

September 2022

Village Voices

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

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

1st Sunday - Morning Worship

2nd & 4th Sunday – Holy Communion

3rd Sunday – Breakfast Church

St. Paul's Church - Gorefield.

Weekly Sunday service at 10 am

1st & 3rd Sunday – Holy Communion

2nd & 4th – Morning Prayer

Wisbech St. Mary & Guyhirn Parish Church

Weekly Sunday service at 11.15am

1st & 3rd Sunday – Morning Prayer

2nd & 4th Sunday – Holy Communion

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 morning is on: 3rd September.



Parish Register

In our thoughts and prayers:

Alan (Algy) Smith whose ashes were interred at Emmanuel Churchyard, Parson Drove on 21st May 2022.

Pauline Pope whose ashes were interred on 23rd July 2022 at St Paul's, Gorefield.

Dorothy Ward whose ashes were interred on 8th August 2022 at St Paul's, Gorefield.

We welcome into the church:

Poppy, Juliet and Simon Humphrey from Texas, who were baptised on the 7th August 2022 at St. Paul's, Gorefield.

We apologise for a misprint: **Olivia** Grace Lily Waling was baptised in WSM church on Sunday 26th June 2022



I have had an eventful few weeks through the summer. It has been a time of change in our household; there have also been a number of unexpected events to deal with – some pleasant others less so. Life has often seemed more chaotic than usual. If this sounds familiar, then I offer you this poem (author unknown):

The will of God will never take you
Where the grace of God cannot keep you,
Where the arms of God cannot support you,
Where the riches of God cannot supply your needs,
Where the power of God cannot endow you.

The will of God will never take you
Where the Spirit of God cannot work through you,
Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you,
Where the army of God cannot protect you,
Where the hands of God cannot mould you.

The will of God will never take you
Where the love of God cannot enfold you,
Where the mercies of God cannot sustain you,
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears,
Where the authority of God cannot overrule for you.

The will of God will never take you
Where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears,
Where the Word of God cannot feed you,
Where the miracles of God cannot be done for you,
Where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.

"Everything happens for a purpose.
We may not see the wisdom of it all now
but trust and believe in the Lord
that everything is for the best."

Sandra

CHURCH OPENING

Tydd St Giles - Daily between 10am and 4pm.
Leverington - Sundays After the morning service until 3pm

CONTACT DETAILS

Rev Sandra Gardner	01945 581486
	sandra.gardner952@btinternet.com
Rev Janet Phillips	01945 589034
Kate Pateman	01945 870154
Margaret Tanner	07796 172025

Murrow Methodist Church

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THE HOBBY GARDENER September!

Oh dear, who would have thought our green and pleasant land would look so parched and brown. My lawn, which is never perfect, is brown dotted with green patches where the moles were busy last year, even the clover is looking sick.



My Japanese Anemones have not flowered yet, but the Rudbeckias are looking magnificent, they have hairy leaves which helps with moisture retention. Most of my shrubs and two small trees do not seem to be suffering, it must be the deep roots. Take note of what has survived or done well as the experts tell us more hot summers could be the norm.



My cucumbers and tomatoes have thrived and if I keep up the watering and feeding, will continue for some time yet. I am sure the shading protected them and stopped them from scorching,

however I will clean it off soon as the plants in the winter will need the extra light.

The Dahlias have looked good, they have not suffered so much slug and snail damage because of the dry weather. I love the dark leaved varieties with single flowers like the Bishop of Llandaff and the Bishops children, the bees love them too, but they must be dead headed frequently to keep the flowers coming. I do not lift them in the winter but put a layer of mulch or old compost over them to protect the tubers and let them take potluck, this also benefits the soil. I can always raise some more from seed next year if needed.



Spring bulbs are in the shops now; it is time to plant crocus, daffodils, hyacinth, and aconites but tulips should be left until October. If the temperature has cooled and we have had some rain lawns can now be treated with an autumn feed and weed, but if they are too badly damaged you might have to reseed bare patches or if you want a bowling green turf the whole lot. I don't mind a bit of clover and daisies, but I will try to reduce them.

The iris rhizomes need thinning out if I want better flowers for next year, so I had better go and get on with it. Happy gardening!



MURROW AUTUMN OPEN
FLOWER AND
VEGETABLE SHOW
SATURDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2022
To be held in Murrow Village Hall
Exhibits accepted between 9 & 11.30am
SHOW OPENS TO THE PUBLIC AT 2pm
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AT 3pm
FOLLOWED BY AUCTION OF PRODUCE
Schedules available from:
Mrs M Woolard, Roseacre, 115 Front Road,
Murrow.
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The Children's Society

Many thanks to everyone in Gorefield who donated to the Children's Society this year. We have raised £267.88 from our collection.

Your support is much appreciated. Jenny Spriggs

All Murrow and Surrounding Area Residents are Welcome to Attend.
Community Engagement:

During our weekly **Book Cafe** session at Murrow **Methodist Chapel on Thursday 8th September between 2.00 and 3.00**, Fenland District Council's Community Safety Partnership would like to engage with the community. It will be a good opportunity to discuss with the officers **any rural safety issues** or anti-social behaviour that you are concerned about.

