Within Reach



Feb/Mar 2016



Starling murmuration at Tubney Fen. Photo: Alison Lewis



Pruning the community orchard on 10 January 2016. Photo: David Thomas

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Reach Book Club

Saturday 20th February at 3.00pm

In the Dyke's End

Our book is:

A Spool of Blue Thread
By Anne Tyler

Please email or call David Parr on 744081, 07887 563720 or davidmparr@btinternet.com if you are planning to come along

From the Editor



I'm afraid I've always thought of the architecture of our Church, St Etheldreda's, as a little lacking. To me, it looks as though it has been cobbled together with bits and pieces of stone and brickwork leftover from elsewhere – though I have to say, oddly, that the tiled roof viewed from the rear is to be admired.

That said, Hugh de Lacy has taken some really great photographs of the Church for two postcards which have quite transformed my opinion. Also, look out for a questionnaire which is to be sent out shortly about the possibility of community uses for the Church.

Marie Bambrick has interview Cliff Coulson, and we also have an interview with Danuta and Richard – the original Gibsons!

Well done to Andy Rankin and all those involved with the setting up of Reach Community Solar Farm. It's operational and has an informal ribbon cutting at midday on Saturday 27th February. Hugh de Lacy provides some broadband news which is very welcome.

We enjoy Joss's wildlife news and Martin's photographs of Juniper and its moons. Nick Acklam and David Thomas have been caring for our woodland and orchard with the assistance of many volunteers and they are grateful for your support. Amber Vale has an article about Burwell Hedgehog Rehab which has been set up to provide care and treatment for local hedgehogs who may be injured or unwell.

At the New Year's Football Day match Bryan Pearson was there creating a football match out of mayhem, with his red jumper and special Dad's football shirt beneath. I think I understood from Bryan that the Football Match enjoyed its 20th year this year. Has that red jumper seen 20 years' service or just Bryan?

Catherine Gibson considers the environmental virtues of being a vegetarian with a scientific passion and gives us the recipe for a mushroom and potato pie!

Great School article once again. Rose plays the ukulele and Lily and Henry get into Molly Dancing.

I know I say that the pets in Pets Corner are totally cute but Ruby Redfarn is off the scale.

Read this magazine and find out who has found their head.

Claire Halpin-McDonald

Front Cover Photo:
Football Match New Year's Day 2016 by Hugh de Lacy

Cover photographs: Hugh de Lacy, Alison Lewis and David Thomas

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

Editorial Team

Editor	Claire Halpin-McDonald
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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	
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

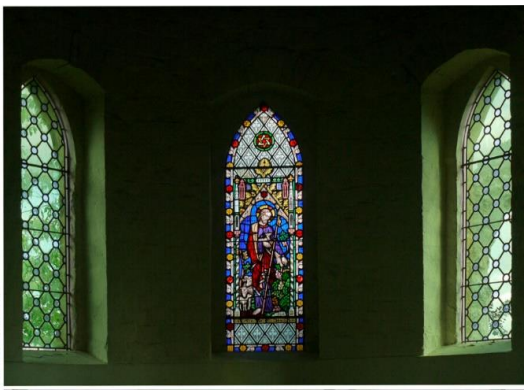
Postcards of St Etheldreda's Church, Reach





Hugh de Lacy has produced a choice of two postcards of the Church and they are on view and for sale in the Church







Cliff Coulson



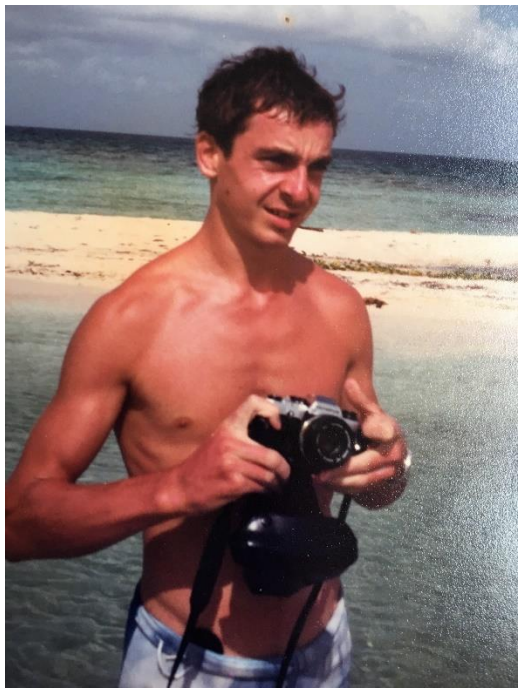
Cliff with partner Alison Short

Q: So Cliff, tell me where you are from and a bit about your early life

A: I was born and brought up in Hartlepool. I have one sister, who is a year younger; both my parents are still alive. I went to Elwick Road secondary modern school; I was rubbish at school and left aged 15. My first job was with Dewhurst butchers in Peterlee and I worked there for two years. I was 4 foot 10 at the time and had to wear elevated shoes to see into the till!

Aged 17 I joined the army for the usual reasons: to get away, see the world and travel. I first went to Sutton Coldfield selection centre and was picked to drive tanks but my parents advised that it didn't lead to many prospects in civvy-street and suggested I join the Catering Corps. I followed their advice and went to Aldershot for a year's training; following this I went to Germany in 1975 as part of the Royal Signals Regiment. There I was allocated to the sergeants' and officers' mess and promoted to lance corporal. The Berlin Wall was still up at that time and we were often out on communications exercises with NATO troops. It was a very interesting three years and I could say that it was that experience that turned me into a man.

Then I said to myself: "where can I go to meet some women?" The army is full of men! I moved to the QE military hospital in Woolwich and spent three years there. I did meet a girl and we were together for three years. I was working for the sergeants and senior ranks catering and was recommended for a VIP course at Aldershot so that I could work with senior regimental forces. After this training I was posted to a five-star general's household in Germany as chef. It was a bit like Downton Abbey: he had a batman, people polishing the silver and did a lot of entertaining from cocktail to dinner parties. This promotion to Germany meant the end of my three year relationship. After three years there, in 1978, I moved back to Waterbeach barracks and did a six-month tour of Belize.



Cliff in Belize circa 1983 – it's a tough life in the Army!

Q: After that what did you do?

A: I decided to do some education courses in the army. There was an occasion when I "talked back" to a senior officer and found myself posted to the Shetland Isles to a NATO communications base miles from anywhere with little to do so I kept fit, worked hard and drank! I was there for 18 months and then resigned from the army.

Q: So what happened next?

A: I went to work at the London Hilton on Park Lane as Demi-Chef de Partie. It was a good position and we catered for anything from 500 to 1,000 for lunch and dinner. We catered for the Royal Variety performance and Miss World competition.

Q: Did you get to meet any of the Miss World contestants?

A: Sadly not!

Q: How long were you at the London Hilton?

A: I stayed there for a year and then move to work with a catering company in Richmond, Surrey and stayed with them for three years. Following this, in 1990, I then moved to work as a sous chef in the London clinic, a private hospital in Harley Street.

Q: Did you run into any celebrities there?

A: There were lots there in my time including King Hussein of Jordan, Linda McCartney, Cardinal Runcie, and memorably, General Pinochet who had a whole floor with armed guards allocated to him!

Q: So that takes us up to about 1999 and you said you then went self-employed?

A: I was subcontracted by the J Lyons company and catered for the Queen's garden parties, at Sandringham and a barbecue for Prince Charles and Diana at Highgrove and also catered for Wimbledon. Following the death of a close friend, I decided to move to Coventry to train as a computer engineer for two years. In 2002 I moved to the East Anglia Children's Hospital in Milton and was chef manager for nine years.

Q: How did you end up moving to Reach?

A: When I was working in Milton I saw an ad for a room in a nice house in Reach and moved there and started to come to the Dyke's End. I used to drink with Scotty who was a good mate. Then I was fortunate enough to meet Alison (that was about 12 years ago). We lived together in Reach until five months ago and now live in Burwell. We want to move back to Reach, we have so many friends here. Five years ago 32 of us from the village went on holiday to Greece together: Reach is a great place to live.

Q: Where are you working now?

A: I work full-time at the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge as a finance assistant.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I like walking the dog on the Fens, going to the pub and socialising with friends.

Q: What is your philosophy in life?

A: Do something you have a passion for in life.



Burwell Hedgehog Rehab



Burwell Hedgehog Rehab has been set up to provide care and treatment for local hogs who may be injured or unwell.

When I first entered the veterinary industry as a student everyone used to ask me, "Amber, what is your favourite animal?" The answer from day one was always a hedgehog. I am yet to complete my Veterinary Nursing Diploma, however I worked as a Student Veterinary Nurse for four years. I started my training in Cambridge in which I did a one year placement. I was then offered a position in Ely where I continued my course. After three great years there, I struggled to pass one of my final exams and decided to leave Veterinary Nursing for a while. Seven months have flown by and I am almost ready to give it one last shot. My Hedgehog Rehab is based in Burwell and I will be happy to attend to hedgehogs in and around the surrounding areas.

I decided to put my garden shed to good use and set to work making it a homely Hedgehog shelter. Unfortunately Hedgehogs are on rapid decline and need human intervention when necessary, especially throughout the harsh cold winters. Underweight hedgehogs will attempt to hibernate during the winter, but sadly will never wake up. It is important that if a Hedgehog is seen out in daylight it is carefully assessed (females during the summer may leave a nest during the day to feed their young) however from November to April a Hedgehog out in the daytime isn't a good sign.

Hedgehogs suffer from a variety of intestinal parasites due to the large volume of slugs and snails that they consume. Many people are unaware that in fact, a hedgehog's main diet consists of beetles and insects. Lungworm is a serious infestation that spreads into the respiratory tract and is fatal if left untreated. Hedgehogs can be seen out in daylight (this normally indicates sickness and dehydration) and at this point the hedgehog should be rescued and taken to the nearest rehab point for emergency subcutaneous fluids. All 21 of the hedgehogs that I currently have have been successfully treated and are now very healthy. The British Hedgehog Society are encouraging people to feed hedgehogs in their gardens to give the hogs a break from eating the things that make them poorly (meaty cat food and fresh water are ideal). They just need a little helping hand.

My goal is to do everything in my power to help every hedgehog I can.

Amber Vale

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Historic Reach

"Reach was a city while Cambridge was a small village"
(T. Dalton)

Studies of individual English villages are often overlooked and as Reach demonstrates, once a village does not necessarily mean always a village. Whilst the above passage probably refers to significance rather than size, Reach is an interesting example of a settlement that was once very prominent in the fenland landscape. The small port at Reach had developed a more than local importance by the end of the 14th century (RCHME 1972) and a variety of products were being shipped out. Clunch formed a major export and went to be used in a number of noteworthy buildings, for example Cambridge Castle in 1295 and a number of Cambridge Colleges in the 16th century (V.C.H., Cambs. II).

Reach is significant and studies into these types of settlement are rare, as scholars tend to focus on towns and cities with more prominence in the present. There have been many smaller and partial investigations, but what can we learn from studying Reach in a holistic manner, combining multiple avenues of research, but with an emphasis on historic buildings?

One of the principal sources of information are historic maps, and these are often a good starting point. Cambridge Archives holds the records for Reach and a range of old maps can be found. One of the problems encountered results from the fact that Reach was once two parishes. East Reach was located to the north of Devil's Dyke (the large bank and ditch earthwork running from Reach to Wooditton and thought to be Anglo-Saxon), in Burwell parish, whilst West Reach lay on the other side in Swaffham Prior parish.

Before Ordnance Survey produced the first edition maps in the 1860s, tithe and enclosure maps were the principal cartographic sources. Enclosure Acts in the 1800s 'enclosed' a number of smallholdings creating large farms, pushing out the idea of common land for communal use or 'waste' land that did not officially belong to any group and was often cultivated by landless peasants. Areas covered by this enclosure often lack tithe maps as the tithe (portion of your yearly profit payable to the church or clergyman) was often commuted as part of the enclosure process. Therefore West Reach has an Enclosure map, but no tithe, whilst East Reach has a tithe and only a small Enclosure map covering the area south of Burwell Road.

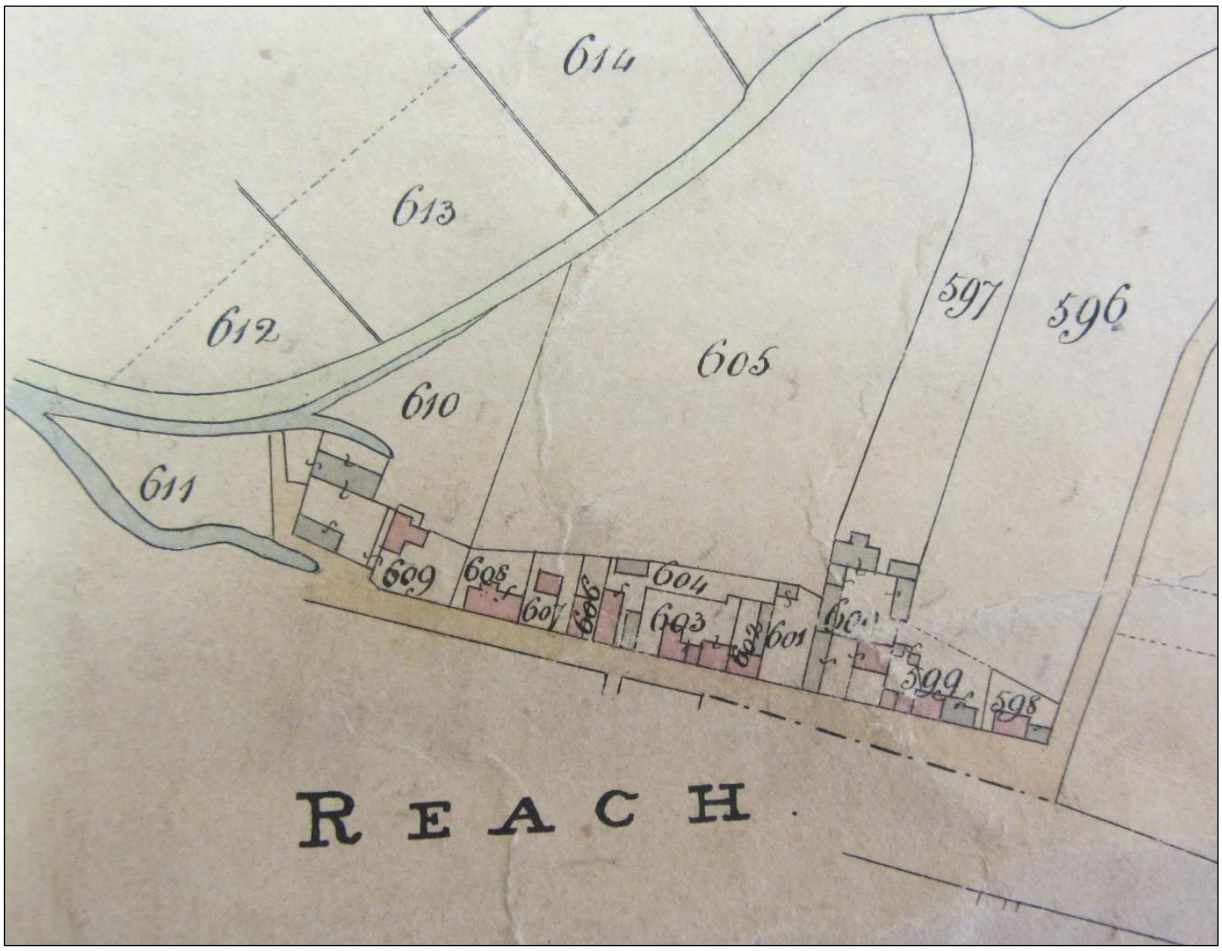


Swaffham Prior parish enclosure map, showing part of Reach village

More often the tithe map holds most information relating to landowners and occupiers. Reach is no exception. Although only illustrating East Reach, the tithe apportionment lists several interesting names. Plots 612 and 613 to the north of the village are owned by a John Peter Allix, although occupied by John Harding (there are several Hardings listed as owners and occupiers for various plots). He was a prominent landowner in Swaffham Prior, owner of Swaffham Prior House and great-grandson of the Rev. Pierre Allix (1641-1717) a French Protestant clergyman and scriptural writer forced to flee France following the revocation of the edict of Nantes. Other plots of interest are the listing of The Ship Inn in Plot 602, in front of what is now the Village Centre but was once the Village School.

