Within Reach



Fair Roundup

Sports News

Crossword

Rita's Recipe

Days Gone By

Kid's Page

and plenty more

June/July 2010
Issue 1

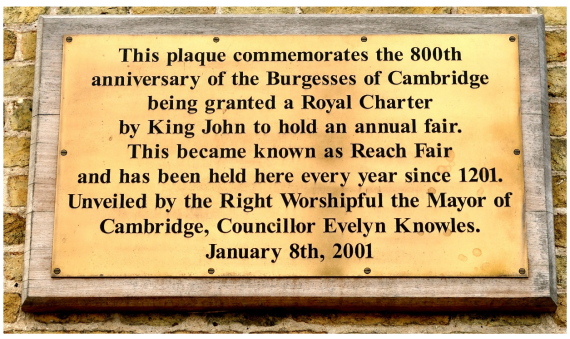
Proceedings are opened by Town Crier reading the charter granting the fair ...





...and alms distributed to the poor.







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From the Editor

I approached Grahame Radford with a great deal of trepidation regarding the need for a new editor. This was likely to be a large and time consuming task but it's important that the magazine continues to appear. The solution was to share the workload and I am grateful to Andrew Trump and David Parr who have worked with me in the preparation of this our first issue. A couple of brainstorming sessions brought about some obvious changes.

The new name for the magazine *Within Reach* was suggested by Andrew Trump and is intended to project a more positive tone.

I am enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed an article. Everyone I approached responded positively. This is a substantial measure of the enthusiasm for the magazine.

The magazine seeks to be of interest and reflect the whole village – young and old, and those in between. This you will see in the articles, from Hazel Lingley (aged 6) to Zenida McDonald (a little older). Articles may be a few lines, or a few pages. The inclusion of as many photographs as possible is welcome, and it's nice to see some faces. The articles reflect events in the village, and people's hobbies and interests.

We hope this magazine inspires you to make a contribution (regular or intermittent, short or long).

We are grateful to Freda Lloyd for continuing to maintain the accounts and advertising, and also to Joyce Harrison for distribution. We sincerely thank Grahame Radford, our outgoing editor who has kept the magazine going for five years and we thank him for his hard work.

Best wishes

Claire Halpin-McDonald

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Editor's Notes

The purpose of *Within Reach* is to serve the whole village by circulating information and interesting articles free to every household in Reach. Issues are published by-monthly which cover the dates of Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, June/July, Aug/Sept and Oct/Nov.

The next copy date is **15th July 2010**

Editorial Team

Editor	Claire Halpin-McDonald
Production	Andrew Trump and David Parr
Advertising/Treasurer	Freda Lloyd
Distribution	Joyce Harrison
Roving Reporters	Rebecca Fordham Jo Riches
Allotments	David Thomas
Cookery	Rita Dunnett
Cricket	Ross Clark
Crossword	Zenida McDonald
Days Gone By	David Parr
Fen Chitchat	Lesley Boyle
Kids Page	Susie Tucker
Little Windmills	Susan Bluck
Mothers Union	Zenida McDonald
Neighbourhood Watch and Police	Annie Austin
Parish Council	David Parr
Plants	Janet Hall
Snakehall Farm	Maz Baker
Sport	Juliet Vickery
Swaffham Prior School	Diane Hawkes
Wicken Fen	Howard Cooper
Wildlife	Joss Goodchild
Womens Institute	Zenida McDonald

Diary Dates

	Event	Location	Time
June			
Sat 12	Village Sports Day	Playing Field	2pm
Tues 15	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.10pm
Sat 19th	Summer Fete	Vicarage, Burwell	2pm - 5pm
Wed 23	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thurs 24	Recycling Day		
Sun 27	Pub Quiz	The Dyke's End	7.30pm
Tues 29	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.10pm
July			
Thurs 1	Toddler Service	St Mary's Burwell	10.00am
Sat 3	Open Studios		
Sun 4	Open Studios		
Wed 7	"Sing Up Performance" with Key Stage 2 from Burwell Village College	St Mary's Burwell	2pm - 3pm
Wed 7	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 8	Recycling Day		
Thurs 8	Toddlers Teddy Bear's Picnic - the theme is Lost Sheep (with real sheep)!	Vicarage, Burwell	10 - 11.30am
Sat 10	Art Exhibition – Open Studios	St Cyriac's in SP	11am - 6pm
Sun 11	Art Exhibition – Open Studios	St Cyriac's in SP	11am - 6pm
Sun 11	Guest Preacher: Dean Jonathan Holmes of Queens - all welcome	St Mary's Burwell	9.30am
Tues 13	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.10pm
Sat 17	Art Exhibition – Open Studios	St Cyriac's in SP	11am - 6pm
Sat 17	Reach Church BBQ	Village Green	6pm
Sun 18	Art Exhibition – Open Studios	St Cyriac's in SP	11am - 6pm
Wed 21	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thurs 22	Recycling Day		
Sat 24	Open Studios		
Sat 25	Open Studios		
Tues 27	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.10pm
Sun 31	Pub Quiz	The Dyke's End	7.30pm

Reach Fair 2010

A big thank you is due to everyone who contributed to this year's Reach Fair. Well done, one and all.

You will remember that the weather was not very good and the number of cars was down this year by about 400 (a third). This has had an effect on the figures e.g. the village stall takings were down. Inevitably our costs rise e.g. St John Ambulance fees. However because of the restructuring of the stall pitch rates we have recouped a lot of the lost revenue e.g. the Food Stalls paid £1,900 this year as compared to £716 in 2009. Overall we actually made more money than last year, and this money goes to the upkeep of the Village Centre and the Amenity Fund (£1,533)

Each year the Committee reviews the Fair and considers how it may be improved. In recent years new Village Games have been made and introduced, a Traffic Management company has been employed to ease congestion, and the stall pitch fees re-structured. If you have any suggestions (large or small) as to how the Fair may be improved do please contact a committee member. Below are Rita Dunnett, Andrew Towers and Grahame Radford.



Reach Village Centre Committee members are:

- Roger Aspin
- Sue Briscoe
- Rita Dunnett
- Joyce Harrison
- Claire Halpin McDonald
- Glen Newman
- David Parr
- Grahame Radford
- Jo Riches
- Jan Tabecki
- Andrew Towers (Chair)

The winners of the Fancy Dress competition were as follows:

Up to 5 year olds

1st	Gary Davidson (5)	Ace of Spades
2nd	Jessica Lock (4)	Belle
3rd	Tobias (1) and Henry (5) Aspin	Alien/Buzz Lightyear

6 to 9 year olds

1st	Hazel Lingley (6)	Mary Poppins
2nd	Catherine Cane (7)	Elizabeth
3rd	Lily Davidson (8)	Dalmation

10 to 12 year olds

1st	Alice Lingley (10)	Playing card

Adults

1st	Susan Bluck	Minnie Mouse

Raffle winners were as follows:

1st	Mr S Fordham	£100
2nd	Mr S Reed	£75
3rd	David Parr	£50
4th	Mrs Leonard	Sunday lunch for 2 at the Dyke's End
5th	Sandra Lock	I day for 2 at Fitness Express



The History of Reach

One wonders exactly what sort of deal the Mayor and Burgesses of Cambridge struck with a cash-strapped King John in 1201 for the right to hold a fair in Reach each Rogationtide. That right was worth a lot of money, and the charter gave them the right to levy market tolls, to administer summary justice in a court of pie powder (*pieds poudrés* – referring to the dusty feet of the travellers who came to it) and to the fines that were imposed. The choice of Reach must have been because it was already one of the heads of navigation on the waterways over which Cambridge had had jurisdiction for some decades, and we can be sure the business going through the two hamlets of East and West Reach was already considerable. The Fair rapidly became, and remained, one of the great fairs of England, comparable to Cambridge's own Stourbridge Fair or Nottingham Goose Fair. In its last commercial years it specialised in horses, for farm and smallholding work, and almost within living memory droves of unbroken ponies from the hills of Wales would be penned in the ditch by the Dyke to wait for the auctioneer's hammer to fall.

Reach was never a parish, never had a parish church. Originally split into East and West by the early Saxon earthwork of the Devil's Dyke, each half was a hamlet of Burwell and Swaffham Prior respectively. Their churches, of which a trace of only one now remains, were simply chapels of ease. But the place has been inhabited without a break since at least the Neolithic, and the Romans built a big villa here and straightened the watercourses to make the first Lode so that they could send the corn they grew to the legions in Germany - and, shades of things to come, drain the fen for grazing. In mediaeval times, and later, the huge quarries on the top of the hill, where now the new wood greens in spring, stone was quarried that built many of the colleges and churches of Cambridgeshire. The draining of the fens brought a new sort of prosperity to the hamlets, for the water transport of produce remained crucial. But the railway, with stations at Swaffham Prior and Burwell, at a stroke cut off Reach's livelihood and the village began a long decline only halted by the rise in car ownership. That brought new families to the village, but most people now worked in Cambridge, and the village's age-old dependence on the agriculture and produce of its immediate hinterland was now broken: perhaps for ever. On the landscape and village you see now, every generation has written its own name: look carefully, and you can see many of those signatures.

Charles Moseley



Finances of the 2010 Fair

Commercial Stalls	2010	2009		Village Stalls	2010	2009
Perrett - Fair	£1,430.00	£1,500.00		Car Park/Programmes	£3,360.25	£3,193.32
Bar	£750.00	£750.00		Tea Tent	£717.78	£875.95
Food	£1,900.00	£716.52		BBQ	£750.00	£1,082.90
Craft	£810.00	£602.70		Bottle Stall	£320.00	£409.30
Residents	£208.00	£270.50		Cake Stall	£185.30	£358.75
Entertainment	£300.00	£185.00		Salad Stall	£509.42	£628.76
Information	£210.00	£217.35		Coconuts	£188.56	£277.10
				Cream Teas	£541.20	£499.40
				Football	£122.00	£164.99
				Village Games	£661.21	£461.11
				Programme Adverts	£700.00	£140.00
				Grand Draw	£0.00	£55.25
				Total	**£8,055.72**	**£8,146.83**
				Expenses	**2010**	**2009**
				Traction Engine	£60.00	£60.00
				Grass Cutting	£10.00	£0.00
				St John Ambulance	£238.52	£86.25
				General Expenses	£106.62	£21.90
				Car Park	£1,800.00	£1,800.00
				Parking (ATC)	£289.78	£304.24
				Venture Scouts	£0.00	£250.00
				Solitech PA System	£420.00	£402.50
				Puppets/Magic Show	£200.00	£200.00
				Patchwork Circus	£210.00	£210.00
				Advertising	£21.38	£0.00
				Latta Loo Hire	£646.25	£646.25
				Policing	£414.00	£402.50
				Traffic Management	£1,116.25	£1,262.70
				Straw Bales	£263.20	£90.00
				Raptors	£95.00	£70.00
				Village Games/Prizes	£141.35	£136.73
				Banners	£76.38	£224.25
				Programmes	£1,175.00	£450.00
				Art Competition Prizes	£20.00	£0.00
				Draw Prizes	£225.00	£0.00
Total	**£5,608.00**	**£4,242.07**		**Total**	**£7,528.73**	**£6,617.32**
Summary						
Commercial Stalls	£5,608	£4,242				
Village Stalls	£8,056	£8,147				
Total Income	£13,664	£12,389				
less Expenses	£7,529	£6,617		**To the Village Hall**	£4,601	£4,329
Profit	**£6,135**	**£5,772**		**To the Amenity Fund**	£1,534	£1,443

Rita's Recipe

Viennese Cheesecake

This recipe was given to me by my mother and has become a firm favourite with my family.

Ingredients

8oz (250g) curd cheese

2 egg whites

6oz (170g) digestive biscuits

4½oz (130g) castor sugar

1½oz (40g) butter

3 drops vanilla essence

1 packet of gelatin dissolved with 2 tablespoons of water

7 fluid oz (200g) of whipping cream

Method

1. Butter the inside of a 7 inch round and 2 inch deep tin.
2. Melt the butter in a pan and stir in the crushed biscuits and 1oz of castor sugar.
3. Put half this mixture into the base of the tin. Put the remainder to one side.
4. Cream the curd cheese with the remaining sugar in a large bowl.
5. Whisk the egg whites until stiff.
6. Whip the cream until it begins to thicken.
7. Dissolve the gelatin in the water and beat into the curd cheese mixture, add the vanilla essence.
8. Fold in the cream and egg whites.
9. Pour into the tin smooth the top and cover with the remaining biscuits.
10. Allow to set in the fridge for 1-2 hours.

Serve with Summer Berries or Fresh Fruit Coulis and cream.

If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share - please send it to me at 9 Chapel Lane or email **rita@rlc-reach.demon.co.uk**



Rita Dunnett

Swaffham Prior Primary School

I just cannot believe that we are approaching the end of my first year as Headteacher of Swaffham Prior school.

