Within Reach



October/November 2012



Swaffham Prior Autumn Show
Julie Aspin First - Fruit Cake
Emma Mitchell First - Flower Arrangement



Baby Elizabeth was born at 5.44am on the 15th August 2012 weighing in at 8lbs10oz. Happy parents are Mike and Emily.



Snail in Reach Wood



Category: Vegetable Animal
First: Rose Mitchell



Common Lizards in Reach Wood



Eleanor (3) and Hannah (1½) Gibson on the occasion of their christening



Emma's arrangement

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HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE

6.00 – 6.45pm

just before the Harvest Supper

HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 27th October 2012
from 6.45pm

Village Hall

£6/adult
£3/child (6yrs and under)
£20 family of 4

Admittance strictly tickets only - beware numbers are limited. Tickets from Jon Cane (741064) or Pam King (742924)

You may wish to bring your own alcoholic drinks and glasses

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

From the Editor



The `24-acres' have been taken out of cultivation and the new amenities begin to take shape.

This is most exciting and the project leaders are all listed in David Thomas' article so do get in touch if you want more information about a project and/or would like to help.

I was very pleased to receive an article about a summer trip – a day out on the Wherry Albion by Jen Holmwood – and the sun shone! It's been the wettest summer for 100 years so the day trippers were very lucky. The wet weather has caused the weeds to grow voraciously and we have two articles on weeds – an appreciation from Joss Goodchild and a warning from Lesley Boyle.

A Tennis Ladder has been set up so do give thought to this – it's a real opportunity to regularly enjoy this facility.

The excitement of the Olympics and Paralympics lifted a gloomy summer and Reach Olympics achieved something of the same. We were delighted and amazed by all that Juliet Vickery arranged - from a genuine Olympic torch bearer to the opportunity for men to dress up in women's clothing. A sincere thank you to Juliet and her helpers.

Zenida McDonald has left the village to live closer to a friend. We thank her for her regular and numerous contributions. It is pleasing to note that the Craft Circle she started will continue and the next meeting is on Tuesday 9th October (ring Pam King for details on 742924).

Read this magazine carefully and learn who is burying their Sunday dinner in the garden?

See you at the Harvest Supper (Saturday 27th October) and Hugh's Wine Tastings (Friday 5th October and Friday 9th November).

Finally and sadly, on behalf of the whole Within Reach team, I would like to pass on our condolences to the family of Stephen Bell from Ditchfield who passed away recently, aged just 43 years. Our thoughts are with you at this extraordinarily difficult time.

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

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 covering the months 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 November 2012. This magazine is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

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Cricket	Ross Clark
Days Gone By	David Parr
Fen Chitchat	Lesley Boyle
Kids' Page	Susie Tucker
Little Windmills	Susan Bluck
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

Front Cover: Juliet Vickery and Olympic torch bearer Maxine Burgess. Photo: Hugh de Lacy

Cover Photos: Dawn Bentley, Hugh de Lacy, Claire Halpin-McDonald, Alison Lewis and Helen Oliver-Towers

Happy Birthday Else Pieter



Christmas 1949



My birthday is on the 4th October when I will be 90! I will be celebrating it with a meal in the Dyke's End with friends. I've lived in Reach since 1950 and in the same house. The house was originally two cottages, now made into one. I've had three sows in the past and kept them in the garden. I have a son, George, who lives in Cambridge and is nearly 60 and I have grandchildren, twins Craig and Melissa, now 21. I've had three hip replacement operations. I still go to Cambridge regularly and help my son. The bus is not always on time and sometimes does not even turn up at all. I enjoy crocheting. I can lay floor tiles and carpet and decorate the house inside and out, though I don't climb ladders any more. I think it's important to be independent. I say the secret to a long life is "keep working and keep busy".



Else with son George when he was around 5 years old (so circa 1957)

A Wherry Good Day Out

On Friday 7th September eight of us from Reach: Jan and John Robinson, Jenny and John Reed, Penny Lang and Ron Greenhill, Jen and John Holmwood plus Roseen and Ranald Scott from Burwell chartered the Wherry Albion for a day on the Broads. The Albion is owned and managed by the Norfolk Wherry Trust and is kept at Ludham. She has been beautifully restored by the Trust to the working state in which she plied the Broadland rivers with cargoes such as coal, timber and sugar beet.



John Holmwood (left)

We had to leave at eight. John Holmwood and John Robinson drove and the journey was less than the two hours anticipated. The weather forecast was good and proved to be accurate with the day getting warmer as it progressed.

We met the crew, skipper Roger, Geoff and Peter (the talkative one). Exploring the hold, which was the main cooking and living area, we soon became aware of the limited headroom. In fact one of us hit her head about five times during the day! After a safety talk and being fitted with life jackets, we set off down Womack Water to the River Thurne.

Contrary to expectations it was quite comfortable sitting on the hatches on top of the boat. We felt we would not need the cushions we had brought though we did by the afternoon!

Once on the river, the crew raised the huge sail but the wind was insufficient so the outboard on the tender tied to Albion pushed us along. We made very smooth and dignified progress along the river, waving at the many other craft, occasionally suggesting rather forcefully that they get out of our way. Power must give way to sail and the Albion is a giant on the water. Hopefully our tiny engine did not count.

We enjoyed great views of bird life - marsh harriers and buzzards included. Grebes, coots, cormorants and moorhens were everywhere. Harvested fields were on all banks with the views of sails moving gently through them which is part of the magic of the Broads.

The sail was lowered on entering the channel for Ranworth Broad and we moored up for lunch next to other craft at Ranworth Staithe. There was the opportunity for a short walk after and some visited the church and even climbed the tower while others walked through wooded carr to the Wildlife Centre.





Jen and John Holmwood

On the journey back the sun was very hot and we welcomed the shade from the sail but the wind was still weak and we needed to tack and jibe our way back so the shade came and went. We were feeling more confident now and felt safe in lying down as the sail came over us as we tacked.

All too soon we were back at Ludham and disembarked. Ranald Scott and John Holmwood had been brave enough to take the tiller on the journey and must have felt they had acquired a new skill and insight into the old world of river transport. The rest of us had relaxed and enjoyed the scenery, the gentle motion of the Wherry and had learnt quite a lot about the ways of the river both in the past and the present.

Jen Holmwood

To find out more about the Albion go to www.wherryalbion.com





Penny Lang (second from the right) enjoying the views and the sunshine

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

Following on from our article in the last issue of *Within Reach* where SLR (Single Lens Reflex) cameras were mentioned, there are of course many different types of digital camera that can be used to capture your images. You do not even need a camera, just a scanner and a computer! Most people however will find it easier to use one of the various types of digital camera. The photographs taken will usually be of good quality, subject to the light conditions and the knowledge of the user. However a far more important factor in the appearance of any photograph is the composition, which has a major influence on the way the human eye views the picture. This applies equally to photographs taken with any camera and indeed our members use many different types.



Echinacea

For any of you who may be interested in developing your photography further we hold our meetings on Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm at Lode Chapel CB25 9EW.

Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 2 October 2012

'**Permajet Colour Management Presentation**' by Ian Windebank from The Imaging Warehouse. A selection of Permajet paper will be available for purchase during the evening.

Tuesday 9 October 2012

'**Composite Images**' Mark Mumford FRPS will be discussing his distinctive surreal compositions to create images inspired by Dali and Bosch.

Tuesday 27 November 2012

'Safari to the Back Garden - Nature for Beginners' - a Digital presentation by Liz and Barrie Hatten from Cambridge Camera Club.

A date for your diary next year is 12/13 October 2013, when we will be holding the **Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club 40th Anniversary Exhibition** in Burwell at the Mandeville Hall.



Farmhouse Entrance

New members are always welcome as a guest at any meeting, paying a fee of £2, refunded on joining the club. The annual fees are: Adult membership £30, Joint membership £50, Student £15. There is a weekly fee of 50p which includes refreshments. Further details can be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Daphne Hanson (01638 741106 or hanson943@btinternet.com).

Our website is www.bottburpc.org where our Member's Gallery and further details of the club and our programme for 2012/13 can be viewed.

Barry Coles
Publicity Officer



Hugh's Wine Tasting

Going Upmarket

Wines in the £10 + price range plus nibbles

Friday 5th October 2012
Reach Village Centre
£15

Maximum 16 people

Contact Hugh de Lacy
01638 743839 or 07752 331379

Scott's Ship Found

The wreck of the ship that carried Captain Robert Scott on his doomed expedition to the Antarctic a century ago has been discovered off Greenland.

The SS Terra Nova was found by a team from a US research company. Scott and his party set off from Cardiff aboard the Terra Nova with the aim of becoming the first expedition to reach the South Pole.

The ship had a life after the polar trek, sinking off Greenland's south coast in 1943. It had been on a journey to deliver supplies to base stations in the Arctic when it was damaged by ice. The Terra Nova's crew was saved by the US Coast Guard cutler Southwind.



On arriving at the geographical South Pole in January 1912, Scott and his party discovered that they had been beaten to it by a Norwegian team led by Roald Amundsen. The polar team led by Scott died on their return journey from the pole; their bodies were found by a search party eight months later. Their endeavour became popularly known as the Terra Nova expedition.

A crew from the Schmidt Ocean Institute discovered the Terra Nova whilst testing echo-sounding equipment aboard its flagship vessel the R/V Falkor. One of the scientists noticed an unidentified feature during sonar mapping of the sea bed. Team members then noticed that the 57m length of the feature matched the reported length of the Terra Nova. Technicians dropped a camera package called Shrimp to just above the presumed wreck to film it. Camera tows across the top of the target showed the remains of a wooden wreck lying on the seabed. Footage from the Shrimp also identified a funnel lying next to the ship. Taken together, the features of the wreck closely matched the historical photos of the Terra Nova, leading to the identification.

Brian Kelly, an education officer from the Discovery Point museum in Dundee where the ship was built, told the Daily Record newspaper "the Terra Nova has such a story. She went through a lot in her lengthy history and really was the pinnacle of Scottish wooden shipbuilding. It's incredible that one of the most famous ships in history has been found 100 years after the race for the pole and in the year commemorating the event".

BBC News
Science and Environment

Help to Bring Better Broadband to Your Area

Access to the internet is becoming part of everyday life whether you use it for working from home, keeping in touch, job-hunting, online shopping, paying bills, downloading entertainment or interactive learning. But many people are frustrated by low speeds and poor connections, particularly in more rural parts of the county.

You can help to bring better broadband access to your area by supporting the Connecting Cambridgeshire campaign.

Your local councils are working with partners in business, health and education to provide access to superfast broadband to at least 90% of homes and businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and better broadband connections for all other premises by 2015.



We need <u>all</u> our residents and businesses to show suppliers where there is demand for better broadband to attract substantial investment, which will help us to fill in the gaps. Register to get Cambridgeshire connected using the online form at www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk or fill in a Freepost reply form in the leaflet at your local library or council office.

It only takes a minute - all we need is your postcode and a landline phone number (these details will only be used to support the campaign). The more registrations we get the more likely we are to succeed.

Please encourage your friends, family and neighbours to register so that more people can benefit from better broadband access.

Could you be a Digital Champion for your area - helping to promote the campaign and encouraging more people to register? If so please email your contact details to contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk

Church BBQ Saturday 8th September 2012







Charles Moseley and Paul Tarasewicz with Dan Mules and George Gibson



Jo and Alice Trump



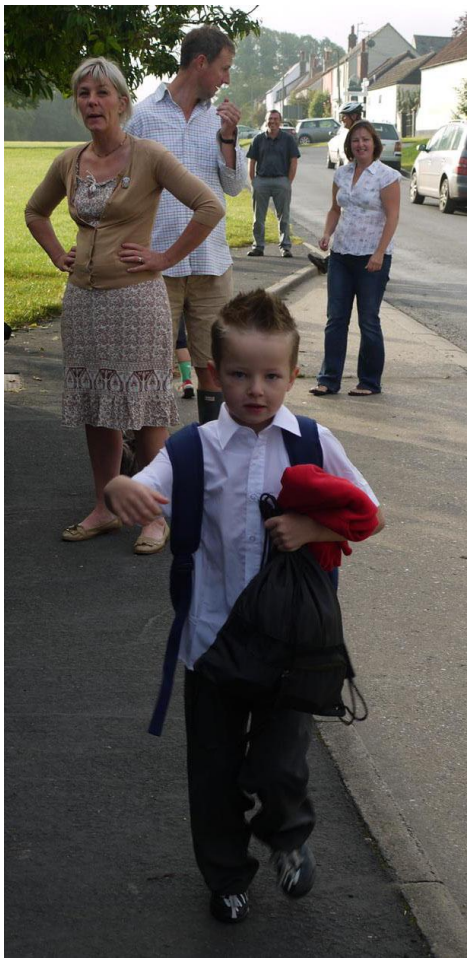
Charlotte and Kathryn Cane



Jen and John Holmwood with John Robinson

Back to School Tuesday 4th September 2012





Samuel Bentley – just in time!