Cartographic sources can only tell us so much. Their strength lies in illustrating the morphology of the village as a whole, but studying individual buildings is also a good way of learning about changes in architectural styles and building fashions. We have already visited a few of the buildings in Reach including the Dyke's End pub.

In the medieval period, alehouses or beerhouses were premises where ale and beer was sold directly from a home, while inns or public houses were purpose built to serve travellers. In Cambridgeshire, no specialised planning for inns and alehouses is found before 1800, and therefore it is impossible to distinguish alehouses from standard dwellings of the same date. In the early 19th century, club or small assembly rooms were added to public houses and comprised single heated rooms, sometimes at first floor level and given independent access from outside. This means that in Reach, as elsewhere, there are difficulties in resolving alehouse functions from physical inspection alone. However, historic trade directories provide clues that may suggest this practice occurred in Reach, where we found two occurrences of public houses being run by one family member, but another of the same surname listed as a beer retailer; does this indicate a distinct entity where home-brewed ale and beer was sold separately from, but in the same building as the principal business? In 1869, a George Middleditch ran the Swan P.H., while Matthew Middleditch was a beer retailer, and then in 1892 and 1896 David Badcock ran the Ship P.H. and Charles Badcock was a beer retailer. Though not conclusive evidence, this might suggest that public houses in Reach followed similar practices as elsewhere in Cambridgeshire. Historic trade directories are now very accessible and many can be found online at http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingpage/collection /p16445coll4.



Burwell parish tithe map, showing parts of Reach- dated 1842.

We have visited The Dyke's End public house and thanks must go to George and Catherine Gibson for allowing us to roam around at will. The building consists of a former domestic residence converted from private to commercial use in 1975/76. Despite its short life as a public house, its fortunes have varied. After a period of closure and a name change, it was not until 2000 when the village bought the freehold that continued existence was ensured and the current name reinstated.



With the conversion to a public house, there was the inevitable loss of earlier, domestic fixtures and fittings, though there remain some tantalising clues regarding the social history of the building, for example the discovery of a pair of worn shoe soles found hidden within a chimney stack. Unless they have been introduced at a much later date, they hark back to a time when it was thought that such depositions would avert evil or bad luck. These are an apotropaic device similar to scribed compass marks (commonly named daisy wheels) often found on fireplace lintels or around windows and doorways.



Kelly, E. R. (ed.) 1869 *The Post Office Directory of Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk* Kelly & Co., London. pp. 139, 159, 179.

Kelly & Co. Ltd. *Kelly's Directory of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk & Suffolk* Kelly's & Co. Ltd., London. p. 138.

Kelly & Co. Ltd. *Kelly's Directory of Cambridgeshire* Kelly's & Co. Ltd., London. p. 150.

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) 1972 An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Cambridgeshire, Volume 2, North-East Cambridgeshire Originally published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, now available online

http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/cambs/vol2.

Wareham, A. F., and Wright, A. P. M. 2002 A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 10, Cheveley, Flendish, Staine and Staploe Hundreds (North-Eastern Cambridgeshire) Originally published by Victoria County History (VCH), London, now available online http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol10/pp225-227

Lauren Wilson and Tansy Collins
Archaeological Solutions

If you have any comments or questions about this article contact Tansy on Tansy.Collins@ascontracts.co.uk

Reach Community Solar Farm: Up and Running



Andy Rankin

We're delighted to announce that Reach Community Solar Farm is finally operational!

The final testing and commissioning was carried out on a grey morning in early January with the last few wiring connections being made just as a representative of UK Power Networks turned up to witness the main safety relay being tested. Everything passed with flying colours, so with his signature on the commissioning form we were able the turn the main switch on (it's satisfyingly chunky) and start generating.

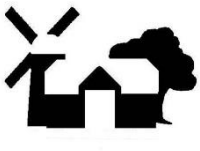


A lot of work has gone into the build over the last few months, and working in the winter has meant contending with ground that has turned into thick clogging mud. We'd like to say a big thanks to Meads Construction for undertaking the civil works at the site, Dragon Infrastructure Solutions for installing the high voltage connection and substation and the team from Midsummer Energy for installing the solar panels and inverters. We'd also like to say a huge thank you to John Robinson for being available with his JCB to help us out on numerous occasions - including dragging quite a number of other vehicles stuck in the mud to safety!

We're planning a short informal ribbon cutting and to pop a cork or two at midday on the 27th February to celebrate the project having come to fruition. If you'd like to have a look around and see the solar farm we'd be delighted if you came along. We'd also welcome volunteers to help us plant a new hedge along the southern boundary of the site to provide more screening from the road. If you'd like to help with this, please come along from 10am on the 27th and bring your wellies!

Andy Rankin

Burwell Museum Coach Trips



Canterbury	Thursday 7th April	£24
Hunstanton	Tuesday 24th May	£14
Yarmouth Market Day	Wednesday 29th June	£16
Mississippi Boat Trip and Norwich	Tuesday 19th July	£23
Clacton	Tuesday 16th August	£16
National Memorial Arboretum	Thursday 22nd September	£25
Coventry	Tuesday 18th October	£20
Bricklane Xmas Show and Dinner	Wednesday 7th December	£58

Tickets only from Tina's, Burwell and for information ring Barbara 01638 741581





In the foreground is Susan Baker with the Bishop of Huntingdon. Also Alice Leadbeter (Susan's daughter) is holding the Diocesan banner of Ely, with James and Thomas.

Mothers Union

2015 has marked 125 years of the Mothers Union within the Diocese of Ely; with a celebration of Christian Faith in the work of supporting families through troubled times. This involves prison visiting and reaching out in helping their families to cope and with many other situations where help and support are needed. The Mothers Union is a worldwide organisation and the Diocese of Ely has a particularly close link with the African state of Rwanda.

November saw the Commissioning Service in Ely Cathedral and it was a great joy to be there for the recommissioning of Susan Baker as Diocesan President for a further three years. It was wonderful to see Philip and their children with grandchildren alongside her at this important event.

Forthcoming dates for 2016

February 5th 'A meal for Mums.' Please ring 741791 for further information.

February 24th 2pm at The Guildhall 'A most treasured possession.

Amenity Fund

John Holmwood recently resigned as Chair of the Amenity Fund Committee. John was invited to join the Committee as an independent member and we have benefited greatly from his good judgement and advice.

An application was received from David Parr (on behalf of the Events Committee) to purchase two snow machines, to be used at the Advent turning of the Christmas tree lights, and the Christmas Eve carol service. This application was approved. It was agreed that the funds would be granted to the Village Centre for the purchase (and future care) of the machines.

If you feel you have a worthwhile project that could be funded via the Amenity Fund, please get in touch with the new Chair Claire Halpin-McDonald. 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.

Claire Halpin-McDonald	743330
Grahame Radford	742814
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.

Broadband News: Connecting Cambridgeshire

Sarah Marsh, programme manager of Connecting Cambridgeshire, attended the Parish Council meeting in September to provide an update on progress towards bringing fast broadband to Reach. She stated that the village is too far from the exchange in Burwell for fast broadband to be effective along existing copper wires. It was not explained why it had taken so long for Connecting Cambridgeshire to come to this rather obvious conclusion. Connecting Cambridgeshire will now install a new fibre cabinet on the corner of Fair Green and the Burwell Road. This should provide a good service to households within about 1.5km of the cabinet (provided there are no serious problems with the copper connections to their house).



It was stated at the September meeting that no commitment could be provided for completion of the project before the end of 2016. However I see that the entry for Reach on the Connecting Cambridgeshire website now states that fast broadband will be available between January and June this year. Keep your fingers crossed!

Air Broadband

An extraordinary general meeting of RaSP was held in the Dyke's End in December to discuss the proposal that RaSP be closed down and remaining funds handed over to Air Broadband (ABB) for them to continue running the system for the future.

Andrew Glover of ABB gave a summary of work done in the RaSP subscriber area to improve the infrastructure of the system and sign up new customers. Key improvements to the infrastructure included:

- upgrading of the fibre feed to Reach from 100Mb/s to 1Gb/s;
- the movement of most equipment in Reach to ABB's headquarters in Cambridge for easier maintenance;
- the replacement of much of the radio infrastructure to provide higher speeds and greater reliability;
- 20 new customers signed up (four lost in Swaffham Prior after the introduction of BT's fibre based service); and
- nearly all customers now on a symmetrical 10Mb/s up/down connection.

The EGM proposal was put to a vote and passed unanimously by those present at the meeting. Minutes of the meeting can be seen on the RaSP website which will be maintained for the time being.

ABB have recently announced that due to the success of their infrastructure improvements they are now able to provide a 30Mb/s download service (upload speed will continue at 10Mb/s) to those who would like to upgrade. The cost of this would be £25 per month plus VAT (£30 in total). They are also expecting to introduce an Internet phone service in 2016; this would include the ability of subscribers to transfer their local 01638 number to the new service and dispense with their British Telecom (BT) line completely. Given the now very high cost of BT line rental this could be an attractive option for some subscribers if they are not tied in to other BT streaming services. There are already other Internet phone providers who can also provide the same transfer of a local number at a cost of less than £5/month.

Hugh de Lacy

RAISING THE ROOF
Jesus Lane Friends Meeting Appeal

A series of Saturday Supper Concerts at Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BA for improvements to the Meeting House

Dates for Spring 2016:
Saturday 5th March, 6.00 – 7.00 pm
Music for Recorder – solo and consort

FREE ENTRY TO CONCERTS WITH RETIRING COLLECTION

followed by a hot supper (7.00 – 8.30 pm) for which we ask a donation in the region of £10 - £25

Please book your supper ticket with Rich Braun/Ione Evans 01223 812115 evans.braun@btinternet.com

Further dates to be announced.



Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

After the Christmas break members attended the first meeting of the New Year on the 5 January 2016. Our weekly programme runs until our year ends in May 2016.

I have written previously that **Daphne Hanson** DPAGB APAGB who is the Honorary Secretary of the club, has been elected as President of the EAF (East Anglia Federation of Photographic Societies). Daphne has been a member of the EAF Executive Committee for a number of years and had been the President Elect for the last two. Her term of office runs for the next two years. Daphne was previously the President from 1996-98.

The Club would like to congratulate Daphne on her appointment and wish her every success in her new position within the EAF. We hope that with her many years of experience of photography she will be able to facilitate the further development of the organisation in the future.

The EAF is an important organisation in the world of photography and was founded in 1910. It is a constituent founder Member of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). The PAGB is the umbrella organisation for camera clubs and photographic societies throughout the UK and there are 15 geographical Federations.

There are about 120 member clubs and societies within the EAF and in excess of 4,500 individual members. The EAF is now the largest federation in the PAGB covering the areas of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and part of Hertfordshire.

Seeking to promote the advancement of photography, the EAF facilitates contacts and exchange of opinions between members of one society and another. It also promotes exhibitions and competitions, maintaining a list of photographic judges and lecturers. Additionally it organises courses, workshops and events which may be of help to member societies including their individual members.

Future Club Events:

Tuesday 9 February 2016

'How to Sell Your Photographs'. Members are asked to donate photographs for sale at the Burwell Print Centre, to raise funds for this worthy local charity.

Tuesday 16 February 2016

'Foto-Fusion' by Jim Hartje ARPS DPAGB APAGB EFIAP, Peterborough Photographic Society. A miscellany of digital imagery, tips and ideas. Sponsored by The Photodex Corporation.

Tuesday 23 February 2016

'Practical Portrait Photography'. Demonstration of lighting techniques for modern portraiture, by Richard Clarke ABIPP.

Tuesday 8 March 2016

'An Evening with Leigh Preston FRPS MPAGB EFIAP' Digital presentation. A selection of A2 prints will also be displayed.

Tuesday 15 March 2016

'Some of our Best Bits' by Liz & Barry Hatten. Mainly retrospective but with helpful hints & tips along the way.

Tuesday 23 & 29 March 2016 - Break for Easter Holidays.

Further details of our programme can be viewed on our website (see below).



Local Starlings. Photographer: Barry Coles

The club welcomes guests to any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel **CB25 9EW** on Tuesday's 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

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH at 7.30 pm
St. Mary's Church, Church Lane,
Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 0HP

The Cantilena Singers

Lux aeterna: Renaissance and Romantics

An evening of unaccompanied choral music, sacred and secular, on the theme of eternal light, from the Renaissance to the Romantics, and beyond.

Proceeds to the Church

Director Daniel Spreadbury

Tickets £10 (free admission for under 18s)

Available from Janet Ramsay-Helie
Phone: 01638 603489
Email: ramsayhelie@ntlworld.com.
or on the door

www.cantilenasingers.org





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

February 24th and March 23rd

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.



Photo: Alison Lewis

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

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



Five girls pass out

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

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



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

The role of a firefighter is varied and exciting but most importantly, it can make a real different to people's lives.

The next recruitment process for whole time firefighters opens on February 6. To find out more, log on to: www.cambsfire.gov.uk.

Remember, 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.

Spring Jumble Sale in Lode Saturday 19th March 2-4 at the Fassage Hall

The spring Jumble sale will take place on Saturday 19th March at the Fassage Hall, Lode. We do hope you will turn out your cupboards and sheds, and bring us stuff that we can sell. We think we will use it to put towards something for Lode village say some outdoor equipment, which is very popular in the other villages. It is surprising how much money has been raised from these twice yearly events and the importance of recycling in our very wasteful society, so please come and join us and enjoy buying a good book, a useful bowl, good quality clothes, pictures, you name it, and we will no doubt have it! At the end, anything that is left is sorted and redistributed or recycled. Very little is thrown away. Thank you. Fran Platten

Healthwatch, Cambridgeshire

Had a recent experience of using health or social care?

Tell us what it was like for you.

Listen

At Healthwatch, we listen. Tell us what is working well within our local health and care services and what you think needs to be better.

We log what you say and share this anonymously with the people who make decisions about our care. This helps them improve care where it is needed.

Involve

We can make sure you know about local opportunities to have your say on health and care decisions. You can sign up for regular updates, or get in touch whenever you want some information.

We can help you find out what health and care services are available locally, or how to raise a concern. This is a free, independent and confidential service.

Challenge

Healthwatch can challenge health and care decision makers, if care isn't working in the way it should. We can also challenge, if we think a decision has been made where people have not been able to contribute. They have to listen to us, and they have to reply.