Whoever said to me that village life would be more "laid-back" and "a slower pace" than the centre of town where I was before, was just so misguided! Mind you I would have it no other way and will continue to keep as many activities and adventures going on in school as possible!

The school grounds looked lovely before the Easter break with a mass of yellow daffodils that seemed to brighten every corner. Our whole-school planting session back in the Autumn really did pay off. We will have to plan another session for next Autumn to fill the remaining gaps and to "branch out" with other bulbs!

At the end of the Spring term the School said "goodbye" formally to Mrs Cheales – the former deputy-head – who decided not to return to her job after her maternity leave as she has re-located to Australia due to her husband's work. We wish them well. We recruited Mrs Julia Baker at the end of last term and now have our full teaching team which means we can really push forward confidently with our school development plans.

The School Development plan has been completed for the next year and continues to reflect the few points for development that OFSTED raised back in November during our inspection. We feel we have already begun addressing these successfully, basing them on the "outstanding" judgements that we received in many areas such as "Care, guidance and support of children", "Safeguarding children", "The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles" and "The school's engagement with parents and carers" – the areas which we consider to be the most important for us to get right first!

We have continued to hold our acts of special collective worship at St Mary's Church. Both our Christmas and Easter services, in particular, were lovely events shared by many friends and family. Reverend Lewis also continues to make frequent visits into school to take our collective worship for which we are very grateful.

FoSPS – our parent group – have worked solidly all year to hold both social and fundraising events: The Easter bingo was certainly an experience with chocolate eggs everywhere! Having the Easter Bunny calling the numbers was of course a necessity and added to the fun atmosphere. They continue to run regular "Café" sessions on one Friday afternoon per half term. These are very popular with friends and family who come along for a chat over a slice of home-made cake and a cup of tea. There was also our recent "Barrow Of Booze" at The Reach Fair which raised a tremendous £762. As school budgets get tighter, we rely more and more on the goodwill and support of our parents to fund equipment for the classrooms.

Over the Easter holidays we had a brand new cycle shelter installed in the grounds. It also has storage boxes for helmets to save bringing them into school. We like to encourage the children to use their bikes where possible to come to school to foster healthy lifestyles and to show them how they can help the environment.

We have experienced a few problems in the school grounds with dog excrement. It seems that dogs are being brought into the school grounds during the weekends and allowed to foul and then owners not clearing it up. Obviously this is a health hazard for the children and so we would ask people to be a little bit more thoughtful please and to find somewhere else to exercise their dogs.

At the time of writing we still have some spaces for our Reception year starting in September 2010. If you have not been allocated an appropriate place for your child then why not come along for an informal chat and visit to find out more about us here at Swaffham Prior?

We try to involve the children in as many events outside of school, in our local community as we can and so Reach Fair provided an excellent opportunity for our children to produce the cover for the programme and for our maypole dancers to perform for the crowd; they did very well and

were a credit to the school. Our school choir is off to Ely Cathedral on Tuesday 25th May for the big Sing-Up concert which involves many of our local schools. It should prove to be a fantastic experience for all involved.

At present we hire out our school hall to local Scouts and Cubs as well as various other community groups. If you are interested in making use of this facility then please contact our school office on 01638 741529

Diane Hawkes
Head Teacher

Daffodils Bring Spring Cheer



It is a strange coincidence that I find myself writing this on the same day as my first 'village dead heading' expedition. I hope everyone has enjoyed the flower displays this spring.

I must say I was concerned after such a harsh winter, but on the whole a pleasing display! Some areas were more successful than others and so it's likely we will add a few more bulbs to some of the sparser groups later in the autumn.

Back to the beginning . . . . One cold grey morning back in February last year, whist driving through daffodil strewn Swaffham Prior and home into Reach, I realised that we were distinctly lacking spring flowers in the village. Without further ado I sent a letter to what was then 'Out of Reach' asking for some willing volunteers to form a planting party. The response from the villagers was wonderful and before long we'd soon mustered up a small team of planters and organisers.

It was agreed the village had many suitable positions but it wasn't until 'said group' one Saturday morning mooched around the village, camera and clip board in hand that we realised the full potential. Now that we knew where we wanted to plant, we had to work out how many bulbs were going to be required. This is where Mr "Quantitive Analysis" Parr, otherwise known as David, came in very handy with his spreadsheet knowledge!



Taking into consideration Reach Fair, we knew the varieties of daffodil bulbs had to be early flowering to allow enough time for them to die back before cutting. We also wanted to utilise the chestnut tree on the village green to showcase a display of crocus (Blue Pearl) and snowdrops. We chose a couple of varieties of daffodil (Juanita and Dutch Master) including a miniature version (Obvallaris), which flowered beautifully outside the cemetery.

Once we had a final quantity and a few different supplier prices under our belt, we submitted our 'proposed plan of action' to the Parish Council for approval and to the Village Hall Committee in order to ask for funding from the Amenity Fund.

We were delighted to be granted the money to continue and we swiftly placed an order for collection just a couple of weeks later. David and I ventured up north to the open landscapes of Spalding to wholesaler Eurogarden and collected all 4000 daffodil bulbs, a few freebie tulips and 240 wild primrose plants from Barrets Bridge Nurseries. A little later in February, Janet Hall of Reach supplied us with the 1800 'in the green' snowdrop plants needed for the chestnut tree, village sign and small bank opposite the 'roley poley hill'.

Sunday 25th October was a beautifully sunny day. Over 50 volunteers turned out to help plant all the bulbs and primrose plants and within three hours, the job was done. We all enjoyed a well

earned cup of coffee and slice of homemade cake at the Village Centre.



It was a fantastic community event that everyone enjoyed. Thank you to everyone that made it such a successful day, we really couldn't have done it without you, including of course the cajoled group leaders!

I'd really like to hear what everyone thinks about the planting and whether people would like to see another planting day later this autumn so we have improved planting and more flowers next spring. My email address is jo@joriches.com or telephone 01638 743089. There are a few pictures on my Blog which you can access via my website **www.joriches.com**

Jo Riches

Cambridge Oxfam Walk 2010

Checkpoint in Reach



May 16th 2010 was the 43rd annual Cambridge Oxfam Walk starting at Milton Country Park just north of Cambridge. The aim was to raise £50,000 to support Oxfam's emergency work around the world.

Each walker is required to raise £50 by sponsorship and pay a small entry fee (which covers loo facilities etc en route!)

The leisurely 3 mile walk is suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs. For the more seasoned walkers there are 8, 12, 16, 22 and 26 miles routes, each starting from the Country Park and heading down the River Cam. All routes are clearly signed and marshalled with food and refreshments at checkpoints.

The walk began at 8 am so it was an early start for all and they started filtering into our checkpoint in Reach at around 10.30 am. The food prepared by Joyce Harrison and Claire Halpin-McDonald was amazing and many walkers commented on the gorgeous cakes and sandwiches on offer at the very reasonable cost of 50p per item.



I spoke to many of the walkers and the age range varied hugely. Some were on their first walk, many were veterans and one lady spoke of walking up Kilimanjaro so 26 miles for her was a breeze! She had also already collected £100 in sponsorship.

Some were corporate groups, others friends and families, but all commented on what a really enjoyable walk it was and how they enjoyed chatting with the other equally keen walkers.

The areas they came from were far and wide!

The **British Red Cross** were in attendance just in case any emergency first aid should be required. Sarah and Ian, the two covering the Oxfam event in Reach, were kind enough to explain how the Red Cross works locally. There is a big assumption that the Red Cross are there for international events and the St John Ambulance for local events, but the Red Cross do a lot locally also. They cover not only first aid but also skin camouflage, therapeutic care - massage etc.

The Red Cross would like to attract new members to keep this incredibly worthwhile organisation running for many years to come. It is easy to go along to meetings and shadow an individual to see if the training provided is for you If you are interested, please call 01223 868686 or email Cambridge@redcross.org.uk).

109 Walkers used the checkpoint, many twice over because of the circuitous nature of the route. If you would like to get involved in a similar event, contact **events@oxfam.org.uk**.

Providing refreshments raised £165 for the Village Centre fund!

Rebecca Fordham

Women's Institute Group Meetings

Bottisham

The Bottisham W.I. Group Meeting was held at the Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell, on Monday 17th May 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Mrs. Sally Kingman, W.I. Advisor was introduced, along with local W.I. Presidents.

The main guest speaker was Mr. Nick R Thomas, comedy script-writer for the B.B.C. who entertained the large audience by relating amusing anecdotes related to his work.

The annual Inter-Institute Competition comprised comedy sketches by some of the W.I. members, and was judged by Mr. Thomas who awarded the engraved silver dish to Burwell W.I.

Mr. Thomas also chose the winner of the best knitted hat. Members had knitted warm hats for people at the Night Shelter, and the winning hat had luminous woollen bands which would be visible in the dark.

Refreshments were served and there was also a raffle.

Burwell

Burwell Women's Institute holds meetings on the last Thursday of the month at Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell at 7.30 p.m. Some of the Burwell W.I. members live in Reach.

The Burwell W.I. meeting held on 29th April was well attended. The speaker was Enyd Ashpole, who gave a most interesting talk about Costume Jewellery – Dress Clips and we all admired the collection of dress clips on view. There was a competition for the most unusual piece of costume jewellery.

On 27th May Mary Ellis talked about Sheets and Sausages (all about B&Bs) and there was a competition for the best home-made sausage roll.

At the 24th June meeting, Basil Abbott will talk about The Flush Hall Murder. The competition will be: Make as many words as you can from "A Murder Mystery".

Zenida McDonald

The Mothers' Union

Burwell Mothers' Union held a craft session at their meeting at the Guildhall, Burwell on Wednesday afternoon, the 28th April. Members were taught finger knitting by Susan Baker's daughter who kindly gave up her afternoon to instruct the group. Everyone managed to make a scarf in forty minutes.

Five members of Burwell Mothers' Union attended the Mothers' Union Commissioning Service at Ely Cathedral on Saturday 17th April 2010. The President was Canon Alan Hargrave and The Preacher was the Bishop of Huntingdon. The service was sung by The Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers. All of the Mothers' Union

branches in the diocese were represented and their banners were paraded. After the Commissioning and Holy Communion, everyone was invited to have tea and biscuits.



There was a trip to Ely on 26th May and there will be a Garden Party in June.



Please phone Susan on 01638 741791 for details of future meetings.

Zenida McDonald

Fork Handles



I wish I had had the foresight, at the beginning of the recession, to swap my bank shares for those in wellington boot manufacturers. It can only be the thought of global economic collapse which has led to the surge in demand for allotments over the past couple of years.

If we all lose our jobs and our savings, it is tempting to imagine, at least we might have somewhere we can subsist by growing our own fruit and vegetables.

It is a delusion, of course. It is over a year since I set out to find an allotment, and nearly six months since I found one. And all I have to show the world so far is a little mud patch and a large pile of tree roots which I have spent the winter pulling out of the ground. If I had really been destitute my family would long since have starved – or been reduced to rummaging through the bins at the back of Tesco. But there is something reassuring about your own patch of earth and on which you can at least pretend to support yourself. I first had an allotment when I was 12, when other children were hanging about town or listening to the Buzzcocks. I can still remember the sheer sense of flattery I experienced when the seeds I had planted bothered to pop out of the soil.

I don't know an awful lot about growing vegetables: last year's experiments in the garden had mixed results. The lettuces were wonderful, tomatoes tasty (though only because I shamefully resorted to fertilizer). But my potatoes turned out the size of peas and tasted of watered-down flour. I soon gave up eating them: they are going straight back in the ground as seed potatoes come Easter. But it was my brassicas that were the biggest disappointment. I grew them quite well when I was 12, but last year's resulted in a huge feast for caterpillars while I was away in the Alps – with absolutely

nothing left for me. I don't know how it is going to work out this year when I move up to a bigger scale: if caterpillars could use Facebook they would already be organising a huge feast. I am not the only one. A friend spent £400 on seeds, fertilisers and other stuff – to be rewarded at the end of the season with a small bag of vegetables worth about a fiver.

If growing vegetables were as difficult as it is for many people to find an allotment we would all be extremely hungry. The average wait for an allotment is three years. In the London borough of Camden there were last June 883 people waiting for 195 allotments. At the current wait it will be 2050 before they are able to plant their first seeds. They could join the MCC quicker.

Under the 1908 Smallholdings and Allotments Act, parish, town or district councils are obliged to try to find suitable land if sufficient demand exists. That was something I discovered because I am chairman of the parish council in the Cambridgeshire village where I live – in other words the duty fell upon me.