Diane Cutler – Book Cafe Volunteer

MURROW VILLAGE HALL MacMillan Coffee Morning

on Friday 16th September
from 9am - 12pm
All welcome.



Contact and Enquiries: villagevoices@wisbechstmarychurch.org.uk



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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

He had both shoulders dislocated



He had both his shoulders dislocated. It sounds very painful, he would need to go to A & E immediately. Only this was in the 1800's and there was no A & E. Read on

and you will find out what happened.

So, this month we are going to look at what happened if you were ill years ago.

If you couldn't afford to see a doctor, and there was no NHS doctors then, you could always see the old lady in the village who would know many cures for common ailments and there wouldn't be a waiting list to see her. Some of these you might well have tried and some you haven't tried but have heard about.

One that is used a lot now is honey and lemon to soothe an annoying cough or sore throat, and one you may have heard of was the curing of a wart by rubbing it with raw meat, and then burying the meat in the garden. As the meat decayed, the wart went away. Then, there was Camphor with its distinct smell that was used for coughs and colds.

But some of the medicines were revolting and the more revolting, the better they were thought to work. Here are just some of the most revolting (I do hope you are not having your lunch while reading this)

Mice which could be fried, baked or boiled would be given to patients suffering from whooping cough.

If you had a boil, or breast infection or cradle cap you needed to cover it with cow dung!

Mothers would benefit from baked hedgehog just after giving birth and the fat could be used by men to stop them going bald.

And if you think that was horrible, people suffering from chilblains were told to put their feet in a chamber pot full of you know what!

And then there were the remedies that would be illegal today.

There was the universal cure for every thing, opium, which came served up as – Godfrey's cordial, Dutch drops, laudanum and for babies there was Mrs Winlow's Soothing Syrup. It was much cheaper than a doctor and worked as pain relief and relaxant. Wisbech and the Fens used more of it than anywhere in the country.

But then for some suffers Mesmerism, or as we call it today, Hypnosis was the answer.

Mr Tubbs who was at Parsons Drove and then Outwell

in the 1800's performed many operations using this technique. So, in 1843, we have on record a man who had a molar tooth extracted with no pain and in 1853 a young lady had a breast removed with no pain.

This might have caught on but there were two things against it. Firstly, it is only possible to hypnotize 10% of the population fully enough to perform operations and secondly, by the late 1800's anesthetic was being widely used by surgeons and dentists.

If you broke a bone there were people who could set bones. It was a treatment that had been used for hundreds of years. Now bone setting is done by orthopaedics and often patients are given medicine to alleviate the pain.

In the Fens in the early 1800's John Mason moved from Coningsby to Wisbech where he set up a surgery for anybody needing his services as a bone setter. He mostly worked from the surgery but he did do some house visits. It was after one of these visits to Newton that he was returning home on horseback late at night. Suddenly, a robber came up to him and pulled him off the horse. John got up, and getting to his senses, quickly grabbed the man and with his powerful strength that he needed for bone setting he grabbed the man's arms and dislocated not one but both his shoulder joints. The robber ran away screaming in agony.

Surprisingly, the following morning a man turned up at Mr Mason's surgery in great pain. He had both arms dislocated! John was very kind to him and put both shoulders back in place.

The robber went off rather sore but not aware that had been cured by the same man who did it in the first place. Whether this story is true or slightly exaggerated, I wouldn't like to say but it makes a good story.



AUTUMN EVENTS

Thursday 8th September
7pm

FREE OUTDOOR THEATRE

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Can I Help?

Do you, or someone you know need help with:

Cooking

Baking together and batch cooking

Would you like to go out

Visit a garden centre, cafe, food and personal shopping,
out for the day

Would you like company

Sitting service

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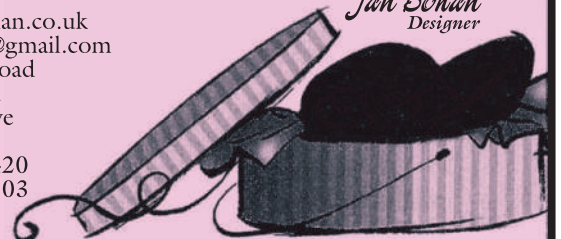
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17th September 2022

70's Disco

Parson Drove Village Hall

19:30-23:00

Tickets £5, or £6 on the door

please call 07444 886232 For tickets

All children must be accompanied by adult.

Prize for best costume.

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Teas and Coffee served.

WISBECH ST MARY OPEN GARDENS 2023

We are considering re-instating Wisbech St Mary Open Gardens in 2023. We are looking for Garden Owners to take part.

Please contact us if you are interested leaving a name and number and we will get back to you.

Jim & Mel Wakefield of Bramley Cottage.
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3rd Murrow Lego Show



Murrow Village Hall Management Committee once again brings you its Lego show.

It is an event not to be missed because there will be something of interest to delight Lego fans of all age

Held at Murrow village hall on Saturday 22nd October.

From 10.00am until 2.00pm.

Doors open at 8.30 am for stands setting up.

Entrance charge is only £1.00 per person.

Food and drinks will be available to purchase.

Raffle tickets will be on sale WIN some magnificent prizes.

An area with Lego pieces will be set up for the children or adults to play with!

