Within Reach



Dec 2015/Jan 2016



Brown Shield Bug (Wicken Fen)



Long Horned Beetle (Wicken Fen)



Chaffinch (Wicken Fen)



Collared Dove (Wicken Fen). Wildlife photos: Alison Lewis



Moorhen (Wicken Fen)



Contents

Title	Author	Page
24Acres: Featured Fruits from the 24Acres Community Orchard	David Thomas	18
24Acres: Riding Arena		6
Amenity Fund		35
Articles		
A&E		14
Apple Day	David Thomas	20
Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club	Barry Coles	12
Burwell Museum Coach Trips		12
Burwell and Reach Car Scheme		15
Bottisham Village College Adult and Community Learning		11
Cambridge Fire and Rescue Service		14
Cambridge Vocal Consort		15
Christmas Fayre		38
Christmas Food & Gift Fair		29
Cruse Bereavement Care		15
Electricity on the Green		11
Festival of Walking Week		28
Gentle Reminder to Motorists	Hilary Fielding	23
Joyce Harrison: An Appreciation		4
Lunchbreak Cafe		12
Meeting Ron and Susan Dunnett		30
National Storytelling Week		27
Nativity Sets Display		24
One Hundred Club		23
Reach Village Centre Committee: Update	Grahame Radford	12
Remembrance Sunday		3
St Etheldreda's Reach Nativity Carol Service		19
St Mary's Burwell Christingle Service		38
The Cantilena Singers		38
Village Ink Tattoo		8
Wine Tasting		28
Winter at Burwell Museum		13
Bus Timetable		45
Church		
Church News	Pat Chalmers	43
Church Services		44
Letter From the Vicarage	Eleanor Williams	43

Title	Author	Page
Contact Information		48
Cookery: Food Focus	Catherine Gibson	34
Crossword		
Crossword Solutions		38
Days Gone By	David Parr	33
Dear Ross	Ross Clark	35
Diary Dates		46
Editor's Notes		2
Events Team	David Parr	10
Kids Page		39
Parish Council		
Draft Minutes		41
Know Your Parish Council		15
Pets Corner		40
Plants and Planting		
The Urge/Surge/Splurge at Christmas!	Juliet Day	24
Tales from a Reach Garden	Danuta Gibson	22
Snakehall Farm	Maz Baker	26
Sport and Recreation		
Cricket	Ross Clark	40
Our Tennis Court		40
Swaffham Prior Primary School	Hannah Curtis	36
Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey News	Howard Cooper	25
Wildlife		
Out and About	Joss Goodchild	16

Wine Tasting

7.30pm Friday 4th December

Village Centre

Booking Essential

Contact Hugh de Lacy

From the Editor



The theme of this Editorial seems to be `thank you'. We thank Joyce Harrison for her significant contributions as a Parish Councillor, member of the Village Centre and most important phenomenal cake maker. If the cakes Joyce has baked could be laid end to end they would circle Reach several times over.

The 24Acres now has a riding arena and we hope this facility will be further extended in the future. Our big thanks to Liz Tabecki, Hilary Fielding and Sadie.

If praise is being dished out I must mention David Parr whose latest contribution to the village is raise the funds and have installed, electricity on the green. The latter was a bit messy for a while and I'm surprised it takes so many men to dig a hole but, Well Done!

We meet Ron and Susan Dunnett in this issue. More thank you's as we acknowledge their contributions to the village. I say that collecting for the Reach Fair Bottle Stall is the `worst job in the world' but I'm always pleased to knock on the Dunnett's door because they have the bottles lined up waiting for my call. Ron also ran the Reach Fair Football Game and raised loads of dosh.

David Thomas organised our first Apple Day. The weather was very kind and the event was a great success. The variety of `apple things' going on was impressive and without a doubt this will be a regular annual event.

Talking to Susan Dunnett she said how much she enjoys reading Joss's article and they certainly go from strength to strength. As the year turns we thank all those who have contributed to the success of the magazine – awesome!

I dared to step into the parlour of Village Ink Tattoos in Exning and was very much surprised and impressed. The premises are light and airy with stylish design and would put many beauty salons to shame. If you've toyed with the idea of a tattoo I think you would be very pleased to consult with Kevin French the owner.

Pets Corner has four dogs – brilliant.

Read this magazine carefully and learn whose looking forward to receiving socks for Christmas

Claire Halpin-McDonald

Cover photographs: Hugh de Lacy and Ali Lewis

About the Magazine

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 January 2016. This magazine is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

Editorial Team

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



Remembrance Sunday







Joyce Harrison: An Appreciation





Without a doubt Joyce enjoyed her day!

On behalf of the whole Parish Council: When we heard at the start of the year that Joyce would not be standing for the Parish Council in May it felt like the end of an era. Joyce had given decades of service to Reach; she knew the village well; she knew the residents well and understood their concerns. We miss her contributions to our discussions. So Joyce, thank you for all your work for the Parish Council in particular and for the whole village.

Charlotte Cane, Chair, Parish Council



Charlotte Cane



I first met Joyce when restoration work was being carried out on Delver House. I came to live there in 1974, having moved from Cambridge (where I was born). I particularly recall going to discos in the Village Centre, which were among the fund-raising activities for which Joyce and Anita (Folkes) were the main organisers. The word "indefatigable" comes to mind when I think about Joyce. Her contribution to every aspect of village life has been enormous. More recently, it was pleasant to walk round to the church on a Centre Peace afternoon, to sit and chat, with Joyce and other friends. **Janet Collins**



Lanes of Burwell prepared the buffet



Thank you to everyone who made cakes

I remember Joyce organising things, from being asked if we could donate some prizes for a draw in 1960, to the present day. Joyce was part of the group who renovated the Village Centre when it was no longer a school and has been the innovator of many functions, for example, Harvest Suppers, MacMillan Coffee Mornings, Reach Fair Tea Tent, Jumble Sales, Whist Drives and children's parties. She has made numerous cakes. She has been a member of the Parish Council from 1977 and seen eight different Chairmen and twelve Clerks. **John Robinson**



John Robinson amused that Joyce didn't find out about her surprise Tea Party



Tolly's of Newmarket prepared the flowers

On behalf of the Village Centre Committee

Joyce has been a stalwart member of the Committee for many years and during my time she has always stood out as the organiser of the Tea tent for reach fair. This is a massive undertaking which Joyce handled with her usual flair. Gathering around her a loyal band of helpers she always managed to achieve the impossible – keeping everyone happy and still making lots of money.

We wanted to arrange something to thank Joyce for all her years of dedication to the Committee. We have erected a plaque which states that a room within the Centre is hereafter known as "The Joyce Harrison Room". On behalf of the Reach Village Centre Committee Joyce, thank you.

Grahame Radford, Chair, Village Centre

24Acres Riding Arena



The meadow on the 24Acres which has been allocated to the local equestrian community has at last been fenced.

A small group of volunteers gathered on Sunday 25th October and worked throughout the day to erect the post and electric rope fence which will serve as a temporary measure while funds are raised to replace it with a permanent post and "two rail" fence – hopefully in the not too distant future.



Rachel, Hilary and Sadie: getting started

After a short(ish) delay in the morning, involving the reluctance of Jason King's post rammer to be attached to the back of John Cole's tractor, the post ramming process finally got underway. The rammer, operated by the men of course, was closely followed by a team of ladies with tape measure, bradawls, insulators (eyelets for electric rope) and electric rope. After a short break in the middle of the day for scrummy bacon rolls and chocolate bars, the work was finally completed during the afternoon.



Hilary and Rachel: getting technical



Shaun Mayes: good on the hammer

The Acre is now available to use by horse riders who wish to ride in a safe enclosed area. Access to the Arena is by the main gate to the 24Acres and by following the track for a short way down the side of the orchard. Horse riders are reminded NOT to stray off the track and to avoid riding in the orchard, in the wood and **on** or **around** the cricket pitch (it is hoped that a "through" track on to Burwell Fen will be available in due course). During next year, it is planned to include a few small Cross Country style jumps and to mark out a dressage arena for schooling or lessons.

Extreme care should be taken on the Burwell Road when approaching and especially when leaving the 24Acres.



Lorna, Jodie, Jane, Shaun and Jason: Hard at it

The project is now under way, with grateful thanks to the following for making it happen:

- John Reed for cutting the grass
- Claire and Tom Halpin-McDonald for the loan of the fencing
- John Cole for the loan of his tractor
- Jason King for the loan of the post rammer and for his ramming expertise on the day
- Shaun Mayes for his ramming assistance on the day
- Lorna Steven for the bacon rolls and the choccies, as well as for her expert measuring and marking skills
- And the Team of ladies: Sadie, Hilary, Jane, Claire and Jodie.



The Fence Building Gang!



Jason King enjoying a bacon roll

The Reach Riders Group would also like to take this opportunity to extend their gratitude to Manchetts of Burwell for their kind sponsorship of the Rosettes for the Burwell Ride. The Group is also grateful to the Reach Amenity fund for their generous donation towards the project.

If anyone has any queries or comments, please contact Hilary Fielding or Sadie King.

Hilary Fielding



Jodie on Tom Tom: First ride

Village Ink Tattoo



My name is Kevin French and I've been a tattooist since 1998. I've always been artistically minded. I was getting a tattoo done and when I asked, I was told it was difficult. Being obstinate, I decided to have a go and loved it. I'm self-taught. There are no college courses in this industry. Typically one follows an apprenticeship or is self-taught. I am registered with Environmental Health which is a legal requirement.

I had premises in Burwell and was looking for new premises, preferably a village rather than a town as I've always been more comfortable in villages. People are very friendly and accepting in villages. For me towns have a lack of civility.

My clients range from 35 - 45 years. Women are more common than men at present with 20% more of my clients being women.

Tattoos vary and depend on what celebrities have had done; they are a great influence. When Cheryl Cole had her hand done I had a deluge of females wanting the same. Similarly when David Beckham had his cross it was equally popular.

What people get tattooed is extremely broad. It may be a genuine piece with meaning. I get a lot of memorial pieces reflecting the loss of someone or pets (typically dogs and horses). A client will bring in a photograph and I will copy it, like this King Charles spaniel I am doing at present.

I may get an 18 year old in who wants a large piece done on his hand but I will refuse to do it. They have to be older. An older person is wiser and knows what society will think. I do turn people away if they want something inappropriate or are too young. You have to be 18 years or older to get a tattoo. You cannot be younger even with parental consent. Sometimes things are offensive and I will not do it.



I have lots of regular clients that I have been working with for years. They may start with something small, extend it to a full sleeve on one arm, then match it on the other arm and then have a back piece. Sometimes I will do several generations from the same family; a retired person, their son and daughter-in-law and their son.

Tattoos may change over time and it depends on the style. Biblical and Japanese pieces are never in the height of fashion. Tribal pieces can be in vogue one year and not the next.



Tattooing is ancient. I watched a documentary when they found a tattooed body over 5000 years old in a retreating glacier. The Japanese have been tattooing for over 2000 years. It has exploded in this country over the last 10 years and has become mainstream; 45-50% people in this country now have a tattoo.

There are many more designs. Twenty years ago there were flashes on walls and that was your choice. Nowadays a much larger percentage of tattoos are bespoke, specifically drawn for the client. Pigments now are finer and the quality of needles is better; this permits finer pieces or work compared to years gone by. Similarly the colour range of inks has changed dramatically and I can mix colours to create shades. Previously the colour range consisted of red, black, green, white and possibly yellow - and that was it! Now I have blacks, four greys and white and can mix these colours. There are some luminous colours available but these can be insipid and can fade with age. Needles, tubes, grips are all sterilised and used just once and then disposed of to prevent infection and cross contamination.

Yes - tattooing hurts though it does depend on the area of the body. Hands, feet and joints are then most painful. Muscular area - arms and legs - are less so.

