Within Reach



December 2017/January 2018









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Reach
Christmas Tree Lights
Switch On

Sunday 3rd December 2017
5pm - 6pm

From the Editor



Sadly if I get stuck in a traffic jam, which is not very often, it's one of the very few occasions that I take time to reflect. Surprisingly it seems that I am not alone, and even Eleanor can have times when she is swept along by being constantly busy. In this issue Eleanor gives advice on making time to reflect. Also, new to the magazine, Krysia Newman provides a Thought for the Day, and we hope to hear from Krysia regularly in the future.

In this genteel magazine I didn't think there was a place for one-upmanship but Ross Clark with his Scottish munro climbing proves me wrong. Reading his article, it's hard to envisage Ross tackling the Inaccessible Pinnacle. I think he needs to do it again and take a selfie. Congratulations to Eliza who also climbed a couple of monros

We breathe a sigh of relief as the planning application for the gas power station is withdrawn. Well done to all those who led the opposition to the scheme.

In just the last issue we were wishing Cath Tayleur good luck with the fundraising for the new playground, and hey presto! Just weeks later the funding is more-or-less in place, and in a spectacular fashion having come second in a national competition. Exceptionally well done.

We welcome Nick Acklam's Woodland update. Losses have been minimal from the planted 2,500 trees and shrubs. Phew! But the deer are threatening to take up residence, so take a stroll around the woodland and this will deter them. Apple Day was hugely enjoyable with apple peeling strangely mesmerising for young and old. The apple monsters were scary and the apple pressing went well. Thank you David Thomas and all those who assisted.

We recently found a complete Mesolithic axe in the Reach / Burwell area, and this invoked images of what the fens would have been like in the past. Ron and Susan Dunnett have a splendid Neolithic polished axe found in approximately the same area. These finds inspired a short article on prehistoric axes which may prove to be of interest.

We enjoy Catherine's seasonal bakes and look forward to the Christmas Fayres and Winter Markets. Do pop in to Snakehall Farm as they have so much for Christmas and it's local

We look forward to the Christmas tree going up on the green and its lighting (on Sunday 3rd), and to carol singing around the tree on Christmas eve. Do remember your cameras this winter as the Events Team are thinking about printing Christmas cards next year.

Read this magazine carefully and learn to who – or what – our men read stories to.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Claire Halpin-McDonald

Landscape Photographs: Rosanna Moseley Gore

About the Magazine

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

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

The next copy date is 15th January 2018. This magazine is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

Editorial Team

Editor	Claire Halpin-McDonald
Production	Claire Halpin-McDonald David Parr
Advertising/Treasurer	David Parr
Distribution	Freda Lloyd, Grahame Radford
Roving Photographer	Rosanna Moseley Gore
24Acres	David Thomas
Cookery	Catherine Gibson
Cricket	Ross Clark
Days Gone By	David Parr
Fen Chitchat	Lesley Boyle
Gardening	Danuta Gibson
Kids' Page	
Memories	Anita Folkes
Parish Council	Susan Bailey
Reach Riders Group	Sue Cameron
Snakehall Farm	Maz Baker
Swaffham Prior School	Hannah Curtis
Wicken Fen	Howard Cooper
Wildlife	Joss Goodchild



A New Playground is Within Reach!

A busy few months submitting grant applications has paid off as we have secured a grant for £50,000 from funding body WREN.

Letting loose our lyrical side also landed us second-place in a nationwide competition run by the supplier Kompan to 'describe our dream playground'. In combination with a grant from ECDC and support from the Parish Council we are now close to being fully funded!

WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, conservation and heritage projects from funds donated by waste and resource management company FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Cheryl Raynor, WREN's grant manager for Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, says: "We are delighted to be supporting the Reach Playground project and pleased that our funding will provide such a fantastic facility for children in the village and surrounding area. WREN is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that make a difference to local communities and we're really looking forward to seeing this one take shape soon."

This is incredibly exciting news for the Village, the existing playground has seen much better days. We are going have an amazing facility with a much longed for zip-wire and a range of exciting equipment that will cater for all ages and abilities. We are hugely grateful to our funders for making this possible.

.

For more information about WREN funding contact Cheryl Raynor at cheryl.raynor@wren.org.uk or visit http://www.wren.org.uk/

We are aiming to have the playground installed before the end of February next year and look forward to welcoming everyone to a Grand Opening.

Cath Tayleur





Celebrating news of our win in the Kompan competition.

Cath Tayleur is the lady with her hand highest in the air. Well done!

Ross Clark Bags All 282 Scottish `Munros'

Older readers might remember a piece in this magazine in 2011 by Ewen Cameron, then embarking on his mission to climb all 282 munros (mountains which stand over 3000 feet above sea level) in Scotland. I imagine that Ewen was planning a follow-up piece when victorious. This, in the best traditions of Fleet Street, is a spoiler to say that I got there first -- topping out on Ben Hope at 2.50 pm on 8 May to become the 6129th person ever to complete all the mountains (or at least to have registered with the Scottish Mountaineering Club as having climbed them).

Ewen isn't doing too badly, though. He is on 235, although he does still have to do the Inaccessible Pinnacle (see photo)



The Inaccessible Pinnacle

The photo is of the Inaccessible Pinnacle in the Cuillin Ridge on the Isle of Skye – the one munro which involves a full-on rock climb rather than a scramble or mere walk to reach the summit, and which Theodore and I scaled on a hot day in July 2013 with the aid of our guide, Jonah. It wasn't as bad as it looks, though it is extremely narrow and exposed, with an abseil to get down. Jonah claimed he had never failed to get one of his clients to the top, though he did then proceed to entertain us all the way up with grisly stories of his work as a mountain rescue volunteer, such as how he had had to sit with a headless corpse for six hours. "I didn't get much conversation out of him," he said. To which I replied: "why didn't you go and sit with the head, then?"

Jonah was very keen that we had the right kit – from boots to brimming water bottles. Only when we stopped halfway up did we find out what was in his knapsack – nothing but a flask of coffee and a pack of Rothmans.

It took me nine years to complete – or compleat as they like to say North of the border – the mountains, although I had previously climbed Ben Nevis at spring bank holiday in 1986. That did teach me a lesson – I hadn't been expecting driving snow at the end of May and wasn't greatly prepared for it, thought I was a little better shod than a few of the bank holiday crowd in their flip-flops. Ben Nevis is a bit of motorway – they ought to have gantries give 'get in lane' for the summit. Yet just a few miles away you can be walking for hours on a sunny day in the middle summer and struggle to understand where everyone is.

The best of the mountains? An Teallach in Wester Ross, which has a series of very sharp pinnacles, to scale which is a grade 3 scramble. Bla Bheinn, Sgurr Alasdair and Gillean, all on Skye, Liathach in the Torridon Range and the Aonach Eagach ridge in Glen Coe have got to be the other highlights. Most miserable? Arriving in Kinlochewe in Wester Ross on the day after a six week dry spell had ended to have two inches of rain every day for a week, with no wifi in

our little cabin and no entertainment other than a political quiz in a yellowing copy of the Scotsman. I can now say that I know absolutely everything that is worth knowing about Nicola Sturgeon.

Ross Clark



Ross Clark on the summit of his 282th monro, Ben Hope



Eliza climbed two munros as well

Events Committee

The team has been busy beavering away making plans and getting ready for lots of exciting upcoming events. Preparations are well underway for the Fair.

Along with helping with the Macmillan Coffee Morning and Apple Day, David met with the mayor's assistant to discuss the arrangements for his visit to our next Fair and Tash has run and organised the Halloween disco.



Lucy Bridgeman – looking scary!

The team's aims are:

- To organise village events, now including Reach Fair;
- To help villagers who have ideas for other events to make them happen; and
- To keep a list of the village events on the website, so everyone knows what is going to happen and when.

http://www.reach-village.co.uk/calendar_2015.html

The next events will be:

Christmas Tree lights switch on
Sunday 3rd December 5.00-6.00pm
(Please note the change of day and time)

We have the City of Cambridge Brass Band playing carols, mince pies and Cliff's legendary mulled wine. Children will also be able to take away some reindeer food to help Rudolph and his gang!

Don't forget we encourage village children to make and hang their own decorations on the tree!

Carols around the Christmas Tree
Christmas Eve from 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Reach Calendar 2018
This is all completed and will be available for sale at the Christmas Tree Lights Switch on event and subsequently. Lovely pics as ever!



Remember we are considering creating Reach Christmas cards next year, so don't forget the camera on the frosty, snowy mornings ahead!

If you have event ideas, please do get in touch.

Email: reacheventsteam@btinternet.com

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Team!

Debbie Quilter

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

Ely's Christmas Holiday Walks

Take an Ely amble and burn off that Christmas dinner on one of our Historic City of Ely Walks.

Dates available include:

Boxing Day Tuesday 26 December

Wednesday 27 December

Saturday 30 December

Sunday 31 December

New Year's Day Monday 1 January

All walks commence from Oliver Cromwell's House at 11.30 am. All tickets £5.00 can be booked at www.olivercromwellshouse.org.uk

St Mary's Burwell Christingle Service



Sunday 3rd December 2017
4.30pm

No need to book for this very special Candlit Service
Donations may be given for the work of The Children's Society

ANNICA WHEAT BAGS

Our beautiful wheat bag designs are hand made at Hill Farm, using home grown wheat and a range of carefully chosen, stunning corduroy and cotton batik fabrics
They are a fantastic source of natural, drug-free pain relief and can be used hot from the microwave or cold from the freezer

Our amazing wheat bags can help

ACHING MUSCLES
NECK TENSION
SPORTS INJURIES
SORE JOINTS
SPRAINS
EARACHE
HEADACHES
TIRED EYES
TOOTHACHE
& much more!

All our bags have been HOME SEWN

All our wheat has been HOME GROWN

FANTASTIC PRESENTS!



Christmas Services



Many of us tend to go to the same services every Christmas. It's part of our own Christmas tradition. If, however, you feel inclined to try something different, here's what to expect.

Christingle service. Sunday 3rd December at 4.30pm

The Christingle Service is a very special service for all ages, which also raises money for The Children's Society. During the service there are songs and readings, and then children are given a bag containing everything they'll need to make their Christingle. Once we've explained what it means, and shown everyone how to make the Christingle, the candles are lit and the lights are dimmed as we sing a carol. There is an opportunity to make a donation towards the work of The Children's Society or collect a special cardboard candle bring it back later at another of our Christmas services.



Carol Services

Reach Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm

The carol service at Reach is traditional with well-known bible readings to tell the Christmas Story and carols for everyone to join in. It's a simple service, with a friendly, intimate feel and all are welcome.

Carols by Candlelight, Burwell 17th December at 6.30pm

The service at Burwell the same day is much bigger and everyone is given their own candle when they arrive. Once everyone is seated, the candles are lit and the lights turned out. The Christmas story unfolds through bible readings, poems and carols. The singing is led by our wonderful choir, who sing some of the carols on their own. After the service, mulled wine and mince pies are served in the Guildhall.

