Within Reach



December 2011/January 2012



Female Common Darter Dragonfly



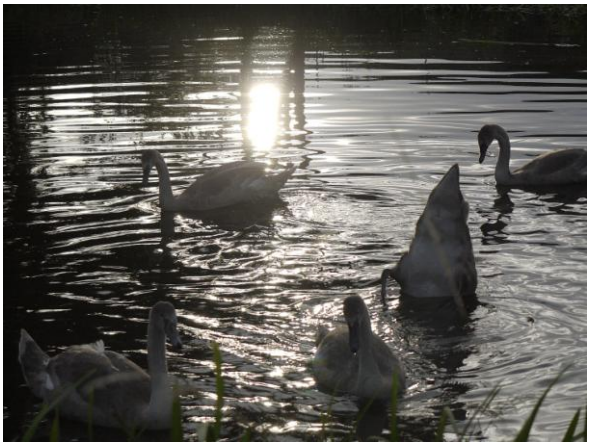
Male Common Darter Dragonfly





Fox Moth Caterpillar





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An Informal Evening with Christmas Carols

Reach Village Centre
7pm Friday December 16th 2011

Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

Raffle in aid of
East Anglia Children's Hospice

From the Editor



This is an issue of culture, culture and culture with reviews by Zenida McDonald, poems from Bill Estall and Dennis Millard and a most remarkable piece of writing by Freya Thomas.

Living creatures feature with Nigel the Newt from Alison Lewis and the realities and pleasure of keeping garden hens by Joss Goodchild. Autumn 2011 will be remembered for our pair of swans and their seven cygnets which roamed the village including our gardens and the cover includes some of Hugh de Lacy's photographs.

The joys of Christmas have arrived with a crossword from Zenida which we can all complete, quizzes from Susie and tempting recipes from our celebrity chef Rita Dunnett. Do remember the carol singing on Friday 16th December.

Do gardeners do anything in winter? Read David Thomas' article and be inspired by Janet Hall's, A Dainty Christmas Flower.

Jen Holmwood encourages us to get friendly with Twinning Partners. Janet Collins will be leaving the village shortly after very many happy years and we wish her well.

This issue is also one which recognises endeavour and contributions to charity with Lesley Boyle's article on a very special bell ringing and Ewen Cameron's article on Bagging the Munros. The finals of the tennis tournament were played – congratulations go to Clo Bateman (Womens Singles), Alex Garner (Mens Singles) and Andy Knight and Paul Redfarn (Doubles). Ewen Cameron, Andrew Trump and Sue Jordan all recently ran their socks off for good causes.

Living in Reach is a joy and involves such remarkable people - enjoy this bumper magazine issue. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Claire Halpin-McDonald
01638 743330 claire.halpin@ascontracts.co.uk

Front Cover Photo: Hugh de Lacy (Jesse Dennis is the werewolf and Harry Oliver-Towers is the ghost)
Cover Photos: Claire Halpin-McDonald, Hugh de Lacy and Alison Lewis

Editor's Notes

The purpose of *Within Reach* is to serve the whole village by circulating information and interesting articles free to every household. Additional copies are available at a charge of £2.50. Issues are published bi-monthly which cover the dates of Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, June/July, Aug/Sept and Oct/Nov.

Copies of the Minutes of Parish Council meetings and of *Out of Reach* and *Within Reach* magazines can be found on the village website **www.reach-village.co.uk**.

The next copy date is 15th January 2012. This magazine is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

Editorial Team

Editor	Claire Halpin-McDonald
Production	Claire Halpin-McDonald
	David Parr
Advertising/Treasurer	David Parr
Distribution	Freda Lloyd
	Joyce Harrison
Roving Reporter	Jo Riches
Roving Photographer	Hugh de Lacy
Allotments	David Thomas
Bellringing	Lesley Boyle
Cookery	Rita Dunnett
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Kids' Page	Susie Tucker
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Snakehall Farm	Maz Baker
Sport	Juliet Vickery
Swaffham Prior School	Hannah Curtis
Wicken Fen	Howard Cooper
Wildlife	Joss Goodchild
	Alison Lewis
Women's Institute	Zenida McDonald

A Garden's Seasons



It's spring time. There are buds on the big old apple tree and soon they will begin to bloom. The garden is being filled with a new life. The orange tulips like fire, the delicate snow drops and the yellow daffodils fill the garden with colour. Behind me I hear the birds twittering happily as they peck on the feeders. My cat strolled across the dappled and dewy grass purposefully, scratched her claws against a tree and then sat in the sun, her eyes keeping a constant lookout. Her ears prick up as she hears the sound of horses' hooves along a road. She turned and looked to see the rider's head just visible over the bushes. In my dad's vegetable patch a few plants are beginning to poke out their heads towards the sunlight. The wildflower garden is regaining itself after the harsh winter and the primroses in it are beginning to reappear. The whole garden smells fresh, crisp and of the cream roses that wind themselves round the trunk of the tree nearby.

It's summer time. The blossom that was on the trees has fallen and blows slightly in the gentle breeze. Now there are apple buds on the tree in their place and when autumn comes they will be ripe and ready to eat. The colour is beginning to go and now the garden is full of greenery. Above me, swifts scream in the cloudy blue sky and on the lawn a young black bird follows its mother, pecking the grass for worms. A blue tit in one of the nest boxes pokes out its head then flies to the nearest feeder. My cat lies on her back with her eyes closed enjoying the sun. My dad's vegetable garden is now at its peak; bean plants entwined around their trellis, lush green lettuces and rocket, feathery leaves of carrot, strong leeks poking through and the yellow flowers on the courgette plants have begun to produce. The wild flower garden has grown full of tall grass and daisies. The garden smells beautifully of the honeysuckle that grows on our border.

It's autumn time. The apple tree leaves lie brown on the grass. A pigeon flutters from it causing one of the last apples left to fall and roll down the slope. The sun shines but gives no warmth. The whole garden is golden brown, the pot plants on the patio have died and the only colour left is from the pink and red geraniums, standing proudly on the patio wall. Starlings chatter, tightly packed on the nearby telegraph wire, filling the air with their noise. The earth in the raised beds that my dad has recently been digging is a deep brown and in the spring it will be sewn with new seeds. Behind me greenfinches peck on a feeder while my cat eyes them closely. The wild flower garden has been mown, ready for the winter. My cat stood up and shivered then pranced back inside through the cat flap.



It's winter time. There are no leaves left on the trees, except from the holly. It still holds a few berries that have not been eaten by the wood pigeons and collared doves and they are the only colour left in a white world. A robin red-breast stands on the icy path, surrounded by soft snow. My cat sits at the window looking outside. On the bench a frosted web shimmers, each thread glowing. The vegetable garden is buried under deep snow, as is the wild flower garden. Everything is still and resting, waiting till spring when it can reappear…



Freya Thomas

Aged 12 years

Bagging the Munros



In 2011 I've developed a new addiction. Nothing illegal - and complementary to my previous addiction of running. I've been exposed to Munro bagging and I can't kick the habit. So what is it? Well, the Munros are Scottish mountains over 3000 feet.

There are 283 of them and they were first all catalogued by Sir Hugh Munro (hence the name). Munro baggers attempt to climb them all.

It all began in May with a trip to the north west highlands. On the way, we stopped off near Blair Atholl to climb the three peaks of Beinn a' Ghlo (Carn Liath, Braigh Coire Chruinn-bhalgain and Carn nan Gabhar) and were blessed with pretty good weather and excellent views. On up to Cannich and a night in an excellent B&B before an 8 mile walk into Glen Affric. The weather had been gorgeous at the start but our landlady warned us that "sun before 7 means rain by 11". She proved to be correct but in reality in that part of Scotland weather forecasting is pretty easy – the only surprise being that it wasn't raining before 7 as well! We reached our remote youth hostel and dropped off as much of our kit as we could. As there was a hurricane forecast the next day, we dragged ourselves up An Socach as the rain fell and the wind picked up. Undeterred by Munro baggers with only a handful of peaks to complete the set abandoning the climb, we struggled to the top and raced back down to the warmth of the youth hostel.



Looming hurricane with Beinn Fhada in the background

The next morning, as the hurricane approached, one of our party suggested that we could probably get up Beinn Fhada before the weather got too bad. He was wrong and we scuttled home wet, cold and bedraggled. An afternoon watching the burn rise followed. Overnight the weather had improved – the wind was only gale force with snow and hail! With no sign of any improvement in the forecast for the remainder of the trip, we decided to tackle Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan and Mullach na Dheiragain. As we were battered by hail at the top of the former, I did wonder what on earth we were doing. For the final day of the trip, we headed out of Glen Affric with heavy packs over Mam Sodhail, Beinn Fhionnlaidh and Carn Eighe. We had hoped to take in a couple of other peaks but the weather (wind and knee high snow) and weight of our rucksacks took their toll and we struggled back to our B&B for a hot shower and comfortable beds before the trip south.



Taking shelter in Camban bothie: Ewen, Andy and James

The next trip was planned for November. Things got off to a bad start. Having arrived back from Cyprus late the night before and packed into the early hours, I loaded the car and was ready to leave before 8. Unfortunately my car wouldn't start – someone had holed my petrol tank whilst we were away. If only they had known that the tank was pretty much empty – they couldn't have got away with more than a couple of litres. A quickly arranged hire car and I was off. Bridge of Orchy was the destination with its cluster of Munros. We were booked into a bunkhouse attached to the hotel but were lucky to be upgraded to a 4 bedroom cottage – luxury for your average Munro bagger who, I'm told, is willing to spend days climbing without access to showers or a change of clothes (I prefer a greater degree of comfort). Friday meant three peaks - Beinn an Dothaidh, Beinn Achaladair and Beinn a Chreachain.

It was wet and cold with clouds at two of the tops obscuring views and we were faced by a five mile slog through a boggy forest to get back to the car at the end of the day. The weather was much better on Saturday for Stob Ghabhar and Stob a Choire Odhair providing fantastic views across Rannoch Moor and towards Glen Coe.

With a long drive ahead of us, we set off on Sunday before breakfast to conquer Beinn Dorain. Dark to start with and then cloudy, it all cleared as we arrived at the top with amazing rainbows followed by impressive views. As we descended, we passed numerous climbers who will have enjoyed the glorious weather of the rest of the day.



Rainbow over Rannoch Moor

So you might be asking why I'm hooked. The miserable weather? The impossibility of working out how to pronounce the names of any of the peaks? The thigh-burning ascents and descents? In some ways, the answer is yes to all of these. There's something about knowing how tough it has been to get the incredible views at the top when you finally reach one that isn't shrouded in cloud.



At the summit of Beinn Achaladair

I'm currently planning my next trip. Unfortunately I have a major problem. I've climbed 15 Munros this year which is pretty good. However, at this rate it will take me 20 years to reach 283. Having waited until the age of 40 to start, I will either need to climb significantly more than 15 a year or hope that I'm still very fit at 60!

Ewen Cameron

Ed. *Ewen recently completed a run for charity. Why not sponsor him – see next . . . .*

HEREWARD ULTRA RACE
Sunday 27th November 2011

38.4 mile race from Peterborough to Ely for **Macmillan Cancer Support**

Please consider sponsoring him by visiting his Just Giving Page www.justgiving.com/EwenCameron

The Realities of Keeping Garden Hens



Caring for a selection of chickens, ducks and geese on an open hillside in Scotland did not adequately prepare me for 'stockkeeping' hens in a back garden in Great Lane. Despite consulting books, poultry websites and knowledgeable people, I made some classic mistakes.

I now realise that chicken husbandry in a confined area comes with its own series of need-to-knows which may interest future Reach poultry owners.

Originally I chose ornamental hens i.e. fancy fowl for garden aesthetics rather than mass egg production and bought three intricately feathered gold, silver laced and partridge Wyandotte bantams from a reputable supplier in Guildford. They were strangely quiet birds that faded quickly and sadly died days later. It transpired the breeder was in fact a dealer and the hens carried a fatal virus. The garden required three months poultry rest and the henhouse treble spraying with Jeyes. Needless to say, several months later I purchased two large, hardy, disease free French Wheaton Marans hens from nearby Bury St. Edmunds!

The arrival of the lovely buff-coloured chickens necessitated emergency training of our dog who reacted dodgily to quick feather movements. Garden alterations involved re-siting wild bird feeders to avoid disease, removing poisonous plants (delphinium, fern and foxglove) and the provision of safe areas for frogs and toads.

Martin customised a Fordham Garden Centre (waterproof, well ventilated) henhouse with additional lifting handles, removable ladder and insulating roof cladding for harsh winters. Moved to a new area of the garden every few weeks, this allows the (generally trashed) pen grass time to recover. Setting-up costs were surprisingly high and involved the price of hens, wooden henhouse, bedding, mixed grit, layers pellets, corn, feed scoop, poultry drinker, feed dispenser, wormer, mite spray, broom, rat-proof feed bins.



Madras and Vindaloo

Three years on, these obliging, docile hens remain nameless. On rare occasions I've resorted to Decimator and Destructor whereas Martin continuously makes reference to exotic curries and prime roasts. Identical in appearance, the birds are inseparable and despite having individual nesting boxes they share the same one, leaving two mahogany coloured eggs side by side.