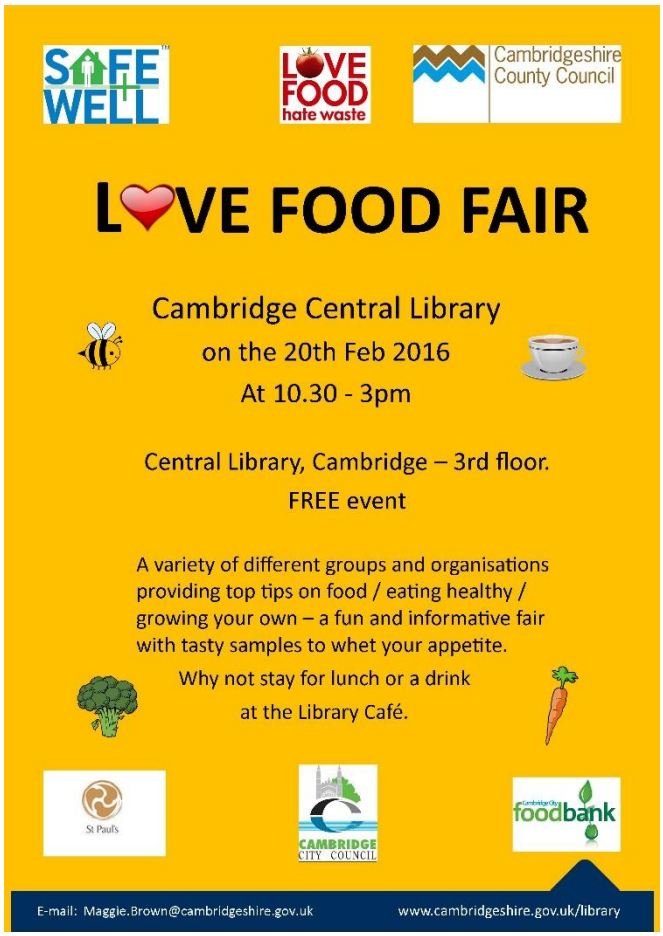
Get in touch

Please do tell us how care is working right now for you and the people who are important to you. Your experiences are important to us.

We are happy to talk to local groups and attend events, so please do invite us.

Contact us www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or call 01480 420628.

Facebook: Healthwatch Cambridgeshire. Twitter: follow us @HW_Cambs



Burwell and Reach Car Scheme

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

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

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

01638 742543 answer phone.

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

Events Team



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

Our two Christmas events – the switching on of the lights and the singing of carols on Christmas Eve were well supported and appreciated – with our new snow machines stealing the show.

The Events Team works hard to ensure success but we would not be able to achieve what we do without having a team of helpers who provide their time and expertise for free – and on many occasions finance as well. This year, the two Christmas events couldn't have taken place without power being installed on the Village Green – and many residents got involved in that.

Some names in alphabetical order:

Cliff Coulson and Alison Short who provided exceptional mulled wine for both events

Clo Bateman who cooked wonderful sausage rolls for us all

Dan Mules who provided technical input (and muscle) to the Power on the Green (POTG) project and then provided the height needed to decorate and undecorated the tree

Hilary Fielding who provided the music for our Carol Singing

John Reed who dug the channel from the main supply point to the Christmas tree point and project led this bit of things

Joyce Harrison who cooked lots and lots of mince pies on both occasions

Keith Lambert who helped greatly with the POTG project including the day he, John and I, combined age just over 200 years, excavated the channel to the Christmas tree, put in the conduit and the cable, refilled it and put the grass back – all in a morning. We have to admit being just a little bit proud of ourselves – and very smug.

Ray Bateman who was a huge technical contributor and would also take over the physical stuff when he saw that "management" couldn't hack it.

Rhys Baldwin – who delivered the excellent chestnuts

Sean Manchett who was involved in just about everything from start to finish, from finding suppliers and providing muscle, to funding parts of the project – we should be very grateful for what he and Manchetts give to our village.

And finally, **The Tents Team** made up of **Janet and Andrew Hall** and **Sue and Tony Jordan** who worked hard to keep out the elements

And we should also thank those who provided the funding:

- Amenity Fund (who have agreed to pay for the snow machines)
- ECDC
- Manchetts
- Village Centre
- Within Reach magazine

Thanks go to all the above – and finally to the **Parish Council** who support the events by providing the necessary Public Liability Insurance.

As regards future events we have the **Reach Festival** in September – please see the article below for further details of this exciting new event.

And in addition the Events Team is planning to have Reach participate in the **Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons** on the **21st April 2016** – more information will follow in due course.

And before that we have our new **Book Club** – see details on page 1 for further information.

David Parr
744081 or reacheventsteam@btinternet.com

Reach Festival Saturday 24th September 2016

The Events Team are organising a brand new event: the Reach Festival. Principally it will showcase local genuine handmade crafts and local produce (food and drink).

The Festival will be held on the last Saturday of September and therefore the date of our first festival will be Saturday 24th September 2016, from 10.30am – 4.30pm.

The food outlets (tea tent and BBQ (or similar)) will be run by the village and the profits from these outlets will fund this and other village events. We plan to sell Festival merchandise, for example, mugs, coasters and place mats.

In addition to the crafts and produce stalls we will have displays of crafts being undertaken e.g. potting, coin making, spinning, lace making and flint knapping. We will also have a dog scurry. The stalls, craft displays, tea tent and BBQ will all be on Fair Green.

The Village Centre will have delicate crafts (e.g. wool, lace making, paper, paintings and photography), a cooking demonstration, baking competition and an autumn show. The Church will have music and book readings. The Dykes End will also be taking part.

The Parish Council have given their permission to use the Playing Field for car parking.

Stallholders will be charged £20 for a pitch (3m x 3m) or £30 for a pitch (5m x 5m). If anyone wishes to have a stall or knows of a local crafts person or some who prepares food or drink, we are now taking bookings and expect stalls to be taken up very quickly.

If anyone wishes to assist with the Festival please contact one of the Events Team members.

David Parr

744081 or reacheventsteam@btinternet.com

The Orchid Hunters

The names of many plant hunters will be familiar, from Joseph Banks, Francis Masson and David Douglas to Joseph Hooker, Robert Fortune and the Lobb brothers. We are surrounded by plants named by and for them and their swashbuckling tales of their adventures across the globe have long been of interest. More than a few brave souls came to a sticky end - David Douglas fell into a trap meant for wild boar, Francis Masson froze to death, Thomas Lobb lost a leg and many others risked malaria, cholera, drowning, injury from earthquakes and attacks by wild animals, pirates and cannibals.



Wilhelm Micholitz c. 1890 in Singapore. From the Sander family collection

Orchids became a full-scale public obsession (known as Orchidelirium) from 1830s-1920s and there are reports of individual plants selling for well over £100,000 in today's money. Orchid hunters were commissioned by plant nurseries to search the jungles of the tropics, often suffering deeply unhospitable conditions and risking life and limb in pursuit of novel and exotic orchids. The Orchid Hunters display in the Glasshouse Range this year (13 February – 13 March) will focus on the [mis]adventures of a group of plant hunters commissioned by the indomitable nurseryman Frederick Sander, who became known as the 'Orchid King'. One of Sander's most loyal orchid hunters was Wilhelm Micholitz, who worked for him for over 30 years despite the seemingly fractious relationship seen through their correspondence.

In his letters, Micholitz writes of the hardships associated with tracking down particular orchids including escaping burning boats, near starvation and witnessing horrific mutilation in wars between tribes on the islands of Indonesia; in one letter he states flatly that he has 'no desire to find [his] last resting place in the stomach of a tiger'. After his long and arduous travels for Sander, Micholitz died in poverty. His legacy, of course, is the many orchids he brought back, many of which were new to science and carry Sander's name.



Paphiopedilum by Howard Rice LRG

As well as introducing some of the discoveries made by Sander's men, including *Cattleya* from the western tropics and *Paphiopedilum* (slipper orchids) from the Asian tropics, The Orchid Hunters will also examine the high environmental cost, with packing crates, Wardian cases and rattan plant collection baskets shown overflowing with species orchids. Such was the demand for exotic orchids that millions of specimens were stripped from their native habitat direct for market. Enormous numbers were collected to allow for the huge proportion that were lost in transit; often less than 1% of specimens collected survived to sale, which perversely only fuelled the market's love of rarity. The story will be brought up to date by examining modern micro-propagation methods and hybridisation programmes which have made the orchid an everyday commodity, and will look at how international legislation can protect plants in the wild from modern-day plant piracy.

The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is open from 10am – 5pm February - March, 10am – 6pm April – September. 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

Out and About Winter 2016



Afraid I can't pretend to have either ridden or walked the village environs much recently, the ruinous state of our tracks and droves dampen enthusiasm and although the fen seems an alternative it is, of course, waterlogged. Our short-legged, low-slung dachshund gamely tackles periodic outings but literally flounders in the worst conditions.

However, this mild step into winter has produced some rarities: a lone daisy adds a splash of colour and braves saturation at the end of Old Bar Drove; cowslips flower in our garden; daffodils are growing on. Penny and Ron tell me their geraniums and marguerites continue to bloom; cow parsley, dandelions and daisies can be seen on the village green and ragwort flowers in Reach Wood.

Local wildlife sightings November '15 to January '16:

November 2015

Claire Acklam saw five herons early morning Little Tubney Fen.

3.11 Buzzard, far tree, Gareth's field near Reach Wood. Goldfinches in Aves' hedgerow.

20.11 Ron saw a yellow wagtail near the pond in his garden.

23.11 Tracy texted that she watched a barn owl hunting the border of their horse field at Springhall Farm; ten long tailed tits and a great spotted woodpecker use the feed station; a pheasant brood appeared daily; blue and great tits, greenfinches, chaffinches, robins were regulars. A leutistic blackbird has been in their garden for the past two years. She thought our visiting night-time beetles were of the dung variety.

24.11 Buzzard, Gareth's field again, perched on far tree.

December

11.12 Sixteen pied wagtails in our horses' field (bordering Reach Wood). The welcome return of a distant kestrel.

16.12 Bumblebee on nettles, our field. Pair of raucous jays in garden tree.

19.12 Ron rang to advise that a number of squirrel dreys are visible, these are historic firsts for the village having been built the right size for habitation. There are six - eight in Reach Wood, one along The Hythe and one in the Cemetery.

27.12 Watched a barn owl from the car window. Alert to the sounds made by potential prey, it effortlessly and silently quartered the ground opposite Tubney Fen.

31.12 Amorous pair of pied wagtails in our field, ceaselessly wagging tails up and down. A solitary grey wagtail flew overhead, showing yellow underparts. Their tail is longer than that of pied or yellow wagtails to improve agility when flying in pursuit of insects. I read that they suffer badly in harsh winters and, due to moderate declines, are now an Amber List species.

January 2016

1.1 Martin pointed out a bright star in the 2am sky. With telescope focussed he explained this was a good sighting of Jupiter and four of its moons. How to comprehend that they are a minimum of 600,000,000 kilometres away? Later that morning, with a light frost still on the ground, two swans flew across the far horizon as Penny, Ron and I stood talking at the field gate, a wintery and atmospheric start to the New Year.



Photos of Juniper/moons by Martin Goodchild



3.1 Tracy saw a great spotted woodpecker on her feeder; a little egret on Tubney mere; barn owl hunting the border of the horses' field; short eared owl hunting the land opposite Tubney.

9.1 Tracy texted that she had seen four kestrels in a day, located from the Weirs to end of the drove, a pair on the yellow railings opposite their farm entrance.

11.1 Green woodpecker, Gareth's field, another on Tubney Fen. 15+ coots on the mere.

Ron and Penny advised that Joe, the leutistic carrion crow that visits their property daily, seems to have found a mate. The hope is that they pair up and move on together. A kestrel is often in evidence, very interested in their garden canaries etc. and a proficient hunter. Penny saw a female sparrowhawk on their fence, which remained surprisingly static, Ron suspects due to hunger. It has unusual white feathers on head and back.

Grey Squirrels

In light of the grey squirrel/Reach observations I researched this small mammal further and discovered some interesting characteristics: they are native to North America but were introduced to Great Britain in the mid-19th century. Their estimated population stands at 2 million, substantially higher than the red squirrel at 140,000. Numbers are controlled and it is illegal to keep, import and release grey squirrels in Britain, unless a special licence is obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture or Secretary of State for Scotland.



Grey squirrels are generally considered an invasive species that impact on other animals (i.e. native red squirrels), trees and woodland birds. They inflict damage on trees, young saplings (including rare species) can be destroyed and they gnaw the bark of hardwood trees, such as beech and sycamore, to reach the nutritious sapwood below. The raw scar left on the trunk encourages fungal attack.

There is growing evidence that grey squirrels affect native woodland bird populations: by eating eggs and baby birds from the open nests of those such as thrushes and finches; by using ideal nesting sites that would usually be occupied by tawny owls, kestrels, jackdaws, stock doves and starlings; by eating the same food as birds such as the nuthatch, hawfinch and bullfinch and also competing for their store of winter foods.

Their habitat, once confined to mature deciduous woodland, has widened to include parks and gardens in countryside and cities. The grey squirrel has a lifespan of up to 10 years in the wild. Their diet consists of acorns, hazelnuts, beech mast, tree bark, fungi, buds, leaves, shoots, flowers, birds' eggs and young.

Grey squirrels can be seen during the day but are most active at dawn and dusk, searching for food, foraging and feeding on the ground rather than in trees (unlike the red squirrel). Interestingly, they do not hibernate being unable to store enough energy to survive without food for long periods.

The grey squirrel is fantastically agile, long muscular hind legs and short front legs help it leap from tree to tree and scamper along the slimmest branches. The hind feet (longer than front) are double-jointed enabling it to scramble head first up and down tree trunks. The tail is used for balance and sharp claws for gripping bark. They can leap 6 metres and land safely from a 9 metre fall.

Unlike the red squirrel their ears have no tufts. They have bushy grey tails, white upperparts and dense fur coloured yellow-brown in summer, silver grey with a brown tinge down the middle of the back in winter. Grey squirrels have a keen sense of smell and good eyesight, they can often be seen on vantage points in an upright sitting position.

Tails are used as signaling devices, twitching if uneasy or suspicious, communication is made via a wide range of calls. Grey squirrels are immune to, but carry, the squirrelpox virus, which adversely affects red squirrels.

Squirrels construct a nest, or drey, the size of a football high in a tree using twigs, often with leaves still attached and lined with moss, dry grass, shredded bark and feathers. They will also build nests in hollow trunks or take over a rook's nest, enterprisingly constructing a roof for it.

A winter drey is larger and thicker than the summer one and is usually built on a strong branch close to the trunk. In very cold weather the squirrel will lie up in this, emerging now and then to search out (by smell rather than memory) hidden stores of food buried in the autumn. Often nuts are not found and may germinate, thereby helping the growth/dispersal of trees. Winter dreys can be shared with others for warmth. A summer drey differs in that it is flimsier and lodged amongst smaller branches. As it sleeps, the squirrel curls its tail around its body to act as a blanket.