Nativity Crib Service with the Messy Church team. Burwell Christmas Eve 3.00pm

This popular service is usually packed with people of all ages, especially children and families. Adults and children dress up to re-tell the story of Jesus's birth, through readings and carols, gradually building up a live nativity scene at the front of church. The talk usually involves a craft, and the service ends with some light refreshments. We have a lot of child size costumes available for children to dress up in as they arrive, or they're welcome to arrive already dressed up. Last year we had a fun Nativity Photo Booth, which we hope to do again this year!



Christmas Communion services

Midnight Communion Burwell Christmas Eve 11.30pm

For many, this has been the traditional way to celebrate the birth of Christ. It's a traditional communion service with carols.

Holy Communion Reach Christmas Day 8.00am

This is a said service of Holy Communion early on Christmas Day – often ideal for those travelling to relatives later in the day or for those who prefer a quieter service.

All Age Communion Burwell Christmas Day 10.00am

This is a livelier communion service in a less formal style. Children (and perhaps grown-ups too!) can bring one of their presents and there is often some kind of surprise!

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

The club started its 44th year in early September and has again been able to attract several new members to our relatively small club. We are always pleased to see new members wishing to join or as guests throughout the year. The club now has about 40 members, which includes some very experienced photographers who are able to share their depth of knowledge of photography with new members.

On 24 October 2017 the club had its first Print League Competition of the season. There are three of these competitions throughout the year and in this first event there were 87 mixed entries of colour and monochrome, in our open subject category. The club is very pleased to see a continued large number of entries. These competitions are always marked and critiqued by an external judge from a photographic club of the East Anglian region.

On Tuesday 5 December 2017 we have Ian Wilson APRS from Cambridge Camera Club, who will be giving a digital presentation entitled '**Just When you Thought It was Safe**…..!' You remember 'Jaws 2'? - This is the follow-up to Ian's Icelandic presentation last year.

Other dates for your diary in 2018:
Tuesday 9 January
'**Telling the Story'** Audio visual presentation evening, by Diana Burns FRPS AV-AFIAP & Mike Burns ARPS from Wisbech Camera Club.

Tuesday 30 January
Members' Mini's: '**An Evening with Gerry Metcalfe**'

Our Chairman will talk about the trials and tribulations of being a photographic judge.

Readers may remember that the club's Honorary Secretary, Daphne Hanson DPAGB APAGB, was appointed President of the EAF - East Anglia Federation of Photographic Societies in February 2016. Daphne's term as President of the EAF will now be drawing to a close and will end in February 2018.

Although in its early stage of planning, the Club will hopefully have a photographic exhibition sometime during 2018; further details will follow early next year.

Guests are welcome to attend any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel CB25 9EW on Tuesday's from 7:30 pm to 9:30pm. Fee: £3.00, including refreshments, refunded on joining.

Annual subscriptions: Adult: £40, Joint Membership: £67, Student: £21. Refreshments 50p. New members joining now will receive a *pro rata* rate.

Lastly we would respectfully ask guests attending the club not to **double park** in the vicinity of Lode Chapel, as there is local concern regarding access for emergency vehicles.

Barry Coles, Publicity Officer

For further details contact:

Mrs Daphne Hanson DPAGB APAGB
T: 01638 741106
www.bottburpc.org



Photo: Barry Coles

Behind Closed Doors….



It's all going on "Behind Closed Doors..."

Christmas and Oliver Cromwell are two things that are oddly closely associated. It has become a point of universal knowledge that Oliver Cromwell, Killer of a King, banned Christmas during his reign as Lord Protector.

Oliver Cromwell's House, Ely are pleased to be hosting a series of different events, from guided tours to festive food tastings with an Audience with a Cromwellian Expert and our fun Christmas Trail throughout Cromwell's House.



Behind Closed Doors – "What would Oliver Cromwell say?"

Running from Early November 2017 until the end of December 2017 and included in Normal Admission Prices.

Take a walk through a snapshot of 17th Century English Life and see the sympathetically recreated rooms that Oliver Cromwell and his family would have known. See the Christmas tree in the Parlour and the.... Wait! A Christmas tree? But they came around during the Victorian age... What is going on? Some very strange items have been appearing throughout the house. Can you find them all and discover the story behind each one? Maybe you'll even hear what members of the Cromwell family think!

Behind Closed Doors - Festive Food with Nora Gardner

6th December 2017 at 10am

Although Christmas was banned during the Commonwealth, many people still celebrated in secret. Join Nora Gardner, local guide and historian to learn about flavours and ingredients that inspired the 17th Century Christmas.

Visit Mrs Cromwell's original kitchen; watch old recipes come to life, listen to the stories behind them and of course taste the results.

Tickets £15.00 can be booked at www.olivercromwellshouse.org.uk



Behind Closed Doors - "Cromwell, Christmas and Confusion – an Audience with Professor Martyn Bennett

14th December 2017 - 7pm

Oliver Cromwell's House presents "Cromwell, Christmas and Confusion – an Audience with Professor Martyn Bennett" – part of the "Behind Closed Doors" Christmas Events Programme.

Was Cromwell the mean spirited man of modern myth? Did he really oppose the consumption of mince pies? Join us for an engaging, exciting and entertaining evening.

Professor Bennett has written a series of internationally acclaimed works on the English civil wars and a hugely popular biography of Oliver Cromwell. We have been incredibly fortunate to secure this time with Professor Bennett in-between American and UK filming commitments. His latest publication, Cromwell at War will be available to purchase on the night.

Tickets £10.00 can be booked at www.olivercromwellshouse.org.uk

Behind Closed Doors - "A Cruel and Creepy Christmas" with Prof A Bismal

21st and 22nd December 2017 - 11.30am

The nights have drawn in, the frosty mornings are upon us and Oliver Cromwell's House have decided to bring Professor Arthur Bismal in from the cold!

Christmas is his favourite time of year and he has spent many moons pondering its origins, from where we get Chocolate Christmas logs from, via Christmas Dinner during the times of George IV (Georgie Porgy of Nursery Rhyme fame!) with a quick stop in the Trenches of the First World War before hearing about what'll happen to naughty children (No, it's not a lump of coal!) and finishing in traditional style with a Spooky Story just like your Great Great Great Granny would have heard on Christmas Eve when Queen Victoria was still reigning.

As always, The Professor's tours are suitable for Children aged 4 to 104 but young people must be accompanied by an Adult.

Tickets £7.00 per adult, £5.00 per child can be booked at www.olivercromwellshouse.org.uk

The VILLAGE CENTRE 100 CLUB for 2017

Help raise money to run the Village Centre

Tickets are just £10 for a full year and 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

July: Rebecca Fordham
August: Glen Newman
September: Helen (all perfectly fair) Oliver
October: John Holmwood
November: Keith Lambert
December: J&C (big prize winner) Brand

Please contact Andrew Towers to be part of the draw

Bottisham Village College Adult Learning

Learn Something New in 2018!

Evening Courses starting in January include:

Assertiveness for Effective Communication
Creating Glass Jewellery
Creative Painting and Drawing
Floristry: Spring Flowers for Fun
Garden Design – an Introduction
Indian Cookery – Curry Delicious
Microsoft Excel – an Introduction (February)
Singing for Fun
Watercolour for Beginners
Woodwork and DIY Skills for Beginners

Saturday Workshops - 3 February 2018

Cook with your Kids
Get to Know your IPad/Tablet
Layered Lino Printing
Make an Appliqué Shoulder Bag
Mindfulness
Revamp your Make-up
Rush Basket Making
Russian Decorative Painting
Stained Glass Momento

You can enrol at any time by visiting our website

www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning
www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning
Tel: 01223 811372 email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org

Gas Powered Electricity Generation



This application has been withdrawn. Hoorah!



Snakehall Farm have a wide range of Christmas crafts. Make sure you pop in



Festival of Winter Walks 17 December 2016 – 8 January 2017



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

There will be hundreds of free woodland walks taking place all over the country between 17 December 2016 and 8 January 2017. It's a great way to burn off that Christmas dinner and have fun doing it together with your loved ones.

Depending on how much you feel like doing, there will be short, easy trails you can enjoy with family and more challenging walks for the experienced hiker! They'll take place in various places in Scotland, England and Wales, each one guided by someone from Ramblers.

Some will even have themes like 'fancy dress', 'tipsy toddles' and 'cake walks'. And of course each walk will be about exploring the wintry landscape. It can seem more appealing to curl up indoors, but it's during winter that some of our most beautiful scenery appears.

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



Swaffham Prior Parochial Charity

Once again the time has come to remind anyone who considers themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant, I would ask that you reply as soon as possible. The majority of our applications come from our pensioners I particular those who have to manage on a state pension. If however you are in particular need, or know of someone who may be in difficulty but are unlikely to apply on their own behalf the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications can be sent to me or to any Trustee and may I stress that assistance is available at all time not only at Christmas.

Mrs Pat Waters, Clerk to the Trustees, 01638 741035
31 Tothill Road, Swaffham Prior, Cambs CB25 0JX

Macmillan Coffee Morning – The Results



The Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £203. Thank you to everyone who assisted, and everyone who attended.

Reach Grant Fund

The Grant Fund replaces the Amenity Fund and exists to fund community activities in Reach.

Applications should be sent to the Parish Clerk:

Susan Bailey
29 Great Lane Reach CB25 0JF
01638 743794
reachparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

If you, your neighbour or family member might be vulnerable or have trouble escaping from their house in a fire, get in touch with us to see if we can help by calling 0800 917 9994.

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook

The Ely Mothers Union

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month, at 2:00pm in The Guildhall. We also meet at various venues on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Please check the Pew Sheet for this month's venue, or contact the Branch Leader, Mrs S Baker.

Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Steve Boreham	Councillor	742098
Charlotte Cane	Chair	741064
Alex de Giorgio-Miller	Councillor	
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chair	741853
Diana Ward	Councillor	744210

Your Clerk is Susan Bailey
29 Great Lane Reach CB25 0JF
01638 743794
reachparishcouncil@live.co.uk

There are two vacancies on the Council.

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 t attend.

In addition to her councillor duties **Hilary Fielding** is Rights of Way Officer.

Stay Well This Winter



Winter weather can be seriously bad for our health.

Being cold can aggravate existing conditions and raise the risk of increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. However, there are lots of things you can do to stay well this winter.

1. **Get expert advice from your pharmacist**

If you start to feel unwell, even if it's a cough or a cold, don't wait until it gets more serious. Seek advice on the best treatment from your local pharmacist.

2. **Make sure you get your free flu jab**

Flu is a highly contagious and can cause serious complications for at risk groups. Adults over 65; those with long-term health conditions; children aged two to eight; carers and pregnant women may all be eligible for a free flu vaccination – ask your GP practice today.

