Within Reach



February/March 2015



Leucistic female house sparrow



Barn owl in fields behind Chapel Lane



John Holmwood planting a tree in celebration of Jen's and his 50th wedding anniversary, helped by Nick Acklam



Young grey seal sleeping on Horsey Beach



Spring is coming

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Pancake Day

Tuesday 17th February 2015

Village Centre
Pancakes and games

From the Editor



In this issue we enjoy hearing about Jane Newman; one of the few people who were born in the village and live in the village. In a relatively brief interview by Marie Bambrick we are transported to early days in Reach when Jane's father organised the tug-of-war competitions across the lode.

The community solar farm has been granted planning permission (that takes some hard work and patience to achieve) and is launching a share offer (7.30pm, 5th February, Village Centre).

Ali Lewis informs us as to how it can be that some funny coloured birds visit our gardens and has taken some amazing owl photographs including that on the front cover. If you want to improve your photographic abilities – in preparation for the Reach Calendar 2015 – you might join the Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club which has just commenced its 2015 programme. Joss Goodchild is interested in knowing your results if you took part in the RSPB Birdwatch Survey and she also lets us know what to look out for if you do you venture out in these cold days.

Quite a few people turned up at the community orchard to assist David Thomas with the snipping of branches and repairing of tree guards. Danuta Gibson continues to be duly diligent with her seasonal preparations and it's "all about peas" in this issue. I notice that Catherine Gibson's recipe list organic produce and of course with Snakehall Farm on our doorstep, if you're not growing your own, wholly organic seasonal produce is available from them.

Little Windmills has a new manager, Francesca Nesbitt. Also can the Head at Swaffham Prior score more than 10 out of 10 for her article? I love the idea of "History off the Page" and also the resultant photographs. There are three photographs for Pets Corner in this issue so I'm a very happy bunny.

We have a very ample Sports Section this month – very horsey, very Katie Cameron and we also catch up with Theo Clark and his rowing ambitions.

Read this magazine carefully and discover who has very large animals in their garden

Claire Halpin-McDonald

Front cover photo: Alison Lewis



Editorial Team

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

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

The next copy date is 15th March 2015. This magazine is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

Editorial Team

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Cricket	Ross Clark
Days Gone By	David Parr
Fen Chitchat	Lesley Boyle
Equestrian News	Lorna Steven
Kids' Page	Susie Tucker
Memories	Anita Folkes
Parish Council	Susan Bailey
Snakehall Farm	Maz Baker
Sport	Juliet Vickery
Swaffham Prior School	Hannah Curtis
Tales from the Garden	Danuta Gibson
Wicken Fen	Howard Cooper
Wildlife	Joss Goodchild Alison Lewis

Jane Newman of Hill House



Jane and Geoff Newman

You were born in Reach?
Yes - and I'm only one of a handful of people born here who currently live in the village. I was actually born in this very room. My daughter jokes that I was hatched, matched and will eventually be despatched in Reach!

Tell me about your family and some memories of your youth here
My parents hailed from Wicken and Suffolk. My father left the RAF in 1944. He had a farming background. He and my mother came to Reach in 1944 and rented Hill Farm and later bought it. I have an older brother John (Cole) who has always lived in the village and another sister who moved away. Dad died in 2001 and mother in 2011, age 94.

We had a very happy childhood here - I loved the farm and working on it.

We used to deliver milk to people. In those days nobody locked their doors and we could just walk in with our deliveries. I and Wendy Eaves were picked to be photographed at the switching on of electricity here at the village shop eating ice-cream from the newly turned-on freezer there.

I remember well the winter of 1963 when a different type of freeze was on. I, my brother John and some of his friends skated on the lode from here to Ely and back. It was exhilarating!

We used to have a big bonfire on the Green on Guy Falkes Night. To fuel the fire all we kids would go down the drove, hacking down the hedgerows.

When my father did milk deliveries on Christmas day he was plied with sherry, whiskey, brandy and would return home in a very merry state!

It was a great cause of excitement when turbaned Indian salesmen came into the village regularly, selling clothes from suitcases. They seemed so exotic.

When the Fair people came they would come to us for water, milk and eggs. The Wicken band would play on the Green on the Sunday night before the Fair. People were spilling out the doors of the Black Swan pub on that night too. The pub, now a private house No. 19 Fair Green, closed in 1976.

Where did you go to school?
I went to the Church of England school in the village and Sunday school in the church. Maisie Whitehead ran it. There was also a Baptist chapel Sunday school where Michael Allen now lives.

I went to Burwell Secondary Modern and left at 15. I wanted to work on our farm and did so very happily until I was 19. Then I went to work at Modeste fashion shop in Cambridge and became a saleswoman.

How did you meet your husband Geoff?
My father was a keen sportsman and amongst other things organised Tug-of War competitions across the Lode. He heard about this big man from Haddenham and recruited him to the village team. They used to raise funds for charities. They raised funds for the village church when it was struck by lightning. Geoff and I started going out together in 1969 and we married in 1973 in the village church here. Geoff had a farm in Haddenham and we lived there for eight years. We then moved to a farm in Downham Market. We have three children – Geoff, Hannah and John. Geoff and Hannah both married in Reach church and we now have four lovely grandchildren. Our youngest son stayed on in Norfolk when we moved back to Reach.



The Newman Family

Did you continue farming with Geoff there?
No. I started working as a carer, initially in a private nursing home, but eventually I became assistant manager in a complex run by Norfolk County Council which catered for elderly people – some living semi-independently. I became very interested in end-of–life care during that time.

Geoff retired and we moved back to Reach in 2010. My mother was becoming increasingly frail and we wanted to share her care with John. I continued to work in Norfolk but retired two years ago.

What are your hobbies?
Geoff and I have been interested in antiques for many years. We have grandfather clocks, old furniture, antique weapons etc. The collection keeps being added to since Geoff did an antiques restoration course. Our children despair at all the stuff we have collected and keep urging us the reduce it. We can't bear to part with it all or any of it.

We love travelling, both in UK and Europe and particularly like the South of France. We also like taking mini-breaks in the UK. When I was single I enjoyed travelling abroad. I'm also getting into gardening again.

The farm is no longer a working farm but we keep hens for eggs and pigs for the pot.

How would you sum up your philosophy in life?
Live, laugh, love, be tolerant.

I consider myself incredibly rich – not with money, but with what life has given me. I had such a happy childhood here, a good marriage; great kids and had very interesting job and I enjoy good health. These are riches indeed.

Jane is a font of information about Reach during her childhood here. This article contains only a fraction of her stories. It could have expanded into a book, but I'll leave that to Jane.

Marie Bambrick



Community Solar Farm – Share Offer Launch Announced



Reach Community Solar Farm Ltd will be launching a share offer at a public meeting at 7.30pm on the 5th February in Reach Village Centre. The share offer is to raise funds to build a small solar farm on the edge of the village

The solar farm will be smaller than originally planned. Although planning permission was obtained last summer for a scheme with 500kW of solar panels, covering around 3 acres, unfortunately it was not possible to get permission to connect a scheme of this size to the electricity grid. UK Power Networks did however give permission in December for a smaller system to be connected and the project is now for around 1,000 ground-mounted panels covering approximately 1.5 acres. It should produce enough electricity each year to power around 50 houses - roughly half the dwellings in Reach.

A co-operatively run Community Benefit Society was set up last year to run the scheme. Around £350,000 needs to be raised in the share offer to pay for the installation of the solar panels and the grid connection. Members of the Society may be able to benefit from tax reliefs if they make the investment before the end of this tax year. Once installed, running costs should be low and there should be steady income from feed-in tariff payments for the electricity generated. Members of the Society will receive an interest payment annually and some money will also be donated to a community fund each year. As it is a Co-operative, the members will determine how the Society is run and how any funds are spent - but the intention is that funds will be used to benefit the local community as well as providing a return to the members.

Do come along to the village meeting on the 5th February - all are welcome whether you are considering becoming a member by buying shares, or are just interested in learning more about the project. If you can't make the meeting full details of the share offer will be available shortly before launch on the Reach Community Solar Farm website (reachsolarfarm.co.uk). You can also sign up on the website for an email newsletter.

Andy Rankin

Events Committee



The team consists of Jo Mules, Hannah Baldwin, Claire Halpin-McDonald and Karen Carpenter

The team's aims are:

- Each year, to put together a list of all the village events in a calendar and offer help to the current organisers in making them happen
- To keep a list of the village events on the website, with dates and detail, so everyone knows what is going to happen and when - and can plan accordingly
- To organise any "special" events
- To help villagers who have ideas for other events make them happen
- To fundraise for the above by creating and selling village products

The team does not want to take over any of the current events or activities – it merely wants to offer its help to the organisers.

The first event in the calendar has already taken place and was **Curry Night** run by Marie and Hugh. As I write this they have 65 bookings so it's guaranteed to be a success and raise much needed money to help combat ebola.

One other suggestion, from Julie Boreham on Great Lane, is the formation of the **"Reach History Society"**. Having just read the article on page 3 about Jane Newman, I think this is an excellent suggestion. There is a huge amount of knowledge in the village, about the village and it would wonderful if this could be properly documented and kept for posterity. If you are interested in being involved in this, please let me know.

Petanque or boules (never really understood the difference) is another suggestion being actively pursued. George is happy for the pitch to be in the garden at the back of the pub which is absolutely ideal.



And we are looking at **Bingo**! – watch this space . . . .

In February and March we have:

- Valentine's Day is on the 14th February and whilst the Events Team aren't doing anything special, the Dyke's End has a special menu (see page 21)
- Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) will be celebrated as ever in the Village Centre on the 17th February

If you have any ideas – let us know

David Parr

davidmparr@btinternet.com or 744081

RaSP

The number of subscribers to the RaSP network has grown rapidly over the last two to three years, so much so that the network has become difficult to manage using only volunteer labour. In recent months many RaSP subscribers will have been aware of slower response times to requests for help as the small number of volunteer support staff have struggled to meet demand.

It had been hoped that by now BT would have delivered high-speed phone line based broadband to the village but as I noted in the October issue of Within Reach it now looks very unlikely that the Connecting Cambridgeshire project will deliver anything of benefit to Reach.

A year ago when it began to appear doubtful that Connecting Cambridgeshire would provide the hoped-for improvements in many parts of the RaSP area, the RaSP committee began to look at other possible options for supporting the network more effectively. One of the options considered was to engage a commercial company to provide contract support or even run the whole network. After much discussion and meetings with various organisations, RaSP recently announced that the running of the network was being handed over to a small Cambridge-based networking company called Air Broadband.

Air Broadband provides services primarily to commercial customers but they also provide domestic and small business broadband services to rural customers in the Ely area and are seeking to expand their domestic network to other rural areas in East Anglia. The networking technology that they use is radio-based, very similar to the RaSP system. At an extraordinary general meeting of RaSP members just before Christmas it was announced that the RaSP committee proposed to engage Air Broadband to run the whole of the RaSP network including providing installations to new subscribers and all technical support to existing subscribers. The proposal was supported unanimously by the members present at the meeting and during January and February Air Broadband is taking over the running of the network. RaSP will continue to exist as an organisation for the time being but if Air Broadband proves successful in the running of the network it is likely that RaSP will be wound up around the end of this year.

The existing radio mast in Reach will still be required for the time being; if it is required by Air Broadband in the longer term they have committed to replace the scaffold structure with a less visually intrusive single mast. However they are also looking at the possibility of installing a new high-speed radio link from St Cyriac's church tower that would link directly to their Cambridge base; this would eliminate the need for the mast in Reach.

Hugh de Lacy

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

Another year and lots to look forward to in our club programme for 2015.

By the time you read this our meetings will have commenced on 6th January with the showing of a recorded DVD of photographs forming part of a framed Print Exhibition that travelled the country during 2014. Photographs featured in this Exhibition were from photographers in the 15 Federations that make up our governing body, The Photographic Alliance of Gt. Britain & Northern Ireland.

