Within Reach



Fen Chitchat

New Bridge Celebrations

Sports Day

Swaffham Prior Travellers Site

and plenty more

August/September 2010



Brimstone on Buddleja



Green-Veined White on Runner Bean

Male Common Blue on Lavender





Light Emerald Moth



Mint Moth on Hebe



Mullein Moth caterpillar on Buddleja leaf

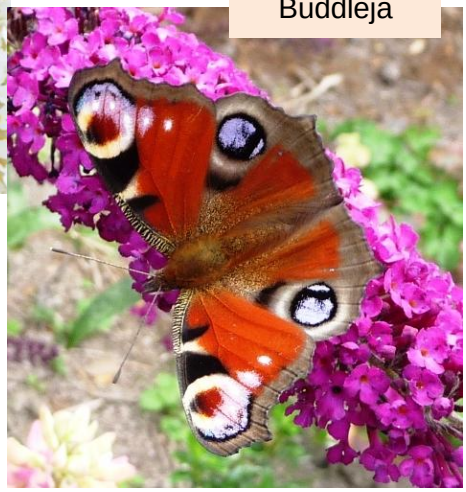


Painted Lady on Buddleja

Small Skipper on Alison's hand



Peacock on Buddleja



These wonderful pictures relate to Alison Lewis's Insects and Photography article on page 15

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From the Editor



WOW!

I think that was the general verdict of the new style magazine. Thank you once again to everyone who contributed with articles and photographs.

The editorial team have counselled opinion regarding the format of A4 vs A5 and opinion seems equally divided. This issue follows the same format as the previous but the subject will remain under review.

The use of colour was also reviewed - obviously printing in colour costs more, but the revenue from advertising does actually fully cover the costs and therefore we are going to retain the use of colour for the time being at least.

Joss Goodchild's article is about her horse, Thistle, a highland garron. It's great to read about what people do and their interests. I was delighted to receive articles from Alison Lewis on Insects and Photography and the World Land Trust. The talent and diversity of interests within the village is amazing and I bet we have only just touched the surface.

Please do submit articles on interesting places you have visited and also events you have participated in - whatever they are. Don't think because someone is covering an item it automatically excludes everyone else. Even if two people covered the same topics their articles would be quite different - so please let us have your contributions.

If you would like to join our roving reporters team or be a roving photographer and cover local events, please let me know.

Freda Lloyd has resigned as Advertising/Treasurer and this role has been taken on by David Parr. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Freda who for many years has managed the accounts and maintained an excellent number of adverts which kept the magazine viable. I am pleased to say that Freda will continue to help in her distribution role.

Keep those articles coming!

Claire Halpin-McDonald

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Editor's Notes

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

The next copy date is **15th September 2010.**

This magazine is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

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Crossword	Zenida McDonald
Days Gone By	David Parr
Fen Chitchat	Lesley Boyle
Kids Page	Susie Tucker
	David Cane
Little Windmills	Susan Bluck
Mothers Union	Zenida McDonald
Neighbourhood Watch and Police	Annie Austin
Parish Council	David Parr
Plants	Janet Hall
Snakehall Farm	Maz Baker
Sport	Juliet Vickery
Swaffham Prior School	Diane Hawkes
Wicken Fen	Howard Cooper
Wildlife	Joss Goodchild
	Alison Lewis
Womens Institute	Zenida McDonald

Proposed Travellers Site

East Cambs District Council's Site Allocations Options Paper proposes to site six large permanent gypsy and travellers pitches on land adjacent to Goodwin Farm, Heath Road (near the junction with Mill Hill), in Swaffham Prior.

A Community Meeting was held on 13th July and the notes from the meeting are included as a flier addendum to this magazine. Over 250 people were present and based on a show of hands, 95% objected. A Committee was elected to organise the villagers' objections.

A flyer has been circulated to all houses in Swaffham Prior, Reach and adjacent villages.

There are two documents relating to this proposal on the ECDC website and two questionnaires which need to be completed.

For further information have a look at:

www.swaffham-prior.org.uk/goodwin

The site has links to;

- A report on the Community Meeting
- Videos of the Meeting
- The ECDC documents
- The ECDC questionnaires
- Help on how to complete them
- And what are the valid grounds for objecting?

Email: goodwin@swaffham-prior.co.uk

No internet?

Please then telephone 08444 936 047 to contact the Committee to offer information or help, or ask for copies of the forms and the possible reasons to object.

Or call ECDC for paper forms: 01353 665555

YOU MUST RESPOND TO ECDC's QUESTIONNAIRES BY 5PM ON 16TH AUGUST 2010

Reach Lode Bridge Construction

Improving public access to the countryside has been at the heart of the Wicken Fen Vision from the very outset. The creation of a central route through the countryside offered the challenge of building crossings over the lodes.



The new route is to be called The Lodes Way, as it crosses five of the local lodes. July 2008 saw the first new bridge opened over Swaffham Bulbeck Lode, Reach Lode Bridge will open this September and a new crossing over Burwell Lode is planned for 2012/13.

Swaffham Bulbeck Lode Bridge was a fairly straight-forward project, but a series of factors at Reach Lode posed a greater challenge.

- Reach Lode is a navigable waterway, requiring the bridge to be a minimum of 3 metres above mean water level across a 5 metre width down the centre of the lode.
- The lode sits approximately 2.5 metres higher than the surrounding land, due to shrinkage of the peat.
- The artificial banks of the lode are potentially weak and could not directly support the bridge.

- Existing access routes along both the top and base of the lode banks need to remain freely accessible. In part, to provide access for the Environment Agency to maintain their regular cutting and clearance regime along both sides of the waterway.

Royal Haskoning were commissioned to design and oversee construction of the bridge. An extensive programme of consultation was undertaken with local user groups, Parish Councils, the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board, East Cambridgeshire District Council and the National Trust's Architectural Committee before a planning application was submitted. Planning permission was granted in October 2009.

BAM Nuttall were appointed main contractors for the bridge after a competitive tendering exercise. The prefabricated single span steel deck and supports were constructed by CTS of Huddersfield. The deck and parapets are designed to provide access for pedestrians, horse riders and carriages, cycles, livestock and the Trust's own light agricultural vehicles.

Embankments providing access to the bridge have been formed from clay excavated from both sides of the Lode. The resultant scrapes will be allowed to fill with water, creating new habitats for wetland flora and fauna. The shape of the bridge was designed to minimise its visual impact on the local fenland landscape.

Funded from a variety of sources, the bridge cost approximately £500,000. Natural England funding was provided by their Higher Level Stewardship capital projects scheme. Additional funding was received from Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity, via its Connect2 BIG Lottery award and from Cambridgeshire Horizons, via the government's Housing Growth Fund.



A community picnic and BBQ is planned from 1pm onwards on Sunday 12th September to mark the opening of the bridge. It would be great if you could join us to celebrate.

Howard Cooper

Reach Lode Bridge

Official Opening

This will take place on
Sunday 12 September with a community picnic and BBQ from 1pm.

We hope as many people as possible will be able to walk, cycle or ride to join in the celebrations.

Please bring a picnic and we'll provide the BBQ.

Reach Lode Bridge Archaeology

Prior to the construction of the bridge the area was subject to an archaeological trial trench evaluation - a search for archaeological remains which might be damaged during construction. The evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning permission and is a very common requirement in advance of development.

The archaeological and historical background of the area was researched. The principal finds in the immediate vicinity of the site are isolated prehistoric findspots e.g. an Iron Age tankard handle and two Neolithic stone axes. Reach Lode is one of several artificial watercourses cut across the peat to meet the river Cam. It is difficult to date the lodes due to their use and the history of cleaning, maintenance and re-cutting associated with them. Devil's Dyke which runs on the same alignment as the lode is believed to be Saxon in date and the similarity in alignment suggests Reach Lode could be a continuation of the Dyke but it is difficult to determine which was constructed first. The primary purpose of the lodes was most likely water management and their use for local transport may have been a secondary function.

Two borrow pits were to be excavated for clay extraction to provide material for a ramp leading up to the new bridge. Within the boundaries of the pits trial trenches were mechanically-excavated through the peat to the top of the geological horizon. Augered boreholes were positioned in the areas of the proposed ramp and culverts for each approach to the new bridge.

The trial trenches revealed evidence of a very wet environment unsuitable for human habitation and no archaeological features or finds were recorded.

The boreholes confirmed the presence of a large palaeochannel (a silted ancient watercourse), up to 5m deep in the vicinity of the new bridge. The course of the palaeochannel is traceable on Google Earth. Samples from the palaeochannel will enable the past environment to be reconstructed, dating back potentially to the Mesolithic period, by analysing pollen, plant macro-fossils and molluscs and using the technique of radiocarbon dating.

A full copy of the evaluation report (Reach Lode New Bridge Ref. ECB 3345) and reports arising from similar investigations may be consulted at the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Please tel/email Sally Thompson 01223 728569
sally.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
or Hazel White 01223 728570
hazel.white@cambridgeshire.gov,uk
to make an appointment.

Reach Lode Bridge Informal Opening



40 people - plus assorted dogs - came along to an informal opening of the new bridge-over-the-Reach Lode on the 25th July. Perambulating by different routes we met before this awesome structure at around 12.40.

Ross Clark then mooted, but dismissed for reasons of accuracy, the possibility of naming it the Bridge over the River Quy, settling on the name of the Geoffrey Woollard Bridge -- though whether the nominee will wish to be so remembered has yet to be established.



He then (in)formally declared the bridge open to Reach villagers and Eliza cut the tape. Thereafter, ignoring the dire warnings of the National Trust as to possible hazards, villagers walked happily across the said Bridge and had a picnic on the other side.

All, as far as we know returned safely, certain that we had captured the edifice for the benefit of the villagers.

Philip Lewis

Church Barbecue



The weather leading up to the BBQ could be described as 'changeable with a good mix of breeziness'. We all ran the danger of taking off.

But quite mysteriously, about an hour before the BBQ was due to start, the wind ceased, the sun came out to shine and it turned out to be a particularly balmy summer evening. Just perfect for a church BBQ . . . .



The event was very well attended, with many families and friends from Reach and also a little further afield. It was lovely to see so many families particularly with little children who enjoyed the freedom of playing with the 'big children' on the village green. They especially enjoyed picking the wonderfully ripe cherries in order to share them amongst the tables of onlookers. There were plenty of cherry stained faces!

The food was cooked to perfection (well OK, there were a few 'over easy burgers') but with all the lovely homemade salads it all went down a treat. Thank you to everyone who made a dish, be it salad or dessert,

absolutely everything was devoured by the hungry crowds.

A lovely end to the BBQ was care of Gwilym and his rounding up of little ones for a game of rounders on the village green, how typically English! For those of us who chose to natter into the lateness of the evening, it gave us a relaxing opportunity to catch up with friends from the village and drink wine!

An event like this doesn't pass by without a considerable amount of planning and organisation, not to mention hard graft. Thank you to Janet and Andrew Hall and Sue and Tony Jordan for erecting the marquee, Charles Moseley and family and Andrew Towers for their BBQ skills and Jon Cane and Zenida McDonald for their sterling work on selling tickets.

Finally to Pam King, Claire Halpin-McDonald and Sarah Keutgen for organising and running the whole event and to everyone else who was involved. A big thank you to everyone who dug deep into their pockets during the evening to buy raffle tickets. At the end of the event a fantastic total of £504.50 was raised in aid of St Etheldreda Church.

Gentle reminder – for those of you who bought '100 Club' numbers and still owe your £10, please drop this into Joyce Harrison (742405) in an envelope with your name and telephone number and clearly marked '100 Club'. Thank you and good luck!

Jo Riches

London to Cambridge Bike Ride

I think it was May when I suggested to Gwilym that he participate in the London to Cambridge bike ride and that I could accompany him.



Not so mad, you might think. If you know Gwilym, then you'll know that he's fit and he cycles (Camb Triathlon Club – thank you Juliet). On the other hand he didn't know how far it was when he said yes.

I used to do a lot of cycling and remembered enjoying it. In fact I still had the bike (see picture) that I did the London to Cambridge ride on back in 19 something or other. I rather fancifully thought that I might get back to my former fit self if only I had a mission and a deadline. On the other hand I had no suitable bike, wasn't fit and had no time.



So now it's only five days to go. The ride is on July 25th. I've spent most of my time trying to construct a suitable bike out of the various vintage bits and pieces available to me (failed - went and bought one). I've replaced saddles, made emergency visits to bike shops to try and tweak Gwilym's bike since he's grown loads since we originally bought it. Finally we're ready. Only problem is the training. Not done a lot. Mad, really.

The bike ride is almost 60 miles long and is sponsored half in aid of Breast Cancer and half in aid of Flora and Fauna International, an organisation which works to conserve the planet's threatened species and ecosystems.

www.justgiving.com/cycling-for-biodiversity
www.fauna-flora.org/2010_5things.php

Lesley Boyle

[**Ed.** All successfully completed - albeit you finished behind a gorilla! Congratulations to you both].

A Memorialable Day

It was in May 2009 that a local resident Scott Freeman informed me that the War Memorial was in need of some refurbishment. This problem was discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and I was asked to contact relevant contractors, ask them what needed doing and what the costs might be.

Three quotations arrived with prices varying from £500 to £1,500 but in the meantime a War Memorials Trust Meeting had been scheduled for the Corn Exchange in Cambridge so I duly went along to listen to what they had to say. They looked at a picture of our memorial and said that in fact, some not very hard work by villagers was all that was needed, plus some new chippings and some scrubbing brushes.

So on a Sunday in May this year (yes I know, but these things take time) Scott, Dan Mules and I set about doing the necessary. There was to be one further volunteer but he did not turn up as promised. It would be wrong of me to name him, so let's just call him "Cliff". Ultimately "Cliff" did pass by in his car with his beloved wife, we shall call her "Alison" and whilst he was apologetic, he got the abuse he deserved anyway.

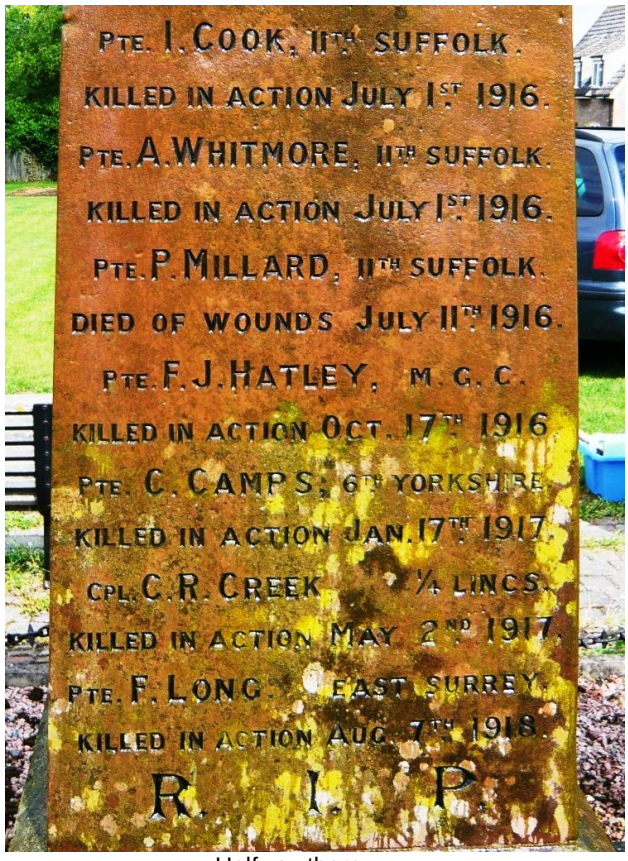


[It should be noted that Dan was late in his initial attendance but since he is built like a brick ~~shi~~ outhouse, Scott and I decided to let it pass].