3. **Stock up your medicine cabinet**

A well-stocked medicine cabinet can help you treat common winter ailments such as coughs, colds, sore throats and sickness bugs at home and will save you going out if you feel unwell. Ask your pharmacist about essential medicines to keep at home.

4. **Keep warm**

Keeping warm, both inside and outdoors, over the winter months can help to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression.

5. **Get the right help**

Make sure you're receiving all the help you are entitled to. Learn how to make your home more energy efficient and take advantage of financial schemes to keep up with energy bills.

Visit www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/KeepWarmKeepWell for details.

For further information on staying well this winter visit www.nhs.uk/staywell





Positive Partnerships for Organisations and Communities

Community charity Groundwork East has entered into an agreement with construction and development company Anderson Group, in order to help communities across the East of England. Representatives of Groundwork and Anderson, on Friday 17 November 2017, signed the memorandum of understanding to formalise the relationship between the two organisations.

This development follows a very successful partnership project that finished in April. Green Skills is Groundwork's employment and skills project that sees volunteers improve a community space while learning skills and gaining qualifications to help them get into work.

The project participants worked for five weeks at Anderson Group's Luxborough Lane development in Chigwell, Essex. The site has been developed into a new world-leading school for autistic children. The Green Skills volunteers carried out works to make part of the grounds accessible and aesthetically pleasing.

Steve Harvey, Executive Director of Groundwork East, said: "This memorandum of understanding is an important step in a very positive partnership. It will help our two organisations identify opportunities to work together to deliver more fantastic projects, like Green Skills, for communities across our operating areas."

Andrew Jay, Group Managing Director of the Anderson Group, said: "Enacting meaningful change in the community is at the heart of the Anderson ethos. It is great to be in partnership with Groundwork East, a charity with whom we share a belief in creating better places and to improve peoples' lives."

About Groundwork

Changing places, changing lives – one green step at a time

Big global issues – the economy, the environment – have a big local impact. We work across the UK helping communities find practical solutions to the challenges they face.

We provide training and create jobs, reduce energy and waste, re-connect people with nature and transform whole neighbourhoods. Step by step we'll go on changing places and changing lives until everywhere is vibrant and green, every community is strong enough to shape its own destiny and everyone can reach their potential.

For more information visit www.groundwork.org.uk/east

Arthur Rank



500 stress balls donated by Ridgeons help outpatients of Arthur Rank Hospice Charity!

Between 80,000 and 124,000 people in the UK are affected by lymphoedema: the chronic long term swelling which occurs when the lymphatic system fails. This can happen due to either a genetic fault (primary lymphoedema) or through damage following infection, severe injury, deep vein thrombosis or treatment such as radiotherapy or surgery for cancer (secondary lymphoedema).

Arthur Rank Hospice's Lymphoedema service, based at Shelford Bottom, cares for around 400 people each year (figures April 2016 - March 2017). The clinic's emphasis is on best management of the affected area and encouraging the patient to take on-going control of their condition.

A range of specialist treatments and techniques are used to improve lymphatic circulation and drainage, including compression hosiery and exercise. Patients are also taught how to self-massage, which is where the stress balls come in! The Hospice applied to the timber and builder's merchants – Ridgeons - through the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, for 500 stress balls. Patients are taught how to massage the inside their elbows, groin and behind their knee with the stress ball, to encourage lymph node drainage. The individual can then take the ball home and continue to use the technique to help with their condition.

"The treatment and help we provide in our Lymphoedema Clinic can help reduce swelling in limbs, improve grip and flexibility, increase finger dexterity and can even help decrease anxiety levels," explains Lynn Morgan, CEO of the Arthur Rank Hospice. *"This therapeutic resource allows self-management of what can be a very debilitating and chronic condition, bringing a sense of independence, empowerment and control."*

The Village Allotments



The village allotments have been up and running on Barston Drove since 2010. We have had a number of retirees in the last couple of years and, as the plots need to be kept in cultivation, we could do with some new plot holders. Rent will depend on how many plot holders we have, but it will always be low (it's a fiver for the year at the moment!). As we have a number of uncultivated plots which have "returned to nature", and depending on how much interest we have, an application will be made to the village fund to assist in bringing the plots back to cultivation.

Graham Lingley
glingley3@googlemail.com
01638 742293

Swaffham Prior Village Gardeners

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: Peter Hart 01638 741681

Treasurer: Maggie Haverson

Joint Secretaries: Margaret Joyce and Mary Hart 01638 741681



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
ST MARY'S BURWELL
& ST ETHELDREDA'S REACH

Sunday 3rd December
4.30pm St Mary's Christingle Service

Sunday 17th December
3pm Traditional Carol Service at Reach
6.30pm St Mary's Carols by Candlelight
followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Christmas Eve 24th December
Services at St Mary's
10am Holy Communion
3pm Nativity & Carols for All Ages
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 25th December
8am Holy Communion at Reach
10am Family Communion at St Mary's



Debbie Warren-Clarke (right) could use some assistance at the RSPCA shop in Newmarket if you have any spare time

24 Acres: Woodland Update



I thought readers might welcome a short update on the 24 Acres Woodland. The village planted 2,500 trees and shrubs in late 2013 so the woodland has now had four seasons' growth. Our plan is to establish a natural woodland in keeping with Forestry Commission principles.

This, in combination with a fairly tight budget, means that other than limited replacement planting (which included a helpful top up from the Wards), mowing the footpaths and some targeted thistle bashing (for which I am grateful to Swaffham Prior scouts), we have left the woodland to it. It remains early days but we are on track.



Losses have been minimal, such that about 97 percent of the original planting slots are currently occupied by a living tree or shrub. Moreover much of what we have planted is growing away robustly. As a result we won't be doing any replanting this year. We are continuing to learn as we go and some things have not been as successful as we would have wanted. For example, holly has been really problematic to establish, despite the fact that there were two good specimens growing on the site before our arrival. A late frost in spring 2017 cut several clusters of promising maple saplings to ground level. Thankfully about half of these are growing back. There has also been increasing damage by deer this year. In some instances they have pushed over the shrub guards to browse the contents. Whilst the activity provides some welcome diversity in our woodland, we are monitoring the damage to ensure that it remains within acceptable limits. It may become our most substantial challenge given the deer population - I spotted six roe deer on the 24 Acres site recently and there are signs that deer are lying up in the woodland itself.

I would encourage villagers to take a stroll through the wood and check progress - the paths are not muddy at present and a few more walkers might discourage the deer from taking up permanent residence!



I am in ongoing discussion with the National Trust about the possibility of digging ponds on the land it has retained on the 24 Acres site beyond the woodland. This would recreate areas of water that existed in pre-agricultural times and would bring further conservation and amenity value to the site. The proposal has stalled somewhat as the Trust struggles to find appropriate funding.

Nick Acklam

Reach
Carols Around the Christmas Tree

Christmas Eve
6pm - 7pm

Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey News



The first short-eared owl of winter has taken up residence on Burwell Fen, although we've yet to see hen harriers coming into roost on Sedge Fen at night. This isn't a good sign, especially bearing in mind that last year numbers were down on previous years.

Sadly there have been reports of hare coursing on Burwell & Tubney Fens in recent weeks, which have been reported to the Police. If you witness such activity taking place, please report it immediately to the Police via 999.



We've recently undertaken a major project to conserve the waterwheel in the iconic windpump, near the Visitor Centre on Sedge Fen. The wheel which was constructed in the 1950s, when the windpump was restored & moved to its current location had sadly rotted due to the wet environment. Specialist wheelwrights removed the old wheel and salvaged the ironwork & fittings, which were installed on the new wheel they manufactured. Hopefully that will ensure the pump remains in good working order for another fifty years or so.

We've a few events early in the New Year to help you discover the amazing wildlife of the fen. Winter Wildlife is the theme for our monthly **Mucky Pups** craft & adventure activity for under 5s on either 10 or 11 January. There's a **Winter Wildlife Walk with a Ranger** on either Saturday or Sunday, 20 & 21 January, 3 -5pm; and a **Worlds Wetlands Day Walk** on either Friday 2 or Saturday 3 January, 2 – 4pm. Please check our website for full details.

It's a year since we installed solar panels on the roof of the Anglesey Abbey Visitor Centre, as part of the National Trust's ambitious target to source 50% of our energy needs from renewable sources by 2020.

In just a year, the panels have generated an incredible 37Mwh of electricity – that's around the same amount of electricity used annually by 11 average homes in the UK, or put another way, enough to make two million cups of tea.

Going forward we will very shortly be preparing a planning application for a water source heat pump to help heat the House. This would enable us to extract heat from water flowing in Quy Water (around 3-5 degrees). The heat is then amplified through a compression cycle and passed through a heat exchanger (basically a fridge in reverse) and then used to heat the House. This will remove our reliance on oil, and more importantly reduce carbon emissions by 48 tonnes, whilst saving around £12,000 a year in fuel costs, which can be better spent looking after the estate and collections.

There's great excitement as the House prepares to move to year round opening from the 11 December. This is a big step for the House team, but will ensure that we can offer our visitors an amazing visit with plenty to see and do, whatever the time of year or weather.

Throughout December & January, the House will be presenting **'Winter 1964 – A gentleman's way of life'** – this will look at preparations for Christmas and Lord Fairhaven's interest in country sports, and in particular his weekly shooting parties for his privileged guests.

The new shared path / cycleway from Stow cum Quy, running alongside the B1102, is scheduled to open in December. Hopefully it will encourage more of our visitors to both Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen to ditch the car in favour of pedal power, as well as providing a safer journey for the many commuters who cycle along the road each day.



A quick reminder of our Christmas opening hours – Wicken Fen is open every day (except Christmas Day), whilst Anglesey Abbey is closed Christmas Eve through to Boxing Day. So if you need some fresh air or fancy some hassle free Christmas shopping with the crowds, we would be delighted to see you.

And finally, once the festivities are over you might just want to come along to one or both of our weekly Heartbeat Health Walks. The walks are at Wicken on Wednesdays and Anglesey Abbey on Thursdays. Walks start at 10am and cover a distance of 3 – 4 miles.

Howard Cooper
National Trust

24 Acres: Community Orchard

FEATURED FRUITS



Pitmaston Pineapple

Pitmaston Pineapple is an old English russet apple from the West Midlands area. It was originally raised as a seedling of Golden Pippin in the late 18th century, but presented to the London Horticultural Society in 1845 by Mr Williams of Pitmaston near Worcester. It crops heavily but has a tendency to biennial bearing - fruiting only every other year.



Pitmaston Pineapple

Its most notable feature is the unusual and prominent pineapple-like flavour. The flavour of apples can be most simply defined on a scale from very acidic to very sweet, but many varieties exhibit other flavour overtones on top of this basic axis. Pitmaston Pineapple is the best example of a small group of apples where a musky pineapple-like flavour comes to the fore.

We have two trees in our orchard, both sponsored by Dafila Scott.