In late winter courtship begins, chattering males chase females through trees and across ground. Grey squirrels breed for the first time at a year old and females mate only twice a year. Following this the male plays no part in rearing his young. The female uses a winter drey as a maternity nest, or builds a new one, lined with soft material. She gives birth in March/April and again in June/July after a six-week gestation period. A litter of between three and nine naked, blind young are born, the mother suckles them every three – four hours for several weeks.

Their fur grows gradually, eyes open at seven weeks then they follow their mother out onto branches. They start to eat solid food and give up suckling when their teeth are fully grown, at 10 weeks. After a month they move away from the nest to build dreys of their own and providing there are not too many squirrels in the area, the young stay nearby. Should the region be crowded they will be chased away to look for less populated feeding areas.

And Finally

N.B. Would the following freebie be of use to anyone, perhaps for a garden or allotment? We have a large muckheap full of 5 year old quality woodchip which has partially rotted down to a rich dark matter. A proportion is mixed with horse droppings. It is probably garden nutritious or could be used as a protective layer. Please ring if interested: 01638 743088.

Joss Goodchild

Swaffham Prior Village Gardeners Programme for 2016

16th February	Hillary Thomas	Designing a Garden for Low Maintenance
15th March	Veronica Bennett	Gardens of the National Trust
19th April	Lois Baker	Wicken Fen, Past, Present and Future
17th May	David Hack	Make your Garden Count
7th June	Evening Visit	Desert World, Santon Downham
Sunday 3rd July	Coach Outing	Houghton Hall
19th July	Evening Visit	Clare College Gardens
18th October	AGM	
15th November	Rob Brett	28-360 Acres. The Delights and Possibilities of the RHS Garden Hyde Hall

Indoor meetings are on a Tuesday at 8pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Details of the summer visits will be confirmed nearer the time.

Membership is £15 per person. New members and visitors are always welcome: £3 per evening.

Chairman/Treasurer: Peter Hart 01638 741681

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



Tree Planting



Avenue of Limes

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have spotted that the 12 lime trees that failed to take in the avenue on Swaffham Road (and one on the edge of the 24 Acres site) have been replaced.

Thanks are due to Dan Mules, Tony Fordham and John Reed who turned out on 5 December to do the planting.

24Acres Woodland

There was a strong turnout (adults, children and dogs) on 16 January to replant losses in the 24Acres woodland. The weather was ideal - calm, sunny and not too cold - we really have been blessed when it comes to community events at the 24Acres. We replaced 200 trees, a task that I thought would take three weekends, was completed in one morning. A great result showing Reach at its best. Thank you to everybody who helped, especially David Parr for drumming up such support.

Nick Acklam

The photographs of the planting, curtesy of Hugh de Lacy, are on the inside back cover. Ed



Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey News



Wicken Fen has managed to secure the purchase of two small lakes previously owned by the Environment Agency. Reach Lode West lake, located as the name suggests on the west side of Reach Lode, is close to the NT's existing land at Tubney Fen. Sportsman's Pit is located on the west side of Swaffham Bulbeck Lode between White Fen and Swaffham Bulbeck.



Both lakes were acquired by the National Trust in December. The two lakes were created as a result of clay extraction for the building of the lode banks. We are very pleased to have added these latest acquisitions to the Wicken Vision and look forward to improving these two lakes for wildlife and people.



Norman Moore

Sportsman's Pit is to be renamed the Norman Moore Lake, its purchase made possible thanks to a donation by the late Dr Norman Moore just before his death in October last year. Norman Moore was one of the most influential and important conservationists of the 20th century and over a 60-year career helped establish dozens of nature reserves, as well as carrying out pioneering research on habitat loss and the environmental side effects of pesticides.

His work at Monk's Wood Experimental Station in the 1960s established a conclusive link between the use of DDT and the decline of birds of prey. The resulting withdrawal of these pesticides from use was one of the most important conservation achievements of the past 50 years. Norman was a long-term friend of Wicken Fen, a former chair of the Wicken Fen Committee and passionate about dragonflies and their conservation. There is an appeal in place in memory of Norman, for funds to support these lakes at http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/NormanMooreAppealWickenFen

'Conservation' said Norman Moore, 'is about the interdependence of mankind and nature and present and future. We are not taking either seriously enough.'

Wicken Fen is open all year, with something to do and see at all times. Our half-term activities are all bookable online at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen or by calling 0844 249 1895

Wild Art – Tuesday 16 February, 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm, £5.25 per child Suitable for 3+

Family Campfire Cooking – Wednesday 17 February, 10am – 2.30pm, £45 per family (maximum five people, at least one adult). Cook a delicious three-course meal from scratch in our basic mud ovens. Suitable for 8+

Go Wild: Introduction to Geocaching – Thursday 18 February, 10am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3pm. A taster session for families who are interested in geocaching. Learn how to use GPS on our short trail, with help on hand if needed! Suitable for 8+ £10per family (one GPS per family)

Isabel Sedgwick
Wicken Fen

St Mary's Burwell
St Etheldreda's Reach
Loving God, Loving People

Easter at St Mary's & St Etheldreda's

Maundy Thursday
7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's

Good Friday 25th March
10.30-12.30 Messy Easter @ St Mary's
2pm Meditation at Reach

Easter Sunday 27th March
6am Sunrise Service Castle Mound
8am Holy Communion in Reach
10am Holy Communion at St Mary's
followed by Easter Egg hunt
All welcome to celebrate with us!

Reach Community Orchard

Featured Fruits



James Grieve

James Grieve is described as ‘a versatile cooking apple, excellent for juice and widely used in breeding programmes’. A justifiably popular dual-purpose apple variety, it was raised in Scotland at the end of the 19th century, the height of the Victorian period of apple development in the UK. When picked in early-mid September it is pleasantly acidic and refreshing and if it is too sharp for eating it can be used for cooking (cut it into small chunks, it keeps its shape when cooked). After a few weeks the flavour sweetens and becomes quite mild and it is then an excellent apple to eat in slices along with a cheese course. The flesh is soft, somewhat like a firm pear in texture.



A characteristic of James Grieve is its juiciness - bite into one and the flesh glistens with juice. This makes it a great apple variety if you want to make your own apple juice - a feature also inherited by its ‘grandchild’ Katy.

Interestingly the parentage of James Grieve itself has not been fully established. Cox's Orange Pippin is a possible candidate, as it was a popular apple for amateur breeders at the time (as it still is). The other possible candidate is Pott's Seedling, a popular commercial cooking apple of the period.

We have two trees in our orchard – one of which has been sponsored by Hugh and Marie De Lacy.

Mulberry - Jerusalem

The Black Mulberry, *Morus nigra*, originates from Iran. The mulberry tree produces what are called ‘multiple fruits’ or ‘collective fruits’ - these are fruiting bodies formed from a cluster of fruiting flowers. Each flower within the cluster produces a fruit, but these mature into a single mass.

Other examples of multiple fruits are the pineapple, fig and breadfruit.

Ripe mulberry fruits are widely used in pies, tarts, wines, cordials and tea. The fruit of the black mulberry (native to southwest Asia) and the red mulberry (native to eastern North America) have the strongest flavor, which has been likened to 'fireworks in the mouth'. Black, red and white mulberry are widespread in southern Europe, the Middle East, northern Africa and Indian subcontinent.

Black mulberry was imported to Britain in the 17th century in the hope that it would be useful in the cultivation of silkworms. Mulberry leaves, particularly those of the white mulberry, are ecologically important as the sole food source of the silkworm (*Bombyx mori*, named after the mulberry genus *Morus*), the pupa/cocoon of which is used to make silk.

The mulberry has had various cultural influences. A Babylonian myth, which Ovid incorporated in his Metamorphoses, attributes the reddish purple color of the mulberry fruits to the tragic deaths of the lovers Pyramus and Thisbe. Meeting under a mulberry tree (probably the native *Morus nigra*) they both commit suicide by sword after a dramatic misunderstanding. Their splashed blood stained the previously white fruit, and the gods forever changed the mulberry's colour to honour their forbidden love.



The nursery rhyme "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" refers to the tree. It has been suggested that the song originated with female prisoners at HMP Wakefield. A sprig was taken from Hatfield Hall (Normanton Golf Club) in Stanley, Wakefield and grew into a fully mature mulberry tree around which prisoners exercised in the moonlight. However, there is no evidence to support this theory. Another possible interpretation of the rhyme is that it references Britain's struggles to produce silk (as noted above, mulberry trees are a key food source for the cultivation of silkworms). Britain in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries tried to emulate the success of the Chinese in silk production but the industry was held back by periodic harsh winters and mulberry trees proved too sensitive to frost to thrive. The traditional lyrics 'Here we go round the mulberry bush / on a cold and frosty morning' may therefore be a joke about the problems faced by the industry.

The tree variety we have in our orchard is 'Jerusalem', described as 'A traditional Mulberry with large black fruits'. It originates from an old mulberry tree in Jerusalem. We have two trees in the orchard – one sponsored by Catherine Gibson, the other by Deborah Lingley.

James Grieve information courtesy of Orange Pippin: http://www.orangepippin.com/apples/james-grieve.
Mulberry information mainly from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morus_%28plant%29

Managing our orchard

Winter prune

The apple and pear trees underwent their winter prune this year on a sunny Sunday in January. Young apple and pear trees need good formative pruning to establish productive trees with a balanced branch system. Pruning needs to be carried out when the tree is dormant - between leaf fall and bud burst (usually between November and early March). Working with Danuta and Richard Gibson and Graham Lingley we visited each tree and did our best to create the 'goblet-shaped' branch system which is recommended. This wasn't always easy - the trees in the orchard have established well but are proving to be quite slow growing and aren't all growing straight – the site is quite exposed to wind and we saw signs that mice and voles are forming burrows under the mulch mats. However, all the trees are alive and there is no sign of any deer-damage. We just need to be patient!



Danuta Gibson

Early spring tidy up

In early spring we will be seeking as many helpers as possible to spend a couple of hours tidying up the orchard – date to be announced. Key tasks will include:

Removing weeds and grass around the base of the trees. It is essential that grass and other weeds are kept away from the base of the young trees, because 1 square metre of vigorously growing grass takes up to 5 gallons of water per week - this is the water our trees need to survive! We have black plastic mulch mats around each tree, but the weeds have started to encroach so we need to get down and clear the grass away.

Repairing stakes and deer guards. A few of the stakes and deer guards have got bashed about by the wind this winter, so they will need to be repaired or replaced to ensure continued protection.

Feeding. All trees need some combination of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium and a balanced meal of minor nutrients to flourish, bloom and produce fruit. We'll probably give our growing trees a bit of a boost with some blood, bone and fish meal or other organic fertilizer.



Graham Lingley

Summer prune – cherries, plums and damsons

We need to prune the stone fruits in our orchard between late June and mid-August. We have been a bit lax about this – they haven't been pruned since they were planted so there is a lot of work to do. Stone fruits are particularly susceptible to bacterial canker and Silver Leaf disease (a fungal infection). Both of these can cause death of branches and in extreme cases, the whole tree. By pruning them during the summer period, we will take advantage of two things: firstly, the tree is actively growing (making it better able to combat any infection); secondly, the pathogens (diseases) are less virulent at this time (making infection less likely).

Save the Date! National Meadows Day on 2nd July

The first National Meadows Day was held on 4th July 2015, as part of 'Save Our Magnificent Meadows', a UK project, involving a large partnership of nature conservation organisations, that aims to transform the fortunes of vanishing wildflower meadows, grasslands and wildlife (see http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/celebrating-meadows/national-meadows-day).

We plan to work with the National Trust to hold an event on the grassy areas on the 24Acres – the orchard and the meadow being created within the wood. Family-friendly events may include a 'Bio Blitz' to discover and record the wild plants and animals on the site, and maybe a community picnic. Ideas on activities to include – and offers of help – much appreciated.

David Thomas

New Year's Day Football Match. Photos: Hugh de Lacy



Hector Keutgen (right) going for the ball



Hugh Shackleton



Robert Keutgen, a good goalie



Lily Stead keeping up with the boys



Ben Knight tackling for the ball



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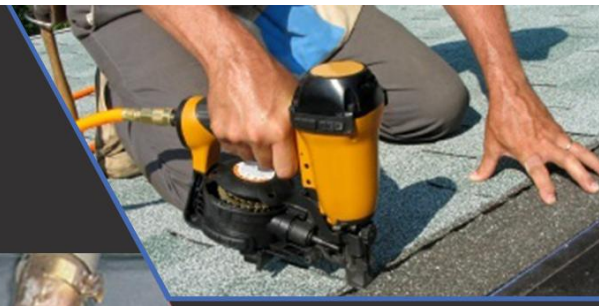



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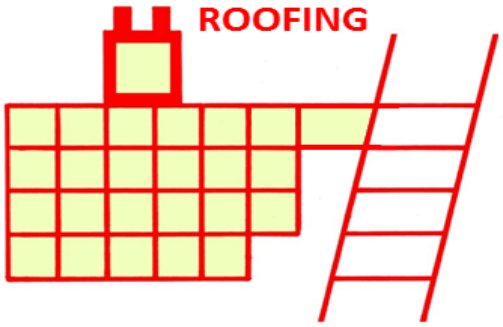

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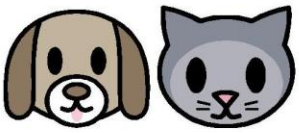

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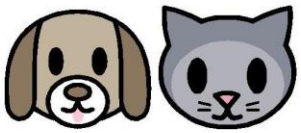

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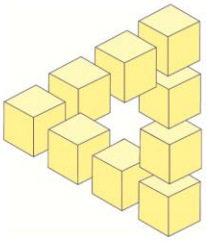

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Days Gone By



In February 1983 the outstanding single was "Down Under" from a group called "Men at Work" - an Australian band formed in 1978 which had great success in the early 1980's. Their founding mainstay was Colin Hay on lead vocals who formed the group with Jerry Speiser on drums and Ron Strykert on lead guitar. They were joined by Greg Ham on flute and keyboards and then John Rees on bass guitar.

As you are doubtless aware, the current oil price is low - BoilerJuice can supply it today at 26.7p per litre. 33 years ago, it stood at not a lot less, 22.7p. Interestingly, in 1983, petrol was costing just 36.7p a litre compared to today's price of around £1.00. If you do the maths, if the ratio of now and then for heating oil was applied to our petrol prices, we should be able to buy our petrol today at 43p a litre. The fact that we can't is doubtless down to a combination of greedy oil companies and greedy government.

Current prices per litre “locally” are:

- France 96p
- Germany 94p
- Holland 1.16p
- Ireland 95p
- Italy 1.08p
- UK 1.02p

In the UK a nationwide hunt for 1981 Derby winner Shergar began in Ireland. The prize stallion was kidnapped from stables in County Kildare owned by the Aga Khan.



Nicknamed "Shergar the wonder-horse", he was valued by Lloyds of London at £10 million at stud. A bay colt with a distinctive white blaze, Shergar was named European Horse of the Year in 1981 and retired from racing that September.

The kidnap - the first of its kind in Ireland - began when two armed and masked men burst into the home of Mr Fitzgerald at the Ballymany stud in Newbridge.

The raiders then locked Mr Fitzgerald's family in a downstairs room before forcing him - at gunpoint - to release Shergar from his security stable. Then they pushed the horse and head groom into a horsebox and drove off. Mr Fitzgerald was released four hours later and 40 miles away from the stud farm.