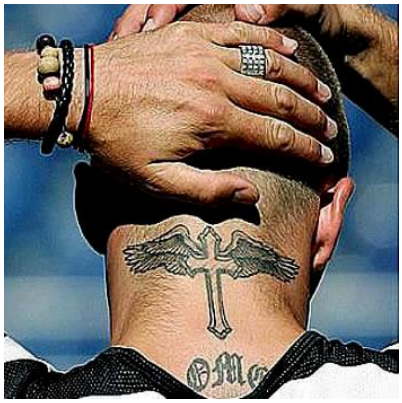


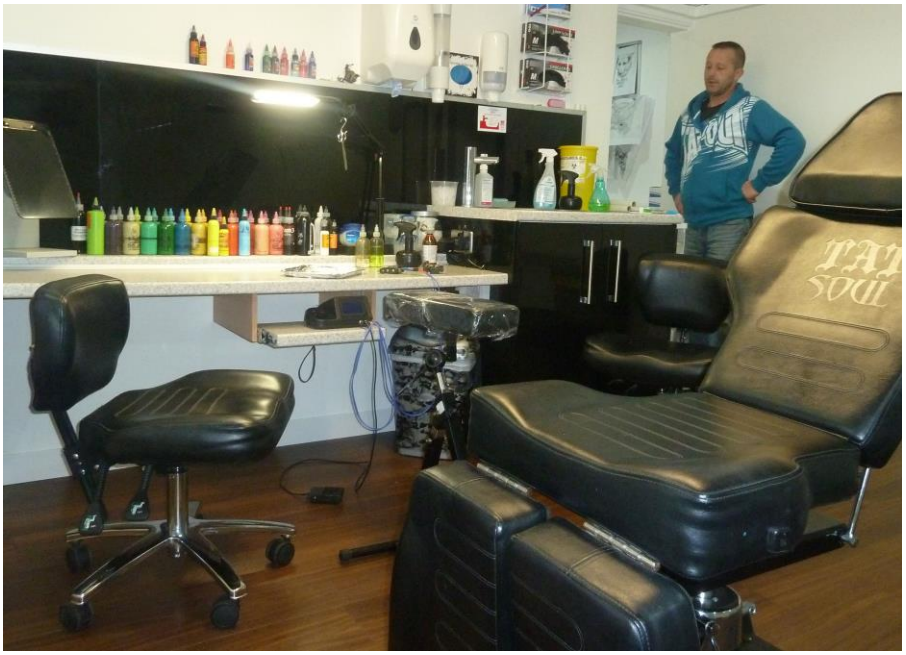
Having a tattoo is like having a case of bad sunburn. Some people pass out, faint or are sick. But you don't know how you will re-act until you try. Most people are OK. Large works require numerous sittings. The length of settings depends on the person: 20 minutes, 40 minutes or three hours.

A tattoo is not reversible. Or at least it can be reversed by laser but is a very expensive and very painful process. When doing a tattoo the needle will move in and out of the skin 120 times a second. It's all done mechanically these days but in the past for example the Japanese used fish and bird bones.

These premises are very smart - that took a great deal of hard work to achieve, The building is 200 years old and I had lengthy discussions with the planners who were keen to avoid structural changes. The premises are light and airy and I was keen to achieve this effect. They are comfortable and are in-keeping with the modern professional service I deliver.

When I proposed the service local people were a bit reserved at first and expressed concerns and fears because of what had been done to the place but now they pop in and take a look, and find it to be in-keeping with the village. For some people it's been illuminating. They have pre-conceived ideas that tattoo studios cater for bikers, punks, skinheads and people of ill repute. I have a large range of clients including policemen, consultants, nurses and a retired barrister. My clients range from 18 - 79 years. The latter is a lady who came in and had her first ever tattoo. Society is changing and is more accepting.





I would like it if people read this article and visited my premises, and from that their perception of tattooing change. That would be a good thing.

Well I am a convert. The premises certainly have the wow factor with their light modern appearance, sanded floors, leather sofas and orchids. Ed.

Events Team



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

Joyce's event was a real success and in a small way, the Events Team (notably Claire Halpin-McDonald) was able to help with the arrangements – which is what we like to do.

The main event that followed this was the lighting up of our 2015 Christmas tree which took place during appalling weather! But the turnout was excellent and the tree looks fine and will be lit from 3pm until midnight during December.

The highlight of the event, however, was the snow machines which were so generously provided by Manchetts. Kids and grownups alike loved the "snow" – it made everything so much more festive.



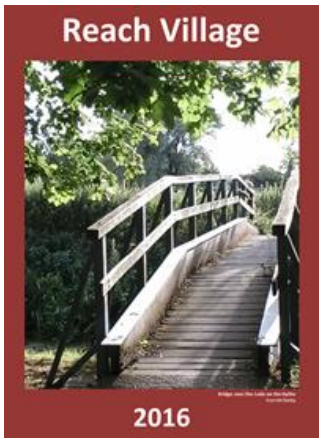
The mulled wine was outstanding – created by Cliff Coulson who will be doing the same for our next event, the carol singing, but we will have to increase the supply!

We ran out of mince pies too – a third of which were baked for us by Joyce – and Rhys's chestnuts were very well received.

And we were all able to shelter from the weather under the tents - which were put up and taken down by the "Tents Team". Unsung heros were Janet and Andrew Hall and Sue and Tony Jordan – many thanks go to you - and to the Village Centre who are always happy to loan us any items we need.

And this year we had electricity provided on our Village Green which is a major step forward. The vast majority of the funding was provided by ECDC with a further £650 coming from the Village Centre and Manchetts. Grateful thanks go to Ray Bateman, Keith Lambert, Sean Manchett, Dan Mules and John Reed who made it all happen.

Our 2016 has been well received – we had over 20 contributors and 11 of them got at least one picture in there. Thanks go to you all and we look forward to more pictures being taken during 2016 for inclusion in our 2017 calendar. As you should be aware, profits from the sale of the calendar are used to pay for our village events.



Finally – don't forget our next event which is carol singing around the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve from 6-7pm

Again we will be having mulled wine and mince pies - and fun!

David Parr
744081 or reacheventsteam@btinternet.com

Electricity on the Green





Bottisham Village College Adult and Community Learning

Start 2016 by learning something different and meeting new friends

NEW Evening Courses commencing in January include:

Felt Making for Beginners – 12 January
Improve your Drawing Skills – 12 January
Introduction to Counselling – 12 January
Assertiveness – 12 January (daytime)
Calligraphy – 13 January (daytime)
Flavours of India – 14 January
The Golden Age of European Art – 21 January

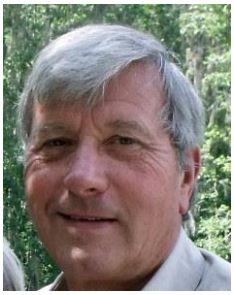
Counselling Skills Plus – 22 February

Saturday Workshops on 6 February include:

Computing: Learn the Basics
Indian Vegetarian Delights
Make an A-Line Skirt in a Day
Wedding Flowers
Willow Weaving – Make a Round Willow Basket
Cook with Your Kids (parent plus child)
Workshops run from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

To enrol, see our website:
www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning
or contact the Community Office
01223 811372
adultlearning@bottishamvc.org
Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning
Twitter: @CommunityEdBott

Reach Village Centre Committee Update



I thought I would update you with some latest news regarding the Village Centre.

As you may be aware we lost Little Windmills pre-school playgroup in July which was a blow both to the parents whose children attended and also to the income of the Centre. However, I can report that we are currently in discussions with someone who is keen to start a new playgroup at the Centre. It is a very complicated process and we do not expect things to happen overnight but we are hopeful of being able to announce a start date in the spring.

We have been in discussions with Veolia to have re-cycling available for next year's Fair. They are keen to work with us to achieve this and it will mean a great deal to the committee if we can come to an agreement. As you can imagine, there is a lot of waste from the Fair which up to now has mostly gone into landfill so to be able to re-cycle will be a win-win situation. We will keep you updated.

By the time you read this Joyce Harrison will have had her "surprise" party and on behalf of the Committee I would like to thank her for her many, many years as a valuable committee member and wish her all the best for the future.

We are still looking for volunteers to assist us on the Committee. With the loss a third of the committee next year's Fair could be in jeopardy unless we can get some more help as the existing members are already committed with their own responsibilities. We have a separate sub-committee for the Fair and any additional help would be appreciated. Please contact myself or another Committee member for details on how you could assist.

And finally, on behalf of the Committee, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2016.

Grahame Radford
Chairman
Reach Village Centre Committee

Burwell Museum Coach Trips

Wickstead Park Christmas Show and Dinner and Tea
December 3rd £39.00

Tickets only from Tina's - for information ring 741581

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

Our programme for the year can be viewed on our website, see below.

The club welcomes guests to any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel **CB25 9EW** from 7:30 – 9:30pm. Fee £3.00 including refreshments, refunded on joining.

Annual subscriptions: Adult: £40.00, Joint Membership: £67.00, Student: £21.00. Refreshments 50p.

For further details contact:
Hon. Secretary.
Mrs Daphne Hanson DPAGB APAGB
T: 01638 741106
www.bottburpc.org

Barry Coles
Publicity Officer



Do you need a break in your busy day?

Why not drop in to

LUNCHBREAK CAFE

At St Mary's Church, Burwell

On the 4th Wednesday of every month

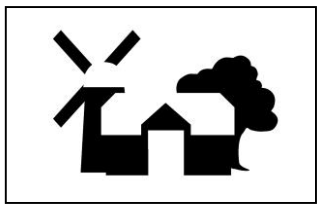
December 23rd and January 27th

Open from 12.00noon till 2.00pm

Whether you work in Burwell or Reach, or your days are filled with the type of work that's unpaid, you may feel in need of an oasis of calm in your busy day. We serve light lunches in the beautiful and tranquil setting of St Mary's, so come along for a break, meet some friends and return to your work refreshed. Children's Corner with books and colouring available.

For more information, contact administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk.

Winter at Burwell Museum



Thank you to everyone that has supported, visited and volunteered at Burwell Museum and Windmill this year. We've had a really successful season with lots of new events and welcomed many new helpers to our team. Although we are now closed to visitors until Easter weekend 2016, there is still a lot going on behind the scenes and WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Volunteers at work during the Museum Fete

Are you enthusiastic, community-minded and want to offer some time to a local charity? If this sounds like you then please get in touch about becoming a volunteer with the museum and our Friends. No previous experience required and you'll receive a very warm welcome. We're especially looking for meet and greet volunteers, tea room helpers, windmill tour guides and fund raising support. Interested? Please email volunteers@burwellmuseum.org.uk or call 01638 605544.

Burwell photo competition

Next year the Friends of Burwell Museum plan to launch a community calendar which will feature YOUR PHOTOS! The theme of the calendar will be **'Burwell Past and Present'.**

The 2017 calendar will be on sale from Summer 2016. Photos should be submitted from 20 November 2015 to 1 April 2016 with winners announced in May. **Photos must be accompanied by an entry form** which will be available from 19 November at Tina's shop in the village, downloadable from the museum website or available by email from education@burwellmuseum.org.uk. Good Luck!

'T' is for totally terrific Trustees!

Burwell Museum Trust is recruiting three new Trustees to help further develop the museum and windmill in 2016 and beyond. If you have management, marketing and PR, events or fund-raising experience then we'd love to speak to you. If you have other skills and experience to offer please contact us – there may be another role to suit you. Email Mel on mel@burwellmuseum.org.uk for an application pack or call us an informal chat.

Website: www.burwellmuseum.org.uk
Tel: 01638 605544
Email: education@burwellmuseum.org.uk
Burwell Museum, Mill Close, Burwell, Cambs CB25 0HL



A&E



Stay well this winter.

In the past year as many as one in four residents in Cambridgeshire visited A&E when they could have used an alternative service or looked after themselves at home.

Each visit to A&E costs the local NHS £87 and that's before any treatment is given. When you look at the figures, this costs the local NHS over £4million a year. In turn this is the equivalent cost of 677 hip replacements, or 287 liver transplants or 115 more dementia nurses.

Using A&E when you don't need to can also have a knock-on effect to the rest of the hospital as busy A&E departments resulted in 500 cancelled operations and procedures because a bed was no longer available and longer waiting and referral times.

But you can help

- Stay healthy – get a flu vaccination if you are eligible;
- Look after others – check on elderly friends, relatives and neighbours especially in spells of cold weather, help them to keep warm and have the medication they might need;
- Be prepared – get your prescriptions in early before the holidays and see your pharmacist or GP for any issues you might be putting off; and
- Choose the right service – your local pharmacy can provide confidential, expert advice and treatment for a range of common illnesses and complaints, without having to wait for a GP appointment.

For help with finding local NHS services visit http://www.cambsandpeterboroughchoosewell.co.uk/

CCG Communications Team
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
capccg.communications@nhs.net
01223 725317

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk
www.cambsfire.gov.uk
PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

It is the time of year when we're enjoying a tipple with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decking the halls.

The fire service has these messages to make sure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke:

- Kitchens are a fire hotspot, so take care while cooking festive fancies. Never leave cooking unattended and turn off appliances when not in use.
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure they confirm to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol while smoking or cooking.
- Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm which is correctly fitted and works. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!

For those of you who may find this of interest, one of our fire stations has this week released a fun fire safety video to encourage residents to sweep their chimneys. If anyone/publication has a Facebook or social media page where they would like to share this message, please feel free. Here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1JGngQrpCI

Above all, ensure you have a working smoke alarm fitted on each floor or your home.

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Find us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Call 01480 444500 for enquiries.



Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Michael Aves	Vice Chair	742800
Hannah Baldwin	Councillor	07702 813845
Steve Boreham	Councillor	742098
Charlotte Cane	Chair	741064
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	741853
David Thomas	Councillor	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.



Cruse Bereavement Care

When someone you love dies, it can feel as though a piece of you has died too. But you don't have to go through it alone.

Cruse Bereavement Care is here to support you through one of the most difficult experiences you will ever have to face.

Cambridge Cruse Bereavement Care is your local branch of the voluntary national bereavement care organisation.

