Within Reach



February/March 2012









Field Walking 24Acres

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The VILLAGE CENTRE 100 CLUB for 2012 begins in March

Please re-new your membership or now is a good time to join to help raise money to run the Village Centre

Tickets are just £10 for a full year.

We have eight draws of £20 on the third Wednesday of the month and two draws of £50 in July and December.

RECENT 100 CLUB WINNER

December: David Harrison £50

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

REACH RAINBOW CRAFTS CIRCLE

Reach Village Centre
Three meetings planned (see Page 10)

Zenida McDonald
01638 742029

From the Editor



A big thank you to Hugh de Lacy for such a fun front cover. Possible captions abound. The weather is incredibly mild, as observed by Janet Hall in her plant section and Alison Lewis under Wildlife.

In this issue we have a very evocative piece of writing by Charles Moseley about his travels in Albania. Settle down and enjoy a good read. Rita Dunnett is also inspired by her travels abroad and gives us a venison recipe from South Africa.

The village enjoyed some new events. Lesley Boyle organised a mini pony meet up just before New Year. Some beautiful ponies and their riders enjoyed a morning of games in Gareth's sheep field. Marie Bambrick's Curry Night was extremely popular with over 70 people attending. The food was good, the table decorations exceptional and there was dancing! The Cambridge Archaeology Field Group organised a field walk of the 24Acres and the effort was rewarded with finds of struck and burnt flint indicative of a Neolithic site.

Ross Clark has prepared a report on the New Year's Day football match. In the Sports Section Ewan Cameron describes the ardour of running for 6 hours and 26 minutes and in a small way we can appreciate what athletes endure (we'd have to take part to really know). Also under Sport we learn that Kasia Tabecki successfully auditioned for Suspects dance group, based in Ely and her achievements are impressive.

Entry is now open for the Reach Fair 2012 Programme Front Cover Competition (details page 26). The 100 Club starts in March so please re-new your membership or now is a good time to join (see page 1). Zenida McDonald is organising a Craft Circle with three introductory meetings planned (details are on page 10). Planning ahead - note that the village celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be on Monday 4th June from 2.00pm to 7.00pm.

Read this magazine carefully and discover why Gwylim Davies may be going around with odd socks.

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

Front Cover Photo: Football. Who is that man? Hugh de Lacy
Cover Photos: 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 March 2012. This magazine is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

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Crossword	Zenida McDonald
Days Gone By	David Parr
Fen Chitchat	Lesley Boyle
Kids' Page	Susie Tucker
Little Windmills	Susan Bluck
Mothers' Union	Zenida McDonald
Parish Council	David Parr
Plants	Janet Hall
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

Our Tea Party

We all sat down on our village green to celebrate the Royal Wedding Day
When Prince William and Catherine Middleton got married, in the right royal way
The day was bright and sunny and everyone dressed in their Sunday best
Our Dennis had his big hat on; he looked good and stood out from the rest
With all the tables laden with food, sandwiches, cake and home made buns
But you could have a hot dog or a beef burger, if you really wanted one
With tea or coffee, soft drinks for the children and ice cream from the fair
And free rides for them on the amusements and so much fun to be had everywhere
This was a great chance to get together and chat under the clear sky
There was a china mug for the children and elderly and spare mugs to buy
Music playing in the background made the afternoon go with a swing
And to just celebrate the royal wedding with our friends, this was a splendid thing
Now I know that we would like to wish Prince William and his bride a long, happy life together
And to always love each other as much as they do today, for ever and ever
Now we would like to thank all those who helped to organize this special event
All those who cooked the cakes, made the sandwiches, set out tables and the time spent
To make this celebration tea a great success and an afternoon to remember
When we all sat down on our village green, to celebrate the day of the royal wedding together

Bill Estall 2011





QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Monday 4th June
2.00pm - 7.00pm

The village will be celebrating the Jubilee on Monday 4th June 2012 on the Fair Green

Food, drink and entertainment!

Details from **Jo Mules** - 01638 743476



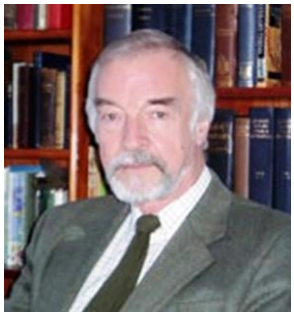
REACH FAIR 2012

The year's fair will be on
Monday 7th May

If you would like to help with the planning or give an hour or two on the day:

Contact **Jan Tabecki** 742552

Albania: Some Impressions



Arriving alone at strange airports at the dead of night is rather like being shipwrecked into a new existence. You have no bearings. Perhaps as I did you seize on the comforting familiarity of the black two-headed eagle of Byzantium on the badges worn by the police: something you know in a strange land.

Once Byzantium's writ had run here among the Αλβάνοί and the country's name in Albanian, *Shqipëria*, 'Land of the Eagle', may refer to this well-endowed bird. But the immigration people were simply impassive, unglamorous as only they can be. No one was waiting. I came out of the ultra-modern and beautiful Mother Teresa airport into a warm darkness pulsing with the busyness of cicadas in the surrounding palms and olives. 'What country friends is this?' 'This is Illyria…'. And so once upon a time it was.

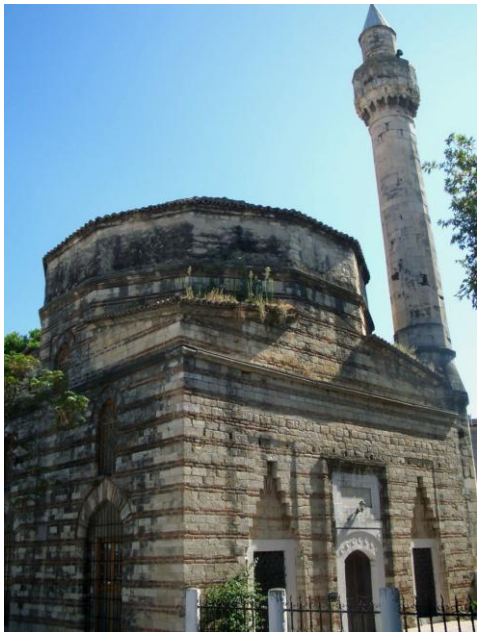


The long drive across the central plain in the dark started on smooth tarmac. It was punctuated at increasingly frequent intervals by half-built roundabouts, aggressive potholes and stretches of, in effect, cart track. By day as I came along that road on my way back, it was no strange sight or surprise to slam on the brakes as a donkey cart turned across two lines of lorry traffic, or to see at the side of the road stalls under bamboo shades that sieved the sunlight, selling fruit and vegetables, or budgerigars for sale far from their ancestral Australia. That first night the headlong headlights picked up those same stalls, now deserted and an extraordinary number of petrol stations, many with big yellow signs promising 'Kastrati'. One could feel threatened: but no cause for the company is named after Giorgios Kastriotis, Scanderbeg, the national hero who for four long decades in the fourteenth century held the Turks at bay (he used the eagle on his seals). The Albanians have always been an awkward lot to their would-be rulers: the beaches and inland every hillock, every coign of vantage are littered with domed concrete pill boxes, just big enough for one man and his gun, dating from times when Albania was beleaguered and had no friends except in China. They were intended to make things difficult, for to attack would have been rather like trying to grasp an angry beehive. The Albanians were a handful for the Venetians; they revolted against Byzantium a thousand years ago and they were testing for the Caesars before them. But the Turks won in the end and many folk converted to Islam. It is the usual story I suppose, most people who like Gallio care for none of these things, accept reluctantly or not *cuius regio, eius religio*. The country now – 30% Orthodox, 10% Catholic and the rest in theory Moslem – shows many signs of that long Turkish dominance, in vocabulary, food and customs. Tall slim white minarets aspire to the sky. Mosque and church in some villages nod to each other politely across the shared street. In Pier church outfaces mosque, each flaunting new paint. And relaxed Moslem villages can grow some lovely wine...

The darkness paled in the west as the car began the climb over the coastal hills: the loom of the lights of Vlora, the venue of the conference I was to attend. The next morning I woke to the sounds of horns and motors which shall bring… well, not Sweeney anyway. The fine new hotel, I had been told (and it was), overlooked University Square in one direction and the Adriatic, or more properly the gulf of Valona/ Ragusa, in the other. My bare feet relished the cool of the marble as I padded across to open the shutters. Across the square the well-mannered University building, now home to high thinking and serious scholarship, was once the CP HQ, devoted to different ideologies and other imperatives. Below in front of me was a plinth, the marble paving round it parenthesised by weeds. On it were two bronze feet, nothing more. Ozymandias was here… Here stood for all time the statue of Hoxha, whom we Brits had helped to power through our support of his fierce partisan resistance to the occupying Germans. They say – the guidebooks – that his shade like Montezuma's exacts a terrible revenge on those who, full of sybaritic thoughts, pursue frivolity in this his land. But I saw little sign of it. The food was sumptuous and imaginative and with a supply of all sorts of fish straight from the sea and with the profusion of fresh vegetables and bracing local wine, how could it not be?

The town is being rebuilt, wholesale and fast. One common sign on plots of land by the road, by the sea, on buildings, says 'Shitest'. There is no comparative to this superlative, it merely means 'For

Sale'. Land speculation is in full swing. A serious bid is in train to cash in on the tourist boom of a so far affluent EU – to catch up with Durres, where once upon a time Diocletian decreed his stately pleasure dome. One hopes they don't having seen what has become of Dyrrachium. A few two storey houses with pierced shutters and outside stair and vines lolling over trellises, remain in the centre. They probably go back to King Zog's time, if not earlier, but their days must be numbered as the rash of ten storey hotels breaks out alongside them. The infant conservation movement lost a major battle when permission was given to build on the site of mediaeval Vlora. Nobody could regret though, despite their historical interest, the passing of the slum blocks of flats jerry-built under communism - yet even there, where the unmade roads reach through the sighing pines to the shore, you can see where someone has occasionally tried to make a hovel Home and Beautiful. The beach stretches for miles and to walk out of the surf, warm even to feet white from English shoes, into the edge of the trees is for a moment – only a moment – to imagine oneself as *heureux qui comme Ulysse a fait un beau voyage*. But no Nausicaa was doing the washing and alas there was no longer Penelope weaving her own story at home. Only a couple of lads on a smelly scooter came out of the trees and in the sand glinted broken glass and in the trees the plastic detritus of modernity (there were no plastic bottles when Odysseus was a lad – might he have tried to send a message home from Calypso's isle?). Yet turn round, look along the bright highway to the westering sun and there a boat is poised with two men standing fishing. Sea, sunset and a picture as old as Time. Odysseus knew this.