I would quite gladly have bought a field, but it is very rare that small blocks of land come up for sale in the right place – and even when they do you will find strong competition from horse-owners. It is possible to rent agricultural land, however – and surprisingly cheaply. The answer in our case lay in some smallholdings owned by a local charity. One plot, on which a local gardener used to grow trees was becoming free. We now rent half an acre for £30 a year – divided by 10 of us we have each got a plot equivalent to the standard allotment plot of 10 rods (or 302 square yards) considered in Edwardian times to be sufficient land, given reasonable soil and competent husbandry, to feed a family of four indefinitely. If the whole of Britain, excluding the stretches of open moorland, were cultivated so intensively, the country could feed itself more than 20 times over – so don't let anyone tell you the world is on the point of starvation through lack of land.

It is a wonderful site, facing west into the sunset. But the heavy chalky-clay soil isn't ideal: we carry so much of it away, stuck to our boots each time we visit that it is a wonder there is any left. The other problem to solve is water. We live in one of the driest patches of Britain, with under 25 inches of rain a year, but there is a little drainage ditch running past the bottom. A debate rages between buying a bowser and towing water to the site or investing in a pump and sucking it up from the drainage ditch. We are verging towards a pump and long hose, which is going to cost us £40 each. I am trying to work that out in potatoes. Given that you can buy a bag for under a pound, I am going to be hard-pushed this year to make a profit. But maybe that isn't the point. It is just reassuring to think that next time global economic collapse comes round I will be feeling a bit smug.

This article first appeared in the Sunday Telegraph

Ross Clark

News from the Allotments

"*There is no ancient gentlemen but gardeners, ditchers and gravemakers*".

So writes Shakespeare in Hamlet. Well, a bunch of ancient gentlemen (and some *young* gentlewomen) are upholding 'Adam's profession' on a patch of land (graced with the name of 'allotments') on the edge of Reach, in a bold attempt to grow some tasty vegetables, increase their self-sufficiency, reduce the environmental impacts of the weekly trip to the supermarket and perhaps also create an excuse to get out of doors at the weekend, for some peace, quiet, exercise and fresh air.

Cultivating these allotments is proving that 'farming' is not for the faint hearted. Having been left fallow for several years, all of them needed to be cleared of stumps and tree roots. The soil is heavy. There is no water laid on. But most have risen to the challenge. Potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, onions, broad beans, raspberries, strawberries, vines, and gooseberries are among the crops that have made an early appearance.

The big news for this issue is the weather (what else do gardeners talk about?). What will no doubt be the subject of conversation for the months to come and a ready excuse for poor yields and unrealised expectations, the surprise 'big freeze' of early May burnt off everyone's early new potatoes and brought an untimely end to beans that had been planted out. But despite

this early disappointment it is hard to feel disheartened when skylarks are singing down from a clear blue sky. Indeed, I suspect that Reach's Allotment Gardeners (RAGs) will need more than the prospect of fresh fruit and vegetables to keep them motivated!

David Thomas

A Garden Visit

The house and garden at The Manor, Hemingford Grey (**www.greenknowe.co.uk**) make an interesting excursion. At the moment the garden is at its best with masses of irises and old roses in bloom. The house is the oldest in England that has been continuously inhabited (since the 12th century), the last owner being Lucy Boston, author of "The Children of Green Knowe" books. She based the books around the house and garden.



The garden on the bank of the river Ouse happens to be open for the Red Cross on Sunday June 6th 2.00 – 5.30pm. The entrance for the charity is £4.00. You could go on another day for £4.00, but you would miss out on a Red Cross tea and cake and the chance to buy plants.

You may also like to tour the house. You will need to ring Diana Boston on 01480 463134 to arrange an appointment. Lucy made beautiful patchwork items such as bedspreads and curtains. You would be shown these on the tour as well as bits of furniture and oddments that are illustrated in the children's books. Lucy gave gramophone recitals twice a week to the RAF during the war. The 1929 gramophone can still be seen. House tours are £7.00.



Janet on her plant stall at Reach Fair

If you want to extend your outing you could call into The Cock (The Boathouse in Ely has the same owner) - the food is excellent.

Janet Hall

What's "Growing On" at Snakehall Farm

After one of the coldest winters imaginable, spring has finally sprung with the polytunnels and fields at Snakehall Farm, promising fantastic organic crops again this year. The co-workers at Prospects Trust (people with learning difficulties, mental ill health and disabilities) are now gearing up for a busy summer season. With the plant sale at Reach Fair, a new project launch and our fundraising concert, Harmony in Harlem, all happening over the past few months, life has been somewhat busy for all on the farm.

Hopefully some of you reading this article will be able to look into your gardens at some of the 2010 Prospects Trust herbs and plants blooming in your patio pots and beds? If not, why not pop into our honesty based "Farm Shop" for a few

more organic herbs to fill any unfilled nook in your garden?



If you are not so green fingered why not opt for the easier approach? Let us grow our fantastic organic and ethical produce using our years of experience and just come and reap the results. Our farm shop is situated at Snakehall Farm and is open from dusk till dawn, perfect when you need that last minute "five a day" to accompany your Sunday roast or spontaneous BBQ salad. Sometimes you will enter our small shop and find only a few ranges of produce but other times a glorious glut of green goodies will await you, a veritable Aladdin's cave of spring, summer and autumn goodness. Remember we are not a supermarket nor a mass consumer focused outfit, the needs of our co-workers always come first but we find happy co-workers grow the best tasting veg! You won't find rows and rows of perfectly shaped cucumbers but all our farm shop stock is organically grown (Soil Association approved), harvested, graded and presented with 0 food miles but miles of smiles.

2010 has brought many challenges to the Prospects Trust, including a shocking break-in, with the loss of over £1,600 of commercial garden tools used by our Garden Team on a daily basis in the locality. We are still completing our insurance claims and relying on our old tools to ensure our Garden Team service is professional for our regular customers and one-off contracts. The tools stolen were funded by The Big Lottery through the Reaching Communities grant and were part of our new project "Reaching for Better Chances". This project took several years to develop and obtain funding for so this callous theft has left us all a little dispirited however this exciting new project has already captured the enthusiasm of our co-workers. As always we brush ourselves off and get even more determined to make Snakehall Farm a place of wellbeing for all! So many people have contacted us to offer their support and have asked what they can do to help.



People can help the Prospects Trust grow well in a number of ways:

- Be a supporter of our social enterprise approach by buying our seasonal stock
- Join the hardworking team as a volunteer. We have several opportunities including a seasonal delivery driver, supporting the growing teams on the farm, farming, general repair and maintenance roles
- Become a "Friend of the Trust" join up using one of the forms in the Farm Shop and we will send you our seasonal e-newsletter, regular updates on events and seasonal gluts
- Donate to the Prospects Trust through our Just Giving webpage

We are looking forward to keeping you posted on all things growing at Prospects Trust but please pop in and see what we are doing on your doorstep.

For more information please contact us at The Prospects Trust, Snakehall Farm, Reach. You telephone us on 01638 741551, send an email to **enquiries@prospectstrust.org.uk** or visit our website at **www.prospectstrust.org.uk**

Marianne (Maz) Baker

Open Studios in Swaffham Prior

July is fast approaching and followers of the annual Cambridge Open Studios event will be looking forward to visiting artists' studios and other free exhibitions throughout the county. This year Swaffham Prior has two working studios opening within the event with Lorraine Izon (Lower End) and Paul Abbott (Mill Hill) both taking part again.

"It's a great way to spend an afternoon or weekend getting to see the extraordinary variety of work on show " said Paul, an enthusiastic painter for ten years "and as one of the artists you get the kind of feedback you would never receive from an ordinary exhibition".





The majority of Lorraine's work (shown in the above two pictures) is inspired by the shapes, forms and textures that are found in nature. It features birds, plants and animals in a range of sculptural pieces, tiles, ceramic pictures, bowls, bottles and vases. "Although I have been a potter for many years, I still find inspiration for new works right on my door step. Living on the edge of the Fens is great, 10 minutes walk and I am in another world" she said. Lorraine will be opening the studio doors at Meadow View, 24 Lower End, Swaffham Prior on the three weekends of 3/4th, 10th/11th and 24th/25th of July and will also be showing a selection of drawings, prints and cards.



Paul paints mostly landscapes with oils and although recent inspiration has come mainly from the local rural landscape, there are still some beaches, huts and seascapes in the mix. Colours are applied thickly and taken from a vivid palette, mostly raw from the tube giving his paintings a vibrant and optimistic quality. Paul will be opening his studio on the weekends of 3rd/4th, the 10th/11th and the 17th/18th July at The Mill House (next to Foster's Windmill) Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior.



Copies of the Cambridge Open Studios guidebook listing participating artists and the weekends on which they are open are available free of charge from local shops and public places and from participating artists.

Full details are also available on Cambridge Open Studios brand new website at **www.camopenstudios.co.uk**. All venues are open from 11am to 6pm, entry is free and there will be a wide range of work for sale at most venues from postcards to substantial original pieces.

The Fountain Group Art Exhibition

Weekends of 10th, 11th, 17th and 18th July 2010

St Cyriac Church, Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire CB5 0LD

11am - 6pm Free Entry

News from Wicken Fen

Hopefully the recent warm weather marks the start of a long hot summer. The cold winter has certainly seemed to have put a brake on nature with many species of spring flower only just beginning to appear, around three to four weeks later than normal.

The Wicken Fen Visitor Centre has recently undergone a major refurbishment to improve visitor facilities and access to the fen. Following feedback from visitors we have installed a number of benches and seats to enable visitors to sit down and rest whilst soaking up the sights and sounds of the fen. We have also obtained an alcohol licence so visitors can now relax and enjoy a range of local beers and ciders in addition to our normal catering fare.

Construction of the Reach Lode crossing, an essential part of the Lodes Way, is progressing with the central span lifted into position at the end of May. Work is now set to begin on the construction of the cycleway across Burwell Fen. We are planning a community celebration on Sunday 12th September to mark the official opening of the bridge. Consultants have recently been appointed to design a new crossing over Burwell Lode, the final element of the Lodes Way which we hope to complete by 2013.



Local bird watchers have been delighted with recent sightings of avocet, temminck's stint and whimbrel on Tubney Fen. Three pairs of avocet bred on Tubney Fen last year, the first ever recorded breeding of the species at Wicken Fen or the Vision lands. At the time of writing nine

avocet chicks have hatched. A new bird viewing facility overlooking the mere enabling visitors to view the birds without disturbing them was constructed over the winter months. A turf roof and planting of additional screening cover will be undertaken in the autumn so as not to disturb the birds whilst they are breeding.

We were delighted to welcome our Patron, Chris Packham and the Springwatch cameras to Wicken Fen during May. Chris and the team spent a day filming dragonflies for this year Springwatch series. The **Dragonfly Safaris** organised by the Dragonfly Project are a great way to see and learn about the 21 species of dragon and damselflies that can be seen on the fen. Safaris are being held on Sat/ Sun 3-4 and 24-25 July at 11.00 and 14.30. The Dragonfly Centre is also open at weekends throughout the summer.

Stand-up paddleboarding proved a great hit when we introduced it last year. This year we are again running one hour introductory sessions at Wicken Fen from Wednesday 28th July. For those who want to be a bit more adventurous, we have a **Paddleboard Safari** on Friday 30th July. The three hour exploration of the local waterways around Wicken Fen is a great way to enjoy the magical wildlife and landscapes of the fen whilst getting some healthy exercise. A minimum height of 140cm is recommended for paddleboarding as anyone shorter may find it difficult to handle the paddle and could struggle physically with the paddling demands if the wind increases. If paddleboarding is a little bit too energetic for your liking, boat trips in our traditional fen lighter are running at weekends and Bank Holidays until 26th September, Friday evenings from 25th June to 30th July and Thursdays during the school summer holidays.

We have plenty of events planned in the lead up to the summer holidays. Pete Stroh, a leading wetland researcher will introduce you to the fenland speciality plants on a **Wildflower Walk** on Sun 20th June at 1400. Why not relax after a hard week at week with a **Midsummer Boat Trip and BBQ** on Fri 18th June or enjoy a **Midsummer Safari and Supper** on Sat 26th June.

In July, National Trust Conservation Advisor, Stuart Warrington will lead a walk to discover **Summer Wildflowers and Wildlife** on Sun 11th July whilst for the children we have **Wild Art** on Wed 28th and **Fairies, Pixies and Trolls** on Friday 30th July. Information and tickets for all events are available from the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274.

Hope to see you at the fen soon.

Howard Cooper

Plant Sale

The Plant Sale at Reach Village Centre on Saturday 24th April was well attended and raised over £170 for the local church funds. Many thanks to all who donated plants, served the tea, helped on the stalls or gave their support in any way.

Zenida McDonald and Pam King

Little Windmills

As you may be aware, Reach has its very own pre-school based in the village centre. The pre-school has nearly 30 children on the books at the moment with more joining us in September. We attract children from Reach itself as well as Burwell, Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck with some children coming from further afield**.**



Little Windmills bulb planting for Daffodil Day

We are a small, friendly pre-school with enthusiastic, experienced and qualified staff offering a safe, stimulating environment in which children can develop in preparation for school.