Established in 1965 with the active support of the Mayor and City Council of Cambridge, Cambridge Cruse Bereavement Care now has over a hundred specially trained volunteers working in Cambridge, Fenland, South Cambs, East Cambs, Uttlesford, Ely, Newmarket, Saffron Walden and Haverhill.

Cambridge Cruse operates in your parish.

Bereavement is a very personal and unique experience for each individual. Yet the intense feelings and emotions we experience at the time of substantial loss are normal.

Cruse provides well trained, understanding Bereavement Support volunteers to whom you can talk in complete confidence. Our volunteers are able to give support over a period of time appropriate to individual needs. There is no charge.

Get in touch: Cambridge Cruse Helpline: 01223 633536. Cambridge Cruse Office (admin only) 01223 302662.

Burwell and Reach Car Scheme

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

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

Out and About



Autumn, the trees and hedgerows of Reach display lovely shades of rust and gold, sunsets precede clear wintry skies and the night air hints at the cold to come.

It seems prudent to begin this article with a reference to a local phenomenon of nature - the starling murmuration, which takes place daily at our village edge. This vast ornithological gathering can be observed in the skies above Tubney Fen at sunset.

Clearly silhouetted against the red and yellow dusk skies small groups of starlings (and the odd kestrel) travel in ball-like shapes to join the main aerobatic display. This often facilitates a change of direction in the mass from which complex dense black patterns of cones and waves result. Remarkably, the group has no clear leader, instead the changing shapes rely on each bird following the lead of their neighbour.

Starling murmurations are largely unexplained although suggestions have been made: that they are a way to confuse and avoid predators; a way to keep warm; a 'massive signpost in the sky for a safe place to roost'. Additionally, immigrant starlings from Europe, attracted by Britain's milder Atlantic climate, swell the numbers of our common birds thereby increasing the spectacle.

I walked to Alpress' barn during a late October afternoon, the fen route sheltered by trees and bushes. Small clouds of joining starlings passed low over the road, skimming my head, I was literally IN the groups, ever more conscious of the extraordinary shushing of beating wings.

Ralph Sargeant from Wicken estimated the number at Tubney on 20 October at 12,000 birds and warned they may not stay much longer as the reedheads were breaking as they went down to roost.



Smooth Newt, Ron's doorstep

Other news: On the 18th and again on the 23rd October Ron and Penny were surprised to see a smooth newt on their back doorstep, this prompted Ron's interest in finding out what amphibians had been seen locally. Further investigation, often conducted on dog walks with Tommy, revealed that sightings spanned the village.

Gerald and Karen had seen them in their Great Lane garden as had Charles Moseley, John and Jan Holmwood had sightings in Chapel Lane, Susan Bailey spied them in their woodpile last year and noted a toad there recently. Ron telephoned on the 4th October with an update, they found four smooth newts on the doorstep that evening, an adult, two three-quarter grown and surprisingly, a youngster measuring under 2 inches. He thought they could be attracted to the area of stones and gravel at the back of the doorstep for possible hibernation. It seems reasonable to assume their September departure from water for hibernation (usually under fallen logs) has been delayed this year due to the unseasonably warm weather.



Leucistic Carrion Crow Photo: Gareth Davies

Ron showed me the leucistic carrion crow which has become a daily presence in the field next to their house. The distinctive white markings on tail and wings are obvious in flight, it looks almost pied. As it shows little concern for people, he wonders if it may have been previously tamed.



Leucistic Carrion Crow Photo: Gareth Davies

On 1st October Tracy texted to advise two little owls had been roosting in their field shelter for a couple of weeks and she was almost certain she had seen an (escapee) green parrot along the Swaffham Prior road. On the 8th she spotted a kingfisher, a heron, a harrier and a partridge on her ride along Old Bar Drove and a few weeks later, two kestrels, a green woodpecker and a damselfly on the same route.

Hilary noted the feathers were darkening on the fluffed-up pale young buzzard who favours her field fencepost on the 11th October. On the 22nd she saw three buzzards striding around on the grass, the 'adults flew to the broken willow, the youngster was braver but flew to join them when they called'.

On the 17th October Tracy noted a harrier on Tubney fence and a stoat on Straight Drove. The same day Hilary and Shaun saw a close-up of two goldcrests in an ash tree in Reach Wood. The cries of two kestrels alerted me to their regular position on the roof of Swan Lake barns.



Jay

In mid October I spotted a brown hare loping into the drive at Springhall Farm, its long powerful hind legs capable of generating speeds of 45 mph. A welcome sight, numbers have declined substantially since the beginning of this century, I read that adult hares rarely live longer than 3 – 4 years.



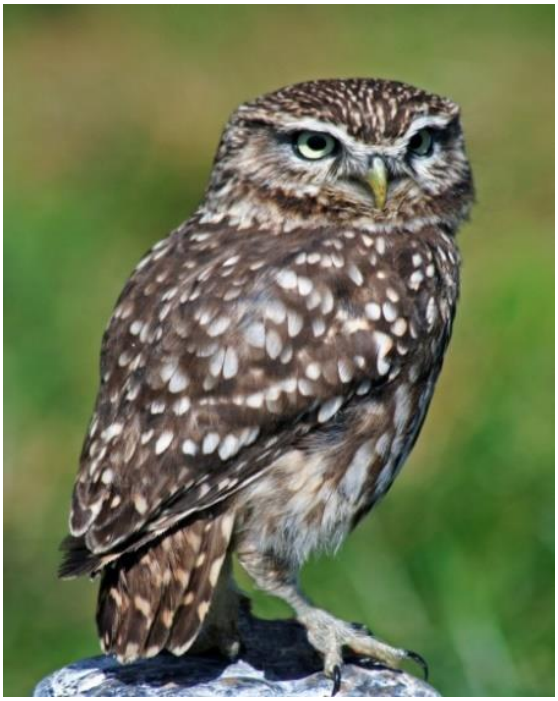
Brown Hare

Roe deer, who do not form herds but are seen in twos and threes, are regular sightings on the outskirts of Reach farmland, particularly in fields near High Cloud Stud and on Little Fen Drove.

A stoat scooted across the Burwell Road this week, showing its distinctive black tail tip and a brown-orange coat clearly delineated from white underparts.

Where are the hedgehogs? None seen so far, therefore sadly absent from these notes. Hibernation takes place between November and March/April so please keep an eye out for them under piles of leaves or compost heaps or under sheds. I read that 'the hedgehog is famous for retreating into a highly effective ball of prickles when it feels threatened". Actually the first thing it will do when worried is frown. This very human reaction causes the spines to move from all lying in one direction to a jagged coat that is also pulled forward over the eyes. The ball comes later'.

Jays, considered the most colourful member of the crow family, are normally shy woodland birds and yet they have been unusually visible throughout the village during recent months. A distinctive flash of white on rump, pinkish buff body plumage and chequerboard patch of blue/black/white on wings a giveaway. Their acorn feeding habits are well documented, in Autumn they can be seen burying acorns for retrieval in late winter months.



Little owl

During October and November the sight and sound of up to three little owls has become almost commonplace from our field behind Reach Wood. Their undulating flight follows a route from the tiny head of an electric fence stake (highlighting their diminutive size) in Lesley and Gareth's field to our stable roof to the Aves' far barn.

Wasps are still evident at the stables, which catch the morning sun and bees work the field nettles, I'm relieved we resisted clearing them in favour of tidiness. Noisy, active pied wagtails abound and bats are regular evening sightings, in addition to a strange dusk-flying beetle which passes overhead most nights (? thoughts). Goldfinch are ever present, I learn their numbers have increased by 80% in 20 years, twice the sparrowhawk has scattered their flight this week.

In closing, mid November sightings report buzzards passing over Reach Wood and hunting from Tubney fenceposts. Flocks of redwing and fieldfare are here, hen harriers, cranes and short eared owls nearby.

Joss Goodchild

Featured Fruits from the 24Acres Community Orchard

Histon Favourite



Histon Favourite is one of a number of apple varieties developed by the Chivers family, who owned a well-known jam manufacturing business in Histon. Histon Favourite is a late-season eating apple and has a pale yellow skin with a scattering of pink stripes. It is described as having a 'sharp and crisp flavour when first picked, mellowing with storage'. The apple was introduced commercially in 1883.

We have three Histon Favourites in the orchard. They have been sponsored by Bob Procter, Pam and David King and Pieter Nelissen.



Chivers Jam

The Chivers family are believed to have descended from Huguenots who settled in Cottenham at the end of the 17th century. They first appeared in Histon when John Chivers came to live at 59/61 Cottenham Road with his brother and sister around 1817.

Shortly after his marriage in 1850, John Chivers' son Stephen bought an orchard next to the railway line, giving easy access to London and northern markets. When his sons William 18 and John 13 were old enough in 1870, he sent them to open a distribution centre at Bradford. The boys soon noticed that their main customers were jam manufacturers. In 1873, which just happened to be a fruit glut year, they convinced their father to allow them to make their first batch of jam in a barn off Milton Road. To ensure a permanent, not seasonal, experienced workforce, they diversified into marmalade and then into lemonade, mincemeat, custard powder and Christmas puddings. In 1895 Chivers became Europe's first large scale commercial canners.

In 1896 they owned 500 acres, though they rented far more. This rose to nearly 8000 acres by 1939. In 1959 the factories and farms were sold to Schweppes. The family bought most *of the farms back in 1961.
From:
https://histonandimpingtonvillagesociety.wordpress.com/history/histon/chivers-farmers-and-jam-factory-owners/

Idared

Idared - the red apple from Idaho - is an attractive apple with a mild apple flavour. Its main feature is its remarkably long storage potential - even in a domestic fridge it will readily keep for six months. As a result it has become quite popular, both in North America and Europe, even though its flavour probably only rates as average. The apple was developed by Idaho Agricultural Experimental Station in the United States and was introduced commercially in the 1930s.

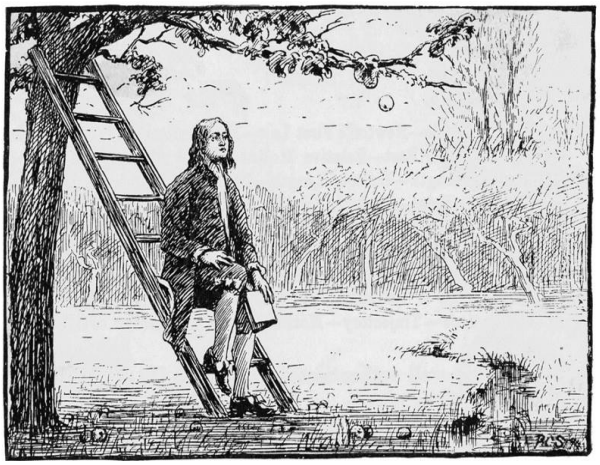
We have two Ida Red trees in the orchard. One has been sponsored by Joss Goodchild and the other is available for sponsorship.



Isaac Newton's Tree – 'Flower or Kent'

Sir Isaac Newton is said to have had the inspiration for his theory of gravity whilst sitting under an apple tree in his garden in Lincolnshire, England, in 1666. The tree naturally became famous and since it was the only apple tree in the garden, it was possible to identify the specific variety - it is an old English apple called Flower of Kent. The parentage and who developed the variety is unknown, but it existed before 1650.

We have two Isaac Newton's Trees in the orchard, one sponsored by David Parr and the other by Pieter Nelissen.



Newton and the apple

Newton himself often told the story that he was inspired to formulate his theory of gravitation by watching the fall of an apple from a tree. Although it has been said that the apple story is a myth and that he did not arrive at his theory of gravity in any single moment, acquaintances of Newton (such as William Stukeley, a friend of Newton's and one of his first biographers) do in fact confirm the incident, though not the cartoon version that the apple actually hit Newton's head. Stukeley recorded in his *Memoirs of Sir Isaac Newton's Life* a conversation with Newton in Kensington on 15 April 1726:

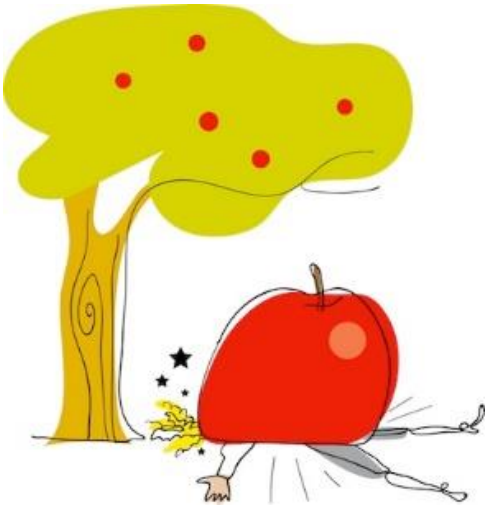
"we went into the garden, & drank tea under the shade of some appletrees; only he, & my self. amidst other discourse, he told me, he was just in the same situation, as when formerly, the notion of gravitation came into his mind. "why should that apple always descend perpendicularly to the ground," thought he to himself; occasion'd by the fall of an apple, as he sat in a contemplative mood. "why should it not go sideways, or upwards? but constantly to the earths centre? assuredly, the reason is, that the earth draws it. there must be a drawing power in matter. & the sum of the drawing power in the matter of the earth must be in the earths centre, not in any side of the earth. therefore dos this apple fall perpendicularly, or toward the center. if matter thus draws matter; it must be in proportion of its quantity. therefore the apple draws the earth, as well as the earth draws the apple".