Hurrell's - A Very Old Butchers



Q. Presumably Hurrell is a family name?
A. Henry Hurrell now owns the shop and it was established by his grandfather as far as I know in c.1800. It has been based in Burwell for about 90 years.

Q. How long have you worked in the shop? How did you learn your trade?
A. My name is Peter Curtis and I have worked here from when I was a boy until now - aged 55. I started as a Saturday boy at 12 years old. I worked with Jack Hurrell whose name is over the door and I now work with Henry Hurrell. I learnt the trade on the job with Jack and Henry. There used to be several butchers in the shop in the past. I used to go round in the van as a boy with Jack and his mobile shop, knocking on doors. We were a familiar sight in Reach until fairly recently. We went to Swaffham Bulbeck, Bottisham, Lode, Quy etc. We offered a good assortment of meat though not quite as much as the shop.

Q. Do you have any assistance and do you get an annual holiday?
A. I have help in the shop on Saturdays. I have not taken a holiday for a couple of years but when I do the shop is closed.

Q. The shop is quite simple. Has it changed much over the years?
A. The shop hasn't changed since I first came over 40 year ago. We had two vans years ago and a shop in Isleham.

Q. Do you notice the influence of big supermarkets?
A. Hmmmmmm! Not especially. We have a lot of regular customers who come from Burwell and many of the surrounding villages. The big supermarkets sell cuts of meat but we deal with the whole carcass and therefore you get a much greater variety of meat like the neck of lamb that a customer has just asked for and we have!

Q. Where do you source your meat? Do you have to travel down to the meat market at 5am in the morning?
A. The meat is bought from two or three different farmers and is purchased from Colchester meat market. We used to buy from Cambridge market but it closed and then from Bury St Edmunds but it closed as well. The latter is now a car park for the new shopping arcade. The auctioneer at Colchester will ring here and let me know what is coming in from the farms adjacent. I will know the farm and he will tell me what they are selling - that way I don't get up at five in the morning. Years ago the shop had its own cattle on the farm. We had a field behind the shop and fields close by, in Swaffham Prior for example. I can remember rounding up and penning up to 30 cattle.

Nowadays we get our Christmas turkeys from a family run business in Romney Marsh, Kent and we have dealt with them for many years. They are expensive but quality birds. We did get our turkeys from David Reiner at Swaffham Bulbeck and everyone knew him.

With whatever we purchase we are very, very particular about the quality.

Q. Do you notice the influence of the TV chefs?
A. I have had some unusual requests, like the man who wanted goat. I do notice the influence of the television very much. There'll be a pork recipe and everyone will suddenly be after pork. The chefs say, just ask your butcher to tie this that or the other and bone this or that. I suddenly go deaf.



Peter Curtis

Q. How many burgers do you make in a year?
A. I make about 500 burgers a week in the summer, but you should ask me about my sausages which I make daily and are very popular – people come from miles around.

Q. Do people still cook a Sunday Roast?
A. Yes definitely, but not so much, as people are now out and about at the weekend.

Q. What do you like best about your job?
A. I like working on my own and meeting different people.




JACK HURRELL
JACK HURRELL.
BURWELL. CAMBS.
JACK HURRELL.
CAMBS.


JACK HURRELL
FAMILY BUTCHER

Topping's Autumn Book Fest



Toppings has been described as "one of the finest bookshops in the world". We are fortunate that the shop is on our doorsteps. It is organising its first Ely Autumn Book Festival and below are some of the forthcoming evening and daytime events:

❖ **Harry Sidebottom** *Wolves of the North* (October 4th, 7.30pm, Topping & Company, £5/6).
The fifth novel in the bestselling *Warrior of Rome* historical fiction series is an action-packed, epic tale of rebellion and terror that "blazes with searing scholarship", according to *The Times.*

❖ **Lawrence Norfolk** *John Saturnall's Feast* (October 9th, 7.30pm, Topping & Company, £5/6).
From the bestselling author of *Lempriere's Dictionary, The Pope's Rhinoceros* and *In the Shape of a Boar, John Saturnall's Feast* is a novel of 17th century life, love and war - the story of an orphan who becomes the greatest cook of his age.

❖ **Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall** (October 11th, 7.30pm, Ely Cathedral, £10/8).
A very special evening with the much loved chef, who will be showing guests how to cook with just three good things. Not always the same three things, of course, but complementary flavours, textures and tastes which combine to form the basis for hundreds of the best recipes.

❖ **Andrew Marr** *A New History of the World* (October 13th, 10.15am, Hayward Theatre, £6/8)
In his new book and BBC series, Andrew Marr revisits some of the traditional epic stories, from classical Greece and Rome to the rise of Napoleon, but surrounds them with less familiar material, from Peru to the Ukraine, China to the Caribbean. He looks at cultures that have failed and vanished, as well as the origins of today's' superpowers, and finds surprising echoes and parallels across vast distances and epochs. A very special morning session with one of the UK's most respected journalists, writers and broadcasters.

❖ **Sarah Gristwood** will discuss *Blood Sisters* (October 15th, at 7.30pm, St Peter's Church).
This is a fiery history of Queens, the perils of power and the machinations that helped end the Wars of the Roses.

❖ **Afternoon tea with PD James** *Death Comes to Pemberley* (October 17th, 3pm, St Mary's Church, £7/6)
Britain's queen of crime-writing has enjoyed huge success with her unique sequel to *Pride and Prejudice,* fusing her passion for the work of Jane Austen with her talent for detective fiction. Putting murder at the heart of Austen's world, *Death Comes to Pemberley* combines an insight into the happy but threatened marriage of Darcy and Elizabeth and the excitement and suspense of a brilliantly-crafted detective story.

❖ **Coffee with Artemis Cooper** *Patrick Leigh Fermor* (October 20th, 11am, St Mary's Church, £7/6)
With the sad death of distinguished travel writer and war hero Patrick Leigh Fermor last year, renowned biographer Artemis Cooper uses years of interviews and conversations with "Paddy" to produce a biography of the man famous for his exploits in Crete and his walks across pre-war Europe. Widely regarded as one of Britain's greatest travel writers, a BBC journalist once described Fermor as "a cross between Indiana Jones, James Bond and Graham Greene".



Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

❖ **Nigella Lawson** *Nigellissima* (October 23rd, 7.30pm, Ely Cathedral, £10/8)
The original domestic goddess brings us her first ever book on Italian cooking: *Nigellissima* is your guide to the sun-drenched, wholesome, homemade flavours which enliven everything from everyday cooking to fine dining with speed, simplicity and style. Showing us once again that tasty and gorgeous food need be neither difficult not time-consuming to prepare, Nigella's Italian foray is guaranteed to be one of the year's biggest sellers.

❖ **Jim Kelly** *Nightrise* (October 25th, 7.30pm, St Peter's Church, £7/6)
Jim Kelly's early novels featured the Fenland newspaper reporter Phillip Dryden, reflecting both the author's previous career as a journalist and his passion for the landscape around his native Ely. In *Nightrise* - the first Dryden novel since 2007 - our hero is informed that his father has been killed - which is something of a shock, as his father has been dead for 35 year . . . .

❖ Tickets for all Ely Autumn Book Festival events are available from Topping & Company, 9 High Street, Ely. Call 01353 645005 or book online at www.toppingbooks.co.uk

Extract from Cambridgeshire Journal - September 2012

Care Network Cambridgeshire

Information@GPs to be trialled in Ely practices

Care Network Cambridgeshire has just launched a new service called "Information@GPs". The service aims to give information to patients in their GP practices. The NHS is funding Care Network to provide information in nine of the Isle of Ely Health consortium surgeries until March 2013.

Care Network's Senior Coordinator Hilary Johns said, '*We'd heard from GP's that they have found it impossible to know the vast range of voluntary and other organisations in Cambridgeshire which could be beneficial to their patients. Information@GPs, will make available information on: help in the home; transport; support groups and social clubs; keeping safe and secure and how to get advice on finances and benefits. But we will try to help with anything - or signpost patients to people who can.'* She added, *'As it's a pilot project we'll be able to see what the actual need is, but we began receiving requests for information before the service officially started.' 'We believe that GPs, practice staff and patients will all benefit from this new service.'*

The service is available now at Burwell, Haddenham, Stretham, Chatteris, Littleport, Soham, Sutton and the two Ely surgeries once a week. An appointment can be booked with the receptionist at the patient's own surgery, or by calling one of the information officers on 07436 263347/8. Home visits are available to people who are unable to get to the surgeries.

For more information on this press release call Hilary Johns on 01954 211919.

The VILLAGE CENTRE 100 CLUB

July	Gillian Fry £50
August	John Reed £20
September	Tony Jordan £20

Please contact Joyce Harrison (742405) to be part of the draw

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

Once again the time has come to remind anyone who considers themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant to get in touch (please reply as soon as possible). The majority of our applicants come from pensioners, in particular those who have to manage on a state pension. If however you are in particular need or know of someone who may be in difficulty but unlikely to apply on their own behalf, the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me or to any Trustee and may I stress that assistance is available at all times - not just at Christmas.

Mrs Pam Waters
Clerk to the Trustees

31 Tothill Road, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB25 0JX

REACH
Rainbow Crafts Circle



Tuesday 9th October 2012
1.30pm to 3pm

The craft meetings will not be held in Reach Village Centre, they will be in someone's house

Contact Pam King for details
01638 742924

Free tea, coffee and chat about embroidery/knitting. Learn to knit or embroider and bring your knitting, sewing or other crafts to work on and show to the group.

Hug a Nettle!



'A weed is a flower growing in the wrong place'

George Washington Carver

Acting as custodians of a small piece of land, in our case a pony paddock, often throws up dichotomies. A current dilemma involves whether we 'spruce' it up into a better-tended, more manicured equine residence or relax and allow nature's untidiness to take a footing. We've formerly disregarded lines of molehills, badger scrapes which displace fencing, muntjac stripping newly planted trees, infestations of mice, rats, spiders and wasps but this summer we decided to draw the line at increased nettle invasion.

How wrong we were!

Armed with the weed sprayer and a certain amount of (ignorant) enthusiasm I approached an expansive nettle outcrop bursting wildly through sections of our boundary fencing and liberally doused the offending vegetation. I confess I gained no small measure of satisfaction at the thought of our resulting weed-free perfect field. Moving forward to target a different section of the encroaching unruly weed I was greeted, disturbingly, by the raucous buzzing of a zillion nettle insects.



Something didn't feel right. In fact it felt almost criminal to consider erasing so many creatures with one sweeping squirt. I paused and decided to research the part this plant might play in the countryside's grand scheme. This proved surprisingly simple because nettles have been in the press recently.

I learnt that the stinging nettle supports over 40 species of insect including familiar butterflies such as the red admiral and comma. The caterpillar of the small tortoiseshell and peacock butterfly also inhabit nettle patches, using them as food plants. Specifically, they feed in large groups hidden in silken tents at the top of stems.

Moths such as The Spectacle, Beautiful Golden Y and Burnished Brass are attracted to nettles.

I discovered that the defensive stinging hairs of nettles allowed a relationship with numerous insect species to develop by providing a protective environment for larvae/adults away from the attentions of most grazing animals (except hungry sheep/goats). Small insects are able to move freely between the spines without activating their sting.



The nettle is one of our most important native plants for wildlife, for example frogs, toads, shrews and hedgehogs, as insect-eaters, benefit from the year-round provision of food.

In late summer nettles produce seed, vital nourishment for birds. Aphids overwinter in nettle patches, they swarm during the fresh spring growth and provide an early food source for ladybirds and birds, especially the blue tit. I believe there are also numerous advantages attached to the presence of the resident Nettle Weevil Insect.