At the end of the summer term we will be saying goodbye to 10 of our children, eight of whom will be going to our feeder school, Swaffham Prior. We have strong links with Swaffham Prior School whose terms we follow and each year our school risers visit regularly to prepare for this transition.

We will keep you up to date of our activities in future issues of this magazine, but meanwhile if you would like to know more, please visit our website **www.littlewindmills.co.uk** or ring 07803 671200.

Susan Bluck

Days Done By

April/May 1977



This article looks back 33 years and briefly seeks to give you a flavour of what Reach was like in 1977. 33 years has been chosen because the first issue of Out of Reach magazine came out in September 1976 so the April and May issues in 1977 give a valuable insight into what life was like then.

At that time, James Callaghan was the Prime Minister of a struggling Labour Government, having taken over from Harold Wilson in 1976. They did not have a majority in the Commons and could only govern with the help of the Liberals, led by David Steel. Let us hope that our current coalition will do a little bit better than this so-called Lib-Lab pact which ultimately ended in mid 1978.

The average price of a house was £13,650, petrol cost 17p a litre, you could get a pint of beer for 30p – but inflation was nearly 16%. Jimmy Carter was the US President, Manchester United beat Liverpool 2-1 in the Cup Final and Rod Stewart topped the charts.

1977 was the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee and there were celebrations across the UK and the Commonwealth, mostly taking place in June. The Reach events will be covered in the next issue of the magazine.

Reach Fair in 1977 took place, as it always had, on Rogation Sunday – it was not until 1979 that the Fair, somewhat controversially, moved to its current date of the first May Bank holiday. It would seem that the weather was satisfactory; certainly there are no comments to the contrary. John Robinson wrote a piece in the June 1997 Out of Reach magazine where he comments that "although the amusement fair has degenerated to four stalls, other village functions have expanded over the last five years".



The above picture was taken at Reach Fair in 1977. It is of a young Fiona Smith, daughter of Roger and Maggie of 19 Fair Green, as she revives the old custom of offering ginger bread men to the mayor of Cambridge, Bob Wright.

Financially, the 1977 Fair had an income of £367 and expenses of £110, leaving a profit of £256. In today's money, this would be an income of £1,790 and a profit of £1,251 – this compared to an income in 2010 of £13,000 and a profit of £6,000 (approximate numbers).



The picture above is from a Fair many years ago. The girl is Jennifer Badcock (now Bowers) and the boy is a very young Michael Aves.

The Dyke's End was the only pub left in the village, being run by Mike and Brenda Warrington. It appears to have been thriving at the time - approval had just been given for an extension to the premises and the erection of a Public House sign.

The village still had its own Post Office Stores, run by Norma and Ken Peacock. They sold a wide range of products including newspapers, groceries, fruit and alcoholic beverages and the shop was located at what is now 17 Fair Green.

Is it true that married couples gradually start looking like each other?



Out of Reach magazine was initially edited by Jenny Johnson who now lives in Cumberland but occasionally returns to the village. In those early days there was a lot of hard work involved in typing out the stencils and then producing the individual pages using a duplicator. These were then stapled together and delivered by Joyce Harrison and her helpers and 33 years later Joyce is still "Distribution Manager".

In 1997 the magazine was continuing to inform the village of everything they needed to know with the same team in place. The May magazine was issue 9 and both the April and May issues are now on the website on the Magazine page – they are well worth a read. Clarissa Cochran produced the artwork for the front pages of the initial issues.

It was recorded that four people in the village had volunteered to run a Table Tennis Club in the Village Hall and it seems to have been a success at the time – does anyone know what happened to it – and is there any interest in resurrecting it?

The inaugural ceremony of the Reach Parish Council took place on the second of April 1954. In May 1977 there were five Parish Councillors, Albert Johnson (Chairman), Ray Folkes, Harvey Harrison, Joyce Harrison and Rodney Housden (Vice Chairman) – the Clerk was Alison Housden. Geoffrey Woollard was County Councillor, Margaret Cook District Councillor.

The big issue at the time was concern over the state of the railway bridge on the Swaffham Road. Villagers felt that it was unsafe and it was discussed at the Annual Parish meeting when a Mr Hudson appears to have quelled the fears of the villagers.

The Minutes of the April and May 1977 Parish Council meetings and the Annual Parish Meeting are now on the website and whilst not as much fun to read as the old issues of Out of Reach, they do give an indication of what was important to villagers at that time.

The village website is **www.reach-village.co.uk**.

David Parr

Fen Chitchat

These are historic times for Reach. Those of you who dog walk or horse ride will have seen the engineering work going on about half a mile away in the Upware direction where BAM Nuttall

(of guided bus fame) are building the new National Trust/Sustrans bridge over Reach Lode. The last time you could get across the Lode without a boat was back in *c.*1991 when it was temporarily dammed so that the banks could be relined with clay taken from what is now the lake in the pocket park beyond the fishing pit. The then Reach residents amused themselves by walking up one side of the Lode and back down the other. I don't know why circular routes are so much more appealing somehow. Anyway, I'm looking forward to the opening of the new bridge and enjoying the quiet walks and rides that this will bring.

The National Trust Press release states how the bridge is "designed to blend into the surrounding landscape". Right now it looks huge and industrial, but quite graceful – the main span was delivered today and sits in the field next to the Lode. It's worth a look. The excavations for the bridge foundations revealed a lot of peat, so this had to be dug out and replaced with clay. The side effect of this work is a large pond and some big peat mounds, some of which will be used to cover the ramps to the bridge, which also have to be large to get up to the height required. There are three 3m high corrugated iron culverts running through these ramps on both sides of the Lode, built for flood relief apparently, in case the Lode overflows, so the water isn't able to build up behind the ramps but will flow through the culverts. This is completely unnecessary in this particular situation, but apparently it will cost more to go through the planning application for NOT having them than it will to just build them anyway.



Some of you may remember a couple of years ago that the NT wanted to place cattle grids across Straight Drove – this is the main byway on the Prior side of the Lode that you get onto when you go across the footbridge from the Hythe. Cattle grids are potentially lethally dangerous to horses and they're not great for walkers, dogs or cyclists either. Some local residents and horse riders from the area put together a good campaign about the unsuitability of cattle grids and that it was not within the Highways Act to install them and also got the County Council galvanised to prevent the NT. By this time, the NT had already bought two grids. Now the NT plans to put cattle grids across Hightown Drove on the Burwell side of the Lode to allow the free passage of cattle from Burwell Fen onto their new land at Hurdle Hall. In order to assuage safety concerns, they say they will put a gate in front of them so that if a horse bolts, it will not run into the grid. A gate *and* a cattle grid. Uh? Are they trying to use up their stock of cattle grids? Methinks that these 3m high culverts could be put to good use – the cattle can easily cross the road and bridge approach by going through these, so no need for cattle grids. Therefore horse riders = happy. Cattle can graze freely between the two areas, therefore NT= happy. Yes? Everyone happy. Lovely.

Lesley Boyle

CHURCH BARBECUE

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(Village Centre if wet)

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All proceeds go to The Church of St Etheldreda and The Holy Trinity, Reach

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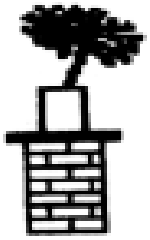

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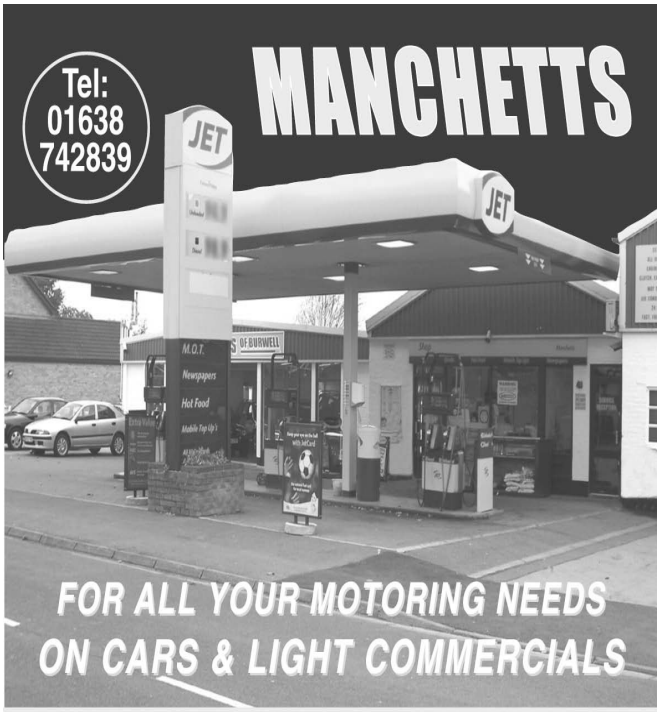

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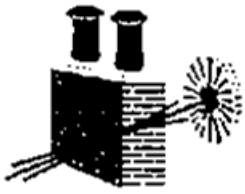

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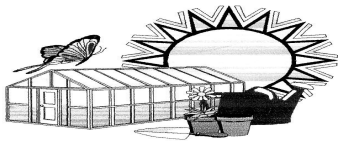

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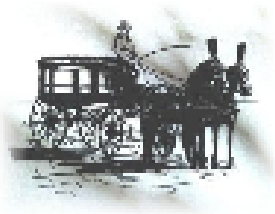

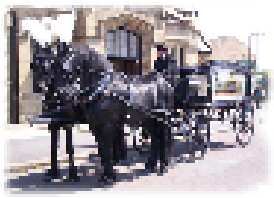

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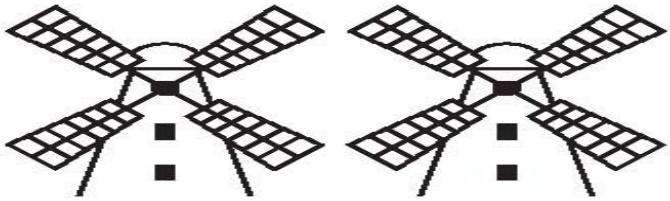

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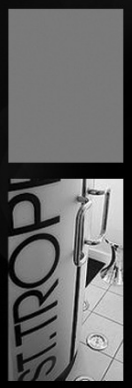



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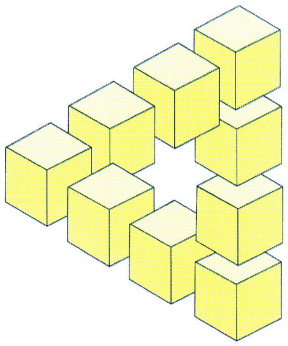

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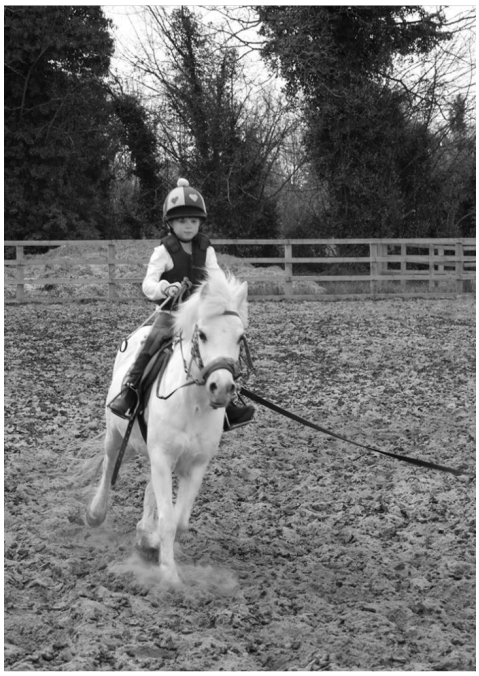

Sports News

For a small village, Reach can boast of remarkable depth and breadth in sporting talent! Most seem remarkably reluctant to sing their own praises but I did persuade two residents to play the "proud parent" and share a bit about the recent successes of two talented brother sister duos. Ben and Maisey Snaith and Daniel and Felicity Blocksage are, between them, proving Reach athletes are a force to be reckoned with on land and in the water



Ben at 14 years old, is perhaps the most experienced competitor of the foursome. Already this year he has represented the County at the National Schools X Country Championships in March before moving to track-based events.

He won the County AA U15 800m championship in early May and then later (but not much later!) the same day came a close 2nd in the 400m. Although still training for the triathlon season he has recently joined Cambridge and Coleridge Athletics Club to gain more competition experience and achieve his aim of improve his personal best times throughout the season.

Maisey (age 9) recently joined Cambridge Triathlon Club and is following in her brothers footsteps in the local running scene. She was 3rd female in the Muddy Marvel x country junior race (held at Lode) and in her first track event, came 3rd in an under 11's 80m sprint. She is now combining her love of running with learning how to hurdle.



