson Drove Parish Council, The John Peck Society, Village Voices, Parson Drove Street Pride, the Churches Conservation Trust and the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, as well as support from so many kind and generous people from the village and further afield. Our aim is to ensure this beautiful building is looked after for many years to come.

So far this year we have had so many events including 3 amazing outdoor theatre performances. We have had art exhibitions, craft fairs, fashion shows, plant sale, not to mention our hugely popular "Fab Fun Family Quizzes" which are becoming a bit of tradition. Astronomy and Bat evenings have been great fun too.

Back in June we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee, with a huge picnic, live music, and all sorts of fun and games.....this now seems an age ago in light of recent sad events.

We are now planning our autumn and winter events leading up to Christmas. There's going to be a lot going on! Please keep an eye on our website [www.churchendevents.org](http://www.churchendevents.org) and our facebook page at [@saintjohnsparsondrove](https://www.facebook.com/saintjohnsparsondrove) or just drop us an email at [ChurchEndEvents@btinternet.com](mailto:ChurchEndEvents@btinternet.com). But here's what we've got planned so far.....

**September 25<sup>th</sup> – ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR**

**October 1<sup>st</sup> – OUR FIRST EVER BLACK-TIE HARVEST SUPPER EVENT**

**October 8<sup>th</sup> – FAB FUN FAMILY QUIZ**

**October 21<sup>st</sup> – END OF SUMMER BANGERS'N'MASH LIVE MUSIC BASH**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> – FESTIVE ARTS AND CRAFT FAIR**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> – CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY THE SALVATION ARMY BAND PLUS LOCAL CHOIR**

**AND FINALLY WE ARE LAUNCHING OUR FIRST EVER CHRISTMAS APPEAL....**

**PD's PJs for Christmas Appeal** We are asking for donations of pyjamas for children up to the age of 15 for Christmas – check out our website for information.



## Wisbech St Mary Church of England Academy



It was wonderful to welcome our children back to school in September, in particular our new Reception children. All our children settled in so well and we are so proud of them. We have had a super start to the new school year and all our classes have been incredibly busy with their new topics for this term.

It was with very heavy hearts that we learnt of the sad news about the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Her passing is a very significant moment of shared sadness for our country. On the morning of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, we held a special Collective Worship, during which we spoke to the children about how Queen Elizabeth II had lived a long life serving our country and how she dedicated her whole life to serving her people. The Queen was open about her strong personal Christian faith, and this faith played an important part in the way she lived and was a strength to her during challenging times, both for herself and for the nation. During our assembly, we had a short time for reflection, followed by a prayer.

Our preschool has vacancies for children aged 2 to 4 years old. Our preschool is led by two experienced teachers (one of whom is also our EYFS lead) and was judged 'Good' by Ofsted. We offer children a friendly atmosphere which gives children the chance to progress socially, academically, and pastorally. Our preschool is an integral part of our school and is embedded into our wider school community; we make the most of opportunities to include children in whole school activities, which enables the children to make a seamless transition into our reception class. Along with play-based learning in the indoor and outdoor environments, children experience a broad, well-sequenced, knowledge-rich curriculum which builds on prior learning. Children also have access to all of the school facilities, including



Forest School, etc. If you would like to find out further information, come for a visit, or talk to a member of our staff, Please contact office@wsacademy.cambs.sch.uk or call 01945 410312.

The Local Governing Body at Wisbech St Mary C of E Academy has a number of vacancies for the role of a school governor. Do you have some spare time? Would you like to be involved with the school? If you would like more information or to have an informal chat about the role, please contact Julie Coales at [chair@wsacademy.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@wsacademy.cambs.sch.uk)

### **"New Funding for 20mph Schemes"**

Simon King, County Councillor for Gorefield, Murrow and Parson Drove, is delighted that extra funding will make reducing the speed limit to 20mph much easier. A broad set of criteria is being finalised and will include proximity to schools.

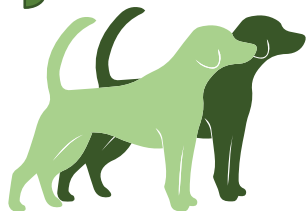
Email: [sjeking@yahoo.com](mailto:sjeking@yahoo.com) Phone: 07939 696322"

### **NOTICE OF CANCELLATION**

The Medieval night in Parson Drove Village Hall in October is cancelled .

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# Advice for physical work

If your work involves lifting or more physical activities you need to be careful that you are not putting yourself at risk of injury or long-term health problems.

One of the biggest causes of back injury at work is due to lifting incorrectly. Additionally, continuous repetitive activities, or staying in the same position for extended periods of time, can also lead to pain and discomfort. Being aware of how to move correctly when at work can keep you healthy for longer and keep you safe from injury.