In the town along the sea front platoons of toilets, Portaloos – how very thoughtful! English resorts do please copy. These were decorated on the doors and sides with silhouettes of men with crossed legs and women with hands folded modestly over their crotch. Nothing if not clear what they were for. Palm trees with nuts and wide boles remind deliberately – they are very deliberate trees - of Monte Carlo and the Promenade des Anglais. An echo of a world away. The smell of the sea is clear and sharp across the empty beach... Inland the smells are different. Marlboro cigarettes, gas, oil and bitumen. In cafes beneath the slow dappled shade of welcome eucalypts men sat at little tables with tall glasses of mountain water and little cups of thick coffee playing chess and backgammon. No women. Not here anyway but along by the hotels affluent Euroclones frolic in and out of the sea nakedly unabashed by the erstwhile customs of the country. The old men's eyes show something either offence or interest, or memory; perhaps all three. The vast gap between what was so recently normal and what is and will be is everywhere apparent. In the country alongside crones in black with white headscarves, teenage girls sell vegetables and fruit at the side of the road and herd sheep as their mothers did before them. But the young wear the Europewide fashion of tight jeans bleached as if they had sat in something nasty. How did they afford them with what they must earn? The little house with its roof of terracotta tiles nestling in the cool trees of its garden by the sea is elbowed by the concrete cuckoo next to it. Donkey carts, some with awnings, go by, the animals' faces full of thoughtful care, their delicate feet raising little puffs of white dust. On the wide promenade still being finished old Italian buses snort along, frustrating the new BMWs and Mercedes driven by the sort of men who drive new BMWs and Mercedes everywhere. But there are also lots of older beat-up Mercedes with the scars that show the unflinching machismo of their drivers in facing the traffic. To be driven at 110kmh in a Mercedes with a cracked windscreen on a two lane highway, overtaking slow overloaded lorries or those puttering three wheeler carts and what I call lawnmower carts, straight into the path of oncoming lorries is white knuckle stuff. The driver had a badge on his dash which had been sent him from Lourdes. I was glad. We not only escaped disaster but also found the experience after a time even exhilarating, rather like the matador might feel as the bull charges and he turns lithely aside at the last moment. On the seafront at Vlora was a rink for dodgems. One wondered what possible attraction they could have when the real thing was so much faster. Motor scooters some very old, going back to the fashionable young vehicles of the 1960s – how I wanted one! How I loved the wind in one's hair and dreamed of a girl (I had one in mind) who would grace the pillion - dart in and out of the traffic like foraging wasps. The old ladies a-sidesaddle on the pillion no longer look like Audrey Hepburn in *Roman Holiday*. Perhaps they did once; perhaps they still do inside. But again perhaps they look just like their mothers did riding sidesaddle on the backs of depressed donkeys, whitescarved, their old feet in wrinkled black stockings – as one still sees them high in the hills.

And we went up into the hills. You cross the thin coastal plain with its long unfenced plots of land, its plane trees and the sea wind in bamboos in the ditches and you begin the climb up to the pass in a series of unceasing, determined hairpins. We were being taken to the Beauty Spot, the View Point, of Llogara Pass. The brilliant light dulled as we got higher and all of a sudden a hill fog, welcomely clammy as any Lake District offering after the heat of the plain, rolled up the hill and enveloped us and the air was suddenly silenced. A brief lifting allowed a glimpse under the skirt of the cloud to the turquoise sea and the curving strand – no that word is not too precious - far far below. And then the fog rolled in again and the pines sighed and began to drip small beads of moisture. The temperature was perfect.



Flag Pine at Llogara pass

There is one special tree one has to see. The Flag Pine at Llogara pass is graced with one of those brown signs known all over Europe to signify the tourist's duty of wonder, telling you to look at it. It is interesting enough, its shape sculpted by the winds of years. But the Bosnian pines and their ecology are interesting enough without such rarities and these woods hold a few shy bears, wild boar and a good population of eagles and griffin vultures. In the sun-dried open patches bees bustle among the late flowers and lizards lounge. Below the woods innumerable terraces neglected - and when were they ever not? - clamber dizzily high up the steep limestone hills, reminding of the labours of men for thousands of years in this place. Still these are where the grapes and the olives and the crops grow, and the odd horse grazes, while a belled brown cow forages in the dry fields of late summer, or ambles past the scarecrows set to deter blackbirds from the ripe fruit (there are no pigs here, for this is the Moslem part of Albania).

Apricots, figs, melons at their best and stooked millet in the fields make a pattern as old as the settlement of Man as a farmer. Children herd indignant turkeys with long bamboos. Long-nosed sheep driven without sheepdogs superciliously flock by. In the distance a lime kiln smokes exactly of the pattern that lies derelict in the north country I still call home. It is fuelled by wood of olives and the pines from high on the vertiginous slopes.



It's a strange and attractive place. I think I shall go back if they ask me. I am reminded of Crete as it was in the early '60s of Catalonia a decade before that. The old ways have not yet gone, the new are not yet homogenising everything into Eurocynicism. There is still enough there to remind you that making a living need not mean having to make a profit. One hopes that terrible conceptual shift may not take place, as it has everywhere else, but one fears it will. Is humanity happier?

Just above the terrace in Dukat below Llogara, where we were eating fresh young lamb and chips and polenta washed down with wine from up the hill (yet again), someone had stretched a cloth banner across the village street congratulating everyone on the end of Ramadan. We celebrated with them and for them. With pleasure. The conversation was good. A group who had come from four continents, twenty countries, and four religions (and some few from none) found a moment out of time when just being was enough.

And then the transport came to take us down the hill to jobs and status and competition. We promised, as one does, to meet again. We meant it - and probably won't.

Charles Moseley

Scott's Epic Journey



Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Back, Capt Lawrence (Titus) Oates, Capt Robert Falcon Scott, PO Edgar Evans. Front, Lt Henry (Birdie) Bowers, Dr Edward Adrian Wilson





A dinner was given by Corpus Christi College, following a special symposium in Cambridge marking the 100th anniversary of Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, was accompanied by Prince Albert of Monaco who has a deep personal interest in Antarctica. Dafila Scott (above) from Reach, the explorer's granddaughter, also attended the symposium and dinner. Prince Albert hailed Scott as one of the `great pioneers of exploration. Still today his legend resonates with us in an exceptional way because it was such an epic journey in a corner of the world that was very little known'.

Wine Tasting



Once again the wine tasting event proved not to disappoint. The evening commenced with two delightful sparkling wines, a Lindauer Brut NV, a light and easy to drink glass, ideal for an aperitif followed by the Cloudy Bay Pelorus 2006.

The latter is a more complex and richer glass, perhaps more suited to accompany a meal, but equally quaffable!



Hugh de Lacy with Marie Bambrick in support

Then came the 'mystery' white wine, very pale in colour, pungent on the nose and quite different to anything we'd tasted before at any of these events. Chateau Fossechamp 2011, brewed and bottled at the Ditchfield Winery by none other than our very own Grahame Radford with grapes from the flats of a neighbouring villager!



They all look very professional - no one is gulping

Moving on to reds, a good selection of Beaujolais and Riojas followed to accompany the delicious platter of bread and cheeses, not forgetting the aromatic quince paste. Then the penultimate bottle, a sweet dessert wine Chateau Jolys 2008 Jurancon, which would partner well with Christmas pud or a mince pie or two. Although too sweet for my liking, the pineapple colour was nectar to the eyes!

Hugh definitely saved the best till last. A glass of Warre Vintage Port 1977, what can I say? A rich prune and plumy port, claret in colour with a deliciously rich aroma. Everyone enjoyed this tipple and at £95 a bottle, a real treat to the beholder.



Can Marie Bambrick persuade David Parr to try some wine? (is the Pope a Catholic?)

With many thanks to Hugh and Marie for such an enjoyable evening. Hugh's wine knowledge never fails to amaze and Marie's pouring skills are excellent, not to mention her witty conversation. We all very much look forward to the next tasting!

Jo Riches

The **Carol Singing** evening raised £60 and this sum was donated to East Anglian Children's Hospice (E.A.C.H.) which is one of Kate Middleton's chosen charities.

The **Curry Night** made over £400 and this sum will be donated to Amnesty International.

Thank you for supporting these events

Carol Singing and Marie's Curry Night



Raffle delights!



Jan Tabecki chatting with Andrew Towers



The Dunnett family (left) and the Reeds look stumped



From left: Hilary Fielding on piano, Lily Steed, Alice Trump, Benjamin Shackleton and Imogen Trump



Hugh de Lacy serves the Lingleys at the Curry Night



Joss Goodchild wins the bag - Martin is impressed!

Reach Rainbow Crafts Circle

If you fancy learning something new, carrying on with something you have already begun to stitch or make, would like to share ideas, materials or skills or just want to come for a coffee and a chat until you feel inspired to take up a craft and create something, please join us at our introductory session in Reach Village Centre. The opportunities are endless for a variety of different types of meetings, for example, every so often we could have talks or demonstrations from skilled crafts people or amateurs. We could share books or patterns and display our finished paintings, embroidery, cross-stitch and knitting. We could form groups for scrap-book making, calligraphy, painting, sketching, knitting or whatever art or craft you are most interested in.



You might like to contribute to a team effort, such as knitting for premature babies, for homeless people, for the Shoebox Appeals or for rescued battery hens(!), or make a Reach Village Tapestry (ambitious, but why not?). We could put on a public Art and Crafts show, or make things for a stall at Reach Fair, or just keep things low key. It's up to you.

You don't need to be skilled to join in. The idea is to encourage beginners to learn skills. So here's your chance to learn how to knit. Hopefully skilled knitters will volunteer to help. Most of all we want to provide an opportunity for people to have a place to meet and socialise in the village and enjoy belonging to a group, to have space to work alone, in a group, or as part of a team.

Please feel free to bring along any sewing, knitting, crochet, art or craft work you have already begun working on, to show to others (and to carry on making) after the introductory talk at the first meeting. Most of all bring yourself and your ideas and anything else you think might be useful to share, such as books, unwanted materials and knitting needles. We could have a Sales Table and raise funds by selling donated items at reduced cost and a Display Table for items you just wish to let others see for the duration of the session.

The Introductory Meeting will be held at Reach Village Centre at 1.30pm - 3pm on Tuesday 7th February 2012. Main focus: Knitting and stitching.

The second meeting will be held in Reach Village Centre at 1.30pm - 3pm on Tuesday 6th March 2012. Main Focus: Sketching and painting.

The third meeting will be held at Reach Village Centre at 1.30pm - 3pm on Tuesday 3rd April 2012. Main Focus: Calligraphy and card-making.

Entry to the above three meetings will be free of charge.

Zenida McDonald
01638 742029

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

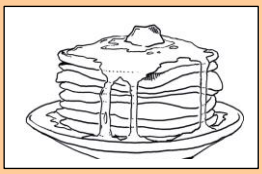
Burwell Mothers' Union
Invites you to a

Coffee Morning
Saturday 11th February 2012

10.30 until noon in The Guildhall

As part of the Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union
Book of Inspirations Marathon Relay 2012

Bring and Buy Stall
Proceeds for Mothers' Union Charities:
AFIA (Away from it All Holidays)
and The Wheels Appeal



SHROVE TUESDAY

5.30 – 7.00pm
21st February 2012
Reach Village Centre

Pizzas and Pancakes for Supper
followed by games

All welcome

Bring along a frying pan and £2 (per child)

Spring has Sprung, the Grass has Ris'….but it's only January!



Seeing butterflies in January is very unusual. Those that over winter as adults, such as Peacocks and Red Admirals, should be hibernating tucked away in sheds and under eaves, but I've spotted three in the first half of January.

The mild spells we've been having this winter are confusing a lot of wildlife; blossoming trees, courting birds and Anglesey Abbey's snowdrops are out two weeks early. Yesterday was very sunny but still rather chilly, so I was surprised to see a Red Admiral flitting around. I just hope it found somewhere sheltered from the deep frost that followed last night.



Activity around our birdfeeders is quite different this year too. The lack of snow and little daytime frost means that birds are less desperate for hand outs compared to the previous two years. I've only seen a flock of long-tailed tits once so far, whereas last year they were round almost daily. We've still had all the usual suspects, plus a couple of greater spotted woodpeckers and a crow. I'm pleased to see the pair of dunnocks are staying for another year – these guys are easily confused with sparrows, but have a darker grey chest and are more timid. I've got a new camera with a 24x optical zoom, so I'm hoping to get some even better wildlife shots… I'll be practicing on the feeding birds!

Alison Lewis

Observations



During the past couple of days I have been fortunate enough to see on my short daily walk to the ponies' field (by Reach Wood) – muntjac and roe deer, two brown hares, rabbits, pheasants, red-legged partridge, male bullfinch, long tailed tits, kestrel, blackbirds, song thrush, robin, wren, goldfinches, grey squirrel, heard an owl and lapwings. All this wildlife within such a small area reminds me just how unique this area is.