There's obviously so much to be said about the merits of nettles that I'm going to pretend I didn't spray the areas of now dead, dry and dusty brown boundary field vegetation and belatedly and apologetically, leave the rest to nature.

Joss Goodchild

Hugh's Wine Tasting

New World/Christmas Wines

Friday 9th November 2012
Reach Village Centre
£15

Contact Hugh de Lacy
01638 743839 or 07752 331379

Fen ChitChat – Such a lot of Weeds



I know that I know nothing . . . or words to that effect - this is Socrates' wisdom, not mine. His self-righteousness pissed off the Athenians enough that they put him to death in the time honoured way of the ancient Greeks – by drinking a potion of Poison Hemlock.

Its botanical name 'Conium' comes from the Greek 'to whirl' as vertigo is one of the symptoms along with numb limbs and eventual paralysis of the respiratory muscles and death! Hemlock is extremely poisonous to humans and animals. Consuming the equivalent of only 6-8 fresh leaves or a spoonful of seeds would be enough to bring on respiratory collapse and death in a grown man and cause cattle to give birth to malformed offspring.

I always thought Hemlock was rare until a friend pointed out to me that there's loads of it around here. How true. If you go down the Weirs (the back way to the Co-op) to where the last drove before the bridge turns left down the fen (Newnham Drove), the whole verge is a Hemlock forest, although beginning to die back now for the winter.



Hemlock is like giant-sized Cow Parsley. It stands above human height at about 2.5m. This is what makes it most noticeable. In spite of its size it is quite dainty. If you get up close you realise that its stems are smooth, unlike Cow Parsley and they are spotted with purple/red. These are the main ways of confirming the identification. The leaves are very finely divided and lacy with an overall triangular shape. The flowers are tiny white and form clusters or 'umbels', like Cow Parsley, 4-6 inches across.

There didn't used to be much Hemlock around here at all. People reckon that when waste soil was placed on the verges up by Pedley's cross roads, that a lot grew up from there and spread. Now there are vast stands of it by those cross roads on the way to Upware and along the fen droves in most directions leading away from there. There are big masses of Hemlock on the National Trust land, especially Burwell Fen Farm where the younger bullocks are grazing. It likes to inhabit roadsides, field edges and alongside ditches. It is quite invasive. Nothing else can grow once it is established as it crowds and shades everything else out. There's also a big stand of Hemlock in the middle of Reach Wood.

I discovered, much to my horror, that there is Hemlock alongside the field where my horse and pony live, just out of Reach on the left hand verge as you go to Burwell. I mentioned doing something about it to John Reed in passing and he pointed to some blisters on the back of his calves and said 'don't'. If you try and chop it down it gives out sap which is extremely horrible to handle and this is what had caused his blistering. It is such a big plant that it is difficult to manhandle without breaking the stems and causing this sap to splatter about. So we'll have to take action next year when the plants are still small.



Noxious weeds are much more of a problem than they used to be. The Weeds Act of 1959 allows for enforcing the control of Spear Thistle, Creeping or Field Thistle, Curled Dock, Broadleaved Dock and Ragwort. However most of these weeds are growing uncontrolled over verges, woods and grassland all around here in spite of the significant populations of farm livestock and horses. Ragwort is especially toxic to horses and cattle causing irreversible and cumulative liver damage and an estimated up to 6,000 horse deaths a year in the UK. Humans are also vulnerable so you should wear gloves when pulling it up and take care not to inhale any pollen. I've seen plenty of ragwort in lawns and gardens, so be careful.



What's to be done? I don't know frankly. For a couple of years members of the Fenland Bridleways Association held Ragwort days and walked through the woods and along verges pulling up and disposing of plants. Now there are so many everywhere that it's just too daunting a task. Whilst land is farmed 'organically' or without sprays or fertilizers, which much of it is around here, it is very difficult to control these weeds. The National Trust took great efforts to spray off thistles on Tubney Fen last year. Now look at it - absolutely covered with thistles. Much of the local grassland is county council owned which does not allow spraying. Grazing by sheep is seen as a pasture cleaning mechanism as they go for the chop before they die of poisoning. But they seem to be gourmet sheep round here and prefer to eat the grass. Don't blame them!

Lesley Boyle

24 Acres



It is now nearly two years since the National Trust approached Reach Parish Council to see if there would be any interest in having access to 24 acres of land that had come up for sale on the edge of the village for community projects. Following our positive response, the Trust purchased the land (with a grant from the Esmée Fairburne Trust) in September 2011 and on 1st October 2012 Reach Parish Council took possession of 12 acres, at a peppercorn rent, on a 25 year lease. We plan to celebrate the start of the lease with a Ceilidh in the Village Centre some time towards the end of the year - so watch this space!

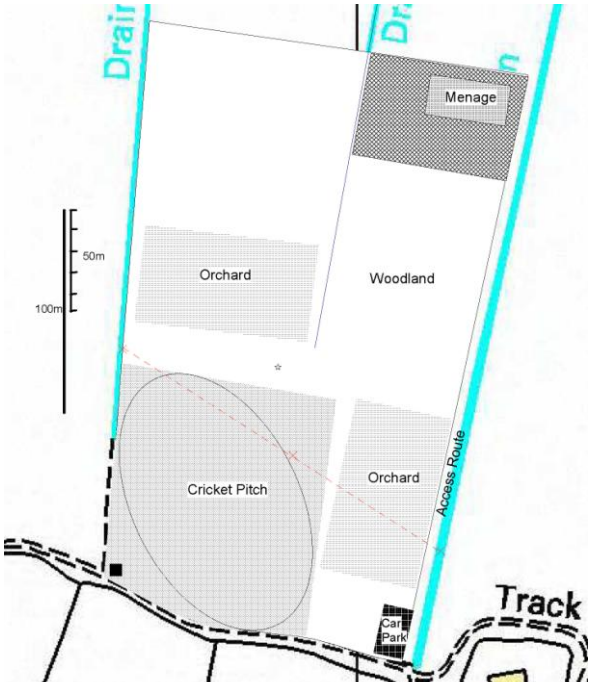
Over the next six months we will be creating a number of amenities, meeting needs identified by the community and reflecting a range of interests and activities - you'll have read about some of these in the pages of *Within Reach* over the last 18 months. They include:

- **A Community Orchard**: A two acre community orchard is to be developed, cultivating traditional varieties of apple, pear, plum and cherry from the East of England, forgotten fruits with names like Thoday's Quarrenden, Lord Peckover and Barnack Beauty. If you'd like to 'adopt' a fruit tree see page 13 of the last issue of Within Reach, visit the village website (www.reach-village.co.uk/community_orchard.html) or contact Graham Lingley (742293 or email glingley3@googlemail.com).
- **A Cricket Field**: Reach has a thriving cricket team but there is nowhere in the village to hold matches, so three acres of the site will be dedicated to creating a village cricket field.
- **A Living Willow Area**: Living structures such as wigwams and tunnels will be created, to be used for children's den building, story-telling, hiding and imaginative play, whilst a production area will produce materials for basket-making and other crafts.
- **A Ménage**: There are many Reach residents who horse ride but 'hacking' out, especially during autumn and winter months, can be very dangerous due to narrow roads, deep drainage ditches and some inconsiderate motorists. A ménage is planned which will provide a secure and safe riding area - especially important for young children that are learning to ride.
- **An Observatory**: A small astronomical observatory (taking advantage of the low light pollution on the site), fitted with a 12" reflector scope, is being considered (see page 28 of this magazine for more details).
- **A Woodland**: All these projects will be set in six acres of mixed woodland with picnic tables and benches, and connected by a network of paths.

The detailed mapping of the various projects is now coming together and in early September the project's committee members met with the National Trust and the Woodland Trust to exchange ideas on the best locations for the different projects.

Of course none of this can happen without funding! So far we've secured grants from Amey Cespa, the Forestry Commission's Big Tree Plant scheme and East Cambridgeshire District Council's Small Village Grants scheme - other applications are in the pipeline.

In addition to the projects that are being led by the local community, we'll be working with the National Trust to improve the biodiversity value of the land, by integrating the projects with landscaping and habitat management including a pond, hedgerows and wild flower meadows so that the area connects to the Wicken Fen Vision. There isn't much to see there at the moment (our 'blank canvas' is a stubble field) but all the projects are looking for volunteers to help with planning and implementation - so please come and join the fun!



To find out more about the project you can download the Working Document from the Reach Village web site: www.reach-village.co.uk/24Acres_Project.html.

For more information on any of the main projects:

- **Community Orchard**: David Thomas 742676 or david.thomas2000@yahoo.co.uk
- **Cricket Field**: Ross Clark 743725 or rossjclark@aol.com
- **Living Willow**: Emma Mitchell 741063 or emma@minniedog.co.uk
- **Ménage**: Liz Tabecki 742552 or liz@stageoneinteriors.co.uk
- **Observatory**: Andy Mitchell 741063 or andy@minniedog.co.uk
- **Woodland**: Malcolm Brearley mjbrearley@btinternet.com

David Thomas

01638 742676
david.thomas2000@yahoo.co.uk

Cambridge Botanic Gardens: Autumn's Capsule Collection

As the days shorten and summer's great flowering begins to dwindle, the plants of gardens, fields and hedgerows are getting ready to ensure the next generation, developing capsule collections of diverse seed shapes and ingenious dispersal methods.

Cranesbill, the common name for *Geranium pratense* refers to the elongated column of the seed capsule, thought to resemble the beak of a crane. When the seeds are ripe and the structure dry enough to create sufficient tension, the five sheath strips peel up the column at great speed and like a medieval trebuchet, catapult the seeds far away from the parent plant which might otherwise shade out next year's seedlings. In fact on a still, warm day you can often hear seedpods exploding. For example, the side of a lupin seedpod facing the sun dries out quicker than the other side, so the unequal tension causes the seedpod to buckle and pop open, twisting up to resemble sheep's horns and expelling the seeds. The same process occurs in many other bean family (Leguminosae) plants, including sweet peas and gorse, but the loudest pops belong to spurges in the Euphorbiaceae family - the seed capsule comprises three compartments and as the joint walls dry out the pod splits open suddenly and the seeds are shot out.



Plants in the daisy family produce fly-away seeds

By contrast, the autumn sky becomes a silent stage for a balletic display of all sorts of floating and winged seeds - the beautiful paired propellers of maple samaras wheel about with the downy parachutes of a great many daisy family (Compositae) members, especially the knapweeds, thistles and dandelions. And then there are the movers, like the velcro seeds of teasel that hitch a ride on passersby and the shakers, like the pepperpots of poppies and love-in-the mist. The ability to 'bagsy' suitable germination spots on the ground also confers a great advantage and seeds of successful weeds like wild oats (*Avena fatua*) make sure they get the best spots. One of the bracts enclosing the seed of this grass has a long bristle attached that develops a right-angle bend due to uneven thickening in the cell walls. On the ground, if the bristle becomes wet, it straightens and makes the seed roll over, bending and twisting once more as it dries out again. These hygroscopic movements cause the seeds to wriggle around until they fall into a crack in the earth and then drill the oat seed into the ground, which is now perfectly placed for spring germination.

The Botanic Garden is a great place for exploring all these different seed dispersal strategies. One of the most impressive is the squirting cucumber, *Ecballium elaterium*, a common weed of Mediterranean roadsides which we grow on the Systematic Beds. The bristly seedpod balloons with water until the pressure is so great that the slightest touch triggers the pod to shoot off, expelling the hard black seeds and a jet of water in the exhaust!

The Botanic Garden is open all through the autumn and winter opening at 10am and closing at 5pm in October and at 4pm from November to January. Adult admission is £4.50 (Giftaid admission £4.95) or join the Friends, get free admission and help the Garden grow! For news and events, detailed information about the Garden or to discover this week's Plant Picks from the Head of Horticulture, please visit the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk.

Juliet Day
Development Officer
Cambridge University Botanic Gardens

An Alternative to a BBQ

I was given a present of a garden shredder and a new pair of loppers recently (incentives to get some gardening done).