## Lift safely

Before you lift any object, try to establish its weight and if you can indeed lift it safely. If in any doubt, don't attempt it.

Check your destination. Make sure you know where you are going to deposit your load and you have no obstructions in the way.



Lift in stages. See if you can phase your lift. For example from floor to table and then to destination. Once at the destination can you lift it in

stages to its desired location?

**The golden rule of lifting – Bend at the knees and not your back!**

**Remember do not bend forward from your back to lift an item.**

**Before you start to lift make sure your footing is stable, keeping a wide stance.**

**Get a good hold of the item and keep the item close to your body as you move up, using your legs to straighten up.**

**Avoid twisting your back/body when lifting or positioning a load.**

## Awkward places and repetitive movements

If your work involves getting into awkward places or repetitive movements for extended periods of time, this can also put additional stress and strain on your muscles, joints and associated tissues. Overhead movements when decorating, working under cars, on knees fixing carpets or leaning over to fix pipes, are all examples. The demands of your job will often dictate what can you do, but you may want to consider: rotating jobs. If you've got a number of things to do, try and rotate from one activity to another after a shorter period of time so you don't get stuck in one position or activity.

Take regular breaks. Short regular breaks that allow you to move into different positions can be helpful.

Keep a healthy lifestyle. With a physically demanding job it's important to make sure you are eating healthily, and still keeping your body fit for work. Dependant on your job you may want to consider doing other physical activities for fun that will either build strength or your cardiovascular stamina.

## How your osteopath can help

Hopefully you can keep healthy at work by introducing the above advice but if you do find yourself suffering from aches and pains such as back and neck ache, elbow or wrist pain, **Speak to your osteopath** who will be able to provide further advice on healthy working habits and treatment if necessary to get you back to work.

**Luc Woods Registered Osteopath**



## GOREFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

*We are deeply saddened to hear about the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and join the nation in mourning her loss. Our immediate thoughts are with her family, and we join those across the Nation and Commonwealth in remembering her with the deepest affection and love. We remember too, the commitment she has shown to all of us throughout her remarkable reign.*

The new children have settled in Penguins class. The children have been investigating their new surroundings, having fun learning in the outside area and beginning their adventures at Gorefield. They have been talking about families and drawing pictures during their first few lessons.

Our Year 1 and 2 class this year is called 'France'. During the first week the class were learning about the country, where it is, cultural differences and finding interesting facts.

Year 3 and 4 is now 'Zimbabwe'. Zimbabwe have made traditional clay pots, they have learnt a song in 'Shona' (local dialect) and written a recount of the book "The Girl Who Buried Her Dreams in a Can" by Dr Terarai Trent, it's a true story about her life.



The Year 5 and 6 class is now 'Samoa' which has opened up a whole world of related learning from writing poems and using personification in our writing. During PE the class even pretended to be on a beach! "Wonder Garden" was chosen for guided reading – it is a book that explores many habitats.

At the end of our first week back at school, we held a 'Doggy Waddle' – this was a sponsored walk for the children and their families and they could bring their family dog along for the event.

*By the School Reporters*



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## Interesting and Curious Facts of Yesteryear

Unusual, fascinating and sometimes amusing, by the author of "Wisbech's Secret Princess," and "Interesting and Curious facts of Yesteryear, 31 stories of Wisbech & the Fenlands," Chris Donald

### THE FENS FLOOD



The story starts unusually with a ration book and it begins in December 1946, just two years after the terrible second world war had finished. People were trying to get over a war that had lasted six years with all the death and destruction that it brought. There were still shortages mainly in towns and cities but in the Fens it wasn't so bad, many people had small

holdings. They were able to keep cows, pigs, chickens and of course fruit and vegetables. This meant that many people in the Fens had a better standard of living than the more wealthy neighbours living in towns and cities.

People were still being issued with ration books and basic food items such as sugar, meat, fats, bacon and cheese were rationed as was petrol. The last thing people wanted was a bad Winter. Sadly, they were going to get it.

What the Fens and for that matter, the country needed was a good harvest. But, weather doesn't always be kind to the farmer and six weeks of snow certainly didn't help. There were massive disruptions of energy to homes and work places. Sadly, animal herds froze or starved to death.

And by February there were huge snow drifts, in some places 20 foot high. Roads had snow piled up high on either side with just a narrow bit of road visible. By the end of the month everywhere was covered in snow, the earth was frozen solid and large drifts of snow blocked roads and railways. They had problems getting the coal to the electric power stations meaning that the stations had to shut down for some of the time. Electricity was on for 19 hours a day and some companies weren't allowed any. Television was cancelled and the hours of radio broadcasts were cut. Even the people at Buckingham Palace worked by candlelight. As well there were worries about food. Vegetables were frozen in the ground; they just couldn't get them out. Temperatures got as low as minus 21 degrees!