So we set off to do the necessary - it was a lovely day. But with just the three of us and four sides to be scrubbed, we could have done with an extra pair of hands. Upon spotting a young lady of the village we shouted to her that we were looking for a scrubber. Unfortunately she was busy until 2 o'clock (we assume that's what her gesture meant).

So we scrubbed on, ultimately to be joined by a further volunteer Simon Owers, landlord of the Dyke's End. The hard work was done by then (he had been peeking through his curtains to time his arrival) but he offered to add some flowers to the memorial and this was accepted with enthusiasm. He also offered some liquid sustenance which was accepted with added enthusiasm - work slowed from this point on.

Dan and his delightful daughter Olivia had headed off to purchase new chippings to add to what was there - they arrived back about two pints later. Olivia then spent her time spraying water from the hosepipe over us - we were past caring by then.



Halfway there . . . .

Hopefully the results speak for themselves and it just shows that whilst we all pay our council taxes, ultimately there are things we can do for ourselves and if you listen to Dave and Nick, this is a trend that will continue. Don't get me started.

For me at least, it was a truly memorialable day in this lovely village.

David Parr

News from the Allotments

If you have travelled along the far end of Great Lane in recent weeks, out towards Swan Lake barns, you might have been puzzled by the sight of men pushing wheel-barrows full of milk cartons. Are they in training for the next village sports day? Have they spotted a commercial opportunity and set themselves up in competition with Dairy Crest? In fact, plausible though they may seem, it is neither of these possibilities. These are actually Reach's own allotment gardeners, carrying water to their vegetable plots in a valiant attempt to keep their cabbages, beans and broccoli alive. With only about 30mm of rain in each of May and June (and even less in April) the clayey soil is now baked hard.



(But lest we feel inclined to complain, spare a thought for those in southwest China, where 50 million people are affected by drought, 16 million people don't have access to safe drinking water and villagers are walking 6 hours a day to fetch water for their families).

Whilst these individual incidents of hot, dry weather may or may not be attributable to our treatment of our planet Earth, other events at the allotment certainly are. In 1962 Rachel Carson wrote her seminal book 'Silent Spring'. The book examines how chemical pesticides enter the environment, poisoning the earth - ultimately to the extent that there are no more birds to sing in spring.

Experience on the allotments suggests that farmers have yet to heed the warnings that she gave. The allotment took delivery of a load of stable straw - to be used as mulch or dug in to the soil as compost. But for those who laboured away and took advantage of this generous offering there was a shock in store. Why were strawberry plants dying? Why wouldn't raspberries grow? What was causing potatoes to become deformed and twisted? The answer was a plant hormone based herbicide called Aminopyralid. Used to kill broad-leaved weeds on pasture, grass crops and cereals, it contaminates the straw or is excreted by livestock that have fed on treated hay or grass. Either way it is not good news for vegetable growers and is a classic example of how chemical pesticides can have far reaching negative effects.



The affected potato plants were dug up, their young tubers, barely the size of a pigeon's egg, plucked prematurely from the ground and thrown onto the compost heap.

Drought, poisons - can I end on a positive note? Well, despite the challenges, the allotments are delivering their first (hard won) produce – a few courgettes, some 'Chinese leaves', a few strawberries, some cut flowers, new potatoes. And if the worst comes to the worst we can always pop to the Co-op……

David Thomas

Time to Buy Some Bulbs

Now that the daffodil leaves have gone and the little spring flowers such as snowdrops and aconites are but a distant memory, it is time to think about ordering some bulbs to cheer you up next spring.

It makes more of an impact in the garden if you get a lot of one type of bulb rather than a few of all sorts of things. If you use a wholesale catalogue they sell

most of their varieties by the hundred. There are lots of places to get bulbs but the Dutch are renowned for them so you could try one of the Dutch bulb companies. I use Parkers wholesale catalogue **www.dutchbulbs.co.uk.** They have very competitive prices and the minimum order is only £50.00 which if you order with some friends is soon reached. I would recommend you only use the bulb part of the catalogue. For the more unusual bulbs, Broadleigh bulbs, based in Somerset, are good though rather pricey **www.broadleighbulbs.co.uk**.

You can always go to the garden centre to get a few bulbs either loose or in hanging bags with a mouth-watering picture to tempt you. If you are picking loose ones, get the biggest and firmest. The ones in the hanging bags often haven't been stored well and may be disappointing. Snowdrops and aconites are best planted "in the green". They hate being dried out and are never very successful when they are planted in the autumn.

Plant the bulbs ASAP after getting them home. All the time they are out of the ground they are drying out and spoiling. As a rule of thumb plant them at a depth of twice their height and two bulb widths apart. Try to get them the right way up (!) but if you aren't sure which way up that is, put them on their side.



There are few problems with bulbs. Mice and squirrels do enjoy them so a bit of wire netting between the bulbs and the soil surface should stop them. Some say moth balls puts off the rodents (can you still get moth-balls – not that I want any!). A friend swears by soaking the bulbs in paraffin, while someone else says chilli or tabasco sauce deters unwanted wildlife… never tried any of them myself.

Janet Hall

What's "Growing On" at Snakehall Farm?

This September we will be celebrating the 21st birthday of the Prospects Trust; our charitable social enterprise comes of age. Originally established with a small grant, a long term lease from Cambridgeshire County Farms and lots of ambition, the produce and plants are not the only things that have grown fantastically over the subsequent years. Prospects Trust has developed the 18 acre farm site extensively, from our humble beginnings in a caravan to a site now populated by polytunnels, a welcoming farm shop, tea-barn for our 8 to 10 co-workers, office space, training room and packing unit. External grants, donations and volunteer support have underpinned all of our larger scale capital developments and continue to be a vital element of our future plans.



Our day to day running is funded by a mix of placement and training fees and income generated by our commercial gardening service and the sale of our produce. All other site improvement is reliant upon securing additional resource from charitable trusts, major grant programmes and fundraising activities. 2010 will bring yet more exciting developments at Snakehall Farm including a long awaited bus shelter, a community focused orchard, an eco-garden and dedicated growing space for our school visits and hopefully the full renovation of our on-site farm house. If you have a few spare hours and you wish to help out with some of these projects we always welcome a local helping hand.

Should you pop into the shop for some quick seasonal vegetables on the way home from work or school run you may not even be aware of our "social enterprise" ethos. Behind all the tasty vegetables and hardy herbs are our co-workers. We provide work experience, training and support to people with learning difficulties, mental ill health and disabilities on

a daily basis. Some of our co-workers only attend on seasonal placements whereas others can be found harvesting in the polytunnels or behind the wheel of a mower in many local gardens up to 4 days per week. Sign up to our "Friends of Prospects Trust" database for our free seasonal e-newsletter to find out a little more about the people which make Snakehall Farm a magic place to work and grow.



Talking of growth, drop by our farm shop in the next few months and bumper crops await you. Squash, mixed leaf salad, garlic, tomatoes, potatoes, chillies, beans, peppers, carrots and of course pots of our Prospects Herbs will be ripe for the tasting. Just don't forget to bring your change!!!

For more information please contact us at The Prospects Trust, Snakehall Farm, Reach.

Tel: 01638 741551
Email **enquiries@prospectstrust.org.uk**
Web: **www.prospectstrust.org.uk**

Marianne (Maz) Baker

News from Wicken Fen

A quick reminder that the official opening of the Reach Lode Bridge is being held on Sunday 12 September, with a community picnic and BBQ from 1pm. We hope as many people as possible will be able to walk, cycle or ride to join in the celebrations. Please bring a picnic and we'll provide the BBQ.



Construction of a new 2km cycleway across Burwell Fen is underway and cycle gullies have recently been installed on the footbridge over Burwell Lode to help cyclists get the cycles up and over the bridge.

The County Council, as part of their land disposal policy, is planning to sell 24 acres adjacent to Reach Village. They've approached the National Trust and similar environmental organisations to see if anyone is interested in purchasing land. The National Trust attended a parish meeting in May to ascertain interest from Reach residents about the Trust acquiring land and using it for community space. Following a variety of expressions of interest, the Trust asked the County Council to value the land to estimate its sale price. If the valuation is reasonable and the Trust is able to find external funding, we will endeavour to purchase the land and work with the local community to develop it for the benefit of local residents.

We recently welcomed a party from the National Trust's Council to Wicken Fen as part of their visit to the East of England. The visit was the perfect opportunity to brief the Council, who are all volunteers, on the development of the Wicken Fen Vision and our Outdoors programme. Their visit included a cycle ride out to the new Reach Lode Bridge, boat trips and opportunities to try their hand at geocaching and paddleboarding. It's fantastic to know that our work in developing the Vision is fully understood and supported within the highest levels of the Trust.



Young visitors recently helped restore and plant up historic Fen Cottages vegetable garden. The project was part of the Trust's Food Glorious Food initiative to encourage children and their families to grow their own fresh produce. Hopefully the crops will appear on the menu of our café later in the year. If anyone has a few hours to spare each week and would like to help tend the garden please contact Isabel Sedgwick on 01353 720274.

Schools out and we have a full programme of activities and events to help keep the young ones

amused over the long summer break. Organised events for **August** include;

Wildlife Detectives - hunt for clues to discover the amazing wildlife of Wicken Fen, Mon 2nd.

Den Building Day - build your very own hideaway on the fen, Wed 4th.

Fen Pirate Day - follow the treasure trail, hunt for monsters and create some swashbuckling craft, Fri 6th.

Bugs and Slugs - dig around the undergrowth to discover some of the amazing minibeasts of the fen, Monday 9th.

Teddy Bears Picnic - bring along your favourite teddy for stories, craft and furry fun, Wed 11th.

Lucky for Some - have fun with old wives tales and try your luck at our fen folklore trail, Fri 13th.

Dragons and Damsels - discover all about these fascinating creatures and make your own dragonflies to take home, Mon 16th.

Butterfly Flutterby - find out whose fluttering through the fen, Wed18th.

Fairies, Pixies and Trolls - make spells and hunt for slimy boggles, Fri 20th.

Mud Glorious Mud - get messy and create some prehistoric mud monsters, Wed 25th.

Crafty Capers - Drop in for craft activities from 11am to 3.30pm on Fri 27th.

A **Wild Child Trail** runs every day throughout the holidays and we also have **pond dipping**, **paddleboarding** and **boat trips** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays respectively.

Looking ahead to **September**, due to popular demand we are holding another **Fenman's Day** with working fenman Peter Carter on Saturday 4th September - learn to set eel traps and experience some harmless wildfowling. Further information and tickets for all events are available from the Visitor Centre. Have a great summer!

Howard Cooper

Reflections from Ross



The expanding wetland nature reserve on our doorstep is not welcomed by everyone. There is a view that we need the land for agriculture, not birdlife. East Cambridgeshire District Council recently voted for a policy to keep land in agricultural use wherever possible.

I don't want to come down too heavily on one side of the argument or the other, but I hope the following thoughts might provoke some debate.

Globally, the thesis that we need the 13 square miles of the Wicken Vision area preserved for food production does not hold much water. The idea that the world is straining to feed us is little closer to being true now than when Thomas Malthus argued the same two centuries ago. According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) 5.4 million square miles of the Earth's surface is currently used for arable production – that is an area equivalent to the USA and half of Canada. A further 13.2 million square miles is used for grazing – at various levels of intensity. This is an area equivalent to the rest of the Americas and two-thirds of Australia. The rest of the Earth – ie an area the size of Europe, Asia, Africa and the rest of Australia – is not used for any kind of food production. While some is mountain or desert, substantial tracts could be brought into agricultural use if only there was demand for it. Low grain prices throughout the 1990s and early 2000s actually led to huge acreages being taken out of arable production -- 88,000 square miles in Eastern Europe alone.

Whether Britain ought to maintain agriculture as part of a food security policy is another matter. Post war agricultural policy was inspired by the threat of the nation being starved into submission by German U-boat attacks on transatlantic food convoys. In recent years, however, food security has dropped down the agenda in favour of environmental concerns. Since the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in 2003 farmers have been subsidised to keep land in 'agricultural condition' rather than actually to produce anything. This has contributed to a sharp decline in national food self-sufficiency. In 1996 68.6 per cent of food consumed in the UK was produced here; by 2006 that had declined to 59.5 per cent.

So long as we remain a rich nation in a relatively peaceful world it doesn't matter a great deal if we rely on imported food. But if that did ever cease to be the

case would we have reason to regret the loss of high quality farmland on Wicken Fen? I think not, for the simple reason that the 're-wilding' by the National Trust is not irreversible.

One more point to make. I am not sure yet what East Cambridgeshire's new policy means, but if it were to be applied to the letter it would thwart not only the Wicken Vision but also Newmarket's growing horse-breeding industry, which has taken substantial tracts of farmland in recent years. It would be a poor outcome if we inched a little closer to national food security at the cost of compromising a highly profitable industry in which we lead the world.

Ross Clark

[**Ed.** Do you have thoughts on the Wicken Fen Vision? If you do, please let me have them].

Thistle

Recently people in Reach have enquired about the type of horse I ride through the village. She has been mistaken for a cob, the fattest horse on the planet, a jousting pony. I thought perhaps a short article about her history might answer some queries.



Thistle is a highland garron. Originally bred to work Scottish farms and crofts these ponies hauled timber, ploughed and transported game from the hill. Their essential hardiness and great stamina combined with a calm, kind nature and even temperament.

I bought her in 1995 from a remote Scottish farm where she ran with a mixed herd of highland ponies and cattle, she was 5 years old and had bred a foal named Robert The Bruce. We moved north and she lived a similarly mountainous life with sheep and red deer for company. Much later we journeyed to Newmarket (swapping loch views for strings of racehorses) and finally, we reside in Reach and discover a unique fen landscape.

Her coat is the traditional yellow dun colour with primitive markings - a black dorsal stripe and zebra lines on legs. She is sensible to ride, biddable to handle and unphased by most hazards, unless genuinely frightened. She never wears a rug; the highland's unique winter coat consists of a layer of strong badger-like hair over a soft dense undercoat and this combination enables the breed to live out in all weather conditions.

Over time the highland pony adapted to survival on poor quality grazing, therefore the rich pastures of southern England ensure a seasonal battle with Thistle's weight. Admittedly she can be fat but this should not be confused with the powerful nature of her requisite build. The highland garron type is about strength, broad shoulders and chest, a compact body and driving hindquarters.