We grow a small amount of fruit, flowers, vegetables and herbs alongside our free-ranging hens. We gave up on separation fencing when they perfected sailing over it then spent all day demolishing the area we wanted to protect. However, willow borders successfully prevent them from kicking woodbark over the lawn and jamming the mower. I've learnt to plant all flowers on raised platforms, i.e. garden benches, metal containers, wooden plinths, hanging baskets and am a dab hand at erecting hen barricades (clothes drier / lawnmower basket / trugs / watering cans / string) and purchasing prickly shrubs.

We've noticed our hens don't touch snowdrops, crocuses, primroses, violas, buttercups, daffodils and tulips. Nor roses, asters, camellias, dahlias, azaleas, hydrangeas, iris and chrysanthemums. Strong smelling herbs - rosemary, mint, lemonbalm and feverfew are not attractive and carrots, leeks, onions, potatoes, squash, courgettes, pumpkins and parsnips fare well. However chard, kale, beetroot, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, strawberries, raspberries and all edible berries fare badly. Hens love chickweed (so named because chicks love it) and devour dandelion, perennial geraniums, hollyhocks, nasturtiums, busy lizzies, lobelia, pansies, hostas, carnations, sweet peas, violets and marigolds (the petals make yolks even yellower). Hens eat anything that tastes similar to grass but unfortunately not nettles.

I spend 10 minutes each day on hen maintenance which involves sweeping up spilt food, shavings, straw, dying flowers and plants, returning soil and bark to rightful places i.e. mostly hiding garden debris evidence from husband. Because the garden is small I pick up hen poo daily, fortunately it is odourless and can be placed on a compost heap. Our worst case domestic scenarios usually involve Martin / hen droppings / feathers / upstairs carpets.

The countless good points of our garden hens include: their breaking up soil after one has dug over the vegetable bed, foraging for pests including slugs and snails, seeing off pigeons, collared doves and cats, eating almost anything (although feeding poultry meat or fish is illegal), the provision of delicious eggs and exchanging these for neighbours' produce.

The bad points involve their frenzied emptying of new bedding plants or newly planted seedlings, making craters in areas of bare soil i.e. dust baths (hens clean themselves by flicking dry soil on to their feathers) and noise when alarmed.



Dog Training

Touching wood, we've escaped the heartache of fox decimation although they are in evidence and have scaled the garden gate to deposit foul-smelling calling cards in the vegetable patch. I lock the hens away at the hint of dusk, we live with a stream of dayglo post-it notes around the house marked 'Hens, Are They In?', 'Henhouse – Is It Shut' etc.

The following suggestions may be worth noting if you want garden hens: compact gardens - the EU recommends at least four square metres of land per hen.

When selecting your hens consider those breeds with small feet as these wreak less havoc on a garden. Choose your breed carefully, if you're after eggs consider the top-laying pure breeds: Welsummers, Marans or Light Sussex but remember 'hens that lay for Britain eat for Britain' and require plenty of food. If you prefer hens for pets the ornamental Orpingtons, Brahamas, Silkies and Pekins are good choices. Consider purchasing spring-hatched chicks so they grow outdoors over summer. Attractive as they are, cockerels are noisy and tricky for beginners. When buying/building a henhouse, position it in plenty of shade. If permanent - place on legs so a purpose-built dustbath forms underneath.

Make a knowledgeable poultry friend (thank you Ron Greenhill and Helen Oliver) for help and advice.

All in all, I find keeping garden hens rewarding, they give great pleasure and provide endless amusement. They have personalities, are engaging company, follow us around tirelessly and spend hours patiently waiting outside the studio. I hope that, in turn, they are leading the happiest of lives.

Joss Goodchild

CURRY NIGHT

7.00pm Saturday 21 January 2012
in the Village Centre

Adults £7.50, Children (under 10) £4.00

Offers of help to
Marie Bambrick (743839)

Tickets from Marie, Zenida McDonald (742029) or Jon Cane (741064)

All proceeds to Amnesty International

Hallowe'en Antics



"When shall we three meet again, in thunder lightning and in rain'. In fact these three witches meet here in Reach, on Monday 31st October. Something for the older, more discerning, yet gruesome trick-or-treater as well as the smaller spooks and witches.

Darkened rooms with flickering shadows and candle light played host to spooky stories, goose pimples rising and fingernail nibbling! Our super scary story tellers were David Cane, Debbie Lingley, Jenny McMahon and Juliet Vickery.



Jodie Halpin-McDonald, Jamie Shackleton and Elizabeth Parr

Then enough was had, ghouls and ghosts, spooks and witches broke free from their confines and went on the rampage through the village. They trod the paths many of their forefathers have trodden covering both east and west Reach, top to bottom. No house went undisturbed, or so it seemed!

Sometime later that evening, the fanciful tricksters returned with goody-bags full of bountiful treats. A good haul for an evening's work and lots of fun, so I was told!

Jo Riches





Many thanks to Hannah Webb



Liz Tabecki dishing out plenty of treats - Daisy Miller patiently waiting at the rear

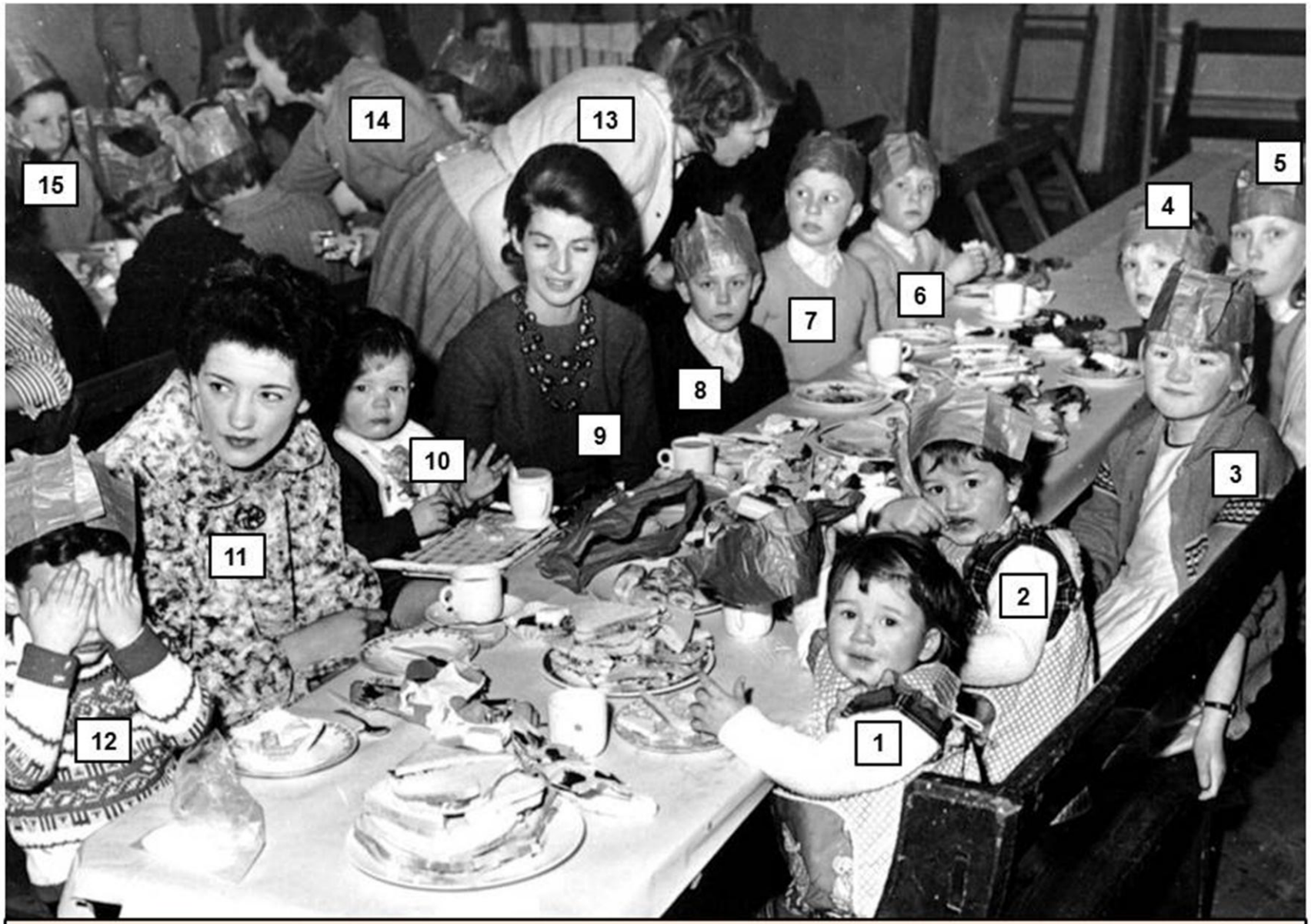




A white-faced Freya Thomas (centre)



Lance Miller keeping order - Archie and Minnie Fordham are in the queue



CHRISTMAS PARTY 1963 – Recognise anyone? – answers on page 26

Celebrate the Fête National in France with our Twinning Partners

Next year the members of the Burwell Village Twinning Association are going to Lizy sur Ourcq to join our French friends in celebrating the 14th July. This will be the first time we have done this and we are promised a torchlight procession, fireworks and celebrations in true French tradition. Although Burwell is the named village of the twinning, anyone from neighbouring villages is included and this year our French visitors were delighted that our barn dance and barbecue were held in Reach.

We leave by coach on Friday 13th July and return on Monday 16th July. Accommodation is provided and the only cost is the coach, generally £100 - with more people this would be less.



I can recommend these visits as an excellent way to meet French people, not just as a tourist - and to feel at home in another country. It is not necessary to be fluent in French or even to speak it at all but if you know a little it is a good way to improve. This trip would be a good opportunity for teenagers learning the language and the two days off school could be seen as an educational advantage.

So if you are interested as single person, couple, or family please contact Jen Holmwood on 742969 or email all@jholmwood.co.uk for more information.



Harvest Supper

This year's harvest supper was another busy affair. With dinner being prepared for some 80 people, it was all hands on deck to make the evening a success. The hall was decorated beautifully with foraged harvest offerings, our thanks go to Liz Tabecki and her helpers for making the tables look so lovely.

The numerous homemade casseroles provided a tasty accompaniment to Andrew Tower's delicious spiced red cabbage and warming jacket potatoes. The selection of deserts was almost too much to consider on such a full stomach! I must confess to enjoying the quinces poached in Muscat, a rare treat! I later learnt these quinces had come from Wimpole Hall, how nice!



Jenny and John Reed - Do you think we will be on YouTube?

I can safely say everyone enjoyed the evening's entertainment, the family quiz. Our thanks go to Quiz Master Andrew Towers for the hours he must have spent searching the net or perhaps he is that knowledgeable?!

Thank you to everyone who prepared food and donated gifts for the raffle. Not to mention everyone who gave their time for the preparation and clearing away. A total of £400 was raised, fantastic work everyone. A big thank you to the organisers (Helen Oliver and Andrew Towers, Juliet Vickery and David Thomas) for making the evening such a fun and enjoyable night out. Also the team of helpers - Pam King, Zenida McDonald, Hugh de Lacy, Marie Bambrick and The Blocksages (David, Debbie, Daniel and Felicity).

Jo Riches

Christmas Time



We have reached the end of the year
When Christmas time comes it brings good cheer

The people are in such wonderful voice
Singing carols, everyone does rejoice
We sing them round the Christmas tree
Or anywhere else we happen to be

Jesus was born on the 25th December
We all have a holiday to remember
Letters, cards and presents we do send
And all our money we do spend

Little children opening presents they are given
make it all worthwhile one is living
Some people spend Christmas with family, or a friend
Wherever we spend it we wish it would not end

Christmas time is a magical time with all the pretty lights
It really is a splendid sight, especially at night
We have Christmas lunch, turkey, Christmas pud and share a joke
Then sit down to watch TV or perhaps enjoy a smoke

With holly, crackers, trimmings and mistletoe
It makes Christmas time if we gets lots of snow
We have reached the end of the year
When Christmas time comes it brings good cheer

Dennis Millard

Re-Ablement



Being independent following an operation or illness.

If you or someone you care for requires social care support following an illness or operation, this would traditionally have been provided by a care assistant providing direct care to the person in need.

Since September 2010 a new service, Re-ablement, has been providing support to enable older people who have poor physical or mental health following illness or an operation, to live in their own homes.

Re-ablement programmes can last for as little as a few days and generally don't exceed six weeks. The ethos of Re-ablement is to encourage people to do things for themselves rather than having things done for them. There is no charge to the individual as long as they are participating in the programme.

Re-ablement is now being offered to a wider client group including new service users with a physical disability and new occupational therapy referrals. Future development of the service will look at assisting older people who already have a care package but due to illness or physical issues may now require a higher level of support.

You can find out more about Re-ablement at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social.