A T Johnson's, Lego retail shop will be there selling new sets.

Anyone wishing to have a stand to display or sell Lego models please get in touch with us for more information and to receive an application form to book your table. There are only a limited number of tables available so don't delay and miss out.

Display Tables £5 per table.

Sales Tables £10 per table.

Contact details: Bookings secretary by email:

bookingsmvh170@gmail.com

FaceBook Page: Murrow Village Hall



MONTHLY MART

WISBECH ST MARY & GUYHIRN CHURCH
Church Road, Wisbech St. Mary.

Saturday 9th September 2022

Door opens at 10am

SALE OF HOMEMADE PRODUCE,
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Tea and Coffee with a biscuit served

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Parish Tea

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Wisbech St. Mary & Guyhirn Church
on 28th September 2022. At 3.30pm,

Tea or Coffee, chat, entertainment
in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support
Do come and join us!



Parson Drove Horse Show Sunday 25th September 2022



This year sees the 44th Show, with
classes to compete for including
Equitation, Turnout, Mountain &

Moorland, Condition & Coloured, Mixed and Fun, &
Handler classes. Classes start from 9:30 am through
to the afternoon. If anyone would like to help on the
day, please contact

Gavin Booth 01945 701157.

The show will be held as usual on the Parson Drove
Playing Field, PE13 4LA.

We look forward to seeing you.



NIGHT

MURROW VILLAGE HALL

On Saturday 1st October

At 7.30pm

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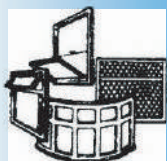
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Beaver Scouts

are our youngest members, and generally meet for an

hour per week. They enjoy all that Scouting has to offer; being introduced to outdoor activities, having the opportunity to be creative, explore their local community and experience the excitement of a Beaver Scout Sleepover with their friends. The Beaver Colony is the first and youngest section at our Scout Group. Beaver Scouts are young people aged between 6 and 8 years old, however there is flexibility in the age range: young people can join from age 5¾ and can move to Cubs between age 7½ and 8½.

**** Fantastic news - our Beaver section have spaces available. Please use the link from our website to register your interest this coming term. It is a great chance for all children to get outside and learn new and exciting skills. ****

Currently our Scouts and Explorers are away for their summer camp in Yorkshire to put into practice the skills they have learnt, such as map reading, route planning, cooking and most importantly having fun playing wide games in a huge open space (the leaders enjoy joining in too!).

Visit www.15thwisbechscouts.org for more information and contact details regarding Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and how you or your child can become involved. #skillsforlife

Google Search tips! By Philip Brooks from Diamond Byte



Millions of people use Google search every day. But many may not be using it to its full potential. Here are some tips and tricks to increase your Google search efficiency.

Use the tabs

The first tip is to use the tabs in Google search. Just underneath the search bar are tabs such as *All, Maps, Web, Images, News, Shopping and More*. By using these tabs, you can help define what kind of search you want as well as cut search time dramatically. If you need images, use the *Image* tab. If you are looking for a recent news article, use the *News* tab.

Search by date

Google will deliver search results that it thinks are most relevant, however they may date from some time ago and therefore be out of date. It's possible to search for results from just the current year or maybe from a specific period of time. For example, if you search for Windows 10, when you see the results, click 'Search Tools' at the top, then from the 'Any time' drop down menu, select 'Custom range'. In the pop-up box enter a start and end date and Google will display only the results published within that timeframe.

Limit results to the UK

You may wish to search for places to visit in Washington. The most obvious results will suggest you take a tour of The White House or the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, USA. However, if you wish to look for places to take the kids in Washington, Tyne and Wear, click on Tools and select 'Country: the UK' from the Any country dropdown menu.

Use a hyphen to exclude words

If you find yourself searching for a word with an ambiguous meaning, for example Mustang, you may get results for both the car and the horse. If you want information only on the horse, type in Mustang -cars. Using a hyphen tells the search engine to search for mustangs but to remove any results that have the word "car" in it.

Check the weather

Again, simply type in Wisbech Weather or March Weather to see the temperature, rainfall and wind expected in the next seven days.

GOREFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Firstly, we would like to welcome everyone back from the summer break and say a big 'hello' to the new children joining our school this autumn. We hope Mrs Bailey (our head teacher) will bring her dog 'Pippin' to visit us as we all settle in.

The class teachers have many exciting topics planned for the new term. Staff have been busy during the summer holidays preparing the classrooms, moving furniture, and updating displays to create exciting learning environments.

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 30th October 2022, can be obtained by applying to:

Clerk to the Trustee

Mrs Linda Brownlow, The Limes, Harold Bridge,


Gorefield, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 4PU

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Advice for working at your desk

If your work is office or computer based you can spend a significant portion of your day seated at a desk which can lead to a host of problems for your health. But with a few changes and addition of good habits, you can keep productive at work and keep healthy.

