Within Reach



December 2012/January 2013



From left: Evie Mitchell, Kathryn Cane and a friend



Rose Mitchell



Hazel Lingley





Yvonne and Derek Coombes



Garfield Mules

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An Evening of Carols



Wed 19th December 2012

7.30pm

Reach Village Centre

Carols, Wine and Mince Pies

Seasonal Wreaths



Sarah Keutgen 745244

From the Editor



It's difficult for me to contain my excitement because of what I have to tell you – we have a new section: Pets Corner! Wow! We would welcome a photo of your pet (whatever it is) and a few words. Have a look at our first three entries (page 30).

We have an article packed with great photos from Alison Lewis arising from her visit to the Hula Valley in Israel. Anita Folkes has made another contribution to the magazine and describes the successes Reach residents have achieved in carpet bowls over many years. Wicken Coronation Band, which is over 100 years old, is playing at a carol concert at St Mary's Church, Burwell and this issue includes an interview with Robert Peacock, the band's chairman. The band is looking for new members and provides free tuition even for beginners. It would be nice to raise the profiles of local clubs and potentially assist with the generation of new members so if you would like to let me know the details of a club you belong to, I will seek to include it within the magazine.

Joss Goodchild continues to add to our knowledge of the local countryside with her article on bog oak. There are plenty of opportunities for planting – so say Nick Acklam, David Thomas and Janet Hall. Snakehall Farm's ghost walks were very popular and this may prove to be an annual event. Hugh de Lacy's wine tastings were much enjoyed and we thank him and Marie. We also thank Bill Estall for his thoughtful poem. Juliet Vickery keeps us informed of all things sporty and we welcome her update on the Knight brothers.

Christmas will be with us shortly and Susie Tucker has seasonal jokes, quizzes and things to do. Rita gives us two yummy recipes and we have an odd recipe for a cake with vodka! Father Christmas is visiting Wicken Fen and there are many other activities planned. Eleanor, of course, lets us know of the church services and also Plough Saturday – songs of praise and a supper are planned for Saturday 26th January.

Read this magazine carefully and learn whose using the cat to swipe down the kitchen surfaces.

See you at Prickwillow Drainage Engine Museum Christmas Special on Sunday 9th December!

And finally, on behalf of the whole Within Reach team, may I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Claire Halpin-McDonald
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Front Cover: Lesley on Aref and behind Morgan Nicholls on Jetty. **Photo:** Claire Halpin-McDonald.

Cover: Claire Halpin-McDonald and Hannah Curtis.

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 January 2012. This magazine is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

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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

Watery Wildlife in the Hula Valley



Grey Heron

Towards the end of October I visited the Hula Valley in Israel. Situated in the northeast of the country it contains the Hula Lake Park; a vast nature reserve with a large fresh water lake, rivers and reed beds. At this time of year many water birds migrating down to Africa for the winter find their annual routes converge around Israel and Lake Hula provides them with a safe and well-stocked stopover.

Twice a year the lake is visited by thousands of water birds, including stork, heron, egret and pelican, some of whom will stay but the majority only pass through to build up strength for the next leg of their journey. It is estimated that 500 million migrating birds now pass through the Park every year and in 2011 the Israel painted frog was rediscovered after being classified as extinct in 1996.



Birds on Lake



Kingfisher

We were there for two hours before sunset during which time we saw many hundreds of birds flying in for the night. Some arrived in flocks and others in v-formation. The spectacle was something like I've never witnessed before, with the stunning scenery and ever increasing din from the bird call! That evening I was also lucky enough to see a small v-formation of large birds crossing the full moon – unfortunately the moment was over in seconds and so I could not photograph it.

Alison Lewis



Coypu



V-Formation

Carpet Bowls Success



Carpet bowls was introduced to the Eastern Counties in 1983 (by Action with Communities in Rural England and the Sports Council). One of its aims was to help bring communities together and at the same time ensure village halls were used more.

Most villages in our area now have a carpet bowls club. It's a game where anyone can join in and play. Disabled people, even if they are in a wheelchair, can enjoy this as well as able bodied people.

John Dolphin, Roland, David and Anita Folkes were the first people from Reach to join Swaffham Prior in 1983 when they first started a club. After a year or two the four of us thought it would be a good idea to start a carpet bowls club at Reach. We soon encouraged my three nephews to join us along with some Reach people and we had enough players to join the East Cambridgeshire League Games.



Soham Sports Centre is set to stage an annual carpet bowls tournament — thanks to the success of the inaugural event held on Sunday.

Sponsored by Premier Crops Ltd, the tournament attracted a huge entry of 72 teams from Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk.

The eventual winners were the team from Ely Beet: Graham Spring, Chris Harrison, Fred Harrison and Andy Blair.

In the final, they beat the in-form team of the tournament, Swaffham Prior, whose line-up of David Folkes, Anita Folkes, John Dolphin, and Roland Folkes were unbeaten until they got to the final.

JUST BEFORE WE STARTED CLUB AT REACH

Tournament runners-up, Swaffham Prior, from left: David Folkes, Anita Folkes, John Dolphin, and Roland Folkes.

c.1986. The first competition we entered since joining Swaffham Prior Bowls Club. We finished runners up to Ely Beet Bowls Club.



c.1990. David Cornwell Shield, East Cambridgeshire Championships Shield and Cambridgeshire County Champions Shield which Reach won with 20 points out of a possible 22 points. They won 10 games and lost just one. Top Row: Chris Chapman, Michael Morris, Andy Chapman, David Folkes, Scott Andrews, Ray Folkes and Anita Folkes. Front Row: Tim Chapman, Roland Folkes (Captain) and Ron Dunnett.

We went from strength to strength and soon were known, and feared, by most clubs over England. The first Reach team was made up of eight people from one family!

Over the years Reach has been very successful in league games and competitions; one year winning all the three main shields that were up for grabs. In 2001/02 Reach carpet bowls club was awarded the sports team of the month by Cambridge News.

Sadly the young lads gradually moved away (getting married etc) and Reach had to close its club. Some members who really enjoyed their bowls moved to other clubs. David and I rejoined Swaffham Prior, Roland joined Welney, Kelly Blunsten (nee Folkes) joined Soham and Amy Folkes plays for Over. Swaffham Prior do well each year by finishing third, behind the well-known clubs of Over and Littleport Village Hall.



2012. Cambridgeshire Pairs Winners from Over Club. Ian Blunsten and Amy Folkes. They went on to became Pairs Champion of Champions

Luckily after I became less mobile and had regrettably to give up playing, David met (now his wife) Dee who took my place, and she plays well. Last season David, Dee and Colin Dalton won the Cambridgeshire Triples. Amy and her partner Ian Blunsten won the Cambridgeshire Pairs. Also Amy and Ian won the Eastern Counties Pairs before they all went to Blackpool to play in the National Counties Champion of Champions. David's team were not able to reach the finals but Amy and Ian won the Pairs.



2012. Cambridgeshire Triple Winners from Swaffham Prior Club. David and Dee Folkes and Colin Dalton.

Amy is such a good bowler and loves to come face to face with Uncle David. David and Amy both play for Cambridgeshire in the County League and went to Potters at Hopton in Norfolk to play for the National Counties Championships over a weekend. With a team of 24 players, Cambridgeshire won the Championship with two sessions in hand and winning by the biggest points margin in the history of the competition (16 points). Lawrence Puller, captain, said most of the other captains approached him to express their admiration for the Cambridgeshire team and the way they conducted themselves.

Over the years Cambridgeshire have won more than any other county. I felt I had to let you know of another sport in which Reach shines.

For a small village, Reach has a lot of talent.

Well done everybody.

Anita Folkes

741414

To enquire about Swaffham Prior Carpet Bowls Club contact David Folkes 01638 745551

www.englishcarpetbowls.com

Christingle Service

A warm welcome

from St Mary's & St Etheldreda's



Sunday 2nd December 2012

4pm

St Mary's Church Burwell

Candle Collecting Boxes for Children's Society available from CentrePeace

Photo by Simon Ogilvie Used with Permission



Tree Planting in Reach

Readers of 'Within Reach' will be aware that some significant tree planting will take place in the village over the next few months.

Specifically:

- a specimen sweet chestnut as a long term replacement for the Jubilee Tree on the village green,
- the creation of a two acre community orchard (detailed in David Thomas' article in the October/November 2012 issue) and a five acre community woodland on the 24 acres of National Trust Vision land on Burwell Road and
- planting of an avenue of lime trees on Swaffham Road to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Over time these plantings will change the look and feel of the village, be good for wild life, offer opportunities for cider and honey making and could, depending on how we choose to manage the community woodland, yield a useful quantity of firewood in due course.

This is a notable burst of activity for a village of Reach's size but is very much part of a series of tree planting initiatives that have gathered pace in Reach over the last generation or so. Aerial and satellite images of the village (see back cover) from the mid-20th century onwards reveal a progressively leafier village and surrounds - the result of a range of private and community plantings.

The Horse Chestnut, planted on the Green in 1935 to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V, was a forerunner and remains the most obvious formal planting in the village. Early photographs show it standing bare and isolated. It still looks surprisingly small in the 1954 aerial photograph (see back cover) and the lime trees on Burwell Road, now mature and striking trees, appear little more than saplings. I have been unable to establish who planted these and when, but would be very interested to hear from anybody with information given the parallels with the forthcoming planting of limes on Swaffham Road.

A few enlightened landowners have contributed to the change. The lime trees on Barston Drove are a good example and an excellent choice (in his history of the village Charles Moseley notes that Barston implies the presence of lime trees). We also have the increasingly prominent planting of trees between the dyke and the Burwell Road.

Away from the village, the recent planting of willow, ash and alder alongside Little Fen Drove by EDF, in compensation for the second run of electricity pylons, is beginning to have some visual impact.

Past community initiatives have also been important in the greening of the village. Whilst the 11 acres of Reach Wood are owned and managed by the Woodland Trust, the purchase and planting of the wood in 1994 was very much driven by villagers.

The Parish Council led an earlier phase of tree planting in the village between 1976 and 1978 (Harvey Harrison the then Chairman was a particular enthusiast). This took advantage of a County Council initiative to supply saplings to villages.

I think it is rather unappreciated today, possibly because the trees are scattered through the village and most of those involved are no longer with us. Various entries in 'Out of Reach' for the period give a little background. One motivation was the village's consistently poor record in the Best Kept Village competition. But there were other narrower objectives - I understand the trees on the Drying Green were designed to deter cars parking there.

Well over 100 trees were planted in this initiative. I have not been able to determine exactly how many but a quick survey of the village and comparison with the planting schedules in 'Out of Reach' suggests a pretty good survival rate. The 'Out of Reach' articles mention the challenge of a series of hot and dry summers and report the role played by families in adopting and watering some of the saplings (the Moseleys, the Johnsons, the Housdens and Bob Smith were mentioned in despatches) so this nurturing appears to have helped - a lesson that those involved in the forthcoming plantings are well aware of.



Silver birches on the Drying Ground

Some of this late 1970s planting has prospered - particularly the oaks and maples on the Hythe which are now approaching 35 feet in height, no doubt helped by the silt and the moisture of the location. Other obvious successes are the silver birches and cherry trees on the Drying Green and the extension of the avenue of limes in the cemetery. Hornbeams planted on Swaffham Road have fared less well. Only one has survived and it will be accommodated within the forthcoming Jubilee avenue.

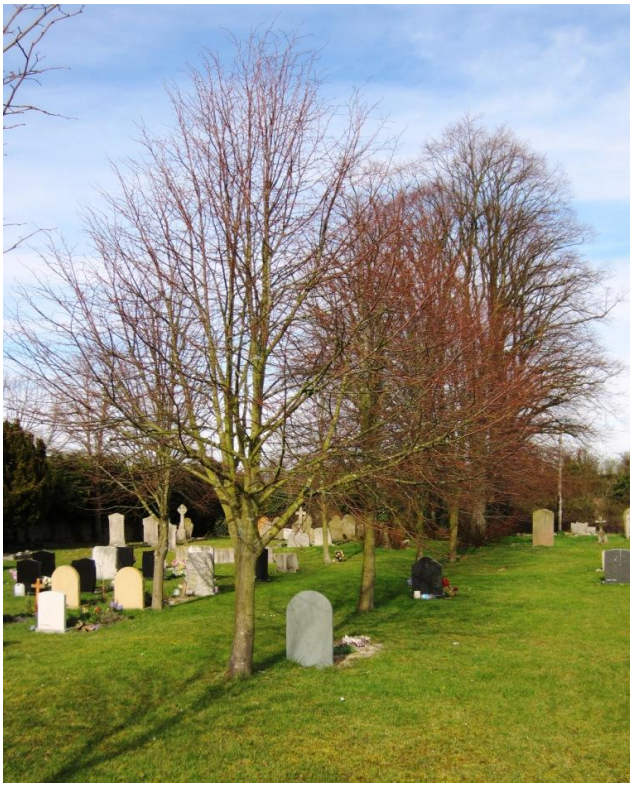
Some of the trees made available to the Parish Council were planted in private gardens. These have been difficult to locate but the number of large trees in the gardens of Reach today is strikingly higher than in the photograph of 1954 (see back cover).