In Reach, life went on at its own pace. In looking through the minutes it was interesting and spookily coincidental that there was a comment that “Mr Waite’s appeal for [the building of] 3 houses had been rejected [by ECDC] for the reasons of over-development of a site and the risk of traffic congestion on the Hythe”. The Minutes later said that Mr Waite was mounting an appeal – more later doubtless.

There was also some uncertainty regarding the ownership of the Fair Green and a Public Hearing was arranged for March. At this hearing it was established that the Green was registered as a Village Green in August 1972 – so all would appear to be well!

David Parr
744081 or davidmparr@btinternet.com

Joke . . . .

A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience was different each week so he did the same tricks over and over again.

The problem was that the captain's parrot saw all the shows and began to understand how the magician did every trick. He started shouting in the middle of the show - 'Look, it's not the same hat. Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table. Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?' The magician was furious but as it was the captain's parrot, he could do nothing.

Then one day the ship sank and the magician found himself floating on a piece of wood with the parrot.

They glared at each other but said nothing. Finally, after a week, the parrot said: 'OK, I give up. Where's the boat?'

Reach Book Club

Saturday 20th February at 3.00pm in the Dyke’s End

Our book is:

A Spool of Blue Thread
By Anne Tyler

Please email or call David Parr on 744081, 07887 563720 or davidmparr@btinternet.com if you are planning to come along

Tales from a Reach Garden



What a strange winter we've had so far! The weather has been very mild, but gloomy and wet pretty much from the end of August up to now. Apart from the low light levels and occasional frosty night which reminded the local trees that it was time to shed their leaves, many of the plants in the garden were convinced that spring had arrived early, or indeed, that summer hadn't ended.

The daffodils shot up in December and although their buds are still closed, others around Reach are in full bloom. The hellebores normally flower at the end of February through to April but they've been in flower since the middle of December. However, not all the plants have been fooled by the mild weather. Our snowdrops, winter aconites and cyclamen coum, only just started flowering last week.



It's January and the hellebores are in flower and even setting seed!

The vegetables we left growing over winter have thrived and many are showing the effects of the mild weather. It's not often I walk into the house with a full basket of vegetables before May, but I have done so more than once this winter. We have almost finished eating the spring cabbage which we started consuming at the beginning of December. I've found the odd caterpillar within a couple of them, alive and well, munching their way through the leaves; another of the remarkable results of our mild winter.

.



Hellebores

The vegetables we left growing over winter have thrived and many are showing the effects of the mild weather. It's not often I walk into the house with a full basket of vegetables before May, but I have done so more than once this winter. We have almost finished eating the spring cabbage which we started consuming at the beginning of December It's not been cold enough to kill off a lot of the pests we associate with summer. Slugs have been feasting on our leafy vegetables too.

The early flowering broccoli, a variety called "White Eye" is also flowering very early. This is supposed to be one of the earliest cropping varieties; that is, it's ready to pick from February onwards. So imagine my surprise when I walked around the garden on 3rd January and spotted the broccoli about to burst into flower. It's been picked regularly since then.

The leeks are fattening up and their flowers are beginning to show as a bulge at the base of the stems, an event that normally happens in April, so that leeks, like most of its family members (the alliums) flower in May to June. Unfortunately the flower stalks rigidify and harden the leek stems; so this is another vegetable which will have to be picked earlier than usual. In the past I've had to slice the flower stems out of the last few leeks of the season, by end of April. The leek flower stalks are stringy and unpalatable, so I prefer to remove them before cooking, or blanching, even though it is a fiddly process.

I've also been picking chard and spinach which are leafy and plentiful and free of flowering stems - they tend to "bolt" in hot dry weather - so the conditions this winter have been almost ideal for leaf growth, until now. Pink stems of rhubarb, a variety called "Champagne" are also growing a month earlier than usual; they've sprouted before we've had a chance to mulch the crowns. Last year Richard covered the rhubarb crowns with a thick layer of the surplus municipal mulch left over from the hedge planting on the 24 acres, and later in the spring we pulled rhubarb stems the thickness of my wrist! Municipal mulch is clearly a very effective fertiliser, even though it's given away as a soil conditioning compost.



White Eye" broccoli flower buds



"

Stems of "Champagne" rhubarb (spot the weeds)

Most alarming have been the blueberry shrubs; two have flower buds ready to break and the third – the early fruiting variety - is flowering now. These normally flower in May! One of my concerns with seeing the blueberries flowering so early is whether there will be any fruit to pick in the summer, or whenever these blueberries will actually be ripe and ready. But I was pleased to see a couple of buff-tailed bumble bees around and no doubt they were glad to have some pollen and nectar to consume at this time of year. Normally bumble bees hibernate over winter, but the weather hadn't been cold enough for this to happen.



Blueberry flowers in January – can you see the bee?

Inevitably with mild weather such as we've had in December, we've already been busy weeding in the garden. In addition to the chickweeds and moss, the nettles and thistles have had a head-start and are trying to colonise the garden. Other tasks that we usually leave to slightly longer days had also been brought forward. I've already cut our autumn raspberries down to the ground as they were putting out fresh shoots. A lot of the herbaceous perennials had to be cut down to the ground because new leaves were showing. Borders have been tidied up… and the weather changes; the temperature drops, it is very windy and it's sleeting, just as the garden was getting ready for spring. Winter has finally arrived for a few days at least. I think I'll be sowing seeds indoors now that the weather is colder.

Danuta Gibson

The VILLAGE CENTRE 100 CLUB for 2015

Help raise money to run the Village Centre

Tickets are just £10 for a full year

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

100 CLUB WINNERS

December: George Gibson

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

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Sunday 7th February 2016 at 10am

St Mary's Church, Burwell

A Celebration to Remember your Baptism

Or Thanksgiving Service

followed by cake and refreshments

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

Send us a photo of the baptism day

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

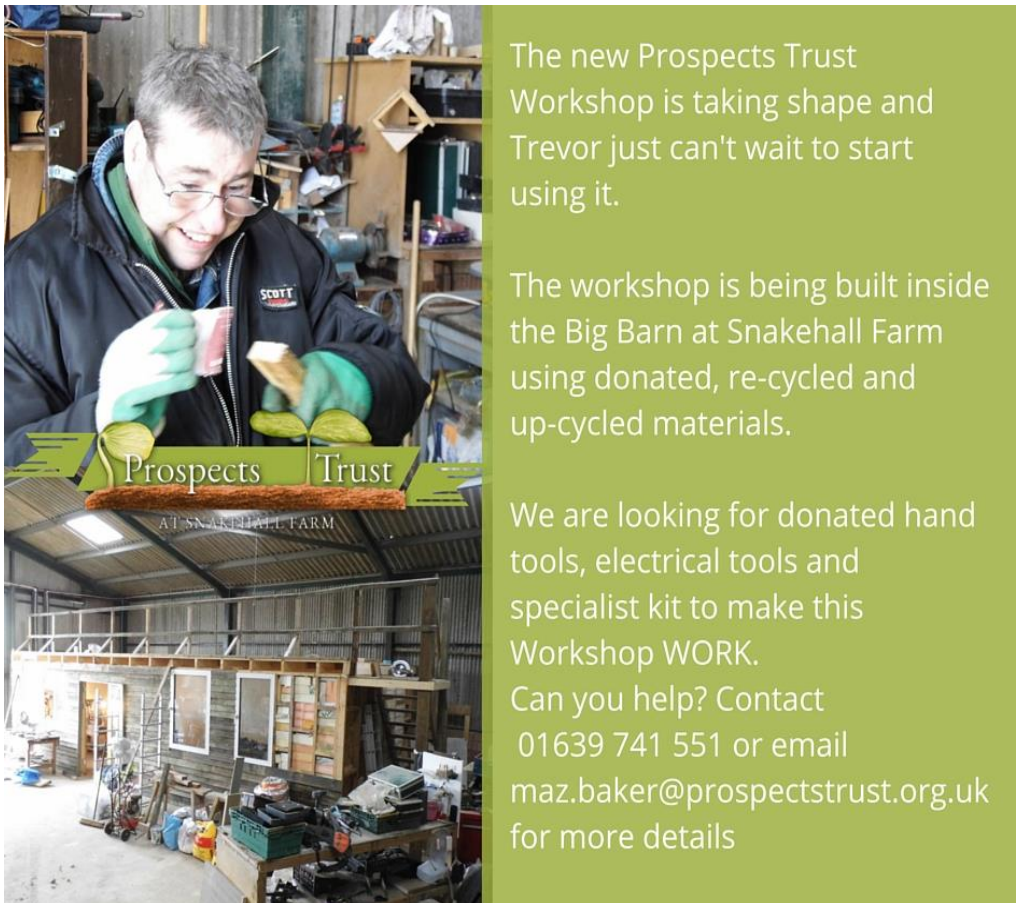
RSVP Eleanor 01638 741262 or vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

What's Growing on at Snakehall Farm?

Just Look What's Going On In Our Woodshed!

We are proud to say we haven't let the rain, frosty mornings and dull days stop us from getting super busy at Snakehall Farm. Our team have been busy building a new Woodworking Workshop on the farm, within our existing Big Barn. Many of our Farm Shop customers will have noticed the creative woodcraft our Co-workers have been making over the past few winters, who could possibly miss the Sparkly-antlered reindeers made from small logs, twigs and anything else we can forage from our farm hedgerows. These types of products are best made in the winter months when our produce production slows and we need nice dry places for our Co-workers.

So encouraged by the farm shop sales and great customer feedback we have built a brand new workshop so we can make bigger sparkly reindeers next year (and perhaps a few other great items too).



The Workshop has been built from upcycled, recycled and donated goods, costing us very little to erect. We have to thank all the donors of the materials including McClatchie Electrical for supply new sockets and lights for our workshop. We are now looking for companies and local supporters to help us kit out the workshop, we need hand tools, power tools and other essential shed kit. If you have anything you no longer use hidden away in some outbuilding or are a local tradesperson willing to sponsor the Woodshed Workshop we'd love to hear from you.



Garden Team Transformation Begins This Spring

In our last article of 2015 we waved goodbye to Will, we are pleased to report he has returned from his travels looking very refreshed and even more tanned. Will is thoroughly enjoying his retirement from the Garden Team but misses the Co-workers and his regular customers. We hope you have spotted Tom, our new Garden Team Co-manager, out and about with our Co-workers. Tom is looking at ways in enhancing our service, perhaps selling some of our Garden items and doing more one-off contracts, from landscaping, planting up, fencing as well as the trusted garden maintenance. We are also able to offer a few more Garden Team Contracts to a few more gardens this year, so if you are interested give Tom a call on 01638 741551.

Trusty Trustee

We are currently looking to recruit new Trustees onto our Charity Board. Obviously anyone willing to give their time, talents, experience and skills would be welcome but we are really seeking someone with a financial background.

As a charity that runs a social enterprise we are looking for that analytical business brain who can help shape our organisation to weather the storms of ever reducing care package funding and yet expand our enterprise to grow more people alongside produce. We are a very complex little business model and we really need somebody who can invest their time to help us make the most of our limited income and keep an eagle eye on our ever increasing expenditure. Who knew it costs more to grow cucumbers than we actually sell them for? As our local customers, you can hopefully appreciate our business is not about the income we make from our produce (it just one part of a tangled web of income streams and grants). We need a really big brained spider (organic of course) with one leg on a calculator, one leg on Quick Books, one leg on the wholesale organic economy, one leg on the ever tightening adult social care finances …. we could go on but I'm sure we've overdone that analogy! If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a Trustee please contact Rhian Elis in the office for more details and to arrange an appointment with our Chairman.



Farm Van Appeal is in the Final Leg

We have now raised an amazing £7,000 in donations towards our new Farm Vehicle but we still need to raise another £5,000 to get our dream vehicle on the road. This vehicle will be used to transport Co-workers to site vital as with the government funding cuts to Adult Social Care we are seeing some of our regular Co-workers losing their transport provision to our farm.

Many Co-workers are trained and supported to access the public transport from Cambridge, Burwell and Newmarket, whereas others come from further afield with no public transport or have significant needs that require specialist vehicles. Our Multi Purpose Vehicle would be put to daily use, as a Co-worker transporter, a farm delivery van and when the Garden Team Van goes in for the MOT we are certain Tom will try and fill it up with grass and cuttings! We are seeking a crew cab van with a separate storage area for our lovely farm produce (and not the Garden Team's grass). If you are able to sponsor this vehicle or donate to our appeal contact Maz.baker@prospectstrust.org.uk for more details.

FARM SHOP CUSTOMERS TELL US WHAT YOU THINK, WHAT YOU LIKE AND WHAT YOU HATE ABOUT OUR ORGANIC PRODUCE AND PRODUCTS

Every springtime Farm Co-manager Mark and his team sit down and develop our new cropping plans, put in expensive seed orders and then pray for good weather, super sunshine (but not too hot), refreshing rainfall (but not too much), visits from good creepy crawlies (but not the nasty ones) and we hope that all the rabbits book their summer holidays away from our crops. Sometimes we have a great harvest, sometimes we have too much of a good thing and sometimes we suffer like all the other farmers with a weak crop. We have over 25 years of experience so we know what grows well on our not so super soil and we have trialled some interesting new produce lines over the years. We would love to hear from our Farm Shop customers just what you love to see in our shop, what is missing from our shelves and what other ways we can keep our local Farm Shop full of local customers buying the very best local organic veggies. Check out the feedback book in the shop and fill in your comments.

Marianne (Maz) Baker
01638 741551



Meeting Richard and Danuta Gibson

Danuta

My name is Danuta Gibson with no middle name. My father was Polish and my mother Italian. My mother read an article about a female Polish captain of a ship named Danuta and that's how I got my name. I was born within inner city Manchester and was brought up there. I was taught by nuns in both my primary and secondary school. Oddly both schools were knocked down shortly after I left them! I attended St Chad's Primary School, located within the inner city and not far from Strangeways Prison; I could see the tower from my school. It's the smells mostly which I remember from those early days. If the wind was blowing from the west the smells came from Boddington's Brewery; hops and malted barley. From the east and it would be the rag and bone merchant; the smell of bones being rendered. From the south and it would be the steel foundry and the coking coal which was used. From the north and it was normal!