Sit-well

It is really important when working at your desk that you are mindful of your posture and your equipment is correctly set-up. Things to look out for include;



- **Is your screen is at eye level?** If your monitor does not have height adjustment, try elevating it with a riser, or even some old books!
- **Keep your mouse close.** It's easy for your mouse to drift away from

you when working, make sure you are not over-stretching to reach it

- **Keep your keyboard close.** You should be able to sit up in your chair, have your elbows in an L-shape and still be able to reach your keyboard. If you are overstretching to reach it, you will need to make adjustments
- **Adjust your chair.** You should be able to sit right back into your chair, so your lower back is supported while still comfortably accessing your equipment
- **Feet to the floor.** The height of your chair should allow your feet to easily reach flat to the floor. Use some form of riser if needed
- **Avoid crossing your legs.** It can cause circulation problems and puts unnecessary strain through your lower back.

If you are unsure about your desk or workstation set-up, ask your employers to provide a workstation assessment.

Regularly re-set your posture

While you may start off in the correct position it can be very easy to drift into a slouched position at your desk. Try putting a sticker on your monitor as a reminder to re-set your posture every time you see it.

Take regular breaks

It is recommended that you should take a break from your desk every 30 minutes for at least one or two minutes. Try building in some of these good habits into your working day.

- Stand-up and move around for a few moments around your desk
- Use a break to get a drink of water, which also helps you keep hydrated.
- Rather than phoning an office colleague, can you walk over to talk to them?
- When taking a call, can you take the opportunity to stand-up rather than sit?

On the phone

If your work involves making lots of calls, avoid tucking handsets between your neck and shoulder.

Consider getting a headset so you are not battling with the handset, keeping your hands free and able to maintain a healthy posture.

Laptop working

Increasingly we are working directly off laptops, particularly if you are a mobile or remote worker or hot-desking across offices. However, the same rules apply and even more so if you don't have the luxury of an adjustable chair or monitor.

- If you are mainly working off a laptop you may want to consider getting wireless keyboards and/or risers so you can optimise your work posture.
- Also consider where you work – your dining room table may be convenient but if of an incorrect height, extended working may cause shoulder, neck or back pain.

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 LADIES GROUP



Chris Ashton welcomed everyone to the July meeting, when the speaker was Forensics Expert Leisa Nichols Drew. Leisa explained details of a case study that she had worked on and the importance of eyewitnesses.

In 2018 Leisa was awarded the Churchill Fellowship and is now Associate Professor at De Montfort University, Leicester, and a Chartered Forensic Practitioner.

After a question-and-answer session, thanks were given to Leisa from Chris, on behalf of everyone present, and refreshments were served by Julie W and Brenda D. The next meeting is on Wednesday September 28th 7.30pm at Gorefield Village Hall,

'Put On a Happy Face', with Samantha.

New members welcome.

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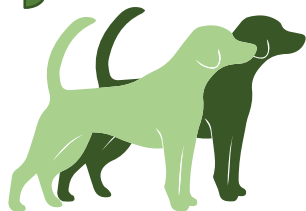
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Contact Tony Forster: 07730153161
jantony@waitrose.com www.pigdyke.co.uk
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Raise money for cancer relief, perform in public – and learn new skills with new friends!

Pig Dyke Molly has been wowing audiences at the Whittlesey Straw Bear festival for more than thirty years – and has raised an estimated £20,000 for MacMillan Cancer Support by performing every winter. Now we want to continue to raise cash this autumn – and we need your help. There is no cost to volunteers.

We are running a six-week challenge and need you to learn three dances and perform in public whilst raising cash for charity. The course will end with a day's performance around Peterborough, including the Nene Valley Railway, collecting for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Molly dancing is a local Fenland tradition. Pig Dyke Molly have taken the tradition and dragged it up-to-date for the 21st century, with unique live music, and an energetic and vibrant dance style, all danced in GLORIOUS black and white clothes and face paint. Weekly meetings provide exercise, laughs, friendship and a quiet drink afterwards. The dances are energetic but rewarding and fun. Join us Monday evening in Fletton from 12th September till we perform for audiences at the Nene Valley Railway and other venues - and raise charity money - on Sunday 23rd October (put the dates in your diary!). So take on a challenge, improve your fitness and wellbeing, make new friends and help raise funds for this great charity. Contact: Tony Forster 07730 153161 or jantony@waitrose.com

PARSON DROVE WI

In August we spent an afternoon in one of our members gardens, with lots to eat, very enjoyable. Our September meeting on the 13th at Emmanuel Church at 7.30pm will be a talk by Ann Purt on Flower Arranging. All are welcome.

Parson Drove Street Pride

Fundraising Date

Saturday 29th October Raffle



The Swan pub in Parson Drove has kindly offered to host a fundraising event for Parson Drove Street Pride alongside their Halloween Fancy

Dress Disco. Many thanks to Brad and Evette at The Swan pub for offering to do this.

Great prizes including:- dinner for two at The Swan and breakfast for two at the Secret Garden.

If anybody has anything they would like to kindly donate, please get in touch with Heather


We will also be meeting for our usual Street Pride litter pick, cleaning etc. on:-

10th September and 24th September 10-12. Meet by the Cage near The Swan pub.

We are a friendly group and always welcome new volunteers. We carry out litter picking throughout the village, planting, watering of containers as well as ongoing maintenance.

Please do feel free to come along to see what we do or, you can contact Heather Ballard via NextDoor or by email, or phone. 01945 701375.