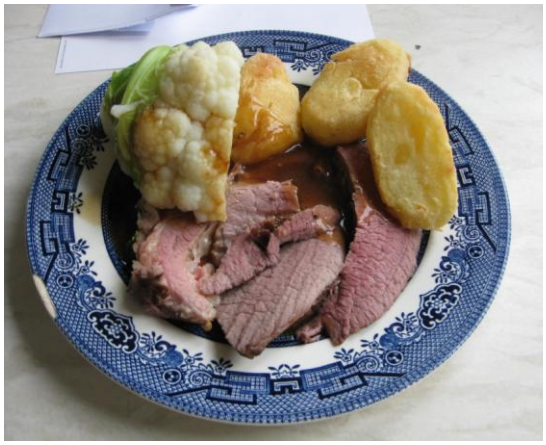




I have spent lots of hours feeding branches and all those prickly bits into my new machine. It quickly chews up spits out green wood up to an inch thick and gets through all the herbaceous material that is dying back. It now means that as all the wood over four inches in diameter goes for winter firewood, I have only the bits that are too thick for my shredder and too thin to bother with for indoors, left for a bonfire. I think bonfires are such a waste of energy and the smouldering sort are just a public nuisance making life unpleasant especially at night when the windows have to be firmly closed. My bonfire will be lit in the evening and I will stay with it whilst it burns and the ash will go on to the compost for its added nutrients. So I have a pile of lovely fine shreddings with fresh green waste and dry stuff all mixed together. There should be very few weed seeds surviving as the pile heats up well, so well in fact that I took its temperature - 60°C which is about 140°F.

Having cooked a pot of stew in grass cuttings when the children were at Swaffham Prior School, which resulted in my being questioned by Mrs Brown as to the reliability of my boys' news book, I decided I would give it another go. So I wrapped a slow roast beef joint in several layers of foil and buried it deep in the centre of my steaming pile on the Friday evening. By Saturday mid-day the meat thermometer was reading 57°C which is the temperature you would cook a joint at for medium rare.

So by 2 o'clock I had the roasties, cauliflower etc ready and put the oven onto 200°C just to colour the outside of the meat for 10 minutes to make it look more appetizing, as it was all a bit pink though cooked. Luckily the wire from the thermometer led me to the meat or I might still be looking for it!



The meat was tender but I should perhaps have wrapped it better as the outside did taste a bit odd. It certainly didn't shrink like an oven roast does. Now I know how "quickly" it cooks, I won't insert the thermometer through the foil for all the cooking next time, just to double check at the end. It wouldn't be safe to cook other meats in this way as they have to be cooked to a much higher temperature. I will also have to perfect a method for finding the joint once cooked!

Perhaps my hero Hugh F-W would be interested . . . .

Janet Hall

Janet@reach-village.co.uk
743737

Don't forget Janet is happy to answer your gardening questions. Ed.

What's "Growing On" at Snakehall Farm?

Prospects Trust's Polytunnel Partners Appeal has Raised the Roof!

Our most novel fundraising for 2012 has been our Prospects Polytunnel Partners Appeal and we are pleased to report that we only have one tunnel left available for shared sponsorship. Donations from £50 upward will secure you a part share of the Holly Polytunnel. With such an appropriately named tunnel, perhaps this may make the ideal Christmas present for the person who has everything bar a Polytunnel?

We are hugely indebted to all our Polytunnel Partners and will be formally unveiling our donor's plaques on the farm this autumn. For more details about this exciting opportunity or to discuss sponsorship rates please contact Marianne Baker on 01638 741551 or email maz.baker@prospectstrust.org.uk.

Ghostly Goings on Down at the Farm this Halloween

Save the date or book a ticket IF YOU DARE! This Hallowe'en Snakehall Farm will become a Spookhall Farm for the one-off event of the season. Spooks, seasonal soup and farm frights for just £5 per ticket. This will be a ticket-only event and places are limited so book your place by calling the Farm on 01638 741551. Tours begin at 5.45pm and 6.45pm and will include a mug of spooky seasonal soup with a roll to warm up your chilled bones . . . oooooooooooooooooooooooooooh oooooooooooooooh!

Valuable Volunteers Bring Vibrancy

Following on from our last article regarding the Anti-Robin Hood effect - produce going unpaid from the shop - we were delighted to gain a new volunteer - thank you Marie!

We have been busy on the farm holding host to some corporate grafters, swapping their laptops for garden tools and blue collars for bright t-shirts and giving us a helping hand. Excell, Lily Pharmaceutical and Manit staff have all given their time for free to support the work of the Prospects Trust. Our Co-workers have been very happy to welcome lots of new faces on the farm and are very pleased to share some of the everlasting weeding. Thank you to our volunteers; your help and commitment is a huge boost to all at Snakehall Farm.



Garden Team Reaches Top Gear?

Our ever-busy Garden Team can now been seen buzzing about in the local community in their new Garden Team Truck. With an extra large cabin, we can now offer more supported Co-worker Placements or volunteers on the Garden team. It is in beautiful Prospects Trust branded colours, thanks to Footprints Signs and Graphics. We hope it catches your eye when they are out in Burwell and beyond tidying up local residents and businesses gardens. We will be able to offer some seasonal tidy-ups and one-off garden clearance contracts in our low season (January to March 2013) - please call Sarah or Will on 01638 741551 for more details.

Seasonal Stock in the Shop and a New Local Customer

If you pop into the shop at Snakehall Farm (located on the Swaffham Road between Swaffham Prior and Reach) you will be greeted by a bumper organic offering. From tomatoes red and yellow, to luscious leaves and seasonal salads, our Farm Shop is stocked with the very best of seasonal growth direct from our fields, sown, grown and graded by our Co-workers daily. By purchasing our 100% organic, 100% ethical, 0 food miles produce, you help us grow our Social Enterprise for the future and enable us to support more adults with learning difficulties, disabilities and those with varying health needs.

If you were inspired by our fantastic Paralympians this summer, you will be truly amazed by the green-fingered greatness of our Co-workers who every day put their disabilities aside to grow differently at the Prospects Trust.

If you can't make it into the shop, why not treat yourself to a meal at the Five Bells in Burwell? We are pleased to welcome Michele the new landlady of the Five Bells as a new but very valued wholesale customer.

And Finally……

Help us grow more! We are seeking regular donors who want to give a little back to a local charity - for every donation granted to the Prospects Trust through our Local Giving webpage, they will help GROW YOUR TENNER. From September 25 until all £500,000 is gone, Local Giving will match the first £10 of every donation made on Localgiving.com. So if you give £10, we'll grow it up to £20. If you claim Gift Aid, it becomes £22.50! To celebrate the launch of Local Giving's regular monthly donation feature, they will match the first three donations (up to £30) when you sign up to a give monthly. **So if you give £10 every month Local Giving will match the first £30. Add in Gift Aid and your initial £30 donation becomes £67.50.** Help us to build stronger communities - give locally. Visit our webpage on Local Giving: http://localgiving.com/charity/prospectstrustatsnakehallfarm

Marianne (Maz) Baker

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

The £50 Thought

A headmaster was talking to a class of 12 year olds in his school.

He asked the question "If you were Prime Minister what would be the first thing you would do?"

One child replied, "I'd give food and houses to all the homeless people."

The headmaster said "what a worthy goal, but you don't have to wait until you're Prime Minister to do that, you can come over to my house and mow the lawn plus a bit of weeding and I'll pay you £50. Then you can go down to the town centre, find a homeless person and give him the £50 to buy food."

A second child then slowly raised a hand and said to the headmaster "why doesn't the homeless man go over to your house and do the work, then you can pay him the £50 directly?"

The two children ultimately became MP's - for different parties.

South East Cambridgeshire
Conservative Association
THE SWAFFHAMS AND REACH BRANCH

would like to invite you and
your friends to come and enjoy

A SUNDAY LUNCH

with some
COMFORTING COUNTRY CASSEROLES

Baldwin Manor, Swaffham Prior
Sunday 21st October 2012. 12.00 noon

Lunch: £20 each

Guests: James and Ava Paice

Please reply to
Mrs Marcia Miller
Baldwin Manor, Swaffham Prior
CB25 0LD

01638 741141
Email: mrciamiller75@gmail.com

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News from Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey



Wicken pensioner, Margaret Harding, kindly performed the naming ceremony for our new boat, the Mayfly, on 19 September. Margaret came up with the name following childhood memories of a school project to build and sail a raft from Wicken down to the annual Reach May Fair. After the naming ceremony fellow members of Wicken Swallowtails joined Margaret for a cruise down to the Five Miles from Anyway No Hurry Inn at Upware for lunch. During the last few weeks a team of volunteers have been renovating our old fen lighter, which is now on the grass strip in front of the Boathouse.

A review of our wildlife viewing facilities at Wicken Fen and across the wider Vision lands is being undertaken this autumn. If you would like to participate in a short survey please email wickenfen@nationaltrust.org.uk or leave your details at the Visitor Centre and we will get a survey form to you shortly.

Work is ongoing to secure funding for the new Burwell Lode crossing which will form part of the Lodes Way. In the meantime work will commence shortly on extending the existing hard surfaced path across Burwell Fen up to the existing pedestrian footbridge, together with some initial groundworks for the new crossing. This will ensure that all money allocated to the project under the Sustrans Connect2 Big Lottery Fund grant is spent by the April 2013 deadline.



Margaret Harding performed the naming ceremony



Cruise to Five Miles from Anywhere No Hurry Inn

This winter we are planning to give the Vision lands a tidy up - collecting litter and removing old agricultural machinery and debris. Thanks to some generous funding support from the Linley Shaw Foundation, Community Ranger Lois Baker and Vision Ranger John Hughes are planning a series of volunteer work parties on the following dates - Sundays, 4 November, 2 December, 6 January, 3 February and 3 March from 10am -1pm. If you would like to join the big clear-up please contact Lois on 01353 720274 or email lois.baker@nationaltrust.org.uk

The rich colours of autumn make it one of the best times of the year to get outdoors and enjoy the British countryside. This autumn we've joined up with PruHealth to organise **The Great British Walk,** a walking festival with lots of fun and exciting walks nationwide - here's a flavour of our local walks at Wicken and Anglesey Abbey - **Adventurer's Fen Walk** - (Wicken Fen (WF) Sunday 21 October 10.30am, cost £8 including soup) - join our Vision Ranger to discover the wildlife on newer areas of the reserve, cost £8 including soup; **Family Fun Walk** - (WF Saturday 27 - Sunday 4 November 10am - 4.30pm) - your chance to tick off some of the 50 things to before your 11¾; **Walk the Fens** - (Sunday 28 October, Anglesey Abbey (AA) 10.30am or 11.30am Wicken Fen (WF)) join us for a long walk to the pub! Choose where you start from Wicken Fen or Anglesey Abbey and meet the other group halfway for lunch at the Five Miles from Anywhere No Hurry Inn in Upware; **Pram Push** - (WF Monday 29 October, 10.30am) - step out with your babies and toddlers for a buggy friendly countryside walk; **A Story of Statues** - (AA Tuesday 30 October 10.30am - 4.30pm) collect a trail guide from the Visitor Centre and explore the story of Anglesey Abbey's magnificent garden statues; **Children's Garden Discovery Walk** (AA Wednesday 31 October and Friday 2 November 11am and 2pm); **Geocache Taster Day** (WF Friday 2 November from 10am). Fancy having a go at geocaching - then come along to our beginners taster day; and finally the **Big Walkies** (WF Saturday 3 November 10am) - bring your four-legged friend to enjoy a social walk with lots of other dogs! For other walks and events in the East of England please check out our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/gonewalking.

Mucky Pups, our monthly themed arts and crafts activity for young pre-schoolers, has resumed following the summer break - the programme for the autumn is **Mucky Pups Do . . . . . Autumn Activities** on Wednesday 10 October and **Misty Magic** on Wednesday 14 November. Each session runs from 10.30 -12noon and costs £3.95.

It may seem that the children have only just returned to school following the summer holidays but we have plenty of activities for the pending half term holiday. The week kicks off with our famous **Halloween Ghost Walk** on Saturday 27 October from 6.30pm, cost £5.25, **Batty Halloween** – Tuesday 30 Oct and **Owl Prowl & Pellet Investigation –** both activities have sessions from 10.30am – 12.30pm and 2 - 4pm, cost £4.75.

I hate to mention it but Christmas is on the horizon. We are holding a series of Workshops to help you prepare for the Festive Season. Firstly there's a **Christmas Decorations Workshop** on Saturday/Sunday 17 – 18 November, 10am - 1pm or 2 - 5pm and a **Christmas Wreath Making Workshop** on Saturday 1 December at 10am - 12.30pm or 1.30 - 4pm. Workshops cost £18 per session and pre-booking is essential on 01353 720274.