Joss Goodchild



24Acres Update



Slow but steady progress is being made with the plans for the 24Acres field. We are hopeful that by the time of the next issue of *Within Reach* we will be able to report an agreement between the Parish Council and the National Trust on the terms of the lease, so that we can go ahead full steam with fundraising for the different projects. Meanwhile…

Archaeology Field Walk

The plans for 24Acres mean that the fields will mainly be grassed over or have trees planted on them. As a result any evidence of past occupation of the site that is lying on top of the soil will be covered up. It's not quite as permanent as building a car park, but it could be a while before the soil surface is revealed again. The National Trust took this opportunity to invite the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (CAFG) to carry out a 'field walk' which took place in early December.



Field walking briefing

I went along with others from Reach to the village green where we gathered around the war memorial as Michael Coles (Field Officer at CAFG) gave us an introduction to what we were looking for. We were searching mainly for evidence of Neolithic settlement of two kinds. The first was what he described as 'pot boilers' – lumps of flint with a fine mosaic pattern on the surface. It was explained to us that this was caused by the flints having been heated to a high temperature in a fire and then used to cook food – a kind of primitive 'slow cooker'. The second was pieces of flint that showed signs of having been worked, or best of all, some actual flint tools.

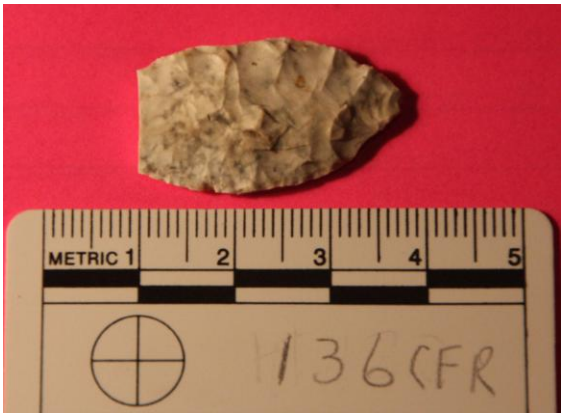
The flints are picked up from lower down in the soil and come to the surface when fields are ploughed. Having been shown some tantalizing pictures of arrow heads that had been recently recovered from Oily Hall a few weeks previously we set off.



Eyes down

In case you are new to 'field walking' this is what it involved. CAFG members, accompanied by people from the village, walked in transects a few metres apart scouring the surface of the soil for the 'pot boilers' and worked flints. Anything that was found was bagged up and tied to a bamboo cane which was stuck in the ground close to where it was found. The finds were then gathered and labelled and their position marked with a Global Positioning System (GPS). The finds were later mapped, to show areas where they were concentrated (and therefore where settlement or intensive human activity of some kind was most likely).

It was cold, grey and overcast but calm and dry when we set off. By the time we were finishing off an hour or so later it was wet and windy. Any expectations of uncovering a 'Reche Hoard' of gold coins were to be disappointed, but judging from what was found the previous inhabitants around Reach spent a lot of time cooking even if they left any pillaging to others.



Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead

This is the report provided by Michael Coles:

"Cambridge Archaeology Field Group members led a field walk on land recently acquired by the National Trust at Reach. On Sunday the 11th December 2011 we were joined by 19 members of the public from Reach, a great community effort. On the 18th December, in a snow storm, CAFG members finished the field walking. The result was the recovery of humanly worked flint and burnt flint over an area in the middle of the field, this probably indicates a site where people camped along the small river valleys in what is now the Fens. Included with the waste flakes of flint was at least one tool - a leaf shaped arrow head dating from the Neolithic period at around 2000BC. This site had not been recorded previously so adds to our understanding of the way people lived in the Neolithic period".

You can see the plot of worked flint (right) and if this has whetted your appetite for archaeology you can find out more about the CAFG on their website: http://www.cafg.net/default.aspx

Visit to Little Downham

Members of the 24Acres Committee also made a visit to Little Downham, where the communities of Pymoor, Little Downham and Oxmoor have been developing a community orchard, woodland, wildlife area and grazing pasture since 1995 (website: www.littledownham.net/conservation/index.shtml).

They are now adding community bee-keeping to the activities on the site. It was helpful to see, hear and learn from their experiences – both successes and challenges.

Working document

Finally, a reminder that the Working Document, an evolving description of the plans for the 24Acres site can be found on the Reach Village website, together with contact details of those leading the various initiatives (go to http://www.reach-village.co.uk/24Acres_Project.html).

David Thomas

Key to Plot:

= >6 per 10msq

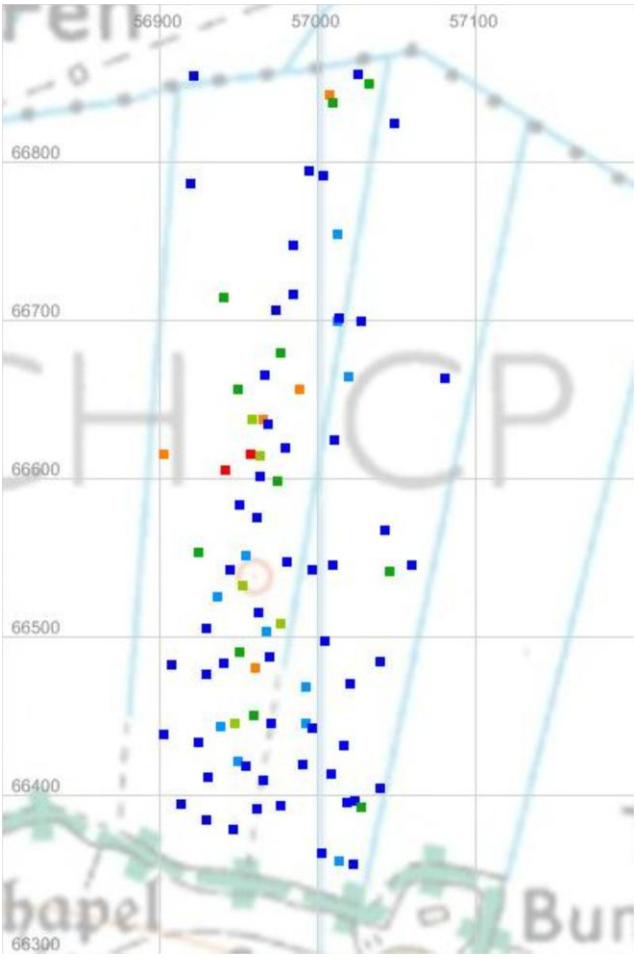
= 5 per 10msq

= 4 per 10msq

= 3 per 10msq

= 2 per 10msq

= 1 per 10msq



[This page is best viewed from the village website – you can see the colours!]

Contact details of those leading the various 24Acres initiatives:

- **Coppice**: Malcolm Brearley (mjbrearley@btinternet.com)
- **Living Willow**: Emma Mitchell (741063 emma@minniedog.co.uk)
- **Community Orchard**: David Thomas (742676 david.thomas2000@yahoo.co.uk)
- **Ménage**: Liz Tabecki (742552 liz@stageoneinteriors.co.uk)
- **Horticultural therapy**: Sarah Keutgen (745244)
- **Cricket pitch**: Ross Clark (743725 rossjclark@aol.com)

Pony Fun!



Christmas holidays should be fun, and not all eating, drinking, and slumped in front of telly, so time for pony fun on Gareth's sheep field. Sometime during the long expanse of the holidays would be ideal.

I picked a date and sent the word out to a few people. There are many more young riders in Reach than were invited and I apologise to those who were left out, but I wanted this, the first pony event we held, to come off successfully with no stampedes or people crying when their ponies tanked off with them. So we had seven ponies and a few more riders, plus accompanying parents/helpers.



Imogen Trump on Wendy (rear), Alice Trump on John (foreground), and Minnie Fordham on Pickwick (right)

Imogen Trump was a great help in providing ideas on what races we could hold and with a little help from the Pony Club website on how far apart to plant bending poles etc. I turned up on the morning of December 30th 2011 with electric fencing posts for bending poles/markers, Gwylim's socks to put over the ends so no poked eyes, buckets and potatoes, plastic mugs and trays, sawdust for marking out start and finish lines, plus plenty of sweets and hot chocolate.

A lot of the Pony Club games are quite clever – more about control and expertise than sheer speed. So managing to guide your pony whilst balancing a mug on a tray is good for your riding skills. Canter to the far end and walk back without breaking out of walk or you have to do a circle is good for your control. Loads of expertise and control was demonstrated. We split into two teams: Team Trump with Sophie Bell and Minnie Fordham on Pickwick, Alice Trump on John and Imogen Trump on Wendy. Team Mr Chips with Molly Mercer on Mr Chips, Daisy Miller on Cardi, Susie Dickens on Stanley, and Jodie Halpin-McDonald on Jetty. Overall Team Trump came out on top but that may have been down to the speed of the lead-reiners who all need to have for breakfast what Jo Trump has, as I've never seen anyone lead a pony at a full canter for such a distance.



Molly Mercer on Mr Chips

I had a number of people asking me why I was doing this and there was definitely a moment or two when I wondered too, but I think the conclusion was that it was good fun. We hope it's the first of many, especially if the outdoor arena on the National Trust 24Acres comes off. There are certainly a huge number of ponies in the area. I think also that some of us adults and happy hackers wouldn't mind mucking around and doing the same sort of thing, as long as no one was watching us – all us big kids who never went to Pony Club!

Lesley Boyle



Foreground: Jodie Halpin-McDonald on Jetty

Pony Fun!



Jo Trump (left) and Lesley Boyle



Cleo on Cardi



From left Molly Mercer, and Jo, Imogen and Alice Trump

A Bit of Cold Weather at Last



What a mild winter we have had so far. My spring came in late December rather than February this year when my potted Iris reticulata started to flower. There have been some amazing flowers out before Christmas, ones that shouldn't have flowered until spring.

There is a forsythia in Exning that was flowering in early December when it still had its leaves on and there are still roses hanging around. These last few cold days have at least slowed the spring bulbs down. It has been tempting to start doing spring jobs in the garden early to get a head start, but this may be unwise as plants that have been disturbed may well not survive a cold snap.



You can take however, hardwood cuttings now. It's easy. Shrubs such as Cornus, Salix, Weigelia, Rosa, Forsythia and Buddleia can be taken during the winter. You need about 15cm of last year's growth. Cut just below a bud then trim the top down to just above a bud. If you have some reasonably fresh rooting hormone dip the bottom of your cutting before poking it into your pot of compost. This pot needs to be kept in the shade and must not dry out. Sinking it into the soil in a shady place makes this easier. If you don't have pots of compost and rooting hormone just try making your cutting and poking it to about 2/3rds of its length into the soil near to the parent shrub. During the following spring and summer the cutting will callus and roots should appear so that in the autumn you can move your rooted cutting to its final position or pot it so you can give it to a friend. This is a great method for fruiting currants, so that one purchased plant can make you six plants easily by the following year.

Janet Hall

Bottisham Village College Adult and Community Learning

Courses and Workshops for the Spring Term 2012

We have the following **NEW 5-week courses** starting after half term from 21st February:

Ceramics
Cookery: Pasta
Cookery: Traditional Thai
Counselling: Introduction (10 weeks)
History of Art
Knitting for Beginners
Life Drawing
Personal Safety for Women

Weekend Workshops - Saturday 10th March
Dressmaking
Knitting: Next Steps
Mosaic in a Day
Photoshop
Upholstery and Chair Caning
Woodturning

Beekeeping: Introduction – Sat/Sun 12th/13th May

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

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

News from Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey



Planning permission for a new multi-user bridge over Burwell Lode, which will form part of the Lodes Way, was approved by East Cambridgeshire District Council in early December.