Various trees are claimed to be "the" apple tree which Newton describes. The King's School, Grantham, claims that the tree was purchased by the school, uprooted and transported to the headmaster's garden some years later. The staff of the [now] National Trust owned Woolsthorpe Manor dispute this and claim that a tree present in their gardens is the one described by Newton. A descendant of the original tree can be seen growing outside the main gate of Trinity College, Cambridge, below the room Newton lived in when he studied there (and of course the tree in the 24 Acres orchard is also a descendant!)

From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Newton

Apple descriptions courtesy of Orange Pippin: http://www.orangepippin.com/

David Thomas





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Apple Day Sunday 18th October 2015



Diana Ward (centre) and Debbie Quilter (right)



Ms Quilter



Hugh de Lacy and Andrew Trump



The most popular game on the 24Acres



Jodie Halpin-McDonald



Bucket tussle





Apple Day Sunday 18th October 2015



Daisy Miller (left) and Olivia Mules



Longest apple peel: Andrew Trump an exacting judge



The Gibson girls looking for the wriggly worm



David Thomas organiser of Reach's first Apple Day





Tales from a Reach Garden



Holes have appeared in our lawn this autumn as usual, they were noticeable from the middle of September. Thanks to all the rain we've had this year, the soil is soft and digging holes in the lawn is very easy. Our first thought is that we have a particularly bad problem with mice, but the holes are dead ends and not that deep either. In previous years, we've found walnuts buried in the lawn, thanks to busy squirrels presumably. This year the holes have been empty and I wondered why, especially while there were still walnuts on our two trees (higher up the trees and difficult for us to access them). Had a squirrel hidden a walnut then immediately felt peckish? I was aware that the squirrels have been busy at the walnut trees as there was a mess of chewed green husks under them. Hungry jays perhaps? The latter was unlikely as I've been watching jays, magpies and wood pigeons helping themselves to crab apples. Other ideas occurred to me. Maybe mice had been digging…then lost interest (or been predated)…several times? I doubted that too.

One morning in October, looking out of the back window I spotted a couple of grey squirrels, one nervy, skittish and laden with walnuts standing on the lawn; the other, larger and empty handed, watching from the safety of a branch of a field maple. I stood still, I didn't want to disturb them and I wanted to see what the squirrels would do next. When the smaller squirrel decided it was safe to do so, it dug a hole in the lawn, pushed a walnut in the hole and patted the soil down repeatedly in an effort to disguise it. Then moving on, it repeated these actions, burying walnuts a couple of metres away from each other. Shortly afterwards it returned furtively with another batch of walnuts to do the same. The other squirrel remained in the field maple, watching. Later in the afternoon, not long after the small squirrel had run off up an ash tree, I spotted the larger, still empty-handed squirrel coming down from the field maple. It stood up on the lawn, looked around then stared at me. Having decided I wasn't going to shoo him away he - it was definitely a he – he started to sniff around the lawn, then dug up a walnut and ate it. However, one walnut was not enough, he sniffed around again and dug up another one…and another… Mystery solved! This freeloading male squirrel was largely responsible for the empty holes in the lawn which had previously been filled with walnuts.



Pesky grey squirrel with freshly-picked walnut

We have had a persistent problem with grey squirrels in our garden, helping themselves to our hazels and walnuts as well as raiding bird feeders in the garden and digging up freshly-planted bulbs, especially crocus corms. I've dusted chilli powder on the bulbs before planting and also on peanuts in bird feeders to try to keep the squirrels off them. Chilli powder does not harm the bulbs nor does it bother the birds which eat the coated nuts. At first the squirrels try to eat the chillied peanuts but it seems to madden them (they jump about while patting their mouths frantically). I've seen an enraged squirrel drag a bird feeder off the branch where it was hanging and attempt to nibble the chilli coated peanuts it had strewn across the ground (more crazy jumping and mouth patting followed). Chilli coated bulbs were also dug up, nibbled and abandoned on the surface of the soil. However, with persistent use of chilli powder, the squirrels get the message and eventually leave well alone, they just find other things to chew, but we get through a lot of chilli powder…

Squirrels also nibble fruit in the garden, most of which are also attractive to birds, but they've left our pumpkins alone while they were "drying" in what little sunshine we had in September and early October.



Some of this year's pumpkins and squash hardening off in feeble September sunshine

Eventually when the weather forecast was for heavy rain, I brought them indoors to finish hardening off, until the stems were dessicated. We usually have a good crop of pumpkins each year. I like them because they are so versatile and can be used in savoury or sweet dishes. They need rich, well-fertilised soil to grow in, lots of sunshine (or at least minimum shade), plenty of water and fertilizer to swell the fruits, then a dry autumn to help ripen and harden the skins. I always plant a selection of pumpkins and squash. The orange ones are well known and used for carving Jack o' Lanterns for Halloween. This year I sowed two seeds of an orange variety called "Spellbound" which did well, providing three pumpkins, one of which was enormous! The flesh of the orange pumpkins is quite soft and this year it's quite watery too. They are very good in savoury soups and sweet pumpkin pies. However, being so moist and relatively thin skinned, they don't keep long.

This year the butternut squash have not kept well either, because they started to swell just as the rains started. I've found that butternut squash tend to flower later than other squashes, and the flowers are rather shy, keeping close to the main plant stems, unlike those of other pumpkins which raise their huge yellow flowers above the leaves on long stems. Pumpkins and squash, like their close cousins, courgettes and marrows, produce male and female flowers.

Usually bees and beetles do the pollinating, but I have had to give butternut squash a helping hand this year and introduced the male flowers to the females – the female flowers appear to have mini butternut squash immediately behind them, while the male flowers have longer, thinner stems.

I sowed a few butternut squash seeds this year; they have names like "Sprinter" and "Hurricane" which is indicative of the speed with which they need to ripen in an average British summer. One plant had several small squash on it which ripened quickly and were delicious in risottos. We are currently eating our way through the last of the larger ones – there's more than one meal in it, they are so fleshy and have fewer seeds than pumpkins.



Large butternut squash ("Hurricane") ripening in September

I think the best pumpkins are the blue-skinned varieties such as "Crown Prince" and "Invincible" which can keep for months. We finally ate the last piece of last year's "Invincible" blue pumpkins in August this year, by which time its blue-grey skin had aged to beige. The skins of these blue pumpkins are very tough (even when beige), making them quite difficult to cut up. The orange flesh is also firm, and can be roasted like potatoes. If you've never grown pumpkins before, these blue skinned varieties are the best bet. They don't grow to enormous sizes, but they are tasty and easy to grow and less likely to succumb to fungal moulds while ripening.

Danuta Gibson

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GENTLE REMINDER TO MOTORISTS

Reach residents will have noticed the warning signs about horses and riders in the vicinity of the old railway bridge between Reach and Swaffham Prior. Having made a few inquiries, I have been told that these signs have been erected by the parents of the children who now keep their ponies at the livery yard on the Swaffham Prior side of the bridge.

These childre and also the adult horse riders, have recently had several "near misses" as they leave their yard, with cars, motorbikes and tractors, which have come over the bridge at speed.

Could all motorists please approach the bridge from both sides with extreme caution!

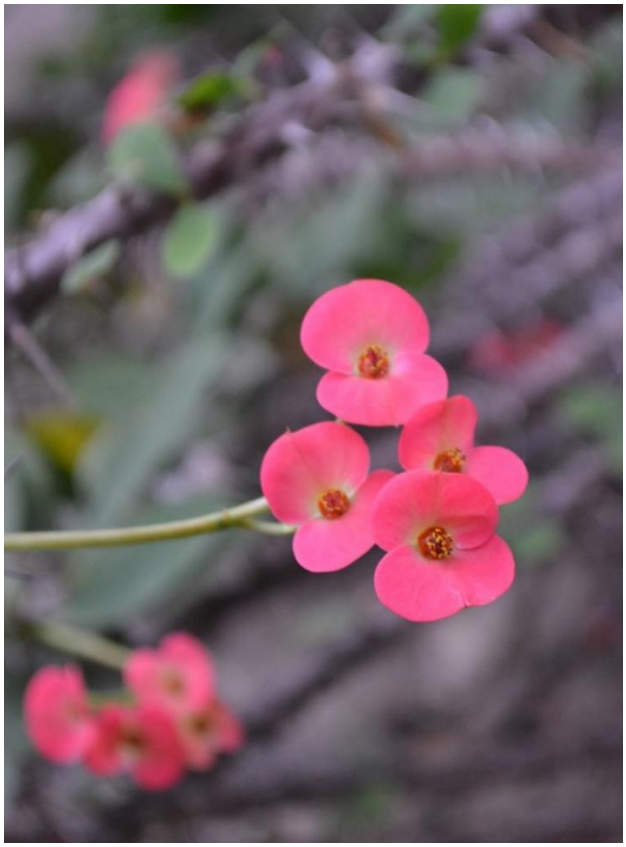
Thank you for your co-operation

Hilary Fielding



The Urge/Surge/Splurge at Christmas!

A great number of us will be bringing the world's flora into our homes for the festive season. Not only our native holly, ivy and mistletoe but also spruce endemic to Norway, scented paperwhites, which have a natural distribution range from Greece to Portugal and into North Africa and the baroque loveliness of the amaryllis, native to South Africa! But perhaps one of the most extraordinary floral additions to Christmas decoration is the poinsettia, *Euphorbia pulcherrima,* hailing originally from Mexico and Guatemala, where it is known as Flor de Noche Buena - the Christmas Eve flower. The plant's association with Christmas began in 16th-century, where legend tells of a Mexican girl, commonly called Pepita or Maria, who, being too poor to provide a gift, was inspired by an angel to gather roadside weeds for the church altar instead to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Christ's Thorn Crop

The dark green dentate leaves of this sub-tropical shrub are topped with 'flowers' of brightly coloured bracts, most typically in a flaming Christmassy red but can be orange, pale green, cream, pink, white, or even marbled. The intensity of colour in the bracts only develops when the plant is kept under darkness for 12 hours a day for at least five days in a row. British nurseries are getting better and better at mimicking these Central American conditions and it is now much easier to source UK-grown poinsettias at Christmas – just look for the Home Grown label.

The poinsettia is a member of the spurge family, Euphorbiaceae, which can be seen if you look into the heart of the showy bracts to find the unassuming 'real' flowers, which are part of complex yellowish saucer-shaped structures known botanically as cyathia.

These same structures can be seen on our common garden spurges that will soon be bringing a welcome zing of lime green to the garden. But they can also be seen on some of the more unusual plants in the Glasshouse Range at the Botanic Garden, including the low-growing and spiny Christ's thorn, *Euphorbia milii* var. *splendens,* from Madagascar. This grows outside our Arid Lands display, which also includes the remarkably big, candelabra-shaped desert African spurges, which are often mistaken for cacti. Their forms display the same solutions to a lack of water, such as a fluted stem that can swell to store water and leaves reduced to spines to conserve water and protect biomass from grazers. This phenomenon is known as convergent evolution.

So when you bring a poinsettia into the house (and find it a light, non-draughty spot), it is wonderfully festive way of celebrating the diversity of plants we can enjoy in our lives.

Wishing you a very happy and floral Christmas!

The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is open from 10am – 4pm during the deep winter months (but closed for the Christmas period from 24 December to 1 January 2016 inclusive). The Glasshouses and Café close 30 minutes before the Garden and the Botanic Garden Shop at Brookside closes 15 minutes before the Garden. Please check the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 336265 for details about opening times, admission charges, tours, courses and special events.

Juliet Day
Development Officer
The Botanic Garden



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Hilary's Cottage, Swaffham Prior	3
The Meadow House, Burwell	3
Barbers	
The Barber's Shop in Burwell	5
Building Services	
R A Skilton Building Contractors	20
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Hazel's Cleaning Services	13
Ovenpad	12
Computing	
Burwell Computers	13
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Madmix Ready Mixed Concrete	19
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Independent Financial Solutions	19
Food and Drink	
The Anchor, Burwell	16
The Dyke's End, Reach	18
Five Miles No Hurry Inn, Upware	2
White Swan, Quy	24
Funeral Directors	
Southgates	14

CATEGORY	Page
Gardens and Gardening	
Bannold	22
D-Branch	4
John Reed Landscape Gardener	8
Madingley Mulch Barks, Soils, Composts and Mulches	19
Summit Landscaping	12
Gifts	
Tina's, Burwell	2
Haberdashery	
Tina's, Burwell	2
Home Care	
Helping Hands	24
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Drain-Plumb Plumbing, Heating and Drain Services	9
Harrison Plumbing and Heating	9
Saniclean Drain and Plumbing Service	7
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Bottisham Sports Centre	4
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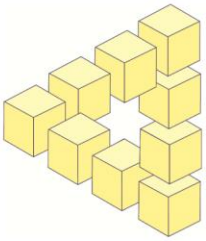

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Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey News



We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Dr Norman Moore, who has rightly been described as a giant of conservation. Norman was a world renowned dragonfly expert and made the crucial link between declining bird of prey populations and the use of pesticides in the 60's & 70s. He served on the Wicken Fen Local Committee for a number of years and was instrumental in helping to get the Wicken Fen Vision off the ground in the late 1990's.