Competitions also feature in our programme and our next Projected Digital Image competition will take place on 13th January to be judged by David Steel of Cambridge Camera Club. Also from Cambridge Camera Club, Ian Wilson will visit us on 27th January to delve into the pros and cons of capturing images in Jpeg or Raw format.



Spring is Coming. Photo: Barry Coles

Dates for your Diary:
17th February 'Sports Photography' a digital presentation by Harish Chavda ARPS a member of the Arden Group, West Midlands.

14th April 'Landscapes & Seascapes' a print lecture by John Hooton visiting East Anglia from Southern Ireland.

During the term our meetings include a Photoshop & Elements demonstration, a talk on the technicalities of flash photography and the challenges of photographing animals in the wild.

All our meetings are listed under the Programme section on our website: www.bottburpc.org, which also includes a Gallery section of our members' work. If, however, you would like a hard copy of our club programme, or require further information about any of our meetings, please contact me.

Guests are welcome to attend any meeting held every Tuesday evening at Lode Chapel CB25 9EW from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Fee: £3.00, including refreshments, which is refunded on joining.

Annual subscriptions: Adult: £40.00, Joint Membership: £67.00, Student: £21.00. Refreshments 50p. New members joining now will receive a pro rata rate.

Mrs Daphne Hanson DPAGB APAGB
Hon Secretary
T: 01638 741106; **www.bottburpc.org**.

The Cantilena Singers
Lamentations and Hope

Saturday 28 March, 7.30pm

Church of St Cyriac and St Julitta, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD

Music for Lent and Easter in the beautiful surroundings and spectacular acoustics of this 13th century church building.

Programme including Duruflé's *Quatre motets sur des thèmes grégoriens* (Op. 10) and Tallis's *Lamentations of Jeremiah*

Daniel Spreadbury (Director)

Refreshments available.
Tickets £10. Children free.

Contact David Holton
email: dwh11@cam.ac.uk
or phone 01638 743947

www.cantilenasingers.org



Impington Village College 54th Annual Art Exhibition 14 - 18 February 2015



Impington Village College's **54th annual art exhibition** will take place during the spring half-term from the **14-18 February, 2015**. As in previous years, it will contain around 400 works from nearly 100 local artists. All the exhibits will be for sale at prices from £30 to £950. This year we have over 15 local and national professional artists plus regular favourites from past years including Antony Day, Helen Immogen Field, David Dowling, Natasha Day, Fred Betteridge, Dorothy Babcock, Donald Beards, Peter Currington, Barbara Harlow, Linda May Peckham, Malcolm Rimmer, Janice Wilson & Roy Wadley. The range is from classical, modern impressionist and abstract, which will appeal to a wider range of buyers with varied tastes, age and budgets.

To mark the event's **54th year**, the main exhibitions will include a separate theme representing CELEBRATION to commemorate the College's **75th anniversary**. There will also be a display of student art, offering a flavour of what we might expect to see in years to come. This year student art would be available for sale.

Private view is from 7.00 – 9.00 pm on Saturday 14 February and visitors will be able to view the exhibits and meet some of the artists. Tickets costing £4.50 will be available at the door and will include a catalogue (normally costing £2.80) along with complimentary wine and snacks.

Entry to the exhibition is free during the rest of the week and the opening times are:

Sunday 15 February:	10.00 – 6.00 pm
Monday 16 February:	12.00 – 8.00 pm
Tuesday 17 February:	12.00 – 8.00 pm
Wednesday 18 February:	12.00 – 2.00 pm

The event is organised by the IVC Parent, Staff and Friends Association, a local charity, which raises money for the college. Last year we crossed the £5,600 mark in sales and the commission on the sales together with advertising and door receipts were used to support the work of the college. A profit of £2,000 was realised last year,.

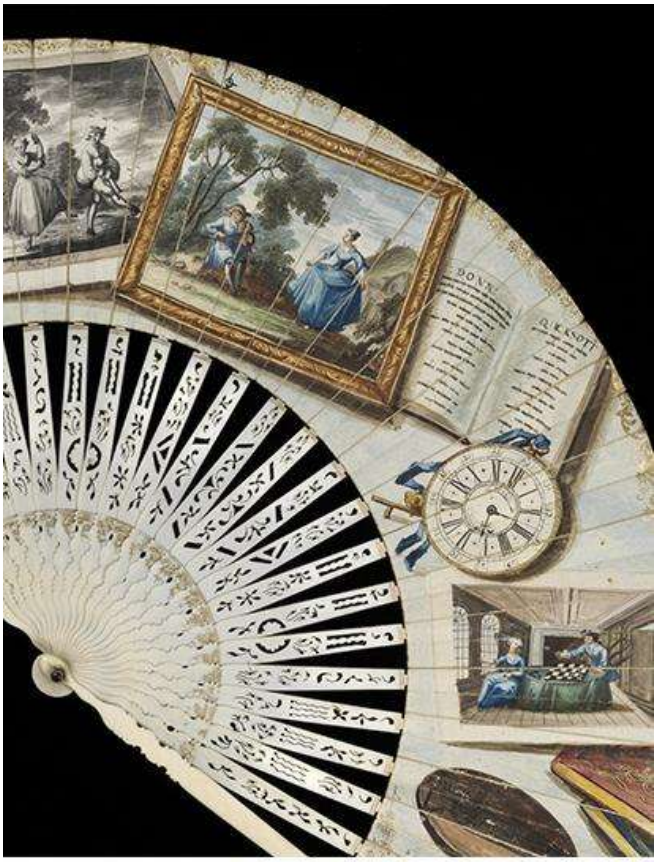
For further information, please contact Mehboob Hamza at ivcartexh2015@outlook.com or at 01223 237062.

News from the Fitzwilliam Museum

This spring we have two major free exhibitions, *Silent Partners and Treasured Possessions.*

Featuring over 180 paintings and drawings, books, films, photos and objects, Silent Partners tells the story of the artists' mannequin. It is open to 25 January.

Treasured Possessions shows incredibly beautiful hidden items from the Fitzwilliam. See silks, silver, jewels, porcelain, shoes, armour, embroideries, fans, pocket-watches and tine keepsakes, most from the amazing rarely seen reserve collections in the Museum. It is open from 24 March to 6 September.



Alongside, we also have a show of stunning miniature gold and jewelled boxes from the Victoria & Albert Museum's Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Collection.

In 2016 the Museum will be celebrating its 200 year anniversary. This year we will be announcing a series of exhibitions and events to mark the occasion!

We hope you can visit us soon. The Museum's normal opening hours are Tuesday to Sunday and entry is free. Find out more at www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

Fitzwilliam Museum News Team

New Trustees and Volunteers Needed at Burwell Museum



A sense of satisfaction, great fun and the chance to make a real difference to the community.

It's an exciting time at Burwell Museum and you can be involved in some great development projects. To learn more about joining our team please contact us on: volunteers@burwellmuseum.org.uk or 01638 605544 (*answerphone*)



End of World War 2 Commemoration Small Grants

This summer marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. In celebration of this important anniversary, Cambridgeshire County Council is pleased to announce a Small Grants Fund to encourage community activity.

On 8th May 1945 more than a million people took to the streets to celebrate VE Day, the end of the war and peace at last in Europe. Huge crowds amassed in front of Buckingham Palace as King George VI and Winston Churchill greeted a nation full of joy and relief at the prospect of peace following six years of conflict and hardship. Having agreed in principle to unconditional surrender on 15 August (VJ Day), Japan formally surrendered on 2nd September signifying the end of World War II throughout the rest of the world.



It is an opportunity for communities and Cambridgeshire residents to come together to remember the wartime effort, celebrate peace, reminisce about the 'unforgettable forties' era and capture some of the celebratory mood of the time. Whether it be a community tea dance, the researching and sharing of stories of the time, a lindy hop event, raising morale through music or sport, a 'make do and mend' community craft project, creating a 'Dig For Victory' garden or giving your fete or festival a forties theme, we would like you to design and deliver activities within your community that motivate and encourage people to get involved.

Small grants will be awarded to local groups and organisations to support community activities linked to and inspired by the 70th anniversary, wartime Britain and the 1940's era.

Each grant will be up to a maximum of £500 and additional funding or support in kind will be expected. The grants will be awarded in two rounds. The **deadlines for applications** for each round are **9th February and 9th March**.

To request an application form please email:
ww2commemortaion@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
or call 01954 284615.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Think the fire service is all about putting out fires and rescuing people from road crashes? Think again.

At Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, the men and women on our frontline deliver important fire safety advice to dozens of different communities. From visiting schools to care homes, mother and toddler groups to community fêtes, our firefighters play an integral role in keeping YOUR community safe.



And we'd like **you** to think about joining us.

The role of a firefighter is varied and exciting but most importantly, it can make a real different to people's lives. It is a profession that provides development from the start, with opportunities to grow into management or specialist roles for those who want to.

The next recruitment process for whole time firefighters opens this month (February 2015). To find out more, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk.

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @cambsfrs.



Special Constables – We Need You!



Special Constables are volunteer police officers who play a vital role in Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

You will get the chance to work alongside regular police officers, using skills and experiences from your day job to give something back to the community.

It's demanding. After all, you'll have to give up at least 16 hours of your spare time each month. But helping to protect and support Cambridgeshire and the people who live, work and visit here is really satisfying too.

Being flexible is essential as we cover all of the cities, towns and villages. Specials wear the same uniform and carry the same powers and responsibilities as regular police officers.

They're involved in all aspects of policing Cambridgeshire, enjoying a variety of roles and duties such as:

- Foot and vehicle patrols
- Roads policing
- Assisting in the event of accidents, fights and fires
- Road safety initiatives
- Rural crime Initiatives
- House-to-house enquiries
- Plain clothes enquiries
- Public safeguarding
- Helping ensure public safety and security at both local and major events
- Presenting evidence in court

As a Special, you'll make a real difference and gain unique experiences, you simply can't get anywhere else.

If this sounds like something you could do then why not visit our website on: www.cambs.police.uk/recruitment/specials

Help Protect Yourself and Your Neighbours Against Telephone Scams

We have seen an increase in reporting of Telephone Scams this last month and in particular the type of calls where the caller impersonates either a Police officer, or a Fraud Officer or a bank employee, then either try to get bank account details off the resident, or suggest they will send someone round to collect their bank cards and any valuable items to 'keep them safe'.



Please be wary of telephone calls warning you of fraudulent activity on your bank account.

- Genuine banks, businesses or organisations will never telephone you and ask you to give out personal or financial details
- This fraudulent caller may ask you to hang up and call your bank or police to prove they are genuine, but they don't hang up, tricking you into thinking you are through to the genuine officer
- To protect yourself, make sure you hear a dialling tone before you make your next call or phone a friend to check your call goes through before calling the number on the back of your bank card
- Ask your telecoms provider to set up caller ID on your telephone so that you know who is calling your number before you decide to answer it.
- Register with the free Telephone Preference Service to reduce the number of unsolicited sales and marketing calls. You can register on 0845 070 0707 or online.
- Be cautious and if in doubt, hang up.

To report a scam contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk

News from Healthwatch Cambridgeshire

Our job is to make sure you have a say when important decisions are made about local health and care services. We are interested in any recent experiences you have of a local health or care services that you are happy to share with us.

The big health story in the news this New Year is about pressures on our local hospitals. We know that these are linked to other issues like getting to see a GP when you need to and getting care in place when you are coming home from hospital. We have two new projects that will look at some of these issues from a different view point.

In our **"First Steps to Health"** project we want to find out about the first thing you would do to solve different health issues. Would you work it out yourself, see a pharmacist, call NHS 111 or see your GP? We all solve things in different ways. Knowing what you do can help our local GP Practices and the people who make decisions about local health services plan better care. Please do take part in our survey either on our website or by contacting our office.

We also need you to help us develop our local "**Care Home"** project. We want to use our statutory "Duty to Enter & View" local care homes. This means we have a legal right to visit places that provide public health or care services, to see what kind of care they are providing.

We need to recruit **volunteers to be "Authorised Representatives**". Your role will be to go into local care homes and talk to the people there about the care being provided. This might include talking to residents, their relatives, friends and care home staff. You will get lots of training and support.