Howard Cooper
Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey

CROSSWORD WINNER

Congratulations go to Joyce Harrison of Great Lane on winning Zenida's crossword No. 14.
A £5 book token has been sent to her.

SOLUTION TO ZENIDA'S CROSSWORD No. 14

ACROSS: 1. PERPLEXING. 4. PIER. 8. STRUCTURE. 9. CHAUFFEUR. 11. WENSLEYDALE. 13. ASSEMBLE. 16. EDAM. 18. WAXEN. 22. ECCENTRIC. 23. GORGONZOLA. 24. CUR. 25. AMEND. 28. CHEDDAR. 29. LEICESTER. 30. AKA. 32. TRAMP. 37. OBSTREPEROUS. 39. BANANA. 41. OR. 44. CAMEMBERT. 45. RAILWAY. 46. BOXERS. 47. YIN.

DOWN: 1. PASTEL. 2. PLUME. 3. NEEDY. 4. PLACES. 5. GNU. 7. TRITE. 10. FIRM. 11. WED. 12. LANCASHIRE. 14. ENNEAD. 15. BERSERK. 17. MERITED. 19. EEL. 20. VACILLATED. 21. DONATION. 23. GRAIN. 26. MAA. 27. ARMS. 31. ALSO. 32. TREATY. 33. APIARY. 35. PRECISE. 36. BALA. 38. BAMBI. 40. AXE. 42. RAY. 43. AWAY. 44. COO.

Bottisham Village College
Adult and Community Learning

There is still time to book a place on one of our

Saturday Workshops on
17th November 2012
10am – 4pm

Come and spend the day learning a new skill. Preparing an Indian Dinner Party feast to share with friends in the evening or making gifts for Christmas!

Choose from ……..

Fabulous Felt Making
Quilting for Christmas
Ice and Decorate your Christmas Cake
Photoshop
Upholstery and Chair Caning
Woodturning
Dressmaking
Indian Cookery Dinner Party

Full details of all courses are available on our website:
www.bottishamvc.org/commed
or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372
Email commed@bottishamvc.org

Burwell Women's Institute

Forthcoming events . . .

25th October Mrs Margaret Rogers on the History of Tea. The competition is the most unusual tea cosy

29th November BB Beads with Mrs Beryl Brook, Knitting with Wire Jewellery. The competition is the prettiest necklace.

Meetings are held in the Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell, at 7.15 for 7.30pm.

Please contact Jenny on 01638 741205 for further information.

Burwell Mothers' Union

Forthcoming events . . . .

6th October at 9am Harvest Breakfast with guest speaker - Compostella Pilgramage in the Guildhall Burwell

24th October Deanery Meeting at Lode Chapel with Mothers' Union Diocesan President on her visit to Velore, India

7th November at 7.30pm Guest speaker on Bye Buy Childhood at Guildhall Burwell

28th November The District Nurse Pauline Rogers, at Guildhall Burwell

For more information please contact Susan Baker on 01638 741791.

Amenity Fund

The Amenity Fund has £3,621.05 in its bank account.

Now that the 24Acres lease is in place, the Amenity Fund Committee have agreed to funding of £1,750 towards the venture with the possibility of another £250 towards the Observatory, subject to further information being provided.

Overall, this leaves the Amenity Fund with around **£1,600**.

To learn more about the fund please visit the village website at www.reach-village.co.uk/amenity_fund.html.

Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Michael Aves	Vice-Chairman	742800
Malcolm Brearley	Chairman mjbrearley@btinternet.com	
Ross Clark	Councillor	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, **Hilary Fielding** is Rights of Way Officer and **Grahame Radford** is Speedwatch Officer.



Adopt a Tree in our new Community Orchard

please call

Graham Lingley on 742293

Advertisers List

To place an advertisement contact David Parr on **01638 744081** or **davidmparr@btinternet.com**
Rates: Half page £50/year; quarter page £27.50/year (we have six issues per year)

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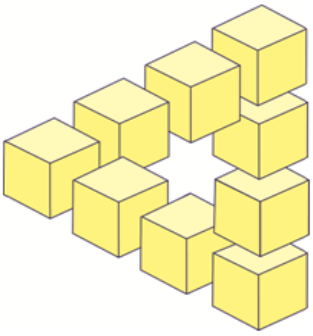

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Ross's Reflections

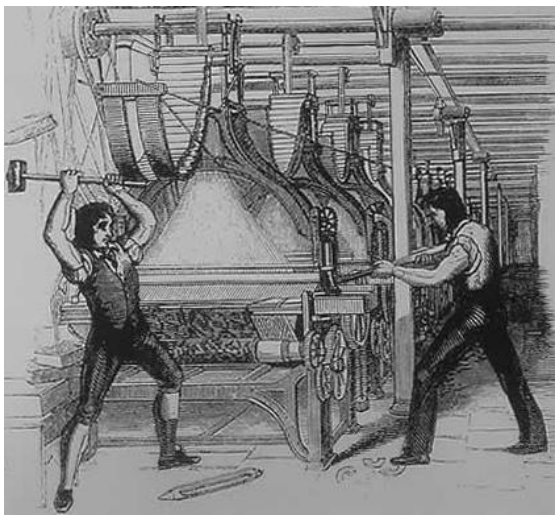
"Hysterical, scare-mongering latterday luddites": that is the description which the new planning minister, Nick Boles, has applied to people who campaign against the green belt.





Reach being full of luddites as you know - only last week I came across a mob setting themselves upon a threshing machine and narrowly escaped with my life when they took a fancy to my radio and headphones - I thought I would provide a little guide to the planning system, for the benefit of all those who, even as I write, I can see sharpening axes and hammers.

Green belt is often confused with green field land. Reach does not have a green belt and neither does it lie within the green belt of Cambridge, one of 14 such designations in England. Our village is, however, surrounded by what planners variously refer to as 'open countryside' or green field land. The distinction is that whereas green belt land is supposed to have long-term protection from the bulldozers, green field land is simply land that is not currently designated for development. It is unlikely that you will receive planning permission to build on green field land unless for agricultural purposes, in some cases for affordable housing or if you can prove to the planners why your development must be in a particular location.



The distinction, however, is being lost with the new developments in Trumpington in what was formerly the Cambridge green belt. While the city council claims to be 'swapping' the land that is being developed for land currently outside the green belt, it does rather undermine the whole concept of a green belt. It ceases to mean anything if every time you want to build some houses in the green belt you roll out the bulldozers and pretend that you have protected land elsewhere instead.

That doesn't necessarily mean that new policy is a bad thing, however. Since 1954, when the Cambridge green belt was established, housing development jumped into the countryside beyond the belt. But jobs did not necessarily follow. The result is people commuting long distances to work by car. For the first time in years it seems there are new family houses for sale in attractive locations on the edge of Cambridge, as opposed to being squeezed onto the site of old sewage works and gasworks. And of course if people who work on the science parks or the Addenbrookes biomedical campus (as it seems to be called nowadays rather than a fuddy-duddy old hospital) actually have somewhere nearby where they can choose to live, it does rather take the pressure off rural roads.

Maybe it is time to put away the pitchfork and wonder whether green belts really need to be quite so sacrosanct after all.

Ross Clark
01638 743725
rossjclark@aol.com



HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 27th October 2012
from 6.45pm
Village Hall

Meeting Allen Alderson



Q. What is your full name?
A. Allen Wesley Alderson. I am named after two of my grandmother's brothers, Uncle Allen and Uncle Wesley.

Q. Where were you born and brought up?
A. I was born in Coronation Street, Cambridge in 1943.

Q. What schools did you go to and what can you remember of them?
A. I didn't have a marvellous education. I went to St Paul's Church of England School, Russel Street, Cambridge and Coleridge School, Cambridge. There were no playing fields at St Paul's so for sports we walked to Parkers Piece. Also there was no dining room or kitchen so for school dinners we walked round to Coronation Street. I went to typical city schools of the 1940s and 50s.

Q. What is your employment?
A. I'm semi-retired now. I have worked mostly as a brick layer or in the building trade and since the 1970s I have worked for myself. In partnership with my son we employed several people but we are now down-sizing. We once employed up to 30 people but construction is not as good as it used to be. We mainly built housing estates and also quite a lot of stable work in the Newmarket area. Nowadays we construct one-off quality houses and extensions and undertake restoration work.

Q. You are a councillor. Tell me about that?
A. I have been the District Councillor for East Cambs Swaffhams Ward for 8½ years. It's quite time-consuming but satisfying to sort out problems for members of the public. I am also involved in working towards long term development issues for the district. Plus I take a particular interest in housing and the homeless.

Q. How did you meet Rachael and where were you married?
A. We've been married 50 years and met when I worked in Haverhill where Rachael is from. We were married in Edinburgh in 1962. We first lived at Great Shelford for two years and then at Cherry Hinton, Cambridge. We have two daughters, Amber and Abbey and a son, Aaran. We have seven grandchildren and one greatgranddaughter. Together with my father who will be 90 next month, that makes five generations.

Q. How did you come to live in Reach?
A. We moved to Reach from Cambridge when our children grew up. We wanted to renovate somewhere and live in the country. As it was Rachael became pregnant with Abbey, our youngest daughter, but we carried on with our plans nonetheless as we thought the new place would be lovely for a new child. We moved to Rose Cottage in Reach in 1987. The village facilities then included a village shop and post office. Abbey attended Swaffham Prior School and also Bottisham. I was a member of the Swaffham Prior Parents Teachers Association and was Chairman for three years

Q. Your house is quite old and occupies a lovely spot?
A. When we moved in, the house was two small cottages knocked into one but the knock-through was very basic and each cottage still had its own front door. The cottages were built in 1825-30 as farm workers cottages and before we came the Webb family (Phyllis and Ben) lived there. We have extended the house to the rear and sides.



Rachael and Allen in their teens

Q. You have quite a menagerie of animals?
A. Indeed. We have eight cats. People will come to Rachael with a sad tale about a cat needing a home. We have two dogs; brothers. A rabbit called Flopsy Mopsy and any number of chickens.

Q. What are your interests?
A. We both enjoy gardening and walking in the countryside - the latter less so now. I used to water ski at Hunstanton Water Ski Club. The Wash is such a big area its ideal for learning to ski and many club members go on to ski for England.

Q. Where do you like to holiday?
A. We have enjoyed Derbyshire in the past and also narrowboat holidays. We've travelled extensively in Europe; Switzerland, France, Portugal, Italy and Corsica. For many years, 15 actually, we have holidayed in Greece on the mainland and the islands. The Greek people are relaxed and friendly, the weather is generally very good and the food is excellent.

Q. Favourite book?
A. All sorts of novels.

Q. Favourite music?
A. I am particularly fond of `Ode to Joy' from one of Beethoven's Symphonies and `Imagine' by John Lennon. I particularly like the words and message of the latter.

Q. Favourite film?
A. On Golden Pond. I enjoy the storyline and it has three principal actors all of whom were very good: Katharine Hepburn, Henry Fonda and Jane Fonda.

Q. Can you cook?
A. No I am no use at cooking. Luckily Rachael is very good and enjoys baking.

Q. Are you handy around the house?
A. I am, but work at home is not always top on my list.

Q. What is your philosophy on life?
A. I have two philosophies: Don't leave to tomorrow what you can do today and do unto others as you would wish to have been done to yourself.

Q. And Rachael - what's your philosophy on a long and happy marriage?
A. Patience I would think.

Claire Halpin-McDonald



Our daughter Abbey, Rachael and Allen on holiday abroad last year.

Is that a bottle of English sauce I see in the foreground? Ed.

Days Gone By



At this time in 1979 it was Dr Hook who topped the UK charts with “When you’re in love with a beautiful woman”. Originally known as Dr Hook and the Medicine Show, founder members were George Cummings, Ray Sawyer and Billy Francis. The band ceased performing in 1985.

In the UK, the Times was published for the first time in nearly a year. The paper's disappearance followed a dispute between management and unions over manning levels and the introduction of new technology.

It was the first break in the production of the Times, known affectionately to its readers as "the Thunderer", since it was founded in 1788. The dispute was estimated to have cost the Thomson Organisation more than £30M.

About 500,000 copies of the paper were produced for the Times' first edition - an extra 200,000 on its pre-suspension print run. The personal columns carried a long string of welcome-back messages from advertisers while readers announced births and deaths spanning the period of the Times' absence.