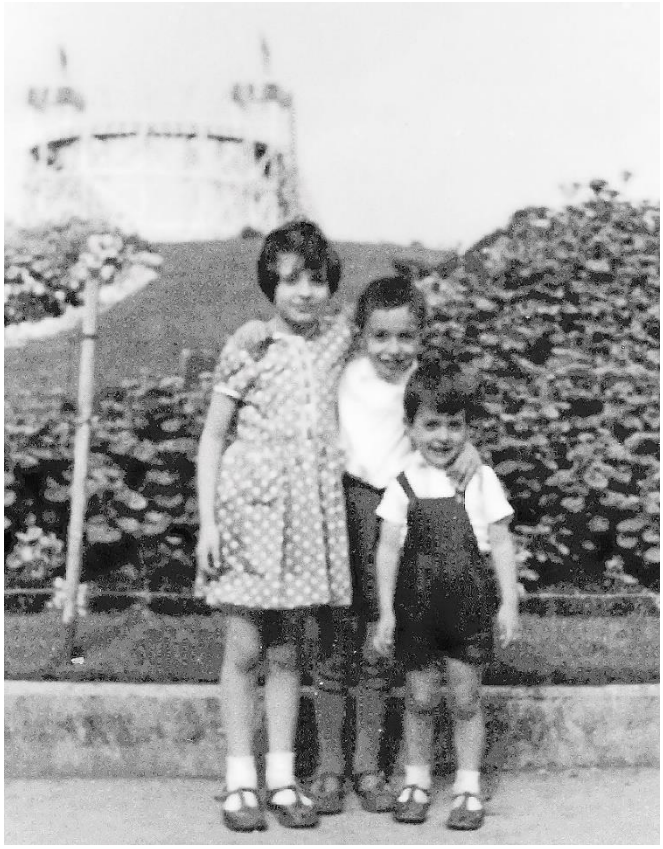


Danuta with her Dad, Mum and elder brother at Heaton Park 1961

My secondary school was Notre Dame High School which was five minutes' walk from where I lived. I passed the 11+ exam to get into this all girls' grammar school which was quite friendly but the nuns were strict. I wasn't particularly sporty. I was of middling ability; when the class teams were chosen I wasn't with the last people who were picked but the next tier up. I was better at athletics than netball and hockey which were the school games. I wasn't the teachers' pet! I was very studious and pretty good at everything academic: art, English, science, history, geography, languages *et al*. I was a sponge for learning and had a memory for facts. Daniel, our son, is very like me and soaks up knowledge.

I had a wide choice of careers. At the age of 11 I wanted to be an archaeologist. I visited Italy to see my grandfather – the only one of my grandparents that I met – and we visited Pompeii and Rome. We stayed at Fondi which is located midway between Rome and Naples.

My family were all farmers and my grandfather farmed the old ways with oxen, fowl and pigs. I was taken to Pompeii and I remember the heat and running for the shade, finding cold marble to sit down on. It wasn't the treasures I loved; it was the simple things like the bakery and the ovens, the bars with holes for the amphorae, the gardens and the villas. My dad talked me out of being an archaeologist saying that I would always be dirty and wet unless I went to Egypt.



Danuta and her brothers 1966

I was interested in the sciences and chemistry in particular, I enjoy mixing ingredients together and watching them change, but I kept my subject options open all the way up to O Levels. I read Chemistry at Manchester. My mum wasn't very well so I kept close to home. I completed a PhD at Manchester but my PhD tutor got a job in Kent so I completed my final year in Canterbury. My mum was in better health by then and my brother was older and able to take over her care. At university boys outnumbered girls in the chemistry department, but I went to an all-girls school and so chemistry was not a strange subject for me to pursue; I was taught by female teachers.

I wanted to do scientific research and I did for so for 27 years with Kodak which was based at Harrow, near London and that's where I met Richard. The Harrow department closed and one near Cambridge was opened in 2006 and so we moved here. We spent a year renting in Bottisham while our house was selling and then moved to Reach. The first half of the year, during the transition, the children stayed with Richard. Naomi finished her GCSEs and Daniel finished primary school. There was a natural break in their education and so we moved. Naomi went to Hills Road Six Form College and Daniel went to Bottisham. I was able to combine having a career with children – just about – Richard was a great help and I had a good child minder.

My scientific research centred on photographic prints - initially improving the quality of paper so that prints and their colour lasted longer. Later, with digital photography, my work was focused on ink jet printing, again researching papers and inks. In 2009 the laboratory closed and I was made redundant - Kodak went bust shortly afterwards. Oddly I caught flu – the H1N1 virus was around at the time – I took ages to recover with one lung infection after another. Diagnosed with asthma, the doctor advised me not to work in a chemical laboratory again.

We had a big house and garden and so I did a horticultural course; I always had an interest in gardening. I would watch Tomorrow's World with my dad and the gardening programmes with my mum. I was attracted to gardening having lived in Manchester with little greenery around us and I also studied some garden design. I applied my newly-learned skills at home!

Richard

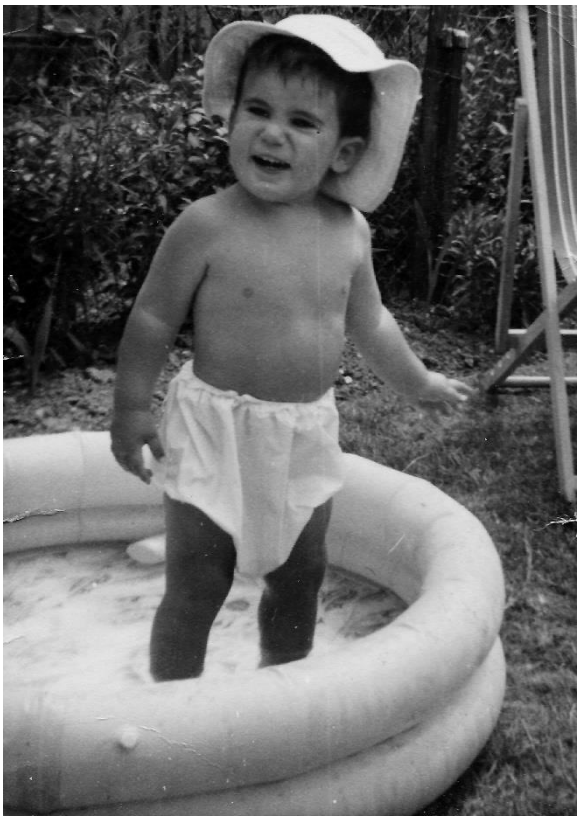
My name is Richard Gibson with no middle name. I was named after my great-grandfather on my mother's side.



Richard's Christening Day

I was born in Portsmouth and lived in nearby Gosport for 11 years. My infant's school was a traditional suburban 1960s school and I have lasting memories of the school dinners there. At an early age I found I was good at maths and the times tables - but was not good at art and PE! Unlike Danuta, I was quite often the last person picked for the class team.

When my parents separated I moved to North Wales with my mum; then at 15 moved to be with my dad in Cornwall, so I went to three secondary schools! On top of that the middle school was Welsh speaking so I had to learn Welsh very quickly. All my lessons were in Welsh so I became semi fluent and even dreamt in Welsh. Unfortunately, at my middle school in North Wales my "posh" southern accent brought me to the attention of some of the rougher boys in the class. I did make friends but not being local I often felt like a bit of an outsider. I then had to go through the whole thing again when I went to Cornwall! I loved the county but strongly disliked school and couldn't wait to leave. We've made sure that the same thing didn't happen with our children and we've always put them first. We've refused American trips abroad with our workplace so the children would not be dislocated. It was good to get Daniel settled into Bottisham so we would not travel with work and risk unsettling him.



Richard 1960



My favourite subjects at school were maths, geography and the sciences. I never really had clear idea of what I wanted to do in later life. When I was eight I wanted to be a chef in the Merchant Navy. Then in my teens I considered joining the forces, for example, the navy since I had some family in the services and I had grown up in Gosport.

However, I was on holiday with a friend on the Isle of Man when I was 17 years old and I realised that if I joined the services I would lose my freedom. The school careers advisor suggested Engineering as it fitted in with my strong subjects at school and more realistic than being a weather man, which was one of several different careers I contemplated.



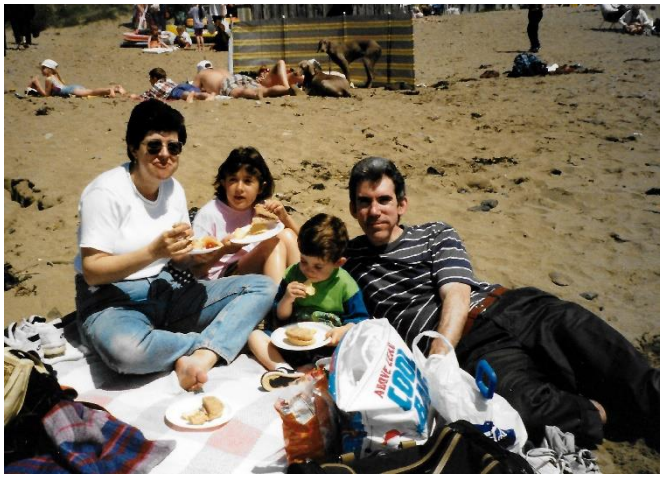
Our Wedding Day

I studied a degree in Mechanical Engineering at UWIST in Cardiff. When I graduated in 1982 I had two job offers: a) with Kodak in London and b) in a coal mine in the middle of nowhere in South Africa. I never wanted to live in London but since that was where the work was I decided to give it a go for six months. I was there for 24 years! During this time I worked in several manufacturing departments producing photographic film and paper and quite often worked literally in the dark. I took redundancy with Kodak when Danuta's job relocated and joined Xaar who make inkjet print heads at their new factory at Huntingdon as a Process Engineer. I was there for six years. Three years ago I changed jobs and went to work for Hexcel at Duxford who make composites for aerospace. My job title is "Continuous Improvement Specialist" and my work involves sites around Europe driving quality and efficiency improvements. My work involves lots of statistics and Lean manufacturing. I travel to France, Spain, Germany, Austria and Belgium and have colleagues and friends around Europe. I feel privileged to work with so many friendly and welcoming international colleagues in a company where you are valued. I enjoy my work and the travelling. The latter is just for two – four days at a time which is a nice period. My favourite location is Madrid where the company has two factories on the outskirts and I get to stay in Madrid centre which is a lovely. Danuta and Daniel joined me on my most recent visit there and we made it into a long weekend. I very much enjoy the local food and wine when I am away I occasionally share my culinary experiences by sending photos of my meals to Danuta.

Both

In 2006 we came to Reach first through looking at schools. In our search Bottisham Village College stood out as a brilliant, welcoming and friendly school. We rented in Bottisham and the school proved to be very nice for Daniel and he made friends quickly. Naomi was at Hills Road sixth form college. We started searching for properties within the school catchment that had good travel links, this included visiting Reach and the Dyke's End. We looked at several houses but this one on Burwell Road stood out because of its big garden. When we were in suburban Watford we struggled with the garden to fit in flowers, trees, a vegetable patch, fruit, a play area for the children, a potting shed etc. We knew we both wanted to grow our own vegetables. We both had ancestral farming backgrounds and had ambitions to have a larger plot.

One of Richard's lifetime ambitions was to have a garden big enough to justify a ride on tractor mower! Reach had access to schools and a public house (with great food) within walking distance.



Family holiday, Cornish picnic 1997



The Gibsons, Watford 1999

We complement each other with our gardening likes and skills. Richard is good at digging borders and veggie beds but not pruning. Richard still struggles with distinguishing weeds from plants but is better at planting seedlings. Danuta is good at sowing, planting and tending. It's good team work! We sow, plant out, tend, prune, pick, cook and preserve.

We've toyed with having pigs or sheep and being wholly self-sufficient but have to think of our neighbours and the commitment! We once had a chicken which died and rather than let it go to waste Richard plucked its feathers, prepared it and put it in the freezer. And so it sits, none of us have the heart to eat it. Daniel was horrified at the thought of us eating it.

Danuta

I take the photographs which accompany my articles in the magazine. I got an SLR camera for Christmas. I've always been interested in photography. It was encouraged by Kodak; every member of staff was given a camera and sent on a photography course. The lessons included the use of a darkroom and printing.

Both

We met on the stairs at Kodak. Houses were provided by Kodak for graduates for their first year to help them find their feet and we shared the same house. My first words to Danuta were "You've got the box room". We became friends and then went out with each other. Danuta was writing up her PhD and I took pity on her and invited her to join us going to the pub. We've been married 32 years and were married in the church close to Danuta's parents' house in Manchester, St Chad's. We have two children: Daniel, aged 21, who is reading Geology at Durham University and Naomi, aged 25 years, who's an architect living in London. She is close to becoming a fully qualified architect which has been a passion all her life.

We enjoy walking holidays in Northumberland, Herefordshire, the Wye Valley and Cumbria. We are also working our way through European capital cities and have visited Stockholm, Copenhagen and Barcelona most recently.



Long Mynd, Shropshire 1999

Danuta: I enjoy photography, gardening, walking and reading. We both like the theatre, films and good food and wine.

Richard: I particularly enjoy gardening. My work is office-bound so when I come home I like the outdoors, the fresh air and the countryside. I like to put on my boots, grab a wheelbarrow, collect horse muck and get spreading.

Both: We feel it is a privilege to be adjacent to the 24Acres project. We readily assist with the community orchard and woodland. This Sunday we will be part of a small group pruning the orchard trees. We were familiar with Whippendell Wood near Watford, which was a bluebell wood with many different types of trees.

Cambridgeshire is short of woodland and we are happy to make a contribution. We also very much enjoy the wildlife. In addition to a camera Danuta received binoculars for Christmas which was much appreciated.



Danuta: I like the author Robert Macfarlane who is a nature writer and a fellow at one of the colleges. He writes about old pathways, routes, wild places and the derivation of place names. I also like Richard Mabey and his books on nature, I recently read one called "Weeds" which was fascinating. I also like novels with historical settings, for example, Lindsay Davies and her books on Ancient Rome. I enjoy listening to many types of music but especially classical music.

Richard: I like Scandinavian detective stories. The Wallander books and writer Jo Nesbo. I also like Jim Kelly who is local, based at Ely, and writes detective stories around the Fens and North Norfolk. For music the groups Queen and Status Quo have been long-term favourites.

On the Secrets of a Successful Marriage

Have respect for each other. Share things in common but allow space for other interests. Be considerate of each other's opinions.

Always be positive. If things don't work out, support each other. Be nice to one another.

On Life

Be positive. Things will always be better than you think. Set-backs will be temporary. Respect people. As the Monty Python film says, always look on the bright side of life. Seize the opportunities. Enjoy life while you can.

Food Focus



Is it possible to be green without becoming a vegetarian?

As 2016 and winter finally arrive together I'm contemplating giving meat a miss in an effort to reduce my carbon footprint. One of my main excuses for not becoming a vegetarian before now (and I'm not there yet), has been my own un-researched theory that if one is going to stop eating meat in order to reduce demand and environmental impact, surely one needs to stop consuming animal products full stop (dairy cows and egg-laying chickens presumably producing their fair share of methane) and becoming vegan is not something I'm prepared to consider at this stage in my life (apart from irritating everyone who might entertain you; it just makes life so much more complicated and restrictive).



What I want to know is exactly how un-environmental we meat-eaters are and is there a real environmental benefit in being vegetarian over a conscientious/occasional meat-eater or indeed in being vegan over vegetarian?

Let's look at the facts:

- According to research by IPCC chairman RK Pachuari, one hectare of land producing vegetables, fruit and cereals can feed up to 30 people while the same area if used to produce meat could feed between 5 and 10. It seems that approximately 70% of the earth's agricultural land is used for rearing farm animals this knocks on to the following fact;
- Production of feed for animals on a vast scale combined with the space required for cattle ranching accounts for the majority of the 6 million hectares of forest felled a year globally and as the land is *cultivated* to produce grain for animals (hence releasing CO^2) rather than being maintained as permanent pasture (sequestering CO^2) crop growth for animals is at least a double edged sword;
- There are almost 1.4 billion cattle and 1.1 billion sheep on the planet producing 37% of the total methane generated by human activity (methane is 20x more effective at trapping greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide); and
- Estimates vary wildly for the amount of water required to produce 1kg beef (13,000 - 100,000 litres), but even at the low end of the spectrum volumes seem high.