No.101 Our Land Army



They came from many different walks of life, to face a future they did not know
Working on farms all over the country, unprepared, come wind, rain or winter snow
They left the towns and cities, eager and willing, just to help win the war
With their soft hands more used to office work, soon to become, rough, red and sore
They had to learn to drive the tractors, to drill corn, and also how to plough
And had to clean out the pig pens, and get up very early, to help milk the cows
There were so many dirty jobs to do, that had to be done every day on the farm
Cleaning out and littering down the cattle sheds, if raining, mending corn sacks in the barn
Now some of the land girls lived with the farmer, so did not have to travel everyday
And some lived in a hostel, where they slept and fed, in a village not far away
They worked in the harvest fields, perhaps riding on the binder, cutting the corn
Then carting away the sheaves of corn to be stacked, and helping out the Shepherd when the lambs were born
Carting the manure on to the land, and leave in small heaps, ready to be spread
On the fields that were to be ploughed, and drilled with corn, to be ground to make bread
Now potatoes picking was a back breaking job, as was singling of the sugar beet
And when they helped to thrash out the stacks of corn, and cart away the heavy stacks of wheat
Now none of these girls had worked on a farm before, and did not know what to expect
And most farmers they worked for realised this, and treated them with respect
Now some of the girls married some of the local lads, and decided to settle down
In the quiet life of the country side, and forget the hustle and bustle of the towns
Now we all owe these girls a vote of thanks, for the hardships they endured, this dedicated little band
Be proud of what you done, God Bless, walk tall, you were indeed our Lilies of the land

Bill Estall
2011

Remembrance Sunday



If you want to know more about the Reach War Memorial then have a look at the village website at: www.reach-village.co.uk/roll_of_honour.html.



Book Review: Blind Bob's



Compiled by Vera Scrutton, Janet Jeacock, Peter Raby and Peter Wilkerson this book (83 pages), published by The Jeacock Group, contains a wealth of stories about Vera and her husband Bob and about the customers (some from Reach) who frequented the Royal Oak in Swaffham Bulbeck during the time Vera and Bob ran it and before it closed its doors for the last time. The book is well illustrated with both black and white and colour photographs, is beautifully printed on glossy paper and costs £5, with the profits being donated to The Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Even as a fairly recent newcomer to Reach I found this book fascinating and so enjoyable I couldn't put it down. I've had the privilege of meeting Vera and she is a wonderful lady and it's so kind of her to share her memories with us. This book is an absolute gem containing interesting snippets of local history, funny (as well as sad) anecdotes, a poem by Alfred C. Bavester and a cartoon by Michael Undrill.

Vera is so modest. I feel she has no idea of how important this book is in recording local history before it all gets forgotten. It is a book to treasure whether you know any of the people mentioned in it or not. If you haven't already read it, copies can still be obtained from Vera (who might be able to order a reprint if there's sufficient orders).

I can pass on orders for you if you wish (742029) with no payment until you receive the book, but please remember to give me your contact details.



Zenida McDonald

Play Review: The Debt Collectors



Written by John Godber, this play has nearly finished its UK tour of 14 theatres. I went to see it at The Theatre Royal in Bury St. Edmunds in October and was amazed at the way the two actors, Rob Hudson (Spud) and William Ilkley (Loz) managed to remember such a lengthy script and also give such an indefatigable and versatile performance.

The play is about two men from different backgrounds who become unemployed and then both end up working together as debt collectors. It is a comedy about the very serious issue of how debt affects debtors, also how it can affect the debt collectors. It is well worth seeing.

John Godber likes to choose topical subject matter for his plays and has researched the subject of debt in this instance. Debt is affecting almost everyone through this long recession in some way or another. It is a grim subject and it takes a brave man of genius to lighten it up with comedy. Both Rob and William are experienced actors with many theatre, film and TV credits. They have both acted in Coronation Street, Dalziel and Pascoe, The Bill and Hearbeat, to name just a few.

John Godber is one of the most performed writers in the English language, having written numerous plays for the theatre as well as for TV. He has won many awards for his plays and is very well-qualified academically. He was Artistic Director of Hull Truck for 26 years. The production of 'The Debt Collectors' celebrates the launch of the John Godber Company and their collaboration with the Theatre Royal Wakefield as co-producing partners.

Between November and December 2011 the play will be visiting Hull, Scarborough, Eastbourne and Chichester.

Zenida McDonald

Allotment gardeners – do they put their feet up in December?



Every gardener knows under the cloak of winter lies a miracle...

> **a seed waiting to sprout,**
> **a bulb opening to light,**
> **a bud straining to unfurl,**
> **And the anticipation nurtures our dreams**.
> *Barbara Winkler*

The allotments are not looking their best at this time of year. The productivity of summer and autumn has passed and most plots are covered with weeds. However, even now they are yielding some produce - a few cabbages, leeks and Brussels sprouts. The purple and yellow stems of Chard 'bright lights' adds a flash of colour. The last of the potatoes lie underground waiting to be dug.

If you have walked past the allotments in the last few weeks you might be forgiven for thinking that November and December were a period of complete idleness. Not true! Even now there are a few jobs to be done, when the weather permits. It can be hard to get out there when it's cold and the days are short. But for gardeners it is the prospect of what lies ahead in the spring that drives us on, the hopes and expectations for bigger, better vegetables and sweeter more abundant fruit. The chance to correct the mistakes of the previous year, to experiment with new methods, and new seeds. So we'll be rolling up our sleeves, putting on our boots and getting out there to make things ready for spring.

There have been some attempts to start digging the ground over and my own efforts this weekend found the conditions to be perfect – the soil is no longer baked hard as it was over the summer, but also isn't heavy and waterlogged. The allotments are quite variable, clayey in parts but with seams that are more sandy – digging those clayey patches is hard work when the soil is very wet and probably does more harm than good. Leaving the soil roughly dug is fine – winter frosts and the action of worms will break the clods down in time for spring planting.

This is a good time to be spreading manure and digging it in. In Reach there is no shortages of horses and so no shortage of horse manure. The hard work is getting it from the stables and paddocks to the allotments! But it is worth the effort and the soil there badly needs more organic matter.

A couple of the allotments have some soft fruit (blackcurrants and gooseberries) and fruit trees. Young trees need to be staked to prevent the wind from rocking them and causing damage by loosening the soil around their roots. Now is also the time for any pruning of apples and pears. For those wanting to begin growing a bit of fruit, bare-rooted fruit trees and bushes can be planted. Canes of autumn-fruiting raspberries should be cut down and burnt to prevent fungal diseases spreading.

Even at this time of year there is some planting that can be done. Garlic cloves benefit from a period of cold, which prompts growth later. However they don't like to sit in water or they will rot, so care is needed on our allotments to find the patches that are less clayey and better draining.



And lastly, December and January are a good time for some general house-keeping – keeping the ground neat and tidy, clearing away weeds and rotting leaves that can harbour pests and diseases, can help ensure things get off to a good start in the spring.

So there you have it, plenty to keep everyone busy during the short December days, as we anticipate the spring to come.

David Thomas



A Dainty Christmas Flower



Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a few cyclamen on the windowsill. I love the small flowered ones with their dainty blooms, now often scented - especially the pale pink ones with a darker centre.

Cyclamen are native to the Mediterranean regions, the most widespread being C. hederifolium (used to be named C. neopolitanum).



The indoor varieties are bred from C. persicum. They need to be kept on a cool window sill, not allowed to get too cold at night (below 5 degrees) and watered sparingly. Over watering will kill them quicker than anything. You can keep them flowering until late April and then, unlike pointsettia, it is well worth re-potting them and allowing them to die back by letting them go dry. They can then be restarted into growth in September by watering but keep them in a cool spot as temperatures above 20 degrees may make them go dormant. The safest way to water them is to stand them in a centimetre of water overnight and then let them drain before replacing them on their saucer. When the flowers go over, don't cut them off, pull them gently so they break naturally at the base, then there is less likelihood of rot getting into the tuber. The small varieties are sometimes planted outside. If they are in a sheltered spot they may well come through the winter but they are not really hardy.

C. hederifolium is the commonest of the hardy varieties (called hederifolium because the leaves look like ivy – Hedera). They flower in late summer and autumn - their pretty leaves coming as the flowers fade.

The elegant flowers come in shades of pink and white. The leaves are patterned in silver and may be entirely silvered.



The other hardy variety, which is widely available, is C. coum. These have rounded leaves, which may be silvered. The flowers are flattened and come in deep pinks, pink and white at the end of the snowdrop season.



Amazing seed heads of c. Hederifolium

Both these varieties like a little shade to keep the summer sun off the corms. When you plant them keep them at the same level as they are in the pot assuming they are not dry corms. These should be planted just below the soil surface. After they have flowered, round seed heads develop which are gradually pulled down to the soil as the stems coil down. Ants disperse the seeds. They will germinate in the late autumn and flower two seasons later. Despite looking so dainty they are tough and will soon establish themselves if left alone.

Janet Hall

What's Growing on at Prospects Trust this Season

The Co-workers of the Prospects Trust wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy 2012.

Firstly a plea - if you are the disappointed owner of smellies that make you sneeze, unwanted woollies that make you itch or clinking bottles that will banish your New Year resolution of abstinence, don't throw them away or put them at the back of your cupboards, think Prospects! We are always the very happy recipients of potential raffle prizes or future fundraising items. Drop them down to us and we will turn those unwanted gifts into goodies for the future. We have celebrated a wonderful winter season, from our inspiring November AGM held in the wonderful Reach Village Centre to our Co-worker Christmas Party to end all parties. Both events are highlights of the Prospects Trust's year and both are planned by the Co-workers themselves.



We hope some of our organic veggies may have adorned your festive feasts and that they will continue to be one of your five a day throughout 2012. If not - why not pop into the shop to see what seasonal stock we have got. As we are a Soil Association Approved Organic Grower we can proudly boast that we have 2012's growing season all sewn up. Our crop rotation plans are all organised for the next three years and we have made a pledge to grow a wider variety of seasonal organic edibles. We hope you enjoy becoming our future green guinea pigs as we try out some new veggies throughout 2012. Give us your feedback in our Customer Comments Book found in the shop or log on to our Tilly Tractor Twitter or Facebook pages and "like us" and tell everyone how you love our produce.

With a new resident farmer in place, Snakehall Farm is going through a process of repair and rejuvenation. We have already established an eco-garden proudly boasting the novel recycled plastic drinks bottle greenhouse - thanks to all who contributed to the cause. We have laid new accessible pathways and re-organised the polytunnels. We in the middle of opening up our Spinney woodland area – with great plans for this Easter (shh it's a secret in the making) and have established a test willow bed for future products. We have a scented garden to complement our eco-garden and have given the whole place a lick of paint. We can really start 2012 with some inspiration and new opportunities for all.



It is not just the farm getting all of our attention - this season we have been working hard to fundraise for a replacement vehicle for our garden team. We have a very vintage transit which miraculously limps through its MOT but each year, the magic, as well as the metal, wears a little thinner and we just know the van is on very limited time. Thanks to two significant donations from the Simon Gibson Charitable Trust and the Clarke Bradbury Charitable Trust, we are now gearing up for a replacement vehicle in the New Year. We need to raise a further £1,000 to ensure we can have the second hand but first class van of our Garden Team's dreams. We will also need our beautiful new logo and charity number emblazoned on the side so our Garden Team is eye-catching while out and about doing our gardening contracts in the local community. So now you see it? Splutter….splutter….going….going….nearly gone!

The Prospects Trust has always been socially inspiring but we haven't always shouted, or perhaps that should be TWEETED about it? We can now be found on both Facebook and Twitter, using our public and loveable face of the farm, Tilly Tractor. We already have many followers and friends on both sites and we would like it if you could like us too.

We use these sites to keep our friends up to date with what is growing on at Snakehall Farm. From seasonal suggestions to prospects pleas, these sites are an informal and very accessible way to see what we are doing.

Our Co-worker Linda is now helping keep our "what's in the shop" status up to date. If you are a Prospects Trust farm shop customer have a look at our Facebook page to plan ahead and cook your seasonal suppers using the best local organic veggies.

So befriend us on Facebook;

http://en-gb.facebook.com/people/Tilly-Tractor/

And tweet us on https://twitter.com/TillyTractor

Or just pop by Snakehall Farm and say hi the old fashioned way! Wishing you all an Olympic 2012 from the Team at the Prospects Trust.

Marianne (Maz) Baker

01638 741551
Email: enquiries@prospectstrust.org.uk
or maz.baker@prospectstrust.org.uk

Does your garden need a winter once-over?

The Prospects Trust Garden Team offer a special deal on one-off garden tidy-ups and clearance work between January and March 2012.

Our specially trained team of Co-workers (people with learning difficulties and disabilities) supported by our expert Garden Team Staff will help you kick start your New Year with a green spring-clean.

To find out more or book a slot please contact **Will Hubbard** Garden Team Co-Manager at The Prospects Trust on 01638 741551 or email enquiries@prospectstrust.org.uk



RaSP Update

The RaSP broadband network generally provides good coverage in the villages of Reach, Swaffham Prior and Upware but historically there have been difficulties in accessing the network in some of the lower lying fenland areas to the north of Reach. One of the main reasons for this is the presence of lines of trees, planted as windbreaks, that tend to block the signals that carry the data on the network.

Fenland coverage has now been significantly improved by the installation of two new access points in Swaffham Prior Fen. This required a telegraph pole-based mast that receives the signal from the main base station in Reach plus a mast carrying a relay transceiver to extend coverage in the fen area.