We are now working hard to raise the finance for the bridge, so it's not possible at this stage to give a date when construction may commence. The new bridge is designed to incorporate a segregated channel to enable our herds of konik ponies and highland cattle to roam between Adventurers' and Burwell Fen's. We've recently published a colour brochure on our Extensive Grazing Programme – if you would like a copy please collect one from the Visitor Centre or e-mail your address to wickenfen@nationaltrust.org.uk and we will get a copy delivered to you.



Last year work was completed on a low level earth bund enclosing 80 hectares of Burwell Fen, which will help retain water to assist in the formation of grazing marsh. Earlier results are encouraging with regular sightings of short eared owls (up to 15 at a time), kestrels, buzzards, marsh and hen harriers over the newly developing habitat. We have had numerous phone calls from bird watchers and walkers concerned at individuals trampling all over the fen trying to get close up sightings and pictures of the short eared owls. We would ask that people keep to the public footpaths whilst viewing the birds otherwise they will very quickly be scared away.

Construction of our wild camping area on Oily Hall was held over from December and finally commenced in mid January. Hopefully the four camping pods should be completed and the site ready for the beginning of March. We are aiming to attract bookings from organised parties, such as scouts and guides and will be charging £25 per night to hire the site. Enquiries for bookings should be sent to our Community Warden, Lois Baker (e-mail lois.baker@nationaltrust.org.uk)

If you have visited the fen recently you will have noticed that our traditional Fen Lighter has been removed from the water and placed near the Boathouse. Unfortunately deterioration to the internal structure of the boat meant we had little option but to retire the boat from service. We have recently placed an order for a new vessel which should arrive in February. The new boat will have a greater range than the old boat giving us the ability to provide tours exploring the wider waterways of the area.

Many of us will have made New Year's resolutions to loose a pound or two and take more exercise – unfortunately there's a fair chance that for some readers their enthusiasm may already be on the wane. To help boost you resolve why not join our regular Health Walks which run every Wednesday at 10am. Each walk lasts an hour, covering a distance of 3-4 miles and the best bit - it's free! Meet in the main car park at 10am if you fancy tagging along. If you fancy a more active walk then why not try a spot of Nordic Walking. Local instructor, Oliver Gynn will be offering guided walks on Thursday 2nd & 23rd February and 8th and 22nd March. Oliver is running a restricted mobility walk at 1pm and a healthy lifestyle walk at 2pm on each day. Walks cost £5, which includes instruction and loan of poles. To book a place please contact Oliver on 07947 835522.



Down at Anglesey Abbey the magnificent snowdrops are in full flower during February. The gardens have an amazing collection of 250 species of the delicate white flowers who announce the arrival of spring. The first phase of the car park extension has now been completed, providing an additional 160 car parking spaces which should help ease parking congestion at peak periods. Construction of the car park uncovered some interesting archaeological features which were investigated by a team from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Excavations revealed two possible roundhouses and a square of postholes, likely to represent an upstanding granary or platform. Fifteen prehistoric pits, probably used for food storage and rubbish disposal were also

uncovered. Some of the pits contained pottery, small quantities of animal bone and burnt stones used in the cooking of food. A small fragment from a shale bracelet was also recovered. The archaeologists believe that the structures are suggestive of a small farmstead, possibly part of a larger settlement extending over a considerable area. Artefacts recovered from the site are currently undergoing detailed analysis which should provide clues into the date and development of the settlement. Environmental samples removed from the pits, ditches and post holes are also being processed which should provide information about the environment and economy of the area during the late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Ages. David Thomas has prepared a report of the recent field walking exercise on the 24Acres site appears on page 12.

Forthcoming events at Anglesey Abbey include **Mother's Day Weekend** 17th-18th March. Why not treat your mum to a special **Mother's Day Tea**, tickets £12.95 adults and £6.50 for children. Discover Lord Fairhaven's amazing Clock collection on our **Spring Forward – Clock Study Morning** as we put the clocks forward to welcome the start of British Summer Time, Monday 26th March 10am – 1pm £15. If you got a digital camera for Christmas why not book on a **Digital Photography Workshop** focusing how to photograph spring flowers on Wednesday 28th March 10am - 4pm £60.

At Wicken we have our regular **Mucky Pups** arts and crafts activity for pre-schoolers on Wednesday 8th February and Wednesday 14th March £3.95. We're planning a wild half term at Wicken with the following exciting activities on the menu: **Wild Geocaching Trail** – Monday 13th February (we will e-mail you the co-odinates if you wish to use your own GPS receiver or hire a pre-programmed receiver for £5); **Wild Art** – Tuesday 14th 10.30am or 2pm £4.50; **Wild Wickit Adventures** – based on the Wickit Chronicles storybooks, Wednesday 15th 10.30am or 2pm £4.50; and a **Wild Cycle Ride** - follow the clues around Adventurer's Fen which we will text to your mobile phone on Thursday 16 February £2.

Finally, spring is on the way and its time to get the garden tidied up for the long summer days ahead – hopefully! To help in your quest, Nadine Anderson, will leading a series of **Willow Weaving Workshops** in March. On Saturday 3rd we have **Border Edges and Hurdles,** 10.30am - 4.30pm £55; and on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th 10am - 1pm or 2pm - 5pm, we have **Making Traditional Plant Supports** £28. Pre-booking is essential for all events – for events at Anglesey Abbey please call 01223 810080 or for Wicken Fen call 01353 720274

Howard Cooper
National Trust – Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen



Burwell and Reach Car Scheme

If you are unable to use conventional transport the scheme can help you arrange a journey from Burwell or Reach.

The type of journeys you can make:
Doctors, Dentist, Chiropodist, Opticians, village shopping or visits to relatives/friends at home or in hospital.

Transport **cannot be provided** for hospital **Out Patient** appointments

Supported by Cambridgeshire County Council

Contact Hours: 8.30am – 5.00pm Monday – Friday. Please give at least **48 hours notice** for transport request.

01638 742543 answer phone.

You will be contacted after you have left your request for a journey.

CROSSWORD WINNER

Congratulations to the winner of Zenida's Crossword No.10, Tony Noble of Soham. A £5 Book Token is being sent to you, Tony. Thanks to all who entered.

SOLUTION TO ZENIDA'S CROSSWORD No. 10

ACROSS: 1. MERRY CHRISTMAS. 8. THREE. 9. BONFIRE. 11. GUY. 12. SISTER. 13. KING. 15. CUB. 16. PUDDING. 19. AS. 20. HERB. 21. ANDREW. 22. TREE. 23. HENNA. 24. TIMER. 26. HOG. 28. NUN. 29. ICE. 32. CLAUS. 33. GEM. 35. SHARE. 36. ROCKET. 38. NUTS. 39. BAUBLES. 40. CRACKERS. 41. FAWKES.

DOWN: 1. MINCE. 2. ROBINS. 3. YON. 4. RARITY. 5. MARY. 6. STOCKING. 7. ARDENT. 10. REMEMBRANCE. 11. GROUSE. 14. THANKSGIVING. 15. CHESTNUTS. 16. PARTRIDGE. 17. PENNY. 18. ADVENT. 25. MAGDALENE. 27. GAL. 30. EMMANUEL. 31. DUCK. 32. CAROLS. 34. STABLE. 37. STAR.

Burwell Women's Institute

At the Burwell Women's Institute Meeting on the 24th November 2011 Barbara Redman, who lives in Burwell and took up paper crafting some 15 years ago, demonstrated how to make an 'Exploding' Box.

Each of the Members was given materials prepared by Barbara which allowed them to make a box to take home. Barbara also kindly gave each Member a chocolate to place inside their finished box. It was a very enjoyable activity. There were also many items made by Barbara on display for Members to purchase. Barbara makes cards, decorative boxes, aprons, bags etc. and sells them at Craft Fairs and at the local Farmers' Markets. She also gives demonstrations of her craft-making to groups. Barbara was heartily thanked for providing us with such an enjoyable evening.

Jenny Rogers and Jenny Harrison gave a talk about the Jewellery Making weekend they had attended at Denman College and displayed the beautiful silver jewellery they had made there.

To celebrate Burwell W.I's 74th birthday we had drinks and iced cake.

In December some W.I. Members went on a shopping trip to Norwich.

On 7th December Burwell W.I. Members enjoyed a pleasant evening meal at The Rosery, Exning. Our President was away in Niger, helping at a school and we hope that she has had a safe return.

On the 26th January 2012 Mrs Bev Briggs gave a talk about 'My Job as a Personal Shopper'. The competition was for the Prettiest Belt.

Members were reminded that annual subscriptions should be renewed at the January meeting. Also forms are available for the 200 Club. Voting forms for Your Choice are on page 29 of the W.I. Life magazine. Your voting form should have been brought to the January Meeting.

The Jumble Sale will be on 11th February 2012 at the Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell. The hall will be available for donations of items from 11am and the sale will begin later when the stalls are all set up.

At the February 23rd Meeting Mr Geoffrey Evans will give a talk entitled 'The Life of a Racehorse - from Birth to Racecourse'. The competition will be for a horse racing memorabilia item.

The Burwell W.I. Annual Meeting will be on March 29th when the speaker will be Mrs Rachel Conn who is a solicitor practising in Burwell. The competition will be for the most words of two or more letters that can be made from the letters in the word PRESIDENT.

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

At the Burwell Mothers' Union Meeting on the 23rd November 2011 Kay Coe gave a most interesting talk about the people who wrote some of our favourite hymns. On the 7th December there was a Christmas Craft Evening with mince pies. On the 15th December there was a Christmas Party. The New Year got off to a good start with an excellent dinner on January 4th 2012 at the Wheatsheaf Public House, Stow-Cum-Quy, which was attended by 16 members. On January 25th Pat Chalmers gave a talk about 'The Life of a Church Warden'.

Burwell Mothers' Union Diary for February/March:

1 Feb 7.30pm	Faith in the Family Discussion
8 Feb 10.00am	M.U. Communion at St. Mary's
11 Feb 10.30am – 12 noon	Bring and Buy Sale, Coffee Morning and Signing of the Ely Diocesan MU Book of Inspirations Marathon Relay at the Guildhall, next to St. Mary's Church.
22 Feb 2.30pm	Craft.
7 Mar 7.30pm	Bye Buy Childhood Campaign. Helen Banyard
18 Mar 10am	Mothering Sunday Service at St Mary's
26 Mar 2.30pm	Lady Day Service at St. Andrew's, Soham
28 Mar 2.30pm	Beryl Waterson - Sinai Reflections

For more information please contact Susan Baker on 01638 741791.

Zenida McDonald

Ross's Reflections



I had a theory the other week: one of those niggling little ideas that eats away at the back of your brain and cannot be instantly satisfied. It was this: from the top of Hangman's Hill – which is the summit of the Devil's Dyke, just the other side of the B1102 – the dyke slightly changes direction.

Look towards Wood Ditton and it is almost in a south easterly direction; look the other way, towards Reach and it is just a tad more northerly in direction. What if, I thought, it had been deliberately laid out, in that delightful pagan way, to be aligned in one direction with sunrise on the winter solstice and in the other direction with sunset on the summer solstice? It certainly looked promising: I had noticed on early morning walks that as the mornings continued to draw in, sunrise was gradually drifting further and further towards Wood Ditton. There was only one way to test my theory: to get up early on the 22nd December and get up to Hangman's Hill ready for sunrise at approximately 8.12 am. I merely had to hope for a clear day.