It was so cold that you could see ice flows off the East Anglian coast.

But, you would think people had suffered enough but worse was to come.

In March it got warmer, and this was going to lead to yet more problems. Being warmer, the snow melted but it couldn't go anywhere because the ground was frozen solid.

Then there was torrential rain, more than two inches (50mm) in 36 hours. After weeks and weeks of frost, the ground was hard and wouldn't soak up the rain or the melted snow. The flooding started in South England and then as a large Atlantic depression crossed the country it spread Northwards. Rivers burst their banks, railway embankments collapsed, roads were impassable, and many places were flooded including Devon and Cornwall.

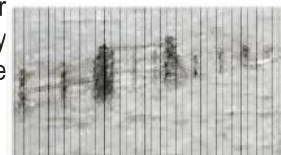
By the middle of the month, we experienced high winds with gusts of over 100 miles per hour and more rain than had been experienced for 300 years. Many, many places in Britain were flooded and more than 100,000 homes were affected. Here in the Fens, we had strong South westerly winds that caused big waves to push the water over the dykes resulting in large areas of low lying land being flooded.

For once the Fens with all its dykes and pumping stations couldn't cope and the result was widespread flooding mostly to the Southern Fens, but North Cambridgeshire suffered too.

It was all hands-on deck; the drainage workers were helped by farm hands and volunteers and even the German prisoners of war helped. Due to the hard work of so many people things gradually got back to normal, and the farmers were able to sow the fields.

We ended up having a good harvest. If your eighty or more, you will remember this flood. But we have had some floods since then. The 1978 floods were not good for Wisbech. 1,000 people were evacuated, and an eighty-year-old woman was drowned in her own bed.

Since then, in 2013 the river Nene came within inches of coming over the top of the flood walls, and in October 2019 we had flash floods after just twenty minutes of very heavy downpour. Anywhere in the country places are at risk of flash floods but despite this, our town is classified as low risk for flooding. And there are many, many places in this country that are far more likely to get flooded, but it wasn't always so.....



### What A Din!

### Diane Calton Smith

For a small Fenland town, Wisbech has always known how to celebrate. The street parties held during this year's Jubilee were a good example of that, as are the annual Rock Festival and the Rose Fair which remained a highly popular event until it came to an end during the Covid years.

Then there's the fair which visits the town in February each year. We have King Henry VIII to thank for its origins, though in his day it would have been a very different affair from the events we know now.

Henry granted permission in a charter of 1537 for an annual fair to be held in King's Lynn. It was to start on St Valentine's Day and continue for six days. Each year, as the fair came to a close, the peddlers, musicians, players and acrobats would travel from King's Lynn to their next fair in Stamford, Lincolnshire. They found it convenient to break their journey in Wisbech, and so each year they called at our town. Reluctant to miss an opportunity to entertain and earn a bit more money, they set up their stalls and performed their plays and acrobatics for the people of Wisbech. Musicians playing bagpipes, tabors and recorders filled the streets, bringing merriment and colour.

For most folk, it would have brought a welcome diversion from the greyness of winter, but there were always a few people who were unimpressed. They complained about the din of too many musical instruments blasting away all at once. We still complain these days, but it's more likely to be about the fair's lorries bunting up the car parks!

In far earlier times, it was the fair of St Peter in Chains which people looked to for their annual fun and enjoyment. From at least 1250, this fair was held each year on the first of August. As well as music, plays and acrobatics, medieval traders came to sell their wares. For local people, it provided a rare chance to buy items such as work tools as well as more luxurious items, such as gloves and purses.

As far back as we look, except for times of plague, repression or conflict, the people of Wisbech have held their celebrations. These days, huge fairground rides and amplification give some of the fairs a very different feel, but essentially their role has not changed. They entertain us, they engage us, and perhaps most importantly of all, they bring us together.

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## October News



The new academic year is well under way and we are so excited to welcome back everyone, especially our new reception children who have already settled in very well and have 'buddied up' with our kind and patient year 6 children.

The 'Fabulous Five Foundations' are top priority at Alderman Payne; Inquisitiveness, Reading, Wider World, Respect, Resilience & Perseverance, the framework for our engaging curriculum.

This year classes are named after Royal houses in honour of our late Queen's Jubilee year...Reception/ Year one is named *Kensington*, Year One/Two is called *Windsor*, Year Three/ Four have chosen *Sandringham* (the most local home to us) and Year Five/Six have decided upon Buckingham. We look forward to many class trips and events such as visits to Africa Live, The Royal Opera House and the Imperial War Museum and look forward to sharing our experiences with you in future news.