Moving from land to water Felicity Blocksage currently holds Bottisham Swimming Club record for 50 metre Breaststroke for the Girls 9 and under. This was a record that had stood for many years. In the same stroke and distance she also won the title of the Fastest 9 and under Girl at the Thetford Open Gala in February.

Daniel is currently the fastest 13 year old for 50 metre breaststroke in the Bottisham Club and within 1 second of beating the times set by the 14 year olds. Apparently he isn't bad on land on two wheels either. Seems he enjoys racing and often beating the school bus home from Bottisham on his bike and has been recently told by the police to slow down in Bottisham as he was going too fast through the village!

Of course this is not just a game for youngsters. There are several serious long distance runners with a few more years of wear and tear in their legs pounding the Reach roads and bridleways. Sue Jordan is in training for her 6th Great North Run (half marathon) and is hoping to better her previous best time of 2 hours 15mins. Sue runs the event with her younger brother in aid of a Newcastle-based charity supporting children and young adults with learning difficulties. Her training regime includes at least 3 runs a week covering a total of around 15 to 20 miles.



Ewen Cameron returned to the land of his forefathers for the Loch Ness marathon at the end of last year. Apparently at least the last 2 miles were flat but despite the hills he finished in a great time of 3hrs 35mins, knocking 40 minutes off his personal best.

He says and I quote, "If sanity prevails, it will be my last one but you know how time makes the memories of the pain (particularly the training) fade" we look forward to the next report then!

A footnote from me (because unlike most I have never had a problem with self publicity(!)), I raced the Cambridge duathlon (7.5k run, 40k bike, 7.5k run) based around Bottisham earlier this month. Managed 3rd female overall (albeit about two weeks behind the annoyingly young and fast first female) and won my age group. This was enough to qualify for a place in the GB age group

team for the duathlon world championships in Edinburgh in September. Just need to find some hills to train on now!

Next issue will feature riding, water ski-ing and much more. Please email me your news, results, aims and achievements in any sport, be it team or individual **juliet.vickery@yahoo.co.uk.**

Remember you can see some of our top athletes in action on Saturday 12th June at the village sports day. An event, involving three-legged, sack and potato races for all (and I mean ALL) ages is a fun family afternoon followed by a BBQ with lots of prizes and certificates to give away.

Juliet Vickery

Triathlon



Since January I have been going to a Cambridge triathlon swimming group. It is at Bottisham Village Collage swimming pool on Monday night from 7:15 'til 8:15. We do a range of activities to help our technique, including shoulder tap catch up and superman. They all help our strokes. I think that, in my opinion, triathlon swimming is so much fun and helps me improve my swimming a lot. I would recommend this to children and young adults who like swimming and want to get better. For more information, please go to **www.cambridgetriathlonclub.com**

Alice Lingley
Age 10

Judo



Since Christmas I have been going to Judo. I go every Friday to the Gardiner Memorial Hall in Burwell. Jane and John are the best teachers. I have just passed my first grading. For this I had to know that Rei means to bow, Hajme means to start and Matte means to stop.

I would recommend Judo to anyone.

Hazel Lingley
Age 6

Reach Cricket Club

Reach's cricket team opened its 2010 season on 22 May when almost 11 players made it down to Northiam in East Sussex to defend the village's honour against the Unemployables. This was something of a trip into the unknown, as several of the team have never before been south of the Thames. But with a ringer from Reading rumoured once to have had a trial for Hampshire 2nd XI our hopes were unusually high.

Having put the opposition into bat we began tidily enough, with furious pace from either end from Simon Tooley (our ringer) and Theo Clark. Then things began to slip, with Ewen Cameron's clever leg side trap leading to a feast of runs before he had to be dragged from the attack, as much for the preservation of the sheep on the midwicket boundary as for the team's bowling figures. In spite of a blisteringly efficient spell from Gwillym Davies, aimed mainly at the opposition's goolies and ceding only 10 runs in eight or so overs, the damage was done.

Set 183 to win our dogged openers Paul Robinson and Andrew Trump plugged away with some effect but our usual stars, Mike Whittingham and Ewen Cameron, were plagued by a pitch which gave unusual bounce to slow bowlers, and holed out prematurely. We ended up with the all-too familiar rearguard campaign batting out for a draw in the twilight. On this occasion not even the miserable cussedness of my own innings could save us – I fell two balls short of safety.

Anyone who fancies a game is more than welcome to get in touch. We play half a dozen friendlies a year and take all-comers: whether you have played test cricket for Zimbabwe or you have never previously picked up a bat in your life.

Ross Clark (743725 or **rossjclark@aol.com**)

Pilates

Can't see your toes? Wondering what happened to your pelvic floor? Or simply like to be fitter and more toned? . . . . then Pilates may be for you!

We now have two classes of Pilates every Tuesday in the Village Centre. The classes are run by Ros Mulvany, an experienced Pilates practitioner with a background in dance, fitness and exercise. Ros's classes cater for all levels of ability and fitness - she has worked with British athletes, those recovering from back injuries and of course us beginners! The classes in Reach have total beginners and serious athletes – all catered for……. so please don't be put off.

Pilates improves your strength, flexibility and overall mobility. It works on core strength (your girdle)! You'll achieve a strong core, develop longer, leaner muscles and improve your overall sense of well-being - and if you are a sports enthusiast, Pilates can help improve your game.

It is also fun and invigorating!

Come and try a class in the Village Hall on Tuesdays.

7.00pm	Pilates on a Swiss Ball Intermediate level
8.15pm	Pilates matwork – all levels

Ros also runs other classes in Swaffham Prior (Tuesday and Fridays 1.45 – 2.45pm) and at Chippenham.

Costs: £6 to £10 per session (£10 for drop-in, but less if you sign up for a term or more than 1 class per week).

If you need further information, call Ros on 01353 720094, drop into a class or feel free to contact me.

Helen Oliver
Tel: 742484
Email: **helenoliver01@btinternet.com**

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Susie Tucker's Kids Page

RIDDLES

1. Imagine you are in a sinking rowboat, surrounded by sharks. How would you survive?

2. What came first, the chicken or the egg?

JOKES

3. What colour is a burp?

4. Where does a dog park its car?

Answers are on page 33.

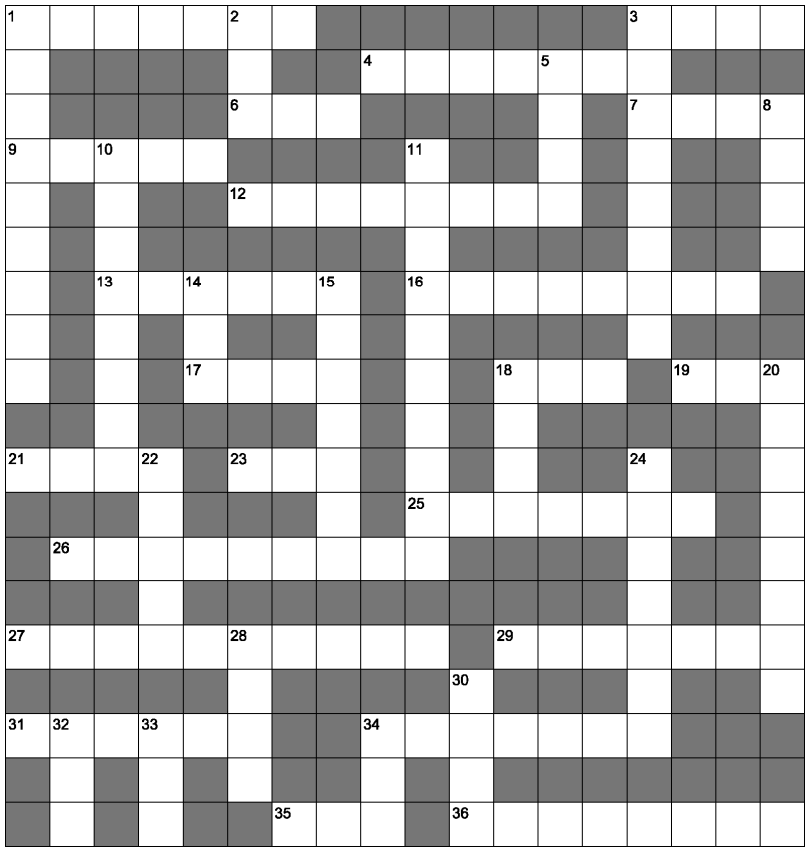


D	E	V	I	L	S	D	Y	K	E	L
Q	W	E	R	T	Y	R	U	I	O	P
A	S	D	F	G	H	E	J	F	K	L
R	L	Z	X	C	V	A	B	E	N	O
I	M	B	Q	W	E	C	R	N	T	D
V	C	H	U	R	C	H	Y	S	U	E
E	I	O	P	R	A	S	D	F	G	H
R	E	A	C	H	W	O	O	D	J	K
V	I	L	L	A	G	E	H	A	L	L
L	Z	X	C	V	B	N	L	M	Q	W
F	A	I	R	E	R	T	Y	L	U	I

Find the following in the above . . . .

DEVILS DYKE	REACH WOOD	REACH	BURWELL	VILLAGE HALL
CHURCH	RIVER	FENS	FAIR	LODE

Zenida's Crossword Number 1



A prize will be drawn from all correct crosswords received.

Please send your entry by Friday 9th July 2010 to Zenida's Crossword No.1, North View House, 16 Chapel Lane, Reach, CB25 OJJ and giving your:

Name: _____

Tel: _____

Across

1. A newspaper
3. A ruler
4. Roman name for the River Severn
6. Rap back
7. Memo
9. A riddle
12. Ptolomy's fifth heaven
13. Outer coat
16. Serpents won't touch it?
17. Fasten
18. Attempt
19. Enemy
21. Not a hit
23. Bees do it
25. Homer's epic poem
26. Old name for marzipan
27. One of the Cyclops
29. Patron Saint of goldsmiths
31. A perfect place
34. A son of Priam
35. It can fly
36. Sign of glee

Down

1. A pillar of Hercules
2. Pat back
3. A 'bounder'
5. Press
8. Smooth
10. Roman writer and philosopher
11. Isle of Man emblem
14. Sub returns
15. Two-edged sword
18. Fortress city in the Iliad
20. Large animal
22. Off target
24. Fate
28. Pile
30. Strive
32. Pair
33. Burst
34. Small child



Summoned by Bells . . . .

. . . . at Bulbeck, Burwell, Bottisham . . . .

Bellringing is one of those funny activities which I knew I'd like doing, even when I'd no idea what it involved. I've been ringing since I was a kid and continued to do it with greater or lesser intensity over the years depending on how much free time I had. I did loads when I was a student and should have been studying. Had student rail card – could travel. I went ringing at cathedrals, country churches, all over. I rang a lot in London - posh ringing, you might call it. I made friends all over the country. Indeed I managed to find a bit of time for ringing when I travelled to the US and Australia for my job. However with children came other responsibilities and interests and a lot less time for ringing. But now I'm happy to take up a bit more ringing again and glad that my son is learning to ring too.

I'm trying to describe the flexibility and sociability of ringing. It is entirely up to you what you make of it. At its basic level you have to learn to control up to a ton of bell metal hung in a frame in the church tower way above you, using a long rope. Acquiring this physical skill can take from a few weeks to a few months. You ring as part of a team – seven other ringers ring with you so that between you, you ring a complete octave. You need to try and judge the speed and rhythm of the ringing.

You ring special music, called Methods, where in every row the bells sound in a different order – 'ringing the changes'. You need to be able to distinguish the sound of your bell from the rest and there's a satisfaction in placing your bell exactly right within the others. Some of the methods are very complicated patterns. You can try and learn more and more complicated ones. You can learn to compose new methods and callings. This involves understanding patterns and having some mathematical ability. You can ring special lengths of methods called quarter peals (which take approx 45 minutes of trying not to go wrong). This involves high levels of concentration and endurance. You can do all of this, or simply enjoy ringing well at the regular practices and services of your local church with the company and camaraderie of the rest of the team, plus other ringers you get to know in the area.

I ring at Swaffham Bulbeck, but we frequently get Dee Smith and Pam King over from Burwell and Reach and I don't know what we'd do without our regulars from Bottisham. Our youngsters earn money ringing for weddings throughout the locality. Some of our older members quite like the fact that bellringing is a very cheap hobby costing no more than your travel and maybe the odd drink in the pub afterwards. Some of them get up to no good mid week at Golden Oldie ringing practices, complete with pub lunches. I know ringers from 8 to 80, although 10 is about the youngest age I'd recommend and many ringers have started their careers at age 65 plus.



So for upper body exercise and brain training, forget the singing, badminton and Nintendo DS – come bellringing! Swaffham Bulbeck has a nice, light, modern ring of 8 bells. We practice on a Wednesday night from 7.45pm to 9.15pm and train beginners from 7pm. After all that we go and socialise! The primary purpose of ringing is service to the church but many ringers are not churchgoers and there is no requirement to be involved with the church, other than for Sunday morning service ringing when you are available.