Purple Pershore

Purple Pershore (also known 'Purple Plum', 'Purple Egg' and 'Martin's Seedling') is a well-known and reliable English plum that arose in around 1877. Its cooking and preserving qualities were soon recognised and it became widely grown in the Vale of Evesham where it is still grown commercially on a small-scale. The fruit is large, oval, reddish purple, and perfect for almost any kind of plum cookery, particularly plum jam. Left on the tree until they are dark purple they can be eaten fresh.



Purple Pershore

We have three trees in our orchard, sponsored by Andrew Prior, Lesley Maw and Lily Steed.

Red Miller's seedling

Red Millers Seedling was found in Sudbury, Suffolk, in around 1948 as a red form or 'sport' of the Berkshire apple Millers Seedling which itself was once a popular apple in the Victorian period. The fruit is attractive red crimson with pink flushed streaks on a yellow green background. It has a distinctively sweet and juicy flesh but is liable to bruising if handled badly so does not transport well. Along with a short storage life this makes it unsuitable for the supermarket trade. Fruits tend to be smallish so growers recommend thinning the crop to get good sized apples. It is best picked and eaten straight from the tree rather than stored. http://www.botanicaplantnursery.co.uk/red-millers-seedling-apple-402-p.html



Red Miller's seedling

We have three trees in our orchard – just one has been sponsored, so far, by Pieter Nelissen.

Red Victoria

A writer is forced to write a horror movie by an undead muse who motivates him by killing his friends and family… Oops, no, that's the 2008 horror film written and directed by Tony Brownrigg.

But there is not a lot of information available about the apple. All I can tell you is that it is an early season sharp cooking apple, best picked and used in August. It was found growing near Wisbech, presumably as a seedling, and introduced by Messrs. Miller of Wisbech in 1908. It resembles a ripe tomato in appearance when ready to pick.

We have two trees in our orchard, sponsored by Jemma Redfarn and Vicki Bursford.

Thanks to https://www.orangepippin.com/ for permission to reproduce descriptions of fruit varieties on their website.



APPLE DAY

Many of us had a great day on 8th of October, celebrating the diversity of fruit varieties to be found in Britain's orchards. I will let the selection of photos in this issue speak for themselves and simply say a big thank you to those who helped to organise and run the event and make the day such a success: Claire Acklam, David Parr, Catherine Gibson, Graham Lingley, Debbie Quilter, Cath Tayleur, Diana Ward and Andrew Trump.



And as a reminder of what we were celebrating, here are a few 'apple facts':

- The wild ancestor of apple trees is *Malus sieversii* (and possibly also *Malus sylvestris*). They grow wild in the mountains of Central Asia in the north of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Xinjiang, China. Unlike domesticated apples, their leaves become red in autumn. They have been used recently to develop varieties of *Malus domestica* that will grow in colder climates.
- The apple tree was possibly the earliest tree to be cultivated. Its fruits have become better over thousands of years. It is said that Alexander the Great discovered dwarf apples in Asia Minor in 300 BC. Asia and Europe have used winter apples as an important food for thousands of years.
- Over 7,500 cultivars of the apple are known.
- In the United Kingdom alone there are about 3000 different types of apples.
- Even if you tried a different apple every day it would take you nearly 20 years to sample the entire spectrum.
- Two-thirds of our orchards have been lost since 1960, and some British apple varieties have gone completely extinct
- We opt for a small selection of boring but reliable varieties, 70 per cent of which are imported.

David Thomas





Scary stuff. Love the owls



Lots of apple-themed cakes



Andrew Trump (left) and Graham Lingley steadying the apple press



On the count of three.....



Fancy a Kiss……?

Viscum album, or mistletoe, really comes to the forefront of our minds when it is brought into our homes for the Christmas tradition of kissing beneath the mistletoe. There is far more though to this curious plant than this much-heralded tradition.

A native of the British Isles, mistletoe occurs in southern England, Wales and the Borders. *Viscum album* is prevalent in areas with a mild climate and suitable woody hosts, and it is particularly associated with the orchard-growing counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. Mistletoe is a hemi-parasitic species meaning that it carries out photosynthesis but also obtains nutrients and water from its host. Frequent hosts include apple, hawthorn, lime, and poplar. It will grow on more unusual hosts such as witch hazel (*Hamamelis* spp.) and handkerchief tree (*Davidia involucrata*), as at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. *Viscum album* is a dioecious species, having separate berryless male and fruiting female plants, and requires both male and female plants to produce fruits. It is spread from tree to tree by birds (and especially mistle thrushes). Perceived wisdom suggested that the seed needed to be passed through birds and deposited in bark fissures. It is this aspect of the plant which led to its common name of mistletoe. *Mistel* derives from an Old German word *mist*, meaning dung, and *toe* from the Old English word *tan*, meaning twig. It is now accepted that neither of these is necessary, and that the seeds are sticky enough to secure themselves to the barks' surface, until its hypocotyl (stem beneath the stalks of the seed leaves) emerges. It is an especially distinct plant, forming a mass of paired, lime-green, veined leaves. Translucent, white berries sit at the union of a pair of leaves.



Mistletoe growing on sacred trees has long been held in high esteem by druids, who believed it warded off evil spirits, and considered that it brought both good luck and fertility.. It is this paganistic link which resulted in the banning of mistletoe from many parish churches. Having no roots, nor obvious food source, it was regarded as magical during the Medieval Age. Its ability to remain green-leaved throughout the year, while other plants defoliated, further added to the intrigue. During this same period concoctions containing mistletoe were used to treat epilepsy and tumours. The plant was also believed to deter witches. It was also widely regarded as a fertility symbol and aphrodisiac, and ladies tied a sprig of mistletoe around their waist or wrist to increase fertility. This association with fertility did not stop at humans, with rituals evolving to improve soil fertility. In Herefordshire the practice of 'Burning the Bush' was widely adopted. Orbs of mistletoe and hawthorn were constructed, and these were set alight and dragged across fields to purify the ground and increase crop yields. In neighbouring Worcestershire mistletoe was hung with other greenery to decorate doorways and hallways, and it is from this origin that the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe began.



Today, much of the mistletoe available commercially is imported from France, though a handful of commercial suppliers exist in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. Mistletoe is more obvious during the winter months when its orbicular form is silhouetted against the sky amongst the leafless limbs of deciduous trees. Here at Cambridge Botanic Garden an increasing number of host plants can be seen garnished with the globe-like masses of this fascinating plant.

Sally Petitt
Head of Horticulture

Cambridge University Botanic Garden will be closed from 4pm on Saturday 23rd December and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January at 10am. For details about opening times, admission charges, tours, courses and the latest information about upcoming events visit www.botanic.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 33626.

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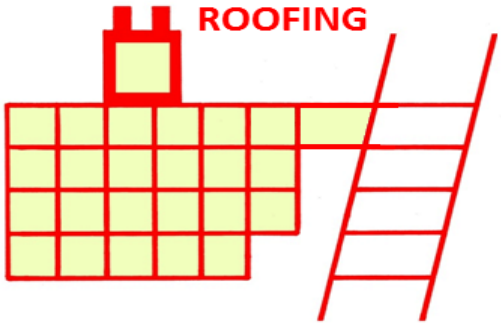

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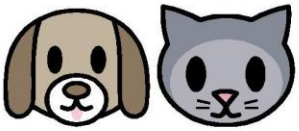

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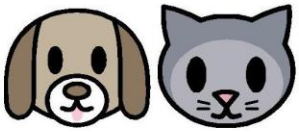

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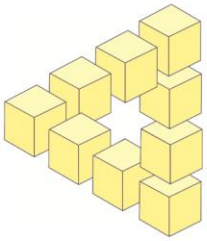

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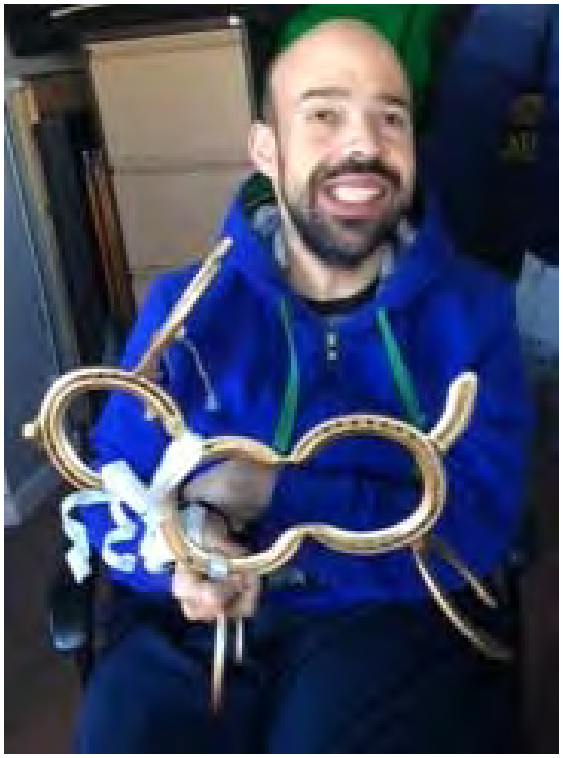

CO-WORKERS, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

This Christmas our Co-workers are off to Narnia thanks to the Eric Drummond-Mercer Trust. Our farm barn is being transformed into a winter wonderland for the Co-worker Christmas party rather than going off site for their long awaited celebrations. The theme is Narnia, so we are all hoping for a special visit from Santa - we have of course been good all year around! Thank you to our funders and all those who have supported our fundriaising activities throughout 2017 as this is what funds our big Co-worker Christmas party, Christmas officially starts once the Co-worker Conga stops!



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Sprouts are back! Alongside shelves stocked with winter cabbage, mixed kale, spinach, leeks, garlic, onions, beetroot, potatoes, free-range eggs and winter salad. We are also stocking kindling and logs for your roaring fires. Our kitchen crew have been really busy making lots of lovely new preserves and chutneys, including our new "Christmas Jam".

We have a wide range of Christmas Crafts made by our talented farm team, made to order Christmas wreaths, winter log creations and our new range of upcycled horse shoes made into Christmas trees, snowmen, reindeers, sleighs and wine racks



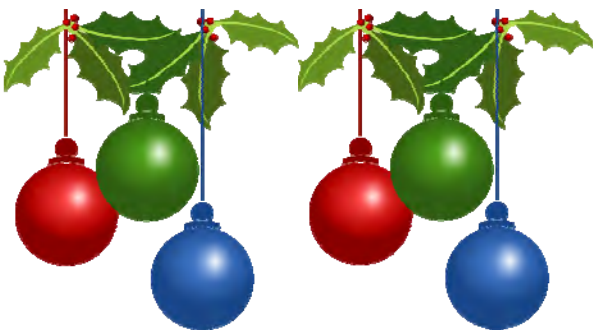




OUR SPOOKTACULAR WAS A FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Thank you to all who dared to enter our Farm Fright Night on the 28th October this now annual event raised more than chills, hairs and thrills - over £1500 has been spooktacularly raised by everyone getting into the spirit. This year the wendigo theme was very scary, especially in our dark cold acres. We wonder what our creative team of volunteers, staff and Co-workers will spirit up for next year.