Do you have any recent experience of a local care home, or do you know someone who has? Please tell us about it. We will use what you tell us to plan which homes we will visit and what to look at. We are also talking to the County Council and the Care Quality Commission, to help us plan where we should visit.

Get in touch to find out more or we can come and talk to your group about Healthwatch.

Call us on **01480 420628** or visit:
www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

Registered Community Interest Company no. 08516179



"Drop-in" sessions for carers and adults with a long-term support need

Cambridgeshire County Council

These popular drop-ins for anyone who is living with a long-term illness or disability or an age-related condition, or providing unpaid support to adult family members or friends are continuing in 2015. The early Spring dates and locations are:

- **Ely** Library on 19th February and 19th March (10.00am to 12.00 noon)



Drop-in to any of the events for a cup of tea and a chat about the information, advice and support that may be available, to share your stories and experiences, talk in confidence to a member of the Carers Support Team or Physical Disability Services Team, or to book a carers assessment.

For more information:
Tel: Gemma Whitehouse on 01480 377616 or Leigh Hornsby on 01480 373220

Email: CarersSupportTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Visit: www.cambridgeshire.net and search "Adult Support Drop-in"

Amenity Fund

If you feel you have a worthwhile project that could be funded via the Amenity Fund please get in touch with Chairman Ross Clark on 01638 743725 or rossjclark@aol.com. To learn more about the fund please visit the village website at: www.reach-village.co.uk/amenity_fund.html.

Burwell and Reach Car Scheme

If you are unable to use conventional transport the scheme can help you to travel from Burwell or Reach to Doctors, Dentist, Chiropodist, Opticians, village shopping or visits to relatives/friends at home or in hospital

Transport **cannot be provided** for hospital **OutPatient** appointments

Contact Hours: 8.30am – 5.00pm Monday – Friday, please give us at least **48 hour's notice**

01638 742543 answer phone.

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

Huge Spring Jumble sale Lode

Saturday 14th March
from 2-4

Parking is in the High Street and walk through Fassage Close, beside the post office.

There are just amazing bargains to be had, and it promises to be a lively afternoon for both buyers and sellers!

The money raised always goes to a charitable cause, and local support with donating items and buying helps to make this a really worthwhile event – we look forward to seeing you.

Please bring jumble to the Fassage in the morning of the sale between 10.30 - 12

Entrance £1 for adults and children are free

Fran 01223 813 016

Funky Feathered Friends

One of my photos on the inside front cover shows a female house sparrow that's been visiting our garden regularly over the last month. You will notice that instead of being just brown the bird has some pure white weathers. There are three main conditions that result in an animal's skin, fur or feathers being the wrong colour:

Albinism – this is probably the most recognised of the three. A reduced level or complete absence of melanin results in the characteristic pale or white colouring and red eyes (which is in fact the retina showing through a colourless iris). In humans there is also a rare form that only effects the eyes, making them light blue.

Melanism – this is the opposite of albinism. A greater than normal amount of melanin gives the subject a darker or black colouring. Did you know here are no such things as black panthers? A 'black panther' in Africa or Asia is actually a melanistic Leopard and in South America it is a melanistic Jaguar. In December I saw an entirely black Pheasant in Swaffham Bulbeck.

Leucism – this is what my house sparrow has. A reduction or complete absence of all pigmentation, not just melanin, also results in pale or white colouring. In many cases it is patchy rather than around the whole body. This sparrow's white patches are symmetrical - a line down it's back, a few wing feathers, some on both sides of its head and body. During the summer there was a leucistic Collared Dove in the village which looked light-pinkish instead of grey.

According to the BTO's Abnormal Plumage Survey the top five garden birds most frequently found with unusual coloured feathers are Blackbirds (accounting for 40% of recorded sightings), House Sparrows, Jackdaws, Crows and Chaffinches. Keep your eyes peeled for funky coloured feathered friends!



No entries were received! What's up?

Thanks to Puzzleric alias Richard Maddox

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 28

ACROSS: 1. SHAPES. 5. REFLECTS. 9. TEARDROP. 10. REASON. 11. ABBREVIATION. 13. EDGE. 14. EVENINGS. 17. SUBTRACT. 18. MALL. 20. STRAIGHTENED. 23. DETOUR. 24. VIOLATED. 25. STATIONS. 26. SPELLS.

DOWN: 2. HOES. 3. PERMANENT. 4. SHRUBS. 5. REPRESENTATIVES. 6. FORGIVEN. 7. EXACT. 8. THOROUGHLY. 12. ADJUSTMENT. 15. IMMEDIATE. 16. KANGAROO. 19. ENJOYS. 21. ADOPT. 22. SEAL.

Swaffham Prior Village Gardeners Programme for 2015

Calling all Reach gardeners. Would you like to join our friendly group in Swaffahm Prior? You would be very welcome.

Tuesday 17 February Philip Whaites
'Wimpole Garden Vision'

Tuesday 17 March Geoff Hales
'Gardeners Joy'

Tuesday 21 April Barry Gayton
'The Scented Garden and Glasshouse'

Tuesday 19 May Herbal Haven
'Herbs in General'
'Herbs in Folk Law and Legend'

Tuesday 9 June
Evening visit to Upwater Lodge, Cambridge

Sunday 28 June
Coach outing to Helmingham Hall Gardens

Tuesday 14 July
Evening visit to Netherhall Manor, Soham

Tuesday 20 October AGM

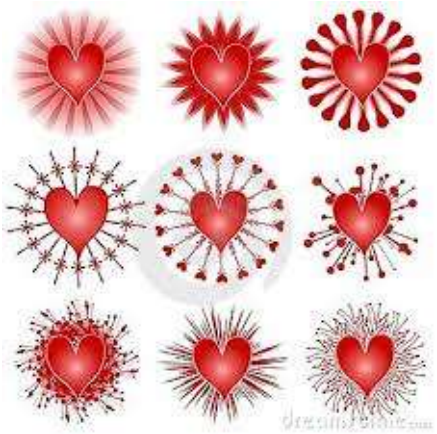
Tuesday 17 November Andrew Sankey
'Pot Luck'

Indoor meetings at 8pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Details of Summer visits will be confirmed nearer the time.

Membership £15 per person. New members and Visitors always welcome £3 per evening.

Chairman/Treasurer: Peter Hart 01638 741681

Joint Secretaries: Margaret Joyce and Mary Hart
01638 744390 / 741681



The Pollinators are coming . . . .

Outside in the garden on sunny days, early-foraging bumbles and honeybees are tempted out by the lure of fragrant, nectar-rich winter-flowering shrubs such as wintersweet and winterbox and protein-rich flowering bulbs like snowdrops and aconites.

This co-dependency of plants and animals has evolved countless times the world over and this month at the Botanic Garden, we are focusing on some of the most intriguing plant + pollinator stories at our Orchid Festival, which opens on 7 February 2015.



Orchids are considered amongst the most exotic and alluring of flowers, but their scent and beauty have not evolved to ensure they end up impulse purchases in the supermarket trolley! Petal shape, nectar reward, triggers, traps, scent and glowing colours are just a few of the tricks that orchids employ to attract a vast array of animal pollinators. This cast includes iridescent bees, wasps, moths with super-long tongues, flies and jewel-coloured hummingbirds, all of which will be paying the Garden's Orchid Festival a visit - in giant, cut-out form!

Orchids are found the world over, their diversity the result of co-evolved relationships between plant and pollinator. For example, in South America, huge, shiny male euglossine bees harvest scents from rainforest orchids, store them in large armoured pouches on their hind legs and then release them to attract female bees. In collecting the scents, the bees dislodge special pollen packets which are then carried to the next orchid, effecting pollination. This is just one of six amazing pollinator stories featured.

We'll be creating a magnificent display of popular orchid species and hybrids including suspended globes of *Oncidium* and pedestals of slipper orchids, *Paphiopedilum*, floating over open water. Throughout the tropical rainforest displays the focus will be on wild orchid species, grouped to show particular floral adaptations from insect mimicry to the stink of rotting flesh and we'll be using some new and fun ways to present the ingenious biology of orchids - watch out for the huge Judge Dredd style hummingbirds and giant thynnid wasps…!

The Orchid Festival at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden runs from Saturday 7 February – Sunday 22 March 2015. On Wednesday 18 February 2015 the Glasshouse Range stays open late until 8.30pm for Twilight at the Museums, a unique opportunity to explore the Orchid Festival by torchlight (who knows what might be revealed under ultraviolet…). A full programme of accompanying Orchid Festival events, opening times and admission charges is available on the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk.

Juliet Day





Out and About: Winter



By the time this is printed the RSPB Birdwatch survey of 24th/25th January 2015 will have taken place. If you participated in it do please email the results to me (mg@reach-village.co.uk) and I'll include them in the next edition, this would give a good indication of what birds are in the village.

Considering we have a small garden surrounded by houses, their owners' cats and offer only a general seed feeder plus another of fat balls, we see ordinary birds here: house sparrows, starlings, robins, collared doves, woodpigeon, great tits, blue tits, blackbirds, chaffinch, dunnocks. Our hens appear surgically attached to the underside of the feed station, hoovering up spilt grain, their efforts resulted in surprise Christmas eggs.

Interestingly, friend and knowledgeable countryman, Ralph Sargeant, from Wicken Fen advised me to put feeders out at midday to encourage birds to forage for food first.

4th January - temperatures of minus 1 for most of the morning and a hoar frost that silvered and sparkled all it clothed. To add to the atmosphere, Church bells rang in the distance. A barn owl startled me on the fringe of Reach Wood, its country name of Old Hushwing most apt, local names also include Billy Wix or, in northern England, Jenny Howlet.



Kestrel and telegraph pole. Copyright Richard Jones

Seasonal sightings of wild birds/mammals locally: Rode with Hilary recently, on the short route from Reach to her stables she passed a barn owl and a kestrel bathing in a puddle, we then saw a hen harrier and roe deer in the distance. On the return journey I noticed redwing in hedgerows (a festive sight) and nine blackbirds on the track to the field. Not bad for only an hour in the fens.

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Short eared and barn owl. Copyright Richard Jones

Hilary sent through this atmospheric account of the scene from her field gate at 7.30am this week, 'a giant buttermilk full moon hung low in the sky over the River Cam. A harrier hovered 20 feet away and between the two, flew a barn owl. This morning 2 barn owls passed by together with a little egret, the resident wren still roosts in an old swallows nest'.

The gloom of a grey day on 8th January was brightened by sparks of colour when a flock of yellowhammer fed in our field (beside Reach Wood) with robins and pied wagtails. A kestrel hunted above John Reed's neighbouring land and a green woodpecker cackled in the distance. That evening a fox ran across the track directly in front of us, a streak of ginger at full pelt. Despite being a watchful poultry-keeper, I admire their hardy existence on the margins of this village.

Ron told me that, two years ago, flocks of yellowhammer were often seen on the 'sheep field' bordering the Aves' farm/Reach Wood. Recently, he was almost certain he'd seen 2 bullfinch at Reach Wood and also mentioned sightings of little egrets along Weirs Road.

When walking down the fen road from Reach to the crossroads in January, Dafila and Tim saw a pair of cranes feeding in the maize stubble just past New Gant Farm. They also spotted 4 short eared owls on Burwell Fen. Gareth also noticed them plus hen harriers and a stonechat. Although he hadn't seen it himself, he heard that a Great Grey Shrike had been recorded at Tubney Fen during December.

Tracy from Springhall Farm has seen a pair of kingfishers in the dyke beside the Alderson's house and an egret wading by Pam and David King's dinghy. What looked like a shag (rather than a cormorant) flew out towards the point as she walked by, its crest clearly visible. A barn owl is regularly seen at the farm, mostly in the mornings. There are a pair of bullfinch on her feeding station, movement in the long grass beneath it revealed a stoat recently, which sat up then ran to safety in a pile of cut-back foxgloves.

As ever, the small village of Reach and its surrounding fenland continues to provide us with a wealth of interesting, rare and unusual wildlife sightings.