Three special obituary supplements were also planned as well as a news review covering the months the Times was out of print.

We also had the famous spy story when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher named Sir Anthony Blunt, a former security service officer and personal adviser on art to the Queen, as the "fourth man" in the Cambridge spy ring. The announcement, given in a written answer in the Commons, ended a 15-year cover-up. Mrs Thatcher revealed that Blunt had confessed to the authorities in 1964 but under a secret deal was granted immunity from prosecution.

Minutes after the Prime Minister's statement Buckingham Palace stripped Blunt of his knighthood.

He had been part of a Cambridge spy ring made up of Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean and Harold "Kim" Philby - who was in charge of British intelligence's anti-communist counter-espionage from 1944 to 1946.

Burgess and Maclean defected in 1951 following a tip-off from Philby who defected himself in 1963.



Anthony Blunt

Blunt said he had come to bitterly regret his spying activities - he died in disgrace just three years later.

No such excitement in Reach. The battle for the Lodes (eventually won) continued.

Should gas be made available in Reach (and the Swaffhams) was a hot topic. Ultimately, from the three villages, just 60 residences said yes (with just 10 from Reach out of maybe 120 dwellings) so the plan was shelved. I wonder what the response would be nowadays. Does anyone think it is worth another go – especially based on the extortionate price of oil?

David Parr

davidmparr@btinternet.com
744081



Swaffham Prior Primary School

Fresh from the excitement of the Olympics and Paralympics, the Autumn Term has arrived once more! It has been lovely to welcome the children back and hear all about their summer ventures. The reception children are settling well into school life.



Bioblitz: Hedge Sweeping
Is that Jodie concentrating? Ed

Neptune and Saturn Classes have begun a topic on Space and have already spent a large proportion of their time finding out about the planets and our solar system.
Ed: Have a look at the proposed Observatory on page 28.

Children in Saturn Class have been exploring the use of PowerPoint presentations to share their information with each other and produced models and posters to represent their findings. Children in Neptune class have being trying out different printing techniques and using them to represent features seen in space. Mars Class has been learning about Matisse and creating their own versions of 'The Snail' and children in Mercury Class have been drawing and painting portraits. They practised mixing a range of skin tones and there has been some very careful colour-mixing.

On Thursday 14th September, under the direction of Lois Baker from Wicken Fen, the whole school took part in a 'Bioblitz' during which they listed and found out about different plants and animals found on our school grounds. Activities included pond dipping, bird watching, hedge sweeping for minibeasts and tree identification. A wide range of animal life was seen, ranging from spiders and various types of beetles to newts and buzzards. We are hoping to collate all of the information and produce lists of the animal life and plant life found. These can then be added to as the year progresses. It will be interesting to see what different animals and plants we have and the changes with each season.

Next month Saturn Class will be going to Ely Cathedral for a day of activities and we will be celebrating the Harvest.



Bioblitz: Pond Dipping

The learning journey at Swaffham Prior School has begun again!

Hannah Curtis, Head teacher
www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

Little Windmills Pre-school

This term we have changed our opening times. We are now open every morning between 9.15am and 12.15pm.

On our return we were thrilled to receive a letter from the Queen thanking us for the Crown picture we sent her to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee. This has been framed and is on display.

We are taking full advantage of the continued fine weather with trips to the park and playing field and have enjoyed seeing and feeding Jo Redfarn's pigs (below).



Remember the Tamworth Two!

This term we will thinking about the season of autumn and celebrating the harvest with a service in Reach church led by the Reverend Eleanor Williams.

Our AGM will be held at the Village Centre on Monday October 8th at 7.45pm. This is a very important meeting as we need to elect new officers for the coming year. Without a parent committee we cannot operate.

If you have children between the ages of 2-4 and would like to find out more about us, we have an Open Morning planned for Tuesday November 20th between 10am and 12pm. You are most welcome to join us and while the children play, meet the staff and current parents over a drink and a piece of cake.

If you would like to know more about Little Windmills, please visit our website at www.littlewindmills.co.uk or ring 07803 671200 during our session times.

Susan Bluck and the Little Windmills team

24Acres Observatory

As you may have read elsewhere in these pages, given enough interest within the village, we may have the opportunity to build an observatory on the 24Acres Site.

It is an ideal spot for observing the night sky as there is not too much sodium light pollution and it has a nice flat aspect allowing a full panoramic view. The telescope would be a modern "goto" scope, allowing users to easily find interesting objects to view. The images would never be like those sent from the Hubble Space Telescope or the VLT (Very Large Telescope) but there is something very inspiring and rewarding about having the light reflected from Saturn's rings shining into your eye!

All year round, on a clear night, you will be able to see our moon and many of our solar system's planets and some of their surface features; for example, Jupiter's great red spot, stripes and moons, the rings of Saturn and the ice caps of Mars.

The visible constellations change throughout the year and it is amazing how quickly you can learn to navigate your way around the night sky by them. Late summer nights are ideal for viewing the "Ring Nebula" in the constellation of Lyra. In winter the "Orion Nebula" is beautiful as is the Andromeda Galaxy. Comets come and go in the night sky, many not viewable by the naked eye but revealed by the telescope.

Astronomy is a very rewarding activity and we would hope that whole families might make the trip to the observatory on clear nights - for younger members of the village it's a great excuse to stay up a bit later! It would also be a great extension to science curriculums and may even result in the new Professor Brian/Bryony Cox!

The thought that anyone observing Earth from Andromeda (250 million light years away!) with a good enough telescope would see Triassic dinosaurs, is enough to give me vertigo!



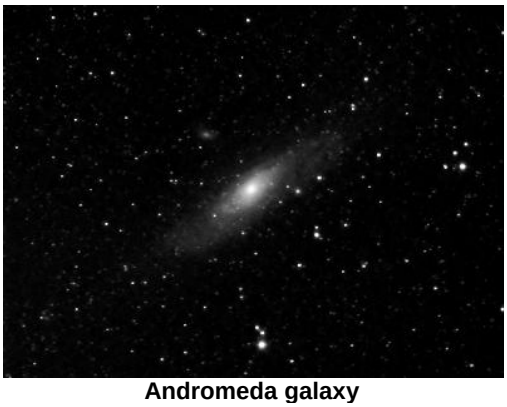
Jupiter and its moons



Saturn



Orion nebula



Andromeda galaxy

If you are interested in exploring this observatory opportunity further, then please give me a call or drop me an email - to get the necessary funding we'll need to be able to prove that the facility will be well-used.

Andy Mitchell
741063 or andy@minniedog.co.uk

KIDS PAGE!! ☺ ☺



It's almost Halloween . . .

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

Halloween Ghost Scary Trick
Witch Vampire Dark Treat
Costume Pumpkin Skeleton Monster

Pumpkin and costume ideas!

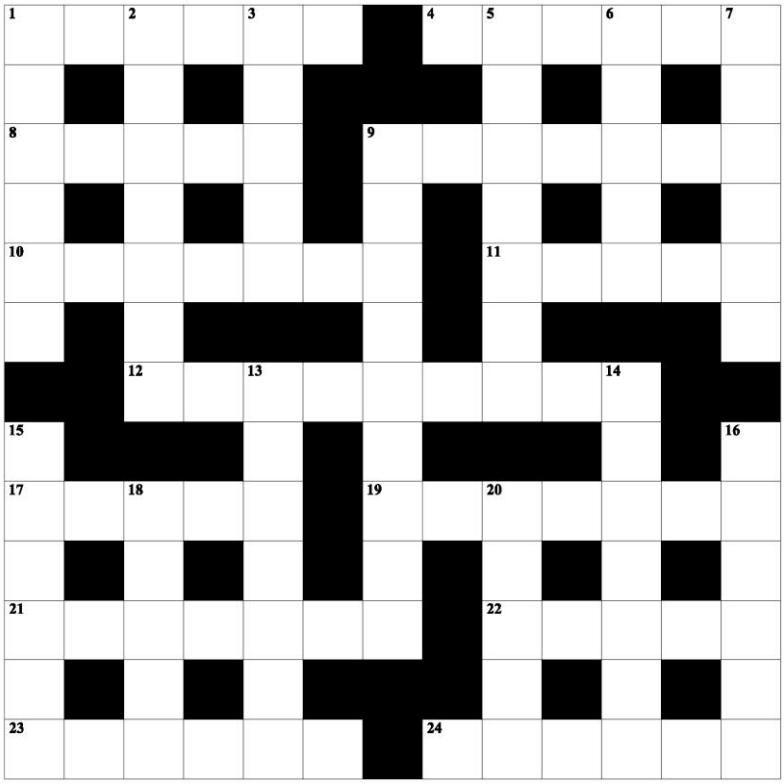








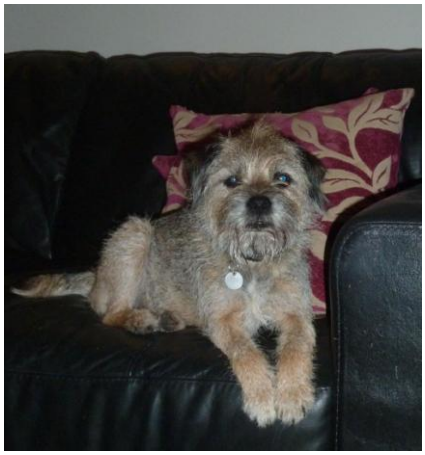
Crossword No. 15



The winner and answers to the previous crossword can be found on Page 21.

A £5 Book Token will be awarded for the first correct entry opened after the closing date. Please send your entry by Friday 7th December 2012 to:

CROSSWORD. North View House, 16 Chapel Lane, Reach CB25 OJJ giving your Name, Address and Telephone Number



Teddi says "the crossword looks quite hard - good Luck!"

ACROSS

1 Unthinkingly eager (to fight) (4 - 2)
4 Mechanical calculator (6)
8 Device used to stun someone temporarily (5)
9 Social blunder (4, 3)
10 Something joined or added (7)
11 24 or 25 sheets of paper (5)
12 Small amount given for services rendered (9)
17 Stay temporarily (5)
19 Innate – neither flat nor sharp (7)
21 Small antelope (7)
22 Twelve (or thirteen for a baker?) (5)
23 Playing (with an idea, for example) (6)
24 West German Chancellor, 1969 – 74 (6)

DOWN

1 Rich cake (6)
2 Surgery of the face (4, 3)
3 Wading birds with long legs (5)
5 Curt (7)
6 Island in the Gulf of Naples (5)
7 Ordered scheme (6)
9 It will never happen! (3, 6)
13 Seat of Russian government (7)
14 As far as one can see (7)
15 Insult (6)
16 Celestial body (6)
18 Giddy – silly (5)
20 English royal dynasty (5)

The Church Barbecue made the sum of **£403.07**

Thank You!

All proceeds go to the Church of St Etheldreda and the Holy Trinity in Reach

Rita's Recipes



Beetroot Relish

Ingredients

1kg raw beetroot, peeled and coarsely shredded
750g red onions
750g apples, peeled cored and grated
500ml red wine or cider vinegar
2tbsp peeled and freshly grated ginger
500g soft brown sugar
2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
2 sticks cinnamon
1 heaped tsp turmeric
Zest and juice of 2 oranges
2tsp paprika or cayenne
1 level tsp ground cloves
A splash of port (optional)



Method

Put all the ingredients in a large stainless steel preserving or heavy based pan. Bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer uncovered for approx 1½ hours, stirring occasionally with a wooden spoon, until the beetroot is tender and the liquid has reduced to a syrup consistency. Remove the cinnamon sticks. Pot the relish into warm jars: fill almost to the brim and seal immediately. Once cooled, label and store in a cool dark place; the relish will keep for several months. Once opened, keep refrigerated and eat within a week.

Tomato Chutney



Ingredients

2kg sliced tomatoes, green or red
500g finely chopped onions
500g brown sugar
500g apples, peeled, cored and chopped
2 rounded tsp mustard powder
1tsp ginger
500g sultanas
spiced vinegar
1tsp salt
½tsp pepper

Method

Put all the ingredients, except the sugar, into a large stainless steel preserving or heavy based pan. Simmer gently until all the mixture is quite soft, add the sugar and stir until the sugar is dissolved, gradually bring to the boil and boil steadily until the chutney is the consistency of jam. Pour into warm jars and seal immediately.