Not all voices then were in favour of an increase in tree cover. Strong opinions were expressed about planting on the Hythe, believing that it interfered with the annual tug of war competition.

Others felt that trees, apart from those providing fruit, occupied valuable food growing space and were unnecessary and even inappropriate in this part of the world. There is something to be said for the austerity of a tree-free fenland landscape. And the Devil's Dyke is certainly a better wildlife haven and walking experience as a result of the removal of hawthorn scrub a few years ago. Nonetheless, in my view, well-chosen trees in the right location have a positive impact within the village itself and surprisingly quickly.

Sadly the rise of trees in the village has not been without setbacks. One of the few wooded areas in the aerial photograph, a fairly substantial orchard along the bottom (Northern) edge has been lost to housing. Dutch Elm disease removed a number of hedgerow trees from around the village in the 1970s and continues to cut back any re-growth. Hedges on the fen were being grubbed out until a couple of decades ago.

The Jubilee Tree appears in poor health, probably afflicted by the horse chestnut leaf miner and possibly by bleeding canker. Ash dieback now poses a threat to the health of about half the trees in Reach Wood and many prominent wayside trees around the village. It will influence (adversely in my view) the composition of the woodland planting on the 24 acres.



Limes in Reach cemetery



Oak by the Hythe

So there are challenges ahead but recent experience shows that our village has a remarkable ability for meeting these and I am confident that the greening of the Reach will continue, to our collective benefit.

Nick Acklam



Letter from Macmillan

Dear Mrs Joyce Harrison and Friends

You are *wonderful*! You really are. Your coffee morning raised £575.10 on the day.

That's a fantastic amount of Macmillan time to give people affected by cancer – and their families – some really good people in their corner: a nurse to support them through treatment; an expert on the end of the phone; and a volunteer to help with the everyday things. Because you made time for what really matters with the World's Biggest Coffee Morning others won't be going through cancer alone.

With my warmest wishes and thanks for making time to get together, and help sustain others too. I hope you really enjoyed it.

Hannah Redmond

The Head Coffee Lady

An `Upmarket' Wine Tasting Session (Friday 5th October)



I'm probably in the majority of wine drinking folk - buying reasonably priced wines in the £6/£7 price bracket and on the whole enjoying what's purchased. But are we guaranteed a superior wine if we spend that little bit more? Are our palettes sufficient tuned to appreciate a more expensive wine and with it it's price tag?

Is it just down to personal taste of what we do and don't like and price doesn't really come into it? We put it to the test at the Upmarket Wine Tasting Session and in general, the results proved to be interesting.

We tasted both red and white ranging from £10.99 up to £19.99 - 12 wines in total that I would normally not have even considered, due to their price.

There was a mixed reception to the wines, with some loving a particular wine whilst other people at the opposite end of the enjoyment spectrum.

The wines well received were two from France and one from Spain:

Chateau Barreyres Haut Medoc 2009 from Bordeaux, an equal blend of 50% of the cabernet grape and merlot - purchased from Sainsbury for £11.99.

Chateau l'Hospitalet, Gerard Bertrand 2008 from the Coteaux du Languedoc region - purchased from Waitrose for £11.99.

Rioja Vina Ardanza Res Especial, La Rioja Alta 2001 Alta - purchased from Majestic for £17.60.

So based on the three wines above, drawing my own conclusion, I would agree paying a little more is likely to improve the enjoyment of the wine but it's not always necessary to pay £15+ for a truly outstanding bottle.

Hugh yet again provided a wealth of knowledge on the wines chosen. Another highly enjoyable evening with the opportunity to try something one wouldn't normally choose. I should also mention the bread and cheese accompaniment was also perfectly matched to both red and white wines. Sterling work Marie!

For a ticket price of just £15, I would highly recommend trying one of Hugh's wine tasting evenings. They're fun and friendly and everyone and their comments are welcome!

Jo Riches

Red2Green

Health for Life

Could you become one of our volunteers?

Can you spare 2 or 3 hours a week to accompany and/or transport people to local groups and activities?

Do you have a skill and would like to share it in a small group?

Health for Life is a local community service that helps isolated or vulnerable people re-engage in local clubs and activities.

We are looking for new volunteers.

Travel expenses are reimbursed.

For more details about becoming a Health for Life volunteer
Tel: 01223 811662
Email: info@red2green.org
Web: www.red2green.org

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Anita and Ray Folkes and David King (right)



Debbie Lingley makes a sale with Jean Estall



Julie Aspin with baby Edward and Henry



Sarah Keutgen explains the raffle prizes



Rosie and Rachel Sargent making a purchase

Wicken Coronation Band

Q. How common are bands?
A. There were lots of bands in the past. Each village had its band: Burwell Excelsior, Fordham, Isleham, Newmarket, Soham, Littleport, Ely, Waterbeach, Cottenham and so on.

Q. 100 years was a magnificent milestone. What did you do to celebrate?
A. Wicken at 101 years is one of the oldest bands round here. Eighty years is more common. We had a celebration in Fordham Victoria Hall and a big celebration at Wicken. For the latter, all the old band masters and ex-players attended. Vernon Place, a professional photographer took the photographs. His father-in-law was an original player, and also his wife, Brenda.

Q. What events do you play at?
A. We do concerts and charity do's. We've raised money for the Air Ambulance, Children in Need and Help the Heroes. We play in the Jubilee Gardens, Ely, in the summer. Two members married – Stephen Moore and Lisa Burgess - and we played at their wedding. They met through the band and were introduced by the oldest band member.

Q. Does the band still compete?
A. We don't compete at present because we do not have a full band. We would like to compete but we need a few more players. Numbers dropped a while back but more recently one or two people have joined. We have young players who leave to go to university but return when they graduate. One player, Chloe French, a Wicken girl, lives in London and commutes to and from London to play in our engagements.



Bill Jeffreys from Haddenham is the band's longest serving member; he was in the band for 60 years. We presented him with a photograph at the 100-year concert in Fordham.



Wicken Coronation Band in their new uniform at the 100-year concert held in Fordham Victoria Hall



Trombone Trio: Steve Moore, Robert Peacock and David Cameron

Q. When and where do you rehearse?
A. We rehearse in the Mission Hall, Wicken, on Wednesday evenings 7.30 – 9.30pm

Q. Do you provide tuition?
A. Yes we do provide tuition and even to those with no experience. A lady of 58 years joined with no experience and is now a full member! Our youngest member is a 10 year old and is a full member.

Q. Do you provide the instruments?
A. We do provide the instruments. We bought the band a new set with lottery money fairly recently. Instruments do wear out; they last for about 25 years. Twenty five instruments cost in the order of £110,000. The instruments we have are French-made because they were available at the time of purchase and we didn't want to wait for English instruments which were then not available. Instrument makers are quite rare.

Q. How old are the uniforms?
A. We bought a new set of jackets for the centenary so they are just one year old. Our traditional colour is blue but we chose black for the new uniforms because it's easier for our guest players to wear a black jacket and match in.

Q. Do you have social events?
A. We have a social event once a year. We should have organised something for this October/November but there has just been so much on. We will organise something for March/April. We usually have a meal in the Wicken Mission Hall and the band will play.

Q. Are most of your members of long service?
A. Many of our members have been with us for a while. Once they come they tend to stick with the band unless of course they move away. The youth section and the main band are now amalgamated; we brought the two together. Rachel Ickeringill is our youngest member, aged just 10, and she plays in the senior band. Her mum plays solo horn and her father used to play. Her grandfather is president. Families do tend to get hooked. Our members are almost equally divided between males and females. We have very few Wicken residents, just three: Charlie Avey, Chloe French and Gary Watson. The Aveys and Watsons are long serving family band members.

Our band master is Glenn Thomas and he is in the forces. He was in the Minden band and now plays with the paras band. He lives in Colchester and is at present in Cyprus.

Children used to learn instruments through their schools but not so now. Over half the band is elderly. We need new members over the next ten years. Ideally we need the former members who have retired to come back. They are not elderly they have just retired to do other things. They could really help to keep the band going and teach the young players.

If you are interested in becoming a member contact Robert Peacock, Chairman (01353 723804). Free tuition is provided.

The book of The Story of Wicken Coronation Band 1911 – 2011 by Arthur Scrivener et al is available to purchase from Robert.

Carol Concert

Wicken Coronation Band

Saturday 8th December 2012
7.30pm St Mary's Church
Burwell

Tickets; £6 from Tina's (1 North Street, Burwell) or £7 on the door.

Tel. 01638 741581
Organised by Burwell Museum

Christmas Services In Reach 2012

December 23rd
3pm Family Carol Service
Christmas Day
8am Holy Communion

The Badge, War Veteran





Come on my comrades let us wear our badge with pride, and
be proud of what we done
When we answered the call of our country, to serve, when we
were very young
So many young men and women, from all walks of life, left
their homes to go to war
On many faraway lands, that many of us had never heard of
and never been before
When we lived and fought together, and we knew that on each
We could rely
On so many battle fields all over the world, where so many fell
and died
We fought on the flat lands of Europe and the stinging sands
of the Middle East
And in the steaming hot jungles of Burma, that was not fit for
man or beast
Now everyone stood fast together, when our backs were against
the wall
We fought for the freedom of the World, a total war, that affected
us all
Now they tried to flatten our cities to the ground, by bombing the
clock around
But they forgot the courage of the British people, they could not
get us down
Then they tried to starve us out, by blockade, by sinking every
ship in sight
By the packs of lurking U Boats, that was waiting under the sea
day and night
But still our merchant ships got through, bringing in the supplies
to fight the war
And running the gauntlet of the pocket battleships, that hunted
around our shores
So let everyone wear their badge, let us show the whole world
with pride
That we fought for our King and country, with our commonwealth
by our side



Bill Estall 2010



Swaffham Prior Cubs Remembrance Sunday Parade

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

On Wednesday 24th October 2013 Ian Kippax AFIAP DPAGB BPE3*, a member of the club, attended a prestigious awards ceremony. This was held on HMS Belfast, moored in the Pool of London, to announce the results of the annual National Historic Ships UK 2012 Photographic competition. This competition is now in its third year, with their highest level of entries yet. There were five categories, with a panel of expert judges looking for entries with imagination, creativity and unusual perspectives in capturing the spirit of the UK's maritime heritage. The guest of honour was HRH The Princess Royal who presented the awards. The overall winning image chosen from over 450 entries was Ian's for his winning image entitled 'Scorpio'. The judges described the photograph as a 'powerful, almost haunting' image. Scorpio was said to show the most imagination, creativity and unusual perspective in capturing the spirit of the UK's maritime heritage. A copy of Scorpio was presented to the princess as a commemorative gift.

The club has received a certificate in recognition for one of our members who submitted images earlier in the year to the prestigious International Exhibition of Art Photography, held in Macedonia. One of his images was accepted and was one of 6,848 images submitted by 524 photographers from 61 countries around the world. His image was entitled 'Fallen Angel' and was in the Open Monochrome section.

On Friday 26th October 2012 the club took part in the ICON, an interclub competition which was held at Bishop's Stortford. The competing clubs were Cambridge, Chelmsford, Ware, ICON & Bottisham & Burwell. The competition was judged by Paul Radden LRPS DPAGB from Waltham Cross. Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club won the competition with a score of 166, second Chelmsford 160, Ware 151 and Cambridge & ICON joint 4th with 148. Paul Radden gave particular commendations to two of the entries from our club and we also had four out of the five top marks that were awarded in the competition.