When used for deer stalking the highland has the strength and ability to carry up to a 20 stone stag all day from hill to larder. The carcass is slung over a saddle specifically designed for this purpose. By following in the immediate footsteps of the Pony Boy or strung together with ropes, the garrons have learnt to traverse narrow mountainous paths behind a leader. One of the quirks of owning this breed is that they instinctively want to walk directly behind you and resist being led from the side.

The Queen rides a highland garron and has a large stud of working ponies to carry grouse, deer and people on the hill during the sporting season. They are then moved to Balmoral Castle as multi-purpose trekking and driving ponies.

I hope this has been of some small amount of interest to even non-horsey people. I would add that being owned by Thistle has been one of the highlights of my life!

Joss Goodchild

The World Land Trust



The World Land Trust (WLT) is an international fundraising conservation charity. “Not another one” I hear you cry! Although I am now rather biased, having worked with them for my post-graduate course, I can confidently say that WLT is more than just a little bit special in the conservation world.

Firstly, they don’t *just* save rainforests. As well as working in the various rainforests of Central and South America, they are also currently helping to protect the grasslands in Kenya and creating elephant corridors in northern India. Other successful projects include coral reefs in the Philippines and the coastal steppe in Argentina.

Secondly, they don’t own any land overseas. WLT works closely with local NGO conservation partners based in the project countries. They raise funds for their partners to purchase land and create nature reserves. The land is officially owned by the partner and so the responsibility of managing the reserve is kept within the country. WLT encourages reserves to become sustainable but will help out with further funds if necessary.

Thirdly, they keep administrative costs to a bare minimum; in fact in 2009 these were only 1.9% of total expenses! This compares well to the 5-11% of other more well known conservation charities.

Finally, since being established in 1989 and pioneering the Buy-An-Acre fundraising scheme, they have helped saved over 400,000 acres (162,000 ha) of threatened habitat. That’s about the size of Hertfordshire or an awful lot of football pitches!

Today, they have unwavering support from patrons Sir David Attenborough and David Gower and with a little help from the likes of Bill Oddie, Stephen Fry, Mark Carwardine (*Last Chance to See* presenter) and Simon Barnes (*The Times* journalist), are regularly praised in the media.

As well as ongoing conservation achievements abroad, WLT has also had two recent great successes much closer to home. In May, they won a Gold medal *and* Best in Section at the Chelsea Flower Show for a display on “Saving the Atlantic Rainforest”; for which I helped with some plant research (see picture later in this article). This was followed in June, by the raising of £168,000 from the auction of two highly decorative elephant statues which were part of the Elephant Parade in London. These funds are going towards protecting the threatened Asian elephant.



If you would like to find out more about the World Land Trust please visit their website **www.worldlandtrust.org** or contact them directly:

World Land Trust, Blyth House, Bridge Street, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8AB
Tel: 01986 874422 **Email:** info@worldlandtrust.org

Alison Lewis

Fen Chitchat

As they feature so large in my visits to Tubney Fen during the summer, I thought I’d find out more about the herd of cattle kept there.

Farmer Peter Day, of Padney, has a family farm in the Wicken/Padney area. He has 1,700 acres of grassland, a herd of c.200 cattle plus a few sheep and 1,400 acres of arable land. He runs this with the help of his sons and nephew. In addition he has summer grazing from the National Trust and other land at Dimmock’s Cote. He is allowed on Tubney Fen between 1st April and the end of October each year.

He grazes 85 cattle on Tubney - 49 cows, 35 calves and one bull. 85 cows to 200 acres is light grazing, which is appropriate for ‘conservation grazing’. Normally he would have one cow per acre. However the plus side of this restriction is that he hasn’t suffered from lack of grass during this recent drought. Also there was an area on Tubney that had been fenced off for spraying off thistles. This has now been opened up and mown. 12th July is the earliest you can mow conservation grassland due to the danger of disturbing ground nesting birds, like skylarks. Peter says apparently cows will never walk on a bird’s nest.

The cattle are mainly European or Continental breeds - the Bull is Limousin and the cows Limousin/Simmental crosses, with some Hereford crosses (the black and white ones). Limousins are

noted for being docile and easy to manage and also producing calves with low birth weights and therefore easy for calving (92% of his cattle need no help or intervention), but they have a high rate of growth so they make good commercial cattle. Peter also has another Limousin bull back on his farm. The calves are born at his yard, so they were all at least 3 weeks old before they came to Tubney.

Often cattle are excited when they get out of wintering in the yard. Also it can take their eyes a while to adjust to full daylight after being kept in. This can make them blind to fences, which is why they can get the reputation for being a bit unruly when they get let out for summer grazing. I remember quite a few years ago that one of Michael Aves' bullocks was let out into the paddock down the hill from their house. It rushed straight through the fence at the bottom of the field and across the road into Miss Whitehouse's garden and rampaged round there for a while refusing to be caught. That was the last time I remember there being cattle in that field.

I asked Peter if he had any advice for walkers, cyclists and horse riders going across the Fen. He said that we shouldn't have much trouble. The bull is fine. The cows are more the animals to look out for. He asks that you keep dogs on a lead, but if you stray too close to a calf and the cow starts to chase you, let the dog off the lead. The cow will be chasing the dog, not you. The cow is protective within the first two days of calving, which is why he calves the cows back on his farm. He makes sure that he gets rid of any cows that are too protective as they are too much trouble.

The National Farmers Union and the Ramblers Association give the following advice for walkers:

- Try not to get between cows and their calves
- Be prepared for cattle to react to your presence, especially if you have a dog with you
- Move quickly and quietly and if possible walk around the herd
- Keep your dog close and under effective control on a lead
- Don't hang onto your dog if you are threatened by cattle - let it go as they will chase the dog
- Don't put yourself at risk; find another way round the cattle and rejoin the footpath as soon as possible
- Don't panic or run! Most cattle will stop before they reach you. If they follow - just walk on quietly.

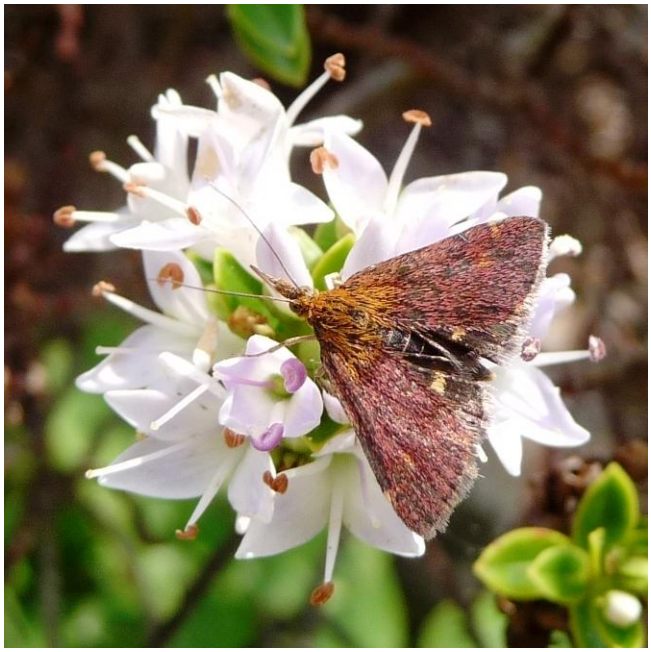
Lesley Boyle

Insects and Photography

Did you know that there are well over 1 million described species of insect in the world?! That makes up over 90% of all known animal life on Earth and is only counting the ones we know about! There are potentially thousands of undiscovered insect species, most of which are hiding out in the rainforests.

I've always had a passion for wildlife, especially insects and a year or so ago I began photographing the creepy crawlies in my garden here in Reach. It started out as just testing my new digital camera and turned into a hobby! I have a Panasonic Lumix TZ4, which is what I call a "super-pocket" camera; with 8MP, 10x optical zoom and a vast range of modes. It packs an SLR quality punch but without the bulk and will still fit in a large pocket. I am particularly pleased with the quality of the macro images – that is small things either very close up or far away.

Butterflies are one of my favourite subjects, although they aren't easy to capture. There are 59 species native to the UK and sadly some are becoming very rare. Last year, however, millions of Painted Ladies graced our shores following an unusually large migration from North Africa. I certainly found a fair few in the garden, but I'm yet to spot even one this year. My tally for the year, up until mid-July, is 12 species in the garden. My favourite has been a Green Hairstreak, which I'd never seen before but unfortunately didn't manage to photograph.



I was lucky enough to have the chance to visit Paraguay in March this year. I spent two weeks in the Atlantic Rainforest studying the butterflies for my post-graduate conservation course. I saw around 60

species in that time, including an amazing Morpho with wings as big as a man's hands! I also snapped praying mantises, stick insects and loads of spiders. But the highlights were a huge Atlas Moth and a 5cm long Spider-Eating Wasp, dragging its prey - a headless tarantula - along the ground to its burrow!

When trying to get the perfect shot of anything, one often needs a lot of patience; not only with the subject, but also with your camera. Although mine has a great point-and-shoot mode, I am more than willing to manually play with the settings and take ten pictures to get the image just right. Even having owned it more than a year I have to admit I am still learning all its functions and I am still frequently astounded by the quality of photos it produces. The photos on the inside front cover of this issue are just a few of my favourites from my garden.

Alison Lewis

Meeting Harry Oliver-Towers



Q ***Do you think school should be banned, and let children stay at home?***
A No. You get to learn things at school

Q ***Who's your favourite teacher?***
A Mr Godfrey. He's really experienced

Q ***What's your favourite subject?***
A Art and maths

Q ***What is a computer?***
A An electric things which tells you information.

Q ***Do you eat school dinners?***
A Yes

Q ***What is the worst thing you have ever eaten?***
A School hot pot

Q ***What's your totally totally favourite dinner?***
A Pasta

Q ***What's your favourite drink?***
A Water

Q ***Do you have a best friend?***
A Hugh

Q ***What do you like doing during play time?***
A We like playing `It'

Q ***Do you like living in Reach?***
A Yes. All my friends live in Reach

Q ***Would you like to live in a town or in the country?***
A. The country.

Q ***Do you like helping your Mum and Dad?***
A I like helping Daddy, and I like making go-carts. I help do the garden, and I help look after the chickens

Q ***Do you like going shopping?***
A Yes. I like going to Moons in Newmarket to buy a toy

Q ***If you had a thousand million pounds what would you buy?***
A Everything in Moons

Q ***Do you have any pets?***
A I have a dog called Matilda. Two guinea pigs, Ginger and 2:2, and six chickens

Q ***Do you look after them?***
A Yes, I let the guinea pigs out of the cage so they can use their day run. I give the guinea pigs water and food. I help feed Matilda three times a day. I make her sit and wait for her food. She can catch a treat. The guinea pigs eat dried food like the dog. The guinea pigs are good lawnmowers

Q ***If you could be an animal what animal would it be?***
A I would be an elephant because then I would be big. I know a fact about elephants. Both male and female African elephants have tusks, but only male Asian elephants have tusks

Q ***What sports do you like?***
A Football, cricket, basket ball, swimming, gym, tennis and running

Q ***What do you think of the English football team?***
A The team are good but not excellent. Wayne Rooney does fouls. They got through to the last 16 in the world cup, but not the final. Robert Green let in a goal

Q ***Can you swim?***
A Yes I can do the front stroke, back stroke and breast stroke. I have swimming lessons at the Holiday Inn, Histon, with Jeanette

Q ***What is the best bestest day out you could have?***
A Going to Duxford and seeing the aeroplanes. My dad takes me.

Q ***What is the most horrible day you have had?***
A The day I threw up

Q ***Is there anything which frightens you?***
A Having bad dreams. There is a crack by my window sill, and I used to think that a monster lived there and would come out and get me

Q ***Do you have a girl friend?***
A No

Q ***Do you think you will get married?***
A Yes

Q **Do you think you will have babies?**
A Yes

Q ***When you grow up what job will you have?***
A An astronaut

Claire Halpin-McDonald

CentrePeace@Reach

Have you visited CentrePeace @ Reach yet? From 2pm till 4pm on the third Wednesday of every month, the back of St Etheldreda's church, is transformed into CentrePeace and everyone's welcome. The three sessions so far have been on sunny days, so we've also been able to spread out into the garden area.

So, what happens there? Well, we've got loads of 'previously loved' books at bargain prices – paperback novels by all your favourite authors for £1; non-fiction books for £1.50 - £3.00 on subjects as varied as history, cookery, gardening, travel and more. You never know what you might find! The children's books are particularly popular and prices range from 10p to 50p, so everyone can afford them.



We also stock a range of Fairtrade items, for example chocolate, biscuits and cereals. We've just had new stock in with some new ranges of healthy fruit snacks. There are also greetings cards and last but not least, a selection of our stunning original African art (as displayed at the major exhibition in Reach last December).



Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits are on offer, with squash for the children, so do come along and relax for a while, meet your friends and browse. We'd love to see you. Make a note of the dates now!

August 18th - September 15th - October 20th
November 17th - December 15th

On the above dates, CentrePeace@Reach will be open from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

The proceeds from these sessions are divided between St Etheldreda's church and CentrePeace.

Pat Chalmers

GOURMET FOOD FAIR

The Rutland Arms, High Street, Newmarket

Saturday 11th Sept - 10am to 4.00pm

An event for true "foodies", lots of stalls in the refurbished Courtyard, selling the most delicious food and drink

Free entry and sampling

Give your tastebuds a treat!

Days Gone By

June/July 1977



Before looking at this specific time in 1977, I thought it fitting to pay tribute to the original creators of Out of Reach magazine whose first issue came out in September 1976.

The picture below was included in the Cambridge Evening News on the 1st September 1976 and shows, from left to right, Geoffrey Woollard, Jenny Johnson (Editor), Harvey Harrison and Pat Harrison.



In preparing for this issue of the magazine I was hoping to establish just how many people who currently live in the village were living here in 1977. To this end, ECDC very kindly allowed me to have a look at the Reach electoral register for 1977 and from that I was able to establish that the number is just 30 - but this will be plus any children in 1977 that were living in Reach but were not on the electoral register because of their age. I am hopeful that these 30 plus villagers will be able to help me to make these articles as accurate as possible. Our oldest resident remains Maisie Whitehead who was born in Reach in 1914.

1977 was the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee and there were celebrations across the UK and the Commonwealth, mostly taking place in June. The celebrations in Reach took place on Tuesday the 7th of June and included a number of events.

There was a Fancy Dress competition which was won by Simon and Joanne Housden as Bride and Bridegroom. Justin Moseley, Charles Moseley's son was in second place as an explorer and Karen Greenhill (now Karen Turner) achieved third place as the Queen of Hearts.

There were also sports with the joint winners of the John Robinson Sports Cup being Esther Morris and Simon Housden. The Reach marathon was run with the Junior Cup being won by James Robinson and the then paperman, Les Bridgeman ran through the tape to take the Senior Cup.