Facebook – Parson Drove Street Pride NextDoor (Heather Ballard) Parson Drove Heather Ballard (heratheric54@gmail.com)



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PARSON DROVE
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MacMillan Coffee morning
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30th September from 10am to 2pm**



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Revd Sandra Gardner	01945 581486
Revd Debbie Caulk (Methodist) (Murrow)	01553 674961
Revd Adam Stevenson (Methodist) (PD)	01945 461947
Methodist Circuit Office – Emily	01945 773567

CHURCH WARDENS

WSM & Guyhirn	Mr. Richard Gilbert	01945 450255
	Mrs. Anne Wallis	01945 450466
Parson Drove	Mrs. Pam Williams	01945 701047
Gorefield	Mrs Joy Andrew	01945 870179

VILLAGE HALLS

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Parson Drove	07866 108111 01945 700070
Thorney Toll	07761 730178 01733 849313
WSM Comm Centre	info@wsmcommunity.com 07795 361208
Gorefield Community Hall/Sports Pav	01945 410644

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Parson Drove Village Hall needs you

Do you have a few hours each month to spare?
 Would you like to do something for your community?



We need help with small maintenance projects and help at events.

If you feel you would like to contribute some time please contact: Parson Drove Amenities 95 On 07444 886232
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The Community Speed Watch team are very active in Guyhirn, Murrow, Parson Drove

and Wisbech St Mary in its attempt to raise awareness of the speed limits.

Positive Results: It is an impossible task for volunteers to monitor the villages 24/7. However, the data recorded during our latest sessions is showing that the percentage of vehicles recorded as speeding is decreasing.

More Roadside Sessions: to hold extra sessions we are reliant upon new volunteers joining us. More volunteers means more sessions can be held.

We Need You: Giving as little as ONE HOUR of your time on any month you are available will make a difference to the number of sessions that the team can hold in your village.

Scheme Supported by: Parson Drove Parish Council, Wisbech St Mary Parish Council and Fenland District Council Ward Councilors, Sarah Bligh and Gavin Booth.

Contact Details: Diane Cutler Scheme Coordinator

Email: csw.wsmppdward@gmail.com

FaceBook: Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speed Watch

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From John Peck's August 1832 Diary

John is now in his mid-forties. Not a month for harvesting as we have now, it's wet and prices not to John's liking. Cholera still in evidence. PCH

August 1. Met the Committee appointed July 2nd. Rode over the lands; laid them into farms, and gave orders to have them advertised to let at Michaelmas. I proposed the term to be 5 years, and I think we shall average 25/- per acre, including the bare lands, which are to be sown with seeds.

August 2. A fine rain, just right for the new-sown coleseed.

August 3. To the teams at St. Edmund's, ploughing, harrowing and rooling the 15a. fallows. Some nice showers falling at times all day, much to the delight of all vegetation.

August 4. To Wisbech. Bought beef in the market at 6/6 per stone. A Mr. Childers canvassing for the County. His promises came forth in abundance; (if returned), should his performances equal them he will be a rare Member.

August 5. This morning, a heavy rain, and the day continued showery. Read Defoe's History of the Great Plague in London, 1665; The feelings of people were like the present.

August 6. Started in gig at ½ past 4 for Ely; arrived there (by Welney), in 3 hours 40 min. No particular business at the Assize, which were holden here instead of Wisbech, on account of the Spring Assize being holden there, the cholera then being at Ely. Dined at the White Hart and drove home, where I arrived a little past 9; the whole expenses 16/6.

August 7. Begun with 5 carts to get manure from the straw yard for 10a. Short Drove, 36 loads. Anxious to begin harvest.

August 8. Carting manure this day with 6 carts, 40 loads out. Began to reap wheat on 10a; not quite ripe, but much down, and the weeds growing through makes me think it better cut.

August 9. 6 carts finished the straw yard manure, making 116 loads. Many hands travelling about in want of work.

August 10. Another glorious day. Began to reap 10a. wheat Short Drove at 12/- per acre, and 6a. Johnson's Drove at 14/-. The corn is not yet ripe, but the hands are so numerous.

August 11. To the reapers in the morning, then to Wisbech market. Corn dull; coleseed at 24/- per coomb. Sir John Trollope at Wisbech canvassing the electors of the South Division of Lincolnshire, was received with applause.

August 13. A showery morning, and I was pleased to see it. Went to Wisbech Bullock Fair. Sold a poor rotten bullock for 45/-, and bought a pair of fresh beast for £25; many useful beast, and prices not out of the way. The day fine.

August 14. Reaping the 7a. wheat. Some gentlemen canvassing for Captain Yorke dined with me. How very anxious we seem about these elections, and how soon the thing dies away.

August 16. With the reapers, Tydd Fen and Harrold. A glorious day for the harvest; but the corn is not ripe - perhaps it will be better in quality, the quantity I hope will be enough.

August 17. Finished reaping 16a. & 9a. wheat Harrold and began 12a. P.D. Fen. In the evening a sale of Mr. Grimley's cropping, seized on to pay Pollard's rent. I bought 11 acre, a fine crop of oats, £68. (ADDED NOTE; More than a last of those oats knocked out by a hailstorm, Aug 26th.) 12½ acre wheat sold for £110; 19 acre oats was sold for £91"10s., and the remainder (small pieces), made about the same average.