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





Scorpio. Winning photo by Ian Kippax

Wine Tasting



Dawn Bentley (left) and Jo Riches



Hannah Perrett and Rhys Baldwin at their first village function (and at the venue where they will have their wedding reception next September)



David Parr with all his own teeth?
[DMP – YES actually, all bought and paid for]



Bryan Pearson and Veronica Candy



Sue Jordan, Lesley Boyle and Debs Harley: it's alcoholic!

Wine Tasting



Lesley Boyle and Debs Harley. What do you think…….



Tony and Sue Jordan. I've ordered a couple of cases!



? (Clues . . . .)



Jane Seakins, Karen Carpenter and Grahame Radford: Grahame's gone for the £2.99 from Asda!



Marie De Lacy – perfect hostess!

Fenland Bog Oak



A short time ago I bought a bog oak bowl locally for Martin. This dark and attractive piece was carved in a rough-hewn way and the accompanying radio carbon certificate dated it an astonishing 4,500 years old.

My mother-in-law was noticeably perplexed at the presentation of this gift – a bowl for a man – but the thought behind it involved our fen location and its accessible snapshot of ancient natural history.



Vintage bog oak brooch

Within walking distance of Great Lane it is possible to view ancient bog oaks resting at the edge of fields. Despite being known by the local term 'bog oak' other species of tree such as yew and pine are included in this name. To Reach's good fortune the remains of these rare trees are now considered national treasures.

The shrinkage of peaty soils and farming of our productive low-lying fen country has resulted in the sub-fossilised trees becoming exposed. For years farmers have risked the ruination of machinery as bog oaks emerge under plough.

A potted history of the bog oak makes interesting reading: Approximately 7,000 years ago a rise in sea level relative to land level caused widespread river and sea water flooding. At this time the ancient East Anglian fenland basin was densely forested by tall straight trees with few side branches. However, engulfed by flood waters these huge trees (up to 20m long and a metre wide) died standing up. They eventually fell into the silt of the forest floor with their tops in the direction of the flood waters, their canopies decayed.

Over time the trees were successively covered by layers of peat created from wetland plants such as reeds and rushes, these fell into the fen, became acidic and caused the oaks to blacken. The submerged trees were preserved under anaerobic conditions i.e. oxygen was unable to biodegrade the organic matter. Bog wood represents the early stage in the fossilisation of wood, after millions of years it ultimately turns to coal.

The uninterrupted descent of the first tree fallers into the silt results in them being in far better condition when exposed. The later fallers suffered deterioration (prior to toppling) in the form of fungal disease and insect infestation.

When bog oaks are first excavated they are at absolute water saturation; during exposure to the elements they become fragile and degrade quickly. For commercial use bog oaks are, ideally, excavated from the peat during winter. They are often stored under polythene beneath a willow tree until the milling process begins whereby whole bog oak butts are quarter-sawn then smaller sections sliced through. Bog oaks are a challenge to work with and artificial drying techniques have been developed to dry large sections in specialised kilns. Planks cut from trunks dry out over seven months.

At the end the drying process will have removed 3.2 gallons of water per cubic foot from the timber – over 50% of the tree's original volume and each plank will have reduced in width and thickness by a third.

Traditionally the ancient bog oak was used by fen people for fuel. The wet wood was cross-cut, cleft into billets, stacked and left to dry in fen winds.



Excavation of a bog oak



William IV walnut table with bog oak inlay

Nowadays it is a valuable commodity with a variety of uses e.g. making furniture (and inlay detail), tobacco pipes, fine art and jewellery and in aquariums it is used as a growing surface for the Java Fern.

Precious bog oak is our only native black timber. It is prized not only for its colour but also for its weight and density for, when dry, it has been compared to the world's most expensive and highly prized tropical hardwoods.

It might be worth pausing to look at these treasures of the field-edge when journeying from Reach to Upware for surely there will come a time when there are no more buried in our peat.

Joss Goodchild

PLOUGH SATURDAY
SONGS OF PRAISE
6.00-645pm
Just before Plough Saturday Supper

PLOUGH SATURDAY SUPPER
Saturday 26th January 2013
From 6.45pm in the Village Centre

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

Admittance tickets only - numbers are limited and no tickets will be sold after 20th January

Tickets from
Jon Cane 741064 or Pam King 742924

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

Latest News from the 24 Acres: An Ash-free Woodland



As the year draws to a close we can look back on some significant achievements with the 24Acres project – a signed lease, significant funding raised for the orchard, woodland and cricket field and the participation of people from across our small community. However it's not all been plain sailing. Here is some of the latest news from the 24 Acres Project.

Woodland

The crisis with the country's ash trees cannot have escaped anyone's attention and is likely to slow down our application for a grant from the Forestry Commission. *Chalara fraxinea*, or Ash dieback disease, has now been found in 115 sites across the UK including Norfolk and Suffolk and the spread of this deadly fungus threatens all 80 million of Britain's Ash trees. On 29 October the Government introduced legislation to try to protect Britain's ash trees against the threat from the *Chalara* fungus. This legislation makes it illegal to import ash plants and seeds unless they have a 'passport' showing that they originated in a pest-free area. However because nowhere in the UK – or indeed in the EU – has been declared a pest-free area for *Chalara* this effectively means a total ban on imports and movement of ash trees and seed for planting within Britain (until a pest-free area is declared). The Forestry Commission has stated that "it is anticipated that a decision on pest-free area status will be taken as soon as possible in 2013".



We had planned to have a high proportion of ash in the wood, partly because one of the options was to manage it as "coppice" woodland – cutting the trunk and branches for firewood and then allowing new branches to grow again. The timber of ash is one of the toughest and a natural shock absorber. Old uses include skis, tent pegs, horse drawn coach and cart building and agricultural implements, and it is still used today for tool and sport handles: hammers, axes, spades, hockey sticks and oars, as well as for furniture. The Woodland Trust has recommended that we replace the ash planned for our woodland with more small-leaved limes (*Tilia cordata*).

The scientific advice is that it won't be possible to eradicate the disease now that it has been discovered in mature trees in Great Britain. However that does not necessarily mean the end of the British ash. If the spread can be slowed down that may provide time to find trees with genetic resistance to the disease which can then be propagated to replace those that have been lost. Even so, the impact on many woodlands and wildlife will be severe. The ash has high conservation value and supports species such as bullfinch, woodcock, woodpeckers, redstarts and the nuthatch.

Another complication with the woodland is the interest being shown in the site's archaeology. Although the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group organised a field walk of the site (see February/March edition of *Within Reach*) the County Archaeologist is now showing an interest and we may have to wait until he has surveyed the site and then come up with a planting design which avoids planting trees on any archaeological hotspots. But despite these complications we are still hopeful that the woodland will get approval in order for the trees to be planted this winter.

Orchard

We had hoped to plant the orchard in 2012 but some of the suppliers don't lift their trees until the beginning of December and it would be too much of a rush to get everything completed before the Christmas break. So we will now have a Community Planting Day on **Saturday 12th January**. We'll send round an email with details nearer the time but meanwhile please keep this date free in your diary.

Don't forget the opportunity to adopt a tree, or give an adopted tree as a present (for Christmas?) or as a dedication. You can find details on the village web site (http://www.reach-village.co.uk/community_orchard.html). A voluntary contribution towards maintenance costs is suggested but what we most want is involvement of as many people as possible, so the emphasis is on the word 'voluntary'!

Cricket Field

The field has been marked out and ploughed ready for seeding but wet weather has frustrated progress so far. Had we started in autumn 2011 the grass would already be becoming established by now. As it is we await a dry spell before the contractors can move on to the site to dig a channel for an underground drain which will encircle the pitch and divert water into the ditch. Following that, the grass can be planted. This may not now be until the spring. At the moment, however, we still hope that the pitch will be ready for its first game in early September next year.

Once the outfield has been prepared we will also be able to plant a few trees around the boundary so that future generations will be able to enjoy a classic English country cricket ground.

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.

David Thomas

01638 742676
david.thomas2000@yahoo.co.uk

Bag It Up and Take It Home



A polite request from your Parish Council

Reach residents and visitors alike are fortunate to have such a wonderful network of footpaths and byways within and around the village. We are especially lucky to have the freedom to enjoy the beautiful interwoven tracks around Reach Wood.

Please help to keep these lovely walks clean by collecting up your beloved canine's little (and not so little) parcels and taking them home to dispose of them hygienically. (And please do NOT decorate the bushes and trees with little bags of poo - they look much better without!). **Thank you.**

CROSSWORD WINNER

Congratulations go to Joyce Harrison on winning Crossword No. 15.
A £5 book token has been sent to her.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 15

ACROSS: 1. GUN-HO. 4. ABACUS. 8. TASER.
9. FAUXPAS. 10. ADJUNCT. 11. QUIRE.
12. BAKSHEESH. 17. LODGE. 19. NATURAL.
21. GAZELLE. 22. DOZEN. 23. TOYING. 24. BRANDT.

DOWN: 1. GATEAU. 2. NOSEJOB. 3. HERON.
5. BRUSQUE. 6. CAPRI. 7. SYSTEM. 9. FATCHANCE.
13. KREMLIN. 14. HORIZON. 15. SLIGHT. 16. PLANET.
18. DIZZY. 20. TUDOR.



Got the Blues?



I love the fleetingness of spring bulbs, they come up, they flower and they are gone, all in a matter of weeks. Daffodils are perhaps an exception in that their leaves hang on for a while, but they soon fall flat and get lost amongst new spring growth. I especially like blue spring flowers. To me it is the colour of spring.

In the garden blues and lilacs draw the eye away making them seem more distant giving the impression of greater size. Bright reds and yellows catch the eye bringing them into the foreground making them closer. So if you want the garden to look bigger, the theory is to plant bright colours close to the house and blues etc. further away.

Anemone blanda, though not strictly a bulb, make a wonderful show on a sunny day when they open up their daisy flowers to the sun. They aren't however what I would call blue, more a lavender colour. A true blue is scillas. Wonderful, royal blue, with erect stems and dainty nodding heads, coming up in March. A bit later come the chinodoxas. Like the scillas they are a lovely blue, sky blue with a white centre. Their starry flowers look up but the stems don't seem quite strong enough to hold them up so they lean over. Then there are the dwarf irises. It's the I. reticulata that have the blue flowers. The real blue varieties such as Harmony or Joyce are the best but paler varieties such as Lady Beatrix Stanley are available. These varieties have bigger flowers and less leaf than the species. Despite their apparent delicacy they are as tough and hardy as snowdrops. Muscari – grape hyacinths, are renowned for their ability to spread. They make a lovely show if you don't mind them being rather invasive and they pick well also.



Camassia



Iris latifolia



Chionodoxa

Bluebells flower later and are best seen in woodland en mass when their scent drifts through the trees. The wild bluebells are slightly more purple than the Spanish bluebells, which have bigger flowers. Try to plant true English bluebells as the foreigners are making a nuisance of themselves and are out-competing our native ones.



Bluebells in woodland

All these small bulbs will seed about, popping up in paths and lawns. Camassias are big flowers similar to daffodils in size - I think they are well worth growing. Their blue starry flowers are on a tall upright stiff stalk. I haven't seen the blue ones seed but they clump up quickly. The last blue bulbs I think are worth a mention are the English Iris. They look like the Dutch Iris you can buy in bunches but they are stouter, less elegant, flowers. They are very hardy and again clump up well and come in a variety of blues and lilacs and flower later in June.

It's a bit late to be planting bulbs now. If they are good firm bulbs they will be OK but flower rather late although they will be fine the next spring. Avoid any bulb that is going soft. You can buy pots of bulbs that are flowering in season. This is an expensive way of getting them but you do know what you are getting and you can plant them between other plants where you know they will look good in future years.

Janet Hall

Janet@reach-village.co.uk
743737

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

The VILLAGE CENTRE 100 CLUB

October	Joan Tompkins £20
November	To be drawn in January

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

What's "Growing On" at Snakehall Farm?

THE STARS SHINE FOR THE PROSPECTS TRUST'S CO-WORKERS

Our Annual General Meetings are stuff of legend! Every charity has to hold an AGM but not every charity does it with the style of The Prospects Trust. Last year's brought a tear to the eyes of all attendees with our inspiring Day on the Farm film as well as welcoming back the first staff to get digging at Snakehall in 1989. We all knew that to top last year was a challenge but we rise to that on the farm. So this year's theme is "Superstars of Snakehall" with a glittering Oscar style awards ceremony giving our Co-workers (adults with learning difficulties, disabilities and those with varying health needs) the opportunity to swap their boots for a bit of bling.