The last few weeks have been a tense time for the Ranger's, as they waited patiently for Sedge Fen to dry sufficiently for them to be able to carry out the annual cutting programme. Unfortunately the fen was just too wet to be able to cut the sedge (for the second year in succession), but they did manage to cut the droves. Due to the wet conditions we've already had to close a section of the Nature Trail around Sedge Fen for the winter in order to protect the peat soils and fragile plant communities. Access to the wildlife hides remains open.

Elsewhere work has recently started to improve the drainage and resurface a section of the Lodes Way from the Visitor Centre up to Norman's Bridge, which was prone to flooding.

There's some amazing wildlife to be seen on the nature reserve at present, hen harriers on Sedge Fen, short-eared owls and common cranes on Burwell Fen. But for one of nature's truly amazing sights you need to head to Tubney Fen, where a starling murmuration of around 10,000 birds have been performing amazing twisting and turning flying displays.

Preparations for Christmas are in full swing at Wicken Fen. If you've got young children (or grandchildren) they might like to come and see **Father Christmas at the Fen** on Saturday & Sundays, 5 - 20 December, timed tickets from 10.30 – 2pm. We also have a **Christmas Elves Workshop** with Father Christmas for under 5s on 9, 10, 16 & 17 December, 10.15 - 11.45am. Tickets for both events (£8.50 including a present) are available from the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274. Please book early as both events are bound to sell-out.

A quick reminder that tickets for Winter Lights at Anglesey Abbey have sold out. If you're lucky enough to have tickets, we hope you have a fantastic evening.

This year we are re-creating a **1960's Christmas** in the Domestic Wing of the House. This is a chance to enjoy the smells, sights and sounds that went on 'below stairs' as the staff prepared Christmas fit for a Lord. The event runs from Thursday - Sunday, 3 – 20 December, 11am – 4pm.

If you're planning some Christmas shopping but want to avoids the crowds both Anglesey Abbey and Wicken have gift shops packed with great gift ideas from tasty treats, books, games, bags, jewellery, pottery; much of it produced by local artists and craftsmen. You can always give a loved one a whole year of great days out by giving them gift membership to the National Trust. Rates start from just £30 a year (for under 25's) – you can even pay by monthly direct debit to help spread the cost.

If you're planning a Festive walk over Christmas, Wicken Fen is open every day except Christmas Day, 10am -5pm, Anglesey Abbey is closed Christmas Eve - Boxing Day inclusive, re-opening at 10.30 on Sunday 27 December.

Have a great Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Howard Cooper
Wicken Fen and Anglesey



Common Cranes 2 on Burwell Fen October 2015 Photo: Richard Nicoll

What's Growing on at Snakehall Farm?



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SNAKEHALL SPOOKS

80 brave souls dared to sneak around Snakehall Farm this Halloween on our 2015 ghost walks. The three walks all became slightly spookier as the night grew darker and the boos became louder. The evening raised £455 in ticket sales, raffle and games which is going towards our Wheely Need a Van Appeal. The whole team had such fun preparing it and received great feedback on the night. We were deeply indebted to the 26 volunteers on the night who gave up their time and talents to make this charity event Spooktacular.

AUTUMNAL APPLES

We are very grateful to the Reach community for picking The Prospects Trust as their charity recipient from the first Reach Apple Day. We also put our new kitchen to great use creating tasty toffee apples. We loved making them so much we added them to our shop. The donation of £65 will be added to our fundraising pot for the new farm vehicle.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE FESTIVITIES

We have a Christmas Raffle, with prizes including a beautiful handcrafted oak coffee table made at Snakehall Farm by our woodwork team, tickets are £1 each and are available from the farm during core opening hours of Monday to Friday 9:30 to 3:30. Our Co-workers will be revealing the winning tickets at their Christmas party on Friday 18th December. The raffle is just one of many ways we try to support the Co-workers on the farm, including their much anticipated Christmas party, with small gifts for each and every Co-worker.

GARDEN TEAM IN SAFE HANDS AS WILL PASSES ON HIS GARDENING GLOVES TO TOM

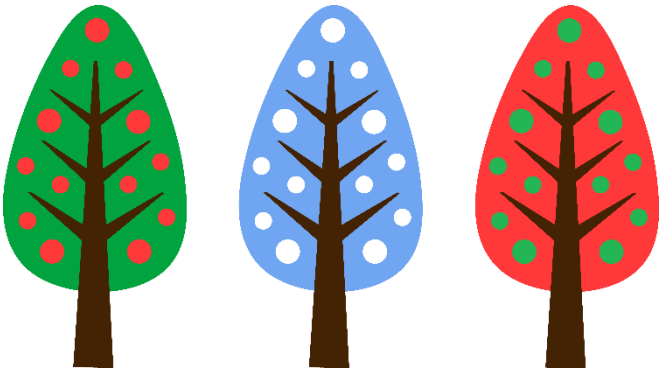
We are pleased to introduce Tom Cockerton, our new Garden Team Co-manager, who has taken over the smooth running of our garden maintenance service from our longstanding Co-manager, Will Hubbard. Will retired from his role at The Prospects Trust at the end of another very busy season, passing over the reins to Tom.

Will will be sorely missed as he has been a core member of our staff team but we are so pleased he will finally be able to take a holiday without worrying about all of our Garden customer's grass getting too long. Tom was an already familiar face to many, as he has been supporting a group of pupils on supported work experience with Snakehall Farm in his previous role with Granta School. Tom loved the atmosphere on the farm and was particularly inspired by the work ethics of the Co-workers. Tom would welcome any new customers, and especially one off seasonal clearance jobs in December, January and February.



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an organic veg filled 2016. What will next year bring? Hopefully our new Farm Van, a shop full of stock and acres of happy Co-workers....and of course Reach Fair....see you all there.

Marianne (Maz) Baker
01638 741551



Once upon a Time ...
National Storytelling Week!
30 January - 6 February 2016



National Storytelling Week - Everyone loves narrative and storytelling - it's something about a story's beginning, middle and end that makes us feel more of a completeness and understanding of our own lives. As a writer I'm never happier than when I've composed a story and found someone who enjoys reading it!

National Storytelling Week is here to celebrate our most ancient art form of all. From retelling something that's happened in your day; reading a night time story to a child; or watching a plot unfold on TV - storytelling is a part of our own everyday lives and the entertainment we get from movies, programmes, plays and other powerful performances.

The events planned for the 135th National Storytelling week in 2016 are well underway to make sure that this year's event is bigger and better than ever!

The Society for Storytelling was established in 1993 and their aim was to promote the ancient art of storytelling. The society is open to anyone with a love and passion for storytelling. Whether you are a storyteller or just someone who loves to listen to a well told tale! People from all over the UK get involved and it's an enriching experience of bonding and bringing people together.

So, it's your turn to join in the fun!

You can contact The Society for Storytelling and they will send you a pack with all the information you need on how to organise and promote your own event. If you're a company looking for a storyteller or you're interested in becoming a professional storyteller yourself, The Society for Storytelling can provide you with all you need to know.

Good luck, and let the storytelling begin!

Wine Tasting



Hugh you crack me up!



Too sophisticated for them Hugh



In Reach!



An imposter!



Cheers Rhys Baldwin



Good neighbours

Walking in a winter wonderland ... Festival of Winter Walks 19 December 2015 - 3 January 2016

The Festival of Winter Walks was set up by Britain's walking charity, Ramblers. Their aim is to make walking paths safer and encourage people to do more walking. And this year, they want you to go out walking over the Christmas period!

There will be hundreds of free woodland walks taking place all over the country between 19 December 2015 and 3 January 2016. It's a great way to burn off that Christmas dinner and have fun doing it together with your loved ones.

Depending on how much you feel like doing, there will be short, easy trails you can enjoy with family and more challenging walks for the experienced hiker!

They'll take place in various places in Scotland, England and Wales, each one guided by someone from Ramblers. Some will even have themes like 'fancy dress', 'tipsy toddles' and 'cake walks'.

And of course each walk will be about exploring the wintry landscape. It can seem more appealing to curl up indoors, but it's during winter that some of our most beautiful scenery appears.

For more information on Ramblers wintry walks, go to the Festival of Winter Walks website.



Meeting Ron and Susan Dunnett



Ron: My name is Ronald Lesley Dunnett. I don't know how my names were chosen; my father's was George Archie. Dunnett is a local name. My grandfather was a barge maker and repairer. I was born and brought up in Lode. My second eldest brother, Arthur still lives in Lode; he was a gardener for Anglesey Abbey all his working life. I went to Lode and Broughton Hall Primary School and enjoyed my time at school, I had a good time. I went on to Bottisham Village College. I hated sports at school though when I left I played for the Lode Football and Lode Cricket Teams. At school I was overweight and avoided sports; I liked gardening and woodwork. Bottisham Village College has changed from my time there. The current car park used to be the vegetable plot and the College also used to have a pig. We enjoyed gardening and husbandry. The College even had a resident gardener in my day.



Dad George and Mum Eileen

Susan: My name is Susan Grace (nee Barnes) and I was named after my grandmother, Grace. I cried and cried on my first day at school and indeed I hated my first years at school; I was a very nervous child. I went to St Andrews Primary School, Burwell, which no longer exists. I was terrified. Everything upset me and I suffered stomach pains. My mother used to have to stand next to me in the playground to calm me down. I was very overweight and very self-conscious. Eventually I settled down. I went to Burwell Village College when it was a secondary school. I enjoyed cooking and needlework particularly sewing. I was an average student, in the middle.



Lode Primary School. Front row sixth from left



My mother and sister

Ron: I started work with a furnishers and flooring company. For all my working life I was in flooring; I started in flooring and finished in flooring. I enjoyed meeting different people and working in different areas. I liked the different challenges and the job satisfaction, for example, I worked for the East Anglian Children's Hospice, Milton Hospice. When it first opened we fitted the flooring and we also carpeted a sensory room which had a smiley face.





Lode Cricket Club. Ron is in the back row third from left

Susan: My first job was in Bottisham Nursery School. I left when I had my son and later I cared for children in my own home. I worked at Hugh's Hall, Cambridge, first as a cleaner and then as an Assistant Housekeeper. I retired when I was 60 because I have arthritis in my knee and hip. I still keep in contact with the Housekeeper. We catered for the Cambridge Rugby Boys Varsity Team each year when they had lunch at the college before the match the next day.

We moved to Reach as a result of a three-way council house swop. We liked Reach as it was quiet. Some people have never heard of Reach and that's probably because it's not a place you drive through. Devil's Dyke is a landmark.



Ron: We tended to get involved with Reach Fair and before I ran the Football Game I would help out in some way, like putting up the marquee (the old one). We've always helped with the Fair by donating bottles to the Bottle Stall. There used to be a Football Game at Lode Fete and it was very popular and well attended, so I suggested we try it at Reach Fair. I cannot hazard a guess at how many years I've been running the Football Game but I did retire this year. I've donated the equipment and I'm happy to give someone advice. The Game used to be located on the lower green next to the Beer Tent and was very popular as the afternoon wore on. I'll miss doing the Football but now I will be able to enjoy the Fair and see the pennies being thrown.

Susan: I once couldn't get home because of the Reach Fair road closures. My son Shaun had to come and collect me and even he ended up the wrong side of the Closure. Since then the Passports have been introduced and this is obviously much better.

Ron: We've lived in the house for 37 years. Years ago I thought the road sign at the end of the road looked a bit neglected so I dug a flower bed and have maintained it since. The sign was once vandalised and ended up in the meadow and I had to rescue it. The grass is due a cut but my mower has packed up and I'm waiting for Shaun's help to repair it. I've repaired the bus shelter countless times. We used to know everyone in Reach but don't know so many now.

Both: We've brought our children up in Reach and the village life for the children has been lovely.

We have six children between us, 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. One of our grandchildren, Jessica has just graduated from Portsmouth and is now a PCSO in Cambridge patrolling Mill Road. She started off in forensic photography and we are very proud of her and indeed all our grandchildren.



Cambridge and District Singles Title

Ron: I enjoy bowls. I used to play carpet bowls in the Village Centre with Anita and Ray Folkes and we had a good team. More recently I've joined a bowling team based in Swaffham Bulbeck.



From left: Barbara, Sandra, Ron, Paul and Helen on Ron's 70th

Susan: He's done well in bowls and won the Cambridge and District Singles Title. If Ron does something he does it very well. Ron does like me attending when he plays but he says I put him off.