August 18. A showery morning. Rode to the reapers and gave them money to spend in ale, to keep them from reaping corn wet. At Wisbech, samples of new wheat; the condition not good, and

merchants slow in buying., prices from 50/- to 60/- per qr. Such is the dreadful scarcity of money.

August 19. A rough windy day. Making arrangements for beginning to waggon tomorrow. There is an anxiety which I can't control - I feel as if I wished to be at it.

August 20. Began to waggon wheat from the 11a. Johnson's Drove. Reaping Weight's 12 & the 7a.P.D. Fen, also the 8a. Tydd Fen. The day fine, and all seems to go on well. This day I again rode my old grey horse, for the two-and-twentieth year; how much are we both altered.

August 21. Finished waggoning the 11a. and began the 6a. Johnson's Drove; reaping Weight's 12a. At noon it came on a gentle rain and stopped all. This day I have completed my 45th year; the Spring of youth is gone, Summer's ardent strength is fast passing away - even now I see the sear leaf of Autumn falling around me, which in a little while will close the scene in the Winter of life - the grave. Rain at night.

August 23. A fine day. Began to machine the 11a. wheat; not because I exactly want money, but thinking, from the state of the country, a large quantity must be thrashed out, which I am sure will very much reduce the price.

August 25. Finished reaping in Tydd Fen the wheat. Rain came on at 9 and stopped the waggoning. At Wisbech corn sadly down; much wheat selling under 50/- per qr., a sample or two at 56/-, very fine. Many new oats in the market, and best price 10d. per stone. These are prices we must submit to, and I fear still lower before Christmas.

August 26. Went to church in the morning; dined at home, tea at Mr. Ulyat's. In the afternoon a thunderstorm with hail and rain came over, and the evening cold and showery; I fear our hopes are clouded for another week. A thunderstorm passed over from NW to SE, and for a track about quarter of a mile broad the hail fell in such masses to break windows and thrash out many of the standing oats. On the 11a. I bought off Grimley at least a last is scattered on the ground.

August 27. A dull morning turned out a sorry day, heavy showers falling almost the whole of it. In the barn dressing wheat and grubbing the time over reading parts of many books, which in weather like this have no charm.

August 28. Finished dressing the wheat, and men to set up shocks. Some showers in the day, all the reapers idle. The newspaper again said corn was lower, a sorry prospect.

August 29. More rain fell in the night, and a lowering morning. Set the reapers to cut reed until noon, when they began to reap oats. 4 carts getting silt out the New Cut for yards. The mind is perplexed; I wish I had more fortitude.

August 30. Rode out with the Commissioners to fix the site of two tunnels to drain St. Edmund's Common. Heavy rain.

August 31. A finer day. Turning oats in Harrold, in the afternoon reaped some. Carting silt. In the evening put the new fire engine in the place built for that purpose.* Sky red.

(* THE FIRE ENGINE WAS EVENTUALLY HOUSED IN THE CAGE, BUT DURING PECK'S PERIOD AS CONSTABLE THE CAGE SEEMS TO HAVE SERVED ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSE AS A LOCK-UP.)

N.B. The Museum owns the Copyright to the John Peck diaries. Permission to be obtained in writing before any material is reproduced. Why not join **The John Peck Society at their Members AGM Meeting Tuesday 18th October. The speaker will be Alan Wheeldon, subject, "The restoration of the Octagon Cemetery in 2021, with a brief History of the Chapel ease known as The Octagon.**

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I Hate Exercise and I don't do mornings!!

So why do I find myself getting up early (well 9.0'clock) on a Saturday morning to attend Tai chi at the Sunset rooms for the past four years? Some of you may have even seen us practising in the park during lock down and ok on occasion we may have looked like demented flamingos, but we did not want to miss our sessions.

Quite simply because I absolutely love it and the benefits of it have far outweighed my expectations. I am the most uncoordinated unfit non supple person I know, and during the menopause my ability to retain information and remember things has got worse, but since starting Tai chi I have found that my balance has improved, my coordination and fitness levels have all improved as well as my memory, but above all the effect on my mental health has been phenomenal. I feel more confident and know that this is an exercise that I can continue well into my dotage. There are people of all ages in the class, including over 70's, of varying degrees of fitness.

So, what is Tai chi; think of the Panda advert? "Well, that was relaxing wasn't it" but Tai chi is actually a fighting art developed and used by Chen Wang-t'ing a soldier in the Imperial Ming army and by the 1800's it was the absolute pinnacle of combat and only taught to the Chen family, a closely guarded secret. However, a poor student who worked in the household of the Chen family, Yang Lu-ch'an, spied on the tai chi sessions and one day he offered to fight a stranger who challenged one of the Chen family. Yang fought so well that he was the only person outside of the Chen family who was ever accepted as a student, it was Yang who adapted

the Chen style to the classic Tai chi movements (the pandas) we know today omitting the more physically demanding and vigorous movements, and Tai chi became known and later practised mainly for its many health benefits.

So, what are the benefits? Tai chi is known to prevent degenerative illnesses, it mobilises the joints, stimulates and maintains the organs, improves the circulation and improves balance, posture and coordination. It improves the breathing and revitalises the body and the brain and promotes longevity. But Tai chi is also an holistic practice, it treats the body and mind as a whole and balances the mind and body promoting healing, focus, concentration and relaxation.