Burwell practice on Monday evenings and Bottisham on Fridays. If you are interested, please get in touch and I can give you further information or arrange for you to come and see bellringing in action. Lesley Boyle, 01638 742196, text 07545 570865, or email **lhmboyle@googlemail.com**

Lesley Boyle

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

Some of you will have heard that this will the last time I will be writing for Within Reach as your Vicar. After over 14 years in this parish the time has come to move on to pastures new.

At the end of July, my wife and I will be moving to parishes in the neighbouring county of Suffolk and the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Not far away I'm pleased to say as we have grown to love East Anglia and will be close enough to keep in touch with the many good friends we have made here over the years.

We will be moving to Lavenham where I will continue as Parish Priest, both there and in the neighbouring hamlet of Preston St Mary. The set up isn't unlike Burwell & Reach with one large community and one smaller one. Both new parishes have fine mediaeval churches: St Peter & St Paul Lavenham a dominant landmark like St Mary's Burwell, and the east window of St Mary's Preston almost identical to that in Reach with the stained glass depiction of the Good Shepherd; so some affinity with the places we leave behind.

It is inevitably with mixed feelings we move on. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time here and in many ways would love to remain: but as we felt the hand of God leading us here in April 1996, so again we feel it is God's guiding and timing in being called to another place. It's not always easy discerning God's will, as many will know, but words from much loved hymns spring to mind: *"From the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you"*, *"Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go… for thee delightfully employ".* We read of many in the Scriptures who, not having the absolute certainty some Christians feel fortunate to claim, have stepped out in faith and discovered God's blessings in abundance. So we feel the time is right to follow in the steps of those before us who have put their trust in God and journeyed on, aware only of the opening page of a whole new chapter.

As I reflect on my time as Vicar of Burwell over 14 years, Reach for 7 years and as Rural Dean for 7 years, I give thanks for all we have shared together and for the privilege of serving you all.



One of the great joys of being a priest in the Church of England is serving not just the people who worship regularly in church but the whole community and I cannot express adequately the fulfilment I have found in this combined rôle through the joyful times and the sad times… with some 25 baptisms, 12 weddings, and 20 funerals a year, x14 years! There are many couples I have prepared for marriage and then had the joy of baptising their children; I've lost count of examples where I have baptised two children of the same couple I married and there's a handful too where it's been three! And on two occasions it's been very special to baptise extended families – 8 people on each occasion and one of these spanning 3 generations! It has also been good to engage with village organisations (too many to mention) in furthering links between St Mary's and St Etheldreda's and the villages of Burwell and Reach. And it's been especially good to be in a place where all the churches work closely together and actively share in their Christian witness and in serving the community.

The pilgrimages I have led over the years have drawn in many from our villages who are not church-goers as well as those who are and I have enjoyed getting to know people in this way. I am pleased to say that the **Holy Land pilgrimage** I had already planned for February 2011 **will still be going ahead**. My new parishes are happy for this and in addition to those already signed up from Burwell & Reach

and elsewhere, I am sure there will be a contingent too from my new parishes which will be good.

The churches in Reach and Burwell are in good shape and good heart with plenty of able people to run things until a new Vicar is appointed. My last Sunday here will be **25th July** when I will be leading both the 8.00am and 9.30am services – and all are very welcome to come along. And any who wish to be present at my Licensing service in the new parishes will be most welcome there too, on **Thursday 9th September, 7.30pm, at the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul Lavenham**.

May God be with you all as the opening page of a new chapter also begins for you in the time leading up to and beyond the appointment of a new Vicar of Burwell and Reach.

With every blessing,

Stephen Earl

Tribute to Stephen Earl

Stephen Earl's move to the Parish of Lavenham in Suffolk will leave a very big gap in the community and religious life of Burwell and Reach. Reach, of course, for all of its history until very recently was part of the parish of Swaffham Prior and the circumstances surrounding the linking of it formally with Burwell were not happy. It is difficult to imagine how much worse things could have been without Stephen's tactful support, sympathy and extraordinary pastoral care – and without his wonderful willingness to take on, in addition to his already huge load as Vicar of Burwell and Rural Dean, another church and the community it exists to serve.

He, his churchwardens and the worshipping community of St Mary's in Burwell have made every effort to support and build the life of the church in Reach, and for those of us here it has been a privilege to work with them.

His personal warmth, his gentle kindness (and, when necessary, sternness) will be very much missed. We wish him and his wife Abigail, whose tireless support for his work is so obvious, all good things for their future and hope they will not forget us and our odd little church as they contemplate the grandeur of their great church at Lavenham.

Charles Moseley

CentrePeace @ Reach

On the third Wednesday of every month, from 2pm to 4pm, the back part of St Etheldreda's church in Reach is transformed into a mini – CentrePeace. There are all the things you would expect – good quality second hand books (prices from 10p to £3), Traidcraft cookies and chocolates, greetings cards, information leaflets and of course free tea and coffee. We'd love to see you there!

CentrePeace @ Reach Dates for 2010:

16th June
18th August
20th October
15th December
21st July
15th September
17th November

Revd. Canon Stephen Earl

You will see elsewhere in *Within Reach* that Revd Stephen Earl is leaving us and there's no doubt that he will be greatly missed. One of Stephen's greatest talents is his ability to get people involved, so as a result of this, we have a good team to 'keep the show on the road' while we wait for his successor to be appointed – a process which could take about a year. If you have any queries regarding weddings, baptisms, funerals or any other matter relating to the church, your first point of contact should be the churchwardens Pat Chalmers (01638 742006) and Stephen Walton (01638 744214), who will do their best to help.

Stephen's last day in the parish will be Sunday 25th July, when he will preside at both services at St Mary's, Burwell, Holy Communion at 8.00am and Parish Communion at 9:30am. We hope that many people in the parish will be able to join us at one of these services. There will also be a Farewell Lunch in The Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell at 1.15pm, which will be an opportunity to

thank Stephen and his wife Abigail for their tremendous contributions to the life of our churches and the wider community and to wish them well as they move on to their new life in Lavenham.

If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Stephen and Abi, you can drop off your donation at CentrePeace in Burwell or when it comes to Reach on 16th June. Alternatively you can send it to Terry Chalmers, the Church Treasurer at 70 North Street, Burwell. (Please make cheques payable to 'St Mary's Burwell PCC')

What is WOW?

WOW is a group of people from St Mary's who seek to relate their faith to everyday life in the community in which we live. We believe that God is passionate about Reach and Burwell and wants us to work with him to encourage the growth of dynamic, exciting, lively, and caring communities. As a starting point over this summer we will be walking the streets of Burwell and Reach in order to find out more about (discover?) our villages, and we would welcome anyone to walk with us.

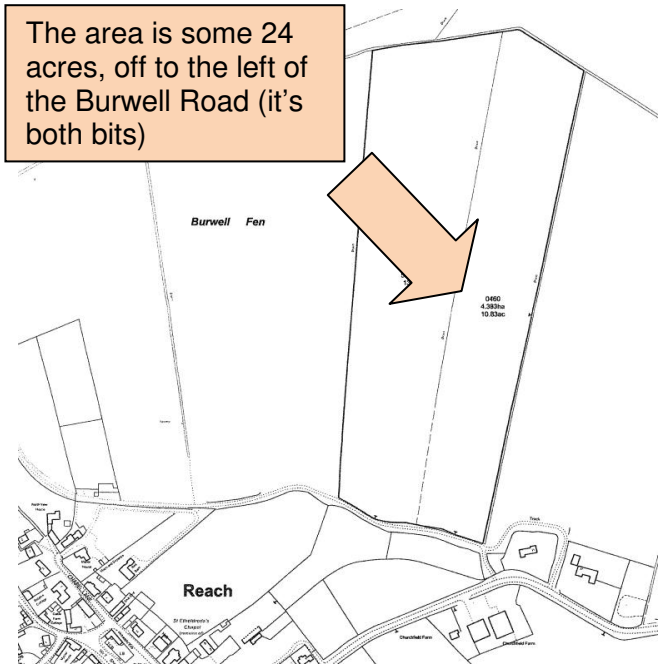
We don't know where this will lead us, but we will at the very least have had some exercise, know where every street in our villages is, and hopefully have made some new friends (and visited all the pubs!).

Sunday@7 is an informal evening service held on the second Sunday of each month at Reach Church. It is led by a member of the St Mary's congregation, usually has an interesting speaker, and is prayerful and meditative in style with modern and uplifting music and songs. Again, anyone is welcome to come along and join us, and we usually adjourn to the 5 Bells in Burwell at around 8pm. They now know we are coming and stay open for us (a result)!

LAND AVAILABLE IN REACH

The Parish Council has recently received an email from the National Trust as follows;

"You may be aware that the County Council is considering selling 24 acres of land on the north eastern edge of the village, between Reach and Burwell.



It lies within the Wicken Fen Vision and we have been approached about National Trust interest.

With its proximity to Reach we do see this land as being an ideal opportunity for community involvement. We would therefore be happy to meet with the Parish Council to explore what uses the villagers may wish to see on the land if it was purchased by the National Trust.

Could this be an opportunity for allotments, a community orchard and perhaps play facilities? The National Trust at Wimpole has just launched a Community Supported Agriculture, CSA, Scheme with over 70 local householders joining together to initially farm 2 acres, with a designated grower. Might this also be something that the local community would be interested in? If there is an interest for community involvement then land could be identified for this at the southern end and land to the north could be fenced for grazing in conjunction with the wider Vision."

To explore these opportunities further, a meeting with Chris Soans and Philip Broadbent-Yale of the National Trust was organised in the village on Wednesday 2nd June.

This went well with over 30 villagers turning up and comments from other villagers unable to attend being added.

In summary, the meeting concluded that it would be a good thing if the land was acquired by the National Trust. As for the uses to which villagers would like it to be put, these are as follows in the order in which they were suggested:

Cricket Pitch

It was suggested by Bryan Pearson that an area of 4-5 acres be set aside for a cricket pitch that would be used by both Reach and Burwell teams. Facilities would include a pavilion and sufficient car parking.

Horse Menage/Safe Riding Area for Children

This was suggested by Liz Tabecki.

Community Farm

This was suggested by Charles Moseley and put to the meeting in his absence.

Orchard

This was suggested by David Thomas and put to the meeting in his absence.

Car Park

John Robinson suggested that if a car park were to be included, this would be able to serve the whole Wicken Vision area.

There were discussions regarding each proposal with some people in favour and some people against.

The total area for potential purchase by the NT is some 24 acres so any or even ALL of these suggestions could be included. The process now is that the land will be valued by the Council and a fair market price will be put to the NT in about a month. If this is acceptable to them, they would need to fund-raise to get the amount needed (but they are good at this sort of thing)! Then there would be further discussions with villagers about the individual ideas.

So those people who have made suggestions are asked to provide more detail as to what would be needed to include amount of land required, how many people might be interested and any further justification and comments about how the projects might work.

Now is also the time for villagers who were unable to attend but now know how the meeting went, to come forward in support of or against the above proposals but also **TO ADD OTHER PROPOSALS**. Already Simon Jarvis has suggested that the cricket pitch should double up as a football pitch as it does in most villages such as Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck - this idea will be added to the above list and doubtless Simon and Bryan will be talking together.

Chris Soans from the NT has asked me to collate responses that I receive by email, telephone or just verbally in the village so please get your thoughts to me, ideally over the next two weeks.

I have phone numbers (I think) for all the names mentioned above but do not want to issue them without individual permissions. However, if anyone want to talk to any of the above people, let me know and I will arrange it.

I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible - this seems to be a real opportunity for the village.

David Parr

Answers from page 27

1. Stop imagining!
2. Dinosaurs laid eggs
3. Burple
4. In a car bark!

Reach Fair 2010 Kidz Kartz

A child over paid for a ride on Kidz Kartz - they forgot to come back for their change. If that was you, or your child, please contact Paul of Kidz Kartz (07748 658850).

Bus Timetable

BUS SERVICE

Reach is served by the 10/10A bus service, provided by Stagecoach.

The difference between the 10 and 10A services is that the 10 travels via Valley Way in Newmarket whilst the 10A uses Noel Murless Drive.

A summary of all buses serving Reach and/or Swaffham Prior Monday to Saturday is shown below.

Please note that there is no bus service at all on Sundays.