The Annual General Meeting is a real opportunity to showcase both the organisation's achievements and more importantly, the Co-worker's growth and talents gained over the past 12 months. We use this event to thank all our sponsors, volunteers and funders throughout the year including our new, fabulous, Polytunnel Partners.

Our AGM presents the Annual Report for 2011-12, detailing our financial position, our achievements, the people at Prospects and our aspirations for the future. What a packed year of hard work, commitment and growth it has been. Sadly we have a financial hole in the accounts for year ending March 2012, despite all the fundraising and produce sales. With our Trustees and Co-managers working hard on the financials, since April we have cut costs (already difficult when we make do and mend, fix and fundraise for anything needed on the farm), increased our placement numbers (we are proudly supporting more Co-workers than ever before) and focused upon our social enterprise trading arm. [DMP Just got back from this event – it was WONDERFUL and is such a deserving cause].

We have all of our Polytunnels sponsored, newly-named fields topped, more crops, a fantastic woodland area, an accessible for all wildlife walk, a scented garden, a GREENhouse made of re-used plastic bottles, an eco-garden, a new Garden Team truck, new staff, more co-workers, two accredited training schemes running for our students plus another successful year of Lottery funding. We also hosted three volunteer labour days, participated in lots of local events by selling our produce to new customer bases…..and don't forget the chickens!

We have some grand plans for 2013 too. Although the superstitious amongst us may fear the unlucky 13, we have decided to embrace it and make 2013 our very lucky year. We want to improve our Tea Barn with new external doors and linked walkways, more accessible pathways to our chickens and woodland, a car parking area, new crops and more of what our customer like in the shops. If you can help out with any of our projects next year, want to volunteer some time or have some free resources you can offer, we would love to hear from you.

SPOOKTACULAR SNAKEHALL

Did you dare to be scared this Halloween? We thank all those who supported our very spooky Ghost Walk held on the 31st October. We were inundated with ticket requests and were amazed by the final figures, having to add a last minute third ghost walk to meet demand. Over 90 walkers came through our farm gates and were hopefully entertained and slightly spooked by all the Halloween havoc and mischief. We hope to be able to do similar open farm events in the future and are already planning our next Spooktacular for 2013.



NEW YEAR NEW GARDEN?

Our Garden Team 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 (01638 741551) for more details.

SEASONAL STOCK IN THE SHOP

If you pop into the shop at Snakehall Farm (located on the Swaffham Road between Swaffham Prior and Reach) you will be greeted by our seasonal stock. Remember that as it turns colder we grow and harvest less produce and a more reduced range. You can rely on us for your winter veg, iron-rich greens a-plenty to help you avoid the winter sneezes and make your Christmas feast glow with five a day goodness. All our produce is grown on site by our Co-workers, is 100% organic, 100% socially inspiring and 0 food miles.



Remember to recycle your reading too, we have a bookshelf crammed with donated books, perfect for a lazy Sunday afternoon read in your favourite armchair after a morning walk to our farm shop and a winter feast of our organic edibles perhaps?

AND FINALLY……

We wish all our customers, supporters and volunteers a very Merry Christmas and Happy 2013. Make 2013 our Lucky Year! Keep shopping and donating. 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

News from Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey



There's great excitement at Anglesey Abbey as we prepare for our inaugural **Winter Lights Festival.** The Festival promises to be 'an enlightening experience' as the Winter Garden and Riverside Paths are transformed with the use of coloured lights into a Winter Wonderland complete with music, traditional entertainers and delicious seasonal fare. The Festival is being held on Saturdays and Sunday's over the first three weekends of December, from 6pm – 9pm each evening. Tickets cost (£10 adults, £7 Children or £30 for a Family) are available from the National Trust Box Office on 0844 249 1895, online by following the links from our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey or direct from the Anglesey Abbey Visitor Centre.



Whilst we're talking of Christmas - **Father Christmas** will be making his traditional appearance at Wicken Fen every Saturday and Sunday from 8 - 23 December. Timed sessions to see Father Christmas in his secret grotto are available at 10.30am, 11.15am, 12noon, 1.45pm and 2.30pm - tickets are £6.95 per child (includes present). Young pre-schoolers are invited to help Father Christmas get ready for the big day on **Mucky Pups – Christmas Elves**. This year there are three dates: Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 and Tuesday 18 December – tickets are £5.95 (includes present). Tickets can be purchased from the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 - please book early as places are limited.

If you're scratching your head for inspiration, why not join Anglesey Abbey Head Gardener, Richard Todd, for a master class on **making the most of winter plants** on Monday 10 December at 10am. The master class is the perfect opportunity to pick up some top tips on how to use colour and shape to give your garden that special 'winter wow factor.' Tickets (£15) are available from the Anglesey Visitor Centre on 01223 810080.

There are currently a number of vacant plots in our Sunray Community Allotments in Lode – if you fancy having a go at growing your own food and would like to take on a plot please get in touch with Community Gardener, Janet Jephcott, on 07833 294614 or email janet.jephcott@nationaltrust.org.uk

A quick reminder that Rangers, Lois Baker and John Hughes are leading **Vision Tidy-up Work Parties** on Sunday 2 December and 6 January, from 10am - 3pm. If you would like to get involved in helping to clear the Vision lands of litter and redundant agricultural equipment please call Lois on 01353 720274 or email lois.baker@nationaltrust.org.uk. Talking of volunteering, we are always on the lookout for volunteers – whether you want to meet new people, learn new skills or just enjoy yourself, we can find a role for you. We have an amazing range of volunteering opportunities from room guides to cycle hire assistants - if you're interested please contact our Volunteer Manager, David Craig – email david.craig@nationaltrust.org.uk

In recent weeks we've been lucky to enjoy the fantastic twisting and twirling flying display of a murmuration of starlings (estimates of up to 10,000 birds) over Sedge and Adventurers' Fen just before dusk - the birds eventually settle down to roost in the reedbeds around the mere. Hen Harriers are regularly seen coming into roost on Sedge Fen and up to six short eared owls have been spotted on Burwell and Tubney Fens.



If you're planning to head over to Wicken Fen I would recommend you bring wellies or boots with gaiters. Whilst the all weather Boardwalk Trail is in perfect condition the unseasonably wet summer and high water table has left the Nature & Adventurers' Trails very muddy in places.

Finally all staff and volunteers at Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Howard Cooper - Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey

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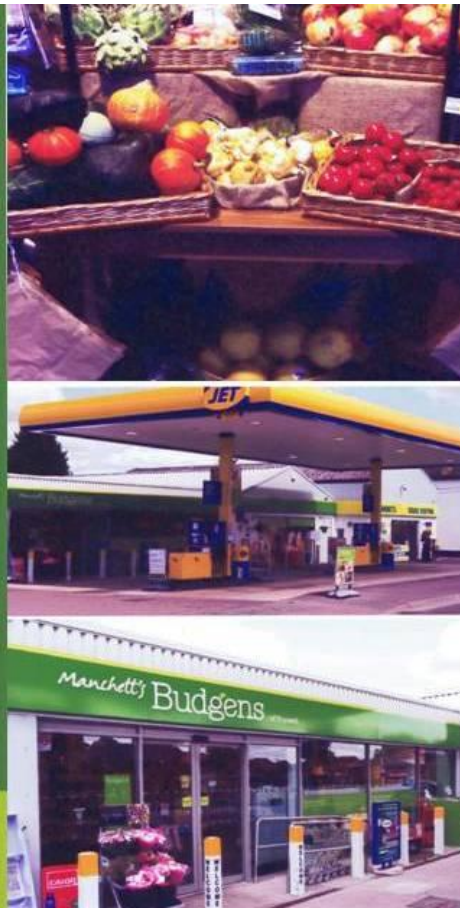

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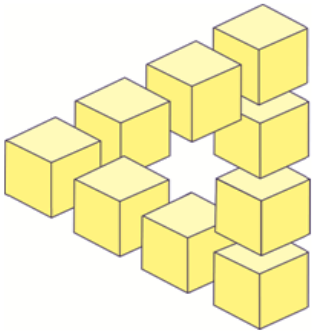

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Ross's Reflections



Being a tight-fisted sort, as well as having a desire to cut pollution, I have made a great effort to reduce the energy consumption of my house. Thanks to better insulation and by turning off our greedy Rayburn much earlier in the year, our oil consumption has fallen by 30 per cent over the past four years. Our electricity consumption, too, has fallen substantially.

It is quite irritating, then, to look out of the window and see there is still one very big wastage of energy in the village: streetlamps which are still on at three in the morning.



I'm not sure how many insomniacs we still have stumbling around at that time of day, but I am certain that it would be cheaper if we clubbed together and bought them each a torch than to continue paying to light the streets all night. The only thing we really achieve by doing so is to keep the birds awake. A study by the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology and published in the journal Current Biology a couple of years ago, noted several interesting effects of street lights on songbirds. Males living near lights started singing significantly earlier in the morning, while the females laid their eggs on average one and a half days earlier. Intriguingly, living in the bright lights seemed to encourage males to sleep around – or take 'extra-pair mates' as they say in the polite world of ornithology.



It is not entirely clear whether these effects are especially harmful, although it has been suggested that artificial light is wearing out the birds and making them more susceptible to starvation. I know what effect excessive use of street-lighting has on me, however.

I was brought up in a village in Kent which had no street lights at all. It was possible to appreciate the stars much more there than it is here. And I don't recall a great crime wave caused by the darkness. On the contrary, would-be burglars had no light to help them handle their crowbars. The orange-coloured lights we have at the moment - known as low-pressure sodium lamps – have been part of Reach since the late 1970s. At least, they were approved by the parish council in a meeting in November 1979. I appreciate that some people like them, but to me it is like living in a strange underworld which is neither properly light nor dark.

Sometime over the next three years, however, we will be able to decide as a village how we want Reach to be lit in the future. Our street lamps are due to be replaced in 2015 with whiter, LED lamps. You can see what they will be like because a stretch of Reach Road, Burwell, has recently had them installed. Not only will these save energy but they will have the ability to be dimmed by up to 40 per cent. We might, for example, choose to turn them down after midnight. But any views would of course be welcome.

Ross Clark
01638 743725
rossjclark@aol.com

Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Michael Aves	Vice-Chairman	742800
Ross Clark	Councillor	743725
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	742943
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	741853
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	742405
David Thomas	Chairman	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. In addition, **Grahame Radford** is Speedwatch Officer.



Meeting Kate Day



Q What is your full name?
A I'm actually a 'Catherine' but when I went to be an *au pair* in Brussels the children couldn't say 'th's so I became Kate. This works well except my mum is a Kate as well and we have had a few mix ups with phone calls and bank statements!

Q Where were you born and brought up?
A Well I'm an Essex girl really, being born in Colchester. However I left Colchester when I was only three months old and grew up in a village near Lincoln before going to university in Norwich. Reach seems to be a good settling point in between the two. In fact I've now lived in Reach longer than anywhere else!

Q What schools did you go to and what can you remember of them?
A I started my formal education in our local village school. I was never very keen on the whole 'going to school' thing but looking back I loved our Victorian village school. It was very much like our own Village Centre. In the Reception Class we had a huge oil boiler and there were great big radiators in all the classrooms where we dried out snow-wet gloves in the winter. We also had a big tank of tadpoles on the cupboard behind my desk which I found fascinating. Of course we also had proper blackboards and the best bit were the chickens that always got into the playground from the farm next door and had to be rounded up at break time. Sometimes break was a bit early (or maybe late) so we could watch the cows coming in for milking up the High Street, it was a great sight. The building has now been demolished which is very sad, especially as the replacement building is also now too expensive to repair (after 30 years?!) and is also to be demolished.

My secondary school was in the next village – a big and scary comprehensive! A recent visit to Bottisham Village College reminded me a lot about my secondary school. Looking back I really enjoyed the drama studio and our school plays (not performing but doing the props and stage management!), the mixed hockey, the woodwork and indeed the lessons. I learnt an awful lot and it's only with hindsight that you can really appreciate all the work our teachers did.

I took some time out before going to university at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich. We often go back to UEA as a family to visit the Sainsbury Art Centre and to reminisce. I had a wonderful three years there studying Environmental Science, one of the best courses for field trips!

Q What is your career history and employment?
A My poorest paid but probably best job was working on a cruise ship that specialised in educational cruises for school children. We sailed all around the eastern Mediterranean and visited so many wonderful places that are sadly now experiencing very different and difficult times.