And clear it was. But unfortunately I overslept. I hurried up the dyke, but the sun popped up before I had even got as far as the old railway line. But from what I observed on the adjoining days, sunrise on the solstice occurs just to the east of the dyke as you look towards Wood Ditton. As for the other half of the theory, I have already put it in my diary that I must get up to Hangman's Hill for 9.15 pm on the 21st June to see if the sun sets over Reach. Or maybe someone else has got a theory as to why the dyke slightly changes direction on an otherwise straight journey from Reach to Wood Ditton.

I suppose it could just have been bad workmanship.

On a different subject if anyone wants an allotment there are three plots currently available down Barston Drove. Each is 12 yards by 12 yards and is perfectly good land when you have dug it a bit. Water is available nearby in ditch. Do let me know if you are interested at rossjclark@aol.com or on 743725

Ross Clark
01638 743725
07967 121654

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 £3,816.07! Let us have your ideas as to how it should be spent.

£750 was donated to Swaffham Prior Cubs and Scout Group to purchase some tents for camping.

Ross Clark
Chair
743725 rossjclark@aol.com

Meeting Bill Estall



Q. What is your full name and where were you born?
A. William Edward Albert Estall. Edward was my father's name and Albert my grandfather's. I was born in Newmarket.

Q. What primary school did you go to?
A. I started at Isleham primary school and then went to Exning primary school when we moved. The schools were strict and they were both good schools.

Q. When did you leave school to go to work?
A. I left the school in Newmarket, a new school near the gas works, when I was 13. We moved to Portsmouth where my dad worked in an aircraft factory. I worked in an ironmonger as a delivery boy.



Bill and Jean c.1940

Q. What was your employment?
A. I worked for a long time on the land. After I left the army and got married I worked in the building industry in Cambridge until I retired at the age of 65.

Q. What did the War mean for you?
A. I was called up just before my 18th birthday and I ended up in India for just over a year. I came out of the army and worked on the land. In 1940 we moved to Reach where we lived at Delph Cottage on Great Lane. It was then two cottages. We moved into our Ditchfield house in 1952 when it was built.



Q. What are your most fond memories of Reach?
A. The tug of war over the lode was a lot of fun with the married men pulling against the single men. The single men mostly won – with the help of women. We attracted over a thousand people at each event and we collected a lot of money for the village. The Americans used to pull against the farmers. After it was all over their coach man was thrown into the water which was by then very muddy. Our referee was Mr Len Warren, King Len as he was known. He would stand in the water, mud up to his waist, water up to his chest and hold the rope in the centre ready for the start. Great fun was had by all.

On the frozen lode we would skate to Upware. We pushed a car on to the frozen lode once – an Austin 7 – the ice cracked but it didn't break. In the summer we would swim in the lode. We also laid a fir tree across the lode and would topple each other off.

Q, Is Reach just a quiet little backwater place or has it seen its fair share of excitement?

A. We've had our fair share of excitement. We've held a lot of events to raise money to convert the old school to the village centre. We had a very good "Tarts and Tramps" do and on bonfire night we would have a large fire on the green.

Q. Has the Fair changed over the years?
A. It's changed a bit. It used to be just a fair like Cambridge Midsummer Common fair. It's always been opened by the mayor and had maypole dancing.



Bill with his first son Adrian

Q. And how did you meet your wife?
A. Jean lived in Swaffham Prior so she was a local girl. We were married in Cambridge Registry office. We never had a honeymoon, people couldn't afford to go away in those days but we've holidayed a lot since.



Bill and Jean on holiday abroad

Q. Do you have children?
A. We have two boys, Adrian and Roland and one girl, Beverley. They all live locally. We have four granddaughters, four grandsons and two great-granddaughters. Who could ask for more, they are our life.

Q. How long have you been writing poems? What is your inspiration?
A. I've been writing poems since 1940. When I was with the War Ag we used to dig up bog oaks, pull them to the side of the road, split them and they would be towed away. At the time I heard of a character, Whippit Quick the Cat Burglar and my first poem came into my head:

If down the fen you leave wood. Then this must be firmly understood, if you don't collect it quick someone will come and whip it quick.

I wrote it on the wall of a concrete hut where we used to have dinner. The poem just popped into my head, and they continue to do so. I heard a country and western story about a boy who lost his dad and I thought I could write something like that. I have written more than 200 poems. I've had a small booked published, had some in the Cambridge Evening News and of course the village magazine. I also paint; watercolours and birds.

Q. Can you cook?
A. Definitely yes. I make a lovely cup of tea and I am the Microwave King.

Q. What is your favourite meal?
A. Now an omelette, but I used to love rabbit pie when my mum was alive.

Q. Are you handy round the house?
A. Yes I can paint.

Q. If you were stranded on a desert island what book would you want to have?
A. How to make a boat!

Q. What music do you like?
A. Country and western.

Q. What is your philosophy on life?
A. I always think of what my dad used to say: always do your best, try and be honest and don't rely on your luck because it doesn't work.

Claire Halpin-McDonald

Bottisham Village College

Courses and Workshops for Spring Term 2012

Details are on pages 16

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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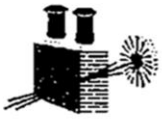

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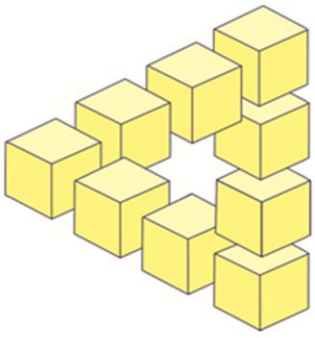

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One of the most confusing areas in internet services is 'broadband speed', with exaggerated claims by providers and disappointed customers.

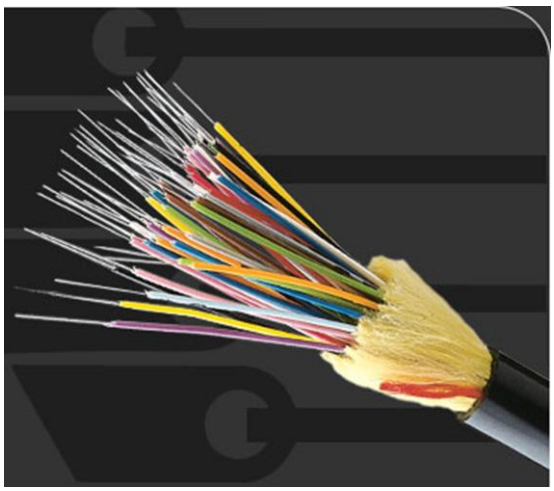
This article attempts to explain the main issues and highlights some of the differences between the RaSP network and the more commonly used phone line based services.

There are genuine difficulties in designing communication networks. Any network whether it be a road system or a data network will have peaks and troughs in its number of users which have to be catered for: a trunk road that does not accommodate the normal commuting peaks will rapidly become unpopular (the A14 being a case in point). Data networks will generally also have regular peaks and troughs. A more contentious area is the rarer extreme peaks (for example traffic using the M25 Dartford crossing on a Bank Holiday); in general these rarer peaks will not be fully catered for because to provide the capacity needed for rare events results in a system that is operating far below its capacity for most of the time which is often uneconomic.



A telecoms network is similar to a road network in having side streets and lanes connecting to regional roads which then connect to major trunk roads for long distance journeys. In telecoms networks the side streets and lanes are copper wires running between telephone exchanges and subscribers' homes with very limited speed capability and the regional roads and trunk roads are optical fibres which can carry huge amounts of data at very high speeds quite cheaply by sending rapid pulses of light down hair-like threads of glass.

BT and Virgin are gradually replacing some of the slow copper wires in densely populated areas by laying optical fibres to within 100 metres of subscribers' homes and then having only short final connections in copper (known as 'fibre to the curb' or FTTC). This however is currently uneconomic in rural areas where the numbers of potential subscribers are too low to justify the high costs of laying new buried fibre cables. Unfortunately it is in rural areas that homes tend to be at larger distances from their local exchange resulting in longer lengths of copper wire and even worse broadband speeds.



The RaSP network takes advantage of the happy accident that a computer software company operating out of Reach paid BT a large amount of money to lay a high speed optical fibre link into the centre of the village. When the company eventually departed, RaSP was born and created a high speed broadband network by linking homes to the optical fibre using the then new technology of high speed radio links (avoiding the buried cable problem).

While RaSP avoids making high profile claims about its connection speeds, users find that, following a recent significant upgrade, they generally get a consistent 5Mb/s speed at all times of the day (enough for snappy internet downloads and high definition TV streaming). This compares with around 2Mb/s for phone line based internet in the area (sometimes much worse). RaSP business users are often pleasantly surprised to find that the upload speed is as fast as the download speed (a big advantage for connecting remote users and offsite file storage). Phone line based systems always prioritise download (incoming) speeds with upload (outgoing) speeds typically 5 - 10 times slower.

Hugh de Lacy

Days Gone By



Blondie topped the charts in February 1979 with “Heart of Glass” only to be overtaken at the end of the month by the Bee Gees with “Tragedy”.

Gloria Gaynor finished as No. 1 in March with “I will survive”.

In the USA, there was a major nuclear accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, 10 miles south-east of the Pennsylvania capital Harrisburg.

Concern mounted in the days following the accident as investigations showed serious damage to the nuclear fuel rods which threatened a melt-down at the plant.



The accident was caused by a combination of human error and equipment failure and attracted enormous public attention, although nobody died as a direct result of the accident and subsequent radioactive fall-out.

Research released in 2002 showed incidences of cancer in the area were not significantly higher than elsewhere. Three Mile Island remains the largest nuclear incident in US history.

In London, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary Airey Neave was killed by a car bomb as he left the House of Commons car park. The bomb, said to be highly sophisticated, exploded as Mr Neave began driving up the exit ramp shortly before 3.00pm.

The 63-year-old Conservative MP, known for his tough line on anti-IRA security, was taken to Westminster Hospital where he died from his injuries. Two groups, the Provisional IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army, claimed they carried out the killing.



On a somewhat lighter note, football club Nottingham Forest clinched Britain's first £1M transfer deal.

England forward Trevor Francis signed for Brian Clough's League and Cup winning side after eight seasons with Birmingham City.

Allowing for inflation, £1M in 1979 is equivalent to approximately £3.8M today - so when you think that Chelsea recently paid Liverpool £50M for Fernando Torres, it becomes clear what a disgusting level of inflation there has been in the football transfer market over the intervening years.

In Reach, the village magazine welcomed the Parr family (Cliff and Helen) to Ditchfield – where pleasingly they still remain.

In the last issue of *Within Reach* I mentioned that the *Out of Reach* team had purchased a second hand duplicator for £75 – using money loaned to them by the Parish Council. I questioned whether this had ever been paid back – and now I have the answer – yes it was.

To raise the money, Joyce Blocksage had the idea of a “Knit a Mile” evening. Villagers came along, with sponsorship, the aim being to knit something with a combined length of 1 mile.

It seems that this was not achieved but the event raised the princely sum of £81.09p which was more than enough to pay off the loan.

It won’t surprise you to know that Joyce Harrison knitted the most and thanks also go to Albert [Johnson?] who apparently “didn’t let the women have it all their own way”.

There was also a questionnaire at the time which a number of villagers filled in. I won’t go into detail but it won’t surprise you to know that the vast majority of villagers “like Reach as it is and didn’t want any changes”.

One interesting comment was that most people “would like to see more trees planted round the village, particularly on approach roads” – with limes being the favoured variety of tree.

As many of you may know Nick Acklam has recently proposed just such a project, planting 60 lime trees on the Swaffham Road between Snakehall Farm and the outskirts of the village to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.



Good progress is being made – the Parish Council has approved the idea and funding should not be a problem – there are plenty of grants available. The utility companies are being helpful – we will need to make sure we don't disturb their underground "assets".

You will be kept informed of progress on this lovely project and if all goes well we'll be looking for volunteers for the Planting Day in October.