TILLY TRACTORAID - GET WELL TILLY

As you know, Tilly Tractor has become our much loved and rather infamous special vehicle on the farm. She was funded through all our supporters voting for us to win the ITV Anglia/Big Lottery Peoples Millions vote many years ago. She is now a vital training aid here on the farm, used daily in our fields and driven by our Co-workers. She is also our social media darling with a whole host of Facebook followers. BUT sadly Tilly is a little unwell! All our Co-workers are missing her terribly. We are now fearful of a very large hospital bill so instead of general appeals for our charity this Christmas our fundraising appeal is "TillyTractorAid" and online donations can be made here: localgiving.org/appeal/TillyTractorAid-GetWellTilly

We send you all our seasonal best wishes and look forward to seeing you all in 2018, Merry Christmas from all at Snakehall Farm

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Befriend us: Tilly Tractor on Facebook for all the latest growings on at Snakehall Farm and fresh veg alerts to what is hot in the shop right now.





Tales from a Reach Garden



This autumn has been very mild so far although it has been damp. It's been so mild that cabbage white butterflies were fluttering around the garden throughout October, and in spite of all the netting we use around the cabbage bed, one found a hole in the netting and I've been picking their caterpillars off the cabbages ever since, to allow some of cabbages to survive and grow with a minimum of nibbling.



Thorny brambles and their berries in September

Leaf drop from the trees has been slower than in previous years, mostly because the weather hasn't been windy nor has there been much frost overnight. We have a large beech tree in the garden which dumps its leaves in batches, so we're sweeping up leaves for several months as beech trees don't release the last of their brown, withered leaves until fresh leaf buds open up in May the following year. All leaves are swept up and we keep them damp in a large wire container….and that's how you make leaf mould - if you have the room to do so. In our previous, much smaller garden in Watford we used to scoop the leaves up into bin liners, close the bags, then puncture them to allow excess moisture to escape and allow air in, and left them stacked up in the shade behind the shed. Some leaves, like hornbeam or field maple, break down fairly quickly, especially if shredded (or mowed) beforehand and can create a decent leaf mould in a year. Beech leaves can take up to two years to break down. The broken-down leaves in leaf mould make a useful soil conditioner added to our vegetable beds, or to mulch the flower beds.



Sloes still on the bushes in November

This autumn, in addition to some lovely leaf colour, it's the fruit and berries which have been stunning. Our older apple trees almost collapsed under the weight of fruit, and that's after I'd thinned them in June. Some of our ornamental shrubs and holly bushes have an astonishing array of berries on them this autumn, most of which will gradually disappear over the next few weeks as they are snapped up by birds. Earlier in September we had a huge crop of blackberries in the garden and there have been lots on the brambles in the hedgerows.



Lots of holly berries in our garden this year

Our blackthorn bushes around the garden hedge have yielded a lot of sloes too. The leaves are yellowing and dropping off the blackthorn bushes now, revealing loads of small berries with a bluish "bloom", clinging to the thorny twigs, plenty for wildlife to devour in the coming weeks. They are a little too tart and astringent for most of us to eat raw, although they can be made into preserves and tarts, with lots of sugar. I pick about half a kilogram (a pound) of sloes in October every year to make some sloe gin liqueur. It takes about 6 weeks for the pricked berries to steep in the mix of gin and sugar imparting their flavour and a lovely deep pink colour. After 6 weeks I decant the liquor off the berries through a sieve to remove any bits and pour it into a bottle, stoppered and labelled. I leave the bottle

of liqueur to stand for a couple more weeks until it's ready to drink, usually about Christmas day. I'm not a huge fan of gin, but the flavour of sloes makes all the difference, it's especially welcome at the end of a cold day. Merry Christmas!

Danuta Gibson

Out and About. Winter 2017



Although I haven't been out and about much, we recently travelled down the fen towards Upware and spotted 2 kestrels and 2 herons in the field opposite Hilary's stableyard. Further on Martin saw a little egret.

And then, joy, we spotted a flock of lapwing feeding on invertebrates (earth and wireworms, leatherjackets) on the dark fen soil just before Stevie Munden's farm. Ironically, the lapwing was once known as the farmers' friend for these feeding habits but statistics show the greatest population decline occurs in southern England and Wales, due to changes in farming practice. I read that numbers have halved in the last 10 years.



We have a flock of noisy long-tailed tits in a garden tree. There are jays in the hedge on Great Lane. Known mimics, I read that jays are able to imitate sheep to insects, babies crying, lawnmowers and confuse predators, such as the tawny owl, by echoing their calls. Have seen Joe the crow on Reach green.

Reach wildlife enthusiasts have emailed their Autumn/Winter sightings (jossbmg@icloud.com), please keep them coming and thank you:

Ron saw a kite flying over their house a couple of months ago and Penny emailed "saw a kestrel playing with a rook in the skies above the field next to our house. At first I thought they were fighting but they were obviously having a lot of fun and landed in a high tree, sitting a couple of feet apart. The egret is still sitting by the edge of the lode near John Robinson's. The grapes at the front of our house have brought every starling in Reach for a feed. We don't mind, the grapes have too many seeds!".

Nick Acklam noted the following "first starling murmuration of the winter observed over Tubney Fen on 5 October.

30 or so widgeon on Tubney Mere on 8 November - their whistling calls audible over some distance. Noteworthy perhaps that this was the first day after the cattle, which continually break into the Mere, had been removed from the Fen. Six Roe deer on the 24 Acres on the same day at dusk, their white rumps very visible as they bounded away in the gloom.

On 13 November I witnessed a score or so of swans flying in to Burwell Mere at dusk rather like the winter spectacle at Welney in miniature.

On 14 November I saw a huge flock of goldfinches on Tubney Fen although, again, it was more of a sound experience than anything, their liquid song trickling from the ditch as they worked their way westwards".

Hilary caught sight of a hobby on the fen and a hen harrier over the field near Amtrac on the Reach Road. Has seen foxes and roe deer on the fen "lovely to see their flashy white rear ends as they bound off in alarm at the sight of horse riders. The herons are starting to hang out together on the NT fields near my stables. Last year we counted 13 in one go. So far, just 3 at a time: I use the term `hang out' because they never seem to interact with each other like other birds seem to. They just park themselves roughly in the same vicinity and do what herons do!! (i.e. stand around)".

Pam had to stop her car suddenly on the outskirts of Reach recently when a muntjac doe crossed the road with the tiniest kid following behind which then detoured for shelter under the vehicle! She said it was unbelievably young and small, she finally managed to shoo it out and back to the mother.

AND ALSO:

So far I've spent three long months mostly confined to our house through illness, this ongoing spell of enforced inactivity would have been unbearable were it not for the consistent kindness shown by Reach villagers. Each day visitors call in and I so enjoy the company and stories they bring to what would otherwise be a very dull time. Additionally, a mass of cards, delicious pies, fruit crumbles, vegetables, cakes, biscuits, magazines and chocolate have been passed over the threshold or left on the doorstep. Fen has been regularly walked and our garden tidied for winter.

A big THANKYOU to those that help me so much. You know who you are.

Joss Goodchild



Meeting Krysia Newman



My husband and I moved to Reach from Bottisham in June 2016; we have three children and have absolutely fallen in love with the village.

I am a qualified holistic therapist, I trained over twenty years ago and now run my own business called Soulfulness Therapies - which offers a number of different therapeutic treatments.

In the early days it was my passion for aromatherapy, reflexology, hopi ear candling and massage, which started my holistic journey! I started to see a number of clients in these areas but soon realised I wanted to work more spiritually with them. To that end I studied Reiki, crystal healing and EFT (Emotional Freedom Techniques), which enabled me to offer my clients a truly holistic experience on a physical and spiritual level. It was also useful in my personal life as I was looking for something to help my eldest daughter who has Asperger's. She would become incredibly frustrated with aspects of school and day to day life. After only after a short time working with her using these techniques I was amazed at the progress she made. I thought - this is what I need to be concentrating on both personally and professionally.

That said, it took a few years for me to make that a reality! I took a few years out when the children were younger to concentrate on being a full time Mother. I also worked at Burwell Village College Primary School for just over seven years. The therapy work took a bit of a back seat although I still worked and gave treatments to my friends and family.

Just recently in September 2017 I decided to leave Burwell Village College and pursue my love of therapy work. Leaving a secure job (and the kids who made working there so much fun!) and starting out on my own has been really exciting. I officially launch **Soulfulness Therapies** in the next few months and have been actively looking for therapy space - although I have seen a number of clients in Reach and this has worked really well (they've loved coming to the village - not least as they get to have lunch at the pub after the treatment!).

As well as Soulfulness Therapies I am a partner in a therapeutic wheat bag business with a lady called Anna who lives on a farm in West Wickham. Anna and her husband are arable farmers who use the remainder of their wheat harvest to make the bags - the ones you can heat in the microwave or put in the freezer. I'm currently working with Anna to develop a holistic range. What's great about the product is that all the wheat contained in the bags is grown and harvested on the farm, and I see the process from the start to finish. The bags are hand sewn and contain wheat and lavender. We've just been part of the Ely Cathedral Christmas Fair and the Crafting Live show in Peterborough, which was hugely successful and great fun.

As if that wasn't keeping me busy enough I joined Tropic Skincare in June 2017. The products are all cruelty free, toxic free, 100% clean and vegan. Susie Ma, the founder, is an amazing role model. When she was 15 and sharing a bedsit with her mum she announced that she would buy her Mother a house and with incredible motivation she resolved to make a better life for both of them by making her own body smoothing scrub, and selling it on Greenwich market. You may have seen her on the Apprentice - she was fired in the Final. But even then she didn't give up and she re-pitched her business to Lord Sugar and finally he invested in her anyway! She is now winning awards across the board with her products of Tropic Skincare.

With Tropic I run Pamper Parties for four or more people and offer one to one consultations. Please do get in touch if this sounds appealing (krystynaanewman11@gmail.com / 07500558408 / www.tropicskincare.co.uk/shop/krysianewman)

In my spare time (if I get any!) I run the not for profit Inspiral Group in Cambridge. With my husband's support we arrange inspirational / holistic spiritual authors to come to Cambridge for talks and workshops. Our topics are incredibly broad; since Inspiral started in 2007 we've had everything from past life regression to spiritual dog training! The group has a focus on networking for people who are working within the complimentary / holistic therapy fields but everyone is welcome. We meet regularly on the third Wednesday of the month at Co.15 in Cherry Hinton - visit www.inspiralgroup.co.uk for more information and to sign up to the mailing list.

I hope that's given a good overview of who I am and what I do. Lastly, I'd like I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone in Reach for making us feel so welcome here!

I'm currently running a raffle for the Cambridge Samaritans and it will be drawn on December 16th. To buy a square costs £2 and the winner will receive £50 of Tropic Skincare goods. To purchase a square again just get in touch with me.