The installation of the main mast was a major undertaking for RaSP, requiring the efforts of several volunteers over two weekends with the digging of a hole into the shallow fen water table followed by the pouring of a cubic metre of concrete to anchor the pole. A 'cherry picker' lift was needed to aid with the installation of the various radio antennas required to receive and distribute the broadband signals (photo).

The material costs of the new installation were largely covered by a generous financial contribution from Greens of Soham, Lords Ground Farm. Thanks also go to the Doe family for allowing the main pole to be sited on their land plus extensive practical assistance and many welcome hot drinks!

The new RaSP connection has provided Lord's Ground with the broadband connection that was essential for them to grow their business. A BT connection of comparable performance would have involved the laying of a dedicated new line at a substantially higher cost.



RaSP volunteers Paul Catling and David Greenfield working on new masts at Swaffham Prior fen

Hugh de Lacy

News from the National Trust



We are delighted that East Cambridgeshire District Council re-affirmed its support for the Wicken Fen Vision at the beginning of November. The Reach 24 Acres project was held up as a fantastic example of community engagement.

Talking of the 24 Acres project, Lois Baker and experts from the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group will be leading a 'field walk' on the site to search for clues of previous human settlement on Sunday 11th December.

Field walking involves dividing the area into a grid pattern and searching each grid for artefacts. Items of potential interest are logged and examined by experts to determine their identity. Previous field walking exercises in the local area have identified numerous struck flints and shards of pottery. The quantity and quality of the finds has raised considerable interest amongst archaeologists with a general consensus that the struck flints are late Mesolithic (8500-4000BC) or early Neolithic (4000-2200BC) with the pottery dating from the Neolithic period. To join the field walk, which will last around 2 hours, please meet at 10am on the Fair Green.



You just never know what you are going to find when you go field walking

Work commenced at the beginning of October on an extension to the car park at Anglesey Abbey. This is a great step forward in helping us cater for the growing visitor numbers to the property (currently around 240,000 per annum) as well as those using the car park as a southern entrance to the Vision lands.

When it is finished we'll have more than 500 additional parking spaces which will make a huge difference.

Out on the wider Vision lands, a planning application has been submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council for a new multi-user bridge over Burwell Lode. The bridge will form the vital last link in the Lodes Way cycleway which runs from Wicken to Bottisham. At present the route uses the existing pedestrian footbridge, which cannot be used by horse riders, wheel or pushchair users, even cyclists can have problems getting their bikes up and down the steps. The new bridge will be accessible for all users and incorporates a segregated channel and access point for our herds of konik ponies and highland cattle, so they can cross freely from Adventurers' to Burwell Fen.



Construction of our wild camping area on Oily Hall is set to commence in mid-December. We will be constructing four timber grass-roofed camping shelters, each capable of accommodating six children or four adults, together with fire pit and eco toilet. We will be planting mature trees to help screen the area. Hopefully the campsite will provide the perfect opportunity for organised parties such as Scouts and Girl Guides to stay in and explore the great outdoors.

We launch the Festive season with a **Lantern Lit Christmas** at Anglesey Abbey on Saturday 3 December. In the afternoon there's a **Festive Craft Workshop** where children can make their own Christmas lantern (2-4.30pm - £5 for a 20 minute session). As darkness falls, join the **Lantern Procession** through the Winter Garden which will be alive with twinkling lights, music and festive spirit (5-7pm, Adult £3, Child £1.50, Family £7.50). Professional Florist, Rebecca Law, will be leading a **Festive Floristry Workshop** to show you how to create a magical centre-piece for your Christmas table on Monday 12 Dec, 2-3.30pm £20. **Father Christmas** will also be visiting Wicken Fen on Saturday, Sunday, 10-11 and 17-18 December, with timed tickets available for 10.30, 11.15, 12.30, 1.45 and 2.30pm - £6.75 per child including a present.

Tickets for Anglesey Abbey events are available on 01223 810080 and Wicken Fen events on 01353 720274.

If you need a bit of exercise or just a breath of fresh air over Christmas, Anglesey Abbey is open every day except Christmas Eve to Boxing Day, whilst Wicken Fen is open every day except Christmas Day over the Christmas/New Year period. It may also be worth checking out Burwell Fen where there have been numerous sightings of short eared owls in recent weeks.

Finally – Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2012 from all the team at Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen.

Howard Cooper
NT Anglesey Abbey/Wicken Fen

Which Newt is Nigel?



Back in early October this little guy was found under a paving slab in our garden. We thought at first it was a baby lizard, but on closer inspection a soft body and lack of scales meant it was more amphibian than reptile.

I took a few photos, measured it (6cm/2.5in long) and did a quick Google images search. I decided it was a young Smooth/Common Newt, named it Nigel and then released him.



Nigel or Nigella?

Since we don't have a pond I wanted to know what he might be doing in our garden. Turns out that when it's not breeding season all species of newt will happily roam away from water to live or hibernate in a sheltered, damp place (although the Great Crested Newt which can reach 15cm/6in long) is most likely to stay near ponds). They are nocturnal and will feed on a variety of invertebrates such as slugs and snails.

Reading up more on the Smooth Newt, I find out that both females and non-breeding males can be light brown with two darker lines on their backs. The best way to tell them apart is to look at the underside of the belly; females are a paler orange.

The third species, Palmate Newt, is much less common around here but can be very similar to the Smooth Newt. Apparently the only way to differentiate the females is to look at the underside of their throats; the Smooth Newt's is spotty and the Palmate's isn't.

Unfortunately, since I neither photographed nor looked at Nigel's underside, this means not only could he have actually been a Palmate Newt but he could have also been female!

The moral of this story is… if in doubt, flip your newt!

Alison Lewis

CROSSWORD WINNER

The winner of Zenida's Crossword No. 9 is David Prior who now lives in Canada, who will receive a copy of 'Blind Bob's' instead of a book token by mutual agreement. Congratulations to David and consolations to the other entrants.

SOLUTION TO ZENIDA'S CROSSWORD No. 9

ACROSS: 3. MUSHROOMS. 8. CABBAGES. 9. PEA. 10. AESOP. 13. LEEKS. 14. SHALLOTS. 15. CATCH. 16. FATUOUS. 18. CARROTS. 21. ONIONS. 23. CANALS. 24. UP. 27. TURNIP. 29. TOMATO. 30. BED. 31. CUCUMBER. 33. WISER. 35. URSULINE. 36. BROCCOLI. 38. APRICOT. 41. MARROW. 42. GAIN. 43. AUBERGINE.

DOWN: 1. TABASCO. 2. BEANS. 4. SISAL. 5. OKRA. 6. SPROUTS. 7. RADISHES. 8. CAULIFLOWER. 10. AGARIC. 11. POTATO. 12. BEETROOT. 15. COS. 17. SUN. 19. RUNNER. 20. TASTE. 22. GUM. 25. PARSNIP. 26. COURGETTES. 28. PUMPKIN. 30. BEVERAGE. 32. MARTINI. 34. BROAD. 37. COOK. 39. PAR. 40. RIG.

Burwell Women's Institute

At the Burwell Women's Institute Meeting on September 29th 2011 the speaker was Peter from Scotsdales who gave us a very interesting talk and slide-show.

The main focus was on plants, trees, shrubs, flowers, bulbs and grasses which provide colour and texture in the garden during autumn and winter. Peter gave us lots of useful gardening tips and also answered questions. Members were able to purchase live plants at the meeting and Peter kindly donated some of the plants as prizes for the raffle. Peter was warmly thanked for his very comprehensive talk.

On 7th October some of the Burwell W.I. members went to see 'The Debt Collectors', a play written and directed by John Godber, at The Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds. Thanks go to those Members who kindly gave lifts to those without transport.

At the Burwell Women's Institute Meeting on October 27th 2011 the speaker was John, who explained about his voluntary work with Burwell First Responders. The Burwell Community First Responders cover Burwell and Reach and aim to treat and prevent cardiac arrest. Although they were set up by the NHS as part of the Ambulance Service, everyone on the team is a volunteer and they receive basic training in First Aid and Immediate Life Support skills and are provided with a basic kit. Any additional kit is bought by the volunteers themselves or with funds raised for them by the public.

BURWELL COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

The volunteers are directed to deal with suitable cases by the call centre staff who receive 999 calls. Volunteers are not sent to major accidents as they do not have the skills of professionals. They can respond very quickly to a call-out and give life-saving treatment, first aid and reassurance to a patient before the ambulance arrives and have saved lives. New volunteers are welcomed but need to be 18 or over, fit to carry heavy bags, have a clean driving licence, a keen desire to help people and of course, must have a C.R.B. check. John explained how to assess a situation for any danger to the patient or the volunteer, then how to examine the patient and listed life-saving skills for dealing with an unconscious person. He showed us how a defibrillator works and used a dummy figure to demonstrate C.P.R. Then John's wife bravely pretended to be an unconscious person for Members to practise C.P.R. on. They were both heartily thanked for all their efforts.

Members were reminded about the Burwell W.I. dinner in December at The Rosery and asked to choose from the menu in advance.

There is an interesting 'Dabble Day' on November 23rd at the W.I. Office where various crafts will be demonstrated.

Some members are going to pack shoe-boxes again this year for the Shoe-box Appeal. We were also requested to save a bag of things for the Burwell W.I. Jumble Sale planned for February.

It was agreed that Burwell W.I. will contribute £100 towards the repair of the Burwell village sign, which needs about £1,000 worth of repairs done to it.

Burwell W.I. expressed thanks for a generous donation from Burwell Carnival.

Val Eaton is trying to arrange a Shopping Trip by coach to Norwich on December 2nd 2011 and members can bring guests along, by arrangement. Please let Val know a.s.a.p.

Meetings are held in the Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell at 7.15 for 7.30pm. Please contact Jenny on 01638 741205 for further information.

Zenida McDonald



Burwell Mothers' Union

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Burwell Mothers' Union Programme until December 2011. Theme: Faithful Relationship.

7 December 7.30pm	Open Meeting – Christmas crafts and mince pies
15 December 2.30pm	Christmas Party

Burwell Mothers' Union Programme January 2012. Theme 'Your Gift? – Discover and Celebrate.'

4 January 7.30pm	Meal for both groups
25 January 2.30pm	The Life of a Church Warden: Pat Chalmers

On 28th September 2011, Burwell Mothers' Union members attended a joint service for The Ladies Bible Society at Holy Trinity Church, Burwell. Refreshments were provided, there was a Bring and Buy and the service was well attended. Our thanks go to Trinity Church for hosting this service.

On 2nd October there was a Harvest Lunch.

On 5th October, Frances Leadon was speaker at the afternoon meeting. The subject was Reflection.

On 12th October there was Mothers' Union Communion at Burwell.

On 15th October there was the Mothers' Union Diocesan Day at Milton Church, with Rachel Aston on Social Policy.

On 19th October, the Rev. Dr. Eleanor Williams spoke on the theme of Faithful Relationship and the following account of the meeting was written by Pam King.

'About 14 members were treated to a talk from our Vicar, Dr. Eleanor Williams. Eleanor explained her early life of training to be a doctor. The long hours of being on duty in a busy hospital with all the demands that this entailed. She told of the importance for her of being able to seek strength from the reading of the Holy Bible, of finding passages that helped her through difficult times.

Later, when working in a Medical Practice, her Bible was a constant source of help when again faced with all the varied and difficult problems that she encountered. Through it all, the Bible has been her inspiration.

Later, Eleanor led us in Prayers for the work of The Mothers' Union. This was followed by tea and biscuits.' (Thank you, Pam).

Many thanks to Susan for providing the above details. Please phone Susan Baker on 01638 741791 for more information, confirmation of dates and venues.

Zenida McDonald

Bottisham Village College
Adult and Community Learning

Courses and Workshops for the Spring Term 2012

As well as our regular classes, we have the following NEW courses starting in January

All courses start w/c 16th January and are for 10 weeks unless stated otherwise

Back 2 Basics Drawing
Cookery: Japanese
Cookery: Pasta
Counselling: Introduction
Floral Art: Spring has Sprung (5 weeks from 3rd May)
Garden Design: Introduction
History of Art II: A Closer Look
Knitting for Beginners
Personal Safety for Women (5 weeks from 23rd Feb)
Sculpture (Mixed Media)
Writing the Short Story

Weekend Workshops - Saturday 10th March

Dressmaking
Knitting: Next Steps
Mosaic in a Day
Photoshop
Upholstery and Chair Caning
Woodturning

Please see our website for further details www.bottishamvc.org/commed , or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372 Email: commed@bottishamvc.org.

Ross's Reflections



Is it just my imagination or was it just a few months ago that Cambridgeshire County Council was claiming to be hard up like never before and was closing libraries, eliminating subsidies for bus services and slashing the road safety budget?

Funny enough, now it appears to have enough money in the kitty for councillors to vote to increase their allowances by 25 per cent. I don't especially want to write about politics in this column, but the brazen cheek of councillors spending our money on pay rises for themselves at a time when the council is cutting back public services for everyone else demands a response. We are all in this together, as the Prime Minister likes to say; except, it seems, some of our county councillors who appear to be wading in something very different: a very large punch bowl. The excuse given by the councillors – that they were merely approving an independent review of their allowances – is pretty feeble.