We were also delighted to receive a letter from the Queen during the summer! Her Majesty thanked us for the invitation to our school Jubilee celebrations and was touched by our thoughts and wished us all well.



We are all deeply saddened by the news

of her passing and shared a special commemorative assembly to celebrate her life. Our hearts and thoughts go out to the Royal family. We wish Charles III a successful reign.



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## THE HOBBY GARDENER October

October, and autumn closes in on the garden. There can still be some lovely sunny days showing up the glorious yellows, gold and russet colours in the gardens and hedgerows as nature prepares for winter. It's the month for harvesting what's left of fruit and vegetables which won't like frosts. Pumpkins, marrows, potatoes can be kept in a frost-free shed, apples need checking for damage, then placing them in trays but not touching each other. Damaged ones can be cooked then frozen for sauces crumbles or pies. Yummy! After carving your pumpkin for Halloween, the seeds can be dried for eating or saving to plant again next year. Parsnips can be left in the ground as I think they taste better when they have a frost on them.

Remove any dead plants from your borders that did not like the dry summer and think about replacing them with something more tolerant as the experts tell us it will happen again.

Some trees, shrubs and roses are available as bare roots; these are much cheaper to buy, soak the roots overnight before planting them and they should be fine now the ground is damp. Fill in spaces with bulbs or wallflowers to give a good display in spring. I like to cut my roses back by about half now as it stops wind rock, then prune them properly in spring.

My greenhouse needs a good clean both inside and out before I get my fuchsias and geraniums in for the winter. I Check them for pests and dose fuchsia pots with a vine weevil killer when I get them in, it's not cheap but it saves your old favourites. As you sweep up the leaves leave a few for the black birds to scratch around in. Remove weeds and fork the ground over between plants then put the kettle on for a cuppa and a ginger biscuit.



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Chief Scout Bear Grylls OBE  
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*"As a family of Scouts, we are united in sorrow for the loss of our Patron, HM The Queen. She leaves a bright legacy of hope and promise for future generations. Together, we will honour her memory.*

*We will remember her and give thanks for her kindness, her service, and the unwavering support she showed our movement over many decades. She was truly a friend to Scouts everywhere.*

*In memory of our great Patron, let's show that same sense of kindness and respect to each other. A great book has closed - not just a chapter - and a new one now begins.*

*On behalf of every Scout, we thank HM The Queen for her service. We will never forget her."*

We have started a new term full of enthusiasm. We have planned a full and exciting itinerary for this term, numbers have increased, and we have been enjoying getting to know our new young people and planning the activities together.

Scouting is a great way for young people (and adults as volunteers) to make new friends, develop new skills and most importantly to have fun.

Visit [www.15thwisbechscouts.org](http://www.15thwisbechscouts.org) for more information and contact details regarding Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and how you or your child can become involved. #skillsforlife

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## Entries from John Peck's September 1832 Diary

This edition of John's diary now has him in his mid-forties. PCH

September 1. Very heavy rain in the morning, truly distressing. At Wisbech the markets up, in consequence of the wet. Sold Mssrs. Ward's 66c. wheat at 54/-, with 8c. at 48/-, and 13c. coleseed to Mr. Exley at 22/- per coomb. Captain Yorke canvassing at Wisbech; he made a most excellent speech. Mr. Townley was there also.

September 2. A fine day, spent at home. Our little daughter's birthday, being one year old; a sweet, lovely baby - pray God to make her a good one.

September 3. Sent wheat and coleseed to Wisbech. The day fine. Turning and binding oats. Rode with a party of gentlemen through Tydd St. Giles, Newton & Leverington, canvassing with Captain Yorke.

September 4. *(WRITTEN IN A DIFFERENT HAND);- I dined here with my kind friend & supporter John Peck, during my canvass of the County previous to an expected election under the New Constitution. C. Yorke.*  
The above Captain Yorke wrote after dining here with a party of his staunch friends, when canvassing the county. (ADDED NOTES; Captain Yorke elected December 18<sup>th</sup>. IN RED INK; November, 1834. At the death of his uncle, Captain Yorke became Earl Hardwicke.)

September 5. Waggoning wheat at Tydd Fen & Parson Drove 16a. Reaping oats bought of Mr. Grimley, very much knocked out by the hailstorm on the 26<sup>th</sup> August.

September 6. Waggoning the 10a. wheat Tydd Fen, and Baines' 11a. P.D. now getting in good condition. Finished reaping the oats bought of Grimley, also binding the same; not a good plan, but a safe one.