I would like to offer the first five ladies to contact me quoting 'Within Reach' a FREE facial!

ANNICA WHEATBAGS

At Annica we design & hand make the finest individually styled wheat bags using grain grown on our East Anglian farm complemented by locally sourced beautiful, soft fabric
Used hot or cold, they will gently mould to your body and help soothe away aches & pain



The Full Monty
For shoulder girdle/upper back
50cm x 36cm / 19" x 14"
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50cm x 15cm / 20" x 6"
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The Body Soother
Useful shape for lower back/joints
30cm x 23cm / 12" x 9"
£16



The Handy Bag
Versatile for anywhere on the body & will pack small
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Reach
Christmas Tree Lights
Switch On

Sunday 3rd December 2017
5pm - 6pm

Krysia's Thought for the Day

What can you see about yourself in this humorous (and true) quote?

"Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?"
— George Carlin

This really made me think about my 'thoughts' whilst driving. I had become annoyed with another driver who was trying to overtake me on a single track road whilst I was observing the speed limit! In that moment I allowed myself to feel annoyed. I then became 'aware' of the feeling and the thoughts going through my mind. As soon as I became aware of how I was feeling my annoyance left me. I moved over to let the driver behind overtake, turned up the song on the radio and smiled. I arrived at my friend's house in a good mood and feeling calm. Choosing how you feel is liberating.

Do you need a break in your busy day?
Why not drop in to
LUNCHBREAK CAFE

At St Mary's Church, Burwell
On the 4th Wednesday of every month
December 27th and January 24th
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.

Prehistoric Axes – Local to Our Area

"And many strokes though with a little axe hew down and fell the hardest-timbered oak."
William Shakespeare

Every axe would start out as a large nodule of flint that would be trimmed of its white cortex to leave the smooth dark stone at its core. Ever smaller flakes would be removed until the desired two-sided shape of an axe emerges. But is an axe an axe?

Well, they actually had many different functions, in part reflected by their shape.



Palaeolithic hand axe. This replica was made by Nick Barton, then a student at the Baden Powell Quarternary Research Centre, Oxford. Such replicas are made to experiment, for example to remove animal skins, to examine the use and effectiveness of prehistoric tools. The replica is made from flint from Brandon, Norfolk, one of the very best sources of flint and an important flint mining centre in the Neolithic period.

The earliest axes were manufactured in the Palaeolithic period (*c*.600,000-10,000BC), spanning the Ice Ages that enveloped much of the British Isles. These axes were designed to be wielded by hand, and were fashioned as chopping tools – certainly for the butchery of meat, cutting of animal skins and splitting of bones, with extensive cut marks recorded on bones found by archaeologists. However; it is almost certain the fruit, nuts and other plants were an essential part, if not the greater part of their diet and an axe may have been a vital multi-purpose tool.

In the Mesolithic period (*c*.10,000-5,400BC), the use of an 'axe' evolves into what is more accurately known as a tranchet adze. These implements were formed much like a narrow axe, with a distinctive sharpening flake removed from one end to create a cutting edge. Tranchet adzes would have been hafted to a shaft-like handle and used much like a pick, possibly for the excavation of chalk or soil, and most likely also for the trimming of wood, possibly including the hollowing out of logs.



Sideways view of a Mesolithic tranchet adze exhibiting the classic transverse strike to remove a flake and create a cutting edge. Additional transverse blows would re-sharpen the implement.

This adze was found in the Reach / Burwell area by an archaeologist and represents one of the best finds of their career.

In the Neolithic period (*c*.5400-2000BC), we see the development of axes designed as handled chopping tools, not dissimilar to the axes we continue to use in the present day, only made of flint not metal. During this period there were two broad types of axe: one had flaked surfaces that result in a slightly facetted appearance, while the other was first flaked and then polished so the surfaces were smooth and polished. The difference in these two types is significant; a simple flaked axe could be made by and experienced flint knapper in 20-30 minutes, while to polish an axe of medium to large size could take up to 40 hours. However, this investment was reflected in the performance of the axe, with the polished axe far more efficient at cutting wood and felling trees, while *remaining sharper and less likely to break.

Not coincidentally, the emergence of new tool types, including these axes, marks the transition from hunter-gatherer societies to the earliest farmers. Permanent settlements begin to be establishes and agriculture commences, frequently in fertile river valleys, and the clearance of the post glacial forests of alder, oak, elm and hazel. One of the earliest Neolithic settlement sites is at Shippea Hill, near Ely, where a small group appears to have established themselves on a sandy ridge overlooking a stream.



The reconstruction shows the fen in the foreground and fen edge forests in the background. From the palaeoenvironmental volume of the Fenland Survey, it looks like Reach and Burwell existed more in a dryland (forested) zone south of the main area of fenland in the north.

Conditions in the south-eastern fenland area during the Mesolithic were drier than subsequent periods (pre-drainage) and the fens were less extensive. Evidence from nearby pollen cores (for example Wicken Fen and Peacock's Farm) show that the area would have been quite heavily wooded during this period, with mixed woodland of oak, hazel and lime. These environments would be useful to hunter-gatherers for the gathering of wild plant foods (fruit and nuts) and hunting of game animals (boar and deer). There are also likely to have been wetland areas, including areas of alder carr and sedge fen, available for the exploitation of fish and wildfowl.

During the Neolithic, water levels increased and the fen began to expand. During this time there was a decline in lime, which has low tolerance of wetness, within local woodland, accompanied by an increase in alder carr and sedge fen habitats. Evidence of woodland clearance is more prominent during the Neolithic as farming communities created open spaces for the cultivation of cereals and rearing of domestic animals in the drier areas of the fen edge. It is still likely that local woodland and wetland habitats remained valuable for the exploitation of wild resources at this time, although agriculture would have restricted the time available for such activities.



This Neolithic polished axe was found by a member of the Dunnett family on land between Burwell and Wicken Fen, and we are grateful to Ron and Susan Dunnett for its loan.

This excellent example of a Neolithic polished axe was recovered from close to the village and would have represented a very valuable tool. The axe was made from high quality fine-grained flint with very few inclusions; although sparse rounded (grey) fossils are visible, especially close to the cutting edge. The raw material for this axe would probably have been sourced locally, which is reflected by the olive to dark brown colour of the axe. Flint is formed in chalk deposits and is originally a dark grey to black colour, but as it is moved, possibly by glacial action or river erosion it will absorb minute amounts of moisture and minerals that stain it, with the rich earthy tones of this piece reflecting the thousands of years the raw flint would have spent in peat and river deposits.

The original axe would have been flaked to close to the profile you see today, but every part of the axe was subsequently polished, removing the original scars and ridges and leaving a smooth profile with a very sharp leading edge (maintained today). The sharpness of the edge is more remarkable when you consider the axe has seen considerable use. Several chips on the body, including a large flake scar that cuts through the polished surface reflect percussive blows during use that damaged the axe slightly, but did not break it. A pattern of neat smaller scars and abrasion at the narrow butt end may also indicate that the axe was re-hafted, presumably as the original wooden handle broke but the axe head remained a valuable and useful commodity. If hafted once again, it would not be surprising to find this axe still quite capable of felling trees and cutting wood. It weighs 506g, which is only slightly less than the 600-700g that a modern steel garden axe weighs, demonstrating that technology used over 4000 years ago has only changed so much!

Andy Peachey

Days Gone By



It was Band Aid who topped the charts over Christmas 1984 with “Do They Know Its Christmas?” Band Aid was a charity supergroup featuring mainly British and Irish musicians and recording artists. It was founded in 1984 by Bob Geldof and Midge Ure to raise money for anti-famine efforts in Ethiopia. The single surpassed the hopes of the producers to become the Christmas number one for five weeks.

In Bhopal, India thousands of people died from the effect of a toxic gas, methyl isocyanate (MIC) which leaked from a chemical factory owned by the USA company Union Carbide, near the central Indian city of Bhopal, which was home to nearly one million people, most of whom lived in poverty.



This was one of the world's worst industrial accidents. Nearly 3,000 people died from the effects of the poisonous gas in the days following the disaster.

Estimates say that some 50,000 people were treated in the first few days suffering terrible side-effects, including blindness, kidney and liver failure. Campaigners say nearly 20,000 others have since died from the effects of the leak.

In 1989 Union Carbide, which is now a subsidiary of Dow Chemical, paid the Indian Government £470m in a settlement which many described as woefully inadequate.

But in 1999 a voluntary group in Bhopal which believed not enough had been done to help victims, filed a lawsuit in the United States claiming Union Carbide violated international law and human rights and in November 2002 India said it was seeking the extradition of former Union Carbide boss Warren Anderson from the US to faces charges of "culpable homicide" for cost-cutting at the plant which is alleged to have compromised safety standards.

Anderson had visited the plant four days after the accident, in what was then seen as a timely reaction from the company. However, after being arrested by Indian police on the spot and paying bail, he was released and never returned to the country. He remained a fugitive from the Indian legal system, resisting all efforts to bring him to face trial for the company’s actions.

Also on the world stage, it was decided that the British colony of Hong Kong is to be returned to China in 1997 after an historic agreement was signed in Peking by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her Chinese counterpart Zhao Ziyang. It formally sealed the future of Hong Kong, transferring it from a British colony of six million people to communist China.

The agreement, which ended 155 years of British rule in the colony, also launched a new era in trade and diplomacy between the two countries.



The champagne ceremony took place at the Great Hall of the People before delegates who helped draw up the agreement, including 101 guests from Hong Kong.

In June 1989 a bloody crackdown by troops on protests in the Chinese capital, Beijing, known as the "Tiananmen Square massacre" soured relations between Britain and China. The British Government, fearing for the colony's future, responded by granting British passports to 50,000 Hong Kong heads of families, building a new international airport, and introducing a Bill of Rights.

Chris Patten, the last Governor of Hong Kong introduced democratic reforms in 1992 which the Chinese Government opposed. A series of diplomatic meetings between the two governments in 1995 and 1996 improved relations.

On 1 July 1997 a spectacular ceremony in Hong Kong celebrated a new era in its political life as it transferred to Chinese control.

David Parr

Heritage Street Lighting Update



Nearly all done! The new lights are in, working and looking good.

The original Heritage lights have now been painted, for the first time since they were installed.

In addition, new white lights, which match the new ones have been installed – well, in most of them anyway – it looks like a small number need to be done.

And finally, a stay/go decision needs to be made about street light PC4 which is attached to a telegraph pole at the entrance to Chapel Lane.

Food Focus



Gingerbread

This is my new favourite baking activity with the children. It fulfils most of our combined criteria by being relatively quick to make, roll and cut out-able, decorate-able and tasty at the end. It can also be done without making a huge amount of washing up and mess. Around Christmas different sized stars can be piled on top of each other to make Christmas trees, and gingerbread makes a great non-messy lunchbox or break time snack. I admit it's not very healthy but my children refuse to eat the sugar free flapjacks and other "healthy" snacks I periodically endeavour to make them, which is always rather demoralising!