Joss Goodchild





Our pub landlord enjoys the fenland skies.

Copyright: Richard Jones

Friends of Reach Wood Required



Reach Parish Council would like to form a group of interested people to assist The Woodland Trust in the management and upkeep of Reach Wood and Meadow.

The group would liaise with the Woodland Trust and put the view of the local people forward, to ensure its successful management in accordance with the wishes of residents and users.

Anyone interested in becoming part of this group please contact the Parish Clerk, Susan Bailey on 01638 743794, for more information.



24Acres News

Winter pruning of the Reach 24Acre Community Orchard



On a bright winter morning in the middle of January a group from the village put into practice the training they received from the East of England Apples and Orchard Projects last year.

Pruning is an essential part of the maintenance of the fruit trees in our orchard and will be most important in the first five years as we shape each tree and build a framework for future fruit-bearing that makes picking and maintenance (especially mowing) as easy as possible.

Some trees – mainly apples and pears – should be pruned in winter, while others – plums, cherries and damsons – take longer to recover from being pruned and are susceptible to being infected with disease. These trees will be pruned on a dry day in the spring.

Our aim is to produce 'half-standard' trees in the shape of a goblet. A half standard fruit tree is a free standing tree, with a straight trunk of between 100-120cms before the first branch of what will become a round head that eventually will be about 3 metres across and high. So trees will ultimately be about 4 metres tall [1m trunk plus 3m head] and 3 metres wide.

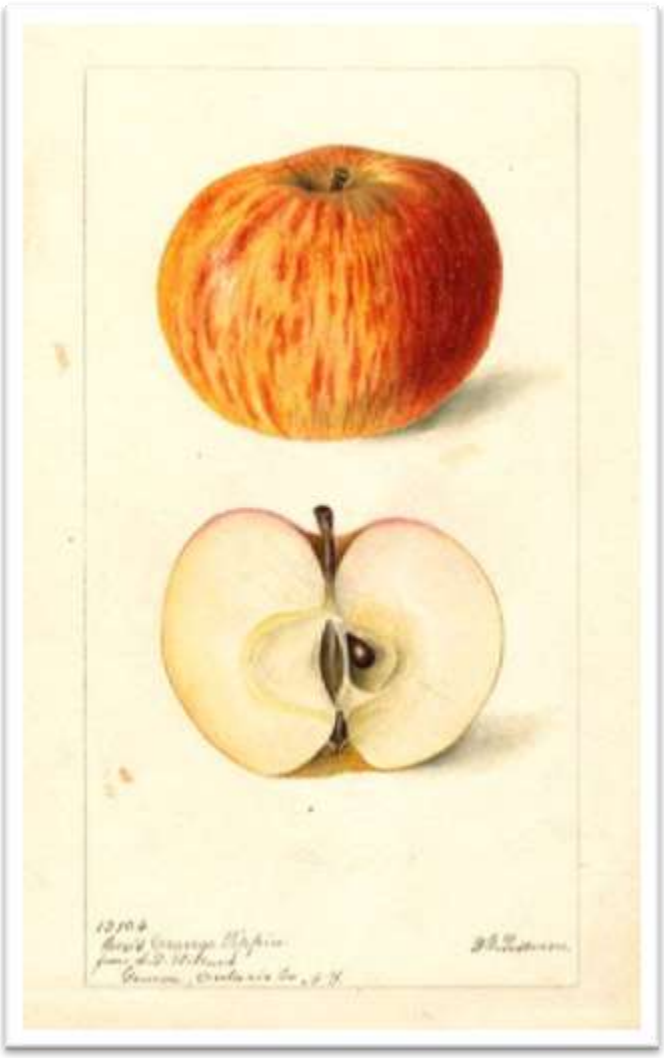
Featured Fruits: Cox's Orange Pippin

Cox's Orange Pippin was first grown in 1830 at Colnbrook in Buckinghamshire by a retired brewer and horticulturalist by the name of Richard Cox. Though the parentage of the cultivar is unknown Ribston Pippin is thought to be a likely candidate. The variety was introduced for sale by the 1850s by Mr. Charles Turner and grown commercially from the 1860s, particularly in the Vale of Evesham in Worcestershire, and later in Kent. According to the Institute of Food Research (figures for 2007) Cox's Orange Pippin is the UK's most popular apple, followed by Bramley. In total 147,698 tonnes of apples were produced in the UK with roughly 42% of them being Cox's Orange Pippin.

Cox's Orange Pippin is considered the classic English apple and is often regarded as the finest of all dessert apples. It is the range and complexity of flavours which make Cox's Orange Pippin so appealing to enthusiasts of the "English" style of apple with a remarkable range of subtle flavours - pear, melon, freshly-squeezed Florida orange juice and mango are all evident in a good example! Almost all other apples taste one-dimensional alongside a good Cox's Orange Pippin.

The term "orange" in the context of apple varieties commonly refers to an apple with an orange flush. Many of these varieties such as Kidd's Orange Red, Ellison's Orange and Tydemann's Late Orange are related to Cox.





Volunteers needed on Saturday 28th February!

Reach Parish Council have received funding from the Woodland Trust, the National Trust and the Village Amenity Fund to plant a hedge along the southern boundary of the 24Acres.

We have about 800 small trees/shrubs to plant along the 170 metre boundary.

Many hands will make light work, so please come along and help – whether it's for 30 minutes, a couple of hours or all morning – any assistance will be appreciated! The work will be light and suitable for all ages.

Weather permitting we will aim to get a reasonably early start – there will be someone on site from 9:00 a.m. There will be some tools available, but if you have a garden spade please bring that along. Gardening gloves are also recommended.

If you have any doubts about the weather and the planting going ahead (e.g. if it's very frosty, raining heavily or there's 3 foot of snow) please check the village website.
Any other questions, please call or email David Thomas (david.thomas2000@yahoo.co.uk; 742676).
We look forward to seeing you there!

Not surprisingly, Cox has frequently been used in breeding programmes, with growers seeking to marry its unique flavour with desirable characteristics from other varieties. Whilst some might argue that none of its offspring achieve the unique blend of flavours that Cox does, many of these varieties are nonetheless excellent in their own right - and to many people are more appealing than the more "serious" nature of the Cox.

Unfortunately England's greatest apple is not particularly easy to grow. It needs a relatively cool maritime climate and is also prone to diseases.

Although quite widely available in UK supermarkets, either from UK or New Zealand suppliers, these apples often have an empty flavour and can be very disappointing, given the legendary reputation of this variety. Therefore, growing your own is the answer!

Whilst the reputation of Cox's Orange Pippin is known and respected worldwide, many apple enthusiasts outside its native home in England who have tried growing it are sometimes left unimpressed with the results. It seems that the true flavor of Cox's Orange Pippin is only achieved in the marginal cool temperate climate of England.

Information mostly by courtesy of Orange Pippin: http://www.orangepippin.com/

David Thomas



Tales from a Reach Garden



It seems strange to be listening to news announcements about blizzards in the north and west of the United Kingdom while over here in the east we're benefitting from sunshine and admiring the snowdrops which starting flowering last weekend. 2014 was a very warm year - apart from August which was disappointingly gloomy and wet.

There was a bit of a cold snap in early December but I, for one, have appreciated the very mild winter, so far. At the end of December I was very surprised to see daffodil shoots above ground in our garden, probably fooled by the frosts in early December and the subsequent mild weather into acting as if spring was almost here! Let's hope the blizzards don't venture this far, although we will probably have to endure some wet and very windy weather in the next month or so.



Snowdrops in the garden

Even if the weather turns nasty there are many things to do now before spring arrives. I ensure all the pots I use for propagating plants are washed and dried before they are reused because pests and pathogens in any soil retained in the pots can damage seedlings. I also go through my packs of seeds to see what's no longer within the "use by" date and dispose of them. This is because old seeds are less likely to germinate well to form viable seedlings, but there is huge variation in the length of time that seeds can be kept. Some seeds, such as parsnip, are only worth having for one season, in the second year they can take many weeks longer to germinate, if at all; carrot and pea seeds should keep for 2-3 years; however, tomato seeds can be kept for at least 10 years provided they are kept in the dark (e.g. enclosed in a foil envelope) in a cool, dry place. Even so, there is a greater rate of germination for fresh seed than there is for older seed.

January is also a good time to start indoor sowing of first early varieties of peas such as "Feltham First", or "Douce de Provence" (which provides delicious and very sweet little peas). To achieve this, the seedlings will have to be protected when planted outside, especially before April. These pea varieties can also be sown outdoors in February under protection.

When I first tried growing peas here in Reach, peas were sown directly in the soil in the garden but nothing grew. I strongly suspected that the peas were too tasty a treat for the local rodents and pigeons, so since then I had been sowing the peas indoors in root trainer modules. These are modules of 32 small but deep plastic pots which are ideal for germinating many seed types, but are especially good for peas and beans, allowing the seedling roots to grow healthily before planting outdoors. The root training modules are not cheap, but they can be reused. I've had some for seven years now and they are used more than once during the growing season.





Pea seedlings growing in root trainer pots and their healthy root systems

They have worked very well for us but they are probably better suited for beans than peas, simply because peas can be sown much closer together in a row than say, runner beans. This means that for the best yields (we like fresh peas), very many more pots are needed to grow peas to fill one of the beds in our vegetable patch. Planting out is also much more time-consuming.

For instance, it takes much longer to plant 16 pea seedlings in a row versus 5 bean seedlings for the same row length. Peas can actually be planted even closer than this in a staggered row depending on the pea variety. To get around this (and avoid having to buy many more pots), I sowed the peas in batches - each batch sufficient for two rows - at fortnightly intervals so that the pea bed in our vegetable plot didn't have to be planted all at once. This was also useful because it prolonged the cropping time through spring and summer so we could also try different pea varieties. Any peas which we didn't eat fresh were blanched and packed into bags in the freezer. We still have one bag left – after this they'll be shop bought.

Last year I sowed some peas in compost in some guttering which we had left over from some building work. These were first cut down to lengths just over a metre long - 10cm less than the widths of the beds in our vegetable patch, then duct tape was stuck to the ends and pierced with a skewer, which stops compost falling out but allows excess water to drain away. Once the seedlings were sufficiently grown, planting the peas from the guttering was easy. A shallow trench was dug in the bed (the same length and width of the guttering) where the seedlings were to be planted, then the duct tape was removed from the ends and the compost with seedlings slid out gently into place. This was easier than dibbing holes and carefully dropping a root-trained seedling into the hole, while ensuring the roots didn't snag on the way down.



Pea seedlings growing in guttering: from left to right- seedlings from two years old, one year old and fresh seed

The use of guttering for growing peas is quite a well-known technique, but for me this was also an experiment which I first tried with some 2 year old and 1 year old seed.

Very few of the 2 year old peas germinated and just over half of the 1 year old pack succeeded; I wondered if the technique was at fault or the peas, or perhaps I was doing something wrong. Then I sowed a fresh pack of peas in the third piece of guttering and a week later there was almost complete germination! The freshness of seeds at sowing really is essential for germination and growing for a decent crop. It also showed that using guttering for growing peas only really works with fresh seeds, otherwise there are gaps to fill, but I shall be using this method again this year for growing pea seedlings before planting out because it's such a time saver!

Danuta Gibson

Notice to Horse / Pony Riders



There has been a complaint to the County Council that there is evidence (i.e. hoof prints) to suggest that a horse/pony has been ridden on the Devils Dyke.

Please remember that equines, of any shape or form and in whatever capacity (even on a lead rein) are absolutely not allowed on the Devils Dyke.