Probably the most memorable part of the afternoon was the village Jubilee Tea, the high spot of which was the most delicious cake made and presented by the cooks and kitchen of Peterhouse college - an activity organised by Major General Crookenden, the then resident of Fitzroy Farm.

Crowns (5 shilling pieces for our more junior readers so a face value today of 25p) were given out to the children (112 of them based on a total cost of £28). Many thousands were minted because of the Jubilee and so a current collector's value would be only about £1.50. Since the inflation multiple since 1977 to today is about 5, they have not turned out to be a particularly magnificent investment! Crowns continue to be issued on special occasions but now they have a face value of £5.



A photograph of the 150 plus people who enjoyed the event was taken by Nigel Bloxham (its on the next page). This so-called Jubilee photograph was on sale for £18 at that time, equivalent to around £90 in today's money - showing just how much the cost of photography has reduced over the years. How many people can you put a name to?



An interesting article in the July Issue of Out of Reach concerned the arrival of "a colony of gypsies" who took up residence on John Robinson's land. Various discussions took place in Council meetings with District Councillor Margaret Cook being very critical of the County Council for not fulfilling its responsibility for establishing "permanent sites for the caravans of itinerant people". So maybe there was a little more sympathy in those days for the travelling community although she goes on to say that "wherever a site has been suggested there has been an outcry from local residents". No change there then!

In the June 1977 issue of the magazine there is an enthralling article entitled "Reach in the early 1900's as remembered by Stan Webb. It describes a thriving community where lighting was by paraffin lamps and candles with cooking carried out using solid fuel over an open fire. He mentions the local pubs including the White Horse, the Swan and Uncle Tom's Cabin (I understand there were six pubs at this time, the others being the Ship, the Black-eyed Susan and the Bull. Maisie would presumably remember these times. Both issues of the magazine can be downloaded from the village website.

The Minutes of the June and July 1977 Parish Council meetings are now on the website and whilst not as much fun to read as the old issues of Out of Reach, they do give an indication of what was important to villagers at that time. The village website is www.reach-village.co.uk.

David Parr

Women's Institute

Burwell

Burwell Women's Institute meets on the last Thursday of each month in the Gardiner Memorial Hall in Burwell at 7.15 for 7.30p.m.

They have interesting and very varied speakers, competitions, a raffle and delicious refreshments. Members are involved in village activities and among other things, provide refreshments for the annual Burwell Carnival.

At the July meeting we will be told about 'Gardening Then and Now' by Rodney Tibbs, with the competition being for 'an old garden hand tool'.

In August members will enjoy a Harvest Supper and the competition will be 'a harvest collage'.

Keith Baldwin will be the speaker in September with 'Behind the Scenes in the Household Cavalry'. The competition will be for the 'most unusual brass instrument'. There is also a competition each month for 'the best bloom from your garden'.

We have three Open Meetings a year, to which visitors are invited free of charge and the next 'Open Meeting' is the September meeting. Visitors may attend other meetings with a view to possibly joining, for which there is a charge. Burwell members would be delighted to be joined by more friends from Reach.

For further information please contact the President, Kay Tee on 01638 743191.

Avis Smith

Burwell W.I. June Meeting

At the Burwell W.I. meeting on 24th June, Basil Abbott recited a gripping tale about the 'Flush Hall Murder' which took place early last century in Belfast. He acted many parts, using a variety of broad Irish accents and said it was a true story, still unsolved. The main suspect in the murder case had been taken to trial three times, but on each occasion, the jury had not reached an unanimous verdict, so the suspect was set free and fled to Australia. Basil Abbott told us he put on this play with prisoners he was teaching in a jail once and they enjoyed re-enacting the story.

The winner of the competition to make as many words as possible from 'A Murder Mystery' found over 300.

Zenida McDonald

The Mothers' Union

On May the 26th 2010, after a morning church service, members of the Burwell Mothers' Union had lunch at the Riverside Restaurant at the Cutter Inn, Ely. An enjoyable time was had by all.

On the 9th of June, members of Burwell M.U. attended an afternoon Garden Party at the home of one of the members in Burwell. It was a hot afternoon, but a sudden shower forced us to retreat indoors, where we were entertained with an 'unusual items' quiz and served with superb refreshments and home-made cakes. Thanks to our hostess for her great hospitality and to all who made the cakes, etc.

On the 30th of June, the Mothers' Union Summer Evening was held in the Bishop's Garden at Ely, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. There was musical entertainment and delicious refreshments were served in a marquee, while the multitude of guests sat outside on chairs on the lawn, as it was a very warm evening. Some members had come from as far away as Yaxley. The Bishop of Huntingdon was present and mingled with the guests. We were encouraged to talk to members from all the different branches and we admired the beautiful adjacent rose garden and the splendid architecture of the surrounding buildings.



There were many luxurious, attractively boxed prizes in the raffle. Thanks must go to all who assisted to make it an enjoyable evening.

Reflections-Be Still (prayer stations on M.U. work) was held in St. Mary's Church on the 7th July at 7.30pm and was attended by members from Burwell and other local branches of the M.U. We prayed, listened to music, admired the colourful montages and Hazel gave a talk about the Literacy and Development programmes being provided by the M.U. in some African countries.

Locally, some M.U. members, after training, work with prisoners and with young mothers and with families. Refreshments were provided and there was a raffle. Thanks to all who prepared the exhibition and to Sue and others for providing the worship, the Readings, the Wave of Prayer, etc.

There will be a lunchtime meal at the Five Bells, Burwell on the 28th July 2010, followed by the summer break. Meetings will resume in September.

We hope to have speakers talking about the interesting aspects of the work of the Mothers' Union, in Britain and overseas.

Please contact Susan on 01638 741791 to confirm details and venues.

Zenida McDonald

Little Windmills

The children at Little Windmills have had a couple of local visitors to their setting this summer term. Les the fireman from Burwell talked to the children about his uniform and the job he does. The children then had the opportunity to explore the fire engine!

Another visitor was policewoman Annie who talked about her role in the community. She taught the children that they should ring 999 in an emergency. We would like to say a big thank you to them both.



For the third year running we took part in the Burwell carnival. The theme this year was 'films' and we chose seventies film 'Bugsy Malone' where all the actors were children. Our float was created by a number of our parents and on the day the float was full of gangsters and their molls complete with custard pies and water pistols which helped to cool down onlookers on a very hot afternoon.



Towards the end of term, the children learnt about children less fortunate than themselves and took part in the big toddle charity walk to raise money for Barnardo's. We toddled round Reach sports field and were rewarded with certificates and medals. Many children and their parents stayed on for a picnic afterwards.

We say goodbye to all of our 11 school risers and wish them every success in their new schools.



We would like to thank our committee and parents for all their help during the last year without which Little Windmills could not exist.

The new term starts on Thursday 2nd September when we will be offering a new session on a Monday afternoon from 11.45 until 2.15 so that children can access the full Government Early Years Funding entitlement of 15 hours a week.

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

We hope you all have a very happy and safe summer holiday.

Susan Bluck

RECENT 100 CLUB WINNERS

April	**Ray Bateman**	£20
May	**Claire Acklam**	£20
June	**Dennis Millard**	£20
July	**Adrian Hull**	£50

Bottisham Village College Community Education

Are you looking for a new class or activity for the autumn term?

Then please look out for our new Adult Education Prospectus which will be delivered to local villages during August, or visit our website **www.bottishamvc.org/commed** for details.

Alternatively, come along in person to our;

Community Education Open Evening
Tuesday, 14th September - 7.00 to 9.00 pm
at Bottisham Village College

Charity Car Boot Sale

Helen Platt of Swaffham Road organised a Charity Car Boot Sale on the afternoon of Sunday 11th July 2010, on the village green. The sun was shining and the stalls were set up under the canopy of the chestnut tree.



The £80 proceeds from the sale were donated equally to the Prostate Cancer Charity and SPANA (Society For The Protection Of Animals Abroad).

Gallery - Church Barbecue

















Gallery - Sports Day



















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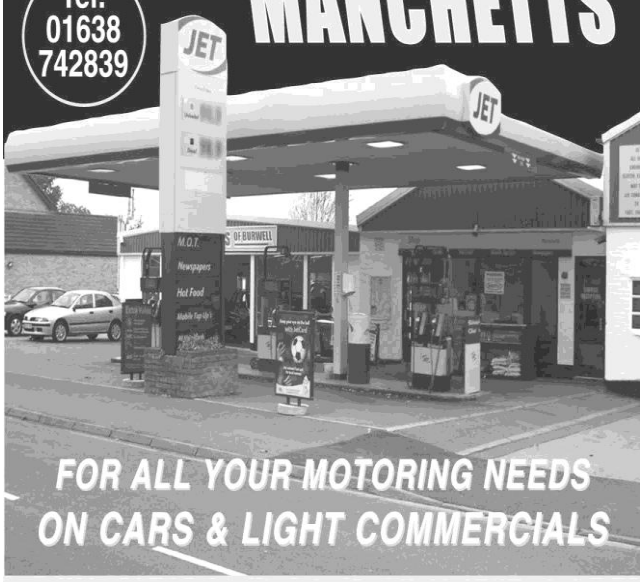
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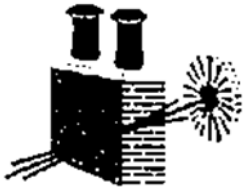
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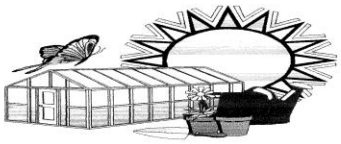
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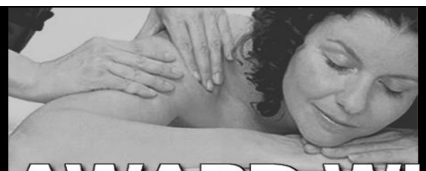
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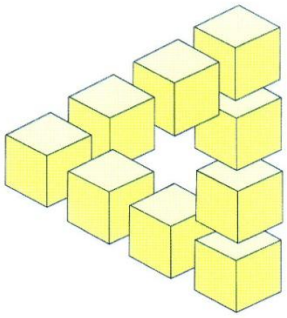
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Gallery - Bridge over the Reach Lode Informal Opening

















Swaffham Prior Primary School

Well here we are nearly at the end of the year – where did it go? It only seems like yesterday that I arrived!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their constant hard work and enthusiasm which contributes greatly to the success of the school. This of course includes our children; they are a credit to the school with their constant enthusiasm for learning, positive attitude towards their work and the respect that they have for each other and for adults are all admirable qualities.

The year has been a very busy one with lots of trips out of school including visits to Duxford Air Museum, Linton Zoo, the Islamic Centre in Cambridge, Ely Cathedral, Lode Chapel, the cinema, the local Doctors' Surgery and Grafham Water Activity Centre.

We have also had visitors into school to share experiences with the children including a grandparent who had been involved in World War II, the Raptor Foundation who brought along their birds of prey and a local storyteller who came along and enthralled the children with her tales of local folk from the past!

The children have also taken part in many fundraising events for charity and an enormous amount of money has been raised throughout the year. Events have included raising money to buy gifts for girls from Chernobyl whom we were able to welcome into school on 2 occasions during their month stay in England, we sent 69 shoe boxes off with Operation Christmas Child to needy children in December, we took part in the Blue Peter Smile project where we made operating gowns for children in India, some Year 6 girls raised over £333 by holding several events that they organised themselves and then they split this money between 3 of their chosen charities. Recently two of our pupils took part in a sponsored swim and raised nearly £500 which was sent to Karekekere Primary School in Tanzania with which they purchased 20 desks to kit out a classroom (St Mary's Church in Swaffham Prior has a link with this school in Africa).

We held our sports day last week and many parents, carers, grandparents and friends came to cheer the children along. We also held our Summer Production. The children did two performances sharing with the audience, lots of music, singing, dancing, facts and information that they had been learning about in the classrooms. The performances were a great success and everyone said how much they enjoyed them.



Our Year 6 Leavers' assembly was on Thursday 22nd July at 1.30pm. This is always a very special and exciting occasion but also quite sad as we say "goodbye and good luck" to all our children who are leaving us. Reverend Lewis shared this assembly with us along with parents and carers. The School Trustees presented the Trustees Award to Nico Bryan who had been voted by staff and pupils as the child who has made the most of his time at Swaffham Prior and has shown excellent attitude and enthusiasm to his work along with respect and manners to everyone. Well done Nico! We wish all of our Year 6 children the very best of luck in their new schools.

We are looking for a couple of people who would be interested in becoming "cover" midday supervisors and be prepared to come in for occasional lunchtimes to cover if we have staff off ill or need extra support on a particular day. If you might be interested (or know anyone else who might be) then please pop in and see us for a chat or ring the school on 01638 741529. The post is subject to the usual enhanced CRB clearance checks.

Our admission numbers have gradually crept up over the past term and I am very pleased to say that we shall be starting September with 114 children which is excellent. What this does mean is that we are already full in 3 year groups and very close to being so in the others and so have very few spaces to admit further new children at the moment.

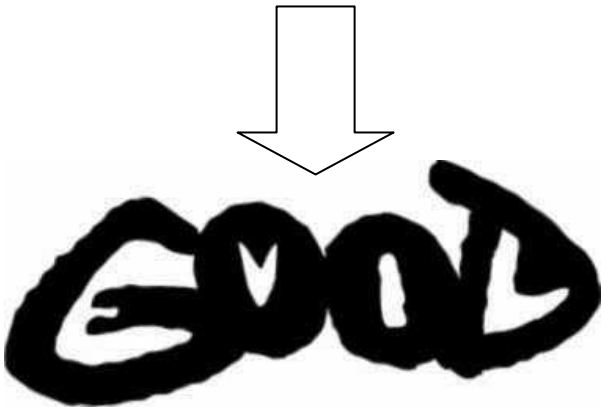
I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Diane Hawkes
Head Teacher

KIDS PAGE!

SUMMER HOLIDAY EDITION!

What does this say?



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

1. Which letter of the alphabet has the highest temperature?
2. What is a computers favourite dance?
3. Knock Knock
Who's there
Howard
Howard who
Howard I know?