In terms of global land productivity, preservation of precious natural environments and a "feed the world" perspective, meat production, clearly, does not make sense. However in my opinion the picture changes when considered from a British perspective (after all I do buy British) where the west of our island is made up of upland areas and hostile hills which could never be used for arable or vegetable production – haven't dairy farming and animal production systems evolved to enable us to farm these landscapes? Furthermore mixed farming systems (probably operating most effectively in the days when we did eat a more sustainable volume of meat) worked effectively to enrich the soil with manure.



Therefore if I was to occasionally eat British grass fed meat, and eat/drink dairy products in moderation from mixed farm systems – I'd be supporting a local industry which has grown up around our landscape (bacon sandwiches aren't off the menu yet). This simple argument also probably makes environmental sense of being vegetarian rather than vegan. But obviously that is all in an ideal traceable and fully labelled food world. I have embarrassed my family and friends enough in the past by doggedly asking waitresses/waiters if the meat on the menu is free range – do I now need to be asking if my free range meat is grass fed? And if not was the grain used to feed it, imported? Anyone for dinner out tonight?



Cranks Mushroom & Potato Pie

900g	Potatoes4	celery sticks
450g	Mushrooms	1 medium onion
200ml	milk	4 tbsp milk
75g	Butter	2 tbsp chopped parsley
1.5tbsp	arrowroot 2	crushed garlic cloves
1 tsp	dried thyme	2 tsp lemon juice

Salt and pepper to taste

Cook the potatoes in boiling water until tender. Grate the celery, chop the onion and mushrooms. Drain the potatoes, add 25g butter and 4 tbsp milk then mash until creamy. Season well. Melt the remaining butter in a large saucepan, add the celery and onion and cook gently until the onion is transparent. Add the mushrooms and garlic and cook stirring occasionally for 5 mins. Blend the arrowroot with a little milk, stir in the remaining milk and stir into the mushrooms. Add the parsley, thyme and lemon juice and season to taste. Simmer gently for 5 mins. Turn the mixture into an oven proof serving dish, top with the mashed potato and then place under a hot grill until heated through and golden, or place in the oven at 190°c for 20 minutes.

PS Foody Markets and Events happening near you this month

Burwell Farmers Market (Burwell Village College) 2nd Saturday of the month (9.30 - 12.30) – 13th February & 12th March.

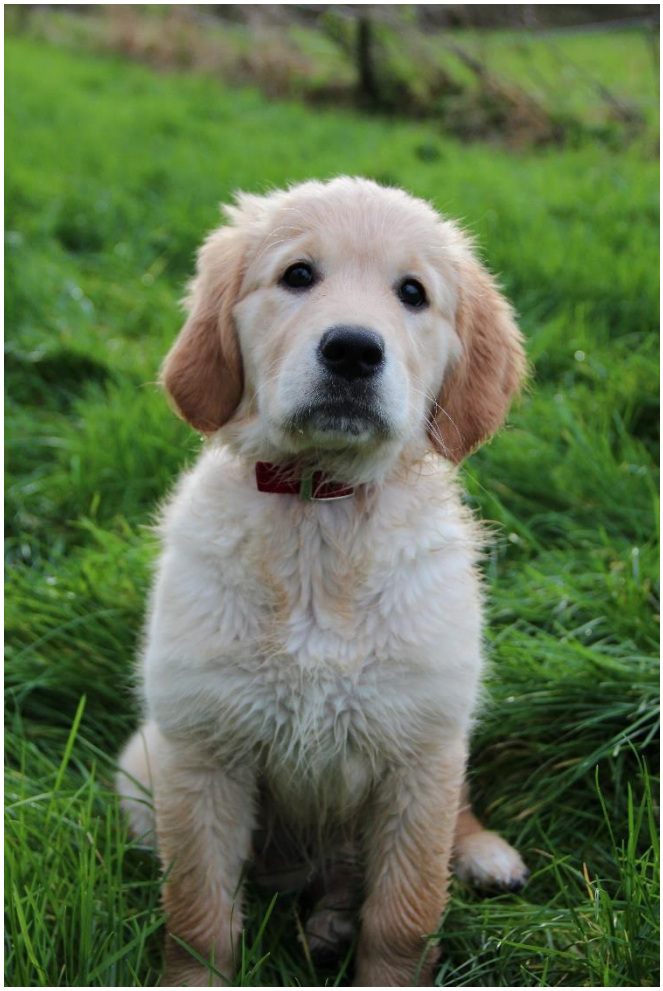
Ely Farmers Market 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month (8.30 - 2) February 13th & 27th and March 12th & 26th.

Burwash Manor (a series of converted barns in Barton, the other side of Cambridge) 13th & 14th February: Love Food - Join them on 13th & 14th February in the Secret Garden Marquee to celebrate all of the Food Hall's wonderful suppliers. There will be samples and tastings galore as well as half-term activities for the kids during the week.

Feast East at Audley End, Saffron Walden, Essex 5th-6th March - 'A festival for food lovers!' There isn't much information available about this when going to print so please check before you go!

Catherine Gibson

Pets Corner



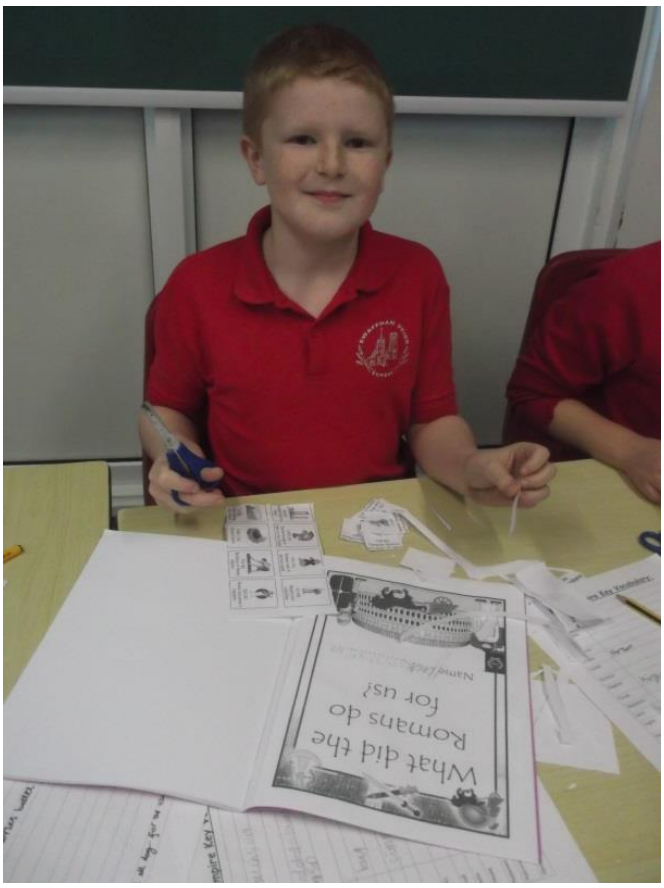
Totally cute Ruby Redfarn

Meet Ruby Redfarn. After we lost our lovely Buffy in February last year, aged 14, we thought we couldn't love another dog, but after all these months, life in Reach was not quite 'right'.

After our trip to Australia in September, we started looking in earnest for another Golden Retriever. We found Ruby's litter in Bury St Edmunds and brought her home on 5th December. She is the sweetest little girl and we have had a lot of fun with her over the Christmas holidays. Ruby had her final jabs last week and we are looking forward to starting walking around the village again. She will enjoy making friends with all the other Reach four legged residents, just as Buffy did.

Jo Redfarn

Swaffham Prior Primary School



Jack is new to our school and lives in Reach

Christmas has come and gone and we have entered the new year of 2016. We had a lovely lead up to Christmas…

Mercury and Mars classes entertained us with their production, 'A Midwife Crisis' and the hall was filled with narrators, soldiers, shepherds and sheep, inn keepers, camels, Kings, donkeys, a star, a midwife and Mary and Joseph. The children performed with confidence and sang beautifully a selection of songs and recited their lines loudly and clearly. It was wonderful!

A group of Year 6 children organised a Talent show for the school. There were 17 different acts and we were entertained by some comedy, a variety of songs, dancing and instrumental playing, including a ukulele. The participants are to be congratulated on their courage and confidence when performing in front of the rest of the school. We had a super morning.

Our Christmas service was held on Wednesday 16th December and led by Reverend Sue. The theme was 'Messages and Messengers' and we thought about different ways in which messages can be delivered. Each class created their own messages of hope which were extremely thought provoking. We heard two songs from Mercury and Mars classes from recent production and Neptune and Saturn classes sang 'Holly and Mistletoe'.



Rose playing the ukelele

Christmas lunch took place yesterday and was a fabulous affair. We enjoyed a traditional meal of turkey and all the trimmings. Crackers were pulled by the dozen and there were lots of smiles.



Evie creating a timeline

And so to the new year…

Term has begun again and each class has started another new topic. Mercury and Mars classes had a WOW starter to launch their topic on 'Celebrations' by taking part in a celebration of birthdays. The children decorated T-shirts using tie-dye and participated in party games in the hall. They also ate party food prepared by Mercury class. Much fun was had by all! Neptune and Mars classes also had a WOW starter to begin their new topic, 'What have the Romans done for us?' by spending the day learning about and creating printed mosaics.



Violet printing her version of a Roman mosaic

We celebrated 'Plough Wednesday' and watched as children from Neptune and Saturn classes paraded along the High Street in their very colourful and whacky costumes. They looked amazing! Having returned to school they went on to competently perform a series of Molly Dances which were enjoyed by the rest of the school and accompanying parents



Lily and Henry - Molly dancing

Building News

We are delighted to share with you the fantastic and exciting news that our school has been awarded a sum of about £400,000 by the Local Authority to recondition the school. The money will be used for a wide range of work including, reconditioning the roof, replacing old lighting, replacing the boilers and upgrading the heating system, installing a new fire alarm, repairing the boundary wall, replacing some old fencing, improving drainage (including replacing guttering), replacing some old windows and doors, replacing all of the flooring and redecoration throughout the school. The work at this stage is not structural and will begin in May with a finish date in August. Some of the work will take place during the summer term time, once all SATs have been completed and we will endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum. Teaching and learning will be taking place as usual.



Hector creating a timeline

Among this highlights this term are class assemblies, a Circle Schools Choir Festival at Burwell and a 'History off the Page Day'.

Lots to do…

Hannah Curtis
Head teacher



REACH
PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on: Wednesday 2nd December 2015.

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	Present
Michael Aves	Vice Chair	Present
Hannah Baldwin	Councillor	Not Present
Steve Boreham	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Councillor	Not Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Not Present

1. Forum for members of the public
There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest
Councillor Fielding declared an interest in item 7.

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

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee
Nothing to report.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report
No report supplied.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report
East Cambs. New ward arrangements for 2019 elections. We have applied to the local Government Boundary Commission for new warding arrangements that would reduce the number of District Councillors from 39 to 28, with a significant saving to council tax payers.
The Boundary Commission has now produced its draft recommendations. It is proposed to group The Swaffhams Ward with the parishes of Bottisham, Brinkley, Burrough Green, Lode and Westley Waterless. The new ward would be called Bottisham Ward and have two councillors. The commission will publish its final recommendations on 5th April 2016.
ECDC Lancester Way Business Park Enterprise Zone.East Cambridgeshire will have its own enterprise zone (at Ely) from April 2016. All enterprise zones benefit from

- A business rate discount worth up to £275000 per business over a five year period.
- All business rates growth within the zone for a period of at least 5 years will be reclaimed by the local area, to support the Partnerships economic priorities and ensure that the Enterprise zone growth is reinvested locally
- Government help to develop radically simplified planning approaches for the zone. And Government support to ensure that superfast broadband is rolled out throughout the zone.

***Clerk** to write to the Boundary commission to express the PC's views that the new ward arrangements should mirror those of CCC. That being Reach should be part of a ward with the Swaffhams and Burwell.*

4 (4) Financial Report
The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.
A discussion took place on the reclaiming of VAT. A protocol is required for all spending through the PC. To be added to the next meeting agenda.

4 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings
There were none.

4 (6) Play Spaces
The playground gate is hanging off, ***Clerk*** to arrange repairs. Concern was shown regarding the state of the playground surface. ***Councillor Boreham*** to report back on the urgency of any repairs required.

4 (7) Rights of Way
Clerk had spoken to CCC regarding the poor state of recent repairs to local byways. Additional limited repairs will take place before the end of this financial year. A brief discussion took place regarding restricted byways, this, however, would have a cost implication.

4 (8) Village Centre
Nothing to report.

4 (9) 24Acres Committee Report
A report on the woodland had been received from Nick Acklam
- We continue to comply with our contractual undertakings to the FC and do so without the need for further replanting this FY (there are 3150 viable saplings on site against our commitment to the FC to deliver 2900) but
- We are planning to replace all losses in early 2016, and can afford to do so whilst meeting maintenance costs in FY 16/17, principally footpath mowing. The replanting will be a subtly different species mix, reflecting what we have learned since initial planting. ***Clerk*** to check that planting to take place in Jan/Feb. time.

4 (10) Friends of Reach Wood
A website has been created, www.wildreach.co.uk this includes a brief video of the planting of the wood in 1994, and will be used to register plant and animal sighting within the wood.

5. War Memorial base repairs
It had been put forward to Council that repairs are required to the area around the base of the War Memorial. A proposal was given that a small team of residents should do this work with PC permission. Following discussion the PC decided that more information was required before a decision could be made. ***Clerk*** to ask the proposer to supply this information to allow further discussion and a decision.

6. Reach LHI
A long discussion took place including the points collated from residents emails received by the Clerk. It is disappointing to the PC that more options are not available, however the width of the roads has proved very restrictive, and speed limit changes are a long legislative procedure which criteria we do not meet. Therefore, the PC decided that the only part of the scheme that would be accepted was the work on the Swaffham Road. In light of the recent accident it was felt that this was better than having nothing.

7. Insurance/Risk Assessments
This item was postponed until the next meeting when the PC insurance representative will attend to give advice on managing risk procedure and answer questions. The insurance rep. will visit the village prior to the next meeting to look at various areas of concern. A discussion also took place regarding the need for councillors to declare an interest in certain situation.

8. Dog Bins
Dog bins are available at a cost of approx. £300; these are installed and emptied weekly, for free by ECDC, as long as they are located roadside. Initially two bins will be installed, one on Fair Green by Clunch Pit Lane, and another by the Devils Dyke car park. Additionally sticker will be obtained for the bin on The Hythe. ***Clerk*** to arrange.

9. Planning Applications
There were none.

10. Information Items/AOB
Clerk to again, report the broken & dangerous street light outside Hill Farm, Fair Green.

Concern was shown as to the lack of warning signs on the new power supply on the green. ***Clerk*** to investigate what is required and ensure these are in place.

11. Payments

Susan Bailey – stationary	£ 44.27
Susan Bailey - postage	£ 7.74
Fulbourn PC – outreach training day	£ 28.00
P. Marsh – power on the green	£ 200.00) These two payments will be
P. Marsh – power on the green	£ 320.00) reclaimed from an ECDC grant on completion of this project.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 6th January 2016 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:

Parish Council Meeting Draft Minutes

REACH

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on: Wednesday 6th January 2016.