Ron: It's not so much putting me off, it's bad luck and I just don't seem to win when you're around. I still play at Mitchell Lodge, Swaffham Bulbeck in the summer and at Ely in the winter. There are fewer bowls teams these days – it's an older persons sport and we don't have many youngsters. I assist at the club by keeping the green decent.

Susan: With the bowling I enjoy the sun, chat and tea, and help out. We also have an allotment at Burwell, it's very social and we meet people. We grow a big range of vegetables (potatoes, runner beans, leeks, beetroot and broccoli). The best crops this year have been the potatoes and beetroot. The grandchildren very much enjoy the green beans and will eat their helpings and look for more. I try and buy organic vegetables whenever I can as I like to use the skins. I'm very keen to eat healthily, for example, the grandchildren will have carrot sticks for snacks.

I enjoy bird watching and this is an interest which we share. I very much enjoy Joss' articles. We love the North Norfolk coast and will never tire of visiting the place. We have a static caravan at Heacham, near Hunstanton and bowls and allotment permitting we will stay at the caravan. It closes at the beginning of November. We visit the Cley Marshes and Titchwell RSPB Centre. Remarkably there was a tidal surge a few years back and it completely flattened a shingle bank which was 6 – 8' high. The bank is beginning to recover. We don't like to sit at home; we prefer to be out walking. Ron's mum lived to 102 so he comes from a long-lived family. We have a tourer and like to visit a friend in Seaton, Devon. Our static caravan is coming to the end of its 20-year life and we will use the tourer more when this happens.

Ron: We had substantial improvements made to the house a few years ago and it has made the house much warmer. I'm pretty handy around the house and will undertake most things except electrical work and major plumbing. I'm particularly handy at carpentry. I undertake a lot of removals for the children and of course flooring – that's never ending. Most recently I constructed a fence using pallets for one of my grandchildren. It worked well and kept her young children and dogs safe.

Susan: This coming Christmas will be our first Christmas for many years which we will have to ourselves. Previously we have cared for elderly relatives. We may just enjoy a day at home with an evening meal. It will be nice to have the choice. Our children all live locally, at least in Cambridgeshire.

For films I like period dramas and nature. For reading Danielle Steele and similar authors, and I like suduku and crosswords.

Ron: I play bowls 2 – 3 nights a week and sometimes twice a day. I enjoy football and have supported Cambridge United `forever'. They are faltering a bit at present and have just sacked their manager. They played Manchester United in the Cup last season and played them at home and away. Twenty five coaches went up to Manchester but unfortunately a lot of them got delayed by roadworks; some got there after kick off, some after half time and some not at all!



Susan: Our philosophy for a good life is don't sit about, keep active and enjoy life. I had cancer a few years back and since then I have kept a good weight. I say live life to the full because you never know what's around the corner. The secret to a good relationship is patience and tolerance. Have your own interests and also share time together.

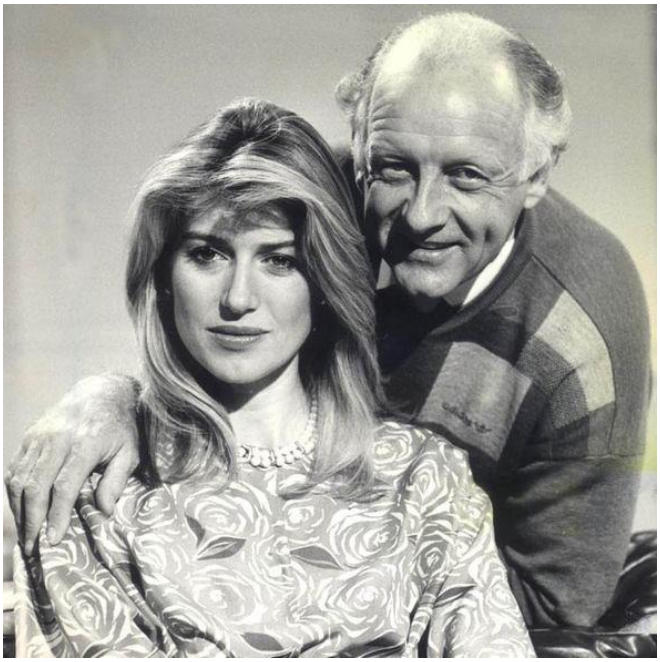
Days Gone By

The UK Christmas number one in 1982 was "Save Your Love" sung by Renée and Renato. They were a female/male duo who had just the one hit. Renato was Italian Renato Pagliari and Renée was in fact British singer Hilary Lester (now Gibbon). By the time it reached No. 1 Gibbon had already joined another group and contractually required follow-up singles all flopped. Renato died in 2009 from complications following an operation for a brain tumour.



In January 1983 people were switching on their televisions a little earlier than usual to catch Britain's first breakfast news programme.

The BBC's new Breakfast Time programme went on air at 6.30am, presented by Nationwide's Frank Bough and former ITN news reader Selina Scott. Nick Ross, will also be hosting the show. It is the corporation's biggest investment since BBC Two went on the air.



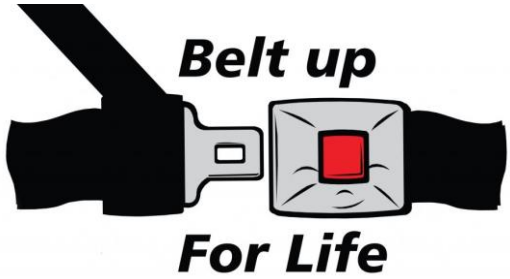
The programme catered for a wide variety of tastes - with its own resident astrologer, Russell Grant and a regular exercise slot led by "Green Goddess" Diana Moran.

TV-am's Good Morning Britain launched two weeks later and the battle for ratings quickly hotted up. Personalities on both programmes came and went - but TV-am faced financial ruin when ratings plummeted to 200,000 in May. Greg Dyke was brought in from London Weekend Television to save the programme. The original five presenters were sacked and he promoted a puppet, Roland Rat, to help read the news. His tactics paid off.

In addition, it became a legal requirement for drivers and front seat passengers to wear seatbelts.

The row over making front seatbelts compulsory had been going on for 15 years and there had been 11 previous attempts to make it law. Critics had accused the government of operating a nanny state and some drivers complained their personal freedom was being infringed and they found seatbelts uncomfortable.

In 1991 it became compulsory for adults to belt up in the back seat.



Today, in the UK, you don't need to wear a seat belt if you're:

- a driver who is reversing, or supervising a learner driver who is reversing
- in a vehicle being used for police, fire and rescue services
- a passenger in a trade vehicle and you're investigating a fault
- driving a goods vehicle on deliveries that is travelling no more than 50 metres between stops
- a licensed taxi driver who is 'plying for hire' or carrying passengers
- if you are exempt for medical reasons

Interestingly, the following was in "Out of Reach" magazine in December 1982 . . . .

"On Saturday 18th December there will be carol singing on the Green, with drinks and mince pies afterwards. We are hoping to have a band to play the carols and are getting a Christmas tree with lights"



So assuming it all took place - our Christmas tree last year was not the first one ever - so did it take place and if it did - why did it stop happening?

David Parr
744081 or davidmparr@btinternet.com

And finally . . . . two elderly couples have dinner together and after eating, the wives leave the table and go into the kitchen.

One of the men said "last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was superb"- to which the other man replied "what's it called?"

The first man thought and thought and finally said "what's the name of that flower you give to someone you love - the one that's red and has thorns?" "That's a rose?" was the reply.

The first man then turned towards the kitchen and yelled "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

Food Focus



Not being a huge telly watcher means that, at times, I'm somewhat rather embarrassingly out of touch with popular culture. Blank looks during conversations about Strictly, the Bake Off, Masterchef, X Factor etc and people assume I have been kept in a dark hole over the last few years (although motherhood and the ensuing exhaustion would be a more plausible explanation). In an effort to change this perception, and possibly also as a result of having slightly more time, I have watched a few episodes of Strictly Come Dancing and MasterChef: The Professionals.

Happily I don't feel I have missed out on much but I was interested to watch the recent MasterChef episode where the professionals were asked to make brandy snaps. I love brandy snaps. I have a recipe for them which I pulled out of a magazine and did for the first time years ago – it worked perfectly; the brandy snaps and their contents were delicious.

Goodness only knows what I did then – as they haven't worked once since and I've tried a number of times. Why didn't they turn the right colour, spread out with the characteristic holes and allow me to mould them around a rolling pin without breaking into thousands of pieces? I'm pleased to report, evidenced by the very fact that they were a test for the chefs, that making them is clearly not as simple as I thought. Thickness seems to be key, and rolling them after they have been removed from the baking tray when they are warm but not too hot is also important (if they are on bake-o-glide or something equivalent this might make things easier as you can just lift that off the tray).

My recipe, which no doubt I will try again this year, says that success is all in the timing. I couldn't find the Masterchef recipe so have included my own so good luck, and if anyone has any other rules, please let me know.



Brandy Snaps with Cinnamon Cream (makes 12-15 large biscuits)

2 tbsp caster sugar
2 heaped tbsp golden syrup
60g butter
4 heaped tbsp plain flour
1 level tsp ground ginger
1 tsp brandy (lots of recipes don't have this and apparently the term brandy comes from branding sugar)
2 heaped teaspoons of flaked almonds

For the filling (I can recommend this even if you choose someone else's brandy snap recipe): 100ml double cream, 200g mascarpone, 2 tbsps caster/icing sugar, couple of drops of vanilla extract, knife point of cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 150°C, lightly butter a baking sheet. In a small pan melt the butter, golden syrup and the sugar together. As soon as it starts to bubble remove from the heat. Stir in the flour, ginger and brandy and scatter in the almonds. Using a teaspoon place six blobs of the mixture, about the size of half a large walnut on the baking sheet (it says no need to flatten them – but I'm not sure of that!) and bake in 2 batches in the oven for 10-12 minutes until they are a rich golden brown.

Once out of the oven leave for 5 minutes before attempting to roll them around an appropriately sized rolling pin/equivalent. Then work quickly to roll and press them around whatever you are using. If they tear when you try to loosen them with a palette knife leave them a bit longer before shaping. Remove to a rack and cool.

For the filling, whip the cream until thick but not stiff, stir in the mascarpone, sugar, vanilla extract and cinnamon. Once you have filled the snaps dust with a bit of cinnamon.

PS Foody Markets and Food Festivals happening near you

Burwell Farmers Market (Burwell Village College) 2nd Saturday of the month (9.30- 12.30) – 12th December & 9th January.

Ely Farmers Market 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month (8.30 - 2) - 12th December and 9th & 23rd January in addition there is a Christmas Market (with lots of food producers) - Wednesday 23rd December (not sure on timings last year 8.30-3.30).

Cambridge's Mill Road Winter Fair Saturday 5th December with 120 market and food stalls lining the street and a food fair in Gwydir Street Car Park (10.30 – 4.30).

La Hogue (farm shop near Chippenham) has Father Christmas visiting on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December (10-12.30 & 1-3.30)

Stretham Farmers Market Saturday 19th December (9am-2pm) with carol singing, hot drinks and a BBQ

Bury St Edmunds Farmers Market as part of the Christmas Street Fayre Sunday 29th November 10am – 5pm

Happy cooking!

C**atherine Gibson**

Amenity Fund

If you feel you have a worthwhile project that could be funded via the Amenity Fund, please get in touch with Chair John Holmwood. The committee members of the Fund are listed below. There is one vacancy which is to be filled by a member of the Village Centre Committee.

John Holmwood (Chair)	742969
Claire Halpin	743330
David Thomas	742676
Diana Ward	744210

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



Dear Ross . . . .

Ross Clark is agreeable to answering your questions, large or small, quirky or otherwise. This issue's questions were sent in by Ginny Black.

Hurricanes seem to be given rather incongruous names. How are they chosen and what would be your choice?

The Met Office has decided to give storms names for the first time, using a list it says that it developed from suggestions from the public. The chosen names begin with sequential letters of the alphabet, with alternate male and female names. We have already had Abigail and Barney. The next ones will be named: Clodagh, Desmond (which doesn't sound much of a storm at all, more a little squall), Eva, Frank and Gertrude. The Met Office declined to accept David or Jeremy as storm names on political grounds, though we are scheduled to suffer a storm named Nigel at some point. Hurricanes, by contrast, are named by the World Meteorological Organisation. The problem is that some British storms originate from the leftovers of hurricanes. Storm Barney, for example, was formed of some of the remains of Hurricane Kate and therefore underwent gender reassignment somewhere in mid-Atlantic. Personally, I would name all storms Michael in honour of Michael Fish who famously failed to predict the 1987 hurricane.

In addition to the delights of receiving new socks and slippers, what do you look forward to at Christmas?

Nothing. Just the socks

Please email or post your questions to Ross or myself. Ed.



Swaffham Prior Primary School

We have had a good mixture of events and experiences so far this term…

On Saturday 3rd October, members of the KS2 choir performed at Reach Church as part of their Harvest festival. They sang extremely well and there were lots of very positive comments made about the beautiful music they made.