Thank you. Hilary Fielding - on behalf of Karen Champion, CC Rights of Way officer

The VILLAGE CENTRE 100 CLUB for 2015

Help raise money to run the Village Centre

Tickets are just £10 for a full year

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

100 CLUB WINNERS
Nov: Tony Barrett
Dec: Jane Newman

Please contact Thomasina on 07787 520589 to be part of the draw

What's Growing on at Snakehall Farm

TOOL AMNESTY AT SNAKEHALL FARM

Here on the farm we use these cold months to prepare for the year ahead, clear out our clutter, replenish our seed stock and give all our equipment a good servicing so we can really get sowing, growing and grading as the good weather comes. If you are busy doing a spring clean of your garden shed and unearth a few garden tools you no longer need or use, if they are in good workable order we would love to re-home them on the farm. We are looking for the older style sturdy hand tools, spades, forks, rakes, yard brooms etc. We have discovered the old ones are the best! If you have anything which may be of use give us a call on 01638 741551 or pop it into the Tool Box near the Farm Shop. Thank you.

WINTER CROPS IN THE SHOP

We have said goodbye to our glittery antlered wooden reindeer until December, the wreaths are gone and our shop looks a little less sparkly right now. However don't despair we are busy sowing and growing so there will always be some organic goodies on our shelves. Why not pop in and stock up on some of our seasonal best, over the next few months our regular produce range will be: Winter salad Brussel sprouts, sprouting broccoli, kale, spinach, eggs, leeks, onions, swede, parsnip, garlic, logs & kindling, carrots, potatoes and to add a bit of springtime colour some sweet smelling potted hyacinths.

Our Co-workers will also be busy making some seasonal specials, why not pick up a more socially inspiring gift made at your local social enterprise to mark those all-important occasions. We will have some beautiful and unique gifts for Valentines, Easter and Mothering Sunday in the shop. Please remember we can always make to order including pre-packed veg boxes for your Easter feasts. Call the farm team on 01638 741551 if you have a special request. We look forward to seeing you in the shop.

2014-15 OUR SUPER SHINY SILVER JUBILEE

We are still celebrating our 25th anniversary and have now raised in excess of £28,000 towards our £25K for 25 years, not including the amazing public vote win of £50,000 from the ITV's People's Millions award. This total has come from sponsorship, generous donations, grants secured, fearless fundraisers and funding wins. The money has been invested into our facilities, with the new toilets and farm shop being the major projects for 2014 and the Tea Barn with kitchen being our 2015 focus. We have been completely bowled over by the support and warmth people have shown Snakehall Farm this year. We thank you all for helping us continue to offer a safe, supportive learning environment for our Co-workers so they can gain valuable experiences and achieve daily on our farm and out and about on our Garden Team. Please take a look at our 25 Years in the Growing Film to learn more about The Prospects Trust http://vimeo.com/107268365

REMEMBERING SUPER RON: 1st May 1929 to 11th January 2015



It is with great sadness that we report the loss of a true friend of the farm, Mr Ronald Cornell, who has been proudly ploughing the fields with Tilly Tractor every Tuesday as one of our invaluable volunteers. Ron, took on superhero status over the summer, when he spear headed the £25K for 25 years funding campaign by suggesting a sponsored skydive. He, along with his Snakehall sidekicks, jumped on the 8th June 2014, raising a massive £11,000 for his charity of choice, The Prospects Trust. What made this act of daredevil bravery all the more special? Ron was 85 years of age. Ron was fearless in the skies and a force to be reckoned with behind the wheel of his beloved Tilly Tractor. His weekly volunteering efforts have ensured our organic fields have been rejuvenated for future growth and his fundraising feats have helped us invest into the farm for many more years to come. He made his mark on the farm and will be truly missed but always fondly remembered. His family have requested donations to be made to two charities, The Prospects Trust and Cancer Research UK, online donations can be made at: http://localgiving.com/charity/roncornell.

Close the Gate

For this one farmer the worries are over, lie down and rest your head,
Your time has been and struggles enough, put the tractor in the shed.
You raised a fine family, worked the land well and always followed the Sun,
Hang up your shovel inside of the barn; your work here on earth is done.
Your labour is done, your home now is heaven; no more must you wait,
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land, and we will close the gate.

FRIENDS OF THE FARM

After all the support, volunteers and visitors we have received, not only during our Silver Jubilee, but over the past 25 years, we are going to launch an informal group of like-minded people, Friends of Snakehall Farm. Enthusiasm and volunteering spirit needed in barrow loads but we promise you will be harvesting a smile when you support Snakehall. If you are interested in finding out more, we would love to hear from you.

Marianne (Maz) Baker

01638 741551

Cook Simple

Bottisham Village College

Adult and Community Learning

Cook Simple Meals with Gill

This is a course aimed at those who are 60+ who have little, or no cooking experience and want to learn how to cook tasty meals



Wednesdays 4.00—6.00 pm
Commencing 25 February 2015
for 5 Weeks
Free to New Learners*

Tutor: Gill Taylor

Come along to learn how to cook tasty meals. From basic cooking skills to stunning desserts, you will increase your confidence in the kitchen and learn how to produce healthy meals. You will become familiar with basic food preparation and food safety and you will be able to understand the nutritional value of your food. You will also be able to stay and eat the food you have prepared with the rest of the group in a social setting.

The cost of the course does not include ingredients. You will need to provide your own ingredients and the tutor will advise you on a week to week basis what to bring.

Recipes for the first lesson will be available from the Community Office - please contact us in advance. Recipes for subsequent lessons will be handed out each week.

If you require further details, we are happy to put you in touch with the tutor before the course commences.

How to enrol on this course:

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website: **www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning** and returned to the Community Office. Alternatively, please ring or email the Community Office. A place will be reserved for you once your completed enrolment form has been received.

* If you have not previously enrolled on a course at Bottisham Village College Adult and Community Learning in the last 12 months, you can attend this course for FREE. For further information, please contact the Community Office.

Unless you are informed that the course is full or cancelled, you should attend the first session. If a class is cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control, extra classes will be added at the end of the course. Please note that the office will not be manned during the school holidays.

Adult and Community Learning,
Bottisham Village College,
Lode Road, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DL
Tel: 01223 811372
Email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org

Valentine's Day at the Dyke's End



Valentine's Day Dinner Menu

First Courses

Scallops on spinach, coated in a cheese sauce and oven baked

Goats' cheese soufflé on creamed leeks

Duck and cognac terrine with rhubarb compôte and toasts

Sorbet

Main Courses

Medallions of beef with whole prawns, dauphinoise potatoes and french beans with a béarnaise sauce

Fillet of salmon with tomato and chilli confit wrapped in puff pastry with broccoli and mint potatoes

Portabello mushroom with a herb and nut stuffing in a pancakewith dauphinoise potatoes, curly kale and spinach

Puddings

Chocolate and almond torte with cream

Raspberry shortbread

Cheese and biscuits

Coffee and Truffles

£35 per person

Tel: 743816

News from Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey



Snowdrops herald the arrival of spring at Anglesey Abbey as over 300 varieties of the delicate white flowers reach their peak in February. Enjoy the snowdrops as you wander round the gardens, or join our Gardener's for a tour of the collection at 2pm on weekdays. During the Snowdrop Festival, which runs to 1 March, we open an hour earlier at 9.30am. The property can get very busy at weekends but is generally quieter on weekdays if your diary is flexible.

Preparations have begun for the planting of the new Silver Birch Grove, which will be just beyond the existing grove in the Winter Garden. Trees have been felled and planting of the 112 new trees should take place in February. Visitors purchasing tickets to Winter Lights donated £600 towards the £2000 cost of the new trees.



World Wetlands Day falls on 2 February – it marks the signing of the International Convention on Wetlands in 1971, and helps raise awareness of the importance and value of wetlands like Wicken Fen. Our Ranger's will be leading a guided walk on Sunday 1 February to explore some of the new wetland habitat being created as part of the Wicken Fen Vision. Please meet at the Visitor Centre at 1pm if you fancy joining the walk. This year the organisers of World Wetlands Day are holding a Wetlands Youth Photo Contest. The competition is open to anyone aged 15 - 24, with the prize of a free flight to a famous wetland of your choice anywhere in the world. So nip over to Wicken with your digital camera or phone between 2 Feb -2 March and you could be heading off on a journey of a lifetime. For more info visit www.worldwetlandsday.org

If you're looking for something to do on Valentine's Day (Saturday 14 February) why not join us down at White Fen for a tree care and planting day. Residents of Lode & Longmeadow, NT staff and volunteers started planting the Lode with Longmeadow Community Woodland five years ago, in which time over 6,000 trees have been planted. The day will involve re-staking and replacing tree guards and infilling gaps by planting new trees. There will also be a Children's Trail to help keep the young ones amused. The plan is to start at 11am before heading over to our wild campsite for lunch around the campfire at 12.30.

All ages are welcome, please bring wellies, lunch and hot drinks and we'll provide the marshmallows. If you plan to arrive by bike or foot, the Lodes Way (NCN11) goes right through White Fen. By car, follow the road out of Lode then turn right along White Fen Drove, follow it to the end then turn right. For more information please contact our Community Ranger, Lois Baker on 01353 720274.



Forthcoming events at Wicken include **Mucky Pups** (arts, crafts & adventure for under 5s) on 11 & 12 February, 10.15 - 11.45am, tickets £4.50 on 01353 720274; for half-term we have **Wild Arts** on Tues 17 Feb and **Go Wild at Wicken** (geocaching challenge, shelter building and discover how animals survive the cold winter months) on Thurs 19 Feb. Tickets for half-term events, £5.25 per child, are available from the NT Box Office on 0844 249 1895.

If you're feeling creative we have a couple of options for you. On Saturday 21 March, 8.45am - 5pm, there's a **Basket Making Workshop**, where award winning Weaver, Nadine Anderson, will teach you how to make a traditional frame basket using willow and rush, tickets £65 (including materials). Then on Sunday, 22 March, our Writer-in-Residence, Dr Charles Bennett, will be hosting a **Poetry Workshop** on Sunday 22 March, 1.30 – 4pm. Tickets £10 (including cream tea). Tickets for these events are available on 01353 720274.

Finally, there's a fair chance that New Year's resolutions to lose weight and take more exercise maybe waning – if so, why not join our weekly health walks. There's a walk at Wicken every Wednesday and Anglesey Abbey every Thursday. Walks depart at 10am and cover a distance of 3-4 miles, lasting around one hour.

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"After almost eight years of delivering mail to those of you in Reach and Swaffham Prior, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been so kind to me over the years, too many to thanks individually.

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Trevor Fone

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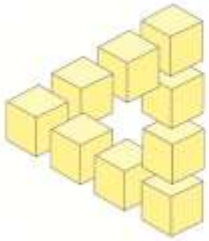

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Days Gone By



The most memorable singles chart number one over the period Feb/March 1982 was “A town called Malice” by The Jam. It stayed top of the charts for three weeks, keeping “Golden Brown” by the Stranglers at number two.

The Jam was an English rock band active during the late 1970s and early 1980s from Woking in Surrey.

While they shared the "angry young men" outlook and fast tempos of their punk rock contemporaries, The Jam wore smartly tailored suits rather than ripped clothes and they incorporated a number of mainstream 1960s rock and R&B influences rather than rejecting them, placing The Jam at the forefront of the mod revival movement.

In February 1982 the big news was that Pioneering budget airline Laker Airways had collapsed owing £270 million to banks and other creditors.



All 17 Laker aircraft were ordered to return to the UK by tonight and the British Airports Authority impounded a DC10 at Gatwick to cover the company's landing and parking costs.

Stranded passengers - numbering 6,000 - had the return half of their tickets honoured by British Airways, Pan American Airways, Air Florida and British Caledonian.

Earlier in the week Sir Freddie was optimistic he had put together a £60 million rescue package for the company he established in 1966. Talks with his creditors - and the close involvement of the Bank of England - have been underway since the autumn but they broke down when new figures showed ticket sales and bookings were lower than expected.

The government had also taken a keen interest in the fortunes of Laker - Mrs Thatcher was a personal admirer of Sir Freddie - but the Department of Trade confirmed once and for all there would be no state assistance.

Freddie Laker retired to Florida, then the Bahamas - he died in Miami aged 83 in 2006.

In the South Atlantic a group of 50 Argentines landed on the British colony of South Georgia and planted their nation's flag. The group was asked to leave immediately and seek British permission to work on the island.