Probably the most eyebrow raising job I had was working on the pea harvest in the holidays back in Lincolnshire. I wasn't allowed to take the Tenderometre readings, these test how tender the peas are and consequently how much they sell for (AAA's are the best and the D's go to the army!). I was based in the office, co-ordinating the viners (harvesters), lorries and factory production lines. The pea harvest is a 24 hour operation. The peas have to be picked and frozen within two hours, if not they go rotten and have to be thrown away, so the adverts are right!

For the last 25 years I've worked in local government. I've held various positions but I think my favourite posting was when I was team leader for the north-west of the county looking after the grants programme for voluntary groups, tree/hedge planting schemes, conservation and archaeology projects as well as access and rights of way.

Q How did you meet Jamie and where were you married?
A Jamie and I met at UEA many years ago – he was looking for someone to take his luggage home at Christmas while he went partying in London!



Jamie and Kate

Q How did you come to live in Reach and what do you like about it?
A We celebrated 20 years in Reach this summer. Our house goes back much further, originally being two cottages that were knocked into one by some DIY property speculators in the 1990s. They went bankrupt and we bought the house from the bank in under two weeks from start to finish! We hadn't even set out to buy a house but were window-shopping in Cambridge.

I knew Reach and thought it might be worth a look and two weeks later it was ours. We've "sold" the house twice since we've been here as we felt we needed more space but in the end we couldn't find anywhere we wanted to live more than Reach so we extended the house instead!

Q Your house is quite old? What do you know of it?
A We might technically own the house but I feel the house really belongs to Reach as it has more connections to the village than we do. We've been lucky to learn more of its history from other village residents who describe the allotments that used to run across the back of several gardens, the giant holly tree (now gone) in the back garden, the well with a domed chamber at the bottom and the snow falling through the roof in the winter.

Q What are your interests?
A I'm not sure I have any interests of my own anymore; family life has rather taken over any spare time! However children do give you the chance to rediscover things you thought you'd forgotten. We've dug out the family tree several times for school projects – one branch were farmers in Somerset in 1670, another branch left us some wonderful colonial glass plate photos from India and every Armistice Day I drag the children out to remember, amongst others, my great uncle who died (aged 19) at Passchendaele.

I'd like to spend more time on my bike and would thoroughly recommend a week-end ride around Essex, the Suffolk Coast and home although I'm not sure I could do it now!

Q Where do you like to holiday?
A We spend a lot of time in Norfolk and in recent years we have enjoyed some lovely holidays in the wilderness of the Western Isles in Scotland. We hope to go back to Greece and Egypt sometime but as things are, I'm not sure when.

Q Favourite book?
A As a child it was, 'The Growing Summer' by Noel Stretfield. As an adult (and I haven't done enough reading recently!) I'd say, 'The Siege of Krishnapur' by J.G. Farrell – I love his books but this one was the first and I read it in a day sitting under a greengage tree in our garden – pure indulgence! I still have to take a 'Maigret' by Georges Simenon on holiday – its tradition!

Q Favourite music?
A Too much to choose from! I'd have to say Benjamin on the cello and Hugh on the drums . . . but not at the same time!

Q Favourite film?
A I think I'll say 'Skyfall' – which I haven't seen yet but if I do it means I've managed to arrange a night off!

Q Can you cook?
A Well the Christmas cake is made and being fed with brandy if that counts?!

Q Are you handy around the house?
A I'm good at tidying up and being able to tell any member of the household exactly where they left the item they must have 10 minutes before they know they need it!

Q What is your philosophy on life?
A 'Have no regrets' – you only get one life so live it well.

Claire Halpin-McDonald

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.

Bottisham Village College
Adult and Community Learning
New Year: New Skill?
We have the following new courses from January 2013

A Taste of India (cookery)
Authentic Indian Cookery Made Easy (February start)
Bookkeeping and Accounting Skills (Level 2)
Excel at Spreadsheets
IT Skills for Today's Office
Counselling – Introduction (Level 2)
Ceramics
Felt Making (February start)
Garden Design – Introduction
History of Art: The Artists
Quilting and Stitching (daytime)
Research your Family History (February start)
Sugarcraft

Saturday Workshops - 9th March 2013
Why not spend the day learning something new?
Choose from:
Dressmaking
Fabulous Felt Making
Photoshop
Quilting for Easter
Upholstery and Chair Caning
Woodturning

Saturday 16th March
Email and Internet Made Easy
(you may be eligible for a FREE place on this course – please enquire)

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

And Also Meeting Claire Halpin-McDonald

Q. What is your full name and where were you born?



A. Claire Elizabeth Halpin-McDonald. I was named after my mother (Elizabeth) and grandmother (Claire). I was born in St Bartholomew's hospital, London, within the sound of Bow bells which makes me a genuine cockney and I was brought up in south London. I have five sisters and one brother.

Q. What schools did you go to and what can you remember of them?

A. My earliest recollection of school was my first day – shocked that my mother wasn't staying and sitting on a low wooden platform crying my eyes out for the whole day long. My senior school was a convent school in Greenwich. We used to play rounders in Greenwich Park adjacent to the Observatory and look down over the Royal Naval College. The funniest thing that has ever happened to me in my life happened at school – it started by one of the nuns climbing on to the school roof – the full story is best told after a glass of wine. If I had not gone to such an academic school I would have gone on to study art which was my real passion and I used to attend Saturday art classes at Goldsmith's College. As it was I went to Southampton University and read history and archaeology.

Q. What is your career history and employment?

A. I have always worked as an archaeologist since leaving uni. The rarest find I have made was an *in situ* Achelian flint handaxe and this was found during the excavation of a raised beach near Havant. My first archaeological job was at Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight which I really enjoyed. One task was to catalogue finds as they were being lifted by divers from a ship wreck adjacent to the Needles lighthouse. I worked with the Oxford Archaeological Unit for several years and progressed from excavator to project leader. From Oxford I worked with English Heritage based at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth. I was part of the team which excavated the Rose Theatre – so I have stood on *the* stage! I also assisted with the clearance of the fire damage at Hampton Court Palace and stayed in a grace and favour apartment; one task was to locate beneath the fire debris a crystal chandelier which, if found, could then be the subject of an insurance claim. An uncommon find on the job was a finely decorated and complete porcelain tea cup which had survived the collapse of a ceiling. The fire damage job was odd – trowelling down to carpet! Other rare finds for me have been the excavation of numerous Neolithic and Bronze Age burials with grave goods. From English Heritage I gained a management position with the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust and went on to become the Director of the Trust. I am now the Director of Archaeological Solutions, an archaeological contracting unit based in Bury St Edmunds and Hertford. AS employs about 40 staff and undertakes archaeological investigations and historic building recording throughout East Angia, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.



Claire aged *c*.10 (right) with sisters Angela (centre) and Bernadette



Excavation of a Bronze Age burial, Radley, Oxfordshire

Q. How did you meet Tom and where were you married?

A. Tom and I met on a very large archaeological project in Northamptonshire. Three excavations (prehistoric, Roman and Saxon) were being undertaken in close proximity involving up to 100 archaeologists. The excavations were run in the summer months over several seasons and I was directing the excavations of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery. The camaraderie and social scene were excellent and we'll always remember the fancy dress party with people dressed up as barbarians and Romans. We forgot to put any soft drink in the punch so it was pure alcohol – oops and hic! Tom was annoyingly good because his Roman costume (of curtains) was excellent and with his fellow Romans he was doing a Monty Python-style song and dance. As barbarians we decided it would be in character to attack them, so we did, which led to a bit of mayhem for a while.

We were married in Ware Priory, Hertfordshire, beneath a medieval king post roof and have been together for 26 years.

Q. You have two children.

A. Josh is 22 and Jodie will be 10 this year. Both are good humoured, energetic and fearless. Josh used to do a lot of motor cross when he was young and won many trophies. Presently I like to do as much as possible with Jodie because she'll shortly be going to senior school and will no longer want Mum to hold her hand.

Q. How did you come to live in Reach?

A. We lived in Hertfordshire but our work required us to move eastwards, somewhere between Bury St Edmunds and St Ives. Though our search zone was large the house in Reach was only the third house we looked at! It ticked all the boxes – and more – and we liked the look of the village with the green and its ancient dyke. Having now lived here for seven years this Christmas we realise the village with its remarkable community spirit is even nicer than it looks.

Q. What are your interests?

A. I like to take up an evening class and follow a pursuit: gardening, sewing, photography, woodwork. I once did an Indian cookery course; I got the book and bought all the spices and carefully followed the recipes. Tom came along said this looks good, grab a pan, whacked things in and the results were brilliant.

Q. Where do you like to holiday?

A. Our favourite holiday is to rent a villa in Spain away from the tourist high spots. We also like to holiday in Britain. I thought we had done the north Norfolk coast to death but we went again this last half term and really enjoyed ourselves.

Q. Favourite book?

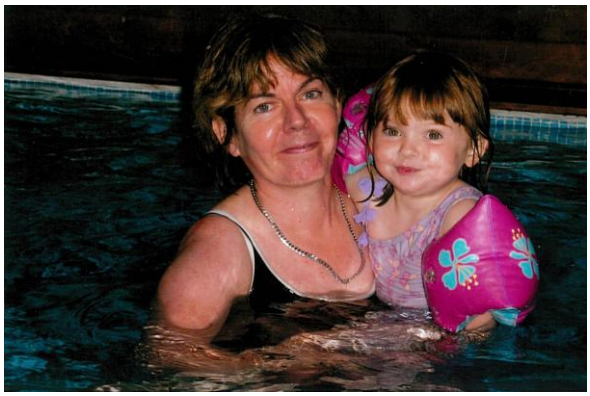
A. Detective novels. I used to read a lot of Patricia Cornwall but one murder was so gruesome I thought why am I reading this? I like John Grisham.

Q. Favourite music?

A. Female vocalists: Joan Armatrading and more recent, Adele, and more recent still, Ella Henderson.

Q. Favourite film?

A. Love films (Out of Africa and Truly Madly Deeply) and I'm guaranteed to shed a tear.



Claire with Jodie

Q. Can you cook?

A. Yes. Not brilliant but adequate. I do a very good Sunday roast which is always appreciated. During my student days I was once a cook on an archaeological dig on a Greek island, Melos. The excavators would have to get up at 5am to work before the heat of the day, while cook got up when cook saw fit. A man with a donkey laden with fruit and vegetables would visit where we were staying and I would purchase from him. Because I was cooking for so many the butcher would often sell me a big lump of meat; half a lamb. The food was cooked in the village bread oven so when we had prepared our dishes we would walk them through the village to the oven. Once we had delivered the food to the oven we would flop down in one of the cafes in the village square.

Q. Are you handy around the house?

A. Not hugely. I can decorate. I once attended a woodwork class and made a full size pine table. I have to admit that it was always minus its drawer but excepting that it was fully functional. As I was making the table I would take it to the woodworking class on the roof of my mini (Yellow Peril Beryl). As the table got more complete it got heavier and difficult to load. One week I nearly knocked myself out hoisting the table above my head height trying to heave it on to the roof rack. What a mystery: Woman found knocked out next to a car and a table; the police are not sure it they should be looking for anyone else.

Q. What is your philosophy on life?

A. There are no obstacles in life; you can do it!

Guilty of talking to myself. Ed

Days Gone By



In early December it was Police with “Walking on the Moon” who topped the charts but the Christmas No.1 was Pink Floyd with “Another Brick in the Wall”.

Founded in 1965 with original members Roger Waters, Nick Mason, Richard Wright and Syd Barrett, the group sold over 250 million albums with their most famous being the iconic “Dark Side of the Moon” (1973).

In the UK, a Housing Bill was announced which would give more than five million council house tenants the right to buy their home.

Tenants who had lived in their home for up to three years were given a 33% discount on the market value of their property, increasing in stages up to 50% for a tenancy of 20 years. As a further incentive to prospective buyers the government offered tenants a 100% mortgage from the local authority.

The policy proved extremely popular and was seen as a major vote winner for Mrs Thatcher in 1979 and again in 1983.

By the end of 1982, over 400,000 council tenants exercised their right to buy and the scheme was extended to tenants in leasehold properties. By 2003, over 1.5 million council homes had been sold. However, the scheme contributed to a reduction in the number of available council homes and there is now a shortage of social housing across the UK.

In Scotland, British Rail commissioned a special train to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Tay Bridge Disaster. It took people across the new bridge at the exact time of the accident, 1915 GMT, when the 1720 from Burntisland to Dundee plunged into the river when the bridge collapsed during a storm.