NEWMARKET-BURWELL-REACH-SWAFFHAM PRIOR-CAMBRIDGE
(Monday to Saturday unless stated)

Service No:	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	M-F												
Newmarket (Guineas Bus Station)				0817	0917	1017	1117	1217	1317	1417	1517	1617	1717
Burwell (Toyse Lane)	0643	0713	0743	0843	0943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1743
Reach	0649	0719			0949			1249			1549	1649	1749
Swaffham Prior	0655	0725	0752	0852	0955	1052	1152	1255	1352	1452	1555	1655	1755
Cambridge (Drummer Street)	0733	0803	0830	0930	1033	1133	1230	1333	1433	1530	1633	1733	1833

CAMBRIDGE-SWAFFHAM PRIOR-REACH-BURWELL-NEWMARKET
(Monday to Saturday unless stated)

Service No:	10	10A	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	M-F												
Cambridge (Drummer Street)	0705	0805	0835	0935	1035	1135	1235	1335	1435	1535	1645	1745	1845
Swaffham Prior	0737	0837	0907	1007	1107	1207	1310	1407	1507	1607	1720	1817	1917
Reach	0740		0910			1210				1610		1820	
Burwell (Toyse Lane)	0748	0845	0918	1015	1115	1218	1318	1415	1515	1618	1728	1828	1925
Newmarket (Guineas Bus Station)	0816	0913	0946	1043	1143	1246	1346	1443	1543	1646	1756		

A full timetable can be downloaded from **www.reach-village.co.uk/bus_service.html**

Meeting Grahame Radford



Q. Am I right in thinking that you are a Bottisham Player?

Q. Yes, I have been member since 1992 and have recently retired as Chairman. I am also a member of the Irving Stage Company who are based at Bury St Edmunds, and have recently played Arvide in "Guys & Dolls" at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds.

Q. What character have you most enjoyed playing?

R. The Inspector in J.B. Priestley's "An Inspector Calls" at Bottisham. It is a major part in such a well known play, and is a really nice part to do. I would like to play Professor Higgins in My Fair Lady before I fully retire from amateur dramatics.

Q. Do you sing and dance, as well as acting?

R. Yes. I'm probably strongest at acting, then singing, and finally dancing. I've received little formal training, mostly it's just a hobby. In 1994 I was in "Stepping Out" and I had to learn to tap dance so I attended lessons. I also had singing lessons for a couple of years.

Q. Are you an actor who will turn director (like Clint Eastwood)?

R. Yes. I have been asked to direct "A Street Car Named Desire" at the Theatre Royal in November and am looking forward to the challenge. It's good to see things from the other side. Also the opportunity for good parts decreases as one gets older!

Q. If you could have been born in another era what would you choose?

R. The Edwardian era. Not very far back, just the turn of the century, after Queen Victoria. It's difficult to imagine because you can't take your knowledge with you, but the Industrial Revolution had largely happened but more revolutions were to come, for example with cars and aeroplanes. It was a really interesting time. One would also be involved in WWI and WWII, contributing to major conflicts. I love aeroplanes and perhaps would have joined the Royal Flying Corps. I had wanted to fly since I was 10 years old and achieved my ambition when I spent some time as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm.

Q. Do you have any hobbies other than acting?

R. I'm a bit of a petrol head. I used to race go-karts up to a few years ago. Aeroplanes and cars are my adrenalin rush, whereas others might choose skiing or bungee jumping, and you don't have to be 100% physically fit. I also enjoy the computer, the garden and work around the house.

Q. How long have you lived in Reach?

R. 7 Years in September. I lived in Newmarket for 25 years, and then took a job in South Wales. Karen and I travelled between Wales and Soham for 4 years until Karen moved to Reach, where I decided to join her.

Q. Do you like Reach, and why?

R. Yes, it's a good place to be. I lived 25 years in Harlow New Town and 25 years in Newmarket which represents a long time, but I prefer village life and Reach has a lot going for it. It's small and compact. It lack some of the facilities, but the history of the village is very interesting.

Q. Did you enjoy your time as editor of Out of Reach?

R. Yes I did. I took over from Dave Summers. I got to meet some really interesting people. I've retired as editor because I wanted to re-structure my work/life balance and after 5 years I think it's time for a fresh view. I think the internet and the village web site perhaps mean there is less need for a village magazine. Maybe it's just good to have a change.

Q. You are Treasurer of the Village Centre Committee. Do you think it is important to get involved in village life?

R. Yes, I've always been someone who gets involved. My mother is 91 and still actively involved in fund raising activities! I've inherited her `involvement'. When I was in Newmarket I was in Round Table and on the Management Committee. I usually get involved more than just being a member. Life consists of Knowers and Do'ers – both are important, but I suppose I am a `do'er'

Q. Where did you meet the lovely Karen?

R. In a play called "The Picnic" with the Soham College Players. We actually got together about 18 months later.

Q. Do you have children?

R. I have 3 children from my first marriage, Emma, Hayley and Paul. Unfortunately, their mother died from breast cancer some years ago. Emma has two sons, Jake and Finn, Hayley has just returned from Thailand – where she got married – and Paul is single and lives in Portsmouth.

Q. Where do you like to holiday?

R. We have a house in Florida which we go to as often as we can. But we also like to go to somewhere different each year too. Sometimes we like to "chill out" sometimes we go on an adventure. We have friends in Wales and so enjoy walking, and friends in Holland and so enjoy cycling. Lately we've been to Maderia, South of France, Australia, Egypt, Lisbon, Barcelona and Harrogate.

Q. How do you relax?

R. I do something different. I don't do stress. I read, go on the computer, pick up a magazine

Q. ***What's your favourite TV soap?***

R. I don't have one. We watch very little TV.

Q. What's your favourite night out?

R. Dinner with friends.

Q. What's your favourite restaurant?

R. We like to try different restaurants each time.

Q. What's your greatest achievement?

R. Bringing up three children all of whom are making a positive contribution to society

Q. You appear very fit and trim. To what do you attribute this?

R. Eating properly and keeping moderately active, but most important is keeping the mind active and alert for as long as you can. I'm 64 but don't feel it.

Q. Have you enjoyed your work career?

R. Yes. Most of it has been in sales and marketing and I have travelled all over the world. I am currently enjoying a total change with GET IT SORTED! (07842 126270) using the skills learnt years ago and helping people with their problems. It is so varied and interesting. One day I may be painting garden furniture, the next fixing broken wardrobe doors and the next replacing glass in a greenhouse! I simply love it.

Claire Halpin-McDonald

Amenity Fund

The new Amenity Fund Committee met for the first time on Wednesday 12th May 2010.

The formation of the Committee stems from the arrangement where two committees (the Parish Council and the Village Centre) each met separately to consider applications. This was not a satisfactory arrangement and the new committee is a simplification

The new committee elected Ross Clark as its Chair. Ross was proposed by John Holmwood and seconded by Andrew Towers. The members of the committee are listed below.

The current account stands at £4,434, of which £1,000 is assigned to the proposal for a tennis court, up to £500 is reserved for the Snakehall bus shelter and £1,000 is reserved for cricket nets. Progress regarding the tennis court and cricket nets is dependent upon funding from elsewhere, particularly so the tennis court which will cost in the order of £25K.

A sum in the order of £1,500 is anticipated from the proceeds of Reach Fair 2010. This plus the unassigned money in the current account totals over £3,400.

It was agreed that the committee would meet periodically according to applications received, rather than at set intervals. The components of an application were agreed and are set out below. Applications can be sent to any of the committee members (their details are set out below) and committee members are also happy to give informal advice. A decision will be made 6 - 8 weeks from the receipt of an application.

The committee then went on to consider an application for part funding of irrigation equipment (a petrol driven water pump and pipework) for use at the new allotments at Barston Drove. Ross Clark, being an allotment holder, took no part in the debate. After careful deliberation, and representations from all the committee members, it was agreed to make the sum of £150 available. This sum represents 25% of the total cost.

Remember the current account stands at over £3,400 so what do you think will benefit the village?

Committee Members

Ross Clark (Chair) 743725
rossjclark@aol.com

Rita Dunnett 742943
rita@rlc-reach.demon.co.uk

Claire Halpin-McDonald 743330
claire.halpin@ascontracts.co.uk

John Holmwood 742969
all@jholmwood.co.uk

Andrew Towers 742484
andrewtowers01@btinternet.com

Components of an Application

- One application should be submitted per item
- An estimate of cost
- An estimate of who and how many people, would use the proposed item and at what frequency
- An indication of expressed interest by people in having the item. This might be based on research such as a questionnaire
- The level of match funding required and how it is to be obtained
- An application must be received and approval prior to any expenditure. No retrospective payments will be considered

Reach Amenity Fund Constitution

1. The Amenity Fund exists to fund community activities in Reach

2. The Amenity Fund shall be funded by profits from Reach Fair, not less than 25% of which in each year shall be paid into the Amenity Fund.

3. Any resident of the village may make an application for a grant from the said fund at any time and approval will normally only be given for events or facilities which benefit a number of villagers.

4. Decisions as to which applications are successful will be made by a committee named the Amenity Fund Committee (henceforth "the committee"). This shall consist of five members: two who are members of the Parish Council; two who are members of the Village Centre Committee; and one other member unrelated to either body but who must be at least 18 years of age and must be resident in the village. The Amenity Fund committee as a whole will decide how to fill any vacant place.

5. The Committee shall elect its own chairman and will make its decisions by a simple majority vote.

6. The Committee shall meet within a reasonable timeframe of when an application is received, though not more than once a month.

7. The meeting shall be held in private at a time and place of the Committee's choosing.

8. The Committee shall make its decisions public on the parish website and in *Within Reach.*

9. The bank account for the Amenity Fund will remain in the hands of the Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council (i.e. the Parish Clerk).



Annual Parish Meeting

REACH VILLAGE

DRAFT Minutes of Annual Reach Parish Meeting held on; Wednesday 5th May 2010

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
Angela King	Councillor	Present
Helen Platt	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Present

plus members of the Reach public.

Chairman's Report

The Parish Council is in good shape financially. In a year of fiscal embarrassment nationally, the council managed to spend less money this year than last. In 2009/10 we spent £6,688 and received £7,787 in income. In 2008/09, by comparison, we spent £7,871 and received £6,841 in income. We have managed to bear down on costs in areas such as insurance and accounting. The new mowing contract is working well. In 2009/10 we spent £1,435 on mowing – less than we spent in 2008/09 doing the job ourselves with our own mower. We now have a healthy, though not excessive, reserve which will allow us to operate without significant increases in the parish precept for the foreseeable future.

The Amenity Fund this year handed out £512 in grants. There is currently £3,434 in the fund – before an expected contribution from the fair. Applications are welcome for any activities or equipment which will be of benefit to a number of villagers. A new Amenity Fund Committee has been set up this year, comprising two members of the Parish Council, two members of the Village Centre Committee and one external member. This will improve the situation which has previously existed, under which the Parish Council and Village Centre Committee were expected to make decisions on applications, even though the two bodies do not actually meet together.

The Parish Council has this year provided a site of 10 allotments at Barston Drove, created by the subdivision of a half acre strip owned by the Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities. Further land may well be available should further demand arise.

The Parish Council is pursuing the possibility of creating a tennis court at the northern (roadside) end of the recreation ground – while still allowing room for football. East Cambridgeshire District Council has agreed to make a grant of £10,000 towards this facility – funded by section 106 money (money paid by house builders to fund infrastructure and leisure facilities). A further £1,000 has been promised from the Amenity Fund and a £500 donation has been given by a villager. A further grant is being sought from money raised through landfill tax. A tennis committee has been formed in order to raise money for the ongoing upkeep of the court.

The Parish Council has also explored the possibility of providing a cricket net on the recreation ground. Half the estimated cost (£1,000) has been promised from the Amenity Fund. An application to Sport England for funding for the remainder has not so far been successful. Other means of raising money are being explored.

The Parish Council has agreed this year to join the Parish Paths Partnership – an initiative through which the District Council works with parish councils to help maintain rights of way. This will hopefully lead to footpaths and bridleways being kept in better condition in future.

Finance Report

The following comments are based on our 2009-2010 unaudited accounts.

Income for the financial year was as per our forecast at £7,787.

Cemetery costs were lower than expected since the water has now been turned off, less mowing took place (mainly due to a dry spell during the summer), a rates rebate was granted and there were no other maintenance costs.

Our maintenance and repairs costs were some £500 less than forecast. This was mainly due to no maintenance costs for the bus shelters and the playground or on equipment hire plus again, reduced mowing costs. These savings were offset by an overspend on cutting the hedges on the playing field.

Other expenses were lower than expected mainly in the area of insurance and general/clerk's expenses. The Clerk's salary was overspent against forecast due to the pay review which came into effect during the year.

Overall it was a financially successful year and the Parish Council increased its reserves by £1,100, they are now at £3,263 which is nearly 50% of our year ending 2010 spend, which is a comfortable amount.

For year ending 2011, following a 3.6% increase in precept, the Parish Council is forecasting a break-even situation.

County Council Report

Looking back over the year for my first annual report it has been quite a learning curve, but a thoroughly enjoyable time and I feel very honoured to have been elected to represent the views of local people.