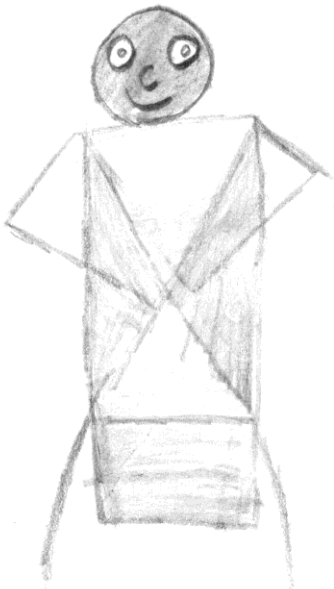
Answers on Page 32

SUN	HOLIDAY
SUMMER	ICECREAM
BBQ	FUN

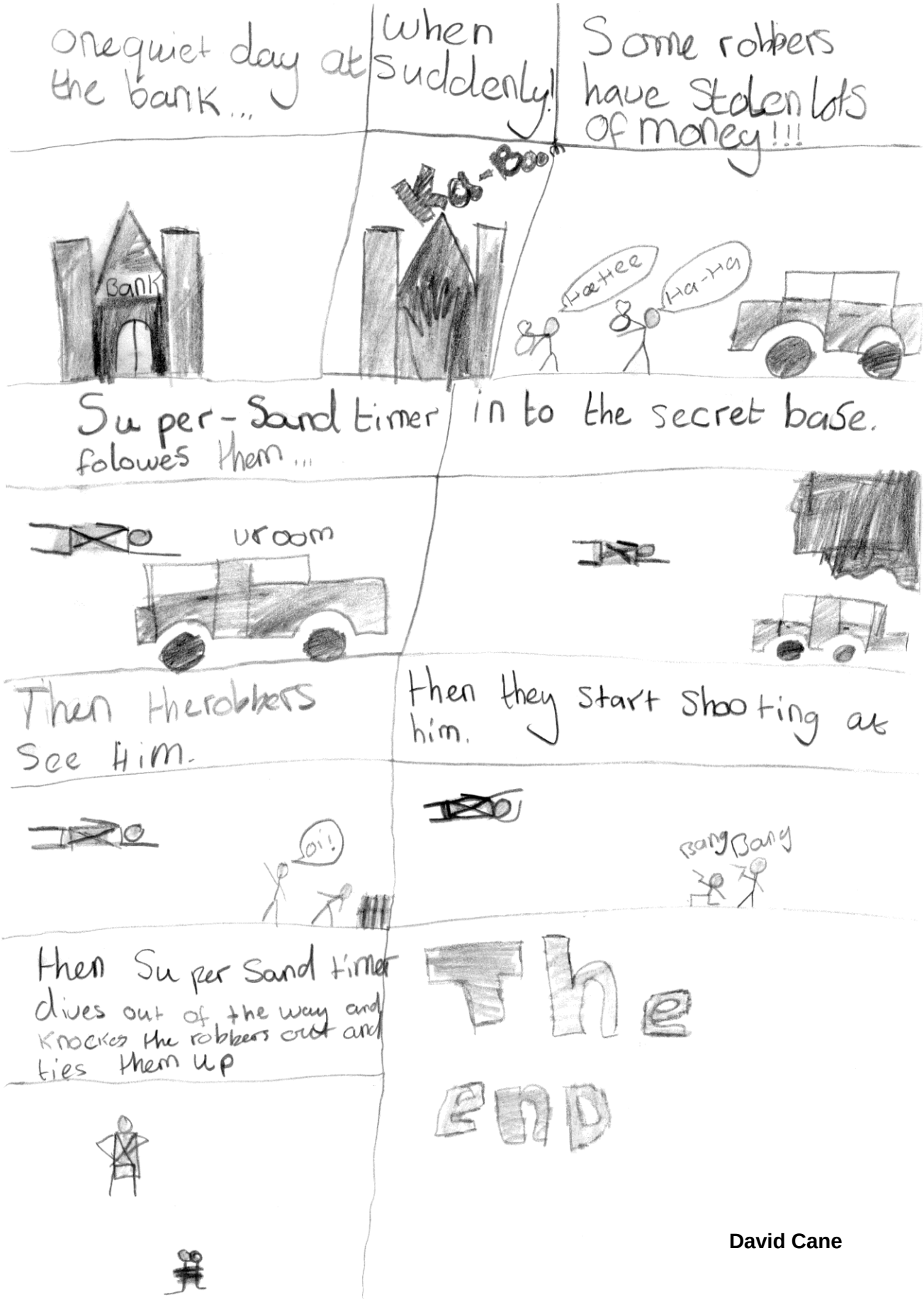


The Adventures of Super-Sandtimer








One quiet day at the bank...
when suddenly!
Some robbers have stolen lots of money!!!
Bank
Ho-Boo
Haehee
Ha-Ha
Super-Sand timer folowes them...
in to the secret base.
vroom
Then the robbers see him.
then they start shooting at him.
Oi!
Bang Bang
Then Super Sand timer dives out of the way and knocks the robbers out and ties them up
The end

David Cane

10 Good Things to Do This Summer

10 good things to Do in this Summer

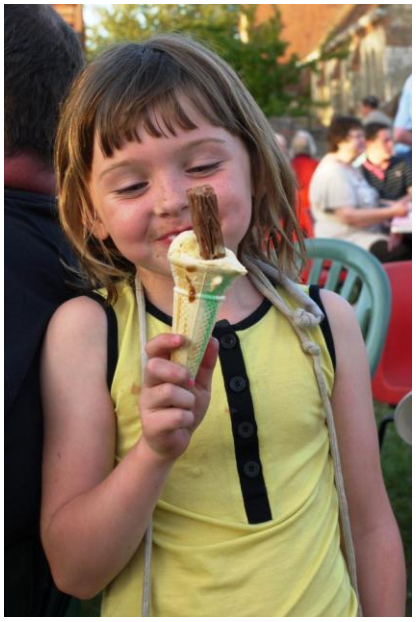
1. climb a Tree
2. hare a piknik
3. Sit in the Shad with your Dogs.
4. have a Dog Walk.
5. go swimming with your Frends
6. Play With your Toys Out site.
7. eat a ice loly.
8. take a horse For a ride
9. read a book.
10. go on Holiday.

+1 and remember Don't go to scpol

by Jodie Hatin Mc DonabD







Rita's Recipe

Burgers

Ingredients

1 kilo good quality Lamb Mince
1 large Red Onion (finely chopped)
2 Cloves Garlic (finely chopped)
1 tbsp Mixed Herbs (Mint, Rosemary, Thyme, **Parsley** (all finely chopped)
2 Eggs (beaten)
2 Slices of Wholemeal Bread Crumbs
2 teasp Worcester Sauce
1 tblsp Olive Oil
Salt and Pepper

Method

Gently fry onion and garlic in the olive oil until tender, without browning, allow to cool.

Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl. Divide into 12 equal portions and shape on a floured board. Chill in the fridge for 1 to 2 hours before cooking.

This recipe has been tried and tested by my family. I hope you enjoy them as much as they did.

NOTE: The burgers freeze well so you can make them well in advance if you are having a party.

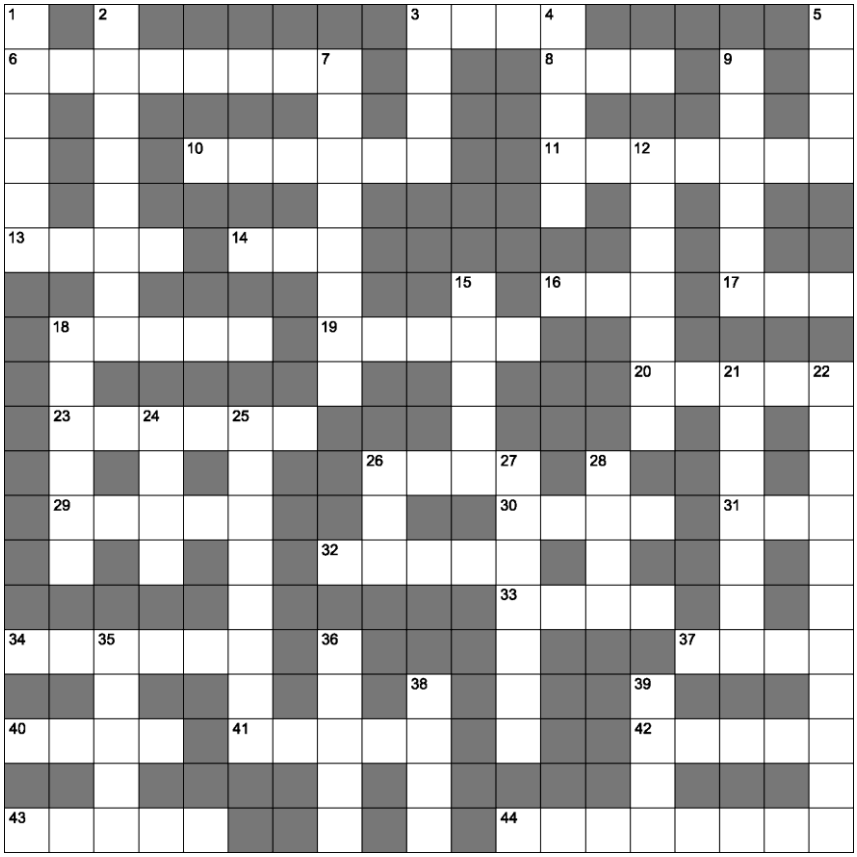
If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share - please send it to me at 9 Chapel Lane or email **rita@rlc-reach.demon.co.uk**



Rita Dunnett

Kids Page Answers
1. B – It makes oil boil
2. Disk-o

Zenida's Crossword Number 2



A £5 Book Token will be awarded for the first correct entry opened.

Please send your entry by Friday 3rd Sept 2010 to **Zenida's Crossword No.2**, North View House, 16 Chapel Lane, Reach, CB25 OJJ and giving your

Name: _____

Address:

_____

_____

Tel: _____

Across

3. Stop leak
6. Capital of Ohio
8. Tree
10. Flan
11. Emulsion
13. Jog
14. Preserve
16. Price
17. Bashful
18. Flower
19. Bird
20. Flowers
23. Boggy
26. Kill
29. Kingdom
30. Runs on Rails
31. Zero
32. Sound made by soft, wet object striking a surface
33. Corrosion
34. Jockey who won the Derby five times
37. Steering Apparatus
40. Russian form of John
41. Evade
42. Incident
43. Long-tailed mammal
44. Shoots



Down

1. Emphasis
2. Eye Disease
3. Tree
4. Farm Animals
5. O.T. scribe
7. Tree
9. Sign of the Zodiac
12. Island, river, cake
15. Eighteenth letter of Greek alphabet
18. Modest
21. Pebbles on beach
22. They grow up in caves
24. Harvest
25. Impeded
26. Exhaust
27. Element, atomic number 39
28. Planet
35. Assert
36. Clayey
38. Vend

The winner of Zenida's Crossword Number 1 was **Tracy Lynch**, who will receive a **£5 Book Token**.

The answers to the previous Crossword can be found on **page 35**

Bellringing - Notable Performance

To mark special occasions and indeed sometime just as an excuse to have a more extended practice, what bellringers do is ring peals. A peal is a piece of continuous ringing lasting 5,000 changes or more. That is, you have to move your arms up and down to ring the bell more than 5,000 times without stopping and this will take on average something near three hours.

Swaffham Bulbeck's bells have never been pealed. They were restored - formerly derelict - for the Millennium and ten years on, we still haven't pealed them. You actually have to be quite good to ring a peal and for the local band at Swaffham Bulbeck to ring a peal, we have to have 8 of us being quite good all at the same time. So we're in training. Meanwhile we try and ring quarter peals (don't ask). These are shorter and therefore easier.

Two Reach residents were recently involved in a notable bellringing performance in that we achieved the ringing of a 'date touch' – being 2010 changes and therefore a bit longer than a quarter peal. (You can work it out.) This performance was published in the bellringers' weekly newspaper, The Ringing World and also on the ringers' website, Campanophile **www.campanophile.co.uk**. Go look on the web if you want a sneak look into a whole other world ☺.

Ely Diocesan Association, **Swaffham Bulbeck**
Saturday, 19 June 2010 in 1hr 10mins
2010 Spliced Baldrick Differential Little Bob Triples and Plain Bob Triples

1. Martin R Kitson (Conductor – keeps people right, and makes the necessary adjustments to the changes to keep the piece of ringing 'true' and long enough)
2. Carol I Kitson
3. Geoffrey Reed
4. Gerard Chadwick
5. Lesley H M Boyle
6. Philip D Bailey
7. Paul S Seaman
8. Gwilym R Davies

Date touch, being the longest length on the bells so far, for St Mary's Church Fete.

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

Lesley Boyle

Reach Cricket Club

Firstly - some good news - we have our cricket net!



After a shaky start to the season, the season just gets better and better for Reach's golden generation of cricketers, with back-to-back victories on successive Sundays at the end of June. Our first opponents, a group of occasionals from Cambridge, had sneaked in a couple of New Zealand ringers whom it turned out have played in national leagues over there. They were thankfully deeply hungover and on this occasion the battle between talent and sobriety ended in victory for the latter. An impressive 41 runs and three wickets from G Davies junior easily made him yoof of the match.

Our return fixture against the Unemployables was disrupted by a certain football game in South Africa. By the end of the tea interval we wondered why we had broken off a fine game of cricket to watch Capello's band of whining, lily-livered losers when it ought to have been the other way around: why couldn't they have put off their football to watch us? Before a slightly hastened declaration at 3pm on the dot, Mike Whittingham just about managed to notch up a masterly century, compounded by a fine 79 from Bryan Pearson including repeated strikes of the same garden shed.

Set 250 for victory on a dry pitch, with enough time for around 40 overs and with the facility of a short boundary on one side, the Unemployables were in with a chance. Our prospects were made all the grimmer by the failure of our player of the year and team gastronenterologist to survive the tea interval. Yet the Unemployables were never on the pace, pegged down by a succession of tight-fisted bowlers and eager fielders with Velcro fingers. The Unemployables were eventually dismissed for 114, three overs from safety.

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

Sports Day

Saturday 12th June was the day that England made their debut performance in, what was in the end, a rather short-lived bid for world cup fame. A huge proportion of the population had their eyes on South Africa, fridges were full of beer and coke and hopes and expectations were high. In our peaceful little village of Reach there was an added layer of excitement before the 7.30pm kick off - the annual Reach Sports day.



In keeping with world cup spirit, adults and children alike competed with their faces painted with the St George's cross and we added a variation to the obstacle course - dribbling a football round 4 plant pots whilst waving an England flag.

Almost 30 children turned up to the sports field ready to do 'friendly battle' in sack, potato, wheelbarrow and three-legged races. Competing in three age groups and in no less than eight different events there was plenty of scope to demonstrate skill, determination and sportsmanship - all of which were evident in abundance. Of course there was the odd tumble and tear, a few disputes over who should partner who in three-legged and wheelbarrow races and a couple of false starts. Half of one of the three legged couples (Violet Keutgen) was dragged for much of the race when she fell 10 metres from the finish line but remained tied to her brother (Hector) determined to cross the line first.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle No.1

Across 1 Gazette; 3 King; 4 Sabrina; 6 Par; 7 Note; 9 Rebus; 12 Empyrean; 13 Tabard; 16 Shamrock; 17 Seal; 18 Try; 19 Foe; 21 Miss; 23 Hum; 25 Odyssey; 26.Marchpain; 27 Polyphemus; 29 Dunstan; 31 Utopia; 34 Troilus; 35 Bat; 36 Laughter.

Down 1 Gibraltar; 2 Tap; 3 Kangaroo; 5 Iron; 8 Even; 10 Boethius; 11 Triskelion; 14 Bus; 15 Dilemma; 18Troy; 20 Elephant; 22 Stray; 24 Nemesis; 28 Heap; 30 Toil; 32 Two; 33 Pop; 34 Tot.