The cross-river link from Dundee was a celebrated feat of architecture when it first opened, spanning almost two miles and cutting the journey time from the city to London by five hours.

The architect Thomas Bouch was awarded a knighthood by Queen Victoria who used the train to travel to her Scottish retreat in Balmoral. Construction took six years, cost £300,000 and the almost two mile long bridge was opened on 31 May 1878. Just six months later 1,000 yards of the bridge plunged into the waters leaving Dundee with a legacy it cannot forget.

Only 46 bodies were retrieved and for months later, wreckage from the disaster was washed up - sometimes at a distance of 150 miles.



In Reach, the magazine focused on preparations for Christmas – but there was one article that stood out. A resident, Len Warren, had died in November and Jenny Johnson, Editor wrote a piece about him.

He was born in Burwell in 1913 and when he moved to Reach he developed an interest in the history of the village. His major claim to fame came after his examination of the Rogation Day Charter of 1201. Len upheld the opinion that Reach had been a kingdom in its own right since that time.



The newspapers called him King Len and his claims led to interesting proposals . . . .

- 1965 – Reach was independent of the laws of the land so licensing laws could be ignored when considering the replacement of Reach’s last pub.
- 1967 – the sale of Reach to Russia or America as a reaction to Cambs/Suffolk border deliberations!
- 1970 – the establishment of a pirate radio station in the village

He was obviously a bit special and was missed by many villagers.

David Parr
davidmparr@btinternet.com or 744081

Swaffham Prior Primary School

During the last week of September we welcomed the 'Life Bus' to school and the children were given the opportunity to find out about and discuss a range of topics, including the body, being healthy and feelings. Onboard the bus the children met Harold Giraffe and saw a body that lit up when touched!

The Harvest celebration was held at St Mary's Church at the beginning of October and Mr Simon Goddard led the service for us. He tested our spelling by asking us to make new words using the letters in 'Harvest'. The children thought of quite a few including 'earth', 'share' and `starve'. He also taught us about sharing using a magic trick. Each class presented an item including a samba from Saturn Class, a 'Seasons Song' with boomwhackers from Neptune class, a rousing song and some prayers from Years 1 and 2 and a scarecrow action rhyme from Reception. There was a sale of produce following the service and £101 was raised. The money is being donated to the Swaffham Prior village fund which is raising £2,000 to create a new well for a village in Tanzania.

Saturn Class visited Ely Cathedral for a day of activities. They had an action-packed day which started with an autograph hunt with children from other schools present on the day. This was quickly followed by a series of activities based around the period of Henry VIII and the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The children found out about how monks made stained glass and entered into singing and storytelling. After lunch, Bishop David led a special service. The children were asked to provide a decorated stone with the school's name on it which will be added to a cairn along with stones from other church schools in Cambridgeshire. They also wrote a prayer which was given to another school. We in turn received a prayer. It was an extremely informative and very enjoyable day!



Henry Aspin and his remarkable pumpkin

The Pumpkin Parade organised by Friends of Swaffham Prior School (FoSPS) took place on Wednesday 24th October and was a tremendous success! The standard of presentation this year was extremely high and we were treated to pumpkins disguised as a hamburger, planets, a baby, scary pumpkins in the form of witches and ghoulish faces, creative pumpkins covered in spider webs which turned into paralympic vehicles and houses, small pumpkins made into Cinderella's coach and snowmen and cleverly carved pumpkins including an angry bird and a variety of clowns. FoSPS awarded prizes to all and we all enjoyed looking at them and acknowledging the children's talents as designers!



Hazel Lingley tackles a big ivy

Grounds Day took place on the last Friday of half term and was a very productive day. We were joined by parents, carers, Lois from Wicken Fen and members of staff and their partners. Throughout the day children and adults worked alongside to weed, prune, clear leaves, mend fencing and generally tidy the school grounds. Here are some comments:
'It was really fun because you were outside enjoying the fresh air and shaping the bushes.' Ollie.

'I liked helping Mr Godfrey pull the bags of bark chips and seeing the school looking better than it was. Now it is nice and neat.' Toby

'It made a big difference!' Molly

'I enjoyed spreading the bark…..it was nice seeing everyone working together as a community…..parents, FoSPS, teachers and the school community.' Robert

Key Stage 2 had a visit from Peter Young. He led two sessions based on traditional storytelling and used a 'Best Jango' (a unique musical instrument made from a small log with added door knobs, bicycle horns and a metal strip from a kitchen sink and played with a stick called 'Mr Pencil') to help him. There follows a brief summary by Libby and Lucy of Saturn Class:

'He told two stories: one about a head teacher and one about Ollie and his Best Jango. The story about the head teacher was frightening and sounded quite real. You got a picture in your head of the school and head teacher because his storytelling was so good. You could picture the details and the character. The second story was about a gypsy traveller called Ollie who was moved to different towns as his father looked for work.

When he heard he was moving again, he went for a walk in the woods and found a log which he used to make a 'Best Jango'. Mr Young said there are only two Best Jangos in the world and he had been practising on his at home (apparently!). He got Robert, Mr Godfrey, Mrs Cole and Miss Curtis to play the Best Jango whilst we were singing a song about an ogre. It was the best story we have heard for a while. He was a really good storyteller.'

On 8th November we had a visit from our new vicar, Reverend Susan Giles. She met members of staff and children and will be coming into school soon to lead an assembly for us. She will also be joining us for Decoration Day and will lead our Christmas celebration at St Mary's.

We are looking forward to 'Children in Need' Day which has been organised by the School Council and hope that we raise lots of money for such a good cause. Christmas is also looming and Decoration Day, the Key Stage 1 play and our Christmas celebration in St Mary's are just some of the activities being planned. Busy, busy..!

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

Little Windmills Pre-school

We have had another busy half-term with our children at Little Windmills enjoying the autumn colours. We have enjoyed several outings - to Reach playground, the conker tree on Fair Green and a walk to feed the pigs. Reverend Eleanor Williams came and led our service in the church to celebrate the Harvest festival on October 18 where we explored where our food comes from and gathered in dry goods to go to the homeless.

A thank you to all of you who helped with the carnival in the summer which has raised £340 this year for the Little Windmills Pre-School. To top it all we took 2nd prize for our float. Our trophy is very proudly on display in the hallway.

This term we will be talking about bonfire night, fireworks and from the beginning of December we will be doing lots of Christmas activities. The children and staff are looking forward to our visit from Father Christmas in December. He will visit us straight after our Christmas service.

Little Windmills Pre-School is the feeder school for Swaffham Prior School and visits have now been arranged for the coming school risers to make a successful transition next school year. The children enjoy these visits and get to know their teachers and school routines well before they start in September.

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

Pets Corner



Milly Manchett is four months old. She loves other dogs and has a heart on her back.



Garfield Mules is 13 weeks old. He has few words but loves to hang from curtains.



Teddi Halpin-McDonald is a modern girl and loves to be where the action is!



KIDS PAGE!!



Jokes

What's white and goes up?

A confused snowflake!

What do you call an old snowman?

Water!

Guess the names of the Christmas carols!

1. Slento Itigh
2. Wana iy m naegar
3. Donkle littey
4. Te where knigs
5. Kard! Heh Treal Ganles Gnis



Cool Christmas Website!
www.emailsanta.com

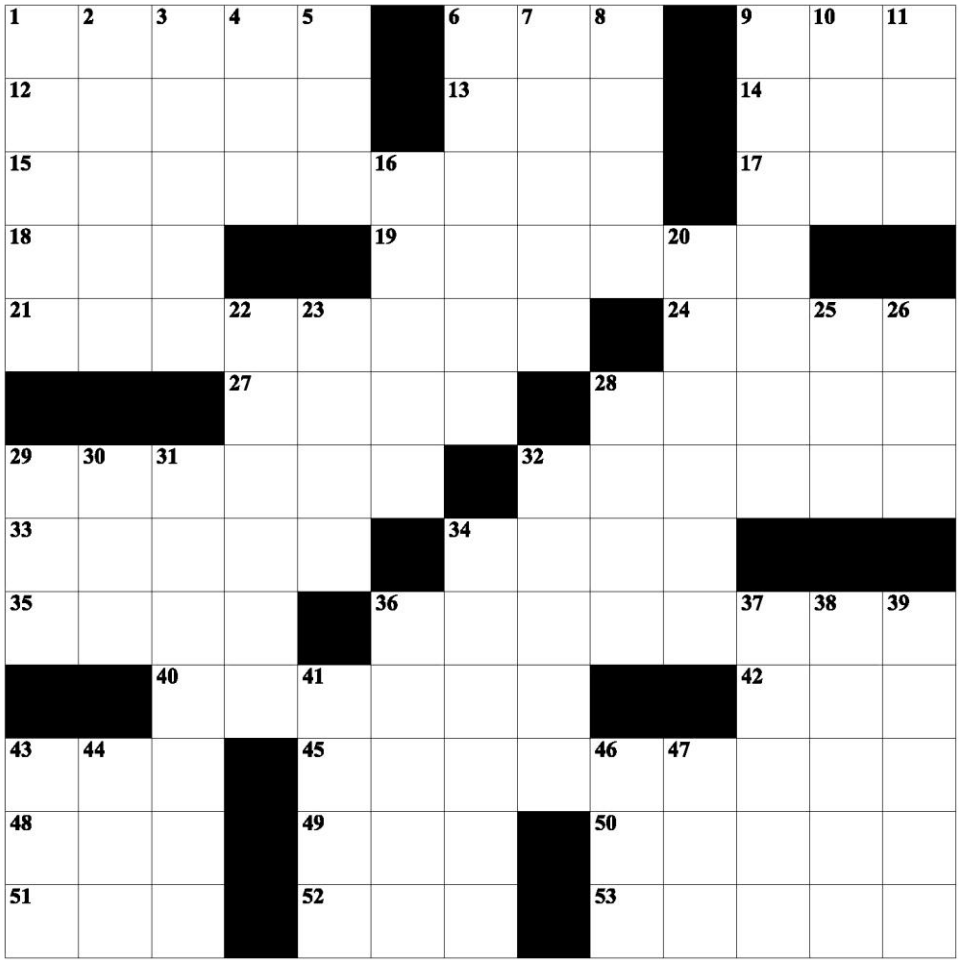
5 Things to do in the Christmas Holidays! (before Christmas)

1. Make a paper chain to decorate your Christmas tree
2. Write your wish list for Father Christmas – make sure he gets it!
3. Make a star for the top of your Christmas tree out of some old lolly sticks
4. Help your parents decorate your house, for example you could put tinsel round any pictures on the walls
5. Make some reindeer food for Rudolph and his friends – just mix up some oats with a tiny bit of glitter, so the reindeer can see it.

Answers to anagrams on page 32

Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year!

Crossword No. 16



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

A £5 Book Token will be awarded for the first correct entry opened after the closing date. Please send your entry by Friday 4th January 2013 to:

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

Answers to Susie's Anagrams

The answers to the Christmas carol anagrams are Silent Night, Away in a Manger, Little Donkey, We Three Kings and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.

ACROSS

1 Kidney, e.g.
6 Not her
9 Wrestler's pad
12 Glistened
13 _____ glance (2 words)
14 Stir
15 Offered in response
17 Rent
18 Total up
19 Most feeble
21 Appraise again
24 Admit defeat
27 Movies, for short
28 Positive responses
29 Oppressive ruler
32 Truthful
33 Clairvoyants
34 Hindu dress
35 School groups (abbr.)
36 Transmit a TV show
40 Fatal
42 Strife
43 Investigate org.
45 Pitcher's target (2 words)
48 _____ and don'ts
49 UN member
50 Scary
51 Informant
52 Lion's home
53 Adolescents

DOWN

1 Movie award
2 _____ Island
3 Cheese type
4 Dancer _____ Miller
5 Hair holder
6 Pester
7 Details
8 Manufactured
9 Small dog breed
10 Fruit beverage
11 Young child
16 Vote in
20 Picturesque
22 Scanty
23 Transgressions
25 _____ Plaines, Illinois
26 NY time zone
28 Olden times
29 Recipe measure (abbr.)
30 So far
31 Unidealistic one
32 Oscar winner _____ Berry
34 Sailor
36 Not these
37 Informed
38 Glossy fabric
39 Forest growths
41 Thump
43 President before HST
44 Feathery Scarf
46 Stroke lovingly
47 Confederate general

Rita's Recipes



Here are a couple of my favourite recipes for the forthcoming holiday season. Both are easy to make and keep well.
For the Chocoholics amongst us and also the Traditionalists . . . .