The event was seen as a provocative step in the on-going dispute between Britain and Argentina over the sovereignty of the islands. Argentina call the Falkland Islands the Islas Malvinas and had claimed sovereignty over them ever since the end of Spanish rule.

The previous month, talks in New York between the two countries broke down after Argentina declared it would seek other means of solving the dispute more speedily.

But Britain maintained the Falkland Islands, made up of two main islands and nearly 300 smaller ones, would not be handed to Argentina without the approval of the islanders and British Parliament.

This incident was the start of the Falklands war.

In Reach – it was a cold winter – very cold in fact. The only thing which warmed things up was a gentle disagreement between two historians in the village magazine. Both decided to remain anonymous but conducted themselves with due decorum regarding an article in the January Issue entitled An “Anglo-Saxon Joke?” Exciting stuff!

David Parr
davidmparr@btinternet.com
744081



Community Orchard Pruning Session





Hugh de Lacy



Graham Lingley





Jon and Kathryn Cane



Richard and Danuta Gibson



Marcus

Football Match New Year's Day



Come on Hector Keutgen



No come on Ben Knight



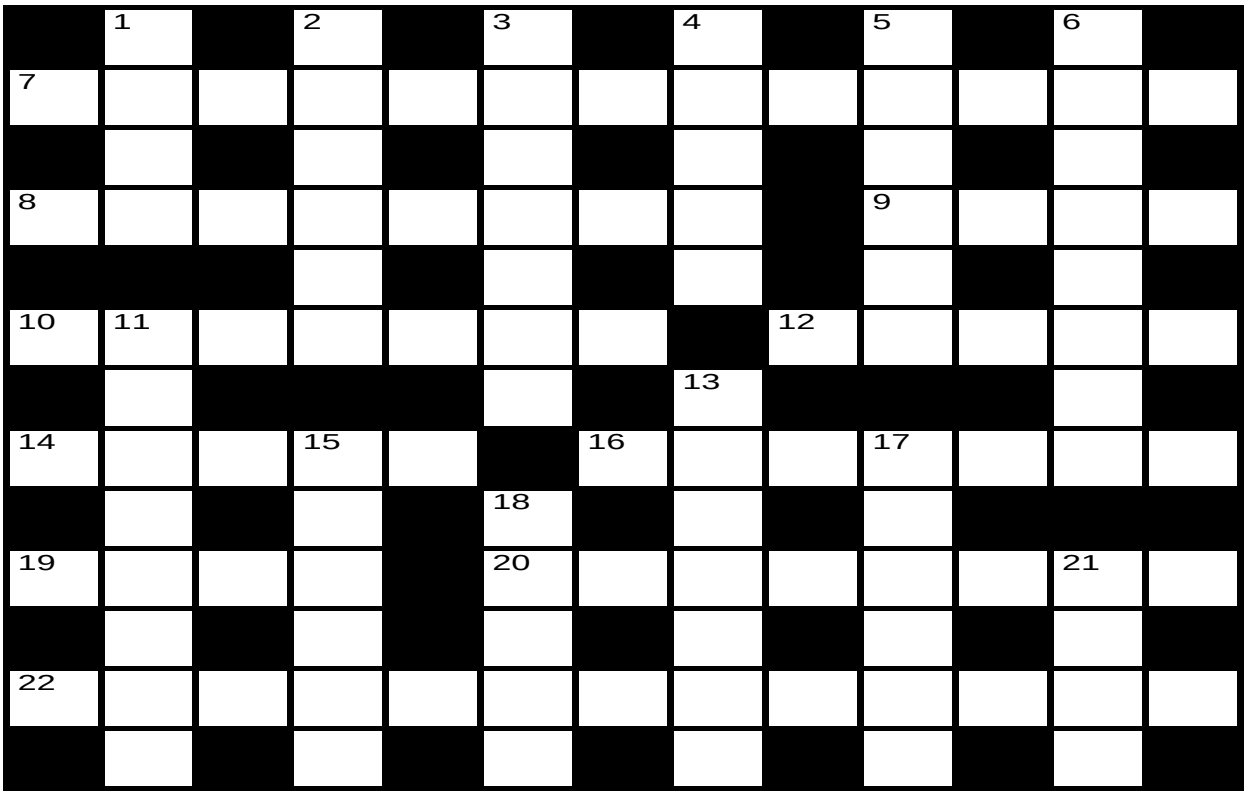
No definitely come on Bryan Pearson



Defo, defo Girl Power, Violet Keutgen



Crossword No. 29



Across

7 Play this game in a camp for POW's (13)
8 Extremely cold in cabinet (8)
9 Veer off for always (4)
10 Find one in a bottle maybe (7)
12 Employing 4d (5)
14 Sounds like metal is being nicked at least (5)
16 Do this type of shopping at local shop (7)
19 Major player in military band (4)
20 Milk is used for a lot of these (8)
22 Pictures in a book (13)

Down

1 Like the proverbial church mouse (4)
2 Slang name for prison officers (6)
3 All beginnings have them (7)
4 Common slang for illicit medication (5)
5 Talk to them re shot (6)
6 Bank controller (8)
11 Wholly and completely (8)
13 Bit by bit (7)
15 Our arm is our protection (6)
17 Don't make a drama out of it (6)
18 Sees eruptions on the skin (5)
21 You can join mine if you like (4)



The answers to the previous crossword can be found on Page 12
Please send your entry to this crossword by Friday 6 March 2015 to CROSSWORD, 16 Chapel Lane, Reach CB25 0JJ giving your name and address.

Food Focus



To start off the New Year with something nourishing and healthy I'm providing you with a recipe from the Hemsley sisters (Hemsleyandhemsley.com). The duo pride themselves on creating meals that are wholesome and nutrient-filled as well as delicious (just in case you are still trying to recover from Christmas excesses). Recipes are free of grain, gluten and refined sugar whilst encouraging the use of high-quality organic saturated fats and the bit I like is that the Hemsley girls are anti-diet, anti-deprivation and anti-guilt.

Squash, Red Lentil & Coconut Curry

This is a simple, no fuss, one pot, colourful supper and children love the sweetness from the coconut and butternut squash.

Ingredients (Serves 12)

2 medium organic butternut squash
500g organic red split lentils
1 bar Biona organic creamed coconut
6 medium organic onions
Organic baby spinach or use cabbage/seasonal greens, sliced
7 cloves organic garlic, chopped
150g fresh coriander, washed well
2 small limes or 1 and a half large lemons, juiced
2.2 - 2.5 litres chicken/beef/lamb bone broth or water
6 inches fresh ginger, grated or finely chopped
2 tsp sea salt
2 tsp or more turmeric
1 tsp black pepper
Optional ½ tsp cayenne or chilli flakes

Method

- Peel the squash and dice into 1 inch chunks
- Place the garlic, onion, ginger and squash into the pan with the creamed coconut and pour over 2.2 litres of water or homemade bone broth.
- Put the lid on and bring to a medium simmer.
- 10 minutes later, add the red lentils, black pepper, turmeric and chilli if using, stir and let simmer on medium for a further 15-20 minutes until the lentils are soft and the squash is tender. You might wish to add the extra 200ml of water during cooking – it depends if you like your stew thicker or thinner.
- In the last few minutes, add the sliced cabbage/greens and stir through. If using spinach, just add when you turn off the heat so it wilts.
- Turn off the heat, add the sea salt and pepper, the juice of the lime or lemon and check for seasoning and consistency – it should be like a thick stew – add more water if needs be.
- Stir through the roughly chopped coriander and ladle into shallow bowls to serve.



C**atherine Gibson**

PS Foody Markets & Events happening near you this month

Burwell Farmers Market (Burwell Village College) 2nd Saturday of the month (9.30- 12.30) – 14th February & 14th March.

Ely Farmers Market 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month (8.30 - 2) - 24th January, 14th & 28th February and 14th & 28th March

Burwash Manor (a series of converted barns in Barton, the other side of Cambridge) 14th & 15th February: Love Food - Burwash Food Hall festival of foodiness! 14th February - foodPark Night Market - A pop-up market featuring the BEST of Cambridge Street Food. 16th-20th February- Little Love Food. A fun-tastic week of children's cookery classes.

Swaffham Prior Primary School

Since the last magazine, we have celebrated Christmas and entered a new year. The lead up to Christmas was very enjoyable . . . .

'History off the Page' visited our school on Friday 28th November and the school was filled with Ancient Egyptians! The children carried out a range of activities including, writing hieroglyphs on papyrus, making oil from olives, mummifying clothes pegs and creating painted plaster artefacts. During the morning two of the Egyptians were accused of stealing and in the afternoon they were tried by the Pharaoh. Unfortunately, both were found guilty and thrown to the crocodiles! It was a wonderful day for all!



History off the Page Day, Alice

Decoration Day took place on Tuesday 2nd December and was followed by the FoSPS annual Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December. £540 was raised. We were joined once again by Father Christmas and there was a wide range of stalls and craft activities available. One of the stalls was set up by our School Council, who managed to raise over £50. Well done School Council! The cafe was once again, extremely popular and members of FoSPS worked flat out to provide many cups of tea and cake.

'Prickly Hay', the KS1 production, took place this week and the hall was filled with animals, cow girls and boys, angels, Wise Men, shepherds, an inn keeper, a star and Mary and Joseph. The children performed with confidence and sang beautifully a selection of jolly songs. It was fantastic!



History off the Page Day, Evie made clay beads

In the last week of term, the whole school had a magical trip to the Bury St Edmunds theatre to watch their pantomime, 'Cinderella' (- oh yes we did!!). We finished the week with a Christmas celebration at St Mary's led by Reverend Sue and Christmas lunch.



Henry during the Molly Dancing

The spring term has begun and the learning journey is continuing on. In Neptune and Saturn classes, the children are thinking about World War 1. Saturn Class has started to look at the war memorial windows which are situated in St Mary's as part of the Heritage Lottery funded project they are part of. In Mars and Mercury Classes the children have discovered some footprints, scales and burnt marshmallows.

What could have caused them? A mystery will have to be solved!



History off the Page Day, Lily wrote in hieroglyphs

There was a repeat of the successful 'Plough Wednesday' celebration on Wednesday 15th January. Children from Neptune and Saturn classes dressed up and paraded to St Cyriac's where they performed three sets of Molly Dances which were enjoyed by the rest of the school and accompanying parents.



Busy, busy, busy...

Among this highlights this term are class assemblies, a concert at West Road another 'History off the Page Day 'for Mercury and Mars Classes and a residential trip to Burwell House.

Hannah Curtis
Head teacher

THE BIG SPLASH!

Sunday 1st February 2015 at 10am

St Mary's Church, Burwell

A Celebration to Remember Baptism

followed by cake and refreshments

A special welcome if you or your child were baptised at St Mary's

Send us a photo of the baptism day

Bring your baptism candle with you, if you have one!

RSVP Eleanor 01638 741262 or vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Little Windmills

Little Windmills welcome 2015 with enthusiasm and anticipation as we welcome new staff members and children. Francesca Nesbitt has recently been appointed as Manager, bringing a wealth of Early Years experience and training with her. Francesca is supported by a passionate and dedicated team who strive to provide highly effective Early Years care and education, tailored to each child's individual needs and preferences.

We have been exploring the outdoor area so far this term, discussing how to keep ourselves warm with appropriate clothing. We have investigated ice and state changes according to temperature and shared winter stories.

We look forward to the celebration of Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, with pancakes for snack and Valentines Day.

Opening hours: 9.15-12.15, Monday-Friday.

For further information or to discuss availability please contact a member of the team. 07803 671200. manager@littlewindmills.co.uk



Minnie you've got a funny face and are sitting funny, says Evie Mitchell

Pets Corner



I love her and she loves me, says Matilda Oliver Towers



I just look intelligent and beautiful when not distracted, says Minnie Mitchell

☺ KIDS' PAGE

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

Harry Potter

Paddington

Frozen

Shrek

Ice Age

Lego Movie

Cinderella

Peter Pan

Tangled

CAN YOU GUESS THESE FILMS?