Ingredients

125g unsalted butter
100g dark brown muscovado sugar
4 tbsp golden syrup
325g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp ground ginger (no harm in adding a bit more if you like them spicy)
1 tsp mixed spice

Makes: 25 biscuits of a normal biscuit size, if you want to decorate you will need icing/egg white/sprinkles etc

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170ºC, gas mark 3. Line 2 large baking trays with baking parchment. Melt the butter, sugar and syrup together in a medium saucepan, stirring occasionally, then remove from the heat.

2. Sieve the flour, bicarbonate of soda and ginger into a bowl, then stir the melted ingredients into the dry ingredients to make a stiff dough. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and roll to a thickness of about 5mm.

3. Stamp shapes out of the dough using cookie cutters. Place the shapes onto the lined baking trays and bake, in batches, for 9–10 minutes until golden brown.

4. Remove from the oven. While still warm, use a skewer or chopstick to make any holes that you may need to hang up the biscuits with ribbon or string. Leave to cool completely on a wire rack.

5. Mix together the icing sugar with a splash of water to make thick icing then drizzle or pipe over the biscuits and decorate with sprinkles. The gingerbread biscuits can be stored in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

Seasonal Snakehall Produce

The crates of Snakehalls' farm shop have been brimming with autumnal goodies, and there are still lots of beautiful and delicious varieties of squash for those of you who like to make the most of these strikingly coloured vegetables. They will continue to have the following in stock over the next few months: potatoes, onions, garlic, leeks, spinach, brussels, curly kale, parsnips and swede. The kalettes I wrote about in the last issue were somewhat decimated by caterpillars, so after all there won't be many in the shop.

This year co-workers have produced an amazing Christmas Jam which I can personally guarantee will effectively and tastefully summon festive cheer. Have a look out for their preserves to serve with cold meats on boxing day. It's also worth remembering that the co-workers produce a wonderful range of creative crafts which are available in the shop in the run up to Christmas. There will also be logs and kindling on sale.

Ps Foody Markets and Food Festivals happening near you

Burwell Farmers Market (Burwell Village College) 2nd Saturday of the month (9.30- 12.30) – 9th December & 13th January.

Ely Farmers Market 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month (8.30 -2) - 9th December and 23rd & 13th & 27th January in addition there is a Christmas Market (with lots of food producers) - Friday 22nd December (8.30 – 3.30)

Cambridge's Mill Road Winter Fair Saturday 2nd December with market and food stalls lining the street and a food fair in Gwydir Street Car Park (10.30 – 4.30)

La Hogue (farm shop near Chippenham) has Father Christmas visiting on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December (booking essential)

Stretham Farmers Market Saturday 16th December (9am-1pm) with carol singing

Catherine Gibson

Cricket Report

No cricket to report this month. However, as with the BBC and its presenters' salaries we are obliged under the terms of our charter to publish our batting averages. Here, too, is a photo of us undertaking the annual ritual of putting the square to bed -- which consists of cutting the grass, scarifying it, spiking it, spreading loam and grass seed, wrapping it up in a duvet and reading it a story. **Ross Clark**

Name	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Average
P Kingsmill	6	5	76	25*	76.0
T Fordham	3	1	150	73	75.0
G Davies	2	0	49	49	24.5
C Bridgeman	4	0	83	66	20.7
E Cameron	3	0	54	27	18.0
J Acklam	1	0	15	15	15.0
T Tayleur	2	0	28	26	14.0
R Clark	6	2	49	17	12.2
W Kingsmill	3	0	36	32	12.0
P Bridgeman	1	0	12	12	12.0
T Clark	2	0	21	16	10.5
R Steed	4	0	32	13	8.0
M Thornton	5	0	35	14	7.0
T Davies	5	0	28	17	5.6
A Trump	4	0	21	13	5.2
R Keutgen	4	1	14	7*	4.7
G Thomas	5	0	22	17	4.4
A Fordham	2	0	8	4	4.0
B Pearson	2	0	7	6	3.5
J Hodgson	3	0	10	9	3.3
H Keutgen	6	0	7	3	1.2



REACH RIDERS GROUP
COMMUNITY CROSS COUNTRY ARENA

Want to get some cross country schooling at a great location, whenever you want and at a low cost?





Reach Village now have a fantastic new community cross country schooling facility in that can be accessed at any time and any amount of times for a small annual membership of £15 per year. We hold regular social and fundraising events and membership will also include discounted entry to Reach Riders events throughout the year.

The acre riding arena is situated at the edge of the village at 24 Acres, surrounded by a newly planted woodland and orchard and set in the beautiful National Trust Fenland reserve.



The acre is fenced and has a range of professionally built cross country jumps and cavaletti poles with a ditch planned for next year. The grass surface is regularly checked and maintained as are all of the jumps.

Please note: The area is only accessible by horseback- there is currently no designated parking on the 24 acres site.

For details about the facility or membership please visit our Facebook page Reach Riders or contact Sue Cameron: ewanandsue@btinternet.com

REACH
PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on:
Wednesday 4th October 2017

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	Present
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chair	Present
Steve Boreham	Councillor	Present
Alex de Giorgio-Miller	Councillor	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Not Present

Ian Drewar CAPALC attended the meeting to speak about the new Transparency Code. The Transparency code is a new frame work all councils need to follow. The under £25,000 code applies to Reach PC. The Transparency code required the PC to keep an up to date a website and publish all documentation; minutes, agenda, spending etc. for a period of at least 12months. Government funding is available to assist with this. The PC has until next year to have this all in place.

Additionally, next year, there is to be new legislation on the handling of communications and data protection. Parish councillors should also have email accounts separate from there private accounts. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Forum for members of the public.
Although there were members of the public present there were no issues raised.

1. Apologies for absence
There were none.

2. Declaration of interests
Councillor Cane declared an interest in the CCC discussion.

3. Co-option of new Councillors
The PC approved the application from Andrew Trump to join the PC, Clerk to complete the required paperwork.
The PC still has one vacancy which it will be able to co-opt for after the 6th October should an election not be called.

4 Planning
There were no new applications. Councillor Cane clarified the situation regarding the Gas plant application in Burwell. The PC had sent comment to ECDC and contacted the agent to arrange a public meeting, this is hoped to be in early Nov. If they are able to attend the Nov. PC meeting this meeting will start at 7pm. The deadline for additional comments has been moved to 23rd November for all. The PC now have paper copies of the plans and would like to put these on show for the public. It is hope that this will be possible during Apple Day on Sunday 9th Oct. ***Clerk*** to arrange.

5. Christmas Events
The PC have received risk assessments for the 2 Christmas events. The PC would like the following points to be added. During the tree decorating details of the delivery and placing of the tree need to be included. During the Christmas Eve event item 2 & 3 need to include dealing with flames in adverse weather and item 5 should include details of the installation of the scaffolding and the restriction of unauthorised people on the scaffolding. ***Clerk*** to inform the Events Team and also confirm details for the purchase of the tree.

6. County Councillor's Report
None received.
Clerk to contact the County Councillor to ask for regular updates from him. The PC feels strongly that input from CCC is helpful and required. It would be helpful to arrange for regular attendance at Reach PC meetings, be that bi-monthly or quarterly.
Should the Gas power plant developers be attending the next meeting the PC would very much expect the County Councillor to attend. ***Clerk*** to contact our County Councillor and discuss.

7. District Councillor's Report
During September as well as my normal Councillor duties, I also undertook two site visits.
The first was a tour of Dalham Hall Stud, which is part of the horse breeding empire of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed and is managed in an immaculate fashion. It employs 700 people, has 450 staff houses, and covers an area of over 7000 acres.

As such it is an important employer in the Newmarket area.

Secondly, as a member of the Community Services Committee I attended a tour of our new Leisure Centre that is being built on the Ely bypass at Downham Road. It should be completed by April/May 2018.
It will include the following:
• An eight lane 25m swimming pool
• A learner pool with movable floor
• A 120-station gym floor
• Two activity studios
• A four-court sports hall
• A meeting room
• An outdoor all-weather sports pitch
• Free car parking

It is being built next to our new six screen cinema which is now open and proving very popular.
Octobers planning committee is all day, starting at 9.30am instead of 2.30pm because of the increase in planning applications it is having to deal with.
When our new Local Plan is in force things should return to normal.

8 Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct. It was agreed that only finalised minutes should go on to the website.

9 (1) Parish Council Grant Fund
A grant of £400 has been requested from the Reach Riders to organise a fund rising New Year's Eve disco. The PC are very much in favour of helping with the Reach Riders Group, however it was felt that this event would not raise significate funds. The PC would like the group to put together another proposal for consideration. ***Clerk*** to contact the group.

The PC had also received a letter from the Prospects Trust asking for funding for the purchase of a new truck. The PC would in principle like to contribute but would like more information regarding amounts and the time scale. ***Clerk*** to obtain more details.

Councillor Boreham requested £200 to arrange a CPR training day for up to 10 people. This will allow the PC to give the required feed back to the British Heart Foundation who supplied, for free, the defibrillator to the village.

9(2) Financial Reports
The PC remains in a financially stable situation.
Both the Village Centre and Events team have paid the Reach fair monies which are now in the PC grant fund.

A transfer of the agreed funds from the PC £500 and the PC grant fund £850 into the streetlight reserve I was approved this will allow the calculation of final monies required from those residents who agreed to donate.

9(3) Parish Council Members Meetings
Following the PC meeting on 6th September, Councillor Fielding attended the meeting in Burwell on 9th September to hear the discussion about the proposals for the gas-powered generators to be located on Reach Road. Towards the end of the meeting she addressed the floor and introduced herself as the Vice Chair of Reach Parish council. Councillor Fielding explained that Reach PC had objected to the proposal and would be supporting the "Action Group" as much as possible to try to get the planning proposal refused. This was met with general approval and gratitude.
Having been sent the "Presentation" slides by John Clarke via email, Councillor Fielding forwarded them to David Parr with a request that they be circulated on the village email, which was done almost immediately, they were also posted on the Reach Facebook page.

Councillor Boreham has put up the defibrillator sign.
Councillor Boreham had also cleared away brambles, elder and blackthorn from the Millennium tree following a resident's complaint.
Councillor Cane had attended a CAPALC catch up day. Which had led to tonight's guest speaker attending the meeting.

9(4) Play Spaces
Bryan Pearson has taken on the role of organising the goal posts to be repaired and new nets to be purchased. Full details are awaited.
Spikes to deter the birds are missing from the top of the swings on the green. ***Clerk*** to organise getting them replaced.