'The Ultimate Chocolate Pudding'

Ingredients

100g Plain Chocolate	125g Unsalted Butter
2tblsp Dark Rum	50g Golden Caster Sugar
2medium Eggs +1egg yolk	2tblsp sifted Plain Flour

Method

Grease four 150ml ovenproof ramekins. Melt the chocolate and unsalted butter in a bowl over a pan of barely simmering water. Remove from the heat, add the rum and stir until smooth. Put the caster sugar in a bowl with the two eggs plus egg yolk. Whisk for 5mins with an electric hand mixer until mixture doubles in volume. Add the melted chocolate to the egg mixture with the plain flour and fold together. Divide mixture between the ramekins, cover with Clingfilm and freeze (for up to a month)

To serve

Heat the oven to 200degrees C (180degrees C fan ovens). Put a baking tray in oven to pre-heat, then bake puddings (from frozen) for 16-17 until just firm. Dust with icing sugar and serve with cream of your choice.

My next recipe comes from across the border and is made annually by my grandmother for the 'New Year Celebrations'. Make as soon as possible to allow to mature.

'Hogmanay Black Bun



Pastry

12oz plain flour	**Pinch of Salt**
3oz Unsalted Butter	**3oz Lard/Shortening**
½tsp baking powder	**cold water**

Make pastry using the rubbing in method and mix with water to make a stiff dough. Grease an 8inch loaf tin and line with the pastry. Roll out the pastry and cut out 5 pieces to line the tin. Use the top, bottom and four sides of the tin as a rough guide. Press the bottom and sides into the tin, pressing overlaps together to seal the pastry shell.

Filling:

1lb Seedless Raisins	1lb Currants	2oz Chopped Almonds	Little milk
6oz Plain Flour	3oz Soft Brown Sugar	½tsp Ginger, Cinnamon, Baking Powder	Large beaten Egg
1tsp Mixed Spice	Pinch Black Pepper	1tbsp Whisky	2oz Mixed Peel

Method

Mix fruit and nuts together in a bowl, sift in the flour, spices and baking powder and bind together using the brandy and almost all the egg and a little milk to moisten. Pack the filling into the lined tin and add lid, using remainder of the egg and milk to seal and pinch edges really well. Prick surface with a fork and make four holes to the bottom using a skewer. Depress the centre slightly (it will rise as it cooks). Brush top with the remainder of egg to glaze. Bake in a pre-heated oven 160C for 2.5 to 3 hours. Cool in tin and then turn onto a wire rack. Cool thoroughly before storing until Hogmanay.

Vodka Christmas Cake



Once again this year I've had requests for my Vodka Christmas Cake recipe so here goes. Please keep in your files as I am beginning to get tired of typing this up every year! (Made mine this Morning!!!!) 1 cup sugar, 1 tsp. baking powder, 1 cup water, 1 tsp. salt, 1 cup brown sugar, lemon juice, 4 large eggs, nuts, 1……bottle Vodka, 2 cups dried fruit.

Sample a cup of vodka to check quality. Take a large bowl, check the Vodka again to be sure it is of the highest quality then repeat. Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 teaspoon of sugar. Beat again. At this point it is best to make sure the Vodka is still ok. Try another cup just in case. Turn off the mixerer thingy. Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.

Pick the fruit up off the floor, wash it and put it in the bowl a piece at a time trying to count it. Mix on the turner. If the fried druit getsa stuck in the beaterers, just pry it loose with a drewscriver, sample the Vodka to test for tonsisticity. Next, sift 2 cups of salt or something. Check the Vodka. Now shit shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Add a spoon of sugar or somethink. Whatever you can find. Greash the oven. Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Finally, throw the bowl through the window. Finish the Vodka and wipe down the counter with the cat. ;-)



Sports News



If I had to name a few permanent fixtures on the village green I would, naturally, mention the war memorial, chestnut tree and swings. But two other 'near permanent' features are also Dan and Ben Knight plus, of course, their football and the football goal.

Almost two years ago (*Within Reach* September 2010) we featured these two sportsmen when Dan, then 11, had been selected to represent Cambridgeshire County Under 11's at Cricket and Ben, then 8, had just started pre-season training with Ipswich football academy. After two years I thought it was time to catch up with the 'Knight brothers'.

The first task was to decide which of their countless sports to talk about out of a selection that includes cricket, hockey, football, golf, tennis, rugby and running. In the end we decide to take up where I left off two years ago – cricket for Dan (now 13) and football for Ben (now 10).

Dan has played three seasons at county cricket as u11's, u12s and u13s and has just qualified for a fourth season for the u14s. He is clearly a demon left-arm bowler, in his first season he took 11 wickets and has taken progressively more with each season since. Last year he took an amazing 15 and half way through the season was selected to open the bowling for the county u13s. I asked him what made a good match for him. Interestingly for Dan it's not just about the outward measures of performance but also his mental attitude and strength and how he performs under pressure. He cited a match against Surrey, a first class county team (whereas Cambridge are one of the 'minor counties'), as a stand-out match for him. "I had two dropped catches off my bowling and took one wicket, but I also had to keep calm to bowl the final over under a lot of pressure. Though we lost, it was only by three runs and against a much better team". Other highlights in the last season include playing at Kings School London on a really top quality pitch and going on tour as far as Taunton.

His aims for this season, having hopefully qualified for the u14s, is to be nominated to open the bowling and having done so to try to take 20+ wickets as well as to move up in the batting order. But he also added, thoughtfully "to take all the opportunities that coaches put my way and not to get dispirited when I don't perform as well as I would like" – very wise words from a such young player.

Asked to name his inspirational cricketer he said Tymal Mills (an England u19 who plays for Essex). "He's a left arm bowler like me" says Dan "and I really like his attitude; if he bowls badly he doesn't get cross or kick the turf he just gets on with the job". A quick bit of searching on the web suggests he has picked a great role model. Mills did not start playing until he was 14 and only took up cricket seriously two years later; essentially he went from the Essex Academy and having played a handful of 2nd XI matches, represented the England Lions in the space of a year.

A quote from Mills is a good take home message to any sports person "I think you always perform best when you are enjoying it and are focused on what you want to do, so I am going to hopefully continue to take whatever opportunities come my way."



Ben (left) and Dan Knight

Ben is now in his 3rd season at Ipswich Academy and in their U11s squad. He's in a tough training regime almost two hours every Monday and Wednesday and then, on Saturday, he trains with the u12s. His goal-scoring gets better and better. He left Burwell Tigers having been awarded best striker in the club – it was a name he lived up to in his debut season at Ipswich under 9s with a fantastic 63 goals to his name. For Ben, it's putting the ball in the back of the net that makes all the training worthwhile - high points for him are games where he has seen that hard work translated into scores. Against Tottenham Academy, Ipswich won 3:2 with two goals from Ben, against Cambridge United they won 6:4 with four of those goals scored by Ben. He even scored goals for the u12s when he played for them against Norwich. But it's not just about goals. "A game can still be good even if we lose as long as we play well" he says. It's definitely a bad game when "we do sloppy passes, keep losing the ball and or let in easy goals".

Outside the game itself Ben has enjoyed "learning from new coaches and meeting 'celebrity' first team players and making some really good friends". When I asked him about his aim for the coming season he unhesitatingly set his sights high "to score 80 goals" and with 27 under his belt it's so far so good. Ultimately he sounds determine to do all he can to make it as a professional footballer. In the meantime he aspires to be selected for the u12 academy next season. No small task as to date only two players have continued to be selected all the way up from u9s to u18s, many falling by the wayside as competition gets tougher. His Inspirational player is Lionel Messi because, quite simply, "he's the best player in the world" says Ben.

OK, I admit I know almost nothing about football so I Googled this guy and he's certainly impressive! An Argentine footballer who plays for La Liga club FC Barcelona and is the captain of the Argentina national team. He is Barcelona's all-time top scorer and Diego Maradona declared Messi as his successor.

Of course behind every great sportsman and woman is a great support team – and maybe a bit of genetic disposition for these two following, as they do, in the footsteps of two other 'Knights brothers'. Andy Knight (Dad) never played football but he did play hockey and a lot of minor county school boy cricket. He claims to have been delighted to have held the school record of scoring '158 not out' in a Felstead vs Oundle match. That was until his brother came along an beat his score - but then his brother was, of course, one Nick Knight - former England cricketer who went on to play in 17 Test Matches and 100 One Day Internationals. Andy still pays cricket for Burwell and is now a level 2 county coach – as if his own family's sporting ambitions and demands were not enough already! It's also clear that Ben and Dan know they owe mum and dad a lot "dad takes me everywhere and mum buys me my football boots" says Ben. Tanya tends to be Dan's taxi driver, as well as health and wellbeing manager for them both. "Dad is great support" says Dan "he really keeps you going to the end. After, he takes the good parts and praises you but he also takes the bad parts and talks about how to get better". (As the push parent I am I made a few 'notes to self here').

So here's to Dan's 20 wickets and Bens 80 goals and watch this slot for updates in a few months. In the meantime one member of the Knight family has not even been mentioned yet. Younger sister Emilia has, through nature or nurture or both, become a budding sportsperson herself. Her chosen discipline is gymnastics and I will be featuring her next time round so watch this slot!

Juliet Vickery

Juliet.vickery@yahoo.co.uk

Burwell and Reach Car Scheme

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

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

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

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

01638 742543 answer phone.

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



Katie's delight

GREAT KATIE: Katie Cameron proudly shows off her championship sash on Maylands Delight CP

KATIE Cameron enjoyed amazing success at both the Fenning Farm Championships in Soham and the Worlington Riding Club Championships in Fordham.

The nine-year-old rider from Reach qualified for the championship shows having performed well in competitions held throughout the year.

At Fenning Farm, King's Ely pupil Cameron won the 2ft 1in and the 2ft 3in classes on her mother's horse, Bob, and won the 2ft 6in category on her own pony Maylands Delight.

And at the Worlington championships, Cameron again rode Bob and won the 1ft 9in and 2ft 3in classes. Maylands Delight brought her more success as she won the 2ft 9in class.



REACH VILLAGE CRICKET TEAM. Front from left: Ross Clark, Rob Steed, Archie Fordham and Gareth Davies. Back row: Theo Clark, Gwilym Davies, Joe Acklam, Ewen Cameron, Andrew Trump, Tony Fordham and Phil Kingsmill.

REACH
PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th November 2012

Attendance

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

Councillor Brearley resigned as a councillor since he will shortly be leaving Reach. **The Clerk** will take the necessary steps to appoint a replacement.

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Harrison declared an interest in planning application 12/00857/FUL.

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 received no applications nor granted any funding during the previous month.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met on 17th October and agreed changes to contract regulations to make it easier for local companies to do business with the Council. Council also received reports from the pension fund, police and fire authorities and debated a number of motions including support for widening the A14.

Cabinet met twice in October. The first meeting was held in St Neots and was combined with opportunities to visit various Council projects in the town. At the second meeting items for decision included taking the next steps to commercialise a project called Smartlife and I presented the Ofsted report into arrangements for safeguarding children. The Ofsted report resulted in a number of media briefings and interviews as well as four staff briefings around the county and meetings to agree and implement an improvement plan.

Business planning for the next 5 year plan is well in place and we had a number of meetings to consider the plans.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Geoffrey Van Orden MEP recently spent a day touring the district with ECDC councillors.

At the recent Association of Drainage Authorities Annual Conference Richard Benyon MP discussed government initiatives such as conserving wildlife habitat, working with the RSPB to improve water levels and finding new ways of storing water.

Councillor Alderson also commented on the Waste Collection Potential Changes (see item 9. below).

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially stable situation and expects to provide a small surplus over the course of the financial year.

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 chicken has been now been satisfactorily repaired.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

It had been agreed that Rights of Way Officer, Councillor Fielding, would conduct a review to identify those landowners who had not taken the necessary steps to keep byways adjoining their land clear. It was agreed that Councillor Fielding would provide the Clerk with a map indicating the uncut areas and the Clerk would then make contact with the relevant landowners.

There was concern expressed that dog owners using Reach Wood were not properly disposing of their dog's excrement. It was agreed that **Councillor Fielding** would write a short note for inclusion in the next issue of the village magazine and that **the Clerk** would ask the Woodland Trust if they could provide three notices reminding dog owners of their responsibilities.