Committee Membership

One of the first things to arise after my election was the allocation of places on committees. I was appointed to the Environment and Community Services Scrutiny Committee, the Adult and Communities Policy Development Group, the Services Appeals Committee as well as becoming the County Council representative to the Local Government Association Rural Commission and the Cambridgeshire Federation

of Young Farmers' Clubs. I have attended meetings of all these bodies during the year.

Buses

After the successful campaign to save our local buses in 2008/09 which I was involved in at District level, I had hoped that 2009/10 would be quiet on the bus service front – some hope! Stagecoach announced a variety of cuts to local services on commercial grounds. Whilst this is ultimately a decision for Stagecoach rather than the County Council, I have taken up a number of concerns for local bus users with Stagecoach and at the time of writing, those discussions, aimed at improving the service for users of all ages, continue.

Library/Archives

After some delays the County Council officially opened the new Central Library in Cambridge. The County Council Archives section was successful in saving some historic documents regarding the draining of the fens for future generations. Owing to budget pressures we are looking at the provision of library services, with the current level of service from mobile libraries of particular local interest.

Service Appeals

I attended two service appeal committees during the year. Both of these related to appeals from parents who had been turned down for free home to school transport for their children. Such cases can be quite involved and require careful consideration.

LGA Rural Commission

The LGA Rural Commission met, with the provision of local health services and supply of affordable housing high on the agenda. The affordable housing issue tied in well with a member-led review of affordable housing provision across Cambridgeshire, which I am taking part in.

Budget

Probably unsurprisingly in light of the economic downturn, budget discussions and setting the Council Tax took up a considerable amount of time during the year. With a combination of savings and a modest rise in Council Tax we were eventually able to agree a balanced budget.

Highways Issues

With the County Council responsible for highways, I have had numerous requests for help and assistance over a variety of issues. These have included reporting potholes for repair, work on dropped kerbs to help the less-mobile, routing of Heavy Commercial Vehicles, the A14/A142 junction at Newmarket and of course, the "traffic calming" measures at Quy. Many of these issues are ongoing.

Requests for Help

There have been numerous requests for help and guidance from local people and organisations on a wide range of issues. I have tried to help where possible and hope and believe that I have done my best.

Highs and Lows

There have been numerous high points during the year. A few that spring to mind include Burwell Village College being the first school in the country to achieve all three standards in the national "Sing Up" awards scheme, being invited to read a lesson at Swaffham Prior Carol Service, the official opening of the new play equipment in Swaffham Bulbeck and securing a change in bus times so that workers at the Prospects Trust in Reach could use buses. Undoubtedly the biggest low, on a personal level, was representing the County Council at the funeral of Private Robbie Hayes, following his untimely death in Afghanistan.

District Council Report

East Cambs Budget 2010/2011

This is probably the toughest budget that this Council has ever had to set due to the impact of the recession and the smaller than expected government grant settlements. ECDC has had to make across the board savings to cover a deficit of £1.65 million over the next year. The savings made meant that the council tax increase was just 2.95% which is less than eight pence per week for a band D property.

Plastic Bottle Collections

Unfortunately one of the cost saving measures in the budget is the ending of the plastic bottle collections at a saving of £119,000. The Council are looking to provide more plastic bottle banks in the district in areas of increased use.

Citizens Advice Bureaus

The Council provides funding for Ely and Newmarket CABs. This funding has been maintained in recognition of their importance during this recessionary period.

Tourism

Oliver Cromwell's House is holding its own during the recession without a drop in attendance or income generated. ECDC is updating its tourist website on May 11th; it will then have more information available.

The Armed Forces

Because of the important role that our armed forces play, ECDC have decided that any members or ex-members in East Cambs will not have their income set against any benefit entitlement.

Member Visits

During the last year the Council has arranged a series of member visits to give councillors a better understanding of the district. There have been visits to the new waste management plant at Waterbeach, to Turners and D S Smiths in Fordham and to G's Salads near Ely.

Committees

During this last year I have been a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, plus the Licensing Committee. I have also been a panel member of the South Area Neighbourhood Panel.

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities Report

Scout Hut

The lease ran out and after discussion with solicitors, their recommendation was to renew every five years as opposed to every twenty five.

Rent Review

This was considered but after taking advice from Cheffins, it was decided not to increase the rent for the time being.

Allotments

A number of allotments have changed hands both in Reach and Swaffham Prior. The charity is pleased to see the land being used for its original purpose, that of family food production.

Grants

This year we had fewer applications for help than normal, there being only two private applications. We followed our normal practice of helping the Swaffham Prior School.

Christmas Grants

This was £75 last year due to our investments holding up in value very well. It will probably be late October before we will know the financial position for allocation of this year's grant.

Village Centre Committee Report

For those of you who are not aware, the Village Centre Committee are responsible for the day to day running of the Village Centre, which is leased from the diocese, as well as organising Reach Fair.

The bulk of the annual costs are covered by money raised during the Fair and we have no precept on the rate, unlike many other villages of our size. We also contribute all the funding to the Amenity Fund. The initial results for Reach Fair 2010 are that a total profit of approximately £5,500 was achieved. For the financial year to the end of May 2010 it is forecast that the charity will have approximately £3,600 in its current account and £10,000 in its deposit account.

The hall is rented out to regular users like the playgroup and occasional users such as birthday parties, weddings etc. We have a range of items for hire, including marquees, barbeques and games.

This year our main capital expenditure has been on the redecoration of the rear bar room, including new light fittings. We have carried out minor maintenance to the heating system and the usual PAT testing and electrical systems testing. Any suggestions for further improvement to the amenities will be gratefully received.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give my thanks to all the committee members who give a great deal of time to organising the Fair, for not much reward and also to those who volunteered to help on the day itself. Again, if any ideas for improving the Fair are out there please let us know.

Amenity Fund Committee

This will meet for the first time on Wednesday 12th May 2010.

Report collated by David Parr

12th May 2010

May Parish Council Meeting

REACH
PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on: Wednesday 5th May 2010

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
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1. Forum for Members of the Public

A resident commented on item 8 - Verge Erosion on Fair Green.

2. Election of Officers

The following officers were all re-elected:

Ross Clark	Chairman
Michael Aves	Vice Chairman
Hilary Fielding	Neighbourhood Panels Officer
Rita Dunnett	Play Spaces Officer
John Reed	Tree Officer
John Robinson	Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities Officer
Joyce Harrison	Village Centre Officer
Rita Dunnett	Village Centre Officer

3. Declaration of Interests

None

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were reviewed and signed.

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

The first meeting of the committee will take place on Wednesday 12th May.

5 (2) County Council Report

As a member of the County Council Environment and Community Services Committee, I am part of a member-led review group looking at the provision of affordable housing across the County. We held a meeting with various groups involved in the provision of affordable housing, including Cambridgeshire Horizons, County and District planning and housing officers and Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association, representing housing associations in general. A further meeting will be held in the next few weeks focusing on developers. The review will then produce a report to Cabinet for further consideration.

The East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership Board met earlier this month. This group considers actions surrounding crime and disorder generally, although the meeting had a particular focus on domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse. The Board agreed to consider further work on amalgamating the East Cambs domestic violence forum with the City and South forum in an aim to reduce duplication of public services. The agreement followed reassurance that there would be no loss of focus on work in East Cambs. The Board also received the quarterly crime report from the police. East Cambs is compared as part of a group of 15 similar districts. In the areas of dwelling burglary, vehicle crime (theft of and from vehicles) and domestic violence, East Cambs ranks at an average level.

I represented the County Council at a meeting of

the Littleport Masterplan Working Party and also attended a meeting of a group being formed to consider highways policy. A meeting had also been arranged for members of South Neighbourhood Panel to meet with County Council Highways to consider a number of issues raised at recent neighbourhood panel meetings, including Quy traffic calming, 30 mph limits in villages and the A14/A142 junction. The meeting clashed with a meeting I was chairing at ECDC so I was unable to attend.

I met with Andy Campbell, MD of Stagecoach Cambridge to further represent concerns about changes to the 10, 10A and 12 bus services as well as the reliability problems reported by users. It was a somewhat frustrating meeting although Stagecoach did undertake to look again at morning and evening services and come back to me. On reliability, Stagecoach indicated they had bought 50 new buses to work in Cambridge city, as from the Easter weekend. The knock-on effect of this is that buses serving our local routes should be better as some newer buses from the city routes are redeployed. I would appreciate any comments good or bad on the effect of this move.

I attended the official opening of the new play equipment at Swaffham Bulbeck and also a presentation on the work of the CAB as part of the Engage programme running at Burwell library.

5 (3) District Council Report

The role of Travellers Liaison Officer is to become part-time as part of the recent spending cuts.

The District Councillor will investigate fly-tipping opposite High Cloud stud on the Burwell road.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially sound situation and is on course to at least break-even during the financial year ending March 2011.

5 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No panel meetings have taken place.

5 (6) Parish Council Members

Councillor Fielding attended a meeting with Peter Duffy from ECDC regarding the provision of a safe walking route over Tubney Fen when the cattle are grazing.

5 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

ROSPA have recently conducted their annual safety check and their report is awaited.

5 (8) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the preceding month.

5 (9) Village Centre Committee Report

Despite the inclement weather, Reach Fair 2010 was a financially successful event.

Redecoration of the small meeting room has been completed.

6 (1) Parish Paths Partnership Review

The Parish Council has agreed to join this scheme with Councillor Fielding being the Parish Council's contact person. Councillor Fielding and the Clerk had a meeting with the Rights of Way Officer and at a subsequent meeting a plan of action will be put together by **Councillor Fielding** and volunteers sought to carry it out.

6 (2) Reach Fair Car Park

The land currently used for the Reach Fair car park is leased by a local farmer from Cambridgeshire County Farms. This lease expires in October 2010 so the Parish Council has been in talks with CCF with a view to ensuring that the land is available for subsequent Reach Fairs. **The Clerk** and the **Chairman** will visit CCF to get a better understanding of the situation.

6 (3) Verge Erosions on Fair Green

There is verge erosion outside 28 Fair Green which creates safety and environmental issues due to the mud that is produced during rainfall or discharge of water into the road. Highways recognises the problem and are prepared to provide some limited kerbing to direct the water flow more efficiently. **The Clerk** will ask Highways for a definitive plan of the proposed work and an indication of when it might be carried out.

6 (4) Village Tidiness

An area of land in the village is being used by a resident for composting and temporary storage of

wood for burning. The Parish Council feels that this is inappropriate and could encourage fly-tipping of garden waste by others. The Clerk has contacted the residents concerned and requested that they tidy up this area and do not use it for these purposes in future. The residents have agreed to carry out the remedial work and expect this to be concluded by the end of May.

7. Planning Applications

Ref: 10/00298/RMA Construction of a 4-bed detached dwelling on land adjacent to 8 Ditchfield.
Ref: 10/00327/LBC Erection of outer doors to porch at White Roses, 9 the Hythe.

The Parish Council agreed to visit the two sites on Sunday 9th May and then **the Clerk** will let the authorities know of their comments.

8. Information Items

A resident wrote to the Parish Council complaining of the presence of one particular stallholder at the recent Reach Fair. The Parish Council agreed that the Village Centre Committee should investigate the issue and respond accordingly to the resident.

9. Payments

100909	CR Contracting	£170.00
100910	D. Blocksage	£134.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 2nd June 2010 at 7.30pm. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday – and will also be posted in the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).

David Parr
Clerk to Reach Parish Council

And Finally . . . .

We hope you've enjoyed the first edition of **Within Reach**. It has come about through numerous contributions from many people.

We are looking for contributions from anyone about anything. A report on a village activity which you've attended; an advert for an forthcoming event; a matter that is troubling you that you'd like aired - all are welcome.

Most of the contributors will be known to you and you will recognise their names and faces (where photos are included) but one in particular who has not been mentioned is David Toone who is an excellent photographer and has kindly provided several of the photos used including the front cover and so thank you David for so willingly letting us use your work having been accosted in the road when you were quietly enjoying your hobby!

We look forward to working on the next edition and look forward to receiving your contributions. The copy date is 15th July, so please have your piece to us on or before then.

Please send all contributions to me,

Claire Halpin

01638 743330
claire.halpin@ascontracts.co.uk

All the fun of the fair.....









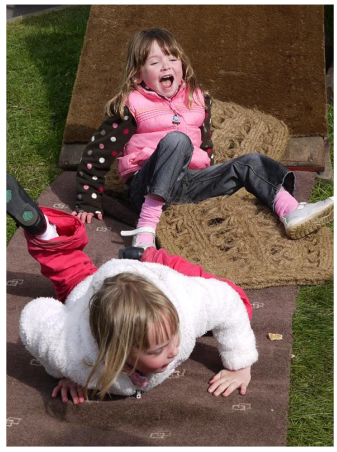









E. HARRIS
MRS E. HARRI




BJ 5510










...and peace returns to the village after another fantastic fair!