It surely must have occurred to them how inappropriate it is to be increasing their own pay when teachers, nurses and other public sector workers have had theirs frozen. Would they have dared commission an independent review of their spending cuts, let alone taken any notice of it had it come down against closing libraries and so on? I think not.



Ponds, houses, ducks come to mind

Until the 1970s being a councillor was an entirely voluntary position. Then came the right to claim expenses which, in the mid 1990s, evolved into 'allowances'. They are now salaries by another name -- £38,000 a year in the case of the proposed revised allowance for the council leader.

We are losing the concept of public service just at a time the government wants to devolve more power to local level. Thankfully, the pay rise has been abandoned for now - thanks to an incorrect procedure in the appointment of the pay review panel and there must be a new vote. Let's hope this time a sense of responsibility manages to penetrate councillors' rhinoceros skins.

Ross Clark
01638 743725
07967 121654

Ed. *If you want to see how the councillor's voted you can find out by going to www.reach-village.co.uk/news_CCC_meeting_2011.html.*

Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Michael Aves	Vice-Chairman	742800
Malcolm Brearley	Councillor	
	mjbrearley@btinternet.com	
Ross Clark	Chairman	743725
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	742943
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	741853
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	742405
David Thomas	Councillor	742676

Your Clerk is **David Parr**:

20 Fair Green Reach CB25 0JD
Tel: 01638 744081
Email: reachparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Meetings take place in the Village Centre on the first Wednesday of each month. They start at 7.30pm and all Reach villagers are welcome to attend.

In addition to their councillor duties **Rita Dunnett** is Play Spaces Officer and **Hilary Fielding** is Rights of Way Officer.

Amenity Fund

The Amenity Fund stands at the huge sum of £4,566.07! Let us have your ideas as to how it should be spent.

Ross Clark
Chair
743725 rossjclark@aol.com

Advertisers List

To place an advertisement contact David Parr on **01638 744081** or **davidmparr@btinternet.com**
Rates: Half page £45/year; quarter page £24/year (we have six issues per year)

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The Five Miles No Hurry Inn at Upware

Lorraine and Dave look forward to welcoming you to their delightful riverside restaurant and pub



- **Monday Night Special** – Main and Sweet only £7.50
- **Tuesday Night Special** – Bangers and Mash only £4.50
- **Thursday Night Special** – Battered Cod and Chips only £5.95
- **Friday Night Special** from 10.00pm – Curry only £4.00
- **Main Menu and Specials Board**
- **Regular Music Nights**
- **Pool Bar – Main Bar – Beer Garden – Children's Play Area**
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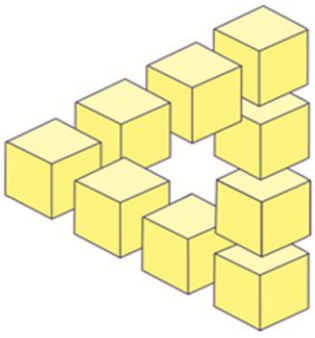

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Meeting Janet Collins



Q. What is your full nam, and where were you born?
A. Janet Collins - and I was born at Green End Road, Chesterton, Cambridge.

Q. How did you come to live in Reach?
A. We lived in rented accommodation in Cambridge when we first married. After a few years we looked for somewhere to buy. Saving a deposit would be difficult but this house had a demolition order on it so it was cheap. We bought it, saved up and repaired it. The deeds show that it goes back to the mid 18th century and it was a church property at one time.

Q. What school did you go to?
A. Cambridge High School for Girls, Long Road, Cambridge. It became a Sixth Form College in 1977.

Q. Were you quiet and studious at school?
A. No, I was bored a lot of the time and prone to be talkative (which I still am). I left school as soon as possible at 16. I was happy when I was younger but not so later. I was not good at sitting exams because my re-call was poor. My IQ may have been high but I struggled with exams. Today testing is organized by modules and that would have suited me, I can achieve high marks in modules.

Q. Did you work?
A. I did office work in Cambridge when I left school. I worked in commerce and then went to teacher training college when I was 22. I taught locally for 16 years and then went back into commerce. School rolls were falling and I had ageing parents, so it suited me to go back to the routine of office work. I was in the national chair of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society which provides for sickness and death insurance (today called life and health). I was elected to serve on the National Committee and was the Executive Director.

Q. When did you marry and how did you meet?
A. We married in 1963. I was involved in electioneering and so was his mother and that is how we met. We divorced in 1991.

Q. What pets do you have?
A. I have a dog called Jessie who is half corgi (legs), quarter cocker spaniel (colouring) and quarter Labrador (head). Jessie has been used in veterinary classes with the boys and girls practicing their bandages. I have a cat who is 13 and came from the Blue Cross. I had a previous moggy but he was a bit of a hunter and died of poisoning.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?
A. Horse riding was a long held passion and I started riding in my 40s. At that time there was only one pony in the village, not all the horses and ponies we have now which is wonderful. The pony was called George and it belonged to Albert Johnson. It was kept as a pet but I took him out. Also I had a friend, Suzi Gilbey, at Isleham who had horses and I spent a lot of time with her.



Janet on Boris and her friend from Isleham, Suzi Gilbey on Luna

All my life I wanted to ride and work with horses, but I had to earn a living and so learnt to ride later.

When I retired I went back to college full time to study for a National Diploma in Horse Studies and I achieved Adult Learner of the Year in 1999 and appeared in the Cambridge News. I was awarded a Higher National Diploma in Landbased Industries (Equine Science and Welfare) in 2002 and was awarded Best All Round Student.



2002 Best All-Round Student

I have other interests, for example, I was a member of drama and choral groups and I've always been involved in politics. I was on James Paice's Selection Committee; we had 203 candidates to sift. I've also done voluntary work - I was one of the first women to serve on the Committee of the Cambridge Victoria Homes which provides bungalows for the elderly.

I was in Civil Defence and Civil Protection and when funding was withdrawn I joined The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network and clocked up over 15 years' service with RAYNET

Q. Can you cook?
A. I can cook but I am not very interested in cooking.

Q. Can you do any DIY?
A. Yes I am very handy. At one time I worked with my father who was a cabinet maker. I can upholster, including settees when they used to have springs. I can also do piping, put up shelves and carry out general repairs. Not so much now as I am older.

Q. I always seem to see you selling raffle tickets at the village events
A. Yes I like to help and it's something I can do. Sitting down I can manage, standing is more difficult. I have back problems including discs which are deteriorating at an above average rate. In the past I helped with the carol service for a couple of years and was parish clerk but working for the Foresters meant a lot of working away at weekends and evenings.

Q. What is causing you to move?
A. My sister who lived in Clare, Suffolk, has moved to Bristol to be near to her daughter, so I am moving as well to be near her.

Q. What are your thoughts on Reach?
A. The first time I visited Reach was when my father was the mayor and opened the fair in 1963. I love Reach. I was made to feel welcome when I arrived and have always been happy and I will be desperately sad to leave. It has a lovely sense of community. It is not a main through route so the village does not suffer from ribbon development and the Centre is really in the centre. Holding events on the village green is a lovely way of involving everyone. I have been blessed with good friends. I am a good listener. I have much and varied experience and I am sometimes able to help. Some of the village buildings have changed and the conversion of the barns seems to mean fewer owls and bats to watch in the early evenings.

Q. What's your philosophy on life?
A. Do as you would be done by.

Claire Halpin-McDonald



VILLAGE CENTRE 100 CLUB

To help raise money to run the Village Centre we have a 100 Club. Tickets are just £10 for a full year.

We have 10 draws a year.
Eight draws of £20 on the third Wednesday of the month and two draws of £50 in July and December.

RECENT 100 CLUB WINNERS

October Ray Folkes £20
November John Robinson £20

Please contact Joyce Harrison (742405) to be part of this year's draw

Days Gone By



The Christmas No.1 in 1978 was Boney M with "Mary's Boy Child – Oh My Lord!" which topped the charts for 4 weeks.

In January, in stark contrast, it was Village people with the now legendary Y.M.C.A.

The downward progression continued when Ian Dury and the Blockheads took over at the end of January with "Hit me with your Rhythm Stick".

The labour government, under the leadership of James Callaghan had tried to get a bill through Parliament allowing financial sanctions to be imposed on private sector firms who breached the government's pay increase limit of 5% (inflation was 8% at the time, rising to 13% in 1979 and peaking at 18% in 1980).



Not so smiley Jim . . . .

They were defeated and despite winning the resulting vote of confidence motion, they were forced to call a general election in 1979 following the famous "Winter of Discontent" and were swept from office by the Conservatives under the leadership of Margaret Thatcher. Labour remained in the political wilderness for the next 18 years.

Abroad, the Shah of Iran fled the country following months of increasingly violent protests against his regime. He was popularly replaced by Ayatollah Khomeini who returned from exile in Paris and after a referendum, declared an Islamic Republic.

Khomeini guided his country's revolutionary, social, legal and political development until his death in 1989. He presided over the country during the Iran/Iraq war, only reluctantly agreeing to a ceasefire. He also issued a fatwa against author Salman Rushdie.

So 33 years ago there was industrial unrest in the UK and revolution in the Middles East. So no change there then.

In Reach, the Remembrance Day Service would have taken place, as usual, at our War Memorial. Originally constructed in the 1920s and Grade II listed, it is a red Mansfield stone pillar with a shallow pyramidal top on a double plinth and a base. In September 2002 the War Memorials Trust provided the village with a grant of £250 to refurbish the memorial and it was re-dedicated at a service on 10th November 2002. Reach is fortunate in not having a memorial for World War II because everyone who left the village for that conflict returned safely.



Out of Reach Cover Picture December 1978

Out of Reach magazine continued to thrive after being published for less than 2 years. Indeed, it achieved second place (behind the Swaffham Crier) in a Parish Magazine competition. It also purchased its own second-hand duplicator for the princely sum of £75 – the amount being borrowed from the Parish Council at the time (and presumably paid back subsequently)?



Here (we think!) are the answer to our **Christmas Party December 1963 Picture Competition** (see page 9).

1. Carol Badcock
2. Diana Badcock
3. Anglice Warren
4. Stephen Webb
5. Barbara Webb
6. Nigel Harrison
7. David Harrison
8. Roland Estall
9. Janet Robinson
10. Paul Robinson
11. Ann Lovel
12. Glen Lovel
13. Joyce Harrison
14. Maisie Whitehead
15. Michael Aves

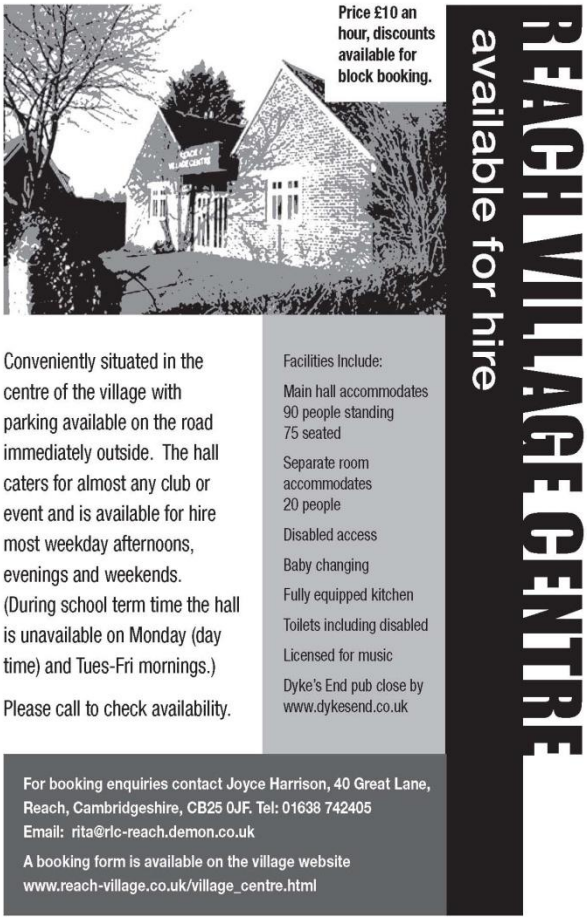


Thanks go to Paul Robinson for providing the picture and to Joyce for providing the answers.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

David Parr

davidmparr@btinternet.com
Tel: 744081



Bellringing – First Peal (Ever) on the Bells

The ringers of Swaffham Bulbeck St Mary's have finally achieved their ambition and have rung the first ever full peal on the bells. A peal is a piece of continuous ringing lasting 5,000 changes or more and having no repeated sequences or rows. That is, you have to move your arms up and down to ring the bell more than 5,000 times without stopping or going wrong and this takes on average something near three hours.

Swaffham Bulbeck bells had never been pealed. They were restored - formerly derelict - for the Millennium and 11 years on, we still hadn't pealed them. You actually have to be quite good to ring a peal and for our local band to ring a peal we have to have eight of us being quite good all at the same time. So we've been in training for this by ringing some quarter peals in the method (that's what we call the music) selected for the peal and each ringing the same bell so we got some sort of consistency and also confidence in our abilities. Like many sports or performances, ringing improves if everyone feels confident about it and this was a venture into unknown territory for three of the band who had never rung a peal before. Most of the rest of the band by choice hadn't rung a peal for years and were putting in this effort because ringing the first peal on the bells was such a special achievement and we wanted this for our own ringers rather than letting a visiting band have it. Over the months we've drafted in other more experienced ringers to give our own a better chance of improving to the standard needed. Also our team were diligent about trying to improve themselves by going to practices at other towers.