Mowing of the Devil's Dyke had not taken place as planned in the early part of the year despite the contractor invoicing the County Council for the work. The Clerk had sent 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. Highways responded with a letter which said that they were convinced that this was an isolated incident. It was also noted that the promised mowing had now taken place.

There had been complaints regarding the fact that parts of the footpath on the Swaffham Road were difficult to negotiate due to overgrowing foliage. **The Clerk** was asked to identify those homeowners concerned and ask them to remedy the situation.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity during the previous month – it is expected that there will be activity during the current month.

4 (10) Village Centre Report

There was nothing to report.

4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report

The cricket pitch and orchard are now fully funded (as are the non-24Acres projects of the avenue of limes to be planted on the Swaffham Road and the sweet chestnut to be planted on the Green). A funding application for the Woodland has been sent to the Forestry Commission although a decision is likely to be delayed due to the ash tree problems. At this stage it seems unlikely that funding for the Ménage will be in place until 2013.

It is expected that planting of the avenue of limes and the sweet chestnut will take place in December 2012 with the orchard planting date being confirmed as Saturday 12th January 2013. Planting of the Woodland will take place (subject to funding) in Jan/Feb 2013.

5. Garden Waste Dumping in the Village

There were two identified instances where garden waste is being disposed of in the village hedgerows. **The Clerk** was asked to contact the relevant villagers and ask them to cease this activity.

6. GOBA Dredging Proposal

GOBA (Greater Ouse Boating Association) had asked the Parish Council if they had any objection to the dredging of the mooring area on the western side of the Hythe. The Clerk was asked to confirm to GOBA that the Parish Council had no such objections based on there being no cost to the village.

7. Noise Pollution from Village Livestock

A villager had expressed concern over a neighbour's livestock which were felt to be creating a noise pollution problem. The Parish Council felt that this was not an occasion on which they should get involved in a dispute between neighbours.

8. Precept YE 2014 Decision

A budget for YE 2014 was approved which allowed the Parish Council to freeze the precept for the second year running at the level of £7,150.

9. 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). No changes are proposed for the current black sack collections. Any such changes are dependent upon Lottery funding, with a decision expected to be made before the end of the year.

Councillors had a number of questions and concerns regarding these potential changes and Councillor Alderson confirmed that if the bid is approved a team from ECDC would come along to a village or district meeting to answer any questions. Further details on this can be found at: http://www.reach-village.co.uk/refuse_and_recycling.html.

10. Planning Applications

The Parish Council had no comments to make on planning applications 12/00857/FUL, 12/00862/CAC and 12/00892/FUL.

11. Information Items

The Parish Council discussed a recent ECDC document which shows proposed changes to the Reach Development Envelope. These changes were supposedly due to minor anomalies and errors but they result in two parcels of undeveloped land being brought within the new envelope which goes against the village vision that Reach would continue to be an "infill only" village. **Councillor Clark** was asked to draft a response to the proposal which will confirm the Parish Council's view that the village envelope should not be extended in this way. **The Clerk** will send the response off to the relevant people.

12. Payments

Farm Forestry	Avenue of Limes	£1,140.42
Deacons Nursery	Orchard Trees	£456.20
C R Contracting	Mowing October 2012	£145.00
Balfour Beatty	Street Light Maintenance	£325.26
Peter Bridgeman	Playground Repairs	£200.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th December 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).

Clubs Contact Information

	Club	Contact name	Telephone/email/web
	Band (Wicken Coronation)	Robert Peacock	01353 723804
	Bell Ringing (Swaffham Prior)	Sharyn Robinson	
	Carpet Bowls (Swaffham Prior)	David Folkes	01638 745551
	Cubs (Swaffham Prior)	Tim Doe	01638 743656
	Gardeners (Village)	Margaret Joyce	01638 744390
	Mothers Union (Burwell)	Susan Baker	01638 741791
	Photographic Club (Bottisham and Burwell)	Daphne Hanson	01638 741106 hanson943@btinternet.com
	Scouts (Swaffham Prior)	Tim Doe	01638 743656
	WI (Burwell)	Jenny	01638 741205
	Youth Club (Swaffham Prior)	Alan Badcock	01638 742228

Letter from the Vicarage. Lots on for Advent and Christmas



The annual Christingle service is a lovely way to begin Advent and the Christmas Season, organised by St Mary's and St Etheldreda's. Our Christingle service this year is on Sunday December 2nd at 4pm at St Mary's and during the service the children will be able to make their own Christingle, as we talk about what it means - and we'll also join together in songs and prayers.



This year we are also launching our **Messy Nativity Sheep Trail!** The Messy Church team has joined up with Knit and Natter to create a very special Christmas challenge – one of our shepherds wants to visit baby Jesus but has lost her flock of sheep. They have scattered all over Burwell and Reach. See if you can find them all! You can pick up a leaflet at the Christingle service or at the churches, at CentrePeace in Burwell and from participating businesses around the villages. Find them, write their names on the special leaflet and drop it into CentrePeace or St Mary's or St Etheldreda's. Then come along to the Reach Family Carols at 3pm on December 23rd, or Jesus' Birthday Party on Christmas Eve at St Mary's at 3pm where there will be a small gift for everyone who takes part.

Our other Christmas celebrations include Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's 6.30pm on Sunday 16th December at St Mary's, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Guildhall. Then we have our Reach Family Carol Service at St Etheldreda's in Reach on Sunday 23rd December at 3pm. We would love to include a short nativity play as part of the service, probably the Grumpy Innkeeper (Jesus' Christmas Party) so if you would like to help with that, please get in touch (also if you play an instrument and can help with music).

On Christmas Eve we have Midnight Communion, beginning at 11.30pm at St Mary's, and on Christmas Day we will be celebrating at 8am with Holy Communion at Reach and with our All Age Christmas Communion Service at 10am at St Mary's. Then December 30th we are back at Reach for a Communion Service and the Christmas season ends with our Epiphany All Age Service at 10am on Sunday 6th January at St Mary's.

We would love to see you at any of our services in Burwell and Reach.

And finally - as churches we are committed to prayer and are looking for more opportunities to gather together to pray, so during Advent there will be times set aside for prayer at CentrePeace at 9am and 4pm on Saturdays.

We will also be having another Prayer Day, on Saturday 5th January - we will be having Midday Prayer at Reach at 12pm, then having lunch in the Village Centre (bring sandwiches, we'll provide soup and hot drinks), then praying again at 1pm. Do join us!

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

Plough Saturday!

Plough Monday was traditionally the start of the agricultural year, with records dating back to the late 15th century and was the first Monday after the 12 days of Christmas, when work in the fields began again after the Christmas and New Year festivities. Plough Sunday was the day before, when a plough was brought into church, with prayers for the blessing of the land. Having had to postpone the Harvest Songs of Praise, we are now going to have a **Plough Saturday Songs of Praise,** to mark the symbolic beginning of the farming year, on **Saturday 26th January 6.00 – 6.45pm**, followed by supper in the Village Centre. We'll pray for God's blessing on the land and on seed that is sown, on ploughs and maybe even tractors. Please get in touch if you can bring a plough, or a tractor!

Eleanor Williams Vicar Burwell with Reach 01638 741262
vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk.

REACH
Rainbow Crafts Circle



Tuesday 11th December 2012
1.30pm to 3pm

The craft meetings will <u>not</u> 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.

Church Services at Burwell and Reach

	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
December 2012		
Sunday 2nd December Advent 1	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion with baptism 4.00pm Christingle Service at Burwell 4.00pm Carols at Ness Court	
Wednesday 5	9.00am Prayer Meeting at Burwell 10.00am Holy Communion at Burwell 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 6	10.00 'Little Bears'	
Sunday 9th December Advent 2	9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 10.00am Parish Communion (Traditional)	8.00am Holy Communion
Wednesday 12	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Sunday 16th December Advent 3	8.00 am Holy Communion 9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 10.00am Parish Communion (Contemporary)	
Wednesday 19	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Saturday 23rd December Advent 4	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00 Nativity Service	3.00pm Family Carol Service
Monday 24th December Christmas Eve	3.00 Jesus' Birthday Party Crib Service 11.30 Parish Communion (Traditional)	
Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day	10.00 All Age Communion at Burwell	8.00 Holy Communion
Sunday 30th December		10.00am Traditional Communion
Wednesday 31	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	
January 2013		
Wednesday 2	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion 11.00 Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Saturday 5 January	Church Prayer Day	Church Prayer Day – 12pm and 1pm at Reach Bring sandwiches for lunch Village Centre 12.30pm
Sunday 6 January Epiphany	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service	
Wednesday 9th	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Sunday 13 January 1st Sunday after Epiphany	9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 10.00 Parish Communion (said)	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday @ 7 Informal Service
Wednesday 16	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Sunday 20th January 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 10.00 am Parish Communion (contemporary)	
Wednesday 23	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	
Saturday 26		6.00 Plough Saturday Songs of Praise 7.00 Supper at Reach Village Centre
Sunday 27th January 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Pathfinders 10.00am Junior Church 10.00 Parish Communion (traditional) 4.00pm Messy Church (Guildhall)	

Bus Timetable

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Diary Dates

December 2012	Event	Location	Time
All December	Wild Swan Feed	Welney Wetland Centre	3.30pm
Sun 2	Christingle Service	St Mary's Church, Burwell	4pm
Sun 2	Cambridge Voices	Two Churches Swaffham Prior	4pm – 6pm
Thurs 6	Recycling Day		
Wed 5	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Friday 7	Author: Nick Robinson	Needhams Hall, Ely College	6.15pm for 7pm
Sat 8	Carol Concert with Wicken Coronation Band	St Mary's Church, Burwell	7.30pm
Sun 9	Christmas Special	Prickwillow Drainage Museum	11am – 4pm
Tues 11	Reach Rainbow Crafts Circle	Call Pam King on 742924	1.30pm – 3pm
Wed 12	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Wed 12	Burwell WI Christmas Party	Mandeville Hall, Burwell	7.30pm
Wed 12	Author: Ian Rankin	Ely Cathedral	6.45pm for 7.30pm
Sat 15	Father Christmas, crafts, tombola	Ely Museum, Market Street	10.30am – 3.30pm
Tues 18	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.15pm to 12.50pm
Tues 18	Talk Village Gardeners	Swaffham Prior Village Hall	8pm
Wed 19	An Evening of Carols	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 20	Recycling Day		
Sun 23	Family Carol Service	St Etheldreda and The Holy Trinity	3pm
Sun 30	Ely Guided Winter Walks	Meet Oliver Cromwell's House, Ely	11.30am
January 2013			
Wed 2	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 3	Recycling Day		
Wed 9	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Sat 12	Community Planting Day	24 Acres	To be advised
Tues 15	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Tues 15	Talk: Village Gardeners	Swaffham Prior Village Hall	8.00pm
Wed 16	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thurs 17	Recycling Day		
Sat 26	Plough Saturday Songs of Praise	St Etheldreda and The Holy Trinity	6pm – 6.45pm
Sat 26	Plough Saturday Supper	Village Centre	6.45pm
Thurs 31	Recycling Day		
Thurs 31	Burwell WI Canada and Alaska. Talk and slides. Competition: Favourite Christmas card	Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell	7.30pm

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

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

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

Contact Information

Parish Council			
	Vice Chairman	Michael Aves	742800
	Councillor	Ross Clark	743725
	Councillor	Rita Dunnett	742943
	Councillor	Hilary Fielding	741853
	Councillor	Joyce Harrison	742405
	Chairman	David Thomas	742676
	Councillor	Vacancy	
	Clerk	David Parr	744081
	Play Spaces Officer	Rita Dunnett	742943
	Rights of Way Officer	Hilary Fielding	741853
	Speedwatch Officer	Grahame Radford	742814
	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	Claire Halpin-McDonald	743330
	Committee Member	John Holmwood	742969
	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	







Macmillan Coffee Morning

Top right: Rita Dunnett, Alice Lingley, Jenny and Chris Bridgeman

Top left: Rita Dunnett, Elizabeth Parr and Catherine Clark

Left: Rita Dunnett, Ray and Anita Folkes

Below: Bill and Jean Estall and Ray Folkes





Aerial photo of Reach taken in 1954 (courtesy of the Cambridge University Centre for Aerial Photography)

Please read Nick Acklam's excellent article "Tree Planting in Reach" on page 7