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	Not Present

1. Forum for members of the public
There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest
There were none.

3. Insurance discussion
Although the insurance company representative was unable to attend, a discussion took place with regard to the PC insurance. Following an onsite meeting the underwriters had decided that the horse riding area on the 24Acres could not be covered under the PC insurance. Should the plan for the area be changed the decision could be reassessed. ***Councillor Fielding*** to discuss with the riding group.

Again during the onsite meeting, the PC was advised to have the War memorial revalued for insurance purposes.
Clerk to arrange this.

The PC has been provided with example log sheets, and risk assessments which are very helpful. ***Councillor Boreham*** to produce a log sheet of the trees in the village, that are owned by the PC. ***Clerk*** to check how often these need to be checked.
The playground will be inspected weekly by ***Councillor Baldwin*** and an inspection tick sheet completed.
Councillor Baldwin and the Clerk to meet to establish a risk assessment form for the playground. ***Councillor Baldwin*** will also produce and laminate an A4 sign for the playground with details of contacts etc.
The village open areas will need a 6 monthly report. This will be established during a village walk in February.
Clerk to invite the insurance representative to the March meeting.

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

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee
John Holmwood has resigned from this committee. Claire Halpin is now the independent member and Chair. Graham Radford is village centre representative, with one more required. ***Clerk and Councillor Ward*** to meet to discuss the bank account signatories.
The purchase of two snow machines had been agreed.

5 (2) County Councillor's Report
Full Council met in December. It was agreed to extend the leave of absence to 2 councillors, Read and van der Kerkhove, who have serious illnesses. Council agreed to alter the policy for staff appeals against dismissal so that they are heard by a director in future. Council also received the annual report of the audit and accounts committee. Three motions regarding: Trade Union arrangements; the operation of the Family Court; and a call to reverse cuts in funding for councils were debated and voted down.
Children and young people committee met, with the main agenda item being to consider the emerging proposals for savings. These will be considered further in January prior to forming part of the budget to be considered at Council in February. Among the key areas for consideration are home to school transport and the early help services.
The General Purposes Committee also met to give initial consideration to the announcement by the Chancellor of the Comprehensive Spending Revie. The headlines indicate CCC will need to find an additional £11 million in savings from the assumed position before the CSR. Again, these will be discussed in more detail in January.

Councillor Cane to contact Councillor Brown to ask about the proposed cuts to six form students bus travel, as this may affect the number of users of the bus service and ultimately the service to Reach.

5 (3) District Councillor's Report
On Jan 5th I attended the funeral of former County and District Councillor Philip Read. He joined ECDC in 1973 and served on the housing and environmental health committees and was chairman of the planning committee.
On Jan7th I will attend the Full Council meeting. On Jan 13th I will attend the Commercial services Committee meeting. On Jan 9th I will attend an away day at the Racing School. This is an annual event the council's controlling group meet with the council's top officers to discuss our possible policies for the next year and what our corporate priorities should be.

5 (4) Financial Report
The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.
£2354 of reclaimed VAT had been received.
A discussion took place regarding the cemetery fees and policies. ***Clerk*** to circulate the policy document to allow the councillor to decide whether any alterations are required.

5 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings
There were none.

5 (6) Play Spaces
The two small goal posts have been broken ***Councillor Alderson*** to ask and arrange for ECDC to remove these. These may be replaced in the future. A resident is keen to get involved with fund raising to upgrade the playground. A meeting will be arranged and ***Councillor Baldwin*** will report back on any progress.

5 (7) Rights of Way
Some photos, of the poor state of the byways, had been received from a resident and forwarded to CCC. No response had yet been received. Complaints had been received with regard to unsightly rubbish near to the Lode ***Councillor Ward*** to investigate whether any authorities can ask for it to be removed although it is on private land.

5 (8) Village Centre
No report received.

5 (9) 24Acres Committee Report
Nick Acklam has produced a future plan for the woodland which will be distributed amongst the Councillors. The PC is very keen to establish a plan of action particularly for this year. ***Clerk*** to check whether, and obtain a copy of any orders placed for the proposed new planting in January.
The cricket club have obtained funding to connect up the water to the 24Acres site. They are in discussions with the landowner of the access road to allow this to take place.

5 (10) Friends of Reach Wood
Nothing to report.

6. Snow Machine Purchase

The Amenity Fund had agreed to purchase two snow machines for the use of the village. They had agreed that this money should be supplied to the Village Centre to make this purchase. The PC were in full agreement with this, as this facility will be in line with other Village Centre activities & hire arrangements, and for insurance, storage and maintenance issues. ***Councillor Cane*** to inform David Parr.

7. Spending Protocol

It was felt that a simple spending protocol needed to be established to give groups within the village guidance on the requirements for spending money and placing orders on behalf of the PC.

'All expenditure requires approval from the PC prior to any spend or order being placed. Two clear PC meetings are required to allow enough time for discussion, questions and a decision to be made. This procedure must be followed even for repeat events.
All orders are placed at your own risk unless prior approval is obtained.'

It was agreed that the Events Team is not a part of the PC. The PC can hold events and ask groups to arrange these or give permission and support to groups wishing to hold events. These events will therefore be covered by the PC insurance.

8. Planning Applications

Councillor Baldwin declared an interest.
Planning application ref: 15/01528/ful was reviewed. PC had no comment to make.

10. Information Items/AOB

Clerk to ensure that all funding is received to cover the cost of the power on the green.

The exploding gas canister at the Christmas Eve event was discussed and Councillor Baldwin, on behalf of the Events Team, stated that the canister had been faulty and that they were in discussions with the manufacturer; and that next year an electric heater would be used.

Clerk to chase payment for the Christmas tree.

11. Payments

Susan Bailey – clerk salary	£ 929.92
BHT Nurseries – Avenue of Limes	£ 360.60
Nick Acklam – Avenue of Limes sundries	£ 78.48
Simpsons – Christmas tree	£ 75.00
E.on – power on the green usage	£ 17.75

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 3rd February 2016 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



Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday!) is the day before the beginning of the Christian season of Lent and has traditionally been a day for feasting, before the austerities of Lent. In the UK the tradition has been to use up the rich foods – eggs, flour, sugar – and make pancakes – hence the other name – Pancake Day.

I've never been any good at making pancakes, but have great memories of my dad making them and managing to flip them and catch them again! Lent has been associated with self-denial and giving things up (these days quite often chocolate!) but was originally a time of preparation for baptism at Easter, for people to declare their faith in the risen Christ. This year the first Sunday of Lent falls on Valentine's Day – a traditional day for declaring love. I've been thinking about how that's a good reminder about what the season of Lent and Easter is really about – God declaring love for us, in Jesus living, dying, and rising again, and saying: 'This is what it means when I say I love you.'

Some special services coming up at St Mary's: The Big Splash on Sunday 7th February at 10am, and on the same day at 3pm, a service celebrating 10 years of CentrePeace. On 6th March at 10am is our Mothering Sunday Thanksgiving Service, where posies of flowers will be given out and this year will include baptisms. All are welcome. Looking ahead to the end of March, our Easter services follow a similar pattern to previous years. Each year we have a display of lilies in both churches, Burwell and Reach, from Easter Sunday, in memory of loved ones. Please get in touch if you would like more details of how to include a name on the list, or if you would like more information about these or any of our events or services, including baptism or a thanksgiving service for the gift of a child, or to find out more about the Christian faith.

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

Church News

Church Building Update



The written report from the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC), following their visit in November, was received just before Christmas. It was very positive and encouraging about both the repairs needed on Reach church and the plans for future development. We've sent the report to the architects and asked them to consider how the DAC's comments and those made by people in the village during last year's consultation, can be accommodated. We will shortly convene a meeting with the architect in the church to discuss the way forward.

Meanwhile, we are working with the Village Centre Committee to get the wall between the two buildings repaired and will also repair the wall on the other side.

Although the indications are that there would be no serious objections from the authorities to our developing the church for more community use, we will still have to demonstrate that there is a real community need for whatever we do. It is also right and proper that we should make sure we spend Maisie's legacy wisely. It will be great to make good use of the money for the benefit of both the church and the people of Reach, but we don't want to build a white elephant that is never used. In the next few months, therefore, we will be consulting you again and asking not just what developments might be nice to have, but what you would actually use. For example, would *you* hold meetings in church, or come to a cafe or a concert? Please give it some thought and look out for questionnaires.

CentrePeace



It's hard to believe that it's 10 years since CentrePeace in Burwell first opened its doors and that it's over five years since we first opened at Reach! In those five years, we've been at Reach on the second Wednesday of every month, come, rain, shine or hail, but this year we've decided to take a short winter break. There has always been a great debate about whether it's worth holding the cafe in the dark days of winter when, understandably, people would rather be in their warm homes than sitting drinking tea in a dark, cold church! Few people attend in January and February and with one of our regular team away in Australia this year, we decided to take a break. We will, however, be back in March with our usual tea, coffee and home-made cakes, as well as a selection of books and crafts.

We're celebrating CentrePeace's milestone 10th birthday with a service of thanksgiving and celebration in St Mary's Church on Sunday 7th February 2016 at 3.00pm. It will be followed by tea and undoubtedly a large birthday cake! We'd be delighted if you would join us, especially if you are or have been a volunteer, customer or financial supporter, though all are welcome.

Lunchbreak Cafe

The Lunchbreak Café is open on the 4th Wednesday of the month in St Mary's church in Burwell. The aim is to provide an oasis of peace for anyone having a busy day. You might work in a busy office or on a computer in your own home or you perhaps you are looking after children, digging the garden or clearing out cupboards. If you need a break, a simple home-made lunch like soup or a Ploughman's and a chance to meet some other people, we'd love to see you. We're open from 12 till 2, but you don't have to stay the whole time.

Just drop in when you can.

Pat Chalmers
Church Administrator
administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Church Services at Burwell and Reach

	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
February 2016		
Wednesday 3rd	10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 4th	10.00am Little Bears	
Friday 5th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 7th **The Presentation in the Temple**	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am The Big Splash Baptism Service 3.00pm CentrePeace Anniversary Celebration and Thanksgiving Service and Tea	
Wednesday 10th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Friday 12th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 14th **1st Sunday of Lent**	10.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday @ 7
Wednesday 17th	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Friday 19th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 21st 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Holy Communion	
Wednesday 24th	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.00am Holy Communion	
Friday 26th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th February **3rd Sunday of Lent**	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Messy Church	
March 2016		
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 March **4th Sunday of Lent** **Mothering Sunday**	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service with baptisms	
Wed 9th	10.00am Holy Communion	2.00 – 4.00pm CentrePeace
Friday 11th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 13th March **5th Sunday of Lent**	10.00 Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday @ 7
Wednesday 16th	9.00am Prayer Meeting 10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Friday 18th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 20th March **Palm Sunday**	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00 am All Age Holy Communion	
Monday 21st March	7.00pm Compline in CentrePeace	
Tuesday 22nd March	7.00pm Compline in CentrePeace	
Wednesday 23rd March	10.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Compline in CentrePeace	
Thursday 24th March Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Holy Communion	
Friday 25th March **Good Friday**	10.30 am Messy Church	2.00pm Good Friday Meditation
Sunday 27th March **Easter Day**	6.00am Easter Sunrise service on Spring Close 10.00am All Age Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Wednesday 30th	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: February 2016

December 2015	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 3	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thursday 4	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 4	Author: Julian Barnes	St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Ely CB7 4HF	7.10pm for 7.30pm
Friday 5	A Meal for Mums	Mothers Union, Burwell	01638 741791 for further information
Saturday 6	Curry Night	Village Centre	7pm
Sunday 7	The Big Splash. A celebration to remember your baptism	St Mary's Church, Burwell	10am
Tuesday 9	Shrove Tuesday		
Tuesday 9	How to Sell Your Photographs	Lode Chapel CB25 9EW	7.30 – 9.30pm
Wednesday 10	Ash Wednesday		
Wednesday 10	Author: Elly Griffiths	TBC Topping Bookshop event	7.10pm for 7.30pm
Thursday 11	Recycling Day (Green)		
Saturday 13	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30am – 2pm
Saturday 13	Farmers Market	Burwell	9.30am – 12.30pm
Saturday 13 – Sunday 14	Love Food	Burwash Manor	
Sunday 14	Valentine's Day		
Tuesday 16	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Tuesday 16	Foto-Fusion	Lode Chapel CB25 9EW	7.30 – 9.30pm
Wednesday 17	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	8.00pm
Thursday 18	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Saturday 20	Love Food Fair	Cambridge Central Library	10.30am – 3pm
Tuesday 23	Author: Jo Marchant	The Old Bishop's Palace, Palace Green, Ely CB7 4EW	7.10pm for 7.30pm
Tuesday 23	Practical Portrait Photography	Lode Chapel CB25 9EW	7.30 – 9.30pm
Wednesday 24	Lunchbreak Cafe	St Mary's Church, Burwell	12 noon – 2pm
Thursday 25	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 25	Author: Alison Bruce	St Peters Church, Broad Street, Ely CB7 4AH	7.10pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 27	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30am – 2pm
Saturday 27	Hedge planting	Reach Solar Farm	10am
Saturday 27	Informal Ribbon Cutting	Reach Solar Farm	Midday

Diary Dates: March 2016

January 2016	Event	Location	Time
Tuesday 1	Author: James Rebanks	St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Ely CB7 4HF	7.10pm for 7.30pm
Wednesday 2	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thursday 3	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Saturday 5 – Sunday 6	A Festival for Food Lovers	Audley End, Saffron Walden, Essex	
Tuesday 8	An evening with Leigh Preston (Photographic Club)	Lode Chapel CB25 9EW	7.30 – 9.30pm
Thursday 10	Recycling Day (Green)		
Saturday 12	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30am – 2pm
Saturday 12	Farmers Market	Burwell	9.30am – 12.30pm
Tuesday 15	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Tuesday 15	Gardens of the National Trust	Swaffham Prior Village Hall	8pm
Tuesday 15	Some of our Best Bits (Photographic Club)	Lode Chapel CB25 9EW	7.30 – 9.30pm
Wednesday 16	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thursday 17	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Saturday 19	Jumble Sale	Fassage Hall, Lode	2pm – 4pm
Saturday 19	The Cantilena Singers	St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Newmarket CB8 0HP	7.30pm
Wednesday 23	Lunchbreak Cafe	St Mary's Church, Burwell	12 noon – 2pm
Thursday 24	Recycling Day (Green)		
Friday 25	Good Friday Meditation	**St Etheldreda's**	2pm
Saturday 26	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30am – 2pm
Sunday 27	Easter Day	**St Etheldreda's**	Holy Communion
Monday 28	Easter Monday		
Thursday 31	Recycling Day (Blue)		

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			
	Chair	Grahame Radford	742814
	Finance	Hugh de Lacy	743839
	Bookings	Grahame Radford	742814
	Marquee Bookings	Andrew Hall	743737
Amenity Fund Committee			
	Chair	Claire Halpin-McDonald	743330
	VC Committee Member	Grahame Radford	742814
	VC Committee Member	Vacancy	
	PC Committee Member	Diana Ward	744210
	PC 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 Dunnett



Pam King



Jon Cane



David Parr



Woodland planting

Saturday 16th January

Photos: Hugh de Lacy



Steve Boreham



Tim Quilter and daughter



Bryan Pearson and his red jumper in goal



Hector Keutgen (left) and Harry Oliver-Towers



Rob Steed about to get a goal!