Alice Lingley (left) winner of Sportsmanship Cup and **Maisey Snaith** (right) winner of Junior Girls Marathon

Harry Oliver managed to accidentally put both his feet through holes in his sack and so ran, rather than jumped, the sack race - something he graciously accepted was 'not really on' - and a few of the wheelbarrows were lifted so high off the ground that they were flown rather than wheeled. However, there were no yellow, let alone red cards, no protests over judgements about who crossed the line first or if the potato really did go into the bucket and no hand-ball equivalents, namely potatoes (substitute eggs) being held to spoons. The winners of junior, intermediate and senior age categories, based on accumulated points from all these races were:

Junior:	**Daisie Miller**
Intermediate:	**Kathryn Cane**
Senior:	**Felicity Blocksage**

The last race of the day was the Reach marathon, actually more of a sprint around the field and the green. The adult male race has, to date, been regularly won by Ross Clark usually sporting cricket whites, 'hobnail' boots and a floppy sun hat, whilst the junior race has been won, at least in recent years, by Ben Snaith. This year, with some serious sports coaching behind him, Ben decided it was time to take on the adults and quite frankly, it was evident within the first few metres we were out of our league! Ross fought hard but the outcome was never in doubt and if we had ever kept course times, I am sure it would have been smashed.



Ben Snaith getting into the zone before his victory in the Senior Marathon

The junior boys race was a close call between Gwilym Davies and Daniel Blocksage. In the end Gwilym won, helped in part by the fact that Daniel took a wrong turning near the finish, led astray by an adult (Adrian Hull) who was keen to cut the course short. The junior girls race has been won by Charlotte Gillard for years but, just as the Gillards have left the village, a worthy successor has appeared on the scene with Maisey Snaith who, like her older brother, stormed into first place. Gwilym deserves a second mention for his prowess at apple bobbing - winning the obstacle course (which ends with the apple bob) for the eighth year running. This is mainly because he is prepared to completely immerse himself in the bucket in search of that apple!

Marathon winners were:

Men's:	**Ben Snaith**
Ladies:	**Juliet Vickery**
Boys:	**Gwilym Davies**
Girls:	**Maisey Snaith**

VILLAGE CENTRE COMMITTEE

New members are needed! If you are prepared to help, please get in touch with Andrew Towers on 742484 or andrewtowers01@btinternet.com.



Freya Thomas (left) and **Anya Tabecki**

Of course it's not all about winning (though those of you who know me may also know that I have a problem with that concept now and again!). This year the Dyke's End kindly donated a new cup for sportsmanship. On the day, deciding who to award it to was, in fact, very difficult. So many of the children taking part did so with energy and good humour and were wonderfully gracious in defeat and victory. In the end it was awarded, for the first time, to Alice Lingley for finishing every race with a smile regardless of whether she crossed the line first or last. But special mention goes to several others who also showed true sportsmanship: Katie Kirkpatrick who was ready to willingly have a go at anything; Dion Badcock and Daniel Blocksage who, as the only 11 and 13 year olds respectively, happily just raced each other, knowing (with so few in an age group) there would be no prize.



Kathryn Cane (centre) Intermediate winner

As always the day closed with a great barbeque, thanks particularly to Jo Riches assisted by Rebecca Fordham and the presentation of cups to winners and

certificates to all. Final 'all out fun' was the order of the day for the slow bicycle race and the Tug of War with the West versus East of the Green and the inevitable battle of the sexes. The rest of the day is, I hope, summed up in the pictures.



The Potato Race!

Finally huge thanks to an army of helpers and supporters. First and foremost, Helen Oliver who, by focussing my rather chaotic approach to the day and doing almost all the advance planning, ensured things went smoothly. Also to Jo Riches who planned, shopped and ran the barbeque, featuring Hurrells sausages and burgers supplied at 'Reach sports day discount'. To Bryan Pearson, who single-handedly decorated the sports field with perfectly spaced white lines and the set up team who marked out the marathon course, collected tug of war ropes and filled buckets of water - David Thomas, David Blocksage, Helen Oliver, Jo Riches and Ailsa Mather.

On the day many parents helped keep the show on the road, including Claire Snaith who did the scoring, Andrew Towers who 'manned' the BBQ; Ewan Cameron who held one end of the finishing rope almost the entire afternoon, Lance Miller who awarded a plethora of stickers to 1st 2nd and 3rd and Freya Thomas and Anya Tabecki who helped award stickers to finishers of races. Thanks to Graham Lingley for raising the bar on the standard of certificates awarded and to Simon and Frank at the Dyke's End for supplying the new cup for sportsmanship.

Sports Day 2011 will be at a similar time next year (Saturday in mid June) watch this space.

2010 Sports day competitors - I hope no one has been forgotten!

Junior: Daisie Miller, Hector and Violet Keutgen, Henry Aspin, Georgie Mather, Harry and Tom Kirkpatrick

Intermediate: Hazel Lingley, Kathryn Cane, Jodie McDonald, Katie Cameron, Dylan Steed, Harry Oliver-Towers, George Hull

Senior: Katie and Imogen Kirkpatrick, Grace Hull, Maisey Snaith, Alice Lingley, David Cane, Felicity Blocksage

Almost Adult: Daniel Blocksage and Dion Badcock

Brief appearances by Freya Thomas, Anya Tabecki, Adam Tarasewicz, Gwilym Davies

Juliet Vickery

Sports News

Last edition I reported on two talented brother-sister duos (Daniel and Felicity Blocksage). This time round two brothers, Daniel and Ben Knight, seem to have inherited the sporting gene from their dad Andy (a talented hockey and cricket player himself) and are putting it to good use on the football and cricket pitch.





Daniel (left) and **Ben Knight**

Daniel (age 11) was selected to represent the Cambridgeshire County Under 11's cricket team who play 10 matches against other Counties this season. The side has played 4 won 3 and lost 1 so far with Daniel making a significant contribution to the success with his accurate left arm bowling - last week against Northants he bowled 4 overs for only 8 runs!

Ben (age 8) - scored an amazing 74 goals for his Burwell Tigers under 8 side last season and was presented with the award for best striker throughout the whole club! His talent has been spotted too - next season he won't be playing with his buddies at Burwell but has now started pre-season training for Ipswich in their under 9 academy.

Juliet Vickery

RASP Bandwidth Upgrade

It has taken longer than we thought, but we now at last have a new service which can provide up to 10 Mb/s (in both directions!). The story is actually even better, in that we now have a 100Mb link to the national internet backbone, though we are subscribing to just 10Mb at the moment, we can upgrade whenever we wish.

You can't have all of it quite yet, because some of our members still have legacy connection hardware which needs modification or replacement, which is our first priority. We are working to get all existing users up to an interim speed of around 3.5Mb/s; which is a huge improvement on the original service and often better in practice than BT or any other provider can deliver to villagers.

Once we've got everyone up to 3.5Mb/s (another couple of weeks) we will start to upgrade our backbone links from the fibre connection at the back of Vine House, to make them all capable of handling at least twice our existing service. When this is done we will be able to deliver around 6Mb/s to many of our subscribers and take advantage of any further fundamental bandwidth improvement we can negotiate with Virgin Media.

All this costs time and money; we are in the fortunate position of having some capital reserves accumulated over the years from the generosity and commitment of current and former users who have supported this community project in practical ways from the early days when we were the only available supplier. By the time our current plans are completed, we will have spent nearly £10,000 and over 1,000 man-hours of volunteer labour, all without a single penny from any outside source (Government please note).

We are very proud of RASP, which we believe can provide a better service in our three villages than any commercial provider, for a simple monthly subscription with no minimum contract period and local technical support. If we can attract some more users, we can rebuild our reserves and haggle for more bandwidth. Spread the word.

John Chalmers
Treasurer and Ladder Climber
01638 742004

Amenity Fund Update

There have been no further applications of decisions since the last issue of Within Reach. However, as a result of a successful application to Sport England, it has been possible to advance with plans for a cricket net on the playing field. Sport England are putting forward £1,000 and the remaining balance of £872.42 will be coming from the Amenity Fund. The only other payment was made to cover the costs of Sports Day, a total of £132.13 although a further cost is expected to cover trophy refurbishment.

Ross Clark

AUTUMN TERM - PILATES IN REACH VILLAGE CENTRE

Pilates will start again after the summer break on **Tuesday 7th September** in the Village Hall.

There are two classes every **Tuesday** evening:

- 7pm - Intermediate level - Pilates on a Swiss Ball
- 8.15pm - all levels - Pilates matwork

Costs: £6-£10 per session (£10 for drop-in, but less if you sign up for a 6 week block)

If you need further information, call Ros on 01353 720094, drop into a class or feel free to contact me, **Helen Oliver**, Tel: 742484 or helenoliver01@btinterent.com

District Council

East Cambs District Council is undergoing a consultation exercise for their local development framework, Site Allocations Options Paper. This will be planning for future growth in the district over the next fifteen years, including where to site gypsy and traveller sites.

One of the proposals is for a site of six pitches at Goodwin Farm, Heath Road, Swaffam Prior. This would entail six pitches for extended families, meaning three caravans per pitch, therefore eighteen caravans.

I have very grave reservations with regards to this proposal. It will have a negative effect on local employment, holiday lots, nearby houses, traffic flows at an already dangerous cross road and admission levels at the local school.

I will be opposing this site but I will need as many local residents as possible to also oppose it through the council's consultation exercise. This will help me to build my case, it must not go ahead and with your help it will not go ahead.

A web page has been set up to keep people informed and to let them know what needs to be done **www.swaffham-prior.org.uk/goodwin**.

Free swimming sessions for people aged under 16 and over 60 in East Cambridgeshire are to end.

From August normal charges will apply at the paradise pool in Ely and Bottisham Swimming Pool.

The government announced it was to stop funding this activity due to the current financial situation and research which they claimed showed the majority of free swimmers were swimming already and would have paid to swim anyway.

It is with genuine regret that we will no longer be able to offer this scheme to members of the public. Unfortunately with the withdrawal of the government support to this project the District Council simply cannot afford to fund the gap.

Councillor Allen Alderson

Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Michael Aves	Vice-Chairman	742800
Ross Clark	Chairman	743725
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	742943
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	741853
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	742405
Angela King	Councillor	742266
Helen Platt	Councillor	742331

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, overseeing our two play areas and playing field.

Hilary Fielding is Neighbourhood Panels Officer and also Rights of Way Officer.

Elections for the Parish Council take place every four years with the **next election** being held in **May 2011.**

July Parish Council Meeting

DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 7th July 2010

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Not Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Not Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
Angela King	Councillor	Not Present
Helen Platt	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Not Present

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman Councillor Aves chaired the meeting.

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

3. Discussion with Mark Mehaffey, Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer at ECDC

An excellent presentation was given on the topic of Fly-tipping. The Clerk was asked to include information in the next issue of Within Reach magazine [and this can be found on page 42].

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

No report provided.

5 (2) County Council Report

Discussions at the County Council have been dominated by announcements from Central Government about cuts in expenditure and a freeze on spending in other areas pending further work. In terms of cuts we have been told of over £5 million in the current year and the freeze includes such work areas as the A14 improvement and the hoped-for new railway station at Chesterton. We are waiting for further detailed information.

The Highways Review Group I have been asked to sit on has met on a number of occasions and has given initial consideration to highways policy in general, the review of the Winter programme and the role and remit of Area Joint Committees.

The Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee met to discuss work priorities for the coming year. Once again the need to consider the budget situation played a large part in discussions. I have suggested that we need to take a detailed look at some of our basic infrastructure in the County to see where there might be shortfalls in provision of water and energy services.

The Neighbourhood Panel met at Stetchworth, with presentations regarding a proposed cycleway from Lode to Waterbeach and about caring for older people. I also attended a liaison meeting with teaching unions.

Stagecoach has indicated that it will be making some amendments to bus timetables in late July following concerns raised with them. At the time of writing I do not have the full details.

5 (3) District Council Report

No report provided.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and the current forecast remains as per budget.

5 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

Changes to the bus service will commence on the 26th July but as yet Stagecoach is unable or unwilling to provide details.

Traffic lights are to be installed at the Lode crossroads.

The tethering of aggressive horses between Hurdle Hall and Reach is being dealt with.

5 (6) Parish Council Members

Councillor Platt attended the Local Development Framework meeting in Soham. Two main items were the building of 100 new houses off Ness Road in Burwell and the possibility of a Travellers Site being created in Swaffham Prior.

5 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

No report provided.

5 (8) Rights of Way Report

Councillor Fielding reported on discussions regarding the state of the individual footpaths in the village. It was decided that further information regarding each of the paths, including their state of repair and the ownership of adjoining land should be documented and then an action plan defined for each.

It was agreed that Councillor Platt will identify the relevant person in the Devil's Dyke Restoration Project and the Clerk will then invite them to a subsequent Parish Council meeting.

As regards providing safe access to Tubney Fen during the period when cattle are grazing, the owner of the adjoining land has been identified. The Clerk will liaise with the Swaffham Prior Clerk to see whether the owner will allow permissive access to this land.

5 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the preceding month.

5 (10) Village Centre Committee Report

No report provided.

6. Accounts to be Signed Off

The year ending March 31st 2010 accounts were signed off and will now be sent to the auditors. The Parish Council gave their grateful thanks to Roger Smith who kindly put the accounts together, thereby saving the village over £250 in accounting fees.

7. Cricket Nets - Grant Received

Ross Clark has organised a grant of £1,000 from Sport England towards the cost of mobile cricket nets to be located on the playing field. The total cost will be £1,872.42 - the Amenity Fund has agreed already to support this up to the sum of £1,000 and therefore will be asked for a cheque to the value of £872.42 by the Clerk.

8. Footpaths Review - comments from Councillors on their Village Inspection

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

9. Land Availability on the Burwell Road

The National Trust are pleased with the enthusiasm of villagers to support this venture. They are awaiting a valuation from the County Council and in the meantime are seeking funding. Proposals continue to be received from villagers including one for Horticulture therapy.

10. Land Registration

It has been established that the Hythe and the Drying Ground are not registered. The Clerk, working with Ross Clark, will endeavour to give them Common Land status when the window of opportunity arrives later this year, to ensure that they are protected from registration by other parties.

11. Mobile Library

The Parish Council has been informed that there is to be a reduction in the regularity of this service, probably moving from every two weeks to every four weeks. The Parish Council will monitor the progress of these deliberations.

12. Mower Decision

An offer has been made of £800 for our current mower and the Parish Council decided that this was acceptable and asked the Clerk to conclude the transaction.

13. Pigeon Poo - What to Do

A villager had expressed concern over pigeons leaving a mess on the swings - and this is also a problem on the War Memorial. The Clerk was asked to investigate potential solutions and report back to the next meeting.