September 7. Waggoned the 9a. wheat Tydd Fen and from the two 7a.'s Diglin's Drove. Began to cut the 12a. beans, P.D. Fen. Some very green; 'tis said the colour will be better, (which see). Wrote to my friend Mr. Taylor an account of Captain Yorke's canvass.

September 8. Another fine day. Rode to Wisbech. Bought beef at 6/3. A thin market, price of corn stationary. 4 fat sheep belonging to a man named Bland at Wisbech, seized for arrears of tithe and offered to be sold in the market, but not a single person was found to give a bid. The crowd of idle and bad characters was very great, and the language anything but good. Contempt of the laws and derision of the church general; this, with us, is the beginning of much misery.

September 9. Went to church in the morning, dined and spent the afternoon at home. This has been a fine drying week; got up 94 acres wheat.

September 10. Got up one load wheat when it began to rain and stopped all. Happed the stacks down with straw and began to thatch. Cutting beans 5a. St. Edmund's and tying same at Harrold. Afternoon windy and fair. Some people waggoning oats.

September 13. A showery morning. Thrashing at P.D. part of 10a. wheat Town (31c.3b.) and some of Weight's 12a. (9c). Dined with Mr. Culy; his birth- and wedding day. Drink, talk and foolery made up the day. "Called a

fen farmer", thought to be affronted.

September 14. Began to thrash wheat in Tydd Fen; many hands employed, much money going out.

September 15. Machining wheat in Tydd Fen. This press of business is not like the good old times we hear so much talk about. Land at 50/- an acre, who gets rich ?

September 16. Another fine day - thank God for a fine week.

September 17. Sent load wheat to Wisbech. Machining in Tydd Fen; team bringing wheat to the P.D. barn. Tying the St. Edmund's beans, and harrow & rooling the hill on 10a. Town for tares. A fine and drying day, suits the later harvest.

September 19. Went to Wisbech Statutes; hired James Alexander for man, wages £8 and 2/6 earnest. Attended a Commissioners Meeting at the White Hart to let the lands newly embanked; let the North Farm, containing 244 acres, to W. Coe, rent £320; the Middle Farm, 230 acres, to George Coe, rent £330, and the South Farm, 125 acres, to J. Spikings for £160. (See August 1<sup>st</sup>.) Dined according to annual custom with Mr. G. Ward.

September 20. Down Tydd Fen twice, machining and waggoning Home ground; oats very fine.

September 22. Waggoned the 9a. black oats from Newton Fen, and the last of white corn this year, for which I return God most sincere thanks.

September 23. Went to church in the morning; This has been a very extraordinary fine week, machines going in every direction - these must bring prices down.

September 24. (MARGIN NOTE: Hot.) Began to waggon beans from Harrold in excellent condition. Drove Mrs. P. and Miss Ulyat to Cambridge. The day most extraordinary fine, even hot. Found all friends well.

September 25. To Stirbich Fair - the horses low, with few buyers. Hops 1/6 & 1/9 per lb.; onions in great plenty at 1/9 per bushel. Dined with Mr. F. Beales, and went to the play in evening, "Eugene Aram" & "The Rent Day".

September 26. Went with the ladies to view the museum; Dined with Mr. Taylor, then to the theatre in the evening - saw "The Hunchback", a sterling play, with "Damp Beds".

September 27. (MARGIN NOTE; Hot. Finished harvest.) Left Cambridge and arrived at home by 5 o'clock, just as the last of the beans was got up, and the last of harvest this year, thank God. These last four days unusually hot for the season.

September 28. To Tydd Fen. Finished ointmenting the lambs. At St. Edmund's ploughing the 15a. for wheat and harrowing the 5a. bean land across.

September 29. 3 teams cross-harrowing the 12a.

September 30. This morning John Edgson was married to his servant maid - a curious pair. Some rain fell; still, the weather is fine. Such a week as the last rarely happens in this country, hot and dry.

NB: The Wisbech & Fenland Museum own the Copyright to the John Peck diaries.

**Why not join the John Peck Society at their Members AGM Meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. The speaker will be Alan Wheeldon, on "The restoration of the Octagon Cemetery in 2021, with a brief History of the Chapel ease known as The Octagon**

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## Trinity Bridge

"Every place has its simpletons" My father told me "It is just the degree that varies and of course if you are rich you are eccentric not mad or bad, that privilege is metered out to the poor. Always be kind son and when you grow up you will realise that empty barrels make the most noise". This was typical of my father he was a liberal and for the area, an educated man. I of course did not heed his words, he was right on one count though. In Crowland we had "Paraffin" none of us children knew his real name he was always Paraffin on account he would fetch paraffin oil for his mother. It was rumoured that he had drunk it as a child and it was that which made him daft in the head. Of course, as children we would run after him shouting "Paraffin what you doing?" He would say nothing flaying his arms at us, his worn face contorted in anger, his Jack Russell Pirate snapping and barking at our heels.