Ringers in the locality kept asking how we were getting on and was there a chance we'd ring a peal soon? So there came a point when we just had to go for it – fix a date and attempt the peal. There was a slight shuffling around of personnel according to who was available on the day and we duly set off for our first attempt on Saturday November 5th, when I'm afraid nerves got the better of us. We quickly arranged another attempt with the same band which had to be on a weekday evening and lo and behold, everyone concentrated beautifully, rang well and kept right and the peal ran into rounds just before 9pm on Monday 14th November. Much responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Conductor of the peal who has to shout crucial variations to the pattern or music at just the right point so that the sequences don't repeat and that the performance is the right length so particular thanks go to Martin for this.

This is what will be published in the Ringing World:

Ely Diocesan Association

Swaffham Bulbeck (St Mary's), Cambridgeshire

Monday 14 November 2011 in 2hrs 48mins

5040 Plain Bob Triples



1 Liz Thompson
2 Carol I Kitson
3 Brian Pratt
4 Gerard Chadwick
5 Lesley H M Boyle
6 Geoffrey Reed
7 Martin R Kitson (Conductor)
8 Derek E Latchford

First Peal on the Bells. First Peal: 1,4,6.
The band wishes to associate the Peal with Bill Blake, former tower captain, without whom these bells would have remained unrestored, also Sharyn Robinson our tower secretary, together with Christopher Welton, churchwarden, for his consistent support for the ringers' progress over the 11 years since the bells were re-hung and augmented.

We welcome new recruits at Swaffham Bulbeck at any time. We practise on a Wednesday at 7.30pm. Just come along if you fancy a try, or you can email me at lhmboyle@googlemail.com.

Lesley Boyle

St Mary's Church, Burwell
Christmas Fair

Saturday December 3rd
10.00am – 12.00noon

The Guildhall
(next to St Mary's church)
Cards, Decorations,
Crafts, Jewellery,
Gifts
and much more!
Refreshments available
Come and do all your
Christmas shopping!



Little Windmills Pre-school

During the last few weeks, the children have carved pumpkins, scooped out the flesh to make soup, made a firework collage and decorated a poppy for Poppy dDay. We also had a visit from the Cambridge Mobile Library when as well as seeing inside the van itself, some children had a go at sitting in the driver's seat!

We are anxiously waiting to see if Father Christmas can fit in a visit to see us this year. Our Christmas service is being held in the last week of our term. We welcome the Rev. Eleanor Williams who will lead us in our celebration of Christmas. This will be followed on the last day of term by our Christmas party.



As well as our usual activities we have had a visit from Ofsted. The report will appear on our website as soon as it is available. We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. Little Windmills would like to announce we are now on Twitter and have a day to day update online so you keep an eye on our activities.

If you would like to know more about our Pre-school, please visit our website: www.littlewindmills.co.uk or ring 07803 671200 during our session times to check availability and to arrange a visit.

Susan Bluck and the Little Windmills team



Friends of Burwell Museum
present

The Wicken Coronation Band

One of East Anglia's finest brass bands

St Mary's Church
Christmas Concert
Saturday 3rd December 7.30pm

Tickets are available from CentrePeace
or Pat Chalmers 01638 742006



Ely Consort

"One of East Anglia's premier chamber choirs"
perform

Schutz ~ The Christmas Story along with accompanying music for Advent & Christmas

St Mary's Church
Saturday 10th December 7.30pm

Tickets: £8 in advance, £10 on door
& U16s free

Tickets are available from CentrePeace
or Pat Chalmers 01638 742006

Swaffham Prior Primary School

October and November have been very busy months at school! We celebrated the Harvest at St Mary's Church and enjoyed performances from each class and the school choirs.

Mercury Class acted out 'The Enormous Turnip' and Mars Class gave us a rendition of 'Old MacTractor'. Saturn Class read Autumnal Haiku poems and Neptune Class read out Harvest prayers which they had written themselves. Brenda Wilson kindly led the Service for us. Children from Saturn Class organised the sale of Harvest produce and as a school we raised £100. The money was sent to the Ely Diocese and will go into the 'Build a School in Vellore Project'. We started the new half term with a 'Pumpkin Parade', organised by FoSPS and saw the arrival at school of a wonderful selection of carved and decorated pumpkins. There were some very creative designs ranging from a cat and raven to a tea set! The children very much enjoyed looking at them all and prizes were awarded.

On Sunday 6th November we held our annual Grounds Day. It was an extremely productive morning and the school grounds are now looking very tidy. Children, parents, staff and Governors all worked together for the morning and we were joined by Lois Baker, an Education Officer from Wicken Fen. Jobs completed were varied and included repairs to some of the fencing, replacement of bark chippings, painting of railings, leaf clearing, tidying of the Nature Area and collecting of rubbish. All in all it was a very successful morning!

We had a special visitor to the school on Monday 14th November. The Bishop of Huntingdon, known as Bishop David, came to meet children and staff in the school. We shared an assembly with him and took the theme of, 'What is special about a Church School?' The children showed him sketches of St Mary's Church and took the areas of 'Generosity' and 'Agape love' to illustrate this. The Bishop presented the school with a special plate, commemorating 200 years of Church schooling. He then went into each class and the children were given the opportunity to question him about his life and role in the church. Questions were varied and we found out that he loves meeting new people and that his favourite fruit is an apple!

This year we participated in the Operation Christmas Child scheme again and collected an astounding 57 boxes. All the boxes will go to children in areas such as Africa and Eastern Europe.



We took part in the 'Children in Need' fundraising and the children arrived at school dressed as their favourite characters or in spotted outfits. We had children dressed as Harry Potter, the Black Knight, Goldilocks, Florence Nightingale, Truly Scrumptious, a fairy, a horse rider, the White Rabbit from Alice in Wonderland amongst others. Staff dressed in special T-shirts and many had Pudsey ears! Also that day we had a cake sale and sold wrist bands. The total raised is in excess of £200.

Christmas is fast approaching and we have various events planned. Preparations are underway for Decoration Day, a Nativity play by Foundation/KS1 and our school Carol Service at St Mary's Church. Our school fair and cafe are on Monday 5th December, starting at 2.30pm. All are welcome!

We all wish you a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year!

Hannah Curtis
Head teacher

Website: www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk





IT'S NEARLY CHRISTMAS....



CHRISTMAS KIDS PAGE!



COOL CHRISTMAS WEBSITE! WWW.EMAILSANTA.COM

WORD SEARCH!

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

Christmas Angel Bauble Present Reindeers
Star Tree Snow Santa Claus Robin
Mary Magi Jesus Myrrh Gold

CHRISTMAS RIDDLE

My first is in Prancer, but not in Rudolph.

My second is in holiday, but not in vacation.

My third is in presents and myrrh.

My fourth is in reindeers and robin.

My fifth is in snow, but not in flake.

My sixth is in Santa, but not in Claus.

My seventh is in Mary and Magi.

My eighth is in frankincense, but not in gold.

My ninth is in Star, but not in Bethlehem.

What am I?

THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE IS ON PAGE 36

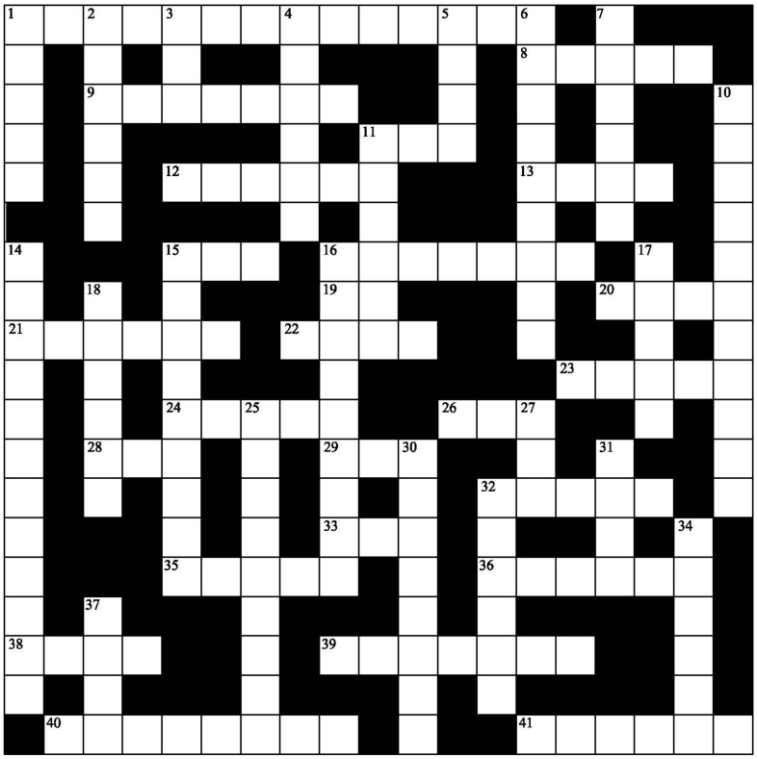
JOKES!

What goes 'Oh, Oh, Oh'?
Santa Claus going backwards!

What's brown and sneaks round the kitchen?
Mince Spies!



Zenida's Crossword No. 10



The winner and answers to the previous crossword can be found on Page 19

A £5 Book Token will be awarded for the first correct entry opened after the closing date. Please send your entry by Friday 6th January 2012 to:

Zenida's Crossword No. 10
North View House, 16 Chapel Lane,
Reach CB25 OJJ giving your:

Name: _____

Address:
_____

_____

Tel: _____

ACROSS

1. ' We wish you a __ __' (5 & 9)
8. Number of Wise Men? (5)
9. It's lit outdoors (7)
11. He might be on 9 across (3)
12. Female relative (6)
13. Male ruler (4)
15. Baby bear (3)
16. It may contain fruit (7)
19. '__You Like It '. Title of a play by Shakespeare (2)
20. A plant used in medicine or for cooking (4)
21. November 30th 2011 is St___ 's Day (6)
22. Can be decorated for Christmas (4)
23. A red hair dye (5)
24. It lets you know the eggs are boiled (5)
26. Don't __ the limelight! (3)
28. Hooded female (3)
29. Don't skate on thin __ (3)
32. Santa ___ is coming to town! (5)
33. A precious stone (3)
35. A division or portion (5)
36. A firework or a signal (6)
38. They go with bolts (4)
39. Glass balls (7)
40. May contain jokes! (8)
41. He took part in the Gunpowder Plot (6)

DOWN

1. A seasonal content of tarts, pies (5)
2. Birds seen on Christmas cards (6)
3. Old word for 'over there' (3)
4. It's uncommon (6)
5. Mother of Jesus (4)
6. Hope yours get filled on 24th. Dec. (9)
7. Fiery, zealous (6)
10. __Day is on 13th Nov. 2011 (11)
11. A grumpy bird? (6)
14. Last Thursday of Nov. is __ Day in the U.S.A. (12)
15. Used to stuff the turkey? (9)
16. A game-bird (9)
17. Small gain for the Guy? (5)
18. 27th. Nov. 2011 is ___Sunday (6)
25. Cambridge college, St. Mary ___ (9)
27. Dialect word for girl (3)
30. Isaiah's name for Baby Jesus (8)
31. Good with orange sauce? (4)
32. Joyful Christmas songs (6)
34. Jesus was born in one (6)
37. The Magi followed one (4)



Rita's Recipes

Christmas is Coming the Goose is getting fat - try this stuffing for *your Goose* this year



PRUNE and APPLE STUFFING
Enough to stuff a 5-kilo goose

Ingredients:

700g Bramley apples (Sliced 1cm)
225g no-soak prunes (roughly chopped)
1 large onion (roughly chopped)
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon ground mace seasoning
2 tablespoons armagnac

Method:

Mix all the ingredients together



FORCEMEAT STUFFING

Ingredients:

The goose liver, finely chopped
1 onion (finely chopped)
Cox's apple, cored (finely chopped)
50g breadcrumbs
1 tablespoon chopped sage
Seasoning
275g good-quality sausage meat

Method:

Mix all the ingredients together. Stuffing you Goose – put the Forcemeat Stuffing in the neck of the goose, pushing it well in, tuck the neck flap over the stuffing and secure with a skewer. Put the apple stuffing into the body cavity, it looks rough, but when cooked it will be a soft fluffy mass.

and for *your Turkey*
CHESTNUT STUFFING - enough for a 5-kilo turkey

Ingredients:

100g smoked streaky bacon	50g butter	1 onion (finely chopped)
150g sliced mushrooms	250g chestnut puree	150g liver pate
50g fresh breadcrumbs	225g pork sausagemeat	1 tablespoon dried oregano
1 lightly whisked egg	turkey heart & liver finely chopped	salt & pepper to taste

Method:

Remove the rind from the bacon and cut into small pieces. Put the butter in a pan and fry the bacon, onion, liver and heart for 3-5minutes. Transfer this mixture to a large bowl, stir in the rest of the ingredients and mix well using a wooden spoon. Put the mixture in a baking dish, baste with a little of the Turkey Juice. Cook with the Turkey for the last 45 minutes.