Cricket





Any day now the stubble will be ploughed up and the grass seed will be scattered on what is to become the Reach Oval. But for the moment, Team Reach has been plugging away elsewhere.

Sunday 22 July saw us take on the Swaffham Irregulars – so irregular in fact that they only gather for one game a year, against us. That didn't, however, stop them beating us last year. But with another 12 months of experience and wisdom behind us it was to be a different story. Having notched up 176-8, helped by 60 from young Gwilym, we took to the field, painfully aware that it was over a year since we last prevailed on a cricket field. The Irregulars, however, lived up to their name, suffering constipation at the crease in the face of an onslaught from Theo Clark who took 4-8.



Having miraculously avoided deluges on the previous two weekends, our visit to Grantchester on 29th July was less fortunate: abandoned after 15 overs (and about as many lost balls as Grantchester's openers pelted it over the meadows). Sadly, none of us even had the chance to earn the £50 prize proffered for landing one in Lord Archer's garden.

Once again, Dave Silk's XI, Nigel Phillips' Memorial XI as they are otherwise named, brought their two New Zealand ringers to try to bounce us out on 12th August. Sadly, this time they were less hungover than last. An early dropped catch proved expensive as someone called Keith (that's how their own scorer put it) progressed from 2 to 72. What had taken the visitors 28 overs to achieve - to score 149 - was very nearly achieved by Reach in 38 overs - except that we were bowled out for 140.

Petersfield on 9th September proved easier meat. In fact, we helped ourselves to a record score of 289 and our first ever century opening stand thanks to Ewen Cameron (92) and Andrew Trump (30). As per the rules of the game Ewen owed us a jug of beer for surpassing 50, although he also owed us a box of new balls having carelessly placed a good number of them in various garden bushes dotted about Burwell.

Not even the uncharacteristic failure of the captain (who was temporarily fielding for the opposition) to drop a catch could spoil the party.

Petersfield, however, proved tougher than expected in the batting department. For the first 11 overs they were well on the pace. But then the wickets began to tumble and the visitors succumbed to 149 all out.



As ever, we are always looking out for new players. Don't worry if you haven't played for years: our finest players are those who have come out of retirement like some old and ragged teddy extracted from a long-forgotten toy box to entertain the grandchildren. We await your call.

Ross Clark
743725 or rossjclark@aol.com

LODE RUNNERS
HALF MARATHON & 3 MILE FUN RUN
SUNDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2012

Starts at 10 am from Lode Social Club, Lode, Cambridgeshire.

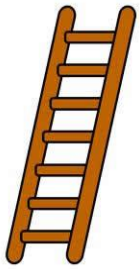
- Entry by Post (on the day entries subject to numbers)
- Numbers limited to 200
- Flat, fast course
- Entry Prices are:
  - £20 Unaffiliated entry fee, £18 Affiliated entry fee
  - "On-the-Day" entries (+£2) subject to numbers
  - Fun Run £5 entry fee (£2.50 for under 16's)
- Entry Forms – can be downloaded from our website www.loderunners.co.uk (under events)
- ARC Race Permit No: ARC12/246

Raising money for East Anglia's Children's Hospices
(Registered Charity No. 1069284)
and Lode Social Club

For further information contact Tessa Shrubbs 01223 811812 or email lodefarm@aol.com

Tennis Update

The court continues to be well-used and following **Philip Lewis** taking over as Chairman, a **Tennis Ladder** has been set up.



The rules are as follows . . . .

1. A player may challenge any other player who is up to **four places** above them in the table.
2. A match should be completed within **ten days** of the challenge being made, unless extenuating circumstances prevent it.
3. The challenger is responsible for **booking the court** and providing the **tennis balls**.
4. The **standard tennis rules apply**. Scoring is based on winning two of three sets, with a tie-break at the end of any set that reaches a score of six games each. In the tie-break, the first to win seven points wins the set, but must win by at least two points.
5. The **winner of the match is responsible for reporting the result** (sets result and match date) to the ladder coordinator (David Parr) via text 07887 563720 or email davidmparr@btinternet.com.
6. If the challenger wins the match, **the challenger moves above the player challenged** on the ladder.
7. The ladder will be **kept up to date** on the village website.
8. **New members join the ladder at the bottom**.
9. The rules will be **interpreted and disputes settled** by the Tennis Committee Chairman Philip Lewis.
10. There will be a **£5 voluntary donation** to enter the ladder, this to be paid annually in April but in September/October for year one.

David Parr

744081 or davidmparr@btinternet.com

The players and starting positions are as follows . . .

	Players		Contact details . . .
1	DAVIES	Gareth	742196
2	GARNER	Alex	743408
3	LEWIS	Philip	742115
4	MULES	Dan	07595 082641
5	REDFARN	Paul	741755
6	TRUMP	Andrew	07980 955490 or andrew@4trumps.net
7	CANE	Jon	741064
8	CLARK	Ross	743725
9	CLARK	Theo	theodorewclark@aol.com
10	GOOSEN	Glen	741755
11	JORDAN	Tony	743408
12	KEUTGEN	Robert	745244
13	MANCHETT	Sean	07765 244000
14	PARR	David	744081 or davidmparr@btinternet.com
15	LUFF	Ian	iluff@btinternet.com
16	NELISSEN	Pieter	07783 660345
17	TARASEWICZ	Adam	741198
18	BATEMAN	Clo	742317
19	FORDHAM	Rebecca	rebeccafordham@btinternet.com
20	JORDAN	Sue	743408
21	KIRKPATRICK	Jo	741259
22	MANCHETT	Mandy	07799 626771
23	MELVILLE	Denise	07975 627976
24	MULES	Jo	07545 922679
25	WEBB	Hannah	743163

So get playing – and if anyone not on the list wants to join, please let me know.

We are also allowing a limited number of Non-Reach residents to use the court as if they were a Reach resident.

To become one of the **10 Non-Reach Sponsored Visitors**, you will need to be nominated by a Reach Villager and pay the annual charge of £20 (which goes to the court maintenance fund). **For this year (2012)**, a charge of £10 will apply with the next payment of £20 being due in April 2013.

Interested? – then please email or call me, contact details are on the left.

Olympic Bells

With less than 12 hours' notice, 21 children and accompanying bleary-eyed parents turned up at St Etheldreda's at 08:12 on 27 July 2012 - and so participated in the nationwide bellringing to celebrate the start of the London 2012 Olympics. Thank goodness we have local campanologists - meaning we could carry on ringing once the bell rope had been over enthusiastically detached from the church bell!



Early Risers

Thanks to Gareth for arriving with numerous small bells, to Pam and Zenida for organising wonderful certificates and of course, to spontaneous parents!

Helen Oliver-Towers

Reach Olympics



Saturday 4th August was the day the team GB delivered its best single-day performance in 104 years of Olympic day competition - Super Saturday. In front of an 80,000 strong crowd, Jessica Ennis secured gold in the heptathlon, Greg Rutherford did the same in the long jump and the glorious golden hat trick was completed when Mo Farah crossed the line first in the 10,000m.

There was more gold in the velodrome for the women's team pursuit and on the water at Eton Dorney for the men's four and women's double skull. Seventy odd miles north east it was a pretty good day in Reach's sporting history too. The Reach Olympics may have taken place on a playing field, not a stadium and lasted just one, rather than 14 days but otherwise we had it all - torch bearer, fireworks, cheering crowds, union jacks everywhere and of course class athletes - 34 of them.



Local torch bearer Maxine Burgess started the proceedings with a torch procession from the village green to the sports field, raising money for the Heart Foundation in the process (for which she has since been nominated as a Heart Hero for her efforts). She handed over to Andrew Towers as 'master and commander' of the opening ceremony with seriously loud fireworks and a series of Union Jack Chinese lanterns. Then the games began. The pictures say it better than I can but, in essence, the usual 'organised chaos' of kids and their parents chucking potatoes into buckets, getting in a 3-legged tangle with pairs of tights, tumbling into and out of sacks in the sack race and crashing 'human barrows' in the wheelbarrow race.

A few recollections from me. A quality 2012 finish line with two previous long-time holders of the Reach Junior Boys Marathon cup holding the tape - Theo Clarke and Ben Snaith. Theo left part way through for Vietnam (!) and Ben left (albeit a few weeks later) to become the national championship at 400m (read about it in the next issue). Debbie and Daniel Blocksage doing a mother and son double act in winning the men's and women's marathon (Debbie Blockage gracefully declined the cup so we could give the 1st and 2nd junior girl a cup in class that had a slightly bigger field). Hector Keutgen and David Cane in wonderful outfits in the fancy dress race. Alice Lingley and several others, soaked from apple bobbing (in this case total immersion in the bucket). The closing tug-o-war events in which the women dominated throughout (here come the girls) and the kids got their own back on their parents on the other end of the rope by counting (quietly) to three and letting go 'mid pull'.

In the end, although every competitor triumphed, a few did so often enough to walk away with a trophy (or two) - and who knows we may be able to say we watched the Mo Farah or Jessica Ennis of the future son our village sports field!

Overall winners (all races combined):

Best Junior Athlete - Olivia Mules
Best Intermediate Athlete - Alice Trump
Best Senior Athlete - Maisey Snaith
Best Overall Sporting performance - Harry Oliver Towers

Marathon Winners

Ladies Marathon - Maisey Snaith
Mens Marathon - Daniel Blocksage
Junior Boys Marathon - Harry Oliver Towers
Junior Girls Marathon - Daisy Bailey

Reach Good Sport Cup

Lily Steed who inherited this from her brother Dylan had the ability to race every race with a big smile.



Olivia Mules (left) and Violet Keutgen

Reach had many Games Makers too - lots of volunteers made Reach Olympics happen and I am enormously grateful to all of them. Special thanks to Helen Oliver-Towers, who was as always, the real organiser (female equivalent of Seb Coe) of the event and somehow remembers everything from tug-o-war rope to union jag tattoos and Reach Olympic medals. Also to her right hand man, Andrew Towers for all things fire related (fireworks and BBQ) and a lot of setting up and clearing away. Jo Riches ensured we had all the race accessories (apples and spuds) as well as BBQ food. Her father and David Thomas 'manned' the BBQ in the face of complete uncertainty as to when the games would finish and the food would be required! Before the event, the Blocksage family, once again, did a fabulous job of the lines (with the addition of numbered lanes and welcome messages at the field entrance) and Harry Oliver-Towers and Dylan Steed painted a fabulous Olympic sign for the green. Lots of folk helped set up the field in the morning and I am grateful to all of them but special mention to Liz and Jan Tabecki and Robert and Hector Kuetgen for the numerous loads they carried. Graham Lingley raised the bar once more on the Reach Olympic certificates for all competitors.

Claire Snaith was our scorer - not as easy as it sounds when there is no timer to assess the 100th of a second between 1st and 2nd. Anya and Kasia Tabecki spent time posting fliers through doors, setting up and clearing away on the day and organising the highly entertaining dressing up race (new for 2012) as part of their sports leader award. On the day they, along with Freya Thomas, helped judge 1st, 2nd and 3rd and adorned all finishers with stickers. We are, as always, grateful to the Amenity Fund for their support of this village event. Last - and most importantly - huge thanks to competitors and spectators for creating the atmosphere and entertainment that makes the day such a fun one.

Juliet Vickery

Juliet.vickery@yahoo.co.uk

Helen Oliver-Towers says: I would like to thank Juliet for her 'Gold Medal' performance at the 2012 Reach 'Olympic' Sports Day. Her stamina and creativity on every Sports Day are phenomenal - but this year she was exceptional. What an inspiration for our children! Juliet is very good at thanking others - but she is the one who makes it all happen on the day and what a performance she put on! ***THANK YOU Juliet****.*

Taking Part in the Reach Olympics

Everybody met on the village green for the start of Reach Olympics. Maxine Burgess carried the torch across the green because she was torch bearer in Ipswich. Everybody followed Maxine across to the playing field carrying their homemade torches to where the track had been marked out.



Next we had fireworks to celebrate the start of Reach sports day and then the races began.

My first race was the potato race where we each had three potatoes spaced out down the track in front of us. I had to run backwards and forwards picking up each potato to get them in the bucket at the end. I came first in my heat and that first race gave me more confidence in myself. Then we had lots of other races which included: three-legged, apple-bobbing, sack race, running and then the marathon.

Reach Sports Day is a brilliant experience for everybody!!!!