Sometimes he would answer us in his Lincolnshire dialect as thick as the peat he would cut for the fire his words spraying out spittle running down his chin. "One day" He stuttered "One day I will have the last laugh I will be in all the papers in all the world you'll see I will be famous". This made us laugh and jeer we knew paraffin could not read, probably had never seen a newspaper in his life. In the winter months we would tell stories of him coming and murdering us in our beds to get his revenge and that's how he would make the papers. We did not know what he did in the winter months he would disappear. My father said he set eel traps and like all good fen men bedded down against the fen ague. However, in the summer he would reappear like the travellers that helped with the harvest, same time every year like the seasons and tides. Sometimes he would get work on the farms but mostly he would sit by the Trinity bridge with Pirate sometimes talking to himself in a language that no one could understand. He seemed to have no purpose just as the three-sided bridge had no rivers. Paraffin was going nowhere. Hours he would sit. We would see him on the way to school and on the way back in exactly the same spot, motionless, staring into the distance.

The "Glasgow Boys" for that was how they were collectively known boarded the train excited to leave the city grime behind them. They were to spend a summer painting. It was James Guthrie who had told them about the fen skies, the quality of light, the swirling mists that gave a translucent quality. The gossamer reeds that rustled and whispered in the evening breeze. He did indeed paint such a picture that his fellow painters could not refuse. Even as the landscape became flatter and duller their excitement was palpable. George was already in his mind's eye laying down opaque broad washes to capture the flatness and vastness of the landscape and Edward was visualising Cerulean and Manganese Blue with Davy's Gray to capture the subtle tones where the sky met the horizon.

James had acquired lodgings at the George and Angel, it was dark when they arrived this appealed to James's sense of drama. He had not told his travelling companions about Crowland other than the fens he had said little about the modest village bedded down amongst the fields and dykes. He had told them nothing of the magnificent Benedictine abbey now in ruins but standing defiantly and the Trinity bridge which once stood on the confluence of three rivers now marooned on dry land with no purpose.

He was not disappointed. George and Edward were excitedly unpacking their easels before he had digested his breakfast. They were his contemporaries not his rivals and he was pleased to share this strange landscape with them. They were as passionate

as he was about their art. He had turned his back on law school to pursue his love of painting much to his family's displeasure but now all three of them were enjoying a fair degree of recognition helped by the philanthropists William Burrell and Alex Reid. James knew that they would have plenty of their preferred subjects' natural landscapes with rural workers in this area. A far cry from industrialised Glasgow where the sky was full of soot from the chimney's and rolling mills which stained their canvases and their hands. Besides, now they were enjoying a degree of fame and they were recognised so that even in rural Ayrshire or Lanarkshire they would be spotted, and instead of becoming casual observers making sketches of the subjects, they were now the subjects. The innocence and naturalism had gone, people would now pose twisting and turning into the most unnatural positions affecting exaggerated movements to comic effect as they went about their daily tasks, making it impossible for the artists to accurately depict rural everyday life. Not so in the fens

They sketched the women bent double with the weight of the harvest stooping like religious zealots in constant prayer. Their faces as furrowed with the sun as the fields would be in winter. However, James would occasionally turn his back to this rural landscape. He was drawn to Trinity Bridge. There was something about the anomaly of a bridge going nowhere, its stoicism and defiance, like the abbey it reminded James of the fen people. They lived hard lives, had reclaimed the land from the sea, went from living on small islands to great stretches of land, yet still retained their island mentality, but once you gained their trust were loyal beyond compare. Like the man James painted by the bridge, every day he was there with his dog an ideal muse. Still, stoic. "Will I be famous?" Paraffin asked, "Yes" replied James "all over the world!"

*Jackie O'Neill*

## Gorefield in the Past

THE ISLE OF ELY COLLEGE PLAY BUS

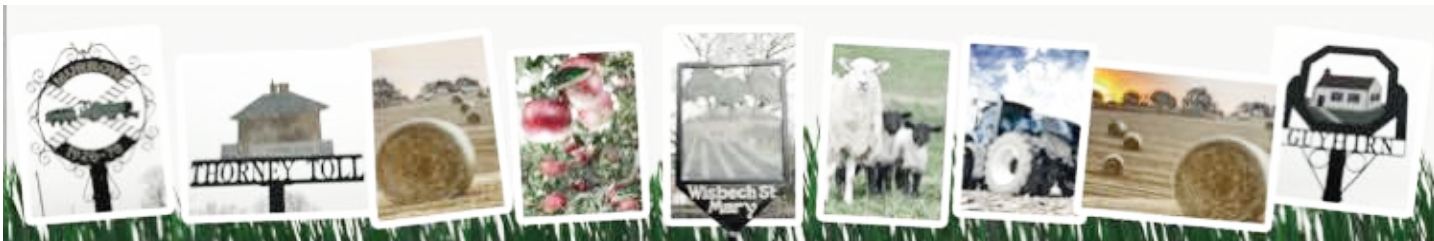


How many of you can remember this venerable, gaily painted vehicle, and how many of you were fortunate enough to use it? There must be many 30 and 40 year olds who remember it calling at their village.