David Parr

davidmparr@btinternet.com
744081



Our Advertisers

When the new team took over "Out of Reach" and turned it into "Within Reach" we were delighted to see that we had inherited excellent finances. Great thanks go to Freda Lloyd who had organised the advertising previously.

This meant that during our first year we were able to create the new, larger in size and in pages with colour covers "Within Reach" by using up some of those reserves. But we always had the target of breaking even during year 2012 – and thanks to our advertisers that is exactly what we can do.

We have a number of new advertisers this year . . . .

Sharon runs the **Barber's Shop in Burwell** (adverts page 5) and I can vouch for her haircutting skills.

Bob Skilton (adverts page 20) is a **builder** who has worked in the village and who Juliet Vickery and David Thomas are very pleased with.

If you need a dentist then can I suggest you go and talk to Mabel Saw at the **Burwell Dental Surgery** (adverts page 6).

The **White Swan at Quy** has new owners and it is well worth a visit (adverts page 24). Martin Read is the new Manager in charge and together with his partner Kat Skews and Head Chef Paul Johnson (ex Crown and Punchbowl) he's made a big difference to the pub. If you mention that you read about it in the Within Reach magazine they will take **5%** off the price of your meal for your first two visits as long as you're not using a voucher or any other promotion.

If you are looking for **logs/firewood** then we have a new advertiser in **Steven Newman** from **Newman Farms in Bottisham** (adverts page 11). I've purchased logs from him recently and was very pleased with the price, the quality and the service.

A.P.C. are a **pest control** company based locally who can deal with most irritating creatures – sadly other than the human variety (adverts page 20).

Solar Power is all the rage nowadays with the government supporting such installations. **Beechdale Energy** is advertising with us and if you are interested in this form of energy, please give them a call (adverts page 18).

For an excellent **supermarket** and **fuel supplier**, head to **Budgens** – I do (adverts page 6).

Our advertisers are key and we would ask all villagers, if you need a product or service, please include them within your possible suppliers.

Little Windmills Pre-school

This term we welcomed back Yvonne Occomore at our Friday sessions.

Thank you to Reverend Eleanor Williams and Olivia Coles for leading us at our Christmas service in the church. This was followed by a visit from Father Christmas himself who was able to fit us in for a visit before the big day. The children were enthralled.



This half term we will be looking at keeping ourselves healthy and caring for ourselves. We will be learning about fruit and vegetables, lots of cooking and trying different tastes, reading about foods and health-related topics.



Tilly the Tractor paid us a visit from Snakehall Farm to collect bottles for their greenhouse. The children had great fun with their designs for the bottle competition. Tilly waited very patiently while the children took turns to sit in the driving seat.

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



REACH FAIR 2012 - PROGRAMME FRONT COVER COMPETTION

Open to all children who live in Reach and/or attend Swaffham Prior School.

Design an eye catching front cover for the Reach Fair Programme.

You might think of the Fair and its rides, the Diamond Jubilee or the Olympics as your sources of inspiration.

Your design must be submitted on an A4 size sheet of paper, be portrait in orientation (not landscape) and can be black and white or colour.

Please ensure your entry is labelled on the reverse with your name and age.

Only one entry per child
Age group: 5 - 15years

Submit your entry to Jo Riches, 5 Burwell Road, Reach no later than **Sunday 26th February 2012**

The winner will be chosen by committee with a prize being awarded for first place.
Good luck!!

Swaffham Prior Primary School

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We had a very busy end of term in December and very much enjoyed some special events including 'Grandpa's Nativity' by Foundation/KS1 children.

The children all confidently performed and sang and the play was a great success. Jeremy Summerell, our Bishop's Visitor, led our Carol service at St Mary's and we were treated to a wonderful range of musical contributions and readings.

'History off the Page' made a visit to the school on the last Wednesday of term. KS2 children dressed up as Tudors and were taken on a trip back in time. They experienced life as a Tudor and in the morning were able to take part in a range of activities. Some became scholars and practised writing using a quill pen, some were chandlers and made candles by dipping long wicks in melted beeswax, some practised their leather working skills and others made posies of spices and herbs to ward away the plague. Another group became apothecaries and offered to drill holes in your skull if you had a headache! The day culminated in a feast during which they entertained each other with songs and dance. All in all it was a fantastic day and a wonderful day of learning!



We have had a positive start to the new term and the children have been thinking about New Year resolutions. Our elephant tree sculpture in the hall is about to be covered in leaves written on by children and adults who form our school community, outlining what we would like to achieve by Easter. It will be interesting to see who meets their target.

We have lots of events planned for the term ahead including, a trip to Burwell House by Years 5 and 6, a Choir Festival and Science week. We are also thinking ahead to the Olympics and Paralympics and will shortly start following the progress of some of our British athletes. Exciting times are ahead!

Hannah Curtis
Head teacher

Website: www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

The Bandersnatch

……he has claws as long as the longest sword made in Manchester. He has teeth as hard as steel. Its eyes are yellow and glowing like a firefly. The Bandersnatch sounds like a volcano when larva explodes out of the top. His jaws make the sound of the loudest beast in Jabberwocky land. On the tum tum tree his claws tap and snatch like little pointy knives cutting up a roast potato. As he is the only Bandersnatch in the world you can tell when he approaches, as his smell is like a stench that would knock out a fly.

Archie Fordham



Archie's also pretty good at football

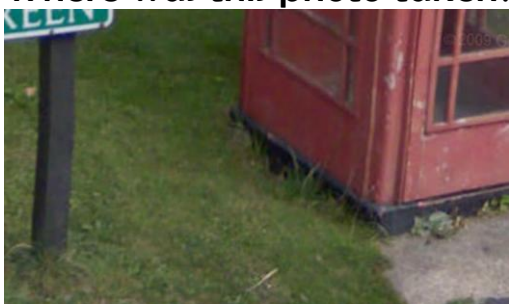
Kids Page!!



This year, Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, is on Tuesday 21st February.

Valentine's Day is the 14th February

Where was this photo taken?

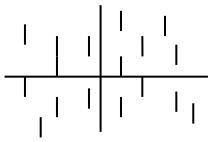


If you have any puzzles you would like to see on this page, please tell me!

Susie Tucker

Things to do on rainy days

You could make a stop time movie with some plasticine, like Wallace and Gromit.

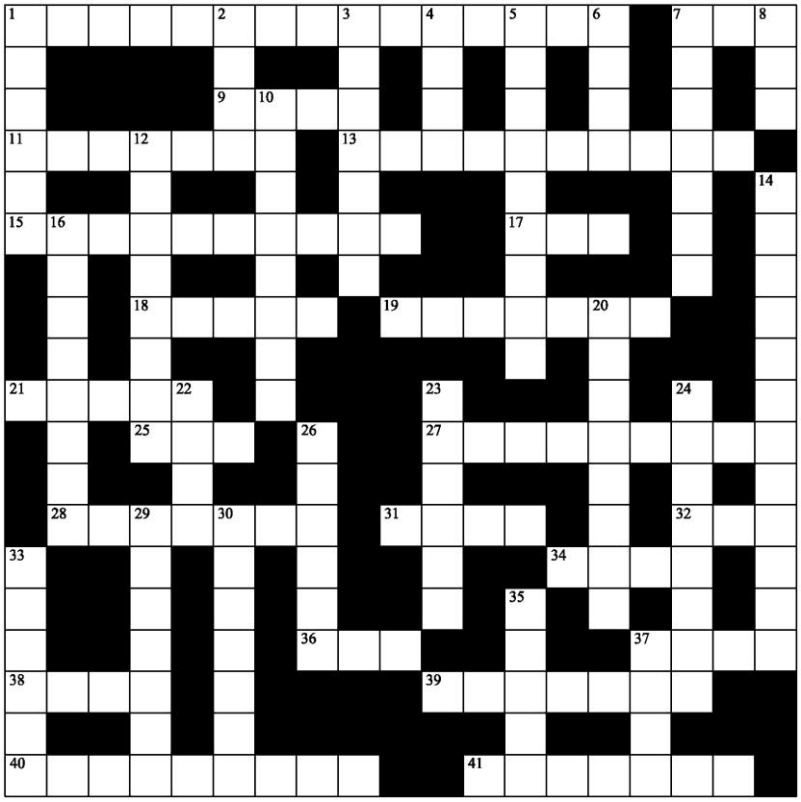


You could write a story

You could design your own town, holiday or shop.

You could make an inside den with some chairs and a blanket.

Zenida's Crossword No. 11



The winner and answers to the previous crossword can be found on Page 18

A £5 Book Token will be awarded for the first correct entry opened after the closing date. Please send your entry by Friday 9th March 2012 to:

Zenida's Crossword No. 11
North View House, 16 Chapel Lane,
Reach CB25 OJJ giving your:

Name: _____

Address:
_____

_____

Tel: _____

ACROSS

1. Stealthily (15)
7. Mightier than the sword? (3)
9. Affection (4)
11. Japanese paper-folding art (6)
13. From 'Down under?' (10)
15. "-------, my dear Watson! " (10).
17. A 'smoking' – is often seen in Westerns (3)
18. Sweet name for a Valentine? (5)
19. Story, film, idea, based on imagination (7)
21. Oscillate (5)
25. Tiny creature (3)
27. What farmers are doing before planting? (9)
28. Wild horse? (USA) (7)
31. He was an old Scandinavian deity (4)
32. Pen point (3)
34. Large continent (4)
36. Two-year old sheep (3)
37. Timber (4)
38. Slightly open (4)
39. Skilled crafts-worker (7)
40. Flowers with yellow trumpets (9)
41. You might watch a googly in this game (7)

DOWN

1. – Tuesday, Pancake Day (6)
2. Part of the hand (4)
3. Where surgery happens? (7)
4. Belonging to us (4)
5. Substitute (9)
6. Shout (4)
7. Winged horse (7)
8. Snatch (slang) (3)
10. Unguent (8)
12. Amateur horse-riding competition (8)
14. Pure-blood racehorse (12)
16. Tepid (8)
20. Torpid (8)
22. A small fly (4)
23. It has eight legs (6)
24. Spicy bark (8)
26. It attracts iron (6)
29. Law Officer (7)
30. Liked (7)
33. He uses magic (6)
35. Found in a church or a temple (5)
37. Stroll (4)



Rita's Recipe

Out of Africa: VENISON POTJIE



Ingredients:

1½ kg venison, cubed	250g streaky bacon, chopped
50 ml cooking oil	1 tsp fresh thyme leaves
2 onions, sliced	4 carrots, thickly sliced
1 bay leaf	2 garlic cloves, crushed
½ litre beef stock	375ml dry red wine
150g cornflour	2 small cabbages, cut into wedges
salt and pepper	4 medium potatoes, thickly sliced

Method:

1. Heat the oil in a large pan until very hot then add the bacon and venison and brown on all sides.
2. Remove from the pan and place in a large casserole dish.
3. Add the onions and garlic to the pan and fry for 5 minutes.
4. Add the stock, wine, herbs, salt and pepper and pour over the meat. Cover and place the casserole in the oven and cook for 1½ hours at 170 C.
5. Add the potatoes in a layer then top with a layer of carrots and finally lay the cabbage on the top of the carrots. Add more stock if necessary.
6. Replace the cover and cook for a further 45 minutes.
7. Thicken with cornflour if necessary and correct the seasoning.



This recipe comes courtesy of my trip to South Africa, where it is cooked in a special pan called a 'Potjie'. For a change you could replace the venison for beef and the red wine for beer.

Enjoy - this dish it is perfect for this time of the year.

Football Report

When I was 11 I was briefly captain of my primary school second eleven football team. On goals scored we usually used to come out on top. When the results were broken down into goals that went into our net and goals which went into the opposition's net, however, a different picture used to emerge.