Friday 9th October saw our Harvest Celebration at St Mary's led by Reverend Sue. The KS2 choir performed again for us and each class prepared their own special contributions. All four classes sang for us and Reverend Sue Talked about the amount of food wastage throughout the world. The School Council organised a collection of food for Jimmy's shelter and have received a certificate of thanks from them.



Violet's thoughtful 'Remembrance Poppy' complete with handmade poppy

Saturn Class went to Ely Cathedral for their Cathedral Day. Here is a report by Bethany-Louise.

'Cathedral Day was fun. We did lots of activities and it was nice having other schools there too, to talk to and introduce ourselves to.

We were in groups and in lots of the activities, adults in charge let people come up to the front and say what they thought. We did an activity about monks and learnt about how they lived and what they did. The monks could not talk and had to abide by rules written in a rules book. There was a play at the end and it was very good. We also looked at prayers from other schools.'



Rose and her pumpkin car with moving wheels

Grounds Day took place on Friday 23rd October and we enjoyed a sunny and productive day outside. Jobs ranged from spreading wood chips on the muddy areas, weeding and replanting beds and planters, lopping back unruly shrubs and clearing leaves. The Nature area was tidied and the pond cleared and the vegetable garden was weeded and a new raised bed was created. It was a very successful day and the grounds are looking fantastic.

Pumpkin parade, organised by FoSPS, took place on the first Monday back after the half term break. Over seventy pumpkins were brought to school and they were extremely inventive. They included a spider, Maleficent, Pac Man, a car, a child reading, turkeys, Minions, a dragon's egg and a jewelled pumpkin, Captain Jack Sparrow, an eyeball and a range of animals. Some were very gruesome, including one which was eating some babies and there was some very clever carving. Prizes were awarded for the most imaginative, skilful and creative designs.

FoSPS also organised Bags 2 School and they were duly collected on Thursday 5th November. The bags filled up a good proportion of the hall and the amount raised was £192 which is wonderful.

On Monday 9th November, 18 of our children took part in a concert, entitled, 'Little Britten', at The Corn Exchange in Cambridge. The children were part of a huge choir which was assembled to celebrate the life and music of Benjamin Britten. They joined 12 other schools, which amounted to over 400 children, including the chamber choir from Parkside Federation and sang a range of songs composed by Britten. The songs were challenging but the children were prepared well and they sang incredibly well. They were joined by two professional opera singers, a very talented pianist and the Classic Busters. It was a wonderful afternoon.

Grounds Day successfully took place on Friday 23rd October. Children and adults worked together all day in all areas of the schools' grounds on jobs including, clearing leaves, putting down wood chips, weeding flower beds, cutting back shrubs, clearing and tidying the vegetable garden and Nature Area, fixing gates and planting bulbs. The grounds look fantastic!



Tobias with 'bed hair' on Children in Need Day

On Friday 13th November, the whole school came to school in pyjamas to celebrate Children in Need. The day was organised by School Council and finished with a cake sale. £177 was raised which is an incredible amount.

Neptune and Saturn Classes visited Wandlebury and participated in an Iron Age Experience. They found out about the people who would have lived at Wandlebury in those times and made bread, practised firing a slingshot and made miniature versions of wattle and daub walls. A good day was had by all.



Lily's prize winning pumpkin



Tobias was a winner of the Writing Competition

On Tuesday 17th November, the results of the Writing Competition, organised by Mrs Baker, were announced. Amongst the winners was Tobias who was also commended for his story planning.

We have just completed a week of anti-bullying activities. Throughout the week children had the opportunity to explore what bullying is and what can be done to prevent it. The week ended with KS2 children from Swaffham Bulbeck joining our KS2 children for a morning of activities and a sharing assembly to which parents were invited.

We are now beginning to think about Christmas and Mercury and Mars classes are already beginning to prepare for their Christmas Production. We have a lot to look forward to including FoSPS Christmas Fair on Friday 27th November (2.30pm start), Decoration Day, a Christmas celebration at St Mary's, some steel pan drumming and Christmas lunch. There promises to be a lot of glitter and mince pies!

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Hannah Curtis
Head teacher

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

10AM TO 4 PM
MANDEVILLE HALL, BURWELL

★ MANY CRAFT STALLS ★
SANTA'S GROTTO ★ FABULOUS FOOD
★ LOCAL CHOIRS & PERFORMERS ★

For more info contact sue.anderson@burwellprint.co.uk
or call Sue at Burwell Print on 01638 613102

Burwell Print is a Social Training Enterprise. We are running this event so that we can continue to provide additional and creative work opportunities for people with learning disabilities. Registered Charity Number 1053026

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day
The Cantilena Singers

Saturday December 5th 2015
7pm – 9pm

Church of St. Mary the Virgin
Great Abington
Cambridgeshire CB21 6AE

An evening of song for Advent and Christmas
in aid of the John Chaplin Open Church Project.

Director Daniel Spreadbury

£10 (free admission for under 18's)

Tickets from the Village Shop Great Abington or
Anne Hall (01223 892275)
Marilyn Broadhurst (01223 893214)
Mary Miles (01223 891083)
Tony Collett (01223 893447)

www.cantilenasingers.org

St Mary's Burwell Christingle Service



Sunday 6th December 2015
4pm
No need to book
Donations to Children's Society
Collecting Candles will be available at the service to bring back later



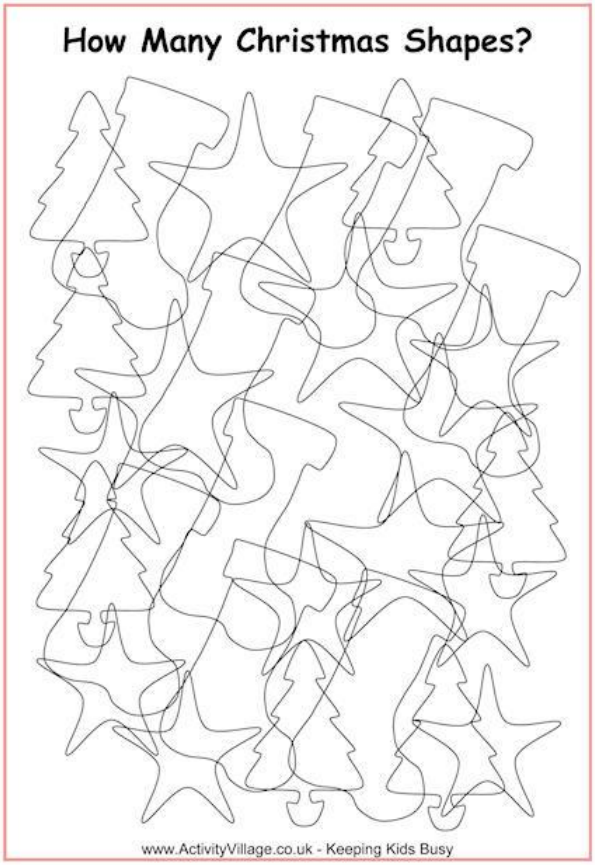
Thanks to Puzzleric alias Richard Maddox

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 33

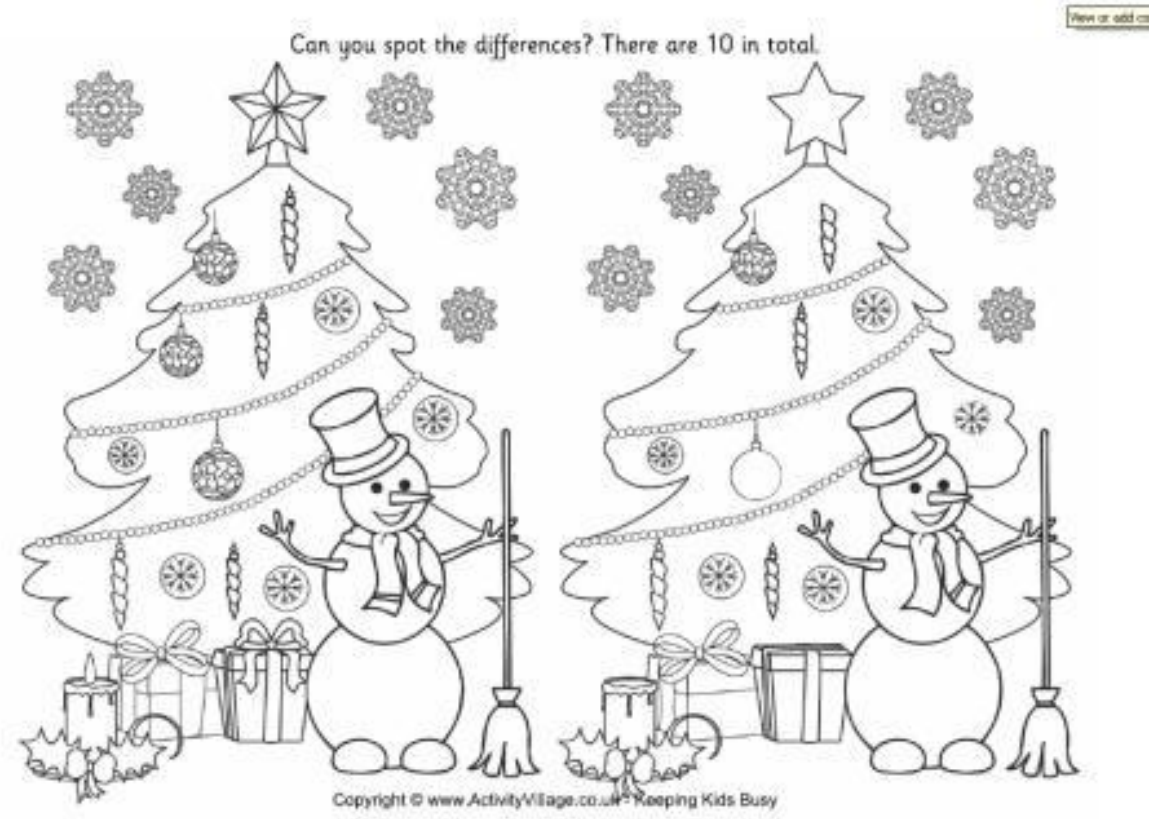
ACROSS: 1. MAIDS. 5. POLICEWOMAN. 9. PRETTIER.
10. OR. 11. FROG. 12. BROOMSTICK. 14. PEN. 15. SUMMER.
16. SAVINGS. 18. ITALY. 20. POINTS. 22. CHOCOLATES.
27. OF. 28. LIGHT. 29. GUM. 30. NAMING. 32. BATH.
33. CAKES. 36. EVERYTHING. 38. FIRST. 39. WAY.
42. THEATRE. 45. AS. 46. ROW. 48. RUN. 49. NET.
50. UNDERSTANDING. 52. IS. 53. OLD. 55. ADD. 56. RUB.
57. FOUR.

DOWN: 1. MARK. 2. INTERESTING. 3. FAVOURITE.
4. CHIMNEY. 5. PRESENT. 6. LADIES. 7. COOKS. 8. WE.
13. AMBULANCE. 14. PEA. 17. VET. 19. LIFE.
20. POLICEWOMAN. 21. SO. 23. HIGHER.
24. COMPETITION. 25. TUMMY. 26. SUNSHINE. 31. BAG.
34. KEY. 35. SAW. 37. NAUGHTIER. 38. FEBRUARY.
41. PAIRED. 43. EAR. 44. TENS. 47. WIDER. 49. NO.
51. GO. 54. DO.

David's Fun Page







Pets Corner



From left: Meg, Buzz and Freddie Fielding



Norman Mercer does Halloween



Cricket



Reach vs Rain Men Sunday 27 September
Reach 89 all out (T Fordham 26, T Davies 23)
Rain Men 84 all out

We went into the last match of the season desperate to salvage a victory and with only nine men able to try to pull it off. Put in to bat on a sponge of a pitch, well-watered by September's rain, we struggled to get going somewhat, with Bryan Pearson possibly setting a new record for the greatest number of balls faced without managing to poke the ball far enough for a run – a record which was almost certainly previously held by the captain. Only a mid-order partnership between Tony Fordham and Tim Davies saved us from humiliation. A score of 89 all out did not seem competitive, but then sometimes we under-estimate our opponents' incompetence. Some ungenerous bowling from Theo, Tony and Tim reduced the Rain Men to a state of constantly waiting for bad balls which never came. A slow outfield perhaps helped to make up for our shortage of hands. The Rain Men perished six runs short of victory in one of the tightest games we have played

Ross Clark

Our Tennis Court

A reminder that our court is freely available to Reach residents and their accompanied guests.

However, in addition, we are happy to have up to 10 **Non-Reach Sponsored Visitors.** For anyone to become a Sponsored Visitor, they will need to be nominated by a Reach Villager and initially make contact with:

Philip Lewis 742115 solvenlewis@icloud.com or
David Parr 744081 davidmparr@btinternet.com

There is an annual charge of £20 (which goes to the court maintenance fund – cheques should be made payable to Reach Parish Council).

And over holiday periods, to avoid disappointment, villagers are recommended to use the booking sheets available on court.