ANAGRAMS

Ropty Hartre
=
……

Khers
=
……

Dagnelt
=
……

Dipandotng
=
……

Equestrian News



Over November and December we continued to be busy with shows, with Frances getting a double clear every time she went in the ring at both British Novice and Discovery, which really is a great achievement considering she has only been competing two months in total and before that she had not long been broken. She is progressing so well she will be able to start going to some bigger shows this year.

At the start of this month I was lucky enough to get a new horse, Fleur, another just backed youngster to bring on. She is very sweet and is already showing a lot of promise, so it will be great to see how she does over the coming months. My other horse Stella is coming on great and is really starting to show improvement, so hopefully she will be ready to start competing soon.

This year fundraising for the village arena continues, with many events, such as a sponsored ride and equestrian car boot sales, planned, so be sure to come along and support this great project that will benefit so many local riders by allowing them to have somewhere to properly and safely ride.

Laura Steven

Equestrian

MARC **BEYELER**

marc.beyeler@cambridge-news.co.uk

RIDERS from King's Ely did the school proud at a showjumping event at the Jays, near Bury St Edmunds, coming away with team and individual successes.

In freezing conditions, Katie Cameron, Rachael Attwood and Freia Gould won the 80cm team event, with Cameron also winning the individual event and Attwood coming sixth.

The trio were joined by Sebastian Bishop in the 90cm class and team success again followed. Bishop claimed top honours in the individual competition where Cameron was second and Attwood fourth.

Bishop was the only King's Ely rider in the 1m class and he gained more success for the school by winning the class in fine style.

ON HOT FORM IN THE COLD: The King's Ely riders that performed during a showjumping competition at the Jays. Inset, left to right – Sebastian Bishop, Freia Gould and Katie Cameron

Extract: Newmarket Journal January 3rd 2105

Equestrian News: Katie Cameron



Katie has had a busy few months despite the time of year and the weather. She has been very fortunate that her pony of several years, Blaze, has recovered fully from tendon surgery, so she is able to compete her and her more recent pony Dude.

Recent events includes a British Show jumping Club event, where she won every class!



She competed with her school team show jumping at The Jays, where the team came first in the 80cms and 90cms, with Katie securing a win individually in the 80cms and a second place in the 90cms.

Two outings to Forest Edge Arena in Swaffham resulted in a win in the 80cms, 90cms and a second place in the 1m class. This also secured a qualification for the Dengie Area Championships for the Pony Club.

And whilst dressage is Katie's least favourite discipline, she has managed to qualify Blaze and Bob (Mum's horse) for the Dengie Area Championships too.

We struggle on through the final winter months and look forward to the lighter evenings and less wind !



Sports News

Now in his second year studying Natural Sciences at Pembroke College Cambridge, Theo Clark is proving quite a force to be reckoned with on the rowing scene. His goal this year, as captain of the college first boat, is to 'blade to headship' ... if that means nothing to you read on and you will see it is a mission that will require blood, sweat and tears!



Theo started rowing in year 11 at the Perse School and developed his skills at the Isle of Ely rowing club. But things really took off at Cambridge. Immersed in rowing from the outset (and his studies of course!) he gained a place in the college first boat in a crew that managed to move up three places in the Lent bumps and two in the May bumps.

Many of you will have watched these rowing races - and if you haven't you should they are a great spectacle - but in case you haven't here are a few facts. Both Bumps races last four days. On day one, the boats line up along the bank of the river, a boat length and a half apart (90 feet), in the order they finished the previous year. The aim is to 'row like there is no tomorrow' in order to, sometimes quite literally, bump the boat ahead before the boat behind does the same to you! If successful, on day two the boat starts up one position (or more if they manage to bump more than one boat ahead of them). If a boat bumps up four places over the four days the crew is awarded their 'blades'. The crew in first position of the first league at the end of the four days holds the title 'Head of the River'. So to 'blade to headship' will require the Pembroke boat, currently sitting 5th in the top league, to bump up at least four places.

It's an all-consuming sport: 9-10 sessions a week including 8-12 hours on the river, two sessions in the gym and two on an erg (a rowing machine). I asked why he does it to which he replied 'I ask myself the same question'. "Every stroke, especially on the erg, requires willpower". Certainly one big motivator is his desire to be as good as those in the University lightweight boat (70kg average weight) – something he would have trialled for had he not already committed time to being college boat club captain. Asked what makes a good outing things get a little technical? "when the boat is sat and we get a lot of cover". To try to translate – 'sat' means balanced – something that requires skill and co-ordination so that when the blades are not in the water all eight remain clear of the surface and the boat glides beautifully. 'Cover' is the clear water between the 'puddle' made by the bowman and where the blade of the stroke [first man in the boat] next enters the water.





'Blading to Headship' in May is certainly possible as Pembroke First boat will boast an under 23 international rower, likely to make the University's Blue Boat and one who narrowly missed out on the latter. They will have to overhaul Caius (currently head), Downing, Johns and Jesus. The crew are getting off to a serious start with a week at an international training venue for rowing in Seville where, to quote Theo, he and his crew will "row a lot of miles and eat a lot of food!". We wish him and his crew lots of luck.... If you want to watch Theo in action Lent bumps are 24th – 28th February and May bumps are 10th – 13th June. Pembroke colours on the blades are light and dark blue. More information about the watching the bumps can be found here: http://www.cucbc.org/bumps

Juliet Vickery



Katie Cameron took up running last term. In the Isle of Ely Schools Cross Country Championships she finished 6th and qualified for the Cambridgeshire Championships in January. She then ran in the Rudolph Run 3k at Addenbrooke's in December coming in first woman and beating her dad in the sprint finish.

Answers to Susie's anagrams:

Harry Potter, Paddington,

Shrek and Tangled

Answers to the "Which Movie is this?"

Frozen, the Lego Movie,

Paddington and Harry Potter

Know Your Parish Council

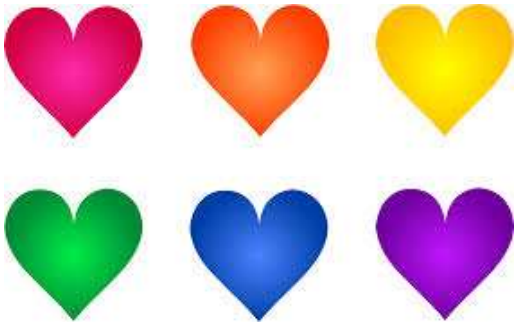
Your councillors are:

Michael Aves	Councillor	742800
Charlotte Cane	Councillor	741064
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	743725
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	741853
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	742405
David Thomas	Chairman	742676
Diana Ward	Councillor	744210

Your Clerk is **Susan Bailey**
29 Great Lane Reach CB25 0JF
Tel: 01638 743794
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 her councillor duties **Hilary Fielding** is Rights of Way Officer.



REACH

PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on: Wednesday 7th January 2015.

Attendance

Michael Aves	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Present
Charlotte Cane	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Not Present
David Thomas	Chairman	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Present

1. Declarations of Interest
Councillor Cane declared that she is a Governor of Swaffham Prior School.

2. Updating of Reach Street lighting – discussion with Balfour Beatty.
Several residents attended the meeting, to take part in this discussion.
Balfour Beatty made a short presentation with regard to their contract with CCC, to replace the street lights across the County. It was stated that Reach is not a CCC designated area for heritage style lights and will therefore have all the CCC owned street lights replaced with standard ones. Additionally the work has been brought forward and will start immediately. Councillors and residents attending the meeting were very unhappy with this.

There is a possibility that these standard lights can be painted black and have Windsor tops put on to look similar to Heritage style lamps, however they are approx. 1m taller. PC will need to pay the additional cost of the tops.

There are 4 heritage style lamps belonging to CCC which will be replaced as standard, Councillor Clark requested that these be transferred to PC ownership allowing them to remain as they are.

Councillor Cane proposed that BB should not carry out the work as Reach had not been given enough time to discuss the matter and that CCC should be asked to stop BB from carrying out the work. BB are to supply the costs of the conversion to lights with Windsor tops and details of the additional running costs. This proposal was carried unanimously. ***Councillor Brown*** to contact CCC, tonight, to ask for the work not to go ahead.

Councillor Clark to chair a group of residents and councillors, to gather the facts and figures, for the options, for Reach street lighting. And to discuss with both BB and CCC. These will then be discussed by the PC.

3. Forum for Members of the Public
Residents attended to discuss a Village Centre project, to provide utility services, water & electricity, on the village green. Following a presentation and discussion, Councillor Fielding proposed that village residents should be consulted on this project. David Parr to put full details on the website, and the proposal will be discussed again at the next meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting
The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were signed as correct.

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee
A meeting had been held. The committee has agreed to match donations up to £500 if villagers hold a charity event. ***Councillor Clark*** to report this in Within Reach magazine. The committee had also approved the payment for the memorial bench.

5 (2) County Councillor's Report
Full Council in December debated and agreed 2 motions: the first in support of greater involvement in District Council local plans and the second to look again at how community transport can be improved, including dial-a-ride services. Council agreed governance arrangements for the City Deal and also agreed a motion of censure against a Councillor for failing to comply with the ruling of a hearings committee.
The Children and Young People Committee also met to consider a number of issues. Progress towards recommending a balanced budget in January was agreed, as was an Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy. Proposals for a policy for financial contributions for Looked after Children were deferred for further information.

I met with the manager of the Bottisham, Burwell and Soham Locality Team to discuss proposals for the future of early help services as part of the savings requirements and also had meetings with individual directors in Children, Families and Adults.

I had the pleasure of attending the Cambridgeshire Schools Carol Concert in Kings' College Chapel.

5 (3) District Councillor's Report
All salt bins in the area are mostly full, residents are able to scatter the mixture from these bins as they see fit.

The unauthorised travellers' encampment in Swaffham Bulbeck has been vacated, the site still needs some items clearing, and I have contacted the district council asking for a final clear up.

Plans have been lodged for a cinema, 4 restaurants and a driver thru at the new leisure village on land off the A10 at Downham Road. There would also be a new underpass for cyclists and pedestrians.

5 (4) Financial Report
The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.

5 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings
There were no meetings this month.

5 (6) Play Spaces
The repair work has been completed. ***Councillor Thomas*** to check on the football nets following a Muntjac incident.

5 (7) Rights of Way
The pathways in Reach Wood have been cut by the Woodland Trust. This has made walking much easier but the Blackthorn has not been dealt with.

5 (8) Village Centre
The next meeting will be 21st January, ***Clerk*** to ask for draft minutes so they can be discussed at the next meeting.

5 (9) 24Acres Committee Report
An application for a grant has been made to the Woodland Trust for hedging along the front boundary. Councillor Fielding is having continuing discussions with a neighbouring landowner with regard to putting in a culvert. The committee and the NT are to arrange a meeting to discuss the plans for the coming year.

A black Poplar tree is to be placed in the 24Acres alongside the proposed memorial bench for Councillor Rita Dunnett.

6. The Cemetery
Clerk awaiting a third quote for the fencing work. Decision deferred to the next meeting.

7. Reach Wood Meadow
The Woodland Trust has offered the PC the chance to take over the management of Reach wood and meadow. The PC is unable to provide the necessary money and expertise to do this, but would like a Reach group to be put together to assist the WT with the management and to put Reach views forward. ***Councillor Ward*** to reply to the WT. ***Clerk*** to put a notice in Within Reach asking for interested people to come forward to form a support group to be "friend of Reach wood" to assist the WT with the management.

8. Planning Applications
There were none.

9. Information Items/AOB
A resident had complained about the lack and quality of the mowing of the village green and the quality of the grass. The situation will be monitored and discussed when the mowing contact is renewed.

A discussion took place regarding the PC supporting the Swaffham Prior School's extension to go on the District Council's Regulation 123 list for funding from CIL money. This proposal was accepted, ***Clerk*** to complete the form and submit.

Councillor Dunnett's family had asked if the memorial plaque could include a reference to who donated it, this was approved. ***Clerk*** to arrange.