This being a school, nobody was prepared to do as they do in the premiership and sack the manager, Mr Perry, so it was me who got the boot instead. One week I went to look at the teamsheet and discovered, to my disgust, that I had not only been relieved of the captaincy but reduced to substitute. I declined to turn out and my footballing career seemed to be over for good.



Ross Clark (right) dribbling!

Until, that is, the now-traditional Reach New Year's Day football match. Each year it gets a bit more like the football match in Michael Palin's Ripping Yarns, where a team of grandads is brought out of retirement. A dozen or so men who reached their footballing peak about 1977 stumble about as if the intervening years had never happened. Believe me, once you have learned to toe-punt a ball, it is a skill you never lose.

If you haven't been to a Reach New Year's Day match before the format is always the same: at 11.45am prompt a couple of dozen eager players, at their most athletic of the year, turn up on the recreation ground in a bizarre range of outfits and boots. Then, at 12, Bryan Pearson turns up with a ball and whistle. An hour and a half later we slope back off towards the pub, Bryan's team funny enough always emerging triumphant. This, however, is little down to him. As one of football's few practising player-referees he is determined not to allow accusations of bias to stick – with the result he has ceded the opposition as many free kicks, corners, penalties and dodgy goal-line decisions as he could get away with without going the way of Urs Meier, the Swiss referee driven to a career selling kitchen appliances after displeasing England fans at Euro 2004.



Gwylim Davies (rear)

Even Bryan's inventive interpretation of the rules could not prevent young Ben Knight emerging as the star of the match, knocking up a hat-trick for the Blue team before half time. Naturally, for the second half Bryan decided he ought to be on the other team. But in spite of Bryan's watch going backwards in a desperate attempt to give the Reds chance to equalise, with a minute to go they were lagging by three goals to eight. In a typical manoeuvre, the ref then decided that the next goal would be worth five. After some frantic end-to-end stuff, however, the Reds' keeper, Tony Fordham tipped the ball over his head into the net and even Bryan had had enough of trying to throw the match. Maybe next year my knack at scoring own goals will have returned.

Ross Clark
743725; rossjclark@aol.com



Joe Acklam (centre) is tackled by Adam Tarasewicz

Sports News



This sport round up is a tale of two extremes. First the tough training routine of a young dancer in the village when physical exercise has to be combined with looking good! Then a long distance runner crossing mile after mile of muddy fen when all that matters is the clock and 'how you look', before during or after, is definitely the last thing on your mind.

Sport can be defined as 'an activity involving physical exertion and skill, governed by a set of rules or customs and often engaged in competitively'. Many forms of sport definitely blur the boundary with art. Gymnastics, synchronised swimming and diving, for example, are all beautiful in their own unique way, and of course the International Olympic Committee recognises competitive ballroom dance. So I thought, to make a change from the usual sports, I would interview one of Reach's most talented young dancers – Kasia Tabecki. I am sure that when you read about her gruelling training regime you will, like me, realise it is every bit as demanding physically, as more 'traditional' sports. The key difference being, in this case, you really do have to look good at the same time not something (thankfully in my case) that runners, swimmers, cyclists or footballers have to worry too much about.



Kasia with Suspects dance group

I started by asking Kasia how she had got into dance: "I have been dancing since I was about five years old". Having started with ballet at Kings Slocombe School of dance, she joined Bodyworks Theatre and Dance School in Cambridge three years later. "I had lessons in commercial and street dance and I took part in two shows based at The Junction and the Mumford Theatre which I really enjoyed".

Two years later she auditioned, successfully, for Suspects, a dance crew based in Ely. "This is where I found my true dance school" she adds.



Kasia (far left) with Suspects dance group

When I asked kasia what she most enjoyed about dancing she replied "I enjoy the whole experience of dance, I love all types of dance and spending time with the crew. Performing is also really enjoyable and showing other people what you can achieve is really exciting". The training is gruelling though and it's a big commitment (for Kasia and the parental taxi service!). "At the moment I am training for about 14 hours a week which is really hard work and can put a lot of stress on me physically. Dance has really improved my overall strength and fitness which helps me also when I ride and do sports activities at school" (Editor's note – Kasia put in a fantastic cross country time at Bottisham on no running training - a good testament to the endurance gained from dance training). "I do a lot of floor work that improves my arm muscles and the range of different styles that benefit my strength in different ways. Being in Suspects I really have to push myself to the limit and put 100% effort in whenever I dance". Her favourite dance types are House, Nu flow, Hip hop, Popping, Waaking and Breaking (a list that will mean an awful lot more to the younger readers out there no doubt). "In my crew I am counted as the Nu flow girl, so that has to be the best!", she adds. Her relatively short dance career has already afforded her several highlights. "The best" she says "was summer school last year. I did five days of five-hour dance lessons in many different styles. Leading these classes were various famous dancers such as Turbo from BBC's "Got to dance", Rymes from the "Street Dance" movie, L'il Tim Worldwide dance champion and many more. I have also had workshops with Steady, a member of 'Flawless' dance crew and many other well-known dancers.

Kasia says her goals are to become more confident during performances and battles against other crews and to meet more people which will help me in my overall performance of dance. "I also hope to have a really good show which is being performed on the 5th of February at the Maltings in Ely, which many famous street dancers will be coming to watch and we hope to go to America soon to meet other crews and dancers and to learn new moves".



Kasia (far left) with Suspects dance group

Ewan Cameron Tackles Forty Fenland Miles - Hereward Ultra Race 27th November 2011

Have you ever set yourself a goal and realised too late that it was a gigantic mistake? This wasn't the first time I've made an error of judgement about running but it was definitely the most painful. After a couple of marathons, several half marathons and a couple of 10Ks, I decided to set myself a new challenge. I've always enjoyed running long distances (at least if you don't count cross country at school) and it seemed obvious that the next thing to do would be to up the mileage. I looked around for possible events and settled on the Hereward Ultra Race. Normally run as a 4 stage relay, this race started last year as a single competitor 38.4 mile route from Peterborough to Ely (or at least Little Downham – later I would be very grateful that I didn't have to run as far as the cathedral).

One of the attractions of such a seemingly crazy distance was a different type of training with less high intensity speed work. However this had to be compensated for by high weekly mileage including long back to back runs of 15 - 20 miles at the weekend. This went well with nearly 200 miles in October and no injuries which is always a bonus for any aging long distance runner. A long weekend climbing in Scotland marked the beginning of the welcome taper. I always spend the last week or so before a race carefully monitoring weather forecasts and things progressively improved with virtually no rain (good for underfoot conditions over the often muddy sections) and the wind, whilst strong, progressively moved to westerly (if winds are going to be 20 - 40mph they may as well be behind you). It seemed that nothing could go wrong.

With my support team (Sue and Katie) in attendance, I arrived in Peterborough in time for the 8.30am start. Most of the field immediately raced off into the distance. I sensibly let them all go and settled into a steady jog. The real challenge in these events is not to run too fast even though too fast is really quite slow. I knew that it wouldn't be clear if I'd got it right for about 4 hours or so.

At the first checkpoint in Whittlesey Sue and Katie passed me my sports drink and food. Katie had opened the drink and taken a sneaky sip before I arrived. Unfortunately she hadn't put the lid back on and as I took it I managed to squirt it into Sue's face – thankfully I was forgiven and they still turned up in March. 18 miles in and I was feeling really good. The next checkpoint would be in Welney at 28 miles. When I passed the marathon mark in my second fastest time, I realised I was running too fast but it was too late. Within half a mile, I had hit the wall. This is bad enough in a marathon if you have 5 or 6 miles to go. If you have 12 to go, it is unimaginably bad. Cramp would prove to be the biggest problem with legs and muscle groups alternating every minute or so.



Ewan, supported by daughter Katie, at Welney – only two and a half hours to go!

The relay race had started at 9 and there was a steady stream of runners overtaking me for the last 30 miles. This didn't seem to matter until the last 12 miles when it was a regular psychological blow. It was now a question of slowly ticking off the miles and fractions of miles. Then, at 29 miles, the battery ran out on my GPS watch. I would be left begging the passing relay runners to tell me how far was left to go. I needed some serious motivation to get me to the end. This came in three forms. Firstly, I had raised over £1000 of sponsorship for Macmillan Cancer Support so couldn't give up and still collect the money. Secondly, I knew there was a time limit on the race and couldn't face reaching the end only to be disqualified.

Finally, I had no idea where I was as the route criss-crossed fenland fields – how could I get Sue to come and pick me up? If I gave up I would still have to walk most of the way to the finish.

Finally I reached the outskirts of Little Downham. "Two miles to go and its downhill" came the cheery call from the marshals – sadly they were being economical with the truth! It was downhill but only for a few hundred yards before climbing again to a higher point and there is no way it was only two miles (I've measured it on Google Maps and it is closer to two and a half). Eventually the Ely City football ground came into view. There was one final cruel twist – a lap of the pitch in front of the stand – and then, a mere 6 hours and 26 minutes after it began, it was over.

What did I learn that day? It is amazing how much you can push the human body even when it keeps screaming at you that it has nothing left to give. Also, if you run for over 6 hours, it's a mistake to schedule a whole day standing up at work the next day. Finally, I'm never going to run an ultra marathon again under any circumstances. As I approached the finishing line, I was reminded of that interview with Sir Steve Redgrave just after winning his fourth Gold Medal at the Atlanta Olympics ("If anyone sees me go anywhere near a boat, you've got my permission to *shoot me"*). Having said that, it's only two years since I said I would never run a marathon again and Sir Steve did win another gold medal in Sydney……

Ewen Cameron
December 2011



That looks like a goal



Note the height of Ben Knight (far left)

Susie's Quiz Page 28
The photo was taken:
At the phone box
near the bus stop

Bottisham Village College

Counselling Training

Introductory, Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Level Training in Adlerian/Integrative Approaches

Open Evening
for Courses Starting 2012

Find out more about all the courses, meet the tutors and talk to current trainees

Wednesday 8th February 2012
7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Bottisham Village College, Lode Road,
Bottisham, CB25 9DL

For more details contact the Community Office
on 01223 811372 or email commed@bottishamvc.org

www.bottishamvc.org/commed

Football New Year's Day



Is Tim Davies in goal doing semaphore?



Joe Acklam (centre)



Whose boot did that come off?



Tony Fordham under pressure from Ben Knight



Becky Fordham applauding and Kate Shackleton to her right



A nifty run up the middle by Ross Clark

REACH
PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on: Wednesday 4th January 2012

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Malcolm Brearley	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Not Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	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 payments were made or applications received during the previous month.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met on 7th December. Since moving from receiving reports to more debating of issues, Full Council is now lasting longer. Seven motions had been tabled, although one, about holding meetings outside office hours, was withdrawn pending a wider review. The other topics were: community transport, national scheme for allowances, review of spending on communications, quality bus contracts, fairer funding for Cambridgeshire schools and action to combat child poverty.

Cabinet met on 13th December and a number of decisions were taken. These included a decision to start the legal/planning process to build a southern link road to overcome the bottle-neck at Ely railway crossing. It was also agreed to defer any decision on introducing Civil Parking Enforcement in East Cambridgeshire. On future arrangements for Cambridge Park and Ride, we agreed the principle that charges should not be levied on concessionary bus pass holders and that charges for parking at Babraham Road should be introduced for those not using the bus. I also presented the findings of a Local Government Ombudsman maladministration report.

I spent some time with County Highways officers looking at pavements and crossings in need of work locally. We prioritised a number of areas to be addressed and hopefully work will start on those soon. I also visited Burwell and District Day Centre to discuss a number of issues.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

The Ely car parking consultation concludes at the end of January 2012 after which decisions will be made.