The bus served the surrounding Fenland villages as a base for play groups in the late 70's and early 80's. Originally it was from the far north, Blackpool to be precise, where it no doubt did sterling work as a service bus around the town. It was a Leyland PD2 double Decker. Most double Decker buses of the time were "Half cab", the driver sitting in a cab beside the engine. However Blackpool corporation wanted their service buses to look like the trams that ran around the town, and so had all their buses "flat fronted". This was quite fortunate when the art work was done on the outside of the bus, so that the wonderful tiger's face could be painted using the radiator grill for its teeth.

The concept of the play bus was the brainchild of Clement (The then M.P.) and Jill Freud who instigated it, "to give children, isolated in the Fens, some social contact before they went to school. They also became familiar with the school itself so that joining was not too intimidating." Jill served on the play bus committee and was a great help to keep it on the road. Clement supported it's work by fundraising and establishing the funding from both Cambridgeshire County Council, and Fenland District Council.

Continued on the next page...



# Wisbech St. Mary PARISH COUNCIL

# October 2022 NEWSLETTER

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
21st April 1926 - 8th September 2022



PA  
PRESS ASSOCIATION / Danny Lawson.

Queen Elizabeth II died on September 8, 2022, aged 96, as Britain's longest-reigning monarch having been on the throne since 1952. Elizabeth II was married to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who died aged 99 on April 9, 2021

The Parish Council gives thanks for her life and the shining example that she has given of commitment, faithfulness and true Christian values. She will be remembered, loved and respected by all.

## MEMORIALS LETTERING



The Parish Council arranged to have both the Murrow and Guyhirn War Memorials lettering refurbished in late July. The Murrow War Memorial looks great with new gold lettering. The Guyhirn War Memorial has had its lead letters re oxidised to make the names stand out, however the Parish Council has noticed that due to some leading that is missing the memorial needs further attention, and this will be arranged in the coming months.



## FIRST AID EVENT

You still have time to register onto the FREE first aid event delivered by the WSM Community First Responders at WSM Community Centre 7:30pm on Wednesday 12th October.

For more information or to reserve your place today email the Clerk.



## NEW FLAG POLES



The Parish Council has been very passionate about supporting memorial and celebration events with the raising of a flag. Three 8m flagpoles have been purchased and will be sited in Guyhirn, Murrow and Tholomas Drove. This follows the installation of one in WSM Church Yard by the Church Wardens.

## CLLR RICHARD BLACKMORE

Following the retirement of Peter Davies in April, the Parish Council welcomes their newest Councillor. Cllr Richard Blackmore lives in Guyhirn and is looking forward to representing the Parish to the best of his ability.



## Wisbech St. Mary Parish Council Contact Details

Cllr David Wheeler (Chairman)	07711 409595
Cllr Mark Knight MBE DL (Vice Chairman)	01945 410284
Cllr John Humphrey	01945 410791
Cllr Charles Allen	01945 450857
Cllr Barry Britain	01945 450100
Cllr Richard Blackmore	07867 965464
Cllr Stephen Mann	07720 061425
Cllr David Scrimshaw	01945 700882
Cllr Gavin Booth	01945 701157
Cllr Mark Fryett	01945 701093
Cllr Angela Weldon	07761 730178

## Clerk to the Council - Sarah Bligh

16 Selwyn Cottages | High Road | Guyhirn | PE13 4EQ  
01945 450184 | 07595 353424 | theclerk@wsmparishcouncil.org.uk  
www.wsmparishcouncil.org.uk