Alice Trump
(Intermediate Cup Winner)

Reach Olympics





David Blocksage



David Cane
Who looks the most fetching in the green dress?



HEADING FOR THE TOP: National under-17 400-metre champion Ben Snaith with Mick Graham and Jennie Grimwood.
MNJP-21-08-12 MW 008. Picture: Mark Westley
www.newmarketjournal.co.uk/buyaphoto

TEENAGE running sensation Ben Snaith has set his sights on the Rio Olympics after smashing his personal best to win the national under-17 400 metres title at Bedford at the weekend.

The 16 year old, who lives in Reach and is coached by Mick Graham, clocked 47.92 seconds. His previous best time was 48.84.

"I was very happy with my performance," said a delighted Snaith this week. "A few weeks ago I didn't do as well as I had expected when I won a bronze medal at the schools' championships but my coach did a lot more work on my speed endurance and it really paid off."

by Alison Hayes
alison.hayes@newmarketjournal.co.uk

A member of the Cambridge and Coleridge Athletics Club, Snaith still trains at the former Scaltback Middle School track, where he was first mentored by Graham and Newmarket Joggers junior coach Jennie Grimwood, twice a week.

Next season Snaith's aim is to achieve the qualifying time for the world junior championships, which is just a second less than he ran on Sunday.

"My long term aim is to pull on a GB vest for the Olympic Games in Rio in four years time," said Snaith.

And his coach is in no doubt that his young protégé has what it takes.

"We really had to do some mental rebuilding when he only got the bronze in the schools event but Ben raised his game, believed in his own ability and it really paid off in Sunday's race.

"He sprinted off and when the other runners came to him he found another gear and ran away from them."

Graham also appealed to any sports physiotherapists and dietary coaches who might be able to support Snaith by way of sponsorship to come forward.

He said: "We really are at the stage where Ben is stepping up a level and to do that successfully you need an expert support system around you and for Ben that could make all the difference."

Anyone interest in helping Ben should contact the Journal sports desk on 01638 564104.



REACH
PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 5th September 2012

Attendance

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

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

The Amenity Fund has **£3,621.05** in its bank account. The Amenity Fund Committee has agreed to funding of £1,750 towards the 24Acres venture with the possibility of another £250 towards the Observatory, subject to further information being provided. Taking all of the above into account, this leaves the Amenity Fund with £1,621.05 of available funding.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

No report provided.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Fly-tipped tyres at Headlake Drove still await clearance.

Paradise pool in Ely has been refurbished at a cost of £50,000.

The Localism Act 2011 includes an obligation for Local Authorities to publish a Tenancy Strategy.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially stable situation and hopes to break even over the course of the financial year. The Parish Council agreed that should excess mowing be required due to the exceptional growing conditions this summer, then this mowing should be carried out even if it means using reserves.

The Parish Council agreed to some modifications requested by the external auditor to the YE2012 plan.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

The Clerk, having further reviewed the damage to the chicken on the play area, confirmed that it was beyond his capabilities to repair it. **The Clerk** was asked to seek quotations for the work to be carried out and report these back at a forthcoming meeting.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

T**he Clerk** confirmed that he would write to landowners in very early September reminding them of their responsibility to keep byways adjoining their land clear.

Councillor Clark stated that a Freedom of Information request showed that the contractor could not confirm that mowing of the Devil's Dyke had taken place as planned in the early part of the year. **The Clerk** was asked to send a letter to Highways, highlighting the Parish Council's major concern over the issue of this and potentially other areas of delinquency of the contractor.

4 (9) Speedwatch

The Clerk reported that Grahame Radford, Speedwatch Officer, had stated that Speedwatch activities will recommence during September.

4 (10) Village Centre Report

No report provided.

4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report

Fund-raising activities continue with good success. The field has now been harvested and the sowing of an ideal grass seed mix is expected to take place later in September. It is planned that planting will take place at the end of 2012.

5. Child Protection Policy

The Parish Council decided to adopt the ECDC Child Protection Policy.

6. Equal Opportunities Policy

The Parish Council decided to adopt the ECDC Equal Opportunities Policy.

7. Street Lighting Maintenance Contract

The Parish Council agreed to sign up for a three year maintenance contract with Balfour Beatty.

8. Waste Collection Potential Changes

There are changes proposed for Reach waste collection services with one major change being the possible move from using recycling black boxes and brown sacks to wheeled bins (where possible – otherwise the current services will continue). Councillors had a number of questions and concerns regarding these potential changes and **the Clerk** has invited David White from ECDC to come along and address a village meeting (or a local villages meeting). A reply is awaited.

9. Planning Applications

There were none.

10. Information Items

A local resident had expressed some concerns about a dog that had repeatedly scared her horse. **The Clerk** was asked to pass on these concerns to the dog owner.

Councillor Brearley, who is planning to leave Reach, informed the Parish Council of his intention to resign as Chairman prior to the next meeting. **The Clerk** was asked to add the election of a new Chairman to the agenda of the next meeting.

11. Payments

D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing August 2012	£134.00
C R Contracting	Mowing August 2012	£265.00
SPPC	Donation to Commemorative Bench	£100.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 3rd October 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



What a summer! Jubilee, Olympics, Paralympics. And it's been great to have some special events at the church as well. We welcomed Arthur Jackson and Daisy Jarvis Bentley in baptism on 12th August and we had a great time at the Church Barbeque on September 8th. Thanks very much to those who organised it.

And now all the excitement is over and we're back to the 'normal' routines, back to work, school, college or just a more regular routine. It could feel like a bit of an anti-climax except that there is lots to look forward to! We have our Harvest Songs of Praise on Saturday 27th October at 6pm. It worked really well last year having this just before the Harvest Supper, so that's the plan again. Any suggestions for harvest hymns and songs welcome. And it would be great to have help with decorating the church - harvest displays and drawings and paintings again. During the service we'll set up a table with some children's activities at the front of the church. We'd love to see you!



Looking ahead we'll have the Remembrance Sunday service at 11am on 11th November starting at the Reach village war memorial, then continuing in the church. If you would like to help with readings or prayers please let me know. And we have got a date for our family Carol Service - this year it will be on Sunday 23rd December at 3pm.

Our regular activities for children and families continue: **Little Bears** is for pre-school children and their parents/carers. We meet once a month at St Mary's in Burwell at 10am on the first Thursday of the month (except in January and August). Coffee for the grown-ups and activities for children are available from 9.30am. Next dates: 4th October and 1st November.

Messy Church is a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy being together with crafts and games for an hour, then a short time in church with songs, Bible story and prayers and then we all sit down to eat tea together. It is on the last Sunday of month 4 - 6pm in the Guildhall, next to St Mary's. Next dates: 28th October and 25th November.

Refresh is our monthly café at CentrePeace on the Causeway in Burwell, for parents and carers with young children at 9 - 10am on the third Thursday of month. Come and have a chat while your children play. Next dates: 18th October and 15th November.

Our **Youth Café** continues on Friday evenings in the Guildhall from 7 - 9pm, providing a relaxed, friendly space for young people to meet.

Some other services coming up:

Light a candle to remember a loved one - Thanksgiving and Remembering Service
Sunday 4th November 3pm at St Mary's, followed by tea.

For more information please get in touch.

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



Church Services at Burwell and Reach

	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
OCTOBER Wednesday 3 October	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 4 October	10.00am 'Little Bears' - Harvest - coffee at 9.30	
Sunday 7 October Trinity 18	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service	
Wednesday 10 October	9.00am Prayer Meeting at Burwell 9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 10.00am Holy Communion at Burwell	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Sunday 14 October Trinity 19	10.00am Parish Communion (Traditional)	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday @ 7 Informal Service
Wednesday 17 October	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Sunday 21 October Trinity 20	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Parish Communion (Contemporary) 9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 5.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise followed by Supper	
Wednesday 24 October	9.00am Prayer Meeting at Burwell 10.00am Holy Communion at Burwell	
Saturday 27 October		6.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise followed by Harvest Supper in the Village Centre
Sunday 28 October Trinity 21 Bible Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Traditional Communion 9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 4.00pm Messy Church	
NOVEMBER Sunday 4 November 4th Sunday before Advent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service with baptisms 3.00pm Light a candle to remember a loved one - Thanksgiving and Remembering Service	
Wednesday 7 November	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 8 November	10.00am 'Little Bears'- coffee at 9.30	
Sunday 11 November 3rd Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday	9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 10.00am Parish Communion (said) 3.00pm Remembrance Service	11.00am Remembrance Service 7.00pm Sunday @ 7 Informal Service
Wednesday 14 November	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Sunday 18 November 2nd Sunday before Advent	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 10.00am Parish Communion (contemporary)	
Wednesday 21 November	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Sunday 25 November Sunday next before Advent Christ the King	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 10.00am Parish Communion (traditional) 4.00pm Messy Church	
Wednesday 27 November	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

October	Event	Location	Time
Wed 3	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 4	Author: Harry Sidebottom	Toppings Bookshop, Ely, CB7 4LJ	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Friday 5	Wine Tasting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Tues 9	Reach Rainbow Crafts Circle	Ask Pam King 01638 742924	1.30pm – 3pm
Tues 9	Author: John Saturnall	Toppings Bookshop, Ely, CB7 4LJ	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Wed 10	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Thurs 11	Author: Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall	Ely Cathedral	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thurs 11	Recycling Day		
Sat 13	Author: Andrew Marr	Hayward Theatre	Starts 10.15am
Mon 15	Author: Sarah Gristwood	St Peter's Church	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Tues 16	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.15pm to 12.50pm
Tues 16	Talk Village Gardeners	Swaffham Prior Village Hall	8pm
Wed 17	Author: Afternoon Tea with PD James	St Mary's Church	Starts 3pm
Wed 17	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Sat 20	Author: Coffee with Artemis Cooper	St Mary's Church	Starts 11am
Tues 23	Author: Nigella Lawson	Ely Cathedral	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thurs 25	Author: Jim Kelly	St Peter's Church	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thurs 25	Recycling Day		
Sat 27	Archaeology Day	Soham Library	10.00am to 5.00pm
Sat 27	Harvest Songs of Praise	St Etheldreda and The Holy Trinity	6pm
Sat 27	Harvest Supper	Reach Village Centre	From 6.45pm
Wed 31	Evening Ghost Walk	Snakehall Farm	5.45pm and 6.45pm
November			
Sat 4	Half Marathon and 3 Mile Fun Run	Starts Lode Social Club, Lode	10am
Wed 7	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 8	Recycling Day		
Friday 9	Wine Tasting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Sun 11	Remembrance Sunday	War memorial	11am
Wed 14	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Sat 17	Saturday Workshops	Bottisham Village College	10am – 4pm
Tues 20	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Tues 20	Talk. Village Gardeners	Swaffham Prior Village Hall	8.00pm
Wed 21	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thurs 22	Recycling Day		

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

The **Mobile Library** will now visit Reach (Fair Green Bus Shelter) on the third Tuesday of the month only

CentrePeace visits Reach the second Wednesday of the month

Village Gardeners meet at 8pm Swaffham Prior Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month.

Events with **Authors** are organised by Toppings bookshop, Ely. 01353 645005 or www.toppingbooks.co.uk

Burwell Museum website is www.burwellmuseum.org.uk **Tel:** 01638 605544

Contact Information

Parish Council			
	Chairman	Malcolm Brearley	mjbrearley@btinternet.com
	Vice Chairman	Michael Aves	742800
	Councillor	Ross Clark	743725
	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
Burwell and Reach Car Scheme			01638 742543
Church			
	Vicar	Eleanor Williams	741262
	Reader in Training	Frances Leadon	741770
	Priest in Retirement	Reverend David King	742924
	Parochial Church Council Member	Pam King	742924
	Churchwarden at Burwell/Reach	Simon Rogers	741205
	Churchwarden at Burwell/Reach	Stephen Walton	744214
Emergencies			
	Electricity (Eastern Electric)		0800 783 8838
	Police (Emergency)		999
	Police (Non-emergency)		101
	Water (Anglian Water)		08457 145145
Doctors, Burwell			
	Appointments and Emergencies		741234
	Community Nurses		742382
	Doctors	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	



Harry Oliver-Towers and Katie Cameron



Jayden Bentley, Tobias Aspin, George Tucker and Rose Mitchell

School First Day!



Maisey Snaith and Imogen Trump



Some Knights . . . .