14. Playground ROSPA Report

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

15. Reach Fair Car Park

The land currently used for the Reach Fair car park is leased by a local farmer from Cambridgeshire County Farms. This lease expires in October 2010 so the Parish Council has been in talks with CCF with a view to ensuring that the land is available for subsequent Reach Fairs. The Clerk and the Chairman met with CCF and the Clerk will get an update on the land in time for the August meeting.

16. Snakehall Farm Bus Shelter

This is to be erected by Snakehall Farm but will subsequently become the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would include the insurance of the shelter within its insurance policy and would not recharge this cost to Snakehall Farm. As regards the maintenance of the shelter, this would be carried out as the Parish Council deemed necessary, at the expense of Snakehall Farm and a letter from Snakehall Farm agreeing to this arrangement is being sought by the Clerk.

17. Tennis Court

A proposal for the management of the tennis court has been approved by the Parish Council. This was based on it being free to use to all Reach villagers and it also being available for the games of badminton and netball. A Parish Council Sports Committee which will manage the facility and fundraise to provide the ongoing upkeep costs will be set up, with members having already been identified, plus Councillor Dunnett. A decision of the availability of further funding from a third party will be made on the 12th July. Should this be positive, the Clerk will take the necessary steps to get planning permission for the project.

18. Verge Erosion on Fair Green

There is verge erosion outside 28 Fair Green which creates safety and environmental issues due to the mud that is produced during rainfall or discharge of water into the road. Highways recognise the problem and are prepared to provide 10 to 15 metres of kerbing to direct the water flow more efficiently. In addition to this, the drain on the track to the left hand side of the premises will be cleared. Highways states that this work will take place during the current financial year.

19. Woodland Trust Update

It was agreed that the Clerk would invite Michael Ryder from the Woodland Trust to a subsequent meeting.

20. Pollution in Agricultural Land

Remedial action is taking place. The Clerk has spoken to the local contractor involved who is taking the required quality soil to the site. In the next 4 to 8 week period, this soil will be levelled to produce the desired effect and then the project will end.

21. Planning Applications

Planning application 10/00476/FUM, the creation of a low bund and mixed wetland habitat was approved.

22. Information Items

Villagers have asked for new goal post nets for the large goals on the playing field. The Parish Council were supportive of this and asked the Clerk to also look at the smaller goals and come up with a pricing proposal. They asked then for this funding to be put to the Amenity Fund Committee for approval. The Clerk will also investigate the useage of the football pitch by the Fen Tigers club.

The Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Scheme for the year 2011/2012 has opened. As agreed previously, an application will be made for a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO), based on vehicle length or weight to restrict traffic using the Great Lane - Fair Green bend.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the Council Tree Officer to assess the current health of the tree on Fair

Green and give an indication of what work needs to be carried out.

It was agreed that the useage of the outside of the bus shelters as noticeboards will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

23. Payments

100917 to Village Centre for Meeting Room Useage, amount £24.00

100918 to British Legion for Wreath for 2010, amount £16.50

100919 to CR Contracting Mowing June, amount £237.00

100920 to ROSPA for Playground Safety Inspection, amount £88.13

100921 to D M Parr for Clerk Pay April to June, amount £589.00

100922 to D M Parr for Clerk Expenses, amount £10.98

100923 to Suffolk ACRE for Insurance, amount £624.35
100924 to D. Blocksage for Cemetery Mowing June, amount £134.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4th August 2010 at 7.30pm. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday - and will also be posted in the Parish Council area of the Reach website **www.reach-village.co.uk.**

Fly-Tipping

At the July meeting of the Parish Council, Mark Mehaffey, Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer from ECDC, came along to talk to us about his role and how he goes about fulfilling it.



Fly-tipping remains a widespread problem across the whole of the UK and costs taxpayers millions in clearing the mess up. As householders or business owners, we are all responsible for what happens to our waste. We must pass it on to ECDC or to a waste carrier registered with the environment agency. If we don't take reasonable steps to do this, then we risk prosecution which might lead to a fine of up to £5,000.

Until Mark's arrival in 2009, when there was an incidence of fly-tipping, the council would simply clear up the mess - there was no attempt made to seek out the perpetrators and bring them to book. Now, Mark spends most of his time attempting to bring the culprits to justice - but very importantly, his presence acts as a deterrent to would be fly-tippers, other areas of responsibility are Litter, Dog Fouling, Trade waste enforcement and Abandoned Vehicles.

Mark is passionate about his work and this came across time and time again in his presentation. He works closely with the local police - they are very happy that Mark is around and like his enthusiasm for getting the job done. He also works with officers from the Environment agency and neighbouring councils, and gets a lot of help from people who witness fly-tipping or who see something suspicious enough to report it. Intelligence is key to all of this - one piece of information may not mean a lot but it may support reports made by other people.

So . . . .

- If you are getting rid of waste via a waste carrier, then you should always ask to see their waste certificate. If they do not have one they should not be carrying out the work and if you let them take away your waste and they fly-tip it, you will be liable.

- If you come across some fly-tipped waste, again please let Mark know and he will arrange for it to be removed (if public land) as well as looking into the crime itself. Please do not remove any items from the waste, leave it exactly as found)

- If you witness an incidence of fly-tipping taking place, then report it to Mark on 01353 665555 or via email using **mark.mehaffey@eastcambs.gov.uk**.

- Try and let him know where and when it happened, a vehicle registration if you saw one, together with a description of the vehicle itself.

Reach is a beautiful village - we must do all we can to keep it this way.

David Parr

Religion - Good or Bad?

Dear Friends

It is often said that religion is one of the main causes of many of the wars and civil wars that afflict our world today as in ages past. So must evil and cruelty have happened 'in God's name?' There are, I believe, two closely related reasons why these terrible things happen.

Firstly, religious faith engages a believer's emotions at a very deep level. A truly committed Christian will have strong beliefs about God's will. He will believe and trust in Jesus as the way, the truth and the life for everyone everywhere. He knows he is called to share that conviction with others. The danger is that a strong Christian faith (and this applies to followers of other religions) can and often does beget bigotry and fanaticism, which can in turn beget hatred towards others who do not share the same conviction. There is nothing wrong and everything right with a full-hearted, single-minded commitment to Christ, provided it is firmly rooted and grounded in love - love of God expressing itself in love of neighbour. Religious zeal will bring nothing but blessings into the world and into the lives of people if that fundamental truth is kept firmly at the centre. If love is absent from religious faith, everything becomes perverted and the beauty of Christian faith turns to ugliness. Christianity and the Church then become the instruments of the devil's work.

Secondly, religious beliefs and practices have always been closely associated with national and racial cultures. In many parts of the world today as in ages past, the religion that a person professes is supposed to express something about his identity - who he is and where he belongs. There is a story about a group of thugs accosting a man on the streets of Belfast with the question 'are you a Protestant or a Catholic?' 'Neither', the man replied, 'I am a Jew'. The thugs paused only briefly before asking 'are you a Protestant Jew or a Catholic Jew?' The point here (though things now seem to be improving in that troubled province) is that in Ulster there have been for many centuries two Irish tribes. The Protestant version of the Christian faith is deeply woven into the cultural identity of those who want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom. Their tribal loyalties lie across the water to the land from which their ancestors came many years ago; whilst the Catholic version is one of the identity badges of those who feel a closer affinity with their tribal cousins in the Republic of Ireland and want Ulster to become part of it. What has been happening there for centuries is that religion has been manipulated and exploited to keep alive old hatreds and promote causes which have nothing whatever to do with the Kingdom of God.

Since religious beliefs cannot exist in a cultural vacuum, there will always be ruthless and cynical people with no concern for the teachings of Christ, who will work in harness with the bigots and fanatics to make it appear falsely that God is on their side and approves of the crimes against humanity which they commit in his name.

Wherever we see co-called Christian beliefs being used by so-called believers to stoke up divisions and conflicts and fan the flames of racial and other hatreds, we should know that the true Jesus, whose message was all about love, forgiveness and healing, has been banished from their hearts - though his name may remain on the lips of those who corrupt his Gospel to their own ends. Jesus had an expression for people like that, which has passed into common usage as 'wolves in sheep's clothing.' And he told us that the way to distinguish true prophets from false was that 'you shall know them by the fruit they bear.'

Yours in Christ

David King

Church News

As many people know, our Vicar Canon Stephen Earl left at the end of July and we are now in a period known as 'interregnum' until a new Vicar arrives. This period could last about a year, but we have a good team within Burwell and Reach and we hope to ensure that church life continues.

We are very grateful to the people who have agreed to take services over the next few months, including several retired clergy, visiting guest speakers and various lay leaders and hopefully all our normal services will take place as scheduled.

Recruiting a new Vicar

The first stage of the recruitment process is that the PCC has to prepare a document called a Parish Profile, which sets out what kind of church we are, what our hopes and aspirations are and the sort of person we think we need to lead us in the future. This will be sent to potential applicants. If you have a view about the type of person you would like to see as Vicar of Burwell and Reach, please speak to Pam King (01638 742924), who is the Reach representative on the PCC or Pat Chalmers (01638 742006), the churchwarden with responsibility for Reach.

Harvest Festival Songs of Praise

This year's Harvest Festival will take the form of a Songs of Praise and will be held in church on **Sunday 28th September 2010 at 6pm.** If you'd like your favourite hymn to be included, please contact Pat Chalmers on 01638 742006 or Pam King on 01638 742924 as soon as possible. Everyone is welcome at the service, when our offerings of tins, jars and packets of food will be collected during the service. These gifts will later be distributed to needy people in the area via the Cambridge Food Bank.

Children's Ministry Core Skills Training Course Autumn 2010

The diocese of Ely will be holding its 6-part Core Skills course in Burwell this autumn. The course aims to give people the confidence, understanding and skills you need to work with children and to nurture them in their journey of faith. Anna and Amy Hopper have already completed this course, so please speak to them in the first instance for further information.

Where: St Mary's, Burwell, Cambridge, CB25 0HB

When: Fortnightly on Wednesdays from 8th September until 17th November 2010, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Information: Julia Chamberlin
01353 652714 or
07837 699016
julia.chamberlin@ely.anglican.org

Bookings: To be received by 1st September 2010

Contact details

Various people have agreed to be the first point of contact for different aspects of church life and they are listed in the table below. The Rural Dean, Revd Tim Alban Jones, is also on hand to oversee pastoral matters in the parish.

Weddings	**Pat Chalmers** (742006) or **Stephen Walton** (744214)
Baptisms	**Janice Frankham** (741245)
Funerals	**Pat Chalmers** (742006) or **Ken Hurrell** (743118)
Pastoral Team (matters relating to anyone who is ill, housebound etc)	**Sue Evans** (743688)

Pat Chalmers

Flowers for the Church

If you would like to arrange the flowers in Reach Church once or twice yearly, maybe as a tribute in memory of a loved one's anniversary, or as your special gift, there are spaces available on the Flower Roster.

If you are interested, please contact **Pam King** on 01638 742924.

And Finally . . . .

We hope you have enjoyed reading this second issue of the magazine. It took a lot of effort from a lot of people and thanks go to all our contributors.

A special acknowledgement needs to go to our main photographers Claire Halpin-McDonald and Dave Thomas. Between them they provided the 37 pictures of our three featured events of Church Barbecue, Sports Day and Informal Bridge opening.

Finally, can I ask readers to have a look through the advertisements in the centre of the magazine. Without this income, we would not be able to afford the style of magazine that we have, with easy to read A4 format and a colour cover.

In this issue we have new advertisers in:

- The Anchor, Burwell
- Barrett Property Services
- By Jove Tea Rooms, Burwell
- Finishing Touch, Burwell

In our next issue we will have another page and a half of advertising space available so if you want to advertise your business or you know someone who does, please let me know.

David Parr
01638 744081
davidmparr@btinternet.com

Church Services at Burwell and Reach





Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda and the Holy Trinity Reach
Sun **Aug 1st** - Trinity 9	8.00am **Holy Communion** (said) 9.30am **Family Service**	
Sun **Aug 8th** - Trinity 10	9.30am **Parish Communion**	8.00am **Holy Communion** (said) No **"Sunday@7"** this month
Sun **Aug 15th** - Trinity 11	8.00am **Holy Communion** (said) 9.30am **Parish Communion**	
Sun **Aug 22nd** - Trinity 12	8.00am **Holy Communion** (said) 9.30am **Parish Communion**	
Sun **Aug 29th** - Trinity 13		9.30am **United** (5th Sunday) **Parish Communion**
Sun **Sept 5th** - Trinity 14	8.00am **Holy Communion** (said) 9.30am **Family Service**	
Sun **Sept 12th** - Trinity 15	**Patronal Festival** 9.30am **Parish Communion** with the Archdeacon of Cambridge The Ven John S. Beer	8.00am **Holy Communion** (said) 7.00pm **"Sunday@7" Informal Contemporary Worship**
Sun **Sept 19th** - Trinity 16	8.00am **Holy Communion** (said) 9.30am **Family Service**	
Sun **Sept 26th** - Trinity 17	8.00am **Holy Communion** (said) 9.30am **Parish Communion**	**Reach Harvest Festival** 6.00pm **Songs of Praise** for all the family Please bring donations of non-perishable produce for local charities

Bus Timetable

BUS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

Newmarket - Burwell - Reach - Bottisham - Cambridge															
Service No:	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	M-F														
Newmarket (Guineas Station)				0704	0719	0814	0914	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1514	1614	1714
Burwell (Toyse Lane)	0630	0700	0715	0730	0745	0840	0940	1040	1140	1240	1340	1440	1540	1640	1740
Reach	0638	0708	0723			0848		1048		1248		1448	1548	1648	1748
Swaffham Prior	0644	0714	0729	0741	0756	0854	0951	1054	1151	1254	1351	1454	1554	1654	1754
Cambridge (Drummer Street)	0727	0807	0812	0837	0842	0937	1037	1137	1237	1337	1437	1537	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										**M-F**	**Sat**	**M-F**	**Sat**	
Cambridge (Drummer Street)	0655	0755	0825	0925	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1635	1645	1735	1745	1845
Swaffham Prior	0729	0829	0902	0959	1102	1159	1302	1359	1502	1559	1722	1722	1819	1819	1919
Reach	0732	1832		1002		1202		1402		1602			1822	1822	1922
Burwell (Toyse Lane)	0742	0842	0912	1012	1112	1212	1312	1412	1512	1612	1732	1732	1832	1832	1932
Newmarket (Guineas Station)	0810	0910	0940	1040	1140	1240	1340	1440	1540	1640	1800	1800			

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

Diary Dates

	Event	Location	Time
August			
Thurs 5	Recycling Day		
Wed 4	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.00pm
Tues 10	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.10pm
Wed 18	CentrePeace in Reach	The Church	2.00 - 4.00pm
Thurs 19	Recycling Day		
Tues 24	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.10pm
Thurs 26	Burwell WI	Gardner Memorial	7.15pm
Sat 28	The Great Reach Garage Sale	Fair Green	11.00am - 3.00pm
Sun 29	Pub Quiz	The Dyke's End	7.30pm
September			
Wed 1	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.00pm
Thurs 2	Recycling Day		
Tues 7	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.10pm
Sat 11	Gourmet Food Fair	Rutland Arms, Newmarket	10.00am - 4.00pm
Sun 12	Formal opening of new Bridge over Reach Lode	The Bridge	1pm onwards
Tues 14	Community Education Open Evening	Bottisham College	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed 15	CentrePeace in Reach	The Church	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed 15	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thurs 16	Recycling Day		
Tues 21	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.10pm
Sun 26	Pub Quiz	The Dyke's End	7.30pm
Sun 26	Harvest Festival	The Church	6.00pm
Thurs 30	Burwell WI	Gardner Memorial	7.15pm
Weekly Happenings			
Tuesdays	Pilates (from 7th September)	Reach Village Centre	7.00pm
Tuesdays	Pilates (from 7th September)	Reach Village Centre	8.15pm
Wednesdays	Bellringing	Swaffham Bulbeck	7.30pm

THE GREAT REACH GARAGE SALE

will take place on Saturday 28th August on the Fair Green, opposite Fitzroy Farm

Simon and Frank are having a clear out and would welcome anyone else in the village who wants to do the same.