REACH

PARISH COUNCIL

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

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	Present
Michael Aves	Vice Chair	Present
Hannah Baldwin	Councillor	Present
Steve Boreham	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Councillor	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Present

1. Forum for members of the public

Several members of the public attended the meeting to discuss two points –

1. The Cricket Pitch – At present Reach Cricket Club use the ground for occasional matches, and Burwell Cricket Club have used it 3 times this year. Burwell 3rd team would like to use the ground 8 times in the coming season. In return they propose to maintain the ground to a good standard in line with the lease requirements. It was stated that the pitch would improve with the increase in games. Burwell Cricket Club also agrees to abide by the maximum 10 car rule. ***Ross Clark*** to contact the National Trust, as owners, to ensure they are happy with this arrangement. PC gave full support pending the NT agreement.

2. Power on the Green – Funding has been raised to provide electricity on the village green and to the centre of the green. A full explanation of the project was given and a full discussion took place. Concern was shown for the ongoing costs, and additional noise nuisance that properties by the green may experience. The Events team will pay the yearly fees in advance and the PC will establish a criteria policy for the use & control of the electricity. The proposal was agreed.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

- Matters arising from the last minutes – Councillor Boreham had continued to investigate the potential Ash dieback on the trees on The Hythe. He had collated a plan of the trees owned by the PC. It was agreed that a regular check of the trees in the village was required along with a yearly inspection by a qualified person. ***Councillor Boreham*** to try to establish which trees around the village are PC owned.

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

A cheque had been received from the Village Centre committee following a successful year for Reach Fair.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

I attended a meeting of the Staffing and Appeals Committee. Amongst other items the Committee agreed to recommend to Constitution and Ethics Committee that appeals against dismissal should in future be heard by Directors, rather than members as currently happens. The Committee also agreed to recommend to Full Council that we should enter a 12-month trial to share the Chief Executive position with Peterborough City Council.
Owing to a leg injury I was unable to attend a number of other meetings.

Councillor Aves asked that Councillor Brown check and confirm that the diversion route for the closure of Station Road, Swaffham Prior, would not direct cars and particularly lorries through Reach.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

A buffet tea will no longer be provided at Full Council pre-meeting, as a cost saving measure.

Community Land Trusts in East Cambs. continue to progress. In Swaffham Prior with the allocation of 8 new homes completed and the prospective owners hoping to move in by Christmas. Thrift CLT for Soham is looking for a suitable location, Witchford CLT has a site identified and Fordham PC wishes to move forward with a CLT.

Significant changes have been made to council Planning Service The website has been re-vamped. From Oct 1st pre-planning advice will be free for charities and small businesses. The scale of charges has also been amended.

4 (4) Financial Report
The second part of the precept has been received and the Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.

4 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings
Councillor Cane had attended a meeting at ECDC with regard to changing the planning process and also a CPALC meeting which highlighted the need for Assets and Risk registers. ***Clerk*** to establish an assets list and investigate all files electronic and paper.

4 (6) Play Spaces
The movable goal posts are in a poor state of repair. ***Councillor Cane*** to remove the net from the goal post and report back on the condition of the posts.

4 (7) Rights of Way
The hedge by Green Lane has been cut back on both sides. Barston Drove and Straight Drove have been repaired by CCC. Concern has been shown with regard to the longevity of the repair once the bad weather arrives.
Complaints continue to be received about dog mess on Clinch Pit Lane. Residents believe they have repeatedly seen the same dog fouling on the lane. ***Clerk*** to write to the owner reminding them of their responsibility to clean up after their dog.

4 (8) Village Centre
No report received.

4 (9) 24Acres Committee Report
Nick Aklam is in the process of producing a 5 year plan for the 24Acres woodland, to ensure our compliance with the Forestry commission grant conditions.
An access point to the rest of the NT land is being established by an adjoining landowner. This will not be a public footpath, but will allow access across the land.
A list of volunteers for the Apple Day event is required to ensure they are covered by the PC insurance.

4 (10) Friends of Reach Wood
Mowing of the meadow has taken place and new Woodland trust signs have been put up. ***Councillor Boreham*** to contact the WT to ask about the dog rules signs, which were agreed, would be put up at the wood entrances.

5. ECDC Local plan and village boundaries
It was confirmed that the 'village envelopes' are no longer valid. ECDC are now in the process of developing and emerging local plan to assist in the development of a new full local plan. ***Councillor Allen*** to keep the PC up to date with changes.

6. Annual Audit Outcome
The annual audit had been returned and displayed, as required. Councillor Cane will be unable to carry out the internal audit next year, as it needs to be an independent audit.

7. Cemetery and Mooring fees
Cemetery fees will be increased by 5%, mooring fees will remain as they are. The mooring document will have the refund agreement removed.

8. Cemetery Fencing
Postponed to a later meeting

9. Planning Applications
There were none.

10. Information Items/AOB
Councillor Alderson had cut back the hedge around the Ditchfield roadside bus stop and will continue to monitor the area.

11. Payments

CR Contracting – Mowing contract	£604.00
Susan Bailey – Clerk salary	£607.92
PKF Littlejohn – Audit fees	£120.00
National Trust – 24acres lease fee	£ 10.00
The British legion - Remembrance wreath	£ 17.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4th November 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



Is there any room at the inn? As Christmas approaches, this year we are acutely aware of the huge numbers of people displaced and on the move both at home and abroad. But sadly there will be no room at the inn for too many this year - whether it is refugees fleeing wars in Syria and Iraq, or closer to home, those who have been forced to move, or made homeless, due to the complex web of causes of financial hardship and poverty.

It's so hard to know what to do, and how to help. Each year our Christingle service at St Mary's is in aid of the Children's Society, which supports some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in the UK and this year is on Sunday 6th December at 4pm at St Mary's. We have also decided that as a church we will give the collection from our Carols by Candlelight service on 20th December to charities working with refugees, so if you're coming and would like to give, please come prepared.

Please also continue to support the Foodbank collection – you can leave donations in the church at any time during the day. Updates are posted near the collection box about current needs, including special requests for Christmas.

All are welcome to join us at our Nativity Carol Service here in Reach at 3pm on Sunday 20th December. I'm looking for helpers to take part, especially to read, so please let me know. During the week before Christmas, the church will be open later, until 8pm, if you would like to pop in for a quiet space to remember loved ones and perhaps light a candle. And don't forget that both our churches in Burwell and Reach are open each day for anyone to call in to visit and look round and perhaps to pray.

As we prepare to remember once again the coming of Jesus among us, who was himself a refugee, forced to flee to Egypt with his family to escape a cruel tyrant ruler, we pray for peace on earth, and goodwill among all people this Christmas. Best wishes for an Advent full of hope, a Christmas full of joy, and a New Year filled with peace, from all of us at St Mary's and St Etheldreda's! Please do get in touch if you would like to find out more about any of our events or services. Updates are posted on Facebook and our website.

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



Church News

Church Building News

In the last issue of Within Reach I said that the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) were scheduled to visit the church, both to see the repair work that has already been done and to discuss our ideas for the future in the light of the legacy we received from Maisie. The DAC is made up of experts in all aspect relating to historic church buildings, including architects, experts in stonework conservation, heating, stained glass windows, lighting, church organs, bells and other relevant disciplines. Not only do they have to approve anything we do to the building but they are very willing to give us the benefit of their extensive expertise in helping us to plan for the future.

I'm pleased to say that the meeting was very productive and positive. The DAC members were pleased with the repairs so far and agreed with the structural engineer's report that suggested the best way to deal with the cracks in the walls was to put in some bracing from side to side to reduce the pressure the roof puts on the walls. The DAC members were also very supportive of the ideas in the draft plans and the comments people in Reach made about them. The implication was that there was nothing they would be likely to reject in principle, although of course the detail would have to be properly worked through. This was great news and encourages us to take the next steps.

We'll therefore now ask the architect to prepare detailed proposals and obtain quotes for the bracing of the roof and also to prepare Version 2 of the draft plans for the church's development, incorporating comments from the village. At the DAC's suggestion, we will also seek the advice of a specialist heating engineer about what type of heating would be most suitable, both in terms of heating the church and in running costs.

CentrePeace @ Reach

CentrePeace will continue to come to Reach on the second Wednesday of the month next year, at least until some building work starts on bracing the roof! If that should cause us to change our plans at all, we will of course let you know. Dates for the remainder of 2015 and 2016 are:

2015	
December 9th	
2016	
January 13th	July 13th
February 10th	August 10th
March 9th	September 14th
April 13th	October 12th
May 11th	November 9th
June 8th	December 14th

Pat Chalmers
Church Administrator
administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Church Services at Burwell and Reach

	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
December 2015		
Wednesday 2nd	10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 3rd	10.00am Little Bears	
Friday 4th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 6th Advent 2	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Christingle Service	
Wednesday 9th	10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace at Reach
Friday 11th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 13th Advent 3	10.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Wednesday 16th	10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Friday 18th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 20th Advent 4	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight	3.00pm Carol Service
Wednesday 23rd	10.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 24th Christmas Eve	3.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion	
Christmas Day	10.00am All Age Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 27th Christmas 1	**10.00am Said Holy Communion**	
Wednesday 30th	10.00am Holy Communion	
January 2016		
Friday 1st		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 3rd Christmas 2	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Communion	
Wednesday 6th	10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Friday 8th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 8th Epiphany 1	10.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday @ 7
Wednesday 13th	10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace at Reach
Friday 15th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 17th Epiphany 2	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Wednesday 20th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Friday 22nd		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 24th Epiphany 3	8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Joint Service at Burwell Baptist Church for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
Wednesday 27th	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Friday 29th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 31st Epiphany 4	4.00pm Messy Church	10.00am Holy Communion

Bus Timetable

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

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

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

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

Newmarket – Burwell – Reach – Bottisham – Cambridge																
Service No:	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		10	10	10	10
	M-F	**M-F**	**Sat**	**M-F**	**Sat**							**Sat**	**M-F**			
Newmarket (Guineas Station)				0704	0719	0814	0914	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1424	1514	1614	1714
Burwell (Manchetts Ness Road)	0628	0658	0713	0728	0743	0838	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1448	1538	1638	1738
Reach	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: December 2015

December 2015	Event	Location	Time
Wed 2	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 3	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thurs 3	Wickstead Park Christmas Show and Dinner and Tea	Burwell Museum Coach Trips	Tickets from Tina
Sat 5	Christmas Fayre	Mandeville Hall, Burwell	10am – 4pm
Sat 5	Christmas Food & Gift Fair	The Old Rectory, Swaffham Bulbeck	10.30am – 2.30pm
Sat 5	The Cantilena Singers	St Mary the Virgin, Great Abingdon	7pm - 9pm
Sun 6	Christingle Service	St Mary's Burwell	4pm
Thurs 10	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Wed 9th	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Thurs 10th	Cambridge Vocal Consort	St Mary's Church, Burwell	From 7.30pm
Thurs 17	Recycling Day (Green)		
Sat 12th	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30am – 2pm
Sat 12th	Farmers Market	Burwell	9.30am – 12.30pm
Sat 12th	Nativity Sets Display	The Guildhall, Nr., St Mary's, Burwell	2 – 4pm
Tues 15th	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Wed 16	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thurs 24th	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Sun 20th	Nativity Carol Service	St Etheldreda's	3pm – 3.30pm
Wed 23	Lunchbreak Café	St Mary's Church, Burwell	12noon – 2pm
Thurs 31st	Recycling Day (Green)		



Diary Dates: January 2016

January 2016	Event	Location	Time
Wed 6	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 7	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Sat 9	Farmers Market	Burwell	9.30am – 12.30pm
Tues 12	New Evening Classes	Bottisham Village College	See Page 11
Wed 13	CentrePeace	St Etheldreda's	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Thurs 14	Recycling Day (Green)		
Tues 19	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Wed 20	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 21	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Wed 27	Lunchbreak Cafe	St Mary's Church, Burwell	12 noon – 2pm
Thurs 28	Recycling Day (Green)		

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
Youth Club (Swaffham Prior)	Alan Badcock	742228



Contact Information

Parish Council			
	Vice Chair	Michael Aves	742800
	Councillor	Hannah Baldwin	07702 813845
	Councillor	Steve Boreham	742098
	Chair	Charlotte Cane	741064
	Councillor	Hilary Fielding	741853
	Councillor	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	743839
	Bookings	Grahame Radford	742814
	Marquee Bookings	Andrew Hall	743737
Amenity Fund Committee			
	Committee Member	Claire Halpin-McDonald	743330
	Chair	John Holmwood	742969
	Committee Member	Diana Ward	744210
	Committee Member	David Thomas	742676
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	



John Reed, a proud father



The very happy couple



Harry and dad, Andrew Oliver Towers



Juliet Vickery and our local cider maker.



Andrew Trump apple pealing



Lesley Boyle (left), Diana Ward, Jon and Kathryn Cane



Michael Aves Jr and Robert Aves cutting barley in mid June



Halloween 2015. Photo: Hugh de Lacy