The result of the consultation on the Ely southern bypass was 81% in favour of Route B - a new road to bypass the level crossing. The proposed link road will be just over a mile long, diverting the A142 at Angel Drove to just outside Stuntney via two roundabouts.

In the Halifax "Best Place to Live" survey, ECDC came fourth out of all the districts in the country.

ECDC will match fund to a maximum of £500 for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and it is estimated that it will break-even this financial year. This will leave the Parish Council with non-tennis court reserves of approximately £4,600 which is 57% of normal non-tennis court maintenance spend.

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

There was no report.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

Councillor Fielding will enquire of Karen Whymark as to whether the meeting with local landowners, scheduled to take place on January 5th 2012, will take place.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the previous month. Two people have resigned and one recruited. **The Clerk** will oversee this activity in the future and it is intended that checks will recommence during January.

4 (10) Tennis Committee

The sponsor Racquet Master has closed down. **The Clerk** will continue to seek to secure the £250 sponsorship money but the possibility exists that it will not be received.

4 (11) Village Centre Committee Report

The Carol Service took place in December and was very successful.

4 (12) 24Acres Committee Report

Heads of Terms have been received from the National Trust and the Parish Council 24Acres Committee is working with the NT to turn them into a lease. The main stumbling block is the term of the lease which the Parish Council believes should be a minimum of 25 years – subject to the lessor and the lessee fulfilling their respective commitments. The Committee has yet to seek legal advice – it will do so once there is a draft lease. In the meantime the search for funding the individual projects continues.

5. Hythe Mooring Policy

The Parish Council discussed whether there should be a charge to moor non-GOBA boats following a request for mooring received from a resident. **The Clerk** will establish which parts of the bank are owned by or leased to the Parish Council and talk to interested parties with a view to further discussion at a subsequent meeting.

6. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

The dates for the countrywide 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 to decide specifically what should take place and when – and to organise the event(s) subject to the approval of the Parish Council.

That committee has now met and the planned event will take place on Monday 4th June starting at 2.00pm and finishing at around 7.00pm. Food, drink and entertainment will be provided with the aim being to fund the event by various grants – including one from the Amenity fund.

As part of this celebration, 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. It was decided to position it on the top green between the current tree and the road that divides the greens. The Parish Council decided that a Red Chestnut would be most appropriate and **the Clerk** will look into securing a suitable grant. It is planned that the tree will be planted in October 2012.

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 and the villager and the Clerk are working together to hopefully make it happen. So far there are no stumbling blocks and **the Clerk** will endeavour to source grant money.

7. Street Lighting Upgrade Review

The street lighting PFI between the County Council and Balfour Beatty has been in place now for six months. However, whilst entering into the contract to upgrade the old County Council owned street lighting columns, the street lighting budget was reduced resulting in 10% of the old street lighting (2 columns in the case of Reach) not being replaced.

The Parish Council felt there were many questions to be answered, especially since the village has a number of its own columns to be considered. One of those questions relates to the style of the new columns which was universally disliked by councillors. **The Clerk** was asked to invite the Head of Transport Asset Management at the County Council to come to a subsequent meeting to answer questions.

It was noted that the plan states that Reach's street lights will not be replaced until early 2015.

11. Planning Applications

There were none for consideration.

12. Information Items

Councillor Thomas commented that money was also available from grants this year to celebrate the Olympics taking place in London.

The Clerk pointed out that in recent years the vast majority of Parish Council information is stored digitally on his PC. **The Clerk** proposed to store this data online so that it is always recoverable in case of a disaster – with the access information to this digital data (including all emails) being stored in a suitably secure place.

13. Payments

101002	DMParr	Clerk's Pay Oct-Dec 2011	£589

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1st February 2012 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).

From the Vicarage

Children and Families at Reach Church



Over the last few months I have been asked by several people about having more for children and young people at the church. I am very open to discussing this further and there are a number of possibilities.

Like more all age services at church festival times, like Mothering Sunday, Easter, Christmas; a regular Messy Church (as we have started at St Mary's); possibly an occasional youth café. I am keen to resource anything we do with support from families who live in Reach. Perhaps the first step would be to organise a meeting. If you would be interested please get in touch with me.

New Year …Resolutions or Rhythms?

I wonder if you made any New Year's resolutions? And if so have you kept them? By the time you read this it will be February – so the willpower may be weakening! A new year always seems to be the time when we feel the need to review our lives and maybe start the exercise programme we've been thinking about for ages, or re-start the diet after Christmas! It amused me this year to notice that before we had even started on the feasting the January edition of my favourite magazine was promoting detox regimes and diet plans. It got me wondering about whether there was a better way of living our lives than swinging from over indulgence to stringent 'detoxing'. With what we eat and drink, but also with other things we spend our time, money and energies on.

I was reminded of a Bible verse from a modern translation, about learning from Jesus ***'the unforced rhythms of grace'***. I am always challenged by this, as I think about how we live in a consumerist culture, where there is so much on offer, so much choice, but also enormous pressure to be forced into ways of living that are beyond our means, and may not be the best for our bodies, or our spirits, for our communities, and for our planet. 'Unforced rhythms' speaks to me about working with the natural rhythms of life, of our bodies, of the world around us, the seasons. Not rushing to the latest fad. Being prepared to wait. Living in a balanced way with the needs our bodies have for rest, exercise, food and drink. Using our resources wisely. 'Grace' is about knowing that all that we have comes from the love of God - God's open-handed generosity to us, which helps us to learn to live with contentment and gratitude for what we have been given. Perhaps in these uncertain times of financial strain for many of us, now is a time to begin to ask what is important, what is of value. And, as the rest of the verse puts it, to learn to walk with Jesus and work with him, so that we can know the deepest sense of rest and fulfilment *(to read further Matthew 11: 28-30 in The Message is available online).*

And as we approach Lent - I don't know what the mention of Lent conjures up for you? Hair shirts and fasting…six weeks without chocolate or alcohol or both? Or an opportunity to take time to reflect on what is important in life. To allow space for God. **Ash Wednesday is February 22nd** and we have services at St Mary's Burwell at 10am and 7.30pm, sharing Holy Communion together and for those who wish, having the traditional sign of the cross marked on their foreheads in ash. These will be quiet services, allowing time for prayer and reflection. Other resources for Lent reflection will be available, and some special times of prayer will be advertised nearer the time. If you would like to find out more please get in touch.

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

Eleanor Williams



CentrePeace

CentrePeace Cookbook Volume 2



There is still time to submit your recipe for the new 2012 volume of CentrePeace cookbook, which we hope will be ready in time for St Mary's Fete in June.

To reflect the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we'd be interested to receive recipes from the last 60 years. Perhaps you have a recipe that's typical of the 1950's or 1980's or that you used for a celebration of your own. We'd also like to include recipes from lots of different countries around the world to reflect the London Olympics. In addition to these to themed sections, we're also very pleased to include ordinary recipes with no particular significance other than that you like them, so please let us have yours by March 1st You can drop them off in CentrePeace or email them to pat@patchtcs.co.uk or Shopridermark@aol.com.

New Boiler and Gas Supply at Burwell

At the time of writing (mid January), the work on the boiler at St Mary's in Burwell is scheduled to start on 23rd January and to last for 4 weeks, but the start date might need to change when arrangements to install temporary traffic lights on the High Street have been finalised. Whenever it starts, the work will affect three Sundays, when there will be no heating in the church, so some services may be transferred to Reach. Please check pew sheets and notice boards for more information.

Concerts in St Mary's Church.

Following the success of the concerts before Christmas, we are pleased to announce two more concerts in St Mary's in the coming months: on Saturday February 25th 7.30pm, Ridley Hall Gospel Choir. We are delighted to welcome the choir back to the parish and look forward to a lively concert of Gospel and other music. Refreshments will be provided. The second concert will be on Saturday March 17th and feature the Cambridge Concert Orchestra. This concert will have music with an international flavour and refreshments will be provided. Tickets for both concerts will be available from CentrePeace or contact Pat Chalmers on Tel. 01638 742006

Pat Chalmers – Churchwarden

7.30pm
Saturday February 25th 2012
St Mary's Church, Burwell

Ridley Hall Gospel Choir

We are delighted to welcome the choir back to the parish and look forward to a lively concert of Gospel and other music.

Refreshments will be provided

Tickets are available from CentrePeace or contact Pat Chalmers on 01638 742006

7.30pm
Saturday March 17th 2012
St Mary's Church, Burwell

Cambridge Concert Orchestra

In aid of Burwell Twinning Association

This concert will have music with an international flavour.

Refreshments will be provided.

Tickets are available from CentrePeace or contact Pat Chalmers on 01638 742006

Church Services

	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Please note that while work on the boiler at St Mary's is in progress, some services may be changed to Reach. See pew sheet and door notices for information.		
FEBRUARY		
Wednesday 1	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 2	10.00am Toddlers Service	
Sunday 5 February 3rd Sunday before Lent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Service	
Wednesday 8	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Sunday 12 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	10.00am Traditional Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday @ 7
Wednesday 15	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Sunday 19 February Sunday next before Lent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Contemporary Communion	
Wednesday 22 Ash Wednesday	9.00am Prayer Meeting at Burwell 10.00am Holy Communion with ashing 7.30pm Holy Communion with ashing	
Saturday 25	7.30pm Ridley Hall Gospel Choir Concert	
Sunday 26 February 1st Sunday of Lent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Traditional Communion 4.00pm Messy Church	
Wednesday 29th	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	
MARCH		
Sunday 4 March Lent 2	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Service	
Wednesday 7	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Sunday 11 March Lent 3	10.00am Traditional Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday@ 7
Wednesday 14	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Sunday 18 March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Service	
Wednesday 18	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Sunday 25 March Lent 5	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Traditional Communion 4.00pm Messy Church	
Wednesday 28	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy 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

February	Event	Location	Time
Wed 1	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 2	Recycling Day		
Wed 8	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Fri 10	Film: Casablanca	Community Church Hall, Exning	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Sat 11	MU Coffee Morning	Guildhall, Burwell	10.30am–12.00 noon
Thurs 16	Recycling Day		
Thurs 16	Author: Jim Kelly	St Peter's Church, Ely CB7 4AH	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Tues 21	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Tues 21	Pancakes	Village Centre	5.30pm – 7.00pm
Wed 22	Village Centre Committee	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thurs 23	Tom and Henry Herbert	St Peter's Church, Ely CB7 4AH	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Sat 25	Ridley Hall Gospel Choir	St Mary's Church, Burwell	7.30pm
Sun 26	Closing date: Reach Fair Programme Competition	Entries to 5 Burwell Road, Reach	
March			
Thurs 1	Recycling Day		
Wed 7	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Fri 9	Film: The Commitments	Community Church Hall, Exning	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Wed 14	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Sat 17	Cambridge Concert Orchestra	St Mary's Church, Burwell	7.30pm
Tues 20	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Wed 21	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thurs 15	Recycling Day		
Thurs 15	Author: William Boyd	St Mary's Church, Ely CB7 4HF	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Thurs 29	Recycling Day		

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

CentrePeace visits Reach the second Wednesday of the month

Pilates – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5.45pm

Exning Village Cinema shows films in the Community Church, Exning.
The charges are £4 Adult, £3 Child and £12 Family (2 adults and 2 children).
Refreshments are available and tickets are sold on the door.
Films for February and March are listed above.

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	



Rebecca Aves BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science



Jacob William Aves born 1st November 2011 to proud parents William and Kelly



Daisy Miller on Cardi



Imogen Trump on Wendy (left) and Alice Trump on John



Susie Dickens on Stanley (left) and Molly Mercer on Mr Chips



Hugh Shackleton (right)



Ben Knight (left) star of the match



The only way is up



Brian Pearson can only watch as the ball goes into the net



Brian Pearson: eeny, meeny, miny, mo....