Making your own Mince Pies? Try this delicious crumbly pastry

Orange Pastry, makes 24 pies



Ingredients:

400g Plain Flour
200g Butter
100g Lard
1 Large Orange

Method:

Cut the fat into the flour and rub in with your fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the grated rind of the orange. With a knife, stir the orange juice into the mixture until it begins to stick together (if there is not enough juice add a spot of cold water). Using your hands, lightly form into a ball, place in a plastic bag and put into the refrigerator for 30 minutes before using.

And in my house Christmas would not be Christmas without . . . . Mum's Traditional Trifle



Ingredients:

6 Trifle Sponges
250gm Raspberries
1pt custard (luxury ready made)
200g Ratafia biscuits (crumbled)
4 tablespoons Sherry
3 tablespoons Orange Liqueur (Optional)
Raspberry Jam
50g Icing Sugar
2 medium Bananas
¾ pint Double Cream
Flaked Almonds to decorate

Method:

Split and spread the sponge cakes liberally with the jam, sandwich back together, cut into pieces and place in a large glass serving dish with the crumbled ratafias. Mix the Sherry with the liqueur (if using) and pour over the sponges. Peel and chop the bananas - place on top of the sponge mixture with the raspberries. Spoon the custard over the top of the fruit. Cover with cling film and place in the refrigerator. Just before serving whip the cream and the icing sugar until soft peaks form and spread on top of the custard. Decorate with the flaked almonds.

Happy Christmas *Rita*



Cricket Report

Burwell vs Reach, Saturday 24th September



The annual Burwell - Reach derby goes on a two-year cycle. In Year A Burwell field a team of average age 12 which gets outsmarted and outhit by the gentlemen of Reach.

In Year B Burwell decide enough is enough: they will treat us with the respect we deserve. So they field a team with an average age of 14 and smack us around the ground until we are pleading for them to stop. 2011, I regret to say, was Year B.

Well, that's got that out of the way. Or maybe I'll just pick out the good bits: Andrew Trump's 30 runs, Andy Knight's 50, Mike Whittingham's 37, Theo Clark's 36 and Gwilym Davies' stoic recovery from a bruised shin bone. The final score was Burwell 265 for 3 off 40 overs; Reach 195 all out off 33.

But now the good news: following an inaugural meeting at the Dyke's End, Reach Cricket Club is now a fully-constituted, ECB-compatible, spontaneously-combustible community amateur sports club with an offshore bank account and cornfield waiting to be reborn as our home ground – sometime in 2013.



Ross's Field of Dreams

We will be applying for grants to lay the turf as soon as the parish council has finalised its lease with the National Trust. But in order that we can start to raise funds for the project we have introduced an annual membership fee of £20 for over 18s (on 1 January 2012) and £10 for 13 to 18 year olds.

We won't take a membership fee from anyone under 13, although we may well cajole them into playing in the occasional match if we are short. New members, as ever, are extremely welcome and when nets begin in February, will have the chance to show their talents in front of the selectors (motto: He who breathes gets in).

Ross Clark
743725; rossjclark@aol.com



'O Magnum Mysterium' a concert of Christmas choral music and readings by the Cantilena Singers

Director Daniel Spreadbury
Saturday 10th December, 7:30pm, St Mary's Church,
Stow-cum-Quy

The concert will feature a wide range of festive choral music interspersed with readings suitable for the season from the sublime to the irreverent. It will include music by Victoria, Howells, Bruckner and Mozart amongst others

Tickets are £7 or £5 concessions available on the door or from the Quy Post Office

Proceeds to the Church heating fund

Sports News

One fen, two cities, three Reach runners and three swift halves



This round-up features a few of our more 'mature' runners all of whom tackled half marathons recently and all of whom are far too modest about their achievements.

Juggling training for long distance running around children, grandchildren and earning a living is far from easy. On top of that there is the 'managing of aches and pains' that youngsters hardly notice and if they do it's usually not for long. Not one to miss an opportunity to whinge about being grounded – my achilles finally got the better of me - confining me to a post-op life on crutches and dreaming of being able to run one mile let along thirteen. Achilles was, of course, a Greek hero of the Trojan War. When he was born, his mother, the nymph Thetis, tried to make him immortal, by dipping him in the river Styx – it left him vulnerable only at the part of the body by which she held him, his heel. Legend has it that he was killed by an arrow, shot by Paris but guided by the god Apollo. The wound was small but fatal and hence the term Achilles' heal meaning a person's principal weakness.



Bristol Half Marathon by Andrew Trump

This is not the tale of record-breaking or extreme athletic achievement that usually appears in *Within Reach*.

I lost my dear mother in the summer of 2010 and decided to raise some money for Force (the West Country equivalent of Macmillan) and so to this end asked several friends if they would join me in a fundraising half marathon. One hero, Nik, surprised himself by agreeing and started to train - and regret his decision. Like me he is "build more for comfort than for speed" and will never see 40 again and for both of us running 13 miles is a long way, a very long way.

September was one of the hottest on record and the 11th was no exception. By the time of our 10am start the thermometer had topped 20 degrees centigrade and the organisers were warning of dehydration and heat exhaustion. For those of you who don't run its possible to find a rhythm at which your body doesn't complain too much and so it was that we progressed through the first 9 or 10 miles. By this time the temperature had risen further as midday approached and this drained us more than expected. Fortunately we were now in the crowded streets of Bristol and a sense of pride and sheer bloody-mindedness took over. By repeating the mantra "just keep putting one foot in front of the other" and by cajoling each other we finally made the finish. Placed just outside the prize money in the high eight thousands we were delighted to have survived relatively unscathed.

Sue Jordan and the Great North Run September 2011

Another year, another race – my 7th Great North Run. Despite the odd creaks and pains I continue to enjoy the training as well as the race itself. This year I have particularly enjoyed discovering new circuits now that the Reach bridge and cycle routes are operational – there has been something magical about an early morning run across the fens to Wicken and back!

This year my running partner, my brother Graham, was unable to take part so for the first time I ran the race alone (apart from the other 53,999 runners). I was quietly confident that I would run a faster time without him but to his immense satisfaction I was actually two minutes slower than last year! We look forward to running together again.

I continue to run to support the North-East Special Needs Network (www.nsnn.org.uk) which provides fantastic support to families of children and young adults with learning difficulties.

Sue Jordan

Ewen Cameron – a warm up run for his 38 miles across the fens

At the start of each year I try to set myself some new challenges to motivate my running throughout the year otherwise it's tough to drag myself out of bed at 6 in the morning to tramp around the fen. This year I set two – to get under 1 hour 30 for a half marathon and to run an ultramarathon (any distance longer than a marathon). Whilst looking for a suitable ultra, I targeted the Grunty Fen half marathon in September. The perfect conditions for long distance running would be a cool, still day. Last year's races had gone so well that it was inevitable that this year it would be a hot day with a brisk breeze. I had also trained a little bit too hard without easing off enough in the last couple of weeks and my legs were feeling a bit heavy. Nevertheless, I was 20 seconds inside my target at the half way point. From there on it was all downhill (unfortunately only metaphorically). The last 6 miles were incredibly tough and I hobbled home 3 minutes outside my goal.

With one disappointment out of the way, I next selected the Hereward Ultra Race for my next challenge. Usually this is run as a relay with 4 stages from Peterborough to Ely via Whittlesey, March and Welney (you may remember that Juliet's team set the women's course record last year) but it is now possible to run it as an individual. Hundreds of miles of training later and the race is just around the corner (27th November). This won't be about setting times - (not many finished in under 6 hours last year), just about getting to the end. I'm running to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support so please consider sponsoring me www.justgiving.com/EwenCameron). Alternatively please come up with some slightly less crazy challenges for 2012!

Note from the sports editor. I did indeed tackle this run as a team of four. I ran the last 10 mile leg 60% off road on frozen tractor tracks (better than mud though!). It half killed me and that was without having run legs 1, 2 and 3 first (28 miles). You certainly know how to challenge yourself Ewen!

Juliet Vickery

Susie's Quiz Page 30
The answer to the Christmas Riddle is:
CHRISTMAS



Health for Life

Red2Green

Health for Life is a friendly local service that helps lonely or vulnerable people re-engage in local clubs and community groups. By meeting new friends and learning new skills their confidence grows, they have more purpose and structure in their lives and so they start to feel so much better about themselves.

We have been running a SCRABBLE GROUP in Sawston this Autumn, but are sadly having to consider closing this after Christmas unless we get more people coming along. We are hoping that the club might appeal to people looking for a warm friendly activity in January. If this does, please call the number below. We'd love to see you!

The other groups we are involved with include local lunch clubs, badminton and other physical activities, walking, knitting, social and basically any others that are running that we can find! And if we feel there is a need for a new type of group then we'll set one up! All these activities are open to the public so no-one is excluded from enjoying themselves. Everyone has a story to tell, a skill to share and an interest in meeting people.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with transport or to accompany someone who is feeling apprehensive. Some volunteers help facilitate our groups and all our volunteers enjoy the help they give. Here are some quotes from them illustrating just how they benefit from helping someone:

'I feel I'm putting something back into the community'
'Just knowing that I'm helping to make a difference to someone'
'I enjoy meeting assorted people'
'I should have joined you years ago'

Red2Green runs projects across Cambridgeshire providing leisure, educational and work opportunities for over 600 people with a wide range of disabilities and those facing disadvantage, including mental health problems, learning disabilities, physical disabilities and autistic spectrum conditions.

For more information please call Sian on 07857 966475 or the Red2Green head office on 01223 811662.

REACH
PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd November 2011

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Malcolm Brearley	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Not Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Councillor	Not Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time



1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

No applications for funding or payments were made in the previous month.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met on 18th October, for what turned out to be a long meeting. One of the most contentious issues was a report from the independent remuneration panel which recommended a 25% increase in allowances for councillors, amongst other recommendations. Subsequently, the County Council Standards Committee decided that the process for selection of the independent remuneration panel was fatally flawed and the report has been rejected. At this stage, it is not possible to comment on what would happen next on this issue.

The meeting also received annual reports from the pensions and audit committees. We debated seven motions in total on a diverse range of issues including the guided bus, highways maintenance, libraries and support for the armed forces.

Cabinet and the Senior Management Team met twice, once to prepare for the cabinet meeting and the second in a workshop to develop ideas for the next Integrated Plan.

Following the untimely death of Rod Craig, Executive Director for Community and Adult Service (CAS), we have asked Adrian Loades to oversee CYPS and Adult Social Care, whilst restructuring other parts of CAS. This will mean operating with one less Executive Director for 6 months as a trial to see how the organisation manages.

In conjunction with the District Council the County Council is involved in the Ely Crossing Consultation.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Weekend use of the Newmarket Recycling Centre is good but weekday use is a lot lighter.

CCC is running a pre-planning public consultation on the Ely Crossing Consultation. The Parish Council considered the various identified options and **the Clerk** was asked to input that either of options B or D was preferred.

The results of the Village Vision Consultation have been released with the majority of people preferring small scale growth.

There is an unauthorised Traveller's encampment behind Swann Lake Barns. The Travellers have informed the authorities that they will be moving on in the very near future.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and it is estimated that whilst there will be a loss for this financial year of approximately £200, this will leave the Parish Council with non-tennis court reserves of approximately £4,400 which is 53% of normal non-tennis court maintenance spend of 53%.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

The playground remains in a satisfactory condition. **The Clerk** has ordered and will install goal anchors for the large goals on the playing field. **The Clerk** will also cut off a tree branch overhanging the playground.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

The Clerk was asked to let the Rights of Way Team know that the Parish Council approves the signage changes proposed as regards the village of Reach.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the previous month. **The Clerk** was asked to work with Helen Platt, Speedwatch Leader, to encourage further volunteers so that monthly activities take place and are planned forward for at least the subsequent three months.

4 (10) Tennis Committee

The tennis court continues to be well-used with the coaching being very successful and providing good revenue for the tennis court maintenance fund which, if all goes to plan, will stand at approximately £850 by the end of the financial year.

4 (11) Village Centre Committee Report

Preparations continue for Reach Fair 2012.

4 (12) 24Acres Committee Report

Councillor Brearley described the current status of the project. Good progress is being made with the focus being on agreeing a lease with the National Trust, getting assistance to establish the layout of the area and fundraising. The NT would like to hold a small celebration in the village with the national charitable trust which gifted the money to purchase the land in celebration of their 50th anniversary of grant giving. **The Clerk** was asked to let the NT know that the Parish Council is very supportive of such an event especially when the layout and lease agreement have been agreed.

5. Cemetery Fencing

The Parish Council had received a number of complaints of flowers laid on graves in the cemetery being damaged. The owners of the property adjoining the cemetery on the right hand side had been approached by the Clerk and agreed that they would do what they could to minimise the intrusion by their wildlife into the cemetery.

6. Planning Reforms (proposed by Government)

This was deferred until a subsequent meeting when the District Councillor is in attendance.

7. Precept YE 2013

The Parish Council agreed a budget for YE 2013 which maintains the precept at the YE 2011 and YE 2012 level of £7,150.

8. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The dates for the celebrations are from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June 2012. The Parish Council had previously decided that the occasion should be celebrated in Reach and a committee has been put in place under the leadership of Jo Mules to decide specifically what should take place and when – and to organise the event(s) subject to the approval of the Parish Council.

As part of this celebration, the opportunity to acquire a new tree to be planted on the Village Green was discussed. The current horse chestnut has a lifetime of some 5 to 15 years and it was felt that the village needs to be prepared for this eventuality. The Parish Council would like to take the opportunity to plant a new tree which would take over from the current horse chestnut upon its demise. The Parish Council identified two possible locations and **the Clerk** was asked to put two signs in place and seek the villager's opinions. In addition, villagers will be asked for their opinions on which variety of tree should be chosen

A suggestion from a villager that an avenue of 60 trees should be planted on the Swaffham Prior road on its approach to Reach was supported by the Parish Council. **The Clerk** will ask the villager to further investigate the opportunity with Highways to check that it is possible and to report back at a subsequent Parish Council meeting.

9. Village Vision Survey Result

25 people responded to ECDC which was seen to be a good response rate of 18% in terms of dwellings. From these results ECDC concluded that there is little community support for new development and that on this basis there would be no need to identify new development sites or expand the development envelope. **The Clerk** will let ECDC know that the Parish Council is in agreement with this conclusion.

10. Planning Applications

Other than two minor observations, the Parish Council had no comment on planning application 11/00819/LBC for work to be carried out at the Manor House, Chapel Lane.

11. Information Items

The state of the Hythe moorings was briefly discussed and it was agreed to add it to the agenda for the next meeting once **the Clerk** had circulated information on the agreement with GOBA.

The Parish Council discussed the current petition to Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the 25% rise in allowances voted for themselves by County Councillors. It was agreed that **the Chairman** would draft a letter expressing the Parish Council's disapproval of this action.

12. Payments

100998	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing Oct	£67.00
101001	CR Contracting	Mowing Oct	£78.50
100999	Gardenworks	Treeworks	£750.00
101000	CCC	Street Lighting Apr-Jun 2011	£61.49

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 6th December 2011 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).



Slow Down



I don't know about you but sometimes I get to the point where there are so many things to do that I don't even know where to start. And this time of year is when that feeling often becomes most acute. I'm quite good at 'multi-tasking', or like to think I am, but it can get to the point where it feels like I'm doing the plate spinning trick:

The one where someone tries to get as many plates as possible spinning on the end of poles, keeping on going with more and more until finally – crash! But is that the best way for things to be? The start of Advent is perhaps a good time to pause for a moment. Slow down. Catch our breath. Take stock in the midst of the busyness. And focus on the moment. And then continue with perhaps just a little more awareness of God with us: *"O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel."*

Walk softly, as you go through Christmas,
That each step may bring you down the starlit path,
to the manger bed.
Talk quietly, as you speak of Christmas
that you shall not drown out
the glorious song of angels.
Kneel reverently as you pause for Christmas,
that you may feel again the Spirit of the Nativity,
rekindled in your soul.
Rise eagerly,
after you have trod the Christmas Path,
That you may serve more fully,
the one whose birth we hail.

(Author Unknown)

You would be very welcome to join us at one of our special Christmas services in Reach or at St Mary's, Burwell.

Eleanor Williams (Vicar St Mary's Burwell & St Etheldreda's Reach, 01638 741262, or vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Eleanor Williams
In memoriam of Mary Ann Cole whose funeral took place on the 26th October 2011

CentrePeace



We have a very extensive range of books in 'as new' condition at the moment that would make ideal Christmas presents, including children's books. Prices start at just 20p for children's books and £1 for adults. We also have a wide range of charity and handmade cards and crafts, so please do come and see us at the following places:

CentrePeace Shop in the Causeway
Open Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm
We'll try to stay open at lunchtime in December!

St Mary's Christmas Fayre at The Guildhall
Saturday 3rd December 10.00am – 12.00noon

Burwell Farmers' Market at the Village College
Saturday 10th December 9.00am – 12.00noon

CentrePeace @ Reach
in St Etheldreda's church, Reach
Wednesday 14th December 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Pat Chalmers – Churchwarden



Church Services

	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
DECEMBER		
Thursday 1	10.00am Toddlers Service	
Saturday 3	10.00 am Christmas Fayre in the Guldhall 7.30pm Wicken Band Concert	
Sunday 4 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.55am Junior Church 10.00am Parish Communion 4.00pm Christingle Service	
Wednesday 7	9.00am Prayer Meeting at Burwell 10.00am Holy Communion at Burwell 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Saturday 10	7.30pm Ely Consort concert	
Sunday 11 3rd Sunday of Advent	10.00 Family Service with Nativity	8.00am Holy Communion 3.00 pm Family Nativity Service at Reach
Wednesday 14	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Sunday 18 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Parish Communion 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight	
Wednesday 21	9.00am Prayer Meeting at Burwell 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Saturday 24	3.00pm Jesus' Birthday Party 11.30pm Midnight Communion	
Sunday 2 Christmas Day	10.00am All Age Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Wednesday 28	No Midweek services	
JANUARY		
Sunday Christmas 2	10.00am Parish Communion at Burwell	
Wednesday 4	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion 11.00 Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Sunday 8 Epiphany 1 The Baptism of Christ	10.00 am Family Service at Burwell	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday@ 7 Communion Service
Wednesday 11	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Sunday 15 Epiphany 2	8.00 Holy Communion 9.55 Junior Church 10.00 Parish Communion	
Wednesday 18	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Thursday 19		PCC meeting
Sunday 22 Epiphany 3 - week of Prayer for Christian Unity	8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am United Service at the Baptist Church	
Wednesday 25	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	
Saturday 28		'Listening to God' Parish Away Day until 4pm in the Reach Village Centre
Sunday 29 Epiphany 4		9.55am Junior Church 10.00am Parish Communion

Bus Timetable

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 - Bottisham - Cambridge																
Service No:	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		10	10	10	10
	M-F	**M-F**	**Sat**	**M-F**	**Sat**							**Sat**	**M-F**			
Newmarket (Guineas Station)				0704	0719	0814	0914	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1424	1514	1614	1714
Burwell (Manchetts Ness Road)	0628	0658	0713	0728	0743	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1448	1538	1638	1738
Reach	0638	0708	0723			0848		1048		1248		1448	1458	1548	1648	1748
Swaffham Prior	0644	0714	0729	0741	0756	0854	0951	1054	1151	1254	1351	1454	1504	1554	1654	1754
Cambridge (Drummer Street)	0727	0807	0812	0837	0842	0937	1037	1137	1237	1337	1437	1537	1547	1637	1737	1837

Cambridge - Bottisham - Reach - Burwell - Newmarket																
Service No:	10	10A	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		10	10	10	10
				M-F										*	*	
Cambridge (Drummer Street)				0655	0755	0825	0925	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1635	1735	1845
Swaffham Prior				0959	1102	1159	1302	1102	1159	1302	1359	1502	1559	1712	1809	1919
Reach				1002		1202			1202		1402		1602		1812	1922
Burwell (Hawthorn Way)				1012	1112	1212	1312	1112	1212	1312	1412	1512	1612	1722	1822	1932
Newmarket (Guineas Station)				1040	1140	1240	1340	1140	1240	1340	1440	1540	1640	1800		

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

Please note that the bus stops at a number of stops in Burwell – those listed are just timing points

Diary Dates

December	Event	Location	Time
Sat 3	Christmas Fair	Guildhall, Burwell	10am – 12 noon
Sat 3	Wicken Coronation Band	St Mary's Church, Burwell	7.30pm
Wed 7	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 8	Recycling Day		
Sat 10	Ely Consort	St Mary's Church, Burwell	7.30pm
Sun 11	24 Acres Field Walking	Fair Green – then to the 24 Acres (see page 18 for further details)	10.00am
Sun 11	Pub Quiz	Dyke's End	8.30pm
Wed 14	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Fri 16	Carol Evening	Village Centre	7.00pm
Tues 20	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Wed 21	Village Centre Committee	Village Centre	8pm
Thurs 22	Recycling Day		
January			
Wed 4	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Wed 11	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Thurs 5	Recycling Day		
Tues 17	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Wed 18	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thurs 19	Recycling Day		
Sat 21	Curry Night	Village Centre	7.00pm
Sun 29	Pub Quiz	Dykes End	7.30pm

Wednesdays 7.30pm onwards **Bellringing at Swaffham Bulbeck** - new recruits are welcome

The **Mobile Library** will now visit Reach on the third Tuesday of the month only

Pilates – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5.45pm



Contact Information

Parish Council			
	Chairman	Ross Clark	743725
	Vice Chairman	Michael Aves	742800
	Councilllor	Malcolm Brearley	mjbrearley@btinternet.com
	Councillor	Rita Dunnett	742943
	Councillor	Hilary Fielding	741853
	Councillor	Joyce Harrison	742405
	Councillor	David Thomas	742676
	Clerk	David Parr	744081
	Play Spaces Officer	Rita Dunnett	742943
	Rights of Way Officer	Hilary Fielding	741853
	County Councillor	David Brown	743283
	District Councillor	Allen Alderson	741744
Village Centre			
	Chairman	Jan Tabecki	742552
	Finance	Grahame Radford	742814
	Bookings	Joyce Harrison	742405
	Marquee Bookings	Andrew Hall	743737
Amenity Fund Committee			
	Chairman	Ross Clark	743725
	Committee Member	Rita Dunnett	742943
	Committee Member	John Holmwood	742969
	Committee Member	Claire Halpin-McDonald	743330
	Committee Member	Andrew Towers	742484
Church			
	Vicar	Eleanor Williams	741262
	Hon Assistant Priest	Reverend David Bush	741839
	Reader in Training	Frances Leadon	741770
	Priest in Retirement	Reverend David King	742924
	Parochial Church Council Member	Pam King	742924
	Churchwarden at Burwell/Reach	Pat Chalmers	742006
Emergencies			
	Electricity (Eastern Electric)		0800 783 8838
	Police (Emergency)		999
	Police (Non-emergency)		0345 456 4564
	Water (Anglian Water)		08457 145145
Doctors, Burwell			
	Appointments and Emergencies		741234
	Community Nurses		742382
	Doctors	Dr Anne Schneerson, Dr Andrew Wills, Dr Alex Manning, Dr Anthony Parry, Dr Maureen Birch	
	Surgery Hours	Mon 8.30am to 8.00pm, Tues to Fri 8.30am to 6.00pm	



In the **Ladies Singles** Mandy Manchett (left) lost to **Clo Bateman**

In the **Mens Singles** Philip Lewis (76 years old) lost to **Alex Garner** (18 years old)!





In the **Doubles** the better dressed team won with (left to right) **Andy Knight** and **Paul Redfarn** defeating Rob Steed and Andrew Trump

The Racquet Master Reach Village 2011 Tennis Championships



Joyce Harrison makes a sale



Janet Collins to Pam King: easy on the milk!





Elizabeth Parr happy to work hard for Macmillan

Macmillan Coffee Morning
Saturday October 1st 2011
raised £505



Bill and Jean Estall contributing to the day. Jo Kirkpatrick is seated and the walnuts in the foreground are from her tree



Janet Collins and Jodie Halpin-McDonald: yours for a tenner darling!











HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday

8th October 2011





Above: Dad **Jon Cane** supervises **David**'s bottle opening to the amusement of **David King**. Above Left: **Archie Fordham**. Top: Sophisticated **Liz Tabecki**.

Above: The kids' table with **Minnie Fordham** in the foreground.

Right: Concentrate **Helen Oliver.**





Above: **Archie Fordham** engaged in conversation with **Benjamin Shackleton**.

Left: **Imogen Trump** having fun.









Above Clockwise: **Minnie Fordham**, **Dylan Steed**, **Benjamin Shackleton**, **Harry Oliver-Towers** and **Archie Fordham** with the Harvest Bread.

Above Right: **Violet Keutgen** and **Harry Oliver-Towers.**

Right: **Sue Bailey** and sisters **Sarah and Stella Bluck** with Dad **Les**.

Below Left: **Jan Tabecki** (left) and **Ross Clark.**

Below Right: **David Blocksage** and **Jan Robinson.**

















Marie Bambrick (left) and **Joyce Harrison.**





Above: **Joyce Harrison**, **Jo Riches** and **Jamie Shackleton.**

Above Right: **Penny Lang.**

Right: **Andrew Towers**, Quiz Master warming up.

Below Left: Bluck sisters **Sarah** and **Stella.**

Below Right: **David Cane** and candle.









Andrew Towers, Quiz Master Extraordinaire, wows the crowds









Above: The Raffle Girls from left, **Imogen Trump**, **Kasia Tabecki**, **Freya Thomas** and **Anya Tabecki**. In the foreground **Sue Tarasewicz** and **David Cane**.

Above Right: **Liz Tabecki.**

Right: **Jenny** and **John Reed** much amused.

Below Left: **Jodie Halpin-McDonald** wins the chocolates.

Below Right: **Harry Oliver-Towers.**











Top Left: **Ron Greenhill**

Right: A rare photo of **Hugh de Lacy**, our Roving Photographer.