9(5) Rights of Way
A resident had contacted the council to discuss the narrowing of the end of the byway which meets with Great Lane /Barston Drove adjacent to Aves' farm driveway. The small trees which were planted at the edge of the byway by the previous occupants of the house nearest to the byway are now growing and causing a hazard to his larger farm machinery. There is also concern that the end of the byway is frequently used for car parking by various members of the public/residents/visitors thus reducing/preventing free access. ***Clerk*** to contact CCC regarding the tree and issue a note to residents regarding parking on and blocking of byways which must always be kept clear to allow access for heavy farm machinery.

The NT is planning to fence off their newly acquired field behind the mere at the end of Old Bar Drove. They are also planning on levelling the track to improve the access. Horse riders have requested that plenty of space be allowed to protect horse riders from any cattle which will graze this field in the future as there is a deep drainage ditch running parallel to the track. There is also concern that the improved access may encourage unwelcome vehicles and travellers.

It has been notice that parts of the footpath along the Swaffham Road are becoming blocked by overgrown hedges. ***Clerk*** to contact the residents to ask for the hedges to be cut back from the path.

A resident also complained about the access onto the CCC land from the top of the green by the Millennium tree. Following inspection by Councillor Boreham ***Clerk*** to contact CCC and ask for this pathway to be cleared.

9(6) 24Acres Committee Report
Nothing to report.

9(7) Friends of Reach Wood
Ian Froggatt from the Woodland Trust has suggested a new mowing regime and ragwort control scheme whereby we would do a cut in late spring (May/ June) to bring the grass height down, and then herbicide-weed wipe the ragwort at rosette stage (July). He has had success with this on much larger fields. It is clear that the ragwort pulling isn't really having the desired effect. The PC were in agreement with this. ***Councillor Boreham*** to inform the WT.

9(8) Local Plan
The draft local plan is now on the ECDC website. There is no change for Reach.

10 Playground update
Further concern from residents had been received regarding the moving of the playground and also the poor state of the playing field surface.
The PC were in agreement that although the playground should be moved, as planned, due consideration and consultation with residents was required as to what should be done with the area of the present playground to stop unauthorised access to the field.

Grant applications have been put in, which in total will cover the entire cost of the scheme. ECDC have said that their grant can be used as the contributing third party component.

If all applications are successful then the PC will not need to contribute any funds. PC Funds would then be available to address the site of the old playground.

Decisions on the applications are from mid-November to mid-December. Ideally construction would start early 2018 so that it was in place before the Fair.

The PC would also like to thank and congratulate Cath Tayleur on winning 2nd prize, for the PC, of 35% matched funding in KOMPAN's Matched funding competition!

11 LHI Scheme
Councillor Cane proposed that the PC put in for a cycle path from Reach to Burwell. ***Clerk*** to complete the forms.

12 Fees – mooring and cemetery
Last year it was agreed that the cemetery fees would be put up 5% as is usual, except for 'Interments for persons whose age at death exceeds 12 years' and 'Exclusive right of burial' which will increase by 20% to help bring Reach fees in line with those of other local cemeteries. It was agreed that the PC should do the same again this year.

The mooring fees were not changed.

13. OS maps via Parish Online
At the CAPALC catch up day Councillor Cane had learnt about a Parish Online mapping system. Clerk had signed up for a free one month trial. ***Councillor*** to try out the system and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

14 Information Items/AOB
Travellers have been in the local area and on hearing of their moving on Councillor Fielding and several local residents/farmers had moved quickly to block access to land around the village.
ECDC had contacted the Clerk and suggested that these measures be kept in place until we were certain that the Travellers had moved away from the area.

The Lease for the Dykes End, signed by the new tenant, had been received. However, this was not the complete lease as signed by previous tenants and was wrongly address. ***Clerk*** to contact the solicitors and request this is altered.

15 Payments

Susan Bailey	Postage £7.37
Susan Bailey	Clerk salary £948.56
E.on	Power on the green £8.79
National Trust	24Acres lease £10.00
Royal British	Legion poppy appeal £17.00
John Reed	Cemetery fencing £588

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1st November 2017 at 7.30pm unless otherwise required. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday and can be accessed from the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).

Chairman: Date:

Letter from the Vicarage



The month of December in the Church's year is Advent, traditionally a time for prayerful waiting, preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. I always start off with good intentions of taking time each day to be quiet, to read, and pray. As Christmas gets closer, sometimes it can feel as if there are so many things to do that I don't even know where to start, and those moments of quiet get squeezed out.

One thing that has helped me in the last few years is a photo challenge, to take a photo each day, prompted by a word. It's made me look around me, take time to reflect and pray, and then go on my way, refreshed, and more conscious of the presence of God. Because that what we celebrate at Christmas, that God has come among us, and is with us, even in the busyness and the mess. My prayer would be that you find something that helps you to know moments of quiet and refreshment, and the presence of God with you. Our churches are open all day, every day, and anyone can go in. This year we will be having another Remembering Tree, at St Mary's, from mid-December, with stars bearing the names of loved ones who have died. All are welcome to add a name to a star for the tree. Both our churches will be open later each night during the week before Christmas, if you want to pop in for a quiet space to remember, and perhaps light a candle (for times at St Mary's please see notices on church door). If you would like to find out more about each of our Christmas services, please see the article written by Pat Chalmers. Please do get in touch if you would like to find out more about any of our events or services. Updates are posted on Facebook and our website.

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.

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



Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2017

Church Services and Events

December 2017	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Sunday 3rd Advent 1	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 All Age Service 4.30pm Christingle Service	
Wednesday 6th	10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 7th		8.15 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 10th Advent 2	10.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Wednesday 13th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 14th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 17th Advent 3	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Communion 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight	3.00pm Traditional Carol Service
Wednesday 20th	10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Thursday 21st		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 24th Advent 4 and Christmas Eve	10.00am All Age Communion 3.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Holy Communion	
Monday 25th Christmas Day	10.00 All Age Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Thursday 28th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 31st December Christmas 1		10.00am Holy Communion (said)
January 2018		
Wednesday 3rd	10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 4th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 7th Epiphany 1	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service	
Wednesday 10th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 11th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 14th Epiphany 2	10.00 Holy Communion 7.00pm Sunday @ 7	8.00am Holy Communion
Wednesday 17th	10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Thursday 18th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 21st Epiphany 3, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Churches Together joint Service	
Wednesday 24th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 25th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th Epiphany 4	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion 4.00 Messy Church	
Wednesday 31st	10.00am Holy Communion	

Bus Timetable

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

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.

Service No:	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Mon - Sat	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**	**Mon - Sat**
Newmarket (Guineas Station)			0814	0914	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1514	1614	1714
Burwell (Manchetts Ness Road)	0619	0649	0842	0942	1042	1142	1242	1342	1442	1542	1642	1742
Reach	0634	0704	0857		1057		1257		1457	1557	1657	1757
Swaffham Prior	0639	0709	0902	0959	1102	1159	1302	1359	1502	1602	1702	1802
Cambridge (Drummer Street)	0720	0755	0943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1743	1843

Service No:	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat	Mon – Sat
Cambridge (Drummer Street)	0650	0750	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1550	1650	1750
Swaffham Prior	0727	0827	0930	1027	1130	1227	1330	1427	1530	1627	1722	1827
Reach	0733	0833		1033		1233		1433		1633		1833
Burwell (Hawthorn Way)	0743	0843	0943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1735	1843
Newmarket (Guineas Station)	0813	0913	1013	1113	1213	1313	1413	1513	1613	1713	1810	

A full timetable can be downloaded from **www.reach-village.co.uk/bus_service.html**
Please note that the bus stops at a number of stops in Burwell – those listed are just timing points

Diary Dates: December 2017

December 2017	Event	Location	Time
Saturday 2	Burwell Print's Christmas Fayre	Mandeville Hall, Burwell	10am – 4pm
Saturday 2	Cambridge's Mill Road Winter Fair	Mill Road, Cambridge	10.30am – 4.30pm
Sunday 3	Christmas Tree Lights Switch on	Fair Green, Reach	5pm – 6pm See Page 6
Tuesday 5	Just When You Thought It Was Safe….! Ian Wilson Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club	Lode Chapel, Lode CB25 9EW	7.30pm – 9.30pm
Wednesday 6	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thursday 7	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Friday 8 and Saturday 9	Father Christmas	La Hogue Farm Shop, near Chippenham	Booking Essential
Saturday 9	Burwell Farmers Market	Burwell	9.30am – 12.30pm
Saturday 9	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30am – 2pm
Thursday 14	Recycling Day (Green)		
Saturday 16	Farmers Market with Carol Singing	Stretham	9am – 1pm
Tuesday 19	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Tuesday 19	Swaffham Prior Village Gardeners	Swaffham Prior Village Hall	8pm
Wednesday 20	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	
Thursday 21	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Saturday 23	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30am – 2pm
Sunday 24	Carols around the Christmas Tree	Fair Green, Reach	6pm – 7pm
Monday 25	Christmas Day	Everywhere	All day
Tuesday 26 – Monday 1	Ely's Christmas Holiday Walks	Ely	See Page 7
Wednesday 27	Lunchbreak Café	St Mary's Church, Burwell	12 noon – 2pm
Thursday 28	Recycling Day (Green)		Collection Day with change because of the holidays



Diary Dates: January 2018

January 2018	Event	Location	Time
Starting in January	**Bottisham Village College Adult Learning**	**Bottisham Village College, Lode Road, Bottisham**	**See Page 11**
Wednesday 3	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30pm
Thursday 4	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 9	Telling the Story. Diana Burns Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club	Lode Chapel, Lode CB25 9EW	7.30pm – 9.30pm
Thursday 11	Recycling Day (Green)		
Saturday 13	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30am – 2pm
Saturday 13	Burwell Farmers Market	Burwell	9.30am – 12.30pm
Tuesday 16	Mobile Library	Village Green	2.15pm
Wednesday 17	Village Centre Committee Meeting	Village Centre	
Thursday 18	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Wednesday 24	Lunchbreak Café	St Mary's Church, Burwell	12 noon – 2pm
Thursday 25	Recycling Day (Green)		
Saturday 27	Ely Farmers Market	Ely	8.30am – 2pm

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch



The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's biggest bird survey and regularly attracts nearly half a million participants. The records from people counting birds in their gardens provides a vital snapshot of the UK's birds each winter. The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2017 will take place over the weekend of the 28th and 29th January 2017.

Contact Information

Parish Council			
	Councillor	Steve Boreham	742098
	Chair	Charlotte Cane	741064
	Councillor	Alex de Giorgio-Miller	
	Vice Chair	Hilary Fielding	741853
	Councillor	Diana Ward	744210
	Clerk	Susan Bailey	743794
	Rights of Way Officer	Hilary Fielding	741853
	County Councillor	Joshua Schmann	
	District Councillor	Allen Alderson	741744
Village Centre			
	Chair	Andrew Towers	
	Finance	Andrew Trump	
	Bookings	Grahame Radford	742814
	Marquee Bookings	Andrew Hall	743737
Grant Scheme (Formerly the Amenity Fund)			
	Applications to:	Charlotte Cane	741064
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	Sarah Wingate	742498
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	












RIP