10. Payments

Fenland Leisure	£ 407.70
Simpsons Nurseries- Christmas tree	£ 60.00
Susan Bailey – Clerk salary	£ 607.92
Susan Bailey – 24Acres signs	£ 8.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4th February 2015 at 7.30pm. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday and can be accessed from the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).

Chairman: Date:

Letter from the Vicarage



The repair work on the church is progressing well (see Pat's report) and in the next few weeks we will be reviewing the architect's inspection report. We'll then be at a point where we can start to look at how we might use some of the very generous legacy from Maisie Whitehead to refurbish and develop the building. Some of you have already responded to our questionnaire, but we'd like to hear from as many as possible, especially about how you think the church building could be a resource to the community. We have also booked a date for a celebration to commemorate Maisie's life and her generosity – Sunday 5th July at 3.30pm. The plan is to have a service of evensong and then tea. I'd like to see if we could recruit a choir from the village to sing at the service. Anyone interested please let me know! More details to follow.

We have two special services coming up at St Mary's: THE BIG SPLASH! on Sunday 1st February 2015 at 10am - A Celebration to Remember Baptism, followed by cake and refreshments. A special welcome to you if you or your child were baptised at St Mary's or St Etheldreda's. RSVP to Eleanor.

And on Sunday 15th March is our Mothering Sunday Thanksgiving Service at 10am, where posies of flowers will be given out. All are welcome. Please do get in touch if you would like more information about these or any of our events or services, or if you are interested in finding out more about baptism or confirmation.

Revd Dr Eleanor Williams, Vicar of Burwell with Reach
01638 741262 or vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk.

PS Advance notice - each year at Easter we have a display of lilies in church in memory of loved ones. Contact us for more details of how to include a name on the list.

There are 2 pews for disposal. They are all the same and match the pews in the rest of the church.

The dimensions of the pews for disposal are:

Length 196cm, height to seat 44 cm, height from seat to top of back 45 cm, depth of seat, 38 cm, depth of prayer book extension 10cm.

Church News

CentrePeace (CP@R) at Reach Dates 2015

We'll continue to be in Reach church on the second Wednesday of every month from 2pm – 4pm, serving free tea and coffee, with home-made cake. Also, of course, we have our selection of good quality second hand books, greeting cards and crafts. All are welcome to drop in to browse and meet friends for a chat!

We'd also be interested to hear from anyone who would like to help with the setting up and clearing away for CP@R, either regularly or occasionally. Speak to Pam King or Pat Chalmers if you can help.

Church Building Update

You'll probably have noticed the new handrail on the front of the church, which is much appreciated by those who find negotiating the steps a bit difficult. The builders have now paused in their stonework repairs because of the risk of frosts and will resume in the Spring. Meanwhile, the latest Quinquennial report by the architect has inevitably revealed more repairs that are needed, both inside the church and outside. Over the coming months, we'll be working with the architect to work out a programme for carrying out these essential repairs. We'll also be continuing our consultation process in the village to decide on the most important modifications to the building, to see whether it is appropriate to incorporate any into the repairs programme. An example might be that, if everyone felt it was important to install a water supply or better heating, it would make sense before the internal walls were repainted. Look out for more information!

Pews for Sale

Meanwhile, the builders have arrived in Burwell church to start the major project there to install toilets and kitchen in the tower. As part of this, it has been necessary to remove several small sections of pew. Some of them have already found new homes in the gardens and hallways of Burwell, but two are still available. Any reasonable donation accepted! For more information, please contact Pat Chalmers pat@patchtcs.co.uk.



Christmas Carols





Church Services at Burwell and Reach

	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Sunday February 1st Presentation in the Temple	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 All Age Service 'The Big Splash' A Celebration to Remember Baptism, followed by cake and refreshments	
Wednesday 4th	10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 5th	10.00 Little Bears	
Friday 6th		7.45am Morning Prayer
Sunday 8th 2nd before Lent	10.00am Parish Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday @ 7
Wednesday 11th	10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Friday 13th		7.45am Morning Prayer
Sunday 15th Sunday before Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am Parish Communion	
Wednesday 18th Ash Wednesday	10.30am Holy Communion with ashing at Ness Court	
Friday 20th		7.45am Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd 1st Sunday of Lent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Parish Communion 4.00pm Messy Church	
Wednesday 25th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Friday 27th		7.45am Morning Prayer
Sunday March 1st 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service with baptism	
Wednesday 4th	10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 5th	10.00 Little Bears	
Friday 6th		7.45am Morning Prayer
Sunday 8th 3rd Sunday of Lent	10.00 Parish Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday @ 7
Wednesday 11th	10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Friday 13th		7.45am Morning Prayer
Sunday 15th 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00 am Thanksgiving Service for Mothering Sunday	
Wednesday 18th	10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Friday 20th		7.45am Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd 5th Sunday of Lent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00 Parish Communion	
Wednesday 25th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Friday 27th		7.45am Morning Prayer
Sunday 29th Palm Sunday		10.00am Parish Communion

Bus Timetable

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

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

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

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

Newmarket – Burwell – Reach – Bottisham – Cambridge																
Service No:	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		10	10	10	10
	M-F	**M-F**	**Sat**	**M-F**	**Sat**							**Sat**	**M-F**			
Newmarket (Guineas Station)				0704	0719	0814	0914	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1424	1514	1614	1714
Burwell (Manchetts Ness Road)	0628	0658	0713	0728	0743	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1448	1538	1638	1738
Reach	0639	0709	0724			0849		1049		1249		1449	1459	1549	1649	1749
Swaffham Prior	0644	0714	0729	0741	0756	0854	0951	1054	1151	1254	1351	1454	1504	1554	1654	1754
Cambridge (Drummer Street)	0727	0807	0812	0837	0842	0937	1037	1137	1237	1337	1437	1537	1547	1637	1737	1837

Cambridge – Bottisham – Reach – Burwell – Newmarket																
Service No:	10	10A	10	10	10A	10	10	10	10	10	10		10	10	10	10
				M-F	**NMD**											
Cambridge (Drummer Street)				0655	0755	0825	0925	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1635	1735	1845
Swaffham Prior				0729	0829	0902	0959	1102	1159	1302	1359	1502	1559	1712	1809	1919
Reach				0735	0835		1005		1205		1405		1605		1815	1925
Burwell (Hawthorn Way)				0742	0842	0912	1012	1112	1212	1312	1412	1512	1612	1722	1822	1932
Newmarket (Guineas Station)				0810	0910	0940	1040	1140	1240	1340	1440	1540	1640	1800		

M-F - these buses run on Monday to Friday only
NMD - this bus calls at Noel Murless Drive at 0905
Sat - these buses run on Saturday only

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

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

Diary Dates: February 2015

February 2015	Event	Location	Time
Sun 1	The Big Splash. A Celebration to Remember Baptism	St Mary's Church, Burwell	10am
Wed 4 – Sat 28	Ecclesiastical Embroidery Exhibition	Ely Cathedral	
Wed 4	Author: Tessa Dunlop	The Old Bishop's Palace, Palace Green, Ely CB7 4EW	7.10 for 7.30pm
Wed 4	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 5	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thurs 5	Community Solar Farm – Share Offer Launch Announced	Village Centre	7.30pm
Wed 11	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Thurs 12	Recycling Day (Green)		
Sat 14	Valentine's Day		
Sat 14	Burwell Farmers Market	Burwell Village College	9.30 – 12.30
Sat 14	Sparkling Valentine's Concert	Ely Cathedral	
Sat 14 - 18	Impington Village College 54th Annual Art Exhibition	Impington Village College	
Tues 17	Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day	Village Centre	5.30pm
Tues 17	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.15pm to 12.50pm
Tues 17	Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club: Sports Photography	Lode Chapel CB25 9EW	7.30 – 9.30pm
Tues 17	Talk: Village Gardeners: Wimpole Garden Vision	Swaffham Prior Village Hall	8.00pm
Wed 18	Authors: Paula Hawkins and Peter Swanson	Ely Library, 6 The Cloisters, Ely CB7 4ZH	7.10 for 7.30pm
Wed 18	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 19	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thurs 26	Recycling Day (Green)		
Sat 28	Hedge Planting	24Acres	9.00am
Sat 28	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30 – 2.00pm

Diary Dates: March 2015

March 2015	Event	Location	Time
Saturday	Recycling Day (Green)		
Wed 4	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 5	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Mon 9	Author: Kazuo Ishiguro	The Octagon, Ely, CB7 4DL	6.45 – 7.30pm
Wed 11	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Sat 14	Farmers Market	Burwell Village College	9.30 – 12.30
Sat 14	Hugh Spring Jumble Sale	Fassage, Lode	2.00 – 4.00pm – see page 11
Sun 15	Mothering Sunday	St Mary's, Burwell	10.00am
Tues 17	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Tues 17	Talk: Village Gardeners: Gardeners Joy	Swaffham Prior Village Hall	8.00pm
Wed 18	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 12	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thurs 19	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thurs 26	Recycling Day (Green)		
Sat 28	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30 – 2.00pm
Sat 28	Organs and Bygones	Little Downham Village Centre	
Sat 28	The Cantilena Singers	Church of St Cyriac and St Julitta, Swaffham Prior	7.30pm – see page 6

Wednesdays 7.30pm onwards **Bell ringing at Swaffham Bulbeck** – new recruits are welcome

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

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

Club Contact Information

Club	Contact	Tel
Brownies (Burwell)	Heather Dean	615521
Carpet Bowls (Swaffham Prior)	David Folkes	745551
Cubs (Swaffham Prior)	Steve White	743555
Cricket (Reach)	Ross Clark	743725
Gardeners (Village, Swaffham Prior)	Margaret Joyce	744390
Mothers Union (Burwell)	Susan Baker	741791
Scouts (Swaffham Prior)	Steve White	743555
Tennis (Reach)	Philip Lewis	742115
Youth Club (Swaffham Prior)	Alan Badcock	742228

Contact Information

Parish Council			
	Councillor	Michael Aves	742800
	Councillor	Charlotte Cane	741064
	Vice Chairman	Ross Clark	743725
	Councillor	Hilary Fielding	741853
	Councillor	Joyce Harrison	742405
	Chairman	David Thomas	742676
	Councillor	Diana Ward	744210
	Clerk	Susan Bailey	743794
	Rights of Way Officer	Hilary Fielding	741853
	County Councillor	David Brown	743283
	District Councillor	Allen Alderson	741744
Village Centre			
	Chairman	Grahame Radford	742814
	Finance	Hugh de Lacy	
	Bookings	Grahame Radford	742814
	Marquee Bookings	Andrew Hall	743737
Amenity Fund Committee			
	Chairman	Ross Clark	743725
	Committee Member	Claire Halpin-McDonald	743330
	Committee Member	John Holmwood	742969
	Committee Member	Andrew Towers	742484
	Committee Member	Diana Ward	744210
Burwell and Reach Car Scheme			01638 742543
Church			
	Vicar	Eleanor Williams	741262
	Reader in Training	Frances Leadon	741770
	Priest in Retirement	Reverend David King	742924
	Parochial Church Council Member	Pam King	742924
	Churchwarden at Burwell/Reach	Simon Rogers	741205
	Churchwarden at Burwell/Reach	Stephen Walton	744214
Emergencies			
	Electricity (Eastern Electric)		0800 783 8838
	Police (Emergency)		999
	Police (Non-emergency)		101
	Water (Anglian Water)		08457 145145
Doctors, Burwell			
	Appointments and Emergencies		741234
	Enquiries		743602
	Community Nurses		742382
	Surgery Hours	Mon 8.30am to 6.00pm with extended hours on a Monday please phone the surgery for details	





Rev Eleanor Williams gave a blessing



Spooky



Christmas carols on the green led by Hilary Fielding



The Christmas tree was much enjoyed



The children loved the carols especially Little Donkey



Percy just couldn't stand and watch



Dancing!



Dan Knight (left) and Archie Fordham (right)



Ben Knight not afraid of a challenge



Tim Davies (centre) had a good game