<i>What's on and When</i>			
Date	Times	Event	Location
30th Sept	10am-2pm	MacMillan Coffee Morning	Emmanuel Church, PD.
1st Oct	7pm	Black Tie Harvest Supper	St Johns Church PD.
1st Oct	7.30 for 8	Murrow Quiz Night	Murrow Village Hall
2nd Oct	11.15 am	Wisbech St Mary Harvest Festival	WSM Church
5th Oct	7 for 7.30	Bingo Night	Murrow Village Hall
8th Oct	10am	WSM Church Mart	WSM Church
8th Oct	7.30pm	<b>Alan Norris Big Band Concert</b>	Leverington Church
8th Oct	7.30pm	Family Quiz	St Johns Church PD.
11h Oct	7.30pm	Parson Drove WI meeting	Emmanuel Church, PD.
15th Oct	11am	Murrow Street Pride Coffee morning	Murrow Village Hall
16th Oct	10am	Gorefield Harvest Festival	Gorefield Church
16th Oct	6 for 6.30	Harvest Supper and Auction	Gorefield Church Hall
18th Oct	7.30pm	John Peck AGM meeting and talk	PD Village Hall
21st Oct		Bangers and Mash Live Music Bash	St Johns Church PD.
22nd Oct	10-2pm	3rd Murrow Lego Show (see ad)	Murrow Village Hall
22nd Oct	10am	PD Street Pride Group litter picking etc.	The Cage, Parson Drove.
26th Oct	3.30pm	WSM Parish Tea	WSM Church
26th Oct	7.30pm	Gorefield Ladies Group- a talk about Buddy Holly	Gorefield Village Hall
29th Oct		Parson Drove Street Pride fundraising event	The Swan Inn
5th Nov	10am	PD War Memorial Tidying	The Cage, Parson Drove.
5th Nov	5.15pm	Wisbech St Mary School fireworks display	WSM School
8th Nov	7.30pm	Parson Drove WI AGM	Emmanuel Church, PD.
26th Nov	10am	Murrow Street Pride Litter Pick	Murrow Village Hall
26th Nov	7 for 7.30	Cabaret Night (see ad)	PD Village Hall
29th Oct	10am	Murrow Street Pride litter pick	Murrow Village Hall
4th Dec	tba	Craft Fair	PD Village Hall
10th Dec	10am	PD Street Pride Christmas Tree decorating	The Cage, Parson Drove.

The bus was staffed with a paid teacher from the county council, and the servicing and fuel were funded by Fenland District Council. Each village it went to had a team of volunteer helpers (usually mothers) who would help the teacher, and there was a volunteer committee who raised funds and saw to the day to day organisation and running of the vehicle.

In the first place the bus was decorated outside and in, by a group of students for a project from The Isle of Ely College. They were led by the staff of the art and woodwork departments. The work was all done at the community centre at Tinkers Drove in Wisbech. Scaffolding had to be erected to enable the painters to reach the top. It was painted in 1974-5 and started its rounds in that year, initially being staffed by volunteer drivers, and Hazel Farrow (from Parson Drove) who was the teacher. It had to have parking places in school play grounds which proved quite difficult for many schools. The gates and turning areas were just not made to have a double Decker bus through them, and some alterations had to be made at some venues, also outside electric power points had to be installed, for the heating and lighting for when it was in use.

In 1980, Miss Farrow retired as teacher, and also the driver left. Pauline Goakes was appointed as teacher, and I became the driver. I was also a teacher at Elm Road school in Wisbech so had to combine both jobs. This was helped by the provision of a moped for the driver so that I could go to where the bus was parked in the morning, put the moped in the back of the bus, move it to its next destination for the afternoon session, then go back to teach my class at Elm Road School. This worked very well, if I remember correctly, and sometimes I even had time to call in for a quick sandwich at my house. The schools that were visited at that time were, Leverington, Gorefield, Newton, Wisbech St Mary, Murrow, Parson Drove, Guyhirn, Elm and Friday Bridge.

I have very fond memories of driving this sturdy old bus, trundling along the local country lanes and through all weathers, summer and winter alike, rain, and snow. The roar of the Leyland exhaust was poignantly enigmatic, as was the steady tick-over sound of the idling engine. Quite a significant sight to many on the Fenland horizons!

The bus was also used on other occasions, such as entering the Rose Fair parade, the Colchester Playbus Rally, and even as transport for Father Christmas to arrive at the Newton pre-school Christmas parties. It finally finished in 1982. By this time, all the villages the bus had served, now had their own playgroup provision, apart from Friday Bridge where it remained parked for a further year to accommodate their needs.

I went off to start a new teaching job, and Pauline Goakes got married, so everything wound up at the same time. I can only surmise that the old bus went to Bus heaven in the knowledge that it had served its original purpose and had faithfully fulfilled the development of the many village pre-school groups that now flourish in all the local communities that it once visited, simply because of the foresight and generosity of Jill and her late husband Sir Clement Freud. The local community has much to thank them for!



Peter Thatcher

**Contact and Enquiries: [villagevoices@wisbechstmarychurch.org.uk](mailto:villagevoices@wisbechstmarychurch.org.uk)**



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