Still not convinced? as someone who could not put their socks on without falling over, who could not run a tap let alone a distance, and who suffered with depression all of their life, not only can I put my socks on whilst standing on one leg, I no longer take medication of any sort and ok I still cannot run but I am much fitter and have lost weight, an added bonus. Come along to the Sunset rooms Sat morning 09.00am WSM we



always start at the beginning and repeat the exercises so complete beginners welcome. Our tutor Jason's enthusiasm and knowledge is first rate and he adapts the moves for all ages and abilities. You do not have to book just turn up, you will be made very welcome.



Despite the very hot weather the attendance at this year's Car Bike & Trike Show was excellent both for exhibitors and the general public.

The money raised was just over £14,000 and this will be donated to Magpas, Air Ambulance, Parson Drove Amenities, Wisbech Lions and Parson Drove First Responders.

Thank you to all our Sponsors, the volunteers who helped over the week-end and the small group of team members who planned and organised the Show. Whilst my wife and I will not be helping with next year's show I am pleased to confirm that the remaining team members will continue to run the show but they are looking for additional team members to come forward to help with the planning and organising of this annual event. Anyone interested in joining the team please contact Ray Jones on 700750 or Gavin Booth on 701157. Roger Reader

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THE FENLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INTERESTING FACTS.

As one of our speakers I attended the Gedney Hill WI to give a talk to the lovely welcoming ladies of the group. What a fascinating meeting place, the hall was named 'Fabric, Paper, Scissors'. Full of every craft you could think of, and surrounding it I was fascinated to see among other animals alpacas and baby goats etc. I thought about the name of the village Gedney Hill, where was the Hill? A little research gave me my answer. The word HILL is a corruption of the word HEEL, meaning a sharp bend in the main road like the turn of a heel. As I drove home I did indeed see the sharp 'heel' bend in the road.

Recently when visiting a supermarket I found shelves either empty or almost empty.

This reminded me of the rationing of food etc during and after the war caused by the then shortages. Some items were not put on rationing until after the war ended, including BREAD which was rationed from July 1946 until July 1948. JAM including Marmalade, Treacle and Syrup was rationed from March 1941 to December 1948. TEA rationed from July 1940 - October 1952, coffee was not available. SWEETS from July 1942 - February 1953. EGGS from June 1941 - March 1953. Dried Egg Powder was introduced. CREAM from November 1941 - April 1953. Other items rationed from January 1940 - September 1953 include SUGAR, BUTTER, CHEESE and MARGARINE & COOKING FATS. Even MILK was limited and dried milk introduced. MEAT including Bacon and Ham was rationed from 1940 - June 1954. Just imagine trying to arrange a wedding reception or family celebration when everything was rationed. In addition PETROL was rationed until the early 1950's as was CLOTHING including household items like sheets and towels which did not come off rationing until about 1953/4.

Brides were grateful to have sheets and towels as wedding presents.

In addition there were no fruits or vegetables imported from overseas, like oranges, lemons and bananas etc. Only home grown fruit and vegetables was available. I wonder how our population nowadays would manage if rationing returned.

OUR COMPUTER RESEARCH SESSIONS are held twice a month. The first in Wisbech Library on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month from 10 - 12 noon. Our researchers are able to help visitors with their family research and show them all the wonderful research sources available in the library.

Our other session is on the SECOND MONDAY of each month from 11am - 2.30pm in the restaurant at Baytree Garden Centre in Hilgay near Downham Market. We offer help with family research to any visitors at the garden centre.

Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held in Wisbech Library from 7pm - 9pm on the 4th Thursday. We restart our meetings on 22 September (the month has 5 Thursdays, so remember it is NOT the last Thursday of the month!). Our September meeting will start with our AGM (a short review of the year) and then we can enjoy the main part of the evening. Our speaker will be Kevin RODGERS with an interesting talk on music. Our October speaker will be Chris DONALD with the subject 'Unusual Historical Things - Wisbech & The Fens'. Everyone welcome to attend our meetings. Members Free, Visitors a £2

EVENTS The event at St Augustine Church included a dedication service of the processional cross honouring the life of Captain Harold Rex NORTON. Our team created a display

showing information and photographs about a local young man Rex NORTON showing his early life in Wisbech Grammar School. His enlisting and initial training and swift promotion to captain as a glider pilot, Included a display outlining the operations Captain Rex NORTON took part in including his last operation and his death in 1945. We also were able to research his family and illustrate his family tree, which was much admired by his nephew who came from Oxford to attend the dedication and service in honour of his uncle.

OUR SPEAKERS are available to attend other groups and clubs to give talks in the local area.

'The Fun of Family History' about a long journey by land, air and sea to find her roots.

'My Naughty Great Aunt Eliza' unravelling a story of lies and deceit.

'The Ups & Downs of Being a Magistrate' a real life experience.

'The Sad Tale of The Blacksmiths Family' the story of a great great grandfather.