If you are interested, please get in touch with **Simon Owers** (either leave a note at Fitzroy Farm or the pub or email him on **fitzroyfarm@btinternet.com**

Contact Information

Parish Council			
	Chairman	Ross Clark	743725
	Vice Chairman	Michael Aves	742800
	Councillor	Rita Dunnett	742943
	Councillor	Hilary Fielding	741853
	Councillor	Joyce Harrison	742405
	Councillor	Angela King	742266
	Councillor	Helen Platt	742331
	Clerk	David Parr	744081
	Neighbourhood Panels Officer	Hilary Fielding	741853
	Play Spaces Officer	Rita Dunnett	742943
	Rights of Way Officer	Hilary Fielding	741853
	County Councillor	David Brown	743283
	District Councillor	Allen Alderson	741744
Village Centre			
	Chairman	Andrew Towers	742484
	Finance	Grahame Radford	742814
	Bookings	Joyce Harrison	742405
	Marquee Bookings	Andrew Hall	743737
Amenity Fund Committee			
	Chairman	Ross Clark	743725
	Committee Member	Rita Dunnett	742943
	Committee Member	John Holmwood	742969
	Committee Member	Claire Halpin-McDonald	743330
	Committee Member	Andrew Towers	742484
Church			
	Hon Assistant Priest	Reverend David Bush	741839
	Reader in Training	Frances Leadon	741770
	Priest in Retirement	Reverend David King	742924
	Parochial Church Council Member	Pam King	742924
	Churchwarden at Burwell/Reach	Pat Chalmers	742006
Emergencies			
	Electricity (Eastern Electric)		0800 783 8838
	Police (Emergency)		999
	Police (Non-emergency)		0345 456 4564
	Water (Anglian Water)		08457 145145
Doctors, Burwell			
	Appointments and Emergencies		741234
	Community Nurses		742382
	Doctors	Dr Anne Schneerson, Dr Andrew Wills, Dr Alex Manning, Dr Anthony Parry, Dr Maureen Birch	
	Surgery Hours	Mon 8.30am - 8.00pm, Tues - Fri 8.30am - 6.00pm	





















The 2010 Church Barbecue















Sports Day 2010







Proposed Travellers Site
Swaffham Prior Meeting Notes

Below are the notes from a recent meeting at Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

Swafftham Prior is calling for your assistance to oppose this proposal. In substance this means completing and returning the two questionnaires linked to the Consultation Document before the 16th August.

By 7.15pm there was standing room only and murmurs of `this is the most people I have seen from the village'. Over 250 people attended the meeting, and some people had to listen to the meeting from outside the hall.



David Greenfield, a resident, was appointed as Chair, and he introduced the subject:-

A 107-page Consultation Document has been issued by East Cambridgeshire Council. It considers options for how East Cambridgeshire could grow and develop over the next 15 years. Two documents have been issued, one for Ely and one for every other area of the District. It equates to a Site Allocation Plan, and will form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). A number of issues are covered: housing growth, transport, schools and sites for gypsies and travellers.

A Questionnaire is linked to the Consultation Document and it can be completed on line or by post.

The first LDF produced was called a Core Strategy and was adopted in 2009, so the procedure has commenced. The new national coalition government is going to replace LDFs, but as yet there is not definition of the replacement. Target numbers will be removed.

Only Section 11 of the Consultation Document is relevant to Swaffham Prior directly. A proposal for six pitches for travellers is proposed for Goodwin Farm. A pitch equates to 2 to 3 caravans, therefore one can anticipate that 6 pitches will equate to 18 caravans. The site is owned by Cambs County Council, and is considered sustainable e.g. there is a bus stop within 600m.

In attendance to take questions and give advice were David Brown (County Cllr), Allen Alderson (District Cllr) and John Colvill (Parish Cllr).

The debate was open to the floor:-

Comment - I am glad this meeting has been called. The quoted 1966 Act has been superceded by a later Act. This subject has been discussed at a Parish Meeting.

Comment - this proposal should be considered as a live proposal until it has been ruled out.

Comment - the proposed site can be located outside the village envelope.

Comment - Burwell has a large traveller's site and Bottisham has a small site. Recognition must be give for what has been done.

Question - are the people who will occupy the proposed site already resident in the district and on sites?

Answer - the site is designated for extended families. There is a very great shortage of sites for travellers with extended families. People who eventually live on the site will not already necessarily live in the area. East Cambs is looking for a site of six pitches for extended families to stop *ad hoc* camping. The Council is trying to solve an identified problem.

Comment - the designation is for extended families. The document does describe the pitches and the number of caravans. A pitch is the space required to accommodate one household and their caravans. Pitches on Council-run sites generally accommodate 2-3 caravans, a brick dayroom and parking/garden space.

Comment - I would like to make the case for cautiously welcoming the proposal (*unhappy murmurs within the room).* I am a former civil servant (*more murmurs and hissing*). My background is in planning and transport issues and in regional and national planning for travellers. Fact: legally over one third of gypsy families are homeless i.e. they have no lawful place to live. This is largely because casual stopping places have been closed (gated and bunded). Those following the travellers' life have nowhere to live. Since the 1980s it has been up to local authorities to provide sites. An irrational fear of travellers has developed.

Comment - our thoughts are not based on an irrational fear - we have experience of travellers. Some are good and some are not good. Some do not integrate (*loud applause within the room*)

Comment - I am a midwife. Midwives cannot visit sites on their own, they visit in pairs. The reason why we visit sites with caution is because of the negative attitude with which we are received

Comment - look at Cottenham and see the problems people experience

People began talking over each other and someone said `let's not degenerate into traveller mode'.

Comment - fundamentally there is inadequate provision which drives travellers to camp *ad hoc*

Comment - when sites are provided *ad hoc* camping continues.

Comment - beware of being prejudiced even before people arrive. Hostility breeds hostility. Travellers are present a Swaffham Bulbeck. They are very pleasant, and get on well with the community.

Comment from District Councillor - I deal regularly with travellers. Very often unauthorised camping equates to shed thefts. The two seem to go together.

Comment - when travellers are asked why they do not go to authorised sites they reply that they do not want to move into houses and authorised sites. They want to camp *ad hoc*

Comment - the cost of setting up the camp will fall to the District Council. It will take two years to go through the various committees, planning etc.

Question - they are known as travellers so why do they need permanent sites?

Comment - the County Council will not be objecting to the site as they are happy and it would be difficult to object. It is part of their remit. They won't sell the site.

Question - what about affordable housing instead?

Answer - no.

Comment - East Cambs DC were approached last summer and stated that `they were not promoting the site'. The opposite view now seems to be the case.

Comment - Cambridgeshire now already has more travellers' sites than most counties. Sites act like a honey pot, and cause a self perpetuating problem

Comment by a person from the Carter Jonas partnership - unless the community opposes this scheme it will happen. Object within the timescale and on planning grounds. That is the only way to stop this scheme.

Question - what are the planning grounds?

Comment - there was a south Norfolk case. It was long and costly. The community was well mobilised and set up a fund. The planning consultant tailored the work he undertook according to the funds available. A possible representative was introduced to the meeting. He had previously been employed by East Cambs DC and Taylor Vintner.

Comment - a fund has already been established

A show of hands was taken in the room. Four people did not oppose the scheme the rest of the people in the room (approx. 250) were against the proposal.

Names were gathered on a clipboard passed around the room and on a table outside

Comment - I have some experience regarding live proposals for gypsy sites and would like to make some points:
1 A number of authorities are dropping the LDF proposals. The national coalition government is dropping their guidelines re. numbers. It's difficult to understand why the District Council is soldiering on. There is no need at the present time.
2 The timescale is inappropriate.
3 The big question is about need.
4 Travellers do not respect county boundaries. There is an over dependence on sites in north Cambs. South Cambs is actually better because of the road networks

Comment - the traditional reasons for travellers visiting has gone (e.g. crop picking). There is no work here for them here.

Comment - identify who is going to pay. Without that definition it is illogical.

Comment - the site is green field land in agricultural use. The latter will be a loss

Comment - Cottenham is an authorised site but tensions continue.

Comment - act now. Express your will. Ensure that the community view is known

Comment - don't be a NIMBY. We need well thought out reasons why the site is inappropriate.

Comment - the consultation process will be heard at the Nov 9 meeting.

Comment - consider what are the reasons for selecting the site?

Comment - consider what are the reasons for opposing the site?

Comment - the Consultation Document does not justify the selection of the site.

Comment - has even the significant need for travellers' sites been identified or calculated?

Comment - the Document describes the proximity of the site to a settlement with local services, these equate to: 2 churches, 1 school, 1 pub and 1 hall.

Comment - we do not have local services. The school does not have the capacity, and the school building is in poor condition

Comment - we need advice prior to completing the Questionnaire

Chair - this meeting was called to gauge feelings and we can now make an Action Plan:

a) Make available information for completing the questionnaire.
The system is built against people. It you say nothing you get nothing.

b) Employ a consultant to put in a representation against the proposal

c) Maximise numbers. Talk to your neighbours and get them to join in. Get paper copies of the Questionnaire and help those who do not have IT access.

Question - do we know the occupancy of existing sites?

Answer - nobody has untaken a survey

Question - what about traffic movement, speed humps, ecology? Identify issues and increase costs.

Planning Consultant - there are four good grounds for opposing the scheme:

a) No demonstrable need
b) No qualitative need. There is no current use of Swaffham Prior by travellers.
c) The impact on the countryside.
d) The impact on local services (practical problems, financial problems, the ebb and flow of children).

Comment - there are some travellers in the parish.

Comment - at Cottenham travellers got a foot hold and the numbers got bigger and bigger.

Comment from Fireman - I have attended numerous fires e.g. at Fenland and the Blackhorse site (A14), and have met hostility. We have needed a police escort. We have had to disinfect all our equipment and clothing because of human excrement. Sites have an environmental and health impact. Not all travellers may be bad, but a significant number are.

The date for returning the Questionnaire is 16 August 2010

Comment - the site will segment the village.

Question - I recognise your opposition to the travellers. I have no experience of gypsies. Doesn't the school offer them an opportunity for education?

Answer - my experience is that gypsy children were disruptive in school, and the local children's education was lessoned. Extra money was not given. Gypsy children often have special needs and money from within the school is diverted. Local children suffer at the expense of gypsies.

Comment - gypsies are non taxpayers and non contributors.

Comment - the site is a small part of a larger piece of land. The number of pitches may be increased in the future. The Council may say, `We have not had much trouble perhaps we should increase the numbers'

Comment - gypsies equal nothing but trouble.

Comment - they are a detriment to the countryside and property.

Comment - traffic is an issue.

Comment - I have met with the head teacher of the school and they have eight spare places in September. 12 - 18 Children may be anticipated and they could not all fit in.

Comment - highways demanded that a proposed landscaping business construct two new lay byes.

Comment - I am a teacher and would like to clarify the funding issue. There is one day in the year when the number of children in the school is counted. Travellers' children may not be present on that one day and may be excluded. It cannot be relied upon that travellers' children will boost funds

Comment - travellers' children often have special needs and need to be statemented. The latter takes time and money. The children may have gone before the statementing has been completed - it can take two years.

Comment - councils are under no legal obligation to provide sites for travellers.

Comment - the Council does fund things that they are no obliged to.

Question - if we are successful is the site going to be forever vulnerable to similar proposals.

Answer - it will be excluded to at least 2025.

Comment - some gypsies are OK. I spoke to a gypsy I know about the proposal and he said, `crikey you don't want them near you - you'll have horses on the road, loose dogs and children throwing stones'.

Comment - remarks detrimental to people will be discounted. We need pointers. The consultant will set out pointers within one week.

Comment - from the Consultation process, the scheme will enter the Strategic Plan and then pass through the traditional planning process.
Comment - if it goes into the LDF it WILL happen.

Chair - filter out emotions and work on the points appropriate to the planning system.

Comment - just to discount the financial side. The site could be sold to a private gypsy for their extended family. Over half of gypsy sites are privately owned.

Question - if we all object on the same grounds, are we lumped together as one objection? Will it carry any weight?

Answer - quantity has a quality of its own.

Comment - quality conveys the feeling of the community and this is important. Use the template, but articulate your thoughts in your own way. Quality does carry weight, but add your own individual views. Use village web site for communicating data. Communicate also through the Parish Council. The latter [Swaffham Prior] has sent a preliminary letter listing its objections and will follow through will more detail. It is important to object on the correct grounds. Target objections.

Comment - within the Consultation Documentation there is a List of Rejected Sites with reasons given:
1 detrimental impact on neighbouring dwellings
2 detrimental impact on appearance of area

Comment - gypsies desire separation from communities to retain their own privacy and identity.

Request to be kept informed by E Cambs.

The village is uncommon in having two windmills and one SSI.

We could generate a petition.

Comment - the County Council web site gives reasons why an objection will fail (Section 1.2.2).

Comment - the Swaffham Prior proposed travellers' site meets the criteria for why a site would fail therefore the Officer who proposed Swaffham Prior should be fired

Comment - three farms existed. One was sold and two were put down to sheep. The land could be purchased for allotments for the community.

Question - is there a Saxon burial in the field?

Answer - in the top field by the pylons cropmarks are visible and may represent a Bronze/Iron Age settlement. I am a retired archaeologist.

Comment from tennant Farmer - Galley Hill close to here has Saxon burials and Roman remains. The latter were excavated in 1992. I have made considerable environmental improvements to the farm. My tenancy ends in 2013.

Comment - we should inform the neighbouring villages.

Comment - urgency is required because 16 August, the deadline for objections, is close.

Comment - let's establish a Committee to follow up the ideas expressed at the meeting.

Answer - a Committee has already been established, and should continue.

Comment - the village magazine, The Crier, will be out shortly and will spread the word.

Comment - if it goes ahead 2013 will be the earliest date for construction

Comment from Goodwin Farm - Cambs CC did say that they would not sell the farm because they had planning ideas for the future.

The meeting closed at c.10pm.

Claire Halpin-McDonald