For further information on any of the above please phone Bridget HUNTER - 01945 587723

ST PAUL'S GOREFIELD HOLD A

Joyous Celebration



After months of successful fundraising, the work to re slate and weatherproof

the roof of St Paul's Church, Gorefield was completed earlier this year, and in celebration The Venerable Hugh McCurdy (recently retired Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech), came to dedicate the roof. The dedication followed a service with a choir (always a treat!), given by Rev Sandra Gardner and attended

by parishioners from 6 local churches.

A particularly happy occasion for St Paul's church warden, Joy Andrew who had driven efforts to raise money and see the project completed.



Thanks for your help

A big thank you to our team of volunteers who helped set up the tables and chairs and put up a marquee for St Paul's Summer BBQ. Also thanks to our BBQ chefs and the washing up team – we couldn't do it without you !

Delicious salads and puddings arrived in abundance from over 80 people who attended this year, and £450 was raised for the upkeep of St Paul's Church and its grounds.

Many thanks to Ivan Tuck and Peter Thatcher who brought along their knowledge and displayed fascinating photos and artefacts on Gorefield's past.

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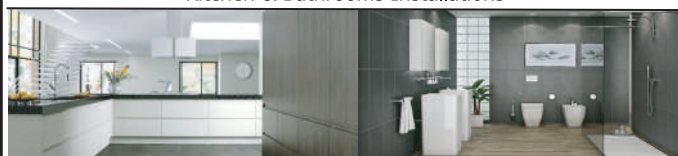
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What's on and When

Date	Times	Event	Location
1st Sept	12.30 for 1pm	Guyhirn Lunch Club	Deweys Diner, Wisbech
3rd Sept	2pm	Murrow Flower and Veg show (see ad)	Murrow Village Hall
6th Sept	tba	Barclays Bank Wisbech closes	End of an era
8th Sept	2-3pm	Fenland Community Safety Partnership-see ad	Murrow Methodist Chapel
8th Sept	7pm	The Railway Children by This is My Theatre	St Johns Church PD.
9th Sept	10am	WSM Church monthly mart	WSM church
9th Sept	6.45 for 7.30	Murrow Street Pride Prize Bingo	Murrow Village Hall
10th Sept	10am-12	PD Street Pride Group litter picking etc.	The Cage, Parson Drove.
10th Sept	10.30am	WSM Street Pride Group Litter Pick	WSM School
13th Sept	7.30pm	Parson Drove WI meeting	Emmanuel Church, PD.
16th Sept	9am-12	Macmillan Coffee morning	Murrow Village Hall
17th Sept	7.30pm	70's Disco by PD Amenities (see ad)	PD Village Hall
20th Sept	7.30 pm	Parson Drove Street Pride meeting	Emmanuel Church, PD.
23,24,25th	10am-4pm	Flower Festival at Emmanuel Church	Emmanuel Church, PD.
24th Sept	10am-12	PD Street Pride Group litter picking etc.	The Cage, Parson Drove.
24th Sept	10am	Murrow Street Pride litter pick	The Bell Inn car park
25th Sept	9.30am	Parson Drove Horse Show	PD Playing Field
25th Sept	10-4pm	Art and Crafts Fair	St Johns Church PD.
26th Sept	7.30 pm	WSM Womens Institute meeting	WSM School
28th Sept	3.30pm	Wisbech St Mary Macmillan Parish Tea	WSM Church
28th Sept	7.30pm	Gorefield Ladies Group meeting	Gorefield Church Hall
30th Sept	10am-2pm	MacMillan Coffee Morning	Emmanuel Church, PD.
1st Oct	7pm	Black Tie Harvest Supper	St Johns Church PD.
1st Oct	7.30pm	Murrow Quiz Night	Murrow Village Hall
8th Oct	7.30pm	Family Quiz	St Johns Church PD.
15th Oct	11am	Murrow Street Pride Coffee morning	Murrow Village Hall
18th Oct	7.30pm	John Peck AGM meeting and talk	PD Village Hall
22nd Oct	10-2pm	3rd Murrow Lego Show (see ad)	Murrow Village Hall
<i>All events subject to any restrictions at the time</i>			

Gorefield in the Past

In most places it was common practice, especially during the war years to keep a pig. Gorefield was no exception to



this. Pigs were relatively easy animals to keep, they could be fed on a variety of scraps and waste products from the kitchen and garden, but more importantly provided a valuable source of meat for the family. Here is Joe Powell on his farm with his very good looking family of pigs.

George Wales from College

House also had a fine family of pigs which he was very proud of.

Usually by this time of the year, the pigs had grown enough to be ready for slaughtering. and so the services of somebody like Mr Stimpson who lived

in a small cottage near to Jack Sanders house would be called upon. Pigs did not have to be taken to an abattoir, but somebody with the skills of slaughtering and butchering was needed. Mr Stimpson provided such a service, Mrs Hilda Wilson, in her fascinating book called "Days to Remember" recounts the rather traumatic time that Mr



Stimpson's visits to the family home caused, and the sad loss of the family pig in the sty.

Then what to do with the meat from the pig. Nothing goes to waste from a pig, but of course without the convenience of freezers methods of preserving the meat had to be used. So salting and curing of the various joints for bacon and ham was the answer, and special talks with slideshows were provided to teach different methods of doing this in Gorefield Parish Rooms.



Researched by Peter Thatcher

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